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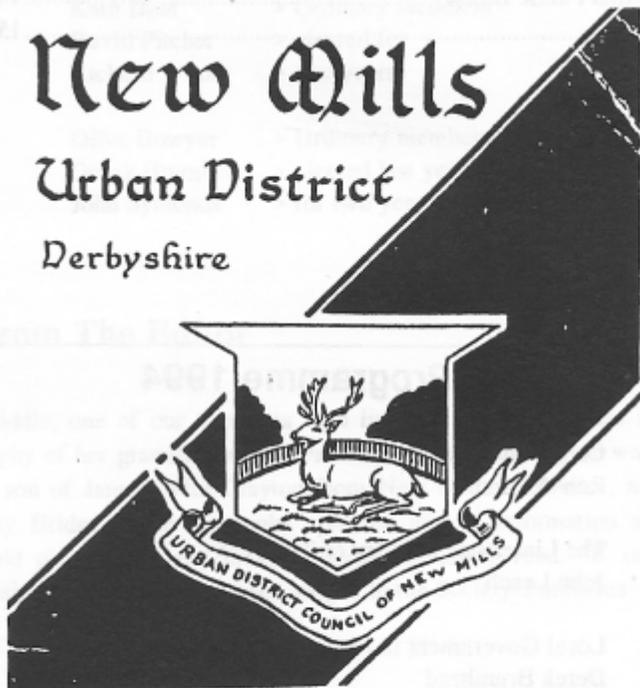
# New Mills Local History Society

## NEWSLETTER

# New Mills

Urban District

Derbyshire



Edition No. 13

Autumn 1994

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### Autumn Programme 1994

2 Sep	Civil War in Derbyshire Ron Weston
14 Oct	The Limestone Industry of The Peak John Leach
11 Nov	Local Government in New Mills since 1875 Derek Brumhead
9 Dec	Strines Rosemary Taylor

All meetings to be held in Sett Valley House, starting at 7.45 pm.

## **New Mills Local History Society Committee 1994-95**

At the Annual General Meeting on May 13th, 1994 the following committee was elected.

Chairman	Ron Weston
Vice-Chairman	Barbara Matthews
Hon. Secretary	John Humphreys
Hon. Treasurer	Barry Dent
Hon. Archivist	Roger Bryant
Hon. Editor	Ron Weston

Kath Dent	>	Ordinary members
David Pitcher	>	elected for
Richard Wood	>	two years.

Olive Bowyer	>	Ordinary members
Derek Brumhead	>	elected last year
John Symonds	>	for two years.

### **Notes From The Editor**

Mrs. Pat Priddle, one of our members who lives in Winchester, has sent us a short biography of her grandfather, Mr. Frank Clayton. Mr. Clayton was born in Mellor, the son of James Wild Clayton from New Mills and Alice, nee Irlam, from Whaley Bridge. The biography contains lots of information and some wonderful old photographs and makes a most interesting read. If any of our members wish to borrow it, it has been lodged in the Society's archives.

The Editor feels that we cannot go to press without extending congratulations, on behalf of the Committee and all the members, to our hard-working and dedicated archivist who now has the title of Professor Roger Bryant.

## **God's Wonderful Railway (G.W.R.)**

**M.Burton**

**14 January 1994**

Mr.Burton entertained a large gathering with his collection of slides illustrating the Great Western Railway. He started with that great engineer I.K.Brunel, who was the engineer from 1833-59, and his introduction of the broad gauge (7' 0½") which lasted until 1892. Many other famous G.W.R. Landmarks were shown, including Box Tunnel on the London to Bristol route, the Saltash Bridge over the River Tamar and the first loco-

motive to go over 100 m.p.h, the "City of Truro" in May, 1904. The later coloured slides showed the locomotives traditionally lined out in Brunswick green with copper chimneys and the equally traditional Chocolate and Cream coaches. The slides and talk were fully appreciated by the audience, once again showing the great appeal of steam.

## **Chapel-en-le-Frith - Past and Present**

**David Ripley**

**11 February 1994**

David Ripley presented his talk in a most novel way, using two slide projectors and screens to present his slides showing Chapel-en-le-Frith, past and present, side by side. This helped to illustrate how some scenes had changed so dramatically (for example, the entrance to Ferodo) and yet other places showed hardly any

change at all, still being immediately recognisable. One interesting viewpoint, at least if you were thirsty !, showed that it was possible to see 18 public houses whilst turning through a full circle. This really was a fascinating lecture and finished with the usual round of questions and anecdotes from the attentive audience.

## **The Royal Forest of the Peak**

**Roger Bryant**

**11 March 1994**

It was standing room only at the talk by Dr. Bryant, the Societies own archivist. The subject "The Royal Forest of the Peak" had great appeal, not only to the Societies own members but also many other visitors. We were told that luckily many ancient documents had survived and these

gave a great insight into the management of the Forest in the past. Lots of snippets of information concerning the people and the laws of the Royal Forest were put together to give us an informed and interesting picture of the past.

## **More Reminiscences of New Mills from 1946**

### **John Pearson**

**8 April 1994**

The speaker at our April meeting was John Pearson who made a welcome return visit to the Society with more reminiscences of his time as Surveyor of New Mills Urban District Council. Mr. Pearson's memories included the erratic water supply which was, at times, non-existent at the Golf House due to the cleanliness of the residents of Eaves Knoll. He continued with stories about the introduction of electric street lighting and the lady who

objected to a lamp outside her house by filling in the hole and hiding the workmen's tools.

Among other subjects covered was the compulsory purchase of land before the restoration of the Torrs, the building of council houses and the surfacing of unadopted roads.

Mr. Pearson's talk was both informative and entertaining and was followed by an equally interesting question time.

## **Medieval life shown in Misericords**

### **Gerald Hallworth**

**3 May 1994**

I hope that the spectre of sitting through an A.G.M. didn't put any member off attending the talk by Gerald Hallworth on Medieval life shown in Misericords. We got through the formal part of the evening very quickly and soon settled down to what proved to be a very enjoyable

evening. Mr. Hallworth was very easy to listen to and held his audience spellbound with his wonderful photographs and interesting dialogue. At the end of the talk many questions were asked from the floor, showing the interest generated by this fascinating subject.

## **A Walk Around Strines**

### **Rosemary Taylor**

**18 June 1994**

Quite a few visitors joined Society members as we walked around Strines with Rosemary and Geoffrey Taylor. We visited Strines Station, a shadow of its former self, and Strines Hall, now sympathetically restored. Many small details were pointed out which

normally we would have missed, such as the resting block on Peeres Lane which took the weight of the cart whilst the horse had a rest. Many more interesting facts were forthcoming making it a very enjoyable walk.

## High Jinks at Park Hall, Hayfield c 1923

Were you there ???

Since Park Hall became a notable Derbyshire residence, many happy gatherings have been held within its walls, and a good number have been associated with the August and September shooting seasons. But one of the most enjoyable of recent years was held there on Saturday evening through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Baerlein. It was really a new year gathering for the servants employed at the hall, and a number of local people were asked to take part in the joyous proceedings. The larger room, so well known to those who formerly attended the reading circle was profusely decorated with holly, balloons, streamers, a variety of flags, with a well filled table as centre piece. It would take the pen of Dickens to describe the scene as each guest entered the room, he or she was presented with a curious paper hat, which was worn throughout the proceedings, and when the first meal was over there was dancing to the accompaniment of a monster gramophone - quite a new experience, but none the less enjoyable - a whist drive for which there were splendid prizes, the breaking of monster crackers, which disclosed charming presents, and smaller crackers which also revealed something

### Calke Abbey

It was a full coach for our trip to Calke Abbey in June. The weather was kind to us and the house and gardens were enjoyed by all. Particularly memorable was the Calke State Bed with its embroidered Chinese silk hangings. I'm sure everyone would like to thank Barbara for organising such an interesting trip.

interesting for the guests. Mr. Albert Waddington gave a number of humorous items in his usual style, and also sang in an amusing duet with Mr. Morton, which brought the house down to such an extent, that the house was obliged to bring the singers down. Mrs. F. Schofield gave two songs in pleasing fashion and Mr. James Hall sang with great gusto, and beaming face, his favourite song - Gathering the Shells from the Sea Shore. During the interval Mr. Morton entertained the guests with his wireless and loudspeaker. There was never a dull moment from seven in the evening until the small hours, and if those stately trees surrounding the hall had possessed ears, they would probably have wondered, like Southey's Little Peterkin, "what t'was all about". Behind the whole of the happy proceedings were the kind hearts of Mr. and Mrs. Baerlein who never seem happier than when they are giving pleasure to others. In the memories of those who were privileged to be present the event will live long and carry fragrance.

Extracted from a newspaper cutting in a scrap book in Buxton library some years ago. From memory I think it had belonged to the Garside family.

**R. Clarke**

## Thornsett Hey

The ancient seat of the Needham family, Thornsett Hall, is known today as Thornsett Hey Farm. When did the name change?. The last written reference to Thornsett Hall that I know of is in the 1841 census enumeration. Perhaps someone can enlighten me.

It is clear from the field-names found in the 1841 Tithe Award that Thornsett Hey was an area of farmland, about 40 acres in extent, on the rather steep slope to the west of Ladygate Brook. The fields in question, best seen from a vantage point along the road past Thornsett Primary School towards Aspenshaw, lie amidst the ancient hedgerows that I described in " The Enclosure of Thornsett " (Map 3, p 7). There is an unsurfaced lane running from Thornsett Hey Farm, which leads to a wooden footbridge and so into the field called Great Hey. This lane must be centuries old, for I counted no fewer than eight hedgerow species along its short route: holly, hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, alder, elder, rose and damson.

The name "hey" is quite commonly found in North Derbyshire. According to "English Place-Names", by K Cameron, p 190:

"Several names for enclosure occur in place-names. Old English (ge)haeg " fence, enclosure " is the source of hay and hey, common in minor

names,.....In Middle English (i.e. that spoken in medieval times) the word can mean "part of a forest fenced off for hunting" and this is seen in Harthay ( Hunts.), where harts were hunted, and in minor names in parts of Derbyshire."

Thornsett Hey is likely to have been a hedged enclosure dating from the medieval period. Its direct link with Thornsett Hall strongly suggests that originally it was demesne land, that is reserved for the use of the lord of the manor directly, rather than let out to tenants. The hey may possibly have been a deer park, providing hunting and venison for the lord, in which case a licence from the king would have been needed. Although over fifty deer parks are known to have been created in Derbyshire in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, only in a minority of cases have royal licences survived in the records. For example, a deer park is assumed to have existed at Park Hall, Little Hayfield, as an Assize Roll for 1330 refers to "Parco de Hayfield". No such evidence exists for Thornsett Hey.

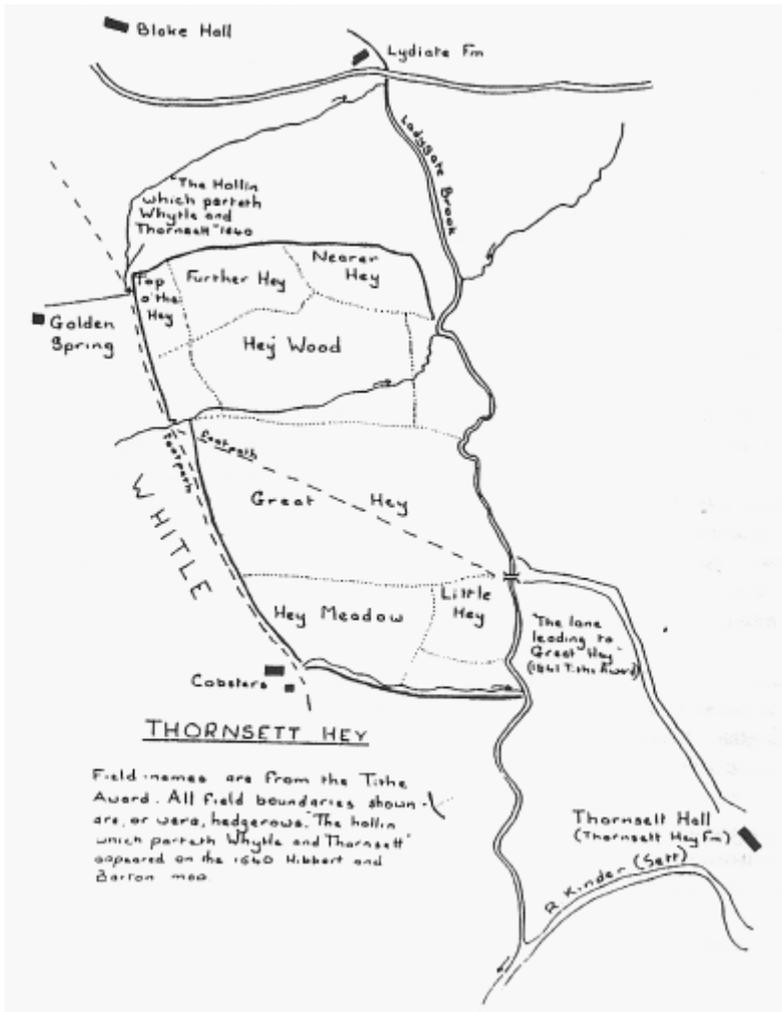
Thornsett Hey is just as likely to have come into existence as a clearing for farmland. If this is the case, a stout hedge would be needed to keep the wild deer out, not to mention wolves and other wild creatures. Much of the enclosure that went on in medieval times in the Forest of High Peak was

illegal, an offence known in the Forest law as "assarting"; but normally a "fine" paid to the court was sufficient to settle the matter. The Hey may have been farmed as part of the demesne or let out to tenants. The hedgerows subdividing the Hey into smaller fields are ancient and not perceptibly younger than the perimeter hedges.

By 1841 the Hey was being farmed by several tenants, but the old field-names were in use. Hey Wood had been cut over for pasture by this time.

There are other interesting field-names to be found in the Tithe Award for our area and I hope to write further on this subject.

**Ron Weston.**



## A Family Tree With A Difference

My maternal grandfather, James Morton, born Oct. 1890 in the town of Reading, Berkshire was the youngest son of Samuel Morton and his wife Elizabeth Miller. Samuel died when James was only five years old, as so often happens with families living well away from their home, relationships can be rather obscure. My grandfather told his own family stories, of course, about his relations, of his own father there was little to tell because he hardly remembered him at all. However, when Samuel died he was employed as a coachman, his route: Highgate Hill, London. His occupation prior to this is hard to establish because on the birth certificates of his children, and on his own marriage certificate, this varies from coachman, to groom, to farmer and to publican. When James was born Samuel was a publican, when he married in 1878 (then a widower aged 33) he was a coachman. Grandfather always said that his father had at some time in his life been in charge of a very famous horse named "Honest Tom", that he was something of an expert with horses and their ailments. In fact, the only item passed down from him to his youngest son seemed to be a book of horse anatomy. This "Honest Tom" was so famous that when he died his body was buried, his head and shoulders stuffed, then placed in a museum of some kind.

I knew, through another member of my family, that Samuel was born of farming stock in the village of Upwell, Cambridgeshire, very close to the Norfolk border. His father was also named Samuel and had married his mother, formerly Susan Dunham, at Doddington, Cambridgeshire in 1837. The family bred Shires in this area, the Fens, which has long been associated with excellent horse flesh. At last I felt I was getting warmer, but did "Honest Tom" really exist ?

On holiday I happened to read an article in "The Countryman" about the lives of 'stallion men'. These were the men, or youths (sometimes as young as 16) whose job it was to lead their master's stallion to cover all the mares during the breeding season. This started in April and was a period of 12-15 weeks. The journeys covered by these men and their charges could be more than 70 miles. They had to know everything there is to know about horses, and be able to treat them should they fall ill during this time. It was a very responsible job, the animals were very valuable, a good one commanding a fee to the mares owner of two guineas.

During the season these men would stay at inns and here they were well looked after, they brought in extra custom of course. They also wore a kind of uniform which consisted of Bedford cord trousers, brown leather

boots and gaiters, a cloth cap and waistcoat, topped by a loud checked jacket and bright neckerchief, often fastened with a horseshoe, or horse-head pin. They also earned a reputation for being rather too free with their sexual favours. They were often, (strangely considering the size of these great Shires) men of small stature.

After reading this I began to wonder, might this not have been what Samuel's trade really was ?, at least in youth. He was the younger son of a farmer who bred these horses and would have been well qualified for the job.

Eventually I wrote to a man who had written an excellent book about these horses, Keith Chivers. If there was indeed a horse named "Honest Tom" he would know. He did indeed and wrote back giving me all the following information, and more. "Tom" was bred by a man named William Welcher of Snare Hill, Watton, Norfolk (a few miles away from Upwell). His number entered in the stud book was 1105 and he was the most famous horse of that century. He won first prize at the Royal Show for five consecutive years, 1867-1872. His total prize money was £526 15s. and his height was 17 hands. His pedigree is shown over the page.

His fame came from his legendary virility and fertility, also his ability to transmit all his own qualities, even when bred with a common mare. It is estimated that in some 17 years breeding about 1600 mares were put to him. In his prime this would be some 270 services within a 13 week period.

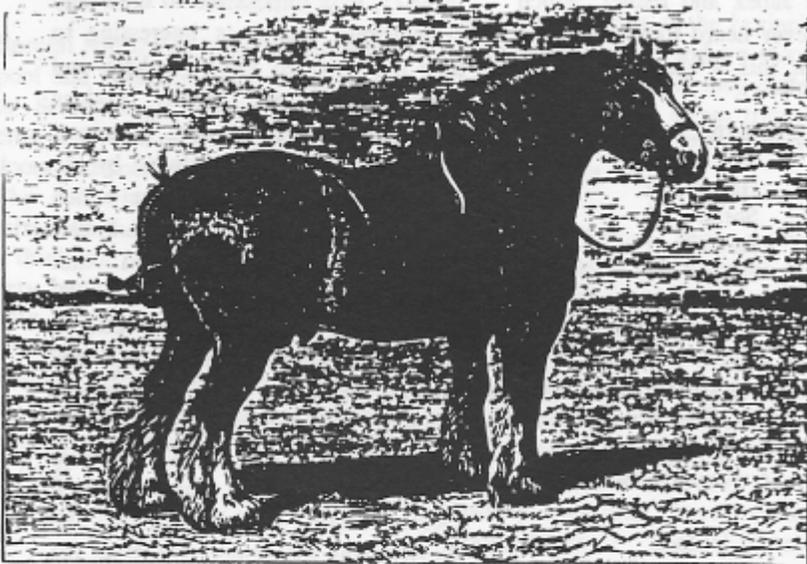
After four seasons in his home counties he was sold (to prevent further inbreeding ) to a man named Thomas H. Miller of Singleton Park, Fylde. Here he became the daddy of all good Fylde cart-horses, some of his descendants going back to his place of birth to further improve the breed. It was this new owner who was responsible for his being partially buried, partially preserved. He is buried at Singleton Park and his tombstone reads :- 'Great Honest Tom lies here, At rest after a life of fame, The laurels o'er his grave attest, he carried a Champion's name. The brave horse sleeps ? but on our lips, his praise will never tire, No scion he leaves can o'er eclipse, Their grand and honest sire.'

When at last I found him it was at Preston, in the main ring of the cattle auctioneers (Hothersall's). He is still a superb specimen, even after a period of 129 years. He is not a tiny bit chronologically challenged either, would that I should look so good at 129 !!!

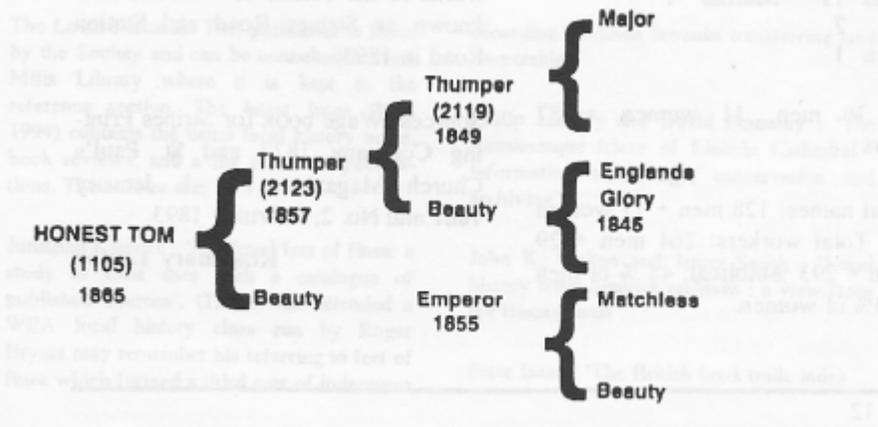
And what of Samuel ?, I hear you ask, well, sadly people are not usually preserved this way and placed in a glass case, wisp of hay in mouth and wearing a check-rein and bridle. If they were, I should know that the old story was true after all. As it is, I must be content in the knowledge that in the

year 1870 Samuel Morton, my great-grandfather, bred a horse which eventually became a stallion, number 1122. His name was.... "HONEST TOM".

**Rowena Clarke**



**"Honest Tom", 1865-1885, bred by William Welcher of Watton**



## Christian Names in Strines in 1873

In August 1873, the work force at the Strines Printing Co. comprised 264 men and 29 women. It is interesting to see how many of these people had biblical names, some of which, like John and Mary, are still popular, and others, like Jabez and Esther, which are hardly ever heard today. Looking down the list, this is what we find :-

### Old testament names

Men	Women
Joseph 18	Hannah 2
Samuel 11	Sarah 2
Joshua 5	Esther 1
Benjamin 2	Rachel 1
David 2	
Daniel 2	
Joel 2	
Adam, Isaac, Jabez, Israel, Jesse, Seth, Levi, Jubal, Jonas, Emmanuel 1	
Total 52 men, 6 women = 58 workers	

### New Testament Names

Men	Women
John 33	Mary 8
James 24	Elizabeth 2
Thomas 11	Martha 1
Peter 7	
Stephen 1	
Tot. 76 men, 11 women = 87 workers	

Biblical names:

128 men + 17 women = 145

Total workers:

264 men + 29 women = 293

% biblical:

48 % of men and 58% of women.

Because there were so few women, the percentage of all workers with biblical names was also 48.

Without comparing Strines in 1873 with Strines now or with other places in 1873, it is impossible to draw any conclusions, but it is interesting to note that prior to 1880, weekday and Sunday school and Sunday services took place on the works premises. The day school was replaced by the Board school at Hague Bar which opened in 1879. In 1881 the St. Paul's Church magazine reported that "through the munificence of T. H. Neville Esq. a handsome Iron Church was built capable of seating 200 persons and every Sunday large and attentive congregations listen to the exposition of God's Word." And that "Our Sunday School was opened on October 24th 1880.". Mr. T. H. Neville was the senior partner at the works. The Sunday school building was physically moved from within the works to the corner of what are now known as Strines Road and Station Road in 1893.

Sources: Wage book for Strines Printing Company 1873 and St. Paul's Church Magazine, No. 1, January 1881 and No. 2, February 1893.

**Rosemary Taylor**

## The Wakes

When I was very young the first week in September was the annual "Wakes" holiday. All the mills closed for the week, so no sirens sounded, and all the shops closed too, New Mills became a ghost town.

Special trip trains were run to Blackpool and Southport, and, I think, also to Scarborough. These trains were crowded with people standing at the doors and peering out of the windows. The following week they returned, refreshed and ready to return to work. I think the wives must have had a very hard time because this was the time when no one could afford to "board", only to have "apartments", which meant the wife going shopping for food for the landlady to cook, and to be charged for vegetables and "use of cruet".

My family could not afford a holiday because my father had died very

young and mother did not receive any pension, so that we relied on the earnings of my eldest sister.

Saturday morning at the beginning of Wakes week came and we stood and waved to the trains as they pulled out of Central station, steam trains with engine drivers and firemen blowing a whistle for us.

Then our "Wakes" began, no holiday journey by train but we could pretend and we wore our best nighties when we went to bed at night and when we came in to dinner on Sunday, on our table stood our Wakes treat - a whole bright red bottle of tomato ketchup ! every drop pure magic. I didn't envy the people I had waved on their holiday, they didn't have tomato ketchup, did they ?

**M.Lancashire**

## The Local Historian

This periodical is taken by the Society and can be consulted in New Mills Library where it is kept in the reference section. The latest issue (May 1994) contains the usual local history notes, book reviews, and a list of recent publications. The articles are;

Jonathan Kissock : 'Medieval feet of fines: a study of their uses with a catalogue of published sources'. (Those who attended a WEA local history class run by Roger Bryant may remember his referring to feet of fines which formed a third part

of indentures recording fictitious lawsuits transferring land ownership).

Philip Lindley and David Emmony : 'The Romanesque frieze of Lincoln Cathedral : information technology, conservation and archiving'.

John K. Walton and Jenny Smith : 'Local history from Spanish archives : a view from the Biscay coast'.

Peter Isaac : 'The British book trade index'.

## A Day at New Mills Public Library

Working at New Mills library allows me a grandstand view of the public's use of the resources donated by the Society to the library, and also the use of our publications. Hardly a day goes by without someone using the micro film or fiche reader, and as word spreads amongst geneologists the IGI is becoming increasingly popular.

Shortly after the Society was formed I remember spending several Sunday afternoons armed with spade and garden shears clearing St. Georges Road Methodist Church gravestones in order to record the inscriptions. More evenings were spent listing and cross-referencing the names and information in order to publish the Graveyard Inscription Book.

Recently a young man from Bolton, who was researching his family history, and in particular, a relative named Henry Horridge Bullough who he knew to have been a methodist, arrived at the library. Luckily this man was buried at St. Georges Road and from the Graveyard Inscription Book we were able to trace him and obtain

his date of death. From this information I was able to look up Mr. Bullough's obituary using the Ashton Reporter, which is on microfilm.

Not only did this young man go away with more information than he had hoped to find, but the Society learned about a man who was a pillar of New Mills society at the turn of the century. Starting work, as a part-timer at the age of nine, lacing cards for Jacquard machines at a Bolton mill he progressed to become a weaver and eventually assistant mill manager by the age of nineteen. In 1888 he moved to New Mills and the position of weaving manager at Torr Vale Mill, becoming Manager of the whole mill by 1892, a position he held until retirement in 1915. Mr. Bullough was a much respected man in New Mills and had many interests in the town, including Education, Newtown Sunday School and New Mills Cricket Club. He held the position of Chairman of the Council twice. Mr. Bullough died on Christmas Eve, 1941 at the age of 80.

**Barbara Matthews**

### All aboard for a sex-change on the Buxton line!

You may remember that in the last issue I offered the following advice, "Let the train take the strain". I now have to issue the following warning ! - a journey into the past between New Mills and Buxton can seriously damage your health. When I left New Mills I was a female but when I returned I was a male ! This operation was undertaken, (in the strictest confidence, of course) by the "High Peak Reporter", or the "High Peak Courier" and I never felt a thing!!!

**A.Wrinkly**

## Publications of New Mills Local History Society

### New Mills History Notes (A5 format)

No	1 New Mills in the 1820's: Part 1 (extracts from the Stockport Advertiser)	o/p
	2 New Mills in the 1820's: Part 2 (extracts from the Stockport Advertiser)	o/p
	3 Whitle Enclosure	£0.60
	4 The Mills of New Mills	o/p*
	5 New Mills (1830-35) (extracts from the Stockport Advertiser)	£0.60
	6 Railways of New Mills & District o/p**	
	7 Turnpike Roads and Riots	£2.25
	8 The Lost Mills of Rowarth	£0.60
	9 The New Mills Tithe Award (Central Area)	£1.00
	10 Deeds of New Mills and District	£0.60
	11 The Peak Forest Canal:Upper Level Towpath Guide	£3.25
	12 A History of the Providence Congregational (Independent) Church, New Mills	£0.60
	13 Memories of Strines	£0.60
	14 The Lost Chapel of Rowarth	£0.60
	15 The Coal Mines of New Mills	£1.25
	16 Bowden Middlecale-The Occupants of the Land (From Land Tax Assessments)	£0.60
	17 More Deeds of New Mills and District	£0.60
	18 New Mills 1835-39 (extracts from the Stockport Advertiser)	£0.60
	19 Three Local History Walks	£0.60
	20 New Mills Co-operative Society 1860-90	£0.90
	21 The New Mill and Some Other Corn Mills of The High Peak	£1.25
	22 The New Mills Air Raid:Friday 3 July 1942	£0.75
	23 The Peak Forest Canal:Lower Level Towpath Guide	£2.25
	24 The Living Past:New Mills People in Late Tudor and Early Stuart Times (from Probate Documents)	£2.25
	25 The Downes Family, Husbandmen in the New Mylne 1571-1697	£1.90

\* See OP 7.

\*\* Available as "Railways of New Mills and District: Their Development and Impact 1840-1902". Trans.Lancs. and Ches.Ant.Soc.Vol.86 (1990) £1.50

## Occasional Publications (A4 Format)

OP	1 Gravestone Inscriptions:St.Georges Road Methodist Cemetery	o/p
	2 New Mills and District:A Look Back	£2.75
	3 The Peak Forest Canal:Its Construction and Later Development	£3.25
	4 Church of the Annunciation,St.Mary's Cathoile Church, New Mills, Graveyard Records	£1.00
	5 Ollerset in 1841:Land and People (Analysis of Census Returns and Tithe Award)	£2.95
	6 New Mills in 1851 and 1881 As Seen Through The Census Returns (Comparative Analysis of Data Using a Computer)	£2.95
	7 The Mills of New Mills (Revised and Greatly Expanded Edition of History Notes No 4)	£2.95
	8 The Enclosure of Thornsett	£2.95

For details or orders please contact Ron Weston, Editor, New Mills Local History Society, The Thorns, Laneside Road, New Mills, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 4LU