

BOROUGHBRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2014



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AUTUMN PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, LIBRARY

LADIES OF LETTERS – MARION MOVERLEY

*EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS AND DIARIES OF LADIES IN THE PAST GIVING
INSIGHTS INTO MARRIAGE, CHILDBIRTH AND WORK*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, CORONATION HALL

THE STORY OF LEEDS – JOHN GILLEGHAN MBE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, LIBRARY

REMNANTS OF A LOST LIFE – JACQUELINE DEPELLE
A WORLD WAR I CASUALTY'S PERSONAL FAMILY HISTORY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, LIBRARY

GLIMPSES OF NIDDERDALE HISTORY (1890-1950)
DAVID ALRED

TUESDAY EVENING MEETINGS HELD IN BOROUGHBRIDGE LIBRARY JUBILEE SUITE AT 7.30 (EXCEPT OCTOBER 14TH WHICH WILL BE IN CORONATION HALL). ALL WELCOME; MEMBERS FREE

FOR DETAILS ABOUT JOINING THE SOCIETY CONTACT THE SECRETARY ON 01423 322988



NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN JOHN WHITEHOUSE

The Society continues to flourish with popular and sustained interest in the Dog Kennel Lane project while the monthly speakers evenings have been well attended by members and guests. Particularly notable was the members' evening when six 'home grown' speakers presented subjects in which they had especial interest. Subject to availability this exercise could be repeated in 2015. Some members may even have enough material to do an hour's talk so untapped talent may be there to be exploited!

On a personal level for the last 6 months I have been "out of sorts" and unable to participate fully in some of the Society's activities. I am improving slowly but it will be some time before I can expect to be fully back to normal. In the circumstances I would be willing to pass the Chairmanship of the Society to a suitably interested member with effect from the AGM on 14th October 2014, subject to the usual election process.

EMMA LADY HAMILTON

I now return to March 2014 and Ivan Andrews' talk on *Emma and Horatio*. Emma Lady Hamilton was born on the Wirral, then Cheshire, dirt poor, the daughter of a blacksmith. Until she was 14 years of age Emma lived with her grandmother in Wales whereupon she was taken by her mother to London. Being something of a "beauty" her employment and career followed a predictable course: house-maid, sometime actress, prostitute, call-girl, housekeeper/mistress. Charles Grenville MP took her on as his mistress and instructed her in the appropriate social skills so that she became well versed in matters of culture and taste, including contemporary fashions.

Grenville's uncle, Sir William Hamilton (50) took a shine to Emma (19) and after a time took her as his mistress to live in Naples where he was the ambassador to the court of the King of Naples. Marriage followed but only after a protracted and reluctant royal assent had been secured. Sir William must have had a strong regard for Emma to endure the humiliation of the King's disapproval and to have stayed the course nevertheless.



The Young Emma, 1782, by George Romney

Marie Antoinette introduced Emma to her sister the Queen of Naples together with the

Spanish royal family. Apparently Emma was consequently recruited into the English spy network to report on conversations overheard while mingling with the royals and courtiers from the courts of Paris, Naples and Madrid. She was more famous for her parties, singing, dancing and classical poses. However, not all the attention she attracted was complimentary. Her life style had resulted in her becoming rather portly which made her poses look somewhat ludicrous, a situation exploited to the full by the cartoonists and social commentators of the day.

Lord Nelson returned from his victory at the Battle of the Nile in 1798 and stayed at Naples with the Hamiltons for 2 years. He was 40 years of age, Emma being 33 at this time. They started a permanent relationship which was a general scandal although Sir William never admitted knowledge of the affair and continued to treat Nelson like the son that he had never had. But Fanny, Lady Nelson, was more honest and secured a separation from her husband. Meanwhile Emma had a daughter to Nelson, named Horatia, so no shame or attempt at concealment there!

On Sir William's death the romantic couple bought a stylish house, *Merton*, where the social and party life continued unabated. Upon Nelson's death, despite his wish that the nation look after Emma, she became a social pariah. She had received no widow's pension from the government after her husband's death and as she fell on hard times she was shunned by family, government and society alike.

Emma continued to live the high life until, having accumulated debts of £15,000, she sold *Merton* and served a spell in a debtors' prison. Subsequently she travelled with Horatia to France where in 1815 she died in poverty and a drunk.

Life and Society were seemingly harsh with Emma, the consort of a national hero who 'saved our bacon' at the cost of his own life. But things are not always what they seem. The nation indeed loved Nelson but it is probable that he was not so admired by the King and the establishment who saw him as a glory-seeker and a self publicist. In 1805 it was the custom and practice for sailors and officers killed in action to be buried at sea but Nelson was transported to London where a reluctant establishment gave him a state funeral and burial at Westminster Abbey. The Nation, after all, would accept nothing less. You will all recall a similar situation that arose a few years back concerning a young woman loved by the nation and the constitutional crisis that was narrowly avoided.



Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier as Emma Hamilton and Lord Nelson in 'That Hamilton Woman'

CARRYING A COFFIN FROM SCARBOROUGH TO CUNDALL

In April Ann Fell gave a presentation about an ordinary but in some ways remarkable man who, in 1889, transported a coffin the 49 miles from Scarborough to Cundall on a hand-cart. He was James Yeates and one of his 11 children (a son aged 11 years) accompanied him. The coffin contained the body of his wife Annie, who was to be buried in Cundall churchyard beside her mother. Bearing in mind that he would have had to walk the cart back to Scarborough James' dedication to his wife was very commendable seeing as he could not afford the cost of transport by rail and road.



Cundall Church
and Grave Stones

James' career was traced from his employment as a page at Scruton Hall to being a butler at two London houses before becoming a self-employed photographer working in Scarborough during the summer and wintering in his studio at Brixton where he supplemented his income by working as a waiter.

He later moved to Scarborough permanently but in 1901 set up business in Skipton Road, Harrogate, where he operated a mobile photographic studio combined with the sale of ice cream and pie and peas.

A true mini-entrepreneur whose initiative provided a living for a very big family, he died aged 83 and was buried alongside his beloved Annie. He had survived her by 34 years. A moving tale of a worthy man.

THE BATTLE OF FULFORD

In May we were taken through the Battle of Fulford 1066 which preceded the skirmishes at Stamford Bridge and Hastings. The Viking invaders won the day at Fulford but Harold marched from the south via Tadcaster in short order, burnt the Viking boats and fell on the invaders at Stamford Bridge, roundly defeating them.

Harold then set off to meet the Normans who had landed on the south coast.

The archaeological process of identifying the precise location of this battle was explained in some detail and Chas Jones spoke about court proceedings being underway to prevent building on the Fulford site. Over the summer we learnt that this particular battle had been lost. Mr. Justice Lindbloom upheld English Heritage's decision not to add Germany Beck, the most likely site of the battle, to their official battlefields register.

JUNE MEMBERS' EVENING

Members evening in June included the following contributions, ensuring a convivial and interesting evening:

Mavis Harper, complete with the human skull found in her attic at *Myndhurst*;

Dorothy Kaye on Connections and places by which family history may be traced and identified;

Viv Green reading correspondence from her father who served in the School of Super Heavy Railway Artillery during World War 2;

David Bellwood with an account of his ancestor the estate agent (his Great Grandfather actually);

Mike Tasker quoting from his research into the recollections of 150 local servicemen who survived World War 2. An epic work in progress. Mike will provide a longer talk in 2015;

John Whitehouse with recollections of a 4 year old re. Hull in World War 2 (with a little help from his brother and mother).

July's meeting comprised a splendid trip to Beamish. Thank you Margaret and Christine.

Hoping that you have all had a stimulating and refreshing summer holiday.

John Whitehouse



NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Members,

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, 14th October, at 7.30pm in **The Coronation Hall, Langthorpe**. Please would members begin considering who they would like to nominate as officers.

I have already indicated that I would not be able to continue as Secretary beyond the current year. However, if nominated, I am prepared to extend my term as Secretary until the completion of the Dog Kennel Lane Project, which is due to end early in 2015.

Family commitments in Montrose, Scotland, and Orpington, Kent, mean that I will not be able to continue beyond this point. If anyone is interested in taking over the post of Secretary and would like to discuss what it entails, please speak to me.

Please would you let me have any items for inclusion on the AGM agenda by September 30th.

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, September 30th at 7.30pm in Boroughbridge Library.

We have been contacted by Alice Barrigan about the Stubbs family, whose ledgers relating to their Boroughbridge warehouse the Society donated to the North Yorkshire Archive Service. Alice now has a website giving historical information on the Stubbs warehouse and its Boroughbridge connections.

The site brings alive some of the people, who previously have been only names to us. Enter "Stubbs ledgers Boroughbridge" into your search engine. Alice has also written a leaflet "A Boyhood in Boroughbridge", which is on the website.

Cont.....

We have also been contacted by relatives of Archie White, the Victoria Cross holder from Boroughbridge. We have been able to help them with a photograph of the shop, which his parents owned.

In 2016, one hundred years after Archie White was awarded the VC, Boroughbridge will receive one of the national commemorative paving stones to install in memory of Archie and of the First World War.

We have been asked by David Rivers, of Northallerton, if anyone would like to steward for him at the Exhibition of Clocks he is holding at Tennants Auction House in Leyburn. The exhibition will run from Saturday, September 27th until Wednesday, October 22nd, excluding Sundays, between 10am and 4pm.

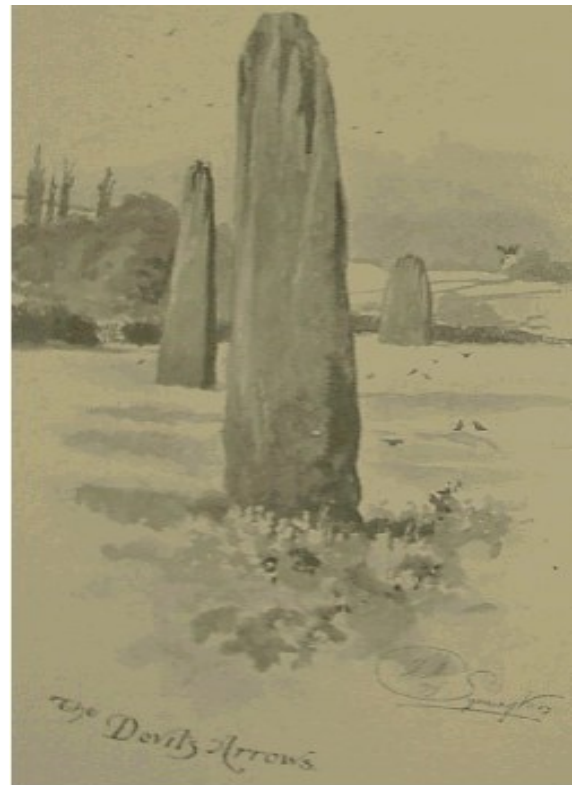
If you are interested in helping or just visiting the exhibition, I can forward David's email. Admission is free, but a donation to the Scanner Appeal at the Friarage Hospital, would be welcome.

Mike Haken, editor of the newsletter *Roman Yorkshire*, will give an introductory talk on The Roman Roads of North Yorkshire at Thornton-le-Street Village Hall between Thirsk and Northallerton on Saturday, September 13th at 2pm. Admission is £2.

Boroughbridge Library has copies of 1914 in Yorkshire, a York Museums' Trust publication, which lists all the events planned so far in Yorkshire to commemorate the First World War.

Thank you,

Linda Dooks
(Secretary.boroughbridgehistory@gmail.com)



Interesting pieces from members suitable for the newsletter are always welcome.

To discuss anything you feel you would like to contribute please contact Peter Fleming by e-mail:

Peter.fleming57@btinternet.com

Thank you, Peter



DOG KENNEL LANE UPDATE

DAVID BARLEY



Again we have had a very busy three months. From the middle of April to the middle of July we have had a total of fifteen different activities concerning our project. We have had five meetings at our usual Coronation Hall venue on a Tuesday night. Four of these were study/progress meetings to discuss our findings and the other a talk and demonstration by Jon Kenny on Geophysics.

One of the purposes of our project is to visit relevant archives and sites of interest. To this end we had visits to: the West Yorkshire Archive Service at Morley; Archives at Dusk at Northallerton; the NYCC Historic Environment Record Office(HER); the North Yorkshire County Record Office; and the Alne Brickworks.

To inform a wider audience of our activities, we exhibited at three events, namely: the 'Pot to Plate'; 'Life in our Village' at Kirby Hill Church; and at the Aldborough and Boroughbridge Show.

Finally we involved Skelton School in a wildlife survey and had a Heritage Walk as part of the Boroughbridge Walking Festival. This followed the route which is to be one of the important outcomes of our project.

More detailed reports of these activities are available on the project website (dogkennellane.co.uk).

In the last few weeks we have had three days conducting geophysics on the large mound feature which first triggered off the project, also on the possible site of the old dog kennels. The results are in the process of being 'interpreted', and we are all eager to hear the outcome.

I would like to thank all members of the project group for their continuing hard work, enthusiasm, and good fun.

David Barley.



Project Exhibition at Kirby Hill



In the west Yorkshire Archives at Morley

www.dogkennellane.co.uk

THE DOG KENNEL LANE AUTUMN PROGRAMME

Among topics planned up to Christmas are:

A look at the life of Recusants, including Mary Ward, who was born at Mulwith, and Thomas Tancred, of Boroughbridge and Brampton, and any connection the families may have had with the Gunpowder Plot.

The history we can find out from the remains of buildings.

Development of farming from prehistory to the present time.

Programme

Tuesday, September 2nd, Study Evening.

Saturday, September 6th - Guided tour of the Bar Convent Museum, York. 2.15pm for 2.30pm £3.50.

Tuesday, September 16th - History from Buildings, Barry Harrison.

Tuesday, October 7th- Study Evening

Saturday, October 18th - Visit to the Yorkshire Farming Museum at York 10.30am. Admission £5.

Tuesday, October 21st - Study evening

Weekend of November 1st -2nd - proposed visit to Ripley Castle, the home of the Ingilby family. This is a special weekend looking at their association with the Gun Powder plot conspirators.

Tuesday, November 4th - Study Evening

Tuesday, November 18th - NO MEETING.

Tuesday, December 2nd - Study Evening.

We are still looking at more geophysics and field-walking. This will include a half day session with the children at Skelton-on-Ure School, which is planned before Christmas.

This programme is subject to addition and change. Events take place in Coronation Hall at 7.30 unless otherwise stated.



Pandora and Laurie enjoying themselves with Geophysics

**www.dogkennellane.
co.uk**

The Dog Kennel Lane Project

Saturday, September 6th

Guided tour of the Bar Convent Museum, York

All welcome.

2.15pm for 2.30pm. Admission £3.50.

The Bar convent was founded by Mary Ward, who was born at Mulwith, which is a farmhouse we are researching as part of our Dog Kennel Lane Project.

The museum display tells the history of the early recusant period from Henry VIII to Elizabeth I.

Mary Ward (1585-1645) was a pioneer both of women's education and apostolic religious orders for women. Her fascinating life story is told in displays on the ground and first floor of the museum.

The museum also includes recusant artefacts associated with Margaret Clitheroe, the York Martyr, and Gun Powder Plot conspirators such as Guy Fawkes.

There is also an excellent tea room for lunch before the tour or for refreshments afterwards.



Please use your own or shared transport or use the Boroughbridge-York buses 142/143, which stop opposite the museum.

The Museum is on Blossom Street, just before the bus turns left at Micklegate Bar towards the railway station.

Please book a place with Linda or make a request for transport requirements as soon as possible either by email or telephone 01423 322988. Pay on the day. Friends and family welcome.



Visit to the Yorkshire Farming Museum:

Saturday, October 18th.

Admission £5. (Own/shared transport)

Visit to Ripley Castle Guy Fawkes Blood and Treason weekend:

Saturday or Sunday, 1st or 2nd November. Further details to follow.