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Booking is not essential for the third Saturday walks but please use the booking form enclosed with this newsletter for all other events.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



North Landing,
Flamborough
[Margaret Atherden]

PLACE conference on Flamborough, Thursday 26th October

Following the very successful fieldtrip to Flamborough in June (see the July newsletter), led by Richard Myerscough, a major conference has been organised, coordinated by Richard on behalf of PLACE, in conjunction with the Flamborough Excavation and Survey Team, the Friends of the Chalk Tower, the East Yorkshire Geopark team and the Community Archaeology Project. The conference will cover a wide range of topics, including geology, archaeology, history and nature conservation.

Venue: Bempton Village Hall.

Bempton is on the east coast, two or three miles north of Bridlington. It is accessible by train from York via Seamer/Scarborough or via Hull/Bridlington and is 10 minutes' walk from the station. By car, it is on the B1229 road and there is parking at the Village Hall or on the road. Doors open at 10.00am and coffee/tea and muffins will be available from 10.30am.

Programme:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 11.00am | Welcome and house-keeping, Andrew Jones |
| 11.15am | Geoarchaeology, Richard Myerscough |
| 11.45am | Flamborough, David Moore |
| 12.15pm | William Baines, Andrew Jones/Julian Morgan |
| 12.30pm | Lunch break. Bring a packed lunch or use local cafés in Bempton or Flamborough.
Hot drinks will be available at the Village Hall. |
| 2.00pm | Introduction to the afternoon session, Richard Myerscough |
| 2.15pm | Flamborough Castle Survey, Ed Dennison |
| 2.45pm | Bempton Farmland Project, RSPB staff |
| 3.15pm | Marine Heritage and Conservation, Heather Davison-Smith |
| 3.45pm | The Battle of Flamborough, Filey Bay 1779 |
| 4.15pm | Final comments |
| 4.30pm | Finish |

There will also be displays from various organisations and book sales (bring some cash with you).
Cost: £15.00 per head, payable in advance. Numbers are limited to 50 people, so please book early to avoid disappointment, using the booking form with this newsletter.

Third Saturday walk, 21st October, Hawnby

Meet at 11.00am at Moor Gate, north of Hawnby on the North York Moors, grid ref: SE 540917. The walk is 5 miles long and is moderately strenuous but the scenery is wonderful. Wear walking boots and bring a packed lunch. The route goes south, skirting the side of Hawnby Hill, to Hawnby village, then along the minor road to All Saints Church, where we shall have our lunch stop. There is then a steady climb up a bridleway and along the side of Coomb Hill, to rejoin the road east of Arden Hall. The return route is along the road to New Hall and up a short, steep path to Hill End House, then back along the side of Hawnby Hill again. Tea is available at the tea room in Hawnby after the walk.



Visit to the Tapestry Museum in Stamford Bridge, Wednesday 8th November

Stamford Bridge was the scene of a famous battle on 25th September 1066, when the English King Harold defeated Harald Hardrada's Norwegian army. However, the victory was short-lived, as a few days later word reached King Harold that Duke William of Normandy was sailing for England with an invasion force. The English men, despite being tired after the battle, marched south to fight the Normans at the Battle of Hastings on October 14th 1066, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The Bayeux Tapestry commemorating the Battle of Hastings is very well known but recently people in Stamford Bridge have embroidered a similar tapestry to celebrate the Battle of Stamford Bridge. This is on display in the Tapestry Museum in a gallery called Platform 66 in the Old Station Club, Church Road, Stamford Bridge. Our visit will include a talk on the history of the battle, and the stitching of the tapestry and how it came about. There will be tea/coffee and cake included in the price.



Meet at 2.00pm at the Old Station (pictured left), where there is parking available at the rear of the building and there are also toilets. Stamford Bridge is accessible by bus from York or Driffield (but check bus times).

From the centre of Stamford Bridge, take the road to Low Catton (Church Road). The Old Station is about half a mile up the road on the right. Grid ref: SE 712554, post code: YO41 1DG. Cost: £5.00 per head. Numbers are limited to 20 people, so advance booking is essential.

Third Saturday walk, November 18th Hole of Horcum

Meet at 11.00am in the pay and display car park at the Hole of Horcum on the A169 Pickering-Whitby road, grid ref: SE 854937. (Cost £5.50 for more than 2 hours). Wear walking boots and bring a packed lunch.

The walk of 6 – 7 miles is easy. The route goes along the top of the Hole of Horcum, then down the footpath into the bottom. It then goes south to Dundale Griff and west to Dundale Pond, then down to Skelton Tower before the return up the path to Saltersgate and the car park.



The Hole of Horcum [Margaret Atherden]



PLACE pre-Christmas event, Tuesday 5th December, Bedern Hall, 2.30 – 4.30pm

For our festive event this year we will be focusing on how less fortunate people fared over the Christmas season and throughout the year. Our speaker will be Peter Higginbotham from the national Workhouses organisation. The concept of the workhouse and workhouse food may conjure up images of *Oliver Twist* but the reality was more complicated, as Peter will explain. The intriguing title of his talk is:

Oysters, beer and sea pie - the true story of workhouse food.

The talk will also be available on zoom and a recorded version will be available after the date for those unable to join us on 5th December. After Peter's talk, we will enjoy mulled wine/juice and mince pies. There will also be time to socialise, to talk further to Peter and to buy PLACE books.

Cost: £15.00 per head. The cost for the talk only, via zoom or recording, will be £5.00. Please use the booking form with this newsletter to reserve your place in-person or to listen on zoom.

REPORTS ON SUMMER EVENTS 2023



Third Saturday Walk, Fountains Abbey 15th July

A group of five walkers left the West Gate car park, despite a poor weather forecast, for a mainly historical walk of seven miles linking two medieval sites: a Cistercian abbey founded in 1132 and a fortified moated manor house. We firstly examined the largest remaining monastic wall in Britain (left) and had glimpses of the Abbey. Going via Hill House Farm, we reached the archway of Mackershaw Lodge with views of the deer park. Gaining a heifer temporarily(!), we took Whitcliffe Lane to the imposing Markenfield Hall. From there we proceeded along Strait Lane, an ancient "holloway", to climb up How Hill to the former Chapel of St Michael de Monte (left). We looked for York Minster, Selby Abbey and Ripon Cathedral from the elevated site but could only see the latter. Returning to the car park we had refreshments in the café at Fountains Abbey.



Philip Mander [Photos: Margaret Atherden]

VISIT TO THE ARCHAEOLOGY STORE IN HELMSLEY, 27th JULY

A group of 15 PLACE members enjoyed a very interesting visit to the English Heritage Archaeology Store in Helmsley in late July. We were shown around by Susan Harrison and David Hanks, who explained that the store covers the whole northern region, from the Scottish borders to Lincolnshire and Cheshire. Items not required for display on-site at the approximately 120 English Heritage sites in the region are stored in Helmsley in two large buildings, one for masonry and small finds and the other for items of fine arts or social history. We visited the first building, where a great range of items ends up when a site is consolidated after excavation and prepared for display to the public. The first site from which objects were received was Rievaulx Abbey in 1917, and we saw some of the masonry and small finds in storage. Another Yorkshire site is Monk Bretton Priory, near Barnsley, where there are many stones in storage, blackened by pollution. These have been used to produce reconstruction drawings of the unusual syncoated arched cloister arcade, displayed on notice-boards on the site. Items from site museums are also removed and stored in Helmsley, including c.10,000 items from Rievaulx Abbey. These are then used to reassess which material to display on-site, the rest being c stored and some used when displays are refreshed in the future.



Looking at blackened stones from Bretton Priory, near Barnsley [Margaret Atherden]



Old signs from English Heritage sites [Peter Wheatcroft]



Storax racking for archaeological finds [Peter Wheatcroft]

There are only three members of staff at the Archaeology Store: Susan, David and a curator. The stored material is used extensively by academic researchers as well as by English Heritage staff from site museums. Items are numbered on a national database, with all items from each site stored together on the shelving. Each shelf can take up to 1 tonne in weight and the shelving extends right up to the ceiling. Some items are stored in boxes on pallets on racks and retrieved, when needed, by a fork-lift truck. Fragile metal objects are packed in plastic boxes stuffed with silica gel to prevent degradation. Others, e.g. old signs from sites, are displayed on the wall. Bones, tiles and glass items are stored in cardboard boxes. Large pieces of masonry, e.g. statues or cannon balls, are stored in the open and require frequent dusting or hoovering to prevent deterioration. Cleaning and pest management are ongoing tasks, in which the staff are assisted by volunteers.

We looked at many interesting large items, including an unusual grave cover from Thornton Abbey, dating from 1317, on which some paint fragments survive. The grave may have been of a former soldier who became a monk later in life. Another large item was an over-mantle from Furness Abbey, dating from c. 1600, depicting the creation of the earth. There was also the back part of a statue of a lion from Roman Corbridge, which was later used as a water feature in a villa. An effigy of Henry Percy, First Lord of Alnwick, showed incredible detail in the carving of his clothes. Smaller objects shown to us included leather shoes and tent leather from Hardknott Roman fort; a bone pin, glass beads and a gaming counter from Beadlam Roman villa; and a lead funerary urn from Aldborough Roman town. We were allowed to touch part of a mosaic from Beadlam and to handle some pieces of pottery, e.g. Samianware.



Overmantle from Furness Abbey, showing creation scene [Margaret Atherden]



Roman statue of a lion from Corbridge [Margaret Atherden]



Display case with smaller finds [Peter Wheatcroft]

Margaret Atherden.

Botanical surveying on May Moss

Volunteers made two trips to May Moss this summer, in July and August. We were surveying vegetation change along transects across the site, including through some areas of tree regeneration in July (right). The going was very hard in places, with large tussocks of cotton-grass and some deep pools and drainage ditches!

The August visit was easier, as it was across the open peat bog. The results will feed into the publication on May Moss, which is being prepared for publication next year, edited by Brian Walker.



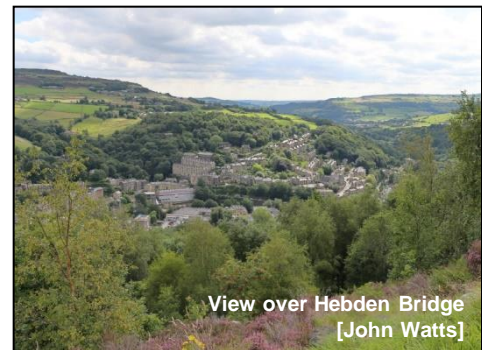
PLACE Visit to Heptonstall, 10th August

Despite roadworks, road closures and cancelled trains, thirteen members managed to get to Heptonstall on a lovely sunny day. Our leader for the day was local historian and folklore specialist John Billingsley, who was a mine of information about the area and punctuated his talks with readings from Ted Hughes. We began by looking at the magnificent view from the playground over the Upper Calder Valley and noting how the hills form a circle surrounding the settlements – Pecket Well, Old Town, Midgley, Warley, Mytholmroyd, Hathershelf, Cragg Vale, Hebden Bridge and Heptonstall itself. The valley had a traditional sub-culture founded on mutually inter-dependent communities, with goods, people, spouses and news circulated mostly within this circle of horizon. The moorland above provided heather, grazing, peat, stone and coal. The settlement pattern was established by 1300, helped by temperatures from 1100 to 1300 being 1.5°C warmer than today, thereafter falling by 2°C in the 16th and 17th centuries. Most modern settlement sites were established by 1700, with 19th century intakes extending the farmed land on to the moorland.

There is a marked contrast in climate between the valley bottom and the terraces part way up the valley sides. Temperature decreases by c.6.5° per 1000m above sea level, so that the terraces of settlements like Old Town (c.300m above sea level) are on average 2° colder. Rainfall increases, too, by 100-150cm p.a., and this in turn reduces the available soil nutrients and shortens the growing season by two weeks on the terraces. A few years ago, John noted the time that the sun on the winter solstice struck Old Town (up on the terrace) and Hebden Bridge (down in the valley). There was a difference of nearly an hour and a half between the two! Above 245m, the possibility of harvest failure rises exponentially. The underlying rock is Millstone Grit and the acidic soil limits the options for arable agriculture, with oats the commonest cereal crop. The upland pasture output for animals is between a fifth and a third lower than the productivity of lowland pastures. We noted the scattering of farms on small parcels of land, which is the result of ‘partible inheritance’, whereby farms were divided equally between the sons, so farm size decreased with every generation. By the 15th to 16th centuries most families had developed dual subsistence, e.g. combing and weaving at home alongside farming. These cottage workers created many small paths, which form a network denser here than in almost any other part of England. These small paths link to the major trade routes which, from prehistoric times, tended to follow the contours, as seen in the old road to Haworth. However, every road had to cross a river eventually and the crossing at Hebden Bridge was an important one. In 1643 it was the scene of the Battle of Heptonstall, when a Parliamentary garrison repulsed an attack by Royalists, with many deaths on the Royalist side.



The group takes in the position of Heptonstall [John Watts]



View over Hebden Bridge [John Watts]



Vista over the Colden valley [Peter Wheatcroft]

We walked south and then west along a footpath at the top of the valley side to our next viewpoint, over the Colden Valley. Here we noted that glacial drainage had over-deepened the valley, leaving some tributary valleys hanging above the main one and resulting in a small misfit stream in the valley bottom. The terraces on the valley sides receive more light than the land in the valley bottom, which is especially evident at sunset. There are many folktales relating to this area, e.g. of ‘boggarts’ who lived on the lower land in the shadows of the woods and cloughs, the fairies in Turret Woods and ‘Mad Israel of the Wood’. Memorable places gave rise to stories and pinned down memories and events. They added to the community’s cognitive map of what lay within its horizon boundaries. Many such folktales are now forgotten as people move away from the area.

From 1750 to 1900, the Colden Valley was a cradle of water-powered industry, with many mills established, some of the chimneys of which can still be seen. However, advances in technology and transport meant that steam power gradually replaced water power in the 19th century and industry moved from the side valleys into the main one. New houses were built there and many workers moved down from the terraces to find work. Cottage industries and farm work declined. In the 20th century the industry moved again, away from the local valleys into the main towns, and the population of Hebden Bridge declined. The 1970s and 1980s saw a partial rejuvenation of the area, with an influx of hippies and later commuters, leading to re-occupation of some of the farmhouses. Today, Hebden Bridge is noted for its environmental credentials and sustainability.

After lunch we had a walk around the village of Heptonstall itself. As it was a key point on the trans-Pennine route, many hostelrys developed, including some offering female company. In the early 19th century there were five inns as well as various beer houses. It was also the location for the first chapel of ease in the very large Halifax parish. The original parish church in Heptonstall was dedicated to St Thomas a Becket – a popular saint as his feast day (commemorating his murder in 1170) falls on December 29th in darkest mid-winter. It was partially destroyed in a storm in 1847 and then replaced by a grander church adjacent to the site, this one dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle. The graveyard from the old church continued in use and many of the old gravestones were laid flat to make way for the new church. A particularly interesting one is that of David Hartley, the ‘coiner’ who was eventually hanged for his illegal exploits. Some people still deposit coins on his gravestone! Walking through the village, we passed the cloth hall, cockpit and Mechanics Institute, ending up at the new cemetery, where Sylvia Plath’s grave is still a place of pilgrimage.

Some of the party ended the visit by walking down a steep, rocky path down the valley side and then up the Corpseway, marked on some maps as the Old Course Road (from ‘corse’, an old word for corpse). The Corpseway has a steady gradient and width - wide enough for a bier to be carried by four people – and embanked with stone walling. At the end of a fairly strenuous climb, we were grateful for the excellent café in the centre of the village. Many thanks to John Billingsley for introducing us to such a fascinating hilltop village.

(Adapted from notes provided by John Billingsley)



The nave of the old church
[Peter Wheatcroft]



On the Corpseway [Margaret Atherden]

Third Saturday Walk, 19th August, Stamford Bridge

A group of 13 walkers left Stamford Bridge on a warm, partly sunny day. The flat riverside path of four miles to Kexby was quite hard going because of long grass. There was a brief introduction to Stamford Bridge and the railway viaduct. Mention was made of the Roman site of Derventio. The importance of the River Derwent was commented on. After lunch the return trek took us back to Stamford Bridge via Scoreby Wood and along Scoreby Lane. There was little trace of the lost village of Scoreby. Although the walk was almost without bird life a few plants were noted, including Indian balsam, marsh woundwort, purple loosestrife and various thistles along the riverside. In the woodland there was red campion, herb Robert and enchanter’s nightshade. The arable fields contained traces of common poppy, scentless mayweed, wild radish and field pansy. After tea at the Balloon Tree the last mile back to Stamford Bridge over the disused rail viaduct was made with restored vigour.



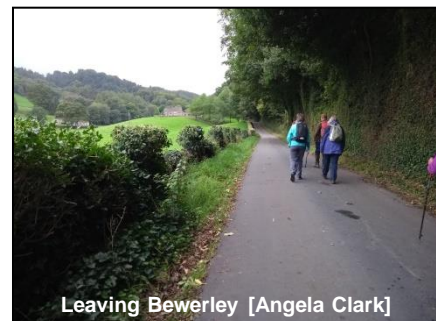
Viaduct over River Derwent
[Peter Wheatcroft]

Philip Mander

Third Saturday Walk, 16th September, Beverley, Nidderdale

A group of six walkers ascended through the mist to Coldstone Cut, despite one very awkward stile. The moorland plants still flowering included tormentil, harebell, mouse ear hawkweed and sneezewort. Water avens in a ditch was having a second flowering. After lunch we made the descent via the Nidderdale Way along Ladies Rigg Lane, where we saw some colourful garden escapees, including orange montbretia, white michaelmas daisy and bright yellow rudbeckia. The mist was persistent. We had a noisy tea in the “pancake café” in Pateley Bridge after the walk.

Philip Mander



Leaving Beverley [Angela Clark]



Entrance to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust reserve
[Peter Wheatcroft]



Red kite just before
being released
[Jackie Ashcroft]



Volunteers clearing willows [Peter Wheatcroft]



Little Egret [Denny Mallows]

Visit to Wheldrake Ings, 27th September

The floodplain grasslands alongside the River Derwent, from Kexby in the north to South Duffield in the south, are part of the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve and 157 ha are also a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve. The site is recognised internationally for its biodiversity, as reflected in the designations of Special Protection Area (for its birdlife), Special Area of Conservation (mainly for its flora) and RAMSAR international wetland site. The Ings grasslands have exceptional botanical diversity, including areas of the endangered Meadow Foxtail-Great Burnet grassland (MG4 in the National Vegetation Classification). In summer they are cropped for hay and later grazed by sheep and cattle. In winter they flood, producing a vast wetland which attracts large numbers of ducks and other wildfowl, e.g. Wigeon, Pochard, Garganey, Gadwall, Lapwing, Curlew, Redshank and Snipe, and swans and geese. Invertebrate life is abundant, also bats and riparian mammals, including Water Vole and Otter. Water levels are controlled by a series of drainage ditches and sluices and, in the past, water was pumped from the Derwent in summer on to pools on the nature reserve via a large windmill – still a conspicuous landmark.

Our visit in late September fell between the summer season for maximum plant diversity and the winter flooding period. Our visit started at the Natural England office at Bank Island, with observations of Red Admiral and Green-veined White butterflies, a baby Hedgehog and a large number of moths caught overnight in a moth trap. We also witnessed the release of a Red Kite, which had recovered from a gunshot wound. Then we followed the main path along the east bank of the Derwent, led by Natural England employee Fallon Mahon, who spoke about the history and management of the Ings and explained the importance of the relationship between Natural England and the farmers. The willows along the path have all colonised since the 1960s, and volunteers were busy clearing some of them. Himalayan Balsam is a problem in places and attempts are made to eradicate it in summer.

We stopped at two of the bird hides on the Ings. Pool Hide overlooks a large expanse of open water and there we saw Little Egret and Mute Swan, with a Red Kite circling overhead. Swantail hide overlooks a large reedbed and affords a view north-east towards the Pocklington Canal. Many of us vowed to return to see the site in winter.

Margaret Atherden

For a fuller account of the ecology and conservation of Wheldrake Ings, see the PLACE publication *Land Use, Ecology and Conservation in the Lower Derwent Valley*, ed Tim Milsom, available via our website.

More photos of all our events will be found in the Galleries section of our website

Two new PLACE blogs have been posted on our website this summer:

- *The Geology of the Yorkshire Coast* by Richard Myerscough
- *National – and international – recognition for the Yorkshire Wolds* by Colin Speakman

Both are available to read on-line on our website or to download as a pdf file

Zoom talk, 11th October: *In your Words - Words from the Dales* - hosted by Dr Fiona Douglas from the Dialect and Heritage Project based at the University of Leeds, who will showcase rare audio interviews alongside newer oral histories to illustrate how the Yorkshire dialect has changed and developed over the last 75 years. This can be booked on eventbrite via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/friends-of-the-dale-autumn-programme-2567229>

Some dates in the new year for your diary:

- Monday 29th January – guided walk around Leeds, led by David McEvoy
- Friday 23rd February – visit to Northallerton Gaol
- Third Saturday walks in January, February and March
- PLACE AGM – Saturday 13th April, York

Details and booking form in the next newsletter

Health and Safety

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.

RESEARCH GRANTS

PLACE offers grants of up to £1000 to independent researchers studying subjects relevant to the people, landscape or cultural environment of Yorkshire. There is a very simple application form, available from the PLACE website, together with guidance to applicants. Applications may be submitted at any time.

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.

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The next newsletter is due in January 2024