



HALIFAX ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010

W B Crump in his book 'Huddersfield Highways Down the Ages' shows a drawing of this guide stoop on Haigh House Hill and another in the same sequence at the Royal George, Scammonden (The Royal George's name changed several years ago). These Crump describes as "Guide stoops on the Pre-Turnpike Road", in other words, of the same date as the one visible on Shibden Hall Road.

Whether the word 'post' is too vague in the St Joseph's context one can, so far, merely speculate about. At the time of our visit there was an amiable disagreement between some members as to whether the stoop was in its original position or not. There the matter rests for the moment.

HAS members present were Chris Bateman, myself, David Mottram and Chris and Wendy Tolson with their small, shivering and very patient dog!

We must thank Jeremy Jones for his expert services and time given on such a cold day.

Donald Haigh
December 2009

INFORMATION FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Calderdale MBC: Behind the Scenes at Bankfield – Saturday 27th March 2010
1pm-4pm. Free but booking essential on 01422 354823

Come to Bankfield to explore Calderdale's fascinating museum collections. Have a peek into the stores, find out about the hidden history of the building itself and see what curators do behind the scenes!

Halifax Choral Society: Verdi's Requiem and Holst's Hymn for Jesus - Sunday 28th March 2010

Halifax Choral Society is offering a small number of tickets at half-price to HAS members for this concert on Sunday 28th March 2010 at the Victoria Theatre, Halifax. If you would like to apply for tickets, please contact Corinne McDonald on 01422 348863 or corinnemcdonald@yahoo.co.uk by 12th March. If there are more applications than tickets available, a ballot will be held.

If you would like to receive information about future offers from Halifax Choral Society, please let Corinne know.

NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the newsletter will be sent out in May. If you have any contributions please e-mail them to mail@halifaxhistory.org.uk or post them to Corinne McDonald, 13 Grandsmere Place, Halifax HX3 0DP.

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS

The Romans Came This Way – Tuesday 7th September 2010

This talk by Granville Clay which was due to be held on 5 January but was postponed due to bad weather has now been rearranged for 7.30pm on the evening of 7th September 2010 at Halifax Central Library.

Society newsletters

Andrew Robinson is appealing for copies of the following HAS newsletters for the Society's archive. One copy of each is required unless otherwise stated.

No.32 - October 1985

No.33 - January 1986

No.37 - January 1988

No.51 - January 2000 (2 copies)

No.62 - June 2004

Andrew will be happy to receive these at any Society meeting.

Library accessions 2009

The list of library accessions during 2009 is enclosed with this newsletter.

Books about servants

Following her very interesting talk 'Skivvy', Dr Susan Deal has very kindly sent through the following list of recommended reading about servants:

- 'Useful Toil', edited by John Burnett, has a section of autobiographies of servants
 - 'Not in front of the Servants', by Frank Victor Dawes, is a good general introduction
 - 'The Victorian Domestic Servant', by Trevor May, published by Shire books, is a much briefer but good introduction, and as with all Shire books, at a low price
 - 'Life Below Stairs', by Frank E Huggett, is also worth looking at
- Susan thinks that they are all out of print but a library may come up with them or they may be available second hand on www.amazon.co.uk.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AGM—Tuesday 16th March 2010

The Society's AGM will take place on the evening of Tuesday 16th March and papers are enclosed. The Society is keen for more people to get involved in its running. Further nominations are therefore invited for all posts marked with an asterisk on the AGM agenda. These can be accepted at the AGM, provided that the nominee is willing to stand.

South Pennine Boat Club – Saturday 24th April 2010

Join Joyce Scott for a visit to the South Pennine Boat Club from 10.00am (for 10.30am) to 4.00pm.

The day will include:

- Short talks by both Halifax Antiquarian Society and South Pennine Boat Club
- History of site over the last 25 years
- Photographic displays
- Boat cruises on the Calder Navigation Society's boat 'Savile'

Cost: Donations only for the Boat Club and the boat cruises. £3 for a light lunch.

Tickets are available (on a first come first served basis) at Society meetings, or from Joyce Scott, 5 Westfield Avenue, Lightcliffe, Halifax HX3 8AP (01422 201880). If you want the light lunch, please enclose a cheque for £3 made payable to Halifax Antiquarian Society.

Please fill your car. If you can offer a lift or need a lift or directions, please contact Joyce as above.

Members' social – Tuesday 4th May 2010

We are delighted to announce that our social this year will be held at Peel House, courtesy of our President Clive Lloyd and his family.

The evening will include food, drink and entertainment. Tickets (priced £10 each) are available on a first come first served basis at Society meetings or by post from Corinne McDonald, 13 Grandsmere Place, Halifax HX3 0DP (01422 348863). Cheques should be made payable to Halifax Antiquarian Society.

A date for your diary – Wednesday 25th August 2010

Leslie Morgan will be leading a visit to Chetham's Library and Manchester Cathedral on this day. Further details will follow in the next newsletter.

VISIT REPORT

The major engineering works in Godley Cutting Halifax on the A58 trunk road

Here, Donald Haigh reports on a visit to the above works.

On Saturday afternoon November 7, 2009 five hardy members of HAS met Jeremy Jones, a Senior Geotechnical Engineer of Mouchal Ltd, a firm specialising in Ground Engineering, Geotechnics, Hydrogeology, Engineering and Environment.

Mr Jones revealed the nature of the geology and the evidence of human activity on the strata revealed on the south side of Godley Cutting. One or two visitors took photographs. Chris Bateman was able to provide details of alterations to the road levels in the cutting in the last 60 years or so. Mr Jones found these details quite valuable.

The original cutting was made 1827-30; the material removed went to the building of the huge embankment to bridge the Shibden Valley from the cutting to Stump Cross. When entering Halifax by way of Godley there may be seen, when trees and bushes are leafless in winter, far below the modern road, the roofs of the houses built in the shadow of the embankment. Charles Clegg, writing in the Transactions of the Halifax Antiquarian Society in 1915, reported the following details. "The extreme length of the cutting is about 790 yards (722m) and the greatest depth 60 feet (18.3m). The present Stump Cross Inn was erected in place of an old inn of the same name which occupied a site now covered by the embankment".

Afterwards some members examined a probable eighteenth century guide stoop on the north side of Shibden Hall Road at c. SE 1010 2575 which does not appear to be marked on current or past O.S. maps at scales varying between 6 and 60 inches to the mile.

The writing on the guide post is obscured by the field wall abutting it on both sides on which writing occurs. David Mottram managed to elucidate more of the detail. It appears to indicate distances to Wakefield and to Bradford and possibly to Halifax but no writing indicating the last possibility could be seen.

It is hoped that Calderdale MBC will agree that the complete guide post should be revealed on all its sides with the field walls side-stepped around it. Mr Jones said he would make representations to the Council about this. The route to Wakefield probably followed the course of Shibden Hall Road while that to Bradford would go by way of Horley Green and Dirt Carr to Bradford Old Road as marked on the 1854 6 inch O.S. map Sheet 231. If the stoop is revealed on all its sides it would then be possible to discover the miles indicated.

A recent letter from David Mottram provided perhaps another possibility, certainly another problem. He sent me a copy of an O.S. map at a scale of 25.344 inches to a mile, resurveyed 1888-89, revised 1905. At that time, St Joseph's R.C. School was shown as being close to the southern approach to Godley Bridge, not its present site. There were a number of different boundaries shown from the ancient township boundaries running through to the Urban District Boundary dividing, one presumes, Halifax from Southowram.

Close to one of these immediately adjacent to St Joseph's School is the word 'Post'. Looking at other areas for comparisons, I have, so far, found one along Lindley Moor Road in the outskirts of Huddersfield on the O.S. 6 inch 1854 map, which indicates "Guide Post".