



North Craven Historical Research Group

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Newsletter December 2008

The Seasons Greetings to all, hope everyone is well. Just to keep you up to date with what we know has happened or is going to happen shortly.

Saturday 4th October Day School and Exhibition at Victoria Hall, Settle, on the Giggleswick Scar Project seemed to go very well (apart from the freezing conditions!). Comments from people were all favourable. There were 34 paying public (3 local octogenarians half price); 3 Guests (2 from Craven Museum, 1 from YD Millenium Trust); 10 members; We also gained 4 new members on the day. So we covered our costs for the day, but not all the printing for the exhibition boards. Many thanks to the speakers and those who helped on the day. An article on the day was published in the December issue of Settle and District Community News.

Saturday 27th September saw the second NCHRG bi-annual Conference for **invited** National Experts at Bainbridge NYDNP Centre. Called 'Environmental Changes in Pre-History: the Record from Northern England'. This was in cooperation with Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Heritage Dept. 40 people attended.

A cabinet is still in place in the Craven Museum displaying artefacts from the Caves etc. on Giggleswick Scar, courtesy of Thomas Lord, supported by Bradford University and our recent research.

Members Sheila Gordon and Pat Smith have finished transcribing the Settle Church Marriage Records, and Harold Foxcroft has completed the Baptisms. CDs of both and the original Church Deeds will be placed with the Settle Church Wardens, and also in the group's digital archives.

Rita Hudson has completed the first part of the Social History of Settle Church and this is now on sale at £7-50 for Church funds. A second part will be produced next year.

Phil, Rita and Mark are busy putting the finishing touches to the vast amount of data we generated from the Gig Scar GPS Walkover – soon it will be all mapped and computerised ready for consulting and hopefully publishing. But the research will carry on for some time to come. We have a final year student from Bradford University undertaking research on the scar for his main dissertation, looking at the cairn fields in particular. David Johnson is also hoping to get permission to undertake a dig on one of the large bank and ditches on the scar next year, so may be looking for volunteers to help with that. If the dig does go ahead, the group have finances set aside from the Project funds for soil samples to be dated.

David Johnson and others carried out a dig of a kiln structure remains at Kilnsey in September in conjunction with Upper Wharfedale Archaeology Group.

The local Wills Project, under Mike and Mary Slater, and Sheila Gordon, is carrying on transcribing Wills and Inventories to 1750.

'Experts' have been working on the ever growing NCHRG Archive/Database (currently some 200GB of local info) to make it more streamlined and easier to use. Further information has been put on the group's Web Page for public consumption, and links have been made to other useful sites. We may have to replace the Group's computer in the near future due to technical problems, but rest assured no data will be lost as it is all safely backed up several times.

The Group are thinking of putting in a bid for funding from Grassroots through the YD Millenium Trust. We shall be bidding for 3 years running costs to cover Group Insurance of Equipment and Members etc. Does any other member have anything they would like us to bid for that would benefit members and the community as a whole? There is a maximum bid of £5,000 over 3 years. Please reply with ideas asp.

The Group's GPS has been put to very good use recently by Mark Simpson and others who have digitally recorded and mapped many of the pre-historic and abandoned medieval sites in Upper Ribblesdale. The Group's Digital Projector and Computer continues to be well used by community groups. The Recording Machine is at present being used by Clapham History Group to record memories of older Clapham residents.

We are hoping to commence the Upper Ribble Valley Wetlands Survey very soon, as we now have written permissions from most of the landowners and tenants involved at present. The survey is on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Department in conjunction with the RSPB Long Preston Deeps Farming Project. Their long term aim is to *improve the wildlife value of the floodplain of the River Ribble at Long Preston...through managing and restoring floodplain wet grassland to benefit a wide range of wetland birds and other wildlife*. Much of the floodplain is an SSSI and important for breeding wadersit is also important for wintering and migrating birds as well as rare plants. Also involved is English Nature, the Environment Agency, DEFRA's Rural Development Services and local landowners. The NYCC Heritage Dept. wants to ensure that no archaeological/historical sites will be damaged by this new management, hence our involvement. If you are interested in field walking with Phil & Rita Hudson and other group members please let us know what times are best for you and we will try and arrange times to suit. You do not have to be an expert in anything but willing and keen to learn how to spot landscape features. We will only be able to walk the higher ground during winter, spot record anything we think is of interest with the GPS, photograph all features and measure roughly where necessary. We will be passing information back to NYCC Heritage Department if we come across anything we think needs further study. We shall also be helping to update their Sites and Monuments record with any new finds we come across.

Phil Hudson gave an illustrated talk to Barnoldswick History Group at the end of October, on Settle Vernacular Architecture. David Johnson and Tom Lord took part in a Limestone Landscape Day at Lancaster University one Saturday in November. David has also just had a book on Ingleborough published and talked at Austwick Field Society in November. Tom Lord gave an illustrated talk to the Ilkley Olicana Group in November on the Giggleswick Scar Project.

Will members please let us have any information on anything published and what you are doing in the way of research/lectures so that we can keep everyone informed. No doubt other people are doing their own thing (we hope!) but neglect to let us know about it! We do like to be kept up to date with things if possible so that everyone knows what is happening within the group and members.

We now have a list of present members' addresses, telephone numbers, e-mails and interests, but as the information is private we have not yet sent it out. We do normally give out this information amongst members with the proviso that you do not pass on to third persons without express prior permission. However, we understand that some people may not want their personal details sent out in this manner so we are giving you the opportunity to withdraw whatever information you wish to keep private. Please reply asp if you want anything withdrawn from the list, which will be sent out with the next newsletter. At present we have 35 paid up members and approximately 5 erstwhile non-paid up members. Please pay up asp if one of them is you as you are not insured for fieldwalking or using the equipment unless you are on the official members' list!

We have member's application forms in the Office if you know of someone else who would like to become involved in the group.

Please keep in touch either by calling in to Procter House or by e.mail.

Best wishes to all for the coming season,

Rita and Philip Hudson.

**NCHRG Committee Members: Chairman John Fox; Treasurer David Johnson; Secretary Rita Hudson;
Archivist & Project Coordinator Phil Hudson., Outreach & Education Prof. Kit Dodson.**



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MEMBERSHIP FORM – September 2008

I/We wish to Register as a member(s) of the NCHRG and enclose £1 registration fee per person.

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

E.MAIL

INTERESTS:

Please return soon as possible to Procter House

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Notes for Local History/Archaeology Researchers:

The main aim of the group is to produce a digital archive on computer of any archaeological/historical information concerning the general area of North Craven, to enable and help future researchers or interested individuals to come into the 'Drop-In Centre' and look up information locally, rather than have to travel some distance to Record offices in Northallerton, Leeds and Wakefield.

The main focus of information gathering has been on the ancient Parish of Giggleswick, which includes Settle, Langeliffe, Stainforth and Rathmell as well as Giggleswick Township, but we are collecting information for Parishes as far as the Lancashire border on the west, round through Ribbleshead, Malham, Hellifield, Gisburn etc.

The main group Projects underway are as follows with Project Leader named:-

A: Archive Management – Mark Simpson, Kit Dodson, Phil Hudson.

B: Transcription and recording of Deeds– Phil Hudson

C: Computerisation of Tithe Maps – Phil Hudson

D: Vernacular Architecture – Phil Hudson

E: Landscape Archaeology to update the Sites & Monuments Records in each township – Phil Hudson

F: Early Farmsteads (Lodges and Vaccaries) – Phil Hudson

G: Giggleswick Scar Project – Phil Hudson/Tom Lord

H. Transcribing Wills – Mike Slater

I: Long Preston Deeps Wetlands Project – Phil Hudson, Mark Simpson

Personal Projects being undertaken by group members:

I: Township Boundaries, ancient roads and hollow-ways and assoc. features such as mile stones, boundary stones, under passes, cripple holes, gate stoops and troughs, maps, wills. – Sheila Gordon/Rita Hudson

J: GPS Mapping of Archaeological Sites/mining – Mark Simpson

K: Rathmell – Muriel Laver (Census/old farms), Rosemary Rees

L: Limestone Cairn Fields – Luke Yates

M: Langeliffe History and early Craven Wills/documents – Mike/Mary Slater + others

N: Stainforth/Lime quarries and Kilns – David Johnson + others

O: Local Family History – Helen Sargeant (also Horton), Reg Postlethwaite (also Wills), Pat Smith, Ken Warburton (Clapham Parish), Sheils & Ian Fleming (social/economic, landscape/archaeology)

P: Public Health CDC, Local Water Works, and Settle Church Baptisms, Harold Foxcroft

Q: Quarries (non-lime) and Mining – Brian Skipsey/Phil Hudson/Mark Simpson

R. Clapham History Project - Ken Pearce + others

S: Malham area – Mike Spence & Dave Tippey

T: Lawkland Parish – Phil & Rita Hudson, Sheila Gordon & others

U: Hellifield Archaeology – Bob Moore.

V: Dry Stone Walls – Tom Lord (also caves and bones).

W: Water Mill Sites – Phil Hudson

X: Quakers – Jean Asher (also Stainforth), Jill Sykes (also Austwick)

Y: Recusancy, church and religion, tombs, datestones – Jan Rhodes

Z: Genealogy - Derick Halliday, Rosemary Rees

A1. Tudor/Stuart Family/Community History in Craven - Roy Price.

B1 Long Preston History – Rita & Phil Hudson

C1 Settle Church Marriage Registers – Pat Smith and Sheila Gordon

D1 Hellifield History – Ken Leake

E1 Landscape Archaeology/Pre-History – Roger Martlew and others

F1 Vernacular Architecture – Sonia Wilkinson, June & Anthony Gilby, Jill Sykes, Rosemary Rees, Rita & Phil Hudson, Kit Dodson (Burton)

G1 General Archaeology and Place Names – Yvonne Luke

H1 Cave Archaeology/Lithics – John & Wendy Thorp

If you are interested in joining the group to undertake your own research or to join in one of the Projects, please speak to Project Coordinator – Phil Hudson, address & telephone number as above.

NCHRG Committee Members: Chairman John Fox; Treasurer David Johnson; Secretary Rita Hudson;
Project Coordinator Phil Hudson; Outreach & Education Prof. Kit Dodson.