

New Mills Local History Society

NEWSLETTER 65



Autumn 2020

Front cover - Shaw Farm (n15899, n19310).

Committee 2020-2021 (elected at A.G.M. In 2019)

Chairperson	Roger Bryant (744227)
Vice-Chairperson	John Crummett (749530)
Hon. Secretary	Mike Daniels (746449)
Hon. Treasurer	Maureen Hall (742837)
Hon. Archivist	Andrew Screen (742198)
Hon. Photo Archivist	Roger Bryant (744227)
Hon. Editor	Ron Weston (744838)
Hon. Website manager	Barry Dent (745837)
Ordinary members	Derek Brumhead, Nicki Burgess, Peter Done, Pat Evans, Chris Jones

From The Editor

From the Editor

Dear Friends,

After consulting members of the Committee online regarding future arrangements, our Secretary Mike Daniels has issued the following statement:

Unfortunately, because of the current difficulties posed by the coronavirus pandemic, the committee have been obliged to postpone all our meetings until next year. We will reconsider the position in November, so would urge you to keep an eye on our website for further information. Our website address is newmillshistory.org.uk.

This means that the following meetings will have to be rearranged for some future date.

Sept. 11	Brian Barry	Isambard Kingdom Brunel: Genius, Entrepreneur, Or A Financial Liability?
Sept. 14	Roger Bryant	Festival Lecture: Maps Of New Mills Over The Centuries
Oct. 9	Sergei Nikitin	Friends And Comrades (Quaker Relief Work For People Of Russia At The Beginning Of The 20th Century)
Nov. 13	Trevor Gilman	The Story Of Buxton Opera House
Dec. 11	Frank Pleszak	High Peak Dam Busters

We apologise for any inconvenience that this might cause and look forward to meeting you all again in a safe but near future.

Every community needs a Good Samaritan: a charitable person always willing to volunteer and undertake the necessary, and sometimes tedious, tasks that keep local societies functioning. John Humphreys, who died in April 2020 after a lengthy illness, fulfilled that role for New Mills with distinction. He is sorely missed, not least in these challenging times.

I have received several tributes to John, which appear below.

Ron Weston

John Humphreys (8/9/35 to 24/4/20)

New Mills has recently said farewell to a knowledgeable but unassuming historian. John Humphreys, who died aged eighty-five at the Branksome Home, Buxton, served the town for over half a century in various capacities: secretary to the Local History Society, founder member and Curator of the Heritage Centre, researcher and writer of The New Mills Co-operative Movement, compiler of two illustrated publications, sometime member of The Festival Committee and well-versed source of knowledge and information on the history of our community.

Whether he was providing a short introduction to the importance of The Peak Forest Canal for a television programme or delivering an authoritative talk on John Pollit - early secretary to New Mills Cooperative - John Humphreys was a confident but unpretentious man. His lifestyle was never flamboyant and his marriage to Una was a long and supportive one. Una was described as brokenhearted after the loss of their one and only child at birth and as having died of that broken heart forty years later. John partnered her in her ups and downs until her strangely peaceful death in Wales in 2014.

Una and John first met at Holy Innocents, Fallowfield, in South Manchester, where she was Cub Leader and he was the Scout Leader. He had served his National Service in Singapore and begun a career in engineering. They married in 1962 and subsequently moved to New Mills into one of the new houses that were being built on the outskirts of town. They set about making it into the home that remained so for the rest of their lives together. They both took up roles in the Cubs and Scouts movements of St. George's Parish Church, and continued to serve for many years. John was always a stalwart figure at the annual Remembrance Day Civic Service in St. George's in November. In later years he maintained good links with the Church by becoming a driver for the elderly at the Friday Luncheon Club.

When he was made redundant, John retrained as a teacher and throughout most of his life John was a much-valued member of staff at Burnage Green End Junior School. When New Mills opened its Heritage Centre in 1988 John, as one of the Founder Members of the Management Committee, was keen to utilise the centre's education facilities. He arranged for groups from his own school to visit for a curriculum-specific comparison of two different environments, and went on to encourage other teaching colleagues to bring parties to make similar studies.

After connections with the early WEA movement in New Mills, which he chaired, and perhaps sparking his interest in John Pollit, John went on to become a long-serving secretary to the Local History Society - promoting its regular meetings as well as organising some notable summer field visits to places of interest within a day's travel.

In retirement John was still incredibly busy! He embraced fully the activities of the burgeoning branch of the U3A, taking advantage of meetings and arranged holiday-visits. He was a regular at the New Mills branch of Probus where he served as secretary, as well as being

a familiar supporter of events at the recently opened Spring Bank Arts Centre. Perhaps the attraction of some of these organisations was that, at last, he could sit back and enjoy rather than being up-front as an organiser!

Some local figures become celebrities, featuring in the press and being called on to comment on current issues, John was not one of these. For those of us who knew him, he was steady and reliable, well-read and authoritative in historical matters he made an important and lasting input into the community of New Mills, as a kindly and rounded personality. Together with Una, who complemented him well in her stronger times, he is not to be easily airbrushed from our community's records.

11.05.20.

PAK

Not surprisingly John was a loyal supporter of the Heritage and Information Centre, not just in sentiment but also in deeds.

He served on the management committee for many years and in 1999 took over from Roger Bryant as curator of the New Mills Heritage Collection. Building on the framework of recording and display established by Roger, John took the collection through its next phase of development qualification as an accredited museum by Arts Council England in 2010. John built up and trained, with gentle good humour and persistent tutoring, a team of volunteers to care for the collection objects to the exacting national standards required by the accreditation.

Following a period of ill-health John resigned his curatorship in 2014, and it is to his credit that four members of his care team were qualified to follow in his footsteps as joint curators. John continued to be a regular visitor at the Centre, dropping in on shopping days for a cup of coffee. All of the Centre volunteers are greatly saddened by his loss in this cruel way, and none more so than those who worked with him in the museum. John was the quiet man who was just always there.

Judith Lanham

John Humphreys served the Local History Society as secretary almost from its inception in 1982 and it was easy to work with him. Apart from dealing with routine business matters, he coped with the annual elections, which were on a rotating basis and seemed complex. He arranged very interesting summer visits, which he always rehearsed, taking his wife Una with him, checking on timing, stops for coffee and lunches, of course, but we could return home with plenty to think about.

He was a regular Church goer, and every year he would march in the Armistice procession. It was a great sadness when Una died suddenly while they were on holiday in North Wales, leaving him with no living relatives.

John would help anyone, but did not do enough for himself. He was a really good man.

Gaynor Andrew

I always found John to be a very interesting person, with a witty, dry, sometimes wicked, sense of humour. I very much enjoyed his company in the New Mills Local History Society, to which he was a big asset. He is greatly missed.

Pat Evans

This from Vivien Pritchard, a former colleague of John's at Green End Primary School:

John always had a twinkle in his eye and that's how I remember him too. I remember being in the staff room, at my first break time. John spoke to me and asked if I could do anything useful? I didn't know what to say, but of course, he was meaning could I offer any after-school or lunchtime classes. He had a funny way of putting you off your guard by saying the unexpected!

John Dalton

Dr. Diana Leitch, 10th January 2020

John Dalton, known as “the father of Chemistry”, was born in 1776 at Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth in Cumbria, to a Quaker family. Although of humble origin, he was favoured with a good education at a Quaker school where his exceptional intellectual powers were recognised. After University, John became a teacher, but his heart was in scientific research, which he pursued throughout his life. His early interests and observations were in Meteorology and colour blindness (an affliction from which he himself suffered) and these were the subjects of his first scientific papers. In 1793, Dalton became Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Manchester New College. To have reached this exalted position at the age of twenty-seven is surely a testament of his extraordinary abilities as both scientist and teacher.

Dr. Diana Leitch is an accomplished and engaging speaker with total command of her subject. She is a powerful advocate for Science, particularly in the North-west, operating from her base at the Catalyst visitor centre, which members of this Society visited last year.

Dalton is known chiefly for his major contribution to Atomic Theory. Precise weighing of certain elements and compounds led Dalton to the realisation that elements were related to one another in fixed proportions. Over the century and a half since Dalton's initial discoveries, these ideas have been repeatedly tested by Chemists to produce a comprehensive Periodic Table of the elements. No one now doubts the essential truth of Dalton's initial discoveries.

Diana also pointed out Dalton's outstanding success as a teacher in Manchester and the Mechanics' Institute, founded there in 1824. A great number of his pupils became celebrated medical men and Chemists.

In his later years, John Dalton attained national and international celebrity and had many honours heaped upon him. Yet he remained a humble man making painstaking observations. He visited the Portico Library every day to wind the clock! It was reported that some 40,000 people attended his funeral procession (about a quarter of Manchester's population) in 1844. But how is he remembered in Manchester today?

This is a question that exercised Diana a great deal in the latter part of her talk. There have been several biographies of John Dalton written over the years, together with detailed assessments of his contribution to Chemistry. Statues tend to honour Royalty, military men and politicians, and Manchester is no exception in this regard. Blue plaques on the former homes of the great and the good tend to favour writers, artists and musicians rather than scientists. Manchester has John Dalton Street and in recent years Diana has been involved with others to persuade Manchester City Council to add a plaque there. Unfortunately, most of John Dalton's original papers were destroyed in the Manchester blitz. Diana feels that much more should be done in Manchester to honour this distinguished scientist; indeed, the North-west's contribution to science and technology in the decades following the Industrial Revolution deserves far more recognition. Diana asserted with passion and eloquence her conviction that regardless of the future prospects of there being a “powerhouse of the North”, this region was certainly a powerhouse in the past.

Ron Weston

The Development of Airfields around Manchester, 1910-1960

David George, 14 February 2020.

In 1910 the Daily Mail put up £10,000 prize for the first successful flight from London to Manchester. Only two entrants took up the challenge - Claude Grahame-White and Frenchman Louis Paulhan. Grahame-White was forced down near Lichfield but Paulhan arrived early one morning putting down in a field near Fog Lane, Burnage. There is now a Paulhan Crescent with a commemorative plaque fixed to one of the houses..

In 1911 the Manchester Aero Club established a flying field in Trafford Park with a few sheds erected. It became a staging post in the 1911 Round Britain Air Race. The 1913 and 1914 London to Manchester Air race also terminated at Trafford Park. But the field does not seem to have developed subsequently beyond one shed and a small hanger. .However, in 1916 an Air Acceptance Park was established west of Withington to be known as Alexandra Park Aerodrome and AVRO and de Havilland aircraft were flight tested there. In 1919 AVRO began a season of flights to Blackpool at a return fare of four guineas (£4.4.0), using war surplus AVRO 504s converted to carry 2-3 passengers.

After the closure of Alexandra Park, A.V.Roe secured a new site at Woodford where they were joined by the Lancashire Aero Club. The Club pressed Manchester Corporation for the establishment of a municipal airport where there could also be private flyers. The Council spent £50,000 on developing 50 acres of land they already owned at Barton Moss. Farm buildings were adopted as a terminal and hotel and a hangar provided for the planes. Once Barton was opened in 1930, Imperial Airways began a service from London utilising such planes as the A-W Argosy which carried 14 passengers in wicker chairs inside a cabin. Unfortunately however, KLM condemned Barton for various hazards, fog and soft ground, but the airport thrived as a club venue and was very busy during World War 11. The 1933 control tower was later listed and is still used. The airfield continued to be run by the Lancashire Aero Club until it was bought from Manchester Corporation by Peel Holdings and renamed City Airport. Today it houses police helicopters, air ambulance as well as a host of private owners and their planes. The public can visit the aerodrome and use the restaurant.

In the late 1930s Manchester Council, by a majority of only one vote, decided to establish a larger airport on an initial 600 acres in Cheshire. The airport opened for civilian flights in 1938 and this is where David's talk ended. Once again it was a pleasure to welcome him, a well known industrial archaeologist who has given us several talks.

Derek Brumhead

**Studying Egyptian Mummies:
A century of Egyptological investigation
Dr Lidija McKnight, 13th March 2020.**

Manchester Museum, part of the University and therefore closely associated with a strong academic tradition, is one of the foremost centres of Egyptological research in the country. The Egyptology section has an outstanding collection on mummies, both human and animal, together with a rich assemblage of funerary artefacts.

Dr McKnight began her talk with illustrations from different parts of the world where the process of mummification has been practised. Excessively cold or dry environments are favoured, but we were surprised to learn that bodies were preserved in New Guinea by being smoke-dried.

The main thrust of Lidija's talk was to demonstrate how advances in techniques and technology over the past century have enabled researchers to investigate mummies in ever-greater detail while avoiding the need to damage the remains. In 1908, Mary Murray, the first Keeper of Egyptology to be appointed, examined two of the nineteen mummies held at the time, but was unable investigate the remains themselves for fear of their destruction. However, in 1975 Dr Rosalie David was able to unwrap another mummy, then using X-rays and conducting an autopsy. Recent methods are even less destructive. A mummy received from a Scottish museum was given a detailed examination. Age and sex, cause of death (possibly bone cancer) dental condition and details of the process of mummification itself were revealed. Lidija showed us other examples of the application of modern methods of remote sensing and DNA.

The museum has an extensive collection of mummified animals: dogs, cats and even crocodiles that have been retrieved from Egyptian tombs. Certain animals were held to be sacred in the ancient Egyptian iconography. Some of these have also been subject to scientific scrutiny by Lidija and her team.

The museum team has also conducted a series of experiments in mummification to obtain a better understanding of the ancient process. The sophisticated cameras now available allow multiple images of the contents of a coffin to be made without the need to disturb the remains in any way.

So much more is now being discovered, but, as ever, new discoveries raise new questions. Such is the nature of scientific advance.

Lidija's talk on what might have been considered a rather remote and abstruse topic for a local history society nevertheless aroused a great deal of interest, as was revealed by a number of questions from the audience. The success of the evening was undoubtedly due to Lidija's clear, informal and enthusiastic presentation.

Ron Weston.

A Local Farm

We live at Shaw Farm (grid ref SJ990 866) by the side of New Mills golf course.

The earliest reference to a written record of the farm is 1285 when it was mentioned in “The Place Names of Derbyshire”. This is a reference to an entry in the Forest Court Roll Records. This area of Derbyshire was in the Royal Hunting Forest and there were several courts held to uphold the Forest Laws. In 1285 a structure was built here unlawfully, but a fine was paid to the king and the owner allowed to stay.

A branch of the Stafford family who originated from Bothams Hall (down at the Roman Lakes) were living at Shaw Farm . We have a date 18th. September 1414 in which John de Stafford of Shaw occurs as one on the bondsmen to secure payment of a sum of money with regard to a marriage settlement.

The next date in the “Place Names of Derbyshire” is 1556 when “Humphrey Stafford of the Shae” was witness to the will of “John Stafford of the Cliffe” 11th. June 1555. (This is now known as Higher Cliff).

There are Staffords living here until about 1760 when the Stafford Estate became heavily mortgaged and was sold to Samuel Egerton of Tatton. The Egertons retained possession until 1942. They had various tenants running the farm including John Higginbottom who had a 21 year lease here from 1 May 1775. In 1836 the tenant is James Tomlinson, also a coal merchant, in 1849 Jacob Johnson, 1881 John Morton Joule, 1906 Sam Hancock.

A verbal account from Grace Harrop (nee Alston).

My granddad became the tenant in 1921. We had sheep, cows, pigs and 2 horses. The horses were used for farmwork and pulling the trap. We delivered milk and grew rhubarb in the back field which we cut early before taking it to Strines Station to catch the 1st train to Manchester Market. New Mills town council emptied the town’s latrines onto the field.

Verbal account from Joan Redfem (nee Woolley).

My dad became the tenant in 1932. He was able to buy the farm in 1942 when Lord Egerton sold it Friday January 30th, as part of a 400 acre estate in New Mills. We kept sheep, hens and a pig; milked cows and grew com. We had to sell the farm in 1960 and sold it to William Hulton Burgess.

Verbal account from Alan Burgess (son of William).

We kept milking cows, pigs, hens and sheep. We grew all the feed for the cows including kale and swedes. The machinery was converted from horse to tractor driven and we put in a modern milking parlour.

George Burgess (Alan’s brother) and Nicky took over from Alan in 1976 and in 2012 changed over from milking cows to a suckler beef herd, which is where the cows have and rear calves, of which some are later sold for beef. We also now have static caravans, which we let out for holidays. Our son Graham has come back to the farm to help run the business. A more detailed description of Shaw Farm is held in New Mills Library.

Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st March 2020.

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Opening Balances		
Current A/C	£820.65	
Invest A/C	£1437.95	
2nd A/C	£300.22	
Pay Pal A/C	£53.22	£2612.04
Receipts		
Donations	£64.45	£109.60
Visitors	£204.00	£168.50
Gift Aid received	£105.41	£113.64
Subscriptions	£603.22	£573.97
Sales of Publications	£490.36	£638.12
Sales of Refreshments	£11.60	£11.98
Outings	£430.00	£286.00
Sale of High Res. Prints	£40.26	
Interest 2nd A/C	£1.16	£0.31
Interest Invest A/C	£11.50	£10.35
Donation F.Pleszak	£220.00	
Donation to fund reprint of "The Park Under the Town" by Martin Doughty		
Dig.photos Torr Vale Mill	£125.00	£300.00
Total receipts		£2306.95
Total		£4919.00
Publications in hand		£3000.00

	2019/2020	2018/2019
Expenses		
Speakers	£277.00	£265.81
Newsletter	£75.00	£90.00
Room hire	£424.92	£396.04
Archive materials	£69.90	£216.27
Printing/publications	£130.00	£744.94
BALH subscription	£75.00	£75.00
Expenses	£198.96	£227.36
Outings	£427.00	£310.00
Refreshments	£25.50	£11.50
Hosting PictureNM	£150.00	£150.00
Total expenses		£1853.18

Closing balances

Current A/c	£1313.24	
Invest A/c	£1449.45	
2 nd A/C	£301.38	
PayPal A/c	£1.75	£3065.82
Total		£4919.00

The Local Historian

Vol 50 No 1 January 2020, has been placed in New Mills Library.

Articles

Roger Gilboy, Crisis mortality in Civil War Oxford 1642-1646.

David Killigracy, Grassroots politics in West Kent since the late eighteenth century.

Ivor Slocombe and Roger Ottewell, Electoral revision courts in nineteenth century Wiltshire.

Mark Forrest, The Court of Common Pleas and Dorset occupations in the fifteenth century.

Lucienne Boyce, Review article: books on the local history of women and suffrage.

Various reviewers, Review article: books on aspects of local history in the West Country.

Reviews

London's East End: a guide for family and local historians; Government and society in thirteenth century Cumberland; The religious census of Cumbria 1851; The Birmingham parish workhouse; Church surveys of Chichester Archdeaconry; Stories of solidarity; Life in post-Restoration Huntingdonshire; The Spanish Flu pandemic comes to the West Midlands. Recent publications on local history.

Volume 50, No 2 (April 2020) has been placed in New Mill's Library.

Articles

Rose Wallis, Rulers of the county: the magistracy and the challenge of local government c. 1790-1834.

Nina Wedell, Vicar versus vestry: legal contention and parish life in Clodock, Herefordshire 1798—1834.

Tony Fox, Numerical approaches to local history.

A D Harvey, Remaining traces of the Blitz in London.

David D Taylor, Support for the war against France at the end of the eighteenth century: the evidence of the Voluntary Contribution of 1798 in Staffordshire.

Rachel Campbell, Opinion: the hidden women of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (1822-1850) - developing a public understanding of women's history.

William Evans, Opinion: the end of local history and the last historian.

Heather Falvey, Review article: aspects of Greater London's history.

Review article: books on Herefordshire subjects.

Reviews

A vicar in Victorian Norfolk; George Roberts MP; Building stone atlas of Sussex; The landscape of the Suffolk Sandlings; The Victoria History of Cumberland; Willington [Bedfordshire] and the Mowbrays after the

Peasant's Revolt; James Losh Diaries (1802-1833), life and weather in 19th century Newcastle; The voice of the provinces: the regional press in Ireland 1914-1921; The early history of Esperanto in the United Kingdom; The language of landscape; Writing the Somerset family, community and religion.

New publications in local history.

Vol 50 No 3 July 2020, will be placed in New Mills Library.

Articles

Brian Hodgkinson, The Holland Causeway and Bridge End Priory: piety, people and communications in the Lincolnshire Fenlands.

Dianne Lawrence, Restocking the shelves: post-war experiences of the independent shopkeeper.

Kenneth C. Jackson, Understanding the urban landscape.

Neil Wiffen, Supplying the army: the contribution of Essex to provisioning the forces of Edward III, c.1337.

Andrew Jones, Southcomb sermons.

Heather Falvey, Families, dynasties and associates: a review of five booklets (Two Warwickshire women of character: Margaret Sheldon and Margaret Knollys (*Enis*); St.Ilogan church and the Collins family of rectors (*Webb*); The surgeons and the Bristol School of artists (*Whitefield*); The Butlers and the tar distillery at Crew's Hole (*Vincent and Holland*); Taking the pledge: the temperance movement in Bristol 1830-1914 (*Clarke*).

Reviews

Stoke Mandeville wills and inventories 1552-1853 (*edited Lewington*); The building accounts of Corpus Christi College, Oxford 1517-1518 (*ed Collett, Smith and Reid*); The early records of Coleshill c.1120-1549 (*edited Watkins*); The register of John Salmon, Bishop of Norwich 1299-1325 (*edited Gemmill*); Parliamentary surveys of Cambridgeshire properties of Dean & Chapter of Ely (*edited Franklin*); The Norwich Chamberlains' Accounts 1539-40 to 1544-45 (*edited Rawcliffe*); Vehicle registration in Gloucestershire 1903-13 (*edited Barlow and Boothman*); William Birchynshaw's map of Exeter, 1743 (*edited Oliver, Kain and Gray*); Opposition to railways from the 19th to 21st centuries (*edited Brandon and Brooke*); Reading early handwriting 1500-1700 (*Forrest*); The I'Ansons: a dynasty of London architects and surveyors (*Jefferson Smith*); The parish in wartime: Bishop Gore's visitations of Oxfordshire 1914 and 1918 (*edited Smith*); A lord lieutenant in wartime: the experiences of the 4th Earl Fortescue [1914-18] (*edited Batten*); Names, places and people: a selection of articles from Old West Riding (*ed Pearce*); Exploring local history: a practical guide for teachers in primary and secondary schools (*Timmins*); Building the late medieval Suffolk church (*Cotton*).

New publications in local history.

Derek Brumhead

Following the purchase of one of our photos (n00758) Mike Baker (from the website www.Derbyshirepolicehistory.co.uk very kindly supplied the following information about the officers pictured.



New Mills Police Officers 1919

Inspector William Barnsley



Born on 20th November 1868, a native of Winster, his previous occupation was a Lead Miner who's religious beliefs on joining the Derbyshire Constabulary as Pc 144 on 13th March 1893 are classed as a dissenter. He was a very keen bobby at Buxton and Burbage receiving 12 commendations before being promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1902 and transferring to Matlock Bath. He later moved to Long Eaton and Kirk Langley before his final promotion to Inspector in November 1912 which took him to New Mills. His appearance in the conscientious objectors

picture is quite apt as during the First World War he acted as the local recruiting officer. In 1917 he was complimented by Magistrates in a case of fowl stealing and two years later a similar commendation in a case of Larceny (theft) He retired from the force after almost 31 1/2 years service on 30th November 1924 to become the manager and licensee of the Crown Hotel.

Possibly Constable 234 (his number is not very clear) William Goodburn who was an engine cleaner before joining the force at the age of 23 on 1st September 1903. Once trained he was sent to Alfreton and later had 2 year stints at Chinley and Palterton. In the spring of 1916 he was sent to Hasland where he stayed until being sent to Whaley Bridge in April 1920. This was his official posting date however it was not unusual for men to be loaned to other areas prior to moving. Police



duties in North Derbyshire didn't seem to suit this officer as his sickness record shows he was prone to colds, slipping on ice, influenza and bronchitis while stationed in these areas. His last three years of police duty took him to Kedleston where he retired on 1st April 1931

This is Constable 376 Ernest James Lodge, an Essex lad born on 12st



February 1879 at Romford. By the time he was appointed to the force on 1st August 1907 he was married with two children and had served for seven years in the West Riding Regiment. During that time he had fought in the Boer War receiving both the Queens and Kings South Africa Medals. His police service began at the iron, steel and coal town of Ilkeston then on to Ashbourne but was serving at New Mills when the war was declared and he was recalled to his regiment. Between 1914 until October 1915 he was fighting in France, receiving the Mons Star although as a reservist his military service then expired and he was

returned to the police force being sent to New Mills. He was there for only four months before volunteering to serve his country again, this time enlisting into the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He survived the war and when discharged in January 1919 was sent to Hayfield where he was serving when involved with the arrest of the Contentious Objectors. His overseas military service is shown by 4 coloured chevrons worn on the right cuff, the cape draped over his left shoulder hides his medal ribbons. Within a year of the photograph being taken James was promoted Sergeant and transferred to Castleton. He died in service of jaundice and cancer on 15th June 1925.

At the present time I have not been able to identify this officer's collar number as it is not clear enough.

The last man in the uniformed line-up is a local boy, Constable 286 John Houghton born on 18th October 1884 at New Mills. He was an Insurance Agent and





married with one child when he joined the Derbyshire Constabulary on 16th July 1908. He had obviously made an impression on the local police commander, Inspector Burgess, as it was he who recommended him to the force. On appointment he was sent to Long Eaton on the Derbyshire Nottinghamshire border but within 6 months saw him transferred north to Hope. This would certainly have helped his family by being closer to home. While at the village he received a Chief Constables favourable record for a 'Good trace and arrest in a case of larceny of harness fittings'. John saw out the First World War stationed in the village. During this conflict the Chief Constable had not called on him to resign and join the military, as he had done with so many of his

single colleagues, due possibly to him being a married man. July 1919 saw an end to John's 10 year reign at Hope when he moved to Thornsett, where he was stationed when the photograph was taken. If we could see his left cuff in the picture, as a Merit Class policeman, we would find an inverted chevron with crown above indicating his grade.

Within a year he was transferred back to his first station at Long Eaton where he remained for three years passing his promotion examination to the rank of sergeant. At this point he was then bounced around the county for a year between Ashbourne, Hathersage and ending up at Iron Vile, a small but very busy village containing a large iron foundry close to Ripley. On the approach of the Great Depression it was here that he received injuries causing him to be on sick leave for 3 months when he slipped whilst chasing coal thieves. On another occasion he was attacked and severely bitten by a dog. John retired in the summer of 1935.

The identities of the two gentlemen in civilian clothing termed 'Conscientious Obstructors' sic are currently unknown however they appear to be quite short when using Pc Houghton, who was 5'10" tall, as a comparison. Height restrictions for the military, initially set at 5'3", were later lowered to 4'10" for certain 'Bantam Battalions' but even so these men must have been on the very limit if they were liable

WHERE WAS NEW MILLS LIBERAL CLUB?

Some of the research for this short note was done with Margaret De Motte, and I thank her for her help.

A beerhouse called the Albert Inn operated in High Street for several years before 1873. The earliest reference I have found so far is in 1869 (*Derbyshire Times*, 26 Jun 1869) when the beerhouse and two cottages “underlying” it were for sale. The owner was Samuel Holt of Newtown and the occupant was Thomas Hibbert. From small scraps of evidence I think the beerhouse was probably at 36-38 High Street or just at 38 (as now numbered) and the two cottages were perhaps 16-18 Church View facing towards Meal Street. The licensee changed from Thomas Hibbert to Stephen Shaw in 1870 (*Derbyshire Times*, 19 Nov 1870). Stephen Shaw was listed as a coal miner in the 1871 census; from the order of the census entries, 36-38 High Street seems a likely location. But by 1873 the beerhouse had closed down (*Hyde & Glossop Weekly News*, 12 Jul 1873):

A building lately used as a beerhouse, called the Albert Inn, has been closed, and is now being transformed into two shops by an extension of the front part to the level of the street.

On Saturday 10th February 1883 a Liberal Club was opened in High Street by Lord Edward Cavendish (*Derby Daily Telegraph*, 12 Feb 1883, and *Derbyshire Courier*, 17 Feb 1883). The *Telegraph* said that a shop had been fitted up as a club near a similar club held by the Conservatives. The *Courier* said the club had been formed by the conversion of two dwelling-houses and shops at the cost of about £200.

The *Buxton Advertiser* (1 Mar 1884) gave a description:

The premises of the association are conveniently situated in High Street, and consist of a public coffee room, with reading and billiard room, for the use of members.

Refreshments, including tea, coffee, non intoxicant drinks, &c., are supplied to the members and the public at moderate prices, but the sale and use of intoxicants are most rigidly prohibited.

The club is listed in High Street in the 1891 census. From the position of the entry for the club in relation to other entries and from other scraps of evidence the location was probably at 36-38 High Street (or just 38 High Street), the location of the former Albert Inn.



*36-38 High Street with shop fronts, 1986
(Derek Brumhead, n50193)*



*The same building without shop fronts; from the north, 2016
(Roger Bryant, n19834)*

The Liberal Club was in financial difficulties in 1891 (Buxton Chronicle, 13 Mar 1891). Nevertheless, in the second half of 1891, John Thomas Wharmby, who had built Jubilee Buildings at the top of Union Road, got planning permission to build workshops and a new Liberal Club behind Union Road on the side street running towards Rock Street from Union Road (Buxton Chronicle, 3 Jul 1891; High Peak Advertiser, 3 Jul 1891, 23 Oct 1891 and 20 Nov 1891). The Club (including a billiard room) was opened by Mr J. F. Cheetham on 19th March 1892 (Sheffield Independent, 21 Mar 1892).



*The 1891 Liberal Club was in these buildings (photo in 2016), but I don't know exactly where
(Roger Bryant, n19641)*

In July 1900 George Ollerenshaw of Glossop purchased Hurst Lea House for £780 on behalf of the New Mills Liberals so that it could be converted to a new Liberal Club (Copy of Hurst Lea deeds in NMLHS archives and Sheffield Independent, 3 Jul 1900). A hall was later built at the rear of Hurst Lea House. The Liberals sold the house to Drs L. Millward, P. J. Andrew and P. Mann in 1964 but retained the hall for many years (Hurst Lea deeds).