

HLHS Members Newsletter

May 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



Undated photo-postcard showing the stone carving of a train by John Charles Stocks (1870-1949) which once adorned the platform of the original Berry Brow railway station. The carving can now be found at the Tolson Museum.

Welcome to our May newsletter. We now take our end-of-season break, with the next newsletter appearing in August, but details are included of several major events which may be of interest over the summer months.

David Griffiths and Dave Pattern

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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 Curate and the King's Coin

Our last talk of the 2022/23 season is on **Monday 22 May at 7.30 pm** at the Oastler Building, University of Huddersfield. John Cross, President of the Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society and HLHS member, will present findings from his book, *The Curate and the King's Coin*. This offers a detailed examination of the

activities of the Reverend Edmund Robinson, a 17th century curate at Holmfirth, and a counterfeiter. After many misdemeanours which brought him to the attention of the diocesan court and the assizes, he was eventually hanged at York in March 1691.

John's investigations 'started with an interest in the site of Robinson's home at Bank End in the Holme Valley, as a possible archaeological site for investigation. Having begun the background research, it became addictive, especially as so many unused primary sources were unearthed. Some of these were also to challenge details contained in past and current accounts of this individual's story.' His book has been described by historian and TV presenter Dr Onyeka Nubia as 'engrossing and informative ... a charming portrait of early modern English history.'

Available to members at the meeting will be your 2023/24 *HLHS Journal*. Cost increases mean we have raised the cover price to £5 – on its own worth half the annual membership fee! With the *Journal* will be booking details for our summer visits to Woodsome Hall (26 June or 23 July), and the new Discover Huddersfield walks brochure – all these will be posted to members not present after the meeting.

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).

THE CURATE AND THE KING'S COIN



Local Studies and Archives – back in business!



Huddersfield Local Studies Library, and West Yorkshire Archive Service (Kirklees), have now reopened in their temporary home in the former Argos building, Victoria Lane, just behind Huddersfield Library.

Opening hours for Local Studies will be as follows:

- Monday 9am-7pm
- Tuesday 9am-5pm
- Wednesday 9am-5pm
- Thursday 10am-7pm
- Friday 9am-5pm
- Saturday 9am-4.30pm
- Sunday closed

At WYAS, appointments are available on Mondays and Tuesdays between 9.30am and 12pm and 1pm and 4.30pm. **Pre-booked appointments are essential to view archive material** and can be booked via 0113 535 0150. Due to the lengthy closure period they anticipate receiving a high volume of enquiries, so there may be a delay in offering an appointment.

Forthcoming local talks

- **Wednesday 24 May - 'The best house in Britain? Any house by Peter Womersley' – 7.0 at New North Road Baptist Church.**

A last chance to book, via [Eventbrite](#), for this talk by Professor Neil Jackson, biographer of the celebrated architect of Farnley Hey and the Midland Bank (now HSBC).

- **Saturday 27 May – Britain's slave empire – 1.0 – 4.0 at The Red Shed (Wakefield Labour Club), Vicarage Street WF1 1QX.**

National authority Steve Cushion will talk about the Drax family, the history of slavery and the trade union campaign for reparations, while local historian (and HLHS member) Robin Stocks will concentrate on one family's involvement, and Yorkshire connections. Admission free - light refreshments and CAMRA award winning bar.



- **Friday 23 June - Laura Annie Willson, Suffragette, Builder, Engineer – 1.0 – 2.0 at Huddersfield University.**

Anne Kirker from Calderdale Industrial Museum will deliver a talk about Laura Annie Willson, who went from being the first suffragette to be imprisoned in Yorkshire to ten years later becoming a founder member of the Women's Engineering Society, the first woman to be elected to the National Federation of Housebuilders, and awarded an MBE for her work. A building on the University campus – on the right as you enter from the Ring Road – now bears her name and is the venue for the talk, which is part of [Women in Engineering day](#). Booking is required and a campus map is [here](#).

Echoes of the North: Four Chapters in Time

A specially created film of rarely seen early 20th century archive footage shot around the North of England will be presented on **Saturday 8 July** at 7.30 pm at the Victoria Theatre, Halifax, as part of the [Yorkshire Silent Film Festival](#). It is accompanied by a new score - the first ever all-brass soundtrack for a silent film - composed by Neil Brand and performed by the world-famous Brighouse and Rastrick Band with conductor Ian McElligott. Ahead of *Echoes of the North*, audiences will be treated to a concert of brass band favourites.

Echoes of the North has been created in partnership with Yorkshire Film Archive, North West Film Archive, North East Film Archive, and Archive Film Agency. Tickets for the Halifax showing can be booked [here](#).

Exhibition to commemorate 75th anniversary of Windrush arrival in Huddersfield

Kirklees Local TV is proud to announce the hosting of **Pariffinalia 75**, a 30-day dynamic exhibition to celebrate and commemorate the 75 years of Windrush arrival. The exhibition is part pop-up museum, part art gallery, and part library with 'performance' elements that illustrate the history, aspirations, and contributions of both the local and national Windrush generations that came from the Caribbean to rebuild Britain after the devastation of World War 2.

Organised in partnership with Kirklees Council Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Employee Network, Pursuit of Happiness, Kirklees Museums and Kirklees Libraries, the exhibition brings together local organisations, artists and community activists from Huddersfield and the surrounding area to explore the history, aspirations, and contributions of the Windrush generation. It seeks to open up what public spaces in the cultural sector can offer diverse communities and encourages public engagement and interaction with the Windrush generation. It is an opportunity for everyone to learn, engage and celebrate the incredible contributions of the Windrush generation to British society.

The event will be held at Unit 42-44, The Piazza (ex-Poundworld, behind the Library), from Saturday, 3 June 2023, until Friday, 30 June 2023. It will be open to the public from 11 am to 4 pm every Wednesday to Saturday.

WOVEN is here again – and HERD too!

Also starting on Saturday 3 June, and running to Sunday 9 July, is the biennial **WOVEN** festival, celebrating innovation in textiles across Kirklees. Once again the festival's theme is generations of innovators, connecting a strong heritage with today's innovative developments in industry, University research, a strong arts and crafts scene and the creative expression of the district's rich and diverse communities. Details of the wide range of events can be found [here](#).

Meanwhile the [Year of Music](#) continues, and adopts the textile theme with [HERD](#) - 'a musical and sculptural odyssey of epic proportions'. As the organisers, Artichoke, write: 'Over six magical days from **11 – 16 July 2023**, 23 larger-than-life sheep, unlike any you've ever seen or *heard*, will appear in surprising places across the beautiful Kirklees countryside. The sheep have been designed by Huddersfield-based artist Dave Young, working with heritage craft practitioners, each having its own unique identity. Wired for sound, these musical sheep sculptures will sing original compositions into the landscape, moving from the rural boundaries of Kirklees as they are herded towards town and city.'

'An epic layered tale of wool and water, movement and sound, industry and labour, HERD celebrates the enormous influence that sheep have had and contribution they have made to this part of Yorkshire and its people.

'Follow the soundscapes along the canals and waterways, under bridges and along country lanes into the historic town centres of Kirklees. The HERD sheep sculptures will travel over land and water, concluding with a euphoric free-to-attend finale in St George's Square, Huddersfield on Sunday 16 July.'

More on the George Hotel

With the scaffolding now down, members may be interested in a short video about the challenges of the renovation project, presented by the craftsmen involved, which can be found [here](#).

And finally: a query about a Huddersfield Councillor

We have received an enquiry from somebody who wants to find out more about a relative – Eugene O'Riordan – who moved to England in 1944 and was elected to Huddersfield Council, for Dalton ward, in 1963. If you have information and would be willing to be put in touch, please let us know via

publications@huddersfieldhistory.org.uk



Huddersfield Examiner (22 Apr 1985)