

HOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Edwin Chapman

The story of 20 years of The Hope Historical Society has been made possible with help from personal diaries and memories of meetings in the early years. Latterly more data has been provided by Ann Price, Joan Clough, Dr. Burton and other members of the Society in reports in the Parish News and elsewhere.

A Record Of Lectures and Meetings 1988 to 2008

During the Wakes Week of 1988 Mr. Charles Lewis placed a sheet of paper in the Church asking any one interested in the formation of a Historical Society in Hope to sign.

Mr. Lewis made it his duty to contact all the signatories on the list. Unfortunately the list cannot be found but was clearly the start of parishioners thinking about our village. He called a meeting and the inauguration of the Hope with Aston Historical Society took place in the Methodist Church Hall at 7.30pm. on the 26th of September 1988.

Minutes of this meeting are available showing that 13 parishioners were present with Mr. Lewis in the chair. A formal resolution was passed that a Society be formed, to be called "The Hope with Aston Historical Society"

The following resolutions were also passed

- (a) Mr Neville Rawson be appointed Secretary
- (b) Mr. C. D. Lewis be appointed Chairman
- (c) Meetings be held on the last Monday of the month

Mr. Tom Meehan, the chairman of the Hathersage Historical Society was invited to attend the next meeting on 31st October 1988. 16 members were present to hear Mr. Meehan's views as to how the Society should define its aims. He suggested that consideration be given to the documentation of "Folk History", that is, customs and legends for which there are no written evidence. Whilst guest speakers are desirable, the starting point should be purely local, with photographs and written records of buildings and other items of interest within the village. It was agreed that all members should "do their best" to consider their own recollections of the village.

The next meeting was held at the Hope Valley College on 28th November when it was suggested that the Society should have the opportunity to inspect the contents of the Village Chest. At this meeting there is reference to a membership fee of £1.00.

Arrangements were made to meet on 25th January 1989 in the Methodist Church Hall to investigate the contents of the Village Chest. 22 members met to examine the contents of the Chest including records and maps of various diversions of footpaths associated with the Earle's sidings and the private line from the Cement Works. Much interest was shown in these items as well as the references to the local charities. There was no data earlier than 1895 when the first formal Parish Council was formed.

On 28th February 1989 16 members met at the Hope Valley College when Mr. Money addressed the meeting with illustrations of historical places in and around the village. At this time Mr. Money played an important role in such meetings, demonstrating his knowledge based on photographs he had taken during week-end visits to the area. He arranged an unofficial meeting at The Old Hall Hotel on 5th April to interest others with a slide show of "Historical Facts". 11 members were present.

On 26th April 1989 a meeting was held at Hope Valley College with 7 members present. Those present agreed to notify as many people as possible with a printed notice of the meeting to be held on 15th May.

The 29th April saw the first tour of Hope for the Historical Society, led on this occasion by Edwin Chapman and Frank Money

Thirteen members attended the meeting on 15th May. It was noted that Mr. Lewis wished to resign as Chairman. A new committee was formed and Mr. E. Chapman became the next Chairman, on a temporary basis. It was suggested that some "stability and formality" should be introduced to establish a programme of meetings and invite speakers.

19 members were present at a meeting on the 14th June to discuss arrangements for an exhibition in Church during Wakes Week. A brief list of "Things of Interest to see in Hope" had been prepared together with a quiz regarding the photographs on display. A visit to Cromford Mill was arranged by Mr. Rawson for 9th September, with refreshments afterwards at Toe H House.

The first Annual General Meeting held on 18th October 1989 was attended by 16 members. The chairman and committee were re-elected. Barbara Hall was nominated to replace Martin Chapman as Treasurer. It was agreed that the name of the society be changed from-"Hope with Aston" to "The Hope Historical Society". After the formal meeting members present heard a lecture on "The Archaeology of the Peak District". by Mr. John Little. The Society were invited to attend a lecture at the Glenbrook Guides Centre on 15th November, by Vic Hallam on "Derwent and Ashopton."

Mr. Hugh Wentworth Ping addressed the society on 30th November at the Hope Valley College on the subject of Heraldry. He explained the history of Heraldry and the process necessary to obtain his family Heraldic Sign.

In those days it was sometimes difficult to obtain speakers for our meetings. The first meeting of 1990 on 11th January was chaired by Mr. Rawson. The description in notes is "General Topics and Programme Arrangements".

On 1st February 1990 Mr. Peter Harrison spoke to the society on "Mining for Blue John in Castleton." 15 members were present to hear what was to be the first of many of his most interesting lectures. He extended his subject by talking about the preparation and shaping of this "very friable stone".

There is very little information about the following three meetings, all chaired by Mr. Rawson. They were:-

1st March 1990 Romans in the Hope Valley - John Bartlett.

29th March Turnpike roads in North Derbyshire – Frank Money.

9th April Visit to Kelham Island Museum in Sheffield.

On 2nd May 1990 a few members met at St. Peter's Church to hear Rev. Michael Collier talk about the history of the church, pointing out many items of interest in the building.

There are no records of any early autumn meetings. There is a note in Mrs. Jean Chapman's diary of a meeting on 6th December 1990 in Hope Valley College at which Col. Gerald Haythornthwaite gave a lecture based on his experiences in the founding and development of the Peak National Park.

We have no detailed records of all the meetings, but diary records report the following mootings in Hope Valley College.

14 th February 1991.	General meeting with 9 Members present.
15 th March 1991.	Geology of the Peak District. Speaker, Bob Toynton.
9 th April 1991	Visit to Kelham Island Museum
24 th April and 8 th May.	

From May 1991 to April 1994 there are no records of meetings. There are filed letters from Mr. Hawson to various speakers confirming arranged dates for the programmes. The following is a list of the meetings with notes from memory.

15th October 1991 A.G.M. and a talk by Mr. Andrew on the work of The National Trust.

3rd December 1991. "Lead Mining in Derbyshire", an illustrated talk by Mr. Llyn Willis. He is one of a team working from the recently established Mining Museum at Matlock Bath preparing records of the old lead mines in the district.

4th February 1992. "In and around the Peak District"- a very pleasant illustrated talk by Keith Green, based on his walks in this area.

31st March 1992. "The Sheffield Fire Museum" by Mr. Tony Hunter, a retired fireman and a member of the museum staff

9th June 1992. Guided tour of Castleton

15th October 1992. A.G.M.

3rd November 1992 "Turnpikes". Speaker - Stephen Penney

20th January 1993. A general meeting attended by 15 members of the Society to look at a future programme. This was followed by an illustrated talk, "The Changing Face of Sheffield" by David Turton.

23rd March 1993. There are letters in the files from Ms. Judy Coggins regarding her lecture on the maintenance of the old tapestries in Chatsworth House and other work by staff during the closed season.

21st April 1993 "The Work of The Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust" by Mr. Broome from Matlock. This was the beginning of meetings held in the Methodist Hall.

8th June 1993. Following on from the Judy Coggins lecture on 23rd March, she arranged for the Society to visit Chatsworth House for a personal guided tour. She demonstrated some of the work on which she had been engaged during the closed season.

On 27th October Mr. Peter Machan gave a lecture on "Little Mesters of Sheffield." He explained how he had spent about ten years exploring all aspects of the workshops, finding people who had worked in the manufacture of knives etc. He spoke of the skills involved, showed samples of the work and entertained us by singing some of the songs that were sung by the girls as they worked.

14th January 1994. At this AGM hand written notes by Mrs. Hawson with Neville as Chairman, reported on the past year and noted a Balance in Hand of £40.30. It was confirmed that the subscriptions should remain at £1.50. All officers and committee were re-elected en bloc. This was the first meeting where it was suggested that the Society should look at the possibility of viewing photographs given to the Records Department at Matlock by the late Wynn Green.

Diaries record the following meetings

22nd February 1994. A lecture about the Chatsworth Estate.

14th April 1994. Mr. Knighton was booked to speak to the Society about the "History of the Dore & Chinley Line". He was however incapacitated and made arrangements for another speaker whose subject was "The Matlock Tramways"

18th October A talk on "Haddon Hall"

6th December "Earles Quarry" by the Manager.

At the meeting on 27th March 1995 both the Chairman and Secretary stated that they wished to resign. Of the seven members present, four volunteered to try to arrange a speaker. This was to be a new chapter in the life of the Society. Mrs. Doreen Sedgewick agreed to replace Mr. Hawson as Secretary, and Mrs. Hall agreed to continue as Treasurer. The Chairman expressed disappointment that only seven members were present and that the response to a Questionnaire regarding "Buildings in Hope", for which the Chairman had produced a pro-forma at a previous meeting, had resulted in only two being completed.

There was a well documented Annual General Meeting held on 26th September 1995 when it was agreed that the subscription be raised to £2.50, and that non- members should pay 50p. at each meeting. Volunteers were called for the position of Chairman or President, but no names were put forward. It was reported that the Society had joined the Derbyshire Local History Societies Network.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Ron Priestley who spoke of his life as a farmer, haulage contractor and District Councillor.

Committee meetings were held during this period to discuss the future programme, but we have no details.

On 24th October 1995 Miss Sarah Chapman gave an interesting, illustrated lecture on her work as Curator of Bolsover Castle. Some twenty members and visitors met in the Old School. Miss Chapman invited the Society to visit Bolsover Castle.

14th November 1995. Approximately 45 members and visitors met in the Methodist Hall to hear Dr. Wendy Collier speak about "The History and Language of The Vikings" relating some local and northern names to that period.

The December meeting was cancelled due to the illness of the speaker Mr. John Barnatt who is the Peak Park Archaeologist Surveyor.

6th January 1996. Mr. Stuart Elliott spoke to the Society about the origins of "The Hope Show", a historical and descriptive talk about its development and his family's involvement. This was a local resident talking about local events.

On 6th February the Society welcomed a return visit of Mr. Peter Harrison. He showed us a wonderful selection of slides demonstrating examples of various items of Blue John stone. He also showed views inside the Treak Cliff cavern and of the manufacturing process. He spoke about the geology of the strata where the Blue John is found and answered many questions from the audience
6th March 1996. Mr. Brian Woodall gave an interesting, informative, and often entertaining description of some "Customs of the Peak District"

16th April 1996. The Secretary's notes state that 25 members made an exhilarating journey on foot and by Landrover on the course of the old Roman Road along the Brinks, beyond Hope Cross to Crookstone Barn. The hosts were the Crookstone Adventure Trust, a registered charity whose members have converted the Barn to provide accommodation for deprived or disabled young people, mainly from Rotherham.

21st May 1996. Mr. Ron Collier, an Aviation Historian, gave a talk on research for his book "Dark Peak Wrecks". Reference was made to the site of the crash of a Wellington Bomber. A memorial plaque to the crew has been placed on the roadside on the Hope side of Veinbutt Villas on Castleton road at the instigation of Mr Eric Robinson.

18th June 1996 An afternoon visit to Bolsover Castle following the earlier talk by the Curator.

10th September 1996. The A.G.M. was followed by an illustrated talk by Mr. David Turton entitled "Local Railways". At this meeting it was confirmed that a new Chairman and Treasurer were required.

8th October 1996. A visit by members to Birchfield had been arranged by courtesy of Mr. Trevor Bell. He spoke of the history of the house and its present use. Mr. Donald Tomlin then traced for us the family tree of the Firth family who had built the house as a country residence in 1875.

The Committee meeting on 22⁰⁰ October 1996 is noteworthy in the history of the Society. Mr. Brian Gill was confirmed as Treasurer as successor to Mrs. Barbara Hall after almost eight years. A suggestion was made that Mr. Hugh Wentworth Ping could be our next Chairman.~ there is a letter on the meeting file from Mr. Hugh Wentworth Ping, accepting the invitation to become chairman as successor to Edwin Chapman.

12th November 1996. The Speaker, Mr John Barnatt was introduced by our new chairman. Mr. Bamatt is the Peak Park Archaeological Surveyor. 40 members and visitors were present. It was reported at the meeting that progress was being made with the Hope Guide, "Discover Hope" and that a draft copy would be sent to the Parish Council.

10th December. Talk on "The Mary Rose" by A&G Wade.

January 7th 1997 A talk by Jennie Ainsworth entitled "Place Names of the Peak District".

February 11th 1997. It was confirmed at this meeting that the booklet entitled "Discover Hope" was now available for members to sell at £1.00 each. Volunteers were requested for selling to various parties, schools, camp sites, guest houses etc.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. David Sanders who gave a detailed talk on the old Charities of Hope. These Charities are administered by the Parish Councillors as Trustees.

Jacob Cresswell Widow's Charity.
Mrs. Cresswell's Apprenticing Charity
Champion Bray Charities
Bull Meadow charity
The Pinfold

11th March 1997 "Finding the Way"- a talk by Howard Smith on the guide stoops of Derbyshire.

8th April 1997 "Railways in the Hope Valley" by Laurence Knighton.

10th September 1997. 23 members were present for the AGM. The business of the Society was followed by an illustrated talk "Boundaries of North Derbyshire" by David Turton

14th October 1997. "The Turnpike Road- Sheffield to Chapel-en-le Frith". Mr. Howard Smith spoke about the developments of roads in our area together with the problems of permits to travel on roads developed from Roman times and the use of trackways by thousands of packhorse carriers. He described how 1756 saw the construction of the Sheffield to Chapel-en-le Frith Turnpike road. He also included other Derbyshire road developments at this time such as the Sheffield-Dronfield-Chesterfield-Derby Turnpike and the Sheffield to Buxton and Sparrow Pit Gate Roads".

11th November 1997 Mr. Mike Taylor spoke to the Society on "Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation". The speaker illustrated the historical aspect of waterways, particularly in South Yorkshire with photographs of barges, bridges and boatmen. He also showed how the canal has been developed for its present use.

9th December 1997 "H.M.S. Warrior, the Victorian Warship of 1860". This was an illustrated

lecture by A& G. Wade.

13th January 1998 It is reported that 108 members and visitors were present to hear Vic Hallam on his favourite topic, "Derwent and Ashopton", the largest attendance ever at a Historical Society meeting. He described the history of Derwent, Howden and Ladybower Dams, the selection of the sites, and their construction. The audience included many descendants of those who built the Dams, some of whom were born in the village of Birchinlee.

10th February 1998. "The Evolution of the Mediaeval Church" A lecture by Philip Lowe, an undergraduate at Sheffield University. He described the development of building from the original pagan sites on which the Saxon Churches were built. and the architectural development over the centuries, and referred in detail to his study of St.Peter's Church in Hope.

10th March 1998. "We Live in Hope" an illustrated talk by Edwin Chapman, following a series of articles under that title that he had written for the Parish News. He described 2000 years of habitation in Hope, illustrating occupations, variations of population, and the general development of the village.

4th April 1998. Members of the Society visited the Bakewell Museum hosted by Dr. Trevor Brighton, and members of the Bakewell and District Historical Society.

12th May 1998. Geoff Hill, the National Heritage Custodian of Peveril Castle gave a lecture entitled "Motte and Bailey Castles". As well as the history of the castle at Castleton he also made several references to the castle at Hope.

9th June 1998. "The History of Clocks". Mr. John Harrison presented an illustrated lecture on over 3000 years of time recording.

Business considered at this meeting referred to ideas for the Society's association with the forthcoming Millennium celebrations. It was proposed that the Society's contribution should be a time capsule containing items relevant to the village and including the booklet "Discover Hope".

8th September 1998. The Annual General Meeting of the Society was attended by 40 Members and visitors. The business of the meeting was followed by an illustrated journey - "Quickly down the Wye" by David Turton.

13th October 1998. "Houses and Gardens in Derbyshire" Keith and Shirley Thomas presented an illustrated lecture to show the development of famous houses and gardens at Chatsworth, Kedleston Hall, Hardwick Hall, Calke Abbey and Lea Gardens.

10th November 1998. "Haddon Hall, Fact or Fiction" A packed hall was enthralled by Dr. Trevor Brighton's tales of romance, mystery, intrigue and myth about Dorothy Vernon and John Manners in relation to Haddon Hall.

8th December 1998. "Royal Navy Reviews at Spithead - Stepping Stones in British History", an illustrated lecture by A & G Wade.

12th January 1999. "Valley Beautiful" Peter Harrison's illustrated talk on the beauties of the Hope Valley, showing pictures of places which many of the audience had never visited.

9th February 1999. "The Mortimer Road- The Turnpike that Failed". Mr. Howard Smith spoke about the planned Turnpike Road from Grindleford to Penistone, a road to be financed by wealthy landowners led by the local M.P., Mr H. W. Mortimer.

9th March 1999 "Nelson" by Mr. A Piggott. In the decade leading up to the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Lord Nelson, Mr Piggot, as chairman of the Nelson Society, told of plans for its celebration. He talked about the man who is perhaps the most popular national hero, his affair with Lady Hamilton and the sea battles leading up to his death at the Battle of Trafalgar.

13th April 1999. Mr. David Firth gave an illustrated talk outlining the history of the county's canal system with particular reference to the location, construction and use of the Cromford and High Peak Canal. He showed how the canal at Whaley Bridge and the Bugsworth Basin linked Cromford and the Wirksworth quarries to the outlets to the north, combining tramways canals and railways as a complete transport system.

14th September 1999. The notes of the Annual General Meeting include the secretary's report of the activities of the Society over the past year. The notes of this meeting refer to the resignation of Mrs. Doreen Sedgwick as secretary and the appointment of Mrs Ann Price and Mrs Joan Clough as joint secretaries.

A meeting not recorded anywhere is an illustrated talk by Mr. Bocking from Bamford entitled "From Bleaklow to the Trent", a pictorial journey along the entire valley of the River Derwent.

From January 2000 the files give more detailed information of most of the Society's meetings and visits.

11th January 2000. "Poor People's Homes", by John Riddle. He spoke about the architecture of a Peakland village, and his illustrations included many features of buildings in Hope and Bradwell as well as of other buildings in the Peak District.

On 8th February 2000. Dr. Derek Broomhead talked about the New Mills Heritage Centre. He traced the history of the Torrs Valley from its formation by glaciers in a lecture entitled "The Torrs Industrial Trail and the New Mills Heritage Centre"

It is surprising to note that there is only a nominal mention in our records of a talk by Vic. Hallam on "The Derwent Dams and the Dam Busters" on the 14th March 2000.

At the meeting on 11th April 2000 nine of our members talked about items of local and personal interest. They were David Turton, Linda Wilson, Doreen Sedgwick, Brian Gill, Daphne Gill, Trevor and Christine Bell, Joan Clough and Carol Wentworth Ping. Subjects ranged from the industrial history of the area as depicted in children's books, to letters describing life in Peking at the time of the Boxer Rebellion. Items of interest displayed and described were a passport of 1901, silversmith's indentures and a newspaper from V.J. Day 14th August 1945. Local interests were represented by shoemaker and ale accounts from the Hobson family who ran the "Durham Ox" inn in Hope in the 1840's and a ledger book of 1870 from Spring House Farm.

Various visits were arranged for the summer of 2000 including a guided tour of the Bugsworth Basin by David Firth, a visit to the Torrs Industrial Heritage site introduced by Dr. Broomhead and to the Derwent Dams Museum by arrangement with Vic. Hallam.

12th September 2000. The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held when the Chairman reported on a busy year with particular reference to the activities of the

Millennium Garden Committee and the burial of the Time Capsule by Mr. Robert Watson, the Chairman of the Parish Council and Mr. Hugh Wentworth Ping as Chairman of the Historical Society.

On 10th October we were given a talk by Pam Staunton on the "Stainsby Mill"

14th November 2000. "The Time Team (Hope Valley Branch.)" This meeting was attended by some 60 people when members of Arteamus, Pauline Ashmore, Stella Mcguire and Arthur Wilson, a group of local archaeologists, described their work. They told how they walk the fields in the district to collect artefacts dating from the Neolithic times onward, exposed when the fields are ploughed. Other projects included an excavation on Byam Moor of a clearance cairn, and at "The Folly" above the Cement Work's shale quarry. It is thought that because land ownership of the area was vital the site of this cairn made a statement - "This is our land where our ancestors are buried"

At the December meeting we had a talk by Brian Woodall entitled "T'owd Man" the life of a Derbyshire Lead Miner. Brian dressed in the part and gave a spirited re-enactment of a lead miner's way of life.

9th January 2001. Peter Machin returned to the Society to talk about "Victorian Sheffield"- illustrating features of buildings which would have formed the major part of the city centre at that time.

13th February 2001. This was a talk about Saxon Bakewell by Jan Stetka. He related the numerous irregularities in the surface of the fields on the western side of the river opposite Haddon Hall and postulated that this could very well have been the Bakewell of Saxon times.

13th March 2001. Dr. Trevor Brighton gave a well illustrated talk about "Gardens and Landscape Changes at Chatsworth".

10th April 2001 is listed as a Members Evening but we do not have any notes to refer to. On the list there is also a reference to a programme of events including a trip to the Sheffield Fire and Police Museum and a date in June when the members prepared for a photographic exhibition at the Methodist Hall as well as the regular display in St Peter's Church.

The 2001 - 2002 year for the Society commenced on September 11th 2001 with the A.G.M. followed by a talk by Joe. Dalton. He spoke (age 86!) of his experiences in a lifetime of farming. He talked of his early life on the farm, winning Junior Ploughing contests at the age of twelve, having obtained leave from the New Mills Grammar School to do so, and proudly reporting the results the next day. He also spoke of his early years at the Primary School in Hope. He compared present day farming methods to those of his youth and looked ahead to the ways in which agriculture might develop in the future.

9th October 2001. Mr. Malcolm Nunn from the Bradfield Historical Society gave a talk with slides of early photographs depicting the Great Sheffield Flood of 1864. He described the devastation caused by the breaching of the newly built Dale Dyke Dam Wall near Bradfield, and with some feeling of how the horrifying wall of water swept through the breach and down the Loxley Valley, destroying homes, mills and engineering works in its path. He described how the low lying parts of Malin Bridge and Hillsborough were affected by the deluge of trees, rocks and construction timbers which were deposited in this area. Over two hundred local people lost their lives in the disaster. Bradfield Historical Society had recently raised funds to build a memorial to those who died, near to the site of the old dam.

13th November 2001. Mr. Malcolm Thorpe gave a talk on "The History of the Derwent Valley".

10th December 2001. Mrs. Marjorie Dunn gave us a talk about "Fulwood Cottage Homes".

8th January 2002. Dr. James Burton gave an illustrated talk on "The History of the Order of St. John". He outlined the history of the Order from the 9th century to the now well known and respected St. John Ambulance Brigade. The early Hospitallers, an offshoot of the Benedictine Order, were caring for the sick and injured who had travelled across continents to visit the Holy Sites in Jerusalem. A military wing was formed - "The Knights Templar" - to defend the travellers and their hospital in Jerusalem from the Muslims. Forced out of Jerusalem they built a new hospital at Acre. Dr. Burton explained how the situation was so volatile in the Mediterranean area that the Hospitallers moved to Rhodes, Cyprus and Malta, always building hospitals and caring for the sick. Many of these buildings can be seen today.

In this country the Order was renowned for its work, only for Henry VIII to take the assets during the suppression of the Monasteries. The present Order owes its position today to the Boer War and the Industrial Revolution, when groups banded together to learn first aid to help those injured in accidents and on the battle field. Dr. Burton explained how the work of the St. John Ambulance consolidated during two World Wars and the men women and cadets we now see are the successors of those early Hospitaller Knights.

12th February 2002. "The Great Escape", was a talk by Mr. Frank Stone describing his experiences as a prisoner of war and the escape from Stalag Luft III.

12th March 2002. "In the Time of William and Celia" was introduced by Frank Parker, Stephen Penny and Ralf Lord, all members of the Longstone Local History Group.

They showed us a video they had made, inspired by the travel writings of Celia, Fienne's, about life in the Derbyshire Peak during the reign of William III, and explained how they have undertaken the same journey through Derbyshire today to see what has

changed and what remains.

9th April 2002. "Castleton Cavern and Rope Making" Richard Taylor illustrated rope making as practised over several hundred years in the Peak Cavern at Castleton.

Dressed in the guise of an old rope maker he showed how a small community had grown up within the shelter of the Cavern. There were about ten small lean-to houses, probably thatched, providing very basic living accommodation for a group who eventually set up a series of "Rope Walks" on the terraces within the mouth of the cave. Part of the work of these people would be to guide visitors, by candle-light, through the cavern. They would have been transported through the low tunnel, lying flat on a boat, or given a piggy-back ride through the pools of water.

Mr. Taylor described how the cavern became a visitor attraction with the rope making as a secondary employment at certain times of the year. He explained how hemp would have been transported to Castleton by pack horse, made into twine and then into rope of various sizes. A simplified example of the work was demonstrated during the meeting, however the humidity conditions in the hall were not like those of the Cavern, where they were perfect for the process.

The next two meetings of the Society's year were visits, firstly on 14th May, to Bradfield for a tour of the village as guests of the Bradfield Historical Society, and on 18th June to Castleton Museum with Chris Thorpe, followed by a tour of the village led by Peter Harrison.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society took place on 10th September 2002, and was followed by the chance for members to inspect old maps and archive material in the Society's possession.

8th October 2002. A packed Hall heard Geoff Hill talk about the history of "G. & T. Earle". He explained how George and Thomas Earle were originally in business in Hull, importing goods from abroad including timber from Russia. Their interest in cement began in 1840, with works built in Hull. Their reputation for the production of good cement resulted in a Royal Warrant awarded in the late 1800's. The development of the works at Hope commenced in 1927 when the railway to the Dore and Chinley main line and road extensions and improvements were made. Since that time there have been many periods of development resulting in the modern production methods of today.

8th November 2002. There was a crowded hall for a presentation of "Peak Landscapes" by local photographer and writer Karen Frenkel. She showed slides from the Dark Peak in the north to the White Peak in the south, illustrating the differing landscapes under striking skies and in all weathers. Her slides showed the magnificent hills and wild moorlands of the Dark Peak in contrast to the limestone walled fields of the White Peak. Her entertaining presentation included stories of amusing incidents and sometimes uncomfortable hours in the open country to achieve the pictures.

10th December 2002. The Society were entertained to a pleasant variation of history when Nurse Joyce Gould spoke about life as a midwife and nurse in Derbyshire for 40 years, most of them in and around the Hope Valley. Over these years she told of the conditions of work 50 years ago, with the problems of communications and travel in remote areas to deliver some 500 babies without the aid of our modern technology.

14th January 2003. Members of the Arteamus Team were welcomed back to report on their recent work examining and surveying several sites in North Derbyshire. A local member, Pauline Ashmore, talked about the wider work of the group and in particular about her own project at Hope Castle. Stella McGuire described her work at Camp Green at Hathersage, an earthwork by the church, both these sites being probably of Saxon or early Norman origin. Frank Robinson reported on the discovery of Bronze Age rock art at Ashover and the consequent building of a replica Iron

Age Round House by the pupils of Ashover school and others.

11th February 2003. "Life on a Hill Farm. Farmer Kath. Burkinshaw came to talk to us of her own life. She showed excellent slides to illustrate her work on the farm -views of meadows and hills, and also of the sheep and dogs through the seasons. She spoke of the hard work involved in gathering sheep from the hills, lambing and shearing together with the general farm work of hay making, particularly on quite steep slopes, and the effort to keep the land and animals in good order. She also described the qualities required of her Border Collie dogs, and how she selects them for working with the sheep. The record audience showed their appreciation for a fascinating and delightful talk.

11th March 2003. A talk by Mr. Peter Shelton about Medieval Stained Glass.

8th April 2003 was a special evening when four of our members, George Townsend, John Longden, Joe Dalton, and John Hall spoke of their family history. Each speaker illustrated their strong links with Hope and the Hope Valley over many years. They brought photographs of homes and families, some of which had been copied to slides by David Price, for display during the talks.

13th May 2003. The Society were guests of the Bradwell Historical Society. The notes of the meeting suggest a very wet evening-"A flotilla of coloured umbrellas" are noted as being seen bobbing about the village. We were taken on an exploration of the maze of lanes that climb the hill, and saw the influence of lead mining upon the layout of the village, the impressive Chapels and Sunday Schools which ministered to the spiritual needs of the inhabitants of Bradwell.

The usual preparatory meeting for the Wakes Week display in St. Peter's Church took place on 10th June, when this year's theme of "Leisure and Pastimes" was agreed. Requests were made for members to loan photographs or objects to illustrate leisure activities of the past.

The 2002-2003 season commenced in September with the Annual General Meeting at which the new chairman Dr. James Burton was welcomed. Thanks were expressed to Mr Wentworth Ping, for all he had done for the Society and for his enthusiasm and interest in promoting the Society's work, and to all who had helped him in his term as chairman. A discussion took place about future research projects for the Society, in particular the recording of local buildings and their changing uses over the decades.

14th October 2002. Dr Trevor Brighton spoke about the work of "Capability Brown and Joseph Paxton at Chatsworth".

11th November 2003. A talk on "The Sheffield Motor Industry" was given by Mr. Malcolm Dungworth. He traced the early days from the first motorised carriages and the Red Flag Act, through a period of enthusiasm by inventors and industrialists to a time when there were fifty or more listed established carriage makers in the Sheffield area. He explained how some firms benefited from government contracts during the First World War only for the ensuing depression to reduce the numbers. Many famous names, such as Wolseley and Austin had early links with Sheffield. Factories varied from the most rudimentary, such as old kiln tunnels used by the Richardson Company to Earl Fitzwilliam's purpose built factory for the Sheffield Simplex.

9th December 2003 Mr. Howard Smith talked to the Society about "Bridges of the Upper Derwent".

13th January 2004. Mrs. Jennie Ainsworth gave an illustrated lecture on "Derbyshire Personalities" using the letters of the alphabet to select the many people who had connection with the County, and who had made names for themselves in the past. Some were born in Derbyshire and some spent the important years of their lives here. Recognised names were Bess of Hardwick, Florence Nightingale, Richard Arkwright and Robert Stephenson, but she also told of many others from the county who had made great contributions elsewhere in the world.

10th February.2004. Replacing the advertised speaker at very short notice, Dr. Alan Wood spoke of the intention, subject to getting finance and the various planning consents, to build a bridge over the River Don at Kelham Island, to be known as "The New Brooklyn Bridge." He explained how the bridge would be built to one tenth the size of the New York bridge of the same name and in an as accurate a form as possible. The new bridge will complete the first section of the Upper Don Trail, connecting the

Brooklyn Works to Kelham Island Industrial Museum.

Dr. Wood, a retired Civil and Structural Engineer, gave a brief history of the bridge linking New York to Brooklyn, and its instigator and builder-John Roebling and his family. He described the important link with the Sheffield firm of J. H. Andrews who provided the "ropes on which Brooklyn Bridge is suspended", and indeed for most of the U.S. suspension bridges which followed it. Sheffield firms will be used to build the replica, which it is hoped will open in 2005.

9th March 2004. Mrs. Avril Critchley talked to us about the Sheffield Botanical Gardens. She described the history of the gardens from the formation of the Sheffield Botanical and Horticultural Society in 1834 (which was to "promote healthy recreation and self education") through to the recent restoration work. The Gardens were opened in 1836, when 12,000 people visited in four days, and were thereafter open to shareholders and annual subscribers only, except on four Gala days per year when the general public were allowed to enter.

Mrs. Critchley told how the original Gardens were laid out by Robert Mamock, one of the foremost landscape gardeners of the time, where each plant was displayed to perfection. The Glasshouses were built in the "Ridge and Furrow" style of Paxton's Chatsworth Glasshouses and were important examples of curvilinear glass structures with the connecting glass "Walkways". Over the years the Gardens went through several financial crises, and were owned and managed by various groups, until in 1997 with the award by the Heritage Lottery Fund, restoration work could commence. She described, with the help of excellent slides and photographs, the painstaking rebuilding of the buildings and gardens. This work has yet to be completed!.

11th May2004. Society members enjoyed a walk through the landscape of the Longshaw Estate, lead by Mr. Howard Smith.

8th June 2004. Members met for the usual pre-wakes preparation for an exhibition "The Family" with particular reference to three families in the parish through several generations.

14th September 2004. At the Annual General Meeting the committee were re-elected en-bloc with the addition of Barbara Daniel appointed as Programme Secretary. Following the formal meeting the Society were treated to a fascinating presentation by

Di. Curtis on the "Landscape around Hope". She described the markings on the hillsides created over many years by people's uses of natural resources of peat and stone. Peat cutting and its transportation to the village created pathways referred to as "sledways". Areas hollowed out leaving a small crater were shown to be sites of stone quarrying for buildings in the village. Photographs of the landscape features under different weather conditions were included, illustrating items "not seen unless looked for".

12th October 2004. Mr. David Jarvis spoke about the history and work of the Assay Office in Sheffield and illustrated the analyst's control of the quality of gold, silver and platinum articles and the marking with the characteristic hallmark. Assay Offices in the UK. are in London, Sheffield, Birmingham and Edinburgh. In earlier times there were others such as York and Chester. Several thousand articles are sent to the Assay Office in Sheffield by manufacturers, jewellers or bullion dealers requiring confirmation of the quality of the metals. The work of the Assay Office is not part of any Government establishment, income being derived from the fees charged for hallmarking the various items of domestic and industrial use. The talk was illustrated by several antique silver pieces.

9th November. Sheila McHale gave an interesting talk to the Society, describing her work and experiences as a Peak Park Ranger for over 12 years in the areas of Edale, Hope, Castleton and Peak Forest. She explained how Rangers, some of whom are trained unpaid volunteers, liaise between the public using the Peak Park, the landowners, and the Park Authority. They are involved in maintaining pathways, stiles, walls, plant and animal life as well as providing advice to walkers and other users of the area. The talk was accompanied by slides showing the Peak Park and the activities of the Rangers. Much discussion followed her talk concerning the legitimate use (or otherwise) of the land by various groups including Motor Cross Cyclists, walkers who stray from the marked footpaths, in addition to sporting activities such as climbing, hang gliding and mountain bikes.

14th December. Robert Watson, one of our committee members, described the origin of The Society of Felons in the 18th. Century as a group of some 25 local residents in Hathersage. They were concerned with the bringing to prosecution those people committing crimes in the locality and maintaining the law. Very good records were kept by the Society dating back to its origin and these were displayed at the meeting. Mr. Watson explained how offenders would be presented to the Police, or made, in lesser offences, to sign a poster announcing their guilt with a public apology. The Society now exists as a Dining Club continuing just one of its former function for the 25 members.

The first meeting of 2005 on January 11th was another by one of our own members, the Chairman, Dr. James Burton. He explained how medical practitioners learned their "craft" from the time of Hippocrates through to the present day medical school education. Dr. Burton described the place of monasteries as the early hospitals with their herb gardens, the coming of the apothecaries who then specialised in drug production, and the apprenticeship of the early surgeons derived from barbers. The early graduates from ancient European universities were enabled to become physicians after the setting up of the College of Physicians in London in the 16th. century and Sheffield and two other rival medical schools from the early 1800's, one of which did not survive after a "Fracas" thought to be concerned with body snatching. Dr. Burton explained the origin of the Sheffield Medical School and University and went on to describe several hundred years of aspects of medical practice with the aid of illustrations of paintings from around the world.

8th February. 2005. Mr Geoffrey Mitchell outlined the life history of his grandmother, Hannah, born in 1875 at Alport Castles Farm, who subsequently became a member of the suffragette movement. He told us how she attended village school, a long walk from home, for only two years before the age of 14 when she decided to leave home and to find work in Glossop as a housemaid. From papers found after her death in 1956, her grandson published a collection of her writings as a book entitled "A Hard Way Up". Mr. Mitchell told how after a series of workplaces, she moved from Glossop to Bolton, where she met her husband - a socialist. Together they encouraged "fair play" for the working classes. Hannah eventually moved into the circles of the suffragette movement where she met with notable women including Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughter. She soon became involved with the socialist movement in Bolton, attending meetings to encourage votes for women.

8th March 2005. An interesting lecture was given by Marjorie Dunn entitled "History Afloat". Marjorie Dunn is a historical novelist who talked about life on the narrow boats in South Yorkshire. She described the development of the canals in the area to facilitate the transport of coal, stone and timber cheaply and quickly. She described how whole families with sometimes five children occupied the confined living quarters as the barges travelled along the canals of South Yorkshire and South Humberside. The children were not able to attend school, and thus many were illiterate, just as their parents, who had been brought up in the same conditions. With the advent of the railways cargoes could be transported quickly and therefore more cheaply. The canals are still in use with narrow boats sailed by enthusiasts, and generally form part of a leisure industry.

12th April 2005. The History of the Plague in Eyam was the subject of a talk by Mr. John Clifford. Mr. Clifford has explored the archives and parish registers of Eyam to determine the actual time scale and the numbers of victims dying in the village in the 1660's. He told us how the original Church Registers were lost and how the records were copied by an "errant vicar" (Mr. Clifford's description) who took refuge in the church for 19 years - fearful of arrest and having nothing to do. His work is now a record to which Mr. Clifford refers.

Mr. Clifford suggested that the source of the fleas that spread the disease was not in material sent from London, but in actual clothes sent by packhorse to enable local tailors to copy or sell the up-to-date fashions from the capital. The clothing arrived damp and "musty" allowing the fleas to survive and cause the dreadful period in the history of the village of Byam. He gave the data of the various families affected and the tragic way in which the people isolated themselves, and how families buried their dead, only to be affected and die themselves

Mr. Clifford extended his topic during a visit by the society to Eyam on May 3rd when, accompanied by fellow villager, David Lewis, an expert in architectural history, we were given an excellent two hour tour. This started in the garden of Delf View House with the dramatic view of the Delf where services were held during the plague.

Members toured the village, being introduced to cottage architecture and that of other important buildings, together with plague graves in the church yard

The programme list for 2004 - 2005 indicates a visit to Longshaw with Mr. Frank Galbraith, when during an excellent evening walk, he showed us the landscape history of the estate. There is a note of the Wakes Week preparation meeting and the Society's exhibition of "Houses in Hope" held in St. Peter's Church.

4th July. The Society hosted a Heritage walk round the village, looking at the history of

some buildings and their changing uses. Three guides conducted some 40 members and friends from other villages finishing in the church where the exhibition had been retained for viewing.

The 2005 - 2006 Season commenced on 13th September with the Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Mr. Peter Harrison on "the History of Blue John". He explained the geological formation over millions of years, of the rock in which this unique mineral is found and the various theories about its formation. He showed slides of Blue John stone being worked into various items and wonderful examples of ornaments, clocks and jewellery.

11th October. 2005. A capacity audience attended the meeting when Mr. Clive Leivers told us about the lives of the men who constructed the Dore and Chinley Railway Line. He described how his great grandfather and his grandfather were employed as navies. Having done a massive search of the census records of the late 19th. and early 20th. centuries he had traced the origin of the large workforce involved. Men came from the midlands, north west, south and south west of the country. Many were married and lived in lodgings with local families. Other men were provided with temporary accommodation, grossly over populated and a risk to public health, particularly during a small-pox epidemic, for which a small hospital was built just outside Hathersage. The most important feature of their work on this particular stretch of the new railway system were the tunnels between Dore and Totley and Grindleford station and the Cowbum Tunnel to the north west of Edale. Bricks for the tunnels were made locally adjacent to the entrance at both ends of the tunnel. Accurate surveys were made over

..
the moorland areas to enable the men to meet in the middle. The influx of population increased the income for local farmers, grocers and merchants and the various hostelrys in the village near to the line. Mr. Leiver's lecture created much interest with the audience, and there was a lively discussion with comments by local people who had relatives living in the area particularly adjacent to the line.

8th November 2005. Anne Brown talk about the town of Dronfield in 1895 accompanied with photographs. She gave an account of the large amount of information found in Trade Directories published at the end of the 19th. century. As well as the local tradesmen these directories also gave a short survey of industry, schools, important buildings and their occupants together with other historical features. With the coming of the railway, industry was developed to manufacture railway lines and the other items required during construction. Dronfield town, encompassing

Apperknowle, Coal Aston (formerly Cold Aston) and Unstone, was on part of the route from Sheffield to London. Within the boundaries of the then town of Dronfield there were three coal mines serving the area and the railway. Anne Brown described many 19th Century buildings which remain in Dronfield including a memorial to Robert Peel, the reformer and the originator of the Police Force. She issued an invitation to the Society to visit Dronfield and see many of the large houses and other aspects of the town.

13th December 2005. Members assembled to hear Brian Woodall talk about local Christmas Carols He gave examples of various localities which have their own special carols, eg. Loxley, Rivelin, Dungworth and other places in that area. Mr. Woodall spoke about carols which are more general in the north of England, and also about carols played by local bands to tunes not written for choral singing. He particularly referred to what Castleton call their own carols and gave examples of various carols he had taped.

10th January 2006. It was a pleasure to hear Berlie Doherty- an Edale resident and a prolific writer of books for young people. Her lecture, "Stepping into the Past", illustrated her easy manner of story telling. She told how she now uses stories of historical events to produce fictional pictures in words of such events as the Byam Plague. Though not identified as Byam, the book detailed the separation of the children in a plague stricken family. The other example, which was most popular was a story of the taking over of a village which was to be demolished to enable a reservoir to be built. She called the village Birchtown and made the story live for the people aware of the events prior to the building of the Ladybower Reservoir. The emotion of the villagers is relayed in a very telling way. Her book included an acknowledgement of help by Jack Elliott- a farmer in Hope since the 1940's, but a schoolboy in Derwent at the time the actual events took place.

14th February. An unusual visitor to our meeting was a Search and Rescue dog, "Tyke", accompanied by his owner Ian Bunting who described the history of mountain rescue from its modest beginnings in the 1930's, to the present day sophisticated organisation. Mr. Bunting gave a vivid description of the training and work, in particular of the Edale Mountain Rescue Team, one of the several groups which cover the Peak District-the Edale Team being responsible for the surrounding hills of the Hope Valley including a large part of Kinder Scout. The team are all volunteers and are dependent on donations from the public. They combine call-outs, training and fund raising with their ordinary daily occupations. The team are called, often by Derbyshire Police, to help injured and exhausted walkers and climbers, or to find people who get lost or go missing. Mr. Bunting was mildly critical of the way in which some people ignore sensible advice and attempt walks in mist and rain when not suitably shod or dressed and with no maps or compass. A lot of the team's work includes full scale searches and rescue operations over rough terrain and in appalling weather conditions. He explained that the team's base is at the Hope Cement Works by courtesy of Lafarge and are raising funds to improve and extend their present headquarters.

11th April 2006. The meeting heard of local archaeology commissioned by Severn Trent Water. The speaker was Darryl Garton from Nottingham University. When planning the proposed route of the pumped sewage pipeline from Laneside, Hope to Stretfield sewage works in Bradwell it was considered prudent to look at the possibility of the excavation impinging on an archaeologically sensitive area. To ensure that any archaeology was recorded, Severn Trent asked the Trent and Peak Archaeological unit from Nottingham University to carry out a survey in 2002. Dr. Garton described the results of the excavation survey. A surface excavation along a single line of countryside revealed evidence of man's activity near Hope from Neolithic times to the medieval, including charcoal dated from between 1060 and 1190, as well as clinker and pollen samples. Some charcoal found near the Laneside end of the pipeline was found by carbon dating to be of the staggeringly early date of 3600 B.C.

As a follow up to Anne Brown's talk about Dronfield a visit was arranged for May 9th. Some thirty members met at the library in Dronfield - formerly the Manor House built in 1710 for the Lord of the Manor. Members were shown the Peel Memorial, The Blue Stoops Inn built in 1596 with its blue painted door posts. Other buildings seen on the walk included The Hall with its Queen Anne facade, at one time the home of the lord of the manor. The prosperity of the town through the 1870s is reflected in buildings such as the New and the Old Town Halls. The visit was concluded with a tour of the Parish Church built in 1835.

A walk on Tuesday 30th May led by Di and Charles Curtis was well attended. We walked around the enclosure on Mam Tor and saw where the gateway had been and the

siting of hut platforms from Iron Age times. Then we followed the edge of the geological slippage and learned the causes of this geological phenomenon.

During Wakes Week in June the Society hosted "A Walk Around Historic Hope" open to other local villages. This was followed on Thursday July 11th with a Buffet Supper at the Traveller's Rest.

Autumn 2006 for the Historical Society began on September 12th when Dr. Joan Unwin, the archivist of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire gave a detailed history of the Company from its origins in the 1600s to the present day. The base for the Company is the Cutlers' Hall in Church Street, the third such building on the present site and dating from the 1830s. Dr. Unwin spoke about the history of steel in Sheffield with particular reference to cutlery manufacturing and its changing fortunes through the years to the near demise of the industry in Sheffield.

Historically a cutler was a person who made knives of many sorts, but Sheffield also manufactured scythes, sickles, bayonets, scissors and shears - all items made to "cut" various things. Dr. Unwin spoke about the annual election of the Master Cutler and the Livery Company in London, who though not manufacturers, were concerned with the merchandising of cutlery.

10th.October. Clive Hart talked about "Views of a much loved Landscape". Mr. Hart is a professional archaeologist who has surveyed the area from North Nottinghamshire into Derbyshire and the Peak District over several years. His unusual aerial views from an aeroplane or hot air balloon showed the remnants of earthworks at Longnor, and he spoke of the finding of implements dating from 2500 BC. Excavations on the site of the new Ibis Hotel at Chesterfield disclosed Roman remains and evidence of earlier building. Castle defence remains were seen in various parts of the Peak District, highlighted in some cases following a light falling of snow which enabled ancient roads and "holloways" to be easily seen. Aerial photographs illustrated the system of medieval field division quite clearly. Haddon Hall, Chatsworth House and Estate, Monsal Dale and Cavedale were all part of his spectacular perspective of a much loved landscape.



Hope Historical Society was represented at the North Derbyshire Historical Forum held at The Winding Wheel in Chesterfield, when they set up a lively display of their current research into Hope's families and local roads.

14th November. A large gathering heard Mr. Peter Miles talk about the Hucklow Players and L Du Garde Peach. Mr. Miles, a former member of the Hucklow Players, gave us an interesting evening relating how the group was formed by L. Du Garde Peach and the way in which he worked tirelessly with others to get a barn converted into a theatre at Great Hucklow. Some of the earlier plays were written by him and all the performances were given by a succession of local amateurs. all enthusiastic people directed by him. The performances were always of a high standard and played to a packed theatre. With the increasing difficulty in replacing retiring players, the group ceased in the early 1970's, and the theatre was converted into an outdoor pursuit centre for the Scouts.

12th December. The Annual General Meeting of the Society was moved to a December date for the first time. All officers were voted to continue for a further year. The Chairman reported positive progress of the Society with an increase in numbers from 60 to 80. He presented the draft Constitution drawn up by the committee during the year, which, with some amendments, was accepted by the members present - the first formal constitution for the Society.

9th January.2007. Mr. John Capewell of Lafarge Cement gave an interesting presentation on the history of the development of Hope Cement Works. He explained that Messrs G.& T Earle from Hull found a suitable site with adjacent adequate quantities of shale, clay and limestone - the basic ingredients in the cement making process. Mr. Capewell traced the development of the works from 1929, when production of cement first commenced, through the years to the large works now visible for miles around and the recent multi-million pound development including new controls and an improved railway system. He referred to the 1950's scheme of landscaping which continues to the present day in conjunction with advice from the Peak Park officers. He also commented on the continuation of the "Earle's Ethos" – a concern for the social well being of the workforce very evident in the Hope Works today.

13th February. This meeting saw the return of Pauline Ashmore and Arthur Wilson who described an excavation of a pre-historic burial site at Stanlow near Windmill. They explained how the excavation of a mound took place over a two year period. Once cleared of the modern waste they found an area in part of the excavation where stones had been laid flat over a large area with some edging stones upright. Further excavation and examination disclosed many flint axe-heads and other small shaped cutting stones with a cutting stone apparently "imported" from Cheshire. Cremated remains beneath the flat stones were found dating from 1800 to 800 BC. There was also, and unusually, a well preserved skeleton lying in a shallow grave, thought to be a female. Analysis of the bones to accurately date the find are awaited

13th March. Ian Stanyon from Castleton gave a beautifully illustrated talk on "The History of Paragliding". He was suitably dressed in flying suit, boots and crash helmet with an enormous and heavy pack on his back containing the parachute. He explained how the slender coloured curves seen over the Peak District have been developed from the wartime parachutes. They are expensive refined versions of the original which were often sewn together on domestic sewing machines into various shapes developed over the years from round, square, oblong, box and delta shapes to the modern blade - like appearance. Mr. Stanyon illustrated his lecture with spectacular views of the Hope Valley from the air, and showed how the modern chutes can be packed and carried to the tops of suitable hills when flights of from minutes to many hours can be achieved.

10th April. Mr. Peter Rhodes introduced the society to the work of the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society in an interesting well attended lecture. He explained how the voluntary society, founded in 1894 and based in Stockport, aims to protect and ensure the maintenance of public footpaths both on public and private land.

Volunteers working throughout Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Merseyside, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire form themselves into an inspectorate to report problems with footpaths to local authorities who are responsible for their maintenance,

and in doing so walk hundreds of miles collectively. One particular volunteer spends his time repainting signs on a rotation basis. The way signs, as they are known are usually painted green with white lettering and the Society's logo and the installation date shown. Mr. Rhodes explained with some interesting photographs how repairs and improvements of access together with the installation of wooden bridges is carried out by the Society. All the work is programmed and recorded at their own headquarters with one salaried officer and many volunteers - the work in the field all paid for by legacies and donations.

The summer of 2007 was quite busy for those members who were able to help with the exhibition in St. Peter's Church entitled "Employment in Hope" and the visits by members of Historical Societies from Dronfield, Eyam and Great Longstone.

11th September. Members were pleased to hear Mr. David Price give a talk entitled "What does Family History mean to you"? David told stories of his own family research, and explained how researchers can use a wide range of sources to trace their ancestors. He showed examples of census returns, wills, newspaper reports and photographs. He quoted family stories of lost papers in an inheritance claim and even lost families, where their status did not meet with approval. He was fascinated by these stories and the light they cast on the social lives of past generations.

9th October. Mr Malcolm Dungworth talked about "The Story of Waring & Gillow, Furniture Manufacturers." The firm was started in Lancaster by the Gillow family in the 1700's. Employing a small workforce they made furniture mainly for middle class and wealthy families and would completely furnish whole houses in traditional styles. In the 1800's wood was imported, particularly mahogany, and the firm prospered, later to be joined by Mr. Waring. With the advent of steamship travel the firm was called to carry out the woodwork fittings - staircases and general furnishings on liners. Cheaper furniture for the home market was produced and sold in large shops in the West End of London and gradually incorporated other small manufacturers such as Maples in an effort to remain in business. The competition for such work in the early part of the 20th. century increased to such an extent that the company were unable to compete with cheaper manufacturers, particularly a market flooded with imported furniture and the firm went out of business at the end of the 20th. Century.

t

? November 2007. Speaker's name? "The Hidden Treasures of Chatsworth". ? gave an inside view of some of the unusual and beautiful items at Chatsworth not normally seen by the general public.

11th December.2007. The Annual General Meeting was held and a successful year was reported by the Chairman. The Committee was re-elected without change; there remains one vacancy. After the formal meeting there was a slide presentation by members describing trips to historic civilisations in South America and Egypt.

8th January 2008. Mr. Axel Chatburn lectured about "The History of Lead Mining in The Peak District." Illustrated with some excellent slides taken over the last 50 years, he explained the formation of the vertical seams of galena, the ore of lead sulphide and how it was mined from very deep shafts from Roman times. Crushing, washing, and firing was necessary to complete the work prior to casting the lead into blocks, called 'pigs'. He explained how the ore was mined and brought to the surface through a small shaft, just large enough to allow miners to enter, with a bucket which was hauled to the surface by means of a wooden structure with a simple winding mechanism. Should the mine not be in use the Barmoot Court, the Controller of Lead Mines, would mark the wood of the headgear to indicate this and anyone could help themselves.

12th February 2008. "Enigma, the ultra secret at Bletchley Park". The Society heard the history of the wartime ENIGMA machine sited at Bletchley Park. Mrs Nancy Pulley from Baslow described how, after joining the Wrens, she was accepted to work on top secret decoding. Morse signals from German Commanders were encoded. The codes were changed every 24 hours but the Enigma Computer was able to pick up these secret signals and "crack the code". The information was then translated into information passed to British Army, Naval, and Air Commanders outlining German attack strategy proposals. Admiral Donestk assured the Senior German Command that decoding their signals was impossible, but it was happening. The staff working at Bletchley were

described by Prime Minister Churchill as "the geese that laid the golden eggs without cracking". The staff worked in strict secrecy, not being allowed to discuss their roles or their work in the unit with even the closest of relations and friends. Under the strict Official Secrets Act this silence was maintained for 30 years,

11th March This meeting saw the return of Mr. Howard Smith whose topic was "The History of Droving". He described how in the 17th and 18th centuries the emerging industrial towns required fresh meat to provide a balanced diet for their ever increasing population. Beef cattle reared in the countryside were driven in large numbers to areas adjacent to the towns, fattened and then sold to butchers. Some would be sold en route but places like Smithfield Market in the City of London depended on the supply of live animals, brought on foot to be slaughtered and distributed locally. The drovers moved slowly and would find overnight accommodation in isolated country inns often later known as "The Drovers Arms". The cattle would be guarded overnight by many dogs, before moving on the next day. Having delivered the cattle the drovers would return home on foot with their new found wealth, during their journey having to be vigilant because of attacks by highwaymen. Mr. Smith also told of the numerous sheep, pigs and geese being transported in this way, the geese having their feet coated with tar to protect them on their long walk.

The final meeting of the twenty years recorded was held on 8th April 2008. "Early Memories"- an evening when seven members of the Society shared their earliest memories to an audience of **56** members and visitors. They were Linda Wilson and Sal Cave, Dr James Burton, Barbara Shuttleworth, Tony Clough, Hazel Watson and Peter Harrison.

Comparisons of childhood and the descriptions of places now unrecognisable was a feature of all experiences, from the "drilling" of pupils at day-school by a headmaster at the school in Hathersage, to life as a child in the London Blitz with a father working on the building of the Mulberry Harbour in preparation for the Normandy Landings. This contrasted rather vividly with the tranquil quiet enjoyment of life on a farm after the end of hostilities. Life as a child of a serving military officer was described by one member who spoke of early travel to India and the anxiety caused by his father's detention as a Japanese prisoner of war, out of contact with the family for many months. Evacuation of Sheffield children was described in detail by another member and the memories of life at Derwent Hall whilst the building of the Ladybower Dam continued. The final memory of a member being thrown off his bicycle by the blast of a low flying Spitfire on a practice run concluded the meeting.