

# Winster Local History Group

Newsletter No. 10

January 1998

## Programme for 1998:

**Monday 19 January. The Winster Tremors,** The earthquakes of 1952 remembered by some of those who were there. 7.30 in the Methodist Church, top of East Bank.

**Monday 23 February. An Evening of Nostalgia Part 2: Slides of Old Winster – People, Places and Events.** 7.30 in the Methodist Church.

**Monday 23 March. Tracing the Old Roads and Trackways in the Winster Area,** by Brian Rich, Lecturer at Keele University. 7.30. The venue for this meeting is still to be fixed. We are looking for a room with a number of tables, as we will be looking at maps.

**Sunday 29 March. Guided History Walk Tracing the Old Roads and Tracks,** led by Brian Rich. Brian believes that the only way to get to grips with the history of the landscape is on foot (or by minibus for those who have difficulty in walking.) We will start at Elton and go along the Portway to Robin Hood's Stride, Harthill Moor, Alport, Youlgreave (bar meal in the George), Bradford Dale, Lowfields Farm, Dale End, Oddo House Farm and back to Elton. The distance is 8 miles or so, taken at a gentle pace, since this is a History or Heritage Walk, not a hike. Start 9.30 and end about 5 p.m.

**Monday 27 April. On Winster Bank.** Historical Walk round the Village. Details later.

**Monday 8 June. A Visit to Winster Church Graveyard,** led by Helen Bastin. Helen is the author of a complete inventory of gravestone inscriptions for the Derbyshire Family History Society.

Our monthly meetings will resume in September after a summer break.

## Annual General Meeting and Christmas Social

Our first AGM was held on December 8 in The Old Shoulder of Mutton. 21 members attended. The Chairman briefly reviewed activities during the year, a period which saw the development of regular monthly talks and (rather less regular) informal workshop groups, both of which are now flourishing.

The Secretary reported that membership has grown to 46 (now up to 52 at 12.1.98), with members as far a field as Essex. The Treasurer reported that the group has £160 in the bank, a sum which would be used to pay for visiting speakers and venues and for the purchase of materials for the workshop groups. (We also need to build up funds in anticipation of future publishing expenses.) The existing officers were re-elected unopposed: Chair, Geoff Lester; Secretary, Christine Renouf; Treasurer, Geraldine Hopkinson.

After the AGM we had a really good party. Many thanks to Brian and Jean Skyrme for their hospitality.

### **New Members**

Ken Buck	Woodside, Chignal Smealey, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4SU	01245 441067
David Hopkinson	Netherfields, Wensley Road	650347
Brian Long	Tor House, Main Street	650780
Diana McBain	Brae Cottage, East Bank	650375
Paul Roberts	6 Woodhouse Lane	0115 9231775
David Wynne	Clough Vista, West Bank	650096
Martine Wynne	Clough Vista, West Bank	650096

### **Oral History Group**

The group met on 12 January. Several new recordings have been made, and a number of summaries of previous recordings have been written up. New allocations of people to interview were made. We talked briefly about beginning to organise our materials for publication. Next meeting: 7.30, March 2 at Rock View Cottage.

We were all saddened to hear of the deaths of Vin Hodgkinson and Bessie Boden, who were two of the first people to be recorded as part of our project.

### **Buildings Group**

There has not been a meeting recently, but at the last meeting members were allocated groups of buildings to record, which will take some time. One development is that we have been loaned some very interesting deeds,

which record such things as the histories of certain properties, field names, and so on. Next meeting February 5 at Pinfold Cottage.

## **Model of the Village**

Work on the model was put on hold in November while the possibility was explored of making a rigid shell with a clear plastic base, to allow the mine passages under the village to be shown. Unfortunately the costs have proved to be far too high. Work on the model using more conventional materials will resume shortly.

## **Print of the Village**

The limited-edition print of the village has sold very well. Almost £200 has been raised for the History Group, and there is still a small number of prints left. Anyone who wishes to buy one (cost £10) should phone 650090. Many thanks to Marg Lester whose initiative this is, and also to Carolyn Wood in the Post Office, who was so efficient and helpful in selling them during the Christmas period. The money will be used to buy materials for the model, and anything left over will go towards building up our publication fund.

## **The Winstor Alphabet**

Does anyone know about 'The Winstor Alphabet' or the identity of Joyce Kilbride, in whose name the following note has recently come to light? The historical event referred to is the murder of William Cuddy by William Brittlebank in 1821 on the lawn of Bank House, but it appears that locally it has been turned into a strange folktale:

### The Winstor Alphabet

A was an archer who shot at the doctor  
B was old Billy whom the deed did .....(improctor?)  
C was poor Cuddy who for love lost his life  
D was the damsel he intended for his wife  
E was  
F was old Fivesides deceitful as ever  
G was  
H was  
I was  
J was  
K was  
L was  
M was  
N was

O was  
P was  
Q was  
R was  
S was  
T was  
U was  
V was  
W was  
X was  
Y was  
Z was

I don't know any more but I would like to find out the rest.

The tale goes that the Brittlebanks, an important family, had a daughter who was ill and although they had the best doctors money could buy, she didn't get any better, so in desperation they had the local doctor whose name was Cuddy. Whatever she ate, she kept getting thinner and weaker. As Cuddy sized up the situation, he decided that she had swallowed a newt in her drinking water. He told the family to prepare a good dinner, which was put on the table in front of the lady. He ordered that she be tied to the chair so that she couldn't move. The newt, which was in her stomach smelt the food and jumped out of her mouth. After this, she did get better and fell in love with the doctor who had undoubtedly saved her life. But the parents wouldn't let them get married, as they didn't think Dr Cuddy good enough for their daughter to marry. The poem 'The Winster Alphabet' then takes up the story. My father told me this story, but he didn't know any more of the alphabet than what I have written.

Joyce Kilbride