

New Mills Local History Society NEWSLETTER

Issue 53, Autumn 2014



Meetings 2014

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.

N.B. The Festival Lecture on Monday, September 22 starts at 7:30pm.

Friday Sept. 12	Methodism in New Mills	Alan Rose
Monday Sept. 22	New Mills Festival Lecture: The Electricity Supply of New Mills	Derek Brumhead
Friday Oct 10	Revealing Oldknow's legacy: Mellor Mill and the Peak Forest Canal, Marple	Bob Humphrey- Taylor
Friday Nov 14	James Brindley: Millwright and Canal Engineer	John Doughty
Friday Dec 12	The 75th Anniversary of the Bells of the New Mills Town Hall Clock	Paul Miller

Committee 2014-2015

Chairperson	Barbara Done (742617)
Vice-chairperson	Gaynor Andrew (743117)
Hon. Secretary	John Humphreys (743581)
Hon. Treasurer	Maureen Hall (742837)
Hon. Archivist	Roger Bryant (744227)
Hon. Editor	Ron Weston (744838)
Website manager	Barry Dent (745837)
Ordinary members	Derek Brumhead, Nicki Burgess, John Crummett, Peter Done, Pat Evans

*www.newmillshistory.org.uk
www.picturenewmills.org.uk*

The Mersey-Irwell Navigation in Manchester and Salford

David George (10th January 2014)

Rivers in urban areas were frequently much-abused. All too often they became open sewers, with toxic effluents discharged from bankside factories destroying all prospect of life. Such rivers are often hidden away in culverts or screened behind high walls as if shameful to behold. Only in recent years have some of them been rediscovered, restored and rehabilitated as honourable and welcome components of the built-up landscape. The river Irwell is a case in point.

The Industrial Archaeologist David George has an unrivalled knowledge of Greater Manchester's industrial heritage. In this well-illustrated talk he gave us a detailed and authoritative account of the surviving remains of the Irwell Navigation from Salford Quays to Manchester Cathedral.

The river Mersey was originally navigable only as far as Warrington. During the early eighteenth century, Manchester merchants invested in improving the navigability of the river by dredging and cutting through some of the meanders by digging deep-water channels. Sailing vessels, known as flats, were employed to transport goods between Manchester and the port of Liverpool. Such vessels were capable of carrying loads weighing up to 50 tons. From the 1830s onwards, steam powered vessels replaced the sailing ships. The trade finally came to an end with the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal in the 1890s.

The way into Manchester was facilitated by the river Irwell, a major tributary of the Mersey, which parts Manchester and Salford. Today, the turning basin of the Manchester Ship Canal at the Trafford Road swing bridge, divides the old Irwell Navigation from the Ship Canal docks. This was the starting point of David's pictorial survey. We were taken up-river, passing the historic railway bridges at Liverpool Road and the old Salford barge dock from which, we were informed, night soil was carried and dumped on Barton Moss.

There were docks, warehouses, quays and workshops all along Water Street, together with the headquarters of the Mersey-Irwell Navigation Company. The so-called Manchester First Quay had been constructed at Quay Street (the car park of the Granada building) by Edward Byrom as early as 1735. Timber and foodstuffs were the main cargoes then - raw cotton came later.

In the 1840s, barges were able to go even further upstream in to the city centre when the Bridgewater Canal company bought up the Mersey-Irwell Navigation and linked up with the Rochdale Canal. By dredging the river it became possible in the 1860s for vessels carrying up to 150 tons to reach a transshipment point at Victoria station. Near Albert Bridge, is an old pub, The Mark Addy, standing on the Salford bank of the Irwell. From here a steam

packet left the landing stage carrying passengers to Runcorn, where a change could be made to a boat to Liverpool.

The journey from Albert Bridge to the Cathedral took us past the site of the old Salford Quays, reminding us that the Navigation benefitted Salford as well as Manchester. This site is now occupied by the New Lowry Hotel.

Our trip terminated at Blackfriars Bridge with David's old photo of the landing stage in Victoria Street. The landing stage was the starting point for pleasure trips in the late nineteenth century. Steam vessels took passengers down to the salubrious Pomona Pleasure Gardens, which were eventually transformed into the more-prosaic Pomona Dock.

One may venture the entire length of the reclaimed river Irwell. It is a short distance, made pleasant by modern landscaping and restoration, but, as David George so ably illustrated, a walk still redolent of the past.

Ron Weston.

Coal Mining Around Poynton **David Kitching (14 February 2014)**

The rural aspect of Poynton and its surrounding countryside makes it very difficult to realise that it was an important coal mining region up to the mid-1930s.

The village is situated on the Coal Measures running down from north-east Manchester towards the North Staffordshire coalfield. A fault known as the Red Rock Fault runs north to south along the western edge of the Pennines with a westerly downthrow of at least 600 feet. West of this fault workable coal is below 2000 feet in depth and consequently no mining took place in this area. East of the Fault there are 11 main seams varying in thickness between 1 ft.6ins to 6ft. (In contrast we can note that in the New Mills area there are only two seams that were worked one 3 ft thick (the 'Yard') and the other 1 ft 6 ins.) The earliest coal mining to be found is a lease dated 28 February 1589 which includes "Coal pit at Wourthe lately occupied by George Finche" Twenty three years later we read of rentals received by Roger Downes of Shrigley for "the new Coalepitt and Coalemynes" in Worth. By this time the workings had probably developed beyond the stage of bell pits working the coal right at the outcrop and had become mines with workings away from the shaft bottom for twenty or thirty yards in all directions.

The advent of the steam or, more correctly, atmospheric engine early in the eighteenth century, provided the technology to enable deeper, wetter pits to be

worked. Atmospheric or 'Fire' Engines were introduced at mines all over the country at a surprisingly rapid rate and although Poynton and Norbury were not amongst the first to do so the new technology was soon adopted. A great change took place in the area in the middle years of the century with deeper pits and larger outputs.

The operation of the Poynton collieries was eventually taken over in its entirety by Lord Vernon. There were eventually over twelve pits working. Output rose after the opening of the Macclesfield Canal from 86,514 tons in 1831 to 237,000 tons in 1846. The canal provided cheap transport to the markets in Macclesfield, Marple and Bollington but the main market of Stockport still had to be supplied by cart, a problem which was somewhat eased by the introduction of tramways linking the pits to the main road. At the height of working 450 men and 150 boys were employed.

Coal production declined in the early years of the twentieth with production falling to only 91,286 tons in 1921 when there was a long strike, and 80,146 tons in the year of the general strike. The 1926 strike lasted for 17 weeks in Poynton and the men went back to work after Lord Vernon explained that the Collieries would otherwise be closed due to the cost of pumping. During this period of decline the colliery management underwent considerable change. Lord Vernon relinquished complete control of the pits and Poynton Collieries Ltd. was formed.

The final closure came on Friday, 30 August 1935 when some 250 men were made redundant. Work for about 80 men was offered at a colliery in Kent but very few took up the opportunity. Fortunately jobs were available for some at A.V. Roe's factory at Woodford and several schemes including road work for the County Council helped to reduce the impact of the closure. The output of coal in the last eight months was 41,090 tons with a value of £25,267. Some men were kept on for a while to assist with the removal of scrap material from below ground but the cost of pumping was such that much cable, rail etc., was left down the pits.

Within two weeks of pumping ceasing the water had risen to within a few feet of the top of the shafts and the workings were abandoned for good. All the surface plant was scrapped during the next year leaving just the shells of engine houses etc, spoil heaps and the shafts as reminders of Poynton's main industry for some 150 years. In the following years nearly all the buildings have been demolished, leaving only the Lady Pit winding engine house and capstan house to remind us of the Collieries. The most obvious reminders of the industry are the spoil heaps or 'dirt rucks' as they are known locally and the terraces of former miners' houses with their attractive gardens, very desirable properties today.

Throughout the talk members were treated to a magnificent series of old photographs depicting the working years of the coal field – pits, winding steam engines, tramways, spoil heaps - which David has assembled over the many years of his research, manifest in his book on the Poynton Collieries, *Poynton A Coalmining Village; social history, transport and industry 1700 - 1939*, by W.H.Shercliff, D.A.Kitching and J.M.Ryan, and his outstanding website. He is one of the leading coal mining historians of our region and that was very evident from his talk.

Derek Brumhead

The Forest of the Peak, Derek Alsop (14th March, 2014)

The king's Forest of the High Peak was defined in medieval times as follows:

“The metes and bounds of the Forest of the Peak begin on the south of the new place of Goyt and then of the waters of the Goyt as far as the Etherow and so of the waters of the Etherow as far as Landscliff at Longendale; then by a footpath to the head of the Derwent and then to Mitham Bridge to the rivulet of Bradwell and then to Hucklow and the great dell of Hazelbachs; from there to Little Hucklow and then to the brook of Tideswell and so to the waters of the Wye ascending to Buxton and so to the new place of Goyt.”

Derek Alsop began his illustrated talk by quoting this information, which appears in a small volume published in 1966 by Peak Park Planning Board: “The Royal Forest of the Peak”, by I.E. Burton. Derek conceived the idea of walking the watery boundaries of the ancient forest, recording on camera as much as he could of the landscape he encountered. This task took several months.

He began at the head of the river Goyt, which rises on the high moors near the Cat and Fiddle, following the river downstream, through Fernilee and Taxal, Whaley Bridge, New Mills, Strines, Roman Lakes, Marple Bridge and Compstall, where Derek turned onto the Etherow and followed it upstream. This first leg of the route was comparatively straightforward and Derek was able to follow the river quite closely. He photographed mills, reservoirs, bridges, farms and other properties on the way, as well as fine views of the local scenery familiar to his audience.

The Etherow proved more difficult, particularly in the Glossop area. Derek showed views of the site of the Roman fort at Melandra, the many reservoirs associated with the Etherow and its tributaries and the electrified railway line to Manchester, one of the earliest in the country.

Following the string of early reservoirs through the Longdendale valley, Derek reached the head of the river Derwent, traversing the high ground of that beautiful area until he reached the reservoirs held behind the Derwent Dams, culminating in that of Ladybower.

The ancient boundary of the Forest of Peak then follows smaller, sometimes quite insignificant, streams, such as Bradwell brook and the small stream that gave Tideswell its early water supply. A walk down Tideswell Dale, whose limestone stream is discontinuous in summer, led to the river Wye in Miller's Dale, through the dramatic limestone gorges of Chee Dale then following the river upstream on its route close to the A6 and Buxton. The Wye is easily followed through Pavilion Gardens and Burnage and up to its source, close to where Derek's walk began.

It was for us a pleasant "armchair walk" of an hour or so over familiar ground. For Derek Alsop, it was the real thing: a much more formidable undertaking.

Ron Weston.

Exploring ordinary lives in early-modern Cheshire, Dr. Paul Booth (11th April, 2014)

Dr. Booth has been researching the Quarter Sessions records of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries at Chester and found a rich vein of human interest in many of the cases that came up before the bench at that time. As he remarked in the preamble to his interesting talk, there is endless scope in local history for story-telling. He then proceeded to recount some of those he had found.

In 1575 the Clerk of the Peace at Chester assizes received a letter attesting the good character of one Richard Newcombe, a glover from Chapel-en-le Frith, signed by twenty people, some of them gentry. "Signed" is, however something of an exaggeration. Some of Richard Newcombe's supporters, including some of the gentlemen, were unable to sign their names. One wonders how genuine that list of alleged supporters was.

"Masterless men": vagrants, vagabonds, pedlars without a licence, old soldiers, honest men looking for work, wandering the countryside in large numbers, were perceived as a great threat to law and order in Elizabethan times. The government tried to clamp down. JPs were ordered to move them on with the injunction to return to their place of origin. Inevitably, many of these itinerants fell into the hands of the law.

A typical case was that of John Brady, arrested by constables at Ness in 1577, for being a vagabond who indulged in brawling and lewd behaviour. Brady

gives the court an account of his past history: born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he spent his working life to the age of sixty as a collier. Too old to work, he became a wandering beggar, playing his fiddle for a living.

These were superstitious times. In 1613, a case came before the court concerning getting a wife by witchcraft. This involved all sorts of diabolical shinanigans in Peover churchyard at night. When the ceremony reached the point where the dead were about to be conjured out of the grave, the victim of the scam wisely refused to go any further.

Religious dissidents, both Catholics and Puritans, led precarious lives. In 1603, at a meeting of JPs, it was decided to have a purge on objects that might be looked on as idolatrous: maypoles, wayside crosses, papist statues, wall paintings and stained glass still surviving in parish churches. As in Soviet Russia, neighbours were encouraged to spy on and inform on one another and report any unorthodox views whether religious or political. In 1593, for example, a man from Heaton Chapel was reported for criticising the queen for being "not as good as a man".

Paul Booth's selection of a wide variety of cases enabled him to present a vivid picture of life in Elizabethan and Jacobean society for those of the underclass on the margins of existence. We in the audience were inspired to ask many questions, for "the poor are always with us" and the problem of how to deal with them has yet to be solved.

Ron Weston.

Life at Aspenshaw Hall in the 1830s Ron Weston (9th May 2014)

In 2010 at an auction of the effects of the late Eric Evans (grandson of Seth Evans, author of 'New Mills Wesleyanism'), the Society purchased the original New Mills Circuit minute books dating back to the 1760s, perhaps the oldest surviving minute books of their kind. Thrown into the box with them was a wonderful extra, a unique estate account book dating from 1829-43, the work of John Taylor, agent and accountant to George William Newton of Aspenshaw Hall and Ollersett Hall. Newton was a local squire, a minor member of the gentry, a Justice of the Peace, leading the life of a country gentleman who in the first three decades of the nineteenth century quickly and recklessly squandered his heritage, mortgaging his properties to finance not only the traditional activities of agriculture and woodland management but also his coal mines, building the Ollersett Waterworks (which supplied his farms and the town), and attempting to create a hunting reserve at Ollersett which he

surrounded with high stone walls, still a dramatic feature of the local landscape today.

Ron, who is the society's editor, described Newton's extraordinary life within the context of the account book in a fascinating talk based on his study of the accounts for Aspenshaw, which was supported by his book launched at the same time. Many of the domestic servants, estate workers and tradesmen are local people mentioned by name in the accounts, and Ron used the details to provide an unusual insight into their working lives. In doing so he names over twenty workers. He illustrated the income and expenditure for several months in 1834 which provided the raw material of the farming, horticulture, forestry, brick manufacture and coal mining economy and management. Account books are commonly preserved for the great estates but for one surviving for small estates such as Aspenshaw and Ollersett is unique.

Ron quite rightly found time to talk of John Taylor, a remarkably young, able land agent, accountant and surveyor who also worked in our area as Enclosure Commissioner for Whitle in 1828, was auditor for the local Board of Guardians and drew up the Tithe Apportionment and map for New Mills in 1841, displaying the highest standard of workmanship and cartography. Ron illustrated pages of his superb copperplate writing from the account book.

Ron's illustrated talk, was given in his usual succinct and clear style which held the attention of all, as was shown by the numerous questions at the end.

Derek Brumhead

The Local Historian

The following have been placed in New Mills Library

Vol. 44 No 1 (January 2014)

Kenneth C Jackson, *'The architectural provenance of speculative housing: some further evidence'* (Skipton).

Klaus-Joachim Lorenz-Sclunidt, *'Local history in Germany: an overview'*.

Derek Benson, *'Ripples from the French Revolution in Tewkesbury'*.

Polly Bird, *'"Open" and "Closed" villages: a new methodology for assessing landownership concentration'*.

Alan G Crosby, *'Perceptions of Liverpool 1530-2010: the historical evidence of contemporary observers'*.

David Hey and Kate Tiller, *'Joan Thirsk (1922-2013): an appreciation'*.

Barrie Trinder and Paul Anderton, *'Two reviews of Victoria County History volumes'*.

Book reviews include: Trinder: *Britain's Industrial revolution*, Gregory: *Rye spirits: faith, action, and faries in a 17th. century English town*, Hicks (Ed): *The fifteenth century inquisitions post mortem*, Falvey (Ed): *The receipt book of Baroness Elizabeth Dimsdale*, Stevens: *Broadmoor revealed: Victorian crime and the lunatic asylum*, Rowe and Williamson: *Hertfordshire: a landscape history*.

Recent publications in local history.

What's in a picture?

Have you ever looked at an old photograph and puzzled over what you see? On the Picture New Mills website we have thousands of pictures of New Mills buildings from various periods. Most of them are recognisable despite changes over time, and others can be identified with the help of the caption or a little research. There are a handful of pictures, however, that have evaded all attempts to place them. The picture shown below was one of these. Despite having some information sent in by the donor, Roger could not come up with a location. When Margaret was working with Marjorie Jones on indexing the photographs, many hours were spent on trying to find an answer, but without success. Have a good look at it, with no identifying information, and see what you think.

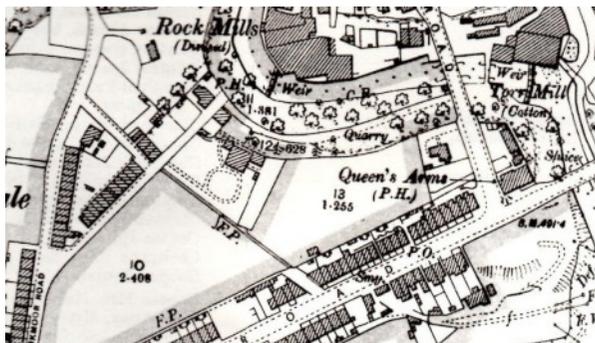


Image n02261 on www.picturenewmills.org.uk

What do you see? A country mansion, a vicarage, a farmhouse? Have you seen anything like this in New Mills? Do you recognise the circular path round the garden? The house is smaller than both High Lee and Aspenshaw Halls, but looks approximately of their period of architecture. Looking at the dress of the people in the picture, the photograph seems to be late nineteenth or early twentieth century, and the young woman with three children might be seen as the fairly affluent family living in these rather grand buildings.

Look again when you know that the donor's caption names the building as New Mills High School, and the people from left to right as T. Wharmby, Bates, Bates, L. Moore, Livesley. A set of very good clues, you might think, but whilst Marjorie and Margaret could find probable identities for the Bates and Livesley children, which if correct would make the date of the photograph around 1905, the location of the school remained stubbornly unknown. The 1912 directory of New Mills listed a High School at 11 Longlands Road, but we could not reconcile this with the photograph. Despite the clues we still couldn't come up with an answer, and began to wonder whether the pupils were on a day out somewhere in the Cheshire countryside. It seemed impossible that such a building could have existed in the middle of New Mills without any other photos being found.

A chance set of discoveries five years later led to the answer. In December 2013 Roger was doing some research into another illustration on the Picture New Mills website. He was hoping to find the exact location of the Wharf Preaching House, an early Wesleyan Methodist meeting place in Newtown, presumably (from its name) on the canal side. Following a general appeal for help from other NMLHS members, Derek Brumhead came up with the suggestion of a possible connection with Wirksmoor House where Samuel Schofield (owner of Torr Mill and a Methodist) had lived. Some discussion followed between Roger, Derek and Margaret as to whether Wirksmoor House still existed, or if not where it had stood. The 1851 tithe map of Newtown enabled Margaret to identify its location and give a grid reference, well away from the canal side and therefore not a candidate to be the Wharf Preaching House. Roger followed up this Wirksmoor House grid reference on old ordnance survey maps and discovered the 1896 edition showed a large house standing on the cliff top on the Newtown side of the River Goyt. The circular path in the garden brought to mind the High School photograph. Could Wirksmoor House be the location shown in the mystery photograph?



1896 Ordnance Survey map

A search through a collection of copyright aerial views of central New Mills in the early 1950s provided the answer. The building shown in the High School picture appeared on one photograph, no longer standing in splendid isolation, but squeezed between the houses on Hurst Lea Road and Jodrell Street.

We now know that the building shown in the mystery photograph was Wirksmoor House, a large stone property built about 1810 and demolished in the 1950s. The site is now occupied by 39 & 41 Hurst Lea Road. The picture shows the back garden of the house, which is now partly covered by houses on Jodrell Street, whilst the front of the house looked out over the Torrs. Although built as a home for the Schofield family who owned Torr Mill (which would have been visible in the valley below the front door), from the mid-nineteenth century onwards the house was rented out. In 1874 an advert in the Manchester Guardian described it in the "property to let" column. "*Wirksmoor House, New Mills, within five minutes of two railway stations: three entertaining rooms, seven bedrooms, garden, stable and coach house.*" Our further researches suggest that the High School rented the Wirksmoor House property from about 1903 to 1905, but we now know that this was just one of a sequence of locations for a school for young ladies and preparatory school for boys (sometimes but not always called New Mills High School).

We are still trying to piece together the full story of the school. We have found references to it as early as the 1860s, at Ladyshaw House on Bridge Street, with at various times Sarah Jackson, Jessie Gardner and Elizabeth Smith listed as principals. Miss Smith held an annual ball at New Mills Town Hall in January 1889 and 1890. Newspaper reports of the time describe an impressive occasion. In 1889 "*The day scholars and some of Miss Smith's dancing classes numbering about seventy were invited to an excellent tea which was very tastefully laid out*". In 1890 "*In addition to the pupils a large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. The dresses of the ladies were most charming, and when the ball was at its best the sight was most beautiful.*"

From around 1893 to 1897 the headmistress was a Miss Buckley who unfortunately seems to have been the least successful principal. By the time she left only 9 pupils remained, but the new headmistress, Mary E. Hall, moved the school to a new location at Lea House on St Mary's Road, and within a year had built the numbers back up to 25. From 1903 to around 1918 the headmistress was Edith E. Boughey, firstly at Wirksmoor House and then at 11 Longlands Road. The society has in its collections some personal reminiscences by a pupil at Miss Boughey's school. Finally we believe the school run by Mrs Cochrane at her home on Church Road continued the High School's work on into the early 1920s. This forms a link with a small collection of school photographs also included in the NMLHS collection.



Pupils at Mrs Cochrane's School.

Image n02134 on www.picturenewmills.org.uk

Our researches on both Wirksmoor House and the High School continue, and we would be grateful if anyone with knowledge or photographs of either would let us know. Did you live near Wirksmoor House? Was your granny a High School girl? A much more detailed article on the school, including names of some of the other teachers and pupils, can be seen in the society's archives and on the website (www.newmillshistory.org.uk). We hope that the details found so far will show that with good luck and a bit of research you can eventually find the story hidden in any puzzling old photograph. Who would have thought that the circular path round the lawn would have been the clue that finally led to the solution of the High School mystery? Do please have a look at the pictures indexed as "unidentified" on the Picture New Mills website (www.picturenewmills.org.uk), and see if you can identify any of them. What's in a picture? ... you'll never know until you look.

Roger Bryant and Margaret De Motte

NEW MILLS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
 Receipts & Payments for the year ending 31st March 2014

	2013/2014		2012/2013
	£	£	£
Opening Balances			
Current A/C	322.26		
Invest A/C	1381.10		
2nd A/C	58.82		
Pay Pal A/C	20.43	1782.61	
 Receipts			
Donations	97.2		99.07
Visitors	78.00		98.00
Gift Aid received	135.88		137.48
Subscriptions	653.26		747.54
Sales of Publications	1386.95		479.58
Sales of Refreshments	56.16		77.85
Outings	608.00		380.00
Digital Recorder			108.00
Interest Invest A/C	10.36		7.48
 Total receipts		 3025.81	
 Total		 £4,808.42	
 Publications in hand		 £8,700.00	

Audit Note

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

	2013/2014		2012/2013
	£		£
Expenses			
Speakers	223.00		367.00
Newsletter	Awaiting		156.25
Hire of Hall	311.04		349.92
Archive materials	54.99		366.79
Printing/Publications	537.50		240.00
BALH Subscription	65.00		65.00
Expenses	192.09		202.94
Outings	608.00		380.00
Refreshments	15.10		21.70
Digital Recorder	108.00		
Image Digitisation	199.15		392.70
Total Expenses		2313.87	
Closing Balances			
Current A/C	1083.65	*	
Invest A/C	1391.46		
2nd A/C	0.00		
PayPal A/C	19.44		2494.55
Total			£4,808.42

* Printing bills not yet received estimated at £650.

Lesley James
14/4/2014

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2013 - 2014

It is that time of the year again where I take stock of all that has happened in the Society.

Derek Brumhead opened the New Mills Festival again with a talk on Local Roads and has been asked to appear again this year, a great compliment. He continued to arrange a varied programme of speakers and your many questions reflected your interest.

Our web magician Barry Dent with your approval, takes his place as an Officer on the Committee. It is a mammoth task and needs recognising officially. Roger Bryant has spent hours sorting and digitising photographs and materials and has again published further material

Our Editor, Ron Weston, despite complications in printing, continues to store and maintain the vast number of pamphlets and books. Thanks go to Mrs Weston who so ably supported her husband in displaying our wares.

There has been no increase in subscriptions thanks to the efficient management of our resources by Maureen Hall, our Treasurer. Keep Gift Aiding please.

It seems so wrong to describe some of our team as ordinary and I want to acknowledge all their contribution.

A good example is Pat Evans who brings her artistic skills to designing a Christmas tree every two years. She and her Husband set it up first in St. Georges and later in the Library. It generates much interest in the Society and it was some reward for their hard work.

We have been fortunate in having a good deal of help in setting up the Hall from the Caretaker Paul. Nothing is too much trouble and we are very grateful to him.

Lastly but by no means least we come to our hard working Secretary. Happily he has agreed to continue despite poor health, the Committee will give practical support to ease his duties. His illness has highlighted the need to have some back up for all the principal Officers. Please do consider taking a more active role in your Society.

John will be telling us what he has planned for the summer outing. Last year a group ventured into Nottinghamshire, first to Papplewell Pumping Station and then on to Newstead Abbey. These outings interesting in themselves and well researched by John for all our comforts, serves to keep the Society together during the summer months.

My job is a simple one thanks to the skill and knowledge of the principal Members of the Committee. However we must not take them for granted so please consider offering some help. Who knows you might even enjoy it.

Barbara S Done