

SPRING JOURNAL 2021

Dear Members and Friends of Clitheroe Civic Society

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the year and one that's timed with the very welcome arrival of Spring! I know that many of you will, by now, have had your first or potentially your second Vaccine and we all hope that we can gain a greater sense of 'normality' over the coming months. From a CCS presentation perspective, we have two further Zoom presentations in this run, the first being on Monday April the 12th, details of which you'll find below. Then after the following presentation at the start of May, we take our usual summer break.

Once we get to the end of Summer/Autumn, we plan to re-start face to face presentations/meetings at The Assembly Rooms on Lowergate once again with a fantastic schedule of presentations that has already been drawn up with a good variety of guest speakers for the 21/22 programme. More on that in due course.

The Newsletter this time is a little different - along with some timely updates on projects and dates for the diary, our members have submitted some excellent articles for inclusion and I hope that these will be of interest to you - they certainly are to me.

Since the last Newsletter we finalised the Clitheroe Advertiser and Times restoration project and you can find details of the recent article that appeared in the Advertiser and on the CCS website. Once again a huge thank you to all involved in bringing this important project to life in the first place and then on to successful completion.

I do hope that you find the articles in this edition of interest - please feel free to provide me with feedback about the Newsletter or suggestions for next time and if you would like to submit an article, please do so!

Thank you once again for your continued support for the Society, the last 12 months have been a challenge for us all in different ways and being able to provide continuity through the Zoom meetings has been important and hopefully welcomed and is evidence of the resilience of both the Society and it's Members and guests.

With best wishes to all,

Peter Llewellyn,

Links to other sites.

Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

The latest updates for Spring are now available at <https://pendlehillproject.com/news> and this includes details of an online session about Sawley Abbey on Wednesday 21st April by Dr Michael Carter of English Heritage.

Civic Voice

The latest press releases can be viewed at www.civicvoice.org.uk/news/press-releases/ and includes their objection to the Government consultation to relax planning permission on high streets.

Lancashire Local History Federation

The latest edition of the newsletter for the Federation can be seen @ <http://www.lancashirehistory.org>

**A report in one of the National Newspapers sometime in 1934
about Stanley House (not sure whether Daily Mail, Daily
Express or Daily Despatch)**

The Headlines - *House 'Seized' by Couple at Night*

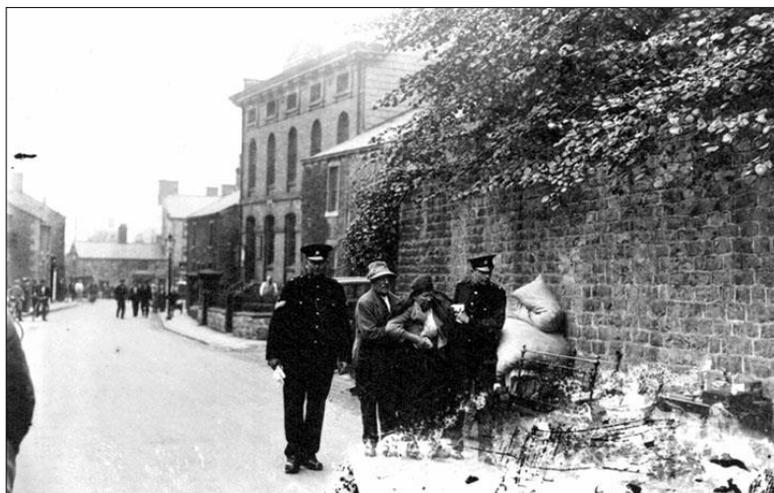
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CLAIM TO OWN IT

-oOo-

FURNITURE IN STREET

**From our own correspondent
Clitheroe, Friday**



Courtesy of 'Old Clitheroe' website, Pye's of Clitheroe

A CROWD of several hundred people saw an extraordinary occurrence in Lowergate, Clitheroe, today, when household goods were removed from Stanley House, the former residence of Mr C.J.B.Trappes, which had been unoccupied for a long time.

The furniture was deposited in the street, and it was noticed that a feeble elderly woman was sitting on a rocking chair.

It is stated that the man who gave the name of "John Lomax" and his wife arrived in Clitheroe last night with their goods and established themselves in the house.

MAN'S CLAIM

The solicitor for the property owners' was notified and the police were summoned, but the man declined to leave, claiming a legal right to the property as a descendant of an old Lancashire family of Lomax.

He and his wife were permitted to stay the night, but this afternoon, in the temporary absence of "Mr Lomax" who had gone to a shop in the town, his wife was led from the house and all the belongings were removed.

On his return, the man, seeing what had happened, excitedly addressed the crowd on what he considered were his rights to the property.

DEPARTURE IN CAR

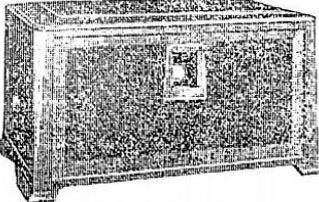
He sent for his solicitor, who interviewed the representative of the property owners.

While this discussion, which lasted some time, was taking place, the woman was laid upon a couch in the street.

After the conference the claimant and his wife were taken away by a friend in a car and a van removed their goods.

Janet Clegg

A snippet from Shirley from 1931



Invest in a Radio RECEIVER
during Clitheroe's Shopping Week.

HALSTEADS can show you all the Newest in Radio, and help you in all your Wireless problems
Only Reliable Makes Stocked.

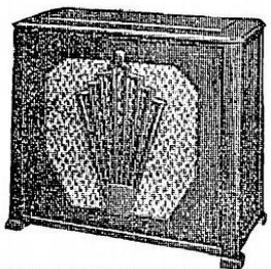
Large variety of Gecophone Loud Speakers in Stock.

Gecophone Table Four All Electric
Screen Grid. A revelation in Wireless Reception. 20 Gns.
EASY PAYMENT TERMS GLADLY ARRANGED.

Daganite Battery Service Station
PROMPT ATTENTION ALWAYS

T. R. Halstead
Radio Corner, Pimlico Road,
Clitheroe

There will be a Good Variety of CHILDREN'S CYCLES in stock for Xmas particularly the "Fairy" make.



Private Peter Hulland – Dead but Not Forgotten!



In 1988, together with my wife, Margaret and our two sons, David and Stephen, I moved from our former home in Linden Drive, Clitheroe to the little village of Forton, as the move was a requirement of my promotion to police inspector, based in Lancaster. It was, in my mind, a temporary move as I intended to move back to Clitheroe on my retirement, which was just ten years away. Many will know that the 'temporary' move lasted well beyond my retirement, and eventually extended to 30 years before returning in 2018 to a new home built in the field that Margaret, and later our two sons played in as children.

A visual inspection of War Memorials in Clitheroe, Low Moor and Forton will reveal the name of Peter Hulland, who died in the First World War. Had it not been for a number of amazing coincidences that have occurred over the last 15 to 20 years, the information on the Forton village war memorial would be about as much as anyone in the village would ever know about the man, his life and his family. The same can also be said in respect of the Clitheroe and Low Moor memorials however, you must read on.....

Some years ago, Terry Mansfield of Wallace Lane, Forton produced a background information sheet in relation to one or two names on the village war memorial and the information was shared at the annual November village gathering to mark the Armistice. The information in relation to Peter Hulland, was sufficient for my wife Margaret, to realise that she knew of the Hulland family in Clitheroe.

The story so far was that Peter Hulland was born locally to Forton and became a farm worker. As a young man, he left Forton as he had obtained work in the Clitheroe area with the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), which owned a number of large farms around Clitheroe and a creamery in the nearby village of Chaigley. He married Maggie, and together they lived at 8 Union Street, Low Moor, Clitheroe. Like many organisations, the CWS would have been required to provide men of fighting age for the war effort, and Peter Hulland found himself attached to the East Lancashire Regiment. He was killed in action in the Battle of the Somme on 27th November 1917 and now lies in Tyne Cot War Cemetery in Belgium. His sacrifice is also mentioned on the Clitheroe War Memorial and also in the village of Low Moor.

At the time of his death, Maggie was expecting a child, and when the child was born, he was also given the name of Peter Hulland. It was this man (by now also deceased) and his daughter that my wife knew of, and as a result of the connection, Terry Mansfield was able to make contact with the widow of Peter Hulland (Jnr) and their

daughter Carol, and as far as I remember, he invited them over to Forton, but whether or not they visited, I cannot recall. Sadly, both Mrs Hulland and her daughter have since died.



Carol with the Hulland wreath which included Peter's photograph

Photo courtesy of Co-operative Funeral Care, Salford Manchester

A few years later, I had retired from Lancashire Constabulary and had taken up employment with a large firm of solicitors, and was engaged in the defence of civil proceedings being taken against our clients. One such client was Wyre Borough Council, which was at the wrong end of a law suit. In order to establish the facts of the case, I needed to create a reconstruction of the alleged incident, which had involved the movement of a large rock within a park. I was told that the rock in question was no longer available, but I asked that a rock or stone of a similar size be produced for the reconstruction to be held on a later date. When I attended the reconstruction in a park in Fleetwood, the rock was delivered in a tipper trailer, and when it was tipped onto the ground, it rolled over and there facing me and engraved in the stone, was the name, Peter Hulland, together with a couple of other names, which I photographed and later confirmed that they were in the exact same order as appear on Forton War Memorial. Prior to 1990 or thereabouts, the Forton War Memorial had been located adjacent to the bus stop on the A6 and around 20 years prior to my discovery in Fleetwood, an accident had occurred on the A6 and the war memorial had been badly damaged, requiring a section to be replaced. The damaged section had apparently been left in a corner of the council highways yard in Fleetwood from the date of its removal from Forton to the day that I discovered the connection in Fleetwood.

Sometime later, perhaps a year or two, I was watching the North West News on the television and there was an item regarding a police raid on a scrap metal yard in Manchester and the subsequent recovery of a large bronze plaque that had been stolen from within the old CWS Offices in Manchester, that were in the process of restoration. The plaque had previously been located in the main foyer area of the building and was a memorial plaque to employees of the CWS, who had been killed in WW1. Amazingly, the camera focused in on the name of Peter Hulland. Within seconds, I called Terry Mansfield, who had seen the very same news item. We marvelled at the continuing coincidences linked to Peter Hulland. Surely there couldn't be any more coincidences connected with the story, but read on.....

Roll the clock forward to Friday 1st July 2017, and to mark the fact that it was 100 years since the commencement of the Battle of Passchendaele, there was a great deal of TV coverage from Tyne Cot in Belgium, where many British and Commonwealth soldiers are buried as a consequence of the Battle of Passchendaele. The coverage was broadcast around the world and will have been viewed by millions. As part of the ceremony at Tyne Cot, a small number of individuals marched from the assembled congregation and they each went to a different part of the cemetery and stood behind a headstone. In most of the cases, the person present was a direct relative of the soldier who was buried there, but in the last of few, there was no such connection. In each location, the television camera showed the detail on the headstone as the person explained their link with the person buried there. In the case we are interested in the person merely said something along the lines....” This is the final resting place of Private Peter Hulland, a soldier of the East Lancashire Regiment”. This was yet another of the unbelievable coincidences surrounding Peter Hulland. Again, there was a telephone conversation between myself and Terry Mansfield.

In September of 2018, and by now living in Clitheroe, I undertook a motorcycle tour of the First World War sites in France and Belgium, together with David Wilson, a friend from my teens and just had to visit the grave of Peter Hulland and pay my respects to a man, who I never knew, but somehow had formed an attachment to (or was it the other way round?). I have included a photograph of poor quality, but the headstone nearest to the camera has the insignia of the East Lancashire Regiment, and the three names, including that of Peter Hulland upon the single headstone mark the exact spot where he and others perished at the same time.

Having returned to live in Clitheroe, I became a member of the Clitheroe Civic Society, of which I am now the secretary. I was discussing the long list of coincidences with our then chairman, Steve Burke, who is a retired architect. When I had finished the story, he told me that following five years employment with Ribbles Valley Borough Council, he later formed his own architectural practice. and one of his first assignments was to design a small bay window extension for a lady in Clitheroe. When the construction work had been completed, his client was so delighted she invited him, and his wife Sue, to take afternoon tea with her and share the pleasure of the new prospect of Eshton Terrace the bay gave her. Yes, you’ve already guessed, the lady in question was Mrs Hulland, the widow of Peter Hulland (Jnr).

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John Spencer (j.spencer526@btinternet.com) 15th February 2021

A snippet from Shirley from 1921

HAROLD BLACKBURN,
Corporation Street Fish Depot.

FISH FRESH DAILY.
FISH TOP QUALITY.
FISH ROCK BOTTOM PRICES.
FISH WE SERVE YOU WELL.

Our Speciality : NOTED FRIED FISH.

VALUE FOR MONEY Every Time!

Cecilia Elizabeth Wilson 1879-1960

Theo and Elizabeth's fourth son was Joseph, born in 1881. In 1903 he married Cecilia Elizabeth Jones, who had come to Clitheroe in the early 1900's from the small village of Rhayader in Wales, and worked as a servant at the Grammar School. At that time there were still some boys boarding at the school and she was reputedly a housekeeper for them. Cecilia and Joseph had a large family, with nine children reaching adulthood and nine known stillbirth or infant deaths. The two oldest children, Felix and Phyllis, worked in the family business in their youth.



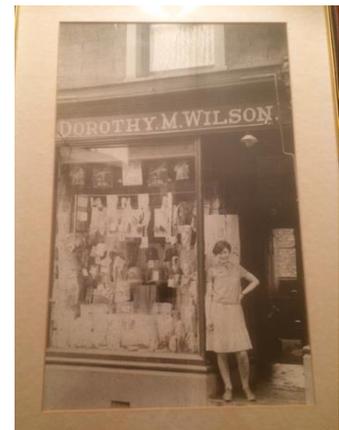
Cecilia was widowed in 1932 after injuries incurred in a garden accident led eventually to Joseph's premature death, aged only 51. In her widowhood, Cecilia became greatly respected in the Clitheroe community for her work with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and in the founding of the Clitheroe Old People's Welfare Club, now known as Pendle Club.

Her fundraising efforts were unending, producing needlework, patchwork and crocheting for sale at coffee mornings and bazaars. Ill health forced her to retire from active involvement with the Club in 1958/9 but she maintained her interest right up to her death in 1960.

Notably, in 1934, she was one of the jurors on the first ever jury comprised of all women, selected for the inquest into the death of a baby.

Dorothy Mary Wilson 1910-2002

Dorothy was the third eldest of Cecilia and Joseph's children. After leaving school she was employed at the haberdashery and tailoring shop of Miss/Mrs. Bracewell, at no.36 Castle Street. By the time of her father's death, she had already taken over the business, and she ran it throughout the 1930's with the help of her widowed mother, who accompanied her on stock buying trips to Manchester by bus!



She married Tom Alty in 1937 and the shop was both her workplace and their home, with their eldest daughter born there.

Dorothy gave up the business during the war years, and their four other children were born at their new home on Pimlico Road. Her life from then on was devoted not just to her immediate and extended family, but to giving care and support to those in the Pimlico community who lived alone, were in advancing years, lacked company, or couldn't manage without a bit of help — or perhaps just needed a skirt altered, a collar turned, some curtains hemmed, a pattern adapted, a cushion stuffed, new buttons on a blouse, a broken zip replaced.....no wonder that she was so well-loved.

The Wilson Family name continues through descendants of male siblings of Felix, Theo, and Joseph.

There are many descendants of Wilson daughters who can trace their origins to Felix and his ancestors.

DANGER ROAD MARKS 50 YEARS



by PATRICK BROWN, Local historian

A GOLDEN JUBILEE, in normal times, is widely celebrated.

Many of us will remember the 2002 celebrations marking Queen Elizabeth II 50th year as monarch.

When Blackburn Rovers notched up 50 years in 1925, there was an excellent commemorative book which sold well.

Accrington Town Council produced a book in 1928, when they celebrated 50 years as a Corporation. The same year librarian Joseph Pomfret wrote a Jubilee Souvenir to mark the Darwen's milestone.

There have been many similar celebrations throughout East Lancashire.

What won't be celebrated this year though, is 50 years of the Whalley-Clitheroe by-pass; opened to traffic in January 1971. It has sometimes been called the "Death Road."

At nearly nine miles long, it was the biggest road project to be completed in the area since the arrival of the turnpike roads in the first half of the 19th century. It cost the taxpayer just short of £4 million – around £50 million today, and surprisingly, it was completed ahead of schedule.

The route planned was to by-pass the villages of Whalley and Chatburn and the bigger town of Clitheroe. Starting off South of the Petre Arms at Langho and finishing close to Smithies Bridge at the Lancashire/Yorkshire Border at Chatburn.

It was a small piece in a bigger plan of the major trunk road from Liverpool to Hull – the A59.

Ripping through the Ribble Valley, the new by-pass dissected several farms, and a three-day enquiry was needed for landowners to contest the compulsory purchase ordered necessary for construction.

Despite the mass acquisition of land for the project, only a small row of cottages between Whalley and Barrow, and a semi-detached house not far from Calderstones Hospital, were the only houses to be pulled down.

Reports from the time suggest that the Clitheroe & District Rural Council decided to 'take no action' to re-home those who had lost their houses. Perhaps they got a decent payout.

Plans had been afoot for a road to by-pass Whalley and Clitheroe before the Second World War, and then again afterwards. Neither idea got very far.

In fact, the current road almost never happened after the Government of the time speculated whether to move the money towards a project linking the Calder Valley to the M6. It would be another ten years until the M65 opened its first stretch.

An Easterly by-pass was opened in 1972 from a new roundabout close to Bramley Meade, past Spring Wood and to Portfield Bar – allowing day-trippers to Blackpool to avoid getting stuck in Whalley.

I'm sure many readers will have memories of being held up in Whalley before the A59 as we know it today was opened.

In the 50 years that East Lancashire has known the A59, there has been little regard for the road because of all the accidents that have happened along the fairly short stretch that runs through East Lancashire to the Yorkshire border.

There have been a lot of fatalities; a great many serious accidents. Lives have been changed forever. It may have speeded up traffic through the valley, but not without cost.

Low Moor Mill

From Conception to Destruction

John Livesey & Co. of Blackburn, took a lease of some land at Eydsford for 99 years at a rent of £115 per annum from March, 1782. Lawrence Halstead of Burnley owned the land that had previously been occupied by Richard Haighton who, it is believed, had improved the system of running a hand silk mill but hadn't the finances to follow it through. The only evidence of a silk mill is in a reference in the Manchester Mercury of 1782 printed by Arthur Langshaw in his "How Cotton Came to Clitheroe" as follows: "To be sold" "At Clitheroe, in the County of Lancaster, on Saturday the 11th. May 1782, (unless sold by Private Contract), a new invented Hand Silk Mill upon a Patent Construction, far superior to anything of the sort ever worked in the North of England, consisting of 640 spindles, with Swifts in proportion, worked



in their different department. The present proprietor, for want of capital being unable to set the same to work. "Enquire of Mr. Thomas Brown, Cabinet Maker, Clitheroe."

If Richard Haighton had improved the system for a silk mill in March 1782 on Halstead's property, did he sell it to Thomas Brown? Incidentally, a Richard Haighton is listed as a cotton worker at the Edisford Factory in the Parish Church Registers in 1787.

John Livesey & Co. had to borrow £29,000 to build themselves a new mill and, in 1784, a John Clayton joined them, (he may have been the financier). The following year Thomas Weddell of Waddow Hall authorised the cutting of a mill race to supply water from the River Ribble to the factory and also allowed John Livesey to build a weir to divert the water to the cutting at their own expense.

Livesey and Co. were declared bankrupt on June 12th. 1788 and on the 15th. a tripartite indenture handed over the mill to John Parker of Clitheroe and John Parker of Chancery Lane they built the first 28 houses to accommodate their workers. The Clitheroe John Parker actually established the first bank in the town.

On the 8th. November 1791 disaster struck in the shape of a huge fire that completely destroyed the factory causing £15,000 worth of damage of which only £5,000 was covered by insurance. Nevertheless a bigger spinning mill was built, described by Langshaw as "being five storeys high, 85ft. long, and 27½ ft. wide and containing new spinning frames and the associated equipment with a water wheel 21ft. in diameter and 12ft. wide."

The Parker partnership was dissolved in 1796 and 'our' John Parker carried on running the mill on his own but the year after he was declared bankrupt and Clitheroe's bank closed its doors.

The assignees of John Livesey & Co. stepped in to keep the mill running until 27 year old Jeremiah Garnett arrived in 1799. He hadn't the collateral to set himself up so he persuaded his sister Sarah's husband, Timothy Horsfall, to at least look at the prospects. Timothy was a wealthy worsted spinner and manufacturer from Goitstock, near Bingley, had a large family, and had observed the several developments and improvements in the textile trade, and was looking for employment for his sons. He deputed his brother, to travel to Clitheroe to survey the mill and report back with a view to purchasing the property and they took over the Parker lease.

Jeremiah reigned as the managing partner for 54 years but in name only from 1820 when his nephew, Thomas, from Otley took over the running of the works. The cutting to the mill was deepened, the machinery was improved and labour was brought in from afar, as "respectable people would not work in the mills." The following extract is taken from the Preston Guardian of July 3rd. 1880 : " Mr Jeremiah Garnett, one of the founders of the present extensive cotton works at Low Moor, was the means of 140 inmates of London Hospitals being brought to Low Moor some 80 years ago, to be employed there."

The power looms were introduced around 1825 and this was a very unsettling time for the industry as homesteaders could make a very reasonable living by using their handlooms at their homes to weave the cloth and return it to the mill. The 'Power Loom Breakers' created mayhem in Lancashire, smashing up looms and the factories but Low Moor escaped the carnage after the loyal workpeople barricaded the mill. The 'loom breakers' never actually reached the mill, being intercepted by a squadron of cavalry at the junction of the road and were sent on their way.

In Baines Gazetteer of Lancashire, 1824, Low Moor Mill is described as "a cotton spinning and power loom manufactory with 32,000 spindles yielding about 14,000lbs. of yarn and 2,000 pieces of cotton goods weekly."

Thomas extended the works and introduced weaving which opened up their market from Blackburn to Manchester and overseas. The workforce increased and 146 cottages had been built by 1827 and by 1832 that had risen to 198. In that same year the opportunity arose for the firm to buy the lease outright with the sale of Halstead's property. Lot 13 was a messuage called Eydsforth, the Holmes, meadow, pasture and woodland on the banks of the Ribble, containing 60a. 2r. 15p. "A spinning establishment and manufactory of cotton, consisting of three large mills adjoining each other and several warehouses, counting houses, engine houses, a gas house, sheds, mechanic's shops, and a smithy. A good dwelling house for a manager or overlooker, and stable and chapel or schoolroom adjoining. 198 cottages adjoining the works, and the buildings occupy more than seven acres of land and the

entire premises are enclosed by a wall 9ft. high of proportionate strength & thickness, and are supplied with a stream of water through the estate from the River Ribble of upwards of 100H.P. and are wholly worked by that power except in the time of drought.”

Subject to a lease of 99 years of which 49 are unexpired at a yearly rent of £115 10s. Freehold.

By 1840, three wheels with beam engines supplied the power and in 1851 they employed 842 operatives but Jeremiah Garnett, the managing partner with William Horsfall, died in 1853 and his only son, Jeremiah Jun. followed him in 1855.

Jeremiah's nephew, Thomas, took over as managing partner and looked after his workforce, letting the rent go, getting the Doctor in, etc. but he ruffled the feathers of Henrietta, Jeremiah's only surviving daughter who lived at Roefield. She was the sole mistress of Roefield with her two orphaned nieces, the Miss Ormes, and, hardly was her father buried when she gave her cousin notice to vacate his kitchen garden, which was on Roefield land. She then cut down his choice apple trees and walled up the access between Low Moor and Roefield. These proceedings caused discord with the Horsfalls and threw everything into confusion, but business went on as usual.

Jeremiah in his will, had left her £30,000 and each of his granddaughters £15,000 and the residue was left to his son, Jeremiah, then, in his will, he stipulated that all of the property should be realised, (sold), apart from a legacy to his friend Richard Baxter. This led to protracted negotiations concerning the valuation of Low Moor and it seemed likely that everything would be put up for auction but at length matters were satisfactorily adjusted and the heirs of Jeremiah were paid out.

From an Abstract of Title of 1866 I will quote the following amounts : William Horsfall, (party thereto) the sum of £10,844 9s 3d. Timothy Horsfall, (party thereto) the sum of £12,058 13s 4d. Anne Moxon, nee Furbank, wife of Wm. Moxon, Barrister, the sum of £11,872 16s 4d. Sarah Barber, nee Horsfall, the wife of the Rev. John Barber, the sum of £11,871 13s 5d. Such sums making together £46,647 12s 4d. A sum of £499 13s 0d. is subtracted from the total of Ann Moxon's share leaving a sum of £11,373 3s 4d.

To carry on from the Abstract :

“It was witnessed and thereby mutually agreed and declared by and between the said Thomas Garnett, William Garnett, James Garnett, William Horsfall, (party thereto) Timothy Horsfall, Anne moxon, and Sarah Barber, that the partnership theretofore subsisting between them as cotton spinners, manufacturers, and merchants, carrying on business at Low Moor as aforesaid or elsewhere under the style or firm of Garnett & Horsfalls should be and the same was thereby dissolved as from the 1st. day of January 1866.”

There is obviously some confusion here, although Mike Rothwell agrees, more or less, with this date in his “Industrial Heritage”. Owen Ashmore, in his “Low Moor, Clitheroe, A Nineteenth – Century Factory Community” quotes a notice that appeared in the London Gazette on the 30th. April 1858, that the dissolution had taken place in February of that year and the retiring Horsfall partners had received £60,000.

The new partnership of Thomas Garnett and Sons was formed in 1858, with William being the eldest son and James two years younger. William, had grown up with the mill and had mastered the mercantile side of the business but, at a meeting of the partners he told them that the policy that they were following would ruin the firm.

The mill was full of antiquated machinery and the mercantile side should be abandoned and what capital they had should be used to bring the mill up to date.

William's policy was followed and the old equipment was piled high in a scrap heap in the yard, the existing system of supplying water to the mill was also to be scrapped. At each end of the mill was a steam engine with both being interconnected with an undershot water wheel and a third and more powerful engine, with its own water wheel was in the yard.

After consultation with Messrs Yates of Blackburn a modernization policy was carried out at a cost of £12,000. Two new weaving sheds were built in 1859 and 1862 and a new engine was installed in 1864. Two of the original wheels were replaced by turbines and the old power system was replaced by a 1200 h.p. horizontal engine made by Yates & Thom in Blackburn.

Going back to the dissolution period it is worth recording how it came about, in 1858 or 1866. The Horsfall partners knew of William's capabilities and he had repeatedly applied to become a partner and, having married Elizabeth Thomasson, the daughter of wealthy cotton industrialist, John Thomasson of Bolton, felt that he was a match for the 'sleeping' Horsfalls. Through his father Thomas, he served them with a notice giving them the option of retiring from the firm or taking over the business themselves. They were loathed to lose such a large share of the business but recognised their own incompetence to conduct it alone and at length decided to retire.

The father, Thomas, died in 1878, leaving William, and James as the managing partner, and James's three sons, William, Jeremiah (Jerry), and Thomas. Gustav Schwabe, had also joined the partnership. Ring spinning was introduced in 1880 and they employed 750 hands. A new engine house was built to accommodate a new engine and two boilers in 1894 at a cost of £6,400. A smaller 300 h.p. engine was installed and housed in an extended weaving shed in 1900 and the looms were increased to 1,280.

Unemployment in this country in 1921 was over 1,039,000 and Mr. Gandhi took the opportunity to make bonfires of cloth on the streets of Bombay to show his protest against the importing of foreign material. Low Moor Mill ceased trading in 1928 and the village was sold at auction in 1930. Ribblesdale Cement Company bought the mill for storage in 1936. The mill itself was demolished in 1966/67.

John Lambert

WRIGLEY'S FORCEPS

Arthur Joseph Wrigley (Joe) was born in Clitheroe on 5th May 1902 the elder son of Canon Joseph Henry Wrigley, Vicar of Clitheroe. His obituaries state he was educated at Clitheroe RGS and Rossall. Unfortunately the school register does not list his name but there is little doubt he attended: his younger brother, Harry Norman John, is recorded and I remember seeing a memorial bench to Joe at Highmoor playing fields when they were still used by the school. Incidentally there was also a bench remembering Joseph and Stanley Fairweather the two doctors who founded the Colborne House GP practice in 1926 now the Pendleside practice in the Health Centre.

Joe entered St Thomas's Hospital Medical School in 1919 and remained there for his distinguished professional career which included advising the Department of Health and producing four National Confidential Inquiries into Maternal Mortality, these are audits into deaths in childbirth which have contributed much to the improvement of maternity services and reductions in both mother and baby deaths. He was also revered as a teacher.

The Wrigley forceps he devised were, short and lightweight and designed so they could only be used when the baby's head had progressed to be low in the mother's pelvis and would not allow excessive force to be applied to the babies' head. To understand the importance of this innovation the context is vital. The majority of maternity deliveries were at home until 1959 when it was recommended that 70% should be in hospital followed by the Peel report in 1970 recommending 100% and unlike today there was no compulsory training to prepare a GP for delivering babies above the few (in my time 30) normal deliveries they witnessed as students. Some GPs undertook 6 months obstetric training (as my father and I did, and I took the Diploma exam of the Royal College-DRCOG). A GP might have about 30 deliveries per year, often in difficult circumstances and use forceps 2 or 3 times. When I came to Clitheroe in 1973 there were still letters from Mr Thurston, the Blackburn obstetrician stating pregnant women with risk factors for a problem birth would have to remain with the GP because there were too few beds in the hospital. With long handled 'high' forceps it is possible to do damage to the mother and child especially in inexperienced hands. Wrigley made several improvements until 'Its construction is such that it is impossible to exert a tremendous pull and the risk to the child should in consequence be enormously decreased.' As indeed it was. The Ribble Valley was blessed with excellent facilities with Bramley Meade maternity home, a brilliant midwifery team and GPs with skills and enthusiasm but that was exceptional and without doubt Wrigley's forceps have saved many babies from damage in difficult labours. In a famous case in 1980 where a child was severely handicapped following a high forceps delivery by an experienced obstetrician the judge found the doctor had 'pulled too hard and too long so that the foetus became wedged or stuck'. The case went to the Court of Appeal and then the House of Lords where the judge's finding was overturned. On the day Lord Denning ruled in the doctor's favour I was in Bramley Meade using Wrigley's forceps to help a young mother who was having a very difficult time with her first labour.

AWARDED C.B.E.

The many friends in the Clitheroe Area of Mr. A.J. (Joe) Wrigley, son of Mrs Wrigley and the late Canon J.H.Wrigley were delighted to learn he had been awarded the C.B.E. in the latest Honours List.

Mr Wrigley, who is consultant gynaecologist at St Thomas's Hospital, London, is to retire this summer.

He will then take up residence at Bay Gate, Bolton-by-Bowland, with his wife and son.

Mr Wrigley also has a daughter, who became a doctor, married a doctor, and now lives in Perth.

His mother lives in the Isle of Wight.

An old boy of Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and a former president of the Old Clitheronians Association, Mr Wrigley has always maintained a keen interest in Clitheroe and the surrounding countryside.

For many years now he has spent a holiday in Slaidburn, staying at the Hark-to-Bounty hotel and continuing his long-standing friendship with Col. L.C.King-Wilkinson, of Slaidburn, who is now chairman of the governors of the Grammar School.

Joe Wrigley was awarded a CBE in 1965 and two years later retired back to the Ribble Valley. He was a model railway enthusiast and a friend from my squash playing days later bought his house at Baygate where he found tunnels in the walls and skirting boards where model trains had run from room to room.

Press Release on behalf of Clitheroe Civic Society 2/21

Clitheroe Advertiser and Times Archive project successfully completed



When the Clitheroe Advertiser and Times staff relocated from Clitheroe to Burnley in 2017, they found that the past editions that were held locally and dating back many years were in need of conservation due to deterioration of the bound volumes over time. So much so in fact that there was a risk that this important historical record would be lost.

The late Pauline Wood, then Chair of Clitheroe Civic Society and others became aware of the issue and immediately recognised that it was vital to maintain this important record of Clitheroe, in Clitheroe and the Society sought to improve the condition of the volumes so that they could be accessed in due course as an important reference source. No other source can quite match newspapers to capture the important and indeed mundane details of everyday life in our town over the years.

A generous grant was awarded by The Bowland Trust and a taskforce worked tirelessly to assess the condition of the volumes and decide what best to do with those beyond repair. That led to engaging Peter Doyle, a highly experienced Bookbinder, who has now completed the mammoth task of re-binding 99 volumes dated between 1888 and 1975. Where re-binding has not been possible, editions have been carefully stored in appropriate boxes with the contents clearly labelled.

The now preserved editions are stored in the Society's archive above the Town Hall and the volumes will, in due course, recognise the sponsors who also helped to make this project possible. Many of the editions have already been digitised and whilst an on-going job, the first volumes are available as pdfs via the Society's website (clitheroecivicsociety.org.uk).

Many people have been involved in this project and thanks are due as a minimum to – The Bowland Trust, Clitheroe Civic Society members Alan Dixon, Shirley Penman, Andrew Schofield, Steve Burke, Jean Parkinson, Janet Clegg, John Lambert, Barbara Alty, John Rowley, Dorothy Falshaw, Kathleen Duckworth.

Also Thwaites Brewery, Eric Nolan, Burnley Civic Trust and last but not least all of the sponsors who recognised the importance of this project ensuring that this part of Clitheroe’s heritage was saved for posterity and made available to all.

CLITHEROE TOWN WELLS CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN

‘Save our Ancient Town Wells’



Heild Well



Stock Well



St Mary's Well

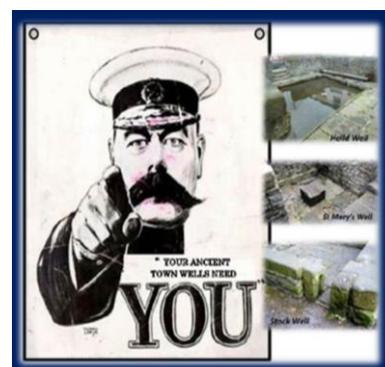
Campaign update 2nd April 2021

The past two months have seen many developments in this Campaign to secure the future of all three of our ancient town wells. On 23rd February we launched an online Change.org petition www.change.org/p/ribble-valley-borough-council-save-clitheroe-s-ancient-public-town-wells This, to enable formal registration of public support for Ribble Valley Borough Council to reconsider their position on the registration of Heild and St Mary’s wells with the Land Registry. Without registered title there can be no significant grant aid obtained by anyone for the increasingly urgent repair works nor for the better understanding and promotion of the significance all three sites deserve.

In eight weeks this petition has secured over 1,600 supporters - with over 600 of these residing within the Borough boundary. Under the Council’s policy on community engagement, this should now enable us to have the future of Clitheroe’s town’s well reconsidered at a Full Council meeting in the near future. We are most grateful to all CCS members who have considered the issues presented in the petition and - having done so - decided to support it. However we hope and need to build these numbers further.

Clearly many CCS members have registered their support but many have yet to do so. Those who have are encouraged to share this with friends and family. Those who have yet to sign are encouraged to do so, this being an issue which is at the heart of this Society’s own Constitution. In this way we can make our Councillors and Council Officers fully aware of the public concern about this issue.

On 24th March, the Campaign became ‘Constituted’ and a copy of the adopted Constitution can be viewed on our Face Book page @ www.facebook.com/CTWWG



CCS members will, perhaps, see many similarities to your own Constitution, which is not accidental! The Executive Officers confirmed at that meeting were, Dr. Andrew Clayton as Chair, Sue Hind as Treasurer, and myself as Secretary. With this team and the community organisations*, such as this Society, we now look forward to our Council re-engaging with this campaign and accepting their established historic responsibilities for three of the Borough's oldest and most significant heritage assets. Thank you for your support to date - and your anticipated support in future.

Steve Burke,

Secretary,

Clitheroe Town Wells Conservation Campaign

*Clitheroe Town Wells Conservation Campaign Clitheroe Town Council * Clitheroe Chamber of Trade & Commerce * Trinity Methodist Church * The Rotary Club of Clitheroe The Rotary Club of Ribblesdale * Clitheroe Civic Society * Grenfell-Baines Institute of Architecture UCLan * Chairman: Dr Andrew Clayton * Treasurer: Sue Hind

* Secretary: Steve Burke Dip.Arch (Oxf'd): tel 01200 425528; mob 07975 518 113; email sbcaltld@outlook.com

A final snippet from Shirley from 1971, until next time

Clitheroe Advertiser and Times March 19, 1971

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