

NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 47, Autumn 2011



(Just four of the listed buildings in New Mills.)

Meetings

Meetings are held in the main hall of New Mills Town Hall, starting at 7:45pm. You may obtain easy access from the entrance on Aldersgate.

Friday September 2	Morris Garratt	Stockport: Past and Present
Monday September 19 (7:30pm)	Dr.Derek Brumhead	Lost Railways of New Mills
Friday October 14	Dr.Paul Booth	The Black Prince's Cattle Enterprise in Macclesfield Forest
Friday November 11	Andrew Firth	Tramcars to Buses and Supertrams
Friday December 2	Ron Weston	Sarah Newton, 1787-1850: A Stockport Girl makes Good

N.B. The meetings in September and December are on the first Friday (not the usual second) Friday of the month.

The meeting on Monday September 19 is part of the New Mills Festival, it is in the Town Hall, starting at 7:30pm and will be followed by cheese and wine.

Committee 2011-2012

Chairperson	Barbara Done (742617)	
Vice-chairperson	Barbara Matthews (743935)	
Hon. Secretary	John Humphreys (743581)	
Hon. Treasurer	Maureen Hall (742837)	
Hon. Archivist	Roger Bryant (744227)	
Hon. Editor	Ron Weston (744838)	
Ordinary members	Gaynor Andrew	Catherine Bolton
	Olive Bowyer	Derek Brumhead
	Barry Dent	Pat Evans

www.newmillshistory.org.uk

www.picturenewmills.org.uk

The History of Cement

Peter del Strother MBE

Friday 14 January 2011

Peter was manager of the cement plant at Tunstead before moving to Castle Cement at Clitheroe, where he has just retired. After a brief historical introduction to the history of cement, he described the raw materials used and the chemistry and stages in the manufacture of cement in a very professional and easy but understandable manner. Outstanding in his presentation was the showing of several short and truly historic film clips of work in lime kilns and local quarries in the 1930s. Members were fascinated but shocked, not only by the labour-intensity of the work and the sheer physical work in quarrying and handling the stone, but by the lack of any health and safety consideration – recovering hot calcined lime and stone from the lime kilns, handloading loose quarried stone and wheel-barrowing it over wooden planks into 'jubilee' trucks, riding the trucks (to brake them) as they ran down incline planes. And not a hard hat in sight! Although probably new to most members the technical details Peter described of the quarrying of limestone and the manufacture of cement were quite easily followed.

Limestone is one of our most valuable economic resources. Quick lime (calcium oxide), hydraulic lime (calcium hydroxide), milk of lime, cement, ground lime and aggregates are some of the products put to an enormous variety of uses in our everyday life. They are used in the manufacture of soda ash (sodium carbonate), glass, metallurgical flux, sugar-beet refining, wire drawing, water treatment, paints and rubbers, limestone aggregates, and much else. One of the most recent uses of limestone is in flue gas desulphurisation at electricity generating stations, and nearly a million tons a year is sent from Tunstead quarry to the coal fired power stations in the Trent valley. Tunstead, along with the adjacent Old Moor quarry, is the largest producer of high purity limestone (over 99%) in Europe, over 5.5m tonnes annually. Clay is required for the manufacture of cement, and conveniently occurs in wayboards (thin seams), joints and fissures and is available in large quantities from washing at the crushing plant.

Cement plants are typically located in limestone quarries since the main component is limestone. To mine the limestone, overburden such as topsoil and layers of sand are removed by large earth moving equipment. Then portable drills are used to drill holes into the rock where liquid explosives will be poured into them. The explosives then blasted breaks the rock into manageable sizes. Peter showed some impressive film of blasting. The

components to make cement are limestone, clay, silica, aluminium, gypsum and iron. Silica is usually sourced from sand. Aluminium is found in clays, fly-ash from power plants and gypsum from Cumbria or Cheshire. Iron can come from several sources.

The raw materials are reduced by primary and secondary crushers to 5-inch size, then to 3/4-inch. From there, the 3/4 inch ore is typically reduced to a powder in a large ball mill. The materials are proportioned, ground to a powder, blended together and fed into the upper end of a tilted rotating, cylindrical kiln. The mixture passes through the kiln at a rate controlled by the slope and rotational speed of the kiln. Burning fuel consisting of powdered coal or natural gas is forced into the lower end of the kiln.

Inside the kiln, raw materials reach temperatures of over 2600 degrees F (1430 degrees C). A series of chemical reactions cause the materials to fuse and create cement clinker - greyish-black pellets, often the size of marbles. The clinker is discharged red-hot from the lower end of the kiln and transferred to various types of coolers to lower the clinker to handling temperatures. Cooled clinker is combined with gypsum and ground into a fine grey powder. The clinker is ground so fine that nearly all of it passes through a No. 200 mesh (75 micron) sieve. This fine grey powder is cement.

Derek Brumhead



Roman Roads through the Lakes

Dr. Paul Hindle

11th February 2011

Roman roads are a lasting legacy of a mighty empire, a visible reminder of those great achievements of conquest, military and social organisation and administration directly from Rome itself. But, understandably, after close on two thousand years, these roads may take some finding. Paul Hindle explained how Roman roads could be identified in the field by reviewing the evidence for four major roads in the Lake District.

He began by listing the different kinds of evidence available: visible features on the ground; the straightness of former roads; excavation; various documents, dating from the Anglo-Saxon period onwards; maps, both old and new; aerial-photos; place-names; the connections that must have existed between known Roman sites, particularly forts in the Military Zone of northern England, Wales and southern Scotland.

The Stanegate, running across high moorlands between northern Cumbria and Northumberland, remains one of the best-defined Roman roads. It was built before AD100 and defined the frontier with the unconquered north. Hadrian's Wall, begun in AD121, was built just to the north of and parallel to the Stanegate, which continued in use as an important service road linking the forts along the Wall.

Paul showed us a map of Cumbria with the forts and Roman ports marked on, together with their periods of occupancy. Clearly, these forts must have been linked by a network of roads; but only limited sections of these roads have been definitely identified. It remains for the field worker to determine the exact routes taken. Using his own maps as well as old plans and O.S. maps, aerial photos and his own photos, Paul showed us what was known of the routes taken between Low Borrow Bridge fort in the Lune gorge to Brough, from Kendal to Ravenglass, the dramatic high-level route over High Street and, finally, the road from Old Penrith to Lorton. His detailed explanations of how the courses of these routes could be determined proved most instructive and showed us how the various types of evidence could be combined to the best effect.

Paul's talk was received with great interest, as was revealed when it came to question time. Roman roads are a popular topic and many of the questions from the audience revealed a considerable knowledge. Paul's skilful and imaginative presentation has no doubt added to and enhanced our understanding of this subject even more.

Ron Weston

Derbyshire Record Office: Pathways to the Past

Rebecca Sheldon

11th March, 2011

Rebecca Sheldon, an archivist at Derbyshire Record Office, began her talk by outlining the history of this county service. Established in 1962, the Record Office occupies a former school in Matlock, just a street away from the County Council offices. Its purpose is to house the official and public documents of the county and city of Derby, together with those of the Diocese of Derby, to conserve them, protect them and make them available to the public. A merger with the Local Studies Library, located at present in the council offices, is imminent.

Four archivists are employed whose day-to-day duties involve surveying and cataloguing new acquisitions, and maintaining a service to the public, while specialists are employed in conserving documents and maintaining them in an appropriate environment.

Rebecca then went into the nature of the records being held in some detail. She made particular mention of the records of the Quarter Sessions, which date from the seventeenth century. Other important records relate to public bodies, such as the police, law courts, schools and hospitals. Held separately are the Diocesan records, catalogued on a parish basis. These are of great value to local historians and, with the records of manor courts and the estates of ancient families, constitute most of the records dating to medieval times. The records of businesses, charities and local sporting and social clubs are substantial.

Old maps and plans are particularly important, not only to local historians but also to local government officials and members of the legal profession.

The Record Office offers an extensive service to those visiting the Search Room. Detailed catalogues are available, there is a photo-copying service and printing from micro-film. Archivists are always on hand to give expert advice.

Rebecca kindly brought along a selection of documents for us to examine, which was greatly appreciated and attracted much interest.

It was clear from the many questions put to Rebecca from the audience, that many members already make use of the archive service, while others are interested in doing so. The latter group could only have been encouraged to pay a visit after hearing Rebecca's informal, but comprehensive, account of what DRO has to offer.

Ron Weston

Looking at the Dead Sea Scrolls

Dr. Raymond Briddon

8th April 2011

Although the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls was found in a highland cave by Bedouin nomads as early as 1947, and many more have been found since, I, for one, have remained profoundly ignorant of their subsequent history and quite misinformed as regards their contents. I remember visiting Manchester Museum back in the 1970s to see a copper roll on display, together with an exhibition explaining the importance of the Dead Sea Scrolls to biblical studies. I came away thinking that all the Dead Sea Scrolls were engraved on sheets of copper and didn't realise that this was a unique find brought to Manchester to be unrolled by experts. In fact all the other Scrolls consist of rolls either of papyrus or leather – one of the many pieces of information given by Dr. Briddon in his scholarly talk. Dr. Briddon's enduring fascination with the Scrolls has taken him on a number of visits to Israel and Jordan, particularly to the religious site at Qumran and, of course, to some of the caves in the hills surrounding the Dead Sea, where the Scrolls were found.



The University of Jerusalem has long been the centre for studying the contents of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Bedouin finders have not made this scholarly task any easier by cutting up the precious documents into small fragments, on the reasonable assumption that each fragment sold separately would bring in more cash than an intact Scroll!

The international team of scholars reading and interpreting the Scrolls completed the publication of the contents in the 1990s, thus giving biblical scholars world-wide the chance to study them in their entirety.

Many of the Scrolls date to the time of Christ, but none relate in any way to the accounts in the New Testament. The majority were written by the Essenes, a religious sect centred at Qumran, a sort of monastery near the Dead Sea. While some of the texts are related to the Essenes themselves,

their beliefs, customs and way of life, others are early versions of the books of the Old Testament, which is their chief value to scholars.

It is believed that the Scrolls were hidden in caves to escape destruction by the Romans when they were putting down the Jewish revolt around AD 70, the time when the Temple at Jerusalem was destroyed.

Finally, Dr. Briddon made the point that the conservation of the Scrolls was of paramount importance. It wasn't sufficient to have rescued the written contents and have them published, the fragments of parchment and leather alone constitute the archaeological evidence, while the published material is merely information.

This talk was well-received, largely thanks to Dr. Bridden's clear exposition and infectious enthusiasm for his subject. The collection of books that he kindly put on display attracted much attention.

Ron Weston

Food and Drink in Tudor and Stuart Times in North Derbyshire **Dr. Mark Dawson**

13th May 2011

North Derbyshire in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was one of the least populated areas in the country, being for the most part an unproductive upland region. Lead-mining and pastoral farming were by far the most important economic activities, with the bulk of the population living in small villages, hamlets and on isolated farms.

Dr. Dawson began by reviewing the main documentary sources for discovering what people of that era ate and drank. These are probate inventories accompanying the wills of the wealthier portion of the population, Quarter Sessions records, household accounts, contemporary recipe books and personal diaries and journals.

The staple grain crop in north Derbyshire was oats, used for making porridge and oat cakes, as well as serving as feedstuff for livestock and poultry. Barley was grown to brew beer, which was consumed in quantity in areas without a ready supply of pure drinking-water. Little acreage was given over to wheat. "Wheaten bread" was regarded as something of a luxury food in this area.

Concerning meat: butchers were commonly found in most communities, though many families in town and country fattened a pig and slaughtered it

themselves. Beef was more important than lamb, despite the fact that so many sheep were kept in the Peak District. Unlike today, it was wool from the sheep's back that was the valuable product. Dairy produce was an important foodstuff in the countryside. It is not clear whether sheep continued to be milked in Tudor times, as was certainly the case in the Middle Ages.

Gardens and hedgerows provided a little fruit and salad crops, but, generally speaking, garden produce did not contribute very much to the diet, apart from seasoning. It was only towards the end of the seventeenth century that more exotic foodstuffs became available, and these only to the wealthy. Sugar, chocolate and a variety of spices remained scarce and expensive in north Derbyshire. Wine, of course, continued to be imported in quantity, as it has been from the earliest times, but again only for the rich. Hunting was jealously preserved by the gentry, as was the wild game.

Even an inland county like Derbyshire had access to sea fish, which was brought here in quantity from the North Sea coast. Of course, it was necessary to preserve the fish in salt before it left the ports. Roman Catholics, who were numerous in north Derbyshire, continued the custom of eating fish (both freshwater and salt water) on Fridays.

Probate inventories list the contents of a house and this gives us a good idea of how food was stored, cooked and presented at the table. Only the gentry had napery for their tables; everyone else ate on bare boards. Wooden tableware, often homemade, was used in most households; crockery and pewter being treasured items often handed down as heirlooms. Most food was boiled over an open fire using a cooking pot of iron or brass suspended from a hook or iron bar. Spits were largely confined to the kitchens of large houses. For most households, separate kitchens only became common towards the end of the seventeenth century. Until that time, most food was cooked on an open fire in the main room, known locally as "the house".

Despite the variety of foodstuffs available, it is well to remember that famine occurred in England as late as Elizabethan times (through a failure in the harvest) and starvation remained a major cause of death in the centuries to come.

Dr. Dawson brought us biscuits made from a seventeenth century recipe - a novel end to a pleasing talk.

Ron Weston

New Mills Library: Local History Material (non-book) For Reference

The material in these folders and boxes has been brought together and meticulously collated and labelled by Cath Bolton.

LEFT SIDE OF ROOM

- Boxes: Local Historian Magazine, 1995-present
Local History News, 1995-present
Electoral Registers, 1992-2002
New Mills Hydro Electric Power installation
The Parish magazine, 2004-present
- Folder: Bugsworth chapel. Graveyard survey and monumental inscriptions
- Boxes: Higginbottom family history (Disley, Marple, etc)
Wilf Larkum – notes on the New Mills area and his work
Chinley, a brief history
Local steam trains photographs
- One Box: Co-op field, Aldersgate
Quarry Bank Farm, plans
Methodist Chapel:
(1) Brook Bottom. Baptisms 21 Sept 1874-20 Dec 1931.
(2) Free Methodist. Baptisms Sept 1902- Dec 1955
(3) St Marys church. Graveyard inscriptions 1867-1980
(4) St Georges Methodist. Graveyard survey with location map of Graves and comparison with entries in the Owen ms.
Hayfield Baptistm
Magistrates Court plans
Kinder View: research notes by Marjorie Jones
Marriages at Wirksworth
Marriages at Cromford
Some photographs of Cromford
Bugsworth anecdotes
New Mills Town Scheme
Plain English Campaign
- One Box: Sir Martin Doughty
New Mills Free Church
New Mills waste sites
The Buxton Project: Department of Librarianship, Manchester College of Commerce
The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
Survey of the public rights of way 1954
Ladyshawe Bottom and Millfields – town or village green
Newspaper cuttings – New Mills bypass
New Mills House Clearances, 1934: Area 2 (Spring Bank), Area 5
Foundry Street and Midland Street, Area 1 Spring Bank, Area 4

Short Street.
 Brook Bottom Primitive Methodist School chapel. Jubilee celebrations

Box: Birch Vale Quarry

Folder: Planning application to restore mineral workings at Birch Vale Quarry

Box : Derbyshire Local Transport Plan. Provisional Plan 2006-11

Folder: Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire 2003-4 – 2008

Folder: Kirke/Kyrke family history
 Hyde and Jackson family history
 Winterbottom and Lowe family history

Folder: Wills
 Anthony Dakins (1662), Ralph Dakins (1719), Ralph Dakins (1731),
 Robert Bowden (1742) all of Ladyshaw.
 Richard Shalcross of Cote Bank, Brierley Green, Bugsworth
 Rev John Rigg, vicar of New Mills (1869) and wife Mary (1893)

Box: Beard and Lomas families, New Mills

Folder: Henshaw family, Chinley

Box: Book Chat archive
 Goddard family history
 Descendants of Edward Hadfield of Mellor
 High Peak Isolation Hospital, Chinley

Box: Art Theatre various programmes

Box: Historical Commission: location of Derbyshire manuscripts

Folders: The Barnes family and High Lea hall
 Carrington family, Bugsworth Hall, Chinley and Bugsworth
 Jodrell family, Whaley Bridge
 Handlist of the Bagshawe muniments in the John Rylands Library.
 A study of Chinley, Bugsworth and Brownside based on the 1841 and
 1891 censuses by Keith Halford
 NMLHS various publications

Box: The historic landscapes of Mellor (Ron Weston)
 A natural history of Ludworth and Mellor (Ron Weston and Tony
 Smith)
 New Mills 1894-1994
 Education in New Mills by J P Bowden
 New Mills development plans 1960 and 1967
 Blessing of High Lea War Memorial May 2009

Folders: Census and CD ROM – manual
 Old OS maps 25 inch reduced (Alan Godfrey editions)
 Derbyshire local studies – family history information
 Family history on the internet

Boxes: Strines calico printing
 CPA 'Star' magazine
 Strines printworks tour information
 Strines printworks
 Photographs of New Mills Library Centenary display

- Box: Newtown Methodist Sunday School –anniversary
Thornsett Sunday School
Death of Paul Mason (newspaper cutting)
Ashworth family of Thornsett and Whitle
Millennium Walkway
St Georges Parish Church 1901
- Boxes: Low Leighton Quaker Meeting House: History, Deeds, photographs
High Peak Community Arts
New Mills Town Council – purchase of steam roller and Ollersett
Waterworks
The Bowers and the Newtons
Edith Nesbit
Ingham Almshouses and St James church
Kinder Trespass photographs.

Derek Brumhead

N.B. The items on the right side of the room will be in the next Newsletter (or see the web site).

The Local Historian

The February 2011 issue of The Local Historian has been placed in New Mills library and the articles in it include:

David Killingray, 'Immigrant communities and British local history'.

Bonnie White, 'Sowing the seeds of patriotism ? The Womens' Land Army in Devon,1916-18'.

Chris Sladen, ' "In rejoicing, let us preserve decorum": victory celebrations in Swindon, 1945'.

Dick Hunter, 'Petitioning for mercy in mid-nineteenth century Yorkshire'.

William Evans, ' "No longer the 1948 show": the problem for local history in the twenty-first century'.

Jim O'Neill with Heather Butler, 'To pay or not to pay ?

Michael A Faraday, 'Editions of historical documents and questions of accessibility'.

Evelyn Lord, 'A survey of articles in periodicals 2009-2010'.

Review article: 'Five books about life in the Second World War (Bedfordshire', Dorset, Worthing, Cambridge)'.

Book reviews:

Hexham in the seventeenth century:

Nick Barratt's guide to your ancestors' lives:

London and the kingdom:

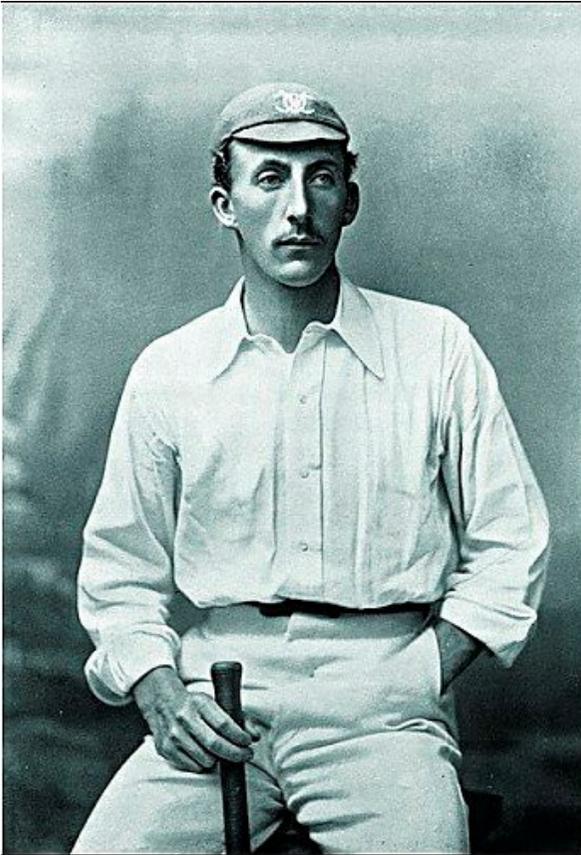
The early town books of Faversham:

John Denton's History of Cumberland:

Family history in Lancashire; issues and approaches.

William Chatterton - Footballer and Cricketer

William Chatterton was born on 27 December 1861 in Thornsett, the son of David and Hannah Chatterton. The 1881 Census shows them living in Spinnerbottom, but by 1891 they had moved to Newton near Hyde. William is one of only 19 men to have achieved the 'Derbyshire Double' - that is, to have played at least one first team game for both Derby County Football Club and Derbyshire County Cricket Club.



William was signed by Derby County Football Club in 1884. An inside-forward, he played many times in the pre-League era, and was still at the club when the Football League was formed in 1888. In the first Football League season (1888-89) he made five appearances for Derby County, his overall record was six games and one goal.

However his accomplishments at cricket were rather more impressive. He played for Derbyshire from 1882-1902, and was captain from 1887-89. In his 196 matches for Derbyshire which count as 'first-class' he made 7,587 runs at an average

of 23.71, but in all matches for the county he scored over 11,000 runs. His highest score was 169. He played one test match for England, scoring 48 against South Africa in Cape Town in 1892.

Sadly William died, aged only 51, of consumption on 19 March, 1913, in Flowery Fields, Hyde, Cheshire.

Summer Trip to Pendle Heritage Centre, Barrowford

Our Summer trips usually take us in a southerly or easterly direction but this year we headed northwesterly into Pendle witch country. Nineteen of us travelled along a succession of Motorways taking us to Barrowford in Lancashire's Hill Country, which was not unlike our own New Mills for scenery. The Heritage Centre is located in a group of 15th century buildings named Park Hill grouped around what had been a farmhouse. One of the families was the Bannisters from which came Sir Roger Bannister. After morning coffee we were led on conducted tours of the site. We were led up the path of a brick walled garden by an enthusiastic gardener who leapt into various box hedge lined flower beds from which he fed us leaves taken from the wide variety of plants. We moved on to a 15th century cruck winnowing barn containing chickens and a family of very friendly goats; the Billy goat seemed very taken with Roger. The barn had been rescued from demolition elsewhere and brought to this site. We now took a break for lunch in the excellent Tea Rooms overlooking the walled gardens. They served a very good selection of hot or cold food at very reasonable prices. Following a leisurely lunch we were taken on a conducted tour of the museum which is housed in the oldest part of the farm house. Various parts of the house construction had been left revealed following the restoration work and enhanced the story of the house as it passed through its various phases. The upper floors contained very interesting displays together with a DVD presentation of the story of the Pendle Witches. The trip was most enjoyable and I plan to make another visit as there was much that I would like more time to see. I can recommend this for anyone who is looking for a good 'history' day out.

John Humphreys

Stop Press.

The Wesley Pulpit (see Newsletter 45) has now been unveiled and can be seen in the Heritage Centre . The story was in the Buxton Advertiser of 30 June.

John Humphreys

AVRO Heritage Centre, Woodford

The BAE Aircraft factory at Woodford was recently closed down and it was thought that the Heritage Centre on site might be lost so it was decided to have an extra trip to hear about A.V.Roe and this nationally important aircraft company. Visiting groups are limited to twelve people. Ten of us set out by car on 21st June, a number of the party having worked at Woodford when in their prime. It was a little eerie passing through the security gate into this empty factory which had once employed thousands of people locally. We were greeted with " You shouldn't be parking there"; security still ruled despite the fact that it was a ghost site. The Centre was housed in a long low building split into a number of rooms. After an initial introduction we were taken in order through each room illustrating in turn how aviation has progressed through the decades which began with Alliott Verdon Roe and his prize winning model aircraft in 1907. The Curator's commentary was first class, full of inside information and humorous stories. Each room was packed with model aircraft, cockpit displays, photographs, and memorabilia. We heard the story of the Lancaster Bomber of WW2, all of which started out from this factory. We heard about all the famous aircraft which followed over the years and their designers such as Roy Chadwick and their test pilots and their 'hairy' escapades. A visit to this Centre is 'a must'. It appears the Centre is going to be saved and will, in five years time, move to a site on the other side of the airfield.. If anyone would like a leaflet, I have a few available.

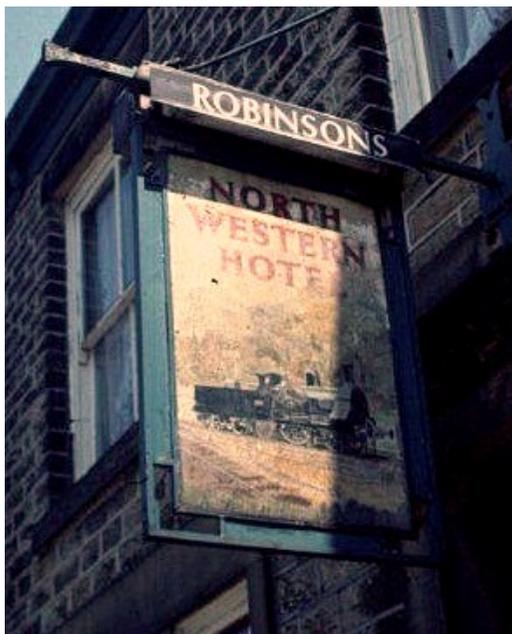
John Humphreys.



North Western Hotel, Newtown

Recently, a chartered architect responsible for the conversion of the North Western Hotel, a pub, into apartments contacted the society through its website. He explained that he and his client hope to help conserve and retain what they recognise as an important building. As part of this ethos the client had expressed a wish that they have a name board on the building that reflects its heritage. He also suggested that they purchase historic prints from the society's archive to place in the communal hallway.

The architect asked “Do you understand there to be anyone who might remember the picture on the pub sign ?”



We replied that we were glad to say we could help over the sign for I had a slide taken of it some years ago. The sign illustrated a late 19C LNWR locomotive called “Cornwallis”. It was characterised by one large driving wheel. If you Google “LNWR Locomotive Cornwallis” you will see an entry by Wikipedia with a nice picture of the engine in its heyday. It says it is preserved, perhaps it is at Crewe (*it is actually at Shildon Locomotion Museum, County Durham: ed*).

There is an extraordinary story about this sign. It was getting very tatty and the brewers, Robinson's, decided to replace it. Unfortunately they failed to instruct the artist properly and he produced a sign with the Flying Scotsman on it, a LNER locomotive ! This was the sign which was on the building when it closed, but obviously the Cornwallis sign is the correct one for the building. When the pub was converted into apartments, John Humphreys, as curator of the Heritage Centre, was offered the Flying Scotsman sign and it is now in the Centre. I wonder if Robinson's have kept the old sign.

Derek Brumhead