

REPTON VILLAGE SOCIETY

REGISTERED CHARITY No.1017835



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014

Because the talks continue to be well supported the annual subscription and lecture charges will remain the same for 2015 as this year despite increases in speakers' fees etc. Some of the coach trips have not been so well supported this year and so next year there will be one half day local visit using members' cars and three coach trips: one short, one medium and one long. These are all detailed below. Attached is the 2015 programme and it is hoped that you will continue to support it.

The Society has agreed to fund the provision of projection equipment, screen etc. for the rebuilt Village Hall. This should provide a much higher level of presentation of the visual element of our talks. We have requested that improvements to the acoustics be included in the new structure.

The Society has written to the Chief Executive of Derbyshire County Council regarding the appalling state of the Cross and the floodlights, pointing out that we had raised money to pay for the latter and that despite the best efforts of the Parish Council and our County Councillor no progress had been made. He has replied saying that our concerns have been passed to the Strategic Director for Economy, Transport and Environment from whom we will receive a reply. At the time of writing this newsletter some repairs to the kerbs had been carried out.

Future Programme.

N.B. There are no Society meetings in December but the Committee would like to wish you all that you wish for yourself for 2015.

Thursday January 8th (2nd Thursday). "Desert Birding – Hard Work but Worth It." In January this year Colin McShane talked about bird ringing in Rybachy, a small village in the Kaliningrad region of Russia. In this talk he will be highlighting the wide range of birds, both resident and migratory, to be found in the deserts of Tunisia as well as covering the journey and the places and people involved.

Thursday February 5th. "Stoneywell: a gem in Charnwood Forest" with Prof. Marilyn Palmer. Stoneywell has recently been acquired by the National Trust as a rare example of a simple Arts and Crafts house built by a local architect, Ernest Gimson, who also went on to found an important furniture workshop in the Cotswolds. The Gimson family retained Stoneywell for three generations and much of the original contents can still be seen in the house, which seems to grow out of its rocky landscape in the centre of Charnwood Forest.

Saturday February 21st 7.30p.m. "An evening with Cantata."

Cantata is an ensemble of about 14 very talented musicians who have performed many concerts since their formation in 1992 in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire at private parties, Rotary events and Masonic Lodge dinners as well as in Derby cathedral and many other churches, Melbourne Hall etc. Their programme includes West End and Broadway musicals, popular hits and movie classics as well as tributes to the Rat Pack and Glenn Miller.

Bring your own food, drink and glasses and be prepared for a great evening. Either make up a table with friends or else leave it up to us to place you (it has worked over many years now). Please support this event. The proceeds will go towards the purchase of projection equipment for the Village Hall as mentioned elsewhere. Tickets required in advance to help table seating: £7.

P.T.O.

Thursday March 5th. “Cook’s Tours – the story of Thomas Cook and Son” with Danny Wells. Thomas Cook was born eight years into the 19th century and died eight years before the end of the century. When he was born in 1808 the words ‘tourism’ and ‘sightseeing’ were unknown yet by the time of his death in 1892, both he and his son had played key roles in opening up the world to popular tourism. The father was strong in temperance reform and was the more idealistic whereas the son had greater business acumen and organisational skills. They operated in a dynamic and turbulent age and the relationship between father and son was not exactly plain sailing either.

Visits.

Wednesday April 15th. Following the talk by Tony Hurrell a tour of Sharpe’s Pottery in Swadlincote has been arranged with Tony as our guide starting at 2p.m. There will be a nominal charge of 50p to cover tea/coffee collected on the day. Please advise if you intend to come. There is car parking around the pottery but if you need directions please let me know, similarly if you would like a lift arranged.

Saturday May 9th. 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta by King John at Runnymede near Windsor. The coach leaves the church at 8.30a.m for Windsor where those who wish to see the town, the Castle or take a river trip can be dropped off before moving on to the world famous Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park. The garden looks superb all year round but is particularly spectacular in Spring with displays of azaleas and rhododendrons. There is of course a good restaurant, coffee bar and shop selling gifts etc and plants grown in the Royal Nurseries. On the day of our visit there is also a plant fair. The coach will leave at about 3.30p.m picking up those who stayed in Windsor on the way to Runnymede (free entry) where there will be time to see the Magna Carta site and other memorials before leaving at 5p.m. arriving back in Repton at approx. 8p.m. There is a small tearoom and toilets at the site. The cost for the coach and Garden will be £28 for members £30 for visitors. Windsor Castle can be busy at times and it would be best for individuals to book beforehand to avoid delays. (£19.20 or concessions: £17.50). The coach only cost will be £20 for members, £22 for visitors.

Saturday June 20th. The coach leaves the Church at 8.30a.m.for the Arley Hall Garden Festival. Arley Hall, near Northwich, is the Jacobean home of Lord and Lady Ashbrook. In the grounds in 2014 there was a floral Marquee and some 60 stalls selling plants, horticultural accessories, crafts and a food fair as well as exhibitions of classic cars, Hearing Dogs, RSPB and other charities etc. Lord Ashbrook and the Head Gardener conducted guided tours of the renowned gardens. The town band played in the bandstand and a jazz band wandered amongst the stalls. The Hall and Tudor restaurant were open, the former decorated with fresh flowers by Lady Ashbrook. Details for 2015 are not yet finalised but will be very similar to those described above. The coach will leave at 3.p.m arriving back in Repton at approx. 5.30p.m. and the cost will be £21 for members, £23 for visitors. I visited this event in 2014 and it really was a great day out, not too crowded and with a countryside atmosphere, – even if you weren’t a gardener.

Wednesday 29th July. The coach leaves the Church at 1p.m. for Halfpenny Green Vineyards, Stourbridge, Staffordshire for a tour of the vineyard and the opportunity to taste the award winning wines. The vines cover 30 acres and were first planted over 30 years ago. There is a shop where wines etc. can be purchased. The visit ends with a cream tea (included in the cost) and the coach leaves at 4.45p.m arriving back in Repton at approx. 6p.m Cost: Members - £22 Visitors - £24.