

February Meeting:

We began the meeting by looking at a photo of “The Plantation”, Ainsworth and then looked at a map showing what appears to be the huts at the army camp.

This was followed by a presentation on Education in Ainsworth, where we learned that there were both formal and informal establishments providing education in the village and that over the years there have been schools at the bottom of Ainsworth Hall Road (where Broomfield estate is); off Bradley Fold Road; at the corner of Ainsworth Hall Road and Church Street; at Oaks Nook; at Ainsworth Hall; as well as Sunday Schools and a night school in a house next to the Bull Inn (which was in Bull Fold, Greenside) run by Mester Joseph for the rough lads of the village!.

We looked in more detail at the school on Bradley Fold Road and the one at Oaks Nook, which was originally situated in the Old Stables at the back of the Unitarian Chapel and was known as “Henry Spencer’s Schoo”. Only later did the school move to four cottages on Knowsley Road, which were converted for the purpose. We also heard tales, told in Ken’s book, from a former pupil of this Chapel School.



A lack of time meant that the information about the National School on the main road was left to another meeting, though we were able to look at some photos of villagers and were pleased that some present were able to add names to faces.