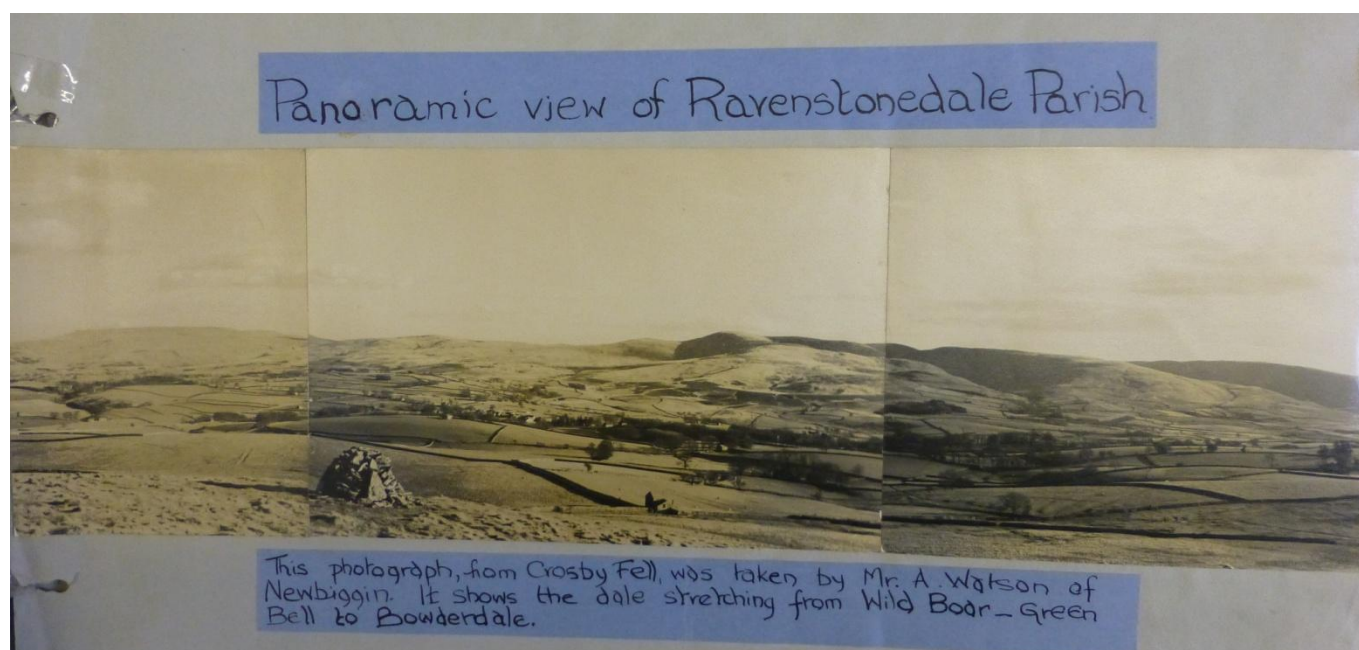


RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH HISTORY GROUP



Newsletter Autumn 2018

We've been asked about the above photograph which is used as the header on our website pages. It shows a view of Ravenstonedale Parish from Bents Hill on Crosby Garrett Fell looking west across the dale to Wild Boar Fell on the left and Bowderdale on the right. It was inspired by the panorama below, which is from one of our prizewinning WI scrapbooks in the Archive.



As last year we will be emailing this newsletter to most of our members to save postage. Those without access to email will of course still receive a copy in the post. If you receive the monthly Parish newsletter, The Link, details of our meetings are also listed in that, and please remember that if you do have access to the internet you can keep up to date with History Group news and events by checking the website www.ravenstonedalehistory.org.uk on a regular basis (our website can also be reached via a link from the Ravenstonedale Community website www.ravenstonedale.org).

If you wish to contact the History Group, please leave a comment on one of the forms on our website. Your email address will NOT be shown online – it is only visible to you and to the website admin, who will endeavour to contact you within a week or so. Comments are all reviewed before they are published on the website, and then answered either privately or on the website as appropriate. If you wish to telephone the History Group, please call either 015396 23308 or 07798 688057.

Annual General Meeting 2018

The Committee would like to thank those members who attended the AGM held in May 2018. The new committee is as follows: **Chair:** Sue Prince; **Vice-Chairman:** Jackie Wedd; **Secretary:** Caroline Morris; **Treasurer/Membership Secretary:** Val Fermer; **Other committee members:** Chris Elphick, Diane Elphick; Chris Harrison-Beck; Ann Metcalfe-Gibson; Bill Wappett

Next Season's Programme of Talks 2018-2019:

Weds 19th September: Peter Roebuck – Cattle Droving through Cumbria
Weds 17th October: Richard Preston – No Labour, No Food, No War – at Newbiggin-on-Lune Public Hall
Weds 21st November: Val Fermer - Soldiers from Ravenstonedale Parish 1914-1918
Weds 16th January: Hilary Wilson - Wartime Farming in the Howgills
Weds 20th February: Les Neal – Changes in Newbiggin-on-Lune – at Newbiggin-on-Lune Public Hall
Weds 20th March: Steve Fermer – Shorthorn Cattle

This season's evening talks and summer outdoor evening walks

Evening talks have again been well supported by both members and non-members, with an average attendance of around 30 people, and we have learnt about subjects as diverse as life in Ravenstonedale in the early years of the 1900's, the story of the Westmorland Motorway Services at Tebay and Rheged, past and present Parish Hostelries and life inside a Lakeland Farmhouse. This talk by Andy Lowe's was, as always, fascinating and informative, and it prompted us to ask him if we could arrange a walk with him through Ravenstonedale village one evening in the summer. He said he would be very pleased to see the village in daylight for once –



and not only was his visit at the end of June attended by 28 people, but it was a very warm sunlit evening – better than we could have hoped for. We learnt a lot about the features on the outside of the houses in the village – and then were lucky enough to see inside two of the houses – different in age and character, but interestingly both had original cast-iron brackets near the ceiling for holding shelves for the storage of food in the warmest, driest place in the house. We also



learnt about HL hinges, hecks, and a medieval post reused as a beam. We hope Andy will return to cast his eyes over Newbiggin, and maybe some of the outlying properties in the Parish too.

In February, Jackie Wedd gave an illustrated talk on the life and work of Edward Jeffrey, a much-loved artist and illustrator who lived in Ravenstonedale for the last thirty years of his life until he died in 1978. We were fortunate that many owners of his paintings and illustrated books had agreed that Jackie could photograph them for use in her talk, and there were also many examples of his work on show for the evening.



Some of the audience at Jackie's talk enjoying the exhibits, coffee and chat afterwards



The interest shown has prompted Jackie to compile a catalogue raisonné of his known works on paper with the help of members of Edward Jeffrey's family. The History Group hope to hold an exhibition of his work sometime in the future. So far we know of over 150 of his paintings, illustrations and decorated Maling ware pottery – but not the

whereabouts of all of them!



Meanwhile, the History Group is delighted to have been given one of the watercolours which featured in Jackie's talk - a 1949 portrait of Sarah (Sadie) Wilson who lived in Chantry Lodge and rented The Chantry to the Jeffrey and Clarke families. Edward Jeffrey originally painted the portrait as a birthday gift for Sadie, and it is her granddaughter Tracey Meloni who has sent the portrait "home" from the USA. It is a very kind and generous gift, and will be on show in the History Room after reframing.

Our final talk of the season in March was by Les Neal, who presented the research into the Statesmen, Messuages and Tenements in Town Angle, Ravenstonedale, and next year Les returns to give us a talk on his home village of Newbiggin-on-Lune, which will be held in the Hall there. This season we held two talks in Newbiggin for the first time and both were well attended, prompting us to do so again this coming season.

Our Christmas get-together featured not only another of Dave's fiendish quizzes, but also Bill at the keyboard and Ann's lovely decorations for the Chapel. Thanks to all.

October 2017 Exhibition

This took place in High Chapel and featured items from our growing collection of Parish maps, sales prospectuses and photographs of historic Victorian gardens. Perhaps the highlight of our collection is our bound first edition of Ordnance Survey maps of the Parish from 1859. This is already proving extremely useful not only for family history research but also for researching the changes to the roads, the original course of the River Lune and the original position of various features such as our one surviving "Angle" stone. (pictured). This stone marks the boundary between Newbiggin Angle and Bowderdale



Angle, and the Ordnance Survey benchmark can clearly be seen on one side. This helps us to fix the stone's position in 1859 as that benchmark is shown on our original map. It is hoped that the damaged portion of the stone can be re-attached with help from Yorkshire Dales National Park and/or the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership initiative. The stone will then be replaced in its original position.



Mention of Bowderdale leads on to the Family History research which, as ever, is ongoing!

Family History Research

One of the enquiries on our website earlier this year was from Russell Pugh in New Zealand whose family emigrated to Australia in 1849. Three Milner brothers (James, Ralph and John) all left the farm at Long Gill (which is just over the Parish border from Bowderdale into Orton) and Russell is researching their history, including an epic journey – Ralph and John Milner are remembered for being the first to drive a mob of stock (sheep, goats and horses) plus wheeled vehicles right across Australia from south to north in 1872. John tragically lost his life in the outback in 1871. Ralph Milner returned to England in 1874 and 1875 and visited his cousin Ralph Preston in Bowderdale, but set sail for New Zealand on hearing of the death of his brother James, who had named his property there after his birthplace - Long Gill. We are trying

to answer Russell's question about where the three brothers would have attended school, as all could read and write when they embarked on the ship in 1849 – it is possible that they could have attended the Dame School at Raisbeck in Orton Parish.

Orton also featured in our final event of this season - a walk round the village on a lovely July evening led by Wendy Higgins, Orton resident and Blue Badge Guide. The tour started at the Market Hall, revealing the history of the very ancient Market Charter and a tale of an evening in the Vicar's cellar that led to a court martial in the English Civil War. Orton Hall was discussed, as well as a number of buildings built by the Revd John Septimus Sisson denoted by initials in stone carved above the door of each property. One of these properties has a porch possibly re-utilised from one of three vicarages built over the years.

The Mill, now being faithfully restored as a dwelling, and other notable homes in the pretty lane along the Chapel Beck were described, in terms of their history.



The walk concluded with a tour of the Church, with features inside the building that gave an insight as to date of construction, including the ancient Parish chest, and the mystery door, revealed in recent restoration work. Excellent tea and biscuits refreshed the walkers, who all thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

In last year's newsletter, Jeremy Webb wrote an article about his research into his Hewetson relatives, which contains the following:

The frame of mind and motivation of John Hewetson when he joined the Bradford Pals in 1915 is easier to imagine now we know that at age 13, when living in poverty, he lost his father and was separated from his brother.

This leads us into the theme for our forthcoming exhibition, which this autumn will be held in conjunction with FOSO (Friends of St Oswalds) when they hold their event A Parish Remembers in St Oswalds Church on November 9th to commemorate the end of the First World War. The exhibition will be in the Church for the whole weekend and will then move to High Chapel for Val's talk on 21st November. We are hoping to show what life was like not only on the battlefields but also in the Parish during the War.