

# NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



*Laneside Road and Brookbottom Methodist Church*

## 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 13	Dr John Crummett	The Fighting Parson - the Reverend Ricketts Raymond Ricketts, Vicar of Hayfield 1877-1906
Monday September 23	Derek Brumhead	New Mills Festival Lecture - The Roads of New Mills
Friday October 11	John Morton	The London and North Western Railway and the Midland Railway at Buxton
Friday November 8	Roger Hargreaves	Gaps in the Glossop story
Friday December 6	Grahame Boyes	The Peak Forest Canal and its effects on the local economy

N.B. The New Mills Festival Public Lecture on Monday, September 23 starts at 7:30pm, and is followed by cheese and wine (kindly provided by New Mills Town Council).

## Committee 2013-2014

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, John Crummett, Barry Dent, Peter Done, Pat Evans

## **From the Editor**

Dear Friends,

This edition of the Newsletter is enriched by articles from Pat Priddle and Margaret Weaver whose accounts of growing up in Brookbottom and Laneside Road, respectively, are the very stuff of living history. I hope that other members may feel similarly inspired to reminisce: all contributions will be most welcome.

On behalf of all who attended, I'd like to thank John Humphreys for arranging and leading an enjoyable and stimulating visit to Papplewick Pumping Station and Newstead Abbey. These summer outings have always been a highlight in the Society's programme and this year was no exception. John's continuing efforts are much appreciated.

Best wishes,  
Ron Weston.

### **North West Industrial Archaeology Panel Salford Local History Forum**

#### **RE-CAPTURING THE PAST OF SALFORD QUAYS**

A one day conference at Ordsall Hall, Salford, Friday 18 October 2013

2014 will be the 120th anniversary of the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal, and it is 30 years since the closure of Manchester Docks. This conference aims to illustrate and explain the history and archaeology of the docks and to discuss their transformation to Salford Quays. There will be talks on the Old Port of Manchester, the building of the canal, ships and cargoes, dock warehouses and the heritage of the Quays. Tours of the medieval Ordsall Hall will be available at lunchtime and a choice of guided walks in the area of the Quays in the afternoon.

The price per head of £25 includes tea and coffee on arrival, and a buffet lunch with hot and cold drinks. Free on-site parking will be available for 50 cars. The nearest Metro-Link tram station is Exchange Quay on the Eccles line.

For further details and booking please contact:

Tony Wright,  
MRIAS, 9 Perth Close, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 7JH  
email; [admin@mrias.co.uk](mailto:admin@mrias.co.uk)

## Meeting Reviews

### **A Glossop Apothecary**

**Fay Hartley, 11 th January 2013**

**I**n the Foreword to Fay Hartley's book, "A Glossop Apothecary", the Duke of Norfolk writes: "This excellent book is part of the social history of Glossop. It describes an old family business, the pharmacy at 7 High Street West, part of the development designed by M E. Hadfield for the 12th Duke of Norfolk in 1838 on either side of the new Town Hall. This shop has always been a pharmacy from its first building in 1838 to the present day, a remarkable example of commercial continuity."

Fay Hartley has played a major role in this story, having worked there from 1974 to 2006. Her parents, Noel and Edith Oliver, had the shop for over fifty years, from 1944 to 2002. They had witnessed the birth of the National Health Service, which brought major changes to the part played by pharmacists. Before that, Fay's maternal grandfather, F. McKinlay, was the owner from 1912 to 1951, which means that Fay's family were involved in the business for nearly a century.

Prior to her family's involvement, the shop was owned by just three apothecaries, T.P. Wreaks 1840-1869, R. Proctor 1869-1897 and W.J.G. Moran from 1897 until Fay's grandfather took over in 1912. Fay has conducted some considerable research on this early period, not only on the family history of those respective owners, but also the services that were provided. Many of the so-called "remedies" that were being dispensed were dubious, spurious or downright dangerous. The first incumbent, T.P. Wreaks, had to deal with outbreaks of cholera in the town, a disease which at that time had no cure, though that did not prevent apothecaries offering their own remedies to a desperate public.

Not only did Fay regale us with hair-raising stories of some of the more sensational outbreaks of disease in Glossop during Victorian times, she also gave her audience an overview of the health of the nation between 1840 and 1912. Generations of people lived in squalid industrial housing, exposed to dangerous and debilitating work and women suffered the perils of childbirth, without recourse to even the simplest remedies to which we in a more fortunate age have become accustomed. It is little wonder that with the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 so many men were rejected for the army on the grounds of poor health and physique.

Fay showed us in her well-illustrated talk that the story of the pharmacy at 7 High Street West is more than an account of the development of the

pharmacist's role, more than a summary of her own family's long association with the shop, it is as the Duke of Norfolk aptly states: "part of the social history of Glossop".

*Ron Weston*

Fay Hartley's book, "A Glossop Apothecary", published in 2009 by Country Books, is on sale at New Mills Heritage Centre.

## **Shaw Cairn**

**Andrew Myers, Senior Archaeologist, University of Salford  
8th February 2013**

**I**n 2000, a member of Mellor Archaeological Trust walked past a house outside of which was skip whose contents caught her eye. They turned out to be the material excavated from Shaw Cairn by a team of amateur archaeologists in the 1970s and included a diary, plans, photographs and boxes of finds. Unfortunately the amateurs had not asked for professional help and the results were not written up or published and the material had remained forgotten in the possession of a team member whose death had led to a house clearance. This extraordinary piece of serendipity led to an undergraduate with the somewhat appropriate name of Vera Mellor, on placement with Norman Redhead, then Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, producing a valuable report which led to a survey and excavations on which much of Andrew's illustrated talk, after summarising the 1970s excavations, was based.

The report shows that the amateurs in their twelve year campaign had cut trenches and uncovered a cairn bordered by two stone kerbs, an inner one approximately 12m in diameter and an outer kerb, resulting in a monument c. 14m by 16m. Twelve to fifteen cremation burials lay within the inner kerb, either set in stone cists or simply inserted into the structure and were given idiosyncratic names such as Fred, Marcus, Pericles and Henry II (for some reason there wasn't a Henry I). A range of artifacts were also recovered including late Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flints, an almost complete Yorkshire Vase food vessel and two fine plano-convex flint knives (these were all in the skip).

As part of the Mellor Heritage Project 2007-9, archaeologist Peter Noble undertook geophysical survey and new excavations with a group of volunteers. Further trenches were dug. One morning a volunteer, Vicky Ash, picked up what appeared to be a small, dirty pebble. Cleaning it, she realised it was an amber bead. Further excavations revealed over 70 beads and fragments of beads and it became evident that they once formed a necklace. Conservation experts restrung the beads which Andrew illustrated with splendid photographs. Only one other place in the country has yielded such amber beads, and that in the south of England. Interestingly the style of the necklace is similar in construction to necklaces which have been discovered made of Whitby Jet. Another outstanding find from the cist was a high-quality beautiful plano-convex flint knife, which almost reduced the archaeologist to tears.

Besides describing the physical layout and finds, Andrew explained the geographical and historic context of the site in relation to Bronze Age sites elsewhere in the country. It was apparent that Shaw Cairn lies within an increasingly well understood prehistoric landscape, particularly due to the findings of the Mellor project. This was a talk of the highest calibre and interest, delivered by a leading archaeologist. He is a member of the University of Salford Centre for Applied Archaeology which was formed when the University of Manchester decided that archaeology no longer should form part of its curriculum. Well done Salford.

*Derek Brumhead*

## **Samuel Oldknow**

**Judith Wilshaw, 8th March 2013**

**S**amuel Oldknow has long been considered a local hero in Marple and Mellor. Judith Wilshaw's excellent presentation explained to us exactly why this should be.

“Marple's favourite son” was born in Anderton in 1756 at a time when the early inventions in the mechanisation of cotton spinning were offering new opportunities for men of promise and enterprise. Apprenticed in the trade to his uncle, the young Samuel was soon taken into partnership. In 1784, he moved to Upper Hillgate in Stockport and set up as a manufacturer of muslin, the fine cotton fabric that was all the rage amongst the fashionable ladies of London. Oldknow's obvious talent as a manufacturer had attracted

the attention of Richard Arkwright, who invested heavily in Oldknow's enterprises throughout his career.

Having gained a national reputation in Stockport, the restless Oldknow embarked on a bold new venture. With the aid of Arkwright's capital, he bought large estates in Marple and Mellor, which gave him access to a considerable stretch of the river Goyt. He built a huge, state of the art mill near Bottom's Hall on the Mellor side of the river, diverting the stream to create large mill reservoirs- the Roman Lakes.

The mill opened in 1792. Oldknow went on to create a fully fledged industrial community, converting Mellor and Marple, hitherto remote and insignificant places, into hives of industry. Scores of pauper apprentices, many of them London orphans, found employment there. In 1797 the mill employed 318 workers, including about a hundred child apprentices.

But that was not the end of the story. Oldknow wished to create a largely self-sufficient community of workers. To this end, he turned his attention to local farming at a time when agriculture was being transformed by new ideas and scientific methods. He rebuilt the ancient Bottom's Hall as a model farm (the fine stone farm buildings can still be seen today) and installed progressive tenants in the farms under his control. He was also interested in woodland management. Much of the woodland to be seen in Marple and Mellor today was planted in Oldknow's time. Oldknow also addressed the problem of housing so many new workers. Brick Row and Stone Row were demolished long ago, but Red Row remains - a testament to Oldknow's concern.

The remoteness of Marple and Mellor from Manchester prompted Oldknow's interest in improving communications. Thus, it is not surprising that Oldknow took the lead in promoting the construction of the Peak Forest Canal (again, with Arkwright's money). The accessibility of Marple by road was also considerably improved by Oldknow when he promoted the construction of a turnpike from Stockport via Offerton, which then proceeded through Strines to New Mills.

Judith concluded her talk by reviewing the recent excavations at the site of Mellor Mill (burnt down in the 1890s) which has revealed the heroic engineering that took place in the era of water-power. Further development of the site as a visitor attraction will no doubt ensure its importance as a monument to the Industrial Age and will surely reinforce the role and stature of Samuel Oldknow in that story.

*Ron Weston*

## Opencast Uncovers the Past

Alan Davies, 12th April 2013

Alan Davies, formerly Curator at Salford Mining Museum, is an authority on the history of coal-mining in the north-west of England. Although open-cast coal-mining has been in operation in some countries for many years, it has only become significant in Britain since the Second World War. In the Wigan area, for example, it was necessary to remove the over-burden to a typical depth of about thirty metres to reach the shallow seams of coal. In earlier times, these seams would be mined or reached by bell-pits. Before the invention of the steam engine, mining was confined to these shallow seams, as it proved impossible to pump flood-water out of all but the shallowest of mines.

Thus, with the introduction of open-cast mining on the South Lancashire coalfield, many of these ancient workings, stretching back to the medieval period, were exposed. This gave mining historians like Alan Davies a unique opportunity, albeit a fleeting one, to examine, record and photograph these historic remains.

Over the years when open-cast mining in the Wigan, Bolton and Salford areas was at its height, Alan built up a close working relationship with site engineers who alerted him to new discoveries. Alan has discovered many details of early mining methods hitherto unknown, or if known, undemonstrated. Tools such as chisels and picks, have been found in medieval workings, together with rails and parts of coal tubs from eighteenth century tunnels.

Methods of shoring up the roofs of tunnels have been recorded as well as the structure of shafts. Baulks of timber were placed horizontally in the brick walls of shafts to strengthen them. Brushwood was placed behind the walls to help prevent crumbling and collapse of the sides of the shaft. It has been discovered that several early tunnels had been backfilled with “slack”, the coal dust that accumulated underground.

Judging by the number and quality of the questions from our audience, Alan's splendid presentation evoked a great deal of interest. The closure of the Salford Mining Museum and the transfer of the exhibits to Manchester Museum of Science and Industry is a matter for regret, particularly as they are not on public display.

*Ron Weston*

## **The Torrs Hydro and the Archaeology of Torr Mill**

### **Derek Brumhead, 10 May 2013.**

In June 2008, a reverse Archimedes screw twelve metres long, two and half metres wide and weighing ten tonnes arrived in the town on a low loader. Since there was no road access, in a spectacular operation it was winched over the 30 metre-high Union Road bridge into the Torrs gorge. It was installed on the site of Torr Mill, a former cotton spinning mill, making use of the fall of about 20 feet over an adjacent weir which powers the inclined screw generating a maximum of 70 KW of electricity (in practice about 30-45 KW) and should generate about 260,000kwh of electricity a year. The output is used by a local Cooperative supermarket and any surplus fed into the National Grid. A fish ladder has been provided.

The scheme is an interesting case of the modern re-use of the eighteenth century water power site. Torr Mill, was opened on this site at the confluence of the river Goyt and river Sett in the 1790s, when it was not much larger than a barn. At that time, this mill not only took water from directly above the large weir but also by a leat (goit) from a sluice gate (upstream in the river Goyt) which crossed the river Sett by a trough to power a broad overshot waterwheel set deep down in the basement of the mill. Excavations for placing the screw not only exposed the arched head race entry above the weir and the tailrace tunnel under Union Road bridge, but also part of the original water wheel with its iron rim and wooden spokes. From measurements provided by Steve Lewis, Roger Bryant calculated that the diameter of wheel was 18ft 6 ins. Two bricked-in windows were also exposed. These appear to have been the exterior basement windows of an earlier building or mill which were hidden when the mill was enlarged, probably when steam power was introduced in the 1840s.

An interesting aspect of the scheme by Water Power Enterprises which cost £300,000 is the way it was funded. There was a grant of £135,000 and a £61,000 loan, but the rest was raised through a £500 share offer taken up by around 220 mainly local people and businesses. Any such hydro-electric power scheme obviously depends on a suitable site, and the water drop height and volume per second. The North-West region with its climate and hilly topography and countless streams, rivers and mill sites is ideal for future schemes. It is interesting to speculate what the wheelwrights and millwrights establishing the early rural cotton mills in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries would make of this 21st century use of one of their water power sites.

Admittedly, this is only a nod in the green direction, but a very impressive one adding to the existing attractions of the Torrs gorge, which include high level road and railway viaducts, the spectacular Millennium Walkway, and superb outcrops of a Carboniferous (Coal Measures) sandstone, the Woodhead Hill Rock. The Environmental Agency require a minimum flow over the weir and this results in the screw not turning in times of low rainfall. It also ceased operating two years ago for a considerable time when, following three days of heavy rain, a beach of stones and gravels swept down both rivers was deposited across the intake.

Recently, a similar scheme has been set up on the river Goyt at Otterspool near Chadkirk, where there are two short, reversible Archimedes screws. Another scheme is being built at Styal. As in the Torrs they make use of weirs originally constructed for a mill further downstream.

Derek's PowerPoint presentation included slides by him and Pat Stanway.

*Derek Brumhead*

## The Local Historian

Volume 43, nos. 1 and 2 (February, May 2013) have been placed in New Mills Library. Vol. 43, no. 1 includes the following articles:

Michael Barke, *“The devouring element”: the fire hazard in Newcastle upon Tyne. 1720-1870.*

Angela David, *Women’s experiences of combining childcare and careers in postwar Oxfordshire, c. 1940-1990.*

Alan G Crosby, *Piety and charity 1480-1580: the evidence of probate records from four Surrey parishes.*

Michael Heery, *A compassionate community? Poor relief in Westbury-on-Trym 1656-1698.*

Dorian Gerhold, *Record office online catalogues: an appraisal.*

Evelyn Lord, *A review of periodicals 2012.*

Maggie Escott, *Review article: perspectives on the history of Wales. Recent publications in local history*

Book reviews include: Clevedon: medieval manor to Victorian resort: ‘Massacre’: the storming of Bolton: The Bristol microscopists and the cholera epidemic of 1849: Coroners and steam boiler explosions: Burial clubs and child murder in England circa 1840-1851: A history of Brighton workhouses: Justice and conciliation in a Tudor church court, the consistory of Chester, September 1558-March 1559.

Vol. 43, no. 2 includes the following articles:

Donald Davis, *The householders’ schedules in the 1841 census*

Andrew J Gritt, *Marriage, family and property accumulation during the agricultural revolution: a case study of a Lancashire parish 1700-1850.*

Mary South, *Smallpox inoculation campaigns in eighteenth-century Southampton, Salisbury and Winchester.*

Peter Austin, *Pollards in early-modern Southeast Hertfordshire.*

Jeremy Gibson, *Image and reality: Banbury Cross 1859-2013.*

Christopher French, *Slums and suburbs: a review article.*

Reviews. Rock and landscapes, the Pulham legacy: Custom, improvement and the landscape in early modern Britain (this includes an article by Heather Falvey on the Chinley riots and the Chinley neighbourhoods): Victoria County History East Riding Vol 9 Great Driffield and townships: Radicals, republicans and Luddites 1793-1823: Britons and Anglo-Saxons, Lincolnshire AD 450-600: Victoria County History, Oxfordshire Vol 16, Henley on Thames and environs: landscapes discoveries in the North West.

## Memories of Laneside

*This account was sent to Derek Brumhead by Margaret Weaver, who has agreed for it to be put in our newsletter.*

**M**y dad worked for John W Swindells as a lowly labourer, and they rented number 43 Laneside Road at a discount - they thought it was a palace compared to their previous one up-one down with no electricity - and later bought it when the asking price was £650, but because he was an employee of JWS he only had to pay £640 - and had to borrow the deposit of £30 from my grandmother. My dad died in 2002, but my mum not till 2008, so she was there for 52 years. They were Fred and Marian Stokes.

Every Sunday, weather permitting (and sometimes not!), my dad insisted on taking us for a walk up to the top of the road, and back down again by various obscure and probably “trespassing” routes, so I well remember all the farmhouses on the site, climbing over walls to pick wild “dog daisies”, blackberry picking etc. As kids, in summer we played in the stream in the field leading to Pingot Cottage, making a dam and getting ourselves well-soaked. We were warned about the mine spoil, so never went near it, but we never had to bother about strange people trying to abduct us.

In winter, we sledged on the slope behind whatever farm (now a private dwelling) was on the right-hand side of Laneside, opposite the turning for Ollersett Hall Farm, and in Spring - horror of horrors - we searched the hedgerows there for birds eggs, to “blow” and collect. We did a lot of things back then that we would frown on today. My Dad always told me that I should never take an egg unless there were at least 4 in the nest, and should never disturb a mother sitting on her eggs.

Pingot Cottage was a wreck even in the 1950s. Pingot Lil was the occupant, we thought her to be an old lady, but she probably wasn't that old. The various farm animals, pigs, sheep, chickens, were welcomed into her living room, but she never invited us kids - she did, however like to bring her deckchair out and watch us playing in the river. I wonder who she was? Whichever farmer owned the land didn't mind us playing in the river, but if we wandered further into the field he was there with his rifle, shouting at us. I'm not aware that he ever shot anyone!

Just above (higher up the lane but in the fields above) Pingot Cottage was another building - I don't think it was a farm, but I suppose it must have been. I seem to think it was just a large house. Now I think, I don't even remember there being a building at all. There was an Orchard. And a large black dog of some variety with a menacing growl. Loads of groups of kids

used to get one of the gang to distract the dog, while the others climbed over the wall to pinch the apples - only to discover they were crab apples and totally inedible! Perhaps it wasn't an orchard at all.

The land in front of Pingot Cottage was visited by a gypsy camp at various times of year. The womenfolk would trot down Laneside Road offering to do various things if you crossed their palms with silver. I can't say if they offered different things to the men, but it was mostly fortune telling, bunches of heather and clothes pegs. I never remember any trouble from the gypsies, they were just part and parcel of life on Laneside Road. Oh yes, we had the Rag and Bone man on the road. My mum always had a donkey stone from him, to do the doorstep. He had a free balloon for the kiddies.

I remember the dairy and the people on the other side of the access "yard" getting an injunction to stop them loading up crates of milk against their wall at 4 a.m. I remember the smithy too. It must have been a son of the original owner that I remember, but he was more than happy to let one or two kids in to see what he was doing, and explain it all to us.

When my mum was hospitalised towards the end of her life, one of her carers (maybe I am demeaning her and she was a nurse) was the daughter (or maybe grand-daughter) of Charlie Hudson of Hudson's garage. She still lives on Laneside Road in one of the pair of two stone semis opposite number 45, I was amused by the picture of the original gateposts at number 45 [picturenewmills]

I remember the post office and next door grocery being owned by Mrs Smith. Her daughter Elva married Ray Parker, and they continued the business for many years. I recall buying my "Prince Charles Savings Stamps" there. And about five years ago I found an old passbook for a Post Office Savings account that had 10d in it. I enquired as to the current value and was told it was about 90p, so I told them not to bother sending it to me. Ray Parker opened the tool hire place at Newtown.

At the bottom of the road was the Hare and Hounds, and behind that (moving towards Hayfield) was a pig sty, I mean one with pigs. I have no idea who owned it, or why it was in that location. We kids used to go and watch the pigs. Next door was a largish house, white rendered, Clark Mellor lived there. He was a wrestler known "in the business" as Hans Streiger. He looked like a German, blond hair. He was a rough diamond, but harmless as anything. He had a horse and cart and used to load kids on the cart and take them round the town. I was one of those kids. He was an odd ball, but nobody ever needed to be wary of him. My Grandma was into watching wrestling on the telly, and one day I visited her, and she had a match on the

telly, from Belle Vue. The announcer told us “And here is Hans Streiger, just flown in from Dusseldorf” and I said, hang on a minute, he was taking me round New Mills on his horse and cart this morning! His horses were not terribly well looked-after. He kept them in a field just across from Pingot Cottage, or perhaps a bit further down, and there were a few that looked rather neglected, but he relied on another bloke to look after them, and he was only after the money.

Clark Mellor had a Mynah bird in a cage in his garden, and when anyone passed it hooted “F... off”. We youngsters thought it was hilarious, but various neighbours complained and he had to move it elsewhere. Also at the bottom of the road, next to Hudson's Garage, was a branch of New Mills Library. That's where I borrowed my Famous Five and Secret Seven books. Probably Noddy too!

Ollersett View Hospital is now apartments. But back in the 1950s and much later, it was a hospital for people with mental problems. I remember as a teenager, and a member of New Mills Youth Club doing a Christmas Concert for them, singing Carols, and the ladies loved it. I seem to think it was all ladies. I don't know why. And we teenagers were so proud of ourselves for giving them some joy. As children, my group of friends used to go to the back of the building where there was a yard, and the inmates were allowed into it on fine days, and I remember a lady called Carrie, who always had a doll in her arms, swathed in a blanket. And I used to ask her about the doll, she had a name for it, and I remember admiring the doll. I remember thinking how strange it was that a grown woman should have so much attachment to a doll. And whenever we kids appeared, Carrie would come and talk to me through the netting.

But I NOW remember even earlier, when I was about 8 years old, my school (St Mary's RC) gave a carol concert to the ladies, and what I didn't know until about 5 years ago was that one of the ladies was my own great aunt. When she developed problems in old age she was instantly shipped off cos she was no longer “earning her keep”. She landed at Ollersett View. And I never knew till I got her death certificate a few years ago. So I sang for my great aunt, and she didn't know it was me, and I didn't know it was her. How awful. What a missed opportunity.

*Margaret Weaver*

## Sunday Visit to Brookbottom

“Grandpa’s cleaned your shoes for tomorrow, you’re going to Brookbottom with him”. I was about seven and I had been to the chapel before. It was best to go on a fine day in the Summer.

So on Sunday morning we went out by the top gate, under the railway bridge and on to the stony uphill track. When it straightened out we could walk more quickly but then it went uphill again and was even more stony. At the top the road to the right went to New Mills but we turned left. We passed the Fox where one or two cars stood - however had they got there? Then by the few houses and up to the iron gates of the chapel.

There were people standing about ready to go in. Grandpa was greeted, “Good morning Mr Clayton” or occasionally, “Good morning Frank. All well?” We sat on the left hand side, looked at the books on the shelf in front of us and then all went quiet. I found the number of the first hymn and heard the organ begin to play. I knew this one, perhaps I might sing today - I did not usually do so. It was for the ‘grown -ups’, but I sang. Grandpa looked at me with astonishment but he did not say anything. We all sat down and someone at the front prayed and talked.

I looked at the windows at the side of the chapel - they had red and blue bits along the edge. I thought I could see the trees outside. The man at the front was still talking and everyone seemed to be listening. Finally, it all went quiet and we had another hymn, which was quite loud. The man said a blessing and it was time to go outside. There was much talking. Many people came to speak to Grandpa so the conversation seemed to go on and on. Eventually it was time to go and we set off down the stony road. This time it was an easier walk. Grandpa did not say much but he seemed quite happy.

When we got home Grandma said, “Many there?” and Grandpa said there were quite a few. He mentioned some names. Grandma asked a few questions and then she went off to take the roast from the oven. She remembered to ask, “Who was preaching?” Grandpa told her but she did not say anything.

Grandpa took off his jacket and hung it up, washed his hands and sharpened the carving knife on the steel. Over the roast beef, potatoes and vegetables they discussed some of the congregation. It was surprising how many names they knew. They talked about the preacher and Grandma said she supposed the congregation was mostly men and children. Grandpa did not comment. They talked about who would preach next week. I think Grandma had no intention of going.

Grandpa had attended Brookbottom chapel since he was a boy living at the Banks.

## New Mills Local History Society AGM, May 10, 2013

### NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2013

	2012 / 2013	2011 / 2012
	£	£
<b>Opening Balances</b>		
Current A/C	373.15	
Invest A/C	1527.52	
2nd A/C	549.78	
Pay Pal A/C	19.45	
Unpresented cheque	-38.88	2431.02
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations	99.07	39.57
Don in Mem. of Olive Bowyer	26.00	
Visitors	98.00	100.00
Gift Aid received	137.48	
Subscriptions	747.54	757.53
Sales of Publications	479.58	962.04
Sales of Refreshments	77.85	54.48
Outings	380.00	323.00
HPBC Initiative Fund	108.00	
Garside Scanning/Hayfield C.Trust	90.00	287.76
Interest 2nd A/C	0.29	0.65
Interest Invest A/C	7.48	3.52
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£2251.29</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£4682.31</u></b>	
Publications in hand	£8880.00	

#### Audit Note

The accounts of the Society have been audited in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me, and in my opinion, represent the affairs of the Society, as at 31/3/2013.

*LB/gy James 8/4/2013*

	2012 / 2013	2011 / 2012
	£	£
<b>Expenses</b>		
Speakers	367.00	331.99
Newsletter	156.25	127.50
Hire of Hall	349.92	346.68
Archive materials	366.79	222.17
Printing/Publications	240.00	450.00
BALH Subscription	65.00	58.00
Expenses	202.94	401.79
Miscellaneous	70.00	62.50
Outings	380.00	323.00
Refreshments	21.70	16.00
Garside Scanning	287.40	100.00
Image Digitisation	392.70	649.20
<b>Total Expenses</b>		£2899.70
<b>Closing Balances</b>		
Current A/C	322.26	
Invest A/C	1381.10	
2nd A/C	58.82	
Pay Pal A/C	20.43	1782.61
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>£4682.31</u></b>

## Chairman's Report 2012 - 2013

This season has been marred by the death of two of our most eminent members, Olive Bowyer and Richard Wood. Olive, a founder member and an author, was on the Committee until her death. Richard served on the Committee and as Chairman. They will both be sadly missed,

In addition to the programme of Speakers he had arranged, Derek Brumhead made his guest appearance at the New Mills Festival. He was warmly thanked by the Chair of the Parish Council and asked to appear again at this year's event. We could not ask for anyone better to publicise the Society.

My job is a simple one thanks to this hard working Committee. It never fails to amaze me how in addition to their regular offices they manage to research and present talks and publish books. Both Derek and Roger Bryant have done just that.

As our Archivist, Roger has spent many hours digitising photographs and material which Barry Dent has put on the web. Barry continues to advise us on all technical matters; we have had so many compliments on the high standard of the web site, thank you all.

Our treasurer Maureen Hall has so successfully managed finances that there will be no increase in subscriptions. We welcome Lesley James as our new Auditor.

Ron Weston continues to manage all the Publications, advising us on new books and recommending republishing and the Newsletter continues to be an excellent source of information.

Our hard working Secretary John Humphries arranged an excellent summer outing to the Revolution Inn and Renishaw Hall Gardens. As usual all our needs were well catered for and both Guides were most informative.

Thank you for your continued support. Your lively questions to Speakers reflect your interest. If there is anything you feel would improve our meetings, please let the Committee know, after all it is your Society.

*Barbara Done*