



Repton Village History Group Newsletter

Summer 2026

Repton Village History Group – reptonvillage.org.uk

Email Reptonvillagehistorygroup@outlook.com

Members updates

Repton Village History Group Annual General Meeting – May 2026

Chairperson's Report

Many thanks again to all the committee and our members for their continued support not only in the organisation aspect but by actually being members of the group, without this we wouldn't thrive. In particular thank you to John Kidd for his continuous support in finding wonderful speakers and maintaining the finances of the group.

We have welcomed a new committee member that of Sian Hales which is great.

Russell has continued to do an excellent job with the archive and thank you to all the rest of the committee for making things happen.

The last 12 months we have had many speakers on varying subjects.

Almshouses past and present
Newton Solney History Day 03/08/25 (with graveyard tour)
Lord Curzon by Danny Wells
It must be true
Medieval Pilgrimages by Tony Perkins
Three Victorian Reformers
A year on the Ethel's (a life in the hills of Derbyshire)

During the month of August 2025 our trip was an organised tour of Newton Solney Church graveyard touching on some key people and stories, which proved popular to the locals.

During September we supported the School on Springfield Road with their history lessons by taking them into the Crypt, which was fun.

In October 2025 we had a Heritage gathering at St Wilfred's organised by RVHG, which was very successful with marvelous cakes/refreshments provided.

Also during the summer we supported Foremarke School with their archives to celebrate its 85th Anniversary, the project entailed a few trips to the school which was well supported by Tom Markham the schools history teacher. As a thank you we were invited in June for a mini tour of the gardens.

During December 2025 St Wystan's School on the High Street also displayed some of their archive material with our support and an open display was organised at the cross gallery.

Some of the archive material and photos were used to support the Maple café display of the late Ken Ashes work, which proved fantastic and enjoyed by all the visitors.

Recently we had a tent and display at the Village party on the Mitre field which was a great success.

On an admin point of view Ewan Thompson has been supporting me in getting the web page governance and detail up to date.

In the background Charles Proud continues to blow our minds with his depth of information about Repton. As a team we have continued to provide the village news with monthly articles and provide newsletters to the website.

We have had a few enquiries not only from the UK but two from Australia and one from North Carolina USA. Both stories are in the last Spring Newsletter. The Clients were very happy and grateful for the in depth information we could give them. To such a point the man in Australia organised his brother to meet me in the Boot Inn to buy me a pint, which I drunk on behalf of the committee.

During the year I have trialled the virtual Kit Kat quiz, just a lighthearted bit of fun which some people like.

A copy of this report can be made available to any person that would like one.

Newton Solney old Ratcliffe House entrance. (Now the Hotel)

Now you see it, now you don't, This is a postcard photo of the old entrance to the Ratcliffe house now the Hotel in Newton Solney, you can see West lodge on the right and now there is no entrance and the wall has been built up. If you are coming from Burton then down the hill from Bladon folly it's on the right towards the bottom. The old road track is now landscaped and part of Newton Park estate.



We had an enquiry about this garage ticket which was based in Repton and related to George Collier. As you can see it is dated on new years eve of 31st December 1923



Further researched revealed there were many colliers in the village and this ticket was from/to the Taylor family also a busy business/store owners in the village.

The ticket suggests they are agents for Riley, Morris and the Calthorpe cars and authorised FORD dealers and engineers. The yard itself was almost certainly down Brearley's yard, off the Square.



What a great display of cars with the local families dressed quite smartly, we have a few names we believe the man with arms folded is George Collier, boy next to him Joseph Collier his son and girl with bow in her hair Barbara Collier (the enquirer Grandmother), not so sure of the other people. The car at the front is a Calthorpe made in Birmingham and like many car manufacturers developed from cycles. The Taylor van moved around the villages possibly on deliveries.

The family photo below looks like its outside some old doors maybe workshop doors and I believe they may still be there.

Quote from relation "The photograph is new to my wife's family! Looks like it's taken in front of some large doors so maybe the garage. The older man seated is Joseph Collier with his second wife Martha Doyle. The bizarre story is that he married Martha and his son married her sister.... on the same day!! So his sister in law became his daughter in law".



A story from Australia. A brooch returns to the family in the UK

I have much dialogue with my friend in Australia, Mark Sims in relation to the Somers family, many of whom lived around Repton including landlords of the Boots Inn and overseers of the poor officer all noted in a previous newsletter, he knew his great uncle who was a Mason and high up in the ranks.

Seth Somers was awarded a brooch in 1926 (apparently). Mark received an email from a lady also in Australia as to a brooch she had in her possession for some 41 Years and bought originally from a charity type shop. As Mark was related the lady gave the brooch to him.

Mark has tracked down the Masonic lodge in Worcestershire that's on the brooch and it is still alive and active and that was his grandfathers home lodge.



The words on the Brooch say Mosaic Lodge No 5028 – AD 1928 which ties in with a consecration ceremony on 14/9/1928 The silver assay marks are dated as 1928, so maybe the award in 1926 is incorrect or an error through time.

The assay mark on the rear, Anchor represents Birmingham, the lion represents the fineness of silver and the capital D represents the date.

Mark has now decided to pass the brooch onto his brother's grandson who has recently become a Mason, so the brooch is back home after having a long holiday in Australia.

It is always exciting to discover previously unseen photos of Repton, especially early ones, and those below are certainly a very welcome recent addition to the history group archives. They come from an album which appears to have been compiled by the family of John Ernest Auden who never lived in Repton himself but was the eldest son of Sarah Auden who had moved to Danesgate in Well Lane with her younger children from Horninglow following the death of her husband, the Rev John Auden, at some point between 1882 & 1886.

The Rev. John Ernest Auden, a curate at Lichfield Cathedral, was in Repton for his wedding in September 1886. The two wedding photos below taken in the garden of Danesgate record the marriage of John Ernest to Margaret Twigg of Hazeldine on Repton High Street. The first shows groom and bride with best man Thomas Edward Auden, younger brother of the groom and four bridesmaids. From left to right Miss Daisy Estridge, daughter of Edward Estridge of Brook House, Repton School housemaster; Miss Alice Twigg, sister of the bride; Miss Daisy Twigg, cousin of the bride & Miss Alice Auden, sister of the groom.



The second photo shows all the guests in their wedding finery.



Other photos from the album shown below include haymaking at Danesgate in 1887; an early photo of the Willington Road cottages from the 1890's; one of Hazeldine on the High Street of about the same date and ladies tennis at Repton School from about 1890.





John Ernest Auden went on to become Vicar of Shrawardine and from 1896 Vicar of Tong. He also became a noted authority on the history of Shropshire. There are other photos of Repton not shown above but most of the photos in the album record his life away from Repton.

WW2 Spigot mount, Jeremiahs walk Repton; It's a long story but eventually we have managed to fit a plaque with the help from Repton School on the Blacker Bombard Spigot mount. Not so sure this is the exact location of the original but certainly in and around this area.

The Anti tank mortar was operated by the home guard and could fire a 20lb bomb for 900 yards. Designed by LT Col V V S Blacker it would of supported local home guard defences mounted at different levels some close to the ground and some raised, the spigot giving it 360 degrees rotation.



We are not sure where the main storage of bombs would have been, mention of a cellar within the vicarage has been suggested. This is just an example photo and nothing to do with Repton



The story below is from one of our members Kevin Miller, who is researching his family particularly around the wars, as you can see below he, has made a great start with some wonderful photos, not necessarily to do with Repton but I imagine every village would have similar and often sad stories.

Thank you Kevin

**THIS IS A RECORD OF THE FAMILY OF KEVIN MILLER
WHO ANSWERED THE CALL.**

IT IS ENTITLED

FAMILY AT WAR

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT I NEVER ASKED QUESTIONS.

**AND THEY DID NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE TRUE
HORROR OF WAR.**

**LUCKILY MY BROTHER ROGER WAS GIVEN A LOT OF
MATERIAL, WHICH OUR MOTHER MARY GAVE TO HIM.**

**I HAVE STARTED WITH THE PERSON I HAVE MOST
RESEARCH ON.**

FRANCIS THOMAS MONK, A.K.A. FRANK.

**MORE FILES WILL BE ADDED TO AS THE
RESEARCH GOES ON.**

1, FRANCIS THOMAS MONK, WW1

2, WALTER MILLER, WW1

3, PHILIP MILLER, WW2

4, FRANCIS MONK, JUNIOR, N.S

5, MARY MILLER, FIRE SERVICE

6, REGINALD MILLER WW2

7, REGINALD LUNN, HOME GUARD



The 9th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, (Notts and Derby) was one of Lord Kitchener's New Army, made up in the first place by men from the north midlands. Many of them were farm hands or miners from the coalfield. With service at Gallipoli, the latter stages of the Somme, Messines ridge and Passchendaele, they saw action in most of the key battles of the so-called Great War. They were the ordinary workingmen who made up the main part of General Haig's army.

My Grandfather Francis Thomas Monk, A.K.A Frank
Took the call to arms.

The 9th Battalion was not an elite fighting force, but a group of ordinary workingmen, who felt driven to serve their country and then found themselves in the most extra-ordinary military conflagration.



Francis Thomas Monk, A.K.A Frank, service number, 21151, rank corporal.



Frank, centre, in camp at France, born in village of Stanley Derbyshire



Franks Parents Cottage Morley Road, Chaddesden.



Cottages, Chaddesden Common, 1976. From left to right, Hollies Farm, Dale Cottage and Holly Cottage are pictured from the south end of Gypsy Lane, or Gravel Lane, as the old footpath linking Morley Road with Lime Lane was sometimes called.



Hollies Farm, Dale Cottage and Holly Cottage, 1998. Seen from the opposite direction over twenty years later, these eighteenth-century properties were once relatively isolated, but now look out over the new houses of Oakwood.



Frank, in France, he is on the left.



Post card from the front.



Field hospital, France, trench foot. Trench foot was considered as self-inflicted and a soldier could be on a charge.



Frank is on the left, convalescing.

Wounded in the chest by shrapnel, shrapnel has tendency to move about.

Many years later he was admitted to hospital with a problem with his testicles, the shrapnel had migrated around his body.

The shrapnel was removed from the testicle.

When he was demobbed, they lived at 32 Crew Street, Normanton, Derby.

He worked on the railway, in the Round House, in the days of steam trains.



Frank with his son, also Frank. Frank junior was in the Royal Navy on national service.

Siblings

Frank Monk,

Mary Miller nee Monk, Kevin Millers mother.

Catherine Lunn, nee Monk, A.K.A Kitty.

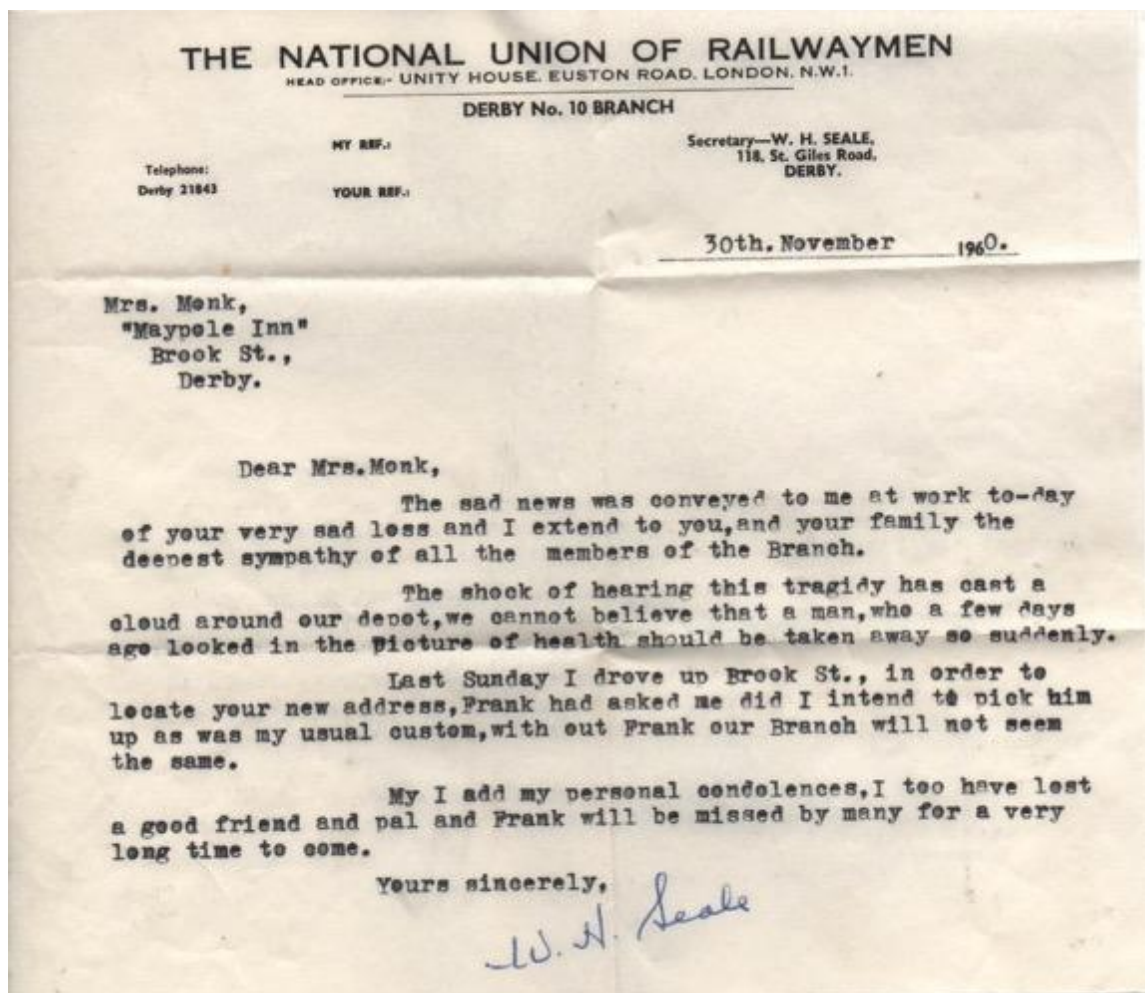
Frank, like most service men never spoke of the war,

The only story he ever told me was, they over ran a German trench.

A German soldier was buried by an explosion, his arm was sticking out of the trench, which Frank and his mates used to pull themselves out of the trench, until the day when the arm was pulled off.

The worst part of his war was in Gallipoli.

Frank was a great Union man; he worked hard for the Union and was well regarded.



Frank Junior was by now the landlord of the Maypole public house in the West End of Derby; Frank senior lived with them. Frank junior then moved to the Saint Helens, which is now called the Five Lamps.



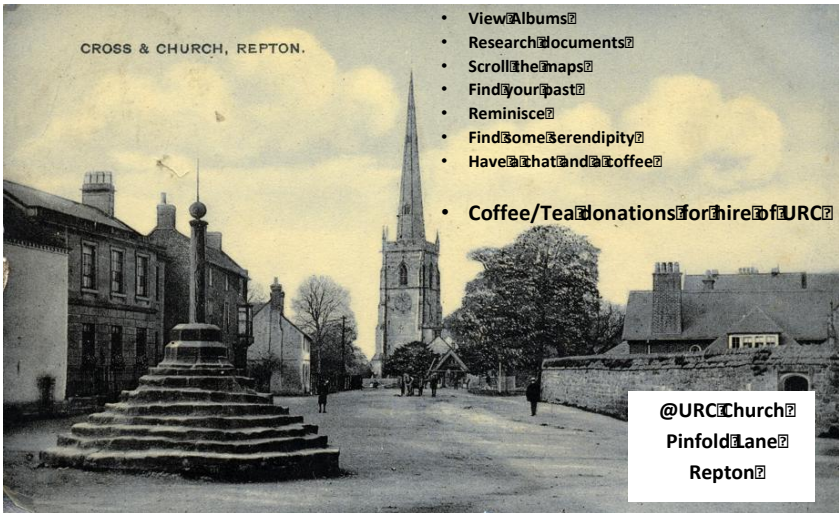
This newsletter is stored within the RVHG web page under Newsletters, see the links at the beginning. Please if you have any interesting articles please let the RVHG know and we can support or display.

We have recently just trialled our 1st archive day at the URC, which was quite successful but would like to see more people over the next two occasions, see poster for times and dates. It's a great opportunity to see some of the archive material including maps, etc. There will be different material each time so even if you have been before you should see something different next time. It is a great chance for coffee and a chat. Please come along.

Just recently we have been awarded some funds to support our archive storage improvements from Repton Parish Council, which is great. There will be a process to follow to get our archive into a more manageable state, if anyone has skills in this area or would like to volunteer please let me know or a member of the RVHG.

Repton Archive Days Saturday Aug 15th & 12th Sept 2026

10am-1pm Free Entry



- [View Albums](#)
- [Research Documents](#)
- [Scroll the Maps](#)
- [Find your Past](#)
- [Reminisce](#)
- [Find some Serendipity](#)
- [Have a Chat and a Coffee](#)
- [Coffee/Tea Donations for Hire of URC](#)

@URCChurch
Pinfold Lane
Repton