

CLAYTON WEST CC

# DOWN YOUR WAY

## MILLS, MINERS & PIE SABOTEURS (ALLEGEDLY)

### Clayton West: The Village

The name Clayton indicates that the area we now know as Clayton West was originally settled by Angles who invaded the Dearne Valley in the seventh and eighth centuries. Those choosing to settle in the village would have made their homes towards the top of the valley side and one can see from the location of the centre of the village today that it began life further up the hill and expanded down to the valley bottom as a result of the Industrial Revolution.



**Life would have continued in much the same way (the few living in the village working the land) until they were visited by Norman soldiers in about 1069, who killed livestock and people, burnt houses and destroyed crops in order to quell the resistance of the northerners to William's rule. Evidence of this ravaging of the area can be found in the Domesday Survey of 1086; Clayton West (meaning settlement on clayey soil) was described as 'waste'.**

Prior to 1069 the village had been worth twenty shillings but after 1069 was worth just two. Clayton West was not the only village to be on the receiving end of this treatment; it would in fact be harder to find a village in the north that had not paid a heavy price for the north's rebellion against the Conqueror's rule.



**It took a long time, in fact, over a century, for the village to recover but by the thirteenth century life was back to normal. Records show that there was agrarian activity in the village at this time and people were buying and selling arable land. A corn mill had also been built in the village, which anyone living in the area would have been compelled to use to grind their corn for a small fee, of course. Clayton West was not a wealthy place during the middle ages as can be seen by the amount of poll tax paid by villagers in 1379 which totalled 3s 8d.**

Clayton West began growing in the seventeenth century with the advent of coal mining (1659) and the arrival of weavers in the village (1670s). Although mining activity was on a small scale at first by the middle of the nineteenth century the industry had grown dramatically, stimulated by the requirement of the fuel to power factories and transport and to keep houses warm.

**By 1865 the Dearne Valley was home to eleven mines. Likewise at the beginning of the nineteenth century the village was home to a large number of textile workers and by 1834 six textile businesses.**

It is certainly true to say that as a result of the Industrial Revolution Clayton West emerged as a place of some importance and it attracted the attention of Sir Titus Salt who was looking for a site

for his alpaca mills. He visited the village to inspect the land but the uncrowned 'king of Clayton West', John Kaye a mill owner who lived at Bilham Grange and owned much of the land in central Clayton West, was campaigning for a branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway to run through the land Salt was interested in.

**This was enough to discourage Salt who turned his attention to Bradford where he built Saltaire. Perhaps Salt's decision to opt for Bradford was a good thing; there may not have been room for personalities as strong as Kaye and Salt in the same village!**



**Sir Titus Salt**

In 1846, the growing population of Clayton West had cause to celebrate for it was in this year that the much-hated Corn Laws were repealed. The Corn Laws, imposed on the country at the end of the Napoleonic Wars to attempt to preserve the high profits that landowners and farmers had enjoyed, were designed to prevent foreign corn being imported until domestic corn reached a certain price.

**This led to an increase in the cost of food, particularly bread, the staple diet of the working classes and the poor. A group called the Anti-**

**Corn Law League was set up to campaign for the repeal of laws and in 1846, after the failure of the Irish potato crop, the Corn Laws were repealed.**

Towns and villages up and down the country decided to organise events to mark the occasion and the inhabitants of Clayton West made the decision to bake an enormous plum pie. This they did, although perhaps with hindsight this was bound to cause trouble with nearby Denby Dale – the village that had a reputation for baking monster pies to celebrate national events.



**Nonetheless the pie was baked and was a great success. Unfortunately, the same could not be said of Denby Dale's pie which was baked for the same occasion. After being paraded through the streets and placed on the stage for cutting ended up in heap on the floor surrounded by bits of the stage.**

Many theories have been advanced for the collapse of the stage but the finger was pointed at inhabitants of Clayton West who were accused of sabotage. The Denby Dale pie was larger than that of Clayton West and some people believed that not wishing to

be upstaged, some Clayton West residents removed the stage's platform supports.

**Whatever the case the wild accusations hurled at the village did not lead to civil war and in 1914, prior to the outbreak of the First World War, the village was described as 'prosperous'; having 2 coal mines, an engineering works, an iron foundry, and a spinning mill amongst other businesses.**

After the war (30 men from Clayton West died fighting for their country) the village, like many other places particularly in the north of Britain, declined.



**During the inter-war period businesses like the Auckland Brothers, which employed many villagers, closed down during the Great Depression. This continued after the Second World War and today the village is mainly a**

**residential area, home to commuters making use the village's proximity to the M1 and M62 motorways and the much argued for A636 turnpike road.**

Only time will tell if these newer residents of Clayton West ever decide to take up their cudgels and bake a celebration pie to rival those of their brethren along the banks of the River Dearne.

# METHODISTS & MANUFACTURERS

## CLAYTON WEST: 4 KEY FACTS

### 1. SHOOTING SEEDS

Beware when walking along the banks of the River Dearne. A plant called Himalayan Balsam, which has exploding seedpods that release hundreds of tiny seeds, grows here. Workers brought the plant, which is native to the Himalayan region of Asia, to this country from the Indian sub-continent in Victorian times. The plant spreads particularly rapidly along riverbanks.

### 2. DEMOTION

**After the erection of All Saints Church in Clayton West, All Hallows Church at High Hoyland was demoted to a mortuary chapel. This meant that villagers no longer had to endure the steep walk to High Hoyland for christenings, funerals and weddings. The last couple to wed at High Hoyland Church were Mr and Mrs J.T. Whitehead. Their guests must have wished they had waited a little longer.**



### 3. TRIP TO LONDON

Aaron Peace & Co, manufacturers of silk and wool cloth, were one of a number of businesses from the area that exhibited their goods at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

Housed in the Crystal Palace, an enormous greenhouse, the Exhibition was a large trade show, the largest the world had ever seen. Between May and October over 6 million people visited the exhibits which numbered 100,000. After the Great Exhibition closed, the Crystal Palace was moved to Sydenham Hill in South London.

### 4. RELIGION

**By the middle of the eighteenth century Methodism was becoming popular in industrial areas. There was a shortage of Anglican clergy outside London and this, along with the complacency of the Church of England and the lack of churches in many areas (some people having to walk in excess of 7 miles to reach their nearest church), opened the door to non-conformity.**



**In 1764 the Rector of High Hoyland told the Archbishop of York that there were ‘some interlopers from places infected with Methodism’ in the village but ‘they gain few proselytes’. He also assured the Archbishop there were no meeting**

**places for the ‘crazy visionaries’ in the village. How wrong he was. The absence of a church in the village created a vacuum which was ready for other religious groups to fill.**

**The first chapel was built in the village in 1794 and the village was home to four chapels by the nineteenth century. Indeed, a visitor the village in 1870 commented on the great variety of the religious buildings that he had found: Episcopalians, Independents, Baptists, Wesleyans, New Connexion Methodists and Primitive Methodists all had their places of worship.**

# CLOTHIERS & CUTTERS

## Key Dates in the History of Clayton West before the Birth of the Cricket Club

**1086** Clayton West is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

**c.1200** A corn mill is built in the village.

**1379** Villagers pay the total sum of 3s 6d in poll tax.

**1418** An iron smithy is working in Clayton West.

**1588** Bilham Grange is built.



**1659** Coal mining activity is first recorded in the village.

**1670** Handloom weaving begins in Clayton West.

**1791** A plot of land is sold to the Independents for the building of a chapel.

**1794** The first chapel is opened in the village.

**1806** Clayton West is home to 44 weavers, 6 clothiers, 7 dressers, 2 cutters, one cropper and one wool comber.

**1815** John Kaye, the 'king of Clayton West' is born.

**1831** The population of Clayton West is 887.

**1834** There are six textile businesses in the village.

**1847** Horse drawn bus services to and from Huddersfield begins.



**1866** A new congregational chapel opens in the village.

**1871** The foundation stone for the village's church is laid.



**1875** The branch line connecting Clayton West to Huddersfield and Penistone is built.

**1879** The population of the village is 1,530.

# 180 NOT OUT!

## KEY DATES IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF CRICKET IN KIRKLEES

1825: Lascelles Hall Cricket Club founded.

**1842: Dalton play Sheffield for £30.**

1867: *Huddersfield Examiner* publishes scores or reports on 209 matches featuring 107 different teams.



**1868: Fartown ground leased by Huddersfield St. Johns C.C.. Savile Ground, Dewsbury, hosts game between All England XI and United All England XI.**

1873: Batley legend Louis Hall makes Yorkshire bow.

**1883: Lumb Cup and Heavy Woollen Cup born.**

1886: Huddersfield Cricket Association is formed.

**1887-9: Dewsbury Savile C.C. win hat-trick of Heavy Woollen Cup titles.**

1892: 10 Clubs take part in inaugural Huddersfield & District Cricket League competition.

# LOCAL RIVALS!

## OTHER NEARBY CRICKET VILLAGES



**Denby Dale**



**Emley**



**Flockton**



**Nortonthorpe**



**Skelmanthorpe**