

# ***New Mills Local History Society***

## ***Newsletter 33***



Autumn 2004

## Autumn Programme 2004

All meetings are held in Sett Valley House, starting at 7.45 pm.  
(Apart from the New Mills Festival Lecture, see page3).

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Friday  
September 10

**“Barton Bridges Falling Down”**  
Glen Atkinson

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Friday  
October 8

**“Ten Square Yards of Tintwistle”**  
Dr. Colin Rogers

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Friday  
November 12

**“The Leeds and Liverpool Canal”**  
Ian Moss

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Friday  
December 10

**“Women and Children in Mines: The Children’s Employment Commission of 1842”**  
Alan Davies

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### New Mills Festival Lecture

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Monday  
September 13

**“The Torrs Thirty Years On”**  
Dr. Derek Brumhead

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### NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY COMMITTEE 2004-2005 (elected at the A.G.M.)

Chairman	BARBARA MATTHEWS (743935)
Vice-Chairman	GAYNOR ANDREW (743117)
Hon. Secretary	JOHN HUMPHREYS (743581)
Hon. Treasurer	JOAN POWELL (742814)
Hon. Archivist	ROGER BRYANT (744227)
Hon. Editor	RON WESTON (744838)
Ordinary members	OLIVE BOWYER, DEREK BRUMHEAD, BARRY DENT, PAT EVANS, JOHN SYMONDS. RICHARD WOOD.

*[www.newmillshistory.org.uk](http://www.newmillshistory.org.uk)*

## **Editors Note**

Unfortunately, we do not have accounts of our January and May talks in this current edition of the Newsletter, for which I apologise. Although both the quantity and quality of members' contributions to the Newsletter remain high, this particular number is a little on the lean side.

So, please contribute and continue to keep me well-supplied.

*Ron Weston Hon. Editor*

## **Additional Talk For The New Mills Festival**

In addition to the Society's normal programme there will be a talk for the New Mills Festival by Derek Brumhead on "The Torrs Thirty Years On". The Torrs was officially opened to the public on 21 September 1974. The talk will be held on Monday 13 September 2004 in New Mills Town Hall at 7:30 pm and the Town Council are providing a reception. Admission is free.

## VIOLENCE IN NEW MILLS IN THE 1830s

13th February 2004 – Ron Weston

Keith Holford was unable to talk to us on this occasion and sent his apologies.

In Britain today, the great majority of people regard violent behaviour as abhorrent and not to be tolerated; but this has not always been the prevailing attitude. In the 1830s violence pervaded society at every level; corporal punishment was administered and received both formally and casually. It was the main way of keeping order and discipline not only in the army, the navy, and the prisons but also in the workplace the schoolroom and the home. The farm labourer failing to doff his cap to the squire riding by was likely to feel the lash of his master's riding whip across his shoulders and that same man, smarting under the pain, might well return home to beat his wife and children or his dog. It is against this background of a "culture" of violence that we should view the widespread political violence of the time, not least in New Mills.

The Stockport Advertiser, founded in 1822, like newspapers today, thrived on sensational events and reported violence of every description in lurid language. Events in and around New Mills provided plenty of copy in the 1830s, just as they do today. The frequent strikes of textile workers were particularly ferocious

affairs, with strikers marching on mills to prevent workers clocking in and "knobsticks" (strike-breakers) opposing them. Large processions of strikers were sometimes harried by "yeomanry", mounted volunteers intent upon maintaining law and order in their neighbourhood in the days before the police force existed. Strikers armed with guns marching from Glossop to New Mills behind a band of music were hatted at Little Hayfield by the redoubtable Captain White, a local magistrate, who, with the aid of some Hussars and the local yeomanry, stopped the march and arrested ringleaders.

A few years later, the same Captain White who was the local Tory party agent was alleged to have struck a Whig supporter in Glossop on election day. The Stockport Advertiser, on that occasion, report a running fight between Tories and Whig supporters from New Mills in Glossop, where the voting took place.

Undoubtedly, working people in New Mills were passionately concerned with the many injustices of the time that the Whig government, the great 1832 Reform Bill notwithstanding, was failing to address. The reform of prisons and the Poor Law had brought them the house of correction, the treadmill and the workhouse, while early attempts to

alleviate working conditions through legislation proved largely ineffective. The church taxes known as tithes were regarded as particularly iniquitous and the attempts by the agents of the Vicar of Glossop to collect them in New Mills sparked off riots leading to court cases and spells of imprisonment.

By the end of the 1830s the general disappointment of the working class with the reformed Parliament led to renewed pressures for political reform. These further demands were voiced by the Chartist Movement, at first led by men of moderation but soon hi-jacked by firebrands such as the journalist Feargus O'Connor who whipped up violence amongst the working class up and down the country. In New Mills we learn from the pages of the Stockport Advertis-

er that Chartists were selling arms at a beer shop already notorious for subversive activities, such as the formation of a "Society for the Rights of Man".

A town like New Mills in the 1830s, born of the earliest phase of the Industrial Revolution, full of newcomers with little allegiance to the local squires and far from the influence of the parish church, was just the sort of place to experience the types of political violence endemic in the country at that time. As the century wore on these acts of desperation gave way to more peaceable expressions of dissent and self-help: trade unionism, the co-operative movement, radicalism leading to socialism in politics and non-conformism in religion.

*Ron Weston*

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## THE HISTORY AND REGENERATION OF CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH 12th March 2004 - Mike Smith

Mike Smith is well known for his excellent articles in that splendid regional magazine *Living Edge*, in which he gives highly readable and authoritative accounts of places in and around Manchester. He is more well known, of course, for being at the forefront of studies in the history and conservation of buildings in Chapel-en-le-Frith, where he is a Parish Councillor and leading member of the Civic Society. He is, there-

fore, well qualified to speak on aspects of Chapel's history, its many interesting buildings including the medieval core around the parish church and Market Place, the conservation area, the recent changes, and his hopes for the continued improvement in the townscape. The detail was of great interest and the talk was illustrated with Mike's own superb slides.

*Derek Brumhead*

## DERBYSHIRE HISTORIC GARDENS

2nd April 2004 - Dr. Dudley Fowkes

The Historic Gardens Movement began in the south of England with the formation of county societies. It has spread northwards over the years, the Derbyshire trust being founded in 1988. Now over one hundred historic gardens in the county have been listed, though north Derbyshire is not well-represented.

Dudley Fowkes gave us a leisurely and informal account of a topic that the Society had not encountered before. He explained that the aims of the movement were threefold: Recognition; Research; Restoration. Of the 100 or so gardens identified and historically researched, only a handful had been restored. There was much work to be done in the future. In the study of historic gardens, there were three strands from which gardens had evolved: the medieval cottage garden; deer parks; formal ornamental gardens. Dudley then used slides to illustrate these strands with examples of historic gardens. Those at Chatsworth, Hardwick, Haddon, Kedleston and Calke Abbey were familiar to us all; but we were surprised to learn of the former importance of the seventeenth century garden at Bretby Castle, a former residence of the Earls of Chesterfield, of which little or nothing now remains. One interesting development was the creation of a

knot garden in sixteenth century tradition at Elvaston Castle in the 1970s. Melbourne Hall still has an early formal garden dating from the beginning of the eighteenth century. It was laid out just before the change in fashion brought in by such great gardeners as Capability Brown, Humphrey Repton and William Kent. In the 18C, the Romantic Movement in art and literature saw its parallel in garden design with the introduction of a back to nature movement with the creation of sweeping vistas across informal parkland and the introduction of follies to catch the eye and seize the imagination.

It was not until the early 19C that a return to formal layout again became fashionable. The development of towns and cities brought in the idea of the public park to provide havens of greenery and colour for the urban dweller. Derby Arboretum was one of the earliest (1840s). Here the display of trees and shrubs from all comers of the world was soon to be repeated in hundreds of public parks throughout the country, reflecting Britain's pride in her international connections.

Dudley ended his talk with an appeal to the audience to suggest gardens in our area that might be added to the county list of historic gardens.

*Ron Weston*

This snippet from a newspaper of yesteryear was contributed by Marjorie Jones, it appeared in *The Reporter* around 1907.

**A REMARKABLE PIGEON**

Messrs. Wright, Howarth, and Co., of the Albert Bleachworks, New Mills, are the owners of one of the most remarkable pigeons known. Bred in 1897, it has since March, 1898, been engaged carrying messages between Manchester and New Mills, and in 2,080 journeys has travelled 29,180 miles. The messages contained 110,240 words, which, if sent by telegram, would have cost the firm £229.13s.4d.

### THE LONG WAY HOME

Can you find the way from Buxton to New Mills, passing through 32 other places? The last letter or 2 letters of one name give(s) the first letter(s) of the next. The joining letters are shown between upright strokes thus:  
 WINST|ER|RWOOD = WINSTER ERRWOOD

BUXT|ON|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|E|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|R|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|EY|\_M|  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_|SH|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|N|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|TH|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|PE|  
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 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_|R|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|H|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|P|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|HAY|  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_|D|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|G|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|P|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|CH|  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_|D|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_|E|\_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 |NE|W MILLS

Take care with names at the beginning or end of lines. The joining letter(s) may be shown at the end of the previous line or at the beginning of the next one, but not both.

*Olive Bonyer*

**Answers on page 9**

## Summer Visit to Tissington

23May 2004

The 23 May dawned a lovely sunny day, a trip organiser's delight, and 29 Society members set off by coach for a visit to the ancient Derbyshire village of Tissington or, as in the Domesday Survey - Tizinctun. The trip was inspired by a talk given at the beginning of the year on the FitzHerberts of Tissington Hall by Ruth Jordan a guide at the Hall. Our first port of call was the Bluebell Inn on the Ashbourne Road for morning coffee. This is the village Inn but is situated outside the village. Did anybody come across a reason for the absence of Inns or pubs in the village? Refreshed we moved on into the village to begin our visit at Tissington Hall where we met up with three other members who had travelled in from other directions. We were warmly welcomed by Ruth Jordan and a fellow guide, Susan. They led us on tours of the Hall and grounds and recounted the story of the fortunes of the FitzHerbert family. The FitzHerberts originally came over with William the Conqueror and were granted the Manor of Norbury in 1125. Our guides led us through the usual detailed family tree showing how the FitzHerberts acquired the Tissington Estate through marriage in the late 15th century. The earliest Hall had been on the other side of the road but the present Hall built in

the early 17th century with its various alterations and extensions is a fine building. The most impressive feature of the Main Hall, entered through the front door, is a Gothic fireplace complete with an itemised bill for its construction. Many of the fine things to be seen in the house were collected by Alleyne FitzHerbert on his diplomatic journeys after becoming Lord St. Helens and British Ambassador to Catherine the Great. There were fine carvings in marble and oak to be admired all serving to create the style of a grand house.

The important feature is that the present FitzHerbert family live in this fine Hall and treat it as a family home. It must be a great place for the children to play in with its oak panelled corridors and rooms and carved oak staircases to climb on. Unlike visits to other great houses we were allowed to touch items lying about on display in particular a fine silver topped walking stick presented to William FitzHerbert, the first Baronet by King George the Third. We were encouraged to rifle through books in the library to give them an airing. The drawing rooms on the upper floor were filled with interesting portraits and and furnishings and it was fun to sit in an easy chair and feel rather grand. Certainly not al-

lowed at Chatsworth! The history of the FitzHerberts coupled with the atmosphere created by the occupation by a present day family made this an interesting and enjoyable place to visit.

We were also taken around the grounds with its attractive coach house converted into a Pre-prep and Kindergarten. I had a vision of lots of tiny children running out at play-time and being lost for ever in the fields of long grass. The visit to the Hall was topped off when we were met at the gate by Sir Richard FitzHerbert the current Baronet who was very forthright with his views on

his stewardship of the Hall and estate which includes the village. He was very friendly and prepared to answer questions about how things were run and his relationships with the villagers, which was refreshing.

The rest of the day was spent strolling around this very attractive village looking at the well-dressings and visiting St. Mary's church and various other attractions.

The weather stayed fine and everyone seemed to have had an enjoyable time. Even a lost camera was not allowed to spoil the visit as it turned up the next day.

*John Humphreys*

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## ANSWERS to THE LONG WAY HOME

BUXT|ON|E C O T|E|D E N S O|R|O W S L|EY|A|M|  
 O N Y A|SH|E E|N|E T H E R B O O|TH|O R|P E|  
 N T R I|CH|A T S W O R T|H|A T H E R S A G E|A R L  
 S T E R N D A L|E|R R W O O|D|O V E H O L E|S|  
 P A R R O W P I|T|I D E S W E L|L|U D'S C H U R  
 |CH|A P E L E N L E F R I T|H|O|P E|A K  
 F O R E|S T|A N T O N I N T H E P E A|K|  
 I N D E|R|O W A R T|H|A S S O|P|A R S L E Y|H A Y|  
 F I E L D|I N T I N|G|L O S S O|P|A R W I|C H|  
 E S T E R F I E L D|A R L E Y D A L E|L L A S T O  
 |N E|W M I L L S

Or in plain English,

Buxton Onecote Edensor Rowsley Eyam Monyash Sheen Nether Booth  
 Thorpe Pentrich Chatsworth Hathersage Earl Sterndale Errwood Dove  
 Holes Sparrowpit Tideswell Lud's Church Chapel-en-le-Frith Hope Peak  
 Forest Stanton-in-the-Peak Kinder Rowarth Hassop Parsley Hay Hayfield  
 Dinting Glossop Parwich Chesterfield Darley Dale Ellastone New Mills

## An amazing coincidence

In 1940 my boss Ron Sandham who worked in the New Mills Co-operative Society's furnishing department was called up into the army. After training, he was sent to join General Wavell's army in Egypt but the ship was attacked and had to return to Scotland. At the second attempt the ship reached Africa and Ron was sent up to the front at Tobruk where he was clearing mines with his officer. Unfortunately his officer touched one which killed him and seriously wounded Ron. He was first taken to the field hospital and then taken back to the main hospital at Alexandria. His parents were told he was missing and, although the Red Cross tried hard to get news of him, nothing more was heard. Ron had received letters from his parents but due to the many ships being sunk they never received any more news about him.

Rommel and his Panzers came into north Africa and advanced, capturing Ron's unit and their records.

After several months Ron got well enough to be sent to Durban in South Africa to convalesce, and one day he went into the Missions to Seamen where there was a cafe, cinema and a rest room. Suddenly in walked Jim Osbaldiston, a baker from New Mills Co-op and friend of Ron's ! Jim's ship was bound for England. He took the good news home to Ron's parents that he was safe and well. Ron came home via America and was discharged from the army and resumed work at the Co-op. I wonder what the odds would be against two men from the same small town and the same small firm meeting several thousand miles away.

*Bill Barton*

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## HELP!

A number of society members already help as volunteer assistants at the Heritage Centre but recently we have found ourselves seeking more help. I wondered if there are any members who could assist, either mornings or afternoons. You can help once a week, once a fortnight, once a month, or even once every three months ! It is up to you.

At the moment we are really short on Saturday afternoons, but offers for any other day will be gratefully received. The Centre is open every day except Mondays. If you think you may be able to help, please phone me on 744863 to discuss.

*Derek Brumhead*

**Division of the commons and wastes of Bowden Middlecale.  
Return of the Commission 23rd April 1640**

Francis Revell and George Hopkinson

...we whose names are subscribed together with the said surveyors repaired unto the wastes and commons ... and spent four several days in the serious deliberate viewing thereof and being accompanied with many of the said freeholders and tenants there and with the assistance of the said surveyors we have setforth and divided the said wastes and commons within the said hamlets into equal pans or halves both for the quantity and number of acres and the quality and condition of the soil and have distinguished the said two moieties the one from the other by such manifest marks motes and boundaries as the same may be evidently known and distinguished the one from the other...

...And we would have perfected the said service and division in ail the rest of the hamlets within the said township of Bowden Middlecale had not the unseasonableness of the weather in part hindered the surveyors from the exact measuring thereof and the unwillingness of some of the inhabitants in the said other hamlets to further tbe said service who although they promised to aid and assist the said surveyors and pay them for their pains yet some of the said inhabitants and namely one Mr Edward Bradbury the younger of Ollersett did not only not do the same but much discourage and dishearten the said surveyors as they informed us from doing thereof

...Mr Moorehouse who is agent for the Right Honourable the Earl of Arundel and declared himself unwilling to meddle with the setting of any boundaries betwixt Glossop and Bowden Middlecale unless his Lord had named commissioners and the inhabitants of Mellor and Bowden Middlecale met us open the said common but differed in several places of their claims and boundaries which we could not by their consents and agreements reconcile amongst them yet in respect the inhabitants of Bowden Middlecale brought us unto a Stone called the Abbotts Cheare and there showed us a great double caston ditch leading towards Coin edge and upon the head of Colnedge they showed us that the like great ditch which they called the Bryans Furrows and also showed us two great standing stones and a Stump or piece of wood near an old penfold which they called Stafford Cross

which appear to us upon the view to be very ancient and remarkable meads and we constantly affirmed by very many ancient and credible men to be the ancient and known meads and boundaries which divided Bowden Middlecale from Glossop Chatsworth Chisworth and Ludworth and that they have so been always respected to be during all their remembrance:

(For the context of the above see 'Seventeenth Century Enclosures of the Commons and Wastes of Bowden Middlecale in the Royal Forest of Peak' by Derek Brumhead and Ron Weston (on sale at society meetings and at New Mills Heritage Centre.)

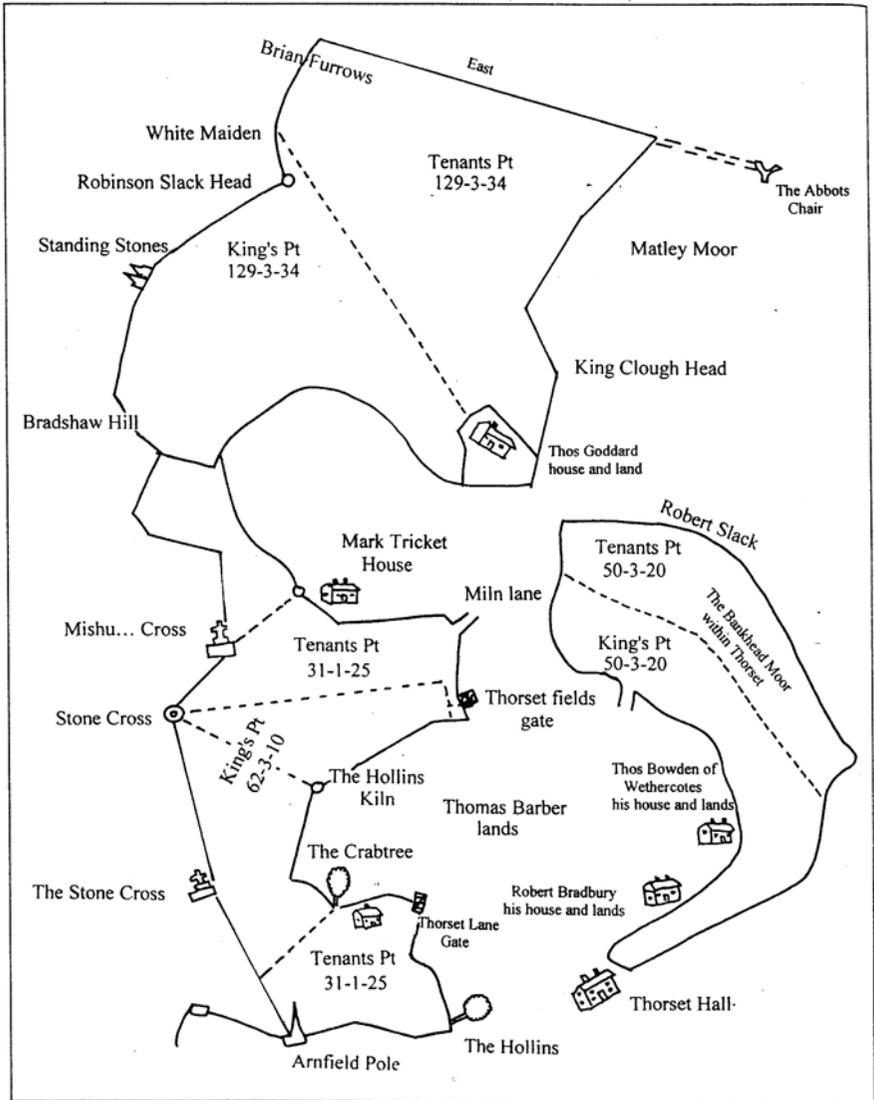


Fig. 5: Division of the Commons and Wastes in Thornsett, 1640. Traced from a copy in DRO. D 3566/1. Today's farms are: Thos Goddard (Back Rowarth [Higher Fold Farm]), Mark Tricket (Ringstones). Robert Bradbury (Bank End), Thos Bowden (Wethercotes).

## **MEMORIES OF NEW MILLS CO-OP FURNISHING DEPARTMENT**

The Furnishing Department was a rather unusual building three storeys high with an entrance on High Street and two entrances on Market Street. (It has recently been converted by Johnnie Johnson Housing). There was a floor above this which was used by many people to come off High Street and walk up the stairs and come out on Market Street to go to the central grocery and offices, where Fountain Bathrooms are now.

On High Street the shop consisted of an entrance with four steps and a shop window on each side leading into the hardware part, then a right turn up two steps into the carpet and linoleum showroom which had four large shop windows and a staircase leading up to the next floor.

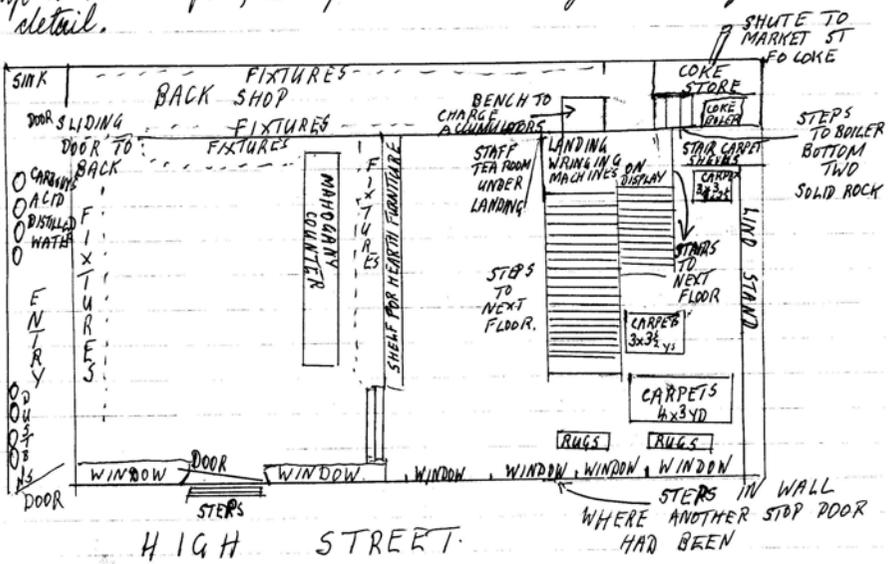
After climbing the stairs, a customer would enter the shop on the Market Street level. This had been the Drapery Department until 1938 when it was moved to Market Street where 'Help the Aged' shop is now. The Furnishing Department took over as it was bursting at the seams. The Tailoring Department still had the shop at the side until after the war when it moved to Union Road and Furnishing took that over as well, using it as a carpet showroom.

Going up the stairs from the Market Street shop there were two large rooms where bedroom furniture, three-piece suites and dining room sets were kept. In the far room, beds and prams were on display and until a few years after the war there was a waiting room and a consultant room for an optician who came once a month, and a staff toilet at the room end.

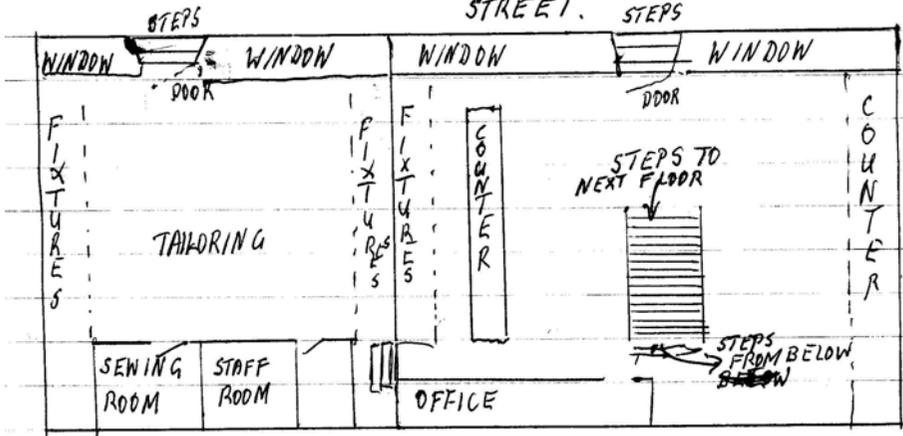
The diagrams show to the best of my memory how the shop looked until well after the war. I had very many happy memories working there and it was through working at the Co-op that I met my wife who worked in Chinley grocery for the Co-op.

*Bill Barton*

detail.



MARKET STREET.



MARKET ST

