

Repton Village History Group Newsletter

Summer 2015



This year, the summer solstice (the astrological start of summer) occurs on June 21st and given wet and very windy weather at the start of the month I prefer this to the meteorologists date of the 1st of June. However, here is the summer newsletter.

Membership renewals: A reminder that membership runs from April 1st so if you haven't paid up then John Kidd will be pleased to assist you to do so! It remains at £4 for an individual and £8 for a family. Membership affords a slight economy if you attend a few of our meetings because you get a reduced entry fee. The money it raises helps cover the cost of items that are not recoverable by an event such as a visit or a meeting. Insurance is a good example. Perhaps more importantly, good membership numbers help when we are dealing with officials or other organisations.

So this newsletter will go to everyone who was on last years membership list or who have indicated interest in joining. John Kidd's phone number is 01283 701991 and he will be pleased to hear from you!

The programme is being extended into 2016 and now runs up to April:

- June 16th Display/Archive evening
- July 15th Visit to Church of All Angels at Hoar Cross.
- August 19th Visit to Stoneywell Cottage - a new NT property.
- September 15th Members evening - a handful of short talks likely to include all or some of: Woodville, Historic structures on our bit of the River Trent, Repton Details (music and photographs), and Rev. Bagshaw Stevens and his friends.
- October 20th Arnold Burston - The Mosleys and Rolleston (on Dove)
- November 17th Richard Stone - "Folk Tales and Festivals"
- December 15th Social & "Bob Neill's Box of bits" - fun, competitive, informative.
- January 19th Shirley Horton - "Just Another One For The Road" - part II
- February 16th Richard Stone - The River Trent
- March 15th Robert Mee - "Derbyshire Castles"
- April 19th Keith Blood - St Oswald's, Ashbourne. Oswald was killed by our King Penda. His brother, Oswy, got his own back 10 years later and killed Penda. Oswy's daughter married Paeda (son of Penda) and then killed him.

All meetings are at 7.30pm prompt in Repton Village Hall Askew Grove, Repton (DE65 6GR)

This year's summer visits:

- July 15th: Visit to All Angels, Hoar Cross for a guided tour of the church. John Kidd will be coordinating things for this visit. We will be asking you for a £3 contribution to a donation to the church. You need to be at Hoar Cross for 2.00pm. There are a few spaces left. Contact John Kidd or Andy Austen (01283 702448) or rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk
- August 19th: The visit to Stoneywell is fully booked. It is a new National Trust property and non NT members will have to pay the admission charge of £8.10p. Again you need to be there for 2.00pm and this time Andy Austen will coordinate things.
- For both visits, we will coordinate transport and look into parking and places for lunch if you want to eat out before the visit.

Walks n Talks:

- The first 3 historical events for the Village Hall fund have happened and went apparently very well. The tea provided by the WI is excellent and the church have provided a projector and projectionist to help. They start at the Arch/Lych gate at 2.00pm and there are two dates left - 5th July, 13th September - but because of the tea, booking is essential (01283 702702 or rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk)
- John Ward led a "Church and School" walk for the National Forest Walking Festival starting in the church and including the Garth and Priory and then walking via the Science Priory, Tanners Lane and the Pastures back to the church. Again it seems to have been much appreciated.
- On Thursday 2nd July at 7.00pm, Hilton and Marston History Group are visiting us for a historical walk and talk. It will follow the well established pattern.

Repton Village party: We used this to launch our new publication "A Stroll Through Repton of Yesteryear" and to collect names for some of our photographs and to make some useful contacts. Thank you to Elaine and Chris who helped Jenny, Margaret and Andy with the stand and to the organisers of the event..

The Cross: In the last issue, it was mentioned that some of the stone blocks in The Cross have cracked and there was concern for its long term future. It is likely to date back to the early 1300's and may be succumbing to modern traffic densities and vehicle weights. It seems difficult to get anything done about it. Apparently there is officially no owner of the structure. If this was not the case, then there is a very good chance that grant funding for remedial work would be forthcoming.

Family History enquiry: Over the spring bank holiday weekend we received an email from a Geoffrey Fisher asking for information about a Gabriel Fisher who is buried in Foremark Churchyard. We offered to go and look for the stone to see if there were any clues. From some other family trees we got a consistent date of death of 1647. We found no stone at Foremark for Gabriel but did find two other Fisher graves from the 1700's. Not in good condition, we had to use chalk to work out the lettering. Then it dawned on us that St Saviour's wasn't consecrated till 1662, so its unlikely that Gabriel was buried there. We had also been asked to photograph a wall mounted inscription for Thomas Fisher. In fact we eventually found it in St Wystan's above the altar in the north aisle. Not only did he have this monument but, in the floor and close to the altar is a large slate grave cover for him and his wife. He must have been a man of means and status to be thus remembered. Geoffrey Fisher - Archbishop of Canterbury was a descendent. We found other Gabriel and Thomas leads in the Derbyshire Records Office for Geoffrey to follow.



A new publication:

- The Stroll booklet is selling well through the Post Office - we have had to top up stocks twice now. We also have some on the shelves in Waterstones and they are available from the website, monthly meetings and committee members. With colour and a fold out map, it is remarkably good value at £4.
- We have just about sold out of the WWI booklet - there are just 3 left.
- We are close to selling out most of our publications and are exploring the possibility of using modern digital technology to copy and print a small stock of all of them.

Archaeological expectations: Thanks to the DCC grant, we have taken delivery of a hi-spec PC, two large monitors and a back-up drive to support our hunt for the Tithe Barn. Thank you to Jonathan Marshall for two speakers so that we can now hear the pings and bongs that the PC makes.

We have loaded onto it the Qgis software that we need and 4 of us attended a Derbyshire Archaeological Society course on how to use it. Since then we have managed to piece together the 1762 map tiles and overlay them onto a modern map. Qgis can correct errors in old maps and we got an excellent fit. This gives us great confidence in the location of the medieval Tithe Barn. We have also overlaid an 1881 map and confirmed that the possible gravel pit was not on the site of the barn and identified the footpaths that Astbury mentions in his diary of 1843 when he repeatedly walked passed the building - which he said had a stone lower section.

Spot the difference: A frustrating (and expensive) tale...



You may remember that in 2012 we reinstalled the spigot mount on Jeremiah's walk. This WWII mount was for a Blacker Bombard anti-tank mortar and is one of two known in the village - the other being by the brook at the mill. We agreed with the Bursar of Repton School that we would provide an explanatory bronze plaque. Having taken advice, we approached Leander Architectural of Dove Holes near Buxton and they sent us their design for the plaque. We asked for the "RVHG" to be expanded to "Repton History Group" and ordered and paid for the plaque.

The two pictures below show their design and the delivered product. We asked for the RVHG to be expanded, but can you spot the more significant change?

Sadly they will not acknowledge our emails or letters and we cannot get past reception with phone calls.

A WWII
spigot mount for a
Blacker Bombard
anti-tank mortar

Reinstated in 2012
by RVHG



For comments or more information please contact Andy Austen on rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk or 01283 702448
We are always pleased to receive information about the locality and the people that lived and worked around here.