

## HLHS Members Newsletter

September 2021

[huddersfieldhistory.org.uk](http://huddersfieldhistory.org.uk)

[email@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk](mailto:email@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk)



We would like to hear from you! Please send any news, details of events and books, requests for information and comments that you think may be of interest to other Huddersfield Local History Society members to [publications@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk](mailto:publications@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk)



*photograph taken during the construction of Brownhill Reservoir above Holmbridge,  
courtesy of Ian Semple*

Welcome to our September 2021 newsletter and the Society's 2021/22 season. In this month's edition, you'll find details of upcoming events and Society news and plans. We hope you enjoy it. The next newsletter will appear towards the end of October.

*David Griffiths and Dave Pattern*

## HLHS Committee

### Chair:

Cyril Pearce

### Vice-Chair:

*vacant*

### Secretary:

Dave Pattern

### Treasurer:

Steve Challenger

### Membership

#### Secretary:

Val Davies

### Publications

#### Secretary:

David Griffiths

### Publicity:

Chris Verguson

### Journal Editor:

Robert Piggott

### Web Site:

Dave Pattern

### Other

#### Committee

#### Members:

Beverley Norris

Janette Martin

Maureen Mitchell

*one vacancy*

*With the exception  
of our own web site,  
Huddersfield Local  
History Society is  
not responsible for  
the content of any  
web sites linked to  
in this newsletter.*

## Brian Haigh

Many members will have known Brian Haigh, our Vice-Chair, who died on 19 August after a short final illness, and whose funeral was held on 10 September. He leaves a huge gap in the Society and the wider local history scene, and we hope to retrieve several pieces of work he had in progress in his last weeks. His obituary [can be found here](#). Donations to The Kirkwood ([thekirkwood.org.uk](http://thekirkwood.org.uk)) were invited in Brian's memory.

In our 2022 *Journal* we are planning to include a tribute under the title 'Memories of Brian'. We would like it to comprise memories from those who knew him. A brief note or something more extensive, it doesn't matter; we will try to give appropriate weight to them all. If you have a memory or memories you would like to share please send them to [chairman@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk](mailto:chairman@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk)

## Our autumn talks

These continue as follows:

### 27 September 2021

Beverley Norris, *Servants of Edgerton: Discovering the women who served the Huddersfield elite*

### 25 October 2021

[NB change of programme]

Rob Vincent, *The history of the Colne Valley landscape* (Rob will be introducing his new book for the Society – see below)

### 29 November 2021

Lewis Allen, *'Fired with Love Unfeigned' - Discovering the Life and Labours of the Reverend Henry Venn, Vicar of St Peter's Parish Church, Huddersfield 1759-1771.*

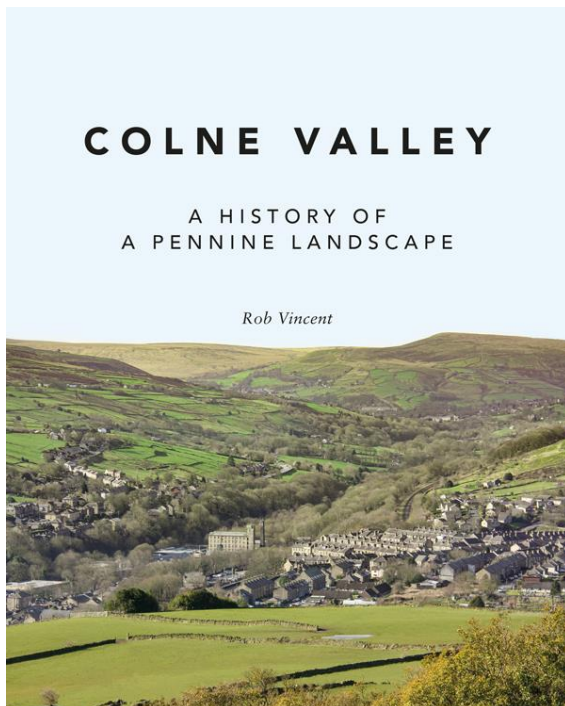
As we've got used to now, links to the talks, when the time comes, will be on [our website](#) and in future newsletters.

## Study Day reminder

Details of our annual study day on Saturday 27 November, **Huddersfield at Play: a fresh look at the history of leisure in the Huddersfield district**, are in the letter posted to all members. As an alternative to returning the booking form enclosed with it, you can also [book on-line on our website](#).

## The Society's new book

October will see publication of a new Society book, *Colne Valley: A history of a Pennine landscape*, by our member Rob Vincent.



The book is both a tribute to the visual strengths of the Valley's landscape and a narrative of its development. It is inspired by the author's experience of living in a house whose built form reflects the nature of the Valley's centuries-long dual economy of domestic cloth making and small-scale farming, and whose stones were quarried from the hillside where it stands. From an affection for that house grew a wider understanding, and a deeper appreciation, of the landscape as a whole. The book shares both the enthusiasm and the learning that grew during that journey.

Rob came to the Colne Valley in 1987 when he took up a role with Kirklees Council. Over the next thirty years he and his wife, Heather, raised their family at Harts Hole, just under Wholestone Moor. They discovered, like many others, that the more they got to know the Valley, the greater the rewards it offered.

The book will retail at £11.95, and will make a splendid Christmas present for local friends and neighbours. It will be available post-free to members via the website from mid-October – details in the next newsletter – and on sale at the study day in November.



## New home for WYAS

West Yorkshire Archive Service (Kirklees) have now opened their new temporary premises on the Piazza in Huddersfield (Unit 1, formerly Dorothy Perkins, on the corner between the Library and the Town Hall). Due to staffing constraints, for now they are only open for research visits on Mondays, 9.30am - 12pm and 1 pm – 4 pm. All visitors are required to book visits and order documents at least one week in advance.



There is, however, a public exhibition area currently housing three exhibitions continuing from Heritage Open Days, open on Mondays and Tuesdays (9.30am - 12pm and 1 pm – 4 pm):

- ‘The Town That Bought Itself’, exploring the history of the Ramsden family and the sale of their Huddersfield estate to the Council in 1920.
- ‘Treasures from the archives’, showcasing some of Kirklees’ most remarkable people and archives
- ‘Memories of our Square’, with a collection point for local people’s memories of St. George’s Square. This is the Society’s project as part of the Huddersfield High St Heritage Action Zone – see [oursquare.org](http://oursquare.org) for details.

## A new way to explore the town’s heritage



Discover Huddersfield has launched a new ‘web app’, **Huddersfield On Foot**, based on the printed Discover Huddersfield trails. It works by using your phone’s GPS to see where you are, with a map to follow points of interest and information about local landmarks. Access to the trails is free and available to all and there are 12 trails available to follow, covering themes such as Historic Buildings and Transport, cultural heritage including the Caribbean and Music Trails and local centres such as Birkby and Lindley.

The app can be opened by going to [huddersfield.onfoot.guide](http://huddersfield.onfoot.guide) or visit [www.discoverhuddersfield.uk](http://www.discoverhuddersfield.uk) for further details about Discover Huddersfield.

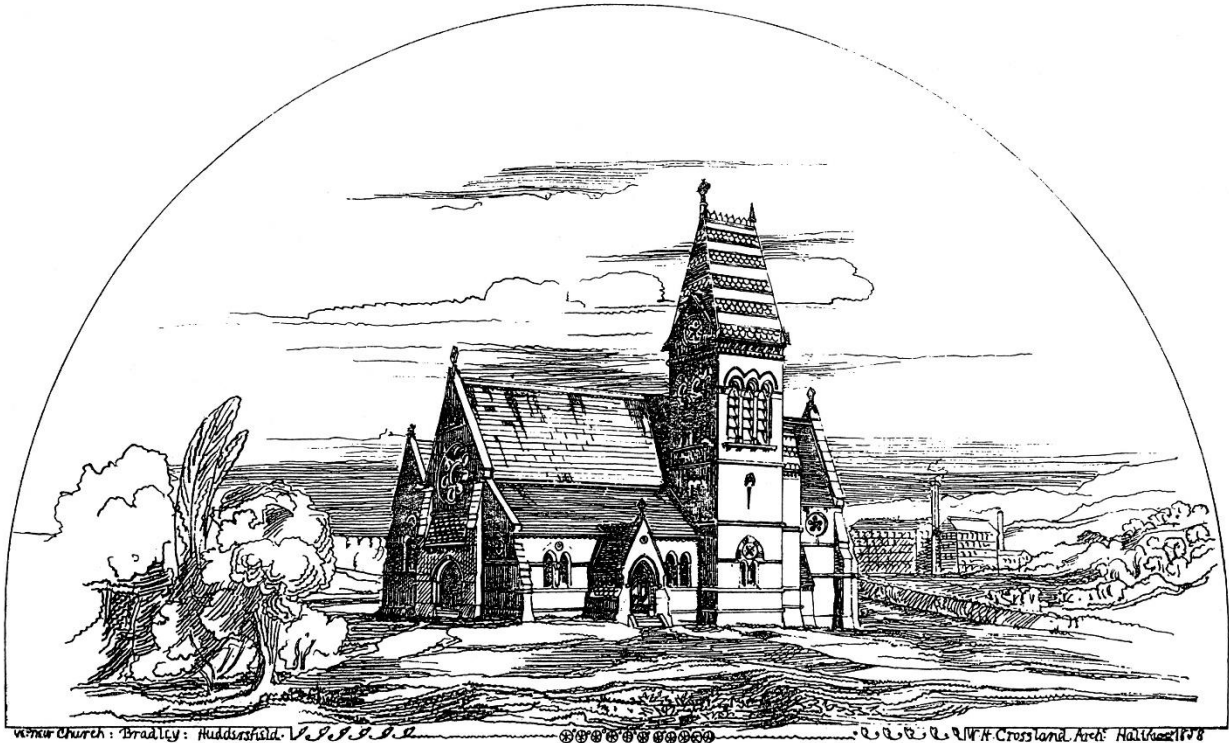
## Commemorating the Booth factory fire

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Booth factory fire in Huddersfield town centre, which Richard Heath wrote about in our latest [Journal](#), will be commemorated at the Memorial in Edgerton Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Edgerton on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at 12.00. The event will be attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Nigel Patrick and Mayoress Mrs Judith Patrick, and the Mayor will lay a wreath at Midday.

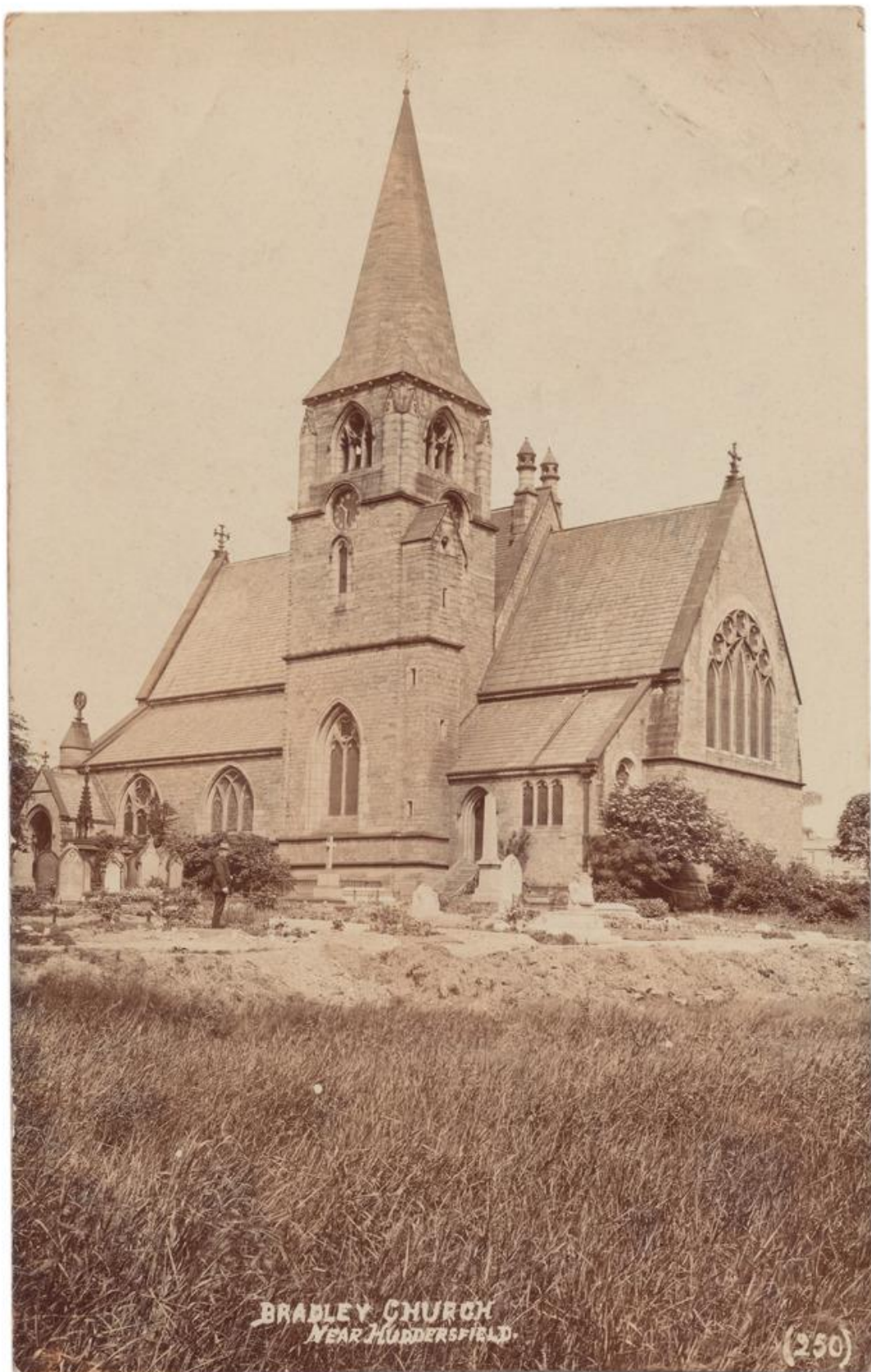
## W H Crossland and more

Our joint meeting with Huddersfield Civic Society for Heritage Open Days, where Sheila Binns, his biographer, celebrated the work of Huddersfield architect W H Crossland, was enjoyed by about 70 people, and copies of her book were sold out on the night. It can be obtained online at [www.lutterworth.com](http://www.lutterworth.com), at a 15% discount (ie £25.50) using code CROSSLAND21

Sheila will be giving an on-line talk for the Victorian Society, also with a West Yorkshire focus, on Tuesday 26 October at 7.0 pm, **Decoding architectural decoration in Akroyden and Saltaire**. Booking details are [available here](#) and the charge is £5.



*an early design for St. Thomas's Church, Bradley, by W H Crossland*



BRADLEY CHURCH  
NEAR HUDDERSFIELD.

(250)

*St. Thomas's Church, Bradley*