



## CHRISTMAS JOURNAL 2025



### Dear Members and Friends of Clitheroe Civic Society

Welcome to our journal for Christmas 2025. The weather has certainly turned more seasonal of late, and the nights are really drawing in but the shortest day isn't far away and then the seasons turn again into the New Year.

We have varied content of interest again in this edition of the journal but always need more content. Please do think about contributing, whether you have some recollections you'd like to share, information about the area or similar; please send anything you have to [info@clitheroecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@clitheroecivicsociety.org.uk).

A number of the Cultivating Clitheroe team tidied up the town centre planters recently and planted some additional bulbs in these for the spring. The Society has just purchased a new laptop for use in the archive or at presentations as the old notebook was beginning to hamper several potential uses including transferring donated slides of the area once scanned.

Heidelberg Materials have once again provided a very welcome donation to the Society and this mainly goes towards the hosting costs of the Clitheroe Advertiser and Times online archive. Do remember to access the online archive anytime you like via the link on our website. In respect of the website, John Flanagan has completed the re-build of this with a fresh new look, so take a look if you haven't accessed the website for a while.

Our presentation schedule continues to fill up for next year and we're always looking for ideas for the future seasons so if you've seen a presentation elsewhere or are aware of speakers, please let the committee know.

I'd like to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and New Year and thank you for your continued membership and interest in the Society.

**Peter Llewellyn**

**Chairman**

**Clitheroe Civic Society**



## Autumn Presentation Review



We have had a series of interesting talks since our A.G.M. in September.

At that September meeting, after moving briskly through the purpose of the day, our secretary Louise Davies outlined the 'Missing Pieces Project', where members are encouraged to create an account at Historic England <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/missing-pieces/> and add their own memories and information about Clitheroe's listed buildings. Information about the significant buildings of our town which could otherwise be lost.

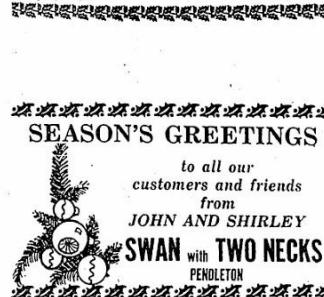
In October, Kate Sherry a professional genealogist entertained us with an illuminating history of Gisburne Park and the Lister Family.

The November presentation was given by Linda Sawley, A long time guide at Browsholme Hall, she highlighted the life of Elizabeth Parker an 18th cent. bride and cousin of one of a succession of Robert Parkers.

For the December meeting a talk by Nick Burton had been scheduled, but unfortunately he was taken ill. John Lambert stepped in at the last minute giving us his talk entitled Arthur Langshaw's Clitheroe (Shaw Bridge to Shawbridge St). Not a long way you would think, but it is if going by way of Hayhurst St., Littlemoor, Whalley Rd., and Peel St. Many interesting buildings were mentioned along the way, illustrated by a great number of photographs.



# Clitheroe Christmas Greetings 1975



## COMMERCIAL HOTEL CLITHEROE

CLARRY, JOYCE AND FAMILY

W I S H T O  
E X T E N D

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

TO ALL  
THEIR  
CUSTOMERS  
AND FRIENDS



HAPPINESS IS OUR WISH FOR  
YOU, THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS  
SEASON

AND WITH THIS WISH OUR SINCERE

"THANK YOU"

from  
**PETER, DORIS & FAMILY**

**ROYAL OAK**  
INN

WATERLOO, CLITHEROE



MR and MRS GLYN JONES  
and Roslyn  
Extend to all their customers  
**SEASONAL GREETINGS**

AND BEST WISHES  
FOR THE  
NEW YEAR

**PARKERS**  
**ARMS**  
NEWTON-in-BOWLAND



SEASON'S  
GREETINGS  
CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS  
from  
**KEN, DOROTHY**  
**ERIC AND TRICIA**

**BROWN COW**  
CHATHORN

**HORSE**  
**SHOE**  
INN



WILLIAMS, CLITHEROE

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE  
BLESSED WITH EVERY HAPP

INESS AND FRIENDSHIP

FROM  
**MARJORIE AND**  
**FRANK CAIN**



# Whalley Road



## A small slice of recent History

In my childhood Clitheroe seemed to be a series of separate localities, referred to as - down Henthorn, down Whalley Road, up Highfield, up Chatburn Road, up Pimlico, down Low Moor, up Littlemoor - various communities that didn't really overlap.

For about a year in 1965/66 I lived with my husband's parents at the Joiners Arms in Whalley Road Clitheroe.

Whalley Road at that time had several public houses all located between Greenacre Street and Croft Street, and each one had a quite different character and atmosphere. Quite strange really considering that the clientele consisted almost entirely of the locals from the immediate area, working men and women, many related to each other, and most having lived in the area for all of their lives.

The Wheatsheaf, the British Legion, the Commercial, the Top Club, the Joiners Arms and the Craven Heifer all competed for the local trade (the Engineers Arms had been closed for many years).

The Joiners hosted the Pigeon Fanciers every Sunday lunchtime and the tap room would be absolutely packed with Pigeon men, all of them had allotments and keeping pigeons was a way of life. Work, beer, pigeons absolutely normal!

Saturday lunchtime was filled with the Horse Racing fraternity, many of whom were also pigeon men, and the bookies runner would be kept busy pedalling his bike from pub to pub picking up the bets to take to the bookies! Work, beer, betting, also absolutely normal!

Requests would come flying out of the tap room - eight or nine pints at a time, and we would be kept busy pulling pints and staggering with heavy trays held aloft to squeeze between the little iron tables to deliver the drinks. Backwards and forwards until closing time, at 3 pm on Saturday and 2pm on Sunday.

The characters in that era I believe were the last of the old time 'salt of the earth' British workers. They were fantastically hard working, good humoured, and outspoken, they didn't need to stray far from their roots to find work and pleasure enough to fill their lives. Some had cars but many didn't, some worked together, hard physical jobs at Limmer and Trinidad, the Bleach Works, the Mills, Ribble Cement and Clitheroe Corporation. None of these workplaces had the facilities enjoyed now, and after a days work groups of filthy exhausted men would cycle home for a good wash and some tea! Not moaning and whinging, but usually arguing, laughing and joking. Limmer and Trinidad had the reputation of producing the hardest and toughest men, but wherever they worked, the pay packet at the end of the week was the only goal!

All of these characters are long gone, Old Jack who worked in the boiler room at the Bleachworks, he lived in Whalley Road with a very old lady who, according to rumour had

looked after him since he was a boy, she must have been at least 90. Jack would come into the Joiners, having had a few pints elsewhere and burst through the front door at top speed and without fail would fall flat on his face. Somebody would say, also without fail, Eh up! Devon Loch's down again.

The Lawson brothers, who worked on the dustbins, a very heavy job in those days, when the metal bins, filled with ashes and all sorts of rubbish, were hoisted onto their backs and heaved bodily into the wagons. They were two absolute gentlemen, they looked after their Mother all their lives.

The Park Street people who all seemed to be related to each other, like some ancient Clan, might be seen coming home from work looking grimy and shattered, only to reappear a couple of hours later spruce and full of beans!

Then of course, the girls, Melita, big Eileen and Hilda, absolute gems. They would glide through the door, line up at the bar, and order three gills of mild. There didn't appear to be any animated conversation, certainly no girlish giggling, just dedicated drinking, each one paying her turn. Then they would glide out again off to the Craven, which I never visited but was told that the floor and bar were both collapsing and becoming a dangerous hazard.

Every person I met in those days appeared to be 'a character', one or two were still living with the effects of their service in the war, life changing damage that would never heal. There were brief hushed comments - 'Burma railway' and 'prisoner of war' with respectful nods. Another chap, a huge man who always wore a heavy overcoat, and spoke a language which no one could decipher, was nicknamed Oberammergau. He was a mystery!

Occasionally midweek, at lunchtime the bookie would come in, camel hair coat, black hat very dapper and prosperous, accompanied by a lady friend, teetering heels, huge earrings and a little fur jacket. One drink and they'd be off, presumably to somewhere far more exotic than a little local pub!

Things were changing quickly in those years, younger members of the community were moving away to different areas, different jobs. Pubs and clubs out of town beckoned. Unfortunately the days were numbered for traditional local pubs, and now in Whalley Road, some sixty years later, apart from the British Legion, are left.

These are just a few recollections gathered in a year which passed very quickly and which was an eyeopener and an education.

I enjoyed it and look back on it with great pleasure.

Judy Driver



# Clitheroe Christmas Greetings 1975



We wish you all the long-lasting happiness of an old-fashioned Christmas shared with family and friends.

Heartfelt thanks for your continued loyalty and goodwill

from

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF ALL DEPARTMENTS



**BLACKBURN  
CO-OPERATIVE  
SOCIETY LTD**

Clitheroe District

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL  
AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR

**DAWSONS**  
THE IRONMONGERS  
56 KING STREET, CLITHEROE  
Tel. 25151

**SEASON'S  
GREETINGS  
TO ALL OUR  
CUSTOMERS**

**F. STANLEY AND SON**  
73 MARKET PLACE, CLITHEROE  
ALSO AT 48 BLACKBURN ROAD, ACCRINGTON

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

to all our customers from

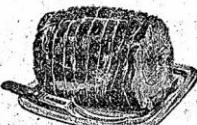
**COWMAN'S  
BUTCHERS**

CASTLE STREET  
CLITHEROE. Tel. 23842



Watch our windows for  
all the Seasonal Fare

**PRIME QUALITY  
SCOTCH BEEF**



SAUSAGES  
HOMEMADE BEEF  
PORK CUMBERLAND  
BLACK PUDDINGS

LOCAL  
LAMB AND PORK  
HOME CURED BACON  
COOKED MEATS

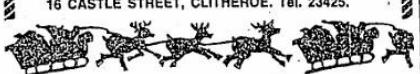
Mr Edmondson wishes all his  
friends and customers a  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS and A  
HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR**



**SEASON'S  
GREETINGS**

TO ALL CUSTOMERS  
AND FRIENDS — from  
**BATEMAN'S**

The Boysware Specialists  
16 CASTLE STREET, CLITHEROE. Tel. 23425.



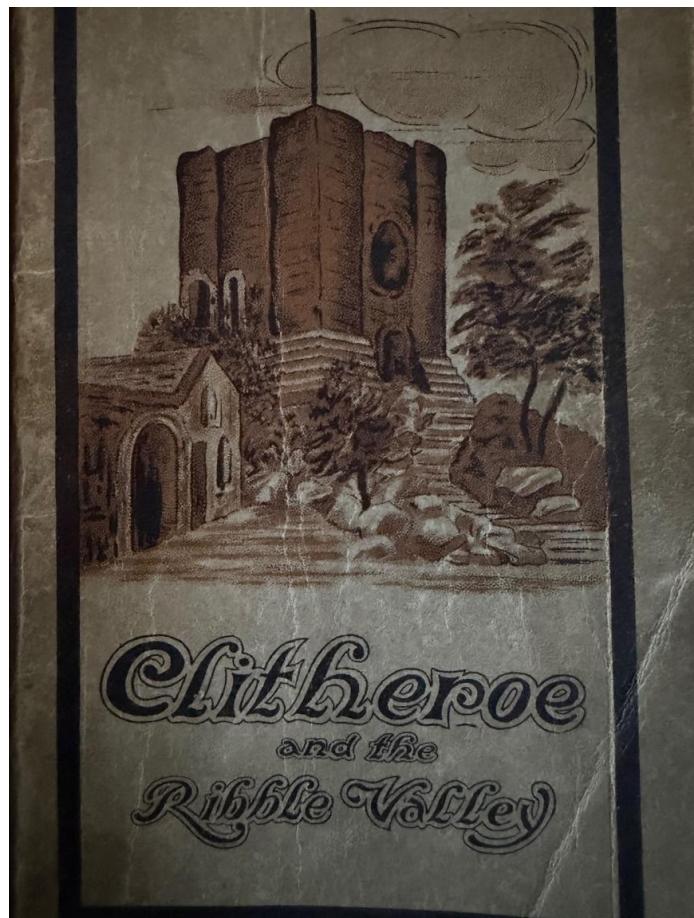


## Clitheroe and The Ribble Valley booklet – a donation



The Society was contacted recently by someone who had a Clitheroe booklet which they were happy to donate to our archive – some of you will have seen this before or even have a copy perhaps.

The booklet looks to be from the 1930s and apart from a general history of the town and sights to see there and in the surrounding area, the advertisements are always of interest.



And if you wanted accommodation – one of the many places on offer was the Swan and Royal (which in 2025 has just had a refurb with more to come next year) – or The Haven Hotel in Rimington.

Groceries could be had at Cunliffe's in the Market Place, bike hire from Bentham's for Bikes, also in Market Place.

Harrison & Bailey provided all of your pharmaceutical needs from 29 Castle St or from Harry Taylor's in Moor Lane.

If you required a Rolls Royce to tour the area, E. King of Pimlico Road had these available 'at no more cost than other cars'.

**SWAN & ROYAL HOTEL**  
CLITHEROE

The house of call for everybody who visits Ribblesdale, whether for business or pleasure.

The house pre-eminent, whether as to its situation in the centre of Clitheroe, or its superb accommodation.

Luxurious lounges, a spacious ballroom with the most modern floor, cuisine famous throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire and even further afield; prompt, courteous and efficient service—these things have made the reputation of the "Swan & Royal" its most valuable asset.

It caters for the local resident, too; that is why there is only one answer to the inevitable time-honoured query: "Which is the best Hotel round here?" "Why, the 'Swan & Royal,' of course." And that settles it.

**TARIFF ON APPLICATION.**

**G. WILSON, MANAGER**

SWAN & ROYAL HOTEL, CASTLE STREET,  
CLITHEROE. Tel. 130.

CLITHEROE AND THE RIBBLE VALLEY 41

**HOLIDAYS ! HOLIDAYS !**

**S**PEND your holidays in Ribblesdale, one of the most beautiful and romantic districts in the British Isles. The Ramblers' Paradise. Excellent centre for Motorists. Bracing air. Delightful scenery.

— Stay at —

**THE HAVEN HOTEL**  
(FULLY LICENSED)

Excellent Cuisine — Comfortable Public Rooms — Good Library — Garden — Tennis Court — Bowling Green — Garage — Large Recreation Room for Games and Dancing.  
(Private Parties Catered for)

TERMS: Saturday Tea to Sunday Tea (inclusive) 10/6  
Monday Breakfast " 15/-  
Full Board from £2-17-6 per week.  
Send for Descriptive Circular. Telephone Gisburn 20.  
**The Haven Hotel, Rimington, Nr. Clitheroe**  
Proprietor: W. R. HIGSON

**THE PUBLISHERS**

If you needed a bus to Rimington to your lodgings, you'd have been able to take the train back then but if you needed a bus elsewhere you would have needed to start in different places about the town. The Advertiser was published every Friday back then - I wonder when that changed?

Small Parties catered for.  
Teas and Hot Water Supplied.

Ideal Camping Ground  
Terms moderate

GREEN LANE FARM,  
DOWNHAM,  
VIA RIMINGTON, CL.

**BUSES.**

Buses start from the Market Place for—  
Chatburn  
Whalley  
Bolton-by-Bowland  
Blackburn  
Manchester  
Accrington  
Great Harwood  
Burnley  
Preston  
Skipton

From the Railway Station for—  
Low Moor  
Slaidburn  
Whitewell  
Waddington  
Bolton-by-Bowland

From Wellgate for—  
Grindleton  
West Bradford  
Pendleton

(for large or small parties)

**Splendid Accommodation for visitors**

**GOOD BEDROOMS.** **Moderate Terms.**

**Proprietor: J. SPEAK**

**GARAGE** Tel: Chatburn 2.  
Station: Chatburn.

**WHILE IN RIBBESDALE**

see to it that you secure  
— each issue of —

**THE ADVERTISER & TIMES**

containing full reports and clear  
pictures of local events, not to  
mention details of

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Published every Friday



# Clitheroe Christmas Greetings 1975



**TURNERS** FOR FESTIVE FOODS WINES AND SPIRITS

**CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES**

LATE OPENING: Thurs., Dec. 18th and Fri., Dec. 19th till 8 p.m.  
 Wed., Dec. 24th till 6 p.m. Mon., Dec. 22nd and Tues., Dec. 23rd till 9 p.m.  
 Open all day Saturday Dec. 26th, open 9-5 p.m.

**EXAMPLES FROM OUR SELECTION OF WINES AND SPIRITS**

	UP TO 30% SAVING ON Manufacturers' Recommended Prices on most Gift Packs.
BISCUITS	
Shortbread Tarts 2lb Box Assorted	RRP £1.49 Our Price 99p
Tartlets Assorted 1lb Price	RRP £1.49 Our Price 99p
1/2 Time Peppery Assorted Cream	RRP £1.49 Our Price 99p
1/2 Time Peppery Assorted	RRP £1.49 Our Price 99p
CHOCOLATE LIQUEURS	
RRP Our Price	
ASSORTED LIQUEURS (Small)	79p
ASSORTED LIQUEURS (Large)	£2.70 £1.80
HAD'S LIQUEURS	79p

RRP = Recommended Retail Price. \* These plus large stocks of instant coffee, tea, coffee, sugar, flour, etc.

**OUR MOTTO** *LOW ON BRANDS YOU KNOW*

**TURNERS Bawdlands, Clitheroe. PLEASE NOTE: We are open 9-5 p.m. Sat., Dec. 26th**





## Clitheroe's Cotton Queen



### Clitheroe's Grand Pageant of Cotton Queens

In consequence of last Saturday's bad weather, and following on their return from London

### Clitheroe's 16 Cotton Queens

will again Parade in the CASTLE GROUNDS

**TO-MORROW, SATURDAY, MAY 24th.**

at 3 p.m. — Wet or fine.

**DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE  
THIS GORGEOUS DISPLAY.**

PROCEEDINGS BEGIN AT 2 P.M.

**SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DANCES.**

**BOROUGH BAND**

ADMISSION BY COLLECTION AT ALL ENTRANCES.

Until the late 18th century Clitheroe was a small market town of fewer than 1500 inhabitants.

From the 1780s through to the 1930s spinning, weaving, calico printing and other related businesses brought about the huge population increase and expansion of the town. Around 5500 people were living in Clitheroe by 1850. After a turbulent 150 years of startups, successes and failures, strikes and shortages and, ultimately, competition from India, the textile industry was increasingly struggling for survival.

In 1930 a "Cotton Queen Pageant" was organised to encourage publicity and support. Each mill nominated a 'Cotton Queen' to represent them wearing beautiful outfits demonstrating how locally produced material could be used.

The winning queens were invited by Clitheroe's then Member of Parliament, Sir William Brass, to visit London, as ambassadors for the Lancashire Cotton Industry, with tours of the wonderful sites of the City, a trip to the theatre, Westminster Abbey, and to the Houses of Parliament where each was given a green leather bag provided by Sir William and presented by the Duchess of Atholl.

Comprehensive reports and many photographs appeared in the Clitheroe Advertiser & Times issues of the 23rd and 30th May 1930, available to view on the Civic Society Website: [clitheroecivicsociety.org.uk](http://clitheroecivicsociety.org.uk)

My mother-in-law, Barbara Birtwell, was a seventeen year old working at Westhead's mill and became cotton queen for that Mill. Her costume, dress, cloak, pantaloons, little green bag and souvenir paraphernalia eventually came to me. The dress was lovely and I even wore it to a 'white night' fancy dress ball!

In 2011 an exhibition of Cotton Queen regalia, photographs and press cuttings was organised at Clitheroe Library by Sue Holden, who had a great interest in and knowledge of all aspects of old Clitheroe, historical, architectural and cultural. My husband agreed that we should donate his mother's outfit to the library and Sue assured us that it would be used by Lancashire County Council in future exhibits and educational events etc.

Sadly that is the last I know of it. Sue moved on to pastures new and the present library staff have no knowledge of what happened to it. I regret now that we didn't donate it directly to Clitheroe Museum to supplement the small exhibit there.







## From the Archives



### CLITHEROE THEATRE A HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS AGO.

Theatres and concerts are at the present time so much in vogue and so prominently brought before one's mind, that when one reclines in one's seat during the interval of a highly fashionable and imposing play, and gives oneself up to reflection, one commences to think of the days before such buildings were erected. When one sees an express conveying its load of passengers, or a vessel transporting goods from one country to another, one tries to imagine and sum up the process of conveyance centuries ago. As naturally as this thought of the bygone days of our forefathers and their different modes of procedure practised at the time, so when one commences to meditate on such a subject as we have chosen, just as naturally come the questions: "How long have these companies existed? Where were the plays usually given, and of what did the entertainment consist? Surely, they have not been from time immemorial?"

To such questions as these, especially if referring to old-time boroughs like Clitheroe, doubtless a lot of information might be attached, and less doubtless still, a protracted space of time might be taken up in seeking such information.

Having been acquainted with the fact that so far back as 1776 there was in Clitheroe a theatre, where the people might have spent a pleasant evening in enjoying themselves, this made us rather, as it were, "shuffle uneasy in our seats" for a little enlightenment. Now that the shuffling has abated by the gleaning of interesting reminiscences, not by sheer luck, rather by dint of repeated investigation, we place ourselves in the position of endeavouring to give our readers a little insight into Clitheroe's early theatre days.

#### THE BILL OF FARE

The play-bill will no doubt prove interesting in no small degree, and will probably be the subject of much comment. We are indebted to Dr. Laycock, of Sabden, for the copy, the original of which is in the hands of this gentleman. The date, 1776, might at first sight appear to many people to be a concoction, and that no theatre was even held or ever dreamed of in that remote period.

#### WHERE THE THEATRE WAS

After research, we are led to the conclusion that although the playhouse is described as "the" theatre, yet it was not a building of itself, but was held in the large room of an inn or some other building. The information we obtain from Mr. Robert Heath backs up this idea, for he states that the Starkie's Arms, then the Rose and Crown, was, in the days of his father, enlarged, several cottages being pulled down in order to allow a larger area for

theatrical performances. The large room of the old Black Bull, formerly standing where Mr. Sefton's shop now stands, was at one period let for performances of this kind. Coming down to the early years of Mr. Heath, he informs us he can well remember these entertainments being given in caravans on the road-side. Such a spot was by far the most patronised by these travelling companies, which seldom exceeded one caravan. Our informant states that long before the shops which now solely constitute Moor Lane, were erected, the street was made up of numerous dwellings and a woodyard, owned by a man named Anderson. The caravans put up in this yard for days together, and also in Wellgate, just above the Liberal Club.

## THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES IN THE TOWN HALL

Mr. Heath remembers a play given in the old Town Hall about the year 1820, the person in charge of the concern being a Mr. Cooper. Later still, the performances were gone through in barns and other buildings, and he recollects one being given in the old barn which formerly stood on the road to Waddington, just beyond the Crown Inn. Mrs. Thomson, wife of Mr. Thomson, then of the Primrose Print Works, was a patroness of such a house. Numerous other barns were also occupied in the same manner in the district.

The bill earlier referred to. From *Clitheroe Times* 22nd September 1899:

For the Benefit of	
Mr. and Mrs. Cuthell.	
At the Theatre in Clitheroe,	
On W. Evening will be performed the Comedy called	
THE FASHIONABLE LOVER,	
By the Author of the West Indian Brothers.	
Lord Abberville	Mr. Newbound.
Mortimer	Mr. O'Neal.
Aubrey	Mr. Hamilton.
Tyrel	Mr. Jackson.
Bridgemore	Mr. Bilton.
Dr. Druid (a Welshman)	Mr. Earle.
Naphthali (a Jew)	Mr. Gibson.
Collins McCloud (a Scotchman)	Mr. Cuthell.
Mrs. Bridgemore	Mrs. O'Neal.
Miss Bridgemore	Miss O'Neal.
Mrs. McIntosh	Mrs. Cuthell.
Miss Aubrey	Mrs. Hamilton.
End of the Play, a Grand Witches' Dance, out of the Celebrated	
Tragedy of Macbeth.	
And the Warwickshire Lad in the Character of Ballad Singers,	
By Mr. Cuthell and Mr. Earle.	
End of the 1st Act of the Farce,	
Bucks have at You, Or The Picture of a Play House,	
By Mrs. Cuthell.	
To which will be added a Farce called	
FLORIZEL AND PERDITTA,	
Or the Royal Shepherd.	
Florizel	Mr. Hamilton.
King	Mr. Cuthell.
Camillo	Mr. Earle.
Antigones	Mr. O'Neal.
Clown	Mr. Bilton.
Antolious (a ballad-singing pedlar)	Mr. Newbound.
Perditta (with a sheep shearing song)	Mrs. Hamilton.
Pastoral Mymphy	Miss O'Neal and Miss Gibson.
To conclude with a dance by the characters.	
Doors opened at 6 and to begin at 7 o'clock.	
Pit 1-0.	Gallery 1-0.
is to be had at the Swan, and of Mr. and Mrs. Cuthell, and at the W.	
(And at the Swan in Whalley).	
Days of playing: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.	
Play-bill is bound up in the balance-sheet of George Johnson, who made the of Pendleton for the year 1777. The bill itself bears on its back "G. Johnson made Overseers' Accounts."	

# TWO 'MYSTERIOUS' SKELETONS

In the early Twentieth Century two 'mysterious' skeletons were unearthed at two Clitheroe quarries. The first of these discoveries was at Bellman Park in 1904 and the second at Salt Hill in 1907. These skeletons were both claimed to be giants, with the Bellman Quarry one said to be about seven feet tall. This, however, was later debunked by Professor Boyd Dawkins, a leading scientist of the time. Both discoveries were briefly reported in the Clitheroe Times and it was said crowds flocked to gaze upon the discoveries. However, interest appears to have soon waned and nothing is known what conclusions about the age and origins of the skeletons were drawn. The discoveries were barely reported elsewhere. The following is what little we can learn from the local paper, starting with the 1904 event from the Clitheroe Times of 23rd September 1904 under the headline 'Skeleton Unearthed at Bellman Quarry':

*Whilst "feying" or baring rock at Bellman Park Quarry on Wednesday afternoon, the workmen of Messrs. J. Carter and Co., exhumed a skeleton. The men were engaged at the east side of the quarry, where the ground rises and falls, and in some places the rock is not more than a foot below the sod. In a declivity, some two feet below the sod, was the skeleton of a man, the head lying to the west and the feet to the east. Unfortunately, the bones were disturbed by the men, some being broken up. A curious feature was the discovery of a second skull, which has apparently been buried with the other one, but no trace of bones can be found. The teeth of both skulls and the bones are in a state of good preservation.*

*There is no trace as to the period to which the man belonged, though it is thought to be upwards of a thousand years ago, as placed in position the bones show that he must have been quite seven feet in stature. No trace of buttons or coins or anything likely to supply a clue was to be found. Some time ago, it is interesting to learn, a coin of one of the old German Emperors was found.*

*A number of the bones, together with the broken parts of the skulls, are lying at the office of Messrs. Carter, who will be pleased to show them to parties interested.*

In the following week's edition, the paper said:

*At the mere mention of a skeleton the scientists and antiquarians prick their ears. The "important" find at Bellman Park Lime Works has led Professor Boyd Dawkins to giving his opinion to a newspaper man. He says there is nothing in the reports of the discovery to support the theory that the skeleton is at least a thousand years old. This, according to the Professor is "mere surmise" as it would be "very difficult for anyone to arrive at the period in which the man lived unless coins or implements were found in the same spot." As if to further crush*

*the ordinary lay opinion Professor Dawkins goes on to throw cold water on the statement that the man must have been seven feet high. "There are very few people," he continues, "who can make such a measurement with exactitude, and it is very probable that the height has been exaggerated." But after all even what the Professor says only amounts to conjecture for at the time his words were penned he had nothing better to form his conclusions upon than what he had read; he had not himself seen the skeleton.*

The only other reference to this discovery, so far found, is contained in the Northern Daily Telegraph of 24th September 1904:

*Professor Boyd Dawkins, with that passion for exactness which is the first essential to the scientist and antiquarian, is inclined to think that the skeleton found at Bellman Park Limeworks has been measured with a too elastic tape. He doubts the accuracy of the statement that when living the man must have been seven feet in height, and the "thousand years" which it was stated the skeleton must have lain in its present position is, in the Professor's opinion, a "mere surmise." The state of preservation of the bones, lying so near the surface, disposes of the thousand years theory, and "a good many years" is as exact an estimate as can be advanced without close and expert examination. In any case, Coroner Robinson will scarcely feel any official interest in the find. No jury will be empanelled to unravel the mystery of identification, age, or cause of death.*

What became of this skeleton after it had been kept for show in Mr. Carter's office is not known and, so far, no picture has been found.

Moving on to the 1907 Salt Hill skeleton the Clitheroe Times of 12th April 1907 reported:

*To put it mildly the discovery of a human skeleton at the Salt Hill Quarries of Messrs. James Carter and Co. caused something of a commotion, though this, of course, is not the first discovery of the kind. During excavations the gruesome object was unearthed at a depth of about three feet. The skull was broken either through excavation or previously, but the other parts are in good condition. Night after night this week crowds have wended their way to Salt Hill out of curiosity to see the skeleton which is of large size. The last skeleton found was of such large dimensions that theories were propounded as to its being the remains of a prehistoric man, but Prof. Boyd Dawkins did not confirm this. A curious feature of the present find is that a stone weighing about two-hundred weight was found apparently on the chest.*

This time however we do have a photograph:



This is all that has so far been uncovered about these two discoveries. It is hoped that more information will come to light in the future.



## Poems and tips



### Wise Words

Don't have a bath every day  
It's bad for your delicate skin  
They say that it washes the goodness away  
And makes your hair wispy and thin.



The water will shrivel your fingers and toes  
The soap will get into your eyes  
You may smell a treat, but everyone knows,  
A bath every day isn't wise!

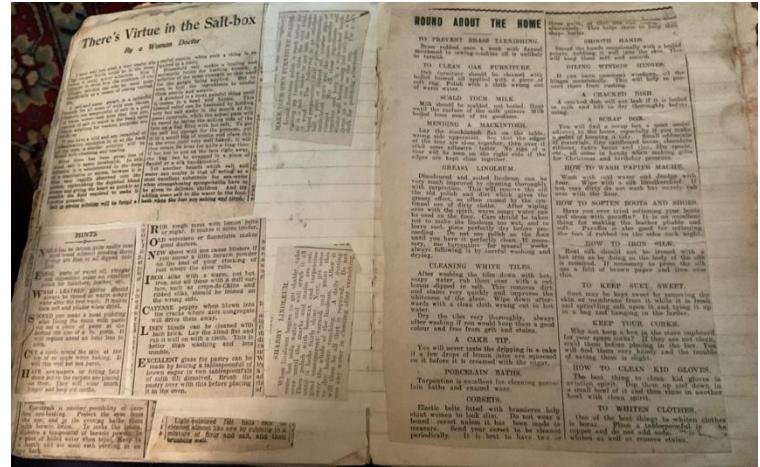
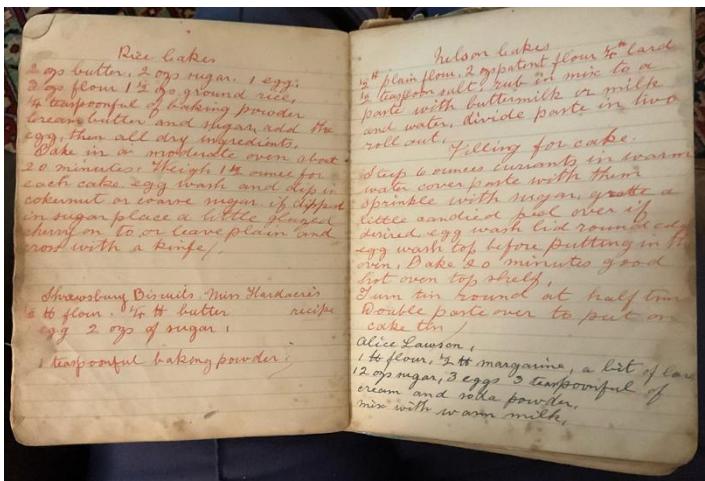
### Have you had your flu jab?

I'm not well it might be flu  
It's not measles, it's not chicken pox,  
the doctor has no clue  
  
He suggests it's just a virus  
"You'll feel ill for days and days  
Paracetamol and fluids and keep warm" is  
all he says



That's a great big help to me when I've got all my jobs to do  
Give me some magic potion  
I'm not well – I think it's flu!

## Who needs Google when I've got my grandmother's old cookery and household tips book 😊



## A brief update on the activities of the Society's Cultivating Clitheroe Group.



Whilst many members and friends view the Society's Facebook page and read about us on the website to follow our progress, there are also many who don't. We have come a long way since 2018 when we first embarked on cleaning the Wells. This year age and infirmity has forced us to resign that task with the hope that other, more youthful volunteers will take up the challenge.

Our gardening commitments have taken priority. Whilst improvements in the Castle Grounds and Library bed are ongoing, with more donated plants added, the main concentration this year has been on the tree planters, barrels and tubs throughout the Conservation Area.

There are now ten tree planters and twelve smaller tubs, plus several other sites which we have adopted.

This year, when the RVBC was planning new paving and road surfacing in the Market Place we were pleased that our experience was called on to help stock and maintain the five new planters provided as part of the scheme.





In November all the planters were refreshed with winter planting and bulbs. We have high hopes for next Spring!

Photographs of the colourful work we've done over the years are collated in two albums available to view at our monthly presentations. Here are a few current examples.

