



Repton Village History Group Newsletter

Spring 2023



www.reptonvillage.org.uk

Membership matters:

Tuesday May 16th: At the time of writing, our next meeting is a tour around the older parts of Repton School with the school archivist Paul Stevens. This will be preceded by a brief meeting in St Wystan's Church for our AGM. **We meet in the church at 6.45.** No charge.

Saturday July 8th: Visit to Anchor Church with Professor Ed Simons - the chap who is an expert on cave dwellings and has made detailed studies of Anchor Church. We are joining the Friends of Repton Church who are organising the event.

Even if you don't relish the walk down to the caves, there will be a brief talk on the church by Richard Finch before setting off for the caves.

Meet at St Saviours - **Foremark Church at 1.30** - there is space to park there. If the weather is good you could even picnic in the church yard first (but nearest loos are in The Swan or the John Thompson).

YOU DO NEED TO BOOK THIS ONE - with me - 07977 440992 or 01283 702448 or

rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk. or frpc.873ad@gmail.com

Bookings are free, but a donation to the Friends during the event is hoped for.

Tuesday July 18th: The archaeologists from York Archaeological Trust who are working with Tarmac on the gravel extraction at Anchor Church are coming to talk to us about what they have found. They spoke at the Chesterfield Archaeology day and have some fascinating things to reveal and puzzles to unravel. There does seem to be a connection between a bronze age burial mound and the bluff containing Anchor Church (though it would be wrong to suppose the caves were there then) and confirmation of activity from the Mesolithic times (>6,000 years ago). We have booked St Wystan's again. There will be a small charge for this. **7.30 at St Wystan's.**

Tuesday September 19th: Richard Finch is going to talk to us about 200 years of history of St Wystan's Church. **7.00pm at the URC School Room** on Pinfold Lane.

Tuesday November 21st: A short talk by Andy on Viking Repton.

And lastly, perhaps, a Christmas social in December.

Photographic Archive:

Charles has taken a copy of the digital photographic archive off the PC and is considering how to best manage it to provide ready but secure access and how to index it. Although most photographs are numbered and listed, there are many duplicates and overlapping numbering systems. Many were only on CDs so we have gradually copied the images and sent them over to Charles for sorting out.

Further work will be required on slides taken by Ken Ash and by David Guest – most of which we have scanned.

Our early publications were two books of early photographs – *Repton Remembered* (now out of print) and *Repton - Historic Capital Of Mercia*. On the basis that our photo archive might be used for similar future publications, and given that publications were a major source of income, the archive was not made generally available. However, they are increasingly available from other sources and so it has been decided that there should be managed access to them on a publically accessible digital drive. It would be good if there was someone with the technical experience to manage the drive once Charles has created it.

Archaeological proceedings:

1) Test pits:

We have reluctantly given up the idea of a test-pit programme for the village in the foreseeable future – few people were happy for us to dig up lawns and flowerbeds. We will hang onto the equipment and the separate pot of money reserved for archaeology in the hope that we might resurrect the plan in the future. It does mean our insurance is greatly reduced and still covers our resistivity work. Thanks to Tim, we have access to some likely plots with interesting lumps and bumps in Newton Solney to tackle and there is speculation that the course of the Repton Brook south of the Brook End bridge had a different course in medieval times which we may be able to investigate in the gardens there.

2) Vicarage Garden:

Meanwhile, Cat Jarman and Mark Horton were back with a team of archaeologists to finish off the dig they started in 2018 but which got seriously delayed by the Covid pandemic. They were pretty certain that there was a line of graves along the edge of their trench and this year's aim was to excavate them.

The weather at the beginning of the week was very wet and the trench was already wet and muddy. They started by extending the trench eastwards by 1 metre as the legs of a skeleton found in 2018 were in the bank there. We had a team of helpers cleaning finds and shifting barrows of spoil and metal detecting it – Tim,

Mark and Hugh were there every day doing this and Hugh found a beautiful pin with a ball head with ring and dot decoration and half a coin minted for King Offa (757-796). The other half was located in the trench.

The archaeologists took the existing area down a little more but the conditions were very difficult due to the water and there were few finds. Small pieces of pot, a spindle whorl, charcoal. The very wet conditions made the barrows of spoil very heavy. As attention concentrated on the graves, help was needed to bail them out while

the archaeologists carefully excavated around the very fragile bones. There were no grave goods at all. The skeletons were left in their graves and re buried. It is probable that these were not monastic graves but among the earliest Repton villagers. Their condition was so poor that it is doubtful if they can be dated by C14 techniques, but samples were taken together with teeth which might just be able to help.

Of the 9 grave cuts, one seemed to be filled with stone and may not be a grave. Most of the others had traces of bone, but the first indication that they had reached the skeletons was often when a hole in the soil appeared. This was caused by the soil compressed around the skull caving in because the skull itself had completely decomposed leaving a cavity in the soil. One skeleton was of a juvenile aged about 12 and another of a tall person – probably up to 1.75 metres tall (almost 6ft) and so probably male. The graves are very well organised and close together in a regularly spaced row but more likely to have been local inhabitants than monastic nuns and monks. Buried below the later path, they must have been forgotten when it was laid and the find under the path of a sceatt coin dated to the 740s suggests that the burials - undoubtedly Christian - are from the late 600s or early 700s though Mark did speculate that they might even be from Roman



The above 3 photos: Mark Horton



times. It is possible that the row extends at both ends and very probably there will be one of two more rows of graves to the east. The rest of the trench contained no indication of graves. The 2016/7 dig was farther east on the other side of the garden and no graves were found, but they did not get through the Viking gravel mound. So it is possible that it overlays more of these early graves, We may have actually encountered some of the earliest Repton villagers.

3) Anchor Church Gravel Extraction:

In the winter 2021 newsletter, we included a photograph taken by a dog walker of a view of the gravel extraction opposite Anchor Church. A line of posts can be clearly seen. These have now been excavated and studied by the archaeologists working there and will be discussed at the talk they are giving us on 18th July.



We recently had a message from a worried villager who spotted a pile of them lying on the ground. So we contacted the archaeologists and they said that they had completed their analysis and taken all the samples they needed for preservation and the remainder were awaiting disposal. The archaeologists in the Vicarage garden were surprised that they were not all being preserved, but the cost would have been prohibitive and some were not in a condition that could be saved.

We will learn more on 18th July.

Runes etc:

We had an enquiry via the website from a lady who, when visiting the crypt had come across some markings on the east wall that she thought could have been runes. We checked with Cat Jarman and she said that Judith Jesch of Nottingham University had scoured the crypt for runic evidence and found none. We had met with Judith at Derby Museum some time ago and she is an expert of Runes. Disappointing!



We had another email from someone passing Hangman's stone with a low sun and wondered if there was worn lettering on one side. In fact it looks more ogham if anything. It is likely to be a boundary marker and Richard W reminds us of the tale which concerns a sheep stealer. "Having stolen a sheep, he carried it away by slinging it over his shoulders and tying the feet together over his chest. The sheep was heavy, so once he was at a safe distance he sat on the stone to rest. The sheep slid back over his shoulders and the rope strangled him. He was found by the stone - hence the name Hangman's Stone."

In fact there are a number of Hangman's Stones with a similar story around the country so it is quite an apocryphal tale.

When Repton had a Picture House . . .

Ivor wrote the following article which appeared in the Village News:

It had no plush upholstered swing back seats. It had no balcony. There was no popcorn, and no ice-cream interval. It had hard wooden forms. It had a double sink which would be occupied by two people when all the forms and chairs were filled. Those arriving late would stand at the back. No one complained, no one minded. The fact that it was a film show was sheer luxury.

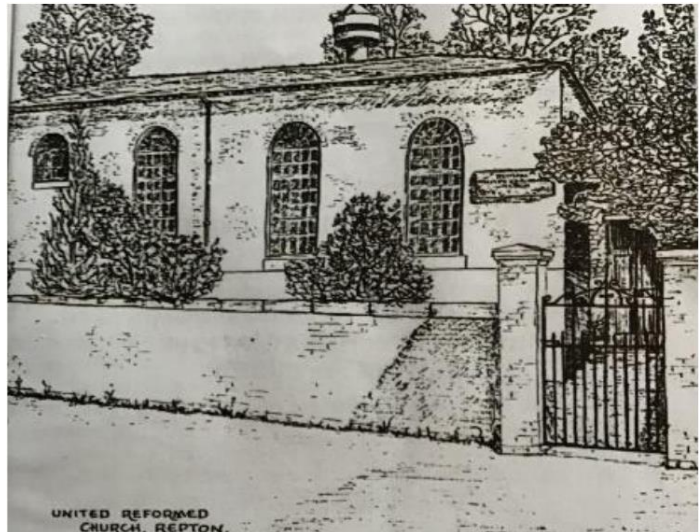
In 1940, Arthur Todd, with Wilfred Pearson, formed the Repton Film Society, with the aim of providing entertainment for the many evacuees from Birmingham and London, and for the village. Film shows were held every Saturday afternoon and evening in the Schoolroom of the Congregational Church (now United Reformed Church) in Pinfold Lane, and continued until 1953. I believe it was 4d (old money) in the afternoon, and sixpence in the evening. In the early years they were silent films, with Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, the Keystone Cops, Charlie Chase, and many others. Later, talkies were introduced and included westerns with Hopalong Cassidy, Tex Ritter; dramas, and comedy films with Laurel and Hardy, and Abbot and Costello. Every Christmas, A Christmas Carol with Alastair Sim as Scrooge would be shown. There was also a 15 week serial called The Brass Bullet, and films of Dick Barton Special Agent.

In those early years, Arthur and Wilfred would borrow the blacksmith's handcart and walk to Willington and back on Thursday evenings, after work, to collect the film canisters from Willington Station. On Friday evenings they would try out a couple of reels, letting us lads who were hanging about outside, in for a part pre-viewing.

Arthur was a deacon, organist and lay preacher at the Congregational Church, and lived at The Manse at the corner of the Square and Main Street next to the blacksmith's (now a hairdressers). He would display a notice on his gate saying which films would be shown on the next Saturday.



The Manse in 2003



Sketch of United Reformed Church by Ken Ash

The Schoolroom was built in 1845 attached to the then Independent Chapel (later Congregational Church and now United Reformed Church). Since its inception it has been used for church and Sunday School, a meeting place for some village organisations, youth activities, play groups, parties, and many other activities. It housed a British day school which had one female teacher. Later it was used by the National Church of England School in High Street (now the Art School) for cookery lessons as the Schoolroom had a large double oven cooking stove. Water had to be brought in as tap water was not installed until the late 1950s. The Schoolroom is still widely used today, but perhaps its greatest moments were when it was "over" filled to capacity with evacuees and children and adults from Repton and neighbouring areas for those Saturday film shows which brought so much pleasure to so many during those dark war time days and the years of austerity which followed, thanks to the initiative and commitment of Arthur Todd.

We then received this message from Mary Turner-Lewis:

It was so lovely to read about Mr Todd and his Saturday film show. I remember being taken to see Hopalong Cassidy with some of the older children from Dale Cottages, Main Street. I must have been

about five years old and full of wonder as I think I had probably never been to the cinema. The school room was packed with village children and I remember we were given very weakly diluted orange squash served in delicate tea cups and one biscuit each. I think it was rich tea or maybe gingernut. Such an exciting outing to be taken on with the big girls, who were probably about seven or eight. We moved to our new house in Mount-Pleasant Road not long afterwards in 1953. What a lovely man Mr Todd was.

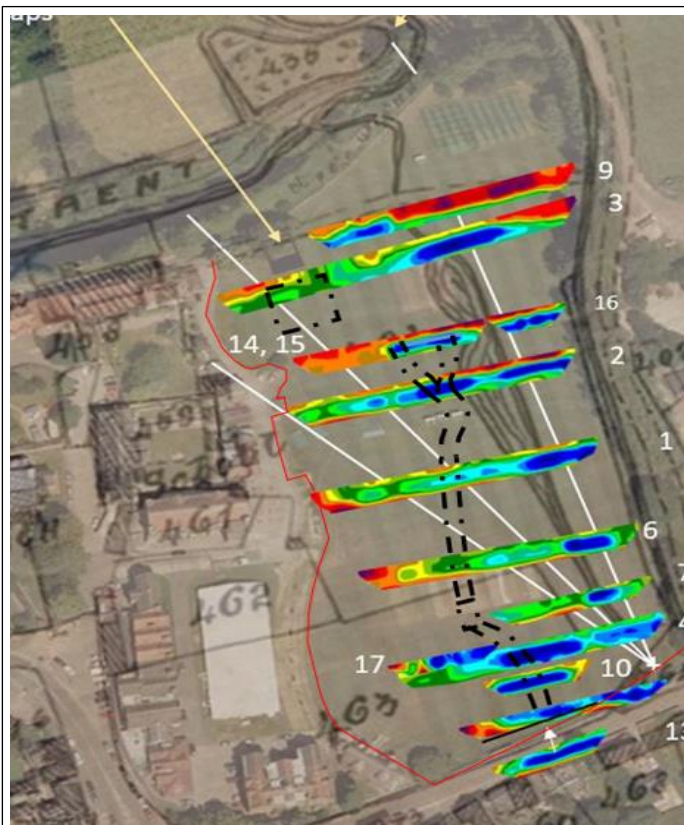
Mary has sent some photos from Dale Cottages and here is one of a wedding:



Playing at weddings in the back garden at Dales Cottages, Kay Sanders, Cynthia Saunders, Mary-Rose Turner, and Dawn Poxen, who lived at Shakespeare Cottages. c 1952.

Dowsing

We gave a short talk to DAS on hunting for the Priory Mill and afterwards met Alan Bradwell who has been dowsing for Roman Roads for 20 years. Intrigued, we invited him to talk to the History Group and he gave an excellent talk on Darley Abbey where he chairs the history group and his dowsing. He had earlier carried out a dowsing survey on the Repton School lower paddock and marked where he thought the channels were. We mapped them and superimposed them on our geophysics:



Dowsed channel on 1829 map superimposed on Google Earth.

Blue/green is low resistance – probably wet, humus rich soils.
Orange to purple is high resistance - probably bedrock or rubble infill (power station ash in the north).

A discussion on the results was published to history group members and while aspects are plausible, there are also many problems.

However, this was a very confident and plausible demonstration by someone who has been doing it for years. Trying to put aside profound scepticism, we were impressed. It is possible that Alan might have been subconsciously influenced by prior knowledge since, from the DAS talk he was aware of our resistivity results.

It has prompted us to reconsider what we think we know to see if there was any way that the dowsed channel could be right. For example, the entry point for the brook recorded in the wall at the south east corner has been assumed to be the main entry point. What if it is wrong or is perhaps, a later supply to feed just the fishponds once the mill had shut down with the original entry point being farther west? The northern rectangular feature is in one of the two areas considered likely as a mill position and might make sense of the split in the channel - the right hand fork being a bypass channel. The rectangle is too large and does not align well with the crop mark or the building shown on the 1881 map. However, it has prompted more thought on this

option. A couple more pseudo sections between Nos. 1 & 2 and 1 & 6 might be appropriate.

Childhood Memories of Christopher Jones:

Last February, Christopher came back to Repton to attend the funeral of his oldest friend, Peter Plant, and found *“it was very moving to be back in St Wystan’s after all these years. I have made a request in my will for my ashes to be scattered on Askew Hill.”*

He arrived in 1948 and left in September 1958. He has written his memories of the village as a child and kindly permitted us to include them here:

Repton memories:

My first memories of the village start with arriving at 32 Milton Road from Sevenoaks to start a new life in a village, aged six and a half.

Having been brought up to stay at home unless taken elsewhere by a parent, nanny or other adult it was strange to be let out to go solo to Dolly Perry's fish shop to collect mum's order wrapped in newspaper. There she was, flat cap on head and loud voice as I handed over my shilling. I was to meet many more shopkeepers as time went by.

The next person was Mr Brown in the butcher's shop near the post office. He was a large red-faced scary man, with huge choppers and saws, bashing away at raw meat on a blood-stained wooden block. There was sawdust on the floor.

Mr Sinclair in the post office was nicer. Across the street lived another Mr Sinclair. As you entered his front door the room on the right was a sweetshop with a counter where you stood with mum and her ration book. Mr Sinclair was a gentle man, somewhat up market. We got to know him better when sweet rationing ended in 1953.

By The Cross lay the Repton School Shop. You could buy clothes of all sorts, films, writing materials. There was one new pen that wasn't a pen. It was called a Biro and I wanted one. It cost 2s/1½d. I had to save up.

Walking to St Wystan's school I went past the Mercia Cottage tea rooms opposite the Repton School cricket field. We never went in there. Nearby was a building called the Court Room. We had children's parties there and sometimes Mum went there for Whist Drives. Up Boot Hill past the pub and the school music practice rooms ... (scraping violin noises).

St Wystan's school is still there of course. Opposite the school lay the village school. Scary. Very rough boys. Funny accents threatening and nasty, called me names. I had to look out for them when school finished and I started off home. We had a boy at St Wystan's called Andrew Jackson. His mother collected him every day in an old army Tilly van with a canvas roof. She often stopped and gave me a lift home if I walked slowly towards Boot Hill. Andrew and I sat in the back. Her husband was headmaster of Foremark Hall.

Our house had a long garden. At the bottom you could see a lot of new houses being built. Wooden, or at least timber-faced. I loved watching the roofs being tiled. Leyland green paint tins. Behind was The Circle [Crescent]. Mum had formed a good friendship with Kate Allan a Scot from Glasgow. Her husband Malcolm was a doctor and recently appointed medical officer of health for Repton Rural District Council. He had strong views about ice cream makers who had emerged. Some were developing their own brands at home and the hygiene was suspect. We were told one maker in Swadlincote kept basic mixed ingredients under the bed. Thus we were only to eat Wall's, Lyon's or Eldorado, later Midlands Counties. There came a green and cream coloured ice cream van named DYTHAMS. My brother and sister and I were not allowed to queue with our sixpences when the hand bell was clanged in the road. Other children did of course but all we could do was shout out "you'll die if you eat DYTHAMS" but no one did, to our annoyance.

There was H. Pipes Fresh Fish as his van displayed. He arrived in the road every week. Much fish was bought. He later bought a bigger van with shelves and an array of things to buy. The main food shop was Taylors, J.T. Taylor, which had all lovely smells and a huge coffee grinder hand turned by Nora (I think she was called). She knew all folk. Mum told me a story of Nora's encounter one day with Eva an old woman who used to gather sticks and walk-up Milton Road. To the child's eye she seemed a witch but did none harm. Eva came into Taylors seeking a cardboard box. Various sizes were



shown but none sufficed. So Nora pressed her as to why she needed it. "It's Mum. She's gone". The village rallied round, contributions found and the funeral day fixed at St Wystan's Church. Eva was there of course and wearing a massive white petticoat.

Mum knew many folk ranging from the working class women who lived in The Circle to the wives of Repton School masters. A particular friend was the wife of Dr Graeme Bain who lived in the large house further down Milton Road. I can't recall her Christian name. I think he was Classics Master. We were entertained to tea there sometimes. Then, away at school, I had a letter from Mum telling me how brave he had been. His wife had incurable cancer. He could not bear it so he ended her life and then his ended her life and then his with his service revolver.

St Wystan's School had very religious teaching led by Miss Heath. On St. Wystan's Day the school had to assemble in the church for a service involving singing a long hymn processing with banners. The procession took us down to the crypt and out into the churchyard and so back to church. A few of us boys tried to speed up the singing to finish it before Miss Noble playing the organ brought it to an end. I felt sorry for her that she had to sing all the verses on her own. The organ made an awful sound. I asked why and was told it was a new electric organ. I am glad there is a pipe organ now.

The vicar was Mr Harcombe. His wife was known as Dizzy Lizzie Mum told me. She was a very kind lady when I fainted in church on Christmas morning. (We were in the middle of The Benedictus). Mum said the vicar's sermons were very highbrow and "way over the heads of most of the congregation". I just loved the way he beamed at us saying happy Christmas. I loved going to church to watch the bell ringers and adored the church bells ringing all over the village.

Mum, being a Scot had us children also go to the Congregational Church. She said it was the nearest thing to a Scottish Presbyterian church. In the hall nearby there were film shows on Saturday morning where loud cowboy films were watched amid much noise from the boys. We could walk anywhere in the village. No traffic. Went everywhere by Blue Bus or Trent number 5. There was a very friendly Blue Bus conductor called Jack Harrison. He let my brother stand on the platform when he felt sick.

Mrs Pentlow in her shop always talked about the Repton School headmasters she had known, most of whom seemed always to go on to be Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the early fifties there were sand pits and a big overgrown gorse covered sand pile behind The Circle (now called the Crescent) which we all climbed. Also the meadow path from there down to the Brook and the High Street where Matthews Butchers were. We used to tease the geese there. I think all this land has housing now.

We walked on the path near where the Bentleys lived in Milton Road. Corn crops high above our heads. Mum was very friendly with Iris whose gardening was so neat. Then down to the sewage farm.

A Threshing machine came to the field opposite 32 Milton Road, much interest. And the steam roller which came to flatten the newly improved road surface.



Photos taken by Christopher in 1956

The Palmer gravestone

We had an enquiry from a lady visiting Repton and exploring the churchyard. She spotted the grave of Mary Palmer. It has a curiously designed headstone which has long puzzled us. We know it has been reset in its current base because the monuments and inscriptions booklet has Mary Palmer's date (17th March 1806) which is no longer visible. Russell made enquiries of the family and was told that it was home made. Actually the quality of the carving – particularly the text – suggests it may be home designed, but professionally carved. We still do not know what the symbols represent. A visiting Free Mason looked at it, but is sure they are not masonic.



There is a bit of confusion over the date of death. The monuments and inscriptions book says 1806 but the parish records do not have a Mary Palmer being buried in Repton around that time. However there is a Mary Palmer being buried in Repton in 1906. So we suspect either a misreading of a damaged headstone or a clerical error. According to the stone, she died on 17th March and the burial record is 22nd March which fits quite well. Her burial was performed by Rev Arthur Catley – housemaster at the Old Mitre boarding house for Repton School where she was working. Our researches suggest that her maiden name was Uren and she came from

Camborne in Cornwall about 1870 to work in Mr Catley's house and married Sidney Palmer in Repton in April 1905. She gave birth to a son, Stanley Sidney Palmer, on January 19th 1906. She died in March and the baby was baptised in April. Sidney remarried in 1909 to Annie Maria Ross.

The visiting lady was a former chair of the East Midlands Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts and her interest did not stop there. Explaining that the boarding House was for Repton School led to more email exchanges about the school.

Female overseers:

This is a remarkable discovery by Charles about overseers of the Poor for Repton.:

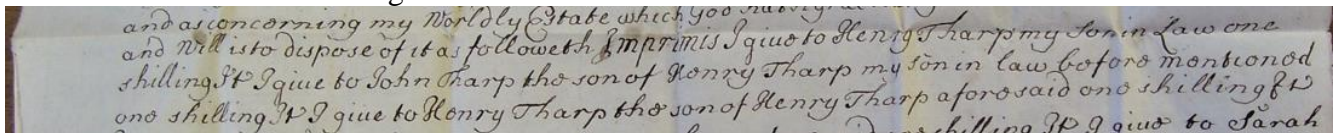
"I am currently compiling a list of the many hundreds of men who held the position of Overseer of the Poor for Repton & was delighted to find that they were not all men. They were not to be allowed to vote for nearly another century but three Repton women held the position in the 1830s. Susannah Newbold was one of the two overseers in 1832. Susannah was the widow of Thomas Newbold, a substantial tenant farmer of Daniel Hayes near Hartshorne, then part of the parish of Repton. She was buried in Hartshorne in 1749, aged 71. Mary Clark Wayte filled the role the following year. She had run her farm, now 20 Main Street, Milton, since the death of her husband in 1816 & died aged 82 in 1842.

Sarah Ratcliff was overseer in 1837. She was the widow of William Ratcliffe, cordwainer, & lived in the house & croft where Wood End Nursery is now based. She died in 1841 aged 76."

Thorpe's Farm:

Charles has been using his extensive Repton information to research one of the High Street farms.

Little now remains to show that the land opposite The Bulls Head Inn was, until about a hundred years ago, one of Repton's many farms. What was later to become the Thorpe farm on the High Street was in Harpur ownership by the beginning of the 17th C if not earlier but the first tenant we can identify is Thomas Osborne who paid £20 per year for a 'tenement & lands late Somers & for Priest Leas' in 1681. By the 1690s the tenant farmer was Richard Stone but on his death in 1720 the tenancy went to Henry Thorpe who had married Richard's daughter, Ellen, in 1706. A familiar story of the tenancy passing to a son-in-law in the absence of surviving sons.



Richard Stone's will written 1717

The Thorpe family were to hold the farm for over two centuries. Henry paid £19 rent for ‘a tenement & lands late Somers & for Priest Leas’ in 1721 & his son, John, was still paying £19 for the same until the 1760s. It was a typical Repton farm with a homestead, buildings & yard on the High Street, arable in the open fields (‘lands late Somers’) and pasture (‘Priest Leas’). The Thorpes were to hold Priest Leys from the Harpurs until 1823, when ownership of the pasture went to the Burdetts, & were then the Burdett tenants until 1909.

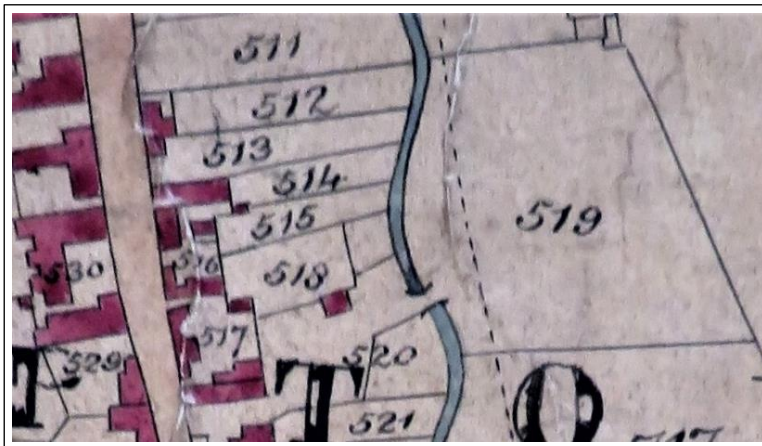


1762 Map

Enclosure in 1767 brought the usual sharp rise in the rent to £46 where it stayed until 1797 when it was raised again to £56. John Thorpe had died in 1767 with son, also John, taking over the tenancy until his own death in 1829, aged 84.



1762 Map



1829 Map

The 1762 map shows the farm as ref. 269 but by the time of the 1921 sale it included refs. 270 & 271 as well. The 1829 parish map shows the farmhouse & outbuildings opposite The Bulls Head (ref. 530) ref. 516 & the associated 1830 Survey notes John Thorp holding ref. 516 and the land down to the Brook, refs. 515, 518 & 520, now Richmond Court. The Meakin family had held ref. 517, now the pair of semi-detached houses at 81 & 83 High Street, from 1743 until 1877 after which it was incorporated into the Thorpe farm. In 1762 ref. 269 included what had become by 1830 a separate property, ref. 514, but by the 1910 Valuation Office Survey ref. 514 was again part of the Thorpe farm. The photograph of No 73 High Street during a recent renovation shows, I think, the northern side as part of ref. 514, the Whawell family's home for most of the 18thC & 19thC, & the southern section as a rebuilding of part of the original Thorpe farmhouse, ref. 516.



Whawell House

Thorpe farm



73 High Street

As well as his tenancies of Harpur & Burdett properties John Thorpe also held in his own right 8 acres in Nineteen Lands, an enclosed part of the old Haskey Field, & Every Yard (ref. 519) just over the brook

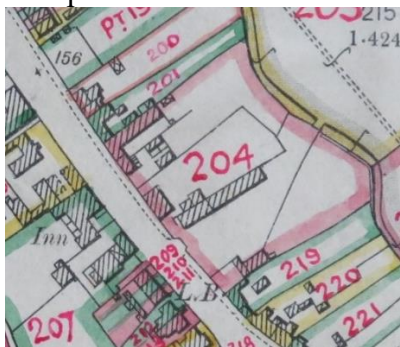
from his homestead. In his will, John Thorpe requested that his Harpur & Burdett tenancies should pass to his 2nd son, also John.

and immediately after the Decease of my said Wife I do give and bequeath the Possession and Tenant Right of the same Farms and Lands unto my said Son John Thorpe his Executors and Administrators And I do hereby humbly request the said Sir George Crewe and Sir Francis Burdett respectively, to accept my said Wife and Son John Thorpe Tenant of the said Farms and Lands when respectively entitled thereto according to this my Will Also I give and bequeath All my Household Goods and Furniture Beds Bedding Plate Linen and China and also all my

John Thorpe will 1829

The latter ran the farm until his death in 1849 leaving his wife Elizabeth to manage the farm. She is noted in the 1851 census as a farmer of 54 acres employing 3. Her son Henry was only 3 when his father died & only took over the tenancy from his mother in the late 1860s. On his death in 1889 his wife Jane ran the farm and was still recorded there as 'farmer' in the Bulmers Trade Directory of 1904. However, by 1911 she was in retirement at Rhyl with her unmarried daughter Kate Elizabeth & her son Henry John Thorpe was running the farm.

The 1910 Valuation Office Survey (ref 204) records a 'small dairy farm of 67 acres occupied by Henry Thorpe' & includes a schedule of the land & buildings.



Valuation Office Survey map

BY MESSRS. ROWLAND & SONS.
THE FARM, **REPTON.**
THURSDAY NEXT, **MARCH 14th.**
ROWLAND & SONS are instructed by Mr. H. Thorpe to **SELL by AUCTION**, the whole of the **FARMING STOCK**:-
21 BEASTS, **5** HORSES, IMPLEMENTS, &c.
Sale at 11 o'clock prompt.
Catalogues from the Auctioneers.

Derby Advertiser March 1912

The long Thorpe family connection with the farm ended in 1912 with Harry J Thorpe's bankruptcy & the Harpur connection ended with the sale of the property, now no longer a farm but Sanders builders yard, in 1921.

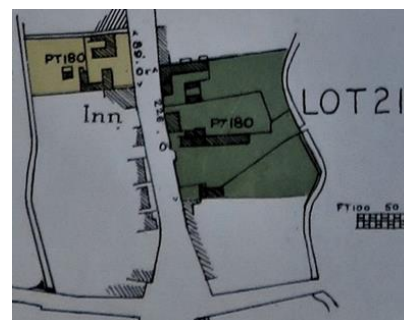
Lot 21.

A Capital HOUSE & PREMISES.

situate in and having a frontage of 226 feet to REPTON HIGH STREET, together with Garden, Yards, and extensive Buildings formerly occupied as a Farm Homestead, but now occupied by Mr. E. T. Sanders at a low rent of £20 per annum and utilised as a builder's yard, and together with a small Yard and Shed occupied by Mr. S. Palmer as an oil store.

The House comprises Two Parlours, Houseplace, Scullery, Wash-house, and Three Bedrooms and the Buildings include Store Shed with Loft over, large open Shed and Outbuildings formerly Stable and Cowshed adjoining the house; whilst in the yards there is an excellent Cartshed now utilised as a Carpenter's Shop, together with Stabling for 4 horses, with Loft over, and tying for 18 cows, with Chop-house and Grain Cistern, and detached Piggery.

Tenant.	No. on Plan.	Description.	Quantity.
			A. B. P.
Sanders, E. T.	Pt. 180	House, Buildings, Garden and Yards	1 1 19
Palmer, S.	Pt. 180	Yard and Building	0 0 3
			A.1 1 22



Can you help please? 1948/9 football team. Can you fill the gaps please?



L-R from the top:

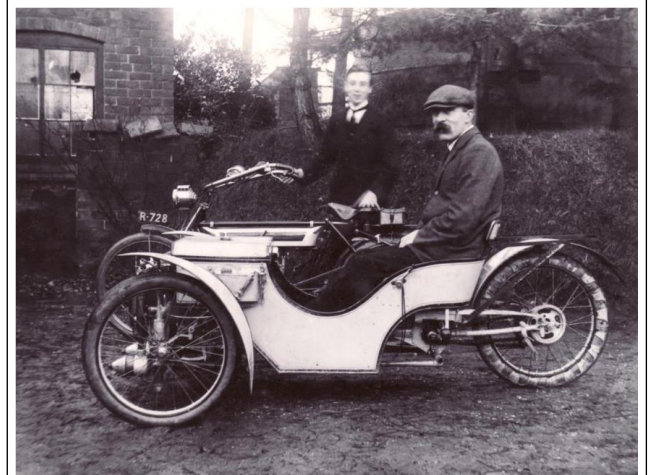
John Beard, ???, Geoff Press, Ted Canner, Terry Astle, Clive Hollis, Bill Barnes, ???, Ted Archer, John Wyatt, ???

Morgans:

From time to time we get enquiries about the Stephenson-Peach workshops and sometimes about the Morgan cars. A recent email thread with someone who went to Malvern College and who is researching William Stephenson-Peach, led to a discussion as to whether the first Morgan car might have been made in Repton. We are sure the drawings for the three wheeler that became the first Morgan were drawn here which is not surprising because they had made several in the Repton workshops. There is a belief that the first chassis was built here, but it's not clear that there is any evidence to support this. We have copies of photographs of an early Morgan taken here at Repton – one is below.



Repton Tri-Car 1904



Fred Smith (Manager at Repton works) in the Morgan Olympia Show car at Repton 1910-11

A major difference between the Repton Tri-car and the Morgan is that the Morgan had a chain drive to the rear wheel. The Tri-car was shaft drive. The later BSA 3 wheeler was front wheel drive.

Heath wood –H Wains notes

In February this year, a paper was published which covered the results of modern analytical techniques applied to cremated remains in the Viking cremation cemetery in Heath Wood.

The burial mounds have been excavated several times. 5 were excavated in 1855 by Thomas Bateman and in 1941/2 by the Burton Natural History and Archaeological Society and noted historian Harold Wain (Richard's father) was appointed to undertake the task in company with two others - Camden Clarke and William Fraser who wrote the paper recording their findings (DAJ v66 1946). Brief details are mentioned in Harold's book "The early history of Burton On Trent" 1968 pp 20,22. More mounds were excavated in 1955 by the Ministry of Works and more still between 1998 and 2000 by Julian D Richards. The conclusion was that they were Viking cremation burials, that some were cremated on site but others were cremated elsewhere.

Now, by applying strontium isotope analysis to some remains of three people and a horse and a dog, the research showed that the animals had come from Viking territories along with the person they were cremated with. This suggests that whoever it is, was pretty important. It also shows that the animals must have been sacrificed to be cremated with him.

Abstract from the report published in February 2023 in the PLOS ONE Journal. (Free to download)

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0280589>

The barrow cemetery at Heath Wood, Derbyshire, is the only known Viking cremation cemetery in the British Isles. It dates to the late ninth century and is associated with the over-wintering of the Viking Great Army at nearby Repton in AD 873–4. Only the cremated remains of three humans and of a few animals are still available for research. Using strontium content and isotope ratios of these three people and three animals—a horse, a dog and a possible pig—this paper investigates the individuals' residential origins. The results demonstrate that strontium isotope ratios of one of the adults and the non-adult are compatible with a local origin, while the other adult and all three animals are not. In conjunction with the archaeological context, the strontium isotope ratios indicate that these individuals most likely originated from the area of the Baltic Shield—and that they died soon after arrival in Britain. This discovery constitutes the first solid scientific evidence that Scandinavians crossed the North Sea with horses, dogs and other animals as early as the ninth century AD.

Authors are: Tessi Löffelmann, Christophe Snoeck, Julian D. Richards, Lucie J. Johnson, Philippe Claeys, Janet Montgomery

Programmes of talks from other organisations.

Most make a small entry charge.

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Chellaston History group:

7.30pm St Peter's Church Hall, Chellaston - chellastonhistorygroup@gmail.com

30th May: History of 2 The Hill, Chellaston – Carmel Swan

27th June: Medieval Pilgrimage – Tony Perkins

25th July: Storm in a Tea Shop – Ann Featherstone

August – no meeting

26th September: Vikings in the East Midlands – Dr Rebecca Gregory

31 October: Objects of curiosity – Mick Appleby

28th November: Kinder Transport – Julie Whitehouse

Etwall and Burnaston Historical Society: Methodist Chapel Schoolroom 7.30pm. 01283 730287

20th June: History and highlights of Derby Museum – Spencer Bailey

18th July Markeaton Park Walk – Linda Proud

August: No meeting

19th September Russia, its people and history – Kathy McAteer

17th October: Pestilence, intrigue and murder – Ian Morgan

21st November: The overseers of the poor and their work – John Barnett

Ticknall Preservation and Historical Society. celia.sanger@btinternet.com

30th May: Windmills - Mark Temple - : Ticknall Village hall, 2.00pm.

27th June: Visit to Beaumanor Hall – all day.

Hilton and Marston History Group. Hilton House Hotel 7.30pm. hiltonhistory@gmail.com

1st June: Virginia made me do it – Sue Cumpstone

6th July: Visit to St Mary's Marston on Dove

August: no meeting

7th September: All around the Shire- 1745 Day of Decision – Janet and Paul Barrass

5th October: History of Sinai House, Burton – Kate Murphy

2nd November: A stretcher bearer in WW1 – William Coltman VC. DCM & bar, MM & bar – Tim Coltman

Aston on Trent History Group. Aston on Trent Memorial Hall astonontrenthistory@gmail.com

23rd May: You're never too old to rock and roll – Vince Eager (1950s rock star)

27th June: TBA

25th July: President Kennedy. Triumph and tragedy – John Whitfield

27th September: Derbyshire County Cricket Champions 1936 – Ken Anderson

24th October: Time gentlemen please – Steve Aynsley

28th November: The history of bank notes – Ian McKay

Melbourne Historical Research group – Civic Society talks. Wesley Hall, Potter St. 7.30

30th October: Breedon Priory – Rachel Askew

27th November: Demolished Melbourne – Philip Heath – talk and social.

Philip Heath is giving another talk in December but we don't have details yet.

Willington have no meetings till October.

Comments and more information about Repton and its occupants are always welcomed.
For more information on the newsletter content or the History Group please contact us on
rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk or visit our website.