

MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Founded 1965
www.morleylhs.btck.co.uk

Talks Programme for 2015-16

8 September 2015	Eve Bradford The Life of John Atkinson Grimshaw	Illustrated
13 October 2015	John Gilleghan The Story of Captain Cook	Illustrated
10 November 2015	Anne Batchelor We'll end up in the Workhouse	
8 December 2015	Clive McManus The First 50 years of Morley Local History Society with Golden Jubilee Celebrations	Illustrated
12 January 2016	David Glover Bess of Hardwick and the Cavendish Legacy	Illustrated
9 February 2016	Keith Barber A Trip down Memory Lane	Illustrated
8 March 2016	Andrew Stokes The First Day of the Battle of the Somme	
12 April 2016	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).

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Newsletter

September 2015

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Tonight

Good evening and welcome to the first meeting of the 2015-16 season. As I'm sure most of you know, this is also our Golden Jubilee season - the first meeting of the society was on 15th December 1965 - and we will be celebrating this as a part of our December meeting.

Tonight, our guest speaker is Eve Bradford, who is a member of the Thoresby Society in Leeds. She is to give an illustrated talk on John Atkinson Grimshaw, the Leeds-born artist. I will not pre-empt her talk but merely say that a good deal of his work is on display in the Leeds Art Gallery and it's well worth a viewing.

The Last meeting

The AGM was late this year, on May 12th, because the Labour rooms were needed for the lead up to the General Election. However, proceedings went smoothly and satisfactorily. The society's financial affairs are in order. Afterwards, I gave two slide shows. The first one was about Fashion in Morley from Victorian times until the 1990s and it was based on a show which Morley Community Archives gave some years ago. Since it was early spring at the time, I modified David Atkinson's talk 'Morley Through the Seasons'. Besides sections on Morley in Spring and Summertime I added details of local elections and Morley Feast.



A Co-op Fashion show: 12-March-1951

Heritage Events

September is a busy month for lovers of heritage. There are numerous events in the Leeds district and full information can be obtained from pamphlets, available in the library, or at the following link: <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/directory/laa/Leeds>.

In Central Morley the Town Hall will be open on Saturday 12th September. I will be leading tours of the Town Hall at 10.30am and 2pm and the Mayor will be waiting to greet visitors in the Council Chamber. We at MLHS and the Community Archives will have an exhibition of work done in the past and our present-day research topics on the effect of the Great War on Morley. This will be in the Banqueting Hall where free refreshments will be served. You can visit the exhibition any time between 10am and 4pm and there is no obligation to go on the tour.

On Sunday 13th September I will be leading a new Heritage Trail walk, starting at the Town Hall at 11.30am. It will take in the old City area, South Queen Street, High Street, Hungerhill and Oddfellow Street. It is free. Strong walking shoes are recommended and it should last about 2 hours.

The Society Trip

Once again we were favoured by good weather on the society trip to Cromford and Bakewell on 7th June. The coach was almost full and the day went very smoothly indeed. First, the driver took us to Cromford in the Peak District and the route he chose was quite exhilarating, wending up and down some steep and narrow roads. After the obligatory refreshment in Arkwright's Cafe, our guide, Dave Cooper, gave us an informative and balanced talk about the founding of Cromford and its owner, Richard Arkwright, an imaginative, energetic and demanding man.

Dave then took us on a tour of the site, including the original mill shown at the right on the picture. The mill was built in 1771. It was the first water-powered cotton spinning mill and the course of the water, powering the mill is shown to the left. At the time of our trip it was undergoing extensive refurbishing and the plan was to have this finished by the autumn. Throughout the tour, Dave gave us full details of the working practices in the mill during Arkwright's time and he emphasised that, while this man asked a lot of his employees, he understood, in return, that he would only get efficient work if they had good working and living conditions. We blench now at his system but it was a marked improvement on those existing before his time.

The tour was very extensive and we did not have enough time to explore the surrounds which are well worth another visit. After rather a rushed lunch in the busy cafe we went on to the Old House Museum, situated up another winding narrow road in Bakewell.



Our party outside the old mill



The Old House Museum at Bakewell

Parts of this building date from the 16th Century but, later, in 1777, the ubiquitous Richard Arkwright built another mill in the town and converted the house into cottages for his workers. The site was threatened by demolition in the late 20th Century but the Bakewell Historical Society stepped in to prevent this and they have been responsible for running it as a museum ever since. Our tour started with an introductory talk by George Challenger, one of the society trustees. Then

we had an hour to explore its displays of local and general memorabilia.

After this busy day we were pleased to put our feet up and enjoy the drive to the Waggon and Horses Public House at Osxpring, near Sheffield. We have eaten there before and I think it's true to say that most people enjoyed their meal. This really did round off a splendid day and we thank Robert for organising it so well.

Jean and Keith Robinson

Recently, Jean and Keith have informed us that they are taking a gap year, living in North Yorkshire, starting later this month. Both have given us very valuable support over the years but they tell me that they will be coming back to Morley from time to time during the year and we look forward to seeing them, particularly at Christmas. Good luck to both of you, Jean and Keith. We will miss you.

Clive McManus

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Tonight

We welcome back our regular speaker John Gilleghan and know that we can rely on him for well researched material accompanied by lovely photos. Tonight he is going to talk about that great Yorkshireman, Captain James Cook.

We have also decided to change the routine with interval drinks. All being well you will have the choice between coffee and tea. However, this will be made on the spot from a flask dispenser which will add the hot water to the tea bag or coffee. Help will be on hand to see that this changeover goes as smoothly as possible.

The Last meeting

Our new season started wonderfully well when Eve Bradford of the Thoresby Society discussed the life and work of John Atkinson Grimshaw, the Leeds-born artist. She told us how his career progressed and illustrated this with examples of his paintings, family and living quarters. As Eve candidly stated, some regard portions of his work as formulaic since he had a need to produce quickly to fund his lifestyle and large family. Having said that, she believes, as do many others, that his work will endure for his craftsmanship and ability to depict Yorkshire life in fine detail. Real life examples of his work are on view in the Leeds Art Gallery.

Heritage Weekend and Trail walks

September was a busy month for Heritage events. Two tours of the Town Hall and a photographic exhibition were organised on September 12th and there was a Heritage Trail walk the following day. This walk, which explored the eastern and southern parts of the town which were heavily industrialised in the 19th and 20th Centuries was repeated on October 4th and the photograph shows the group outside the former St Mary's Mission Chapel on Middleton Road. On this occasion 60 people walked around the town before enjoying refreshment in the Town Hall. We were blessed with good weather on both occasions.



Outside the former St Mary's Mission Chapel on Middleton Road.

The Morley Community Archives website (www.morleyarchives.org.uk)

This has been rejigged with a new, simpler interface. Much of the old content has been copied over but there is a new section on the research we have done on the effects of the Great War on Morley and work is on hand to add more of this and other sections.

Morley in October 1915

Recently we have been able to obtain really good copies of old issues of the Morley Observer with relative ease from Leeds Central Library using the new readers there.

We are using this work, principally, to boost our research and today I want to show you some of this by recording events which the newspaper thought worth reporting in October 1915.

At the time the main concern was the war, as can be seen from this advert from Sheard's who had a presence in the town until quite recently. However, it is interesting to note that regular sporting events were still taking place in the area with cricket and football to the fore.



*Thomas Arthur Marshall
in his 'Specials' uniform*

Which was all very well but not so easy to implement because the Morley Police force had been drastically reduced. By mid October the force comprised only of married men since all of the single men, nine in all, had enlisted.

This was the situation all over the West Riding and one solution was the introduction of a force of Special Constables. The Morley Specials set up at this time and 51 men joined it, led by Inspector Hutchinson, the head policeman in the town and H.B. Browne, the Headmaster at Morley Secondary School (now the Academy). All of these men were above military age and some, like Thomas Arthur Marshall in the photograph were on the Town Council.

They were to be assembled at the sound of an electric buzzer if a raid was expected besides making sure that the new lighting and drinking regulations were in force.

Bertha Schroder, of German birth, was prosecuted for failure to register this at the start of the war. However, there were extenuating circumstances. She had lived with a British-born man, Thomas Inman, for over 31 years and raised a large family. It's clear to me that the Police had previously told her she had no need to register but, nevertheless the case went ahead and Magistrates fined her £1, feeling they were being lenient because she could have gone to prison. The couple were married in this area early in 1916.

By this time, another fearsome battle was raging at Loos and this country did not do well out of it. Morley men were killed and the newspaper paid them proper tribute. However, the carnage had become so great that not enough men could be found who would voluntarily sign up for the forces. The Liberal government had to reconsider its position on enlistment, moving from volunteers to compulsory conscription. All over the country, a National Registration system was introduced and this showed there were 3500 men in Morley of the military age 18 to 40 in the town. Soon, many of them would be conscripted as the war continued in its attritional way, seemingly without end.

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Tonight

Our speaker is Anne Batchelor, a Leeds-based lady who is well-known and respected in Family History circles. Tonight she will be talking about life in the Workhouse in the days before the Welfare State. Family and Local History buffs have many areas of mutual interest so I think you will find plenty to consider in Anne's talk.

The Last meeting

Our regular visitor, John Gilleghan, gave us a very thorough run-down of one of Yorkshire's greatest sons, Captain James Cook. Most of us are aware of this man's achievements as an explorer in many parts of the world but John filled in details about his early life in Yorkshire, his assistance in the Battle of Quebec besides the epic voyages to the South Seas with the help of lovely photos and his usual pertinent commentary. So, in his own special way, he gave us a fine picture of the man who showed, at least in the early days, concern for his crews, wonderful ability as a navigator and chart maker, and great courage.

The Society Trip

The plans for the trip were put in place at the last Committee meeting after some long and hard thinking. This is to take place on Sunday, 5-June -2016. First we plan to visit Sewerby Hall which is between Bridlington and Flamborough. The site has many features: A House, with furniture from the 1900s era and an exhibition about Amy Johnson, the aviator; splendid Gardens; a Zoo; A café and a shop. Robert is arranging an all-in price of £4.50.



Sewerby Hall

Afterwards there will be a tour of the magnificent Bridlington Priory Church.

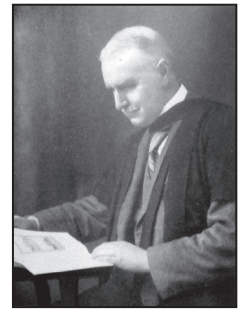
As yet, no venue has been fixed for the evening meal but Robert estimates the cost will be around £24, depending on the number of folk on the coach.

Our Golden Jubilee

The first meeting of the Society was on 5-December-1965 - gosh, 50 years ago - and we plan to make this anniversary a special occasion, especially as it is also our Christmas meeting. Christine is arranging for drink and food before and after the talk in which I will be giving a visual presentation about the activities of the society - meetings, excursions, and achievements - over these years. After this we wish to continue socialising around an exhibition of the work done by society members and you are welcome to bring along your own memorabilia.

Morley Secondary School and the Great War

Morley Secondary School, the predecessor of Morley Academy, opened its doors on Fountain Street on 4-January-1909 after a period in St Mary's Schoolroom, Commercial Street from 1906. At the time of the Great War its headmaster was H.B. Browne, who became head of Morley Special Constables in 1915. He kept an eagle eye on all the 156 former students who served in the War as well as insisting that there be published records of school events and details of old students. Long term service was the norm in his day and he stayed at the school until 1934 by which time it was a grammar school. It remained mainly fee-paying with some scholarship students until 1944. The school magazine, *The Morleian*, has fascinating articles about the students' activities and opinions during the horrid times of the Great War. We learn of families stranded in France at the outbreak of the war; students from a Belgian immigrant family who excelled in French and told of life in that country; poems about the war, including the false alarm of a Zeppelin raid on the town, with Mr Browne to the fore. And then there are the comments about fellow students who, as in my day, were not named, though no-one doubted who was pointed at. I quote (with thanks to J.E.W.K.B. ; 4th form):



H.B. Browne

*'Should a certain boy be given six pages of writing, to be written very small, as an imposition?'
'Should the girls in school allow the boys to beat them in becoming professional knitters?'*

But the effects of the war were covered in detail. Old students contributed articles about life at the front and *The Morleian* printed obituaries of all of the 17 students who were killed in the conflict, including photographs of most of them. We show that of Cpl Charles Norman Watts, Scots Guards, who was killed on 17-October-1915, the first victim from the school. *The Morley Observer* tells that his brave actions saved his comrades from further casualties. He was recommended for a DCM but his officers found that these were not awarded posthumously.



The Memorial Organ and Plaque

After the war, the school organised a fund for a memorial and organ to commemorate those who were killed. A book (available in the Library) was also printed showing the activities of all of the students who took part in the conflict. Over £1200 was raised. The organ was placed in the main hall, and the bronze memorial plaque with the names of the dead former students at the back of the player's seat. The opening ceremony was on 14-June-1922.

The organ remained in there until the 1960s and it was in regular use at the morning assembly. It was replaced by one in a new hall built at the side of the main building in the mid-1960s. Sadly this was destroyed by a catastrophic fire shortly afterwards. However, the bronze plaque was recovered from the wreckage and it is now on display in the entrance hall to the old building part of the school.

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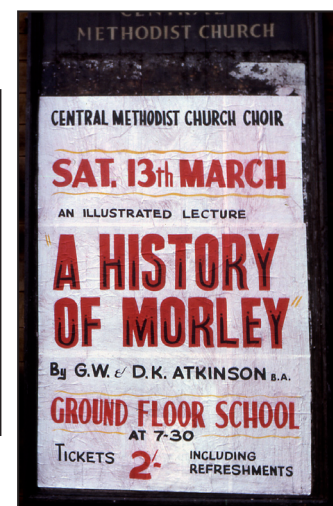
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Our Golden Jubilee

Tonight is special for us because it is almost 50 years ago, on 15-December 1965 that we held our first meeting. Great interest in Local History had been building up for some time before that because George and David Atkinson had begun to give a series of lectures on Heritage in Morley. These led to the formation of our society.



One of the first talks in Morley by the Atkinsons was on Saturday 13th March 1965.

It was held in the Sunday School of Queen Street Wesleyan Chapel on Queen Street. Cost : 2/- with refreshments

So much has changed in 50 years. George and David's talks were very popular and deservedly so, but I think they would have more competition on a Saturday these days!

Tonight, I will be talking about these early days and the people who helped George and David to form the society. They were enthusiastic and energetic in depth.

I will also be showing the achievements of the society and the activities of the people involved from the early years up to the relatively recent past.

After this, the committee has organised free food and drink for you all to enjoy. I think there may be some kind of cake cutting ceremony

And we have set up an exhibition from the society archives, showing the writings, excursions and other activities with which we've been involved over the years.

Let us make it a memorable and enjoyable occasion!

The Last meeting

It was Anne Batchelor's debut at MLHS and she made a strong impression. Anne has made a study of Family History and Genealogy for many years, giving teaching classes and conducting extensive research projects.

This evening, she discussed life in the Workhouse, placing particular emphasis on that at Knaresborough. She had discovered the daybook of the master, one William Borrow, covering daily events for the years 1791 to 1792 and so was able to give us a picture of life there.

Ordinary folks had a tough time in those days so the Workhouse was not an easy place to be. It was subsidised by local parishes and money was, therefore, governed carefully. However, Anne found good evidence that Borrow was a kinder master than most.

This was an illuminating and interesting talk. Anne had command of her material and she was fluent and amusing.

The Workhouse and Morley

One of the consequences of Anne's talk was that someone asked me about the Workhouse in Morley. I was only able to give a part answer to this so here are more details, which have been culled from William Smith's *'Morley Ancient and Modern'*.

Morley followed the law of the country and there was a Workhouse in the town on what we call Queen Street on the site of what is now Lyndhurst House - the former Local Board Office. This was established around 1730 and it consisted of three one-storey cottages on land donated by Lord Dartmouth. This was paid for by money collected from local rate payers.

In February 1837, the Dewsbury Poor Law Union was formed and, from then on, Morley had much less control of the relief of 'their' poor as a Board of Guardians was formed with members from all the areas under the Dewsbury Union. A new valuation was introduced and the locals were deeply upset because this doubled the rates on cottages.

I've been reading the minutes of this Board which still existed in the Great War years and they open one's eyes greatly. By this time, the Workhouse at Staincliffe had medical staff and the regime was very strict by today's standards. I think it's an area well worth further study.

The Society Trip

The plans for the trip to Sowerby Hall and Bridlington Priory on Sunday, 5-June-2016 are going ahead. Robert would like names of folks who want to go on the trip as soon as possible, please. This is always a worrying time as we do like to make these trips pay for themselves so we would appreciate it if you could let him know of your intentions. He is looking at venues for an evening meal and it's possible we will use The Fern Hotel at Carnaby where we had good service the last time we were in the area.



Bridlington Priory

A final word: The committee offers you all our best wishes for the Festive Season.

Clive McManus

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Tonight

Due to an unfortunate clash of events we have had to rearrange tonight's meeting. David Glover's talk on Bess of Hardwick will now be in March and tonight Andrew Stokes will talk on 'The First Day of the Battle of the Somme'. Andrew says his talk will be of a general nature. I've no doubt that this particular event will be discussed in detail in the near future and, so, we've arranged with Andrew that after the break I will give a short review of how the Battle of the Somme had a direct effect on the town. After this, you will be free to ask questions of Andrew and myself. We have a small exhibition but no slides.

Our Golden Jubilee

The last meeting on 8-December was a happy time as we celebrated the first 50 years of Morley Local History Society. After an initial welcome and drink, I reviewed the society's activities during this time. It was a pleasure, really, and reasonably easy as I delved into David Atkinson's archive to show how much Morley has changed in this time. I was also able to use photos from his collection, Robert Brook's and my own to show a number of the excursions we've made. Afterwards our Committee members, Peter and Christine Waugh arranged some very fine food and drink and we had a truly festive time. A memorable and lovely evening.



Celebration with the Committee and Jean Robinson

The Society Trip

Can I remind you about the Society excursion on Sunday, 5-June-2016? Robert would like those who are interested to give him their names as soon as possible so he can make proper plans. We will be going to the East Coast with visits to Sewerby Hall and Bridlington Priory.

The Priory is a Grade 1 listed building, steeped in history. It was founded ca 1120 by Walter de Gant and it was very influential in Yorkshire life until Henry VIII decided on the dissolution of all monasteries. Much of the building was destroyed and its Prior, William Wode, was executed for his part in the uprising against Henry.

The remnants were used for over 300 years before funding could be obtained for restoration and the present building was designed and constructed by Sir George Gilbert Scott in 1874.

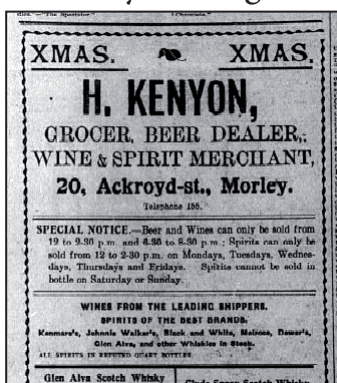
Licensing of Drink, Morley and the Great War

Recently, there has been some controversy over the so-called safe limits of alcohol. 100 years ago some people were fretting that the consumption of alcohol was affecting the conduct of the war and the production of munitions - they thought that too many were not working to full efficiency as a result of it. Besides the Government, the Temperance Movement had a prominent voice in this, both nationally and in Morley with headquarters in Fountain Street.



The Temperance Chapel in Fountain Street

At the outbreak of war, the Government introduced a whole raft of measures, including a limit to the hours in which drink could be bought or sold. No-one was talking about direct constraints on individual consumption but in April 1915, following a strong campaign by the Minister of Munitions, David Lloyd George, George V announced that he and his family would foreswear alcohol while the country was at war. There was no such support from Prime Minister Asquith who was known for his fondness of a glass! He remarked that Lloyd George had 'completely lost his head on drink'.



The restrictions in 1915

It was not until late January 1915 that the Morley Licensing Justices introduced specific licensing hours and, as elsewhere, this was not a popular measure with the majority.

The town had 32 pubs and beerhouses, 21 off-licence shops and 15 clubs in 1915 and people did not take kindly to these limits. Although there is no doubt that the Nonconformist chapels were very well attended we may note that the clubs themselves had 4251 members and for those who liked to drink at home there were numerous off-licence shops such as Kenyon's, shown across.

It was common practice for *The Morley Observer* to report cases of alleged drunkenness which were brought to court and the yearly statistics for the town were published each year in February. It is a surprise to me that as many as 25-30% of these were discharged but those convicted could be sent to jail if they were repeat offenders.

During the Great War, the statistics do tend to show that there was a decrease in the numbers brought to court but we note that club members had decreased by 1/3 at the end of 1916. The decline is more likely a result of more men joining the forces, I would think, but the magistrates claimed Morleians were showing more responsibility in wartime.

Some local authorities in Batley and Ossett began to complain that more women were drinking in pubs without the company of a man but I've not noted any instances of that in Morley. This probably does not mean very much as I believe the local magistrates were not particularly open when discussing this problem. They were, for instance, very proud that a good number of those convicted were not local residents. I also feel that, although a number of them were strict nonconformists, there was a reluctance on the part of the magistrates to fine clubs, in particular, for serving drink outside the allotted hours even though the police were keen to prosecute.

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Tonight

We welcome Keith Barber, who will give a slide show on Memorabilia he has collected for life in Britain in the 1940-70 period. Keith is well known in the Leeds area for his talks showing local people, events and activities in the 20th century.

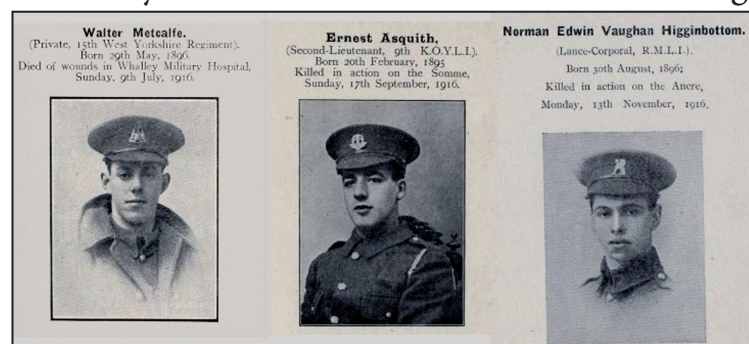
The Last meeting

We had to rearrange our schedule last month with the result that Andrew Stokes gave his talk about the Battle of the Somme then rather than in March.

Andrew gave us a general picture of the battle and, as arranged with him, after the break I talked briefly of how it affected the Morley men who took part in it.

His account was very detailed, showing how an attritional warfare developed on the Western front in Europe. By 1916, the French were suffering badly under this kind of attack at Verdun and wanted support from Britain to counteract it. This led to the so-called 'Big Push'. The preparations for this were poor. The Germans were well prepared for the initial barrage, due to poor British communications, and had dug themselves into deep trenches which were damaged only slightly as was the barbed wire used to protect them. Reconnaissance did not reveal this and when the troops advanced few of them reached the German lines. The slaughter on the first day, 1-July-1916, was terrible, with Andrew giving a withering assessment of the overall command and personality of Douglas Haig. Whole groups of men from the same neighbourhood in the Pals regiment were killed.

However, as both Andrew and I emphasised, the battle continued in spurts until 18-November and overall casualty figures for August to November were larger than those for July. Without recourse to full regimental data we find it impossible to give a complete account of the number of Morley men killed in this battle but our studies indicate it must be of the order of 70-80 of the 452 named on the Morley War Memorial. Very little ground was gained by the Allies in all this time. The battle may have helped them in the long term but this is certainly debatable because the costs were so high.



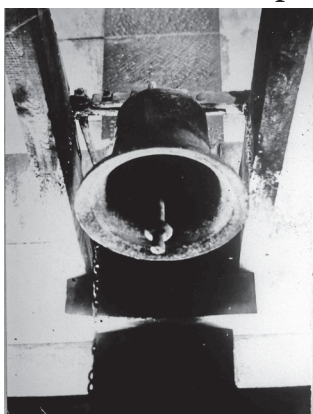
*Former pupils of the Morley Secondary School (now the Academy) who were killed during the Battle of the Somme.
Text and Photos have been taken from 'The Morleian', the School magazine of the time.*

The Society Trip

The plans for the trip are going ahead. To remind you: it is to Sewerby Hall and Bridlington Priory on Sunday 5-June-2016 and the cost will be around £24. Please advise Robert if you wish to go.

Shrove Tuesday and the Pancake Bell

Today is Shrove Tuesday, the day in the Christian Calendar before the period of Lent which begins tomorrow, Ash Wednesday, and leads up to Easter. Lent is a period of fasting or consideration of food intake for many Christians and so Shrove (derived from the O.E. *shrive* - to absolve) Tuesday is their last day to have a rich meal. In many countries, including our own, this often means having a traditional feast of pancakes.



*The Pancake Bell at
St Mary's-in-the Wood*

In Morley, the so-called Pancake Bell was set up in the Morley Old Chapel, probably in the mid 17th Century, although there is a story that such a bell originally came from Kirkstall Abbey at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries. However, according to George Wood, the bell shown in the photo bore the date 1689 which is thought to be the year of its recasting and inscribed with the words '*Soli deo Gloria*' - '*Glory to God Alone*'. - a phrase also used by such as J.S. Bach and G.F. Handel to signify that the work was produced for the sake of praising God.

It was the custom to ring this bell, possibly dating from the 1640s, every Shrove Tuesday at 11am and in the 18th and early 19th Centuries, the village enjoyed a half day holiday after it had finished ringing with pancakes and games the order of the day. I think that William Smith is a little dismissive in his description of this event because the bell ringing has continued to this day and I'm sure that pancakes are still eaten.

The bell was transferred to the bell tower of the new chapel when this replaced the Old Chapel in 1878. The photograph was taken on Shrove Tuesday, 4th March 1930, when the Mayor, Benjamin Peel Hepworth, attended the ceremony with the leather-coated Town Clerk, Fred Thackray, an out-of-towner Tom N. Bradley and John Taylor, stood next to Mr Thackray, who claimed that he had missed only one bell ringing in 60 years.



March-1930: Shrove Tuesday at St Mary's-in-the-Wood

Sadly, things changed after the chapel was severely damaged by fire in June 2010. There were rumours that the bell had been recovered but these proved to be unfounded. Although it may be buried in the rubble, no-one has found it and, now, the church members have improvised by using a hand bell.

The March Meeting

Due to the rearrangement of Andrew Stokes' lecture, this will be given by David Glover, the respected historian from Halifax who will be talking about Bess of Hardwick and the Cavendish legend.

Clive McManus

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Tonight

In a talk originally set for January, David Glover from Halifax visits us to give an illustrated view of Bess of Hardwick. David is well known in Halifax for his talks on the local scene but tonight his interest focuses on a national figure. Those of you who have been to Hardwick Hall or on some of our earlier trips will know what a fascinating woman she was, having an important and powerful position in the times of Elizabeth I when it was all too easy to literally lose one's head.

The Last meeting

Keith Barber, a local man living in Churwell, took us down Memory Lane with his views of British Society in the 1940s and 50s in a neatly developed slide show. It was his avowed intention to make us smile and I think he certainly achieved that. He also showed us how our lives have changed with greatly increased material prosperity but, at the same time, with far less social interaction and less propensity for risk. I may not have agreed with him in all his views on the latter but I did find his '*Then and Now*' shots were particularly apt and I include some which I've taken from him and others I've added myself. I hope you agree that it's a mixed bunch, not favouring one side at the expense of the other and that the talk itself was well worth while.

Inkwell Filling duty versus charging a laptop or mobile phone
Reading T.Roy Hill rather than consulting Facebook for local gossip
Taking old clothes to a Bring & Buy Sale rather than a Charity Shop
Enid Blyton rather than Harry Potter
George Formby rather than Jimmy Carr
Taking shoes to the cobbler's for repair rather than buying new trainers
Home cooking rather than relying on Takeaways
Going to Blackpool on holiday rather than the Costa del Sol
Izal rather than Andrex
School uniforms (Caps! Gymslips!) then and now (No topcoats?)
Whitsuntide holidays with new clothes rather than Sales at the White Rose Centre
Capstan Full Strength rather than Electronic cigarettes
Morley Town Hall then and now

The Society Trip

Another reminder that this is to Sowerby Hall and Bridlington Priory on Sunday, 5-June. Robert will appreciate it if those interested in going will let him know now.

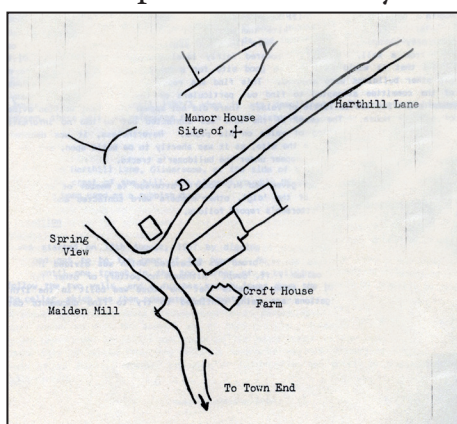
The Gildersome Manor House

You may remember that I told, at the Golden Jubilee meeting, of an archaeological 'dig' on this house in the early days of MLHS. Recently I got a query about it from an American gentleman, Charles Soderlund, whose Bilborough ancestors lived in the area in the 17th and 18th Centuries. Charles and I have discussed Gildersome matters for some years so I looked into it further.

I dug out the MLHS report and have studied it in some detail. We are not sure when the building was first built but photographs and other information indicate it was probably in the 18th Century. Lord Cardigan owned the land and the position is clearly marked on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map.



*The Gildersome Manor House on Harthill Lane
Probably around 1930*



*The location of the Manor House
on Harthill Lane.*

One associates Manor houses with people who had some authority on the local scene, such as the Scatcherds in Morley. This may well have been the case in Gildersome when the house was first built but a description of Lord Cardigan's property in 1803 describes it as a 'desirable small holding' with a valuable piece of market garden ground. Census information shows that the occupants in the 19th and early 20th Centuries were of relatively simple means and in 1911, it is probable that the occupant was a Robert Crossland, a gardener, with his wife, son and daughter, who worked in the local textile trade.

The report in the MLHS journal (Volume 1) states that the house was demolished in 1952-53 and the society took on the responsibility of excavating the site after Dr Steven, a local GP of rather powerful personality, found out its presence when examining an old map. The site was just a shambles but the owner of the land gave them permission to carry out the 'dig'. The work started on 13-August-1967 and, as the photo shows, they must have worked at it diligently. At that time, the textile industry was still important in this area and you can see the Maiden Mill in the background as well as the Zion Chapel to the left. I haven't found out how much time they spent here but the report shows that they were able to describe the layout of the rooms in fine detail, including a scaled drawing by Jim Lamb, the husband of Rene.



*August 1967
David Atkinson takes notes
during the 'dig'.*

AGM

At our next meeting, there will be the usual annual reports and then I'll talk about the Wilsons of Morley and Gildersome: Mill-owning families, civic figures, sporting heroes and local entertainers. I hope you will join us and tell others about it

Clive McManus

MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter

April 2016

Founded 1965

www.morleylhs.btck.co.uk



Tonight

As we older folks know, it's not 'two minutes' since we had our first meeting of 2015-2016 but already it's the AGM. This will have the usual format with reports from the principals on the committee and, as far as I know, there are no special issues to discuss. We will be having refreshment after this and then I will be giving a talk about the Wilson family of Morley and Gildersome. Their main interests were textile manufacture but they were also influential in aspects of Morley life for around 150 years and so I'll be introducing a lot of local history into the family history work I've done and have been helped with. The talk will be illustrated and should last about one hour.

The Last meeting

David Glover gave us an exhaustive account of the lives of Bess of Hardwick and her descendants. Those of us who have visited Hardwick Hall which Bess founded could relate easily to the contents of this talk but I would hope that others found his discussion of the political skills which she exercised during her long life to be as thorough and accurate as I did. He then went through Bess's descendants, not sparing in his analysis with details of real achievement and occasional scurrilous behaviour. This was David's first visit and his whimsical delivery and grasp of detail were well received.

Spring and Summer Activity

First let me mention **The Society Trip** which will take place on Sunday 5th June. Robert informs me that the bookings made already are satisfactory but that there are still places available. The coach leaves at 9am from Queensway and the cost is £24 maximum.

Behind the scenes, we are continuing to do a lot of research on the Great War. I hope you've noted that we have been helping the British Legion to organise **Commemorations** for those local lads who were buried at Bruntcliffe Cemetery as a result of their wartime service. The next of these will be on 23-May for Seaman Edgar Foster who died of injuries sustained when his ship HMS Russell was torpedoed.

Some of you may have seen Derek Hudson's article on **YourMorley.com** (the new on-line local newspaper set up by Steve White) on the events in Morley this summer to commemorate the first day of the Battle of the Somme (1 July). As we would expect from Derek, his article was accurate and there was some acknowledgment of the work we and MCA have done. However, you should be aware that this society and our friends at MCA will be playing a strong part in these activities. We have done some really thorough research on the way the carnage of the first few days of this battle - the first in which Kitchener's volunteer and conscripted army experienced the full horrors of all-out attritional warfare - affected our community.

Meetings for 2016-2017

Maurice has been busy with the phone and writing pad. Here is the complete list of talks he's arranged, in discussion with Betty and other members of the committee:

13 September 2016 Belgian Refugees in Huddersfield Illustrated
Dr Rebecca Gill

Rebecca is on the staff at Huddersfield University and she has been making a study of the Belgian Refugees during the Great War for a good number of years.

11 October 2016 If you go down in the Woods today Illustrated
Janet Niepokojczycka

Janet has visited us before and was well received. This is the story of ancient crafts associated with the woodlands of the country

8 November 2016 The History of Ingle's Leather Works
Jane Aldrick

Jane is the great-granddaughter of William Law Ingle who founded the leather works and she was locally born. William Law Ingle (1859-1937) was Mayor of Morley from 1911-13 but his greatest love was Churwell. He was made a Freeman of the Borough in 1936. Over the years Jane and I have discussed many local history matters so I can assure you that she is really knowledgeable. The talk will be illustrated.



13 December 2016 Life at Temple Newsam during the Great War
Helen Pratt

Temple Newsam was one of the many houses, up and down the country, which were used as convalescent hospitals for wounded soldiers during the Great War. Helen works on the site so she has had access to records coming from that time.

10 January 2017 Our House and its Contents Illustrated
Jackie Depelle

Jackie is known to us as a well respected family historian. In this talk she shows how her own home has helped her research the background of her own family.

14 February 2017 The History of the Post Office Illustrated
Canon Roger Dedman

Roger's talk is wide ranging but will bring particular emphasis on the times between use of stage coach to deliver mail down to the present days of 'instant' technology.

14 March 2017 Variety in War time
John Wallis

It's a long time since John last visited us but I think that some of you will remember that his talks are extremely entertaining and well researched.

11 April 2017 AGM and an illustrated talk about Morley

Nothing planned as yet. Please let me know if you have a particular interest.

Lets all of us have a really enjoyable Spring and Summer. We of the committee hope to see you again, during this time and when we start up again on 13th September.

Clive McManus