



# Repton Village History Group Newsletter

## Summer 2017 (1<sup>st</sup> June 2017)



We're changing sides this month as it works better for us this time to adopt the Meteorologists approach and use 1<sup>st</sup> June as the start of summer.

### The ongoing programme of talks:

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|-----------------------|--|
| June 20 <sup>th</sup> | Cat Jarman – the Vicarage digs 2016 and 17               |
| July 12 <sup>th</sup> | Newark Castle and Civil War Museum (full day)            |
| Aug 16 <sup>th</sup>  | Melbourne Hall – House and gardens (afternoon)           |
| Sept 19 <sup>th</sup> | Ivor Sandars – A history of the Derby Telegraph          |
| Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>  | Richard Stone – “The Luttrell Psalter”                   |
| Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>  | Colin Stewart – “Calke park and Estate, the Archaeology” |
| Dec 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Keith Blood – “Christmas is coming”                      |

Meetings take place in the Village Hall (DE65 6GR) at 7.30pm.  
All are welcome. Members £2.00, Visitors £3.00. Tea, coffee and biscuits included.

**Sad to note:** Long time member Christine Burrows passed away after a short but aggressive illness which she bore with the greatest composure – even going to have her hair done a few days before she died. Christine was a regular at our meetings and helped most months with the refreshments. She was a very active person – a Samaritans volunteer, a lover of the natural countryside, she cared for orphaned hedgehogs and was active in St Helen's Church, Etwall. A gentle soul who could be forceful at times – like when she lay down in front of a Toyota vehicle which insisted on using her road even though they had blocked her access to the A38! She is much missed.

**Changes to the programme.** We can confirm that Cat Jarman will again talk to us in our June meeting. She will explain the current understanding of what they found last year now that the finds are analysed and they have had time to contemplate things. She will also tell us about what they have found this year – they will be well into the final week of their 3 week visit by then. If there is more that she has found during her Phd using isotope analysis on the vicarage mound skeletons, then there may be time for that too.

The other change is that Alan Hiley is unable to join us in September so his slot has been filled by Ivor Sandars (a past chairman) who has a talk “A history of the Derby Telegraph”

**The way forward for the Group:** The Group started in the 1980s as an informal meeting of like minds and then formalised itself and eventually started booking speakers. Over time the talks have come to be just about the only thing we do and the research and archiving elements have largely stopped. The founding generation have largely passed on or are less active and, for some years now, there has been increasing concern at our aging membership and member's caution in getting involved in running the group. The position now is that most of it falls on a couple of folk to do. For example, the Chairman triples up as Archivist, Treasurer and Bookings secretary amongst other things. Matters did not improve at the AGM and we can no longer maintain the Group in its current format. Without a Treasurer, someone to take on the monthly talks and a publications officer, we will have to draw our horns in a little. Much of what we do is basic administration or to do with governance - which has to continue. The only thing we can drop are the talks. So it is proposed that we become a flexible, project oriented group with member's forums as required and occasional speakers and visits as appropriate. Hopefully people will take on projects as individuals or small groups at times and a pace to suit them – feeding back at the forums.

The programme of talks to the end of this year is in place and will take place as planned.

### Walks n Talks:

Tha Engiscan Gesithas - an Anglo-Saxon society - visited Repton in April for a walk and talk – having had a fuller talk earlier in the year. We have just had a visit by the Ridware History Society who enjoyed the hospitality of the Boot for coffee before and lunch after. John Ward led a National Forest Walking Festival stroll around the core of the village talking about Repton's past and about the school - plenty of anecdotes.

**Village party:** We took a shelter and tables and display boards along with photographs seeking names. The results were mixed - with lots of names for some photos and none for others. We will follow this up with a visit to the Friday Luncheon Club in June.

**Possible test pit survey:**

We have 20 names of people interested in this project, but few from Repton. So it may be something we have to put on hold until we are further ahead in planning and more certain of things. It is a warm weather activity, so perhaps Spring 2018 is more likely. It is now felt that once we have found suitable locations where we would be allowed to dig, we ought to do resistance surveys to try to identify good “hot spots” for the holes.

**The dig in the Vicarage garden:**

The Bristol University team under Cat Jarman and Mark Horton are back in June this year – this time for 3 weeks. There will be an open evening on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June but it will be necessary to book in order to manage numbers. Contact Andy Austen on 01283 702448 or rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk.

**Summer visits:**

The preferred destinations were a day trip to Newark Civil War Museum and Castle (July 12<sup>th</sup>), and Melbourne Hall (August 16<sup>th</sup>). Even if you voted for one of these, you do need to let us know that you want to go please – as soon as possible as we are having some difficulty with sorting the booking for Newark.

**Family History Enquiries:**

Sadly we have still to find time for the trip to the Record Office in Matlock for our Poxon enquiry, but we have had further correspondence on the Harrison family– having found details of their admissions and progress in the village Infants and Elementary schools and a couple of references in the log book transcriptions. Diphtheria was an issue in the village at that time (winter 1921) and Leslie and John caught it. A couple of the Harrison children won awards. Interesting to note how many children were absent at potato picking time.

**Archive listing:**

Work on this is still stalled so if anyone is prepared to help, they will be very welcome. You just need a PC with Word for Windows or similar.

**Derby Museum:**

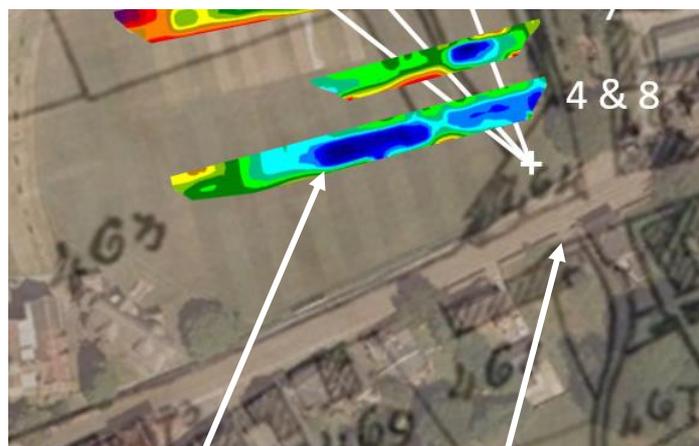
The volunteer work at the museum listing the Repton dig artefacts is now over half of the way through and we have just found a way of speeding the process up. We are still likely to finish early in 2018 as we will be taking the summer holiday Tuesdays off to help geophysing the massive field at Catton Hall where the work to date suggests there was an early moated hall and the original village. Shelagh Wain has been loading data about her flints into the dreaded MODES system and has now moved onto researching artefacts.

**Medieval Priory Mill:**

Further survey work has been carried out and, much to our surprise, we have an image of a possible wall in our resistance grid survey at about the area we feel most likely for the mill. It is very difficult to know how the land profile there has changed, but we had not expected such an image. Keith and Barbara Foster did more pseudo sections and we now think there may have been a sizeable (mill?) pond just south of the first team’s cricket pitch.

**Medieval Tithe Barn:**

We have still to find time to do a resistivity survey of the lawn at 18 Milton Road – a higher and flatter potential site.



Evidence of possible mill pond?

Brook End Bridge mill pond?

To make comments or for more information, please contact Andy Austen on [rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk](mailto:rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk) or 01283 702448  
We are always pleased to receive information about the locality and the people that lived and worked near here.