

Winster Local History Group

Newsletter No.27

October 2003

Next Meetings

Monday 24 November. Richard and Jane Usher, 'A History of Winster Post Office'. Featuring some of the interesting discoveries made during the recent restoration of the Post Office.

Monday 23 February. Larissa Worthington, 'A History of Winster Church'.

Monday 29 March. Lewis Jackson, 'Sir Joseph Whitworth, famous Engineer and Philanthropist of Darley Dale'.

Monday 26 April. Notty Hornblower, 'A Hundred Years of Fashion'. A special event, with models displaying original costumes.

Monday 21 June. Guided Walk round Elton. Details later.

Report of AGM on 20 October 2003

This was a friendly and successful event held at Dobbin's Restaurant at the Bowling Green. It combined the business of the AGM with an informal get-together, wine and refreshments being provided by the pub at the expense of the History Group. We just managed to accommodate the 32 people who came, and we're sure to use the same venue and format next year.

Full minutes will be available later. Suffice to say by way of summary that the bank balance is healthy. The officers were re-elected, i.e. Geoff Lester (Chair), Judy Hinsliff (Secretary), and Geraldine Hopkinson (Treasurer). The committee is as last year, except that Ann Topham replaces Simon Reynolds.

Membership for 2002-3 was just over 60, a record and a remarkable achievement for a village the size of Winster. At the AGM this year's membership was reported to be 50, but is now up to 60 (22 October).

The Oral History Group is without a leader at present, but there are members willing to take part in the tape-recording and transcribing. Could you be the person the group is looking for?

We also need a small group of people to catalogue our archive of 700 old photographs. Volunteers for this and the above please phone 650090.

Suggestions for future talks and walks included: Dry Stone Walling (Master Craftsman Trevor Wragg has already been booked), Suffragettes in the Peak District

(following up an article in the Peak Advertiser), history and tour of some of the notable houses of Winster, tour of Winster Graveyard, history of Winster School, Village Charities, day trips outside the village, guided walk along the Portway. It was also suggested that we organise a new group photograph of the residents of Winster, similar to 'Winster Village 1988'.

Others matters raised at the AGM are discussed in the next two items below.

Deeds

The following exchange of emails relates to the questions raised at our AGM.

Geoff Lester to Margaret O'Sullivan, Derbyshire County Archivist:

At our History Group AGM on Monday one of our members, who is a solicitor, pointed out that the Land Registry has now gone over to a 100% paperless system, which means that deeds are no longer part of the process of registering property ownership. Anyone who sends documents to the Registry is liable to find that they are not returned, and in this way a valuable source of local information may be lost.

We decided to have another publicity drive in Winster to encourage people to get hold of their deeds and keep them safe. The question arose as to whether it would be a good idea to encourage people to lodge old deeds with the History Group. Wouldn't they be safer in the Record Office? But would the Record Office want them? I think that in the past you said that the Record Office would be happy to receive deeds, and I am writing to ask you to confirm that this is still the case, especially if there is to be a large number.

Ideally we would like to act as agents in gathering this local material and take a brief look to extract any locally-important information about field names etc before passing them to you.

Please also consider publicising this matter through the bulletin of the Local History Societies Network, since it is obviously relevant nation-wide.

The reply:

Thanks for this. We have been dealing with local solicitors in order to advise them of our facilities and many now automatically transfer pre-registration deeds to us. We also publicise this through local branches of the Law Society and other professional organisations.

What the History Group chooses to do is a decision for you. Quantity is not an issue for the Record Office: we are set up to take large-scale acquisitions of records, often at short notice. What is important to us is provenance, that is, the source of the records as well as their content.

Website

An *ad hoc* group consisting of Geoffrey Edwards, Geoff Lester and Larissa Worthington has been set up to channel information on our Group's activities to the Winster Website. John Geddes has agreed to offer technical assistance. The idea is to make available our Newsletters, the Winster book, and other materials. This could also be an outlet for small articles, reports of research in progress, etc. Anyone with any interest in this is invited to join the group (phone 650090).

MS Powerpoint

We've now had the benefit of several talks which have made use of Powerpoint presentations using the projector kept in the Burton Institute. Freda Forster has also created a part-animated Powerpoint program, 'A Winster Tale', based on a tour round old business premises and houses of Winster as illustrated in photographs from our Archive. She will show this to the Luncheon Club in the near future and is happy to give a demonstration to anyone who might like to make use of it (phone 650110). On February 11 one of the free Wednesday evening workshops in the Burton Institute will deal with 'How to use Powerpoint'. Places are limited, and booking should be made by phoning Marg Lester (650090). If you just want to know how to use the projector, John Geddes can usually help.

From the Parish Magazine 100 years ago

April 1903. Two shocks of earthquake, following each other simultaneously, were felt here at 1.30 on Tuesday March 24th. Damage was done to one old wall at "The Headlands" and the Miners collected at the pit bottom as the shock resembled those felt after an explosion.

May 1903. Churchwardens' Accounts included:

W. Chamberlain, organist	£12	10s	0d
J.W. Walker, organ-blower		1	10 0
A. Roberts, late organ-blower, 6 months do.			15 0
A. Marshall [now Market Cottage, Main St], Printing &c			10 3
S. Dakin, Castleton, new bell ropes [presumably from the factory in Peak Cavern]		3	0 0
Tom Wright, Darley Dele, coals & coke [We have a photograph of him and his lorry in our Archive]		5	15 9
J.W. Hawksworth, cleaning launders			3 6

['Launder': OED: 'A trough for water, either cut in the earth or formed of wood; esp. in Mining, a trough for washing the ore clean from dirt; a rain-water gutter.'

The word is still used locally for a rain-water gutter on a roof.]

June 1903. Misunderstanding seems still to arise as to the proper charges for gravedigging as authorized by the Vestry Meeting which drew up the scale. The only charge for the grave for an adult person can be at the rate of 1/4 per foot, and *no*

more, in any part of the Churchyard, but in cases where a great depth is required or difficulties are unusually apparent it is left to the good sense of those responsible for the burial, to see that the grave digger is paid fairly for his work.

July 1903. [spelling and punctuation *sic*] The Oddfellow's demonstration on Whitwednesday was attended by nearly every member of the Club, and the day's proceedings were an unqualified success.

At the 11.30 Service the Vicar spoke of Joseph as a man whose life was based on the truest principals of honour and rectitude. He suggested that possibly Shakespeare might have had the conduct of Joseph in view when he made his exiled Prospero extend mercy to those who had wronged him. The dinner was held at the Bowling Green, presided over by the Vicar...

The "Foresters" held their Annual Demonstration on Monday the 29th ult: The attendance at Church was not quite so good as usual but the Service was hearty and well appreciated. The Vicar spoke of "True Aims and False' - a subject appropriate for the occasion. The Dinner was held for the first time at the Crown Hotel [now The Lodge, Main Street]. We cannot praise too highly the excellency of the arrangements. The Vicar presided... [Continued in next issue.]

New Materials relevant to Winster at the Record Office [kindly communicated by Jo Ichimura, Archivist and History Group member]

Recent cataloguing work at Derbyshire Record Office has included a large collection of a solicitor, Brooke-Taylor of Bakewell. Listing has unearthed some fascinating documents, including many deeds and papers relating to Winster. These include:

A bundle of papers relating to schemes for the provision of water to Winster, 1871-1897. One is a petition from the people of Winster to Major M.C. McCreagh Thornhill of Stanton Hall concerning the need for additional water supplies to the village (ref. D504/110/1/1).

Deeds and papers relating to the sale of land owned by Mrs Catharina Margaretha Brittlebank in Winster, 1891, including plan and sale catalogue (D216B/ES1/3(42)) and draft conveyances/agreements resulting from the sale (D504/128/2/3-14).

Deeds and papers relating to the settlement made by the will of Charles Carill-Worsley on property in Winster, 1864-1927, including deeds/conveyances for East Bank Cottage, Winster House, Winster Hall (D504/128/3/1-12), and certain fields and closes of land. Many deeds are accompanied by plans.

Contributions to the Newsletter

Please send anything you have. We would appreciate it.