

BOROUGHBRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2019

CONTENTS

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN	2
TALES FROM THE UPPER DALE	3-4
THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF BOROUGHBRIDGE	5-6
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN BOROUGHBRIDGE AND SANTIAGO	7-8
THE MIDDLEHAM JEWEL	9-10
SOCIETY TRIP	11
FUTURE SPEAKERS	11

SUMMER PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 14TH MAY

JON KENNY, ARCHAEOLOGIST

EXPLORING AN IRON AGE SITE IN THE YORK AREA

TUESDAY, 11TH JUNE

WENDY HYAM

ROMANS ON YOUR DOORSTEP

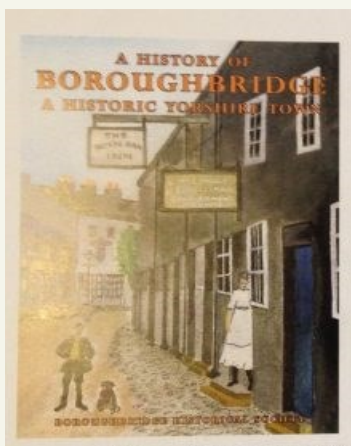
TUESDAY, 9TH JULY

SUE MCGEEVER

HATS AND HUTS: THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ON THE
WESTERN FRONT

MEETINGS ARE HELD IN BOROUGHBRIDGE LIBRARY JUBILEE SUITE AT 7.30

ALL WELCOME: MEMBERS FREE; VISITORS AND GUESTS £3.00



A HISTORY OF BOROUGHBRIDGE

AVAILABLE FROM TOURIST INFORMATION, PYBUS,
AND OTHER SHOPS IN BOROUGHBRIDGE.

COPIES CAN ALSO BE BOUGHT AT MONTHLY
BDHS MEETINGS

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As I write these few words to open the summer newsletter I can see from my desk a variety of plants coming into leaf and colour emerging in my garden. What a glorious time of year this is. Having just cycled what is called the way of the Roses (a route that takes you up hill and down dale through Lancashire and Yorkshire) I have also been reminded of just how privileged I am to live in beautiful North Yorkshire. History, of course, is one way we can explore and better understand our wonderful area, and many of our guest speakers are chosen to do just that.

Which brings me to the summer programme. The society has an excellent programme of guest speakers organised, thanks once again to David Barley. We continue to get very good numbers at-

tending each meeting, to the point where April's event was almost 'standing room only'! If you know of speakers you think would go down well please do let David know.

Our History of Boroughbridge book has sold so well that we are in the process of having more copies printed. Mike has been through the text with a fine-tooth comb ensuring any errors have been corrected.

During the Easter walking festival the society had a display in the library and several society members made themselves available to greet visitors interested in what was on display. Thank you to all who volunteered.

Peter Fleming (chair)

Committee Members 2019

Jackie Akers: Treasurer

Peter Audsley: Committee member

David Barley: Speakers' Secretary

David Bellwood: Website Manager

Linda Dooks: Vice Chair and Archivist

Peter Fleming: Chairman, Newsletter

Christine Tasker: Annual Excursion

Margaret Tasker: Publicity, Newsletter Distribution, Room Bookings, General Enquiries, Annual Excursion

Mike Tasker: Book project

John Winn: Minutes

JANUARY SPEAKER

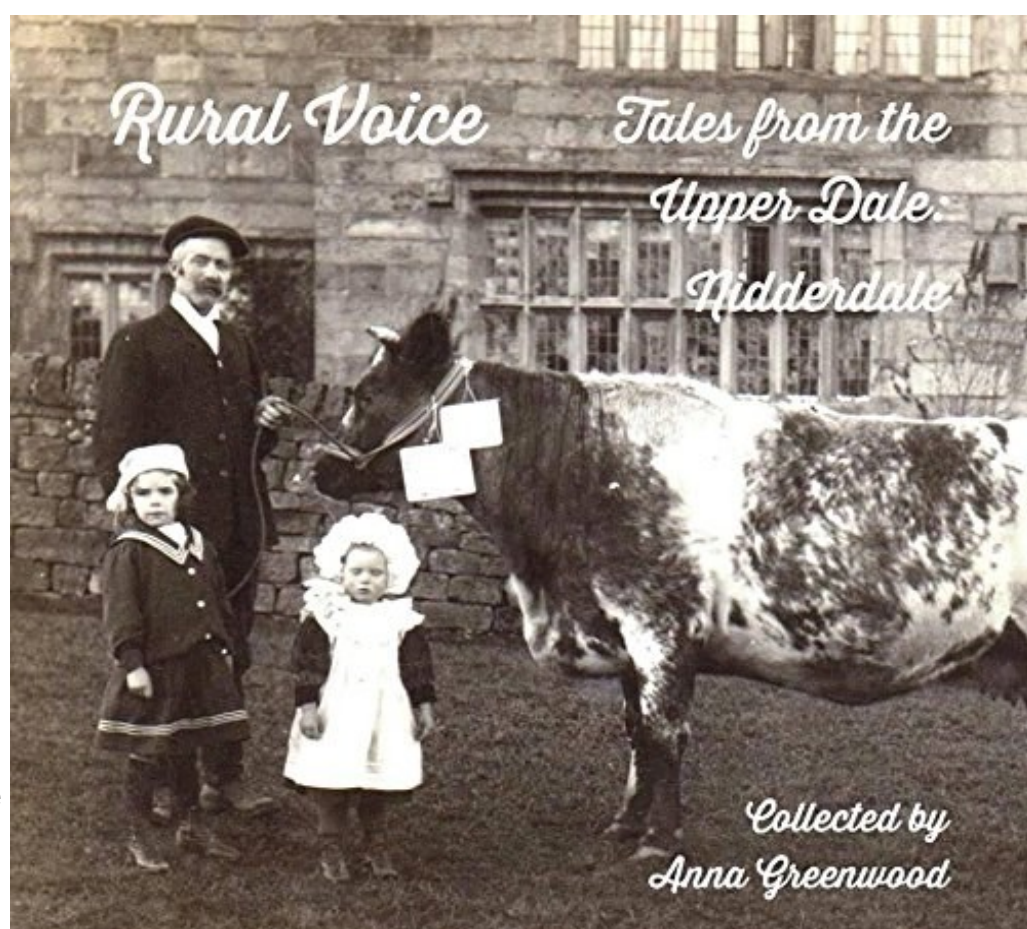
ANNA GREENWOOD: TALES FROM THE UPPER DALE

Anna explained to us how, on returning from India in 2011, she set about research for what would become a book, *Tales from the Upper Dale*. In writing the book (2012-2017) she was struck by the similarities in terms of human behaviour between Indian villages now and villages in the past in Upper Nidderdale, namely the limited supply of goods and materials, the use of migrant labour and the significance of religion in the life of a village.

Her talk introduced us to Dales characters she had interviewed but also to older characters brought alive through the memory of their relatives or through what they had written down.

Upper Nidderdale, situated north of Pateley Bridge stretches to a dead end at Middlesmoor and Scar Reservoir. This restricted access gave the Upper Dale a barrier from modern living and created a part of Yorkshire steeped in tradition, where change was slow.

Anna shared with us what people she interviewed had said about what they did on a Sunday, getting educated, the dale's annual events, village life, farming life, the value of money, the effect of war, and the glorious dancing years.



People Anna met while researching included Connie Bickerdike, Peter Boddy, Jack Haines, Gladys Blakeson, Sam Hesselden, Dinah Lee, John Rayner, Ann Smith, Audrey Summersgill and William Verity.

Her talk provided us with insights into how people lived in remote areas before the modern inventions we take for granted became commonplace and also into the methods used when embarking on an oral history project.



John Rayner, hill farmer, Gouthwaite, Nidderdale

Christmas. "We always had a goose. There wun't any turkeys fifty and eighty years ago. Never 'eard of 'em. "



Dinah Lee, Teacher Middlesmoor, Nidderdale

"Some of the boys were very big, and the headmistress was very very stern, you daren't hardly breathe"

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

LINDA DOOKS : THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES OF BORBOUGHBRIDGE

In February our very own Linda Dooks took us on a comprehensive tour of local churches with the aid of a good range of projected photographs. Her talk helped us to see beyond familiar landmarks with interesting facts and insights.

She began with reference to the 'old church' in Boroughbridge which had existed until 1851 on the site that now houses the fountain. Canon Robert Owen was mainly responsible for St. James' church we now see on Church Lane.

Moving to Aldborough, Linda explained how the church there has been altered and added to over time, with some use being made of stones from earlier Roman buildings. News to me was the fact that St. Andrew's church pendulum is the largest in Yorkshire.

The church in Dunsforth is large and impressive. Built in Victorian times it is one of the many churches erected as symbols of the power of the Church of England at a time when souls were being 'lost' to non-conformity.



All Saints, Kirby Hill



St. James' Boroughbridge

Linda then spoke about several other churches, including:

- Great Ouseburn church (a picture of it was painted by Anne Bronte)
- Marton cum Grafton church (which was moved and rebuilt using the same stones)
- Minskip 'mission' church (names of those who fell in World War I on the altar rail)
- Roecliffe church (with a Jacobean pulpit from York Minster)
- Christ the Consoler at Skelton on Ure (built in tribute to Frederick Vyner)
- All Saints, Kirby Hill (Saxon sculptured stones mounted on the wall)
- Cundall Church

Returning to Boroughbridge Linda reminded us of non-conformist churches which came and went, for example the Baptist church at Langthorpe, now a fabric shop, the Methodist chapel, now a workingmen's club.

This was a very interesting talk from a very knowledgeable society member. Thank you.



St. Mary's and All Angels, Cundall



St. John's, Minskip

TUESDAY, 12TH MARCH

TONY LEE

ST JAMES: BOROUGHBRIDGE AND SANTIAGO, IS RICHARD MAULEVERER THE CONNECTION?

In the 9th century the tomb of the apostle St James was unearthed in Compostela. The site became the focus of pilgrim trails beginning in France and crossing Northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela. While there are many different routes to Santiago de Compostela, the most well known of the Camino de Santiago walks (also known as the Compostela Trail or Way of St James) are in France and Spain. By the fifteenth century it is reckoned 500,000 pilgrims a year visited the site. In recent times undertaking the pilgrimage has become popular once again with around 300,000 people a year visiting. Our March speaker, Tony Lee, has completed El Camino pilgrimage twice, including a stretch from his home to Hull to ensure the entire journey was on foot. His talk gave us insights to the route and his preparations but the real focus of the evening was Tony's speculation that there may be a link between St. James's Boroughbridge and Santiago.



Richard Mauleverer was given land at Allerton near Knaresborough to be able to control movement by river and Roman road. Although documentary evidence is very limited we know that Richard undertook a pilgrimage to Compostella around 1105. About the same time Mauleverer granted some lands at Allerton to Holy Trinity Church of York and to the monks of the Benedictine Monastery of Saint Martin at Marmoutier in France. Tony argued that it is possible given his faith that on return from pilgrimage to the tomb of St. James he also gave money to the founding of the first St. James church in Boroughbridge. The church on the square was almost certainly founded in this period and the dedication to St. James is interesting but without evidence to support Tony's theory we cannot be certain that Mauleverer was responsible. Once again, an interesting speaker left us with more questions than answers. How similar to the work of a detective unearthing the past can be!





APRIL SPEAKER

KATE GILES: THE MIDDLEHAM JEWEL

The Middleham jewel was found in 1985 on a bridle path near Middleham by Ted Seaton using a metal detector. At first Ted thought he'd found an old powder compact, until he got it home. At a treasure trove inquiry, the jewel was declared lost or abandoned, and sold at Sotheby's in 1986, for £1.4m. It was acquired by the Yorkshire Museum in York in 1992 for £2.5 million, using funds raised by a public appeal.

The Middleham Jewel is a 15th-century pendant made by one of the finest medieval London goldsmiths. The pendant is 68 grams (2.4 oz) gold with a 10 carats blue sapphire stone set on one face. It measures approximately 6.4 centimetres (2.5 in) across. Only a wealthy and powerful person could have commissioned such a jewel. A high status item, it may have been owned by a relation of Richard III, possibly his wife Anne Neville, his mother Cecily Neville, or his mother-in-law Anne Beauchamp (1426–92), widow of Warwick the Kingmaker.



Its real significance may be in the story of its imagery. Its owner, most probably a woman, had it adorned with images of the Trinity, the Nativity, prayers and saints. These all had significance surrounding childbirth. The pendant opens and is thought to have contained the holy relic of a saint.

The blue jewel was believed to have medicinal qualities, providing protection against illness, and was considered to be a cure for ailments such as ulcers, poor eyesight, headaches and stammers. Blue is also the colour of the Virgin Mary, and the jewel may have been intended to assist childbirth.

The obverse bears a representation of the Trinity, including the Crucifixion of Jesus, bordered by a Latin inscription "Ecce Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi ... miserere nobis ... tetragramaton ... Ananyzapta" – the last possibly a magic word, intended to protect the user from epilepsy. The reverse face bears an engraving of the Nativity, with the Lamb of God, bordered by the faces of fifteen saints, some bearing attributes that allow them to be identified as St Peter, St George, St Barbara, and St Margaret of Antioch, Catherine of Alexandria, Dorothea of Caesarea, and St Anne. Suggestions for the others include St Augustine of Hippo, St Nicholas of Myra, St Jerome, Anthony of Padua, St Agnes, St Cecilia, St Clare of Assisi, and St Helena or Bridget of Sweden.¹ The pendant may originally have been further decorated with enamelling on each face and pearls around the edge.

The back panel slides to reveal a hollow interior, which originally contained three and a half tiny discs of silk embroidered with gold thread. The textile contents identify the jewel as a reliquary, containing a fragment of holy cloth. It would have been worn by a high-status lady, as the centrepiece for a large necklace. The sapphire may represent heaven, and could have acted as aid to prayer. The religious Catholic imagery almost certainly means the jewel is pre 1540, and most likely dates from the mid to late 1400s.



Middleham Castle

Kate Giles, from York University Archaeology Department, explained all of the above and much more besides. Her talk included engaging us in detailed speculation about who might have owned this amulet and how it might have been lost. She also explored with us the way in which the media had initially covered the discovery with a sexist slant, assuming a jewel of this quality must have belonged to a man, even though later experts would reject this idea. We also considered who the first buyer, who made such an enormous profit from the jewel, might have been. All in all Kate's talk was very well delivered and gave us much food for thought.



Society members may recall that the nation's interest in metal detecting peaked following the discovery of the Middleham Jewel.

BDHS 2019 Annual Outing Richmond & Kiplin Hall, Tuesday July 2nd

We meet in the Square 9.10 am to depart at 9.15. The coach will drop us off in the square at Richmond where we can spend 1-2 hours & then on to Kiplin Hall for the afternoon, leaving there to arrive back 5.30 to 6pm.

Richmond Castle is English Heritage so if you are a member and wish to visit don't forget your card. There is also the Green Howard Museum nearby.

Kiplin Hall is a Jacobean House, the country seat of the founder of Maryland Sir George Calvert. There are extensive grounds and gardens plus a licensed tearoom.



Richmond

The charge for the outing will be £23.00, including entrance to Kiplin Hall, coach fare and the driver's tip.

To reserve seats please let us have a deposit of £5 by the end of May, relatives & friends welcome. All enquiries to Christine (01423 862896) or Margaret (01423 322862).

Early Notification of speakers for later in the year

Oct 8 th	Simon Richardson	"Relics of the Roses"
Nov 12 th	Edgar Holroyd-Doveton	"Turnpike Roads"
Dec 10 th	Stewart Liles	"Tramways of the Dales"