

Totley History Group Meeting Wednesday, 26 January 2022.

Present:

31 People

Notices

Everyone was asked to read the February edition of The Totley Independent about the current status of Totley History Group. We need to get new people on the committee for the group to continue. Jan has kindly volunteered to be our new speaker finder/booker. We are postponing the renewal of membership and we will see what response we get from the TI and hope to start membership again in the autumn.

On Thursday, 27 January at Dronfield Barn there is a talk about the history of Coal Aston, starts 7.30pm.

On the 5 February there is a free exhibition at Norton House Community Club, Norton Lane, about the history of Norton and the transformation of the RAF site to housing.

On 1 February at the Showroom Cinema at 7.30pm David Clarke is talking about The Hall of Waltheof and the Antiquarian Quest to find Sheffield's Camelot. Free to attend.

Every Friday and Saturday commencing at 7.30pm there are Ghost Walks around the city centre, these start from the Sheffield Cathedral.

Our next meeting is on 23 February and it is a talk by Ian Alcock about pop-up books in the pre television era. Ian is writing a book and would also like our input.

Showroom Cinema 1 February at 7.30pm???

The Sheffield Heritage Fair is on Saturday and Sunday 29 and 30 January at the Millennium Gallery. There are 42 stalls representing Sheffield Groups about history and associated subjects.

Speaker Tonight

Our speaker tonight is David Templeman talking to us about ancient suburbs of Sheffield, this is part 1 of his suburbs talks with a timeline of the pre-industrial revolution from the 1600s.

Attercliffe:-

Traced back to the Domesday Book, Attercliffe was a beautiful, scenic place with hills and dales. The River Don was well stocked with fish. In the 18th century there were large houses including Old Hall, New Hall, and Carlton House. There were many fine houses with small busy workshops. Benjamin Huntsman was one of the first to have a works here, he was the inventor of crucible steel

The Old Hall and Chapel dates back to 1629 and was owned by the Spencer family. The Old Hall was taken down in 1868, there is still an Old Hall Road. The chapel still exists. Carlton House overlooked a large pleasure ground, New Hall also had pleasure grounds, it was ideal for a day out. There were gardens with walks and a large lake, musical concerts in the evenings with firework displays.

The Zion Chapel now has a Friends of Zion Chapel and they have done an amazing job of clearing the site to find the graves including the grave of Mary Ann Rawson, anti-slave campaigner. Benjamin Huntsman is buried in the Attercliffe chapel graveyard a couple of hundred yards away. The Friends have open days, details are on their website. In the 20th century Attercliffe was a busy shopping centre including Banners department store.

There were 5 windmills in Sheffield at Washford Bridge, Firth Park near Sicey Avenue (there is a Windmill Lane), Broad Lane near the University, one by the Cholera Monument and one at Herdings, Gleadless.

Darnall:-

Formally a small village, a large part of Staniforth Road was called Pinfold Lane where the pinfold for the animals was located. One of Darnall's sons was William Walter who died in the 1700s and was reputed to be the executioner of King Charles I.

High Hazels was a fine country house and public park, one of the finest parks in Sheffield. The Darnall cricket ground was laid out for cricket in the 1820s, although only used for a few years before being replaced by a ground at Hyde Park, it was described as the best in England, and next to Lords was the largest in England.

Bowden Housteads Woods date from the 1500s, it was on the edge of the deer park, the Sheffield Parkway now goes through these woods.

Heeley:-

Heeley was first recorded in 1343, Upper, Middle (Gleadless Road) and Lower (London Road) Heeley.

Heeley Parish Church is dated 1848.

Nathaniel Creswick co-founded Sheffield Football Club, the oldest football club in the world, his grave is at this church.

There were many cottages that are no longer there.

The beginning of Heeley is Olive Grove, Sheffield FC was formed there. Sheffield Wednesday started here, they were the first team in Yorkshire to win the FA Cup in 1897.

Heeley Tilt Mill was used to power the cutlers' wheels from the 17th century. Well Road and Springdale Road exist today.

In the 1770s there were just 10 buildings, Heeley was an area of pasture lands and cornfields.

Heeley Toll Bar was at the bottom of Albert Road, these toll bars were a target for robbers.

Crookes:-

Lies near the course of the Roman Road and recorded in the Domesday Book. It was a self contained village from the 16th

century until the end of the 19th century. A turnpike road opened from Sheffield to Manchester in the 1790s running via the southern end of Crookes spurring development of the area. It was a popular holiday location as it was high up above Sheffield away from the soot and grime of the factories.

Bole Hills has great views.

Crookes Moor had reservoirs and a racecourse. In the 1700s water for much of Sheffield was supplied from here and carried in wooden pipes to Division Street where it was transferred to casks in wheelbarrows.

Numerous natural springs in the area.

The 2 reservoirs were located at the Crookes boating lake and near Weston Park Museum where the University Sports Ground is now located.

The Sheffield racecourse was at Crookes Moor, racing started in 1711, 1782 was the last race. The racecourse was at the site of the Hallam Towers Hotel, the wooden grandstand located by Lawson Road.

Fulwood:-

Originally an Anglo Saxon settlement. Part of the massive estate of the Anglo Saxon Earl Waltheof.

Fulwood Hall was one of the first large houses in the area dating from 15th century and Stumperlowe Hall dates back to 1397.

During the 1666 Great Plague Fulwood Spa became a popular resort for people taking the waters from the spa, a spring of mineral water situated in the Porter Valley.

Bennet Grange, Harrison Lane, dates from at least 1580 and still exists.

Wadsley Bridge:-

In the Domesday Book Wadsley Bridge was wasteland.

Wadsley Hall dates to the 15th century.

Near to Wadsley Bridge was a ford across the River Don for cattle and carts with a row of stepping stones for pedestrians known as Leppings stones, later a bridge was built. This was near the Owlerton side of the Sheffield Wednesday ground.

There are 6 stocks in Sheffield, one of them at Wadsley, another at Fulwood.

Owlerton Hall was built around 1534 and demolished in 1930.

Burrowlee House is a great example of Georgian style building.

There were 3 main tragedies in Sheffield over a short period of time, the cholera epidemic, the Sheffield Flood and the Sheffield Blitz.

David was thanked for another very fascinating talk about old Sheffield as it once was.

Dates of Future Meetings

23 February - The History of Book-Toys, pop-up and novelty books in the pre-television era – Ian Alcock

23 March - The new South Yorkshire Heritage List – Sarah Cattell from South Yorkshire Archaeology Service

13 April - AGM followed by a Review\Future of Totley History Group, looking back over the last 14 years and considering the group's future.