

THE HISTORY OF NEW ROAD SUNDAY SCHOOL RASTRICK

...ST APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR FIFTY-SIX YEARS

WITHIN a few days of the 115th anniversary of the opening of New Road Sunday School, Rastrick, the building, completely repaired structurally, will be dedicated to the service for which it was originally built that of a Sabbath school. contributor writes as Church in allowing the use of their harvest festival services, and their schoolroom for social functions must rank high in the deeds of kindness and assistance which were readily given. It was not one-sided help however, and, as some members of the School of 1837 were again evident in the general South Ward



IN CELEBRATION OF THE 175th ANNIVERSARY 1837 - 2012

Payments
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For Band
4.00

Andrew Eccles



The
HISTORY
of
NEW ROAD SUNDAY SCHOOL
RASTRICK

In celebration of the 175th Anniversary

1837 - 2012

Compiled by
Andrew Eccles

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by
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Author's Preface

Two previous histories of New Road Sunday School have been written, the first was to celebrate the centenary in 1837 and the second, to celebrate the 150th anniversary in 1982. When the Teachers Meeting muted the idea of producing yet another booklet to mark the 175th anniversary this coming year, I volunteered my services as I felt that there was much more of a story to tell about this fascinating institution together with some of its dedicated workers, whose efforts were fundamental in achieving the success that New Road has enjoyed over its long and fruitful existence.

My in-depth study into the Sunday School first came about as a result of researching my family history upon my maternal line. My mother was a Bottomley, a name that has become somewhat synonymous with the name of New Road Sunday School and whilst I was engaged in the research, using many of the minute books from the Teacher's and Trustee's, I came across some interesting topics that would be known only to our forebears who have long since taken the details to their graves. In other cases, there are countless memories and stories that come to the minds of the many scholars, both present and former, who reside across the length and breadth of the country, regarding their fond association with New Road Sunday School.

I felt that there was so much to tell which hadn't been written about this much loved establishment and, as time passes by, that there was a danger of losing much of that information, which once gone, would never be recounted again as it faded into forgotten history.

There have been many devoted workers to the cause at New Road, from its inception to the present time and there is always a danger that once you start to name such people, there will be some important individuals who don't get a mention. It is impossible not to mention certain characters but in doing so, I have tried not to eulogise on their importance too much. I apologise if I have not included the name of someone who is deserving of mention for some particular work and hope that this does not detract from the book as a whole in any way. I will have no doubt overlooked certain issues that others deem to be worthy of inclusion for which I again apologise but I hope that in the main, you find the information contained within this book both factual and interesting.

This book is dedicated to my mother, Christine Eccles, who died on the 7th February 2006. I am sure she would have liked to have read it.

Andrew Eccles
April 2012

Acknowledgements

In alphabetical order:-

Mr. Allan Bottomley

Mrs. Hilda Bottomley

Mr. Wilfred Bottomley

Mr. Tony Edley

Mr. Tom Eccles

Mr. Tony Forrester

Mrs. Anne Goodall

Mr. Leslie Hargreaves

Mrs. Dora Keene

Mr. Maurice Pearson

Mr. Brian Taylor

Mrs. Winnie Thornton

Mrs. Margaret Usher

Mr. Brian Whiteley

Band of Hope Minutes

Teachers Minutes

Trustees Minutes

A Century of Band of Hope – 1982 – Norman Riley C.Chem, F.R.S.C.

New Road Sunday School 150th Anniversary booklet – 1987 – Norman Riley C.Chem, F.R.S.C

New Road Sunday School Centenary booklet – 1937 – various contributors

Portrait of a Town 1953 – Reg Mitchell

History of Brighouse, Rastrick & Hipperholme 1893

Calderdale Libraries Archives

New Road Sunday School cricket archives

Dr. Peter Davies - The Cricket History of Kirklees and Calderdale website -

www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk

Not forgetting my wife, Kathryn, who has put up with me being immersed in this project for over two years and has supported me throughout

And all the wonderful people who I have encountered over the last 50 years at New Road, who have acted as an inspiration for this book.

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Chapter One

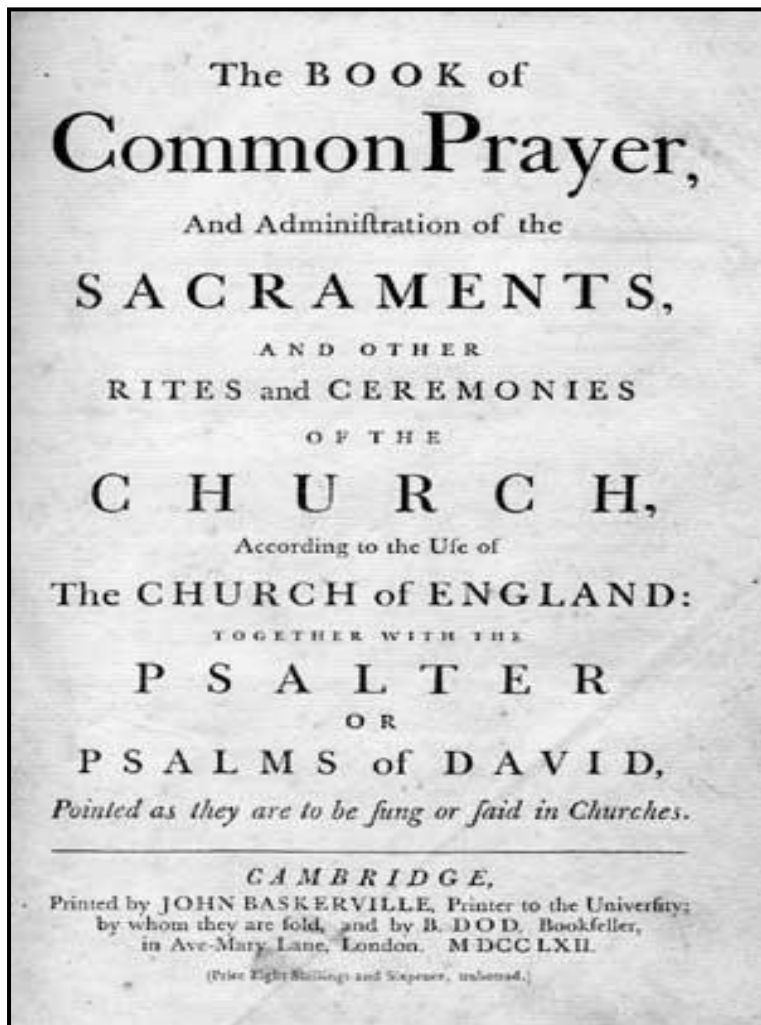
Rastrick prior to New Road Sunday School

It is always difficult to know exactly just how far back one should go when addressing a certain historical subject. When I first became interested in my family history and began to put together lists of names of relatives who had gone before us, I began to feel a sense of not only achievement but also a sense of belonging to this list of family members as they were the people who had laid the ground and shaped what we have become. I had traced my roots, albeit, only by the names of people who had long since departed this life but because no-one was still alive who could remember these people, my mother couldn't see any point to it. She remembered her grandfather (who I never knew) but she didn't see any point in tracing relatives prior to him. "No-one will be interested in folk they never knew", she would tell me but I know that not to be the case as I have encountered previously unknown family members who are interested in tracing various paths of our family tree and as a result, I am in contact with distant relations who live in many different areas of the UK as well as others living in the United States of America, Canada, Spain and even as far afield as Fiji.

So where should my starting point be when writing about the history of an institution, if that is the right word, which commenced its business in 1837. The fact that this was the year that Queen Victoria came to the throne of the British Empire could be a good starting point but I think it should start further back in the annals of history than that, because New Road Sunday School is proud of the fact that it has always been independent of any other governing establishment and has never been affiliated to any other ecclesiastical body. As such, I have heard many different terminologies throughout my life - Independent, Non-conformist, Non-denominational and Dissenters to name but a few. When I attended at local Church of England schools in my younger days, namely St. James' Infants, which stood in what is now the Tesco supermarket car park in Brighouse and then St. Andrew's Junior School that was situated on land now used as sheltered housing in the parcel of land surrounded by Thornhill Bridge Lane, Richard Street, Mary Street and Lee Street, we regularly had to attend church services at St. James' and St. Martin's Churches. "If they tell you that you have to take Holy Communion, tell them you are non-denominational", Mum used to say, therefore it was a word I knew from an early age but had no idea what it really meant. So what do all these terminologies mean? What is a non-conformist or non-denominational religious group? For the answer to that, we have to go back to the reign of King Henry VIII and his dispute with the Catholic Church in Rome when the Pope refused to grant him a divorce from Catherine of Aragon in order that he could marry his latest flame of the day, Anne Boleyn. I have been to the Aragon region of Spain and found it very

beautiful but apparently the scenery is more delightful to look at than Catherine was. She was not what you would call a ‘good looker’, in fact some history books have cruelly remarked that she was plain ugly. Catherine was the former wife of Henry’s deceased brother but after she and Henry were crowned King and Queen in 1509, Catherine failed to provide Henry with the son that he had always wanted. Their first child was stillborn and then a son was born but he only survived 52 days. Further miscarriages followed and the only child that survived was their daughter, Mary. Henry began to grow impatient at not having a son and realised that the chances of his wife producing a male heir to the throne was virtually nil. Henry took his affections elsewhere and one of his mistresses was Anne Boleyn. It was when she became pregnant in 1533 that Henry decided he must have a divorce and marry Anne in case the child was a boy. In this way, the child would then become first in line to the throne. The Pope refused to grant a divorce and so Henry broke away from the Catholic Church and formed his own Church of England. He appointed Thomas Cranmer as Archbishop of Canterbury who promptly annulled the King’s marriage, leaving him free to re-marry as he wished.

As the reigning monarch, Henry made himself the head of the new Church of England and Parliament conferred upon him the title ‘Defender of the Faith’. This was a title that had previously been bestowed upon him by Pope Pious X but that was to defend the faith of the Catholic Church, not the new English Church. To this day, the reigning monarch is the head



of the Anglican Church of England and is still described as Defender of the Faith. Following the breakaway from Rome, a period known as the Reformation, Henry introduced the Act of Supremacy in 1534 which meant that people who had remained Catholic were persecuted and were relieved of some significant rights. Catholic Monasteries such as Fountains Abbey, which were widespread throughout the country, were plundered of their valuables and the buildings destroyed, such was the monarch’s annoyance with Rome.

After the death of Henry VIII the first Book of Common Prayer was published in 1549 which was a

direct product of Henry's break with Rome. The Book of Common Prayer is the title used for a number of prayer books of the Church of England which are used throughout the Anglican Communion Service. These books are not books of prayers as you would expect, but contain the liturgy, a structure for how services of worship would be carried out in church. It contained the various forms of service for daily and Sunday worship and was written for the first time in English, not Latin. The books also included morning prayer, evening prayer, the Litany and Holy Communion together with other occasional services such as the orders for baptism, confirmation, marriage, 'prayers to be said with the sick' and a funeral service. It set out in full the Epistle and Gospel readings for the Sunday Communion Service. Sets of Old Testament and New Testament readings for daily prayer were specified, as were the set Psalm readings. Canticles, which are songs, chants or hymns, which contain words derived from the Bible were required to be sung between the readings and were all in a set format prescribed by the Common Book of Prayer. Have you ever wondered how hymns came to be sung between the various parts of a service at New Road each Sunday? The answer can be directly linked to the canticles in the Book of Common Prayer.

The 17th century saw the emergence of a number of 'non-conformist' congregations that consisted of Protestants who did not conform to the practices and discipline of the established Anglican Church of England and by 1700, the four main non-conformist denominations – Presbyterians, Independents (Congregationalists), Baptists and Quakers (the Society of Friends), were attracting large numbers in their congregations. These groups had flourished as a result of Oliver Cromwell being more tolerant towards other religious organisations following the Civil War (1642-1651) but it was not always an easy ride for the non-conformists as the established Church influenced Parliament to pass certain laws that would make life a little more difficult for them. One such Act was the Corporation Act of 1661 which excluded non-conformists from public office. This legislation was not repealed until in 1828. In the following year, 1662, the revised version of the Book of Common Prayer was introduced and the Act of Uniformity made it compulsory for the book to be used in all religious services. Over 2,000 clergy within the Church of England opposed the Act and were forced to resign their posts. Many became non-conformist ministers but the introduction of the Five Mile Act of 1665 banned these ministers from coming within five miles of the town where they had previously held office within the Church. It also banned them from teaching in schools. Again, it took a long time before the Act was repealed, 147 years to be exact. Other Acts such as the Test Act excluded non-conformists from holding military office and also prevented them from being awarded a degree by the universities of Cambridge or Oxford. This led to non-conformists having to fund their own Dissenting Academies which eventually resulted in the foundation of the University College, London in 1826. This was the first university to accept people from outside the Church of England. It also accepted women on an equal footing to men and allowed foreign students to study there.

Locally, many would have argued that the Reverend Oliver Heywood became the father of non-conformity. Heywood was the minister at Coley Chapel but took services based along Presbyterian lines. Although a supporter of the Royalist cause, he fell foul of the authorities in 1662 for refusing to use the new Common Prayer Book and under the Act of Uniformity, he was excommunicated from the Church. He found himself in the unfortunate situation whereupon he was banned from attending the Church but fined for non-attendance. He started to hold prayer meetings in local houses but the introduction of the Five Mile Act put paid to that also and it wasn't until the 1689 Toleration Act that he was able to legally resume his work at which point he built a meeting house and school at Coley. Heywood died in 1702 but the non-conformist influence was spreading and especially in Brighouse with the likes of Captain Thomas Taylor, who helped to establish the Quakers Meeting House at Snake Hill, just off the Huddersfield Road.

Apathy towards the established Church continued into the middle of the 18th century but locally, men such as the Reverend Henry Venn, who was the vicar of Huddersfield, led an evangelical movement that attracted people from far and wide to go and listen to his sermons. He joined forces with men such as John and Charles Wesley and the Reverend William Grimshaw from Haworth. Large groups of people were present wherever they preached in the area. In Rastrick in 1778, non-conformist meetings were held in cottages at Bridge End and such were the numbers attending that the local people began to build their own chapel which was completed in October 1779. There were various issues with the first ministers and the congregation began to leave and set up their own meetings at Oakes Green, Rastrick and also at Slead Syke, Brighouse but when the Reverend Joseph Hemus Crisp took over the helm in 1812, the scattered congregation re-grouped at Bridge End and over the next 150 years, they went on to form the most influential and successful Congregationalist Chapel that Brighouse and Rastrick would ever see. Not to be outdone, the Wesleyan Methodists erected their first chapel in Brighouse Park in 1791 but a split in the Methodist movement saw the Methodist New Connexion build another chapel nearby on Bethel Street in 1811. The Wesleyans also built a chapel at Southowram in 1806 and the Independents established themselves at Bramley Lane, Hipperholme. In the 1830's, the population at the 'top end' of Rastrick saw the need to form chapels at Netheroyd Hill, Elland Upper Edge, Elland Lower Edge and at New Road. All four buildings were of a similar design and started life on an undenominational basis, which were known as Union Schools. Three of the four eventually surrendered their status to join a denomination such as the Baptists at Upper Edge but New Road Sunday School, as it is now known, remains totally independent of any other church body to this day.

For over a decade during the mid 1820's, Rastrick saw a lot of poverty in the area. There was a population of around 3,000 which was spread over approximately 600 families. Forty of these families were regarded as gentry whilst another forty were employed in agriculture. The remainder were employed in the various trades and industries that were prevalent in Rastrick at that time such as working in the stone quarries or being involved in the

manufacturing processes of textiles. Early census records show many 'fancy woollen weavers' as an occupation for the males living in a household. This would have been carried out on handlooms within the home, the workers being paid according to the amount of cloth they produced. The word 'fancy' referred to the fine waistcoats of the period that were the fashion amongst respectable gentlemen. There were always fashion leaders in those days as indeed there are today and one such person was the Duke of York, a man who excelled in waistcoat showmanship. In 1826 he died and the fancy waistcoat sales plummeted as no doubt some other fashion leader came to the fore. This had a disastrous effect on the weavers of Rastrick and as they struggled to make ends meet, they became more of a burden on the Poor Rate. The Poor Rate was handed out by the local Parish to people who had fallen upon hard times. It was collected similar to the present council tax system and land owners, farmers and other workers all contributed to the 'pot'. Little wonder that the locals were always wary when a new family wanted to live in the area. They had to prove that they could sustain themselves thereby contributing to the Poor Relief as opposed to being a drain on the resources. The problem was that there was insufficient money in 1827 to sustain the poor and an increase in the rate was proving difficult to collect as more people became dependant upon the relief. The vicar of St. Matthew's, Rastrick, the Reverend T. Burton, stated that in his 26 years in Rastrick, "I have never seen people in such a state of utter destitution, not having bread to eat". That same year, there were 345 adults unemployed in Rastrick and a committee was formed by the Rev. Burton along with some other local dignitaries who secured a two thirds funding for setting some of the men to work on public works projects such as reducing the gradients of Toothill Bank and the Elland to Dewsbury Turnpike Road at Badger Hill.

The local dignitaries were invariably non-conformists who had made their fortunes as manufacturers and many of them would even demand that a new employee and his family must regularly attend the local chapel on a Sunday with the fear of losing their job should they not do so. These men were the likes of John Clay, Joseph Travis Clay and Charles Pitchforth. One other dignitary was a man called Richard Oastler whose name is now attached to the J.D Wetherspoon owned public house on Bethel Street, Brighouse. This building was of course the previously mentioned former Park Methodist Chapel so what the Wesley brothers and Oastler would have made of this, I am not sure. Richard Oastler was a Methodist and as such had been disinherited by his father who was steward of the Fixby Estates in Huddersfield, which owned much land in Rastrick and surrounding areas. The estates were owned by the Thornhill family of Riddlesworth, Norfolk. Oastler became wealthy in his own right having worked hard firstly as an architect and then as a commissioning agent. When his father died in 1820, Thomas Thornhill, the absentee landowner, appointed Oastler as his new steward at a salary of £300 per annum. Oastler moved into Fixby Hall on the 5th January 1821 and became immediately responsible for almost 1,000 tenants, many of them working the land in small enclosures and providing valuable rents for the estate. Oastler had been an advocate of the abolition of slavery in the West Indies and also became involved in working for reforms in the emerging factories,

especially with regard to children who worked in such places. He wrote to the Leeds Mercury newspaper, the forerunner to the Yorkshire Post, describing the working conditions of the children but his comments were met with criticism and denial from the factory owners. This led Oastler to take up the workers cause to reduce the working day to ten hours and encouraged workers to join his 'pilgrimage of mercy'. Despite receiving support to get a Bill through Parliament, it was still defeated but Oastler continued his efforts in support of the factory workers. Oastler also publicly criticised the 1834 attempt at a new Poor Law which saw the introduction of the dreaded workhouse for people who were unable to provide for themselves. This made him very popular with the common worker but unpopular with the mill owners and gentry.

Oastler's employer, Thomas Thornhill, had supported him in many of his causes but would not defend his opposition to the Poor Law commissioners in 1838 and he was discharged from his duties at Toothill in May of that year. Unfortunately for Oastler, he owed Thornhill £2,000 and Thornhill decided to sue him to recover the money. As a result, Oastler was sent to the Debtors Prison at Fleet where he spent three years before his supporters raised sufficient funds to secure his release. Oastler was eventually successful in getting the Ten Hour Act through parliament in 1847 and his public career ended there. He died in 1861 at Kirkstall, Leeds, where he is buried in the churchyard of St. Stephen's Church.

Why have I mentioned Oastler and Thornhill and their likes? Well, the influences that brought about the building of the New Road School was a purely local effort with the intention of providing a school for the intellectual, moral and spiritual improvement of the younger members of the community. Charles Pitchforth was a supporter of such intentions and it is known that he certainly held meetings at the school shortly after it was completed. It is also recorded that on one occasion both Pitchforth and Oastler held a debate at the newly built New Road School on the subject of the 1834 Poor Law which would have seen the building crammed full of local workers, who would be affected by the new law if they were to lose their employment. Oastler received the support of these same people when he tried to have their working conditions and hours improved upon. Testament to that is a banner held in the Tolson Museum, Huddersfield. The banner was made at Clay's Mill, Rastrick and was carried to York by the people of Rastrick for a demonstration in support of Oastler's proposed reforms. The banner states: RASTRICK DIVISION – WE HATE TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION whilst on the reverse side it states; OASTLER IS OUR CHAMPION. THE TEN HOURS BILL – WE ARE DETERMINED TO HAVE IT. It was due to the public meetings such as the one held at New Road School that eventually led to Oastler's downfall and his ultimate clash with Thomas Thornhill in 1838.

So how was the land upon which the New Road Sabbath School was built, secured and paid for? The Sunday school centenary brochure of 1937 states that after various meetings (though it does not say who was present), it was decided to approach Thomas Thornhill Esq, of Riddlesworth, for a plot of land for the erection of a Sabbath School House, situate

at New Road in the township of Rastrick, in the Parish of Halifax and the West Riding of the County of York, and containing 540 square yards be the same more or less having been obtained subject to the yearly payment of a rent of 1/- conformable to the will of Thomas Thornhill Esq. Was this land secured by Oastler from Thornhill whilst they were still on good terms and Oastler was still in the employment of the Thornhill family? Whilst there are no records to confirm this, I believe that Oastler and probably Charles Pitchforth, would have been behind the plan to erect the new building in 1837. It was certainly a structure that could have been easily utilised as a public speaking platform for reformers of the day and it would have served their political aims as well as providing a school for learning and spiritual improvement.

So when was the building first opened? There weren't any local newspapers in 1837 such as the Brighouse & Rastrick Chronicle (1859), the Brighouse News (1866), later to become the Brighouse Echo (1908) or the Huddersfield Examiner (1851) and there is no mention of the event in the Yorkshire Intelligencer (1754) or Leeds Mercury (1767) which were later to become part of Yorkshire Post Newspapers. It would seem that these newspapers did not share the enthusiasm of the local Rastrick people and the event went unreported.

The clue should be in the fact that the anniversary services have been held in July for well over 100 years therefore it would be natural to assume that July was the opening date but the minute book tells us that at a meeting held on the 17th January 1887, a committee was formed to *'make the necessary arrangements for the forthcoming Jubilee Celebration of our School which was opened April 3rd 1837, to be held on Easter Saturday and Sunday, April 9th and 10th 1887'*. Unfortunately, the early minute books for the Sunday School are missing but one can assume that they would still know the exact date after just 50 years. Despite the loss of the early books, we know from the Centenary Brochure that the Sabbath School House would be regulated and conducted according to a set of rules and regulations that were clearly set down. These stated that:-

1. That the said Sabbath School House shall be subject to the management and direction of five Trustees and a Committee of nine persons.
2. That the Trustees aforesaid be nominated by, and chosen out of the body of teachers and supporters of the said School, who shall stand for life and when their numbers are reduced by death down to two then the other three shall be nominated and chosen as aforesaid, and continue from time to time.
3. That the said Trustees shall undertake and engage to preserve and appoint the said Sabbath School House to and for the uses and purposes for which it was erected, viz., to teach the young and rising generation, that is to say, the children of every denomination or sect of Christians to read and to write if thought proper by the majority of a Teachers' Meeting.

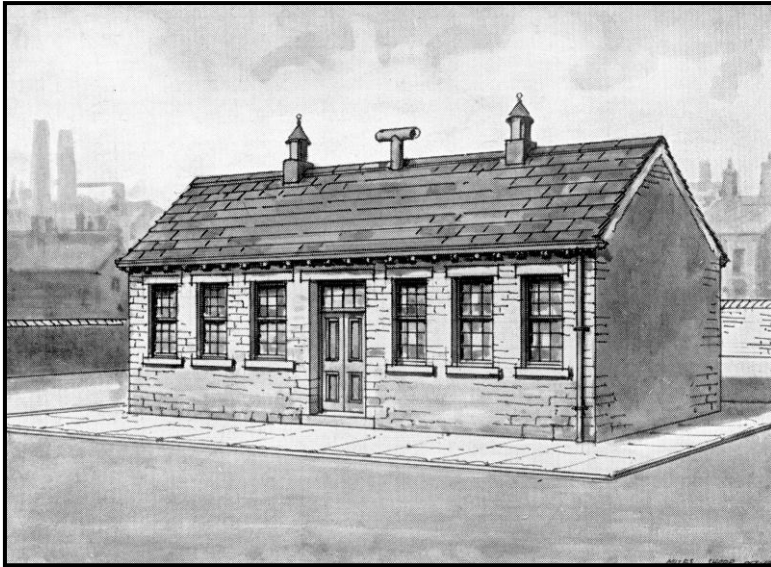
4. That the aforesaid Committee shall be nominated and chosen out of all denominations or sects of Christians (who are Teachers or Supporters of the said School) so that no sect or party shall claim any ascendancy over another. They shall remain in office one year, then the other nine shall be elected or the outgoing ones re-elected.
5. That the said Committee shall undertake the management of the said School, viz., they shall receive all collections, subscriptions or any other monies, which can be obtained for the support of the School, and pay over the same to the Treasurer to buy books and make the necessary repairs, etc.
6. That the said Committee shall have the power to lend or refuse same to any application, or settle any unforeseen circumstances that may occur.
7. That there shall be preachings in the School occasionally at other appointed hours so as not to interfere with the hours of teaching, by Ministers of any denomination who preach Christ as the only Foundation of a sinners hope (1st Cor. 3rd v.11), but no other.
8. That if anything should arise which is not agreeable to the above intentions from the Teachers, Scholars, Committee, or any other quarter, that cannot be settled amongst themselves, it shall judge the matter and decide it in their judgement according to the original intentions for which the School was built.

This was signed by:-

Jonathan Schofield, Joseph Fryer, Jos. Travis Clay, John Clay and Thomas Firth (Trustees) and James Schofield, Matthias Shaw, Wm. Eastwood, John Noble, Joseph Shepley, Henry Bentley, Abraham Marshall, John Marshall and John Hargreaves (Committee of Management).

The New Road school building and its development to 1900

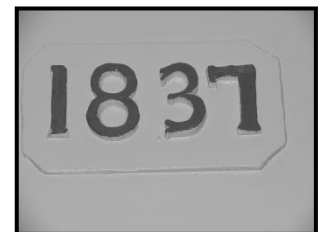
The new building of 1837 was vastly different to the New Road Sunday School we know today but if you take time to look around, there are clues as to how the various extensions



were added to the original structure over the ensuing years. The first building was just a solitary room measuring fifty-one feet in length and twenty-one feet in width. It had six windows on each side, was open to the roof with the timber queen post roof structure in view and had no rendering on the walls. On the east side was the entrance and in the middle stood an iron stove

which had to heat the room. The lighting of the room was by oil lamps and candles. A drawing was created for the 1937 centenary brochure.

Most people will point at the 1837 date which is carved into a stone in the Young Men's Institute as a guide. They would be correct but that stone was actually moved from another part of the building and placed in its current position at a much later date. To get some idea of what the original building looked like, I would ask you to imagine yourself standing in the billiard room with your back to the south wall. The three windows looking out onto New Hey Road are to your left whilst the door into the 'top classroom' is to your right. The room is 24 feet 6 inches (7.47m) in length but originally, the north wall in front of you would not have been there. The room would have continued to the far wall of the main hall, making a single room of just over double its present length.



The room was being used to its limits as by 1855, the register shows no less than 115 male and female teachers. They were split into four groups of between 11 and 16 people and acted as teachers for two consecutive weeks. Each of the other three groups then took their turn before the original groups turn came around again after a further six weeks had elapsed. No registers were kept for the actual congregation therefore we don't know how many people were being taught by this large number of teachers.

The earliest existing teachers register is from 1855 where the term New Road Sabbath School is used. On the inside cover is the Order of Service that was used each Sunday. There were two services, the first at 10am until noon and the second service was at 2pm until 4pm. The registers show that the service commenced with a Hymn followed by prayers after which the register tells us that the Superintendent 'called the teacher's names over'. The children would gather in their groups with a teacher at which point the boys would read and the girls would spell until 11am where everyone broke off for another hymn. This was followed by the Superintendent's address which lasted for around 20 minutes after which the girls would read and boys would spell until 11.50am. There followed another hymn and a final prayer before people either went home for lunch or sat and ate food that they had brought with them, no doubt sharing their fare with others. The service re-commenced at 2pm with a further hymn and prayer after which the Superintendent called out the names of the teachers for the afternoon. The boys did further reading whilst the girls practiced their spelling until 3pm. This, similar to the morning session, was followed by a hymn and an address from the Superintendent which lasted for a further 20 minutes. The boys and girls again swapped their reading and spelling before the day closed at 4pm with a final hymn and prayer. Just what the adults did whilst this was going on, I am not sure and one has to remember that all this took place in a single room.

The Sunday School had also been used as a school since 1851 when a local man, Mr. Absalom Lee, opened the first day school. Absalom Lee was educated at the Howgate Mary Boarding School in Knaresborough and a day school remained at New Road for a further sixty-one years albeit under the different guises of the Rastrick British School Committee and from 1881, the Rastrick School Board. As the population of Rastrick increased, the congregation at the Sunday School and the number of pupils at the day school did likewise. The Sunday School was also used as a focal point for various public meetings and the managers soon realised that they would have to enlarge the building. In 1873 a decision was made to add an extension and plans were drawn up for an additional room measuring fourteen feet in length. This would be situated to the north side of the building and tagged onto the end. The width would be the same as the original, that being twenty-one feet. This extension was called the bottom primary classroom as owing to the natural slope of the land it meant that the floor level would be below that of the original building. It also meant that if the roof was to continue at the same level as the original building, then the ceiling of the bottom primary classroom would be a lot higher. The work was completed the following year at a cost of £275. The new classroom had an external door leading out into the rear yard with a glazed transom window above, in the same style as the other windows. This same doorway now leads from the classroom into the porch, opposite the entrance to the kitchen and you can still see the glass window above the door. When standing inside the classroom, there was another window to the left of the door which is now made into a cupboard and a further two windows on the north and west sides, allowing plenty of light into the new room. A new doorway was positioned in the right hand corner of the north wall

of the original building which led into the newly built extension via three steps.



The photograph above dates from around 1880 and although not very clear, one can see that it shows the original building with a door in the far right corner of the facing wall which led into the new classroom. (This is the same doorway that is now in the Main Hall and drops down into the bottom classroom). The windows to the left face out onto New Hey Road whilst the windows to the right would be looking out onto the playground area where the Main Hall is now situated. Note the black area to the left and the sloping top of the tallest piece of furniture. That is the lectern or desk from which sermons were preached and was mounted on a pedestal. It is the same desk that adorns the front of the Sunday School approximately 130 years later.

The new classroom quickly proved to be insufficient for the needs of the Sunday School and Day School and by 1884 the management was already debating whether another extension was required. A further classroom was deemed necessary despite the extension of a little over ten years before. Plans were drawn up and a room measuring nineteen feet six inches by fifteen feet was added to the east side of the building in the rear yard. It had a single pitched roof which was tied into the 1837 building, creating a valley between the two rooftops. The south wall of the new construction was not built on a level with the south wall of the 1837 building due to the acute angle of the boundary of the land and by doing this, access could still be made to the rear of the original building as the southerly most window on that side was not obstructed by the new build. This window was opened up to form a doorway into the south-east corner of the building where a radiator is now positioned behind the bench seat in the Young Men's Institute. The new extension had three windows

in the east wall facing out into the rear yard whilst a door positioned on the north side led out into the same yard. This same doorway now leads into the Main Hall from the Young Ladies Room, however, the new building covered the second, third and fourth windows of the 1837 construction which had originally looked out into the yard but now looked into the new building. One of the windows was made into a storage cupboard in corner of the new room whilst the next was opened up to form a doorway between the two buildings. The northern most window was blocked up totally to form a solid wall. The new doorway in the corner of the original room (Young Men's Institute) also created access to the outside lavatories that were positioned just behind the building but sufficiently secluded from prying eyes.



In the above picture you can see the outside door into the 1874 classroom (facing), which is now enclosed within the porch but still leads into the bottom classroom. The window to the right of the door was also converted into a cupboard, inset into the wall in the bottom classroom. The wall that houses the three windows to the left of the door was demolished when the Main Hall was built whilst the door to the new classroom (in the foreground to the left) still exits and now leads into the Main Hall as opposed to being an outside door.

Following the latest extension it took less than ten years to elapse before the managers once again felt that even more room was required, so popular was the school and Sunday School. On the 21st January 1895 a meeting was held where a collection for the Upper Edge Baptist Church on Dewsbury Road was proposed. The building had been badly damaged in a storm on the 22nd December 1894 where the roof and some of the walls were blown down and the furniture inside destroyed. The building was not insured and £800 was still owed upon it, leaving the managers in dire need of financial assistance. Whilst the Upper Edge Baptists

were suffering this misfortune, the New Road Sunday School was going from strength to strength and the same minutes also recorded that the male teachers were to form a committee to find out the best way of enlarging the building at New Road. The following month, after much debate, it was decided to raise the roof and extend the building. By April 1895, steps had been taken to raise money for the project by the most popular means of that era, a Grand Bazaar, which was to be held on Easter Monday & Tuesday 1896. Further meetings were held to iron out the finer points and it was decided to invite Councillor A. T. Clay to open the proceedings. Mr. John Thornton was elected as chairman for the day and the Rev. R. G. Irving of St. Matthew's was invited to offer prayers. Proper stalls were fitted and decorated by the Brighthouse firm, G & A Smith Bros., whilst a committee was elected to plan the entertainment.

Meanwhile, a committee comprising of Messrs. John Thornton, Luke Gooder Emmanuel Woffenden, Joah Holdsworth and John Wm. Bottomley, were elected to take into consideration the alterations and additions which were best suited for the Sunday and Weekday School purposes, with the power to invite tenders for the various works required and also the power to open and let the same.

The plans that were finally adopted were drawn up by one of the scholars and Teachers, Mr. Fred Holdsworth, who was subsequently paid £5 for his services. The tenders received amounted to £639-0-9d, though this increased later to £710-5-9d. The successful contractors were:-

Mason - Mr. Jimmy Briggs of Lightcliffe Rd, Brighthouse

Joiner - Mr. Job Crowther of 40, Briggate, Brighthouse.

Plumber- Mr. Jos. Lawson of Commercial St, Brighthouse.

Heating- Waddington & Roebuck, Briggate, Brighthouse.

Plasterer- Clayton Hepponstall of Brighthouse.

Painter - Arthur Marshall, Church St, Brighthouse.

Iron Gates - Beckwith Bros. Mill Lane, Brighthouse.

New Forms - J.T. Shaw, Delph Hill, Rastrick.

Yard Asphalting - Chas. Kershaw, Slead Syke, Brighthouse.

New Clock - John Earnshaw, Briggate, Brighthouse.

Architect - Fred Holdsworth, Crowtrees, Rastrick.

All that was needed now was the money to pay for the building. An appeal was made and the following donations were received prior to the bazaar:-

The Mayor, (Ald. R. Kershaw) £10-10s; Mr. J. W. Clay £10; Mr. W. E. Leppington £5; Mr. Wm. Smith £5; Mr. Wm. Thornton £5; Mr. J. W. Helm £5; Mr. Geo. Helm £5; Mrs. Schofield (Manchester) £5; Mr. C. Blackburn £3- 3s; Mr. Sam Blackburn £2 2s; Mr. J. I. Mortimer £2 2s; Mr. J. W. Robinson £1; Mr. F. Rayner £1; Mrs. Ormerod £1; Dr. Bond £1; Mr. A. Marshall £1; Mr. Ben Kaye 10s 6d; Mrs. Baines 10s; Mr. T. Fawcett 5s; Miss Booth 5s; Mrs. Littlewood 5s; Mrs. Jagger 5s; Mr. Crowther 5s; Mr. H. Shaw 5s; Mrs. Beach 5s;

Mr. Atkinson 2s 6d; Mr. Sladdin 2s 6d; Mrs. Dean 2s 6d; Mrs. Lockwood 2s 6d; and a friend 5s, making a total of £66-7-6d.

The bazaar was a great success and Councillor Clay gave a rousing opening speech and a vote of thanks was given by Mr. Wm. Thornton. The various side shows included a shooting gallery, an ice-cream stall and a flower stall. The attractions of the stalls were supplemented by entertainment and music. Professor Crossland contributed with ventriloquist and conjuring performances whilst Master Harry Pearson 'entertained his hearers with his clever whistling'. A massive total of £312-9-3d was raised, but even with the money in the bank the School Managers were still over £315 short of the required figure.

In the lead up to the start of the building work, a special request was submitted to the teachers meeting from Misses. Caroline Holdsworth and Martha Shaw, that 'if suitable arrangements can be made, we have a special service in the old school before the alterations are begun'. A committee was formed to make the arrangements.

Once the building work commenced, it proved difficult to hold Sunday services at New Road and so the congregation met in a room at the mill premises of John Cheetham & Son's Ltd, on Slade Lane. The services continued there until the building work was completed however, the teachers were still able to use the two classroom extensions and it was in one of those rooms where an annual general meeting was held on the 28th September 1896. At that meeting, it was resolved that a tea party be organised on the first available Saturday, which was the 14th November, to celebrate the 'Public Opening of Our School'. A committee was even formed to make enquiries as to the best apparatus in which to boil water for tea parties and to report their findings to a future meeting.

A special meeting of the committee was held on the 14th October 1896, where Mr. Luke Gooder proposed and Miss Ruth Bottomley seconded, that the tea party 'be a special good one'. A subscription list was opened to defray the expenses of the party. At the same meeting, Mr. John Thornton was elected to be chairman on the day and that as well as all the members of the School Board, the Rev. R. G. Irving (St. Matthew's), Ald. Wm. Smith, Rev. A. Galbraith (Bridge End), Ald. Henry Sugden, Councillor A. T. Clay and Messrs. Wm. Thornton and Jos. Wm. Helm were to be invited.

All the finer points for the party were ironed out and everyone was looking forward to the day. The Brighouse Echo of Saturday the 13th November 1896 reported that, 'the old school has practically been cut in two in the centre, the remaining portions at each end that have been left standing forming a couple of very comfortable and commodious classrooms, one to be used as an infants room whilst the other is for the use of the large number of young women who attend the school. The new erection is built in a straight line across the school-yard, the gable end facing into New Road. It is a commodious room, sixty-six feet long and

twenty-six feet broad and will rank as one of the best public rooms in the borough. It is twenty feet high, lighted on every side and there is not a pillar in the room. The room has been underdrawn and there is a neat plaster ceiling, relieved with a couple of centrepieces. Two new entrances and lavatories and two new cloakrooms have also been provided, the entrances to the new room, one for boys and the other for girls, being situate in the school-yard. There will be accommodation for at least 250 children in the day school and this will enable a second standard to be formed. With their usual zeal, liberality and enterprise there is ground for believing that before long the whole of the debt will be wiped off’.

The following week, the same newspaper reported on the opening of the new building by stating that ‘the joiners have not yet completed their task and the painter, Mr. Arthur Marshall of Church Street, Rastrick, has also to complete his contract and when this had been done, the new room and its appurtenances will be well worthy of a visit’. It went on to say that a public tea was served in the afternoon and despite the miserably wet weather no less than ‘430 persons partook of the very substantial and appetising repast provided and served by the ladies interested in the school, the bulk of the provisions etc. being the gifts of the lady friends. The following ladies presided at the trays:-

Mrs. Jno. Thornton, Mrs. Wm. Thornton, Misses Ruth Bottomley, F. Bentley, Clara Holdsworth, Sarah Marshall, Martha Shaw, Delah A. Sutcliffe, Margaret Gooder, Mary H. Bentley, Clara Dyson and Ann Kaye. The most hearty goodwill and kindly feeling prevailed on every hand and amongst those present were many whose whitened hair showed that they had reached, and in some cases past the Psalmists allotted span, but who once more had gathered together under the auspices of the school in which they spent their early days and over whose memories and reminiscences cast an intensely interesting and fascinating halo. Amongst these must be named Mrs. Allatt of Oaks Green and Mr. Kaye of Leeds, both of whom can well remember the opening of the school in 1837’. The report goes on to say that, ‘the evening meeting was of a most enthusiastic and encouraging character. Mr. John Thornton presided and was supported on the platform by the Rev. R. G. Irving, Ald. Henry Sugden, Ald. Wm. Smith, Councillor S. E. Hirst, Messrs. W. Thornton, J. W. Bottomley (secretary), E. Woffenden, L. Gooder and R. F. Rogerson. The proceedings were opened with the singing of the hymn “Strengthen thy stakes, extend thy cords”, which was sung to the tune of Gosport and was joined in with much heartiness and feeling’.

The report continued by stating, ‘Mr. John William Bottomley gave an interesting resume of the principal events in the history of the school. There were two teachers who had been connected with the school for the long period of 37 years, viz., Misses Ruth Bottomley and Caroline Holdsworth. At present there were 310 scholars on the books and 38 teachers with an average attendance of 150 in the morning and 200 in the afternoon. The Band of Hope also has 300 members. Mr. Bottomley’s resume closed with a call to the workers to increased devotion and consecration to the work’. The Chairman went on to give his address in which he said, ‘There must be something very beautiful in the hallowed history of past days in connection with the New Road School that brought the old friends back again

to the dear old place. He was glad and thankful to see them and he was delighted to see the old faces that he had not looked upon for many years and it shewed that they had carried away something with them that had not left them. Work like that could only be done when there was unanimity amongst the workers. There must be respect for one another amongst the managers in order to win respect of those who attended the place. The other qualification he wanted to speak about in the work they did there was that there must be sympathy for the children. Personally he was very much interested in elementary education; indeed there was nothing else he cared so much about outside his own personal family and business relationships. He did not value the man who encouraged education for the sake of a church or party. He had altogether a different principle to this in regard to education, whether it was of a secular or more serious kind, viz., that it should rest upon the higher and purer foundation of love for the children themselves - (hear hear). That was, he believed, the motive power actuating them in their work at New Road and with this motive power, aided by the mutual respect and goodwill they had for each other and also with God's blessing, he hoped there was a very long and blessed career of usefulness before them in their new premises - (loud applause). There was other entertainment during the evening until the event was brought to a close at about 10pm with a prayer by the Rev. R. G. Irving. A profit of £17 was made on the day and this was handed over to the building fund.

Despite the successes of the bazaar and the tea party, there must have been some worries about the size of the debt that had been incurred by the new building. The Sunday School anniversary Services were at that time held on the third Sunday in July, but because of the building work, it had been postponed until Sunday 29th November 1896, when a combined Anniversary and Re-opening Service was held, the preacher being Mr. William Hirst of Golcar. This was the first time that the hymn sheet had the words 'collection in aid of school funds', printed on the front, in the obvious hope of raising as much money to offset the debt as possible.

The following day saw a quarterly meeting of the teachers. It was at this meeting that the president, Mr. John Thornton offered to lend to the School Authorities such a sum as may be necessary to complete the alterations and enlargements. In other words, to pay off the debt. The proposed interest rate was 4% and this was readily accepted, it being added that the loan be repaid as soon as may be practicable.

The school was a popular venue for lectures, concerts and parties and a list of charges for letting the building was decided upon:-

- Lectures and Concerts, 10/- ie. 7/6d for school funds, 2/6d for the schoolkeeper.
- Tea Parties and Entertainment's, 25/- ie. 20/- for the school funds and 5/- for the schoolkeeper.

No intoxicants or smoking to be allowed in the school premises and under no circumstances will the school be occupied after 12 o'clock, midnight.

The school building and contents were insured with the Royal Exchange Assurance Co. for £700 on the building @ 1/6d per cent and the contents @ 2/- per cent making an insurance premium of 16/6d per annum.

The school proved very popular in the ensuing months. Mr. James Ramsden held a band practise once per week, the Ald. Wm. Smith kindly lent his lantern for illustrated lectures, one being on the subject of Palestine which was performed by Mr. Wilson Pickles of Halifax. A tea party to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, a Christmas tea party for the employees of John Smith & Sons, a tea party by members of Rastrick Cricket & Athletic Club and meetings of the Oldfield Tent of the Rechabites, were just some of the events that took place and as can be seen, together with the day school and Sunday School, the new building was quickly established as a very important centre of the community, but debt was still hanging over the School Managers and every effort was made to pay this off as soon as practicable.

The Sunday School teachers devised a plan for teaching in the new building. The congregation gathered in the main hall where a hymn, prayer and bible reading took place before everyone went to their classes. The children remained in the Main Hall where the girls sat down the right hand side (when facing towards New Hey Road) and the boys sat to the left. The girls and boys were then further split into classes dependant upon their age, where they remained for two years before moving up a class. The class consisted of two wooden benches facing each other, with the teacher in the centre or sitting at the end on a chair between the two benches. These classes extended up the full length of the room on both sides. The adult ladies had their class in the top classroom whilst the men met in what is now the Institute. The adults had a separate sermon in their respective rooms before going back into the Main Hall where they re-joined the children and had a further sermon before the end of the service. The whole proceedings took around 1 ¼ hours after which, if the weather was fine, everyone went out for a walk. They did not walk together however the men went separately from the women, whilst the older boys followed the older the girls, but at a safe distance!

By 1898, the fund-raising was still going on at New Road in an effort to clear the debt from the extension of 1896. Individual members raised funds in many different ways, one example being recorded in the minutes of the 27th April 1898 when 'best thanks' were given to Ruth Bottomley for handing over the sum of £20-18s-1d which was raised by a sale of work by her juvenile bible and sewing class. The debt was foremost in the minds of the Sunday School managers and they would not rest until every penny had been paid off, especially when some of the money raised was going towards paying the interest. At a teachers meeting later that year it was decided to hold a bazaar over the following Easter period in the hope that the debt would finally be cleared. Despite the fact that parts of the debt were paid off as and when money was made at the various functions, by March 1899, the balance owing was still £133-3-4d.

The Easter Bazaar of 1899 was held over Monday the 3rd and Tuesday the 4th of April. All the usual meetings took place on the lead up to the bazaar so that no problem would be encountered on the day. John Thornton was invited to open the event and the Brighthouse News of Friday the 7th April reported it under the strange headline:-

**NEW ROAD SCHOOL, RASTRICK
THE LIQUIDATION OF THE DEBT
EASTER BAZAAR**

The report read:-

'With the object of clearing off the debt upon their premises, the friends at New Road Sunday School, Rastrick, promoted a bazaar this Easter. This was opened at 12 o'clock noon on Monday when the handsome and spacious schoolroom was well filled with a representative audience. Mr. John Thornton presided and was supported by the Rev. Angus Galbraith, Rev. Thos. R. Lewis, Mrs. John Thornton and others. The Rev. W. Purvis was also among the audience. The proceedings opened with the singing of the hymn, "New every morning is the love" after which the Rev. A. Galbraith offered prayers.

Mr. John Thornton said his first words to them that day were words of gratitude at seeing so many of them present at the bazaar. It manifested an interest in the work which was so dear to so many of them. Of course they were all agreed that bazaars were a great nuisance but there were many nuisances that they could not get rid of. Unruly children were a nuisance. He would like to get rid of the unruliness, not the children. The question was what better thing could they put in place of bazaars, what other means were there of attaining the same end with less trouble and less expense. He did not know of any other way and they had tried it pretty well all at New Road. They gave all they could themselves and then they had a bazaar to raise the balance. At the first bazaar they had at New Road they raised £13 and were delighted: they thought the world was on fire. Their experience had taught them two things, that when a small community like theirs made up its mind to attain a certain object and worked together, that object would be attained. Not only did they help one another, but outsiders came to their assistance. Some people were pleased with the magnitude of their indebtedness and proud of the amount of money they owed. It was not so with them. They wanted to be like the village blacksmith, who, 'Could look the whole world in the face, for he owed not any man'.

They wanted the time to come when their scholars could go into the school and hold up their heads. They hoped by that effort, to clear away what remained of the debt on the premises. They were all agreed that they had the finest premises in the borough of Brighthouse - (laughter). In his opinion there was no doubt about it - (renewed laughter) and he had had some experience of it as a member of the School Board. He did not know of any other school where such results had been attained for the same amount of expenditure. Those premises served two purposes; on the Sunday they were used as Sunday School premises and on the other days as a Board School. Their Sunday School was quite un-

denominational, they could neither be called Conformist nor Non-conformist and as long as they remained un-denominational they worked harmoniously together.

And now he had a secret to tell them. In the year 1847 a small balance of account amounting to £9-18s-3d, stood at the West Riding Union Bank, Huddersfield, to the credit of the treasurer of the Rastrick British School, premises known as the Common School. The treasurer of this account was the late Mr. Joseph Travis Clay. It is quite certain that the amount of this balance was transferred to the Rastrick British School fund by the then treasurer, but not by a cheque on the West Riding Bank. Consequently, the sum mentioned, £9-18s-3d remained at the bank to the credit of the treasurer of that old institution and was apparently forgotten by all except the bankers. In the course of their own building operations in 1896 and 1897 an account was opened with the same bank. One day the cashier asked him (Mr. Thornton) if he knew anything about the Rastrick British School, whose treasurer at one time was Mr. Joseph T. Clay. This led to conversation and explanation and he then learnt that the old forgotten balance of 1847 had, in 1897, through the accumulation of interest increased to the sum of £36-15s-4d. The executors of the late Mr. J. T. Clay were informed of the circumstance. Mr. J. W. Clay, the present Mayor, whose absolute and personal right to the money cannot be questioned, declined to take it, seeing that it was an amount nominally connected with the British School. He and his co-executor, Mr. A. T. Clay were mind enough to remember that at one time, a branch of the British School was established at New Road and they generously arrived at the decision that this sum of money should be appropriated to the building fund of the New Road Sunday School - (cheers). A cheque for £36-15s-4d was handed to him (Mr. Thornton) and was by him placed to the credit of the building account on Nov. 15th 1898 - (loud cheers). Now hadn't he kept that secret well - (laughter). The following was a statement of their financial position up to the present. The total cost of the alterations was £710-5s-9d. Towards this they had raised the following sums:- Subscriptions, entertainment's and bazaar up to 1896, £312-9s-3d,

Various entertainment's and meetings since 1896, £48-12s-9d,

Juvenile sale of work in 1898, £20-18s-6d,

The late J. T. Clay's exors. £36-15s-4d,

School fund, £156-14s-3d,

Bank interest, £1-12s-4d;

a total of £577-2s-5d.

This left them with a balance owing of £133-3s-4d and it was to liquidate that debt that the present bazaar was being held. He thanked them for their preparations they had made for the bazaar. He trusted that the result of the bazaar would be to clear away the debt. Already he had received in subscriptions from £15 to £16.

The Rev. Thos. R. Lewis (Upper Edge) said he gladly acceded to the request to be present at that bazaar. He congratulated them on the wonderful surprise of which they had just heard from Mr. Thornton and also upon their splendid Sunday School. It had been his privilege on

one or two occasions to visit the school. Evidently they had workers with generous hearts, or they would not have had the stalls laden with so many good things. He also congratulated them on their common platform, where the clergy of the Establishment and the ministers of the Free Churches could meet together. It was not often they had this privilege for they lived in a day when they were often forced to emphasise their distinctive principles, but on this occasion they all felt that they had one great Master - Christ. He rejoiced with them at the success they had achieved, and he felt sure that by the time the bazaar was over no debt would remain upon their premises. It was wonderful what they could do when they worked for love, and he believed that love had been the motive that impelled them at New Road or they would not have worked as they had done. At the close of proceedings all the workers congratulated each other and joined in heartily singing the Doxology'. And so the building as we know it today entered the 20th century free from debt.

As mentioned earlier, the school room was used by many people for a variety of different uses and further examples of what was on offer in a twelve month period around the turn of the century can be found in the minutes book of the teachers. There were requests from Mr. Bunce for a cinematograph exhibition, Mr. Turner from Batley for a weavers meeting, Rastrick Wellington Football Club for a social evening, the Harvesters for a tea-party and social evening, Mr. Stansfield for a missionary meeting and Rastrick Cricket & Athletic Club for a tea-party. All of these requests were granted without any problem but the latter overstepped the mark in June 1900 when they requested the use of the building for dancing if the weather was unfavourable for outdoor amusement at an event to be held on the 7th July that year. John William Bottomley wrote back to say that, 'we cannot see to let the school for dancing on a wet day'.

Women were still twenty-nine years away from being allowed the full vote at all elections and in 1899 Emmeline Pankhurst was a founder member of the Women's Franchise League who five years later were successful in getting the law passed for women to vote in local elections. Women who campaigned for the right to vote were viewed with a certain amount of suspicion, especially in a village like Rastrick and probably more so at an establishment like New Road. It caused a special meeting of the teachers to be held after the Sunday afternoon service on the 9th July 1899, when John William Bottomley, in his position as secretary, read out a letter to the committee from the Rastrick Women's Liberal Association, which requested the use of the school for a tea-party and social evening on the Monday following. The minutes record, 'after a short discussion and various objections being raised to it, no resolution was moved and the application could not be granted'. Many of the teachers and scholars at New Road were Liberals, John William Bottomley included (he was once an unsuccessful Liberal candidate for the South Ward, in a local election), and it didn't take long for attitudes to change as eighteen months later the same group applied again for permission to hold a similar event and this time it was passed. This was not altogether surprising really, as John William's sister, Ruth, Bottomley had recently joined the movement.

This brought to an end to the 19th century at New Road Sunday School. The early pioneering visions of the founders of 1837 had taken great steps forward, resulting in a modern new building in which they had the basis to progress into the 20th century with confidence and without debt, which would have been the envy of many.

Chapter Three

The Early Years

The single room building of 1837 measuring fifty-one by twenty-one feet saw evening services conducted by the Baptists, Methodists and the Independents and unlike the other non-conformist places of worship that were founded at that time, New Road has remained that way to this day.

As mentioned previously, the building was used by the likes of Charles Pitchforth and Richard Oastler, who debated the Poor Law Act of 1834, soon after it opened. With such dignitaries fighting for the rights of the poorer classes and discussing a subject that was causing so much misery and hardship for the residents of Rastrick, the school would have been packed to overflowing.

Some of the people who had been instrumental in bringing about the construction of New Road were also worshippers at Bridge End Chapel which had opened on the 1st October 1779. Many of those families continued to support both New Road and Bridge End up to its closure. The Bridge End services were held at 10.30am and at 2.30pm whilst at the New Road school, there was just an evening service which was held at 6.30pm in those very early days. It was a busy day for the families who attended both institutions as they would walk to Bridge End and probably take their lunch with them to eat in the vestry if they stayed for both services. It was then home for a family dinner before attending the evening service at the New Road School. One such family were my ancestors, the Bottomley's. My great, great grandfather, John Bottomley was born in 1816. He was a Superintendent at New Road when it first opened in 1837 but also worshipped at Bridge End where he was laid to rest in the family grave when he died in 1888. His son, John William Bottomley was also a regular attendee at Bridge End but followed in his father's footsteps as a Superintendent amongst the many other roles that he performed at New Road. His eldest daughter, Ada was a member at Bridge End yet rarely missed a service at New Road and was the oldest member of Bridge End when it finally closed its doors for the last time on the 27th June 1976. We cannot be certain how long New Road held just an evening service but we do know that by 1855, they too were holding morning and afternoon worship..

Around the time that, the New Road School was being completed, work started on building a four arched bridge just across the road from Bridge End chapel (the original building was situated at the bottom of Bridge End, approximately 60 metres from where the 1856 building was located). The bridge was to take a new railway line across the small valley from Lillands to the Brighouse cliff. The first of the steam driven monstrosities to cross the

bridge occurred at 9.45am on Monday, 5th October 1840. The railway certainly put Rastrick on the map as places like Bradford did not have a railway station at that time and travellers to that area had to disembark there and then take a wagon to complete their journey. Without doubt, the railways gave our ancestors much more access to travel. Although it was called Brighouse station, it was south of the river and therefore, to the residents of Rastrick, it was Rastrick station.

The first reference to New Road Sunday School that I have found in the local newspapers of that time was in the Brighouse & Rastrick Chronicle dated 1st August 1859. The article refers to the celebration of its 22nd anniversary on Sunday 17th July 1859. The event was recorded in just a few lines and states that £15-6s-5d was taken in the collection. The anniversary celebrations were not held in the Sunday School but were held in the open air between 1838 and 1880, in the fields near to the Sunday School, belonging to John Garlick, a local farmer. Mr. Garlick lived at Oaks Green and worshipped at New Road. He was the owner of 20 acres of farm land in that area. After the 1859 anniversary had finished, a local man, Mr. Edward Aspinall, a woollen manufacturer, was returning home and saw his warehouse door open. Upon entering, the report tells us that *'he saw a lad named Shepherd Pearson, busying himself in Mr. Aspinall's desk. The lad boldly told him that he was looking for his pigeon that had flown into the warehouse cote. Mr. Aspinall ordered the lad away and he is now being sought by the police'*. It seems that young burglars were in evidence in Rastrick as long ago as that.

The anniversary services at New Road were reported in the Brighouse News almost every year, another example of which can be seen in 1872 where the report states:- *NEW ROAD GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL – The anniversary services in connection with this school took place in the open air on Sunday last when, favoured by most delightful weather, a large concourse of people assembled at both services. The sermons were preached by the Rev. T. Tanfield of Greetland. A number of recitals were given and special hymns sung by the children in a very creditable manner, under the leadership of Mr. Geo. Gledhill. Efficient assistance was gratuitously given by the Elland Edge Brass Band and a number of stringed instrumentalists. The collections raised £24 4s 1d.*

The 1874 anniversary was reported in the Brighouse News dated 25th July and stated that:- *'NEW ROAD SCHOOL - Last Sunday the anniversary of this place was held in a field adjoining the school. In the afternoon, Mr. Donkersley delivered an address on the 'advantages of Sunday Schools,' relating several anecdotes of scholars who had been brought up to love Jesus Christ, and who had died and gone to receive their reward. The report goes on to say that, 'Mr. Donkersley preached in the evening to a much larger congregation. A collection was made after each service on behalf of the school which is being enlarged. The amount realised was £22 0s 6½d.*

The General Election of 1859 saw the Conservatives swept out of office and replaced by the

Liberals, much to the delight of the many Liberal supporters at New Road. Sir John Ramsden was returned as M.P. for the North West Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, which covered the Brighouse and Rastrick areas. Those eligible to vote had to travel to Halifax and so the Liberals paid for a train which had first class carriages only. The train left Brighouse station at 9am and there was great rejoicing when they were returned to power. Celebrations were held throughout Brighouse and Rastrick and at the top-end of Rastrick, parties were held at The Sun Inn, The Greyhound and also at the New Road school.

By the year 1860, trade was booming in the area. Gone were the hungry days of the 1840's which had led to riots. This had been replaced with full employment and there were times when there was actually a shortage of labour. This was wonderful for the working classes because for once, they held the upper hand over their employers. In March 1860, woollen weavers were successful when they went on strike for a twenty-five per cent pay rise and in May of the same year, the power loom weavers at A. Rayner & Co., Rastrick, also won a seven per cent pay rise after a successful strike. The following month the delvers got a 2d per day rise, their daily wage increasing from 3s-6d to 3s-8d and their working day decreased from nine and a half to nine hours.

The population in Rastrick was still on the increase. In 1851 it was 3,916 and by 1861 it was 4,516. Rastrick had about the same population as Brighouse but more houses. It was highly industrialised and there was a great need for local government. There was no piped water or gas supply in Rastrick at that time, drains were virtually non-existent and people living at the bottom of town complained of a shortage of water as they had to get theirs from a stream. The roads were also in a terrible state of neglect, being like bogs in the winter and dusty in the summer. It is hard to believe that conditions were so bad, such a short period ago in history.

That same year, His Royal Highness, Albert, The Prince Consort, husband of Queen Victoria, passed away after a short illness. The Queen was to wear mourning black for the rest of her life and she was so overcome with grief that she could not bring herself to attend at her husband's funeral which took place on the 24th December 1861. After the death of her beloved husband, it was reported that Queen Victoria had made a very touching remark when she said, "There is no-one left now to call me Victoria", however, other journals of the day saw this as being somewhat pompous and aloof.

Many areas throughout the country were forming their own Local Boards under the Local Government Act of 1858. Board members were elected by the residents who in turn attempted to solve the local problems. Devolution of this kind has been prevalent in both large industry and politics since the Act came into being. The thinking changed one hundred years later when the government of the day introduced Metropolitan Councils whereupon Brighouse and Rastrick found that their needs were catered for by Calderdale

Council run from Halifax. How many would like to return to the old system? The Rastrick Local Board was established in 1863, one year before the Brighouse Local Board came into being. The new Board set about improving the lot of the inhabitants of Rastrick. The following year, the Rastrick Board had to consider the problem of getting a gas supply into the village without having to buy it from Brighouse. Private individuals solved the problem when they floated the Rastrick Gas Company with capital of £6,000 and built a gas-works on Birds Royd Lane. Gradually, Rastrick went 'on tap'. Gas lighting was fitted in homes and on the streets. The ratepayers were suspicious of any venture that was to put any charge on the rates and after losing out to the privatisation of their gas supply, they also lost the waterworks to private investors nine years later when the Rastrick Water Board was floated with capital of £2,000. The water was purchased from Halifax and so Rastrick had a private gas and water supply whilst the Brighouse ratepayers had theirs supplied by the Local Board.

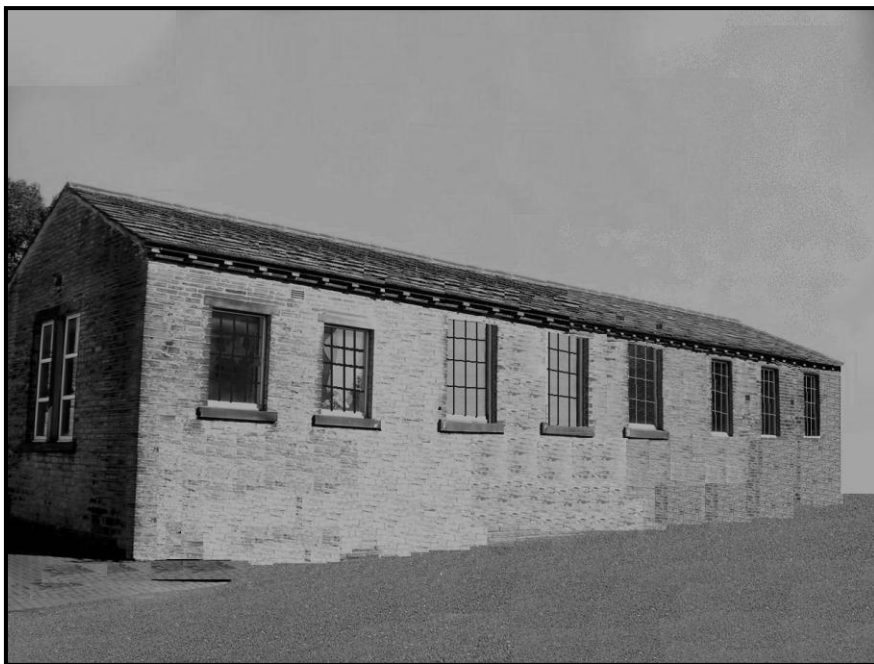
Around this time, the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Co. was organising cheap one day excursions from the station at Rastrick to places like Liverpool, Manchester and Southport. Long tightly packed trains left the station, especially at Whitsuntide and Rushbearing, carrying people to have their first glimpse of the sea. This was a sight that many would not have seen had it not been for the coming of the railways. I wonder who the first member of my family was, to see the sea, and when that was. New innovations were happening all around in what was an ever changing world and the New Road School did not want to be left behind. They removed the stove as the source of heating and the candles and oil lamps which had been used as the source for lighting. These were replaced by gas heating and lighting on the 16th August 1865. Yet despite all these new and exciting happenings, there was still one scandal that persisted in the 1860's, even though it had been outlawed by an Act of Parliament in 1840. This was the practice of boy climbers working for the chimney sweeps. The boys were less troublesome and cheaper than brushes, and the sweeps even tried to persuade people that the boys were more efficient. It was not uncommon for a sweep to arrive with a boy carrying the brushes and when the unsuspecting householder wasn't looking, the boy was thrust up the chimney and the brushes remained clean. The problem was tackled when people were persuaded to boycott any sweep who employed a boy, whether it was just for carrying his brushes or otherwise.

In 1867, Rastrick Church School was opened after some delay, having been built at a cost of £750. It stood on the site of what is now the Parish Centre. In May the following year, following in the footsteps of New Road Sunday School, gas lighting was installed.

Many of the male population in Rastrick were employed as hand-loom weavers where they wove the cloth on hand-looms in their own homes. The workers were paid 'piece-rate', the more they wove, the more they earned but this type of occupation was fast coming to an end with the building of more new mill complexes, most notably at Spout Mills, owned by Thomas and John Helm, Clay's mill on Crowtrees Lane and John Smith's mill at Dewsbury

Road.

In 1873, the managers of New Road Sunday School decided to add an extension to the



building on the north side, a room now known as the Primary or bottom classroom. The work was completed in 1874 and added an extra classroom measuring twenty-one feet by fourteen feet and cost £275. A digitally amended version of what the Sunday School would have looked like from New Hey Road is shown to the left.

On the 14th January that same year, a bible class was started at the New Road School, which proved to be very popular and was well attended. In the rear of the teachers register from that time there is a list of the returns which had been sent to the Sunday School Union on the 10th January 1874. The return gives the following information:-

	Male	Female	Total
Teachers	24	26	50
Scholars	105	120	225
Classes	7	9	16
Teachers average morning attendance	6	7	13
Teachers average afternoon attendance	7	8	15
Scholars average morning attendance	72	76	148
Scholars average afternoon attendance	79	102	181
Teachers who are scholars	4	10	14
Teachers who were once scholars	10	18	28
Teachers members of church	5	1	6
Scholars who read the scriptures	75	85	160
Volumes in library			465

One interesting snippet of information that allowed a comparison of the finances of Bridge End and New Road was in the Brighthouse News dated Saturday, 16th October 1875. The newspaper reports that a record collection was given at the Bridge End Anniversary Service, where £74-1-11d was donated, a very healthy sum in those days. This comprised of 1 bank note, 22 sovereigns, 18 half sovereigns, 38 half crowns, 44 florins, 148 shillings, 346 sixpences, 102 fourpenny pieces, 622 threepenny bits, 603 pennies, 433 halfpennies, 3

farthings, 1 eighth of a farthing and 2 foreign coins, a total of 2,383 coins. Compare this with the income at New Road Anniversary in July that year. The Brighouse News dated 24th July 1875 states, *'The New Road Sunday School celebrated its anniversary on Sunday last but the attendance was not so numerous as before, probably owing to the very unfavourable state of the weather for open air services. The collection was £19-4-0d, which was good under the circumstances.'* The following year, the collection at New Road was up to £25-11-3d, whilst at Bridge End, it was down to £66-13s, still quite an impressive amount for that time.

It was around this period in history that the teachers and scholars of New Road first attended at the Piece Hall, Halifax, for the Whit Tuesday, Halifax Sunday School Jubilee. The Jubilee was only held every five years, commencing in 1831, the final event being held in 1890. I believe that New Road were represented at only two or three of the massed gatherings but during that short period, it was something that many local families eagerly looked forward to. A most interesting article was published in the Brighouse News in May 1871 where it gave an account of that year's activities, the numbers of people attending and from which Sunday Schools and describes in astonishing detail, the elements that made up the event. The account reads:- *Whit Tuesday was kept in Halifax by one of the most innocent, most imposing and yet most truly enjoyable demonstrations it is possible to conceive. The eighth quinquennial commemoration of the Sunday School Jubilee took place in the Piece Hall. There certainly could not be devised a better method of testifying by any outward manifestation to the greatness of the movement which was set on foot by good Robert Raikes. No stronger evidence could be furnished of the vitality of the Sunday School system than the presence of that assemblage of near 30,000 Sunday scholars and teachers in the Halifax Piece Hall on Tuesday, animated by one common spirit and purpose. The assembly was a grand one and the place of the meeting was worthy of the assembly. Halifax is fortunate in the possession of the fine old Piece Hall, which, having served its original purpose in the concentration and development of the commerce of the town, is now available for still nobler purposes.*

At an early hour on Tuesday morning, Halifax was all astir. School processions coming in from the out-districts, spectators arriving by rail and vehicle from other towns, bands of music parading the streets, intensified the holiday aspect of the place. The demand for jubilee tickets had as usual, been very great. All those for the upper galleries, albeit the highest in price, had been sold before the end of last week; and to judge from the crowding and crushing at the doors of the hall at nine o'clock – the time of opening – drew nigh, the procuring of a ticket of any kind on Tuesday morning would have been a difficult matter. By a sensible regulation of the managers, no money was taken at the doors, and what would have been a fruitful source of delay and inconvenience was thus avoided. Even as it was, the process of obtaining entrance at any one of the entrances devoted to the public was a tedious one. Round each of these gates was an eager crowd, every one of which was anxious to get inside, that he or she might procure a good place. A talismanic 'pass ticket'

procured for us admission in solitary dignity at one of the gates set apart for the entrance of the schools – fixed to commence at ten o'clock. The scene inside, even so long before proceedings proper of the day could commence, was sufficiently interesting. Could one of the original frequenters of the old Piece Hall have returned to earth and essayed a visit to his former haunt, he would have been somewhat puzzled at the spectacle it presented. Temporary galleries, bedizened with scarlet cloth, were erected on a level with the upper balcony on three sides of the building. On the fourth or east side, a large orchestra, sloping down to the area, and similarly decked, was put up, with a gallery on each side of it underneath the lower balcony. In the middle of the orchestra rose the conductor's stand, hung with dark blue. The galleries were already alive with spectators, and in less than half an hour after the opening of the doors the choice of seats, and even of standing room was very limited indeed. From between the sober brown pillars peeped out bright faces, and dresses in all the colours of the rainbow fluttered about the galleries, lighting up the scene almost as much as the sun which blazed overhead. The jubilee seems to be specially favoured in regard to weather. According to a spectator, who boasted of having been present at every commemoration from the first, on only one occasion has rain fallen, and then but for a few minutes. Yesterday the weather was all that could be wished. There was an unclouded sky, while the heat of the sun was tempered by a slight south-west wind.



At ten o'clock precisely the first school procession, Salem Methodist New Connexion, entered the area by the south gate, preceded by a band and took up their station immediately in front of the orchestra. Then while the long file of children were marching to their positions, another school, Rhodes Street Wesleyans, entered by the west gate, also headed by a band and from this time the school processions continued to pour in for another two hours without a moments intermission. Perhaps no part of the spectacle was

more effective or pleasing than this. Generally speaking, the procession marched in capital order and the station of each was so carefully arranged beforehand though not apparently marked out upon the ground except by an occasional peg – that all took their places without any disorder or confusion. Occasionally, as some children of some well-known school or institution made their appearance, there was hearty cheering in which all the other scholars joined. A warm greeting of this kind was afforded to the procession from the Crossley Orphanage, the Ragged School and the Square and Sion Chapel Schools. As 12 o'clock drew nearer, the uncovered portions of the area became smaller and smaller and a few minutes after mid-day had struck, the whole vast space was covered; the last school had marched in and the doors were closed. Really wonderful was the spectacle that was now presented. The oft-used figure of 'a sea of human faces' is, perhaps, the best to convey the idea of what was visible to the spectator in the east gallery. It was a sea, too, that was always in motion and it was very gay with colours; for the hues of the hats, bonnets and dresses of the children were, as a rule, decidedly prononcée. The banners bearing the names of the different schools – most of them very prettily designed and bright with gilt letters – were dotted around here and there like the standards of an army, serving a double purpose of use and ornament. The various bands, no less than twenty-one in number, after leading the school processions to their posts, adjourned to the orchestra, which glistened with trombones, ophicleids, contra bassos, bombardons and other ponderous 'discourers of sweet sound'. Every available inch of sitting and standing room was now occupied and the assembly must have numbered 50,000 souls – a grand spectacle per se, and still more so when the object of their gathering is remembered.

A last roll of drums intimated that the singing was about to commence. Immediately afterwards Mr. Abel Dean, the venerable conductor, appeared on his stand and was greeted with loud cheering from every part of the hall. Presently, a placard with 'First Hymn' inscribed on it in sufficiently legible characters, was held up; the instrumentalists played the tune through and then the mighty choir burst forth into a volume of melody such as is seldom heard. Wonderfully clear and true to time, as well as full, and sung with that freshness of voice which is and must be peculiar to juvenile choirs, there was something indescribably thrilling about the music – something that made the listener's heart beat more quickly. The great flood of sound, not pent in by any roof, fell majestically up in the ear, and with it all massiveness was not a whit too loud. The tune 'Hollybrook' is one of Mr. Dean's compositions; it has plenty of character and the effect of the fortissimo rendering of the last two lines in each verse was especially grand. The accompaniment was once or twice a trifle loud but was otherwise excellent. A brief interval and the second hymn, 'Aberdare' composed by Mr. T. Wadsworth, was sung. This air is more lively in character than the first, a bright, inspiring song of praise, which was rendered with much spirit. The glorious 'Old Hundredth', most massive and stately of long metres, closed the first part: it was well sung but we thought that it was taken too slowly. Then ensued an interval for refreshments; and in a moment the aspect of the great mass of scholars in the area underwent a change of a very amusing kind. Their attention, just before, concentrated

on the conductor's baton – a ponderous instrument, by-the-bye, which we heard likened to Aaron's rod after it had swallowed up all the rods of the Egyptian magi, - was now diverted to the hampers of buns which were judiciously planted about the arena. Very speedily were the contents of these hampers distributed and it was not surprising that they as speedily disappeared; for the children had, many of them, been standing in the area for two and a half hours. The spectators in the galleries were equally as busy in the solace and refreshment of the inner man. Many of the little piece-rooms, especially in the upper balcony, had been, with wise foresight, amply stored with good things the previous day; and these were now distributed with no stinted hand to all who would accept the hospitality thus liberally offered.

After an interval of an hour, the singing was resumed: and the good cheer of which the spectators had partaken seemed to have had the effect of making them much more liberal of applause, for though there was no marked improvement – indeed there was scarcely room for any – in the singing, every selection was encored except the closing National Anthem. The chorus, 'The Heavens are Telling', the hymns, 'Barrow' and 'Olivet' and the 'Hallelujah Chorus', formed the second part. All were well rendered; the 'Halleluja' especially, with wonderful spirit and precision. In the National Anthem most of the audience, like loyal subjects, joined and thus gave an increased effect to the close of this most successful commemoration. The section of music was no doubt well suited to the occasion, and the tunes composed for the jubilee approached originally as near as can be expected now-a-days, when every fresh idea in the direction of psalmody seems to have pretty well exhausted. Mr. Abel Dean conducted with his wonted vigour and taste; and the accompaniments were most efficiently given by the instrumentalists. So far as we were able to ascertain, not one mishap or unpleasant incident occurred to mar the success of the day.

Descending to statistics, we may mention that the following bands of music, with seventy other musicians, formed the orchestra: 2nd West Yorkshire: 2nd West Yorkshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 4th West York Rifle Volunteers, Buttershaw Mills, Brighouse, Black Dyke Mills, Denholme, Elland Victoria, Halifax North Ward, Luddenden Foot, Mixenden, West Vale, Stainland, Wike Old Band, Southowram, Friendly, Ripponden, Little Town, King Cross, Cragg Vale, Rishworth and Lepton.

The following is a list of the numbers of teachers and scholars, from this neighbourhood, that attended the Jubilee:-

	Teachers	Scholars
Bramley Lane, Lightcliffe	23	180
Bridge End, Rastrick	56	603
Methodist Free Church, Brighouse	71	530
Oaks Green	28	110
Methodist New Connexion	98	620
Primitive Methodist	30	130

<i>Wesleyan Chapel, Brighthouse</i>	58	352
<i>New Road, Rastrick</i>	53	190
<i>Totals</i>	417	2,715

It is hard to imagine such a great number of people attending such an event but I suppose that this is akin to the modern day music festivals such as Glastonbury, which is always a sell out and frequented by many thousands of people. Whether the numbers were 30,000 or 50,000, the writer of the above article cannot be sure, we can be certain that massed ranks of children from local Sunday Schools will never again appear in such numbers.



New Road attended at the Sunday School centenary celebrations at the Piece Hall in 1885. Alongside is a photograph of the commemorative medal that was presented to them, kindly loaned to me by Mrs Margaret Usher.

What was of much local interest in that era was the gas supply to the increasing number of homes in Rastrick. There had been much discussion in the letters pages of the *Brighthouse News* as some Rastrick residents thought that the gas connection to certain parts of Rastrick had been very slow in arriving when compared to other villages nearby. By 1878 it was reported that the Rastrick Local Board were well on their way to having a gas supply to most of its residents. Lower Edge received its gas supply that year, causing the local newspaper to comment, *'thus bringing light to the darker edges of Rastrick'*.

In 1880, the Rastrick British School committee stated that their schools at New Road and Common (later Rastrick Common School), were running at a loss and something had to be done about it or they would have to close down. The Rastrick School Board was established in July 1881 under the chairmanship of Mr. Arthur Travis Clay and they took over the running of the schools. The Rastrick Church School was a voluntary school and did not come under the Rastrick Board, but the Board took over the St. John's School at Gooder Lane, built Longroyd School and extended the school at Common, thus easing the overcrowding that was occurring in the local schools.

The annual report to the Sunday School Union the following month showed that there were 47 teachers and 207 scholars on the books and the average attendance was 16 teachers and 155 scholars in the morning whilst 17 teachers and 194 scholars attended the afternoon service. The building was full to overflowing and despite the extension being completed only 6 years previously, it was apparent that another additional classroom was very much needed. That was the last record of any Sunday School Union returns that I can find but it

shows what a healthy situation the Sunday School was in.

In 1881, the Salvation Army came to the area for the first time. They had just changed their name in 1880 from the Christian Mission and William Booth, a former minister at the New Connexion Chapel at Bethel Street, Brighouse, was its leader, holding the title of 'general'. Their first meeting was not a success as, in common with most parts of the country, the Salvationists were stoned as they left the Oddfellows Hall on Bradford Road (where the Ludenscheid Link is today), resulting in the owners telling them not to bother coming back. They continued their meetings in a room above the stable of the Black Swan public house but the disturbances continued and they were forced to leave Brighouse. In September 1881, they re-appeared and made their headquarters in the Assembly Rooms opposite the Black Swan but disturbances continued and they again left town. They returned again in 1887 and had advertised the fact beforehand. A large crowd had gathered to watch them march into town to the Oddfellows Hall and true to form, as the Salvationists entered, they were pelted with stones and sods. They were repeatedly attacked throughout the year and on one occasion had their big-drum taken from them and smashed, but this time, they were not for leaving. The following year, they received their colours and General Booth returned to Brighouse to give an address.

The same year as the Salvation Army first appeared in the area, the Rastrick Local Board formed the Rastrick Burial Board, after reports that the burial ground at St. Matthew's was becoming full. They bought six acres of land at Carr Green for £1,600 and the land was ready for use by 1883 but it was not consecrated until the year after following a bitter dispute with the incumbent of St. Matthew's.

A bazaar was held at New Road Sunday School on Easter Monday, 1881. From the Sunday School's inception, they had held bazaars on that day but for some reason, they had been discontinued in the 1870's. The bazaar raised £47-3s-1d towards the coffers. The anniversary at New Road that year was the first one to be held in-doors after the first forty-four had been held outside. Looking back at some of the reports in the Brighouse News, my guess is that the scholars were fed up with getting wet whilst the school managers were realising that bad weather was costing them much needed money as the collections would have been well down if people were staying away in order to avoid a soaking.

In the depths of the basement at Halifax Library, there is the first abstract book of the Rastrick School Board, which for an unknown reason, has been filed with all the books from Bridge End. The Bridge End books were sent to the archives when it closed down on the 27th June 1976. The abstract book shows that the Board School teachers were paid the sum of £5 per month and an assistant £2-18s-4d, when the New Road day school opened under the administration of their new owners. These were difficult times to live in and pay cuts were more common than pay rises in many instances. This can be seen in the teacher's wages at New Road as by 1888 they had risen to £5-16s-8d but by 1891 they had dropped

to £4-11s-8d. In effect, a teacher who had started at the school when it opened and stayed for ten years was actually one month's wages worse off !

The year 1882 saw some of the most extraordinary events ever seen in Brighouse and there is no doubt that many residents of Rastrick were involved also. Brighouse and Rastrick still remained under the parliamentary seats of the West Riding constituency. The Liberals held both seats and one of the M.P.'s was Lord Frederick Cavendish, the second son of the seventh Duke of Devonshire. When he was appointed Chief Secretary to Ireland, he resigned his seat in Parliament. On Saturday, 6th May 1882, he was walking in Phoenix Park, Dublin with his Under-secretary, Mr. Burke, when they were both set upon by Irish extremists and stabbed to death. The world was in shock at the events but locally, no-one could have foreseen what was to happen. A circus parade had just passed through the streets of Brighouse and had given a spectacular show. They moved off the day after whereupon Brighouse returned to being it's usual dismal self. As we have seen from the wages of the teachers at New Road, they were decreasing, unemployment was increasing and after times of much prosperity over the previous twenty-five years, times were becoming increasingly difficult for the working man and his family.

It is thought that it was these factors, more than the death of Lord Cavendish, that brought about riots in the town, though the murder was a very good excuse for insurrection. Reg Mitchell's 1953 book entitled Portrait of a Town describes the riots in great detail, some of which is transcribed below. Brighouse and Rastrick both had a strong Irish contingent residing in the area and many local residents thought that the Irish had taken the jobs of local men because they would work for less money more often than not. On the Monday night after the murders, a large crowd gathered in Taylor's Yard in Brighouse where they pelted the windows of the houses with stones as they knew that they were occupied mainly by Irish families. A young Irish delver was also severely beaten and had to be rescued by the police. The group then went to the Sun Dial Inn at the end of Elland Road, which was kept by an Irishman. The group entered the pub and smashed the place to bits before driving the Irish occupants out into the street where they were beaten by the waiting gangs. They also went to the Commercial Inn on Gooder Lane, Rastrick, a known haunt for the Irish and beat up any they found. The crowd then went to a lodging house which was frequented by Irish labourers in Martin Street, Brighouse, where they demanded that the proprietor throw out all the Irish into the street. He refused and his building was set upon with stones.

On the Tuesday, it is estimated that three to four thousand people took part in the attacks. One gang of about three hundred attacked St. Patrick's Catholic Church where mass was being taken. Entry was not gained but the police, having prevented serious harm coming to many people were then attacked themselves. The police station ended up having most of its windows smashed. By the Wednesday evening, a large crowd had gathered on Bradford Road between the Royal Hotel and the Liberal Club. It was thought that the lodging house and the church were to be attacked again and the police guarded the area with staves and

cutlasses. Suddenly the police charged the mob and a great many people were injured as the staves crashed down on the rioters heads. The crowd went away after such a show of force but on the following night, the mobs returned. It was obvious that the police were now the targets, not the Irish. A petition was drawn up by the tradesmen and manufacturers, suggesting that the citizens of Brighthouse should assist the police but also that the police should keep off the streets that evening in an effort to ease the situation. The police, backed by ranks from all around the area sat in the Town Hall on Bradford Road (now the Civic Hall) and waited nervously for the events of the evening to unfurl. The mob bombarded the Town Hall with stones until every window was broken. At 10pm, the doors were flung open and out charged the police in wave upon wave. Staves again crashed down on heads and the rioters did not like it one bit. At 11pm, Captain Edwards addressed the mob and threatened to read the Riot Act. That had the desired effect and the crowd went to their homes leaving behind a windowless Town Hall. There was no further bother after that although the Irish continued to take the odd beating but many local lads were on the other side of reprisal attacks for many months after. Justice was administered at the courts for many who had been arrested and Brighthouse eventually slipped back into the lethargic state that it had been in prior to the death of Lord Cavendish.

On a much lighter note, the year 1882 saw the Band of Hope being reformed at New Road Sunday School. It had been originally formed in 1870 with 217 members but it closed down after a short period of time. There is a chapter later in this book relating to the Band of Hope movement at New Road

The year 1885 saw a further extension to the Sunday School with the building of another classroom on the eastern side (again, this is covered in more detail in Chapter Two, entitled ‘The Sunday School building and its Development to 1900’). The extension was nineteen feet six inches by fifteen feet and added a very useful addition to the school.

One rainy autumn day in 1996, I had made an appointment at the Halifax Library to look through some old books from Bridge End Chapel which are kept in the vaults. You have to give at least one day’s notice if you require to look at anything from the vaults in order that the staff ‘can dig it out’ for you. I had discovered that they had several books from Bridge End Chapel and wanted to see what they contained. I was rather surprised to find the book from the Rastrick New Road Board School, that I mentioned earlier, which had an inventory of goods received into the school during one month during the year 1885. This gives an insight into the things that the children were taught so long ago. I cannot imagine how something from New Road got mixed up with the books from Bridge End but there it was. The inventory includes:-

24 glimpses of the globe 1	14s - 0d
36 glimpses of the globe 2	£1 - 5s - 3d

6 quarters of foolscap	2s - 8d
9 doz. copy books	13s - 6d
1 multiplication table	5s - 0d
1 gallon of ink	3s - 0d
6 boxes of slate pencils	2s - 0d
2 quarters of blotting paper	2s - 10d
15yds of calico	4s - 4d
30 packets of needles	6s - 3d
18 reels of cotton	2s - 10d
5 lbs. of knitting cotton	3s - 6d
3 doz. plaiting needles	7s - 6d

The following year, 1886, is the year of the earliest Teachers Meeting minute book from New Road Sunday School that I have so far come across so far. The first entry shows that a Bazaar had raised over £112 - 10s which paid off any amount owing following the extension of the previous year and left almost £100 in the bank. With the building now being larger, the school-keeper, Mr. Joah Holdsworth, was given a pay rise for his extra duties. His salary rose to £10 - 10s per annum and he no doubt earned every penny as the Brighouse Echo from 1887 tells us that the average daily attendance at the New Road School had risen to 70 children and it was down to Mr. Holdsworth to clean up after them each day. It also listed the average attendances at all the Rastrick Day Schools, the full list being:-

Rastrick Church School 210

Rastrick Church Infants School 77

John Street Mixed School 175

John Street Infants School 138

New Road School 70

Common 176

Longroyd Mixed School 120

Longroyd Girls School 143

Longroyd Infants School 97

An average total of 1,206 children were receiving education in Victorian Rastrick every week-day. How things had changed in such a short period of time.

The 1887 newspaper also published the train time-tables from Brighouse and Rastrick Station. It shows that Brighouse was on the Liverpool - York line and a passenger could leave Liverpool Exchange Station at 08:00hrs, arriving at Bolton at 08:48, Manchester Victoria (no. 6 platform) 09:05, Rochdale 09:26, Todmorden 09:41, Sowerby Bridge 10:01 and Brighouse at 10:10. From Brighouse a traveller could go on to Mirfield, arriving at 10:18, Heckmondwike 10:27, Cleckheaton 10:34, Normanton 10:45, and finally arriving in York at 12:00. There is little wonder that the trains were so popular when travellers could suddenly get around the country so quickly.

The Victorians witnessed changes that they would not have believed possible some fifty years previously. They realised that their quality of life had improved many fold although we would consider the conditions in which they lived as rather harsh. They gave thanks by regularly attending the many churches and chapels that were being erected at that time. The year 1887 was Jubilee Year, when not only New Road Sunday School celebrated its fiftieth anniversary but the whole nation celebrated Queen Victoria's golden jubilee after reigning over the British Empire for fifty years. The New Road minutes of the 17th January 1887 tell us that a committee was formed to 'make the necessary arrangements for the forthcoming

→ **New Road Sunday School,** ←

R.ASTRICK.

JUBILEE YEAR.

SPECIAL SERVICE, SUNDAY, APRIL 10th, 1887.

<p>I.</p> <p>O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home!</p> <p>Beneath the shadow of Thy throne Thy Saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is Thy arm alone, And our defence is sure.</p> <p>Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.</p> <p>A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone; Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.</p> <p>Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away; They fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the opening day.</p> <p>O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guide while troubles last, And our eternal home.</p> <p>II.</p> <p>Oh, touch those chords which long ago Gave forth a trembling sound! But now, as seasons onward flow, Each string is silent found. Put forth thy hand, and gently try, Call not the effort vain; Deep in the heart's recess they lie, Oh touch those chords again!</p>	<p>One kindly look, one loving word, Might stir the depths within; And cadence sweet, before unheard, Break through the strife and din. That breast where memory seems to sleep Bound in a weary chain, Might swell with feelings strong and deep, Then touch those chords again!</p> <p>Go like thy Master, live to bless, And weep o'er others' woes; Each fervent prayer He will confess, And every tear that flows. Go seek to be the soul's true friend, And thou may'st wake a strain, Which shall in songs of glory end; Then touch those chords again. Amen.</p> <p>III.</p> <p>Jesus, the very thought of Thee With sweetness fills my breast; But sweeter far Thy face to see, And in Thy presence rest.</p> <p>Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, Nor can the memory find A sweeter sound than Thy blest name, O Saviour of mankind!</p> <p>O hope of every contrite heart! O joy of all the meek! To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!</p> <p>But what to those who find? ah! this Nor tongue nor pen can show. The love of Jesus what it is, None but His loved ones know.</p> <p>Jesus, our only joy be Thou, As Thou our prize wilt be; Jesus, be Thou our glory now, And through eternity! Amen.</p>
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ALFRED JUBB, PRINTER, STATION STREET, HUDDERSFIELD.

Jubilee Celebration of our School which was opened April 3rd 1837, to be held on Easter Saturday and Sunday, April 9th and 10th 1887'. This is the only time that I have seen an exact date for the opening of New Road and despite looking through the newspapers of the time, though there were not that many, I have never found any other references to it.

There was of course reference to the Jubilee Celebration in the Brighthouse News of Saturday the 16th April 1887 where it gave an account of the day's activities and the speakers present on the previous Saturday. The minutes record that three hundred and fifty tickets were printed and were sold at sixpence each. A

single side hymn sheet was produced for the Special Service on the Sunday where three hymns were sung:- O God, our help in ages past, Oh touch these chords which long ago, gave forth a trembling sound and Jesus the very thought of Thee, with sweetness fills my breast.

New Road had two Jubilee services that year as the Brighthouse Echo dated Friday, 22nd July 1887, under the headline 'New Road Sunday School', tells us that:- 'On Sunday last, at the Jubilee services in connection with the above school took place when the sermons, afternoon and evening were preached by Mr. J. D. Wilson of Sowerby Bridge. Special hymns and anthems were sung and at the close of each service a collection was made in aid

of the school funds amounting altogether to about £14'. The minutes record that in time for the anniversary service, the harmonium be 'thoroughly repaired and tuned' and 'the new woodwork be re-varnished'.

NEW ROAD SUNDAY SCHOOL.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

A large and enthusiastic gathering of past and present superintendents, teachers, scholars, and friends was held at New Road on Saturday last, to celebrate the Jubilee of the Sunday School. Visitors from Manchester, Leeds, Bradford and Dewsbury, combined with those from nearer home, filled the room. After tea the chair was taken by Mr John Thornton, who has been associated with the school for upwards of 22 years, and on the platform were also Mr Robert Thornton and Mr Thos. Metcalfe, formerly superintendents, as well as a number of the present teachers.

The chairman's opening address was devoted to a detailed history of the school from its institution in April, 1837, down to the present time. Referring to the founders he mentioned the following gentlemen as being actively interested in the project, fifty years ago, viz: Jonathan Schofield, John Clay, Joseph T. Clay, Thomas Firth, William Helm, Joseph Taylor, John Eastwood, and John Noble. He quoted from an old document a declaration of the religious doctrines which were to be taught in the school, remarking, in doing so, that, although the terms employed were somewhat bewildering in their breadth and liberality, they proved a generosity and kindness of intention which was indeed admirable. For many years after the opening of the School, Sunday evening service was regularly held under the auspices of the Baptists, the Methodists, and the Independents. Mr Dan Dawson, of Milnsbridge, the Rev Mr MacPherson, of Salendine Nook, and the Rev. Mr Barker, of Lockwood, were frequent preachers during that period. Continuing his remarks, the chairman alluded to a discussion which at that time evoked a considerable amount of interest, and which took place in the schoolroom in 1837, between Mr Richard Oastler and Mr Charles Pitchforth, on the "Poor Law." The audience welcomed the mention of the early superintendents of the Sunday School; these were the following:— Messrs Jonas Mitchell, John Eastwood, Joseph Robinson, James Aspinall, Wm. Hargreaves, Joseph Taylor, Matthias Shaw, John Hargreaves, Edward Kitchen, George C. Jessop, and John Bentley.

Referring to music in connection with the Sunday School, Mr Thornton remarked that this subject had always been held of high importance, and he wished to acknowledge the valuable services rendered long ago, in this respect, by the Robinsons and the Shaws. Mr George Gledhill, he observed, was conductor at the Anniversary and Whitsuntide festivals for about forty years.

The chairman briefly sketched the week-day life of the school. It was first employed as a day school, under the charge of Mr Absolom Lee, in 1851. Subsequently various school-mistresses similarly occupied the premises. In 1873-74 a class room was added and other alterations effected, at the joint expense of the Sunday School and the Rastrick British School Committee, and from this date until 1881 the day school was under the management of the British School authorities. Since 1881 it has been conducted by the Rastrick School Board. Two years ago a further enlargement of the premises was effected by the Sunday School at a cost of £160. The successful bazaar, held twelve months ago, sufficed to wipe out any outstanding liabilities, and to leave a good balance in hand. Respecting the School premises, it was stated that, although no body of trustees had ever been legally appointed, the present managers were perfectly content with the existing arrangement: Mr Crowther had always treated them in the most handsome manner, insomuch as for many years he had left them absolutely alone.

The chairman gratefully acknowledged the presence of so many friends that evening as an evidence of the strong affection entertained for the Sunday School by all who have, or have had, any connection with the place. He expressed the hope that in years to come good work might continue to be done at New Road, and a happy influence emanate from their old Sunday School. Speeches followed by Mr Metcalfe, Mr Robert Thornton, and Mr E. Woffenden. A complimentary vote to the Chairman was moved and supported by Messrs Louis Woffenden and Joah Holdsworth. The singing of the National Anthem brought to a close a meeting which will long be remembered on account of the unusual interest and pleasure by which it was characterized.

The report from the Brighouse News regarding the 1887 Jubilee celebrations at New Road

In the very first Brighouse Echo dated Friday, 24th June 1887 there is mention of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It also shows the rivalry that existed between the townfolk of Brighouse and Rastrick. The report states that, *'the people of Brighouse had a great procession and after parading through the principal streets of the town the procession wended their way towards the direction of Bridge End in order to show their Rastrick friends how they were put into the shade. But mark the astonishment of the marshals on nearing the river bridge for access to the latter place was entirely cut off by large barricades, the Rastrick authorities having come to the conclusion to have none but residents within their borders on that auspicious Jubilee day'*. Quite right too that the good people of Rastrick had decided that the ruffians of Brighouse were not welcome in our area!

By July 1889, the preparations were well under way for the 52nd anniversary at New Road Sunday School. It had been resolved to purchase a new harmonium at the teachers meeting in April and the anniversary service, conducted by Mr. N. Baxter of Longwood, took place on Sunday, the 21st July. The following Thursday was the annual general meeting of the teachers and it seems yet more grand plans for the school were afoot. John Thornton read to the persons present, a letter from Mr. James Lawson, plumber, of Brighouse which contained an estimate for the fixing of a new hot water apparatus in the school and classrooms. The estimate was for £38-5s. The treasurer had only just informed the meeting that the school bank balance was £75-3s-2d to the good and the estimate would take more than fifty per cent of that figure. The male teachers decided to meet personally with Mr. Lawson on the following Tuesday where he explained the need for a cellar under the bottom classroom to house this new equipment. The tender rose to £45 and John William Bottomley and Joah Holdsworth formed a two man committee to see to the work being done. John William was twenty-six years of age with a wife, Priscilla, and three children aged four, two and two weeks old, whilst Joah was twenty-nine years of age and was married to Hannah. They also had three children aged six, two and a new born baby. The wives were left to tend to the children as their menfolk worked during the day but upon their return home, they probably ate dinner and then immediately set off on the short walk to the Sunday School. There, the two of them, along with other helpers, set about the task of digging out a cellar, ensuring that they did not undermine the foundations of the classroom that had been built just fifteen years before. The work would have had to be completed as soon as possible to make use of the light nights and summer weather. They certainly didn't hang around as by the 18th September, the cellar was complete and the apparatus was up and running. A meeting was held that day where it was decided to increase the size of the boiler to 30"x 16"x 26" after complaints that the new one was too small. This added a further £3 to the bill and left the bank balance even less healthy.

At that same meeting on the 18th September 1889, item 9 on the agenda reads:-

'After the business had been transacted a very pleasing duty was performed by Mr. Emmanuel Woffenden who presented to Mr John Thornton on behalf of the Teachers and Elder Scholars, a silver mounted white ivory baton. The inscription bore the following:-

Presented to Mr John Thornton by the Teachers and Elder Scholars as a token of respect and esteem as Conductor. Sept. 17th 1889'. This baton was passed through the various conductors at New Road during the ensuing years and was eventually presented to my grandfather, Arnold Bottomley, upon his retirement from the role. It was eventually passed to me and is still in my possession to this day.

After all the expense, the Sunday School was running short of money and it was decided in January 1890 to hold a bazaar over the Easter period of the following year. The treasurer reported a balance of just under £16 in the bank in July. This increased when a legacy of £10 was received from the estate of the late Hanson Ormerod. All the usual hard work went into making the Bazaar a great success and a profit of £80-13s-4d was made.

Later that year, to the disgust of many of the ratepayers of Rastrick, the Local Board bought the private Rastrick Water Company for £15,250. This company had started in 1872 with capital of just £2,000. The ratepayers felt that the Board could have bought the company long before at a much reduced price, thus saving money on the rates. The result of this was that members of the Board were again opposed at the elections by people put up by the Ratepayers Association. This had happened two years previously when the ratepayers thought that the Rastrick Gas Company was making excessive profits and they put up six candidates at the election. Such was the strength and feeling amongst the ratepayers that all six were elected.

Around that period, St. John's School at Gooder Lane, Rastrick, gave the Rastrick School Board notice to quit the school. As a result of that, plans were drawn up for the building of a new school at Healey Wood Terrace, Rastrick. The school, which was to become the Victoria Central School in time, was completed in 1892. This was the last act of the Rastrick School Board as the following year, 1893 saw the incorporation of the Borough of Brighouse. The Rastrick School Board was taken over by Brighouse when the charter was received. It is said that the Borough, which incorporated Brighouse, Rastrick, Clifton, Bailiff Bridge, Hove Edge and part of Lightcliffe, was brought about because of the need for a proper sewage system. Drains were placed in Brighouse and Rastrick throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century but all the sewage waste ended up in the River Calder and this caused great problems when it flooded. Discussions had taken place about building a sewage works at Cooper Bridge and the Brighouse Board had experimented in trying to convert 'night soil' into manure. Until the drains had been built, 'night soil' was thrown into the streets and in the closely packed houses in some areas of Rastrick, disease was rife. In September 1858, typhus had been raging in Rastrick, in September 1861, cholera was rife in Brighouse and in August 1862, smallpox killed a lot of young children with fifty-six dying in the three months up to September. In 1864, scarletina killed eighty-two children in the same period. Whilst the drains took the problem away from this area, it only passed it on to the towns further downstream on the River Calder.

The incorporation proceedings started in July 1890, when the Brighthouse Board decided that rather than form a joint authority with Rastrick, it would be better to apply for a Charter of Incorporation as a Borough. A joint committee was set up by the Rastrick and Brighthouse Boards to look at the possibilities. The main problem was that the rates were different in the two areas. Rastrick also had its School Board to run the schools, the day school at New Road being one example of this. The residents of Rastrick therefore, had to pay a school rate whilst Brighthouse did not. This led to a difference of opinion between the two boards and negotiations were broken off. They eventually got together and agreed a package in which the rates in the borough would be the same, as would water charges, but Rastrick would have to pay a cemetery rate and a school rate on top of the normal rates, whilst Brighthouse residents wouldn't. The street-lighting in Rastrick would however, be lit by gas from Brighthouse gas works, free of any charge. When everything was agreed, a representative of the Privy Council went to Brighthouse and recommended a submission of a draft charter which was completed by Chambers Solicitors in October 1892. In August 1893, the area learned that the Privy Council had instructed the Home Office to prepare the charter which arrived on Saturday 19th August and came into being on the 9th November that same year. Elections were held for the twenty-four ward seats and William Smith became the first mayor of the new Borough. Despite Brighthouse not wanting Board Schools, the Rastrick School Board became the Brighthouse School Board on incorporation and the new Borough became responsible for education and became the new guardians of the day school at New Road.

Howling gales were evident in Rastrick to say goodbye to the old year in 1894. On the 28th December, the worst winds for over fifty years blew part of the roof off at Lands House on New Hey Road whilst a few yards down the road at Badger Hill Mills, considerable damage was caused. This was not the worst of it though as further along Dewsbury Road, Elland Upper Edge chapel was blown down. This caused John Thornton and Ruth Bottomley to propose and second at a meeting at New Road, that the Sunday School have a collection on behalf of the Mayors fund (Alderman William Smith) in aid of the Elland Upper Edge Disaster Fund. The collection raised £2-13s-6d.

On the 21st January 1895, the minutes record that the male teachers were to form a committee to find out the best way of enlarging the building at New Road. The following month, after much debate, it was decided to raise the roof and extend the building. This brought about the most extensive of all the extensions that have been made to the original 1837 building. This latest enlargement, completed in 1896 is detailed in 'Chapter Two – The Sunday School building and its development to 1900' and following the successful fund raising efforts of the next couple of years, the Sunday School entered the new century free of all debt.

In our present Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee year, it would be appropriate to end this chapter to report upon one of the last important events of the 19th century that involved New

Road Sunday School. The year 1897 was also the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and various events in the area were organised to celebrate the occasion. The teachers at New Road Sunday School held a special meeting on the 22nd May where a circular from the Town Clerk of Brighouse, Mr. Parkinson, was read. It asked for two representatives from the school to be appointed and attend a meeting at the Brighouse public offices (now the Town Hall building) to make arrangements for a demonstration of Sunday School scholars on Jubilee Day, the 22nd June. Rumour had it that the event was to take place in Crow Nest Park, Lightcliffe and it was decided that the Sunday School appoint Luke Gooder and Joah Holdsworth to attend the meeting and to inform the organisers that if Crow Nest Park was to be the location then New Road would have no part in it. The two representatives reported back to the teachers the following week, that Crow Nest had been decided as the venue and it was unanimously passed that New Road would not attend. Whether this decision was because of the distance involved or the Moravian connections with Crow Nest, the minute book does not disclose, but as New Road children had taken part in events much further afield than Lightcliffe in the past, I suspect the latter.

On the 6th June 1897, a further meeting was held where it was decided to hold a celebration event of their own in Rastrick. The Rastrick Cricket & Athletic Club loaned the use of their field and a free tea was provided for all teachers and scholars on the books. The weather was brilliant sunshine all day long.

Just for the record, it was reported that 6,922 children, carrying banners from their different Sunday Schools, set off through the streets, lined with many hundreds of people, between Brighouse and Crow Nest Park. The other religious establishments in Rastrick at Bridge End, St. Matthew's, Upper Edge and Crowtrees, all sent their children. The little ones who were not able to walk the great distance were conveyed in an array of horse-drawn furniture wagons and drays. The newspaper report says that they played games after consuming 10,000, eight ounce currant buns and 10,000 pints of coffee !

Later that same week, the Rastrick children were given another treat when Mr. A. T. Clay ordered 2,700 currant buns from the Co-op bakery, to feed the assembled masses at another Diamond Jubilee celebration. He had also ordered coffee for them to drink but the Co-op forgot to deliver it on time. There was much relief when a dray turned up carrying just over 300 gallons of the refreshment a short time later.

With a war raging against the Boers in South Africa, Victorian Britain ended the 19th century probably at the peak of its powers, with an Empire upon which it was said, the sun never set. Things were about to change quite dramatically for the nation but New Road Sunday School marched proudly and independently into the new era.

Chapter Four

The Day School

Educating the poor classes was not deemed to have been an important matter until the 1840's. The upper classes had shown a vicious hostility to it and a Justice of the Peace wrote in 1807 that, *'It is doubtless desirable that the poor should be generally instructed in reading, if it were only for the best of purposes - that they may read the Scriptures. As to writing and arithmetic, it may be apprehended that such a degree of knowledge would produce in them a disrelish for the laborious occupations of life'*, and when the Parochial Schools Act was debated in parliament in 1807, the Tory MP, Davies Giddy warned, *'however specious in theory the project might be of giving education to the labouring classes of the poor, it would, in effect, be found to be prejudicial to their morals and happiness; it would teach them to despise their lot in life, instead of making them good servants in agriculture and other laborious employments to which their rank in society had destined them; instead of teaching them the virtue of subordination, it would render them factious and refractory, as is evident in the manufacturing counties; it would enable them to read seditious pamphlets, vicious books and publications against Christianity; it would render them insolent to their superiors; and, in a few years, the result would be that the legislature would find it necessary to direct the strong arm of power towards them and to furnish the executive magistrates with more vigorous powers than are now in force. Besides, if this Bill were to pass into law, it would go to burthen the country with a most enormous and incalculable expense, and to load the industrious orders with still heavier imposts.*

The fight for an education of children was brought to the fore when one School Inspector reported that, *'it would be advisable to have a preparatory school in each village, and a completely organised school, under the charge of able teachers, in a central locality'*. Some financial assistance had been given to schools from the local rates but now, national funds began to be made available specifically for building new schools. The Five School Sites Acts were passed between 1841 and 1852, designed to financially assist authorities to in the purchase of land for school buildings and to make 'Parliamentary Grants for the Education of the Poor'.

In 1855, the School Grants Act was introduced and it stated, *'where Parliament had made grants for land, or for the construction, enlargement or repair of school buildings, they were not to be sold, exchanged or mortgaged without the written consent of the Secretary of State for the Home Department'*.

Despite the hostility to the education of the poorer classes, new schools were being built and school attendance was rising. In 1816, 875,000 of the country's 1.5 million children *'attended a school of some kind for some period'*. By 1835 the figure was 1.45 million out of 1.75 million though the average duration of school attendance was just one year.

By 1851 the average length of school attendance had risen to two years, and in 1861 an estimated 2.5 million children out of 2.75 million received some form of schooling, though still of very mixed quality and with the majority leaving before they were eleven.

The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church was founded in 1811. This became known as the National Society for obvious reasons. Its aim was to provide a school in every parish and it was usually a member of the local clergy who took on the role of teacher. Being a church school, it taught an additional R to the accepted 3 R's of writing, reading and arithmetic, this being religion. The schools were known as National Schools. The non-conformist chapels, along with more liberal Anglicans, Catholics and Jews preferred the less denominational approach and the Foreign School Society for the Education of the Labouring and Manufacturing Classes of Society of Every Religious Persuasion was formed in 1814 and became known as the British Schools. These schools taught Scripture and general Christian principles, but in a non-denominational form.

It became a fight between the two movements for supremacy which many blamed for the delay in the introduction of a fully comprehensive school system funded by public taxation. The government did not want to be seen to be favouring one or the other groups and so gave grants to both, to run their schools.

So it came about that a Rastrick born teacher, Absalom Lee, opened a British School at New Road in 1851. I believe that the school was originally for the education of boys but a girl's school was added in January 1875. The school was organised within the tenets of the British school until it was taken over by the local Education Board in 1881.

I have not found any records appertaining to the British School but several years ago, I was talking to an acquaintance, Mr. David Garside, who at one time worked for the Brighthouse Parks and Gardens Department. David died in 2009 but used to write a Countryman's Diary column in the Brighthouse Echo alongside Chris Helme's 'Looking Back' article. One day, David brought me a book that he thought may be of interest to me. I asked him where he had got it from and he informed me that he had found it on a council tip along with some other books. The book was none other than the Head-Teacher's log of the New Road Board School, Rastrick from its inception in 1881 to 1923, by which time, the school had transferred to the then recently built Carr Green Junior and Infants School.

The first article is dated 30th November 1881 and is the final inspection report by Mr. A. T. Clay. He refers to the school as the Rastrick & Brighthouse New Road British School and he

reports that, *'the school is in good order and has passed a pretty fair examination. The infants are doing better than last year but the elder children not so well. Reading, spelling and arithmetic all need to improve more and better reading books should be used'*. The next entry is for the 24th January 1882 and states that *'this school was transferred to the School Board as from 1st November 1881. The school establishment consists of Miss Emily Fitton, Certified Teacher of the 2nd Class, Mary Jane Sykes, assistant under Article 79 and Agnes Hall Gooder, Temporary Monitor.*

Below, I have taken snippets of information from the log book that the reader may find interesting or, in some cases, somewhat bizarre.

16th October 1882 – several children absent all day because of the Pig Fair

8th December 1882 – The heavy snow storm has caused a very thin attendance yesterday and today. Agnes Gooder absent with a swollen face both days.

15th December 1882 – Poor school attendance all week owing to the continuance of a heavy snow storm.

27th April 1883 – The school is suffering at present from bad attendance of the children owing to sickness and being kept at home by the parents to assist with the work.

The annual inspection of the school took place on the 2nd November by Mr. M. Pole Esq. There is no record of the result of the inspection but on the 8th November 1883, the Mistress, Emily Fitton wrote, *'the children are having holiday tomorrow (Friday). Gave up the charge of this school'*. This seemed very sudden and one has to wonder whether her resignation was linked to the annual report.

Miss Fitton was temporarily replaced by Miss Amy Towler who, in her first report, makes reference to the number of pupils attending the school. Her report states that the average attendance was 97.9 (pupils/day) but during the following month, mainly due to poor weather, attendance had dropped to 74.6.

Whether Miss Fitton applied for the role of Head teacher, we do not know but on the 11th January 1884, the new Mistress, J. M. Horsfield opened the school after the holidays and upon examination of the children, *'found them rather backward in knowledge'*. The following week she wrote, *'Examined the 2nd Standard and the 1st Class Infants in arithmetic this week and found both classes very backward in that subject. Also examined the lowest classes in alphabet and found a few able to begin reading from books. Taught multiplication by three figures to the 2nd Standard on Wednesday.*

Miss Horsfield had planned her lessons in advance and informs the log that the following

lessons would be given:-

Natural History lessons:- Sheep, Cow, Horse, Reindeer, Camel, Elephant, Bear, Lion, Eagle, Crocodile.

Object Lessons:- Sponge, orange, tea-plant, coffee plant, rice, raisins, sugar

Minerals:- Iron, copper, silver, gold.

By November 1884, the average attendance was very good at 121.

Following the Annual Inspection at the end of 1884, Mr. Jno. Reeve, the H.M. Inspector remarked that, *'the attainments of the children are decidedly below the mark'*.

1st June 1885 – *'school opened after Whitsuntide holidays and after being closed for alterations'*. (This is in reference to the new extension that was built that year, now known as the 'top classroom or Young Ladies Room').

14th September 1885 – *'sent two boys home to wash themselves'*.

1st March 1886 – *'showed poor attendance owing to a snowstorm'*. This continued and forced the school to close on the 2nd and 3rd March. By the 19th, there was still poor attendance owing to the snowstorms.

28th May 1886 – *'poor attendance on account of measles'*. On the 4th June, the school closed due to the continued spread of measles. The school re-opened on the 21st June and *'a few children returned who have had measles – many are still absent'*. As one disease cleared, another one seemed to take its place and by October 1886, it was chicken pox that was causing children to be absent.

There was much improvement in the school by the end of 1888. The H.M Inspector reported, *'the school is in an orderly state and very fairly taught. The children are well advanced for their age in Reading and Arithmetic but have not been sufficiently practised to write words from dictation and work sums on slates. Writing needs more systematic teaching in its earliest stages. The babies do not get their due share of attention. Needlework was good, especially that of the 3rd Class'*.

On the 8th February 1889, Miss Horsfield writes, *'attendance during the week has been thin probably owing to the stormy weather. Have spent a little extra time each day in marching and drill as the schoolroom was too cold. The average attendance for the week was 48.3'*.

Around this time, there were several entries regarding the absence of teachers, especially the Monitor, Isabella Garside who had been being absent for varying reasons. It was obvious from the tone used in the writing that the Mistress was getting annoyed by Miss Garside's continued excuses and on the 26th September 1889, she wrote, '*Miss Newhouse and J. Garside returned to school this morning, the latter being half an hour late*'. The following day she wrote, '*J. Garside absent again this morning - cause of absence unknown. Have spent a little extra time drilling and marching as we have no fill and the weather is cold*'. This led her to write to the Clerk about the school not being heated on the 4th October 1889 and on the 11th she wrote, '*we have had the school warmed for the first time this week by means of the heating apparatus*'.

On the 15th October, Isabella Garside was causing consternation yet again resulting in Miss Horsfield having to write, '*Isabella Garside – Monitor – absent from school again this morning. Has sent no explanation as to cause of absence*'. On the 24th she was also getting exasperated with Miss Newhouse as she commented, '*E.G. Newhouse does not prepare her class work satisfactorily – had to stop the gallery lesson on Coffee today because she did not proceed methodically*'.

Pupil numbers were also well down as by the end of the month of October, there were only 83 children on the books but only 44 were at school due to an outbreak of measles and whooping cough.

On the 5th November, the Isabella Garside affair was brought to a conclusion when Miss Horsfield simply wrote, '*Isabella Garside finished duties in this school today*'. Unfortunately it does not report upon the reason. Did she resign or was she dismissed?

On the 30th January 1891, after a good Inspector's report, Miss Mary Horsfield wrote her last entry in the log book by stating that '*attendance this week has been much better – Gave up the charge of this school today- Mary Horsfield*'.

The school was temporarily taken over by Ada Reeve until the new Mistress, Miss B. E. Briggs took over the reins on the 1st May 1891 The attendance continued to increase throughout the year to an average of 82.4 but following the Christmas holiday, only 21 returned for the first morning on the 11th January 1892 and the average was still only at 43.6 by the 11th March.

13th July 1894 – '*Unable to use the gallery and that end of the school owing to a gallery that had been raised for the Sunday and had not been removed*'. Judging by the date of this entry, it would appear that the Sunday School had erected a stage for the Anniversary at one end of the building (this is still prior to the Main Hall being built) and not having taken it down again thus causing an issue for the day school teachers. Miss Briggs didn't last very

long however, and gave up the charge of the school on the 19th July 1895 being replaced by Miss Annie Jackson on the 19th August.

On 26th September 1895, James Firth, the Assistant H.M. Inspector made an unannounced visit to the school and wrote in the log book, *'Visited this school without notice. The children were not assembled in the playground this morning till 9.10 by the true time (9.18 by school clock). The entry immediately preceding this was made by the Mistress this morning after I had asked for the Log Book. I regret to have to call attention to the very filthy writing on the doors and walls of the school closets'*. The Inspector had witnessed Miss Jackson writing an entry in the Log Book that said, *'Usual school routine'* but Miss Jackson had predated it by thirteen days. The Inspector was obviously not impressed by this action and noted it in his report. Following the visit, Miss Jackson must have felt a need to defend herself by writing an entry in the log book that stated, *'Gave Inspector reasons for not entering two weeks in the Log Book. Children assembled 9.05 by Rastrick time. School clock gains very much thus caused mistake in time. The time for assembling is invariably 8.55. I examined the offices at 8am this morning: did not observe any writing on doors or walls; it must have been done between 8 and 9 by older boys who constantly frequent the yard and are very troublesome. Have spoken several times to them'*.

The summary of the end of year inspection for 1895 concludes that, *'the work in the first standard is mainly good and that in the other classes, very fair. Some of the children are quick and intelligent and efforts should be made to arouse the less forward. The playground is in an unfinished state and therefore useless in rainy weather'*.

In April 1896 another measles epidemic hit Rastrick and the school closed for the Easter holidays on the 2nd April, re-opening on the 13th. There was only a moderate attendance owing to the measles outbreak but the school continued as best it could. It still managed to give a half day holiday on the 23rd April on account of the Circus coming to Brighouse. The attendance continued to drop and on the 1st May, the log entry states, *'The attendance is extremely poor. Had orders from the clerk that the school be closed until after Whitsuntide on account of the epidemic of measles'*. It reopened on the 1st June though several children were not fully recovered. On the 5th June 1896 the school received notice that, *'Had notice from the clerk that we should remove to Crowtrees Sunday School until the alterations at New Road were completed. We removed today. Had holiday this afternoon for the purpose.'*

The alterations of course referred to the building of the Main Hall, which would make quite a difference to the size of the school. The Sunday School minutes of 1896 show that whilst the new building was taking place, the school managers met with the School Board to discuss new lease terms for the continued use of the new building as a school. The minutes record that, *'the managers entered into an agreement for a term of seven years to continue to provide the premises as a school for the sum of £65 per annum. Of this sum, £30 was to defray the cost of fuel, light and cleaning and £35 was proposed as rent. With the building*

being so much larger than before, the school-keeper's wage was increased to £20 per annum'.

On the 22nd December the Log Book informs us that, *'broke up this afternoon (Wednesday) for the Xmas holidays. This afternoon the desks and other furniture are being transferred to New Road School as the alterations are now completed'.*

In January 1897 it was reported that several children had returned to school after six months off, having not attended school at Crowtrees.

By the 18th June the average attendance had risen to 92.7 and the log states, *'we are having a week's holiday in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee'.* This was the last entry made by Miss Jackson. She doesn't make any reference to her leaving in the Log Book but within days of the school returning from the Diamond Jubilee holiday, Miss Agnes Bryden wrote, *'at the request of the Board, was placed in charge of the school until a new mistress is appointed'.* The following week, Miss Bryden wrote, *'Received notice from the Board that I was appointed Mistress of this school.'* No reason is given for Miss Jackson leaving.

10th September 1897 - a case of scarletina was reported.

On the 22nd October 1897 it was reported that the attendance was at *'126 despite foggy conditions'.* *There is also a case of measles and mumps amongst the children.*

The 1897 Annual Report stated that, *'the enlargement of the school buildings has been a great advantage to the infants and they have already made considerable progress especially in the elementary subjects. The children do not give fixed attention however. The ventilation provided for the two classrooms is not sufficient. The school had a Head Mistress, an assistant mistress and two teachers'.* At the same time, the log tells us that the attendance continued to decrease on account of Scarlet Fever and other illnesses but by the end of the Christmas holidays, most children had returned and attendance was up again to 98.

Illness was certainly prevalent amongst children in the late Victorian era and it seemed that just as one epidemic passed, another followed. In 1899, it was the turn of whooping cough to spread amongst the children causing attendance to be poor at times but the century ended on a high note as the H.M. Inspectors report had been very favourable and Miss Bryden was particularly pleased to note that the school had received the maximum grant from the School Board based upon the favourable merits of the school.

16th February 1900 – *'severe snow storms which lasted all week, snow over a foot deep but notwithstanding the children turned out very fairly'.*

12th April 1900 - the children gave a pantomime concert on behalf of the Boer War Funds. *'The school was crowded to excess despite the storm of wind and rain. £5-12-4d was handed to the Mayor towards the fund'*.

22nd June 1900 – *'school photographs in the yard of the school – 115 children present'*.

29th June 1900 – *'Children went Annual Picnic to Fixby. Left school at 3pm, had coffee and buns at 4.30pm and each child was presented with an orange'*.

8th February 1902 – *'there was a holiday given on Wednesday afternoon for the proclamation'*. This was referring to the proclamation of the new King, following the death of Queen Victoria on the 21st January that year.

18th October 1901 – the highest ever average attendance figure for one week was recorded at 130.

19th June 1902 - the mistress announced a treat at Round Hill on Friday 26th in honour of the new King's coronation but she got his name wrong, writing Henry VII instead of Edward VII.

25th June 1902 – *'Mr. Travis Clay presented the children with Coronation day mugs this afternoon. There were also present the Rev. T.R. Lewis and a member of the parents. Speeches were made by the Rev. T.R. Lewis and Mr. Clay. The children sang their Coronation Hymns and a pleasant afternoon was spent. On Friday, the children were marched in procession to the Round Hill where they again sang their hymns and indulged in sports for which prizes were given. They were afterwards entertained to tea for which the people of Rastrick had subscribed'*.

30th January 1903 – *'Numbers are diminishing every day. Mumps have now been added to measles and whooping cough only 53 being present out of 123. Mistress absent 4 days through illness'*.

By the 6th February, the attendance had continued to diminish to 44. *'The Medical Officer sent the Order to close the school this morning'*. The school stayed closed until the 25th February though many children were still away due to illness upon re-opening.

The Annual Report at the end of 1903 stated that the room occupied by the youngest children is gloomy and the ventilation of the other classroom should be improved. There were 140 children on the books and the 1901 record of average attendees in a week was beaten on 16th September 1904 when the number rose to 133. Despite the high numbers, two teachers left their posts and two others were absent with sickness. This left the Headmistress, Miss Bryden, to write in the log, *'with no further assistance having being secured yet, Miss Smith and I had to divide the school into two parts and teach in two divisions'*. A

great snowstorm came to her rescue the following week as only 48 turned up for school. The Inspector's end of year report stated, *'the discipline and tone of the school are quite satisfactory. The two lowest classes when grouped together are too large for effective treatment by one teacher. The lighting of the classrooms still needs attention'*

24th March 1905 – *'the children were given a lesson on The Worm. Each child was provided with a live specimen. They also saw the workings of the worms which had been placed in soil in a glass bottle some days previously. The children all enjoyed their lesson'*. They also had a lesson on the Daffodil and grew good specimens according to Miss Bryden who writes about a walk into the country to see a rookery and watch their habits. They also had a lesson on the Canary and *'a live specimen was procured. The children were much interested'*. Following Nature Visits, the children made drawings or brush drawings and sometimes clay models of the subject matter.

2nd March 1906 – *'Numbers still decreasing, Fever cases spreading and of a dangerous type'*.

9th March 1906 – *'There has been two deaths from Fever consequently the parents are afraid to send their children to school and the attendance is still poor'*.

In May 1906 the school was again closed by the Medical Officer for 3 weeks due to another outbreak of measles.

On the 12th October 1906, the first signs of friction between the Sunday School and the School Board were evident. His Majesty's Inspector stated in the 1906 Annual Report, *'the offices (toilets) are too high for Infants. There is no flush for the urinal. As the boys in the Second Standard are retained in this Department it is desirable that the Offices adjoining the high road should be retained for the older boys and a separate urinal provided. The unsuitable seats in Classroom Number 1 should be removed and desks substituted. If the spare seats in Classroom Number 3 (which adjoins the baby room) were removed, space would be provided for games etc. Some arrangements should be made for gathering the Sunday School seats together and storing them where they will cause no inconvenience to the work of the day school'*.

On the 27th November 1906, the Trustees of the Sunday School (they had replaced the management committee on the 8th May 1905) recorded that the Education Committee had written to them and requested that steps be provided to the offices as the seats were too high for the children. This they agreed to but could not see it in their way to remove all the furniture from the Sunday School and store it under the stage every week, at the whim of the Education Committee

In February 1907, the H.M.I., Mr. Whitmells wrote, *'Nothing has been done to carry out the recommendations contained in the Report of the Visit of 25th September 1906. All the recommendations are then repeated and it is hoped that they will receive immediate attention. The ventilation of the babies room is imperfect. More inlets for fresh air are needed. The Board also requested that the toilets be removed and reconstructed'*.

The Trustees responded, agreeing on certain points but disagreeing on re-locating the toilets. The debate went on throughout the year until eventually, the Board of Education in London, put more pressure on the Trustees by writing again in July. They reaffirmed that *'the closets should be removed and reconstructed'*, and stated that, *'unless satisfactory proposals are submitted by the authority at an early date it would be necessary for the Board to consider whether their recognition of the premises should be continued beyond a limited period'*.

Strong words indeed as the Board threatened to move the school from New Road to another location. The secretary of the Trustees, Mr. John Wm. Bottomley replied, *'I am desired by the Trustees to say that they have again given consideration to the request that the offices be removed and reconstructed. The Trustees regard this requirement as unreasonable and are not inclined to undertake the work suggested'*.

There followed in October 1907, a deputation comprising of Alderman Stocks and Councillors Hardaker and Helm who attended at a Trustee's meeting to try and arrange for the necessary alterations to be made, with a suggestion that the closets were removed to the far end of the school yard. The Trustee's acquired quotes for the work to be carried out and it seemed that the total cost would be around £150, as this same amount was received from various firms in the trade. As a result, the Trustees wrote to the Board stating that they would be prepared to carry out the work providing the Board gave an assurance that *'the tenancy of these premises would continue for at least 7 years from the 1st January 1909 and at a rent of £76 per annum'*. This was an increase of £11 per annum on the rent that had been agreed when the new building opened in 1896. There had been no previous increase since that date. The Board responded by offering to continue with the present agreement and *'to pay the Trustee's 5% extra on the cost involved in building the new closet's'*. Mr. Bottomley was requested by his fellow Trustee's to send the following reply, *'Sir, In reply to your letter of the 26th inst., the Trustee's after careful consideration of same beg to say that they cannot enter upon the work which has for some time been under contemplation unless the Education Committee assent; without reservation; to the conditions mentioned in my letter of the 24th August.'*

Mr. Reeve responded on behalf of the Education Committee with a letter stating, *'Dear Sir, I am directed to inform you that the Education Committee have reluctantly decided to pay the increased rent involved in building the new closets at the New Road School, viz. £76 per annum from the 1st January 1909 under the present yearly agreement of tenancy.'*

The Education Board had agreed to the rental increase but had still not agreed to a tenancy of at least seven years, referring instead to the present agreement, but the Trustees were adamant that they would stick out for all conditions and responded by saying, *'the Trustee's had your letter under consideration and they are compelled to adhere in every particular to the conditions expressed in my previous letters'*.

The Education Board in turn responded by requesting that the alterations were carried out at once and further asked that the Trustees met with a sub-committee from the Education Board with a view to agreement of a four year lease as opposed to seven years. The Trustees would still not budge one inch and said as much in their reply. As a result, no other correspondence was entered into until the 4th July 1910 when Mr. Reeve wrote to the Trustees giving notice that the Education Committee would terminate their tenancy of the New Road School on the 30th June 1911. This decision would not have come as a complete shock to the Trustees as work had commenced on a new school building, not far down the Road at Crowtrees. This new school would be known as Carr Green Council School. However, the building was behind schedule which caused Mr. Reeve to write to the Trustees on the 30th June 1911 asking if they *'would allow them a continuance of the said premises and on the same terms as at present viz; £65 per annum for a period of six months from the 1st July 1911'*. The secretary was instructed to reply that their request would be granted until such time as Carr Green school was ready. On the 31st July 1911, the Trustees received another letter from Mr. Reeve in which he wrote, *'Dear Sir, I am directed by the Education Committee to inform you that their tenancy of New Road school will terminate today, July 31st 1912 and I am to express to the trustees of the said school the thanks of the committee for the kindness shown to them in allowing the use of the school until the opening of the new Carr Green Council School'*.

They all finished friends in the end and New Road made over £100 in extra rent after paying for the toilets to be moved but the final act of defiance by the Trustees was to inform the Education Committee that they had gone to considerable expense (£5-5/-) with the architects when the plans for the toilets were first drawn up and would they care to make a contribution towards this. The Education Committee promptly sent a cheque for £2-10/-. And so ended the eventful saga of how New Road Sunday School ceased to be a Local Board Day School.

The accounts for the Borough of Brighouse Education Dept. for the year ending 31st March 1911, show the salaries paid to the teachers at New Road School. The Principal Teacher was paid £70-2/-, other teachers were paid a total of £160-7-10d, books and stationary etc. was £8-15-10d, apparatus £1-15/- and disinfectant 12/1d. The rent, rates and insurance was £89-15/-, whilst administration expenses £11-19-8d making a total £343-7-5d. There was an average of 80 pupils attending the school each day throughout that year.

Just to complete the picture, I have selected a few more entries from the Log Book that take us up to the final days of the New Road school. On the 19th April 1909, Miss Lily Howard took over as Head teacher within the school, replacing Miss Bryson who had been the Head Mistress since July 1897.

17th February 1911 – *‘the school was again closed for 3 weeks on account of measles’*.

6th November 1911 – the annual return to Education Office showed average attendance for the year was 82. The school was open on 391 occasions (twice per day). Total attendance was 32,003.

H.M. Inspector of Schools report for 1911 by Mr. John Reeve stated that *‘the school is conducted with a certain pleasing vivacity and improvement is being made in some directions although the general character of the work cannot yet be regarded as satisfactory. Organisation in a school of this type is not altogether easy and the present grouping of the two higher classes of Infants threatens to impair the progressiveness of the instruction of the older ones and to give, therefore, an imperfect foundation for the work of the Junior Section. No doubt the Head Mistress will take all the steps which the limitations of her staff permit, to minimise these disadvantages’*.

28th June 1912, the Head-Mistress, Miss Bryden was obviously very pleased to write in the log, *‘Have received notice from the Education Committee that I am appointed Head-teacher in the Infants’ Dept. of the new Carr Green Council School’*.

10th July 1912 – *‘a half day holiday was granted for the afternoon when the King visited Brighouse’*. The day following she wrote, *‘Owing to the King’s visit to Elland and Huddersfield today, there were less than 50% of scholars at the opening of the afternoon session’*.

1st August 1912 – *‘Closed school this day at noon for summer holidays. Will re-open on Aug 26th. Have removed to new school for the morning attendance. Staff:- L. Howard, Head Teacher, Miss N. Bottomley Cert., Miss G. Armitage, Uncert., Miss W. Gooder, Uncert.’*

The end of an era had been reached with the closure of the New Road School after sixty-one years of educating the young people from the ‘top end’ of Rastrick. The school had seen many changes from the days of children attending school if their parents so desired, to a change to compulsory education. The New Road school was never going to be fit for purpose without many more changes to the building and a new school was probably the only option open to the Education Committee, especially when they were dealing with Trustee’s at New Road, who had a history of being difficult to deal with and not willing to compromise in some matters. By building the new school at Carr Green, they became their

own masters and could deal with any future issues as they deemed necessary, without having to request permission for changes from others.

The building had a relatively short life as a school. It closed in 1977, being replaced with a more modern building just a short distance along Carr Green Lane, opposite the cemetery. It re-opened as a Care Home for the elderly and is still being used for that function today.

Coronation celebrations of Edward VII and George V

The year 1901 brought much grief and sadness to the country as a whole. On Tuesday the 22nd January, Queen Victoria passed away at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. She ascended to the throne in 1837, the same year as New Road Sunday School had opened and in the ensuing sixty-four years, many changes were seen by the population of not only Rastrick, but of the Empire over which she ruled. The majority of the nation had known no other monarch and those that had were certainly getting on in years.

The Passing Bell was tolled at St. Matthew's, Rastrick that evening and in Brighouse, the peals of the Parish Church bells were muffled. The Brighouse Echo of the 25th January was edged in black and thick black rules separated the columns.

At a Teachers meeting held on Sunday, the 27th January 1901, the secretary, John William Bottomley read a circular from the Sunday School Union, London, asking New Road to hold a memorial service on Sunday the 3rd February at the hour of 3 o'clock in memory of 'The Death of Our Beloved Queen'. It was moved that there be three special hymns and that 'a committee be appointed to select them and that the same be printed on neat cards'. Mr. John Thornton was also asked to give a special address about the life of the Queen. A national day of mourning was announced for Saturday the 2nd February 1901 and almost all the shops closed as a mark of respect. Even the public houses closed between 11am and 3pm. There were many suggestions for a lasting memorial to the Queen in both Brighouse and Rastrick but in the end, the only thing that was done was the Diamond Jubilee Library changed its name to the Victoria Free Library.

The Royal Proclamation of King Edward VII was going to be an occasion to remember and many Rastrick people walked to Brighouse to listen to it being announced in the borough market. The crowd estimates vary between five and ten thousand people present, but what a let down it proved to be. The Brighouse Echo reported that it was mis-managed and people saw very little and heard even less. The proclamation was read, the children sang the National Anthem and were then given a half day holiday and that was it. Four minutes after it started, the historic occasion was all over.

The Coronation of King Edward VII was set for the 26th June 1902. The Rev. Oscar Laurie of Brighouse Parish Church wrote to all the churches in the area, including New Road Sunday School. He asked them to send two representatives to a meeting in the council chambers where a treat for all the children in the Borough was to be discussed. John

William Bottomley and Luke Gooder were appointed, with instructions to say that if the event was to be held in Brighouse, then New Road would not join in. On the 19th May, they reported back to the teachers at New Road, stating that a united sing would take place in the Borough market followed by a procession around Brighouse. John William was instructed to write back and inform the Brighouse Committee that *'we are to take no part in your demonstration as we intend to have a separate one in the top part of Rastrick'*. A committee was then formed comprising of Messers. Em. Woffenden, L. Gooder, L. Woffenden, Joah Holdsworth, Henry Riley, John William Bottomley and Sam Bentley, to make all the necessary arrangements. That committee called themselves the Rastrick Coronation Committee and kept minutes of all their meetings. The minute book still survives at New Road Sunday School to this day and it gives a wonderful insight into how the people of that era organised themselves.

The opening pages of the book start off with:-

THE RASTRICK CORONATION COMMITTEE 1902

A meeting was held at New Road Sunday School on the Friday evening of the 23rd May 1902, when there were delegates present from New Road, Crowtrees and Rastrick Church Sunday and Day schools.

The following resolutions were unanimously carried:-

1. That we celebrate the Coronation of King Edward VII in the top part of Rastrick on Friday the 27th June.
2. Mr. H. Travis Clay was elected President.
3. Mr. Em. Woffenden was elected Vice-President.
4. Mr. W. G. Garthwaite was elected Treasurer.
5. Mr. J. W. Bottomley and Mr. W. Ramsden were elected Secretaries.
6. That coffee and buns be provided for all those having their names on the books of the above three Sunday or Day Schools.
7. That the Secretary and Vice- President wait upon the Rastrick C&A.C and ask them to allow us the use of their cricket field.
8. That the arrangement made with the Rastrick Orchestra Band be confirmed at a price not exceeding £4.
9. That we have a bonfire in connection with the celebration.
10. That the committee have power to add to their number.
11. That Dr. Carter be added to the committee.
12. That we have a United Sing in the cricket field and that the following four hymns be sung. viz. 'The Old Hundred; O God our help in ages past; Jesus shall reign where ere the sun and God save the King'.
13. That Mr. Louis Woffenden be the conductor.
14. That we advertise in three local papers.
15. That the next meeting be held on Wednesday night at 8 o'clock in Rastrick Church

School, May 28th.

And so the document goes on to describe how collections were to be made at the schools and also at the local mills and quarries. Rastrick Grammar School and a private school, headed by a Mr. Stansfield, were then invited to join in the celebration. By the meeting held on the 3rd June, the numbers of children on the books of the various schools had been submitted. New Road Sunday School had 300, Crowtrees 220, Rastrick Church 600, Mr. Stansfield 120, Rastrick Church Day School 44 and New Road Board School 16.

The secretary was then asked to procure samples and prices for Coronation Mugs and Medals and to enquire as to how many people over the age of 60 years there were in Rastrick, in order that some form of treat could be given to them.

It was decided that the bonfire would be lit on the Thursday evening at 10pm. A local firm, Messrs. Holmes and King donated thirty tons of old railway sleepers whilst Thornhill Estates donated twenty tons of wood. A grand bonfire was promised.

A schedule of the following day's events was discussed and it was decided that a procession of all the various schools should meet up at 1pm. The Rastrick Church contingent would set off and all the others would join in as their schools were passed on the way to the cricket field. This of course meant that New Road would be at the back but would have the least furthest to walk. On arrival the four hymns would be sung and as soon as that was over, a sports day would commence until 4-30pm when everyone would return to their various schools for coffee and buns.

The Co-op won the tender for two thousand, eight ounce buns at 10/6d per hundred and six hundred Coronation Mugs were bought at 2/11d per dozen. These would be given to all the children up to the age of thirteen.

By the 13th June, the subscriptions amounted to £99-15-0d and everything was going well. The hymn sheets were printed, stewards were arranged, all the bands and other entertainment had been organised. The mugs were delivered on time ready for distribution and all that the committee could now hope for was good weather. What they could never have envisaged was the untimely illness of the King and two days before the Coronation, it was apparent that it would have to be cancelled. A committee meeting was held on the 25th June, the day before the Coronation was to take place and the minutes state, 'That we record upon the minutes our deepest sympathy with the King in his serious illness and a fervent hope that he may be very soon restored to perfect health and strength'.

Everything still went ahead but there must have been some very disappointed men on that committee, after all the hard work, time and effort that had been put into the event. The Clifton Brass band played dance music until the President, Mr. Henry Travis Clay lit a

rocket at 10pm. This was the signal for Miss Gertrude Helm to light the bonfire. The fireworks went on for another hour and a crowd of three thousand people enjoyed themselves until after midnight.

The Sunday School children had their sing and sports day the day after, as planned, and all the old folks went to Mr. Clay's residence at Holly Bank House, Rastrick, where they enjoyed tea in the grounds. Pipes and tobacco were provided for those wishing to smoke.

The final meeting of the committee was on the 29th July where it was decided what to do with any of the extra mugs that were spare. These were given to the children at Longroyd School and of the money that was left over, £4 was given to the Huddersfield Infirmary, £4 to the Parish Nurse Fund and £2 to the St. John's Ambulance. The balance was given to the Rastrick Cricket & Athletic Club Pavilion Fund. King Edward was finally crowned on the 9th August 1902.

King Edward VII died unexpectedly after suffering from a heavy cold and bronchitis, on the 6th May 1910. He was buried on the 20th May which was declared by the new King, as a national day of mourning. The successor to the throne was Prince George Frederick Ernest Albert who became King George V and reigned along with his wife, Queen Mary.

The Proclamation of King George V was again read out in the Borough Market in Brighouse, as it had been in 1902 for the Proclamation of King Edward VII. The dignitaries learnt from their mistakes of eight years previous when all had not gone as expected. The ceremony was held at 1pm on Tuesday, 10th May 1910 and lasted fifteen minutes. There was a fanfare before the Proclamation was read after which the National Anthem was sung.

King George V was crowned on Thursday, 22nd June 1911. There were flags and bunting on almost every building in Brighouse town centre. Electricity was provided at a cheap rate by the Corporation Electricity Department and it was said that over one thousand five hundred 16-candle power lights were used in the illuminations, but once again, the people at the top-end of Rastrick chose to ignore the celebrations being held in Brighouse and organised their own, along comparable lines to the 1902 Coronation. A similar committee was set up to arrange the coronation celebrations only this time, Rastrick was well ahead of any of its local rivals as they made preparations for an Ox-roast at the Round Hill cricket field.

New Road, Crowtrees and Rastrick Church Sunday Schools sent delegates to a meeting in the Crowtrees schoolroom on Wednesday the 17th May 1911. Henry Travis Clay was again elected President and John William Bottomley was elected as Secretary. The Brighouse committee wrote to John William Bottomley, explaining that if the people of Rastrick preferred to hold their own celebration in the South Ward, then permission would be given for money to be available for refreshments and entertainment and it would be apportioned in accordance with the number of children concerned. Children under 15 years old would be

provided with coffee and bun free of charge, persons over that age would have to pay 2d. The procession would commence at St. John's Church, who also decided to join in the Rastrick celebrations rather than Brighthouse. They would walk to the Rastrick cricket field via Rastrick Church, Crowtrees Chapel and New Road Sunday School and the children from those schools would follow on as the procession passed.

Brass Bands and maypole dancing were some of the entertainment's on offer and when the committee learned that the maypole required new ribbons, they allowed 7/6d to be spent on new ones. One of the girls dancing around the maypole that day was a lady whom many of us remember with great affection. She was Miss Hilda Blackburn who, twenty-two years later married one of the New Road Sunday School stalwarts, Mr. Albert Bottomley.

A bonfire sub-committee was formed where it was also decided that an ox roast would take place and of course, a committee was formed for that as well. A sports day was organised for the children which would take place immediately after a massed sing. Each of the Sunday Schools had their particular place marked out where they had to stand for the sing.

The following companies and people promised wood for the bonfire:-

Messrs. Bentley & Kaye; Walshaw Drake & Co. Ltd; Mr. H. T. Clay of Holly Bank House; Mr. J. W. Clay of Rastrick House; Mr. Ramsden Jagger of Fixby; Mr. John Bottomley, Contractor; Mr. Thos. Bottomley, Railway Saw Mills; Mr. J. W. Miller, Rastrick Common, Messrs. Jos. Blakeborough & Sons; John Crowther & Co. Ltd; Marsden Murgatroyd; Bentley Smith and Thornhill Estates. The Brighthouse Corporation Gas Committee promised to provide tar to burn on the fire.

The final committee meeting was held just two days before the event when John William Bottomley informed those present that he had spoken to the Town Clerk to ask for money for fireworks and prizes at the sports day but they had refused because the Brighthouse Committee had already overspent their budget. As a result, collection boxes were put up in the three large Rastrick mill of J. T. Clay & Sons, Thos. Helm & Sons and John Smith & Sons and the necessary money was raised. Unlike the events of 1902, the Coronation went ahead as scheduled. The ox was slaughtered in Brighthouse after having many photographs taken, whereupon it was transported to Rastrick cricket field. Hundreds came to watch as it began to be roasted at 9 o'clock on the Wednesday evening, the day before the Coronation.

A steam traction engine turned the ox above two fires and a huge drip tin was placed below to catch the fat into which people dipped haver-cakes at 1d a time. The ox was cooked by 8 o'clock next morning and basted until 2pm. The first sandwich was made by Mrs. Jowett, the chairman of the Ladies Section of the ox-roasting committee. Three thousand sandwiches were made in total and it was reported that the poor ox was picked to the bone. The children had their games after the massed sing and at 10pm the bonfire was lit. The firework display then followed after which all of the crowd joined in with the National

Anthem.



The Brighouse Echo reported the matter under the heading and sub-headings :-

REVELS AT RASTRICK

THE OX-ROAST A GREAT SUCCESS,

PICKED TO THE BONES

ALL SPEND A HAPPY TIME.

The report starts with typical dramatic wording for that period, *'Within recollection and in the opinions of many Rastrick folks, never before has any event, no matter of how public a nature, been responsible for attracting such unanimous interest as the Coronation festivities that took place on Thursday; never have the people of the locality been roused to such a high pitch of enthusiasm and fervent loyalty; and never have such large crowds made any particular ground the object of their rendezvous as was the case at Round Hill, where the happy proceedings took place.*

All eyes seemed to be focused on the ground from the near, long and wide perspectives throughout Wednesday evening and Thursday, and during that period, all Rastrick, his wife, his children and his neighbours from all surrounding localities descended upon, or rather ascended unto Round Hill. But what was the magnetic attraction responsible for drawing these thousands to one particular place? Neighbouring districts had each and all celebrations and why should Rastrick be of such extra special interest to the outsider? There is no doubt that large concourses of people assembled at Round Hill simply and

solely to satisfy a natural curiosity respecting the much talked about ox-roasting, which, with all due respect and recognition for those responsible for the promotion of the other items on the day's programme, must be acknowledged by all to have been, by virtue of its quite unusual character, the most interesting of the whole celebrations.

The report goes on say that *'the ox was slaughtered in Brighthouse and brought to Round Hill and at 9 o'clock on Wednesday evening, Mr I. Newton of Idle commenced the anxious and arduous task of roasting the carcass. It was roasted over two warm fires and was turned by apparatus powered by a steam traction engine. Throughout Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, all roads led to Rastrick and disgorged their hundreds of curiously inclined people on to Round Hill.. While the carcass was turning around above the fires, a great amount of fat descended into the dripping tin and Mr Newton was never without companions to while away the gloomy hours, if such they appeared to him. A great deal of business was done by hawking havercakes soaked in the fat of the ox and Penny dips could not be supplied fast enough. The meat was finally drawn from the oven at 2pm and left to cool for an hour before the first slice was cut by Mrs Jowett, the President of the ladies Section of the Ox-roast Committee'. Many speeches then took place with patriotic references to the new King George and Queen Mary. Mrs. Jowett said that, 'she saw the animal in life and was more inclined to make a pet of it rather than help to eat it'. It is estimated that 3,000 sandwiches were made from the meat and little or nothing went to the dogs.*

Hymns were sung under the conductorship of Mr Louis Woffenden from New Road and games in the cricket field followed. It is interesting to note that Hilda Blackburn, whom I mentioned previously, having been involved in the maypole dancing, won the girls skipping race for 6 – 9 year olds. She neglected to tell me about that !

To complete the report on the Coronation, the Brighthouse Echo told of a sad tale involving the death of a young man on his way back from the festivities at Round Hill. The heading was as dramatic as the report upon the actual event:

DROWNED ON CORONATION DAY RASTRICK YOUNG MAN'S DEATH

'The Coronation celebrations at Rastrick were marred to a certain extent when the sad news of a tragedy spread round the district. The deceased was a well-known Rastrick young man named Ernest Ulrick of Walker Square, New Road. Ulrick, who was aged 22 years of age, was a woollen spinner and resided with his widowed mother at the above address. On Wednesday evening, the young man was in the cricket field watching the ox roasting and seemed in the best of health and spirits, enjoying himself with his friends. He left the cricket field in the early hours of the next morning and was last seen alive at 4-30am by Tennyson Holroyd, also of Walker Square. Ulrick was at that time under the influence of drink. About half past seven on Thursday forenoon, the deceased's coat, vest, cap and collar and tie

were found on the embankment of Badger Hill dam and William Keene, coachman at Lands House gave information to PC Whitehead, who dragged the dam and found the dead body of Ulrick in about 12 feet of water. The body was removed to the home of the deceased's mother to await an inquest'. And so ended the Coronation celebrations, albeit, on a rather sad note.

Chapter Six

Sporting connections

In the late 1800's and into the early 1900's, many churches and Sunday Schools formed clubs to encourage their male members to partake in sporting past-times such as football, cricket, tennis and billiards. A membership requirement of the clubs usually meant that a person had to attend services of worship in order to be considered for the team, which not only helped to swell the congregation but also gave the young men a sense of belonging to the church and resulted in many of them becoming involved in other church activities. Many of these clubs are still in existence throughout the local area though nationally, some of the church teams went on to even greater things. For example, in November 1879, St. Domingo's Catholic Church in Liverpool had a cricket team but wanted to form a football club in order that their young men had something to keep them occupied in the winter months. They played their first game against St. Peter's Church on a pitch in Stanley Park and went on to change their name to reflect the area they came from, namely Everton F.C. Earlier that same year, a man named Arthur Connell attended St Marks Church in Gorton, Manchester, an area where there was large unemployment. Connell set up a soup kitchen and a relief fund for the poor and in its first week over 1,500 gallons of soup and 1,000 loaves of bread together with 10 tons of coal had been distributed by Connell and his helpers. His daughter, Anna Connell believed that the creation of male clubs would improve community spirit and St. Mark's football team was born. They went on to greater things under their changed name, Manchester City F.C. Other famous clubs such as Aston Villa, Tottenham Hotspurs, Bolton Wanderers, Birmingham City and Southampton were all originally church teams before becoming professional football clubs.

THE TENNIS CLUB

New Road Sunday School also encouraged their members to become active in sport as many there believed that it was a formidable vehicle for aiding the character building of their young men and so it came about that they formed football, cricket, tennis, table tennis and billiard teams. It wasn't just the men either, as in 1931 New Road had a ladies cricket team and it was the ladies who were the founder members of a Tennis Club. The rear school yard had previously been the day school playground but for 14 years, it had not really been used for any useful purpose. When the Tennis Club was formed in 1926, the members asked the Trustees to loan them £60 to lay out the rear yard as a tennis court but this request was refused. The club had to use municipal courts and tried to raise the required amount to carry out the necessary work but found it too difficult and it consequently folded in 1934. Despite the closure, many of the former members continued to play tennis elsewhere and never gave up hope of re-forming the Sunday School tennis club at some point in the future.

It took twelve years from the initial request in 1926 before the club finally saved sufficient funds to have the yard surface levelled and in May 1938, a special Teacher's Meeting agreed to allow the Tennis Club to turn the yard into a tennis court. The opening of the court took place on Saturday 11th June 1938. The Brighthouse reported as follows:-

NEW ROAD TENNIS CLUB

After a lapse of four years the New Road Sunday School Tennis Club was restarted last Saturday. New netting has been installed and the court, which is in the school-yard, was in good condition for the opening ceremony which was performed by Mr & Mrs John Riley. In a short speech, Mr Riley expressed pleasure because interest in tennis had been revived. It had often occurred to him that a good plot of land was being wasted. The members would derive both enjoyment and health from the game. His wife and himself wished the new club every success. Tea was served in the school, about 90 attending. It is satisfying to say that whole proceedings were highly successful financially. There was a lightning ladies tournament. The winners were: Ladies singles



– Miss Winnie Clark.
Gentlemens singles – Mr Harold Walker; 2 Mr Kenneth Taylor.
The advertisement competition was won by Mrs Arnold Bottomley. Winners of the beetle drive were 1. Miss Doris Greenwood 2, Mr Charlie Horner

The following year, the club held the first of their annual gala's beside the court, in order to raise funds for the club. A request was approved to use the porch as a shelter in the advent of any wet weather. The club never went on to establish itself in a league as tennis was played purely for the enjoyment of the game and, as Mr Leslie Hargreaves once told me, "as a way to involve yourself with the ladies as mixed doubles was

very popular". Like many clubs, the 2nd World War years effectively put paid to any further development and whilst the court continued to be used on an ad-hoc basis, it was not really maintained correctly and soon fell into decline and the club folded for a second time, never to return. The photo above was taken in 1938 and shows Winnie Taylor (later Thornton) with her good friend, Doris Greenwood.

THE FOOTBALL TEAM

The first football club at New Road was formed in the 1880's and played friendly games



against other church teams from the district. The earliest team photograph dates from 1894 and shows the team somewhere near to the Carr Green area as Crowtrees Church can just be made out in the hazy background.

Very little else is known about them other than they didn't go on to achieve Premier League status unlike some of their contemporaries from that era. By the 1920's, the club was



playing in the Huddersfield and District Affiliated Sunday Schools Football League where they achieved their first success in the 1924-25 season by winning the Heaton Shield knock-out competition. This triumph was followed by

the ultimate achievement when they won the league in 1927-28.

In the years leading up to the 2nd World War, the football team were playing on a pitch that was situated on the land across from the Sunday School that led up towards the edge of the cricket field. This led to a request in 1939 to the Teachers Meeting for permission to use the porch and cellar as a changing room. Of course there wasn't the luxury of baths or showers and the players would sometimes have to wash off the excess mud in containers that had collected rain water before making their way home for a 'proper wash' or maybe even a

bath. In 1940, permission was given for the team to use the Main Hall of the Sunday School for training sessions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. It was during the early period of the war that the team moved started to play their home games at Carr Green Recreation Ground, close to where the club had originally played in the 1880's. They obtained



permission to use Crowtrees Church for their changing facilities but again there was still not the essential amenity of a bath. Mr Brian Taylor (pictured bottom right on this photo from 1948-49 season) tells me that he considered himself lucky as his girlfriend lived

on Slade Lane and her family had a bathroom in their house which contained a 'proper' fixed bath. Brian used to walk across the fields in what is now the Carr Green estate and partake of this extravagance whenever possible. Failing that, he went home and sat in the tin bath in front of the fire. No wonder he married Enid.

By this time, the club had moved up from the Sunday School League into the Huddersfield & District League. Harold Riley was the team manager and he also made all the travel arrangements for the team, ordering a coach to take them to certain away games where necessary. They started in the lowest section of the league, Division 5, but over the next few years they won promotions through to the 2nd Division. By the mid 1950's, many of the players were of an age where they were either married with young children or contemplating entering into such an institution and one by one, the team started to dwindle away until the appetite for playing football disappeared and the former players took more enjoyment from their new offspring before heading down to Leeds Road and watching Huddersfield Town. As the players disappeared, so too did the New Road Sunday School football team.

YOUNG MEN'S INSTITUTE

In October 1912, no doubt brought about by the dark nights setting in fast, the young men of the Sunday School requested to the teachers that they be allowed to have a 'Young Men's Institute'. A meeting was arranged to ascertain what they required to start up such a venture and the Institute was formed. The following October, the teachers were met with a request

from the secretary of the Institute for a permanent billiard table to be installed in the classroom used by the organisation. Permission was granted on the understanding that the Trustees would have the power to order its removal if any improper use was made of it.

The Young Men's Institute did not always get its own way with the Teachers of the Sunday School, an example of which can be seen in the minutes of the 14th January 1925 when a



request was refused for the use of a classroom for the erection of a table tennis table. The Young Men's Institute enjoyed many years of providing a social outlet for its members and the club reared some very useful billiard players who enjoyed great success in various Sunday School leagues throughout the Huddersfield district. In

1935, they successfully applied to the Teachers Meeting to be allowed to permit members from the age of 15 years.

At the height of its popularity, the Institute was a place where likeminded young men could get together and enjoy the social amenities that the Institute offered. Many debates will have taken place over a game of cards, dominoes or billiards on subjects that were close to the hearts of the members, namely Yorkshire County Cricket Club, Huddersfield Town and the state of the national teams in both sports. No doubt many Sunday School issues were decided upon before the matters were officially raised at Teachers or Trustees meetings. I can only recall the Institute meeting on Friday evenings when it was fashionable for men of a certain age to smoke either cigarettes or a pipe. The colour of the air under the billiard table lights was a hazy blue that lingered for most of the night, despite the best efforts of the extractor fans in the ceiling. Uncle Albert Bottomley would sit in a tweed three piece suit with a cigarette lit in the corner of his mouth. It was rarely removed from the time it was lit to the time it started to become too hot to keep in his mouth. As he spoke, the cigarette was stuck to his bottom lip and used to dance about as his words were being spoken until the curling length of ash that was defying gravity, eventually dropped onto his trousers or down his waistcoat. He would simply brush it onto the floor and continue as though nothing had happened. In those days, there was a cabinet that sold pop and crisps and chocolate in the Young Ladies Room next door but in the early days, when the entrance door was in the corner of the room which led into the school yard and outside toilets, there was a cabinet near to the door from which cigarettes could be purchased. Later, licences were required to

sell tobacco products which put paid to that venture. The Institute members still meet on Friday evenings.

THE CRICKET CLUB

There has been a cricket club at Rastrick since at least 1860 when the forerunner to the present Rastrick Cricket Club first played at Grantham on Dewsbury Road before moving to their present iconic ground. In those early days, cricket was very much a game for the gamblers and huge wagers were placed on certain games. A Rastrick vs Brighouse game was always a massive attraction for the gambling fraternity and huge crowds would attend to watch such matches. One such game took place in 1878 on the same day that the Australian Touring Team played against an Elland team consisting of 18 players. One would think that the Australians, with such famous players as Bannerman, Murdock, Bruce and Spofforth would have been a great attraction for the locals but the crowd at Rastrick was near to 5,000 whilst only 2,500 were present at Elland. This gives you some idea as to the esteem in which the game of cricket was held in Rastrick.

It goes without saying that New Road Sunday School would have a team before long. The earliest records of a cricket club at New Road date back to the 2nd October 1885 when 2s 3d (11½p) was spent on a Secretary's book, a Treasurers book and postage stamps. On the 26th October, 'cricket material' was purchased at a further cost of £2 10s (£2.50) and on the 10th April 1886, the club purchased the following articles:-

- two bats from Mr L. Dyson - £1
- three cricket balls - 10s 6d (52½p)
- a further ball - 5s 6d (27½p)
- two pairs of batting gloves - 7s 0d (35p)
- one pair of stumping gloves - 6s 0d (30p)
- one pair of leg guards - 8s 0d (40p) and
- one set of bails - 8d (3p).

Presumably the first game took place the following month though no record exists of where it took place. The cricket ground at what is known as Badger Hill is still in existence today on land owned by Thornhill Estates at the rear of the Sun Inn public house situated on the corner of New Hey Road and Dewsbury Road. The land was originally used for stone quarrying, an industry that has been resurrected in recent years in adjoining fields, much to the consternation of local residents. This past activity left the land with a distinct slope, which wasn't at all ideal for creating a cricket pitch but over a century of loving and care and attention by dedicated players and officials, together with an attempt in the 1970's to ease the gradient, has resulted in the current pitch that we can see today.

The earliest minute book still in existence is from 1896 where it appears that a vote was

taken each year as to whether to continue with the club. On the 6th August 1896, it was passed unanimously that, 'we again have a cricket club in connection with the school'. This practice appears to have been discontinued in 1900 when it was accepted without a vote that the club would continue.

Prior to the commencement of the 1902 season, it was passed at a meeting held on the 17th March that a stone roller should be purchased from Mr Hodgson of Elland Upper Edge for 3 guineas, which including delivery to the field. That same heavy roller is still at Badger Hill to this date and has been pushed and pulled up and down the Badger Hill wicket on thousands of occasions. It was amazing how some players managed to mysteriously vanish when the captain called for the heavy roller between innings. It is at least a six man job to manhandle. The roller was a magnet for us as young children and made a great see-saw but the steel frame was very heavy and would smash into the ground at a great velocity if the equilibrium was imbalanced. You could easily sit four people at each end but at the first sign of the clanging of steel meeting terra firma, my grandfather Arnold Bottomley or his brother Albert, would appear from nowhere as if like magic and spoil our fun.

The roller must have flattened the uneven wicket and given an advantage to the New Road

The following table shows the position of the various Clubs at the close of 1904:—

FIRST DIVISION.					
	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Pts.
*Almondbury Zion	18	13	4	1	27
*Rastrick New Road	18	13	4	1	27
Berry Brow Salem	18	12	5	1	25
Moldgreen U.M.F.C.	18	9	8	1	19
Hillhouse Free Wesleyans	18	8	8	2	18
Woodhouse Church	18	8	8	2	18
Cowliffe Church	18	7	9	2	16
Lockwood Rehoboth	18	4	11	3	11
Queen Street Wesleyans...	18	5	12	1	11
Sheepridge Providence ...	18	3	13	2	8
* Tie. In the deciding match Almondbury won.					
SECOND DIVISION.					
Moldgreen U.M.F.C.	18	16	1	1	33
Woodhouse Church	18	12	5	1	25
Rastrick New Road.....	18	9	7	2	20
Lockwood Rehoboth	18	9	8	1	19
Cowliffe Church	18	8	9	1	17
Sheepridge Providence ...	18	8	9	1	17
Berry Brow Salem	18	7	10	1	15
†Almondbury Zion	18	7	9	2	14
Queen Street Wesleyans...	18	5	12	1	11
Hillhouse Free Wesleyans	18	3	14	1	7

team as that season, the club won their first league title when they were champions of the Sheepridge and District League. One of the clubs Vice-Presidents and former Secretary, Mr Edgar Holdsworth, gave an account of the past 50 years to an Annual General Meeting in 1948. The notes used during his speech were recently unearthed in an old box of cricketing paraphernalia in a cupboard at the Sunday School. They are hand written on a few pages of flimsy lined paper but their content is very interesting

indeed. He recalls that 1902 season by saying, "well do I remember that success for at the end of the season we played the rest (a team made up of players from all the other clubs) at Woodhouse Church followed by tea in the Sheepridge Providence School and the presentation of medals in Woodhouse Church School".

An excerpt from the 1905 Sheepridge & District League Rule Book shows that New Road were joint leaders at the end of the 1904 season but lost the championship decider against Almondbury Zion. The league table also shows that New Road were playing with a Second XI at that time.



The above photograph shows the members of the 1904 New Road team that came so close to winning their first honours. The persons on the photograph are from L – R :-

Back Row – John Henry Ramsden, Sam Bentley, Willie Coward, John Woffenden, Fred Smith, John Wm. Bottomley, Henry Riley, Percy Micklethwaite and the umpire, Wilson Proctor.

Centre Row – Willie Micklethwaite, Arthur Smith, Willie Smith, Frank Gedhill and Jim Ramsden (possibly Jim Woffenden)

Front Row – H. Smith, Fred Wilson and William Holdsworth.

The club remained in this league for about 10 years and Edgar Holdsworth's manuscript continues, *'other clubs left the league to join other leagues so there was not enough left so we had to look around for other fixtures. Then on October 23rd 1911, we made an application to the Huddersfield Junior League for admission and (wet night) were accepted. For five seasons we enjoyed really pleasant and vey enjoyable cricket, no honours were won though I well remember the end of season 1915, the last match of the season, we had to meet Oakes Baptists away, two points below them; if we could win then it would mean a play off. We batted first and scored 65 or 69 then we had nine Oakes back in the pavilion for about 40 then one of our players missed a sitter and our long field being too keen, had closed in and the catch that ought to have been straight at him was just over his head and the end was we lost, but our Oakes friends gave us a jolly good tea down at the school'*.



The report goes on to say that, *'in World War One, more clubs had to close down and to try to keep going we were invited in early 1917 to join the Huddersfield & District Cricket Association, the Junior and Alliance Leagues now closing down. For 30 years our club teams have been playing in that league; Honours won, well from memory, our name is on the Lumb Cup more times than any other club. Five times winners and one joint holders. League records, well, I have not looked them up, I believe we are the only club who has ever won all four Association trophies in one season, namely 1937. Now during its past 50 years I think another record is worthy of mention and that is that during all that time we have only had two Presidents, Mr J. Thornton, elected at that first meeting in 1896 and stood for well over 30 years. Then, our present*

President, Mr Reeve has just about completed 18 years for it was on March 27th 1930 that he was elected to the position, but I would like to say that like most of us have, he had to pay as reserve for he had been Vice-President for 3 years, so it really is our Presidents 21st birthday. Of course, there is just one sad side to my looking back 50 years and that is that 43 clubs who we had fixtures with at one time or another have all ceased to exist, while we still go on. Now, in conclusion, two of my most enjoyable years in connection with the club were in 1945 when F. Bottomley (Frank) as captain, beat Almondbury Wesleyans with a team of age and youth, whose biggest asset, and what went most of the way to winning, was Team Spirit. Then, last season, when we had arrived at that stage when we had tea in the field, and besides having cricket, we could have a picnic tea every week. Now, as I am about playing my last innings, except as a looker on, I have just one thing to say to you players. Don't think in a club like ours that it's all batting, bowling and fielding. There's a lot of voluntary work to be done, don't be afraid to give a helping hand. Service in any way will get its own reward so I will wish all you players an enjoyable and pleasant season to come'.

The first success in the above mentioned Lumb Cup competition came in 1923 when New Road played and defeated Honley Wesleyan at Oakes Baptists ground. New Road batted first and made 156 all out but wet on to bowl Honley out for 145, winning by 11 runs. The newspaper report of the game read as follows:

LUMB CUP FINAL

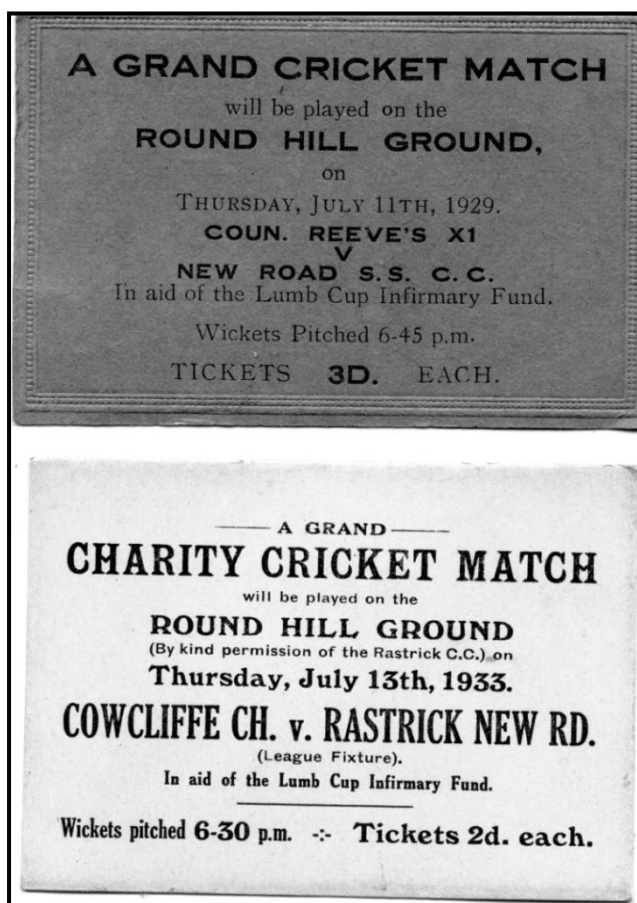
RASTRICK NEW ROAD v HONLEY WESLEYANS

This event took place on the ground of the Oakes Baptist Club before a good attendance. Rastrick won the toss and good innings were played by H. Wood, R. Firth, H. Gooder and H. Whiteley but the best came when N. Wood and Albert Bottomley got together for the last wicket. Both men played the punishing game and 17 was put on before the innings

closed. G. Oldfield captured 5 wickets for 52 and was the mainstay of the Honley attack. Honley made good progress after the fall of the first two wickets thanks to a good innings by S. Beaumont (36) and N. Lockwood, W. Armitage and R. Waddington but the tail failed to wag as the Rastrick tail had done and Rastrick won a fine game by 11 runs.

Fund raising in those early days consisted of a Minstrel Performance at the Sunday School in 1906 and an At Homes over the Tuesday and Wednesday of the 31st December 1907 and 1st January 1908 with the Rastrick Orchestral Band. On a cricketing note, the famous England opening batsman, Jack Hobbs made his international debut on the latter date at the

Melbourne Cricket Ground against Australia. He went on to make over 61,000 first class runs in the ensuing 22 years and is still the highest run scorer in first class cricket history in the world. It was down to players such as Hobbs on the international scene and the fact that Yorkshire County Cricket Club had been so successful in the late 1890's and early 1900's (Yorkshire lost only two games between 1900 and 1902, both to Somerset) with players such as Wilfred Rhodes and George Hirst, who no doubt inspired the young men of New Road. Members of the club paid their subscriptions at the start of the season and were issued with a laminated membership card. The colour was changed every year in order that the gateman could easily identify a current card and allow free ground access to the owner.



In addition to the normal league games, the club also found time to raise money for various charities. During the 1st World War, games were played in order to raise money for the Soldiers Comfort Fund. This was something dear to their hearts as many of their colleagues had been called away on active service during the war and were enduring the full horrors of the trench warfare. Other fundraising money went towards the Infirmary Fund, which was so important to working class people prior to the inception of the National Health Service. These games were played during the evening at the height of summer, making best use of the good light conditions at that time of the year. These games were usually played at Round Hill, the home of Rastrick Cricket Club.

Following the clubs first major success in 1923 when they won the Lumb Cup, the team secured their first Section A championship two years later. They went on to become one of

the most successful clubs in the history of the Huddersfield Association League winning the Section A championship on twenty-one occasions and the Lumb Cup on eighteen times. The Second XI also achieved many successes over the years and a full list honours are shown below.

Section A Champions

1925, 1931, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1954, 1956, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1970, 1974, 1977

Section B Champions

1979, 1980, 1985

Section C Winners

1926, 1936, 1937, 1956, 1957, 1979, 1972, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1984

Lumb Cup Winners

1923, 1926, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1945, 1948, 1951, 1955, 1959, 1960, 1962, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1975, 1977, 1983

2nd XI Crossland Trophy Winners

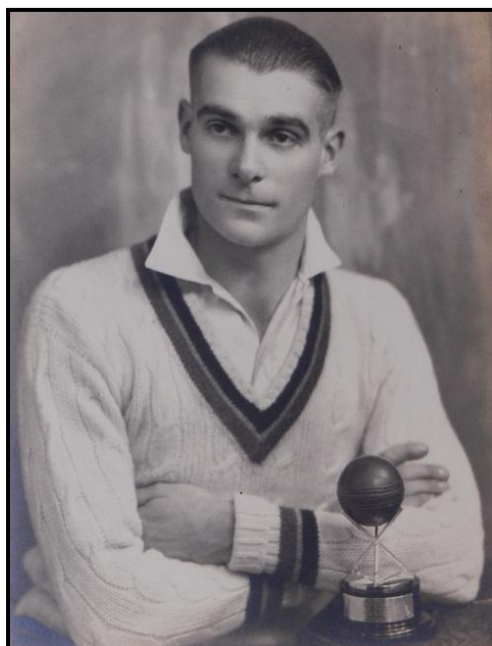
1950, 1956, 1958, 1961, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1988

Armitage Shield Winners

1937, 1961

Sharpe Trophy Winners

1965, 1969, 1976, 1982, 1985



Opposition players had, from time to time, their own fair share of successes against New Road, one particular outstanding feat occurred on the 6th May 1939 when the New Road 1st XI were playing against the British Dyestuffs Company in an Association League game. One of the opposition bowlers, W. A. Green clean bowled six batsmen in one over and went on to finish with figures of 10 for 29 at the end of the innings. The ball was subsequently mounted on an ebony plinth between three silver wickets and presented to Green. The New Road team still had the last laugh as, by some miracle, they went on to win the game.

Some former players were asked about their most memorable moments from matches in by-gone days. The responses included:-

Tom Eccles – “I was playing in the second team in the 1950’s and we were away to the YMCA at Salendine Nook. They batted first and Albert Bottomley was bowling off breaks at one end whilst I was positioned at first slip. One of their players was run out whilst the other nine were all caught Eccles bowled Bottomley. I think they were all out for less than ten and the game was over very quickly”.

Wilfred Bottomley – “I came home on leave during the war, played in just one game for New Road all season and got a hundred”. This was confirmed when Wilf and I looked in the 1943 scorebook and found that not only did he get 100 not out, but also took six wickets. “I’d forgotten about that”, he said.

Brian Whiteley – “If memory serves me right, it was the late 1950’s. I was secretary at the time and to put it mildly, we had got tired of pushing and pulling the mowing machine to cut the wicket so the members decided to arrange a mock wedding to raise £50 to buy a motorised machine. Wedding presents were bought by members which were later sold off. Norman Singleton and Charlie Horner were the Bride and Groom and our President, Mr Arthur Reeve was the minister. Needless to say, we raised the cash and photographs will still be around to record the wedding”.



Brian goes on to say that, “whilst I was captain of the 2nd XI, after bowling Winston Samuda uphill on quite a warm day, Malcolm Keene said to, “tha’s bowled him till he’s black int’ face”, needless to say, Winston is a coloured gentleman. It made me laugh and Winston saw the funny side too”.

Tony Edley – “My story also involves Winston Samuda in the days when cup games were often played mid-week during the evening. Games could go on for two or three nights so it was important to get in as much play as you could before it started to become dark. We were playing down at Leeds Road Playing Fields and Winston was bowling when one of their batsmen appealed against the light on the grounds that he couldn't see Winston's arm coming over against the darkening sky. The umpire was reluctant to come back again the night after and told Winston to roll down the sleeves of his white shirt so that the batsman could see his arm. We were in absolute stitches but it worked.

Harold Keene (as told by his wife Dora) – “Harold once took all ten wickets in a match whilst bowling for New Road. That summer, the Australians had been touring and had won the Ashes. The President of the New Road Cricket Club, Arthur Reeve, was fairly well connected and went to the Scarborough Cricket Festival where the Australians were playing. He knew the famous Australian batsman, Don Bradman who was bragging a bit about his team's achievements. Arthur told him that they had done nothing compared to one of the players from his team, going on to tell Bradman about Harold's ten wickets. They are only a Sunday School team but it is still quite an achievement, said Arthur. The maestro was obviously impressed as when Mr Reeve was ready for leaving later that day, Bradman presented him with a book that he had just had published and had got all the Australian squad to sign it. Give this to your bowler, he told Mr Reeve, which he promptly did upon his return to Rastrick. Harold treasured that book but later on, he lent it out to a friend. When he asked for it back, the friend had lent it to another friend who said that he had also lent it out. No-one owned up to having the book and we never saw it again. I was so mad last week because a similar book was on the TV programme 'Flog It' and it raised £900 at auction.

Prior to the 1976 cricket season commencing, the Club wrote to the Trustees asking for permission to play one match in that forthcoming season on a Sunday. The Trustees were unanimous in their decision not to allow it and notified the Cricket Club accordingly. Two years later, the President of the Huddersfield Association League, Mr John Harold wrote to the Trustees and asked for a meeting with them. He attended along with the secretary of the visit was that in the event of either the first or second teams reaching the finals of the knock-out competition, ie. Lumb Cup or Crossland Trophy, permission was sought from the league and Mr Trevor Clayton, a representative from the Cricket Club. The object of the Trustees to allow the games to be played on a Sunday. It was pointed out to the officials that it was the Sunday School anniversary on the second Sunday in July and should permission be granted, they would not allow the teams to play on that day. The league agreed to this and following much discussion, the matter was approved by 6 votes to 3 with 1 abstention.

In 1985, the matter was again discussed by the Trustees when Mr Trevor Bottomley made a verbal application to play cup ties on Sundays. Various reasons were put forward including

verbal abuse and snide remarks that were being made to New Road Cricket Club representatives at Association League meetings. Although no decision was reached at the meeting on the 24th September, the possibility of the club going independent from the Sunday School was muted and when the matter was eventually voted upon on the 16th October, it was carried by 10 votes to 1 that the application to play on Sundays be yet again refused. On the 1st September 1987, the Trustees received a letter from the Cricket Club which stated that, 'due to the pressure from both league and players to play all cup ties on Sundays to avoid night matches and the need to use the means of raising money which are not acceptable to some Sunday School members, we suggest the Club be re-named The Rastrick New Road Cricket Club'. The Trustees decided that the term New Road was synonymous with, and specifically refers to New Road Sunday School and therefore cannot be used by any other group or organisation. Other requests such as the transfer of cash, equipment and pavilion were accepted on the understanding that should the Club fold within 5 years, all monies would revert back to the Sunday School.

The new management named the club after the ground, Badger Hill and are their two teams are currently enjoying success in the Huddersfield Central League. Recent efforts to bid for lottery funding to replace the pavilion which was burnt down by vandals in 2002, failed when the land owners, Thornhill Estates, refused to allow the club a ten year lease on the ground which is one of the application rules. Many now suspect that the historic cricket pitch will be subject to a planning application for housing and the club would struggle to continue if that was the case.



New Road 1st XI – 1951



Rain stopped play – Arnold, Wilfred, Trevor and Donald Bottomley along with Brian Taylor while their time away playing cards whilst waiting for the rain to stop.



1st XI 1970

Chapter Seven

The Band of Hope

The history books tell us that the Band of Hope was formed in 1847 and was designed to teach children the importance and principles of sobriety and teetotalism. It all came about following a visit to Leeds by an Irish Presbyterian lady called Ann Jane Carlile. She had been invited to speak at a number of children's meetings and she was convinced that many children were suffering as a result of their parents and others, partaking of 'strong drink'. Ann met a young Baptist minister by the name of Jabez Tunncliffe who had been deeply moved by the death of an alcoholic who he had befriended as part of his pastoral duties. Just before the man died, he gripped Tunncliffe and made him promise to warn the children of the dangers of alcohol. Tunncliffe and Carlile realised that they had a common interest and attended at children's meetings around the country. Carlile is supposed to have said, "what a happy band these children make, they are the hope for the future". These words were dissected and the Band of Hope was formed in London in 1855. Religious leaders throughout the country saw this as an opportunity to incorporate the teachings of the Band of Hope with their own beliefs and values within their churches and chapels and saw this as a way of providing activities for children that encouraged them to avoid not only alcohol problems but also to include Christian teachings. Within 50 years, Queen Victoria was the patron of the movement and there were over three million members throughout the country.

Temperance was widely debated in the newspapers of the time and they thrived on sensational stories that would create great debate. These stories were widely used by the Band of Hope teachers to get the message across of how the evil drink could bring about great misery in the family home. One such story was reported upon in the Brighthouse News dated 4th March 1871. Although it had nothing to do with Brighthouse, the editor thought it worthy of inclusion within his publication, which read, *'On Saturday at midnight, a butcher was proceeding through the streets of Leicester in a state of intoxication when, being jeered at by some boys, pulled out a clasp knife and stabbed a young man in the breast, so severely that he died shortly afterwards. He then inflicted seven wounds, three dangerous ones upon a woman and three men.- Remark - the man was incited to this tragedy by poisonous drink, the sale of which, as a common beverage, the law sanctions. Further, it practically permits drunkenness by failing to punish the criminals who make men drunk and by allowing intoxicated victims to reel through the streets, a danger to themselves and a terror to others. When all the mischief has been done, the law steps in with its iron hand, takes the life of the drink made monster or deprives him of his personal liberty, but does not stop the cause nor punish the other party to the crime - the drink seller. And so this machinery of destruction thrives on the blood of the people. They have to pay for it in*

pocket and in kind. It is of no consequence to society that the murderer is hung if the cause is left unchecked, untouched. It is the part of a wise government to prohibit these public temptations to crime and to restrain immoral tendencies’.

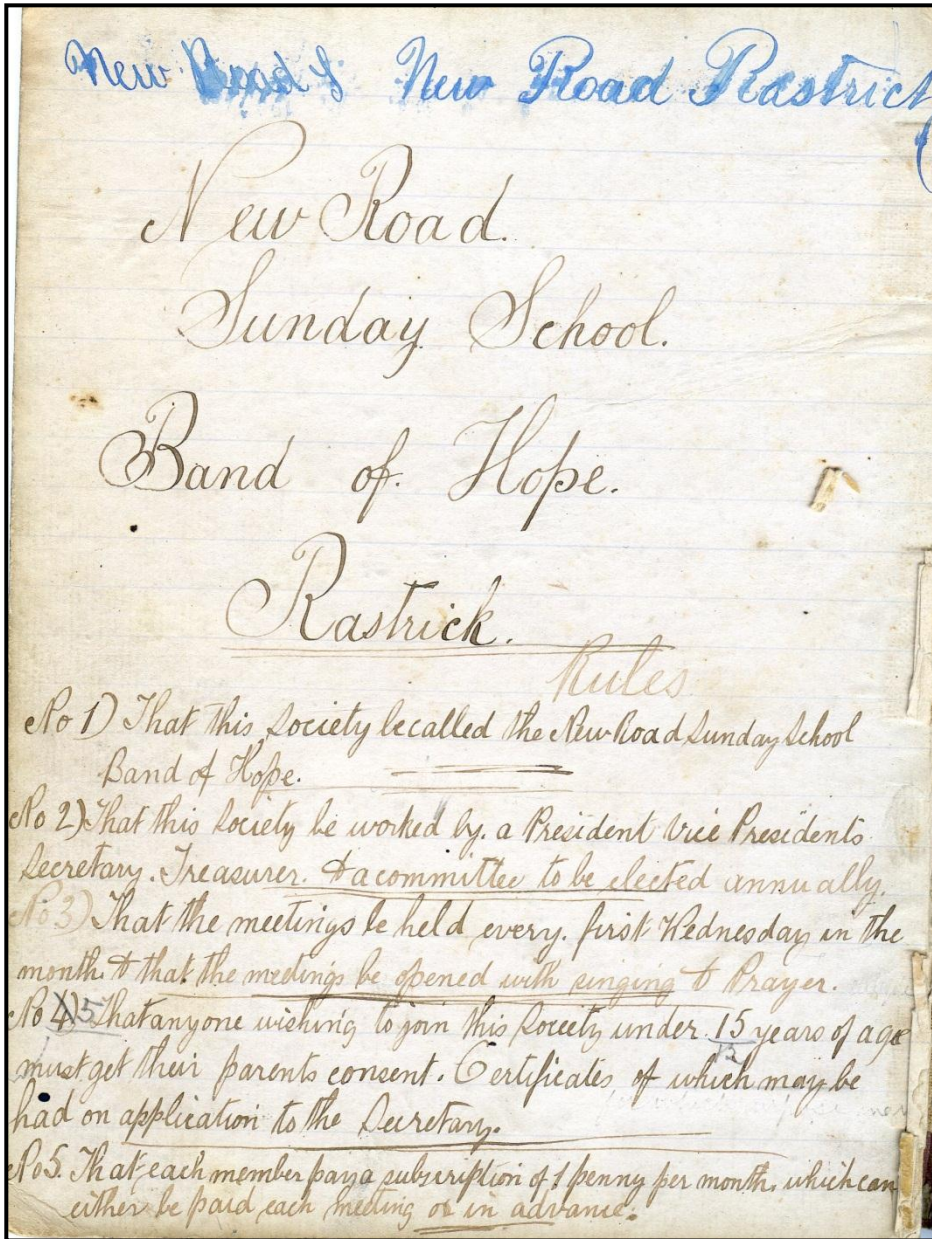
This type of story was manna from heaven for the Band of Hope teachers and would have gone a long way towards helping to recruit new members to the movement.

Previous history books will tell us that the Band of Hope was formed at New Road Sunday School in 1882 and indeed, the centenary was celebrated in grand style 100 years later, in 1982. The President of the movement at that time was Mr Norman Riley, who had worked tirelessly for most of his life to make the organisation a success. Norman always said that if he converted just one person away from the dangers of alcohol, then his work would have been worthwhile. He was echoing sentiments that were recorded in the minute book of those early years where the annual report for 1885 concluded by saying, *‘may it please God that we may all strive to work even harder in the future than we have done in the past and by doing so may we be the means of saving many from a drunkards grave and of changing many homes that are now wretched and miserable into homes filled with sunshine and happiness and as time rolls pleasantly on, if we can save only one from becoming a drunkard, is it not worth all our united efforts to save that one and may it be a deed for which we will be amply rewarded in the future’.*

To put the record straight, the Band of Hope was originally formed at New Road in 1870 and had 217 members but it closed down within four or five years, though the exact date is not known. I have come across several mentions of it when looking through old copies of the Brighouse News, the earliest example being in the edition dated the 22nd June 1872 where it was reported thus:- *NEW ROAD SCHOOL BAND OF HOPE, RASTRICK. – This newly formed Band of Hope held its weekly meeting on Monday evening last, when addresses were delivered by Messrs T. Metcalfe and J. Jackman. There was a good attendance. The society bids fair to become one of the most successful in the district’.*

Despite the early successes of the organisation and the optimistic view of the local newspaper reporter, the New Road Band of Hope quickly started to fall into decline, an example of which can be seen in the 10th May 1873 edition of the Brighouse News which reports:- *‘the usual weekly meeting was held in the schoolroom with Mr. John Thornton presiding. There was a moderate attendance of children and the meeting was commenced by singing and a prayer after which an interesting address was given by the chairman’.* Within the space of eleven months, the attendance had fallen from good to moderate but the Band of Hope committee continued to supply the newspaper with details of their meetings as the following week a very similar report added that *‘four pledges had been received from children with permission of their parents’.* However, two weeks after that, it was announced in the newspaper that *‘the weekly meetings will henceforth become fortnightly meetings and will commence at 8-00pm until 9-00pm instead of the previous start time of 7-30pm’.*

Halving the number of meetings and reducing the meeting time by half an hour signalled the beginning of the end for the original Band of Hope? So why did an organisation that was part of a flourishing Sunday School and had started with 217 members, fall rapidly into decline within such a short period? One suggestion was made many years later in 1932 when Mr Luke Gooder mentioned in a speech at the Golden Jubilee celebrations that he had joined the Band of Hope at New Road in 1870 but it lasted only a short time because people



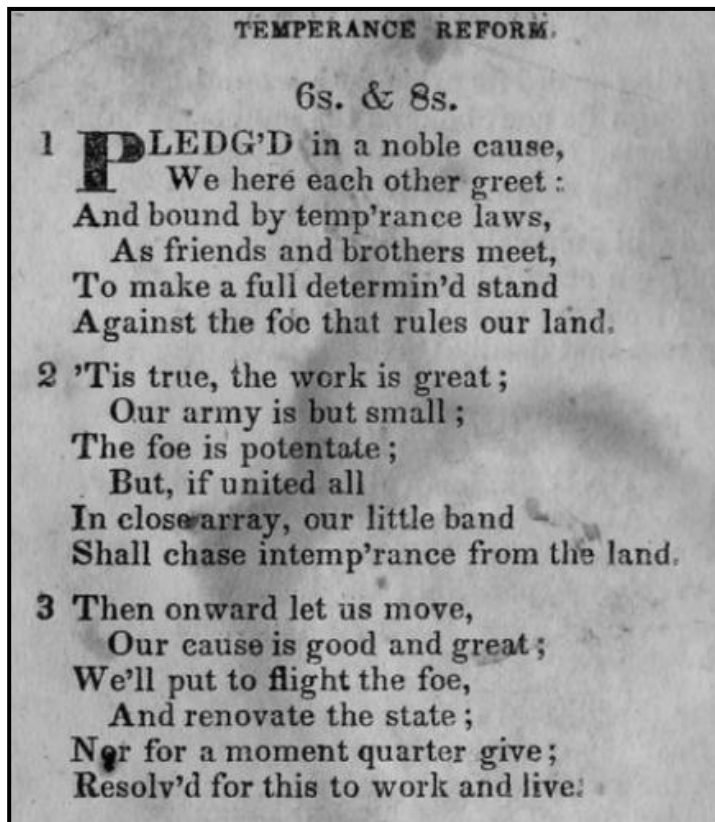
at that time believed that they could not live without beer.

What is certain, however, is that the Band of Hope was successfully resurrected a few years after its original demise and survived well past its centenary year. This came about when a meeting of teachers and scholars was held in the schoolroom on the 30th October 1882, where it was unanimously carried that a Band of Hope be formed. Joah Holdsworth was elected chairman, John Thornton was made secretary, Henry

Riley, treasurer and John William Bottomley, secretary of the committee. It was decided at that first meeting that it was the Sunday School Band of Hope and would be worked independently of the National Union. The meetings were held every first Wednesday in the month and opened with a hymn and a prayer. The subscriptions were set at 1d per month (5p per annum) and the meeting took the format of an address by a guest speaker along with recitations, readings and dialogues and of course, the singing of a few popular hymns of the time. Many of the guest speakers would walk several miles to give their talks but none were paid in either money or kind, nor would any of them have ever expected payment of any kind. Members were encouraged to sign 'The Pledge' which was an affirmation that they would abstain from alcoholic drink throughout their lives. Many kept their pledge whilst

others did not, but of those who faltered, they would always be able to take away the knowledge and guidance that had been offered to them whilst attending the meetings at New Road.

In addition to the speakers at the meetings, Gospel Temperance Services were held from



time to time and on other occasions, magic lantern shows and 'scientific experiments' were also produced in an attempt to captivate the audience and keep interest alive. An example of the popular songs that were sung at meetings can be found in the minutes of the first Annual General Meeting held in 1883, where it was decided that the rousing melodies would comprise of now long forgotten favourites such as, Pledged in a Noble Cause, Sign Tonight (an obvious reference to the Pledge), Rescue the Perishing and Merrily the Time Glides By.

The highlight in the calendar was the Annual Picnic, which for many was the only holiday that they had during the year. This was held from 1883 when those participating walked both to and from Armitage Gardens at Spring Grove, Bradley though the younger children were brought back to Brighthouse from Cooper Bridge on the train. The following year, the Annual report for 1884 informs us that, '*the Annual Picnic in connection with the Band of Hope took place on Saturday June 21st when about 140 of the members were conveyed in waggonettes to Harden Moss, Holmfirth leaving the school at 1.30 and returning from Holmfirth at 7 o'clock, reaching home about 9.15. Tea was provided at Holmfirth for the members at a cost of 1d*'.

The committee got more adventurous in 1885 and sent two members out to report upon the suitability of two potential locations. Coxley Valley at Horbury was chosen and negotiations took place with the railway company regarding the cost. On the appointed day, 140 adults and 80 children walked down from New Road to the Brighthouse railway station accompanied by the Rastrick Church Temperance Drum and Fife Band. Can you imagine the sight as the men, women and children, all no doubt dressed in their best clothes, snaked their way through Crowtrees, down past the church and along Rastrick Common and Gooder Lane, accompanied by the sound of a marching band. No doubt the local residents came out of their houses to witness the spectacle which was probably the best advertisement for the movement that they could have mustered. Many people would have decided that

they too wanted to be a part of it the following year as by 1889, no less than 378 people went on the trip to Slaithwaite Spa Gardens, this time accompanied to the station by the Upper Edge Brass Band.

And so the popular outings continued unabated (except for the 2nd World War years) until 1970, when, after 83 trips, the appetite for such events had dwindled so much that it was no longer viable to continue, however, there was supposed to be one last trip to celebrate the centenary in 1982. This went to Southport and Knowsley Safari Park and due to the success of the outing, the Band of Hope trip was resurrected once again but only for a short time. Following an excursion to Blackpool in 1994 where a loss of £103 was recorded as the coach was little more half full, it was decided once again to cancel any future trips.

There were some interesting happenings as can be seen on the full list of trips below. I have transcribed the majority of list which was originally created by Mr Norman Riley for his centenary brochure of 1982 but have added further trips to his list after that date.

1883 Armitage Gardens, Spring Grove, Bradley	Walked both ways but little children came home via train from Cooper Bridge station
1884 Harden Moss, Holmfirth	
1885, Coxley Valley, Horbury	
1886 Wolfstone Gardens, Holmfirth	250 were accompanied to the station by the Rastrick Church Temperance Drum and Fife Band
1887 Howley Ruins, Batley	300 were accompanied to the station by the Rastrick Church Temperance Drum and Fife Band
1888 Coxley Valley, Horbury	Accompanied to station by Elland Upper Edge Brass Band
1889 Slaithwaite Spa Gardens	378 accompanied to station by Elland Upper Edge Brass Band
1890 Howley Ruins, Batley	As above, Band cost 30/-
1891 Slaithwaite Spa Gardens	This had to be delayed for two weeks
1892 Rippoden Pleasure Gardens	
1893 Water Scout Pleasure Resort	300 by train to Holmfield
1894 Fearnought Gardens, Thongsbridge	Rail fare 11d and 5½d. The gardens had to reduce the entrance price from 3½d to 3d before the Band of Hope would go.
1895 Hope Bank Pleasure Grounds, Honley	
1896 Water Scout Pleasure Resort	
1897 Beaumont Park, Huddersfield	200 by special train to Lockwood

1898 Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury	
1899 Shelf Hall Pleasure Grounds	By waggons and waggonettes; lost £1 on the day so a Field Day was held to defray the loss
1900 Pleasant Pastures, Scammonden	
1901 Pleasant Pastures, Scammonden	After looking at Farnley Tyas, Hope Bank and Norland Moor
1902 Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury	Tea's 4½d each, fares 1/- and 6d
1903 Pleasant Pastures, Scammonden	After trying Greetland Moor. Tea, sugar and milk 2d each person
1904 Beaumont Park, Huddersfield	Went by train as waggons from Mr. Wadsworth of Elland were too expensive. Frank Hargreaves engaged to carry the food
1905 West View Park, Halifax	
1906 Ogden, Halifax	
1907 Coxley Valley, Horbury	Rained heavily
1908 Stamford Park, Stalybridge	
1909 Manningham Park, Bradford	200 by train from Clifton Road station, then by special train
1910 Saltaire Park, Shipley	
1911 Stamford Park, Stalybridge	Heavy rain
1912 Ogden, Halifax	Heavy rain
1913 Hope Bank Pleasure Grounds, Honley	
1914 Saltaire Park, Shipley	
1915 Pleasant Pastures, Scammonden	
1916 Harold Park, Low Moor	Children by waggons, adults by train; Brighouse Co-op catered
1917 Harold Park, Low Moor	
1918 Field Day in cricket field	
1919 Field Day	
1920 Beaumont Park, Huddersfield	
1921 Field Day	Because of coal strike
1922 Hope Bank Pleasure Grounds, Honley	
1923 Harold Park, Low Moor	
1924 Shipley Glen	No seats reserved on return train, 145 had to stand in guard's van. Tea very poor.
1925 Ravensknowle Park, Huddersfield	Two special trams
1926 Ravensknowle Park, Huddersfield	Because of coal strike
1927 Shipley Glen	
1928 Stamford Park, Stalybridge	

1929 Myrtle Park, Bingley	
1930 Shipley Glen	
1931 Bowling Park, Bradford	
1932 Golden Jubilee trip to Blackpool	360 by special train. Tea at the Casino.
1933 Southport	
1934 Morecambe	
1935 Bridlington	
1936 Blackpool	
1937 Morecambe	Arrived home 4 hours late, tram still waiting at Brighthouse Station at 2am
1938 Blackpool	
1939 Fleetwood	
1940 Belle Vue, Manchester	First trip by coach. Belle Vue was full of troops evacuated from Dunkirk
1941 Harrogate	
1942 - 46 No Trip	
1947 Field Day	
1948 Blackpool	6 coaches
1949 New Brighton	7 coaches
1950 Rhyl	7 coaches
1951 Bridlington	7 coaches
1952 Southport	6 coaches
1953 Bridlington	6 coaches
1954 Morecambe	4 coaches
1955 Scarborough	5 coaches
1956 Bridlington	4 coaches
1957 New Brighton	4 coaches
1958 Blackpool	3 coaches
1959 Scarborough	2 coaches
1960 Cleethorpes	2 coaches
1961 Bridlington	2 coaches
1962 Morecambe	2 coaches
1963 Southport	2 coaches
1964 Bridlington	2 coaches
1965 New Brighton	2 coaches
1966 Morecambe	2 coaches
1967 Bridlington	2 coaches
1968 Southport	1 coach
1969 Blackpool	1 coach
1970 Scarborough	1 coach

1971 – 1981 No Trip	
1982 Centenary Trip to Southport and Knowsley Safari Park	1 coach
1983 Morecambe and Windermere	1 coach – lost £29.50, picnic lunch, hot weather
1984 Rhyl	1 coach – older people mystified as to why the children spent the day inside an amusement arcade when the weather was so good
1985 Whitby and Bridlington	1 coach, all seats taken, good weather
1986 Skegness and the Humber Bridge	1 coach, weather dull and cold
1987 Colwyn Bay and Llandudno	1 coach, 42 people, nice weather, lost £51
1988 Jorvik Centre and Bridlington	1 coach, only 25 people. Mrs Bottomley & Mrs Sheffield refused to go to Scarborough due to it being too hilly
1989 Morecambe and Windermere	1 coach, hot and sunny weather
1990 Colwyn Bay and Llandudno	1 coach, all seats sold, Hornsea originally suggested but Mrs Hilda Bottomley said there was nothing there on her last visit just before she was married..... in 1933!
1991 Knowsley Safari Park & Southport	1 coach, Mrs Sheffield & Mrs Bottomley had met the night before the AGM to decide where they wanted to go.
1992 Mablethorpe	1 coach, almost full, lost £23, windy weather
1993 Llandudno	1 coach, large hold-up on motorway spoilt the day
1994 Blackpool	1 coach, only 30 people, very windy, day spent indoors, lost £103

Annual Festivals originally comprised of a tea on the Saturday evening followed by a speaker's address and then a series of entertaining short plays, sometimes serious, sometimes funny. There were also recitals from Band of Hope members who had varying levels of talent on their chosen musical instruments. The Festivals were always well attended but the format changed in 1925 when a show entitled The Butterfly Queen, with a cast made up of Band of Hope members, was given for the first time. This was the first of many concerts and pantomimes to be produced over the ensuing years. The show was preceded by the tea followed by a Presidential Address and the Secretary's Annual Report, which was always greeted with rousing applause. The tea party was forced to cease following the outbreak of the 2nd World War and was never re-introduced. The Festival lasted two or three days, starting on the Saturday. This was followed by a Gospel Temperance Service on the Sunday with the show being repeated on the following Tuesday or Wednesday. In the later years, the stage concert was replaced by a floor show.

Another highlight in the calendar was an annual social evening which was usually held in February. In the early days, the Sunday School Singing Class gave the concert but later, outside artists were engaged. This was always preceded by games, usually of a rough and tumble nature, the rougher the better. Supper was served and consisted of potted meat sandwiches and cream or iced buns.

The Brighouse Band of Hope Union had been founded in 1865 of which New Road was a member though the date of joining is not known. New Road was also a member of the Huddersfield Union having joined in 1929. The main reason for joining the Huddersfield Union was that they had a large number of speakers who were willing to travel to meetings of member associations in order to give lectures, something that was lacking in the Brighouse Union. One of the main events in the Huddersfield Union was the Whit-Tuesday Demonstration which did not clash with other events at New Road and followed on nicely after the Whit-Walk on the previous day. The masses assembled in St. Georges Square, Huddersfield and then paraded through the main streets of the town before making their way up to Greenhead Park. At the height of the popularity of the Band of Hope in the early 1930's, New Road Sunday School Band of Hope was one of sixty associations that took part. The New Road members were conveyed to Huddersfield by a special tram and once the demonstration was under way, they walked behind a decorated float which consisted of a coal waggon owned by Henry Wood. He had donated the waggon whereupon it was taken to Mr Hammond's barn at Greenhead Farm, Rastrick, to be festooned with the decorations. The finished product was pulled by three shire horses and consisted of a bridge with some children sat beneath it. The motto was 'Temperance – The Bridge of Safety'. After the judging had been completed, New Road won the 1st prize but an objection was raised on the grounds that the name of the organisation was written on both sides of the bridge (presumably, it should only have been written on one side) and so the prize was awarded elsewhere and New Road were relegated to 4th place. They were also awarded fourth places in both the 'behaviour in marching' and the 'motto' categories.

That same era brought about the Golden Jubilee of the New Road movement in 1932. At the time, there was a membership of 270 and average numbers attending the monthly meetings was 110. At the Golden Jubilee Annual Festival, 360 people sat down to tea and during the evening, the President, Mr Luke Gooder, introduced five members who had signed the pledge on the very first night of the Band of Hope, 50 years before. These were Henry Riley (No. 4), John William Bottomley (No. 5), Luke Gooder (No. 14), Louis Woffenden (No. 24) and Arthur Holdsworth (No. 27). All of these men spoke about their experiences and of the two men who had inspired them most in those early years, Joah Holdsworth (No. 1) and Alderman John Thornton who was one time Mayor of Brighouse. In the evening, an operetta entitled The Pretenders, which had been specially written by Mr Holdsworth, was given by the young people. The Gospel Temperance Service on the Sunday was taken by Alderman Tom Woffenden of Huddersfield.

Whereas the years following the end of the 1st World War had heralded some of the best years of the Band of Hope, the years following the end of the 2nd World War were quite the opposite. Many other Bands of Hope had closed down during the war and never started up again. Young people still came to the meetings at New Road but it was evident that they weren't prepared to sit and listen to people giving lectures and in addition to that, it had



Band of Hope Queen, Joyce Arnold with her attendants, Lynn Horner, Anne Taylor and Karen Towell.

become difficult to obtain the services of other speakers due to the closure of their own Bands of Hope. From this problem emerged a new approach and this was to make use of weekend schools, children's camps and summer schools organised by both the Yorkshire and the United Kingdom Band of Hope Unions. Young people could also become involved in studying and taking part in the Temperance Knowledge Examination and National Youth Temperance Council Quiz and the Yorkshire Band of Hope Union even had its own elected Queen, who performed duties at various functions throughout the year. The Band of Hope at New Road provided four of these Queen's in the 1950's and 60's, namely Dorothy Bottomley, Margaret Scotcher, Elaine Riley and Joyce Arnold.

In 1965, the committee decided to invest £125 over five years, which represented its entire assets, in subsidising the children and young people to take part in the Summer Schools and Camps and in the Quiz's and Examinations. In both 1976 and 1978 a team from New Road won the National Youth Temperance Council Quiz. The teams were:

1976 – Helen Arnold, Sheila Bottomley, Hilary Norcliffe and Jacqueline Riley



Young people aged between 10 – 14 years of age attended the Summer Camp at Cliffe College in Derbyshire during the last week of August whilst the 15 years and over age group attended at Eastwood Grange, Derbyshire where people of similar age groups from all over the country, converged during the month of August for instruction, discussion and debate in a friendly atmosphere. In the year 2000, the venue of the Summer Camps was changed to Newcastleton in the Scottish Borders

where the week was organised by the British National Temperance League. During the time when the events were held in Derbyshire, New Road provided not only students to these events but also Leaders, who had graduated from the schools and in the photograph above, Elaine and Eddie Arnold from New Road are seated at the front centre of the staff members and students who attended at Eastwood Grange in 1972.

The abiding memory of the Band of Hope for many people in Rastrick will be the pantomimes in which they took part as young children or young adults. Several old scholars who have renewed their acquaintance with the school over the years always speak fondly of the times they spent at the Band of Hope under the leadership of Norman Riley. The thrill of performing on a stage in front of a full house that included one's parents and grandparents was something to be never forgotten, nor was the smell of the make-up, liberally applied by Harold Riley and his wife, Jean, before each performance but before we were allowed to get to that point, we had to learn the songs. These were written onto the

rear of a roll of wallpaper that was draped over a blackboard and easel. Mrs Micklethwaite would first teach the tune and then the words were applied and practised until everyone knew every song of by heart.

The casting was always a nervous night for the budding thespians as they were given the pages of their script to go away and learn. I was always disappointed and concluded that Norman must not have had a good eye for spotting stage talent as my script never amounted to much more than three lines and I had learnt it by the time I had got home. I was often in trouble for chasing around during the rehearsals with other such individuals who had been given small speaking parts and whose time on stage was limited, but we all thoroughly enjoyed taking part and awaiting the picture in the Echo after the photographer had been on dress-rehearsal night. The pantomimes no doubt inspired many to go on to take part in other amateur dramatic productions throughout the area and one person, Gary Cady, went on to become a successful professional actor, appearing in many national television productions such as 'Brass' and 'Doctor Who' in the 1980's and more recently in Trial & Retribution (2009) and Doctors (2005 -11) to name but a few.

From 1980, the Band of Hope advertised itself throughout Brighouse by entering floats in the Brighouse Charity Gala. Great effort and much hilarity were associated with building the props and decorating the waggon which was supplied by Walter Holroyd Transport on Dewsbury Road, who were later taken over by the Dews Group but still supplied the waggon. New Road won 1st prize for their group on a number of occasions, the first time being in 1982 on the centenary float but unlike in Huddersfield 50 years previously, no-one objected and the 1st prize was retained. The 1982 float consisted of a large birthday card with the words '100 not out' on one side and was signed by many of the members. In the centre was a large three tier birthday cake measuring over 2.5 metres in height with a Band of Hope anchor placed on top whilst the sides of the waggon were covered in hundreds of pink paper roses. On the float were twelve children seated around a table and enjoying a party. The inevitable happened... about 15 minutes into the parade, the heavens opened and it poured with rain. By the time the floats arrived at Wellholme Park, the roses were just a mush and the partying children looked like drowned rats but their dampened spirits were revived upon being awarded the 1st prize.

The floats were entered for 18 years in total during which time the Band of Hope won no less than eight 1st prizes to the credit of the men, women and children who were involved in the design and building of them. Like many things, the floats came to an end because the main people involved were getting too old to continue and no-one was available to take on their roles.

Like his father (Frank Riley) before him, Norman Riley had kept the movement going with his unstinting efforts over many years. Richard Arnold produced four Festival concerts and I myself produced five after Norman handed over the responsibility in the 1970's. Once

they fell out of popularity, the shows were taken over by more free and easy nights which also incorporated games. The pantomimes made a brief re-emergence in 1982 for the Band of Hope Centenary Celebrations when excerpts from many of the productions over the previous 60 years were performed on stage by both adults and children, to a packed audience. This inspired Mr Riley to write a few more pantomimes until 1989, after which ill health meant that he could no longer continue to perform that role. The 1990 Festival consisted of a children's entertainer by the name of Jack Allen from Wyke. He went under the name of Uncle Jacko but someone must have neglected to tell him that he had been booked for a Band of Hope party as one of his illusions involved pumping fresh orange juice from the sleeve of Charlie Horner's jacket. He then exclaimed to the audience, "I bet he drinks Carling Black Label", which of course was reference to a slogan used on a TV advert for Carling lager at that time ! The Festivals continued until 2001.

Miss Hilary Norcliffe originally took over the organisation of the monthly meetings for seven years after Mr Riley's retirement and Mr Tony Forrester was then handed the mantle which he took on with great enthusiasm, though limited due to his own continuing disability. Mr Forrester was elected as President on the death of Mr Riley and he continued the work of the Band of Hope with the assistance of people such as Neil Stephenson, Sara Wood, Diane Withers and Abigail Haigh from the Sunday School together with other assistance from members of the Yorkshire Band of Hope Union. They tried to make the meetings more interesting and got the young people to become more involved but with the ever reducing numbers of children, the inevitable suspension followed. I say suspension as the movement has never officially been disbanded. The Band of Hope funds are still in the bank and Mr Forrester is of the opinion that they should remain so in the hope that one day, should the children return to the school, the Band of Hope can continue from where it left off.

Nationally, the Band of Hope changed its name in 1995 to Hope UK and has extended its remit to include not just alcohol, but to also to warn about the dangers of tobacco and drugs, however, the Yorkshire Band of Hope Union, now in its 147th year, still retains its original title and they mirror the work of Hope UK, working in communities, schools and clubs, helping to educate the children of today about the dangers that surround them and have devised a programme to increase the knowledge of young people with regard to Legal and Illegal Drugs, Healthy Living, Solvents, Tobacco, Alcohol, Cannabis and Choices.

On the following pages there are photographs from some of the Band of Hope pantomime concerts held at New Road and the floats from Brighouse Charity Gala. Can you spot yourself or put names to some of those long forgotten faces?



The 1982 Band of Hope Gala Float



The 1984 'Design Team' for the Gala Float



Cinderella from the late 1940's



1950 production of Robin Hood



Bill & Ben Pantomime 1966



1967 Pantomime

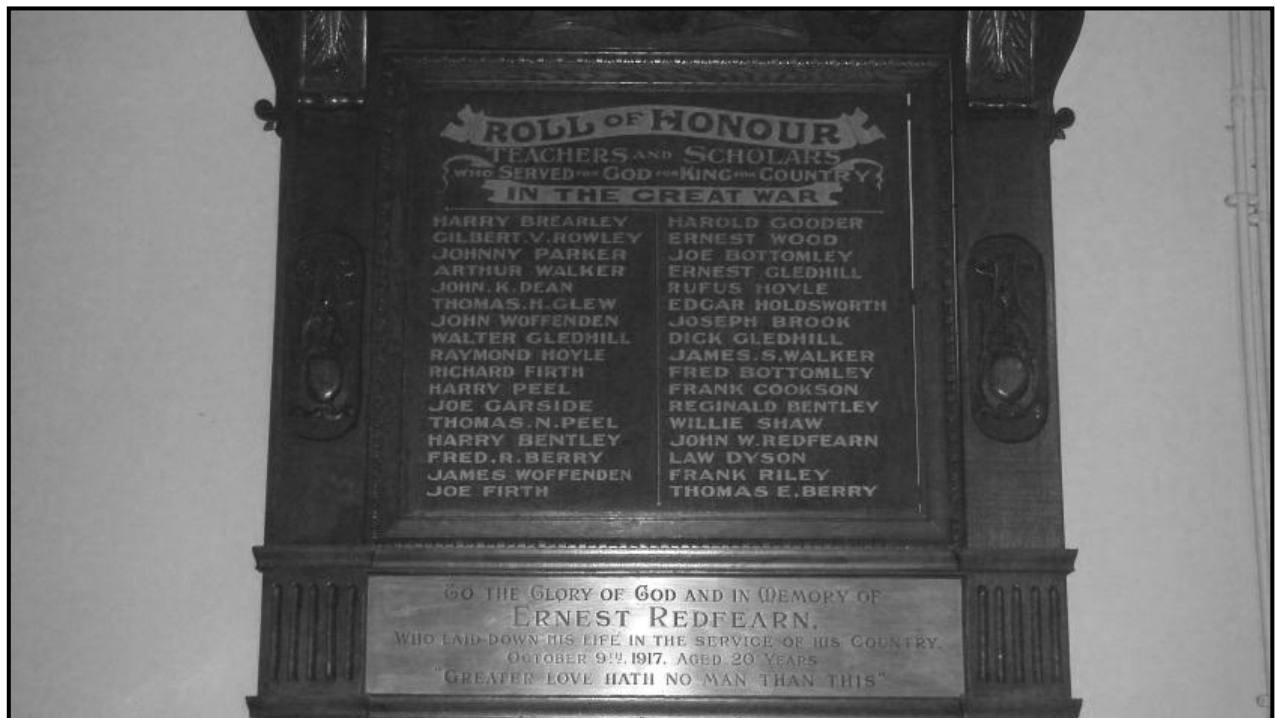


Above - Cast from the 1968 Pantomime
Below – Cast from the 1984 production of The Pied Piper of Hamelin



Ernest Redfearn – Killed in Action

From a very young age, I used to look across the Main Hall at the Sunday School and deliberate over the 1st World War memorial that is fixed above the door that leads into the Primary classroom. The inscription reads, ‘ROLL OF HONOUR – TEACHERS AND SCHOLARS WHO SERVED FOR GOD FOR KING AND FOR COUNTRY IN THE GREAT WAR’ and has thirty-four names inscribed upon it.



Some of the men named upon it were still alive when I was in my tender years but they were old men by that time and I could never imagine them having served in the armed forces and fighting in a war. I often wondered who the others were, the ones I had never heard of. What were they like? Where are they now? or When did they die? I often asked my grandfather, Arnold Bottomley and Uncle Albert Bottomley about them but they weren't really the type of people who wanted to discuss topics such as the 1st World War with an 8 year old boy and besides that, many of them had memories that they did not wish to re-kindle and never spoke about the subject. I was told that all the men had survived except for one and that was as much as I needed to know. The one exception had a special memorial of his own, engraved upon brass and located underneath the main commemorative board. The engraving states, ‘TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF ERNEST REDFEARN WHO LAID DOWN HIS LIFE IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY. OCTOBER 9TH 1917. AGED 20 YEARS. GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS’. So who was Ernest Redfearn and how did he die in the Great

War? No-one could ever answer my questions except to say that he was killed whilst on active service. Well, if you have ever wondered, here is the answer.

The Redfearn family can trace its history in Rastrick back to the very early 1800's, when Richard Redfearn, who was born in Huddersfield in 1781, came to live and work as a woollen spinner in Rastrick. He lived with his wife, Nancy and their family at Mount



Pleasant where their eldest son, Ephraim was born in 1809. When Ephraim married Sarah France in 1833, they also settled at Mount Pleasant where they raised their family. Their second born son was named James and when he married Elizabeth Sykes in 1865, the newly married couple continued what had by then become a tradition by also settling at Mount Pleasant, living next door to his parents. The following year after their marriage, Elizabeth gave birth to a son, William, who later married Elizabeth Spence in 1893. They too settled at 7, Mount Pleasant and soon started a family of their own. They had three children in all, Ernest who was born on the 9th October 1897, John William (Johnny), 1900 and Ada,

1903.

The family regularly worshipped at New Road Sunday School and Ernest was educated at the Board School which was located at New Road. In addition, he was also a member of the Sunday School Band of Hope. Upon leaving school, Ernest followed his father into the mill at Spout owned by Thomas Helm & Sons and it was just a short walk from their home. It was here that he learned his trade initially as a woollen piecer according to the 1911 census. This role entailed repairing broken threads on the spinning frames which was quite a dangerous operation for a 12 - 13 year old as the woollen spinning machines were of the mule type, which moved back and forth on rollers and rails, drawing out the yarn and then inserting the twist. This involved many moving parts and it was not uncommon for the young workers to become entangled in the machinery which resulted in some horrific injuries or even death. By 1916, Ernest had moved on to become a warp twister which was somewhat less dangerous work, twisting the spun yarns in readiness for the weaving process.

At the outbreak of the 1st World War in 1914, Ernest was too young to become involved in the initial action but would have seen many of his fellow workers volunteering for the armed forces. Many of these men never returned and Ernest would no doubt have had the sad news broken to him, concerning the death of someone he knew. Following the continued heavy losses of soldiers on the Western Front, the government introduced the Military Service Act in 1916 where single men aged between 18 and 41 were liable to conscription into the armed forces. By May of that year, the Act also included married men but it wasn't until early 1917 that Ernest received his call-up papers. He enlisted at Halifax with the 3rd Reserve Battalion of the West Riding Regiment (Duke of Wellington's) on the 16th March 1917 where his Army record shows him as being aged 19 years and 157 days. Following basic training at North Shields and Whitley Bay, he was allowed a few days leave whereupon he returned to Rastrick to stay with his parents at Mount Pleasant. His next door neighbour at the time was a 14 year old Hilda Blackburn who told me several years ago that she had a crush on Ernest because he was a lovely looking lad, the sort of boy you would want to live next door to. She went on to say that on the day that Ernest went to join his Army unit, he set off walking from his home, down the track towards Spout Mills. "He looked very dashing in his uniform", she said and then added, "I was watching him from my bedroom window, peeping round the curtains as I didn't want him to see me looking at him. He stopped and turned around and looked at his home for the last time. His mother was waving to him from the front door but I think that he knew he wouldn't ever be coming back". "Why was that", I asked. "It was just the look on his face, he seemed so sad because he was such a quiet lad and didn't want to go fighting in a foreign country. I always said that on that day, he knew he wasn't coming home again". Ernest walked off for the last time and re-joined his comrades for a train journey to Folkestone, where, on the 21st June 1917, he embarked onto a boat and headed for Boulogne, France. The following day, he found himself in Etaples near to Calais, which was a small town that had been turned into a giant military camp and hospital where many casualties were taken from the front lines before being repatriated back to UK hospitals.

Ernest spent two weeks in Etaples whilst his Unit awaited further instructions regarding deployment to the front but during that time, he was transferred into the 1/5th Battalion of the York & Lancaster Regiment on the 6th July 1917. Just two days later, his Battalion was mobilised into the field. They went north along the coast and became involved in Operation Hush, which was designed to re-capture some of the Belgian coastline from German occupation. The 49th Division of which the 1/5th Battalion was a part, were not involved in any fighting and were moved out at the beginning of October to become involved in the 3rd Battle of Ypres, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele. The battle was to commence on the 9th October, Ernest Redfearn's 20th birthday.

The men stayed behind the lines in tents until the day before the battle but on the afternoon of the 4th October, the heavens opened and it rained incessantly until the 8th. This meant that the ground was totally sodden and the artillery had difficulty in getting their guns into position in readiness for shelling the German trenches. When Ernest and his comrades had

to leave their billet to walk to the front, it took them over eleven hours to cover just two miles of ground due to the mud and rain. The mud in places was waist deep and the soldiers must have felt very despondent when they reached their front line trenches, cold, soaked to the skin and covered in thick mud. Due to the lack of 'big guns' in the artillery and the fact that every time one was fired, it sank deeper into the quagmire making their aim ever more difficult, the German trenches did not suffer the battering that Ernest and his comrades had hoped for.

In the early hours of Ernest's 20th birthday, a day that he would no doubt have enjoyed celebrating with his friends and family at home if the events of history had taken a different turn, he found himself standing in a rain soaked trench, no doubt frightened of what the next few hours held in store for him and his colleagues, awaiting the orders to 'go over the top'. When that fearful whistle blew at 5.20am, Ernest will have climbed a ladder, bayonet fixed and rifle at the ready in order to make their assault upon the German lines. It is impossible to describe how the soldiers must have felt in those cold and wet conditions and the terrain over which Ernest had to attack was described as featureless meaning that there was nothing of note upon which to take a bearing, so the men had to rely upon their compasses to ensure they were heading in the right direction. Laden with heavy packs and sinking into the mud, the lads from the York and Lancaster's, together with soldiers from many other battalions which were spread over an eight mile span, moved over no-man's land towards the Stroombeek river and then on towards the enemy lines situated on top of the slope ahead of them at Wolf Farm on the Belle Vue Spur.

Some of the friendly shells that were intended to disrupt the Germans, fell short of their targets and blasted their own men into oblivion. In addition to that, the German machine guns then opened fire and the many lines of barbed wire that the shelling was supposed to have destroyed, remained intact and proved impossible to cross. The Germans had a perfect view of the advancing soldiers and fired upon them at will. Ernest Redfearn may have seen many of his colleagues shot dead or blown up in front of him as he crossed the morass and by the time the orders came to withdraw back to their home trenches at 9.30am, no enemy ground had been captured and the attack had proved totally ineffective. As was often the case in the 1st World War, futile battles still came at a price and this one was no exception. The cost to the allied forces was 654 dead and 1,931 wounded or seriously maimed.

After the last of the surviving soldiers had returned to their trenches, a roll call was taken but there was no sign of Ernest and no-one could account for his whereabouts. No-one had noticed what fate had befallen this quiet young lad from Rastrick and he was never seen again. When the bodies of the dead were eventually recovered from the battlefield several days later, Ernest was not identified amongst those numerous casualties. Many soldiers who had taken cover in shell holes were buried alive in the mud when further shells fell nearby and in the heat of battle, as men fell around men, Ernest Redfearn died without anyone even noticing. We will never know exactly how he met his end except to say that it was in horrific circumstances.

Several years ago, I went in search of Ernest Redfearn's grave and was disappointed to find that he didn't have a final resting place. I found his name on the rear screen wall of the Tyne Cot Cemetery on the outskirts of Passchendaele along with thousands of other brave men who perished but were never afforded a decent burial. Maybe he is one of the thousands who are buried in graves marked 'A Soldier of the Great War – Known Unto God', as the name of the soldiers buried in



such graves was unknown. I would like to think that Ernest is resting in one of those graves. All the graves at Tyne Cot are beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the grass is immaculate and the flowers in Spring and Summer are a sight to behold.

The memorial in Belgium that contains the name of our lost New Road hero brings to mind a poem entitled 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brookes, who was a famous poet during the 1st World War. It reads:-

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven

The Brighouse Echo dated the 16th November 1917 states:- *Mr and Mrs W. Redfearn of 7, Mount Pleasant, Rastrick have received a letter from the Rev. W.S. Bethway, chaplain, stating that their son, Pte. Ernest Redfearn, York and Lancaster Regt. has been missing since an action took place on Oct 9th. Pte. Redfearn is 20 years of age. Previous to joining the army he was employed at Messrs. Thomas Helm & Sons and was connected with New*

Road Sunday School. He enlisted in March last and after training at North Shields and Whitley Bay, went to France on June 22nd.

(8448) Wt. W8229/4565 500,000 7/16 C.&Co. (171) Form 250/13/1.

Halifax

RECORD OF SERVICE PAPER

For men deemed to be enlisted in H.M. Regular Forces for General Service with the Colours or in the Reserve for the period of the War, or Ex-Soldiers recalled for Service with the Colours, under the provisions of the Military Service Acts, 1916.

No. 30719 Christian Names Ernest Surname Redfearn

33195 Corps 3rd YORK & LANCASTER REGIMENT, West Riding Regt.

Questions to be put to the Reservist on Joining.

1. What is your Name?	1. Christian Names <u>Ernest</u>
	Surname <u>Redfearn</u>
2. What is your full Address?	2. <u>Mount Pleasant</u>
	<u>Road, Brighouse</u>
3. Are you a British Subject?	3. <u>Yes</u>
4. What is your Age?	4. <u>19</u> Years <u>15</u> Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling?	5. <u>Discharged</u>
6. Are you Married?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military? If so, which?	7. <u>No</u>
8. Have you any preference for any particular branch of the service, if so, which?	8. <u>No</u>
9. Are you desirous of serving in the Royal Navy, if so, state your qualifications.	9. <u>No</u>

I, Ernest Redfearn do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true.

Christian Names Ernest Surname Redfearn SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.

Date 16th 1917.

Place Halifax Leonard Scott Signature of Witness.

EXEMPTION FROM COMBATANT SERVICE ON CONSCIENTIOUS GROUNDS.

If the Recruit has been exempted by a Tribunal on conscientious grounds from serving as a combatant it should be so stated here No

MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION AS TO FITNESS FOR SERVICE ON JOINING.

Classification* GENERAL SERVICE

* To be filled in by the Recruiting Officer after Classification by the Medical Board.

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

I approve the acceptance of the above-named man, and appoint him to the 3rd West Riding Regt.

Date 16 MAR 1917 19

Place HALIFAX for O.C. 3rd RECRUITING Approving Officer.

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
‡ Here insert the "Corps" to which the Recruit has been appointed.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character which should be returned to him conspicuously endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz. (Name) _____ enrolled in the (Regiment) _____ on the (Date) _____

No living person can recollect Ernest Redfearn but his name still lives on and he is not forgotten. We hope that he is resting in peace in that far off foreign field.

Ernest's parents were awarded a pension of 7/- per week (35p) for his bravery, along with two 1st World War service medals. His Record of Service papers are still inscribed to this day with the words, 'Assumed Dead'.

Chapter Nine

The twentieth century to present

In the November of 1900, the Rev. Angus Galbraith, who had attended many of the functions at New Road Sunday School, including the Easter bazaar of the previous year, and had preached at an anniversary service in the past, retired from the ministry at Bridge End after almost twenty-five years. Many of the wealthy businessmen in Brighouse and Rastrick attended at Bridge End as it was deemed to be a fashionable place to go whilst he was minister. He died the following year aged 74 years. That same year also saw the passing of Queen Victoria who had reigned over her loyal subjects for sixty-four years. She died on the 22nd January 1901 at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. The next in line was her son, Bertie, who adopted the title of King Edward VII.

The new Sunday School proved very popular with the countless different organisations that used the building for many different functions. Rastrick Cricket and Athletic Club held regular social evenings and other societies such as the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, Rastrick Women's Liberal Association and Liberal Club, Mr. Bunce for cinematograph exhibitions and Mr. Stansfield for Illustrated Lectures, were all regular visitors along a variety of tea parties and concerts that were held as part of fund raising events. Not all applicants to the Teachers Meetings were successful however as in March 1902, they refused Rastrick Football Club permission to hold a Social Evening on the grounds that they didn't hold a dance licence. Mr. Bunce & Sons were also refused permission to hold a Variety Entertainment evening at the same meeting as *'that kind of entertainment required special arrangements'*.

The Brighouse Echo and Brighouse News, dated 20th May 1904 saw both papers report on a competition that was promoted by the London Sunday School Union at the end of 1902. The competition was open to secretaries of village Sunday Schools in the United Kingdom. There were three prizes of three, two and one guinea on offer for the most carefully kept and neatest Sunday School books for the year 1903. A complete set of books, including an admission book, was supplied by the Union to all competitors. An admission book at New Road has the words 'LONDON SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION' inside the front cover, so this must be the one used in the competition by the secretary, John William Bottomley. Once the competition was over, the book was only used for one more year before being discarded. John William finished a very creditable second, winning the two guinea prize. It was reported that the books showed *'a scrupulous performance of duties on the part of the secretary. No small amount of careful labour and exactness have been entailed, and the effort speaks well for Mr. Bottomley, especially as any error or misapprehension on his part*

would probably have rendered the attempt worthless’.

ADMISSION BOOK.						
DATE.	Rotation Number.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.	AGE.	DAY SCHOOL OR EMPLOYMENT.	
1903.			Mr Sam Garside			
Feb. 8	1	Annie Davies.	21. Clough Lane. Rastrick	14	Wooler Twister Board School	
Apr ^l	12	Nellie May Briggs.	28. Dewsbury Road	3	"	
"	3	Adelaide Briggs	" " "	5	"	
"	19	Nellie Wood	39. New Hey Road	4	"	
"	26	Annie Dean	11. Mount Pleasant.	4	"	
May. 3	6	Grace Lister.	Louse Cote Hirstby	8	Church School Board School	
June 14	7	Annie Redfearn	6. Deubam Sq. Rastrick	5	"	
"	8	Mary Alice Redfearn	" " "	4	"	
July. 5	9	Annie Eliza Timington.	Mr. Walter Jewell's 23 Clough Lane	14	Servant Board School	
Aug. 2	10	Hilda Marshall	3 Regent Place	6	"	
"	23	Annie Keighley.	14 Slade Lane	6	"	
"	30	Nellie Peel.	11. Mount	3	"	
Sept. 6	13	Edith Bailey.	Highbury.	12	"	
"	14	Florence Emily Bailey	" " "	4	"	
Oct. 25	15	Amy. Ellis.	57 Clough Lane.	4	"	
1904.						
Feb. 28	16	Amy. Robertshaw.	2 New Hey Road			
"	17	Lottie Robertshaw.	2			
Mar. 20	18	Annie Hopton.	3 Deubam Square	14	Silk Spinn	
"	19	Louisa Mayall.	7. New Hey Road	12	Church Sch	
Apr ^l	3	Annie Wood.	7. Sayles Row.	16	Silk Spinn	
"	21	Edith Powell.	10. Deubam Square	15	"	
"	24	Edith Walker.	20. Dewsbury Road	12	Church Sch	

An excerpt from the Sunday School Admission Book of 1903

In 1904, the teachers at New Road were discussing the matter of building additional classrooms, as, just eight years after the main hall was added, it was felt that further space was needed. The matter was eventually postponed and as the teachers then decided to appoint Trustees to take charge of the management of the Sunday School, the matter of any future building programme would be left with them. A special meeting held on the 8th May 1905, *‘for the purposes of appointing six Trustees who shall be responsible for the liabilities, monies and property appertaining to the New Road School and premises’*. On the motion of John Thornton, seconded by Miss Zilpha Bottomley, *‘that the under-mentioned Superintendents and Teachers of the New Road Sunday School are, subject to their consent in writing, hereby appointed Trustees of the New Road School and shall be responsible for all liabilities, monies and property appertaining to the said school and premises. That the said Trustees be empowered to add to their number and in the event of the resignation or death of one or more of them, the remaining Trustees shall appoint other Trustees to fill the vacancies. That the successors shall hold the trust upon the same terms and conditions as the original Trustees. That the first or original Trustees be:-*

Mr. John Thornton, Castle Hill House, Rastrick

Mr. Louis Woffenden, 36, Slade Lane, Rastrick

Mr. John Wm. Bottomley, 46, New Hey Road, Rastrick

Mr. Emmanuel Woffenden, 48, Crowtrees Lane, Rastrick

Mr. Joah Holdsworth, 58, New Hey Road, Rastrick

Mr. Luke Gooder, 115, Thornhill Road, Rastrick.

The above six people then signed the minute book in agreement with the conditions stipulated in the resolution. Upon completion of their signatures, they commenced the first Trustees meeting where John Thornton was elected chairman, Louis Woffenden was elected treasurer and John William Bottomley was elected secretary. The present appointed Trustees of 2012 still act within the original constitution, some 107 years later.

At the Teachers Annual General Meeting held on the 18th July 1906, John Thornton proposed that the Sunday School purchase new hymn books from the Sunday School Union. These books were called The Sunday School Hymnary and were used until very recent times. They were first used at a service on the 12th August 1906.

An Annual General Meeting of the teachers was held on the 29th July 1907, where it was decided to buy new crockery. A committee was empowered to purchase the same and at a later meeting on the 14th October, an in depth discussion was held as to which sample of crockery should be bought. Three different samples were on display for the meeting to



choose which type they wanted. Some people wanted the plain white version but Ruth Bottomley proposed the ones with the gold handles whilst her brother, John William, proposed the sample with the gold initials of the Sunday School transfer printed onto the crockery. Little brother won the vote hence the crockery in the

cupboards at the Sunday School being as it is today. There are still a few surviving examples of the previous design which was embossed in green. A few years ago, a small display case was created for the Institute, which has examples of both types of crockery used at New Road in the past 120 years or so.

King Edward VII died unexpectedly just before midnight on the 6th May 1910 after suffering from a heavy cold and bronchitis. He was buried on the 20th May which was declared by the new King, as a national day of mourning. The Proclamation of King George V was again read out in the Borough Market in Brighouse, as it had been in 1902 for the Proclamation of King Edward VII. The dignitaries learnt from their mistakes of eight years previous when all had not gone as expected. The ceremony was held at 1pm on Tuesday, 10th May 1910 and lasted fifteen minutes. There was a fanfare before the Proclamation was

read after which the National Anthem was sung.

In October 1912 it was decided at a teachers meeting to hold an 'At Homes' at the New Year. The Band of Hope had held a similar event at the Sunday School in the past, as had both the Sunday School and Rastrick Cricket Clubs but this was the first time that the Sunday school itself had tried to hold one. The first 'At Homes' raised a very commendable £31-10-6d.

The question of expanding the school was still on-going in 1913 and all the Treasurers reports up to that time showed a balance in the building fund account and another balance in the Sunday School account. An estimate was received quoting £512-15/- for the building of new classrooms and an institute but at a meeting held on the 19th May that year it was decided to drop the building scheme altogether which left the Sunday School in the very healthy financial position of having £425-5s-5d in the bank.

At the time of the 1914 Annual General Meeting, all was not well in the world. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria had been in the Bosnian town of Sarajevo on the 28th June 1914, to inspect Austrian troops, when he was assassinated by a Serbian. No-one could have envisaged what was to happen as a result of the assassination but the following month, Austria and Hungary declared war on Serbia. The Russians immediately backed their Serbian friends and mobilised troops on the 29th July. As a result of that, on the 1st August, Germany declared war on Russia and mobilised. Russia's ally, France, also mobilised on the same day. Two days later, Germany declared war on France and the following day, invaded Belgium. Britain told the Germans to withdraw from Belgium and gave them a deadline of midnight on the 4th August. As the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Edward Grey waited for the deadline to pass he said, "*the lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our time*". Britain declared war on Germany and so it was that the 1st World War started. Many of the young men of Rastrick, including several members of the Sunday School, joined up and witnessed first-hand, the atrocities of that war.

Life went on however and the minutes very rarely make mention of the war other than the odd fund raising event for the Soldiers Comfort Fund and various mentions of thanks to Mr. W. Shaw for drawing up an updated Roll of Honour. Every day requirements such as the need to purchase some new footlights for the stage and curtains to cover the front of the platform were the order of the day but in 1917, it was decided to send a Christmas Card to all the soldiers along with a letter from the Superintendents.

One memorable event that took place at the Sunday School during the 1st World War was on the 23rd February 1915, when a presentation took place to honour John William Bottomley who had retired as secretary the previous year, after thirty years service. The Brighouse Echo dated Friday, 26th February 1915 described the event in the inimitable way that only the press of that era day could, under the headline:-

THIRTY YEARS SERVICE
HONOUR TO RASTRICK SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY
PRESENTATION TO MR. J. W. BOTTOMLEY

The report stated that Mr. Bottomley had ‘*carried out the duties of secretary to the New Road Sunday School, Rastrick. In other capacities he has also done yeoman service in connection with the school and for close upon 38 years, he has at the same time most efficiently carried out the work which has devolved upon him as a teacher, whilst for about ten years he has been secretary to the trustees. In addition to serving the school in the offices already mentioned, Mr. Bottomley has for a short time been a superintendent and he was formerly president of the Band of Hope. On Tuesday evening the teachers and elder scholars shewed their high appreciation of Mr. Bottomley's services in tangible fashion, when they presented him with a gold albert and medal and gold tie pin. On one side of the medal there is inscribed the initials of Mr. Bottomley, whilst on the other side there is inscribed the following inscription:- Presented by the teachers and scholars of New Road Sunday School for services as secretary for 30 years. Feb. 23rd. 1915.*

A few weeks after this event in 1915, Mr. John Thornton removed from the area. He had been connected with New Road school for most of his life and had been a Superintendent for 40 years. Mr. J. W. Bottomley was requested by the committee to travel to see Mr. Thornton and ascertain if he would be willing to receive a suitable gift by way of thanks for his services. A portrait in oils or an illuminated address were suggested in the minutes but following Mr. Bottomley's visit, Mr. Thornton wrote back to the teachers:-

I much appreciate the very generous message which you brought to me from New Road School. The fact that my many friends there entertain kindly thoughts of me, and regard my long association with the school as deserving any recognition is most gratifying to me and is ample and quite sufficient testimonial in itself. I don't want any more, except to ask you to be good enough to retain my name upon your books and perhaps you may consult me now and again upon matters of special importance. I do not wish to sever all connection with my old school and I fear that a presentation of any sort would be too much like a farewell. New Road School has entered very largely into my life and its work must always be near my heart. I pray that God's blessing may rest upon this Holy Work and upon all those who are associated with it.

Yours sincerely,

John Thornton.

With the lack of mention of the war in the minutes, a reader would not really have guessed that ordinary working class men from the Sunday School were fighting on the seas or on the European fronts. Even the death of one of its own sons, Ernest Redfearn, who was killed in action on the 9th October 1917, went unrecorded in the minutes apart from a small mention of the fact in the Band of Hope annals. The Armistice passed by without mention and it was

not until January 1920 that the minutes record Mr. Frank Riley being instructed to interview Mr. A. Thornton with regard to a Roll of Honour. On the 19th April that same year, the minutes record that Mr. Riley proposed that Mr. A. Thornton be instructed to complete the Roll of Honour. This meant that there were two Rolls of Honour as a hand written, illuminated version, had been already been produced at the end of the war and at a meeting held on the 18th October 1920, Mr Ernest Woffenden proposed that this should be suitably framed and put out on display. Much to the annoyance of many, the hand written version was destroyed during the occupation of the Sunday School during the 2nd World War, an episode that I will discuss later in this chapter.

In 1921, the Trustees approved a request from the secretary of the Institute for a new floor to be laid and a tender from Herbert Hartley for £16-3-6 was accepted. Two years later, approval was given for over £100 worth of work when part of the Sunday School floor was replaced by a timber platform and steps for the stage area. Four new water closets and new gas fittings were also included in that price. The Trustees were not averse to making modern improvements to the building and the grounds but not all suggestions were greeted favourably. The former school playground area to the east side is now used as a car park but I doubt that any of the congregation owned a motor vehicle in those days. The land was not being used and in 1926, the Sunday School Tennis Club asked the Trustees for a loan of £60 to lay out the school yard as a tennis court but this was refused.

The Sunday School members had taken part in a traditional Whitsuntide Walk followed by an annual treat, every year from the 1860's. This custom had first started in Manchester and it gave the newly established churches, chapels and Sunday School's the opportunity to form a procession as a witness to their faith. It is thought that the tradition came about as a result of an annual horse racing meeting that took place in Manchester between the Wednesday and Saturday of 'Whit Week'. The Sunday School Superintendents were concerned about their young people becoming lured towards gambling and so organised an alternative activity for them. The children often decorated banners in Sunday School during the weeks leading up to the parade. Sometimes, these were beautifully embroidered with the name of their respective religious groups. The 'May' Queen usually followed the banner along with her attendants and this was seen as an ideal time for the children to dress up in their best clothes. The adults would walk to the rear or alongside the children and if the organisation was lucky, they would be accompanied by a brass band. After the parade or walk, everyone returned to their respective churches or chapels where they joined in a 'treat' which usually consisted of various forms of refreshments, non alcoholic of course. If the weather was kind, everyone retired to a local field where the children took part in various games and merriment. The first newspaper report of the Whitsuntide Treat at New Road was recorded in the Brighouse News of 1874 where the report states that 'it rained'. The New Road Whit Walk consisted of a parade but no-one can remember carrying banners. The Sunday School members walked around the top end of the village and stopped to sing a few hymns outside the homes of elderly or infirm residents. This was later

extended to include the care home for the elderly at Lands House. Those who were unable to make the walk were usually put to good use in the kitchen and upon everyone's return, jugs of piping hot coffee were served along with a traditional iced long bun, provided by Gledhill and Dean's bakery at the 'top of town'. It wasn't uncommon for them to work on the Sunday evening in order to have the necessary numbers of buns ready for the following day. This mantle was taken over in latter years by Squire's Bakery at Briggate, Brighouse, whose family had long been associated with New Road. The sports and games that took place after the walk were held in Garlick's Field in the early days which was between the Sunday School and Greenhead Farm. It is unclear as to the exact date when the sports were moved from Mr. Garlick's field to the cricket field. Mr. Norman Riley wrote in his 150th anniversary booklet that Garlick's field was used until 1915 when the cricket field became the venue, however, in the minutes of a Teachers Meetings held in 1925, it was proposed that the secretary 'ask Mr. A. Gledhill for use of his field on Whit Monday'.

Whether Gledhill had taken over the land from Garlick or whether another field was used for a short period, I am not sure, but it was around the 1930's before the Whitsuntide sports first took place in the cricket field. This tradition went on until 1977 and I well remember Norman Riley standing at the top of the steps outside the cricket 'tent' and throwing 'monkey nuts' in their shells towards the children who grappled with each other in a frantic effort to get more than the next person.



Whit Walk in full flow in the late 1950's

Whitsuntide was a traditional time for children to have new clothes for the forthcoming summer and the girls especially looked forward to their new dresses. My grandmother was rather adept with a needle and thread and a piece of brightly coloured fabric and my mother always used to tell of how she looked forward to a new 'home made' dress at Whitsuntide. Would any of the current generation of teenage young girls get excited at the prospect of wearing a new dress that didn't come from one of the fashionable stores? I think not.

In the 1920's the singing was accompanied by Thomas Marsden and Ernest Holdsworth with their concertinas. The walking distance was also considerably longer as one of the locations where they stopped to sing was at house called Delamere on Bradley Road. Here, the children all received an orange but other Sunday Schools also used to stop off there on their Whit Walks and if the timing wasn't correct, the singers had to form a queue and wait their turn !

The Whit Walks continued over the years albeit, with ever reducing numbers and by the year 2000, the secretary, Mrs. Christine Eccles reported that only seventeen people had been on the Whit Walk and that included seven people from the Salvation Army, who had kindly accompanied the walk since 1985. She feared that another long held tradition was about to disappear due to falling numbers of younger people. Mrs. Margaret Riley also spoke of the problem at a Churches Together meeting in 2001 whereupon other churches expressed an interest in supporting the walk. It resulted in forty-two people turning up on a bright warm day and the event was given a new lease of life for the time being.



Parents and children gather for the 1965 Whitsuntide Sports in the cricket field

By 2007 however, the Walk was restricted to a visit to Lands House residential home for the elderly and the dates were even changed in 2009 as a Whitsuntide date would clash with a Churches Together meeting at St. Matthews. It was decided to bring the Whitsuntide service at Lands House forward by two weeks but to date, the Whit Walk is still taking place, though not in a way that many of the older members recall it.

I have interviewed some elderly members of the Sunday School during this project and have gleaned a snapshot of what life was like in the 1920's from people such as Mr. Leslie Hargreaves, who was born in December 1911 but sadly died a little short of his 100th year. Leslie had first attended at the Sunday School with school friends whilst his family worshipped at Crowtrees Church and he had very vivid recollections of those early days. So too does Mrs. Winnie Thornton who was born on Christmas Day, 1915, the same day as the opposing soldiers from Britain and Germany walked from their trenches during the 1st World War and met for a brief period in no-man's land where a game of football is alleged to have taken place before they returned back to their dug-outs and resumed the hostilities. Mrs. Thornton first came to New Road in 1924 as an 8 year old when her parents moved from Lillands to Oaks Green. They both recalled how the service would break for half an hour or so as the adults and children went to their various classes in the different parts of the Sunday School. The men would go into the Young Men's Institute where a Superintendent would address them, whilst the Ladies went into the Young Ladies classroom for a similar address from another of the Superintendents of the day. The children would go to the rear of the Main Hall or into the Primary Classroom, dependent upon their ages. They would all return into the Main Hall where the service was completed. In those days, the harmonium and 'desk' were on the stage and the preacher would look down upon his congregation from on high. Mrs. Thornton recalls people like Tom Marsden who would rock back and forth as he delivered his address and Louis Woffenden, who was only a slightly built little man, who would address the congregation from the floor of the front of the Main Hall whilst standing on a chair.

The 1920's saw a desire to move away from the reserved practices of the Victorian era and keep up with modern innovations..... within reason. The tungsten filament incandescent light bulb was developed in the 1920's and electric lights were replacing gas lighting at a rapid rate. In order to keep up with this modern innovation, a meeting of the Trustees held on the 1st February 1929 considered a request from the Singing Class who asked if they could see it in their way to install electric light in the school. This request was also backed by the quarterly meeting of the teachers. The decision recorded was, *'whilst the Trustees are not opposed to the principle they suggested that those in favour should consider some way in which to raise part of the cost of the installation'*. The secretary was asked to procure approximate costs for a future meeting. Two weeks later, the secretary announced that he had seen the Borough Electrical Engineer, Mr. Amos Aspinall who had supplied a set of Quantities for the carrying out of the work. The secretary was instructed to procure three or four tenders from Electrical Engineers as per the Quantities. On the 6th March, the

following tenders had been received:

Mr. F. S. Jackson of Halifax - £75-0-0

Messrs. W. R. Bottomley & Co, Huddersfield - £72-10-0

Messrs. McNulty & Walker, Brighouse - £55-0-0

Messrs. Stillingfleet & Harper, Brighouse - £49-12-6.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the tender of Messrs. Stillingfleet & Harper and to request them to proceed as soon as possible.

The Brighouse Echo dated 12th April 1929 gave a report under the heading:

New Road Veterans

Memories of other days

New Electric Light Installation

Some able oratory by a number of elderly gentlemen, most of whom had passed the conventional allotted span of years, was a feature of an event which took place at New Road Sunday School, Rastrick, on Saturday evening last. The occasion was the ceremony of formally switching on the newly installed electric light. Prior to this, a public tea had been held. About 160 partook of the repast, which had been provided by teachers, scholars and friends and which was served by the young ladies connected with the school.

Ald. John Thornton J.P., who has had an almost lifelong connection with the school, took the principle part in the ceremony and afterwards a little speechmaking took place. Mr. J. W. Bottomley occupied the chair and the others on the platform were Ald. Thornton, Mrs Thornton, Mr. Luke Gooder, Mr. Louis Woffenden, Mr. Fred Berry and Mr. Henry Riley.

The chairman said that in recent years they had tried in many ways to make the school attractive, and to make it useful, and he thought that that evening they had again taken a step in the right direction. They had probably never had so good a light before. The installation work has been very well done and they as a committee were well satisfied with the work so far as it had gone. It had been a smart job, as it was only a few weeks since the cable was laid as far up as their school. Mr. Bottomley added that he thought the electric light had made a great improvement in the appearance of the school. He mentioned that extra precautions towards economy had been made by having a switch for each light and he urged those who would use the lights to use the current economically. They would all be delighted to see their old friend, Ald. Thornton amongst them again. He had been a faithful servant in the cause at New Road and those who had long connections there would be specially pleased to see that he was well enough to attend that gathering.

Ald. Thornton thanked the audience for their kindly welcome. He had thought a few

moments before, when switching on the lights, that if anyone had done that 70 or 80 years ago he would have been believed to be a magician or witch and would probably have been burned or sent to prison. He supposed that he was the oldest person present and recalled his first appearance at New Road school some 70 or 71 years ago. That was at an entertainment and only two facts remained in his memory: one item in the programme and the illumination. The former item was a round or trio, sung by three men, including Mr. George Gledhill, one of the best men the school had ever had. The illumination was provided by oil lamps and candles and was a strange contrast to present day illumination. "What will be the illumination in 50 years time?" asked Ald. Thornton. "I don't know, unless they burn the place down" – (laughter). That place, he went on, had always been to him first and foremost as their Sunday School and they had reason to be grateful to the old friends of the past who had for nearly 100 years kept the light burning – not a mere candle or gas light, but the spiritual light of God. The torchbearers had been many in number and varied in character and disposition as the years had gone by, but they had been united in the one cause of trying to lead in the right paths, the youth of that district. He believed that the homes in the district were better and probably happier than they would have been had there been no Sunday School there. He was glad to know that there were as fine torchbearers in the school today as there had been in the past and he trusted that there would be still others to carry on for many a long year to come. The evening was concluded with dancing and a musical programme. A photograph accompanied the Echo article and Messrs. Fred Berry and Luke Gooder were highlighted on the picture in a popular competition of the time. They had to appear in person at the Echo office, to claim a prize of 5s (25p) and 2s 6d (12.5p) respectively.

Many of the young men who attended New Road were capable sportsmen in their own right, proof of which can be seen by the many trophies won by the football, cricket and billiard teams. When they weren't actually playing their chosen sports, some could be seen on the terraces of the successful Huddersfield Rugby League Football Club, known as Fartown due to the location of their ground and Huddersfield Town Association Football Club. Just prior to the 1st World War, the Fartowners had become only the second team to win all four trophies, the Championship, Challenge Cup, Yorkshire Cup and Yorkshire League. They were unbeaten for 38 successive games before the league was suspended in 1915 because of the hostilities. They continued their run for the first five games of the 1919-20 season making 43 games in total without defeat, which is still a record to this day. They almost completed the 'quadruple' again that season, winning three trophies and then losing 3-2 to Hull in the Championship Final after five of their players had been chosen to represent Great Britain in Australia.

The football team were also about to embark upon greatness. They had been beaten in the 1920 FA Cup Final by Aston Villa and were to become the first club to win the 1st Division Championship three times in a row in 1924 - 25 - 26 but on the 22nd April 1922, Albert Bottomley, together with some friends from New Road Sunday School travelled by coach

to London where they went to watch Huddersfield Town play Preston North End in the F.A. Cup Final. The match was historic for two reasons. It was played at Stamford Bridge, the home of Chelsea F.C and was the last occasion that the Cup Final would be played away from Wembley until the stadium was demolished in the year 2000. The second reason was that it remains the only time Huddersfield Town have won the F.A. Cup, and that was with a penalty in extra time. Albert kept his programme from the 1922 FA Cup Final programme in a secret drawer in his dining room table where it remained for some 50 years until he gave to me in the mid 1970's. Needless to say, I still have it at home, suitably framed.

Albert was very lucky to have witnessed those successful years at both Huddersfield clubs as neither team have been able to repeat those halcyon days. Personally, I have followed both the rugby league and football clubs for over forty years but have probably seen them achieve more relegations than promotions in that time.

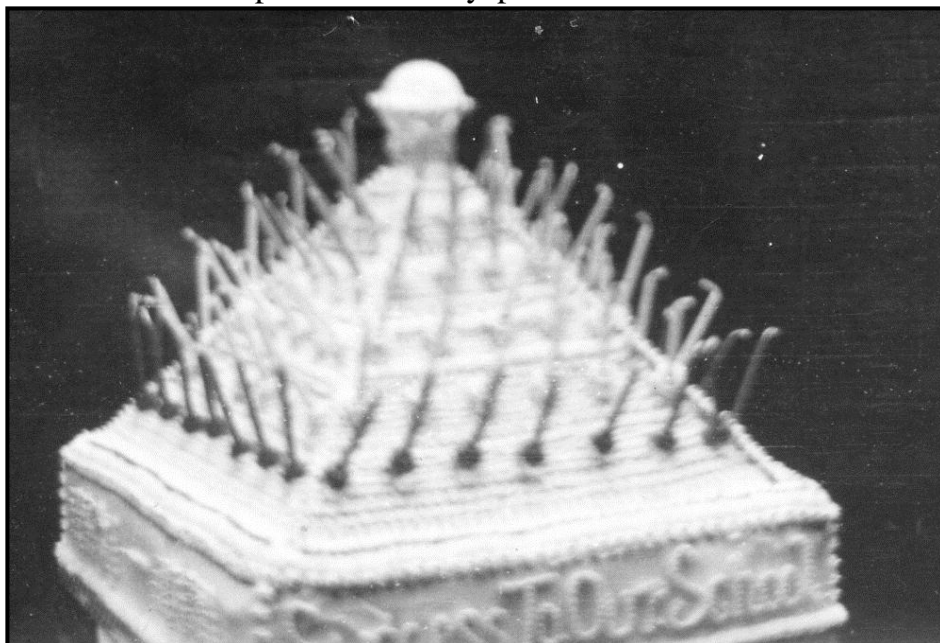
The Brighouse Echo dated Friday, 21st February 1930, reported the death of Alderman John Thornton J.P., who died 18th February 1930 aged 81 years. He had recalled some years previously that he been a member at New Road from a very young age and is first shown in the teachers register on the 26th March 1865, when he was 16 years of age. He went on to support the school in a variety of ways, both financially and as a Superintendent. His name was always at the fore of serious debate within the school throughout the second half of the 19th century and into the first decade of the 20th. The switch-on of the electric lighting at New Road the previous year could well have been his final visit to the premises. The obituary in the Echo stated that, *'John Thornton of Castle Hill House, Rastrick had been in failing health for six months and confined to bed for the last ten weeks. He was the son of Samuel Thornton of the Nunnery, Rastrick. It went on to say, 'John was educated at Rishworth Grammar School until the age of fifteen years when he entered the firm of Vickerman of Huddersfield where he eventually became the managing director. He retired in 1909 but from early in his life, he took a deep interest in public affairs, especially education. In 1928 he was presented with a silver salver by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough in recognition of services to the town since 1880. He was a governor of Rastrick Grammar School and the School Boards of Rastrick and Brighouse. He entered the Brighouse Town Council in 1909 for five years and was elected as representative for Brighouse to the West Riding County Council in 1910. He served as vice-chairman of the Higher Education Committee of the County Council and chairman of several other committees including the Asylums Committee at Storthes Hall, Scalebar Park and Wakefield. He was also a member of the Highways Committee and had been a magistrate for the West Riding, sitting at Halifax. He had also been Chairman of the Governors a Rastrick Grammar School. A Conservative in politics, he was vice-president of Rastrick Constitutional Club and a warden at St. Matthew's Church. Mr. Thornton also had a lifelong connection with the Rastrick New Road Sunday School, which he attended as a scholar and had been a teacher and superintendent for forty years. John Thornton was laid to rest in the family vault at Rastrick Cemetery.*

The early 1930's saw some rather bizarre requests coming before the Teachers Meetings, for the use of the building. In April 1934, Stillingfleet & Harper, wireless manufacturers from Commercial Street and Church Lane, Brighouse, who had secured the tender to supply electricity to New Road just five years previously, asked for the use of a classroom for a Wireless Demonstration. The following year, an application was made for use of the school for a demonstration of Acdo washing soap. Both requests were refused though I would imagine that many of the ladies would have been very interested in the Acdo product as it was quite a revolutionary method of washing clothes at that time and boasted how it took the hard work out of washdays.

From July 1936, the Teachers held Special General Meetings to make preparations for the Sunday School centenary the following year. It was decided to hold the celebrations over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, the 3rd and 4th April. The programme of events would commence with a tea for invited guests followed by a public meeting and entertainment. The old registers were consulted in order to draw up the guest list which would include old scholars who would then be invited via a circular letter. The Sunday would consist of three services, a Children's Service at 10am, a Musical Service at 2.30pm and a Public Service at 6.30pm. The Music Committee were left with the responsibility of organising the afternoon entertainment but great difficulty was experienced in obtaining preachers for the morning and afternoon services. After several invitations to notable ministers of the day, which were all turned down for varying reasons, Mr. Ernest Armitage of Hove Edge and Ald. T. Woffenden of Huddersfield accepted the offers to preach at the afternoon and evening services respectively. It had taken three months to obtain two out of the three preachers but a suitable candidate for the morning service was still proving elusive until Mr. E. Hold of Ossett finally agreed, much to the relief of the Teachers. This was not the end of the matter however, as just two months before the big day the Minutes record, *'that we invite Coun. E. R. Hinchcliffe to preach at the Evening Service on April 4th owing to the death of Ald. T. Woffenden and that we send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Woffenden and family'*.

Rastrick Liberal Club was approached to accommodate guests between the afternoon tea and the evening concert and the name of Stillingfleet and Harper was again evident in the Minutes when, due to the number of people who were expected, they were approached to relay proceedings from the Main Hall into the two top classrooms over the whole weekend. A Children's Party was organised for the following Tuesday and on the night after that, a birthday cake with 100 candles was ordered from Gledhill & Dean's bakery on Old Lane, Brighouse for an Adult Social Evening, inscribed in icing with the words, Success To Our School. A committee was formed to erect the staging and the Young Ladies volunteered to make the Tea tickets. Ham and Tongue sandwiches were the order of the day to be followed by a variety of sweets. Advertisements were placed in the Brighouse Echo & Free Press and the Huddersfield Examiner.

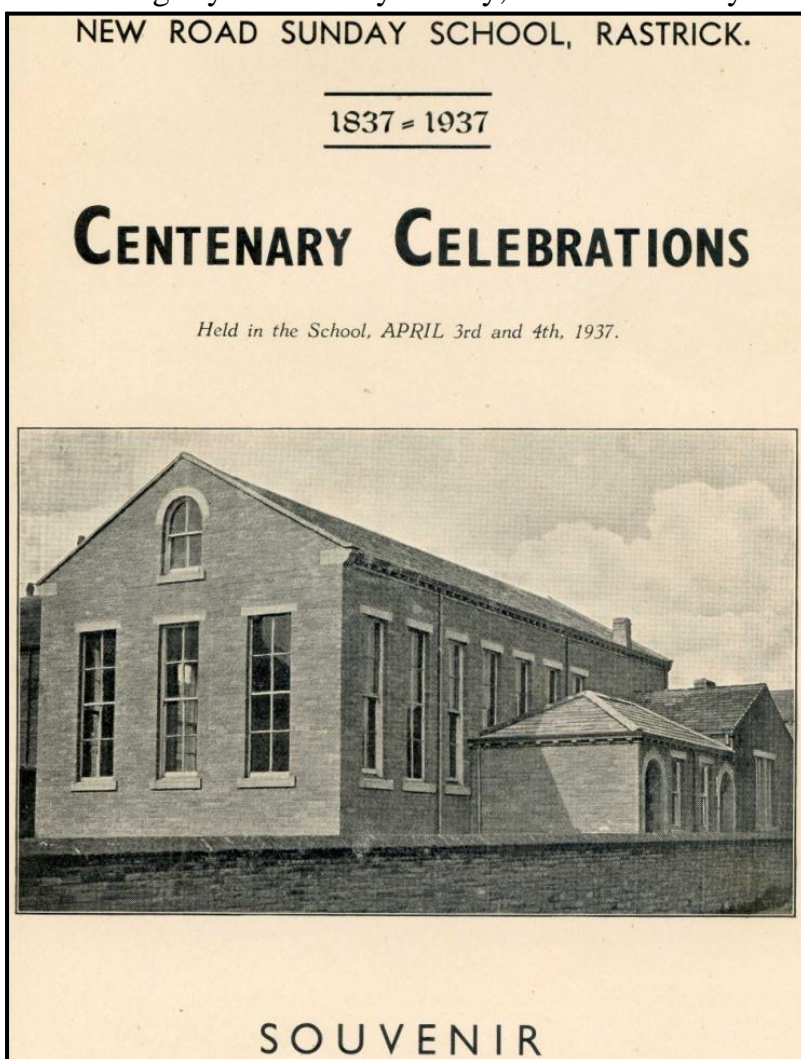
The Teachers Meeting decided to have the school decorated both inside and out before the celebrations took place and every possible detail was considered as two pieces of wood



were ordered to make an extra coat rail, an additional gas point was created in the kitchen and an Emergency Committee was formed, just in case there was an emergency! Now that is contingency planning at its best.

The Centenary Birthday Cake made by Gledhill & Dean Bakers

Ever since I first examined some of the old Sunday School books several years ago, whilst researching my own family history, I wondered why some of the early registers and Minute



books were missing. It was obvious from some of the information in the centenary booklet of 1937 that they must have been around at that time and it was suggested to me by one of the elder members of the Sunday School, Mr. Leslie Hargreaves, that some of them might not have been returned after the research had taken place for that booklet. Whilst examining the 1937 minute books, I found that four different people had been involved in the research of the old registers which makes it highly probable that upon completion of the task, some of them were misplaced or not returned. We will never know but this could explain why the earliest registers no longer

exist. The 1937 minutes state that '*Messrs. L. Gooder, L. Woffenden, H. Riley and J. W. Bottomley look through old minute books and prepare a draft for souvenirs*'. So which one of you gentlemen didn't return your books?

At a meeting held in April 1937, it was decided to hold the anniversary on Sunday 18th July and the Music Committee were asked to make the necessary arrangements to use the same music as had been used during the centenary weekend earlier that month. The anniversary brought the centenary celebrations to a perfect end.

During the build-up to the centenary, the Trustees were in discussion with regard to providing a new ladies washroom and closets at the Sunday School. In December 1936, the secretary of the Trustees was tasked with ascertaining if any plans of the Sunday School drainage system existed and if so, to determine whether they would be suitable to take the extra waste from a new toilet block.

Mr. Fred Holdsworth was asked to draw up plans for the new building which would pass the Corporation planning regulations. Once the plans had been completed and approved, tenders were invited from local tradesmen and in February 1937, Mr. James Squire was awarded the building work with a tender for £37-8s-6d and Mr. Wilfred Hargreaves' tender for £6-10s for the joinery work was also accepted. Various alterations were made to the original plans such as boarding the walls as opposed to leaving painted plaster and the position of the electric light was also changed. The final cost was £67-0s-8d made up of £31 to the mason, James Squire, £13-10s to the joiner, Wilfred Hargreaves, £16-11s to the plumber, Arthur Metcalf, £2-10s to the plasterers, Wm. Walker & Sons, £2 to the painters, Messrs Clay & Sykes and £1-9s-8d for the electric to Stillingfleet & Harper.

A further £72-2s was spent on painting the building both inside and out, having the roof re-pointed, various plumbing and glazing work and a new stage being erected on the New Hey Road side of the building. Further work was carried out the following year after a letter had been received from the Institute Committee requesting that the room was underdrawn with a flat ceiling. The institute was of course the only part of the original building from 1837 and the roof timbers and queen posts were in clear view. All forms of tobacco smoking was popular with the gentlemen in those days which raised concerns that by lowering the ceiling, the room may not be adequately ventilated. The Trustees granted permission for the work to go ahead but stipulated that there should be a manhole and five air grates built into the new ceiling and added that should the ventilation be found not be efficient, the committee would have to make it so. Mr. Leslie Hargreaves informed me a few ago that it was he and his father, Wilfred, who had completed the work back in 1938 and whilst he was satisfied with the finished product, as a carpenter, he much more appreciated the old joinery work that had previously been on show.

It had only been 21 years since the end of the hostilities in the 1st World War, a conflict that

was supposed to have been 'the war to end all wars' yet 1939 saw the outbreak of the 2nd World War. It hadn't really come as a surprise to many following the German invasion of Poland. War was officially declared on the 1st September. Once again, some of the young men from New Road were taken away from their families and loved ones to see active service overseas. Upon the outbreak of war, Mr. Joe Garside and Mr. Walter Gledhill set up a Soldiers Comfort Fund whereby funds would be raised to send articles out to soldiers involved in the conflict. Civilians also had to make many sacrifices and the war had a massive impact upon the whole population, especially when rationing was introduced. At first, only butter, bacon and sugar was rationed but by the middle of 1940 all meat, eggs, cheese, jam, tea and milk was also rationed.

By June 1941, there was shortage of raw materials resulting in clothes being rationed but this also allowed factories and workers to concentrate their efforts on producing articles for the war effort. The Ministry of Food encouraged local councils to set up British Restaurants where the workers could receive a good wholesome meal at reasonable prices. It was a non-profit making organisation but the local councils had to find suitable accommodation for the restaurants. They were given emergency powers under Regulation 51 of the Defence Regulations 1939 which allowed the council to take possession of land and buildings for this purpose. It was known that such an establishment was to be opened in Rastrick and several buildings had been suggested as an appropriate location. One such building was New Road Sunday School. The very thought of the Sunday School being taken over as a restaurant sent shivers down the spine of some of the elder gentlemen who had given most of their lives to the betterment of the establishment. Mr. John William Bottomley was outraged at such a suggestion and went to make representations to the Brighouse Town Clerk, Ernest Clegg. Just what was said at the meeting which was said to be quite a heated affair, we will never know but a suggestion was later made to me that due to Mr. Bottomley's vociferous argument for New Road not to be used, he made himself an enemy of a certain council official and that almost certainly put the seal on the letter dated the 9th June 1942, which was delivered to the home address of the Sunday School secretary, Mr. Frank Bottomley. The letter said, TAKE NOTICE that in the exercise of the Power delegated to me by the Ministry of Food under and by virtue of Regulation 51 of the Defence Regulations, 1939, I have this day taken possession of the premises known as the New Road Sunday School, and situate at New Hey Road, Rastrick, in the Borough of Brighouse. Signed: ERNEST H. CLEGG, Town Clerk.

The Teachers minutes record that:- 'On the 9th June 1941 the Sectary received from the local authorities a requisition order taking possession of our Sunday School. The Trustees and Superintendents were empowered to do all they could to prevent such an order being put into force. Despite all our efforts the authorities took over on Feb^y 9th 1942 and so the committee approached the committee of the South Ward Liberal Club to see if arrangements could be made for us to have the use of their rooms on Sundays to hold our Sunday School services.

DEFENCE REGULATIONS, 1939.
REGULATION 51.
TAKING POSSESSION OF LAND.

To: Mr: Frank Bottomley,
Hon: Secretary of the New Road Sunday School,
88, New Hey Road,
Rastrick,
Brighouse.

TAKE NOTICE that in exercise of the Powers delegated to me by the Minister of Food under and by virtue of Regulation 51 of the Defence Regulations, 1939, I have this day taken possession of the premises known as the New Road Sunday School, and situate at New Hey Road, Rastrick, in the Borough of Brighouse.

DATED this 9th: day of June 1941.

(Signed) ERNEST H. CLEGG.
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Brighouse.

These were mutually arranged and are being carried on at present.' Crowtrees Church Trustees were also approached with a request for the use of their building for the 1942 anniversary services which were held on the 19th July. The Crowtrees organist, Mr. Akeroyd agreed to officiate at the anniversary and a rehearsal was held at the church, the week prior to the actual event. Posters were placed in the local shops to ensure that everyone was aware that the anniversary was still to take place and of its new venue.

By November 1942, there was a suggestion that the Sunday School may be allowed to use its own building for religious services but it was not until February 1943 that the necessary permission was received. This allowed the use of the main hall from 2pm on Saturdays until midnight on Sunday and also use of the staff room every evening after 6pm. The concerns of losing the Sunday School and the additional worry of damage being caused within the building left its toll on some of the elderly Trustees. In the space of just 42 days, the Secretary of the Trustees, Mr. John William Bottomley (31st December 1942), Mr. Luke Gooder (3rd January 1943) and Mr. John Henry Ramsden (11th February 1943) all died quite suddenly. The remaining Trustees had to fill the vacancies before they could make further decisions upon Sunday School business. The new Trustees were Messrs. John Riley, Tom Marsden, Albert Bottomley and Edgar Bottomley.

At a meeting on the 12th February 1945, the Trustees minutes mention that the portion of the Sunday School which had been used as a British Restaurant would shortly be de-requisitioned and that the Trustees had been asked if they would wish to purchase any of the materials and fittings which had been installed during the requisition. The Trustees asked for a list of goods for sale and also that a meeting could be arranged with a council

representative to inspect the items that were on offer. A list was sent to the Trustees and a meeting was arranged for the 27th March with the Borough Engineer, where the goods could be inspected. Following that meeting the Trustees felt that certain water closet items should be left in position to compensate for the loss of the gentlemen's W.C and urinal, which had been removed by the council during the time the building had been under their jurisdiction.

A serving counter should also be left in position in lieu of a claim for damages for restoration of that area to its original condition. The committee were prepared to pay for certain items such as a new sink with double drainer, various cupboards and tables and chairs. The Trustees also made it clear that they intended to assess damage that had been caused during the occupation of the school and seek full compensation. Many letters were sent and received, where both parties were vying with each other in order to secure the best price to pay or receive for the items of interest. There was some annoyance with the Council when some items, one of them being an electric wall clock, were sold elsewhere, when a price had been previously agreed between the Borough Engineer and the Sunday School. The Secretary of the Trustees wrote to the Council stating that it was felt that these negotiations had been unduly protracted and the Trustees would be glad if early arrangements could be made for the removal of goods not for disposal as the school was being used merely as storeroom and impeding our work.

By the 3rd June, the District Valuer had accepted the offers for various items except the electric clock which had been withdrawn from sale and that any further correspondence on the matter should be referred to Town Clerk. As a result, an increased offer of £7-10s was made for the clock which was agreed and a total amount of £29 was paid for the goods purchased.

The second world war came to a successful conclusion for Britain and its allies in 1945 and on the 4th December that year, a 'Form of Notice of Release' letter was received from the Town Clerk, Mr. Clegg, which stated that, 'TAKE NOTICE that acting on behalf of the Ministry of Food, I shall on the 22nd day of December 1945, give up possession of the premises known as the Main Hall, the Kitchen and Cloakroom on the east side and adjoining the said Main Hall of the New Road Sunday School, situated at New Hey Road, Rastrick in the Borough of Brighouse, of which possession was taken by me on the 9th day of June 1941 in exercise of the Powers delegated by the Ministry of Food under and by virtue of Regulation 51 of the Defence Regulations 1939. Whilst this was good news, there were still parts of the building such as the Institute and top classroom, which hadn't been released, much to the frustration of the Trustees and Teachers. The County Valuer wrote a letter to the Trustees in an attempt to mutually agree a rental cost for the continued use of the rooms, which were being used for cooking school meals intended for local schools in Rastrick that were not equipped with a kitchen. The Trustees wrote back saying that they were unwilling to negotiate and served three months notice on the Council to quit the premises, with the notice taking effect from the 24th June 1946. This notice had no legal

bearing and the Council continued to occupy the rooms. In addition to the damage caused to various fixtures and fittings, which included the destruction of two historic marble plaques which were inlaid into the interior walls, the Sunday School also required a new heating boiler. It was felt that this should be paid for by the Ministry as they had contributed towards its demise over the previous few years, leaving it in an unsuitable condition. After long and protracted negotiations with the Ministry of Food regarding compensation for the damage caused during the occupation, the Trustees felt obliged to accept an offer of £278-11s-11d in October 1946 but placed on record in the Minute book that, *'although not satisfied with the amount, they did not think it advisable to take the matter to arbitration'*.

In October 1947, letters were still being exchanged between the Trustees and the Local Education Secretary, enquiring as to the possibility of de-requisitioning the rooms which were still being used by them. The letter was passed on to the West Riding Education Committee who responded in January 1948 expressing their desire to de-requisition as early as possible but that they could not do so until a new kitchen had been built at Bailiff Bridge. Many building materials were still difficult to obtain as massive re-building was taking place at the end of the war, particularly in areas that had suffered extensively from German bombing. The Education Committee explained that when they had received a priority certificate and were hoping to complete the building before the end of the year but much depended upon the Ministry of Works and the supply of materials. The Trustees wrote a letter of thanks for their 'consideration of our difficulties'. It was not until the 16th December 1949 that the secretary received a letter from the West Riding County Council that stated, 'TAKE NOTICE that acting on behalf of the Ministry of Education, I have this day given up possession of the premises known as the Young Men's Room, the Young Ladies Classroom, Lobby and outbuilding (being all that part of the building still under requisition) of the New Road Sunday School situate at New Hey Road, Rastrick in the Borough of Brighouse of which possession was taken by the Town Clerk of Brighouse on the 9th day of June 1941. An immediate inspection of the rooms took place by the Trustees and Mr. Walshaw, who had been employed to act on behalf of the Sunday School with a view to a further claim for compensation for damage caused. In April 1950, Mr. Walshaw submitted a detailed report of damages to the Trustees for which he had submitted a claim in respect of the Young Men's and Young Ladies rooms and the W.C's and urinals. These were compared with the figures given by the District Valuer which were for £677-9s-11d plus £6-6s for rehabilitation. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to accept the District Valuer's offer as, similar to the previous claim for compensation after the de-requisitioning of the main building, the Trustees did not feel justified in taking the matter to arbitration. It is interesting to note that Mr. Walshaw's value of damage was £955. His fee's were paid for by the Requisitioning Authorities and he asked for no recompense from the Trustees as the amount he would receive were quite satisfactory to him.

This left the Trustees with task of making good the damage and at a meeting in April 1950, they decided to remove a brick partition wall and a chimney breast that had been built in the

Young Ladies room. All the pipes under the floors were to be removed as were the stone flags which had been laid in the Institute. Plasterers and joiners were employed to repair the ceilings of the two rooms and Mr. Edgar Horner was asked to build up the large fan opening in the outer wall of the Institute. Enquiries were also to be made regarding a new floor covering for that room. Licenses were still required for any building work which had to be deemed necessary before a licence could be issued. A licence had been requested from the Regional Licensing Officer at the Ministry of Works to restore the damaged rooms and to build a new cloakroom with a combined lavatory accommodation. The first application included a total of 0.965 standards of softwood but this was refused on account of the acute shortage of softwood. The Trustees wrote back giving a full and detailed account of the damage caused by the Requisitioning Authorities and explaining that after eight years of use by them, the Trustees were unable to put the rooms to their original use which was proving a very serious handicap in their work amongst young people. The Licensing Officer asked for full details of the plans for the proposed work, which were forwarded along with a covering letter further explaining the Trustee's difficulties in that they were not now receiving any rent for the rooms but could not use the premises in their current state.

The Licensing Officer responded on the 27th October regretting that the shortage of softwood did not permit the issue of a licence but added that if a substantial reduction in the request for softwood could be made, further consideration would be made to the request. This was again fully discussed by the Trustees who co-opted Messrs. Arnold Bottomley and Harold Walker onto the committee as they were 'practical men'. It was finally decided that a solid hardwood block floor be placed in the Institute which would reduce the softwood requirement by more than half to just 0.4599 standards. Mr. Walker would be responsible for laying the concrete bed along with assistance from other members of the Institute. It was also decided to remove all dado boards, window casings and window sills and use them to repair damage in the Young Ladies room and Main Hall and provide dado for the new cloakroom. The walls of the Institute would then be roughcast with sand and cement and hard plaster finished. Before a licence was finally issued on the 23rd December 1950, further concessions had to be made regarding the use of softwood and Mr. Leslie Hargreaves was employed to complete the joinery work in all the rooms. Mr. Thompson of Paddock was asked to undertake all the necessary building work, Yeates and Hanson from Leeds were employed to lay the block flooring at a cost of 47/- per square yard and Mr. J. Walker constructed the seating around the walls. Mr. S. Butterworth of Shelf was employed to carry out all the relevant plasterwork, Messrs. Stillingfleet & Harper would cause all the electric work to be completed which included such work as wiring for the electric clock in the Main Hall and wiring for a billiard clock in the Institute. The cloakroom, lavatories and passageway would be paved with 6" x 6" red quarry tiles.

In October 1951, the Young Men's Institute made a donation of £400 towards all the renovation work, which was gratefully received by the Trustees as by January 1952, the Treasurer of the Trustees gave an account of the income and expenditure in connection with

the restitution of the Young Ladies room, the Young Men's Institute, toilets and cloakroom. He stated that only £16 remained in the account and that two bills were still outstanding, one for £116 for decorating and the other for approx. £100 for the laying of the hardwood floor. Mr. Frank Riley intimated that the Band of Hope were going to make a donation of £50 but this would still leave a deficit in the account. As a result of this, a request was made to the Teachers Meeting to transfer sufficient money from the general account to meet the outstanding bills and that they assist in organising an event with the object of raising £300 in order that the Main Hall, Primary Classroom, kitchen and entrances could be decorated. The issue was raised at a meeting just a few days later where it was decided to hold a Gift Day on the 1st March.

The Brighouse Echo reported on the forthcoming event in its February 29th issue under the heading:

**NEW ROAD SUNDAY SCHOOL BEING REDEDICATED
FIRST APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR FIFTY-SIX YEARS**

Within a few days of the 115th anniversary of the opening of New Road Sunday School, Rastrick, the building, completely repaired structurally, will be rededicated to the service for which it was originally built – that of a Sabbath school.

The Echo states that 'a contributor writes as follows', and it is quite apparent that the 'contributor' was one of the stalwarts from the Sunday School. It also demonstrates that there was still quite an amount of ill feeling following the requisition of the building. The 'contributor' wrote:

When in February 1942, the Brighouse Corporation Welfare Committee, not being able to obtain the use of the building by agreement, compelled the Trustees to be ejected, many considered this to be the end of the Sunday school and a few wished it to be so. But the spirit of 1837 was again evident and, with the generous help of the South Ward Liberal Club, there was no break in the services.

The stay there lasted until Christmas Sunday, when permission was received to use 'certain parts' of the school each weekend from 2pm on Saturday until 6am on Monday. The return to the school was marred, however, by the death of three of its trustees. Happy were these men of God to see the place, to which they had devoted so much of their life's work, partly returned to the work of God, but they passed into higher service, numbed by the wrong which had been done them.

Slowly but surely the reconstruction and the adoption of methods of Christian teaching were devised to fit the available room. The help afforded by Crowtrees Methodist Church in allowing the use of their church for the anniversary and harvest festival services, and their schoolroom for social functions, must rank high in the deeds of kindness and assistance which were readily given. It was not one-sided helping however, and, as some partial

repayment, in the same years, members of New Road Sunday School could be seen in at least five church choirs on their anniversary days and the New Roaders were to be seen on many Sunday School stage in Brighouse and district.

The return to the school also saw the revival of the Band of Hope and its festival, but the revival of the annual trip had to wait until June 1948. The production of shows for which the school had become noteworthy was also revived and two full length plays were staged. The public who saw them or read about them in the Press were probably unaware that the cast had to erect the entire stage, scenery and lighting in the afternoon, give the show in the evening and dismantle and by midnight, have the school ready for Sunday services.

The end of the war, which it was hoped would end the control of the Welfare Committee, saw the complete re-fit of the cooking kitchen, which was little, if ever used. Later, a return to the trustees of the main school and two classrooms was overshadowed by a mysterious transfer of the remaining parts from the Welfare Committee to the Education Authority. The return of some of the soldiers to the school brought an appeal through the local Member of Parliament (the late Mr. F. A. Cobb), but again, this mysteriously came to nought after a very promising start.

The end of 1948 brought the last dormant committee into function again, the singing class being re-formed and becoming responsible for the Sunday School entertainments. The methods of Sunday School teaching which had had to be adopted were still continuing with only slight modifications: the membership was again becoming steady at about 150: and attendances at the special service (such as anniversary, harvest and Christmas Sunday) told the teachers that their efforts were appreciated and that the public were aware that the Sunday School was 'alive'. Midsummer 1950 brought the complete release of the premises and after much deliberation concerning damage and licences for repairs, agreement was reached. The licence to begin was received at Christmas that year.

A lot of the demolition work was done by members of the school and where possible, the reconstruction has been carried out by firms consisting of scholars or old scholars. The last phase of repairs is now on its way and its completion will be marked by a rededication service and choral weekend. In the meantime, an appeal is being made to the scholars and old scholars and friends in the form of a gift day to be held tomorrow (Saturday). This appeal is the first that has had to be made since the school was rebuilt in 1896..

Throughout the life of its 115 years, New Road Sunday School has remained rigid to its un-denominational faith, yet being so flexible as to allow a minister of any denomination to preach, provided he preaches 'Jesus Christ as the only foundation of a sinner's hope', and to allow a person of any denomination to worship God. There is no lacking in faith that the immediate difficulties will be overcome but even at this crucial moment the school has found time to go and help sister churches in their time of need.

The following week, the Echo reported an 'amazing success of New Road Sunday School effort'. The report stated that, *'in seven hours on Saturday, past and present members of New Road Sunday School, Rastrick, contributed £468 in response to the school's gift day appeal. The sum desired by the trustees towards renovations of the now de-requisitioned buildings was £300. Since Saturday, the total contributions have risen to £490.*

Various officials of the school sat to receive gifts from 2pm onwards on Saturday and the response was amazing, many former members of the Sunday School turning up from distant places in the county. Mr. & Mrs. H. Rayner, Mr. H. Hampson, Mr. A. Squire and Mr. T. Holroyd combined to form a small orchestra which played during the afternoon and early evening.

The Teachers were evidently pleased with the outcome and placed a letter of thanks in the Echo along with a circular letter of thanks to all who contributed. This brought the dark days of the requisition period to an end and the Sunday School was in a position to move forward with money available in the bank. During this post war period, other maintenance work was still being carried out at New Road and the Trustees gave the go ahead for the wall at the east side of the building to be increased by three feet in height and have the toppings replaced. This was presumably due to the land on the other side of the wall, known as Fletcher Lands, being developed for Local Authority housing when the Fletcher Crescent estate was built in the late 1940's. A new gas oven was also approved for use in the kitchen.

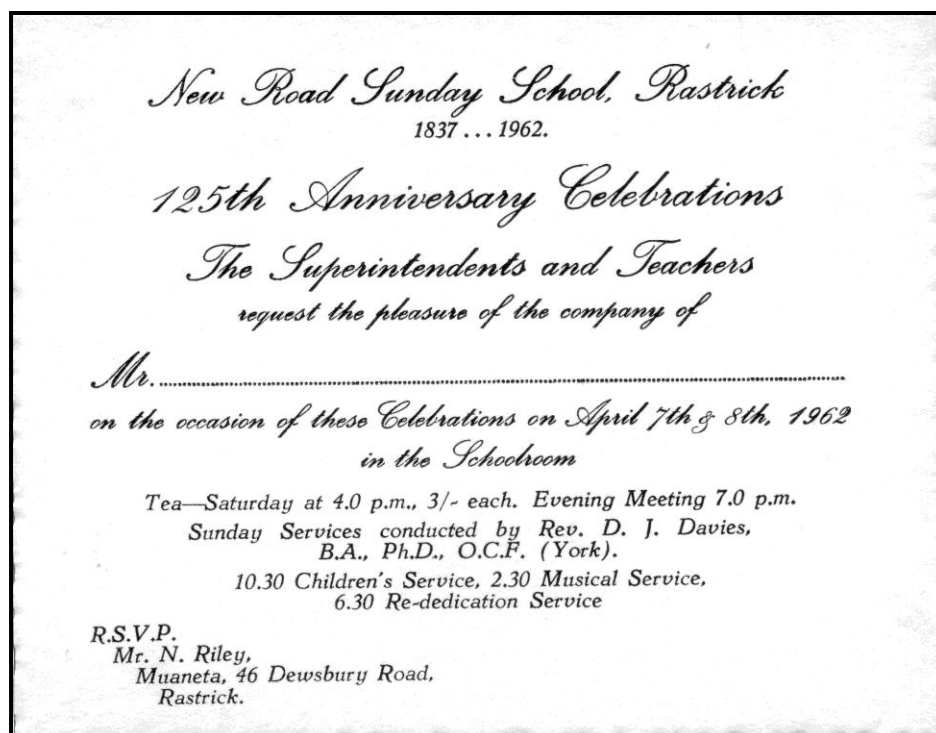
In the month prior to the Gift Day, the secretary of the Young Men's Institute wrote to the trustees asking for the re-instatement of the billiard table, which had been removed during requisition. The trustees expressed some concern as it was thought that some services may have to be held in the Institute whilst the decorating is in progress. The matter was put to a vote and the request was eventually granted on condition that the room be at the disposal of the trustees if called upon for any function.

The 2nd June 1953 saw the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Not many people had television sets in those days and the Teachers received a prior request from the Brighouse Rotary Club to install a television receiver in the Main Hall of the Sunday School, for the benefit of the elderly people of the surrounding area, so far as accommodation will permit. The Sunday School ladies were asked to provide refreshments for the viewers but not everyone was in agreement with the proposal as the minutes record that approval was given but only after lengthy discussion. The room could be used free of charge but owing to the state of the finances, the Sunday School could not undertake to provide food but only liquid refreshment in the form of tea. In addition, the Teachers asked the Rotary Club that owing to the historic significance of the occasion, could they also provide a receiver in the Primary classroom in order that younger scholars could also view the event. The latter request could not be agreed by the Rotary Club but an anonymous donation of £2 meant that biscuits could be provided along with the cups of tea to ensure a very pleasant and memorable

afternoon was had by all. Brighthouse Corporation had also arranged for an Old Folks Treat on the 13th June, to celebrate the Coronation and requested the use of the Sunday School to hold one of the many events being held throughout the Borough. The Teachers agreed to this request but charged the Council four guineas plus one guinea for the caretaker fees. The Sunday School then agreed to take part in a United Service on Sunday 7th June in Wellholme Park, Brighthouse or if wet, in St. James' Church

With the school in a good state of repair, the next few years saw the minutes of the trustees mainly concerned with the general upkeep and maintenance of the building but the heating boiler again became the subject of debate in 1959. A representative from the Yorkshire Electricity Board was asked to attend a trustees meeting to provide specifications for an electrically heated system to replace the coal boiler. Upon consideration, it was decided not to go ahead with this as there were no potential financial savings and the cost of installation was quite substantial. Other discussions on the subject took place with Mr. Frank Wade, a local heating engineer and plumber. He advised that coal fuel with automatic stoking would be the most economical method. Mr. Wade was instructed to proceed with the necessary work of installing an automatic feed to the boiler which necessitated the building of a retaining wall in the cellar.

The year 1962 witnessed the 125th Anniversary celebrations which were held in the school on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th April, Tea was included on the Saturday followed by an open meeting, supper and entertainment. Invitations had been sent out to 700 scholars, both past and present, many of whom were in various parts of the British Isles and some



overseas. Over 200 had been able to accept and at the meeting, the Main Hall was full to capacity. Representatives were present from some of the other local churches ie. Rev. G. R. Chapman (Bridge End Congregationalist), Rev. G. R. Jenkins (Park Methodist) and the Rev. I. C. Knox (St. Matthews). The Rev. N. Brown (

Upper Edge Baptist) had been unable to accept the invitation. For the meeting, the President, Mr. William Walter Sykes took the chair and was supported and was supported upon the platform by Messrs. John Riley, Frank Riley, Ernest Gooder, Albert Bottomley,

Harold Riley, Norman Riley, Charles (Charlie) Horner, Thomas (Ted) Wozencroft and the Rev. Ian Knox. After prayers, Mr. Sykes in his opening speech, quoted a verse which ended 'time past is gone, thou cans't not that enjoy' but he thought they were enjoying the fruits of labours of forthright men and women who had in the past, made the present possible for them. He then referred to to the long service of some of those on the platform. John Riley, Frank Riley and Ernest Gooder, 41 years each as Superintendent's and 48, 54 and 52 years respectively as teachers. Albert Bottomley, 20 years as Superintendent, 40 years a teacher and 9 years as secretary, Norman Riley, 20 years Superintendent and 25 years a teacher, Harold Riley, 19 years Superintendent and 22 years as a teacher, Charles Horner 14 years Superintendent, Wilfred Bottomley, 14 years Superintendent and 11 years teacher, he himself had been a Superintendent 9 years and 10 years a teacher and Thomas Wozencroft, 10 years Superintendent Over the years, the school, like many others had had its ups and downs but had survived the repercussions of a world in which there had been a deterioration in moral standards. They had room for more scholars and must not forget that from the present generation would come the leaders of tomorrow.

There were those who said that religion was on the decline, some who said it was on the increase. He did not know who was correct but there was no doubt that at New Road, they had felt the wind of change, the shifting population had affected their numbers, but perhaps the wind would again change direction and the situation would become more favourable. Mr. Ernest Gooder then briefly outlined the history of the school and he was followed by Mr. John Riley who commented that it might be wondered why men and women had devoted their time and effort to keep New Road Sunday School alive, he thought these people believed in a way of life and had taken as their textbook, the Bible and this was still the case at New Road. Mr. Albert Bottomley said that the present membership was one hundred and ten with nine Superintendents and twenty-five teachers and although they were not wealthy, they were not financially embarrassed and throughout its 125 years, only two public appeals had been made. In 1899, a Bazaar realized £148-6-9d for liquidation of a debt on the new school and in 1952 a Gift Day realized £468 towards restoration costs after de-requisition as a British Restaurant. All organisation connected with the school were very active and recently we had purchased a projector and were able to augment the spoken word by visual aid. The Rev. Knox added his congratulations and Mr. Wozencroft also spoke to them from the floor of the hall. Two old scholars, Mr. K. B. Taylor (Sherburn-in-Elmet) and Mrs. N. Kellett (Whitby) added their tributes and Mr. N. Riley briefly concluded the speech making.

The meeting which had been opened by the hymn 'O God our help in ages past' was closed by the hymn, 'Through all the changing scenes of life'. After supper, entertainment was provided by members of the Brighouse Light Opera Society. Thanks to all who had helped towards the success of the event were expressed by Mr. H. Riley and Mr. C. Horner. The evening closed with the hymn, 'God be with you, till we meet again'. Amongst the other visitors attending were one from Bournemouth, two from Rotherham and one from Durham

and a telegram was also received from Mr. & Mrs. Derek Falck who lived in Canada.



Officials and guests at the 125th anniversary celebrations in 1962

Kindly leave Hymn Sheet for use at other Services.

New Road Sunday School, Rastrick
1837 — 1962
125TH
Anniversary Celebrations

SATURDAY, APRIL 7th, 1962
TEA at 4 p.m.
REUNION MEETING of OLD SCHOLARS at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8th, 1962
Morning at 10-30 - Children's Service

Afternoon at 2-30 - Musical Service
Soloists—Madam DORIS FREDERICK (Contralto)
Mr. ALUN DOBSON (Tenor)
THE TOM HOLROYD ORCHESTRA
Accompanist—Mrs. L. HARGREAVES
AUGMENTED CHOIR

Evening at 6-30 - Service of Re-Dedication

All Services conducted by
Rev. D. J. DAVIES, B.A., Ph.D. O.C.F., York.

On Sunday 8th April, three special services were held in connection with the 125th Anniversary Celebrations with a Children's Service at 10-30am, a Musical Service at 2-30pm with Madam Doris Frederick (Contralto) and Mr. Alun Dobson (Tenor) as soloists, the Tom Holroyd Orchestra and an Augmented Choir. Mrs. Rene Hargreaves was the accompanist and Mr. Leslie Hargreaves the conductor. At 6.30pm, a Re-dedication Service was held

In 1967, the question of the Sunday Schools' position with regard to the Charities Act was discussed by the trustees. They employed a solicitor, Mr. E. R. Hinchliffe from the company Roberts Son & Hinchliffe, who explained the Act and how it would affect the Sunday School. He stated that proof of ownership

would be essential, to place in front of the Charity Commissioners before the Sunday School could become a registered Charitable Institution and he suggested that every effort should be made to search every possible avenue to prove ownership. He also said that a block plan of the premises would be an advantage. He went on to say that as there were no deeds for the land and building, he could not say whether the matter could be conducted at County Court level or if the matter would have to be taken to the High Court. The trustees felt that they would have to comply with Mr. Hinchliffe's suggestions and try to obtain deeds of ownership and in October 1967, a further meeting took place with Mr. Hinchliffe who had referred the matter to Queens Counsel who in turn was satisfied that the trustees were properly and legally constituted and would be the legal owners of the land and property without more ado, by what he described as adverse possession. He advised that the trustees should immediately make an application to the Charity Commissioners and consequently, Mr. Hinchliffe was asked to proceed with the registration at his earliest convenience. Mr. Hinchliffe also advised that it may be beneficial to increase the number of trustees from the current seven. This was duly accepted and it was agreed to increase the number to twelve which resulted in Messrs' Charlie Horner, Harold Riley, Norman Riley, Arnold Bottomley and Brian Whiteley to be co-opted as new trustees, to join the seven existing trustees, namely Messrs' Ernest Gooder, John Riley, Frank Riley, Albert Bottomley, William W. Sykes, Joe Booth and Edgar Bottomley. Joe Booth was appointed Chairman and Albert Bottomley was appointed Treasurer and Secretary of the trustees and a decision was made that the body of trustees should be maintained throughout at full strength and that any vacancy should be immediately filled by a member of the Sunday School. A draft set of rules was submitted to Mr. Hinchliffe for his approval prior to sending them to the Charity Commissioners. By June 1969, discussions were still on-going in relation to the final details that would be submitted to the Charity Commissioners. It was pointed out to the trustees that there could be certain advantages if the land was vested in the 'Custodian Trustee for Charities' as this would obviate the necessity for appointing new trustees by formal deed upon any future changes in their number, however, the administration and control of the Sunday School would still remain in their own hands. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to go along with this scheme and that the freehold property belonging to the trustees be vested in the Custodian Trustee for Charities.

In line with most legal intricacies, the matter continued to rumble along without conclusion for many months. The Charities Commission had asked a question in relation to Sunday School members becoming trustees, namely, how were the members determined formally. They also suggested that rather than appointing a trustee for life, it would be better if they served a certain term in office whereupon they could either be replaced or apply for a second term. This was accepted and each trustee would serve for six years, with two trustees retiring each year, but being eligible for reappointment if they so desire. By June 1970, Frank Riley had passed away and was replaced by Leslie Hargreaves. A draft copy of the Charities Commission Scheme was explained to the trustees by Mr. Hinchliffe and it was finally decided to approve the proposals as laid out by the Commissioners. The trustees

asked Mr. Hinchliffe to proceed with the work of having the said Scheme signed and sealed by the Charity Commissioners.

By the 6th January 1971, John Riley had also passed away and it decided to invite Mr. Thomas (Ted) A. E. Wozencroft to serve as a trustee. That meeting was also told that Mr. Hinchliffe had received sealed copies of the Scheme from the Charities Commission for the Charity known as New Road Sunday School, Rastrick in the Borough of Brighouse in the West Riding of Yorkshire and in the matter of the Charities Act, 1960 and thus the long running saga of obtaining Charitable status was finally achieved. The first meeting of the new Trustees was held on the 29th January 1971 where Mr. Hinchliffe handed over a minute book for future. The book contained on the first page, a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Appointment as a Trustee as provided in the Scheme. Each of the Trustees then signed and dated the minute book which is still in use today, though rapidly coming to the end. The relevant offices were then filled with Joe Booth as Chairman, Albert Bottomley, Secretary and Charlie Horner as Treasurer. The total fee's for the solicitor amounted to £166.95 but Mr. Hinchliffe kindly accepted £150 in full settlement of the amount.

The bench seats that had adorned the Main Hall for longer than anyone cared to remember were finally replaced in early 1970 with moulded plastic seats which had interlocking tubular steel legs and came in four different colours of red, slate, light blue and light grey. The chairs cost 48/7d (£2-43p) each and 200 were purchased. Donations to meet the cost were made by the Ladies Fellowship, the Teachers and the Institute.

That same year, the long standing Labour councillor for Rastrick, Mrs. Emma Hions, accepted the invitation to become the Mayor of Brighouse. Her associations with New Road went back many years and her husband, Stanley, had played for the Sunday School cricket team in years gone by. Stanley became the Mayor's Consort and Councillor Hions asked if the Sunday School would be responsible for her Civic Service and also provide her with a Chaplain for the mayoral year to come. This honour would normally have fallen upon the Sunday School President who was Mr. William W. Sykes but owing to failing health, he had to decline and suggested that Mr. Norman Riley should have the honour. The invitation caused quite a stir in the local press due to her choice of a lay-preacher as opposed to a church minister. The Sunday School was also deemed to be too small for such an occasion and too far away from the centre of Brighouse. In the end, the Civic Service was held in the Brighouse Civic Hall where a choir of sixty-one voices aged from 10 years to 83 years were assembled. Mr. Leslie Hargreaves from New Road Sunday School was the conductor and his wife, Rene, the pianist. The desk and rostrum were taken from the Sunday School for use during the service.

The Mayor and Consort arrived at the Civic Hall after being in procession through Brighouse, led by the Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band. She was greeted at the door by the Chaplain, Mr. Riley, who escorted them upstairs into the Hall where the choir sang the

Consecration Hymn. After the service, Mr. Riley accompanied the Mayor and Consort in procession, back to the Town Hall.

During and after the Mayoral Year, congratulations and good wishes were sent to the Sunday School from all political and religious persuasions. Mr. Riley wrote afterwards that, 'probably the ultimate accolade was when members of the Council who had missed the Service, publically admitted that they had missed out.' He also wrote, 'in spite of the Sunday School's 133 years of teaching and preaching the love of Jesus, its wide-spread social activity and its very high membership and excellent premises, it still was not recognised by many, which included the clergy, as being of importance. This can be illustrated by the fact that, at the foundation of what is now the Rastrick Group of Churches, the Sunday School was not invited to join. 1970 changed all that; the Sunday School is now a member of the Rastrick Group of Churches and the (then) President, a member of the Ministers Fraternal. The Teachers minutes record, *'no praise can be too high for the part that Mr. Norman Riley, our elected nominee to serve as Mayor's Chaplain, played to ensure the success of the occasion and throughout the year as he attended various functions, he nobly upheld the prestige of our Sunday School by his sincerity in every word and action, we certainly chose the right man for the position'*.

In September 1971, the Sunday School was visited by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Squire (pictured below) and Mr. & Mrs. Willard O. Noble from Burlington, Wisconsin, USA. They were the descendants of John Noble, one of the founder members of New Road Sunday School in



1837. John Noble was born in 1792 and he and his wife Martha, produced no less than 10 children, eight boys and two girls, during their married life. He had been the owner of a small grocery shop but by 1837 he had become a cloth manufacturer in partnership with Joseph Starkey, who co-incidentally, according to the Trades Directory for that year, was also the owner of a grocers

shop. By the time of the 1841 census, John Noble was shown as a Woollen Fancy Manufacturer, who were people associated with the production of cloth for the fancy waistcoat and trouser industry, which was very fashionable at that time. This was one of the principle trades in cloth manufacturing in Rastrick and Noble and Starkey soon went into partnership with another manufacturer whose name was to later become synonymous with textile manufacturing in Rastrick, William Helm. The partnership was known as Noble, Starkey and Helm but in 1841. Noble and Starkey informed Helm of their intention to emigrate to America. As a result, Helm bought out his partners and continued on his own,

eventually teaming up with his sons, Thomas and John, who developed the Spout Mills complex off New Hey Road. John Noble resided at Oaks Green, Rastrick and on the 10th August that year, he and Martha set out for the port of Liverpool with all but one of his sons (who followed later), together with the Starkey family on an adventure that resulted in the visit of the Squire and Noble families to New Road Sunday School, 130 years later. A great friendship was formed between the two American families and Mr. & Mrs. Albert Bottomley, their son Trevor, his wife Myra and daughter Suzanne, who all visited Wisconsin at various times over the ensuing years. I was also invited to visit for the American Bi-centenary in 1976, when I accompanied Suzanne, both of us just mere teenagers in what was then regarded a trip of a lifetime. We were almost turned back in Toronto, Canada but managed to persuade the U.S. Immigration Authorities that we weren't running away together and after phone calls had been made to the Squires in Wisconsin, we were allowed onto the flight to Milwaukee. Sadly, those first visitors are no longer with us but their descendants have made several visits over the ensuing years and Suzanne and I still keep in regular contact with them. I last visited them in the USA in 2008.

On the 19th September 1971, a special service was held at New Road, conducted by Mr. Harold Riley and on the 24th, they were entertained at a Social Evening during which Mr. Noble and Mr. Squire each expressed their appreciation of the wonderful welcome they had enjoyed and the close connection which had been formed between New Road Sunday School and their own English Settlement Church in Racine County. Collections made in the UK in 1845 towards the building of the English Settlement Church had totalled £84-13-6½ for which those early pioneers were eternally grateful. The minutes record that their visit was 'the most memorable occasion of the year'.

In January 1973, Mr. Brian Whiteley proposed that the Trustees make enquiries into the possibility of marriage services being held at New Road and also the recording of births and deaths. The necessary forms for the Solemnization of Marriages were received from the Regional Registrar in June of that year and twenty-four signatures were then required from householders within the area who were in favour of marriages being solemnized at the Sunday School. It was agreed that once the signatures had been obtained, any request to use the school for a marriage would be accepted and that from the day of that meeting, any request for a funeral service would be accepted. Before the go ahead was given by the Registrar, he wanted to know which Responses would be used at any forthcoming services whereupon it was decided that we should use the Responses as in the Book of Service and Prayers published by the Congregational Church in England and Wales whilst reserving the right to use the Bible of choice of the officiating person. Once all the relevant details had been agreed, and fees paid, New Road was certified to carry out Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals for the first time and a copy of the Marriage Licence was framed for display in the Main Hall. In October 1974, Mr. Whiteley informed the Trustees that he would like to provide a suitable vessel for use in any future Baptism Services and around the same time, a Teachers Meeting heard that Mr. & Mrs. John Dalby had verbally requested that their three

daughters should be baptised at the Sunday School on the 8th December 1974. The meeting gave its full approval to the request and decided that Mr. Ted Wozencroft would conduct the baptism. Mr. W. W. Sykes then presented a white crocheted tablecloth to the Sunday School on behalf of Mrs. Sykes, for use at Baptisms and Funerals.

The first Baptism took place when the three Dalby sisters, Alison Clare, Sally Louise and Lisa Jane were baptised by Mr. Wozencroft in an historic service. Since that first occurrence, a total of 45 baptisms have taken place at New Road up to the start of 2012, all of which are recorded on a framed Cradle Roll situated within the Main Hall.

Around this same period, Albert Bottomley informed the Teachers Meeting that he intended to resign his position as secretary of the Sunday School at the future Annual General Meeting which was to be held on the 22nd May. As no volunteers were forthcoming at the A.G.M., Albert agreed to continue for a further three months and so Albert continued until the end of the year when his niece, Christine Eccles, my mother, volunteered to perform the task. At the time, she was secretary of the Sunday School Band of Hope but resigned that position to become the Sunday school secretary. Christine continued the long family tradition of being secretary at New Road, which had been started by her grandfather, John William Bottomley in 1884. He was succeeded by his son, Frank, in 1914, who served until his untimely death in 1952 whereupon his younger brother, Albert took over the reins. Albert carried out the task with great diligence, as did Christine, who remained in the role until ill health forced her to resign in 2005 by which time her grandfather, her two uncles and herself had served continuously as secretary for the Sunday School for 121 years. One of the last things that Albert was involved with at the Sunday School was a Gift Day which had been planned in order to raise funds for a new heating boiler which needed to be purchased at a cost of around £2,000. The Gift Day was arranged for Saturday the 19th April 1975 and Albert, as retiring secretary, together with his wife Hilda, had been invited to receive gifts along with the afternoon superintendents and Mr. William Sykes, who had also just announced his retirement as President due to failing health. Albert never made the Gift Day. He was taken ill and died in the Halifax Infirmary two days before the event.

Albert Bottomley had been a keen sportsman in his younger days playing football and billiards but his great love was for the game of cricket where he played for the very successful New Road teams up to his retirement whereupon he took up umpiring in the Huddersfield Association League. Albert could not understand why his American guests had no idea about the game of cricket and during their visit, he took them to a match in order that he could explain the rules to them as the game went on thus ensuring that they were fully acquainted with the game before leaving the shores of the British Isles. On one of my visits to the Squires in America, I was looking through a scrapbook which contained local newspaper cuttings from when Albert and Hilda first made a visit to the U.S.A. Albert had been interviewed by a local reporter and he had even tried to explain the rules of cricket to him. The poor reporter tried his best to put Albert's explanation into words that his

readers would understand. The result was a description of something that bore no resemblance to the game that I know. Upon his death, many letters of sympathy were received from the many various associations that Albert had been connected with during his life.

The same Brighouse Echo that carried Albert's obituary also carried an article about the Gift Day. A photograph (above) showed the retiring President, Mr. William Sykes receiving gifts from Alison, Angela and Sally Dalby and the accompanying report reads:- *Gift Days have been very special days at New Road Sunday School, Rastrick. Special because only three have been held in the last 138 years of its existence. One such Gift Day occurred on Saturday when £780 was raised in response to a letter from the Sunday School to all those former scholars who could be traced. Gifts of money arrived from many parts of the world and the British Isles and over two hundred friends and scholars attended at the weekend. The gifts were received in four hours in successive shifts by the President, Mr. W. W. Sykes and Mrs. Sykes and the five senior superintendents and their wives:- Mr. & Mrs. H. Riley, Mr. & Mrs. N. Riley, Mr. & Mrs. T. A. E. Wozencroft, Mr. & Mrs. C. Horner and Mr. & Mrs. E. Arnold. A display of photographs and press cuttings on the walls showed much of the work that had been done in the school during the last sixty to seventy years. A*



three hour entertainment started with a gift day in reverse, a giveaway show, by Mr. C. Horner, Mr. N. Riley and Mr. R. Arnold with Mrs. Micklethwaite on the piano. This was followed by excerpts from the recent successful 'Cabaret 75' and the evening closed with hymn singing led by Mr. L. Hargreaves and the prayers by Mr. Wozencroft. Thanks were expressed by Mr. N. Riley. The Gift Day was held primarily to raise money towards a new boiler which is estimated will cost around £2000. The accompanying photograph in the

Echo showed the three Dalby sisters handing over their gifts which was appropriate in that just a few months earlier, the three sisters were christened in that very first baptism service to be ever held at New Road Sunday School. The final amount raised at the Gift Day totalled £798.26.

Work got under way to have the new gas heating boiler installed by NEGas (the former North Eastern Gas Board) but all did not go as planned as by October 1975, the Trustees recorded that work on the new boiler was still not complete 'to our satisfaction and that we again write to the Gas Board and complain'. By December, the work had been completed but the Trustees felt compelled to write to the financial department of NEGas, who had threatened court action for non-payment of the invoice, to acquaint themselves with the conditions of the contract, that being that payment would be made one month after completion of the work. The account was subsequently settled but with the last word on dispute coming from the Trustees.

After over 20 years of schooling children in the Scripture Examination, the Sunday School had insufficient children to take part in 1975. Despite this setback, there were sufficient children during the ensuing years until the end of an era finally came in 1987 when yet again, there were no children willing to take part. The Sunday School had seen several successes over the years when in 1953 Alan Heywood and 1959 Kathryn Archer achieved being top of their relevant classes. After the latter date, three Shields were given as prizes and further successes came to New Road as follows:-

1961 - Ann Mitchell - Webster Shield

1965 - Anne Taylor - Collins Shield

1967 - Lynn Horner - Collins Shield

1968 - Anne Taylor - Bridge End Shield

Sheila Bottomley - Lightcliffe Shield

1970 - Sheila Bottomley - Bridge End Shield

1971 - Sheila Bottomley - Lightcliffe Shield

1972 - Sheila Bottomley - Webster Shield

Not to be forgotten were the countless other young people who had worked hard to achieve other classes of pass and of course, the teachers who had trained them for the examinations.

The year 1976 saw the closure of one of the most loved religious institutions in the district, Bridge End Congregational Church. Many of the older established families who worshipped at New Road were also members at Bridge End and were always present at the main events in their calendar such as the Anniversary Services and Harvest Festivals. Some were or had been owners of their own pews for which they paid an annual levy. Upon its closure, a New Road stalwart, Mrs Ada Riley (nee Bottomley), the wife of the late Frank Riley and mother of Harold and Norman, was at 89 years of age, the oldest member of Bridge End. Upon hearing the sad news of the imminent closure in June, a letter was sent to the congregation

of Bridge End inviting them to join us at New Road but churches closer to Bridge End seemed to benefit more than New Road. As opposed to an influx of new worshippers, New Road were given three beautifully carved chairs, a Communion Table, a brass vase and some kitchen items. The chairs never really seemed to be an integral part of the Sunday School furniture and after being on display and then partially hidden on the stage for many years, the decision was made to dispose of them. The Communion Table however, still holds pride of place at the front of the Sunday School.

In that same year, due to the Sunday School being the subject of a burglary, it was decided to wall up the window in the rear of the Young Men's Institute, which had been the means of entry at that dark and hidden end of the building. Two years later, following further break-ins, the windows in the upper ladies toilet were also closed up. Around the same period, lead flashing had been removed from the roof of the lower ladies toilets and had to be replaced by a cheaper felted material. Further lead was also stolen in 1979 from the roof of the Young Ladies Classroom. The burglars had become even more ruthless by 1982 when they broke into the premises and forced open the safe, scattering the contents all over. The damaged safe was taken to the blacksmiths on Ogden Lane owned by Clifford Riley who not only repaired the safe but also bolted it securely to the floor and then refused any payment for his work. Due to the fact that there were obvious signs of forced entry, it was suspected that a bunch of keys that had been lost some months previously, had been found by the perpetrators and were being used to gain entry. As a result, the locks were changed. In the ensuing 30 years, the Sunday School has been the subject of some cruel attacks whereby the offenders have given no consideration as to the consequences of their actions, their only thoughts being self-gain by selling their unlawfully acquired booty which has ranged from pop, crisps and chocolate bars to lead flashing and then as recently as 2010, almost the entire roofing slates from the rear section of the Institute and Young Ladies Room together with further ones from the kitchen roof. This has not just resulted in the inconvenience of having to replace the stolen items but extensive damage caused when the theft of the roof slates was not immediately discovered and an ingress of heavy rain caused further damage to the plasterwork and decorations. The total bill came to almost £6,400 which was fortunately covered by insurance.

On a happier note, 1977 was the year of Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee which coincided with 25 years since the Sunday School was returned from being a British Restaurant. A decision was made to celebrate the two events and a combined service was taken by the Ladies Fellowship who also presented Silver Jubilee Commemorative Crowns to the children. The festivity involved a rendition of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, a modern 'pop opera' of the day, which was given to a massive congregation of around 150 people. Tea was served afterwards followed by a more conventional service during the evening but the day was great success and was talked about for many years after.

The Main Hall was completely re-roofed in 1984 and all the re-usable slates were put into

storage. There was suggestion that they should be sold whilst others thought it would be best to keep them for a later date, should any other part of the building roof require them. The decision to keep them proved invaluable as it was only a matter of months before an inspection of the other roof tiles proved that the entire New Hey Road side of the Institute building required new slates together with those on the 'gents' toilets and storerooms. The old slates were quickly brought out of storage and put to good use, saving a lot of money into the bargain.

In preparation for the 150th anniversary celebrations in 1987, it was decided to redecorate the Main Hall. The Trustees met with Community Service Agency at Milnsbridge with a view to seeking the possibility of the work being completed by people who had been sentenced at court to Community Service Orders that included unpaid work within the community. Following the meeting, the Trustees were referred to the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders who would be more suitable to complete the work and after brushing on 77.5 litres of various colours of paint, the work was completed to a very good standard. The only costs were for the paint and the hire of scaffolding. It was estimated that a saving of over 40% was made on the decorating and the whole project cost less than £250 in total.

Preparations for the 150th celebrations had begun in September 1985 when it was agreed to invite Mr. H. J. Playford of Bradford to preach at the Anniversary Service. Mr. Playford immediately agreed and Mr. Reggie Moore, a very talented local pianist also accepted an invitation to play at the event which was held between Friday 10th April – Sunday 12th April 1987. The event began with a barbeque evening which certainly tested the morale of the organisers as the weather was absolutely horrendous. For an outside event, it could not have been worse with high winds and torrential rain but it didn't dampen their spirits and despite the weather, the evening was a great success. The Saturday morning brought further windy and wet conditions for those who turned out to clean the floors and arrange the tables and chairs for the afternoon tea. Daffodils and forsythia decorated the front of the stage and the caterers were busy preparing the food for 150 invited guests, easy listening music was playing quietly in the background when someone spotted that the beautifully decorated table that had been laid out for the visiting dignitaries had been covered in soot which had blown been down in the high winds from the trap door that leads into the roof space of the Main Hall. Fortunately there was time to clear up the mess before the guests started to arrive and did not detract from what turned out to be a wonderful day.

When the event got underway, the Mayor made a speech which was both appropriate for the day but also humorous. Responses were made by invited guests and letters from friends all around the country were read out by the President before the entertainment began. The evening finished with the singing of Old Lang Syne to end a memorable day for all who were present.

The volunteers once again turned out in force on the Sunday morning, but as opposed to the previous day, this time it was in lovely sunny weather. They swept and polished the floor and set out the seating and tables for the services that were to follow later that day. A beautiful show of flowers was on display, which had been donated in memory of the late Albert Bottomley. Squire's Bakery, who had provided the bread for the sandwiches, had unexpectedly made a special iced Anniversary Cake which was put on display on the communion table. Because the Main Hall was going to be full to capacity, the choir was seated upon the stage and they gave a wonderful rendition of the musical version of Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The afternoon service was followed by tea and the Ladies Fellowship once again did the event proud with a grand array of sandwiches, cakes and buns. In all, 170 people were served with tea before Mr. Playford once again led a Thanksgiving Service during the evening to conclude another memorable day in the history of the New Road Sunday School.

On the 3rd June 1989 was a traumatic day for many people when Trevor Bottomley collapsed and died whilst playing for Badger Hill cricket club, which had recently been formed from the original New Road Sunday School club. Trevor was much loved and had been involved in many different aspects of Sunday School life since childhood but what was particularly ironic was that Trevor was a piano player for many of the services and it was at this same time that discussions were being held with regard to the purchase of a new piano organ. One was secured on a three week trial and members of the Sunday School were openly canvassed for their opinions as the trial came to an end. It was unanimous that if at all possible, the piano organ should be purchased at a cost of £1,200. A fund was started to raise the necessary money required whereupon it was decided to try and sell the harmonium which had been relegated to a place under the stage for several years. The harmonium was a Trayser 2 manual type and was built in 1869. It was purchased by the Sunday School in time for the 1889 anniversary though the records show that it was new, not twenty years of age. The harmonium had been used on many occasions during its 100 year history at New Road, albeit, somewhat infrequently in recent years. It was sold to a Mr. Senior of Dewsbury who renovated such instruments. After inspection, he informed the Teachers that the main case was in a very poor condition and was rotten in places. He had a similar harmonium that he was renovating and the case of that device was in good order, however, the sheepskin bellows of the Rastrick instrument were in much better condition than the one he had, as was the music rack, brass lid support and numerous other mechanical devices. The most useful part was the porcelain stop faces on the New Road appliance which were missing on Mr. Senior's. By using the good parts from his own and the one from New Road, a superb working example was created and Mr. Senior invited any interested person to go over to his workshop to view the newly completed harmonium. Donations to the organ fund quickly reached £636 and the piano organ was purchased. It is unfortunate that owing to the recent illness of the Mrs. Margaret Riley, pianists /organists have been difficult to come by and recorded music has had to be used for services, much to the consternation of some of the congregation.

The Sunday School suffered another great loss on the 18th July 1991 when the President, Mr. Norman Riley lost his battle with ill health and passed away peacefully in his sleep. Norman had devoted his life to the Sunday School, very much like his father before him and had held many positions within the Sunday School including Superintendent, President of the Band of Hope, the Huddersfield Temperance Union, the Yorkshire Band of Hope Union and the UK Band of Hope Union, all at the same time. It was Norman who instigated the successful Cabaret concerts that ran for 27 years but it would be unfair to single out one person for an obituary in this book after so many other devoted workers who had gone before him, hardly get a mention. It would be fair however, to say that there would be a great void in the life of the Sunday School following Norman's passing. His wife Margaret accepted an invitation to succeed him as President and continue where Norman had left off and a special Induction Service was held on the 19th January 1992. That same year saw a series of 'firsts'. It was the year of the first of the successful Toy Service involving the children, it was also the first of many visits to the residential care home at Ivy House, Rastrick Common, where several members from New Road went along to sing hymns to the residents following the afternoon service at the Sunday School. Similar services have also since taken place at The Cottage at the 'top of town', and lastly, the first of many Vintage Brass concerts was held as part of the entertainment at the school.

In 1991, it was decided that the windows at the east side of the Main Hall were in such a poor state that they would not take another coat of paint. The windows in the Young Ladies Room were also in urgent need of replacement. The required work was put out to tender and the winning bid was made by Walker Windows of Cleckheaton who installed Upvc frames with double glazing. Two years later, discussion was taking place regarding the three windows overlooking New Hey Road, the Young Men's Institute and the two windows facing onto the entrance drive from the lower classroom. Although the cost was a major concern not all Trustees were in agreement with how to deal with the three tall windows at the rear of the stage. It was proposed that they be bricked up and rendered on the outside and Mr. Leslie Hargreaves had produced drawings of what this would look like. A counter proposal, which was eventually carried, was to make up the centre window or have it made up with stained glass whilst the outer two windows would be replaced with double glazed obscure glass and Upvc frames. The window replacement programme was completed in 1995 when, following new windows to the kitchen and the two roadside windows of the lower classroom, the remaining windows were also upgraded in line with the others in the building. The centre window of the Main Hall that had been made up and rendered was painted beige and a wooden cross was made to fit into the cavity on the outside. The last improvement made before the end of the start of the new millennium was to erect a concrete pathway around the rear of the building to assist with access for disabled people. Despite all the expense of the previous few years, the Sunday School was in a position to enter into the 3rd millennia with a healthy bank balance and a building that was structurally, in a very good condition.

Many other churches in the area publicise themselves to the public by carrying banners that advertise their name. This is a tradition that was commonplace in Victorian times but faded in the early 20th century before being resurrected again in the 1990's. Not to be outdone, the teachers at New Road decided that would like to have a banner to carry at public events. Mrs. Myra Bottomley volunteered to make the banner once a design was agreed upon. It was decided to hold a competition and the successful design was won by Mrs. Lorna Barker and Mr. Brian Whiteley. The banner was dedicated on Easter Sunday 1992 and it had its first outing during a Good Friday service of witness parade in Brighouse along with the other churches in the area. It certainly promoted the name of the Sunday School. A new banner of a similar design has been completed by Mrs. Rita Benson for the 175th celebrations, in this coming year of 2012, which bears the name of the New Road Independent Family Church.

The Rastrick Group of Churches, of which New Road was a member, made a decision to change its name in 1994 and became Churches Together in Brighouse and Rastrick. To advertise this fact, a display of the work carried out at each church was displayed at the Brighouse Gala and also in the Smith Gallery at Brighouse Library. Some members at New Road had not fully embraced the concept of the Churches Together idea and were somewhat apprehensive of the fact that New Road was neither church nor chapel. Some thought that their welcome had been more of a token gesture and that some of the other churches would have preferred it for New Road not to be a member. There was of course, no justification for this thinking and the displays at the Gala and at the Smith Gallery emphasised that the churches were, as the title suggested, working together as a partnership for the betterment of the area. There was no reason for any cause for concern and a reluctance to change is sometimes an easy option but as time has gone by, the partnership seems to work for the benefit of all the churches. Since its inception, joint services have been held at all the church locations and at Christmas, a very successful Carol service has been held in the car park of Sainsbury's supermarket, Brighouse.

New Road has celebrated many events over the years and has never turned down an opportunity to do so therefore, when it was realised that the Main Hall was coming up to its 100th birthday in 1996, a suggestion was made to hold a special service to exult in this fact. Despite a heavy snowfall earlier that day, one hundred and twenty-five people attended the November service and a wonderful atmosphere was experienced amongst the present and former scholars who attended. As Christmas approached, a flu virus hit the area and affected the numbers attending the Children's Christmas Party. It also put paid to the Carol Singing around the village that year as many were infected and laid up at home. As a direct result of researching the minute books regarding the centenary of the Main Hall, dates for the purchase of the different types of crockery that were found in the kitchen cupboards was discovered. Some of the designs dated back to before the building of the Main Hall though they were slowly reducing in numbers. It was decided to select a cup, saucer and plate of each design and of the best quality and put those into a display case in order to preserve

them for the future. In 1998, Mr. Brian Taylor made a handsome stained wood and glass case and the old crockery is now on display in the Young Men's Institute.

That same year, the coloured plastic seats from the 1970's, which had been used for both services of worship and any other event where people needed to sit down, had outlived their popularity. Ladies were bringing cushions of many varieties in an attempt to make the seats a little more comfortable. Had they not experienced the wooden pews of many churches in the area, which, although attractive to look at, were of the utmost discomfort to those of us who are not endowed with a natural cushion upon our person! New chairs with a built in cushioned seat would be much more comfortable than the previous plastic ones which in turn were a great improvement on the old wooden benches of the pre-1970's. The chairs were purchased in a blue material and look so much nicer than their plastic predecessors. They are fairly lightweight and also easy to stack therefore being fit for purpose. The old wooden trestle tables were also too difficult to handle for many and it was decided to purchase some more lighter tables which would fold away neatly at the rear of the school. This made life a lot easier as the trestle tables had to be stored under the stage and it was an effort for all but the able bodied to get them out every now and again. Rastrick Cricket Club purchased ten of the trestle tables and many of the old chairs were also sold though the recipient contacted the school a few days later to say that there was one chair short. Someone had miscounted as they put them onto the delivery van.

The build-up to the Millennium started as early as 1997 with events planned across Brighouse and Rastrick by the Churches Together group. This culminated in the Seeds of Hope project which was a huge success in bringing the churches of Rastrick much closer together. People from the four churches of Rastrick and students from St. John's Theological College in Nottingham, worked together with the aim of 'ensuring that everyone in Rastrick knows about Seeds of Hope and the four churches during Millennium this year when we celebrate Jesus Christ's 2,000th birthday'. All seven schools in Rastrick received Millennium Gifts from Seeds of Hope to support their study of the Christian faith. A programme of events for the Millennium year were organised between the 8th – 16th April 2000 at all four churches. On the eve of the Millennium, a candlelight period of reflection was held in the Main Hall of the school which comprised of a recording of hymns and words made by Canon Roger Royle, a well-known TV and radio presenter of religious programmes. The school was lit by about 50 candles of all sizes and shapes and my mother said at the time that the service had a very special feel to it. Those who attended were invited to celebrate the Millennium at the home of the President, Mrs. Riley, where they were all treated to a spectacular fireworks display from the comfort of her home as, such is the panoramic view over the valley and across to Southowram, Brighouse and beyond, that they could see many hundreds of fireworks rocketing into the black sky and exploding in front of them, from virtually every area in the district.

A special service was held at New Road on the 9th January where all the organisations within the Sunday School elected a representative to make a small contribution towards what also culminated into a memorable event.

I have already discussed the ability of the New Roaders to not let an occasion that may be worthy of celebration, pass by and this was again demonstrated on the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. To mark the occasion it was decided to send a telex of congratulations to Buckingham Palace and hold a special service. This was taken by Messrs' Charlie Horner, Steve Goodall, Allan Bottomley and Mrs. Anne Goodall. Buckingham Palace duly responded to the telex, which was framed and put on display in the school.

An amendment to the Disability Discrimination Act was enacted in 2005 which meant that, amongst other things, managers of public buildings had to make reasonable adjustments to cater for disabled persons. This included New Road Sunday School but as we have seen, adjustments had already been made by creating a pathway around the building to a new disabled entrance into the Young Ladies Room. Handrails at the main entrance, provision of large print hymn books and disabled parking bays in the car park had already been provided and the Trustees were in the process of having an Induction Loop fitted to assist people with a hearing impairment but one thing that was lacking was a disabled toilet/ washroom. Negotiations were entered into with a Consultant Architect, Mr. Adrian Caley who made a site visit and explained what the trustees needed to do in order to comply with the legal requirements. It was decided to convert the ladies toilet in the Young ladies Room into a disabled toilet and Mr. Caley advised of the statutory sizes that would be needed viz. 2m x 2m minimum. Potential funding sources were explored but it found that Calderdale Council would not allow grants for religious buildings. Quotes were obtained but it was found that the cost was somewhat prohibitive and a cheaper option was then sought. Further tenders were invited for the amended scheme and Derek Illett Builders were awarded the contract at a cost of £4,100. Mr. Noel Squire was awarded the plumbing contract at a cost of £1,850. The completed work has added a modern and much needed facility to the fabric of the building. To complement the work, discussions were on-going with regard to the state of the car park. Many holes had appeared in the surface, which were filled with muddy water during inclement weather. Builders who were responsible for the construction of a house on adjoining property had been parking vans in the car park and it was felt that they had contributed towards the poor state of the surface. A letter was subsequently sent to the owner of the house, asking them to make alternative parking arrangements. Since that time, a temporary repair has been made but this was never really going to address the long term issue therefore in 2011, a large amount of road-scrapings were purchased and these were placed in the car park and compressed to form a surface that is hoped will survive the test of time for some years to come.

Several 'Reminiscing Days' have been held since the Millennium, all were initially well attended and successful but it was reported in 2005 that the last one wasn't as successful as previously and that 'a re-think may be needed'. That same year, the prize giving for children who attended regularly at the Sunday School was down to two recipients, a sad reflection of the times in which we live.

In January 2006, Mrs. Christine Eccles was forced to resign her position as secretary due to ill health after 31 years of service. As previously mentioned, she had continued a long standing tradition in her family which had lasted since 1884 when her grandfather, John William Bottomley took on the role. This was followed by his son Frank until his death in 1952 whereupon his brother Albert took over the reins until he was forced to resign due to ill health in 1974. Christine took over in January 1975. Mrs. Pat Pearson took over the role and the family tradition of holding the post of secretary of the Sunday School was broken after 122 years. Unfortunately, Mrs. Pearson suffered from ill-health and in 2007, shortly after accepting the position, she passed away, once again leaving the role of secretary vacant. Mr. Maurice Pearson, who had assisted Mrs. Pearson with the secretarial duties during her illness, volunteered to take over the role and has continued to the present day.

In June 2008, the Sunday School lost yet another of its stalwart members when Mr. Charlie Horner passed away at the age of 86 years. Mr. Horner has been a Superintendent for over 40 years until failing eyesight contributed to his decision to resign from the role. He had also been the Treasurer of the Trustees for 35 years and had been involved in many other aspects of Sunday School life ranging from his work with the Band of Hope, appearances in many shows and cabarets as well as a noted stage scenery painter.

It was at this same time that the suggestion of changing the name of the Sunday School to the New Road Independent Family Church was being muted. The subject was discussed over the ensuing months and although there were certain reservations after such a long history, many felt that the new title was more in keeping with the titles of the other churches that were represented on Rastrick Churches Together scheme. Whilst the name of New Road Sunday School cannot be removed from the official papers due to the fact that it was that institution which was awarded charitable status, the letter headed paper and the notice board on New Hey Road would be altered to reflect the new title. In keeping with a church title, it was recognised that New Road didn't offer an official Pastoral Ministry. The matter had been discussed by Mr. Wozencroft after he had had time to deliberate upon such matters whilst being in hospital. Although New Roaders had always looked after the sick by arranging visits and sending flowers, Mr. Wozencroft realised that there was a need for such an official position and asked Mr. Pearson, subject to approval by the Teachers, if he would be willing to take on such duties. Mr. Pearson agreed and as such, he is now the Pastoral Minister for New Road. The letterheads and printed cards for the flowers were altered accordingly to reflect the fact that such Ministry was now available. It was one of the last acts that Mr. Wozencroft was involved in at New Road as he passed away at the age of 90

years in February 2009 after serving the Sunday School in various positions, most notably as a Superintendent, for many years, since coming to Brighthouse in 1951.

Mrs. Anne Goodall accepted the role of President of the Sunday School upon the resignation of Mrs. Margaret Riley, which came about as a result of illness. Mrs. Goodall, ably assisted by her husband Steve, will lead the New Road Independent Family Church forward in the ensuing years. The future is however, uncertain. Dwindling attendances and a congregation which is made up of mainly elderly people is a fact of life at New Road at this current time. There are no young scholars coming through the ranks to take over the mantle of responsibility. We hope and pray that the future will see younger families being attracted to the church in order that it can continue towards its bi-centenary in 2037.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading the book and have found it interesting. It has been a fascinating journey researching the material contained within but no doubt there will be someone, somewhere who thinks that I have missed something important or that I have got some information not quite correct. Apologies if that is the case but you should have told me before it went to print! I will finish with a brief résumé of some of the other activities, events and organisations within the Sunday School that have not really been included in the book thus far, but are certainly worthy of mention.

Christmas Festivities

Christmas without the television and its associated advertising, computer games, shopping centres and town centres that seem to start the build up to Christmas ever earlier, Christmas trees and lights adorning houses and gardens throughout the area and the host of Christmas cards that seem to start dropping through the letter box from late November. The supermarkets are packed to the rafters with all sorts of goodies, trying to tempt the housewife into buying something extra that will give the Christmas dinner table that ‘wow factor’. So how did the New Roaders cope with their Christmas when on Boxing Day, a Tea Party was held at the Sunday School. Tickets cost one shilling (5p) and plays, dialogues and singing were the main entertainments however, the food was cooked and baked by the people themselves, which was to be admired considering how many of them had large families. The last Tea Party was held in 1924 when the following year, an ‘At Homes’ was held over three nights. These events were very much social as opposed to fund raising events and an orchestra played before and after the each day where there were games and of course, supper. The Brighthouse Co-op was engaged with the decorating of the Main Hall where all the windows were curtained, drapes were hung over the walls, carpets were laid on the wooden floors and chairs and three-piece suites replaced the wooden forms. The entertainment was provided by local singers and entertainers and after the third evening, there was a special supper of peas and sausage.

From 1941, only one night of the 'At Homes' was held and this gradually changed from a social event into a fund-raising one. The format changed again in 1968, similar to what we now know as the Christmas Fayre, with stalls selling an array of goods together with table games that seem to have been going for as long as most people can remember. The day is always rounded off by the singing of carols.

The first special Christmas Sunday service was not held until 1942 and that was not held in the Sunday School but at the Liberal Club, following the requisitioning as a British Restaurant. It turned out to be the last service held at the club before the New Roaders were allowed to return and re-commence services in the Sunday School's Main Hall. There have been some splendid trees over the years, one was measured at 19.75 feet (6.02 metres.) in height, just 3 inches (7.6 cms.) below the ceiling. Thornhill Estates used to provide the Christmas Trees but they wrote to the Sunday School in the early 1960's to say that they didn't have any more trees on their land and would not be in a position to provide any more in future. The trees decreased in size when they had to provide their own but they have always been of a good size and handsomely decorated. The afternoon service consisted of a Nativity Play in which both adults and children took part and an array of dressing gowns was placed on display. As a young child, I thought shepherds in Israel wore dressing gowns as their standard national dress. The evening service consisted of carols around the Christmas tree with the services over the years taken by many of the congregation who, under normal circumstances, wouldn't dream of standing in front of an audience and take a religious service but all have fared very well. Presents were placed under the tree to be later taken to Dr. Barnado's, National Children's Homes or the Salvation Army for distribution to children in need but a series of burglaries in which the presents were stolen meant that they were not placed there until the actual day of the service.

A Christmas Party was held for the children for many years at the end of the festive season. This was another night of fun and games where the boys could let off steam and run and shout themselves into a stupor before having to behave for a few minutes whilst presents were handed out by one of the senior members of the Sunday School. Often, children would dress up in fancy dress to add to the festive flavour of the evening.

At the beginning of the last century the Singing Class went out carol singing at midnight on Christmas Eve, as did carol singing from other churches but the custom appears to have ceased after the start of the First World War in 1914. It began again in 1936 and carried on until around 1996. The initial route included Thornhill Road and Ogden Lane which was reached via Lower Edge Road and concluded between 5 and 6 o'clock on Christmas morning. The starting time was brought forward to 10.30pm so that the singers could still get a decent night sleep before the hectic day ahead.



Christmas Party 1961 with some in fancy dress

Cabaret

In 1964, the trustees were concerned about the cost of decorating the Sunday School building and the treasurer, Mr. Ernest Gooder proposed that £25 should be raised each year for 10 years in order that, with accrued interest, £300 would be available for future painting and decorating bills. The production of the stage shows, which had been so popular in years gone by, had proved difficult to hold on account of the increased costs and an idea for a replacement floor-show of some kind had been muted in the past but had never materialised. In 1965, the idea was initially put onto paper and the first Candlelight Cabaret show was held on 27th March 1965. The minutes record that a collecting box for the Winston Churchill Memorial Fund should be placed by the exit door following the death on the 25th January of the former Prime Minister at the age of 90. The show raised £15 and although it was considered a 'one off', the Cabaret, albeit without the candles in later years due to fire risks, continued for almost 30 years. The profits were always given to the trustees for the maintenance of the building. The sketches in the shows were written by many of the actual performers though Norman Riley was mainly responsible for producing the cabarets. The shows were given to sell-out audiences and there was always a great clamour for tickets when they initially went on sale, with queues forming by those who

simply had to sit in the same seats as they had done in previous years.



Norman Riley, with daughter Jacqueline, takes a bow after another successful Cabaret



The 'singing waiters' served the audience with eight mini courses of food which were delivered between the various hilarious sketches. My people have very fond memories of the Cabaret evenings, both as being part of the show or part of the audience.

Finance

There has never been a lot of money to spare at New Road but anything worthy of the work it has committed itself to do, has been done in the faith that the money would be found. At an Annual Meeting in July 1897, a minute is recorded 'that the monthly collection be resumed on the third Sunday of each month'. How long this continued is not known but a similar minute in April 1920 records that, 'we take up a collection on the last Sunday in the month at the Open Service'. From March 1949, collections were taken twice a month and then in 1953 the auditors informed the Teachers Meeting that in order to maintain a balanced account, collections should be introduced every week.

Throughout the 150 years, as we have previously mentioned, it has only been necessary to hold three Gift days, one to pay off the debt incurred in building the Main Hall in 1896, the second in 1952 to raise £300 to meet the cost of reinstating the building after the building had been used as a British Restaurant and finally in 1975 when the heating was changed from coal to gas.

Throughout the 150 years, collections have been taken to support such institutions as the International Bible Reading Association, Huddersfield Royal Infirmary (pre. NHS), various Children's Homes, the Upper Edge Chapel disaster fund (when the roof blew off in a storm in 1897), Thornhill Pit Disaster (139 miners were killed in 1893) and many others sponsored by the Mayor or National Appeals.

Over the years, many small legacies have also been left to the Sunday School by old scholars who have passed away, which have contributed to the current reasonable financial situation that the trustee's and teachers find themselves in.

The Singing Class

From the beginning, music has played a great part not only in the Service of Worship but in the social life of the Sunday School. In the first hundred years, the Shaw's, Robinson's and Holdsworth's were the music men.

The Singing Class was formed to teach the young people not only to sing but to sing in parts and to be able to read music. There was no accompaniment, the note being struck from a pitchfork. The Class provided music for special occasions, both social and religious and for the Band of Hope. The dedication of the conductors is without question because there have only been 11 conductors in 150 years with the last two having only eleven years between them. The conductors were:-

George Gledhill, Abraham Farrar, Tom Denham, John Thornton, Louis Woffenden, Arthur Holdsworth, Edgar Bottomley, Arnold Bottomley, Leslie Hargreaves, Jacqueline Riley and

Trevor Bottomley. The Class as such came to an end with the start of the Second World War but its name was used for entertainment until 1964. The Music Committee, which is appointed each year, selects the music for the Sunday School anniversary and other special occasions. The following shows were given by the Singing Class:-

1913 Wreck of the Argosy	1938 Merrymakers
1918 The Music Master	1939 My Lady Jennifer
1921 The Dogs of Devon	1944 The Laird of Doonside
1922 The Boson's Bride	1945 The Santo Kid
1923 The Drum Major	1946 A Grand Minstrel Performance
1924 Soldiers of the Cross	1947 Unknown
1925 Musical Mixtures Revue	1948 A Royal Command Performance
1926 Unknown	1949 A Christmas Carol
1927 Cecilia	1950 Make It A Party
1928 The Mountaineers	1951 The Music Master
1929 Little Dutch Girl	1952 Mistakes Will Happen
1930 Count of Como	1953 A Trip To Tiddly Hi-Ti
1931 Nettie	1954 The Laughing Bandit
1932 Catchy Bits Revue	1955 Play Actors
1933 Play Actors	1956 Red Riding Hood
1934 San Marino	1957 Unknown
1935 Jubilee Revue	1958 Robinson Crusoe
1936 Mirrette	1959 The Black Tulip
1937 Unknown	1960 Jobs For The Boys

The following photographs are a selection of pictures of the cast members from some of the shows mentioned above. Are you on any of the pictures?



A Royal Command Performance 1948



A Christmas Carol 1949



1958 – Robinson Crusoe's Hula-Girls



1959 – The Black Tulip

The Ladies Fellowship

The only ladies' organisation within the Sunday School was 'Married Ladies' which met every two months for a chat over a cup of tea but on special occasions all branches of the School were helped with the catering. All the members were in the 65 years and over bracket. The group was formed after the First World War and ceased in the early 1930's.

In 1937 the young men applied to the trustees to use the Ladies Room for table tennis. This was granted subject to its use by the ladies on Wednesday evenings. This led to the formation of the Ladies Tennis Group which made the most of the Wednesday evening entitlement to use the table. After a break of several years, the group reformed in 1951 and in 1961 it changed its name to the Ladies Fellowship which is still in existence to this day, led by the President, Mrs. Winnie Thornton. It has a membership of around 30 ladies who meet each month on Tuesday's. It has a membership of between 30 – 40 people and has a full programme of monthly meetings. The ladies used to lead the worship at a special Ladies Day service but now bring in guest preachers from other churches in the district.

Marriages solemnized at New Road Sunday School

26th September 1981 Peter David Jessop and Jacqueline Riley

27th June 1986 Neil Thomas Stevens and Alison Clare Dalby

5th August 1989 Colin Haigh and Paula Jane Taylor

14th August 1993 William Demine DE pledge and Sylvia Childe

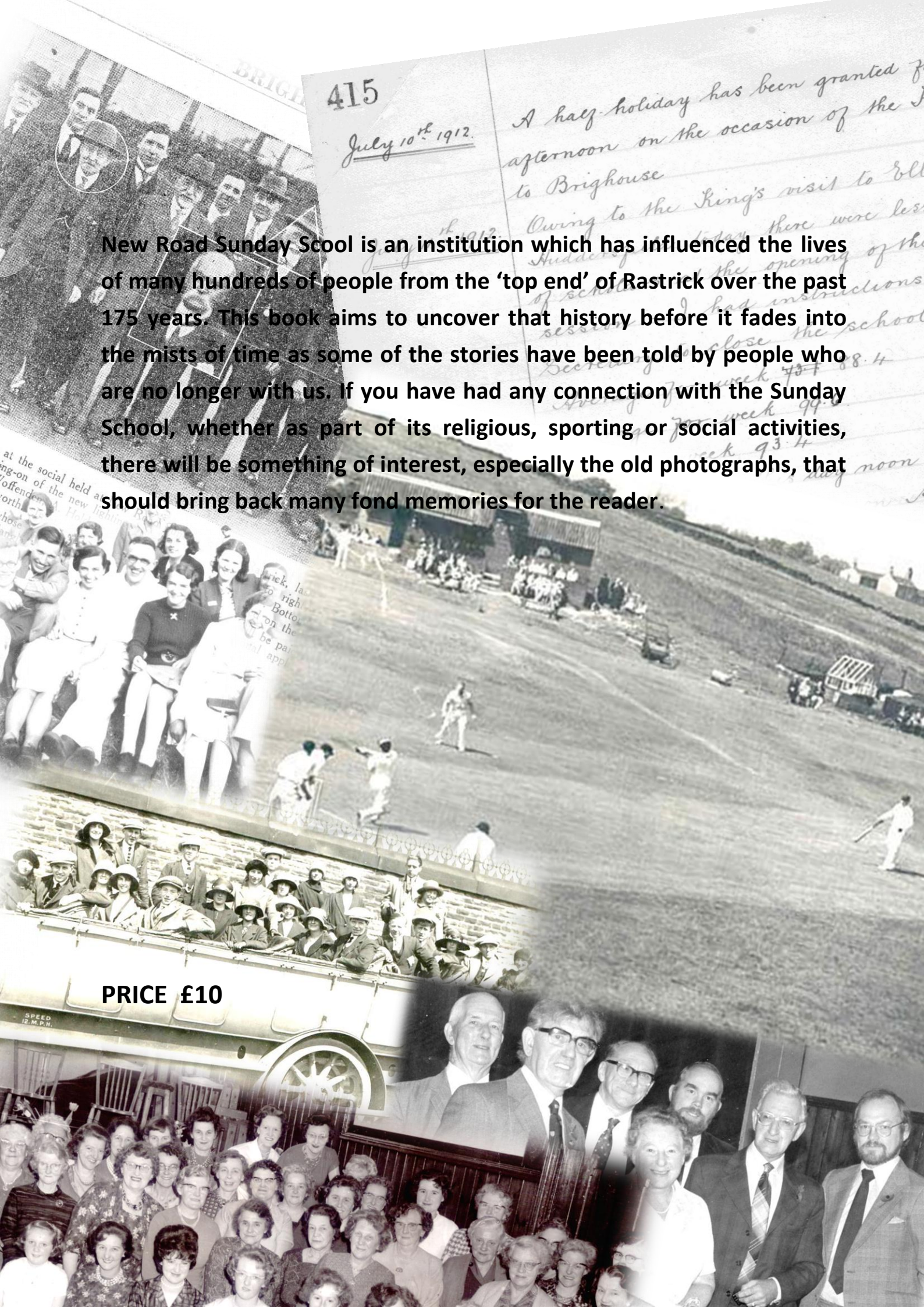
9th July 1994 Stephen Arthur Catton and Suzanne Margaret Robbery

3rd September 1994 Steven Lee Sutcliffe and Rebecca Bowden
29th July 1995 Allen Ackroyd and Barbara Wroe
14th September 1996 Barrie Horner and Wendy Haigh
18th July 1998 Damian Adam Roebuck and Kirsty Armitage
31st May 2003 Stephen Scholefield and Susan Margaret Craven
16th September 2006 David Vincent Stevenson and Barbara Helen Winton Smith
16th June 2007 John Terrance Lynch and Kathleen Mary Lambert

Baptisms performed at New Road Sunday School

8th December 1974 Alison Clare Dalby
8th December 1974 Sally Louise Dalby
8th December 1974 Lisa Jane Dalby
11th May 1975 Robert Malcolm Garwood
19th October 1975 Scott Alan Turner
20th February 1977 Jeremy James Arnold
3rd September 1978 Samantha Jayne Webster
25th November 1979 Helen Suzanne Layton
27th August 1980 Elizabeth Janice Webster
23rd August 1981 Matthew Steven Goodall
1st November 1981 David Paul Bowden
12th June 1983 James Christopher Goodall
31st January 1988 Victoria Faye Eccles
13th March 1988 Sandie Louise Shaw
4th June 1988 Danielle Eccles
4th June 1988 Joel Peter Eccles
29th July 1990 Jessica Elizabeth Eva Stevens
19th August 1990 Lucy Hannah Eccles
5th June 1994 Natasha Louise Robinson
18th September 1994 Dale Anthony Lockwood
23rd October 1994 Thomas David John Stevens
27th November 1994 William Scott Eccles
7th May 1995 Bethany Joy Sutcliffe
21st July 1996 Joadan Louise Firth
21st July 1996 Jami Marie Firth
21st July 1996 Ben Joseph Firth
21st July 1996 Stevi Leigh Firth
12th January 1997 Daniella Jane Senior
12th January 1997 Kristian Scott Senior
12th January 1997 Matthew Jordan Cummings
27th July 1997 Joseph Fox

31st August 1997 Shauni Lucy Stephenson
28th December 1997 Thomas James Sutcliffe
26th April 1995 Abigail Emma Bennett
26th April 1995 Olivia Clare Hutchinson
30th August 1998 Megan Marie Ramsden
21st February 1999 Kyle Jordan Lockwood
18th July 1999 Jack David Stewart
28th January 2001 Samuel Luke Cummings
30th November 2003 Lucy Eve Roebuck
27th June 2004 Zac Oliver Crowther-Swift
9th October 2005 George Caleb Lynch
18th June 2006 Mea Kathryn Crowther-Swift
29th April 2007 Ethan Luke Roebuck
13th June 2010 Edward Tomas Lynch



BRIGHOUSE

415

July 10th 1912.

A half holiday has been granted for
afternoon on the occasion of the
to Brighthouse

Owing to the King's visit to Bl
Huddersfield there were less
of school on the opening of the
session I had instructions
Secretary to close the school
week 78.4
week 88.4
week 99.0
week 93.4
day noon

New Road Sunday School is an institution which has influenced the lives of many hundreds of people from the 'top end' of Rastrick over the past 175 years. This book aims to uncover that history before it fades into the mists of time as some of the stories have been told by people who are no longer with us. If you have had any connection with the Sunday School, whether as part of its religious, sporting or social activities, there will be something of interest, especially the old photographs, that should bring back many fond memories for the reader.



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