

New Mills Local History Society

Newsletter 30

LIVESLEY'S HAIR RESTORER

Removes Scurf, arrests the fall, renders the hair soft, silky and glossy; promotes its growth, darkens Grey Hairs.

Sold in Bottles, 1/- Each.

REQUISITES FOR THE TOILET.—Hair Brushes, Combs, Dressing and Tooth, Nail and Flesh Brushes, Tooth Brushes, Sponges, Skin Soaps, Toilet Oatmeal, Liquid Soap, Royal Vinolia Preparations, Oatine Preparation, Icilma Preparation.

"Alasona" Toilet Soap	2d. per Tablet.
Livesley's Skin Soap (10° Ichthyol)	6½d. per Tablet.

LIVESLEY & SONS,

NEW MILLS, HAYFIELD, and WHALEY BRIDGE.

Spring 2003

**NEW MILLS
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
COMMITTEE 2002-2003**

Chairman	RICHARD WOOD (743243)
Vice-Chairman	BARBARA MATTHEWS (743935)
Hon. Secretary	JOHN HUMPHREYS (743581)
Hon. Treasurer	JOAN POWELL (742814)
Hon. Archivist	ROGER BRYANT (744227)
Hon. Editor	RON WESTON (744838)
Ordinary members	GAYNOR ANDREW, OLIVE BOWYER, DEREK BRUMHEAD, BARRY DENT, PAT EVANS, JOHN SYMONDS.

NEW MILLS: A SELF-MADE TOWN? 13 September 2002 - Sir Martin Doughty

Martin started by making some interesting observations about the geographical position of New Mills. Many may not be aware, for instance, that the two degree West meridian passes north-south through the Town Hall, making the time (by the sun) in New Mills eight minutes later than that at Greenwich. (It also passes through Skipton and Hebden Bridge, and who knows that these towns are directly north of us?) The author Nicholas Crane passed through New Mills on his walk along this meridian from north to south and he described the town and the Torrs.

Martin reminded us that New Mills has a crisis of regional identity. Is it in the Midlands or the North West? It has a dual identity, being historically linked to the Peak District (Royal Forest) and Derbyshire, but economically and geographically linked to the Manchester region and the Pennine fringe.* For years we suffered having a Stockport post code and only in recent years has the Post Office relented and given the town and its immediate area its own postal town "High Peak" (Although I have been asked "Where is that?"). Martin complained that although it is one of the largest 20 towns in Derbyshire, people have been known to say it is near Glosop or, even, near Hayfield, and he has been forced to point out that it is the same distance from New Mills to Glosop that it is from Matlock to Chesterfield, and who would say that Matlock is 'near Chesterfield'?

In a brief historical survey of the town, which reminded us of the town's origin around a medieval corn mill called "the new mylne", Martin particularly emphasised the significance of the 1830s and 1840s. These were very turbulent times, with many out of work due to recession and a mill being burnt down. Technically, poor relief was only available to those "residing" in the workhouse at Low Leighton, yet it was far too small to accommodate all those out of work. As a result, there were disturbances in the town. Riots also resulted from the creation of turnpike roads in the mid 1830s and the imposition of tolls on roads that local people had used freely for centuries. Toll bars were physically destroyed, an example of collective action. Independence of spirit was also manifest in the strength of non-conformism (typical of the growing industrial towns), with many Methodist chapels set up in the town. Martin spent some time reading extracts from Seth Evans book on New Mills Methodism and Roger Bryant's book on turnpike roads and riots emphasising these points. He made the interesting suggestion that the road riots were an episode in the town's history which would make good material for a drama production along the lines of previous productions by High Peak Community Arts such as "Kick one and they all limp".

The growth of the town in the late nineteenth century brought about demands for a new road bridge over the river Goyt, and the controversy that this en-

gendered mirrored controversies before and since. The bridge was built and Torr Top Hall (sited near the present bus station) demolished to make way for Union Road only on the casting vote of the Chairman of the local board. The middle to late nineteenth century was a period which also resulted in the building of several handsome Victorian buildings in the town - the Town Hall (built originally by public subscription as a Public Hall), banks, halls, schools, and many Co-operative shops, of which there seemed to be one on every comer; and New Mills seems to have had more pubs and beer houses per head of population than many other places. (See the map in the Heritage Centre). But there is another side of the coin - New Mills has more terraced houses (48%) than any other local town, which emphasised the place of the cotton industry in the peoples lives. Partly as a result, the town led the way in the provision of adult education in the county. A Mechanics' Institute, evening classes in the Board School, a free library (the present Council Chamber in the Town Hall) and the first technical school in the county, which specialised in science particularly chemistry as befits a town important for calico printworks. This certainly illustrated Martin's thesis of a "self-made town". It still keeps this self-made character - for instance, out of about 80 shops there are only three belonging to a national grouping and two of those are from the same organisation in competition with each other.

Martin finished with a review of the town's more recent achievements. There is a lot going for the town and its region and many people are coming to live here. We have two regular festivals, a carnival, excellent sport clubs, a heritage centre, the Torrs gorge - "the park under the town" - the Millennium Walkway, two brass bands including the oldest in the country, High Lee Hall and Park owned by the town, and a superb conservation area which has resulted in many fine improvements to rundown buildings. There is a new handsome look about the town centre, which may, or may not, be enhanced by the building of a new magistrates' court next to the Town Hall. The controversy over this building surely reflects the historic independence of spirit and collective action of the townspeople that Martin had partly made the thesis of his talk. It was disappointing therefore that he should, at the end, take the opportunity of criticising the objectors for opposing what he called one of the biggest public investments to come to the town. As he well knows, the objectors did not object to the placing of such a building in New Mills; only it's proposed site.

* Melanie Tebbutt has written a scholarly essay about this: "In the Midlands but not of them": Derbyshire's Dark Peak - an imagined northern landscape' in *Northern Identities*, edited by Neville Kirk, (Ashgate, 2000).

Derek Brumhead

Do's and Don'ts of Oral History

11th October 2002 - Melanie Tebbutt

The past, as it is remembered by the people of a community, is an important aspect of local and family history. It may be retrieved by recording and transcribing oral reminiscences. This was Melanie's subject; one of great relevance to a local history society such as ours. She began by giving us an indication of the range of topics to which oral history has contributed: the individual's experience of everyday life in a particular locality; the perspective of ordinary people on important national events, such as a declaration of war or a general strike. Oral history can bring life and meaning to dry, statistical evidence -what does it mean to have 60% unemployed? The collection of oral evidence might be the only means of acquiring knowledge of minority communities such as poor immigrants or religious groups.

Oral history is a method used by academic historians as well as ama-

teurs like ourselves. Melanie mentioned particularly a pioneering survey of the 1980s in Bolton where "mass-observation" was employed, in which photographs were taken as well as oral evidence collected.

Melanie gave the members of the audience two sample transcriptions taken from recordings of two women living in New Mills, one born in the 1920s, the other in 1890. The description by the former of the local "monkey run" gave rise to some spontaneous reminiscences amongst the more elderly members of our audience.

Melanie concluded her excellent and informative talk by giving us some invaluable tips drawn from her own experience of recording oral accounts. It is to be hoped that the Society can put her advice to good effect in the future.

Ron Weston

**OLDEST IN THE WORLD;
LIVERPOOL ROAD STATION, MANCHESTER
8 November 2002 - David George**

The opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway on 15 September 1830 marked the beginning of a new era in transport. It was as revolutionary as the opening of the Bridgewater Canal almost seventy years earlier and, remarkably, the Manchester termini of both were built on “greenfield” sites within two hundred yards of each other at Castlefield. The railway terminus was marked by the construction of what has been claimed as the first passenger railway station in the world, and David George's talk first considered how it came about that it was located alongside what is now Liverpool Road. The railway crossed the adjacent river Irwell at a height sufficient to allow the sailing barges to pass underneath, and consequently, the railway on the Manchester side of the river was not at ground level. Passengers on entering the station on Liverpool Road had to climb up stairs to reach the trains on the first floor. In doing so, they passed beneath a sundial above the First Class entrance. Clocks, of course, were still not a common feature, but attempting to time trains by a sundial in a smog-ridden Manchester must have been tricky. (One could not help thinking, however, that this would be quite suitable for present day train services?).

The station remains with us to this day only because passenger services were removed from it in 1844 when Victoria Station was opened. The building was then used until 1975 as a goods depot.

When it closed, by which time the site had been extended with four additional warehouses, it was in a parlous state and only the intervention of interested parties saved it from demolition. Amazingly, the whole site was sold by British Rail to the Greater Manchester Council for £1 and became the new home of the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. The transformation from dereliction to one of the great museums in the country is truly astonishing, and David's series of “then and now” slides, along with his authoritative commentary, was very effective

David spent some time in describing the layout and various buildings on the site, together with the chronology of construction and changes covering the years 1830 to about 1880. Having described the layout of the passenger building, with its separate First and Second Class entrances, he then described the various warehouses, particularly the amazing 1830 warehouse, built on a curve following the railway line, and built at break-neck speed in four months. Since it was virtually the first railway warehouse to be built anywhere, its design followed that of a canal warehouse. Wagons were moved using capstans and turned on small turntables, before being pushed or pulled into the warehouse, which was divided into compartments. Part of this warehouse today houses the Electricity Gallery of the museum. Another warehouse, which now houses the entrance and main body of the museum, was built

in the 1880s for the Great Western Railway. Those who might wonder what the GWR was doing here in Manchester, should bear in mind that the letters were said to reflect not “God’s Wonderful Railway”, but the “Great Way Round”! David has now given several talks to the Society on a number of industrial history

themes associated with Manchester. We have come to appreciate his detailed knowledge of all his subjects and the lucid way in which he present his talks.

Derek Brumhead

ELIZABETH GASKELL'S MANCHESTER

13th December 2002 - Janet Allan

With the aid of slides showing some of the more important nineteenth century buildings of Manchester, together with some that are less well-known and which have largely disappeared, Janet Allan gave a vivid and informative presentation of the city as it was around 1850 - the city that Elizabeth Gaskell knew. Janet also made much use of the first edition Ordnance Survey map of Manchester that dates from that time; but her most evocative resource for recreating a portrait of the city was Elizabeth Gaskell's own words, which Janet quoted from both novels and letters.

Mid-nineteenth century Manchester presented two faces to the celebrated author: a vibrant industrial and commercial city supporting all that was good and progressive in the Arts, Politics and Religion, contrasting with a city of poverty, misery and squalor and some of the worst slums of the Industrial Age. Elizabeth Gaskell was preoccupied with both.

Born in Chelsea in 1810, and orphaned as a child, Elizabeth went to live in Knutsford, where she was brought up by her aunt. The family was Unitarian in

religion and Elizabeth married a Unitarian minister, William Gaskell, whose chapel in Cross Street became a well-known focus for some of the most illustrious scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs of the day. Elizabeth was also in correspondence with famous artists and musicians as well as literary figures of the calibre of Dickens and Thackeray. Her letters are full of descriptions of concerts, plays, meetings with famous visitors to the city and all that a lively and liberal-minded woman of the period would discern. This included the appalling condition of the city's poor and how it might be alleviated. Her letters reveal that she sometimes had difficulty in reconciling her own privileged life with the miserable existence of others and this is expressed in some of her fiction, especially her novel "Mary Barton".

Janet's talk and the small exhibition of photographs and maps that she brought along were much appreciated and elicited several interesting questions from our audience.

Ron Weston

The Local Historian

Volume 32 (2), May 2002 has been placed in New Mills Library and includes the following articles:

Carrie Smith, 'Continuity and change: the future of the Victoria History of the counties of England'.

Peter Lucas, 'Elementary head teacher and the inter-war entrepreneur: the case of Barbara Benson'.

Spencer Thomas, 'Power, paternalism and philanthropy: the Wyndhams and the new poor law in Petworth'.

Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms, 'The Irish in Kilburn: myth and reality.'

Mary Presland, 'A historian and his community: an appreciation of Theo Barker, 1923-2001'.

Reviews: The historic parishes of England and Wales: Coastal and river trade in pre-industrial England: The archaeology of the canal warehouse: Liverpool Park estates: The diary of Thomas Giordani Wright.

NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY; AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING...

In the Spring of 1982 posters appeared dotted about the town inviting anyone who was interested in Local History to attend a meeting at the Youth Centre on 24 May, the intention, if sufficient interest was shown, being to form a Local History Society.

I had moved to New Mills about 4½ years before, but, though I was reasonably well acquainted with the history of Marple, where I had spent most of my life, I knew virtually nothing about New Mills, a mere 3 miles or thereabouts down the road.

And so I went to the meeting which was held under the auspices of the Civic Amenity Society, of which the new group was to be a sub-section.

At that meeting, after preliminary explanations had been dealt with, volunteers were asked to form a committee, which then held its first meeting. Obviously funds would be needed, so a quick whip round the new committee raised £13.75, members contributing their small change. Officers were quickly elected; Brenda Portman (Wise), Treasurer of the Civic Amenity Society, agreed to be Treasurer, but said she would not be able to attend every meeting; Roger Bryant was to be Secretary and I was to be Assistant Secretary, though I don't remember doing much assist-

ing! Marjorie Ward offered to be Archivist, and if necessary an assistant would be appointed, and Jenny Popplewell would attend to publicity and produce posters to announce forthcoming events.

A discussion about subscriptions brought forth several suggestions;

1) A nominal 50p or £1 for members of the Civic Amenity Society, and £1 for others.

2) A separate sub, 50p for CAS members, £1 for others.

3) £2.50 - £2 for the LHS and 50p for the CAS.

4) £1 to join and pay admission to meetings.

John Belton proposed that it should be put to the meeting, and the third alternative was chosen, with the proviso that non-members could pay at the door, with a half-price concession for students, the unemployed and pensioners. Insurance would be sorted out with the CAS. The committee was to consist of the officers plus half a dozen ordinary members. (Alan Ruff and Angie Forshaw were two of the members then, and others whose names I didn't know.) One member of the LHS committee would attend meetings of the CAS committee and vice versa. An AGM would be held at Easter time.

It was proposed that we should carry out a survey of St George's Methodist graveyard. Those interested were to meet at the entrance the following Sunday, bringing if possible a spade and a long screwdriver. An outdoor meeting was arranged for 21 June; a 2 hour walk round the Torrs, led by John Symonds, commencing at 7.30 and entitled 'An Evening in the Torrs'. It would be an open meeting and would be advertised in the 'Buxton Times'.

We started to plan an Autumn programme. Suggestions for meetings were

- 1) A film about Ludworth coal mine
- 2) A talk on Rowarth by Mrs Eileen Miller
- 3) Contact with Manchester Studies Group at the Polytechnic
- 4) John Humphreys said that the WEA could provide tutors and accommodation for 10 week courses, e.g. on Family History
- 5) A farmhouse survey
- 6) A talk: on stained-glass-windows by Mr Willford of Mellor.

Meetings would be held every month or 2 months with workshops in between. Someone said that there was a man called Brumhead who was interested in railways and who lived on Falcon Close; perhaps he might join the society.

The evening in the Torrs took place and was a great success. We looked

at the Chain Horse House and John explained its purpose, the site of Torr Mill, Church Road Bridge, the site of Rock Mill and its cottages, which were built right up to the rock face, and at Torr Vale Mill. Although the Torrs had been reopened several years before it was not so well used as it is today, and comparatively few people knew much about it, so the walk aroused a great deal of interest. A collection was taken which raised £7.16.

The committee held its second meeting on 6 September. Meetings were usually held at Roger Bryant's house and often went on well after midnight. It was reported that Miss Joan Sinar, Archivist for Derbyshire County Council, wanted a copy of anything we did. Ron Weston's students at St John's College of Further Education, Manchester, had listed about a dozen articles in the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal which referred to the history of New Mills. They would research similar publications in Lancashire and Cheshire, New Mills School have copies of the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses. There is a tithe map at Matlock, which photographs well. It was decided that we needed large-scale maps of the present built-up area of New Mills from the OS. They cost just over £1 each, and we agreed to spend £10 on them. The Town Council had given us the free use of the Library Lecture

Room and our first indoor meeting was to be held on Tuesday 28 September when Mrs. E. W. Miller would give a talk on Rowarth, with slides. This would be followed on Tuesday 30 November by a talk entitled 'History from Memory' given by Dermot Healey of the Manchester Studies Unit of Manchester Polytechnic. This would be a talk with tape recordings.

County records were known to include title deeds from 1339 onwards, which could be photocopied. There was also a tithe map measuring 4 yds x 2 yds. It was suggested that we set up a group to see what else is available and list it - perhaps Ron Weston would organise this, and maybe Derek Brumhead would do a survey on transport in New Mills. Mill records were another source of information. We should draw up a list of sources, perhaps at an open meeting. Marjorie Ward was asked to start a workshop evening in the autumn. Maybe Eric Evans would give a talk on Family Connections, perhaps in 2 years' time. We had been given a photograph by John Hemsworth, but needed a note of who owned the original and on what terms it was given.

A 'Bring and Look' evening was suggested, and perhaps a talk on the Bottle Factory. Meetings should be held towards the end of September

and beginning of November, with one in between organised by ourselves.

The CAS had now suggested one membership fee of £2 to go into a common fund to cover things of general interest and insurance. This would give the Local History Group Charity status. Or there could be 2 separate funds, one for the project group and one for the Local History Group, with separate account books. We should need to hold fund-raising events. There should be joint bimonthly events on a Tuesday night. The title of the organisation would be the Civic Amenity Society and Local History Group and there would be a logo for common publicity subject to ratification at the AGM. The CAS would make our £13.75 (collected at the first committee meeting) up to £50. The offer was noted with thanks. Geoff Driver would produce posters for the 28 September meeting and Brenda Portman would be Membership Treasurer. My job as Assistant Secretary was to write to the speaker and confirm the booking and to see that a projector was available. John Belton could lend this. I must ask whether the talk could be taped for members who were unable to be present. Marjorie Ward or John Belton would arrange the taping. John Belton would chair the September meeting. The talk

should last an hour, followed by questions and a cup of tea.

We considered fund-raising. It was mentioned that there were no post-cards of New Mills. Could we find someone to produce some?

The work on the graveyard would continue on 3, 10 and 17 October, and a fourth week if necessary. This would be announced on 28 September. A series of fortnightly workshop meetings on the 1881 census was planned, avoiding the week when the Tuesday meeting was held. Various venues were suggested: the Youth Centre, the Town Hall, Sett Valley House or New Mills School. In the event the school was chosen and either Monday 11 October or Thursday 14 was chosen for the first one. A show of hands on 28 September would show how many people were interested.

The third committee meeting was held on 14 January 1983. Topics discussed included taping the memories of older residents - who would pay for the tapes for recording oral history? The cost might amount to £100. An outdoor activity should be planned, possibly a visit to Rowarth as a follow-up to Eileen Miller's talk, or another tour of the Torrs. Perhaps a walk led by Derek Brumhead, or a walk on the canal? We must avoid the last Tuesday in the month when CAS meetings take place. John Humphreys was to chair the Febru-

ary meeting and there would be a collection.

Various matters were reported:

- 1) A meeting re. the centenary of 1884 had been badly attended
- 2) Martin Doughty wants a new foot-bridge above the confluence of the Goyt and the Sett with a path up the old sluice run and into the coalyard
- 3) It was the 150th anniversary of the Royal Ancient Order of Foresters and they want to combine with us to have a market stall. An event would be held in the Art Theatre each night with an opener. There would be commemorative pottery.

The question of money was a matter for concern. Could we produce books or photographs?, 30pp A4 or 50pp A3 seemed appropriate sizes. We should get a print of the micro-film 'John Owen on the Graveyard'. There was a record of 157 graves there in 1881. Records of Bethel Chapel, Hayfield, cost £20.91. So far we had spent about £10, £3.68 of it on maps and photocopying. Membership money is for insurance and publicity. We should have a Coffee Morning at Sett Valley House in 1984. Other fund-raising ideas were Christmas cards of New Mills, post-cards or a raffle. John Humphreys was willing to act as Treasurer until the AGM. We might need to use the £50 offered by CAS. It was asked how much could be taken out of the subscription account?

A constitution must be formulated in association with CAS. There would be overlapping interests but should we be a separate entity, with either a loose liaison or a close liaison with CAS? Both had advantages and disadvantages.

It was asked if the Drunkard's Reform was for sale? And what about High Lea House? That might become a resource centre and/or a museum and/or a meeting place.

****** IS NOW...**

At the first AGM in 1983 it was decided to sever the connection with the Civic Amenity Society and become a society in our own right. This would give us freedom to pursue the interests of local history, without having to consult some other group. Some of the CAS members who were with us at the outset had already drifted away from the new group and others had come along who had never been part of CAS and had no wish to join it, as their interest was solely in local history.

One problem was the lack of funds, till Roger Bryant had the idea of writing booklets on the history of New Mills. These were typewritten and duplicated, 16 - 20 pp each, and they sold for 20p or 30p. Then John Symonds produced a 40pp book containing detailed records of the mills of New Mills, followed by a further brief history of New Mills in the early 1830s by Ron Weston and

a book on railways by Derek Brumhead. Then Roger wrote 'Turnpike Roads and Riots' and Eileen Miller produced a book on Rowarth. It was suggested that all committee members might contribute a book on whatever aspect of the history of New Mills interested them. I was horrified, and protested that I knew nothing about New Mills. "You know something about the canal," said John Symonds. "Not enough," I replied. "You could read it up. There are books," John pointed out. So I had no excuse. I read every relevant book I could find, and walked miles backwards and forwards along the towpaths taking copious notes. Eventually I had far too much material for one book and it was suggested that I confined myself to a towpath guide to the Upper Level of the Peak Forest Canal. When it became apparent that this was going to sell I wrote the history of the canal, but the society said firmly that no-one in New Mills would buy a book about the Lower Level, so the third book came years later when our books were selling further afield.

By 1984 it became apparent that our method of producing 'New Mills History Notes' (as they came to be called) was not really satisfactory, so as an experiment we had Roger's 'Turnpike Roads and Riots' (No 7) professionally printed by Evans of the Kinder Press. We were delighted

with the results, but costs spiralled and the price put on it was £2.25, a huge increase which seemed astronomical and we wondered if anyone would buy it. But they did! As time went on more and more people contributed books on their favourite topics, and the total number of LHS publications is now over 40, some of which are out of print, but the more popular ones have been reprinted when funds allowed. Our first big venture was 'A Look Back at New Mills', published in 1987, a selection from the thousands of photographs the society holds which were chosen by Roger Bryant and John Symonds. We thought long and hard about this; the production costs would be enormous, but the promise of an interest-free loan from New Mills Town Council made it possible. We arranged a 'launch' at the Town Hall, but copies of the book only arrived from the printer just in time, and a quick check showed that 300 of them had faults in the printing of one or more photographs which made them unsaleable. The printer had to replace these, and rather than throw away the faulty copies we gave them to local schools, as many only had one or two imperfect pictures. The launch was a great success, and the book sold so well that by the time the printer's invoice came a few weeks later the society was able to pay it without recourse to the projected

council loan. Under Ron Weston's able editorship the publications side of the society's work has thrived and has helped to finance a number of projects.

Very soon Society meetings became monthly fixtures on the second Friday in the month from September to May, with a variety of speakers from our own membership and from outside. We continued to meet at the library Lecture Room, but after some years it became apparent that the room was too small, notably when a talk on railways by Derek Brumhead packed in 96 people, and many more were turned away, so that we had to put on a repeat some months later. Eventually we moved to Sett Valley House, our present venue.

During the summer months the Society has put on walks with a historical content and a day trip further afield - this was sometimes to see a place about which we had had a talk during the winter. In recent years we have also had a winter evening trip. We have held exhibitions and participated in those of other organisations, published another 'Look Back' and a third is in preparation (*editors note, now published as "New Mills - A Century of Change"*) and held fund raising coffee mornings. Members have surveyed several graveyards, listing the inscriptions on the graves. The Society has provided tutors for a number of evening courses run by

the WEA or the local authority. Some years ago we started taping the memories of older residents, and this is to be taken up again in Autumn 2002. When the Heritage Centre was in the planning stages LHS committee members went along with town councillors to view the proposed premises, and several were involved in the production of the information boards and the model of the town. One of our long-standing members, Derek Brumhead, is the Administrator, and Roger Bryant was the first archivist, a position now held by John Humphreys. Several LHS members serve on the Management Committee, and others are to be found among the volunteers who run the centre, so the two organisations are closely linked. We take an interest in virtually anything which affects New Mills, and the Society was represented at the meetings of the Torr Vale Mill Regeneration Group. It will be apparent that the scope of the Society's interests and activities has widened considerably over the years.

*** * AND EVER SHALL BE? ? ?**

Of the present Local History Society Committee, 5 have served on it from the very first meeting and another for almost as long. This has been an advantage in that it has ensured continuity in our aims and objects. But we are now 20 years older than when the society was formed, and we can-

not go on for ever. We think we have a good organisation, which is working well and fulfilling the purpose for which it was formed. For many years the membership has been maintained around the 70-80 mark, though, as is inevitable in any group, people come and go. We have always had many loyal members who enjoy coming to the meetings and participating in other things which are arranged, but who do not wish to share in the organisation or the administrative side. But any organisation that stands still will stagnate and die; we have to move with the times and be ready to accept new challenges. We need new blood; particularly we need younger committee members, who will work alongside the existing members and learn from their experience and so be ready to take over and carry on when the older members are no longer there, to take the New Mills Local History Society into the 21st century. What about you? Could you do this? Would you like to find out more? Just talk to any committee member: - their names are listed in the newsletter.

24 May 2003 will be our 21st birthday. It would be good if someone could write a history of New Mills Local History Society. The records are available - how about it?

Olive Bonnyer

19 August 2002

SPRING PROGRAMME 2003

All meetings are held in Sett Valley House, starting at 7.45 p.m.
Visitors are welcome.

Friday
January 10

“Crichton Porteous, Prose Poet of Peakland”
ROBIN ALLAN

Friday
February 14

**“17th Century Enclosures of the
Commons & Wastes of Bowden Middlecale”**
DEREK BRUMHEAD and RON WESTON

Friday
March 14

**“Early Textiles in the Manchester Region,
1570-1650”**
DIANA WINTERBOTHAM

Friday
April 11

“Victorian Buxton, An Indoor Walk”
Dr. MIKE LANGHAM

Friday
May 9

A.G.M.
followed by
**“The Archaeology of the 16th and 17th Century
Manor House”**
Dr. MIKE NEVELL
