

CALDERDALE HERITAGE WALKS

Early October 2015

STILL TO COME IN OCTOBER

The 'summer' programme continues to the end of October so there are still walks to come – 'North Bridge and around', Upper Rastrick, and the regular Halloween spot with John Billingsley leading you round 'Dark Halifax'. Full details in the programme and on the website, as always - www.CalderdaleHeritageWalks.org.uk

SOME FEATURES OF THE WINTER PROGRAMME

The new programme is shown on pages 3 and 4 herewith. As in previous winters, we've a walk every fortnight from early November to late March. Please note that winter walks start at 2.00 p.m. (rather than 2.15) because of shorter daylight hours. The price, variety and the quality of the walks all remain the same.

Buildings in our towns, suburbs and villages are major features this winter. Almost the full length of Calderdale is covered from Bailiff Bridge to Todmorden. The timespan involved is 12th to 20th centuries (but we can't guarantee to have something from every part of that period in just a dozen walks).

Strange happenings of the past at Heptonstall and Todmorden feature in November as John Billingsley leads walks round both locations. He describes some incidents as 'dark' or 'eccentric' and goes as far as saying one is 'disturbing'. Come along and find out more !

Churches and Chapels were central in the life of local communities down the years and they get some attention this winter. We're concentrating on Church origins and buildings, rather than the finer details of each congregation's beliefs. The walks in Todmorden and Sowerby Bridge concentrate on religious buildings there whilst the Bailiff Bridge walk includes the interesting Moravian Church at Lower Wyke and the Elland walk starts with the Parish Church (see below).

The Elland walk. This is not always considered 'an old town', despite being mentioned in the Domesday records of 1086. The Parish Church goes back to 1100s – almost certainly the oldest church in Calderdale ! But there's also much in town from the last 2 centuries which is of interest.

Transportation was a major factor in the expansion of 19th century Hebden Bridge along with mechanised industry stemming from the 'Industrial Revolution'. David Cant's walk there in mid January shows how it all happened and the impact it had.

Buildings and Estates of the Halifax gentry of the late 18th and 19th centuries are the subject of Iain Cameron's two walks in the outer parts of town. He'll also discuss some of the people involved with those properties, how the houses / estates evolved down the years, and the impact they had on Halifax.

A rather different set of buildings in Sowerby Bridge are featured in mid December. The walk deals with local hostelries and events associated with them which had an impact on local residents.

If you prefer interesting smaller villages with fascinating old buildings and "more history than you'd image" (to quote our Guide) – join the Mill Bank walk in March.

The season ends with a look at developments and buildings of several types in the Lane Head area of Brighouse from its start in the 1840s through to the very early years of 20th century.

MAILING LIST – if you know of people who might like to receive our Newsletters and programmes by email, please ask them to contact us at: CdaleHeritageWks@aol.com

WALKS IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS

The Dobroyd castle walk was very popular. All available tickets were sold out in 6 days, but we're trying to arrange to repeat that walk in summer 2016. We continue to attract good numbers for the 'Outways & Nuns' walks at Kirklees Estate and we already have permission to do those walks again next year on the last weekend in June. In general, numbers on walks have been pretty good despite the indifferent summer weather – though we do seem to have had at least 'reasonable' weather for most walks.

HALIFAX PIECE HALL

We understand that its re-opening is now tentatively fixed for autumn 2016. So, in 12 months time, we should have one of Halifax's star heritage attractions open once again. The Piece Hall Trust has appointed its first Chief Executive, Sam Mason. He brings a wealth of relevant experience to the job as he was at the Science Museum Group from 2012 where he was the Commercial Director.

OUR LINKS WITH CALDERDALE MBC

We find that a few people still tend to think of us as being part of Calderdale MBC – but we're not !

C.H.W. started in 2003 when we took over a role previously undertaken by the Authority itself, but their walks had already ended. Calderdale Heritage Walks is totally independent, but maintains close (and friendly) links with several sections of the Authority.

Some walks have input from staff at CMBC sites - obvious examples are the walks from Wainhouse Tower linked to the Tower's openings, we are allowed to get 'Behind the Scenes' in the Borough Market, at the Victoria Theatre, and even in some 'non-public' parts of the Town Hall on special occasions. We have regular communication with the Authority's tourism team and with the Information Centres, the libraries distribute our programmes through their branches and we have an ongoing relationship with Countryside Service on particular walks issues.

We cherish our independence, but we very much appreciate and value the co-operation we get from several sections of the local authority. We like to think that, in return, we help to provide something useful and interesting both for visitors to the area and for the residents of Calderdale.

WW1 CENTENARY

The Halifax group which is researching local aspects related to World War 1 are very active and have arranged public lectures on related topics. For more details see their website at: <http://www.halifaxgreatwar.org>

PRIVATE PARTY WALKS.

We can offer walks for private parties in most parts of Calderdale all year round. For more details, or to contact us on other matters, please email us at : CdaleHeritageWks@aol.com.

WINTER PROGRAMME 2015/6

SUN. 1 NOV.

ALMSHOUSE TO MANSIONS

Looking at areas of south-west Halifax which were private estates in 18th century but now mainly residential. However ... some interesting surprises remain !

Meet Iain Cameron at 2.00 pm by Jos. Crossley Almshouses' central gates, Arden Rd., Halifax, (just off A.58).

SUN. 15 NOV.

ODD TOD.

Aspects of Todmorden's history can be eccentric, even disturbing. Tales of the light, the dark, and plainly odd. Be glad that you weren't around when they happened !

Meet John Billingsley at 2.00 pm under the railway viaduct by Todmorden bus station.

SUN. 29 NOV.

HEPTONSTALL SHADOWS

Explore streets and ginnels around Heptonstall for tales from the shadier sides of local history with witchcraft, naughty navvies and other lamentations !

Meet John Billingsley at 2.00 pm at the Bowling Club carpark in Heptonstall (follow signs).

SUN. 13 DEC.

THIMBLE BY THIMBLE THROUGH SOWERBY BR. ☺

More than just a tour of Sowerby Br. hostelries! Explore some of the history of the buildings and events which played a part in the life of people who frequented them !!

Meet Anne Kirker at 2.00 pm at Jubilee Refreshment Rooms, by Sowerby Br. railway station.

SUN. 27 DEC,

CHURCHES & CHAPELS IN SOWERBY BR.

There's the modern St Paul's, not quite so recent St Patrick's, and Gothick splendour at Christ Church. We'll also see other former religious buildings which have new uses.

Meet David Cant at 2.00 pm outside 'The Moorings', off Wharf Street, Sowerby Bridge.

SUN. 3 JAN.

ELLAND CENTRE ♿

In 1086 the town featured in Domesday Book. It's one of the oldest town centres in Calderdale and we'll see how it developed down the centuries (and is still evolving).

Meet David Nortcliffe at 2.00 pm by Elland Parish Church notice board.

SUN. 17 JAN. HEBDEN BRIDGE CONNECTIONS

How transport and industry worked together to change Hebden Bridge totally and how the road, a canal and railway all squeezed through the narrow Calder valley here.

Meet David Cant at 2.00 pm by the Tourist Information Centre on New Road, Hebden Bridge.

SUN. 31 JAN. CHURCH AND CHAPEL IN TOD. ☆ ✕

Includes visits into two contrasting buildings (the Parish and Unitarian Churches) and hear about rebellious parishioners and Victorian religious rivalries as we explore Todmorden’s religious history.

Meet Linda Croft at 2.00 pm at St. Mary’s Church (by the roundabout in Todmorden centre).

SUN. 14 FEB. MILLS, MORAVIANS & MORE

For 135 years carpets were made here; then it ended. Highlighting the many changes in this area from 1750 to today. With an extension to the Moravian Church at Lower Wyke.

Meet Mary Twentyman at 2.00 pm by the end of Victoria Road, Bailiff Bridge (near traffic lights).

SUN. 28 FEB. CALICO, COURTS & QUAKERS

Past and present buildings in west Halifax. Some still in their original role, some have changed roles and others have been replaced. Including accounts of some interesting residents.

Meet Iain Cameron at 2.00 pm by Albert Park, junction of Heath Rd. and Huddersfield Rd., Halifax.

SUN. 13 MAR. MILL BANK

An updated tour of this historic, attractive and relatively little-known village on the west side of the Ryburn valley. It has more history than you'd ever imagine !

Meet Anne Kirker at 2.00 pm by the bus shelter near Mill Bank School.

SUN. 27 MAR. LANE HEAD AND ITS BUILDINGS ♿

This area was fields in 1840, but by 1890s it was a wide range of Victorian houses, pubs, almshouses, a school, and a fine library/ Art Gallery (and its evolution didn’t stop then !).

Meet David Nortcliffe at 2.00 pm at Rydings Art Gallery & Library, off Halifax Road, Brighouse.

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☆ = a new walk

✕ = No dogs

♿ = Suitable for wheelchairs