

REPTON VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER- ISSUE 37 - Autumn 2012

1. At the moment the monthly meeting programme is as follows:

2012

September 18 th	Richard Farman - 'Napoleonic Prisoners of war in the East midlands'.
October 16 th	Dr Wendy Freer - 'Pack Horses and Pack Roads.'
November 20 th	Shirley Horton - 'Derbyshire Adventurers and Explorers'
December 4 th	Social and Ian Hingley - 'Why the Norkies came to Burton.'

The 2013 programme is almost complete - just a speaker for November next year to book and a few details to sort out.

All meetings are, as usual, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm (except July and August).

Members and visitors welcome to all meetings and visits.

Admittance remains at £2.00 for members and £3.00 for visitors and includes refreshments.

2. **Email addresses:** To save costs of postage - now a significant part of the membership fee, we would like to use email or hand delivery as much as possible of newsletters and other materials. It also means we can consult you and inform you of more items than is currently practical except through the monthly meeting.

If you could send an email to Andy Austen on austens@talktalk.net then it would be most helpful.

3. "Campaigns"

3.1. The gun mount on Jeremiah's Walk

Roy Ward brought this mount to our attention. It will be under the footprint of the new Science Priory. An approach was made to the Bursar asking if it could be moved to a nearby location and perhaps a plate affixed explaining what it was. It took a little effort to confirm it was a gun mount and not a surveying marker, but we found a similar example on Wikipedia. The Bursar took a spade to it and discovered it is set in a large concrete block that may be too big to move without breaking it up. However, we remain hopeful. Roy Ward, Keith Thompson and Marjorie Boddice all confirm that no gun was actually mounted there - except possibly for Home Guard practice.

3.2. The Cross.

3.2.1. Repeated damage by large lorries to the pavement surrounding the Cross has led to a proposal to reduce its size. We made known our concern that the island should not be over-reduced as that might threaten the Cross itself. The decision is to move the bus stop - thus limiting the reduction in size of the island.

3.2.2. The proposal by the Parish Council to put a cross on the Cross has been discussed. We communicated to those planning it, the general feeling that it would unnecessarily change what has become an icon of the village.

4. The Archive:

4.1. Recent additions include:

Bunty's notes on the War graves in Repton cemetery and information about the pilots.

The Ken Ash paper archive box and folder

The Austen's box of bits

The Repton Scout and Guide Archive - very much a work in progress.

The Derbyshire Family History Society's monumental survey for St Wystan's.

4.2. The listing project has completed its initial task of re-listing everything and is moving to create detailed descriptions of the contents. As well as a paper listing, this will provide

a digital index - searchable by names, events and keywords. Members desiring a copy should contact Andy Austen.

4.3. We have been able to help a number of enquirers including:

- A Canadian relative of Francis Bamford benefited from family research done by Janine Appleby and we were able to provide more information from the Archive.
- A relative of Catherine Fox (Head of the infant's school about 1905) found useful information from the archive and we were able to provide a photograph via the Capital of Mercia booklet.
- We were contacted by Mr and Mrs Fulton who have donated the final account book and other bits from the Repton Felon's Society. Mrs Fulton's father - Tom Collier - was their treasurer. The family lived in Kelston Lane (opposite the Stone House on High Street). We were able to provide photos of Tom's entries in the CE School registers.

5. Projects:

- 5.1. We have been able to organise a reprint of the Repton Trail and the booklet 'Remember the Blue Bus'. Renewed activity with the Post Office has resulted in increased sales and this will help support our programme of speakers and project work.
- 5.2. Shirley from the Post Office reported that she has many requests for a village map, local walks and a brief history of the village. The village society plan to publish local walks and the map of the village designed by Ken Ash in 1983 has been scanned and we have brought it up to date. It has been approved by Pauline Kingman (Ken's daughter) as she is the copyright holder. There is an intention for us to start writing a visitor's history.
- 5.3. Ken Ash's slide collection is being scanned by Alan with future support from Andy. So far Alan has done just over 100 out of about 1000. Some of the slides are already beginning to deteriorate and scanning makes them durable and available for digital projection and the like. Ken also donated his slide projector (which we have had electrically checked) and his taped commentaries.
- 5.4. Transcription, by Margaret, of the audio tapes held by David Guest, continues slowly.
- 5.5. Repton's bells. This research was triggered by the anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the founding of the 6th bell at St Wystan's and revealed a more complicated picture than was expected. It seems that the 3 largest bells (the 6th, 7th and 8th) were present before about 1550 but the 7th and 8th have since been re-cast. The founder of the 6th (Richard Brasyer) died in 1513 and so that is the date assigned to the bell. However, it now seems that the bell was likely to have been cast by his father and so the bell could be before 1469. On the other hand, a mark similar to the Brasyer's mark moved to the Leicester Foundry "after the reformation". If our 6th came from there, then it could be as late as 1605. More work is needed to settle this properly.
- 5.6. Scouting and Guiding. We have gained some information from Scout HQ and from an archive that came up on eBay but which went to a cartoon film maker in New York. To that we have been able to add David Beasley's recollections and a lot of information from papers rescued from destruction. Photograph albums and other memorabilia have been donated and the Austens will be able to add to that in due course. We have some Guiding items, but need more. A timeline has been constructed. Naming of people in the photographs continues.
- 5.7. At the archive evening, we listed a number of local projects that we might want to undertake. If any of them appeal to you, please let Andy Austen know.
 - Farm Houses:
In spite of its early ecclesiastical importance, Repton has been an agricultural community from earliest days right through to today. The Farm Houses were

important places but we are in danger of losing track of them as they are demolished or converted.

This project would involve identifying the local farms and farm houses over time, locating them, and documenting what remains and any history that can be established by searching existing studies, the census returns, old maps and using local knowledge.

- Scouting and Guiding:

Scouting may well have started in Repton before the generally accepted founding date of 1st August 1907 but the first official Scout Master's warrant in Repton seems to have been issued in December 1910. Repton School had a troop in 1924 but it wasn't officially registered until 1928 by which time there was at least one other in the village. The history is patchy and a bit confused, with up to 4 separate entities at one time. A search through the Parish Magazines is one source of information.

- Beating the Bounds:

Where exactly is/was the Parish Boundary and are any of the markers still in place? Parish boundary maps are available and we have some information in our archive. Likely to involve walking.

- Footprints:

We have some early maps and it would be interesting to relate the buildings shown on them to the modern structures. The best map is probably Wyatts of 1762 but there are others too. By measuring distances off a modern, large scale map we can confirm (or otherwise) the accuracy of the scale on Wyatt's and then compare them using distances from a common datum point like The Cross, to relate the buildings shown on each map. So we can establish what once lay under the footprint of the modern buildings. This might also help locate the Tithe Barn properly

- The Tithe Barn:

What we call the tithe barn (by the arch) is nowhere near old enough to be medieval and so it'd be good to definitely determine the location of the real article. Thought to be between Askew Grove and Milton Rd (possibly in garden of No 44 Askew Grove), There are clues on the Wyatt map of 1762 and in Asterbury's diaries.

- The 1911 Census:

We have census returns for all years including 1911. For this last one we need more work to organise the census entries in the order they were made so as to re-construct the Enumerator's route and so put family names to buildings. This can be done in two parts - one is going back through Ancestry (or similar) to establish the sequence and adding a sequence code to the entries. This is very much backroom work. The other is working out the route and then the houses - which will probably involve walking round the villages.

- Snapshot in time:

Setting off in an organised manner to make a photographic record of Repton and Milton in 2012. Making records of buildings and sites likely to change.

- Future history:

Anyone interested in social history will understand how valuable a diary or contemporary notes can be. So in 100 years time our successors will probably appreciate a record, made by villagers now, of a year in their life in the village.

- Village Families:

To research some of the history of long established Repton and Milton residents (with their approval and assistance). Using census records, birth, death and marriage records, Parish Records, wills

- Enterprising Repton:

To research the history of the shops of Repton and the pubs and other industries - blacksmiths, bakers, basket weavers, bootmakers, printers, garages We can use census returns, trade directories, Parish Magazines, existing archives.

- Repton at War:

We have very little information about Repton in the WWII years. Can you add to it with reminiscences, photographs or documents that we can copy? What about the Home Guard? We know that Mrs Argyle ran the Home Guard office, but who was in the Guard? It seems the Parish magazine may not have been published during the war. Interviews with the more mature members of the community should help.

- A visitor's history of Repton:

There have been a number of enquiries about the availability of a simple but lively potted history of the village for visitors to use.

There are many resources to support this and the finances to publish it are likely to be in place.

- Updating the time line

Ken Ash used his considerable draughtsmanship to create the Repton timeline, but it stops in the 1980s. We have a digital copy and ask if it should be brought up to date or should this be done from the future with a clearer recognition of major events? Is there a volunteer?

- Interactive timeline:

We have a digital version of the timeline and by adding hyperlinks we could provide the ability to click on them to bring up more information about the topic in question or link to existing documents, displays, photographs or even websites.

6. Ten minute talks

This is an opportunity for members or contacts to talk for just 10 minutes or so on any topic of their choice - but ideally on local history. For those less comfortable with doing this, it could be conducted 'interview style'. Four such talks with questions etc will fill the hour usually taken by a speaker. Please put your thinking caps on!

7. Bits n pieces

- CDs with 13 Jpeg photographs of the Ken Ash Timeline are available from Andy.
- Unfortunately the take-up for the Leek Embroidery Guild visit was insufficient to make it worth their while and so we have cancelled it. However Rowena Lovatt will come and talk to us on the subject next year.
- A good number of members and visitors went to Donington Le Heath Manor House for a guided tour which was well received in spite of the appalling weather. Richard Knox was very knowledgeable and his guidance was greatly appreciated.
- Richard Wain gave an excellent talk in Bretby Church on the history of the village. A large estate containing several parishes and (over time) a lovely Victorian Church on the site of the much earlier one, a castle, mill, sunken road, manor house, coal mine, 2 schools, and a station for the Earl of Chesterfield. Disraeli was fond of the Countess and spent some time in the village. A surprisingly well connected place.
- John Ward has guided 3 walks this summer. These were for the National Forest Walking Festival, Nuthall History Group and the U3A.

8. Membership

The paid up membership numbers are slightly reduced from last year. It's benefit to the group is that it gives us a confident income which helps to cover insurance and the cost of storing the physical archive. The entrance fee and raffle just about cover the cost of speakers and the village hall, while sales of publications just about cover operating expenses such as postage, printing and display and storage items.

Membership also offers members a net reduction in cost of entrance.

If you haven't already paid up, please do so!

For further information or for comments, please contact Andy Austen - Secretary - on austens@talktalk.net or 01283 702448.