

## **Winster Local History Group**

**Newsletter No 16**

**June 2000**

### **Stop Press! Stop Press! Stop Press! Stop Press! Stop Press! Stop Press!**

Julie Bunting, writer for the Peak Advertiser, who gave us advice on setting up our Oral History Project in 1996, has agreed to launch our book on 17 June.

### **Oral History Project: Launch on 17 June**

Most of you will know by now that the History Group book based on recordings of people's memories will be published on June 17. Everyone is invited to the Burton Institute at 2 p.m. for the launch. There will be food and drink and an exhibition of photographs linked to the book. It will be very informal, and we hope that some of the contributors will be there. There will be one free copy of the book for every Winster household, and one for contributors and History Group members who live out of the village. A 'talking book' version is also planned.

For the cover of the book we commissioned a painting of Main Street and Market House by the Sheffield artist Bill Kirby. Some of you will have seen half of the painting (the front cover) reproduced on our poster advertising the launch. Bill has included likenesses of some real village residents (with some artistic licence). A postcard and an A3 size print are being produced. We hope they will be ready in time for the launch. Afterwards they will be on sale at the Post Office. The book will also be on sale, price £6.95.

### **Summary of Meetings**

**24 January.** David Frederickson, Maggie Ford and Chris Hawes explained their plans for a community play on the Brittlebank Murder Mystery. This ambitious project will begin this year with a series of workshops, and, if all goes well, the full production will follow in 2001. Some very interesting staging ideas were discussed, including the possibility of a promenade performance around the streets of Winster, perhaps using some of the locations associated with the actual 1821 murder. Chris Hawes asked for help from History Group members to research the Brittlebanks and their social background. The Bagshawe Collection in Sheffield is likely to be a useful resource, and group visits to it are being arranged. A preliminary outline of the drama workshops planned for this summer was given in the April issue of the Winster and Elton Parish News.

**February 28.** David Hey gave a very interesting talk about Derbyshire surnames and their origins. Many local family names are from place names, such as Heathcote

(a small Hamlet near Hartington) and Great Rakes (Bonsall/Cromford), the supposed origin of the name Greatorex. The distribution of names, based on early nineteenth-century census returns, gives information about contemporary social trends and movements, but the personal mobility of modern times means that most names have now become too dispersed for their distribution to be meaningful. Much of the material was from Professor Hey's own research, and we are grateful that he shared it with us in such an interesting way.

**March 27.** This was a practical workshop about interpreting deeds and other legal documents. It was led by Rod Shiers, who gave us the benefit of his first-hand knowledge of conveyancing. Some people brought along the deed of their houses, and we looked in detail at some of them. Geoff Dalton told us about the history of Carpenter's Cottage and the Barnsley 'Empire' on The Flat, and Jocelyn Lowe had deeds which showed that Anson Row used to be called Hampson's Row. At the meeting questions were asked about the meaning of certain legal terms, and David Jones kindly offered to compile a brief glossary of them.

There was not sufficient time on this occasion to look in detail at all the deeds people brought along, but David offered to reconvene the History Group workshop on buildings, which has lapsed in recent years. The reconvened workshop group will be able to spend more time going through available deeds and documents, which are an important resource for Winster history. The group also plans to look at individual buildings and their features. Anyone interested should contact David Jones, phone 650178.

### **Related Groups and Activities**

The **model of Winster** is well underway, and a small team meets every Monday in the Old Shoulder of Mutton, West Bank, at 8 p.m. We can always use more help. Please phone 650778. The History Group's roundel for the **Winster Hall Hanging** is being embroidered by Jill Pellow. The hanging is on course for completion later this year. We have made a contribution to the **Parish Map** by supplying text relating to interesting buildings and features of Winster, but the project is held up at the moment by the artwork. Dermot McDaid still has not been given much material (scanned images and text) for the **village website** ([www.winster.org.uk](http://www.winster.org.uk)). Please contact him at [Dermot@winster.org.uk](mailto:Dermot@winster.org.uk) or phone 650692.

### **Programme of Talks for Next Year**

As always, suggestions of topics and speakers are always welcome – in fact, they are desperately needed! (Thanks to those who have already made suggestions. Be assured that they have not been forgotten.) Please phone 650090.

## **A Glossary of Legal Terms Related to Deeds**

The workshop on Deeds and Documents on 27 March produced a rich harvest of related legal terms, both ancient and modern. Here is a glossary of some of the more common ones, drawn from David Jones' reference books (all three of them). Thanks to Rod Shiers for quality control of what follows.

**Abuttal:** Names of owners or tenants of adjoining property, recorded as an aid to identification of the property being transferred

**Abstract of Title:** Summary of evidence of prior ownerships, made to avoid extensive copying.

**Consideration:** Money paid for purchase of property (or other bargain).

**Copyhold:** Tenure of land, which could only be transferred by surrendering it to the lord of the manor, who would normally pass it to the heir. Each transfer was recorded in the court roll [**enrolment**]; the new tenant was given a copy, which fulfilled the function of a title deed.

**Covenant:** An agreement entered into by one of the parties to a deed. "Positive" e.g. To keep a wall in good repair, "negative" e.g. Not to keep pigs.

**Curtilage:** The area associated with a dwelling house, e.g. Yard or garden.

**Dower:** A widow's share for life of one third of her deceased husband's land.

**Endorsement:** The writing on the back (dorse) of a deed.

**Enrolment:** Copy of a deed on a roll kept by a court, as a permanent record.

**Entail:** Settlement of a property so that it must pass back to the owner's heirs as specified, and not sold or otherwise disposed of.

**Fee entail:** Tenure of land which is **entailed**.

**Fee simple:** Tenure of freehold land which is not the subject of feudal service etc.

**Feoffee:** A trustee holding **freehold** property for another without specified

**Feeoffment:** Transfer of freehold property from one person to another. Done partly in writing and partly by a public ceremony (**Livery of Seisin**)

**Fine:** Several meanings, but the most relevant to deeds is that it was the sum paid for the granting of a lease. Nothing to do with a penalty for wrongdoing.

**Freehold:** Absolute ownership for an indefinite period, as opposed to **leasehold**.

**Indenture:** A deed executed by two or more parties. Written as several identical copies (one for each party) on a single sheet of parchment, which was then cut up along wavy lines (indentations). The parts had to tally, making unilateral alteration of one copy impossible. Often the word 'chirograph' was written across the joins, to make the matching more difficult to fake. Also 'later', any sealed agreement.

**Lease:** Grant of property to a tenant for a specified period, usually a term of years, or for the life of a tenant.

**Lease and Release:** Transfer of property by granting a **lease** for a year, and the next day conveying the **reversion** to the tenant. A legal trick to avoid the cost of **enrolment**.

**Leasehold:** Tenure by **lease**.

**Messuage:** A dwelling house.

**Reversion:** Grant of property to start at a later date or event, eg. end of a previous **lease**.

**Seisin, Livery of Seisin:** Taking up possession (seisin) of a freehold property by a publicly witnessed ceremony (livery of seisin) in which symbolic items such as keys, a piece of turf etc. were handed over.

**Settlement:** Transfer of property to **trustees** for a particular purpose, e.g. marriage settlement, or to a widow for the rest of her life, and then reverting to others.

**Tenement:** Any type of property, particularly property including a building, or the formal description of such property.

**Tenure:** The form of right by which property is held. Nowadays **freehold** or **leasehold** but there were earlier variants, to do with the manorial and feudal systems, e.g. **copyhold**.

**Trustee:** A person holding property on behalf of another, for specified uses.  
PS For more (much more) see "Old Title Deeds", by N W Alcock, published by Phillimore, price about £10.