



THE PARAGON

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The Journal of the Stocksbridge & District History Society

A Happy New Year To You All

SOCIETY NEWS

A very Happy and Healthy New Year to all our members.

We have had a good year last year with the production of the Society DVD which not only helped the coffers but also enhanced the Society's image and got plaudits from other societies and individuals.

We also took part in two events last year, the Stocksbridge Events Forum, Jubilee Fayre and the Bradfield Family History Fayre, both very well attended and good for the Society.

This year we have on-going projects at the Stocksbridge and Bolsterstone Cemeteries and involved in an advisory capacity in Tin Mill and Walkers are Welcome projects.

It is also our on-going wish to get our interactive archive display into the library.

There is a reasonably full programme now planned for this year and we as a Society are also being asked to do presentations to other Societies and Groups. It's very encouraging to get SDHS onto the circuit

You will note that this edition includes the first instalment of the History of the Stocksbridge Hill Rescue Group, our thanks to Barry Needle for his contributions.

We again offer help with any other contributor who has a 'historical' tale to tell, either autobiographical, biographical or researched.

A new little section is included 'I Remember When'. This little section will be used for memories, interesting little nuggets, just for fun. Let us have your stories and we will include as many as we can over the year.



How do you stop a mole digging in your garden?

Hide his spade !!!

THE STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT HILL RESCUE TEAM

A HISTORY Part 1 - BY BARRY NEEDLE

The Tragedy

The '4 Inns' tragedy in March 1964, in which three Rover Scouts died of hypothermia on the Peak District moors, one barely a quarter of a mile from the A57 Snake road.

The walk started from Holmbridge in the Holmfirth Valley and took in the 'Isle of Skye' (site of) on the Woodhead Road, the 'Snake Inn' on the A57, the 'Nags Head' in Edale and the 'Cat and Fiddle', the fourth Inn, before finishing at Buxton.

Covering some 50 miles of the Peak Districts most demanding terrain, the walk was designed for the Rover Scouts in teams of three, to help train for the Duke of Edinburgh award. The walk was revised in 1959 and though reduced to 40 miles, it is a very stern test of stamina and hill-craft.

In 2012 it is still running as an annual event with competitors coming from all over the country to take part.

March 1964 gave poor conditions with heavy rain and strong winds. The walk, which was due to finish in the evening in Buxton, had 240 starters but only 22 finishers, the rest retiring at the various checkpoints.

There were 5 cases of severe exhaustion, 2 of whom had collapsed.

When it was finally realised that 3 Scouts were missing, the Glossop Rover Scout Rescue Team were informed and set out to look for them. An established Hill Team from Edale soon became involved, and later that evening teams from Chapel, New Mills and White Hall Rescue Teams began searching.

"The search was in atrocious weather with rain turning to sleet, then snow."

The search was in atrocious weather with rain turning to sleet, then snow which started after midnight, leading to heavy drifting on the hills. Conditions were so difficult that the search itself was in danger and had to be temporarily halted.

The Glossop Police took control and organised a major search which involved several organisations and volunteers and lasted for three days.

The youngest member of the Rover Scout team was found and evacuated off the hill, but died later. The other two Scouts were found two days later, dead.

At the later inquest into the tragic deaths, the coroner found no evidence of neglect on the part of organisers of the walk. Although lack of adequate clothing and training, along with atrocious conditions, were deemed to be some of the causes of the tragedy.

A further later incident involved the search for a small boy at Saltersbrook during the Whitsuntide weekend. This also highlighted the lack of experienced and organised rescue facilities available in the Peak District. In those days, most rescues were of an ad-hoc basis with local volunteers aiding the Police. Groups had minimal equipment and little or no training.

The Beginnings

These events had deeply concerned Derek Stapley, Assistant to the Manager at Samuel Fox's. He realised there was experienced help available in Stocksbridge that could be called upon if required.

At the end of March 1964 he sent a memo to Colin Green in the Education Department, (who organised the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for the Works) in which he outlined ideas for the formation of a Hill Rescue Team based in Stocksbridge and Colin was asked to look into the recruitment of 12 to 15 people with knowledge and experience of the local moors.

In early June, Derek wrote a letter to the Mountain Rescue Committee and the Peak Committee of the British Mountaineering Council regarding the formation of a Stocksbridge team, and was invited to send a representative to a conference of all the rescue organisations in the general area at White Hall, Buxton. Its aim was to look into the organisation of searches and rescues in the Peak District in the light of the recent tragedy. This and other meetings led, on the 26th September 1964, to the formation of the Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation (PDMRO).

The first meeting of the Stocksbridge team took place in June 1964 at the Castle Inn Bolsterstone, under Derek Stapley's chairmanship. 15 people were present. Colin Green was elected as secretary and Graham Helliwell as Training Officer, with Alan French as special adviser.

It was agreed that the team should be independent of Fox's, even though the bulk of the prospective members would be Fox employees. Mr H Morley, the General Works Manager had reacted favourably and offered the use of works transport if the need arose.

Mr Tom Tomlinson, the Head Warden of the Peak District had welcomed the formation of the Stocksbridge team and offered help in training and Captain H E Rimington Wilson the owner of the Broomhead Estate gave permission for members to acquaint themselves with his local moors by accompanying his gamekeepers.

The Rescue team equipment was stored in the Fox Works Gymnasium, and the store cupboard key and Incident Log Book kept in the nearby Gatehouse at the bottom of Smithy Hill.

Provisional call-out procedures were formulated with the initial call for assistance to come via the Police.

Training exercises were arranged at Salter's Brook off the A626 Woodhead Road and Stanage Edge.

Everything was now in place.

STOCKSBRIDGE AND ITS MILLS REVISITED

Part 2 - by Basil Spooner

MIDHOPE CORN MILL

In Joseph Kenworthy's unpublished history of The Corn Mills Of Hunshelf and Waldershelf, there are various references (without giving a location within the Little Don Valley), to a mill which includes by inference only, the charter of John de Midhope of 1227, relating to the "Mill of Huneself".

There is also a hearsay account of a lady who ground corn at a mill, which was located in the vicinity of The Uskers.

The 1841 Census gives details of the Stead family living in the village of Midhope, the head of the family being William age 62 and described as Farmer and Miller. His children included his son William age 28.

The mill is shown on a list of mills dated 1874, with William Stead being the occupier and two water wheels are detailed as being of 12 and 13 feet diameter.

By 1881, Herbert Woodhouse age 31 is listed as "Miller (Corn)" his address being Midhope Mill and he is resident there with his father, Joseph who was a farmer of 32 acres, and his mother, Mary.

HUNSHELF CORN MILL

This mill was built as a Cloth Mill in 1744 and later converted to a Corn Mill at some time prior to 1841. In 1793 the mill was on land belonging to George and Thomas Roebuck, clothiers, and there is a deed of 1811, which suggests that the mill was a fulling and scribbling mill, which would fit in with their involvement in the cloth trade. It is indicated on this deed, that John Balm had previously occupied this property.

The Hunshelf Enclosure Act of 1813 seems to confirm that the mill was a scribbling mill and that the cottages built close by were referred to as scribbling mill cottages.

At some point between 1813 and 1841, the mill was converted to a corn mill and the cottages subsequently became to be known as Corn Mill Row.

A scribbling mill processes raw fleece for spinning by a course form of scribbling (also known as carding), which originally involved using thistles for teasing the wool, and was a process that became associated with fulling mills.

Other details are sparse, and the only photograph we have of it in a complete state is shown in the 1908 edition of Hinchliffes Stocksbridge Almanac.

The mill was built close to the river near to what is Ford Lane, and some several hundred yards from where Hunshelf Road joins on to Ford Lane. This mill was water powered from a goit, which was routed from the river upstream, the take off point being east of the bridge. Some interesting information can be obtained by reviewing our Local History census returns as follows.

1841. Ann Garside is listed as a Corn Miller living at Hunshelf Bank Bottom.

1851. Both Joshua Jackson and John Wagstaffe are detailed as Corn Millers also living at the same location as before.

1861. William Fawcett and his son aged 16 are now the millers and this family continued operating the mill to 1881 and later.

1881. Rebecca Fawcett aged 54 years is described as being the Corn Miller and head of the family and living on Corn Mill Row with a 15 year old daughter and a 17 year old son, William having died in 1880.

Son of a Yorkshire Miner

1859. There are no references to Hunshelf corn milling in these returns, but it is possible that by this time the mill had closed due to lack of business, this being attributable to the following factors.

- 1). There was a prolonged agricultural depression during the last three decades of the nineteenth century, when cheap imported American cereals had an adverse effect on our farming industry. During this period, the amount of available arable land had reduced from 15 to 12 million acres, and as a result, unbroken pastures now stretched more widely across the landscape, and beef cattle and dairy cows had displaced wheat to become included as mainstays of English farming systems.
- 2). During the same period, there had been an increasing migration of available labour to the developing manufacturing industries.
- 3). Bulk milling had been invented, which was no longer dependant upon water power and which was augmented by a good distribution system via the developed railway network.

The foregoing comments indicate a general trend, and as with all trends, one finds exceptions, as discovered in Hinchliffes 1910 Almanac, in which the following advertisements appear.

B. Goldthorpe & Co. at Bullhouse Corn mills were offering a wide range of feeding stuffs for cattle, with a claimed weekly turnover of 3000 tons.

F. Booth & Son of Thurlstone Corn Mill operated a similar business but are additionally described as Corn Millers and dealers in "the best qualities of flour".

The local Co-op opened its own bakery in 1889 and would have obtained its flour from within the Movement, thus giving a greater choice to its customers by way of milled flour or baked products.

It must also be noted that the Fawcett family were the last tenants of the mill and it was allowed to fall into a state of decay following its closure.

Wakefield Water Works Bill of 1874 lists William as the Occupier, and surprisingly shows Samuel Fox & Co. as the Lessee or Owner

The date of demolition is not known, but photographic evidence shows this to be in progress after St. Matthias Church was built and therefore may have occurred in the early 1890s.



What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't arrive on time?

One day my prints will come.

I had to select three of my best teams of gunners and have them ready at the top of the quarry at 5.00 hours.

It was strange how the Germans seemed to know we were coming, for at 4.30 their artillery started sending both large and small shells over, plastering the quarry and all around us. I was making my way into the digout to report that my unit was ready when I felt something hit underneath my arm, just as if it had been hit with a 14lb hammer. My arm went numb and the shock of it made me feel sick. I got into the dugout, where the Sergeant examined me and pulled a small piece of shrapnel from my arm. He helped me off with my tunic and applied a padded bandage.

"If it were mine, I would be making my heels crack towards the Dressing Stations!" he said. But I thought different and simply reported that the gunners were ready. When the lads learned that I had "stopped one" they all said I was a bloody fool for not going straight to the Dressing Station, but I could tell that they were glad that I would be there to see the show. One of the older men pushed a bottle of German rum into my hand. "Here, Sarge, take a swig of that!" and I did.

The main road had been cleared of the enemy by the Infantry and we followed, carrying our machine guns and ammo, past smashed wagons and dead horses. As we marched a huge piece of shrapnel hit the road in front of us, leaving a large hole. One of the men called out "You want to be satisfied with the one you've got, Sarge!"

The fog had now cleared and we could see our advancing Infantry crossing a green field. It must have been the first action this particular area had experienced. Only once did we have to mount our guns to clear a nest of German machine guns.

Once again reaching a main road, we met a column of German prisoners, guarded by a single infantryman with his rifle at the slope – a typical Lancashire man. He was terribly angry about something, swearing at the prisoners and thumping them with the butt of his rifle. I questioned him and he told me his story in his own way. "One of these bloody bastards", he said, "threw a 'taty-masher' at my pal and blew him to bits!" This was an explosive device made in Germany that resembled a potato masher.

"My officer called a halt and ordered us to mount the guns"

My officer called a halt and ordered us to mount the guns, ready to face a barrage, but a runner arrived to tell us that it was not needed, as the enemy were in full retreat.

The officer asked how my wound felt and I said it was a bit painful. He ordered me to find the nearest Dressing station. I left the Battery at 4.30pm and I must have walked many miles before reaching a Dressing Station at nearly midnight. Along the trench top were laid bodies wrapped in Army blankets.

My wound dressed, I was taken some hours later by Army truck to a Clearing station and then by train to a base camp. I was there for three weeks, during which the war came to an end. But I had to go back to my Battalion.

A notice on the Battalion board informed us Coal Miners Needed in England! I had had a bellyful of France and like many more I was anxious to find an easy way home. My Company Officer tried to persuade me to stay on, promising

me promotion to Company Quarter Master Sergeant, but I didn't change my mind and was in the first party for home.

In Boulogne I boarded a paddle steamer bound for England. The sea was rough and I was not a good sailor. I clung to the mast, holding a white linen ration bag, and by the time we docked in Dover, my face was the same colour as the bag. But then it was all forgotten as we were taken by train to London, and knew we were on our way home.

I had 14 days furlough. What a blessing to see my family and my girl-friend Elsie, whose letters to me in France had been such a comfort! One sad thing for us all was that, although Mother had seen two sons off to war, only one had returned!

We must thank Mrs. Joyce Burgin of Soawsby, Doncaster, for the loan of her father-in-law's Memoirs. She has subscribed to our Society for several years and has made generous donations. I have had the original book rebound and hope to return it to her in the New Year.

Brenda Duffield



What do you call a train loaded with toffee?

A chew chew train.

I REMEMBER WHEN.

Winter of 1950, we were 'sledding' in the valley at Hartley Brook in Shiregreen. This place was great for sledding with fairly steep banks to the valley. It was after teatime bitterly cold and dark. I will always remember what was to become the last 'run' of the night, the thrill of speeding down the hill, unfortunately unable to stop or steer and finishing up in the stream. The standard attire in those days was a gabardine mac, balaclava and for me short trousers and wellingtons. I got out of the stream absolutely soaked and had to walk the mile or so home. My clothes had frozen to me and I could not bend over. My mother didn't seem to have much sympathy for me, calling me 'a silly bu****' and sending me to bed. I had chap marks, from the wellington tops, on my legs for weeks after

Dennis



Merry Christmas

Where does Santa stay when he's on holiday?

At a ho-ho-tel

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2013

January 10 th	A brief history of the Co-op locally	Graham Sedgwick
February 14 th	A to Z of Sheffield	Mike Spick
March 14 th	Can you afford a Doctor	Johanna Brunt
April 14 th	History of the Tin Mill	Nigel Clark
May 9 th	Annual General Meeting	
June 13 th	Industrial history of South Yorkshire	Pat McCloughline
July 11 th	Annual Outing	
August	Summer Recess	
September 12 th	A view of the Society Material	
October 10 th	To be advised	
November 14 th	To be advised	
December 12 th	Christmas related event (Pre booking—members only)	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Dennis Pindar Tel 01142882301
Secretary	Basil Spooner Tel 01142884456
Treasurer	Val Dodgson
Archivist	Brenda Duffield
Member	Janet Parkin
Member	Mary Reed

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