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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Third Saturday walk, January 20th Cropton Forest



[Margaret Atherden]

Meet at 11.00am in the car parking area opposite Cropton Cabins Reception Centre (grid ref: SE 752908, OS Explorer sheet OL27). From Cropton, take the road north up Rosedale for c.1.5 miles, then turn right at the brown sign for the North Riding Forest Park (opposite Blackpark Lodge) and follow the road north-east to the Cropton Cabins Reception Centre and Forest Retreat café.

The walk is 5.6 miles long and is all on good paths or forestry tracks, involving only very gentle inclines. There are toilets and refreshments at the start of the walk and part way through at Keldy Castle. Warm, waterproof clothing and boots are essential. Bring a packed lunch/snack. This is a free event. ***Please let us know by e-mail or text message if you are coming, so that we can contact you if the walk has to be cancelled due to the weather.*** E-mail: place@yorks.ac.uk Text message (including your name!): 07989 095924

Retail change in central Leeds: is it bucking national trends? Monday 29th January, 11.15am to c.3.15pm

Meet just after 11.00am in the 1930s concourse of Leeds train station, near the Sainsbury's shop (to the left of the current concourse if emerging from the ticket gates). Professor David McEvoy will lead a walk around part of the city centre, with a 45-minute lunch break probably in the food court of the central markets.

Retail change has been constant from the emergence of medieval markets to online shopping. Change is easy to spot in Leeds, with numerous nineteenth century buildings and arcades in use alongside six significant enclosed shopping centres. Much of our walk will use the cover of these venues. We will discuss the apparent success of Leeds as a shopping destination in comparison with neighbouring and national towns and cities.



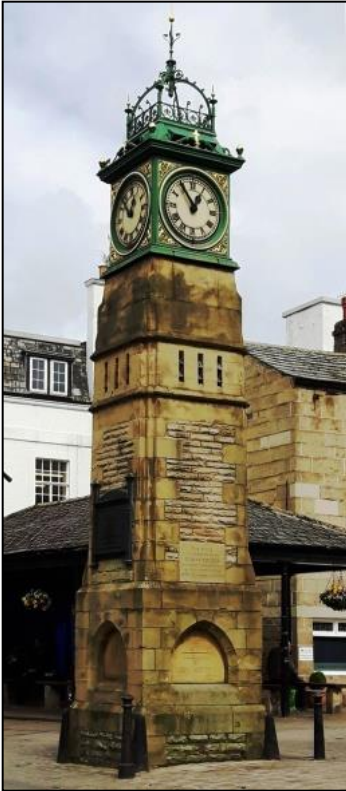
The event is a joint event with the Royal Geographical Society.

Booking is essential, as numbers are limited – please use the booking form with this newsletter.

Cost: £5.00 per head, payable in advance.

Leeds Market [David McEvoy]

Third Saturday walk, February 17th: Otley town and riverside



Meet at 11.00am at the Clock, Otley Market Place (left). Grid ref: SE 202455. There are several pay and display car parks in the town, plus some on-street parking, but some are short stay only. Saturdays are usually very busy so allow ample time. By bus, take number X84 from Leeds Bus Station or Eastgate; 0937 departure recommended to allow for late running. Check at www.wymetro.com.

[Colin Speakman]

It is easy, mainly level walking, three miles on street and along paved or well surfaced paths. Stout trainers or light boots will suffice - unless the weather is rainy or snowy. Either bring a packed lunch or bring a snack and use one of the many cafés and pubs in the town centre.

Colin Speakman will lead the walk, starting with a short tour of the historic town centre (traditional Saturday market in Otley), exploring courtyards and alleyways and visiting the remarkable Bramhope Tunnel Memorial in the churchyard. We will then head down to the River Wharfe, crossing Otley Bridge and through Wharfe Meadows Park. We will cross White Bridge (footbridge) to explore Gallows Hill Nature Area – riverside and woodland, returning along the nearside of the river and the intriguingly named Titty Bottle Park, passing by Thomas Chippendale's statue, through ginnels to the town centre. The walk will end early afternoon, allowing time for a late lunch/early tea before the journey home.

This is a free event but please book in advance or send an e-mail or text message (including your name) to let us know that you are coming.

Visit to Northallerton Gaol Friday 23rd February

Meet at 3.00pm at the Heritage Hub on Northallerton High Street (number 90, next to the Halifax Bank, post code: DL7 8QT). The Hub is c.10 minutes' walk from the train station. There is (limited) parking along the High Street and car parks at the station, Northallerton Auctions and Hambleton Forum.

Peter Cole will be our guide for this event, starting with an introduction and short film at the Heritage Hub, to provide the context behind the construction of the prison and show us what it looked like before it was redeveloped. At c.4.00pm we will walk to the prison site, now occupied by C4DI, to look around it. The visit will end c. 5.00pm.



[Photo from Wikipedia]

HM Prison Northallerton operated from 1788 until December 2013. During that time, it variously housed male and female adult prisoners, women with children, youth offenders, and military prisoners. Latterly the prison service struggled to keep the old prison operating to modern standards and, citing the costs of doing so and the relatively small size of the institution, it closed the prison in 2014. The prison was bought by Hambleton District Council for £1.4 million. The site is now part of a masterplan for Northallerton which includes the development of new homes, shops, leisure and education facilities.

Booking is essential for this visit, as numbers are limited to 12 people.
Cost: £5.00 per head, payable in advance.

Refreshments will be available during the visit.

Visit to Settle, Monday 11th March

This visit to Settle will look at some of the notable buildings in the centre, hearing about past and present renovations and re-purposing, and looking at the issues around a recent application for affordable housing. The day will start at the Folly, a Grade 1 listed building run by the North Craven Building Preservation Trust which houses the Museum of North Craven Life and a very good café. We will gather to enjoy tea / coffee with scones from 10.30am, and at 11.00 we will hear from the Curator about the colourful history of this gentleman's residence and its current management and repair [thefolly.org.uk] Funds have been raised to carry out renovations to the Folly, and these will be underway at the time, so this is no normal museum visit - expect dust, lots of boxes and a bit of chaos, but also a glimpse behind the scenes of how to manage a museum undergoing such change.



The Folly [Nancy Stedman]

From here we will go on short walks to look at two more buildings now managed by the Trust - the Zion Chapel, and the recently acquired Dr. Buck's house on the Market Place. There will be a break for lunch at 13.30 so bring your own lunch, or enjoy one of the many cafés in the Market Place.

At 14.30 we will reconvene at the Quaker Meeting House where John Asher will tell us about its history and the long and complicated process of its renovation. [settlequakers.org.uk/history]

Adjacent to the Meeting House is Ashfield car park, where Nancy Stedman will discuss a recent failed application for affordable housing and the issues that it raised.

The day will finish c.16.15. Settle can be reached by train from Leeds - check times. There are three car parks close to the centre - Lower Greenfoot, Ashfield and Whitefriars; there are public toilets at Whitefriars.

All the sites we will visit are within short walking distance of the Market Place. However, expect steps and stairs indoors, and steep slopes and cobbled lanes outside; stout walking shoes are recommended. Booking is essential, as numbers are limited to 20 people. Cost: £10.00, including tea/coffee and scones in The Folly.



Quaker Meeting House
[Nancy Stedman]

Third Saturday walk, 16th March, Richmond

Meet at 11.00am in the Nun's Close long stay car park (pay and display; grid ref: SE168012), where there are toilets. From the A1 north or south, head for Richmond. At the roundabout in the town centre, just before you reach the market place, turn right along the Victoria Road. The car park is on the right.

The walk is c.6.5 miles long and includes one short climb and a gradual ascent, followed by a downhill final section. Paths are generally good but there is one part through a wood which can be muddy in places. Bring a packed lunch and wear walking boots. There are cafés in Richmond for refreshment at the end of the walk. This is a free event. *Please let us know if you are coming, in case of last minute changes.*



View of Richmond from the walk
[Margaret Atherden]

PLACE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MEMBERS' DAY, Saturday 13th April 2024

This year's AGM, like last year's, will be a hybrid event: in-person at York St John University (room De Grey 125) and also via zoom. Coffee/tea will be available from 10.30am. The morning talk will start at 11.00am, followed by the AGM itself at about noon. There will be a break for lunch (bring your own or use the campus refectory or local cafés), followed by the afternoon walk at 2.30pm.

The theme for the day will be flooding and our speaker in the morning will be Dr Christopher Hackney from the University of Newcastle, who will talk about *Flood Management and Future Issues in York/Yorkshire*. In the afternoon, Liam Herringshaw will take us on his *Water Walk* – another in his popular series of themed walks (like the *Earth Walk* some of us enjoyed last year).

The morning session, including coffee/tea, is free but the afternoon walk costs £5.00 per head, payable in advance and limited to 15 people. Please use the booking form to book your place. Early booking is advisable for the afternoon walk.

At the AGM, some members of the Board will be stepping down, in accordance with our constitution, and may stand for re-election. At present we have seven trustees but we can have up to twelve on the Board, so additional nominations are welcome, particularly from members with good IT skills. The Board meets four times a year, normally in January, March, July and October, on the same day as the Events Committee. It is not an onerous job but a very important one, so please consider putting yourself forward for election. If you are interested in standing, please contact the PLACE Office for an application form. Completed application forms must be returned to the PLACE Office by Wednesday 20th March 2024.



REPORTS ON EVENTS IN AUTUMN 2023

Flamborough Conference, October

Our autumn conference, organised by Richard Myerscough, attracted over 40 people, not counting speakers and exhibitors. Bempton Village Hall turned out to be an excellent venue for a very wet day. After delicious scones and coffee/tea, delegates heard seven talks on a wide range of topics related to Flamborough. The first was by Richard Myerscough, entitled 'Chalk, Flint and Faults'. He described the two main geological layers on Flamborough Head: the underlying Chalk, with some layers containing flints, and the overlying glacial sands and gravels, containing erratics from northern England and Scandinavia. He explained that sea level was 50 metres lower during the last stage of the Ice Age, allowing hunters access to the area of Doggerland, now under the sea. Richard found a hand axe dating from 30,000 years ago and there was a flint knapping site at Danes Dyke further south along the coast. The headland is crossed by numerous faults, including the major one running down Danes Dyke that was later used by Neolithic and Bronze Age people.



The Chalk has been used for building stone in Bempton and Flamborough, including in Flamborough Castle, local churches and the Chalk Tower.

David Moore's talk focused on Flamborough as a visitor attraction. Until the mid-nineteenth century the most important industries were fishing and farming. The only tourists were

visitors from Scarborough, who hired boats to shoot birds nesting on the cliffs. Once the railway from Hull reached Bridlington in 1846, Flamborough became a favourite place to visit, but the first hotel in Flamborough was not built until 1919. After the First World War there was a massive expansion in both day trips and longer stays. Today visitors outnumber residents by four to one and many caravan sites have been built on the coast. The Flamborough Residents Association consider that a tipping point has been reached and they are lobbying against more caravan sites in the area.

Andrew Jones spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Chalk Tower. Their aim is to educate people in all aspects of maritime history, culture and the landscape. The Chalk Tower was built in 1674 by Sir John Cayton but never used as a lighthouse. It may stand on the site of a Roman signal station but it is not possible to confirm this because it is surrounded by a golf course and access is very restricted. Andrew introduced the audience to the music of William Baines, whose compositions included 'Goodnight to Flamborough', published in 1915. Baines was called up soon afterwards, caught Spanish 'Flu and died aged only 23.

After lunch, Ed Dennison gave a presentation about Flamborough Castle. The land was owned by the Constable family, who gradually developed the site from the thirteenth century onwards. A colourful family, the Constables included one who choked on a frog and another who was executed for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace and had his lands forfeited. The 'Castle' was the original manor house but was uninhabited by the time the family got their lands back, so a new manor house was built elsewhere. The 'Castle' was known locally as the 'Danish Tower' and stood on a platform within Tower Field. Only three sides survive of the original building and most of the external facing stone is missing. The walls were originally two to three metres thick and the building was three storeys high. The vault was intact until the end of the nineteenth century. The doorway was on the east side at first-floor level, so there must have been an external staircase, as survey work in 2017-18 found no trace of a ground-floor door or internal staircase. The development of the site took place in stages until the fifteenth century. There are documentary records for a kitchen, larder, bakehouse and Brewhouse. Archaeological work and drone surveys have revealed the outlines of many other buildings surrounding the 'Castle' site, including ranges along the north and west sides of the site, walled courtyards and garden enclosures on the east side. There was a shallow

moat on the west side and a canal-like feature on the east side. There is also the outline of a large barn on the south side of the garden and probably fish ponds in an adjacent field. Most of the building stone was removed and is now incorporated in other buildings in Flamborough, leaving only the ruin of the original tower house standing. It was listed in 1946 as a Grade II scheduled monument.

Dave O'Hara from the RSPB gave a talk on farmland birds at Bempton. These are less well known than the seabirds which nest on the cliffs but are an important feature of the local avifauna. They are also amongst the most threatened birds in the UK, including the corn bunting, skylark, yellow hammer, turtle dove and yellow wagtail. This is partly because of the decrease in winter stubble, so the RSPB are now planting seed-rich crops to tide birds over the 'hungry gap'. They have also planted some new hedges and have extended the margins around arable fields. They have reintroduced some traditional management methods, e.g. scything of the grasslands. Local farmers have installed nest-boxes for barn owls and there are artificial nests for swallows at the RSPB Centre. This management strategy is already paying off; for instance, tree sparrows are thriving at Bempton but declining elsewhere.

Margaret Hicks-Clark gave a lively talk about the Battle of Flamborough Head, which took place on 23rd September 1779 during the American War of Independence. A large Baltic convoy of over 40 merchant ships laden with supplies was being escorted south down the coast by two British Royal Navy ships, the 'Serapis' and 'Countess of Scarborough'. France and Spain were backing the Americans and sent a squadron of four ships to attack the convoy, including the 'Bonhomme Richard' under the command of John Paul Jones. When they were spotted lurking round the south side of Flamborough Head, word was sent to warn the convoy, which turned round and headed back to the safety of Scarborough Castle. Meanwhile, the two Royal Navy ships engaged the Franco-American ships in battle beneath Bempton Cliffs, watched by thousands of people from the cliff-tops. The 'Serapis' and 'Bonhomme Richard' got their rigging entangled during the battle, so both ships got damaged together. The 'Countess of Scarborough' struck colours to surrender but the 'Serapis' could not do so until much later, after 300 men and boys had been killed and the battle had raged for three hours. Both sides claimed victory: the Royal Navy ships because they had enabled the convoy to escape to safety and the Americans because they had captured two British ships. Several attempts have been made in recent

years to locate the wreck site but the exact site has still not been certified. The 'Filey Bay 1779 Research Group' was established to raise awareness of the battle and has plans for an annual festival, a memorial and a coastal trail.

The last speaker, Heather Davison-Smith, appeared by video to talk about marine heritage and connectivity. She pointed out how the coast has changed over the years and how men and women in the past were very involved with the sea, through fishing, whaling and lifeboats. Her aim is to tell their stories through the use of poetry, story-boards and digital reconstructions.

The importance of the sea is now realised for providing food resources and supporting mental health. In the nineteenth century there was great interest when a sperm whale washed up, partly inspiring the story of 'Moby Dick'. A modern example is 'Thor' the walrus, which spent some time at Scarborough at New Year 2023. Heather urged us to continue telling stories about the coast. Her presentation ended with a video about the coast, with a strong conservation message – a fitting finale to a fascinating conference.

Margaret Atherden.

Third Saturday walk, Hole of Horcum

A small group of walkers assembled at the Saltergate Car Park in very misty conditions in November. The abandoned farmstead of Low Horcum in the Hole was not discernible. Striking out across Levisham Moor we followed the good track to Dundale Pond. Neolithic earthworks were noted. We then descended Levisham Brow and then made for Skelton Tower, a ruined folly, and usually a wonderful viewpoint over Newtondale. Several fungi were noted on the walk, including Earth Tongue, Honey Waxcap, Golden Spindles, Snowy Waxcap and Yellow Club. After a late lunch we returned to Saltergate by rights of way in improving visibility. We were grateful for a hot drink on the way back home.

Philip Mander



Above left: Earth Tongue



Above right: Honey Waxcap



Right: Yellow club.

Photos by Angela Clark



Photos by Margaret Atherden (above) and Angela Clark (below)



Visit to the Tapestry Museum, Stamford Bridge

On the 8th November we had two group visits, one in the morning and one in the afternoon to see the Battle of Stamford Bridge Tapestry, which is displayed in Platform 66, a gallery, in the Old Station Club in Stamford Bridge. After a drink and slice of homemade cake we had two talks. The first was by Dick Ockelton, who gave us a brief history about the battle and how important a part it played in the history of Britain. It took place just before the more famous Battle of Hastings in 1066 but it had no small bearing on the outcome of this battle which determined the course of English history. It took place shortly after the Battle at Fulford, south of York, where the Vikings defeated the Anglo Saxons and then retired to Stamford Bridge to await hostages from the people of York. The Vikings were led by Harald Hardrada and Tostig Godwinson and the Anglo Saxons by Harold Godwinson. Both parties thought their claim to the English throne was the most just. After a bloody battle Harold Godwinson emerged victorious only to hear that William of Normandy had landed on the south coast to pursue his claim to the English throne.

Following the march back, Harold lost to William at the Battle of Hastings and, as they say, the rest is history. Then we were treated to the reading of a saga about the battle written by Dick, which was very entertaining.

Then we had a talk given by Ann Chatten, one of the embroiderers, about how the tapestry was conceived, worked and finally displayed. It was the brainchild of Tom Wyles and Chris Rock members of the Battle of Stamford Bridge Heritage Group. Between them (Chris being a professional graphic and historical artist) they designed the panels. We next heard how under the leadership of Shirley Smith, a professional embroiderer, the work started using crewel wool in the colours used at the time of the making of the Bayeux tapestry on a linen fabric using the traditional Bayeux stitch to create

Pre-Christmas event in Bedern Hall

For our pre-Christmas event in 2023, we chose the unusual theme of Workhouse Food – an antidote to our own festive period and feasting! Twenty-five people met in Bedern Hall and others watched the first part of the afternoon on-line via zoom. Our speaker was Peter Higginbotham, author of many books on workhouses, who gave us an entertaining talk about the workhouse movement and the food the residents ate.

Following the passing of the old Poor Law in 1601, parishes were responsible for housing the poor. The main way they did this was through 'out-relief', i.e. supporting people in their own homes, but they also established workhouses (150 by the beginning of the 17th century). York had a city-wide workhouse in Marygate, established in 1768. Peter showed us several examples of the weekly menus in workhouses, all based on typical foodstuffs of the day, e.g. rice milk and pease pudding. However, we were surprised to learn that beef was eaten frequently, beer was drunk, and vegetables were eaten when in season. Bread and cheese featured often on the menus and the women drank a lot of tea, but anyone who was sick got better food and at Christmas, plum pudding would be served. It was all a long way from the impression of mostly gruel that we had gained from *Oliver Twist!*

However, as time went, on the costs of supporting the poor in this way inevitably increased, leading to the passing of the New Poor Law in 1834. This standardised the system across England and established Poor Law unions (covering 20-30 parishes) with boards of guardians. 'Deterrent'

the design. The panels were worked on frames supported on trestle tables, each stitcher working on each of the panels. After many months of work it was finally finished and the 14 panels were mounted and finally found a home in the Old Station Club.

Following the talk the members had a chance to wander around looking at the exquisite panels in detail. It was a most enjoyable afternoon and we all came away amazed by the skill and determination of all the people involved to accomplish the project. We wish them all the best for the future and hope it remains on display for others to view.

Angela Clark.

workhouses were set up, to ensure that workhouses did not seem too attractive to people. York had one on Huntington Road, built to resemble a mill. The workhouses were compartmentalised internally, with separate areas for able-bodied men, women, boys, girls, the elderly and infirm. There was also an area for 'lunatics'. The residents were expected to work eight hours a day; diets became more monotonous (and did include gruel), and beer was banned, thanks to the Temperance Movement. Various people, such as Edward Smith, tried to improve the diets but had little success. However, better food was provided at Christmas, as reported in newspapers at the time, albeit in a rather patronising tone.

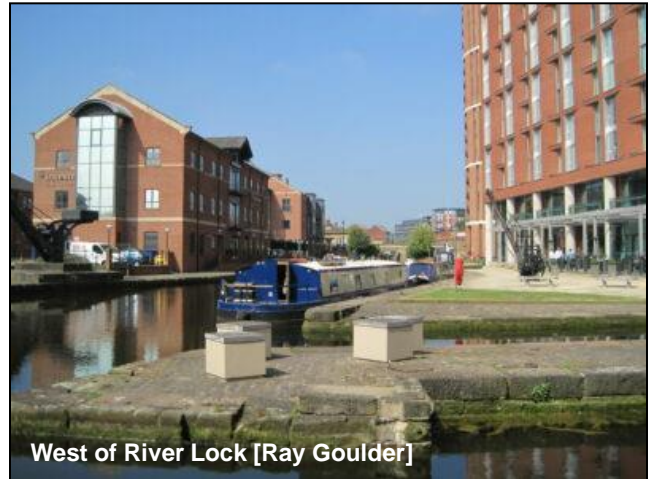
Contrary to popular perception, people were not sent to workhouses, they opted to go there if they could not support themselves independently. They were also free to leave at any time, although not with their workhouse clothes. There was no support once they left, so workhouses became a poverty trap for many. Peter pointed out that, in many ways, workhouses were the forerunner of the NHS. We were struck by the comparisons with some aspects of modern life, e.g. the use of food banks today and the difficulty that low-income families have in escaping the modern poverty trap. Although very different from the picture of workhouse life in Dickens, perhaps things have not really changed so much over the last few centuries. Despite these rather depressing thoughts, those of us in Bedern Hall enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies after Peter's fascinating talk!

Margaret Atherden.

New Blog!

There is a new blog on our website, by Ray Goulder, entitled 'A good place to see waterside Plants: the Leeds & Liverpool Canal in central Leeds'.

Written in an accessible style and based on Ray's observations over twelve years, the blog piece draws attention to the floating, marginal and submerged plants that can be seen on a stroll along the canalside. If you haven't already done so, take a look at it by clicking on the 'Blog' icon at the top of the screen on our website.



Coming up later in April:

A visit to Pocklington and Burnby Hall Gardens on 23rd April. Further details in our next newsletter, along with other events for summer 2024.

REMINDER: Don't forget to let us know if you have a new e-mail address or move house!

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.

To contact PLACE:

By post:
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YO31 7EX.

By phone/text : 07989 095924 (mobile)

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

Website: www.place.uk.com

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.

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 April 2024