



North Craven Historical Research Group

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Notes of meeting held on 31st March 2010 at the Friends' Meeting House, Kirkgate, Settle at 7.30pm.

1. Chairman John Fox welcomed members to the meeting.

Present: Chairman, John Fox; Secretary, Rita Hudson; Treasurer, David Johnson; Project Co-ordinator/archivist, Phil Hudson; GPS/IT, Mark Simpson; Members: Mike and Mary Slater, Jack Thompson, Sheila Gordon, Jean Asher, Alison Armstrong, Muriel Laver, Alison Porter, Barbara Middleton, Sheila Fleming.

2. Apologies received: Rick & Lindsey Smith, Jill Sykes, Brian Skipsea, Rosemary Rees, Roy Price, Yvonne Luke, Helen Sargeant, NYCC Heritage Dept. Richard Whinray gave late apologies. Others received later by e.mail which were not received because unfortunately it was out on the day, Kit Dodson and Sonia Wilkinson.

3. Committee members were confirmed without any changes for the next year.

4. Copy of the Current Account for 2008 and 2009 was available for members to see, To 2008 total of £2,022 – 11 we received income of £3,500 from Grassroots (2 years) plus £71 subs and donations making £5,593 – 11 in total, Expenditure had amounted to £3,197 – 45 including purchasing A3 Scanner, new GPS System and Software, a Mobile Mapper, Computer Repairs, Insurance, Travel Expenses. Leaving a total at the end of 2009 of £2,395 – 66p. There was also a total of £2,581 – 75 in the savings account.

5. Future Projects: There was some discussion about obtaining new computers as the present ones were not functioning well and getting a professional web page set up to enable much more of the archive to be made public.

6. Bi-annual exhibition: The exhibition boards had been in use at Skipton Library in February for a Local History Day held there. It was also reported that boards had been given to Kirkby Malham Church and Burton Village Hall. Malham History Group were borrowing the boards for their big summer local history exhibition. A number of boards were out on loan and we were awaiting their return, they would also be going to Malham for summer. There was some discussion on whether a deposit should be paid by groups for boards when they go out on loan, to ensure their safe return. John Fox said he would be willing to instigate such a system with groups paying a deposit of £50. David Johnson said he was willing to take some boards to the Grassington Archaeological Day if some were available. It was decided that our main exhibition would take place late 2011 or early 2012 for the Wetlands Project.

7. Verbal Reports:

- A) Mike Slater reported that the Giggleswick Wills Project was now completed with wills dating from 1400s to 1700s being transcribed and analyzed, mainly by himself, Mary Slater and Sheila Gordon. A CD has been made of results which has been sent out to various people and

Record Offices as well as for NCHRG archive, and a few printed copies made. (Many of the original will transcripts came from Reg Postlethwaite). Helen Sargeant was working on the Horton Wills and Vicki Spence had transcribed many of the Malhamdale wills. The wills from John Bentley had been given to David Johnson for the Ingleborough group to work on. Mike reported that the wills varied very much for each different Parish and over time.

B) Sheila Gordon gave a report on her growing database of underbridges and milestones, which she photographs, measures and grid references.(The YDNP has a database of recorded underpasses as part of their feature of the month series on their website). (The Milestone Society also have a webpage with database.)

C) It was reported that Austwick had been given a Grassroots Grant to delve into the history of the township. They were recording the memories of the older residents and writing a number of pamphlets. The first should be available in May and would be on the shops that used to be in Austwick.

D) It was reported that Rathmell were trying to get a regular History Group together. They had organised one talk in March and had managed to retrieve three archive books which have been scanned by Rita and Philip and put into the NCHRG archive and on CD. These would be taken to Northallerton in due course. They were thinking of undertaking a project to record all the buildings in Rathmell village, which has never been done before. The expertise of group members was offered if required to assist.

Tea Break

9. Powerpoint Presentations:

A) Phil Hudson gave an update report on the **Wetlands project**, showing slides of lidar, air photographs, and on sight photos of bog oaks, possible ancient deer park boundary, wall foundations, etc. The field work had been hampered by bad weather and Philip's ill health but work was continuing slowly when possible. Volunteers are still urgently required to help, no real expertise is required for photographing, taking GPS readings, describing things in the field.

B) Mark Simpson showed how the groups new **GPS system** would locate and map where you walk linked with the photographs that were taken, using South House as an example. He emphasised that the GPS and the camera had to be accurately time indexed before commencing, otherwise the system would not work.

C) Phil Hudson gave an update on **Lodges/Old Farms Project** showing examples of old ridge & furrow, building foundations, disused boundaries etc. mainly in Rathmell township. This related with the doctorate that Roy Price was currently writing up on Poverty and Change in the ancient parishes of Giggleswick and Kildwick.

Unfortunately there was not time to show the recent vernacular building reports, so these will be shown at the next meeting. Meeting closed at 10.00.pm.

Yours sincerely,

Rita Hudson,
Hon. Secretary NCHRG

**NCHRG Committee Members: Chairman John Fox; Treasurer David Johnson; Secretary Rita Hudson;
Archivist & Project Coordinator Phil Hudson., Outreach & Education Prof. Kit Dodson. I.T./GPS Mark Simpson**