

New Mills Local History Society

NEWSLETTER

Issue 57,
Autumn 2016

The Torrs Trail



Union Road Bridge in the Torrs. (Photo: Roger Bryant) n 17268

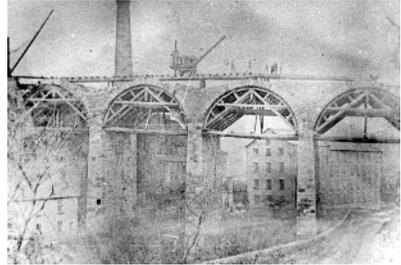
New Mills sits astride a magnificent gorge called the Torrs, formed by melting ice at the end of the last Ice Age, about 20,000 years ago.

The gorge is 100ft (30m) deep at its lowest point.

Two rivers, the Selt and the Goyt, meet here.

Starting at the Heritage Centre in Rock Mill Lane you can take a walk down the path (with 51 steps) to discover the many natural and man-made features of the Torrs. Towering rock faces, trees, and birdlife mingle with mill ruins, weirs, bridges, railway, the Millennium Walkway and a community hydro scheme.

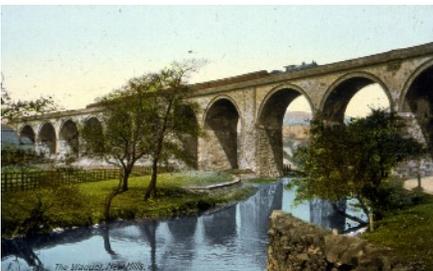
Wheelchair access to the Torrs is available from the bottom of Station Road and from Wirksmoor Road (opposite the Rock Tavern).



The Bridges Trail



The great variety of bridges of New Mills results from the network of roads and tracks crossing the Torrs, the rivers, the canal, the roads and the railways.



Committee 2016-2017

Chairperson	Gaynor Andrew (743117)
Vice-Chairperson	John Crummett (749530)
Hon. Secretary	Mike Daniels (746449)
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, John Humphreys, Chris Jones

John Humphreys

New Mills Local History Society started in 1982 as an idea from the Civic Amenity Society and was formally set up in 1983 with John Symonds as Chairman, Ron Weston Vice-Chairman, Roger Bryant Hon. Secretary and Olive Bowyer Assistant Secretary. John Humphreys was then a committee member. After being appointed Hon. Secretary, John maintained that position until this year when he announced that he wished to retire after twenty-seven years and, perhaps, serve as a committee member again.

All that time, John has been a pivotal member, keeping records, arranging committee meetings and the AGM, dealing with correspondence and the many other calls on a Secretary. He arranged the summer outings, which he researched meticulously, often rehearsing the journey beforehand with his wife Una.

John followed Roger Bryant as Honorary Curator of the Heritage Centre for a number of years. He looked after the artefacts, while Roger dealt with the archives. John collaborated with the Museum Service so that donated items were correctly recorded. At this time, Derek Brumhead was the Administrator and he also was an early member of the Society.

John has long held an interest in the Co-operative Movement and has spoken and written on the subject.

He has also been a follower of the New Mills football team.

John has always been generous with his time, quietly transporting members who had difficulty in getting to meetings - driving several miles in some instances.

We are grateful to you, John, for your dedication to the Society and hope that you enjoy your “retirement”.

Gaynor Andrew, Chairperson.

Violence in New Mills in the 1830s

Ron Weston, 8 January 2016

In the early 19th century with the onset of industrialisation, urbanisation, long working hours, low wages, and poor living conditions in jerry built housing, social pressures of dissatisfaction over many issues with the governance of the country and people's lives grew. Riots and demonstrations of a political and economic nature became common and were accentuated countrywide by what Ron called a national 'culture of violence' which was always playing a part in people's everyday lives. With the aid of quotations from the *Stockport Advertiser* during the 1830s, Ron highlighted a series of the most important of these national disturbances all of which New Mills found itself well at the forefront, and which will be here described.

Economic Violence

By the 1830s, work forces had begun to realise that their labour held some clout over factory owners and there arose a clamour for higher wages. In December a riot took place in Hayfield when a large number of workers from Glossop armed with pistols and sticks proceeded to a factory for the purpose of turning out the work people to support the rioters, in other words come out on strike. Finding no one at work, and 'firing several shots', a much larger mob, supported by a band and marching 'in regular military order', returned the next day but were stopped at Lantern Pike by the local magistrates (John White of Park Hall and George William Newton of Ollersett Hall) and dragoons of the 10th Hussars from Stockport. Refusing to disperse, ten of the most active were seized and held in bail to answer the charge at Derby Assizes.

Tithes

Local tithes, which were paid to the Rector of Glossop (the Duke of Norfolk), had always been unpopular (as they were countrywide) and when the valuers came to New Mills in May 1832 to demand the dues, they were followed by a large body of people assembled to prevent them from collecting the tithes and who shouted at them at every house they went to and called upon the inmates to kick them out. The leaders continued to excite the people and a stone was thrown which prevented the valuers from going any further. 13 persons were taken into custody and bound over to appear at Derby Assizes.

The Rights of Man

Under a new Beer Act the number of ale houses increased substantially in the 1830s (in New Mills there were over 20) and they became the focus for meetings of protest particularly over taxes. In 1832, a great number of persons congregated late at night at an ale house in Whitle to adopt measures to resist the payment of highway rates claiming that they were members of 'The Society for the Rights of Man' who had ordered them not to pay. This movement

originated with Thomas Paine who was a very strong supporter of the French Revolution that began in 1789; and who visited France in 1790. His book (1791) maintained that popular political revolution was permissible when a government does not safeguard the natural rights of its people. The authorities in New Mills used the new Beer Act which regulated the sale of beer by putting the onus on beer sellers to prevent disorderly conduct, i.e. it was a pretext to tackle the more alarming matter of refusing to pay taxes.

Chartists

Chartism was a national working class movement, led by an agitator called Feargus O'Connor, for political reform in Britain which existed from 1838 to 1858. It took its name from the People's Charter of 1838. It can be interpreted as a continuation of the fight against corruption and for democracy in an industrial society, but also attracted considerably more support for economic reasons including wage cuts and unemployment among the working class men already made desperate by poverty. The Charter called for six reforms to make the political system more democratic:

1. A vote for every man twenty-one years of age
2. A secret ballot at elections
3. No property qualification for Members of Parliament
4. Payment of Members
5. Equal Constituencies
6. Annual Parliament Elections

Although Chartism relied on constitutional methods to secure its aims, there were some, stimulated by agitators, who became involved in insurrectionary activities, notably in south Wales and Yorkshire. To this can be added New Mills, never far from the forefront of political and economic protest. In New Mills it was reported that weapons were exhibited in a beer shop, repeating the 'Rights of Man' disturbances. New Mills was certainly highlighted, it being said that 'no place in England labours under more intense and heartrending suffering than in New Mills'.

The General Election 1837

Two Whig candidates and one Tory stood for election for the North Derbyshire Constituency at Glossop. The Whigs (the Government party) won, much to the dismay of the *Stockport Advertiser*, a Tory newspaper. The election did not go quietly. The *Advertiser* reported that a party of 'banditti' came from New Mills with bludgeons and other deadly weapons declaring their purpose to be 'to finish the blues.' In trying to repress them, the Constable of Glossop was laid prostrate on the ground by the bludgeon men. A carriage laden with blues returning to Hayfield was assailed by a volley of stones, startling the horses and knocking down a ninety year-old man from New Mills.

Turnpike Road Toll-bars

In the 18th and 19th centuries many new or improved roads were built as turnpike roads and toll-bars were erected. In New Mills a large number of toll-bars were erected within a few miles of each other including one at the centre of the town. These were extremely unpopular since the people of New Mills were used to travel freely about the town and objected to paying tolls for the new roads which the old roads joined and had toll houses at the junctions. The *Stockport Advertiser* in August 1836 reported a “Daring Outrage” when “a large concourse of people residing in and about New Mills, assembled at the newly-erected toll-gate and having destroyed it, threw the timber into the river amidst the shouts of the assembled multitude. This is the third instance of destruction of the same property”. It was reported that New Mills “has for some time been a very lawless and subordinate state”. Further disturbances occurred in 1837.

It was reported that the ringleaders were dressed in women’s clothes. This may have been just for disguise, but several years later, when most of the toll-gates in south Wales were destroyed in the “Rebecca Riots”, the leaders took their actions against toll gates as they were tangible representations of high taxes. They also wore women’s clothes, dubbing themselves “the children of Rebecca” acting out a quotation from the Bible (Genesis Ch. 24, v. 60) “And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them”.

The 1870s saw the end most of the turnpike trusts in the New Mills area, the last one in 1886. Celebrations included the firing of cannons, the destruction of the toll houses and a tea. For an account of the local turnpike roads and the disturbances, reference should be made to the society’s publication by Roger Bryant, ‘Turnpike Road and Riots’, New Mills History Notes No 7, 1989.

It was good to have a talk on a less well known but significant aspect of New Mills history, and as usual Ron had researched his material meticulously, putting it over in his usual careful and succinct way which kept the attention and interest of the members and drew several questions at the end.

Derek Brumhead

A Virtual Tour of Marple Hall

Neil Mullineux, 12th February 2016

Nothing remains of Marple Hall; the site off Marple Hall Drive is marked by a plaque mounted on a stone put there by Marple Civic Society and Marple Antiquarian Society. But, as Neil Mullineux showed us in his excellent set of photos, old and new, a hundred years ago Marple Hall was an ivy-clad mansion dating, with later modifications, from the medieval period. It had long been the home of the Bradshaw family, originally from Bolton but spreading its branches into Derbyshire (in Chapel-en-le-Frith, for instance). The earliest recorded Bradshaw (known as Henry I) is in the year 1420. In the eighteenth century, the house and estates passed by marriage to the Isherwood family, though the name of Bradshaw was kept alive as the double-barrelled Bradshaw-Isherwood.

Neil used his collection of early photos to show us the various rooms and their contents as they appeared in the late nineteenth-early twentieth century, before the house and its contents were sold in 1929. A glorious feature of the house was its magnificent tapestries, which, sadly, have ended up in USA. The entrance hall was particularly fine and became a showcase for the collection of treasures, armour and weapons, together with some particularly fine medieval stained glass panels from Germany. These now reside in the church at Bunbury having been sold to the vicar there for a trifling sum when the house was being demolished in the 1950s.

Neil's research into the history of Marple Hall has not been confined to the house itself but also extends to the members of the Bradshaw-Isherwood family. The best known figure is John Bradshaw, who as President of the High Court of Justice was the senior judge in the trial of Charles I at Westminster Hall. Bradshaw had served as a lawyer in Cheshire and became Mayor of Congleton before moving to London in the furtherance of his career. He was elected President of the Court only because more senior and more powerful figures ducked the responsibility of putting the king on trial. Bradshaw had been handed a poisoned chalice. Having found the king guilty Bradshaw was a reluctant signatory to the death warrant. Others in the court were forced to sign. Under the Commonwealth, Bradshaw was well rewarded, both financially and in land and property, for his service to the state. He died in 1658, two years before the Restoration of the Monarchy under Charles II. Perhaps he may be considered fortunate to have died at that time, for several of the other signatories to the death warrant were sentenced to be hung-drawn and quartered by the vengeful king. As it was, the Bradshaws lost many of the properties acquired while John was alive, but the family managed to remain financially sound and retained the estates that had belonged to them historically.

Another celebrated figure was Christopher Isherwood, whose literary works brought him fame in the 1930s, with novels such as “I am a Camera” and “Goodbye to Berlin”.

Neil is to be congratulated on the extent and quality of his research work on Marple Hall and its occupants, the fruits of which we were fortunate enough to receive at first hand.

Ron Weston.

Hollins Mill: The heart of Marple for over one hundred years.

Ann Hearle, 11 March 2016

In 1825 the Hollins estate in Marple (first mentioned in a deed of 1712) which stretched from the present Memorial Park across Stockport Road, Hollins Lane and Station Road, came into the possession of Charles Walmsley, gentleman of Marple. Ann showed an interesting map of the 1820s which showed that at that time there was no village just a few cottages. About 1836, with a rapidly expanding cotton industry in the North West, Walmsley decided to build a large red brick cotton mill at the junction of Hollins Lane and Stockport Road. Steam-powered from the start, four storeys high and 100 ft long x 50 ft wide, the mill was a dominant building, changing the face and history of Marple and turning it into an industrial village with housing to match. A branch of the Peak Forest Canal was built into the yard, the entrance of which (together with an overbridge) can still be seen by the side of the canal. The 1850 tithe map shows a chimney, a gas holder, a retort house, and a row of cottages (eventually there were three). Like many mill owners, Walmsley took on many teenagers as cheap labour ‘factory hands’ from all over the country from workhouses who were glad to get rid of them.

The business does not appear to have been a commercial success, and in 1855 Walmsley was declared bankrupt. Two years later the mill and its machinery were offered for sale. The sale included spinning and warping machines, but no weaving looms as it had always been a spinning mill. In her book on Hollins Mill, Ann included an interesting 1857 list of the machinery offered for sale, which included 17,578 spindles. After several years, Walmsley's house (now Hollins House in Memorial Park), the mill and estate were sold to the Carver and Hodgkinson families of Manchester. But it was a bad time to start, with the onset of the Civil War in America and the disruption in the supply of raw cotton. Many mills in the North West were closed and there was widespread

poverty and suffering. A soup kitchen had to be run in Hollins Mill. When cotton became once more available, a very large weaving shed was built (another one was added in 1914), a completely new function for the mill. Despite trade fluctuations in the late part of the nineteenth century, Hollins Mill grew steadily, bought Wellington Mill in Hazel Grove and increased its production. Together, both mills had 63,000 spindles and 1500 looms. Hollins Mill was overwhelmingly the largest business in Marple. It always specialised in a large range of quality products among them 'Marple Sheets', fabric for window blinds, table cloths, shirting and sateen linings.

After a recovery during WW1 the textile trade went into a series of cycles of good and bad times, but generally a decline had set in. In the 1920s Hollins Mill was on short time for three years. After the second world war, as the cotton trade was consolidated, a series of amalgamations took place culminating in the company being taken over by The English Sewing Cotton Company and a decision was made to close the mill in 1954. In the years following the buildings together with the chimney were demolished. The site was sold to the Marple UDC in 1956 and eventually became a supermarket. Looking today at Hollins Lane it is almost impossible to imagine the huge mill, and it is only the aerial photographs of 1929 and 1955 that dramatically show what a dominant feature the mill was in Marple, making the title of Ann's talk most appropriate.

Ann's talk also included details of the families who owned and ran the mill over the years and its workforce. Beside her talk, this account also makes use of the book on Hollins Mill written by Ann, one of a large number (over 20) published by Marple Local History Society which are of excellent quality and very reasonably priced.

Derek Brumhead

Early Motoring. David George, 8th April 2016

David, who has spoken to the society many times on a variety of industrial history subjects, started his account of early motoring right at the beginning - the strange and rather laughable requirement in the very late nineteenth century for the new fangled cars to be proceeded by a person carrying a red flag. There were, of course, no petrol stations in the early years (they didn't come until the 1920s) and petrol could only be obtained in containers from particular authorised suppliers. David explained, with the first of his many early photographs of a variety of two-seater cars (notably Daimler, Mercedes-Benz

and Rolls Royce), that the first motorists with their open topped cars were engaged in what was really a sporting activity for the rich. This was manifest by the London to Brighton Race, which still takes place annually, amazingly with cars that took place in the first race in 1896. It was not long before cars became a serious new form of transport but at the same time only for the rich upper and middle classes. Cars became roof-covered limousines for carrying four or more passengers with places to go (such as the Cat and Fiddle on the Buxton-Macclesfield road), and were sold by a variety of manufacturers at prices equivalent today of £15,000. A number were built by famous Manchester firms such as Rolls Royce and Crossleys. But those who could not afford cars (not even the Ford Model T produced between 1908 and 1927) were not denied this new mechanical form of transport. After WW1, a huge number of luries came onto the market and many were converted by enterprising engineers into charabancs (a word of French origin literally 'a wagon with benches') providing a novel form of transport for the masses to get away for the day.

David continued with a series of old photographs which illustrated the development of the motor car taking us into the 1930s when driving licences were first required. Motoring became more and more popular and David showed photographs of Morris cars being produced in great numbers in assembly lines, a practice already introduced by Henry Ford. These mass-produced cars which sold for about £100 (such as the Morris Eight and Ford Popular) brought those on more modest incomes into car ownership and the number of cars on the road increased dramatically. It became necessary to build what were known as 'arterial roads', such as the East Lancashire Road, new bypasses to towns and 'A' roads which today still retain their original numbering (copied later by motorways). Petrol stations, roadside pubs and hotels started to front main roads leading out of town into the countryside and on to the seaside, and roadside picnics became popular. The housing of the new estates of the 1930s were provided with garages or left with places for them to be added.

As usual, David's presentation was clearly presented as one has come to expect of a speaker of sixty years experience to a huge variety of audiences including peer professionals.

Derek Brumhead

The Local Historian

The following have been placed in New Mills Library -

Vol. 45 No 4, October 2015.

Angus J Winchester, ‘“By ancient right or custom”: the local history of common land in a European context’.

James Thomas, ‘County, commerce and contacts: Hampshire and the East India Company in the eighteenth century’.

Margaret Bird, ‘Supplying the beer: life on the road in late-eighteenth century Norfolk’.

Frank Hughes ‘The cost of caring: expenditure on county asylum services in Shropshire and Middlesex 1850-1900’.

Helen Young, ‘Contributing to the community debate: understanding social change in rural Scotland during the twentieth century’.

Kate Tiller, ‘How we remember: a review article’.

Recent publications in local history

Book reviews include:

Leek’s workers in silk and their first trade union;

A tale of a policeman’s life in 1920s South Shields;

Rugby, football and the working classes in Victorian and Edwardian York; Making sense of Latin documents for family and local historians;

Stone to build London; Portland’s legacy;

The women’s Land Army in the First World War;

Victoria County History of Shropshire - Shrewsbury;

The 1851 census of religious worship for Warwickshire.

Vol 46, No 1, January 2016

Gillian Draper, ‘Guest editorial: where local history happens’.

Elizabeth Round, ‘Cursne Hill: using antiquarian texts to explore local legends’.

Jame Mawdesley, ‘Antrobus the cleric and Peter the cock: civil war, ministry and animal baptism in mid-seventeenth century Cumberland’.

Jeremy Harte, ‘“On the far side of the hedge”: Gypsies in local history’.

John S Hartley, ‘The 1756 War Office survey; a source for local historians.’

Peter Steere, ‘The fortunes of Sandy Baptist Church in the later nineteenth century’.

Stephen Roberts, ‘Opinion: a new way of getting local history into print’.

D. Huw Owen, Review article: books on Welsh places of worship in London and in Wales.

Christopher French, ‘It’s the sources that count: a London-focused review article’.

Recent publications in local history

Book reviews include:

The correspondence of William Stukeley and Maurice Johnson;

Recollections of William Arnold;

Timbertown Girls, Borders women and the First World War;

Past in mind, a heritage project and mental health recovery;

The conservation movement in Norfolk, a history;

The Chamberlains: Joseph, Austen and Neville (1836-1949);

Comic Art in Birmingham 1861-1911;

Chepyng Walden, a late medieval town.

Derek Brumhead

A New Torrs Trail

The courtyard of New Mills Heritage Centre has been brought to life by the installation of a new Torrs Gorge interpretation panel sponsored by New Mills Local History Society and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund with a grant of £6,500. The detailed and time-consuming work in obtaining this grant and the necessary planning permission for the board was carried out by Roger Bryant. The centre piece of the board is a trail plan which guides visitors to viewpoints (16) from which the geological and historical features may be appreciated. An innovation is the provision of QR codes at every viewpoint which describe the details of the view. These can be read on your mobile phone provided you have downloaded the free QR app.

Designed to appeal to all ages, the board tells the story of the gorge from its formation by melt water from a glacier which flowed up the Goyt valley from the Cheshire plain about 50,000 years ago (it had its origin in the Lake District) through to its place at the heart of the industrial revolution in New Mills and later to form “the park under the town”.

Supporting this is the production of a new explanatory Torrs Trail which is available from the Heritage Centre (free) and has been delivered to every house in New Mills.

A New Bridges Trail

Once the Torrs Board and Trail had been completed it was found that not all the HLF grant had been spent and permission was given to use this on the production of a six-fold New Mills Bridges Trail. Thirteen bridges are described along with supporting photographs of each one as follows: New Mill bridge, Church Lane bridge, Midland Railway viaduct over the River Sett in the Torrs, Low Level bridge over the River Sett in the Torrs, Millward Memorial bridge, Union Road bridge, Millennium Walkway, Church Road bridge in the surgery car park, Midland Railway viaduct over the River Goyt flood plain, Pott bridge near Goytside Farm over the River Goyt, Bank End canal bridge, Albion Road bridge over the canal, Newtown Station footbridge. This is also a free leaflet available from New Mills Heritage Centre.

(The New Mills Festival Lecture on “The Millennium Walkway and Other Bridges of New Mills” will be held on Monday 19 September in New Mills Town Hall at 7.30 pm. There will be free cheese and wine !)

Derek Brumhead

Chairman's Report

The society has had another good year, starting with an interesting trip to Bosworth Field and Leicester Museum thanks to John Humphreys. There was another excellent Festival talk by Derek Brumhead on the history of the water supply of New Mills, with hospitality from the Town Council.

Sadly there have been two deaths this year, Harry Howe who was our Auditor for many years and took good care of us for which we are grateful. Joan Powell was our treasurer for a number of years. She gained an MA degree from Manchester Metropolitan University, gave us a talk on George Craske, violin maker of Stockport and she worked with Derek Brumhead on her books on the history of Hayfield where she lived.

John Humphreys has announced that after many years he wishes to retire as secretary. Mike Daniels is up for election this time, and hopes to take the post over at the end of this year, meanwhile John will carry on in conjunction with Mike. A happy arrangement.

Maureen Hall keeps the books with a very calm air. Thank you.

Ron Weston, our Editor, looks after our publications. After a busy time last year there have been no more publications this year, but with Mary Weston he keeps the sales going regularly at the meetings and through the Heritage Centre. He also reports many of our speakers in the Newsletters. He stepped in to give a talk in January following the sad death of David Frith.

Roger Bryant manfully struggles with the photographs which are still appearing, he annotates them and gets them digitised and onto the web page. He and Derek Brumhead have had a descriptive board erected at the Heritage Centre which explains the Torrs to visitors.

Our thanks are due to Barry Dent who is now our official "webmaster", for dealing with the minutes and IT matters as well as the various enquiries that keep arriving. He also does a great job in issuing the Newsletters.

Pat Evans has again put her talent to good use at Christmas, decorating the Christmas tree to go into St Georges Church in early December. This year the theme was bridges. Afterwards the tree goes on to the Library where it is much appreciated by readers.

Barbara Done had to resign as chairman last year for health reasons, Peter Done continues as a committee member and has taken on the role of tea master which is very helpful. He is always glad to have extra pairs of hands.

In all we are grateful to these people who work very hard to keep the Society active.

Gaynor Andrew

Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st March

	2015/2016	2014/2015
Opening Balances		
Current A/C	£653.58	
Invest A/C	£1401.90	
2nd A/C	£0.00	
Pay Pal A/C	£45.60	£2101.08
Receipts		
Donations	£78.00	£101.00
Visitors	£84.00	£102.00
Gift Aid received	£127.18	£119.40
Subscriptions	£668.63	£694.94
Sales of Publications	£1239.06	£977.91
Sales of Refreshments	£42.88	£53.50
Outings	£614.00	£344.00
Sale of High Resolution Prints	£79.19	£90.00
HLF Grant Torrs Board	£6500.00	
Interest 2nd A/C	£20.57	
Interest Invest A/C	£10.51	£10.44
Total receipts		£9464.02
Unpresented Cheque		£30.00
Total		£11595.10
Publications in hand		£8500.00

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 31/3/2016.

Lesley James, 20/4/16

	2015/2016	2014/2015
Expenses		
Speakers	£280.99	£343.95
Newsletter	£90.00	£163.75
Hire of Hall	£349.92	£388.80
Archive materials	£0.00	£0.00
Printing/Publications	£480.25	£1025.40
BALH Subscription	£65.00	£65.00
Expenses	£214.44	£144.78
Outings	£616.48	£403.00
Refreshments	£13.50	£17.00
Digit. Of Audio Cassettes	£72.00	£204.98
Hosting Picture NM	£150.00	
HLF Grant Torrs Board	£2879.11	
Total Expenses		£5211.69
Closing Balances		
Current A/C	£1296.24	
Invest A/C	£1412.41	
2nd A/C	£3641.46	
Pay Pal A/C	£33.30	£6383.41
Total		£11595.10

New Mills Local History Society - Meetings - Autumn 2016

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.

Please note that the September meeting is the first Friday in the month. Also that the Festival Lecture is on a Monday, starts at 7:30pm and admission is free.

Friday Sep. 2	Compstall and Co-operation	Judith Wilshaw
Monday Sep. 19	New Mills Festival Lecture The Millennium Walkway and Other Bridges of New Mills	Derek Brumhead
Friday Oct. 14	Elizabeth Gaskell	Janet Allan
Friday Nov. 11	The Derwent Dams	Keith Blood
Friday Dec. 9	Rocks of the Peak District and their economic endowment, past, present and future	Dr. Pete Webb
Friday Jan. 13 2017	The Manchester Ragged School	Roger Bryant