

Winster Local History Group

Newsletter No. 24 September 2002

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2002/2003

23 September 2002: Winster Road Show. See overleaf. NB 7pm start.

28 October 2002: AGM and Social Evening. See overleaf for agenda.

25 November 2002: Patrick ('Wild Flowers') Harding: Christmas Customs

24 February 2003: David Hey: Packhorse Trails

24 March 2003: Geoff Williams: Geology and the Peak District

28 April 2003: David Farrington (Cromford Mill):
The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Project

19 May 2003: (Provisional) Field Names around Winster

16 or 23 June 2003: Outdoor event.

All indoor meetings at the Burton Institute, starting at 7.30pm, except for 23 September.

Our Next Meeting: The Second Winster Roadshow

Monday 23 September from 7pm

This is an exhibition of bygones and Winster memorabilia. We're concentrating on a number of pre-selected items, but people are also welcome to bring things on the night. We open at 7pm for general viewing, after which a selection of items will be

briefly demonstrated and discussed (7.30 to 8.30). Then there is general viewing and discussion again until about 9pm. If you have any items you'd like to let us know about in advance, please phone Geoff Lester (650090) or Jean Skyrme (650778) or Freda Forster (650110).

The Winster Harmonic Society of the 1930s

I wonder how many remember the Winster Harmonic Society, which among other things, sponsored an annual 'Competitive Music Festival'. The fifth such festival took place at the Burton Institute on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th September 1935. On both days there were sessions from about 10am to 9pm. The invited adjudicator was Dr C H Moody, CBE, FSA, FRCO, RCM, for whom hospitality was provided by Mr and Mrs Wheeldon of Redthorne. The Festival Office was at the Studio, Main Street.

Over thirty different classes were represented, ranging from pianoforte solo for children under 10 years of age, to Village Mixed Choirs (limit 30 voices). Most of the competitors were from outside Winster, coming from as far away as Buxton, Derby and Stockport. Rather closer to home, Great Longstone seems to have been particularly active musically, fielding several young competitors, a Ladies Choir, W I Choir, Male Voice Choir, and a Choral Society. In each case the conductor was Mrs Ena Goodwin, who must have been a musical power in the land.

Did World War II see the end of this apparently vigorous society, whose influence extended over such a large area?

David Jones

Winster Local History Group contacts:

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Secretary: Geoff Lester, Orchard Mine Cottage, East Bank (650090)

Treasurer: Geraldine Hopkinson, Netherfields, Wensley Road (650347)

Agenda of AGM, 28 October 2002

Apologies

- 1 Minutes of AGM 24 September 2001 and matters arising
- 2 Reports of:
 - Chair
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Archive
 - Buildings Group
 - Brittlebank Project
 - Oral History Group
 - Field Study Group
- 3 Election of Officers and Committee
- 4 Programme of talks for the coming year
- 5 Future activities
- 6 Any other business

From the Parish Magazine 100 years ago.

The annual accounts of the Churchwardens were presented. They show that W. Chamberlain, Organist, was paid a fee of £12.10s, and A. Roberts, Organ-Blower,

was paid £1.10s. H. Greatorex, Sexton, received a new wheelbarrow and measuring staff for graves, at a cost of £1.2s. The fee for burying a stillborn child was agreed at one shilling.

The first meeting of the Trustees of the Burton Institute took place in May, and H.C. Heathcote was elected President. It was resolved that a suitable address to the donor, Joseph Burton of Nottingham, be prepared and engrossed as a mark of appreciation from the people of Winster.

In June the Vicar, W.H. Nixon, described arrangements, and his hopes, for the celebration within Winster of the Coronation of Edward VII: 'The Parish has desired by public meeting to combine in a common meal, and the Coronation Arrangements Committee, will provide, if funds permit, a very excellent meat Tea, which will very probably be laid upon tables down the length of our Main Street. No other plan seems to me able to assure us of our one aim and object of the meal, i.e. community of act, sympathy, and expression. We want to be an undivided village then, as a family united around one common board. Some must serve while others eat, but *all* must be there. Let me urge upon all therefore to think more, much more, of the principle and intentions of this arrangement than of the mere fact of eating and drinking, then there can be no grumbling or criticism if the day be dusty or the Tea a little cold, we shall not mind such minor inconveniences upon so great a occasion, and if it be wet, well, we shall have to make the best of it and use our Institute instead.'

As it happened, because the king developed appendicitis, the Coronation had to be postponed, finally taking place on August 9. The sports, gatherings, and the distribution of medals and coins were 'most successful', and to the Vicar it seemed 'we were unanimous in our expression of loyalty'. However, he reported that the church service with which the day began was not well attended, 'and in consequence I have some two hundred of the printed forms still left'.

Supplied by Geoff Lester