

## **Winster Local History Group**

**Newsletter No 11 April 1998**

### **Next Meeting**

**Monday 27 April. On Winster Bank. Meet 7.30 outside the Market House.** This will take the form of an historical walk round the village, looking at some of the houses members have researched, recalling former businesses, identifying listed buildings, and observing different styles of vernacular architecture. It will be very informal, and everyone is welcome to contribute, but we hope we will also be able to draw on some architectural expertise.

### **New Times for our June Meeting**

**Monday 8 June. A Visit to Winster Church Graveyard, led by Helen Bastin. Meet either 6.30 or 8.00 outside the church.** Helen has added to her database of inscriptions from the gravestones all sorts of information and anecdotes about the individuals who are buried there. In order to keep the numbers manageable we have decided to split the visit into two. Please phone Helen (650213) to say which group you would prefer to be in.

### **Report on Meeting on Roads and Tracks**

**Meeting on 23 March on the Old Roads and Trackways in the Winster Area.** Over 60 people attended this excellent talk by Brian Rich in the Dining Room of the Miner's Standard. Brian began by drawing our attention to three 'Queen Anne Guide Posts' surviving near Winster, two now used as gateposts and another in a field near Shothouse spring. The line of the old Roman road through Pikehall was plotted and discussed, as was the Anglo-Saxon (or earlier) Portway, part of which is our Islington Lane. Major trade routes like the Portway kept to high ground and often bypassed villages, but pedlars' routes can be traced into the centres of population where the travellers traded their wares. Stretches of turnpikes and possible drove roads can also be traced in the Winster area.

The talk was followed up on Sunday 29 March by a very interesting historical walk. We looked at some of the landscape features that had been mentioned, as well as other such as medieval lynchets and paved ways. Our walk also took in a pub lunch. All in all we had an excellent informative talk and walk, and Christine Renouf has written to Brian to express our thanks.

In the autumn Brian is running a course in Winster on interpreting the local landscape on behalf of Keele University. Details are given overleaf.

Because of the large numbers at the talk, some people did not receive copies of the maps that were given out. I have spare copies (Geoff Lester: 650090). (I also have spare copies, from an earlier talk, of the map of the village with the underlying passages of Orchard Mine plotted on it.)

### **Oral History Project**

We continue to add to our archive of recordings, which now number 30. From these we have begun to make transcriptions and, as a result of an appeal in the Parish Magazine, several people with typing/word-processing skills have kindly offered their services. At the same time we have been reviewing the brief contents lists we have already made to see what subjects have already been covered and what might need to be included in future recordings. Next meeting: Monday 15 June at 7.30 in Kingfield Cottage, East Bank. Phone Freda Forster (650110) for more information.

### **Buildings Project**

The main development here is that we have been loaned a number of deeds and copies of deeds. Rod Shiers, who, as a solicitor and a member of the History Group, has kindly offered to lead a workshop to explain the complexities of deeds so that we can get the maximum information from them. The date of this meeting will be announced later.

### **Model of the Village**

The group working on the model has not been meeting over the winter months, but activity will soon resume. If you would like to be involved please phone Marg Lester, 650090.

### **Photographs and Documents**

We continue to receive offers of photographs and documents for copying. Please keep the offers coming. The photographs have been the basis of two slide shows so far, and we need material for a third. We now have an archive

of 230 prints, catalogues of house and land sales, photocopies of articles and newspaper cuttings etc. We also have a fairly complete run of Parish Magazines from 1888 to 1920, but there are some gaps, so if anyone has copies from these or other early dates which they are willing to lend for copying could they please phone 650090.

### **Display Boards in the Market House**

Alun Thomas, on behalf of the Parish Council and Winster Morris, and Freda Forster, on behalf of the History Group, recently met representatives of the National Trust and discussed with them the possibility of having boards in the Market House for the display of local materials. The trust is willing to reorganise the present display and provide boards, and possibly a display case, for village use, subject to the condition that the displays will have to be of a 'professional' quality. This means that we should eventually be able to display our photographs and documents on perhaps a fortnightly or monthly changeover basis and invite comments and information from people in the village. The Trust people were also encouraging about displaying the model of the village when it is finished.

### **Parish Map**

The History Group is contributing to a project to produce a village map. The latest development is that, as a result of an idea by Dermot McDaid (Angel Cottage, Main Street), Y10 pupils studying Computers Graphics Design at King Ecgbert Comprehensive School, Sheffield have been invited to design a map as a 'real-life' GCSE project. The pupils came to the village at the end of March and were shown round in groups. Some are making follow-up visits. There are 40 pupils, and between them they will produce a variety of maps. The Map group will then be able to identify the best features and put them together in a final version at some date in the future. The Map Group will monitor developments over the next two months and eventually make available a number for approval by the villagers as a whole as the basis for the real thing.

### **Prints**

Only ten copies remain of our limited-edition print of Winster (price £10 unframed). The prints have proved very popular and have raised much-needed funds for the History Group. Special thanks to Carolyn Wood for selling the prints on our behalf in the Post Office.

## **Membership**

Even at this late stage in the year we continue to receive requests for membership. We now have well over fifty members, including people who have moved or live out of the village. It would be nice if we could have a summer get-together. If anyone is willing to organise it could they please make themselves known!

## **Provisional Details of a Landscape History Course to be Held in Winster from September to December 1998**

**Course Title:** Making roads through a White Peak landscape.

**Aim:** To enable students to interpret the landscape within the area bounded by Winster, Wirksworth and Parwich.

**Programme Times:** The course will consist of 12 sessions. There will be 9 indoor sessions on Tuesday evenings commencing September 15 or September 22. There will be 3 outdoor field visits using a minibus on Sunday mornings. In addition, there will be 3 optional field walks on Sunday afternoons.

**Syllabus:** The provisional syllabus for the 9 indoor sessions is as follows ....

- 1) General introduction. Background to settlement and landscape through a study of place names.
- 2) Fields in the landscape. Evidence for open-field villages, enclosure by agreement, enclosure by Act of Parliament.
- 3) & 4) Evidence for the system of roads and trackways before 1750. The impact of the turnpike road era. Enclosure roads.
- 5) Prehistoric and Romano- British settlement. Burying the dead.
- 6) & 7) A detailed look at evidence in the landscape for lead mining, preparation of the ore and smelting the ore from Roman times.
- 8) The stone industry and other minor industries.
- 9) The impact of railways: Cromford and High Peak, the Wirksworth branch, the Derby to Manchester main line.

Brian Rich, Keele University

(Details of booking arrangements will be given later)