

The programme for the day was printed in the spring newsletter and also appears on our website.

### Autumn Conference, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Sheffield *Back from the Edge: the fall and rise of Yorkshire's wildlife*

As advertised in our spring newsletter, this year's autumn conference will take place in the Centre in the Park, Norfolk Heritage Park, Sheffield.

The cost of the conference is £20.00 per head (£15.00 for unwaged/retired), including buffet lunch, tea and coffee.

If you have not already booked your place, please do so as soon as possible, using the booking form enclosed with this newsletter.

### **Six Yorkshire Legacies**

Our next short course will be led by Dr Michael Hopkinson and will take place on the following afternoons, 2.00 – 4.00pm:

Wed 26 Oct, Wed 2 Nov, Wed 9 Nov, Wed 16 Nov, Wed 23 Nov and Wed 30 Nov. The first 5 sessions will be in Bedern Hall and the last one in York Art Gallery.

Examining the role of a group of Yorkshire personalities who had a lasting influence on the city and county, living during the "long nineteenth century" (1750 to 1920), this course will focus on John Carr (architect), George Hudson (railway magnate), the Rowntree family (housing and welfare), Titus Salt (industrialist), the Sitwells (literature) and William Etty (painter and conservationist). Each session will include a brief introduction on the people named and then broaden to consider their contemporary context and enduring legacy. Participants will be encouraged to visit local sites associated with the themes and personalities discussed.

The cost for all 6 sessions will be £25.00 (£20.00 for unwaged/retired). Individual sessions £5.00 each. *Please book your place using the booking form enclosed.*

**REMINDER!** Fieldtrip to Buck Wood, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October. This event was advertised in the spring newsletter. If you'd like to come and have not already booked, you can just turn up on the day and pay then. More details from Eileen White, tel: 01274 610703.

### **And for the spring.....**

**Another short course by Robert Wright: York: Medieval to Modern.**

Following the highly successful course this summer on Medieval York (described on our website), we shall be running a course covering the last few centuries.

**Further details in the next newsletter.**

### **Joint lecture with the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and the Royal Geographical Society**

7.30pm, Tuesday 15 November, Tempest Anderson Hall, York:

*'Letters from America': nineteenth century emigrants writing home to Yorkshire.* Dr Michael Hopkinson.

**Free entry for PLACE members!**

## PLACE spring conference 2012:



### *Yorkshire's Forests in the twenty-first century*

**Dalby Forest Visitor Centre (below)  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April**



This conference will examine the current debate about the use and function of forests and woodlands, both public and private. There will be four talks in the morning:

- Vince Carter: 'Forestry – an evolving agenda'
- Will Richardson: 'Sustainable Forest Management in the Private Sector'
- Adrian Carter: Commercial aspects of recreation in the forests
- Brian Walker: Wildlife and Heritage in the Forests.

In the afternoon, Brian Walker will lead a walk through part of Dalby Forest, to see the forest village, signs of rabbit warrening, old trees and features of wildlife interest.

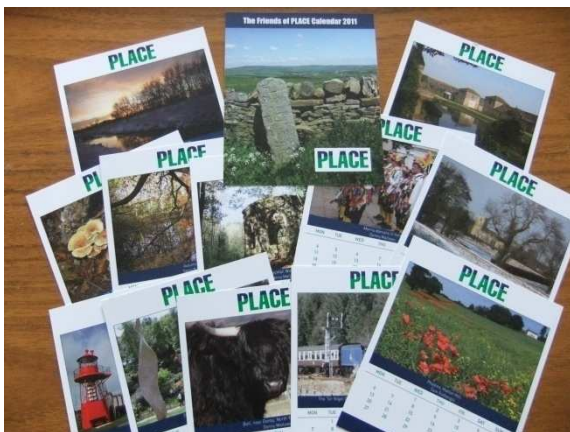
**The cost of the conference, including coffee/tea, is £20.00 (£15.00 for unwaged/retired).**

There is a cafeteria in the visitor centre or people can bring their own packed lunch.

***To book your place, please use the booking form enclosed.***

### ***REMINDER!***

Entries are wanted for the Friends of PLACE calendar 2012 by the end of September 2011. Please send your entries as digital images to: [place@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:place@yorks.ac.uk). No more than 3 entries per person, please. Below is a reminder of last year's calendar, to encourage you!



### **Vegetation monitoring at May Moss**

PLACE volunteers helped with botanical studies at May Moss this summer. Above: *Quadrat work with the automatic weather station in the background.* Transects have been extended on to newly-cleared land and on to Worm Syke ridge to the north. Why not join us next year? Contact the PLACE Office for further information.



## PLACE Annual General Meeting 2011

Our 2011 AGM took place at the Mechanics Institute, Marsden, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May. It was attended by 36 members and 20 guests and hosted by our partner, the Huddersfield & Halifax branch of the Geographical Association. Morning talks and the AGM itself were followed by an afternoon trip on a narrow boat into the Standedge Tunnel.

Left: The party boarding the boat with the tunnel entrance behind.

(More pictures appear on our website).

Below is an account of the morning talks.

**Tom Lonsdale** entitled his talk, 'Gigs to Gigabytes in the Yorkshire Pennines'. With the help of a set of beautiful photographs, he set the scene by explaining that Marsden is derived from 'march' and 'dene', meaning 'border' and 'valley'. Set deep in the Pennines, Marsden feels distant although actually quite close to Manchester. Its position in the Colne Valley with the river running through the heart of the village has meant that water has always been very important in its history, for transport and industry. Road, railway and river all share the valley and industry brought great wealth to the area in the past. Evidence can be seen in the large mill buildings and the over-sized church and in the Marsden Mechanics Institute itself. In this iconic building with its prominent clock-tower, education was established, a library and a dance hall for the workers. The first major mechanisation involved 'Gig' machines and created a massive landscape change in Marsden when the mill complex and associated housing were built.

However, the development of industry was not without its problems, as the Luddites were vehemently opposed to modernisation. The trouble started when a young lad, Ned Ludd, smashed a knitting frame after being whipped for not working hard enough. He gave his name to the Luddite movement, whose leader was known as General Ludd, although his real identity is unknown. The first leaders of the movement were croppers, who were highly skilled and paid and therefore resisted mechanisation. All the key players were in Marsden, including Enoch Taylor, an iron founder, whose tomb may be found in the local churchyard. The movement was opposed by William Horsfall, the owner of a different mill employing 400 workers. He was murdered in 1812 near Cowlersley. This crime led to the collapse of the Luddite movement because the police stepped in after Benjamin Walker turned informer. Three men were hanged in 1813 at York Castle and 14 others later; 10 others were hanged in Lancashire and others were deported.

After the decline of the textile industry in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, one mill caught fire, the workforce became dispirited and the fabric of the Mechanics Institute decayed. It was 'comers-in' who spearheaded the campaign to save the Institute in the 1970s, forming a Community Association. Once again, there was local opposition but this faded away eventually. The Association colonised the Institute building, ran crèches and got designs for refurbishment from students. After twelve years the work started. The library was enlarged and a range of events took place, including music, theatre, dance, karate, keep fit, an annual jazz festival and latterly marriages! Improvements were also made to the town and a masterplan was drawn up, including changes to the one-way and parking arrangements and the development of a cultural centre. A festival is held there each February to banish winter and the Colne Valley male voice choir is world famous. The most recent stage in the village's history involves technology, i.e. 'gigabytes'. Kirklees Council encouraged a pilot scheme for running internet-based businesses in Marsden. The whole village is now a conservation area. Four empty mill buildings remain but there are no current plans for their reuse.

The second talk was by **Alan Stopher**, who is Project Director for the restoration of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and a council member of the Huddersfield Canal Society, which celebrates its bicentenary this year. Another member of the Society, Bob Gough, brought along a display of books and DVDs about the canal. Opened in 1811, the canal was built at a time of population expansion and when the textile industry was thriving. Transport across the Pennines had originally been with packhorses but metalled roads were introduced from

1760 and a coach road from 1791. The new larger mills were steam-powered and needed coal, so a canal was proposed and work started in 1795. Benjamin Outram was the chief engineer with the inexperienced Nicholas Brown as the resident engineer. They met lots of challenges: Britain was at war with France, the weather was poor and there was a lack of geological information. No tunnel on the scale of the Standedge Tunnel had been built before. There was also opposition from some mill owners who relied on the stream; there were floods from poorly constructed reservoir dams; there was insufficient skilled supervision and a lack of funds.

The canal reached Marsden in 1799, after which the construction of the tunnel took most of the time. It was built by using a series of vertical shafts for access and hoping that the different sections joined up! Water and steam engines were used to remove the spoil and horizontal adits to remove the water. Some of the rock was competent enough not to need lining but the boring of the tunnel required hard drilling and blasting with gunpowder. It is known that there were several deaths in the construction process but, sadly, these are not recorded. Thomas Telford supervised the final works. The opening in 1811 was attended by 10,000 people. Trade improved after 1815 and business was good until the railway arrived in the 1840s. Coal, corn and fertilisers were transported, with 'leggers' taking boats through the tunnel. In 1845, the canal was sold to the Huddersfield and Manchester Canal Company but trade via the canal gradually declined, leading to closure by Act of Parliament in 1944.

The Inland Waterways Association was formed in 1948, by which time dereliction had set in and the waterway was officially designated a 'remainder waterway' in 1968. However, the Huddersfield Canal Society was formed in 1974 and started restoring the canal in 1981. By 1996, 14 miles of channel and 64 locks had been restored. This good progress led to successful applications for Heritage Lottery and other funding to finish the job. This was not without its problems, though, as there were several collapsed sections of the tunnel and buildings had been erected over some sections, necessitating several new lengths of tunnel and the demolition of some buildings. The tunnel finally reopened in 2001, promoting new jobs as well as recreation opportunities. There is a new visitor centre, managed by British Waterways, explaining the history of the canal and tunnel. However, there are plans to disband British Waterways and set up a charitable trust depending on voluntary contributions, so even now the future of the canal may not be totally assured.

## Reports on PLACE spring and summer fieldtrips

### Visit to Hob Moor, York, led by Liz Smith. April 16<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Liz started by introducing us to the Ancient Common of Hob Moor plus three "add ons". Much of the 90 acres is surrounded by the Old City boundary becks. We were shown a copy of Samuel Parson's 1624 map. The larger original can be seen in the York Archives. Walking past the allotments on the left, we saw two stones: one the Plague Stone, used during times of plague to place money in vinegar in exchange for food. The other taller stone is the Hob Stone, an eroded effigy of a knight. To one side of Little Hob Moor you enter what Liz fondly referred to as the Arboretum. This area contained an ancient boundary bank and hedge (shown on 1852 map) and many gorgeous trees in flower, including whitebeam, maple, ash and horse chestnut. Visible only by dry stripes in the grass are the foundations of a long-demolished row of houses. Nearby, early leaves of tansy and cowslips were pushing up through the grass, with speedwell in full flower. Underneath the busy railway line, which arrived in 1849 but was built

respecting Hob Moor, we came to the main part of the managed moor. Sixty cattle were grazing in the distance; these are a vital part of the stewardship arrangements. To the right is a sandy lowland heath called The Triangle. Two becks run along the sides, one dry and the second used for water management, as it can be made to flow either way. The Triangle is believed to be the site of Folly Mill. In 1604, plague victims were housed here and 8 are recorded as being buried in the area. The City believed that the surrounding becks would contain the plague. Leaving the Triangle, we walked along the ancient track across the moor, from which York Minster may be seen. Two areas show remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, one medieval and one more recent used to grow food during the Napoleonic Wars. Hob Moor became a Local Nature Reserve in 2003, to help protect unimproved pasture and skylarks. Their habitat is to be improved by removing a few trees, used as perches by predators, and planting more gorse. A big thank you to Liz for introducing us to this fabulous corner of York.

Jackie Ashcroft

### Visit to Millington Wood

Local naturalist Roy Crossley led a group of 14 people around Millington Wood on the Yorkshire Wolds on 7<sup>th</sup> May. As the only old woodland in the area, the wood has been declared a Local Nature Reserve and is an important amenity for local people. Ash originally dominated the tree canopy but there is now a lot of beech and some planted conifers, which are being removed in order to restore the woodland to a more natural structure. The ground flora includes several species characteristic of ancient woodland, such as herb Paris, toothwort, baneberry, wood sorrel, primrose and wood anemone. The woodland occupies both sides of a chalk dry valley. Erosion has deposited deep soils in the valley bottom and left thin soils on the valley sides. As well as a rich flora and birdlife, there are several unusual insects in the wood. The ground flora in the valley bottom is dominated by wild garlic, which has a rare hoverfly associated with it. There is also a black hoverfly associated with wood avens. Until recent years the wood was used for charcoal burning, remains of which were seen in the central part. The visit provided a most enjoyable afternoon and we are grateful to Roy Crossley for introducing us to this interesting woodland.



### Dayschool on bumblebees, 21 May, led by Michael Archer

In the morning of this splendid day we were introduced to the life history and habits of the bumblebee, after which we were free to ask questions and to examine the specimens that Dr Archer had provided in ample numbers. We used hand lenses to see clearly the features and identify the commoner species (for more specialist work one would need to extract the genitalia and use a microscope). The presence of strong hairs on the back legs that collect pollen is what distinguishes true bumblebees from cuckoo bumblebees, we learnt.

In the afternoon we went to York Victorian Cemetery. Fortunately the weather was kind and we were able to see examples of all seven common species (one brown, two red-tailed and four white-tailed). Watch out for comfrey, which is a plant particularly favoured for feeding! We used collecting bottles – small plastic tubes with a net over one end and a pusher that gently squashed the bee against the net – to catch and examine the insects before releasing them; they didn't always like it! Someone caught a cuckoo bumblebee, and another capture added a species to the list for the cemetery, which pleased Michael especially.

We are most grateful to Michael for giving us such an enjoyable and informative day, and for the very helpful identification cards that he handed out. Our thanks also to Terry O'Connor who arranged the use of a room at King's Manor and for the appropriate equipment to be there.

Veronica Wallace.

### World War II walk on Skipwith and Riccall Commons, 16 July. Jackie Ashcroft writes:

I knew we were in trouble when I had to close my bedroom window at 5.30am to stop the rain coming in! Rain continued all morning – the only difference being that sometimes it was a mere heavy shower as opposed to stair rods. Despite this, 21 people joined our walk, led by Mark Simpson for the Festival of British Archaeology. Unlike wildlife viewing, fortunately the WWII remains were unaffected by the weather and we were able to see the remains of various buildings that Mark pointed out, including the bomb laboratories and bomb storage areas, various air-raid shelters and the site of the aircraft hangars. Mark explained the function of the harmonisation point on King Ridding Lane (it is where the planes used to correct the angle of the guns) and showed us the taxi ways and metal tying up points (where the planes were tied down to stop them blowing over) on the pans (concrete areas shaped like saucepans!). Returning to the car park we were able to view RAF finds recovered from around the Common, such as Brylcreem and Bovril bottles, and NAAFI pottery – that came to light when the ditches were re-profiled two years ago. Thanks to Mark and everyone who braved the weather.

### Visit to Ripon Workhouse Museum and Markenfield Hall

On Sunday 12th June 2011, 27 PLACE members and friends visited the Ripon area. In the morning we were shown around the Ripon Workhouse Museum, which gave us a fascinating insight into conditions for the poor in Victorian England. There has been a workhouse on the site in Allhallowgate since 1776 but the present building dates from 1855 (below left). Anyone without the means to support themselves could end up in the workhouse, including skilled workers, farmers, widows and children. In 1861 there were 24 children under the age of 12. We were able to explore the warren of rooms where they slept, discover what they ate, look at the bathing arrangements and listen to taped accounts of what life was like, reconstructed from documents and oral history. Men and women, boys and girls were segregated, so families were split up. The Workhouse was almost self-sufficient, with its own teacher, chaplain and doctors, chopping its own fire wood, doing its own laundry, growing its own vegetables, having its own infirmary and its own van to transport lunatics to asylums elsewhere if they became unduly violent! Vagrants presented a special problem and in 1877 a separate block of buildings was provided where they could have an evening meal, a bed for the night and leave the next day after completing a designated task. Everyone had to earn their keep; some of the work was very hard, e.g. stone-breaking for up to 8 hours a day. Others toiled in the garden, producing fruit and vegetables for the table. The garden has been reconstructed, using varieties from the 1890s, and is worked by volunteers, some of whose produce is sold today (below right).



In the afternoon, we had a guided tour of Markenfield Hall, a fourteenth century moated house tucked away a few miles south of Ripon. It was built in 1310 by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, John de Markenfield. The house is arranged around a large courtyard (right), accessed by a magnificent gatehouse. Its defensive moat proved useful protection for the family, their neighbours and estate workers, when the Scots raided Ripon in 1317. The family's fortunes flourished over the next few centuries, as they married into many of the major families in the north of England. Ardent Catholics, they had an exquisite chapel, which is still in use today. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the doomed Rising of the North assembled at Markenfield in 1569, following which the house and estate were confiscated by Queen Elizabeth I. Markenfield passed to Thomas Egerton, a favourite of the Queen, who rose to the office of Lord Chancellor of England. The house was inhabited by a series of tenant farmers until it was sold in 1761 to Fletcher Norton, who eventually became Speaker of the House of Commons and lived at nearby Grantley Hall. The house and estate passed down the family until the seventh Lord Grantley died in 1995, when his widow married the writer Ian Curteis. He and

Lady Deirdre still live in the house, which has the air of a warm family home, with its spectacular great hall, undercroft, bedrooms and chapel. Having seen the inside of the house, we walked around the moat, which afforded views of the external architecture and the park beyond.



## Report on visit to Flamborough Head on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Flamborough Head is made of Chalk laid down in the Cretaceous Period (75 – 95mya) during a period of global high temperatures. The Chalk was compressed, folded and fractured along ancient faults by alpine mountain building movements to produce a hard crystalline rock with many thin stringers of calcite that is resistant to erosion, and this is why Flamborough Head protrudes out into the North Sea. The Chalk is fractured by faults (with fault breccias and calcite mineralization) and thrusts that are lines of weakness along which the sea has eroded a number of distinctive sea forms such as coves, caves, arches and stacks.

Chalk is an organic based limestone formed from microscopic algae known as Coccoliths that built lime based skeletons and were part of a complex food web. It was the faecal material from scavengers that slowly sank to form a chalky ooze up to 80% Calcium Carbonate (used in the food, pharmaceutical, building and chemical industries) Frequently the individual layers of chalk are separated by thin marl bands of volcanic ash as well as siliceous flint nodules (many of which fill crustacean or annelid feeding tubes) which may also be formed from volcanic material or alternatively from the skeletons of silica based sponges. The largest flint nodules are called Paramoudras formed in and around spiral feeding tubes. It is interesting to note that Chalk sediments are not presently forming on the earth and this maybe due to the present configuration of continents and excess Carbon Dioxide being absorbed into the oceans.

The Chalk is subdivided on lithostratigraphical formations (rock types) and biostratigraphical zones (fossil content) criteria and at Selwicks Bay the following divisions can be found:

- Flamborough Chalk Formation (300 metres thick) – hard flintless chalk with many marl bands in the biozone of *Hagenowia rostrata* (upper part) – a small echinoid
- Burnham Chalk Formation (150 metres thick) – hard, flinty chalk in the biozone of *Hagenowia rostrata* (lower part)

It should be noted that due to recrystallisation fossils are rare at Selwicks Bay and frequently only appear as fragmentary remains of: echinoids, sponges, oysters, belemnites and rare ammonites. Above the Chalk are boulder clays, sands and gravels of the Flamborough Moraine that forms the westerly limit of ice advance during the last Ice Age (Devensian Stage 80,000 – 12,000 years ago) and these deposits form a contrasting cliff profile from the vertical hard chalk cliffs. A combination of ground water and gravity causes rotational slips to form and the clays to slide down the slope and eventually over the cliff were the sea washes away the clay fraction to leave behind a beach of boulders and pebbles (erratics). The individual rock types indicate ice flow directions from NW England (Shap Granite), NE England (Great Whin Sill), Southern Scotland (Andesite) and Scandinavia (Amber).



### References:

- Myerscough. R. 1991. (In Lewis. D. The Yorkshire Coast). Normandy Press  
Myerscough. R. 2006. (In Scruton. C. Yorkshire Rocks and Landscape). Yorkshire Geological Society  
Rawson. P and J. Wright. 2000. The Yorkshire Coast. Geologists' Association Guide No.34.

Richard Myerscough

Left: the party studying the chalk cliffs, Selwicks Bay.

After a morning spent studying geology at Flamborough Head (above), the party moved to Bempton Cliffs RSPB reserve (right), where we were taken on a guided walk by Anthony Hurd from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In glorious sunshine, we had good views of kittiwakes, gannets, fulmar and puffins.

Right: Chalk cliffs at Bempton.

**More pictures of this fieldtrip appear on our website.**

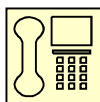


## To contact PLACE:

### By post:

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YO31 7EX.

N.B. This is a  
'virtual' office and  
is not staffed.



### By phone: 01904 766291

(N.B. this is the Chief Executive's home number).

### By e-mail: [place@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:place@yorks.ac.uk)



### Website: [www.place.uk.com](http://www.place.uk.com)

## PLACE Board and Officers

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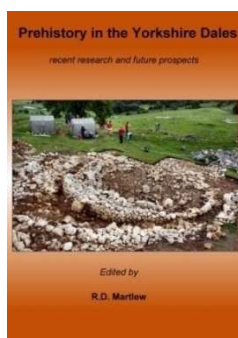
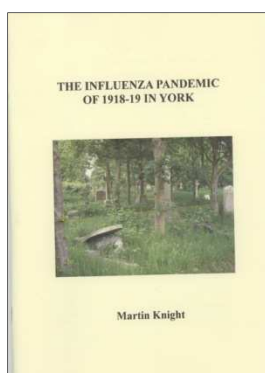
## Chief Executive and Company secretary:

Dr Margaret  
Atherden

*Congratulations to Hilary Moxon and Brian Walker, our two new trustees elected at the AGM in May. Many, many thanks to Barbara Hickman, who stepped down as Chair of the Board after several years of service and hard work, and to Steve Watson, who retired as a trustee.*

## Two new PLACE publications:

**The Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19 in York, by Martin Knight. Price: £3.00 + P & P**



**Prehistory in the Yorkshire Dales, edited by Roger Martlew. Price: £10.00 + P & P**

*Both publications may be ordered using the order form enclosed with this newsletter.*

## OTHER EVENTS

PLACE will be having bookstalls at the North York Moors National Park's Archaeology Day on Sunday 9 October in Helmsley and at the York Archaeological Trust's bookfair in the Guildhall, York, on Saturday 15 October. *Please contact the PLACE Office if you are able to help man the stand!*

**Robert Wright is running a 10-week course on *The Age of Alexander*, starting on Thursday 29 September, 2.00 – 4.00pm. For further details, contact: [robjwright@supanet.com](mailto:robjwright@supanet.com)**

**Discovering Hedgerows in Historic Landscapes: the townships of Dunnington and Grimston.** A weekend conference at the Dunnington & Grimston Sports and Leisure Club, Dunnington, 22 - 23 October 2011. More details from Linda Maggs, tel: 01904 489127.

**A conference on the Historical Aspects of Pears, to be held at Harlow Carr Gardens, Harrogate, 16 – 17 November 2011.** More details from Simon Clark, tel: 0113 2663235, e-mail: [simonclark4994@gmail.com](mailto:simonclark4994@gmail.com)

**Our Northern Mills.** Adrian Bailey reports that a meeting was held in February 2011 with the aim of forming a group to raise the profile of northern textile mills. They are planning a TV documentary, a website and a conference in Bradford. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Adrian, e-mail: [adrian@roverland.eu](mailto:adrian@roverland.eu)

Unfortunately, there has not been room in this newsletter to include accounts of the trips in May to the archaeological excavation at Heslington East, York, and to Cawthorn Camps and Blansby Park. However, brief reports and photographs appear on our website: [www.place.uk.com](http://www.place.uk.com)