

**New Mills Local History Society**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Issue 55, Autumn 2015**



## From the Editor

Dear Friends,

As, instead of a talk, the meeting held on 15th May consisted of our AGM followed by Roger Bryant's fun quiz, I have not written a report.

Please think seriously about writing something for the Newsletter. Our next issue comes out in December.

Best wishes,

*Ron Weston*

## Committee 2015-2016

Chairperson	Gaynor Andrew (743117)
Vice-Chairperson	John Crummett (749530)
Hon. Secretary	John Humphreys (743581)
Hon. Treasurer	Maureen Hall (742837)
Hon. Archivist	Roger Bryant (744227)
Hon. Editor	Ron Weston (744838)
Hon. Website manager	Barry Dent (745837)
Ordinary members	Derek Brumhead, Nicki Burgess, Peter Done, Pat Evans, Chris Jones

## Two Queens and a Countess

David Templeman (9<sup>th</sup> January 2015)

Despite the advances made during recent decades, the long march of women towards sexual equality is by no means at an end. In Tudor times, that journey had scarcely begun: it was a man's world in which the subservience of women seemed absolute and natural. David Templeman presented in his talk three



*Queen Elizabeth I*

women of that period, Mary Queen of Scots, Queen Elizabeth I and Bess of Hardwick, who by their extraordinary abilities were able to overcome the disadvantages of being female to become movers and shakers in their own right. David gave his talk unity by comparing the situations of these three characters at various stages in their lives and explaining their relationship with one another.

In childhood, all three grew up in tragic circumstances. Mary's father, James V of Scotland, died when Mary was but a week old. At the age of five she was sent to live in France, away from those she knew and loved. When Elizabeth was three years old, her mother, Ann Boleyn, was executed by the orders of her father, Henry VIII. Bess, of humbler stock, was made a ward from the age of seven months, following the death of her mother.

Mary lived as a princess in the French court, groomed to be queen of France, the Dauphin her intended husband. That came to pass in 1558 when the fourteen year old Dauphin married the fifteen year old Mary. The marriage was short-lived. Henry II of France died the following year, the young Dauphin became king and his wife, Mary, the queen consort. The following year, 1560, brought the death of Mary's husband, following an ear infection. His brother, Charles, became king and Mary, a childless widow, was no longer of any account in the French court. She returned to Scotland to take up the Scottish throne.



*Mary, Queen of Scots*

After the death of Henry VIII, he was succeeded by his son, who became Edward VI. The young, Protestant, Elizabeth, was second in line to the

throne behind her elder half-sister, the Catholic Mary. When Edward died in 1553, Mary became queen. Determined to return England to the Catholic fold, Mary began a regime of grim repression of the Protestant establishment. Whether she liked it or not, Elizabeth became the figurehead of opposition to Mary and found herself in great danger as a result. Mary's marriage to Philip of Spain and her burning of Protestants made her deeply unpopular. The queen's death in 1558 brought a national sigh of relief and the twenty-five year old Elizabeth, having survived her long and difficult path to the throne, was proclaimed queen.



*Bess of Hardwick*

incurrable ambition. The earl was given the task of supervising Mary when she was captive in Derbyshire, being instructed by Elizabeth to keep her “in the manner of a queen”. Thus, Bess and Mary became well-acquainted. Elizabeth, though, refused to meet her rival queen.

Bess became one of the wealthiest and most prominent women in the country by her own shrewdness. As a woman, she could only do this by harnessing men to her ambition – by marrying them! She married four times, on the final occasion to the earl of Shrewsbury, a fabulously wealthy man. As his countess, Bess became the link between the two queens. She was well-liked by Elizabeth when at court, but her affection cooled in the face of Bess's

David Templeman's comprehensive character studies of these three extraordinary and gifted women, the interaction of whose lives contributes a major chapter in England's history, still leave me with one unanswered question - what did they really think of one another?

## **An Introduction to the Temperance Movement and its Medals** **Peter Crummett (13<sup>th</sup> February 2015)**

It is surely one of the perversities of our national character to regard drunkenness, a source of so much misery, as a subject of amusement in a way that drug addiction, for example, is not. Peter Crummett began his excellent talk by showing us comic postcards that used to be sent from seaside resorts fifty, or more, years ago, featuring portly men with red noses. But that was the last we heard of the funny side of this topic: Peter dealt in some detail with the long history of attempts to control excessive drinking and alleviate its dreadful effects on individuals, their families and society in general.

The consumption of beer in historic times was universal. Even in the countryside, drinking water was frequently polluted by animal waste and human sewage and beer, frequently home-brewed and weak, was the safest source of fluid intake. With the expansion of towns and cities during the eighteenth century, beer-drinking became practically essential. Social commentators, such as the satirical artist, Hogarth, became alarmed by the rise of spirit drinking amongst the working classes in the cities. With the rise of this mass-market, the price of gin, once the prerogative of the wealthy, fell dramatically; hence the saying, “Drunk for a penny; dead drunk for tuppence.”

The first attempt to legislate against this growing social evil proved disastrous. The Sale of Beer Act of 1830 afforded the urban proletariat with a cheap, unadulterated beer, professionally brewed, designed to eliminate the wholesale consumption of spirits. Within three months, 24,000 new beer shops came into existence and beer drinking replaced gin as the great social evil of the time.



The Temperance Movement was born out of middle class concern regarding “the demon, drink”, which turned men into savages, accentuated poverty and undermined working class family life.

Peter Crummett illustrated the many organisations making up the Temperance Movement by showing us his illustrations of medals in his considerable collection. Most of the temperance societies that came into existence in Victorian times awarded medals to those members who succeeded in remaining tea-total. Signing the Pledge became a popular way of recruiting young people to the cause. Many of the organisations became associated with the various religious denominations.

The Temperance Movement began to lose its influence slowly but surely after the First World War, though excessive drinking presents problems to this day. Nowadays, alcoholism is viewed more as a medical issue rather than being morally reprehensible, though its adverse social consequences still remain substantial.

This topic had not been aired previously in our Society and aroused a great deal of interest amongst our audience, as was witnessed by several thoughtful questions and observations.

*Ron Weston*

## Manufacturing the Cloth of the World

Roger Holden (13<sup>th</sup> March 2015)

New technologies give rise to novel forms of architecture and this was particularly true of the late eighteenth to early nineteenth centuries when the Industrial Revolution was in full swing. We have, for example, canal warehouses, railway stations, blast furnaces and engineering factories with overhead cranes. The first water-powered cotton spinning mills, organised in accordance with Richard Arkwright's factory system, were unique buildings at that time. The mechanisation of weaving came a few decades later (it was not until the 1840s that power loom production overtook that of handlooms) and at first the new power looms tended to share space in the spinning mills.

Roger Holden has researched the rise of the cotton weaving industry and its subsequent development very thoroughly and with the aid of some excellent photographs, most of which he took himself, gave us a detailed account of his findings.

He began by explaining that the Lancashire cotton industry soon developed a strong regional specialisation. While spinning was concentrated in the Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale areas, weaving predominated in the district in and around Blackburn, Burnley and Accrington. Stockport, too, figured in the early development of power loom weaving. The finishing trades of bleaching, dyeing and printing were, of course particularly strong in the New Mills area.

With the rise of power loom weaving, long, relatively narrow, single-storey, weaving sheds became the norm. The coming of steam power led to the development of sheds with an engine-house at one end with buildings such as warehouses and offices arranged around a yard attached to the other end. This enabled a horizontal sequence of processes to take place. Roger Holden showed us photographs of some of these early examples of weaving sheds, explaining the developments of specialised features, such as the asymmetrical roof-lights that maximised the available natural light which fell on the looms.

Weaving sheds were packed closely with looms, leaving very little space for the operative to work. Some looms had as little as two feet of working space between them - no place for the obese!

As the nineteenth century wore on, more attention was paid to safety and minimising fire hazards. Weaving firms varied considerably in size during the heyday of the industry when Lancashire became the world's greatest producer and exporter of cloth. There were many quite small family firms, while larger enterprises might have trade unions and the Co-op as major shareholders.

The twentieth century tells a different story. Foreign competition led to the steady decline of Lancashire's textile trade. Even the home market was lost as cheap foreign goods were allowed in and successive governments failed to erect protective tariff barriers. The coming of artificial fibres after the Second World War resulted in further rapid decline, despite the attempts to amalgamate and rationalise the industry.

In making these detailed investigations of those historic weaving sheds still remaining, Roger Holden has performed a valuable service to the industrial archaeology of the textile industry of the North-west. These buildings are fast-disappearing and seem to lack the same appeal as spinning mills when it comes to preservation.

*Ron Weston*

## **The Ecton Copper Mine: Solving the problem of mining at great depth**

**Dr. John Barnatt (10<sup>th</sup> April 2015)**

John Barnatt, an archaeologist working for the Peak District National Park, had researched the Ecton Hill copper mine, near Wetton, for several years before becoming involved in a project resulting in a detailed management plan for this important historical site in 2007.

A feature of Ecton Hill, rich in copper ore, together with lead and zinc, is the great depth of its workings. Even in the eighteenth century, workings reached a depth of over a thousand feet, which makes the industrial archaeology of this site one of international importance.

The recovery of hammerstones and antler picks over the years confirm that copper was mined here as early as the middle bronze age (1800 – 1500 BC) dates which have been confirmed by radiocarbon dating. The discovery of charcoal, the remains of underground fire-settings to break up the ore, confirms mining activity in the medieval period. Gunpowder was used in the eighteenth century, as is witnessed by the evidence of shot-holes.

The demand for copper fluctuated violently in the eighteenth century and a number of companies of “adventurers” leasing the Ecton mines from the Duke of Devonshire often failed spectacularly when the price of copper fell dramatically. Between 1760 and 1825, the Dukes of Devonshire were mining on their own account and used their great financial resources to invest in what was then state of the art technology, enabling mines to operate at an

unprecedented depth. The great problem was preventing the workings from flooding and pumping engines were installed to drain the mines. Another solution was the construction of an underground canal, with boats to carry out the ore. The Ecton mines used steam power at an early stage of its development not only for pumping underground but also to operate winding gear at the surface. The steam-powered engine house at Ecton has the distinction of being the oldest surviving example in the world.

The above-mentioned research project has revealed many fascinating technical details of the methods used to drain and ventilate the mines at various periods, including an underground waterwheel installed in 1823 and the discovery of an early dynamo dating to 1884, one of the oldest examples known.

John Barnatt gave us the benefit of his first-hand knowledge of the Ecton site. His photos of the underground galleries were particularly illuminating with regard to the working conditions endured by the early miners.

*Ron Weston.*

## **On the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Opening of Low Leighton Methodist Church:**

### **Michael Doughty's speech (19<sup>th</sup> April 2015).**

Ladies and Gentlemen; Boys and Girls; we welcome you all this afternoon to this special sixtieth anniversary celebration of the opening of our church here in Low Leighton and we especially welcome Rev. David Philo and Josh, who have come from Sheringham in Norfolk to lead our celebrations.

When our tin chapel was bombed on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1942, the Methodists of Low Leighton were soon in action with plans to raise funds to replace the church. First meeting at in the laundry premises of Royal and Jackson in Low Leighton and then at the Friends' Meeting House in Low Leighton, money was raised in many ways: by sale of works, jumble sales and selling bricks to raise the £1,100 which the church would cost (how times have changed: a recent insurance valuation of the property was £668,000). A plaque on the wall lists all people who sold bricks to raise money to build the church.

The stone-laying ceremony took place on 7th August 1954, after a large procession through Low Leighton and the opening of the church took place on 16th April 1955, with over four hundred people attending.

The church building itself was a revelation, being planned in front of its time. It was one of the first open-plan, dual-purpose churches in this area, serving as both a community theatre and church and it is a great credit to the architects that very little structural alterations have been necessary during the past sixty years to bring it into line with current safety requirements.



While many churches in the area have closed over the years, Low Leighton has stood strong in the community. It is a caring church, where friendships have been formed over the years and is at the centre of community events. We are very fortunate to have a very skilful and committed band of dedicated helpers who put a tremendous amount of effort into the success of fund-raising, special events, management and running of the church. Over the past ten years, over £40,000 has been spent refurbishing, modernising and bringing the building into the twenty-first century and in 2010 we officially became a Community Church.

Since then, many more local groups and community events take place here and the church is in use seven days a week. As well as Sunday services and Sunday School, the church is used by many local groups, the Dance Academy providing professional dance tuition for local children, line dancing, weekly mums and toddlers group, community crafts group, weekly youth club, brass band concerts, table-top sales - all help to make people feel that Low Leighton is their church.

Our aim is to make Low Leighton more welcoming and caring in the community through friendship, fellowship and family worship, whilst providing a community centre for anyone wishing to use it.

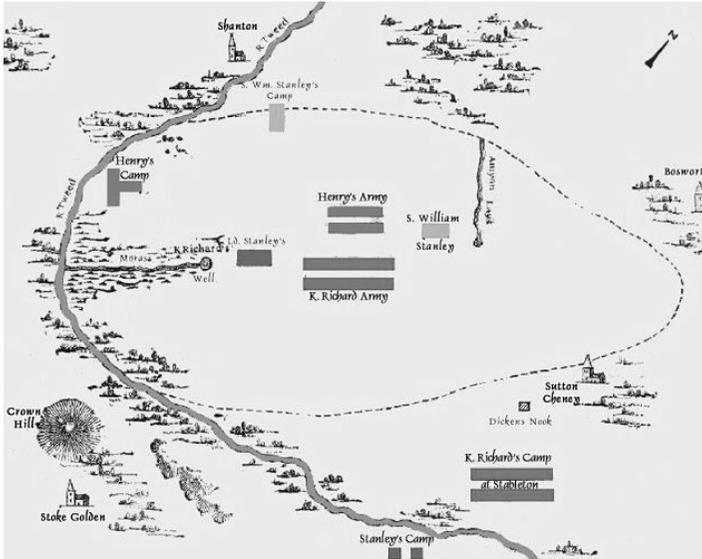
As it says on the front of the church: “Everyone is welcome here”.

Ladies and gentlemen, we welcome you all. Please enjoy the celebration buffet!

## SUMMER TRIP 2015

### The King Richard III experience.

We set off to travel to the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage site at Sutton Cheney on a gloomy day. It was obviously my turn for a wet trip but it wasn't all bad because it gave me the opportunity to wear my new raincoat.



*The Battle of Bosworth*

The Centre is located on the site of a medieval farm just below the crest of the hill where King Richard gathered his army. The hilltop looks fine with the standards of Henry Tudor and Richard flying atop two tall flagpoles. It was from this place on the fateful day in 1485 that the Plantagenet reign ended and the Tudor dynasty began when Richard III lost his life and crown on the battlefield at the hands of Henry Tudor's army. Richard began in a winning position on top of a hill, with Henry Tudor's army on marshy ground in the valley below as a particularly bloody battle began. Two factors affected the outcome; Henry had, on his way to the battle, enlisted Welsh archers in to his army. During the battle Richard caught sight of Henry and charged at him to try and get a quick result but he out ran his bodyguard and was finished off by Henry's soldiers in the gory fashion of the day. His body was stripped, the Crown placed on Henry's head and Richards body carried off to Leicester for verification.

The Centre provided a vivid account of the battle with many interactive displays which worked! It was particularly laid out to be child friendly. The site included a large Tithe barn which had been converted into a restaurant serving



*Richard III (Reconstruction )*

a good selection of food at very reasonable prices. Tables had been reserved for us and set out in banquet fashion.

After lunch we set off again on a 40 minute trip to Leicester to visit the Heritage Centre sited close to the Cathedral to find out what happened next. Situated in a renovated building it enclosed the excavation site, under a

former car park, of Richards grave where his remains had been interred 500 years ago in what had been the medieval Greyfriars chapel. I think more could have been done in displaying the grave site as just a hole in the ground, perhaps a facsimile skeleton could have been put in place. What do you think?

The first room in the Centre is set out as a throne room on whose back wall images are projected explaining Richards spinal deformation and including various key characters who put the case for Richard. After Richard's death his reputation suffered at the hands of the Tudors whose slender claims to the throne made it necessary to blacken Richards character. A force for change is now trying to recreate Richards real persona and this is illustrated in the various floors of displays. Shakespeare is bearing the brunt of much of the criticism. The day as a whole was very interesting and informative and gave much to think about and discuss.

The one drawback to the day was that visitors are not allowed to view the new tomb in the Cathedral on Sundays. The U3A are planning a weekday trip in the autumn which should include entrance to the Cathedral.

*John Humphreys.*

## THE RAILWAYS OF NEW MILLS, PAST AND PRESENT

A talk by Derek Brumhead given at New Mills Town Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 as part of the celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Marple, New Mills and Hayfield Junction Railway, 1st July 1865.



*New Mills Central*

the clarity and scholarship that we have come to expect from him. It is beyond my powers to summarise his account adequately and there is no need: for £5 you may buy a copy of Derek's book, "A History of Railways in New Mills", complete with excellent maps and photos, from our Heritage Centre.



*New Mills Newtown*

Today, New Mills is blessed with two railway lines into Manchester: one from New Mills Central, the other from New Mills Newtown. So far, so simple; but the history of how these routes materialised during the Railway Age, which began in the 1840s, is one of Byzantine complexity.

In his talk, before an audience of over a hundred, Derek Brumhead steered us through these convolutions with all

The Victorian Age is full of contradictions. While on the one hand there was an outward show of respectable, indeed, prim and proper conduct in public life, in reality companies behaved in ruthless, underhand ways when in competition with one another to a degree that would not be tolerated today (with the possible exception of the banks!). This was certainly true of the bitter

rivalries between the railway companies competing to connect Manchester to its hinterland and beyond during the mid-nineteenth century; hence, the bewildering array of proposals put before Parliament for the construction of new lines at that time. The term “railway mania” which has been applied generally to this period is undoubtedly appropriate to the situation that prevailed in our district. Railway companies at that time were intent on protecting their “territories” from the incursions of their rivals - a concept more applicable to gangland psychology than the orderly advancement of a national railway system.



*New Mills South Junction, Marsh Lane*

Derek has been most assiduous over the years in recording and photographing the material evidence of these former lines and presented this, together with precise explanations on this occasion. This aspect of his talk must have been of particular interest to the numerous railway buffs in the audience, while local people there were probably made aware for the first time of the significance of that mysterious bank in their local field.

The talk ended with a “Then and Now” photographic tour of our two surviving lines, reminding us of the sweeping changes that have occurred in our own lifetimes; the loss of sidings and railway buildings, indeed, of complete railway stations, while the construction of the Sett Valley leisure and medical complex and the trail to Hayfield has obliterated much of what existed before. It now needs an industrial archaeologist to remind us of what has been lost. We are lucky to have the benefit of Derek’s expertise in this regard.

*Ron Weston.*

## THE EDITH NESBIT CONNECTION

A Talk given by Barbara Matthews on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015 as part of the celebrations marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of New Mills Central Station in 1865.

A crowded Library Lecture Room welcomed the return of Gwenda Culkin, a former librarian at New Mills now living in Nottinghamshire. Just prior to the millennium, Gwenda and Barbara had conducted some intriguing research on a possible connection between E. Nesbit's famous novel, "The Railway Children", and the district around New Mills. Gwenda began by explaining that this research had come about as a result of "a freak coincidence of timing."



*Three Chimneys*

in the county promoting a local author or a book set locally. Members of the library staff at New Mills were struggling with this proposal when they were contacted and then visited by Laura Probert, archivist of the London-based Edith Nesbit Society, who wished to investigate the connection between the New Mills area and the author in an attempt to discover the railway and landscape that inspired Edith Nesbit to write her famous book. Checking the facts available to her, Laura Probert was delighted to find how well the locality



*Aspenshaw Hall*

In 1999, she explained, Derbyshire Libraries and Heritage Department was planning a millennium library festival which would involve libraries

fitted the descriptions in the book. However, it became obvious that more research was needed, and as Laura's time in New Mills expired, Gwenda and Barbara were resolved on continuing the research, realising that here was New Mills library's contribution to the Derbyshire Millennium Literary Festival, a contribution that eventually turned out to be the star event.

This research involved reading the biographies of Edith Nesbit as well as her entire works, investigating local documentary sources, chiefly in the Record Office at Matlock, together with extensive field work visiting all the possible locations that may have featured in “The Railway Children.”

Barbara's talk consisted of a detailed presentation of this evidence. Obviously, “The Railway Children” is a work of fiction and the author is at liberty to alter the facts to suit her story, but Barbara asked her audience to judge whether Edith Nesbit had the New Mills area in mind when she wrote it. It is impossible to summarise here the wealth of detail that Barbara presented to us. Her book, “New Mills and the Edith Nesbit Connection”, New Mills History Notes No. 29, states all this information. The fact that Edith Nesbit knew this area well as a result of staying with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr and Mrs John Deakin, who had lived at Ridge End and Cobden Edge Farm as well as the house known as “Paradise”, a near-neighbour to “Three Chimneys”, featured in “The Railway Children”, is compelling circumstantial evidence. Even more persuasive is the fact that places such as “Aspenshaw Farm”, “Old Mills” and “Thornsett Edge” appear in other stories by Edith Nesbit. She knew and visited the Woodcock family at Aspenshaw Hall and must have been aware of the local landscape on those occasions, feeding her imagination with these scenes.



*Jenny Agutter and Derek  
Brumhead on the Millenium  
Walkway*

Barbara also told us about the visit of Jenny Agutter, the actress who had starred in the 1979 film of “The Railway Children” as Roberta, the eldest child, and who subsequently played the part of the mother in the remake in 2000. She also described the establishment of “The Nesbit Trail”, which enables the public to visit the locations thought to feature in Edith Nesbit's writing.

Gwenda closed the proceedings by musing on the comments of the children's writer Noel Streatfield regarding the passage of time: how time seems to go so slowly during childhood but apparently moves at an ever-increasing pace through adult life. Edith Nesbit's gift was to successfully recapture those happy, timeless days of childhood - perhaps her greatest and most enduring gift to us all.

*Ron Weston*

## The Local Historian

Vol. 43 No. 1 January 2015 has been placed in New Mills Library.

Ellie Pridgeon. 'Researching medieval wall paintings: a guide to archival sources in England and Wales'.

Bonnie White. 'Food protests and inequality of sacrifice in First World War Devon'.

Trevor Hopper. 'Italian ice cream families in East Sussex seaside resorts'.

Helen Kavanagh. 'The secrets of Magpie Lane: prostitution in medieval Oxford'.

John S Lee. 'Medieval local history from published records: a case-study of the manor, market and church of Masham Yorkshire'.

William Evans. 'Opinion: us and them'.

Sally Sokoloff. 'Review article: books on local aspects of the First World War'.

Book reviews include: VCH Derbyshire Vol. 111 (Bolsover and adjacent parishes (includes Creswell Crags));  
Medieval documents from Worcestershire;  
Aysgarth Edwardian rock garden;  
Ecology and enclosure in South Cambridgeshire.

Recent publications in local history

## Chairpersons Report 2014-2015

I begin by giving a huge thanks to Gaynor who took over my role in December last year when I resigned due to hearing loss, which affected my ability to chair the meeting.

The poor quality of the loop system also affected other Members of our Society and spoiled some of the talks. The Council have been informed and hopefully the money will be made available to effect a repair. Our hardworking Caretaker has done his best to improve the matter but to no avail.

The Committee has continued to provide a varied programme. Our editor Ron has introduced new publications, Barry keeps the web site updated, Maureen watches the finances, and Roger fulfils his mammoth task as Archivist.

Derek gave another talk at the Festival, which was well received, it seems to have become an annual event and he is an excellent PR man for our Society.

John our Secretary, despite illness and personal loss, managed to keep the Society on track. In May he arranged a really interesting outing to Sheffield Industrial Museums, and I am sure he will find another excellent venue this summer.

Thank you for your continued support, without Members interest all this hard work and talent would be wasted.

My best wishes to all of you.

*Barbara Done*

## Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

	( 2014/2015 )	( 2013/2014 )
<b>Opening Balances</b>		
Current A/C	£1083.65	
Invest A/C	£1391.46	
2nd A/C	£0.00	
Pay Pal A/C	£19.44	£2494.55
<b>Receipts</b>		
Donations	£101.00	£97.20
Visitors	£102.00	£78.00
Gift Aid received	£119.40	£135.88
Subscriptions	£694.94	£653.26
Sales of Publications	£977.91	£1386.95
Sales of Refreshments	£53.50	£56.16
Outings	£344.00	£608.00
Sale of High Res Prints	£90.00	
Interest Invest A/C	£10.44	£10.36
<b>Total receipts</b>		£2493.19
<b>Total</b>		£4987.74
Publications in hand		£8700.00

### 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 31/3/2015.

	( 2014/2015 )	( 2013/2014 )
<b>Expenses</b>		
Speakers	£343.95	£223.00
Newsletter	£163.75	Awaiting
Hire of Hall	£388.80	£311.04
Archive materials	£0.00	£54.99
Printing/Publications	£1025.40	£537.50
BALH Subscription	£65.00	£65.00
Expenses	£144.78	£192.09
Outings	£403.00	£608.00
Refreshments	£17.00	£15.10
Scanning Equip.	£204.98	
Mods to Picture NM	£130.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		£2886.66
<b>Closing Balances</b>		
Current A/C	£653.58	
Invest A/C	£1401.90	
2nd A/C	£0.00	
Pay Pal A/C	£45.60	£2101.08
<b>Total</b>		£4987.74

## New Mills Local History Society - Meetings - Autumn 2015

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 Sept. 4	The Macclesfield Canal	Ian and Christine Hamilton
Monday Sept. 21	<b>New Mills Festival Lecture:</b> The Water Supply of New Mills	Derek Brumhead
Friday Oct. 9	The restoration of Elizabeth Gaskell's House	Janet Allan
Friday Nov. 13	An evacuated Guernsey school in Stockport in WW1	Gillian Mawson
Friday Dec. 11	Curious Cheshire	Donald Reid

*Please note that the Festival Lecture is on a Monday, and starts at 7:30pm.*

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