

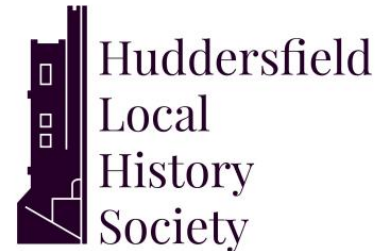
HLHS Members Newsletter

March 2024

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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



The old Infirmary revealed– see page 5. (Photo by Christopher Marsden.)

Welcome to our March newsletter. The next edition will appear towards the end of March.

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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 meeting – 25 March

Our next meeting is on **Monday 25 March at 7.30 pm** in the **Oastler Building**, University of Huddersfield, when Dr Stephen Caunce will ask the question **Where did the finance underpinning the industrialisation of West Yorkshire before 1850 come from?**

The amazing growth in Pennine cloth making in the 18th century involved long delays between spending on materials, living expenses and wages and receiving final payment. London-based banks were uninterested, and historians have paid little attention to the bridging of this gap. The talk draws on newspapers and other evidence to unravel the remarkable local system of managing flexible credit provision which evolved instead.

Stephen was put in charge of Red House, Gomersal in 1975 by Kirklees Museum Service, after a period of severe neglect. The Taylor family who built it lived there for over three centuries and typified the unusual character of *yeomen clothiers*, a group which has sadly left few documents. Joshua became rich enough to run a bank serving local businesses, which opened a window into a very unexpected mode of financing their operations.



A one pound note issued by the Gomersal Bank.

Car parking is available in Oldgate, the Civic Centre and (for two hours) Sainsbury's, Shorehead. Blue badge holders can park on the University campus.

The annual Luddite Memorial Lecture – 29 April

Make sure to save the date for our annual Luddite lecture, jointly hosted with the University, on Monday 29 April. This year's lecture is a presentation, **DRAWING ON HISTORY. Where does history end and fiction begin?** by Paul Fitzgerald and Professor Robert Poole, authors of the verbatim graphic novel ***PETERLOO: Witnesses to a Massacre***. Full details in the next newsletter.

Remembering the 1984/85 miners' strike

Whatever one's views of Arthur Scargill or Margaret Thatcher, the miners' strike was a seminal event in recent history and its 40th anniversary is being widely commemorated.

84/85 – The Longest Year is a yearlong exhibition and programme of events at the [National Coal Mining Museum](#). It considers the strike through memories and stories of miners and their families. Uniquely positioned at the former Caphouse colliery, the Museum addresses the broader picture of the strike and gives a voice to those who experienced it – strikers and on-strikers alike.

On the other side of the Pennines, the People's History Museum in Manchester offers an [archive exploration and guided gallery tour](#) on Saturday 23 March.

Clarion Ramblers celebrated

A new play, **Behold Ye Ramblers**, will be performed at Marsden Mechanics Institute on Friday 19 April (6.30 pm for 7.0 pm). Celebrating Sheffield's Clarion Ramblers, the play traces the rise of *The Clarion* newspaper and the community groups formed by its readers - groups such as the Clarion Ramblers, Clarion Vocal Unions and Bonds, Clarion Cyclists and Clarion Vans. Put on by Townsend Productions, it celebrates the achievements of the movement through song, poetry, music hall and magic lantern, including the participation of choirs and audience.

A fair/market will be held alongside the production, covering environmental issues, rambling and clarion clubs, including an HLHS stall. Tickets can be booked [here](#).

Mills Transformed – website and book

[Mills Transformed](#) is a photographic project documenting mill buildings in the north of England which have been restored and repurposed through the passion and determination of inspiring local people. The project is being undertaken by Neil Horsley who has so far visited 31 mills to interview and photograph the people who have brought new life to these great buildings. Now a book of the project is due to be published by John Hudson Publishing in 2024. The aim of the book is to examine the process of mill regeneration and reach conclusions, based on the visited mill case studies, as to how further Northern mills can be renovated and repurposed. The book is to be crowd-funded – details [here](#).

Discover Huddersfield walks

The next two DH walks are these:

Sunday 7 April – A Walk Through Lindley’s History

Sunday 21 April – Exploring Marden – the Growth of a Village

These must be booked, two weeks’ beforehand, at www.bit.ly/DiscoverHuddersfield, and cost £4.50.

Calderdale Heritage Walks have also announced their [summer programme](#).



Other forthcoming events

In Leeds the Thoresby Society’s next talk is **Cricket in Yorkshire: How did it all begin?**, on Thursday 21 March at 6.0 pm.

In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, cricket in Yorkshire lagged behind that played in London and the south-east, where it had been popular for many decades. Drawing on two of his books, covering the period from the 1750s to the 1890s, Jeremy Lonsdale will discuss how cricket emerged in Yorkshire and grew in popularity throughout the nineteenth century. Non-members will be welcome at this FREE talk - either in person at The Leeds Library, 18 Commercial Street, Leeds, LS1 6AL, or on Zoom. Either way you are asked to book beforehand on Eventbrite. [In Person](#) or [On Zoom](#).

Looking further ahead, the Ridings of Yorkshire Society, a group of postgraduate students, are holding their annual conference in Huddersfield, at the University’s Heritage Quay, on **13 & 14 June**, and invite proposals for short papers to be given at the event, on any aspect of Yorkshire history and culture. You can express interest [here](#) or perhaps just save the dates and look out for the programme.

Mosley and Woodhead celebrated

On the strength of *Nature’s Missionary*, his biography of Huddersfield naturalist Seth Lister Mosley, our member Alan Brooke has been invited to contribute entries on Seth, and on Tolson Museum director Thomas Woodhead, to the prestigious Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Nature’s Missionary is published by the Society at £15, and like all our publications is available through the [website](#).

The Old Infirmary revealed

The demolition of the New North Road buildings of Kirklees College has opened up views of the original buildings of the Huddersfield & Upper Agbrigg Infirmary, which have been hidden for many years. Before these are once more obscured by the construction of a new Lidl store, it seems a good moment to recall the history of the Infirmary buildings. This article is based on research by our member Christopher Marsden, and the photographs are his too.

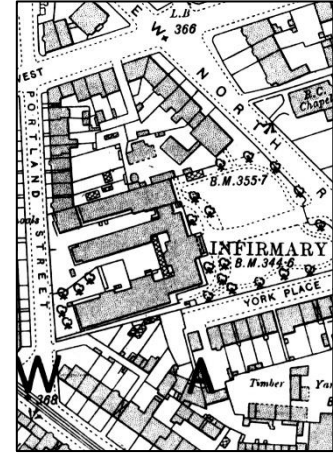
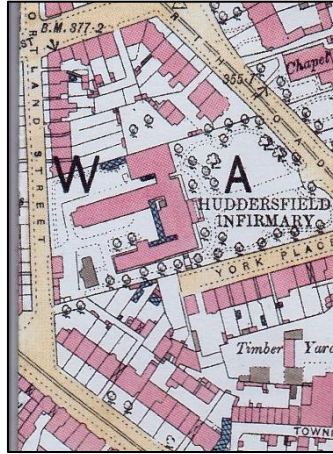
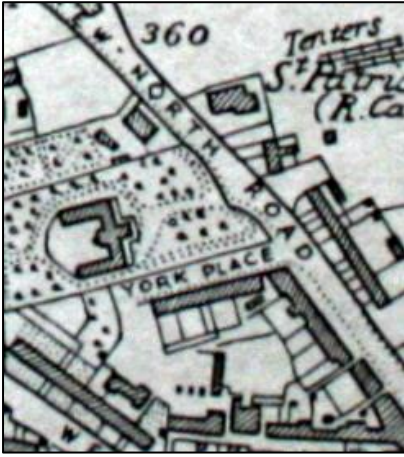
The Infirmary was commissioned by the trustees of the out-patient Dispensary, which had been established in Pack Horse Yard in 1814. The foundation stone was laid in 1829 and the building opened in 1831. It was designed by Halifax architect John Oates, and the builder – as so often in the first half of the 19th century – was Joseph Kaye. This first E-shaped building included the splendid Greek Revival portico facing onto New North Road, which was until recently the most visible feature. The adjoining York Place, visible on the 1848 map (overleaf) but lost in the spell check, was a favourite residential street for medical staff.



In 1859-61 a south wing was added, for greater outpatient accommodation. by William Cocking, the architect of Britannia Buildings in St George's Square and the West Riding Union bank in Market Place (recently RBS, now empty). But this was redeveloped from 1896-1902 as the Carlile Wing (*left*), with the long frontage newly visible from the Ring Road and Trinity St. The redevelopment was by the prolific local architect Ben Stocks, and included a men's medical ward, two theatres,

pathologist's room, children's ward, outpatients, dispensary, casualty, storerooms, rooms for domestic staff and lift. The wing has named for Col Hildreth Carlile of Helme Hall, who contributed £8000 to the building fund, and opened on 11 June 1902.

Before that, another ubiquitous Huddersfield architectural firm, John Kirk & Sons, had converted the 1831 attic into nurse and servant dormitories in 1873, and added the Turnbull wing in 1874, extending the middle leg of the original 'E' shape through to Portland St. (Dr William Turnbull served the Dispensary and Infirmary for 60 years until his death in 1876.)



The Infirmary's growing ground plan, seen (left to right) in 1848, 1887-9 and 1905-7.

This was further extended in 1927 for use as a dispensary, designed by Stocks, Sykes and Hickson, which had grown out of Ben Stocks' earlier practice. More buildings along Portland St followed in 1933, for 'out-patients, casualty, x-ray, therapy and other departments'. Opened December 1933, by Nottingham architects Calvert & Jessop working with locally-based Joseph Berry. These subsumed a 'curative bath house' by Edward Hughes, noted for the old Market Hall, the Albert and the University's Ramsden Building on the ring road.

So most of Huddersfield's best-known architects of the 19th and early 20th centuries had a hand in the old Infirmary over its 130-plus years. Now is a good time to walk around the site and appreciate the scale of the institution created by Victorian philanthropy.

Chris Marsden is the author of Huddersfield in 50 Buildings (Amberley, 2019), with photographs by Andrew Caveney. It will be on sale at our March meeting at a special price of £12.99 (RRP £14.99).