



Pendle &

Open Day Event

at

Colne Library

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

on Saturday

3rd November

We will need helpers to assist people with their Family History, but we also need helpers to book people in etc.

2018 Programme

- 17th Oct "WWI German Prisoners of War in Skipton"
Anne Buckley
- 31st Oct Practical Evening
- 3rd Nov Open Day Event 9.30am – 12.30pm
- 21st Nov "About The Jam, Darling"
Virginia Aighton
- 5th Dec Christmas Party
Jack Hargreaves: Songs and Laughter

-----oo000oo-----

GAZETTE – Editor – Arnold Slater

Articles for the January 2019 Gazette
by the end of December please.

Please send articles to Editor at lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk
or by post to the Editor,
c/o 6 Sussex Street, Barnoldswick, Lancashire BB18 5DS

-----oo000oo-----

Random thoughts after the summer drought

by Rod Moorhouse

During this summer's heat wave I became convinced I would never write another family history article for the Gazette. I was not researching at the time and I lacked any kind of inspiration. So often in the past the subjects of my articles have sprung from random thoughts or chance happenings – it all felt flat. As I live 200 miles from Burnley writing for the Gazette has many benefits, particularly the contacts with FHS members occasionally generated following publication; I would not like it to end.

More recently my wife commented on the volume of family history material we now store in our house – several substantial shelves of large folders and box files which contain our collection of old photographs, BMD certificates, correspondence, copies of newspaper articles and published family biographies. That's in addition to the storage on our desk top computer and memory sticks. I am sure this situation is familiar to many of you but my wife went on to say, "who will look after it all in the future". I suppose the chance of some family member taking an interest ought to be quite high - in addition to our daughter and granddaughters I have a sister who has five children and ten grandchildren. My wife also has a similar network of relatives. In the past I have occasionally passed on new information about the family to my sister but she shows only the mildest interest. My daughter is quite interested but far too busy to get involved.

Then a ray of hope appeared. During the August school holiday our thirteen year old granddaughter came to visit for the day on her own i.e. without mum and sister who can talk loudly and at length. In the midst of a long conversation about many topics she suddenly asked me what my father had done during WW2. Where to begin? – I have analysed his army pay book, transcribed his account of service overseas and written down the stories he told during my childhood. So how to nurture this apparently sudden interest and not frighten my granddaughter with too much information? I told her the bare facts and it seemed to be sufficient to satisfy her curiosity – she moved onto

another topic of conversation! She might become a future custodian of our data collection but only time will tell.

A more random activity is to review the work so far completed on my autobiography. I usually become so absorbed in the story that I simply correct my grammar; I rarely edit or add to it. At the moment the 30,000 word draft ends roughly at the time of my early retirement in 1986. I cannot get past this point. Maybe deep down I do not want to return to the tragic events of the years that followed - perhaps I am too close. I am beginning to think it is easier to write about the more distant past. Even that has some pitfalls one of which is a tendency to be selective and only write about the best bits – happy times, successful ventures, etc.

This week I sent an article written last winter, to the Editor of the Keighley and District FHS Journal. In reply she reminded me that the society will merge in December with the Wharfedale FHS. It will be renamed 'Airedale and Wharfedale FHS'. I have been a member of the KDFHS for many years, mainly because some of my Moorhouse ancestors lived in and around Bradley in Airedale from the 17th century. Some of their descendants moved to Skipton in the early years of the industrial revolution. Before that time the family had its roots in Skibeden in Wharfedale – one writer claims that they were tenants of the Lords of Bolton Abbey. So I am delighted with the merging of these two societies and hope it will have benefits for many other members.

It will soon be 11th November 2018, exactly 100 years after the WW1 Armistice. An article I read recently reminded me that this war ended in Victory. The writer went on to say that alongside the commemoration of those who fought and those who fell we should still celebrate the Victory. There are many accounts and some film footage of people celebrating at that time. But then I began to wonder how the soldiers on the battlefields celebrated, how they felt and what followed next? I turned to the war diaries to try and find out – possibly to gain a small insight into their 11th of November. I am most familiar with the diaries of the 1/6 battalion of the West Yorkshire regiment.

My father's cousin served with them throughout the war which makes these diaries especially interesting. The diary pages leading up to the Armistice were written in faint pencil and are

difficult to read. During early November it appears that the battalion was relieved at the battle front by companies of Canadian soldiers. The soldiers of the 1/6 gradually pulled back to billets at Evien where they rested and relaxed. There are some touching comments e.g. "the OR's [ordinary ranks] were bathed and issued with new underwear". On the morning of the 11 Nov. 1918 the diarist simply records the following, "*News was received that the Armistice had been signed at 0500 hours and that hostilities ceased at 1100 hours. Parades were cancelled by the B.G.C. [Battle Group Commander]. A thanksgiving service with a short address by B.G.C. was held at 1330. An association match was played officers v Sergeants. 3 all.*"

So, in a situation where there was little else available by way of celebratory entertainment the Officers and Sergeants organised a football match which allowed the ordinary ranks to be spectators. No doubt they cheered and shouted at the players until they were hoarse.

There is no mention of a special meal or a beer ration being issued and in fact the diary states that next day and in the days that followed they all returned to battalion duties and training exercises. The diary entries are, as ever strictly factual and without any form of additional comment. One can only speculate about the emotions which were roused within individual soldiers after the cessation of hostilities. Euphoria, relief and deep joy are fairly easy to imagine although for some there must have been feelings of loss and sadness as fallen friends and comrades were remembered.

Those sentiments have lasted to this day and that is why on the 11th it is right for us to celebrate Victory and to solemnly commemorate all those who took part.

-----ooOOOoo-----

Trip to Pilkington's World of Glass at St Helens

Wednesday 18th July 2018

For ten years now our July meeting has been replaced by a day trip in order to avoid the disruption of an annual cycle race which closes down Colne town centre in the evening. The first trip was to Liverpool in 2009. This year, on Wednesday, 18th July, we celebrated our Lancashire industrial heritage with a visit to Pilkington's "The World of Glass" at St Helens. The museum opened in 2000 on the historic site of an 18th century engineering works and a Victorian glass furnace. Set beside the Sankey Canal, opened in 1757 to transport coal to the Mersey and Liverpool, St Helens was ideally placed for the development of the glassmaking industry.

The entrance to the museum was shaped like a conical, brick-lined glass kiln which impressed. We were greeted with welcome refreshments, and then had time to admire a magnificent 2-tonne glass chandelier hanging in the Reception area which had been one of four Venetian chandeliers that used to hang in Manchester Airport before it was refurbished. Our tour began in the Museum Galleries where there were displayed rare and beautiful pieces of glass collected by the Pilkington family. Further on, exhibits represented the various local industries, glassmaking, coalmining, pharmaceuticals and brewing, as well as the local pastimes and institutions, to give an impression of life in St Helens in Victorian times.

We watched a film show which showed how glassmaking evolved from Ancient Egypt to modern times. Pilkingtons helped to pioneer the continuous production of glass which brought down the cost of sheet glass at the end of the 19th century. In 1952 Sir Alastair Pilkington invented the technique of the float glass process, whereby the melted raw materials of glass are floated at high temperature over a bath of molten tin to form a ribbon of glass. This has become the universal process for the manufacture of high quality flat glass used in modern buildings. The film also speculated about possible developments into the future.

After that there was a demonstration of the more traditional craft of glassblowing. It took about 40 minutes to create a beautiful coloured dish from molten glass that would be available to buy in the gift shop. Unsurprisingly, in the past the glassblowers commanded top wages in the factory.

After lunch we were taken across a bridge to the other side of the canal to have a look at the Victorian Cone Building, the world's first continuous glass making furnace. In 1887 the Pilkington brothers acquired the site to build three Siemens regenerative tank furnaces along the banks of the Sankey Canal. These furnaces were more economical on fuel, recycling the heat in the underground tunnels which cut costs, time and labour, to make the mass production of cheaper sheet glass possible. We had the opportunity to go into the brick tunnels beneath the furnaces.

Finally, after the guided tour, we had some free time to browse in the gift shop and the art exhibition, revisit the Museum Galleries and the Cone Building, or maybe enjoy tea and cake in the cafe. It was generally agreed it was an enjoyable and informative place to visit, and we thank Mary Jackson for organising and funding the trip as a thank-you to all her friends who have supported her throughout the past few difficult years.

Sylvia Marshall

-----oo000oo-----

PRACTICAL EVENING

31st October

We would welcome suggestions for topics for future meetings.

-----oo000oo-----

Pendle and Burnley Branch Programme 2019

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 16 January | Harold Hoggarth: Respectable Rebels |
| 30 January | <i>Practical Session</i> |
| 20 February | Steve Williams: Four Tins |
| 20 March | AGM <i>speaker TBA</i> |
| 17 April | Kate Hurst: Who Do You Think You Are? |
| 15 May | <i>Outvisit TBA</i> |
| 29 May | <i>Practical Session</i> |
| 19 June | Graham Kemp: The Love Life of John of Gaunt |
| 17 July | <i>Day Visit TBA</i> |
| 31 July | <i>Practical Session</i> |
| 21 August | <i>Speaker TBA</i> |
| 18 September | Steven Gill: Dating Family Photographs |
| 16 October of | Kevin Illingworth: The Traditional Buildings Lancashire and Yorkshire |
| 30 October | <i>Practical Session</i> |
| 20 November | Edgar Holroyd-Doveton: The Woollen and Textile Industry in 19 th C. England |
| 4 December | Linda Sawley: Christmas Talk |