



# Repton Village History Group Newsletter

## Spring 2017 (20<sup>th</sup> March 2017)



Presumably the clocks spring forward on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> March because it's the start of the first week after the equinox which is on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Or is it because it's less of a problem if we forget at a weekend?

### The ongoing programme of talks:

March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Members evening - Chris Pegg: "Wooden box part II" and Paul Heapy: "Two Fields".
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Arnold Burston - "Robert Sherbourne, Bishop and Diplomat" - local boy made good.
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Mee - "Bradshaw's and an early railway tour" and our AGM.
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Cat Jarman - the 2016 and 2017 Vicarage garden archaeological digs.
July	Visit - Newark Castle and Civil War Museum - yet to be confirmed.
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Visit - Melbourne Hall and gardens (afternoon visit)
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ivor Sandars - A History of the Derby Telegraph
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Stone - "The Luttrell Psalter".
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	Colin Stewart - "Calke Park and estate - the archaeology".
December 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.

### Change in membership date:

Just a reminder that membership renewals were now due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Our constitution gives you 3 months to get round to paying - but after that membership will lapse. Any committee member will be glad to help you renew.

**Sad to note:** We offer our sincere sympathies to Maggie and family following the death of Hugh Davies. Hugh was a member of the History Group and a published historian. He had a great interest in the code breaking work of Bletchley Park and he and Maggie enjoyed the pleasures of cruising through his lecturing.

### Help needed please:

It's a while till our AGM in May, but we do know now that by then we will need help in running the group. We will need both a publications officer and a treasurer at least. So if you feel able to take on either of these roles please let us know.

### Walks n Talks:

We have already given one talk - to Tha Engliscan Gesithas - an Anglo-Saxon society - and they will be visiting Repton later in the year. We also have a walk n talk booked for the Ridware History Society in May and Willington History Group have a booking for 2018, but we won't be able to confirm that one till much nearer the time.

### Possible test pit survey:

We mentioned in the winter newsletter, that we are considering a survey of the historic core of the village using as many 1 metre square test pits as we can manage. One objective is to try to identify any Anglo-Saxon or medieval parts of the village. I'm delighted to say that Rachel Atherton has agreed to be our professional archaeological expert on this and she, hopefully along with Alastair Willis, will also provide expert interpretation of any objects that folk have found locally that may be of archaeological interest. Alastair is the portable antiquities Finds Liaison Officer for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Some funding will be needed and it is intended to apply for grants for much of the inevitable costs. We do have a few people with skills in archaeological excavation and, funding permitting, training can be given to others. We need about 3 or 4 people per pit. One or two to scrape away, and others to sieve soil, record finds, run errands and make tea. If we are to do this then we will need to commit to a programme of work and the people to accomplish it. If you think you might be interested then please do get in touch.

### The dig in the Vicarage garden:

Plans are already being made for the Bristol University team under Cat Jarman and Mark Horton to come back in June this year - this time for 3 weeks. Hopefully they will address our June meeting again and maybe there will be an opportunity for another site visit.

### **Ideas for summer visits please:**

Although Myddleton House and Papplewick Pumping Station were not chosen for last year, a number of members took advantage of special openings to visit them. Soho House is still on the table, but we need new ideas for this year please.

### **Family History Enquiries:**

We have still to find time to visit the Record Office at Matlock to hunt for Dawn Poxon's grandparent's dates of death for their tree in the Repton memorial arboretum. We were not able to add much to the Kiddyder/Kidger story but were able to put them in touch with Charles Proud who has a large database of Repton family names and recognised Kiddyder among them. Since then we have had enquiries about much more recent families—the Tomlinsons and the Kestins. We have been able to provide some very useful information and provide connections to knowledgeable village folk who remember them. Our latest quest is about the Harrison family and we have been given loads of photographs. We may be able to get some names at the village party.

### **Heritage Listing:**

The Local Neighbourhood Plan is about to be put forward for consultation and approval and we were asked to contribute a list of historical assets for Milton and Repton which form part of the heritage of the villages. The idea is that the plan would afford them some protection. We understand other examples exist, but have not been able to find one to guide us. However, something has been produced, and it identifies the historically and archaeologically important areas of Repton and Milton, historic open spaces (that define individual communities) and listed and other significant buildings. A bit of a debate remains as to whether our footpaths should be included. They are certainly very old and were an important feature of village life.

### **Archive listing:**

Work on this has stalled right now. There is still plenty more to do, 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 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the way through and likely to finish in March 2018. Shelagh Wain has been promoted from labelling Ticknall pot sherds to counting and categorising flint objects – impressive!

### **Medieval Priory Mill:**

We are in the process of writing up everything we know and our theories on the mill's location. More survey work is planned to try to understand some curious results and explore new possibilities, plus further research into typical medieval mill water systems, and their interaction with fishponds and mill pools.

### **Medieval Tithe Barn:**

The house being built to replace 22 Milton Road is coming on well now and we do still hope to get a glimpse under parts of the back garden when it is landscaped. However, we have also been granted permission (in principle at any rate) to carry out a resistivity survey in the garden of number 18 (there is no number 20). This is raised above number 22 and more level so might have been a better site for a barn.

Certainly Astbury records in 1843 a village understanding that the barn was "co-eval" with the Priory. However Barbara Foster is concerned about which manor owned the land and how it came into the Harpur's possession and when. More research into could reveal that it is post-medieval.

### **New item for our bookstall:**

Just to remind you that we have re-published the Repton Historical Map as an A5 postcard. This follows a request for a small version from the post office and the bright idea of putting a postcard outline on the back. It costs no more to send but offers much more space for the message than the usual post card size.

### **For Sale:**

#### **William Fraser's 1947 book "Field-Names in South Derbyshire"**

Tim Jeffercote from Uttoxeter is clearing out part of his book collection and has this volume for sale. The book is in good condition and is complete with (slightly torn) dust cover. His late father-in-law obtained it from Chris Shepherd at the former Needwood Book Shop in Burton back in the 1980s. He is asking £10 for it. Please let a committee member know if you are interested.

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.