

Spring 2024

Cameo



The Journal of
Morley & District
Family History Group

The Group

We are a small and friendly group whose aims are to promote and encourage mutual help between like-minded people who are interested in their ancestors, family history, who they were and what they did. We are members of the Family History Federation, and the Yorkshire Federation of Family History Societies.

Our Group caters particularly for those researching and with interests in and around the Morley area. This comprises of: Adwalton; Batley (part of); Batley Carr; Beeston; Belle Isle; Bruntcliffe; Carlton; Chidswell; Churwell; Cockersdale; Drighlington; Dunningley; East Ardsley; Farnley; Gildersome; Gildersome Street; Heckmondwike; Holbeck; Hunslet; Hunslet Carr; Lofthouse; Middleton; Morley; Nethertown; New Farnley; Oulton; Ouzlewell Green; Robin Hood; Rothwell; Rothwell Haigh; Stourton; Thorpe; Thorpe on the Hill; Tingley; Tong; Topcliffe; West Ardsley; Woodkirk; Woodlesford; and touching on Wakefield and South Leeds. We are happy to accommodate anyone whatever their area of interest!

MEMBERSHIP: Runs from 1st January to 31st December and the present subscription rates per year are as follows:

INDIVIDUAL: £10. FAMILY: £12. OVERSEAS: £15.

Please ensure that cheques, in sterling only, are made payable to the **MORLEY & DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**, are forwarded to the Membership Secretary, whose address you will find on the inside back cover. Or you may wish to pay by BACS – again details are towards the back of Cameo.

MEETINGS: These are held **on the first Monday** of each month (excluding January and August) at the Church of the Nazarene, Albion Street, Morley, Leeds. LS27 9BX (in Morrisons carpark). Please refer to the Diary page for full details, and the back cover for directions to the venue.

LIBRARY: We have an extensive library available to members with subjects of interest to family historians.

PUBLICATIONS: The journal, **Cameo**, is published and distributed to its members three times a year. Advertising in **Cameo** is available, but at the Editor's discretion.

PROJECTS: We transcribe and publish booklets of Births, Marriages, Deaths and Monumental Inscriptions from local Churches, Census indexes, etc., which are all listed in our Publication List.

Cover: Funeral of Fenian Raid soldiers in Canada - Wikipedia.

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Treasurer's Account

I hope you have enjoyed Easter and not eaten too many eggs. I am sorry to have to tell you that a long-standing member David Furness, has passed away. Our condolences to Vicky. Also John Scatchard, who was our Treasurer for many years, has passed away.

Thank you to all who have paid their subscription and also those who have generously sent donations; I apologise to anyone who has paid their membership and received a reminder. It is because I don't get a statement until half way through the following month. Unfortunately for those of you who haven't re-joined, this will be your last Cameo.

I am also sorry to have to remind members who attend the meetings that it is essential that you sign in (an insurance requirement) and also add your money to the pot. Thank you.

The Family History Federation sends out monthly information to societies, called Really Useful Bulletins and if you would like to receive a copy via email, please send your email address to Darren (see below). He can then make a 'group'. If you have changed your email address recently, please let Darren know.

Regarding the Yorkshire Group, would someone please take over from me. It isn't very onerous, just joining a Zoom meeting twice a year and reporting back to the committee if there is anything concerning our group.

If you are lucky enough to get back to finding your ancestors between 1066 and 1362 you will have to spruce up your French. It was spoken by the elite, but the lower classes still spoke English. *Ann*

E-mail Address Update

Every year to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (2018), I, as the Morley and District FHG Data Controller, have to maintain a current register of contact details including the current e-mail address of all members.

To confirm that the e-mail address I have on record, is correct, can you please send an e-mail to Darren at:

toonarmyforever@googlemail.com

Thank you for your assistance.
Darren Bradford,
Data Controller, Morley and District FHG.

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Do you have a fascinating ancestor? Had a bit of a run around trying to find that certain relative? Have you any tips for researching or had a good or bad experience in an archive, library, or other repository?

Snippets, extracts from newspapers, official records that have shocked you or made you chuckle.

Let us know, don't be shy as the odd one liner can always find a home.

From the Papers

Yorkshire Post, November 22, 1932

Bet at 100 to 1. Theft of Proceeds by East Ardsley Man. **James Mulney**, of East Ardsley, at Wakefield yesterday, was sentenced to two months in the second division for stealing £6 7s. from **John William Binks**, miner, East Ardsley.

It was stated that on October 6 the two men were in the British Legion Club at East Ardsley. Mulney said he was going to make a bet with a bookmaker at Morley, and Binks gave him 2s. and asked him to put 1s. each way for him on Pullover, a horse running in the Cambridgeshire that day. Pullover won at 100 to 1, but the next day Mulney said he did not 'get it on'. It was afterwards discovered that Mulney put 2s. on Pullover with a bookmaker at Morley, and had drawn £6 7s.

Mulney said that Binks told him to put the money on with a certain bookmaker at Morley, whom he mentioned, and he was unable to do so. The 2s. he put on Pullover was with another bookmaker and was his own money.

There was no previous conviction against Mulney, who has an Army pension of £2 a week, and has been unemployed for some years. He has seven young children.

Batley Manager Sent to Prison on Charges of Embezzlement – Batley magistrates yesterday sentenced to three months' imprisonment **George Victor Smith** (34), of West Park Grove, Healey, for falsification of a ledger, stealing as servant, and embezzling money while employed as manager of the Batley branch of **Messrs. Jackson's Stores Ltd.**,

Mr. R.C. Davies (prosecuting) said that the embezzlement charges involved £69 10s. Money paid by certain customers to defendant had not been passed through the books, although receipts were in existence in defendant's handwriting.

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Respecting the charge of falsification, Mr. Davies said the position was made much more difficult and complicated by crediting to the account of a person who had, in fact, paid nothing, that for which the defendant had given a receipt to another person from whom he had received the money. It was alleged that in order that irregularities might not be discovered, defendant had removed certain sheets from a loose leaf ledger, and in some instances the edge of the loose leaf, which had perforated holes, had been torn off completely, and an attempt made to glue it back into the book afterwards.

In evidence, a witness stated that one person's account showed a balance due of £10 1s. 9d. A note in the remarks column in defendant's handwriting was that the customer was dead and his wife destitute. Inquiries showed that the customer and his wife were still living at the same address.

Mr. H. Whitfield, on behalf of Smith, pleaded guilty, and said that not one penny piece had gone into defendant's pocket. Certain money he had received had been paid over to the hire purchase account.

Edward McAlwane, collector, of Brookroyd Lane, Batley, summoned by the same firm for embezzling £11 7s. 6d. was sentenced to a month's imprisonment.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph November 25 1903

Wakefield Cattle Deal - At the Wakefield County Court yesterday before **His Honour Judge Greenhow, Benjamin Horne**, cattle dealer, Wakefield, sued **William Sharpe Binks**, farmer, East Ardsley for £19, balance of £62, for cattle sold to defendant. There was a counter claim for £4 for two calves, which Binks alleged he had supplied to Horne. The latter denied that he had ever bought or received a calf from Binks. Defendant only admitted the claim to the extent of £10. - His Honour gave a verdict for the plaintiff on both claims.

The Fallen Sherwood Foresters – A large brass tablet is about to be erected in All Saints' Church, Derby, to the memory of those officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 1st Battalion the Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derbyshire Regiment), who lost their lives in the South African War. An identical tablet will be placed in St Mary's Church, Nottingham. The memorial, which is being provided by the comrades of those who fell, will probably be unveiled in the presence of the Mayor and Corporation and representatives of the Regiment but the date of the ceremony has not yet been fixed.

Darnall Miner Loses A Foot – As **Walter Grayson**, miner of Darnall, was last evening at work in the Silkstone seam of the Orgreave Colliery, engaged in taking out a prop, a portion of the roof fell on him, and

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severed his left foot. After receiving attention at the hands of **Dr. Kenny**, the injured man was removed to the Sheffield Infirmary. Grayson is married and about middle age.

The Wakefield and West Riding Herald November 23 1895

A Cheque For Nearly Five Millions – An unpretentious ceremony which took place at the Bank of England at eleven o'clock on Saturday morning afforded striking evidence of the fact that London is the centre of the monetary world. Here were assembled representatives of China and Japan, the former to hand over and the latter to receive a cheque for £4,900,000 odd, the price of the evacuation of the Liao-Tong Peninsular by the Japanese troops within three months of such payment. The uninitiated might have anticipated that the transaction would take place in coin, and that the Japanese representatives would take away their due in gold in a four-wheeled cab. Unfortunately, however, there are material difficulties in the way of such a primitive proceeding. A million sovereigns weigh 256,750 oz. troy, which may be roughly taken at between seven and eight tons avoirdupois, so that allowing a ton as a fair load, some thirty-five vans would have been required for the operation. The procedure adopted was therefore much simpler. **Mr. Horace G. Bowen**, the chief cashier of the Bank of England was present with a cheque for £4,900,000, representin(g) the gold which had been paid into the Bank of England to China's credit. This cheque he handed to China's representative, who, with a grave bow, handed it to Japan's representative, who handed it back to Mr. Bowen, who in his turn walked to another office and paid it into the credit of the Japanese Government, where it will lie until drawn against. A few weeks back a somewhat similar procedure was gone through when China paid £8,000,000 on account of the £32,000,000 due to Japan as a war indemnity, and thrice again, it is to be presumed, these gentlemen will meet at the Bank and go through the same performance. Of the £37,000,000 which will thus have been placed to the credit of Japan at the Bank of England, at least £20,000,000 will be spent on armaments, mainly war ships, and of this amount a large proportion will go the British manufacturers.

From London to Yorkshire

I often wonder why people move from their birth village or town. One reason could be for marriage, another could be for a job. Or they could have to get out of town! There are many reasons for a single person, a married couple, or a family to up sticks and go to another place or even country.

In 1921, **John William, Ellen Eliza and Edith Benton**, were living at

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28 Queen Street, East Ardsley. Edith was 12 years old and had been born in East Ardsley; her parents however, had travelled a little further to arrive in the village. John William, aged 41, at the time was born in Gosberton, Lincolnshire, while Ellen Eliza, aged 40, had been born in the Marylebone area of London. John William probably arrived in the area due to the fact that he worked for the Great Northern Railway Company, as a yard foreman, more than likely 'down the falls'. His wife, Ellen Eliza, what brought her north? Had she met John William in London through him working there?

Another couple, **Mr. and Mrs. Golden** – Benjamin and Elizabeth Jane. He was from Norfolk and she was from Longford, Ireland, how did they meet? Benjamin was a boiler fireman at Lofthouse Colliery, while Elizabeth Jane was 'at home'. Their children, Laura, Edith and Mabel. The two eldest were born in East Ardsley, while the younger was, like her father from Southrepps, Norfolk. What prompted the move to Norfolk for a while and the return to East Ardsley? Or, did Elizabeth go to her in-laws around the time of Mabel's birth? So many questions are coming to the fore, but I will not be answering them.

William Reddington was another of the 19 people born in Ireland that in 1921 resided in East Ardsley, either as a resident or visitor. William was born in Dunmore, Galway, 54 years prior to the census. He was a self employed tripe dealer. His wife, Alice Ann, was from Driffild and their son, John was from East Ardsley. John was employed as a steel furnace man at **John Lysagths** (sic) Ltd., Normanby Park Steel Works, Scunthorpe, at the time of the census he was out of work. His wife, May had been born in Crosby, Lincolnshire. Another mix match of birth places for a family historian to run rings around.

If you venture further afield and include Australia as a birth place, there is no one in East Ardsley but if you widen the search criteria to five miles around the village you will find there are 59 men and women who were born in the New World. The eldest is **Matilda Harman** who was born in 1856. The youngest was Thomas Bond who was aged 3 at the time from June (sic), Australia. Thomas' parents were both from Leeds and his father worked as a farmer on his 'own account'. The family were staying with **James Wade**, a wages cost clerk and his family in 17 Colenso Road, Holbeck, Leeds. How did the families get to know each other? Were they family or friends and had Leeds in common.

Coming back a little closer to East Ardsley, **Margaret Wood**, the daughter in law of **Louisa Mary Wood** had been born in Dores, Inverness-shire thirty years previous. Louisa was also an incomer to the village, having been born in Crowland, Lincolnshire 66 years prior to the

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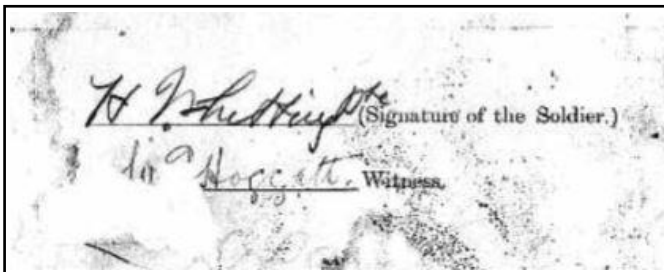
census of 1921. The two other people in the house, **Cyril Wood**, Louisa's son and **Reuben Thomas Pateman** were not East Ardsley born. They did have the fact that they both worked for the G. N. Railway (Great Northern). Surprisingly enough, they lived at 36 Railway Terrace a long row of terrace houses that in recent years has been shortened to make a buffer for the M62. Everyone in the house was married but only Cyril was with his spouse. Could Louisa's husband be away working on the railway? But where was Reuben's wife?

A Soldier in the Royal Scots Fusiliers

Charles Tiffany had been born in Rothwell in 1878 the son of **Charles** and **Mary Tiffany**, and at the time of his enlistment was working as a miner. Charles was 'fit' when he signed his Attestation Papers in Leeds on 15th July 1896, with **Sergt. Thomas Bradley** witnessing the event.

The 18 year old Charles was 5' 5¾" tall and weighed 123 lbs. He had a fresh complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. Charles gave his religion as Church of England. He also had a scar on the back of his left hand. He had now taken the Queen's shilling.

Although the record for Charles has only a few pages quite a bit of information can be learned. Charles was entitled to the South African Campaign Medal for his service between 1900-1901. It was during this time that at Alkmaar, East Transvaal, Charles was severely wounded and subsequently discharged from his duties as 'unfit'.



Another young man from Rothwell who served in India was **Harry Whitting**. He attested in late spring of 1904. Although Harry had been born in Rothwell, he had not lived there for over three years as he worked in London as a waiter and lived at Brook House, Southgate, London. And it was in London that Harry joined the West Riding Regiment after receiving notice from **Sergt. Cole** (sic).

Harry was slightly smaller than Charles by just over one inch. He was

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lighter in weight at 116lbs. He had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and fair hair. He had moles under his breasts and left armpit and a scar on his left groin. And like Charles was 'fit' for the Army.

Unlike Charles, Harry seemed to be a bit of a Regimental Defaulter. From April to July, Harry was a defaulter three times while stationed in Halifax. The first was for being absent from Reveille until 11:40 and on the same day being disorderly in the Fair Ground at 11pm – eight days CB (confined to barracks). The second occasion was a few months later when he was given another eight days CB for lending his tunic contrary to orders and for stating a falsehood to the Provost Sergt. Two weeks later he was absent from Tattoo until 07:10 the following morning and again he was confined to barracks. For how many days, I can't tell as his records are part of the Burnt Records (destroyed or partially damaged by fire or water during WW2).

Things didn't seem to get any better for Harry, as while in Strensall on the 13th of June 1915 he was Absent off Pass from 12 noon for three days which resulted in seven days CB. Not to cast any aspersions but Harry's medical record could give a reason or two what he was doing when absent from barracks. During August 1904 he was diagnosed with gonorrhoea while in Halifax and the following year while stationed at Strensall and finally classed as 'fit for Foreign Service'.

In 1905 Harry served in India and while in Leborg, India he was admitted to hospital again, this time with an abscess which was opened and cleaned. He also had a bayonet wound to his left hand. In 1908 while in Ambala, some 90 miles from Shimla, another hospital visit, this time with cardiac pain and pericardial friction.

Back home in the UK, while still serving as 7952, Whiting H, Harry married a lady named **Daisy Edith Bedwell**, formerly **Christmas**, a divorcee at Paddington Registry Office on the 3rd of May 1914. A child, **Audrey Peggy** who died on the tenth of May 1917, at Victoria Hospital, Paddington, aged three. A certificate is included in the damaged Service Record, but the cause of her demise is not visible. But Daisy was there at the time. One of the documents, in a small section at the bottom includes Audrey's date of birth, 27th February 1914, in Paddington and that she was illegitimate when baptised.

Only a few weeks after the start of what became known as The Great War and later WW1, Harry's regiment was in action at Le Cateau and Mons. It was around this time that Harry was in Doberitz, Germany as an unofficial prisoner of war. By the 15th day of January the following year this information was confirmed.

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On the 16th of December, 1918, Harry was repatriated to the UK and officially discharged five months later.

Following Harry's return to civvy street, he and Daisy were still living within the Paddington area – 119 Ashmore Road. Living in the house with Harry and Daisy was Harry, their 18 month old son and **Elizabeth Smith** an aunt – whose aunt I don't know as I have not gone into that detail, but she was 65 years of age and a spinster who had been born in Pimlico. Harry had changed his occupation, going from a waiter to printer working for **C. C. Whitling** (?), 41-43 Chippenham Mews.

Howley Hall and the Cowling Family

Howley Hall was an impressive mansion, erected on the top of the hill overlooking the area in which the town of Batley developed. It was built by **Sir John Savile**, completed in 1590, square in shape with a flat roof



covered in lead, complete with chapel, bowling-green, cherry orchard, kitchen garden, together with some fine panelling. There was reputed to be a tunnel connecting it to All Saints' Parish Church, Batley. Sadly it was demolished in 1730 by **Christopher Hodgson**, the agent for the **Earl of Cardigan**, who gave fake

reports as to its condition, so that its demolition was ordered.

Nearby lived **John Cowling**, born c1704, who married **Sarah Blakeley** in 1729, and was the founder of the Cowling Clan. He was the Master of the Hounds at the Hall, a man skilled in canine ailments. He played football on the roof of the Hall, and must have witnessed its demolition in 1730. If only we knew how he reacted to this tragedy. He lived to be almost one hundred years old. His son, Moses, married **Mary Blakeley**, his grandson, Joshua, married **Rebekah Healey**, and his great-grandson, Caleb (1832 to 1901) married **Mary Ainsworth**, the sister of my great-grandmother, **Jane Maria Ainsworth**, in All Saint' Parish Church, Batley, on 11th April 1832.

They lived in Batley until c1880, when they emigrated to Wittenberge, Germany, to work in a shoddy mill built by **James Dodgshun** of Morley, who put his brother-in-law, **Joseph Naylor** in charge. It became known as Naylor's Mill. Caleb was accompanied by his wife, Mary, son, **Joseph**

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and his wife, **Ann (née Whitaker)** and a grandson, **Willie**. Eventually Joseph and family moved to Fischamend, Austria, where their descendents live today. Willie worked at Naylor's Mill, married **Bertha Barbara Diete**, and had a family of twelve children. At the outbreak of World War One, the three eldest sons were interned in the Ruhleben Internment Camp in Berlin, but were released before the end of the war.



Ruins of Howley Hall, the archway

Willie and his wife had twelve children; three died when young. Their descendants are to be found in Germany, Austria, England, Australia, South Africa, and France. Jane Maria and Mary Ainsworth were two of the ten children of James and **Grace Ainsworth**. All these children created a genealogical paradise, with many lines to follow!

Images:

Painting of Howley Hall, by Mr. Clough. (Undated)
Courtesy of Leeds Libraries and David Atkinson Archive.
Howley Hall Ruins © Humphrey Bolton (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Brian Arundel

St Catherine's Chapel and St Matthew's Church, Holbeck

The present church of St Matthew's is not the first place of worship to be built on the Holbeck site. Long before St Matthew's was built, a chapel of worship, dedicated to St Catherine, occupied a site to the top of the present day graveyard, and situated slightly to the left of **Matthew Murray's** Tomb (1765-1826), the steam engine and machine tool manufacturer.

This first chapel dedicated to St Catherine, was demolished at some time after 1079 but before 1179, and another chapel was built on the site, again dedicated to St Catherine. In the early 1600s this chapel was knocked down and a new St Catherine's chapel was erected on the same site in 1624.

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In 1719 Holbeck was created an Ecclesiastical Parish from a chapelry in Leeds St Peter parish.



With the ever expanding textile and engineering industries within Holbeck, it was decided to erect a new parish church, dedicated to St Matthew, at the opposite end of the graveyard to St Catherine's chapel. The building of St Matthew's church was under "...a

national movement ushered in by the Church Building Act of 1818 which aimed at providing Anglican churches to accommodate a hugely expanding urban population whose needs had been hitherto totally neglected." One million pounds (2024: £86.67mil.) was provided for the Act's Commissioners to erect new churches, this was increased in 1824 by a further half-million pounds.

Robert Dennis Chantrell (1793-1872) the prolific Leeds architect, was commissioned in 1827 to design an early English style stone church with a spire on top of a tower to accommodate 1,200 with 606 seated in pews, estimated cost of £4,950 (2024: £4.93mil.) A spire was designed to sit on the tower, but was not constructed due to the high estimated cost, this reduced the final charge of erecting the church to £3,734 18s. 4½d. (2024: £3.72mil.)

Land for the church and for an extension to the graveyard was kindly donated by the lady of the manor, the **Marchioness of Hertford, Isabella Anne Ingram-Seymour-Conway** (1759-1834).

On Wednesday, 5th August, 1829, at 3 p.m., the foundation stone of St Matthew's was laid by the **Rev. Richard Fawcett** (1761-1837), Vicar of Leeds, in front of an assemblage of clergy, dignitaries, local townspeople, and villagers.

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A brass plaque carrying the following inscription was also installed:

"The first stone of St. Matthew's Church, at Holbeck, built under the directions of the Honourable the Board of his Majesty's Commissioners for building New Churches, was laid the 5th day of August, A.D. 1829."

The church was consecrated by the **Archbishop of York, Edward Venables-Vernon-Harcourt** (1757-1847) on Wednesday, 4th January, 1832, and opened for public service on Sunday, 8th January, 1832.

In 1837 the medieval chapel of St Catherine's, was demolished to further extend the burial ground.

Additions were made to St Matthew's in 1860. The main feature to be undertaken was a new spire, which including portions of the tower is 138 feet (42mt.) in height. Designed by the Leeds architect, **William Hill** (1827-1889). The spire alteration was in the gift of **William Naylor**, a local businessman.

The stained glass east window was in the gift of **Mr. and Mrs. J. O. March**, Leeds, in memory of their three children and some of their ancestors. The Bible, Prayer-Book and Altar Services, bound in morocco leather,, were presented by **Mr. Charles G. Maclea** (Mayor of Leeds 1846/47.) The teachers in the Sunday school presented a lectern, of



carved oak, in the shape of an eagle, with outspread wings. The eagle was carved by **Mr. James Binns**, a teacher at the Sunday school, and a highways surveyor of Holbeck. The eagle a beautifully executed piece, took over fifteen months to complete the work, without fee or reward.

On Thursday, 2nd May, 1861, the church opened for public worship.

With a dwindling congregation, it was decided to close the church, with the last service being held on Sunday, 1st August, 1976. St Matthew's church was deconsecrated in 1981.

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But, this is not the end of the story, after refurbishments and alterations; the church was re-opened in July, 1982, as the renamed St Matthew's Community Centre.

Listed Grade II. Former Anglican Church. 1829-32, spire added mid C19, converted C20. For the Church Commissioners. Coursed gritstone ashlar, slate roof. PLAN: nave, chancel, N and S aisles, no clerestory, west tower. EXTERIOR: tall lancets to aisles. Geometrical traceried east window in chancel. Plain pinnacles at corners. West tower with broach spire and pinnacles. INTERIOR: a 7-bay body with gallery on 3 sides supported on thin cast-iron columns and projections at E and W ends for chancel and tower respectively; the spaces left in the corners were filled by vestries or staircases and these were given lower roofs to add visual interest.

Chapel location: demolished 1837

St Catherine's Chapel, St Matthew's Street, Holbeck, Leeds. LS11 9NR
Nat Grid: SE2911532359
What3words: ///orders.offers.spend

Church Location: now St. Matthew's Community Centre, 1982

St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Street, Holbeck, Leeds. LS11 9NR
Nat. Grid: SE2915532009
What3words: ///boot.horns.venues

Images:

St. Matthew's Church (1828 to 1832) watercolour by W. R. Robinson.
By courtesy of Southleedslife.com.

St. Matthew's Church (2018)

By courtesy and copyright of Alan Murray-Rust, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

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<https://historicengland.org.uk>

Jeff Chambers

John Sydney Varley

John Sydney Varley rests in a peaceful St Michael's churchyard, East Ardsley along with his wife Eliza Ann.



The couple were not locals as they had both been born in Hull in 1874 and 1876 respectively. The couple were married in 1896 in the Sculcoates Registration District.

In 1891, John was living with his widowed mother, Susannah, three siblings, a visitor, and one servant. Susannah gave no occupation, other than 'Living on Own Means'. What was her husband's occupation? When going back to 1881, to find her husband's name and occupation, the census reveals Susannah was on her own and an 'Annuitant'. Will the 1871 census reveal the missing information? Yes, it does. William, born in Hull, was a Manager and Commercial Traveller and died between 1876 and 1881. William, the son of a Licensed Victualler had married **Susannah Lavinia White**, the daughter of a 'Gentleman', in St Matthews' Church, Leeds, on the 6th of February 1865. In 1874 when William became a member of the Freemasons he had written in the Register of Contributions of Minerva Lodge, Hull, that he was a Merchant.

Back to John Sydney, in 1901 he was working as a Railway Engine Fitter and the father of three children. By 1911 his family had grown to eight children aged between one and fifteen. Home for extending family was Knoll View, East Ardsley. John Sydney was now an electrician working at the local blast furnace. His six children, who attended school, will have attended the girls' school in the heart of the village and the boys' school on the corner of Bradford Road.

The 1914 – 1918 war had come and gone and like many villages and towns the pain was still remembered in churchyards and cemeteries at home and abroad. The next census was in 1921 when the family were recorded. John Sydney was still at the foundry and had now risen to be a Foreman Mechanic at the Iron and Coal Company. His four eldest children were all employed. Three of the children, now adults, worked in Leeds – the young women, all worked in the clothing trade and the young man was an apprentice engineer for Diamond Coal Company, Wakefield.

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The eldest child, a daughter was employed as a Sick Nurse at Bagthorpe Infirmary, Nottinghamshire. Bagthorpe Workhouse and Infirmary during WW1 and WW2 served as a military hospital. The hospital in 1937 changed its name to the City Infirmary before joining the National Health Service in 1948.

Eliza Ann beloved wife of John Sydney Varley died in August 1938, John Sydney followed on the 16th of December 1939.



Ardasley Railway Home Guard

On the 9th of February 1984, the Morley Advertiser published a picture of a group of men who were the Ardsley Railway Home Guard. The image taken on the southern end of the outer up platform around 1942 – 1943, shows part of the station name board, waiting room and the roofs of terrace houses near the old Great Northern Hotel on the road from the station to Thorpe.

I don't have access to the photograph but the names and occupations are in a private collection I was privileged to be given a while ago.

The names are listed as they are in the newspaper, just in case you would like to identify anyone.

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Name	Occupation	Name	Occupation
G Gabbitas	Driver	A J Allen	Fireman
?		H Todd	Guard
A Grannis	Porter	J Leadbeater	Shunter
F Wadlow	Driver	C Wright	Driver
H Holmes	Guard	A (?) Holmes	Newsagent, Tingley
C Firth	Fireman	L Thorpe	Guard
W Russell	Shunter	H Whitaker	Fireman
F Fearnley	Shunter	W Corcoran	Fireman
A Speight	Driver	A Brittlebank	Guard Leeds Engineer
A Heaton	Driver	M Wade	Fireman
H Boyce	Driver	W Gentle	Fireman
F Cartwright	Fireman	W Merritt	Traffic
R Linley	Fireman	John Smalley	Guard
C Swindale	Driver	J Gentle	Driver
W Licence	Signalman	E Close	Guard
Bob Woollin	Carr. & Waggon Dept	A Liversedge	Turner
W Stimpson	S & T	G Waterworth	Boilersmith Fireman
W Waddelow	Goods	G Maning	Signalman
E Gannon	Guard	W Marsh	Guard
F Hoyle	Fitter	A Paver	Traffic
G Smith	Timekeeper	F Tonks	Driver
H Pilgrim	Station-Master	A Barraclough	Carr. & Waggon Dept
W Clark	Turner	J Shires	Clerk
C Brumby	Guard	F Smith	Motor Driver

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J Marshall	Permanent Way Dept	A Milner	Lad Porter
N L Wade	Driver	G L Crossley	Fireman
W Horsepool	Yard Foreman	E Longmate	Guard
H Massey	Driver	Son - Refugee from Dudley Marquin, Channel Islands	
J Heald	Fireman	Father poss William - Refugee from Dudley Marquin, Channel Islands	
C Longdon	S & T		

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Ardsley Station date unknown from Private Collection – not image mentioned in article

From brick walls and Snippets of Information

I and several cousins were told our great. grandma, **Martha Gledhill**, born 1856, had worked at Howley Hall. This was demolished long before her birth. I was reading a book about Howley Hall and it said "**Mr. A. Gledhill**, who lived in the cottages adjoining the hall had done sumwat to clearing the dungeons and found a Gulielmus (William) shilling and bones believed to be those of a bear."

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With connections researching the family, I found a second cousin in Brisbane has got a Gulielmus shilling dated 1697 taken there by Abraham's son, **Joseph Gledhill**, born 1863, who lived until the late 1940's. From Joseph, (her gt grandfather) she was told, when a young girl that he would not go into a church because his mother was a bastard, because her mum had been raped by the choir master at Batley Parish Church. Abraham had married **Matilda Hepworth**, baptised Feb. 1829 with a mum called Sarah.

We found **Sarah Parsley** had married **John Hepworth** in 1819 and had a son Joseph in 1820 but John died in 1821. From further research, we found Matilda and her half-brother Joseph with grandma **Martha Parsley**, living together in 1841, whilst their mum had married, widower, **George Law**, the eldest son of **Benjamin Law** (the man who found how to make shoddy and brought prosperity to the area).

Reading old newspapers from 1904, I found a report saying that it was thought Batley Cricket Club had started in Howley Hills in 1865 when **Abraham Gledhill** kept the refreshment rooms in the former gatehouse of Howley Hall.

Martha would have worked in the refreshment rooms.

What we have not found is who the choir master at Batley Parish Church was in 1828?

Val Mitchell

At Britannia Mill

If one day you are travelling on Geldard Road
Towards Birstall just as you come down the hill
It is there on your left just before the crossroad
You will see a large building it is Britannia Mill

On Thursday 20th October 1896 was an accident
It was turning dark and it was the end of the shift
Looms stopped and weavers turned off the lights
In a hurry to get home many they rushed to the lift

The lift had problems previously with overloading
For their own safety the lift should only carry eight
This was posted on the lift it was there for all to see
This evening in the lift there was too much weight.

It is believed that 18 workers crammed into the lift
Started moving too fast no way to stop it was found
With the weight the cage it finally became unstable

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Without warning the cage crashed into the ground

After hitting the ground, it bounced up about three feet
Throwing people out then came crashing down again
Ripping down the cages hoist and supporting girders
Weighing over a ton adding to the death and the pain

Those who died were **Elizabeth Birbeck** was aged 38
Edwin Blakely Day he was just 14, the postman's son
Hilda North age 19 had only worked there for one week
Sarah Moon she was 53, such damage had been done

Edwin, Elizabeth, Sarah were laid to rest at St Peters
Hilda, she was laid to rest in Batley on the same day
So, if you are ever going past that old Mill building
Please remember those four who sadly died that day

Stuart Bailey.

Tales of Family History found to be true

Many years ago, when my aunt was alive, she told me that a very well-dressed lady came to visit her parents, **James William** and **Louisa Cook**, and told them that **Matthew Cook**, James William's father, who had deserted his family, had died on Christmas Day in Hitchin, Hertfordshire Workhouse under the name of:

Matthew Dearmer/Dearman

3664 of the Royal Artillery, a labourer from Hitchin, with brown hair and eyes and fair complexion went

AWOL on the 24th December 1870 from Colchester, and also Weedon, Northampton.

He had a scar on his right shoulder and was 5'4" tall.

His records were found under the Fenian Raid Section. For some reason his regimental number was changed to 2817.

Police Gazette records state that he had brown hair and blue eyes.

Thank you, Carol for confirming this.

There was also the rumour that Matthew's wife, Mary, had been admitted to the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum after his desertion. I found Mary's burial at St John the Evangelist, Wortley, Leeds on the 21st July 1917, a former resident of West Riding Asylum.

Ann Dodgson

Fenian Raids

Who and what were they?

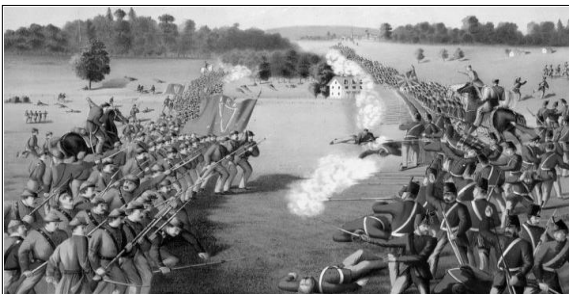
Ireland had been Britain's unwilling colony for seven hundred years.

The Fenians were a secret society of Irish patriots who had emigrated from Ireland to the United States. Some North American members of this movement were intent on taking Canada by force and exchanging it with Britain for Irish independence. They considered themselves Irishmen first, American second.

Just over a year after **Robert E. Lee** relinquished his sword, a band of Union and Confederate veterans dusted off their guns. But these former foes had no intention of reigniting the Civil War. Instead, they fought side by side to undertake one of the most fantastical missions in military history: to seize the British province of Canada and to hold it hostage until the independence of Ireland was secured.

The great majority of Irish Catholics had arrived in Grosse Isle, an island in Quebec in the St. Lawrence River, which housed the immigration reception station. By the 1830s, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Upper and Lower Canada had significant Irish populations. From 1866 to 1871 the Fenians launched a series of small, armed incursions of Canada, each of which was put down by government forces - at the cost of dozens killed and wounded on both sides.

With the tacit support of the U.S. government and inspired by a previous generation of successful American revolutionaries, the group that carried out a series of five attacks on Canada - the Fenian Brotherhood - established a state in exile, planned prison breaks, weathered infighting, stockpiled weapons, and assassinated enemies. Defiantly, this motley group, including a one-armed war hero, an English spy infiltrating rebel forces, and a radical who staged his own funeral, managed to seize a piece of Canada - if only for three days.



Editor – Matthew may or may not been part of this piece of history but it goes to show that when looking for vital information about

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your family do not disregard any section of an online resource or any folder in an archive or museum - they may be in that unexpected place just waiting for you to find them.

Leeds Newspapers

The **Leeds Mercury** was a newspaper published from 1718 by **John Hirst** until 1755 and again from 1767. It consisted of 12 pages and cost three halfpennies. In 1794 it had circulation of about 3,000 copies and in 1797 the cost rose to sixpence because of increased stamp duty.

In 1797 a journalist, **Edward Baines**, joined forces with a group of Unitarians led by **John Marshall** to purchase the newspaper and four years later Edward Baines became the editor and sole proprietor. He was a staunch Methodist and supported the cause of the Dissenters. He advocated that industrial cities in the country should be represented in Parliament.

Baines disapproved of the Slave Trade and willingly used The Leeds Mercury to support **Thomas Clarkson** and **Granville Sharp's** campaign to end slavery in the British Empire. In favour of some reforms he opposed factory legislation and disagreed with the working class being given the vote.

The Leeds Intelligencer

The newspaper was founded by **Griffith Wright** in Leeds, in 1754 and was one of the first regional newspapers in England as a four-page weekly and was originally known as Wright's Leeds Intelligencer. Its first publication was the 2nd July 1754. Griffith Wright handed over the business to his son **Griffith Wright**, junior.

In 1866 it was renamed and became the daily Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer (note the extra 'e' was dropped, in 1765). In 1883 'and Leeds Intelligencer' was dropped from the title. It was published under the motto of 'The Altar, the Throne and the Cottage' and it was, from the outset, a conservative newspaper and was recognised as being anti-Catholic and being opposed to Chartism.

Source: Internet.

D-Day 80th Anniversary

The 6th of June 2024, is the 80th anniversary of D-Day when British, Canadian and American airborne troops were parachuted into France just after midnight. Following a naval bombardment the beach landings

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began at 06:30 with the three countries troops landing on Gold, Juno, Sword and Omaha beaches despite fierce enemy fire and mined beaches.

In total 156,000 allied soldiers landed on the beaches. Was your relative one of those who landed on the beaches? Took part in the airborne invasion or served on one of His Majesties ships during this time?

Do you have a relative who took part in this campaign? If you do please let us know who they were and what they did.

Roll of Honour and Muster Roll of Old Morleians 1914-1918

Siddle, William

Muster Enlisted November 1916. Private, 3rd Bn. York and Lancaster Regiment; later transferred to 10th Bn. In France from April 1917. Took part in the battles of Ypres, 1917, and was killed in the first battle of Passchendaele, 13th October 1917.

Roll of Honour – William Siddle, the only son of **Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Siddle** of Wakefield Road, Morley, attended Bridge Street School until the age of 11. After three years in the Secondary School he entered the business of **Mr. Henry Walker**, bookseller, of Briggate, Leeds.

In November 1916 he joined the York and Lancaster Regiment, and was sent for training to Sunderland. He crossed to France on the 10th of April 1917, less than three weeks after his nineteenth birthday. As a boy at home he had been for many years a member of St Paul's Sunday School and of the Church Lads' Brigade, and on 25th of September we find him writing his last long letter, in which he mentioned the previous Sunday "seven of us out of the Battalion of about 800 men had Holy Communion in the open air." Less than three weeks later he was killed in the first battle of Passchendaele. He is buried in the Hooze Crater Cemetery, Zillebeke, two miles south-east of Ypres.

William's Service Record has survived and is available on the Ancestry website and gives a basic description of the young soldier – he was 5' 7" in height, weighed 112lb and he enlisted for D of War (duration of war). The Roll of Honour gives a brief outline of when he landed in France, his service record, however, tells that he embarked Folkestone for Boulogne then was posted to Etaples. While William was serving an allowance of 3/6 was paid to his mother, Annie, which 'ceased at once 19/11/17'.

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Remie Siddle, his sister, by 1921 had received William's medals, plaque and scroll.

One of the documents details William's property which was returned to his sister – 1 disc, testament, prayer book, purse, small crucifix, diary, various letters and photos - not a lot to return to a grieving family for a young life but I am sure would have been greatly treasured.

Lee Fair in the Papers

Batley Reporter and Guardian 11 April 1896 – A Publican Fined – Yesterday, at the Wakefield Courthouse, **Timothy Fozzard**, landlord of the White Horse Inn, at Lee Fair, West Ardsley, was fined £2 2s. 6d. and £1 10s. respectively for selling gin and rum containing five per cent of added water more than was allowed.

Batley News 22 May 1896 At Chickenley Heath Recreation ground on Saturday, **O. Jennings**, Lee Fair, beat **Hall Binks**, Lee Fair in a 120 yards' race for £20, by half a yard

Dewsbury Chronicle and West Riding Advertiser 27 August 1870 – The Annual Horse Fair – This fair was held on Wednesday last, and was very well attended by English, Irish and Scottish dealers, who, from the nature of their inquiries, had evidently been commissioned to select certain classes of animals suitable for army purposes. The show of roadsters did not come up to that of last year, but the number and quality of the draught horses was far above the average. For good stock bids of from £40 to £80 were given and accepted, and many better class horses changed hands. 'Nags' were not shown in so large droves as has been usually the case, but there were a fair share of the species of animals more fitted for the knackers' yard than for working purposes. The 'coddies', of which large numbers have on previous occasions been taken to the fair, were almost conspicuous by their absence, as were also horned and other descriptions of cattle. During the course of the day, a large influx of visitors took place, and the proprietor the little hostelry at Lee Gap did a 'roaring' trade in supplying refreshments for man and beast.

The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 22 August 1873 – The very eligible Freehold Building Land and Two Dwelling-Houses, garden, and out buildings together about 3287 square yards, adjoining Baghill highway from Morley to Wakefield. The houses and land are occupied by **Widow Armitage** and **Matthew Fozzard**.

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Sheffield Daily Telegraph 29 August 1899 – Yesterday, at Wakefield, a youth of 18, named **Ernest Wilson**, of 13 Denby Dale Road, Wakefield, was charged with stealing a pony of the value of £7, the property of **Herbert Baines**, of Wortley Street, Barnsley. Prosecutor attends feast and fairs with a coconut shy. Last Thursday he went to Lee Fair, West Ardsley, and placed the pony in a field. When he went to fetch up the pony he found it had gone, and subsequently the prisoner offered to sell it to a man at Wakefield for £1, and represented that it belonged to his father. He was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions.

Sheffield Evening Telegraph 13 October 1888 - Alleged Cruelty to Cattle and Horses at Lee Fair. Yesterday at the West Riding Police Court at Wakefield several persons were prosecuted by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for alleged cruelty at the recent horse fair at West Ardsley, which is also known as Lee Fair. - **John Thomas Binks**, cattle dealer, Lee Fair, was charged with using cruelty to a cow by allowing the animal's udder to be overcharged with milk, or, in local language, 'overstocked', through not having been milked at proper intervals while the cow was exposed for sale on the 17th September at the fair. The defendant had to pay £1 fine and £2 19s. costs; a month to prison in default of distress realising the amount of the fine and costs.

Bradford Daily Telegraph 3 September 1895 - Arising out of the well-known horse fair at Lee Gap held a week ago, four cases came before the Wakefield magistrates on Monday, **Joseph Wainwright**, a boat-hauler, was fined 8s. 6d. for furious driving; **John Robinson**, horse dealer, Pudsey, was mulated (fined) in the sum of 14s. 6d. or ten days for obstructing the highway; **Arthur Webster**, farmer, Gildersome, had 13s. 6d. to pay for a like offence, while **John Fearnley**, Milk-dealer, Tong, was fined 16s. for allowing his horse and cart to stand on the road side three-quarters of an hour.

Batley News 15 September 1888 - This fair took place yesterday at West Ardsley, and brought together a large attendance of farmers and horse dealers. The show was about, about average, there being some 1,500 or 2,000 horses for sale. Perhaps the best were the cart of draught animals, at £20 to £60, which met with a fairly ready sale, one or two fetching as much as £70. There was also a fine array of harness and hackney horses, which changed hands rather slowly at £40 to £50. Of the Irish and Welsh colts and fillies, some of the best four and five-year-olds made as high as £40, while others of two and three years made £10 to 35. Pit ponies from Sweden and Iceland sold readily at £10 10s. to £15 5s. one drove, 14 and 15 hands, making £20 each. There were a few hundred splendid milch cows, which made about £20 (English) and

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£8 to £14 (Irish). Stirks realised £3 to £10, and drapes £10 to £14. Irish geese made 3s to 3s 6d each.

The Leeds Times 28 June 1884 – Knurr and Spell. At the Greenfield Grounds, Dudley Hill, on Saturday, **T. Birkinshaw** (Batley) and **C. Burton** (Lee Fair) played the best of thirty rises each for £20 a side. Birkinshaw took the lead in the first five rises. Birkinshaw, 255; Burton, 237

Harry Ambler on Fold 3

Harry was born on the 3rd of January 1903 in Rothwell according to the information on Fold3. The 1911 census seems to prefer Leeds. Harry's father was Alfred who had only been married one year to his second wife. Harry now had two siblings and two step-siblings.

Harry's R.A.F. record tells that he had previously served in the Yorkshire Regiment and re-enlisted after the war to the R.A.F. in August

1921 with the aim of becoming a wireless operator, serving at various bases including Uxbridge and Duxford and rose to the rank of Leading Aircraftsman.

Before his enlistment, Harry was employed at Parkfield Foundry, 101 Jack Lane, Dewsbury, as a founder from August 1920 until March 1921.

Harry married **Annie Florence Morphey** on the 6th September 1924, in Ipswich.

The image shows a military service record form for Harry Ambler. The form is divided into several sections, including personal details, service history, and medical records. The name 'AMBLER, HARRY' is written in the top left corner. The form contains handwritten entries in various sections, including 'PERSONAL DETAILS', 'SERVICE HISTORY', and 'MEDICAL RECORDS'. The form is filled out with a lot of detail, including dates, locations, and medical notes. The form is a standard military service record form, likely from the World War I era.

In February 1930, Harry was discharged after serving 8 years and 197 days and 8 Great Gipping Street, Ipswich, became home. Before the 1939 Register was compiled, Harry and Annie now lived at 137 Norwich Road, Ipswich with the addition of two children, **William A. Ambler** and **Alfred I.R. Ambler** (this name has been over written in red – **Kenneth Alfred Ivan**), who were both at school. When Harry was not working as a Controlled refuse tipman, he was with the A.R.P. as part of the decontamination squad.

Harry died in 1966.

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Oulton, St John the Evangelist

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Morley and District FHG stall on the Parish Chest website.

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Dates for your diary – 2024

Date	Speaker	Title of Talk
May 6 th	Claudia Sternberg	“From Pleasure Park to Prisoners’ Camp.”
June 3 rd	Diane Halford	“An Introduction to using DNA to build your Family Tree.”
July 1 st	Eric A Jackson	“The History of the English Canals from 1759 to the present day.”
August 5 th	No Meeting	Summer Hiatus.
September 2 nd	John Lyte	“The Changing Face of an Industrial West Yorkshire.”
October 7 th	AGM	
November 4 th	Jackie Depelle	“Maps for Family History – not just Ordnance Survey.”
December 2 nd	Christmas Fuddle	Enjoy Christmas Cake, Cheese and a Raffle.

Speaker Evening

Members £1.00. Non-members £3.00. To help cover the cost of a speaker.

If any member has a suggestion for a speaker, please let either Ann Dodgson or Carol Sklinar know.

The deadline for articles, news etc., to the Editor for the summer issue of Cameo is June 20th 2024. Upon receipt, if there is no space available, items will be carried forward to future issues.

Don't forget that you can purchase Morley and District FHG booklets from Ann Dodgson (address back cover) or through Parish Chest (www.parishchest.com). For your convenience, orders can be placed on the Parish Chest site and paid for in your own currency. Find Morley and District FHG under the society/family history heading.

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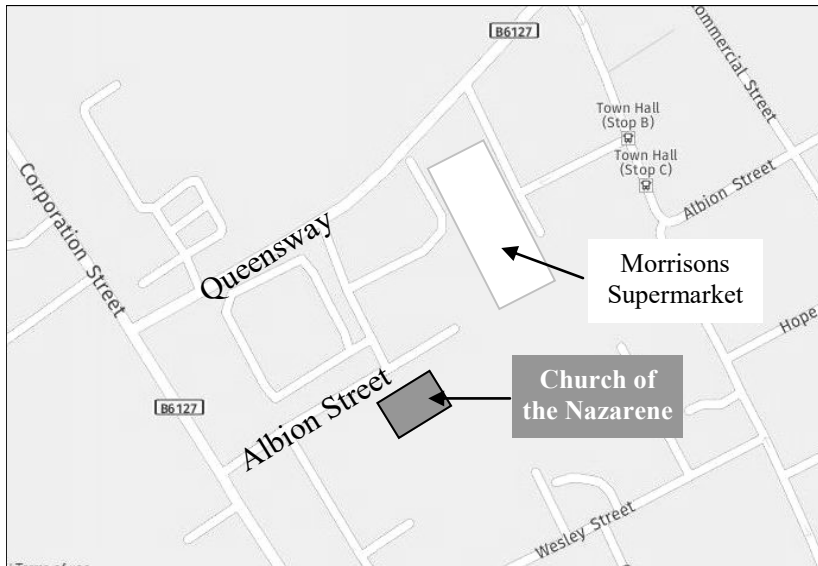
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Committee Member:

June Walsh

Exchange Journals: Vacant

E & O E



The meetings are held
at 7.30 pm
on the 1st Monday
of each month
(excluding January and August)
(doors open at 7pm)

at
Church of the Nazarene,
Albion Street, Morley.
(in Morrisons carpark)

LS27 9BX

What3words: frame.occurs.hears