

Repton Village History Group - Newsletter - Winter 2013



At the time of writing this, we are just a couple of days away from the start of astronomical winter - even though the meteorologists had us in winter from the start of December. So it's a good time for a brief winter news letter - and an opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Programme 2014

The meeting programme for next year is set out below, but we would appreciate suggestions for the visits in July and August. Hoar Cross church is one suggestion and we hope to visit St Mary's in Newton Solney with Sue Ellis, but other ideas are sought please.

The December talk is left blank so we have a slot for any talks we find during the year.

January 21 st	Shirley Horton - Adventurers II - a follow on from her talk in 2013.
February 18 th	Members turn- 'Repton Brook', 'Now where was I?' and 'A stroll down Long Street'.
March 18 th	Patrick Ashcroft - Calke and the Harpur Crewes.
April 15 th	The Archaeology of the Science Priory and more.
May 20 th	Richard Stone and AGM.
June 17 th	Archive evening.
July	Visit
August	Visit
September 16 th	John Hawkins - History of Findern.
October 21 st	Robert Mee - Felons.
November 18 th	Wendy Freer - Black Diamonds.
December 2 nd	Social.

In February at the member's turn evening, Richard Wain will be telling us about Repton Brook and the Mills and Andy Austen will offer talks about forgotten Repton place names and the work on small businesses on High St and Main St with the Friday Luncheon Club. Gillian's missing album has not been located and so we will be missing her talk. Hopefully we will find more speakers - if you have something to offer, please do so.

Archaeology:

The accepted broad periods of history are described as Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern (1750 onwards). Of these RVHG has, so far, only really been involved with the last period.

You will be aware that we are setting up an archaeological project with Trent and Peak Archaeology and this gives us a magnificent opportunity to address some of the other periods too.

We have now established an objective and sensible scope for the initial project and have made very positive connections with Philip Heath (Heritage Officer - SDDC) and The County Archaeologists.

We have also made connections with St Wystans, the Primary School and Foremarke Hall and all are keen to take part. We are looking to establish connections with John Port and Repton School.

The plan is to add to an existing paper produced in 1997 by Derbyshire County Council's Gill Stroud, to create a set of maps showing everything we know in terms of structures, archaeological finds and lumps and bumps. Some of this will be using archaeological databases, aerial photographs, old maps, and topographical surveys. To this we plan to add some physical archaeology through test pits. We are probably too late in the agricultural year to do field walking. This work will enable us to define archaeologically sensible future projects.

Our geographic scope will be the Repton Parish and Foremarke.

We are now in the process of re-drafting an expression of interest to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

We are keen that all this new activity should not adversely impact on the existing activities of the History Group, and some additional help with running things would be very helpful. Fortunately the archaeological project seems to be bringing new folk into membership.

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

Christmas Tree Festival in St Wystan's.

Many thanks to Glenys and Frank who dressed our tree. The festival theme was 'A Journey' so we used miniature photographs and an annotated map to take folk on a stroll down High street and Main Street of 50 years ago. After the festival, the tree went to a young family in Hartshorne.

Shoe prints in St Wystan's

On the flat topped grave beside the Vicarage path in the graveyard are about 18 inscribed shoe outlines. How they got there is uncertain but they probably date from the early 1800's based on their style and the fact that some of them appear to have no "handing". We have been aware of them for a long time, but have only just encountered a dozen or so more outlines near the organ inside the church. Some of these also have initials e.g HB and TB.

The Vicar has now done more hunting with a lamp which throws shadows on indentations and may have found more shoe shapes elsewhere. He has certainly revealed some interesting graffiti - some dating from medieval times.

Such prints have been found elsewhere - a notable example being in the roof leads at Bolsover Castle.



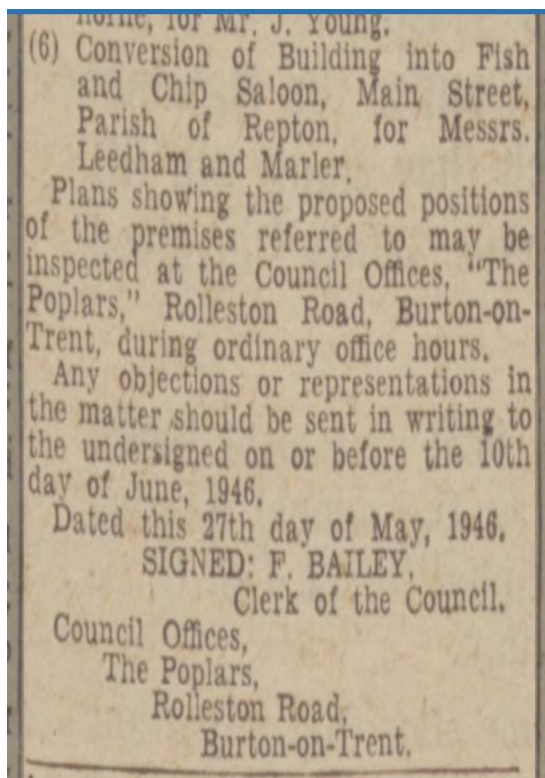
Beside the
Vicarage
path



Beside
the organ

Fish and Chip Shop on Main St.

We know a few members remember a fish and Chip Shop on Main Street - just along from the Gas Works. Janine Appleby found a press article noting the application for planning permission in 1946 in the May 28th Derby Daily Telegraph, but does anyone have a photograph or more memories please?



Repton Heighs.

An email from Jaimie Handscombe in Canada set us a bit of a poser. His mother had just celebrated her 82 birthday and had mentioned that she used to live at Repton Heighs. We could find no reference to this house or a field or place name like it. The best we could offer was The Hays.

However with subsequent knowledge of her maiden name and father's name (Dr James Gillies), Janine managed to not only confirm the family in the Hayes, but found numerous newspaper advertisements for the sale of puppies in the Derby Telegraph up to 1949.

Her search was complicated by Dr James Gillies' name actually turning out to be Gordon!

The family moved to Hoar Cross Hall around 1950.

We were able to furnish Jaimie with a modern photograph of the Hayes and an aerial view extract from Google Earth and details of his family history.