

NL03

# NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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

EDITION NO.3 - AUTUMN 1989

## **EDITORIAL**

John Symonds, who has served our Local History Society as Hon Sec for many years has decided to retire from office due to other demands upon his time. Another long serving member, Rowena Clarke, has also decided to step down from the Committee. We are sure that you would wish to join with us and thank them both for all their hard work over the years, much of which went on behind the scenes. We hope they will continue to give us their support and friendship in the future.

Alicia and I do hope that you enjoy reading your Newsletter, but whilst we have a number of excellent articles from Committee members we should like to receive contributions from YOU. Articles for inclusion in the next edition should be sent to Alicia Turnock or myself by 31 October 1989.

*M A Cooper Alicia Turnock*

## **REVIEWS**

### **MANCHESTER GLASS**

For our first meeting after Christmas Mr Tom Percival gave us a very interesting talk entitled 'A Manchester Family in Glass'. He went on to tell us how his family started to make glassware in Ancoats about 1830 because of the availability of cheap coal and labour, and how the firm prospered for several years until 1914, having about 368 designs for wine glasses alone, and making glassware in blue, green and amber in addition to the more usual clear glass. To conclude his very informative talk, Mr Percival showed us several lovely pieces of Percival glass from his extensive collection, and told us how to tell leaded glassware from soda glass by its ring. The members thanked Mr Percival for telling us about such an unusual and interesting craft.

*Bill Barton*

### **THE HISTORY OF CHINLEY**

The large number of people who arrived for the talk by Alan Watson on 15 February suggested that we were in for a very special evening and this proved to be the case. Mr Watson's interest in the history of the village originated from the large collection of ephemera amassed by his mother. His talk, illustrated by a large number of slides, both modern and copies of old postcards etc from his collection, covered many aspects of change in the parish of Chinley, Bugsworth and Brownside. A lifelong resident of the village and a shopkeeper there for 45 years, Mr Watson's love for his village and its people came across most strongly in his reminiscences and anecdotes.

*Barry and Kath Dent*

### **THE COAL MINES OF NEW MILLS**

Derek Brumhead's talk on the coal mines of New Mills, given two years ago, was so well received that he was persuaded to repeat it, and it was again much enjoyed.

He first gave us an outline of the geological features of the district showing that coal deposits existed in the 'Goyt Syncline', an irregular area 2 to 3 miles wide running north to south from Glossop to Whaley Bridge. Two seams of coal were worked, the 'Yard Seam' being the deepest at a maximum depth of about 400 feet, with the 'Half Yard' about 100 feet down, but these depths varied due to faulting of the rock structure. The 'Yard Seam' was the one usually worked. It was amazing to realise how almost the whole of Ollersett Moor and the adjoining hill slopes became undermined with grid patterns of coal workings, and Derek's slide of a miner lying flat on his side in water hewing a coal seam indicated the grim working conditions involved in coal extraction. In some of the pits coal was reached through shafts with pit head winding gear, and one of the many interesting slides was of the old Dolly Pit engine house which once contained a beam engine, but is now an attractive private residence. Many of the coal workings were approached through adits or 'day eyes', with tramroads running through to the coal faces, and the fact that most of the mining occurred on hill slopes made this possible. Drainage could also take place by gravity through 'soughs' or in channels alongside the tramways. It is difficult to realise that these rough hill slopes, now open and usually deserted, were once a scene of mining activity, interlaced with tramways and haulage roads, and dotted with pit headgear. Smoking chimneys would complete this industrial landscape.

Derek's talk was well illustrated with an excellent collection of slides, one of the most informative being of the sandstone quarry face at Birch Vale rising above the black band of the 'Yard Seam'. There were also interesting slides of 'abandonment plans' including one which has recently come to light of a forgotten colliery at Eaves Knoll. Coal mining declined in this area in the early part of this century as better coal from Yorkshire was transported here in large quantities by rail, and it had ended completely by 1946.

The period after the talk for questions and discussion ended hilariously with some amusing tales from old New Mills residents concerning, rather unkindly, the poor heating qualities of local coal.

*Tom Oldham*

## **COMMEMORATIVE WARE**

On Friday 10 June we were given an interesting and informative talk on commemorative ware by one of our own members. Barbara Matthews told us of the long tradition in this country of recording important occasions in pottery and china. She has amassed her own impressive collection over a period of nine years, the main part of it dating from 1887 - 1937. During this period more occasions were commemorated than at any other time and it is known as the golden age of commemorative ware.

Barbara brought many of her pieces to illustrate her talk, including items commemorating the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of Queen Victoria, the Coronation of Nicholas II of Russia, the first World War and, more up to date, a piece to mark the commencement of the Channel Tunnel. Barbara's knowledge of her subject and enthusiasm for it gave us all a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

*Kath Dent*

## **THE COMMITTEE ELECTED AT THE AGM 9 JUNE 1989**

Chairman	Derek Brumhead
Vice-Chairman & Publications Editor	Ron Weston
Secretary	John Humphreys
Treasurer	Olive Bowyer
Archivist	Roger Bryant
Elected Members	John Symonds Barbara Matthews David Pitcher Margaret Cooper Barry Dent Kath "
Co-opted Members	Eileen Miller Wally Kelly
Editors of Newsletter	Margaret Cooper Alicia Turnock

## **AUTUMN PROGRAMME 1989**

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

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER: "Stockport Heritage Trust" - Jean Cliffe.

Jean Cliffe is one of many people trying to set up a Stockport Heritage Centre in the Staircase Cafe. She is one of the Editors of the Stockport Heritage Magazine.

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER: "The Peterloo Massacre" - Joyce Marlow.

Joyce Marlow, who lives in New Mills, is the author of several books including "The Peterloo Massacre"" and "The Tolpuddle Martyrs". She has a recent article in the latest issue of "The Manchester Region History Review".

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER: "The History of the Goyt Valley" - W Sidebotham.

Mr Sidebotham is a well-known speaker on Local History and his slides include scenes from the past as well as the present.

FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER: "The Roads of New Mills" - Roger Bryant.

Roger will talk about the early roads of the New Mills area and then describe the road building explosion of the early 19th century, when a network of turnpike roads spread across the district. The talk will be illustrated by slides and will include details of the public disturbances sparked off by the location of the toll gates.

## **A REMINDER**

Members'subscriptions for the year 1989 - 90 are due on 1 September but may be paid at any time from now on. If you pay income tax, however little, please consider paying your subscription under a Deed of Covenant, so that the Society can recover the tax which you have already paid. This entails filling in two simple forms and remembering to enter it on your tax return. The Treasurer will be glad to supply the requisite forms.

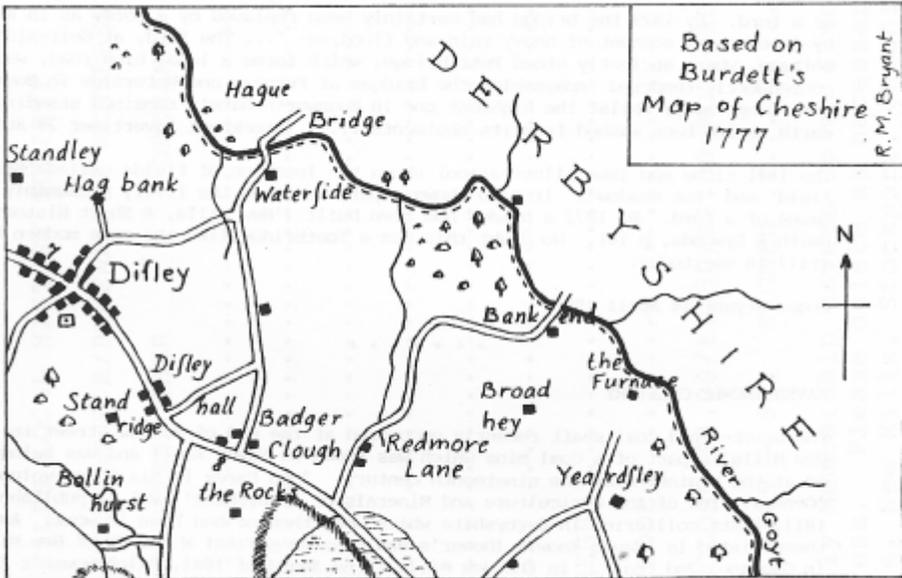
## "FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS" NEW MILLS PLACES - 2 POTT BRIDGE

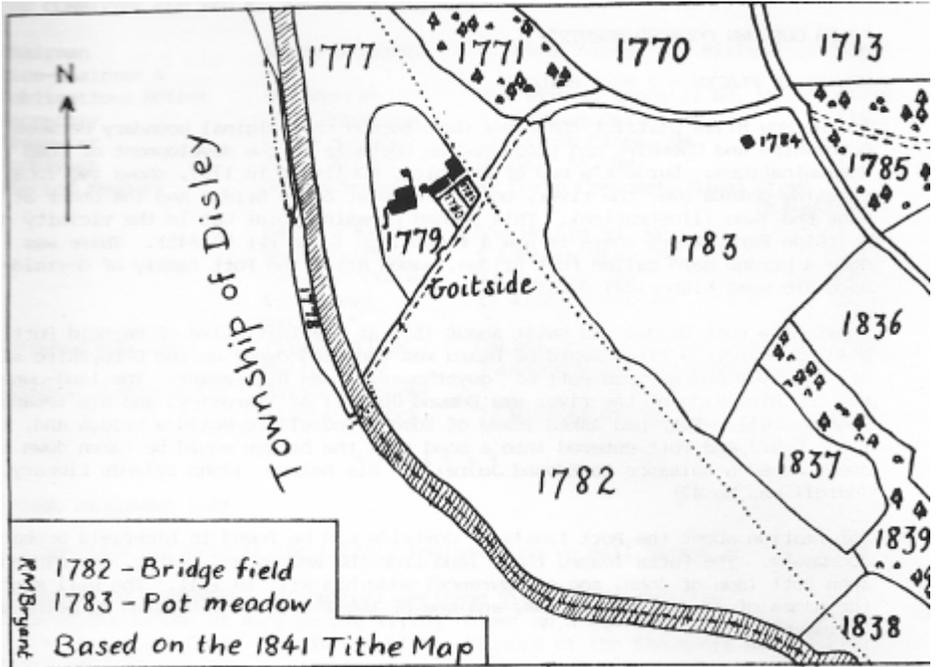
In the New Mills district the River Goyt formed the original boundary between Derbyshire and Cheshire and presented an obstacle in the development of road communications. Burdett's map of Cheshire, published in 1777, shows two local crossing-points over the river, one of these at Hague Bridge and the other at Bank End (see illustration). This second crossing-point was in the vicinity of Goytside Farm, where there is now a footbridge (grid ref 003845). There was once a bridge here called Pott Bridge, named after the Pott family of Goytside. Here are some historical details.

Apparently Pott Bridge was built about 1559 at the initiative of Reynold Pott and William Beard. William Beard of Beard was the land-owner on the Derbyshire side of the river and Reynold Pott of 'goytthowssis' was his tenant. The land-owner on the Cheshire side of the river was Edmund Jodrell of Yeadsley, and his tenant was John Jodrell. Pott had asked leave of Edmund Jodrell to build a bridge and, in 1559, Beard and Pott entered into a bond that the bridge would be taken down if it ever caused a nuisance to Edmund Jodrell or his heirs. (John Rylands Library, Jodrell mss No 47)

Information about the Pott family of Goytside can be found in Lichfield probate documents. The Potts leased their land from the Beards and, later, the Ashenhursts. John Pott (son of John, son of Lawrence) made his will in 1641. The will mentions the names of some of his fields, and one of the fields is described as being at 'bridgend'. We cannot tell whether the crossing-point shown on Burdett's map of 1777 is a bridge

We cannot tell whether the crossing-point shown on Burdett's map of 1777 is a bridge





or a ford. By 1829 the bridge had certainly been replaced by a ford, as is shown by a newspaper account of heavy rain and flooding: '... The ford, at Goit-side cottage, where anciently stood Pott bridge, which forms a legal high road, was consequently rendered impassable; the bridges at Furness and Waterside in Bugsworth were swept away; whilst the highmost one in Bugsworth barely remained standing, the earth having been washed from its abutments (Stockport Advertiser 28 Aug 1829).

The 1841 tithe map (see illustration) shows the location of fields called 'Bridge field' and 'Pot meadow'. It also shows a path crossing the river, presumably by means of a ford. By 1872 a bridge had been built ('New Mills, A Short History', Smith & Symonds, p 16). No doubt this was a footbridge like the more modern bridge still in use today.

*Roger Bryant 14 April 1989*

### **EAVES KNOWLE COLLIERY**

The brick-lined coal shaft recently uncovered at the end of Meadow Street in New Mills is part of a coal mine which was known as Eaves Knoll and was being worked at the beginning of the nineteenth century. John Farey in his three-volume book 'General View of the Agriculture and Minerals of Derbyshire', Vol 1, published in 1811, lists collieries in Derbyshire which were then or had been in work. Among those listed is 'Elves Knowle (Bower's and Longden's Pits) W and SW of New Mills, in Glossop, 2nd Coal'. In the New Mills Tithe Award of 1841, Ralph Bower's Executors are shown as owning fields here.

There is no mine abandonment plan for this mine among the set of plans in the Town Hall or Library and the (former) National Coal Board does not have one either. This suggests that the mine was last worked before 1872 after which date such plans were required by Law on the closure of a pit. Even the six-inch geology map shows no coal mine at Eaves Knoll and this again seems to confirm that there is no mine abandonment plan. However, by chance, Mr Alfred Coverley, former Town Clerk of New Mills, has in his possession a map showing the coal workings and shafts of Eaves Knoll. The map shows that the shaft in question is part of a series of shafts connected underground by a tunnel which runs under New Mills. This tunnel may have been a sough draining water from the mine, and the shafts would have been air shafts. The shaft discovered at Meadow Street was about 250 feet deep, a few feet less deep than the adjacent High Lee Colliery (261 feet).

Eaves Knoll Colliery and High Lee Colliery worked a coal seam called the Yard seam, so called because on average it was a yard thick. No one today has any need to worry about these old coal workings underground - the seam was so thin and so deep any subsidence due to the removal of the coal has been slight and does not affect the ground surface. However, the map is important in showing the position of the old shafts and in fact was used by the contractors to locate the Meadow Street shaft.

The map, which is at a scale of four chains (88 yards) to the inch, appears to be that of a mineral surveyor and is part of a much larger map. The coal workings have been drawn on a base map of New Mills showing High Lee House (built about 1830) but not the Town Hall (built 1871). The map was drawn, therefore, between these two dates and almost certainly is based on the New Mills Tithe Map of 1841, there being no other large scale map available at that time. The coal workings cannot be dated precisely. As already indicated, coal mining was taking place at or near Eaves Knoll at the beginning of the nineteenth century but this map probably represents workings which took place some time between the 1840s and 1870s.

*Derek Brumhead*

## **AN EARLY WOOLLEN MILL**

In a 16th century suit to the Court of Chancery there is mention of a fulling-mill, apparently situated in the hamlet of Beard.

In a fulling-mill, or walk-mill, newly woven woollen cloth is cleaned and beaten in order to thicken or felt the cloth. The nap is then raised and sheared to give a uniform finish. Finally the cloth is laid out to dry and stretched back into shape on tenter frames.

The suit to Chancery bears no date but belongs to the period 1538 - 1544. The complainant is James Sylvester, who describes himself as a 'sherman', that is, a man who shears cloth. Sylvester explains that in 1527 he had leased 'Baldeberd' (Ballbeard) from Richard Berde, gentleman, but a dispute subsequently arose. As a result of arbitration, Sylvester was awarded the lease from Berde of some other property instead of Ballbeard:

'one Messuage or Tenement called Howlecroftehowse a Barne with the Feld and a parcell of grownde called the Neytherhaye 2 Ryddes the Brown Bree the Hyngyngflatmedowe and one Walken Myll ... in Bawdon'.

The Chancery suit describes continued dispute between Sylvester and Berde, but the other details are of no great interest. (PRO C1/1070/63)

Howcroft Farm, The Rids, Brown Brow and Hanging Flat can all be located in various

parts of Beard (they are all on the 1841 Tithe Map). But they do not form a sufficiently cohesive group to give any clue to the location of the walk-mill.

However, it is possible to make a tentative guess. A short way to the south of Howcroft Farm and immediately to the north of Beardwood Farm, the Tithe Map shows two fields on either side of Shedyard Clough called 'Great Tenter hill' and 'Little Tenter hill'. Here then we have water-power and the site of tenter frames.

Thus a likely location for the mill is at grid ref SK 014843.

It is interesting to recall the 13th century iron-forges situated in Beard Wood (Victoria History of Derbyshire 11, p 358). The late J P Bowden suggested that these were located in Shedyard Clough (NMLHS D7).

I am indebted to Derek Brumhead and Ron Weston for looking for field evidence; unfortunately none has so far been found.

*Roger Bryant 19 May 1989*

### **NEW MILLS 1881 - CENSUS ANALYSIS**

The project to computerise the enumerators' returns for the 1881 census of the town is now nearing completion, and hopefully I can finish it within the next few months. Data from the census returns has now all been entered into the computer system, and all that remains is to check it for accuracy and consistency. Once it is complete I shall then analyse the data in a similar way to that carried out for the 1851 census returns and hopefully highlight the changes in the town over the thirty year span.

To give everyone, especially those who helped in extracting the data from the hand-written forms, a hint of the type of data that becomes easily accessible from a computer, I have analysed the inhabitants by age group and graphed the results to show the comparison with the 1851 census. Using a computer this sort of analysis can be carried out simply and quickly compared with manual techniques.

I hope that shortly a copy of the data will be available at the New Mills Heritage Centre together with simple to use analysis software.

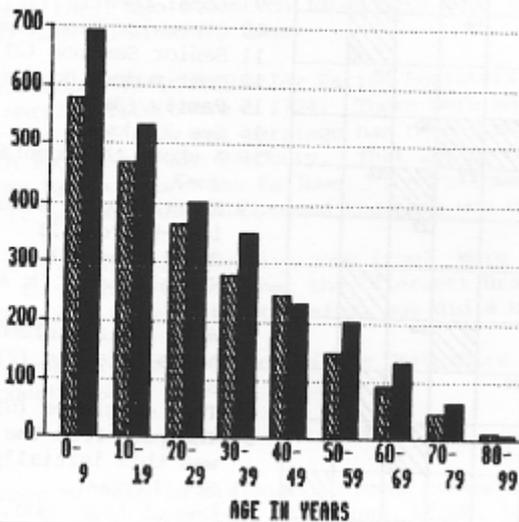
*David A Pitcher May 1989*

### **A TEA TOWEL FOR NEW MILLS**

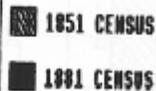
In association with the New Mills Heritage Centre, a local textile designer and screen printer, Jeff Whitaker, has designed and produced a cotton tea towel depicting New Mills scenes - the Weavers' Cottages overlooking the Torrs, a view of the hills from Hayfield Road, High Street, Union Road Bridge, Torr Vale Mill and the Peak Forest Canal Basin. The Town Crest forms a centre piece.

Available in white or fawn, the tea towel costs only £2.45 (including VAT) and can be purchased at the Heritage Centre, next to the Bus Station.

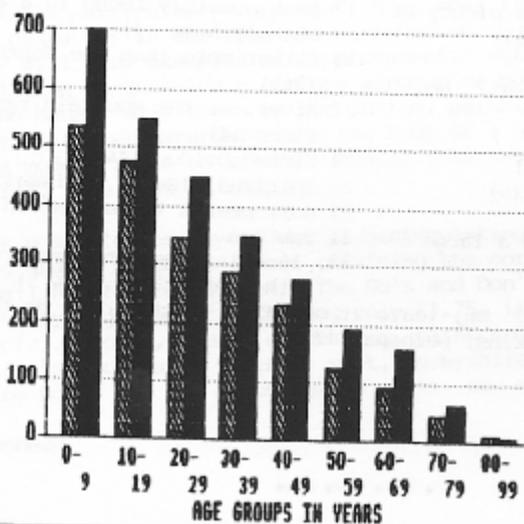
### ANALYSIS OF MALE INHABITANTS BY AGE



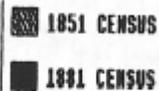
### KEY



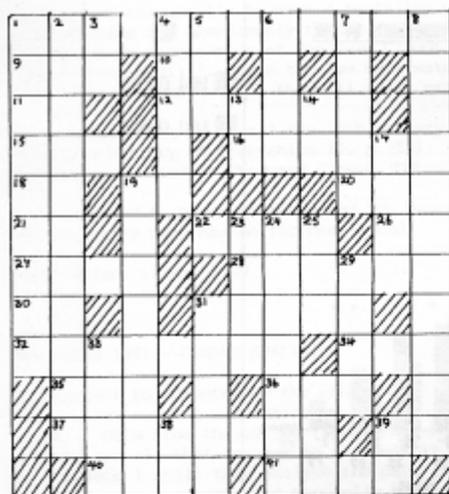
### ANALYSIS OF FEMALE INHABITANTS BY AGE



### KEY



ARE YOU GOOD AT CROSSWORDS?



Clues Across

- 1 Type of rock found in the Torrs (8&4)
- 9 Local theatre (3)
- 10 Otherwise King James Version? (2)
- 11 Senior Service (2)
- 12 Most modern houses have one (6)
- 15 Family (3)
- 16 See 33 down
- 18 A short thoroughfare - but a good one? (2)
- 19 Short type of sheepdog, though long-haired (2)
- 20 Small deer (3)
- 21 Monsal Head? Or maybe Marple Hall! (2)
- 22 West Indian island (4)
- 26 A small father (2)
- 27 Seep (4)
- 28 Type of sleeve (6)
- 30 The path from the Millward Bridge was this initially (2)
- 31 See 33 down
- 32 One of four once in New Mills (8)
- 34 French friend on exchange visit? (3)
- 35 Acquire (3)
- 36 A long period in the world's history (or geology) (3)
- 37 Not a miniature coal pit, but it was probably found at the bottom if it was in New Mills (4&4)
- 39 Myself (2)
- 40 Marx house (4)
- 41 The length of the curtain (4)

Clues Down

- 1 Old name for Newtown (9)
- 2 Hobby for which there is plenty of scope round New Mills (11)
- 3 Old Testament
- 4 Bridge over the River Kwai? No, Goyt (5)
- 5 Girl's name (3)
- 6 Very dead, this bird (4)
- 7 Next to the bull's eye (5)
- 8 Hill or pub? (7&4)
- 13 Initially this occupied a large area of 33 down (2)
- 14 Royalty at the GPO? (2)
- 17 Seat possibly found in a museum or stately home (4)
- 19 Rather more than the depth of 37 across (3&5)
- 23 River, or the mountain range where it rises (4)
- 24 Listed bridge (4&3)
- 25 Spiritual leader of Ismaili Muslims (3)\*
- 29 Holy prefix to many Welsh villages (4)
- 31 Soothes
- 33, 16 & 31 across The 'motorway' of the 19th century? (4, 6 & 5)
- 38 Self-help? Oh, leave it out (2) \*But did he do the cooking?
- 39 Chris Hawkins, perhaps? (2)

Answers on page 11

Olive Bowyer

## **WHO WERE MY BRADBURYS?**

A male line has been established which ascends from the present day back to Thomas and Ann Bradbury, who had six children baptised at Mobberley, Cheshire, between 1724 and 1734. My Grandfather John married Grandmother Annie (Ann Maria Beaumont b Barnsley) at St Philip's Church, Alderley Edge, in 1872. John Bradbury was already working at 11 years old in the copper mines at Alderley Edge, but he was a tailor when he married. They moved from Alderley Edge to Stones Head, Hayfield, where their two eldest children were born (the second being my mother) before moving back to Alderley Edge.

Bradburys were recorded in Mobberley Parish Registers before Thomas and Ann Bradbury began their married life there c 1724. There were many Bradburys throughout Cheshire but, as yet, only one marriage has been traced which, possibly, could identify with Thomas and Ann Bradbury. That was at Cheadle on 8 February 1720 between Thomas Bradbury and Ann Fallows. The Fallows family were Cheshire landowners, but it has not yet been proved that Ann was of that line.

Where did the Bradburys of Cheshire come from? Were they related to those of Derbyshire? There is evidence that the Ollersett Bradburys, until Ollersett was sold pre-1700, went to worship at Disley, but did a branch go to Mobberley?

Can anyone either produce evidence of the Derbyshire - Cheshire links, or make concrete suggestions?

G R Reah

If you can help Mr Reah in his search please contact him at 'Batavia', 52 West Park Grove, Roundhay, LEEDS, LS8 2DY.

## **DO'S AND DON'TS FOR IMPROVING HOUSES AND COTTAGES**

Conversions, repairs and improvement of property is very popular, and large sums are being spent. Although many people take great care and go to much expense in order not to spoil their property, there is increasing concern about inappropriate work. This is particularly important in an area like New Mills which has many stone houses of character in the town and surrounding countryside, often hundreds of years old. Many will know examples of 'improvements' which have not added to the quality of the building in question - picture windows or bow windows in a Victorian terraced stone house, ugly forms of repointing, painting stone walls, extensions in completely different materials from the body of a building, ugly porches, front doors in a modern style on an older house, fake shutters, imitation ironwork of the wrong period. The list is endless.

Now, it is possible for anyone who is contemplating a conversion or improvement to a building and is concerned about retaining the correct character to get guidance from a small new reference book, 'The Do's and Don'ts of House and Cottage Conversion' by Hugh Lander. Costing only £1.75, it includes chapters on windows, walls, roofs, porches, doors, extensions, paint and colour, ironwork and ornament. Because of its importance to their work, Derbyshire County Planning Department is selling the book. It can be purchased at the New Mills Heritage Centre.

*Derek Brumhead*

## **'GENERAL VIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE AND MINERALS OF DERBY-SHIRE by JOHN FAREY. VOLUME 1 (1811)**

The Peak District Mines Historical Society is publishing a reprint of this famous book, with an additional 40 page introduction by the two editors. John Farey was one of the most outstanding of the earliest professional geologists and mineral surveyors, and this volume is part of a three volume survey of the agriculture and minerals of Derbyshire. This volume is of particular interest in that it includes Farey's detailed account of how coal mining was carried out then and his list of collieries in Derbyshire runs to twenty-seven pages. There are also equivalent lists of lead mines and lime kilns and an interesting description of the lime kilns at Marple.

The book is a bargain at £27.50! If this makes you catch your breath, remember that the original would cost you 5 - 10 times this amount - if you could find a copy second-hand, that is; I have never seen one. It is available by post from The Peak District Mining Museum, The Pavilion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, DE4 3PS. Postage and packing is £2.50. However, I shall be going to Matlock some time and will collect copies for members. But, please let me have your cheques (made out to PDMHS Ltd) first!

*Derek Brumhead*

### **SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Clues Across 1 Woodhead Hill 9 Art 10 A(uthorised) V(ersion) - of the Bible 11 R(oyal) N(avy) 12 Garden 15 Kin 16 Forest 18 S(tree)t/S(ain)t 19 0(1d) E(nglish) 20 Roe 21 MH 22 Cuba 26 Fr 27 Ooze 28 Raglan 30 0(1d) L(eat)

31 Canal 32 Ropewalk 34 Ami 35 Get 36 Eon 37 Yard Mine 39 Me 40 (House of) Keys 41 Drop

Clues Down 1 Warksmoor 2 Ornithology 3 CT 4 Hague (Bridge) 5 Eva 6 Dodo 7 Inner 8 Lantern Pike 13 R(oyal) F(orest) 14 ER 17 Sofa 19 One Metre 23 Ural 24 Bank End 25 Aga 29 Llan (Church) 31 Calms 33Peak (Forest Canal) 38 D(I)Y 39 MP

### **NEW MILLS ON SATURDAY NIGHT (Seen through the eyes of a twelve-year-old in 1913)**

New Mills is a small cotton manufacturing town. It is situated about three miles from Kinder Scout. New Mills is a shopping centre of the villages round about, chiefly Mellor, Furness Vale, Thornsett, Disley, Strines and Hague Bar. The busiest day for the tradesmen of New Mills is Saturday. Market Street is usually crowded by Marketers and shop-gazers. The Market Place is also busy. The stall-keepers shout their wares in a tremendous loud voice. You cannot help envying the keepers at Parrot's stall, on account of their loud voices. An auction sale is being held. The people are roaring with laughter at the peculiar things the auctioneer is saying. The people are crowding up from the station in a great hurry and the poor porters are 'run off their legs', as the saying is. The visitors are easily distinguished from the New Mills people in many ways, both in their speech and dress. On the whole Saturday night brings advantages to most people, chiefly the shop-keepers and Hippodrome managers. One disadvantage is that Saturday night tires most people. Tradesmen look forward to Saturday night as a profitable night. On Saturday night people meet many acquaintances, and associate with other people; hence they form habits similar to those of their friends.

Taken from the school 'Composition' book of the late MISS NORA LIVESLEY