

# HOLCOMBE MOOR HERITAGE GROUP

Spring Newsletter



## Moor Holcombe Memories

Holcombe Moor heritage Group is embarking on a new project and we need your help. We intend to gather and record memories of what it was like to live in the local area in the recent past. We are particularly interested in memories of Holcombe Village, Holcombe Moor and Hawkshaw. If you have any memories or experiences you would like to share there are several ways you can do this.

- Complete the form attached to this newsletter and return to 15 Windsor Close, Greenmount, Bury, BL8 4DE. Further forms are available to download from our website at [www.holcombemoorheritagegroup.org](http://www.holcombemoorheritagegroup.org).
- Email your memory to [hmhg.memories@btinternet.com](mailto:hmhg.memories@btinternet.com).
- Arrange for members of our group to interview and record your memory at home. Please contact us on 07709 858485 or email us at [hmhg.memories@btinternet.com](mailto:hmhg.memories@btinternet.com) to arrange this.
- Send your memory as a Facebook message to Holcombe Moor Heritage Group.

Every memory or reminiscence will count in this project, no matter how brief. We are also looking for photographs, documents or artefacts that are related to life in the past in the local area. Please contact us by email at [hmhg.memories@btinternet.com](mailto:hmhg.memories@btinternet.com) if you have anything that may be helpful to us.

We intend to produce a booklet, but will keep your contribution anonymous unless you give us permission to include your name. Why not get your friends and neighbours involved in this project too? Please also pass our request on to any friends or relatives who are not on the internet.

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### Dig dates 2018

This year's dig dates have now been confirmed. There are two weekends for each month, but we only intend to dig on one of the weekends. This will be the first weekend mentioned, but the second weekend will be used in the case of inclement weather on the first weekend. As yet the location of the digs has not been confirmed, but they will all take place on the army land in Holcombe Valley. Emails will be sent to members before each dig with instructions about how to join the dig. We look forward to seeing lots of members on our digs.

May 19/20 and 26/27  
June 16/17 and 23/24  
July 21/22  
August 11/12 and 18/19  
September 22/23 and 29/30  
October 06/07 and 13/14

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



Holcombe Moor Heritage Group



@HolcombeMoor



holcombemoorheritagegroup

## ***Cinder Hill Engine House***

*Our five year archaeological project, digging at the site of Cinder Hill Engine House is now finished. All the finds have been sent to Durham University for analysis, we will receive a report from the university in due course. A display cabinet has been purchased and some of the finds from the dig will be on display at the army camp. The final excavation report from the dig will be produced before the end of the year. We hope to produce a booklet telling the story of the Engine House.*

## **Dry stone Wall Project**

Our project to catalogue all the different types of walls in the Holcombe valley is still ongoing. All the walls are currently being plotted onto a map and details saved in a spreadsheet. We intend to hold a walk for members to look at the different types of wall sometime during the next few months. Further details to follow.

## **Winter Talks**

We are currently planning our series of talks for the winter. We hope to rearrange the talk by Dr Mike Nevell which was postponed in February. Other talks have yet to be confirmed.

## **Data Protection Policy**

All HMHG members should have recently received an email regarding the new data protection act. If you would still like to receive communications from the Group, you need to confirm this via email. The Group now has a new data protection policy which has also been emailed to members and which will soon be available on our website.

## **Members Meal**

The members meal held in February at Al Bosco in Summerseat was well attended and enjoyed by all those who took part. It was enjoyable to catch up with members of the group and discuss our latest projects.

## **Graffiti at Tottington Print Works**

Graffiti has been around from the earliest times and is not the modern scourge of society that it is sometimes seen as. There are many examples of graffiti from many periods of history throughout Greater Manchester. Some of these might be simple initials of lovers from days long ago declaring their love for one another, others maybe protection marks against the work of evil spirits. Just recently, clearance work around the site of Tottington Print Works in Kirklees Valley uncovered a rather remarkable find. At the end of Mill Lane, this being the old road that ran from Old Doctor's next to St. Anne's Church in Tottington down to the Southern factory gate at Tottington Print Works, was a gate to gain access into the factory. The recent clearance work had removed years of detritus from around the gate post and perhaps most importantly the threshold itself, upon which can be seen the symbol of the pentagram. This mark was very often used as a symbol of protection against evil spirits and its position on the threshold was perhaps in some way meant to protect the factory from the workers bringing evil spirits with them on their way to work. Just another example of how a simple scratching of a mark onto a surface can reveal so much about people's lives and concerns. A magnificent piece of social history and well worth a look for the next time you are in Kirklees Valley. The symbol can be seen where a track comes down from the right just after crossing the brook via the metal bridge if you have come down past Tower Farm.

Neil Coldrick

