

# WINSTER LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

No. 1 September 1996

### INAUGURAL MEETING

The meeting began with a talk by Margaret O'Sullivan of the Derbyshire Record Office in Matlock, firstly on the practicalities of setting up a local history group and then on some aspects of the history of Derbyshire.

From her experience of the Derbyshire Local History Societies Network Dr O'Sullivan suggested that one of the main functions of such a group should be to foster a spirit of cohesiveness and working together. Our rich local history is something we all share, whether we are relative newcomers or long established villagers. A two-pronged approach was suggested, one involving research on selected topics, perhaps in small groups (and here the Record Office can help by providing training workshops), and the other concentrating on the social side and a programme of speakers. We should work towards publishing our research but be wary of acquiring materials, such as photographs and documents, since these sometimes create legal difficulties and problems of public access and storage. All in all, our first meeting, with 31 interested people and a good cross-section of ages, seemed to Dr O'Sullivan a very promising start.

She explained that Derbyshire is unusual in having no definitive county history. This is probably the result of the strong local tradition of topographical (rather than historical) writing and the fact that local historians and antiquaries in the past often circulated their work in manuscript. An exception was Llewellynn Jewitt, who resided in Winster Hall between 1867 and 1868. He founded *The Reliquary*, which became a successful journal of archaeology and local history and was a forerunner of the still-flourishing *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*. We therefore have a good local example to follow!

### GETTING ORGANISED

We then spent 45 minutes discussing how we should proceed. We agreed to form a group called Winster Local History Group, with the aim of encouraging working together on matters of local history and bringing the findings to publication. There will be two sides to our activities, one the setting up of small research groups, meeting perhaps in each other's houses, and the other involving full-group meetings approximately every month over the winter. The latter will be an opportunity for individuals to report on work in progress and also for us from time to time to invite speakers from outside. We decided not to embark on a full programme of outside speakers because of the financial implications and because we wished the group to remain as informal as possible. However, the question of finance would soon have to be considered, and if we are to have funds we will need a treasurer etc. In the meantime, I will act as convener.

In order to know how to organise our research groups we are circulating a form so that people can state their interests and expertise. Our next full meeting will be on Monday 21 October at 7.30 in Winster Market House when villagers who have been researching the history of their own homes (or other buildings) will describe what they have found. We hope this will act as an encouragement to others. An oral history project (i.e. recording the memories of older residents) is also a priority. Other projects suggested include field names, roads and paths, services, lead mining, maps and the prehistory of Winster.

Geoff Lester

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1996**

Saturday 19 October, 10-1 Derbyshire Local History Societies Network Autumn Meeting Record Office, New Street, Matlock. Guest speaker Prof. EJT Collins *Agriculture and Industry in Rural England*. Fee £2. Phone 650090 for booking forms.

Monday 21 October, 7.30 *Researching your own House* Market House  
Members will report on work in progress. Please phone 650090 if you are able to contribute.

Monday 25 November, 6.30-8.30 Workshop at the Record Office, New Street, Matlock, concentrating specially on the resources for researching your own house. The optimum number is approx. 25. Please register on 21 October.  
The cost for the whole group (payment towards two archivists on duty) is £30.50 (about £1.25 each). We will be able to share transport.

## **SOME USEFUL PUBLICATIONS**

We have now joined the Derbyshire Local History Societies Network and received information about the services on offer. Something of immediate advantage is their list of publications. Two information leaflets are particularly relevant, given the suggestions that were made at our inaugural meeting:

*Running a Local History Research Group*, by Janet Spavold (1995)

*Oral History Principles and Practice*, by Ken Howarth and Margaret O'Sullivan (1995).

The one on oral history offers good practical advice to anyone thinking of recording the reminiscences of the older residents of Winster.

## **A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF FUNDS**

It has been suggested that our group, as a Winster village activity, be eligible for an initial grant from Winster Carnival funds. Keep your fingers crossed.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

(contributions to this section in future Newsletters are very welcome)

**From the Deeds of Orchard Mine Cottage, East Bank, supplied by Geoff Lester**

Copy of an indenture dated 28 February 1879

between William Rains of Biggin near Wirksworth in the County of Derby Farmer and Wheelwright of the 1st part George Rains of the same place Farmer of the second part and William Travis of Kirk Langley in the same County Farmer of the 3rd part.

It is an Abstract of the Title of

All those 2 cottages or dwellinghouses erected by the said William Rains upon the site of an old dwellinghouse and premises situate on Winster Bank in the Township of Winster aforesaid with the garden ground outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging bounded by the Highway and the Old Orchard Mine many years past in the occupation of Ann Stone afterwards of Joseph Ashton and Sophie Chadwick.

From this I conclude that Orchard Mine Cottage was probably built around 1850 by the farmer William Rains, who presumably used the building stone from the old house which formerly stood on the site. This would explain the differing bands of stone visible on the front wall. It might be possible to fix the date more precisely through the use of maps and census returns.

**From *The Life and Death of Llewellynn Jewitt*, by W.H.Goss (London: Henry Gray, 1889), pp.227-8. An extract from Jewitt's *Journal*:**

December 26<sup>th</sup> [1867]. – This evening we had several sets of children ‘guising,’ i.e. dressed up in all sorts of queer ways, and singing one thing or another. The ‘Hobby Horse’ came too. Five men – one as a devil, one as a woman, one as an old woman with a besom, one with the Hobby Horse, and one as something or other else. We had them in the kitchen and gave them money.

December 27<sup>th</sup>. – Troops of children ‘guising’ again. We gave something to each lot. In the evening the Winster ‘Snap Dragon’ and ‘Hobby Horse’ conjoined came to us – ten men, one as Snap Dragon, two with Hobby Horses, two devils, etc., etc. We had them in the kitchen and gave them money.

December 28<sup>th</sup>. – This evening the Wensley ‘Mummers’ came – nine – and we had them in the kitchen and gave them refreshments and money. They played ‘Robin Hood’ excellently well, and sang afterwards several excellent songs. They were most interesting. Troops of children again.

December 30<sup>th</sup>. – This evening had two parties of ‘guisers’ in the house. The first – five – were so dull and stupid that I packed them off soon. The second set – eleven – with ‘Snap Dragon’ and two ‘Hobby Horses’ were very good, and sang and recited well.

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1868. – Betsy and I went to Lucas's. Mr Carrington there. All the day before leaving home we were besieged by children coming to the house, saying:

'I wish you a happy New Year,  
A pocket full of money  
And a cellar full of beer,'

And then expecting some halfpence. Gave to all that came.

### **LIST OF THOSE AT OUR FIRST MEETING (TOTAL 31 PEOPLE)**

Atkin, Ann	6 Chapel Croft, Elton	650148
Atkin, Jason	Far View, The Miers, Birchover DE4 2BQ	650192
Atkin, Rev. Neil	6 Chapel Croft, Elton	650148
Brook, Carolyn		
Elliott, Arthur	Market House, East Bank	
Elliott, Gill	Market House, East Bank	
Forster, Freda	Pinfold Cottage, East Bank	650110
Geddes, John	The Old Farmhouse, East Bank	
Gray, Alison	Sunnybank, Wensley Road	
Greatorex, Rob	12 Wyntor Avenue	
Hope, Frances	North View, East Bank	
Hopkinson, Geraldine	Netherfields, Wensley Road	
Lester, Geoff	Orchard Mine Cottage, E Bank DE4 2DT	650090
Lester, Marg	Orchard Mine Cottage, E Bank DE4 2DT	650090
Mason, Frank	Armature Cottage, West Bank DE4 2DQ	
McDaid, Jane	Angel Cottage, Main Street	
Mitchell, Sheila	The Old Forge, Main Street	650220
Needham, Carol	King Field Cottage, East Bank	
Newton, Clive	The Old Manse, East Bank	
Pellow, Jill	Burton House, Main Street	
Rawlence, Anthea	The Old Manse, East Bank	
Renouf, Christine	Rockside, West Bank	650759
Shiers, Jan	The Headlands, East Bank	650523
Shiers, Rod	The Headlands, East Bank	650523
Shimwell, Eric	7 Leacroft Road	
Skyrme, Jean	Old Shoulder of Mutton, West Bank	650778
Tomlinson, Hilary	The Old Bakehouse, Woodhouse Lane	
Walters, Anne	Heathcote House, Main Street	
Walters, Emlyn	Heathcote House, Main Street	
Warren, Joyce	Market Cottage, Main Street	
Wood, John	Sunnybank, Wensley Road	

### **NEWSLETTER**

**If this Newsletter seems a good idea for keeping group members in touch and for publishing news, notes, queries, etc., we will need an editor. Any offers?**