



# THE PARAGON

Issue

70

April

2013

*The Journal of the Stocksbridge & District History Society*

## In Memory of Two Friends of the Stocksbridge & District History Society

### Michael (Mick) Parkin

Born: 25 January 1944 - Died: 22 January 2013

Mick was a 'Lovely Man' liked by all who came into contact with him. He had worked at Fox's all his life, for 42 years in the Instrument Dept which he loved. He shunned any managerial offers, not wanting the stress that had been visited upon his father.

His great interest was engines, didn't matter what kind providing it had moving parts. He had a special love of railway steam engines, always making sure there was a visit to a railway on any holiday, in particular Austria & Switzerland.

He and Janet loved walking, belonging to two walking clubs and again if the walks had a railway or a history museum on them, so much the better.

Mick's knowledge of engines, astronomy and local history, will be sorely missed by us all with his passing.

### Margaret Jessie Clark

Born: 9 January 1924 - Died: 22 February 2013

Jessie was the last surviving grandchild of Anne (Booking) and Joseph Kenworthy and was named after her uncle Jesse who was killed in France in 1916. She was the second child of Kitty & Aubrey Kenworthy

She had a happy childhood at Bracken Moor Farm, the family home and showed great aptitude as a scholar which eventually lead to her becoming Head Mistress at Midhope School.

During the Second World War she served in the WRENS "because it had the best uniform"; she fitted radios into aircraft and rose to be a Petty Officer.

In July 1949 she was married in Bolsterstone Church to Norman Clark and her son Nigel was born in 1951. Norman unfortunately died in 1955, but Jessie being the resilient type became immersed in a number of social activities, including the position of President of the local branch of NUT and Secretary of the Stocksbridge WEA.

She was very proud to be the granddaughter of Joseph Kenworthy and had a great interest in Local History, assisting David Hey in his publications, particularly his work on 'The Pack Horse Routes'.

She travelled extensively and enjoyed theatre visits and dining out, particularly when it was 'Meat & Potato Pie' night at Billy Greens.

She will be sadly missed by those who worked with her and knew her.

## THE STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT HILL RESCUE TEAM

### A HISTORY Part 2 - BY BARRY NEEDLE

#### First Call Out

**B**y mid August 1964 the team had 29 members on the call out list, which later grew to 36. The first call out was at 11 at night on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October when 22 members assembled at the Parish Church within 40 minutes and proceeded to the Flouch Cross roads as an operational base. Three 15 year old boys from Stocksbridge, on a practice Duke of Edinburgh Award weekend expedition, had not arrived back home and were overdue.

The boys had apparently arrived very late on Saturday night, at their campsite at Blackden View Farm on the A57 Snake Road, and so possibly may have set off late on Sunday morning.

The Rescue Team was split into 3 groups to cover the boys expected route. Tom Tomlinson, from Peak District NP, discovered them encamped in the location of Slippery Stones, top end of Howden Reservoir, their having decided that they would not be able to reach the Flouch before night fall.

One of the Stocksbridge groups escorted them back over Cut Gate to the Flouch and then to Stocksbridge arriving home about 04.30am, luckily none the worse for their adventure.

The team's next call out, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December involved a young boy missing in the Foulstone Dike area over the Strines; he was reported safe before the team could move off. The third was on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1965. Local teams had been searching overnight for two lads missing in heavy snow in the Glossop area. The Stocksbridge team were called out at about 06.00 as relief but then stood down before moving off, when it was communicated that the lads had been found safe at dawn.

#### Training

Six training exercises were held in the first twelve months and three first aid training and handling sessions were arranged with the Sheffield Civil Defence Unit.

In November the team had been one of 13 teams and some 250 personnel to take part in the first full scale search exercise since the 4 Inn's tragedy, this for seven dummies

representing bodies placed at different points on the west side of Kinder Scout.

It soon became apparent that quick small party searches along known tracks and paths, were more effective than line searching over open moor, especially at night. The latter was better carried out from first light should the missing person not be found. It was quite often the case that the missing person(s) frequently sat tight overnight, and were found or made their own way off the hill at dawn as light improved.



### Equipment and Communication

During the early years, team and personal equipment slowly improved. Communication whilst out on the moors was always difficult, resulting in members searching and unable to be recalled for sometime after the casualties had been found, or the search called off. This was very frustrating, especially on night time searches.

The first radios purchased were generally only good for line searching over relatively short distances, and were no good for recalling members back to base.

In 1968 the team purchased two large radios (8 mile range) and four small (1/3 mile range). These more power full radios made a big improvement and meant that members on the hill were in touch with their base and could be used to listen in to the search progress of adjacent teams. Even so, some areas on the moors were found to have very poor or no signal, resulting in the radio having to be moved to higher ground, with one team member having to act as runner to the rest of the line still searching their allotted area.

On night time searches the team initially used hand torches, which were not ideal, then miner's lamps for illumination. These were good but batteries heavy when added to personal and team equipment. Head torches were not as effective but much lighter and soon took over as it left both hands free.

In view of some 'casualties' on practices complaining of being too cold whilst on the stretcher, the members elected to purchase a better quality casualty bag designed specifically for MRT work.

### Developments



At the 1967 AGM, due to other commitments, founding member Derek Stapley asked to stand down and Joe Elliot became Chairman. In his report looking back at the first three years, Derek said the team had had nine call-outs in the first 18 months, and only one since.

This was a search on Bleaklow for a Peak Park Warden and his assistant who had failed to report back after a tour of duty, and had bivouacked out Sunday night. They were found safe and well on Monday morning. The team received a letter of thanks from the Peak Park Planning Board for their part in the search. In October 1967, all further outdoor activities were

cancelled due to an outbreak of foot and mouth.

One call out on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1968 was for two 14 year old girls were lost on Kinder Scout and it was not until an enquiry was made (after hearing the story on the local radio) that the team was called out. A misunderstanding by the PDMRO controller had led to the team not being called on earlier.

The call eventually came at 11.30am and in less than an hour, 19 members were on their way to Kinder Reservoir. Considering most members were at work and had to return home for their gear, food and equipment and return to the assembly point, the Chairman and Team Leader were quite pleased. They searched the moors for some hours before the recall came when the girls had been found.

## STOCKSBRIDGE AND ITS MILLS REVISITED

Part 3- by Basil Spooner

### JOHN ARMITAGES' BRICK & TILE WORKS.

The Turner brothers (William, Joseph and Robert) were the founders of these Works in approx. 1840 after they relinquished their use of part of the Cotton Mill and set up their business at the Henholmes. They tried unsuccessfully to combine the business of engineering with that of brick and tile making and consequently had sold out to John Armitage by 1850 approx. He abandoned the engineering element and created a thriving family business, which involved the manufacture of all kinds of bricks, roofing and floor tiles, chimney pots, drainpipes, terra cotta ware, ornamental figures and vases etc., the latter having an Italian influence brought about by the employment of Peter Nanetti who was born in Tuscany in 1829.

Ganister, clay and coal were mined from out of the hillsides at both sides of the valley, and it is believed that it is these workings which may have been the cause of latent subsidence on New Road, and at the Clock Tower steps, (and ultimately result in the closure and removal of these steps) and at East Bank.

The business continued to be successful and additional works were established at Deepcar and Manchester.



Johns sons were taken into the business in 1874 (Charles) and 1878 (Alfred) and the firm then became John Armitage and Sons.

In the 1881 census, Alfred is recorded as being the Manager and resident at Whamcliffe Villa with his family.

On November 12<sup>th</sup> 1890, John Armitage died at the age of 74 years and the two sons carried on the business until Alfred died in 1894 aged 44 years. In 1903, Charles had to dispose of the business due to financial difficulties and it was taken over by a private limited company, and it continued operating for at least another 60 years.

### THOMAS BROOKES' BRICK WORKS

Thomas Brooke was born at Crigglestone near Wakefield in 1828 and he established his business in 1853 at Bracken Moor. It was located at the junction of Victoria Road and Bracken Moor Lane (opposite the Sports Ground), where clay deposits could be readily mined in this area and Brook Row being situated nearby is named after him, and is still in

existence. Records show that these works continued to operate until approx 1928.

During this period, his son William also mined clay on land near to the Bolsterstone Glass House and opened the Pot House Works at the same location where Alpine Lodge is now situated.

In the 1910 edition of Hinchliffes Stocksbridge Almanack, the advertisement by William Brooke lists various products including sanitary pipes, chimney pots, ornamental vases and highly glazed stone ware goods as a speciality.

### THE BLACKING MILL

This mill was purpose built by Robert Hemingway and was located at Deepcar, on the land bounded by Back Lane (Haywood Lane) and Manchester Road.

In the 1851 census the family details show that he and his wife and four children (including their eldest son Amos aged 12), lived at Lane Farm and his stated occupation was blacking maker and farmer.



There are no further census details as the family moved away to Burncross in the 1850s. This may have been due

to the fact that Amos met with a fatal accident in the mill.

The mill is shown on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1854, but I have not seen any map upon which both the cottages and the mill are shown together. It is my own view that there would simply not have been sufficient space in which to accommodate all the buildings at the same time, noting that part of the land at the east end of the cottages has evidently not been built on at any time.

The terrace of cottages which became known as Blacking Mill Row, are still in existence at the location given above, and the earliest documented reference I have to this is in the 1861 census. The jobs of the occupiers were not related to the blacking process.

I have been advised by a current occupier that the cottages were built in 1866, and this ties in with Jack Branstons claim that after the mill had been sold to Mr. Rimington of Broomhead Hall, he converted it into the row that we see today.

The blacking was a compound made up from carboniferous substances (coal for example), and hardened clay, all of which was ground and formed into a paste, for application in moulds to give a black finish to cast metal shapes.

### FROM WALDELSHELF TO STOCKSBRIDGE

#### THE CONCLUSION

By Brenda Duffell

**T**his study was written in 1990 and reproduced in The Paragon over several years. Probably most of our present members do not even remember its beginnings.

The whole thing has been put on our Society website, but for those of us who do not have access to that, I will summarise what I wrote at the time before attempting to make a rational

assessment of my own work from the perspective of a 23-year gap.

Consideration had to given of the work of previous Local Historians – from the Antiquary John Wilson of Broomhead Hall in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to our own late secretary Jack Branston in the 1980s – and acknowledgment made of their contributions to the history of these valleys.

Waldershef was the ancient name of the ridge of land between the River Uden and the Little Don stretching from Moor Hall to Midhope. It was dominated by the village of Bolsterstone and was practically synonymous with the Manor of Bolsterstone and its ecclesiastical parish.

When the first detailed Census was taken in June 1841 this Parish was divided into two Enumeration Districts, each being toured on foot and on horseback by a trustworthy and literate official. It was the first time that names and occupations were recorded, but relationships were not entered and ages above 20 were for some reason rounded down to the nearest 5 years.

So the first useful Census record was that of April 1851 and it is that on which this study of the local area was based, tracing it through to the latest available at the time – the 1881 Census. These records provided a wealth of information about who lived where, how they earned their living and later, how much they moved about, some leaving the area and others moving in.

The 1851 Census showed Stocks Bridge comprising 7 households, expanding to 140 households within the same area in the Stocksbridge of 1881 – a multiple of 20 in the space of 30 years.

Church records also showed which families inter-married, the birth rate and death rate, and a study of local surnames helped to highlight these connections.

The over-riding cause of change was the growth of industry which took place at this period, so a study of the manufacturers had to be made, together with their impact on occupations and such considerations as the employment of women and children.

Then the inclusion of two more detailed family studies, taken from the wider area, was intended to put the whole thesis into perspective.

The overwhelming impression of this work should be that the most vitally important element in the development of a community is not its buildings and land, but its people. External economic and political events certainly had their effect on the people of Stocksbridge, but it was the response to them of the inhabitants and the integration of newcomers into the community which stabilised what could have been a disruptive element in their daily lives.

No doubt there is a great deal of evidence yet to be discovered about the families who inhabited this valley in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, but that offered by the present study is surely enough to whet the appetite for further research. The buildings are crumbling or have been converted to modern use, the industries are being run down or adapted, commerce is increasing in importance in the modern materialistic climate, but the people of Stocksbridge who are descended from those 19<sup>th</sup> century families live on.

1896-1987

## CHAPEL AFFAIRS

There were no outstanding events in the 1930s, except that when Electricity came into the village in 1936 the chapel was wired up, paraffin lamps discarded and an electric organ blower installed. Gone were the days when a boy sat in the "blowing corner", pumping wind into the organ by raising and lowering a handle. I used to do this myself in the early days. Also gone were the days when the caretaker, who had only one leg, used to climb a stepladder, take down the eight paraffin lamps in turn, trim the wicks, clean the glasses and replenish them.

Then came the war years, when church efforts were in abeyance, and such activities as First Aid classes, fire watching, A.R.P. (Army Reserve Patrol) and Special Constables took their place.

In the early 1950s there was a fortnight's mission conducted by two very capable and friendly deaconesses, who had a caravan stationed in the car park of Chambers' garage in Thurgoland. They held meetings nearly every evening for adults and children, and as a result, eight young people became members of our church. It was a stimulating time in the life of our church.

Early in 1958 we celebrated our Silver Jubilee. A Handbook was written and sold and reviewed in the Press, providing much publicity for our Jubilee Celebrations. Letters were sent to former scholars, bringing gratifying responses. The "old" chapel was painted, scrubbed and minor repairs were carried out. The men of the village who were non members responded to appeals for help.

For the Saturday event a coach was organised to collect old scholars and to bring the Stocksbridge orchestra, who played selections throughout the evening meeting. There was a Ham Tea to mark the special occasion. One of our very capable local preachers, Mr. Frank Piper, presided at the evening meeting and the guest speaker was Mr. Gunter, headmaster of Rotherham Grammar School, who was a prominent Methodist. The soloist was Ted Hodgkinson of Stocksbridge and among the anthems sung was the Hallelujah Chorus. The chapel was full and it was a memorable day in our church history.



In about 1958 it became necessary to have a second entrance to the Sunday school (the Old Chapel) to comply with Fire Regulations. This set us a problem, as there were hot water pipes all around the building, so nowhere to break through the wall. Finally it was decided to use the west side on Chapel Lane, but as this was exposed to the prevailing winds, a porch would be needed. A local builder gave us an estimate, which was accepted, but the job he did was not very satisfactory, and the bill he presented was £100 more than his estimate. In these days that could be a man's weekly wage; in those days it was a formidable sum to have to raise, over and above the original estimate. Letters of appeal were again sent out to the villagers and any other interested people and by our May Anniversary their gifts totalled £122 - beyond our expectations. We were glad, not just to have our debt cleared, but also much cheered to

know we had so many helpful friends who were sympathetic to our cause.

## SOCIETY NEWS

This winter seems to have been never ending and I am glad we made the decision to move the AGM to May when the weather should be, at least, a little better.

We had an excellent presentation last month, I have never seen the ladies on the front row laugh so much.

Don't forget that we have had an invitation from Bolsterstone to attend their 'Open Evening' on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Refreshments are being provided and it will be a good opportunity to 'meet with friends'.

A couple of other activities of some significance since our last Paragon; the installation of an 'Archive Terminal' in the library, it's being well used I understand.

The other notable point is that after discussions with the Mayor at the Community Day at the Venue, we have put in an application for space in the ARC building (Town Hall), to create a Valley Heritage Centre.

I hope to be able to bring the reasoning and outcome of the application to the Society at the April meeting.

Again a lot happening in the Valley!

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2013

May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting
June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Industrial history of South Yorkshire Pat McCloughline
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Outing
August	Summer Recess
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	A view of the Society Material
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	To be advised
November 14 <sup>th</sup>	To be advised
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas related event (Pre booking—members only)

Why not visit our Website at - [www.stocksbridgehs.co.uk](http://www.stocksbridgehs.co.uk)

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