

Ramblers Gems



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For further information or to submit a contribution email: svrcramblers@gmail.com Web Site <http://www.springvaleramblers.co.uk/>

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Helmshore Textile Museum

Nestling side by side in the quiet village of Helmshore in the Rossendale Valley are two original Lancashire textile mills, together known as Helmshore Mills Textile Museum.

Higher Mill was constructed in 1789 and Whitaker's Mill in the 1820s by the Turner family, textile manufacturers from the Blackburn area. While Higher Mill has always been a wool fulling mill, Whitaker's Mill for the first century of its existence alternated between working wool and cotton; but by the late 1920s it was solely working recycled cotton. In 1967 Higher Mill closed and was taken over by the Higher Mills Trust who maintained it as a museum.

Although a considerable part of Whitaker's Mill was destroyed in a fire in 1857, it was rebuilt shortly afterwards and continued to be in operation until 1978. Higher Mill was run on behalf of the Trust, and the two mills were joined as one museum.



Helmshore Mills Textile Museum has been used as a backdrop for numerous filming projects – from documentary, factual, topical to drama productions. See where some of your TV favourites were filmed including:

The Adventures of Greyfriars Bobby
North and South
Celebrity Antiques Road Trip
Robson Green: How the North Was Built

The museum divides its collections into two themed areas, representing the wool story and the cotton story. The experience provides a hands-on interactive experience and you can observe textile history brought to life with the waterwheel, carding engines and spinning mules. It is easy to see how life would have been for the workers with the spectacular spinning floor with all the same machinery. It is possible to walk on the same creaking wooden floors and try to imagine the harsh and noisy working conditions that the Lancashire weavers would experience.

The museum is now only open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12pm until 4pm., but well worth a visit with the children during the Easter holidays.

Eleanor

Collective Birds Answers

Here are the answers to last weeks Collective Birds and can now be used in the Word Search, if you hadn't already worked them out

1. A crown of kingfishers.
2. An exultation of skylarks.
3. An asylum of cuckoos.
4. A curfew of curlews.
5. A booby of nuthatches.
6. A mischief of magpies.
7. A trembling of finches.
8. A kettle of swallows.
9. A scold of jays.
10. A chime of wrens.
11. A conspiracy of ravens.
12. A wake of buzzards.

Jean G

Walking Funny Ha Ha's

1. During a recent walk, my mother was so tired she said to my father, "Slow down you. Don't you Everest?"
2. I was walking along a footpath and ran into my friend named Nick. It was quite a see-Nick trail today.
3. My girlfriend and I were walking on a footpath and were lost. She was annoyed and threw the map at me, so now I know where I stand.
4. Our rambling group was determined to finish the walk around the lake, come hill or high water.
5. Walking along the river, a tree asked me, "Water you doing down here?" I replied, "I wood never leave a view like this behind".
6. Did you hear the story about the mountain? I couldn't get over it.
7. Why are mountains so funny? Because they are hill areas.
8. What is the catholic priest who loves walking called? A Roamin' Catholic.
9. Why did the boy throw the rock during the walk and not keep it as a souvenir? He was not sedimental.
10. Why did William work on making footpaths and trails? Because where there's Will, there's a way.

Glenda

The Kingfisher

by William Henry Davies 1910

It was the Rainbow gave thee birth,
And left thee all her lovely hues;
And, as her mother's name was Tears,
So runs it in my blood to choose
For haunts the lonely pools, and keep
In company with trees that weep.
Go you and, with such glorious hues,
Live with proud peacocks in green parks;
On lawns as smooth as shining glass,
Let every feather show its marks;
Get thee on boughs and clap thy wings
Before the windows of proud kings.
Nay, lovely Bird, thou art not vain;
Thou hast no proud, ambitious mind;
I also love a quiet place
That's green, away from all mankind;
A lonely pool, and let a tree
Sigh with her bosom over me.



Pesco Cerrno

Collective Nouns used for Trees

What would you call: -

1. a group of willows often in a damp or woody area?
2. a small groups of trees planted for the harvesting of wood?
3. an area of trees large enough to support species such as deer and wolves?
4. an area of fruit trees?
5. a copse often of thorny shrubs and trees that shelters game or foxes?
6. a line of trees of one or more rows on each side of a road?
7. a small group of trees of different species?
8. an area of woodland where the shrubs e.g. hazel are cut regularly for wood?
9. fresh tree leaves and small branches of shrubs cut regularly for cattle fodder?
10. a deep wooded valley?



11. a small group of trees also known as a 'dash' of trees?
12. a group of trees of one species e.g. oaks?
13. a wood at the top of a small rise or hill e.g. of beech trees?
14. an area of artificial woodland composed usually of conifers?



15. a dense growth of shrubs and briars?
16. the Olde English name for a wooded slope?
17. a clump of shrubs, brushwood, briars or fallen trees?
18. a small woodland of ½ an acre or less?
19. a dense group of trees or shrubs often connected with game rearing or shooting?



20. a small group of trees used by foresters to describe a particular group of trees under similar management?
21. a word used interchangeably with woodland to describe an area of land bigger than a copse but smaller than a forest?
22. a shrub or clump of shrubs with stems of moderate length?
23. a heavily wooded area of wild or uncultivated forest?
24. a mass of trees or shrubs; wood, grove, or thicket?



and finally, some tree species

1. a group of maples?
2. a group of aspens?
3. a group of birches?
4. a group of boxwoods?
5. a group of oaks?
6. a row of limes?

Jean G

Herman the German - the ghost of Gaping Gill

This is true..... I forgot to relate this story when we visited Gapping Gill this month after our trip into Ingleborough Cave.

In 1947, a short time after the end of World War 2, a body was found in the main chamber of Gaping Gill. Judging by what was left of the person's attire they were identified as a German paratrooper. It was believed that this paratrooper had bailed out over Ingleborough and has been living rough to avoid capture. How the body got into the main chamber was heavily discussed and the likely theory is that he had died out on the moors, possibly trying to shelter, and the body had been washed down during a flood.

During the 1950's a caving party were dismantling the winch at the end of the "winch meet" in the main chamber and the very last person to leave, saw a light coming down the East Slope, well away from where they had been working. Everyone in the descent record book was accounted for, so who/what was the light. So convinced was the caver that he had seen "something" on the East Slope, that he returned to the main chamber for a thorough search, but no one was there!! Neither did he see the light again.

Over the years, others have reported seeing a light descending on the East Slope, only for no one to be there.....



As the first sighting happened so soon after the discovery of the German Paratroopers body – "Herman the German" the ghost of Gaping Gill came into being. During the winch meets of the mid 1970's a very tall

caver, (over 6ft) took delight in welcoming visitors into the main chamber in a very long trench like coat and a German helmet!!

And if you think that a flood could not carry a body into the cave, here are photos; one of the winch in normal weather opposite, and one when the Caving Club got caught out by sudden, heavy floods below.



The Paranormal Database

This database has reported another incident of a ghostly appearance.

Location: Ingleborough - Gaping Gill

Type: Haunting Manifestation

Date / Time: Mid twentieth century

Further Comments: A potholer exploring the cave system saw a glowing light behind him - as he went to investigate, the light faded away, although using his own lamp was able to see the ghostly form of a monk that disappeared in front of him.

Jane

Images from The Adventure



These photographs were taken on SVRC's recent trip to Ingleborough Cave, one of the events undertaken this year to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Thanks to Jane and John C for organising the tour and to Isaac and Jasper for asking all the right questions.



Michael C