



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2023

Nice

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

^

Hello Everyone

So 2022 draws to a close and it's been a terrific year for the History Society. After two years that will be forever written about in the history books, we were able to return to face-to-face meetings back in the Library. But the way we had all got used to new technology meant we could also continue to meet through Zoom and keep meetings open to those 'locals' who don't live locally.

Thank you to everyone who has joined the Society in the last two or three years – and special thanks to everyone who has stuck by us over this time.

One of the last treats of 2022 was the visit to St. Anne's Catholic Church on North Street. When the church was built in 1839/40 it was effectively on the outskirts of the town, but today it feels very central both geographically in the expanded town, and also because of the diversity of the town's communities which it now serves.



Members of the History Society are taken on a tour of St. Anne's Church on 6th November 2022. The visit was led by Graham Mitchell and the visitors were greeted by Canon McCreadie.

Our thanks to History Society member Graham Mitchell for organising and leading the visit. Graham has also contributed to our 'A Personal History Column' for this newsletter. We would love to hear about other members (we've almost run out of committee members to interview) so please drop Anne-Marie or Tim a line if you'd like to tell us a bit about your past and your passions.

Looking to the future, but still talking of churches, one of the town's other historic churches is St. John the Evangelist Church in Ingrow. This church celebrates 180 years of being open in 2023 (slightly younger than St. Anne's but older than the 'latest version' of the Keighley Shared Church of St. Andrew's on Church Green). Tim and I have been working with the Reverend Dr. Tracey Raistrick on recording some of the stories and events around the church – you can read about it elsewhere in this newsletter and expect to hear more in the coming year.

We have a terrific line-up of guest speakers throughout 2023 (as I write there remains just one slot to fill if anyone fancies it...). Read all about them at the back of the newsletter and remember to make a note of them in your new 2023 diaries and calendars.

But as this year draws to an end, it just remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Oh, and to remind you that if you want to pay your membership subscriptions at the old 2022 rate you need to renew before the 1st January 2023 (see the opposite page)!

Until next time.

Steve

Steve Bown
KDLHS Vice-Chair
6th December 2022

Cover: A Lilywhite Ltd. postcard of St. Peter's Church on South Street circa 1950, blended with a photograph taken from the same spot by Tim Neal in 2022.

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Editor: Tim Neal

To contribute to the newsletter: KDLHSeditor@virginmedia.com
Deadline for contributions to next edition: 1st March 2023

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MEMBERSHIP FEE 2023

At the History Society's Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday 9th November 2022, it was agreed that membership of the Keighley and District Local History Society will go up to £15 (for a single person) or £20 (for two people at the same address) from 1st January 2023. This has been our first price increase in over ten years.

But if you join or renew before the end of December 2022 you can get the year's membership at 2022 prices (£10/£15).



Membership can be taken out online through GenFair (go to genfair.co.uk, click on Suppliers and scroll down to "K" for Keighley) or by paying in person at one of our monthly meetings in the Library (December's meeting is on Wednesday 14th December at 7pm). [Please note, joining through GenFair includes an additional admin fee.]



Membership entitles you to attend our monthly meetings at no extra cost (guests are charged £3.50), to receive four digital newsletters a year, to come along on exclusive membership visits arranged during the year, and gets you involved with helping us archive and research our collection. Most of our meetings are also hosted on Zoom so members living beyond Keighley can also join in.



The money supports us in our mission "to preserve and share" a vast array of stories about the history of the town and the area, through things like the website, Zoom and Flickr. The fees help us pay for things like the Society's membership of the British Association for Local History, our Zoom subscription, our Flickr and websites, room hire and guest speaker costs, and having stalls at different events.

JANE EYRE ON STAGE: 1949

Tim Neal researches a 1949 stage production of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel 'Jane Eyre'.



The Hippodrome and Queen's Theatre circa 1940. The site is now the location of the Airedale Centre multi-storey car park.

The Winwood Players' production of 'Jane Eyre' opened at the Hippodrome and Queen's Theatre, Keighley, from Monday 28th February 1949. It ran for six nights with two performances given on the closing Saturday night. The play was adapted by Helen Jerome from the 1847 novel by Charlotte Brontë. It was directed by Doel Luscombe, and starred Winifred Payne as Jane with Hubert Wood as Mr Rochester. The Winwood Players was run by Payne and Wood (the company name being a combination of their names) and they had a residency at the Hippodrome between October 1948 and the start of July 1949.

The play was promoted in a brochure detailing the Winwood Players' spring season: *"Despite the fact of this play having been produced at Keighley in January, 1948, there have been so many requests for a revival that Mr Wood has acceded to the popular demand and has arranged to present Helen Jerome's version of this classic... Dealing with a passionate love affair, studied subjectively and a figment of her imagination, this play forms a Brontë masterpiece and though melodramatic is romantic in spirit. The story is laid in Thornfield Hall with one diversion to Moor House, Jane's arrival as governess, the gradual breaking down of Rochester's indifference, leading to the thwarted wedding, Jane's flight and ultimate return to him form the sequence of a stage story which will never die."*

This particular adaptation is reported to have debuted in Malvern in the summer of 1936, and it is true that the play had been performed at the Hippodrome only thirteen months earlier - that time by the Lawrence

Williamson Players. The film adaptation of the novel, starring Joan Fontaine and Orson Welles, had been released in the UK in December 1943.



Movie poster for the 1943 version of 'Jane Eyre', adapted by Aldous Huxley, Robert Stevenson and John Houseman.

It was erroneously promoted in publicity from the Winwood Players (and repeated in the Keighley News) that this adaptation dated from the 1850s but that seems to be a misinterpretation of the fact that the first stage version of 'Jane Eyre' followed very quickly on the heels of the book's publication. Helen Jerome wasn't born until 1878.



Winifred Payne and Hubert Wood from a 1949 promotional booklet for their spring season at the Hippodrome.

Winifred Payne (who played Jane) was born in Glasgow and studied under Esther Wilson and Doreen Birkinshaw. She both acted and undertook management of theatre companies. During the Second World War she concentrated on entertaining

the troops and played to several hundred thousand of the Forces all over the country. She met Hubert Wood while at Catterick in North Yorkshire. She created the part of Rose in J. B. Priestley's 'People at Sea' (written in 1936) and between Christmas and New Year 1948 she had played the Queen of Hearts in the Winwood Players' production of 'Alice in Wonderland (With a Peep Through the Looking Glass)' at the Hippodrome.

Hubert Wood (Rochester) was born in Ilkley, worked with various theatrical companies around England then served as a Staff Captain in the Infantry and as an Officer with the West Yorkshire Regiment during the Second World War. He was at Dunkirk and then later conducted courses in the theatre for the Army at Catterick. According to his mini-biography in a Winwood Players promotional leaflet he was "*keen on horses and everything to do with them, and made a complete failure of trying to breed hackneys*".

The 'Jane Eyre' programme also carried adverts for the Irene Ogden Professional School of Dance Arts; H. Wilkinson (electrical store), The Arcade, North Street; Edward Foulds (Motor Engineers) Ltd. of Cavendish Street; Thomas Whitehead & Son (Tanners) Ltd. of Church Green; T. W. Bell (joiners) of Fleece Street; and Shackleton and Sagar's Minerals of Spring Bank.

The Keighley News didn't carry a review of the play as post-war paper rationing meant fewer pages causing some regular features to be dropped. It was, however, previewed in the paper of 26th February 1949.

The original programme was donated to Keighley and District Local History Society by Tim Neal in 2020. It is held in the History Society's physical archive. Keighley Local Studies Library holds various records relating to the Hippodrome theatre.

Interior of the programme for 'Jane Eyre'.

<p>A COMPLETE SCHOOL OF DANCING offering the beginner, the advanced pupil and the professional, courses in all branches of dancing under a fully qualified teacher.</p>	<p>HIPPODROME :: KEIGHLEY Managing Director - FRANCIS LAIDLER Manager - WILLIAM J. GREENE Secretary - ROWLAND HILL WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 1949 Once Nightly, Twice Nightly, Monday to Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 6-0 and 8-15 p.m.</p>	<p>Stockists of "V" BELTS For Industrial Drives. Giving Extreme Flexibility with Maximum Strength and Durability The most Modern Development of Power Transmission</p>																										
<p>IRENE OGDEN M.R.A.D. Advanced Teachers' and Artists' Certificates. L.I.S.T.D.; M.A.A.T.D. Advanced. Professional School of Dance Arts Temperance Institute, North Street, Keighley.</p>	<p>WINWOOD THEATRES LTD. present THE WINWOOD PLAYERS IN JANE EYRE Dramatised from CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S Novel by HELEN JEROME</p>	<p>THOMAS WHITEHEAD & SON (TANNERS Ltd.) CHURCH GREEN KEIGHLEY Telephone: Keighley 4092</p>																										
<p>H. Wilkinson THE ARCADE NORTH STREET Telephone 3010 KEIGHLEY Telephone 3010 For All Your RADIO AND ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS Your MURPHY and HOOVER Dealer</p>	<p>CHARACTERS (in order of their appearance)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>MRS. FAIRFAX</td> <td>MARGARET EASTON</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LEAH</td> <td>SYLVIA COOPER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>JANE EYRE</td> <td>WINIFRED PAYNE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MR. ROCHESTER</td> <td>HUBERT WOOD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ADELE VARENS</td> <td>JULIE SOMERS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GRACE POOLE</td> <td>DORIS TURNER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RICHARD MASON</td> <td>EDWARD HEPPLE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE MANIAC</td> <td>JOYCE RANKINE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE REVEREND WOOD</td> <td>NEIL LANDOR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRIGGS (a Solicitor)</td> <td>CHARLES HUNT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DIANA RIVERS</td> <td>JOYCE RANKINE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HANNAH</td> <td>MARY BAILEY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ST. JOHN RIVERS</td> <td>DOEL LUSCOMBE</td> </tr> </table>	MRS. FAIRFAX	MARGARET EASTON	LEAH	SYLVIA COOPER	JANE EYRE	WINIFRED PAYNE	MR. ROCHESTER	HUBERT WOOD	ADELE VARENS	JULIE SOMERS	GRACE POOLE	DORIS TURNER	RICHARD MASON	EDWARD HEPPLE	THE MANIAC	JOYCE RANKINE	THE REVEREND WOOD	NEIL LANDOR	BRIGGS (a Solicitor)	CHARLES HUNT	DIANA RIVERS	JOYCE RANKINE	HANNAH	MARY BAILEY	ST. JOHN RIVERS	DOEL LUSCOMBE	<p>Complete Funeral Service T. W. BELL FLEECE STREET KEIGHLEY Tel. 3614 For your requirements in Joinery, Shopfitting, Plumbing, Building, etc. Furniture Section Cabinet Making Upholstering Polishing Residence Tel. 2132</p>
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<p>EDWARD FOULDS (MOTOR ENGINEERS) Ltd. Cavendish Street Keighley Tel. 3617 Tel. 3617 MAIN AGENTS JOWETT JAVELIN and BRADFORD COMMERCIALS AGENTS AND STOCKISTS AUSTIN COMMERCIAL SEDDON DIESEL - STANDARD CARS</p>	<p>SYNOPSIS OF SCENES: ACT I—Scene 1—The library at Thornfield Hall at Milcote, late afternoon in October Scene 2—The same. A morning in March Scene 3—The same. Evening, a week later ACT II—Scene 1—The same. An evening in April, 10 days later Scene 2—The same. A morning in May ACT III—Scene 1—Living-room at Moor House, near Whitecross, dusk, one year later Scene 2—The same as Act I. A few days later THE PLAY PRODUCED BY DOEL LUSCOMBE Furniture by JAY'S and ALFRED LORD & CO. Electrical Fittings and Radio by H. WILKINSON Telephone lent by the G.P.O. The Furniture used in this play by F. Holmes, Haworth Properties lent by Windsor Potteries, Reflecto Costumes by Chas. H. Fox, London Stockings by KAYSER BONDOR</p> <p>DIRECTORS HUBERT WOOD and WINIFRED PAYNE MANAGER CHARLES HUNT STAGE DIRECTOR JOAN TRIST STAGE MANAGER AUDREY BUTTS MASTER CARPENTER & SCENIC PAINTER HARRY FRANCIS FOR WINWOOD THEATRES LTD.</p> <p>AT THE PIANOS: ELSIE ROBERTS AND IRIS NEWBY</p> <p>Week Commencing Monday, Mar. 7th THE GHOST TRAIN THE WORLD FAMOUS THRILLER BY ARNOLD RIDLEY</p>	<p>● Buy SHACKLETON and SAGAR'S MINERALS ● MADE FROM PURE SPRING WATER Obtainable at all Bars in this Theatre SPRING BANK, INGROW Telephone 2171</p>																										



THE BIG FREEZE OF 1963

The winter of 1962-1963, known as the Big Freeze of 1963, was one of the coldest winters on record in the UK. These images from around Keighley are from slides taken by John Normington, donated to Keighley and District Local History Society by John's daughter Liz Hornby in September 2021.





KEIGHLEY AMATEURS' 'SYBIL'

Last year the History Society was given a very generous donation of many theatre programmes for productions staged by the Keighley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society between the 1900s and the 1950s. Here Tim Neal looks at their production of "Sybil" from February 1937.

HIPPODROME
KEIGHLEY.

TO-DAY, 6.40, Twice Nightly, 8.40 :
THE GREAT LEVANTE and SPLENDID VARIETY COMPANY

NEXT WEEK. Evenings at 7.30, Matinée on Saturday at 2.30 :
THE KEIGHLEY AMATEUR OPERATIO and DRAMATIO SOCIETY
Present

SYBIL
A Military Musical Comedy
IN AID OF LOCAL CHARITIES
BOOKING PLANS NOW OPEN. TELEPHONE 2332
Good Seats Available Monday Evening and Saturday Matinée, but
there are Hundreds of Unreserved Seats at the Doors each Evening.
PIT, 1/6 (Saturday, 2/-); U. CIRCLE, 1/-; GALLERY, 6d.

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, February 22nd.
6.40, Twice Nightly, 8.40 :

THE ARCADIAN FOLLIES.
BOOK NOW FOR YOUR BROADCASTING FAVOURITES

Advert for the production from the front page of the Keighley News & Bingley Chronicle of Saturday 13th February 1937.

Keighley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society's production of "Sybil" played at the Hippodrome Theatre in Keighley for six nights (and a Saturday matinee) from Monday 15th February 1937. The military comic opera was written by Max Brody and Franz Martos, with music by Victor Jacobi and lyrics by Harry Graham and Harry B. Smith. The KAODS production was produced by H. Flockton Foster, with musical director R. Lewis Scargill (taking over from Joseph Harker who had been in charge for previous productions).

The story is set in pre-Revolutionary Russia. Sybil Renaud (played by Rhoda Heap), a talented vocalist is touring Russia accompanied by impresario Monsieur Charles Poire (W. Lupton Brooks). Lieutenant Paul Petrov of the Imperial Guard (Arthur Day) falls in love with Sybil and deserts his post to be with Sybil as she travels to Bomsk. The Governor of Bomsk (Ernest Marsden) is preparing the town for a visit by the Grand Duke and Duchess Constantine. Sybil is mistaken for the Duchess, an

error she plays along with in order to prevent Lieutenant Petrov being punished as a deserter. The Grand Duke (Eric B. Broster) arrives and plays along with the conceit, but when the Grand Duchess (Edith Clarke) finds out what is happening she is less than impressed.



Scene 1 in the entrance hall to the Grand Hotel, taken from the 48-page programme produced to accompany the show (below).



The confusion continues until Sybil confesses all and everyone lives happily ever after. As the programme put it: *"Add to the above the many smart officers and ladies, in brilliant uniforms and gorgeous costumes, really tuneful music, and delightful scenic effects and dances, and you have in 'Sybil' a general ensemble that will please the eye and, we trust, entrance the senses of those who witness it."*



Monsieur Poire (W. Lupton Brooks) is outraged when further chaos ensues as his wife Margot (Margaret Best) falls for the Governor of Bomska (Ernest Marsden). Photograph taken by professional photographer (and sometime KAODS performer) W. Bruce Johnston who had a photography studio on Lawkholme Crescent.

The show also starred Margaret Best, Alan Petty, John Mitchell, Clifford Heap, Fred Gillott, Albert E. Shepherd and Harry Moore. The scenery was provided by Messrs. Dodsworth & Soencer of Bradford, while the costumes were hired from J. B. Simmons & Co. Ltd. of London.

The production was reviewed in the Keighley News of Saturday 20th February 1937 under the heading *"Sybil success at Keighley"*, but the review held 'Sybil' in lower esteem than the Society's previous productions 'Desert Song', 'The New Moon' and 'Rose Marie': *"The talent that did full justice to these three previous shows is still available, and the artists give of their best again this week. There are, however, shows that would have afforded much greater scope to the very capable cast and, what is more important, have made a bigger box-office appeal."*

"As last year, the wet weather on the opening night had its effect on the attendance, but under the circumstances it was a good 'house'. It was quite an auspicious opening too, for the cast were word-perfect and the players displayed that fine enthusiastic spirit which is always a feature of these annual productions."

"Mr H. Flockton Foster, of London, has produced the show and it reflects a great credit upon him. He has imbued a splendid sense of enthusiasm into the cast and has been helped by the quality of the principals."



Rhoda Heap as title character Sybil Renaud, photographed by W. Bruce Johnston for the show's programme.

The review lavished praise on leading actress Rhoda Heap: *"The value of Miss Rhoda Heap to the society cannot be emphasised too much and for a third time she gives a remarkably good performance. An accomplished actress and a fine soprano, she could hold her place in any amateur society in the country, as well as many professional ones. As a famous opera singer on tour in Russia, who finds it necessary to pose as the Grand Duchess, Miss Heap has a fine part which*

she exploits to the fullest advantage. Her performance is flawless, and one wonders what would have happened to the past few productions without a leading lady of her undoubted class."



Eric B. Broster as the Grand Duke Constantine, photographed by W. Bruce Johnston for the show's programme.

Eric Broster came to Keighley having had experience in the chorus line of several shows in London's West End. The Keighley News review again: *"As the Grand Duke, Mr Eric B. Broster cuts a fine figure. He has had great experience in Drury Lane's biggest successes and is a decided acquisition. He has several pleasing duets with Miss Heap."*

Also in the cast was Ernest Marsden, a Keighley Amateurs veteran of nearly twenty years by this point, who would continue his involvement until his death in

1960. The Keighley News review: *"Mr Ernest Marsden has his best part for a long time as the bombastic and amorous Governor. His great experience in comedy roles enables him to develop the part to the fullest extent and he is responsible for some screamingly funny scenes with Miss Margaret Best. His voice has its limitations, but good vocalism and good comedy are very seldom allied."* Ernest's son Keith would continue the tradition, writing and starring in pantomimes and shows for the society into the twenty-first century.



Ernest Marsden as the Governor of Bomsk, photographed by W. Bruce Johnston for the show's programme.

The 48-page programme, designed and printed by The Keighley Printers Ltd. of High Street, is available to view in full on the History Society's Flickr site.



ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN'S

The Church of St. John the Evangelist in Ingrow celebrates its 180th anniversary in March 2023. The church was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Ripon on 14th March 1843, and Queen Victoria signed the order that created the parish for the church (the parish of Ingrow cum Hainworth) in May 1844.



An early photograph of Ingrow Church, from the Church's own archive.

The Earl of Burlington gave the site for the church and churchyard and the foundation stone was laid by the Rector of Keighley on Monday 2nd August 1841. At the time, Ingrow was quite a small hamlet of houses, farms and a few small mills spinning yarn or making paper. It came under the jurisdiction of Bingley rather than Keighley, which remained the case until 1894.



Interior of the church, 1950s. From the church archive.

The church was built quite close to the bridge over the river Worth, which is now known as Ingrow Bridge but at the time was known as Paper-Mill Bridge, alongside the toll road between Keighley and Halifax.

St. John's Church is actually older than the current Keighley Shared Parish Church, which had to be rebuilt for the third time between 1846 and 1848. During this time, St. John's was used instead to jointly serve the parish of Keighley.

Initially the tower of the church was without the clockfaces. The clock mechanism was added in 1866 and in 1867 gas lighting was installed. This enabled evening services to be held in the church.

In December 1986, the church was designated as a Grade II listed building by English Heritage (later to become Historic England), recognised for its special architectural and historic interest.

The current vicar is the Reverend Dr. Tracey Raistrick and she has been working with the church's History and Heritage Group (including the History Society's own Tim Neal and Steve Bown) to document the church's history and to celebrate its position in the community today.



Electric tram pulls up outside the church in this 1905 postcard from J. Valentine & Sons Ltd. From the collection of Tim Neal.

A special service will be held at 11am on Sunday 12th March 2023 and then the church will remain open for the afternoon so that visitors can have a look around and look through the archive of material that has been compiled to tell the story of the church and the stories of the people involved with the church. A newly produced, richly illustrated, 32-page booklet on the history of the church will also be available, featuring contributions from Rob Grillo, Graham Mitchell, Tim Neal and Andy Wade. The booklet will cost £3 and be available on the day.

A PERSONAL HISTORY COLUMN

History Society member **Graham Mitchell** takes his turn to tell us about his interests and activities both within and beyond the Society.



Graham Mitchell, during the History Society's recent visit to St. Anne's Church. Photographed by Tim Neal.

When and why did you join the History Society?

About 6-7 years ago. Because I love history at all levels, and I am always surprised at how little people in Keighley understand about the rich history of this town and district. So my own contribution is to research, to try to understand, and then to interpret to others through lectures and presentations.

How long have you lived in the Keighley area?

Keighley is my home. I was born in my maternal grandparents' house at 277 Bradford Road in Stockbridge, and when my father returned from service in the Second World War, my family lived for 6 years in a former MoD flat in Cavendish Street, overlooking the former Midland Railway Goods Yard. For a child, that was like having a gigantic train set in front of the bedroom window, with constant day and night shunting by steam tank engines, working LMS horses from the Lawkholme Lane stables and even cattle being driven on the hoof from pens in the Goods Yard to the Corporation Abattoir at Hard Ings.



British Railway Goods and Coal Depot, at the junction of Cavendish Street with Bradford Road and East Parade, circa 1950. The site has been the car park for the Sainsbury's supermarket since the mid-1980s. Photographed by Geoffrey Kitchen.

In 1952 we moved to my paternal grandparents' village of East Morton, which at that time was still a working farm community with horses delivering milk and groceries and working in the fields. It was an idyllic teenage period for me as I was allowed to work with heavy horses on the farms. I went to Bingley Grammar School and then Leeds University to read for a degree in Geography. Career moves kept me away from Keighley for the next 32 years, living sequentially in Bristol, Dudley, Sydney NSW and the Ribble Valley of Lancashire. I moved to Oakworth, where I still live, in 1993, retiring from teaching in 1998, and worked briefly for the Keighley Business Forum and then Blazefield Holdings, retiring completely in 2006. I represented Oakworth Ward on Keighley Town Council from 2002 to 2015 and served as Town Mayor twice, in 2006/07 and 2014/15.

Is there a particular aspect of history that interests you?

The complex dynastic feuds of the second half of the 15th century, popularly known as 'The Wars of the Roses' but better described as 'The Cousins' Wars' (because all the noble and royal characters involved are inter-related) are much misunderstood and misinterpreted as 'anarchy' when in fact they changed the course of English History and laid the foundations of much for which the later usurping Tudor dynasty is given credit.



Local historian Dr. Ian Dewhirst addresses the History Society with his talk 'An Informal History of 20th Century Keighley', upstairs in the Local Studies Library in 2009.

What's been the best guest speaker talk that you have seen?

Almost anything by the late great Dr Ian Dewhirst!

If you could travel back to a certain period in history, when would that be?

England in the summer of 1483, immediately following the unexpected, and highly suspicious,

death of King Edward IV. I would like to have been in the entourage of Richard Duke of Gloucester to see what really happened in the weeks leading up to his coronation as King Richard III.

If you were to appear on Mastermind, what would your specialist subject be?

The life and times of Richard Duke of Gloucester 1461 to 1483.

When you aren't involved with the History Society, what else do you get up to?

I am a Chorister & Reader at St Anne's Church Keighley, an Honorary Vice President of the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, Chairman of The Friends of the Airedale Line, Yorkshire Branch Treasurer of the Richard III Society and a member of the Green Space Campaign Group.

Graham led a History Society tour of St. Anne's Church in November 2022. Photographed by Tim Neal.





Image from the film 'The Lost King' (© Pathe UK).

If you could have anyone from history (alive or dead) around for dinner, who would you invite? And what would you cook for them?

Richard Duke of Gloucester (before he became King) and because His Grace would find it completely incomprehensible that I should cook for him, his own cooks from either Skipton Castle or Middleham Castle would prepare a sumptuous banquet for us both.

What book are you reading at the moment?

Having just been on holiday in Switzerland, I am trying to catch up on back numbers of unread magazines – *BUSES, RAIL, New Statesman, The Tablet* and the *New European* but I am trying to make time to read “*Two Paths Diverge*” by local author John Roberts.

What was the last film you saw at the Picture House in Keighley?

Whilst not a great cinema-going person, I have seen both “*The Railway Children Return*” and “*The Lost King*” at The Picture House.

In the Big Book of Keighley History, what will the paragraph about you say?

Because I was a Working Volunteer on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway for 33 years, and Railway Society Chairman for 12 years, some people always associate me with those few scenes where I played ‘The Guard’ in the 1970 film “*The Railway Children*”. I would hope that my paragraph might say “*Well, he did do other things as well, you know!*”

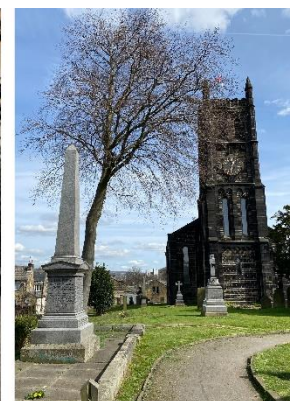
Thank you Graham. If you are interested in contributing to this column, please get in touch.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The list of events is updated every three months. Please keep an eye on our Facebook channels and on our website for any last-minute changes.

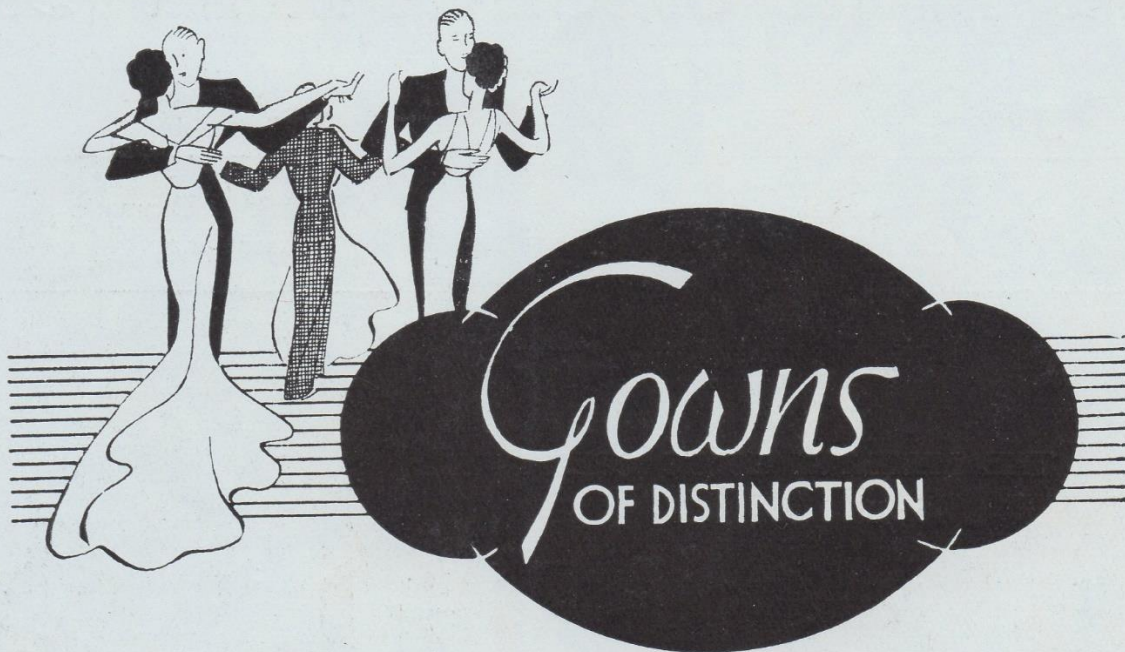
The monthly meetings are either held in Keighley Local Studies Library or on Zoom. Meetings at the Library are open to members and guests (unless otherwise stated). Doors open at 7pm, entry for members is free, entry for guests is £3.50. Joining via Zoom is an option only available to paid-up members of the History Society. Details for joining the meetings on Zoom are sent out by email by Anne-Marie Dewhirst a few days before the meeting.

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	DETAILS
WEDNESDAY 11 th JAN 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: “GETTING THE BEST OUT OF FLICKR”	Zoom	Committee member Tim Neal will be demonstrating how to browse or search the History Society’s collection of over 19,000 images on Flickr.
WEDNESDAY 8 th FEB 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: “THE LOCAL HISTORY OF THE LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL”	Library	Colin Thunhurst of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society will be giving a talk on the history of the canal.
WEDNESDAY 8 th MAR 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: “MORECAMBE: BEAUTY SURROUNDS, HEALTH ABOUNDS”	Library	History Society member Pam Brook will be talking about Morecambe’s Super Swimming Stadium and how it ties in with an unusual collection held at Cliffe Castle Museum.
SUNDAY 12 th MAR 2023 11am-4pm	ST. JOHN’S CHURCH 180 TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AND HISTORY EXHIBITION	St. John’s Church, Ingrow	2023 marks 180 years since St. John’s Church was opened. To celebrate, the church is holding a special service at 11am and then is open in the afternoon for people to look around the church and see the history exhibition. Please check social media nearer the time for exact details.
WEDNESDAY 12 th APR 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: “TWO T’ T’CAT PARK: LIFE ON THE BUSES IN THE 60S”	Library	History Society member Graham Mitchell will regale us with tales of his time as a Student Conductor in the summer holidays of 1962-65.



DATE	EVENT	VENUE	DETAILS
WEDNESDAY 10 th MAY 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: "DOCKROYD GRAVEYARD"	Library	Andrew Heaton, of Dockroyd Graveyard Trust, will be talking to us about the project to restore, conserve and catalogue the early Victorian burial ground in Oakworth. For more details on the project visit: www.dockroydgraveyardtrust.org.uk
WEDNESDAY 14 th JUN 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: TO BE ANNOUNCED		
WEDNESDAY 12 th JUL 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: "LADY MORTIMER AND EDWARD II: FROM SKIPTON TO BERKELEY CASTLES"	Library	Alison Harrop, who writes under the name Alice Mitchell, will be exploring the mystery behind what really happened to King Edward II.
WEDNESDAY 9 th AUG 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: "MARIA: MOTHER OF THE BRONTES"	Library	Author and former Keighley News journalist Sharon Wright returns to talk about Maria Bronte, wife of the Reverend Patrick Bronte and mother to Charlotte, Anne, Emily and Branwell.
SATURDAY 2 nd SEP 2023 10am-4pm	KEIGHLEY & DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW	Marley Fields	The History Society will once again have a display stall at Keighley Show. Come along and see us, or even volunteer to help out.
WEDNESDAY 13 th SEP 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: "LOST & FORGOTTEN INNS & PUBLIC HOUSES OF KEIGHLEY"	Zoom	Eddie Kelly gives a highly anticipated talk on the histories of some of the legendary (and some of the long-forgotten) watering holes around the town.
WEDNESDAY 11 th OCT 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: "STANLEY R. BOARDMAN"	Library	Tim Neal gives an expanded and updated talk on artist Stan Boardman of '1920's Boy' fame in the anniversary year of his Cliffe Castle exhibition.
WEDNESDAY 8 th NOV 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	Zoom	Agenda: Chair's report on 2023, Treasurer's report, any changes to constitution, election of officers, discussion of year ending/year to come.
WEDNESDAY 13 th DEC 2023 7.00pm-8.45pm	MONTHLY MEETING: CHRISTMAS MEETING	Library	Our usual festive get-together with mince pies, items from the collection and a quiz





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