

The Moor Memories Project has collected stories of moorland life and work which we want to make accessible to people.

We have oral history interviews from farmers, gamekeepers, access campaigners, wardens and many others, providing a unique record of life and work in the Peak District moorlands. The interviews are stored on DVDs and kept in a secure archive at the Moorland Centre in Edale.

They are available for public viewing at:

Derbyshire Record Office in Matlock (reference D7534)

T: 01629 538 347

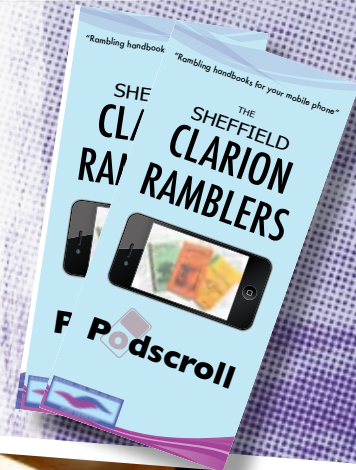
E: record.office@derbyshire.gov.uk

Holmfirth Library and Information Centre

T: 01484 222430

E: holmfirth.lic@kirklees.gov.uk

The project has also produced booklets, exhibitions, videos and walks based on the material collected.



“ Just before the blitz we were lighting fires on the moor. If you go on Totley Moor now you see a lot of holes full of water and I always remember one young lady who said “What do you need all these dew ponds for?” and I said “They’re not dew ponds, they’re bomb craters filled up with water.” Because we used these fires to decoy German aircraft bombing Sheffield ”

John Bunting

“ They worked six days a week and on the seventh, they walked ”

Mr Johnson



“ The sheep had to winter on what they could get for themselves ”

John Eardley



The ideas behind the Peak Park

John Bunting

“ We were hoping for the freedom to walk. We fought for it and some of my colleagues died fighting for that freedom and when we come back it were no different to before we went. So that were the motivation, we thought we had the right to walk on it. And at the end of the day we wanted to preserve it which we have done. ”

Working for the Water Board

Gerald Eastwood

I'd be walking round. There used to be notice boards up, like there still is, "It's private, no public access" and the like ... when I started work the gaffer used to say, "If there's anybody at the side of

the reservoirs and they aren't members of the fishing club, turn them out; or anywhere on the [gathering] ground ... If they haven't no paper to say they should be there, turn them out."

Heather burning

Ken Drabble

Actually, if you had a very good gamekeeper, and there were some exceptional men, they always hid fire breaks in the heather because burning patterns was habitat for the grouse. And so if you had a swathe which was burned out, that was a fire break should the rest get on fire ... so management of the moors is all in with it yeah. In fact the big dykes that you see, Black Dyke and whatever, they're not dykes for fire really,

they were for shooters to go from one set of butts to another set of butts.



I remember our first winter here...

John Gill

...the farmer next door came out one day and the snow had drifted up to the wall, it was feet deep, you could hardly see the top of the wall. He was walking up and down on top of the wall and he had a long rod... he was feeling down with this probe and he had a sheep dog with him. The sheep dog was sniffing and they [were] trying to find sheep which had been buried in the snow.



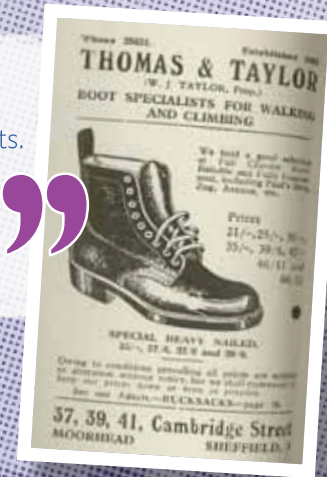
Thomas and Taylor

was often the place where people went for boots.

They were 21 shillings,

special heavily made boots

Mr Johnson



Walkers' cafes

Bill Emmingham

You see you can't go to a café now with your own sandwiches. You could in the past. Alport Castles where we used to go with old Bert Ward, we used to go there and have us sandwiches. Mrs Lancaster's at Castleton, you could always have your sandwiches in there and a pot of tea, just at the bottom of Cave Dale.

There used to be one at Owler Bar, the Curlew, all over place there were cafes, Alport, near



Youlgreave, there were a cyclist's café. Villages had them, more than one. It's totally changed now, it's business, everything works for money, whereas we didn't have that problem, we had no money and everybody that were doing anything like cafes or whatever they were doing it because they enjoyed your company.