



# The Friends of Markenfield

(Parish, Park and Hall) Limited Issue 12. late summer 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As you know, one of the things the Friends do is support the Hall by donating items that help enhance the experience enjoyed by visitors. The PA system and screen, for example, have greatly improved the presentation of lectures.



For our latest project we plan to help fund the replacement of the sycamore trees that line the west-side of the moat and provide a green backdrop to the range of outbuildings in the Courtyard. What you might not have noticed is that the amount of greenery is getting less and less each year. The whole row has succumbed to Honey Fungus and all seven trees are slowly dying - an eighth tree was removed a couple of years ago for safety reasons. The cost of the felling and replacement with trees some 12 ft tall with guards to prevent the cows damaging them, is about £3,000. As we cannot provide that level of funding, we felt that individual Friends might wish to support us with sponsorship. The form enclosed with this Newsletter offers you an exciting opportunity to

support something that will last for hundreds of years. The replacement trees are to be *Tilia Cordata*, better known as small-leaved lime, or linden.

It is said that a tree standing in the courtyard of the Imperial Castle at Nuremberg is a linden tree, planted by Empress Cunigude, wife of Emperor Henry II of Germany. Their reign was near the beginning of the 11th century. Though old and sparse, the tree still stands today.

Will our trees last 1000 years? Probably not (although it would be entirely possible), but we can certainly hope they will last several hundred, and as we walk round the moat in June and July we can revel in the wonderful, intoxicating scent of their flowers.

We plan to commemorate the sponsors, but have not yet decided the most suitable format for this.

## CHRISTMAS AT MARKENFIELD: MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2016

Yes - it's only September, but it'll soon be October and then November... and then tickets will be on sale for the Hall's Service of Lessons and Carols. This year the Service is being organised by The Friends in aid of the persecuted Christians in the Middle East.

We have had an overwhelming response from The Council and from the Hall's Volunteer Stewards, but we are still in need of extra volunteers. Would you like to be involved in arranging or running this wonderful event?

We still need people to:

Supply greenery to decorate the Great Hall.

Supply raffle prizes.

Make and bring mince pies.

Check tickets and take coats on the night.

Sell raffle tickets.

Serve mulled wine and mince pies.

Look after and feed the Choir.

*Tu loqueris Latin?*

The Friends' new Archive & Research Group has discovered a new un-transcribed Markenfield document that is held at the County Archives at Northallerton. Initially photocopied by Janet Senior

as part of her research, it is thought that it might be the Last Will and Testament of Ninian Markenfield (1528). It is believed that the script is written in a mixture of Latin and Elizabethan-English, and whilst some words leap out at you some are beyond our capabilities - which is why we are looking for a translator. Do you speak Latin? Are you good at deciphering old script? Please get in touch and we can arrange for you to have a look at the document and see how you get on.



**TWICE IS COINCIDENCE. THREE TIMES IS HABIT** Sometimes you just happen to be in the right place at the right time - that's certainly what happened this summer when two chance encounters with visitors to the Hall opened up new pathways of research and ended with a new recruit to the Archive & Research Group.

Eleanor Hart introduced herself on one of the Hall's Open afternoons as someone who was related to the Markenfield family, and had carried out some research into the Ripon Markenfields. We asked her to send in what she had and we would see if we could fill in any of the gaps she had in her family tree. We never expected to receive such comprehensive research - and to receive information on new members of the Markenfield family, as well as confirmation (with sources) of things we had long-suspected but could never prove. Her ancestor was Mary Markenfield (b. 1654 so post-Rising) and she had a brother - Henry.

After attending a talk on the Markenfield family by Janet Senior, Eleanor sent us a link to a website called Who Were the Nuns? Where she had found the following entry:

Anne Markynfeld, in religion Anne. Died: 10 Aug 1626 in Lisbon.

Father: Sir Thomas Markenfeld Exiled after 1569 Northern Uprising. of Markenfield Hall, nr Ripon, Yorks

Mother: Margaret Norton of Norton Conyers, Yorks

Bridgettines, Rouen, Lisbon choir nun. She professed 1580-1594.

We always believed that Anne went into a Convent after the Rising, unlike Isabel who was left to live in a hovel on the Estate, but always lacked the proof.

The second encounter came when The Halifax Antiquarian Society had a guided tour of the Hall in July. Their Publications Officer, David Glover, made a new friend in Homer the Hall's new cat and then proceeded to impart all sorts of fascinating information about "the Nortons of Sawley" as they are known - a collateral branch of "our" Nortons, Welbury Norton of Sawley. They have cropped up numerous times as the Norton family tree is researched - recently in connection with Katharine McVikar, who was married to 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Grantley; for some unknown reason her body was transported from London by train to be buried in Sawley Churchyard. David subsequently sent in the following:



Frances, daughter of James Oates, who lived at a significant house called The Hollins, Warley (otherwise known as Murgatroyd) near Halifax, was baptised at St Mary's Chapel, Luddenden, Halifax, in November 1689. She married Captain John Furness of Ovenden Hall, Halifax, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1713; he had fought under Marlborough at the Battle of Blenheim. Captain Furness died at Ovenden Hall in November 1717, and was buried in Halifax Parish Church. Left a widow at 28, Frances had the use of Ovenden Hall for life. Recalling what is often said about women having no real rights as to property in those days, if married, I think her second wedding may have been for love. On 14<sup>th</sup> September 1725, Frances remarried, to Gabetis Norton of Sawley Hall, near Ripon; a 'cousin' of the 1st Lord Grantley. They had no children, and seem to have spent their time between Ovenden and Sawley. Norton died on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1755; Frances survived until 3rd July 1770, almost reaching the [then] great age of 81. Her unentailed property partly went to her housekeeper, but otherwise to her nephew, her next of kin. There is a memorial to her in Halifax Minster, NOT mentioning her second marriage. I presume Gabetis Norton was buried at Sawley, but have not checked - Ovenden Hall still stands, and Frances is said to be its ghost!

If you can help with any of the above please do get in touch. Sarah can be contacted on 01765 692303 or [friends@markenfield.com](mailto:friends@markenfield.com)