

HLHS Members Newsletter

February 2021

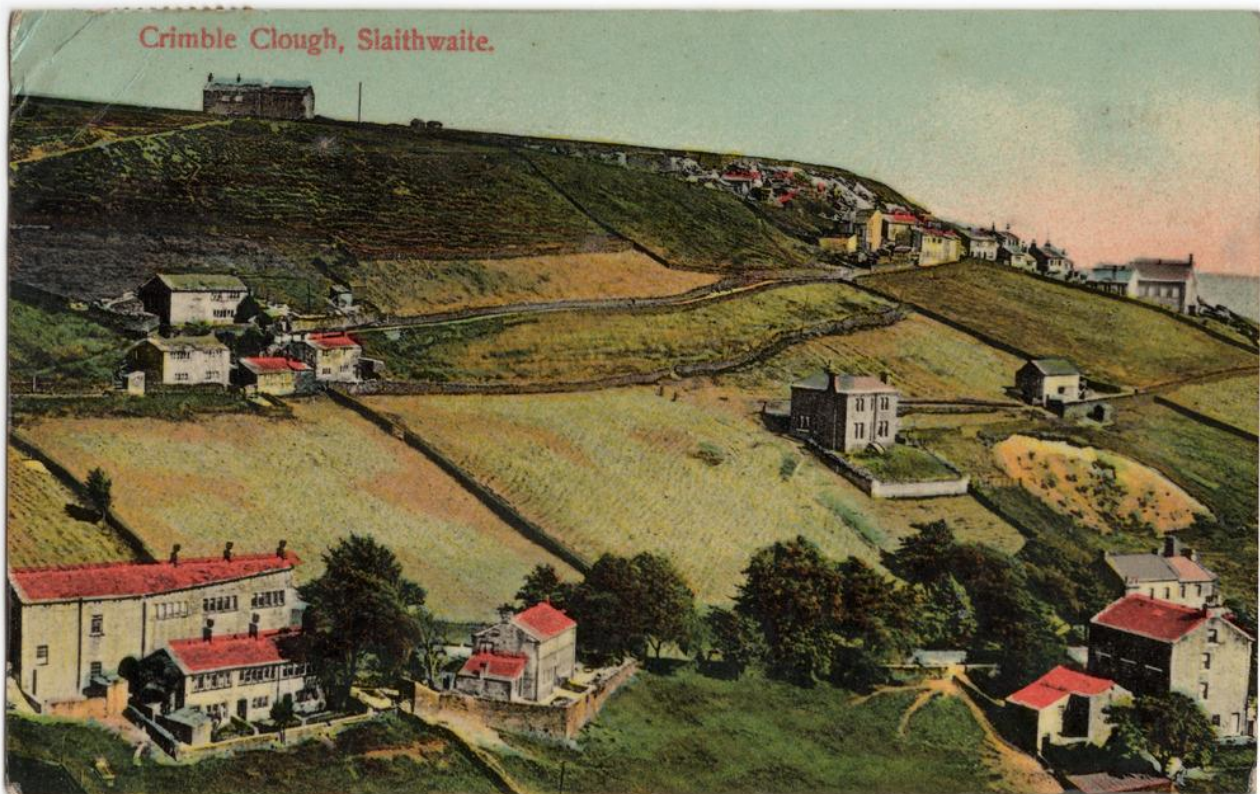
huddersfieldhistory.org.uk

email@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk



We would like to hear from you! Please send any news, details of events and books, requests for information and comments that you think may be of interest to other Huddersfield Local History Society members to

huddshistorynews@gmail.com



Crimble Clough, Slaithwaite (Roy Brook & Brian Kilner Collection)

Welcome to our February 2021 newsletter. In this month's newsletter, you'll find details of upcoming events and recent news, and a follow-up article to our Christmas *Journal*. We hope you enjoy it.

David Griffiths and Dave Pattern

HLHS Committee

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Brian Haigh

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*With the exception
of our own web site,
Huddersfield Local
History Society is
not responsible for
the content of any
web sites linked to
in this newsletter.*

Our Next Talk

We continue our programme of online talks with:

22 February 2021

The Holme Valley in the Middle Ages

presentation by Peter Burton

Our member Peter Burton's talk is the result of years of study of the local landscape around Holmfirth along with long research into document sources in local study libraries and archives. We will hear about these original records for the medieval Holme Valley and about surviving evidence of the period still present in the landscape. Peter will also introduce a few real individuals from the past who lived in the area during the Middle Ages along with their stories.

This will be only a small glimpse into a larger story. Much more is included in Peter's book, ***The Holme Valley in the Middle Ages***, which has recently been published by the Holme Valley Civic Society, [available here](#). More details of the contents can be [found here](#).

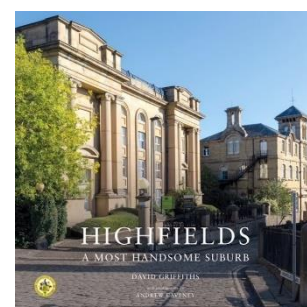
The talk will be [available from our website](#) on and after 22 February or, if you have a 'smart TV' that can access videos on YouTube, you can find all our talks by searching for **Huddersfield Local History Society** or **#hlhs2020**

You may also wish to subscribe to our new [YouTube channel](#) where you can find this season's previous talks.

Highfields: a Most Handsome Suburb

The [January talk](#) on Highfields has proved to be extremely popular, so it is perhaps worth mentioning again that the related book is available to purchase via the Huddersfield Civic Society's website:

huddersfieldcivicsociety.org.uk



Annual Civic Society University of Huddersfield Lecture

All are invited to this free annual event, this year taking place online, on Tuesday 2 March. Details are set out below. To attend, you are asked to [register online here](#).

The University of Huddersfield's School of Art, Design and Architecture and Huddersfield Civic Society invite you to attend their prestigious annual joint no-charge lecture on Zoom at 19.00 on Tuesday 2 March 2021. The evening will begin with a short celebration this year of 100 years of the teaching of architecture in Huddersfield, led by Professor Adrian Pitts. This will be followed by the keynote talk from Nathan Cornish, Director of Urban Splash, titled 'After 2020, how do we continue to regenerate and attract people to places like Huddersfield?' Nathan will look at what helps bring about successful regeneration and regrowth in industrial buildings and in towns such as Huddersfield. Why are some towns and cities successful in this but others not? What makes a building or a town centre somewhere that people want to come, live, work and enjoy? There will also be an opportunity to put your questions.

ANNUAL LECTURE

After 2020, how do we continue to regenerate and attract people to places like Huddersfield?

Talk presented by Nathan Cornish, Director of Urban Splash

The Huddersfield Civic Society/University of Huddersfield Annual Lecture, will begin with a short celebration this year of 100 years of the teaching of architecture in Huddersfield, led by Professor Adrian Pitts. This will be followed by the keynote talk from Nathan Cornish, Director of Urban Splash, titled 'After 2020, how do we continue to regenerate and attract people to places like Huddersfield?'

**Tuesday 2 March
2021
7.00pm
Zoom**

For info and to book,
visit:
hud.ac/xtiq



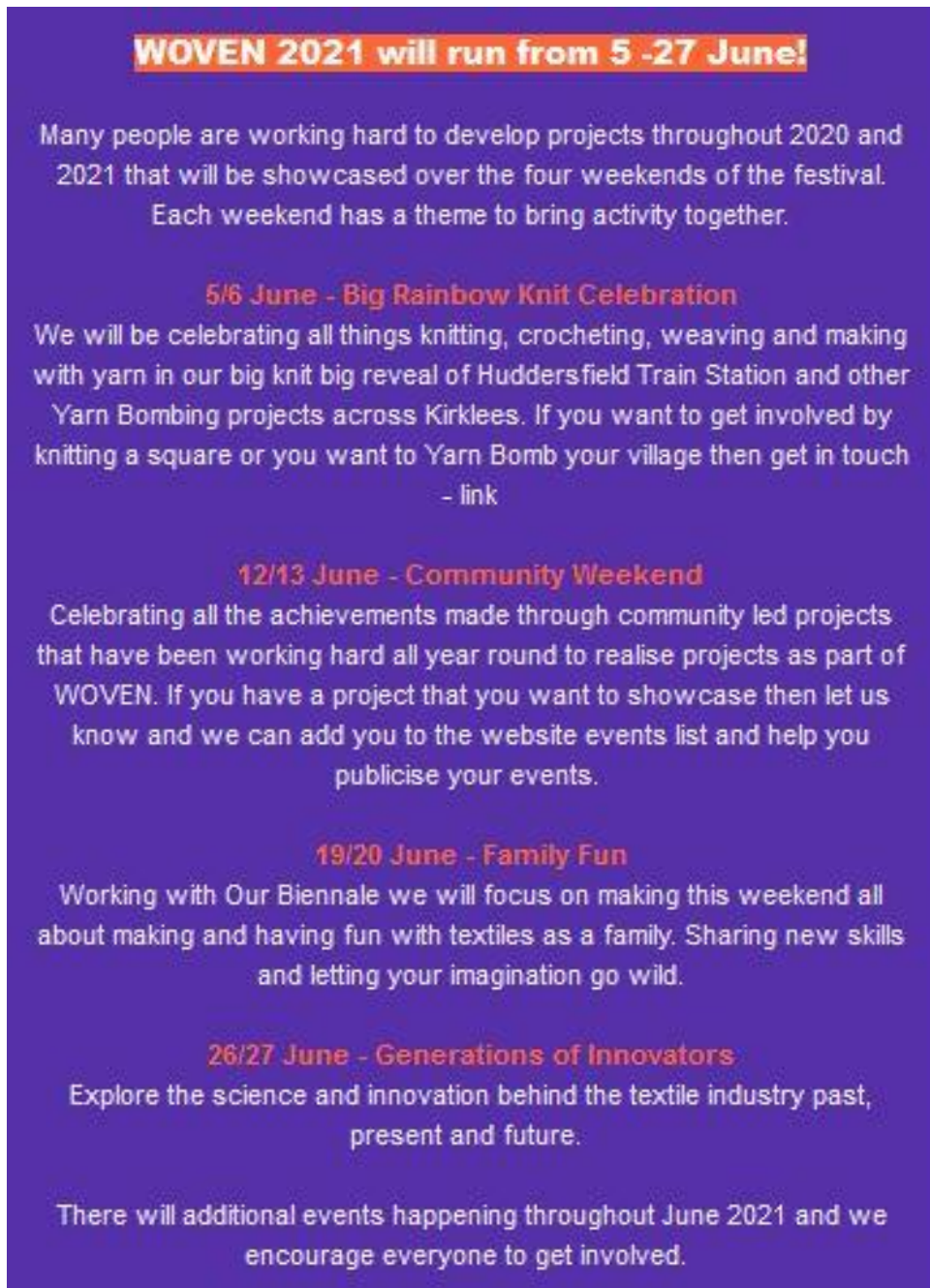
University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals



WOVEN Festival plans

This biennial festival, celebrating all things to do with the Kirklees textile industries past, present and future, was first held in 2019 and is therefore due again this year.

Extensive plans are now being made for events to run throughout June. Summary details can be seen here, and for fuller information as plans develop – or indeed to put forward your own event for the programme – you can visit the [WOVEN website](https://woven.hatchprojects.org.uk) or contact the organisers via woven@hatchprojects.org.uk

A purple rectangular poster with white and orange text. At the top, an orange banner reads 'WOVEN 2021 will run from 5 -27 June!'. Below this, white text states: 'Many people are working hard to develop projects throughout 2020 and 2021 that will be showcased over the four weekends of the festival. Each weekend has a theme to bring activity together.' The poster then lists four weekends with their themes in orange text: '5/6 June - Big Rainbow Knit Celebration', '12/13 June - Community Weekend', '19/20 June - Family Fun', and '26/27 June - Generations of Innovators'. Each theme is followed by a paragraph of white text describing the activities. At the bottom, white text says: 'There will additional events happening throughout June 2021 and we encourage everyone to get involved.'

WOVEN 2021 will run from 5 -27 June!

Many people are working hard to develop projects throughout 2020 and 2021 that will be showcased over the four weekends of the festival.
Each weekend has a theme to bring activity together.

5/6 June - Big Rainbow Knit Celebration

We will be celebrating all things knitting, crocheting, weaving and making with yarn in our big knit big reveal of Huddersfield Train Station and other Yarn Bombing projects across Kirklees. If you want to get involved by knitting a square or you want to Yarn Bomb your village then get in touch
- [link](#)

12/13 June - Community Weekend

Celebrating all the achievements made through community led projects that have been working hard all year round to realise projects as part of WOVEN. If you have a project that you want to showcase then let us know and we can add you to the website events list and help you publicise your events.

19/20 June - Family Fun

Working with Our Biennale we will focus on making this weekend all about making and having fun with textiles as a family. Sharing new skills and letting your imagination go wild.

26/27 June - Generations of Innovators

Explore the science and innovation behind the textile industry past, present and future.

There will additional events happening throughout June 2021 and we encourage everyone to get involved.

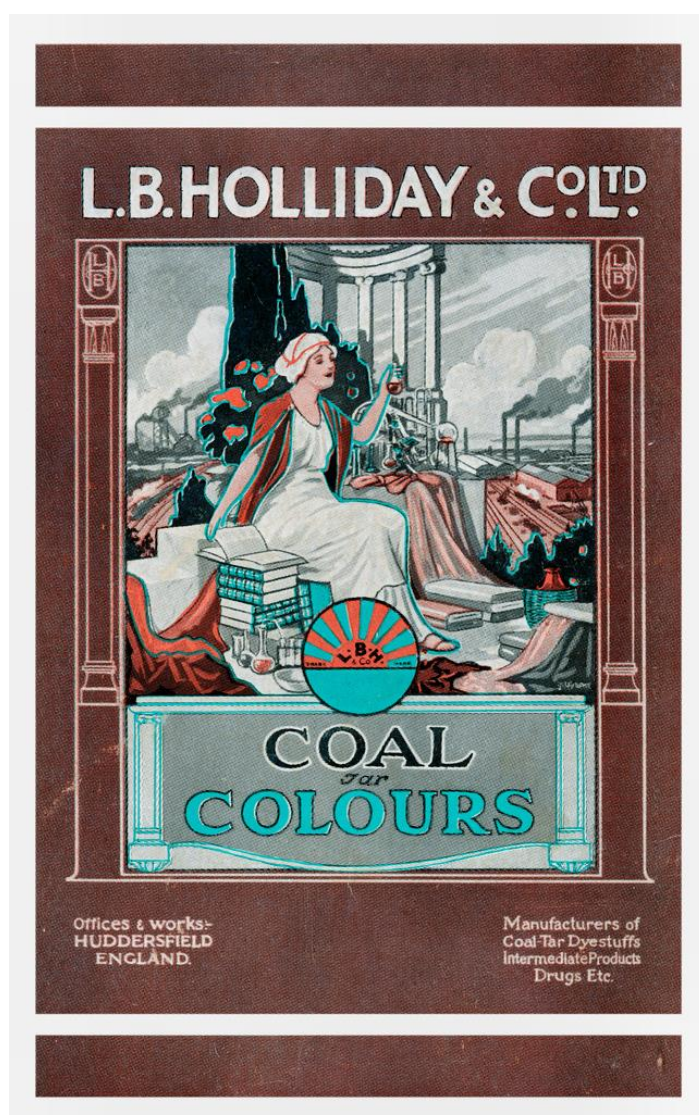
For the 2019 event, Huddersfield Exposed digitised a copy of *[Cloth Finishing: Woollen and Worsted](#)* (1927) by local science teacher John Schofield. For Woven 2021, another rare book on textiles by a local author will be made freely available.

Professor Mike Page (1944-2021)

We are sorry to announce the death of our long-standing member Mike Page, a professor of chemistry and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Huddersfield. HLHS Chair Cyril Pearce writes:

A great deal has been and will be said about Mike's [distinguished academic career](#). In an HLHS context, his talk on local chemical pioneer Read Holliday and the origins of L. B. Holliday in 2017 still lingers in my mind. As a demonstration of the consummate skills of a professional communicator it was outstanding. And as an example of the way in which a mind schooled in one discipline could be applied to another with such ease it was inspiring, not to say enviable. With all of that and a splendidly warm, approachable and humane presence, he gave the lie to the notions of academic aloofness.

The Society's heartfelt sympathy and condolences go to his wife Caroline, also a member of the Society.



Huddersfield Hub – a new website for the town

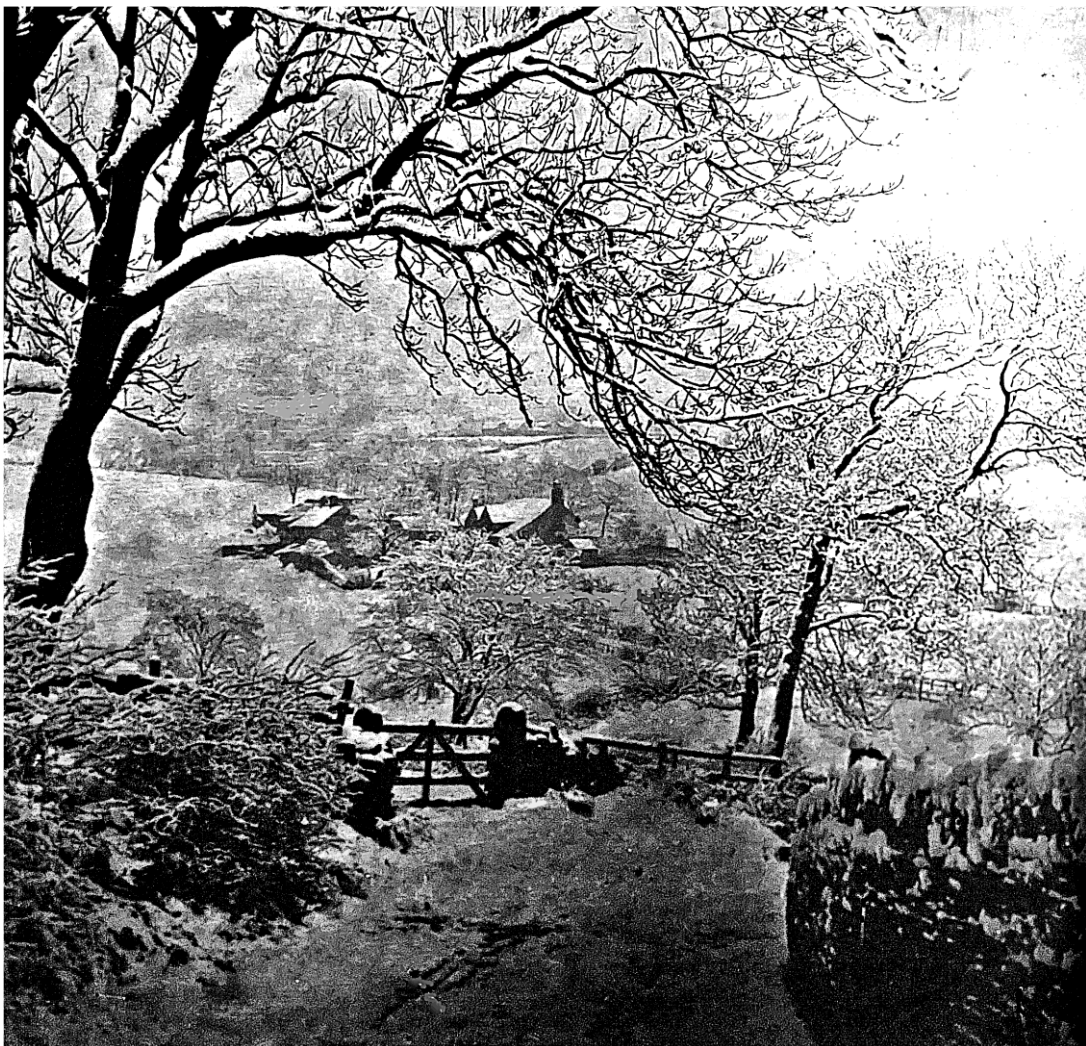
We've been finding it ever harder in recent months to secure coverage of our activities in the *Huddersfield Examiner*. Now two former senior Examiner journalists have established [HuddersfieldHub](#), 'an independent news website providing a fresh, vibrant and positive voice for Huddersfield'. It's not for the Society to endorse any particular media outlet, but we are pleased to note that the Hub has already carried a press release about our talks programme.

The press release was also picked up by [Kirklees Local TV](#), another independent Huddersfield-based media outlet.

A Wintry Scene from around 1890

Regular correspondent Brian Jury recently sent us this seasonal photo from his collection of his grandfather's stereoscopic images of Huddersfield.

The pioneering photographer Joseph Wood was based in Birkby, and Brian believes the image depicts Reap Hirst Farm in the Grimescar Valley (unless anybody has another suggestion?).



The Bernins – A Dynasty of Pork Butchers

by Brian Haigh

The society's Christmas Special *Journal* provided a fascinating opportunity to read an account of the Christmas Market in Huddersfield in 1873, from the pages of the *Huddersfield Chronicle*. An early attempt at what we would now call an advertising feature, it included game dealers and fruiterers as well as butchers.

THE OLD ESTABLISHED PORK SHOP,
Cross Church Street, Huddersfield.
CHRISTIAN BERNIN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
DEALER IN HOME-FED PORK, BACON, HAMS, LARD, &c.
Daily Supply of Fresh Country-Fed Pork direct from the Farmers.
Bernin's Celebrated Excelsior SAUSAGES,
(Manufactured by Steam Power), are patronised by the Principal Hotels and Families of
Huddersfield and Neighbourhood. PRICE 1s. PER LB.

QUEEN HOTEL,
MARKET STREET,
HUDDERSFIELD.
Proprietor,
GEO. HESKETH.

THE ASTONISHING AND UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND FOR
GRAHAM BROS.' 2s. TEA
is accounted for from the fact that this Tea is what the Proprietors represent it to be, viz. the
young and tender leaves of the early growth, picked, cured, and dried in favourable weather,
thereby retaining all the freshness and juicy characteristics of the better grades. GRAHAM
BROS.' 2s. TEA is admitted by the trade to be the best in the market. It is universally
pronounced the "Acme of perfection," and is undoubtedly the very best that can possibly be
obtained throughout the United Kingdom.
Graham Bros. send Carriage Paid to any Address, a 5 lb. Parcel for 9s. 6d., on receipt of
Post Office Order.
GRAHAM BROS., Teamen,
65, New Street, Huddersfield; Commercial Street, Batley; and
Teale Street, Wakefield.
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One of these was C Bernin, Pork Butcher of Cross Church Street. His Christmas stock came from pigs raised on one of Lord Ellesmere's estates and the Crimble Hall estate of Colonel Fenton of Rochdale. Mrs Bernin had 'artfully decorated' the shop window which included their own celebrated pork pies.

The proprietor of the shop at 20 Cross Church Street was Charles Christian Leonard Bernin, the son of John Christian Bernin. Both were usually known as Christian. Bernin senior arrived in England from Württemberg in about 1830, setting up in business in London, before moving first to Sheffield and then Wakefield where he met his first wife. They moved to Huddersfield in 1834. Sadly, Dorrisa died the following year.

In 1840, he married Magdalena Fredericka from his home-town in Germany. Through 'sobriety and attention to business', John Christian had become a successful tradesman and property owner.

Following the untimely death of her husband, in 1855, Fredericka ran the shop until their son was old enough to take on the responsibility. John Christian had been 'afflicted with an asthma of some years duration', and was also said to be 'dropsical'. He suffered from what would now be called oedema, a swelling of the feet and legs. This had led a number of his associates to speculate on his survival by taking out life policies. When the holders tried to claim the fruits, the Athenaeum Life Assurance Society unsurprisingly raised questions and refused to pay out.

Charles Christian Leonard was just as short-lived. He died suddenly on 17 January 1894, aged 49 years. Had he lived to the 27th, he would have celebrated his 50th birthday, which he had planned to mark 'in a fitting manner as the members of his

family had seldom survived' to that age. A bronchitis sufferer, the damp and variable weather had taken its toll. A doctor had been called on the Wednesday, but on Thursday morning it was found that he had breathed his last, 'seated in his chair apparently asleep'.

Described as one of the best-known traders of the town, he was a churchman, a Conservative and a freemason. In 1892, he had been appointed Grand Master of the Albert Edward Lodge.



Advert in the 1900 Huddersfield Directory

But Christian junior was not quite the respectable figure the obituaries might suggest. He was also well-known in the magistrates' court where he had appeared on a number of occasions and been found guilty of assault, and once for selling short weight. He had tried on at least two occasions to buy off the victims of his attacks, but the magistrates continued to press charges. Bernin clearly had a short temper and put up his fists at the least provocation.

It was left to his widow to run the business which she did until 1905, when she too died. It was then taken over by Thomas H. Atkinson & Sons, and will be remembered by many readers. They traded in the town until the late 1960s.

The Bernins are memorialised by a headstone in Edgerton Cemetery, one of the few to include the trade of those whose grave is marked.



(Photo: John Rumsby)

IN MEMORY OF
 JOHN CHRISTIAN BERNIN
 OF HUDDERSFIELD
 (PORK BUTCHER) WHO DIED
 NOVEMBER 23RD 1855
 AGED 48 YEARS
 ALSO OF
 FREDERICKA MAGDALENA
 THE BELOVED WIFE OF
 THE ABOVE WHO DIED
 JANUARY 20TH 1867
 AGED 45 YEARS
 ALSO OF JANE
 THE BELOVED WIFE OF
 CHRISTIAN BERNIN
 BORN AUGUST 8TH 1845
 DIED JANUARY 24TH 1882
 "HER END WAS PEACE"
 ALSO THE ABOVE NAMED
 CHARLES CHRISTIAN L. BERNIN
 BORN JANUARY 27TH 1844
 DIED JANUARY 17TH 1894
 ALSO OF CAROLINE
 WIFE OF THE ABOVE
 CHARLES C.L. BERNIN
 DIED MARCH 16TH 1905
 AGED 48 YEARS

Pray Dame a Collop!

by Dave Pattern

“On the *Monday* preceding *Faftens Even* (or *Shrove Tuesday*), called every-where in the North *Collop Monday*, from an immemorial Cuftom there, of dining that Day on Eggs and Collops.”

— Daniel Defoe’s *A Tour Thro’ the Whole Island of Great Britain* (1762)

“Shrove-tide is nigh at hand,
And I am come a-shroving;
Pray, Dame, something,
An apple or a dumpling,
Or a piece of truckle cheese
Of your own making.”

— traditional Lancashire verse¹

I’m sure everyone is familiar with the tradition of tossing pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, but the old custom of children “collop”ing has been mostly lost to the mists of time... except in Meltham, where it was revived for over a century.

The day before Shrove Tuesday was once known variously as Shrove Monday, Ash Monday, Clean Monday or Collop Monday. On that day, households would prepare for Lent by cooking a meal that included sliced meat (known as “collops”²) and, according to some sources, the fat from the cooking was then set aside for pancakes the following day. Any remaining meat would then be salted to preserve it until Easter.

On Collop Monday, children would go door-to-door calling out “pray dame a collop!” and would be rewarded with a piece of the sliced meat or some other item of spare food. Social historians have suggested that this gifting of food before Lent helped to provide the local poor families with a welcome seasonal treat. However, this custom appears to have largely died out by the early 1800s.

In 1881, Edward Brook of Meltham Mills marked Collop Monday by handing out “new pennies” to local children from a leather pouch. Finding that he had more pennies than kiddies, he decided the fairest way to distribute the remainder was to throw the coins into the air so that they landed in the street. And so, the annual Meltham Collop Monday “penny scramble” was born as the children rushed to grab as many as possible. The photograph here from the *Leeds Mercury* shows the scramble in 1930.



¹ *Place-proverbs and Rhymes* (1910) by S. W. Partington, page 27. There are several variants of this verse.

² The word “collop” was also applied to other sliced food and perhaps helps to explain how fish & chip shop scollops (slices of potato cooked in batter) got their name.

The last newspaper reference to the Meltham penny scramble I found was from 1938, when Edward William Brook (grandson of Edward Brook) provided the coins.³ However, the photograph below from 1940 shows that scrambles continued at least into the early part of the Second World War. Not surprisingly, the main beneficiaries of the coins were the local sweet shops.



(courtesy of the [Meltham in Focus Collection](#))

It may be that the scrambles ended soon after 1940, as it seems to have been replaced by Meltham shopkeepers simply giving out free sweets on Collop Monday. I'm sure some of our members will have fond memories of Annie Woodhead, pictured below on Collop Monday 1975. (I hope the children are asking "pray dame a collop"!)



(courtesy of the [Meltham in Focus Collection](#))

Sadly, Mrs. Woodhead's passing in 1991 marked the end of the revived Meltham Collop Monday tradition started by Edward Brook in 1881.

³ You can find [transcriptions of several newspaper articles](#) on Huddersfield Exposed.