



HOLCOMBE MOOR HERITAGE GROUP

Summer Newsletter

In this newsletter:-

- ◆ 2018 excavations
- ◆ Memories project
- ◆ Members walk and talk
- ◆ Drystone wall project
- ◆ Greenmount village day
- ◆ Winter talks
- ◆ History group
- ◆ New website
- ◆ Social media links

Moor Holcombe Memories project

Our Moor Holcombe Memories project has got off to a good start, with contributions from several people in the local area and also further afield. Members have also attended D-Caff meetings at Greenmount Cricket Club to collect memories from the people attending there. We will be attending a Neighbourhood Engagement event at Ramsbottom Civic Hall on Monday 3rd September between 5 and 7.30pm. Why not come and visit us there? For other information about how you can participate in this project and share your memories with us, please see the project page of our website at holcombemoorheritagegroup.org.

Holcombe Moor Heritage Group Website

Our website has had a redesign and has all the latest news about our projects and upcoming events, as well as information about past projects and our work researching and documenting the history of Holcombe Valley. Please keep an eye on the website to keep up to date with our project. www.holcombemoorheritagegroup.org

Wall and Boundaries in the Holcombe Valley Project

Three of our members have been locating and recording the drystone walls and associated features in the Holcombe Valley as part of a project with the Drystone Wall Association. As part of the Greater Manchester Archaeology Festival, we organised a guided walk to look at some of the walls and other features in the valley on Saturday 23rd June 2018. The group met in the car park on Lumb Carr road and were accompanied on the walk by Ken Howarth, a geologist and dry stone wall expert. The group walked along Moor Bottom Road and Ken told us more about the features along the way, for example a 'cripple' or 'hogg' hole, for separating lambs from their mothers, wells and gateposts known as 'stoops'. We also looked at the well preserved 'vaccary' or stone slab walls, as well as visiting the site of our current archaeological dig. For further photographs of the walk, including a map of the route and a report of the features seen, please see the project page of the website.



We are on social media. Keep up to date with the latest news on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



Holcombe Moor Heritage Group



@HolcombeMoor



holcombemoorheritagegroup

Cinder Hill Field Excavation

Our original plan for excavations this year was to dig in several different areas of the valley to evaluate the archaeology there. However, we have had to change our plans as we have uncovered a regionally important iron smelting site, with remains of a medieval bloomery furnace possibly associated with ironmaking monks from Monk Bretton Priory, near Barnsley who owned the land from 1176. This site must be our priority for the rest of the season. The dig has generated a lot of interest in the local area, with record numbers of diggers on site. We have also been lucky enough to be visited by Dr Gerry McDonnell, a renowned archaeo-metallurgist who has featured on Time Team. He came to share his expertise and knowledge of similar excavations with us and to advise us on the best way to proceed with the excavation. There are currently 6 trenches open on the site. Trench 1 contains the very well preserved bloomery furnace, with a later trackway over the top of it. Trench 2 is the site of a storage area for roasted iron ore and charcoal, which has a surface made from pieces of slag. Trench 3 is through a raised bank of slag, the purpose of which is unclear. Trench 4 has the remains of a drain and trench 5 possibly contains a further example of a bloomery furnace. So far trench 6, which was positioned to try to determine the extent of the bloomery site, contains evidence of medieval ploughing. For further information about the dig, including a dig diary, please see the project page of our website.



Winter Talks

We are still in the planning stage for these, but here are two dates for your diary!

Turton Tower's Ghosts and Orbs by Peter Farley
Wednesday 17th October 2018

Excavating Early Steam Engines around Manchester by Dr Mike Nevell (Head of Archaeology, Salford University)
Wednesday 27th February 2018.

All talks are held at Greenmount Cricket Club and begin at 7.30pm. Admission is £3, including refreshments.

A Walk Through the History of Holcombe Moor

A walk and talk for members of Holcombe Moor Heritage Group has been arranged for Sunday 9th September 2018 at 1pm, meeting at the car park on Lumb Carr Road. The walk will look at various historic features on Holcombe Moor, including Pilgrim's Cross, Ellen Strange's memorial, Robin Hood's well and the Old Grey Wall and will end with a chance to climb to the top of Peel Tower. For further details see the events page of our website.



History Group

The Holcombe Moor Heritage Group history group are currently researching the possible link between the iron working site we are excavating and the monks of Monk Bretton Priory, near Barnsley. They would welcome assistance from any members of the group who would like to get involved with this research.

For further details please email Barry holcombemoor@btinternet.com



Greenmount Village Day

The group had a stand at the Greenmount Village day held on Monday 7th May 2018. It was a beautiful day and the event was very well attended. We had a display of some aspects of history in the Holcombe Valley and a digging activity for children. The event gave us a chance to talk to visitors about the work of the group, in particular our excavations of sites in the Valley.