

MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Newsletter

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Tonight

Good evening and welcome to the first meeting of 2018. Our speaker is another new face, Geoffrey Forster who will give us an illustrated talk about the History of Waxwork - a depiction of some object made by a waxy substance. Geoffrey is the Administrator at Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel in Leeds and has been a professional librarian in past times.

Peter Waugh

It's with great sadness that I have to tell you that Peter Waugh has died as a result of complications during what was thought to be routine hospital treatment. Only last month, he and his wife Christine put on a really splendid drinks and food session as part of the Christmas meeting. In addition, he has been a valued member of our committee since 2012. In recent years, he and Christine have welcomed us into their house for the meetings and these have been happy times besides enabling us to organise the nitty-gritty of the society. I know that those of us close to him valued his friendship and his knowledge of historical matters. He will be sorely missed and I'm sure you will join with me in offering our condolences to Christine and their family.



*Peter and Christine Waugh
in December 2015*

The Last meeting

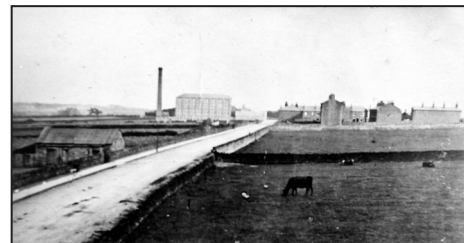
Eric Scaiffe, an old-style Yorkshireman, I would say, entertained us with an evening of Tyke talk after the usual Christmas Festivities so well organised by Peter and Christine. He gave us a grand mix of dialect words and their meanings along with stories which he felt characterised the county. It was a good humoured evening and I think that even those of our members who were unwise enough to admit to Lancastrian roots enjoyed it.

The Society Trip

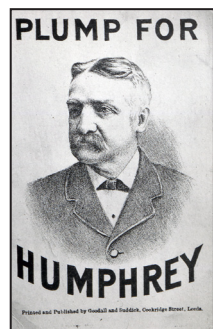
Be assured that Robert is working hard, with definite plans for this. He is trying to arrange a visit to the Heritage Museum at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, together with a visit to the Museum of Lincolnshire life in Lincoln itself. I hope this works out as it sounds like a lovely trip. The scheduled date is Sunday 3 June.

Tingley Mills and the Bradley Family

You may have noted that the Tingley Mills building which has been ill-used for many years is, at present, under development to create apartments. The site is within a proposed conservation area and I understand the plan is to create over sixty one- and two- bed apartments within the complex. While one likes to see such brownfield sites developed, I do wonder how the traffic situation in the area will be affected.



*Tingley Mills around 1890
Looking along Bridge Street*



Humphrey Bradley

We are told that the present Tingley Mills were erected in 1886 by Humphrey Bradley (1831-1892). However we know that Bradleys were pioneers in textile manufacture in Morley throughout the 19th Century. It has been an interesting exercise trying to piece their family histories together. It would appear that there were two strands of Bradley who made cloth in Morley. One of these was associated with Queen Street Wesleyan Chapel but the Bradleys who manufactured at Tingley attended St Mary's-in-the-Wood Congregational Chapel before 1800. We know of no link between them and it does look as though the religious affiliation was important to each strand.

We know that Humphrey, his brother Emanuel and their father William had shares in the profitable Gillroyd Mill created in the pre-Morley Tunnel era but they spread out on their own around 1856 at a time when the industry could expand due to improved transport. In September 1956, the company organised a centenary trip to London for the 300 people who were working at the mill so I assume they had their own mill by this time. Sadly I can say no more than this at present.. Certainly, the mill at Tingley was very successful up until the 1960s and it remained a family business. Family tradition has played its part. In particular, a review of the various generations shows that there has always been a Humphrey in the family since the Tingley Mills founder's day and, in fact there was a Major Humphrey Bradley on the board of the Mills company in 2008. The family tended to live near the mill in rather fine houses which still exist.

The Bradleys did contribute to social life in the town. Emanuel was one of the biggest supporters for the building of the new church of St Mary's-in-the-Wood in 1878. His brother Humphrey, became a councillor in the early days of the Borough and Humphrey's grandson, Humphrey Akeroyd, served on Morley Borough Council from 1934 to 1956, becoming Mayor in 1950-51. His wife Gladys played an active role in the running of the Morley Ladies Luncheon Club, entertaining such notables as Violet Bonham Carter, daughter of H.H. Asquith.



*Humphrey Akeroyd and Gladys
Bradley*



Denis Bradley in 1928

It was also the tradition for the family to have a descendant called Denis and I close by mentioning the most famous member in that respect. Denis (1907-1963) was a brilliant scrum-half who was captain of the Morley RUFC team for much of the time during its great success, bridging the late 1920s and 30s. His partnership with stand-off George Wilson is remembered by aficionados and the club has named its hospitality suite in memory of him. Denis is remembered for the bravery of his actions during the Second World War when he served as a captain in the Royal Tank Regiment.

Any additions to these memories of the Tingley Mills and the Bradleys will be gratefully received.