

Earby Chronicles



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SOCIETY AIMS:
to raise awareness, foster an interest and facilitate research into the heritage of Earby & district including Thornton in Craven, Sough, Kelbrook, Harden, Hague and Salterforth.

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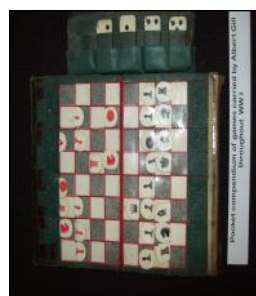
WORLD WAR 1 CENTENARY

It has been a busy year for the Earby and District Local History Society, principally due to the centenary of the start of World War I.

The Society started planning for this event in October 2013 and a proposal was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for financial support for our commemoration events. At the end of February this year we had confirmation that a grant of £6100 would be allotted for our projects.

We started in January with a coffee morning to launch our proposals and gauge what local support we would be able to call upon. We were not disappointed by the number of people who brought items along for possible use in an exhibition and general enthusiasm for our proposals.

Our first major event of the year was the launch of Stephanie



Recent talks & features

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£2.50

Members of
Society free

Carter's book "Earby in the First World War". This well researched book is packed with photographs and stories about Earby and District and its people in that time of great upheaval.

Our main event, which took place over the weekend on 18th and 19th October, was the "Our World War I" exhibition at New Road Community Centre. Many people, including the organising committee, were astounded by the amount of material we had to show.

The exhibition was officially opened by Mr Barry Blood, Vice President of Skipton branch of the Royal British Legion and the Mayor of Pendle, Councillor Graham Roache, added a few words. Pupils from Springfield School sang a selection of period songs in keeping with the event and the exhibition was well and truly open.

The story of the effect of the War on our local community was told in a series of panels (some 30 in total) with special exhibits of material loaned by local and not so local people. We were also fortunate to have help with artefacts from three museums, The Royal Dragoons Museum in York, The Infantry Museum in Preston and more locally Craven Museum in Skipton. There were exhibits of militaria and cap badges loaned by Eric Lawton and Steve Marshall and on the Saturday Keith Wilson brought along a portion of his WWI weapons and militaria collection to show. Also on the Saturday we had re-enactments telling what life was like in the trenches and how injured soldiers were cared for.

On the Sunday we were entertained by the Earby Brass Band who played a programme which included two marches written by Edwin Forth and a new composition by their Musical Director, Peter Young, entitled 'In True Renown'. During the second half of the concert Lew Stott and Steve Marshall recited poems about the War with one specially written by Steve for the occasion. The performance was rounded off with a moving rendering by Pam Whitehead of the last Post.

Our thanks go to all those who helped with providing material and information for the exhibition, to the Earby Development Group for providing the delicious refreshments and lunches and last but not least the small team of nine who worked so hard to bring the exhibition to fruition.

The exhibition panels were also put on display at the community centre for the Remembrance Sunday event and we took a selection of them to a WWI Local History Fair at Skipton Library on Armistice Day. It is also proposed to put them on view at Earby Library during December.

Bryan Fieldhouse from the Reverb Factory is producing a DVD to record all the events we have held this year as a reminder for us and future generations as to how we commemorated the outbreak of World War I.

The Society would like to thank again all those who contributed to the great success of the exhibition. We are grateful to opener Barry Blood, Vice President of Skipton branch of the British Legion and representing the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the pupils of Springfield School, Earby Brass Band, Earby Development Group, the demonstrators of life in the trenches and the work of the VAD nurses, all those who contributed displays, the Royal British Legion, the museums and individuals who loaned precious mementos of the War and all those who visited the exhibition and gave such positive feedback. Thank you also to members of the Committee and friends for their hard work in ensuring the success of the event.

THE FLU PANDEMIC OF 1918-1920

The deadly flu pandemic of January 1918 to December 1920 was said to have infected 500 million people across the world, killing an estimated 50 million people, which was more people than the Great War. It was a global disaster. At first it was called the Spanish Flu due largely due to the high early mortality numbers in Spain. The disease had a very high infection rate and the close quarters and massive troop movements hastened the pandemic. Soldiers with their immune systems weakened through the stress of combat and the gas attacks, were more susceptible to the virus. In March 1919 the Secretary of State for India was asked in Parliament for the latest information on the influenza epidemic in Bombay and the total number of deaths from influenza in India from 1918 to date. His reply from the Government of India was that the first influenza epidemic in Bombay City was in June 1918 and was responsible for over 1,600 deaths; subsequent virulent outbreaks occurred in September, October, and early in November, during which period the mortality in Bombay City exceeded the normal by 14,678. Besides bacteriological investigation, relief measures consisted of treatment in hospitals, house-to-house visits, free supply of milk and woollen jackets to prevent pneumonia, opening of roadside dispensaries in several wards, and supply of free medicine. Deaths from influenza in India as a whole in 1918 were calculated at 5,000,000 for British-India and 1,000,000 for Indian States.



Brothers Ezra and Fred Mitchell from Salterforth were in the RAMC during the 1st World War and the following letter was written by Ezra to Fred. The letter was headed: Joint War Committee (Indian Branch) and carried the address (until departure from India), E Mitchell c/o Casualties, SS Derbyshire at Bombay and is dated 17/11/1919.

Dear Fred

Sorry I could not get off to see you when we called to take on the Hants, (the crush you had told me about), but owing to Influenza being supposed to have broke out on board extra work and duty was absolutely necessary so that I could not get off. I even tried to get to bring that patient along to your place but sorry to say 'nothing doing'.

Well! With regard to the 'Flu' I will tell you about that when we get back home again but so far we have had no less than 70 cases admitted to hospital, so that we are placed in quarantine for a fortnight; and we haven't half been overworked, five RAMC men with two NCOs, one man and an NCO having been admitted to hospital, leaving four of us all told, and not one of the Hants. would come along and give us a lift, as they said it was Influenza, and they would not have anything to do with it, 'that's good'.

I understand that you could not come out to the boat as you had to train some of the Shropshires to carry on, but I hope you won't be long behind, so in any case it is half as well that you did not come on this boat, as we are having an awful time of it; however we expect to drop about 50 patients at Suez tomorrow so that we might have it much

easier in a day or two's time.

I sent a four days cable home that I had set sail on the 'Derbyshire' on the 8th so that they would get it a week since as tomorrow.

I think that is all now, hoping this letter finds you in the pink of condition, as I am pleased to say it leaves me at present, so far not having been sea sick. Excuse scribble, as I have written this in a hurry and the ship is shaking a good bit. Please address next letter home; with all best wishes to you and a safe and speedy return.

Yours sincerely,

Ezra

ONCE IN A LIFETIME LANCASTER BOMBER FLY PAST

Sunday 7th September 2014



As part of Barnoldswick Heritage Weekend at the beginning of September, the last two airworthy Lancaster bombers performed a fly past en route to an air show at Prestwick airport in Scotland. Their flight path brought them from the Harrogate direction over Earby.

The fly past was due on the Saturday but bad weather resulted in postponement until the Sunday, when clear skies provide a magnificent view for waiting crowds of observers.

One of the Lancasters belongs to the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and it was joined by the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum's Avro Lancaster. The two air-

craft were then scheduled for a six week tour of Great Britain. The Canadian plane was flown across the Atlantic from Ontario to RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire with stops in Greenland and Iceland en route. The Canadian plane was due to return to Canada at the end of September.

COWGILL FAMILY

Jean Eccles

I provided memorabilia of my grandfather, Bertie Cowgill, for the WWI exhibition in October. Bertie was killed in the First World War and his name is on Earby cenotaph.

Bertie had three older brothers, William, Richard and James, and two sisters, Mary Ellen (Nellie) and Lily.

My father, Kenneth Taylor Cowgill, kept in touch with his aunts (the two sisters), who lived in Otley, but my sister and I have no recollection of ever meeting any of the brothers. We believe James (Jim) lived in Kelbrook in the 1950s.

I would be very grateful for any information about the brothers. If you can help I can be contacted on 01282 613587. Thank You.

EAST LANCASHIRE COLONEL'S SPORTING OFFER FOOTBALL MATCH WITH THE GERMANS

Transcribed from the Colne Times 8 January 1915 by Stephanie Carter

Colonel Lawrence, commanding the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, tells of a strange football fixture in a letter written on Christmas Day. He writes:

"This morning I went up to the trenches, and wished every man a happy Christmas. As I was coming away at noon there was a sudden hurrah and rush, and our men and the Germans both started running to one another, and met half way and shook hands. I did not like it at first, and ordered my men back, but was told they wanted a truce for the day to bury their dead. I agreed to that, and after ordering half the men to keep a smart look-out in their trenches with their rifles ready, I went forward and joined the crowd. I met a Saxon who talked English well, and who interpreted for me while I held a court of admiring men and NCOs. I said if they would have an armistice on New Years Day we would play them at football between our lines. A lot of their dead were lying about in front of our trenches, and they thanked us for allowing them to bury them. All the German dead were collected and buried, and their captain read a burial service over them in German and in English, as many of our men were looking on. At 2pm he blew a whistle and all the Germans belted back to their trenches.

In the afternoon at 3pm, our doctor thought he would go and see the Germans, so boldly walked down the road to their trenches and talked to them; they were very full of the idea of mine on New Years Day. I said if they would like another armistice then I would turn out a team to play them among the shell holes, and they were quite keen. Happily there won't be any obstacles like dead Germans lying about unless they try on another attack before then. I wonder if the game will come off. These Saxons are the same crowd we have always had opposite to us. Most of them are quite young, 18 to 25. The trenches that our men went into were up to the knees in water, so they are far worse off than our men are."

No Football Match. How the New Year Was Ushered In

The football match did not take place. Colonel Lawrence in a letter written on New Years Day states:

"Well we never got off our football match. The Germans were not for it and have been sniping all day. General Wilson, commanding the IV Division and his Chief Staff Officer turned up at 11am to see it, but were disappointed, and various other fellows also turned up, but they had to return without any excitement! Colonel Seely also turned up in the afternoon to wish us a happy New Year.

We sat up last night to see the New Year in and drank to sweethearts and wives and our noble selves.

At 11pm firing broke out all along the line. It appears that the German time is one hour ahead of ours, so they out of gaiety put two shells into our convent, which is a building just behind our trenches, and put their rifles into the air and fired a feu de joie! A regiment on our right replied to the fire with Maxims and rifles, and it sounded like a regular engagement, but after twenty minutes it all died down and the Germans began blowing bugles and penny whistles and yelling. Then both sides wished each other a happy New Year."

CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT AT EARBY PART 2 ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, EARBY

Stephanie Carter

Nineteen twenty-eight was a momentous year for Earby's 200 Catholics. The sod-cutting ceremony took place in March. The new church would seat 200 people and cost, including site and furnishings, about £3500. Messrs. Edward Simpson and Son of Bradford were the architects and the contract had been let to Messrs. Mullen and Durkin Ltd. of Burnley. Father Holohan referred to the century's increase in the Catholic population of Earby. In 1828, he said, there was one family and now there were sixty. He also praised the work done by priests in charge of Earby over the past forty years, including Fathers Johnson, Swales, Hanlon, Hubert, Marchal and Van Woerkom.

On Easter Monday, 9th April 1928, the foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Leeds, Dr. Cowgill, in the presence of 1500 people. An impressive ceremony of consecration followed, with the sermon being given by The Very Rev. Canon Russell of Keighley. In the afternoon forty candidates were confirmed at a special service.

Other work in connection with St. Patrick's Church was:

- Carpentry and joinery – Messrs. C Watson & Sons, Earby
- Plumbing and painting – Higgingbottom & Co. Idle
- Leaded lights – Haigh & Co. Bradford
- Heating – J W Wilcock, Earby
- Electricity – Dodgson & Son, Earby
- Patent flooring – Excelsior Rubber & Flooring Co., Barnoldswick
- Church benches – Chas. Watson & Sons, Earby



In May 1928 Miss Noreen Darby, a member of the oldest Roman Catholic family in Earby, was crowned May Queen. After the procession, she crowned the statue of Our Lady with a crown of natural flowers. In August the annual children's treat took place in a field near Green End Avenue, with tea, games and sports. The swings provided by Messrs. Taylor proved to be a great attraction.

Another memorable day was celebrated on 14th October 1928 when the new church, dedicated to Ireland's patron Saint Patrick, was opened by the Bishop of Leeds, the Rt. Rev. J R Cowgill. Mass was celebrated at 8.30 am with over 100 receiving Communion, followed at 11.00 am by a Pontifical High Mass, when the congregation was too large for the building. The church owes its existence, like that at Skipton and Barnoldswick, to the pioneer work accomplished through the Tempest family at Broughton Hall. Brig. General and Mrs Tempest were among the congregation, together with members of the Earby Urban District Council.

Sufficient land had been acquired to build a priest's house adjoining the church, but the decline in the cotton industry and consequent drop in population prevented this being achieved. Earby remained an independent parish until 1988, when it merged with the Tempest Chapel at Broughton Hall to form the Parish of Broughton and Earby. More recently the Parish of Broughton and Earby was suppressed and Earby was joined to St. Joseph's Barnoldswick. Now a small congregation still form part of St. Joseph's.

PENDLE WALKING FESTIVAL

Margaret Brown and Wendy Faulkner

The festival is held in the first week of September and people attend from all over the country. Our walk was on Wednesday 3rd September. 25 people turned up to walk with us and 2 dogs (very well behaved). The aim of the walk was to look at the industrial heritage of Salterforth, incorporating a pleasant walk through the lovely countryside around Salterforth. It took us 2 hours due to the large number of walkers but for a small group you should allow 1 - 1 ½ hours. After the walk 18 of us had a lovely, though very filling, meal of pie and peas at the Anchor Inn.

Members may find information on the walk by looking on the EDLHS website, under the section "History Walks".



CONSTRUCTION OF THE B6383 MAIN ROAD BETWEEN BARNOLDSWICK AND THE A56 AT KELBROOK

Stephanie Carter and Ken Ranson

It is 80 years since the official opening of the main road between Kelbrook and Barnoldswick.

The scheme to build a 'new road' between Barnoldswick and Kelbrook was inaugurated on 2nd December 1922. It would be 1¾ miles in length and was estimated to be finished in two years. However even before the sod cutting ceremony it was beset by problems. The consulting engineer resigned in June 1921; the owners of the Tubber Hill Quarry who had been given the contract of supplying hardcore went bankrupt; and the estimated cost rose. In 1922 the West Riding County Council contributed £30,000 and the Ministry of Transport gave Barnoldswick Council a loan of £25,000 in 1925. The portion from Essex Street Barnoldswick to a point beyond Salterforth Post Office was to be constructed by Barnoldswick Urban District Council, but this was taken over by the West Riding County Council in 1929, when they had completed the first section between Salterforth and Kelbrook.



There were repeated problems and delays with the building of the road. The land between Salterforth and Kelbrook was difficult to drain but was helped by the passing of a new Drainage Act.



The New Road Bridge over the canal was constructed in 1924 but there had been difficulties in buying land from the Leeds/Liverpool Canal Company. A second bridge had to be built over the railway line and once again purchase of land from the Midland Railway proved difficult. These were both difficult bridges to construct.

In December 1929 the first part of the road be-

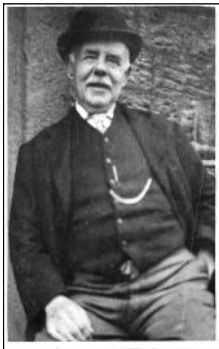
tween Kelbrook and Salterforth was opened to traffic. However it was not until 25th October 1934 that the official opening of the complete road took place. The ceremony was performed by Alderman Sir John Quarmby, Chairman of the West Riding Highways Committee. Following the opening the guests inspected the road and afternoon tea was served in the Seven Stars Hotel, Barnoldswick.

The first fatality on the road took place in the February of 1934 prior to the official opening ceremony.

THE FIRST FATALITY ON THE ROAD AGED SALTERFORTH MAN KILLED

Struck down by Lorry on New Road
No one "Much to Blame"
(From Craven Herald 16 February 1934)

After a hearing lasting 1¾ hours, the jury entered a verdict of "Accidental Death" at the inquest conducted by the Craven Coroner, Mr Edgar Wood, at the Earby police station, as the sequel to a fatal accident involving David Townsley Parkinson, a retired weaver, aged 77, of Cragg View Salterforth. The man was knocked down and killed instantaneously by a motor lorry on Tuesday evening whilst walking along the new road from Salterforth to Barnoldswick...



The dead man's injuries were described by Dr. Yates of Barnoldswick. Deceased was found to have sustained fractures to the base of the skull, jaw and wrist and contusions on the face and right wrist. He said that a heavy vehicle going at a moderate speed could have caused such injuries...

Mary Baldwin, a married woman, of Cragg View Salterforth, said deceased was her father and lived next door together with her mother. He left home about 7pm on Tuesday with the intention of walking to Barnoldswick. When he did not return, she and her mother became anxious and stayed up all night. About 10pm they heard that someone had been killed but were under the impression that it was a man living at the model lodging house. It was not until next morning that they knew what had actually happened.

Evidence was given by William Turner, a butcher's assistant of Park Avenue Salterforth, who was riding a bicycle on the New Road when the accident occurred. Before the collision he said he saw the lorry coming towards him down the hill about 50 yards away. It had two side lights, but he was not sure about the headlights. The lorry was travelling slowly and on its right side.

The Coroner "Is there any reason why anyone walking from Salterforth to Barnoldswick should walk on the road and not on the footpath, which you say is a good wide one?"

Witness "No". Proceeding witness stated that at the time of the accident he heard a rattle like something falling off the lorry. He was about ten yards away but he had not seen the man. The lorry pulled up sharply, and he asked one of the men who got out whether he had dropped anything. The man replied "I think we have knocked somebody down". On investigating, they found the deceased lying on his stomach, parallel with the road and in the middle of it. In answer to the Coroner, witness said the lorry was empty and made enough

noise coming down the hill to give warning of its approach. Asked if it was true that there are iron rails and a concrete post at the side of the footpath, which may make it rather dangerous for elderly people, the witness replied "Yes. I have not seen many people using the footpath at night time"...In answer to a question from a juror, witness said that the surface of the road was tar macadam and dark in colour...

The circumstances of the accident were described by John Harold Halstead, a quarry labourer of Nelson, who accompanied the driver. They were proceeding on the nearside of the road at about 15 miles per hour and did not see the man until he was two yards away. The man had both hands in his pockets. The driver put on his brakes, but found it impossible to stop. Deceased was struck by the radiator and knocked down, the offside front wheel passing over him. They had been to Warrington for some tiles which had been delivered at Tubber Hill Barnoldswick, and they were returning to Nelson via Earby. He said that the headlight which was directed on the centre of the road threw a beam of about 20 yards, while the side light had a beam of approximately eight yards....

John Brown of Barrowford, the driver of the lorry, chose to give evidence and was questioned with regard to his speed and lights. He expressed the opinion that he had exercised reasonable care.

Summing up the Coroner advised the jury to accept the statement that the driver and his mate did not see the deceased until they were within two yards of him. No one appeared to be much to blame. It was possible that the use of only one headlamp was to some extent responsible for the accident. The driver, however, would have been legally right in using only the sidelights at a speed of 15 miles per hour. It was quite common for people to walk in the roadway even though a good footpath was provided.

Salterforth ask for Speed Limit

At the next rate-payers meeting in the Council School at Salterforth reference was made to the above fatal accident and the unsuitability of the public lighting on the road. The road was very dark and unsafe for pedestrians. A resolution was passed to ask the Parish Council to take whatever steps they could in the interests of public safety. The speed with which vehicles passed through the village came in for much debate. A resolution was again passed to ask the Parish Council to discuss with Skipton Rural District Council the possibility of imposing a speed limit through the village.

SAD BURNING FATALITY

April 17th 1908

A previous tragedy to that of the death of Edgar Town in 1950, described in the last edition of the Chronicles, had befallen the Town family in 1908 – see newspaper account below.

A shocking burning fatality occurred on Tuesday. About 7 o'clock in the evening Doris Town (3), daughter of Maurice Town, 8 Ireland Square, Earby, carter, was left in the house by her mother, along with her brothers George (4) and Frank (2). A lodger, Joseph Taylor, was also in the house at the time, but thinking the mother had gone upstairs he went out. About 20 minutes later Mrs Town returned and found deceased lying on the floor with her clothes practically burnt off her body. She carried the child into the next house, and Dr. Falconer was sent for. The child had practically been roasted alive. Deceased died about 8pm. An inquest was held on Wednesday afternoon in the Albion Hall, before Mr E Wood, the district coroner. Mr E Harrison was foreman of the jury, which included Messrs. J Strother, H Og-

den, R Thornton, E Lindley, W E Storey, W Dickinson, W Iredale, J Turner, T B Smith, E Whitehead and T Mayor. Ada Town, the mother stated that she had lived in Earby for six weeks. At 7 o'clock on Tuesday night the two youngest children were in the house along with Joseph Taylor, the man they lodged with, and she was upstairs. When she had been upstairs about five minutes the eldest boy came for her, and said that a neighbour wanted to speak to her. She went out to arrange with a neighbour about nursing her child. She did not tell Taylor that she was going out, and he was reading a newspaper. She came back in about ten minutes, when she had finished her business, and she found the door shut and Taylor had gone out. She found the child lying on the rug, face downwards, and her clothes were burnt off her. The other little boy was standing on the rug besides her, but he was not on fire. The little girl was unconscious, and she carried her into the next house and then went for the doctor. There was no fireguard, but the fire in the grate was low. The table cloth and the sofa had also caught fire. Her husband was away from home at his work. Joseph Taylor, an elderly man and very deaf, also gave evidence that he went out, thinking the mother was upstairs. Dr. Falconer said he found the child unconscious, in convulsion, and practically dying. There were burns all over the child's body, except the feet and the crown of the head. The left arm and leg were very severely burnt. The Coroner said it was evidently one of those accidents one could not foresee. Mrs Town thought the man was going to stay in the house, and he, the coroner, did not think it was one of those cases where the children were deliberately left in the house without protection from the fire. The jury agreed that it was a case of accidental death and a verdict was brought in accordingly.

THE SECRET LIFE OF CHARLES DICKENS

The opening talk of the new season was given by Pat Osborne whose talk threw light on the complex character of Charles Dickens

Dickens' story is one of rags to riches. He was born in Portsmouth in 1812, to John and Elizabeth Dickens. His schooling was cut short at the age of nine when his father, inspiration for the character of Mr Micawber in 'David Copperfield', was imprisoned for bad debt. The entire family, apart from Charles, were sent to Marshalsea debtors prison. Charles was sent to work in Warren's blacking factory a terrible experience which was to remain with him the rest of his life.

After starting his literary career in journalism, in 1836 his first novel "the Pickwick Papers" was published and the path to fame and fortune began. He was also married in 1836 to Catherine Hogarth who went on to give birth to ten children. Catherine's younger sister, Mary moved in with them. He became very attached to Mary and when she died in 1837 he was devastated.

Dickens, bursting with energy, threw himself into tours and theatrical work as well as continuing his writing. In 1857 he was producing a play co-written by himself and hired professional actors for the production. He fell in love with one of them, a young actress, Ellen Ternan, 27 years his junior. He tried to keep the relationship a secret, what would it have done for his reputation? He separated from Catherine in 1858, never to see her again. Dickens tried his hardest to keep secret his affair with Ellen.

Dickens was returning from France with his mistress Ellen Ternan and her mother on 9th

June 1865 when the train in which they were travelling came off the tracks after running into engineering works at Staplehurst in Kent. They were lucky to survive uninjured and Dickens was able to get the Ternans to safety before going back to render assistance where he could. Dickens managed to avoid an appearance at the inquest, to avoid disclosing that he had been travelling with Ternan and her mother, which would have caused a scandal.

Five years to the day Dickens died at Gad's Hill Place while working on what was his unfinished last novel "Edwin Drood".

Pat had shed an interesting light on Dickens' life and complex character; he was one of Britain's foremost writers.

GUY FAWKES

As our October meeting was just before bonfire night (aka plot night) and Earby was formerly in Yorkshire, it was appropriate to ask our speaker Gillian Waters to give her talk "Guy Fawkes – Yorkshireman". This can only be a brief resume of an excellent and well researched talk by Gillian.

At 11-55pm on 4th November 1605, Guy Fawkes was caught red-handed preparing to explode 2.5 tonnes of gunpowder under the House of Lords in an attempt to kill King James 1st and his Protestant lords and ministers.

Guy Fawkes is seen to have taken the blame for the conspiracy; it is his effigy which is traditionally burned on the 5th November.

The plotters were mainly well connected, well heeled gentry many of their families being interconnected. Fawkes was the odd one out; he was from the merchant classes and relatively poor compared with the others.

It was a time when Catholicism was suppressed. A 1581 Act made it treasonable to convert Protestants to Catholicism or to harbour Catholic priests. Fines were doled out or estates could be confiscated and there was a widespread network of spies infiltrating life at the time.

The Catholics looked to James 1st to be more tolerant as he is said to have promised, but when he ascended the throne it turned out not to be the case, fuelling their rebellious spirit.

Robert Catesby was the ring leader and he had form as a conspirator against the previous monarch Elizabeth I. The northern plotters included the Winters and the Wrights, but Fawkes had no family connection with these.

Following the wiping out of the Protestant ruling classes the plotters planned to start a general uprising and also kidnap the Princess Elizabeth possibly with a view to making her a puppet monarch.

Guy Fawkes was born in York and his father was a church lawyer, so why did the young Fawkes convert to Catholicism? Was it the martyrdom of Margaret Clitherowe in 1586, did he come under the influence of the Wright brothers at St Peter's School in York?

In 1592 Fawkes sold all he had and went to the Netherlands to join the so called Spanish Regiment of English Catholic men fighting with the Spanish King. Fawkes trained to become a sapper and his job was to tunnel under enemy fortifications, lay charges and blow up the defensive walls.

Often a petard, a type of early mine, was used against fortifications. If the fuse was poorly timed the bomb could explode before the sapper could get away and he would be

“hoisted” into the air by the explosion. Hence the saying “being hoist be your own petard”.

Fawkes was the ideal candidate to be in charge of the explosives when the plot was being formulated in 1603.

Firstly the plotters rented a house near the Houses of Parliament from where they could tunnel under the House of Lords. Fawkes was an expert tunneller, and digging commenced. It later became known to the plotters that the cellar of the property next door extended under the Lords chamber and they rented this instead and abandoned the tunnelling idea.

What was to be done about the leading Catholic Lords who would be present at the opening of Parliament? A letter was sent effectively telling them to make themselves scarce that day. However Lord Monteagle passed it on to King James’s spymaster, Robert Cecil; the secret was out but the plotters decided to continue with their plans.

The royal guard began to search the cellars of Parliament but it took a second search to discover the gunpowder. Guy Fawkes was caught red-handed and he was subjected to interrogation and torture for 10 days, before he eventually told all.

Meanwhile the rest of the plotters made their way to Holbeach House in Warwickshire where they were eventually captured. Those who had not been killed were executed including Guy Fawkes and King James declared that the 5th of November be a day of celebration for his salvation.

Why is it not Catesby’s (the ring leader) effigy burned? Was Guy Fawkes any more guilty than the rest? Is Guy Fawkes the fall guy? Is it because he was actually going to do the deed? Or was it because he was an outsider from the North, a Yorkshireman?.

WHEN CINEMA WAS KING AND EARBY FILM TRANSPORT

(The story of Earby Film Transport was told by Geoff Newsholme to Bob Abel)

Earby’s Empire Cinema was opened in 1913 and for many years provided popular entertainment for the town.

On August 8th 1913 the Craven Herald reported; “Even Earby has not lost the “picture” craze as was evidenced by the crowds of people who attended the performance on Monday night at the new Empire Theatre in Earby under the management of Mr Howe, late of Keighley. The company is styled The Earby Empire Co. Ltd. and quite a number of the town’s people have an interest in it financially. It is a very imposing building and a nightly performance is to be held increasing to two on Saturdays. It is most tastefully decorated and luxuriously furnished.”

The 1930s and 40s were arguably the Golden Years of the cinema with usually two feature films per week, one Monday to Wednesday and a different film Thursday to Saturday. Later it became the practice to show a different film on Sundays only.

With the popularity of cinema growing and the increasing demand for films it became a logistical challenge to make sure the right film was delivered to the correct cinema and at the proper time. A distribution chain evolved whereby the major film distributors supplied regional companies with their films which were then taken out to cinemas in their area.

In 1933 it was decided to set up the Earby Film Transport Company (EFT) firstly to bring films from the Leeds distributor to Earby. As the company expanded it served some 45 cinemas, delivering and collecting films twice weekly.

Geoff Newsholme was the projectionist at the Empire Cinema during World War II

while the manager / projectionist, Albert Beaty, was on active service. During this time Geoff got to know the people involved with EFT, especially the drivers and occasionally went with the vans on the run to Leeds and back.

Albert returned from the war and took up his duties at the Empire again and Geoff went on his National Service. On returning in the mid fifties Geoff worked in the plumbing trade for Raymond Smith. The main man at EFT, Willie Taylor, and Raymond Smith were fellow freemasons and often helped each other out. As Geoff knew the ropes at EFT through his Empire Cinema days Willie would often ask Raymond if he could “borrow” Geoff for the film run if he was short of a driver e.g. at holiday times.



Geoff couldn't settle in the plumbing job and was approached by George Stephenson who offered him a job as projectionist at the Regal Cinema in Edmonton, North London. Stephenson was a former contact from the Majestic Cinema in Barnoldswick and was then the Technical Manager at the Regal in Edmonton.

Frank Turner took Geoff down to London for him to see the projection room at the Regal. The set up was a far cry from the small Earby Empire projection room and at first Geoff found it a little daunting but gentle persuasion tempted him to take the job which he did and enjoyed for three years.

About 1959 Willie Taylor approached Geoff and offered him a directorship in EFT, which he accepted and he returned to Earby.

By this time cinemas were on the decline (The Earby Empire closed in 1960) and EFT had diversified into general transport particularly textile deliveries and parcel distribution.

In its heyday they delivered films from Leeds as far as Ingleton. They had two principal delivery runs which Geoff describes as the Aire Valley and the Wharfe Valley runs. There were two main runs a week, on Sunday and Thursday, setting off from Earby about 5 or 6am collecting films along the way.

The Aire Valley route included Silsden and later Colne (Hippodrome and Savoy). Keighley where there were six cinemas (Picture House, Regent, Ritz, Cavendish, Cosy and Oxford), Haworth (the Bronte and Hippodrome), Bingley (Picture House, Myrtle), Shipley (Princess Hall, Pavilion Delux and Glen Royal), Baildon (Picture House) and into Leeds.

The Wharfe Valley route started in Barnoldswick (Majestic and Palace), Skipton (Premier, Odeon and Plaza), Silsden, Ilkley (New Cinema and the Grove), Burley in Wharfedale (Picture House), Otley (The Beech Hill and Picture House), Guiseley (Plaza),

Earby Chronicles

Rawdon (Empire), Yeadon (Temperance Hall and Picture House), Horsforth (Imperial and Glen Royal), Leeds (The Abbey).



On arrival at Leeds the collected films were dropped off at the various locations and the next load taken. Often there was a wait until other transport companies had returned to Leeds with films which had to be checked and relabelled for their next venues. The drivers took this opportunity to have breakfast before the return journey retracing their routes and dropping off the next films, usually returning home at about 2-00 to 3-00pm

If Sunday films were to be collected this would be on Mondays and if any films were ready prior to Thursday these would also be collected to save time later in the week. One van ran on Wednesdays

All the film renters, (e.g. Warner Brothers, Pathé, RKO, Butchers Films, Grand National) had their own places in Leeds; eventually they all came together under Film Transport Services based in Hunslet.

Some of the people involved in EFT included:
Willie Taylor who ran the business in the early days (his father was Rupert Taylor)
Leonard Smith (who married Nellie Briden daughter of Billy Briden)
Henry Rigby (who had worked for Pickles Engineers; he returned to work for Pickles).

Geoff Newsholme, Harry Taylor and Frank Turner drove for EFT when needed.
Harry Taylor was Willie's son who didn't go into the business, he worked for Crabtree-Wormwell, Plumbers, in Colne.

Other drivers were Milton Hargreaves, Peter and David Webster, the Platt brothers, Ronnie and Rodney, Stephen Cockshott, Dennis Tomlinson and Stephen Hudson.

During WWII, Willie Taylor, Len Smith and Henry Rigby joined the armed forces and the older generation carried on in their absence. Their first garage was off Water Street and later moved to Waddington Street behind Waddington Fold Farm.

Geoff has had a lifelong interest in cinema projection all stemming from his early years at the Empire Cinema in Earby. Over the years he has made many friends in the cinema industry and has accepted invites to view the projection facilities at several prestigious

cinemas including the Odeon and the Empire Cinemas in Leicester Square in London's West End and the Metropole Victoria and the Finsbury Park Astoria, the Odeon Harrogate, Pictureville Bradford, the Opera House Blackpool and even on one occasion Radio City Music Hall in New York.

As a post script, "Blakey" commenting on the "Secret Leeds" web site makes the following comment –"I worked unofficially at the Grove Cinema in Ilkley and found it absorbing and interesting, but can you imagine that being allowed in today's Health and Safety culture. Among the many projection room tasks was the infernal nuisance, every three days, of having to splice Her Majesty's little colour sequence with the national anthem onto the end of every film, and remove it before sending the reels back to the distributor.

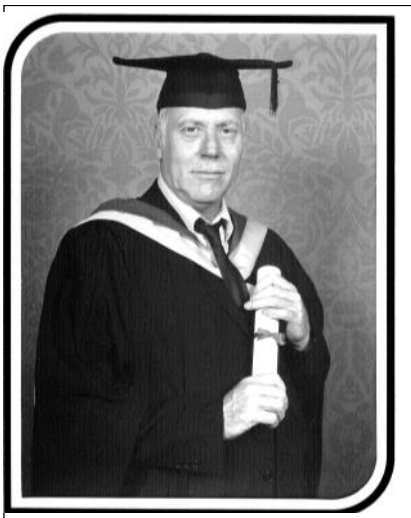
I'm afraid I can't remember the reason - it was a long long time ago - but I do recall that it was a real nuisance. Presumably "The Queen" was the property of the cinema and was not part of the films - the films incidentally were delivered and collected in black vans belonging to a firm called "EFT" which I think stood for "Earby Film Transport".

The company went into liquidation in 1990 and re-emerged as Earby Film Transport 1990 under which title it continued before finally succumbing in 1993.

THE NOT SO SIMPLE JOURNEY

By Steven Marshall

The Society extends congratulations to Steve on his achieving, as a mature student, a BA from the University of Central Lancashire. Here Steve tells of the road to his success.



I have been asked to write this article about my recent journey into the realms of academia and the whys and the wherefores of that journey. Like most boys my love of history came from the Saturday matinee films of my childhood - Robin Hood, The Lone Ranger, Zulu, and the Longest Day - films which we would emulate all summer long in the fields and hidden areas that surround my beloved town of Earby, not realising at the time that we were building our foundations for the history classes to come. As the child of working class parents I didn't get the opportunities the youth of today enjoy. I mentioned college and art school to my dad because I had a talent for art and all I got was a clip round the ear and told get a job—probably the sequence of events that faced the majority of youngsters leaving school in 1974. My mother fixed up my first job and my first wage was £7.50 per week as an apprentice joiner, I handed that over to her

and got £2.50 spending money back.

As most people in Earby may know, I lost my parents very soon after leaving school and for about a year I seemed to wander around in a constant daze, oblivious to anyone and anything, lost without direction and most people would say today "Well that's not surprising". Once my parents had died I was no longer responsible for living up to their limited expectations of me, and so I left and joined the army - the only option for a lad who wanted to at least have money in his pocket and a security of some kind. The army gave me the family structure that I had lost with the death of my parents, and the motivation to believe I

was worth more than becoming an industrial automaton.

I spent the last thirty years working for many people and after yet another redundancy I decided to do something for me and embark on a life in academia, and signed up for a Foundation Entry course at Preston's University of Central Lancashire. Everyone talks about academia and I wanted to at least visit the place and check it out, you know see what the weather is like, it still rains there, its bloody cold at times, in fact its no different and is also full of idiots. However these idiots are educated and I have learnt that that makes them more interesting than the normal run of the mill idiot and, often as not, you come away a little richer for having listened. Foundation entry was important to me because after thirty odd years away from education I doubted my ability and even my suitability and, having always been a bit of a rebel, I was scared I might corrupt the youngsters there, and we all know what happened to Socrates. (Well as historians we should).

On successful completion of that year of intensive learning I had a clear vision and path, History and Philosophy; I figured I was old and had been involved with a lot of historical events and this accumulation of experiences would make me wise and philosophical, the oracle in the corner - the "Preston Plato" - I was doing ok until I read Descartes. Being a little indecisive I signed for combined honours in History, Philosophy and Religion Culture and Society (RCS). I dropped philosophy in the first year once I realised I could not cope without clarity, it's a part of my ADHD and CDO (which is a bit like OCD but in alphabetical order like it should be). So I concentrated on History and RCS. History would teach me how to look in depth at historical documents, facts and situations but RCS would teach me about the many changes within culture and society caused by religion; also I not only wanted to understand religion and differing cultures and societies but also the historical consequences (everything that seemed to me that underpinned historical events).

What an amazing journey I have been through over the last four years. As an older man I have enjoyed mixing in the company of beautiful young women, because that's always good for one's street cred even though we shouldn't mention it. I have worked alongside the curators at the Museum of Lancashire, the Harris Institute, the Marsh Mill Museum and the Lancashire Infantry Museum. My dissertation supervising lecturer was Dr Stephen Cauce, the man who changed the face of historical record chronicling with the introduction of a simple tape recorder way back in the early 1970s. I could not have asked for a better teacher and I spent quality time in the company of this man who wrote the book on community history and how to capture the many stories that are often lost.

I have sat in the Blue Mosque in Istanbul at morning prayers and spent a birthday with some wonderful caring and warm individuals from our ethnic communities who I will never forget, having pooled our richly embroidered shared history. I have meditated in Sikh Temples and Catholic retreats with an Hermitess, contemplated the meaning of life and the history of man with both students, doctors and professors and found myself accepted for my contributions. I have found myself on picture walls in student halls and on facebook walls of the young and vibrant and feel proud that I have such a place of honour even if it was a picture of me asleep in class or on the back of a bus.

As a result of the work I was involved with for the Museums I was introduced to the Earby and District Local History Society and, being a "Rancher", was asked if I would help with the Northolme Community History Exhibition. I was honoured, and jumped at the opportunity to find out more about the place that I was proud to call my home, and I hoped that my contribution would bring about a new vibrant touch to the excellent work that is carried out by this group of astounding people. I was also deeply involved with the recent WW1 exhibition that became the toast of the town; opportunities like this don't come everyday. Yes

they happen along but you have to jump on the wagon to enjoy the ride, if you miss it you just becomes a pedestrian spectator. Many of history's greatest tragedies are a result of too many people becoming pedestrian spectators. An example of the mistakes we should learn from if we can.

I graduated from University in the summer of 2014 with a very creditable 2.1, the pass rate being 40% and my overall grade being 66.13% three points short of being a first class honours. I received peer accolade from my fellow students in a resounding cheer on the day of my graduation, not only for the many people I had helped and supported on my journey but also because for a 56 year old taking such steps is unusual. It is easy to flock to the peers you feel socially in tune with and while many mature students take the same journey they still often feel isolated from the rest of the class group or cohort because of the differing age values and attitudes that oft come with maturity. Being a youth worker and I a bit of a big kid, I feel more at home in the company of the young and excitable youth that is our future, and because I was accepted by that youthful group my circle of friends became immense. The graduates of the University of Central Lancashire also left with a new attitude to partying - "don't try and drink the old man under the table, you will only suffer in class the next day". That cheer that resounded around the Guild Hall that Friday morning in July said so much to me, it said your family, friends, and peers are proud of your achievement, but it also said your parents are proud too, something I never got the chance to feel at that time in my life when I needed it the most. It spurred me on to further the journey by signing up for a Masters in Religion Culture and Society and the excitement of what the next bend in the road has to show me.

AN EARBY GHOST STORY

18th November 1927

Human nature has always harboured an interest in the supernatural and ghost stories are just as popular round about Christmas time as they ever were, yet the latest is certainly true in some respects and is all the more interesting because of its local setting. One moonlight night about a fortnight ago, so the story runs, four Earby youths and two dogs went for a walk on Elslack Moors. Everything was still and nothing could be heard save a gentle murmuring of the wind and an occasional motor horn in the distance. The conversation lapsed somewhat as the party reached a point known as Pinhaw, and two members of the party dropped behind to fasten the dogs more tightly in their leashes. The two leaders had reached a certain gate, well-known for its need for lubrication, when suddenly a phantom-like form appeared before them. The figure was of human form and was clothed in a black cloak and hood like the monks of old. With arms outstretched, it stood in the gateway. Without waiting for their companions the youths passed hurriedly on their way. When the rest of the party came up to the gate the dogs set up a simultaneous howl and their owners likewise beat a hasty retreat from the scene. The four declare that they did not stop running until they had reached Thornton, and also that the phantom followed them a short distance, making no noise as it passed through the gate.

The youths are prepared to swear as to the truth of the story, and at any rate they told it with such effect that a party of fifteen Earby people carried out a search of the moor on Monday evening in all seriousness. The fact that it was a wet evening was given by one person as the reason why they saw nothing out of the ordinary. Nevertheless, the story has created a great deal of interest and by Wednesday had been circulated as far afield as Bradford.

An Earby Ghost Hunt—Three Hour Search on the Moors

The story of the “Earby ghost” has aroused a considerable amount of interest in the district and a further search of the moors was made evening week. A party, which numbered about a hundred and included about fifty Earby Boy Scouts under Scoutmaster Dwire, began the search at about 7.30pm and were engaged in scouring the moors for about three hours. The place where the apparition was stated to have been seen by four Earby youths about a fortnight previous was carefully examined but nothing unnatural was seen. The party, undeterred by the inclement weather conditions, kept to their work, certain sections being appointed to cover various parts of the moors.

“Pinhaw” is the name of the place around which the story centres and nearby is a gravestone said to mark the last resting-place of one of the old beacon tenders who were marooned on the moors without food. He offered to go in search of help and died before completing the task.

A motorist declares that he was driving over the moors from Skipton to Colne some time ago and was alarmed by what appeared to be a figure in black performing a dance on the top of the wall at the point where the Earby youths saw the apparition. He challenged the figure with a spanner and it immediately disappeared.

A former member of the Earby Urban District Council, who has made a study of psychology and kindred subjects, states that he saw a similar phenomenon at the same place. He is of the opinion that it may be attributed to hallucination. It is quite possible to ‘project’ the same illusion at the same time.

As may be imagined there has been much speculation as to whether or not the apparition which the youths saw is the result of a practical joke or whether they were intentionally frightened by some person walking across the moors. Imagination may be said to account for a great deal. Quite a number of people from outside the district visited the moors last weekend.

VISITORS TO THE ARCHIVE ROOM

Louise Harder and her mother visited the archives one Friday morning in September. They are both from Canada although Louise is now living in the USA. They were searching for information of their Turner ancestors in the Earby area. Louise’s great grandmother, Martha Turner, was born in Earby in 1887. Clayton Turner, born in Earby in 1862. was their ancestor who emigrated to Canada.



Louise and her mum with Wendy Faulkner and Margaret Brown at the archive room in September

Following the visit, Louise wrote.

Thank you all for your kind & generous support for my mom and I when we visited last week. I have already been able to learn so much more about our ancestry, and I haven't even gone through the family trees yet. Just understanding the geography of the area and how parishes work has been tremendously helpful. Today Mom & I went to Lothersdale and Thornton-in-Craven and discovered some gravestones of our ancestors. We also saw both Ninevah and Dowshaw farms. The owners at Dowshaw are a lovely couple, and we were able to have a nice chat with them.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just a reminder that subscriptions for 2015 are due on the 1st of January. Please use the form attached to this edition for your renewals and please ensure that your current e-mail address is included, particularly if you receive an electronic copy of your Chronicles.

Images from the WWI exhibition have been posted on the Society's website, www.earbyhistory.co.uk click on the link World War One 100

PROGRAMME

- Tuesday 20th January** "The Way Things Used to Be—the 1940s/50s/60s" by Harold Hoggarth
- Tuesday 17th February** AGM followed by a talk by "Bygone Byeways and Highways" Margaret Brown and Wendy Faulkner
- Tuesday 17th March** "The English Civil Wars in Yorkshire" Gillian Waters
- Tuesday 21st April** "Local Industries Through the Ages" Colne Library Volunteers

THE SOCIETY

Meets at the Community Centre, New Road, EARBY on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30 p.m. (except for outside visits).

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
£7.00
UK £9.00
Overseas £13.00

Contents:

Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of information in this edition, this cannot be guaranteed.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget this is your newsletter. Send in articles, photos and any other anecdotes, so that we get as wide a flavour of Earby & District, yes that means Thornton in Craven, Kelbrook, Sough, Harden and Salterforth as well.

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