

Ranmoor Society News

January 2010

Happy New Year!

Many thanks for supporting the Ranmoor Society during 2009. Attendance at our meetings was strong throughout. Pretty well all of them attracted audiences of between 35 and 50 persons, a figure which did not seem to be unduly affected by the weather.

However our first meeting of the New Year **on Tuesday 19th January** should put us all to the test if the current arctic conditions continue.

As usual, this will be our **Annual General Meeting**, as is specified by our constitution. If there are any burning issues which you would like us to address, then it would be helpful if you could let the Secretary, Gerald Eveleigh, know in advance.

Otherwise, the main agenda items will include brief reports (from the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary), with discussion of any relevant planning or other items.

Also, we have to elect our officers. All of the current committee have agreed to serve for a further year.

At the same time we recognise the value of having new people with fresh ideas to keep the Society enlivened. So if anyone is interested in joining, please don't hesitate; you would be very welcome.

The AGM will lead onto a light-hearted quiz, and wine and soft drinks will be available.

Annual subscriptions for 2010 remain unchanged at £7 per family and £5 for single-person households. They are now due and you can send your subscription with the enclosed slip to the Membership Secretary, Carolyn Feely, or see her at the AGM.

**HOPING TO SEE YOU
AT THE AGM:
TUESDAY 19TH
JANUARY AT 7.30
P.M. IN THE PARISH
CENTRE.**

Book: *The Growth of Ranmoor, Hangingwater and Nether Green*

Peter Warr's book has been extremely well received and has sold very well in the run-up to Christmas.

It continues to be available in local bookshops and on Amazon, but the Society does not benefit financially however many copies those outlets sell. We have taken 300 copies for the Society, and some of those are still available. (And we could possibly reserve more if necessary.)

The more we ourselves can sell, the greater the contribution to Society funds. Copies will be available at the AGM. If you are unable to be there, and there are still friends, neighbours or relatives without a copy, please contact any of the following committee members:

Gerald Eveleigh	23 Deakins Walk	2301992
Andrew Swift	56 Greystones Avenue	268 5158
David Barber	26 Ranmoor Road	230 4717
Gill Battye	450 Fulwood Road	230 1596



The Ranmoor Inn, New Year 2010

Ranmoor Society Meetings Programme for 2010

We are confident our meetings programme will continue to provide an interesting blend of subjects, some with a wider Sheffield perspective and others with a more local focus.

Next year, the Victorian era is covered through workhouses (March), domestic servants (April) and canal-building (June). We will delve into earlier centuries with Sheffield's manorial history (September) and into the early twentieth century with Sheffield's embryonic and ephemeral motor car industry (May).

Old photographs of Walkley, Crookes and other parts of North Sheffield will provide some local colour in October, and we will be revealing some characters with interesting backgrounds and connections to Ranmoor in November. The subject of our first meeting, in February, will be the Peak District.

Full details of dates and speakers can be found on the 2010 Membership Card. You will receive a copy of that after paying your subscription.

More on the Ballard Hall Saga

We have previously reported on the original planning application (by Wimpey Homes) in December 2002; a later one (by Charles Church) in November 2006, and subsequently (for the same developer) in November 2008.

A further two years on, something is actually happening. Demolition of the decrepit buildings has begun and we understand will continue for 12 weeks. So perhaps at least this eyesore will be gone shortly. We have no news on whether building work is in any way imminent. We will continue to monitor this. Meanwhile we ask members to keep their eyes on the site to ensure that its mature trees are preserved.

Payment for the Fire at St John's: True Story or Victorian "Spin"?

Reactions to the book about the area's history have included some very useful items of information. (These are all placed in the Ranmoor Archive, so please keep them coming in.)

One interesting snippet came from Christopher Barker, whose family have been in the area for around a century. Chris's grandfather, Henry Shelley Barker, moved in 1920 from Red Holme in Sandygate Road into Tylecote in Gladstone Road. (He was very friendly with an earlier owner, James Dixon.)

As described in the book, St John's was largely destroyed by fire at the beginning of 1887, but soon replaced with help from an insurance pay-out supplemented by local fund-raising. Deriving from his grandfather Henry is the story described by Chris like this: "The verger had apparently forgotten to pay the insurance premium to the Alliance Insurance Company, who nevertheless paid up immediately. This was an extraordinarily wise move, because it got them virtually all of the considerable insurance business in Sheffield for the next century."



Trams (this one was in about 1905) could cope well with Sheffield snow

Ranmoor Society Committee 2010

Chairman	Andrew Swift	268 5158
Secretary	Gerald Eveleigh	230 1992
Treasurer	Gill Batty	230 1596
Archive	Peter Warr	230 9174
Planning	David Barber	230 4717
Membership	Carolyn Feely	230 7421
General	Hannah Swiffen	230 8477
	David Everingham	230 6041