

Colne Clarion House/Farmers' Tavern

A time-line of the former Colne ILP Clarion House, at the Junction of Shelfield Lane and Back Lane.

NGR: SD8966 3734. The building is still marked on the OS 1:50,000 map as Clarion Ho.

This time-line is the combined work of Melvyn Hirst and John Boardman (November 2017).



A map published in 1892 showing the location of the Farmers' Tavern



A current map showing the location of the former Clarion House



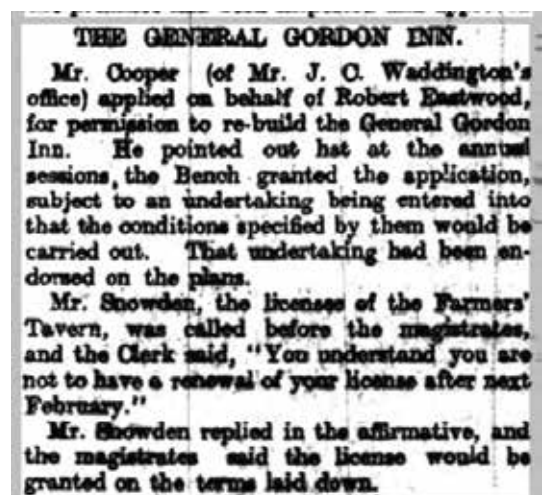
The Colne Clarion House/Farmers' Tavern - date of photograph unknown, but a television/radio aerial is discernible in the original photograph.



A recent photograph of the former Colne Clarion House

In 1841 the building contained three separate households the heads of each household were Cotton Weavers. Later on one section of the building was a grocers shop and one or more sections became a beer house, sometimes referred to as the Farmers' Arms or the Farmers' Tavern. It was owned at one time by Clough Springs Brewery, Barrowford.

An extract from the Burnley Gazette dated 9th March 1910



According to the census taken in 1911 the head of the household (and employer) at the Farmers' Tavern was Benjamin Snowden, who like Philip Snowden was born in Cowling, Yorkshire, in 1864.

An account of Todmorden Clarion Cycling Club, that appeared in the Todmorden and District News shows that by May 1911 the Colne ILP were running the "club house" at the former Farmers' Arms.

Cycling.
The Todmorden Clarion Club run on Saturday last was by way of Hebden Bridge and by Widdop reservoir, over the moors to Colne I.L.P. Club-house, which is about a mile from Trawden. After tarrying some little time they proceeded to Nelson for tea, and after a look round the town returned home, arriving about ten o'clock.—On Sunday the run was to Blackburn.

The Burnley Express reported on 17th July 1918, that a meeting organised by the Colne Branch of the ILP had taken place at the Clarion House, Nelson. We are uncertain which Clarion House this referred to as the Colne Clarion House was within, the then municipal boundary of the Nelson Borough.

COLNE SPEAKER AND POLITICAL TRUCE.
Mr. W. Locke, of Newcastle, the newly-appointed secretary and agent to the Nelson and Colne Parliamentary Borough Labour Party, and Miss Lord, of Great Harwood, temporary organiser to the party, were welcomed at a meeting held at the Clarion House, Nelson, on Sunday, under the auspices of the Colne Branch of the I.L.P.
Mr. T. Moore, secretary of the Colne Twisters' Association, who presided, said he was delighted that the Labour Party had broken the political truce. He wished they had never entered into it, for he thought by so doing they stemmed the progressive tide of the Labour movement. As a trades union official, he claimed that the people of Lancashire had been drawn upon for the war as the people of no other county had been.

On the 26th November 1919, The Burnley News reported the names of 2 candidates contesting the parliamentary election for the Nelson and Colne Division. Some people may take the view that one of the candidates was given greater prominence than the other!

Whilst this article does not relate to the Colne Clarion House, it has been included as a reference point.

NELSON & COLNE.
Mr. Amos Nelson and the Division.
COALITION INTERESTS.
Mr. Philip Snowden the I.L.P. Nominee.
Mr. Philip Snowden has definitely accepted the invitation of the Nelson and Colne I.L.P. to become their nominee in connection with the forthcoming vacancy in the Division.
It is stated that Mr. Amos Nelson, J.P., of Thornton-in-Craven, has agreed, on conditions, to contest the seat as a Coalition Unionist. Mr. Nelson, who is a native of Winewall, near Colne, is head of the firm of James Nelson, cotton manufacturers, valley mills, Nelson, and one of the largest employers of labour in the district. He was Mayor of the Borough from 1903 to 1906.
Mr. Nelson was formerly a prominent Liberal, but he seceded from the party on the question of Tariff Reform during the January election of 1910.

The Nelson Leader reported on the 24th June 1921, that the Cloverhill Co-operative Women's Guild had enjoyed a ramble to the Colne Clarion House.

CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD.—
The members of the Clover Hill Women's Guild had an enjoyable ramble to the Clarion House, Colne, on Tuesday afternoon.

The Colne Clarion House was acquired by Nelson and Colne Divisional Labour Party from Colne ILP and opened by Sidney Silverman M.P. According to a report in the Lancashire Evening Post published on 3rd May 1937.

The Clarion House of the Colne branch of the I.L.P., which was recently acquired by the Nelson and Colne Divisional Labour Party was formally opened yesterday by Mr. S. S. Silverman, M.P. Councillor Arthur Burrell presided.

Under the new management of Mrs F Metcalfe. An extract from the Nelson Leader dated 6th July 1951.

CLARION HOUSE
SHELFIELD,
IS NOW OPEN UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.
ALL ARE WELCOME.
LUNCHEONS, TEAS and REFRESHMENTS.
Prop.: Mrs. F. METCALFE.

A notice of an event organised by Nelson & Colne Holiday Fellowship at Colne Clarion on 17th May. The notice appeared in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times on the 16th May 1952.

COLNE AND NELSON H.F.
May 17th: Thursden Valley, Colne Clarion, 3 p.m. Leaders, E. Hopkins and D. Ratcliffe.
May 18th: Joint ramble with North East Lancs. R.A. Meet Padiham, 10 a.m., or Whalley, 1 p.m. Leader from Padiham, Ernest Brown.

An advertisement for Shelfield Cafe, which appeared in the Barnoldswick and Earby Times on 27th March 1953.

SHELFIELD CAFE
(Late Colne Clarion)
NOW OPEN
TEAS and LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
CYCLISTS and HIKERS catered for

The Colne "Clarion House" Cafe for sale. An advertisement placed in the Nelson Leader published on 8th May 1953.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE:
"Clarion House" Cafe, with sales of sweets, tobacco, etc. Good catering permits. First class class property in country position, comprising: Lounge, dining room, soft drink bar, etc., kitchen, 4 bedrooms, modern 3 piece bathroom, large garage. All utensils and equipment including "Raeburn Cooker." Inclusive price £1,200. Large mortgage available.

The building is now a private dwelling.

There are three buildings known locally as 'Clarion Houses':

- Burnley ILP Clarion House at Clough Croft in the Roggerham district of Briercliffe-with-Extwistle. We have found out recently (Nov 2017) that this was not known by the name "Clarion House" when managed under the auspices of Burnley ILP. However, the name has probably been adopted through association with the other two Clarion Houses.
- Colne ILP Clarion House at Shelfield in the Great Marsden District of Nelson.
- Nelson ILP Land Society Clarion House at Dimpenly Clough in Roughlee Booth (the last remaining ILP Clarion House).