

BOROUGHBRIDGE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023

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AUTUMN PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER

AGM AND MEMBERS' EVENING

TUESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER

JET MINING IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

CHRIS TWIGG

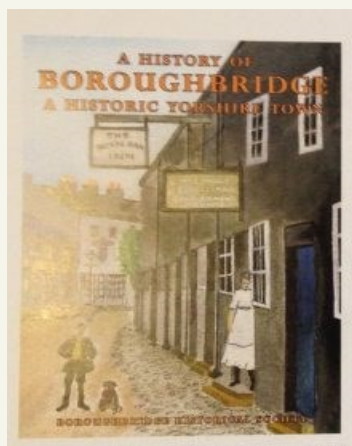
TUESDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER

THE NOBLE STORY OF THE HALF
CROWN—NIGEL MCCLEA

TUESDAY, 12TH DECEMBER

A WALK AROUND FOUNTAINS ABBEY

MIKE BEVINGTON



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

It is difficult to believe that the summer is nearly coming to an end, while last year we were having to put up with Sahara type temperatures, this year is quite the opposite, apart from three warm weeks in June, July turned out to be one of the wettest in some areas for over one hundred years. In some ways we were lucky compared to areas in Europe and other parts of the world. There is still time hopefully for one of those 'Indian' summers.

Compared to last year's hectic programme associated with the 700th Anniversary of The Battle of Boroughbridge in 1322, this year has been a little bit quieter. The battle information boards placed around the town are proving to be successful with both residents and visitors often seen reading them.

Last year, with much work by Mike Tasker, we had printed Boroughbridge guide maps, detailing a brief history of Boroughbridge. These are available from the Tourist Information Office and other points around the town. One place we have had positive feedback from is The Crown Hotel, since it was taken over by The Coaching Inn Group last year, guest numbers have increased significantly, and the town history leaflets displayed at the reception desk, have proven to be very popular with guests.

Back in May we had a visit from the Archaeological & History group in the Hartlepool & District U3A, for a guided walking tour around Boroughbridge. The group of around twenty arrived by coach and were greeted at the Anchor Inn. In this issue is a copy of the article that was sent to me by the Chairman of U3A that appeared in their newsletter about the visit to Boroughbridge.

Last year members from Bedale Archaeology & History Society visited Boroughbridge for a guided walk around the town. This

year the visit was reciprocated and BDHS members were invited on Tuesday 4th July, to a guided walk around Bedale. It was a very pleasant evening. A very interesting historical town for those who have not been before, well worth a visit. A report of our visit is also in this issue.

It has been a year since I became Chairman of the Boroughbridge & District Historical Society, I still feel a bit 'green', but thanks and sincere appreciation must go, to my fellow committee members, Jackie Akers, David Barley, David Bellwood, Peter Fleming, Mike Tasker and John Winn, for all their support and hard work. Also Linda Dooks, although no longer on the committee her guidance and advice is invaluable.

It is good to see our monthly meetings being so well attended along with new members and visitors, credit must go to David Barley our Speakers' Secretary for having arranged such an interesting range of speakers over the past year, and I am assured further interesting talks have been lined up for the coming year.

The membership fee for 2023-24 is £20 if paid directly into our account by BACS and £21 if paid by cheque.

BDHS account details:

HSBC 91087029

Sort Code 40-12-28

Our thanks go to Jackie for looking after 'The BDHS piggy bank' so efficiently.

Looking forward to us all meeting together again in the coming season.

Peter Audsley

True Life Tales from Tudor York - Tony Morgan

In April, Tony provided us with a very detailed and stimulating lecture on York during the turbulent years of the Tudor monarchs: Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I. It is impossible to capture all Tony said in a short summary, but here are some of his most interesting revelations.

Henry VII made his first visit to York in 1486, entering the city at Micklegate Bar. The cost of the celebrations came to £66. He visited again in 1487, to crush a local rebellion, when the city was 'drunken dry'. His final visit was in 1489. An uprising had taken place, with the Earl of Northumberland murdered near Thirsk. Many executions followed, ordered by Henry from Bishopthorpe Palace.



In 1503, Henry VII's daughter passed through York (via Tadcaster) on her way to marry King James IV of Scotland. She stayed in St Mary's Abbey. Queen Margaret's Arch celebrates her visit.

Henry VIII became king in 1509. By 1532 he had broken away from the Cath

St. Margaret's Arch

olic church and by 1536 had set about the dissolution of 'religious houses' across the land. York was a major ecclesiastical centre with many religious houses within the city walls. Led by Robert Aske, the Pilgrimage of Grace (a movement against the closure of religious houses) began in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. (See *also page 6 of this newsletter.*) The Lord Mayor, William Harrington, opened York to the rebels. The rebellion was crushed by Henry, many rebels were executed and in 1537 Aske was hanged at Clifford's Tower. In 1538 York's priories and friaries were shut down, including St Leonard's Hospital, with serious social consequences.

In 1541 Henry arrived at York with Catherine Howard and 5,000 men. The Lord Mayor Robert Hall, aldermen and officials sank to their knees and the City Recorder, William Tancred (of Boroughbridge), issued a long apology for allowing the rebels into York. Cups were filled with gold and Henry stayed at the King's Manor in York for nine days.

The Protestant Reformation continued apace under Edward VI, with smaller chantries in York closed in 1547. The city suffered severely, afflicted also by plague and bad harvests at this time. Half of the population of Micklegate perished.

Then in 1553 came Mary I. York celebrated the return to Catholicism. The Corporation sent message to the, "So noble, Godly and rightful a Queen". The Crown returned revenue for chantries and York gained £157 a year, enabling the reopening of some religious houses. During Mary's reign some three hundred protestants were executed, but none in York. However, in 1558 (the year Elizabeth became Queen) a virulent form of flu hit York causing many deaths.

Once on the throne, Elizabeth passed acts of Supremacy and Uniformity, which meant a return to Protestantism. Many in the North were unhappy at not being able to worship as Catholics. This led to the Rising of the North in 1569. *(See also page 6 of this newsletter.)* York remained loyal to the crown. Once defeated, leaders of the uprising were executed, the Earl of Northumberland being beheaded on the pavement in York. During the 1580s many Catholic priests were arrested and executed.

Elizabeth never visited York but the city grew in size and importance during her reign, the wealthy and the poor living in close proximity. By 1596 there were 64 inns in the city.



St. Mary's Abbey, one of many York 'religious houses' dissolved during the Reformation

The Markenfields of Markenfield Hall

Janet Senior was our guest speaker in May. She delivered a lecture on the Markenfields of Markenfield Hall. Janet is author of a book that has the same title as our lecture; she is also Markenfield's official archivist.

John Illingworth, in *Yorkshire's Ruined Castles*, wrote, 'In all of England there is no more perfect or beautiful an example of a small fortified manor house of the early C14th'. The house lies three miles south of Ripon, one mile from the main Harrogate Road.

Reference is made in the Domesday Book of 1086 to the Markenfield Estate. At that time the estate was assessed as being six hundred acres. By 1230 a 'small' house existed with three vaulted rooms. The owners descended from nephew of Wm Conqueror, Duke Alan (Alan the Red) who harried the North, built Richmond Castle and Richmond town (named after Richmond in Brittany). The occupiers of Markenfield were known as Le Brets (being from Brittany), then Le Brets de Markenfield, then by the late 1200s just the Markenfields.



John de Markenfield (Canon John) took possession of Markenfield in 1308. He worked for Edward I and Edward II. He became their Remembrancer (chief tax collector). As he grew in importance, John wanted Markenfield to reflect his wealth and power. In 1310 therefore, with permission from the king, the house was extended and crenellated and a moat added. The house we see today is little changed from John's time. When Canon John died he was buried at York Minster. Though feared and despised by many during his life, in his will he left money for the paupers and roadbuilders of Ripon.

Markenfield Today, little changed from Canon John's time

In the two and a half centuries that followed, the Markenfields fought for the king at Agincourt, Flodden Field and Bosworth. During this time carefully arranged marriages added to their wealth. (The Coats of Arms of the various families who married Markenfields can be seen on courtyard wall of the great kitchen).

The family fortunes changed with the great upheaval we now call the Reformation. In Germany Martin Luther's attack on the Catholic Church posed a challenge to the Pope's hegemony. In England, Henry VIII had no male heir and wanted to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon in order to marry Anne Boleyn. He achieved this by breaking with Rome. Once Henry was Head of the Church, he set about the dissolution of the monasteries, with opposition to his plans brutally suppressed.

The Markenfields were devout Catholics, distressed by these developments. In 1536 the Pilgrimage of Grace burst into life in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire under the leadership of the charismatic Robert Aske, brother-in-law of Sir Thomas Markenfield. Over twenty thousand joined the uprising to halt the closure of the monasteries, including Sir Thomas. The uprising was violently suppressed and Aske was hanged at Clifford's Tower in York. It is a miracle Sir Thomas survived as many other leaders were executed. *(see also page 3 of this newsletter)*

Another Thomas, the son of the Sir Thomas involved above, was a very devout believer. In 1566, aged 34, he undertook a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. On his return he became a key figure in what is known as The Rising of the North, against Queen Elizabeth's imposition of Protestantism.

On the 20th November, 1569, a large contingent gathered in the courtyard of Markenfield under the direction of Thomas and his uncle, Sir Richard Norton. They marched on Ripon Cathedral, overthrew the high altar, burned prayer books and celebrated the Catholic Mass. They then headed for York but the rising was soon routed and 200 were hideously executed at Gallows Hill, just outside Ripon. Thomas and Sir Thomas fled across the North Sea where they lived in the Low Countries. Old Sir Thomas was shot in a skirmish while being arrested in Flanders. He died at sea on the journey back. In 1592 Thomas, his son, was found dead in his chamber. He died in extreme want with nobody present.

Elizabeth confiscated Markenfield for High Treason. It was given for 21 years to Laurence Meres and then in perpetuity to Sir Henry Gates. For the next three hundred years the house was lived in by tenant farmers, which is the main reason it remained so little altered. Eventually the house ended up in the hands of the Edgertons of Bridgewater and in 1761 the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater sold the hall to invest in engineering projects (Bridgewater Canal) to Fletcher Norton of Grantley Hall. He was a direct descendent of Sir Richard Norton, standard bearer of the Rising of the North. He saved the house from collapse by repairing

the roof and making it watertight.

Since then, the house has remained with the Grantleys. The seventh Lord Grantley and Lady Grantley (the current owner) began restoration of Markenfield in 1980. He died in 1995. Lady Deidre married the writer Ian Curteis in 2001. The ceremony took place in the Markenfield chapel, the first marriage in the chapel since 1487.



The restored chapel at Markenfield as it looks today

The British Soldier in the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902

On a lovely evening with temperatures that would not have been out of place in South Africa, members welcomed our June speaker, Chris Tapster, for a talk on what most of us would know as simply The Boer War. Appropriately dressed, right down to his puttees and hob nailed boots, Chris illustrated his talk from a range of armaments, clothing and food stuffs that shaped the lives of the 250,000 British soldiers who fought against the Boers for almost three years.

Chris began with a brief summary of events leading to the outbreak of war going as far back as the conflict between British and Dutch settlers in the seventeenth century. The first Boer War (1880 to 1881) had resulted in defeat for the British but the discovery of gold in the Boer territories led to an influx of British settlers which caused friction that led to a further war that was to leave over 26,000 British dead and over 6,000 Boers also killed.

The climate, terrain, unsuitable uniforms and equipment and the Boers' guerrilla tactics presented enormous difficulties for the British whose approach remained unchanged from the Napoleonic era. Demonstrating each point with examples drawn from the marvellous collection of objects in front of him, Chris drew a graphic picture of the hardships faced by the volunteer British army who lived on a dreadful monotonous diet for 7/- (35p) a day's pay. How does food fried in dubbin sound? Even British horses, used as they were to lush green pasture, found conditions difficult.

The dry climate meant water was in short supply with soldiers reduced to drinking from contaminated sources which led to deaths from enteric fever (typhoid). The sea journey to the Cape took 25 days by coal-fired ships during which sea sickness and atrocious food took their toll on the troops. During combat they carried emergency rations sufficient for thirty six hours plus a comb, shaving kit and knife and fork. Heavier items like great coats, it was cold at night, were transported by ox carts.



Chris Tapster and artefacts used in his talk

The success of the Boer's guerrilla tactics forced a rethink in British strategy with changes introduced by Kitchener which included 'concentration camps' where Boer women and children were held and a 'scorched earth' policy which involved the destruction of Boer crops and farms. These new policies weakened the enemy's resistance and peace was declared in 1902. By 1910 the Union of South Africa had been formed and in World War One thousands of South Africans fought on the British side.

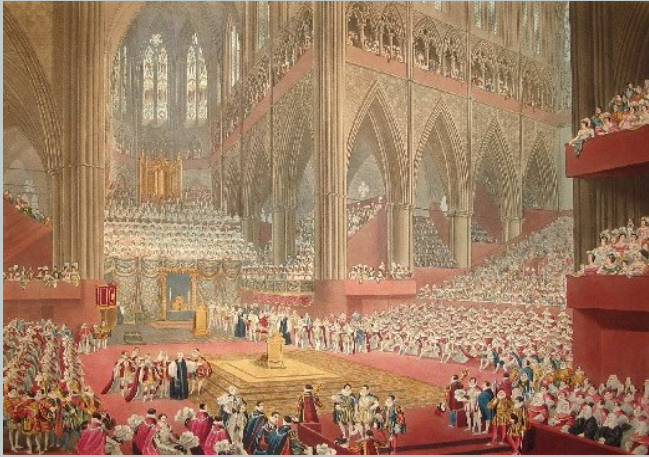
Coronation: Myth, Majesty and Music - David Winpenny

David Winpenny joined us in July to talk about coronations past and present and share images and music from ceremonies over the centuries. He began by reminding us that since we have had monarchs in this country, we have surrounded them with ceremony – especially at the start of their reign, when they are inaugurated into their royal role. In the case of Charles III, crowned on 6 May, we had a shorter ceremony than in the past, and it was more diverse in its personnel and its music.

Edward the Confessor brought coronations to Westminster. He was crowned in Winchester, but in the 1040s he moved his palace to Westminster and founded his abbey. It was in Edward's new church that Harold Godwinson was crowned and so, to give legitimacy to his invasion, was William the Conqueror. Under Henry III the abbey was extensively rebuilt to provide a fitting setting for coronations.

Previous monarchs had a platform and dais for the coronation chair, though for Charles III there was no dais; the platform was made level with the altar steps and covered in gold carpet. And, unlike for many previous coronations the place designed by Henry III for the exact spot for the crowning, the elaborate Cosmati Pavement, was this time visible.

In the Middle Ages there was an elaborate procession from the Tower of London to Westminster, usually the day before the coronation. The practice continued for centuries until William IV did away with this, and the ceremonies began at the Abbey. At the Coronation of Queen Victoria in 1838, something new was introduced - a carriage procession from Buckingham Palace in the State Coach. That fitted in with the view of the Coronation that it was 'to amuse and interest the people' who lined the route.



George IV, crowned in 1821, had one of the most elaborate coronations ever (left) costing the staggering sum of £243,390 6s 2d

As the new monarch enters the abbey, he or she has clergymen – two bishops – at each side, designated as 'supporters', who are there to steer the way through the long ceremony. By long tradition, these have been the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Bishop of Durham; they were the bishops who supported Edgar in 973. The same sees provided the bishops who supported King Charles. Queen Camilla was supported by the Bishops of Hereford and Norwich; the then Bishops of Norwich supported Queen Charlotte in 1761 and Queen Alexandra in 1902; this year was the first time the Bishop of Hereford had performed the role.

The Oath has been part of the coronation service since King Edgar in 973; it has always consisted of three pledges – to uphold the church, put down iniquity and judge with mercy. Here is a painting by Sir George Hayter of Queen Victoria taking the oath at the altar of the Abbey.

When King Edgar was crowned in Bath Abbey in 973 he entered the abbey to a Gregorian chant; the Psalm, in Latin, 'Let thy hand be strengthened'. This was to be the first anthem, at succeeding coronations until Charles I in 1626, when it was replaced by the more familiar text of 'I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord'. Several composers set that text. The best-known of these settings is the one written by Hubert Parry for Edward VII in 1902, which incorporated the cries of 'VIVAT' from the scholars of Westminster School, and has been used at the four succeeding coronations, including that of King Charles.



Queen Victoria takes the Oath

The Oath has always undergone amendment. For Charles's coronation there was a statement that the King 'will seek to foster an environment in which all faiths and beliefs may live freely'.

Despite all the elaborate ceremonies that surround it, at the heart of any coronation service has been the Mass or, after the Reformation, the Communion Service of the Book of Common Prayer. Several times it has caused problems. Queen Elizabeth I retired into a chapel when Bishop Ogleforth refused to omit some of the Catholic ceremonies of the previous reign; James II, as a Catholic, had the whole of the communion service removed from the coronation, so all that remained was ceremony. All other coronations have had the Communion service as their framework. The May coronation followed the usual Church of England pattern of today.

After the Creed the monarch moves from the seat on the dais to King Edward's Chair, while the choir sings 'Zadok the Priest' – since George II in the version by Handel. Traditionally, a cloth of gold canopy, carried by four Knights of the Garter, was placed over the seated monarch, to shield the sacred ceremony of the Anointing from profane eyes. This year there was a special screen to shield the Anointing from public gaze. The Anointing is the oldest of the expressions of monarchy, and takes us back to its mystical origins. It derives from the anointing of Saul as King of Israel by the prophet Samuel, who 'took a vial of oil and poured it upon his head and kissed him, saying, 'The Lord hath anointed you to be ruler over his inheritance'. Medieval monarchs were anointed with oil said to have been given to St Thomas Becket by the Virgin Mary. It has had various formulations over the centuries. The oil is held in an eagle-shaped vessel, the Ampulla. It was made in 1660, but perhaps uses part of the original medieval one. The oil is poured into the spoon, which is the only authenticated part of the Crown Jewels to survive Cromwell's Commonwealth. It was made in the 12th century, possibly for King John.

After the anointing, the monarch is clothed in two new garments. The first is the Colobium Sidonis. The name means 'shroud tunic' and the garment represents humility before the judgement of God. Then comes the Dalmatic, or Supertunica, adapted from priestly vestments. Now the Jewelled Sword, made for George IV, is used for the investiture; the monarch receives it and is enjoined to 'do justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the holy Church of God, help and defend widows and orphans, restore the things that are gone to decay, maintain the things that are restored, punish and reform what is amiss, and confirm what is in good order'. After the presentation, the Monarch returns the sword to the Archbishop. It redeemed for £50 (this year made up of 100 newly-minted 50pence pieces) by the Lord President of the Council and then carried unsheathed before the monarch for the rest of the service.

Next, the monarch has another garment put on, the of Cloth of Gold, ready to receive the regalia. First in modern



coronations comes the orb. It represents the globe of the world with the cross signifying the lordship of Christ – and thus the rule of Christian kings. Next comes the Ring – a sapphire set with a St George's cross of rubies, made for William IV and representing the bond between monarch and people. The glove reappeared at the 2023 coronation, having been missing in 1953. It was presented with the words 'Receive this glove, that you may hold authority with gentleness and grace'. Then come the sceptres. The monarch is now ready for crowning. As the crown is put in place, everyone acclaims the new Monarch with shouts, and a fanfare sounds; at previous coronations the peers also put on their coronets, according to their rank.

King Charles III wore a gold robe that dates back to 1821.

Ever since first coronations, the mass, around which the coronation is set, has continued to its end in the accustomed form of the church as it then was. Once the Mass or Communion was ended, the monarch and consort went through this left-hand door into St Edward's Chapel, behind the high altar. This afforded them a breathing space, and, certainly since the time of Richard II, time for another change of garment, into the royal robe of purple velvet. Queen Victoria's journal lets us into other secrets: 'I . . . repaired with all the Peers bearing the Regalia, my Ladies and Train-bearers, to St. Edward's Chapel, as it is called; but which as Lord Melbourne said, was more unlike a Chapel than anything he had ever seen; for, what was called an Altar was covered with sandwiches, bottles of wine, &c.,&c.'

Organ music was used to cover the withdrawal and the revesting (as well as the refreshments) at the coronations between James I in 1603 and George III in 1761. But in his grander event in 1820 George IV had the national anthem sung at this point. William IV left to silence, as far as we know, but Victoria had the Halleluiah Chorus. Since 1903 this has been the place for the Te Deum – settings successively by Stanford, Parry, Vaughan Williams and, in 1953, Walton. The burden of singing has always fallen on the choirs of Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal. This year the choir was smaller, but as well as the Abbey and Chapel Royal choristers, it included choristers from Truro Cathedral (part of the Duchy of Cornwall) and Methodist College Belfast.

After this feast of music, the monarch, crowned, robed and with sceptre and orb, is ready to leave the abbey. Since Queen Victoria's coronation in 1838, this is the place for the National Anthem to be sung. After the National Anthem, the final coronation procession lines up and the monarch, crowned and with orb and sceptre, leaves the abbey. So the great spectacle of the coronation ends; in the past to be followed by a great banquet in Westminster Hall, but, since Queen Victoria's time by a procession back to Buckingham Palace through streets lined with troops and cheering crowds. It was only on this return journey that King Charles and Queen Camilla braved the notoriously uncomfortable state coach!



Procession following the Coronation of King Charles III

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS

Aldborough and Boroughbridge Show - Sunday July 23rd 2023

This was held again at Newby Hall after a two-year gap because of Covid restrictions. The weather forecast for the day was wet, and unfortunately this turned out to be the case. I think we had a relatively successful day under the circumstances. We were in a different location from previous years, situated in a smaller tent adjacent to the main ring, sharing with Boroughbridge Chamber of Trade.

We had a steady flow of visitors, a few enquiries, with the possibility of two new members. We sold four History of Boroughbridge books and had one visitor, Patricia Clapham, who had an original programme for the 1953 Coronation Celebrations at Aldborough, where she lived at the time. This was offered to the Society and is now in my possession ready to be put into our archive.

The theme on two of the display boards was "All is Safely Gathered In", which was a pictorial history of the harvesting and thrashing of corn alongside Royal Celebrations from a similar era.

David Barley



Boroughbridge and District Historical Society display at Aldborough and Boroughbridge Show 2023

Bedale Evening Visit, Tuesday 4 July 2023

Following a successful visit by the Bedale Archaeology & History Society last year, where a group had a guided walking tour of Boroughbridge, the invitation was reciprocated to the Boroughbridge and District Historical Society. A visit was arranged on the 4th July, for a guided walk around Bedale describing the history and character of the town.

A group of thirteen members from BDHS attended, we were also accompanied by a group of 40 plus from Bedale.

Bedale is recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086 and in 1251 the Market Charter was granted.

The tour started at Bedale Hall, a large Grade 1 listed Georgian building at the north end of the town. The original estate was purchased from the family of Sir Richard Theakstone by John Peirse. Expansion of the building to form the Palladian style mansion was commenced in 1730 by Henry Peirse following his 'Grand Tour' of Europe, the Palladian style infill is between the original east and west wings. The Hall remained unchanged until around 1760 when a new wing was added to house a racing stud, along with laid out 'gallops' in nearby parkland.



Bedal Hall



Bedal Hall Ballroom

We were lucky that the Hall was still open at the time of our visit, which gave us the opportunity to see the attractive ballroom with the beautiful original ceiling, details of the building were explained to us.

The Hall is owned by the Hambleton Council, various parts of the building are used for the Bedale library, museum and tourist information along with various community and social functions. Also in the hall is the town charter of 27 May 1251 granted by King Henry III.

We crossed over North End, the main road leading into the town, to visit St Gregory's Church. St. Gregory's dates from Saxon times and has the strongest fortified tower in the North of England. It is mostly a 13th and 19th Century building with a small remnant of 9th Century Saxon Church, which survived William the Conqueror's harrying of the North. The original church is on the site of the present nave. The outline above the tower arch, which can be clearly seen, shows that the building had a steeply pitched roof. The tower was built to withstand Scottish raiding parties and the slot for the portcullis may still be seen. There is a fireplace and garderobe (toilet) in the floor above.

The unique five-light window was pointed out to us, inserted in the east wall which is said to have come from Jervaulx Abbey.

Outside the church is a small double fronted building, with a date of 1674 above the door, which is the old grammar school. The building has been restored and is now the parish office. The replacement grammar school (now a private house) was built in 1888 on Wycar.



St. Gregory's Church



'Jervaux' Window



The Old Grammar School

As we walked down North End the elegant Georgian houses were pointed out to us across the road, all brick built three storeys and a basement, with varying roof line heights. We walked down North End towards Market Place and came to the 14th century Market Cross at the head of Emgate. North End and Market place have retained their cobbled areas on each side of the carriageway. Many of the shops lining the main street have detailed 18th Century shop fronts, a particular feature of Bedale.



North End Georgian Buildings



Market Cross



Emgate

Emgate is the ancient route from the Market place to the river crossing, in contrast to the elegant Georgian style houses at North End, Emgate is lined with small cottages leading down from the cross and is one of the oldest streets in Bedale and in the past a busy area with local industries such as leather tanning, dying, weaving, cloth fulling. The route leads to the river crossing, originally a ford, the present bridge was built in 1913 replacing a bridge built in 1828.

As we walked along the side of the beck, the Leech House was pointed out on the opposite side, a Grade II listed building and believed to have been used by a local Apothecary for the storing of leeches which were used to draw blood from patients as a cure for many ailments. Walking further along the side of the beck, we came to an area around the weir, locally known as the Harbour, in reality a canal basin, which was originally planned to be part of the navigation linking Bedale to the river Swale and then onto the River Ouse, work commenced in 1767, but it never reached fruition due to lack of funds and the project was totally abandoned with the arrival of the railway in 1855, when the Bedale to Leyburn branch was opened. The original stonework and iron mooring rings can still be seen.

We continued to walk up a residential street, Harbour View and onto South End, to Masonic Lodge, which was originally built by public subscription in 1880, as a Young Men's Institute. The building at one time housed a library and many paintings.

We proceeded to Mowbray Grange, originally the Bedale Poor Law Union, erected in 1839 at South End as a Poor Law workhouse for 100 inmates, until 1924. In the 1930's the building became Mowbray Grange TB Sanatorium, later changing to Mowbray Grange Hospital, the site was sold off in 1991 and converted to residential use.

		
<p>Mowbray Grange</p>	<p>Mowbray Grange Plaque</p>	<p>Amen House Plaque</p>

We made our way to Amen House, on the way the original Town Hall was pointed out at No.29 Market Place, built in 1840. The upper storey still has the original sash windows. At the rear of the Hall (accessed via the side ginnel) are the former Assembly Rooms, which held dances, showed films, and staged plays.



Old Town Hall



The Leech House

Amen house, built around 1770 and a Grade II listed building to the west of Bedale Hall and the coach house opposite, were part of the once famous Peirse racing stud, Mr Pierse won the St. Leger stakes in 1817 with a horse named Ebor and in 1818 with Reveller.

The guided tour ended at Amen House with our thanks to Tony, our guide, for a very interesting evening walk around Bedale.

Peter Audsley

Charles III Coronation

BDHS contributed to the town's celebrations with a display in the Library. Thank you David and Linda.



Hartlepool U3A Visit to Boroughbridge

In May, members of Hartlepool U3A visited Boroughbridge and were given a guided tour. On page 16 we have published the pages from their local newsletter about the visit. Chris McLouchlin wrote to thank the society, following the visit. He said their members had chatted about the Devils' Arrows on their return journey, thinking about the thousands of people who might have laid hands on the stones through the ages.



Sutton Hoo Historical Society visited Boroughbridge on 24th July, on their way to Durham city. The day was dry and sunny, perfect for viewing the Devil's Arrows. Peter Fleming gave a talk to the group on The Arrows and their place in the local sacred prehistoric landscape.

The History of Boroughbridge

Chris McLoughlin.

If there was a competition for the smallest town with the longest history in England, Boroughbridge, just off the A1M and just a hours' drive from Hartlepool, would be in the running to be the winner.

Our Archaeology & History Group found this out in May when we undertook a walking tour of the town, thanks to the excellent guides supplied by Boroughbridge & District Historical Society.

Our hosts had arranged for us to base our walk at the Anchor Inn, just along from the site of the town Railway Station, one of Beeching's victims unfortunately, and we



(c) David House

were able to follow the route of the original Great North Road as we visited the site of the Battle of Boroughbridge in 1322 for starters and ended up at the Devil's Arrows, the enigmatic Standing Stones dating back 4000 years and probably part of the nearby Thornborough Henges.

In between we were treated to tales of the town starting from Roman times at nearby Aldborough with its connections to the Iron Age tribes of the area via the town in Viking and Middle Age times. Surprisingly, there is a canal at Boroughbridge linked to Ripon and it can also boast a busy Marina, standing as it does on the river Ure. The town also has a rich agricultural past, street names such as Horsefair revealed this, and the Crown Hotel was at one time a major coaching stop as the town lies halfway between Edinburgh and London.

We were amused by the tale that prior to the Reform Act, the Duke of Newcastle held Aldborough and Boroughbridge as a rotten borough with 4 MPs. Considering that the two towns had 1300 souls and 4 MPs whilst Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds with populations of 50,000 had none, you can realise why the Parliamentary reforms were needed.

Although small, it was difficult to imagine the town during the last World War when 1000 troops were stationed at Boroughbridge Hall, the town of course lies just south of Leeming Airfield.

We found the Boroughbridge to be a lovely busy town and we were struck by the number of shops and pubs that keep going whilst in Hartlepool many of our shops have metal shutters giving the town a dead feel in contrast to vital market towns such as Boroughbridge.

A Photographic Essay of the Boroughbridge Field Trip

David House



Minskip History Matters

Minskip History Group

A new regular group, meeting every 4th Wednesday each month.

Starting 27th September

at Minskip Village Hall

7pm to 9pm



A chance to delve into the village archives.

Add to the archive collection.

Share & research the history of the village and Township of Minskip.

Future organised history themed events.

Contact Pauline 07896176081 c/o Village Hall

**Heritage Day on Sat. 9th September at Little
Ouseburn Church**

Guided tours of the church and talk by architect with English Heritage at
11am and noon

At 1.30pm Andrew Snodolney of the Bronte Parsonage Museum will speak about
Anne and Branwell Bronte and their time at Thorpe Green Hall

The events are free, a small charge for light refreshments which will be available



ST JAMES, BOROUGHBRIDGE, ST MARYS DUNSFORTH, ST MARY AND ALL SAINTS CUNDALL

THEIR ARCHITECT'S TALE

TO BE GIVEN BY DR COLIN CANFIELD ON FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER AT 7.30 AT ST JAMES CHURCH BOROUGHBRIDGE

I was researching the roof design at St Mary's Church Dunsforth for the work that we propose there, when I came across Dr Canfield's doctoral thesis on the firm of architects that designed it. The firm had also designed St James Boroughbridge and St Mary and All Saints Cundall as well as 32 other churches, plus schools and parsonages (including those in Lower Dunsforth) in Yorkshire in the period of 1845-1862/3.

The firm was Mallinson and Healey of Bradford and Halifax, a partnership of James Mallinson and Thomas Healey, continued after the latter's death by his sons Thomas II and Francis.

I met Dr Canfield in May of this year when he gave a talk on the firm's work to the Halifax Antiquarian Society. I found it fascinating. How the firm responded to the massive church-building programme of the mid C19, how it got its work, how it sought to give value for money in terms of cost per pew, how it competed with London 'star architects', how it developed patterns for some of the churches' details, how its work expanded as the railways were built; they all came into the narrative. His talk in September will show how their three churches in the Boroughbridge locality fitted into the general pattern of their work. Dr Canfield is the author of the 'English-Church-Architecture.net' website, a helpful heritage description of 420 churches in England. Believe it or not, his day job was as a primary school headteacher.

I recommend you put the date in your diaries – All are welcome - Further information to follow.

Michael Wildblood

Boroughbridge and District Historical Society Minutes

Minutes of the committee meeting held in the Jubilee Room on Tuesday April 17th 2023

Present: Peter Audsley (chair) Jackie Akers, David Bellwood, David Barley, Mike Tasker, John Winn

Apologies: Peter Fleming

Minutes: the minutes of the meeting held on January 17th 2023 were approved, there were no matters arising

Treasurer's Report: there is £1709 at the bank and £211 in petty cash. 50 copies of The History of Boroughbridge have been ordered at a cost of £554. With these new copies the stock of books should last about two years. The committee will return to the next step later in the year.

Secretary's Report:

Kathleen Watson has been in touch about the Pullan family of Roecliffe. There is an ongoing exchange of information with Kathleen about the family.

Philip Monaghan has donated £15 to the society for information about the Dog Kennel Lane project.

Nigel Coates has made contact about Lloyd Coates who was a member of the Royal British Legion from 1920 to 1945.

Ken Braithwaite is seeking information about cattle droving.

Kate Heywood is enquiring about the activities of Aldborough WI in 1915.

The Secretary is maintaining contact with all the above with supporting information from Linda Dooks.

Hartlepool U3A visit May 11th: confirmed that there will be a party of between 18 and 20. Mike Tasker, David Bellwood, David Barley and Linda Dooks will act as guides. Jackie Akers will enquire of The Anchor Inn at Langthorpe re parking and hospitality.

Website: David Bellwood is moving items within the members' section and updating calendar.

Archive: next meeting will be on May 12th. The secretary will book the room for further meetings on June 2nd and July 7th.

Bedale Trip 7:30 July 4th. Linda Dooks is organising this and will require numbers of those wanting refreshments before the start of the tour. 18 members have expressed interest.

Aldborough and Boroughbridge Show: this is to be held at Newby Hall on July 23rd. Agreed we should hire a two meter table for £25.00

Tea Rota: May: John Winn, June: David Barley July: Jackie Akers September: John Winn

Date of AGM to be confirmed at **next meeting** which will be on Tuesday July 18th at 7:00pm

Minutes of the committee meeting held in the Jubilee Room on Tuesday July 18th 2023

Present: Peter Audsley (chair) Jackie Akers, David Bellwood, David Barley, John Winn

Apologies: Peter Fleming, Mike Tasker.

The minutes of the meeting on April 17th were approved.

Matters Arising

The tea rota was altered thus: September: Peter Audsley, October: John Winn.

The visit of Hartlepool U3A had been very successful and they would like to make a return visit in 2024.

Treasurer's Report: there is £1070.47 at the bank and £106.07 in petty cash. The society had received a donation of £100.00 from Will Swale for assistance with the history of the Crown Hotel. Mr Swale has been put in touch with Mike Tasker.

Secretary's Report: David had prepared a full report on all correspondence a copy of which will be filed with the minutes.

Stephen Edison: is trying to find the grave of his great grandfather who lived at High(sic) Dunsforth and died in 1928. Lind Dooks has suggested reference to George Whitehead's book on Victorian Ouseburn. No further action has been taken.

Gerald Craddock: has enquired about Women's Land Army Hostels specifically Blois Hall near Ripon> David has referred him to Marion Jefferies' book on the subject and also the records held at the farming museum at Murton near York.

Gregon Stone: is researching Thomas Gill born 1851 at 'Bowbridge'.

Paul Inwood is looking for photos of Valuation Lane.

Adrian Wilford has been in touch regarding some railway related items.

David Roberts from Fora thanking the society for donation of £50 towards Boroughbridge Primary School trip to Aldborough last year. Agreed we should make further donation of £50.00.

A group from Sutton Hoo Society are coming to Boroughbridge on July 24th. Peter Fleming is meeting them.

John Burgess, landlord of The Black Bull is seeking information relating to the history of the pub. He will be referred to Bill Booth's book 'Here's to Boroughbridge' and the society's history of the town.

Catherine Warr and Andy Wilson have offered to give talks to the society.

Scamming: some committee members' email accounts have been hacked.

Archive Meetings: recent meetings have been sparsely attended or cancelled. Agreed there will be no further meeting until October when position will be reviewed.

Aldborough and Boroughbridge Show. David Barley has prepared our stand for the show. David Bellwood will assist in the afternoon and Peter Fleming will be approached to provide further cover.

AOB the trip to Bedale on July 4th had gone well.

The chairman thanked the committee for their assistance during his first year of office. The AGM date was altered to September 5th. Agreed that there should be two short talks following the completion of business. David Bellwood agreed to give one and Peter Fleming will be approached to provide the second.

Next meeting will be on October 17th at 7:00pm

Local Places of Interest

As for previous newsletters, I have written a few words about a place of local interest. In this edition, the Church of St. Mary at Raskelf.

Raskelf village lies midway between Helperby and Easingwold. The church, located on Main Street, is a Grade II listed building. It is of particular interest because it is the only church in North Yorkshire with a wooden tower.

The church is dedicated to St Mary and dates to the twelfth century, with further alterations in the fourteenth and fifteenth. Its foundation has been attributed to Bertram de Bulmer of Sheriff Hutton Castle, although by 1160 the manor was in the hands of the Neville family. The church was extensively restored, and the south aisle added, in 1879.



St. Mary's wooden tower, more typical of churches in Kent than North Yorkshire

