

## **March Meeting:**

Following on from February's overview on farming around Ainsworth, Nigel gave a more detailed talk on the farm at Dearden Fold, on the North West side of the village. There are still original timbers in the trusses of the building and the datestone of 1691, whilst not on the original building, indicates that some part of the farm must be one of, if not the, oldest building in the village.



This was followed by a presentation about the Holcombe Races, known locally as the Cockey Moor Races (or the Millworkers Derby). The start of the races was in the fields between Barrack Fold Farm and Bentley Hall Farm. The horses ran almost to Walshaw, behind Bentley Hall and then across the fields to Bury Meadows Farm at Harwood. There were several brushwood jumps and the water jump was over a stream off Arthur Lane. On the day of the races, there was a continual flow of traffic into the village from every direction and an endless procession of people walking along Knowsley Road to Barrack Fold and onto the racecourse. About 30 000 people attended the event and there were always a good number of bookmakers

To finish, we saw a short clip from British Movietone of the Holcombe Hunt Point-to-Point in the 1930's