

NEW MILLS

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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Detail from a 17th century map showing the location of
Beard Mill or New Mill

EDITION NO.1 - AUTUMN 1988.

Dear Members

As promised here is the first edition of our Newsletter, to accompany the Autumn programme. We hope that through the Newsletter you will be kept informed of the work of the Society, the research being carried out by individual members as well as events and courses being held in our area. Its success depends very much on you. We are asking for items of interest, anecdotes, poems, letters etc. Unfortunately, in order to keep production costs down, we must ask you to restrict articles to a maximum of 500 words. Contributions for inclusion in our Spring edition should reach Margaret Cooper or Alicia Turnock by October 30th.

In our first issue we have included brief resumes of the talks we have enjoyed and the visits we've made during our last season. We hope members will agree that it has been a most interesting and varied selection.

The Autumn programme is detailed, together with the latest publication news, and one or two articles we hope will be of interest, including an item on the newly opened Heritage Centre, a piece on Wesleyan Methodism in New Mills and an update on the microfilm reader.

At our AGM in April John Symonds gave us the world premiere of his video entitled "One Day in August 1987". It was great fun identifying the locations of the shots, many of which served to remind us of just how fortunate we are to be living or working in this beautiful part of the country. John, together with other members, undertook a photographic survey of the parish in 1987. They hope to mount an exhibition later in the autumn at the Heritage Centre. They will, of course, need workshop sessions to prepare the exhibition, and will be asking for help in the near future.

Our Treasurer wishes to remind you that subscriptions for the 1988/89 season fall due on September 1 (if you have not paid since the end of April). If you pay under a Deed of Covenant the Society will benefit and it costs you nothing more than the subscription. Please consider paying in this way. For a form, contact Olive Bowyer.

Finally, the committee would be delighted to hear of any suggestions for future speakers or excursions, so get your thinking caps on, and contact any of the committee members listed below. The Committee elected in April 1988

Chairman	Derek Brumhead
Vice-Chairman & Publications Editor	Ron Weston
Secretary	John Symonds
Treasurer	Olive Bowyer
Archivist	Roger Bryant
Ordinary Members	John Humphreys Rowena Clarke Alicia Turnock Barbara Matthews David Pitcher Margaret Cooper
Co-opted Members	Eileen Miller Walter Kelly

NEW MILL - NEW DISCOVERIES

In my lecture to the Society on January 28 1988 I talked about the history of the corn mill which gave its name to New Mills. A Duchy of Lancaster corn mill at Beard existed by 1391 and a new corn mill called Beard Mill or New Mill existed by 1564. In my talk I gave the evidence showing that the site of the New Mill was near the present Salem Mill. Here is a short account of the early history of the mill containing several discoveries which I have made since January.

In 1475 the corn mill at Beard was let by the Duchy at a rent of 13s-4d to Reginald Bredebury (Bradbury). But the corn mill at Mellor which formerly had attracted a rent of 6s-8d was in ruins (levelled to the ground, if my Latin translation is correct). By 1491 both corn mills were out of use. Then, about 1496, the Duchy rebuilt Beard Mill and this was also intended to serve as a replacement for the mill at Mellor. The newly built mill was let to Otuel Bredebury for 20 years at an increased rent of 16s-8d. The unfortunate inhabitants of Mellor would thwn have been supposed to trudge all the way to this new mill to have their corn ground. An undated document of about 1510 refers to the mill as "the newe mylne". So the New Mill was built about 1496 and the earliest known use of the name New Mill was in about 1510.

In 1564 Nycholas Bradberie rented the mill, described as "Berde mylne or newe mylne". In 1609, James 1 sold off a vast number of Crown corn mills, including Beard Mill, to Edward Ferrers and Francis Philips, apparently property speculators of the time. It is likely that the new owners soon sold the mill to the Bradbury family (who had been the tenants since 1475 or before). Certainly Edmund Bradbury of 01 lersett Hall owned the mill in 1681, and the history of the mill can be traced from that time onwards.

The detailed story of the corn mill, from the 14th to the 20th century, will be told in a booklet in the History Notes series - not yet written however! (For illustration see front cover).

Roger Bryant, 19 June 1988.

THE PEAK FOREST CANAL AND TRAMWAY

In February Mr Jack Brady of Marple Bridge gave a talk on the Peak Forest Canal and the Peak Forest Tramway. First he recalled from his youth memories of boats being "bow-hauled" to the Hollins Mill at Marple and to Furness Vale. He then spoke about early British canals and the part played by the Duke of Bridgewater in promoting - and obstructing - the development of canals. He described various stages in the building of the Peak Forest Canal, and told how a Tramway was built beyond Bugsworth instead of extending the canal as was originally planned. After touching on the decline of the canals after World War Two Mr Brady showed some interesting slides to illustrate his talk.

Olive Bowyer, 10 July 1988.

TATTON PARK AND THE EGERTON FAMILY

Mrs Rosalie Gorton gave a talk to the Society on Friday 25 March 1988 entitled "Tatton Park and the Egerton Family". Tatton has had many owners, the last of whom were the Egerton family from 1598 to 1958. The family became extremely influential in Cheshire and south Lancashire and most of their wealth came from land owned in these counties and from investments in the factories of the region.

Between 1790 and 1815, the Elizabethan manor house was completely rebuilt in a neo-classical style after designs by Samuel and Lewis Wyatt. Their working drawings still survive. Further additions were made through the nineteenth century, but Patton today still remains an almost unique survival of a complete Regency house.

During the 360 years of Egerton ownership, a great collection of fine paintings (eg 2 Canalettos), silver and furniture was brought together. The cabinet makers, Gillow of Lancaster, designed much of the furniture for particular rooms, for example the library bookshelves (cost £840 in 1811-12), and the 1804 sewing table. All these treasures, as well as views of the house and grounds, were illustrated by slides.

In the grounds, the earliest feature of the layout is the seventeenth century straight beech avenue leading from the house out into the park. Nearer the house, in the gardens, is the beautiful Orangery of 1818. The appearance of the park owes much to the work of landscape gardener Humphrey Repton.

Hidden in a fold of the park is Old Patton, an original fifteenth century house, where life of the period in the Great Hall is recreated much to the enjoyment of the visitors. But this is not the oldest part of Patton. Recent archaeological excavations have shown that man was living at Tatton over 10,000 years ago, proving once again a basic truth in local history - that things are often much older than they first appear.

This very interesting talk was followed up by an equally interesting visit by the Society on 19 May, when Mrs Gorton was again our enthusiastic guide.

Derek Brumhead

VISIT TO BUGSWORTH CANAL BASIN

The Society's second evening visit this summer was to the Bugsworth canal basin on Wednesday 15 June, when the leader was Dr Martin Whalley of the Inland Waterways Protection Society.

The IWPS was founded thirty years ago and since then it has been engaged in work on the restoration of parts of the Peak Forest Canal - the viaduct and locks at Marple and, for what must be over twenty years, the restoration of the basins, wharfs, bridges and tramway at Bugsworth.

The Bugsworth Basin was the terminus of the Peak Forest Tramway which brought limestone down from Dove Holes between 1796 and 1924. The limestone was transhipped here on to boats for distribution to points along the Peak Forest Canal and into the Manchester region and Yorkshire. Massive banks of lime kilns at Bugsworth were used for the manufacture of lime for agriculture and building purposes.

Members of the Local History Society were treated to a very interesting almost non-stop two hour account and tour of the history and physical remains by Dr Whalley, who himself has been engaged on the restoration work since it started. Members were shown the sites of former warehouses, stone blocks and iron tramtrack of the Peak Forest Tramway, lime kilns and rebuilt bridges and walls - all the result of work done by a dedicated band of volunteers whose energy and stamina can only be admired. More recently much work has been done by a Community Programme team. The Basin is a monument to the Industrial and Transport Revolutions as they affected the countryside and the work of the Society is recording it for our benefit.

Derek Brumhead

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 1988

All meetings are held in the Library Lecture Room on Hall Street, and commence at 7.45 pm.

THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER: "Mediaeval and Later Buxton" (1100 - 1800) - Mr J Leach. Mr Leach, who works at Buxton Museum, will describe the development of the village of Buxton and its near neighbour, Fairfield; the origins of the baths and springs; the field systems in the area and the histories of the Cavendish and Devonshire families.

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER: "Corn Mills in Cheshire from Domesday to the Repeal of the Corn Laws" - Mr O Bott,

Mr Bott, who works in the Cheshire County Planning Department, will discuss the sites of Saxon mills in England (only 19 in Cheshire compared with 280 in Dorset and 434 in Wiltshire), and describe the growth of corn milling in Cheshire during the Middle Ages. Field names suggest that there were at least 134 windmills in Cheshire 300 years ago, but we have little evidence of them. Mr Bott will discuss their locations and what they looked like.

WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER: "Thomas, Ralph and Samuel Waller - Millowners and

Methodists in Manchester and Mellor" - Mrs A M Hearle. Society member Ann Hearle will present her work on three brothers who left Staffordshire for Manchester around the turn of the nineteenth century to found a cotton spinning business that included a large mill in Mellor. Two of the brothers made their home in the village, and their work and religion had a great impact on Moor End for a large part of the last century:

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER: "Life in New Mills 150 Years Ago" - Mr R G Weston. Publications Editor and Vice-Chairman Ron Weston will base his talk on researches into back issues of the "Stockport Advertiser". He will cover the way every day people in New Mills lived 150 years ago - their clothes, food, schools, religion, transport systems, work, leisure etc etc.

TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER: Social Evening and Local Knowledge Quiz

Society Archivist Roger Bryant has kindly offered to set some questions to test your local knowledge. The quiz will be a team effort, and the teams will be chosen randomly. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be available. The quiz is open to non-members too, so please come along to what should be a not-too-serious end to the year's activities.

SOCIETY Publications

The 2 latest additions to our Local History Notes are No 16, "Bowden Middle-cale - The Occupants of the Land 1778-1811" by C T Bowden, and No 17, "More Deeds of New Mills and District" by Roger Bryant and Eileen Miller. "The Peak Forest Canal: Its Construction and Later. Development" by Olive Bowyer has been produced as an Occasional Production.

The next booklet to be produced will be "Church of the Annunciation, St Mary's Catholic Church, New Mills: Graveyard Records".

The Editor, Ron Weston, will be pleased to receive contributions to or suggestions for New Mills Local History Notes.

Ron Weston

MICROFILM READER

The joint purchase between New Mills Local History Society and Derbyshire Library Service of a Micro Reader for New Mills Library is proving to be a successful venture. The Reader is in regular use and anyone wishing to use it is advised to book in advance - New Mills 43603.

Materials Available:- "Glossop Record" July 1859 - April 1871, Census Returns 1841 - 1881, "High Peak Reporter" 1916 - 1921

The comprehensive collection of Local History publications and ephemera held by the Library is kept separate from the main stock and is available for reference.

If you wish to use these facilities the Library staff will be happy to help.

Barbara Matthews

NEW MILLS HERITAGE AND INFORMATION CENTRE

New Mills Heritage Centre opened its doors to the public for the first time on Saturday 2 July and a steady stream of visitors - local and otherwise - passed through all day. The first person spent over £12 on publications in the shop, where many books, maps, trails and leaflets on the New Mills area and the Peak District are on sale. There are also very many free information leaflets available.

The Centre stands by the bus station at the top of Rock Mill Lane - the path leading down into the Torrs - very convenient for visitors and town people. The Centre will tell the story of the history of New Mills. Over the last year the text has been in preparation by members of the Society and now the graphics and presentation of that story are under consideration by the County Museum Service. Although this permanent display will not be ready for some months, there are temporary displays to see, including examples of various things to do with the history of New Mills, donated by local people. Have you got anything to donate?

Visitors have already expressed their interest and delight at the improvement to the area around the Centre, the attractive reception area and shop, and the rest of the interior which makes the best use of the original stone and brick building which many will remember as the former Co-op butchers.

The Centre is open every day except Mondays from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm (10 - 6 on Sundays) and everyone is welcome to come and see for themselves this new enterprise, which promises to be of great benefit to the town and its visitors.

Derek Brumhead

WESLEYAN METHODISM IN NEW MILLS

1988 sees the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the beginning of Wesleyan Methodism. The centenary celebrations that took place in 1838 were marked in New Mills, which had become a stronghold of this branch of non-conformity, by an emotional meeting held in the chapel in St George's Road. A lengthy account of the proceedings appeared in the "Stockport Advertiser", 6 December 1838. Here are some extracts:-

"A tea was held in the School Room, whence about 60 of the friends adjourned to the chapel, which soon became filled with attentive and deeply interested auditors

"Altogether the meeting was one of the most extraordinary character, and though on a smaller scale, it might fairly be considered a counterpart of the great Manchester meeting (reported the previous week)

"The feelings and sentiments developed were of the most exalted class - the highest of which human nature is capable - and could be indigenous only to the climate of Christianity. The offerings throughout were spontaneous, and were accompanied in almost every case, by a statement of personal obligation to Wesleyan Methodism, of family connections with it, and in some cases from the third or fourth generation, and of unalterable purpose to live and die in the communion

"Subscriptions are still pouring in from those who were not present at the meeting, the sum is now upward of £250 and further donations are expected."

Ron Weston

