

NEW MILLS
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

<p>CHALLEN <i>as supplied to</i> THE B.B.C. PRICES <i>from</i> 46 <small>GNS</small></p>  <p>HIRE PURCHASE.</p>	<p>"His Master's Voice" and COLUMBIA RADIO & RECORDS.</p>
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A Note from the Editor

As the new editor of the Newsletter I would like to thank Margaret Cooper for doing the job so well in the past, and hope that I can carry on the good work. I would be very happy to accept items for publication in the Newsletter from any member of the Society. These could be anything pertaining to New Mills or the area, including documents, bills, programmes, letters etc. which could be photocopied. The originals would, of course, be returned to the lender.

Kath Dent.

Spring Programme 1993

- 8 Jan 1992 The Making of the Thornsett Landscape
Ron Weston
- 12 Feb 1993 Railway Sound Film
(includes the Settle to Carlisle line)
Stuart Broome
- 12 Mar 1993 Much More Than Mere Body Covering
(clothes from the 1600's to the present day)
Anthea Jarvis (Platt Hall Costume Museum)
- 2 Apr 1993 The Arkwrights - Spinners of Fortune
Darrell Clarke (Arkwright Society &
Visitor services Manager at Cromford Mill)
- 14 May 1993 AGM followed by
New Mills 1946 Onwards
John Pearson (Reminiscences from the time he became the
Town Surveyor)

All meetings take place in Sett Valley House and start at 07.45pm. Tea and biscuits are available afterwards (20p) and the Societies publications are available for purchase.

Stockport Town Trail - Howard Green - 11 Sept 1992

Unfortunately the speaker booked for the opening meeting of the new season (Collette Curry) was unable to come, but her place was taken by Howard Green, who took us on a most interesting and informative tour of old Stockport through the medium of slides. In a short account such as this, it is impossible to do justice to the whole talk; it is only possible to pick out a few highlights. The lecture was based on an actual trail which has been followed by many people, children and adults, during the last few years.

The trail started at the Art Gallery, which was erected in 1925 as a war memorial. Stockport had contrasting styles of architecture, mainly Classic for municipal, and Gothic for ecclesiastical buildings. The former Mount Tabor Methodist church, opposite the Art Gallery, had Corinthian columns, but only the capitals are left. Behind the church, on the Hollingdrake building, a plaque marks the site of one of the last two windmills in Stockport. The speaker led us through Mottram Street and Mottram Fold with its new housing development of award-winning high-rise flats to Hillgate, the old through route, predating the 1825 turnpike 'bypass', Wellington Road. Hatting was once Stockport's main industry, and Christie's is Europe's largest hatting concern. The works stands on the site of Oldknow's mill and his house, which were taken over in 1812 by his partner William Ratcliffe, and were attacked by the Luddites who objected to his dressing frame which put people out of work. At the end of Holt Street is St. Thomases Church, 'the church with two fronts and no back'. Built at the same period as Wellington Road, when it was uncertain whether Hillgate or the new road would be the main thoroughfare, it was designed so that either end might become the logical approach.

The market became overcrowded, and the 1849 OS map shows a proposed new market. A building was erected, but it was never used. Permission had not been sought from the Lord of the Manor, who held the market rights, and he had it demolished but the name was kept. Near Middle Hillgate is the Carr Valley of Hempshaw Brook ('Carr' is Scandinavian, meaning 'a marshy place'). In 1746 the stream was dammed to provide water power for Lower Carr Mill. Much of the mill has been demolished, and the part which is left is occupied by the Stockport Bedding Company. The 'Hope' who gave his name to Hope's Carr was a 19th. century hatter. The 'gate' street names came from the Viking 'gatta' = 'street'. Hempshaw Brook runs down the side of Lower Hillgate and Underbank and passed through the old Borough Cemetery which was near Bell's Brewery - Bell's Ales were nicknamed 'Coffin Polish' !

The Old Rectory is Georgian and had the typical early Georgian sash windows. The 'Thatched House' was originally thatched and was the principal dispensary in the town until 1823. The parish church was built of local sandstone which was easy to work but too soft to last. By 1810 it was much decayed due to industrial pollution. The bells were rung continuously for three days to celebrate the victory of Trafalgar, and at the end of that time it was found that the belfry was no longer attached to the church. Between 1813 and 1817 the nave and tower were rebuilt, but the chancel was left. The architect was Wyatt who at the same time extended Lyme Hall. The sand stone was brought from Runcorn. One gravestone, dating back to 1630, gives the ages of the deceased as 1945 moons and 737 moons. The grave of John Wainwright, composer of the carol tune 'Stockport' (also called 'Yorkshire') is in the churchyard.

The glass-covered market was built in 1861, ten years after the Crystal Palace; the sides were not closed in originally and it was nicknamed 'the Glass Umbrella'. It was restored in 1986. The Staircase Cafe is a 16th. century house but the staircase was put in in the 17th. century. The Hen Market was originally just the ground floor, but it was extended upwards to house the public library in 1875, but the weight of books was greater than the structure could support and it is now used for market storage. The royal proclamation of George V's accession was read there. The old court was built in 1825; the Court Leat met on the upper floor and the lower floor was the cheese and meat market. Stockport was one of the last towns in the area to get a Town Hall, which was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1908. Underbank Hall was the town house of the Ardens of Bredbury, and dates back to the late 15th. Century. The original 'White Lion' was 16th. century; it was rebuilt in 1904 behind the old building, which was then demolished, since it would have lost its license if it closed down. The 'Three Shires Cafe', which dates from the same period as Underbank Hall, was the town house of the Leghs of Adlington. The bridge across Underbank has six arches; the visible one is of cast iron and the others, of brick, are incorporated into the adjoining buildings - one can be seen at the back of Turner's Vaults (originally the 18th. century Queen's Vaults). The shop formerly occupied by Winters' jewellers (and now licensed premises) is an 18th. century building with an early 19th. century shop front. The automaton was late 19th. century. A preservation order has been placed on the beehive on the former Quayle's shop.

The dwellings on Chestergate were built right up against the sandstone cliffs, so extensions actually burrowed into the cliff. They were known as 'cave dwellings' and were one of the curiosities of the town. From the 'White Hart' nearly a mile of tunnels ran into the rock, and in 1938 the town council was considering letting them as underground parking, but when the war came they were used as air-raid shelters. Near Highbankside, Pickford's Brow (Pickford was the landlord of the 'White Hart') was also called Bearfold Brow because bears were penned there for baiting and later for dancing.

The Library, in William and Mary style was built in 1912-13 with the assistance of Carnegie funds. The Infirmary, built in 1832 on Wellington Road South, was the first major building on the new road. The architect was Richard Lane and the building has giant Doric columns. The extension was built to mark the centenary. The architect of the Town Hall (built in 1904-08) was Sir Alfred Bramwell Thomas. The tower was inspired by Wren.

And so back to the starting point. These scrappy notes cannot do justice to a talk which was both interesting and informative and was greatly enjoyed by those present.

Olive Bowyer

The Cathedrals of England - Tom Horvat - 9 Oct 1992

When Tom Horvat arrived with over 550 slides we thought we were in for a very long evening, however as he explained that he liked all his slides and could never decide which to leave behind the ones we saw were obviously extremely good. Mr. Horvat explained that he had started studying Cathedrals because of his love of beautiful things and this was amply illustrated by his many beautiful slides.

He first gave a short history of the Cathedral as we know it today, explaining that they were originally wooden building until the Norman Conquest. Then much bigger and better Cathedrals were built, as an example Winchester was rebuilt 8 times bigger than the original. The majority of English Cathedrals were built in the 13th. and 14th. Century, money spent on building was tax free and the Church would rather spend money on building large cathedrals than giving it to the King.

His slides of Canterbury Cathedral illustrated the narrow tall aisles which were intended to force your thoughts upwards, Canterbury has the second highest nave in England. We then moved onto Durham which Walter Scott described as half a house of God and half a fortress against the Scots. This is much wider than Canterbury, the pillars are very big and there are not as many windows because there are no flying buttresses. Finally Mr. Horvat showed us slides of Lincoln where the Western front is the only Norman part. The Angel Choir built around 1360 is celebrated as the glory of Lincoln.

Barry Dent.

Castleton : Its Caves & Blue John - Peter Harrison - 13 Nov 1992

Friday the 13th and the bitter cold did not deter Peter Harrison from coming to give us a very interesting talk and slide show, which was a geology and history lesson rolled into one. He told how 350 million years ago the area around Castleton was made up of blue seas and coral islands, this can be proved by the many fossils found in today's limestone. The coral seas were displaced by a river bringing deposits of sand and mud, which also killed off the sea life. The story went on in detail to explain how Treak Cliff was formed and there were many interesting slides to show the stalactites and stalagmites and deposits of Blue John.

Derbyshire is the only area in the World where Blue John is found and in 1770 there were 16 mines supplying the surrounding area for the production of ornaments. After it is mined Blue John is stored for a year in a cool dry atmosphere so that water evaporation can take place. The stone is then boiled in resin to harden the material before it is turned.

We saw many slides of beautiful objects made of Blue John including the Addington Vase (the tallest known piece at 2½ feet), the window at Vernon Park Museum, Stockport which includes pieces of Blue John, and the largest known collection kept at Lauriston Castle, Scotland. I'm sure that everyone at the meeting greatly enjoyed Peter's talk and look forward to seeing him again next year.

<p>THE BRIDGE PHARMACY, <i>A. Hooley & Sons</i> CHEMISTS. AS, UNION ROAD, NEW MILLS.</p> <p>Also at Green Lane, Chinley.</p> <p>FOR SAFETY AND SATISFACTION.</p>	<p>HIGH-CLASS MILLINERY AND FANCIES. For the Latest Parisian Fashions and Newest Designs in all Seasonable Millinery</p> <p>Visit Madame L. MARSH. 66, ALBION RD., NEW MILLS.</p> <p>Weddings a speciality. Mourning Orders promptly executed.</p>
<p>F. HOBSON, Baker and Confectioner, 80, ALBION ROAD, NEWTOWN, NEW MILLS.</p> <p>TRY OUR MILK BREAD. Wedding Parties and Whist Drives catered for.</p>	<p>ROLAND HILL, Radio and Television Engineer.</p> <p>Sole Agent for PHILCO SETS.</p> <p>39, Union Road, NEW MILLS.</p>

The Derbyshire Eyre of 1330-31

In medieval times royal justice in the English counties was chiefly administered by justices travelling on circuit through a group of counties by special commission of the King. The grandest of these commissions was the commission of "general eyre" which authorised the justices to deal with a very wide range of cases, both criminal and civil. More specialised commissions came to replace the eyre in the early 14th century, and the last English eyre to be completed was the Derbyshire eyre of 1330-31. (A few later eyres were planned but abandoned.) The previous Derbyshire eyre had been in 1281 so that a huge backlog of cases had built up by 1330. Some extracts from the records of the 1330-31 eyre were published by J. C. Cox in 1909 ("Selections from Assize Roll, Derbyshire, 4 Edw. III", Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological & Natural History Society, vol.31, pp.115-128). Here I shall give some further extracts from one of the records (Public Record Office, JUST 1/166). I have selected extracts concerning the New Mills and Hayfield district, and they mostly come from the sworn statements made by the jurors representing the "wapentake" of High Peak in connection with violent deaths that had occurred since 1281. Each case would have gone before a coroner after the death and the coroner would have arranged for witnesses, such as the "first finder" of the body, to appear at the next eyre. He did this by "attaching" the witness - usually two people were found to act as surety that the witness would appear. But by the time the next eyre was held, in 1330, many of the witnesses were dead! For brevity's sake I cannot explain all the technical terms. But here are the key ones. Accused people who failed to appear and could not be found by the sheriff had the process of outlawry initiated against them: they were to be summoned ("exacted") at the county court and outlawed if they still did not appear. Those to be fined were described as being "in mercy". A "frankpledge" was a group of people with mutual responsibility for each other's lawful behaviour. In the case of an accidental death, the object or animal which was the instrument of death, or the monetary value of the object, was forfeited (to be used for pious purposes) and known as a "deodand". The sheriff had the responsibility for collecting fines, deodands, and the chattels of outlaws. In the case of a murder, the wapentake had to pay a fine unless it proved "Englishry" - that the dead person was merely English, and not Norman!

Extracts from 1330-31 eyre roll for Derbyshire (PRO JUST 1/166)

In the 3rd year of the reign of the present King [1329-30], at Orlesete, William Pese struck William Joudrell with a sword, whence later, in consequence, he died. And immediately after the deed he fled and is suspected. Therefore let him be exacted and outlawed. His chattels, none. He was in the frankpledge of Richard Davy of Hayfeld who does not have him now. Therefore [he (Richard is)] in mercy. The first finder (feminine) is dead.

In the same year [1328-29], at Boudon, Richard del Whitehull was struck by a thunderstorm, whence he died. No-one suspected. Judgment: misadventure. Idonia his daughter, the first finder, has not come and is not suspected and was attached through William her brother and Richard del Bernes. Therefore in mercy.

In the same year [1324-25], at Whitehalgh, William de Berdhalle senior and other unknown thieves broke into the house of Henry de Wolhawe at night and plundered and killed him and immediately fled and are suspected.

Therefore let him/them be exacted and outlawed. The said William's chattels, none. And the said William was in the frankpledge of William le Milner of Whitehalgh who does not have him now. Therefore in mercy. No Englishry presented. Judgment: murder upon the Wapentake.

In the same year [1312-13], at Whitehull, Richard son of Crumbwell standing by an oak in Whitehull wood so that he could cut off the branches of that oak was crushed by a branch which fell on him. No-one suspected. Judgment: misadventure. The value of the branch 1d, for which J. Bret, sheriff, should answer. The first finder is dead.

In the 4th year of the same King's father [1310-11], at Orlesete, Cecily de Crouder, gripped by delirious illness, took her son John by the shins at night and thus beat him [literally "whipped" him] against the walls and trees, whence he immediately died. And she was taken in the act and delivered to Nottingham gaol. Thomas de Swynford then sheriff. Afterwards she was acquitted, as is testified by the jurors.

In the 2nd year of the same King's father [1308-9], at Hayfold, Nicholas de la Forth and Robert and Richard, sons of the said Nicholas, killed Richard de Fousyde. And they were taken in the act immediately and delivered to Nottingham gaol, and the aforesaid Nicholas and Richard were hanged there for that felony. The chattels of the aforesaid Nicholas, 73s-0d; the chattels of the aforesaid Richard, 14s-4d; for which J. Bret, sheriff, should answer. And the aforesaid Robert was acquitted.

In the same year [1304-5], Robert son of Ralph of the park of Hayfeld, coming onto the moor between the vill of Cheilmerdon and the vill of Stanhegge, was overcome there by cold and storm, whence he died. No-one suspected. Judgment: misadventure. The first finder is dead.

In the 27th year of the same King's grandfather [1298-99], at Orlesete, Gilbert de Malecave came into the lord King's wood of Holinhirst and found there Matthew de Neuton, carpenter, cutting an oak for the repair of the lord King's mill of Hayfeld, and when that oak suddenly fell to the ground it crushed the said Matthew, whence he immediately died. No-one suspected. Judgment: misadventure. Nothing in deodand as regards the oak because it was placed in the use of the King. Value of the axe 6d, for which J. Bret, sheriff, should answer. The first finder is dead.

In the same year [1291-92], at Ollersete, Richard son of Lece de Ollersete struck William son of William le Horseknave of Ollersete on the head with a stick, whence later, in consequence, he died. And he immediately fled and is suspected. Therefore let him be exacted and outlawed. His chattels, none. He was in the frankpledge of John Peper[?] of Ollersete who does not have him now. Therefore in mercy.

In the same year [1291-92], at Hayfeld, Richard son of Ralph de Berde willingly killed himself with a sword. Judgment: suicide. His chattels 7s-7d, for which J. Bret, sheriff, should answer. The first finder is dead.

In the same year [1287-88], at Whitehill, Roger son of Thomas de Fallyngtes struck John son of Thomas de Haye with a stick, whence he immediately died. And he immediately fled and is suspected. Therefore let him be exacted and outlawed. His chattels, none. He was in the frankpledge of William de Berdehalgh of Whitehill who does not have him now. Therefore in mercy. And because this happened by day and the vill of Whitehill did not take him, therefore [the vill is] in mercy.

In the same year [1284-85], at Kynder, Richard son of Benny de Kynder was crushed by a "slede" which two oxen and two cows were hauling, whence he died. No-one suspected. Judgment: misadventure. Value of the oxen 1 mark, value of the cows 10s, value of the "slede" 2d, for which J. Bret, sheriff, should answer. The first finder is dead. And because the villis of Kynder, Thor-nese, Holerse and Hayfeld falsely valued the aforesaid deodand before the coroner, therefore in mercy.

It is presented by the same jurors that Roger son of Thomas son of Richard de Meluer and Robert son of Thomas son of Tyddy de Meluer stole, at Meluer, two heifers of value 20s from Thomas del Heth. Also, Jordan Jouderell and Henry Jouderell stole, at Maynstonfeld, two heifers of value 20s from Edward Stacy of Chapel del Frith.....The sheriff was ordered to capture them if etc. And the sheriff answered for them that they were not found. Therefore let them be exacted and outlawed.

Presented that William de Berdagh senior burgled the house of William Luc-sone at Boudon and plundered him of his clothes to the value of 20s..... Al- so, Adam de Tonstedes stole, at Ollerse, two heifers which were William de Ollerse's.....The sheriff was ordered to capture them if etc. And the sheriff answered for them that they were not found. Therefore let them be exacted and outlawed.

Translated from the Latin. Roger Bryant, October 1992.

The Reporter Saturday, Jan 23rd, 1892

Echoes From The Peak

To anyone who has the interests of the district at heart, it must be satisfactory to see the earnest way in which the local authorities of Hayfield, New Mills and Chapel-en-le-Frith have come to the conclusion to face the question of the pollution of the streams. Of course it will take a time before the great question of sewage disposal can be dealt with properly but the practice of depositing cinders and other solid refuse into the river can be stopped at once.

Some things never change.

Farming 1840-Style

Undoubtedly, the Industrial Revolution affected our area profoundly; but what of the Agricultural Revolution that accompanied it? In the opinion of one senior civil servant of the time it had passed by unheeded.

In 1840, when the four hamlets were being surveyed and assessed for the new tithe payments, an Assistant Commissioner, Thomas Martin, was sent to New Mills from London. One of his tasks was to report on the state of local farming. This was necessary because the amount of tithe to be levied was based on the average prices of certain agricultural products taken over a seven year period.

It is clear from his answers to the Tithe Commissioners' questionnaire, preserved in the Tithe File (PRO IR18/826) that Mr. Martin was not impressed by what he found. One question asks him to "Describe the parish and the quality of the Lands, the system of farming and whether the quantity or produce has been affected by any extraordinary instances of high or low farming." His answer is brief and scathing: "Like that of Chinley, Bugsworth & Brownside in the same parish of Glossop, the sub-soil is Gritstone, Clay, some Sand and some Coal. Like that, too, the greater part of the Land is poor, a good deal of it hilly. The best is the hamlet of Beard, & the worst that of Ollersett. The farming, so far as this means agriculture is poor, & the Climate so unfavourable that Oats only are grown. No high farming; nor is the Land changed or relieved from ploughing with any attention to regularity. Nothing seems to be known of the science of farming. Land once ploughed is usually ploughed as long as it will bear it.

Later in his report, Thomas Martin complains that the person responsible for collecting the tithes, the Vicar of Glossop, could not give an account of the tithes he had received from 1829-35, the seven years on which the assessments were supposed to be based. He could only find the receipts for 1835 and Martin had to make do with these. Tithes on turnips and potatoes had never been collected, for, as Martin explains, "the quantity is extremely small in this Township, of such miserable farming that the same fields go on to be sowed with Oats as long as they will bear any."

Ron Weston

High Lee Hall

A conveyance held in the Town Hall records the sale of High Lee Hall with fifteen and three quarters acres of land by Thomas Arnfield to the New Mills Town Council on 26th July 1937. The price was £2300 and the property was obtained by a successful bid at an auction at the Queens Arms Hotel on the evening of 14th June 1937. I am obliged to Alfred Coverley for pointing out to me that authority for making this bid is recorded in the minutes of the Town Council.

At a Special Council Meeting held at 6.30 pm on Monday 14th June 1937, i.e. half an hour before the auction was due to be held, it is recorded in the minutes that "Further consideration was given to the proposed sale of High Lee Hall Estate, and Councillor W.A.Collins moved, seconded by Councillor H.Wyatt, that the persons appointed to bid on behalf of the Council be authorised to purchase at a price not exceeding £2500. Councillor G.A.Broome-Coope moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor F.Boyle, that the persons appointed to bid on behalf of the Council be authorised to purchase at a price not exceeding £3500.

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried by 5 votes to 2."

A meeting of the Gas and Water Committee followed at 7.30 pm. During this meeting word was brought that

.. the sub-committee appointed had purchased the High Lee Hall Estate for the sum of £2300.."

NEW MILLS

ATTRACTIVE STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE
BUILDING LAND AND GROUND RENTS

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION BY MESSRS.
BRADY & SON
AT THE
QUEEN'S ARMS HOTEL, NEW MILLS
ON
MONDAY, 14th JUNE, 1937
At 7 o'clock in the evening, subject to Conditions of Sale

LOT 1 (edged Red on Plan)

High Lee Hall Estate

In the occupation of the owner, T. O. Arnfield, Esq., J.P., and comprising:-

EXCELLENT DETACHED RESIDENCE
Containing Hall with Cloakroom, Three Entrance Rooms, Kitchen, Cellars, Four Bedrooms, Dressing Room, Bathroom, Separate W.C. and Artic Bedroom.
Electric Light, Main Water and Sewerage installed.

OUTBUILDINGS including Garage, Engine House, Store, Hayshed, Span-roof Hotted Greenhouse.

The Grounds are carefully laid out, inexpensive to maintain, and include Tennis Lawns, Orchard and Kitchen Gardens, together with the land surrounding, extending to about

16 acres, 0 roods, 22 poles

Having long frontages to St. Mary's Road and High Lea Road.

The Residence is well planned and furnished, having nice sized pleasant rooms and enjoys naturally screened privacy.

Freehold and Free from Chief Rents, but subject to a Duchy Rent of £1 a year.

VACANT POSSESSION on completion.

LOT 2 (edged Blue on Plan)—THE

Five Leasehold Ground Rents

Of £3/2/6, £5/19/2, £5/1/0, £3/2/0 and £5/5/0, totalling £22/8/10 a year, reserved by leases for 999 years with the benefit of the freehold reversion out of properties in High Lea Road and Stockport Road, New Mills.

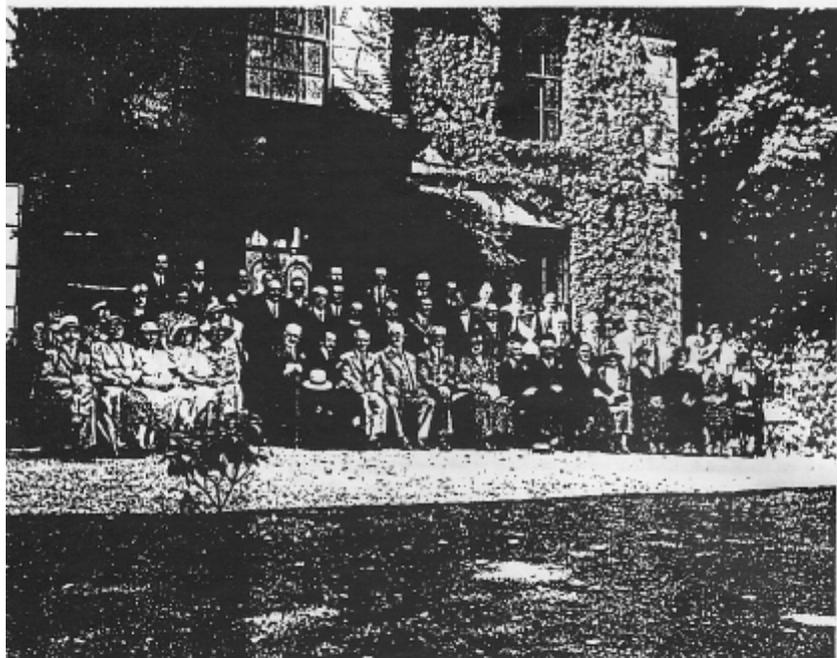
Further particulars and plans from the Auctioneers, 17, Warren Street, Stockport, or from Messrs.

JOHNSONS, DAVENPORT & KERR,
Solicitors,
Park Chambers, 4, Vernon Street, Stockport.

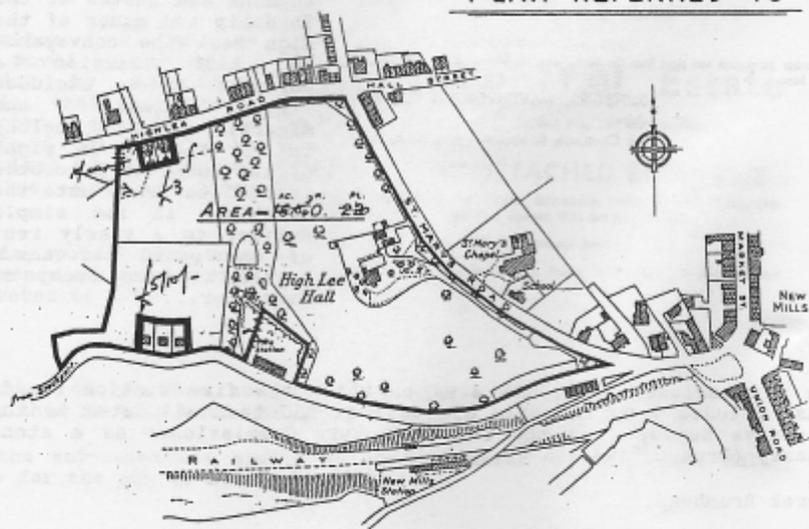
The land on which the Hall stands had been purchased first of all by Thomas Barnes, a cotton manufacturer, on 2 July 1827 from the Commissioner appointed to carry out the provisions of the Whitle Enclosure Act of 1826. It was one of several lots of land sold to defray the expenses of obtaining and carrying out the Act -see Roger Bryant's book on the 'Whitle Enclosure' (New Mills History Notes No. 3, 1983). We have not yet tracked down for certain the year in which the Hall was built but it appears to

have been built between 1831 and 1841. The land and Hall came into the possession of the Arnfield family in the 1880's. Since this land was formerly part of commons and wastes of the lordship and manor of the High Peak the conveyance of 1937 carries a covenant which excludes "the mines and minerals... which belong to His Majesty in right of the Duchy of Lancaster to hold the same unto the Purchaser in fee simple Subject to a yearly rent of One pound per annum payable to the Duchy of Lancaster...". On the enclosed plan, the land on which the fire station stands was excluded from the sale of 1937. It had been allocated to the Highways Surveyor by the 1826 Enclosure Commissioner as a stone quarry (Bryant, 1983).

Derek Brumhead.



PLAN REFERRED TO



Note - This plan is intended for reference only and although believed to be correct its accuracy is in no way guaranteed.

NOTE - Based upon (or reproduced from) the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

SCALE = $\frac{1}{2500}$.

BRADY & SON,
Auctioneers & Surveyors,
STOCKPORT.

Fernbank

Moving into an old property must inevitably prompt the new owner into thoughts of previous tenants. Who were they ? What did they do ? So it was when I moved into Fernbank in September 1989. The interest was further fuelled by comments such as - "What an interesting old house", or "We've often admired your house". Certainly, I feel privileged to live in it. So, eventually, after many months of thinking I'd do something about it, I actually did. When we bought the house, we'd been told that it was built in 1875, so I decided to start my investigations by looking at the 1881 census returns. As a complete novice at this, I was shown where to start by the librarians and was told that it would probably take some time to work through the microfilm before I found what I wanted. I was very surprised at how quickly I found my first bit of information, and subsequent searches also proved very quick. It must be beginners luck ! The librarians also showed me other information in the form of leather bound volumes of memoirs, which included early photographs. All the information that I gathered went into my red file, to be sorted at a later date, and what interesting stuff it was !

Firstly, the house was older than we supposed as a quick check on the 1871 Census revealed, but not as old as the 1861 Census. Secondly, the house was one of a pair of semi-detached 'villas' which was known in its entirety as 'Fernbank' and it is hard to see from the Census returns which house is which. Some documents relating to the sale of the houses in 1922, discovered at a Local History Society open day, revealed that they were part of the estate of the Ingham family. Both houses were occupied in 1871 by people in the calico printing trade. One household was that of James Hibbert, a famous New Mills man whose leather bound memoirs I mentioned before, the other household was that of Peter McCabe and his wife and eight children (all the children were born in Portugal !).

The 1881 Census sees one house occupied by Edward Rumsey and family, again a calico printer, and the other house by a servant- Ellen Coward. Was this the servant of James Hibbert, alone in the house on Census day ? Other bits of information have been gleaned from churches and local people, and one day I just might get around to putting it into some order.

Certainly the house is interesting, it's a fine example of Mid-Victorian middle class prosperity. We have yet to uncover a 'cartoon' of James Hibbert with a 'pince-nez' in what would have been a morning room, but recent redecoration of the dining room revealed where the bells to summon the servants used to be. The house still boasts the original doors, cornices, ceiling roses and windows, but unfortunately all the original fires have gone. In the hallway the torn wallpaper from the rewiring of the house shows the chocolate brown and deep green decoration of previous tenants.

I have yet to look at the 1891 Census returns but I know that the house was built on a site of what was known as Whittle School as some 1841 documents reveal. There is a great deal to find out and put into order, but I've been bitten by the local history bug and will (time and two young children permitting) be investigating further. Is there anyone out there with any tit-bits ?

Mary Cohen.

Ashton Reporter Oct 6th, 1888
The Derbyshire Poet

A few weeks ago Mr. Joseph Cooper of Eaves Knoll, New Mills was suddenly seized with an alarming illness and it was feared by the medical gentleman who was called in to attend to him that the veteran was about to succumb. The wonderful vitality of the constitution of which Mr. Cooper is possessed, aided by care, triumphed and within a few hours from the attack the patient had regained a good deal of his accustomed jocularly and he was enabled to partake of a whiff of his pipe. Mr. Cooper was born five years before the Battle of Waterloo was fought, and consequently is 78 years of age. The Derbyshire poet has been selected as a fitting subject to adorn the pages of the latest number of "North Country Poets" which is edited by Mr. Samuel Andrews of Hull. A short sketch of the old poet is given in the number and three of Mr. Cooper's best poems are given, namely "The Owdham Melody", "Owd Bowzer" and "Helping God to make the flowers grow". Thousands and thousands of Mr. Coopers pieces have been circulated and at temperance gatherings especially his works were never in greater demand than at present. Although bordering upon the age of four-score years, the old 'un is still wooing the muses, and during the past few days he has issued from the press two splendid pieces of composition and, with a pride that can be well understood he looks upon these as among his best efforts. On Wednesday the grand old man left his cozy cot at Eaves Knoll and came to New Mills to console with a sick friend. May his cheery face long be in our midst to gaze upon.

Kath Dent.

WEA. New Mills and Hayfield
" The Pre-History of North Derbyshire "

Tutor : Ron Weston
Duration : 10 meetings, Thursday 7.30 - 9.30 pm
Beginning : 14 January 1993
Venue : New Mills Lower School, Spring Bank
Fee : £23 (concessions, £17)

North Derbyshire is very rich in prehistoric remains and contains within its boundaries several sites and monuments of national importance, including, Cresswell Crags, Arbor Low, Stanton Moor and Mam Tor. The area is also fortunate in being well-served with comprehensive and imaginatively presented collections at Sheffield and Buxton.

During this 10 week course we will aim to combine the evening meetings with optional visits at weekends to sites and museums, with a view to unfolding the story of North Derbyshire's prehistory from the earliest times to the arrival of the Romans. In this way it will be possible for members to become actively involved in their learning though this will not preclude anyone who could not go on excursions from attending the evening classes.

ENROL at the first meeting.

CONCESSIONS : Retired people over 60 years of age.

Those in receipt of state benefits (other than unemployment benefit) but this does not include child benefit.

Full time students.

Free for the unemployed though you are asked to contribute a registration fee of £2 when you enrol on each course.

Further information: please telephone the Branch Secretary :- Ethne Bailey
0663 745177.

Publications of New Mills Local History Society
New Mills History Notes (A5 format)

No	1 New Mills in the 1820's: Part 1 (extracts from the Stockport Advertiser)	o/p
	2 New Mills in the 1820's: Part 2 (extracts from the Stockport Advertiser)	o/p
	3 Whittle Enclosure	£0.60
	4 The Mills of New Mills	0/P*
	5 New Mills (1830-35) (extracts from the Stockport Advertiser)	£0.60
	6 Railways of New Mills & District	0/P**
	7 Turnpike Roads and Riots	£2.25
	8 The Lost Mills of Rowarth	£0.60
	9 The New Mills Tithe Award (Central Area)	£1.00
	10 Deeds of New Mills and District	£0.60
	11 The Peak Forest Canal:Upper Level Towpath Guide	£3.25
	12 A History of the Providence Congregational (Independent) Church, New Mills	£0.60
	13 Memories of Strines	£0.60
	14 The Lost Chapel of Rowarth	£0.60
	15 The Coal Mines of New Mills	£1.25
	16 Bowden Middlecale-The Occupants of the Land (From Land Tax Assessments)	£0.60
	17 More Deeds of New Mills and District	£0.60
	18 New Mills 1835-39 (extracts from the Stockport Advertiser)	£0.60
	19 Three Local History Walks	£0.60
	20 New Mills Co-operative Society 1860-90	£0.90
	21 The New Mill and Some Other Corn Mills of The High Peak	£1.25
	22 The New Mills Air Raid:Friday 3 July 1942	£0.75
	23 The Peak Forest Canal:Lower Level Towpath Guide	£2.25
	24 The Living Past:New Mills People in Late Tudor and Early Stuart Times (from Probate Documents)	£2.25
*	See OP 7.	
**	Available as "Railways of New Mills and District: Their Development and Impact 1840-1902". Trans.Lancs. and Ches.Ant.Soc. Vol.86 (1990)	£1.50

Occasional Publications (A4 Format)

OP	1 Gravestone Inscriptions:St.Georges Road Methodist Cemetery	o/p
	2 New Mills and District:A Look Back	£2.75
	3 The Peak Forest Canal:Its Construction and Later Development	£3.25
	4 Church of the Annunciation, St.Mary's Catholic Church, New Mills, Graveyard Records	£1.00
	5 Ollerset in 1841:Land and People (Analysis of Census Returns and Tithe Award)	£2.95
	6 New Mills in 1851 and 1881 As Seen Through The Census Returns (Comparative Analysis of Data Using a Computer)	£2.95
	7 The Mills of New Mills (Revised and Greatly Expanded Edition of History Notes No 4)	£2.95
	8 The Enclosure of Thornsett	£2.95

For details or orders please contact Ron Weston, Editor, New Mills Local History Society, The Thorns, Laneside Road, New Mills, Stockport, Cheshire SK12 4LU