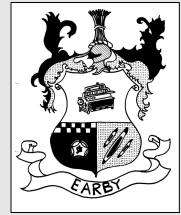


Earby Chronicles

Edition 33

Summer 2004



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 :
Bob Abel
phone 01282 843850

Vice Chairman :
Bev Parker
phone 01282 843226

Secretary :
Margaret Brown
phone 01282 843932

Treasurer :
Helen Horner
phone 01282 843850

Programme Secretary
Ann Marie Cornwell
phone 01282 841186

Liaison Officer:
Trevor Tattersall
phone 01282 842819

Archivist:
Margaret Greenwood
phone 01282 843394

NRCC & Parish Rep:
Lucille Mitchell
phone 01282 841325

Committee:
Squire Firth
phone 01282 817126

HOUSE HISTORY GROUP

As reported in the spring issue of the Chronicles, a House History Group has been started within the Society. This special interest group is primarily for those members who are researching the history of their own house.

The first meeting was in March when about a dozen potential house detectives met in the craft room at New Road Community Centre in Earby (another 5 could not attend and sent their apologies). It was agreed that there was sufficient interest to make a viable group. The intention is to meet once a month on the second Wednesday and the Centenary room has been booked until August.

David O'Connor of Prospect House Farm, Barnoldswick, volunteered his services and his web site to be used as a forum for the group. The web address is www.oneguyfrombarlick.co.uk

At the May meeting Allison Armstrong, a member of the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group, attended. Allison who lives in Bradley near Skipton, told us a little about the Study Group and then gave us a brief introduction into how to measure and record a building showing us, as an example, the drawings and plans of a house near Ponden Mill which she had been recording.

Following this it was decided that we should do some field work so that members could learn more, under Allison's guidance, about the techniques of surveying a building .

David O' Connor offered the use of his farmhouse as a venue in June and some useful practice should be gained.

If you would like to join the group contact Bob Abel on 01282 843850 or e-mail bobabel@talk2.com.

Recent talks & features

Page 5 Baking Day by C.P.Fawcet

Page 8 Clocks & Clock Making A Talk by Derek Clabburn

Page 13 Earby & Thornton Gas Lighting Co by Kenneth Golitsti.

£1.50

Members of
Society free

SALTERFORTH PLAYING FIELD by Nick Livsey

The field from which the playing field was created was part of the Lane Ends Estate, this also included the 'New House' and the 'Parson House' and Lane Ends Farm.

In the Spring of 1924 the Barnoldswick Urban District Council acquired land from two sisters, Elanor Eames Ayre and Georgina Birdsworth Ayre, at the agreed sum of £200 for 4,330 square yards for the continuing construction of the New Road by the West Riding County Council. The line of the New Road cut this field into two, thus separating part of the estate from the main land holding. The field was at that time known as 'the Meadow Under the Canal' but prior to the construction of the canal in 1794 there is evidence that it may have been called the 'Horse Carr'.

The remaining meadow was now inconvenient for the working farm tenanted by the King family and it seems that during the period from September 1923 to September 1933 the parish council of Salterforth had gained an agreement to tenant the use of the meadow from the Ayre sisters and on the 20th September 1933 a conveyance was made between them and the parish council *"for all that plot of meadow land containing two acres and thirty-eight perches or thereabouts situate in Salterforth and bounded on or towards the Northeast by the said New Road, on or toward the Southeast partly by Moor Lane and partly by the property belonging to James Slater Ltd. (this was Sinking Peter), on or towards the Southwest by property belonging to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Company and on or towards the Northwest by property belonging to the Barnoldswick Urban District Council, in fee simple in possession free from encumbrances at a price of £160.*

It was signed by the Ayre sisters, Chairman Peel Whittaker, Councillor Richard Riddihough and clerk Percy Carradice and witnessed by W.A.Pilgrim Solicitor of Colne and H.A.Foxcroft of Salterforth, Clerk to the Railway Company. The deed was registered on 29th September 1933.

The cost of buying the meadow is explained as follows. On the 13th April 1932 the parish council agreed to the borrowing of £250 towards the purchase of the land for a recreation ground and on the 19th May 1933 the West Riding Finance Committee advanced the parish council the sum of £160. On the 1st July 1936 the parish council applied to the secretary of the Public Works Loan Commission for a mortgage for securing the sum of £90 for works needed to be done to the playing field.

It took the parish council until 6th January 1947 to pay off the mortgage. During this time, to help finance the cost of establishing the playing field, a deed of covenant was drawn up on 22nd February 1940 between the parish council and the National Playing Fields Association for the consideration of the sum of £45 towards the acquisition and establishment of a children's playground. It was on condition that the parish council will not appropriate or use the same for any other purpose whatever without the consent

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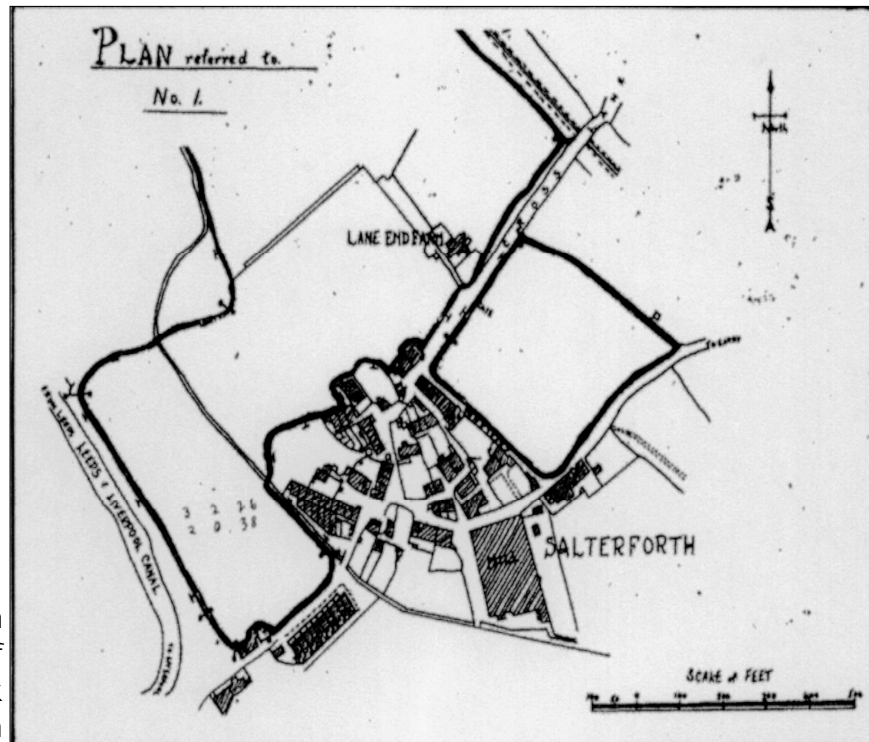
previously obtained from the Minister of Health and the National Playing Fields Association.

The piece of land has had various names during the past and are as follows. Pre 1794 it was known as the 'Horse Carr'. After 1794 until September 1923 it was know as the 'Meadow under the Canal' and from then until February 1940 it was known as 'Salterforth Park'. After the involvement of the National Playing Fields Association in February 1940 it has since been called 'Salterforth Playing Field'.

On the 4th February 1977 a conveyance was made between the parish council and the owners of 'Gwendene' for the sum of £250 for 290 square yards to form a garden surrounded by a stone wall. Previously for a twenty year period the land had been rented to the owners of the house for a sum of £2 per year.

In 2003, local children under the banner of K.P.I. (Kids for Park Improvements) with the consent and support of the parish council have been

successful in raising the sum of £30,000 from various sources of funding. Work to replace old play equipment with new, to lay new safety surfaces and to install new fencing to enclose the childrens' play area is now nearing completion. This is a huge achievement and should be something the local children can be proud of. It is after all their playing field and will be their responsibility in the future.



Plan of Lane Ends Farm Circa 1897

**A WALK ROUND HISTORIC SKIPTON WITH SKIPTON HISTORY SOCIETY
TUESDAY 20TH JULY
FOLLOWED BY FISH SUPPER
BOOK NOW - CALL HELEN HORNER ON 02182 843850**

SOCIETY'S THIRD ANNUAL DINNER

Twenty six members and guests, some of whom had travelled quite a distance, enjoyed a convivial meal at Auntie Emily's on the last Saturday in February.

After a sherry reception we all sat down to a traditional roast beef and Yorkshire pudding dinner superbly prepared by Janine Bowker.

There was a constant buzz of conversation indicating that the evening was going well as the picture below shows.



Long may this asset to the village be preserved and improved for the good of the residents.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE
EARBY AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
NOW STANDS AT**

130

BAKING DAY

By C.P.Fawcett

Thursday was baking day at North Holme Farm in Earby.

Through summer and winter, crises and war time ... Thursday was baking day.

During school holidays, visits and my eventual evacuation from London... Thursday was baking day.

The old stone-walled farm on the Yorkshire-Lancashire border was the property of my aunt and uncle, and it had been in the family for 300 years. From the air it would have seemed like a child's toy farm as it lay in a dip in the dales, with a beck running across the bottom of the field at the front, and a tiny railway and level crossing further down. Stone walls divided the fields known on the farm as the 'Big Pasture', 'The Tops', or 'Hey Field' after Hey Farm that my uncle also owned. When the trains had passed and the shunting was over, it was a silent place, and during the day I could hear the larks' song like a rubbed bluebell stalk' . . . or a sheep's cry echoing round the 'bowl', a melancholy sound at night.

Here then, on Thursdays I would spend the day, however tempting the sunshine outside. Even the loveliest morning when I might be walking up to 'Big Field' through grass that would shower my legs with drops blue from the dazzling sky. Once there, I might help with the 'stooking' . . . or crouch on the base of one, with stalks pricking through my sandals, watching a leggy harvest-spider move with exquisite precision . . . or the sun shining through poppy petals of watered-silk.

It was worth the blast of hot air as I lifted the 'sneck' of the kitchen and became part of Baking Day. The great black range came into its own; it lived and breathed, it dominated the room. It heated the oven and the old flat iron in its niche; it crisped the green Carpet of penny royal, that seemed eternally drying high on the clothes airer; it cooked to a turn the five, half-wild cats who slipped in for respite from policing the barn and lay hot and supine under the huge metal fender. If my cousin ever found them there he would rap sharply on the top with a stick . . . and out they would streak, wild pointed faces panicking, whiskers flattening and grey fur flying. It was as if a Pied Piper for cats had left another Hamelin, and now stood in the barn in the deep mauve shadows, his magic flute shining in the light from the door.

My aunt and a friend, known as Connie, would set up a trestle table by one wall. Covered by a huge white cloth, this was used for the baked and cooling food. In the middle of the room, under the big hanging oil lamp, stood the long kitchen table. This was first scrubbed fiercely until white and damp, then used for the kneading, the beating, the rolling and the cutting. The cover was taken from the top of the big old

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barrel that housed the flour . . . and I loved to peer inside to see a world of snow, with high mauve drifts and a scoop as a silver sleigh.

The kitchen table would soon assume the rich bounteous appearance of an old Dutch picture. Big gold and cream crocks of freshly churned white butter would be carried from the icy tiled scullery; earthenware dishes with the deep creamy fat and shaped like flat islands of beef dripping; jars of spices and herbs with names for a witches incantation;

Marjoram, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, peppercorns, capers, ginger, spice.

There would be fresh eggs and raisins, currants and sultanas. Golden syrup and rich black treacle; coarse gold granules of brown sugar and fine white sugar in the familiar dark blue bags. Yeast was bought from the bakers shop across the beck, and a great piece of Wensleydale cheese like a crumbling Devon cliff.

Then the sideboard shelves would be cleared for scales and pie dishes, bread tins and wire trays, mixing bowls and rolling pin.

I would watch like a shadow, sometimes blowing the feathers on the fresh eggs, or putting my fingers in the pie funnels. I would rock on the ageless rocking chair, or sit on the metal fender stools, either greasing tins or cutting shapes in grease proof paper to line the cake tins. My aunt would sometimes give me the rock salt to grind up with a kitchen knife and a rolling pin. With tooth jarring scrapings, I would carve out caves with blue-white shadows and powdery stalactites that shattered at the touch of a spoon. Drifts of salt would rise round my feet, and small lumps crunch as I moved.

As the morning wore on, bread would be set to rise on the hearth; the oven would gush hot air when opened and closed; a Yorkshire pudding might be put aside to be cooked later under the joint; apple dumplings, their cores full of sultanas and brown sugar awaited their turn at the oven, and a blackberry and apple pudding with a white turban to protect its suet top.

To the tune of : *I'll Walk Beside You, or Nearer my God to Thee*, or sometimes a rousing tune heard at the Glee Club, my aunt and Connie would work like machines. Cornish pasties would appear, with deep traditional slashes; pork pies, with hard boiled eggs inside, and sculptured golden leaves as decoration; madiera cakes with pieces of peel across the top; meat pies, parkin, gingerbread, and my favourite Eccles cakes, crumbly with syrupy currants. My fingers would burn as I helped to pop the hot food on to the wire trays on the trestle table, and my mouth watered at the rich lardy cakes and treacle tarts.

Conversation always seemed so dull and pointless to me. Most of my aunt's comments started with a long drawn out 'nay-ay' . . . or 'Nay, thou'art mistaken . . .' at some piece of local gossip, and quotations from 'Our Martha' or 'Our Joseph over at Giggleswick' seemed endless.

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My uncle, cousin and farm hands came in only for meals. Though we might just hear the clatter of heavy boots over the scullery tiles as someone went to the sink pump . . . or perhaps a head might appear round the door, clad in ecclesiastical-type milking skull cap, and my uncle's voice say : *'Wheer's thi put bill for the provender, Hannah? or 'If kale coom I'll be in't shippon, send little lass round.'*

So ended a weeks supply of baking . . . enough for the needs of the family, the Irishmen, (especially at Hay-time and Harvest, when food melted away like magic) and those of my aunt Maria who lived across the beck and 'liked a bit of fresh bread and a pork pie'

Oh if only it could be Thursday again

(First published in 'This England', Autumn 1969)

HELP WANTED

EARBY SHOPPING

Member Stephanie Carter (nee Shuttleworth) has started a project to chronicle the changing face of shopping in Earby. At one time it is reputed that there were ninety shops in Earby.

Stephanie has been delving into the census returns and trade directories (The Craven Almanac and Barretts Directory) trying to trace the shops which used to trade in Earby.

Stephanie would also like to ask members to check and search their memories , especially for the years after 1980 when her visits to Earby have been infrequent.

If you have any recollections of shops and shopping or photographs which you can share with Stephanie she will be pleased to hear from you.

Mrs Stephanie Carter, 62 Windsor Avenue, SKIPTON



**WRIGHT'S GREEN
GROCER'S SHOP
ON WATER
STREET**

**LAURENCE
WRIGHT THE SON
OF FRED WRIGHT
WITH HIS WIFE**

RECENT TALKS

CLOCKS AND CLOCK MAKING

Our guest speaker at the March meeting was Derek Clabburn whose topic was the wondrous subject of "Clocks and Clock Making"

The clock was one of the most influential discoveries in science and the division of time into regular and predictable units is fundamental to modern society. The early clock only showed the hour as most people were not too interested in time to more than a quarter hour and this was probably the best accuracy attainable but with the development of sciences particularly astronomy more accurate clocks were required.

The differential gear, so long essential for clock making was developed by the ancient Greeks and a famous example of a clock mechanism was discovered in the archaeological exploration of a Greek ship wreck. However the technology of gears seems to have disappeared for centuries until it was rediscovered in the 16th century.

Only during the Crusades to the Holy Land was there a recognition that the middle eastern civilisations were way ahead of Western Europe in mechanical ingenuity.

Early forms of clocks were pretty crude affairs including the Roman shadow clock a primitive version of the sun dial and water clocks based on the flow of water.

In the mediaeval era, time was important to the monks of the great abbeys and churches as their day was governed by the regular round of prayers and services and most of the great churches had tower clocks. Most lay men were not too interested in time, their day was governed by the hours of day light.

Many of the developments in clock making came in the 17th century. Drawings of pendulums with crown wheel escapments were made by Leonardo da Vinci in the 15th century. Gallileo Galililei designed a pendulum clock but it wasn't until the 1600s that the Dutch scientist Huygens patented the first working mode in 1675.

There was a great impetus in science and clock making after the restoration of Charles II and more and more accurate clocks were developed.

Northern England and in particular the Yorkshire Dales became an important area for clock making. There was an upsurge of religious dissent accompanied by persecution and many dissenters including Quakers migrated northwards. The Quakers were involved in commerce and industry and brought clock making skills with them. There was also a growing market for clocks among the yeoman farmers who were becoming increasingly wealthy through the wool trade and had spare money to indulge in clocks as a status symbol.

The demise of the English clock makers came when cheaper machine made clocks began to be imported through the port of Liverpool particular from America.

Derek rounded off his talk by showing some of the historic clocks and clock making equipment which he has collected over the years.

IN THE STEPS OF THE BRONTES

At the April meeting Margaret Curry, from Rochdale, was the guest speaker who gave an illustrated talk entitled "In The Steps of the Brontes". Margaret took us through the lives of the Bronte family from the humble beginnings of Patrick, the father, in Ireland to the literary achievements of the daughters. Although from a poor back ground Patrick proved to be a gifted child. His talents for learning were nurtured by the church and he eventually got a bursary to be educated at St John's College Cambridge after which he was ordained a curate in the Church of Ireland.

In 1812 while he was the minister at Hartshead he married Maria Branwell at Guiseley. There followed a move to Thornton near Bradford where the four Bronte Children were born Charlotte, Bramwell, Emily and Ann (two other daughters died in infancy). From there the family moved to Haworth Parsonage where the children were encouraged in the arts.

The four children were quite well travelled and Margaret's slides took us to the various places where they were educated or where the daughters worked as governesses. Their literary and artistic achievements are well known but the talk and the slides blended well to give a human insight into this talented family.

The talk was much appreciated by the audience.

THE WOODLAND TRUST

At the May meeting the guest speaker was Andrew Bonehill from the Woodland Trust. Andrew, who hails from Stockport, is a member of and volunteer speaker for the Trust.

His illustrated talk was in two halves. In the first part he told us about the Trust and its work in the preserving and revitalising of ancient woodlands and even planting new woodlands with tree species native to the British Isles.

In the second part he told us some of the history associated with mans' exploitation of the forest timber from its use in prehistoric wooden round houses & 15th century timber framed houses to shipbuilding, furniture making and charcoal burning and many other uses.

FIRST CATCH YOUR FOX

by Bob Abel and Helen Horner

In the archives of the Brotherton Library at the University in Leeds is a manuscript entitled "Dame Mary Lister's Household Book"⁽¹⁾. Mary was the daughter of Sir Henry Bellasys of Newburgh Priory. She married Sir William Lister, Lord of the Manor of Thornton-in-Craven, at Coxwold Church in 1610⁽²⁾.

The book dates from the period 1623-1635 and contains amongst other things recipes and inventories of bedding and the family silver. The document is hand written and includes different hand writing the most of which is in secretary hand making it difficult for the inexperienced to read.

Many of the entries in the book are herbal remedies of which one or two were relatively easy to read and are reproduced here. They also seem to have been collected from friends and relatives.

The Preparation of Fox Lungs from Mr. Slinger

Take the lungs newly exempted from the fox and wash them in white wine wherein hysop and scabious have been boyled, then dry them in a furnace temperately hott, that they are not burned, afterwards let them bee involved with wormwood, horehound or dry hysope.

What on earth might this preparation be used for you might rightly ask?

The "Doctrine of Signatures" was an ancient principal practised in the past and found in many cultures. Ancient herbal practitioners believed that the visual inspection of a plant could determine its medical properties. They believed that the colour of the flowers or roots, the shape of the leaves or the place of growing were signatures of the plants purpose. For example the lungwort with blotchy lung shaped leaves indicated lung disease and therefore the plant was prescribed for lung disease. Perhaps this was also applied to animal tissue.

Tincture of fox's lung has been used as a treatment for asthma⁽³⁾ and there is a reference to dried fox's lung being made into a thick syrup to be licked off a liquorice root⁽⁴⁾.

As the fox is probably the longest-winded of all animals, the doctrine of Signatures pointed to his lungs as a likely remedy for shortness of breath⁽⁵⁾.

Another remedy was

"Water for Wounds" by ye Lady Fairfax (Dame Mary's son Sir Martin Lister married Catherine the daughter of Sir William Fairfax of Steeton⁽²⁾)

Take 3 quarts of Smithie water and let it boyle softly on a clear fire and as the scumme rises take it off. When you have soe done take it of the fire and putt into it halfe an ounce of burnt allum and halfe

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an ounce of white coperis, then set it on the fire and let boyle 3 or 4, then let it bee powred in earthen or pewter dishes, and let it stand all night; then put it into stone bottles. when you dresse any sore wash the sore first with it then more fresh and dippe lint therein and lay it upon the sore and soe doe twice a day till it bee whole.

You must dippe clothes 2 or 3 times double and lay upon the lint.

Burnt rock alum is a mild astringent causing contraction of the soft tissue thereby checking the discharge of blood and mucus. White coperis is probably white coperas a zinc compound, zinc ointments are used today.

Mary Lister's fascinating book needs further study but a grasp of 17th century handwriting will be necessary.

References

- (1) Recipe Book known as 'Dame Mary Lister's Household Book' Brotherton Library BL Special collection , Class Mark Manuscript: MS 621
- (2) Pedigree of Lister of Thornton in "The History and Antiquities of the Deanery of Craven" by T.D. Whittaker.
- (3) Dr D. Keeley www.asthma.org.uk/about/an007.php
- (4) Mary Lewes "Witches and Wizardry in Wales"
- (5) J.H. Clarke (MD) "A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica" www.homeoint.org/clarke/p/pulmo_v.htm

ARCHIVE ADDITIONS

Stanley Graham has donated to the society two CDs packed with photographs and local history.

One disc relates to the Lancashire Textile Project (LTP) which *"contains 1,300,000 words of transcribed tape recordings and 500 photographs"* mainly concerned with the textile industry in East Lancashire including Earby. In addition there are *"memoirs, articles and supporting documents"* including Stanley's own newspaper contributions which he still writes under the title "Stanley's View" in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times.

The aim of the project, which was started in 1978, was described as follows;

"The ultimate aim of the project is to preserve a deeper and more rounded record of people and processes in industry, than has been achieved before. With the increasingly sophisticated tools at our disposal it is possible to go beyond the socio-political aspects which tend to be the recurring themes in Oral History. It was felt that the importance of work in the lives of the informants, should be the backbone of the project. It was agreed that there would be educational and social value in the work which is being done."

Stanley Graham was on the LTP steering committee and was responsible for many of the

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oral history tape recordings and the photographs included.

The other disc contains Stanley's "Bracewell Files". The Bracewells were a well known family in the West Craven area, mainly as textile manufacturers but they had their fingers in many other enterprises.

Stanley traces the fortunes of this family with no punches pulled. Some of the material was contributed by Ann Battersby who some time ago contacted the society about her Bracewell ancestors and indeed contributed an article to the Chronicles "Christopher Bracewell of Green End, Earby - What's in a Name" (edition 21 Summer 2001). In fact Stanley made contact with Ann Battersby through that article.

Again there are many photographs of people and places to go with the text.

Our grateful thanks to Stanley Graham for this important contribution to our archives.

**NORTH WALES BORDERS TOUR
SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2004
BY COACH, STEAM TRAIN AND CANAL BOAT
CHIRK, LLANGOLLEN AND PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT
BOOK NOW USING THE ATTACHED BOOKING FORM
OR CONTACT HELEN HORNER
ON 01282 843850**

HISTORY ALIVE 2004

The Friends of Helmshore Textile Museum organised a major Local and Family History Fair, "History Alive 2004" at the end of March. The event was held at the museum and timed to coincide with the opening of the 2004 season at the museum.

It was an ideal opportunity for the North West's leading historical organisations to promote and improve public awareness of their aims and aspirations. Amongst those represented were the Earby and District Local History Society.

There were Libraries, Record Offices, Canal Preservation Societies, a Mill Engine Society, Museums and several Local and Family History Societies represented numbering some 30 organisations altogether.

The normal activities of the museum were also augmented by groups of actors re-enacting scenes from the textile history.

Bob Abel and Helen Horner represented the Society but thanks also go to Margaret Brown, Margaret Greenwood and Richard Janion for collating and printing pictures for the display.

EARBY AND THORNTON GAS AND LIGHTING CO

These days we take our gas supply for granted, we just turn on the cooker and out flows natural gas brought to us from under the sea. However some will remember that every sizeable town, including Earby, had its own gas works manufacturing coal gas for local consumption.

Mr Kenneth Golitsti writes from Beverley near Hull to tell us he is compiling an anthology on Yorkshire Gas and with his permission his notes are reproduced here.

Earby

General

The economy of the town was based on Textiles, at an unknown date the proprietor of an Earby mill installed apparatus to produce coal gas used to light the work place and also have a role in the production process. The gas works was of a size to produce sufficient gas for the public to be supplied.

It must be recognised to achieve this the consent, tacit or actual, of the Highway Inspector was required to lay gas mains and service pipes in the streets. Presumably there was a 'price' for this permission - usually the price charged for gas used for street lighting was substantially discounted.

Gas Company

The Earby & Thornton Gas & Lighting Company was promoted to establish a public supply of coal gas in the villages named in the title, registering with a capital of £10,000 raised by the issue of £10 shares.

Application was made to the Board of Trade for a Provisional order, in the 1894 parliamentary session, for powers to acquire the gas undertaking of the mill company, to construct new works for the manufacture and supply of gas in the parish of Thornton-in-Craven, including Thornton, Earby, Kelbrook and Harden.

The mill gas undertaking was purchased for £3,500. Further powers were obtained in 1908, 1921 and 1927. The Order of 1908 linked dividend to the price of gas (sliding scale) that of 1927 scheduled an adjacent site for the manufacture and storage of gas and residual products.

The company went into voluntary liquidation following the undertaking being vested (1949) in the North Western Gas Board, forming part of their Burnley/Colne Group of undertakings. By that time gas was supplied to upwards of 1,600 customers, of whom approximately 75% utilised the domestic budgetary control facility offer by the prepayment (coin in slot) meter.

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Street Lighting

Street lighting, then, as today, was the responsibility of local government - if the columns of local newspapers are to be believed this was an indifferent public amenity. In 1912 gas was supplied to 105 street lamps. By 1933 this market had been virtually lost to electricity. World War 2 lighting legislation prohibited external light ("The Balck Out") - the income was lost from 11 gas lamps, six controlled by automatic devices.

Gas Manufacture

The mill gas works, extended as the demand for gas and availability of finance dictated, by 1926 the works area was of insufficient size to permit expansion. The last charge of coke was removed from the retorts on the 13th March 1927.

The carbonising plant of the new works, built on an adjacent site, comprised an installation of four Glover West Vertical retorts - production capacity 240,000 cubic feet per day (24 hours) of 500 Btu gas. The retort house was of sufficient size to accommodate two additional retorts. The gasworks was vested in the North Western Gas Board in 1949 (nationalisation of the gas supply industry). Shortly afterwards the last charge of coke was drawn from the retorts, the carbonisation of coal having ceased. Becoming a low-pressure gas storage station. With the dismantling of plant and demolition of buildings, today little



remains of an The Retort Building of the new works and the erstwhile industry.

The town and district were supplied with gas produced at Barnoldswick until such time as that works was closed, thereafter, the Board supplied town gas produced elsewhere until gas appliances were converted to burn natural gas.

Sources:

Gas Company Provisional Order, Business Returns 1894 to 1946

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Journal of Gas Lighting 5th December 1893 & 14th April 1894, Gas Journal 18th January 1927

Kenneth would be pleased to hear from anyone with more information about the Thornton and Earby Gas and Lighting Company particularly about the gas works at Victoria Mill and the "new" plant on New Road. He is also seeking information on the Barnoldswick Gas Company.

Please contact Kenneth directly and also let the Society have the information for the archives.

Mr K.O.M. Golisti
63 Minster Avenue,
Beverley,
East Yorkshire
HU17 0ND.

ALL'S WELL AT ST.MARY'S Thornton Church Well Project.

As reported in the Spring 2004 edition of Earby Chronicles, the Society is putting forward a bid for funding to restore the well in the grounds of Thornton St Mary's Church.

A public meeting was held on 26th April 2004 chaired by Bev Parker who will be leading the project. Various groups from Thornton and Earby were invited to send representatives to see a presentation of the project plan. Some 25 people attended at the Thornton Parish Hall.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Society, Bob Abel, who then invited Bev Parker to give the presentation.

In 1764 the then Rector of Thornton-in-Craven, Henry Richardson, had the well covered with a hexagonal building. The latin inscription round the building translates as "**This health giving and ancient fountain Henry Richardson, Rector, protected with a covering in the year of Christian era 1764. May it prove a blessing to public health**".

The well building is now 240 years old and is showing signs of its age and is in need of restoration before the damage becomes too severe. It is a Grade II listed building and any restoration work will have to be done by approved contractors using approved methods. (The church itself is a Grade I listed building).

The project will consist of several phases, some running consecutively, phase I being the all important restoration of the well building.

During the restoration of the well building it will be necessary to jack up the roof to reset the coping stones and the whole body of the structure will need repointing and pinning with stainless steel bracing. The roof in fact consists of a large mill stone.

It will hopefully then last for another 240 years.

The well is in the low lying part of the church yard with very poor access and Phase II will be to provide access for every one to visit the well, including wheelchair access and a new path with correct gradients will have to be laid connecting the main church entrance path to the well. A paved area will be laid round the well for easy access for viewing

Why do we need to preserve this well and its building and why is the Society getting involved?

Firstly it is an ancient and unique site, the well itself predating the covering building by many years and the building itself is listed.

By improving the access it is hoped to put it on the tourist map to the benefit of the local community. It is on the Pendle Way footpath and is close enough to the Pennine Way to make an attraction for walkers who would normally just pass through and it will help increase the profile of the village.

Other phases will include a research project group to be led by Derek Clabburn who will input his historical research experience. The group will be looking at the origins of the well from both a geographical and geological aspect and delving into the significance of the churchyard site. Comparisons will be made with other sites and their folklores. Has a local folklore about the well been lost over the passing of the centuries?

Henry Richardson, the rector who had the stone built covering erected, is also worthy of research, what were his true motives?

The culmination of the research work will be a pamphlet published for the official opening and later a published book.

Another phase will involve the local junior school. Head Mistress, Mrs Thompson, is keen to involve the local school children in constructing a web page based on the project and the research findings. Perhaps if some local lost tradition connected with the well is found a re-enactment of that tradition could be possibility.

During the whole project it is hoped that the Earby and District Photographic Society will make a photographic record of the progress of the works.

How will this project be funded?

A bid is being put together by the project committee to apply for money from the Local Heritage Initiative (LHI). The LHI, devised and run by the Countryside Agency, distributes grants on behalf of the Heritage Lottery Fund and is also sponsored by the Nationwide Building Society. We think our project will fit well with the LHI requirements. It is estimated that the whole project will cost in the region of £15,000.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the project from a wide range of local community groups and all voluntary work can be costed to the project. We don't have to raise funds ourselves but we do have to provide voluntary work in-kind.

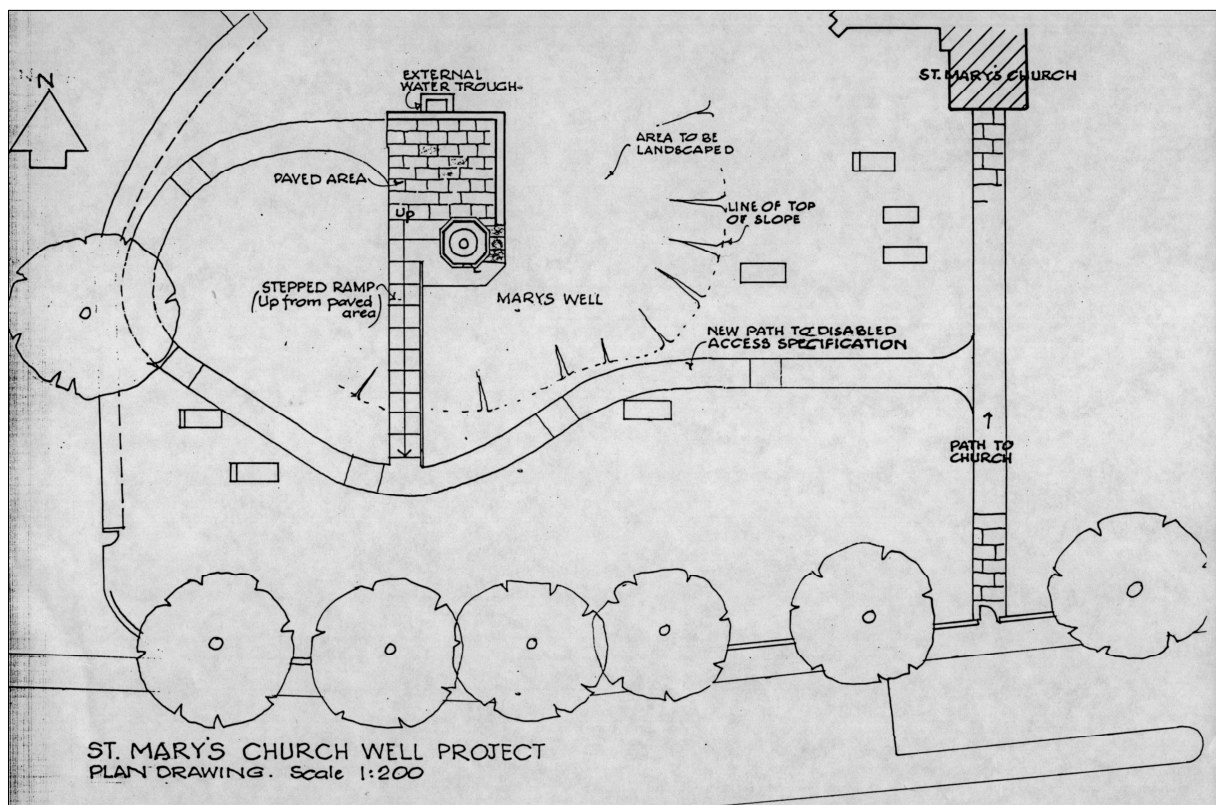
There will also be some technical advice from Craven District Council and some funding from North Yorkshire County Council.

Can you as an individual or your group help? Volunteers for historical research, landscaping, general labouring, catering, organising an opening event will be needed. Perhaps you have professional skills in design, health and safety, building and path construction regulations, wheelchair access regulations, I.T. or desktop publishing which could be put to good use.

Please come forward as we need to involve as many elements of the local community as possible as this is part of the ethos of the grants.

The project committee consists of the following people who can be contacted regarding any aspect of the project

Chairman	Beverley Parker	Tel 01282 843226
Project Manager	Richard Greenwood	Tel 01282 842682
Secretary	Bob Abel	Tel 01282 843850



Treasurer Judith [The proposed plan for improved access to the well as at May 2004] Hall

PRIZES AND A GRAND PIANO (By Squire Firth)

Following my article in the Earby Chronicles (editions 31 and 32) on Lloyd Hartley, I was contacted by Christine Brown, the representative of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music and organiser of the Lloyd Hartley Memorial Prize Awards. She asked if I would present the prizes at a concert to be held in Leeds on Sunday May 3rd and also give a talk about Lloyd’s early life.

These awards, presented every year, are for pupils of the pianoforte who have gained the highest marks (not less than 130) in grades 6,7 and 8, at the Leeds, Harrogate, Skipton and Lancaster centres. At the concert the winners (all young ladies) played their chosen pieces and I was very impressed by their playing. After presenting the prizes I gave my talk and everyone seemed enthralled about Lloyds early years in Earby and how he became one of the country’s leading pianists and teachers.

The book “Songs of Praise and Prayer” containing 60 hymns composed by Lloyd in his early teens created the most interest and I explained that it was the book that started my research into the family. I said that apart from the book in my possession, I knew of only one other copy, which is at the Baptist Chapel in Earby, although the records show that 1000 copies were printed.

At the end of my talk I asked one of the young ladies to play two of the hymns from the book, one called “Mount Zion” and the other called “Earby”, in memory of Lloyd. Christine thanked me for my attendance and said in future Earby would always be associated with the Lloyd Hartley Awards.

MEETINGS	
Tuesday 20th July	Guided Walk Round Skipton with Skipton and Craven History Society.
Tuesday 17th August	“The Changing Times of a Funeral Director” by Mr. Wolstenholme.
Tuesday 21st September	“Death , Disease and Medicine in the 18th & 19th Centuries” by Dr Thornber.
Saturday 25rd September	Wales Trip - in conjunction with Barnoldswick History Society. Advance bookings only.

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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
£5.00
UK £7.00
Overseas £11.00

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
Bev Parker
High Gate Farm
Gaylands Lane
Earby
BARNOLDSWICK
BB18 6JR
01282 843226