

Totley History Group
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 27 February 2013

Present:

35 People

Items:

Speaker

John Clarke gave us a very interesting talk about cutlery and knife making. He brought along some of his extensive collection of wonderful knives.

An item has to have a cutting edge to be called cutlery. It was started being made on the rivers as water was essential to drive the mills. Towards the end of the 18th century when steam power came into force then mills were built so that production could be done in the centre of town.

From the 1200s onwards cutlery was made in Sheffield, on the outskirts at Norton, Greenhill, Bradway scythes were made and Hackenthorpe sickles were produced.

John showed us lock knives and when they open and close this is called walking and talking.

He also showed us a Bowie knife which was designed for maximum damage in battle, it had a handle made from stag bone. Knives were also made from mother of pearl and tortoise shell. He showed us some lovely fruit knives and the blade was made of silver so it did not corrode from the fruit. Several people would be involved in the making of a knife as it needed different skilled tradesmen for making the scissors, knives and springs, it took a lot of skill to do this.

The main companies in Sheffield were Brooks and Crooks, Rogers and Iversons, they went under when cutlery started being massed produced and therefore could be sold at a cheaper price.

General Items.

All to let us know of their email address if we have not got it already and we will add you to our email distribution list and then if meetings have to be cancelled in future we can let you know.

The next meeting is on 27 March at the library at 7.30pm, Paul Cutts is giving us a talk about family photographs as social history

Dorothy and Pauline have produced a great leaflet for a Totley Village Walk, it is free and will be placed in the Post Office and in local pubs for distribution, it has a short and long walk and is also available on the website.

All encouraged to look at our website, it has a lot of interesting information on it including some transcriptions that Dorothy's husband Les has recently put on there of the Totley Census. There is also an interesting article on the website produced by Bill Glossop about Harry Brierley.

We have a spare copy of Brian Edwards Book Dore and Totley Beyond if anyone is interested in it, free to a good home!

There are some family history magazines that one of our members no longer requires, about 400 of them, if anyone is interested in any of them please let Christine know, also free to a good home!

**Totley History Group
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 24 April 2013**

Present:

26 People

Items:

AGM

Chair's Report by Christine:-

It has been another interesting and full year, thanks were given to Pauline for arranging the speakers. David Templeman spoke about Sheffield Manor, Suzanne Bingham talking about Pus,Pox and Privies and John Clarke speaking about knife making. We have been to Ecclesall Woods, and also had a tour of Woodthorpe Hall where there were generous amounts of their home made cider! The Totley History Walk was held between Christmas and Year and this is to be repeated in June.

Christmas Party - Sally and Rony organised this and resurrected the mummers.

Totley Village Walk leaflet – This is another publication we have produced and thanks was given to Pauline, Dorothy and Les, Dorothy's husband for this. The leaflets are free and there are only a few left, a print rerun is to be done shortly.

Website – This is going well, thanks was given to Les for his work on this, this can be used to help with research.

Digital Projector – We have purchased a digital projector from 2 donations we have had from Totley Open Gardens and Totley Independent and thanks were given for these.

This report was approved by the meeting.

Finance Report by Norman:-

If anyone wants to view the report please ask Norman. Norman advised it had been a good year with the entrance fees and membership providing a steady income, we have a profit of just under £1500 in the Bank, this does not include the costs of the leaflet publication, and the TI donation. This report was approved by the meeting.

Election of Management Committee Members:-

Ann Lee and Alan Byron are standing down and were both thanked for all their hard work.

Christine has stood down as Chair, Dorothy is the future chair.

Marlene Marshall was a co-opted member and will now be a full member on the Committee.

The Committee members are Dorothy Prosser (Chair), Pauline Burnett, Jean Byron, Kerry Clarke, Dom Harris, Marlene Marshall, Jimmy Martin, Norman Rolfe, Sue Scattergood, Christine Shimell

Speaker

Paul Cutts gave us a fascinating talk about family/social history which showed how decisions made by generations past affects future generations.

Paul showed us photographs of his family from 1880 to 1985 and this highlighted changes in society during this time.

In 1880 agriculture had become increasingly mechanised and in the towns there was a demand for labour so there was a surge of people into the new cities, they exchanged rural squalor for urban squalor. There were standards of dress which marked perceived status, eg bowler hats, cloth caps, collar and tie, watch and chain. A typical Victorian family had 8/9 children, often children died in infancy, the mother of the family would be having children nearly every year during her child bearing years. During the Edwardian era families were not as large and also people were now starting to emigrate, once a few members of a family went many more followed particularly if they had no work in the UK. This was spearheaded by the male population. In the UK there was a lack of security for many and this led to strikes/riots, eg the rail workers, cotton workers.

In 1909 the labour exchange was introduced and in 1911 National Insurance was introduced, however this had to be paid for by taxes and this contributed to the National Strike.

The passenger ships that took the people overseas were built top heavy so they had a slow roll if the seas were bad, however, this could have had consequences too if the ship rolled too far. The SS Waratah disappeared en route from Australia to the UK, no trace of the ship or its passengers and crew has ever been found.

Many immigrants were enlisted to the army in their new found country and shipped back to Europe in the 1st World War

The Suffragettes used violent tactics and became unpopular but many were highly educated, some were doctors and they thought it would be a good thing to help wounded soldiers and show they were not just violent protesters, they set up hospitals for the wounded soldiers.

In 1948 colour film was poor quality so hand tinted black and white photographs were produced.

London, Oxford, Cambridge Universities in the 1950s now had a large amount of foreign students enrolled with them.

During and after WW2 many foreign troops who had been stationed in the UK married UK girls.

National Service was in force from 1949 to 1960, this was unpleasant for some, a total of 400 died mainly in Korea and Malaya.

The message is that we should all take photographs, particularly group family photos, write on the back the date and who the photographs are of so they can be kept for future generations!

General Items.

Christine has now stood down as Chair and she was given a round of applause for her hard work and for her successful time as Chair.

The next meeting is the Cutlers Hall visit on 22 May, all to meet outside before the 2pm start.

Saturday, 22 June Pauline is to be guide for the Totley History Walk, all to meet at The Cross Scythes for 2pm, dogs must be on a lead, stout shoes required.

Wednesday, 26 June Research Meeting at the Totley Library at 7.30pm

Sheffield and District Family Fair on 1 June – We have a stall at this at the Sheffield Wednesday Ground. Anyone wishing to help please advise Ann

The meeting was closed by Christine giving a presentation of some of the vast collection of the Thompson Postcards that the Group have purchased.

**Totley History Group
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 16 October 2013**

Present:

18 People

General Items:

Tonight's meeting was an open meeting when everyone can talk about things they are researching or things they have an interest in.

Christine talked about the articles which she writes each month for the Totley Independent, all agreed that these were really interesting. Christine has a lot of material Marlene has found for Cherry Tree Orphanage and Christine is working her way through it and they are hoping to publish a book. They have had a lot of really interesting feedback from Sheffield Forum some saying they loved it there and some hated it, when they left the boys tended to enter the army and the girls went to domestic service.

Dorothy and her husband Les have been looking through Brian's archives and found a letter dated 12 February 1980, it was from Glen Rose, Back Lane wanting to know about the history of her house, she said it was once one house it is now 3, there are frescos on the walls, we wondered if the people who live there now are aware of them? Was it a farm? Who owned it? This is a good project for someone to research if anyone is interested.

Pamela Bailey and her husband and daughter attended the meeting, they had seen the book about the soldiers and her uncle is Jim Parker. She has some photos that she brought along, she is not sure if they are of his mother or grandmother, Pauline and Dorothy told her about what they had found out about his life. Pamela also had some paintings by W C Hill and she brought one along of Akley Bank. W C Hill lived on Lemont Road and painted a lot of local views.

Paul Savage is researching his family history and they lived on Lemont Road, he mentioned an article in the TI by Dawn Coggins regarding Hannah Wild, she was the first headmistress of Totley Hall School on Totley Hall Lane. Dorothy has discovered she is buried at Ecclesall All Saints, she has sent off for her death certificate and discovered Hannah's husband was Thomas Wild, a millwright. Dorothy is going to continue her research.

Christine has done a Totley Tithe map, it is a wonderful piece of artwork. It was passed around for everyone to have a look at, it shows property, land ownership for around 1839/40 the field names are fascinating, it is pre enclosure of the land.

Dorothy appealed for anyone who has any photos of Totley from the 1930s to 1960s if we could borrow them and scan and give them straight back, particularly a good photo of the prefabs or Totley Grange. These type of photos are in short supply.

Dorothy and Pauline are researching the Totley shops and would like to talk to anyone who worked in them from 10/15 years ago and beyond.

As mentioned in the Totley Independent, the current editor Ian Clarke is “retiring” from his post at the end of the year. All to let Kerry or Ian know if they know of anyone who would be interested in this role or could help in an editorial team, Ian was thanked for all his assistance in letting the group use material from the TI, we all hope this great publication can continue.

Brian’s archives will be open for all to view every last Saturday of the month at Avril’s house, 79 Baslow Road, this will be from 10am to noon and there will be someone from the history group in attendance. Note there is no opening in December.

Date of Next Meeting

27 November – Janet Stain – The History of Undergarments

18 December – Susan Deal – A Victorian Christmas

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library

**Totley History Group
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 27 November 2013**

Present:

21 People

General Items:

Save the Totley Library Campaign – It is proposed to run the library with volunteers as a community library. The campaign has asked the various groups that use the library for their support and we have advised that we are in agreement with this.

Brian Edwards' archives will be open for all to view this Saturday at Avril's house, 79 Baslow Road, this will be from 10am to noon

Speaker – Our speaker tonight was Janet Stain who gave us a very interesting and amusing talk about the history of undergarments, Christine's notes of this will follow on our website
www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk

Date of Next Meetings

18 December – Susan Deal – A Victorian Christmas talk, followed by refreshments and mince pies.

22 January – The Story of Gillfield Wood – Sally Goldsmith

26 February – Open Meeting

26 March – J G Greaves – By Mike Spick

23 April – AGM followed by Women Inventors from 1750 to the present day – Janina Derrick

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library

**Totley History Group
At Totley Library
Wednesday, 18 December 2013**

Present:

23 People

General Items:

Unfortunately, we have been advised that Brian Edwards is now in a care home. The better news is that Bill Glossop is now out and about again.

All were reminded about our next meeting in January when Sally Goldsmith will talk to us about the story of Gillfield Wood.

It was announced that after the talk wine, Schloer and mince pies would be available for all to enjoy.

Our speaker tonight was Susan Deal who talked to us about how the Victorians invented Christmas. Christine's summary of this will be on the Totley History Group website shortly (www.totleyhistorygroup.org.uk).

Meeting Dates for 2014

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| 22 January | The Story of Gillfield Wood, Sally Goldsmith |
| 26 February | Open Meeting |
| 26 March | J G Graves, Businessman and benefactor, Mike Spick |
| 23 April | AGM followed by Sidelined by History, Female Inventors Since the 18th Century, Janina Derrick |
| 21 May | Guided visit to Eyam at 11am, note the earlier date and time, Ian Morgan |
| 25 June | Open Meeting |
| 19 July | Lower Totley Walk. |
| August | No Meeting. |
| 25 Sept | Randini, The Greenhill lad who followed in Houdini's footsteps, Ann Beedham |
| 22 Oct | Longshaw's use as a WWI convalescent home, Thelma Griffiths |
| 26 Nov | Open Meeting |
| 17 Dec | A Tudor Christmas, Maureen Taylor |

All meetings are at 7.30 pm at Totley Library