

Winster Local History Group

Newsletter No. 18 January 2001

Committee and project responsibilities

At the AGM on 18 September it was agreed unanimously that we should set up a properly constituted committee. The new committee members are:

Chairman	David Jones Buxton House, East Bank	650178
Secretary	Geoff Lester Orchard Mine Cottage, East Bank	650090
Treasurer	Geraldine Hopkinson Netherfields, Wensley Rd	650347
	Freda Forster Pinfold Cottage, East Bank	650110
	Jane McDaid Angel Cottage, Main St.	650692
	Simon Reynolds Kingfield Cottage, East Bank	650695
	Jean Skyrme The Old Shoulder of Mutton, West Bank	650778
Project responsibilities:		
	Oral Group	Freda Forster
	Buildings Group	David Jones
	Exhibitions	Freda Forster
	Photograph archive	Geoff Lester
	Document archive	Geoff Lester
	Newsletter editor	David Jones
	Burton Institute Representative	Anne Walters
	Heathcote House, Main St, Tel. 650342	

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All talks, (except that in June) will take place in the Burton Institute, starting at 7.30 pm.

26 February 2001. 'Winster's neighbours: Bonsall', by Peter Greaves. Bonsall is a village of unique and varied geology, with an industrial past which is similar to, but very different from, that of Winster. Why did frame-knitting and cotton-spinning become established there? Why are the fields pock-marked with shallow mine-workings sometimes only a few feet apart? What effect did the copious water supply have on the history of the village? All will be revealed.....

19 March 2001.

To be announced.
Keep your diary free!
(A talk or a workshop)

23 April 2001. 'T'Owd Man: The History of a Derbyshire Lead Miner' by Brian Woodall.

Brian will bring a selection of minerals and tools (and clothes?), and tell the story of the pleasures and pains in the life of a lead miner. Come along and see him bring the past to life. The presentation will be suitable for all ages.

18 June 2001 (An outside event, probably involving a site visit, and maybe a pub supper)

PROGRAMME FOR 2001/2002

The committee will soon be thinking about next winter's programme. Please let us know if there are any particular topics which would interest you -- suggestions are always welcome.

CURRENT AND NEW ACTIVITIES

Field Survey Group

Many people have expressed an interest in taking part in a field survey of Winster parish. The plan is to walk the fields, record the flora and fauna, photograph the field barns, map the lynchets, research old maps, record the field names etc. Several of us met recently to make initial plans, and we would like to begin in earnest in January. If you are interested in taking part, please phone Frank Mason (650738)

The Buildings Group

The buildings group was set up some time ago, but has not been active recently. The aim is to explore Winster's past by studying the history of individual buildings, the uses to which they were put, and who lived in them/ owned them. There will be a 'relaunch' meeting on Wednesday 17th January, and our small group could do with one or two more members. If you would like to see what we are up to, help set up the programme and get involved with the research, please contact David Jones (650178)

The Brittlebank Murder Community Play. Meeting on 7 November

Most of you will know about the project to create and perform a community play based on the murder in 1821 of William Cuddie, the Winster village doctor, by William Brittlebank. Although the money for the project has not yet been secured (we hope to hear within weeks), a preliminary meeting was held of those involved. The meeting discussed researching the Brittlebank family, the murder in particular, and Winster in the 1820s. Caroline Small, who will write the play, reported on her preliminary researches in the Bagshawe collection at Sheffield Central Library. This collection is a large accumulation of papers from local Sheffield solicitors, one of whom acted for the Brittlebank family, and there are quite a few references to them. Caroline is going to survey the extent of the collection (it's not clear from the index how much of the material will be relevant), with a view to a History Group visit. The idea is that a crack History Group research brigade of volunteers would get through quite a lot of papers in a short time. It would be wonderful if we could find out how the Brittlebanks were seen locally. They were mine owners who employed local men, and landlords to whom Winster people would have paid rent. Alun Thomas undertook to search local newspapers of the time for reports on the murder, and David Jones agreed to explore Cuddie's naval background, and if possible trace his family. Helen Bastin mentioned the 'Winster Alphabet', which refers to Old Man Brittlebank. Norah Paisey has given us a copy of 'Primitive Physic', John Wesley's book of natural

cures. In 1820 it was in its twenty-ninth edition, and may well have been known to Cuddie.

‘WINSTER: A PEAK DISTRICT VILLAGE REMEMBERS’

All Winster households, in residence on 17 June 2000, should now have their free copy of ‘Winster: A Peak District Village Remembers’. The History Group has distributed about 327 copies in this way, and in addition since the launch about 468 copies have been sold. It is still available for purchase at the Post Office. Price £6.95.

WHY NOT JOIN US?

Through activities such as those described in this newsletter, we aim to act as a friendly focus for people to meet together. In general, our aims are:

- * To promote awareness of local history in Winster
- * To advance understanding of Winster’s history through

Will you become a member?

Your subscription of £5 will help us to achieve these aims. You’ll then receive our Newsletter and have the opportunity to get involved in any of our other activities. Everyone is welcome at our regular Monday evening meetings, but non-members are invited to make a contribution to our expenses. If you would like to become a member, or rejoin us, please phone Geraldine Hopkinson (650347). Alternatively, complete the tear-off part below, and post with your subscription c/o Arthur and Gill Elliott, Market House, East Bank (first house on the left, before The Bowling Green).

I would like to become a member of the Winster Local History Group, and enclose my subscription of £5 for the year 2000-2001.

Name:

Address:

Telephone: