Boroughbridge & District Historical Society



http://www.boroughbridgehistory.co.uk

Newsletter
Summer 2026

CONTENTS

Chair's Notes	2
The Viking Age	3
Yorkshire's Glistening Dale	5
The Yeadon Avro Aircraft Factory	7
The British Love Affair with the Seaside	9
Boroughbridge Butter Market Museum	12
Boroughbridge Brewery staff	14
BDHS Business	19
Ripon Leper Chapel	21

Summer Programme

Tuesday, 12th May

Mike Turpin
Capability Brown - His life and time at Temple Newsam

Tuesday, 9th June

Julie Prescott
Cartismandua: Queen of the North

Tuesday, 14th July

Nick Smith
Rowntree Histories



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Notes from the CHAIRMAN

How nice it is to enjoy the early Spring weather and the longer evenings, which feels especially refreshing after a long, wet winter.

At this time of national and international turmoil, our local groups and societies take on a more significant relevance. We are lucky in the Boroughbridge area that we have well supported and varied groups and clubs, our history society being one of these.

Our society, along with all the other local groups, strives to inform and educate through enabling members and visitors to mix with like-minded people. This helps support and maintain that strong community interest.



Thank you to all our members both long-standing and new for supporting our history group and hopefully enjoying listening to our varied and interesting speakers.

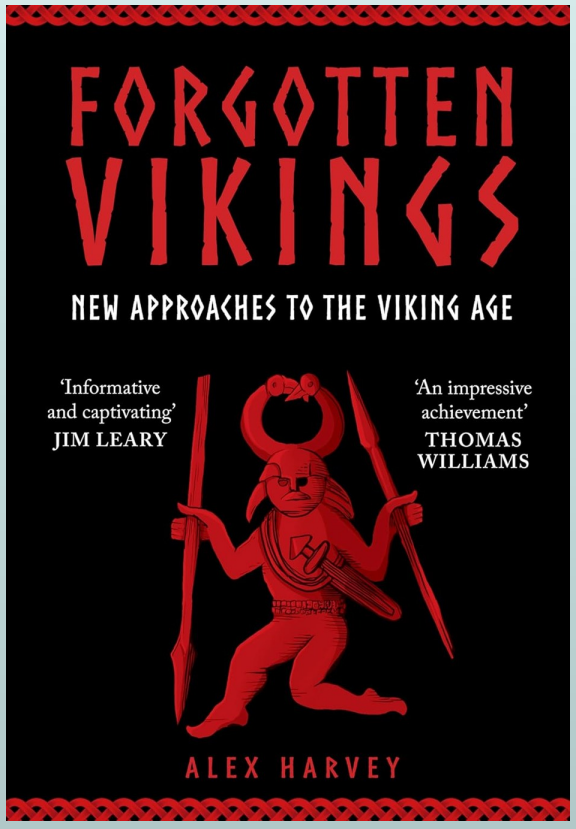
For this summer the society has an excellent programme of speakers. Thanks again to David Barley for making all the arrangements; we already have a range of speakers booked for the 2026/27 season.

Peter Audsley (Chair)

Remembering The Vikings
Alex Harvey

In January, Alex Harvey gave us an entertaining lecture on the Vikings. His presentation was based on his book, 'Forgotten Vikings'.

He began by stating that the popular image of the Vikings as raiders and plunderers—a blood-thirsty lot—was inaccurate. It is true that Viking warriors were feared because of their skills and brutality, but the other side of the Vikings is what we see depicted in Jorvik, York: the Vikings as peaceful settlers.



Between 793 and 1066 the Vikings explored far and wide and settled in many places; England, Wales, Ireland, France, Spain and the Black Sea were all subjected to Viking exploration. Across this wide geographical area they pillaged and kidnapped for valuables and money.

In Scandanavian countries (from where Vikings came) fortifications against Viking raiders were built, for example Trelleborg in Denmark. This reminds us that Viking raiders were pirates, not against plundering their homeland. But they were settlers and traders also, and it is believed their exploring took them as far away as Newfoundland.

They explored the known and unknown world. They went west to Shetland and Greenland, south-east to North Africa and the Middle East. Recent research using mitochondrial DNA evidence in mice supports the extensive nature of their exploring. In our own country, words like garth (enclosure), thorpe (settlement) and thwaite (clearing) are all reminders the Vikings settled here.

The Vikings had an elaborate belief system that included a pantheon of gods: Odin, Thor, Freya, who influenced daily life. They believed in a cosmos of nine worlds and that the honourable would be in Valhalla after death. The Vikings admired the Romans, emulating them in styles of helmets, for example.

In large parts of eastern and northern England where Vikings conquered, Danelaw was introduced and continued under Anglo-Saxon rule until the Norman conquest.

Alex finished his talk by reminding us that we can never really know how the Vikings saw themselves; any writing about them is sure to be influenced by current preoccupations.



Contrasting views of The Vikings. Above, Vikings as brutal raiders; below, Vikings as peaceful settlers



Yorkshire's Glistening Dale

Rowena Moir

In February Rowena Moir, a National Trust volunteer, gave us a talk on Nidderdale.

The Nidd runs from Great Whernside to Nun Monkton, where it joins the Ouse, a distance of fifty five miles. The dramatic landscape it runs through is a result of glaciation. There is evidence provided by uncovered artefacts that people have lived in the dale for at least 4,500 years (the middle Stone Age). Romans, Celts, Danes and Normans have all left their mark on the area. Nidd is a Celtic word for glistening and place names provide clues to the origins of settlements, for example the 'ley' in Pately is an old English term (Anglo-Saxon) for clearing.

There is much evidence of Christianity in the ancient churches and abbey ruins of the dale. Most villages had a chapel and John Wesley visited Pateley Bridge several times. Once lead mining, railways and flax mills contributed to a thriving economy in Nidderdale; now only industrial ruins are to be found in such places as Greenhow and, where mill buildings still exist, these have been converted for residential accommodation. Of course, farming remains a constant and today tourism is a major source of income and employment for Nidderdale folk.

With guaranteed rainfall, the dale has been developed to provide water for surrounding urban areas. Gouthwaite Reservoir was opened in 1901 (a compensation reservoir for the mills), Angram Reservoir was built in 1919 to provide water for the growing population and industrial needs of Bradford. Similarly, Scarhouse Reservoir, opened in 1936, was designed to provide for Bradford's water needs. What an undertaking building the reservoir was: work started in 1921 and took fifteen years to complete. A functioning village was built close to the dam to accommodate the workforce involved in the project. It was once home to 1200 people. Today, evidence of the village can be seen to the left of the reservoir approach road, in the form of concrete bases of former buildings. A light railway was constructed for the transportation of goods and building materials to the site.



Scar House Reservoir

A railway line to Pateley Bridge opened in 1862. The last passenger train ran in 1951 and the last goods train in 1964. 'The Sidings' is still an address in Pateley Bridge, and serves to remind us of days gone by.

At its height in the 1870s, Glasshouses Flax Mill, owned by the Metcalfe family, employed over 300 people. All over the dale many others worked in the linen trade. Originally the river Nidd provided a power source, but as industry expanded, coal took over. Just beyond Summerbridge, New York village was built to provide accommodation for workers employed at New York Mill, owned by Francis Thorpe. Castle Mill in Knaresborough operated until 1972, famously supplying linen to royal households.

Upper Nidderdale has evidence of pre-historic enclosures and lynchets remind us of Romano-British agricultural techniques. Much of the population was lost following the Norman conquest and the harrying of the North and it fell to the abbeys to regenerate the dale in the Middle Ages. By the 1600s the Proctor family owned much of the upper dale and rented land to many tenant farmers, enclosure using drystone walls took place in the 1700s and the last two hundred years has seen farming revolutionised through mechanisation.

Today tourism dominates. Thousands come to see the Nidd Gorge at Knaresborough every year and the Nidderdale Show at Pateley Bridge is a big draw. Today, the sounds of happy families enjoying a day in the 'glistening dale' is commonplace.



Pateley Bridge High Street

The Avro Factory in Yeadon 1941-47

Ken Cothliff

The factory took its name from Sir Alliott Verdon-Roe (b.1877 d.1958) a pioneer English pilot and aircraft manufacturer and founder in 1910 of the A.V. Roe Aircraft Co., later renamed Avro Aircraft, at Brownsfield Mill, Great Ancoates Street, Manchester. After experimenting with model aeroplanes, he made flight trials in 1907-08 with a full-size triplane at Brooklands, Surrey and through the 1920s designed and developed various aircraft. His most popular model, the 504, sold more than 8300 units, mainly to the Royal Flying Corps and later the Royal Air Force for use as training units. Roe was knighted in 1929.

Leeds and Bradford bought land at Yeadon for civil and military aircraft use. Harry Worrel, a New Zealander, was a test pilot for the Blackburn aeroplane company, along with his daughter Pamela. They based themselves at Yeadon.

At the beginning of the war the original plan was to build a new aircraft factory in Doncaster. Why Doncaster when there was already a suitable site at Yeadon, with a developed runway and sufficient land to build an aircraft factory? The plan was changed and the Yeadon factory was opened by Avro for aircraft production in February 1941. The factory was run in conjunction with their main factory at Chadderton, Manchester. Avro Leeds was an example of an important characteristic of wartime production in Britain; the dispersal of production capacity. Parts from Leeds went to Manchester and likewise parts manufactured in Manchester went to Leeds.

The factory roofs were sprayed green to look like grass, the shade of green was changed to reflect the seasons, and the surrounding farmland along with dummy animals, bushes and hedges. Although it was the largest single span factory in Europe at the time, it was never discovered by the enemy. On completion it was





Above: remains of concrete gun emplacement
Left: Anti-aircraft Gun

530m long, 225m wide, a single storey continuous structure of brick and reinforced concrete with blast walls on the inside offering some protection from air attacks. They were eight 3.7” anti-aircraft gun emplacements around the site.

Avro Leeds made a major contribution to Britain's wartime aircraft production producing 695 Lancaster bombers, over 4500 Aro-Anson aircraft. An estimated 17,000 people worked at the factory throughout the War with 10,000 working there at any one time at its peak. They worked 69 hour weeks; 60% of the workforce were women and most were conscripts. Most of the workers came from the Leeds and Bradford areas although some came from further afield. As many as 150 buses were used daily to transport workers to the factory. There was compulsory billeting of Avro workers at homes in the neighbouring areas of Yeadon, Rawdon and Guiseley. Householders with spare rooms were required by wartime regulations to make them available.

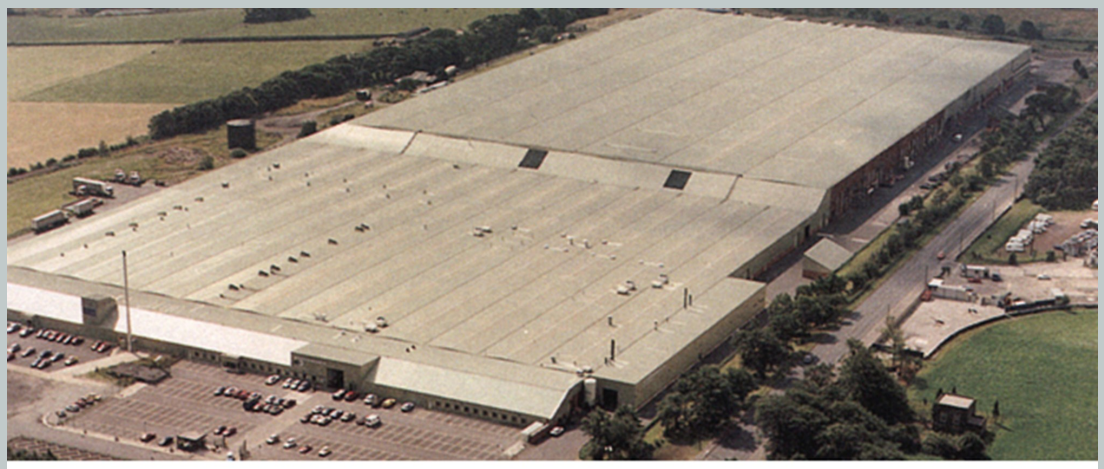
After the end of the war, aircraft production continued at the factory but on 18 April 1946, a stunned and angry workforce learned it would be closing and by September 1946 production had ceased. The factory was bought in 1969 and developed over the following years as an industrial estate, still within the original building.





Above Left: Management in front of the last Lancaster built at Yeadon 1947
Above Right: Staff seated in front of an Avro Anson plane 1946

Below: The Yeadon factory today



Our Great British Love Affair with the Seaside

Lesley Newnham

In April Lesley gave an illustrated talk to society members that brought back memories for everyone who heard it. Her research into seaside holidays had been triggered by a book of Edwardian postcards bought from a junk shop.

Before the Industrial Revolution it was really only the aristocracy who could afford to take holidays. Aristocrats began to visit places like Bath to 'take the waters' and might spend many months away from home enjoying a season of balls and socialising. Poor people had time off work during holy days, but church attendance was expected at these times.



Public Bathing at Bath, or 'Stewing Alive' by Isaac Cruikshank, 1825

In 1752 Dr, Richard Russell published a book on the health benefits of water bathing which became very popular with both the wealthy and the emerging middle classes. Russell even encouraged people to drink seawater mixed with milk or beer. Soon, many seaside towns began to provide facilities for the growing number of people who wanted to engage in sea bathing. The advent of the railways meant reaching the seaside became easier and by the late 1800s the working classes also were making their way there for days out and even holidays.

When George III visited Weymouth in 1789 for the good of his health 'dipping' seemed to have achieved royal approval.

Some people made great fortunes by providing services and amenities for wealthy seaside visitors. One of the most famous is Sake Dean Mahomed. He introduced shampoo baths and therapeutic massages in Brighton and in other fashionable spots across Europe. Mahomed lived to reach 102, so perhaps there was something in what he recommended!

Queen Victoria spent a lot of time at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. Here she bathed and had a beach hut for privacy. Soon, beach huts, and 'bathing carts', appeared at many seaside towns and could be hired for changing with dignity into bathing costumes, made of fine wool.



Edwardian Ladies on the beach, modestly attired

Seaside piers were built from 1829 onwards. These allowed visitors to experience the sea while still being on 'dry land'. They also, of course, allowed promenading to take place. Blackpool had three piers at one point. Many seaside towns have now lost their piers, most having been dismantled following storms; with holiday makers now flying abroad to the sun, their repair not considered to be economically viable.



Blackpool Victoria Pier

It was in late Victorian and Edwardian times that seaside towns boomed. Working class people were beginning to feel slightly better off and in 1871 four bank holidays were introduced. Railway 'specials' were timetabled to enable people from industrial towns to get to the coast. All sorts of attractions were laid on: funicular railways, theatre, dance halls and a range of accommodation to suit the pockets of all classes.



A family photograph; just one of the essentials of a holiday by the sea

Seaside holidays became a very significant feature of our economy and seaside towns would compete to attract visitors. Scarborough badged itself 'Queen of the Waters' with The Grand Hotel, opened in 1867, seeming to confirm the title.



The Grand Hotel, Scarborough

The Grand, today a rather shabby shadow of its former self, has four towers (seasons), twelve floors (months), fifty two chimneys (weeks) and 365 bedrooms (days); what a remarkable experience it would have been to visit in its heyday.

All of us who grew up at any time after the war until the 1980s can remember visiting seaside towns that had changed little from the Edwardian era; the entertainments they offered seeming to belong to a simpler time.



Donkey rides - these were first introduced as a sideline by fisher folk who were able to earn a little extra cash by offering visiting children rides on the animals they put to work carrying fish on weekdays.

Ice Cream - a seaside staple. Ice cream was popularised in London by Carlo Gatti but it was Agnes Berth Marshall who invented the ice cream cone. She also patented a machine for freezing ice cream.

Saucy Postcards - Sending a postcard home while on holiday was popular before the internet age. Saucy postcards usually contained 'double meanings' that would bring a smile to the faces of those receiving them. They are of their time, sexist and misogynistic to some, harmless fun to others.

Seaside Rock - invented by Ben Bullock of Burnley, who perfected a means of getting writing through the rock.

Other entertainments - Punch & Judy, fish and chips, penny arcades, hall of mirrors, candy floss (from 1897 onwards), buckets and spades—all endured and many can be found to this day at the seaside.

From the 1960s onwards, Brits took to the skies in increasing numbers in search of the sun in places like Spain, whose tourist industry exploded while many of our seaside towns fell into decay. In some cases, though, seaside towns have reinvented themselves; one only has to look at Whitby to see that, there at least, tourism is the main driver of economic activity.

British people love the seaside, and day trips and short breaks at the coast remain popular, even though most seaside towns will never again know the prosperity of their glory days. The photograph below, taken the day after Covid lockdown restrictions were lifted, shows the pull a beach on a sunny day still has for us Brits.



Bournemouth Beach After Lockdown

Boroughbridge's Butter Market Museum

Linda Dooks

We were recently asked by the Town Council to help with an article on Boroughbridge Butter Market Museum for the Yorkshire Post.

The museum, originally a shelter for farmers wives to use when they were selling their wares at the market, was built in the eighteenth century. The museum was set up by Geoff Craggs when he was a town councillor, over thirty years ago. Among the objects on display are items from Miss Betty Mudd's butter and cheese making equipment, as well as her clogs. This is part of my personal history, as my father always recalled visiting the Mudds in Aldborough, riding there with his mother in the pony and trap to see his aunt. Miss Betsie Mudd and her family bought the dairy off The Lawson Tancred family in 1911. Their butter and cheese were transported all over the country by train from Boroughbridge.

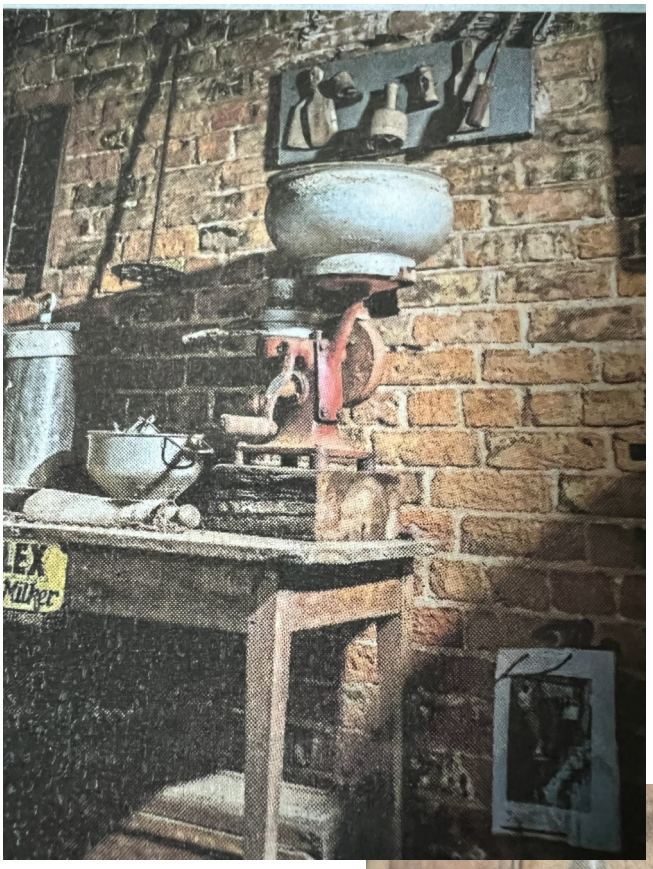
The Mudds were experts at prizewinning butter and cheese carvings which were even exhibited in London. Although not well known as a craft in the UK, Prudence Staite completed a sculpture of one Boris Johnson in 1989. Competitions and Exhibitions are still held at state fairs in the USA and are held in great esteem.

In 1939 Betty and her family opened a dairy and tearoom in Aldborough, where it became very famous for its ham and egg teas. A visitors book showed that among the first visitors was Princess Mary and her husband The Earl of Harewood who were visiting the Lawson Tancreds for the day at Aldborough Manor from their home at Harewood House. The visitors book also contains the names over the following years of many of the Canadian soldiers and airmen stationed over here during the Second World War (many of whom never returned from their nightly flights into Europe). This book is now in the International Bomber Command Museum in Lincoln, with notes detailing the actions the servicemen took part in and whether they survived or not. The archive is available to view online at ibccdigitalarchive.lincoln.ac.uk

The dairy closed in 1961 and the cafe in 1968, eventually becoming the Aldborough Post Office run by Aiden Foster and his wife Frances, Frances being Miss Mudd's Niece.



Linda at the Butter Market Museum



Some of the items on display at the museum





Photograph of the Boroughbridge Brewery Staff in the Brewery Yard

(Date unknown, possibly mid 1920s)

David Barley

The photograph on the next page came originally came from George Wright, father of Cyril and grandfather of Karen Farrer. The people in the photograph were identified by George many years ago and noted on a sheet of paper. This original sheet has been photocopied and enhanced by me.

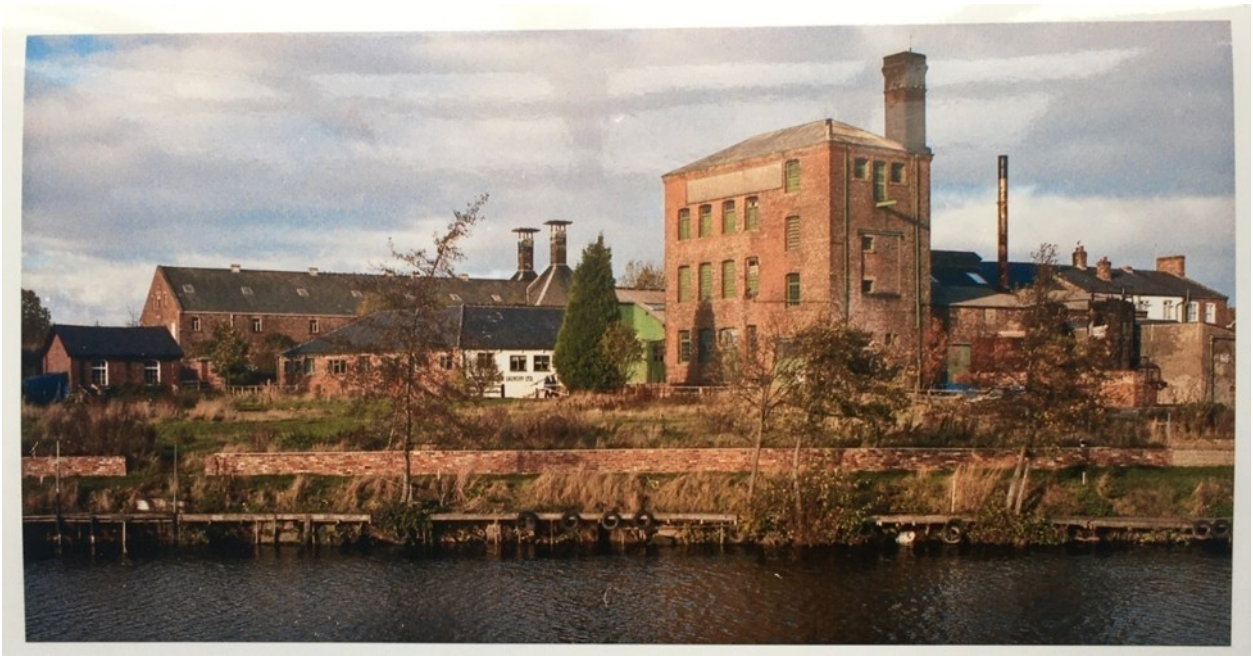
Latterly this photograph has been in the possession Ray (Tutt) Horner.

Many of these surnames are familiar to people living in Boroughbridge and Langthorpe today. To research them all would be a project in itself.

The second part of this article relates to the granddaughter of one of the gentlemen on this photograph. She is called Margaret Maywhort, daughter of May Tubby, and granddaughter of Levi and Mary Ann Tubby. Levi Tubby was Head Maltster at the Brewery and is on the photo (on the bottom right, with the waistcoat and chain).

In 2015 Margaret was visiting an aunt in a Nursing Home at Harrogate and made a nostalgic visit to the Old Brewery Yard. Apparently she was having trouble with a battery on her campervan and was assisted by Roger Mann who charged the battery for her. Roger lives in, and has developed, the old Brewery Stable Block in the Brewery Yard.

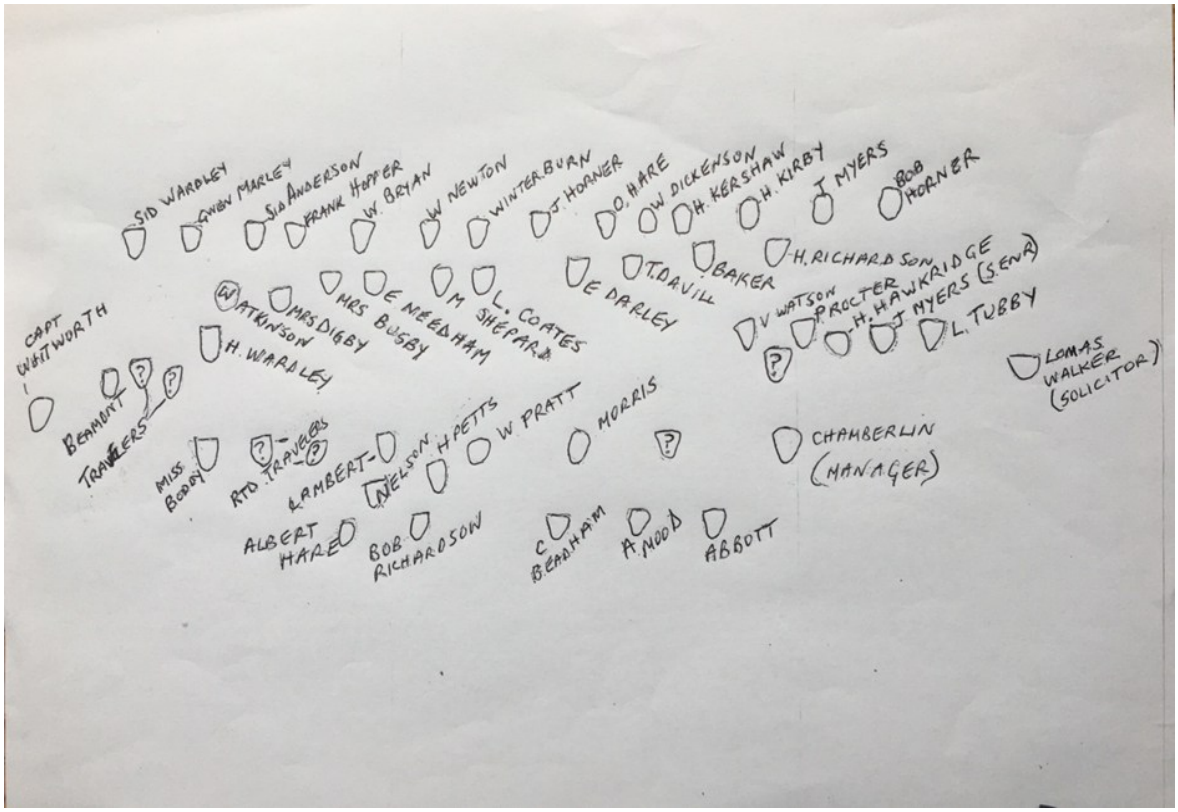
After this encounter Margaret wrote a letter to Roger thanking him and enclosed photographs of the Brewery House and photographs of their activities when visiting her grandparents. She enclosed drawings of the layout of Brewery House together with a lovely three page recollection of her visits to Langthorpe as a child. A copy of this recollection appears on pages 16, 17 and 18.



Old Brewery 1950s



Photo of brewery staff c.1920s (above) with identification by George Wright (below)



The Brewery House
Langthorpe
Boroughbridge
North Yorkshire

The Brewery House is where I was born in 1941 as were quite a few of my aunts and uncles. My grandparents Levi and Mary Ann Tubby were the tenants as it was owned by the brewery, Mustill's originally until John Smith's took it over. Grandad was moved from one of the Norwich breweries to become head maltster at Langthorpe until his retirement in 1947 and then he was moved to No 3 Anchor Terrace, another property of John Smith's.

The Brewery House was always busy with loads of kids and then us grandchildren. There was no electricity but gas lights were on the walls or ceiling of each room but little oil lamps were used for the children to go to bed and candles were used by the adults. This just may have been a safety factor as grandma and grandad lost their eldest daughter in a fire in Norwich caused by her nightdress being caught by a flame.

There were no windows on the front wall, just a door in the middle with a trellis around for effect. We always used the side door to enter the house. One walked up the pathway to the entrance in the side wall which then gave us two doors; the one to the left was the outside WC and I do recall that it had some work done which was either to make it a flush toilet or just 'modernise' it. The right hand door led into the scullery with a boiler wash tub and huge mangle with wooden rollers and various other bits and pieces the use for which I cannot recall. The scullery then led to a door on the right which took us into the kitchen/diner/living room with a window looking into the little yard by which we had entered the building. A big old range was on one wall which was very well utilised by gran for cooking and on the opposite side of the room was a pantry to the left which placed it behind the scullery and in the right hand corner were steps leading down to the cellar. Going straight across the hallway behind the front door was a large parlour (or lounge) which was only used for 'high days and holidays'. I do remember that grandad's bed was put in there when he was very ill and on his recovery all went back to normal. Oddly enough I cannot remember the layout upstairs only that the outside metal staircase could be accessed from one of the bedrooms.

My mother and her siblings all learned to ride bikes down the yard and they had to make a sharp turn at the bottom or they would have run off the landing stage which I noticed has almost disappeared. The landing stage and the salmon ladders were where they leaned to swim. The youngest of Mum's brothers, Reg was not keen on getting in the river but Mum did the same to him as one of the elder brothers did to her to encourage her to swim - chucked him in!! What would happen nowadays? Health and safety, or a charge of abuse or bullying or whatever.

The garden of the brewery house ran from the front door the down the path to the terrace which overlooks the Great North Road and there were steps down to the public footpath and bus stop. There was a little shop on the terrace which was owned by the Burley siblings; Amos and his sister. In the garden, or paddock as we knew it Grandad had chickens, guinea pigs and rabbits and grew all the vegetables and fruit to feed the family; also some flowers as a treat for gran. There was an enormous tree which had a seat under where they would relax as and when they could. My mother and her brother Don had carved their initials on the trunk when they were youngsters.

The railway line ran alongside the garden but all was quiet on a Sunday due to the fact that no trains ran on that day. As kids we would sit on the wall overlooking the road counting the cars, vans and wagons and then watch the trains; the station being just across the road where a cattle market was held.

During the war we used to watch for the planes from Dishforth and Topcliffe flying over. Grandad being a bit concerned one time as he didn't want the enemy firing over the garden because he had just planted his peas and beans. If we were going into Ripon on the bus I always hoped it would go the route on which the bus would have to stop if aircraft were taxying as the road was crossed by the runway.

In front of the doorway to the engine room of the laundry was a long building going down the brewery yard the end part of which was the cooper shop which had a Jacob's ladder to the upper deck. When he retired from work my grandad was given the use of this building which he used as a 'hidey-hole' and where we children used to go to get from under our mother's and grandma's feet. Grandad always had a tin of Smith's crisps and a bottle of 'pop' there for us. We used to walk round from the laundry under the railway bridge to a chap who was an acquaintance of grandad.

The building on the right hand side of the brewery yard housed the bottle wash and storage facilities. We would often see one of the wagons parked up ready for loading and the driver was a cheery fellow by the name of Cam Watson who was always whistling or singing. I do not remember him ever being miserable.

Across from the cooper shop were allotments which went to the public footpath alongside the river and when grandad was moved to Anchor Terrace he had one of the allotments and there he grew all the fruit and veg again. I used to love being with him and scoffing the fresh raspberries and raw carrots, broad beans and suchlike. We would walk along the public footpath which ran beside the river but if we had our dog with us we had to be careful as there were cows in the fields just over the hedge. We did get run by them on one occasion so we made sure it never happened again. My how they could run!!

Walking along the road in front of Anchor Terrace the house just behind the bottle wash/loading bay was what seemed to us to be a big 'posh' house but I see it had now gone to wrack and ruin. Such a shame. The cottage on the left of the road was occupied and the garden was always well stocked. The piece of land on front of that garden was rented to my grandad where he kept his chickens and if the weather was good he would go and sit there watching the river.

To the right of the allotments crossing the river was the railway bridge, a large metal construction now long gone. On a Sunday and weather permitting we children would walk along it jumping from one sleeper to another.

The garage at the Boroughbridge end was an old wooden building where grandad would take the wet-cell battery from the radio to be charged. He would give it to me to take but he always collected it after charging.

Now to Anchor Terrace. My grandparents were allocated No 3. I can recall the names of the other tenants. No 1 was the Relton family. I cannot remember the parents names but they had 3 children; Joyce, David and another son whose name escapes me. In No 2 was Mrs Hare with her married son Dennis and wife May, then along came their daughter Valerie.

No 3 was Mr and Mrs Tubby, my wonderful grandparents.

No 4 was Mrs Houseman; No 5 was Mrs Schofield; No 6 was the Hawkridge family and in No 7 Mr Sam Bonar. He sometimes had a granddaughter staying with him and if I remember aright she was called Pat Caygill (or maybe Cagill). Outside No 7 was a pump complete with water trough for drawing water, although it was no longer operational.

When he retired grandad was tasked with being the rent collector to gather the rents for the Brewery which he did every week. As he was always up early in a morning the laundry got him to go round and set the pumps working before they started work. He would go round at lunchtime to stop the engine and then restart for the afternoon stint then switch off at cease work. We would go with him but were warned not to get too close to the big wheel which we watched with awe.

The cottages they were 2-up 2-downers. In the living room was the large blacklead/steel range with the oven to the left of the fire and a water container on the right which gave warm water when the fire was lit. No electricity in the cottages therefore a large gas lamp in the middle of the ceiling and gas wall lamps in the other rooms. A walk-in cupboard and pantry were let into the wall and a door which went through to the front room, used only for 'best' and then a doorway which gave access to the staircase and the 2 large bedrooms. The front bedroom was my grandparents room with large brass bedstead, washstand, wardrobe, dressing table, storage chest and chair and there was still plenty of room to move round. In the back bedroom were 2 large brass bedsteads, large wardrobe, chest of drawers, washstand, storage chest under the window and if there were 2 families of visitors with kids a mattress would appear on which the kids would sleep 'top-to-toe' . Funny because from the outside the cottages seem so tiny. The lavatories were across the back yard, 2 for the Anchor pub and 7 for the cottages. One night my grandma went across the yard but hadn't taken the torch with her. She was just ready to sit on the seat only to find a pub customer sitting there already. After that it was always kept locked and the key hung behind the back door.

My memories of times in Langthorpe are only happy ones and I feel that although the Brewery House became neglected and fell into disrepair and was demolished and the land ready for development there are tot many properties crammed into the area. It has lost its soul. My last surviving aunt, Phyllis now 83 years of age, was quite distressed when she saw the way it was developed. Fortunately I have my memories and photographs showing what it was like which no-one can take from me.

Margaret
(one of Levi & Mary Ann Tubby's grandchildren, May Tubby being her mother)



The Brewery House in the Brewery Yard where the Tubby family lived, probably taken in the 1950s

Minutes of BDHS Committee Meeting

Tuesday 6 January 2026, at 7.00 at Holly Bank, Mill Lane

In attendance: Peter Audsley, David Barley, David Bellwood, Liz Chapman-Winn, Peter Fleming, Mike Tasker

Apologies: Mark Learmonth and Jackie Glew.

The meeting commenced with condolences expressed over the recent death of John Winn.

Minutes from 7 October 2025 committee meeting. Approved with one amendment: under 'Langthorpe Parish Council Records' it should read *DBa has made contact with Mike Collins* (not *Mike Tasker*, as recorded in error).

Treasurer's Report The society has a bank balance of £1202.67 and holds £419.12 in cash. Progress is slowly being made on updating signature arrangements with the bank. Payment is now due for the society's domain name and hosting. PA to proceed with payment.

Secretary/Archivist's Report DBe went through his report (see addendum).

Membership The membership list was updated and names of those no longer active removed. PA agreed to contact by e.mail a small remaining number of members on the list whose membership status is uncertain. Current society membership is 36.

1611 Project Update MT has been busy over the Christmas period and so had little progress to report. He has the completion of the map in hand, with ML. Some points of interest: The apparent importance of the Smithsons in 1611 (LD is investigating connections with today's Smithsons). Many tenants mentioned in the 1611 survey were not burgage owners. The population of the settlement was very much confined to the streets now known as High Street, Bridge Street and Fishergate.

Friday project and archive meetings There will be a meeting on the afternoon of Friday, 16th January and alternate months thereafter; March 20th being the next date. DBe will book the meeting room.

DBa is to recommend to Langthorpe Parish Council that their Meetings Archive is lodged with the records office at Northallerton.

On reading through old minutes relating to the 'war years', DBa has been surprised to find no mention relating to the impact of World War on local affairs.

AOB JG has decided to step down from the committee, but she will continue to assist where she can with research projects etc.

Date of next committee meeting Tuesday 7th April 7.00 p.m.

Addendum: BDHS Secretary's Report

General

Jubilee Room is booked for all Tuesday evening talks for 2026. Dates: 13 January, 10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December. Friday 16 Jan booked for project meeting, but no further Fridays yet.

BALH membership has been renewed for 2026.

A few new items of archives have been uploaded to members' area on the website. Some pages of the original 1611 documents corrected and re-uploaded, as had previously been in wrong order.

Correspondence & Enquiries

1. KD has I acquired a vintage coat 'Elizabeth Couture The Hansel Boroughbridge' Wonders if it was a factory or shop? And dates? I have not found out anything yet.

2. SKW has made contact to say that in 2026 Boroughbridge Social Club will be celebrating 100 years since the British Legion were given the land and building at 14 Fishergate in Nov 1926. They have deeds etc with some info but wondered if we had any info photos or documents about the building, and legion, social club to help put together a bit of a display around this for members and visitors. Linda and I have both sent some info and photos. Sandra has offered so show us the deeds and other things if we want to meet up any time.

3. JH is conducting some research into a steam roller that was delivered new to Great Ouseburn RDC in November 1927. The roller in question is Fowler No.16854 A 10-ton compound roller. He would be most interested if anyone has any pictures or information that may relate to the roller. I discussed with Keith Scott from Gt Ouseburn, but he did not know.

4. PAS from Australia is researching a connection (the Clarke family) of her son-in-law's family with Ellenthorpe Hall. I have sent several replies, and Linda, Peter A and David Ba have made contributions, so we were able to give her plenty of information. Penelope has written back to thank us. I have all the correspondence if anyone is interested in seeing it.

Follow-ups:

KW of Malton writes: I am glad consideration will be given to a lecture on the Latin inscription on Huby's Tower at Fountains Abbey. Incredibly the inscription also included leaves, flowers and grapes. I understand part of the text is linked to the text used in the liturgy on Good Friday which is in the breviary. If I was an artist or had computer skills I would try and recreate the inscription with the gothic text, leaves, flowers and grapes on a long roll for exhibition. I am very surprised this has not been done years ago! It would be wonderful to have an exhibition of the Latin inscription with details of the Breviary. I do look forward to meeting you all. Please do let me know what the outcome of the consideration is if that is at all possible.

Boroughbridge & District Historical Society

Minutes of committee meeting held on 7 April 2026

Present: Peter Audsley, David Barley, David Bellwood, Peter Fleming, Liz Chapman-Winn, Mark Learmonth and Mike Tasker. **Apologies**: none.

Minutes of previous meeting (6 January 2025) were approved.

Treasurer's Report: £1,320.87 in bank account; £426.12 in cash.

Secretary's/Archivist's Report:

The previously circulated report was highlighted as follows:

Interest in a group visit to the Beadlam Roman Villa and the EH Archaeological Store would be gauged at the next meeting.

Linda Dooks attended a visit by the Yorkshire Post and appeared in the circulated article in February 2026.

It was noted that there was still a low uptake of the upload facility on the website and DBe asked committee members to archive further material where possible.

There had been correspondence (all replied to) from the following people and organizations: Margaret and Ray Walker, Rob Dearning, Boroughbridge Lions, Carole Pinfold, Tim West, Kiplin Hall, Callum Shaw, Nancy Coever and Sarah Anderson.

Book Sales

21 books remained unsold from the last print run. Approximately 900 copies of *A History of Boroughbridge* had been sold since first publication.

Future internet enquiries about the book would be handled by PA.

MT held the PDF copy of the book which he would pass on to DBe so that he could search it electronically in case of any relevant queries received.

MT would donate the proceeds from any future sales of his WWII book to the Society.

May 2026 Library Display

It was agreed that "Industries and Businesses" would be the topic for this display, which would be set up on 30 April 2026 between 1:30 and 3:30pm.

The possibility of "Then and Now" photos for the 2027 display would be investigated.

Lions Summer Fete

It was not possible to provide a stall for this event because insufficient committee members were available.

Archive/Project Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 24 April 2026 at 2pm.

Tea Rota 2026: April PF; May PA; June LC-W; July DBe

Any Other Business

PF requested material for the next newsletter by 17 April 2026.

The possibility of buying a new laptop and projector would be investigated.

ML would deputise for PA in the June main meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 30 June 2026 at 7.00pm Holly Bank.

The Chapel of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, Ripon (the leper chapel)

Peter Fleming

The Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen was founded in Ripon on land given by Thurstan, Archbishop of York (1114-1140). It is located on the northern approach to the city (about a quarter of a mile from North Bridge on Stonebridge Gate) and in medieval times would have been the first habitation seen by visitors after crossing the Ure.

The Leper Chapel survived the Reformation (when many were dissolved to add to Henry VIII's coffers) and today remains much as it was in medieval times. It is still in use for meetings and Sunday services, now a Grade 1 listed building. The only other surviving leper chapel of this age and quality of preservation is St. Mary Magdalene in Cambridge.

The hospital was founded to offer hospitality, specifically to lepers and later to blind priests and the destitute of Ripon. Alms houses were build close to the chapel in 1674; these were demolished in 1875 and replaced by the brick alms houses still in use today.



The Leper chapel is open daily for visitors.



