

Ranmoor Society News

January 2012

Happy New Year!

Yes, it's that time of year again, and we warmly thank all of you for supporting the Ranmoor Society over the past year. Thanks are due not only to those members who attend meetings – in rain or shine – but also those of you who provide important help through your annual subscriptions. All this support means that the Society is keeping healthy. We are aware of other similar societies that are not as lucky!

Undoubtedly your involvement encourages the

Society's committee. Not that our workload is at all that arduous. We meet but four times a year to decide about future meetings, planning matters and so on.

At this point it is appropriate to sincerely thank our chairman, Andrew Swift, for his substantial contribution over the last seven years, as he will be standing down after our AGM on January 17th. Andrew's keen enthusiasm for the Society has been a great boon over this period.

Thanks are also due to

David Everingham, who has been an extremely supportive committee member and will also be standing down after some five years.

As these moves show, we need some new people to join the committee. If you think you might be one of these, any of the committee's members will gladly discuss what could be involved.

We are a quite a relaxed bunch, easy to fit in with, and the topics covered are often very interesting.

The Annual General Meeting will review the past year and look forward. After refreshments, our guest speaker and local author Danuta Reah will talk about some of her projects, as she did so interestingly two years ago.

So please come along to the AGM on Monday January 17th.

You may also collect your 2012 membership card, if you have filled in the form attached to this newsletter. Annual subscriptions are still only £8 per family and £6 for one member.

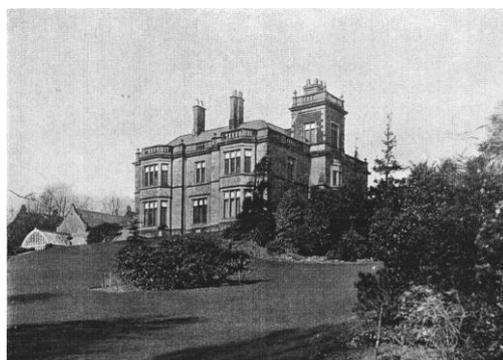
Ballard Hall

We have reported on potential developments on this site ever since the first planning application was made in 2002.

After a long fallow period, during which the site has remained a horrible eyesore, it looks as though building is finally going ahead. Work has now started on site preparation, with the appearance of a 12 foot high fence around the perimeter and a site office block. Building proper is due to begin in January and should be finished in August/September 2012.

Current planning permission is for 14 houses with appropriate parking space – a considerable improvement on the early plans for 4/5 storey blocks of flats containing 66 apartments.

If you are interested, prices will run from £420,000 to £750,000.



Tapton Grange 1897

We are apt to refer to this as the "Ballard Hall" site, but this was merely the name given to the hall of residence built for Sheffield Polytechnic in the late 1960s, and demolished 10 years ago.

Tapton Grange stood in the eastern section from 1867 to around 1970, when it was demolished. The Grange was originally home to James Harrison (partner in the cutlery firm Harrison Brothers & Howson). He donated the adjacent land he owned for the location of St John's Church.

Been given a book token for Christmas?

You may already have Peter Warr's **The Growth of Ranmoor, Hangingwater and Nether Green**. (Copies are still available.) Then how about one of these?

Sheffield - An Architectural Guide – describes the City's renowned industrial heritage, the handsome Victorian buildings, the lesser-known medieval survivors and the houses of the Georgian Town.
By Ruth Harman and John Minnis; £12.50

The Sheffield Blitz – a 70th anniversary edition featuring pictures of Sheffield then and now.
By Alistair Lofthouse; £7.99

Sheffield S10 –, a collection of photos illustrating the changing scene of this part of Sheffield from Victorian times. Also by Alistair Lofthouse. £8.95

Sheffield Troublemakers – a fascinating history of rebels and radicals in Sheffield's history.
By David Price; £14.99

The Late Train to Sheffield

The Pennines have long been important to Sheffield. In previous centuries they provided water-power and materials for cutlery manufacture. Nowadays they are great for recreation. But Sheffield's hilly surroundings also ensured that the City remained somewhat "off the beaten track" in earlier times. Imagine struggling with 18th-century loaded packhorses up Stanage Edge.

The Pennines were a particular problem in the 1830s and 1840s. Because of them, Sheffield initially missed out when railway lines were spreading around the country. The North Midland Railway Company wanted a route northwards from Derby, but there were troublesome hills between Chesterfield and Sheffield. So they avoided the problem by using the more level ground to the east and by-passed the town. Although their line reached Leeds in 1840, Sheffielders could get onto it only by using a branch line via Rotherham. That short (and level) track had been constructed by the Sheffield and Rotherham Railway Company in 1838, extending north from a station at the end of the Wicker.

A different company headed to the west, by laboriously digging the three-mile Woodhead Tunnel through the high Pennines. That line

initially (in 1845) used its own station at Bridgehouses, until the massive Wicker Arches were built and the line was extended to the new Victoria Station (1851); it then continued to Lincolnshire.

However, a direct route to the south was what Sheffield particularly needed, and it was not until 1870 that the North Midland Railway Company financed and built the mile-long Totley/Bradway Tunnel on the way north from Chesterfield. The Company laid that new line through a fine new station – above the River Sheaf – and closed the Wicker station to passenger traffic. Sheffield was at last open for business in all directions – but only many years after other big towns.



This photo shows original entrance to the Midland Station with horse-cabs queuing for customers, before it was extended in 1905. Victoria Station closed in 1970, but its hotel is still at the end of what was the station approach. Wicker Station continued for goods traffic until 1965.

Ranmoor Society Committee

Chairman	Andrew Swift	268 5158
Secretary	Gerald Eveleigh	230 1992
Treasurer	Gill Battye	230 1596
Archive	Peter Warr	230 9174
Planning	David Barber	230 4717
Membership	Carolyn Feely	230 7421
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