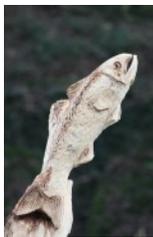




New Mills Local History Society

NEWSLETTER

Issue 50, Spring 2013



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 January 11	Fay Hartley	A Glossop Apothecary
Friday February 8	Andrew Myers	The Shaw Cairn
Friday March 8	Judith Wilshaw	Samuel Oldknow: Marple's Favourite Son
Friday April 12	Alan Davies	Opencast Uncovers the Past
Friday May 10	A.G.M. then Derek Brumhead	The Torrs Hydro and Torr Mill

Committee 2012-2013

Chairperson	Barbara Done (742617)
Vice-chairperson	Gaynor Andrew (743117)
Hon. Secretary	John Humphreys (743581)
Hon. Treasurer	Maureen Hall (742837)
Hon. Archivist	Roger Bryant (744227)
Hon. Editor	Ron Weston (744838)
Ordinary members	Derek Brumhead, Nicki Burgess, Barry Dent, Peter Done, Pat Evans

From the Editor

Dear Friends,

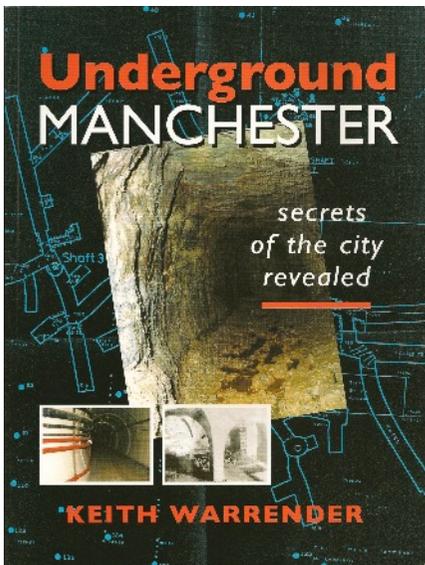
We've got an enthralling programme arranged for 2013 and there are some new books in circulation to delight you (see my article in this Newsletter entitled Recent Publications). Rest assured, the Committee is working hard on your behalf. So, if our members continue to turn up at the Town Hall in huge numbers, all will be well with the Society.

A Happy New Year to you all!

Underground Manchester

Keith Warrender, 7th September 2012

Why did the directors of Cooperative Wholesale Society have such a fixation on tunnels? Keith Warrender's unusual and intriguing presentation began with Manchester's C.I.S. building and the C.W.S. headquarters in Balloon Street, or rather their subterranean passageways. Beneath these buildings lies a complex of facilities for staff, a World War Two air-raid shelter, a nuclear bunker constructed during the Cold War era, together with a control room designed to remain operational after a nuclear attack on the city which was never completed. Although some of these systems had to be demolished (several of them were blown up) prior to the construction of the C.I.S. building, sufficient evidence remains, together with old plans and photos, for Keith to explore and reconstruct.



Apparently, Manchester had an underground rail system for the movement of mail, similar to that employed in London. It was planned to run under Oxford Road to the main post office in Spring Gardens, but only a short section was completed, probably because the scheme proved too costly.

A more historic passageway is the Duke of Bridgewater's tunnel constructed to move coal by boat from the river Medlock under Whitworth Street towards Piccadilly Station, where the tunnel ends.

A series of mysterious caverns carved through soft Triassic sandstones were discovered when the Mancunian Way was being constructed. Their origin and purpose is unknown.

A similar labyrinth of tunnels was unearthed at the site of the UMIST buildings. A little more is known about these: they were excavated in the eighteenth century and stored water from the river Medlock to supply small factories and workshops in that area.

The construction of Victoria Station on a site that spanned the river Irk involved the culverting of the river and provision of a flood relief system. After heavy rain, the rush of water through these tunnels is spectacular.

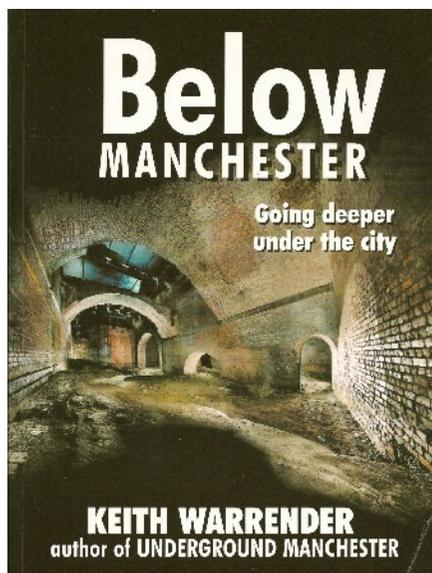
Adjacent to the cathedral are the Victoria Arches, built initially to support the main road. The arches have been used as workshops in the past and served as air-raid shelters in World War Two. Like the shelters in Stockport, the Victoria Arches are carved through red sandstone.

Then there is the mysterious Deansgate Tunnel, said to run between Victoria Arches and Water Street (to the river Irwell). Officially, it doesn't exist but there is more than one account given by eye-witnesses who have explored at least part of it.

Under the strictest secrecy, miles of tunnels were built from 1955 onwards when fear of nuclear war was very real. Millions of pounds were spent providing the essentials for the survival of a chosen few in a tunnel connecting Salford to Ardwick under the city centre. It was declared obsolete before completion, when it was realised that a new generation of nuclear warheads could penetrate to the depth of the tunnel. The tunnel remains as a terrifying reminder of those dark days when we lived with the constant threat of atomic warfare during the Cold War.

In this gripping and astonishing presentation our speaker shed light on some dark places, a subterranean world beneath our feet unknown to us as we wend our way through the streets of Manchester's city centre.

These and more discoveries by Keith Warrender can be found in his books, "Underground Manchester" and "Below Manchester".



Ron Weston

New Mills Festival Public Lecture
The Coal Mines of New Mills
Dr. Derek Brumhead, 24th September 2012

Derek's Festival Lecture, a much anticipated event, never fails to satisfy the expectations of the audience, larger than ever this year.

Derek began with an explanation of how the coal seams in the upper Goyt valley were deposited. Between 290 and 305 million years ago, during the Carboniferous Period, the land that was to become Britain lay in equatorial latitudes as a small part of a super-continent, known as Pangaea. Periodically, parts of this continent, including the portion that was destined to become Britain, were inundated by the sea. Huge rivers flowing out of high mountain ranges formed deltas - immense braided river plains just above sea level- rather like those of the Ganges and the Indus rivers draining from the Himalayas today. Tropical forests and swamp vegetation growing on the delta surfaces formed great thicknesses of peat: our future coal seams. The accumulation of these deltaic deposits caused them to sink under their own weight and the peat layers became buried and compressed. As more alluvium was deposited over the sunken beds, a new cycle of accumulation occurred: sand, silt, soil, vegetation, peat, followed by further sinking. Altogether some sixty to a hundred cycles of accumulation and sinking have been recorded by geologists, resulting in a total thickness of Coal Measure rocks of 7,000 feet in the Manchester area.

The coalfield in the Goyt valley has been preserved in a downfold known as the Goyt Syncline - one of the folds of the Pennine chain. The major seam is the Yard Seam, this referring to its thickness. A complicating factor when the Yard seam was being mined was the extensive faulting in the rocks, which might suddenly bring the coal face and, indeed, the mine itself, to an abrupt end.

Altogether there were 32 major coal mines in the new Mills area, but also dozens of small bell pits, mined for a short time and then abandoned due to flooding, along the several outcrops of the Yard seam. The mines were mostly "adits", that is, tunnels following the coal into a hillside. On Ollersett and Beard Moor, which Derek has studied closely, the oldest mines dated between 1711 and 1757, but the smaller bell pits, which involved digging a shaft down to the coal, mining it and raising up the coal in baskets using a windlass or a horse gin, were in operation much earlier. The rare discovery of an account book relating to one of the mines for the period is in the Derbyshire Record Office and gives valuable information regarding the

scale of the operation and its profitability. The Duchy of Lancaster owns the mineral rights and royalties have to be paid on all coal extracted to this day.

In the eighteenth century, much of our local coal was used in lime kilns. The rest was used domestically by the farming community, though, being slow-burning, it is not good coal for household use.

The method of mining was known as "pillar and stall". Galleries (stalls) were dug following the coal seam roughly parallel or at right angles to one another, separated by pillars of coal left behind to prevent roof collapse. Thus, only a proportion of the coal in any given concession could be mined, though the Duchy charged for all the coal in the concession!



Derek gave us an account of four pits on Ollersett Moor, known as Burn't Edge 1 to 4, showing detailed plans of the galleries, buildings and tramways. Unfortunately, there is only one known photo of only one of the pits, taken around 1900. Surely someone somewhere has others?

In his final remarks, Derek gave us two examples of ancillary benefits derived from coal mining in our locality. A tunnel from Lady Pit to Gow Hole released a copious supply of spring water, which New Mills council then piped to Ballbeard reservoir to enhance the local supply. One of the coal storage bays built along the side of the road in Thomsen was subsequently converted to a public urinal — another example of

local authority imagination and enterprise!

Derek is to be congratulated on yet another outstanding talk and impeccable presentation. The reputation of our Society is enhanced by his endeavours and an increase in our membership and visitor attendance will undoubtedly result.

Ron Weston

Dunham Massey Hall, Cheshire

Peter Brawn, 12th October 2012

Peter Brawn began his well-informed and amusing talk on this National Trust stately home by paying tribute to the architects, often unknown to the public, who have been responsible for the changes brought to the hall down the centuries. There have been major re-buildings to Dunham Massey Hall during the last four hundred years and Peter mentioned particularly the contributions of the architects John Norris in the eighteenth century, John Shaw in the 1820s and John Compton-Hall in 1906.

The two families associated with the hall were the Booths, whose ancestry may be traced from the mid-fifteenth century to the eighteenth, and the Greys, another ancient and famous family, to whom the hall passed by marriage in the eighteenth century. Roger Grey continued to own the hall until it was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1976.

After giving us a room-by-room, photographic tour of the house, which revealed many treasures, including a Grinling Gibbons carving and an orrery (a clockwork model of the solar system), Peter focused on the several members of the Booth and Grey families to have featured prominently in the nation's history.

In the seventeenth century, both families were staunch supporters of the Whigs and came out for Parliament in the Civil War. George Booth, however, despite his Roundhead leanings, opposed the execution of Charles I and was prominent in the so-called "Cheshire Rising" which was eventually defeated by Cromwell's Model Army. His son, Henry, became a notable parliamentarian and Chancellor of the Exchequer. Henry Booth played an important part in the Glorious Revolution of 1688, when James II was deposed because of his Roman Catholic leanings and replaced by the Protestant William of Orange. The constitutional monarchy that has come down to us today dates from this event.

The Greys contributed even more illustrious historical characters. Elizabeth Woodville, who had married into the Grey family, became widowed and married for a second time, this time to Edward IV and had ten children by him, including the Princes in the Tower, reputedly murdered by Richard III. After defeating Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth, Henry Tudor became Henry VII. To strengthen his claim to the throne and appease the rival House of York, Henry married Elizabeth, Duchess of York. Their daughter, Princess Mary, married the Duke of Suffolk Charles Brandon, and their daughter, Frances, married Henry Grey. The ill-fated Lady Jane Grey was

their daughter, whose descent from Henry VII by a female line gave her a somewhat tenuous claim to the throne, a claim that came to a swift and bloody end with her execution in 1553 under Queen Mary.

In the nineteenth century, the Grey family seemed to have had more than its fair share of marital and extra-marital scandals. The Victorians, one should remember, were high-minded and easily scandalised, but enjoyed a sensational story in the newspapers, especially if the great and the good were involved. Peter regaled us with a few of these.

Thus, Dunham Massey Hall might well merit a visit, or for some of us another visit, thanks to this entertaining and inviting talk by Peter Brawn.

Ron Weston



**Mary Queen of Scots:
the Final Journey to Fotheringhay 1584-87,
David Templeman, 9th November 2012.**

On an earlier visit David Templeman related the story of Mary Queen of Scots, how she was detained in the custody of the Earl of Shrewsbury in several of his Derbyshire houses, but chiefly at Sheffield Castle and the Manor Lodge where David is now employed. Queen Elizabeth gave orders that Mary was to be accommodated "In the manner of a queen," and Shrewsbury did everything in his power to live up to that injunction. Thus, Mary spent much of her captivity in comfortable surroundings attended by a considerable entourage. But by 1584, circumstances had changed. The Earl was a sick man, his immense wealth considerably depleted by the expense of financing Mary's royal court and also by the extravagance of his wife, the redoubtable Bess of Hardwick. The whole period of Mary's imprisonment was punctuated by plots on her behalf. Some of the Catholic conspirators, such as the group of Lancashire and Derbyshire gentry who planned to spirit her away from Chatsworth in 1570, were moved more by romance or hope of reward rather than any deep-seated religious or political motivation, but latterly, the schemes to rescue Mary had more dangerous international ramifications involving a foreign invasion of England by France or Spain, removal of Elizabeth from the throne to be replaced by Mary and the restoration of the Roman Catholic faith.



The care-worn Shrewsbury was replaced by Sir Ralph Sadler, a reluctant jailor, not unsympathetic to Mary. In 1584, she was moved to Wingfield Hall and in the following year, after yet another failed rescue plot, to Tutbury Castle, a foul comfortless and unhygienic medieval pile. Mary spent eleven miserable months there, broken in health and plagued by Sadler's replacement, Sir Amyas Paulet, a Protestant extremist with a harsh and unmannerly attitude towards Mary.

In 1585, Mary was transferred to Chartley Manor, a more comfortable and healthy abode than Tutbury. Despite the many Catholic plots, Mary had always successfully avoided direct involvement, but now Elizabeth's spymaster, Walsingham, was determined to ensnare her once and for all, to

have her tried, condemned as a threat to the realm and executed. A Roman Catholic priest, Gifford, was appointed to serve Mary, who was in fact in the pay of Walsingham. When Anthony Babington was drawn into a hare-brained plot to liberate Mary and place her on the throne, Walsingham's spies were among the plotters! Letters were smuggled into Mary by Gifford. Her replies, smuggled out ostensibly to the plotters giving her approval of their plan, went directly to Walsingham. Her fate was sealed.

Mary accompanied Paulet to Tixall, wher she expected to witness a stag hunt. Instead she was arrested, kept at Tixall for nine days while all her belongings were searched and removed from Chartley. From there she went on the path to her final abode, Fotheringhay Castle, staying briefly along the way at Abbot's Bromley, Burton-on-Trent, Ashby and Leicester.

David Templeman described Mary's trial graphically and in detail, emphasising her dignity and eloquence, despite being gravely ill. Nevertheless she gave a good account of herself before her chief accuser, the wily and clever Lord Cecil. Inevitable she was found guilty and it only remained for Elizabeth to sign Mary's death warrant. Elizabeth dithered: she did not want to be responsible for the death of an anointed monarch. Reluctantly, she signed after failing to persuade Paulet to do away with her quietly and unofficially. After Mary's execution, a furious Elizabeth claimed that she had not given permission for the death warrant to be enacted.

Less than two years later, Philip of Spain launched the Armada to invade England, justifying the extreme measures taken against the English Catholics, together with the execution of Mary, who had been at the focal point of their resistance.

After the death of Elizabeth, the accession to the throne of Mary's son, James I of England and the Sixth of Scotland, was something of an irony. In 1612, James had his mother's body removed from its resting place in Peterborough cathedral and placed in a magnificent tomb in Westminster Abbey. Thus, she lies to this day, "In the manner of a queen."

Ron Weston

History of Disley

Chris Makepeace, 7th December 2012

Hazel Grove, High Lane, Disley, Whaley Bridge: all have the misfortune to be minor settlements on a major road, the A6, which casts a blight along its entire length between Manchester and Buxton. Disley has long been a place that thousands of people pass through each day without giving it a single thought. The A6 has cut the village in half, distorted its shape and development and disrupted the former lines of communication, such as Buxton Old Road, Jackson's Edge Lane and Green Lane. The Roman road linking Aquae Arnemetiae to the fort at Mamucium must have passed through here, but exactly where is uncertain.

Chris Makepeace's talk was filled with passion, enthusiasm and regret for his dwelling place. Disley, he maintained, has suffered not only for its unfortunate location astride the A6, but also for being, as he put it, "on the edge". It lies on the boundary between Derbyshire and Cheshire, on the Cheshire side of the river Goyt, which in medieval times also marked the boundary between two hunting forests, of Macclesfield and Peak. In administrative terms, Disley is far distant from Macclesfield in whose Rural District it once lay. Now in Cheshire East, the administrative centre of Sandbach is even more distant. Stockport denied Disley independent parochial status until 1911, while even its paupers were sent to the workhouse across the border, to Low Leighton.

Yet, Chris argued, there is much to admire and even more to discover with regard to historic Disley. He showed us fine houses, historic cottages and farmsteads, early shopping streets, the splendid Ram's Head, impressive textile mills, the canal and railways, while local place-names, he suggested, indicate the existence of settlements in and around Disley from Anglo-Saxon times.

So much has been swept away; so little remains. Chris Makepeace shared with his audience the conviction that historic Disley deserves a better fate.

Ron Weston

Recent Publications

Derek Brumhead remains our most prolific author: this year he has produced two "New Mills History Notes" – No. 30, "Education in New Mills to 1914" and No. 31, "The Ollersett Waterworks 1831 – 1907." Not content with that, Derek has also written a splendid volume for Marple Local History Society entitled "Coal mining in Marple and Mellor." Derek has promised to rewrite his account of coal-mining in New Mills – something to look forward to.

Throughout the nineteenth century and for much of the twentieth the principal industry of New Mills and the surrounding area was textile printing. Yet it wasn't until 2009 that our local history society published its first historical account of the industry, "Pioneers of Calico Printing on the Cheshire-Derbyshire border", a comprehensive, scholarly and thoroughly-researched work by Rosemary Taylor. More recently, print-works have been receiving some attention. "New Mills History Notes" No. 32 "Some Deeds of Bugsworth and Furness Vale", by Roger Bryant, includes some documents relating to the former Furness Vale print-works. Furthermore, Furness Vale Local History Society is producing "The Life and Times of Furness Vale Printworks from 1794 to 1925," a compilation by Chris Bond from the scrapbooks of W.A. Bradbury, who worked there for fifty-three years.

"The Printworks at Netherhey, the story of Birch Vale Printworks," has been edited and printed privately by Valerie Hill. Her husband, the late John Hill, who was a loyal member of our Society, spent many years exploring the genealogy of the Bennett family. As Valerie explains in her Introduction, "By examining the (Bennett) family, its roots and marriages, a history of bleaching, dyeing and calico printing unfolds."

In 2009, John Crummett, a member of our Society living in Hayfield, produced "Abel Buckley Wimpenny, the life and times of a nineteenth century Hayfield mill manager, political activist and social reformer." Wimpenny was manager of the Wood Mill, a calico printing works, and which during the latter part of the nineteenth century was the largest employer in Hayfield. John gave a fascinating talk on the subject to the Society, in which he revealed that there was far more to Wimpenny's activities in Hayfield than his career as a mill manager. His great adversary was the vicar, the Reverend Ricketts Raymond Ricketts. Contemporary newspapers report in detail the dramatic intellectual bouts between the two on education in Hayfield and other social questions. Now John has written a

sequel, a biography of this irascible clergyman. This will be available in the New Year.

As well as publishing Derek Brumhead's account of coal-mining in Marple and Mellor, Marple Local History Society has also produced "Marple and Mellor a new history," by Ann Hearle. In 1974 Gladys Swindells wrote the first history of the area. This account was revised by Ann Hearle in 1993. Her new version not simply a revision of the previous editions, it incorporates a summary of excavation reports on the Mellor hillfort and the extensive historical research that has accompanied the project.

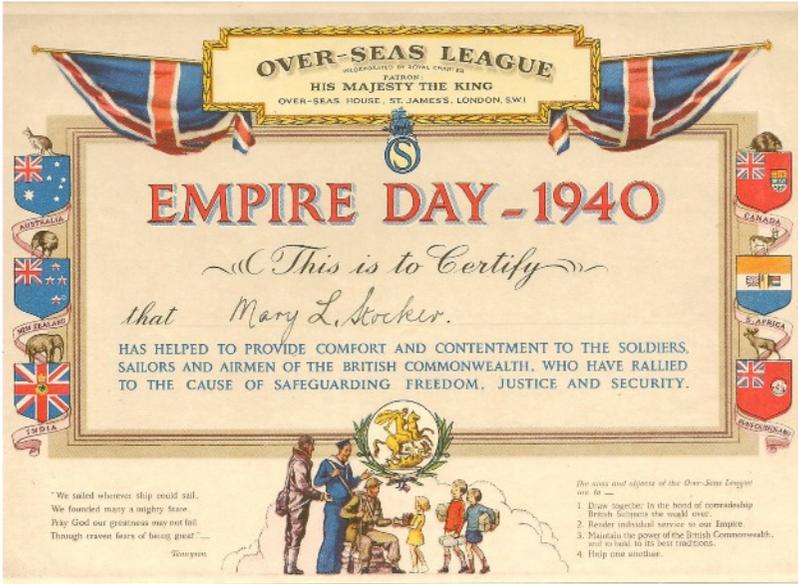
These publications are, or will be, available at meetings, or at New Mills Heritage Centre.

Ron Weston.

Scams are not new !

Excerpt from "The Derby Mercury", July 22, 1829.

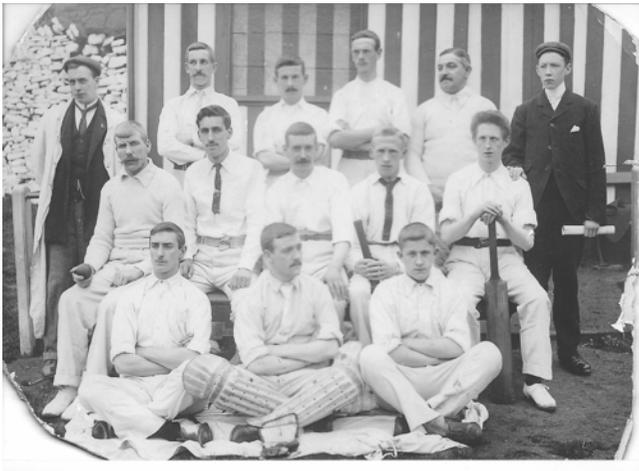
RECEIPT STAMPS.----*Caution to Shopkeepers and Others.*
—There is now a man and his wife residing near this town, who go about the country to entrap shopkeepers, into the giving of receipts without stamps, and then lodge informations. The female generally executes the plan, which is this :—She introduces herself by stating that she has lately come to reside in the neighbourhood, and that she used to reside in Stockport or elsewhere, as may suit her purpose, where she was in the habit of dealing with some respectable grocer, &c. whom she names ; by whom she had been recommended to deal with the person she intends to prey upon ; and it is not unusual for her to produce an invoice, to give her story the greater degree of credit, that she has dealt with the person who recommends her. The creature can condole also very tenderly ; she can, by her kind inquiries, sift out any thing which may seem to want condolence. By one or other of these schemes she lulls suspicion, and then purchases articles exceeding two pounds by a shilling or two, desires she may have an invoice, "and be so good as just to put *settled* at the bottom." At several places in Marple, Mellor, and New Mills, this worthy couple have succeeded, and penalties of various amounts have been the consequence, besides much trouble and expence.—*Stockport Paper.*



Cricket

A mystery photo believed to be at Birch Vale, possibly Hayfield, perhaps you can help. Where was it taken ?, and which team is it?

(Middle row, second from right is Harry Webb).



New Resources On Our Webpage

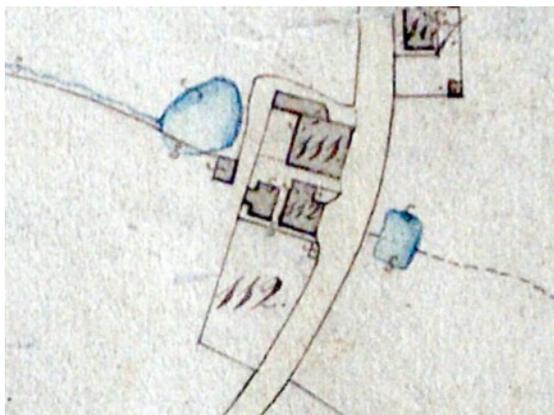
Tithe Map and Wesleyan Graveyard Inscriptions

The tithe map of 1841 is the first detailed map of New Mills, covering the whole of Beard, Ollersett, Whitle and Thornsett (including Rowarth). Each property is numbered and there is an accompanying document (the tithe apportionment) that describes each property and gives the names of the owners and occupiers in 1841. I have photographed the whole of the map, in 50 photos, and made a list of the property details from the accompanying document. Barry Dent has put all of this material onto the Society's webpage where everyone with internet access may see it. Some of the property numbers are not very legible but, generally speaking, the detail is remarkable and makes a wonderful resource for local historians and for family historians interested in New Mills people.

In 1980 and 1981 a group of members of the Society recorded the gravestone inscriptions from the Methodist cemetery in St George's Road. The record was in manuscript form and was photocopied for publication by the Society in 1985 (Occasional Publications No. 1). This is now out of print, but I have typed out the information from the publication and Barry has put it onto our webpage. So this gives another extremely useful resource for local and family historians.

Such online records can be found by people all over the world (with the use of Google or other search engines). If you go to our webpage you will see that you can search the records for names of people or places or other phrases. Happy hunting!

Roger Bryant



A detail from the tithe map of part of Hague Bar. The tithe apportionment gives the following information.

Property 111. Cotton Mill.
Landowner: Joseph Higginbottom. Occupiers: John & Joseph Stafford.

Property 112. Green Man Inn and Garden. Landowner: Joseph Higginbottom. Occupier: Joseph Joule.