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Yorkshire Battles short course

As advertised in the January newsletter, our next short course will take place in Bedern Hall, York, on Wednesday evenings from 7.00 to 9.00pm on April 20th, April 27th, May 4th and May 11th.

It will be presented by Dr Robert Wright as a hybrid course, i.e. some people will be attending in person in Bedern Hall and others will be joining us on zoom. The course will cover the battles of the Norman Conquest, through the period of the Scottish wars, to the great baronial conflicts of the later Middle Ages, especially the Wars of the Roses.

Cost: £15.00 per head (whether in-person or via zoom). Please book on the enclosed booking form and remember to state whether you will be attending in-person or via zoom, as numbers in Bedern Hall are limited.



PLACE walk, Ash Dale and Beck Dale, Saturday April 23rd



The next PLACE walk will start from Helmsley at 11.00am on Saturday April 23rd. Meet at the southern end of Carlton Road, Helmsley (SE 616840), where cars may be parked. It is a very short walk from the market place for those coming by bus. Bring a packed lunch and wear walking boots. There is a gentle climb at the start and a gradual ascent up Ash Dale, followed by a short walk across fields and a short, fairly steep descent into Beck Dale. The walk is approximately 12km (7.5 miles) long and should take about four hours, leaving time for refreshments in Helmsley afterwards.

If you wish to receive a reminder nearer the time, please book on the enclosed booking form. Alternatively you can just turn up on the day.

PLACE Annual General Meeting and Members' Day, Saturday 14th May

Our AGM for 2022 will be held at the Heritage Quay, Schwann Building, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield, HD1 3DH. It is a five-minute walk from the railway station or town centre. Parking on the University campus is free at weekends.

The morning session will start at 10.30am with a talk by Professor Richard Morris, author of a fascinating book, *Yorkshire: a Lyrical History of England's Greatest County*. The AGM itself will take place after the talk. Please bring a packed lunch but tea/coffee will be provided. In the afternoon, we shall have a walk around part of the town, led by Chris Marsden of the Huddersfield Civic Society, for which there will be a cost of £5.00 per head.

Attendance at the morning session is free to PLACE members but please use the enclosed booking form to let us know if you are coming.

At the AGM, some trustees will step down, including three who have been co-opted this year and are standing for election as trustees. If anyone else wishes to stand for election to the Board of Trustees, please contact the PLACE Office for a nomination form, which must be returned to the PLACE Office by Friday 15th April. Agenda papers for the AGM will be sent to those who book to attend and will also be posted on our website.

PLACE walk, Saturday 21st May

Our third Saturday walk for May will start at the northern end of Nether Poppleton. Meet at 11.00am in the small parking area opposite the end of Riverside Gardens at SE 556550. The route will take us up the River Ouse to near Nun Monkton, then across the fields and through Redhouse Wood and back along the River Ouse. The full walk is approximately 12.8km (8 miles) long but there is an option to shorten the route to approximately 10km (6.25 miles). The route is more or less flat all the way, so the walking is easy, but walking boots are recommended. Please bring packed lunch and a drink. If you wish to receive a reminder nearer the time, please book on the enclosed booking form. Alternatively, just turn up on the day.



Bluebells in Redhouse Wood

PLACE visit to Shandy Hall, Coxwold, Tuesday June 7th



© Laurence Sterne Trust

Meet at 2.00pm at the entrance to Shandy Hall for a guided tour of the house and gardens and a visit to Coxwold Church, led by the Curator of Shandy Hall, Patrick Wildgust. Shandy Hall was the home of Laurence Sterne, author of *Tristram Shandy*, and is now run by the Laurence Sterne Trust. It is a very interesting old building, surrounded by beautiful gardens. There is a small gift shop on the site.

Shandy Hall is situated at the top of the village of Coxwold, grid ref: SE 530773. There is limited parking at the Hall but free roadside parking in Coxwold. The church is also very interesting and will be included in our tour. Please note that parts of the house are unsuitable for people with physical disabilities. Cost: £10.00 per person, payable in advance. Numbers limited to 15 people, so early booking is advisable.

PLACE walk from Pateley Bridge Saturday June 18th

Meet at 11.00am in the long-stay car park in Pateley Bridge (SE 159655). The walk is approximately 10.5km (6.5 miles) long and will take four to five hours. The route involves a long, steady climb for the first mile, an undulating middle section, then a rough, rocky path down The Glen, followed by a walk alongside the River Nidd back to Pateley Bridge. It is quite a challenging route but well worth it for the views and historical interest. Walking boots are essential and sticks are highly recommended. Bring a packed lunch and drink. If you wish to receive a reminder nearer the time, please book on the enclosed booking form. Alternatively, just turn up on the day.



VEGETATION SURVEYS AT MAY MOSS



This year's survey dates for May Moss are:
Wednesday 8th June
Wednesday 6th July
Wednesday 10th August.

Some basic botanical knowledge is needed and wellington boots are essential on this upland peat bog. If you are interested in helping, please contact the PLACE Office for further details.

OTHER SUMMER EVENTS

Stillingfleet Lodge Wildlife Day Sunday 26th June

PLACE will be having a stand again at the Stillingfleet Lodge Wildlife Day and volunteers are needed urgently to help! It is a hugely enjoyable event and offers an opportunity to look around this wonderful wildlife garden. We shall be selling books and giving out information on the stand and also providing activities for children. Please contact the PLACE Office if you can help.



Three Haggas Woodmeadow Nature Fair, Sunday 3rd July

PLACE has been invited to have a stand at this new event at Three Haggas Woodmeadow, near Skipwith. We shall be selling books, providing information and laying on activities for children. This is an opportunity to see this interesting, relatively young site, which is developing fast. Again, volunteers are needed to help staff the PLACE stand. Please contact the PLACE Office if you can help.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF FUTURE EVENTS

Details in the July newsletter

Thursday 28th July: Visit to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal: Viewing of the exhibition on the boat *Kennet* and a walk from the Bingley Five-Rise Locks

Third Saturday walks: July 16th, August 20th, September 17th

Wednesday 28th September: Visit to Tophill Low nature reserve

REPORTS ON EARLY SPRING EVENTS 2022

BENINGBROUGH WALK 15th JANUARY



Despite sub-zero temperatures and freezing fog, twenty PLACE members turned out for our first walk of the year, led by Philip Mander. We started outside Beningbrough Hall, the Italianate baroque stately home built in the early 18th century by John Bouchier and now owned by the National Trust since 1958. Our route was through the woodland on the estate and down the field to the bank of the River Ouse. We followed the Ouse to its confluence with the Nidd and then continued to the edge of Newton on Ouse village. The return route was via the road through the parkland. Most of the party then enjoyed a late lunch/early tea at the farm shop.

When fourteen of us set off for a six-mile walk from Sutton Bank, we were not expecting snow! The first part of the walk took us past the Yorkshire Gliding Club but there were no gliders out that day in the aftermath of Storm Eunice. We had good views over the Vale of Mowbray, including Hood Hill, where there was a motte and bailey castle from the 11th to 14th centuries. We continued past Roulston Scar, tracing the perimeter of the largest hillfort in northern England, to the white horse. Constructed in 1857 and traditionally dressed with chalk or masonry paint, it was looking rather grey now, since health and safety concerns have apparently prevented it from being spruced up recently. As the snow started, we walked north up the minor road, where some of the party peeled off to return to the car park. The rest of the group continued up the Hambleton drove road, along which cattle were driven to markets in the south of England in medieval times. We crossed the gallops of the racing stables, close to which there was a race-course that was second only to Newmarket in its heyday. We turned west at Dialstone House along the track to the junction with the Cleveland Way. The walk back south down the Cleveland Way in the snow was quite magical but sadly offered no views over Lake Gormire. The café at the National Park centre was a welcome sight for some of us at the end of the walk.

SUTTON BANK WALK 19th FEBRUARY



Above: Passing the gliding club near the start of the walk [Angela Clark]

Below: Joining the Cleveland Way near the end of the walk [Margaret Atherden]



PLACE WALK FROM WELBURN 19TH MARCH



Twelve walkers, led by Philip Mander, set out from Welburn on a beautiful sunny day. We followed a five-mile route north through East Moor Banks woodland and on to Centenary Way, from where we had good views towards Castle Howard, the pyramid and the mausoleum. Turning east we followed the track to Low Gaterley and up to our lunch stop near High Gaterley. Skylarks were singing overhead as the return route took us south to Hutton Hill and then west down a field with spring flowers: ground ivy, primrose and barren strawberry. Willow and poplar catkins adorned the trees. As we crossed the Cram Beck, the boggy ground had opposite-leaved golden saxifrage in abundance and chiffchaff singing in the woodland. We crossed the fields to arrive back at Welburn in plenty of time for tea in *Dogh*.

PLACE VISIT TO ELLERBURN CHURCH AND THORNTON LE DALE, MARCH 2022

On a very wet morning, 25 PLACE members visited the delightful St Hilda's Church at Ellerburn, where we were shown around by the church warden, Liz Cowley. The present building dates from c.1050 but replaced an earlier wooden chapel from Anglo-Saxon times. It is dedicated to St Hilda, who was the founder- Abbess of the Anglo-Saxon monastery at Whitby. The church at Ellerburn probably started life as a preaching outpost of the Abbey or 'minster'. Fragments of Anglo-Saxon sculpture dating back to c.850 are built into the walls, including cross heads and parts of gravestones. There are also many spiral designs, reminiscent of ammonites, which were the symbol of St Hilda.



St Hilda's Church [John Watts]



Liz Cowley addressing the group
[John Watts]



Anglo-Saxon cross on wall [Angela Clark]

The church is plain inside and has retained its basic Norman design. Some windows and buttresses were added in the 15th century and a chapel was built that was demolished in the early 20th century. Renovations in 1904-05 were carried out very sensitively, so most of the original medieval timbers were retained, encased in modern cladding. The bellcote at the west end is 19th century. The altar is a plain limestone slab that needs no adornment. The octagonal pulpit has a sounding board, which means preachers can be heard loud and clear. A former church warden used the pulpit for broody hens, so at that time the preachers had to use the lectern!

In recent years, the church was plagued by bats, which caused its closure for some time as a health hazard. Eventually a solution was found and, with assistance from Natural England, the bats have been prevented from entering the inside of the church. However, they are still welcome outside it and there is a colony of Pipistrelle, Brown long-eared and the rare Natterer's bats. The little church is a thriving community, supported by an enthusiastic Friends of St Hilda's Church group.

Fortunately, the rain eased off for our afternoon tour of Thornton le Dale, devised by Brian Walker but led by Margaret Atherden as Brian had succumbed to Covid-19. Thornton Dale (the addition of 'le' is a Victorian affectation!) comprised four medieval manors: Thornton, Roxby, Farmanby and Ellerburn. The Norse place-names (Roxby and Farmanby) indicate lands given to Viking incomers to encourage them to settle down and convert to Christianity. We started in the car park, which is in the walled garden of Thornton Hall, built on the site of the earlier Thornton Manor House. We passed the large pond on the west side of the car park, which was originally the fish pond for the manor house and today is a haven for wildlife, including mallard, mandarin duck, tree-nesting moorhens, visiting geese and kingfishers. In the centre of the village are the 15th century village cross and a replacement for the medieval stocks, both grade II listed.

Archway Lane leads off Maltongate and took us past some of the lesser known properties in the village. It also marks the boundary between Thornton and Roxby manors, with one house apparently being half in one manor and half in the other! We proceeded up Castle Road and across the fields to the site of Roxby Manor. This was the most important of the local manors and occupied a commanding position looking out to the low-lying Marishes to the south and the main road from Pickering to Scarborough to the north. The substantial earthworks are a scheduled ancient monument and include the site of the house itself, ranges of outbuildings and embanked enclosures and part of the ridge and furrow fields surrounding the manorial complex. The original manor house dated from the late 13th century but it was replaced by a grander house in the 16th century, when the ownership passed to the Cholmley family. The best known member of the family was Sir Richard Cholmley, known as the 'Black Knight of the North', who apparently kept many retainers and rode everywhere with a party of men at arms. There are documentary references to many disputes between the Cholmleys and their neighbours over the years. The family eventually moved to Whitby and the manor house was recorded as 'almost demolished' by the mid-17th century, when much of the stone was used in the Thornton Manor house.



Earthworks on the manorial site
[Angela Clark]



Along The Walks
[Angela Clark]



The PLACE group on the bridge over the ha-ha
[Margaret Atherden]

From Roxby Hill we descended through the fields, passing a magnificent ash tree, probably a survivor of a recorded grove of ancient ashes. We walked back into Thornton up Westgate, passing the site of a tithe barn and later a distant view of the site of Farmanby Manor House. We crossed Maltongate and walked over two streams. The first, roadside, one was excavated in the 18th century, probably to supply water to the Bleach Mill nearby, which produced paper using locally-grown flax. The second stream is Thornton Beck but its course has been altered several times. We walked back to the car park via a strip of woodland known as The Walks. This was part of a designed landscape associated with Thornton Hall in the 18th century. Other remnants of the design are avenues of trees in the fields south of the Hall. A short detour took us alongside the ha-ha of the Hall, crossed by an ornamental bridge. Some of us were able to enjoy tea after the walk in Thornton le Dale. Many thanks to Liz Cowley and Brian Walker for designing such an informative and enjoyable visit.

'Lost Beasts of the North' symposium, March 12th

Several PLACE members attended the symposium at Ryedale School, organised by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and supported by the Yorkshire Geological Society and the Yorkshire Fossil Festival, to mark the bicentenary of the discovery of animals bones in Kirkdale Cave. There was a series of fascinating talks on aspects of the archaeology and geology. In the first session, Laura Eddey summarised the Quaternary landscapes of the Vale of Pickering; Jed Atkinson and Rebecca Bennion drew attention to the Cave's 'forgotten' fossil corals; and Jim Middleton discussed the discovery of the Cave itself. In the second session, Patrick Boylan detailed the flora and fauna of the last interglacial, including the bones in Kirkdale Cave; Angharad Jones described the various species of Hyaena, including the spotted hyaena found in the Cave; and Ross Barnett talked about cave lions from fossil evidence and cave art. In the third session, Hannah O'Regan explained that the bears in the Cave were brown bears, not cave bears; Terry O'Connor talked about the often overlooked evidence for frogs and other smaller animals; and Susan Newell highlighted the contribution of Mary Morland, who married William Buckland but was a talented scientist in her own right. The final session was a discussion of the importance of Kirkdale Cave today.

The following day, a small group visited the Cave site itself and also Spaunton Quarry to study the local geology. A visit to nearby St Gregory Minster was also included.



The group in front of Kirkdale Cave
[Liam Herringshaw]



Studying the geology
[Philip Mander]



At St Gregory Minster
[Philip Mander]

First meeting of Heritage Guardians organised by the Yorkshire Society

PLACE is one of the Yorkshire Society's group of Heritage Guardians – an initiative designed to facilitate contact between organisations concerned with Yorkshire's built or natural heritage. The meeting took place in Pontefract town hall in March, at which PLACE had a stand. In the afternoon, members of the Pontefract Civic Society led walks around the town.



Heritage Guardians in the market place
[Margaret Atherden]



The Buttercross, Pontefract [Margaret Atherden]

PLACE has a large selection of publications. New ones are publicised in the newsletter but there is not room to include the full list. However, they are all shown on our website, along with descriptions and photos of the covers. Books can also be ordered via the website: www.place.uk.com

PLACE takes every care to ensure the safety of participants on our outings and always undertakes a risk assessment in advance. Philip Mander is our Health and Safety Officer. If you have any medical conditions that might be relevant on an event, please let the organiser know in advance. We usually take photographs as a record of our events. If you prefer not to be included, please let the organiser know on the day.

The PLACE Advisory Committee meets twice a year, usually at York St John University. The programme of future events is discussed and ideas are always welcome. The Advisory Committee consists of representatives of our partner organisations, PLACE Fellows and Trustees, and interested PLACE members. If you are interested in joining the Advisory Committee, please contact the PLACE Office. It is not a big commitment and it would be good to have more members involved.

The PLACE website contains photos donated by members and taken on our outings and other events. They are stored in the section entitled 'Galleries'. Contributions from members are always welcome. The website is managed by Joe Bailey.

PLACE is an inclusive charity, membership of which is open to adults of all backgrounds, genders and abilities. PLACE holds members' names and addresses and, where members have supplied them, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. These are only used to communicate with members about PLACE affairs or events. Personal data are never shared with other organisations. If you wish to change the way we communicate with you, please contact the PLACE Office.

To contact PLACE:

By post:

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York,
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NB This is a
'virtual' office
and is not
staffed.

By phone: 01904 766291 (landline)
07989 095924 (mobile)

(NB These are the Chief Executive's phone numbers)

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

Website: www.place.uk.com

PLACE Board and Officers

Chief Executive:
Dr Margaret Atherden

Trustees (until May 2022)

George Sheeran (Chair of the Board)
Michael Hopkinson (Treasurer)
Joseph Bailey
David Hawtin
Philip Mander
Colin Speakman
Laura Eddey (co-opted)
Richard Myerscough (co-opted)
Nancy Stedman (co-opted)

The next newsletter is due in July 2022