

**Totley History Group Meeting  
At Totley Library  
Wednesday, 23 January 2019**

**Present:**

27 People

General Notices

Pauline asked everyone if they would be interested in a visit to The Assay Office at Hillsborough for our July meeting, it would be either morning or afternoon and would be £12 per person. Kerry will email all members to gain an idea of interest.

Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight was Hilary Hudson who gave a talk about Dead and Buried, Dore and Totley Ancestry.

Good websites to use for research are Ancestry.co.uk, the General Register Office, Find My Past (some libraries have a subscription), Find a Grave and also newspapers have lots of information. Also, death and burial records are a good method for finding information for research - death certificates, parish records, obituaries and grave stones.

Death certificate records began in England in 1837. For England and Wales the death index is online up to 2017. Scotland has more detailed information, a lot of the Irish records were lost, where the information is available it is free.

Requests for death certificates are charged. We can now apply for a PDF copy for family history research which is a copy of a death certificate and this is cheaper.

On the death certificate there are details about where the death was registered, details of the deceased, cause of death, informant of the death and date of death.

If an ancestor died in the workhouse the relatives were informed and the relatives arranged the funeral if they could afford it. Otherwise they were buried by the workhouse in their burial grounds or somewhere nearby or their body could be sent for medical purposes.

Some of the causes of death were listed as:-

Old age (this is not allowed today)

By visitation of God – this was seen up to 1900 and used if someone dropped suddenly dead

Malnutrition

Blank – We are unsure why this is recorded.

Murder.

There were disease epidemics - scarlet fever, smallpox, measles, influenza, diphtheria etc

Suicide was a sin and against the law and no funeral service was permitted. However, some vicars were more humane and gave a service, and they could be buried in unconsecrated ground.

From 1558 deaths were recorded on parchment as paper didn't store well and old paper records copied over to the parchments.

It was common to reuse a name for a child, child mortality was high.

Elderly women called searchers carried poles to notify people they had been in contact with the sick, they diagnosed deaths and often got ill themselves.

There is now a theory regarding the Eyam plague that it was not from a flea bite and the thinking is it may have been an

infectious virus not the plague, as not all people who were in contact will the illness died.

There were laws for non-conformist burials and then in 1880 there was a burial law amendment act and people could be buried in their own right and the burial could take place without the rites of the Church of England.

The dead were buried in woollen shrouds to prevent the linen being imported that they were previously buried in. The poor and plague victims were not buried in wool.

The Parish paid for the burial of people in alms or the poor.

In 1854 the London Necropolis train station opened to transport the coffins of the departed Londoners to graveyards outside of London as burial space had run out in London. The living and the dead were segregated during travel according to their class and religious persuasion.

Coffins were often transported to their graves in Victorian times by train and then left at the lychgate to the church, often overnight in a coffin or shroud and were guarded. There were also coffin routes via foot, one such one being from Dore through to Totley over to Holmesfield.

Safety coffins were invented, a coffin fitted with a mechanism to prevent premature burial to allow the occupant to signal that they have been buried alive.

Hilary was thanked for a very interesting, detailed talk.

#### Meeting Dates for 2019

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|-------------|--|
| 27 February | The Story of an Ordinary 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Sheffield Family – Suzanne Bingham |
| 27 March    | The Plague Doctor, Medical Treatments in the 17 <sup>th</sup> Century – David Bell   |

24 April	AGM followed by The Great Sheffield Deer Park – David Templeman
22 May	Open Meeting
26 June	A Contract from Hell, Building the Woodhead Tunnel 1839-1845 – Chris and Judy Rouse
24 July	TBC
August	No meeting
25 September	TBC
23 October	Ration Book Fashion – Janet Stain
27 November	Open Meeting
December	Spitewinter Concert, Sheffield Folk Chorale at Ecclesall Church

**Totley History Group Meeting  
At Totley Library  
Wednesday, 27 February 2019**

**Present:**

43 People

General Notices

If anyone is interested in going on a tour of the The Assay Office please put your name on the list provided by Pauline, it will be either the 1st or 2nd week in July at 1pm to to 330pm and £12.50 per head including refreshments

Dorothy asked for help with a couple of queries we've received - does anyone know anything about a newspaper train robbery in the mid 1980s, the train was stopped somewhere around the Dore triangle junction, we've also been asked about a Dr Frederick Charles Tring and if anyone knows if he had any connections to Totley?

The Friends of Gillfield Woods are having a talk by Thelma Griffiths on Monday, 11 March entitled A Potted History of Longshaw Estate and its connection with Totley and Gillfield Woods

Speaker Tonight

Suzanne Bingham is our speaker tonight talking to us about the story of a Sheffield family, a family history story about ordinary people leading ordinary lives, looking at 2 of her ancestors living in Victorian times.

The first ancestor Suzanne researched was Eliza Dixon her great great grandmother born in 1848. In 1851 she lived at Smithfields behind West Bar in back to back housing. The

occupation of her father and brothers were Britannia metalsmiths making the Sheffield silver, it was a short walk to work, people lived near to where they worked. Neither of her parents were from Sheffield. Sheffield's population started to increase during the 1800s, in 1801 the population was 31,000 and between 1821 to 1841 the population doubled. Eliza's mum was from York and her dad was from Quebec as he was stationed there with the Royal Infantry. He married the sergeant's daughter so she was allowed to travel with him and they had 3 children born in Quebec then returned to Sheffield. In 1861 the census showed that Eliza had moved to Nursery Street, it was easy for people to move around as they had few possessions and lived in rented accommodation. By 1871 she had moved to Broad Lane and living with a man called James Bingham, she was living very near her parents, families did stay living near each other. In 1872 Eliza's mum died and her father was left on his own, he died in 1874 in the workhouse, they both had pauper burials. The workhouse was at Kelham Island before it moved to Firvale where the Northern General Hospital is now. Elderly people were 50% of the inmates as they couldn't work so had no money. The workhouses were not great places for the elderly to be. In 1836 the general cemetery opened for burials, there was an agreement with the workhouse for pauper burials and every week a man with a cart would arrive with bodies to be put in a designated area in one grave, the highest number was 96. In the 1881 census Eliza was a respectable married woman living on Hawley Croft in back to back houses living with children aged from 11, Eliza's married sister and children also lived with her, 3 generations are living together and Eliza's sister's child is actually Eliza's child.

Most women at this time worked in the buffing trade or similar, working for a manufacture who would provide training. Once they were skilled and got married and had children they worked for a little missus and rented a small workshop and took the children to work though the pay was not good they had the flexibility of childcare. In 1891 Eliza was a widow, her husband

died in his 40s he was a grinder. Life expectancy was low as grinding knives and forks with a grindstone all day was bad for posture and breathing in the cuttings. Sadly Eliza's health deteriorated and she moves in with her daughter and is then in the workhouse at firvale where it is not as overcrowded and there were proper hospitals and schools etc. This was the only source of free hospital but many couldn't use it as attached to the workhouse. Eliza died in the workhouse and was buried in pauper grave. Eliza had tried to better herself but was constantly drawn back into the system.

Ancestor 2 that Suzanne researched was her great great grandfather William Tyas. He was born in 1843 in the workhouse and the birth name of his father was blank on the birth certificate, his mother was Ann Tyas, they were both illiterate. William lived in Duke Street, he moved in from Maltby where agriculture work was done, people were moving into Sheffield from surrounding areas as better opportunities in the metalwork industry happened. Ann had at least 2 illegitimate children and this wasn't unusual, she gave birth in the workhouse and would have had to wear a particular uniform or a band to stigmatise her as an unmarried mother. Bed sharing was phased out, the beds were like coffins, mattresses were made of straw and there were no blankets or sheets just their clothes to keep them warm. They would have had to work even if heavily pregnant. Ann did leave the workhouse and in the 1851 census was a respectable married woman and had her 2nd illegitimate child living with her, she lived at Cotton Mill Row. 10 years later Ann lived on Brocco Street.

A lot of the apprentices lived with their master (they were housed and clothed but no pay). Ann's illegitimate son lived with her perhaps as a boarder to keep his independence. Apprentices had to sign a code of behaviour. A few years later he married Sarah Gledhill at St Stephens Church at Netherthorpe and his occupation was a razor grinder, neither himself or his bride are literate so they put a X against their names for the

marriage certificate. At this time Sheffield has terrible sanitary conditions and a high death toll, life expectancy was an average of 27 years, dreadful housing and overcrowding. When looked for William again he has moved to Hartlepool for the clean sea air, they were recruiting to develop the metal trade. Sarah gives birth here to Suzanne's great grandmother, they don't stay in Hartlepool and return to Sheffield living in better accommodation away from central Sheffield near Hillsborough Park in the countryside where the environment was good and now they now have 6 children. William is now a Little mester at the Philadelphia Works, he is self employed, affiliated to a manufacturer and rents the workshop. They did not work on Monday, worked Tuesday to 2pm, Wednesdays a full day, Thursday 12 hours and Friday worked until midnight as they were behind with their work. The saying nose to the grindstone comes from this schedule of work. On a Saturday they were awake early as had to get their work to the manufacture and collect next week's work. Wages were dependent on how the individual negotiated and people didn't discuss what they earned so workers were on different rates of pay. Local shops were opening in the suburbs due to the rise in population, this sees the local high street developing and William converts his front room to a grocer's shop, the rise of the corner shop is an opportunity for working class people to better themselves, however, the working hours were long. There were tragedies of Victorian society, in the 1911 census William had 8 children and only 3 were alive, the infant mortality rate was 1 in 5 children died before 12 months of age and 1 in 2 children died before they were 5 years old, the highest mortality rate in the country. Isolation hospitals were built eg Lodge Moor to stop diseases spreading and education provided regarding the understanding of bacteria and how germs were spread, babies were badly fed, so mothers were educated how to raise children, health workers were made available, first aid classes provided and leaflets/drop in sessions, baby clinics, the first clinic is where the Wicker Herbalist was in Surrey Street. William tried to improve his life

but he couldn't escape the Victorian living conditions around him

Suzanne was thanked for a fascinating talk about her ancestors and the environment they lived in and how this affected their lives. Suzanne hoped we are all now encouraged to research our ancestors

#### Meeting Dates for 2019

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**Totley History Group Meeting  
At Totley Library  
Wednesday, 27 March 2019**

**Present:**

37 People

General Notices

Our next meeting in April is our AGM followed by a talk by David Templeman about The Great Sheffield Deer Park.

At our April meeting it is our annual membership renewal, the fee is again £5 to rejoin the group. Due to the new data protection act we have a tick box on the membership form if you would like to be included on emails that the Group sends out from time to time about forthcoming history events, please note this is all we will send out. If you would like to receive these emails please tick the box on the form.

Pauline advised that she goes out to groups to do her talk about the history of Abbeydale Forge. She borrows the history group projector and donates money from her talks to the Nepalese Hills Trust who are in the foothills of the Himalayas and go into the schools there. To date Pauline has donated £400, if anyone knows of anyone who would like to book this talk please let Pauline know.

Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight is David Bell, The Plague Doctor, who talked to us about medical treatments in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, he warned us at the start that some of his talk was true and some not!!.

Although David is not a doctor, historian or academic, he retired to Eyam and discovered that the waterfall on the farm he had bought, was the site where Matthew Morton had taken up residence, in 1665, with his dog 'Flash', to escape the plague, which had killed his wife and children. When bus loads of tourists turned up to view the waterfall and learn about the plague history of Eyam (whether myth or reality), David decided to research those times and events in the village.

An ordinary person living 350 years ago had an average lifespan of 40 years. Doctors did exist, so what did a doctor know, they didn't understand about the heart pumping blood, what a pulse was or about blood pressure so they would listen to the patient's complaint and would study their urine sample. There were 2 main things a person would die from, they would suddenly drop down dead which could be from heart, stroke or kidney infection or the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common killer was diabetes though the patient would die from gangrene. Most patients would want medicine to feel better so the doctors used the doctrine of signatures which states that herbs or items resembling various parts of the body can be used to treat ailments of those body parts, eg a stick of celery for arthritis looking like a bone, a banana was described for depression which has the chemical serotonin, a happy chemical, although would probably have to eat 7/8 bananas per day.

David brought with him a blow-up Samuel Pepys doll, dressed in 17th century clothes, which had a urinary tract infection, a bladder stone and constipation. With descriptions of the cures for ailments documented in Samuel Pepys diaries David graphically demonstrated on the doll how these were performed.

The plague came to Eyam in a consignment of cloth from London, which had plague fleas in the cloth, so people started to get infected and die. 260 succumbed in total, over 14 months.

The vicar of Eyam, William Mompesson, told his parishioners to stay in the village, not to mix or meet in public, and who were subsequently selflessly sacrificed to the plague. Due to this isolation of the village eventually the plague was eradicated and prevented from spreading to the surrounding areas.

David was thanked for his interesting, entertaining talk.

#### Meeting Dates for 2019

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25 September	The Sheffield Armament Industry 1917-1918 – Chris Corker – The final talk in Chris’s trilogy tracing Sheffield’s huge involvement in WWI
23 October	Ration Book Fashion – Janet Stain
27 November	Open Meeting
December	Spitewinter Concert, Sheffield Folk Chorale at Ecclesall Church

**Totley History Group Meeting  
Annual General Meeting  
At Totley Library  
Wednesday, 24 April 2019**

**Present:**

32 People

**Annual General Meeting**

Apologies for Absence

Jim Martin

2018 AGM Minutes

Agreed.

Chairman's Report

What has been noticeable this year has been the numbers of people coming to our meetings. This is a testament to the range of interesting speakers that Pauline Burnett has arranged for us and I'd like to thank her for all her hard work. Yet again, thanks to the wide range of speakers organised by Pauline Burnett, we have enjoyed another successful year. The subjects covered have included Wincobank, Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, Chatsworth Gardens, Gillfield Wood, Ebenezer Hall, the healing properties of Sphagnum moss, 19<sup>th</sup> century family life and medical treatments from the 17th century. On behalf of you all I'd like to thank Pauline for the interesting speakers she continues to find. The extension works at the Library meant that there was insufficient space to house Brian Edwards's archive but as a result of the project undertaken by Friends of Gillfield Wood we had a digital copy of the archive. After consultation with Brian's first wife and son it was agreed that we would retain possession of the archive on a storage basis with access to it being digitally. On a sad note we have just been advised of the death, yesterday, of one of our members

Ken Blair. Ken had a daughter, Caroline, but no details are available yet regarding funeral arrangements.

I would like to thank all the members of my Committee for their help and support during the year, it has been a good team effort. As ever we need new Committee members to come forward and although the current committee is happy to continue for another year many of us have been involved for a number of years and we are not getting any younger. There are some key roles which may become vacant in the next few years so if you have an interest in the running of the Group please consider putting yourself forward. I'd like to finish by thanking you all for your support throughout the year without which the group would not survive.

#### Treasurer's Report

The figures have been circulated, we have had no large purchases and the entrance fees and subs ensure we can cover our costs.

#### Election of Management Committee

The following was agreed for the forthcoming year:-

Chair Norman

Vice Chair Dorothy

Treasurer Norman

Secretary Kerry

Other Committee Members – Jean, Sue, Jennifer, Dom, Pauline, Jim and Tony.

#### Subs and Member Fees

The Group is not about making a profit, we have a comfortable Bank balance and it was agreed we would keep our member's fee as £5 per year and our entrance fees as £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

## Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight is David Templeman who talked to us about The Great Sheffield Deer Park, Ye Great Park of England.

The origins of the park are from Anglo Saxon times which can be found from the size of the trees.

The castle was so large it was used for the whole admin centre for all of the Hallamshire area. The park was 8 miles in circumference, a lot larger than the other deer parks in the UK. The castle was on the edge of the deer park, and had rounded edges and enclosed to keep the deer inside and the predators out.

There were many other deer parks in the area including Wentworth, Tankersley, Conisborough (had royal connections), Cawthorne, Walton Hall, Holme Hall, Whittington Moor, Staveley.

The boundary wall was 8 feet high, 4 feet of wall and 4 feet of fence. At certain parts it dropped down to create ditches to trap the deer, there was a drop ditch to level the ground so from the castle the wall could not be seen. This was called a ha ha.

The Park was all about power and prestige and status, land and money was flaunted, it was a big status symbol. Wealth and position were flaunted to the people of Sheffield. The majority of the people of Sheffield were poor and starving and the park went right into the centre of Sheffield. Poaching was rife. There were over 3,000 deer in the park, and also rabbits and pheasants,

The castle was originally built of wood, however, it got burnt down and then the huge castle was built. This is where Mary Queen of Scots stayed and apart from Tutbury Castle this was her most hated imprisonment, it was in a dip where the water

and sewage collected so cannot have been a pleasant place to live.

Where the River Sheaf and River Don met a ditch was created for a moat around the castle. The castle was located in Sheffield old town at Dixon Lane, Exchange Street and met the River Sheaf, over on Sheaf bridge. Manor Lodge was in the middle of the park.

Hunting deer parks were not for hunting. There were fallow deer in the park and they were killed for the table or sold. They had a breed of dogs called Talbot dogs for hunting, they were as big as an Irish Wolfhound and always wore a muzzle apart from when hunting.

There was an avenue of walnut trees leading to the castle, these looked beautiful and were wide enough for a horse and cart though dense enough so that goods and people travelling to the castle were protected from the rain.

The Old Queens Head pub is the oldest timber structure in Sheffield, it was in the park and think was used as a banqueting hall, the area is subject to flooding, when dried out lush meadows grew. There were also 6 waterwheels in the park and these could service many grindstones.

There were park keepers to prevent unauthorised visitors. They looked after the deer and the trees, and tenant supervision. The park gates still exist near Lady Bridge and Intake Gate.

In 1616 the park demised, it was the last of the Shrewsburys and the Duke of Norfolk inherited the park, he was only interested in the commercial aspect of the park, he made a lot of money from selling the oak trees for shipbuilding, charcoal and created quarries and mines in the park.

There is a walk that takes place of the boundaries of the park, it is around 5 miles and goes on the ancient footpaths. David has maps of the park and castle.

It was the 4<sup>th</sup> largest medieval castle in England and at the Sheffield Manor Lodge, the Shrewsbury Tudor House, no expense was spared. The Sheffield Deer Park was the great park of England.

David was thanked for another fascinating talk.

#### Meeting Dates for 2019

22 May	Open Meeting
26 June	A Contract from Hell, Building the Woodhead Tunnel 1839-1845 – Chris and Judy Rouse
July	Assay Office Tour, 1pm to 3pm, see Pauline for information
August	No meeting
25 September	The Sheffield Armament Industry 1917-1918 – Chris Corker – The final talk in Chris's trilogy tracing Sheffield's huge involvement in WWI
23 October	Ration Book Fashion – Janet Stain
27 November	Open Meeting
December	Spitewinter Concert, Sheffield Folk Chorale at Ecclesall Church

**Totley History Group Meeting  
Annual General Meeting  
At Totley Library  
Wednesday, 26 June 2019**

**Present:**

61 People

Items of Interest

Our next meeting is in July and is a talk and tour at Sheffield Assay Office on 18 July meeting at 1pm at the Assay Office, anyone interested please see Pauline.

There is no meeting in August and our September meeting is a talk by Chris Corker speaking to us about The Sheffield Armament Industry 1917-1918. It is the final talk in Chris's trilogy tracing Sheffield's huge involvement in WWI.

Speaker Tonight

Our speakers tonight are Chris and Judy Rouse and they came to talk to us about the railway navvies and a contract from hell building the Woodhead Tunnel.

It was decided that a tunnel was needed from Sheffield to Manchester as there were no decent roads, the turnpike road was in a bad way and due to the inclement weather it was difficult to maintain.

The Woodhead tunnels are 3 parallel trans-Pennine railway tunnels on the Woodhead line, a former major rail link from Manchester to Sheffield.

The first tunnel Woodhead 1 was constructed by the Sheffield, Ashton-Under-Lyne and Manchester railway. It was 38 miles

long and at the summit 1550 feet above sea level. Work on the tunnel commenced in 1837. It was designed by the railway engineer Charles Vignoles who was later substituted by the civil engineer Joseph Lock. Vignoles was responsible for the tunnel design and specification, he was involved in other activities for the company, including fundraising. His decision to use his own resources to purchase shares under an alleged understanding that he would not have to pay the full price led to controversy and he resigned from his position in 1838 when Lock took over. When tunnel 1 opened in 1845 Woodhead 1 was one of the world's longest railway tunnels and first trans-Pennine tunnel.

Woodhead 2 was completed in 1853. Tunnel 3 tunnel was constructed in the 1950s and opened in 1953 almost 100 years after Woodhead 2. Tunnel 3 was used by British Rail for electric lines built in 1964 and it closed in 1981.

The working conditions and health of the navvies building the tunnels was very poor. There were deaths, outbreaks of disease and because of the rock strata formation building work was difficult, short cuts were taken with the building works. In 1838 the first sod was cut, things went wrong from the start, it was plagued by the climate, lack of money and poor health of the workers due to being out in constant bad weather.

The engineer, Wellington Purdon, advised that the working conditions were awful and there was little consideration for the workforce. He asked why the safety fuses were not used and safety measures were not in place and the reply was that this incurs time and not worth it for the worth of the lives that were being lost.

By July 1839 the workers and their families were living on the moors in bovies, and some were in the valley, it was a long walk to the site and then they were working a 12 hour shift. By 1839 even the engineers and contractors like Purdon were finding it difficult. It was therefore decided to build accommodation for

the workforce and the horses, and also build some decent roads for the horses to get the materials to site. There were different types of accommodation for the different hierarchy of worker. However, they were all sub-standard, badly built, leaked, had no windows, no mortar, and rent had to be paid for this accommodation. Some were left with nowhere to live and were living in tents. It was difficult getting the coal and food to site and a constant fight keeping the water levels down in the tunnels works.

There were 34 recorded deaths, hazards were rock falls, blasting explosions, falls by staff, embankment collapses. There were approximately 3,000 injuries. The water was contaminated with human and horse sewage and it was dark in the tunnels, with no lighting. They worked day and night and would bed share between the shifts worked. The navvies should not have worked on a Sunday but did and if caught it would have been the navvies that got fined. Sloping also happened where workers stayed with older ladies and left without paying their rent, also stealing occurred. There were bone fractures, limbs lost, eyes lost, blood poisoning. The navvies were often paid in a public house so they would spend their wages in the pub, often fights broke out, and there was an absence of both education for the children and religious instruction.

On 27 December 1845 the tunnel officially opened, it took 10.5 minutes to get through the tunnel. The dignitaries went on train to Manchester and back to Sheffield for a lavish reception at Sheffield and also in Manchester. All the engineers were complimented on their great work but no mention of the navvies.

The Edwin Chadwick Report of 1846 advised that it gave him no pleasure for this great architectural works as so many workers had died.

Chris and Judy were thanked for a fascinating, detailed talk. They can help with tracing your railway ancestor's story via [wyvernrailwayancestors.com](http://wyvernrailwayancestors.com)

Meeting Dates for 2019

July	Assay Office Tour, 1pm to 3.30pm, see Pauline for information
August	No meeting
25 September	The Sheffield Armament Industry 1917-1918 – Chris Corker – The final talk in Chris's trilogy tracing Sheffield's huge involvement in WWI
23 October	Ration Book Fashion – Janet Stain
27 November	Open Meeting
December	Spitewinter Concert, Sheffield Folk Chorale at Ecclesall Church

**Totley History Group Meeting  
At Totley Library  
Wednesday, 25 September 2019**

**Present:**

33 People

Items of Interest

The Totley library is holding an event on Saturday, 5 October to celebrate the volunteers running the library for 5 years. We have been asked if we can contribute. Dom has produced a display that will be in the library about how the library started. Sue is running a Totley History Group quiz/treasure hunt with around 50/60 questions, it will be £1 to enter and the first prize is a £10 book token and 2nd prize is a year's free membership to the history group

Ted Hancock has a new book and this is being sold at the library, it is £30 and if purchased at the library £5 goes to the library. It is an excellent book with great illustrations.

Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight is Dr Chris Corker talking to us about Sheffield 1917-18 - Collaboration, innovation and wartime production

The main companies in the Sheffield armaments industry from 1914 to 1918 were below and these made armour plate, finished guns, projectiles, gun forgings for the war:-

Vickers River Don Works

Cammell Laird - Cyclops work and Grimesthorpe works

John Browns

Firths - Norfolk and Tinsley works

## Hadfields - Hecla works

In Sheffield in 1917 there was vast expansion in production capacity and more workers were drafted into the munitions production. There was a reduction in use of steel for non wartime use.

Houses and lodgings were moved or destroyed to accommodate more factories as they were rapidly expanding, the factories worked 8 hour continual shifts, many women were employed in the factories, mainly young unmarried women. The women wore flouncy dresses as a uniform, certainly not designed with health and safety in mind when working with the machinery

Sheffield was very important to the war efforts and the naming of a ship called HMS Sheffield shows this.

The workers at Cammells part manufactured a decapping device invented by John Tolmie Tresidder and this was fitted in Glasgow to all British ships.

Hadfields were believed to employ more workmen than any other business in Sheffield and they were largely engaged in the production of war material. Hadfields shells had a patent cap which gave their projectiles very high ballistic qualities. At this time Hadfields works covered nearly 7 acres. Hadfields helped train other manufacturers and overseas companies for the production of the high explosive shells. King George V visited Sheffield in May 1919 and visited Hadfields.

Many of the companies collaborated together regarding technology, Firths and Hadfields continued until the 1930s

Export profit duty was introduced as the Government didn't want companies making large amounts of profit from the war.

November 1918 saw the end of the war which was a surprise to some people, the King and Queen visited the Cammell Laird works, Cammells employed 140 people before the war and by the end of the war this figure was at 3,000.

Sheffield companies are believed to have produced over 38 million items for the war though Chris believes it could be as high as 100 million items.

At the end of the war orders were cancelled and jobs lost and the steel companies looked to the rail industry for work.

Sheffield's contribution to the war was huge and the city's vast industrial area was full of factories making many different items for the war effort.

We thanked Chris for a very interesting talk, we were sure that we all learnt something from tonight.

#### Meeting Dates for 2019/2020

23 October	Ration Book Fashion, Janet Stain
27 November	Open Meeting – Christmases Past.
17 December	Spitewinter Concert, Sheffield Folk Chorale, Ecclesall Church
22 January	The Shepleys of Woodthorpe Hall, Dick Shepley
26 February	The Old Town Hall, Past, Present and Future, Valerie Bayliss
25 March	The History and Residents of Zion Graveyard, Attercliffe, Penny Rea
22 April	AGM then The History of Stained Glass, Ann Beedham

**Totley History Group Meeting  
At Totley Library  
Wednesday, 23 October 2019**

**Present:**

40 People

Items of Interest

Our next meeting is an open meeting and the theme is Christmas's Past. We will have a discussion about our memories and look at old photos. It would be great if anyone could bring any old decorations or any other relevant memorabilia.

Sue has produced a file of our old meeting posters, it is well worth a look, Les has done a great job producing all the posters.

Sue has done a Totley History Group quiz it is £1 per sheet and proceeds go to library funds. They need to be returned to the library by 1 November. First prize is a £10 book token and entry for 2 people to Totley History Group for a year and second prize is 1 person's entry to the History Group for a year.

Dorothy has received a call from a lady who has found a certificate from the Red Cross for Isaac Williams in recognition of his services as a stretcher bearer. His wife lived on Lemont Road and died in the 1970s, we wondered if anyone remembers the family as would like this certificate to be returned to them.

All recommended to look at the display Dom has produced in the library about the history of the library in Totley.

Pauline reminded everyone about our December meeting which is the Spitewinter concert, see Pauline if interested.

## Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight is Janet Stain talking to us about Ration Book fashion.

Fashion was starting to change in the late 1930s, when war was declared this impacted the progression of fashion massively.

On 1 June 1941 rationing began, there was a restriction on fabric that could be used, it gave the 1930s a different look, skirts were shorter, only allowed 5 buttons on a trim and 2 pleats. It looked very stylish.

There was a shortage of fabric to make clothes, manufacturers were making clothes for military uniform so needed to ration, there was also less workers available to make the clothes.

A ration book had 66 coupons at the start of the war which would buy a complete outfit, ie dress, coat, shoes etc, a pair of knickers was 4 coupons!

The utility label was introduced by the government to enable cheap clothes to be produced that were a reasonable quality. They were similar to a military design.

Luxury goods were not rationed, they were self rationed as not many people could afford them. Fur, lace, hats, baby clothes up to 4 months in age weren't rationed.

People made their own clothes, it was 2 coupons per yard for material. Some people could not afford to use their coupons so they weren't allowed to be detached from the book to try to prevent a black market.

People had to improvise with what clothes/material they had available. Two tone dresses were made from 2 dresses, using the best bits from each. Scarves were put over an old coat to

disguise that it was worn. People borrowed clothes. An old coat could be turned inside out and made into a dress. Magazines had patterns in them for free. Men's suits went from double breasted to a single breast and men bought longer trousers so could still have a turn up. Army blankets were good for dressing gowns and coats. Maternity smocks could be made from curtains as curtains were not rationed until 1942, also aprons could be made from them. Aprons were popular as it saved wear on their clothes. Wedding dresses and underwear were made from parachutes if people could find someone they knew in the Forces who could get one. Trousers and dungarees became popular in the war, the land girls wore them. Children had extra coupons, everyone borrowed each others children's clothes. Knitted items were unpicked when worn and used the best bits to reknit another garment. Croqueting thread was not rationed, could crochet gloves, wedding dresses etc Hair was worn short and crimped, curls on the face and long hair was rolled up. Hats weren't rationed but couldn't get them as there weren't many manufactured. Hats were a small crown often with flowers, also berets, scarves and snoods were popular. Nylon stockings were introduced or could colour your legs with gravy browning or cocoa. Ladies drew a line down the back of their legs as couldn't get seamed nylons. The handbags used bags were from the 1930s to save coupons.

In 1947-1949 a new look began that had started in 1940 before the war, rationing ended in 1949. Christian Dior's new look gave a waist again and a pert bust and hip pads to show off hips.

We thanked Janet for a most fascinating and entertaining talk.

Meeting Dates for 2019/202

27 November Open Meeting – Christmases Past.

- 17 December Spitewinter Concert, Sheffield Folk Chorale,  
Ecclesall Church
- 22 January The Shepleys of Woodthorpe Hall, Dick Shepley
- 26 February The Old Town Hall, Past, Present and Future,  
Valerie Bayliss
- 25 March The History and Residents of Zion Graveyard,  
Attercliffe, Penny Rea
- 22 April AGM then The History of Stained Glass, Ann  
Beedham
- 27 May Stephen Gay – A Railway Journey from  
Sheffield to Cleethorpes through Kirton Tunnel