

Bygone Bilsdale and Social

Present: Malcolm Bowes, Clive and Brigid Marsh, John and Anne Rees, Sue Rutter

Apologies:- Geoff Coston, Peter Smith

At the December meeting there had been a general discussion about updating Bygone Bilsdale, and this discussion continued at the meeting in January. A range of alternatives were considered. It is more than 20 years since the book was published. Many topics could be updated, and additional topics, such as the Foord watercourses, could be included. However it was recognised that this would be a major exercise and could take many months to complete. It was agreed, therefore that we should concentrate on revising only those parts which have become out of date and are inaccurate. It was agreed to read the book again during January and discuss specifics at the social in February, before embarking on the traditional quiz. (Anne volunteered to prepare the quiz).

At the meeting in February a significant number of areas which are factually out of date were identified by various members, though it was not always possible to propose specific amendments. It was agreed that each member would e mail Malcolm specific suggestions. These will be collated and circulated to everyone for comment then incorporated in the first revision to the book. There have been initial discussions with Dennis Tyerman, who holds the copyright. He fully supports the need to update the book and the legal implications need to be considered in more detail.

It was also agreed to give members who are unable to attend the meeting the opportunity to suggest changes. Any suggestions should be e mailed to Malcolm.

We also continued the discussions about the need to collate information about Bilsdale. Electronic copies of the Bilsdale surveys spreadsheet, a list of newsletters, the audio recordings by Dennis and the audio recordings from 2010 are available on request. An important source of information is the "Discovering Bilsdale's History" book which contains extracts from the newsletters. Currently this is out of print, though an electronic copy is available. We also agreed to start bringing topics up to date by having general discussions at future meetings lead by a group member. This will start in March when Anne will talk about some local farms and families based on Census results.

After these discussions we embarked on a quiz of Yorkshire which Anne had prepared. Between us, we managed to answer most of the question while consuming the snacks which Wolfgang had prepared. An enjoyable evening was had by all

Update

Phil left a box of study group papers and some books before he left the dale. This included a book with a transcript of the parish registers from 1588 to 1728 and a file of details since 1728. These are available for family history research. At a future meeting we need to assess these papers and books.

Mr Stephenson from Blackfordby Swadlincote enquired about his GG Grandfather, who he thought was married in Bilsdale. The Parish records confirmed that he married Anne Hutchinson on 1st December 1835 at St Hilda's church. Mr Stephenson was very grateful receive this confirmation and intends to visit Bilsdale in the summer.

Next meeting

On Tuesday 11th March, at the Buck Inn, Anne Rees will lead a discussion about Bilsdale Farms and Families based on census information.

Future meetings

8th April – talk by Lucy Warwick on Rievaulx Abbey at the Buck Inn

13th May – visit William Beck Farm

Potential topics

The following activities are being considered for future meetings, if you have any suggestions please let us know:

Visit to Cross Holme Farm and Beacon Guest quarry **Action – TB** to enquire

Visit Arden Hall **Action – RG** to progress

Open evening to scan old photos

Discuss alum extraction at Carlton Bank

Collate group photos

Foraging talk by Robin Smith **Action RG** indicated Robin will lead a walk

Discussion with Albert Kirk **Action AR** has mentioned this to Albert

Listen to and discuss the Forge Fest audio tape from local residents **Action MLB**

View the “Bygones of Bilsdale” video **Action MLB**

Talk by Robin Cook – **Action MLB**