

# **Winster Local History Group**

## **Newsletter No 12 November 1998**

### **Next meeting**

**Monday 16 November. AGM and Recollections of Winster.**

This is a bit different from our normal type of meeting. We will begin by holding our **AGM**, which will give an opportunity for us to discuss suggestions for our spring programme. The workshop groups (Oral Project, Buildings, Photo Archive etc) will report briefly on what they have been doing. And finally there will be a short presentation of extracts from our archive of recordings under the title **Recollections of Winster**.

One of the problems the organisers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) of the group have is that they have to make a lot of decisions without consulting other members. There is no general forum at which plans can be formulated. For instance, we will soon have to commit quite a large sum of money for our first publication. What form should it take, and what readership is envisaged? We need to know your views. Be assured, however, that at the meeting we'll keep formalities, such as the election of officers, to an absolute minimum.

Suggestion for future meetings include: Interpreting the Deeds of your House; Field Names and Place Names; The Winster Landscape; and Divining for Lead. Please come along and bring your own suggestions.

### **Membership**

We have about 35 paid-up members so far. Please give your £5 subscription to our Treasurer (Geraldine Hopkinson) at the AGM or drop it in to Gill Elliot, Market House (first on left up East Bank).

### **Keele University Course**

The Keele University course on Exploring the History of a White Peak Landscape, led by Brian Rich, has been up and running since September and is now almost at an end. Brian gave a talk in March on Old Paths and Trackways in the Winster Area, which (together with an historical walk) was a pilot for this extramural course. A number of village people signed up for it, and such is their enthusiasm that some have been seen walking the hills above Winster looking for ridge and furrow, old lime kilns, and unusually aligned field boundaries. We might be able to persuade Brian to give a follow-up talk at some time in the future.

## **Report on ‘A History of Morris Dancing in Winster’ by Ian Russell**

On 21 September in the newly refurbished Burton Institute over thirty people attended to hear this excellent talk. Ian took us first through a brief history of Winster Wakes, in which the Morris Dancers have always been deeply involved. The earliest known reference is in a newspaper of 1831. Early Wakes included races (horses, donkeys and wheelbarrows), games (especially ‘swarming the pole’), music, dancing, church services, processions of members of the village Friendly Societies (Foresters and Oddfellows), feasts, Wakes cakes, and (unfortunately) quite a lot of drunkenness and fighting.

Winster Morris is unique, with its distinctive processional and stationary dances, its rigmaroles (‘This is it and that is it and this is morris dancing ...’), and its characters (King, Queen, Witch, Jester). Ian made many interesting comparisons with related traditions from Castleton, Tideswell and Taddington. Over the years performances of the Winster dances have declined and been revived many times. One of the great enthusiasts was George Noton, headmaster of Winster School, who put together a team of boys. The revival of 1950 lasted four years, while the latest has lasted from 1977 to the present.

We then saw extracts from the film ‘this is Morris Dancing’, which documents the Winster dance between 1979 and 1981. Apart from the dancing, it was fascinating to see in the background how much the village has changed, though some of the dancers and some of the crowd were instantly recognisable.

There was also an exhibition of souvenirs, books and newspaper cuttings.

## **Report on ‘Llewellynn Jewitt of Winster’ by Brian Donaghey**

This was another very enjoyable and informative talk. Brian Donaghey combined for us information about the local activities of Llewellynn Jewitt, resident of Winster Hall from 1867 to 1880, with an explanation of his national importance as an engraver and publisher.

Born in 1816, Llewellynn was educated by his father and was specially fond of history and the new science of archaeology. He followed his more famous brother Orlando in learning the craft of engraving, and often recorded in his diary (now lost, but summarised in his biography by W H Goss) the occasions when he sat up late to finish a commission. In 1853 he moved to Derby and founded the *Derby Telegraph*, and later the antiquarian journal *The Reliquary*.

When he moved to Winster, for reasons which are obscure, he quickly became involved in village life, starting an annual flower show in Oddo, entertaining

the guisers (which he interestingly reports in his diary), and helping to organise a regular supply of water, piped to Winster from Stanton Moor.

During this time he entertained a constant stream of visitors, often taking them of picnics to places such as Rowtor Rocks at Birchover. Throughout this period he continued a steady output of artwork. A specially fruitful partnership was with the archaeologist Thomas Bateman of Middleton-by-Youlgreave, whose collection was illustrated in watercolours and engravings by Jewitt, the originals of which can still be seen in Sheffield City Museum.

When Llewellynn moved to Winster he had seven children (out of fifteen born). But two of them died in the early 1870's, including his favourite, Isaac, who had run away to sea and was killed by a fall from the rigging of his ship. His body was returned to Winster for an elaborate funeral, and his grave is in the family plot in the churchyard. Llewellynn moved into a smaller house in Duffield, five miles from Derby, in 1880, but these last years were not very happy for him. His wife died in March 1886, and he, crippled and depressed, survived her by only three months. Both are buried in Winster.

Brian then showed slides of Llewellynn's work, as well as others illustrating what is involved in the craft of engraving. He also gave a complete bibliography of his publications, several of which were included in the small exhibition of books and other materials he had brought to the Burton Institute. Pride of place went to the collection of original engraved blocks by Jewitt, which Brian has acquired, one of which he had used on a small printed memento for those present at the talk to take away with them.

After the talk Brian was invited to Winster Hall to see the restoration work recently undertaken. It is hoped that we may be able to hold a future meeting of the History Group in Winster Hall, when the works are complete.

### **Display Board in the Market House**

Alun Thomas, on behalf of the Parish Council, Winster Morris and 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 a display case for village use, subject to the condition that the displays will have to be of 'professional' quality. This means that we should eventually be able to display 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.

## **Winster and the Great War**

On 11 November Winster Voice Workshop presented a programme of reading and songs to commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the end of the First World War, and particularly the part played by the people of Winster, many of whom were killed.

Winster Local History Group also contributed by putting on an exhibition of photographs and documents from the History group archive. The assembly of the material was a lengthy process (mostly the work of Freda Forster, who also arranged the display), but it was a valuable learning process. For example, we learned some of the practical difficulties of mounting a display and about which materials are best. It was a pity that the exhibition could not be carried on beyond the one evening. This is exactly the sort of use to which the proposed display boards in the Market House could be put.

Photographs in the display included:

Some of those who served and returned, including Ted and Joe Dale, Frank Marshall, Frank Walker and Harry Walker. Also a number of soldiers in uniform whose photographs are in Winster people's collection but who now can't be definitely identified.

Some who did not return. One was Lewis Marshall Burton who lived in what is now Pinfold Cottage. There was also a picture of him as a boy, and one of his mother and father who anxiously awaited news of him (in vain, for his body was never found). Another was Joseph Edwin Newton, shown as a boy riding on a donkey on the outskirts of Winster.

Women and the war: These included Annie Thomas, who wrote the poem 'Our Brave Winster Boys' which was featured in the readings. Also Dorothy Bateman, photographed in the Land Army, with the message 'Keep the old flag flying!'

School photographs, showing those who had brothers in the war: these included one of 1905-6 which shows sixteen known to have enlisted, including three who died.

There were also pictures of war graves of Winster's dead, which, alongside the other photographs, brought home the dreadfulness of the tragedy.