

Ranmoor Society News

January 2015

Happy New Year!

Thanks to all for supporting the Society during 2014. At its close we had 150 members on the circulation list for our newsletter. We ran what most of you agreed was an interesting and varied range of meetings with an average attendance of 40 to 45 people.

The start of another year means that subscriptions are again due! Most of the expenditure incurred by the Society is for room hire and speakers' fees. As speakers are tending to increase their requests, we might consider raising the membership subscription for 2016. This matter will be raised at the AGM in January. However for 2015 we will maintain it at last year's level (£6.00 and £8.00 for individual or household respectively) and we hope that you still feel that this is good value.

Given the inexorable rise in postage charges, one of the ways in which we try to minimize costs is to deliver newsletters etc. by hand. This depends on a group of about 12 volunteers to deliver within a close radius of their home. When, at our last meeting, we put a call out for more members to volunteer, we received a superb response for which many thanks.

Please ensure that you promptly return the attached slip (with your subscription) to Peter Marrison our membership secretary. This ensures that we keep you on our mailing list. Otherwise there is a danger you will drop off and no longer receive our newsletters.

Although we rarely need to use the email address you give us, under certain circumstances (such as notifying you of a meeting cancellation or a confirming a booking for an external visit) it could be useful to do so. If you are happy to entrust us with your email address, please ensure it is legible on the slip to avoid us making mistakes when transcribing them. Be assured that we will never pass such information on to any other party.

Planning Issues

Development of the Conservation Area through the planning process is of concern to many of our members. Planning applications for the Fulwood Ward, which includes the Ranmoor Conservation Area, can be examined on the Council Website (see the next item).

Most applications are for small scale developments of individual properties. These can be of particular concern to neighbours but will have little or no impact on the Conservation Area at large. Recent large

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Packhorse Routes of the Peak District

The network of routes travelled by packmen, carriers and packhorse teams that carried much of Britain's trade before the era of the turnpike road was described to us at our October meeting by David Hey, an acknowledged expert on this subject. In the 1720's Daniel Defoe described the natural geography of Derbyshire and South Yorkshire as a "*waste and howling wilderness*", reflecting the particular problems faced by both commercial and private travellers in those days. Today there still remains strong visual evidence of packhorse bridges, holloways, causeys and guide stoops on our doorstep once we know where to look.

The waymarkers and guide stoops are important clues to these ancient routes in Derbyshire. Difficulties increasingly encountered by travellers in finding their way over lonely highways and byways was first addressed by Parliament in 1697, when they authorised justices of the peace to order the erection of guide posts and stoops at remote crossroads to point the way to the next market town. The characteristic Derbyshire and West Riding stoops are rectangular stone blocks some 5 to 6 feet high sometimes embellished with pointing fingers. Many of the Derbyshire stoops have the year 1709 cut into them (this was when the county's JPs began arranging their erection). Some are inscribed on all four faces but, if not so marked, the traveller worked on the tacit assumption that he should turn right from the face that marked his destination.

The many waymarkers of this type in our area certainly bear witness to a regular use of such routes across difficult terrain in the period before turnpikes were introduced. That they have lasted so long is down to the durability of the Millstone Grit although over the years many have fallen down, been removed, re-erected (often in quite different positions), or become humble gateposts in a Derbyshire farmer's field.

Ranmoor Society AGM 20th January

As usual our first meeting of the year is an AGM with a difference. Our constitution dictates that this should include the election of officers and other formalities. But it is also the occasion for you to have your say – we would benefit from new ideas. Most committee members have agreed to stand again, although Gill Battye is shortly moving away from Sheffield and leaves a vacancy which we would like to fill quickly. The Society needs people interested in joining the committee next year, so if you are able to step up to the breach please contact the Secretary. You might like merely to give it a try by sitting in on one or two committee meetings (usually only three a year), without any formal commitment.

After the formal AGM proceedings we will serve drinks to toast the New Year, and **Ron Clayton** will keep us amused with anecdotes he has garnered from Sheffield's recent pub culture. He has entitled his talk "*The Barmaid's Apron*". Surely you can't resist that!

developments of note have been the Ballard Hall site, Storth Hollow on Storth Lane and, to a lesser extent, Ranmoor Gardens on Fulwood Road. These are now complete or almost complete.

Some earlier proposals for those sites represented gross overdevelopment, and opposition by individual local residents significantly contributed to rejection of those schemes.

Currently under construction is an extension to the Canton Orchard (377 Fulwood Road) to form a cookery school. The approved planning applications for this are 11/03980/OUT (an outline proposal), 13/02913/REM 13/02913/COND1 and 13/02913/COND2.

Members interested in examining the planning history of a developable site might like to look at these and prior applications for this site, including proposals rejected by the Planning Department including the reasons for their rejection.

How to Learn about Planning Applications

The Society's Webpage contains a link to the city's weekly or monthly applications. To access these, open our website (www.ranmoorsociety.org), click on the Planning tab (immediately under the heading), and then click on the link to *council planning website*. Once that page appears, you can ask about applications submitted in a particular week or month. Don't forget to limit the search to the Fulwood Ward, otherwise you will see applications for the whole city. If you're not sure about a date, use the link either to "Simple" or to "Property".

Also on the Society's Planning page is a link which displays the *Conservation Area boundary* and another link which lists the roads which are completely or partially in the Conservation Area. You can also read the *Ranmoor Conservation Area Statement of Special Interest*, which explains why the Ranmoor Conservation Area is so designated.

World War One and Sheffield's Citizens

When our November speaker had to withdraw just before the meeting Peter Warr saved the day by stepping in at the last minute to describe *Sheffield's Contribution in the Great War*. He highlighted two kinds of effort made by the City – arming the troops and supporting hospitals for wounded and sick servicemen, and illustrated both with photographs from the time

Between 1914 and 1918, the city's metal-working factories tripled their output and number of workers. Life for most families became dominated by long working hours (often nights and weekends) and bad news about the war and its casualties. Enthusiastic volunteering in the early months meant that around 30% of steel and cutlery workers left the city to fight – creating a lot of unfilled positions and production bottlenecks. Despite initial opposition, many of the city's jobs became filled by women – in munition

factories, as postal deliverers, on trams and trains, and as office workers. Peter described how the enormous *Ministry of Munitions* was formed and how it tackled production problems so that by mid-1918 the nation's need for munitions and equipment had been met.

More than 20 completely new hospitals sprang up in the city for wounded and sick servicemen. Some 60,000 patients arrived in Sheffield, and many of these became convalescents who spent time during the day outside their hospital. The people of Sheffield rallied round as volunteers to help the new arrivals – making clothes and medical requirements, running canteens, providing concerts, and arranging recreational visits. A new *Personal Comforts Depot* in Leopold Street provided around 500,000 breakfasts and teas to local hospitals each year, and several volunteer groups were set up in Ranmoor and elsewhere to support these hospitals. Local people worked to help through groups such as the *St John's War Working Party*, the *Endcliffe Hall Hospital Comforts Fund*, and both a *Breakfast Fund* and a *Tobacco Fund* for Nether Green School Hospital.

We were reminded that the contribution of the citizens of Sheffield during the Great War deserve to be remembered and respected in addition to the City's 6,000 servicemen who lost their lives.

Stop press! Look out for the shortly-to-be-published Sheffield in the Great War by Peter Warr.

Our Programme for 2015

17th February

Sheffield Cathedral: Its role in Sheffield's history
(This talk is rescheduled from November 2014)

11th March

GUIDED VISIT to Sheffield Cathedral 2.00pm
N.B. places for 20 persons maximum. Details later

17th March

Sheffield Dialects: Custom and folklore since WW2

21st April

Street Detective: Discovering the city centre

19th May

May 1915 in Sheffield's newspapers

16th June

Beer and Brewing in Sheffield 1750-2000

22nd September

Sheffield Castle and its History

20th October

The Victorian Country House

17th November

Kelham Island and Sheffield Museum Trust

Ranmoor Society Committee 2015

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Treasurer	Mike Killingley	263 0454
Archive	Peter Warr	230 9174
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