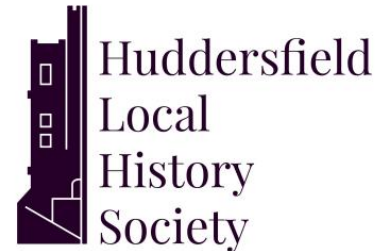


HLHS Members Newsletter

August 2022

huddersfieldhistory.org.uk

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



Council housing at Town Crescent, c1931. The children are Derek and Doreen Whitwam; their parents were the first tenants of no.25. Thanks to Derek for the picture.

Welcome to our special summer newsletter - we hope you enjoy it. The next newsletter will appear in late September, before our opening meeting of the new season.

David Griffiths and Dave Pattern

HLHS Committee

Chair:

Cyril Pearce

Vice-Chair:

vacant

Secretary:

Dave Pattern

Treasurer:

Steve Challenger

Membership

Secretary:

Val Davies

Minutes

Secretary:

Richard Hobson

Programme

Secretary:

Beverley Norris

Publications

Secretary:

David Griffiths

Publicity:

Chris Verguson

Journal Editor:

Robert Piggott

Web Site:

Dave Pattern

Other

Committee

Members:

Janette Martin

Maureen Mitchell

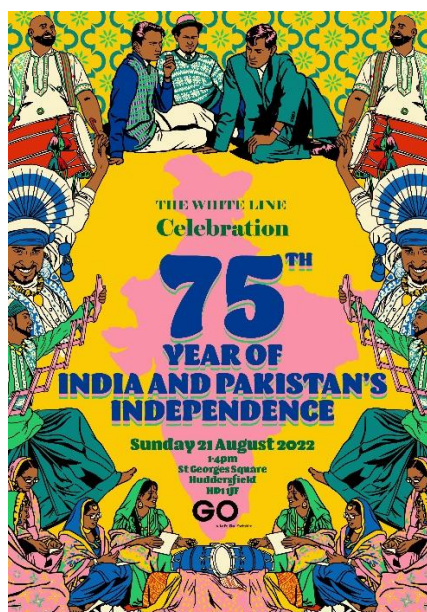
*With the exception of
our own web site,
Huddersfield Local
History Society is
not responsible for the
content of any web sites
linked to
in this newsletter.*

Heritage Action Zone events Sunday 21 August

This Sunday will see two very different anniversaries marked by events in St George's Square.



Inside the Station, on Platform 1, from 12 noon to 3 pm the focus will be on the 175th anniversary of the first passenger service into Huddersfield. A new artwork commissioned by the Huddersfield High St Heritage Action Zone and Trans Pennine Express will be unveiled at noon; there will be archive films and displays in the first class lounge on Platform 1; and there will be stalls from Friends of Huddersfield Station, our own Society – promoting the Our Square project – and other community groups.



Outside in the Square, meanwhile, from 1 pm to 4 pm, The White Line, a programme combining music, film and drama, will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the independence of India and Pakistan. [Full details can be found online.](#)

The two events contribute, in very different ways, to this year's 'Arrivals' theme of the HAZ cultural programme.

Heritage Open Days – 9-18 September

The Society continues to play a key part, with our partners, in co-ordinating the annual Heritage Open Days programme across Kirklees. This year's programme offers a record 77 events, half of them new this year. The full programme can be found [in the brochure](#), including details of how to book for those events where numbers are limited.

No booking is needed for our own joint event with Huddersfield Civic Society, **The George Hotel: Understand... Interpret... Enhance!**, a presentation by Helen Walker, Head of Heritage, Bowman Riley Architects and conservation architect for the renovation of the George. This will take place at the Yorkshire Children's Centre (Brian Jackson House) at 7.30 pm (refreshments from 7.0) on **Tuesday 13th September**.

Events within and beyond Kirklees can be searched on the national website, www.heritageopendays.org.uk



A vibrant pink poster for 'Heritage Open Days in Kirklees'. The top right corner features a blue diagonal banner with the word 'FREE' in white. Below this, the title 'Heritage Open Days in Kirklees' is written in white, with a small 'H' logo and the text 'heritage open days' underneath. The main text reads '77 FREE EVENTS in Kirklees, 9-18 September 2022'. The central part of the poster is a collage of images: a modern building, a historic stone building, a portrait of a man, a woman and child, a large industrial structure, a colorful map, and a large stone building. At the bottom, there are logos for Kirklees Council, Huddersfield Local History Society, Open Village Civic Society, and HI! CULTURE Historic England.

Our autumn programme (and your subs!)

Our Monday evening talks for the new season get under way on Monday 26 September at 7.30 pm at the Bronte Lecture Theatres, University of Huddersfield. Starting with **A New Life in Huddersfield** – a film presentation by Mandeep Samra, also the organiser of The White Line – they are all detailed in the 2022/23 *Journal*, on your 2022/23 membership card, and [on our website](#).

You'll receive the card, and a campus map, when you pay your subs, which are now due. Do please check whether you have a Standing Order in place already. If not, you can set one up, send a cheque, or pay securely online by PayPal (including card payments). All these methods are set out on the [Membership page of the website](#).

Our History Day – Saturday 5 November

Renamed from ‘study day’, our annual full day of talks returns for the first time for three years. This year the theme is **Huddersfield at play: a new look at the history of leisure in the Huddersfield district**, with four talks:

- Dave Russell: Why leisure matters: the experience of Huddersfield and district, c1850 to c1960
- Duncan Stone: Cricket and culture in the north and south of England: authenticity or ideology?
- Tony Collins: At the George: the rise of labour and rugby’s great rebellion
- Hardeep Singh Sahota: Bhangra: mystics, music & migration.

Full details and a booking form will follow in September, by email or post.

Briarcourt – a House with a Heart



EDGAR WOOD-MANCHESTER
Haus in Briar Court-Huddersfield

Many members will know of Briarcourt, the grade II listed house in Lindley – either from past Heritage Open Days tours or from working there during its decades as a Council social services facility. It was designed by Edgar Wood, the celebrated architect of Lindley Clock Tower, Banney Royd and other local buildings for a member of the Sykes family, leading Lindley industrialists, and is now back in private ownership.

The Edgar Wood Heritage Group (Yorkshire) has produced a new book, *Briarcourt – a House with a Heart*, exploring both the architecture and the social history of the house, which was successively a residential home for children and older people and a day centre for young people while in Council ownership, after 50 years as a family home.

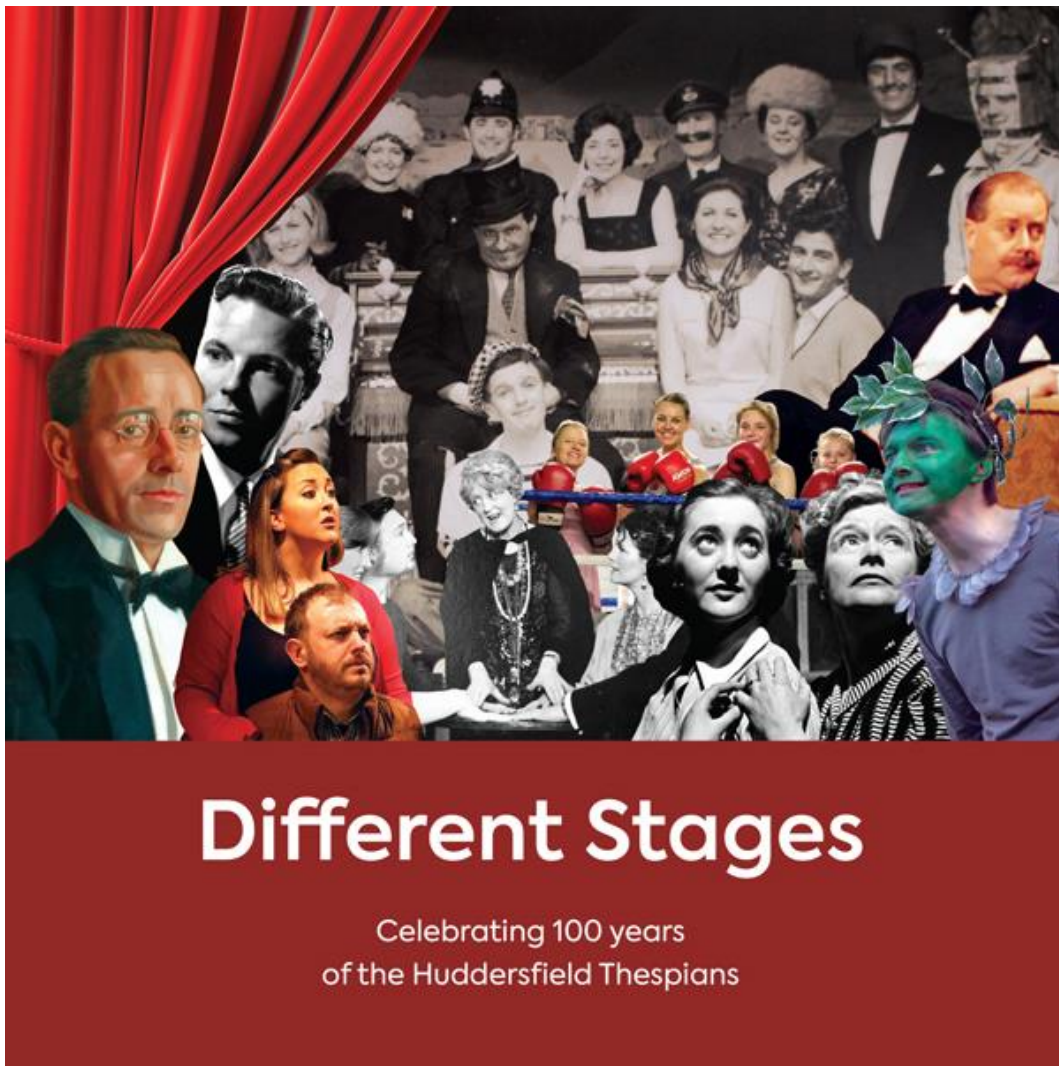
A principal author of the book was the late Brian Haigh, the Society’s vice-chair. The text is complemented by a wide range of contemporary and historic illustrations. The Society is publishing the book on the Edgar Wood Group’s behalf, but with no commitment of Society funds. It will retail at £10 and will be available in bookshops and through the Society’s website, from about 9 September.

Different Stages: Celebrating 100 Years of the Huddersfield Thespians, 1920-2020

Another new book, again to be launched in September, tells the story of the 'earliest experimental amateur theatre group in Yorkshire', starting with their humble beginnings in the manager's office of Huddersfield's Theatre Royal, way back in 1920. Since then they estimate they have produced over 600 shows – in halls, theatre, parks and even on tour in New York - and have performed at least one play every year.

Different Stages has drawn on material from the Thespians' vast archive, now in the care of the West Yorkshire Archive Service, as well as interviews with past and present Thespians and includes a wealth of photographs. It has been written and researched by HLHS Publicity Officer, Christine Verguson and compiled by her, together with Thespian President Christine Smith.

Priced at £7.99, the book will be available at a launch event on Wednesday 14 September and also via <https://huddersfieldthespians.co.uk> or by emailing secretary@huddersfieldthespians.co.uk



170 Years Ago in Sultry Huddersfield

Huddersfield Chronicle 10 July 1852:

THE WEATHER.—The weather during the last week has been fine but excessively sultry. On Monday evening there was a sharp fall of rain, which continued for about two hours, and was accompanied with thunder and lightning. The following return of the temperature during the week has been furnished us by Mr. J. B. Lombardini, Market-place :—

	In the Sun.	In the Shade.
Monday	105 degrees.....	82 degrees.
Tuesday	106 ditto.	82 ditto.
Wednesday	109 ditto.	81 ditto.
Thursday	107 ditto.	81 ditto.
Friday.....	106 ditto.	80 ditto.

Mr. Lombardini informs us that the hottest day during the summer of 1851 was on the 10th of June, when the thermometer stood at 102 degrees in the sun, and 73 in the shade. From this return it will be seen that the temperature during the past week has been considerably higher than at any period during the previous year.

John Baptiste Lombardini was born in Switzerland circa 1785 and is known to have settled in Huddersfield by the early 1820s where, along with Bernardo Camillo Lombardini, he was recorded as an optician, carver & gilder, and looking-glass manufacturer with a shop in the Market Place.

By the summer of 1852, his weekly weather reports were being published in the *Chronicle* and, in February 1855, he relocated his shop to the newly-built Lion Arcade.

J. B. LOMBARDINI, Carver, Gilder, &c.,
&c., from the Market-place, **REMOVED** to inside
of the Lion Arcade, Huddersfield.

Sadly, however, he died around a year later leaving his widow Mary an insolvent debtor.