

Ranmoor Society News

September 2011

Next Meeting – Early Sport in Sheffield

Tom Dakin's talk to the Society on Tuesday 20 September is entitled Early Sport in Sheffield. He will not, he promises, dwell much on the famous personalities of the City's two major football clubs or their ups and downs in the various competitions of yesteryear.

Tom has recently completed a book about the Fulwood Sports Club: "*More Than a Game*". But he won't be talking much about this either!

Rather he will be

sharing some of the interesting facts about social changes in the Victorian and Edwardian periods he uncovered whilst writing that book.

Since 1851 Sheffield's population had grown from 135,000 to nearly 400,000, attracted by employment prospects in its industries. And workers increasingly turned to sport for their relaxation, either as players or just as spectators. Many of you will already know that Sheffield Wednesday was so named because players were allowed Wednesday afternoons

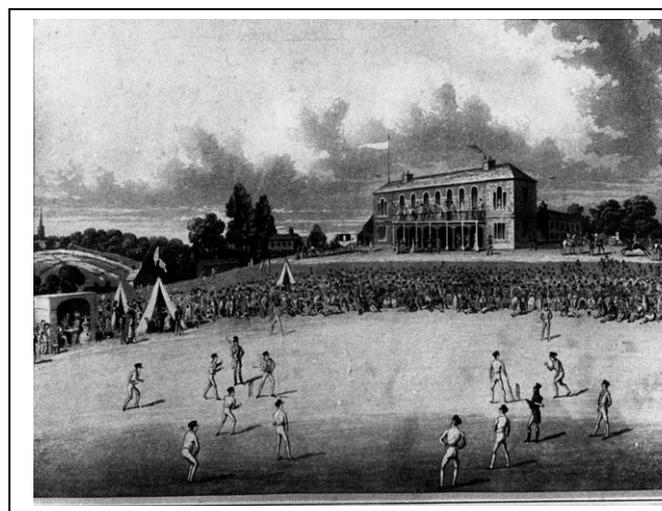
off to play . . . not football but cricket!

Even back in 1825 the ground at Darnall (shown in the photo below) hosted a five-day match between an All England XI and the rest of Yorkshire which attracted crowds of 20,000 each day.

In those days football

seems to have been a "mob game" with few rules, where players could kick and handle both ball and their opponents.

And where were the rules of the game we know today first drawn up? Why, in Sheffield – birthplace of the two oldest football clubs in the world.



Ranmoor Men and WW1

In June Dan Eaton gave us a talk that was both fascinating and thought-provoking. More than 5,500 Sheffield men were killed during World War One, and Dan had pieced together stories of several Ranmoor families, with connections to St Anselm's School in Bakewell, who suffered such tragedies.

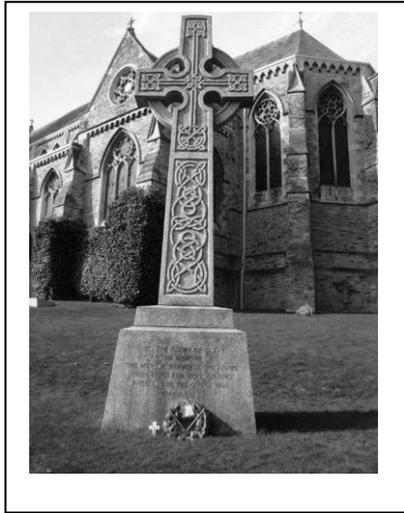
One of these was the family of Robert Colver, a director of the steel manufacturers Jonas and Colver Ltd., who was a prominent councillor and magistrate and had been Master Cutler in 1890.

One son Lieutenant **Edward (Ted) Colver**, died at Gallipoli on 28 June 1915, and his brother Captain **Henry (Harry) Colver** was killed soon afterwards (gassed at Mons, 19 December 1915). Thus their parents and family (living at Rockmount, next to the Bulls

Head on Fulwood Road) were left to grieve for two young men in a very short time. In remembrance of their sons, the Colver family presented a stained glass window to the church.

Their names are among 58 that appear on the memorial erected on 28 May 1921 outside St John's church (see photo on back page). Parishioners raised the funds to erect it in order to commemorate local men killed in the war and to assist "the necessitous dependants of men who fell".

Two other local brothers, killed early in the war can also be found on this memorial. Second Lieutenant **Leslie Hobson** (died 11 July 1915) and Major **Alan Hobson** DSO (died 28 August



1916) were the only sons of widower Albert Hobson of Esholt, 381 Fulwood Road. Their father (chairman of William Jessop and Sons and a director of other companies) had been Master Cutler in 1902 and Lord Mayor in 1911. He had been partially disabled since birth, and was later knighted.

In addition to recording the horror of this war, the memorial provides links to many local families. We have obtained information about almost all these individuals for the Ranmoor Archive, and they will shortly be listed on the Society's website: www.ranmoorsociety.org. Peter Warr would much appreciate any additional material about them.

A Visit to the Cutlers' Hall

Following your suggestions at the last AGM we have arranged for members a private guided tour of the Cutlers' Hall at 2 p.m. on Monday 24 October. Places are limited, so please let us know (at the next meeting or otherwise) if you are interested in coming. There will be a charge of £3.50 per head.

What does the Cutlers' Company do?

Much of Sheffield's early wealth, and thus of Ranmoor, came from its expertise in cutlery – known to have been produced in the town since at least 1300. In 1624, the local cutlers successfully petitioned Parliament for permission to set up an association to take responsibility for managing apprentices, authorising qualified workmen, registering each cutler's mark, and

devising regulations to ensure the quality of workmanship.

The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire was incorporated by Act of Parliament in that year, covering Sheffield and the surrounding area. (Hallamshire has existed as an administrative region for more than a thousand years, but never formally as a county like other areas with names ending in "-shire".)

Until Sheffield became a borough in 1843, the Cutlers' Company was one of the town's major governing bodies, and the Master Cutler has long been a leading figure in the locality. Nowadays he remains central to many Sheffield activities, and the Company works to support the development of local industry, partly through the influential public role occupied by its Master. For example, he is a leading member of many important institutions and the Company acts on behalf of the government in approving use of the word 'Sheffield' in any business name.

In 1638, the Company bought land for a meeting hall on Church Street opposite the parish church (now the Cathedral). The hall was rebuilt in 1727 and the present (third) one was built in 1832, being extended in 1867 and 1888. Seen from the front, the (Grade 2* listed) building appears rather small, but inside it is extensive and imposing. It has on display superb examples of a wide range of cutlery products from across the years, together with beautiful furniture and original paintings of Sheffield and its principal citizens. Not to be missed!

Ranmoor Society Committee 2011

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
General	David Everingham	230 6041

www.ranmoorsociety.org