



Wirksworth Civic & History Society

Newsletter - January 2006

Greetings and Very Best Wishes for the New(ish) Year 2006

Thank you for your support in 2005.

Meetings

Our public activities in 2005 were very well attended, both in our temporary home of the Town Hall and now back in the beautifully refurbished Baptist Church Meeting Room.

In the main, these activities were the **Lectures** arranged by Graham Barfield. He also organized two field trips, one a guided walk along the Cromford canal and a comprehensive tour of Edensor & its environs.

Our Christmas Party at the Hope & Anchor attracted many members who enjoyed the evening and its activities & quizzes.

Graham is our next speaker with his talk on 'Mary Stuart in Derbyshire' on Thursday 19th January in the Baptist Church Meeting Room at 7.30pm

Civic Issues

Behind the scenes we have been active on several particular fronts in addition to our general role of keeping an eye on developments...

1. *A Townscape Working Party* was set up and has conducted a detailed survey of two areas, The Dale & Greenhill. The results were published at the Christmas Party and also sent to the Derbyshire Dales District Council. A random survey of defective drains in the Town brought a rapid and effective response from Irene Ratcliffe, Chair of the DDDC, and were cleared.
2. *Care Centre Development* –we were able to express our views on the proposed development of a Care Centre on the site of Waltham House in St John's Street. Our response has been posted on the Civic & History Society website at www.wirksworth-civic-society.org
3. *Other issues* – we were also asked to suggest a possible resiting of the recycling site & the location of additional public seating. Views were sought at the party and the outcomes have been sent to Cllr. Mike Ratcliffe for the consideration of the Town Council.
Planning proposals- we are also asked for our views on planning proposals generally.

4. *Market Charter Celebrations* – we are working with NOW (New Opportunities for Wirksworth) to plan a celebration to mark the granting of a charter to hold the market 700 years ago.

So far, the plans include:

- the installation of a plaque near the *original* site of the market
- a talk about the history of markets organized by the WEA
- a Church service
- a concert
- a *large* market, including local & continental foods & crafts
- a pageant telling the '*Wirksworth Story*' by local theatre groups
- street activities, and other attractions

We hope that local schools will play a large part in the celebrations and that local groups will wish to participate by taking stalls to sell their wares, or whatever...

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The weekend is that of July 14th 15th & 16th

Help is needed on the days with stewarding and before hand with publicity, street-theatre, stalls etc.

Please contact either Colin Pidgeon, Chair, (01629 824912) or Graham Barfield, Secretary,(01629 822487)if you can help. You can also make contact via the Civic Society website.

Programme from January to July

19 th Jan	Mary Stuart in Derbyshire	Graham Barfield
16 th Feb	The Rise of the Public Library	Peter Gratton
16 th March	The Pentrich Revolution	Peter Naylor
20 th April	The Painter, Wright of Derby	Brian Hutchings
18 th May	Visit to Bakewell Museum	
15 th June	Where Wright Painted - a walk form Cromford to Matlock	led by Brian Hutchings
22 nd July	Visit to Pugin's Catholic Church at Cheadle	led by Danny Wells

We look forward to seeing you at our events and at the Charter Celebration Weekend.

Colin Pidgeon, Chair