

## Hope in the 1850s

### 3. School Lane

School Lane is part of an old route way. From ancient times the road had crossed the Peakshole Water by ford and later bridge and followed the lane to the Market Place and so over to Aston and Derwent.

In 1851 there were several houses fronting onto the lane, the remains of some of which are visible in the church car park today. Thomas Deville owned one of the houses and had an annuity. Other occupants were Joseph Hallam, an agricultural labourer, Elizabeth Marsh, described as a pauper and charwoman and Elizabeth Siddall who farmed 11 acres. We think that at one time one of these buildings would have been the schoolmaster's house as the original founding of the school allows for a house and garden for the schoolmaster.

The school was built in 1658 when Thomas Bocking was vicar and would have contained within its walls the remains of Hope's Saxon Cross. It was a "Free" school, administered by the church and providing some free education in reading and writing. The teacher was Robert Eardley. The church wardens' accounts at various times show the following items.

*"Pd to John Slack and William Nowell for mossing and pointing ye Schoolhouse 12 daies – 16 shillings"*

*"Paid William Ibbotson for fire range, Oven and boiler to continue in the Schoolhouse - £2. 12s. 6d.*

*Paid Joseph Hill and Micah Holme for stone leading and walling school garden wall - £1. 9s.*

*Thomas Siddall for the use of his house while the school house was repaired - £1. 1s.*

Moss appears as a building material for the school in several instances. Was it used on the roof or to plug gaps in the walls I wonder?

By 1851 the schoolhouse was almost two hundred years old and would have been showing signs of dilapidation. It was replaced on the same site in 1858 by the present "Old School".

By Watergates Bridge, hidden by the encroaching ivy, is the remains of a sheep wash. The sheep would be gathered and perhaps held in the field by the bridge before being driven down the narrow passage way into the river and out via a similar route on the opposite side. This exit disappeared at the time the bridge level was raised. Stray sheep would have been put in the Pinfold nearby until their owners could be traced.

*Ann Price*

*Source: Notes from a Peakland Parish by William Smith Porter*