

BOROUGHBRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022

CONTENTS

CHAIR'S NOTES	2
BATTLE OF BOROUGHBRIDGE BOARDS	3-5
VISIT TO PONTEFRAC T	6-7
BATTLE OF BYLAND	8-9
COMMUNITY EXCAVATION AT SKIPWITH MANOR	10
NORTHERNERS FROM THE ICE AGE TO THE PRESENT	11
NOTES FROM COM- MITTEE MEMBERS	12-13
MARKENFIELD HALL	14
BDHS MINUTES	16-17

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER

AGM AND MEMBERS' EVENING

TUESDAY, 11TH OCTOBER

DAN METCALFE

FIELDS OF MUD, SEEDS OF HOPE

TUESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER

ANDREW THORNTON

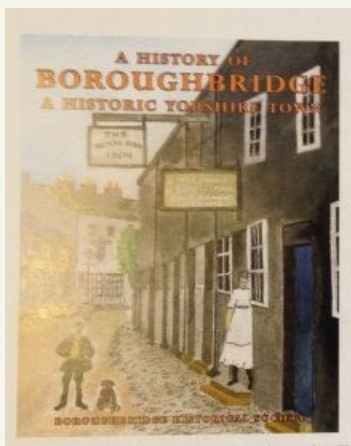
WHO ARE WE? THE COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

TUESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER

FRANK JOHNSTON-BANKS

A SHORT HISTORY OF EASINGWOLD RAILWAY

THE ABOVE MEETINGS ARE HELD IN BOROUGHBRIDGE LIBRARY JUBILEE SUITE AT 7.30.
PROJECT/ARCHIVE MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE JUBILEE SUITE AT 2.00 ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF



A HISTORY OF BOROUGHBRIDGE

COPIES CAN BE BOUGHT AT MONTHLY BDHS
MEETINGS AND AT PYBUS NEWSAGENTS

N o t e s f r o m t h e C H A I R M A N

I am sure some of you will be glad to see the back of the long, hot summer we have just experienced. Not covid confining us to our homes this time but, on some days, the intensity of the sun and the oppressive, incapacitating nature of the heat. Temperatures soared and so did prices as inflation began to bite. So eye-watering are the increases in fuel we have yet to make sense of their likely impact on the poorest in our communities. Perhaps when winter comes and we need to heat our homes, we will be wishing we had those summer temperatures back!

As another challenging chapter in our country's history unfolds we usher in a new and not so challenging season for BDHS. I have been chair of this society since 2015 and have decided it is now time to step down. I will continue to produce the newsletter and be on the committee, so my commitment to BDHS remains strong. I am delighted to announce that Peter Audsley has agreed to act as chair of BDHS. Peter has been very active on the committee and the archive group and I know he will be a fantastic chair. He has agreed to take over and 'see how things go' before fully committing; I have no doubt at all that things will go very well indeed.

Linda Dooks is also stepping down from her archivist role and from the committee. Linda has been actively involved with the society since it first began. Her knowledge of Boroughbridge and of the society's records and collections is phenomenal. We will still see Linda around, of course, and I dare say she will receive the odd

phone call from us to pick her brain about some enquiry or other we have received. David Bellwood has agreed to expand his role on the committee to embrace aspects of Linda's work. David already looks after our website and is first point of contact for enquiries. We are grateful for all he does.

Other committee members have agreed to continue in their roles: Jackie Akers (Treasurer), David Barley (Speakers' Secretary), John Winn (Minutes), Mike Tasker (Projects). It is because of the hard work of *all* committee members that the society has been so active and productive over the years.

This year has been especially busy for a few core people who took on the job of liaising with the Town Council and the Battlefields Trust over the Battle of Boroughbridge commemoration in March and the battle trail and information boards, launched in August. As she is leaving the committee, it seems right to name Linda specifically and thank her for everything she has done to help ensure the Battle of Boroughbridge will be understood by the people of Boroughbridge and visitors to the town for many years to come.

It is also worth mentioning that Mike Tasker has been working very hard on a map of the Boroughbridge area which is now available through the Tourist Information Office. The map has been professionally printed and provides a brief history of key sites and buildings in and around the town. Congratulations, Mike, a fantastic piece of work.

So, a new autumn season and many interesting speakers, organised by David Barley, to enjoy. Thank you for continuing to support the society. Our fees for 2022-2023 are £20 if paid directly into our account and £21 if paid by cheque.

BDHS a/c HSBC 91087029
Sort Code 40:12:28

Thank you Jackie for ensuring our finances are managed efficiently.

Best wishes, Peter Fleming



One of the five display boards on the battlefield trail.

This one is to be located in St. James Square.

Battle of Boroughbridge Trail Launch*

It was hot. In fact, it was scorching. But not even 31 degrees centigrade was going to stop the 3 Swords re-enactment group demonstrating to the public how mediaeval knights equipped themselves for battle.

Their leader, Dean Davidson, of Leeds, joked: “Soon you will understand why mediaeval battles were rarely surprise affairs” as his team took 45 minutes to put on layer upon layer of clothing, maille armour, leather padding, steel plate and two helmets, which were almost too hot to handle.

The “Arming the Knight” display was part of the launch of the Battle of Boroughbridge Battlefield Trail on Saturday, August 13. It was the final event in a programme celebrating the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Boroughbridge in 1322.



Dressing the knight in scorching heat

The trail has information boards erected at key sites around the town to explain what happened when rebel barons led by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, fought across the River Ure with King Edward II's forces led by Sir Andrew de Harclay.

The battle ended in victory for the king's army after one of the rebel's leaders, the Earl of Hereford, was killed when a pikeman thrust his spear from beneath the narrow timber bridge across the Ure. Another rebel, Sir Roger de Clifford, of Skipton, was seriously injured.

After an overnight truce, the king's army entered Boroughbridge and arrested Lancaster, who was taken to his castle at Pontefract for a show trial. He was sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered, but received a merciful death by beheading.

The 700th anniversary has been organised by the Battlefields Trust, Boroughbridge Historical Society and the Town Council with support from Miller Homes. The information boards were illustrated by Chris Rock, Yorkshire region chair of the Battlefields Trust. Louise Whittaker, of the Battlefields Trust, who is an expert on the Yorkshire battles, led a battlefield train walk.

Tributes were paid to everyone involved in the 700th anniversary by the Town Mayor of Boroughbridge, Sean Hynes, who said the battlefield trail and a supporting leaflet, available from the library and tourist information point, had explained the historic significance of little understood battle for residents and visitors.

(* Press release wording. Thank you Brian Dooks, Jackie Ambler and Peter Audsley for photos for this article)



'3 Swords' Preparing for Battle





The Town Mayor of Boroughbridge, Sean Hynes, with members of the 3 Swords Group and Chris Rock, Yorkshire Region Chair of the Battlefields Trust, and Louise Whittaker, a Battlefields Trust trustee and expert on the Yorkshire battles, who led the Battlefields Trail walk. They are shown with one of the five display boards designed by Mr Rock.



Linda Dooks commencing proceedings



David Bellwood leading the march to St. James Square

BDHS Visit to Pontefract, 13th July 2022

The visit was on a beautiful summer's day with ten members attending and travelling in our own cars. The morning consisted of a tour of the town led by Eric Jackson, a long time resident of Pontefract who had previously given a talk to the Society in April on the history of English canals.

I had always regarded Pontefract as a town stuck in the middle of the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire Coalfield which also had a reputation for growing liquorice. I quickly found out that this was not the whole story. Like Boroughbridge, Pontefract has a long history, from Prehistoric, Roman, Norman, Medieval, Victorian, Edwardian, and through to the modern era. Another similarity is the fact that it is a market town situated on the old North-South coaching route. The street names are typical of an old market town :- Cornmarket; Shoemarket; Beastfair; Ropergate, Horsefair, Micklegate and Southgate.

We visited:-

The Buttercross - In the Market Place, a covered building for the trading of dairy produce.

The War Memorial - To commemorate those fallen particularly from the "Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry."

The Counting House - Down an alley off Beastfair. A typical timber framed medieval building with jettying upper floor. This building, although listed, has unfortunately fallen into a state of disrepair.

The Town Hall - A Victorian building in a prominent position overlooking the Market Place. The building has had a variety of uses from Magistrates Court with Police Cells to a Fire Station, and is currently the Register Office.

Pontefract Museum - An unusual, and in my view beautiful art nouveau building. This was originally a Carnegie Library opened in 1904, and was converted into the museum in 1975 when a new library was built nearby.

In the afternoon we had a conducted tour of **Pontefract Castle** lead by two local volunteers Kevin and Alan.

The Castle has had a very chequered past and I will attempt to give a very brief history with some significant dates.

1070 The Castle was constructed by Ilbert de Lacy on land which had been gifted to him by William the Conqueror as a reward for his support during The Norman Conquest.

1311 The castle passed by marriage to the estates of the House of Lancaster. Thomas the Earl of Lancaster was beheaded outside the castle walls six days after his defeat at the Battle of Boroughbridge.

1399 On the death of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, Richard II seized the Castle with a view to giving it to his friends. John of Gaunt's son Henry Bolingbroke (who had previously been banished by Richard II) returned to England to claim his rights to the Duchy of Lancaster. Bolingbroke soon deposed Richard and took the crown for himself as Henry IV. Richard II was captured by Bolingbroke's supporters and initially imprisoned in the Tower of London. He was moved to Pontefract Castle (via Knaresborough) where he remained until his death in 1400.

1536 The castle's guardian Thomas Darcy handed over the castle to the leaders of the Pilgrimage of Grace, a Catholic rebellion from northern England which was against the rule of Henry VIII. Lord Darcy was executed by the king for this "surrender", which the king regarded as an act of treason.

1644 The Royalists controlled Pontefract Castle at the start of the English Civil War. Oliver Cromwell led the final siege in 1648. In 1649 Parliament gave orders that the Castle should be "totally demolished and leveled to the ground".

2015 After hundreds of years as a ruin Wakefield Council secured 3.045 million pounds of lottery funding together with £455,000 from Wakefield Council and English Heritage. This was to restore the Castle together with a café, shop, and an arts and crafts barn.

A good visit enjoyed by all thanks to Eric, Kevin and Alan and a special thanks to Linda for arranging the event.

David Barley



War Memorial on Corn Market



The Keep, Pontefract Castle



Outside the Castle, Sally Port

The Battle of Byland

Harry Pearson

In May Harry Pearson spoke to the society about the Battle of Byland. He started by explaining his background. An ex policeman, Harry moved to North Yorkshire six years ago. He did a degree in History and became very interested in the history of North Yorkshire. The Battle of Byland, fought on 14th October, 1322, became a particular area of research. He felt the battle was overlooked by both England and Scotland and so set about not only writing a book about the battle but also persuading the North York Moors National Parks Authority to mark the place of this battle. Harry was successful; there is now a stone monument to commemorate the battle at the top of Sutton Bank.

The Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 is seen by many as the moment of victory for Robert the Bruce in his fight for independence for Scotland. But it was far from the end of the story because the Wars of Independence were to run intermittently for years to come. One of the most significant post-Bannockburn events was the Battle of Old Byland, when the Scots once again faced their English foes. But, firstly, how did the wars of independence come about? Back in 1286, Scotland was an independent kingdom and it had a peaceful relationship with its next-door neighbour. That year the Scottish King Alexander III was killed after falling off his horse leaving behind a grieving widow and a sickly grandchild, Margaret, as his successor. His first wife and all his children had died and he had remarried in the hope of producing a male heir to the throne, but it was not to be. Margaret in 1290 eventually sailed from Norway to come and claim her throne but she died at Kirkwall Palace on Orkney. So, Scotland was without a clear heir to the throne with some thirteen different claimants.

The Scottish nobility invited Edward 1 of England to choose who was the best candidate and in 1292 at Berwick upon Tweed he made John Balliol the new King. When Balliol's nobles signed an agreement to support the French against the English, Edward was furious and came to Scotland to dethrone the Scottish King and put himself in his place. An uprising against Edward was led by the now-legendary William Wallace (Braveheart). Wallace was initially successful, humiliating the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. But the following year he was heavily defeated by Edward 1 at the Battle of Falkirk. After that Wallace was on the run until 1205 when he was captured and taken to London to face a horrendous death when he was hanged, drawn and quartered.

Robert Bruce, the grandson of one of the original contenders for the Scottish throne, took over the cause of independence. He had a meeting with his main rival John Comyn which ended in the latter's murder in a church at Dumfries in southern Scotland. Not sure what to do next he rode to Glasgow cathedral where he received the support of Bishop Robert Wishart and was crowned king at Scone in Perthshire. Over the next nine years he was involved in a series of victories and setbacks as he battled to regain Scotland from the English.

By 1314 Edward 1 had died and much of Scotland was under Bruce's control. The last key castle to be held by the English was Stirling and Edward's son Edward II was forced to come to Scotland to relieve it. Despite being outnumbered by the English, Robert was a well-experienced commander and, thanks to his clever strategies including forming groups of human hedgehogs with treacherous spears – known as schiltrons – to combat the charging English knights, he won the Battle of Bannockburn. Edward was lucky to escape and, despite losing the battle, would still not acknowledge Robert as the rightful king of Scotland.

In an attempt to force Edward to the negotiating table Robert regularly sent invading forces into northern England causing misery and mayhem. Edward II had domestic problems with his own noblemen and in 1319 entered into a truce with the Bruce. When the truce ran out in 1322 Robert had talks with one of the English rebels, Thomas of Lancaster, about entering into an alliance. Robert started the attacks again with Sir James Douglas, Thomas Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray and Walter Stewart laying into the northeast. But Edward II focused on his rebel lords and finally defeated them at the Battle of Boroughbridge.



Ruins of Dryburgh

Boosted by his success Edward II decided to invade Scotland but Robert was more than ready. He destroyed crops and removed livestock on the probable routes Edward would take leaving him short of supplies. Meanwhile, Robert moved his main force north of the Firth of Forth. Edward got as far as Edinburgh but his army was suffering from sickness and starvation and James Douglas successfully beat the King's light horse in battle. There was no choice but to return to England. On the way, Edward's men badly damaged Holyrood Abbey in Edinburgh and Melrose and Dryburgh abbeys in the Borders. Dryburgh made the mistake of ringing its bells to celebrate the unsuccessful invasion and the retreating English troops heard them and made a diversion to set fire to it. Heat cracked masonry on the south side of the south transept is thought to be the result of that action.

Emboldened by his success Bruce invaded England yet again.



Newly placed commemorative stone, Sutton Bank

Edward and his wife were staying at Rievaulx Abbey. By an interesting coincidence, the first monks at Melrose Abbey originally came from Rievaulx. The English army, led by the Earl of Richmond, stood between the two kings strongly positioned on Sutton Bank. Bruce used the same tactics as he had in the Battle of Brander Pass by sending a force of Highlanders to scale the cliffs and use the flanks to attack Richmond's rear. The Scots charged and the result was a rout. Richmond was captured and once again Edward had to flee 'ever chicken-hearted and luckless in war' – he was forced to make a rapid and undignified exit from Rievaulx, fleeing in such haste that his personal belongings were left behind. After Byland, says Sir Thomas Gray, the Scots were so fierce and their chiefs so daring, and the English so cowed, that it was no otherwise between them than as a hare before greyhounds. Robert took full advantage of the situation and destroyed English castles, demanded money in return for not burning down monasteries, towns and villages.

In 1327 Edward II was deposed in favour of his son and the following year a peace treaty was drawn up between the two countries. Robert died just a year later and his heart was eventually buried at Melrose Abbey which he had helped to rebuild after the attack of 1322. His body was buried in the Abbey at Dunfermline which was then still an important Royal town. Robert's heart was to go on a long journey before reaching Melrose as he had requested Sir James Douglas to take it with him on a crusade to the Holy Lands to make up for the murder of his rival in a church. Douglas only got as far as Spain and was killed in a battle against a Moorish force. During the battle, he threw Bruce's heart – in a casket – at the enemy. The Moors allowed it to be returned to Scotland and at Melrose there is a heart-shaped stone where Bruce's heart was said to be buried in 1331. It bears an inscription taken from John Barbour's 14th-century poem, the Bruce. "A noble hart may have nane ease. Gif freedom failye." It means "A noble heart cannot be at peace if freedom is lacking."

Community Excavation at Skipwith Manor Dr Jon Kenny

In June Dr. Jon Kelly spoke to the society about the community archaeology project at old Skipwith Manor.

Skipwith is located in the Vale of York between Selby and York. The village has a rich history with a large church boasting a Norman tower. The gritstone used in the tower was probably from a Roman villa. The church has Saxon origins and Viking graffiti on stone and Roman coins have been found in the vicinity.

Moated manor houses were quite common in medieval times (think Markenfield Hall) and on the 1892 map a moat is clearly marked, though the original manor house was long gone, replaced by Skipwith Hall around 1700. In 2021 a community project was undertaken to discover more about the old manor house and surrounding site.

Jon worked with Skipwith Heritage Group on a geophysical survey, investigating the area between the church and the medieval moated site. Stage one of the investigation was to see if evidence for occupation that might relate to an earlier religious or manorial site could be found. An earlier excavation at a cottage west of the church found a ditch running north to south, possibly extending to an early medieval enclosure around the church. Stage two involved trying to locate part of the earlier manor house on the moated site and also evidence for a bridge/gate house.

Geophysics and trench excavations were involved. An old stone wall with clay foundations to support timbers was uncovered, a toilet room and pit found, and pottery and iron artefacts unearthed. The following conclusions were reached: the old manor house was a high status building, it was timber framed, there was a main hall and outbuildings, a wing was added in the 1400s.

All in all Jon provided an interesting talk which helped us understand archaeological methodology as well as findings relating to Skipwith.

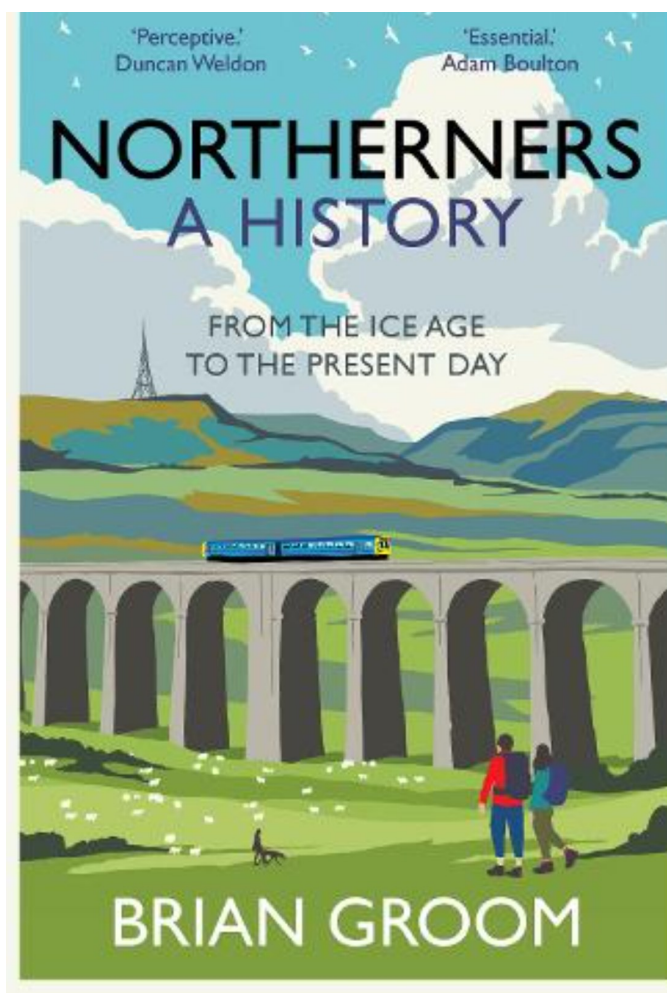


The Heritage Group at work in
Skipwith

Northerners from the Ice Age to the Present Day

Brian Groom

Our July speaker was Brian Groom. David Barley, who books our speakers, did very well to net Brian, who has had a highly acclaimed career as a journalist, at one time being the Financial Times Political Editor. His book on Northerners reached No.3 in the bestseller list for non-fiction earlier this year. Unfortunately, the day he came to speak to us was unbearably hot and the Jubilee Room was like a furnace. Brian spoke to us with good grace despite the challenging temperature, but I can't help thinking the heat took the edge off his very comprehensive talk.



Here is a very brief summary of what Brian told us. Dinosaur remains from 176m years ago have been found in the north, near Whitby. There is evidence of settlers arriving in the north half a million years ago. Star Carr, near Scarborough, has remains of a settlement from around 9000BCE. Under the Romans the north was an important frontier region and became self-governing. In 409AD the Romans left and the Anglo-Saxons arrived from the sixth century. For a while, Northumbria was Europe's leading area for intellectual developments, but it didn't endure.

In 793 the Viking Age began in Britain and Northumbria was divided. When William conquered, the north was subdued (the harrying of the north). In the Middle Ages there was continuous border warfare between the English and the Scots but there was also economic growth through the monasteries, e.g. Fountains Abbey. In the middle ages powerful families had massive influence and control but this was removed in Tudor times. However, Henry VIII did not have an easy ride in the north, as the Pilgrimage of Grace shows. In 1603 Scotland and England were united but the Civil War showed a clear north-south divide.

The Industrial Revolution made the north the literal power-house of Britain but it was a time of great upheaval. The north has had many waves of immigration over time, giving it a more diverse complexion than many realise. The north has produced great campaigners and reformers. The

trade union movement grew from the north. In the last century the great northern industries declined, with an interlude during World War II, and the divide between north and south in terms of wealth and investment remained clear. Despite this, or more likely because of this, the north has had a massive influence on culture, e.g. through pop music. Currently, 'levelling up' policies promise a brighter future for the North but the jury is out on their likely impact.

Questions following the talk generated discussion on two fascinating themes: Where does the North actually start? Brian thought it was a cultural identity rather than geographical. Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Staffordshire are a 'grey area' when it comes to identifying where the north begins. Do Northerners have more in common with the Scots than with Southerners? Brian opened that up for discussion. Socio-economically there is much Scots and Northerners have in common. Climate and rurality have also created similarities over time. Many northerners, like many Scots, have a distrust of the London metropolitan elite.

Notes from the Secretary, Linda Dooks

We seem to have had a very busy summer with the 700th Battle events and one thing and another. In March we had the actual Battle Anniversary events at the Battle Cross in Aldborough and on the shared space in Boroughbridge. This was followed with arranging for the Battlefield Trail boards to be finally completed and erected before the launch ceremony at the beginning of August. All of which were enjoyable events and were very well received. I would like to thank everyone involved for the help and support given to this anniversary project. A complimentary Battlefield Trail leaflet is now available for members.

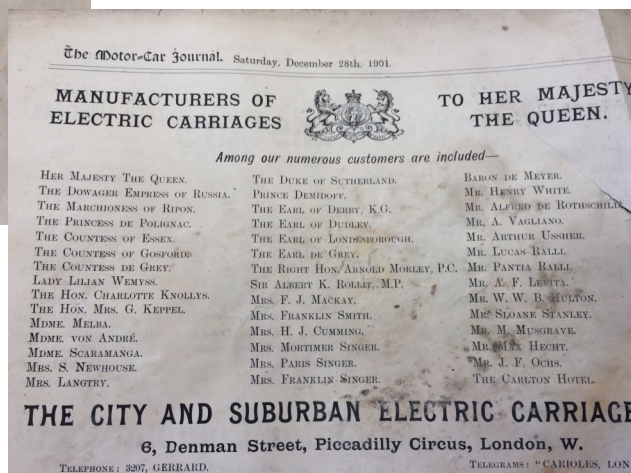
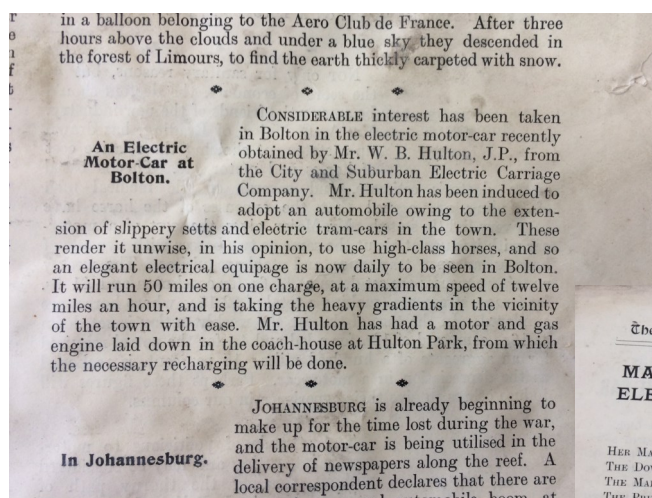
During the past few weeks we have had the Boroughbridge Heritage map published, which actually compliments the *History of Boroughbridge* book very well. Thank you to Mike Tasker for being the lead on this. Funding for the map was assisted by contributions from Boroughbridge Town Council, The Chamber of Trade and Langthorpe Parish Council.

We have had a few enquiries over the summer, but it is usually a quiet period. Firstly, there was a query about the Dog Kennel Lane Walk signage and overgrown crops, which we referred to *Boroughbridge Walkers are Welcome* who thankfully sorted the problem out for us. Secondly, Boroughbridge Primary school has asked us for help with the celebrations for their schools Platinum Jubilee in the Autumn. Peter Fleming is going into the school in September to work with Y6 pupils. Thirdly, it was agreed £50 should be donated to *Friends of Roman Aldborough* to assist with transport costs for school children involved in the Cambridge University dig. If any Boroughbridge school pupils require specific assistance a further request can be made to BDHS.

This will be my last Secretary's notes so I just want to wish you all best wishes for the future.

I have enjoyed my time as secretary over the years and I am sure under the new officers the society will continue to move forward. I leave you with a couple of newspaper cuttings which make me wonder how far we have really come since they first appeared in 1901!

Thankyou, Linda



Historical Tour of Boroughbridge, Mike Tasker

Members of the Bedale Historical Society, led by Patricia Fairy, visited Boroughbridge on 7th July for a historical tour of the town. The tour was led by Mike Tasker along with Peter Audsley and David Barley, starting at the Langthorpe Picnic area car park. The weather was kind, fifteen people joined the walk, one from as far away as Durham. The story of the town from its Norman origins, the Battle of Boroughbridge, the old Manor House, the MPs representing the town, the coaching era were all of interest, finishing up with the walk to the Devil's Arrows. They were also much intrigued by the story of the vet who blew himself up.



Hall Square



Devil's Arrows

Patricia Fairy was surprised by the breadth and extent of the town's history, as many others have been, and regretted that a return visit to Bedale would have much less to offer.

Mike Tasker

DIARY DATE

Project meeting on the 2nd September at 2pm in the Jubilee Room, above the Library. We need to discuss what the society does next project wise and to tie up one or two loose ends. There is a possibility of helping the Town Council with information boards for Hall Square. ALL WELCOME

Markenfield Hall

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I intend to include some information on a 'local' building or place of interest in each newsletter. For our autumn publication, I turn my attention to Markenfield Hall, located three miles south of Ripon, at the end of a one mile drive off the Harrogate Road. As the hall's publicity states, it is possibly 'the loveliest place you've never heard of'.

A Markenfield settlement was mentioned in the Domesday book. The parish currently has four residents! The hall is a medieval moated manor house, built in an L-shape and boasting castellations and a gate-house. There would have been many such buildings in the middle ages, built to reflect the status of their owners (they were more for show than for defence) but most have now disappeared from the landscape. Markenfield's survival is quite astonishing, and it is now a grade-1 listed building.

In 1150 the estate was held by the Le Bret family who had a house there and adopted the name de Markenfield. The present house was built for John de Markenfield, an associate of Piers Gaveston and a servant of Edward II. The Crown granted a licence to crenellate Markenfield in 1310, the same year that John was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Thomas Markenfield was appointed High Sheriff of Yorkshire for 1484 and fought on the side of Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth. In 1569 Thomas de Markenfield was involved in the pro-Catholic Rising of the North but fled to the Continent when the rebellion fizzled out. Markenfield was confiscated and granted to Thomas Egerton, Master of the Rolls.

Egerton never made Markenfield his main home. It devolved to a rented farmhouse but retained most of its features. In 1761 Fletcher Norton, 1st Baron Grantley, bought the house. He replaced the roof of the Great Hall and ensured that the house was structurally sound once more. The property descended to the 7th Baron Grantley, John Richard Brinsley, who began a restoration project in 1980 to convert the hall from a farmhouse into a family home. Over many years the chapel had been used to store grain by various tenant farmers living at Markenfield but has now been fully restored.

The occupant at the current time is Lady Deirdre, known as Lady Grantley for some years (nee Deirdre Elisabeth Mary Freda Hare) and more recently, as Lady Deirdre Curteis, widow of the 7th Lord Grantley, who passed away in 1995. Lady Deirdre married Ian Bayley Curteis, the dramatist and television director, in 2001. The ceremony was held in the restored chapel, the first wedding there since 1487! Ian Curteis died on 24 November 2021, aged 88.

There are now regular tours of the hall and grounds, usually with tea and cakes to follow!

Peter Fleming



Markenfield as it now looks, following restoration

BDHS Committee Meeting, 14/06/2022

This was an extra meeting called to agree actions on three issues.

Apologies: J, Winn, P. Audsley

Fees for 2022-2023

It was agreed that fees will be £20 if paid directly and £21 if paid by cheque or cash. £3 will be charged for visitors attending single sessions.

Unveiling of Battle of Boroughbridge boards

The committee felt the proposed date of 13th August was suitable for the 'launch event'. However, concern was expressed about the viability of production and installation of the boards by this date.

Agreed Actions:

LD to sign off the order form for the boards

LD to contact Chris Rock to seek assurance that the manufacturers/installers can guarantee completion by the proposed date

Publicity and invite to the mayor and 3 Swords to await response from CR

Map of Boroughbridge

Thanks to Mike's hard work the map is nearing completion. The committee shared minor alterations and corrections still needed. It was agreed all members should be given a copy from the first print run.

Agreed Actions – PF to send BDHS logo and LD to send Roman Aldboro info to MT

BDHS Committee Meeting, July 26th 2022, Jubilee Room, 7.00

Present: JA, DBa, DBe, PF, PA, MT Apols: LD and JW

Minutes from 19th April and 14th June

DBe corrected the minutes of April 19th by pointing out that concerns had been raised about the level of activity on the society's website as well as the quality of compressed photos.

Treasurer's Report

JA reported we had received £150 from Langthorpe PC and £250 from the Chamber of Trade. The bank balance was now £2304 with £354 in petty cash.

Archivist's report

LD had submitted her report in advance of the meeting (attachment 1). Reference to 'St James Hall' in the report should be read as 'Jubilee Room'.

It was agreed £50 should be donated to Friends of Roman Aldborough to assist with transport costs for school children involved in the Cambridge University dig. If any Boroughbridge school pupils required specific assistance a further request can be made to BDHS.

Action LD to contact FofRA to convey our decision; JA to transfer funds.

Update on Boroughbridge Map and approval of funds

MT explained the cost for 5,000 maps would be covered by: Chamber of Trade £250, Boroughbridge Town Council £500, Langthorpe Parish Council £150 and £1374 from BDHS. It was agreed that the BDHS contribution should be made up of half from the society and half from the funds MT has generated from sales of his books on Boroughbridge During World War 2.

Action MT to proceed with the ordering of 5000 maps (following BTC meeting on Aug 2nd) and transfer his share of funds to BDHS to cover invoice for maps.

MT was thanked for the tremendous work he had done in seeing this project through.

Cont.

Planning for August 13th Celebrations

PA outlined plans for the day from the Zoom meeting of 19th July (attachment 2).

Action LD to invite guests who had been invited to the March event to this event (if not already done).

BB School 90th Anniversary

PF is in touch with the school and has offered to work with the children using old school logs etc.

Web Site

Action DBe to update the site as agreed, removing home page Covid paragraphs and adding more recent pictures of society activities

PF to remind members how to access members' area

AGM Planning

It was agreed that following the AGM business PF will give a short talk on The Piece Hall and MT will run a quiz on Boroughbridge. DBe will manage refreshments. Any cake contributions welcome!

Committee Posts for 2022-23

LD is stepping down. All agreed she has done sterling work over the years and her wealth of knowledge will still be tapped into even when she is no longer on the committee. DBe agreed to expand his current role into that of BDHS secretary.

PF is stepping down as chair but agreed to continue as a committee member with responsibility for the newsletter.

No one at the meeting felt able to volunteer to be chair* but all agreed to continue with existing roles.

AOB

DBe raised concerns about the temperature in the Jubilee Room on summer evenings. All agreed some meetings had been challenging due to the heat. There is no obvious solution but it was agreed that during the summer of 2023, if high temperatures are forecast for specific evenings, moving the meeting to the church on those dates might be necessary.

Date of next mtg

27th September at 7.00

Action DBe to book the Jubilee Room

*PA subsequently agreed to be chair

