

# Earby Chronicles



Edition 89  
www.earbyhistory.co.uk

SUMMER 2018

**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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## OTTER HUNTING

Stephanie Carter



“In August 1889 Captain Yates’ pack of otter hounds from the Kendal district hunted the Broughton Beck. The sport was keen and was joined in by a number of sportsmen from Skipton and adjoining villages. From the start at Thornton to the finish at Broughton quarries the scent of an otter was never lost, the result being the death of a young otter, weighing seven pounds.”

Later in the month another hunt by the same “celebrated pack of hounds” was held in the vicinity of Broughton. “There was a good field, Sir Charles Tempest with a large party of friends, Captain Preston, Captain Maude and many others were present. After a short search, a fine dog otter was put up out of an old drain near Heslaker Lane and a merry chase ensued. A two hours’ hunt took place, and the hounds ultimately brought the otter to bay near Carleton road where the road and the river run side by side, not far from the wooden bridge. The otter was killed, and it was found to be 22lbs in weight.”

The otter is one of the largest and most intelligent carnivorous mammals in Europe. The concept of otter hunting dates back to the

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1700s. The above two articles from local newspapers prompted me to investigate the “sport” of otter hunting which was a popular pastime in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Otter hounds were especially kept by the gentry for this sport. They were “a scent hound”, with rough double coats and substantial webbed feet, bred to hunt for long periods of time both on land and in water.



The otter hunting season lasted from mid-April to mid-September and hunting parties of several hundred people often included a number of ladies. Organisations, such as the Ribble Otter Hounds Association, promoted meetings. Writing in the Burnley Express in September 1902, “One of the Crowd” described “hunting the otter is a grand sport – exciting, exhilarating and at times exhausting. One must be a good walker, a good wader and not afraid of water...”

Some of the references in the local papers of the late 1800s and early 1900s today make disturbing reading.

- 1882 May – Captain Yates and his pack of otter hounds were out on the Hodder around Whitewell, resulting in “good sport amid the keenest excitement; the animal was hunted for two hours. Eventually it took to land and was killed – it was a fine dog weighing 22 lbs”.
- 1886 August – Captain Yates’ pack had been hunting in Ireland and “killed nine fine otters”.
- 1886 September – Three hours of “grand sport” were enjoyed on the Ribble around Clitheroe, resulting in the death of a female otter. The report referred to “the time honoured ceremony of taking off the head, tail and legs of the otter, and distributing them to the various ladies and gentlemen present”.
- 1890 August – “An immense concourse of spectators witnessed the hunt of Col. Dawson of Weston Hall, Otley on the River Aire between Carleton Bridge and Cononley. The otter evaded the hounds by taking refuge in a creek.”
- 1893 – A large quantity of fish was disappearing from Rimington Brook, A local gamekeeper, having observed the foot-prints of an otter, hunted the animal with his retriever. It was eventually driven out from the water and a fight with the dog ensued. The dog was no match for its opponent, which was shot by the gamekeeper. It was a 21lb dog otter and a large quantity of partly eaten fish was found nearby.
- 1902 June – The West Cumberland Otter Hounds were out on the Wharfe near Bolton Abbey. “The woods were ringing with the cries of the dogs. Several times the otter beautifully evaded capture but was eventually caught mid-steam below the Strid”. The dog otter weighed 22 lbs and the hunt had lasted 4½ hours.

In 1904 otter hunting was described in one paper as “an expensive luxury, the cost of providing a week’s sport on the Ribble and Hodder amounting to £100”. Otters were said to devour and decimate fish and were considered to be pests and vermin by anglers. To others hunting otters provided “a capital sport” and to others it was cruel .

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed, otters disappeared dramatically from rivers, due

to persecution and pollution. In 1904 the Earby & Thornton Gas Co. Ltd. were summoned for discharging ammonia from the gas works to flow into Earby Beck and then to Broughton Beck, where fish were found poisoned. In 1913 sewage from the Earby sewage farm was discharged into the beck. In more recent times pesticides have been washed into waterways.

It was not until 1978, due to the dramatic decline in otter numbers, that the otter was placed on the list of protected species in Britain and otter-hunting therefore ceased. Numbers slowly increased, although the resurgence did not delight anglers who reported otters decimating stocks in fishing lakes. In recent years it has been reported that otters have finally managed to swim back from the brink of extinction and can be found today in most counties in England.

## **THE LATE WILFRED DEMAIN'S MEMORIES OF EARBY CRICKET TEAM**

With thanks to his nephew Ian Berridge

The Messiah, Earby Cricket Club and Yorkshire County Cricket Club were amongst the first things I knew about in my early life. These all played a great part in the lives of the Demain family. The talk was usually of Norman Allin and Frank Mullings, or of those two great Yorkshiremen, Wilfred Rhodes and George Hirst. In fact I was named after Wilfred Rhodes.



**1937 Wilfred Demain Centre with Cricket Pads and Bat**

My father and my uncle Jack played for Earby for many years; father was wicket-keeper and Uncle Jack a very good all-rounder. The cricket field in those days was by Victoria Mill, a very level field, much better than Applegarth used to be. My father had many stories to tell of the matches played between Earby and Barnoldswick. On one occasion Barlick made a very big score; then my father and Uncle Jack put on 99 for the first wicket, yet

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Earby lost. One story he told was of playing at Gargrave, I should say in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As they came off the field someone who had travelled later from Earby told them of a murder that had been committed in the Old Lane at Earby. One of the players immediately said "I know who it will be" and he named the man who was alleged to have killed his wife, a man named Cudworth. The police officer at that time was a man called Whitehead, and he had to make the arrest.

Some 20 years later, 1926, my father and I went to Leeds to see the Test Match between England and Australia. We had left Earby at 7.0am, arriving on the ground for the gates opening at 9.00am. We got a good seat and sat waiting until 11.30. At 11.25 my father jumped to his feet and shouted "Sergeant Whitehead, Sergeant Whitehead". I looked up and saw this burly figure strolling on the tarmac in front of the spectators. Father said to our immediate neighbours "Move up will you". So the worthy sergeant got a good seat, after most of us had sat for 2 hours. I was hoping the ground would open up for me.

The Earby team I best remember was the one of the 1920s and early 1930s – Tom Woolridge, Jim and Jack Hartley, Tom Whittaker, Tommy Nutter, Fred Smith, Cyril Turner and later Denton Willis, John Turner and Tommy Crowther. Others were Alfred Duxbury, Lonzy Hartley and Silverwood Taylor, who were in and out of the side. Earby joined the Yorkshire Council about 1925 or 26. They had won the old Craven League so often that it was becoming boring.

The first professional was a man called Bert Tremlin, a rotund rather jolly individual, who had played many years for Essex County Club. He only stayed one season, yet during that time Earby spectators saw one of the most exciting cricket matches in the history of Earby cricket. Skipton were the visitors and there had always been keen rivalry between the two. Skipton's stars were Reg Billows and Harry Thornton, with George Whitehead from Carleton being a very useful bowler. Earby won the toss and struggled a bit to score 123. The big crowd of locals were not too happy. When Skipton batted they did not fare much better, because Earby were always renowned for their bowling and fielding. Harry Thornton was still in however. When he had scored 23, he tried for a second run; the ball was thrown to Bert Tremlin at the bowler's end, who took it, looked round to see Thornton yards out of his crease, and knocked off the bails. The spectators, Earby's, were delighted, but only for a second. The Skipton umpire gave him 'not out'. You could have heard the groans in Burnley! Albert Crowther, the local chimney sweep, had a hen pen skirting the field. He usually had some comments to make on the matches; but this time he excelled himself. Still there it was. Thornton went on to make 70 of the 124 needed. When George Whitehead, the last Skipton man, came in the scores were level. After a couple of deliveries he struck out and the ball went in the direction of where the old score hut used to be, by the Co-operative stable. There on the boundary was Tom Woolridge, one of the best fielders in the business. He caught the ball with hands stretched above his head. Earby's folks went mad with delight. I had never seen such a delighted set of people. Modern hysterics had nothing on that day.

Fred Smith, a cousin of mine, was one of the real characters of that time. He could bowl prodigious leg breaks of some two feet, which pitched outside the leg stump and ended up in the slips. Fred played a long time for Earby, but another Fred one Saturday afternoon drove him almost to tears! This was Fred Slater, who came with the Yeadon Green Lane team. He was a left-handed batsman. Fred Smith's leg breaks were off-breaks to him, just right to keep a lad on the top of New Road shed fully occupied that day. Fred Slater became pro' at Earby and later went to Enfield in the Lancashire League.

The Earby team did very well in the Yorkshire Council and in 1920 finished in the

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first four in the table. This meant a play-off between the four for the championship. I had been the scorer for three years, after being rather disappointed at not being a player, when the draw was made for the play-off. Earby had to meet the strong Harrogate side at Ilkley. For some years the Earby pro' had been Syd Cloughton, a member of a well-known cricketing family in Yorkshire. Syd was a splendid bowler, medium pace, and could bowl on to a threepenny bit. This proved to be another match of tremendous thrills. Harrogate won the toss and batted. The Earby team had never bowled or fielded better and got Harrogate out for 83, a poor total for such a strong batting side. I recollect at the interval one of the umpires came to the Earby tent and said "I don't think you will get them" – an odd remark for a "neutral umpire".

Well, Earby went in, and struggled, not because of poor batting, but because of umpiring, the like of which one would not see on the village green. Five of the team were given out by the man who had passed the remark in the interval. Three out of the five were a contradiction of all that cricket is about. The last two Earby men in were Ellis Dickinson and Tom Crowther. Tom was run out with the score at 79. The umpire came into the pavilion and Earby folk there left him in no doubt as to what they thought about the standard of his umpiring.

One last thought on Earby cricket. Charlie Garret Hartley was a well-known character, not a very good cricketer though; still, he was chosen to play one Saturday. Isaac Pawson had a hen pen overlooking the cricket field over the back, and he used to watch the play from there. When Charlie Garret came in to bat Isaac called out "Muck or nettles Charlie". This was an old Earby saying. Charlie was out first ball. As he walked back looking downcast, Isaac called out "Muck, Charlie".



**Wilfred and Annie Demain**

Looking back over 70 years, the game of cricket has given me at least many happy hours watching players of the calibre of Charlie Garret Hartley to Wilfred Rhodes. "Cricket, lovely cricket", is indeed a saying I can go along with .

## SOME ACCIDENTS IN THORNTON ROCK QUARRY

Stephanie Carter



### **1866 Thornton Fatal Accident**

On Monday morning about half past ten a shocking accident occurred at Thornton Rock to a young man 18 years old, in the employ of Mr Bond of Thornton, named William Smith of Barnoldswick, which terminated fatally about six hours after the accident. It appears that Smith, along with others, had prepared a blast which did not take effect as soon as expected. Smith, against the advice of his companions, very incautiously went and applied a match, and an explosion instantly took place. The poor fellow was dreadfully injured and rendered unconscious, in which state he remained until he died.

### **1876 Thornton Fatal Accident at the Rock**

On Friday last about 8 o'clock in the morning a very sad accident occurred at Thornton to Mr Henry Bell of the same place. For many years Bell had been employed in conveying wagons of stone out of the Rock down to the railway sidings at Thornton station, and on the morning in question he was standing on a loose heap of stones talking with John Eastwood, when a laden wagon emerged from the tunnel leading from the Rock to the main line. As it passed the deceased he attempted to get on to the brake, but the stones on which he stood slipped from under his feet, as he fell the wagon passing over him cutting off a portion of his feet, running across his legs and thighs, and mutilating him in the most shocking manner. The unfortunate man was speedily conveyed home, and Dr Roberts of Barnoldswick, his assistant Dr Hesk and Dr Macnab of Skipton were speedily in attendance, rendering all the aid they could. The case however was quite hopeless and the poor sufferer died about ten o'clock in the evening. On Monday last the inquest was held at the Kaye's Arms before T P Brown coroner and a respectable jury, who after hearing the evidence returned the verdict of "Accidentally killed". The unfortunate man was 41 years of age and was married a second time about six months ago. He leaves behind a widow and three children to mourn his untimely end

**1882 Death from an Explosion of Gunpowder**

Mr Malcolm, the Leeds borough coroner, held an inquest at the Town Hall yesterday on the body of James Metcalf, aged 45 years, a quarryman employed at the Thornton in Craven Quarry, and residing at 13 Essex St. Barnoldswick. Deceased was seriously injured on the head while engaged in blasting stone at the quarry on Wednesday last. He was conveyed to Leeds Infirmary where he died on Saturday afternoon. The Coroner explained that it would be necessary to adjourn the inquiry in order that the Home Secretary might be communicated with. Evidence of identification having been given, the inquest was adjourned accordingly.

**1889 Accident**

A man employed at Thornton limestone quarry named Thomas Cairns, and living in Barnoldswick, whilst engaged in a blasting operation was so severely burnt about the face that he was conveyed to the Burnley Hospital.

**1900 Quarry Accident**

Last weekend a sad accident befell a man named Mr W Attwood, who worked at Thornton Rock, and who was in the act of blasting the stone when it exploded in his face, almost blinding him. He was brought home to Barnoldswick and subsequently attended by Dr Alderton, who recommended his removal to Bradford Eye and Ear Hospital, where he was taken on Saturday. It is just twelve months since a similar accident befell this man at the same place and he had only just commenced working again. He has a wife and family.

**1918 Quarryman's Death**

The death of an Earby quarryman, Ernest Healey Shaw (35) of 4 Aspen Lane Earby was inquired into at the Victoria Hospital Burnley on Monday by Mr Coroner Sutcliffe. It appeared that on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February deceased was working at Thornton Rock Quarry, Thornton-in-Craven when a quantity of stone fell, and he was knocked off a platform on which he was working on to the buffers of a wagon. He suffered injuries to his back, which resulted in his death on Friday last. Mr Cummings the manager represented the deceased's mother. Mr Spencer, one of the employers, expressed the firm's regret at the accident. They felt it most deeply, especially in view of what the family had done in connection with the war. One brother had been killed in France, another had been discharged owing to injuries in France and two others were still in the army. The deceased was unfit for military service.

... The deceased mother said he was taken home about four o'clock on 12<sup>th</sup> February suffering from injuries and was taken to hospital a fortnight later. He had never complained about the nature of his work. He had worked in the quarry for a good number of years, up to nine years ago and then he had lost his right eye through blasting. Joseph Longbottom, manager of the quarry, said that deceased was engaged in drilling a shot hole at the time of the accident. He was on a platform about 12 feet from the ground. He could not say what had caused the stone to fall. There had been no blasting at that point. The face of the rock was sloping and rather irregular, the strata being rather on edge. There was no protection in use at the time to prevent deceased being knocked off the platform, though there were chains and ropes for the purpose, and these were used where the men considered necessary. The work was being carried out near a "fault".

John Foster of 1 Rushton Avenue said he was working on the ground beneath the platform when he heard another workman shout "Look out". He heard some stones falling and saw deceased rolling down a heap of stones on which the platform was built. Nurse Highton said that deceased was admitted to the hospital on 27<sup>th</sup> February suffering from injuries to his spine. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

## A JOURNEY FROM THE RANCH TO CORONATION STREET.

### John O'Toole 1920-2014

By Ken Ranson, with thanks to Maureen Beckwith, John's Daughter



John O'Toole was born in Roundstone in county Galway Ireland in 1920, the oldest of six children. He grew up in the town with his parents, Martin and Annie, and siblings, Martin, Michael, Hannah, Mary and Nancy. John's mother died in 1932 when he was 12, which would leave the girls to take on the "mothers" role".

By the age of nineteen he had moved to Coventry and was working as a builder's labourer. Shortly after, in 1940, he married Esther Roberts from Lancaster and they had a son John Jnr. born in 1942.

John then got work at Rolls-Royce in Derby, from where he transferred to Rolls-Royce at Barnoldswick. John and Esther moved to Earby where they lived in a prefab at 12 Warwick Drive on the Ranch.

A staunch Labour supporter, he was deeply involved in local politics. He worked hard for the Earby U.D.C. and was chairman of the housing committee which was instrumental in getting the new houses built on the Ranch. He also found time to be a Justice of the Peace. Here he is shown cutting "the first sod" for the new houses on The Ranch 1<sup>st</sup> July 1951.



**JOHN O'TOOLE  
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At some time he moved to 13 Salterforth Lane ,opposite the Catholic Church, where he lived for many years. His wife Esther died in 1960. He married his second wife Maria Holzer in 1961 and had 3 children, Shivaun, Maureen and Martin.

But above all his activity in the community, he was a prolific author and playwright. On 25th December 1955 a report in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times stated:

“ Mr O'Toole has been trying his hand at short story writing for some time now but this is



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his first major success. He is a former chairman of Earby U.D.C. and at present serves as the chairman of the Housing Committee. He is also a prominent member of the Labour party.

Beside “My Mate Murphy”, which tells of a Liverpool plumber and his ambition to work in Fleet Street, Mr O’Toole has had another recent success. His story “My Brother Mike” appears in the current edition of “Irish writing”, one of the leading literary magazines in Ireland. The story is set in Galway where Mr O’Toole was born and bred. He works at Rolls-Royce and is a regular contributor to the works magazine”.

He had work produced in Coronation Street and Granada Television Playhouse.

### Episode 91 (25th October 1961)

**Contents** [show]

**Plot** [edit]

Lucille returns from staying with the Rileys in Ireland. Christine worries that Minnie is going to sue her. Albert tells her the landlady is responsible. Ivan doesn't want the TV and rows with Linda. Bill takes Elsie out in Ivan's friend's car. Ken doesn't like working at Amalgamated Steel. Bill and Elsie get stuck when the car has a flat. When Frank calls Ken selfish for moaning about his job, Val tells him about the sacrifice he made over the Surrey job. Sheltering in a phone box, Bill swears to Elsie he's not married.

**Cast** [edit]

**Regular cast** [edit]

- Len Fairclough - Peter Adamson
- Concepta Hewitt - Doreen Keogh
- Harry Hewitt - Ivan Beavis
- Lucille Hewitt - Jennifer Moss
- Christine Hardman - Christine Hargreaves
- Albert Tatlock - Jack Howarth

**Episode 91**



<b>Production code</b>	P229/91
<b>ITV transmission date</b>	25th October 1961 (Wednesday)
<b>Stories by</b>	Vince Powell Henry Driver
<b>Editor</b>	John Finch
<b>Writer</b>	John O'Toole
<b>Designer</b>	Denis Parkin
<b>Director</b>	Richard Ewitt
<b>Producer</b>	Desert Granger

**Navigation**

<b>Previous episode</b>	23rd October 1961
<b>Next episode</b>	30th October 1961

5.21 [–] ITV Television Playhouse: + The BUSH AND THE TREE (BFI)  
 29Jan60 ITV Fri 9:35-10:35pm  
 Granada Television Production  
 Written by John O'Toole  
 Director ORMEROD, James  
 Author of the Original Work O'TOOLE, John  
 Designer LASS, Darrell  
 Starring: John Cazabon  
 Clerk to the Council CAZABON, John  
 Molly Squires KEOGH, Doreen  
 Sandra Squires DUDLEY, Lesley  
 1st Man CROASDALE, William  
 2nd Man HAYES, Alick  
 Alf Liddell O'SHEA, Milo  
 Tom Cardwick COLLINGWOOD, Peter  
 Clarice Liddell DAYE, Gabrielle  
 Councillor Jephson JONES, Claude  
 Councillor Bell SEATON, Arthur  
 Councillor Winsdean WYMAR, William  
 Mr O'Riordan GODFREY, Fred  
 Mr Brownlow SUTCLIFFE, Geoffrey  
 Chairman BROUGH, Arthur  
 Councillor Jones TANDY, Victor  
 Councillor Andwell CRAWSHAW, Frank

John O’Toole passed away in June 2014 having led a long and productive life.

## **EARBY AND DISTRICT 50 YEARS AGO – 1968**

Information from Craven Herald

### APRIL

- An application to build a timber store on four acres of land immediately facing their existing premises on Colne Road made by Messrs Alfred Carter, Sons & Co. Ltd. was rejected at a meeting of the Housing Committee of EUDC. Officials were instructed to prepare a report on industrial sites and their possible availability, after Mr G Preston had pressed for the establishment of a proper industrial site at the back of the Armo-ride premises.

### MAY

- The George Street Anniversary Queen was Susan Waddington and the Earby May Queen Elizabeth Dean. May Day itself was cold and the rain relentless. People lining the route of the procession were fewer than usual despite the coaxings from Mr H Nichol from the loudspeaker van heading the procession. Several events on the field had to be cancelled.
- The first Earby girl ever to win the Duke of Edinburgh gold was 19 year old Jean Parker of Brook Street who was training to be a teacher at Bingley Training College. She had been inspired to take the course through the first company Girls Brigade in Earby, with which she had been associated for nine years.

### JUNE

- Roger Wormwell of Wentcliffe Drive, Earby, also gained the Gold Award under the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme.
- It was announced that esteemed Earby teacher Miss H E M Duxbury was to retire from her post as deputy head teacher at Alder Hill County Junior School, Earby. She was one of the longest serving teachers in the district, working under four head teachers Messrs A H Clegg, H H Hawitt, I Clare and J Cross at New Road School until it closed five years ago before transferring to Alder Hill. She carried out her duties with calm efficiency and could coax the best out of pupils under her charge, gaining their respect. During the war Miss Duxbury took on many additional duties. She had also been very active in amateur dramatics, the Earby Social & Festival Committee, Riley Street Church and the Conservative Association. She was presented with parting gifts from current head teacher Mr Jack Cross.
- The retiring headmistress of Springfield Infant's School, Earby, Miss E Riley was presented with a pair of binoculars by Mr R S Shaw, Chairman of School Managers, at a special ceremony. Mrs J C Kilkenny also retired after six years on the teaching staff at Springfield.

## **NOT QUITE ROYAL BUT A POPULAR EARBY WEDDING – 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1941**

Stephanie Carter nee Shuttleworth

At the back of a drawer at North Holme Farm we recently came across a small tin which had once upon a time contained Mackintosh's celebrated toffee. The firm had been founded by John Mackintosh and his wife Violet, who bought a pastry shop in Halifax with their joint savings of £100 in 1890, the year of their marriage. To attract customers they decided to sell special toffee. Violet had developed a recipe which blended the traditional brittle English butterscotch with soft American caramel and they sold the toffee as Mackintosh's celebrated toffee. In 1969 the firm merged with Rowntrees to form Rowntree Mackintosh Confectionery, and was later taken over by Nestle in 1988.

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But to get back to the Mackintosh's tin – Inside, my mother, Edith Shuttleworth, who had passed away in 2000, had kept treasured mementoes of her wedding in June 1941. There were the tags from wedding gifts with the name of the gift written on by my mother. These included pairs of sheets, a clock, pyrex dish, serviettes, cut glass, sugar and cream jug, a dinner service, a case of cutlery, tablecloth, pair of pillowcases etc. There were gift tags from J S Watson employees, where my mother once worked and from St John Ambulance Brigade Earby Division from the officer and members of the Nursing Division.

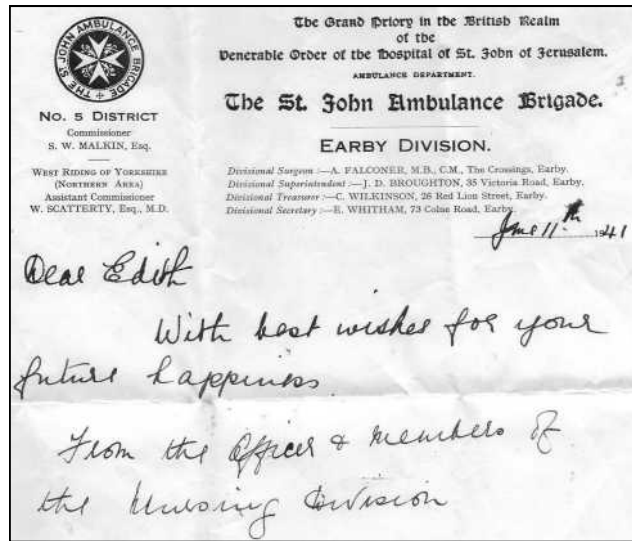
There were lists in my father's hand of the cars available, including an Austin Ten and the logistics of transporting the various relatives and the bridal party to and from Broughton Church where the ceremony took place. Then a note regarding the photographer –12.15 at Ray Podmore's Studio, Otley Street Skipton; and the Reception at the Punch Bowl, Earby at 1.0pm. What now takes months to plan a wedding was all contained on a couple of sheets of paper. There were also long lists of who should receive wedding cake by post.

Also in the tin were letters from relatives and friends of the couple, wishing them well. A number of these were from my father's relatives in London who could not travel north in war time. There was also a letter from my father's great friend Robbie Marshall who was a private in the army - 10553205 No 3 Platoon Canterbury. And there were telegrams sent to the Reception. Greetings telegrams were introduced in Great Britain in July 1935. For the payment of an extra 3d people could have them delivered on a specially illustrated form. The ones received on that day in June 1941 were designed in 1937 as special telegrams to celebrate the coronation of George VI. (see over) The service was suspended in April 1943 and re-introduced in November 1950 with the end of paper rationing after the war. In 1982 the Inland Telegram service was axed by BT.

Later I tracked down a newspaper report of that happy day, now so long ago.

### Popular Earby Wedding

“At Broughton Church, Airedale, two young people well-known in Earby district were united in marriage on Wednesday last, the bridegroom being Mr William Shuttleworth, the only son of Mr Emanuel Shuttleworth of North Holme Farm, Salterforth, and the bride, Miss Edith Holden, daughter of Mr and Mrs Holden of Earby. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Bradshaw. The bridegroom's father, Mr E Shuttleworth, has been long associated with agri-



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cultural interests in Yorkshire. His family connections with the farming industry go back fully 115 years. The bride's father has a lifelong association with farming. The bride was given away by her father, and Mr Ralph Holden, the bride's brother, acted as groomsman. The best man was Mr Frank Inch of Barrowford.

The bride was beautifully attired in an ivory Brochi satin gown trimmed with pale pink lace, draped with a French embroidered silk tulle veil with orange love-knot blossoms. She carried a very lovely bouquet of red roses. The bridesmaids, Miss H Holden and Miss Sally Shuttleworth, wore white satin picture frocks and carried bouquets of pink carnations.



The bridegroom's mother, Mrs H Shuttleworth, was very tastefully attired in a frock in an artistic fawn shade, while the bride's mother wore navy blue, trimmed with lace in a lighter tint. The bride's travelling costume was in tan shade material, with brown accessories. The honeymoon is to be taken in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales by means of Mr Shuttleworth's car.

The church ceremony was a dignified and impressive sight and will certainly be remembered for many years by the many friends and relatives who were privileged to witness it.



After the wedding, which both young people desired in the prevailing circumstances, to be as quiet as possible, a reception was held at the Punch Bowl Hotel, Earby, at which a large number of guests sat down to a delightful repast. A toast wishing the bride and bridegroom the warm wishes of the assembled guests was proposed by the groom's father and ably seconded by Mr Frank Inch."

Despite the war time, it seems to have been a lovely wedding. My mother told me she had bought her dress in Nelson at a shop in Barkerhouse Road. They spent their honeymoon in the Yorkshire Dales. In one of the guest houses they met a couple on holiday who were later to become famous, Alf and Joan Wight – of James Herriot fame. My parents ended their honeymoon in Scarborough where there was barbed wire on the beaches in case of a German invasion.

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**JIM WALKER ARCHIVES**

When local historian, Jim Walker, died in 2004, his sister Joy passed a quantity of Jim's local history collection to Graham Smith who had the hair dressing salon next door to Jim's shop on New Road. At the time, Graham passed on some of the files to the Society. Graham has now given up the hairdressing salon and through one of his customers, Carole Tinniswood, Graham has donated what is left of the Walker material.

There is a collection of Jim's framed photographs plus several files of his local history notes. One of the most interesting items is a small collection of manuscript documents dating from the 1740's . One document is titled The Mill Book for the Year 1742 and related to Thornton and Earby Mill detailing who had been charged for quantities of wheat milling etc.

Milling and meal		Wheat	
Rich: Lowgill 3	8 4	John Crook 3 pecks	5 6
Tho: Craven a Load	18	Wm: Radwick 2 pecks	3 8
Jane Windle a Load and	1 7	Peter Barrat 4 pecks	7 4
Mary Atkinson a Load	18	Tho: Edmondson 2 pecks	3 8
	31 5 10	Henry Wilkinson 3 pecks	5 6
		Rich: Wilkinson a Load	14 8
		Wm: Windle 4 pecks	7 4
		Rob: Radwick 6 pecks	11
		Wm: Simpson 3 pecks	5 6
		Tho: Craven 4 pecks	7 4
		Joseph Hoborth 5 pecks	9 2
		Jane Speak 2 pecks	3 8
		Isabell Barnat 3 pecks	5 6
		Henry Grandgeorge 4 pecks	7 4
		Mary Atkinson 3 pecks	5 6
			5 2 8

## RAF MEMORIES

Stephanie Carter



The 100th Birthday of the RAF prompted me to look out four precious letters I had received in 2008-2010 from my godmother's husband, who passed away just a few years ago in his mid-nineties. His name was Ray Roberts and I had stayed with him and my godmother, Una, in Enfield, Middlesex on several occasions during my youth. Much water had passed under the bridge before I contacted him again in 2008 – he was then 93 years of age, and his letters to me contain poignant memories of his days in the RAF during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

- “You may well recall that I flew with the RAF during the whole of the War. I was one of the lucky ones – finished Ops in 1943 and in 1944 I came up to the farm (North Holme) in Earby and we spent a short time with you. I fully remember taking a 12 bore to shoot crows on your father's instructions but shot his pet pigeon by mistake. He was very decent about it. He (my father William Shuttleworth) came up to see us when I was stationed in North Wales near Carnarvon. Una was there in the Observer Corps. We rented a small house in Carnarvon.

At the end of 1944 I was seconded to a re-forming BOAC opening the route to Karachi and flying converted Lancasters. We flew from Hurn (Bournemouth) or St Eval (Cornwall) and it took us with refuelling stops 3½ days. BOAC offered me a very good salary to stay before I was demobbed in December 1945 but I was inveigled into returning to the family business...”



- “Went mad in June and did a rail journey to Switzerland with my next door neighbour... then on to Basle and Cologne. Have never seen Cologne from the ground – many times from the air at night. Quite an experience...”
- “About a month ago my son took me to the Air Show at Biggin Hill. The Battle of Britain Flight was there (the Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane). We met one of the pilots and told him I was 95 years and flew Lancasters in the War. They asked to meet me and took me over the Lancaster after 65 years. A great experience but brought back sad memories...”
- “I did take great interest in the Battle of Britain programmes, but I must confess it was with great sadness because I lost so many great friends during that period. I was flying Blenheim's at that time (twin engine light bombers) and we were attacking German airfields and the concentration of invasion barges in the small Channel ports. We had about 60% losses – very fine and wonderful men...”

## PARK ALBION

Was Park Albion an Earby football team? Please let us know



## EARBY

Article from the Craven Herald 25 March 1876

Earby is a village of no very great pretensions, about seven miles south of Skipton and four north of Colne. It consists mainly of one long street, with a few smaller rows of houses branching off, and the population numbers about 1,200. The "top o' th' town" as the inhabitants call it, consists of a few cottage dwellings, and is but thinly inhabited. As we proceed down the street, however, we find more and better-looking houses, built mostly of stone, and having the snug appearance peculiar to modern dwelling-houses. The first thing which attracts the stranger's attention on entering Earby by the "top" is the uneven state of the roads. Attempts have recently been made to remedy this by placing a number of cart-loads of badly-broken stones on the road, but the traffic is not sufficiently great (for the stones are not properly broken) to reduce the road to that state of hardness necessary for convenient travelling. The footpaths, also, are greatly in need of repair, it being utterly impossible to walk on some parts of them. A beck runs from one end of the village to the other, and into this sewage is turned. This, however, does not pollute the stream very much, as there are no water-closets and consequently the excreta of the place is not great. Earby is happy in the possession of a good and plentiful supply of water from the spring well at the top of Bracewell banks. The source has not been known to fail for several years, and the quality of the water is excellent. On our asking an inhabitant if they used the beck water for washing etc. we were informed that there was no necessity for it, the spring water being so plentiful. A supply of good water can also be obtained from a place called Stoney Bank, which has never been known to become dry in the most droughty season. The dim flicker of the candle has been replaced in many of the houses by the broad glare of the gas-light for a long time, thanks for which happy change are due to the firm of Messrs. Bracewell, whom, we may say, are the makers and maintainers of the village.

The mill standing at the bottom of the town belongs to the firm of Messrs. C Bracewell Bros., and provides employment for the greater half of the population of the village. Under the comprehensive term "mill" is included the "old shed", which contains a large number of looms. The "new mill" was built some time after the "old shed", and is driven by two horizontal beam engines. About nine months ago their strength was considerably increased by

being compounded on the McNaught principle.

The handsome structure with a pointed roof, surrounded with shrubberies and grass plants, which stands prominently in the centre of the village, is the Wesleyan Chapel. The building is both an attractive and commodious one, and capable of holding a large number of persons. The schools, which are also handsome and well-built erections, adjoin the chapel, and are well attended. In connection with the Wesleyan Chapel a Sunday School is also conducted. The Baptists' place of worship is a plain but substantial building not far from the Wesleyan Chapel. It consists of one large room with a gallery round, and two or three small classrooms. The resident minister is the Rev. E Morgan, an active and diligent worker, who has the cause of truth and religion thoroughly at heart. He is very popular, not only among his own flock, but in the adjoining villages of Kelbrook, Elslack and Thornton. The foundation stone of a Sunday School in connection with the chapel was laid on the 12<sup>th</sup> July last. At the time of our visit the work was fast approaching completion, the roof being more than half finished. Prior to the erection of the present chapel, the Baptists held their services in a smaller and plainer-looking building near the top of the town, which is now used by the members of the Mechanics Institute. This Society has been the means of doing considerable good among the young men of Earby by keeping them from the public houses, and providing them with edifying occupation. On a rising eminence at the foot of the town stands the Church Schools, which are in connection with the Parish Church of Thornton. Church people, however, appear to be in a minority at Earby, and consequently the schools are not so well attended as they otherwise would be.

The village smithy is at the bottom of the town, on the road to the railway station. The groups of children round the door, and the ringing strokes of the hammer on the anvil brought to mind Longfellow's "Village Blacksmith" as we watched

"...the burning sparks that fly  
Like chaff from the threshing floor"

We now wend our way to the railway station along the footpath which crosses the field. On our left we observe a lawn well rolled, and otherwise kept in good condition, as we presume, for cricket playing. The Earby Club is in flourishing condition, and likely to be for some time to come. The captain is Mr R Bracewell, under whose able leadership the club has won many a game. The new railway station, when finished, will supply a want long felt by the inhabitants of Barnoldswick and Earby. The present station is small, and for the want of a proper waiting-room, passengers have to put up with considerable discomfort and inconvenience.

We now take a last look at Earby as we stand on the platform of the railway station. Rising prominently above the village is the new mill and its great chimney, the latter throwing out a black cloud of smoke, which, although not very beneficial to the surrounding vegetation, proclaims to the passers-by that Earby is one of the hives of industry, with which the West Riding is so largely dotted, and for which this part of Yorkshire is so widely celebrated. The next feature of importance in this scene is the Wesleyan Chapel, which nestles in the crowd of dwelling houses by which it is surrounded. The village at a glance seems to lie snugly at the bottom of the hill, and in this and other respects presents the true picture of a country village.



**VARIOUS CORRESPONDENCE FROM SALTERFORTH PARISH  
COUNCIL 1920s**

Ken Ranson

September 15 1921- To Mr Knowles, Skipton RDC

Dear Sir,

At the meeting of the Parish Council of the 12 ult. the enclosed tender was accepted. The Council therefore recommend Mr John Starkey, Harry Street, Salterforth as street lamp attendant at 14/- per wk. Trusting this will meet with your approval.

-----  
October 7<sup>th</sup> 1921- To Mr Newall, Clerk to Council , Barnoldswick

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that the ratepayers of Salterforth passed the following resolution at this adjourned meeting on Thursday.  
"The ratepayers of Salterforth do not entertain amalgamation with Barnoldswick".

-----  
October 7<sup>th</sup> 1921- To Mr R Knowles, Skipton RDC

Dear Sir,

The following is a list of articles which are needed for the street lamps. I shall be obliged if you will send me an order to purchase:  
6 doz mantles, 6 doz small glasses (for protecting mantles) and 1 doz panes of lamp glass. Also please note: Mr Starkey commenced duties as lamp lighter on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> inst.

-----  
November 14<sup>th</sup> 1921 – To Mr Rodwell, Surveyor ,Skipton

Dear Sir,

In reference to the proposed connecting drain in front of the Council school. The Council are afraid that such a drain would hardly remedy the evil, and they propose that a drain running from the school and down Chapel Hill to the Town beck would be a great improvement, to the road surface as well. Trusting you will give this matter consideration.

-----  
December 6<sup>th</sup> 1921 – to Post Master, Colne

Dear Sir,

A request has been made for the re establishment of the night delivery (which was taken off during the war) at Klondyke otherwise Alpha Street and Park Avenue. Trusting you will give the matter your consideration.

-----  
December 8<sup>th</sup> 1921 – To Mr Knowles, Clerk S.R D.C.

Dear Sir,

On Monday last a serious accident befell a young man owing to the slippery state of the road.

As a result I am instructed to write you requesting the ashing of the roads as early as is convenient should there be a recurrence. Confident that on the drawing of the road foreman's attention to this matter it will remove all grounds for complaint.

-----  
April 21<sup>st</sup> 1922 – Apple Tree Cottage

Dear Sir,

I am instructed to write you concerning your poultry at Salterforth. Our allotment holders complain that the hens roam onto their plots thus preventing them

from sowing seeds.

Confident that you do not wish your hobby to interfere with that of your neighbours. I respectfully ask you to give the matter consideration.

-----  
May 5<sup>th</sup> 1922 – To Mr Rodwell ,Surveyor

Dear Sir,

No doubt Mr Whitaker will have mentioned the above matter to you, the Council wish to uphold his statements, for they think it is in a disgraceful state and are afraid that if the Rivers Board saw the sewerage weeping into the stream as it was a few days ago they would make trouble. Trusting you will give this matter a look up.

-----  
Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1922 – To Mr R Knowles, Skipton RDC

Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the P.C. Held 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. The enclosed tender was accepted. The Council therefore recommend George Hogarth, Appletree Cottage, Salterforth,

as lamp lighter at 12/- per wk.

They also wish to begin repairing lamps with your sanction. A reply at your earliest convenience would greatly oblige

-----  
January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1922 – To Mr R Knowles ,Skipton RDC

Dear Sir,

My Council have had a complaint regarding the employing of labour for the Barnoldswick New Road. There are several outdoor workers in the village who are receiving the unemployment Dole and who have tried their best to get started on the Road but have been refused. The Parish Council think it an injustice to bring labour from Lancashire before those who live on the spot and are subscribing

**PROGRAMME**

June, July, August – No meeting

September 18<sup>th</sup> – A history of the Empire Cinema, Bob Abel

October 16<sup>th</sup> – Castercliffe Iron Age Hill Fort, David Turner

November 20<sup>th</sup> -And In Flew Enza – Post WW1 Spanish Flu Epidemic, Tony Foster

**THE SOCIETY  
Meets at the  
Community  
Centre, New Road,  
EARBY on the 3rd  
Tuesday of the  
month at  
7.30 p.m.**

**ANNUAL  
SUBSCRIPTION  
£7.00  
UK £9.00  
Overseas £13.00  
If you receive  
Chronicles by e-  
mail £7 fee appli-  
cable worldwide**

**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

**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.