

Ranmoor Society News

April 2013

Sheffield Manor Lodge Visit

In 1530 Cardinal Wolsey visited it, although for most of his 18 day sojourn he suffered seriously from dysentery. He was to die at his next stop, Leicester Abbey, before he could be brought to trial in London at the behest of King Henry VIII. Between 1570 and 1584 the most important political prisoner in English history was kept here under the custodianship of George 6th Earl of Shrewsbury a man then married to his third wife Elizabeth (Bess of Hardwick).

But in May 2013 there is absolutely no reason why you should not make the pilgrimage too!

Because on Thursday May 16th we have arranged a midday visit to the Manor Lodge site for members as a follow-up to Peter Machan's entertaining and deeply informative talk to us in April. There is now an excellent new Discovery Centre where the story of this once neglected fragment of Sheffield's heritage can be seen on display. It spans the period when it was a huge medieval deer park of 2500 acres with its own hunting lodge belonging to the Lords of Sheffield Castle, through to its transformation in the 16th century by the 4th and 6th Earls of Shrewsbury into one of the finest Tudor dwellings in the North of England and then to its sad end when it had been converted into poor hovels serving a mining community close to the Manor Castle Colliery.



Remains of Sheffield Manor c.1819

Admittedly there is not much left on the ground today of the Tudor house. Its octagonal brick towers flanking a grand entrance, the Long Gallery built in 1525, and an inner courtyard where fountains would have played were largely demolished after the new absentee owners, the Dukes of Norfolk abandoned it. But you are now

able to see clever computer recreations of the complex based on recent archaeological investigations. And the unique Turret House, by far the most important Tudor building in the City has been carefully renovated and open to visitors. In its heyday it served as a gate lodge controlling entry and exit to Manor Lodge. And contrary to earlier theories, it was never the prison in which Mary, Queen of Scots was kept; she is however likely to have promenaded and attended banquets here or watched the hunting in the park from its rooftop whilst in captivity.

Turret House survived the demolition of much of the Manor in 1709 because of its incorporation into a farm house for the Duke of Norfolk. Today the restoration building includes the original plaster ceiling with geometrical designs, fireplaces and stained glass windows decorated with the arms of the 6th Earl. During the summer this will be the centre point of a number of activities including an exhibition of an original painting of Sheffield Castle by Sheffield artist Kenneth Steel R.A. commissioned by the Co-operative Society and on public view for the first time.

On May the 16th we will meet at the Discovery Centre at 11.30 am for an introduction to the history of this 14 hectare site. An excellent buffet lunch will be available (cost £4.50) and there will be a 90 minute tour of the Turret House and other recently renovated farm buildings and cottages and gardens (entrance fee c.£2.00). Ample parking is available on Manor Lane which is off City Road just beyond the cemetery.

Please ring Peter Marrison (230 3238) or email (wpmarrison@btinternet.com) if you wish to join the visit so that we can confirm numbers.

Please note that the date is **16th May** (not 9th May, as shown on the Membership Card!)

Garden Open Afternoon on Saturday 6th July

Saturday 6th July 2013
2.00 – 4.30pm

62 Endcliffe Hall Avenue S10 3EL
Home of Shelagh & Geoff Marston

A mature garden including part of Smith Wood (an ancient oak wood) and bordered by Oak Brook.

Access is also from Riverdale Road via the service lane next to No.60, almost opposite Oakbrook Rd

Entry (+ cup of tea) £2.00 Cream tea £2.00

All proceeds to the restoration of Forge Dam by
The Friends of the Porter Valley

Hathersage & Miss Bronte

At our AGM in January some of you will have enjoyed a treat hearing the theories of Reg Hobson on how the Hathersage area is historically connected with Charlotte Bronte. Certainly the Bronte sisters are usually associated with the village of Haworth in Yorkshire where most of her novels are set. But possibly her most famous novel, "Jane Eyre" was apparently strongly influenced by her acquaintance with the village of Hathersage. It was at the vicarage here, in the summer of 1845, that Charlotte Brontë came to visit her old school friend Ellen Nussey in Hathersage where her brother was the local vicar. Charlotte Bronte wrote 'Jane Eyre' the year after this visit and it was published in 1847 to great acclaim

It is widely accepted that Charlotte bases the setting of her novel in and around Hathersage. Jane's very surname clearly could have been directly derived from the Eyre family who were prominent local Lords of the Manor at the time. Indeed in the novel North Lees Hall, the fine Elizabethan building above Hathersage (see below) is transformed into "Thornfield Hall" the house where Mrs. Rochester jumped from the roof to her death. North Lees was one of seven halls (including those at Moorseats, Offerton, Crook Hill, Hazelford and Highlow that Robert Eyre built for each of his seven sons.



North Lees Hall alias "Thornfield Hall"

In "Jane Eyre" Brookfield Manor is said to feature as "Vale Hall", the home of Mr. Oliver who makes his money from a needle factory. Oliver's daughter Rosamond funds the village school where Jane teaches under the false name "Jane Elliott" and also pays Jane's £30 a year salary. .

In fact Hathersage was a noted centre of wire and needle production at the time Charlotte visited. Production had moved to Sheffield by the end of the 19th century and the last mill here closed in 1902. Several of the mills however - Dale Mill, Darvell's Mill, Atlas Works and Barnfield Works are still standing.

The author appears also to have drawn upon her memories of Hathersage to provide a model for the village of "Morton" in the novel. This is the village to which Jane flees from Rochester and "Thornfield" and is then rescued by the Reverend St John Rivers, and nursed back to health by his sisters. She then begins a new life in Morton working as a schoolteacher. Morton is thought to have been the name of the landlord of the pub in Hathersage

Also incorporated in her novel are the details of Hathersage's George Inn where Charlotte first alighted from her journey by stage coach. In Chapter 11 we find Jane, newly arrived and waiting nervously in "The George" to meet her new employer; the dashing Mr. Rochester.

RACING AMBULANCES.

YOUTHFUL DRIVERS FROM LODGE MOOR FINED

Two 17-year-old drivers of motor ambulances from Lodge Moor Hospital—Stanley Bowling and Frederick Williams—were fined £2 each in Sheffield Court yesterday for driving their motor ambulances in a dangerous manner, in Sandygate road. Supt. Harrison said the proceedings were the outcome of several complaints.

P.-c. Gillott stated that he saw the two youths driving at a speed of about 40 miles an hour near Carsick Hill road, a dangerous place, and one of them nearly collided with a dray. They told him that they had been racing, and were glad they had been caught because it would perhaps put an end to it.

Sidney Sherwin, 2, Main road, Handsworth, employed as a turner at Hadfields, Ltd., was fined 20s. for driving his motor cycle past P.-c. Sygrove, who was on point duty at the end of Blonk street. Sherwin took no notice of the officer's warning to pull up and, proceeding on to his wrong side, went by despite considerable traffic.

Sheffield Daily Independent 3rd May 1917

Ranmoor Society Committee 2013

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