

HOLCOMBE MOOR HERITAGE GROUP

Autumn Newsletter

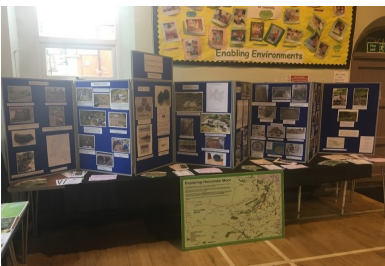


In this newsletter

- Cinder Hill Engine House Excavation
- Upcoming Events
- New Website
- Social Media Links
- Talk Report
- Greenmount Exhibition
- Dry Stone Wall Survey

Greenmount Exhibition

On September 16th and 17th we took part in the exhibition to celebrate the 150 year anniversary of the building of Greenmount church. We had a stand in the Old School showing our work. We were able to talk to the many visitors who were interested in the work of the group, many of whom, although living locally had never visited the Holcombe Valley.



Cinder Hill Engine House

Our five-year long excavation project at Cinder Hill Engine House is coming to an end. During the project we have discovered what we think is a water powered textile spinning mill built in the late 18th century, extended and altered in the early 19th century and then converted to cottages around 1825.

During the excavations in 2017 we have discovered that the water wheel had been moved sometime during the initial years of the engine house but as yet we do not understand why. Work continued on the far west of the site on a stone feature attached to the western side of the engine house. This work revealed an early flagged stone surface overlying a deep depression in the ground that had been filled by a silty material. Next to the flagged surface was a small gully covered by a series of capstones.

Work also took place at the south of the site and another strange stone feature was uncovered, again it's purpose is currently unknown. The feature would have originally faced out onto Red Brook, so must have had some connection with water. If you have any ideas please contact us.

The boundary wall was fully excavated and was found to date to the cottage phase of the site, and terminated at a nice post hole at the western end.

The flagged surfaces have been put back in the eastern and the central bays and a new flagged surface has been placed in the western bay to "tidy up" the site and leave it looking neat, as the site will be left open on display for the public to view as they wander through the lovely place that is known as Holcombe Valley.



The flagged surface in the far west feature.



The strange stone feature at the south of the site.

Talk Report

On Wednesday 18th October, Major Paul Knight gave an interesting and informative talk about the role of the British Army in Mesopotamia during the First World War. He explained how British archaeologists, who were familiar with the area, helped the army to map the area and to work with local people. He also talked about the work of Gertrude Bell and T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) both during and after the war.



Website

Please look out for our new website which is coming soon. An email will be sent to members when it goes live!

Dry Stone Wall Survey

Two of our members are currently undertaking a survey of the dry stone walls in the Holcombe valley area. When completed we intend to hold a member's event in collaboration with geologist and dry stone wall enthusiast Ken Howarth. There will be a guided walk, with Ken, to explore the different types of dry stone wall in the area. Further details to follow.



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

We are going to begin work on an oral history project, recording the memories and recollections of people who have lived in the Holcombe Valley and surrounding area. If you would like to become involved in this project, either by being interviewed or assisting with interviews, please contact Barry Smith by email at:-

holcombemoor@btinternet.com.

Members Meal

We hope to hold a night out at a local restaurant for members of Holcombe Moor Heritage Group in February. An email will be sent out to all members in the new year.

Winter Talks

Our Winter talks are as follows:-

James Kay of Turton Tower: The Samuel Crompton of the Flax Industry by
Professor Richard Horrocks 29th November 2017

Cinder Hill Engine House: 2017 Update by Neil Coldrick 31st January 2018

Excavating Early Steam Engines around Manchester by Dr Mike Nevell (Head
of Archaeology, Salford University) 28th February 2018.

All talks are at Greenmount Cricket Club and begin at 7.30pm.

Admission is £3 and includes refreshments.

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



Holcombe Moor Heritage Group



@HolcombeMoor