

July Meeting

After looking at a new photo of a Unitarian Charabanc outing in the mid 1920's, there was then a presentation about the Whitehead Lodges. This included a wooden engraved image which appeared in the Manchester Guardian newspaper, showing the breach of the lodge on Sunday 5th December 1852, flooding the die works at Lowercroft and continuing down to the Bolton Bury Canal, where the force of the water lifted several barges from their moorings before reaching the river Irwell. Because it was a Sunday, no one was working in the factories and there was no loss of life. Had it been a weekday, it is likely that there would have been a large number of casualties.

We then saw photos of the lodges – including one where the edges were covered in ice and one of children playing on the wooden bridge between the two lodges. This led to a brief discussion about the army camp at the bottom end of the lodges, and we looked at the photos we had of the camp off Lowercroft Road.



We also looked at the information we had on the Water Tower, from the tender being issued in February 1939 to its completion in August 1940 – timely as the population of the village increased significantly during the war, with the flat-roofed houses on Church Street and Harley Avenue being built for those coming to work in the neighbouring factories now involved in war work