



Repton Village History Group Newsletter

Spring 2021 (20th March 2021 – 9:37 GMT)



Membership: This is renewable at the start of each calendar year but our constitution gives people till the end of March to pay their subscriptions. Thank you to everyone who has already paid up, but time is running out. John Kidd is our membership secretary or you can pay on-line to account number 05851238 sort code 60-12-01 (Repton Village History Group). Please include your name so we know who you are. Contact details at the end of this letter.

If you are not currently a member but would like to be, then to cover GDPR aspects you will need to complete a membership form please - available via the email address on our website or see end of letter.

The subscriptions cover insurance, storage of the archive, archiving materials, administrative and display expenses and the hire of meeting places.

We have a separate archaeology fund to service our test-pit survey which will be adequate until we need to pay for professional help. We also have a reserve which is to enable us to acquire maps, books, photographs and other items if they appear. The recent Cronk family album is an example.

The ongoing programme: In the Winter Newsletter we had hoped that we might be able to have a proper AGM in May this year, but it looks now as though we will either have to delay it till later in the summer or settle for another one by email and post.

We have ambitions to explore more of the area around Finney's Dock and the site of the old orchard near the Buries. There are lumps and bumps and at least one old well in the area. Lidar, resistivity surveys and walking the area are likely to be involved. We think we can do the surveys while suitably distanced from each other.

Once we can safely do so, we will be re-organising the postponed visit with Richard Stone to St Hardulph's at Breedon on the Hill - hopefully in this summer. Contemporary with Repton in many respects and also troubled by Vikings. Meanwhile, Richard is offering free on-line talks on YouTube. His second lock-down series is now available https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLysK6_yf7ZHjs5DsD_5Anw

Another source of free monthly talks is Ashbourne Heritage Society on <http://ashbourneheritagesociety.org.uk/sample-page> If you want to watch one on Zoom then email ashheritagesoc@gmail.com and they will email you the link.

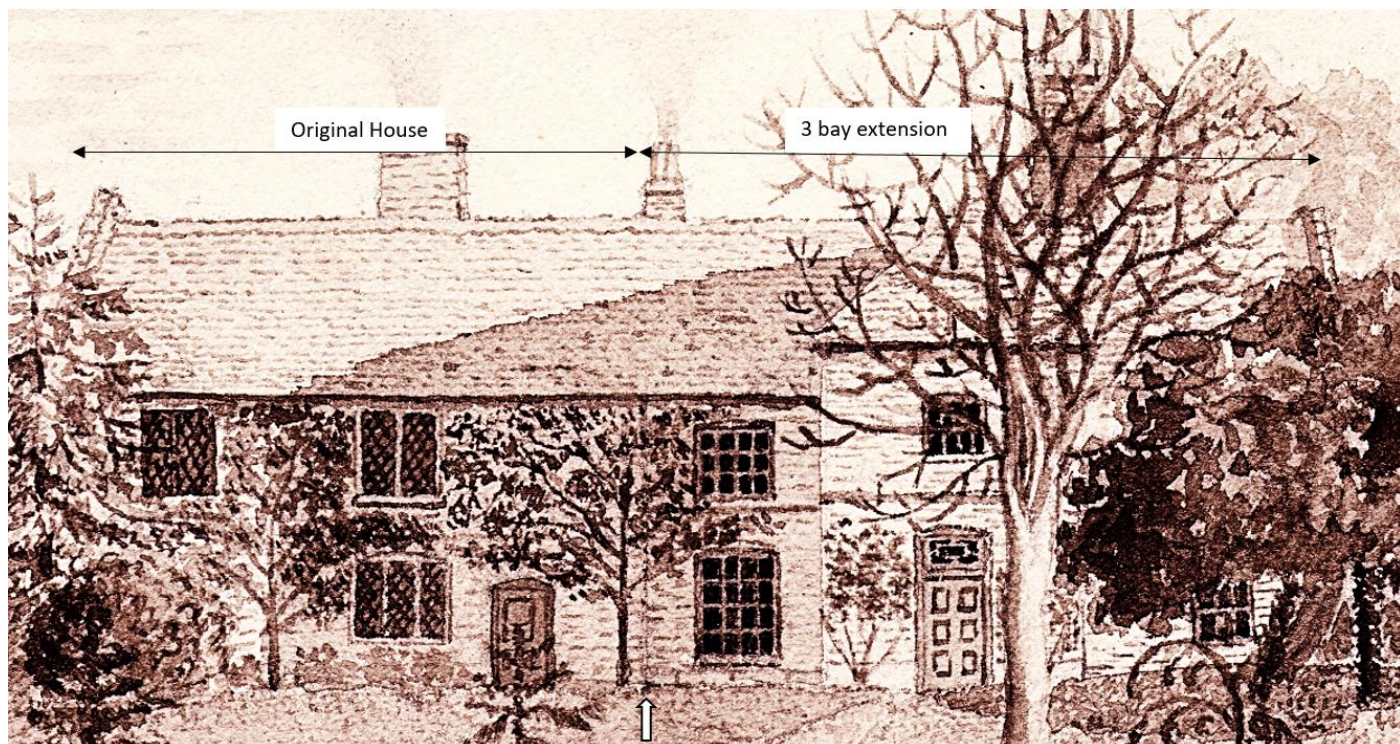
Derbyshire Archaeological Society are also making their talks available (free) but you have to book via Eventbrite if not a member. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/derbyshire-archaeological-society-31723953003>. They have Archaeological, Industrial, Architectural and Local History sections so there is a wide variety.

Our Archaeological activity: We had quite a deliberation about the possibility of test-pitting in 2021 as it has a dramatic effect on the cost of our insurance. In the end, we concluded that it was unlikely that we would get much achieved because of the uncertainty of the Covid 19 restrictions, possible hesitation of potential participants and the fact that it would be too late a start to get everything organised and training done even when restrictions are much eased.

However, out of the blue, the Scout Association in Derbyshire has introduced an Archaeologists Badge. It is actually quite demanding and does involve taking part in practical activity. So we have offered to organise test pits for the Repton Group. They would have to provide the garden and 4 youngsters and we would provide a couple of adults to supervise and assist plus the kit, some training and the recording booklets and expertise. We have members who are also in the scouting movement and so are covered in terms of insurance and DBS. We have enough kit for a couple of pits at a time. So this could be good for us and the Scouts.

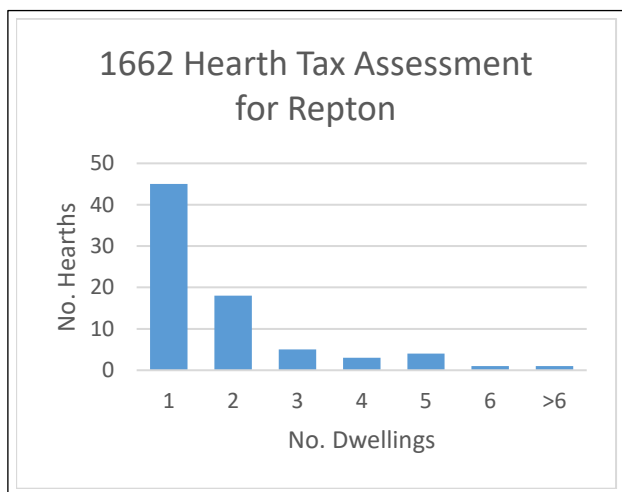
Bower Hill – Hearth Tax and more:

In our article in the last newsletter, we concluded that the current Gothicised building that is Bower Hill is effectively an extension of the original house which was built for Godfrey Thacker before 1654 – probably as his marital home. Checking the 1662 hearth tax assessments revealed that it had three hearths. This is above the average and, if it was before the 3 bay extension was added, had a good number of hearths for a relatively modest building. So, possibly, the extension is slightly earlier than we previously thought.



Godfrey Thacker's house before it was extended and Gothicised in 1876.

The most hearths listed in the 1662 assessment survey belonged to Gilbert Thacker at Repton Hall with 13. Mr Rathbone had 5, Mr Ullock (Headmaster) 5, Hugh Turner 5 and Mr Roades had 6,



Gilbert Thacker (13 hearths) was our Godfrey's brother and married to Jane Burdett. As the first son he would have inherited the hall from his parents Godfrey and Jane (Neé Harpur). It was their descendants who continued to own the building until the school took it on. Gilbert and Godfrey were great great grandsons of Thomas Thacker who acquired the Priory lands after the dissolution in 1538.

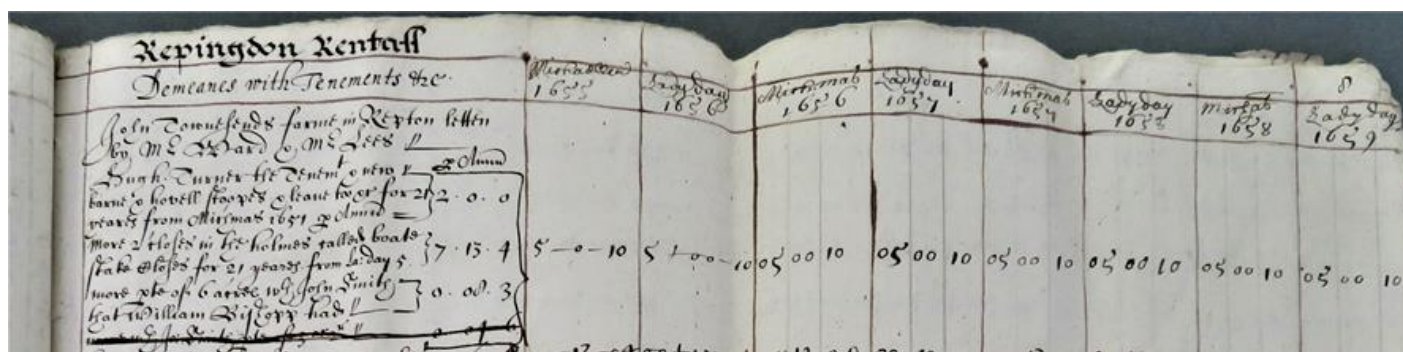
Thomas Rathbone (5 hearths) was an "under school master" at Repton School (2nd Usher) from 1655 till he died in 1666 and though we don't know where they originated, his wife had a number of children here in Repton. He was a graduate of Trinity College Oxford and ordained in 1665. We have identified 3 children: Elizabeth in 1659, Samuel in 1661 and Mary in 1664. He was buried in Repton on 9th

February 1666. At this time, the entire school was in the Prior's Guest House building but there was a dwelling for the 2nd Usher across the yard by the churchyard. It is possible that the 5 hearths were attributable to him even though they may mostly have been in the school and not his house.

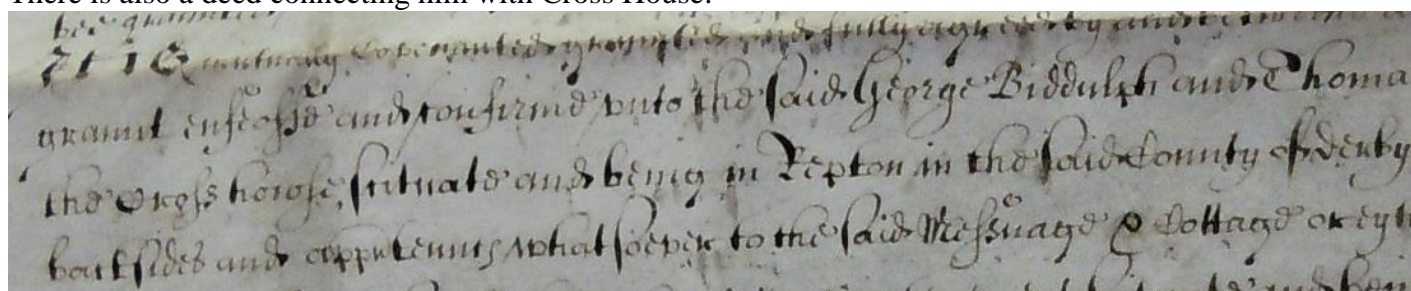
By 1662 **William Ullock** (5 hearths) was headmaster at Repton School and lived in the north end of the school in the Priory Guest House. He had started as 1st Usher having been an Old Reptonian himself, and gained his BA at St John's College, Cambridge in 1629. His wife (Prudence) had a daughter Dorothy while in Repton. William died on 13th May 1666. It is possible that the Rathbone's and the Ullock's 10 hearths accounted for all those in the school.

The **Turner** family in Repton can be traced back to the early 1500s. In 1662 at the time of the hearth tax, it was extensive with several branches. A number of the (male) offspring attended Repton School - which was free - but the families were relatively humble - shoemakers and labourers. **Hugh Turner**, son of Richard was

baptised 9th of December 1627 in Repton and, now 35 years old, was taxed for 5 hearths. Charles has provided references to more Turners in Repton and it is going to take a lot of work to try to fit them together into families and generations. These items include an entry from the Harpur rentals which shows him occupying 3 plots and paying a total of £5 -0s - 10d rent twice a year from 1655 – 1659.



There is also a deed connecting him with Cross House:



Which Charles transcribes as:

And first the said Francis Ward for the consideration aforesaid doth by these presents granted, enfeoffed and confirmed unto the said George Biddulph and Thomas Weat and to their heirs and to the heirs of the survivor of them all that one messuage or tenement commonly called or known by the name of the Cross House being and situated in Repton in the said county of Derby and also all that cottage or tenement situated and being in Repton aforesaid (now converted into a barn) And all houses, barns, buildings, stables backsides and appurtenances whatsoever to the said messuage and cottage or either of them belonging or appertaining. All which said premises are now in the tenure & possession of the said Francis Ward & one Hugh Turner or one of them or one of their assigne or assigns.

Unfortunately, we don't know for sure which was Cross House at that time. The present Cross House was built in 1875 by Richard Marbrow Ward as the Star and Mitre Hotel. He had overstretched himself and it was sold to the school in 1800. His name as licensee is still over one of the windows.

In 1662 **George Roades** (wife Dorathy) was Minister at St Wystan's. We don't know where the Vicarage (Rectory? Parsonage?) was, but it had 6 hearths. We know of two sons who went onto Clare College Cambridge and both became Vicars. Josiah was Vicar of Alstonfield and George, Rector of Blithfield and then Checkley and possibly Vicar of Repton. Josiah gave 3 pieces of silver to St Wystan's including, in 1713, communion plate. Both attended Repton School. There were three daughters: Lydia, Hannah and Susannah. There was also an earlier un-named child buried in 1649.

Much of the above information has come from Llewellyn Simpson's transcription of the Parish Records from 1578-1670. What is particularly interesting is that George Roades is included in the list of Vicars of Repton but identified as Presbyterian - definitely non-conformist. Richard Finch points out that this was a troubled time. Mary Tudor (Bloody Mary) set out to reinstate Catholicism and many protestants escaped to the continent. At the start of the reign of Elizabeth 1st they started to return and some campaigned for reform of the church organisation from within its ranks. The story is involved but parliament managed to exclude the Bishops from voting in the House of Lords in order to get legislation through and 12 Bishops were imprisoned on

LIST OF VICARS OF REPTON	
Between 1578 and 1680.	
c. 1584-c. 1596	... Richard Newton, Curate.
c. 1598-c. 1606?	... Thomas Blandey, B.A., Curate, Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, and Usher of Repton School.
1602	... John Horobine.
c. 1610-1631	... George Ward, Minister and Usher.
c. 1631	... Thomas Allen, Minister.
1639	... Philip Ward, M.A., Christ's College, Cambridge (late 1st Usher).
1642	... Matthew Rodger, Minister.
1648	... Bernard Fleshwar, Minister (Presbyterian).
1649	... George Roades, Minister (Presbyterian).
1661	... John Robinson, Minister.
1663	... John Thacker, M.A., Minister.
1663-1667	... William Weely, M.A., Curate.
1680-1720	... John Choice, B.A., Christ's College, Cambridge, 1st Usher.

From Simpson's Parish Register

charges of treason. In 1643 a council (The Assembly of Divines) was called by parliament to decide on the structure of the church and a Presbyterian model was favoured. By the late 1640s nearly a third of parish clergy had been replaced by non-conformist ministers. However, on the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 an Episcopalian model was reinstated and by 1662 all clergy had to accept ordination by a Bishop and accept the Book of Common Prayer or leave. On St Bartholomew's Day some 2000 were removed from their posts (and often their homes) in what became known as The Great Ejection. These vacancies could not be easily filled and many continued to, illegally, preach and conduct baptisms, marriages and burials in the Parish Church or their associated Chapels of Ease - providing an important service to their communities. There is lots more on Wikipedia.

Flooding in Repton 1: For anyone brought up in Repton, flooding of the Trent Valley is remembered as a fairly common occurrence and frequently worse than we have seen in the last couple of years. Many will remember when the causeway was often flooded right across and we have photographs of Blue Buses struggling through quite deep water.

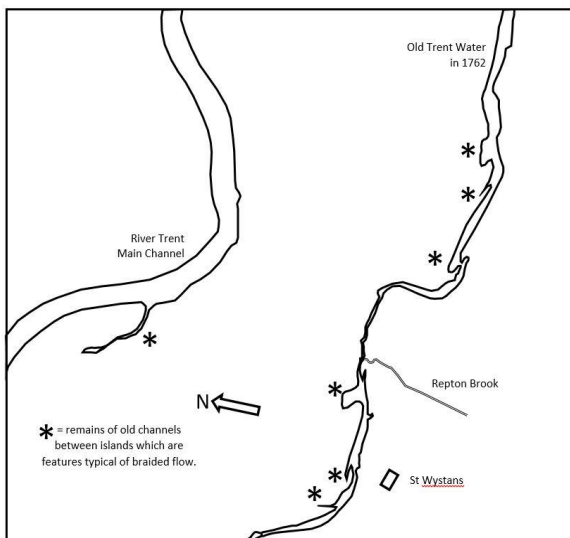
This is not just a recent occurrence. In 1880 there was a note in the Derby Daily Telegraph *“At Willington and Repton the floods of the Trent are very extensive... Communications between the two villages on foot is entirely stopped and it is only with considerable risk and difficulty that horses and traps can be got through the water ... In the lower parts of Repton the water is in the houses and causes much inconvenience”*. The bridge was opened in 1839 and in 1887 Sir Francis Burdett was asking the County to take on responsibility for the stretch of road between Repton and the bridge saying that *“when it was made into a good road a flood came and the whole was carried away requiring the entire re-making of the road”*.



But it may not have always been that way. There is some small evidence that flooding of the whole area was a much less common event in the 1600s and earlier.

The History Group's ongoing work on the Buries has come down on the notion that it was a Clapper – a nursery area for breeding rabbits for a wider-ranging warren. There are very good arguments for this but one obvious counter argument is that of flooding. Rabbits don't swim.

Studying the aerial LIDAR images, it is clear that by the river near the Buries there is ridge and furrow from ploughing in the days of strip farming. Indeed, the Buries consist of a rectangular ditch which cuts into the ridge and furrow. It is very unlikely that these areas adjacent to the river would have been farmed if they were subjected to frequent flooding. Ploughing these strips with oxen would have been a heavy investment of time and flooding would have destroyed the harvest. The artefacts found during a 1910 archaeological dig at the Buries were dated to a three hundred year period from the 1400s to late 1600s. Strip farming and rabbit breeding suggests that in that period and earlier, flooding was uncommon.

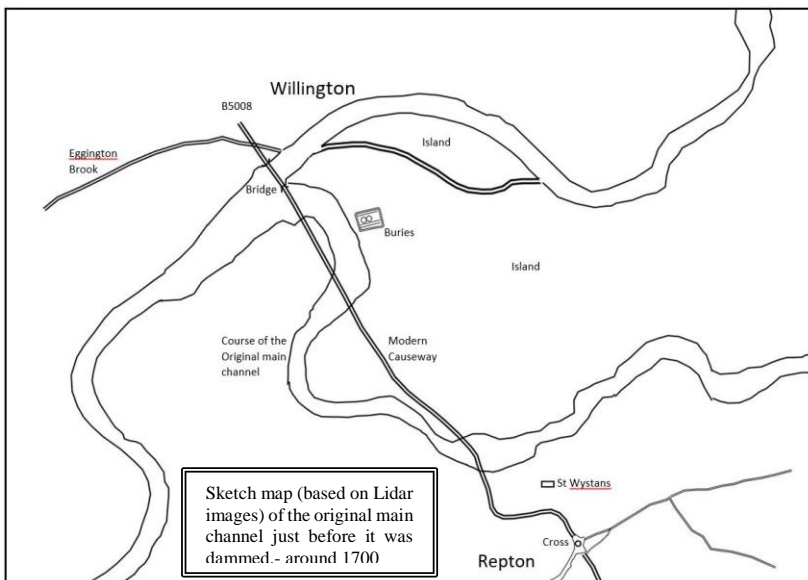


So what might have changed to cause the flooding we experience today?

In that 300 year period and earlier, the flow of the River Trent was braided - multiple courses between a number of islands. Maps of the Old Trent channel exhibit features typical of braided flow. The main channel came down from Newton Solney on the Repton side, and swung across to the Willington side in a big loop and back to Repton below the church and thence to Twyford. Here the minor channel around the north of the islands and through Willington, re-joined the main channel. There is also a water course right down to Anchor Church and it is likely that there was a channel along there too. With multiple channels the river may have coped with surges of flood water more readily.

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1699 to enable navigation of the river and the antiquarians record that a dam

Old Trent Water based on the 1762 map showing remnants of old channels between islands. These channels may only have existed at times of high flow and were likely to change course each time.

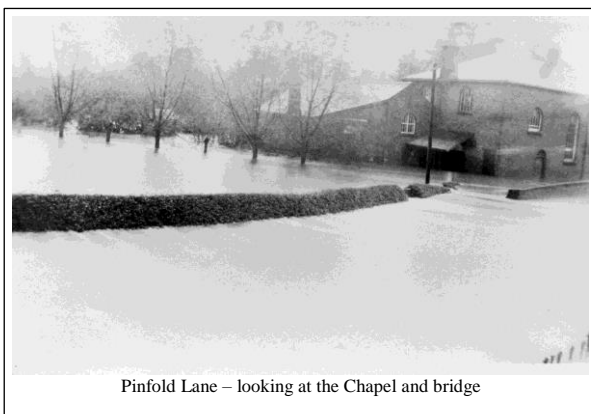


was built, close to where the bridge is now, to block off the Repton channel and force the river down the Willington channel. This was to shorten the route and Thacker at Repton Hall initially objected saying that the Repton channel would become just a stagnant pool. He later changed his mind and supported the plan. This damming accords with the latest dates of the artefacts from the Buries.

There is a record of a letter establishing that the Repton channel ceased to be the main channel by 1705 though we know it remained navigable for small craft till almost 1800. There is still sometimes a small water flow today but the multiple

channels between the islands and by Repton would have disappeared and would no longer be able to help in times of high river flows and, possibly, this is why we have had flooding in more recent times.

Flooding in Repton 2: Flooding of the causeway can be inconvenient because lengthy detours are required, but much more serious is flooding in the Village. There are 3 troublesome places: Brook End, Pinfold Lane and the Square. But the flooding in 2020 and again this year was relatively mild. The Square floods because Bamford's Brook coming down Well Lane passes in a culvert under the Square and into the Brook just downstream of the Chapel Bridge. If the Brook is high the Square tends to flood.



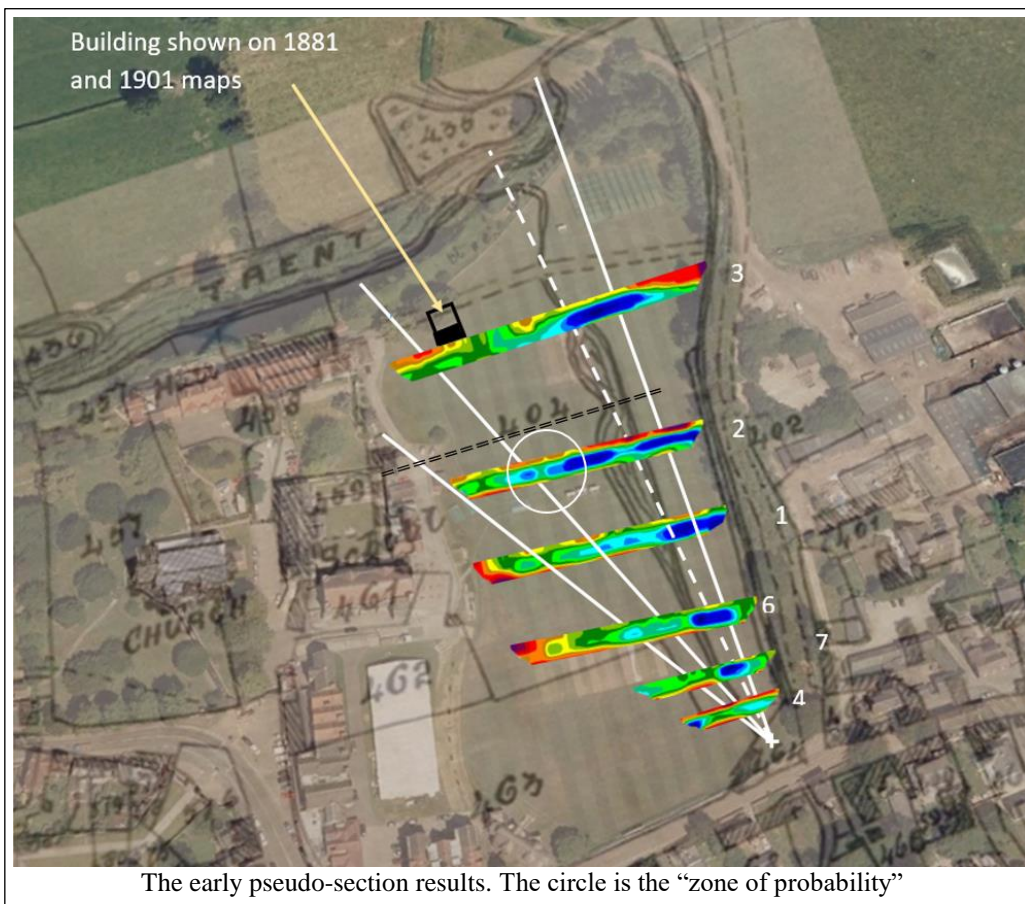
In 1932 a newspaper reported that there was concern about the dam at Lawn Bridge (Robin's Cross) "*there was a real danger of the dam giving way, and in the words of a Reptonian, "If that happens, God help Repton"*". It also records that "*Monsom Bridge, which carried the road near the Boot Inn to Milton, was mercilessly dealt with by the torrent, both parapets and a large portion of the roadway being destroyed, while gas, electricity and water mains and drains were exposed and broken.*" This is Brook End bridge.

Was it always thus? Possibly not. One suspects that if the Trent did not flood across the river meadows the Brook might not back up so much and the bridges might be able to cope better. Modern housing estates have holding ponds which catch the run off from heavy rainfall, and release it slowly at a rate the drainage system can cope with. Upstream of Repton were once 6 or 7 mills. Each of these had a mill pond whose outflow was controllable. Possibly, these acted as holding ponds that contained much of the heavy flow from Bretby and the Pistern Hills and released it slowly.

It would be interesting to work out just how big the ponds were and how many of the ponds co-existed. But even if a mill had gone out of action, the pond would probably still remain.

The Priory Mill – conclusion: On the website we are just about to add the record of the fun and games we had trying to work out if the mill really had existed and if so where it had been. In the end two things conspired: Documentary evidence that indicated that the mill was 10 yards west of the fish ponds and south of an entrance at the site of the cloisters, together with the results of building up a crude 3d map of the lower paddock using resistivity pseudo-sections. The Priory wall at Brook End bears a plaque stating that before the wall was rebuilt in its current position in 1905, the arch through which the Brook once passed was 9 yards to the north. The 1829 map showed remnants of the fish ponds and the pseudo-sections suggested 3 channels running from

about the place the entrance arch had once been. One broad channel coincided with the fish ponds, one headed for the priory domestic buildings and a third was between them and we decided this was the mill leat. There was a certain amount of sense in this. The Priory would need a steady reliable supply for cooking and other such purposes including sluicing out the necessarium. The fish ponds would need a steady but relatively slow flow and the mill would need a very intermittent but intense flow.



The early pseudo-section results. The circle is the “zone of probability”

Here, the 1829 map showing the fishponds is superimposed on Google Earth.

The surface of each section is in the correct place on the map and the coloured portions are the strata vertically underneath in resistivity terms. Blues and greens represent low resistance and thus wetter soils and ditches infilled with topsoil. We know that the gullies were finally filled in with rubble from the old priory church when the site was cleared for Pears School and this last infill appears as reds and oranges in the surface where the channels run. The reds on the left are the bedrock of the terrace..

From measurement of flow of the Brook (now running outside the Priory land) it was clear that its dynamic head was far from enough to drive a mill and a pond would have been needed.

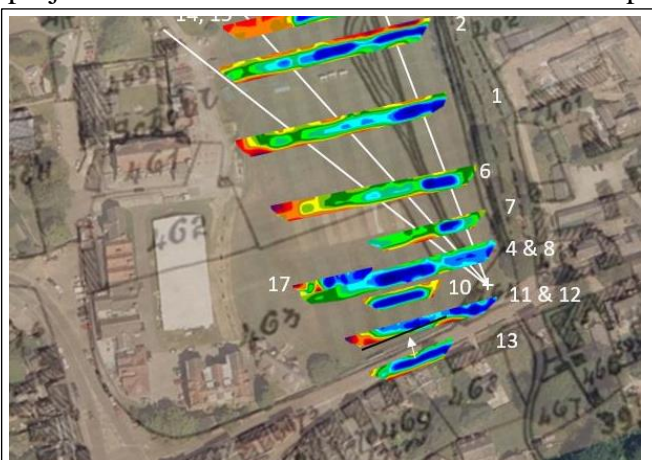
Since the report about hunting for the mill was written, further resistivity pseudo-sections have been made and it is clear that there was a good sized body of water right up near the Priory Wall and Brook End road. This must surely be the mill pond. As far as can be judged, it is smaller than some of the later ones upstream of the village, but still comparable with the one that was constructed in the experimental archaeology project at Guédelon in France and it offered the potential for a significantly greater head. What is not clear is

if the pond was once bigger with the road coming later or if they co-existed.

The original Priory Mill is mentioned in Domesday and was given to the Canons at Calke in 1120 and must have been built to service the needs of the Motte and Bailey castle. Unless, of course, it was Anglo-Saxon and survived the Viking overwintering.



The Guédelon Mill reconstruction



The pseudo-sections showing the location of the mill pond. The left hand white line is the Priory domestic supply, the right hand line is the fish ponds and the centre one is the Mill leat. The blue areas at the bottom of the picture are the mill pond.

The Guédelon

reconstruction is based on 2 early mills in Thervay. One is Carolingian say 800 AD, but the reconstruction is mostly based on the later one dated to 1050-1200

so a good match with the Priory Mill. Try: [Les origines de Guérande : \(inrap.fr\)](http://www.inrap.fr)

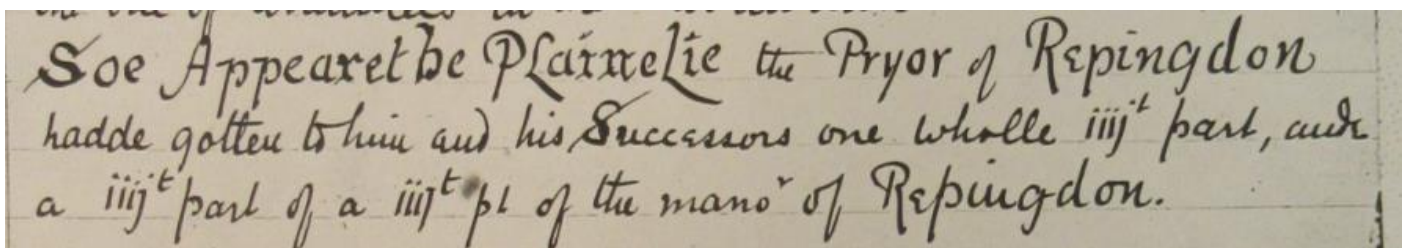
More work could be done in Repton. Ground Penetrating Radar over the “zone of probability” might confirm the existence of a structure but this is a little outside our abilities.

Helping with Enquiries:

- Someone asked for information on Barbara MacKerracher. He had "a charming watercolour painting entitled 'Tulips under the tree'" and on the back was her address at 52 Askew Grove. Seems she was a member of the Royal Dublin Society. A lot of people remember her son Julian and daughter-in-law Joan who lived in a bungalow just before Bendall's Farm on the Ticknall road. Joan and Sue Beasley ran Playgroup. We found almost no information about Barbara. A lady who delivered the Parish Magazine to her remembers a strong willed lady who shopped in Burton on an electric wheelchair and if necessary would sit outside a shop and toot her horn till someone came to serve her. She was born Barbara Bradsworth in 1908 in West Bromwich and her father was a wholesale fruiterer. She was living at 44 Gilhurst Rd at the time of her confirmation in St Peter's Harborne. In 1934, she married George (a GP who had qualified in 1922) and they had one son. George died in 1944. We believe she moved to Repton in the 1970s to be nearer her family and later moved in with Julian and Joan when more help was needed. She died in 1995.
- The Vicar forwarded an email from someone planning to come to Repton and wanting to see the Thacker graves in the churchyard. Again, there was little we could do to help. The memorials are actually all in the church for which there is no map. We were able to explain that the un-named bust over the crypt's northern entrance was of Francis Thacker, a London Lawyer, and that the other memorials are clearly marked.
- There was an enquiry via the Village Website from a member of the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust who was preparing a talk. He wanted to check if C S Rolls once studied engineering at Repton School and had stayed at Askew Hill. In our archive is an article by Betty Kitching which confirms that as an Eton College Pupil, he came here for tuition in Stevenson Peach's workshops at Askew House which also tutored Repton School scholars. The article was published in the Derbyshire Archaeological Society Journal <https://www.derbyshireas.org.uk/DM15-03.pdf>
- The Vicar asked us if we could trace living members of the Mugliston family. Father and son (both George) were important members of the Royal Sussex Lodge of Freemasons and were buried in 1853 and 1881 respectively. The lodge tends the memorials and work is now needed (which they are happy to pay for) but it requires family permission.

The families were extensive and we limited the search to the male line partly because it is easier, but also because after several generations, the ladies may not even be aware that they have Mugglistons in their parentage. We did find a modern lady whose maiden name was Mugliston and who has a son and daughter. We managed to find a 2018 address for her son and have written asking for permission for the work. We also found a related Mugliston now living in Saffron Walden and his wife has a connection with the parish church there. So we have asked the parish office if they would forward an email from us – again asking for permission. No answers yet.

State of The Manor of Repton. Listing some archive material from Pat Smythe revealed what turned out to be a photocopy of a hand produced facsimile by Rev F C Hipkins of a document dating from the early 1400s. It provides the equivalent to an abstract of title in modern deeds and Hipkins had borrowed the original from Sir Henry Bemrose. It explains how the priory came by the lands it owned from 1121 through to 1414. At the very end it concludes:



Soe Apparet be Plaxxellie the Pryor of Revingdon
hadde gotten to him and his Successors one wholle iiiij^t part, and
a iiiij^t part of a iiiij^t pt of the manor of Revingdon.

So that is 5/16^{ths} of the manor originally held by the Earls of Chester immediately after the Norman Conquest. The Earls actually held it as a complete entity for quite a time but marriage settlements and bequests upon death caused it to be repeatedly subdivided.

The story is interesting because it tells us a lot about the genealogy and the parts of the manor and mentions the gift of *the little xxxix of Revingdon* to the canons at Calke. Working out today's place names can be tricky. Losstescoe is probably Loscoe and Sudwudde is Southwood. Tyknall is easy.

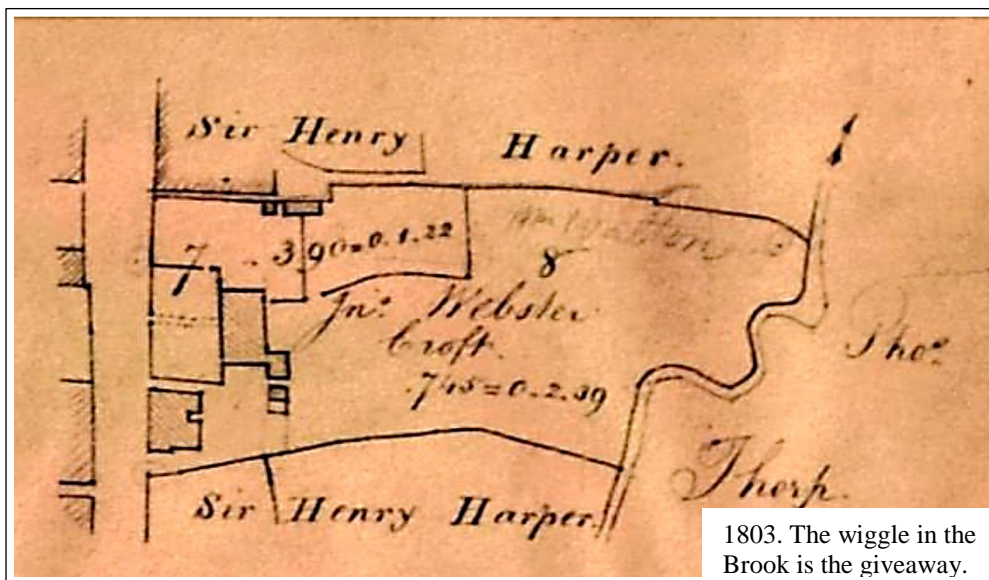
Just as interesting are some of the people involved. The first division of the manor included one part to John Scott who died without children and so it was split among his three surviving sisters. One was

Dennergulde who married John Ballioll of “Bernard Castle” who had a son (also John Ballioll) who became King of Scotland in 1292. Another was Isabell who married Robert de Brus - grandfather to Robert The Bruce who became King of Scotland in 1306. Sadly we do not know exactly which bits went to who. But we do know their relative locations.

Brook House: This significant building on High Street is now extended and converted into apartments and town houses. It was originally built by Rev’d Loraine Estridge who came to Repton School in 1863 and was on the staff till 1868 when he left to go to Malvern College. He bought an existing large building on the site and rebuilt it as Brook House. Providing accommodation for pupils was a good source of income for some of the staff. In fact it was his younger brother, Rev’d Edward Estridge, who was the first occupant, probably shortly after joining the school in 1866. By the 1871 census he was there with his wife, 7 servants and 23 boarding pupils. Twenty years later this had gone up to 30 boarders.

In 1904 aged 60, Edward retired with Elizabeth his wife to live off private means in The Square House, Abingdon, Berkshire and the school bought Brook House for £4,900. Elizabeth died in February 1910 and Edward in 1919.

After purchase, the school immediately got a local builder, Joseph Parker, to make alterations and extensions costing £1,578 15s. 6d. and acquired the cottage and croft to its south and a strip of land to its north. Conditions were fairly primitive – the earth closets were not replaced by water closets till 1925.



1803. The wiggle in the Brook is the giveaway.

In his research into the Bower family, Charles found an estate map from 1803 for Repton showing that in addition to Bower Hill, some land by the river and the Bulls Head pub, the Bowers also owned the Brook House site with a substantial house on it – presumably the one Loraine Estridge later rebuilt as a boarding house.



This is just as we find it on the 1762 map

On the 1803 document it is leased to William Walton a basket maker.

It was still owned by the Bowers in 1828 but came up for sale in 1829 and on the 1830 land tax assessment it is owned by Sir George Crewe and occupied by Thomas Walton. Sir George already owned the land either side.

Thomas died in 1831 and there is a Derby Mercury press cutting from 1835 for Mrs Walton selling up.

BY MR. ROWLAND BREAREY.

REPTON.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, China, Glass, Brewing Vessels, Barrels, Kitchen Requisites, Dairy Utensils, Invalid's Chair on wheels, Cucumber Frame, Garden Implements, &c. &c.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

By Mr. ROWLAND BREAREY,

This day Wednesday, September 26th, and to-morrow Thursday, October 1st, 1835,

On the premises of the late Mrs. WALTON, at Repton, in the county of Derby, sale to commence each morning at eleven.

The Furniture comprises small mahogany sideboard with three drawers and cellaret, mahogany dining, card and breakfast tables, mahogany chairs, chimney glass, sofa with pillows, carpets, oil clock, eight-days clock, mahogany book case with glazed doors, two sets of 4-post mahogany bedsteads with brass moreau furniture, eight sets of camp, tent, and half-headed bedsteads, scullery beds, hair and straw mattresses, blankets and coverlets, mahogany, oak, and painted chests of drawers, dressing and wash tables, night conveniences, easy chairs, dressing glasses, carpets, fenders and fire irons, quantity of china, glass, and earthenware, large cupboards and dressers, small and large barrels, brewing utensils, kitchen requisites, dairy utensils, coppers and waterworks, pump, ovens and boilers, garden roller, manure, &c. &c.

Catalogues may be had on the Premises; at the Mitre Inn, Repton; the Every Army, Eggington; and at the Office of Mr. R. BREAREY, 13, Corn Market, Derby.

Derby Mercury Sept 1835

The newspaper advertisement for its sale in 1829 provides an excellent description of the property. In this sale all the Bower properties in Repton were up for auction.

LOT 2.

A respectable and substantial Dwelling-House, situated near the centre of the Village of Repton, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Walton.—The premises consist of entrance hall, good dining room and parlour, four large and airy lodging rooms, three attics, and good cellaring; stable for two horses with hay loft over the same, large barn and yard; together with a neat pleasure garden in front, and a productive kitchen garden at the back of the house; also a valuable paddock of rich grazing land adjoining the premises, with a stream of water at the bottom of it, containing together 1 0 21

A Pew in Repton Church will be sold with this lot.

These premises are suitable for a family of respectability, or for a Ladies' Boarding School, which is much wished for in the Village.

We cannot tell who was there immediately after that, but it appears on the 1851 and 1861 censuses located just after Peter Meakin at the Star Inn (now the site of 37 High St) and just before the Oakdens (the cottage next to the R.B. Legion). It was occupied by Arthur Hewgill a medical doctor from Nottingham who trained in Edinburgh but was in general practice here. He died on 1st April 1868 which is just after the time the Estridge brothers had arrived in Repton.

At that time (and until after 1881) the land was still owned by the Harpur Crewe estate so the house was a leasehold property.

Charles has a little more on the earlier history of the house. Before the Walton's leased the house, it was occupied by Rev John Edwards.

In 1774 it was offered for sale for William Bower's lifetime (it was entailed). It appears on the 1762 map, and was probably acquired by William Bower in 1713/14. We do not know who originally built it or when.

Quite unconnected, in March 1850, Dr Hewgill was a witness in a case against a Repton lady who, according to a host of witnesses, was most respectable. However, having been abused by her husband and then finding him seated intoxicated by the fire, threw a dish at him. This broke and cut him close to his right ear. Hewgill's pupil attended and stopped the bleeding, but it started again and Hewgill went and sorted it out again and attended him frequently over the next day or so. He thought it was an arterial vein that had been cut. The victim said that he did not blame his wife. He was told to remain where he was but was rather imprudent and moved about the house which resulted in lockjaw which spread and killed him. In his summing up, the Judge was at pains to point out that it might be construed as manslaughter not murder and that the lady was of gentle and kind disposition as many witnesses had said - including the Right Hon Edward Strutt and his sisters. She was found guilty of manslaughter, but a sympathetic judge sentenced her to just one month in prison.

Paraphrase of article in the Derbyshire Courier
30/03/1850

Comments and more information about Repton and its occupants are always welcomed. For more information on the newsletter content or the History Group please contact us on 01283 702448 or rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk or visit our website.