

West Yorkshire Group of the Victorian Society

Programme 2012-13

6th October: Villas of West Ilkley

One of the authors of 'Ilkley Past and Present', Alex Cockshott will show us round the area between Queen's Road and Grove Road. At the beginning of the 19th century, Ilkley was a village of some 400 inhabitants, a century later, the population reached 7,455, an increase due only in part to the establishment of spa facilities in the 1840s. Rapid growth came about in the second half of the 19th century as Ilkley became a dormitory town for Bradford and Leeds, a development which crucially depended on the arrival of the railway in 1865, and from 1867 the land sales from the Middleton estate.

Lutyens who visited Ilkley to design Heathcote (1906-7) was somewhat scornful of the Victorian villas which had been built to the north of the railway station, 'a window from this, a door from that etc. - a potpourri of yorkeological details. The result is futile and absolutely unconvincing'. The eclecticism about which Lutyens was so disdainful, is what some of us find so attractive about Victorian architecture, and actually Yorkshire Vernacular Revival buildings are fairly rare in Ilkely. The preferred styles of the West Riding plutocrats were Gothic and the Domestic Revival of the south of England.

Meeting: At the bottom of Mill Ghyll at the floral fountain, top of Brook St. in The Grove at 2pm

Cost: £6

17th November: Samson Fox and Grove House, Harrogate

Those of you who watched Emilia Fox's 'Who Do You Think You Are' will already have encountered Samson Fox and Grove House. Fox was an embodiment of Victorian entrepreneurial success who was born in Bradford but made his fortune in Leeds founding the Leeds Forge Company in 1874. In the mid-1880s he moved to Harrogate and became one of its leading residents. His home, Grove House dates from the middle of the 18th century but was vastly extended by Fox between 1890-1900 employing Butler Wilson to carry out the work.

Since 1926 Grove House has been owned by the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes and is currently used as a home for aged members and a restaurant.

Meeting: outside Grove House at 12.30pm. Grove House is situated on the A59, Skipton Road out of Harrogate and is within walking distance of the railway/bus stations. After looking at the exterior of Grove House, we have a light lunch in the bar followed by an exploration of the interior and a visit to the Buffaloes' Museum.

Cost: £6 (not including lunch)

8th December: Manchester Vic Soc Christmas Visit to Leeds

Each year the Manchester Group arranges a Christmas lunch in a nearby town or city, and this year they have selected Leeds as their venue and have invited us to participate. In the morning there will be a walking tour of Leeds conducted by Janet Douglas. Lunch will be at the Leeds Club followed by a lecture on Victorian Architecture in Leeds By Chris Webster.

Details of the precise meeting place will be circulated later and the meal at lunch time will cost approximately £33. Please notify Stephen Walker if you are interested in this event and details will be forwarded to you nearer to the event.

Monday, 11th February AGM: Hilary Grainger: The Crematoria Movement I Britain

Following the Formal AGM proceedings, Hilary Grainger, the President of the Victorian Society will give a talk on Crematoria with some reference to the crematorium at Lawnswood.

The AGM will be held at the Leeds Club. The bar will be open from 6.30pm, the AGM will be held between 7-7-30pm, followed by the lecture. There is no charge for this event.

9th March: Lawnswood Cemetery and its Architects

Opened in 1875 for the Headingley-cum-Burley Burial Board, the layout and many of the buildings were designed by George Corson assisted by William Gay, the designer of Bradford's Undercliffe Cemetery. The Crematorium was added in 1905 by W.S. Braithwaite, and in 1933 a columbarium was built to the south-west designed by A.E. Kirk. We also visit the graves of those Leeds architects buried in Lawnswood including Corson himself, Elisha Backhouse, Edward Birchall, Thomas and Charles Howdill, Thomas Winn, A.E. Kirk and Archibald Neil.

Meeting: 2pm at the cemetery gates

Cost: £6 (members of Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery £3)
Our guide will be Ann Lightman of the Friends of Lawnswood Cemetery assisted by Janet Douglas

6th April: Huddersfield's Belgravia? - The Villas of Edgerton

Edgerton, a mile to the north-west of Huddersfield, saw the development of substantial villas in their own grounds from about 1820, but it was the release of the Thornhill Estate land in 1852 which allowed rapid development of an extensive Victorian suburb. The next two decades saw the 'battle of the styles' played out in a heavily wooded setting, with some regionally recognised architects taking part but many others now unknown. The houses and their settings are well-preserved in a conservation area containing 85 listed structures - walls, gateposts and a tram shelter as well as the houses themselves.

Meeting: 2pm at the Ukrainian Club, 7 Edgerton Road, Huddersfield for a walk of no more than two miles returning to the Club for light refreshments. The Club is in the right-hand side of the A629, approaching Huddersfield from J24 of the M62, or under a mile from the train and bus stations (bus route 503), and has a signpost at its entrance and a car park.

Cost: £8

Please book places by 31st March

Our guide will be David Griffiths, a member of the Vic Soc. and leading member of the Friends of Edgar Wood.

11th May: Visit to Darlington

Another railway-themed trip but there is more to Darlington than railways. We will of course explore the present railway station (1887) and the railway museum housed in the former 1842 station. Woollen and linen industries largely associated with Quaker families, brought Darlington in the 18th century, considerable prosperity, by the end of the century Darlington had a linen industry larger than any town in England. In the 19th century these textile industries were augmented by engineering particularly locomotive engineering. The Quaker influence continued well into the Victorian period, a number of the memorials and buildings in the town are associated with the influential Pease family. It was also Quaker connections which brought Alfred Waterhouse, a Quaker architect to the town where he designed a number of buildings including the Market Hall. Not to be missed is Sloan's Billiard Room (1907) with its nationally

important ceramic interior fitted with Craven and Dunnill wall tiling and huge pictorial panels.

Meeting: Outside the railway station at 11.15am

Cost: £10

8th June: The Splendours of Scarborough

Seaside holidays were largely a creation of the Victorian era. Prior to that few people travelled for pleasure and those who did so went to take the waters at spa towns scattered round the country. Scarborough was one such spa resort which explains its wealth of Regency architecture, but the arrival of the railway in 1845 and increasing national prosperity, In the morning there will be a walking tour of the town which will include a trip on the cliff railway and a visit to the famous Spa complex. Lunch in Brodrick's Grand Hotel. After lunch we will visit St Martin's Church, a Pre-Raphaelite gem designed by Bodley, and there will be opportunities to explore Scarborough Art Gallery and the Rotunda Museum. Our visit to Scarborough will be rounded off by afternoon tea in The Castle by the Sea, once the home of Atkinson Grimshaw.

Meeting: 10.30 outside Scarborough Railway Station.

Cost: £17 including a sandwich lunch at the Grand Hotel (afternoon tea will be paid for on an individual basis)

Guide: Janet Douglas

7th July: Raby Castle and the Bowes Museum

The mighty 14th century fortress of first the Neville family and later the Vanes, might well be the largest medieval castle in the country but although the interior contains some medieval rooms, from the 18th century onwards its owners have carried out programmes of restoration and remodelling beginning with the 3rd Lord Barnard who employed James Paine followed by John Carr to give their home a fashionable Palladian interior. Between 1843-8 the Duke of Cleveland engaged the Edinburgh architect, William Burn to remodel parts of the exterior and provide a stunning suite of rooms. Particularly sumptuous is the Octagonal Drawing Room, a rare survival of a 1840s drawing room with unchanged decoration and lavish display of recently restored textiles. We will have a bespoke tour of the Castle by one its curators which focuses on the Victorian alterations and additions to the Castle.

In the afternoon we will visit the nearby Bowes Museum, incongruous both in scale and style, looking like either a French town hall or small 19th

century chateau. It was designed between 1869-1876 as a purpose-built museum by Jules Pellechet to house the vast art collection of John Bowes and his French wife, Josephine. The idea of opening their own museum surfaced in the early 1860s and between 1862-1874, the couple purchased around 15,000 objects which included furniture, ceramics, silver, glass, textiles and a painting collection which provides a survey of European art from the 15th to 19th century. The Museum is particularly strong on Spanish Art and includes work by El Greco and Goya. We will taken on a tour of the collection by one of the guides. You may also like to look at two of the special exhibitions which will be shown next July: Fashion Photography by Tim Walker, and an exhibition to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Mason Dixon Line.

Meeting: minibus outside Lloyds Bank, Park Row at 9.45am. We leave the Bowes Museum at 5pm.

Cost: £36 which includes travel, entry and guided tours. If you have a Great British Heritage or National Art Pass, the cost will be £29. When you make your booking, indicate to Stephen Walker that you have one of these passes.

Please make your booking by 1st May because it is essential to have sufficient numbers otherwise I will need to cancel the arrangements. We need 20 people for the Raby Tour.

Coffee and Tea is available at Raby when we arrive at a cost £2.50, As this is an expensive day out, people may like to bring a picnic to eat at Raby or else buy lunch in their café.

To book places, please contact Stephen Walker at stephenwalker34@btopenworld.com, or ring 01274 586065