

# BOROUGHBRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.boroughbridgehistory.co.uk>



## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2017

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### AUTUMN PROGRAMME

**TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER**

LOCAL MUSICIANS: A LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THE BRASS  
BAND MOVEMENT – GAVIN HOLMAN

**TUESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
WITH TALKS FROM MEMBERS AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

**TUESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER**

THE ALDBOROUGH ROMAN BURIAL: LOCAL FARMER NICK  
WILSON TALKS ABOUT THE FINDING OF THIS TOMB AND THE  
PROFOUND IMPACT THE DISCOVERY HAS HAD ON HIM

**TUESDAY, 12TH DECEMBER**

CHRISTMAS TIME IN DAYS OF YORE: A LIGHT-HEARTED  
LOOK AT WHAT OUR ANCESTORS DID AROUND THE FESTIVE  
SEASON – MARION MOVERLEY

MEETINGS ARE HELD IN BOROUGHBRIDGE LIBRARY JUBILEE SUITE AT 7.30

ALL WELCOME: MEMBERS FREE; VISITORS AND GUESTS £3.00



## NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the autumn newsletter. I hope you had a very pleasant summer. I will begin by once again thanking all committee members and other members who, in their different ways, ensure the society remains active and vibrant.

Thanks to David Barley we have an excellent range of speakers to look forward to during our autumn meetings. At our AGM on 10th October the formal business will be followed by light refreshments and short presentations from members. If you would like to share some interest, knowledge or insight with members at that event please let me know.

During the summer season we had our annual trip. This year we went to Southall Minster and Workhouse. Many thanks to Margaret and Christine for organising this event. Mike Tasker continues to chivvy us all along with the *History of Boroughbridge* book project. Although a lot of work has already been done on the book we now enter a challenging phase. There are still gaps in areas covered and most

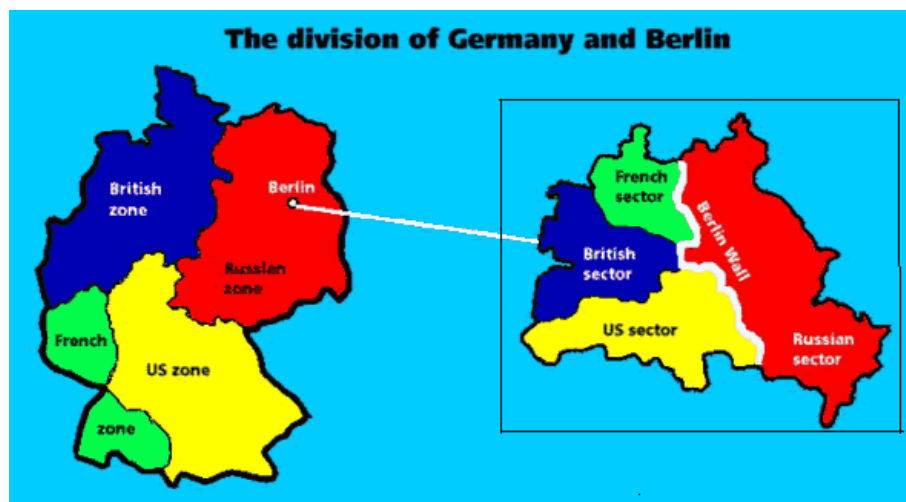
contributors will now need to revise and refine what they have written. Much hard work lies ahead but I feel certain the final product will be worth it.

On the subject of the history of Boroughbridge, the town is potentially to face a significant new phase of expansion. You will all be aware of plans that have been made public for extensive house building in the town. If all suggested sites are approved the population of Boroughbridge will grow by over 60%. Although the official consultation period on HBC's Local Plan has now passed, if you feel strongly about these proposals (for or against) I feel sure you could still make your views known to Harrogate Borough Council through the usual democratic channels. There are also proposals for a motorway service area at Kirby Hill. If you want to learn more about this enormous, landscape changing development just type 'Applegreen Kirby Hill service area proposals' into Google.

Peter Fleming, Chairman

### **Spies in Uniform: The British Commander-in-Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany 1946-1990 by Keith Ryding**

At the close of World War 2 Germany was divided into four zones to be administered by the victorious allies. Berlin was similarly divided between Britain, France, Russia and the USA.



Although the four powers had all wanted the defeat of Germany, once Hitler was defeated suspicions resurfaced between the western democratic powers and communist Russia. In 1946 Churchill used the now famous phrase 'iron curtain' to refer to the division of Europe into East and West with very different ideologies. The Cold War had begun. In 1948 the Berlin Airlift was organised in response to Russia severing road and rail links into Berlin from the West. At the most intense stage of the airlift a plane landed every ninety seconds, keeping the western sectors of Berlin alive and functioning. Seeing the determination of the West, Russia reopened road and rail links. The three allied sectors soon became consolidated into West Germany and West Berlin. As people defected from the East (GDR) in large numbers the Berlin Wall was built by the Russians in 1961.

The British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission (BRIXMIS) to the Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) was formed on 16 September 1946 under the Robertson-Malinin Agreement between the chiefs of staff of the British and Soviet forces in occupied (east) Germany. The agreement called for the reciprocal exchange of liaison missions in order to foster good working relations between the military occupation authorities in the two zones. Similar agreements were made the following year by the Soviets with the French (FMLM) and the Americans (USMLM). For unexplained reasons the agreements differed significantly as BRIXMIS was allowed to have almost as many liaison staff in the Soviet Zone as the other two missions combined. The agreements remained in force until 2 October 1990 when all three missions were deactivated on the eve of Germany's reunification.

Although the original BRIXMIS charter in 1946 included the repatriation of POWs, displaced persons and deserters; the search for war criminals and their extradition; graves registration; settling of border disputes and anti black market operations, in reality military personnel inside the Russian sector also acted as spies, gathering as much intelligence as possible on such things as troop movements. This was possible as they were able to drive about within the Russian sector in the course of their duties. In his entertaining talk in May, Keith provided us with a first hand account of his and his colleagues' work behind the iron curtain. Captivating stories of close shaves with the Russian authorities were enhanced through excellent slides and a wonderful impersonation of Winston Churchill!



Having shaken off Russian followers, liaison officers 'get into deep water' 1964 and 'stuck in the mud' in 1957

## **The Protestant Work Ethic**

### **Peter Fleming**

In June I gave a talk to the society on the protestant work ethic.

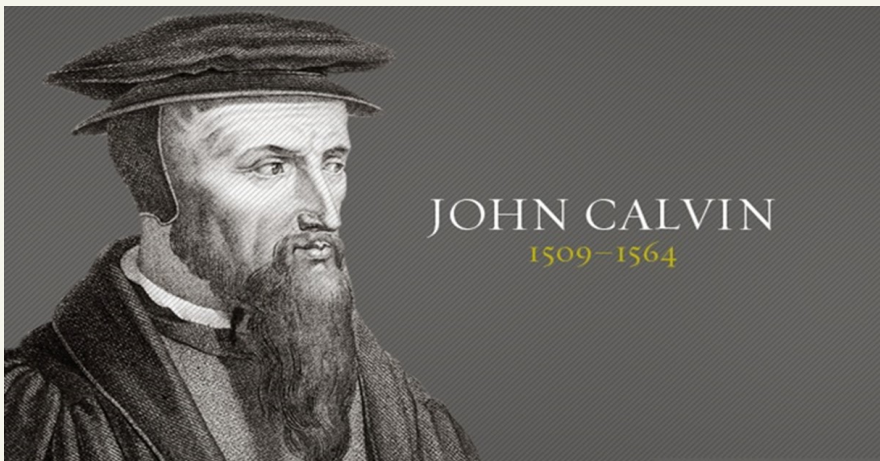
In 1904 a German Sociologist called Max Weber published his most famous work, *The Protest Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. In it he tried to explain why in modern Europe leaders of business and successful capitalists came predominantly from Protestant countries. He believed that such communities had embraced a work ethic and attitude of asceticism which made them both industrious and that this could be seen as a consequence of the Protestant Revolution.

The break with Catholicism came after Martin Luther denounced the Church through his 95 theses of 1517. Luther argued Catholicism had become corrupt and had lost sight of the messages contained within the scriptures. He felt this was best summed up by the belief that payments to the Church for prayers after death (indulgences) could ease a person's passage to the after life. Luther wanted to see the Church reformed with a return to the key messages of the Bible.

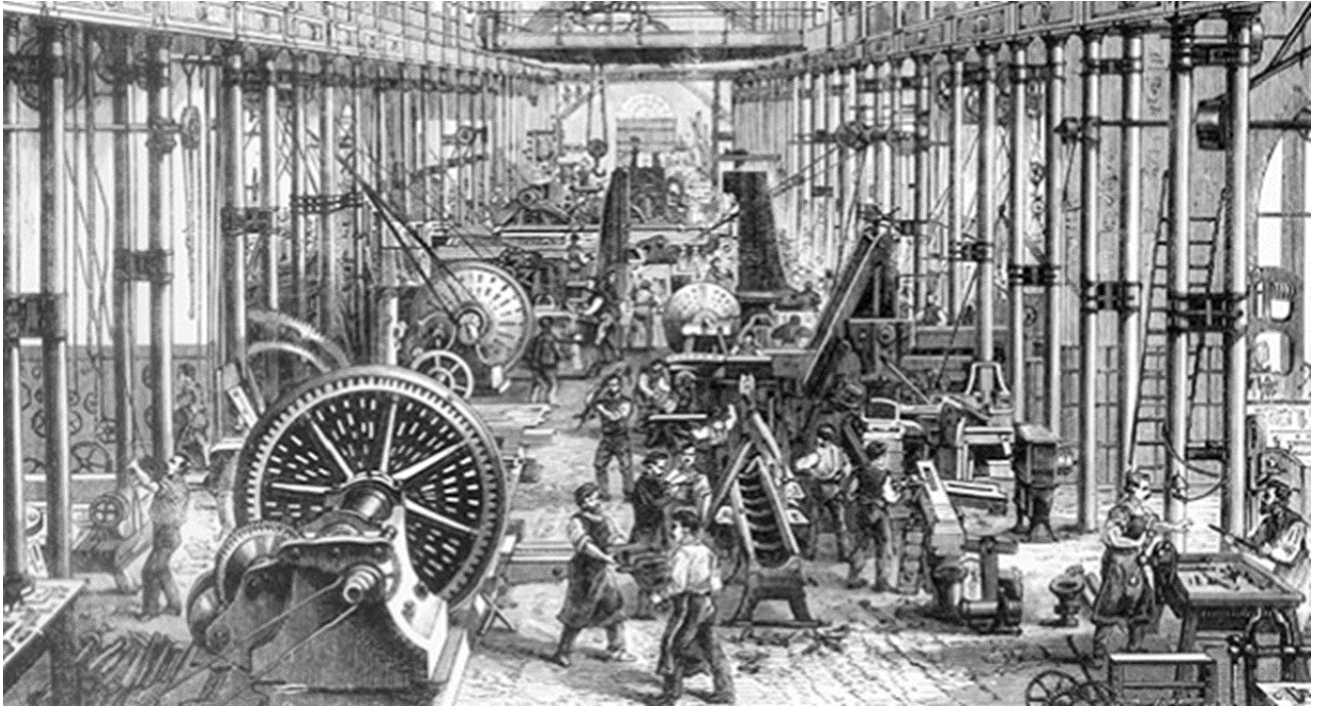


Max Waber 1864-1920

There soon emerged various groups of Protestants, each with a distinct take on what the scriptures meant for life on earth and what follows. John Calvin's followers came to believe in predestination. They believed God has a plan for each individual and that this plan cannot be altered through earthly behaviour. In short, salvation couldn't be bought nor would good deeds in this life be a guarantee of salvation. That said, Calvinists believed they should act as if they were 'the elect'. They should have confidence in God's grace and have faith that they had been chosen for God to have everlasting life after death, even though they couldn't prove it. To this end they must be the best they can be in their earthly calling as a sign they were God's chosen. This made Calvinists very successful in business and the professions. They worked hard and led frugal lives while giving money to good causes. They were disciplined in their behaviour. Soon, countries with significant Calvinist populations became very successful economically. Weber argues that over time the initial impetus to hard work which drove early Calvinists passed but their attitude to work remained and became embedded as expected behaviour in Northern European countries.







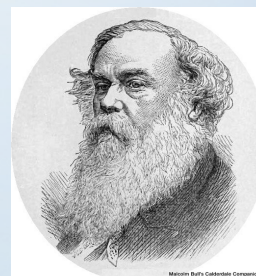
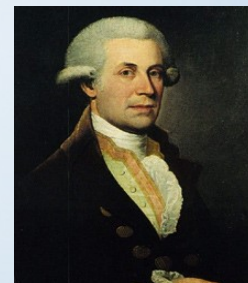
The acceptance of hard work and discipline helped to drive the Industrial Revolution

Some historians have pointed out flaws in Weber's thesis (for example, many Italian states showed the beginnings of capitalism before the attack on Roman Catholicism). Others have offered alternative explanations (for example, arguing that literacy levels were higher in Protestant countries and this helped economic developments). Nevertheless, most agree that 'cultural values' did indeed play a part in driving capitalist, economic developments and these values were strongly influenced by religious attitudes.

In England, there is ample evidence that protestants who did not conform to the Church of England (Methodists, Unitarians, Quakers, Congregationalists) made a much greater contribution statistically to the Industrial Revolution as inventors, entrepreneurs, business leaders and also as social reformers. For example, Darby, Newcomen, Watt, Fry, Cadbury and Salt were all non-conformists.

## Famous Nonconformists

- Darby
- Newcomen
- Watt
- Fry
- Cadbury
- Crompton
- Salt



## **The Annual Trip, July 4<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### **Southwell Minster & Workhouse**

Many of the members had never heard of Southwell Minster, but those who joined us on this trip will not forget it! Originally the land was given by the King of Wessex to the Archbishop of York in 956 & a church was built. The Normans changed this to a Minster and so work began on what today is a place of amazing beauty and an example of some of the finest medieval craftsmanship to be seen in Europe. This is especially so in the Chapter House, where unbelievable stone carvings have mystified modern day masons from York as to how they were achieved.

Much of the site survived the Reformation and many famous people stayed here in the Archbishop's Palace; Charles I the night before his execution & Cardinal Wolsey many of his last few months.

A serious fire in 1711 ripped off the roof and in 1851 finally repairs began. In the Quire the altar rails & much of the furniture are from the workshop of Robert Thompson, installed in 1949, complete with mouse. A very recent installation is the "Great War Memorial Window" by Nicholas Mynheer. His design does not flinch from the terrible truth of war but equally offers hope for the future. The window is modern stained glass at its most beautiful.

After lunch, we continued our day with a tour of the workhouse, now in the hands of the National Trust. The most complete workhouse still in existence was pivotal in the development of our health and welfare system. Here the poorest in society had to work (if able) for food, shelter and medical care.

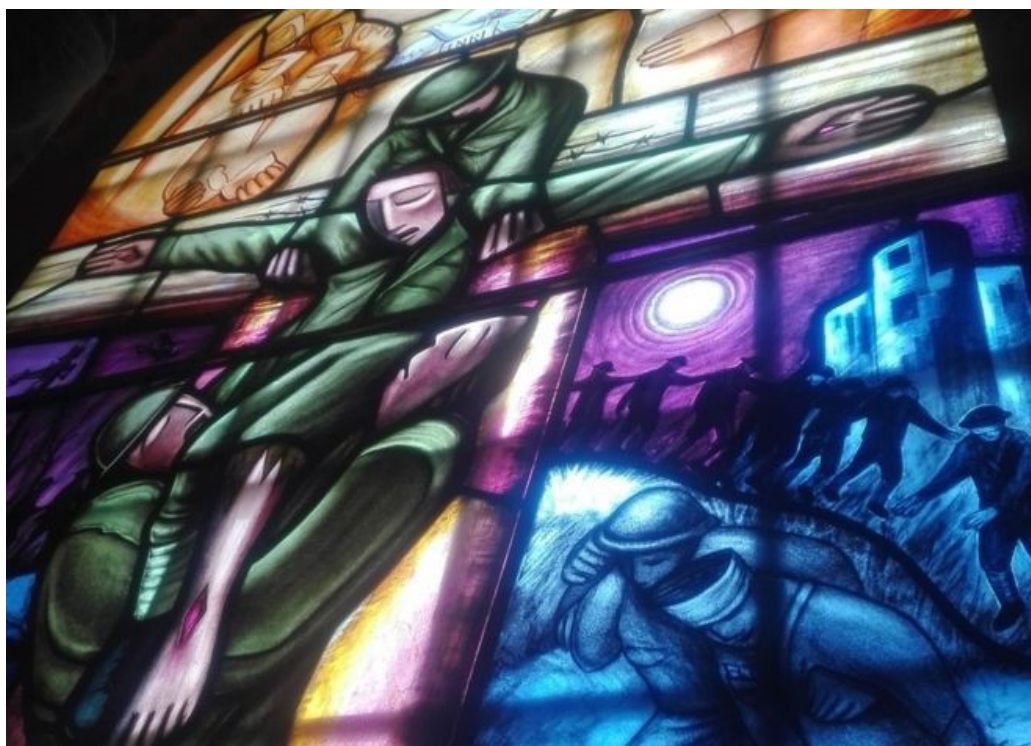
The large, four storey building remains much as it was. The rooms show how families were segregated, men, women and children each to their own areas, meeting only on Sundays for one hour, if they had obeyed the rules. Children benefitted the most as they were given an education here, which many were denied outside, due to the cost. This meant that as teenagers many left and found jobs and supported themselves. The men mostly worked outside, providing food for the whole community, while the women were inside cooking, laundry & cleaning. The basement was the worse place, dark damp & rat infested. Here were the large sinks where women stood all day peeling vegetables for the community (150 ish).

A very thought-provoking visit!

Thanks to all who joined us on the trip, Christine & Margaret

Note: if anybody would like to borrow the leaflets regarding the Minster, the Palace and the Workhouse please contact Margaret.

The Minster



The Great War  
Memorial Window



## The Battlefield Trust Events

### Battle of Stamford Bridge 1066 Festival Saturday 23rd September 2017

For more information visit [www.stamfordbridge1066.org.uk](http://www.stamfordbridge1066.org.uk)



### Yorkshire Battlefields Study Day Sunday 19th November 2017

Join Geoffrey Carter, Chris Rock and Dave Cooke as they explore Yorkshire's battlefield history from the vikings to the Civil War.

The Study Day is being held in the York Army Museum, 3 Tower Street, York, YO1 9SB from 10:00am to 4:30pm. Tickets are £10 for Battlefield Trust members and £15 for non-members.

The talks will include handling of objects from the York Army Museum and light refreshments are included in the ticket price.

Further information from

[Yorkshire@battlefieldtrust.Com](mailto:Yorkshire@battlefieldtrust.Com)

