



Repton Village History Group Newsletter
Autumn 2013

An apology: May I start this newsletter with an apology about the intended photographic survey of the village. I had planned to arrange a meeting of all those interested in taking part so we could complete it during the summer but it was just not possible. Perhaps it has to wait now till the spring of 2014 so that we reflect a sunny village for our successors.

Programme for 2013

September 17 th	Rowena Lovatt - Leek Embroidery Guild.
October 15 th	Wendy Freer - 'Carrying Coals'.
November 19 th	Patsie Jarman - 'They Brewed A Good Jug Of Ale'.
December 3 rd	Social.

Programme for 2014

January 21 st	Shirley Horton - Adventureres II
February 18 th	Members - So far: Richard Wain - Repton Brook and particularly the Mills, Gillian Hartley with pictorial images of Repton and Andy Austen on Repton's past place names.
March 18 th	Patrick Ashcroft - Calke and the Harpur Crewes.
April 15 th	Hopefully the status of the archaeology project
May 20 th	Richard Stone and AGM
June 17 th	Archive evening.
July	Visit
August	Visit
September 16 th	John Hawkins - History of Findern
October 21 st	Robert Mee - Societies for the prosecution of Felons
November 18 th	Wendy Freer - Black Diamonds
December 2 nd	Social

This summer's Visits - both were well attended.

In July, 16 members, in two groups, visited the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust museum in Derby. Two excellent guides took us around the extensive facilities, describing the history of the company and explaining many of its aerospace products - from WW1 aeroplane engines made by companies it subsequently absorbed, through to the latest massive three shaft engines that power the airliners of today. There were also examples of rocketry, and a full size Spitfire replica. Some of Rolls-Royce's amazing manufacturing processes were explained, and, for some of the visitors, nostalgic memories were triggered by encountering items they had used or products they had worked on. We also managed to see the Jam Roll, the Rolls-Royce car given to Baden-Powell at the 1929 World Scout Jamboree to celebrate 21 years of scouting. This car and Eccles, the caravan, had been the subject of a talk by Steve Hilditch last year.

In early August, Rachael Hall, the National Trust archaeologist for the East Midlands, guided 25 of us on a gentle walk around Ticknall Lime Works. These are far more extensive than one might imagine, incorporating the horse-drawn track-way to the Ashby Canal as well as numerous quarries and kilns. After taking the tunnel under the Lime Walk, we followed the track-way to see some of the quarry faces, a restored kiln and the remains of many others. The track-way branches extensively, each branch and turn revealing yet more workings. Lime was used as mortar, as a soil improver and for lime-wash paint. The high quality of Ticknall slaked lime made the works very profitable, but early transport limited the market. This and increased tolls on the turnpikes led to the building of the canal and the track-way, a co-operative enterprise by the various lime works freeholders. The track-way brought coal in for the firing, took lime



out, and was used by the local brickworks as well. In use since at least 1462, the lime yards declined as reserves of high quality crushed limestone dwindled and technology elsewhere improved the process. Flooding became a problem, and the final stretch of the tramway near the canal closed. Eventually, only the Calke Estate was using the yards, and the last firing took place in 1940. Together with the brickworks, the lime yards would have created considerable pollution; locals talked of 'knitting Ticknall fog'. How reassuring that the site is now a beautiful SSSI; nature has recovered so greatly that it is difficult to see the scale of the operations.



Mortar mount

The “gun mount” on Jeremiah’s Walk has been reinstated close to its original location under the footprint of the Science Priory. It is actually a spigot mount for a Blacker Bombard anti-tank mortar. This had not proved very effective on the battlefield and so was passed onto the Home Guard. From its location, a mortar on this mount would have commanded the crossing of the Trent over the bridge and causeway. There is another similar spigot mount beside the bridge over the brook on the Repton Mill site which would have covered Main Street and the route into the village from the south.

We are very grateful to Repton School for their support in this project. At their request, Bowmer Kirkland extracted the mount - breaking up the 2 tons or so of concrete it was set in - and the school stored it. Following consultation with Philip Heath - SDDC Heritage Officer - we shortened the bars of the cage and reinstalled it with a hardcore fill and a concrete cap like the original. We are working to add an explanatory plaque.



Longlands

History is all about change and so any development on the proposed Longlands site will become part of the village’s history. However it is important to glean all the information we can about the site before any change happens. The developers claim that there is nothing of historical interest because nothing has been found. But really, apart from a partial magnetic survey, no one has looked. Since their report was written, new findings confirm Roman and early Anglo-Saxon occupation in the village and this elevated site might well have further important traces of early occupation. There are other issues such as the village envelope and the spread of Repton to join up with Milton.

Archaeology projects

When building of the Science Priory started, archaeologists found evidence of late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon occupation. This is the first real evidence of their presence in the village. We requested a copy of the report from the York Archaeological Trust and were subsequently contacted by Dr David Strange-Walker (himself an OR) with a proposal that we should create a project to answer the many questions that the findings posed.

We met with 3 archaeologists who outlined their ideas. The hope is to plan, fund and complete a series of archaeological projects to find out all we can about Repton’s past. While we know quite a lot about Mercian and Viking Repton we know little about the Pre-historic, Roman, Saxon or Medieval settlements. Trent and Peak Archaeology (part of the York Archaeological Trust) would provide tuition, guidance, expertise, skills, technology and equipment, but most of the work would be carried out by us. We would also have to bid for funding from English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund and local grant sources - but with T&P’s support. There are two approaches: Identify an interesting project, get funding, complete the work and look for another project and so on. Or carry out a “desk based” study of all

documents and sources that we can and create a sensible long term plan of projects. T&P will support this and can provide access to sources not readily available to us.

The committee has decided in principle to proceed with this, preferring the second approach of creating an overarching long term plan. We have another meeting with the Archaeologists in October - just before our next monthly meeting.

The initial project is likely to be document based, but the later ones should involve test pits, field walking, geophysics, boring, landscape analysis and so on. So now we are looking to identify 10 - 20 people who would like to take part in this and to start to make contacts with any other organisations that might like to have an involvement. **Please let Andy Austen know if you are interested 01283 702448 or austen@andrewausten4.orangehome.co.uk as soon as possible**

Neil's departure.

Sadly we will lose the services of Neil Cumming our Vice Chairman soon as he and Auriol move out of the village. We thank him for his support and wish them well in their new home and community.

The Square

As you may have read in the Parish magazine, we were asked to comment on the lack of street signs for the Square. Our research of censuses, maps and a few other sources led us to conclude that it had never been an officially recognised address - hence no signs. However, several people remembered (or have unearthed) mail addressed to "The Square" or "6 Main St, The Square" and the 1935 Derby County Borough Directory includes 5 people giving The Square as their place of work or abode. So the name was clearly in use locally if not officially. Earlier directories did not include addresses.

So not being an address does not mean that it should not have signs, but the existing High Street sign by the Post box would need moving and replacing and a new sign would be needed by the phone box. If you feel strongly about this, please talk to the Parish Council.

A walk through the village.

At a Friday Luncheon Club after-dinner session we picked the diners memories about all the small shops and businesses that you would encounter if you strolled along from the Cross to the New Inn. The outcome was a map of Repton with over 70 businesses and so on marked on it. We found it fascinating and some of the diners must have enjoyed it too as we have been asked to go again. This time we are thinking of asking about school days and also taking along photographs that need the people naming.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission leaflet

At last we have managed to bring to fruition the work that Bunty Marshall started to put the war graves on the map. Most of the service people buried there were victims of training accidents at the RAF Flying Training School at Burnaston, and Janine Appleby was able to add a lot of information about the crashes and the airmen.

An A3 fan-fold leaflet has been designed to be available in the porch of St Wystan's church and is going through its approval process.

Archive:

We continue to catalogue David Guest's extensive material and were delighted to accept a number of items for the archive. These included a carbon copy of a typed transcript of the Enclosure Award from 1768 which Philip Heath scanned for us to provide a digital copy. This could be used in conjunction with the 1762 Wyatt's map of Repton to reconstruct the original (and long lost) enclosures map. Pauline Kingman has passed over another box of material from her father - Ken Ash - and we have now scanned half of his slide collection of Repton in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

As more material is donated, pressure on space increases and it is going to be important to pass on the copy of the Encyclopaedia Britannica that we hold. This 1880 edition (the 9th edition) has 35 volumes - it is the 'Scholars Edition' with 10 additional volumes compared to the normal one. Can anyone offer it a good home? Condition is fine - although some of the board covers need reattachment.

For further information please contact the secretary: Andy Austen - 01283 702448 or austen@andrewausten4.orangehome.co.uk