

MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Founded 1965
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Talks Programme for 2016-17

13 September 2016	Rebecca Gill Belgian Refugees in Huddersfield during the Great War	Illustrated
11 October 2016	Janet Niepokojczycka If You go down into The Woods Today	Illustrated
8 November 2016	Jane Aldrick The History of Ingle's Leather Works, Churwell	
13 December 2016	Helen Pratt Life at Temple Newsam during the Great War	
10 January 2017	Jackie Depelle Our House and Its Contents - a Family History	Illustrated
14 February 2017	Roger Dedman The History of the Post Office	Illustrated
14 March 2017	David Glover Lost Descendants of King Henry VIII	Illustrated
11 April 2017	Annual General Meeting and Clive McManus: will give an Illustrated talk on Morley's Heritage	

MEETINGS are held in the Labour Rooms, Commercial Street at 7.30pm.
EXCURSIONS are arranged to places of interest in the Summer months.
The society publishes booklets from time to time.

MEMBERSHIP is £8.50 per Member per year and **VISITOR'S CHARGE** is £2.00.

Further details from the Secretary, MAURICE SYKES (0113-2535128).

MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Newsletter

September 2016

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Tonight

Good evening and welcome to the first meeting of 2016-17. Our speaker is Dr Rebecca Gill who is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at Huddersfield University. As some of us know, Rebecca is keenly interested in the effects of the Great War on the social life of this area. Tonight she will be giving an illustrated talk on how the Huddersfield district welcomed Belgian people who fled here as refugees after the German invasion in August 1914. It will be interesting to compare her findings with those which we have obtained in the Morley area.

The Last meeting

The AGM noted that the society was moving in a stable way. Membership is steady as are finances and we do not appear to have any serious issues in the near future.

After suitable refreshment, which is now dispensed really well in the new system by Peter and Christine, I gave a talk on the Wilson Mill family whose principal business was the Highfield Mill in Gildersome.

Some time ago, a member of the family, Tom Marshall donated a large number of old photographs to Morley Community Archives and I used these to illustrate the talk, along with information from on-line sources (including Tom's Family Tree work) and old articles in *The Morley Observer*.



30-April-1930. After the marriage of Margaret Wilson, daughter of George Wilson to Thomas Ezra Marshall outside Woodlands, the Wilson family home in Gildersome..



12-September-1940: The Princess Royal visits the town to accept the gift of an ambulance from the local Red Cross. She is with the Mayor, Ald. Alexander Wilson.

The Gildersome mill had fine success from ca 1890 to the 1960s which kept family members busy. However they still had time to play an active part in the whole area's civic and social affairs. And so it was possible to show the influence of this important family on the Borough of Morley during this period. Tom Marshall was present and able to fill in details which added to the presentation.

Summer Activity

We helped the town commemorate the Opening of the Battle of the Somme on 1-July-1916 with a service for School children, laying of memorial wreaths and a presentation at the Cenotaph. On Sunday 3-July we went to Colsterdale to commemorate the sacrifices made by the Leeds Pals. A booklet of our research around this event has been published.

We helped with the celebrations for the Queen's 90th birthday and a booklet describing her visit to the town in 1954 has also been published.

This last weekend, two tours of the Town Hall have been given and we escorted a group around a Heritage Trail of northern and central Morley. This will be repeated on 2-October.

The Society Trip

Once more the Society trip was blessed with good weather.

We left Queensway at 9am with a full coach load of eager people, thanks to the efforts of Robert. The coach was comfortable and we made a speedy journey to Bridlington via the M62 and the Driffild Road, arriving at Sewerby Hall in the northern part of the town at 10.45am.



The outside of Sewerby Hall



*Margaret Froggatt shows off some bloomers
and*



Robert Brook examines one of the beds.

After some refreshment we were then free to explore the site at will and there was a lot to do. The party split as Robert had arranged two tours of the house which is full of interesting artefacts and a fine exhibition about the pioneer aviator Amy Johnson. The grounds are extensive with gardens, a miniature zoo and a fine walk down to the cliffs so the main problem for most was to fit everything in.

In the afternoon we went on to Bridlington Priory. This is a truly magnificent church with many attractions both inside and out. However, I think a little personal initiative was necessary for full enjoyment since our guide was a little unprepared and it was distinctly cooler inside than it had been at Sewerby. Afterwards a number of us enjoyed a walk around the old town before the coach took us on to the Manor Court Hotel at Carnaby where we had a good meal.

The return to Morley was rapid and uneventful in the setting sunlight and Robert is to be congratulated, once again, for organising it all.



Bridlington Priory

Clive McManus

MORLEY

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October 2016

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Tonight

Once again we greet Janet Niepokojczycka, who last visited us in 2005 to talk about Pack Horse trails. This was based on her own experiences in a charity fund raising event. Janet has spent much of her life in Cumbria where she is a Blue Badge Guide. She has a particular interest in archaeology, vernacular (domestic and functional rather than public) buildings and medieval industries so I think these will feature in her illustrated talk which is titled '*If you go down in the woods today*'.

The Last meeting

Dr Rebecca Gill of Huddersfield University settled into her talk on Belgian Refugees very well after a traumatic start when equipment had to be brought in at the last minute. Around 250,000 refugees came to this country, so terrible were the conditions after the German invasion in August 1914 and it was quite a challenge to accommodate them. Huddersfield took in 500 of these folk. Many were housed in Milnsbridge at Royds Hall. A special school was set up for them there.

It was interesting to compare the way that folks in Huddersfield and Morley had reacted to the presence of these folk - initially with great enthusiasm and then some hostility because some felt they were taking the jobs of locals - and this led to a lively discussion with Rebecca. She also helped us by giving contacts for further research.

The Society Trip

Robert has had his thinking cap on and the committee thinks his plan will work really well. The aim is that we go to Stockport and visit two of the museums which the local council has set up. First there is Bramall Hall which is a timber framed 14th Century manor house. It is set in 70 acres of parkland and the whole site has been refurbished to include an on-site restaurant and visitor centre. The internal artefacts and the parkland are most impressive.



Bramall Hall and Parkland

A short distance away are the old Stockport Air Raid Shelters which were opened in 1939. They were able to hold over 6000 people during the fearsome raids in World War Two. The Shelters have been a visitor attraction since 1996 and they are a large network of underground tunnels, fitted with electric light, wooden benches, bunk beds, wardens' post, and a first aid post.

Robert will arrange for us to have guided tours and an evening meal somewhere along the route, perhaps near Holmfirth. It is expected that the trip will cost around £22 per person.

Alice Cliff Scatcherd

A group of us has been helping local writer Becky Cherriman to update our knowledge on this fascinating woman. George Atkinson described her, in his August 1975 *Morley Advertiser* article as 'Morley's first Women's Libber' - the popular expression at the time for feminists. She was an important member of the Movement for Women's Rights in the mid to late 19th Century.

She was born in 1842 in Wortley, the daughter of Joseph Cliff, a wealthy industrialist who manufactured bricks, and his wife Alice. Her parents were Liberals, had a large family, and showed their independence by adopting the Unitarian Religion, attending the Mill Hill Chapel in Central Leeds which still practises this faith. Alice was educated privately in York and she had a formidable intellect.

During the years when the Women's Suffrage movement formed Alice made alliances with such nationally known Liberals as the Bright family, Josephine Butler, with whom she successfully fought the Contagious Diseases Act, and Dr Pankhurst, the husband of Emmeline and father of Christabel. She married Oliver Scatcherd, of the Morley Scatcherd family at Mill Chapel in 1871 when she was 28 and he was 36, a bachelor and solicitor. They had no children and she certainly spent a lot of time working on her various causes, in which he played little if any active part. Likewise, she refused to wear a wedding ring which must have caused quite a fuss in Victorian England. However, she worked vigorously for the rights of women, particularly those with families, on both the national and local scenes, helping to form a nursing association in Morley.

Oliver's interests were his law firm, local affairs and sport. We do note, though, that when he was Mayor (1898-1901) she was greatly supportive, helping him with civic events. Both of them were active in promoting school sports and they were jointly responsible for introducing the Morley Mace into public life.



Cliff House
The family home in Wortley



27-February-1882:
Alice Cliff Scatcherd (front right)
in the Albert Hall, Sheffield
promoting Women's Suffrage.

We note a few contradictions in her life. Here was a woman keenly interested in fashion and yet we do not have a good portrait of her. Those that involve her such as that shown when she took part in an early suffragist meeting in Sheffield always include others whereas her husband was not so shy in this respect. And how could a woman, interested in animal rights, support a husband who had a keen interest in hunting?

I think it's worthy of note that while she certainly promoted civic affairs in Morley she showed her independence to the last by having the Unitarian minister at Mill Hill preside over her funeral at the St Mary's Congregational Church. But she was laid to rest along with her husband and other Scatcherds in the Mausoleum there in late December 1906. So, perhaps you can see that I think there is more still to be learned about Alice, probably through her personal letters. We believe she was an important pioneer among the early Women Suffragists but, nevertheless, it took further vigorous demonstration from others and a Great War before women made their first big advance by obtaining the vote in 1918.

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November 2016

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Tonight

We are delighted to welcome Jane Aldrick who will give an illustrated talk on *'The History of the Ingle's Leather Works'*. I've known Jane for a good number of years and can assure you of her strong interest and knowledge of Churwell and Morley. She is highly qualified to give this presentation because she is the great-granddaughter of the works founder, William Law Ingle. I will leave Jane to give you the fine details of this man and his family. They certainly made their marks in both Churwell and Morley during much of the 20th Century, making notable contributions to the social, business and administrative side of the community.



William Law Ingle
as Mayor of Morley

The Last meeting

Janet Niepokojczycka made a return visit to us and her illustrated talk was entitled *'If You go down in the Woods today'*. She is a fluent, practised presenter and her love of nature was palpable. Her talk was a fascinating study of the landscape, natural history and archaeology of the country in general but with Cumbria in particular detail. This is an area in which she has strong experience of guiding folks around. And so we learned a great deal about such activities as charcoal production, bobbin making and swill basket making. It was a delightful evening.

The Society Trip

As mentioned at the last meeting, plans for the trip have been put in place very quickly this year. The coach will take us, first, to the old Stockport Air raid shelters which were converted into an attractive museum cum visitor centre in 1996. I think you can be assured that it's quite safe - it is a very popular venue.

In the afternoon we will be going onto Bramall Hall, also in Stockport. This manor house dates back to the 14th Century with additions later and it's situated in attractive parkland with lakes. The meal is not yet finalised but Robert thinks it will likely be in Holmfirth where we have eaten before. The cost will depend on numbers but should be about £22 per person.



Bramall Hall

The Dartmouths and Lewishams

The Dartmouth family's interest in Morley started in 1707 when the 1st Earl bought the land which had been in the possession of the Savile and Cardigan families for hundreds of years. The family has been a major landowner in Morley ever since and its influence on our area is still evident as they own areas of land which has been or could be sold to property developers.

From what we can gather, the family did not visit the town much, if at all, until the late 19th Century. Before this time, we know that they had strong commercial interests in textiles, helping to found the Crank Mill, and various coal mining interests. The Dartmouth Arms tavern which was at the bottom of Bruntcliffe Lane by Morley Hole was used by the Earl's agent who collected rents there from tenants who farmed on various parts of the estate.

The 6th Earl did come to the town on a number of occasions, the highlight being the opening of Dartmouth Park in 1890 which was built on land he donated to the town on a pepper corn rent. He was the first person to receive the Freedom of the Borough in 1896.

It was the tradition of the family that their eldest son be named the Viscount Lewisham and in 1914, the 6th Earl gave land which was to be converted into a park and named after his son. A grand opening was planned for 8-August. Unfortunately, a much more important event, the beginning of World War One, prevented this although the council had prepared a lovely programme and a memorial coin for 4000 local school children. In November the Earl wrote a formal letter expressing his disappointment at not fulfilling the engagement but that the park should now be regarded as opened. We note that his second son had just been killed in the War.

However, this particular Lord Lewisham, William Legge, and his wife Ruperta did visit the town in January 1931 on the occasion of the annual speech day of Morley Grammar School (now the Academy). By all accounts it was a splendid occasion.

William and Ruperta had five daughters and one son, also William. However, he was killed at the Battle of Alamein in 1942. As a result the title reverted to the 7th Earl's younger brother Humphry who held the Earldom until 1962.

On the 23-May-1959, Morley received another member of the Lewisham family when the 7th Earl's daughter-in-law came to open the Lewisham Park Youth Club. I think that many of you will remember this lady. At the time she was Raine Legge, née McCorquodale, daughter of the novelist Barbara Cartland. Later she and her husband Gerald divorced but their son, another William, is the present Earl of Dartmouth. She then married Lord Spencer and became the step mother of Diana, later Princess of Wales. Very recently Countess Spencer, a remarkable woman in her own way, died on 21-October. Let us hope that the Youth Club lives on.



The Official programme for the Opening of Lewisham Park: 8-August-1914.



Lady Lewisham opens the Youth Club with the Mayor Ald. Wilfred Pumphrey and his wife, Mary Anne.

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December 2016

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Tonight

For our last meeting of 2016, we welcome Helen Pratt, a local lady, who will be telling us about the work done at Temple Newsam during the Great War. She will be talking about the period from 1915 to 1917 when this country house was used as a convalescent hospital for wounded soldiers. I understand she will be bringing artefacts from the estate to form an exhibition.

As is usual, the refreshments at this meeting are free. I'd like to thank Peter and Christine Waugh, on your behalf, for the excellent work they've done in providing these. Shirley Claridge has also made a valued contribution.

The Last meeting

Jane Aldrick gave us an entertaining and detailed talk about the Ingle family of Leeds and Churwell who were so influential in the town during the 20th Century. Jane is the great-granddaughter of William Law ('WL') Ingle, the founder of the leather works in Churwell and so she was able to illustrate her presentation with photos and artefacts, in particular the family history compiled by WL.

Jane is a straight-speaking lady and she was unsparing in her view of some members

of her family. However, I think it is true to say that she has a great admiration for WL. She told us of all the many contributions he made to Churwell and Morley life, including the founding of the Public Library and various contributions to Churwell Park which were finally acknowledged when he received the Freedom of the Borough. And without doubt the leather works provided important goods and much employment in the town for over 60 years. Thank you, Jane.



A memorial window for Reginald Ingle, son of WL, in Back Green Chapel, Churwell. Its fate is undecided.

The Society Trip

Robert has completed most of the plans for the annual trip on Sunday 11th June 2017. We will be going by coach to Stockport and will be visiting Bramall Hall, a timber-framed Tudor Manor house set in splendid grounds. Then in the afternoon we will move on to the Stockport Air raid shelters which have been converted into a visitor centre. Robert will be arranging an evening meal, probably in the Holmfirth area. He estimates that the cost will be around £23 per person and he is accepting bookings.

Christmas time in 1916

Before the Great War, Morley people looked forward to Christmas as a very special time when they could enjoy a short respite from work with food, drink, fun and games at social gatherings. 1916 was different. Archives from *The Morley Observer* make it clear that the overall mood was extremely sombre and, of course, this was down to the way the war had gone.

The full force of attritional warfare conducted by industrialised societies had started to hit very hard. The British army had made its first 'Big Push' at The Somme in July which had only just ended with little if any noticeable gain made but many casualties. Morley itself had lost over 80 men and the town had been able to see film of the battle in The Picture House which, though somewhat staged, brought home previously unseen views of trench warfare. Since the first day of that battle, *The Morley Observer* had begun printing Rolls of Honour for local men killed or wounded practically every week. The end of the war was, now, not in sight and Morley-born Henry Asquith had to resign his premiership. Both sides were suffering, of course, and the Germans had offered to negotiate peace in mid December. However, they were not prepared to give up occupation of Belgium or make any reparations. The Allied Governments and most of their people found these terms unacceptable. *The Morley Observer* certainly took this line.

In the town itself, there was heavy snow and freezing weather but shortage of man power meant that the council had to appeal to citizens to voluntarily clear the pavements and roads. This also showed itself in the mills and we see that children of 15 years of age were allowed to work overtime to make up for these shortages. One 14 year-old child was prosecuted for leaving employment at the Morley Cotton Mill without giving notice. He was 'let off' with costs when it was found that his father was a discharged soldier.

German submarine warfare, which was to accelerate now 'Peace talk' was refused, had caused food shortages to the extent that folks were encouraged to grow their own vegetables. We see that local mills and council workers were all receiving so-called war bonuses which were, really, wage increases to cope with prices inflated by the cost of the war.

Christmas was celebrated however with many of the traditions remaining though I can't find any reference to the Morley Santa Claus fund for gifts to disadvantaged children which had been common-place up until 1914. The Churches and Chapels gave concerts as did the clubs and there was much support for injured soldiers and their dependents. A sense of humour prevailed but, as is the nature of comedy it is now quite dated, with lots of sexist references. Try this one, though : *Why is a disreputable alehouse like two of the chief performers in an orchestra?* Because it is a base and vile inn!

The Morley Observer nudged its readers with that one. I won't but, on behalf of the Committee I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful, Prosperous New Year.

Clive McManus

MORLEY OBSERVER—DECEMBER 8, 1916.

What are you sending him for Xmas?

LET his gift this Christmas be really worth while. Send him something he can use and appreciate, whether he be in the trenches or on the high seas. Taylors are Chemists first—but you will find gifts of all kinds, at all prices, and of first rate quality—suitable gifts all. Taylors Soldier's Parcel is the sort of gift to send as an XMAS EXTRA.

DO IT NOW
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5/- The Soldier's Parcel 5/-
1 Writing Pad
6 Bars Chocolate
1 Tommy's Cigar
1 Trench Powder
1 tin Tea, Sugar & Milk Tablets
1 tin Coffee, Sugar & Milk Tablets
1 tin Cocoa, Sugar and Milk
1 tube Extract Meat and Vegetables

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Suggested gifts for Christmas

MORLEY

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Tonight

First of all, greetings to you at the start of the New Year.

Once again you have the opportunity to learn about the skills and resources needed to research your own family history with the help of Jackie Depelle. Jackie is well known as a teacher of family history techniques and tonight she will be talking about her house and its contents. I think you will be fascinated by what you can learn of your own properties from the work that Jackie will be showing here.

The Society Trip

Just a short reminder that the Society Trip this year is to the Stockport area on Sunday, 11-June. We will be visiting Bramall Hall, a mansion dating from Tudor times and, also, the renovated air raid shelters which kept the inhabitants of the area safe during the numerous bombing raids which the area suffered during World War Two. Robert is taking bookings and it is estimated the trip will cost around £23 per person.

The Last meeting and War Hospitals in West Yorkshire

Helen Pratt talked with us about the work done at Temple Newsam in discovering how it was used in the Great War as a convalescent home for soldiers who were injured during the hostilities. Two of the images which she used are shown, courtesy of Leeds Museums.

One of the consequences of the Great War was the influx of large numbers of Belgian refugees and Dorothy Wood, Lady Halifax, whose husband had inherited the hall in 1904, helped by opening up the whole of the south wing in October 1914 for those wounded in the conflict. She continued this work, later housing British soldiers, until 1917.



Dorothy Wood with three of the nurses



Michael Hassell at Temple Newsam

Then, Helen told the story of Cyrille Dessager, a Belgian, treated at Temple Newsam, who had formed a relationship with a local woman, Lizzie Wark. Lizzie became pregnant but, for reasons which remain unclear, she chose not to marry Cyrille. He returned to Belgium and continued to write to her but she would have nothing to do with him. It was only much later that Lizzie's grandson, Michael Hassell, became aware of his grandfather and the video showed how he got to know more about him even though it has so far proved to be a difficult task. The story of Michael's search was extremely moving and full details can be seen on line.

For some time, we have been trying to find out about Morley women who worked as VADs in the Great War. Helen and Lucy Moore of the Leeds Museums service have given us some pointers but so far we have just a few details about two families, those of Charles Scarth and Ezra Holliday, whose daughters worked as such. Any help will be greatly appreciated. As the attritional warfare intensified after the Somme, it became increasingly necessary to expand the British hospital system. Great houses such as Temple Newsam and Lotherton Hall played their part but, as a local example, by August 1916, Dewsbury Board of Guardians were providing enough beds to care for over 100 wounded soldiers at their Staincliffe Infirmary. This was to relieve the pressure on Beckett's Hospital in Leeds.

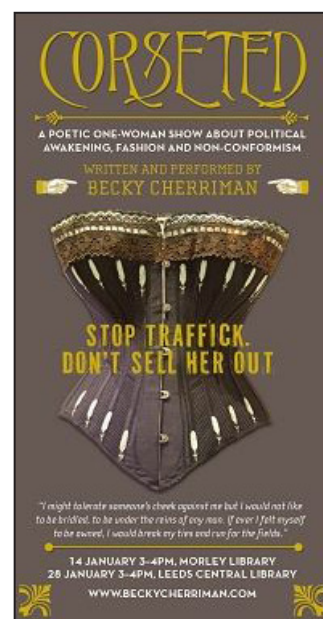
The Army authorities wanted more beds but the Guardians were in a quandry because much of the remaining space was taken up by old infirm people. There were also problems with the costs involved and who was to pay for them. In December 1916, the Town Clerk of Dewsbury asked Morley, as a part of the Union, to help pay for the displacement of the hospital inmates and erect extra pavilions. Morley's share would be £720 out of a total of £6000. This could not be taken from the rates but must be by voluntary contributions. Morley felt unable to meet this demand and The Council stated that the town had already contributed £3000 to hospitals in the Leeds area for which it felt socially closer. Morley stood firm despite strong criticism but supported the hospital in other ways. It is notable that the Government introduced a new War Loan Scheme at this time, offering 5% interest, and it is estimated that Morley people raised around £450,000.

The Story of Alice Cliff Scatcherd

This coming Saturday, Becky Cherriman, the local writer and social historian, will give a presentation of the life and work of Alice Cliff Scatcherd in the Morley Library building, starting at 3pm.

In the 2016 October newsletter, I have written about Becky's work on this locally-based pioneer of the Suffragist movement but now Becky will be putting spoken words to her presentation besides showing off an exhibition which details Alice's life and work.

She will be discussing the many facets of Alice: her fierce independence which led her to be a leading light in the 19th Century Suffragist movement; her keen interest in the fashions of the time; her marriage and partnership with Oliver, the last of the Morley Scatcherds; their travels all over the world; and their contributions to Morley life which were many and varied. Becky is a skilled presenter and I urge you to attend this view of local and national life in the 19th Century from the perspective of a remarkable woman.



John Goodchild

We have learned that John Goodchild, the well-respected local historian and archivist, died on 6-January. John visited our society to lecture many times and was particularly supportive during its early days. His output was prolific and his archive has been bequeathed to and accepted by the West Yorkshire Archive Service. It will undoubtedly serve as a permanent record of his fine work.

Clive McManus

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February 2017

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Tonight

Our speaker was to have been Canon Roger Dedman but I'm afraid he has been taken ill and has had to cancel. A small compensation for those of you who were expecting a talk on the Post Office is my efforts on the history of the Morley Post Office overleaf. So, I'm going to recycle my talk on the changes in the Morley Landscape and I hope that this will give you suitable entertainment and food for thought.

The Last meeting

We were happy to greet Jackie Depelle when she returned to show us more of the powers of Family History research. This time, she discussed her researches into the history of her own home in Pudsey. It has been owned by members of her family since the early 19th Century and Jackie showed how she had used various resources to find out about who had lived there and how they had used it. It was an entertaining and instructive evening as we have come to expect from Jackie.

Commemorations for Soldiers of the Great War



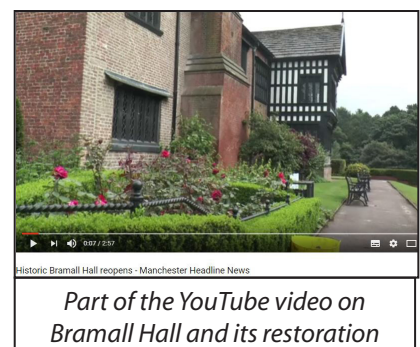
Julie Heeley and I have been doing regular research to help the local British Legion commemorate those Morley area men who died in service in the Great War and who are, also, buried locally. Yesterday we were at the Bruntcliffe Cemetery, remembering Pte George Parkinson Arnold (shown across from a photo in the Barnsley Chronicle). It was the centenary of his death in the Military Hospital at Shrewsbury from wounds sustained on the Somme. George's family history has been difficult to unravel but

now we do have a good record of it, thanks to intrepid work by a friend in Morley Family History group and the Barnsley Archives organisation. Members of the public can attend such events and the next is on 1-March for Pte Laurence Stansfield.

The Society Trip

Robert reports that places for the society trip to the Stockport area are filling well. It will be on Sunday 11th June with visits to Bramall Hall in the morning and the Stockport air raid shelters in the afternoon. The cost should be around £23 but this will come down if more than 25 people go.

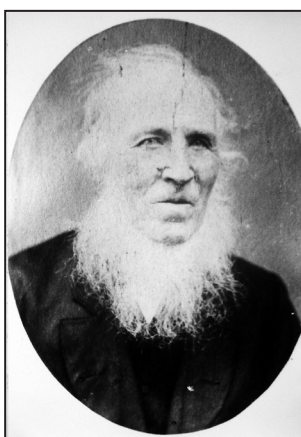
For those who can use the YouTube facility, you will be able to see video footage of both the hall and air-raid shelters. To do so, just enter 'Bramall Hall' or 'Stockport Air Raid Shelter' in the appropriate search box. They are worthwhile.



The Post Office in Morley

William Smith tells us that the post office in the times of George III was kept by a Betty Hartley in a one storey cottage on Banks Hill. One delivery and one despatch a day were ample for the business of the time. Before this, letters were collected by a 'foot postman', who sounded a horn to announce his presence to the locals. Such men were also known as 'Hornblowers'.

A John Cowburn (1769-1841), who lived in Adwalton, collected and distributed all the letters sent to and from the local villages in an area which led to Leeds. The graphic shows a copy of a receipt kept by the careful Norrisson Scatcherd of the monies he paid John for postal deliveries during the period May to September 1826. All those 3d deliveries added up to 6s 4d, quite a substantial sum which ordinary folks would not have been able to afford.



Andrew Cowburn

Around this time, John's son Andrew (1799-1888), began to take over responsibility for the post in Morley. Gradually, more people took advantage of a cheaper postal rate of 1d. The result of this in Morley was that a new post office was formed around 1830

at the corner of Church Street and what is now New Bank Street. Andrew served the community from here until October 1869 when he retired. By this time, of course, letters could be sent using the 1d black postage stamps introduced in 1840. He was so highly regarded that he was given a lavish retirement dinner at the Dartmouth Arms. Earlier, he was elected as a member of the Local Board and, with his knowledge of the streets of Morley, he insisted that they be given proper names and addresses, besides

much better paving and sewage.

Around the time of Andrew's retirement, the post office was moved until finally a building was erected on the corner of Queen Street and Princess Street (now demolished to make way for the Schofield Court building) in 1876. It is likely that this had been a part of the Albert Mills, used as a warehouse since around 1867. This remained the principal Post Office in the town until 1962 and it underwent many internal changes as technology improved the service to include such features as a telephone exchange. The photograph across was

taken by locally-based Richard Simpson in 1905 and it was used in his set of postcards of Morley views and buildings. By 1924, there were other post offices at Churwell and Bruntcliffe besides sub-post offices on High Street, Fountain Street and Victoria Road. The town centre office closed in 1962 when the present building at the Fountain Street end of Queen Street was opened. The results of this move were not without consequences as the Board of Trade noted that, in this age before supermarkets, more folks were now shopping in the area near to the new post office. Now, we are in the age of electronic communication and the need for such postal services has been enormously reduced. But for myself, I will be upset if we lose this still valuable service in Morley and I think many share my view.

N. B. Scatcherd	
Postage of letters	18
May 1st	3
2nd	3
3rd	2
4th	3
5th	3
6th	3
7th	2
8th	3
9th	3
10th	1
11th	3
12th	1
13th	3
14th	1
15th	3
16th	1
17th	3
18th	1
19th	3
20th	1
21st	3
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MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Newsletter

March 2017

Founded 1965

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Tonight

David Glover returns to talk to us about the lost descendants of King Henry VIII. I think he will be demolishing some of the myths of Henry's relationships and we should expect a colourful presentation.

The Last meeting

Canon Roger Dedman was sick so I substituted for him and modified a talk I gave in 2009 about Morley's Changing Landscape. It followed a similar format with a little new material and sections on aerial views, expansion of housing, old and new forms of transport, change caused by accidents, the transformation of shopping with supermarkets, increased attention to leisure, medical services and education and conservation of old but prized buildings and areas. I enclose the picture of Hainsworth's because Ann, the widow of Norman Stevenson, the chief optician there in my youth, is to sell Croft House and this is described overleaf.



*Hainsworth's Opticians, Queen Street.
October 1969*

Commemorations

We will be helping the local branch of the British Legion to commemorate the lives and service of the following soldiers:

18-March: Driver John Henry Attack in St Paul's Church, Drighlington

28-March: L/Sgt Stanley Gibson, also at St Paul's, Drighlington

31-March: Pte Clifford Popplewell at St Peter's Church, Gildersome

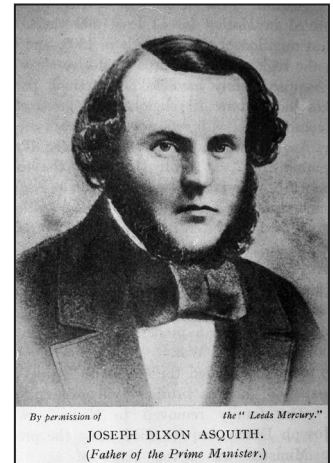
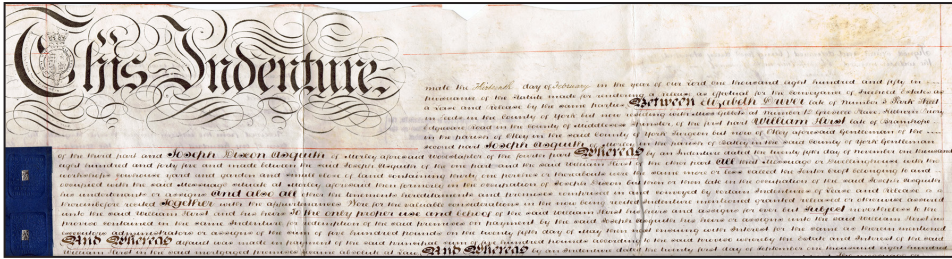
We do a good deal of research into the lives of these men and, also, others who died, in service during the Great War. Such research can be uploaded to a special section of the Imperial War Museum's website devoted to 'Lives of the Great War'. This research can't be allowed to simply nestle in the computers of MCA and so we will be sharing it there, as time allows. Already, information has been sent on Clifford Calverley and George Parkinson Arnold and you can view it with a simple search on the site.

The Society Trip

The plans for the trip are going ahead. Robert says we now have around 24 names so you should hurry if you wish to go. It will be on Sunday 11th June with visits to Bramall Hall in Stockport followed by the local air raid shelters in the afternoon. It is likely that the evening meal will be in Holmfirth. The cost should be around £23

Croft House, Church Street

The local media has given a lot of publicity to the proposed sale of the house. It does look rather splendid but I think the fact that it was also the birthplace of Herbert Henry Asquith is an added attraction. I thought it would be a good idea to make an update on what we know about it.



We have few details of the early beginnings of the house but know that it must have been built around 1840. Some years ago I was privileged to see and copy the re-conveyance agreement for Croft House which was between Joseph Asquith and the owners William Hirst and Elizabeth Driver, involving a sum of £500. It was completed on 13-February-1850.

The property was then transferred to Joseph Dixon Asquith, the son of Joseph and father of Herbert Henry. Joseph Dixon Asquith married Emily Willans, the daughter of a rich Huddersfield industrialist, on 18-September-1850 and they were living in Croft House when the 1851 Census was recorded. It seems reasonable, therefore, to assume that the young couple got a very handsome wedding present.

Their second son, Herbert Henry (known as 'Bertie' to the family) was born on 12-September-1852. It looks as though the pull of the Huddersfield district was strong for the family because they moved to Mirfield in 1858 and, tragically, bizarrely, Joseph Dixon died there in June 1860 as a result of an accident during a cricket match.



*A popular postcard - ca 1910
of Herbert Asquith and Croft House*

The house continued to have important associations for Morley because the mill owner, Edward Stockwell, bought it sometime in the 1860s and stayed there for the rest of his life. It is likely that he also developed the property and the garden. He was a member of the council when the town became a borough and its first meeting was held in the house in April 1886.

Morley was a Liberal stronghold in those days and the locals had a strong affection for Herbert (as his wife Margot called him) Asquith. He was invited to open the Town Hall on

16-October-1895 and he passed Croft House on his way to the town centre. A banner outside, proclaiming 'Welcome Home, Lad' is said to have caused him to smile.

When he was Prime Minister, he and daughter Violet visited the town for him to receive the Freedom of the Borough. After the ceremony they were driven to Morley Grange on Churwell Hill for a reception. However, the motorcade stopped by Croft House and they went inside. Violet insisted that she see the bedroom in which her beloved father was born.

It would be good to think that any new owner will also value the heritage of the house.

The AGM

We are aiming to complete the annual business reasonably quickly. After refreshments, I am hoping to talk about Health Care in Morley during Victorian times and the early 20th Century.

Clive McManus

MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Newsletter

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Tonight

Good evening and welcome to our final meeting of the 2016-17 season. First we have the details of the AGM which I trust will be covered efficiently and well. After our usual refreshment break I will be giving an illustrated talk which will, indeed, be on Health Care in Morley. However, after I've had time to consider the implications, it will only deal with the period from around 1830 to the beginning of the Great War in 1914. There is simply too much data for me to cover a longer period. I've also noticed that official documentation is very sparse for the times up to the formation of the Borough. This needs more investigation, I have to admit.

The Last meeting

David Glover returned and gave our largest attendance of the year a fluent, interesting and challenging talk on the lost descendants of Henry VIII. David had channelled the many sources on this subject which has fascinated historians, film and television audiences for many years. This work shows that Henry did have affairs and children outside of his marriages. However, as David showed us, it is difficult to prove the exact details in some cases. David gave us lovely portraits of Henry's mistress Mary Boleyn, the sister of his second wife Anne, and her (and possibly his) grand-daughter Lettice Knollys who was brave (or foolish?) enough to steal Elizabeth I's favourite, Robert Dudley, from her.

A Future event

On 24-May, Lorraine Smith will be returning from Australia to talk about the Tudor document she found in her bookshop which describes a land transfer in Gildersome. This has stirred the interest of the American family historian Chuck Soderlund who has created a lovely website about Gildersome and he also will be present. The event will be in Morley Public Library.



Lorraine with the copy of 'Alice in Wonderland' and the Tudor scroll which she found inside it.

Photo: Vicky Hughson

The Society Trip

Just a final word on this. Robert has managed to obtain a high quality coach at a reasonable price. We will be leaving Queensway at 9am on Sunday, 11-June and the itinerary is (and I promise I've got it right this time) for us to visit the Stockport Air-Raid Shelter Centre first followed by Bramall Hall in the afternoon. You will be able to get food at the hall. It's likely we will be eating at The Bridge in Holmfirth, where we have had previous good service. Seats are still available but this will be your last chance to contact Robert directly. The cost will be approximately £23.

The Programme for 2017-18

After some lengthy and fruitful discussions in committee, Maurice has gone away and worked really hard to compile this speaker programme for September 2017 till April 2018. He deserves our grateful thanks. Here it is:

12-September-2017 'Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)' Illustrated

Marilyn Joyce will give us a good start by telling us more about this woman who wrote a number of brilliantly perceptive novels about the social experiences of men and women during the 18th/19th Centuries from a female standpoint.

10-October-2017 'Variety in Wartime'

It's a long time since **John Wallis** last visited us but he is renowned for his entertaining presentations on old music hall entertainment.

14-November-2017 'Yeadon above the Rest' Illustrated

Ken Cothliff will be talking to us about the History of Yeadon Airport. He has written a book on the subject so we can expect a detailed account.

12-December-2017 'Tyke Talk'

Eric Scaife is based in Whitkirk and he is a member of the Yorkshire Dialect Society. His talks are said to be full of local pertinence and humour.

9-January-2018 'The History of Waxwork' Illustrated

Geoffrey Forster is a qualified historian, based in Baildon, and he will be discussing the way wax has been used to depict objects and people.

13-February-2018 'Victoria Cross Holders in Leeds' Illustrated

Jackie & Bob Lawrence are a husband and wife team who are spending a lot of time researching and talking about the effects of the Great War on the people of Leeds. However, this talk will also encompass other conflicts. They are very strong on technical detail.

13-March-2018 'New Thoughts on British War Resisters' Illustrated

Cyril Pearce has visited us before to give an entertaining talk on Bretton Hall where he used to teach. Cyril is a fine speaker and a serious, diligent researcher. You can be sure he will have new information for us, although he has an encyclopedic knowledge of this subject.

10-April-2018 AGM

Afterwards, I will give an illustrated talk afterwards on some aspect of Morley life, perhaps adding to this evening's talk. Please let me know if you have any ideas on the matter.

I trust you have a good Summer break and hope to see you at some of our events and again at our September meeting.

Clive McManus