



To present & prospective
Members of Wirksworth Civic Society

Please reply to: Colin Pidgeon
Chairman, Wirksworth Civic Society
10 Summer Drive Wirksworth
Derbyshire DE4 4EL

September 2005

Wirksworth Civic Society Programme - 2005/2006 season

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Last year at this time we circularised most of the households in Wirksworth, outlining our aims and activities. As a direct result we tripled our membership and, as importantly, increased attendances at our monthly meetings. During the refurbishment of our normal "home", the Baptist church meeting room, we held events in the Town Hall's Club Room. One meeting was so well attended we were able to offer a DIY sauna in addition to the advertised programme!!

Once again we are indebted to Graham Barfield our Hon. Secretary for his work on the last season's programme, which was attractive and informative. I feel he has done as well with the items for the coming year and do hope you will be able to join us.

We start on 15th September with a talk on Sir Joseph Paxton - Chatsworth's Head Gardener, designer of the Crystal Palace and much else - a true polymath. Other specialist speakers will deal with the development of Matlock; interpreting medieval documents and calligraphy; The Pentrich Revolution; Mary Queen of Scots in Derbyshire; the rise of the public library; the painter, Wright of Derby. There will be visits to Bakewell's Old House Museum, a walk along the Derwent highlighting the places locally where Wright painted and a guided tour of Pugin's celebrated High Gothic church at Chedale. Not forgetting the annual Christmas party! In association with the WEA there will be an extra meeting on July 13th on medieval fairs and markets, part of the celebrations being planned for the 700th anniversary of the granting of the town's market charter in 1306.

And anyone who's an Arkwright Society member will have a chance on October 12th next to hear our Secretary start their winter programme with an illustrated talk on the Golden Age of Road Coaching.

This is only part of the Society's work. Next year we - together with many other groups in the town - are putting a lot of effort into a weekend of varied activities designed to celebrate seven centuries of markets in Wirksworth. Getting it all together needs a lot of planning and we hope some of our members will want to become involved; there's a box on the membership renewal/application form overleaf for you to tick if you are interested in helping to organise things.

Another activity has been that of a small group from the Society conducting a simple audit survey of the streets in the town centre, noting any changes and attempting to bring shortcomings to the notice of the appropriate authorities. The Society also monitors planning developments in the interests of preserving the essential character of the town's conservation areas.

For a handful of busy volunteers there is much to do. Our hope is that you will wish to join us and help with at least one of our projects, perhaps at our first meeting on 15th September. I look forward to seeing you there but at least hearing from the Society's Treasurer that you have decided to

join us at a mere £6 a head for the year. . . and we all know how little we get for that these days. . . certainly not much petrol!

Yours sincerely

Colin Pidgeon Chairman Wirksworth Civic & History Society

SECRETARY'S NOTES

For more information as to what we're about, see our website www.wirksworth-civic-society.org

Our committee currently numbers ten members, who are elected annually at our April AGM. They are: Colin Pidgeon, *Chairman*. Graham Barfield. *Hon. Secretary*. Janet Pidgeon, *Hon. Treasurer*. :Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, *liaison with local authorities*. Marian Vaughan, *Chair of Heritage Centre*. Barry Joyce, *conservation consultant*, Ian Dare, *Townscape audits*. Andy Link, *Society's webmaster*. Adam Lathbury, *environmental/landscape advisor*, Ken Acons, *town planning & development*.

We believe the committee's structure enables the Society to take balanced views on civic, environmental, heritage and development issues which affect the town & its character.

HOW TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP/ JOIN THE SOCIETY.

- 1. Membership renewal. We have filled in your name/s and membership number below. All you need do is cut this form on the dotted line above and get it to us, together with your remittance, in any the ways listed below. Combined membership/programme summary cards will then be supplied to you promptly.

Member/s name/s.....M'ship No:...

- 2. New Membership/s. Please write your name/s and address in the space below, adding phone number and e-mail address if you wish to give us those details. Cut the form on the dotted line above and send with your remittance, as detailed below. We will get a membership/programme card to you promptly.

Name/s..... Address

.....

Postcode..... e-mail..... Phone.....

Please tick here if you would like to help with the 700th anniversary plans

WAYS TO PAY

- 1. Post/deliver to Hon. Treasurer, Wirksworth Civic Society, 10 Summer Drive, Wirksworth DE4 4EL
- 2. Take to the Society's bank - Lloyds, St John Street, Wirksworth for payment into the Civic Society's account number 0637931.
- 3. Post in the letterbox on Wirksworth Town Hall door, marking envelope "Wirksworth Civic Society".
- 4. Leave at The Heritage Centre, Crown Yard, marking envelope "Wirksworth Civic Society".
- 5. Bring your remittance and this form with you to one of our monthly meetings.