

Winster Local History Group

Newsletter No.25

December 2002

Programme for Spring and Summer 2003

Monday 24 February David Hey Packhorse Trails
Monday 24 March Geoff Williams Geology of the Peak District
Monday 28 April David Farrington Derwent Valley Mills World
Heritage Site
Monday 23 June Keith Taylor Guided Walk round Wensley

New Officers and Committee

Chair: Geoff Lester, Orchard Mine Cottage, East Bank . Tel.650090
Secretary: Judy Hinsliff , Barncliff, East Bank. Tel.650119
Treasurer: Geraldine Hopkinson, Netherfields, Wensley Road. Tel.650347
Committee: Freda Forster, Jo Ichimura, David Jones, Simon Reynolds, Jean Skyrme, Anne Walters.

Membership

The number of paid-up members at the beginning of December was 58, and there are still a few subscriptions to come in. This looks, therefore, like being a bumper year.

From the Parish Magazine 100 Years Ago

LANCE CORPORAL SWEENEY (September 1902)

Friday August the 29th: will be remembered as the day on which we welcomed home the only Winster man who has served with the British forces in South Africa. Lance Corporal Sweeney of the 1st Manchester Regiment has seen much active service – he entered Ladysmith with the relieving army, and shared the dangers at Spion Kop, Pieter's Hill, Val Krantz, Monte Christo and Hlangwani – he faced shot and shell as a non-combatant doing duty with the Ambulance Corps – as well as taking part in those united "drives" of General Kitchener which preceded the Boer Capitulation. It was thought not inappropriate therefore that some public welcome should be accorded him and a party of horsemen, headed by Mr H C Heathcote, C.C. and the Vicar, met him as he

alighted from the train. After cheering and hand-shaking Mr Heathcote said: “Lance Corporal Sweeney, Winster is proud of you today. You have done honour to your native village in going out to fight for your Country. We have come here to escort you to Winster where I hope you will meet with that cordial welcome you deserve”.

A procession was then formed and the gallant soldier was cheered by numbers of people at Wensley and South Darley as his carriage passed through. At Winster the horse was removed from the shafts and a number of young men took its place. After parading the street, which was decorated for the occasion, a halt was made at the Market House where the Vicar, on horseback, made in the name of the Village a presentation of a Silver English Lever Watch suitably inscribed – He said: -

“Lance Corporal Sweeney, we are unanimous in our welcome home of you today and are anxious to shew our appreciation of your service for Queen and King and Country in a manner most suitable. We remember your thoughtful care for your friends at home in sending so constantly accounts of your movements and your life. Through the kindness of your old friend Mr Prinsep we have been kept fully in touch with you and recall your experiences at Spion Kop and Ladysmith, with those later toils under General Kitchener and in blockhouse guard. We present you with the Silver Watch which from its inscription will remind you ever of your friends in Winster and with this gift we join the prayer that your life may be a happy one from to-day”.

Lance Corporal Sweeney expressed his grateful thanks for the gift and the singing of the National Anthem and cheers and counter cheers terminated the proceedings.

VICAR’S LETTER (October 1902)

Winster Vicarage,
October 4th, 1902

My dear Friends,

We are to be congratulated upon at last possessing, through the generosity of a native of Winster, a building [The Burton Institute] which will be of the greatest use to just that body of men who feel the need for some place of resort, especially in the Evening. One of the greatest glosses upon the social life of this old Town of ours has always been the listless standing about in the street of groups of young men. To but a casual observer such public expression of idleness is deplorable, but to any thinking mind it appears even more so in the face of the fact that so few realize the utter waste of time and opportunity for

improvement which such idling betokens. The mind as well as the body needs exercise and disciplinary training if it is to keep in a fittingly healthy state and to gossip and hang about in listless idleness does nobody any good but most often harm.

I am well aware that in the absence of any general place of resort or entertainment a certain amount of loafing could not be avoided on account of the crowded state of many houses, but now I sincerely trust that there will be no more idle hours spent in the way I have indicated but that a deeper interest will be taken in the affairs of the country and events of the neighbourhood and that ultimately our young men will be broadened in sympathy and become more manly in disposition.

The Trustees of the Institute hope that every member will do his best to preserve its privileges from abuse, and that as much real benefit and enjoyment may be gained from its use as may be possible.

Your affectionate friend and Vicar,

W. H. NIXON

THE BURTON INSTITUTE RULES (November 1902; continued December)

1. The Institute shall be open every week-day from 10.0 a.m. to 10.0 p.m. except when the Hall is required for Meetings notice of which will be duly given by means of a notice board provided for the purpose.
2. Any parishioner of Winster above the age of 14 years shall be entitled to membership of the Institute. Any stranger shall be introduced by a parishioner and use the Institute upon payment of a 1d. per night.
3. The Management shall be vested in a Committee consisting of eighteen including the Trustees, and five of these shall form a quorum. The members of this Committee other than the Trustees shall be appointed at an annual Meeting of the members or some adjournment thereof and shall retire annually, but be eligible for re-election.
4. The annual meeting shall be held on the second Thursday in January in each year, at a convenient hour to be fixed by the Committee, for electing the Officers, other than the Trustees, and the Committee of management for the ensuing year, and transact any other business.

[5. and 6. give details relating to General Meetings.]

7. Written notice of any General Meeting shall be posted on the door of the Institute or upon a board provided for the purpose at least seven days prior to the Meeting.
8. Any person using bad language, or whose conduct shall tend to injure the Institution shall be expelled, at the discretion of the Committee, or any member present at the time, and the Committee shall have power to deny such person admission to the building for as long a period as they think fit.
9. No gambling or playing of games for money shall be permitted in the Institute.
10. Any person wishing to use a particular paper or game already in use shall ask for the same, and the holder shall deliver up such paper or game within ten minutes from the time of asking, or in case of a game, as soon as that particular game is completed.
11. The papers periodicals and magazines shall be sold at half price, or to the highest bidder at the commencement of each half year. Such papers &c. shall in no instance be removed from the room until the new numbers appear to take their places.
12. Silence and order shall be as much preserved as possible.
13. The books or papers to be provided shall be subject to the approval of the Committee.
- [14. to 17. relate to the duties of Treasurer and Secretary.]
18. Smoking is permitted, provided precautions are taken to ensure cleanliness, and it is earnestly hoped that every person using the Institute will do his best to comply with the arrangements made to this end
19. Proposals to alter or rescind any of these rules shall be decided at the Annual or a Special Meeting, but written notice of the proposed alterations must be given to the Secretary, and posted in the Institute one month before the Meeting.

And Finally...

The Officers and Committee of Winster Local History Group wish all of you a Joyful Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year.