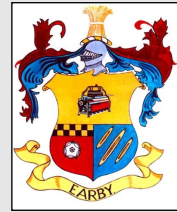


Earby Chronicles



Edition 71
www.earbyhistory.co.uk

WINTER 2013

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.

OFFICIALS
Chairman & NRCC
Rep.:
Bob Abel
phone 01282 843850

Vice Chairman & Editor of Chronicles:
Stephanie Carter
Phone 01756 794099

Secretary:
Margaret Brown
phone 01282 843932

Treasurer & Archivist:
Wendy Faulkner
phone 01282 863160

Programme Secretary
Vacant

Archivist:
Margaret Greenwood
phone 01282 843394

IT
Vacant

Committee:
Trevor Tattersall
Colin Dalby
Ken Ranson

AUTOGRAPHS

An autograph is usually described as the signature of a famous or notable person and autograph collecting is known as philography. Today signatures of celebrities and sports stars, those who have died young such as Marilyn Monroe, Diana Princess of Wales and John Lennon are much sought after. The Beatles signatures are amongst the most popular, whilst that of William Shakespeare is among the rarest and most valuable.

Member John Wilson has forwarded the following pages from his father, Harry's, Earby autograph book of almost 100 years ago. The names of the contributors may arouse memories in fellow members.



Recent talks & features

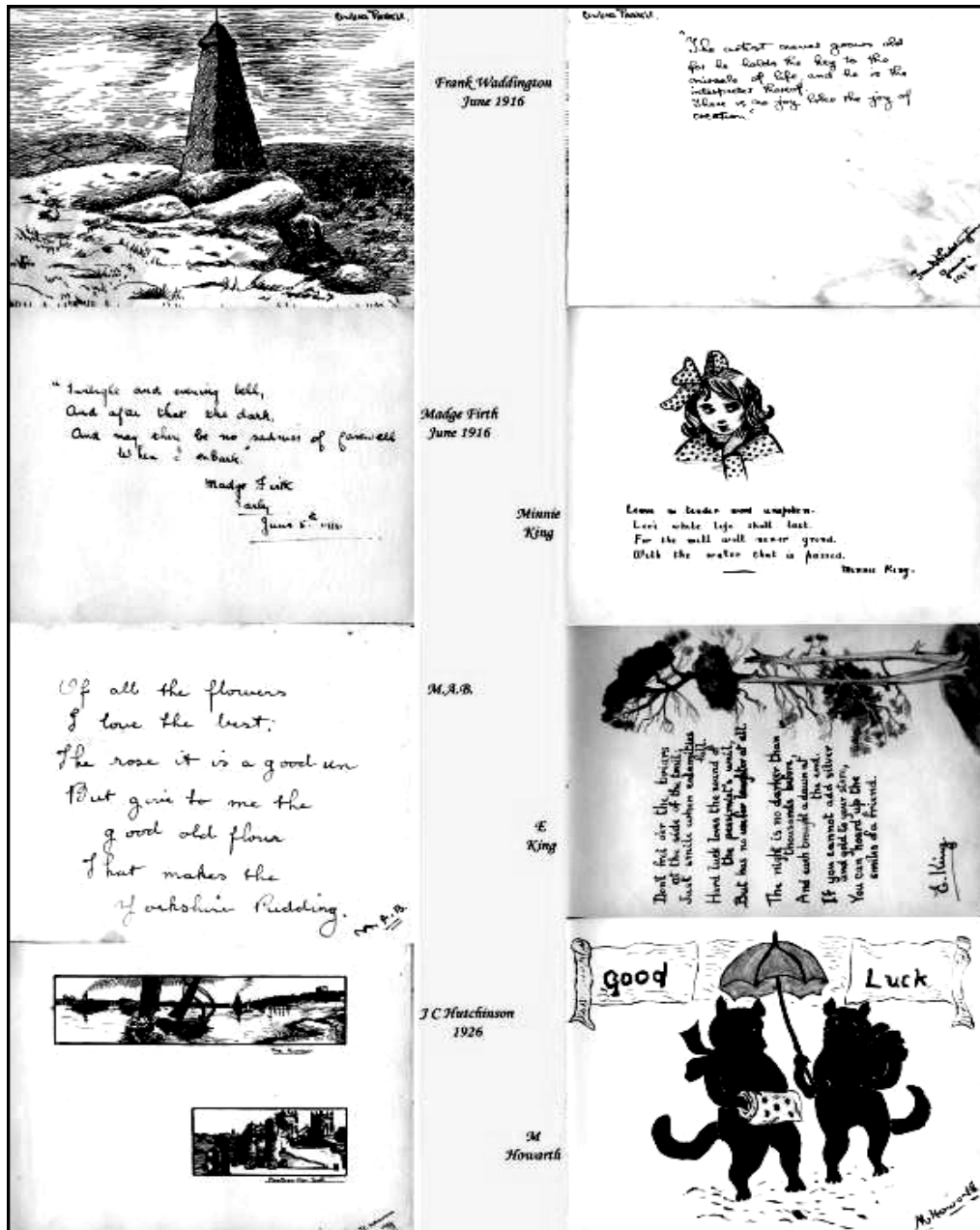
Page 5 Postscript to The Clatter of Clogs—The Gill and Hartley Families

Page 12 Growing up on the Ranch

Page 15 Enoch Hall 1794-1883, Schoolmaster of Elslack School

£2.50
Members of
Society free

Earby Chronicles



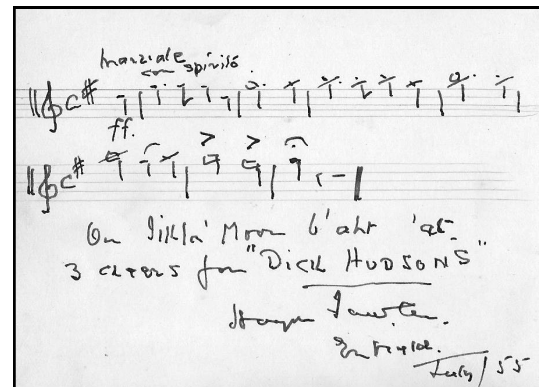
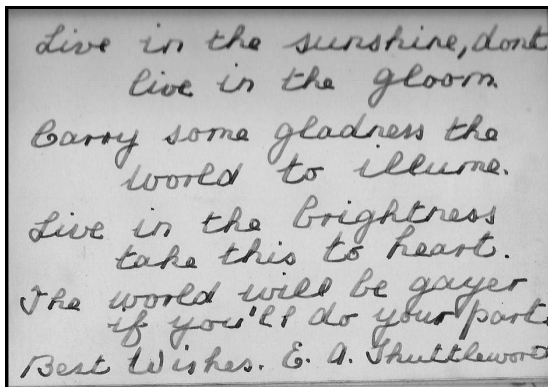
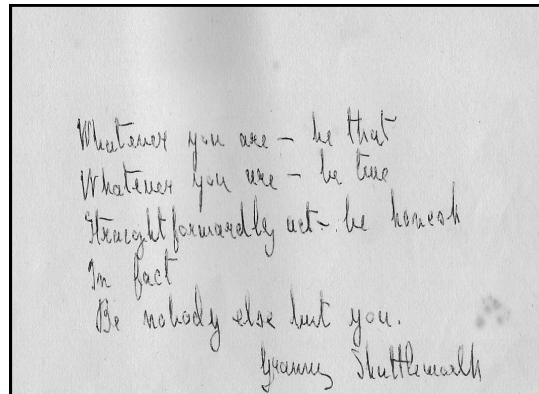
Harry Wilson's Sketchbook 1—Harry Wilson (1916), P Firth (1916), W Emmot (1916), E Watson (1917), NGC (1917), A Spencer (1916), L Tillotson (1919), Unknown
 Harry Wilson's Sketchbook 2— Frank Waddington (1916), Madge Firth (1916), Minnie King, MAB, E King, J C Hutchinson (1926), M Haworth

Like most of my contemporaries, I too had an autograph book when I was young in the 1950s, and today cherish memories of friends, relatives, class-mates, teachers and nuns, and some who to me were celebrities – Australian cricketers such as Ray Lindwall and Keith Miller, Lancashire cricketers such as Brian Statham and Alan Wharton

Earby Chronicles

and also artists who performed at the Baptist Choir Weekends, such as Owen Brannigan, George Allen and Thomas H Land. The coloured pages are filled with poems, personal messages, drawings and other mementos. There is a drawing of our family outside the farm, a message from my Granny and a few bars of music from her musical brother. How evocative they are to look back on now.

John Wilson and Stephanie Carter



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN EARBY AND KELBROOK 100 YEARS AGO (1913)

(from the Craven Herald)

Earby

Christmas Dances

On Christmas Eve the Conservative Club held its annual dance, described as “the event of the season”, at the Albion Hall. An arrangement had been made with Mr Home, the manager of the Empire Theatre, for his projectionist Mr Max Wertz to install “a brilliant scheme of electric illumination, with numerous coloured lights, which gave a fairy-like and altogether pleasing effect to the ballroom.” Two hundred and fifty people participated in dancing to the music of Hopwood’s Band from Skipton, and an “excellent supper catered for by Miss Holgate” was served to 200 in the billiard room.

Earby Chronicles

Also on Christmas Eve, the Liberal Club's Annual Soiree in the Coronation Hall was well attended. Bolton's Band played for dancing and Mr Bundy supplied the refreshments.

During Christmas week the Earby Co-operative Society also held their annual dance in the Coronation Hall.

Wesleyan Church

The annual tea and entertainment took place on Christmas Day in the Coronation Hall. The long and varied entertainment in the evening, in the hands of the scholars, was very well attended. Those who took part included Miss D Moorhouse (violinist), Misses M Whitham, M Willis, C Duxbury, E Carlisle, Lizzie Hartley, Jennie Brown, Dorothy Parker, Jennie Bailey, Gladys Firth, Florrie Carter, Edith Firth and Masters G Pawson, A Bradshaw and F Midgley. During the evening bibles were distributed for good attendance.

All Saints Church Sunday School

A successful Christmas Conversazione was held in the schoolroom. A programme of nursery rhymes by the younger children, and songs and recitations by the older ones was directed by Miss Mosley. The intervals provided time for general conversation and refreshments. The Christmas tree, which had been donated by Mr R F Roundell of Gledstone, was laden with toys and prizes for the children. These were distributed by the Rector, Rev Ayre and by Dr Pickles.

Baptist Sunday School

Following a successful Yuletide gathering on Christmas Eve, the choir and scholars presented a three-act operetta entitled "The Mystic Mirror" to a crowded audience in the Coronation Hall.

Kelbrook

St Mary's Church and School

The Christmas festivities started on Christmas Eve with a successful Evergreen Social promoted by the ladies in the congregation. Rawsthorn's Band supplied the music for dancing and songs and carols were sung at intervals. Refreshments were provided and everyone present received a gift. Rev. A E Chance expressed his thanks to the workers and the singing of "While shepherds watched their flocks by night" brought the evening to a close.

Two well-attended services were held on Christmas Day followed by a carol service on the Sunday. The following day a social gathering was held to mark the retirement of Mr H A Watson, organist for the past five years. The evening was spent in singing, recitations and games.

United Methodist Church

The annual Christmas tea party and concert was held in the Schoolroom when prizes were distributed to the scholars. A varied programme of entertainment was provided by Miss W Foxcroft, Mr J Dodd, Mr S Butterworth (humorist), Miss A Holmes, Mr H Wilkinson, Mr W Jackson (violinist) and accompanist Mr J W Wilkinson. Two dialogues, "Wanted, a confidential clerk" and "The Outcast" were performed.

The Conservative Club, which had opened in the village a few years ago under the influence of Mr Reuben Hodgson, had become "the centre of a real live organisation" and a meeting place for members. A supper and social took place in the Clubroom of the Liberal Club on Christmas Eve. Evening classes for cookery, ambulance nursing and other subjects were soon to re-commence in the Council School.

POSTSCRIPT TO “THE CLATTER OF CLOGS IN THE MILLS OF EARBY” - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GILL AND HARTLEY FAMILIES

Stephanie Carter and Vivienne Midgley

At the launch of the Society's new publication on 14th September on the mills of Earby, I had the good fortune to meet Vivienne Midgley, the great grand-daughter of Bracewell Hartley senior and grand-daughter of Joe Hartley. Together we have pieced together what was, to me, the puzzle of three Bracewell Hartleys, and their involvement in Grove and Brook Sheds. A glimpse into Viv's fascinating family picture collection makes the jigsaw clearer. I will attempt to put the story of these pioneers of local industry into context.

To distinguish between these three Bracewell Hartleys, I have given them a number in the text: Bracewell Hartley (I), (II), (III)

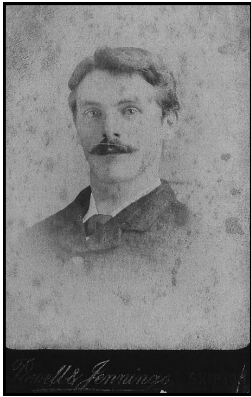
Joseph Hartley (b.1829) and Martha his wife were living in Earby and had the usual large family, nine children in their case: Susan (b.1850), Mary Ann (b.1852), Thomas (b.1855), William (b.1859), Grace (b.1861), Delilah (b.1864), Rachel (b.1864), Bracewell (I) (b.1866), William (b.1870). The 1891 census shows Joseph, aged 62, Martha his wife, and Bracewell (I) his son aged 23, a cotton twister, living at the top of Aspen Lane, Earby. Next door lived Joseph and Martha's eldest son Thomas Hartley, aged 35, a cotton manufacturer with his wife Elizabeth, daughter Martha aged 12 and son Bracewell (II) aged 2.

Thomas Henry, known as T H Hartley, had been a taper at Victoria Mill. After the collapse of the Christopher Bracewell empire, he established a successful firm, Moorhouse and Hartley, in Victoria Mill in 1892. The 1901 census shows T H Hartley aged 46, cotton manufacturer, living at Heather View at the top of New Road in Earby, with his wife Elizabeth, daughter Martha aged 22 and son Bracewell (II) aged 12. In 1902 the partnership with Moorhouse was dissolved and T H Hartley moved his business to the new Brook Shed in 1908, where he installed 408 looms for the manufacture of high-class sateens. He was assisted in the management by his son Bracewell Hartley (II) (born 1889) and his son-in-law Ernest Jenkinson who had married his daughter Martha. T H Hartley was a prominent supporter of the Baptist Church and had a seat on the Parish Council. He was well known throughout the North of England as a poultry fancier and was a frequent exhibitor at the principal shows. His only son, Bracewell Hartley (II), was the salesman for the firm and very well liked and respected. He married Jennie Foulds, a well-known singer, the daughter of Joseph Foulds, in September 1911. Bracewell (II) became ill in the summer of 1913 and spent the winter in the Channel Islands and Bournemouth in the hope of recuperating. On his return home he had a relapse and died at the young age of 25 in March 1914. His father, T H Hartley, had retired to Lightcliffe near Halifax, but returned to Earby to spend the last years of his life.

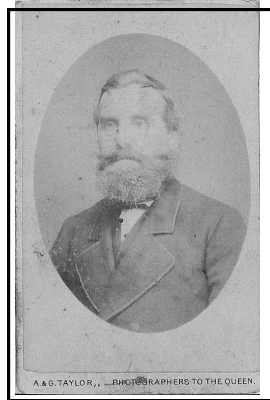
The 1901 census records that T H Hartley and his younger brother Bracewell Hartley (I) were living next door to each other at Heather View. Bracewell (I) was 34, a cotton manufacturer, his wife Margaret Annie was 30 and born in Barley and son Joseph William was aged eight. Bracewell (I) had been born in Earby in 1866 and he married Margaret Annie, the daughter of William Gill, in June 1891.

William Gill was the son of Thomas Gill and Martha née Dixon, born in 1848 at Hazelwood, Bolton Abbey, and he became a joiner and builder of first-class reputation. He had come to Earby and his first workshop was in an old house at the bottom of Riley Street, opposite the Wesleyan Day School. When the Mechanics Institute, in the old Baptist Chapel,

Earby Chronicles



Bracewell Hartley I



William Gill

ceased to function, William Gill took over the premises, and had a shop at the end of the block in Red Lion Street for the display of furniture. The 1881 census shows William Gill, builder and joiner, living in Chapel House and employing four men and two boys. His first wife was Ellen Burton, who he married in Burnley, and the couple had four children Margaret Annie (b.1871), Martha (b.1873), Ada (b.1875) and Luther (b.1877). Ellen died in 1880 and in 1881 William Gill married his second wife Jane, née Wormwell, from Kelbrook. at St Mary's Church Kelbrook. William and Jane Gill moved to the Grove in School Lane. This imposing house had been built in 1870 by Earby's first resident doctor, William Theakstone, who was still living there in 1882 prior to his retirement to the Bedale area.

Early in 1885 William Gill bought a plot of land in Ireland (Island) Meadow, where he proceeded to erect Grove Shed, a substantial weaving shed for 600 looms with a two-storey warehouse. It was let on a room and power basis to Clegg and Parkinson and Bailey, Watson and Berry. When these two firms moved on in 1895 the whole of the weaving space was taken over by Robert Nutter. With him were associated his brothers-in-law, Bracewell Hartley (I) and William Hartley (Nutter & Hartley). They traded as The Grove Manufacturing Co. The shareholders on the formation of the company in 1896 were:

Robert Nutter, Aspen Lane Earby, greengrocer
Bracewell Hartley (I), Aspen Lane Earby, manufacturer
Robert B Clarke, Green End Earby, manufacturer
William Hartley, Earby, tackler
Mary Ann Nutter, Earby, housewife
Elizabeth E Hartley, Earby, housewife
Margaret Annie Hartley, Aspen Lane Earby, housewife
Mary Emma Clarke, Earby, housewife

In 1905 Grove Shed was struck by a disastrous fire, as described in "The Clatter of Clogs". Bracewell Hartley (I) was in Blackpool at the time and returned post-haste to survey the damage. In 1908 Messrs. Bracewell (I) and William Hartley moved to the newly erected Brook Shed and took space for 408 looms. Bracewell Hartley (I) had married William Gill's eldest daughter, Margaret Annie. They had one son, Joseph William, born in 1892. By the 1911 census, William Gill had moved to Altham. His son Luther, who had married Alice Wright from Earby, was also living and working there at the Altham Mill. Luther had two children, May and George Dixon Gill.

The 1911 census shows Bracewell (I) and Margaret Annie Hartley living at the Grove. They had sold Heather View to Squire Firth. The firm now had a large part of Brook Shed stretching from the beck to Mostyn Avenue and Bracewell (I) was one of the most prominent textile manufacturers in the area. His son Joseph William (Joe) took over from him as director of the firm. During the 1st World War Joe was an aircraftman in the Royal Naval Air

Earby Chronicles

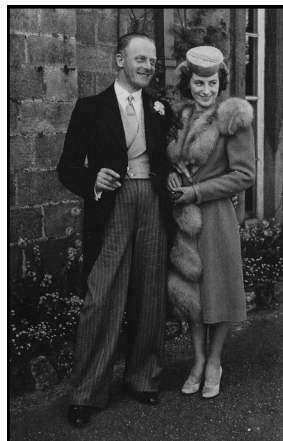


Bracewell Hartley (I) front left—1905



**Bracewell (I) & Margaret Annie Hartley
at the Grove**

Service, stationed at Roehampton. He married Gertrude Jane Whitehead in February 1914 and the couple had two children, Bracewell Hartley (III) (known as Jimmie) (b.1919) and Rhoda Whitehead Hartley (b.1914). They lived at Ashfield, Skipton Road, prior to moving to Grange Fell near All Saints Church.



**Left to right: Bracewell Hartley (I) with Bracewell
Hartley (III), Joseph Hartley with daughter Rhoda
Margaret Annie Hartley with son Joseph Hartley**



Bracewell Hartley (III)

Bracewell (III) (Jimmie) had inherited the family's business acumen and was associated with the firm of B & W Hartley, cotton manufacturers. Tragedy struck the family in June 1939 when he, Bracewell (Jimmie) Hartley (III), aged 21, was killed in a motor bike accident near Settle. A friend, Charles Shuttleworth, son of George Shuttleworth of Fieldhead Earby, was pillion passenger and the pair were returning from a trip to Morecambe. It was midnight and the motor cycle struck a grass verge with a protruding snow plough on a bend; both men were thrown from the motor cycle; Charles Shuttleworth was not seriously hurt but Bracewell Hartley (III) died at the scene.

Bracewell Hartley's (III) grandfather, Bracewell Hartley (I), was so shocked at the death of his grandson that he had a stroke. He died in July 1947. B & W Hartley were to close under the Cotton Industry Act in 1959. Joe Hartley, who died in 1976

Earby Chronicles

at the age of 85, had been a very well-known figure. In the 1950s he had owned three race horses, one of which, Papa's Image, was so successful it was said that in one season Joe won more money than any other one-horse owner in training. His daughter Rhoda Whitehead Hartley married Donald Flores whose father was born in Elberfield, Germany. Donald was a radio officer on motor torpedo boats during the Second World War. With his linguistic skills and experience as a radio officer sending and receiving messages in Morse code, Donald was called upon to help with deciphering codes at Bletchley Park. The couple had three children, Vivienne, Philippa and Patrick.

It is to Vivienne that we owe much of the information and the photographs which illustrate this potted family history.

Joseph Hartley = Martha								Thomas Gill = Martha Dixon	
									William Gill =
Susan	Mary Ann	Thomas H	William	Grace	Delilah	Rachel	Bracewell (I)	William	Ellen Burton (1)
b 1850	b 1852	b 1855	b 1859	b 1861	b 1864	b 1864	b 1866	b 1870	Jane Wormwell (2)
		m					m		
		Elizabeth							
							Margaret		
							Annie b 1871		
							Gill		
	Martha	Bracewell (II) d 1914							
	m	m							
Ernest Jenkinson	Jennie Foulds						Joseph William =	Gertrude Whitehead	
							b 1892	m 1914	
							Bracewell (II)	Rhoda Whitehead	b 1914
							b 1919	m	
							d 1939*	Donald Flores	
							Vivien	Philippa	Patrick

ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Adam Shaw

The September lecture was given to a good audience by Adam Shaw, archivist at the National Co-operative Archive. He began by outlining how the Co-operative movement started and developed, before showing two films from 1938, one of which was of Blackpool Co-op and typical of the shops growing up in every town, which concluded with information on the Co-operative archive.

In the 1840s, Rochdale, the home of the Co-operative movement, was a town where 136 people were living on 6d per week, 200 people on 10d a week and 508 people on 1s/10d. Life expectancy in 1848 was 21 years and 45 out of every 1000 died each year.

Earby Chronicles

This was a world of extreme poverty where unscrupulous retailers sold adulterated food and because it was sold on credit their customers were caught in a vicious circle. It was against this background that, in 1844, 28 men, known as the Rochdale Pioneers, got together and decided to start a co-operative society. They were inspired by the ideas of Robert Owen, the father of socialism, who had grand ideas about changing the world, and William King who saw the shop as the hub of the community. Each Pioneer put in £1 and the ground floor of 31 Toad Lane was rented. Flour, sugar, oatmeal, candles and other essentials were bought in. On the evening of 21st December 1844 the shop was opened and a large number of people arrived, many of them just to laugh at the Pioneers.

From this small beginning the Co-operative movement started and spread world-wide. It was based on the following principles:

- Open membership - £1 made anyone a member
- Democratic
- Distribution of surplus – profit divided equally (the famous divi)
- Payment of limited interest
- Political and religious neutrality
- Cash trading only
- Promotion of education
- Unadulterated goods – scales were visible on the top of the counter for all to see.

All the Co-ops were independent of each other and locally Nelson opened in 1860, Skipton 1861, Burnley 1862, Earby 1875 and Colne 1886. In 1863 by the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) was started with two men and a boy in Manchester. Soon the Society started manufacturing its own goods, setting up factories, such as the Crumpsall biscuit factory, and farms, producing everything they needed from boots and shoes to jam, printing their own labels and pamphlets, and owning ships to bring in the goods. The first ship to sail down the Manchester Ship Canal was the SS Pioneer. In 1869 the Co-operative Union was set up to guide co-ops. The Co-operative College was established in 1919, providing courses on book-keeping and other necessary subjects. By the turn of the 20th century there were 1500 independent co-operatives, all working on the same principles.

During the 2nd World War the Co-operative turned over 155 of its factories to help the war effort and promised to pay employees who joined up the difference between the shop and forces pay. Co-op convalescent homes were turned over to maternity hospitals.

As early as the late 1930s / early 1940s the idea of self-service began to be developed in the shops. In 1942 the first Co-op store in London was converted to self-service. Prior to this, packaging of goods had been the province of the store-keeper, but manufacturers started packaging goods which could be stacked and displayed in the shops. In 1958 a Commission, chaired by Hugh Gaitskell, concluded that many of the shops were old-fashioned and dependent on individuals; there were too many societies and warehouses. Societies started to merge to form fewer but bigger societies and today there are 30 independent Co-ops. In 1968 came Operation Facelift, with a new logo and re-furbishment of many shops, all branded the same. The 1970s saw the introduction of dividend stamps and the 1980s brought the convenience stores. From the CWS, the society became the Co-operative Group and most societies joined. However, the Co-op in Penrith remained the smallest independent society, along with 30 other regional independent societies. In recent times there has been a rise in co-operatives in Africa; co-operative schools have been set up and Britannia Building Society and Somerfield supermarkets have been taken over.

There are now one billion members worldwide.

The National Co-operative Archive, located in central Manchester, was formed in 2000. They house the correspondence collections of men like Robert Owen and a wide array of records relating to the history of the worldwide movement. The Archive is open to all, Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm and visitors are asked to call or email to arrange a visit.

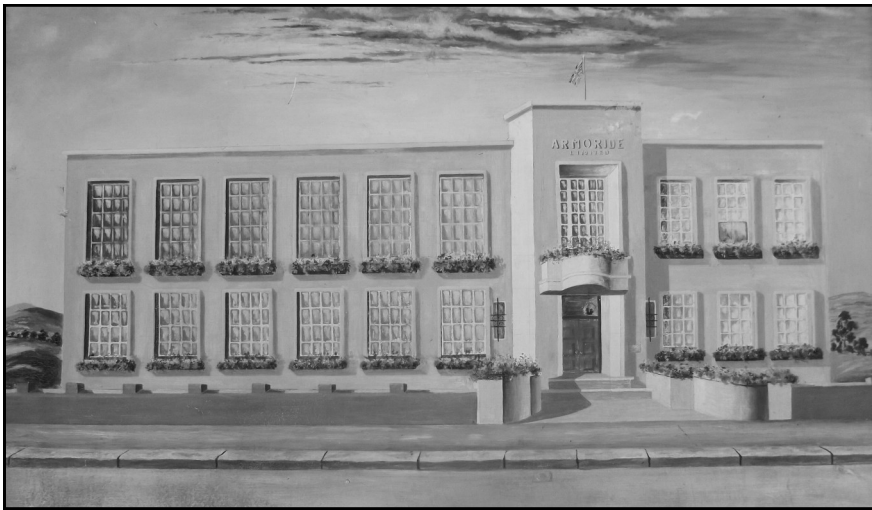
Email: archive@co-op.ac.uk

Telephone: 0161 819 3034

Website: www.archive.coop

THE FINEST BUILDING IN EARBY

By Mike Crewdson



Member, Mike Crewdson, has donated to the Society an oil on board painting of the old Armoride office block situated on School Lane in Earby. It was painted by the late Victor Greenwood in 1955 when the building was described as the finest in Earby. Mike adds the following information:

The office block was built about 1948 by the Abrahams family who relocated their PVC business in Nitro Cellulose furnishing fabrics from Bradford to Grove Mill just after World War II.

In the early years the building comprised of an imposing entrance foyer to the left of which was a switchboard and reception and to the right an office used to interview prospective employees. Next was a waiting and reception area and an open plan staircase with a full size window on the half landing. The ground floor corridor led to the production office (Mr Howard Greenwood in charge), the buying office, the personnel office and the offices of the works director, the technical director and the production manager. There was also the main entrance into the original Grove Mill building housing the inspection department. On the first floor was a self-contained flat used by Mr Abrahams (later converted into the design studio), the board room and the offices of the managing director and finance secretary. Further along the corridor were the finance director and the accounts department and finally the counting house, the latter being converted into the computer room housing the latest IBM computer technology of the day.

The main entrance and imposing doorway was for many years used as a photo-

Earby Chronicles

graphic back drop for the official May Queen and retinue photographs.

The flower troughs did exist and were maintained by an Armoride employee for many years and the brass plaque at the entrance was polished every day.

The painting was unearthed in 1998 when the office block was being refurbished. It was behind some partitioning and the builders threw it in the skip with other rubble. Jim Schofield saw it on top of the skip and rescued it knowing I would be interested in it.

The picture was in a very bad state, dirty, scratched and damaged so about ten years ago I had it cleaned and renovated by Mrs Brenda Wood of Kelbrook and then her husband Barry framed it.

Victor Greenwood worked at Armorides, in fact I worked with him there in the early sixties. Many years later we moved to Valley Road to live and Victor was our next door neighbour.

I believe that this painting is of historical interest and therefore should be retained and viewed by local residents whenever the need arises which is why I am pleased to donate it to the Earby and District Local History Society's Community Archive.

EARBY MAY DAYS 1975-1992

Stephanie Carter

Eighteen Earby May Days were held on Springfield Playing Fields, from 1975 to 1992 and became more lavish and commercialised ventures. The May Queens were:



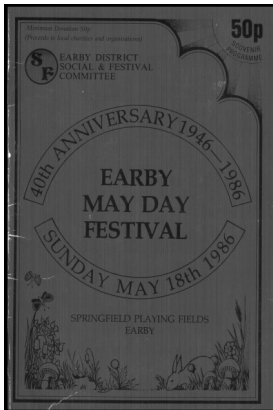
Susan Mortimer (1975), Shirley Carne (1976), Catherine Boocock (1977), Joanne Brown (1978), Janice Hall (1979), Patricia Dawson (1980), Sharon Wright (1982), Ruth Allen (1983), Jane Northway (1984), Claire Martindale (1985), Julie Higson (1986), Sharon Oldfield (1987), Angeline Myers (1988), Lisa Parkinson (1989), Sharon Parkinson (1990), Alison Crompton (1991). The missing photographs are of Deborah Taylor (1981) and Jayne Green (1992).

Earby Chronicles

In 1975 the Britannia Coconut Dancers and Skipton Morris Dancing Troupe entertained the crowds; whilst the Black Knight Sky Divers dropped from the sky. This popular team returned to Earby in 1976 and 1980.

A change from the traditional Saturday to Sunday came in 1977, when a large number of acts provided entertainment, including Leone & Tarnyia death defying gymnasts, Arbeau Dancers and the Blue Magnolia Jazz Band. There was a karate demonstration, a band competition, an army assault course, sheep shearing contest and a fell race. The following year one could enjoy helicopter rides, the beer tent and all the fun of the fair.

Sunday 18th May 1986 brought the 40th anniversary of Earby May Days. In the programme Mrs Greening wrote about the changes since its inception, which included the move to Springfield with more space for more ambitious entertainment and the change of day. The committee chairman was Roy Burt, and a week prior to the anniversary various events were staged in Earby, including a treasure hunt, football match, duck race, fell race and street party. On the day itself there was a celebrity appearance by Liz Dawn, Coronation Street's Vera Duckworth. Ben Lester and his amazing car and fire eaters Hanleo & Katrina performed on the field.



Another Coronation Street star opened the 1989 May Day – Peter Armitage, alias Bill Webster. Again several events were held leading up to the day, when West Craven Youth Band, the Fleur de Lys Majorettes and Grinigog's medieval troupe performed. In 1990 helicopter rides cost £2 and Barry St John's exploding coffin provided entertainment. In 1991 organisers and helpers were thin on the ground and the question was asked "Shall May Day continue?". A new committee with Malcolm King as chairman was however formed, and on Sunday 19th May the entertainment on the field was back to basics, with stalls, Park High School Band, 5 aside football, tug of

war, a baby show and a junior fell race. Interest in the event was sadly waning, and the last Earby May Day was held in 1992.

The programmes for Earby May Days may be consulted in the EDLHS archive room in the New Road Community Centre, which is open Friday mornings or by request.

GROWING UP ON THE RANCH—Part 1

Ken Ranson

In 1945 at the end of World War II dad was de-mobbed from the Royal Navy; he had been an aero-engine fitter on aircraft carriers. Shortly afterwards he got a job at Rolls-Royce in Barnoldswick and so, in April 1946, when I was six months old, we moved from Ashton-Under-Lyne, near Manchester, to live in Earby.

We lived firstly at 22 Warwick Drive with my aunt and uncle, who, like my dad, had got a job at Rolls-Royce, then in a flat above a shop at 111a Colne Road, until the day came when we moved into a prefab at 16 Chesford Avenue on The Ranch. North Holme Estate (named after a nearby farmhouse), known colloquially as The Ranch, was situated at the top of the hill on Salterforth Lane, a short distance from the railway station. The estate

Earby Chronicles



comprised of semi-detached prefabricated (prefab) bungalows which were erected at the start of the war to house “essential workers”. The estate got its nickname from the community centre which looked like an American ranch house. The community centre was a large prefabricated building, it had a bar, a small stage, snooker tables and one room at the end was a library, which on Saturdays was used as a cinema where films were shown. It was run for a long time by Phyllis and Bill Brookes whose son John tells me he used to help change the beer barrels and serve behind the bar at age twelve.

PREFAB

The prefabs were constructed from asbestos sheeting with a corrugated roof. Very basic, they had asphalted floors (“The lino’s coming today”), a black leaded range in the kitchen and a small fireplace in the living room. My initial memory is of it being so cold. There were three bedrooms and a separate toilet and bathroom which, for the times, was quite posh (bath day was Sunday). Each prefab had a large amount of garden on all three sides and many people grew their own vegetables. Each house had a marked out garden and the land in between was a communal area. One day I picked mum some flowers from the garden only to be told, at my cost, that they were strawberries.

Times were hard and nobody had very much money so the house was very basically furnished. I can visualise in the living room a table, peg rug, two chairs and a sideboard on which dad had a fish tank, and in one of the drawers (the left-hand one) was “the strap” which my mum, who I loved to bits, used to administer what we would now call corporal punishment for my any misdemeanor. Parents were strict in those days but we were basically treated as young adults and were given more freedom than today’s parents would do. My bedroom consisted of a bed and a wicker basket in which I kept my worldly goods, clothes, toys, and my treasured books. There was a small porch at the side door which housed a mangle. Mum says that in “The Winter” of 1947 I crawled out of the porch and into the deep snow.

ENVIRONS

The estate was developed on a green-field site on land requisitioned from two local farmers, and was split in two by Salterforth Lane, which basically led to there being two separate communities. It was a wonderful place to grow up in. There was only one car I can remember, so no problems with traffic and the roads were ours to use as we wanted, to play football and cricket on. On all sides was beautiful countryside which we used to roam and explore as we wished. Many times we would pack sandwiches and take a bottle of sarsaparilla and walk up into the hills overlooking Earby and not get back home until it was almost dark. I have a recollection of walking up the lane to the first farm with dad to collect firewood. In the field across from the farm was a large windmill, now gone but the spring is still used to water the cattle.

RANCH EVENTS

The Ranch was a very close-knit community and as was usual in those days everyone would join in. Every year there would be a bonfire which was built on the land between Chesford Avenue and Kenilworth Drive. We used to hollow out the base of the bonfire to

make a den. One year we even lined it with plasterboard which we “stole” from the new houses that were being built. All the mothers would do their share of baking toffee apples, parkin, treacle toffee, and potatoes would be roasted in the embers of the fire.

Nineteen fifty three was the year of Queen Elizabeth’s coronation. Tables were set-up along the length of Chesford Avenue and cakes and jelly appeared from out of nowhere. Bunting was put up, paper hats were worn and for the first time in my life I watched television. A family called Nuttall had the only TV (and car) on the estate and we all took it in turns to gaze at a very small glass screen at a black and white fuzzy image of the Queen being crowned. After the party, sports were held on the Bristol Tractors football field.

Other snippets I remember are:

A mobile fish and chip shop that came round quite often, a converted van with a large fryer which had a chimney attached to it to get the fumes away. I can’t remember what the fish and chips tasted like but can you imagine what it must have been like driving a van with a vat full of hot fat. Most days in summer Dixons’ ice cream van came round. They were based in Foulridge and the taste of the ice cream still lingers. The van is still around, owned by a gentleman in Kelbrook. The “Pop man” came round most weeks with large brown, stone-bottles of sarsaparilla, lemonade, limeade and dandelion and burdock. Very occasionally an Indian man (the first coloured person I had seen), who wore a turban, came selling dusters and brushes from a large brown suitcase. And best of all with cries of “Ragbone”, “Ragbone”! The rag and bone man on his horse and cart.

MEMORIES

One of my jobs was to go on my bogie and get a sack of coke from Victoria Mill, which used to stand across from what is now the bus station. Going there was a wonderful trip, going down the steep hill on my bogie (once again thankfully not many cars about) and quite often crashing into the hedge that surrounded the field in front of North Holme farm. The trip back was quite different. With a heavy bag of coke on my bogie and having to pull it up the very steep hill it would take me ages. My dad's first car was a green Riley; he was joint owner with Jackmans & Robinsons. During winter it was shut up in a garage, chocked up on wood blocks and the wheels taken off.

When I was twelve (by law I think) I got a paper round with the newsagents which was part of the small buildings next to Doug Hornby’s barbers’ shop by the railway crossing. The round included Kelbrook and Sough so I had to do it on my bike and every Friday I was paid my wage of two shillings and sixpence.

Miscellaneous memories include sweet rationing which ended on 5th February 1953; ration books had little orange coupons in them. I didn’t like milk much, mum put blue colouring in it to entice me to drink it. A family called Betts had a large pink Cadillac; have vague memories of it being in a bad crash. I hid outside the bedroom window where brother Les was born and heard his first cry. The family who lived across from us had a hen hut. There was a single track branch line to Barnoldswick from the main line and I would sit and watch out of the bedroom window to catch sight of the bellowing smoke which signalled the approach of the train.

To be continued

ENOCH HALL (1794-1883)

By Bob Abel

Enoch Hall was the school master at Elslack School from 1844 to 1872 and such was his reputation that several scholars were sent from Earby to be taught by him.

His story starts with an event at Broughton church in 1910. The occasion was the erection of a memorial stone in the church yard to the memory of Enoch Hall who for several decades had lain in an unmarked grave there. The unveiling ceremony was reported in the Craven Herald and West Yorkshire Pioneer newspapers.

The event also acted as a reunion for several old boys who had attended the school some 40 years earlier; about 30 people attended including J W Green, P Greenwood, Robert Shaw, George Moor, W Wilkinson, Elihu Wilkinson, all from Earby and J Tattersall who had acted as treasurer for the project. The Rev C.W Hamilton, rector of Broughton-with-Elslack, presided.

So, who was Enoch Hall and what was his story? Research has shown that there were a number of inaccuracies in the newspaper reports but it seems from the recollections of the former pupils that Hall was a strict disciplinarian quick to mete out corporal punishment which would not have been tolerated even in 1910. The distinction between training and caning must have been very fine indeed. The general consensus between his former pupils was that although Hall used the cane frequently it hadn't done them any harm and many of them had gone on to successful careers in adult life.

Hall the teacher was described as six feet tall, somewhat corpulent and with clear and healthy skin, very white hair and "bore the impress of a gentleman". He was a strict disciplinarian with a love of thoroughness and cleanliness.

Erected to the memory of
Enoch Hall
Of Elslack
Who died June 16th 1883
Aged 89

He served in the Peninsular Wars, under the Duke of Wellington,
and was one of the guards who escorted Napoleon to St Helena.

He was schoolmaster at Elslack from 1844 to 1872

A man severe he was and stern to view, we knew him well,
and every truant knew:
well had the boding tremblers learned to trace
the day's disasters in his morning face;
yet he was kind, or if severe in aught,
the love he bore to learning was in fault

This stone was erected
By his scholars
June 16th 1910
As a token of their
Appreciation of him and his teaching



The inscription on the new grave memorial is reproduced left

Enoch Hall was baptised in Manchester in 1794 a son of Samuel and Mary Hall (the newspaper reports that he was born in Skipton and his father was a bank manager in the High Street). Elihu Wilkinson states that the Hall family moved to the Skipton area when Enoch was still a child and that his father was a bank manager though I have found no corroborative evidence of his father being a banker in Skipton. Enoch was given a decent education but he probably had a restless nature. Not wanting to be tied down to a mundane clerical job, he decided to enlist in the army, this at a time when the country was under the threat of invasion by the French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte, and there was almost certain to be plenty of action. He enlisted aged 19 on 16th September 1813 at Leeds being described as a clerk and born in Manchester. Wilkinson says that he ran away to join up twice previously but was foiled by his father. He was at Hilsea Barracks near Portsmouth as recorded in the 24th June 1814 muster roll. Elihu Wilkinson stated that Hall fought in the Peninsula War under Wellington and was at the battle Talavera but this was in 1809, four years before Hall enlisted. Wilkinson also refers to Hall being “amongst those who chased the French under General Soult over the Pyrenees” and the West Yorkshire Pioneer article mentions the battle of Toulouse. This was the last and bloodiest battle of the Peninsular campaign and it is possible that Hall was in the thick of it on 10th April 1814. It was also suggested in the newspaper article that he fought at the Battle of Waterloo.

The 1815 muster (24th June to 24th September) places Hall in St Helena. This indicates that firstly he could not have fought at Waterloo (18th June 1815). Also Hall does not feature in the Waterloo medal lists. Secondly he was unlikely to have been in the escort taking Bonaparte to St Helena as HMS Northumbria left England with Napoleon on board on August 7th arriving in St Helena on October 19th. Hall was already on St Helena.

The next record of Hall's army career is on 25th October 1815 when he was promoted to Corporal although on 3rd June 1816 he was demoted to private the reason not being recorded.

His battalion, the 2nd Battalion 53rd Regiment of Foot, remained on St Helena until 1817 when in the June they are recorded as being in Canterbury. It is here that Enoch Hall's army career appears to end now that the French threat has been removed and the army was being reduced. On the 24th September 1817 the 2nd Battalion was paid up and he was discharged on 15th October.

Hall's whereabouts are then a mystery for some 24 years. Did he come back to Skipton area and take up a clerical job or did he go off on another adventure? Elihu Wilkinson remembers that Hall returned to his job in the Skipton Bank “and found that it suited him no better than before”. He also recalls that Hall “had a spell as clerk in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company office at Skipton”

The 1841 census suggests that he was living with his widowed mother in Gargrave. His brother Samuel was farming at Skelton Grange Farm Hunslet and was also a land agent at that time.

The newspaper article tells that he was offered the job of school master at Elslack in 1844 by James Lane Fox of Bramham Park, owner of Elslack estate, following the resignation of Charles Tunnicliffe, (who was later to found and run a school at Kelbrook) (see Chronicles Editions 29 and 32). He was paid a fee of £25 per year with a rent-free cottage and two closes of land. Fox's idea in paying the teacher the £25 was that at least one child from every cottager or small farmer's family could have free education whereas the normal fee was 3d per week for reading and writing and 9d if arithmetic was taught as well.

It was recalled by his former pupils that each year on October 19th to commemorate the arrival of Napoleon on St Helena, he put his cane away in his desk for the day although

they would have preferred a day's holiday instead.

Hall was school master at Elslack for some 28 years.

One has to conclude that Hall was probably a bit of a romancer about his exploits during the Napoleonic War. Harry Speight, Yorkshire historian and writer of local guide books recalls in his book "Through Airedale from Goole to Malham" - *Often during our many weeks stays at this place (Elslack) have we chatted with the old man (Enoch Hall) who was full of anecdotes and stories of his early soldier life abroad,*

Elihu Wilkinson remembers - *it may be that Enoch talked more of his fighting days when he strolled, as he did at the weekends, to the tavern at Pick Hill (The Tempest Arms). There it is said that now and then he took a little more than he ought to have done.* One can imagine him sat surrounded by locals enthralled by tales (whether true or not) of Wellington and Napoleon and those distant, and for a young man, exciting times.

MAY DAY DANCERS AT ALBION HALL c 1960

This photograph has been sent in by Lynne Wear. Christine Holgate was the leader of the troupe and Lynne Smith is 7th from right. Can anyone identify the other girls?



PENDLE WALKING FESTIVAL

Margaret Brown & Wendy Faulkner

In the spring of 2013 the Society was asked to lead a walk from the Youth Hostel as part of The Pendle Walking Festival to be held in the first week in September 2013. As we had already talked about doing a history walk to put on the web site we decided to join in the festival. Led by Wendy Faulkner and Margaret Brown, the walk started at the hostel and went through the oldest parts of Earby, before following an old route across the fields to St. Mary's Church, Thornton-in-Craven.

Starting at the old "top of the town" the walk took us down Red Lion Street, where there are old cottages and the first Baptist chapel with baptism steps leading into the beck; then over Keb Bridge into Water Street. Heading up Riley Street we looked at the village green and the White Lion Inn before going down Aspen Lane and back into Water Street.

Earby Chronicles

We headed out of Earby along the old lane in front of the Grammar School, and followed the footpath over the railway line and across the fields to Thornton. At Thornton Church we were met by Derek Clabburn who gave us a guided tour of the church and the Holy Well, where we took the opportunity to sit on the wall and eat our lunches.

Our return route went via Boothbridge Lane and the old bridle way, following the mill race back into Earby, then along Water Street, Cemetery Road, Cowgarth Lane and Birchall Lane back to the hostel for a well earned cup of tea and biscuits.

Around 25 people joined the walk, including groups from Hull and from the Ormskirk/Southport area as well as people from the Pendle area. They all seemed to enjoy the walk and were impressed by the scenery and history.

If you would like to repeat the walk, there is a downloadable map, information sheet and photos of how Earby looked at the beginning of the 20th century on the History Society website. We also are hoping to add other walks to this part of the web site, so if you have any walks that you think others would like why not write them up for us to put on the site or in the Chronicles. Contact Wendy or Margaret for further details about how to do this.

www.earbyhistory.co.uk



HEALTH ISSUES IN BURNLEY

We were grateful to Margaret Brown for stepping in as a late replacement for our scheduled speaker who was unable to be at the October meeting. Her talk was intriguingly entitled "Tom and Jerry and Pea 'Oils".

Margaret's theme was poverty and the poor living conditions when Burnley was developing into an industrial town. She described how environmental conditions early in life can persistently modify the genes and influence the health of descendants for several generations (epigenetics). Margaret compared current health statistics of Burnley and the more rural district of Skipton to illustrate the effect.

Burnley developed rapidly as an industrial town with scant provision for sanitation in the crowded streets and alleys. The people lived in crowded houses often cheek by jowl with pigs. There might only be one privy (primitive toilet) for 20-30 households and often they overflowed as they were not always being emptied regularly; the stench alone must have been horrendous.

Earby Chronicles



Two typical examples of the mid 19th c housing in Burnley

Most accommodation was in back-to-back houses or even worse in cellar dwellings, subject to ingress of water and waste from street level and severe dampness

The river was polluted and drinking water was of dubious quality from wells and cholera and typhus epidemics were prevalent. The survival rate for infants was low as many died from diarrhoea.

Diet was poor. Mothers went back to work in the mills very soon after a child was born; they couldn't afford to lose their income. Consequently little time was spent on food preparation and this is where the Pea 'Oils (Pie and Pea shops) came in.

"Tom and Jerry" refers to the numerous beer houses which sprang up when licensing laws were relaxed and many of the men folk were tempted to spend their hard-earned wages on alcohol rather than on helping to feed their families. Malnourishment in children was rife leading to poor bone development amongst other problems.

The smoke and soot from the many mill chimneys together with cotton dust caused many respiratory problems.

Graveyards were over used and caused problems.

Eventually local council acts began to improve the situation with improved sewage disposal and improvements in living conditions. Nationally, factory acts reduced working hours and generally improved working conditions.

Purpose-built hospitals, however primitive, began to take over from the workhouse infirmaries and in 1886 the Victoria Hospital was opened.

However the legacy of those not so far off days is still with us to some extent and we must be grateful that we, as a society, have benefited through the sacrifice of our forebears.

SOCIETY AGM

Members are reminded that the AGM will take place on Tuesday 18th February 2014
Nominations for offices and proposals for discussion should be sent, preferably on the attached form, to the Secretary on or before January 31st 2014.

The AGM will be followed by a slide show of images from the Society archives

Unveiling Ceremony and Coffee Morning

On 25th January 2014 the Society will be hosting a coffee morning at the Town Council Offices when the WWII plaques on display there will be officially unveiled. We will also be asking the public to assist in the preparation for the WWI commemorative exhibition which will be held later in the year. Please help spread the word that we are looking for relevant material to use or copy for use in an exhibition. Does any one have photographs, diaries or letters from the period or family memories or memorabilia? If possible please bring any material to the coffee morning.

Annual Dinner

It has been decided to hold the 2014 annual dinner later in the year with a provisional date of Tuesday May 27th. Confirmation and further details will be announced in the Spring edition of Chronicles.

*We wish all our readers a
happy Christmas and
a prosperous New Year.*



PROGRAMME

Tuesday 21st January "Walter Morrison of Malham"
Rosemary and Robin Bundy

Tuesday 18th February AGM followed by slide show of images
from the Society archive

Tuesday 18th March "The Dick Kerr Ladies" by Gail Newsham

**PRODUCED
& printed
by
Earby & District
Local History
Society.**

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Members details are held on computer for mailing and compilation of a membership list. The details will not be used for any other purpose without the express permission of the member. If you do not wish your details to be held on computer please inform the Treasurer immediately.

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.

EDITOR

Stephanie Carter
01756 794099