

December Meeting:

We completed our topic of “Industrial Ainsworth” by looking first at the Bleachworks at Red Bridge and then at quarrying in the village. There were two main quarries – one on Church Street, now known as “the Delph”, and one at the top of Delph Lane. There were also other smaller quarries – at the back of what is now the Rose and Crown; in Oaks Nooks; near Ainsworth Hall; and opposite Titus - as well as a number of gravel pits.

Peter provided us with a photo of his great grandfather who owned one of the quarries, though he wasn't sure which one. However, by piecing together stories that his grandma told him of how her parent's quarry had filled with water soon after they were married (in 1892) - it was so rapid that they were unable to remove all their barrows, trucks and tools - and the story told by the old Postmaster, Walter Taylor, (also a relative of Peter's) it seems likely that theirs was the quarry on Church Street. This quarry was used by anglers but was also the scene of tragedies and was filled in – though a truck did go too close to the edge and slid in



David had sent us tales of the other main quarry on Delph Lane, which was owned for much of the time by the Brooks Family (one of whom founded the Methodist Church in Ainsworth). The horse and carts had a problem turning into the quarry at the top of Delph Lane and there was a sheer drop from the narrow lane. Some of those present remembered the terrible smell when the council began tipping rubbish into the then disused quarry and it was filled in.

We also saw a photo from the Parish Churchyard, showing a headstone of a young boy killed by that same stone

