

Repton Village History Group - Newsletter - Summer 2014



Programme for the remainder of 2014

July 9 th	St Mary's, Newton Solney with Sue Ellis at 6.30pm
August 20 th	Hartshorne Upper Manor at 2.00pm
September 16 th	John Hawkins - History of Findern.
October 21 st	Robert Mee - Societies for the Prosecution of Felons.
November 18 th	Wendy Freer - Black Diamonds (Her last talk to us as she retires this year)
December 2 nd	Social.

All meetings are at 7.30pm prompt in Repton Village Hall (Askew Grove, DE65 6GR)

We are working on the programme for 2015 just now.

Members News: We are sad to record the passing of George Leydon who, with his wife and family, have been members for a number of years and often helped out at our meetings. We extend our sympathy to his wife Enid and their family.

Some good news is that Gillian Hartley's photographic album has been found in a safe place.

New History: April saw a pretty full hall when Matthew Hurford, the archaeologist who led the digging on the site of the Science Priory came to speak to us in April. As soon as the turf was removed, it was clear that more than a watching brief was needed. The area that was to be under the building was properly excavated using diggers to gently remove the topsoil and then by hand to examine sections of the features they found. There were a number of pits, ditches and finds which led them to the conclusion that there had been use and occupation of the site since about the 4th or 5th century BC and Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement of the site later. Two straight ditches indicated Roman use and a ditch curving round in a loop indicated an Anglo Saxon enclosure. It is possible to speculate that this could have contained a hall as was found at Catholme and that there could have been as many as 30 dwellings in the whole settlement. Evidence increased to the east end of the site and there were no finds at the west end. Noting that the church and its Mercian and Viking activity lie to the east, it is possible to speculate that there would be more evidence under the un-excavated Science Priory car park and the Vicarage Garden. Hammer scale and indications of molten or near molten metal fragments indicate metal working in the area and a forge. Fragments of pot were too small to identify the shapes of the vessels they came from, but they were Derbyshire Ware tempered with millstone grit and dateable. It had been assumed that the grit had been imported from the Peak District but it was pointed out that there is an outcrop locally at Carver's Rocks. The ditches and some of the pits were topped by material that suggested householders were clearing out hearths and debris into earlier unwanted features. Among the finds were lots of different sorts of charred cereal grains that could be carbon dated. They indicated a range of dates from 400 AD to the medieval period, but we were warned that they could possibly have arrived in the ditches from other nearby locations.

In the past, small worn shards of Roman pottery have been found scattered in many locations around the village core. While this probably resulted from manuring the fields, it did indicate that there was likely to have been a Roman settlement in the area. Maybe it was here. With luck we will have the opportunity to take this work further. It seems clear that the centre of activity from the stone age onwards has been around the Church and Vicarage and the area around the 400 hall across the road. There may have been a Romano British settlement of up to 30 dwellings in the area.

Visits: Both visits require prior booking and we are asking for a donation of £3 per person for each venue to give to the hosts for their charities. Parking at St Mary's is very limited so we will offer a car sharing service. If you can offer a lift or need a lift, please contact Andy (01283 702448). At Hartshorne, there is access to the manor house grounds for disabled parking, otherwise, please park in the car park in Manchester Lane. It's free.

The New Committee: The committee now consists of :

Chairman	Andy Austen
Vice Chairman	Ivor Sandars
Treasurer	Janine Appleby
Secretary	John Kidd
Member	Alan Kimber
Member	Jenny Sayers
Member	Jeanette Griffiths.

Archaeology: Little has changed here although we do now have a small steering committee. Our plans for the Community Archaeology section have crystallised into two distinct projects. One is to find and, hopefully, unearth the Tithe Barn and the other is the desk-based study recommended by Trent and Peak which will update the work done by Gill Stroud from the County Archaeologists in 1999. This will form the basis of future projects that are archaeologically appropriate and manageable and is the subject of a grant application to the Heritage Lottery fund.

A grant has been made by Derbyshire County Council for the Tithe Barn project - though we are still awaiting its arrival. The grant bid to the HLF is still being put together.

If you are interested in taking part, please let Andy Austen know.(01283 702448)

World War 1 booklet. Margaret has completed her work on the book - now proof read (3 times). She has tracked down 43 men from the villages of Repton, Milton, Foremark and Ingleby. Most of the men are on the Repton memorial but four are only on the Ingleby one. There are 3 who are on no local memorial. Margaret has tried to find out about the lives of all the men before they went to war - so we can think of them as people as well as soldiers and sailors.

So far we have one printer's quotation but it is too expensive to be considered. We will look elsewhere.

Your History Group still needs you (please!) There are lots of little jobs in keeping the history group on the straight and narrow and with the wheels turning..... finding speakers, writing bits for the newsletter or the parish magazine, helping with projects, opening up the village hall, distributing posters, maintaining the membership list, thanking the speakers, welcoming the speakers, giving talks, maintaining the archives, booking the village hall, acting as the link with the National Forest walking festival, deputising on the sound system.....

I'm pleased to say this list is already shorter than last time. *To help, contact rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk or Andy Austen on 01283 702448* In particular we need someone to join us on the walk and talk sessions we do around the Church and School - as an apprentice for the future.

Goodall Family The work we reported in the Spring newsletter on John Goodall - brother of Tom of the garage fame - resulted in correspondence with a family member and an exchange of information including early family photographs. Needless to say, Janine is recording it all for the archive.

NatWest Bank Janine writes: We have lost another amenity in the village this month: the last bank has closed. It is annoying, an inconvenience and sad to have to say goodbye to the friendly, helpful staff. It is also the end of an era.

In the 1861 census the premises at The Cross then comprised of the Repton School Tuck Shop/Grubber, a home attached, with a farm at the rear. Ex-pupils later wrote of their fond memories of the rosy-cheeked sisters who ran the shop. Was it Emma and Mary (known as Polly) who drew their admiration, or their delicious baking and confectionery? It was also mentioned that their father, Mr Robert Measham, although a farmer of 60 acres, seemed to spend most of his time sat in a chair in front of the fire.

Many years later Percy Tailby and Mabel, née Eaton, lived in the house (then named Christleton) at The Cross, along with their daughter Joan Elizabeth (Bunty), who was born in 1922. In 1924 Percy and Mabel joined Jack Dean to form the Blue Bus Services. Later still, the Wild family resided in the house.



The private banking company of Samuel Smith of Derby was established in 1806 by Samuel Smith III and his brothers George and John. The Derby business was based on the acquisition of the business of Richardson & Co (established c1778), bankers of Derby, owned by local merchants Samuel and Henry Richardson. The Samuel Smith Bank traded from Tenant Street, issued its own notes and was known as the Derby Bank. The brothers also had other Smith Banks in Nottingham, London, Hull and Lincoln, trading under a variety of partnership names.

In 1902 the Derby Bank, along with the other Smith family banks, merged with Union Bank of London Ltd (established in 1839) and became known as the Union of London & Smiths Bank Ltd. In 1909 this company placed an advertisement in the booklet 'Handbook to Repton' by J T Emmott (headmaster of the village school). The bank announced that they were open at Repton on Tuesdays and Fridays, 12.30 to 2.30 pm. Where they operated from and when the service first started is not known. At the beginning of 1918, the address was given as The Cross.

In 1918 the Union of London & Smiths Bank linked up with the National Provincial Bank. This was a company that had been operating in England and Wales since 1833.

In its turn the National Provincial Bank merged with the Westminster Bank in 1970 to form the National Westminster Bank. Within living memory the NatWest has operated from the same building in Repton. Research suggests the branch opened in 1918, in its current location, having been incorporated that same year with the Samuel Smith Bank. The bank, in its various forms, has served the village of Repton for over 100 years.

We have lost yet another link to the past.

The Union of London and Smiths Bank, Ltd.
(Established 1839).
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

SAMUEL SMITH & CO., Bankers, Derby,
(Established 1806).

Authorised Capital	-	-	-	-	£25,000,000	Os.
Subscribed Capital	-	-	-	-	£22,934,100	Os.
Paid-up Capital	-	-	-	-	£3,554,785	10s.
Reserve Fund-	-	-	-	-	£1,150,000	Os.

Number of Proprietors, upwards of 8,900.

Open at REPTON Tuesdays and Fridays,
12.30 to 2.30 p.m.
LOCAL DIRECTOR AT DERBY:
GERARD HAMILTON SMITH, Esquire.