

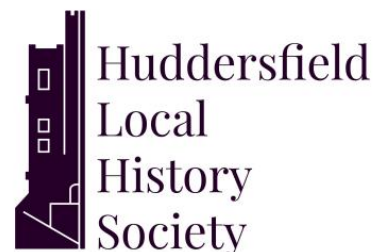
## HLHS Members Newsletter

March 2023

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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)



*"Beast Market and Kirkgate, Huddersfield" by Brighouse artist Albert Thomas Pile (1882-1981)  
reproduced from the Huddersfield Examiner of 26 April 1952*

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

*David Griffiths and Dave Pattern*

## **HLHS Committee**

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Cyril Pearce

### **Vice-Chair:**

Janette Martin

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Richard Hobson

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### **Discover**

### **Huddersfield rep:**

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**

### **A Yorkshire Year: Folklore, Customs, and Traditions**

Our next talk, by **Catherine Warr**, is on Monday 27 March at 7.30 pm in our new 'home', Room OA4/01, Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield.



In a wide-reaching talk, in advance of her upcoming book on the topic, Catherine explores how we collect and interpret folklore, who we can thank for doing so, what folklore can tell us about people, plus some interesting local customs and traditions.

Catherine is a local historian, filmmaker, and Digital Content Co-ordinator for the British Association for Local History (of which HLHS is a member). Born and raised in Leeds, she is passionate about making history engaging and accessible for all.

She was drawn to the topic after realising that the existing literature was often sparse and lacked critical analysis; seeking to compile the largest single collection of Yorkshire folklore, customs, and traditions, she began writing a book which is due to be published by Carnegie at Easter.

*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 purchase. 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).*

## Forthcoming events

Coming weeks and months see several events that may be of interest to members – some coming soon, others for which you may want to ‘save the date’.

**Wednesday 29 March** sees an illustrated talk on the **history of Fixby (including Fixby Hall)**, organised by Mount Community Group, at 7.30 pm at Mount Methodist Church, Moorlands Rd, Huddersfield HD3 3QU (admission £2).

**Wednesday 19 April** at 1.0 pm sees a tour of the current exhibition of **Brass Bands: History and Culture** at the University’s Heritage Quay. The exhibition explores a new collection, the Brass Band Archive, to find out, through photographs, magazines, letters, scores and uniforms, about the people who made the banding movement what it is today. The exhibition itself is open now, on Mondays to Fridays 8.0 am -7.0 pm and Saturdays 9.0 am – 5.0 pm and runs until 22 April – [further details here](#).

**Sunday 30 April** kicks off this year’s programme of **Discover Huddersfield walks**, the first being an introduction to **Georgian Huddersfield**. Prior booking is required and opens two weeks before each walk. The full programme and booking details will be available from libraries and other information points, or from the [Discover Huddersfield website](#), from the end of March. To join the mailing list, and receive reminders as booking opens for each walk, email <[info@discoverhuddersfield.uk](mailto:info@discoverhuddersfield.uk)>

The extensive **Calderdale Heritage Walks** programme is [already up and running](#).

**Thursday 18 May** is the day of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Yorkshire Heritage Summit**, convened by the Yorkshire Society and taking place at Saltaire, with speakers, displays and tours, and presentation of the Harry Gration History Prize (formerly the Yorkshire History Prize). Tickets for the day are £10 and [details are available here](#).



And closer to home, the centenary of **Peter Womersley**, pioneering modernist architect, will be celebrated on **Wednesday 24 May** by Huddersfield Civic Society, the Twentieth Century Society and newly-formed Huddersfield branch of the Modernist Society. Womersley's first commission was Farnley Hey, a house for his brother near Castle Hill, and he later designed the HSBC (formerly Midland) Bank in New St (a banking site since the Huddersfield Banking Co, which later joined the Midland, was founded there in 1827!). The talk by Womersley's biographer Professor Neil Jackson, **'The best house in Britain? Any house by Peter Womersley'** will be at 7.0 pm at New North Road Baptist Church, and [can be booked here from 24 March](#).

Our own talks continue on **24 April** and **22 May** – full details on the website.

## More praise for our latest book

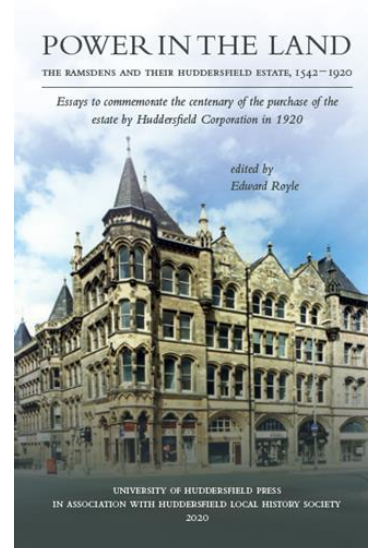
*Nature's Missionary*, Alan Brooke's biography of local naturalist Seth Lister Mosley, continues to attract attention, with a warm review by Roger Wotton, Professor of Biology at University College London and author of a biography of the famous naturalist Henry Gosse. The [review can be found here](#) and, if that persuades you to buy the book, it's available on our website, at the Tolson Museum and in Waterstones.

## The Ramsden family's Malayan mystery revisited

Meanwhile Professor Edward Royle and Meriel Buxton, respectively editor of and contributor to *Power in the Land*, our joint volume on the Ramsden estate, have recently been interviewed about the family by Malaysian radio station Lite FM, who contacted them via the Society.

As well as owning much of the land of Huddersfield until 1920, the Ramsden family also had major rubber plantation interests in Malaya, and Lite FM had become interested in the decaying [Caledonia House in Penang](#) (the '99-door mansion'), once owned by John St Maur Ramsden. The eldest son of Sir John Frecheville Ramsden, who sold the Huddersfield estate to the Corporation, his unsolved murder at Caledonia House in 1948 ended the Ramsdens' involvement there, and the estate is now a palm oil plantation. You can [hear the 21-minute podcast here](#).

*Power in the Land* is available to buy, or as a free download, from the [University of Huddersfield Press](#). Meriel Buxton's Ramsden family history, *Poverty is Relative* is [available here](#).



## Workers' Playtime: Culture and community in industrial Lancashire

The themes of this exhibition in Manchester will resonate on this side of the Pennines too. It goes beyond the factories to explore the cultures and communities created by the workers in pursuit of a better, fuller life for themselves and their children. It is a tale of political, economic, and cultural self-organisation in pursuit of mutual improvement and creative expression. Above all, it is a tale of culture and community made by the hearts and minds of the hands themselves. Visitors can:

- Explore workers' lives outside the factory, including playing sport, trips to the seaside or supporting the growing Co-operative Movement.
- Uncover the clubs and societies set up by workers.
- Read books by mill-workers Ethel Carnie Holdsworth, Ben Brierley and Sam Fitton, who became popular writers.
- Explore the social side of working-class politics and the early history of the Labour Movement.

The exhibition has been curated by Michael Sanders (Professor of 19th Literature and Culture, University of Manchester), who was our Luddite Memorial lecturer in 2018. It runs from **29 March to 9 September** at the John Rylands Research Institute and Library, 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH. Open Wednesday to Saturday, 10.0 am - 5.0 pm; free entry.

The dialect writer and cartoonist **Sam Fitton** is the subject of another exhibition, 'Finding the Funny', at Gallery Oldham until 17 June – [details here](#).

### In memoriam: Sandra Harling

We are sorry to record the death of our member Sandra Harling, for many years a leading light of the Huddersfield & District Archaeological Society. Our condolences go to her family and friends. The funeral is on Thursday 23 March and, if any member is able to attend at such short notice, the [details are here](#).

In a previous newsletter we recorded the death of Dr Stuart Davies, former head of Kirklees Museums and also a member; a [full obituary can now be found here](#).