

HLHS Members Newsletter

October 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



The "Flood Oak" at Digley which survived being washed away by the 1852 Holmfirth Flood.

Welcome to our October newsletter, with details of several Society events in the coming weeks. The next newsletter will appear in late November.

David Griffiths and Dave Pattern

HLHS Committee

Chair:

Cyril Pearce

Vice-Chair:

vacant

Secretary:

Dave Pattern

Treasurer:

Steve Challenger

Membership

Secretary:

Val Davies

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Secretary:

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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.*

Our next talk – the Holmfirth Flood

At our next meeting, on **Monday 31 October**, John Rumsby will speak on **Remains of the Flood: The bursting of the Bilberry Dam 1852**. In the Holme Valley the events of the 5th of February 1852 are well known, when the dam holding back the Bilberry reservoir collapsed, sending a torrent of water down the valley and on to Huddersfield. Approximately 81 people lost their lives. This talk will revisit some of the locations, buildings and memorials that still remain to bear witness to that awful event. The meeting is at **7.30 pm** in the Bronte Lecture Theatre, University of Huddersfield ([see campus map](#)).

Before the talk will be the Society's AGM, in fact the first for three years because of Covid. As usual the necessary business will be conducted as briskly as possible. It is still not too late to volunteer to join the Committee – if interested please contact Cyril Pearce, chairman@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk

History Day – ‘Huddersfield at Play’, Saturday 5 November

Members will have received full details of this day of talks, again our first for three years. The talks, to remind you, are:

- 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*

We will also be announcing the winners of the photography competition which has formed part of the [Our Square project](#) and offering a wide range of new and second-hand books for sale, with an excellent lunch available for those who choose it.

The Day runs from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm at the Yorkshire Children's Centre, Brian Jackson House, New North Parade. The fee for the day is £7, plus £11 for lunch. Bookings can be [made online](#) or, at the latest, at the 31 October evening meeting.

A Reminder about Subscriptions

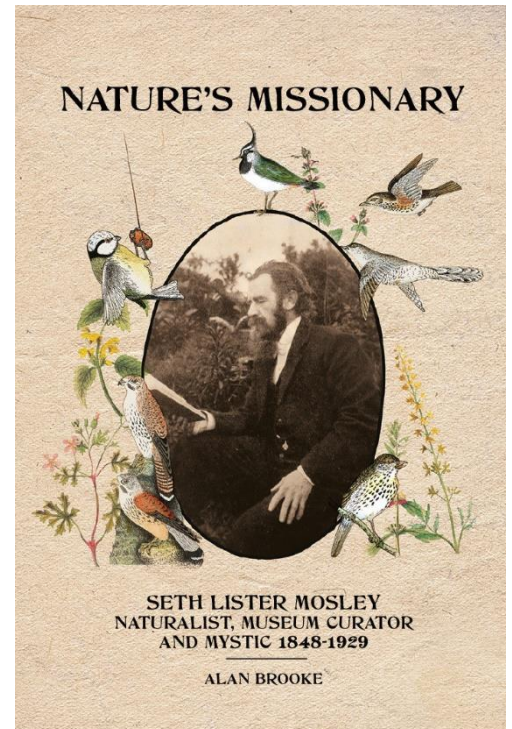
Once again, we'd like to thank all of our members who have already renewed their subs for 2022/23. If this has so far slipped your attention, you can do so by cheque, standing order or PayPal, and all the details can be found at:

huddersfieldhistory.org.uk/membership/

Our new book – Nature's Missionary

Many thanks to members who have already ordered Alan Brooke's new biography of Seth Lister Mosley, the first Curator of the Tolson Memorial Museum, whose fascinating life and pioneering career we are celebrating in the Museum's centenary year. Orders can still be [placed via the website](#), or using the form you will have received in the recent members' mailing. The book will be available to collect if already ordered, or to buy, at the History Day.

There will be an official launch on **Saturday 12 November**. This will be **at the Tolson at 12 noon**, to which members are invited, with short speeches by Alan and others and light refreshments. The book has been supported financially by the Society for the Study of Labour History and in kind by Kirklees Museums & Galleries, for which we are most grateful.



And a children's book too

Also as part of the centenary celebrations and the focus on Seth Lister Mosley, the Friends of Tolson and Ravensknowle are publishing ***The Boy who Dreamed a Museum***, a children's book based on Seth's life, written by Dr Nathan Smith, recently a Tolson curator, who has also contributed a preface to Alan's book. This will be launched at the Tolson on Sunday 6 November, again at 12 noon, with children's activities and once again members with (grand)children. are welcome.

In memoriam

We are sorry to hear of the death of Society member Dr Stuart Davies, a former head of Kirklees Museums who, as it happens, also wrote about the history of the Tolson, and Seth Lister Mosley's part in it, in a chapter of the late Hilary Haigh's *Huddersfield: A Most Handsome Town*.

We have also learned with regret of the death of Mavis Curtis, a member whose article in our 2021/22 *Journal*, 'Setting up home in 1933', was commended in this year's British Association for Local History short article awards.

John Halstead Memorial Lecture

Our friends at the Society for the Study of Labour History have established an annual lecture to honour the memory of the late John Halstead, a stalwart of both our Societies. The first lecture, 'How British was Big Jim Larkin? How internationalist was Larkinism?', by Dr Emmet O'Connor, will be held online on **Saturday 29 October** at 2.30 pm – further details are here: sslh.org.uk/2022/07/27/larkin2022/

New book on food history

The Hebden Bridge Local History Society has just published ***Traditional Food in the South Pennines*** by Peter Brears, one of this country's leading food historians. The book presents a revealing account of the everyday lives of South Pennine working people from 1800 to around 1918, as experienced through their food and drink. Details are included of both poverty and prosperity, social gatherings and local customs as recalled by past generations.

In addition, there are over 170 recipes for local dishes for those who wish to recreate the authentic tastes of the South Pennines. Including the covers, the book contains 60 of the author's splendid colour illustrations of the food and utensils discussed.

The book costs £11.99 and is available from the [Society's website](#) or from The Bookcase in Hebden Bridge.

Winter walks in Calderdale

The Discover Huddersfield season of walks ends for 2022 on Sunday 30 October with the traditional [Halloween Shuddersfield walk](#). However, the hardy folk of Calderdale continue their Heritage Walks throughout the winter, and their winter programme of Sunday afternoon walks [can be found here](#).

New on-line history magazine

A new online, free and monthly magazine reports the news from 200 years ago as if it was happening now, and in today's language. **200 Magazine** makes use of contemporary newspapers, magazines, diaries and images from the 1820s. The front section contains news coverage from *then*, and the back pages link them to *now*, highlighting related visitor attractions, websites, books, magazines, organisations, and TV/film/radio output.

News stories in the first three editions have included the deaths of the poet Shelley and the Foreign Secretary, Lord Castlereagh, a famine in Ireland, construction under way on the Stockton and Darlington railway, a big slave revolt in the USA, and King George IV's historic visit to Scotland. Other famous names appearing have included Constable and Turner, William Wordsworth, Madame Tussaud and Thomas Telford. In Yorkshire, we've reported the fate of a soldier flogged with 300 lashes in Hull for trying to sell on spoons stolen from his officers' mess, who died days later in York. There is a [link to the August edition](#), and previous ones can be found [here](#). At the magazine's website – www.200livinghistory.info – you can sign up to receive an alert when future editions are published.

Take a “deep dive into the archive”

As part of this year's Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, on Saturday 26th November there will be two guided tours of the Heritage Quay archive:



Huddersfield is home to the British Music Collection, an extraordinary archive of scores and recordings of British art music from the 20th and 21st centuries. Kept at Heritage Quay, the archive service of the University of Huddersfield, the collection includes around 40,000 scores and the work of over 3,000 composers. Join us for a tour of this incredible resource, with a chance to look behind the scenes, explore scores written by women and gender minority composers, and listen to recordings. Whether you are looking for repertoire or keen to learn more about the history of music, this tour offers a chance to get familiar with one of the most important music collections in the country.

Further details of events, including booking information for the two tours, can be found on the [HCMF website](#).

Holocaust Centre North Exhibition, Workshop, and Reception

*Dr Chelsea Sambells has passed on the following
which we hope will be of interest to our members...*

The [Holocaust Centre North](#) (located in the basement of the Schwann Building at the University of Huddersfield) is delighted to host a three public events in Huddersfield in November in collaboration with the Wiener Holocaust Library in London. The Wiener Holocaust Library is home to the UK's [International Tracing Service \(ITS\) Digital Archive](#), which holds millions of documents related to the Holocaust and Nazi era.

Travelling Exhibition, *Fate Unknown: The Search for the Missing after the Holocaust*, on display 9 – 23 November 2022

Have the opportunity to view the Library's travelling exhibition '*Fate Unknown: The Search for the Missing after the Holocaust*' curated by Professor Dan Stone and Dr Christine Schmidt. This exhibition tells the remarkable, little-known story of the agonising search for the missing after the Holocaust. Drawing upon The Wiener Holocaust Library's family document collections and its digital copy of the ITS archive, the exhibition considers the legacy of the search for descendants of those affected by World War II, and the impact of fates unknown. All visitors are welcome for free.

Postgraduate and Family History Workshop, 23 November 2022, 3:30 – 5:30 pm

This workshop will provide the practical skills needed to help you navigate the ITS Digital Archive and explore how you can use it to support your own research, teaching, or family history research. It will be hosted by The Wiener Holocaust Library's ITS Archive Team Manager, Elise Bath, and Holocaust Centre North's Archivist, Hari Jonkers, who will demonstrate how to use the online archive and will be available to talk about how the ITS Digital Archive can support your individual research or education projects.

The workshop is free, but [register to secure your spot](#).

Curators' Talk, 23 November 2022, 6.00 – 8:00 pm

Join us at Holocaust Centre North for a light reception and the chance to hear curators Dr Christine Schmidt and Professor Dan Stone discuss their exhibition *Fate Unknown: The Search for the Missing after the Holocaust*.

[Register for the Curators' Talk](#).

These events are marvellous opportunities for local Huddersfield historians, who want to learn more about survivors' experiences of war, displacement and genocide. We hope you can join us!