



Issue 179

March 2019

T'Owd Man's Mutterings



Cameron Orr competes in the Tankwa Trek - a four-day mountain bike race in South Africa

(Photo courtesy of Daniel Coetzee)



In folklore T'Owd Man is a spirit that inhabits mines and caves. T'Owd Man of Bonsall is a carved figure of a miner that was taken to Wirksworth when St James church was being refurbished in the 1860s. It was said that strange noises coming from the old Ball Eye mine at the end of Church St. were of T'Owd Man muttering

CHURCH DIARY

St James'

March 2019

3 9.30 am Morning Worship
6 7.00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
8 7.00 pm Taize worship
10 9.30 am Eucharist
17 11 am Morning Worship
24 9.30 am Eucharist
31 10.30 am Mothering Sunday
Service at The Village Life Church

Village Life Church

Sunday 10.30 am Morning Worship
10.30 am UNO Sunday School
Monday 6.00 pm Prayer Meeting
Tuesday 2.00 pm Craft Club
Wednesday 7.00 pm House group
Our coffee morning is on Tuesday
26 March. 10 am to 12 noon. A
warm welcome to everyone.
For more information please check
out our website: villagelifechurch.org.uk

Wesleyan Reform Chapel

Sunday Services are at 2.30 pm.
All are welcome to join with us.

Catholic Church Services Our Lady and St. Teresa of Lisieux Gorsey Bank, Wirksworth

Mass Sundays 8.45 a.m. Holy Days
(See Newsletter)
Wednesdays Service of Word and
Communion
Fridays Divine Mercy Prayers at 3.00
p.m.
Contact Fr. Robbie O'Callaghan
(01629 582804)
There is a combined weekly newsletter
listing ongoing events.

Our Lady and St. Joseph's Church 1 St. Joseph Street, Matlock

Mass Times Saturday Vigil 6.00 p.m.
Sundays 10.30 a.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Mass at 12.15 p.m.
Friday 6.00 p.m.
Contact Fr. Robbie O'Callaghan
(01629 582804)
There is a combined weekly newsletter
listing ongoing events

CHURCH NEWS

Communication

As I sit here writing this article I am giving half an ear to the rich wailings of the Queen of Soul as she asks for 'some respect when you get home' and I marvel again at the awesome voice of the late, great, Aretha Franklin. Our voices either singing or speaking are a beautiful thing. From the silky-smooth Barry White sharing his various adventures of love or Stephen Fry articulating and bringing to life the various adventures of Harry Potter. Each voice communicates who you are, an opening of the soul, as unique as finger prints, and the ability to communicate who we are, how we feel, our dreams and aspirations. The wonderful ability to connect deeply with others through the joy of language, is an awesome thing. But what are we communicating? In this modern world we have so many platforms to speak our opinion, and share our voice, with thousands of strangers through the exponential use of social media, it sometimes seems that a large proportion of what is written is negative, offensive, radically political and often contentious. The thing is, just because we think our words are going into an unseen cloud of listeners, we are not responsible for how they are taken. But both in the online world, as in the real world, we have a responsibility for our voice. The Bible describes our uncontrolled words as a sword that pierces those who hear, which I believe means we should be careful to think about what we put out into the world.

The Bible also says that the 'soothing tongue, is the tree of life.' We have the ability to produce life and joy in the hearts of listeners, by being a positive influence and an encourager. And don't forget to listen!! This is also a vital part of communication. There would be very little point in speaking if no-one was listening. And we have to learn to trust and value others when they want to share about themselves or maybe even want to say something challenging to you. It is far too easy to switch off and not value the voice of others. But the truth is this... first, we do not know everything. Secondly, I have learned more from others than from myself. We have to be open to listen. Sometimes giving the time to listen can really make the difference in people's lives, as it shows them they are valued and their voice matters. It may mean listening to people vent their problems, moan about the difficulties of life, or even listen again to the same terrible joke for the 100th time. But 'listening' is a gift of love, that can share burdens, and connect with people who may not often get to speak with others. The Bible says we should be 'slow to speak, and quick to listen.' So as you go about your everyday life, I encourage you to marvel and appreciate the gift of communication, and I challenge you to think about what kind of communicator you will be. Will you be an encourager? Will you be positive? Will you give space for people to speak?

Pastor Matthew Quinn

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

The floodlighting this month brings special memories for several villagers. Di, Kath, Andrew, Mick and Sally have wonderful memories of Dorothy on her birthday on 1st March. Clara and Jack Mountney are in the thoughts of Ron, Joy, Linda and John. Phil and Ronnie Addis remember Freda and Kevin Hurley and for Dorinda, Simon and Stephanie there are loving thoughts of Harold as well as Annie and Lev Weston. Pat, Sue and John remember Joe with much love on March 17th. Philip and Yvonne remember their Mum and Dad, Charlie and Elsie Thompson especially on the 11th and 19th of the month. The Milward family are all remembered this month too. If you would like to be included, please let me know.

Di Moor, 824376
dimoor2014@yahoo.co.uk

Wirksworth Team Ministry

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Contact:

The Team Office, Parish Rooms,
St Mary's Gate
Wirksworth
DE4 4DQ
Tel/Fax 01629 824707
teamoffice@wirksworthteamministry.co.uk www.wirksworthteamministry.co.uk

VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Thank You

The Editors would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Tanya for her help in designing the newsletter for the last six years. Mutterings aficionados could immediately recognise an issue that was designed by Tanya as her innovative style and professionalism shone out. She also helped behind the scenes, modernising the way that we organise and exchange information. We would like to welcome five new people who have offered to help produce and distribute Mutterings: Jon Ogilvie and Julie Coxall will help with designing the issues and Dave Hicklin will help with collecting information from the Hotmail account. Also Dave, Neil Alcock and Kay Ogilvie will help deliver Mutterings around the village. We warmly welcome them all.

Editors

Is it time for a change?

I'm sure we've all made some sort of New Year's resolution in our minds such as a bit more exercise, a new challenge, and make new friends. Well now's the opportunity to do all of those things in one go! Wirksworth Memorial Bowling Club is opening its doors to welcome new members both young and young at heart. We are holding a taster evening on Monday 8 April from 5 pm on Millers Green just below the Cricket Club and invite one and all to come along and have a go. We will provide all the equipment, just come along in flat shoes. Obviously if you enjoy yourself, we'd be delighted to welcome you to become a member.

The club is active in a number of local leagues and holds both internal and open competitions throughout the year as well as organising fun evenings and events. Please do come along and join us. For further information please contact **Peter Stevenson** (822694)

Generous Donations

Following my appeal for unwanted items, I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of people donating clothes, boots, shoes, blankets and food. The charities and, I'm sure the recipients, are extremely grateful. Clearly the problems which they face are ongoing. So first, thank you to all of those kind people who have already given. Secondly please don't think that one jumper, one pair of shoes, one coat or one part used

toiletory item is too little to donate. Everything is needed and appreciated.

Kathryn Punchard. 27 Church St.
(07974 304067)

'Let there be light'

You may have noticed that the 'memorial' night lighting of St James' has been somewhat subdued in recent weeks following the failure of the ground located floodlights – they were literally 'flooded' into final submission by water ingress. A new bulb in the lamp located on the roof means that the clock face is highlighted again and the spire lamps all continue to work fine. A decision is needed as to whether to replace the ground located floodlights; complete replacement re-installation (housing unit and bulb) would be required.

Issues to consider include, perhaps:

- * The level of illumination in general.
- * The 'look' of the lighting ('ground to cockerel' with replacement ground located floods - v - the current lighting of clock and spire only).

- * Cost and energy matters: if the ground lighting is replaced then this would be with new LED bulb/lamp units (estimated cost around £500+).

- * Navigation of the churchyard for people walking through after dark (the ground located floods have had a wide spread of light around the base of the church at the Southern/Western aspect – at the top of the steps that come up from Park Bottom). Any and all comments welcome, via 'Mutterings' or to:

Phil Heasman (821816)

'Hoping against hope'

– a special service during Lent at St James', Friday 8 March, 7 pm.

Everyone is very warmly invited to a special service, which will be a reflection on the theme of 'hope' using songs/chants from the Taizé ecumenical community (relatively easy to pick up – no experience necessary – for all voices or none!); readings from many traditions, sacred and secular; projected images filling the interior of the Church... and followed by refreshments. For more information, please contact **Phil Heasman** (821816).

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VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Do you want a better Carnival than last year?

In some ways, the Carnival Committee is doing quite well: it has enough money to put on another excellent carnival this year and there are a group of people who meet monthly to plan the events during Carnival Week, decide which entertainment and attractions to book and organise the food and drink. However, a big problem over recent years is a distinct lack of muscle-power. There is a huge amount of shifting things around, both before and after Carnival Day, and during Carnival Week. Things like moving tables from the Village Hall to the Park, setting up the dunker, and putting up the bunting. There is also loads of work needed to pick up litter after Carnival Day and helping out at evening events during Carnival Week. There are simply not enough people who are willing to stretch themselves and their muscles to make all this happen. So the Carnival Committee now has a real problem in actually putting on the Carnival because there are not enough willing hands to help out. Many of the helpers have been doing it for donkey's years and they feel it is time for some extra help. It needs younger people who are willing and able to carry heavy stuff and others to litter-pick and generally help out as required. You don't need to attend carnival meetings, but the Committee would like to know in advance the number of helpers that are likely to be available. It is therefore asking for people to commit to a few hours'

work on the Friday before Carnival, Carnival Day, and/or events during the following week, especially the fireworks and lantern procession. Also, if you have a flat-bed pickup that you would be willing to drive (or allow to be driven), to move stuff around, please let a member of the Committee know. If you can help, please get in touch with me on 821816 or at marion.heasman@btinternet.com

Marion Heasman

Shared Narrowboat

It is likely that a two-week share in Bonsall's shared narrowboat will become available in the Autumn. If you are interested in buying the share, please contact me for further information.

Peter Fellows (825267)



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VILLAGE NOTICEBOARD

Impressive Result

- Cameron Orr's cycling success in South Africa

Cameron is a 19 year-old cyclist from High St., who is a member of the Team GB cycling academy and competed in the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia. He was invited by Team Canondale to compete in the Tankwa Trek - a prestigious four-day mountain bike stage race in South Africa, which takes in some of the country's best mountain biking terrain. Riders compete in teams of two and must finish each day together. The team with the best overall time for the four stages is the winner.

Race Details

Stage 1: distance 29 km, vertical ascent 410 m. Stage 2: distance 83 km, vertical ascent 1900 m. Stage 3: distance 87 km, vertical ascent 2200 m. Stage 4: distance 89 km, vertical ascent 1250 m.

His team-mate for the race was Maxime Marotte, one of the worlds' best cross-country mountain bikers. Cameron, who was the youngest rider in the race, is going from strength to strength and exceeded everyone's expectations by coming third on the first day, in soaring temperatures of 43°C. By the end of day two, he and Maxime had moved up to second place, which they consolidated as the race continued, finally finishing second. A video of the race is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pg-lduReJI

Rob Orr

Dalesmen Male Voice Choir Charity Concert

The Dalesmen Male Voice Choir have very kindly offered to perform a concert to help raise funds for the Bonsall & Derbyshire Dales Link of Chernobyl Children's Lifeline. The concert will be held at St Mary's Church at Cromford on Saturday 30 March starting at 7.00 pm. They promise a memorable evening of entertainment, which I am sure it will be. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Tickets are £8.00 Adults, £6.00 Concessions, £4.00 Children (under 16). They can be ordered from Chris or Janice Broome (824512) or from Krystina Johnson. This is a wonderful choir, based in Belper, and well worth hearing.

We have six children coming from Belarus this summer for a four-week health recuperation holiday, which will cost around £5,500. The funds have to be raised locally by the Link. Please come along and support this event.

Thank you.

Chris Broome, Link Chair



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The winning teams (Photo: courtesy of Daniel Coetzee)

CLEAN WATER TO BONSTALL

Part 3: Look Upon My Works

On the credit side, on the completion of the works in 1906 about 80% of the population had access to mains water. Slaley got its supply (from Dunsley Spring) in 1927. The next big change came in the 1930s, and the as the local authority was Matlock, our local representatives were less concerned to keep spending down, than to ensure that the village got its share of whatever was spent. A new reservoir was built on Masson Hill (the water pumped from the Matlock waterworks), the old separate supplies were unified and extended, and at last mains sewers arrived. After this, almost all houses boasted private water taps and WCs (though many still in outside privies). We have solid evidence (pardon the expression) that flush toilets were not unknown in Bonsall in earlier years. In 1899 the County Medical Officer called for better flushing arrangements for the toilets at the infants' school, and we may thus assume that the more opulent houses in the village also had flush toilets. In the absence of sewers, these must have drained into cesspits, septic tanks (though these were not widely used in England until much later), or the Brook. Please try not to imagine the scene during a drought... but this has to be the subject of another history. Bonsall is unusual for a relatively small community in having attempted a local piped water supply. Youlgreave provides the only local comparison, where the Friendly Society of Women drove the change a couple of generations before our churchwardens, and which still has an independent local supply company. We must give them credit for their achievements, and perhaps some complaints were down to rising expectations.

So what can you see of our forebears' efforts today? The Potter family of Manor Farm have protected the old reservoir (by modern standards scarcely a tank) from depredations, though it's not currently accessible to the public, being far from any footpath. I asked, and was conducted to see, that they keep it in good condition if a little overgrown. The Wellhead Lane spring is also inaccessible, but the water still flows, and finds its way through the old channel to Uppertown and the Bank. I hope they make appropriate use of it at Hollies Farm. Byeways Lane still can't decide whether it's a track or a stream, and if you look over into the adjoining field

on the south side, you can see some concrete outlines where the Boiling Pot reservoir was, but the joyous flow down Puddle Hill is probably only an annoyance to the farmer now.

Of all those public taps that served the everyday needs of Bonsall folk- from a cup of tea to washing day to a bath on occasion - there's not much to see. At the Cross, at Ember Lane, at the Fountain, at Town Head, by the bus stop in Uppertown, and on Uppertown Lane there are still the monuments where people - women - filled their buckets, but they are now dry. Nobody seems to know when the taps and drinking fountains went out of use, or why. The tap at the Cross was used to wash lories in the 1950s. At some date all the drinking fountain bowls were broken - accident, vandalism or a hygienic measure? Just opposite the back door of the King's Head, the discerning searcher will see a vertical stone in the wall, drilled to hold a pipe and tap. On Bell Lane there's an iron plate in the wall- that was a tap, though there's no indication of how you got water from it, and the lane has been built up a foot or so to hide where the buckets went. There are two more of this type near Dale Top - both on the right as you go up, one at Old Dale House, the other twenty-five yards on - these are both close to modern grids draining into the culverted Brook. The name of the iron founder can still just be made out - J. Stone of Deptford. There's also a small broken fragment embedded in a wall at Puddle Hill. And if you look carefully, half way up Yeoman Street, there is a little disturbance in the tarmac on the left side, just a couple of stones at right angles and a little stub of piping sticking up. It's all that remains of a tap that was kept running throughout the arctic winter of 62/63 so the pipes wouldn't freeze, and provided the only water for many houses in those days before house and pipe insulation. A note on costs - it's quite difficult to work out what the prices quoted would have meant. Labour was very cheap, people in general very much poorer in housing, fuel, diet, goods and transport. You only needed a little above the average income to be able to afford a daily help and middle class homeowners often employed a gardener. Little was thrown away, much was sold on for further use. In my generation, most people's fathers hoarded old screws in tobacco tins (I suspect many still do). But historians do their best, and using

www.measuringworth.com, the £805 estimated for the water scheme in 1902 comes to between £83,000 and over half a million depending on whether we count only the rise in price of bread and potatoes and the like, or take it as a multiple of the average income, or use another of half a dozen calculations. Even at the higher value, I doubt if it would pay for the consultant's report these days.

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PARISH COUNCIL

Report of the meeting on 19 February

Slinter Top Quarry: The planning application will be dealt with by the County Council committee at County Hall on 8 April. Any final comments need to be submitted by 1 April. The quarry owner has agreed to a site visit by a group of three Parish Councillors/residents and there will be a report on this at the Parish Council meeting on 19 March.

Flood Warden Group: the County Council has offered support in setting up a group to respond to future flooding incidents. Things to be looked at include a central store of sandbags and equipment, and emergency contact lists. Councillors are to meet with County Council officers, and anyone interested in helping with this work should contact the Clerk.

Defibrillators: the fourth village defibrillator has now been installed at the school, and the Council recorded thanks to Iain Benzie for his voluntary work in putting this in place.

Churchyard Unconsecrated Ground: the Parish Council has agreed to arrange for the consecration of the remaining unconsecrated spaces in the Parish Burial Ground. This should provide six more consecrated plots.

Churchyard Extension: the Council considered project costs from the

County Council for the detailed design and site appraisal work for the burial ground extension. It was agreed to defer a decision on this until more information is obtained on what is involved, and to get some informal estimates of the construction costs.

Speeding Data Count: as part of the work to reduce traffic speed and improve road safety, it was agreed to arrange for a County Council speed survey at a cost of £195. There is currently no County Council data on traffic speeds for the village.

Grant for Mutterings: the Parish Council were pleased to approve a grant of £250 to Mutterings to help with production costs.

Payments: payments have been received from the District Council for the work on churchyard maintenance (£1503.16), a VAT refund for 2018 from HMRC of £1141.49; and £495.00 for footpath maintenance from Derbyshire County Council.

Road Closure Starkholmes: Councillor Ratcliffe advised that Starkholmes Road will be closed for works from 12 - 19 May.

Full details of the meetings can be found in the minutes on the Parish Council page of the village website at www.bonsallvillage.org/, or on the village noticeboards.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19 March. Please contact the Clerk Tony Payne with details of any issues to be raised by Monday 11 March at 27 High Street DE4 2AS. T: 822311; email bonsallclerk@gmail.com.

Parish Councillors

If you have any concerns or requests of the Parish Council, they should ideally be raised in Public Participation section of the monthly meeting. If however there is an urgent matter, while individual councillors will try to assist, a direct response is better achieved by contacting the Clerk to the Parish Council directly:

Chair: Cllr Mark Harris, Stepping Lodge, Bell Lane, T: 820285
sandraandmarkharris@btinternet.com

Vice-Chair: Phil Addis
Dale House, The Dale. T 826309
phil.addis@btinternet.com

Councillors:

Cllr Denise Pountain
6 High Street. T. 822708
denise.pountain@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Mike Richardson,
26 Yeoman Street 826678
nom_nom_nom@hotmail.com

Cllr Jon Barry, Ivy Cottage, Bell Lane, T: 07866 750636
jon.barry@derby-college.ac.uk

Cllr Richard Grover
Nethergreen House, Clatterway
T: 01629 259558
richard_grover99@hotmail.com

Cllr Michael Hewitt, Newlyn, The Dale, T: 823097
mick-janet@hotmail.co.uk

Clerk and Finance Officer:

Tony Payne,
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Joyce Pawley, tel: 01629 825431, joyce.pawley@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Garry Purdy Tel: 823636, garry.purdy@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

County Councillor

Irene Ratcliffe, tel: 823023, irene.ratcliffe@derbyshire.gov.uk

Member of Parliament

Patrick McLoughlin, Derbys Dales constituency, tel: 020 7219 3511, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, patrick.mcloughlin.mp@parliament.uk

MEPs

The 6 East Midlands MEPs can be contacted on 020 72193000 or at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

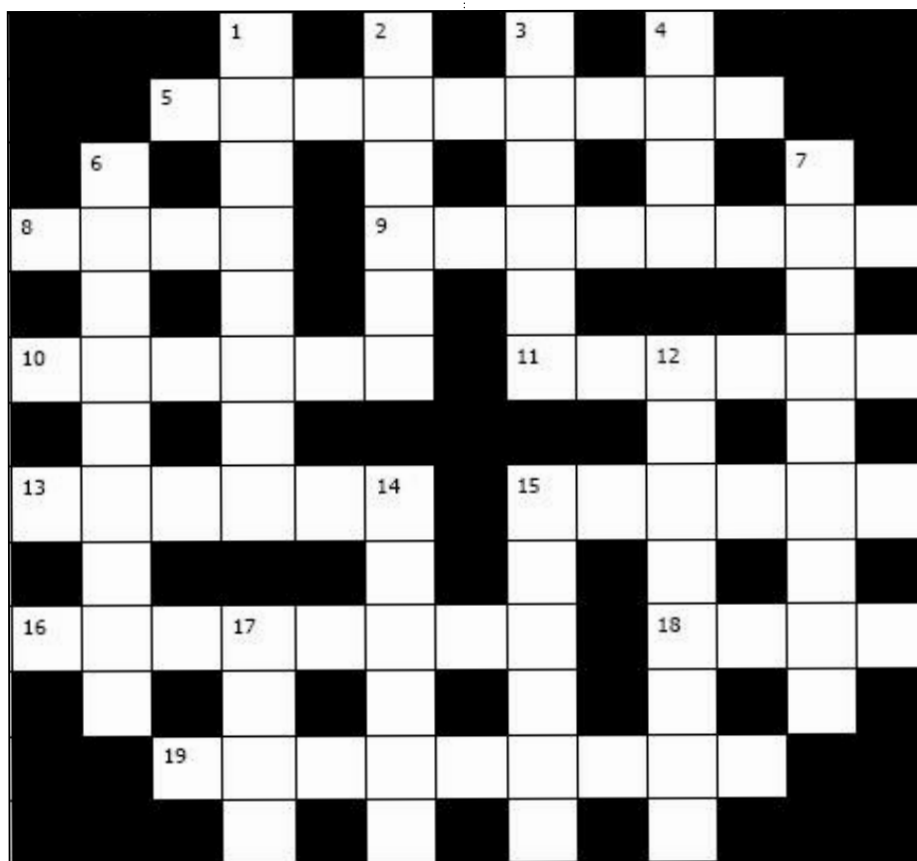


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CROSSWORD #103



Across:

5. A 3. Spirit with beer from Munich? (6,3)
8. A 3. The French support company (4)
9. Old lady sits initially on German sheep for tiny bit! (8)
10. Circle setter, maybe - for Scotty, perhaps? (6)
11. Nasty smell in Kent - perhaps someone who had too many 3s? (6)
13. A 3 that's made in Cornwall, it's said. (6)
15. A 3 that's the darling of the French over the phone. (6)
16. A 3 that was a report, reportedly! (8)
18. Fruit found in Canada territory. (4)
19. Darned duke - endlessly sloshed after too many 3s? Yes!

Down:

1. A 3 in dating fiasco. (3-3-2)
2. A 3. English horse no good. (3-3)
3. Doctor uses pen for tots. (6)
4. A gulp of 3 - but not in the garden, please! (4)
6. Road waste recycled for a 3. (4-5)
7. A 3. Artist weight goes up - letter to follow. (9)
12. Finished bowling? Got burnt?! (8)
14. A 3. Worker in banks of Spey. (6)
15. Skewers small fruit. (6)
17. What 3s are carried in? Or, possibly, were? (4)

Answers to crossword no. 102

Across: 5. Chocolate. 8. Leer. 9. Rerigged. 10. Colour. 11. Column. 13. Violet. 15. Cobalt. 16. Gossamer. 18. Tool. 19. Aggressor. Down: 1. Charcoal. 2. Scorer. 3. Cleric. 4. Stag. 6. Depositor. 7. Vermilion. 12. Libation. 14. Timbre. 15. Cerise. 17. Sage.

Brain Teaser

What day follows the day before yesterday if two days from now will be Sunday?

Answer: Thursday

H. Strange & Son

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T'Owd Man of Bonsall - a short history

The carving of a lead miner which now resides in St Mary's, Wirksworth, originally came from Bonsall and may date back to the Saxon period. Spirit figures such as knockers, kobolds and bluecaps exist in mining folklore, but in the legends of Northern Derbyshire and Yorkshire, T'Owd Man (or T'Owd Mon), is recognised as the spirit figure that inhabits our mines and caverns. Miners from Derbyshire took their skills to other parts of the country and mine workings from Cheshire to Bristol have sections named after T'Owd Man. However, we like to think that his spirit has remained here in the heart of lead mining - hence the name of the carving: 'T'Owd Man of Bonsall'.

For up to 1,000 years, T'Owd Man of Bonsall remained silent and unrecorded until St James' Church was restored and extended in 1863. Robert Clay and John Broxup Coates were the Churchwardens at that time and they were responsible for organising the restoration. Mr Coates had taken on the task of managing the works and had moved to reside with Robert Clay (his wife's uncle) at Nethergreen House. Mr Coates always referred to Robert Clay's House as the 'Old Manor House', which at the time was a generic name for a large house. Rev. J. C. Cox had visited the Old Manor House in about 1863 and in his 'Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire' published in 1875, he made reference to various stones, monuments and memorials which were in the garden of Mr Coates' residence. There has been some debate over the last 150 years as to whether Mr Coates was just keeping these monuments safe, or whether they

were intended as more permanent garden ornaments. Importantly, the record should be put straight that the garden and house were actually owned by Robert Clay who still lived there. He was highly respectable and had donated considerable sums to the cost of the restoration works. The other objects were subsequently returned to the Church and are still there.

It should also be noted that in Cox's chapter on Bonsall, there is absolutely no mention of the carving of a miner. If Cox or others had identified its importance, then undoubtedly it would have been returned to St James where it would still be to this day. It is assumed that, contrary to speculation, T'Owd Man of Bonsall was not among the monuments at Nethergreen House. At the time, he may well have been sitting on someone's mantelpiece as a piece of interesting but insignificant masonry, or someone may have just taken an understandable liking to him. Remember that, in 1863, lead mining was still the most important industry in Bonsall and he could have been attractive to anyone involved in mining. Legend talks of T'Owd Man of Bonsall being discovered during the 1863 refurbishment of St James. Maybe T'Owd Man was evident and his significance unrecognised, or maybe he had been discarded centuries earlier. We do know that some of the monuments, such as the coffin lid, were rediscovered as building material and it is quite likely that this may also have become T'Owd Man's fate. The question still remains as to what happened when T'Owd Man was discovered and where did he reside from 1863 to 1870.

Between 1870 and 1874, St. Marys Wirksworth was undergoing major restoration under the supervision of the renowned architect Sir Gilbert Scott. From Cox's notes we know that a gentleman by the name of William Marsh, High Bailiff of Wirksworth, who was born in Bonsall, took the carving to George Marsden, who was the Secretary of Wirksworth Church Restoration Committee. We do not know when this happened. Marsden or others arranged for T'Owd Man of Bonsall to be cemented into the fabric of St Mary's, along with various other fine Saxon carvings that had been rediscovered during the Wirksworth refurbishment. Quoting from Cox's 1875 notes, which also include a sketch of the carving: *"The small quaint figure of a miner with his pick and kibble that is etched on Plate XXIII, came originally from Bonsall church, but was built into the wall at the east end of the south chancel aisle to preserve it from destruction."*

Why Cox had been told that it needed protecting from destruction is unclear.

We can continue to speculate on who discovered T'Owd Man of Bonsall, who saved him, and who decided that he should reside in Wirksworth rather than Bonsall. There may be Church records or more of Cox's notes to be discovered, but until such time as the information is discovered, we can at least rest assured that he will not be covered over again.

See also: Adrian Henstock, Peak District Mines Historical Society, Mining History Vol. 14 No. 2 - Winter 1999 and an article by Diana Weber "How T'Owd Man came to Wirksworth".

Richard Grover

(The Friends of T'Owd Man will meet on 5 March at 8.00pm in the Kings Head)

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Please do not send letters which are "not for publication". If you have strong feelings about what is or is not said in Mutterings, please either write to us or join the group of volunteers who enable the production of this village newsletter.

Back issues of T'Owd Man's Mutterings can be found on the Bonsall Village website – www.bonsallvillage.org. Please note that your articles will appear on the website and can be picked up by search engines.

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