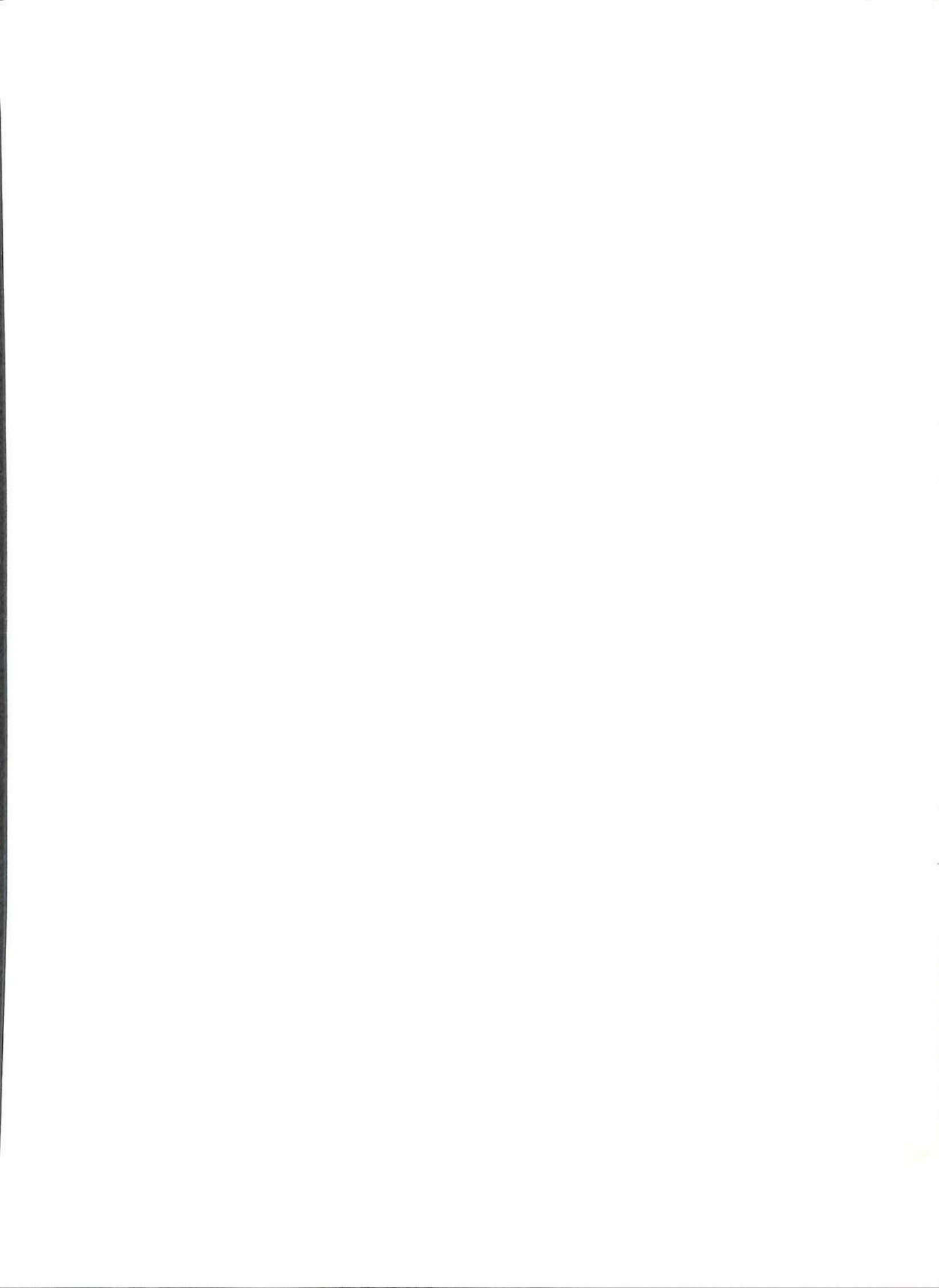
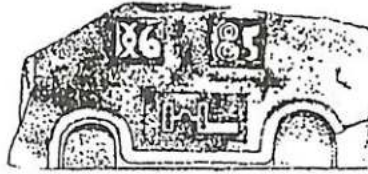


NORTH CRAVEN HERITAGE TRUST JOURNAL



1993





NORTH CRAVEN HERITAGE TRUST
SETTLE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Airton . Arncliffe . Austwick . Burton-in-Lonsdale . Calton . Clapham . Giggleswick . Halton West
Hanlith . Hellifield . Langcliffe . Lawkland . Litton . Long Preston . Malham . Nappa . Otterburn
Rathmell . Scosthrop . Settle . Stainforth . Swinden

The North Craven Heritage Trust was set up in 1968 to encourage interest in, and to help safeguard, the distinctive beauty, history and character of the North Craven area. It encourages high standards of architecture and town planning, promotes the preservation and sympathetic development of the area's special historic features and helps protect its natural environment. It arranges lectures, walks and local events and publishes booklets about the North Craven area.

COMMITTEE 1992/3

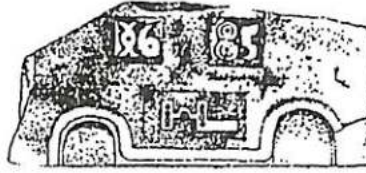
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This annual Journal aims to keep members informed of the Trust's activities. Further information about the Trust and details of membership are available from the Membership Secretary: Mrs. M. Walker, Low Wood, Stackhouse, Giggleswick, SETTLE, North Yorkshire, BD24 0DN. Telephone; (0729) 823532, or from any Committee member.

Membership subscriptions

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Ordinary..... | £6 |
| Family..... | £9 |
| Pensioners..... | £2 |
| Corporate..... | £10 |

Membership expires on December 31st each year



NORTH CRAVEN HERITAGE TRUST

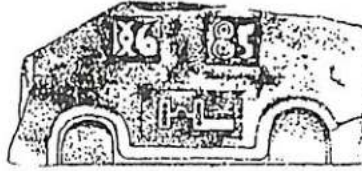
PROGRAMME 1993

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 9th Jan | 2.30pm | New Year Recital at St James' Church, Clapham | Wed 15th Sept | 7.30pm | "Quakers in Bentham", a lecture by Mr. Ralph Atkinson at the Friends Meeting House, Burton Road, Low Bentham |
| Wed 24th Feb | 7.30pm | "Yorkshire Surnames", a lecture by Mr. R. Hindley of Bradford University at the Watershed Mill, Settle | Fri 15th Oct | 7.30pm | AGM at Catholic Hall, Craven Terrace, Settle. Followed by a lecture "Planning Control in the National Park" by Mr. M. Watson, Principal Planning Officer, Yorkshire Dales National Park |
| Wed 31st Mar | 7.30pm | "Plants that thrive in the North", a return visit lecture by Miss Eleanor Fisher at the Catholic Hall, Settle | Fri 3rd Dec | 8.00pm | Christmas Party at Harden House, Austwick |
| Sun 25th Apr | 7.30pm | Concert by the Craven Camerata, at St. John the Baptist Church, Low Bentham | 1994 | | |
| Wed 7th July | 9.00am | W.R.Mitchell's Annual Field Day. "A Day Out in Wharfedale". Assemble at Ashfield Car Park, Settle | Sat 8th Jan | 2.30pm | New Year Recital at Settle Parish Church |

Details of the above events available from Mr. C.G. Ellis, 0729 822235

The North Craven Heritage Trust is a registered charity

The cover drawing of Robert Hall is by Veronica Kelly from a drawing of 1856 in The Victoria History of Lancashire



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Editors

Mrs. P. Hobson

Dr. M. Ellis

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President's Report to the North Craven Heritage Trust Annual General Meeting—23rd October, 1992

I should begin by apologising for my absence from the A.G.M. this year, my second absence in a row I'm afraid, though I think I've only missed three A.G.M's. in 24 years so it's not quite so negligent as it seems.

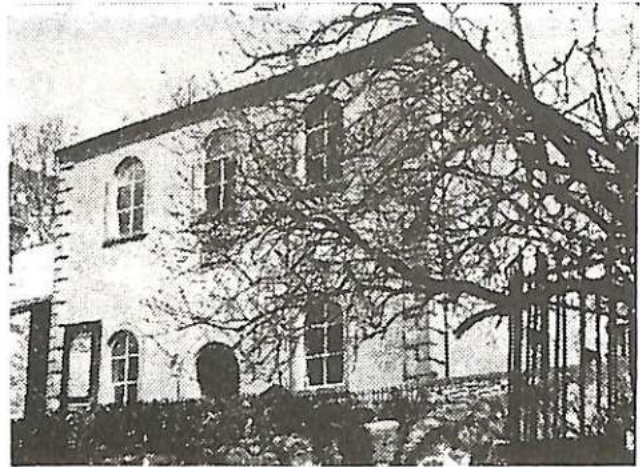
My report isn't a long one, chiefly because much of what used to be included is these days covered by the Journal. Membership at present stands at approximately 320. Our membership secretary is Mrs. Walker and she or Miss Metcalfe are on hand to renew subscriptions this evening.

The year's calendar has included the usual full programme of walks and concerts, one by the Craven Camerata at Eldroth this last summer and the annual visit of Leeds Parish Church Choir which this year sang at Thornton-in-Lonsdale. The concert there was preceded by a talk from Mr. Brassington, who recalled rebuilding the church roof at Thornton after a disastrous fire, an account of which was printed in the Journal. Mr. Brassington was ill earlier in the year but is much better and I'm sure we all join in wishing him a full recovery. Looking forward to next year the Christmas concert by the Leeds Parish Church Choir will be here at Clapham on January 9th. The summer outing this year was to Bowland, led as usual by Mr. Bill Mitchell and we look forward to another breezy account in the next Journal.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Hobson and John Miller who have edited the Journal and made it a very handsome production. In addition to all the administrative details of the Trust and its affairs it contains all sorts of interesting articles and is a jolly good read.

Mr. Dutton gave a lecture at Giggleswick on the history of the school which was well attended and I hope that this will be available for reading at some time in the future. The Trust sent £100 to Zion Church towards combating dry rot, money well spent in my opinion because Zion is a delightful building and a very good example of a nineteenth century Nonconformist Chapel. It's the kind of building we tend to take for granted, particularly in the North where such Chapels are not uncommon (though all too often they end up as Bingo Halls or carpet warehouses). Zion is an ornament to Settle and it's nice to be able to show our appreciation. We have also sent a contribution of £50 towards the repair of Long Preston Church clock, which, if you'll excuse the pun, rings a bell with me. I've never carried or worn a watch and am dependent on public clocks of which there are fewer and fewer in working order.

Ingleton Viaduct has been offered for sale and although the purchase price was only £1 the committee felt it wasn't really a bargain. Still it's hoped it can be maintained and restored as Ribbleshead is being restored, as Ingleton would not be the same without it.



Zion Congregational Church, Settle

During the year there's been a lot of discussion in the committee about the relationship between the Heritage Trust and the Building Preservation Trust. I suspect that from the point of view of most members this relationship is largely of academic interest but the history of the two bodies is amply set out by Mrs. Hobson in an article in the Journal. As someone who has been associated with the Trust from its inception I think I would say that what is important in organisations such as ours is to keep the purpose of the Trust firmly in view. The Heritage Trust and the Building Trust are not and never have been in competition but complement one another... the Heritage Trust's function perhaps more of an educational one whereas the Building Trust is concerned with the practical application of the principles of conservation as instanced at present in the Croft Barn project in Settle. The Heritage Trust is a watchdog, particularly in the planning field and I cannot see that its function in examining planning applications will ever be rendered unnecessary, or indeed its role as a forum for environmental concerns. The Heritage Trust must always concern itself with the preservation of vernacular buildings but also (my particular hobbyhorse) the details of their appearance... doors, windows, which, insensitively altered, can destroy a building as effectively as demolition.

Another concern is traffic. By-pass or no by-pass more and more lorries seem to be coming through the centre of Settle, when some at any rate ought to make the longer journey round and come in over Buckhaw Brow. I think it's part of the Heritage Trust's job to keep an eye on traffic and the composition of traffic because, as it is, (and in this Mr. Leakey has been proved right) where heavy vehicles are concerned the by-pass has scarcely improved the situation at all.

Finally I'm sorry to have to record the resignation of our secretary John Miller. As most of you will know John has given unstintingly of his time and energy to what originally was the Settle Civic Society

and then became the North Craven Heritage Trust. He was a founder member back in 1968 and in those early and quite discouraging years there were times when, without his enthusiasm and ideas, the Trust would have foundered. I was coming through Greenfoot car park in Settle the other day, looked up and saw the range of beautifully restored buildings on Victoria Street ending in what was originally our first museum. Those buildings would all have been demolished had it not been for John Miller. Similarly all the buildings that constitute Twisleton's Yard, a text-book piece of restoration would, were it not for John just have been a car park. The premises in Chapel Street were restored by him and the Croft Barn project which is currently in hand. One could go on but to list his achievements is to tell the story of the Trust itself because he was its engine and motive force. If anything needed to be done his was always the first name that came up and what the Trust will do

without him I cannot imagine. Happily it's only his job as Secretary of the Heritage Trust that he is giving up and he will be continuing his work on the Building Preservation Trust. It's this more practical side of conservation that has increasingly been interesting him and which offers him the greatest satisfaction. But the Trust will always be in his debt. The Committee wanted to make some sort of presentation to him to mark his twenty four years devoted service but typically he has declined it, but I am sure all members will join with me in giving him our heartfelt thanks.

That concludes my report for this year except to thank all the officers of the Society, all those who have served on committees or worked on the Journal and last but by no means least Mrs. Walker and her stalwarts on the social committee. I'm sure we all join in wishing the Trust well in 1993.

Alan Bennett.

The way ahead for the North Craven Heritage Trust

In the beginning the Civic Society was formed to safeguard Settle and the surrounding area from losing their historical inheritance and from being developed in an unsympathetic way. It was also intended that the society should inform and interest its members and the public at large in appreciating and taking part in the work involved. Subsequently the North Craven Heritage Trust has taken over the mantle of informing and, particularly with the publication of this Journal, of interesting the public in its local inheritance. The Building Preservation Trust has been active in the field of dealing practically with the problems of preservation of important buildings and of owning, housing and administering the collections in the Museum.

So that the N.C.H.T. can retain its links with the running of the museum, one of its committee members is invited to attend meetings of the museum management committee of the B.P.T.

The aims of the N.C.H.T., set out concisely in our Constitution which was formally approved by the Charity Commissioners during 1992, are:

- i. to encourage high standards of planning and architecture
- ii. to stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the area
- iii. to encourage the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.

To pursue these aims, the activities of the North Craven Heritage Trust fall into six main fields:

Informing our members and friends, by means of Public Lectures. In the past these have been in large part an attempt to raise funds, in order to support other activities of the Trust. We now



see lectures more as a prime purpose of the North Craven Heritage Trust and a membership benefit.

Financial support of conservation projects carried out by other people, in particular grants provided to Churches in the neighbourhood through the North Craven Heritage Trust Historic Churches Fund which is supported by Membership fees. Organisation of walks on numerous weekends throughout the year, both for the social enjoyment they give to members and for the information to be gleaned from the wide and varied expertise of their leaders.

Annually around Christmas, arranging an information dinner and gathering, where members may meet and enjoy good company, food and entertainment.

Irregularly through the year, choral concerts are arranged in various parts of the Trust's domain, frequently in buildings of particular interest or beauty.

Scrutiny of planning intentions, to ensure that developments are in keeping with their surroundings and are as far as possible in the widest interest of the community.

Any suggestions of fresh fields of interest to members would be most welcome, provided that they come within the Trust's stated aims, as would ideas for lectures, lecturers and exhibitions.

N.B. We have just heard from the Building Preservation Trust that it has bought Just Kids—No. 4 Chapel Street. They will describe their plans for the property as soon as they can, but unfortunately too late for publication in this issue of the Journal.

Arthur Lupton.

Members' Update

In addition to the routine matters dealt with by your Committee, eg. programme of events, planning applications, grants etc., from time to time items arise of special interest to members, and in future these will be collated in a regular "Members' Update" in the Journal.

In some cases the items discussed will involve a change to previous arrangements, and if any member has a view on such a change, either for or against, their comments would be very much appreciated. (Please contact the Secretary, or any member of the Committee).

1. **Tickets for events:** For a number of years tickets have been sold in advance for lectures, the New Year Recital, and the Christmas Party, and in addition payment at the door has been accepted.

The cost of printing the tickets last year was in excess of £100, and over the year approximately 50% of those attending events were admitted by ticket, and 50% paid at the door.

It has therefore been decided, for a trial period, to discontinue selling tickets, and all admissions will be by payment at the door.

Details of all the events for the year are printed in the Membership/Programme Card, and in addition a number of posters are displayed throughout the area 7/14 days before a particular event.

If the trial is successful, and attendances are unaffected, it is envisaged that future events will be arranged on this basis, and this will help to avoid any increase in admission charges.

2. **Bank Accounts:** During the past year the Trust has transferred its main accounts from National Westminster to the Skipton Building Society.

The reason for this was that the National Westminster charges had increased significantly during the previous two years, whereas the Building Society continues to offer 'free banking' on a credit balance.

An account has been maintained at National West-

minster for the benefit of those members paying subscriptions by Banker's Order or Direct Debit.

3. **Distributors:** Most local members are aware of the invaluable work which their 'distributor' does in keeping them informed of events, collecting subscriptions, and delivering a copy of the Journal. However from time to time members move home, and the following list indicates all the present 'distributors' and the areas which they cover.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Settle Station Road | — Miss H. Metcalfe |
| Duke Street | — Mrs. P. Houlton |
| Kirkgate | — Mrs. B. Hyslop |
| Townhead | — Mrs. E. Parker |
| Ribble Terrace | — Miss G. Willerton |
| The Mains | — Mrs. B. Panton |
| Upper Settle | — Mr. R. Bull |
| Ingfield | — Mr. T. Dugdale |
| Giggleswick | — Mr. T. Thorpe |
| Stackhouse | — Dr. G. Walker |
| Horton-in-Ribblesdale | — Mrs. B. Suttie |
| Austwick | — Mr. C. Paley |
| Westhouse/Masongill | — Mr. J.B. Chesterton |
| Long Preston | — Mrs. H. Baker |
| Bentham | — Mrs. D. Pickett |
| Langcliffe | — Mrs. N. Ellis |
| Burton-in-Lonsdale | — Mrs. M. Humphries |
| Newby, Clapham, Ingleton | — Miss B. Capstick |

4. **Donations:** A donation of £500 to the Historic Churches Fund has recently been received from Miss S. Green of Heathfield, Sussex. The Trust is most grateful for this donation.

5. **Grants:** The following grants have been made by the Trust since the last AGM:

| | | |
|----------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thornton-in-Lonsdale | £100 | towards essential maintenance work. |
| Church | | |
| Settle Town Council | £50 | towards the cost of a survey to improve the paving in Bishopdale Court. |

Ray Doughty.



MARKET PLACE, SETTLE.

John Miller, N.C.H.T. Secretary 1968-1993

For nearly twenty five years John Miller has been, for its founder members, synonymous with the Civic Society. For many of us who arrived later on the scene he has been so for the North Craven Heritage Trust.

During that time the Society established the Museum of North Craven Life and after becoming the N.C.H.T. it has continued to hold exhibitions, lectures and other social and educational activities. It has built up a rapport with the planning authorities, the museum service and numerous grant providing bodies. Much of the success of these ventures has been due to John Miller's initiative, enthusiasm and perseverance.

These labours have been more publicly recognised with the award of an M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, which has delighted the members of the Trust. We are also grateful to Alan Bennett for the warm appreciation in his Presidential Report, which expresses far better than I can the ways in which John has nurtured the Trust from its earliest days.

With the setting up some years ago of the separate Building Preservation Trust, which now also manages the museum, and with the departure from the scene of a number of the dedicated founders, John has decided to devote his time in Settle to the B.P.T. and to channel his interest in other areas of Heritage to Lancashire where he has substantially increased responsibilities.

We shall hope still to have his advice and draw on his experience in carrying on the work in which he has been so active—since the early incident of the mounting block, which marked the start of Settle's awareness of the dangers of uninformed 'improvement'.



John would be one of the first to acknowledge the debt that the Trust owes to the large band of volunteers who worked with him, particularly in the early days: in this first Journal to be produced without his active participation, the Trust thanks him for his labours over a quarter of a century and wishes him every success in his new field.

Arthur Lupton.

Recent Talks

The first lecture of 1992 was given in February by Mr. Chris Crowder, Head Gardener of Levens Hall, who brightened a dark February evening with his colourful slides of the planting schemes at Levens. He described the history of the Elizabethan Hall and its gardens, and explained the secrets behind its famous topiary. In March, Mr. Cedric Robinson, who has the intriguing title of The Queen's Official Guide to the Kent's Sands, told us, in a most interesting talk, how Morecambe Bay and the Kent estuary provide a home for almost every sea-bird known in Britain, and warned us of the treachery of the local tides. After the A.G.M. in October, Mr. Stan Lawrence, well known to many Trust members for his detailed knowledge of the history and buildings of the area, talked to us about the history of Clapham Village. The Trust moved somewhat further back in time one month later, when Dr. D.C.A. Shotton, from Lancaster University, addressed us at Bentham Town Hall on the Romans in

North West Britain. He reminded us of how Agricola and his legions overran the local tribe, the Brigantes, and began to establish the infrastructure of the region, not least with roads north to the Border and across the Pennines.

The 1993 season of talks started in February with an amusing and informative talk by Mr. R. Hindley on Yorkshire surnames, in which he described the origins and evolution of many local names. This was followed, in March, by the return visit to the Trust of Miss Eleanor Fisher, who lectured to us on plants that thrive in the North. This popular event gave Trust members renewed inspiration just before the start of the new gardening season, and was much enjoyed. The talks arranged by the Trust are a prominent feature of its activities. They are listed on the Programme Card, and also elsewhere in this Journal.

Amanda Hobson.

Manors, Masses and Murders

In the thirteenth century the border between Lancashire and Yorkshire had significance far beyond the artificial twentieth century rivalry of these major northern counties. The houses of Lancaster and York were in a bloody struggle to get their man on the throne of a more or less unified England. Two centuries before the Norman Conquest, the country comprised small kingdoms roughly following present county boundaries, each with its local king. This contributed to continuing jostling between the white and red rose counties to have their own duke as the King of England, and attempts were made to defend and patrol county boundaries. Once over the border a person was beyond the legal jurisdiction of the county he had left. Although the Wars of the Roses came to an end in the fifteenth century by an amalgamation of the two houses by marriage and the accession of Henry VII, a person was still protected by flight over the county boundary from pursuit of the opposite side.

Until the sixteenth century catholicism had reigned as the dominant Christian religion throughout Europe. A new wave of Protestantism spread from its nucleus in the low countries and culminated in the demarcation of a Church of England, separate from that of Rome, during the reign of Henry VIII.

The north of England was far enough from the seat of power in London to remain unruly in its determination to decide for itself whether to concede to Henry and later Elizabeth's dictates that catholicism was outlawed. If a local knight or lord determined to worship in the old way for political or personal reasons it was relatively easier to do so in the northern counties. There is also evidence of far more dependence on the order and employment in these areas provided by the monasteries and abbeys. (1)

Robert Hall, Tatham is in Lancashire and always was. John Cansfield had built it in the early sixteenth century (2), the estate having been granted to him for services of a knightly nature to Lord Mounteagle of Hornby and bore this coat of arms over the entrance:

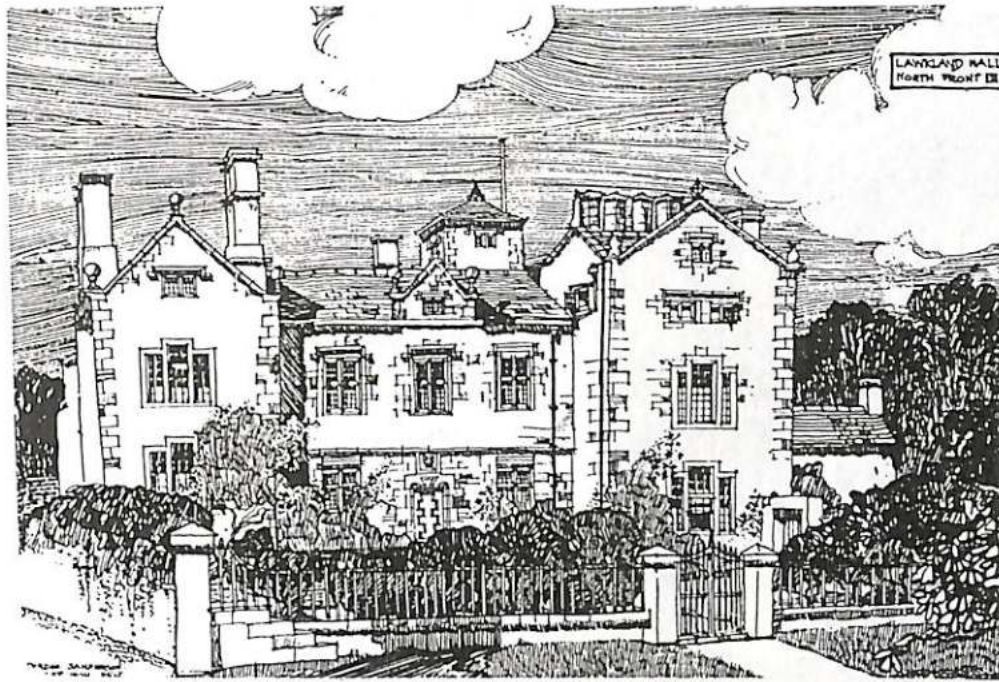


The family adhered to the catholic religion and there are records of incumbent priests from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries when a "mission" was built in Hornby. The population of the area was scanty anyway and therefore the number of worshippers who secretly gathered to hear mass was a small one. The Cansfields as recusants ran the risk of fines, and this did happen. The serfs could skip over the county border into Yorkshire if caught hearing mass where they were relatively protected from the Lancastrian penalties. Hence the significance of county boundaries. The biggest risk was to the priests who were likely to be hanged; and thus hiding places were constructed where they could be concealed for as long as necessary. The catholic population was reported to be 5 in 1717 and 15 in 1767, the priest being named Pennington in that year. Robert Hall is now a farm run by the Hope family and Mrs. Judith Hope is fairly certain that a large space, now with no access, lies behind a chimney on the south side of the house. It appears on the outside as a rounded wall.

Robert Hall like any other old building has been changed greatly over the centuries, the square bays were removed in the mid-nineteenth century presumably because they were rotting and the building had by then become a farm and was no longer a manor. Practical measures may also have dictated the opening of a large barn door into the north facing great hall. The coat of arms was moved to its present position over the arched doorway. One of the splendours of the hall is the fine array of Elizabethan chimneys and chimney breasts on the south side of the house.

Firmly in Yorkshire, Lawkland Hall was another holdout for the catholic faith in the troubled religious times of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Giles Bowring courteously gave me much verbal information and access to historic documents as well as showing me the priest hole. As he said, much myth and folklore is associated with this subject and people believe what they want to rather than observing the facts.

There is a cross on the west front gable of Lawkland Hall which may or may not mark the site of the sixteenth century chapel. The priest hole was discovered this century on the second floor with a two foot square trap door entrance which is easy to get into but not so easy to get out of. It was pointed out to me by the owner that the wood trim of the entrance was not sixteenth century and therefore modification was likely to have taken place over the years. It was a space some 5ft x 3ft x 5ft with a shaft for air into the chimney on the far right. Possibly a stone seat is sited at the opposite end, although in correspondence between Nicholas Squires, who taught at Ampleforth, and a previous owner in 1932, there was scepticism about the stone bench. Once inside, the general impression was of a large hole filled with stone rubble, and I had no emotions of fear, excitement or sanctity, to my disappointment. Priest holes are often incor-



porated into the chimney systems, as in this building. "The flues were turned into cupboards. Under one, the space was used as a hide. It is well concealed because on the floor below the flue was broken through to make a doorway and the hide occupies the space above the lintel". (3) Nicholas Squires' scholarly correspondence with a past owner, Mr. Ambler, raises all sorts of questions as to fact and fantasy, but he notes the hole seems to be work of Nicholas Owen who travelled the country expertly concealing priests' hiding places. (4)

It is tempting to make certain comparisons between present day shi-ite and sunni muslims, with their harsh rivalries, and the vicious retributions on both catholic and protestant sides of Christianity, four centuries ago. However, those intolerances in this country have led to the addition of interesting artefacts such as priest holes in some of the magnificent old buildings standing in this area.

Maureen Ellis.

References:

- (1) Dr. Christopher Haigh, English Heritage Magazine March 1991 13
- (2) Victoria History of Lancashire 8, part 3 of Index
- (3) Hide or Hang by Dr. Winifred Haward, Dalesman publication
- (4) Private Papers 1932, Granville Squires to Mr. Ambler.

The author wishes to thank Mr. Duckworth and staff of Lancaster Reference Library for their invaluable help and Mrs. Veronica Kelly, the artist who drew the picture of Robert Hall which appears on the cover.

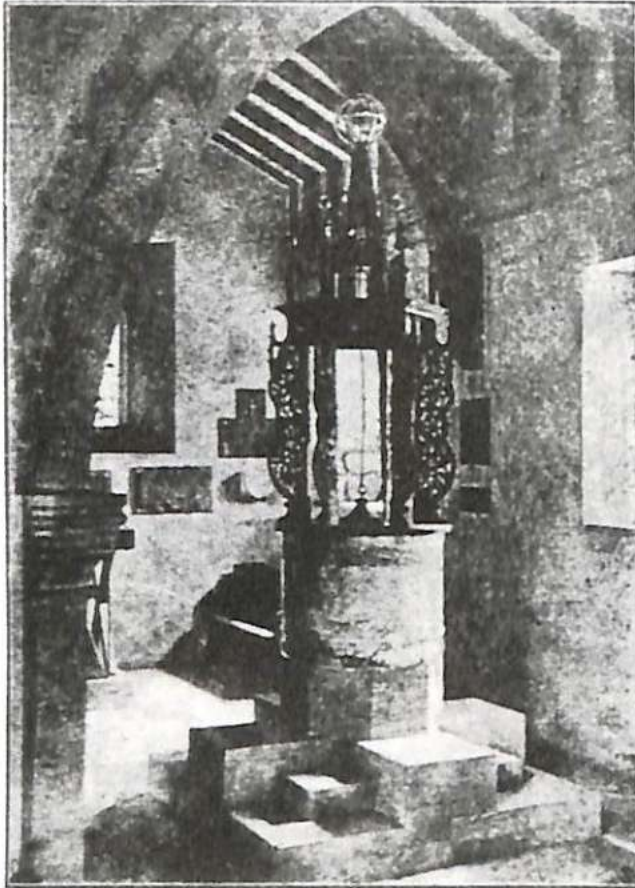
Music Notes

The Heritage Trust enjoys two musical events each year, both of which give members a chance to visit some of the beautiful churches in North Craven and to help to raise money for the Trust's Historic Churches Fund and for the Churches in which the events are held.

The annual visit of the Leeds Parish Church Choir, under their conductor, Simon Lindley, is held on the first Saturday of the year and is eagerly awaited by a staunch and enthusiastic following. The programme of Epiphany music has, over the years, introduced a wide variety of items, ancient and modern, familiar and unfamiliar, and there is always an opportunity for the audience to enjoy joining in with at least one item. Simon Lindley's conducting of the choir boys is a joy to watch and music of a high standard is invariably

produced from his firm but kindly discipline. This gives pleasure to performers and audience alike. The event is always followed by a splendid tea, at which old friends have a chance to chat and new members and newcomers to the area can meet like-minded fellow members. Some years the weather can cause considerable anxiety, but the intrepid choir has never yet been put off by ice and snow from making its annual pilgrimage to North Craven.

The Craven Camerata, directed by Sheila Haywood, gave an exciting concert at St. John the Baptist Church, Low Bentham on Sunday, April 25th. Their programme consisted of two settings of the Gloria, by Vivaldi and by Francis Poulenc, which were written 250 years apart and which provide an interesting contrast of style, while offering a fine illustration of the



Bentham Church Font

eternal nature of the Christian message.

The quality of the singers in the Craven Camerata was demonstrated by the fact that the soloists in the more familiar Vivaldi were all choir members, each singing with accuracy and feeling. The ensemble was well balanced, with the precision that Baroque music demands. Poulenc's Gloria, written in 1961, is rarely heard in this area. The work was originally scored for full orchestra and is a considerable test for any choir. Hugh Stalker was able to draw from the new organ at Low Bentham a thrilling range of orchestral colour and he accompanied choir and soloists with great delicacy. The soprano soloist, Joyce Hartley, has a lovely tone—high, rich and unforced. Several sections, particularly the final "Qui sedes ad dexteram" where the sounds are interlaced, with the choir supporting and echoing the soaring soprano, were quite magical.

Craven Camerata is a remarkable group of accomplished singers, with a gifted director, who communicate their delight and their understanding of the music to the audience. Their next concert will be eagerly awaited. Meanwhile we are indebted to Sheila Haywood for her energy and enthusiasm in organising such an enjoyable event for the Trust.

The next visit from Leeds Parish Church Choir will be on Saturday, January 8th, 1994 at Settle Parish Church.

Sheila Haywood and Amanda Hobson.

The Rev. Richard Frankland M.A., Rathmell, 1630-1698

The Act of Uniformity in Elizabeth's reign gave birth to Dissent; and the Act that became law in 1662 created 'Non-Conformity'. Previously the only training grounds for ministers had been the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. However, Dissenters had been excluded from Oxford since 1581, and from Cambridge since 1616. The only trained ministers available for Non-Conformist Meeting Homes were therefore those who had been ejected; and these were gradually being reduced in number as a result of death or their conforming. It became evident that in a short time none would be left. It was to provide a trained ministry for Non-Conformists that Richard Frankland opened his house and started his Academy.

Richard Frankland entered Giggleswick School at the age of 10; 8 years later he was admitted to Christ's College, Cambridge and took his B.A. in 1652 and his M.A. in 1655. He received Presbyterian Ordination on 14th September 1653 at Lanchester, Co. Durham, and held a number of churches in the North of England until the time of the Restoration when his position became difficult. His ordination at the hands of Presbyters and not of a Bishop had been legal under the Commonwealth but was no longer recognised as valid. So, in 1662, he was ejected from his liv-

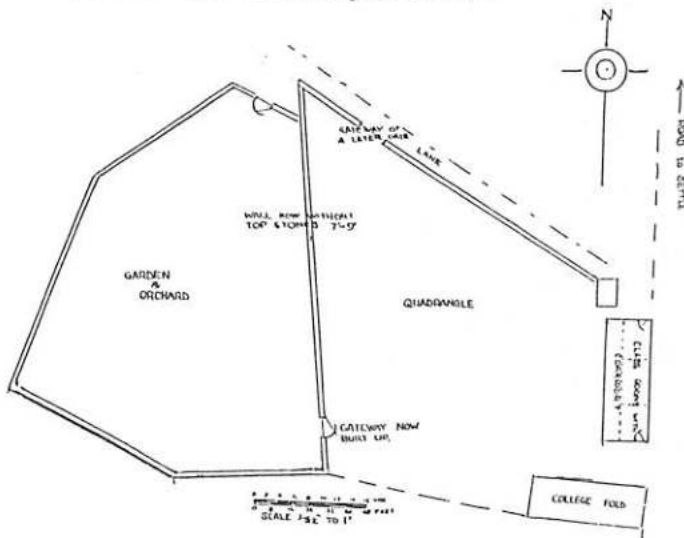


Richard Frankland M.A.

ing, and returned to Rathmell with his wife and two small children. The Academy opened in 1670; in the first year or so he had 15 pupils but membership soon grew and in the space of a few years he was said to have had up to 300 under his tuition, some of them for Law, some for Physick, but most for the Ministry.

At this time the court in Settle fined Sam Watson £150 for holding a Quaker meeting at Eldroth Hall, so no doubt they had their eye on Rathmell. Persecution soon harassed Frankland's endeavours and in 1674 he was compelled to move the Academy to Natland; here it came under the 5 Mile Act so eventually it was back over the County border to Calton Hall, Malhamdale, but only for a year before moving on again to Dawson Fold, Lancashire. Then again in 1685 it was across a County line, this time at Hartburrow in Westmorland. Yet again the 'powers that be' moved the Academy, this time back to Yorkshire, to Attercliffe. At last in 1689 King James II's Act of Indulgence gave freedom to Non-conformists, and so Frankland bought a 50/- license and returned to Rathmell.

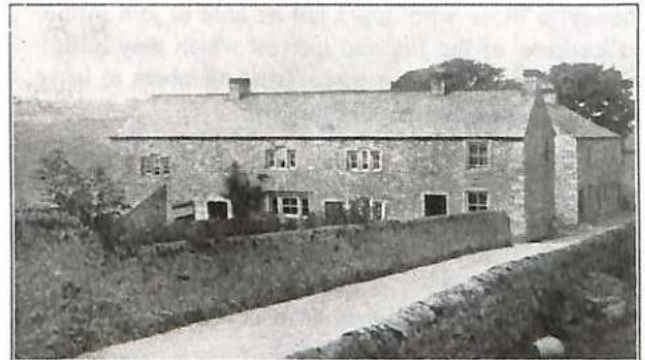
The Rev. J. Cockin visited Rathmell April 21st, 1821 and gave an account of what he found out at "College Fold" 172 years ago. "It was an extensive establishment, bounded by a high wall, which enclosed an acre of ground. Over the gate of the yard was a large bell which rang at stated times, to call the students up and summon them to prayers, and meals. Some buildings have been taken down, and those which are still standing are converted into cottages. There was a long row of windows to the different studies, most of which are now walled up. The kitchen was described to me as having been very large, and my guide told me that when she was a girl she had often hidden herself in the oven in a game of hide and seek. The garden and orchard were extensive, but are now converted into pasture land."



College Fold, Rathmell

A recent survey in the light of the Rev. Cockin's account suggests a quadrangle wall of some 9ft in height running by what was the old road to Giggleswick via Lumb and Close House (which Frankland bought in his later years) on the north side. To the west, the boundary wall lay between the quadrangle, the orchard and the vegetable garden. The latter is now pasture land bounded by what is probably the oldest field wall in the parish, built in a sweep to enclose the maximum land with the shortest wall, no doubt about or before 1600. To the east side the cottages by the present road are of great interest. Careful examination suggests these must have been part of the old Academy. This was a three storey building originally with three ground floor lecture rooms and with a connecting cloister on the west side running the length of the building. These cottages probably contain more of the original Academy than the part which has retained the name "College" but little of the college structure.

Apart from the memorial to Richard Frankland, the man, on the wall in Giggleswick Church, there is no other mention of Rathmell and its academy. Although it was one of the first and by far the largest in the country, producing many of the ablest ministers of early Non-Conformity, this wealth of heritage in the Ancient Parish remains without any memorial. To redress this the "Richard Frankland Memorial Committee" has been set up, and funds are being raised to place a plaque in Rathmell to let all passers-by know that at this place a little bit of English history was made.



College Fold, Rathmell, taken from "On Foot Round Settle" by G.H. Brown, an illustration added by T. Brayshaw

Jim Nelson
Member of "The Congregational History Circle".

Sunday Walks



Come wind come weather, and on the odd fine day too, the Trust's programme of guided walks has continued during the year. These are most efficiently organised by Mrs. Phyllis Houlton, and are thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. The walks, which take place on the first Sunday of each month, except July and August, give members an opportunity to appreciate the landscape, history and buildings of the area at first hand and in convivial company. As one regular walker says: "We feel that our N.C.H.T. Walks alert us to a wider view of our 'heritage'."

Each walk lasts about two hours, with shorter options available for those whose stamina is limited. The walks are listed on the Membership/Programme Card, and begin at 1.45pm. Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on a lead. The walks may be cancelled at short notice in the case of very bad weather. Phyllis Houlton is happy to answer any queries (Tel: 0729 822824).

The Trust would like to thank Phyllis very much indeed for her indefatigable efforts each year to organise such an excellent programme of walks for us. This year we publish Walk Reports on some of the outings we have enjoyed recently. Through these we hope to convey to those who might not be able to join in the walks some of the fun and interest which they bring, as well as to encourage more Trust members to leave their firesides to come and join us!

NORTH CRAVEN HERITAGE TRUST WALKS 1991-1992

6 September 1991: Leader—Mrs Proctor
Meeting Place—Long Preston
Station

This was a circular walk north of Long Preston along public footpaths and bridleways crossing Scaleber and Bookilber Becks to Bookilber Farm returning over high ground to return to Long Preston by the Church. The theme was "Keeping open public footpaths and Bridleways". We continued foraging for edible fungi including "The Tub". An excellent walk, invigorating and full of interest.

Phyllis Houlton



2 February 1992: Leader—Maureen Glass
Meeting Place—Langcliffe

The intended walk was to go above Langcliffe via Winskill to Catrigg Force, down the stony lane into Stainforth and back via Langcliffe. In the event, the mist came down and feeling the walk could be dangerous we came off the high ground at Upper Winskill returning to Langcliffe by the lower fields.

Phyllis Houlton



Catterick Force

March 1992 Leader—Brenda Capstick
Walk from Ingleton

Disappointing weather with low mist precluded a walk on the hills and the initial route to look at some of the early signs of coal working was abandoned as the drizzle became heavier. Instead the party of five walked down the A65 to the bridge across the River Greta, passing the tollhouse which dates from the alteration to the Keighley-Kendal turnpike in 1823 to cross Newby Moor from Clapham with a new bridge across the river south of Ingleton. Previously the turnpike had followed the high road from Clapham past Newby Cote and Holly Platt to meet the Richmond-Lancaster turnpike and descend into Ingleton past the church and over the two bridges spanning the rivers Twiss and Doe before they meet to become the Greta.

Passing over the present bridge into the parish of Thornton-in-Lonsdale we followed the footpath along the river bank and through the meadows to Scroggs Wood. Heading north, we crossed the field where the local inhabitants tried without success to develop a spa at a sulphur spring in the early 1900s. No sign of the

building or indeed of the spring can now be seen but Mr. Chapman gave us information on chalybeate wells and springs and their chemical and geological origins. Having crossed the A65 again, we passed Halsteads, one of the oldest houses in the locality with a datestone of 1671 and the remains of a cruck roof, and walked over the railway bridge for the disused Ingleton Branch line (to Lowgill and Tebay) to the church of St. Oswald where the N.C.H.T. New Year concert by the Leeds Parish Church Choir had been held. Thornton is an old parish now much diminished and, whereas initially Burton-in-Lonsdale had been a chapelry of Thornton, now the reverse is the case. The walk then took us across fields to come out on the road to Dent, between Thornton Glebe farm with its massive stepped chimney and Thornton Hall farm with the ruins of the old manor house behind, and then back through the fields to Ingleton reaching the foot of the viaduct by the entrance to the Waterfalls Walk at Broadwood. Passing the slate boundary stone between the parishes of Thornton-in-Lonsdale and Ingleton (as it states) "in the Wapentake of Ewecross with Staincliffe" now embedded in the pavement at the bridge end, we made our way back to the Community Centre where we had started.

Brenda Capstick

10 May 1992 Leader—Ian Roberts
Meeting Place—Wham

Think water, think Wham. It was of bogs, bridges and enclosures that Ian Roberts talked as we walked in a circle on higher ground round a central boggy area. Wham is south-west of Settle; Giggleswick and Rathmell commons separate it from the Keasden to Slaidburn road, and we started in an easterly direction skirting the high ground of Birkshaw Crag. It was explained by the leader that the stone walls which are so much a part of the northern scenery are of two sorts. The older ones are built in a curve because medieval minds were astute to the fact that this was the means of encroaching on to the wet, boggy moor. Later straighter walls were constructions of the second and third quarters of the seventeenth century, and enclosed the less desirable boggy areas, with their pools of water known as dubb.

Becks have to be crossed; fording is the simplest although wettest way and a packhorse bridge was built between Lower and Higher Sheepwash Farms. We kept our feet dry. These descriptive names are echoed over the fields with Swainstead and Low Bank Farms.

Maureen Ellis

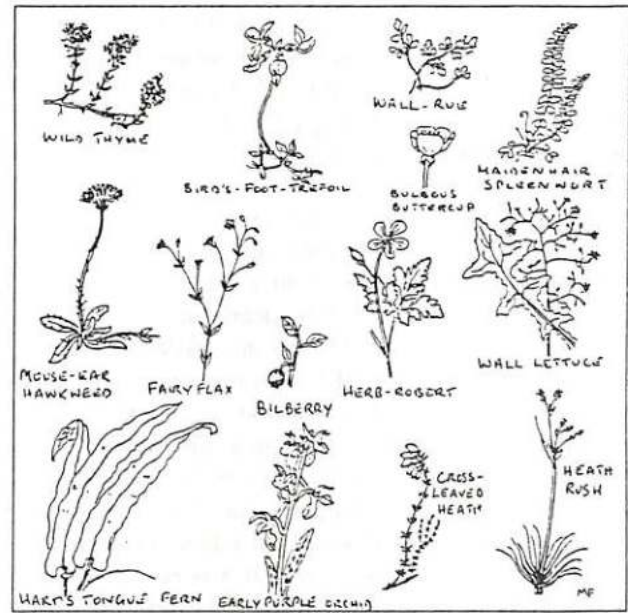


Typical Farm House near Rathmell

7 June 1992: Leader—Kathleen Firth
Meeting Place—Southerscales
Nature Reserve

Southerscales lies on the side of Ingleborough and has been a reserve since 1979. Morphologically it is fortunate in comprising acidic grassland and limestone pavements which each have their own specific flora. The site is seasonally farmed in a structured traditional way, the cattle preferring the young purplish-green leaves of purple moorgrass in the summer, while the sheep avoid the coarse tufted mat grass unless very hungry but eat the shoots of heath rush during winter and the early growth of cotton-grasses (sedges) in spring. Kathleen Firth's considerable botanic knowledge and intimate familiarity with the site was exciting. She pegged out a control metre grid demonstrating gradual intrusion of heather into the acidic grassland. An area where frog orchid had previously flowered was pointed out, and the easily missed mountain everlasting flower was seen. On the return route below a limestone outcrop, native wild columbines flowered. A comprehensive guide to the reserve is published by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Ltd. Southerscales Nature Reserve became part of the Ingleborough Nature Reserve in 1993.

Maureen Ellis



The Plants of Southerscales drawn by Mary Farnell for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust leaflet

4 October 1992: Leader—Len Moody
To Whelpstone Crag

Whelpstone Crag is a prominent gritstone outcrop at the eastern end of Bowland Knotts, just inside the Lancashire boundary, about 5 miles west of Rathmell (Grid reference SD 759 591). Perhaps one reason that it is not very well known is that two sheets of the Pathfinder map (both the Bentham/Clapham, and the Slaidburn/Forest of Bowland sheets) are needed to approach it from the north and east. Its modest statistical height of 371 metres entirely fails to convey the loftiness, loneliness and spaciousness of this eminence.

Whelpstone Crag can be reached by a number of routes, from the south starting from Tosside, from the west from Stocks Reservoir via Halstead's Farm, from



the east from Rathmell or Wigglesworth all making use of public rights of way. On 4th October, our approach was from the north-east using Giggleswick Station as an initial rendezvous. To keep the distance within the 6 miles and 3 hours stipulated, we then drove along the Eldroth road, turning left on to Storth Gill Lane leading to Wham Lane, and parked our vehicles on "the Moss" just east of Sandford Farm. The map shows a spot height of 218 metres where we left the road and set off up the fell (Rathmell Common), following a sometimes squelchy line past some disused grouse butts aiming for the north-east corner of the Gisburn Forest plantation at Brown Hills (Ref 759 609). From this point the route continues southwards along the edge of the plantation, with the ridge of Whelpstone Crag now clearly in view. After about a mile, negotiating various ups and downs, the most convenient route to the summit is to aim for the centre of the ridge, and look for an opening in the wall which traverses the centre, pass through and make for the trig point now clearly in view to the west. Don't follow too straight a line, but for the best views keep a little to the right and follow the cliff edge. Rest a while at the summit if it is not too windy, digesting the panoramic landscape in all directions. To see a detail of special interest drop down the craggy slope at the western end and see if you can spot the massive, old, abandoned grindstone lying on its side just beyond the wall.

The return route then requires an "about turn", and follows the right of way eastwards along the foot of the crag towards the beautifully located, but also abandoned, farm of Whelpstone Lodge (What memories those stones must carry!) Then it is (mostly) down hill all the way, along rights of way through enclosed land, with (mostly) excellent ancient step stiles, by way of Owlshaw, Black Hill, Bull Hurst, Higher Winterscales, Low Fold Bank, and north over the fell to Sandford once more. The prospects, north towards the Three Peaks and Ribblesdale and east towards Airedale, are unforgettable. A notable part of our Craven Heritage.

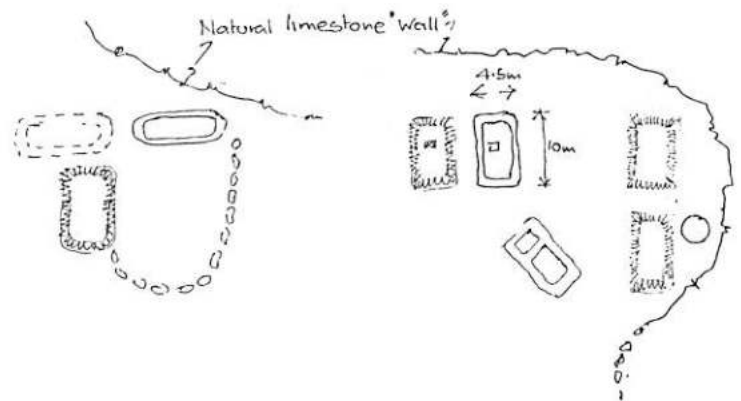
Len Moody

6 December 1992: Leader—Jill Sykes
Walk in Crummackdale

14 walkers met at the Cross in Austwick, but because of the lack of available daylight, we took the cars up Crummack Lane and left them at the end of White Stone Lane.

With the permission of Mr. and Mrs. Haw, of Crummack Farm, we explored two groups of possible hut bases and old enclosure walls at the head of the dale, together with some individual hut profiles. Two of these were excavated by Arthur Raistrick in the 1930s, and dated by him to the Iron Age, about the time of the start of the Roman Occupation. Where the walls are exposed it is presumed that these are the sites of the excavations by Raistrick. One authority suggests that, as certain metal ores were found, there was some industry on the site.

Biting wind and rain made further exploration uncomfortable, but we completed the walk by going through Beggars Stile, Thieves Moss and Sulber Gate. We noted the interesting Limestone formations. We then returned on part of the Clapham to Selside track until a fork to the east brought us down again to Crummack Farm and on to our cars with just enough daylight left.



Sketch plans of possible dwellings, mainly grass covered banks approximately 2 ft. high.

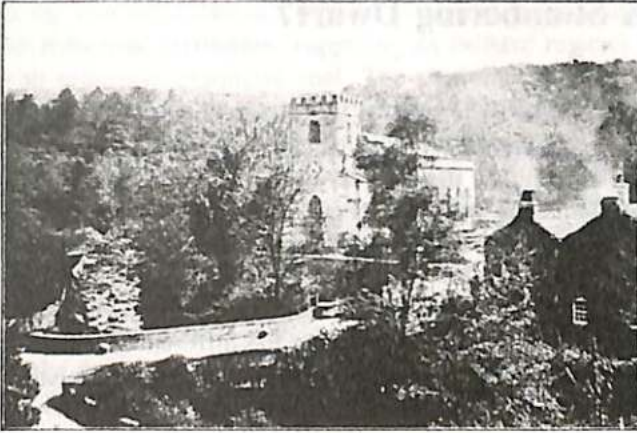
7 February 1993: Leader—Hilary Baker
Meeting Place—Long Preston Green

The walk started at Cow Bridge and at first followed the Ribble, then veered west towards Wigglesworth Hall. As the footpath passed Hamerton Hall some of the Hamerton family history emerged from the Group. Many historic farms were passed on the way, Cross Gates Laithe, Stubb, Deep Dale Head and High Scale to name only some. This was an ingenious and well constructed walk linking paths that were not obvious to the casual map reader.

Maureen Ellis

7 March 1993: Leader—Maureen Brocklehurst
Meeting Place—The Cross, Austwick

Leaving the cars on the grass verge at the entrance to the quarry, we walked round the spoil heaps of Dry Rigg Quarry to the Foredale Cottages and contemplated The Unconformity. After some scrambling



Clapham: start and finish to so many walks

we walked the more gradual slope to the summit of Moughton 427m, returning by a valley with shake holes, beneath limestone cliffs and down a steep path along the edge of Dry Rigg Quarry to our cars.

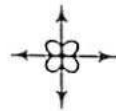
Distance 4 miles
 Time: Three and a half hours
 Weather: Dry but hazy

Maureen Brocklehurst

Editor's Comment:

It is hoped by careful recording of the walks arranged by the Trust to accumulate local information about buildings and natural history which might otherwise be lost. The preceding vignettes of the walks that have taken place in 1992-93 begin to address this task.

Maureen Ellis



Bentham Footpath Group

Some years ago a walking group, whose Chairman is Mr. Len Moody, one of our regular Walk Leaders, was created in Bentham by an enthusiastic core of people. Recently it received a top award recognising its work towards the protection of Britain's rights of way. The group has been presented with a cheque for £1,000 after winning the 1992 Esso Community Footpath Award. Members intend to use the money to redesign and improve the standard of signposts and waymarkers in the area, and extend their work to paths around Bentham. The award, run by the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV), was given to the Bentham group for its "outstanding contribution" to the protection and improvement of Britain's footpaths. Over the last year the Group has concentrated on the refurbishment of stiles and other key features of paths in and around the town. The judges were impressed by the high standard of work carried out, and by the wide range of community support for the project. Co-operation at three levels is necessary for success between, first the statutory authority, second the land-owners and occupiers, and third the voluntary users. Bentham Footpath Group has achieved this to the highest level.

SUNDAY WALKS 1993

| <i>Leader</i> | <i>Phone</i> | <i>Venue</i> |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| February 7th Mrs Hilary Baker | 0729-840609 | Long Preston, Green |
| March 7th Mrs M. Brocklehurst | 05242-51483 | The Cross, Austwick |
| April 4th Mrs Enid Parker | 0729-823792 | Horton-in-R'dale Car Park |
| May 2nd Mr Len Moody | 05242-61128 | Giggleswick Station Car Park |
| June 6th Dr Lesley Todd | 05242-51245 | To be advised Austwick/Clapham |
| September 5th Mr Arthur Lupton | 0729-823987 | High Birkwith Map Ref. 803-770 |
| October 3rd Miss Brenda Capstick | 05242-41240 | Thornton-in-Lonsdale Church |
| November 7th Mr John McGeoch | 0729-850462 | Gisburn Road, parking Hellifield |
| December 5th Mrs Phyllis Houlton | 0729-822824 | Greenfoot Car Park, Settle |

All walks commence at 1.45 p.m.

Any queries please ring Mrs P. Houlton
 0729-822824

Appended is a list of proposed conservation work for 1993.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a) Saturdays (general work) | b) Wednesdays (stone work) |
| 8th May Boiling Well | 21st Apr Lingham |
| 5th June Moulterbeck | 12th May Pye Busk |
| 3rd July Crow Trees | 16th June Ridding Lane |
| 7th Aug Burton Path | 15th July Cross Green |
| 18th Sept Ridding Lane etc | August Lingham |
| 2nd Oct River Wenning | 8th Sept Mewith |
| | 6th Oct Greystonegill |

Membership of the Group is £2.00 annually, through:

David Stubbs, Treasurer
 The Grange,
 Low Bentham Road,
 Bentham.
 Tel: 05242 61430

The Ingleton Coalfield—A Slumbering Dwarf?

It would probably be wrong to suppose that the story of the Ingleton Coalfield is history. Coal still remains in the ground beneath Ingleton and over the decades, or perhaps centuries to come, technology or economic expediency will find a way to exploit it. Indeed, the next chapter in the Ingleton Coalfield story may be just around the corner, if coal bed methane really is the fuel of the future as some geologists now believe.

Ingleton is lucky to have had a coal-mining history at all. Mineable coal occurs in Britain in relatively thin seams (up to 14 feet thick) within what is known as the Coal Measures. Geologically, economically useful Coal Measures are sandwiched between the underlying Millstone Grit and the overlying Barren Measures, and they in fact consist mostly of sandstones and shales rather than coal. The thickest coal measures in the country occur in the Lancashire-North Staffordshire Coalfield, where they are up to 3km thick. Both in this and the North Yorkshire Coalfield, the best coal is to be found in a seam which miners call the "Barnsley" or the "Top Hard" seam, more or less in the middle of the Coal Measures sequence, although in these fields coal is also extracted from numerous other seams. The Coal Measures of the Ingleton Coalfield attain a maximum thickness of less than 400m and represent only the lowest part of the British Coal Measures succession, the upper part having been eroded away prior to deposition of the overlying Barren Measures. Being so thin, the Ingleton Coal Measures do not include the Top Hard seam, so that Ingleton mining had to rely on the presence of other, nonetheless high quality, coal seams.

The earliest mines of the Ingleton Coalfield (dating

back to the early 1600's) are to be found along the banks of the river Greta, where three seams outcrop at the surface. Of these three, by far the most important economically were the "Four feet" and "Six feet" seams (names which refer to the seams' thicknesses rather than to their depths of burial). Between these two seams occurs a third, inferior, seam known as the "Yard seam". The coals from the different seams were of different qualities, so that the Four feet coal was used for domestic purposes whilst the Six feet coal was found to be more suitable for industrial use. The thickest seams of all in the coalfield were in fact to remain undiscovered until the sinking of the New Ingleton Pit in 1913. Quite by accident, and to the undoubted glee of the mine owners, during excavation beneath the base of the Barren Measures cover sequence the mine shaft penetrated a Ten feet and a Nine feet seam. These seams, the youngest in the coalfield, do not outcrop at the surface, having been truncated by erosion prior to the deposition of the Barren Measures (see figure 2) but are now believed to underlie much of the area covered by the Barren Measures (see figure 1).

The earliest demand for Ingleton coal predates the industrial revolution by about a century, and was driven by the needs of local textiles and potteries industries, and from export of coal to the surrounding area for domestic fuel and lime burning. The raw material for lime burning was the limestone sequence overlying the barren measures, whilst some of the best potters' clay is extracted from the fossilised soils which sit directly beneath coal seams, the so called "seat earths" on which the coal swamps grew. Coal and iron were the raw ingredients for the industrial revolution, but Ingleton had no iron ore, and it is true

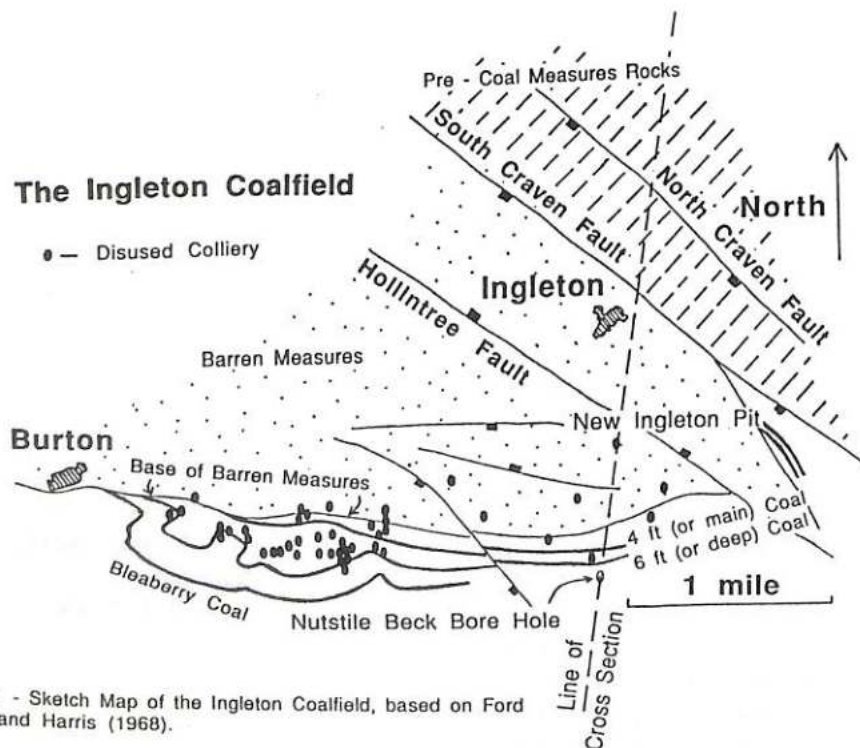


Figure 1 - Sketch Map of the Ingleton Coalfield, based on Ford (1954) and Harris (1968).

to say that the Ingleton Coalfield prospered in spite of the industrial revolution, supplying an isolated region with relatively expensive coal. The situation changed with the opening of the railway in the 1840s, linking the Ingleton industrial infrastructure with the more economic coalfields to the south. At the acme of the coalfields in the 1830s up to 16,000 tons of coal were produced a year from one of the principal collieries, the Ingleton colliery. This was burned to provide about half of the power required by the local cotton mills at Bentham, Ingleton and Burton, the remainder of the power being supplied by waterwheels. Comparing the Ingleton colliery figure of maximum production with a figure for Britain as a whole at the same time of roughly 60,000,000 tons per year gives an idea of the relatively small scale of production at Ingleton. To put that in wider context, Britain was producing around 300,000,000 tons of coal per year by the first decade of this century.

By the turn of the 20th century the general lack of demand for Ingleton coal combined with the fact that most of the relatively accessible coal had been worked out around the rim of the coalfield, meant that coal mining had effectively come to an end for Ingleton. By sinking the New Ingleton Pit in 1913, the directors of the then recently formed New Ingleton Collieries Limited Company were playing a game of "Big Risk—Big Reward" in which the risk was the geological uncertainty of discovering coals beneath a thick succession of Barren Measures, and the reward appears to have been trade with the shipyards in Furness, in North Lancashire. The company was spectacularly lucky in not only encountering the Four feet and Six feet seams at 700 and 800 feet respectively, but also prior to this in discovering the Ten feet and Nine feet seams. Surely only cheap labour or geologically naive (or brave) financial backers could have justified this undertaking. Despite this undoubted good fortune, the coals in this colliery were exhausted by 1936, with the miners encountering the Hollin tree fault at depth, a relatively short distance from the main shaft itself (see figure 2).

Given the political climate of the 1990s, and a government dedicated to ousting the miners' unions, where necessary by removing the workforce itself, it could be argued that we might have to wait a very long time before the next instalment of the Ingleton Coalfield story. Research in the United States during the past decade however has shown that one of the coal miners' most feared enemies, "firedamp", may represent a hitherto unsuspectedly rich store of coal energy resource. Firedamp, or coal bed methane as it is more properly known, is chemically much the same as North Sea gas, but whilst North Sea gas occurs naturally mainly in porous sandstone reservoirs, firedamp is natural gas which resides within the coal seams themselves. One of the main advantages of coal bed methane over North Sea gas is that it is much cheaper and less risky to drill wells in an onshore coalfield, whose geology is already well known, than it is to drill from an offshore platform into often relatively uncharted geology. The U.S. now has over 200 working coal bed methane wells, the optimum

depth of burial of coal reserves for production of gas lying in the range of 450 to 1000 metres—exactly the depth range of coals in the deepest part of the Ingleton Coalfield, between the Hollintree and South Craven faults.

Perhaps the tide has already begun to turn again for Britain's beleaguered coalfields. An American company, Evergreen Resources, of Denver, has already completed a 1000m deep well close to Liverpool, whilst a British company, Kirkland Resources, of Harpenden, holds exploration licenses for coal bed methane over much of the South Wales Coalfield. If coal bed methane becomes established as a cheap alternative to offshore natural gas it may not be long before it becomes economically viable to prospect for gas in the hitherto untapped deep part of the Ingleton Coalfield.

A. Christian Ellis.

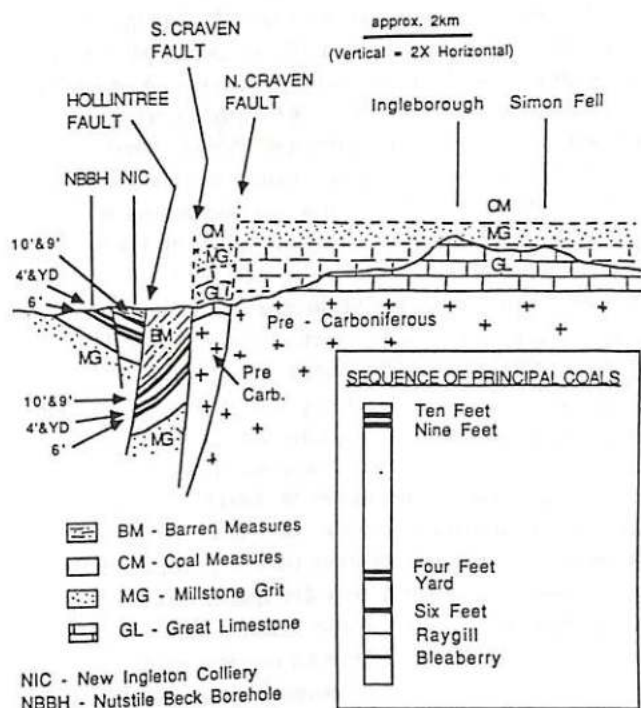


Figure 2 - Cross Section of the Ingleton Coalfield, also showing the sequence of the principal named coals (inset). Coal seams within the coalfield are shown by heavy lines. Pecked lines denote strata which have been removed by erosion. Section based on British Geological Survey; Sheet 50, and Ford (1954).

Sources:

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 - Harris, A. (1965) The Ingleton Coalfield. In Industrial Archaeology, the Journal of the History of Industry and Technology. No. 5, November 1968
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 - Dunham, K.C. (1971) One Inch Geological Map of the Hawes area, Solid edition. (Sheet 50)
- Diagrams drawn by the author.

Our Summer Outing, 1992

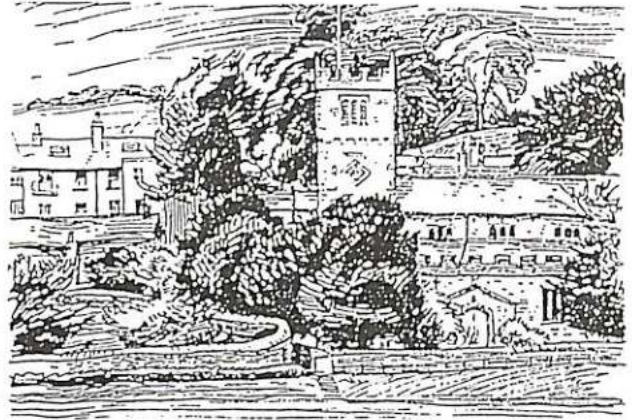
On the previous evening, while giving the weather forecast, the met. man on the television almost broke down and wept at the thought of storms to come. In fact, it was cloudy bright, with a little morning precipitation to settle the dust and a hefty shower falling on a parched earth when we were undercover. Our expedition was to the Upper Lune. The Howgills—Sedbergh's "naked heights" (Wordsworth)—were in clear view.

Three architectural attractions were Middleton Hall (home of the Middleton family from the mid-14th to the late 17th centuries), Brigflatts (one of the oldest of the Friends' Meeting Houses) and Sedbergh School Chapel (High Victorianism, having been built in 1897).

Middleton Hall hides behind an ancient 18ft wall. A member on traffic duty at the roadside managed to wave into the approach road all our party, plus a car containing some bemused holiday makers. A welcome was given by Hazel Watson, the farmer's wife, who allowed us access to the principal rooms, where Muriel Humphries told a fascinating fable about the Redmaynes and the Middletons—a tale ending with a priest being called to exorcise the ghost of a woman who, in fact, was his mother, a nun! The story would be a sensation if presented on television.

I read the story of the sheep-clipping at Middleton Hall in 1879 when 2,000 sheep and 1,000 lambs were gathered by 13 men and a dog and almost 100 clip-pers clipped the yows with time left for feasting, sports and dancing till the "wee small hours".

The party then dispersed in Sedbergh, on market day, and re-assembled in the early afternoon near Brigflatts. A dozen cars were parked in a glorified lay-by and more inched into the spaces down the lane to the Meeting House, where Melville, the warden, wearing a straw hat, welcomed us. The garden and road verges were multi-coloured with summer blooms, pheasants were tending their chicks in the burial ground and the local farmer greeted our arrival with a



Sedbergh Church

march past of sheep which returned, having been dipped, shortly afterwards.

The only crisis to arise was when to have tea and biscuits—before or after the talk—and eventually this was resolved and we began with feasting. The members sat on the old wooden forms in the 300-year-old building and heard about George Fox and the beginnings of Quakerism. Some members had driven up to Fox's "Pulpit" on Firbank Fell.

Thence to Sedbergh School Chapel, designed by the Lancaster firm of Austin and Paley and completed in 1897, replacing a wooden hut. Prior to this, the boys had worshipped in the old parish church. The Chapel looked very ordinary on the outside but inside was an assertion of Victorian religious certainties, with some fine needlework at the altar and lots of fascinating memorial plaques to scrutinise.

Some members, with energy left, went on the "optional extra"—to Pennine Tweeds, in an old mill on the outskirts of Sedbergh, where Dobcross looms are used in hand-weaving and bolts of cloth testified to the skills of the weavers.

Bill Mitchell.

Christmas Party

The Trust's Christmas Party this year took place as usual in the pleasant surroundings of Harden, Austwick, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Lovett. It was very well attended and in addition to good food, good wine and good company, the evening

included a programme of carols and Christmas music presented by pupils of Giggleswick School, under the direction of Mr. Peter Read. We are most grateful to Mr. Read, and to his choir and instrumentalists, for setting the Christmas season off on such a festive note.

Rag Rugs

“As children we were allowed an extra half hour out of bed provided we used the time to cut clips”

“Everybody had diamond designs in their rugs, but I was tired of diamonds so I drew round a saucer and made shell shapes!”

“My mother always cut clips with pointed ends because they were easier to push through the backing”

“That’s my special SUNDAY rug—these days they wouldn’t know it was Sunday if there wasn’t something different!”

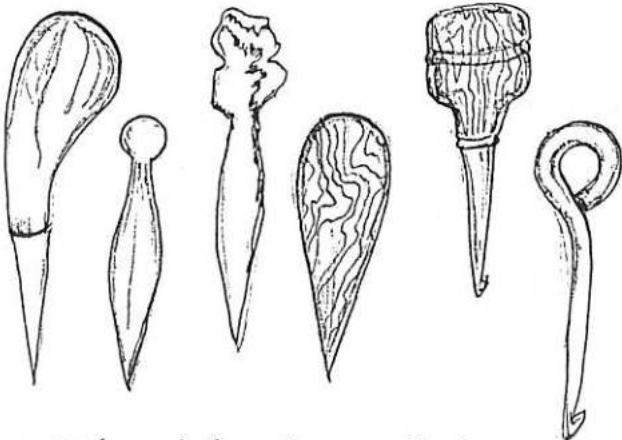
“Everybody made up their own designs—old Mrs Hannam was especially good at that”

As soon as rag rugs are mentioned, nearly everyone of a certain age has a story to tell—men as well as women. The making of rugs from worn out clothes was a central activity in households of the north for a long period of time. It is difficult to say when it started, but it seems likely that the factory system of cloth production meant that people had more clothes and therefore material was available for rug making.

Everything was used and nothing was wasted. The rugs were pegged on old hessian feed sacks which, in some areas such as Upper Ribblesdale, were stretched on to a homemade wooden frame. Since we have been demonstrating rug making we have been interested to hear on a number of occasions from people originating from the Burnley area of Lancashire, that they do not remember a frame being used—their mothers and grandmothers simply stretched the material tightly over their knees!

The tools used for pushing the clips through the hessian were made from any suitable piece of wood or metal smoothed and sharpened—old curtain rods, pieces of poker, half dolly pegs etc., even horn or bone. The prodder needs to sit snugly into the hollow of the hand, and, having found a comfortable one, people are loth to part with it.

Prodders and Hooks



— can be made from almost anything!



Rug design for the Golden Lion Hotel, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, when it re-opened in 1988. The border is in “proddy” and the lion design in “hooky”.

Drawn by Henry Barker.

At the end of winter the housewife would sort through the family clothes, and any that were beyond repair would be washed, dried and put away until the Autumn. As the nights began to draw in, the frame was set up and everyone from youngest to oldest, men and women, family and friends, had a part to play in clipping, prodding or hooking.

Some people remember rug making with pleasure and nostalgia, while others shudder to be reminded of a tedious chore.

The clips consisted of small bits of material cut into uniform pieces, about 2" long and ½" wide, and thousands of clips were needed to make a rug. No wonder the children’s labour was essential to the enterprise!

Designs depended on the colour and texture of the material available. In Horton-in-Ribblesdale, which was a railway village, railwaymen’s old uniforms were frequently used to make a dark thick border. Brightly coloured material was particularly prized and everyone tried to get some bright red in somewhere. At a farm near Ribblehead there is an especially interesting rug, which is still in very good condition, and which contains pieces of cream serge from a bride’s outfit dating from the early years of this century. If the technique of **hooking** rather than **prodding** was used, long thin strips of soft cloth were required. A favourite source of material for this method was old lisle stockings and stockinette underwear!

A **pegged rug** ends up with a long, thick pile, so that the design is not clear cut. Often there was a dark border with the centre filled in with clips picked at random from a large bag of mixed colours. Sometimes the clips were sorted into groups of colours and a design based on geometrical shapes. **Hooky rug** designs can be much more detailed. Flower patterns were popular and some people even made pictures of animals or local scenes.

Having amassed a mountain of clips and decided on the design, a start could be made on **pegging** (known as **prodding** or **progging** in some areas), and the work continued in every spare moment until the rug was finished. Friends calling in to visit would join in, courting couples would start on a rug for their new home. When the new rug was finished it would take pride of place in front of the main hearth, and the old one would be relegated to a less conspicuous position, the lowliest place being outside the back door for the men to wipe their boots on. After that we like to think that its last resting place was the compost heap, since all its components were natural fibres and therefore bio-degradable.

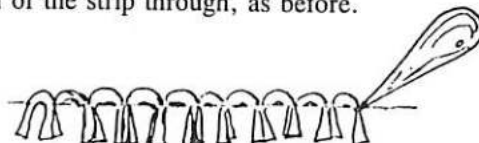
There is now a revival of interest in this traditional craft. The wealth of fabrics and colours now available have inspired many new and imaginative designs, but the excitement and satisfaction of making something new and pleasing, from materials that would otherwise have been discarded, is the same as it was for our forebears.

Sheila Haywood and Margaret Barker.

PEGGED OR PRODDY RUG:

—this type is worked with the wrong side facing you.

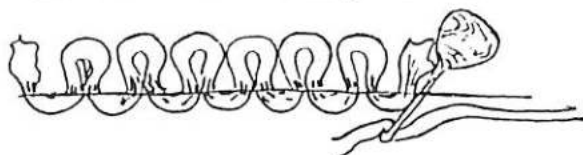
1. Cut rags into strips 2" long and $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide.
2. Poke a hole in the hessian, push one end of the strip down through this first hole.
3. Make another hole $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the first and push the other end of the strip through this. Pull both ends to the same length.
4. Take another strip of material and poke this also through your second hole.
5. Make the next hole $\frac{1}{4}$ " away and poke the other end of the strip through, as before.



HOOKY RUG:

—This type is worked with the right side facing you.

1. Cut rags into long strips $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide.
2. Using hook, poke a hole in the hessian backing.
3. Holding the long strip underneath, push the hook down and bring up the end of the strip to the top in a loop.
4. Push the hook through again $\frac{1}{4}$ " further on, and pull up the next bit of the strip to form another loop.
5. Continue in this manner, keeping loops as even as possible—about $\frac{1}{4}$ " high. Start a new strip in the same hole as the end of the previous one.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The engravings and photographs on pages 5, 6, 10, 12 and 15 are taken from H. Speight, "The Craven and North-West Yorkshire Highlands", 1892.

The architectural drawings on pages 9, 12, 13 and 14 are from G. Sanderson, "Architectural Features of the Settle District", 1911.

The portrait of Richard Frankland on page 10 comes from E.A. Bell, "Giggleswick School 1499-1912", 1912.

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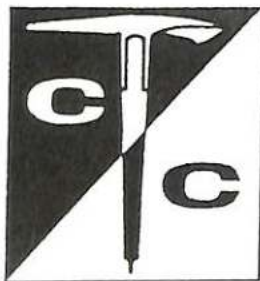
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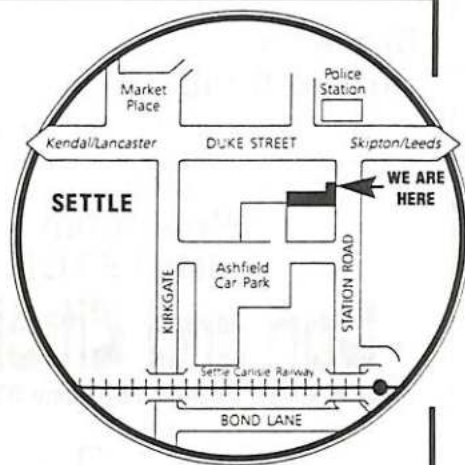
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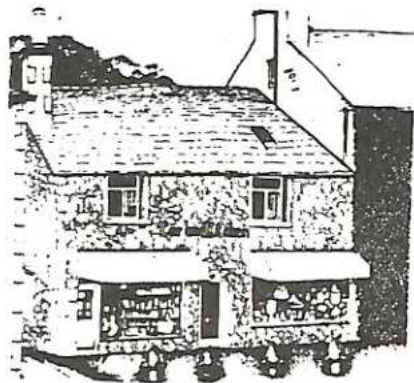
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