

North Craven Historical Research Group

Reg. Office. Procter House, Kirkgate, Settle, North Yorks. BD24 9DZ

Tel. 01729 825773

Web Page: www.northcravenhistoricalresearch

E.Mail: HUDSONHISTORY@TOTALISE.CO.UK

NCHRG Committee Members: Chairman John Fox; Treasurer David Johnson; Secretary Rita Hudson; Archivist & Project Coordinator Phil Hudson., Outreach Prof. Kit Dodson, I.T./GPS Mark Simpson

Notes of Group Meeting held Thursday 9th December 2010 in the Friends' Meeting House, Kirkgate, Settle at 2.00pm.

1. Secretary Rita Hudson acted as Chairman and welcomed those present: Phil Hudson, Mary Slater, Mike Slater, Kit Dodson, Mark Simpson, Sheila Gordon, Jean Usher, Alison Armstrong, Harold Foxcroft.
2. Apologies were received from John Fox, David Johnson, Sonia Wilkinson, Helen Sargeant, Henry Barker, John Suddaby & partner, Edwin Taylor, Mike Howarth, Rosemary Rees, Kevin Woods, Brian Skipsea.
3. A letter was read out from Chairman John Fox, giving excuses for absence and saying he now wished to stand down as Chairman. The secretary said she would write on behalf of the group thanking John for all his past help. The election of a new Chairman was held in abeyance.
4. RH gave a short input on the groups' accounts. Since the end of 2009 we had received £1,500 being the year 3 tranche from the Grassroots funding and £48 in subscriptions and donations. Further subscriptions were expected. Outgoings had been high this year with computer repairs and broadband expenses, an A3 scanner had been purchased and an update of Acrobat software, insurance, research expenses and Local History Day at Skipton. The group computer would have to be written off and a new one purchased. Total in current account is £331-17 and in the Savings account £4,083-55. There is not likely to be any large scale funding in the near future, so it was suggested that perhaps some of the savings account should be put into 1 year bond to gain more interest. This would be looked into after computer expenses had been dealt with.
5. RH reported that six new members had joined since the last meeting in March. Two were local the others from further afield, including one from Australia. These were mainly family historians looking for their Settle and district ancestors. All information collected added to the overall picture and records for the database. David Johnson had reported that he had been instrumental in writing new public information signs which were to be erected in the Wetlands area along the Ribble Way. These should have the NCHRG logo on. He also reported that he was working on Rathmell, looking at a chronology of enclosures. Mike Howarth from Ingleton reported that he was focussing on the missing Ingleton Cemetery Burial Records for 1882 – 1936. Alison Armstrong had visited Rathmell twice during the summer; once to walk around the village showing members of Rathmell History Group how to date vernacular architecture and what to look for. The second time to show them how to survey a house in more detail inside. Philip Hudson had also visited the group in

November to give them a slide show on what work had already been done in the township, so what information was available for them to work with in future. Mike Slater has been working on the computer database making it more research friendly and easier to access. Although the actual computer is not now working, all the data is safely on an external back-up drive. He has also been looking into the feasibility of making the database accessible when the office is closed, and he reported his findings to the meeting. It would consist of a black box attached to a computer containing the database, which people could access via the NCHRG Website. It would only contain material that was not subject to copywrite. Further information may be made available to paid-up members of NCHRG for research purposes, if a suitable pass word system could be put in place. Mike will look into this further and report back to the Committee, who will then make a joint decision. He thought the ultimate goal of the group should be an open access local history room, run by volunteers, such as at Sedbergh. (Some of us thought that was what we had at Procter House for the last eight years!).

There was a short break for tea and biscuits and chat.

6. Sheila Gordon gave a short resume on an interesting divorce case from late 16th century concerning Robert Bindloss of Borwick Hall and Alice his wife, who were married when only 13 and 15 years old. Not only was Alice unfaithful but also committed bigamy with William Carr at Gisburn. Much of these early documents are in Latin, and are being worked on by John Harrop of Austwick.

7. Phil Hudson then gave an illustrated talk on local vernacular buildings (carried over from the last meeting). There are a number of interesting local buildings that need a proper survey carrying out before they are altered beyond recognition, or fall into disrepair.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

www.hudson-history.co.uk

Phil Hudson, M.Phil.

Procter House, Kirkgate.

Settle, N.Yorks. BD24 9DZ

Editor - Yorkshire History Quarterly,

Lancashire History Quarterly, Industrial Heritage Journal.

Archivist and Project co-ordinator - North Craven Historical Research Group.

Tel 01729 825773

Listed buildings Correspondent for the CBA for most of N.Yorks

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