

The Heanor & District Local History Society

NEWS BULLETIN - NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1970

An introduction by the Chairman:

The Heanor and District Local History Society was formed in the Autumn of 1968 with the objective of bringing to light more detailed information on the past of the area, as well as attempting to preserve documents, buildings and other items of interest which might be destroyed without their historical importance being appreciated.

Although much useful work has already been done, and a number of interesting discoveries made, we feel that, as yet, we have only scratched the surface of subject matter which may well prove invaluable to the background of our town and its environs.

Full and adequate knowledge of the past should lead to an understanding of the present, and possibly a desire to improve the future; and to make the work of the Society more comprehensive and far-reaching, we need ever-widening social contacts bringing in new ideas and new effort.

In welcoming this Bulletin, our first publication to be presented to the general public, may I extend a cordial invitation to all interested persons to join the Society, with an assurance that their time will be well spent in the pursuit of fascinating objectives.

Walter F. Blake,
Chairman.

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The following notes are contributed by Mr. Philip Eggleshaw:

At our meeting on the 12th. November, 1969, Mr. George Marchbank asked questions about the footpath which runs through the Park. This brought back to me some very interesting memories of this district almost sixty years ago.

I lived from early boyhood, for almost twenty years, at the top of Ella Bank Road, at the side of the said footpath, and I must have used it many thousands of times. The house I lived in was one of the first to be built on the land which was opened up for building by Mr. J. Holbrook, who named the new streets after his two daughters, Clara and Ella. One married Mr Frost of Pickersgill and Frost, and the other Mr. Lovatt of LOvatt's Potteries. Mr. Holbrook, by the way the surveyor to both Heanor Council and to the Butterley Company.

I would now like to describe the footpath as I remember it:

It was always called Sukey's Hole and it started at Sye Lane by the side of the old stone-built Church Institute, now demolished. It was a gated road, leading to two fields and to a cottage with another wheeled access to these properties. The first gate was at entrance from Sye Lane and the second at the end of the walled garden belonging to Ray Cottage, both gates had slip styles; the path then carried on past the Rectory wall which was built of furnace clinker. I think this showed the connection between the Church and the Butterley Company, for Canon Corfield's brother was Mining Agent to the company.

There was a small gate in this wall leading to the Rectory and just beyond that was the cottage which was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Parkin who were the grandparents of the Bryan Family some of whom still live in Heanor. There was a third gate against the cottage with a clapper gate at the side. In the hedge belonging to this cottage, was a stone post about eighteen inches high inscribed on the side 'EMM' and opposite 'B.Co'

The path then went steeply downhill and reached its lowest point at Sukey's Hole Pond where there was a climb stile and a bridge. It then carried on up hill past the allotments on the right and passing the Old Mill House on left before terminating on Mill Road at Marlpool.

NOTE:

Sye Lane is now Ilkeston Road; Sukey's Hole Pond was also called Pond Well. The old Church Institute and the other buildings adjoining, along with the Old Mill House at Marlpool, had interesting stories attached to them. The allotments mentioned existed where Westfield Avenue is built.

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The Secretary's Comments.

Each issue of the bulletin will consist of items of news in addition to material and articles contributed by Society members. The news items clearly will be for information purposes; the contributed items whilst also containing information, will be for your enjoyment. Comments, additions, corrections, criticisms, questions, as well as contributions, are all invited from any reader of the bulletin and should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary (M. A. Goodman, 27 Breach Road, Denby Village).

For example, in Philip Eggleshaws article, reference is made to the: "old stone built Church Institute and adjoining buildings" and to the "old mill house at Marlpool." Has any reader information, photographs, or documents relating to these? The basic idea is to use the bulletin to further the work of the Society and to add to the knowledge of its members.

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Contribution by Mr. Walter F. Blake, Chairman.

At this time of the year, when the pages of the local Press are filled each week with the numerous accounts of teas, treats, etc. given to the aged or handicapped in our area, it may be of interest to record the details of the Tea for the Widows & Aged Poor of the Parish of Heanor, held in the Town Hall on Shrove Tuesday, 22nd February, 1887.

A Committee for providing treats of this kind must have been in existence for some years previous to this date, as a balance sheet for the year 1885 is appended to the old minute book which we found in a now empty house in Peach St, Heanor, which contains a wealth of information about the provision of treats etc. for the poor of Heanor between the years 1885/95.

However, the tea of 1887 appears to be the most detailed, and commences with a Committee meeting held on the 27th January, 1887 (venue not stated, although it appears from later minutes that it was common practice to hold meetings at the public houses and inns of the town in turn) with Thos. Butler in the chair, together with Messrs. S. Towson, H. Brown, J. Paxton, G. Oldershaw, J. Bennett, Jos. Riley, Jos. Briggs, John Holbrook, R. Holmes, and Thos. Saxton as secretary. The first resolution at this meeting was proposed by Mr. S. Towson, seconded by Mr. H. Brown "That a tea be provided for the Aged Poor of the Parish of Heanor in the Town Hall on the 22nd February, 1887, and a second resolution decided that the present Committee see that this be carried out, with power to add to their number and that all absent Committee men be notified to attend the next meeting to be held on the 1st February, 1887, at 7.30.p.m. -----

Continued in next Bulletin.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

14th January We have just learned, unfortunately, that Mr. Frank Nixon is unable to keep his appointment with the Society. Mr. Nixon says he looks forward to visiting us next session. The committee will find an alternative speaker.

11th February Mr. A.H. Thornton, M.A., of Nottingham University, in his talk "Study of History", will consider the basic reasons for much of the work of the Society.

11th March Mr. F. Smith of Pinxton promises to be controversial on his talk 'John King and his Patent', and will probably arouse much discussion.

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