



Wardle and Smallbridge History Group

Issue No. 2, April 2016

Events

We are in the process of planning a cream tea in June. This will give us the chance to have the pleasure of meeting old and new friends as well as raising money to help with the monthly rental charge. There will be more information in the next Newsletter. We held a successful coffee morning a few weeks ago and hope the cream team will also encourage people to come and visit the centre.

Clegg Hall

The group had a visit from Betty Hurst on 30th March this year to tell us about her life at Clegg Hall. She lived there during the 1930s when the hall was partly derelict. At this time it was owned by the Gartside family who also owned Clegg Hall farm. Betty's father worked on the farm and they later moved into one of the back-

to-back cottages. Six of these belonged to Clegg Hall Mill and the other two housed farm workers. Close by were a barn, stables, pig sties a dairy and a shippon. Betty also told us that two ladies called Miriam and Rachel had a sweet shop at the front of the hall and in another part of the hall somebody kept hens.



Close to the hall was Clegg Hall Mill which had a large galvanised tank of hot water next to it. Victoria Dyeing Company owned the mill and they allowed people living in the cottages to use the hot water to fill their washing tubs. The mill also discharged hot water into the canal and boys

used to swim in the heated water. Occasionally someone would send for the police but the boys could see the policeman coming along the towpath and they had time to escape. Later hens were kept in the hall and this went on until at least the 1960s.

Paraffin lamp

We have received a donation of a paraffin lamp from one of our members. We were told that it was used during WW2 in Wardle to look for hens in the blackout.

However, Mike put a photo of it on our Facebook page and got a reply from somebody saying that it was used by the Air Raid Wardens in WW2 which sounds more likely.



New projects

We are hoping to get some help from Coronation Power who we have asked for a grant so that we can install new chairs, a table and computer on which we can display documents, photos, etc, to create a dedicated Watergrove room. We are also hoping to hang a large banner belonging to Watergrove Chapel as it has not been seen for decades. We will also move Arnold Wade's model of Watergrove village close to this display. We hope to have this exciting new project open by September Heritage Weekend.



Bob our resident handyman and painter has refurbished our display cabinets and is now helping to fill them with new items.

Call in!

Remember that we're *almost* always at the History Group centre (address below) on Wednesdays, from 10am until 12 (pass along the corridor, then up the stairs). Call in to chat and to see our exhibits!

Contact us!

Our web site : www.washg.co.uk

By e-mail : wardlehistorygroup@mail.com

By post : **Wardle and Smallbridge History Group**
110 Wardle Road
ROCHDALE
OL12 9ER

You can download this newsletter from our web site