

Winster Local History Group

Newsletter 32

November 2005

Next Meetings

Monday 27 February at 7.30 in the Burton Institute. Farming in the Seventeenth Century, by Professor David Hey, former President of the Farming History Society.

Monday 20 March at 7.30 in the Burton Institute. Life in the Darkness, by John Jones, photographer and member of Wirksworth Mines Research Group.

Monday 24 April. Details to be finalised.

Monday 19 June. Guided walk round Parwich.

Reprint of Winster Book

In the light of many requests we decided to reprint our book *Winster: A Peak District Village Remembers*. We took delivery of 1036 copies in the middle of November and have now paid out almost all our funds for them. However, we are confident that this will be a good investment in the long run, since there has always been a steady demand.

We were given a glowing review in the Peak Advertiser, and sales so far have been good. We are using commercial outlets this time, and if anyone has any connection with one it would be a great help for us to know. Suggestions of outlets for us to try would also be welcome.

We went for a big print-run, because the price per book was so much less. This presented us at first with the problem of finding enough dry storage space. This has now been solved with the offer of warehouse space in Matlock by Niki and Mat Adlam-Stiles of Mountview, West Bank.

Why not buy a copy (or two) as a Christmas gift? They cost £10 from Winster Post Office or from the History Group.

Summary of AGM 17 October 2005

Twenty-nine people attended what was both a party and an AGM. Excellent food was laid on by Jean Skyrme and Pam Hatfield, and this and the drinks were paid for from History Group funds.

After the usual reports, the officers were re-elected, with the addition of Pam Hatfield as Vice-Chair. The Committee will remain the same.

Suggested future activities included a talk on Stone Circles (suggested by Sarah Bowyer). Something on the role played by women in past village life (suggested by Marg Lester). Wartime work, evacuees, displaced persons (suggested by ?). A 'snapshot' of a year in Winster in the nineteenth century, based on census returns, directories, etc. (suggested by Alun Thomas). Vernacular furniture (suggested by Bryan Skyrme). The Winster Tapestry (suggested by John Wood). Coach trip (suggested last year by Bryan Skyrme); a possibility would be Renishaw Hall. These will be considered by the Committee at its meeting in January.

Thanks were expressed to Marg Lester for arranging the restoration of the old school desk, paid for by the History Group. It has now been presented to the school by its previous owner, Bill Slaney, and is being enjoyed by the children.

History Group Newsletters on Winster Village Website

All our Newsletters are now available on the website (www.winster.org), thanks to the efforts of Anne Topham and Judy Hinsliff, who retyped the text of the first twenty-five Newsletters for which the files had been destroyed.

From the Parish Magazine One Hundred Years Ago

1905: Even in those days Youlgrave seems to have had a strong tradition of pantomime, and at Winster's Annual Parochial Tea and Entertainment held on January 6th 'the pantomime "Cinderella" was staged entirely by our neighbours from Youlgrave and we heartily thank them for their gratuitous services'.

In the following months the big issue for the vicar, W.H. Nixon, was the lack of Sunday School teachers, despite many previous appeals. Never one to miss an opportunity to harangue his parishioners, he wrote: 'It is a blot upon our Churchmanship that such an appeal should have been uttered so long in vain.'

There are many who ought to undertake this work for Christ's little ones. Why do such still remain idle and apathetic?

In May the accounts of various church funds were published. They show that the cost of hiring the Burton Institute for the Parochial tea and Entertainment was ten shillings.¹ The Vicar reported that £6 is owing to the Trustees for rent. 'I am told that many think this is *my* responsibility. How can this be? It is a responsibility rather which should be and must be taken by the parish and not by the Vicar, but on condition that this debt is liquidated before midsummer I will give a third of the amount.'

'May 24th being 'Empire Day' the school children were marched [sic] in procession to the Burton Institute where addresses upon the "Responsibilities of Empire" were delivered by Mr. H.C. Heathcote, J.P., C.C., and the Vicar. The children sang the National Anthem and before leaving were regaled with buns and ginger beer.'

In June Anniversary gatherings were held of two Friendly Societies, the Oddfellows and the Foresters. On the two occasions the members paraded to Divine Service behind the Youlgrave Band, before proceeding to the anniversary dinners. 'It is however to be much regretted that in one case several members were absent from Divine Service: thereby showing some disrespect towards the officers of the Club and disregard for its rules and custom.'

It was reported in July that 'The Sunday School Treat was held, by kind permission, in Mrs Childers Thompson's field on Thursday in Wakes' Week. Owing to the generosity of many friends the children had a most enjoyable afternoon. Appended is a list of the donors.

Mrs. Joseph Taylor – 10/- worth of buns.
Mrs. Fletcher – butter, milk.
Mrs. Lomas. – cakes.
Mrs. Garrett – 5/- worth of sweets.
Mrs. Childers Thompson – tin of ginger nuts.
Mrs. Nixon – tea, sugar, tarts & bread.
Miss Ellis – cakes.
Miss Boam – cakes.
Mr. George Boam – 2/6 for buns.
Mr. H.C. Heathcote – 3/- for buns.

¹ According to the CDKO Index this is equivalent to £39 by today's standards. The actual cost today for a village event of this sort would be £16, which shows what tremendous value we get from the Burton Institute. The money raised from our annual 'Secret Gardens' event is used for the day-to-day running of the Burton Institute and enables rents to be kept low.

And Mrs. Burton Smith kindly made the tea.'

However, this additional notice had to be published in the August issue: 'In the list of contributors to the Sunday School Treat on June 29th, the following names were omitted. Mrs. Hardy, Painter's Way 1/-; Mrs. A. Gregory 1/-. A special and somewhat unusual feature of the effort made to obtain supplies for this treat, was the fact that a considerable number of persons were much disappointed that they were not asked to contribute. The Vicar desires it to be known that the gifts were in each case spontaneous and offered without solicitation, so that it was quite unnecessary to make a general collection. We think that this disappointment is one of the most encouraging features in connection with our parochial efforts. As a rule, in most parishes it is difficult to obtain supplies even by begging, but here our good folk grumble if they are *not* asked to give. Well done Winster!!!'

[In view of the Vicar's constant grumbles, could there be a hint of irony here?]

December: 'It is thought that a new departure might be taken this Christmastide in an endeavour to bring the happiness which is the note of this season specially home to children and that every child in the parish should share in a united treat and have an equal gift.

A Christmas Tree is the obvious means of accomplishing this end, and if sufficient support is accorded to the scheme there will be arranged a united children's party at the Schools on Thursday the 28th, with a big Christmas Tree laden with toys as the centre of attraction.

We invite every child in the parish under 14 to this party. It will be from 3-0 to 7-0 o'clock and if the mothers will come as well and help those who will be in charge of the Tree to entertain the children and dispense Father Christmas's gifts, we will try to make the little ones remember a very happy day.

Money will be required for toys and sweets and cakes &c., and Mrs. Nixon will be very grateful for any gifts, in kind more especially.

May we hope that such gifts will be spontaneous as it is not felt that it should be necessary to beg for funds towards so good an object.'

**BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR, AND
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**