



The Friends of Markenfield

(Parish, Park and Hall) Limited

summer 2016

EVENTS 2016

The Friends' events got off to a flying start in April with the annual AGM. Members were privileged to have their President John Julius Norwich as their post-AGM speaker.

He spoke, without notes and without pause, on Sicily - his first love and the book he was born to write.

In May, internationally renowned Harpist David Watkins played to a packed Great Hall to great acclaim. Local Harpist Georgina Wells wrote the following critique:



Lord Norwich,
President of The Friends
&
Harpist David Watkins



Peerson and Dowland to the 18th Century music of W.Croft and Parry, all of which were performed with the skill and panache required of such demanding and technical pieces. Our musical journey continued through the 18th and 19th Centuries with, to name but a few, Spohr's Fantasia in C minor, the ever popular 'Watching the Wheat' by J. Thomas, Godefroid and for the 20th Century, Debussy's 'Maid with the Flaxen Hair', all of which explore the washes of colour and sound therein associated with the Romantic era and the harp as we know it today.

An interlude of orchestral pieces, such as Wagner (a real workout with the pedalling for every harpist!) and the wonderful Tchaikowsky Nutcracker cadenza, familiar to all, was a welcome insight into the world of an orchestral performer and the challenges therein.

For the finale to the evening, David played two movements from his 'Petite Suite'. The thought provoking 'Nocturne' followed by a flourishing finish with the 'Fire Dance', a welcome warmer to go home with on a rather grey evening in May!

We had completed our journey through the ages of time. This had been more than a concert. It had been a real and personal insight into the life and music of a talented and working musician who had stories to tell that captivated and enlightened the audience whilst performing with charisma to inspire us all. This, together with the intimate setting of Markenfield Hall, made for a very special and memorable evening.

'An Evening with The Harp & David Watkins'

Enlightening, enchanting and entertaining are just some of the words that come to mind after a most memorable musical evening given by David, who is without a doubt, master craftsman of his art.

David used the music to 'sculpture' the long history of the harp with charm and charisma capturing the timbres and characters of each period, thus bringing to life the music for a most tangible experience.

From the early 16th and 17th Century dry, honest tonal qualities of Cabazen, Peerson and Dowland to the 18th Century music of W.Croft and Parry, all of which were performed with the skill and panache required of such demanding and technical pieces. Our musical journey continued through the 18th and 19th Centuries with, to name but a few, Spohr's Fantasia in C minor, the ever popular 'Watching the Wheat' by J. Thomas, Godefroid and for the 20th Century, Debussy's 'Maid with the Flaxen Hair', all of which explore the washes of colour and sound therein associated with the Romantic era and the harp as we know it today.

Georgina Wells, May 2016



THE ARCHIVE & RESEARCH GROUP

Work continues for the new Archive & Research Group, with the inaugural meeting seeing all interested members meeting in the Great Hall to discuss a way forwards. Previous and ongoing projects were discussed - including work to trace the Norton and Grantley family graves, an accidental list of the various Markenfield coats of arms around the area and work on the seemingly-ever-expanding family trees.

What did emerge from the meeting was the truly fascinating fact that there are in fact **thirty-five** possible spellings of Markenfield - with the current version not emerging until 1856. In order to perform a thorough search of any Archive or depository, all 35 variants will need to be looked up. It's lucky therefore that we have some of the finest brains in Yorkshire on our team and method has been devised to cover most but the most obscure of them. The variants include:

MERKYNGEFELDE (1198)

MERKĒFELD (1576)

MARKYNFYLD (1579)

A GLANCE AT THE GRANTLEYS...

is the latest in The Friends' *Aspects of Markenfield* series. Written by Lady Deirdre Curteis, it elaborates on the talk given by 8th Lord Grantley at The Friends AGM back in 2011 entitled AVI NUMERANTUR AVORUM - I come from a long line of Ancestors.

The long-awaited *A Glance at the Grantleys* introduces, and discusses, each Lord and is illustrated in colour throughout. Copies can be purchased at the Hall's open days and also before and after events. If you would like to order a copy by post the booklet costs £4 plus £1.10 postage. Please make cheques payable to Markenfield Enterprises and send them to The Gatehouse, Markenfield Hall, Ripon. HG4 3AD. If you have internet access why not have a look at the other publications that are available - they are all listed on the Hall's new website (under History) and you can download a booking form - and combine postage.

Planned for early 2018 is Aspect 7: the biographies of the Norton family as found in the Victorian Dictionary of National Biography (DNB). The DNB, published in 63 volumes over the years 1885 to 1900, comprises short biographies of around 29,000 notable and interesting British people down the ages, written by eminent biographers of the late Victorian era. Fascinating in their tone, the entry for Fletcher Norton, 1st Lord Grantley contains the following statement:

A NOD TO THE NORTONS?

“Norton was a shrewd, unprincipled man, of good abilities and offensive manners. His violent temper and lack of discretion unfitted him for the post of speaker. Though by no means a learned lawyer, he was a bold and able pleader, and was remarkable alike for the clearness of his arguments and the inaccuracy of his statements.”

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE? The Friends (and the Hall) are currently looking into ways of providing online payment for events tickets. We do appreciate that the present “two cheque one form” way of booking for events is clumsy - and confusing for a lot of people. It is hoped that you will see a change for booking next year. Watch this space!