

CALDERDALE HERITAGE WALKS

NEWSLETTER - MID FEB. 2015

THE SUMMER PROGRAMME

This summer we have 8 new walks – the largest number ever (plus another 3 which have been extensively revised). In the first 7 weeks there are 5 new walks for you ! Overall, we'll cover Calderdale from Dobroyd Castle, just west of Todmorden, right across to Clifton, east of Brighouse and MANY points in-between.

There's a walk every weekend, bar one, throughout the 7 month period. Featured in the walks are subjects such as UFOs, suffragettes, road building, the Co-op, witch mania, a gentry feud, the remains of a steam railway and a 'guilty pig' – and that doesn't include all the more usual aspects of local heritage which will probably be more familiar to you ! So if you're not yet very knowledgeable about the subjects above, come along to find out more. The full programme is attached.

A NEW GUIDE

We are delighted to report that Dr. Jill Liddington has joined us. Jill is a historian, writer and academic with a particular interest in women's suffrage and the wider issues relating to women's history. Her first walk with us will be on 25 April in Hebden Bridge and fuller details of that are in the programme.

WINTER WALKS

We've had respectable numbers for our winter walks (helped by reasonable weather). Indeed, a few were spectacularly well supported. There are still 3 walks to come in that programme – the 'Transport' walk in Sowerby Bridge on 22 Feb., a walk at Luddenden Foot on 8th March and one in Halifax on 22nd March. Full details of those are on the Winter Programme card and on our website (address below).

MORE ABOUT LOCAL HERITAGE

To find out more about local heritage, try Calderdale's libraries !! Halifax Central Reference Library has a wealth of books, photos, maps and pamphlets, covering the whole of Calderdale. There are also collections at Brighouse, Hebden Br., Sowerby Br. and Todmorden libraries, covering their areas.

Bankfield Museum, Shibden Hall, and the Heptonstall Museum are all very well worth visiting as they have lots to see relating to our area (check opening times on the Calderdale Council website). Last, but by no means least, the local Tourist Information Centres have a range of information and literature about the District and their staff are knowledgeable about this area.

PRIVATE PARTY WALKS.

A reminder that we can normally offer walks for private parties in many parts of Calderdale all year round. For more details please email us at : CdaleHeritageWks@aol.com.

WW1 CENTENARY

The Halifax based group researching local aspects of World War 1 are very active and have arranged public lectures on related topics. More details on their website : <http://www.halifaxgreatwar.org>

THE WEBSITE

Its address is : www.CalderdaleHeritageWalks.org.uk. There's more information there for you and full details of the current programme. The Summer Walks will go on the website shortly.

OUR E.MAIL ADDRESS

To comment about the walks, or to tell us about anything else, email: CdaleHeritageWks@aol.com.

FACEBOOK

We have a Facebook page and some of our guides post updates on matters relating to the walks, and other information regarding heritage sites locally. Please visit and 'like' us ! Go to www.facebook.com and search for Calderdale Heritage Walks.

THE 2015 SUMMER WALKS

Sunday 5 April

MEADOWBOTTOM AND MORE



Visiting the appealing district of Meadowbottom, with its cottage houses and converted early water-powered spinning mills. Also, local housing styles, an Owenite co-operative, a library in a pub, a Nobel prize winner and Todmorden's "monkey run".

Some paths may be muddy - strong shoes advised.

Meet Linda Croft at 2.15 p.m. by Patmos Gardens, Burnley Road, Todmorden (opposite Todmorden Community College)

Monday 6 April

ODD TOD.

Straddling a historically fluid county border, Todmorden has acquired a name for strange and sometimes dark histories, from UFOs and ghosts through eccentrics and lucky dogs to dark and foul deeds. N.B. The Park may be muddy underfoot.

Meet John Billingsley at 2.15 p.m. under the railway viaduct opposite Todmorden bus station,

Sunday 12 April

CALICO, COURTS & QUAKERS



Past and present buildings west of Halifax town centre. Some are still in their original role, some have changed roles and others have been replaced. Including accounts of some of the interesting characters who lived there.

Meet Iain Cameron at 2.15 p.m. by Albert Park, junction of Heath Rd. and Huddersfield Rd., Halifax.

Sunday 19 April

CHARTISTS AT SKIRCOAT GREEN



Walking round Skircoat Green, Salterhebble and Skircoat Moor, finishing back at the Standard of Freedom public house. We will visit scenes from Halifax's Chartist history and in particular, the life of Benjamin Wilson, Chartist, of Skircoat Green.

Some rough paths - strong shoes advised.

Meet Linda Croft at 2.15 p.m. by the junction of Skircoat Green Road and Godfrey Road, Halifax (opposite the Murgatroyd Arms). On street parking normally available.

Saturday 25 April

VOTES FOR WOMEN !



Walk in the footsteps of Lavena Saltonstall, visiting the homes of Hebden Bridge suffragettes, the fustian clothing factories where they worked and the square where Emmeline Pankhurst addressed a vast crowd in 1907. (NOTE: this is on Saturday)

Meet Jill Liddington at 2.15 p.m. at Hebden Bridge railway station. This 3-hour walk, includes some hillside paths - could be muddy. Appropriate footwear advisable.

Sunday 26 April

BIG 'C's IN RIPPONDEN

Ripponden's history since mediaeval times seems bound up with topics that start with 'C'. There's Church, catastrophe, cotton, conflict, co-operation, child labour (and more). Ripponden had them all. Anne will explain!

Meet Anne Kirker at 2.15 p.m. by Ripponden Parish Church.

Sunday 3 May

CHURCHES & CHAPELS IN SOWERBY BR.

There's a good variety of places of worship here! The modern St Paul's and, not quite so recent, St Patrick's, to the Gothick splendour of Christ Church. We'll also see other uses to which some buildings have been put and signs of other church influences.

Meet David Cant at 2.15 p.m. outside 'The Moorings', off Wharf Street, Sowerby Bridge.

Monday 4 May

THE WAINHOUSE TRAIL

A walk through the area where John Edward Wainhouse operated. Looking at his life, his properties and his famous feud with Sir Henry Edwards. He was more than just a Tower builder - though that's important!

Meet Iain Cameron at 2.15 p.m. by the base of Wainhouse Tower. Access on foot from Wakefield Gate (off Skircoat Moor Rd.), Halifax.

Sunday 10 May

DISCOVERING CLIFTON

A hilltop village recorded over 900 years ago and classed as a 'town' when Brighouse was only a 'hamlet'. Learn about a 'lost' pub, an 18th century school, coal mines, churches and a murder. And that's not all!!

Meet Margaret Sharp at 2.15 p.m. by the War Memorial on Towngate, Clifton

Sun. 17 May

KING & QUEEN

King Cross and part of Queens Road - looking at the industrial, housing, transport and education expansion here from 1850 to WW1 and further major changes which came in the 60 years which followed that.

Meet David Nortcliffe at 2.15 p.m. by King Cross old churchyard (opposite the William IV public house).

Sunday 24 May

HIPPERHOLME

It isn't just traffic lights! Centuries ago it was the centre of a township which included the 'hamlet' of Brighouse. We look at fine buildings, old roads, workers' housing, the work of local architect J.F. Walsh, a lost graveyard and much more.

Meet John Brooke at 2.15 p.m. by Hipperholme Library on A.58 (Leeds & Whitehall Rd.).

Monday 25 May

MIDGLEY VILLAGE

The village has many fine old buildings back to 1600s, former pubs, a revived Co-op and some quiet corners. We'll look at the remains of the extensive quarrying of former years on the moor's edge - with the bonus of some fine views.

Meet David Cant at 2.15 p.m. by Midgley school carpark.

Sunday 31 May

HEPTONSTALL SHADOWS

You can expect a mediaeval village to hold memories that you might not find in standard local histories. With John Billingsley you'll learn about wart-curiers, protective charms, rural gangsters, ghosts, mummified cats and more. The Churchyard can be slippery.

Meet John Billingsley at 2.15 p.m. at Heptonstall Bowling Club Car Park

Sunday 7 June

HEBDEN CONNECTIONS



The historic transport links of Hebden Bridge - its road, canal and railway all squeeze through the narrow Calder valley here. We'll look at how transport and industry worked together and changed this unique Pennine town.

Meet David Cant at 2.15 p.m. by the Tourist Information Centre on New Road, Hebden Bridge

Weekend 13/14 June

Sorry, but we have no walk for you this weekend.

If our walks have triggered an interest in Calderdale's history, why not visit Bankfield Museum, Shibden Hall, or the museum in Heptonstall this weekend (check opening times on the Calderdale MDC website). Or pop into one of the local Tourist Information Centres to see the range of information and literature they have about the District.

Sunday 21 June

CLIFFE HILL - THE WALKERS (AND OTHERS)



Looking at a fine residence of yester-year associated with Ann Walker and Anne Lister which is normally out of sight within its private grounds. We'll look at the house exterior, its grounds and immediate environs.

Meet John Brooke and guest local historian Christine Booth at 2.15 p.m. by the Sun Inn on Wakefield Road (A649) in Lightcliffe.

Sat. 27 + Sun. 28 June

'OUTLAWS & NUNS'

The walks are on the private Kirklees Estate near Clifton, by kind permission of the owners. They include the former Nunnery site, Gate House, 15th to 18th century farm buildings, the Robin Hood connection and his grave there, plus other features on the estate.

The Guides are Margaret & David Nortcliffe. The walk is 1½ miles, partly on woodland paths and strong shoes are advised. The walk will be repeated several times over the 2 days. There are no buses to the Estate on Sundays.

These walks are £5 per head. Pre-booking is essential and it will not be possible to just turn up on the day! Booking opens on 1st May at the Visitor Centre, Butler's Wharf, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8AF. Bookings can be made in person, by phone on 01422 843831 (fee for card transactions), or by post with full payment and a reply paid envelope (cheques to 'Calderdale MBC'). Please specify the day and a.m. or p.m. preference. Details and directions are sent out with the tickets. ✂

Sunday 5 July

WAINSTALLS MILLS

The group of old textile mills around and above the village of Wainstalls covers all phases of development from early water-powered through to mid 20th century. Stout shoes needed. (Wainstalls village will be explored on Aug. 16.)

Meet Iain Cameron at 2.15 p.m. by the bus terminus in the centre of Wainstalls.

Saturday 11 July

HALIFAX MARKETS



There have been more markets in Halifax than you might suspect and we include several of them (or their sites) past and present. A major feature is the fine Borough Market - we'll look inside, outside, and around it (plus a little 'behind the scenes').

Note it's on Saturday.

Meet David Nortcliffe at 2.15 pm by the Piece Hall's North Gate (Woolshops side).

Sunday 19 July

A BRIDGE TO HOO HOLE

From the riverside, winding through the village to Hoo Hole (*whatever one of those is*) exploring as we go to trace the evolution of Mytholmroyd over two centuries. It's a microcosm of Pennine village development.

Meet Pam Jordan at 2.15 p.m. by the main road bus stop near the bridge in Mytholmroyd.

Sunday 26 July

SECRETS OF SOYLAND

An attractive upland village on an historic route into Lancashire it has several interesting 17th century houses, had a major 18th century entrepreneur, an innovative 19th century college, and quite a bit more in its past.

Meet Anne Kirker at 2.15 p.m. by the Beehive P.H. at the top of Royd Lane, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile NW of Ripponden. (Try HX6 4LU on your Sat-Nav).

Sunday 2 August

DOBROYD CASTLE



This new walk to, around, and inside the striking "Brass Castle" built by John Fielden jnr. in 1869, is by kind permission of the owners and includes the house, walled garden, stable block etc. with commentary on the history of the Castle and the family.

Meet Linda Croft at 2.15 p.m. at the entrance to Todmorden Railway Station building for a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk up the wooded hillside to the Castle - strong shoes advised.

Access to the Castle by car is poor - so walking is strongly advised. If driving, however, go via Pexwood Road (steep and single track) then continue on the Castle carriage drive to the parking area. Meet the guide by the Castle door at 2.45 pm.

This walk is £4 per head. **Pre-booking is essential** and will open on 28 June at the Visitor Centre, Butler's Wharf, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8AF. Bookings can be made in person, by phone on 01422 843831 (+ fee for card transactions), or by post with full payment and a reply paid envelope (cheques to 'Calderdale MBC', please).

It will not be possible to just turn up on the day !

Sunday 9 August

HEPTONSTALL'S EDGES



A longer walk (2½ miles) circles above the Colden Valley to Popples and Slack and back to Heptonstall, with memories of the Industrial Revolution, Nonconformism, witch mania, pestilence, folklore, plus famous (and not-so-famous) poets.

Some steep drops alongside the path and uneven woodland. Walking shoes recommended.

Meet John Billingsley at 2.15 p.m. at Heptonstall Bowling Club Car Park

Sunday 16 August

WAINSTALLS VILLAGE

This village went through all phases of the textile industry from handlooms in cottages to the big mills. We'll look at the remaining evidence of that manufacturing and also see how the village is evolving into a new phase of its history.

Meet Iain Cameron at 2.15 p.m. by the bus terminus in the centre of Wainstalls.

Sunday 23 August

HEPTONSTALL TOWN

With perhaps the longest history of any upper-valley settlement, Heptonstall offers a wealth of interesting buildings and stories. We recommend coming early so you can visit the Heptonstall Museum before the walk. Churchyard paths could be slippery.

Meet John Billingsley at 2.15 p.m. in the Heptonstall Bowling Club Car Park.

Sunday 30 August

CRAGG VALE

An area with 900 years of recorded history having a heady collection of coiners, hard mill-owners, wealthy gentry, interesting buildings, frauds and scandal. And even that collection is not the sum total of unusual elements here. Come along and find out.

Meet Pam Jordan at 2.15 p.m. on B.6138 road through Cragg Vale, by its junction with the road to the Church.

Monday 31 August

THE WAINHOUSE TRAIL

A walk through the area where John Edward Wainhouse operated. Looking at his life, his properties and his famous feud with Sir Henry Edwards. He was more than just a Tower builder - though that's important!

Meet Iain Cameron at 2.15 p.m. by the base of Wainhouse Tower. Access on foot from Wakefield Gate (off Skircoat Moor Rd.), Halifax.

Sunday 6 September

MEADOWBOTTOM AND MORE



Premiered in April and repeated now. It visits Meadowbottom's cottage houses and converted early water-powered spinning-mills. Also, local housing styles, an Owenite co-operative, a library in a pub, a Nobel prize winner and Todmorden's "monkey run".

Some paths may be muddy - strong shoes advised.

Meet Linda Croft at 2.15 p.m. by Patmos Gardens, Burnley Road, Todmorden .

Sunday 13 September

CLIFTON'S RAILWAY



The social and industrial history of the steam driven rope railway serving the former local coal industry. We'll walk some of the old narrow gauge rail track (by kind permission) and find other remains. Stout shoes needed.

Meet John Brooke at 2.15 p.m. in the Armytage Arms' carpark on A.643 half-a-mile north-east of Brighouse centre.

Sunday 20 September

HEBDEN BRIDGE CENTRE

The town grew up around an old bridge crossing a tributary of the River Calder. It's textile industry expanded rapidly during the industrial revolution and many buildings from that period survive. We'll also trace developments after textiles went.

Meet David Cant at 2.15 p.m. outside the Tourist Information Centre on New Road.

Sunday 27 September

BARRACKS, ASDA & A KITTEN

Exploring Pellon and some areas south-west of it as far as Mile Cross and Wellesley Park. There's more fascinating history there than you might suspect. Come along and find out.

Meet David Nortcliffe at 2.15 p.m. by Pellon Baptist Church, Spring Hall Lane, Halifax.

Sunday 4 October

CALICO, COURTS & QUAKERS

Past and present buildings west of Halifax town centre. Some are still in their original role, some have changed roles and others have been replaced. Including accounts of some of the more interesting characters who lived there.

Meet Iain Cameron at 2.15 p.m. by Albert Park, just off Huddersfield Rd., Halifax.

Sunday 11 October

NORTH BRIDGE AND AROUND

For centuries this area was a focal point for routes out of town and became a hive of industry from mid 1800s. Much has gone, but there's enough evidence of earlier activities to piece together the story of this area in earlier times.

Meet David Nortcliffe at 2.15 p.m. at the junction of Northgate and North Parade, Halifax.

Sunday 18 October

UPPER RASTRICK

A revised walk looking at history here over 1,000 years - but particularly the last 250 years when Rastrick industrialised and expanded dramatically. Elements of those earlier years can still be found! A walk of about 2½ hours.

Meet Margaret Sharp at 2.15 p.m. at the carpark alongside St. Matthew's Parish Church. Sensible footwear please.

Sunday 25 October.

DARK HALIFAX

Formerly 'Halifax's Dark Side', this revised walk recalls the severed heads, ghosts, creaking gibbets, strange burials and other peculiarities - like the guilty pig - historically associated with places visited in the town centre.

Meet John Billingsley at 2.15 p.m. by the West Gate (i.e. top gate) of Halifax Piece Hall. Churchyard could be slippery.