

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

Spring 2014



**Published by the Hebden Bridge
Local History Society
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The society has sections for those with a particular interest in local prehistory, family history and folklore.

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Cover: Ready for Le Tour? From right Edward Jones Crossley, Arthur Riley Crossley (his brother) and Hamlet Riley (probably their cousin). Photo from Mary Duly, grand-daughter of E J Crossley.

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. Here you'll find reports of the excellent lecture series, news from the Family History, Folklore and Prehistory sections, activities, obituaries and forthcoming events. If you'd like to write a short article on something historic for the September issue please send it to the Secretary by 20th August 2014.

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with your name and membership number

Archive Opening Times 2014

The Archive at Birchcliffe will be open on the afternoon of the second Wednesday of the month; and on the morning of the fourth Saturday of the month. In December there will be no Saturday opening.

2014	Wednesday 2 - 5 pm	Saturday 10 am - 1 pm
May	14 th	24 th
June	11 th	28 th
July	9 th	26 th
August	13 th	23 rd
September	10 th	27 th
October	8 th	25 th
November	12 th	22 nd
December	10 th	Not open

South Pennine History Group Day School

in conjunction with Pennine Horizons

Power and Potability

Saturday 6th September 2014

see back cover for details

News from the Archive

Maps

A large collection of various editions and scales of Ordnance Survey maps of the Upper Calder Valley area have now been catalogued and filed. The main map collection in the Archive has also been re-catalogued and repackaged. Digital editions of the following maps are also available to view:

- Myers map 1835
- First Edition OS 6 inch maps of 1848-50
- Upper Valley enclosure and valuation maps (copies of maps in Calderdale archives)
- OS 1: 500 scale of Hebden Bridge 1890-91

Wills and Inventories

The Society, as part of the South Pennine History Group, obtained a grant from South Pennines LEADER under the Rural Development Programme for England in February 2011. This grant was to obtain digital copies of all original probate material for the Upper Calder Valley from the Borthwick Institute for Archives in York in order to hold them locally and facilitate historical investigation of the area. This project was completed earlier this year. As a result, the Society's Archive now holds digital photographs of all wills and inventories for the townships of the Upper Calder valley that could be identified from the Borthwick indexes up till 1756. Various factors mean that the collection may not be totally complete but it represents the vast majority of extant documents. All these documents are subject to the same conditions of use as in the Borthwick Institute itself.

Remembering The Great War 1914 - 2014



'Saying Goodbye' part of the memorial near The Civic Hall, Newcastle on Tyne.

The society is working, with other groups at the Town Hall, to mark the centenary of the Great War. Work is led by neighbourhood manager Emma Green. This will be the first of three events - others being in 2016 and 2018. HBHLS is creating an exhibition as part of the commemoration. Initially we have decided to focus on themes which relate to the first two years - 1914 and 1915.

The exhibition will focus mainly on Hebden Royd, and will concentrate on local people and the war. We have a variety of sources - local press, items in the Society's archive, the digital archive of Pennine Horizons

and not least recorded memories of individuals who experienced those years. 21st March also saw a collection of memorabilia brought along to the Town Hall to be scanned for Pennine Horizons digital archive. The day brought out some wonderful memories and items for recording including a lapel badge worn by men engaged on valuable war work at home

intended to protect them from harassment in the street. A second similar event will be held on Saturday 10th May.

We want the display to reflect the experience of families, men, women and children - at home and abroad - just where were local men sent? Did they play football on Christmas Day? At home some voices were raised against the war. The lives of women were changing. We need to be aware that this was an experience shared by people in Warstein and St Pol. Maintaining some kind of balance among a variety of conflicting themes is demanding. We hope you will come along to see this first display which will be in the Town Hall at the beginning of August to mark the outbreak of the war, and again from late October to Remembrance Sunday. This second showing will also connect with a talk entitled 'Views of Two Communities on the eve of the war', which will include experience in Germany and in Calderdale.

The title 'Great War' is not one which is universally popular. It is interesting to note that The Hebden Bridge Times entitled its weekly column of notes on the war 'The Great War' and was doing so from early September 1914.

And not least if you have thoughts about the exhibition, or/and you could contribute to this display or to later ones, please contact me by e-mail at mecrawford@btinternet.com or by writing to the society.

Mike Crawford

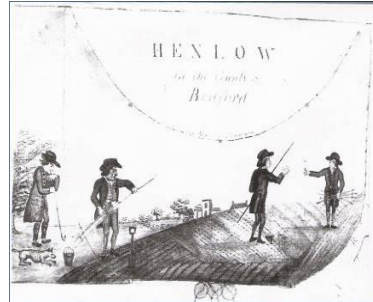
LECTURE REPORTS 2013 - 2014

Reports written by Sheila Graham and Dave Smalley

CARTOGRAPHICAL CRIMES

Tony Morris

Early maps were on clay tablets and were from the beginning used for a variety of purposes, such as taxation, for military uses and to guide pilgrims to the great religious sites. From their early beginnings maps became more precise, as the cartographers used better



technology and produced maps that could be seen as works of art. The ordnance survey was a major project to meet the need for more accurate maps which today still set the standard for useful information about the landscape.

As for cartographical crime, Tony had stories to tell of organised theft of valuable ancient maps cut from books in public libraries. A member of the audience brought this up to date by recounting how new sets of OS maps bought for public use in Todmorden and Hebden Bridge Libraries had been stolen from the shelves.

THE HISTORY OF MODERNA

Joan Laprell

Many who married in the 1950s and 60s will recall the pleasure of unwrapping their wedding gifts to find a luxurious Moderna blanket. In her talk, Joan Laprell recalled the village within a village that was the Moderna Blanket Factory in Mytholmroyd, where she worked for ten years.

With humour and obvious delight she recreated the pleasure of working for the family run company.



The founder was Thomas Ratcliffe, part of a local textile manufacturing family, who moved onto the Mytholmroyd site in the late nineteenth century. However it was his grandsons and great-grandsons, the Culpans who really made Moderna the top

name in blankets. In the depressed years of the twenties and thirties the dynamic Norman Culpan had the energy and dynamism to completely revitalise the business, investing in buildings, reducing costs and increasing output by 500%. The unique blankets came in vibrant colours, were guaranteed not to shrink and were moth-proof.

During the war years, the factory produced fabric for naval overcoats and grey army blankets, some of which reportedly had hidden messages woven into them, and were destined to be dropped over France. It was the need to comply with government standards that led the company to build its award winning canteen, home for the many entertainments which ex-Moderna workers recall so fondly.

The firm obviously valued its workers, establishing a profit sharing scheme and arranging Christmas treats. There was great respect given to 'Mr Norman' as he was always known, because of his close knowledge of all aspects of the business, from the raw wool to the finished product. He was a

charismatic character, riding in the Isle of Man TT races and taking a posse of supporters from the workforce to cheer him on. He could still be seen wearing his leathers in his old age. Joan also recalled sitting with other attractive young women outside his fish and chip shop – a device to encourage passing trade to pop in.

For the 500 workers at Moderna the factory provided a rich social life, with its own dramatic society, sports teams, galas, dances and even a visit from the famous Wilfred Pickles 'Have a Go, Joe' radio show. It was a community that in the 1970s suffered a mortal blow when the firm ended up in the hands of asset-strippers who sacked the workers and sold off the machinery. In 1986 a devastating fire destroyed what was left of the factory – except for the name, which lives on. Joan hoped that when people asked why this area has the name Moderna, the reply will be that it commemorates the home of the finest mill in Yorkshire.

WITCHCRAFT IN THE UPPER CALDER VALLEY

John Billingsley

As the make-believe witches come knocking on our doors it is worth remembering that to our ancestors witchcraft was very real indeed. John Billingsley, a folklorist and author of many books on the subject, spoke about one local case of accusations of witchcraft in 1646, 34 years after the famous Pendle Witch trials of 1612.

On this side of the Pennines too, beliefs about witchcraft were part of the way the world was seen. Women and men valued for their skills in healing or fortune telling could very easily find themselves the focus of suspicion if they were thought to

have spoken a curse with malicious intent. This happened to Elizabeth Crossley, a woman known for her witching skills, when she went begging at the home of Henry Cockcroft of Heptonstall. Being dis-satisfied with her reception there, she was seen to 'go off muttering', and when the Cockcroft's two year old child fell suddenly ill Elizabeth was accused of causing his death through her curses. Others were also implicated, including a certain Mary Midgley who at first admitted to 'witching a little' then pointed to Elizabeth and her daughter Sarah.

At the trial in 1646 it was revealed that Elizabeth Crossley had also been suspected of causing the death of another child two years previously, again following her rejection when begging. Sadly, historical research doesn't always offer storybook conclusions: no record remains of the decision of the court about the guilt of Elizabeth Crossley.



WITHENS RESERVOIR

Shirley Daniel

Shirley Daniel, Cragg Vale resident and founding member of Cragg Vale Local History Group, was inspired by her love for the area to research the history of Withens Reservoir. It stands isolated in the apparently bleak landscape, but is part of a fascinating story... and not so much Cragg Vale's reservoir as the property of distant Morley.



*Image from Geograph by
Charlie Boyce*

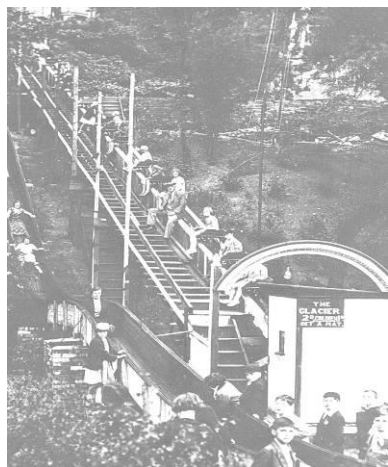
The landscape of Withens had provided people with a livelihood from ancient times, including the mills which sprung up in the nineteenth century, making use of the fast flowing Withens Brook. It was this landscape that caught the attention of Morley, a rapidly growing town with a growing need for water. They wanted their own reservoir and Withens was their choice.

Engineer Charles Gott planned to make use of the difference in altitude, with Withens at 1000ft to Morley's 400ft, to send up to 1.5 million gallons of water a day along a twenty one mile pipe to Morley. Farms were demolished, their stone no doubt recycled for the beautifully constructed reservoir. In April 1891 there was a lavish ceremony to mark the cutting of the first sod, with five hundred arriving from Morley and transported by wagonette from Mytholmroyd station. Others walked up the hill accompanied by a brass band. The VIPs were treated to a luxurious lunch at the Cragg Vale Board School.

Soon the site was taken over by builders and huts, with the backbreaking work of the navvies eventually supplemented by the arrival of a loco-engine. Pasture Farm was adapted to become the reservoir keeper's house, and a sophisticated filtration plant installed. Withens reservoir still plays an important role in being part of Yorkshire Water's grid system. It is even rumoured that the soft Pennine water of Withens adds to the flavour of the Coca Cola bottled in Wakefield!

A POSTCARD FROM SUNNY BUNCE'S

Chris Helme



From an extensive collection of Edwardian postcards and publicity materials Chris Helme, local historian and writer, reconstructed the glory days of Sunny Vale Pleasure Gardens, universally known as Sunny Bunce's. He explained how the Bunce family, landscape gardeners with an eye for opportunity, transformed a popular beauty spot in the valley between

Southowram and Hove Edge, into a destination that became known as the playground of the north.

Visitors in the late nineteenth century would have been drawn by the gardens and lake set in the natural beauty of the valley, but as the new century progressed, the lake became a focus of spectacular re-enactments, and offered pedalos in summer and skating in winter. A fully sprung open air dance floor was installed, and a bandstand hosted all the great brass bands of

the age. Tea rooms, including an innovative 'automatic café', catered for up to 50,000 over a bank holiday weekend. Children could enjoy rides on donkeys or the miniature railway, and for the more adventurous there were white knuckle rides such as the aerial glide and the glacier slide – a terrifying descent sitting on a coconut mat!

Right into the mid twentieth century people from all over Yorkshire flocked to see the entertainments, including Mildred Crossley's Concert Parties, where Roy Castle made his professional debut. Eventually though, the popularity of the place declined, and it went through various incarnations as a go-cart and stock car venue in the 1950s and 60s before these too petered out. Now the place has returned to nature, with hollies and rhododendrons hinting at the old paths, but its noisy boisterous heyday is preserved in Chris Helme's book and in the stories he has gathered.

SAM HILL OF MAKING PLACE, SOYLAND Anne Kirker

'The Halifax Advertiser' for October 25th 1759 is dominated by the news of General Wolfe's victory and death at Quebec. On the back page is reported in a short paragraph, another death, that of Samuel Hill of Soyland (1678-1759) who 'was esteemed one of the greatest Manufacturers of the kingdom'. Ominously there is also a report of a Commission of Bankruptcy meeting for Richard Hill, Samuels only surviving son and sometime partner. The triumph and tragedy that links between these two events were at the heart of Anne Kirker's well scripted and beautifully illustrated lecture. The lecture supplements and is a consequence of her recent paper in the

Halifax Antiquarian Society Transactions for 2012 which includes a location map for most of the properties referred to.

Samuel Hill predates the better known names in textile history. He was one of the earliest merchant-manufacturers, bypassing the cloth halls and dealing directly with European

merchants, then feeding the orders for woollens and later worsteds to a large workforce of cottage based weavers, spinners and dyers. The resulting trading surplus, which in 1747 exceeded £35,000 per annum, he invested in property, owning much of the area between Triangle and Ripponden and spending extensively on 'Making Place' his original base and 'Kebroyde' the home he made for Richard.



Anne's ongoing research involves tracing these properties on the ground and in the extensive archive of business and legal papers. This has produced a more balanced view of Sam Hill. Not the conniving 'Sam Horsfall' of Phyllis Bentley's very plausible but never the less fictional account 'Manhold'. Instead, a shrewd but ultimately sad man who, in trying to protect his estate for his granddaughter, created a 'Jarndyce versus Jarndyce' scenario that ran for another half century.

SOME THOUGHTS ON HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND THEIR REPAIR

Alan Gardner

Hebden Bridge based chartered building surveyor, Alan Gardner, who specialises in the repair of historic buildings, shared his thoughts on the principles and practicalities of conservation. This practical look at our historic environment



provided a fresh and very different perspective for the enthusiastic audience, and it was clear that Alan approaches his work with real passion. Following the principles of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,

founded by William Morris, Alan believes that using traditional materials not only preserves the fabric of a building more effectively than modern materials, but is an essential part of maintaining the beauty of the historic built environment. Buildings have a story to tell that can be lost if repairs are carried out in an unthinking and insensitive way. A key principle of conservation is minimal intervention.

Alan was especially scathing about building surveyors working for mortgage companies who arrived with their 'bleeping instruments' and declared that an old building needed drastic damp-proofing or rot treatment. Along with the purveyors of high tech solutions they scared homeowners into carrying out inappropriate treatments, ignoring the different construction techniques and materials used in old houses.

Alan showed photos of some of his recent projects such as repairs to listed churches, houses, mills and monuments from Dorset to Orkney. What came across strongly was respect for the people who maintained the crafts and skills of the past, enabling the beauty of stone, brick and wood to be saved to tell their stories for future generations.

**CALDER VALLEY BUILDINGS
OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY:
The Craftsmen and their Patrons**

David Cant

There are many fine buildings in the Calder Valley, dating from the seventeenth century or earlier, which draw us to stop and admire them. David Cant has spent many years studying these houses and using documentary evidence to uncover the stories of the groups of craftsmen who worked to design and construct them. The large audience attending his talk was fascinated by the way David has pieced together evidence from wills, inventories, estate records and day books to identify the local masons, joiners, plasterers and roofers working in our area so many years ago.

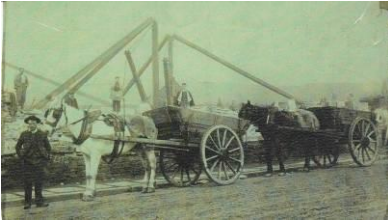
One investigative trail led from Bradley Hall (now part of a golf club) to Merton College Oxford where the same family of Halifax masons, the Ackroyds, were at work in the late sixteenth century. The link was Sir Henry Savile, a local aristocrat who employed the masons on his Bradley Hall and Methley Hall homes. The Ackroyds also built the old Heath School, where Sir Henry was a trustee. As Warden of Merton College Oxford, he was responsible for bringing to the city a group of Halifax masons, including the Ackroyds, breaking the restrictive stranglehold of the Oxford guilds.



Sketch of Bradley Hall by Arthur Comfort

As David illustrated, comparing the facades of the local buildings with that of the Oxford College is very illuminating. It is far more elaborate and decorative than the more austere Halifax buildings, and it is clear that the patronage of Sir Henry Savile gave the masons access to ideas from the fashionable design books of the time and encouraged them to develop their skills. These ideas they brought back to the Halifax area, so that buildings like High Sunderland built in the 1620s, sport similar stone ornamentation to that found on the Oxford college buildings.

Documents provide fascinating insights: Martin Ackroyd's inventory, alongside his tools, lists his two apprentices as part of his goods. Written agreements between client and craftsmen list the names and crafts involved; day books, and diaries such as those kept by preacher Oliver Heywood provide records of payments and details of alterations and other transactions with builders. Most satisfying is when the documentation can be linked to a building that still exists and the actual work that was carried out can be identified. His talk left the audience keen to go out and look for decorated mouldings and carved date stones with fresh eyes.



The beautiful stone buildings of the Calder Valley are part of our everyday life, but we rarely think about the work that was entailed in extracting and working that stone. For George Bowers, chairman of Northowram Local History Group, old stone quarries were part of his childhood, an exciting adventure playground scattered with the debris of an old industry. Although the quarries are largely abandoned, the industry has left its mark on the landscape.

The two types of stone used in Calderdale were the Elland flag stones, which split easily and provided most of the roof slate, as well as the highly prized ashlar stone which often fronted buildings, and the millstone grit used for most buildings in Hebden Bridge. Both are tough and long-lasting, withstanding the effects of weather and pollution.

Extracting stone was an arduous and dangerous job. Most of the quarries employed a team of about fifteen men who had their own specialisations – extracting the stone, working and splitting it on site, to form the roof-slates and building stone. Their simple hand tools contrast markedly with the high precision laser cutters of today. At first stone would have been worked from the surface, but the better stone was deeper, and cranes were used, bolstered with iron or wooden supports, to lift the huge blocks to the surface. There was even some stone mining, using shafts to reach the deeper, more valuable stone.

Little of the paraphernalia of stone quarrying has been preserved. One old crane which used to stand proud on Mount Tabor was eventually taken for scrap, though one still survives in working order in Greetland. And modern stone merchant Marshall's proudly keeps the working tools of the founder, Saul Marshall. An old stone waggon which was kept open to the weather at Shibden Hall inevitably started to decay.

In the landscape there are still signs: some stone beds where the old cranes were secured; occasional banker sheds where the masons worked the stone in bad weather, and most notably the huge judd walls that were built to secure the waste stone. One such wall revealed an inscription that would thrill any local historian: a date and the name of its builder. There is also evidence of the dangers in carrying loads of stone down Calderdale's steep hills: George has identified upright stones set at the side of roads which he believes acted as emergency stops for runaway waggons.

The stone may have been long lasting, but the delvers and masons were short-lived. The constant dust was the killer. George's grandfather had been a 'beer lad' at the quarry, fetching beer in buckets for the men to wash down the dust; his father's death certificate revealed the danger – he died at 30 of silicosis and tuberculosis caused by his work in the quarries. The magnificent Halifax Town Hall, built with 24,000 tons of local stone from the Ringby quarry above Boothtown, stands as a monument to the stone workers, and George Bowers' researches help us to remember the work of the men who got that stone.

**OF THE CALDER VALLEY:
The Relationship of People
and a Unique Landscape**



The story of the Industrial revolution might be a forgotten part of the history we learn at school, but Dr Stephen Caunce of the University of Central Lancashire reminded us that we should not take for granted the extraordinary way in which previously obscure communities of this part of the Pennines actually changed the world as the birthplace of industrialisation in the 18th and 19th centuries.

He argued that the special landscape of the Pennines also contributed to the special nature of the communities here. In contrast to the typical villages found in other parts of England, in medieval times our landscape was sparsely populated, and people, not overseen by either a lord of the manor or a parish priest, developed ways of farming and producing textiles which contributed to an independent self-sufficiency and a mind-set open to innovation and invention.

The hills of the Pennines were a helpful factor in many ways when the textile industry began to develop. The ridges provided suitable tracks for packhorse trails; the shelves of land above the steep valleys were fertile enough to grow some crops. The plentiful streams, with the natural control of the blanket peat acting like a natural reservoir, descended in an orderly way which gave the early mills the water power they needed. There was stone for building and coal available locally

in many areas. And when the process of industrialisation became unstoppable, land was easy to acquire, and both landowners and manufacturers could profit.

What made these industrial communities special was a unique culture of what Stephen called network capitalism: small family businesses which grew organically and could work co-operatively with other businesses in the town.

It was also the case, Stephen argued, that the workers in the factories also benefited, despite our popular images of a life of industrial misery and the horror of child labour. Industrialisation did not turn these new towns into places of real struggle. And women made a huge contribution too, working in the mill gave them a wage of their own, but also an independent outlook.

It is the renaissance in local history, Stephen believes, that is uncovering more and more stories about the real lives in places like this, answering some of the questions which our landscape inspires.

A discussion paper is available from our Secretary or Steve, SACaunce@uclan.ac.uk. He would be happy to continue the discussion and to receive more feedback from members.

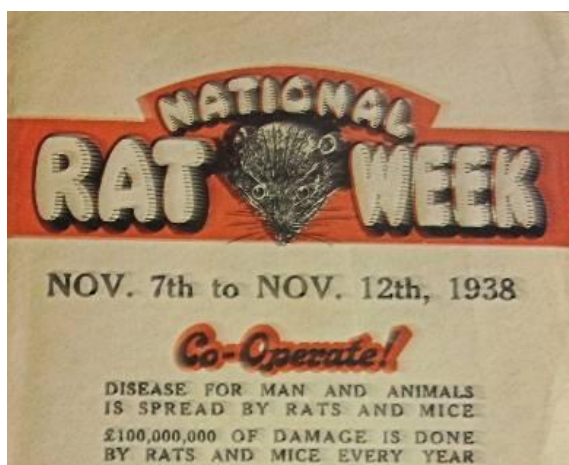
Looking back on the more recent past is often fraught with problems, especially a tendency to see the world through a prism of stereotypes or rose coloured spectacles. Ian Dewhirst, retired reference librarian at Keighley Library, painted a picture of everyday life in Keighley and neighbouring towns with often hilarious detail, but the story was rooted in the rich sources of records and memorabilia found in the archives. Ian is a great story-teller, but he is also a great local historian.

So it was that we were reminded of the bleak facts of life in the back to back streets of towns like Keighley, streets which rarely saw the sunshine. Medical Officer's annual reports record high infant mortality, and diseases like scarlet fever and diphtheria at a time when to avoid doctors' bills it seemed that Grandma had a remedy for every ill. Consumption was a killer, and open air sanatoriums were established to cure the illness – an idea turned into a commercial venture when the owners of a maggot farm in Denholme traded on the belief that the atmosphere there was beneficial and opened a 'maggotorium' where sufferers could sleep.

Housing conditions caused real problems when there was minimal sanitation for the mass of the town. For two weeks every November the public health office promoted a National Rat Week when 1½d would be paid for every rat's tail presented as proof of death. However, slum clearance programmes had started in these interwar years with new council houses built at a density of 12 to an acre, with gardens, toilets and bathrooms, replacing the old back to backs crammed in at 60 or 70 per acre.

The brief respite between the two world wars saw huge social changes, with outdoor hobbies like hiking and cycling becoming popular and the break-down of some of the restrictions of relations between the sexes. This was the era of the scouting movement, though it was clear that some of their games were aimed at making the boys into prospective soldiers able to follow commands. The war to come was throwing its shadow over the country from at least 1936, and the horrors and repercussions of the last war were ever present, but there were plenty of opportunities to escape. There were cinemas in every small town, live theatre attracting big names and spectator sports like rugby and football. More people were able to take holidays, and the postcards they sent home are another rich source of social history.

Ian's message was clear: hang on to memorabilia – it is through the ephemera of letters, leaflets, posters and club reports that the rich historical details of ordinary people's lives are preserved.



WHOSE LAND IS IT ANYWAY?

Sheila Graham

**How Parliamentary Enclosure left its
mark on the landscape of the Calder Valley**

This lecture confirmed the belief that good research takes time. Since the inception of the Agriculture and History in the Landscape Project over five years ago, Sheila Graham has been working on the impact of the 1814 - 1815 parliamentary enclosures on both the people and landscape of Stansfield and Ovenden. The research has been meticulous, both in terms of field work as well as archival studies ranging from Savile Estate correspondence to Enclosure Commissioners' Minute Books and it is leading to a book ('Neither worth the time nor expense of taking in? ') due to be published later this year.

The landscape impact is most obvious with access roads named after the process or the individuals concerned and in the case of Ovenden the enclosure allotments provide the skeleton outline of subsequent urban development as plots were built on. 'Enclosure with a ruler' sums up the rectangular boundaries and straight lines that crisscross the landscape.

The human impact is more difficult to ascertain. Certainly, as ever, the professionals benefitted. Both lawyers and surveyors purchased enclosure plots which were subsequently sold on for development. The Lord of the Manor and the Vicar of Halifax both received compensation in kind as part of the process. Indeed the whole process of enclosure seemed to proceed as openly and with as much transparency as possible. Even those landowners who had encroached on to the commons prior to the Enclosure Act were accommodated in the final settlements. The voices that have proved elusive are the small cottagers and tenants that relied on the common

land for fuel, grazing and other raw materials such as clay for potteries. True, altruistic acts such as the construction of schools and chapels occurred but one has to wonder whether the much improved roads were simply a highway for the economically impoverished to trudge down to the industrial squalor developing in the valley bottoms.



Tributes and Obituaries

Brian Halliwell

1929 – 2014

Always Halliwell, call him Helliwell at your peril!

It is with great sadness that we have to note the passing of Brian on Saturday 22nd March 2014 after a fairly short illness.



Brian was born in Halifax in 1929. His father and mother had a butcher's shop on Manor Drive – Brian always knew which butchers to use and which to avoid. His parents wanted him to go to Rishworth School, but Brian managed to avoid this and instead attended Heath Grammar School.

He started work at Manor Heath Nurseries, Halifax and was responsible for the crocus displays at Skircoat. During the 1940's he worked at Shibden and did his National Service in the Royal Air Force where he refused any form of promotion.

Askham Bryan, Edinburgh Botanic Gardens and Kew 1968-89 were amongst the places he worked receiving the Chittenden Award from Kew, later to become the equivalent of Master of Horticulture.

Brian was a very private man, more given to asking questions than answering them but over the years snippets of his travels

came out; Spain, Madeira, Tasmania, New Zealand, Japan plus many others, collecting plants and introducing them into this country.

At Kew he was responsible for Alpines and was assistant curator. He was a member of the Alpine Garden Society and, until a couple of years ago, was a regular judge for their shows. He also judged at the Chelsea Flower Show. It was a pleasure to meet up with him sometimes at an Alpine flower show, after all the official judging to be taken to look at the plants and for him to talk about them.

Brian also wrote books and articles on horticulture. Perhaps his lasting legacy will be his *Three Centuries of Garden Lists* published in 2009. Apart from horticulture, his other loves were Portuguese wines, local history, with architecture well to the fore. He was a member of the Halifax Antiquarian Society and the Hebden Bridge Local History Society, amongst many others. But his main loves were classical music and books, books, books, mainly horticulture but also anything that appealed.

When taken to a book fair at Ilkley, he thought he had been transported to Heaven! When it was explained, over a cup of tea, that haggling was permitted on the more expensive books his smile became wider and when we left an hour later his bags were even fuller.

Brian did NOT do modern technology, no television or computer and only a battered old radio. When the latter packed up and a new one was purchased which played CDs, after the mysteries of CDs were explained and a few acquired

he soon mastered the workings and could play his music when he liked.

One of our fondest memories was a telephone call asking what a DVD was. Explanations were useless, so we asked him to lunch to play it for him. It was an American TV programme on an eighteenth century English gardener involved in providing plants for some of the great and good of the period. The technology was explained to him and we sat and watched the programme - 'load of rubbish' was his comment at the end.

Always grumpy but always ready to help if he could, this is how he will be remembered.

David Shore and Mike Morris

Ian Emberson 1936 - 2013

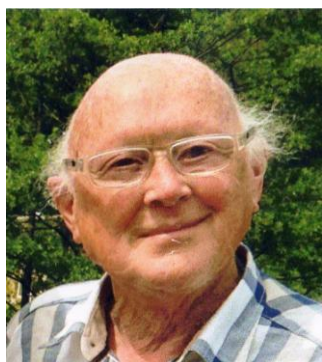
Ian and Catherine last presented a talk for our society on 26th March 2007 about William Holt. I first met them when they came to the society to talk about their interest in the Brontes and I recall telling them about something I had found in the Wakefield archives. As a result, they published "George Sowden: Recollections of the Brontës" which made the connection between the Brontes and St James in Hebden Bridge. Catherine plans to protect and preserve Ian's



important legacy of poetry, art and other publications by keeping his website www.ianemberson.co.uk and having a tribute page and on-line archive of some of his writings. Later on she hopes to publish a study with contributions from a range of people on the different aspects of Ian and his creative oeuvre. If anyone in the Local History Society have thoughts about writing something about any of his works please feel free to do so. These can be submitted to Catherine at any time.

Diana Monahan

Donald Barker Crossley 1931-2014



There was a wonderful moment during Donald Crossley's funeral, when Rev. James Allison asked the congregation, packed to the walls in St Michaels Church, Mytholmroyd, to raise their hands if they considered themselves to be a personal friend. A forest of arms went up and James said that this was exactly why he would not single anybody out. Donald, indeed, had a wide range of interests and always went out of his way in conversations to discover the other person's passion. His friends consequently emanated from every part of Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge society, past and present.

A talented landscape artist, he loved the countryside and his paintings adorn the walls of many homes, hotels and offices. They have even hung on the walls of 10 Downing Street.

When not painting, Donald enjoyed nothing better than being out and about in the locality with his camera. Often, he would clamber into some quite dangerous places to find a good shot. This led to some scrapes, like the day he clambered down to the swollen river at Lumb Falls only to drop his expensive camera into the depths of the swirling water. In some agitation, he tried to rescue it, only for his mobile to fall out of his pocket too, so he could not even contact anyone. However, he was still able to see the funny side of what had happened!

Lumb Falls was, of course, an important location in Ted Hughes poems. Together with Donald, I was able to explore many of the locations that featured in the childhood he shared with his friend'. He was so enthusiastic about Ted's poems that, over a decade, we would film at places as varied as the MCC, Mytholmroyd Cricket Club, the location of the poem 'Sunstruck' and their old camping site in Crimsworth Dean, where he and I rediscovered the stone from his short story for children 'The Deadfall'. He became very accomplished on camera and was soon regularly asked take part in many television programmes.

The first day he and I met, I had been approached by the Hebden Bridge Old Peoples Welfare Committee to produce a Millennium Video. We were sitting in the crowded Wadsworth Community Centre. Chairing the meeting was Edna Crowther, a lovely lady, who I shall always remember with great fondness, but somebody who was used to running a tight ship. The room was noisy. Donald and his friend Lloyd Greenwood were, like many people, enjoying some fulsome banter. Suddenly, we were brought to a stunned silence, not

by some thump on the table, but by the shout: "DONALD CROSSLEY!"

You could have heard a pin drop in the silence that followed and I looked to see the identity of the naughty boy in the corner! Some people might have walked out after this, but not Donald. He offered his help; with Lloyd he would become integral to the film.

Within a few days, he and I were recording the memories of a 102 year old Mytholmroyd lady. She seemed to enjoy teasing him on camera about his mother, but he was not remotely daunted by this and seemed as amused as I was! The following years, often filming together with Lloyd Greenwood, Donald and I would criss-cross the local area, capturing the stories of many local people, young and old.

We would invariably finish with a coffee at the cafe on the square, now Sauce, where, together with Lloyd, we would share some hilarious stories. The laughter led someone to ask whether we were the Mytholmroyd Hysterical Society. Donald roared with laughter. It was a name we liked so much that we have called it that ever since!

I shall always remember my years with Donald, as I did with Lloyd until he died in 2005 as being full of fun and pleasure. Donald often said laughter was better than any tonic. For that reason, I am glad that so many other people were able to enjoy his friendship and share in the wonderful atmosphere that his presence evoked.

Nick Wilding

Prehistory Section



We have also been involved in surveying late prehistoric agricultural features in Wharfedale - because of our surveying prowess.

Our activities up to September of last year are now on the website. Flint and trees have occupied much of our time since.

There have been a number of remarkable finds of Neolithic material in the valley near Sowerby Bridge, on the hilltop immediately above, and at one of the Wadsworth reservoirs. The importance of these is that the Calderdale Neolithic has been notable for its comparative absence – rather like the invisible Yorkshire Dales Neolithic. It's reassuring that evidence is now coming to light, in both areas, that should enable us to tell a more rounded tale. The details are not provided here as work is far from complete.

Calderdale Museums Service contacted us regarding a tea-chest of flint artefacts that had turned up in the basement at Bankfield. One of the problems about coming to a clear view of prehistoric activity in Calderdale is that the vogue for collecting flint in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries

has resulted in much material being hidden from view in private collections – in cardboard boxes, in attics and garages... The Bankfield assemblages, on which we are still working, are a very significant step forward. Although much is from out of our area and many labels have become detached it does seem as though a great deal of flint, from the 1920s to the 1960s will now be available for study and will help us to provide a more nuanced account of where people were and what they did.

We have evidence in Calderdale from the Mesolithic on to the Bronze Age (with gaps), effectively from hunter/foragers to the first settled farmers. There is the possibility of extending this back to the Upper Palaeolithic, think of Stone-Age Eskimos, the first hunters after the last ice age who followed the movements of reindeer herds along the receding ice front. We proposed excavating a rock shelter high up above Widdop where there was a good prospect of finding evidence that would be unique in Calderdale and very rare indeed in the rest of the country. Sadly the Walshaw and Lancashire Estate decided not to grant us permission.

Treesponsibility has morphed into the lead partner in the SOURCE project, concerned with taking action to minimise the effects of flash flooding along the Upper Calder. Numerous areas have been identified as potential tree-planting/leaky dam sites and we have been active in assessing the potential archaeological impact, by consulting the four relevant databases and by fieldwalking. This is almost complete now and a copy of the assessment will be sent to HBLHS.

An introductory talk on prehistory was given to local historians in Elland, and there should be a comprehensive update on our work in the HBLHS winter talks programme. We have also sat still sometimes, at Bradford University for the Irish Sea Neolithic, in Skipton for a discussion of the Wharfedale henges – with startlingly sophisticated geophysics from Austria, and at Mirfield for an account of the survey of the Bordley Township just east of the Malham area. These out-of-area talks will help inform the way we interpret and describe similar features within Calderdale.

The strange propped stone at Golden Stones, below Bridestones, was published as:

Shepherd D. 2013. *Propped Stones: The Modification of Natural Features and the Construction of Place*. *Time and Mind*, Vol 6 Issue 3 November 2013 pp263 - 286. Bloomsbury.

And we have other papers in press at the time of writing.

Dave Shepherd



The WW1 memorial from Old Town Methodist Chapel (now closed) It is hoped this will be moved to Wainsgate to be seen on Heritage Open Days in September. See page 39.

Family History Group

There comes a time in any keen family historian's life when they need a rest from researching their own family but yet wanting to use the skills they have refined to enhance local history. This year has seen some members of our group looking for new areas of research, especially some that are connected with this part of the country. Some look at celebrities, others at local families who played a major part in the industry and politics of the past. Our Council Chairmen project will soon need volunteers to spend time at Halifax library searching through local newspapers.

Joseph Greenwood, one of the founders of the Nutclough Cooperative, Edward Crossley, local mill owner and council chairman and Gracie Fields (Stansfield) are a few of the people currently being researched.

The records of these families will hopefully be added to our Local Families collection which is slowly taking shape.

If you are interested in a new line of local research or would be willing to add information about local families to our collection, please get in touch or better still, come and see us at one of the sessions at The Birchcliffe Centre.

We found Eric and Pat!

We had a request to see if we could find Eric and Pat who 'lived somewhere near Slack in a white house in the 1960s. They had a son called David.' Not much information to go on. With a little more information, ie: Pat's maiden name was Smith and she came from the Barnsley area, we found a

suitable marriage and so could probably have located the family using the electoral rolls. However, local knowledge came to the rescue; Gabriel Elliot, one of our members, enquired of the local post men who verified that they lived at Blackshawhead and, sure enough, in a white house. We were able to put their cousin in touch with them.

Heptonstall Monumental Inscriptions

We still have quite a few graves to transcribe, most of them behind the Old Church and I will be starting this task on Saturday 3rd May at 10:00 am and would welcome any help. We need to do this before the plant growth takes over as there is quite a lot of overgrowth in this area. I will send a reminder a bit nearer the date.

Ollie Robertshaw, a regular visitor from out of town, comes regularly to search for graves and has, in the process filmed many graves and put the resulting films on YouTube. Find them by going to the YouTube site (www.youtube.com) and searching for Ollie Robertshaw Heptonstall

The dates of the Family History meetings until the end of the year are on the next page.

Please note two dates (highlighted) do not follow the usual pattern of 1st Saturday/3rd Thursday.

We meet, as usual, at the Birchcliffe Centre between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm.

Barbara Atack ataxjb@btinternet.com

Family History Meeting Times 2014

	Saturday	Thursday
April	5 th	17 th
May	3 rd	15 th
June	7 th	19 th
July	5 th	17 th
August	2 nd	14 th
August	30th	
September		18 th
September	27th	
October		16 th
November	1 st	20 th
December	6 th	

at the Birchcliffe Centre,
Birchcliffe Road, Hebden Bridge HX7 8DG

Folklore Section

As members will know, the Folklore Section covers all of Calderdale. Some members may know of Ellen Royd, an ex-nursing home in Elland, once known as Boggart House. In front of the building was a large boulder known as the Boggart Chair, reputed to be where boggarts lurked waiting for entry when it was a private house. When the council sold Ellen Royd last year, there was some concern about what would happen to the large shapeless boulder on the front lawn, which was unlikely to appeal to the new owners and developers. Hence, Elland Historical Society and Northern Earth made representations to Calderdale Council on its behalf. As no one there knew anything about it (no surprise there, sadly), it seems likely that these representations saved the stone from ending up as roadfill, and it was moved to a new site in Jepson Lane – OK, the council's contractors managed to damage the stone in transit, but hopefully the boggarts can sort that out if they feel offended.

What gives it a local flavour is that the upper valley has another Ellen Royd, which lies just below the A646 as you enter Luddenden Foot (in old Midgley township). Moreover, that used to be known as Boggart House, and would you believe it, it had a Boggart Chair in its garden! This 'chair', though, actually looked like one, and was eventually identified as the old font of Luddenden Church, tossed out in the Parliament period, and one side broken off in the process. This Boggart Chair is now restored to a place beside the altar in the modern Luddenden Church.

It's odd that two places should have the same legend attached, but this is clearly an example of a migratory tale, a story told of one location but imported to another – usually by persons and at a time unknown, who happen to live near the 'new' location (that's local antiquarians for you). The earlier story is clearly the Midgley version, as the broken font did indeed look like a stone worn into a 3-sided chair shape (whether there were or are boggarts there is of course a different matter). The duplication to Elland probably arose because of the coincidence of the Ellen Royd name.



Boggart Chair, St Mary's
Luddenden (John
Billingsley)

Kai Roberts of Brighouse has written an article on these boggart chairs in *Northern Earth* 136 (Spring 2014), which gives a useful insight into how folklore interweaves with other aspects of local character.

John Billingsley

History Events in the Upper Valley

For a summary see inside back cover

Stoodley Pike Bi-centenary

Saturday 3rd May at 2 pm

See poster overleaf for details

Free drop-in at the Picture House

Thursday 3rd July 2:30 - 4:30 pm (provisional times)

A compilation of local transport films from the Yorkshire Film Archive and some images from our own archive. It will include a four minute Tour de Cinema cycling archive.

The History of the Rochdale Canal

Friday 4th July 10 am – Noon

Join Diana Monahan at the Alternative Technology Centre at Hebble End for an easy 1 to 2-mile walk towards Fallingroyd.

Vintage Weekend

2nd - 3rd August

www.hebdenbridge-vintageweekend.org.uk/

South Pennine History Group Day School

Saturday 6th September 2014

see back cover

Heritage Open Days

Thursday 11th – Sunday 14th September

see www.heritageopendays.org.uk/

Wainsgate Chapel – details to be confirmed, but it is hoped that there will be an open day on Saturday 13th and exhibition.

There may also be an opportunity to hear the organ.

History Events in the Upper Valley

*CALDER CIVIC TRUST INVITES EVERYONE TO JOIN THE FRENCH VISITORS FROM
TODMORDEN'S TWIN TOWN OF RONCO for:*

AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL BICENTENARY CELEBRATION BY THE MONUMENT ON STOODLEY PIKE.

*200 Years since the Treaty of Paris in May 1814, which inspired the building
of the original monument. Its existing 1856 replacement is now listed
amongst the oldest towers dedicated to peace in the world.*



Saturday 3rd May 2014 at 2pm

***When 200 homing pigeons will be released from Stoodley Pike Monument
parapet and there will be music from Todmorden Community Brass
Band and puppeteering to the Handmade Samba Band.***

***Meet in the top car park of Top Brink Public House, Lumbutts
between 12.10pm & 12.20pm, if you want to walk up with others.***

History Events in the Upper Valley

May		
3	Stoodley Pike Centenary	inside back cover
4	Odd Tod	CHW
4	Blackstone Edge Gathering	BEG
8	Hebden Bridge	CHW
10	Great War Commemoration	see page 4
16	Cornholme	CHW
June		
3	Lower Colden	CHW
10	Jumble Hole	CHW
19	HB Co-ops	CHW
28	Luddenden Heritage Day	
28	HB French Connection	CHW
July		
3	Picture House Drop in	see page 39
4	Rochdale Canal History	see page 39
11	Midgley Moor	CHW
13	Hoo Hole	CHW
15	Bridge Mill to Lee	CHW
25	Cragg Vale	CHW
August		
	Great War Commemoration	see page 4
2-3	Vintage Weekend	VW
3	Heptonstall Shadows	CHW
10	Luddendenfoot	CHW
17	Luddenden	CHW
24	Ted Hughes Mytholmroyd	CHW

Key

BEG www.blackstoneedgegathering.org.uk

CHW www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk

VW www.hebdenbridge-vintageweekend.org.uk

South Pennine History Group Day School

Power and Potability

Water in the South Pennine Landscape

Saturday 6th September 2014

9:15 am to 4:30 pm

Upstairs at the Birchcliffe, Birchcliffe Centre, Hebden Bridge,
HX7 8DG

Cost £20 including lunch and refreshments.

Programme

<i>David Weldrake</i>	West Yorkshire before Mains Water
<i>Justine Wyatt</i>	Power in the Landscape
<i>Victor Khadem</i>	Medieval Watercourses in the South Pennines
<i>Norman Redhead</i>	The Oldham Water Corporation Reservoirs at Castleshaw, Denshaw and Piethorne: their impact on the Landscape.
<i>Ann Kilbey</i>	City in the Hills. Dawson City and the Building of the Walshaw Dean Reservoirs

For centuries the use of water has had an enormous effect on our upland landscape. Its availability determined the location of early settlement in the hills, while later settlement further away used this landscape for water storage. From medieval times, man has also used the power of upland streams to drive corn and fulling mills in the valleys. This day school looks at several aspects of how man's need for water and power has affected the South Pennine landscape over time.

Booking in advance is required. If you wish to reserve a place, please send a cheque, payable to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, together with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Rachel Smith, Bramble Dene, Moss Lane, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX7 7DS.