


NEWSLETTER

FURNESS VALE HISTORY SOCIETY
OCTOBER 2022

Furness Vale History Society

The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway

presented by
Neil Ferguson-Lee



Tuesday 4th October at 7.30pm

Furness Vale Community Centre, Yeadsley Lane
Admission £2

We are looking forward to our meeting on Tuesday when Neil Ferguson-Lee presents his talk about the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. Neil, originally from Disley is vice-chairman of this Derbyshire heritage line which operates vintage steam and diesel services between Duffield and Wirksworth.

The Community Centre / Social Club is in Yeadsley Lane, Furness Vale SK23 7PN. Park on the Knowles Industrial Estate (entrance alongside The Soldier Dick). Doors open at 7.0pm and a licensed bar is available.

Buxworth Steam Party

Plenty more steam at Buxworth this weekend for the annual steam party. Centred on Buxworth Club where food and drink is available, the steam engines will be seen around the village all day Saturday and Sunday. It's a free event but proceeds from refreshments will support Blyth House Hospice and Buxworth School pta.



Dates For The Diary

Sunday 2nd October Harvest Festival at St.John's Church 10.00 am

Saturday 8th October Pet Show at St. John's Church 2.00pm Entrance fee 50p plus 50p per pet.



Saturday 15th October COGS coffee morning at the Community Centre 9.30 – 12.00

Saturday 22nd October Table Top Sale at the Community Centre 10.00 - 12.00 noon. Tables may be booked £5 each.



A Prize Piano

Way back in 1960 when I was almost 10, I longed to have a piano like my best friend, and learn to play (under Brian Rogers of Horwich End) well known teacher, tuner and radio enthusiast, despite his blindness since a very young age. Many of you may remember him still. My aunt worked at Whaley Sewing Mill (Whaley Bridge Manufacturing Company) where local 'am drams' had for years rehearsed and had left their redundant piano there . That year they decided to raffle it off as it was old, heavy, out of tune and, most of all, in he way. She bought us a ticket (I do wonder how many were sold) and low and behold. We won!!!! Now imagine, how could we with no transport get the piano home? No probs, Mr Branson (my aunts friend and local coal merchant) obliged on the back of his coal delivery truck with a team of strapping coal men as the 'movers'. So it was loaded and delivered to our council house, where on its arrival, mum gave them a cup of tea to thank them for their trouble and asked them to leave it in the hall way as my dad (all skinny 5ft 5 of him) would move it to the dining room when he got home from work!!! Imagine his despair and the palava, neighbours were coerced, (as they were back then) and, of course, rewarded with 'a cup of tea !!!!



Later in 1975, my now husband and I found ourselves similarly compromised when we saw (in Mr Carter's Newsagent's window) an advert for a 3 piece suite for sale on Start Lane WB. Ideal for our first cottage home near the Cock, the ones with the long front garden paths. Our friendly milk man (Mr John Earnshaw) offered to collect and deliver it one Saturday, after his round, on the back of his float. Unloading his crates at my mums, taking my fiance with him to collect and transport it to the cottage. The sellers begged to take one last photo of their beloved old suite as it left for its new home on the back of the milk float with my husband to be seated amusingly, amazingly and obviously dangerously upon it to secure it as it travelled!!! Happy memories of our Community back then, how folks happily helped one another and the refreshing and rewarding comfort of a cup of tea.

For the Rheumatics

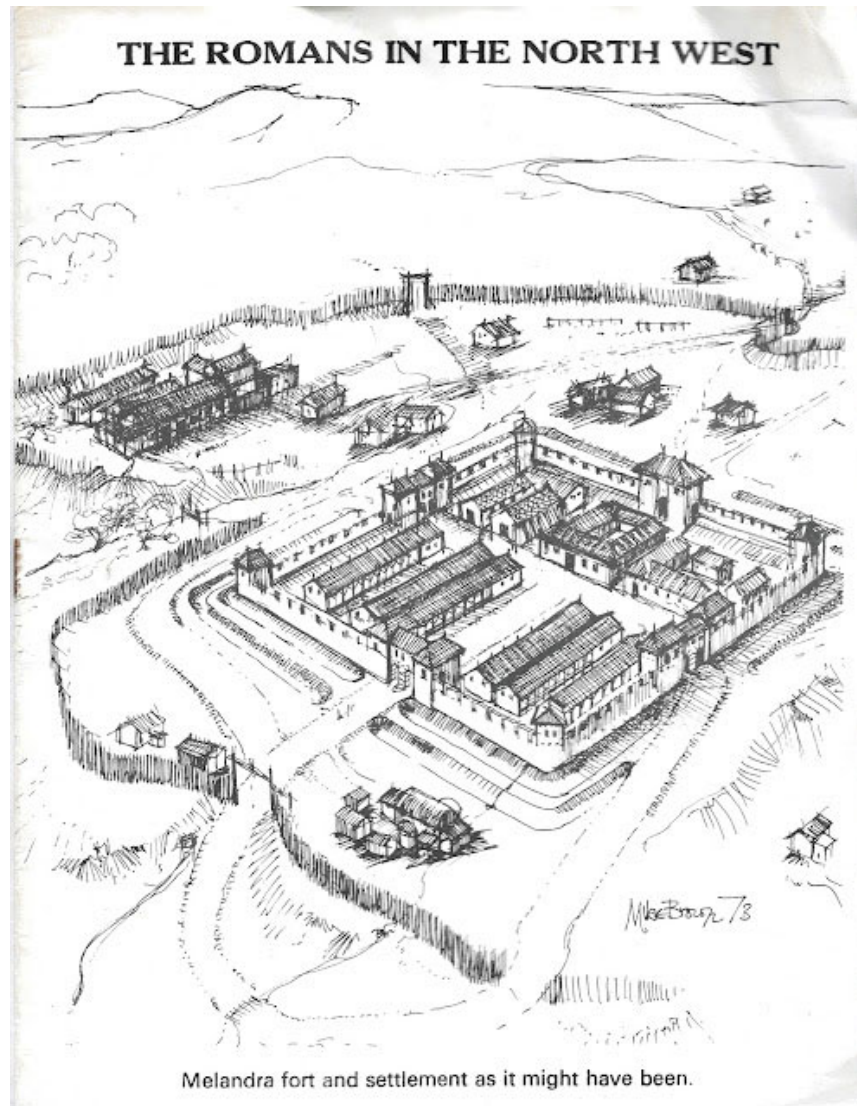
THE old man we met in an East Riding village noticed that my husband was walking with a limp. 'Ah can gie yer a good cure for the rheumatiz', he offered. 'Get a black cat an' chase it till it's all of a white lather. Rub that on. If that wean't cure it, nowt will.' He chuckled. 'Ah telled a pal o' mine that last week. He laughed that mich he went off home without his stick. Did without it for fower or fahve days. But' (regretfully) 'he's fetched it noo, an' Ah think he's as bad as iver he warr'.—*Florence Hopper*

[^] DERBYSHIRE farmer's recommended cure for rheumatics:
"Aif ounce o' sweat off'n a roadman's brow".

The Romans in Derbyshire

Melandra part 1 rediscovering the Roman fort and making a new acquaintance

Now, you either like the Romans or you pass over them with a shudder.



For some they are the quintessential example of ruthless Imperial aggrandisement, characterised by vicious military campaigns, and an economy based on exploitation and slavery.

And that is before you get on to gladiators, dodgy Emperors and fish paste.

Me I take the more balanced view which does require a bit of convenient amnesia, but I have been fascinated by the Romans from about the age of 6, so as I head towards my 73rd birthday, I don't see it changing.

All of which is an introduction to a short guide to the Roman fort of Melandra in Glossop which I picked up sometime in the 1970s.

The fort was one of a series built to consolidate the occupation of the Northwest and were linked by roads which connected the big legionary bases at Chester and York.

And having stumbled across the guide, I contacted the artist who drew a series of images, including a plan and a reconstruction of the fort.

This was Mike Brown, who has a long association with the archaeology of Melandra going back to the 1950s.

Gowhole

Some photographs from Kath Bennett featuring unidentified locos passing Gowhole Sidings. The pictures are undated but are perhaps from the 1950s or 60s.



Below left, we see the footbridges that crossed Gowhole Sidings with the ground frame cabin on the left. The footbridges were demolished after Gowhole closed in 1969. The footpath between Big Tree Farm on Dolly Lane and Waterside still exists but at ground level except where it passes through a tunnel beneath the main line.

The picture on the right shows cars parked on the tracks of the Cromford and High Peak Railway at Caldene Terrace in Whaley Bridge. The houses are on Old Road. The photo is probably soon after the Whaley Bridge Incline closed in 1952.



Up In The Air



Recent aerial photographs of Furness Vale taken by Neil Rigby from his drone.

Above we can see the Community Centre / Social Club and former restaurant on the left. The school playground has been laid with artificial grass. Also in this scene are the former Methodist Chapel, The Crossings and the Railway Station.



The Bowling Green dominates this picture, the children's playground is to the right. On the left is Yardsley Lane and in the foreground, Charlesworth Close.



Park Avenue and Charlesworth Crecent



Bank End with New Mills in the distance. Buxton Road, Peak Forest Canal and two railway lines run in the same direction.

These images are stills from two videos of Furness Vale that feature on Neil Rigby's Facebook Group R19 Images: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/358019086390873>

The group includes many videos from Neil's home town, New Mills.

Another Whaley

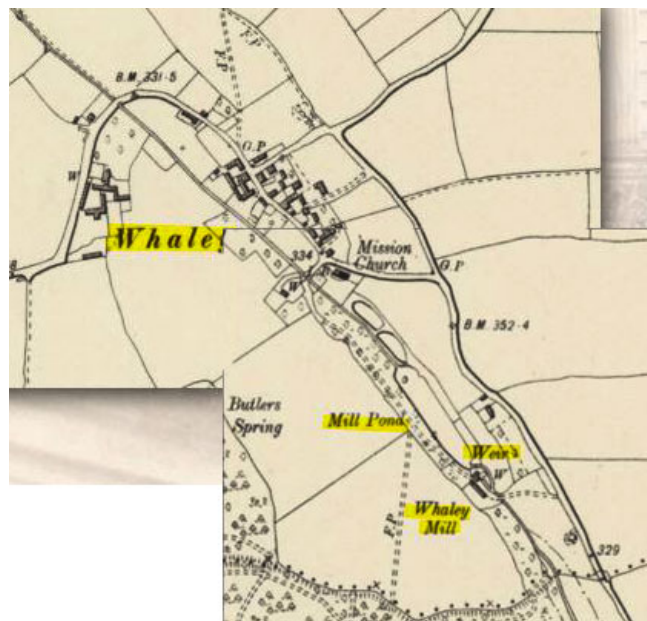
If you should be travelling in the lanes to the east of Chesterfield, you might be surprised to find yourself in the village of Whaley.

This is a small farming community of less than 300 people. Whaley once had a school, a chapel and a pub. The Black Horse only closed in 2017 but a ghost sign advertising Barnsley Bitter still shows its former role.



South of the village is a large mill pond which stored water to supply the former Whaley Corn Mill. This was marked on a map from 1682 and survived until it was demolished in 1935. The stone was used for other buildings in the village.

There is even a Whaley Hall although this appears to now be a working farmhouse.



Two ancient rock shelters have been discovered in Whaley. The first was excavated in 1937. These are not large, being no more than 4 metres deep. In one of the caves, small human remains were found together with flint tools and pottery from the Romano-British period.

In the second rock shelter was a scull, initially believed to be from the Palaeolithic period (at least 11,650 years old). Tools and early pottery have been dated from 4,000 to 10,000 years of age. A number of pottery sherds from the Romano-British period were also found.

This was believed to have been the site of a settlement from the Mesolithic period (10,000 to 8,000 BCE and which continued to be occupied into the Romano-British period.

The Little Twite



The Twite *Linaria flavirostris* is a songbird of the finch family. The bird is on the red list as a Species of Conservation Concern with as few as 170 pairs in England, mostly in the South Pennines and Derbyshire. Ten pairs of twites have made their home in a quarry at Dove Holes but it is believed that only three pairs bred last year. Availability of food has led to a dramatic decline in the number of twites and the birds have been supported by a feeding programme in the hope that their numbers might increase.

On Jackson's Edge

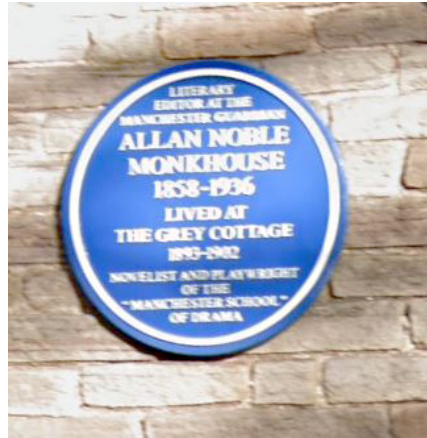


This scene, on Jackson's Edge Road is close to the centre of Disley, only 100 metres from Fountain Square. The photo is undated but the woman's full length dress would suggest that this is early 20th century. Note the horse and two wheeled cart at the brow of the hill. The modern image shows that the view is little changed over the period of time.

Both houses are Grade II listed.

The white building on the left, number 11, consists of two houses of the early 18th century with later additions. It is of sandstone construction with imitation stone roofing and brick chimneys.

Opposite, at number 20, is The Grey Cottage. This house is described as being built c 1830 of sandstone rubble with a Kerridge stone roof and stone chimneys.



The Grey Cottage bears a blue plaque commemorating Allan Noble Monkhouse who lived here between 1893 and 1902. Monkhouse was a playwright and novelist and between 1902 and 1932 was literary editor for the Manchester Guardian. He wrote also for the New Statesman. Many of his plays were performed at Mrs Horniman's Gaiety Theatre in Peter Street. The full text of his play "Mary Broome" may be read on the Internet Archive : <https://archive.org/details/MonkhouseMaryBroome/mode/2up>

Combs Reservoir Breach

A severe storm hit Britain on 3rd January 1976. Winds reached an average speed of 70 knots, gusting in places to 87 knots and causing widespread flooding and damage, especially in Eastern England. It was even stronger in Northern Europe where it reached hurricane force.

Another storm followed on 29th January bringing strong winds and very cold temperatures. The dam at Combs Reservoir had been repaired on a number of previous occasions including the removal of trees in 1948 and the stemming of a leak in 1969 caused by decayed roots. It had been constructed in 1805 to the design of Benjamin Outram and raised by 2 metres in 1820.

On the morning of 29th January, during the storm, a 10 metre wide slip occurred on the downstream slope. The breach was discovered at 7.15, reportedly by a postman on his rounds and the police and British Waterways alerted. At 9.0am the draw off valve was opened to lower the water level which was 11 cm above the spillway level and only 90cm below the level of the wave wall. Temperature was below freezing and spray was blowing over the crest. A deep cut was made in the overflow weir and pumps used to lower the water level.

It was concluded that cavities had been created at the base of the wave wall by wave action leading to saturation of the downstream face and slip.

It was 1983 before repairs were finally completed with the installation of a wave wall atop the dam. A new, higher level road was built on the downstream side and the gap infilled. Water levels had been kept to a safe minimum in the intervening years and the reservoir could now be filled.

Several people can recall events of that day. The team working on the dam had to crawl along the ice covered surface to assemble piping to syphon water using pumps. these operated for many months before the new splash wall was installed. A worker had to climb down to open the sluice at the far end of the dam and returned with the back of his donkey jacket iced up and his hair appearing as icicles. A small card box was found at the bottom of the drained reservoir. It was full of live .38 pistol bullets.

There are many reports of flooding and some people were evacuated especially between Combs Reservoir and Horwich End.

At Cadster Farm three fields of hay were ready for bailing and were lost to flooding; a hay rake was never seen again. A bailer jammed under Cadster Bridge and the river was 3 feet deep and the width of the field.

An area at the bottom of Elnor Lane where houses have since been built was flooded.

We are grateful to Wendy Alsop for allowing us to reproduce photographs taken by her late husband, Derek.

A more extensive account of the Combs Reservoir breach will soon be posted to our website, together with a wider selection of Derek Alsop's photographs.



Damage to the banking - January 1976



Reducing the water levels January and February 1976



Installing a new wave wall on the dam – July and November 1983

Glinton and Elmsdale



This photograph was posted recently on social media and produced some interesting comments.

The houses are at 292 and 294 Buxton Road, Furness Vale and were photographed before St. John's Church was built alongside in 1912.

Elmsdale, on the right, was at this time, home to Mr. Goodwin, headmaster of Furness Vale School, and his family. He had been appointed to his post in 1876 but it wasn't until 1918 that he retired.

Andrea Barlow wrote: "My Grandad had the 2 houses built next door to the left of the picture, 288 and 290 Buxton rd. Yes I remember A family called Bainbridge there, then different Vicars. I think next door they were called misses Bennet, two sisters one could have been called Ida?"

My late father in law Job Barlow, did their garden, also at the Church, he lived at 310 in the council houses. I think a lady called Maud Burton lived next door, they were very amusing when they got chatting"

Adele Burton also wrote that "Glinton" was the vicarage.

Gallery



Yeadsley Hall photographed in 2003



These ruins stood in the grounds of Shrigley Hall and were known as Edward III Castle. They were demolished in the 1930s for safety reasons. It is not known if Pott Shrigley Castle was a fortification or part of Old Shrigley Hall.



The toll cottage at Fernilee. Tolls were collected on behalf of the Manchester to Buxton Turnpike. Photograph courtesy of Arthur Philips



Chapel Road, Whaley Bridge. Photograph courtesy of Arthur Philips



Class 5 locomotive 45404 leaving Shallcross Sidings on 9th September 1964.
Photograph courtesy of Arthur Philips



An undated view of Bugsworth Basin and the Navigation Inn. Photograph courtesy of Arthur Philips



A National Express coach heads south out of Furness Vale in the 1980s.



The Wash. A Tuck postcard published in 1939



Eccles Pike. A postcard published in 1939



Ashopton, a 1939 postcard. The village was lost in the early 1940s due to the construction of Ladybower Reservoir

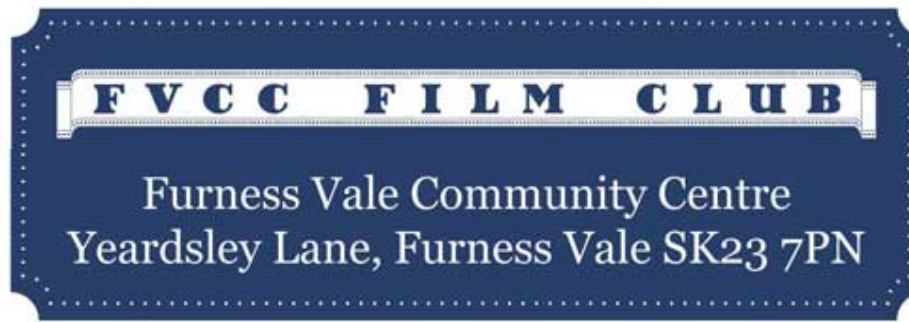
Post Office

Furness Vale Post Office is open every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 13.30 to 16.30.

Refreshments are served and there is a community shop for grocery essentials. A good selection of History Society publications is always on sale

Furness Vale Community Centre and Social Club is in Yardsley Lane SK23 7PN next to the former Chinese Restaurant.





Future presentations are:

October 21st – Belfast

November 18th – The Windermere Children

December 16th – Elvis

Door open 7.0pm for
A 7.30 start



Admission by donation £3 recommended



Meetings

Furness Vale History Society

- Tuesday 4th Oct. The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. Neil Ferguson-Lee with the story of a Derbyshire heritage railway.
- Tuesday 1st Nov. Dale Mine. A lead and zinc mine above the Manifold Valley with Catherine Parker Heath
- Tuesday 6th Dec. An evening with David Harrop of the Manchester Postal Museum.
- Tuesday 3rd Jan. To be announced
- Tuesday 7th Feb The High Peak Dambuster. The story of Frank Marriott with Frank Pleszak (postponed from March 2022)

All of our meetings are held at Furness Vale Community Centre, Yeardsley Lane. Doors open at 7.0pm for a 7.30 start.

New Mills Local History Society

Friday Oct. 14th - Isambard Kingdom Brunel presented by Brian Barry

Friday Nov. 11th - The story of Avro Aviation with Roger Yates

Friday Dec. 9th - Textile Conservation by Jenny von Enckevort & Kloe Rumsey

Meetings are held at New Mills Town Hall at 7.45pm. Admission is £1.50 including refreshments.

Marple Local History Society

Meetings are at the Methodist Church, Church Lane, Marple SK6 7AY at 7.45pm admission is £3

Monday 17th Oct "Red Box" presented by Nigel Linge

Monday 14th Nov "Alan Turing" by Neil Sheldon

Monday 12th Dec "It's behind you, The history of Pantomime" Mark Llewelin

Buxton Local History Society

Wednesday 19th Oct Joseph Paxton. Presented by Danny Wells

Wednesday 16th Nov The Bamford Dams.with Keith Blood

Meetings are held at Trinity Church Hall, Hardwick Mount at 7. 30pm



Society Shop

The History Society offers a wide range of publications and many of these are now available by mail order. Visit our Online Shop to browse the bookshelves where we currently have a range of 18 titles <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/Tunnelbreeze>

Many of our titles are available as e-books and may be purchased from Amazon Kindle. A list of books may be viewed here: <https://amzn.to/2xnLDQi>

All of our books are available direct from the History Society and many are on sale at the Community Shop on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Our most popular titles are now on sale at Footsteps, Market Street, Whaley Bridge.



Recently published is the third part of David Jackson's "Stepping into the Past" trilogy. "Glimpses of Whaley Bridge" is available from the History Society along with his Taxal and Kettlethulme titles.

Don't Forget the Website

Remember to visit the History Society website. <http://furnesshistory.blogspot.com>

We always welcome contributions to both the website and to this newsletter. Please hand these to David Easton or email them to furnesshistory@gmail.com tel 01663 744080
The next edition of the Newsletter will be distributed early in January 2023

Social Media

We have a lively presence on both Facebook and Twitter where you can follow our activities on an almost daily basis



<https://www.facebook.com/furnesshistory>



<https://twitter.com/FurnessHistory>

We also recommend neighbouring groups all of which have a strong local history interest;

Growing up in Whaley Bridge

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/438388482840816/?fref=ts>

Buxwoth Reunited

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/202542456586634/>

Eh Up New Mills

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/165879423592725/>

Growing up in Chapel

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1642762309270765/>

The Buxton Line – featuring our local railway:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BuxtonLine/>



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