



**NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2020**



**Working Bee at Watervale Institute**

In November last year the MHHS Committee decided to 'attack' the garden in front of the Watervale Institute which was in great need of attention. The team set to with garden tools and as can be seen from the following photos the hard work was worth the effort. The Council assisted by removing the large amount of prunings generated by the team.



Meredith, Mal, David, Wendy, Janet & Jim



MHHS appreciates all the favourable comments from members and locals posted on our Facebook page.

## Paving at John Horrocks Cottage – Stage 1

Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Restoration Fund and a generous quote from local tradesman Jason Gill, MHHS has been able to get the paving and water diversion at the cottage underway. It is essential that rain water be kept clear of the old building and this work will meet that criteria.



Old rainwater tank removed



Concrete path with drain installed



Mound to stop flooding from Surrey Lane

Upon completion, the MHHS team will be laying slate on top of the concrete path to complement the front path.

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## News from Penwortham UK

### New Penwortham Bypass to be named after Renowned Cotton Spinner

A new road in Penwortham UK will be known as '*John Horrocks Way*', and is set to open early in 2020. A quote from the Lancashire media states:

"John Horrocks, born in 1768, was one of the leading figures in Lancashire's textile revolution. His company had several mills and employed thousands of people.

The former Preston MP lived in Penwortham and, after his death in 1804, his company continued to operate, creating a number of mills, one of which, the Centenary Mill still stands today.

The new road name was officially announced today at the South Ribble Borough Council's cabinet meeting. The name was proposed by Grace Shields and Laura Gillett from Penwortham Girls' High School. County Councillor Keith Iddon, cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "*Lancashire is well-known around the world for its cotton mills, so it is fitting that John Horrocks who lived in Penwortham will be remembered with our new road. We were keen to get local people involved, so we asked schools to come up with interesting names for the new road especially with a local connection. We're really pleased with this suggestion.*"



The John Horrocks Way road sign with the two students who came up with the name

Local schools were invited during the summer term to ask their students to submit name suggestions for the new bypass.

The students proposed naming the bypass after John Horrocks to remember his work and to educate people who are unaware of the role he played in development locally."

## Jeremiah Horrocks

Chris Little, a Horrocks descendant, recently donated various items to the Society. Several documents related to Jeremiah Horrocks (1618-1641) who, in his short 22 years of life, made discoveries in the science of astronomy that ensured his place in history. Jeremiah was born near Liverpool, Lancashire and studied at Cambridge. His name is mentioned in many Horrocks family documents, but his place in John Ainsworth Horrocks family tree has yet to be confirmed. He developed a keen interest in astronomy and continued his work while taking up the post of curate of Hoole near Penwortham. There was no market for the specialised astronomical instruments he needed, so the only option was to make his own. He was well placed to do this; his father and uncles were watchmakers with expertise in creating precise instruments. Apparently he helped with the family business by day and, in return, the watchmakers in his family supported his vocation by assisting in the design and construction of instruments to study the stars at night.

Jeremiah's contributions to astronomy were formidable. He was one of the first men in England to grasp the significance of what was going on in contemporary European astronomy. Not only did he repeat many of the techniques of Kepler and Galileo, but he went on to develop the New Astronomy to produce conclusions which substantially advanced the science. He was the first person to predict the Transit of Venus (Venus passing between the Sun and Earth) which he observed on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> November 1639. He also discovered the moon orbited the Earth in an elliptical pattern, one of many of his achievements.

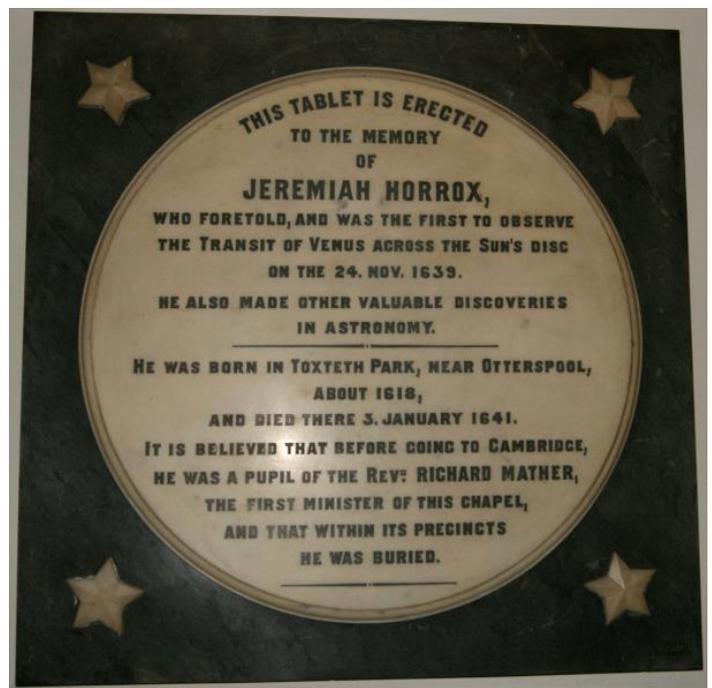
Horrocks' discoveries were only published posthumously and, gradually, in the centuries after that, places and churches were keen to claim him as one of their own.



A Victorian depiction of Jeremiah Horrocks observing the transit of Venus



The stained glass window at Hoole Church and title page of Horrocks' posthumous work



Jeremiah Horrocks (*Latin* Horrox) Memorial tablet in Westminster Abbey

He was memorialised in a number of places but without doubt the most significant of these is a memorial tablet in Westminster Abbey erected in 1874, opposite that of Isaac Newton who had praised Horrocks' work. For this, and his other work, Jeremiah is acknowledged as one of the founding fathers of British astronomy.

## Vineyard Lutheran School Visit

On 5 December 2019, Ms Pearl Mayor accompanied by a School Assistant and 2 parents visited the cottage with 13 children from her class of year 2/3 students. Using the murals in the Interpretive Centre and the map of Horrocks' expedition, Wendy Spackman told the children about John Horrocks arriving in South Australia, settling in Penwortham and then his explorations north; adding snippets about Harry the Camel, John's dog Gulnare and the Two up Tree, which had the students very interested and full of questions!!!

Outside, Wendy explained how the Two Horse Powered Gin worked, then into the cottage where they were intrigued by some of the artefacts and some children had a sit on the camel saddle. They really enjoyed looking around the cottage and understanding how simply life was lived in those early days. The students then set off on a 'seek and find', some inside and some outside the cottage. At recess time, chairs were set out under the trees with the children still full of questions and telling Wendy where they lived and whether their house was an old or new one. An enjoyable visit was had by all.



## Donations and Acquisitions

A list of the donations made by Chris Little, a Horrocks descendant:

- Framed portrait of John Ainsworth Horrocks
- 3 Framed prints regarding Jeremiah Horrocks (17<sup>th</sup> Century Astrologer)
- 1 Framed photograph of Agnes Cherry (married Charles Jeremiah Horrocks) 1882
- 1 small framed photograph of Clara Horrocks (nee Jupp) – mother of JAH
- Letter from Geraldine Little to Judith Horrocks re. Jeremiah Horrocks
- 2 A4 pages of information from the web regarding Jeremiah Horrocks
- Family Tree showing Little/Horrocks connection

Five Volumes of SA Death Registrations 1842-1915 donated by Geraldine Pearce.

### Committee Members

President	Wendy Spackman	Newsletter	Jim Morran & Meredith McInnis
Vice-President	Janet Morran	Minute Secretary	Jim Morran
Secretary	Mal Paterson	Publicity	Meredith McInnis
Treasurer	David Spackman	Public Officer	David Spackman

COMMITTEE Joey Duncan, Alan Williams

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Details of charges for research undertaken by the Society are available on request

Website: [www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety](http://www.communitywebs.org/MountHorrocksHistoricalSociety)



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