



CANCAN

NEWS FROM BOLSTER MOOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2015

Charity Fun Day at Westwood Farm



Tony, Angela and Di would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported the event in August, and to all the helpers on the day. It was good to see local families and friends enjoying the fun and browsing round the various

stalls. The bouncy castle and tractor rides went down particularly well, as did the all day bar and cake stall! We had generous donations of raffle prizes and vouchers from many local businesses and individuals, making it into a really grand raffle. The evening event certainly went with a real swing once the live music started! Our thanks to Neil and his band 'Evil Genius' who provided the music free of charge, and to Bolster Moor Farm Shop for the delicious supper.



The money raised on the day amounted to over £2000, and we also received a most generous donation of £1000 on top of that. This money has been divided equally between the agricultural charity R.A.B.I. and Macmillan cancer support, and also a donation made to the Community Association, and Bolster Moor playgroup. See you there next year!

Community Carol Sing



The BMCA warmly invites everyone to come along and sing Christmas Carols at this popular annual event.

Join us to sing the old favourites, accompanied by a quartet from Huddersfield Wind Band. Complimentary hot drinks and festive refreshments afterwards. Edible donations always welcome.

Date: Monday December 7th

Time: 6.45pm

Venue: Bolster Moor Chapel/
playgroup, downstairs

Please note - the Carol Sing replaces the usual December BMCA meeting which would normally fall on that date.



We wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year



Tales from the Golcar Workhouse

by Elaine Wortley August 2014

The Huddersfield Chronicle of 18th May, 1850 was understandably shocked by the Poor Law Board's inspection report of its Golcar Workhouse, along with two other workhouses in the area. It declared "it must deeply concern the ratepayers of Huddersfield and the neighbourhood embraced in this Union". Yet, Golcar's workhouse, "deemed unfit for the poor of any kind" on inspection, somehow managed to muddle along almost a further twenty years, simply because it was needed.

High above Golcar village at Pike Law, the workhouse consisted of two low-ceilinged, old cottages, accommodating 22 inmates. With 25 acres of land, in a country setting, enjoying breathtaking Colne Valley views, it appears to have opened in 1839, with an advertisement appearing in the Leeds Mercury for master and matron.

This provision, in Golcar, of shelter and work for the poor, infirm and aged, likely followed the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, which had reformed the relief system. However, there is said to have been a workhouse there, as far back as 1815.

Annual salary for the new Master and Matron was to be £25. Subject to character references and "without incumbrances", applicants needed "knowledge of farming". Duties were "to attend to the instructions and orders of the Guardians of this Union". "The Guardians" were elected local businessmen, professionals and gentry, who met regularly, to manage the workhouses.

Eleven years later, that 1850 report, of such concern to the Huddersfield Chronicle, described Golcar Workhouse as "dirty and disorderly". The only yard had cows turned into it and was dirty. There was no room for separation of male and female inmates and children mixed with adults. Children slept in rooms occupied by adults and sometimes slept with them.

Sick inmates remained in bed throughout the day, in poorly ventilated rooms, serving as both the women's and men's day rooms. The women's day room also served as the wash house, their workplace. There were insufficient sheets to put two to a bed. One bed was found to be wet and dirty. On several beds, sacks and old clothing were used for warmth.

Fowls, kept by the Master, went in and out the house, occasioning dirt. Hens nested in a cupboard under a dresser in the dining room, also serving as a kitchen and the master's sitting room.



There were no baths, two children failed to attend school, nor did they receive instruction in the workhouse. There was no assigned chaplain and prayers were not read "before breakfast and after supper". Inmates were not provided with workhouse dress and smoked inside, without the medical officer's permission.

Over the following years, newspaper court reports and Huddersfield Union's Guardians' meetings, give glimpses of the inmates' world. Golcar Workhouse abounded with characters, who, sometimes, would describe themselves quaintly, as "as weak as a wood louse" or "as fit as a hare".

It provided sanctuary in 1864 to impoverished cotton operatives, affected by the Cotton Famine.

It served as a makeshift hospital. An old man, badly injured in a pub accident, was taken there by cart, only to find a lack of facilities. An inmate of almost 80, felt it a privilege to push a wheelbarrow, four miles into Huddersfield and back uphill "with very heavy burdens", while an 82 year old, the Guardians proudly reported, was still reaping oats.

Disobedience such as getting drunk, refusing work, or fighting resulted in court appearances, with newspapers often describing defendants as "refractory" or "idle paupers". Inmate Garside, was summonsed for assaulting another inmate in 1855. The 77 year old victim said he had been trying to get an old smock-frock on, in front of the kitchen fire, when Garside had attacked him, by kicking his legs. The magistrates told the men to become friends and discharged the summons.

In contrast, inmate Kaye was imprisoned for one month in 1866, charged with assaulting the Master. Returning from fetching grains, "partially intoxicated", when remonstrated with, he had thrown the Master against the wall and struck him on the back. Likewise, that year, inmate Cartwright threatened a small child and the Master, with a poker. His punishment was one month in Wakefield's House of Correction.

Tales from the Golcar Workhouse continued



Occasionally, tragedy struck. Toddler, William Battye, accidentally drowned in the workhouse well, in 1864. His mother, had left him cared for by frail fellow inmate Betty Hoyle and 15 minutes later, she found her child, drowned in the two feet deep well.

Male inmates farmed the land or maintained the buildings, with the workhouse surgeon identifying the "able bodied". The workhouse had a brew house, and a beer and tobacco allowance. One inmate was taken to court for refusing to clean "nasty and dirty closets". There was no beer allowance and he thought that particular job merited one.

The weekly diet consisted of two meat meals, three of suet puddings and two of dumplings, until 1865 when an extra meat meal was incorporated. Porridge was served each evening until 1861, when inmates began receiving tea, bread and butter, on Sundays.

Golcar Workhouse wasn't home or anything like it. In court, in 1869, inmate Benjamin Schofield, feeling domineered and disillusioned, said "I have neither father nor mother ; I go there for a homestead". In summer the door was locked from 8pm to 6am. One inmate was summonsed for breaking the workhouse lock at dawn, simply "to avail himself of the convenience". Individuals' lives were not their own.

Mr and Mrs Charles Lee had followed Mr and Mrs Joseph Haigh, as Golcar's Master and Matron in 1853. It was the death of Mrs Lee, in January 1869, combined with the 1868 Poor Law Inspector's report, that finally closed Golcar Workhouse on 25th March 1869.

Master Charles Lee, then widowed and ill, prompted a decision by the Guardians. The land and buildings were subsequently let and the workhouse later demolished. Some workhouse belongings were auctioned off. Despite a petition, led by the vicar of Golcar, proposing superannuation for Mr. Lee, the retiring Master received only one gratuity of £10 from the Guardians. The couple's final combined salary had been £35 per annum and they had been required to be on constant duty.

The 1868 final Inspection had noted 14 men, slept two to one bed, in one small room, describing "the building as wholly unfit for a workhouse." Five children and seven women occupied four beds in one small room, which was also where confinements took place and used as "a lying-in ward.", for new mothers.

Reported widely in the Press, was the Inspector's worrying discovery that "puddings were boiled in the same pan as foul linen is boiled and washed in". The Guardians afterwards discovered, the pan was used for these two purposes, on different days of the week and on days between, it was used for boiling the cattle's water, but that made no significant difference. They authorised purchase of a second boiler, in response, but it was too late to avoid considerable embarrassment.

They had debated Golcar Workhouse's closure in July 1867, the previous year, but "because they got more from it than they lost", the motion had narrowly failed.

In 1868, William Shaw, an elderly Golcar inmate, complained in court, he "was stalled of being yonder" and his woeful, dissatisfied sentiments came to be echoed by Guardians and inmates alike. Golcar Workhouse, not before time, had reached its inevitable end. **Elaine Wortley August 2014**

Bolster Moor Buddies: This support group will be active again for the coming winter. Buddies will be available to help anyone in the community who is alone at home. It provides a back up if a person's usual support isn't available. Please see the enclosed leaflet for more details.



Contact
Andi Butler: 01484 648023
a.butler150@btinternet.com

**NEWS FROM BOLSTER MOOR
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**



**Bolster Moor Community
Association**

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.bolstermoor.org.uk

**The dates of the next Community Meetings
are :**

Monday 04 January 2016

Monday 01 February 2016

Monday 07 March 2016

Monday 04 April 2016

*All meetings begin at 8pm at the Golcar Lily,
everyone is welcome to come along.*

Please visit our newly updated BMCA website at
www.bolstermoor.org.uk

We welcome any items of local news, events, or articles suitable
for inclusion on the website from members of the community.



Playgroup is open term time only.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday &
Friday (giving option for full days)

Session 1: 9.00am - 12.00pm

Session 2: 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Tuesday 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Some sessions have full occupancy
and we operate a waiting list for
these sessions. If you would like
your child to start with us soon
after their 2nd birthday, please
pop in to get your child's name
down.



**CHRISTMAS 2015
OPENING TIMES**

**Pub opening
Hours**

Christmas Eve
Thursday
12:00-11:00

Christmas Day
Friday
12:00-6:00

CLOSED EVENING

Boxing Day
Saturday
12:00-11:00

New Years Eve
Thursday
12:00-2:30
5:30-

New Years Day
Friday
12:00-11:00

**Food serving
times**

Christmas Eve
Thursday
12:00-9:30pm

Christmas Day
Friday
12:30 & 3:30 sittings
BOOKINGS ONLY

Boxing Day
Saturday
12:00-4.00PM

New Years Eve
Thursday
12:00-2:00
Evening Bookings only

New Years Day
Friday
12:00-4:00

THE BOLSTER MOOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

(BMCA), was formed just before the millennium. We meet on the first Monday
in the month, at the Golcar Lily pub.

Over the years, we have organised various events and activities for the
benefit of the community and done a great deal of fundraising enabling us to
re-furbish the children's play area, which was one of our first major projects.
We also support playgroup and school events, and are concerned with the
local environment, and from time to time we go out and about litter picking,
and plant daffodil bulbs in the area.

Other recent projects have included having a heritage style clock installed on
the front exterior wall of the school, planting up the area of land at the junction
of Bolster Moor Road/Clough Road, to make a community garden area, and
purchasing and planting a Christmas tree in the farm shop grounds. We also ran a logo competition and the winning logo is
now featuring on our newsletters and posters.

We organise an annual coach trip, which has proved very popular with all ages from our community. In September this year
we went to Pickering and Scarborough and everyone agreed it was another
Grand Day Out - sun, sea, sand, blue skies and fish and chips - perfect!



Two Scarborough day trippers enjoying the boating
lake at Peasholm Park.

Two years ago we started an informal friends walking group, the BMWs - Bolster
Moor Walkers, this is more a reflection of quality rather than speed! We hope to
resume walks in spring, and we will post details around the area nearer the time.
We would welcome any offers to lead a walk, anything between an hour and an
hour and a half.

Also recently, we meet on the second Wednesday in the month, 12.30pm at the
Golcar Lily for 'Snack and Chat'. Anyone is welcome to come along, whether just
for a coffee, a bar Snack or drink.

Another popular annual event in December is the Community Carol Sing at
Bolster Moor Chapel; it has a bit of an old fashioned feel, with people getting
together for a good sing, and coffee and mince pies afterwards.

The BMCA is open to anyone living within, working or interested in the area. We are a friendly, informal group and new
faces are always welcome. We care about our community, and the winter helpline will be available again this year, should
anyone need assistance.

To find out what else we have in the pipeline, or to offer help and support in any way, come along and give us a try! The
next meeting would normally be in December, but as this coincides with the Carol Sing, our next official meeting will be
January 4th, 2016. If you need any more details, please ring the chairperson, Andi Butler on 01484 648023. or email
a.butler150@btinternet.com.



Some of the Bolster Moor walkers taking part in an
evening stroll to Pole Moor.