

Many thanks to Treeton Parish Council for letting the History Group use the Reading Rooms free of charge both for our meetings and for storing our archives.

The Parish Council has kindly loaned us the use of one of their cupboards and we have bought a new cupboard ourselves using money received from Treeton Partnership's Community Chest. These will both be used to keep our archives in. Community Chest money has also been made available to pay for framing some of our old photographs, a number of which are already on display in the Reading Rooms.

Our scheduled visit to the newly-refurbished Rotherham Museum in January had to be postponed. We would like to thank Councillor John Swift for standing in at very late notice to do a presentation of his compilation of old photographs of Treeton. John is collating these photographs on to a CD with a view to putting copies on sale in the future with some of the proceeds going to the History Group.

Now that we have all our archives in one place, we need help in sorting and categorising them and would appreciate any assistance members can give us in doing this. We also have a scanner in the Reading Rooms which members can use to copy slides and negatives. This and a camcorder have been purchased with the remainder of our £3900 Awards for All grant.

We have a full calendar of events lined up for this year for outings and our meetings in the Reading Rooms (see back page).

AGM

**Don't forget our AGM is on Thursday,
28th April 2005 at 7.30 pm in the Reading
Rooms. We hope to see you there.**

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 in the Autumn but it's never too soon to submit them. Just contact 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

We have received two very interesting articles for our 'Down Memory Lane' feature both of which give an insight into life in Treeton during the 40s, 50s and 60s. One is from group member Alan Plummer who now lives in Cheshire and the other comes from Sandra Semple (formerly Lightfoot), now residing in Seaton, Devon.

We begin our serialisation of their childhood recollections in this issue and we are sure you will enjoy reading them as much as we did.

Sandra sent us her story after logging onto the increasingly-popular Treeton website <http://www.treetonweb.co.uk> and reading the excellent memories' section. She also ordered and has now received copies of the four History Group publications which are listed on it.

Also, thanks to Treeton Web, we have received an e-mail from Christine Bailey in Essex who is searching for details of relatives with Treeton connections. (See full story on Page 8.)

The compilers of Treeton Web are appealing for stories and photos for the memories section. If any History Group members would like to participate, please email your contribution to:

capella@blueyonder.co.uk

Alternatively, send them to Newsletter editors Jean or Steve and we will forward them to Treeton Web.

Annual Bluebell Walk

This year's bluebell walk through Burntwood, courtesy of our local farmer Roger Hirst, will take place on **Friday, 29th April**.

A small charge will be asked for, the proceeds going to the 'Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice' appeal. The History Group will donate an equivalent amount to Treeton Community News.

Anyone wishing to take part should meet at

Also in this issue....

- Down Memory Lane
- Prehistoric Treeton
- Opencast Visit
- Forthcoming events..... and more...



A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

My Memories of Spa Farm 1945-50 (Part 2) by Bob Aveling

When Moggy and I started working at Spa Farm, there were two old tractors, a green Ford and a blue Fordson Major, the main power unit being the big, strong Shire horses of which there were six, as I recollect.

Walter was the main horseman and he knew them inside-out – he was never one for tractors. To me, there was no better sight than seeing Walt going down the fields sat aside a pair of heavy horses with all their harnesses glowing. He would plough for hours and loved every minute. I would say that Walt was the strongest man I have ever met and a real gentleman, too.

His brother, Frank, was a tractor man. He was very articulate and prided himself on building haystacks of any shape or size. At harvest-time Frank was in his element making stacks and every one of them was a work of art.

Reg more or less ran the farm. He knew everything that was going on and had his own car, a green Austin. It was also used by

some of the family. He would go to Penistone market almost every Thursday and, on his round trip, he would stop off at several places to check up on the grazing cattle he had which were scattered around the Penistone area. I was lucky to go with Reg on a few occasions.

Regarding machinery, Reg could drive anything. During harvest-time, he would spend weeks cutting some 150 acres of corn etc. using the tractor and an old-fashioned binder. He would be followed by every available pair of hands to stand (stoop) the sheaves of corn head upwards to dry in the sunshine.

Stacks

It was a full-time job every day going round field after field to stand up the sheaves that had fallen down. It took around five days to dry out the corn sheaves before they were taken to the barns to be stacked on Frank's stacks.

A very strict code had to be adhered to during harvesting regarding smoking. A cigarette-end was never thrown on the floor. The routine was to spit in your cupped hand and dunk the cig

end in it.

Before combined harvesting became the norm, the corn had to be thrashed and thrashing used to take place some two or three times a year.

The steam-driven thrasher engine with the thrashing drum and baling machine would come from a firm in Derbyshire called Earnshaws. It was driven and operated by no other than Mr Martin Keggarr and, more often than not, some of his sons worked with him.

Amazed

Earnshaws had several large steam engines and I was more than amazed when one came to the farm showing on its big brass plate 'Aveling/Barford'.

In the winter months, when Moggy and I were around 13 years old, we had a Shire horse and cart each and we always got delegated to cart the turnips, kale and mangols mostly from behind Burntwood down towards Ulley. This is where most of the root crops were grown. An average load was 15 cwt and, yes, we had to load every cart by hand!

Around this time, two modern tractors came on to the farm and the horses began to fade from the scene.

I lived in Treeton from 1948, when I was born until 1966. I was born at 6 Mill Cottages – a group of cottages owned by Treeton and Orgreave collieries, made out of the stones from the original mill that had stood on the site, just off the bottom of Mill Lane. At that time there was a house in Mill Lane which had a whale's jawbone as its entrance gate and the lane to Mill Cottages was just beside it.

My grandfather (William Sinclair) had moved to Mill Cottages with his wife and children (wife Elizabeth, children Daisy, Winnie, Edna, Audrey, Trixie and son Reg and four children from an earlier marriage). They had moved from another colliery owned house on Bole Hill. I believe he was a pattern-maker – a skilled job.

The house was quite big and

Do I remember Treeton? Yes I do! (Part 1) by Sandra Semple

had, I think, about 4 bedrooms. It was linked up to Orgreave colliery by a very temperamental electrical cable that frequently used to short out and leave us without electricity for minutes or hours.

Just beyond the cottages was the railway line which joined Treeton and Orgreave which was busy with colliery traffic, with a steam train pulling heavy wagons of coal, leaving a trail of very dirty steam in its wake.

As with many families at that time we kept a few hens and some geese and occasionally a pig. We had a big cold store built into the

house with walls at least two feet thick which kept the bacon and joints from the pig completely frozen for months.

The house was very close to the River Rother and would frequently flood. Fortunately all the floors were flagstones and the walls were unrendered so, once the floods had subsided, it was a case of sluicing the house out and getting on with life. I can vividly remember a flood where we had swans swimming in our living room!

We had a big, old black lead stove with an ever-boiling kettle and a large "copper" in which the weekly wash was done. I remember the sheets being put in a wash tub and I remember the old washboard and "Dolly Blue".

To be continued...

A Carefree Childhood in Treeton (Part 1) by Alan Plummer

From the front living room window at 3 Arundel Cottages, we had panoramic views of Orgreave Colliery and slag heap, the Coke Ovens, belching smoke and steam, giving everywhere and everyone a liberal coating of grime. Overlooking the back gardens of the houses down Washfield Lane especially on Mondays we could see lines and lines of clothes hung out to dry, propped against the wind.

However, if one stood in the right place, especially in the front bedroom window, we could see green fields but, more important, the recreation field (rec).

For me, Treeton was still a place of wonder and adventure. It amazes me now, looking back, how free life as a small child was, how little we were supervised and how confident our parents were that we would come to no harm.

Fun

It was such fun being able to wander on foot or ride our bikes around the village, play on swings, roundabouts, slides and ride on the rocking horse. There were Hail Mary and Treeton Woods to explore as well as being able to sail homemade boats on the old dyke, and taking the occasional skinny dip.

Living on Arundel Cottages, it wasn't far to walk from the top of the garden along Church Lane (Back Lane, as against Front Street) to school. Past the church,

the Cemetery and Scout hut. The Church Hall on our left, then the Post Office, run by Mrs Dolly Lowe. Next to the Post Office was the red telephone box and what appeared to be a heap of rubble. In later years I often wondered if this was once number 1 Church Lane, the house where my maternal Grandfather Herbert Liversidge was born in 1865? Turning into the school playground, the Infants class rooms were on the right. Memories of morning milk which froze in winter, pushing the tops off the bottles. Rows of pegs, with little bags on to keep our tooth brushes and combs in. And, of course, having a sleep on the little camp beds in the afternoon, some times outside.

Errands

The boys' playground was entered from the Front Street entrance leading to the boiler house and coke store, as well as the boy's toilets taking up half the playground. Mr Blueman was Headmaster; he lived in the School House just through a gate from the girls' playground. Whenever it snowed, I was always sent to build a snowman for their daughter, Beth, also to run errands for Mrs Blueman, even going up to the Reading Rooms to collect their replacement ration books when due!

At lunch time, those that stayed for school dinners would file across Church Lane into the Church Hall. Dinner was cooked by Annie Moore who lived on Wood Lane; she had two gas cookers side by side in the small kitchen built on the back of the house.

Annie Moore was a friend of my mother so there were occasions when my sister and I were called upon to help peel the potatoes and carrots etc. The cooked food was transported in round metal containers and wheeled down to the Church Hall on an old battered Silver Cross-type pram. Pearl barley was one of the main ingredients along with rice and semolina for pudding.

Concerts

The Church Hall was also used for school concerts, where we had to sing such rousing songs as "Nymphs & Shepherds" and "Who is Sylvia?" accompanied by piano, tambourines, triangles and castanets. Occasionally, a slide show and black & white film were shown. Later, when older, we would go to dances there with music provided by Ken Rodgers' Dance Band. However, as soon as we became old enough; we would walk through Orgreave including the slurry, up to Handsworth.

Plaza

There, at the Plaza picture house, we would see the latest films and news. If we were too young to gain admittance on our own (due to the film rating), we would ask older people to take us in. I never remember being refused and we always stood for the national anthem at the end of the film. It always seemed dark walking back and a torch was a must to help find the clearest path back through the pit yard, but we were never afraid.

To be continued...

It's all Relative...

I've been looking up my relations
Creating a real family tree
Checking census and library papers
To find royalty related to me.

They say we're related to Florence
The nurse with the lamp and all that
But I've not had sight of a Nightingale
She must have been eaten by t'cat.

I'm related to Chambers, Ashworth
and Kyte,
Littlewood, Townsend and Frost
But I'm struggling to find more
Masons
They've just disappeared and got lost.

My dad's father George came from
London,
It was such a big place even then
And there's seven George Masons
I've
found
He could be any of them.

So no royalty yet not even a 'sir'
But I've something to shout out aloud
I come from a 'three whippet' family
And as a Tyke I'm rightly quite proud.

Yes, I come from a 'three whippet'
family
I've a photo to prove it as well
Great Grandad Joe, with whippets in
tow
Looking a right proper swell.

Wearing his flat cap and muffler
His boots shining so bright
You can tell he's got Sunday best
clothes on
And for a photo with t' whippets that's
right.

So I'll keep up looking up my relations
Enjoying the hours that I spend
Carefully examining registers and wills
With the entries delightfully penned.

And if you've an eye for tradition
Try tracing your own family tree
With an enquiring mind, you might
even find
You've a 'three whippet' family like
me.

Colin Mason
(Passed away 2004)

Here is an extract from a letter sent to Hedley Frost by Peter Lister acknowledging the receipt of a set of the Group's publications. Peter used to live in Mill House, Treeton and the books brought back many memories as you will see below...

Dear Hedley

Many thanks for your envelope containing a fascinating literary collation which has been a source of great pleasure and interest throughout the present weekend, Particularly interesting were the various submissions from Derek Walker and Arthur (Archie) Moor – Archie and his brothers Joe and Harvey and their sister Dorothy lived close to Mill House and I remember them all clearly – their dog was called Curly.

The information which you so kindly sent has been an absolute joy and has rekindled memories which have laid dormant for donkey's years. For example, Fred Higginbottom made mention of Pat Howley against whom he put on an exhibition wrestling contest in the village. Archie Moor mentioned the 'goyt' essentially a back water which was at the bottom of our garden at Mill House – put them together and the following scenario emerges:

Myself and Frankie Stewart were in a dilapidated rowing boat, the property of my elder brother Jim who at the time was in the Army. The boat could be kept afloat only by constant bailing but there was no real danger as the goyt wasn't very deep. Pat Howley's little sisters arrived on the bank impeccably turned out in the white dresses, which girls wore after Whitsuntide in those days. "Give us a ride" was the cry and the reply was a curt refusal – there could be no greater shame than to be called "a lad lass" and no self-respecting ten year-old would risk being seen with 'lasses'.

The fact that they had a silver sixpence which was offered in payment for the ride put a whole new perspective on things. The boat, already low in the water, was punted to the bank using clothes props and the poor innocents clambered aboard. We sank in mid-stream and our neighbour, Mr. Manship, hearing the commotion, arrived on the scene and rescued the damsels in distress with a garden rake – the dresses were no longer white!

Now, it was a noted fact that you didn't mess with the Howley children whose parents took (very properly) a dim view of black-hearted persecutors such as myself and Frankie Stewart. Accordingly, I felt it prudent to avoid passing the Howley residence which was on the left-hand side of Mill Lane 'going up' and, for the next month, ran past very quickly on the right-hand side when sent on errands to Mrs Wolstenholme's or in search of pals.

After a month, I got careless and came face to face with Mr. Howley who was standing on the steps of 'The Station' – flat cap, bull-knot, brass-

buckled belt, knee straps – the 'full Monte'. "What's this about youse trying to drown my wee lassies" he murmured confidentially in a soft Irish brogue. I was so petrified my mouth was capable of no utterance whatever. He roared with laughter and gave me a threepenny 'bit', one of the funny shaped ones. Who but an Irishman! As for the boat – it's probably still there!

Well, Hedley, I shall look forward to meeting up with you in the Autumn. To be in Treeton for Remembrance Sunday is my aim – my brother-in-law Denis Houghton is commemorated on the Second World War plaque in Saint Helen's – a fighter pilot he was killed flying operationally over France, aged twenty two.

In the meantime, very best wishes to all Treeton contemporaries.

Yours sincerely
Peter Lister

**INSCRIPTION ON A
TOMBSTONE UNDER THE
HORSE CHESTNUT TREE
IN THE OLD CHURCH
YARD, TREETON**

"Sacred to the memory of Joseph Roberts, he died on October 8th 1867 aged 74 years who having overcome the fear of death by faith in Jesus Christ now rests in hope until the general resurrection of the just.

Also of Ann wife of the above December 24th 1866 in the 67th year of her age who in the wide dispensation of divine providence was visited by apoplexy and died two days afterwards, deservedly respected by all who knew her.

Also of Joseph their son who having served the dangers of the Kaffir War for nearly 4 years returned to England and was soon afterwards sent to the Crimea to join the Allied Armies of England and France. And from exposure in the trenches before Sebastapol, was after nearly 12 months service sent home to England, invalided and died in the Garrison Hospital, Portsmouth on the 18th February 1856 aged 27 years.

Also Abraham their son who died January 19th 1853 aged 22 years."

H. F. Frost

More volunteers needed to safeguard Group's future

Last year we appealed for volunteers to fill certain key roles to enable the History Group to continue to function. Some of these have still not been filled, especially those of Secretary and Events' Organiser/Secretary. We are very grateful to Monica who, for the past year or so, has very kindly carried out the dual roles of Secretary and Minute Secretary but she will be stepping down at the AGM on 28th April.

Members are, therefore, asked to carefully consider whether they feel they could undertake one of the following roles:

- (a) Secretary.
- (b) Minute Secretary.
- (c) Events' Organiser/Secretary to ensure the speaker is booked, equipment needed for a meeting is available on the night and generally being the liaison person for the event.
- (d) Archives' Officer.
- (e) Members to serve on the Steering Group. This involves approximately six meetings a year. The Steering Group deal with planning the programme and all the business involved in ensuring the History Group runs smoothly.

If you would like to offer your services for any of the above roles, please contact our Chair Grace Stevenson on 0114 2690352.

Membership subscription fees

It has been proposed by the Steering Committee that Annual Subscription fees for the financial year 2005/2006, should remain unchanged as follows:

Individual membership £3.00 and joint membership £5.00.

This will include copies of the newsletter and free admission to meetings.

No Constitutional changes

At the last Steering Committee meeting held Monday, 4th April, arrangements for the forthcoming AGM were discussed.

It was decided that no changes to the Constitution would be proposed.

Forthcoming Committee meeting dates

The dates of the next two Committee meetings are as follows:

Monday, 9th May and Monday 6th June, 2005.

Both will be held in the Reading Rooms starting at 7.00 pm. All members are welcome

Invitation to Atlas TARA's 'Remember When' book launch

In our last newsletter, we reported that three of our members had provided training to the Atlas Tenants and Residents Group (TARA) to help them with their oral history project.

TARA then held two public open days at Brinsworth and Catcliffe where a number of people were interviewed about their memories of the local area.

These recordings have now been transcribed, edited and published in book form.

The book, entitled '**Remember When**', will also include photos of the local area. It is to be launched between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday 23rd April 2005 at Brinsworth Library (on Ellis Street) and will be on sale on the day (£1 minimum donation). There will be free refreshments available.

More details from Lorraine at ATLAS TARA on 01709 371687.

Sheffield Wednesday FC to host Oral History Society's Annual Conference in 2006

The Oral History Society, with Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, are holding their annual national conference at the Hillsborough Stadium Conference Centre on 17th and 18th June 2006.

The conference theme is '*Passion, play and the everyday: Oral history and the consumer society*' and it will bring together people from oral history backgrounds to explore changing lifestyles, leisure and consumption in modern Britain.

It will explore the nature and development of the 'consumer society' through oral histories that address a range of areas including sport, food, fashion, music, media, tourism, heritage, museums, health, education and technology.

Any members interested in attending should contact Steve whose details are on Page 1.

Helpers required for Group's stall at Partnership's Open Day event

Helpers are required to "man" the History Group's stall at Treeton Partnership's 'Volunteering in the Community' Open Day on Saturday, 16th July.

The event is being held in the Community & Resource Centre from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

If any members could spare an hour of their valuable time it would be greatly appreciated.

Prehistoric Treeton:

The Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age: 7500–4000 BC

After the end of the Ice Age, around 10,000 years ago, rapid global warming led to Britain being covered in lush forests. Then 1500 years after the Scottish glaciers melted away, sea levels rose, the land bridge between Britain and the continent was washed away and Britain became an island.

But the island was still wild. Deer, wolves and bears were still common as were wild boars. By around 8300 BC stone age hunters had explored most parts of the land and left us flint, chert and bone tools to wonder at.

Hail Mary Hill and its unusual bowl have been sur-

veyed since 1953. An investigation by Mr. J. Radley MA and Mr. P. Mellor BA of the Hunter Archaeological Society recovered some 233 flint and chert pieces of which 188 could be classed as waste, almost every piece over ½ inch showed signs of use and are presumably due to the lack of suitable materials in the region.

Derbyshire

The chert was of a type found in Ashford in Derbyshire and the grey and white banded flint can be found in East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

I have only found one piece on Hail Mary and this was in

the field along the rim, it is a grey thumb scraper. The fields on Long Lane have produced most of my collection with a tiny microlith and what I presume to be a leaf shaped arrowhead being most prized.

On Bole Hill, Mr Roger Hirst (farmer) has made several finds which did include an arrowhead. A hand axe, discovered by Mr. David Aveling, was unfortunately lost in transit coming back to him after identification.

In the 1950s and 60s Treeton school children collected an impressive number of artefacts including a rare bone needle, unfortunately they seem to have been mislaid, or

Treeton's Sporting Greats

Lewis Payne. On the 2nd April 1927, he won the International Cross Country Race at Newport, South Wales, beating the then French Champion, Seghir Bad-dari, by 40 yards. He was then 19 years of age.

Frank Blackburn. Was a member of the team which represented Great Britain in the World Gymnastic Display in Sweden in 1935.

Jesse Pye. Was born in the village and after War service in North Africa and Italy, joined Notts County and was later transferred to Wolverhampton Wanderers. He played inside right for England in the match England V Belgium at Wembley in 1946.

John Hallatt. Aged 14, a scholar at Treeton Council School was chosen to play full back for England in the Schoolboys International match Ireland V England at Belfast 30th May 1953.

Ronald Windle. (ex Mayor of Rotherham) Played for Notts County?

Freddy Taylor. A well known jockey in the 1920s.

Charlie Gladwin. Played football for Sunderland.

Horace Cope. Played for Arsenal.

Albert Cox. Played for Sheffield United.

Peter Perry. Rotherham United full back.

Fred Higginbottom. Known in the professional wrestling world as Young Vulcan and still with us today. Fred wrestled all around the British Isles and Europe taking on all comers and eventually gained the British and European Middleweight titles, truly a great achievement.

H. F. Frost

I would welcome any additions to these.

Group joins Rotherham Heritage Association

The Committee has agreed that the History Group should become members of the Rotherham Heritage Association.

The Association is an umbrella body for Rotherham's local history and memories groups.

Cricket sponsorship

It was agreed by the committee to make donation of £30 to Treeton Cricket Club on behalf of the History Group for the sponsorship of a match ball during the 2005 season.

Ideas wanted for future events

We would welcome any suggestions for future events such as interesting topics for meetings, speakers and places to visit.

If you have any ideas, please inform Jean, Steve or any member of the Committee.

Members witness landscape being transformed at the impressive Orgreave Opencast site

Over the last few years, as you looked from Treeton towards Sheffield, there has been a steadily changing scene as the opencasting of the site formerly occupied by Orgreave tip, the colliery and coking plant has been reshaped. Indeed, large parts of Handsworth and Woodhouse which were previously obscured by the tip can now be seen.

Last September, a party of eighteen people from the History group had the opportunity to visit the site and see at close quarters what was really happening. The visit was facilitated by the site manager Mr Derek Harrison and we were driven around the site in two Land Rovers.

After a short journey, we stopped to look at the "hole in the ground" - a massive excavation almost a hundred metres deep - where coal was being extracted from its seven seams. The large dumper trucks carrying 100 tons of earth, looked like mere Dinky toys.

Having taken our photographs, we then went to the



The former Orgreave Coking Plant. A once-familiar sight from Treeton Lane.

Woodhouse Mill end of the workings, where an excavator and a fleet of lorries were moving earth to other parts of the site. We were told work on the levelling of this part of the site would be completed by the end of the year and it is anticipated that all coal extraction will end in the autumn of 2005.

The next stage of the visit was a drive to the bottom of "the hole in the ground" to see the seams of coal from which around 8,500 tonnes of coal per week are being extracted.

Our next stop was alongside the river Rother which was diverted a few years ago to facilitate the reclamation. It was amazing to see how quickly this area has become regenerated by vegetation

and wildlife (we all saw both cormorant and grey heron together with more common species of birds).

The final part of our visit was towards that part of the site which is nearest the Parkway and where we saw a giant excavator at work. The excavator was so large that the wheels were 12

feet in diameter (a new tyre costs £12,000) and the bucket scooped up some 40 tonnes of earth. The excavator was loading earth onto the largest dumper trucks on the site. Unloaded, each truck weighs 100 tonnes and is capable of carrying 160 tonnes of earth. It took less than two minutes to load each truck (just four scoops made by the excavator).

The actual size of the operation was very impressive and we all left with a better understanding of it and some knowledge of how the Waverley site will be developed in the future.

Many thanks to UK Coal for such an interesting and informative visit.

Gordon Payne

Date of Brodsworth Hall visit changed and party limited to 25

The evening visit to Brodsworth Hall and Gardens, will now take place on **23rd June 2005** instead of 30th June.

It is strictly limited to 25 members, so bookings will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Start time 6.30 pm to 7.00 pm.


Brodsworth is fully set-up with ramps and lift to cope with wheelchairs and the visit will take about one-and-a-half hours. The gardens will be well-worth seeing in June.

Admission will be £8.50 per person (concession £8, English Heritage members £7).



For bookings and further information, contact Grace Stevenson on 0114 2690352 as soon as possible, please, to avoid disappointment.

Can anyone help Chris in her search for relatives of Alfred Bailey?

 We have received the following e-mail from Chris Bailey of Essex:

"This is a total shot in the dark, but I hope you can help.

My father-in-law, Alfred Bailey, was born in 1909 illegitimately in Chesterfield Union Workhouse to a Mary Alice Bailey.

That is where all documentation regarding Mary Alice stops, we cannot find any details regarding her after that.

He never spoke of his youth or childhood but all he did say was that he was brought up in Treeton and worked down Treeton colliery before going to war in 1939. We have found out that his adoptive family were called Carrington and that they had a son called Sonny, and after speaking to some elderly relatives recently they remember being taken to see Mary Alice (although they called her May) during the war.

They said she did not live very far from Alf but they do know that she had three other children and that she married. They also said that the family she married into were 'musical'. Now that could mean that they all played musical instruments or, as these relatives think, they were in show business. They mentioned Rawmarsh as well but, unfortunately, their memories are not what they were.

As my husband and I live down in Essex, it is quite difficult to come up to Yorkshire at the present time and he would love to put closure on this and, hopefully, meet his great aunts and uncles, or even cousins that he never knew he had.

So, basically, I am asking:

Would there be anything in your records regarding:

- 1) Alfred Bailey date of birth 1909 living in Treeton with the Carringtons and working down the mine.
- 2) Mary Alice Bailey born 1887 in Eckington (she was 13 in the 1901 census) and whom she would have married?

As I said, I don't know if you can help but I saw your web page and thought it would be worth trying. If you cannot help, I thank you for your time anyway.

Regards, Chris Bailey"

Schedule of Events

2005

Thursday, 28th April

Annual General Meeting

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

Friday, 29th April (*note change of date*)

Bluebell Walk through Burntwood

Meet at Spa Farm

Time: 6.15 pm

Saturday, 28th May (*note change of date*)

Visit to Cresswell Craggs

Arrangements to be announced shortly

Thursday, 23rd June (*note change of date*)

Visit to Brodsworth Hall

Start time: 6.30 pm to 7.00 pm

Strictly limited to 25 people

To book contact Grace Stevenson

on 0114 2690352

Thursday, 28th July

"Antiques Roadshow" (to be confirmed)

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

This event was scheduled for June but has been rearranged.

Thursday, 25th August

History of Sheffield Pubs/Memorials

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

Thursday, 29th September

To be arranged

Thursday, 27th October

Visit to the Sheffield Archives

To be arranged

Thursday, 24th November

Proposed "An Evening With George Formby" (to be confirmed)

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm

Thursday, 15th December

Christmas Party

Venue: Reading Rooms

Time: 7.30 pm