

March Meeting

The meeting started with the recent requests that we have had through the website and the information our members have provided. Following on from our last meeting on Farms, David E had sent a lot more detail (which is now included in the updated article on “Farms” on the website). We looked at some photos and information sent by Edward G (photos are on the “archive” section of the website, Edwards stories are in the “memories” section as is the information which has been added to the section on the “brass band”). We also saw some photographs of Barrack Fold Farm from 1950 (which are on the website: photos/archive/farming)

The main focus of the evening was a look at Ainsworth now (including some nice pictures of the snow at the start of March) and comparing this with what was around 100-200 years ago (with the help of an OS map from 1910). We looked what was there now and those present added to this by remembering what had been there before; when things were built and who lived in the houses. It was interesting to see how little housing there was along Bury Old Road/Church Street 200 years ago, with much of the housing being off the main road – at the top



of Delph Lane, for example, where there were Hey Club Houses; at the end of Greenside, where Bull Fold was situated; at the back of the recreation ground – with houses on Well Street; and Cotton Broad Row, where the primary school now is. In fact. Along Bury Old Road, at one point, the only building was the Methodist Sunday School. Stanley Terrace was built. The oldest housing is on Church Street, with Holly Bank, the old Church Tavern (number 1) and the Club Houses (opposite the Delph). We traced the development and changes to Church Street up to the east end of the village, where Cockey Moor starts. (a copy of the presentation is available on the website)