

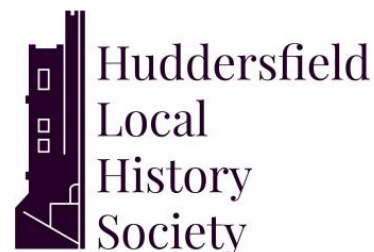
HLHS Members Newsletter

February 2023

huddersfieldhistory.org.uk

email@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk

facebook.com/HuddsLocalHist



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



February 1934 newspaper photograph of the annual [Collop Monday Penny Scramble](#) at Meltham Mills

In this local custom started by Edward Brook in 1881, children jostled to collect coins thrown into the road. During the 1940s, the penny scramble gave way to local newsagents handing out sweets for free – a tradition that was carried on by Mrs Annie Woodhead of Meltham until her retirement in 1989 aged eighty-one.

Welcome to our February newsletter. The next newsletter will appear in late March 2023.

David Griffiths and Dave Pattern

HLHS Committee

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Cyril Pearce

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Janette Martin

Secretary:

Richard Hobson

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Discover

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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

Riders on the Silent Steed:

Cycling's popularity in 1890s Huddersfield

This talk is on Monday 27 February at 7.30 pm in our new 'home', Room OA4/01, Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield.

Beginning with three men from Honley, Richard looks at some of the people involved in the development of the pastime and sport of cycling in late Victorian Huddersfield.

Now HLHS Secretary, Richard was Head of Geography in a large 11-18 High School in Lancashire. He has a season ticket for Town, an allotment, a dog and a bicycle, and says: 'I have this romantic notion of a bicycle as a liberating force, they are aesthetically pleasing and well engineered. Who were the men and women instrumental in their use in the local area?'

Oastler is the building overlooking Shorehead roundabout. Blue badge car parking is available on the campus. The University also has car parks at Queen St South and Firth St, but nearer than either of these is the car park of Sainsbury's, Shorehead, which offers up to two hours' free parking without any entry control or requirement to purchaser. The Civic Centre car park, and on-street parking in the town centre, are also free after 6 pm (but Kingsgate shopping centre car park is closed).

LADIES SHOULD NOT CYCLE

Unless their skirts are fitted with the

"ISAJEM" SKELTON'S PATENT CYCLE DRESS ADJUSTER.

It transforms the ordinary skirt into an evenly-divided one at will. It prevents all danger of the dress being dragged into the wheel. It is easily fitted, and causes no inconvenience whilst walking or riding.

Single "ISAJEM" sent free (any colour) on receipt of 13 Stamps.

MR. THOS. COLBECK, "ISAJEM" DEPT., BERRY BROW, HUDDERSFIELD.
Mention "The Clarion."

Women and Men of Woodsome

The Society's planned summer outing this year will be to Woodsome Hall, on the evening of Monday 26 June (save the date – no other action required at this stage). Our guide on that occasion will be Philip Sands of Woodsome Hall Golf Club.

Before then he is giving a talk, 'The Women and Men who made Woodsome: from Baldwin Tyas in 1236 to Elizabeth Kaye in 1726', on **Tuesday 28 March** at 7.0 pm at the Hall. He will be discussing:

- Marjory and Baldwin Tyas 1220-1270
- Laurence and John Kay 1370-1470
- John and Dorothy Kay 1539-1595
- Sir John Kaye 2nd Baronet MP 1641-1706
- Elizabeth Kaye 1707-1745

Members of other local societies are also invited to what will be a relaxed event with time to visit the bar - but numbers are limited. If you wish to attend, please email Beverley Norris, programme@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk, by **16 March at the latest** or speak to her at the February meeting.

Golden age of local government?

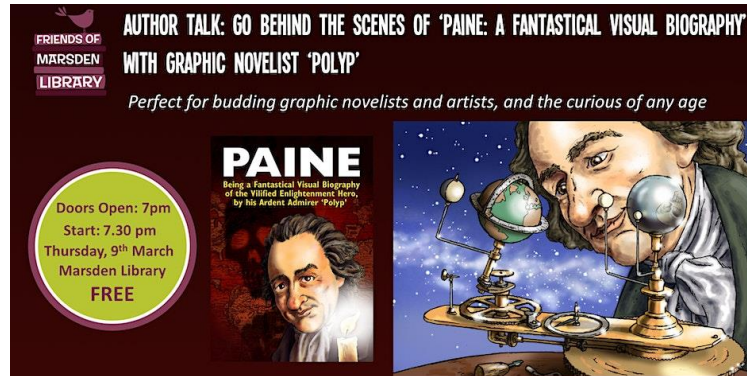
We have recently been informed that the Remembrances of Harry Bann OBE, who was Town Clerk of Huddersfield from 1945-68, have been made available online. The second volume is full of material about the post-war years in Huddersfield, and can be found at <https://livesretold.co.uk/harry-bann> We are grateful to Mr Bann's son Stephen for making the illustrated text available and for drawing it to our attention.

Harry Bann's term of office covered the years of post-war planning for the town's redevelopment, and his retirement in 1968 coincided with the centenary of the Borough. We celebrated the first half-century of the Corporation's history in our 2018 volume, *Making up for Lost Time: the Pioneering Years of Huddersfield Corporation*, still available through the website.

Next year will of course see the half-century of today's Kirklees Council. Articles on municipal themes will therefore be particularly welcome for the 2024/5 *Journal*. If you have ideas for an article, on this or any other subject, please contact Rob Piggott at editor@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk

Thomas Paine in Marsden

Co-author of the graphic novel *Peterloo: Witness to a Massacre*, Polyp's latest project is *PAINE: A Fantastical Visual Biography*, a vividly illustrated book about the astonishing life and ideas of 18th-century freethinker and revolutionary Thomas Paine who, despite having triggered the American War of Independence, and pioneered the concept of Human Rights, has been whitewashed out of popular history.



At a Friends of Marsden Library event, Polyp will read extracts from the book and explain why he chose such an unusual narrative and visual style. And aspiring artists and graphic novelists will be able to get a behind-the-scenes look at how the vivid images in the book were created.

Thursday 9th March
Doors: 7pm
Start: 7.30pm
Marsden Library

FREE – limited space; [reserve online](#), or sign up in the Library.

Townsounds – a celebration of musical heritage

As the [Kirklees Year of Music](#) gets under way, members may be interested to know of the Townsounds project. Led by Mandeep Samra, whose film *A New Life in Huddersfield* opened our current season of meetings, the project is building a snapshot of Huddersfield's musical heritage – past and present – charting how music-making in the town strengthened not only the town's civic identity, but also social networks and notions of community.

The project's website is townsounds.co.uk and its second oral history podcast, *Sing of Ling and Roses*, documenting Kirklees choirs through the ages, has just been released and [can be found here](#). Also available there is the previous episode, *From the Hilltops*, exploring Kirklees' rich tradition of music festivals.

Seth Lister Mosley – the mystery deepens

by Alan Brooke

In *Nature's Missionary*, my biography of Seth Mosley, I refer to 'the aura of mystery' surrounding his parentage and the cryptic nature of some of Seth's own comments about his father. I had hoped that the publication of the book might bring to light more information on this and later chapters of Seth's life and, indeed, it has done so. But what should be such a simple matter as dating Seth's birth has only raised more questions.

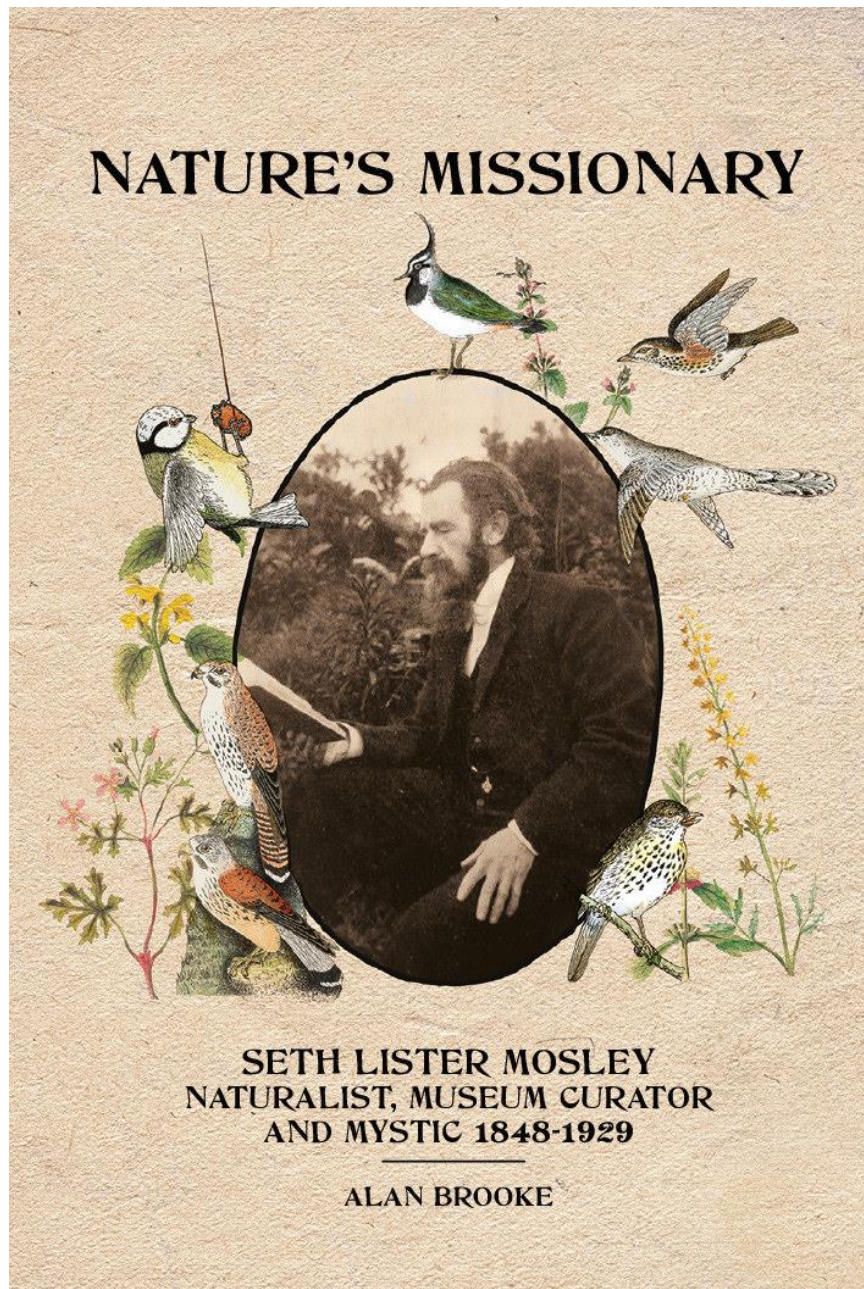
I had wondered why the Huddersfield Birdwatchers Club (HBC) in their *ebook* publication of Seth's *Birds of the Huddersfield District*, had cited 1847, rather than 1848, as his year of birth. After all, Seth in his own references to his early life, clearly states his birthday as 16 March and relates it to the 'thunder Sunday' of 2 April 1848: a story related to him by his mother, who was unlikely to have confused the date of what was, for her, such a traumatic event. She told him that he was two weeks old at the time. To emphasise this connection he included in his autobiographical sketch *The Development of a Soul* a drawing of a stone tablet set in the wall of a shop at Berry Brow recording its destruction in the flood of 1848 and rebuilding in 1849. The evidence would seem to be unequivocal. Consequently, I felt no need to question Seth's account, or chase up his birth certificate.

However, following publication of the book, I was contacted by Mr Stephen Cook of HBC who had been involved with the *Birds of Huddersfield* project, who kindly provided me with an image of a copy of the registration of Seth's birth at Kirkheaton. It confirmed what we knew of his father, James Reeds Mosley (though with a different spelling from the usual 'Reid'), a joiner, and his mother, Mary, formerly Lodge, of Lepton. But his date of birth was given as 23 March. If this had been the only anomaly it would not have been too concerning. The fact that the year was recorded as 1847 was a bit more of a problem!

Why would Seth's parents tell him that his birth as a year later than it actually was? And why give him a wrong date for his birthday? Nowhere does Seth mention the 23 March in this context. Had he done so it is not a detail I would have missed, since that is my own birthday. Is it possible that Seth coined his own story? His biographical accounts do not appear until he was around 50 and his parents had been dead almost 20 years, so any misleading account was unlikely to be questioned. But why should he have a motive to do this? 1848 continued to be his stated year of birth according to the census returns and his obituaries, such as that in the *Naturalist*.

Does this revelation affect Seth's biography? With regard to the main story of his life, not at all. In fact it only confirms my speculation that some kind of veil has been drawn over his parents' background. Whether this is related to their marital status is one line of inquiry. Stephen Cook's research has led him to conclude that they were not

married until about a year before Seth's birth. Was James Mosley already married, which would tie in with the half-brother in Keswick story Seth alludes to ? Stephen also locates James Mosley forebears with a 'Reid' connection, so at least this may clear up a detail about this element of Seth's father's name. If anyone else wants to follow up the conundrum of Seth's early years I would be pleased to hear from them.



Nature's Missionary: Seth Lister Mosley – Naturalist, Museum Curator And Mystic 1848-1929, the Society's latest book, is available at £15 [via the website](#), at Society meetings or from Waterstones.