

RASTRICK LOCAL HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2024

What's in a name - Long Fallas Crescent, Woodhouse, Rastrick

The name of this road is often followed by some sniggering as some people associate the name with the word 'phallus' or a male penis as the two words sound very much the same. So where did this bizarre name come from for such a pleasant road off Woodhouse Lane?

Fallas is an old English surname, originating in Yorkshire. Other name variants are Fallis and Fallows, topographical names derived from Falhouse in Thornhill near Dewsbury. The word is thought to be of Norman origin, coming from Falaise in Calvados, France or a habitation name from Anglo-Norman French '*faleise*' or '*faloise*' which was given to people who lived on or near to a cliff.

On the 1824 Rastrick map of field names, there are pasture lands in Upper Woodhouse that have the names of Fallas, Long Fallas, Lower Fallas, Delf Fallas, Far Fallas and Upper Fallas. The local landowning family name of Thornhill originates from Thornhill in Dewsbury and it is interesting that a new road which was built upon Thornhill Estate land was given a name that came from that area. Was it coincidence? Falhouse Lane at Whitley, Dewsbury, still exists to this day.

Round Hill geology report

Round Hill, Rastrick

STATUS: Local Geological Site
OTHER DESIGNATIONS:
COUNTY: West Yorkshire
DISTRICT: Calderdale
OS GRID REF: SE 137 207
OS 1:50,000 Landranger Sheet 104 Leeds and Bradford,
OS 1:25,000 Explorer 288 Bradford and Huddersfield
BGS 1:50,000 Sheet 77 Huddersfield Solid and Drift
FIRST DESIGNATED by West Yorkshire RLG Group in 2000
DATE OF MOST RECENT SURVEY West Yorkshire Geology in May 2008
DESIGNATION SHEET UPDATED August 2009

SITE DESCRIPTION:
Round Hill forms a distinctive landmark adjacent to the M62 motorway. The origin of this circular structure has caused much speculation, particularly that Round Hill is an ancient fortification. However there is no scientific evidence to support this claim. Geologically, Round Hill is an outlier of Greenmoor Rock (formerly thought to be the Elland Flaps, but now recognized as being of different origin) lying on older sediments. The present structure of Round Hill is a testament to the processes of weathering and erosion slowly shaping the rock over geological time. Other similar circular structures can be found locally, most notably Round Wood near Waterloo, Huddersfield.



A query that has been asked of me on many occasions is whether Round Hill is a natural feature or was it man-made. Suggestions have ranged from it being the base of a mott & bailey castle, a natural lookout post for invading armies or just spoil from the quarries below. The answer can be found below.

The attached geological report states that Round Hill is made from Greenmoor Rock sandstone. This type of rock can also be found in a bed which travels south through Fixby Ridge.

Rock known as the Elland Flaps is to the west of New Hey Rd and leads down towards the Calder at Cromwell Bottom encompassing all the fields between Upper and Lower Edge. It then wraps around a strip of the Lower Coal Measures to take in the eastern side of Crowtrees Lane at Carr Green, where the Southage and Crowtrees Quarries once operated.

The Lower Coal Measures surround Round Hill but this does not mean that the area is made of various coal seams. The Lower Coal Measures were formed within the Carboniferous period around 300 million years ago. They comprise of a sequence of sedimentary rocks which include sandstones, shales, mudstones,

siltstones, and coal seams. These rocks were mainly deposited in a river delta environment and swampy forests (which led to coal formation) and flowing river systems (which led to sandstone and mudstone formation). As Greenmoor rock is more durable than the Coal Measures rock, the latter has eroded naturally, quicker than the Greenmoor. You may then ask why the Greenmoor Rock to the west of Round Hill isn't the same height as Round Hill if that has eroded at the same rate. The answer is that the rock beds are not on a horizontal plane but are inclined therefore creating the sloping hillside that leads down to the Carr Green housing estate.

The silt from the river delta was compressed as the tectonic plates moved around and the various natural chemicals bonded the sediment to form the sandstone. The coal was formed by compressing the fallen trees and foliage in the swampy forests, crushing the oxygen and hydrogen from them, which meant that only carbon remained, hence the coal seams.

In another survey dated 2017, the AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned to undertake a historic environment assessment for the proposed building work behind Gernhill Avenue, Fixby. The survey included Round Hill and their report stated that it was '*a circular field of around 35m in diameter with a height of around 25m. It is a well known landmark, artificial in appearance and has generated much speculation as to whether it is a natural feature or a human construction. In Charles Hopkirk's 1868 book entitled Huddersfield: It's History and Natural History, he confidently asserts that the mound is artificial yet in A History of Brighouse, Rastrick & Hipperholme by J. Horsfall Turner (1893), he concludes that it seems partially artificial but its summit has shewn it to be natural. It is shown on Greenwood's map of Yorkshire (1817) and the 1st Edition 6" map (1850) but not shown on Jeffry's map of 1775.*

In May 2008, Round Hill was examined by the West Yorkshire Geology Trust who concluded that geologically the structure is an outlier of Greenmoor Rock lying on older sediments and the earthwork is a testament to the processes of weathering and erosion, slowly shaping the rock over geological time.

So Round Hill is perfectly natural and don't let anyone tell you otherwise, however, the theory regarding it once being a lookout post is not totally wrong. In bygone days, marauding armies were wandering around the country, murdering and looting villages. Some historians believe that Round Hill was a perfect lookout from where a horn was blown to warn people of a possible attack and call men to arms. Such places were known as Tote Hills which literally meant 'a lookout post'. Others argue that when the horn was sounded it made a noise known as a toot, hence Toot Hill. There are many examples of the names of Totehill and Tothill throughout the country and one notion is that Round Hill was once known by one of those names, long before the nearby area of Tothill, that we know today.

The Sarah Holroyd sampler



This sampler was shown to me by a member of the Bradbury family who was researching her family history and travelled from Lancaster to meet me in Rastrick. Sarah Holroyd was born in Rastrick on the 5th July 1818 and baptised at St. Matthew's Church on the 16th August that same year. She was the daughter of James and Sarah (Sally) Holroyd. Her father was a stone mason by trade but went on to lease quarries at Badger Hill and Southage from Thomas Thornhill. James is mentioned, along with his brother John in the accounts of the Badger Hill project documents provided to our group by Paul Thompson in 2023. The documents show that James provided some stone for the project which kept many of the destitute poor of Rastrick in work during the severe depression in 1826-28. The family lived at Chapel Street, Rastrick, the road we now know as Church Street at the Top o' Town by the church, therefore it is almost certain that Sarah Holroyd stitched the sampler at that location whilst aged 10 and 11 years of age. Looking at it more closely, it appears that either she hasn't completed some of the letters and numbers or they have faded quite badly, however, it is treasured by the Bradbury family.

James Holroyd died in 1839, leaving the Rastrick stone business of James Holroyd & Son to his son, John. Sarah married Thomas Bradbury, at Halifax Parish Church on the 26th December 1849. Thomas was a member of a wealthy coal mine owning family in Clayton, Lancashire and on the marriage certificate his occupation is described as a gentleman. The couple went to live in Lancashire but following the death of her brother John in 1851, Sarah inherited the quarrying business as he had never married or produced any heirs. Thomas and Sarah came to live in Rastrick at eventually moved into the newly erected Longroyd House. I am not certain that they were instrumental in having it built but that is a distinct possibility bearing in mind their wealth and status. Thomas died in 1870 and on the 1871 census, Sarah is shown as a widow, residing at Longroyd with two of her sons, two daughters, a cook and a



The grave of Sarah Bradbury in the family vault at St. Matthews.



servant girl. She is described on the census record as *'the proprietor of the firm James Holroyd & Son, stone merchants'*. Soon afterwards, Sarah sold the house and business and retired to North Meols nr. Southport where she died in 1882. She was brought back to Rastrick and buried in the Bradbury family vault at St. Matthews. Sarah and Thomas produced five children in all, three sons

and two daughters. In addition to their forenames, they all bore the name of her maiden name, Holroyd. One child, William Leonard Holroyd Bradbury died in infancy aged 3 years in 1861 and a stained-glass window was given to Rastrick Church in his memory and is still there to this day. Above is the Bradbury family playing croquet at Longroyd with Thomas to the right and Sarah in a crinoline dress standing by the path. Because Thomas is on the photograph it must pre-date his death in 1870 making it one of the oldest, if not the oldest photograph of Rastrick that I have seen. Also, there is the stained-glass window at St. Matthews, erected in memory of William Leonard Holroyd Bradbury. More can be found at <https://myrastrick.com/holroyd-bradbury-quarry-owners/>

NEXT MEETINGS - ALL WELCOME

TUESDAY 8th OCTOBER 2024 - TUESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2024 - TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER 2024
5-00pm at RASTRICK LIBRARY, CROWTREES LANE, RASTRICK

If you have anything of interest that you would like to include in the Winter Newsletter, please let me know via email at rastrick.history@gmail.com