

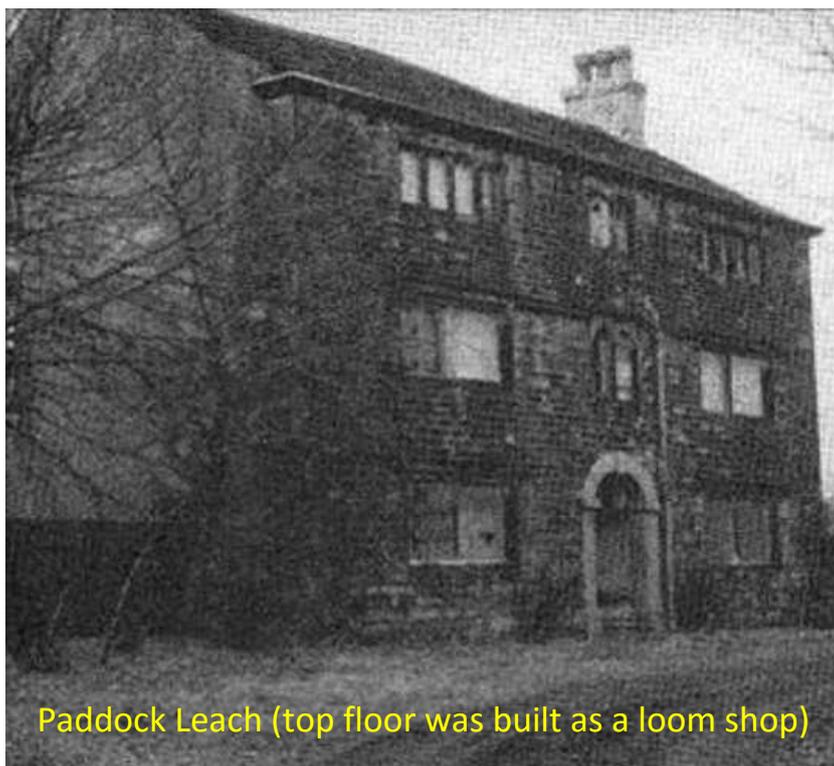
The meeting started with a presentation of items received as a result of previous meetings. These caused some discussion, mainly to do with names of the various members of Ainsworth Band.



Dave C is trying to get some copies of sound recordings relating to the village and made by Ainsworth folk in the distant past, possibly around 1900. These recordings are in the North West Sound Archive and would be of great interest to the group.

This was followed by Steve H's talk on weaving/Moorside Mill. Firstly we looked at a few of the many cottages, listed in the Tithe records, that had "looms shops" - of which there was at least ten on Well street alone. Paddock Leach was a 3 storey farm house with a purpose built loom shop on the top floor.

We then looked at local inventions that transformed weaving from a cottage industry into a factory system. These included the Flying shuttle, Spinning Jenny, the Water Frame and the Spinning Mule. An actual flying shuttle was handed round for every to look at.

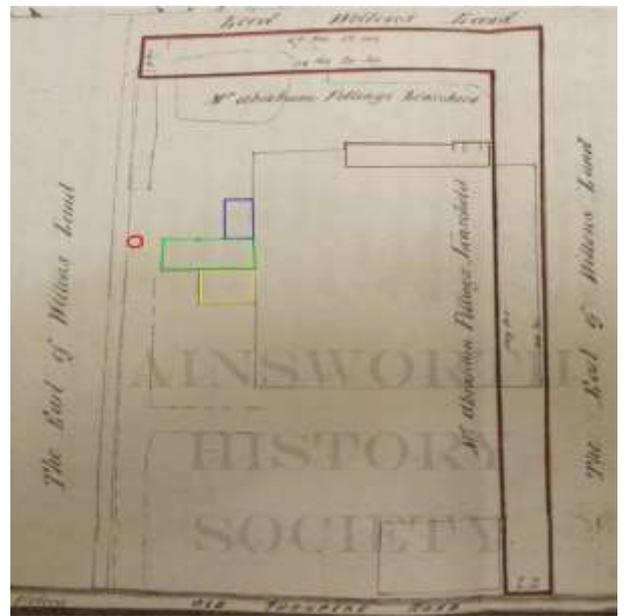


Paddock Leach (top floor was built as a loom shop)

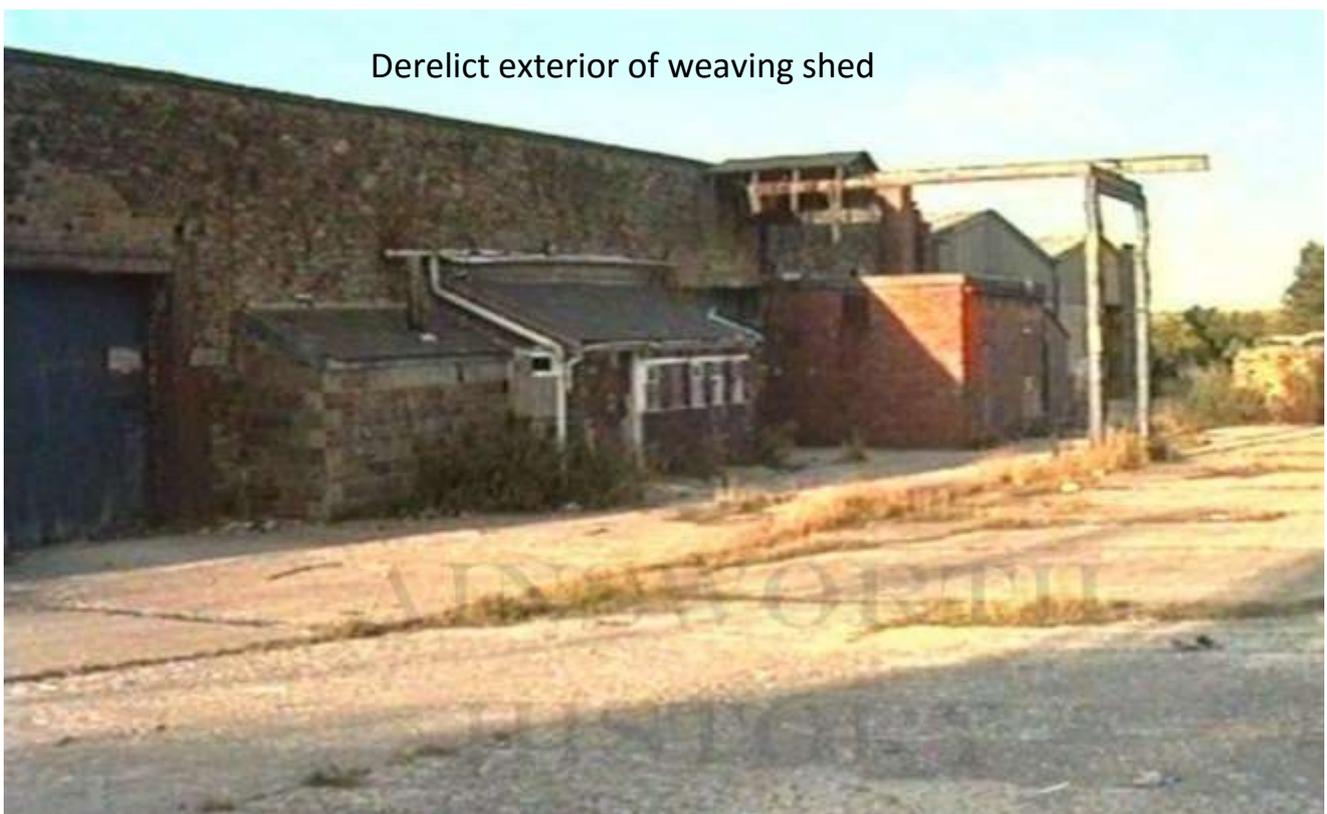
Next we looked at some of the very first textile factories that were all water powered and constructed close by in the Cheesden Valley. The Valley lies 6 miles east of Ainsworth and between 1780 and 1919 there was 14 factories in the valley, employing 2000 people in what was once a desolate region. This information was gleaned from the Bury local history group's excellent book "The forgotten Valley".

This was followed by a look at innovations in steam technology that eventually resulted in the type of steam engine that enabled a weaving shed to be built on Cockey Moor. This was the Moorside Mill and we looked at the original plans and details of the layout and construction of the mill that was built in 1866.

The various owners of the mill and the additional buildings that were added over the years were discussed, together with the final closure of the weaving shed in 1955.



We saw internal and external photos of the derelict weaving shed taken when the site went on sale in 1998



Derelict interior of weaving shed



followed by photos of its demolition in December 1999.

Demolition of weaving shed



The talk ended with photos of the engine house, boiler house and mechanics shop that are still there and an aerial view of how the site looks today.



Remaining buildings



Steam Engine House

The meeting went really well and everyone seemed to enjoy the talk.