



Repton Village History Group Newsletter

Spring 2020 (20th March 2020)



After the Spring Equinox, on 25th March, comes Lady Day which, until 1752, was New Year's Day for legal purposes. As a Quarter Day it was a time when rents and taxes would be paid.

The start of the tax year on April 6th is a vestige of Lady Day – but after the calendar corrections of 12 “lost days” are applied.

A reminder that membership fees (£6 per person - children free) are due from January 1st 2020. John Kidd on 01283 701991 will be delighted to help you renew.

The ongoing programme:

Our next meeting will be on March 17th in the Village Hall Committee Room and Rob Davies will be explaining what he has found by metal detecting and what that might mean to us in terms of locations of settlement and camps – and hopefully Roman activity – we are sure there was a high status Romano British establishment here. Rob featured on Cat Jarman's Channel 4 TV programme last year.

Future dates:

We plan to continue meeting on the third Tuesday in alternate months: March 17th, May 19th (AGM), July 21st. At our May meeting Alan Dale will talk to us about the re-building of Appleby Magna School. Christopher Wren designed the new buildings in the relatively new style but it was rejected locally – a bit too advanced! However, he was involved in the ongoing project.

We have arranged a visit on July 11th to St Mary and St Hardulph's at Breedon on The Hill with local history speaker Richard Stone. There was a Benedictine monastery founded here slightly after Repton's and at least one King and 3 Saints were recorded as buried here. It was a Roman or Romano British site before that and an Iron Age fort before that. As at Repton, the monastery was destroyed by the Vikings in 873/4 and there was a later medieval Augustinian Priory of which the church is the last remaining portion. It was dissolved about the same time as Repton.

We are planning a visit in August to St Saviours at Foremark and St Michaels at Willington. This completes the circuit of Trent-side churches that we started last summer. St Saviours is totally original and was built in 1662 and one of the first built after the reformation and replaced the Ingleby church which had fallen into disrepair. St Michael's origins go back to the 1100s with changes made in the 1200s and again when heavily modified by the Victorians.

There are plans for further resistivity surveying (in better weather) on the Warehouse Field, by Repton Brook and by Tanner's Lane. Once a suitable plan of St Wystans has been created then the graffiti survey can continue.

Paddock Wall

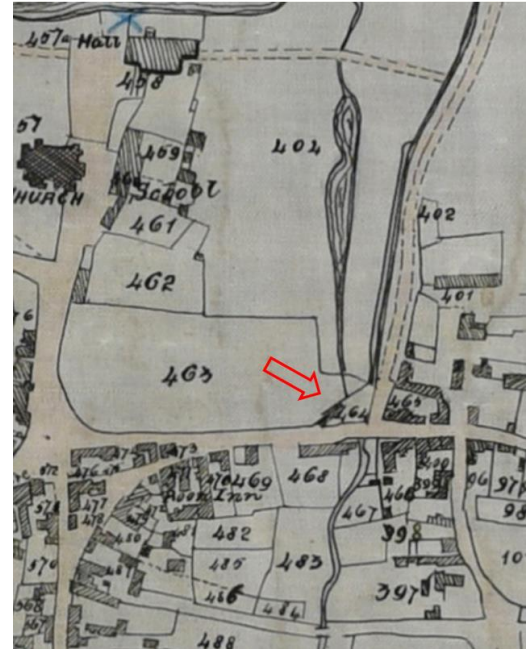
In our work in the Repton School Archive, Keith Foster and Margaret and Andy Austen are working their way slowly



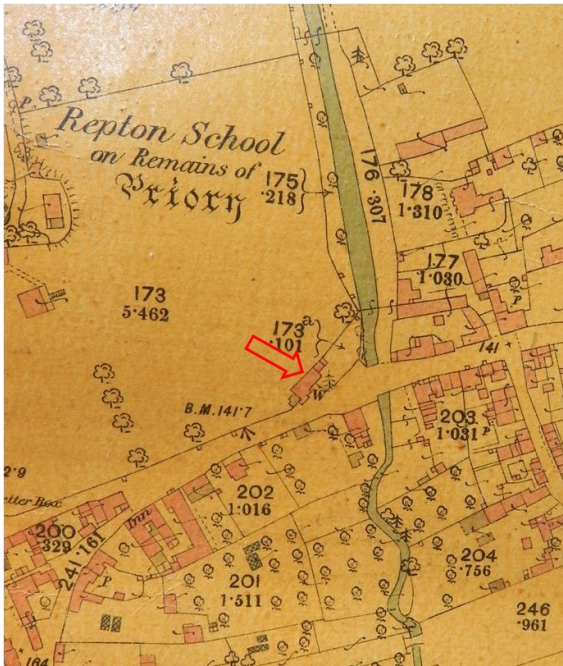
through every page of every document while Russell Fisher is like a truffle hound seeking tasty items. One such is the cottage shown here and probably photographed about the turn of the century. Initially thought to be Peach's yard, we realised it is actually built close to the School wall at Brook End. This is an area referred to as Paddock Wall in the censuses and Dam Garden in Bigsby's book. Notice how, to the left of the cottage, the wall turns sharply to run behind it. This is clearly visible on all maps up to and including the 1901 edition.



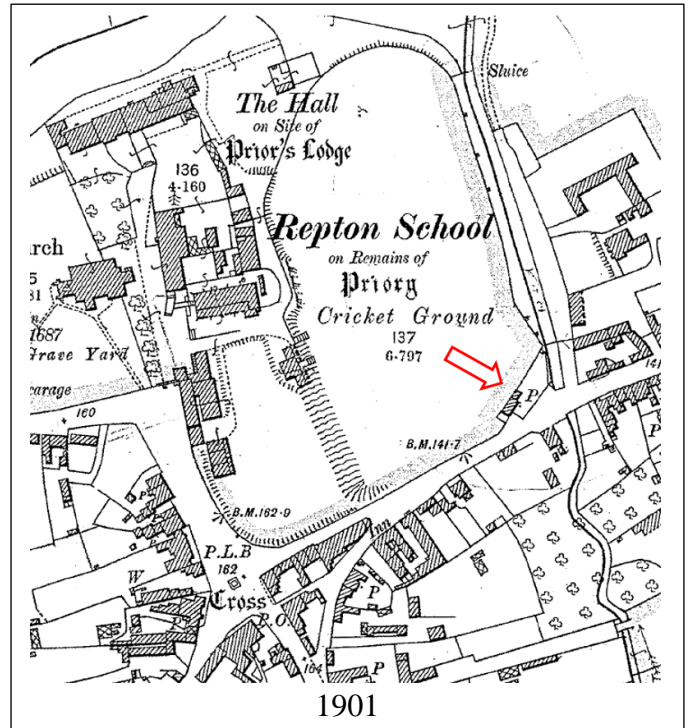
1762 with a pool, ford and footbridge.



1829



1881



1901

The 1871 and 1881 census returns both mention Paddock Wall and if you follow the enumerator's route, he visits the Priory before Paddock Wall and Brook End immediately after. In 1871 there is quite a community at Paddock Wall with George Eaton a clog maker, his wife and 5 children, and next door is a basket maker, then a laundress. Next is a butler, then a charwoman and lastly a seamstress. The next entry is for John Eaton a blacksmith in Brook End. The assumption is that this is over The Brook and where the Groom's still have the forge. 23 souls in all. By 1881 this is down to 3 dwellings and 10 people and in 1891 there is one unoccupied dwelling and one with just Emma Eaton there. By the 1901 census there is no mention of Paddock Wall nor the Eatons. In 1904 the school bought the land, demolished the dilapidated cottage and in 1905 rebuilt the wall in its present position.

Various Ancient Sites.

The situation of the Mill once belonging to the Priory, and afterwards to the Thacker family, is indicated by the name of a spot called the "Dam Garden," on the south-west side of the "Paddock," and the old arch still remains through which the supply of water was admitted. "It now" (observes an obliging correspondent) "forms part of the back wall of Mr. Eaton's pent-house, being built up to form a portion." "Symenell Lane" bears record of

We see the same families in 1861 as in 1871, but no mention of Paddock Wall. In 1854 Bigsby calls the area Dam Garden and describes Mr Eaton's house as a penthouse (lean to against the school wall). The enumerator did not include street names on the 1851 census.

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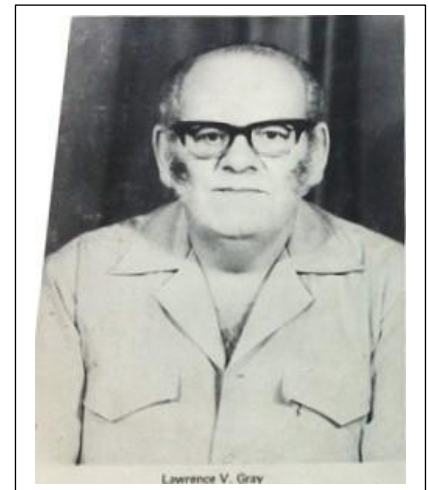
The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of		City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or (Improvement Commissioners) District of	Eccelesiastical District of		
Repton		Repton				Repton		Repton		
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.) or Building (B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	whether 1. Deaf-Blind 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
						Male	Female			
30	Repton Priory	1	William R. G. Mr. Bagshaw	Head	Mar	25		B.A. Cantab. Classroom Assistant	Repton	Wormhill
			Alice K. Bagshaw	Wife	Mar	20		Schoolteacher	Repton	Goodrich
			Thomas Bagshaw	Servant	Single	21		Barlow Man	Repton	Southwell
			Sarah Ann Bagshaw	Do	Single	23		Cook	Repton	Worcestershire
31	Radford Hall	1	George Eaton	Head	Mar	46		Clay Worker	Repton	Repton
			John Eaton	Wife	Mar	40			Repton	Repton
			Mary Eaton	Daughter	Single	15			Repton	Repton
			Frederick Eaton	Son	Single	10		Scholar	Repton	Repton
			John Harry Eaton	Son	Single	8			Repton	Repton
			Francis George Eaton	Son	Single	5			Repton	Repton

1871 census

Return of Pepel – an astonishing coincidence:

Gordon Johnson is a well-known source of information on Repton from the early 1940s onwards and was given a recently published book celebrating an anniversary of the More House School in Frensham in Surrey by his son Andrew, the Bursar there. He lent it to friend and neighbour John Kidd (our Membership and Minutes Secretary) who was amazed to find a whole page on Pepel the monkey and Lawrence Gray. They have featured in our two previous newsletters. It may be that Lawrence was responsible for catering at the Moore House School before coming to cook for Priory House in Repton. If so, we need to rethink the dates they were here and do some more investigation. We do know that Pepel died while he was here. There is a photograph of him with Pepel on his arm and if we can get the appropriate permissions, we will reproduce it with a more comprehensive tale next time. Meanwhile we have stumbled on this photo of Lawrence from an unknown source – possibly a book cover.



The 1921 census and others – Margaret Austen writes about the censuses:

Those of us who like family history, are eagerly awaiting the release of the 1921 census. For me, this will be the last I will see, and here is why.

The 1920 Census Act states that a 100 full years have to elapse before details are released. This is to do with confidentiality and the promises made at the time of the Census. So it will be 2022 before we see the 1921 Census. Find My Past won the contract and is transcribing and preparing the 1921 Census and will duly release it in January. It was due to be taken on the night of 24th April 1921, and the forms were printed and ready but the Black Friday strike by coal miners, railwaymen and transport workers intervened, and the actual Census was taken on the night of Sunday 19th June 1921. The census returns were damaged by water whilst stored at Leonard Street and then taken to Somerset House for drying and then racking.

The 1931 Census was taken on the night of 26th/27th April. All statistics were collected, the Government of the day informed of the total population of England, Scotland and Wales (Ireland has a totally separate Census), and the papers stored in the Office of Works warehouse in Hayes, Middlesex, which was also a furniture store. Unfortunately during the night of Saturday, 19th December 1942, an extensive fire broke out in the Warehouse in Hayes and destroyed all the 1931 census records (apart from the Scottish census that was safely stored in Edinburgh). And here is a mystery. Although it was during the War, the cause was not a bomb. All reasonable precautions had been taken to ensure the safekeeping of these documents. Special hydrants had been fitted to the store and the premises were being guarded by 6 paid fire watchers. Yet the ferocious fire destroyed everything. A report into the fire the next year suggested that a lighted cigarette from one of the fire watchers might be an explanation, but there was no proof and no action was taken.

Just before World War II the Government realised it had no idea who lived in the country and the 1939 Register was taken. It was used to control ration books and so was very complete. It was not a census and so not covered by the 1920 act and was released a while ago but redacted where an entry might be for a living person.

In 1941 all were a bit busy and there was no census.

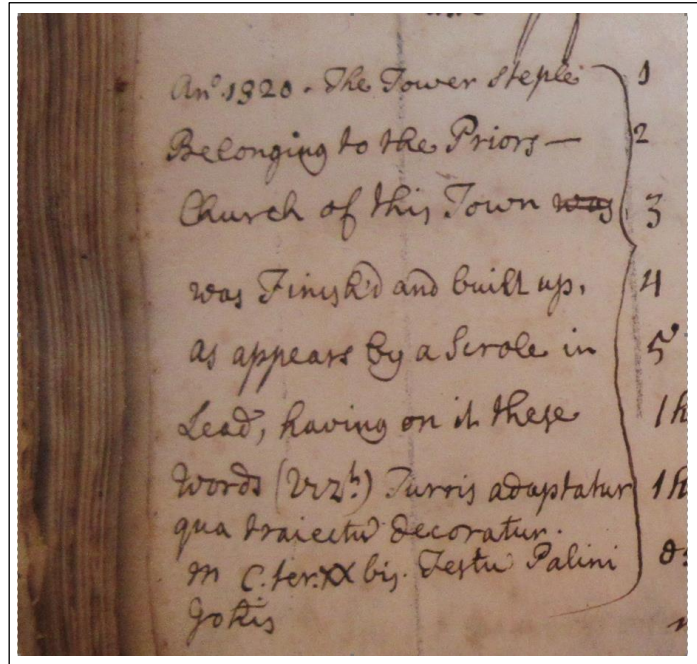
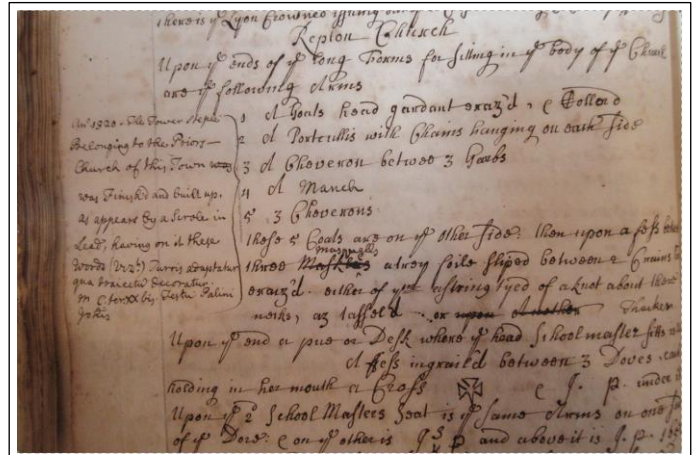
The 1951 census was next, and will be released in 2022, but by then I will be pushing up daisies, and so the 1921 census is the last I will see, making family history more difficult and challenging as time goes on.

It is entirely possible that after the 2021 census there will be no more as the government believes it can get all the information it needs from other sources. The moral of the story is, make some notes for later generations NOW. However brief, they will be clues for those following on and available in spite of policy, flood or fire.

Bassano and the date of the Tower and Spire.

As discussed in the last newsletter, in 1710 Francis Bassano (a Derby resident) visited many Derbyshire Churches and wrote a book "Derbyshire Church Notes" which is in the archive of the College Of Arms in London. He records seeing a lead scroll in the Prior's Church dating the Tower and Spire to 1320. This was assumed to mean the Parish Church as it is in the section clearly referring to St Wystan's and the Priory church was demolished some 150 years previously – though there were still some ruins. However the reference to the Prior's Church does cast doubt. Added to this is Dr Harold Taylor's assessment that stylistically, the tower can be dated as early perpendicular i.e. the early 1400s. However, additional buttressing was required in the 1400s and the tower's style may have been brought up to date at that time. So a trip was made to the College of Arms in London and the handwritten pages in Bassano's book photographed. Sadly we are no clearer.

Curiously, Bassano says that "An^o 1320 the Tower Steple belonging to the Priors Church of this town was finished and built up as appears by a scrole in lead having on it these words *Turris adaptatur qua traiectu decoratur M C.ter.XX bis Testu Palini Gotis*" This second date is expressed as a curious mixture of forms and can be interpreted as either 1340 or possibly 1322. Not 1320. Bassano was a heraldic painter so may not have been classically educated. His knowledge of heraldry is evidenced in his text by the use of technical terms and his records are mainly of monuments and heraldic devices. The memorials he records inside St Wystan's were clearly very different in 1710 from the present ones.



Copper Beech Tree

Sadly the Copper Beech beside the School Chapel has now been felled. The operation was interesting because the chaps with the chain saws were suspended from a large crane and lowered into the branches just as storm Ciara was developing. Although still vigorous, the tree had long been infected with fungi which caused it to become potentially dangerous. A tree of a different species will be planted close by to replace it. Some 8 or 9 generations of villagers will have admired this tree and watched it grow.



Repton Steam Laundry:

At our January meeting volunteers were sought for transcribing some of our documents. We have originals of the Laundry deeds and photographs of many many others. We don't have all the deeds for the laundry, but before they go for secure storage at the Derbyshire Records Office, we needed to photograph and transcribe them. Josh Roberts volunteered to help with transcription and so we photographed them all and he took on the earliest two (which are the most difficult to read).

The story is interesting. The laundry was built at the far end of the Tanyard - on the left of the causeway as you head to Willington. It was built by Dr Henry Frederick Meyer Ph.D, a German who, in 1890 aged 38, became an Assistant Master at Repton School and, along with his Austrian wife Leopoldine and their 4 children, became naturalised British citizens in 1893. The family lived in the large thatched cottage opposite the vicarage until 1894 when a spark from a passing traction engine ignited the roof. It was replaced by the brick-built Red House. This was the first occasion the school's new fire appliance was used.

In 1897, Meyer leased the tannery site from Marianne Holbrook and her grandson Francis George Holbrook. Marianne and her husband had been the tanners until they retired in the 1860s when it is likely the tannery closed. The lease was for 60 years and the rent was agreed to rise steadily with the years. There were two wells available to the laundry – St Ann's well a little farther west but channelled under Tanner's Lane and St Thomas's Well which is now under the all-weather sports pitches. It was advertised as Repton Steam laundry and boasted of an "unlimited supply of purist spring water" and "extensive drying grounds in beautiful meadows open to the sun and air". There were pits nearby (now under the sports pitches) which were used for settling the dirty water from the process before it drained back into the Old Trent. Not always successful for they were reported for polluting the river and killing the fish in 1905.

In January of the next year (1898) Meyer mortgaged the laundry for a sum of £1000 at 5% pa with John Grover but in April he sold it to Henry Kidd from a very well to do family in Melrose in Scotland for just £10. Kidd took on the remainder of the lease and the mortgage.

In July Meyer resigns his position at the school and in August he vanishes. Locals turned out to search fields and woods, but he was not found. Local rumour had him in Australia with a sister. Leopoldine and the children ended up in Desford Terrace on Milton road. She seems to have been financially independent and their son Charles was a boarder at the school. On subsequent censuses she said she was married – not widowed.



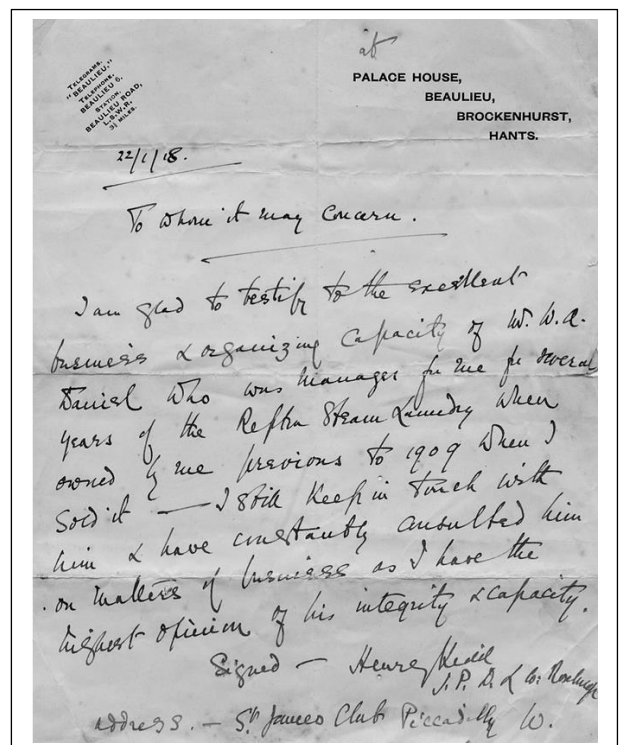
about 1905 Kidd brought in Mr William Daniel (a fellow member of St James's Club, Piccadilly) to come and sort it out. In this he was successful and he took on the management of the business till 1909 when he bought it. He married Murial Smith, a Willington lass, in 1908 and they too lived in the Red House. The Laundry was relaunched as The New Repton and District Steam Laundry Co., Ltd in 1910 and by 1911 the Daniels were at Laurel Hill at Wood End, which may be where in 1915, daughter Rosalind was born. She became Ros Hudson who many will remember. Later the Daniels lived on High Street and William died in 1937. Murial died in 1958.

Ros recalls that when she was young, there were 3 horse drawn drays collecting and delivering laundry from Burton, Melbourne and Ashby as well as local villages. They were driven by Mr Marriott, Mr Wellsby and Mr Press. Later motor vehicles

Henry Kidd had a connection with Repton in that two of his sisters ended up here – one married Rev Gurney who was a teacher at Repton School and ran one of the boarding houses.

In 1899 E C Bayston was appointed manager and in 1901 the mortgage was transferred to Mr Birch and then in 1903 Kidd borrowed £3000 at 6% from the Premier Investment Company and paid off Birch. In 1904, he transferred the mortgage to Rowland Pickering – a London lawyer.

Things cannot have been going too well, because



were used and in 1962, Russell Fisher worked with them in his first job on leaving school.

At some point the business was acquired by the Lichfield City Laundry Co. Ltd which appears to have gone into administration as a receiver was appointed. The premises were offered for sale by auction by Messrs Neale and Aldridge of Birmingham at some point prior to 1967 and Repton School were interested in acquiring some of the land for £300. The governors proposed to make an offer of £1000 for the entire site but the receiver was looking for £7,500. Then J H Fryer Ltd (builders) intended to buy the site and the school approached them to buy the field they were really interested in. Fryer withdrew when their plans to build a woodworking factory were rejected. Much toing and froing went on and in October 1971 it seems the receiver accepted an offer of £1500. It is not clear at this stage if the original 60 year lease on the land had been renewed or bought out.

In 1973 the buildings were demolished which enabled the school to build the squash courts and playing areas it had long planned.

Many Repton folk will have worked in the laundry and it will be good if we can capture some memories.

Archaeology

It is uncertain if there will be a dig at the Vicarage this year. Cat does not have funding and needs time to catch up with analysing and documenting earlier work and, of course, has work under way on the artefacts volume of Prof. Martin Biddle and Birthe Kjølbye-Biddle's work in the 70s and 80s. However, Derbyshire Archaeological Society have requested that the site have a heritage listing and that could constrain what archaeology can be done in the future. The listed status is being proposed to acquire formal recognition of the importance of the site and that sets the context for the river valley below. We have repeatedly protested against the valley from Anchor Church through to the Willington Bridge causeway being included in the aggregates extraction strategy because of its relationship with Heath Wood, a probable Viking camp at Foremark and the important Anglo Saxon and Viking activity at Repton.

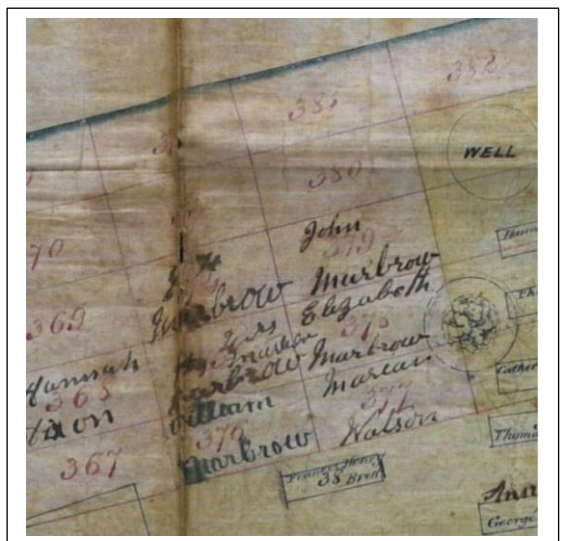
There is still much to learn about the history of the riverside fields and the islands that were there. Palaeochannels are still visible in the ground (especially as flooding subsides) and clear in the Lidar. Human bones and Viking and other artefacts have been found here in the past and we still don't know what The Buries were about. A comprehensive survey would be good with resistivity, drone based surveys, core samples and other techniques leading to trial trenches and a good understanding of the history of the land and its role. Maybe beyond our scope as a local history group!

Helping with enquiries.

We had an enquiry from Jim Marbrow. The Marbrows were a significant farming family in Repton with many links by marriage to other local families and Jim had comprehensively researched them. However, the burial place of his great great grandmother Elizabeth eluded him. They ran the brickyard in Newton Solney and she is recorded as dying there. So St Mary's in Newton Solney was the obvious place but there don't seem to be any burial records. Fortunately, Martin Flowerdew had located a graveyard map for St Mary's in Newton Solney and when it was put into the Derbyshire Records Office, they provided a high resolution scanned image. Scouring this image revealed a group of 5 Marbrow graves including Elizabeth who is buried near to her son-in-law John and Mother Miriam Watson. Elizabeth's husband John Marbrow was born in Brook End Farm and married Ann Hopkins, daughter of William Hopkins whose family had the brickmaking business.

We have long had an interest in Richard Marbrow Ward who was a cousin once removed of John Marbrow and ran the Star Inn and had the Star and Mitre built as a hotel (now Repton School's Cross boarding house) and we had much correspondence with Jim on the families. Richard had taken over Brook End Farm which later, Bertie Warner's forebears were next to take on.

Coincidentally, at about the same time, Alisa Stucky contacted us via the church hoping that we could help her find the burial place of her GGG grandmother Bertha Ann Ward Grattidge. Sadly we could not and the story that began to emerge was not a happy one. We did provide her with a copy of Bertha's father's will (John Whiting Ward). Bertha was sister to Richard Marbrow Ward and we were able to put Jim Marbrow and Alisa in touch as there was clearly a close connection between their families.



Derbyshire Archaeological Society.

This 140 year old Society has nowadays got sections specialising in Archaeology, Local History, Industrial Archaeology and Architecture. There is a programme of talks, usually on Friday evenings in St Mary's Church Hall on Darley Lane, off Duffield road and above St Alkmonds way. Occasionally they are in one of Derby Universities lecture theatres. Parking is free and easy at both locations. You do not have to be a member to attend these free talks, visitors are very welcome.

13 March – Archaeological Research Group at St Mary's Church Hall

Section AGM followed by a talk entitled KING ALFRED THE GREAT AND HIS RESPONSE TO THE GREAT HEATHEN ARMY By John Arnold

When Alfred was born there were still four Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms but by the time of his death only Wessex survived with its own Anglo-Saxon royal household. This talk will examine why Wessex under Alfred was able to survive against Viking incursions whereas other states failed.

20 March – Local History Section at St Mary's Church Hall

Section AGM followed by a talk entitled POACHING IN THE 19TH CENTURY EAST MIDLANDS by Dr Rosemary Muge
Poaching was endemic in 19th century East Midlands, at a level which equalled or exceeded that in the great poaching counties of the south and east. Night poaching was of great concern to the landed gentry and poaching affrays were common. Details of activities in Derbyshire in particular will be given.

27 March – Architectural Section at St Mary's Church Hall

Section AGM followed by a talk entitled THE SURVIVAL OF CHURCH ARCHITECTURE by Professor Janet Spencer
At present, our cathedrals and churches have never been better cared for. The Speaker will take us back to earlier times to ask questions about how attitudes to our medieval heritage have changed over the centuries. Why was it that by 1800 many great buildings such as St Alban's Abbey and Rochester and Hereford cathedrals were on the point of collapse and many small parish churches falling into ruin? Some restoration was carried out in the 1700s, but what inspired architect James Wyatt (1746-1813) in his reparations at Lichfield and Canterbury to sweep away much decorative work and demolish chantry chapels as 'excrescences'? How did change happen and what was the context for the great revival movement of the 19th century, leading to much rebuilding and restoration, not all of it the most sensitive kind? At Melbourne, shortage of funds constrained George Gilbert Scott to do only what was necessary, unlike his work at St Alban's Abbey which stood 'transformed as a complete specimen of 19th century work'. To end on a positive note, the survival of church architecture today looks brighter.

3 April - Industrial Archaeology Section at St Mary's Church Hall

Section AGM followed by a talk entitled THE DERBY - SANDIACRE CANAL : PAST AND FUTURE by Chris Madge
The Derby Canal was engineered by Benjamin Outram and opened in stages between 1795-7. It was closed in 1946 and lay part derelict until the setting up of a Trust. The speaker, from the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society, will recount the canal's history until its closure and progress towards its full restoration including their endeavours to reconnect the Erewash canal to Derby and the river Trent.

1 May - society event at St Mary's Church Hall

DAS Annual General Meeting followed by a talk entitled TRACING DERBYSHIRE'S MONASTIC GRANGES IN THE LANDSCAPE by Mary Wiltshire and Sue Woore

The speakers are well known for their landscape studies of the Duffield Frith and the Medieval Parks of Derbyshire. Their latest research on Derbyshire's Monastic Granges, recently published, is the cumulation of many hours of field walking, together with a study of maps and documentary sources.

STOP PRESS:

Thanks go to Chris and Elaine Colbourne who represented us at the Village Hall Mapletree Café pancake toss. They did well but there were some very competitive staff from Repton School who out tossed them and the event was won by a pupil from St Wystans School.

Happily, they were supported by Shelagh and Sue who cheered them on.

To make comments or for more information, please contact Andy Austen on 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.

Published programmes for other Local History Groups: (We no longer offer a programme of talks ourselves)

Willington History Group

(7.30pm, The Old School Willington – second Thursday in the month)

APR 9th – “Derbyshire in the Jacobite Rebellion” Brian Stone. How Bonnie Prince Charlie`s invasion failed at Swarkestone.

MAY 14th – Visit to Rolls-Royce Museum. Please note - this will be an afternoon visit starting at 2.15p.m.

Melbourne Civic Society

(7.30pm, Assembly Rooms High St Melbourne, 01332 865760, Guests welcome. Members £1, non-members £2.

pamadams56@yahoo.co.uk)

Mon Mar 30th - A.G.M. followed by a talk on Derbyshire Castles by Robert Mee

Etwall and Burnaston History Group

(7.30pm, Chapel School Room, 01283 730287) Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom, Willington Road, Etwall DE65 6HX and commence at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome at all meetings

(admission £3.00) Further details: Pam Kerby (01283 730287) sandypits.kerby@btinternet.com

21st April - Ladybird Books by Paul Newsham

19th May - A.G.M. followed by talk on Markeaton Park by Linda Proud

Hilton and Marston History Group

(hiltonhistory@gmail.com, Methodist chapel, Main St. Hilton DE65 5FF 7.30pm £3.00 - 01283 733069)

2nd April Transportation and beyond. John Barnett

7th May No meeting due to the VE day 75th anniversary the following day

4th June Mary Queen of Scots - The road to Fotheringhay - The final instalment 1584-1587
David Templeman

2nd July Catherine Cromptons diary. Stephen Flinders

6th August No meeting

3rd September Local residents talk

1st October Abbots Bromley Horn Dance. Abbots Bromley Nostalgia Group

5th November Robert Bakewell Ironsmith – the man who created the birdcage arbour at Melbourne Hall and his craft. Richard Stone

3rd December Christmas Quiz with a difference 2. Paul Newsham

Aston on Trent Local History Group

(astonontrenthistory@gmail.com £2 over 18s. Children free 7.30pm in the War memorial Hall)

March 24th Rev'nd Tony Luke: Parson, Preacher, Priest - Church and Society 1700-1900

April 28th Vaughan Wheatley: This is Alvaston Castle

May 26th To be Announced :

June 23rd Nigel Heldreich: The History of the Memory Box - A mix of traditional craft and stories

July 28th John Whitfield: New Light on Edward and Mrs Simpson

August: NO MEETING

Sept 22nd Peter Liddle: Houses of the Hastings - an archaeological tale or two

October 27th Steve Aynsley: Alvaston Old Hall - little known local history

November 24th Bob Neill's Bits and Bobs - back by popular demand - but what are they?

December: NO MEETING