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FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Burton Agnes Manor House [English Heritage]

Visit to Burton Agnes, Friday 5th July

Meet at 10.00am at the Burton Agnes car park (grid ref: TA 103630; post code YO25 4NB) for a guided walk around Burton Agnes Norman Manor House, led by Richard Myerscough. In the afternoon we will walk to the Harpham Roman Villa, where Richard will talk about recent research on the site. There is a café at Burton Agnes or you can bring your own packed lunch. There are also toilets and a shop. We shall have access to the gardens but not the Hall. Dogs welcome on leads.

There are uneven surfaces and a spiral staircase in the manor house. The walk is on public footpaths, some of which cross agricultural land and may be uneven. Burton Agnes is accessible by bus and train but check routes and timetables. Maximum number of people 20. Cost: £10.00 per head. Please book using the booking form enclosed/attached with this newsletter.

Third Saturday walk, 20th July, Hutton-le-Hole

The 4½mile moderate walk will start at 11am from the public car park (fee payable) in Hutton-le-Hole, Grid ref: SE704903, where there are toilet facilities. We will walk to Lastingham using paths over fields and moorland. There is a short section along a minor road and there is also a small stream to cross. Once at Lastingham we will visit the church. We will then return to Hutton-le-Hole by climbing up to Spaunton and taking field paths via Grange Farm and round Austin Head. Refreshments available at the cafés of Hutton-le-Hole after the walk. Good waterproof boots are essential.



Hutton-le-Hole village [Philip Mander]

As a lot of people have been cancelling at the last minute or booking and not turning up, we have decided to dispense with the booking system for the Third Saturday Walks for the rest of this year. The walks will be mentioned in the general mailing at the start of each month but no specific reminders will be sent out. Anyone is welcome to join the walks, which will start promptly at 11.00am and are free. Just turn up, but if you get delayed *en route* or have any queries about the walks, please send an e-mail or text message (e-mail: place@yorks.ac.uk Text: 07989 095924).



View to the west from north of Hill End House
[Margaret Atherden]

Third Saturday walk, 17th August, Hawnby

This is the walk from Hawnby, which was postponed last autumn because of a storm. 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 Newton Dale, Wednesday 21st August

Meet at Levisham Station (grid ref: SE 817911) at 10.30am, where there are toilets. We will assemble on the Forestry England road on the west side of the level crossing. Please share cars, if you can, as the aim is to drive one way through the forest. The visit will be led by Brian Walker and the aim is to look at plans for an exciting set of rewilding projects based on Newton Dale. We will visit locations at Raygate Slack and Raindale and walk to Needle Point – a two-mile round trip on level ground. We hope that representatives of Forestry England and the North



Low Raindale [Margaret Atherden]

York Moors Railway will be able to join us for some of the time, to explain the projects in more detail. Walking boots are advisable. Bring a packed lunch and a drink. Cost: £10.00. Please book in advance.

Third Saturday Walk, 21st September, Sandsend

This is a coastal walk, starting at Sandsend and walking north along the old railway line, passing former alum quarries. After climbing up steps beside the old railway tunnel, our path will follow the Cleveland Way, with good views of the coast. We will turn inland just before Goldsborough and follow a return route along footpaths through the fields, along the cliff top and down some steps back to Sandsend. The walk is approximately 5.5 miles long and involves some fairly steep steps up and down. Meet at 11.00am in the public car park at Sandsend (grid ref: NZ 860129), where there are toilets. Bring packed lunch and wear walking boots.



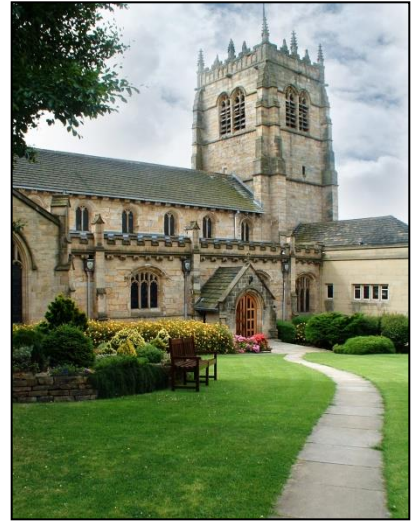
View north towards Kettlewell [Margaret Atherden]

Changing religious buildings in the changing urban landscape of Bradford Monday 30th September

Meet at 11.00am outside Bradford Forster Square Railway Station. Those arriving at Bradford Interchange Station will need to take a 10-minute walk across the city centre (there is no rail link between the two stations). Parking at Forster Square station costs £4.00 for 5 hours.

Professor David McEvoy will lead a walk of about 3 miles around Bradford city centre and nearby places, examining how buildings built for one purpose often outlive their original purpose. This applies particularly to religious buildings, because their founders may wish their structure to be imposing and long-lasting. The walk will incorporate a range of religions and denominations, beginning with Bradford Cathedral. Many of the buildings we will see belong to a different religion from that for which they were founded, and some have turned to secular uses. Two of our religious venues occupy properties designed for non-religious purposes. Much of the walk is flat, but the first mile involves uphill sections, including one broad outdoor staircase with a handrail.

Lunch will be taken in the city centre. There are numerous cafes and coffee shops, but also places where you can eat your own sandwiches. The walk is intended to end at 3.00pm. Cost: £10.00, payable in advance. Please use the booking form enclosed/attached with this newsletter.



St Peter's Cathedral [George Sheeran]



Statue of Emperor Constantine outside York Minster [Robert Wright]

Short course: Roman Yorkshire Thursdays 10th October to 14th November

We are delighted to report that Dr Robert Wright will present another short course for PLACE this autumn. The course will be on Roman Yorkshire and will consist of six one-hour sessions on zoom, from 7.00 to 8.00pm on Thursday evenings from 10th October to 14th November. Robert writes:

'The standard history states that the Romans came north in AD71, and established a military base at Eboracum (York), which would remain an administrative capital right up to the end of Roman rule in Britain, ca. AD410.

Well yes... But the Romans had already established a presence in the north long before the so-called invasion of AD71. Who was Queen Cartimandua, and why had her estranged husband, Venutius, already built up a centre of anti-Roman resistance?

And when the Ninth Legion did finally cross the Humber, what kind of land was waiting for it? How did it control the region? How, indeed, did it even feed itself?

We will tackle all these questions and more on this PLACE short course. Through the three-and-a-half centuries of Roman rule in our region, we will compare the archaeological evidence with the accounts of contemporaries, to find out what life was like in Roman Yorkshire'.

The course will cost £20.00 per head, payable in advance. The sessions will also be recorded so that people can watch them later, if they are unable to join us live at the time. Robert's courses are always informative and stimulating, so put the dates in your diary now. We are opening the booking now but there will be another chance to sign on with the October newsletter.

REPORTS ON PAST EVENTS, APRIL TO JUNE 2024

PLACE Annual General Meeting and Members' Day, 13th April

Our AGM 2024 took place in York St John University and was attended by 34 members and 2 guests. The draft minutes are available on the PLACE website. At the AGM, long-serving trustee Richard Myerscough stepped down and was warmly thanked by the Chairman. Colin Speakman retired by rotation and was re-elected as a trustee. Susan Lee was elected as a trustee and welcomed by the meeting. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2023 were accepted and are available on the website.

Talk on Flooding in York by Mark Fuller (Environment Agency)

Before the AGM, Mark Fuller of the Environment Agency gave a talk on flooding in York. Since the serious floods in 2015, which stimulated a great deal of political interest, £45 million has been provided for flood defence in York and a new team of four people has been set up at the Environment Agency (EA). However, flooding in York is not new, having been an issue since Roman times, as the city lies at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Foss. The Ouse catchment includes the rivers Swale, Ure and Nidd from the Pennines, whereas the Foss catchment is shorter and fed by water from the Howardian Hills. In times of high rainfall, as well as water from the Ouse flooding adjacent areas of the city centre, water from the larger Ouse tends to back up into the smaller Foss, flooding the area originally occupied by marshland and fishponds ('the King's Pool'). There are historical records of floods since the 12th century and records of river levels have been taken since 1855 from the Viking Recorder opposite the Guild Hall. A graph of annual maximum flood levels shows a gradual increase in height since 1886, which is expected to continue. Flood walls and storage areas have been in place since the 1980s, including the Foss Barrier, but these are now inadequate, as illustrated dramatically in 2000 and 2015.

To address these issues, the EA has divided the city into 18 cells to assess the flood risk. Some cells have little or no risk; some are economically unviable to protect; eight cells are identified where it is feasible to carry out flood protection works, six on the right bank and eight on the left bank of the Ouse. Three main methods are employed: flood walls, flood banks and flood storage areas. Before work can start, the archaeology has to be assessed, which sometimes means excavations and in some cases prevents work being carried out at all.

Flood walls are used to protect buildings next to the river. Most of the walls are below ground level, consisting of a reinforced concrete core with a toe and heel and a seepage cut-off channel. Flood banks are used where buildings are further away from the river. They consist of a clay core covered by a bank of compacted clay or soil. They sometimes include an underground cut-off toe, i.e. vertical sheet piles usually made of metal. Flood storage areas are located on the outskirts of the city, e.g. at Clifton Ings, and are surrounded by flood banks. They are subject to rules applying to reservoirs. The water levels are controlled by sluices, so that the areas can be used for grazing and recreation during dry periods. Some are of nature conservation interest, e.g. the Clifton Ings area includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest for scarce grassland types and species such as the tansy beetle.

Current work involves replacing or extending and raising the height of some of the 1980s flood walls and banks. Examples include the new flood bank below Museum Gardens and the new flood wall to replace the old flood bank behind St Peter's School to protect the playing fields. In some areas the 1980s flood wall was up to the base of the house windows, so glass panels had to be used to raise the level without cutting out the light. In some cases, e.g. at the bottom of Marygate, it was not possible to raise the level of the wall permanently, so demountable defences are used on top of the existing wall at times of flood and removed again when the water subsides.

In addition to the water in the rivers, overland flow from the city streets contributes to the problem of flooding. Penstocks are used sometimes to hold the water back and pumping stations to carry the water away from vulnerable areas. Care has to be taken to ensure that flood defence measures in York do not cause problems further downstream. In the longer term, climate change will add to the problems. The City of York Council has a project for natural flood management by things like tree

planting but this will be a very long-term solution. Mark explained that the EA is working to a 100-year return level but that climate change could not be taken into account beyond 2039. It is unlikely that flood walls or banks could be raised further, so the only longer-term solution will be to slow the flow of the rivers upstream and reduce the amount of water reaching the city. Many thanks to Mark for a fascinating and highly informative presentation.

Water Walk

In the afternoon, 17 PLACE members in two groups undertook the 'Hidden Histories' Water Walk, led by Simon Rogerson and Liam Herringshaw. After assembling outside the Yorkshire Museum and noting the erosion of the Hackness sandstone of which the museum is made, we walked through the Museum Gardens and down Marygate to the River Ouse. We passed the area on the left where there was once a swimming pool – filled in some years ago with a variety of material - and noted the new flood bank beyond. At the bottom of Marygate we passed through the flood gate, which we had learned about in the morning talk from Mark Fuller, and stopped beside the Abbey water tower. Trade used to come down the Ouse to St Mary's Abbey, which was just outside the city walls. The Ouse was tidal here before Naburn locks were constructed, and tidal waves used to come up as far as Poppleton on some spring tides. There was a ferry across the river here, as there was only one bridge (Ouse Bridge) until the 19th century. This was built by the Vikings, who diverted the bottom of Micklegate to curve towards it (the Roman bridge having gone across the river between the present Lendal and Ouse bridges). There was also a chain across the river at Lendal in medieval times to control the traffic and extract tolls. The second bridge to be built was the railway bridge in 1840, followed by the original Lendal Bridge in 1861. This later collapsed and was replaced by the present bridge of steel with stone parapets.



The second group by the Abbey water tower



The Lendal water tower

We walked along the riverside to Lendal Bridge, where we noted the site of the Lendal water tower, which was the focal point of York Waterworks from the 1640s to the 1840s. The present brick building replaced it. Opposite it is the Barker Tower, which extracted tolls and possibly had a defensive function. We crossed Lendal Bridge into Tanner's Moat and walked along the riverside walk to the bottom of North Street, which was the approximate position of the Roman bridge. There is a memorial here to John Snow, the man who demonstrated that cholera was a water-borne disease, leading to the provision of clean water and thereby saving many lives. We noted that porpoises, dolphins and seals used to get up the river this far before Naburn locks were constructed. Porpoises were eaten on the feast day of the Merchant Adventurers. Seawater fish were sold on the River Foss and freshwater fish on the Ouse. Among the more unusual sightings was a narwhal, which was recorded in the 19th century but the record has been lost. A beluga whale reached York in 1905 but died on a sandbank a few days later. An enterprising local coal merchant took it on tour around the county on a coal wagon until the smell became overwhelming! Its skeleton was then given to the Yorkshire Museum but nobody knows where it is now. We passed the site of the Viking Recorder, which records the height of the river level above 5 metres O.D.

We crossed Ouse Bridge and turned right on to Ness Gate then right down King Street and down to the river at King's Staithe. Various water lanes come down to the river along this stretch. The Ouse was wider in the past, more like a lake in some ways, with erosion on the north side and deposition on the south side by Queen's Staithe. During the Little Ice Age, frost fairs were held on the river here. Ouse



Raised flood wall in front of houses near King's Staithe



Former industrial area alongside the River Foss

Bridge has had a chequered history. After the Viking bridge in the ninth century, there was a series of other bridges. One was destroyed in 1564 and rebuilt in 1791 with very steep sides and houses on it. This one was replaced in the 1820s with a flatter bridge. We walked along the riverside path, passing the site of the former friary, to St George's Fields. There were many moats (ditches) here, as the land is quite soft. Sedimentation was at a rate of 2cm a year in Viking times and the total depth of sediment here above the Roman level is 7 or 8 metres. As we walked inland, we passed a stone showing flood heights from the Foss Recorder, which records heights above 0 metres O.D. We then walked past Clifford's Tower to end our tour beside the River Foss. The former industrial area beside the river used the rivers for transportation of goods and materials. It is now being redeveloped and will look very different in a few years' time. Our tour emphasised the importance of water to the city, both in the past and at the present day.

Margaret Atherden. [Photos by Margaret Atherden]

Visit to Pocklington



Chancel of All Saints Church [Margaret Atherden]

April 23rd – St George's Day - proved a grey and chilly one for the 18 PLACE members who managed to get to Pocklington for what turned out to be a memorable visit to this small Wolds town. Coffee and cake provided by volunteers as we arrived at the Church made it an especially warm welcome.

We were the guests for the day of Pocklington & District Heritage Trust, whose Chairman, Phil Gilbank, in a lively and well-informed way, offered the group a guided tour of All Saints Church, which has Anglian and Norman origins. Like other Wolds towns and villages, Pocklington grew at the spring line where Pocklington Beck emerges from under the chalk. This gives a remarkable clue to the probable exact year of the actual founding of the church, in 627AD by St Paulinus – possibly on his journey with King Edwin between Goodmanham and York – with a wooden preaching cross. So Pocklington Church may well predate York Minster by a few days. According to legend, converts to the new religion of Christianity were baptised in Pocklington Beck, which still runs alongside the present churchyard. A replica of the medieval commemorative stone cross – The Sotheby Cross - stands outside the church, but the original is displayed indoors.



Replica of the Sotheby Cross [Peter Wheatcroft]

Most of the Church dates from the 12th to 14th centuries, but its fine tower – a local landmark – was completed in 1460. Phil was soon entertaining the group with the many stories of the great families and occasional miscreants whose lives were intertwined with the history of the church, including some caught up in the ill-fated 16th century Rising of the North.



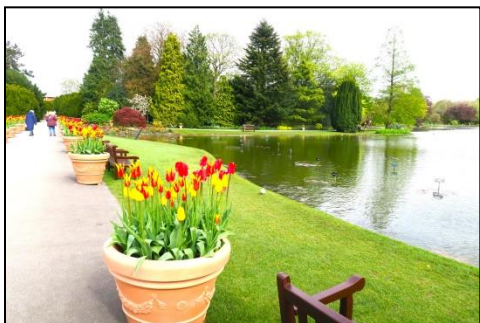
The group in the market place
[Peter Wheatcroft]



Part of Market Street
[Simon Green]



View across the lake in Burnby Hall
Gardens towards the museum
[Peter Wheatcroft]



Tulips on display in Burnby Hall Gardens
[Simon Green]

We left the church for a brief architectural walk around the town, which had two market places reflecting feuding dynasties. It being Market Day we could enjoy a traffic-free stroll. Most buildings in the town date from between the 17th and 19th centuries. Many of the narrow courts and alleyways still function in the way they did two centuries ago; Pocklington has kept its Wolds market town character. Surprisingly the town, ignoring the massive new housing developments to the south and east, is more or less the same size in terms of population as it was in Victorian times.

But it was archaeological rescue work at one of these new housing developments that provided the highlight of our day. In the afternoon the group met at Burnby Hall, where we not only had some remarkable local archaeological finds - from Bronze Age times onwards – displayed for us to view, but we were met by archaeologist Peter Halkon, who did a joint presentation with Phil about the rich archaeological heritage of Pocklington and its surrounding area. Peter made the point that though much precious archaeology in the Wolds has been lost by deep ploughing, metal detection has unearthed some wonderful discoveries from Iron Age, Roman, Anglian and Viking times, making the Yorkshire Wolds one of the richest areas for archaeological discovery in the North of England.

But the high point was the discoveries made in 2019 in Burnby Lane and The Mile on the edge of the town, such as the remarkable Iron Age chariot burials including rare two-horse burials: discoveries of European importance. In addition to other artefacts, there were the remains of a beautifully crafted metal and wooden shield, itself an indicator of the sophistication of the Parisi tribes who once inhabited this part of Yorkshire. There are ambitious plans by the Trust to transform the now redundant Burnby Hall - sold by East Riding Council to Pocklington Town Council for a token £1 - into a major Regional Museum, focusing on the first Millennium of East Riding History, to offer exhibition space and interpretation to the chariot burial and many more exciting finds, close to where they were unearthed, rather than letting key artefacts disappear elsewhere, perhaps even to the British Museum. There is likely to be a public appeal in the coming months to secure funding to allow this to happen.

Our day ended with a final delight – special entry with an introduction from Assistant Director Pete Rogers to Burnby Hall Gardens, which by happy chance were celebrating - slightly early - their Tulip Festival, with ravishing displays of colour, as well as the magnificently restored Victorian Rockery, also in its Spring splendour.

For those who were not able to join us, Pocklington & District Local History Society have produced an excellent Pocklington History and Heritage Trail available locally, whilst Peter Halkon has published a superb new illustrated booklet covering much material that was in his and Phil's talk - *Exploring Pocklington's Past*. For further details and to learn more about the proposed new regional museum contact the Trust at [Home - Pocklington District Heritage Trust](#)

Visit to Hatfield Moor, May 22nd

A small group of PLACE members assembled at the Natural England offices at Hatfield Moors on a disappointingly wet day. We began with a talk from the Reserve Manager, Julian Small, who outlined the history of the site. Hatfield Moors are part of the Humberhead Peatlands National Nature Reserve, along with the slightly larger Thorne Moors to the north. They are both lowland raised mires and were originally part of a larger area of peatland, separated by the former course of the River Don. Today, Thorne and Hatfield Moors are respectively the largest and second largest raised mires in England. Peat accumulation started about 4000 BC, when a rise in sea level drowned the lower courses of the many rivers draining into the Humber estuary, flooding the pine-birch-oak woodland that had been growing there. *Sphagnum* mosses and other bog plants gradually replaced the woodland, leading to an accumulation of peat about six metres deep. As peat is up to 90% water, the level of the surface varies considerably throughout the year. In the nineteenth century, a local vicar used triangulation to work out the rise and fall of the peat surface and discovered a difference of up to six feet seasonally.

The peat area has gradually been reduced over the centuries by various types of exploitation. In medieval times there was a turbarry on Hatfield Moors, enabling local villagers to dig the peat for fuel. The edges of the peatland were also drained for agriculture. A series of long narrow farms were situated along the Goole to Swinefleet road, each allotted a holding for farming and rights to dig peat. Later, large areas of improved farmland were created by flooding some parts of the mires – a process known as ‘warping’. It necessitated digging drainage ditches with sluices to control the flow of water. The water from the rivers would deposit a layer of silt as it drained off again, gradually covering the peat with silt and creating richer agricultural soils. In the nineteenth century, industrial extraction of the peat began. The black, humified lower peat was used to produce paraffin and several paraffin mills were developed. From the 1880s, a new market developed for peat to be processed as granules for use as litter in stables, and the only surviving paraffin mill was converted for this new use. Dutch workers moved in and trackways and later canals were used to transport the granules. In the 1920s the market for moss litter declined and was replaced from the 1950s on by peat cutting for the horticultural trade. Large machines were brought in to cut the peat, which was transported by railway systems. Finally, in the 1980s, milling machines were imported, capable of stripping hundreds of hectares of peat. The top three or four metres of peat were removed, leading to a devastating effect on the mire habitat and its wildlife.

The campaign to save the Moors began in the 1970s, following a proposal to deposit ash from Drax power station on the site and another to build an airfield there. Local nature conservationists took direct action to try to stop such inappropriate developments. In 1985 the Nature Conservancy Council (now Natural England) bought the southern part of Thorne Moors, and since then more and more of the site has been taken over for conservation. Management does not just involve trying to conserve the current flora and fauna but, in the long term, restoring the degraded peatland. The slow development of peat (typically about 10cm per century) means that this will take many centuries to complete, during



Some of the group with Tim Kohler
(second from right)



Settling pond with spoil bank behind

which time climate change may work against it. However, there have been successes already, such as the fact that cranes and nightjars are now breeding on the site. Insect life is very rich, too, with eight species for which this is the only UK site and one fly for which this is thought to be the only site in the world. The NNR supports over five thousand plant and animal species. The peat itself is a major store of carbon and plays an important part in combatting climate change and in flood control, so the challenge of restoring the peatland ecosystem is clearly well worth the effort.



Reconstruction of Neolithic trackway



The party ventures out on to the bog surface

After Julian's talk, Tim Kohler, the former reserve manager, led the party on a walk around the south-west part of Hatfield Moors. The site was as wet as Tim had ever seen it, with one of the viewing platforms inaccessible because of flooding. We saw several settling ponds resulting from the former extraction of sand and gravel. We looked out over the southern part of Hatfield Moors from a raised viewing platform. The peat area extends twice as far as the distant row of trees on the skyline. The peat was formerly milled for horticultural use until 2000. In the foreground is a reconstruction of a Neolithic trackway that was discovered at the base of the peat. On a mound in the middle is a memorial to four Polish airmen whose plane crashed there in 1941. We then ventured out on to the mire surface to look at the vegetation. Cotton-grasses were dominant in the wetter parts, with heather on the drier parts. However, there was very little *Sphagnum* moss, which apparently struggles to establish on the bare peat surface, so there are plans to plant plugs of *Sphagnum* to speed up the colonisation. Water level management is a constant problem: if it is too dry the peat oxidises, if it is too wet the vegetation gets drowned out. Another problem is encroachment by birch trees and in some places bracken. There are both roe and red deer on the NNR but, unfortunately, they do not eat the birch but use the mire for resting and feed on crops on the surrounding farmland. Grazing was attempted with Hebridean sheep a few years ago but they ate the cotton-grasses rather than the birch. A further issue is nitrogen deposition, which leads to nutrient enrichment, damaging the acid-loving mire vegetation. In dry summers, fires can occur, such as one in 2020 that burnt a large area. Fire breaks have been established around the perimeter of the site. There are also conflicts of interest between different species. For example, nightjars and adders are heathland species, rather than bog species; short-eared owls like pine trees.

As well as looking at the formerly milled area, we saw an area that was warped and another where sand dunes had been caused by blow-outs. Our walk only covered a tiny proportion of the site but illustrated the range of habitats and issues for conservation. There are only six staff for Thorne and Hatfield Moors, with help from some volunteers, so contractors have to be used for many management tasks. We came away with a clear idea of the national importance of this peatland area and the many challenges involved in managing it. Many thanks to Julian and Tim for such an interesting and thought-provoking visit.

Margaret Atherden [Photos by Margaret Atherden]

REPORTS ON THIRD SATURDAY WALKS



Some of the group on the Nidderdale Way
[Peter Wheatcroft]



Walking beside the River Swale [Margaret Atherden]



In Beck Hole
[Angela Clark]

Ripley 20th April - a group of PLACE members did an undulating walk of c6.00 miles which took in the villages of Hampsthwaite, Birstwith and Clint. There were some impressive displays of bluebells in Hollybank Woods before we visited the church in Hampsthwaite, dedicated to St. Thomas a Becket. We followed the Nidderdale Way as far as Birstwith alongside the River Nidd. Then minor roads were taken to Clint where the medieval stocks were tested. On the return trip Ripley Castle was clearly seen as one of England's loveliest lived-in castles.

Richmond 18th May - despite an indifferent weather forecast, a group set about doing a postponed walk of nearly 7 miles which features in the *PLACE Book of Winter Walks*. We left the car park at Nun's Close and headed west through Westfield, an area of open medieval fields. We saw a good display of meadow saxifrage. In the flower meadow of Nine Acre Field the flora also included bugle, water avens, germander speedwell, pignut, ribwort plantain and both meadow and bulbous buttercup. The River Swale was followed and we noted the features of river geomorphology including erosion, terracing and alluvial deposition. A group of heavily laden students overtook us. Past the three Applegarth farms, we discussed the history of Willance's Leap and saw the unusual yew trees on the screes below Whitecliffe Scar. We then entered Whitecliffe Woods. Fine views of Richmond Castle were noted on the elevated return route via High Leases.

Goathland 15th June - A small group of walkers did a 4.5 mile "figure of eight" walk. Goathland was packed with a tractor rally and farmers' market. We concentrated on the industrial archaeology and the vegetation. We saw a dipper and heard a curlew. Amongst the plants we noted pendulous sedge and remote sedge, common cow-wheat and sanicle in the deciduous woodland. There was also a good expanse of male fern. In bordering grassland we saw red campion, crosswort, germander speedwell, and green alkanet. Elsewhere we saw ironstone deposits and ancient anthills. A hornets' nest was spotted. The contrasting rail lines were discussed. The walk ended in heavy rain and we had afternoon tea in a village cafe.

May Moss survey work in 2024

At the end of May, we surveyed the 10m X 10m quadrat in which two rare plants grow – bog Rosemary and cloudberry. It involved meticulous counting of individual shoots, which were later recorded and mapped by Brian Walker. The site was wetter than we'd seen it for many years.

In June and July, we shall be recording vegetation along transect lines across the bog as part of a long-term research project on climate change.

Right: recording the quadrat [Margaret Atherden]



Visit to see the monuments in the parkland at Wentworth Woodhouse, June 23rd

Following our visit to Wentworth Castle in 2023, this year we visited part of the Wentworth Woodhouse estate in South Yorkshire, belonging to the rival branch of the Wentworth family. The sun shone brightly on our visit, which was led by Dr Patrick Eyres, and attended by 17 people and 3 dogs. The estate is vast, so we concentrated on 3 of the over 20 monuments in the parkland.

We began our visit at the Hooper Stand, located on the highest point in the area. It consists of a 3-sided pyramid – one of only 3 in the country – designed by Henry Flitcroft and built in 1747-9. The inscription on the front shows that it was built to celebrate Thomas Watson-Wentworth becoming 1st Marquess of Rockingham; to praise King George II (whom Rockingham had supported in suppressing the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745), and the end of war in Europe. Some of the group and one dog ascended the 150-steps of the spiral staircase to the triangular viewing platform at the top, from which there is a magnificent view over the surrounding countryside.

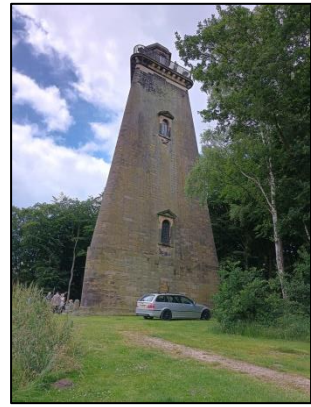
The second site was the Rockingham Monument, designed by John Carr and built in the 1780s to celebrate the life of the 2nd Marquess, who is buried in York Minster. Only the ground floor is accessible, which houses an exquisite marble statue of the 2nd Marquess in a typical Roman pose. The plinth on which it stands has inscriptions on all 4 sides, 2 of which are extracts from a speech by Edmund Burke on the Marquess's death. In niches round the sides are replicas of statues of 8 other prominent whigs and friends of the Marquess, e.g. Frederick Montagu, Charles James Fox and the Duke of Portland. The monument was built at a time of unrest over the issue of votes for all men, so it was surrounded later by railings to keep out the rebellious population of Sheffield! The monument was an essential part of the grand tour in the late 18th century but scrub had surrounded it by 1989, when restoration began. At the entrance to the site is a lodge, relocated from the garden at Wentworth Woodhouse.

Our final monument was the Needle's Eye, built on a hill on the edge of Lee Wood before 1720 as an eye-catcher and designed by John Carr. It is an open pyramid, made of ashlar blocks of local limestone, with a gothic ogee arch affording a view through it towards Wentworth Woodhouse in one direction. In the other direction, there was a carriageway to the Lion Gate and the Wentworth stables at Doncaster race-course. The monument was in a ruinous state by the 1960s but was restored in 2011.

Following our visits to the monuments, most of the party enjoyed a refreshing cup of tea at the Wentworth garden centre. Many thanks to Patrick for another memorable day.

Margaret Atherden [Photos by Margaret Atherden]

The Hooper Stand (which appears to be about to fall down when viewed from any direction)

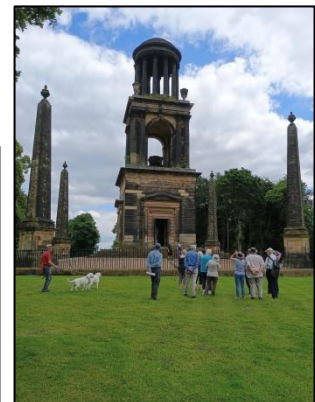


Left: some of the group on the platform at the top of the Hooper Stand



Left: view from the top of the Hooper Stand towards Wentworth Woodhouse (left centre)

Right: group looking at the Rockingham Monument. Below: the statue of the 2nd Marquess



Right: Some of the group looking at the Needle's Eye

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

In May, PLACE had a stand at the Yorkshire Society's Heritage Guardians event in Hull Minster. The Lord Mayor visited our stand during the afternoon (below).



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 members are welcome to attend meetings of the Events Committee, which determines the programme of future events. It meets quarterly at York St John University. If you would like to come along, please contact the PLACE Office for details.

Photos of PLACE events

There are lots of photos of past PLACE events on our website in the Galleries section. Photos of events this summer will appear on the website shortly.

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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