

PLACE

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Summer Newsletter 2014

Visit to Bramham Park, 2.00pm, Sun 1st June

Following our recent short course, 'Gardening the Landscape and Landscaping the Garden', Peter Goodchild has kindly arranged an afternoon visit to Bramham Park, by courtesy of the owner.



Above: the Lime Walk

Pevsner wrote: "Bramham Park is a grand and unusual house, but its gardens are grander and even more unusual". Laid out in the first part of the 18th century, the gardens have survived more or less unchanged to the present day. The visit is open to anyone, whether or not they attended the short course.

Directions: Bramham Park lies mid-way between Leeds and York, 5 miles south of Wetherby. It is just west of the A1(M) between junctions 44 & 45. **Meet at 2.00pm. Park near the lawn at the front of the house** (they will be preparing for the horse trials that weekend, so the visitors' car park will be in use!)

Cost: £5.00 per head.

SUMMER EVENTS

Please use the enclosed booking form for all events.

N.B. Where numbers are limited, we are now asking people to contact the PLACE Office before sending any money, to avoid disappointment.

Gardens visit, Seaton Ross, 5.00pm, Mon 23rd June

We shall be visiting two gardens, Boundary Cottage and Weathervane House, both in Seaton Ross village. Boundary Cottage is a 1-acre garden created by Roger Brook, a former horticultural lecturer well known for establishing the flower-filled churchyard at Bolton Percy. Roger's garden is a plantsman's delight, with over 1500 different plant varieties, ranging from alpines through cacti to giant *Gunnera* and a wide range of shrubs. The garden is delightful at all times of year and contains many rare plants and unusual and innovative features. An insight into Roger's garden and gardening philosophy will be found on his fascinating gardening blog: www.nodiggardener.co.uk



Weathervane House is essentially a woodland garden (above) with mature trees and shrubs. The soil is thin, very acid silt and is ideally suited to *Rhododendrons*, *Azaleas* and other acid-loving species. The woodland edge beds are filled with shade-loving species and there is a large circular meadow area with wild flowers. Nearer the house there are traditional herbaceous borders and lawned areas. The glasshouse usually contains a range of interesting plants and a large polytunnel has examples of plants propagated in a variety of ways. Both gardens open regularly for the National Garden Scheme (Yellow Book) and have seating areas available.

Directions: Seaton Ross is situated approximately 14 miles south-east of York, centre: SE 780413. Boundary Cottage is on the south-west side of the road c.¾ mile north-west of the village, with parking available along the road. **Meet there at 5.00pm.** After about an hour we shall move to Weathervane House, which is the sixth property on the left as you enter the village from the north-west.

Cost: £7.50 per head, including tea/coffee or wine and home-made cakes at Weathervane House at the end of the visit.



Walk in the Hawnby area, Tues 29th July

David Wharton-Street will lead a walk on the North York Moors, starting at Hawnby. The six mile walk, (with 180m (600 ft) of ascent, will commence at 10.45am. **Meet** outside the village hall in Lower Hawnby (near the post office cum shop), where parking is available (grid ref: SE 543894). Wear walking boots or very stout shoes and bring a packed lunch, drink, waterproofs and suitable headgear, according to the weather. Afternoon tea will be available at the shop when the walk finishes.

Cost: £5.00. Please book on the enclosed booking form.

Left: one of the finest views in Yorkshire, near Hawnby

Visit to Nidderdale AONB, Sat 9th August

Amanda Peacock, First World War Heritage Officer for Nidderdale AONB, will lead a walking tour of the WW I archaeology of the beautiful valley of Colsterdale. This includes the site of a WW I training camp, German POW camp and Memorial to the Leeds Pals (15th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment). The walk will take in quiet roads and bridleways but is occasionally steep and uneven underfoot, so bring walking boots and weatherproof gear.

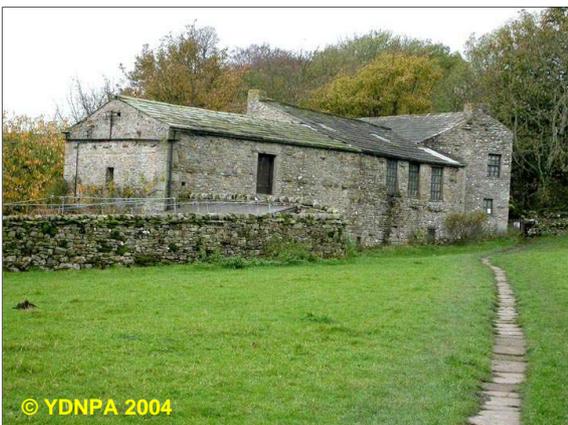
Meet at 10.30am in Masham market place, where toilets are available. The walk will take about 2 hours. In the afternoon, there is an optional second walk from Masham along the River Burn valley, approximately 4 miles long. Bring a packed lunch. **Cost: £5.00 per head.**



The beautiful valley of Colsterdale hides some secrets from the past

Visit to West Mill, Askrigg, Weds 13th August

This 19th century watermill was originally a corn mill (replacing an earlier one) and later a saw mill. The water supply was used to generate electricity in the early 20th century, providing light to the houses and streets of Askrigg, as well as the mill itself, until the arrival of the National Grid in 1949. The mill was visited by Wordsworth in 1799 and sketched by Turner in 1816. It has been renovated by the present owner, Professor David Blake, who has kindly agreed to lead a guided tour of the site. This will be followed by a walk along the valley. Park where you can in Askrigg Village **and meet at 10.30am near the school (SE 948910)**, from where we shall walk to the mill (c. half a mile). Bring a packed lunch and wear stout footwear. **Cost: £5.00. Limited to 15 people; check with PLACE Office before booking.**



© YDNPA 2004

As previously advertised

Howsham Mill, 7th June

This event, advertised in the winter newsletter, is now fully booked. Anyone who has booked but is unable to come should inform the PLACE Office a.s.a.p., so that their place can be offered to someone else.

Visit to Hagg Wood, Dunnington

This visit, which takes place on Thursday 15th May, 6.00 – 8.00pm, was advertised in the winter newsletter. There are still a few places left, so please get in touch with the PLACE Office immediately if you would like to join us. The bluebells should be spectacular this year! **Cost: £5.00. Meet at the far end of Intake Lane (SE 679528).**

**PLACE Autumn
Conference
11th October
2014**

**St Wilfrid's
Church Hall,
Duchy Road,
Harrogate**



**Yorkshire's
Religious
Heritage,
c. 1780 –
c. 1910**

**A celebration of the
contribution of
religion to our
cultural heritage in
the 'long 19th
century'**

Speakers will include:

- Peter Hills – on the architecture and transformation of Parish Churches
- Leo Gooch – on Roman Catholicism
- George Herring – on changes in the Anglican church
- Barbara Windle – on the contribution of the Quakers
- Paul Toy – on church music

We also hope to have a talk on the Methodists and an organ recital. The talks will be followed by a tour of St Wilfrid's Church (above) – one of the jewels of Harrogate church architecture.

Cost: £25.00 (£20.00 for retired/unwaged), including coffee/tea and finger buffet lunch.

N. B. The conference will be advertised again in the next newsletter.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF YORK

The two walks, led by Alison Sinclair, which made up this event set out to explore the history of the City through the continuum of below ground archaeology and standing buildings above. The framework for events which have shaped its history is provided by the lay out of the Roman fortress combined with Anglo Scandinavian plot boundaries which together create circulation routes and define property boundaries. The framework is punctuated by archaeological excavations which provide multi-layered evidence of occupancy and site usage. Above ground, standing buildings demonstrate in their architectural form later phases of growth, expansion and evolving use.

The first walk, from Roman to Restoration, began at The Minster, a multi-layered site encompassing two thousand years of changing occupancy and use from Roman military headquarters to archiepiscopal cathedral of the Northern Province of the Church of England. From the Minster, the route laid down within the Roman fortress was followed along High and Low Petergate to the place where Anglo Scandinavian settlers broke out of the fortress wall and expanded towards riverside wharves established in the Hungate area. Returning along Coney Street, the unbroken Civic function of The Guildhall site, amplified by recent excavations, was acknowledged. The walk finished at the King's Manor, standing for layers of history from Roman fortifications to the founding of St Mary's Abbey and development of the University of York.

The second walk, from Georgian to Modern Times, started from the place of a thousand years of Crown authority, at Cliffords Tower, its continuous role reflected in the existing eighteenth century replacements for medieval Halls and prison within the Castle bailey. Walking through the City from Clifford Street to Tanner Row, urban improvements engendered by demographic change and developing lifestyles were recognised in new streets and the architecture of buildings. Industry-related structures like the railway stations requiring large unbroken sites, or undeveloped sites without the confines of the City Walls, were identified. Our walk finished at Coppergate where the Jorvik Centre perfectly demonstrates the twenty-first century importance of the City's layers of history.

Alison Sinclair, April 2014.

As previously advertised, both walks will be repeated in September, Roman to Restoration on September 11th and Restoration to Modern on September 25th. We already have some bookings but there are still a few places available – please check with the PLACE Office before booking.

The Green Men in York Minster

John D. Anderson led two tours of York Minster in February, to show us some of the hidden 'green men' that we heard about at the PLACE Christmas event last year. He pointed out examples of 'true' green men (with branches, leaves or twigs coming out of their heads), 'light' green men (surrounded by foliage but not coming out of their heads) and 'woodwose' (wild men of the woods). John has produced a list of the 63 true green men he has found so far, copies of which are available from the PLACE Office on request (via e-mail or on receipt of s.a.e.) Many thanks to John for sharing his fascinating finds with us.



Above: John and the PLACE party in the Chapter House, where several of the green men can be found.

Left: two examples of green men in the Minster.

PLACE spring conference 2014 The Yorkshire Coast

The Scarborough Campus of Hull University was the venue for our spring conference, held on April 12th. We heard five excellent presentations, on the geology of the coast, marine conservation in the North Sea, human impact on the coast of East Yorkshire, the archaeology of alum working and the work of the Heritage Coast Project. These will be published in book form later in the year. In the afternoon, Will Watts led us on a walk along the coast to see dinosaur footprints (right). Despite some scepticism on the part of some members of the party(!), we very much enjoyed the walk and the chance to see these unusual features for ourselves.



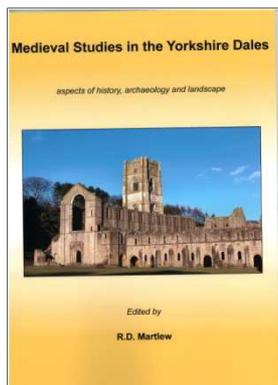
Imprint of a dinosaur foot



Fieldtrip to Malham Tarn and Tarn Moss

In early May, PLACE joined the Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers for a visit to Malham, led by Ian Lawson from the University of Leeds. We heard about the local geology, geomorphology, glaciation and recent research into vegetation history. After walking part way round Malham Tarn, we ventured on to the bog to hear about the peat formation and look at the flora. Tea and cakes were provided at the Field Studies Centre, followed by a chance to examine some of the sediments and specimens under the microscope. Many thanks to Ian for giving us a very enjoyable and informative afternoon.

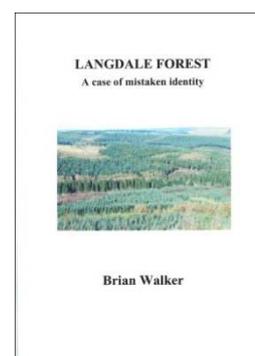
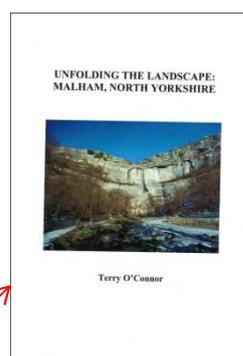
Left: Ian Lawson explaining how Tarn Moss formed, watched by members of the party from the safety of the boardwalk.



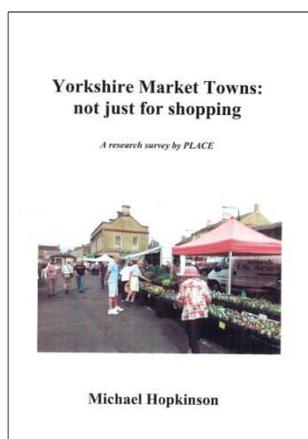
NEW BOOKS IN 2014
Medieval Studies in the Yorkshire Dales, ed. Roger Martlew

Joint publication with the Yorkshire Dales Landscape Research Trust, containing 6 papers based on original research. Price: £10.00 + £3.00 P & P

Unfolding the Landscape: Malham, North Yorkshire, Terry O'Connor. An account of landscape change in this beautiful part of the Yorkshire Dales. Price: £2.50 + £1.50 P & P



Langdale Forest: A case of mistaken identity, Brian Walker. A study of changing perceptions of modern forestry.



Yorkshire Market Towns: not just for shopping, Michael Hopkinson

Price: £2.50 + £1.50 P & P. This publication resulted from the recent PLACE survey of retailing and service provision in over 20 market towns, mostly in North Yorkshire.

It is now proposed to extend this research to a Living Towns Project.

Michael writes: During the survey it was pointed out by several respondents that it would be a good idea to extend the scope of the study to gain more information on the social and cultural aspects of life in towns of this sort, to complement the purely economic picture and provide a more "rounded" portrait of what they offer to residents and visitors. If there is sufficient interest (and this means volunteers!) we would like to undertake this second phase of work. Already, we have had responses for Boroughbridge, Helmsley/Kirkbymoorside, Otley, Pocklington, Settle and Selby but would welcome offers to study other towns in the region. These do not necessarily have to be ones for which the first survey was done. It would be good to include one or two coastal towns, and also some from west and south in the county.

The new survey would not involve mapping, but rather collecting information, where possible from conversations with local residents and organisations, on the particular advantages (and disadvantages) of present day experience of life in these communities. Examples of the information sought could be:

- What religious, educational, social, cultural and recreational facilities are available? How well used are they, what else is needed?
- What communication links are there to other places or within the town, such as bus/coach/rail services? Are these adequate?
- Are there many newcomers to the town, and where are these living: e.g. on new estates/in property conversions? Is there perceived to be either a shortage of housing or excess capacity? Does the housing stock match local needs?
- Has there been much evident change in the physical landscape in recent years? Have some amenities developed or declined? Are there still strong traditional customs/events, such as fairs, processions, races, parish feasts, bands, drama or literary festivals?
- Is there a high proportion of people using the town just as a dormitory, or are there major employers locally? Is there a degree of economic self sufficiency or is the town largely a service centre for residents rather than a source of work/educational opportunities?
- What do people like (or dislike) about living here? Given the option, would they like to move elsewhere? Are there strong family ties locally or is the town a "neutral" place, seen as somewhere convenient but not inspiring long standing commitment or identity?

Obviously towns vary in size, age, history, aesthetic quality, function and most importantly, character. Opinions on how well a place functions will be as varied as there are users of the place and any picture will be partial and personal. Nevertheless, one of the comments emerging from the previous survey was the economic and social success and sense of local pride in all of the towns reviewed. What we are now aiming to do is to dig a little deeper in order to get an idea of what makes a town a good place to live, and for whom.

If you would like to be involved, please get in touch with Dr Michael Hopkinson via the PLACE Office.

Vegetation monitoring at May Moss

PLACE will be joining the North York Moors Conservation Volunteers again this summer at May Moss – a Forestry Commission land holding near RAF Fylingdales. This is part of a long-term project to monitor vegetation and climate change, following removal of some of the conifers surrounding the peat bog and blocking of some of the grips draining the area.



Dates for the monitoring are as follows:
12th June, 10th July, 7th August, 11th September.
Wellingtons and a packed lunch are needed; the going is rough. Anyone who is interested in helping should contact the PLACE Office.

PLANS FOR 2015 CONFERENCES

We are hoping to hold our spring conference in 2015 in the Sheffield area, on the theme of Landownership and the Industrial Legacy.

The autumn conference in 2015 will celebrate Yorkshire's role in the development of Geology and will probably be held in the Settle/Skipton area. Further details of both events in due course.

Finally, looking further ahead.....

PLACE is currently working on a **Book of Winter Walks**. These are intended to be suitable for strolls (with/without dog!) between October and March. Walks will be up to 5 miles in length and each will focus on a particular theme, e.g. historic landscape features, early spring flowers.



If you can suggest any suitable routes, preferably within 25 miles of York, please contact Margaret Atherden via the PLACE Office.

PLACE Christmas event and 10th anniversary celebration

We shall be holding another pre-Christmas event this year in Bedern Hall, on December 11th, entitled **The History of Carols**. The majority of the presentation will consist of playing carols, to identify their origins and evolution. This will also be a chance to mark the tenth anniversary of PLACE as an independent charity. Further details and booking form in the next newsletter.

The Annual General Meeting in 2015 is provisionally scheduled to take place in Wakefield on 9th May.

The next PLACE newsletter is due in September

To contact PLACE:

By post:

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York,
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. Messages may be left anytime)

By e-mail: place@yorks.ac.uk



Website: www.place.uk.com

**PLACE Board and Officers
(until 10th May 2014)
Chief Executive and Company
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(Treasurer)
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Mr Richard Myerscough
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