

BOROUGHBRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2014



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SUMMER PROGRAMME

SATURDAY MAY 10TH

PLOT TO PLATE EXHIBITION
(LIBRARY 10.00-3.30)

TUESDAY MAY 13TH

THE BATTLE OF FULFORD – CHAS JONES

TUESDAY JUNE 10TH

MEMBERS' EVENING AND SUMMER SUPPER
(SEE SECRETARY'S NOTES)

TUESDAY JULY 1ST

TRIP TO BEAMISH (SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS)

SUNDAY JULY 20TH

ALDBOROUGH & BOROUGHBRIDGE SHOW EXHIBITION

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

TUESDAY EVENING MEETINGS HELD IN BOROUGHBRIDGE LIBRARY JUBILEE
SUITE AT 7.30 PM ALL WELCOME; MEMBERS FREE

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



NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN JOHN WHITEHOUSE

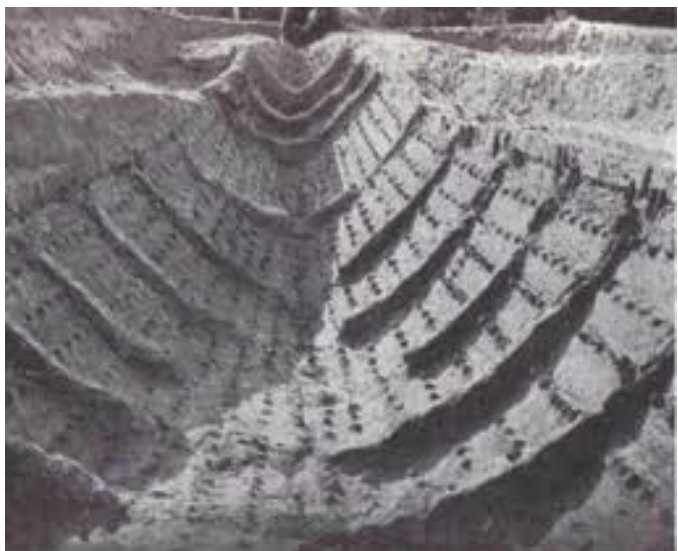
2014 has to date seen interesting speakers, good sized audiences and, thanks to Kevin, a useful introduction to the research methodology that can be adopted for the Langthorpe Archaeology Project. Participants in the project will shortly be able to go it alone initiating individual exercises that will reflect the five main areas of research approved by the HLF. Lottery funded activities are open to all interested parties who can just turn up at the appropriate time and join in at the level they feel comfortable with. Membership of the Boroughbridge and District Historical Society is not mandatory. However, the project is a team effort and funded as such by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Therefore, all persons taking part are expected to donate their findings to the Project's final outcome/reports. These in turn will be shared and archived for the benefit of wider audiences that will be acquired through web-sites, libraries, schools and county record offices etc. A detailed update can be found later in this newsletter. A brief synopsis of the recent talks given on "club nights" is set out below.

SUTTON HOO

Eric Holder returned in January relating his experiences as an archaeological 'gaffer' on the Sutton Hoo Anglo Saxon Burial Ship site. He bypassed the royal treasure hoard itself, which can be seen in all its amazing glory on the Sutton Hoo/British Museum web sites, and concentrated on personal anecdotes.

The original opening of the burial mounds in the late 1930s was remarkable for its semi-professional/amateur approach but the discovery of a fossilised Viking burial ship and £40M worth of treasure (at today's prices) proved the competence of these enthusiasts. The onset of war resulted in the treasure being given to the British Museum. The site became a War Office training ground. The army caused a lot of damage to the site including the ship which had remained in situ. In the late 1960s the British Museum employed over 100 people to excavate the long ship, together with two unexploded mortar bombs and the odd human corpse. Evidence of a Bronze Age village was also found. A moment of pathos resulted from the find of a ploughman's remains. Prior to the King's burial, the pit surface was ploughed by a volunteer who was then buried alive in order to serve as a servant to the King in the after-life. All slightly bizarre but apparently this selfless custom was a traditional and common rite of the time.

A later dig in the 1980s revealed a mass burial site containing headless bodies. Criminals were executed by beheading so lawlessness must have been positively rampant! An interesting talk which incorporated strong recommendations for a local hostelry, The Sorrel Horse public house, which served as the de facto HQ for the social and cultural activities of the diggers.



February's presentation by Kevin Cale, our lottery project's consulting archaeologist featured a school project looking into the village Christmas of 1913; the last peacetime celebration before the start of World War 1. In fact over one dozen primary schools in the area took part as far apart as Roecliffe and North Stainley.

A 90min DVD has been made using material garnered from Thirsk museum, Ripon Library and NYCC.



Roecliffe Primary School

Pupils were familiarised with the role of the appropriate experts. These included field archaeologists, local historians and archivists. Local newspapers, Kelly's Directory of 1890, Ordnance Survey map plus the Absent Voters List helped in the location and movement of businesses and individuals. Contemporary photographs were obtained showing school members, social events and the working life of villagers at the time. Movement of young people out to work and older residents in to retire was not uncommon although nowhere near as prevalent as today.

Interesting facts included: The population of Roecliffe in 1901 was 217. The school built in 1874 with £2K contributed by Mr Lawson of Aldborough had a capacity for 102 children but average attendance was in the order of 42 only. The optimism of the Victorians was constant. They seemed to over-estimate and over-engineer everything. Churches built to house congregations that never materialised; ships, railways and bridges that would last for ever and have the capacity to accommodate future developments in size and weight. Exclude the old Tay bridge from that but the Empire was the biggest optimism of all. Half the world controlled by a few thousand home-grown civil servants and regular soldiers. Our oversized navy held the key but clearly Brits had more confidence in their future than we do now. Decline was inevitable.

The pupil groups engaged in research presented their work to their own school mates. Altogether a sophisticated project for young children which presumably stretched them considerably while increasing their awareness of their own local history. Many of the families covered by the 1913 study are of course still resident locally today.

EMMA AND HORATIO

March 2014 gave us Ivan Andrew's presentation of Emma and Horatio. Ivan posed as a friend of the couple (Alexander Davison) and took us through Emma's rags to riches to rags story which so scandalised the hypocritical London and country society at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century.

A full exposé on her less than immaculate conduct in the next newsletter. I think her treatment was harsh all things considered but we now live in slightly more tolerant times. The hypocrisy of the upper classes is a study in itself reflecting the attitudes and fears of the time.

Happy Easter, John Whitehouse



Emma Hamilton

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

LINDA DOOKS

Members' Evening and Summer Supper

You will notice that the June Meeting of the Historical Society is a members' evening. We did this and had a very interesting evening once before; remember Eileen's statue or was it a doorstep? If you are working on a project or have a favourite historic item you would like to share the story of please let us know so we can plan the evening. We also plan to have a raffle (committee members only to bring along a prize). Would members please bring along a contribution to the summer supper which will be a finger buffet? **Further details on page 5.**

Exhibitions and Displays

We will be having a display in the library for the **'Plot to Plate'** day on the 10th May from 10 am to 3.30 pm. There will also be a display at the **Aldborough Show**, which this year will be held at Dishforth Airfield.

Dog Kennel Lane Project

A big thank you to everyone for their support. David Barley has written an update (page 7) and future dates appear on page 8.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer, Linda

Linda Dooks, (Secretary.broughbridgehistory@gmail.com)

MEMBERS' EVENING – CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

There have been very good turn outs at recent talks arranged by the historical society and growing interest in our work has been generated through the Dog Kennel Lane project. A truly vibrant society of course depends on the willingness of members to 'get involved'. One very simple way of doing this is to consider contributing to the members' evening on June 10th. You do not need to be a professional speaker or a professional historian to do so. If you have an interesting family history, special memory, unusual artefact or memento then please consider sharing this with other members. You need only talk and share for 5—10 minutes. Knowing how inquisitive we all are the chances are something special to you will also be of great interest to others.

If you would like to contribute on the 10th June please make contact with Margaret Tasker who can then organise a 'batting order'. Margaret can be contacted on 01423 322862 or by e-mail at margaret.tasker322@btinternet.com

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL OUTING



Beamish

Members have voted for this year's annual trip to be to Beamish. The trip will be on July 1st, departing from St. James' Square at 9.15 am, returning for 6.00 pm. The cost is £24.00, which includes the driver's tip. Friends and family are welcome.

A deposit of £5.00 will be required to reserve your place. This can be done at the May meeting or by post to Margaret Tasker using the form below.

BOROUGHBRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL TRIP— BOOKING FORM

The coach to Beamish will depart St. James Square, Boroughbridge at 9.15 am and will return for 6.00 pm.

I require ____ places at £24.00 per person

Name of Society Member(s) _____

Name(s) of family/friends _____

£5.00 per named person is required to reserve a place.

Please see Margaret Tasker at the meeting on May 13th or send cheques made payable to Boroughbridge and District Historical Society to: Margaret Tasker, BDHS, 48 Chatsworth Grove, Boroughbridge, YO51 9BB

MARKET TOWNS SURVEY

DAVID BARLEY

Towards the end of 2013 the society contributed to a research project conducted by the PLACE Education and Research Centre based at York St John University. (PLACE stands for people, landscape and cultural environment of Yorkshire.)

This survey had two objectives:

- to record the land use of the central areas of market towns in North Yorkshire;
- To gain an idea of the range and variety of non-commercial or cultural and social facilities available in each town (churches, theatres, societies, clubs etc.).

The reason for assessing the character and attractions of the towns surveyed was to feed this into a discussion on why market towns appear to be doing much better than many urban centres in retaining a sense of community, and the positive attitude towards them of residents and visitors.

The extract from the published booklet regarding Boroughbridge reads as follows:

'Boroughbridge was established by the Normans on the bank of the River Ure, a little lower down the hill, at a convenient bridging point; it grew into an important market town in the C12.

Its charter was renewed in the C14 but there is no longer a weekly market. Today it has an attractive market place with a covered cross, and the main street zig-zags towards the bridge before climbing again towards Ripon. There are some 90 retail and commercial establishments in the town, along High Street, Fishergate, Horsefair and St. James Square, giving a strong visual focus to Boroughbridge. About 65 residential properties, many of them flats over shops, are mixed in with the commercial and public buildings so there is a strong sense that this is a community as well as well as being a service centre for two dozen villages in a district extending from Green Hammerton to Dishforth.' (*Yorkshire Market Towns: not just for shopping* by Michael Hopkinson, PLACE 2014)



Should anyone like to look further into the outcomes of the survey a copy of the booklet can be borrowed from the Society.



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



Since the last Newsletter at the beginning of the year we seem to have been projected into 'The Project'. The official Press Release was on the 16th January, accompanied by a great publicity campaign organised by Linda. This involved a report in the Ripon Gazette, mentions in: Ure Valley News; Church Magazines; together with posters, door to door leaflets and a radio interview. The outcome was a very successful Launch Day in the Coronation Hall on the 1st February. About 150 people came along with 16 children upstairs. I thought the atmosphere was excellent and the venue "cosy". The children were with Kevin in the morning digging up 'artefacts'. There was plenty of interest in the project and in the general history of Boroughbridge. People seemed to enjoy the event with lots of laughter and nostalgia in the tearoom.

This was followed by seven events, three of them workshops given by Kevin Cale: Geology on the 4th February; Maps on the 18th February; and Aerial Photography on the 18th March; all very well attended, and delivered in Kevin's enthusiastic way. A visit was made to the "After the Ice" Exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum on the 8th March. This concentrated on the life of hunter-gatherers at Star Carr in East Yorkshire 11,000 years ago, immediately after the Ice Age. I was struck by the fact that even then, man was a social animal. On the 29th March an Oral History workshop was held in the Jubilee Room, tutored by Tracy Craggs, a professional interviewer. Oral History training is one of the approved purposes of our grant. She explained the do's and don'ts of good interviewing techniques, which, when we practiced with each other, did not come easily. We also had a stand at the "Local and Family History Day" at the Pavilions Harrogate on March 15th. This was an "awareness" exercise for both the project and the Historical Society to a wider audience and had positive outcomes.



The most recent event bringing us into April was the Flint Workshop held on the 3rd at Aldborough Village Hall. This was given by Spencer Carter, an archaeologist from London. He gave us a history, with examples, of stone tools and artefacts from early humans to about 3,000 years ago. This was a very interesting talk that whetted our appetite for our future field walking.

So far the project has tended to be a flow of information and knowledge from other sources into the group. We now feel we have reached the stage where members could possibly pursue their own particular interests and research, and bring information to the project. The meeting to be held on Tuesday 15th April is designated a "Progress" meeting. So if you have any "pet" subjects you would like to pursue, whether it be maps, oral history, Brampton Hall, aerial photography, wildlife or whatever - let us know. Please 'Have a Go'; any information is good information. More detailed reports of the events can be found on the project website.

www.dogkennellane.co.uk

T h a n k s f o r a l l y o u r e f f o r t s s o f a r a n d k e e p u p
t h e g o o d w o r k , D a v i d .

D A T E S F O R Y O U R D I A R Y

L I N D A D O O K S

Dog Kennel Lane Project Summer Programme

Wednesday 23rd April - Proposed heritage trail walk: Skelton to Langthorpe

See Walkers are Welcome Boroughbridge Easter Festival Walks leaflet for details or visit the Walkers are Welcome website (<http://www.boroughbridgewalks.org.uk>)

28th April - Skelton Primary School Environment Day

If you would like to help with this please contact David Barley or Kevin Cale

Tuesday 6th May - Coronation Hall Study Evening, 7.30 pm

Thursday 8th May - Visit to Archives at Morley, 11 am. Further details later.

Thursday 15th May - *Archives at Dusk*, County Records Office Northallerton, 6 pm to 8.30 pm.

Tuesday 20th May - *Using Geophysics* with Jon Kenny

Programme subject to addition and change. Shared transport where possible.

We also plan to visit NYCC County Records Office, the York Handmade Brickworks and the Historic Environment Records at Northallerton before the August break.

Visit the website for updates. www.dogkennellane.co.uk

O t h e r E v e n t s o f I n t e r e s t

Engaging with the Landscapes of Death, 10 am - 4 pm Thursday 15 May

This free workshop at King's Manor in the centre of York discusses how to develop local community involvement in your churchyard or cemetery and includes a hands-on training session on the digital recording of monuments.

The event is free but places are limited. Tickets are available from gareth.beale@york.ac.uk



Excavation Photography, Sat. 28 June and Sat. 9th August

Elmet Archaeology is holding two related workshops on Excavation Photography on Sat. 28 June and Sat. 9 August. The former is classroom based and the second site based, weather permitting. The cost is £25 per session. The leader is one of Britain's most experienced site photographers with credits from Sutton Hoo (not the recent dig) to St Aidan's and many dozens of excavations in between.

For more details contact Elmet Archaeology: info@elmetarchaeology.co.uk

Exhibition of Northallerton Clocks in Leyburn

Dr. D. F. Severs

For almost 50 years I have been pursuing my ancestors Hugh and Joshua Pannell, who were clockmakers in Northallerton in the 18th century. I have a list of 121 clocks and watches made by them. Since starting research for my first book on Northallerton's clockmakers almost 20 years ago I have been pursuing the town's other clockmakers and have a list of 199 clocks and watches made by 23 other makers.

Many of the clocks and watches are far from Northallerton, many overseas, but quite a few are not. It has long been my ambition to use my knowledge of the town's makers and their clocks still to be found comparatively locally to organize an exhibition of Northallerton clocks. This will take place at **Tennant's Auction Centre, Leyburn** this Autumn in aid of the Friarage Hospital scanner appeal. Owners of Northallerton clocks have responded magnificently and included in the exhibition will be no fewer than 28 long-case clocks, 9 wall clocks, 2 bracket clocks, 5 watches and 2 barometers made or sold in Northallerton by 14 clockmakers between c.1750 and c.1900. Fourteen of the long-case clocks have brass-dials and were made in the 3rd quarter of the 18th century. Also on display will be much else to do with the town's clockmakers.

The significance of the exhibition cannot be overemphasised. A one-town exhibition is a rarity in the world of clocks and it is thought it will be the first in the north-east. It is already exciting interest even before it has been publicized, with visitors intending to come from far and wide, including 2 enthusiasts from the Netherlands and one from Norway. The exhibition will also be significant for Northallerton. It could not have been mounted without my extensive knowledge of the whereabouts of Northallerton clocks and my acquaintance with the owners nurtured over almost 50 years. Gathering some 46 clocks, watches and barometers will be a considerable logistical exercise. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the town's clocks assembled in one place.

The exhibition will run from **10am - 4pm from Saturday 27 September until Wednesday 22 October (excluding Sundays)**. Admission is free but donation to the scanner appeal will be welcome. There will be a ticket-only preview evening on Friday 26 September, details of which will be announced in due course.

My object in writing to you is to invite members of the historical society to attend if they so wish. There will be one or two conducted tours each day. Also, I would like to invite any interested members to act as stewards. We shall need at least three each day and we need volunteers because stewarding is beyond me and the three clock-enthusiast friends who are helping me because we will be involved in conducting tours, etc., although we will, of course, act as stewards when we can. No knowledge of clocks is required and the duties will not be onerous – merely to direct visitors to the further information that will be available and to ensure visitors do not touch the clocks. Even a half-day will help and it could of course be combined with a visit to the exhibition.

Anyone willing should contact me at dsevers@btinternet.com or 01609 771867.

Finally, although I have been looking for Northallerton clocks for almost 50 years and one would think I would already know of all the examples to be found locally, now and again I come across one I didn't know about. If any of your members know of the whereabouts of a Northallerton clock I should be delighted to be informed.

Dr. D. F. Severs
59 Trinity Gardens
Northallerton
DL6 1GA

01609 771867

