

A dedicated small band of volunteers have been sorting through the archive material that is now housed in the Reading Rooms and they have been busy setting up displays of historical information about Treeton together with a selection of old photographs.

The displays are attracting plenty of interest and visitors to the Reading Rooms have said how impressed they are with the material on show. Our thanks go to all who have helped.

Hedley Frost has been browsing around car boot sales looking out for old picture frames for the photographs. He's already picked up a few bargains but if any members have any old frames they no longer need, he would be happy to accept them.

Looking very impressive in its bespoke frame is the large Fairbanks Map of 1792, which illustrates the names of all the fields in the parish. This frame was purchased out of our Community Chest Grant along with a number of 'spot' lights which have been put in place to illuminate some of the photographs. Many thanks to Derek Walker and Mick Fellowes for installing them.

There is still a lot of archive material to sort and categorise and we could do with more help. If any members could spare a few hours of their valuable time to assist in any way, it would be very much appreciated.

Have you any memories of
Treeton you'd like to share?

We're always on the lookout for interesting articles to publish in our newsletter so, if anyone has any ideas for future editions or would like to send in their own contributions, we'd be very pleased to receive them.

Our next issue is due out next Spring but it's never too soon to submit them to either:

Jean Noble, 20 Arundel Avenue, Treeton, Rotherham S60 5PR. Tel: 0114 2693557. Email: JeanNoble20@aol.com

or Steve Ruffle, 26 Green Road, Penistone, Sheffield S36 6BE. Tel: 01226 765400. Email: sruffle@gmail.com

Remembrance Day exhibition to commemorate 60th Anniversary of end of World War Two

The three village churches, the Parish Council and the History Group are combining to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War on Remembrance Sunday, 13th November.

Following the traditional Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.45 am, those attending will be invited to the Remembrance Sunday service in St Helen's which will finish between 11.45 am and 12 noon. All who attend this service will then be invited to an exhibition of wartime memorabilia in the Reading Rooms, hosted by the History Group.

A buffet lunch will be served between 12 noon and 1.00 pm after which the exhibition will be open to anyone who wishes to drop in for refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits), have a look round the History Group display and to share reminiscences.

To capture the mood of the Victory celebrations of 1945, the Reading Rooms will be decorated with red, white and blue bunting, and music of that era will be played in the background.

The Parish Council have kindly donated £100 towards the catering costs and we extend our sincere thanks for their generosity.

If anyone has any items of wartime memorabilia they would like to loan to the exhibition, they should get in touch with Hedley Frost or any committee member.

(See our 2nd World War tribute on Page 5.)

OBITUARY

We are sad to report the death of Christine Tillery who passed away in June after a long illness. We extend our condolences to her husband, Eric, and their family and friends on behalf of the History Group.

Also in this issue....

- More Trips Down Memory Lane
- Life Between The Wars
- Forthcoming Events...and much more!

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

My Memories of Spa Farm 1945-50 (Part 3 & last) by Bob Aveling

Spa Farm was, and still is, blessed with fresh spring water at every level and in almost every yard.

The farm was more or less in two halves. The bottom section had the main milking yard and barns whilst the top half had several yards and boxes where animals were wintered. The top half was where Moggy and I spent most of our time looking after as many as 50 young beasts from small calves to young bullocks and heifers. We made powdered milk for the young calves but we never had to carry any water, it was always naturally to hand.

Behind the buildings at the top of the yard was a large hen house which accommodated around 50 hens and on occasions, turkeys.

Once when I went to fasten down the 'bob-hole' (similar to a cat-flap) on the poultry shed just before dark, to my surprise, there was a fox inside with about 20-30 hens sitting on it! I went to fetch Reg who came with his shotgun and pointed it through the window and blasted it into the back of the shed. Neither the fox nor several hens were too happy!

I have some wonderful memories of Spa Farm from 1945-50 such as:

- Mrs Hirst was a frail old lady but she loved her garden and I used to enjoy helping her in it.
 - Going to market and visiting all the cattle that was grazing in and around the local countryside.
 - Going down to the duck pond near Ulley on a Saturday evening. Reg used to give us two cartridges each and we would sit around until it was dark.
 - When harvest-time was in full-swing, one of the ladies would bring a massive basketful of food for us all. It was just like a big party!
 - When all the kiddies came through the farm yard to go down to the Sandies (small steam) in the bottom of the fields for a dip and to keep cool.
 - Moggy and I were devoted to that farm and, in the end, we were rewarded. We started getting £2.1s.0d per week (£2.05p) and, yes, we thought we were rich.
 - When a student helping out at harvest-time always drank all the orange juice so we put a tin of Epsom salts in it! He never did it again.
- Apart from Spa Farm, Reg had or rented quite a lot of land at Catcliffe where Woolworth's and Morrison's now stand. He was also much involved with the farm under the arches opposite The Plough which

is now a garage. A lot of milking cattle were housed there and grazed in the fields mentioned above.

Just going back to the threshing, I recall Mr Martin driving down School Lane with all his mechanical set-up. He had to split his so-called train up and make several trips, parking the pieces up.

The threshing train was operated with all the auxiliaries being belt driven. The corn came out of one end and was carried away in 16 stone bags. The bales from the opposite end then had to be stacked which was very hard work.

Finally, I particularly remember that all the three Hirst brothers, Reg, Frank and Walt, had their own three-legged milking stools and their own tools such as pitch-forks and muck-forks, etc. which were all identifiable by notches on the handles.

Reg always milked the erratic cows that kicked many a bucket of milk over. Occasionally, he had to tie their back legs together with rope but he always mastered them.

The cows always stood in their own stalls from day one to leaving the farm. If another cow went into another's milking stall, it became like a pub brawl until it went back into its own.

What wonderful memories.....The Hirst family taught me what hard work was and I thank them all for that!

DELIA WAS ONE OF THE GIRLS IN PETER'S BOATING ESCAPE

In the last issue we published extracts of a letter from Peter Lister to Hedley Frost. This prompted a response from group member Delia Sherwin (nee Howley), who was one of the girls involved in the boating escapade recalled by Peter. Delia's letter is reproduced below:

Dear Hedley

I enjoyed the stories in the recent newsletter. Moggy and Bob were two characters. Also I remember the story Peter Lister wrote about the boat. It was myself and sister Julia and the Rickwood girls, Maureen and Shirley.

How the silver sixpence came about. We were playing near my

dad's hen huts and Margaret Baker found sixpence. So Julia said: 'OK that will be my dad's'. No-one else came down here. So off we troops to Listers Pond.

Peter and Frank were messing about on a boat. We were refused a ride. Until he saw the sixpence. We were soon in the boat with plenty of rusty cans. I know now why they were there -you had to bail out with all the water coming in.

Next thing, Peter is saying: 'Bail out, bail out'. We all jumped except Julia. She was left sinking in the boat. I am crying on the bankside saying: 'My Julia's drowning'. However, Mr. Manship came to the rescue with his garden rake.

But the worry wasn't over. We had to face big sister Margaret who was looking after us but in the end everything turned out alright. And Peter got another threepence for his trouble off my dad.

I thank Peter for sending the letter. Wouldn't it be nice to hear from all the villagers of yesteryear? We would have some stories.

I have got plenty to write about. Peter has spurred me on, God bless him. Will write again soon.



Yours sincerely

Delia Sherwin
nee Howley

MORE TRIPS DOWN MEMORY LANE

A Carefree Childhood in Treeton (Part 2) by Alan Plummer

School classes were mainly taken by one teacher except when interspersed with gardening, shinty (a game using upturned walking sticks and hard wooden ball), swimming and not forgetting the boys' trip on the Rotherham service bus to Brinsworth School for woodwork, overseen by Mr Warner, the woodwork master.

Football was played on the field at the end of Church Lane which we shared with cow pats and the occasional horse. You could pick mushrooms in that field early in the morning and cress grew in the bottom right hand corner where a small spring came to the surface.

Visits to Winnie Skelton's little shop at the top of Cockholme for what sweets were available, including liquorice roots to suck and chew, it lasted ages!

On long summer holidays, days which remain tropical in my mind, we would take our jam sandwiches and a bottle of water for a day out exploring Hail Mary wood, convinced that we would find the secret tunnel that Mary Queen of Scots used(?).

Green's farm (Woodlands Farm) on Front Street was where I spent some of my time, mostly riding on the back of the flat drays pulled by one of the horses or the small tractor. The farm also boasted a tractor with caterpillar tracks; this had a long bench seat which was much more comfortable. We were allowed a week off school for potato picking but no time off at harvest time, but what a sight to see the threshing-machine and bailer working.

Steam roller

Road repairing was also a source of interest and amusement with large wooden barrels of tar to balance on and the steam roller grinding its slow way up and down the newly-laid chippings, workmen with sacking tied around their legs.

On Saturdays, Jimmy Stone and I would deliver groceries from Laurie Batty's Shop, we had a home-made scooter, fitted with a wooden box and wheel as a side car. We got into trouble if we failed to return with the empty cardboard box, but we made a few pennies on the refund from beer and lemonade bottles, even returning some of them twice.

Choir practice

At this time Jimmy and I were enrolled (press ganged) into the church choir so, not only having Sunday school and bible reading to attend each week, there was now choir practice one day a week and evening service every Sunday. The Reverend Kerr and later the Rev Barnes being in charge. This did not go down very well as it curtailed other interesting and more important pursuits. We were eventually promoted to pumping the organ. Later, when a bit older we transferred our allegiance to the Methodist Chapel. They had a thriving youth club.

To be continued...

There was a great deal of post-war construction in Treeton in the 1950s when a new estate was built.

By this time, my grandfather and grandmother had died and my mother (Edna Sinclair) had married and had me (Sandra Lightfoot). One of my mother's sisters was still unmarried (Daisy) and we all moved to a brand-new council house on Treetown Crescent.

Railway

I remember this house (which is, of course, still standing) vividly. The kitchen had a small pantry; there was a living room which overlooked the back garden (beyond which was the railway line linking the two collieries and beyond them the slag heaps between Treeton and Catcliffe which now, thankfully, no longer exist).

The only other room downstairs was the "front room" which overlooked the street and, in common with most other homes, was rarely

Do I remember Treeton? Yes I do! (Part 2) by Sandra Semple

used. This seems so silly now when several of the families had several children and should have welcomed an extra useable room. Mostly, though, this room was used only to entertain important people such as the vicar or the doctor!

Upstairs were two large double bedrooms and a small single "box room". There was a bath and a separate toilet – real luxury! Outside it had a "wash house" (which most people used for storage, and a very large coal bunker).

The house was heated by coal fires in the living room and the "front room". We were somewhat unlucky as my father was always very ill (he died of a heart condition at the age of 41) so we never had enough money for coal.

Many of the people on the estate worked at the collieries and so had free coal. We did not qualify for this and my parents had a great deal of trouble providing us with enough warmth and, as we had to heat our hot water from the open fire, we could afford heating only for one bath a week. In bitter winters only the living room would be heated – and then not very well – with a small fire which took hours to burn well to give very little heat. This fire also had to fuel the only cooking equipment – a coal fired oven with a flue from the open fire.

Luxury

Eventually we managed to get the luxury of a gas cooker, a twin-tub washing machine with an electric mangle (a vicious thing that could take your arm off if you were not careful) and a fridge, courtesy of the Council who then added several shillings on to the rent of the house for several years so that the money for it was eventually paid back.

To be continued...

JOE'S LETTER ILLUSTRATES HOW HARD LIFE WAS BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS

The following letter, which dates back to the 1920s, gives us a glimpse into the social history of life between the two world wars and its struggles. It was sent by Joseph Chambers to his brother, William Ball Chambers. They were Hedley Frost's uncles. William and Joseph enlisted in the 1914-18 War.

Bill was awarded the D.C.M. and mentioned in dispatches. He lived at Ulley all his life and worked as a blacksmith at Thurcroft Colliery. He never married. Joe, was awarded the M.M. He married and took a smallholding at Doncaster but, unfortunately, had to give it up just before World War Two.

Feb. 6th (c1920s)

Dear Bill,

I can find time to write when I want something. I am sitting up tonight with a gilt Piggling, she was due last Sunday and she has gone on till now.

One last Wednesday had 15 pigs but four died, another gilt last Friday had four and I gave her 2 from the sow making one with six now and the other with nine. I have another sow in eight days, if I have good luck with these they will get me out of debt and ease my mind once more.

I bet you think I am a rotter in not coming over before now but the truth is I had nothing to come with. If I have moderate luck now with the stock I shall have turned the corner. Don't think I am wowing I am only telling the truth, I have almost lost hope many a time. I often thought The Devil had winked at me, I have worked night and day and while I thought I was slipping backwards I had no heart to write.

We are all in the best of health I am pleased to see in Mothers letter that you are all well at home. Floss is coming over in about a fortnight just for the day. We cannot both get away owing to the stock, and we have got some 4 breeding pigs, 1 mare in foal, 1 calf a little beauty, 3 goats in kid, 17 ducks not laying, and 70 fowls, and they have all been an expense all winter and nothing coming in, but we are getting a dozen eggs a day now, I forgot to mention the bitch and the two pups, and I forgot to mention the cat, it is a tom so I cannot breed cats and there is no chance of drawing any stud fees from him.

Now lad for begging, I have one 'swingle tree'* and I want a set and I cannot afford the others yet and I am enclosing a rough drawing to see if you can make me these straps.

To the drawing it is a long time since I drew anything I have forgot how. I have marked them for 1/2" round but if five eights would flatten better for the straps do as you know best. I do not know if I have made it clear. I want 2 with hook looking over the eye, and 3 bent the same way as the eye I want loose hooks of course.

They cost me 3/- (three shillings equivalent to 15p today - Editor) each to get made here and I cannot afford them, so if you cannot make them for me I shall have to keep borrowing. Don't run any risk to make them for me whatever you do. The sizes marked are only for guidance a bit anyway does not matter. I am off to the pig now and I will put in later how she goes on.



Friday night.

Well boy I did have a night of it with the gilt she started having pains at 5 p.m. on Wednesday night and the first pig was not born until 9.30 a.m. Thursday morning and she did not finish till 6.30 at night.

I got eight grand little pigs all alive but she trod on one today & killed it, they are a big strong lot, I have now 22 out of 3 litters, I am as fussy as a little dog with two tails.

Poor Jess (the bitch) had two more dead pups yesterday morning she nearly kippered but I managed to get them and saved her life. I am thinking of setting up as a midwife if I can get any trade. I must close now as I suppose you will be sick of reading of my hopes and troubles.

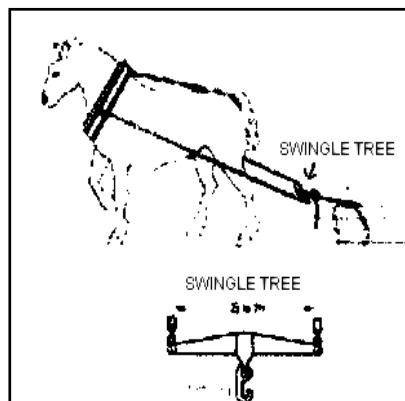
So please give my best love and wishes to all and do please come over and have a day or two with us, as you can leave home and I cannot.

Now once again do not run any risk in making those irons. If you can then if you look at a set of swingle trees, you will see what I want.

Good night and once again love to all from Affectionate Brother and Sister.

Joe and Floss.

(It brought home to us how hard life was compared to these days, and



* **Swingle tree:** The apparatus which is attached to the traces and keeps them in their place when the horses are ploughing, harrowing, etc. - Editor.

(NB: The above illustration is for information only and is not the drawing referred to in the above letter.)



'AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING, WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'



Each year, on Remembrance Day, the nation remembers those who fell in battle during the various conflicts throughout the years. This year has a special significance as it the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Throughout the country, people have been commemorating the event in various ways such as street parties, themed dances, etc.

Here, in Treeton, the History Group are putting on

an exhibition of war-time memorabilia on Sunday, 13th November in the Reading Rooms, Front Street, Treeton.

This is our way of commemorating this important part of our history and we hope as many people as possible, especially the younger generations, will come along and have a look round it.

It opens to the public at 1.00 pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

A few hours after I was born on 27th August 1940, a German bomb landed in the river bed close to Orgreave Coke Ovens, just a few hundred yards from where I lay with my mother in the front parlour of our home on Arundel Avenue, Treeton. Fortunately, the bomb didn't explode due to it landing in thick clay.

Although I do not remember the incident, it illustrates for me the dangers faced by everyone in Britain during those war-torn years between 1939 and 1945. Many towns, cities and outlying areas were bombarded mercilessly during the Blitz, with the Sheffield area being particularly targeted because of its steel-making, manufacturing and engineering capaci-

ties. Sheffield took a heavy pounding at the latter end of 1940, when many areas were flattened and hundreds of lives lost.

As the war progressed, I became more aware of what was happening. I can recall the night-time air-raids and being carried downstairs to 'safety' beneath the kitchen table as the sirens wailed - a sound I shall never forget. I remember the noise of the ack-ack guns being fired from the camp at the top of the Hilly Fields and other sites in the area. I can still visualise the criss-cross beams of the floodlights lighting up the night sky trying to locate enemy planes.

But my most vivid memory is of the dreaded droning sound of a 'doodle-bug' passing over us in the

early hours of one morning with its light-flashing exhaust, as it made its way to its deadly target nearby.

Life for those of us at home during World War Two was difficult, to say the least, but it was nowhere near as bad as for those brave men and women who endured six years of sacrifice to bring freedom to a war-torn world.

I will be eternally grateful not only to the fearless soldiers, sailors and air crews who fought for our freedom, but to all those involved in the war effort at home and abroad. They did a magnificent job

I will never, ever forget what they did for not only my generation, but for generations to come.

A tribute by Jean Noble

The following poems have been taken from the late John Sorsby's 'Book of Poems'. John served in World War Two and was taken prisoner. His poems capture the horrors of war, its camaraderie, humour and pathos.

Remembrance Day

We celebrate Remembrance Day for Comrades whom we lost.

Who took to arms in War, their lives, that was the cost.
Treasured memories, for the dear ones left behind.

Who always will remember, and dutifully their graves to mind.

We stand in silence; heads respectfully inclined.

Two minutes of Peace, thoughts rushing through the mind.

Maybe thinking of Battles, or things we used to hate.
Generally the trend of thought is of some long lost mate.

Some of us are wiser now, than we have ever been.

We pray for Worldly Peace; no more War Lords on the scene.

1939-1945

Alfred Bluer, Ronald Dunkley, George Edwards, Harry D. Houghton, Noel J. Love, Reginald I. Payne, Leslie Radley, Leslie Staniforth, George L. Thacker, Thomas A. Thornton

J. L. Sorsby

Lost Comrades

They shall not grow old, nor hear the bugle call.

Their number and their names engraved upon a wall.

No more to hear the Sergeant and the sound of marching feet,
Or whistle after girls a-walking down the street.

They fought for their country in many foreign land,

In the steaming jungles of Burma and the searing heat of desert sand.

Their loving wives and sweethearts were left behind at home,

Whilst they obeyed orders, foreign lands to roam.

They got little pittance, no money for bankers.

Wrong side of the 'Sarg.' and you were you were on

bloody jankers.

Some lads were captured in the heat of battle,

Herded into prison camp like a bunch of cattle.

Bullied by guards to show who was the boss.

Eeking out their meals with parcels from the Red Cross.

Decades have passed, memories have grown dim,

But not for the ones who came back minus limb.

Each day is a struggle, and mostly alone.

Feeling Authorities have today is 'Put him in a home'.

Things may not be A1, perhaps they need attention,

Making do and managing on a War Disability Pension.

The world's in a turmoil, strange things could happen yet.

So let us all remember, 'Lest we should forget'

As we recall lost comrades who were laid to rest

Because, generally speaking, these lads were some of the best.

J. L. Sorsby

Bishop of Doncaster consecrates burial ground extension

We were pleased to welcome to Treeton on 4th May, the Bishop of Doncaster, the Right Reverend Cyril Ashton. He was able to visit the School and the Community and Resource Centre, but the main purpose of his visit was to consecrate the extension of Treeton Burial Ground.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century St Helen's churchyard ran out of space for new burials, and so for fifty years burials took place in the churchyard extension on Church Lane. As that space became full Treeton Parish Council provided the new Burial Ground on Wood Lane. Residents of Treeton are, of course, very grateful to the Parish Council for making this provision. We are very fortunate to have a space in the village where we can remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

The original Burial Ground on Wood Lane was set aside and consecrated in 1956. As that land is filling up, the Parish Council created an extension, consecrated on 4th May 2005. The act of consecration set the land apart exclusively and permanently as a place where we can bury our dead; giving us a place where we can remember them, and where they can rest in peace.

The consecration took place at the request of Treeton Parish Council, and parish councillors welcomed the Bishop to Treeton. All villagers were invited to attend, and amongst those present were representatives from groups including St Helen's, Treeton Baptist and Treeton Methodist churches, Treeton Village Association, and Treeton Local History Group.

Reverend Alan Isaacson

A letter of thanks from Margaret Stewart

To the Committee and Members of the Treeton
Local History Group,

I would like to thank you all for having my Collage of the Treeton Colliery framed.

I felt very honoured when I was asked to carry out this work and for it to be hung in the new Treeton Community and Resource Centre.

I'm sorry Mrs Doreen Watts was unable to see the Collage finally placed in position. She was very encouraging and said that this work needed to be part of Treeton's History, and therefore preserved.

In the past few months I've heard some favourable comments.

I'm sure that it has already given many people pleasure in seeing it.

Thank you all once again.

Margaret A Stewart (Miss)

We would like to thank you, Margaret, on behalf of the History Group members for creating such a truly remarkable work of art. We are sure Doreen would have loved it.

Treeton Web is a massive hit despite our wrong information!

In the last issue, we published the wrong email address to which articles for inclusion in the memories' section of Treeton Web should be sent. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. The correct address is:

capella@blueyonder.co.uk

The website is extremely popular and credit is due to webmaster for all the hard work she puts into it.

Lots more features have been added, one being the history of the Methodist Youth Club which contains photographs of the many plays, pantomimes and concerts they performed. There are also photographs of the 'Whit Sings' in which members of all three churches took part. Can you help identify anyone in these pictures?

Visit <http://www.treetonweb.co.uk> to view them.

YOUR CHANCE TO VOTE FOR WHAT THE TRANSFORMED OLD TREETON TIP SITE SHOULD BE CALLED

The old Treeton tip site has been transformed into a beautiful area to walk, thanks to a joint effort by Treeton Parish Council, Treeton Partnership and Rotherham MBC with the help of some funding from WREN. Paths have been renovated, a viewing platform included and disabled access provided.

In their newsletter recently, the Partnership asked for suggestions for a new name for the former tip. They had a great response from people living within the village and those who have lived in Treeton in the past. All the suggestions were passed to the Parish Council for their consideration and they expressed a preference for 'The Edwards Meteor Way' because of its historical connection with Douglas Gibson Edwards, a 19-year-old pilot who died when his Meteor F8 aircraft crashed into the tip on 21st December 1954. The brave pilot smashed into the tip after circling the village a number of times to avoid hitting homes and causing civilian casualties.

The 23 suggested names were: Treeton View, Roscoe's Traipse, Hillside, Hillside Park, The Pitup Way, Colliers Row, Tip Top, Jesse Pye Hollows, Tree Pit Walk, Tree Trail, The Milds Plantation, Pit Hill, Treeton Sundown Trail, Treetops, Treeton Tiptoes, Tiptoes through Treeton, Treetops, The Edwards Meteor Way, Treetop Park, Peacock Shunt, Wathwood, Pit Tip, Colliers Crest.

The Partnership are now asking people to vote for their preferred name. You can vote for your choice by either ringing the Partnership Office on 0114 254 0583 or sending it in writing to them at the Treeton Community and Resource Centre, 1 Pit Lane, Treeton, Rotherham S60 5UY before FRIDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2005.

A REVIEW OF OUR VISITS AND EVENTS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

April

In Friday, 29th April, a large party met at Spa Farm for the annual bluebell walk, led, as always, by Hedley. It was a beautiful evening, cool but dry, although a bit muddy underfoot - as some people discovered to their cost having come in ordinary shoes!

Hedley gave us a brief history of Spa Farm and its environments - pointing out where the Roman Road came through and the Spa Well (more a pond) itself - and we set off. By this time, Hedley had given up trying to use the new 'official' camcorder and had reverted to his old one!

Spa Farm has the most glorious views over towards Guilthwaite and was alive with curious and friendly horses - one of which took a great liking to the party and followed us about.

And so into Burntwood, a completely natural small copse, which apparently is used for game birds, and is in a mostly untouched state. Bluebells were everywhere! Just a muddy track through and an overpowering sight and scent of bluebells. Out the other side - more beautiful views - and back around the bottom of the wood.

The whole walk took about one-and-a-half hours and if you've not been, take the opportunity if it happens again, it's well worth it. And thank you to everyone for donating a total of £50 to the Bluebell Hospice Appeal after the walk around Spa Farm.

Grace Stevenson

May

In May, twenty-four members visited Creswell Crags. They joined the Rock Art Tour, which included Church Hole Cave where Britain's only example of Ice Age cave art can be seen.

After the tour, members enjoyed the permanent exhibition at the visitors' centre. Some members finished the day by visiting the Harley Gallery and then taking refreshments at the Dukeries Garden Centre, Wellbeck.

Kevin Atkins

June

Our visit to Brodsworth Hall on the lovely, hot summer evening of Thursday, 23rd June was made all the more memorable by the brilliant sunshine which showed off the beautiful gardens and the Hall's elegant architecture magnificently.

Eighteen members and friends made up our party and we all thoroughly enjoyed the guided tour of the splendid Hall in all its faded Victorian grandeur.

The current Hall was built between 1861 and 1863 by Charles Thellusson and was occupied by the family until 1988. It was given to English heritage in 1990 with most of its original contents. Since then it has undergone a comprehensive conservation programme. The majority of its contents have been left in their original state which, gives an unusually vivid impression of life in a country house from the Victorian period to the present day. After the tour of the

Hall some members took a look around the gardens, which have been restored to their former glory.

Jean Noble

July

The July meeting (Thursday 28th) was a change to the originally scheduled meeting and, due to other rearrangements, was the first meeting back at our new 'home' in the Reading Rooms for a couple of months.

Despite being in the holiday season and what was decidedly miserable weather for July, the turnout was pretty good (I counted 30 people), including some new members who had 'signed up' as a result of the Group's presence at the Treeton Partnership's open day a couple of Saturdays earlier.

Our guest speaker was Mr Roy Young from Wentworth, who had stepped in at short notice to fill a gap in the schedule. He spoke on the family history surrounding the Wentworth and Fitzwilliam Estate, and proved to be a wonderful speaker with a great delivery who had the group interested and entertained by turns.

The evening seemed to come to an end far too soon, and several members of the group made it clear that they would welcome his return to tell us more about the history of the estate or, indeed, to speak on another subject. A number of members also recalled fondly an evening visit to Wentworth a couple of years ago which Mr Young had hosted.

As a result of the enthusiastic reception shown, we are now discussing a return visit from Mr Young and a potential trip to Wentworth next year.

Kevin Atkins

August

Douglas Lamb gave a very entertaining slide show on the old pubs of Sheffield to the Treeton Local History Group on Thursday 25th August 2005 at Treeton Reading Rooms. The talk was called 'A Pub on Every Corner - Part One'.

Over 30 people listened to Mr. Lamb mourn the loss of many of the pubs in the area and entertain us with absorbing stories from some of them. The stories, some tragic and others humorous, were accompanied by a variety of slides of many of the pubs taken during the last Century. Members now look forward to Part Two.

Steve Ruffle

September

On 29th September, Robin Carter gave an informative and enjoyable talk to Treeton Local History Group about the flowers and wildlife which can be found locally. Having given a general introduction about Treeton and the geology of the region he spoke in more details about the area which was formerly the Treeton Tip. Largely as a result of Robin's efforts, a small part of the tip has now become a nature reserve which is known as 'The Boscage'.

Gordon Payne

SNIPPETS FROM OUR ARCHIVES

SPENCE BROUGHTON - MAIL ROBBER 1792

He was caught and tried at York assizes in March 1792, for having stopped the Post Boy carrying the Mail from Sheffield to Rotherham and feloniously taking a bill of exchange, payable to the Rotherham iron master Joseph Walker, for £123, part of a Booty of £3,000, Broughton had accrued. He was taken to York and hanged there.

Four men brought his body to the 'Arrow Inn' on Attercliffe common and, having had a good breakfast there, hung up the body on a gibbet post (the last put up in Yorkshire) at the Attercliffe end of Broughton Lane. Part of it remained there until 1827.

Sir Walter Scot recorded that when he slept at the 'Bell Hotel' at Barnby Moor, there was a gibbet post on which were hanging the bodies of several malefactors.

Before beginning his life of crime, Spence Broughton lived as a gentleman farmer at Martin, between Gainsbrough and Lincoln, and spent £15,000 to the ruin of his wife.

BESS OF HARDWICK

George, the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, left £200 to the town of Rotherham. In 1631, the money was still due and, as likely as not, it was Bess of Hardwick who had prevented payment of what had been left to Rotherham by her husband, Shrewsbury.

Bess wanted the money for building operations at Chatsworth, Welbeck, Hardwick and Worksop. She was handsome, clever, spiteful, and overbearing. She made her husband 'sup sorrow*. He spelt his name Shrewsbury, but she wrote it 'Shrouesbury' doubtless because she had sharp ears.

She lived until she was 89 in the enjoyment of an income of £60,000 a year (equal to £300,000 of our money, (*note 1932*). The Dukes of Norfolk, Devonshire and Portland, also Earl Manvers, trace their descent from her. There is a legend that a gypsy told her "she would not die while she kept on building".

GALLOWS TREE HILL

The hill on which 'CLIFTON PARK MUSEUM' now stands was formerly called 'Gallows Tree Hill', indicating that wrong doers were hanged there without troubling to take them to ARCH BISHOP ROTHERHAM.

In his will it states "many rude and mountain men of the neighbourhood gather together at Rotherham Church" for which, among other reasons, he had established the college (around the time of Columbus, 1492 -1506).

Hedley Frost

Schedule of Events

Since the last newsletter, a number of our planned events had to be rescheduled. For example, at the last minute, we had to hastily replace the July 'antiques road show' with a talk by Roy Young about the Wentworth and Fitzwilliam estates. (Our thanks to Kevin Atkins for arranging with Mr Young to come along at such short notice.)

Mr Young proved to be an excellent speaker and he has kindly agreed to come back in January, as well as taking us on a tour of Wentworth itself in June.

Several interesting ideas have been proposed for next year's events. These include trips to Conisboro' Castle, Kelham Island, Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet or similar; a talk by Bob Croxton; Treeton Mill research visit and a trip to Rotherham Museum.

We will be able to give you more details when the arrangements have been finalised by the committee.

Forthcoming events which have been confirmed are as follows:

2005

Thursday, 24th November

"An Evening With George Formby"

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

Thursday, 15th December

Christmas Party

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

2006

Thursday, 26th January

'A Further History of Wentworth' by Roy Young

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

Thursday, 23rd February

'The History of Old Sheffield' by Douglas Lamb

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

Thursday, 30th March

'HMS Warrior' by George Wade

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

Thursday, 27th April

Annual General Meeting

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

Memories and photographs of old Treeton businesses wanted

Treeton Partnership are looking for old photographs of businesses which operated in Treeton in the past. They would also like to hear from anyone who has any memories or stories about the old shops, businesses or those run from home.

If you can help please ring 0114 2540583, the Partnership staff will be delighted to hear from you.