

HEBDEN BRIDGE LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk

Autumn 2019

South Pennine History Group with Pennine
Horizons Ninth Day School

South Pennine Houses: their History and their People



SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2019

9.15 a.m. – 4.45p.m.

BIRCHCLIFFE CENTRE, HEBDEN BRIDGE HX7 8DG

COST: £20 INCL. LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS

Details Page 3

**Published by the Hebden Bridge
Local History Society
The Birchcliffe Centre
Birchcliffe Road
Hebden Bridge HX7 8DG**

President: Barbara Atack
Secretary: Murray Seccombe
secretary@hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk

The society has sections for those with a particular interest in local prehistory, family history and folklore.

Contacts

Prehistory	David Shepherd Email avid.shepher@gmail.com
Family	Barbara Atack phone 01422 842105
History	Email ataxjb@btinternet.com
Folklore	John Billingsley Email john-billingsley@mypostoffice.co.uk

Subscriptions due - see inside back cover

Cover photo: Higher Kinders, Saddleworth

© Martin Clarke from Geograph.org.uk

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. Here you'll find details of the lectures, section reports, exhibitions and events for 2019 - 2020 and the Literary & Scientific Society Lecture Series. The next newsletter will be in Spring 2020.

Contents

Society contact details	inside front cover
Contents and welcome	1
Archive and Library opening times	2
Family History meeting dates	2
Study Day – South Pennine Houses	3
Forthcoming Exhibition	4
Local History Annual General Meeting	5
AGM Reports	6
Lecture Programme	12
Prehistory Section	25
Folklore Section	26
Catching the sun on Midgley moor	29
Family History – exploring house history	32
Membership	inside back cover
The Hebden Lectures	back cover

Literary and Scientific Society

As a member of the History Society you are also a member of the Lit & Sci. Your membership allows you concessionary rates at their lectures – details on back cover.

For more information go to the website: <http://hblitandsci.org.uk>

Archive Opening Times 2019 - 2020

2019	Wednesday 2 - 5 pm	Saturday 10 am - 1 pm
September	11	28
October	9	26
November	13	23
December	11	Not open
2020		
January	8	25
February	12	22
March	11	28
April	8	25
May	13	23

Family History Meetings

	Saturday	Thursday
September	7	19
October	5	17
November	2	21
December	7	--
January	4	16
February	1	21
March	7	19
April	4	16

at the Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8DG

South Pennine Houses: their History and their People

Find out about the history of local houses and the people who lived in them. The morning will focus on some of the documentary resources you can use. In the afternoon two case studies will examine how the buildings themselves have a story to tell which can be combined with documents to provide an overall picture.

PROGRAMME

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 9.15 | Registration and refreshments |
| 10.00 | Introduction - Barbara Attack |
| 10.10 | West Yorkshire Registry of Deeds - West Yorkshire Archive Service |
| 10.45 | Censuses and house history - Anne Mealia |
| 11.20 | Coffee |
| 11.50 | Land valuation survey 1910-1915 - Mary Twentyman and Barbara Reardon |
| 12.25 | Probate records - Hazel Seidel |
| 13.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 | Case study: Old Town Hall - David Cant |
| 15.00 | Tea |
| 15.30 | Case study: Higher Kinders - Mike Buckley |
| 16.30 | Closing remarks |

Booking in advance only, by cheque for £20, payable to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Rachel Smith, Bramble Dene, Moss Lane, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 7DS

A proper relation between labour and capital

Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing Co-operative will be the topic for the next exhibition in Spring 2020.

This was a productive co-operative, unlike the retail co-operative set up in Rochdale. It faced potentially bigger problems, but with comparable aims. It would be *'a light which would shine and have its influence on men who were now down in the gutter.'* (Joseph Greenwood, founder and manager: 1891). Links with Oxford University, the contribution to the origins of the Workers' Educational Association and the first branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild are further triumphs in this story.

And it was a success financially. It sought a proper relation between capital and labour, providing a share of the profits to labour while maintaining a healthy profit for investors. The Society raised money from workers and investors and showed a profit at every 6-month period throughout its existence. In the face of opposition by investors, it continued to pay a bonus to labour – a share of the profits to workers.

In 1918 it was bought by the CWS at handsome profit to shareholders of £2.15s.7d per £1 share. CWS continued production until late 60s, almost 100 years after the beginning of the Fustian Society

It won renown throughout the co-operative movement – at home and abroad - and a story which reflects credit on the town.



Local History AGM 23rd October 2019

Items for the agenda

Any items/proposals for discussion at the AGM and any nominations for officers or committee members should reach the secretary by 2nd October 2019. Contact details are:

Hon Secretary, Hebden Bridge Local History Society,
Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8DG

Email: secretary@hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk

Nominations for the Committee

If you wish to nominate someone for the committee and they are willing to stand, then please complete and send the following information:

I wish to nominate _____

For the position of:

President/Secretary/Treasurer/Librarian/committee member in the Hebden Bridge Local History Society or the Hebden Bridge Literary and Scientific Society (delete as required)

Proposer _____

Membership number _____

Seconder _____

Membership number _____

You can copy this page if you prefer

AGM Reports October 2019

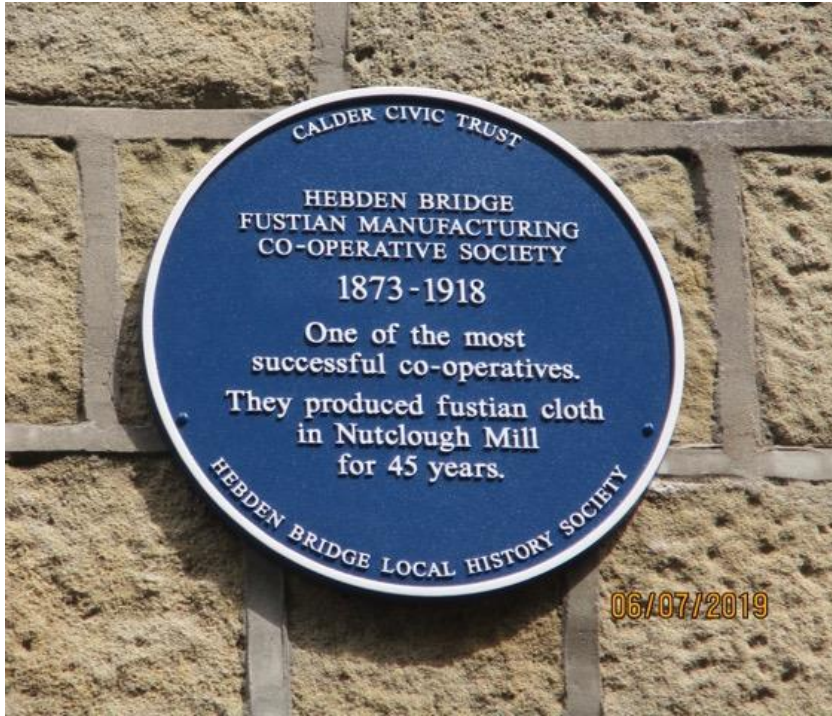
Again this year, we are publishing the committee's report for the AGM in the Autumn Newsletter so that you can peruse it before the AGM. Please let us know by 2nd October 2019 if you wish to raise any matters at the meeting. I take this opportunity to thank all the committee for their hard work over the year. This year we have welcomed Lesley Jackson as our minutes' secretary. John Billingsley has decided to stand down from the committee but will still head our Folklore section. We thank him for his many years of support.

We would welcome someone with experience of modern technology to aid our team who set up for events, especially those at the Methodist Church. If you feel you could offer this help, please get in touch with the secretary secretary@hebdenbridgehistory.org.

Looking back at the Society's Spring Newsletter, it is evident that the History Society is flourishing. We have had a season of varied and interesting talks and, thanks to Sheila Graham, each has a detailed report which gives us all an insight into the interests and research of local historians. I was particularly pleased this year that more than half the talks were from members of the society. Also our audience numbers have increased, as has our membership. We thank our members and many visitors for your support and encouragement over the last year.

On July 6th, Cooperative Day, we recognised the importance of the Hebden Bridge Fustian Manufacturing Co-operative, which was based at Nutclough Mill between 1873 and 1918. One of the founder members of this co-operative, and manager for many years, was Joseph Greenwood. Together with the Civic Trust

and a great-grandson of Joseph, we have contributed to two Blue Plaques which have been erected on the mill and Nutclough Cottage, where Joseph lived for many years.



Our first Discovery Day, held in September, looked at *Food and Farming in the Upper Calder Valley* and was well attended. The highlight was a dialogue between a group of local farmers and the audience, many of whom were smallholders within the Calderdale Food Group. Other participants had an interest in older buildings. It is with this in mind that this year we are holding a Study Day in October in conjunction with the South Pennine History Group and Pennine Horizons at Birchcliffe, the title of which is *South Pennine Houses: their history and their people*.

We have had two exhibitions at the Town Hall this year. The first was in November 2018 to commemorate the end of the First World War. The second in March 2019 was in conjunction with the Friends of Hebden Station and showed the history of train travel through the valley. We thank Mike Crawford and his helpers for all their hard work in staging these exhibitions, which are becoming a popular event in Hebden Bridge.

We congratulate the Heptonstall History Group on their successful events commemorating the Battle of Heptonstall. They have now established a History Group and are looking at various historical projects within the village.

We work very closely with the charity Pennine Heritage and their digital archive, Pennine Horizons. They have recently secured Lottery Heritage funding as a resilience fund to explore a capital bid for extensive renovations of the Birchcliffe Centre and to secure the future for this Heritage Charity. We wish them success.

Archive

Donations to the collection

As usual the Society has received several donations of items for the Archive during the year and the Society is deeply grateful to all the donors. These include the following:

- A notable acquisition this year was the donation by Richard Redman of a large collection of documents from the English Fustian Manufacturing Co and its associated companies. This is the largest collection ever acquired by the archive and has created over 300 records in the catalogue. Work on processing all these items is hoped to be completed by the end of the year.

- The records of Hepton Singers have been donated to us by the group and include programmes, rehearsal notes and concert recordings.

Collection maintenance

- Work has continued on transferring the catalogue to an Endnote bibliographic database which now holds nearly 6000 records. 24 sections of the catalogue have now been transferred, with 10 left to do.
- Both I and the Society are very grateful to all those who regularly help with the cataloguing and recataloguing, in particular Anne Mealia, John Crampton, Sarah Keates and Hilary Fellows.

Volunteer Librarians

The Society would like to thank David Cant, Sarah Keates and Diana Monahan for their time and effort in manning the library on opening days.

Publications

Three of our publications are now out of print: *Century of Change*; *City in the Hills*; and *Enclosing the Moors*. The Society has published *The Clothing Industry of Hebden Bridge* this year, comprising three unpublished works held in the public library and our own archives, the sales of which have covered the costs. Two books are currently being prepared for publication: *The railway in the Upper Calder Valley: Hebden Bridge and the railway in the nineteenth century* by David N. Taylor; and *Heptonstall and Wadsworth Probate Records 1688-1700* edited by Mike Crawford and Stella Richardson.

Family History Group

There have been many positive comments about our research and articles that we now post in the newsletters. The group would like to hear from local people who have interesting stories we might tell.

Visitors: We have had many enquiries from family historians to follow up this year, together with visits from people researching their local ancestors, several of whom have travelled from abroad.

Folklore Section

Probably the most gratifying aspect of 2019 for the Folklore Section has been to see how the Society's support for the Midgley Pace-Egg team has helped to pull it back from what was, three years ago, an evident decline in this long-standing and popular custom (See the rest of the report on pages 26 - 28).

Probate Group

A small group is now in its ninth year of transcribing the probate documents for the Upper Calder Valley. The transcription and indexing of all the Stansfield documents for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries has been completed and work is now focused on the eighteenth century. The group has also transcribed the documents for the townships of Heptonstall, Wadsworth, Midgley and Warley for the period 1688 to 1700, and work is now proceeding on preparing them for publication.

Latin Group

This group has met for 8 weeks this year to learn more about historical documents written in Latin and how to transcribe and translate them. Local documents are used as examples.

South Pennine History Group

The Society is a member of the South Pennine History Group, together with Saddleworth and Marsden History Groups. The group continues to meet a couple of times a year in order to exchange news and discuss matters of common interest. The group is in the process of establishing a fund to encourage research and other activities in the history of the South Pennines. This is derived from the profits of *History in the South Pennines*.

Social Media

Our Facebook page continues to go from strength the strength. The number of followers has increased from 337 on 1 August 2018 to 583, an annual increase of around 74%. Followers come mostly from the local area, but we have a few followers from further afield including Botswana (1), Australia (11), Canada (4) and Germany (3). Followers are 64% female and 33% male and most are aged 45 to 54 (28%). Events, mostly our talks programme, have received 481 responses such as people saying they are going to attend and overall our events have appeared in the newsfeeds of 13,000 people.

Lecture Programme 2019 – 2020

Venue: The Methodist Church, Market Street,
Hebden Bridge, HX7 6EU at 7.30pm

25 September 2019

MAPPING ELMET:

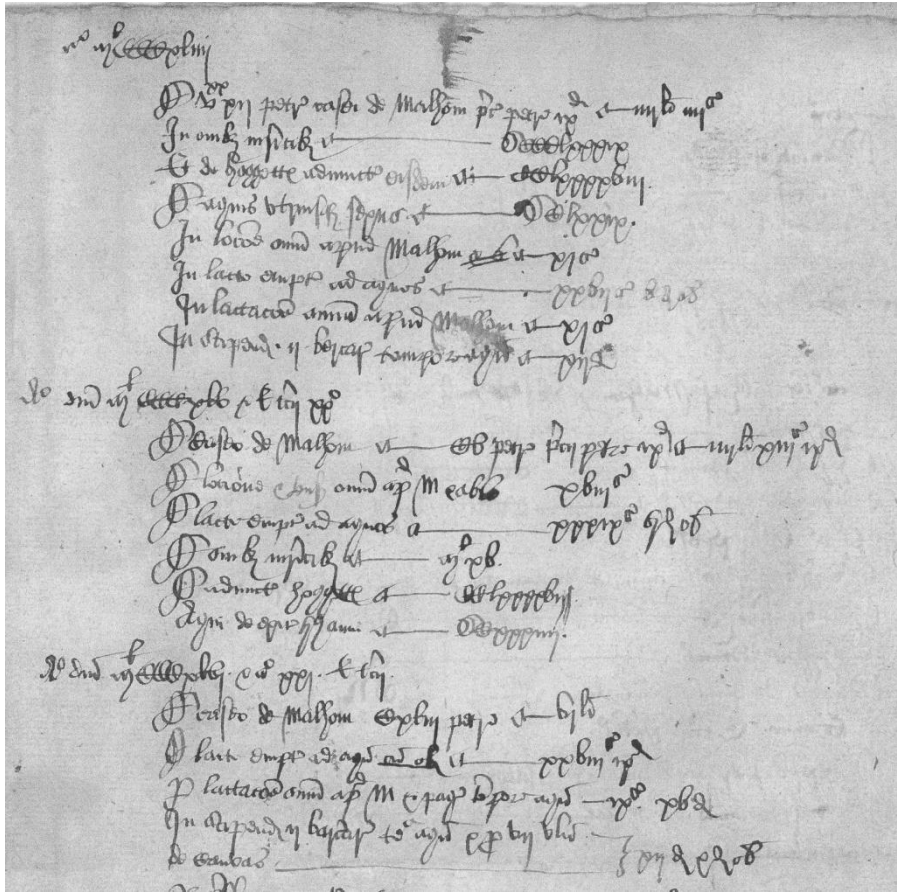
Ruth Crossley

Ted Hughes's childhood and family roots
in the Upper Calder Valley



Ruth will talk about the work of the Elmet Trust and will draw from letters exchanged between Donald Crossley and Gerald Hughes and held at the University of Huddersfield. Hughes's poems are often closely related to specific places, and associated with autobiographical incidents and childhood memories, as well as his love of nature.

Ruth Crossley is currently the Head of Geography at Stonyhurst College, Lancashire. She is also a Director of the Elmet Trust, a Mytholmroyd-based charity organisation founded by her father, Donald Crossley, aimed at promoting the life and work of Ted Hughes in the Upper Calder Valley and beyond. She helps to organise and run the bi-annual Ted Hughes Festival and poetry competition. She is in the third year of her part-time PhD, Mapping Elmet, at the University of Huddersfield.



A chance discovery in the Lancashire Records Office has brought to light previously unknown information about Malham at around the time of the Black Death.

Mike Spence's historical interests centre on medieval record keeping of all kinds, usually relating to the north of England.

23 October 2019

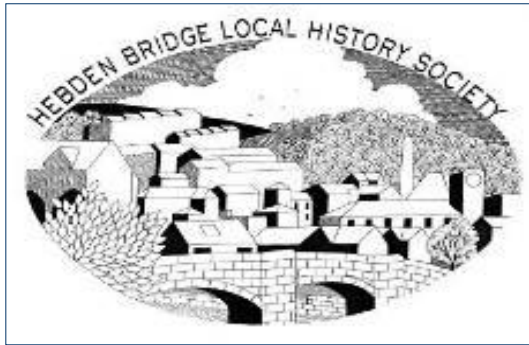
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY AGM

See notice and report on pages 5 - 11

followed by

**70 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG
A celebration**

**President
and members**



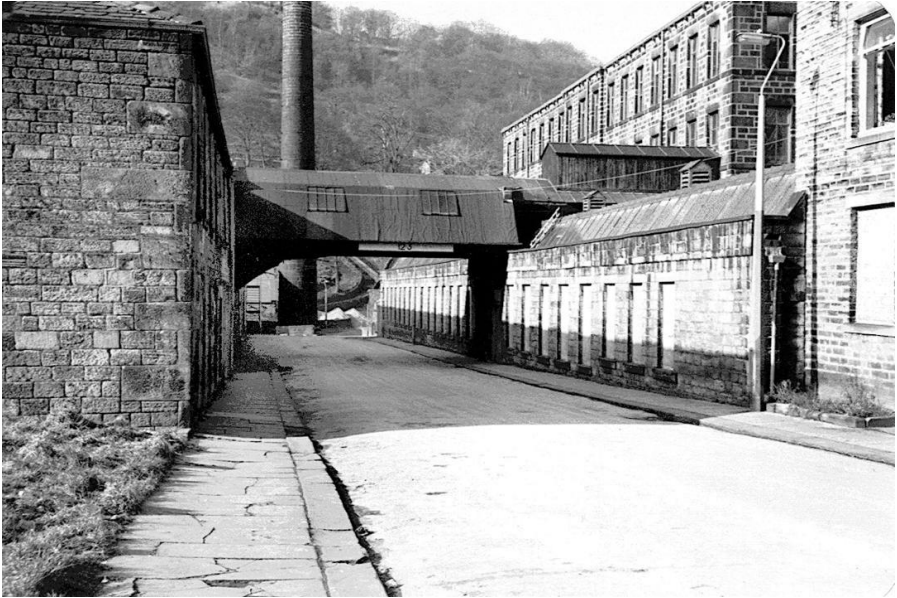
The Upper Calder Valley has a great history of groups whose aims were 'to carry out the further education of the inhabitants and so to stimulate the public interest in educational facilities.' So wrote Colin Spencer, local headmaster and one-time president of the Society. This aim is still evident today in our society as it has been throughout the last 70 years of its existence.

Barbara Atack (President) together with Frank Woolrych (Past President), and with contributions from other members of the society, will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Local History Society. They will look at our many achievements and activities during these years and the variety of people who have contributed to the continuing success of the society.

13 November 2019

MEMORIES OF FOSTER MILL

Allan Stuttard



This will be an evening looking at life at Foster Mill in the fifties, sixties and seventies. Allan is hoping that as well as recounting his own memories of the time, others who worked in the clothing industry in Hebden Bridge will join in the conversation and share their memories too.

Allan began work at Foster Mill in 1950 and worked as a cutter, pattern-maker and designer until his retirement. He furthered his education both at night school in Hebden Bridge and at Leeds College of Technology. He is very active locally and has made an impact as an entertaining and interesting speaker.

27 November 2019

THE SAVING OF HARDCASTLE CRAGS

Grant Lowe



Photo: Grant Lowe

An examination of what the Craggs have meant to past generations and the lengths people from far and wide have gone to save them for us all.

Grant is the Visitor Operations Manager for the National Trust at Hardcastle Craggs. He has worked alongside community groups to improve knowledge and understanding of the environment.

11 December 2019

HOUSE HISTORIES
How to begin

Barbara Atack
Hilary Fellows
and Robert Stevens

The talk will start with an examination of the resources available for researching the history of a house. Then two people who have explored the histories of their houses will tell the fascinating stories of two very different properties and shed light on life in Hebden Bridge over the time these buildings have existed. The speakers are all members of the Hebden Bridge Local History Society who have a passion for historical buildings and experience of researching the history of different properties.



8 January 2020

A VICTORIAN ARTIST PAINTS HEBDEN BRIDGE

**Discovering the landscape
paintings of John Holland**

**Diana Monahan
and Justine Wyatt**

In 1869, at the White Horse in Hebden Bridge, there was an exhibition and sale of sixty-one paintings of the area by established landscape artist John Holland. This talk will focus especially on 'View of Hebden Bridge from Fairfield' which captures Hebden Bridge at a time of considerable change.



Both Diana and Justine are long-standing and active members of HBLHS. Their interests include walking the local landscape, and this has fed their historical researches. Diana began by researching the area around her own house, but has expertise in many areas; Justine has published her research into local water-powered industry and Fustianopolis.

22 January 2020

GLEE UNIONS
Singing and Socialism
in 19th and 20th century Yorkshire

Dr David Baker

The formation and spread of glee clubs in the north of England, especially Halifax and district in the late Victorian and Edwardian period, provided arenas where people could socialise and democratise.



David has had an illustrious career as a musician and academic. He founded the Halifax Organ Academy and now focuses on teaching the organ.

12 February 2020

The Alan Petford Annual Memorial Lecture

CAUSES AND CAWSEYS

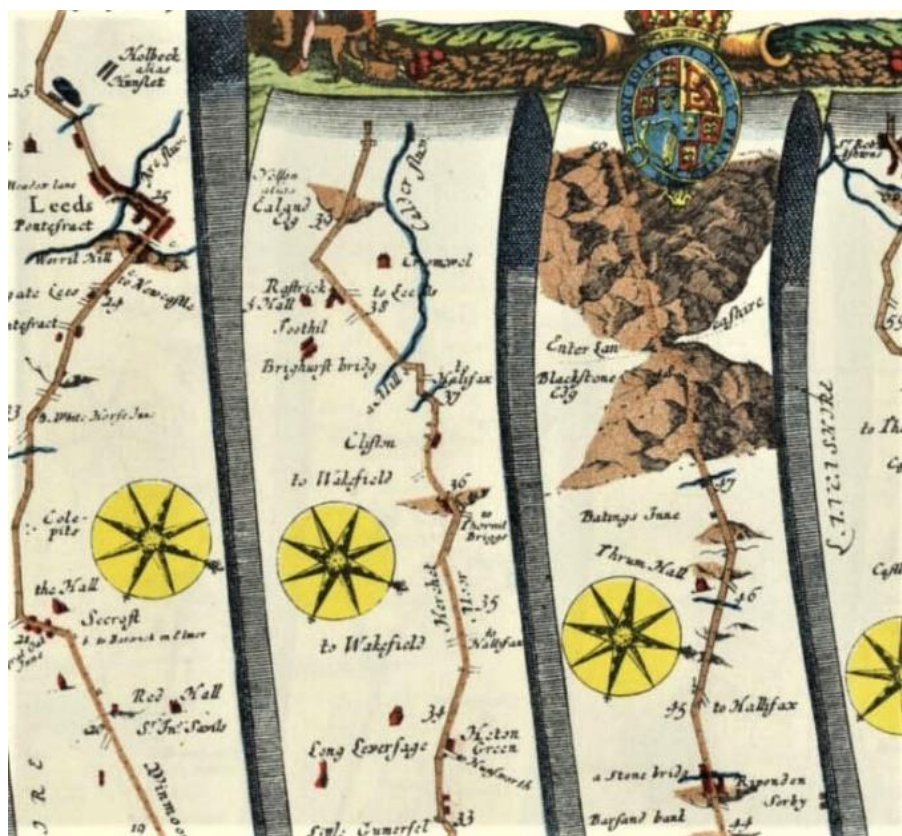
Murray Seccombe

Making and repairing highways

through the Wakefield manor court, 1550 – 1700

It can be difficult to find out much about local roads and how they were looked after before parish and turnpike trust records in the 1700s. The Wakefield court leet records provide an exceptional – possibly unique – record of complaints, repairs and local office holding in the townships of Halifax parish in the turbulent years of Elizabethan and Stuart England. This lecture will discuss the place of highway policy and practice in the transition from manorial regulation to governance through the parish and county.

Murray is Secretary of Hebden Bridge Local History Society, in the throes of doing his PhD at Lancaster University, researching road administration in the South Pennines, c. 1550-1800, with a special emphasis on aspects of social development and local governance. His background was in the not-for-profit transport sector, and he has lived and walked in Hebden Bridge area for 35 years.



26 February 2020

SKIPTON'S FIRST WORLD WAR POW CAMP

Anne Buckley



Anne will share the fascinating stories she discovered in translating a book written by sixty German officers after their release from the POW camp in Skipton. The men included naval captains, U-boat officers and airmen as well as foot soldiers. The project has attempted to include the story of the camp in the history of Skipton, including archaeology in residents' gardens.

Anne Buckley is a Lecturer in German & Translation Studies at the University of Leeds. She has been working with the Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Craven and the First World War', based at Craven Museum in Skipton, where she lives, close to the site of the First World War training and POW camp.

11 March 2020

CELEBRATING OUR WOODLAND HERITAGE

Chris Atkinson

Woodlands in the South Pennines have until now received only minimal attention concerning their development and use through human history. Since 2017 communities across the South Pennines have been working to change this. Led by Pennine Prospects as part of the National Lottery Heritage Funded project and supported by the University of Bradford, volunteers have undertaken 38 archaeological woodland surveys and 5 excavations, all of which have aimed to improve our understanding of the role of woodlands in human history.



Chris Atkinson is an archaeologist with many years' experience in community archaeology and landscape surveys. As Heritage and Landscape Development Manager at Pennine Prospects, he has played a leading role in the 'Celebrating our woodland heritage' project. He is also Honorary Visiting Lecturer in the School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences at the University of Bradford.

25 March 2020

COMMON PROBLEMS

Professor Angus Winchester

**The history of common land
in Northern England 1851 – 1901**



Northern England contains the largest expanses of common land in the country, but this is only a fragment of the extent of the communally used land which existed before the wave of moorland enclosures in the 18th and 19th centuries. Commons were an integral part of the rural economy, providing not only essential grazing for livestock but also fuel for the hearth, building materials and

other resources. This lecture explores how past societies tried to achieve sustainable management of these shared resources on which they depended for their livelihood.

Angus Winchester is Emeritus Professor of History at Lancaster University. He has longstanding research interests in the history of upland landscapes and of common land in particular. His publications include *The Harvest of the Hills: rural life in northern England and the Scottish Borders, 1400-1700* (Edinburgh University Press, 2000). He is currently working on a book on the history of common land in Britain.

Prehistory Section

We attended a talk by Ron Cowell, Curator of Prehistory at Liverpool Museum, where he described his ongoing excavation at Lunt Meadows, Sefton. This concerns a well-preserved Late Mesolithic settlement and its relevance to Calderdale is that the Lancashire Plain is much closer to the South Pennines than the well-documented sites in East Yorkshire. Thus it may be that 'our' Late Mesolithic activity relates much more to the west than the east. And, of course, is very relevant to our continuing involvement with explorations in the West Pennines. Ron was also very positive about our probable Mesolithic tent-rings at Lower Gorple reservoir. There is a remarkably sophisticated, and free, Lunt Meadows app that enables a virtual walk-through of the site as it probably was. Available from Liverpool Museum's site.

The Prehistoric Society's Europa Conference was held in Jersey this year. A timely location given the degree of interest in the (very) nuanced arrival of the Neolithic in the British Isles, impelled by continuing data from research in ancient DNA (aDNA). I've referred to this previously and detail just keeps coming! Many of the papers were based on the flow of findings from the Francis Crick Institute in London and you really need to google for more. Essentially the movements of people suggested by aDNA findings are being reflected in changes in ceramic styles, flint utilisation and monument construction. Delegates also had a day touring all the main Neolithic sites on Jersey, which parallel similar features from the Southwest, Ireland, Orkney and northern France. A useful conversation was had with Andy Jones, Senior Archaeologist for Cornwall, regarding the similarities of propped stones there and in the South Pennines.

The Lower Gorples tent-rings were described to Caroline Wickham-Jones, University of Aberdeen and Scottish Mesolithic specialist. She found the images convincing but, again, we need to find more examples...

When the midwinter sunrise is viewed from Robin Hood's Penny Stone (Midgley Moor) the 'new' sun appears to rise from the vulvaic Miller's Grave. This has been written up previously. Recently John Billingsley and Akiko Kuroda made an observation in the opposite direction - from Miller's Grave - of the midsummer sunset; the sun descends along the side of the Penny Stone. This confirms the sophistication of this, probably Neolithic, composite feature. See pages 29 – 31; an account will appear in the *Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarians*.

At the time of writing, a beehive quern (a two-part grinding stone to produce flour from a variety of grains) has been found near Todmorden. Iron Age - c200BC to 400AD - in date, and unfortunately not in its original location, this awaits further examination.

Dave Shepherd

Folklore Section



Probably the most gratifying aspect of 2019 for the Folklore Section has been to see how the Society's support for the Midgley Pace-Egg team has helped to pull it back from what was, three years ago, an evident decline in

this long-standing and popular custom. The Society this year supplied a new set of swords, and also arranged for new kit and props, and insurance cover; chief mover for the support group was our President, Barbara Atack, but Tony Fisher and John Billingsley were also on hand to help, along with that veteran of the Midgley Pace-Egg, Rodney Collinge. Without the enthusiasm of the players themselves, however, we would not have seen something of a rebirth of the tradition, along with an innovation – this year, a female player joined the team for, as far as we know, the first time in the Midgley version (Betsy Collinge featured in the Blackshaw Head version after the 1914-18 war). The performances on Good Friday were lively, and reverted more closely to older scripts, which pleased the more traditional folklorists in the audience! Moreover, the performances were warmly received by the various audiences, and we look forward to even more public interest next year.

The Pace-Egg support group welcomes donations towards costs of renovating the Pace-Eggers' kit, some of which is in need of

'tlc'; and we also invite other offers of help in preparation or on the day. Please contact the Folklore Section of the Society. If you are on Facebook, check out the 'Support the Midgley Pace-Egg' group – lots of excellent photos and comments past and present!

The Folklore Section is also working closely with the newly inaugurated Todmorden Centre for Folklore, Myth and Magic (they too have a Facebook page, and Twitter account as well), who hope to set up a permanent home in a suitable venue at some point. In the meantime, they aim to put on events, the first of which will be a day-school at the Fielden Centre, Todmorden on 19th October. Entitled *Witch: History – Legacy*, presenters include Brian Hoggard on witch bottles, John Billingsley on local witch cases and protective signs on local architecture, Mark Norman on *Traditional Witchcraft Now and Then*, and Julia Phillips on *Cunning Folk and Faeries*. Tickets £35, available from Todmorden Information Centre, and include lunch (Please give any dietary requirements at time of booking).

Further ahead, John Billingsley, convenor of the Folklore Section, will be organising another day event at the same venue; this will address 'Deep Topography', investigating folklore and interpretations of local landscapes. Provisional dates for this are in February/March, possibly 20th February; keep your ears peeled at our meetings and elsewhere for further details as they become available.

Finally, for fans of folklore staples like witch bottles, evil eye charms and other magical protections for buildings, the *Transactions of the second Hidden Charms conference*, edited by John Billingsley and colleagues, is now available from Northern Earth Books; contact John or the publishers' website for a copy.

Catching the Sun on Midgley Moor

The Miller's Grave and Robin Hood's Pennystone,
Midgley Moor, West Yorkshire (SE0188 28402)

These two sites comprise a paired feature, which David has shown to have a winter solstitial association, when the sun, viewed from the Pennystone, appears to rise above the vulvaic Miller's Grave (the names are post-medieval and are retained for convenience). Recently John Billingsley and Akiko Kuroda made an observation in the opposite direction, at the summer solstice sunset, and found that from the Miller's Grave the sun sets behind the Pennystone. This finding is a significant addition to our knowledge of local prehistory, and has not been documented previously.



The images show the sun setting behind, and then 'rolling down' the side of, Robin Hood's Pennystone, as observed by John and Akiko from the southernmost (far) side of the mound's bank, looking directly across the centre. On a level landscape at our latitude, midwinter sunrise and midsummer sunset are at 180° to each other, but the ground between the Penny Stone and Miller's Grave is not level; the gentle slope SE includes a notched far horizon beyond the Miller's Grave, whereas, in the opposite direction, the Pennystone is skylined at around 200m distance.

The two stone 'labia' at the centre of the Miller's Grave are not oriented to any obvious solar or lunar horizon event and it may

be that this is a natural outcrop that was utilised because of its suggestive appearance. It is possible to infer a sequence in which this feature may have been constructed, which would be predicated on prior knowledge of the solar cycle, a prior belief in its importance and an appreciation of the necessity to memorialise it. Further, recognition of the central feature of Miller's Grave as vulvaic must have related to apprehension of this feature as a symbolic indicator standing for a pre-existing myth or sense-making of the behaviour of the sun. Although not observed because of the spectators' position looking into the sun, and thus needing later confirmation, it is likely that the sunset throws the shadow of the Pennystone upon this internal feature of the mound, raising certain symbolic implications.

Subsequent to that recognition must have been the location of the Pennystone. Clearly, any marker stone would have sufficed for a one-way sighting; to elaborate this to work both ways at the solstices is more complex. The Pennystone and Miller's Grave are within shouting distance and placing a stake to secure the position of such a stone would have been straightforward. It would follow that the original designer would have stood in a similar location to direct the placing of a sequence of poles tracking the downward trajectory of the sun. Once the path toward the skyline was established, a stone reflecting the same line would be required.

There is no clear indication of shaping on the Penny Stone – which weighs at least 6 tonnes – so perhaps the required line was recorded and a stone sought that could reflect the angle of descent. The Penny Stone is of Huddersfield White Rock, which outcrops some 250m away to the SE. The outcrop is naturally degraded and there are several loose blocks and slabs.

Without excavation it is difficult to be more precise about the process of construction of this unique feature. There is no dating evidence, but megalithic manipulation of this order is usually associated with the arrival of a Neolithic group. Work across Europe on ancient DNA is proceeding apace, and the current view identifies two main strands of arrivals over (say) 200 years, coasting up the Irish Sea and the North Sea then following major rivers inland. There is little other evidence of an established Neolithic presence in upper Calderdale, and it may be that this particular group proved unsustainable in the longer term.

For further background:

Shepherd D. 2007, 'Prehistory in the Midgley area', in *Pennine Perspectives*, I Bailey, D Cant, A Petford, N Smith (eds), Midgley Books, Chapter 2 pp15-30

Shepherd D. 2014. 'A View from the Miller's Grave', in *Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarian Society*, Hargreaves J (ed), Vol 22 New Series, pp16-26.

Billingsley, John. *Hood, Head & Hag* (Northern Earth 2011, p27-28) and *Folk Tales from Calderdale* (Northern Earth 2007, p50-54) discuss the respective folkloric background for these sites.

Northern Earth 158 (Sept. 2019), pp.9-10

David Shepherd and John Billingsley

Family History Group

Family History Meetings

We meet regularly twice a month and have many visitors, some local and some from far away, who are asking for guidance in tracing their family history. We usually meet on the first Saturday and the third Thursday of each month at the Birchcliffe Centre between 2pm and 5 pm. See page 2.

Exploring house history

Are you curious about who lived in your house in the past?

Any house, however grand or humble, has seen many people pass through its doors but who were these people and what did they do? This article explores the resources available to help you discover more about the history of your home and uses Royd House, built around 1826, as an example of what you can find out about previous residents of a property. The picture shows Royd House on the left in 1845.



The first place to look is census records. Although censuses are taken only every ten years, they contain a wealth of information about people: their relationship to the head of household, age, marital status, birthplace and occupation and in 1911 how long a couple had been married and how many children they had.

In 1851 Sarah Mitchell a 53 year old landed proprietor is living at Royd House with her three daughters Mary, Sarah and Susannah aged 20, 18, and 16, a governess and two servants. By 1861 Sarah Mitchell junior, aged 28, is the head of household and her sisters both aged 26 are living with her: Susannah who was living there in 1851 and Hannah who was not there 10 years previously. All three are described as gentlewomen and landed proprietors. A cook and a general servant complete the household.

In 1871 the Mitchells have left Royd House and John Shackleton a 54 year old fustian manufacturer and widower is living there with his unmarried son Thomas who is aged 31 and also a fustian manufacturer. They too have live-in servants. Ten years later it looks as though John Shackleton has died as Thomas is now head of household at Royd House and is described as an annuitant, as is his wife Emma Jane and their visitor Elizabeth Jane Bowker. They have a nurse and a cook living with them.

By 1891 the house has changed hands again and Elizabeth Cheetham, a 55 year old widow is living there with her sons John and James Cheetham who are fustian merchants and wholesale clothiers. Elizabeth's daughter Florence, aged 26, and her niece Sarah White aged 16 are also living there, as is one servant.

In 1901 new occupiers are at Royd House: Edward Jones Crossley, a 39 year old cotton manufacturer is living there with

his wife Ada and their daughter Phyllis along with a cook, a maid and a waiting maid. Edward Jones Crossley is still at Royd House in 1911 with his wife Ada Marianne and their daughter Muriel aged 24 and a cook, housemaid and waiting maid.

Edward and Ada have been married 24 years and have had 3 children one of whom has died. The census return shows that Royd House has 10 rooms.

To fill in the gaps between censuses, electoral registers are very useful. Although they only give a name and address, they do tell you how long someone has lived at a particular property. Not everyone will be listed as the eligibility for voting varied over time. They show us that Edward Jones Crossley was first listed at Royd House in 1898 and remained there until at least 1915 but was no longer living there after the war ended.

Directories can be useful: they provide a name and address and sometimes an occupation.



*Extract of page
from Robinsons
Directory of 1905
showing Royd
House on Halifax
Road.*

The Kelly's Directory of the West Riding 1893 shows us that Edward Jones Crossley was living at Crossley Terrace in Hebden Bridge in 1893, before he moved to Royd House. Directories also give a description of the locality and set some context for the house being researched.

The person living in a house may not necessarily have owned the house and many more people rented then than now. The West Riding Tax Valuation of 1910 shows that Edward Jones Crossley did not own the property but instead rented it from John A. Ingham, Solicitors of Todmorden. The gross annual value of the property was £65 (just over £5,000 in today's money) and the rateable value was £55 10s.

Newspapers are invaluable for delving deeper into the lives of previous inhabitants. A search on the name of the house in the British Newspaper Archive turns up two very different stories. *The Todmorden and District News* of 13 September 1889 tells us that, on 10 September, John Cheetham, aged 53, of Royd House, Hebden Bridge, died. He must have been Elizabeth Cheetham's husband as she is a widow in 1891. There is a report of a happier event the previous year when Miss Mary Sophia Cross of Royd House married Mr Joseph Croad of Hangingroyd Lane at Slack Chapel on 5 December 1888. It is likely that Mary Sophia was a servant.

To go into more detail about the families who lived at your home, it's possible to use parish registers and other records to construct family trees much as you would with the history of a family.

This short summary shows how much information can be discovered using some standard resources which are available on Ancestry and FindMyPast and can be accessed at libraries. It

leaves some intriguing questions for further research: how did the house come to be owned by John A. Ingham, Solicitors? Why was Thomas Shackleton an annuitant rather than a fustian manufacturer in 1881? Where is Phyllis, daughter of Edward and Ada Crossley, in 1911?

There are many more resources available to make exciting discoveries about your home. If you'd like to learn more about how to research the history of your house, the South Pennines History Group is running a study day on 12 October, which will look in more detail at the sources you can use to discover who lived in your house, who owned it and how it developed over time. For more information and how to book, see page 3.

Sources

- Ancestry, UK censuses
- Ancestry, West Yorkshire, England, Electoral Registers, 1840-1962
- Ancestry, West Yorkshire, England, Tax Valuation, 1910
- FindMyPast, British Newspaper Archive

Anne Mealia

Membership

The subscription for 2019/20 remains at £12 and is due at the beginning of September.

You can now pay your subscription:

- By bank transfer or standing order
- By cheque
- In cash

The enclosed renewal sheet gives full details of how to renew or join the society.

Membership cards for the 2019/20 season will be issued at meetings if possible, to save postage.

Alternatively you can renew membership at a meeting.

The Hebden Bridge Lectures

Friday, November 8th, 2019

Sir David Spiegelhalter

Emeritus Professor for the Public Understanding of Risk at
Cambridge University.

Can we trust the numbers the media give us?

Saturday, January 18th, 2020

Christopher de Bellaigue

Writer and Journalist, specialist on Iran and the Middle East.

***The struggle between faith and reason in
modern Islam***

Saturday, February 22nd, 2020

Malcolm Chase

Professor of Social History, University of Leeds.

***Peterloo and its Aftermath
a Yorkshire Perspective***

Details available end of August 2019
Hebden Bridge Literary and Scientific Society