

WINTER HILL SCRAPBOOK.

Compiled by Dave Lane

VOLUME 2



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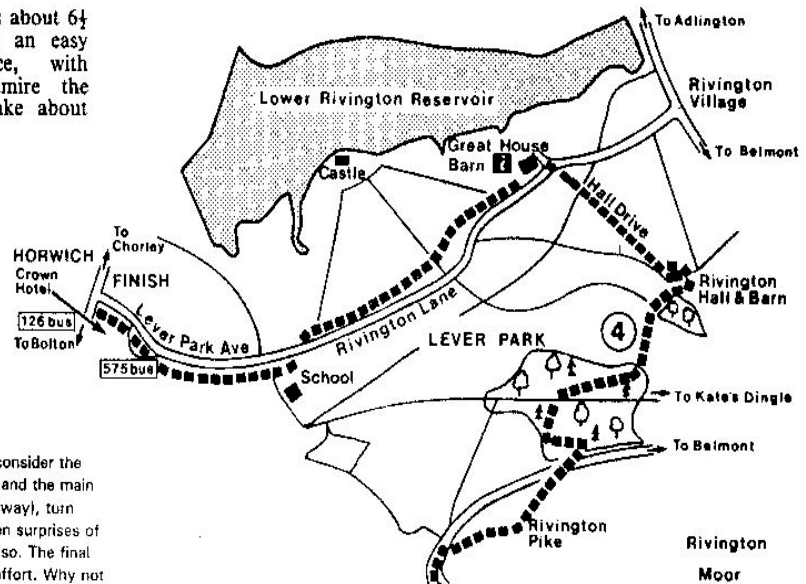
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GO WALKABOUT FROM BARROW BRIDGE TO LEVER PARK

Despite Bolton's 'industrial' image, we have a lot of beautiful countryside right on our doorstep.

Here's an idea to get you out and about the West Pennine Moors, taking in the picturesque village of Barrow Bridge, a moorland walk, Rivington Pike and the magnificent terraced gardens on the slopes above Lever Park.

This walk is about 6 1/2 miles and at an easy walking pace, with stops to admire the views, will take about 3-4 hours.



4 On joining George's Lane this is the place to consider the time, the weather and how tired you are. Turn left and the main road (and the bus back to Bolton is only one mile away), turn right and you will discover some of the many hidden surprises of Lever Park — but leave yourself a good hour to do so. The final climb up to Rivington Pike is well worth the extra effort. Why not sit awhile and enjoy the fine views, with luck you will see Wales, the Isle of Man and the Lake District (not forgetting Blackpool Tower).

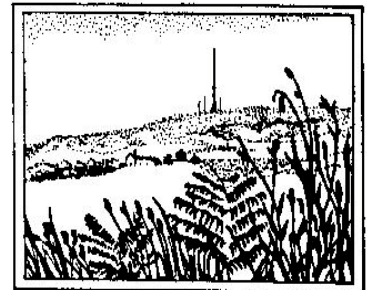
From the Pike it is down hill all the way. With so many paths in the terraced gardens it is impossible to suggest a route. Just find a downhill path and if you take more than an hour do not forget to collect a map from the Information Centre for the next time. At the foot, beautiful parkland lies before you down to the edge of Lower Rivington Reservoir — one of a chain of reservoirs built between 1852-1857 to bring clean water to Liverpool and now supplying Wigan and St Helens. The Information Centre is your last stop. Suitably refreshed and fully informed, follow the footpath for 1 1/2 miles to Horwich for a well deserved rest on a bus home.

2 Follow the low level footpath on Burnt Edge alongside a small, coniferous plantation until the path bears right, past the overgrown remains of Burnt Edge Colliery. Your path carries straight on. Several mines were once scattered over these moors. Most date back to the 18th century and supplied coal to the local textile mills. Prosperity was short-lived. Today they are all abandoned and derelict, but their remains excite curiosity. The route you have followed might well have been used by the miners two centuries ago.

Now join a slightly higher path on your left and follow this up to a small wooden gate, past a capped air shaft and another ruin. Looking back Bolton is still in sight, in front the masts on Winter Hill loom near. Very little can grow or survive here, much of the farmland which was once enclosed by old stone walls has slowly reverted to moorland as the holdings were abandoned. Please shut the gate after you. Turn left just before the next ruin and keep to this track until you cross a stile.



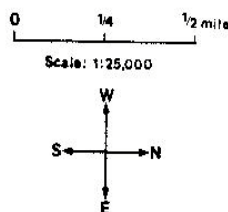
3 You are now standing on an old packhorse track Turn right and follow this for a short distance as far as a small weir. Here a track on the left cuts across Wilder's Moor to Georges Lane which is another early track — but if you still feel energetic, why not stroll up to Winter Hill first. This is the highest peak in the West Pennine Moors and is a splendid viewpoint. Lookout for the famous Scotsman's Post and discover what happened here on the night of November 9, 1838.



1 This walk starts from Barrow Bridge — once a thriving small, model industrial village known as Dean Mills. Two cotton-spinning and doubling mills were opened in 1837 and stood six storeys high, on the site of the bus terminus. By the 1850s, 1,000 people were employed here. Opposite the terminus, on top of the slope are the five rows of stone-built terraces of the model village where they lived. In 1877 the mills closed and the workers left to seek employment elsewhere. For a while, Barrow Bridge achieved fame as 'The Deserted Village'. After careful restoration it was soon a local beauty spot with its own boating lake and is now designated as a Conservation Area to protect its special character.

From the terminus follow the stream up to the top of the village. Look out for a Victorian post-box on the wall of one of the 18th century stone-built cottages. Climb the steps in front of you — are there still 63? These were built in the late 18th century for the convenience of workers from the quarries and coal mines on the moors ahead of you. Once you have got your breath back, follow the path that forks to the right across the fields to Walker Fold Farm. The footpath passes through this 17th-century farm hamlet. Cross the moorland road and proceed along the lane opposite — which is re-assuringly signposted. (If tired, Bob Smithy Inn and a bus back to Bolton are only 1/2 mile down the road to your left).

A leaflet containing this walk, jointly produced by the LCC, GMC and NWWA, is available from the information centres at Bolton Town Hall or at Great House Barn, Rivington.



Geological Walk. The River Douglas North of Horwich.

By Rodney J Ireland.

(This was, I believe just one of a number of walks around the area contained in a booklet published by the Wigan Geological Society. I have been unable to obtain a full copy of this booklet, merely a photocopy of this article)

Introduction.

The excursion, which follows the course of the River Douglas, commences at Rivington School, Lever Park Avenue, Horwich and terminates on Rivington Pike. Most of the journey is made along the river bed itself in order to see the best exposures. It is therefore recommended that, if possible, wellington boots are worn. Although the walking distance between the school and the Pike is only 1.5 miles (3 kilometres) the valley is steep and travelling over much rough ground. Accordingly, it is recommended that the better part of the day is set aside for the excursion. It is also recommended that the excursion should not be attempted immediately following heavy rainfall since high flows in the river can result in the route being dangerous and, furthermore, renders several exposures inaccessible.

Despite the above cautionary notes, the excursion is both worthwhile and interesting. The valley affords numerous excellent exposures of the Lower Coal Measures (Westphalian) and Millstone Grit Series (Namurian). The geomorphology and faulting is also noteworthy and, in clear weather, a final reward is provided by the panoramic views from the Pike.

Itinerary.

Rivington School (SD 638127), may be reached by following Lever Park Avenue out of Horwich for a distance of about 1 km. There is ample parking space alongside the Avenue in the vicinity of the school. Take the footpath leading east from the south side of the large Sports Hall alongside the road. The footpath leads to Old Lords Farm Footbridge (639126). Hereabouts, upstream from the bridge, leave the footpath, climb through one of the gaps in the old iron fence, descend to the river bed and proceed upstream.

In the river banks and on the bed, exposures of shales, mudstones and siltstones with occasional thin sandstones (less than 0.2 metre) can be seen. These rocks form part of the strata between the Crutchman Sandstone and the Old Lawrence Rock (sandstone) within the Lower Coal Measures. Carefully note the stratal dips. Initially the beds are horizontal but some 200 metres upstream the same beds can be seen dipping at 20 degrees. Careful examination of the siltstone/mudstone sequences hereabouts reveals the presence of fossil plant debris. Another 10 metres upstream the siltstones, dipping even more steeply, are abruptly truncated by a fault. This can be clearly seen on the south side of the river and trends in a north-westerly direction. The fault surface contains a fault breccia consisting of angular pieces of sandstone and siltstone occurring within a matrix of sand and mud. The hade, or slope of the fault surface, indicates a south-westerly downthrow. Upstream the Ousel Nest Grit (or Horwich Grit) and its underlying shales and occasional flagstones are exposed. The stratal juxtaposition indicates a vertical displacement on the fault of about 250 metres. The

increasing dips observed downstream are features common to many such displacements.

Continue upstream from the fault. Siltstones and occasional flaggy sandstones, both much disturbed by the fault, can be seen. There, considerable variation in stratal dip and some folding also occurs. Above a small waterfall, the beds become horizontal again. Black and purple shales and siltstones crop out on the left bank of the river and become overturned at the waterfall. Such overturning is probably the result of “soil creep”. Some 15 to 20 metres upstream from the waterfall a coarse-grained yellow sandstone (Ousel Nest Grit) can be seen. Many small faults with slickensides (the polished fault surface exhibiting striations which indicate the last direction of movement) are present. One fault, exposed on the right bank, throws shales against sandstones. For approximately the next 40 metres, the river is in a very narrow, steep sided and picturesque ravine containing a series of cascades and waterfalls. It is possible to traverse the ravine and observe the Ousel Nest Grit which is subject to much small faulting with associated well developed slickensides. However if you are not wearing wellingtons be prepared to get your feet wet!. Alternatively a detour around the ravine may be made, leaving the river bed and rejoining the river upstream. A small quarry on the right bank above the ravine displays a particularly well-exposed fault surface exhibiting white slickensides. Further upstream observe the feature created by the Ousel Nest Grit on the left bank. Here the sandstone is well-jointed and cross-stratification can be demonstrated. As the footbridge is approached note the sandstone is terminated against shales. Here again, faulting can be demonstrated.

Immediately upstream from here a careful examination of the 1 metre of mudstone and shale, overlying the compact, dark, flaggy sandstone in the river bed, reveals the presence of a Marine Band. This is best exposed on the right bank below the roots of a large tree. *Goniatites* (*Gastrioceras*), bivalves (*Dunbarella*) and brachiopods (*Lingula*) can be readily found. Most of the goniatites are flattened by the compactation of the sediments. However, detailed inspection shows them to be *Gastriocerous subcrenatum*. Some excavation below the Marine Band shows the presence of a thin inferior coal (0.015 metre), and immediately above this the non-marine bivalve *Anthraconaia bellula* has been found. The fossils prove the coal to be the Six Inch Mine at the base of the Lower Coal Measures. The former is separated by some 60 metres of strata from the overlying Ousel Nest Grit. Since the two horizons are faulted into juxtaposition immediately downstream of the footbridge, the throw of the fault must therefore be approximately 60 metres.

Continuing upstream, a high wall, the remains of an old dam, is passed on the left bank. A series of “terraced” sandy gravels clearly represents the partial infill of a former mill “lodge” impounded by the dam.

Upstream the valley bifurcates. Both tributaries enter over waterfalls caused by a north-westerly trending fault throwing the shales and mudstones, above the Six Inch Mine, against the Upper Haslingden Flags. The hard flagstones are resistant to erosion and hence form the lip of the waterfall. The shales and the mudstones on the downthrown side of the fault are soft and have been eroded to form “plunge pools” at the base of the falls. Take the left hand tributary, ascend around the waterfall and return to the stream bed. Here the river gradient coincides with the dip of the bedding

surfaces in the Upper Haslingden Flags. Accordingly, one walks on a single bedding surface for some considerable distance. Sedimentary structures, including ripple marks, may be seen on the bedding surfaces. Joint frequency and direction may also be examined. (Great care is required as hereabouts much of the river bed is **very slippery**). Near the top of the gorge the overlying shales crop out and rest on the top of the flagstones. Above here, the base of the Rough Rock, a feldspathic sandstone, and the highest member of the Millstone Grit Series can be examined.

At the top of the gorge it is necessary to again climb through the old boundary fence. Upstream the stream bed is incised in the Rough Rock which, between the fence and Belmont Road, exhibits several well-developed pot holes. Above and left of the stream two slope changes can be seen on the hillside. These represent the outcrops of the Upper and Lower leaves of the Sand Rock Mine. Both coal seams occur within the Rough Rock. However, only the upper seam was of workable thickness. Spoil heaps can be seen beneath Brown Hill where a drift mine formerly worked the coal. Crossing Belmont Road and continuing upstream, well developed cross-stratification occurs in the Rough Rock.

From here traverse due West towards Brown Hill. Immediately east of the hill a northerly trending fault is visible in the small stream. The fault truncates the Rough Rock and throws down the overlying shales. From the stream climb up the side of Brown Hill where the shales pass upwards into the Margery Flags. These form the capping of the hill and dip at 8 degrees to the south. Descend Brown Hill on the north-west side towards Rivington Pike. In the saddle between the two hills, and to the right of the track, a circular depression with a surrounding raised lip can be seen. This probably represents an old bell pit which worked the Sand Rock Mine. From here it is well worth completing the excursion by walking to the top of Rivington Pike. There are several limited exposures of the Marjory Flags en route.

From the Pike one can return to the School by descending through the plantations and the terraced gardens to Rivington Barn. Alternatively a more direct route may be followed by descending across the fields to Roynton Lane and thence to the rear of the school.

References.

JONES R C B et al (1938) Wigan District Mem. Geol> Surv

Maps

Geological (IGS)

1:63,360 (1 in to 1 ml) Sheet No 84 – Wigan (solid)

1:10,560 (6 in to 1 ml) Lancs. Sheet No 86 NW

Ordnance Survey

1:50,000 Series, Sheet 109

1:10,560 Series, Sheet SD 61 SW

Bolton Mountain Rescue Team.



A bit about what we do and where we operate

Primarily, we exist to provide a voluntary search and rescue service for the West Pennine Moors, but besides searching for missing or injured hill walkers and people involved in mountain biking and climbing accidents, (which is usually the first thing pictured when the phrase "mountain rescue" is mentioned) we are also heavily involved in other happenings.

Our past callouts have involved crashed aircraft, hang gliders and parapenters. Generally, however, where there is a problem locating victims, or the terrain surrounding a casualty is difficult to access, it is likely that your mountain rescue team is involved.

Several times a year we also provide standby rescue cover for events held within our area. We can often be spotted at orienteering events, fell races, sponsored walks, and mountain bike races.

We are a key resource to the emergency services, our specialist skills being recognised and respected by Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire police who utilise us (along with other teams) to help in search and rescue operations, alongside use by the Ambulance services. The team also works with Greater Manchester Fire Service.

Besides our upland moorland area, we also operate throughout the lowland areas of Bolton, Salford, Wigan, Trafford, Manchester South,

and the western half of Bury. We are also called upon to assist other teams in North Manchester, the eastern half of Bury, Tameside, Rochdale, Oldham, North Cheshire and South Lancashire.



A little bit of history

Founded in 1968 by 3 Rossendale Fell Rescue Team members, who lived in the Bolton area, the Team has grown from its small beginnings to be one of the busiest and best equipped teams in the country.

The early years, as with many founding organisations, was one of sheer hard work to raise minimal amounts of money for essential equipment which was initially transported both for exercise and incidents in privately owned vehicles.

The first vehicles owned by the Team were all old "second-hand" ones past their best before date, they were cherished and nursed by the dedicated membership. Much is owed to these early pioneers, most of whom have long left but two remain in the team - Alan "General" James, one of the original founder members, now a life Vice President, only stopped active service in early 1999 due to a job move to the London area. Geoffrey H. Seddon, currently Deputy Team Leader, joined within a few months of the Team's inauguration and has served as Team Leader (7 years) and Chairman.

The 1980's saw consolidation of the Team with a gradual improvement in the quality and quantity of equipment and vehicles. During this decade we saw the implementation of structured training and the MRC casualty

care course and certificate. By the late 80's and early 90's, training was based on a professional and formalised activity.

As a "fringe" Mountain Rescue Team based in an rural/urban area, the local moorlands generated few incidents. Even up until the early 90's fewer than 10 incidents per year were the norm. In the 70's and 80's 2 or 3 call outs per year were common.

The combination of a large urban catchment area for membership and low incident rate meant a very high level of training was able to be undertaken. Morale was maintained by training weekends in the Lakes or North Wales with the added bonus of possible calls to assist local teams. Langdale Ambleside MRT (Stewart Hulse MBE, Team Leader) and Ogwen Valley MRT (Tony Jones, Team Leader) were especially



supportive and encouraging.

The advent of the West Pennine Moors Recreation Area, coupled with years of liaison meetings with the Lancashire and Greater Manchester Police Forces and the Lancashire and Greater Manchester Ambulance Services saw a dramatic rise in call out activity from 1994 onwards as the professional expertise and resources of the team were recognised on a wider basis. We can now expect upwards of 100 incidents attended by the team per year.

1999 also saw the team with its very first new vehicles - 2 Landrover 110" County Station Wagons and a Landrover 110" hardtop. The first two being first response vehicles and the hardtop van an Incident Support Unit. The team also utilises an ex-Ambulance as a Personnel Carrier.

Good Friday. The Pike Fair.

Good Friday at Rivington Pike is either a nightmare or a pleasurable annual event, dependent on how you see things. For me, it's a nightmare yet I still keep going back every Good Friday ... and now I even go with my grandchildren!

Good Friday is the day of the "Pike Fair". On that day each year, the "fair" arrives at the Pike along with hot dog vans, children's entertainment's complete with bouncy castles and tacky stalls selling all sorts of things that we don't really want. At the end of the day when all the traders have gone, the Pike area looks something like a giant rubbish dump. It must be the only "fair" in the country to be held near the top of a fairly inhospitable hill whatever the weather!

Nobody really seems to know when the Pike Fair originated, but it is undoubtedly of fairly ancient origin, possibly dating from the Middle Ages. It used to be held at the Whitsuntide weekend and in the early 1800's the fair seems to have been a rather rowdy event and - according to a local newspaper - the road round the Pike was filled with "nut stalls and drinking booths". Add to this, the proximity of the public house, the Sportsman's Arms, just a few hundred yards from the Pike and it must have been quite a lively spot especially as the festivities lasted from the Saturday morning, through the night, through the Sunday finally closing on the Monday! Sunday was the day when people from all around always walked to the peak of Rivington Pike - and still do.

After The Sportsman's Arms lost its licence (I don't know the exact date or the reason but I believe it occurred around 1880), the fair seemed to calm down and local interest in it began to wane. An article in the Bolton Chronicle of 1884 commented that "Pike Fair has lost much of its rowdyism since the removal of the public house licence"

The fair was moved to Good Friday in 1900 and since that time the numbers of stalls and visitors have fluctuated wildly decade by decade. According to one article I have read, it would seem that things were fairly quiet in the 1930's and 40's but by the 1960's, crowds of over 50,000 were reported (along with increasing crowd and litter problems). Nowadays, the fair seems much quieter than I remember it 20 years ago and the number of stalls is well down in numbers. So why do I keep going to the fair if it that's awful? Pure habit and I love things that are a bit out of the ordinary - especially when it's a tradition.

Rivington Pike and the Tower.



Aerial view of the Pike, taken prior to the building of the southern “staircase”. The photo is taken from a microlight flying about 800 feet above the Pike

The Pike.

When driving along the motorway past Horwich, two things immediately catch the eye, the Reebok Stadium and the Tower on Rivington Pike. I wonder how many thousands of people have driven past and wondered what the Tower is? Many local history books tell you all you could ever want to know about the Tower but any book about Winter Hill would be incomplete without a few words about the Pike and its Tower so I'll try to give a potted version of what you'll find in the other books.

Rivington Pike is the last high point at the south western edge of Winter Hill and is 1,198 ft or 365 metres high. A surveyors bench mark can be seen carved onto one of the large boulders halfway up the Pike on the main footpath leading from the Brown Hill area. Geologically the Pike is composed of gritstones, shales and several layers of the Margery Flags. The Pike is circled by two coal outcrops – but they are fairly speculative on the eastern side, although coal has been extracted there in days gone by.

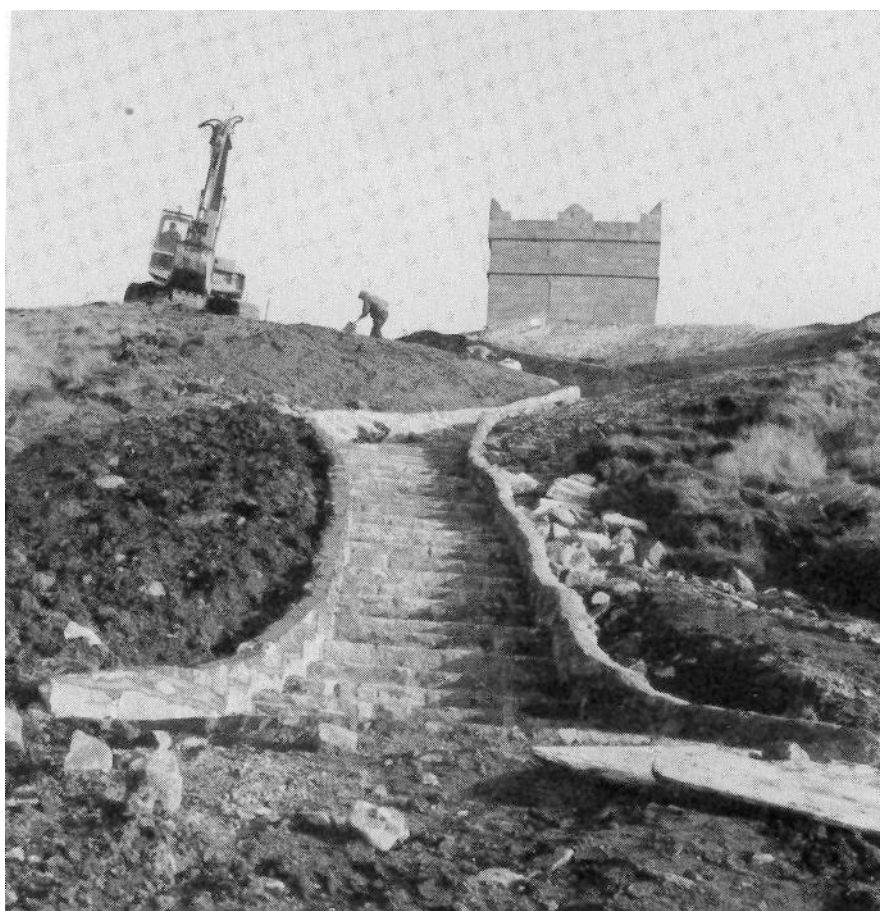
There are three major routes up the Pike, the Brown Hill footpath, the paths from Winter Hill and that from the Terraced Gardens. There is a road going round the hill. Due to the erosion occurring on the Terraced

Gardens Path (which was getting quite severe with the footpath forming an ever-deepening gully) a staircase was built up the Pike in latter years.

The summit of the Pike was once the site of a beacon. The first recorded use of it was in the 12th century when those awful Scottish people invaded our part of the UK. At that time, the whole country was linked with a chain of fire beacons to alert the population in times of crisis. Apart from this occurrence, there seems to be only one other record of the beacon chain being lit in anger, this being on the 19th July 1588 when the Spanish Armada threatened our shores. The beacon was held in readiness for lighting at a time in the early 1800's when a French invasion was threatened, but the beacon was never lit. The beacon site has only been used since that time on the odd occasion to celebrate war victories or royal occasions.

The Tower.

The builder of the tower on Winter Hill was John Andrews in 1733 and it is reputed that he built it as a sign of his authority and ownership following an earlier land dispute with another landowner. The tower was built to function as a shooting hut and initially consisted of one square room with a cellar underneath. One source says that the room was oak panelled and there was definitely a fireplace within the walls as early photos clearly show a chimney on the roof. There was one door into the tower with windows in the other three sides. The roof was below the level of the walls and could not be seen from the outside. The stones for building the tower were obtained locally and those from the original beacon were utilised in the structure.



The building of the “grand staircase” to the top of the Pike.



The Pike as it used to be (photo taken in 1979) before the building of the “grand staircase”. The erosion was a great deal worse than this by the time the new steps were built.

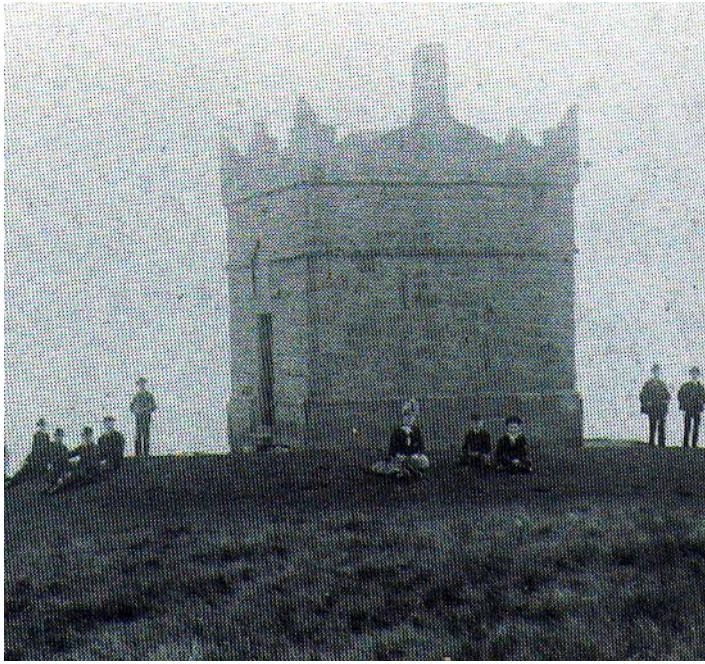


Photo of the tower taken in the 1880's. Note the chimney!

In the 1890's, Rivington Hall and the surrounding lands were bought for £60,000 by William Lever - Vicount Leverhulme - who was a Boltonian who had made his fortune in soap manufacturing starting the company that was to end up as Unilever. After Levers death he bequeathed his lands to the "people of Bolton" on condition that it was preserved as a park with total public access. Liverpool Corporation objected to parts of this bequest as portions of the land lay within the Liverpool Waterworks water catchment area. As a result of various court cases, Parliament decreed that although the park remained as a gift to the people of Bolton, the property would me managed by Liverpool Corporation. As a result of this arrangement the tower started to fall into a state of disrepair.

Although Liverpool made general repairs to the structure from time to time, no real attempt seems to have been made to make it really presentable and in 1967 they announced that they intended to demolish the tower. Following massive local objections to this course of action which lasted for some years the ownership of the land was sold to Chorley UDC and the tower was finally repaired in 1973.



RIVINGTON PIKE AND TOWER. GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 13th 1979.

A few lesser known facts about Rivington Pike!

Vegetation.

The vegetation composition of the Pike is what is known as a “semi-natural upland acidic grassland environment” and is said to be “anthropogenic” i.e man modified. Without mans interference and sheep!) heather, bracken and scrubby plants would soon colonise the land and trees would start to regenerate naturally.

So what types of plants are actually growing on and around the Pike? By far the most dominant grass is *Nardus Stricta* (Mat Grass), but *Molinia Caerulea* (Purple Moor Grass/Flying Bent) becomes especially abundant in the southern half of the site, especially in the wetter south-western corner. Other plant species noticeably present are:

Festus ovina (Sheeps Fescue)
Deschampsia flexuosa (Wavy Hair Grass)
Agrostis canina montana (Brown Bent)
Poa annua (Annual Meadow Grass)
Agrostis tenuis (Common Bent/Brown Top)
Cynosurus cristatus (Crested Dog’s Tail)
Juncus squarrosus (Heath/Moor Rush)
Juncus conglomeratus (Common Rush)
Vaccinium myrtillus (Bilberry)
Empetrum nigrum (Crowberry)
Callauna vulgaris (Heather)
Epiophorum vaginatum (Hare’s Tail Cotton Grass).

The weather.

Due to its exposed and high elevation, the Pike does experience severe weather conditions with the prevailing strong winds coming from the west. Rainfall is heavy and frequent. Measurements were taken in 1977 and during that year a total rainfall of 1169 mm (approx. 46 inches) was recorded. No month by month rainfall figures have been recorded for the Pike but they are available for Brown Hill, a few hundred yards to the south east. These show that the monthly rainfall throughout 1977 was:

January	79.2mm
February	157.0
March	70.0

April	79.2mm	
May	46.5	
June	161.5	
July	38.5	
August	73.2	
September	89.0	
October	124.3	
November	151.8	
December	98.9	(source NWWA)

The Pike Geology.

“The underlying solid geology of the Pike is Carboniferous in age. Beds of the Millstone Grit Series are overlain by “marine bands” and Margery Flags. The latter here represents the base of the sandstones and grits of the Lower Coal Measures. The Carboniferous rocks are strongly bedded and generally sandstone and shales alternate. The rocks dip only very slightly to the south-east”

“The sudden rise of the land to form the oval shaped ridge on which the Tower stands can be partly explained by the Lower Coal Measures present which are also oval in shape, and the base coincides approximately with the 351 metre contour. At the summit of the Pike, some of the bedrock has been exposed and strongly bedded, fine grained, vertically jointed sandstone can be seen to be underlain by very easily disturbed thin shale bands which are readily fragmented.”

The Soil.

“The soil profile generally consists of, in descending order: a thin layer of humus; a layer of peat which varies in thickness; a bleached, greyed, brown, clayey, very acidic alluvial horizon containing small fragments of sandstone and shale; a thin iron pan; a relatively thick, partly iron stained, darker brown, less clayey, more sandy alluvial horizon within which are larger fragments of sandstone and shale; the parent rock.

Extracts taken from “Rivington Pike. Erosion and Management Plan” by Christine Tudor for BTCV and NWWA . June 1978.

The Hole Bottom Area of Winter Hill.

“Hole Bottom”. What a name! Don’t expect me to explain why the place has this name because I haven’t a clue! If anyone has any explanation then please get in touch then we can all share this invaluable and fascinating information!

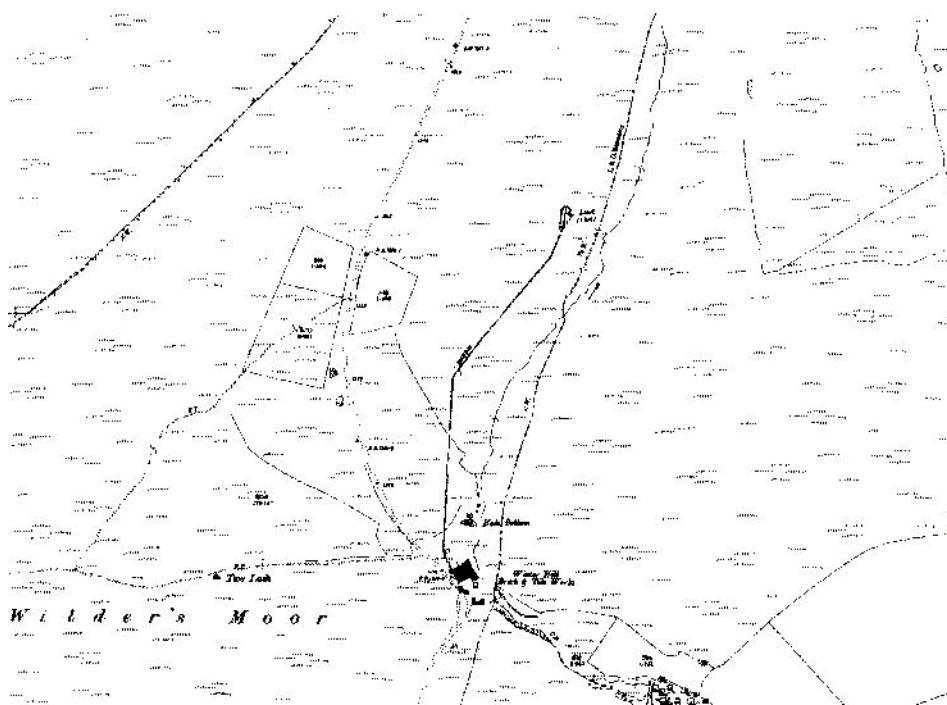
90% of people reading this are going to ask where Hole Bottoms is! It’s no wonder you don’t know where it is, for today it’s one of the most insignificant spots on Winter Hill and is totally ignored by most walkers and drivers unless you happen to be a “local”. To find the place, go up the road leading to the TV mast from Montcliffe, go over the cattle grid and eventually you’ll reach a left bend in the road with a metal crash barrier on the right side of the road. This is Hole Bottom! Welcome to one of the most fascinating spots on the hill!



If you stand at Hole Bottom and look around, what do you see? Not much for little now remains of what was once here. This was once a thriving, working small community with a brick & tile works, coal mines, houses (including an ale house – wish it were still there) and was on a major route from one part of the county to another. If you look carefully at the above photo, there are clues to the past history. Look uphill towards the mast. Over a century ago you would have seen a number of pit heads

all the way up to the present TV mast. There is a clear track leading up the hill that was once a tramway. Also on the hillside looking uphill there are a large number of blocked remains of adit entrances and a number of “collapsed” areas where the underground coal and clay workings have fallen in.

In the small “valley” to the right of the photo, there used to be three major adits leading from the valley into the Mountain Mine coal workings. Two of these adits are now completely filled in and sealed, and the third one seems to have been commandeered by the water department as the entrance is covered by a modern brick built structure (which is just about visible from the road as it’s surrounded by a fence).



To the right of the photo and directly behind the crash barrier is the site of the old Winter Hill Brick & Tile works, now demolished. Less than 100 yards higher up the road on the left hand side there used to be a row of houses called “Five Houses”. The Five Houses appear on many old maps of the area but are not shown on the 1894 First Edition maps.

The brick works were probably once known as “Five Houses Fire Brick and Tile works” as can be seen from an advert in the Bolton Chronicle on the 19th February 1849 which read:

TO BE LET. An extensive and well established Fire Brick and Tile Works, situated at the Five Houses, Horwich Moor, the present proprietor being desirous of retiring from the business.

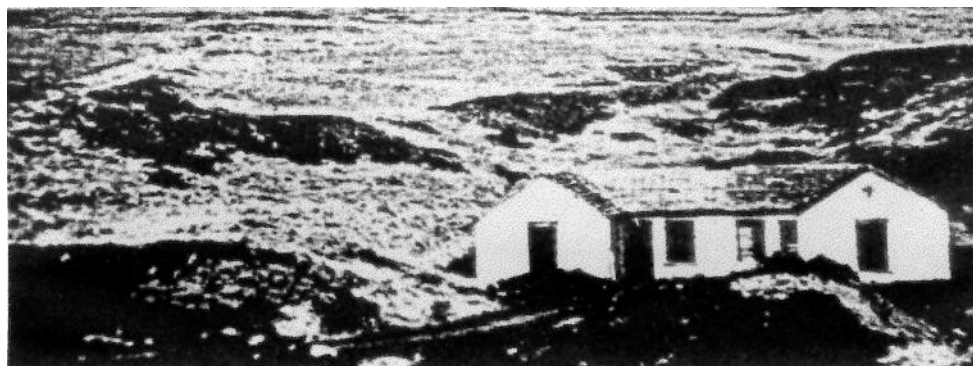
The works are complete with Steam Engine, Grinding and Crushing apparatus, Stoves, Drying Houses, Ovens, Moulds and every convenience for carrying out business.

The clay and coal being of superior quality, and are got on the premises at very trifling expense.

P.S. Any person taking the works can be accommodated with five or six acres of land and a few cottages adjoining.

For particulars apply to Mr Wm. Garbutt in the premises, or on Monday at the King's Arms and Four Horse Shoes Bolton.

I have been unable to source any photo of the Brick and Tile works so far - and I have not managed to find its date of closure or demolition. The tramway mentioned early, and visible on the photo, was used to carry the coal and clay from a mine level situated higher up the "valley" transporting these directly into the brick works. Little now remains of the works apart from a few walls and various mounds of rubble. It is however worth investigating the two "mounds" furthest away from the crash barrier, for these were obviously the site of the two kilns. The general design of the kilns can be clearly seen, along with some of the fused and once molten internal brickwork – caused due to the intense heat within the kilns. It would be interesting if someone could provide a plan of the works then we would all know what the various "mounds" around the site once were.



At one time there was, I understand, a cottage (illustrated above) near to the brickwork known as the "Hole Bottom Bungalow". The bungalow was latterly used as a Scout Hut until some point in the 1960's when it was demolished. The photo is merely a scan of a photocopy of the original photograph and I have no further information on the subject – although I presume this is a property which was marked as "Winter Hill House" on some maps produced around 1950.

Five Houses.

The earliest mention I can find of Five Houses is in connection with the 1838 murder of George Henderson (see an earlier article). Old maps indicate that this was a row of five houses as the name implies. One of these properties was used as an “ale house” and it was at this house that the murdered man, the travelling salesman George Henderson, used to meet his fellow salesman Benjamin Birrell every other Friday for a drink at 11 am. After Henderson was shot he was carried down to Five Houses where he was seen by a doctor but he later died. The alleged killer, a James Whittle, miner, also lived at Five Houses.

Looking at the 1881 Census it is noted that two families lived in the properties at that time:

Dwelling: Hole Bottom, Horwich Lancashire

	Marr	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation
William Thompson	M	45	M	Leeds(Rainow),York	Burner, Terra Cotta works
Ann Thompson	M	44	F	Rainow, Cheshire	Wife
Fred Thompson	U	19	M	Rainow Cheshire	Terra Cotta works
Samuel Thompson	U	16	M	Rainow, Cheshire	Terra Cotta works
Fanny Thompson		11	F	Rainow Cheshire	
Sarah A Thompson		9	F	Horwich, Lancs	Scholar
Frank Thompson		8	M	Horwich, Lancs	Scholar
Ada Thompson		6	F	Horwich, Lancs	Scholar
George Wilkinson		11 months	M	Bolton, Lancs	Boarder

Dwelling : Hole Bottom, Horwich, Lancashire

Price Hampson	M	55	M	Flint, Wales	Terra Cotta Works
Harriet Hampson	M	54	F	Bolton, Lancs	Wife
James Hampson	U	26	M	Flint, Wales	Terra Cotta Works.

There is now nothing to see at the site of Five Houses.

The photo below shows all that is now left of the Hole Bottom Brickworks.



TWO LADS HILL.

In between Rivington Pike and the road to the TV mast lies a small hill with an obvious cairn on top of it. This is “Two Lads”, or “Twa Lads” as it has sometimes been called in the past (or still seems to be called this by some with a strong local accent). There are several major routes used to get to the top of the hill, two from the TV mast road and the other starting next to Sportsman’s Cottage on George’s Lane.

There are many conflicting stories about the history of Two Lads and how it got its name. One tale has it that the cairn (an earlier one, not the present one) was built in remembrance of two boys who were lost in a snow storm some 400 years ago “their rigid bodies discovered frozen to each other in a final vain attempt for warmth. The other tale goes back a lot earlier to Saxon times (the name Rivington is believed to be of Saxon origin derived from “The Town of the Ravens”) when there was some sort of encampment on Two Lads. It is said that the two sons of a local Saxon “king” had the monument built for the funeral of their father. As T Morris in the first issue of the “Rivington Review” pointed out, the latter theory for the name is quite credible, as Saxon funerals tended to be on higher ground where this was possible.

Just to confuse the issue, there is yet a third tradition of the story which has it that the two lads who perished in the snow were orphans of a Saxon King who was himself killed in battle. Another writer has suggested that the name Wilders Moor derives from the fact that the “two lads” became “wildered” (bewildered) or lost on the moor. *Gladys Sellers in her book “Walks on the West Pennine Moors” says that “Two Lads Moor” used to have two Bronze Age burial mounds close to the track and not far from the top. In fact they gave the moor its name. They were excavated long ago and no records of their contents were ever made. Not even their sites can be seen today*” Anyone any other theories to add? We’ll never know the truth but what a fascinating story - whichever of them might be true.

Although I’ve never found a thing on Two Lads, despite 30 years of searching, I understand that Mr John Winstanley carried out some excavations (date unknown) on Two Lads and “discovered items of pottery, tools and human remains some of which date back to pre-historic times”.

The present cairns on top of the hill are not the original ones. These were reputed to have been located in a slightly different spot but no remains of them now exist.

One of the main mining tunnels underneath Winter Hill passes almost directly underneath Two Lads (about 50 yards to the North to be exact – there is a photo elsewhere in this book of that tunnel)) heading from the field in front of Sportsman's Cottage almost to the TV mast. All the coal and clay from directly underneath Two Lads summit has been removed, half in 1919 and half in 1930. The surrounding areas of the hill were mined between approximately 1914 and 1957. There is also a small quarry on the south-western flank of the hill, a most odd spot for such an undertaking unless the stone were needed extremely locally, Hole Bottom perhaps, or even for any early "encampment" on the hill itself.

The hill is part encircled by a ditch. Some folk claim this was once part of the hills ancient defences, but others tell me this is a modern development, and is purely to do with water drainage. Still others say it's a mixture of the two.



In the late 80's there was a local "storm" in the Bolton Evening News both in articles and especially on the letters pages. Over the years the

Two Lads cairn had virtually vanished and was in ruins. In 1988 a “mystery man” started to rebuild the cairn (I have since learned that the “mystery man” was David A Owen!). This task was then taken over by amateur historian Robin Smith who took over the task of restoring the monument to its original glory and he added a further four feet to the structure both by adding to it in height as well as clearing away rubble from the base.

During the digging he found the remains of old pots, jars, pieces of leather and clay smoking pipes he believed could date back one or two centuries. His most amazing discovery came when he dug to the bottom of the cairn and hit solid stone. He believed this could be the top of another ancient construction, adding weight to many historians view that the cairn marks the site of a Bronze or Iron Age fortress.

The council took offence at this “new” structure (especially to its 10 foot height) and claimed it was dangerous and proceeded to pull it down! Undeterred, the mound was once again rebuilt by local people in 1989 but it was promptly pulled back down again by the authorities! Two Lads became known as “the Yo Yo cairn”!

One reason for the council pulling it down is a bit rich – it is too big! A sketch of Two Lads was drawn by Albison of Bolton 200 years ago which clearly showed that even in those days it was about eight feet high and thirteen feet in diameter!



Springs and Dingle Reservoirs

Although this book was only intended to cover the main area of Winter Hill, as the Springs and Dingle reservoirs take all their water from the north-eastern flanks of the hill, it was felt worthy of inclusion. The reservoirs lie next to the A567 on Belmont road between Bolton and Belmont. The two reservoirs lie next to each other with Dingle being a little lower and near to Bolton. Springs holds 134 million gallons and has a maximum depth of 48 feet whilst Dingle can contain 79 million gallons and is 30 feet deep. The total length of the embankments of both reservoirs is over three quarters of a mile in length, quite an undertaking for when they were constructed in the early 1800's.

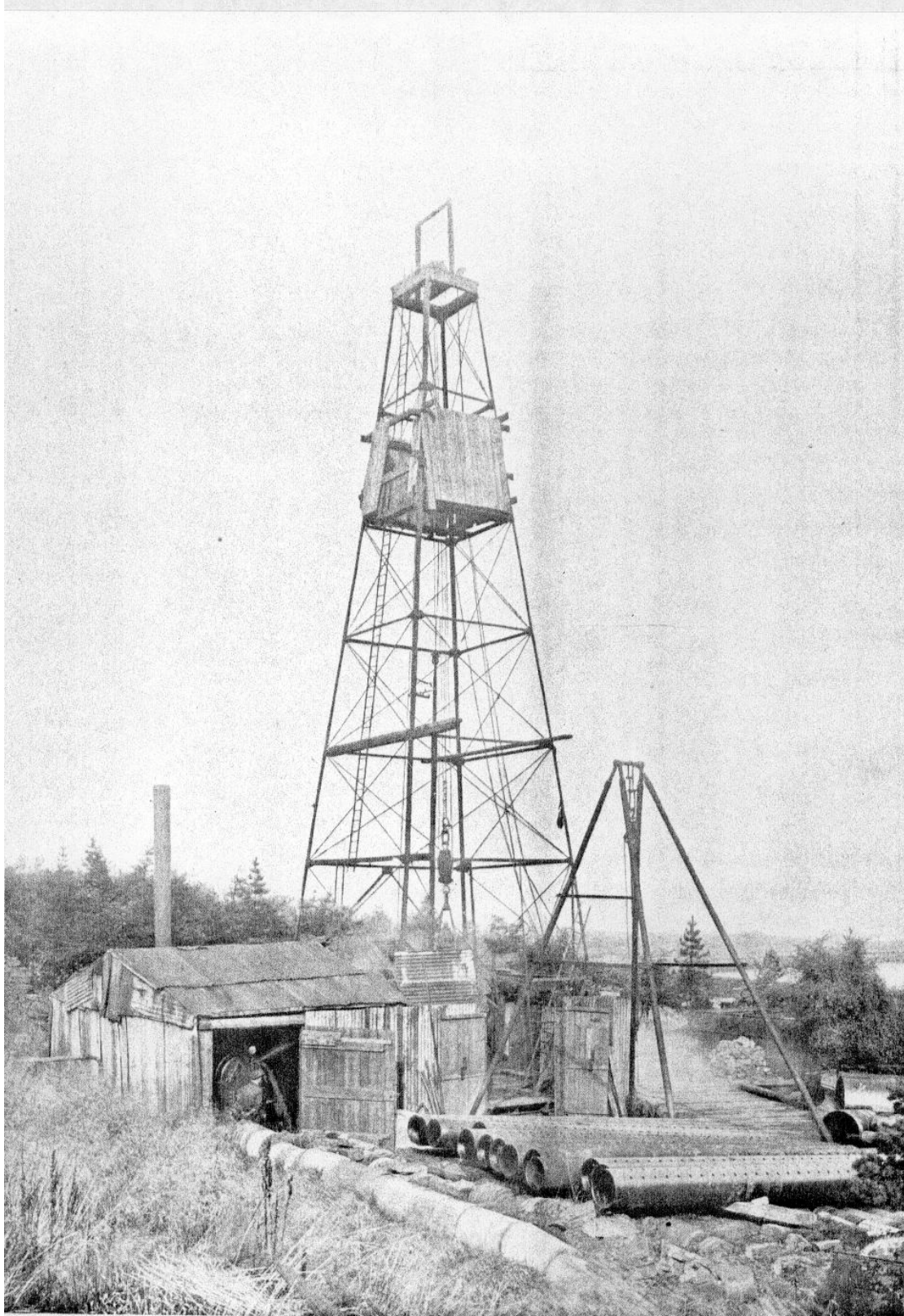
Springs reservoir takes its name from the source of its water, from the springs on Daddy Meadows and was Boltons first major reservoir supplying water to the town. Dingle reservoir takes its name from Shaly Dingle where the stream was diverted in order to supply the water to the new reservoir.

There was a problem that had to be overcome before both these reservoirs could be built. In nearby Eagley Brook, there were a number of water powered mills who derived a considerable amount of the water needed for their power from the flanks of Winter Hill. Before permission could be obtained to build the reservoirs, the Bolton Waterworks Company had to undertake to build a further large reservoir at Belmont (on the site of a much earlier smaller one) from which water would be released daily to compensate the mill owners for the loss of water from the Winter Hill Springs.

As well as Springs, Dingle and Belmont there is also a smaller reservoir in the area, Wards, usually known as the "Blue Lagoon". This was built in the early 19th century to supply water to Rycroft Works which was at the side of High Street on the spot now comprising the Brookdale Estate. The reservoir was enlarged in 1893 by Deacons who used the water to improve the water supplies to Belmont Bleachworks.

The major water supply for Springs reservoir comes from a man made well on Daddy Meadows. A friend once commented that at one time he had come across an old map which indicated that in this area there were "wind pumps". I have never seen a copy of this map. He went on to explain that in the 1960's he had a vague recollection of seeing old metal "mast type" structure (old USA style wind pump perhaps) in the area. Whilst looking through some photo's lent to me by this person, I found

the photograph shown below (I think it came from an old Bolton Waterworks publication). When checking on a 1947 Waterworks plan I note that “Springs Well” is the direct feed point for Springs reservoir – along with “Daddy Meadows Springs”. The date of the photo is unknown.



SPRINGS WELL BORING PLANT

TEENAGERS SAFE AFTER MINE ORDEAL

SIX Lancashire teenagers were rescued by Coal Board safety men early today after a 13-hour ordeal in a disused coal mine near Chorley.

The six, four boys and two girls, were safe but frightened. They took only a torch, a cigarette lighter and an apple with them on their adventure.

A police spokesman said: "What a survival kit! They are lucky to be alive."

The six were: Janet Fishwick, 13, Brazley Avenue, Horwich; Mark Wilkes, 14, Chorley New Road, Horwich; Lester Pearson, 14, Panton Street, Horwich; John Anthony, 14, Sefton Lane, Horwich; Patricia

By

CLIVE NAISH

RAMBLE

the six had been underground for six hours they were reported missing.

Police called out an RCB rescue team which toiled in the night and brought the youngsters to the surface and safety early today.

One of the girls trapped spoke today of her 13-hour ordeal.

Thirteen-year-old Janet Fishwick, was one of six people who got stuck in the old mine shaft they went exploring on an afternoon's ramble.

They were rescued from the mine shaft on Wilderswood Moors at 1.40 am this morning after a massive rescue operation had been launched by police from the Lancashire and Greater Manchester forces who also called in a mine rescue team.

Janet who attends Rivington and Blackrod High School said as she was comforted by her father today:

"We were just walking round and round in circles, and in the end just decided to sit down, huddle together and keep each other warm. All we had was one torch and an apple.

"It was frightening. We just hoped that somebody would come and find us. Everybody was asleep except me when I thought I heard something. I woke them up but they said I was hearing things. Then we heard somebody shouting as we shouted back. We were all so relieved. It was very cold."

The group of teenagers set off for an afternoon's ramble which turned into a nightmare. The alarm was raised by Patricia Quilliam's brother Mark and Peter Elliot, of Brunswick Avenue, Horwich, when the teenagers failed to return home. Tanker driver William Fishwick and his son-in-law John Hurst, of Derwent Close, Horwich, were first on the hillside when they became worried after Janet had failed to come home for tea.

"We went up first but didn't have any proper clothing on and so came back," said Mr Fishwick.

"We went up again and went into the cave and started shouting but nobody could hear us."

The rescue team from Boothstown, near Manchester, were then called in and warned civilians to keep out of the old mine workings because of the possibility of dangerous gas.

While police and rescue workers awaited the arrival of the pit rescue team searchlights were set up and the mine workings sealed off.

Police were led by Supt Ian Hunter.

The teenagers were found soon after the pit rescue team entered the workings and after a check at Bolton Royal Infirmary were allowed home at about 3 am this morning.

John Anthony said: "We went in once to explore, but came out to go home, but then decided to go back to look at a lake inside. We got to the lake and decided to come out a different way, but got lost, we were going round and round in circles."



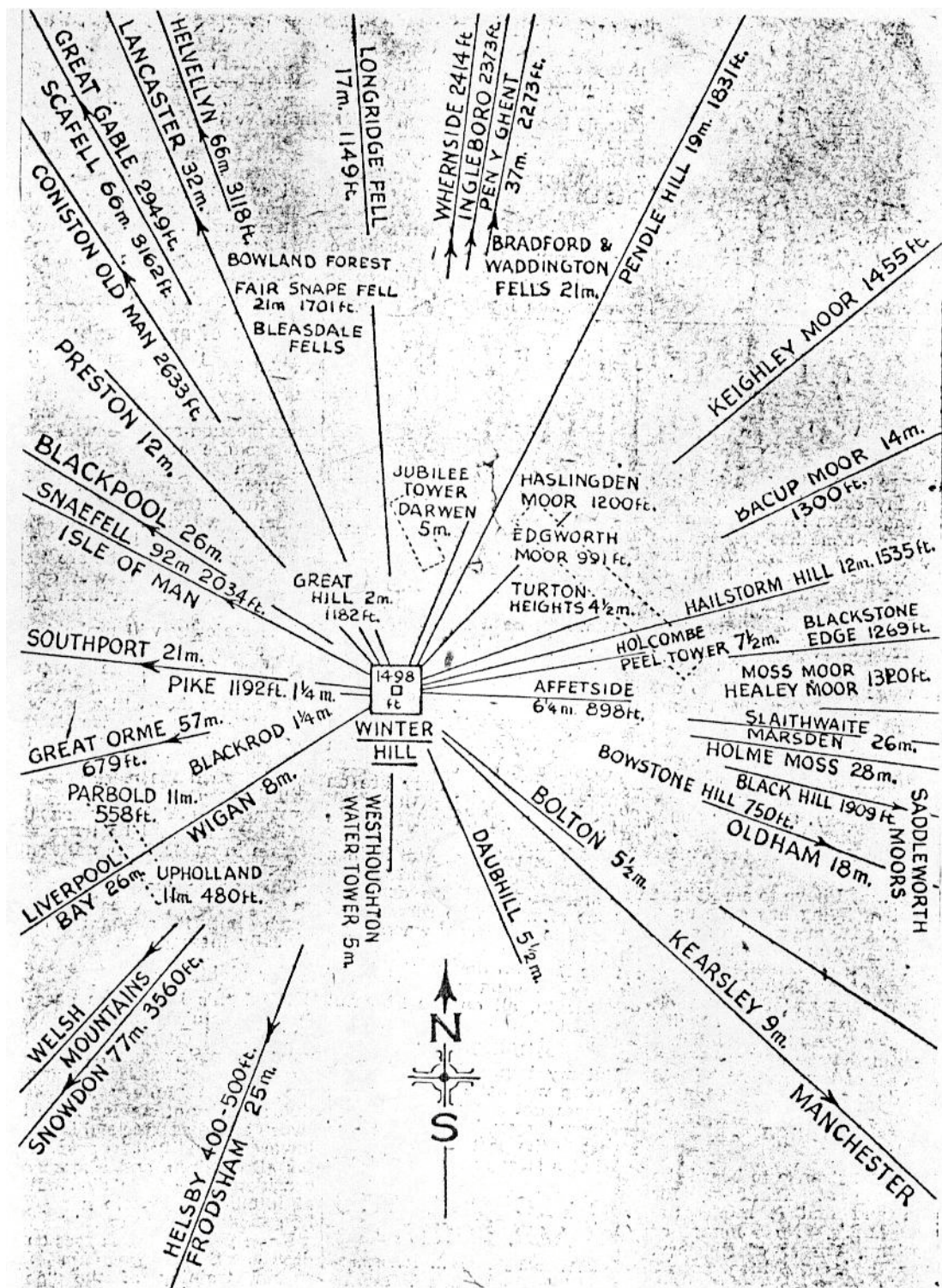
Lester Pearson

Quilliam, 15, Brazley Avenue, Horwich and Anthony Stott, 14, Beech Avenue, Horwich.

It was 2 pm yesterday when eight youngsters crawled through a three-foot wide hole into the disused Winter Hill Mine at Rivington, near Chorley. The hole had been closed but re-opened by rains.

Two turned back but the other six went on to explore old workings which run for miles.

The two who turned back told their parents and when



Distances to landmarks as viewed from Winter Hill.



Aerial view of northern end of Rivington Terraced Gardens (Pigeon Tower bottom right hand of photo. Taken approx 1970's.



Kitchen Garden area of Rivington Terraced Gardens. At the time this picture was taken, the Lagoon (bottom LH corner) had been drained for maintenance.

Rivington Pike and Winter Hill have been used as beacon sites for hundreds of years. Perhaps the most memorable beacon at these sites was in 1981 at the time of the wedding of Charles and Diana. A chain of beacons was planned around the country

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH. SUNDAY, JUNE 21 1981

On the night of the beacon the two-mile uphill track from Horwich to the Trig point on Winter Hill (where the bonfire was located) was jammed with revellers who slogged to the top of the hill for the official lighting time of 10.19pm. The beacon was “officially” lit by 10 year old spina bifida sufferer Janet Lomax of Hillfield Drive, Bolton. She was given VIP treatment and driven through the crowds of walkers to the site along with the mayors and mayoresses from surrounding towns. Many people arrived late – or even missed the lighting of the fire as it had been wrongly announced in the Press, that it was at Rivington Pike! This caused total chaos on the Rivington/Belmont road which was blocked till the early hours by trapped vehicles.

The beacon was built by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and was around 30 feet in height.



The beacon was no “jerry-built” job as can be seen by the photo of the frame.

It was estimated that over 5,000 people made it to the top of the hill in time to see its lighting only a few hundred yards from the TV mast. The sight of the flames ended a nail-biting 24 hours for the beacon builder Peter Veevers and his helpers who camped out on the moor to ensure there was no premature lighting. The team had brought wood up the hill twice every week over a two-month period to prepare for the bonfire.

It was an enjoyable and memorable occasion for all those who were there.

More Winter Hill Mining Remains.

Since writing volume 1 of this book, I have received a large number of enquiries about the coal mine's and tunnels under Winter Hill. A large number of people have asked "Are there any other mining remains other than the things you have written about". A very difficult question to answer! As explained earlier, it would be foolish to fully describe ALL details of mines under Winter Hill because this would merely encourage every adventurous minded person in the area to descend on them and to explore them. I am however tempted to give details of a few other finds in the area just to educate people as to what is there. So here goes. I'll give a few more brief descriptions of other interesting things to see – but please don't pester me via email for any EXACT details other than what is written below. All workings mentioned below are either fully sealed up, have a blockage near to the entrance (rockfall, roof collapse etc) or have been filled in by the explorers after finding nothing of interest.

Another "Montcliffe area" mine.

Apart from the main Montcliffe Mine and the associated Margery Drift, there is another rather odd mine in the same general area. Entrance to this mine was effected by squeezing through a small hole at the top of a wall and for this reason (and because it was VERY wet) I declined to enter and so my description is merely what I have been told. I nearly always decline



to physically explore tunnels these days!

Dropping through the hole you enter a concrete roofed flooded area with man made stone walls and after a few yards there is a passage on the right hand side, the tunnel straight ahead being chest deep in water. The RH tunnel goes nowhere. Following the main tunnel, the water shallows and eventually becomes reasonably dry underfoot.



I am told that parts of this mine are somewhat “cave like” with a running stream in one section which heads off downhill.

Wilderswood area.

There are at least two old tunnels in this area which can be clearly seen by any passing walker so I am giving away no secrets. Both are a waste of time exploring internally for they are both totally blocked after a few yards with major roof falls – and I mean “major”!

Taking the path from Ormston’s farm (from the bottom of Ormston Lane) that heads towards the bottom end of Wilderswood, you pass over a bridge spanning the stream. Look over the upstream parapet and on the right hand bank you will be able to see the entrance to a small tunnel. This is blocked only a few yards in and any attempt to excavate would probably collapse the roadway that passes over it. Nothing is known

about this tunnel and I have seen no maps of charts relating to any underground workings under Wilderswood.

Carry on up the path and after 100 yards or so, pass through the hole in the right hand wall (where a “cabin” once stood, reputedly to record the amounts of coal coming out of the local workings) and go up the steps to the footpath. After a few yards drop down to stream level and head upstream and soon you will find another tunnel entrance. This one is strange and nobody has so far been able to explain its purpose. The size of the tunnel indicates a fairly major mine entrance, but in order to enter it, you first of all have to drop down into a sort of well about 3 feet deep. Whether this “well” is a later development is not known, but for this to be any sort of working mine entrance, there should not be a well or wall there which would have prevented any easy coal extraction from the mine. Yet another of this areas mysteries! This tunnel is also blocked after a few yards and the site of the collapse can be seen from the banking higher up the slope.

There are other suspected mine workings in the area but all are either totally sealed, collapsed, or can no longer be found despite being marked on early maps. In a later volume I'll try to get round to giving a step by step guide to this general area so to make a visit here more interesting.



A bricked up adit entrance at Hole Bottom

Winter Hill & Noon Hill Burial Mounds.

(The following is an article was written by J Rawlinson and published in the Chorley & District Archaeological Society Bulletin Sept & Dec 1961. It describes the discovery and excavation of the Winter Hill Barrow.) The barrow is marked on modern maps as "Tumulus" or "Cairn".

In the district of Central Lancashire there are several authentic burial mounds. On Anglezarke Moors there is a large round barrow called "Round Loaf". It is possible this covers a stone chambered grave. On the same moor there is a site called Pike Stones, a ruined chambered grave from which the farmers have taken a lot of stone. Both these are marked on the OS maps.

On Rivington Moor there is a saucer tumulus called "Noon Hill", famous locally for more than 400 years, and Winter Hill Round Barrow which was discovered by Mr Tom Creear and myself in March 1957.

On Horwich Moor, there is "Two Lads", a site encircled by earthworks, which once contained two stone cairns surrounded by a stone wall with an entrance from the east. Nearer Bolton just outside the Horwich boundary is a barrow with the interesting name of "Priests Crown". This mound and Two Lads are marked on the OS map.

To return to the Winter Hill Round Barrow. On Sunday afternoon 24th March 1957, whilst searching for a possible Roman signalling and observation station on Winter Hill, Mr Creear and I discovered a curved line of stones about 20 feet long just peeping out of the turf. Investigation proved these to be part of a stone circle about 63 feet in diameter. Inside the circle there was a pile of stones forming an inner circle with a slight depression in the centre. The site commanded a wonderful view of Lancashire and its surroundings, only a small section of about 30 degrees to the South of East being obscured by the hills. Just north of east the southern slopes of Pendle Hill were to be seen with the way into Yorkshire through Burnley and Colne. West of Pendle, on a clear day, Ingleborough, Penygent and Whernside come into view. Continuing West, Longridge and Bleasdale Fells can be followed bringing the sea coast into view near Pilling. The coast is visible to Great Ormes Head at Llandudno in North Wales including the estuaries of the Ribble and the Mersey and in an arc from SW to SE the view continues to the Peak

District of Derbyshire Including the industrial sprawl around Warrington and Manchester, and occasionally above all Snowdon and the Carneddys peep out of the clouds.

On Friday evening 21st June 1957 I took Mr Rosser to the Winter Hill Barrow site and he was very impressed. Mr Creear and myself revisited the site on 29th June. Mr Creear exposed about 30 feet of the outer wall whilst I dug a trial hole in the west side of the circle, here I found the wall 25 inches high resting on the cleared surface of the moor. I took two photos, one from the west and two from the south-west before starting work on the site. This work was reported at the Society meeting on July 4th and another visit arranged for Saturday July 6th to expose more of the outside wall. Nineteen members of the Society visited the site as arranged and about fifty feet of the outer wall was exposed, the work was then stopped and we reported the situation to Mr Rosser. On Tuesday 6th August Professor A Whallet, Dr Bullock and Mr C E P Rosser visited the site and stated that it was a Bronze Age Barrow and would be scheduled by the Ministry of Works. Later it was decided to excavate the barrow the following summer. On Friday afternoon the 18th July 1958 together with Mr Ron Rigby, our Society Vice Chairman, I met Dr Bullock and Mr C E P Rosser on the site on Winter Hill. We pegged out the south-west section and arranged for work to commence on the following Monday the 21st. I also arranged for hot lunches to be delivered on the site for the week from Rivington Hall Barn.

On Monday and Tuesday the excavation went steadily on without any outstanding incident. The pattern formed on the vertical face of the excavation was very interesting, the mixture of clay about four different colours from cream to brown with the network effect of the turf lines produced a design almost like a continental cheese. This basket filling continued all the way through the mound but about halfway to the centre there was a plainer sloping turf line as though the centre cairn had been covered first and the space left to the outer wall filled in later.

On Wednesday afternoon a flurry of excitement was caused by the discovery of a squarely cut piece of wood (birch) lying on the last layer of turf at a depth of 3 feet from the surface and 13 feet from the centre of the mound. The wood was very soft and wet and to prevent it drying out and crumbling after measuring, it was covered with a wet sack. The stick was 2 foot 2 inches long by 2 inches wide and almost one inch thick. I suggested to Mr Rosser that perhaps it had been used as a measuring stick. Later two samples about 3 inches long were taken for tests. I was promised one of these at some future date with a report.

On reaching the centre portion we found a large quantity of stone which had been a central cairn and a thick almost vertical turf line which led one to believe that the centre had been disturbed. Dr Bullock said this was probably about 200 years ago. Another section of the north east of the mound was commenced and later two square holes 6 ft by 6 ft near the centre were dug. Nothing more was found but the two professionals said that they were perfectly satisfied with the excavation which had proved that the site was a burial mound and the stick of wood would eventually give its age. Personally, I was disappointed I thought that the whole mound should have been excavated. The following month, August, the newly formed Bolton Archaeological Society under the leadership of Mr J Winstanly commenced to excavate Noon Hill, Rivington, in the Chorley Rural Area and about three-quarters of a mile from the Winter Hill Mound.

We had photographed and measured Noon Hill two years ago and I had taken Dr Bullock and a small party there whilst we were working on Winter Hill. Dr Bullock gave the opinion that it had been dug. I visited Noon Hill on the Wednesday of the second week of the excavation and found a south-eastern quadrant excavated to the inner wall. In the south-eastern quadrant the inner wall had been completely taken out and evidence of three burials found there. One had a shattered urn but only a small heap of burnt bones were found to mark the other two.

Two tanged and barbed flint arrowheads were unearthed and a small flint knife blade with one edge fine toothed like a saw and the other a straight sharpened edge. All probably votive from the burials. The bones had apparently been broken up to go into the urns, and some of these were later found to be a child's. The shattered urn of a dirty yellow colour has now been rebuilt and is on exhibition at Bolton Museum (*it is now no longer exhibited but is held in the museum storage area*). The excavation showed an outer circle formed of a double ring of large stones, this circle is about 52 feet in diameter, an inner wall of smaller stones, mostly boulders, was strengthened by several buttress stones. The wall is three feet high and forms a ring 33 feet in diameter, the burials were found built into this wall.

The filling of this mound was much darker than that on Winter Hill, more loam and less clay so the turf lines were not so plain. The urn is 10 inches in height, 9 inches in largest diameter, base 4 inches diameter and a simple design of straight lines covers the top half. The excavation was

stopped soon after my visit to be resumed next summer under C.B.A. direction.

Two Lads is a hill 1275 feet above sea level and almost a mile south east from Rivington Pike. On the summit is a large pile of stones and between the summit and the 1150 feet contour there are 1 mile & 1500 yards of earthworks. In places these have been altered and adapted for water conservancy purposes but sufficient can be seen to lead one to believe that they constituted a breastwork and trench system of defences. The cairn on the summit has been built from two cairns, and a surrounding wall around the year 1800 by a local lord of the manor so that it could be discerned from his residence. The famous antiquary Durning Rasbotham visited this hill in 1776 and our reconstruction is from his description. The hill has been a prolific source of flint finds for a long time. I cannot find any mention of an excavation here but I hope to take a Yorkshire Archaeologist who has had experience on Pennine Sites over the hill.

John Rawlinson.

Chorley and District Archaeological Society Bulletin.

An unexplained mystery.

Since the writing of Volume 1 of this scrapbook, I have received a number of e-mails from various people around the world who have all added a little bit to my knowledge of Winter Hill. One such person lived for a period at Sportsman's Cottage in the mid 1950's and I repeat below exactly what that person wrote because not only is it a fascinating story, but I also wonder if anyone has had any other "strange" experiences either on Winter Hill or on the nearby moors. Any similar information received will be most welcome for us all to share (e-mail me at d.lane@btinternet.com).

"I would like to tell you something that happened on the moors one night. My Grandad was a no-nonsense man who had been a policeman in Liverpool for many years before his retirement to Rivington. He was not a fanciful man nor a liar. I was staying with them , as usual, and when I got up this particular morning I knew something was wrong....my Nan packed my stuff and some for her and Grandad and took me home to Liverpool.....they never went back to Rivington, to Sportsmans Cottage !! It was not until many years later that I found out what made them abandon their home overnight.

My Grandad had got up in the night to use the toilet and, as you would, had looked out of the window over the black moors. He saw something out on the moors that made him tell my Nan he wouldn't spend another night there and they came to stay with us until they could find somewhere to live. They never went back there to stay, only to pack up and move out.

My Grandad would never tell anyone what he saw, not even my Nan, and the secret died with him. All I know is that it scared him to death and made him move out straight away. I missed Rivington a lot. Do you know of anything that my Grandad could have seen? Are there any tales of strange things up there? I have wondered about it all my life and if anyone else has ever seen anything that affected them”.

Can you add anything to this recollection? Have you experienced anything similar?

Another “ghostly” occurrence in the vicinity.

Although not strictly on Winter Hill, Anderton is near enough to the base of the hill to include the following snippets! They are taken from the Bolton Evening News dated December 4th 1982 and from a letter written in the same newspaper on Thursday the 23rd December 1982.

Pub's spirit gives staff the shakes. Licensee Mr Richard Calvert reckons *there are more spirits in his pub than behind the bar. A catalogue of strange sightings and weird experiences by members of staff at the Millstone Hotel, Anderton, near Horwich, over three years has convinced Mr Calvert that a “grey lady” exists. The latest incident centred on the coffee lounge. Mr Calvert said “We showed a couple in there and asked them to sit near the fireplace. Almost immediately the woman came out shaking, saying there was a ghost. She was gasping for breath and trembling”.*

But most reports of mysterious presence at the Millstone focus on the main restaurant, known as “the back room”. Mrs Lynne Edwards, of Mary Street East, Horwich, worked at the Millstone as a cleaner for two years. She said “The first time I saw something strange was one morning when we had all been sitting in the bar area having our coffee break. I felt a strange sensation that there was someone watching me from the back restaurant. I glanced up and saw this grey outline.”

Mother of two, Mrs Janice Tyrer of Wright Street, Horwich, confesses to be “terrified” of being alone in the back room. She has worked as a cleaner at the Millstone for the past four years. Mr Calvert spoke of other strange happenings at the pub, like the burglar alarm going off in the middle of the night. He said that the previous licensee had an alsatian, which refused to go in the back room and in an upstairs bedroom. One of the questions now being asked is could the Millstone Phantom be the Phantom of Headless Cross?

Headless Cross is 200 yards from the pub and there have been many reports of a monk crossing the road. The sightings are based on an age-old story about Father Bennett who was head of Lady Chapel – now covered by Lower Rivington reservoir. During the Reformation Father Bennett, fearing that valuables in the chapel would be plundered, decided to hide them. He entered a tunnel that was supposed to lead to the chapel and was never seen again.

The latest reports of ghostly goings-on centre on Headless Cross House. Mr Anthony Samuels and his family live there. Mr Samuel’s runs a business in St George’s Road, Bolton, said they returned from their summer holidays last year to find all the lights on. Yet there was no shred of evidence of any intruders. He said: “Every so often, my wife can see a face on the door of the bedroom wardrobe”.

+++++

Was it the “ghost” of priest daughter said. *Sir ...I was very interested to read your report of the ghost of the “grey lady” seen in and around the Millstone at Anderton, Lancs.*

My daughter Tracy, who was then eight, saw her in May 1978. The “lady” was standing in the centre of a small stone hump backed bridge in Grimeford Lane, leading from near the Millstone to the A6 at Blackrod. We had been to the Millstone with my parents and two children and were taking my parent’s home to Blackrod at the time she was sighted. It was about 10 o’clock on a lovely summers night as we were driving down the Lane.

As we approached the bridge Tracy saw a lady dressed in a long grey dress, a cape and with something on her head, which she could not describe properly at the time, standing as if waiting to cross the road. As we drove past her she suddenly disappeared. You should have heard

Tracy's reaction when this happened. She just could not believe it as she thought she had seen a real live person.

No one else in the car saw her except Tracy insisted she was there and started to describe her in great detail. At this a cold shiver ran down my spine as I remembered my parents telling me of a ghost that used to haunt the lane when I was a child. She said she was rather tall and seemed old but she did not see her features clearly. She also wanted to know what a lady was doing down a lonely lane on her own at that time of night. She said that the dress was so long that "I thought she'd been to a party".

Later I started to draw pictures of what she said she had seen and, after drawing lots of different headwear, the thing she wore on her head turned out to be a barreta, the small four cornered cap that priests wear. Tracey has maintained all along that what she saw was a lady but when the Pope visited Britain in May and she saw a full length shot of him on television she said "that lady" was wearing exactly the same clothes but they were grey.

Last year we got a book from the library about Rivington and the story of Father Bennett was in it. We think this is what Tracy saw as he used to travel round from village to village blessing the people. We were also told by someone that priests around those times used to stand at the crossing of a ford and bless the travellers as they went by. The bridge where Tracy saw the ghost was across a small stream which probably many years ago could have been the crossing of a ford.

I hope this letter sheds a little more light on the mystery as it certainly gives us food for thought knowing that someone else has seen the "grey lady" besides our daughter... Mrs Brenda Smith, Horwich.

Aeroplane Crashes on and around Winter Hill

There have been a remarkably large number of plane crashes either on Winter Hill itself or in the surrounding area. Various people have compiled lists of these crashes and more information has come to light following articles in the Bolton Evening News. Unfortunately I can't give credit to the people who have provided this information for all I have are unsigned sheets of paper with the information on them. Below is a list of the crashes I am aware of:

Date Type	Location	Remarks
1915	Bob's Brow, Horwich	Single seat fighter RFC
	Nr Nab Gate Harwood	
Apr-20	Ramsden's Meadows	Sir Alan Cobham & passenger unhurt
7.28 Atlas biplane	Winter Hill/Belmont Riv Rd	FO Walker. From Sealand to Catterick
3.4.29 DH Moth	Markland Hill Lane	R Taggart
15.11.35 Puss Moth	Crowthorne Hill	Lancashire Aero Club
6.6.36 DH Rapide	Nr Dean Golf Club	Pilots & passengers unhurt. IOM to Barton
37 Moth type?	Crowthorne Moor	Mail plane. Carrying newspapers IOM to M
17.8.37	No 50 Mornington Rd	Sgt Blackburn killed
	Little Hulton	RAF plane force landed
38/39 Roc	Stocks Park, Horwich	
13.2.41 Spitfire	Ashton Field, Little Hulton	Pilot had severe facial injuries
5.41 Skua	Golf Course Horwich	Fleet Air Arm
1.9.42 P 38	Sowall Farm, Westhoughton	Williams
7.8.42 Argus	Winter Hill. North side	5 ADG. 5 occupants uninjured
3.2.43 Skua	Dunscar Lodge	776 Squadron, RNAS, Stretton to Speke
16.11.43 Wellington	Hurst Hill, Anglezarke	28 OTU. All crew killed
24.12.43 Oxford	Winter Hill	410 Squadron RAF
13.1.44 B 7G	Crowthorne Hill	
44	Bryan Hey Reservoir	On flight to Burtonwood
2.2.45 Hurricane	Horrocks Field Farm, Scout Rd	N T Huddle Flt Sgt killed
2.2.45 Hurricane	Whimberry Hill	P S Taylor Flt Sgt killed
29.7.45 Mustang 3	Cadshaw Bridge/Bull Hill	W O Hoga Polish Squadron 12 Group killed
1946 Spitfire	Darwen Moor	
14.9.53 Meteor	Crowthorne Hill	2 planes crashed. 610 Squadron. Hooton P
27.2.58 Bristol 170	Winter Hill	35 died, 7 survived
22.12.65 Chipmunk	Smithills Moor	Manchester UAS flying from Woodvale
8.68 Cessna 172	Winter Hill	Pilot survived, Pleasure flight Blackpool, Ba
29.9.77 Horizon	Whittle Pike, Scout Moor	2 killed, Yeadon to Barton
21.1.78 Piper TriPacer	Georges Lane, Horwich	3 killed. Flew into wall in rain & mist
Circa Spitfire	Nr Bay Horse, Heath Charnock	One cow killed!
1944		

The most disastrous crash on Winter Hill occurred on the 27th February 1958 when a Bristol Wayfarer of Silver City Airlines crashed on the summit of Winter Hill with 35 people losing their lives. The aircraft had left Ronaldsway on the Isle of Man with a party of motor traders on board

who were on their way to the Exide Battery Works at Clifton Junction . It was mid morning when the crash occurred following a navigation error.

When the Silver City Airlines plane took off from Ronaldsway all was in order. Charlie Sierra, flew over the Irish Sea at 1,500 feet, with the crew expecting a lift in altitude when they reached the Lancashire coast. It never came and Captain Edward Cairns was asked if he could maintain the same height by Air Traffic Control at Preston. He agreed, and was told by his First Officer William Howarth that the planes radar compass was tuned to the beacon at Wigan. What the crew did not realise was that through an elementary mistake they had picked up the wrong beacon call sign. Instead of being on course for Wigan – call sign MYK, the ill-fated plane was heading for MYL – the Oldham beacon.

Watching the radar screen at Ringway Airport was zone controller Maurice Ladd. It was 9.44am when he picked up a faint radar signal to pinpoint Charlie Sierra somewhere over Chorley. Immediately Mr Ladd gave the order that Charlie Sierra should turn right on to a course of 250 degrees. Despite his split second decision, it was too late. The Wayfarer, already heading straight for the range of hills – and with the odds-against chance of flying “blind” through a gap in them – altered course. Unfortunately, through no-one’s fault, the advice came vital seconds too late. The plane, by now in the cloud, veered to the right, but instead of open airspace her two-man crew were confronted by the bleak rearing hillside.

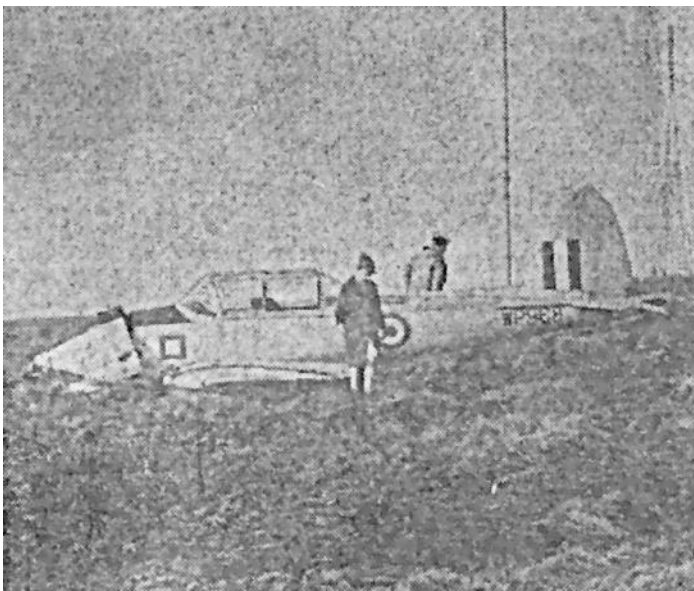
A total of 35 people lost their lives in the crash and there were seven survivors including the crew. The planes First Officer staggered the 350 yards from the scene of the crash to the Winter Hill ITA transmitter to raise the alarm. The aircraft had broken into three pieces, with only the tail recognisable as part of a plane

Conditions on the hill were appalling and rescuers had to struggle through snow sometimes six feet deep to get to the crash. Fog brought visibility down to almost zero and although ambulances were sent from nearly every nearby town they were held up until a bulldozer had cleared a path for them. Three RAF helicopters were sent to the scene, one with a doctor on board but fog prevented them from landing. The survivors were taken to Bolton Royal Infirmary.

There is now a plaque commemorating the crash mounted on the side of the TV station and is visible from the road.



The commemorative plaque on the wall of the TV station.



Newspaper photo of the RAF Chipmunk that crashed on Smithills Moor in December 1965

Access to the Moors.

All of the land is owned by “someone”. Winter Hill and the surrounding areas are all owned by somebody whether this be a private landlord, a water authority or a local



authority. Although large areas of Winter Hill, Anglezarke Moor etc are open to the public there has to be some control over access to these areas so “access agreements” have been drawn up with all the local landlords involved. Apart from all the usual “rules” regarding how one should behave on the moors, there are clearly defined “access” points to get on to the moors (i.e. no climbing over walls, no crossing farmers fields etc in order to get onto the moors). The official map of all officially agreed access points is shown above **PLEASE STICK TO THEM AND RESPECT THEM!**

RIVINGTON BUNGALOW TO GO

House and Gardens Everyone

FUTURE generations of Bolton folk, enjoying the splendid heritage of Lever Park, made theirs by the generosity of the first Lord Leverhulme, will probably look with puzzled eyes at the wooded slope of Rivington.

They will recall that the generous donor of an industrially-romantic day had a residence perched eyrie-like atop that hill. They will muse: "It has completely disappeared—pity!"

From the point of view of the lover of unusual things whether in houses and gardens, or jewels and music, it is a pity. But it seems inevitable. Liverpool Corporation have all along placed the unquestionable purity of the water collected on their great and beautiful gathering ground before the things of the spirit. And they, the last owners of The Bungalow, have this week signalized the last chapter of the strange story by proposing to hand the place, lock, stock, and barrel, as the saying is, to a demolition gang.

Soon then it will be gone, with all its striking characteristics that reflected the taste of its builder, and the hillside will return to the whispering solitudes, the wind, the rain, and the cry of the curlew.

Beautiful Tapestries

There was formerly at the Bungalow a collection of characteristic things—Lord Leverhulme's own almost monkish apartment, open mostly to the winds of heaven; his collection of beautiful tapestries in the hall, an attractive library of books beloved—almost a Lancashire anthology—and furniture worthy of a connoisseur; electric horses to take the place of flesh and blood mounts when years began to tell upon the busy Viscount.

He loved dancing, and it is no surprise to learn that he had a circular ballroom built whose perfect proportions and polished floor have delighted thousands of those to whom he so frequently threw open his house and grounds.

There was another feature that those who knew him understood. Although he was no great astrologer or astronomer he had his dining-room ceiling illuminated with the stars and planets as they were in their courses at the moment of his birth.

After his personal treasures no feature of the estate could so well reflect the man as the perfectly-proportioned gardens, green lawns and a miniature lake on levels carved out of the rock, waterfalls tumbling down the tree-clothed hillside, nooks and crannies filled with choice plants. And the Japanese gardens. These were planned in princely style. They were a romance of the land, and art, and nothing pleased their owner so much as to know his personal friends and his fellow townsmen of his beloved Bolton were enjoying them with him.

The Bungalow story is inseparable from that of his purchase in 1899 of the Rivington Hall estate from the agents of Mr. J. W. Crompton, of Rivington Hall.

He was living at Hillside, Heaton, at the time and as his son, the present Viscount, recalls in his memoirs, the proposal appealed to him. At Rivington he could make a garden "in which his imagination could have full play."

"The rest of the estate he could offer to his native town as a park and so ensure the preservation of its beauties for the public, for Rivington Pike, some 1,200ft. above sea-level and one of the highest landmarks in this part of Lancashire had long been a favourite resort of the people of Bolton and the surrounding towns."

He fully realized the position and responsibility of the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Committee, and it is noteworthy that at every stage he offered them first choice before he purchased the estate to fulfil his less utilitarian dreams.

Refused to Make Profit

And when Parliament decided in his favour and a commission fixed generous terms, he scrupulously refused to make a profit, devoting the surplus to Liverpool charity and to broadening the basis of the work of the Liverpool University, particularly in the study of architecture and civic design.

This bungalow scheme began as it has ended, on an unusual note. The first building was a bungalow of wood of simple design. This was replaced by a rather more elaborate residence—the one which it has since been admitted was burnt to the ground early in the morning of July 8th, 1913, by women suffrage extremists.

Then the Viscount built one, chiefly of local stone. One which he said could not be burnt down. Its terraces, garden houses and picturesque dove cotes we know. And in 1905 he started his garden scheme to plans drawn by Mr. Mawson, the eminent architect of beautiful Bolton fame.

It is said that £250,000 was spent on the making of this attractive property.

After his death in 1925 the Bungalow and gardens were acquired by the late Mr. John Magee, who, like Lord Leverhulme, welcomed visits of the public.

When Mr. Magee died, the property was placed on the market and conferences of representatives of local authorities and the Council for the Preservation of Rural England suggested that it would be acquired for the benefit of the public.

Negotiations were still proceeding when the Bolton Corporation Parks Committee surprisingly announced their retirement from the entire business, and whilst the Liverpool authority expressed sympathy with the project they did not give it any favour.

The war came so the remaining local authorities could not obtain a financial backing from the Government, and after unsuccessful efforts to defer the sale, the property went to the Liverpool Corporation at a cost, it is said, of £3,000.

will Miss

To-day they are inviting offers for its demolition. Soon it will be gone. But the things it stood for, the love and preservation of the beauty that is so essentially ours, must not disappear with it.

BOLTON EVENING NEWS.

30th MAY 1947.

The Natural Dangers of Winter Hill

All high moorland should be treated with respect, and Winter Hill is no exception. Whilst researching material for this scrapbook, I have come across numerous references of people who have had their lives at risk purely because they were “there”. The bulk of the cases involve broken or twisted limbs or joints but a large number are due mainly to either the extreme weather or the pure physical conditions which exist at times and in certain places on the Hill.

There are reports of groups of youngsters entering old mines and getting lost – this was one of the prime reasons why mine shafts and collapsed entrances on Winter Hill are immediately filled in and sealed when they occur. People always refer to the day “those youngsters got lost down the tunnels”! It really happened!

There have been a number of cases of exposure on Winter Hill when ill-dressed folk have headed for the Hill in atrocious conditions. The weather in winter on Winter Hill can, on occasions, be just as extreme as one finds in the Scottish Mountains. I well remember one day on duty as a Ranger years ago in the Pigeon Tower/Rivington Pike area. A thin layer of snow had fallen the previous day, which had frozen solid overnight. A gale was blowing and ice particles were being ripped from the ground and blown in the air. To look around in any safety one had to wear goggles. The weather deteriorated and heavy snow fell, soon reaching the top of fence posts in places. At 4pm just as night was falling a call went out. Cries for help had been heard from the Pike. The weather conditions going up to the Pike were appalling with a snow blizzard obscuring all visibility – especially when carrying a stretcher! I forget exactly who was rescued or brought down that day but I write this just to illustrate how unforgiving Winter Hill can be at times. When I arrived home in Swinton that evening my wife looked uncomprehendingly at me as I explained my day as we had not had ANY snow in Swinton since the previous year! I’m sure she didn’t believe a word I was saying! Winter Hill seemed a million miles away.

It is not always the weather or broken bones that can cause problems. In some isolated parts of the Hill the ground underfoot is not always as it seems! There are boggy areas and many people who love to get away from the recognised tracks have tales to tell me included! I am not referring to merely getting feet wet in a bog. Frequently one can go in up to the thighs. An article in the Bolton Evening News on Monday January 5th 1987 illustrates the dangers:

Moor ordeal man thanks rescuers. *A walker who cheated death by an hour after a “quicksand” ordeal on a bleak moorland has thanked police for saving his life. Mr John Gill, aged 27, was found unconscious, 1,500 feet up on the access road to the TV mast on Winter Hill. He collapsed exhausted after struggling for two hours to free himself after falling into a ditch in the hill’s peat bogs. The alarm was raised when a CB radio user spotted what he thought was a body on the tarmac road. Police searched by torchlight in a gale before finding Mr Gill, who lives at Ridgeway, Blackrod.*

Speaking for the first time about his ordeal Mr Gill said “I would like to thank the teenager who saw me and the police. I apologise for any trouble I have caused. I was up to my waist in the bog and was stuck completely. I struggled for hours to get out. I shouted for help but it was useless at that time of night and in a gale. When I got out of the bog by pulling at tufts of grass, I was exhausted and could not feel my hands or feet. I thought I was going to die. The bog was like quicksand – I was sinking fast the more I struggled”

Mr Gill, set out for a walk at 8.45pm but was found close to death nearly five hours later. He said “I remember the police finding me and the next thing I woke up in hospital and was being brought round with tea and an injection. I had suffered severe hypothermia”

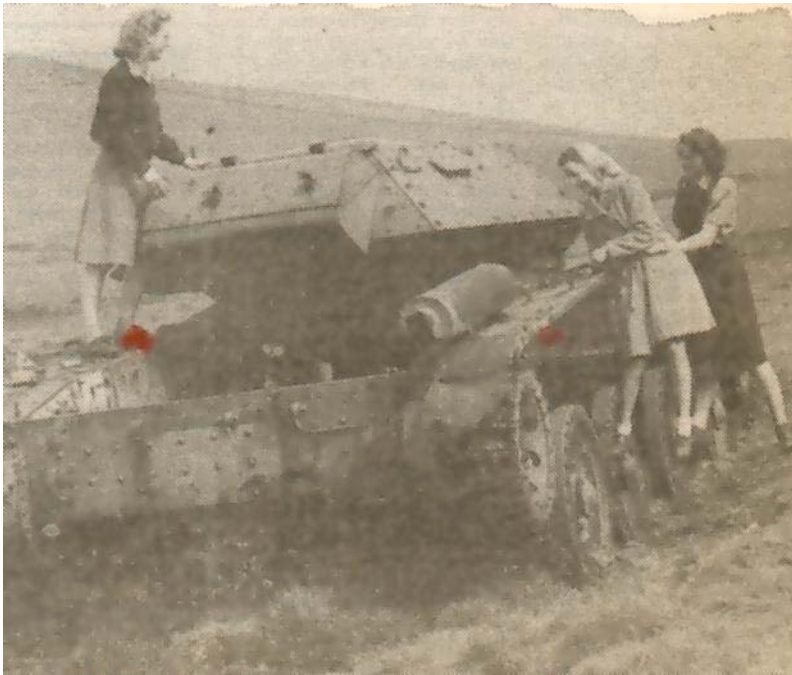
Although Winter Hill is a wonderful “playground” and a place of great beauty and fascination for many of us, we should always be aware of the hidden dangers at all times, and do all we can to minimise them.

Unfortunately, many of us like the bleakness and solitude of the place, and often go wandering around on our own - and at times when there is perhaps nobody else around on the moors – and in the most appalling weather conditions! Some would call us foolhardy, but this is our choice and what we choose to do - and we would defend our right to do just this – so long as we are all aware of the possible dangers and we dress and equip ourselves to minimise the risks.

In poor weather never underestimate Winter Hill. The bogs really ARE there. The visibility really CAN vanish totally within 60 seconds. The body surface temperature plus the chill factor for those unsuitably dressed, really CAN drop to –10C or more on top of the Hill.

DO take care on Winter Hill but enjoy it! Remember. It CAN bite!

A photo taken in the 1940s or 1950's showing a tank lying alongside the Belmont to Rivington Road. People used to take their children to the moors "to see the tank", which had been used as target practice during the late war.



The "building" of Scotsmans Stump circa 1912. (Photo copyright of Paul Lacey).



Winter Hill. A magnet for all UFO spotters!!

One of Winter Hill's claim to fame is that a remarkably large number of people claim to have spotted UFO's in its vicinity. The 1950's 60's and 70's local newspapers often commented on the latest "sightings". At times it seems to be getting very busy with UFO's in the area and in 1988 a local "ufologist" said that "over the past 5 years I have had about 100 calls about the Belmont area. When you think that many people are embarrassed or afraid to admit seeing UFO's, the number of sightings could be in the thousands". He went on to say "there is a concentration of sightings in Belmont and Horwich especially around the reservoirs. One theory is that they could be taking on water".



This photo is perhaps one of the most famous of all the "sightings" as it was taken in 1996 by a professional photographer who spotted the "object" after he had his slide's developed! He passed the information over to the "Direct Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (DIGAP)" who were convinced that British Aerospace at Wharton were developing a secret craft.

Another UFO "incident" occurred on the hill in 1999 which has been widely publicised on the Internet:

(http://www.maxpages.com/mapit/THE_WINTER_HILL_MIB_CASE)

The excellent Winter Hill website at: <http://www.winterhill.org/ufos.htm> carries an article on the 1999 subject which describes the claims better than I could ever do and is reproduced below.

Thanks to Stephen Mera of "MAPIT" for his help in compiling this page.

The case of the "Winter Hill MIB UFO" sighting is one of the great mysteries of Winter Hill. In 1999, a farm worker by the name of Murphy spotted a strange object hanging over his cattle field. When he came out to investigate, the object seemed to move away towards Preston. So odd was the sighting that Mr. Murphy decided to telephone the police and report the incident.

He then returned to the field to check on the cattle, only to find the object return and hover over the area for several more minutes. He became very distressed and, the story goes, called the number for MAPIT (the Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team) - apparently provided by the police. He left a disturbing message stating that he had witnessed a UFO and was scared.

MAPIT spent weeks investigating the incident, during which time they found themselves being followed by a man in a 4x4 jeep and later discovered that Mr. Murphy had been warned off by officials who claimed to be from the MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food). Mr. Murphy disappeared and has never been traced, making it impossible to corroborate the story. The farm still remains, although the owner has always been reluctant to speak out on the issue.

So famous is the incident that television companies from Britain, America and Japan have all visited MAPIT's HQ to interview the organisation's president, Stephen Mera. He is yet to uncover the full story, although he has also investigated the use of high-tech military equipment - including so-called "black helicopters" which can regularly be seen in the area.

I'm afraid I have no real views on the subject of any Winter Hill sightings only to comment that after a decade of flying a microlight around Winter Hill in all weathers and at all times of day I have never spotted a thing that could not be fully explained. Whilst walking on the hill however, I HAVE spotted a number of people who obviously come from another planet.

You can spot these "aliens" all over the place, causing damage, dropping litter, causing general problems for the more normal inhabitants of the area. There must be an invasion of aliens on the Easter weekends!

Wilderswood and Rockhaven Castle.

On the southern flanks of Winter Hill, lies Wilderswood, a heavily wooded area on the side of the hill south of Georges Lane. To look at the area nowadays one would think that it had always looked like this but this is not the case. The bulk of this area was once bare moorland with few trees (except for the nearby wooded cloughs) and must have been fairly busy with local coal mining activities.

At some past date - unknown to the writer - a house known as Rock Haven was built on the top of the hill which lies behind Brinks Row cottages and in 1840 a Richard Brownlow, a Bolton attorney moved into the property. Over a period of years he rebuilt parts of the house and added various embellishments to it including castle-like parapets and the dwelling eventually became known as Rockhaven Castle, or "Torney Brownlow's Castle.



Richard Brownlow lived at Rock Haven until his death in 1899 but in his latter years he became something of a recluse rarely appearing in public and suffering from a "terrible disease" which involved some form of facial disfigurement. He is reputed to have worn a mask to hide his illness on occasions and local people thought he was suffering from leprosy - but in fact he seems to have had a severe case of eczema.

After Brownlow's death the "castle" passed to the ownership of Lord Leverhulme and eventually in 1940 Blackrod Council put forward plans to turn it into a Youth Hostel but this idea was abandoned and in 1942 it was sold to a local quarry company who eventually demolished it in May 1942. One rumour that I keep hearing, is that the Castle was a prominent

landmark for German bombers who were trying to bomb the Horwich Loco Works and this was the reason for its eventual destruction.

The whole site was planted with trees and although I am no great lover of “forestry-type” plantations, a walk through parts of the woodland is a delight today. When walking in the woods one often comes across the remains of parts of the castle along with small quarries where the stones were obtained for the original building. In M D Smith’s book “About Horwich” he mentions that after the demolition, some of the stonework was used “to build a bungalow in Lytham whilst the remainder was carried as ballast in grain ships travelling to America”. Fascinating!

Coal mining took place in the vicinity and as mentioned in an earlier article there are several tunnel entrances (all blocked or collapsed) to be seen especially in the clough on the north western side of Wilderswood. This valley is well worth a visit especially if one follows the stream uphill. There is an excellent variety of mosses, liverworts and ferns clinging to the banking - and the upper reaches, just south of Georges Lane, are a mecca for whimberry lovers in autumn.

An interesting hour can be spent exploring this area of the clough, starting at the bridge on Dark Lane (also known as Cole-Fire Lane and Rothwells Clough) just inside Wilderswood, which is at the end of the track leading from Ormstons Farm. Mention has already been made earlier to the two collapsed tunnels which can be seen in this vicinity but as one walks up the main track there are in fact other mining remains but these have all be totally sealed some with brickwork and others with cement blocks. A shaft in the area known as Cabin Pit still exists but again, this is sealed. Don’t bother searching for it, it is well secured and I can assure readers that there is nothing of interest down it!!

Carry on up the track. On the left hand side is another track. On the small hill in between the two tracks is another old pit shaft, now completely filled in. Nearby are the huge blocks of stone used as engine beds and supports for the machinery involved in winding the coal up the shaft. The counterbalance (a large circular stone with a central hole) for the pit head gear now stands in Ormstons farmyard. The remains of Holden’s Bleachworks can be found just to the north west of the pit shaft. Return to the main track in the bottom of the clough.

Go uphill on the main path. Where the path goes to the right through the gateposts, go straight on up the smaller path (i.e. leaving the main track) for a short distance. On the right hand side of the path you will see a large

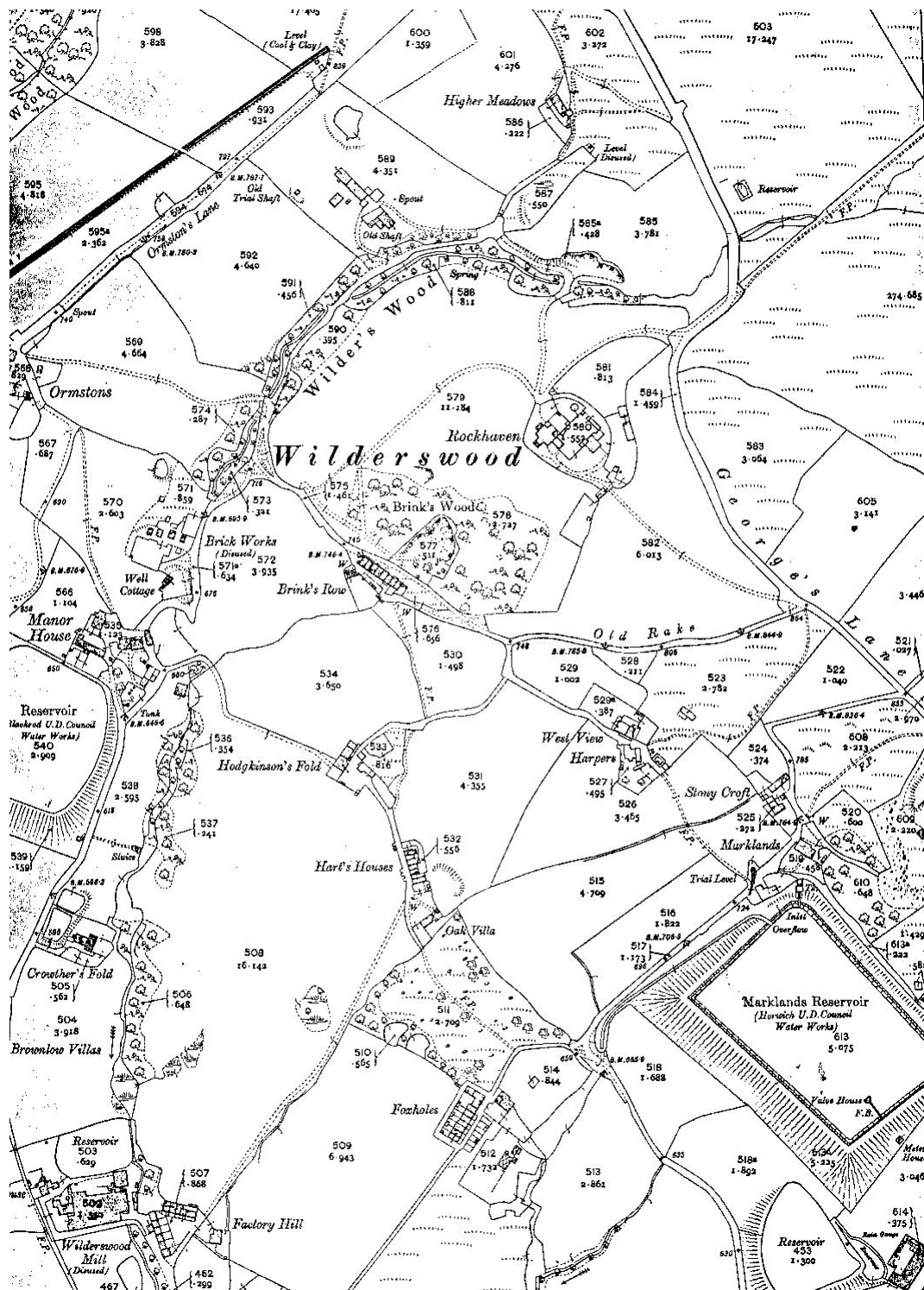
diameter metal pipe sticking out of the ground. This was an air vent to the mines below. Although clearly marked on mining maps, the base of this pipe has never been found (it is a bit of a maze underground so it is no surprise that the bottom of the pipe has not been found – yet!). Carry on up the path.

There is a prominent large holly tree on the left hand side of the track. Behind the tree lies the remains of Higher Meadows Farm, the foundations of which are still visible in the undergrowth. Careful searching will reveal half of what appears to be the bottom section of an old grinding wheel.

Opposite the holly tree but down in the bottom of the clough, is a magnificent clump of wild iris growing in the waterlogged ground, a beautiful sight when in full flower. “Somewhere” in the clough is the entrance to an old mine marked as “old level” on old maps. Despite frequent and extensive searches, this tunnel entrance has never been found despite its map location.

Carry on up the path until you reach another main track which leads up to Georges Lane. On the left hand side of this track, beneath Georges Lane are two “valleys” which look very artificial and are repeated many times on this hillside if one headed towards the Pike. These are thought to be old surface workings for either coal or clay although no proof of this has yet been found. This hillside is a magnet for whimberry pickers every autumn!





1907 map of the Wilderswood area. The old or “disused” level mentioned in the last article can be clearly seen just to the right of Higher Meadows Farm – clearly marked on the map but now vanished! The dark diagonal line at the upper left hand corner is the tramway to the Wilderswood Mine Drift entrance.



Stones on Smithills Moor.

I know very little about this area but spotted on the Internet some interesting information about various rocks and standing stones on Smithills Moor. The information on the web site was submitted by “BlueGloves” but unfortunately I have not been able to find out this persons identity to contact him/her for more information. More photos of the site can be found on the Modern Antiquarian web site at: <http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/5027>

Smithills Stone Circle.

The circle is located at GR SD666127 and the information given is:

The stone row that precedes this 25m. dia circle is the easiest bit to identify - the circle of stones is on the western end and has yet to be surveyed. It's like a lollipop but with a broken stick (and what is either a burial cairn or a spoil heap at the other end).

The row, which is about ninety metres in length, has two indicated azimuths because it has two sections. The shorter, eastern, arm has a corrected declination of -29. This is emphasised, on the ground, by an outlying stone - now prostrate - at SD 6695 1246. The line from the stone row indicates the Midsummer Moonrise at the Major Standstill. This spectacular alignment will be exact on the 11th of June 2006 but also quite close on 2.7.04, 22.6.05, 30.6.07 and 18.6.08 ! This is the eastern alignment of what was probably a Burl type d stone row - all the stones are there.

The longer leg of the stone row has a corrected declination of +36, to the west, and it is widely assumed that this line indicated where the 3rd magnitude star, Deneb, set (at around 2000 BCE). Other ancient monuments that are found with this sight line to Deneb are the Avebury Great Circle, the Nine Maidens, Waylands Smithy and the Grey Rigg stone circle, where an outlying standing stone, some distance from the ring, showed this azimuth.

The stone row can be made out quite distinctly in this picture (**at the top of the page**) which was taken from above Burnt Edge. The stone circle can be made out with difficulty but the ground is quite disturbed in places. The coalpit, lost among scrub, operated throughout the Victorian era and was briefly revived during the First World War. No parts of this row and circle have been measured or counted yet. Only the primary azimuths are known.



This is almost the same view as the first image but is wider and shows the bend in the stone row. The main lineal mass of stones that can be made out in the tall grass are aligned toward the setting position of the bright star, Deneb, in 1800 BCE (A. Thom 1969). There seems to be a low mound - possibly a foresight - on the horizon

The writer on the Modern Antiquarian web site also refers to a “buff coloured barrow” in the vicinity which lies just near the horizon behind Hampson’s Farm in the above photograph. I have no further details of this.

Brown Stones

Located at SD679130 .

The Brown Stones row is in the field below Green Croft and, on the map, the Public Footpath begins at the southeastern corner of this houseyard. There's a fieldgate a little higher up, on Coalpit Lane, and I use this instead of by the house. The path goes beside the house, over a little gully, to almost the middle of the field, then down the centre and off to the gate at the bottom. The path continues through the next field and onward until it meets Walkerfold Road.

The row consists of about ten stones in a single line. The corrected declination of the row, looking west, is +18 and this gives the setting position of the Midwinter Moonset at the Minor Standstill. This occurs next on the 6th of December 2014, although the winter moonsets of a couple of years before and

after will also be close. Looking in an eastward direction the Brown Stones row will show the sunrise two days after Martinmas and two days after Candlemas.



Three of the rocks can be seen in this photo. Some of the rocks have carved markings on them (more photos can be found at:
<http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/2281>



Noon Hill Burial Mound.



Counting Hill Stone Row at SD672141. One of the stones has the letters "AX" carved on it. More details of Counting Hill Stone Row and possible Ring Cairn at: <http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/3589> and at <http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/site/2282>

Flying at Winter Hill

A great deal of flying takes place on, around and over Winter Hill!

There are the commercial flights that pass high over Winter Hill. The LOWEST height they are allowed to fly over the Hill is 3,500 feet. Smaller general aviation aircraft (such as those from Barton Aerodrome) have to keep BELOW this height and can often be seen in the area along with microlights and the occasional powered paraglider. In theory, these aircraft must remain above 800 feet from the ground.

Flying from the hill itself are hang gliders and paragliders, usually on days when the wind is in a northerly direction and not too windy and they fly on the northern side of the hill, overlooking the Rivington/Belmont road. On a busy weekend in summer I have seen up to 40 people flying at the site and if the thermals are good an awful lot of them seem to fly in close proximity to each other vying for the best updraughts! Most of the pilots belong to local hang or paragliding clubs with details easily found on the Internet via a search engine.

The hill is also the “home” of the Rivington Soaring Association, a group of model glider enthusiasts who use both the Southern slopes of Rivington Pike and the Northern Slopes of Winter Hill. They have a web site at: <http://www.sar.bolton.ac.uk/ian/rsa.htm>



Appendix 1

This book contains the research and information compiled by many people. Below is a list of those who have contributed either knowingly or unknowingly to this publication. In every case where I am aware of the writer, I freely acknowledge use of their work. In those cases where I have been able to contact them I give my thanks for their permission to use their work. In those cases where I have been unable to contact the writer, I apologise in advance for not consulting with them. If they would care to contact me I will either add their name and reference to this list - or even remove their contribution from the book if this is what they would prefer. As this publication is not “for sale” in any normal fashion, I hope people will not be too offended if their contribution is not acknowledged below or if I have not been able to obtain their prior permission.

My thanks to everyone involved. The names are in no particular order!

D A Owen	“Rivington and District before 1066 AD”
H M Ordnance Survey	
L H Tonks	“Geology of Manchester and S E Lancashire Coalfield”
Paul Baxendale	
Ian and Sue Harper	
Alf Molyneux	
Alan Davies	
Mark Wright	
Clive Weake	
John Bell	
Gary Rhodes	
Rodney J Ireland	“Geological walk on River Douglas north of Horwich
Bolton Mountain Rescue Team.	http://www.boltonmrt.org.uk
Bill Learmouth.	TV mast construction photo's.
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (North West)	http://www.btcv.org/lancashire/front.htm
Dave Healey	
Christine Tudor.	“Rivington Pike. Erosion Control & Management Plan”
Harry Houghton	
T Morris	“Rivington Review”
Norman Hoyle.	“Reservoirs from Rivington to Rossendale”
Gordon Readyhough	
J Rawlinson	
Paul Lacey.	
Winter Hill Website:	http://www.winterhill.org
BlueGloves	http://www.themodernantiquarian.com/user/2954
A O'Rourke	
Rivington Soaring Association.	http://www.sar.bolton.ac.uk/ian/rsa.htm
David A Owen	

Appendix 2

There are a number of books published which contain information about Winter Hill and it's locality. Below is given a brief list of some of them. If anyone knows the titles and authors of any not listed please get in touch with me (d.lane@btinternet.com) and I'll add them.

M D Smith	Rivington, Lancashire Leverhulmes Rivington About Horwich More about Horwich About Anglezarke
P L Watson	Rivington Pike, History & Fell Race
Kenneth Fields	A visitors Guide to Rivington
Gladys Sellers	Walks on the West Pennine Moors
John Rawlinson	About Rivington
Norman Hoyle	Reservoirs from Rivington to Rossendale
George Birtill	The Enchanted Hills Heather in my hat.
John Dixon & Jaana Jarvinen.	Walks around the West Pennine Moors
Norman Hoyle	Reservoirs from Rivington to Rossendale
David Holding	Murder in the Heather (published in 1991 by The Friends of Smithills Hall)