



Wirksworth Civic & History Society

Newsletter –August 2008

Many thanks to Graham for so many successful & interesting speakers over the last season. The day in Lincoln was enjoyed by all participants, especially the outstanding guided tour of the cathedral.

The guided visit to Melbourne was excellent, despite the freezing May temperature & the guided tour of the Peak Mining Museum was a fascinating end to the year.

The new lecture season

Graham has planned another interesting programme for us:

September 18th – A stonemason's work –Brad Steele

Brad has recently undertaken work on the cantilevered staircases at Keldeston Hall & is a great ambassador for his profession

**October 23rd – The Derwent Valley Heritage Site –Barry Joyce*

Barry is the Chair of the Derwent World Valley World Heritage Group

November 20th – The Work of a Conservation Officer –Tanya Shaw

Tanya is a Design & Conservation Officer for Derbyshire Dales District Council & we work closely with her on issues relating to local buildings; she is also a member of the Church Walk Group

December 12th –Christmas Party –Hope & Anchor, 7.30pm, advance booking essential, £10

January 16th – Wirksworth past & present –Tony Holmes

You will all, no doubt, be familiar with Tony's amazing knowledge of the history and heritage of Wirksworth

February 19th – Putting a Great House to Bed –Laura Taylor

Laura is a volunteer at Kedleston Hall & a volunteer speaker for the National Trust

March 19th –Country Houses of Derbyshire – Maxwell Craven

Maxwell is a well-known Derbyshire historian & author

April 16th - The Story of the Cromford Canal - Hugh Potter

Hugh is the archivist of the Friends of Cromford Canal

All lectures take place in the Baptist Meeting Room.

**Please note that the October meeting is not the third Thursday in the month as are the others.*

Outside events:

May 21st – visit to Darley Abbey & Mill –Roy Hartle

June – visit to Lichfield cathedral & City (date to be advised)

July – visit to the Gladstone Pottery Museum (date to be advised)

Hopefully, there will be something for everyone in the new programme.

Subscription

It's time to renew your subscription!

The subscription for the new year is £8 per person; the renewal form is attached.

Please make cheques out to Wirksworth Civic Society.

If you are on email and do not receive Newsletters by email, it means we do not have your address (or an accurate one) so would you please put your email address on your subscription form? By using email, we save postage and reduce our use of paper.

Please return your form & cheque to:

Anne Brawn, Membership Secretary, 15 Yokecliffe Crescent, Wirksworth, DE4 4ER

Town Map

The map has now been distributed to homes and businesses in Wirksworth and to many tourist venues around the town; we are delighted with the positive comments its received..

We very much enjoyed the opportunity to take assembly in the Infant and Junior schools, explaining about the map to the children. The Juniors planned to use the map in their local studies and the Infants to plan their walks about the town. Anthony Gell has also received its copies.

Church Walk Group

The Group meets regularly and is beginning to make very positive progress.

Two of our key areas are moving forward.

Cllr Irene Ratcliffe has been very supportive and we were delighted to hear that our proposal for more efficient lighting, appropriate to conservation standards, has been accepted and, hopefully, the new lights will be installed.

Also, a proposal for new surfacing with a sympathetic dressing and work on the gullies and drains has been put forward to the DDDC. We hope that the scheme will be agreed by Cabinet. If it is, then we would have to wait until funding become available.

We are now working on producing a strategic plan and completing a pre-submission for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for other work including restoration of the railings and plinth and development of the Community Space.

This will, of course, include proposals for consultation with the wider community.

Irene is also hoping to set up a Camera Partnership to provide efficient, effective, monitored CCTV in the town, including the area of the church and Church Walk. She is meeting with interested parties, including us, and seeking to identify funding to both set up and maintain project

Townscape Working Party

The TWP continues its activities. We were particularly pleased that our proposals for the new contract for street cleaning in the town have been adopted. We are monitoring the situation and are pleased to note an improvement.

We have also started regular 'walk-rounds' with Tanya Shaw, Conservation officer with the DDDC, to monitor the condition of buildings on the 'Buildings at Risk' list & others causing concern.

If you have any concerns about YOUR Town, do join us in our activities.

All good wishes for what remains of the summer.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Pidgeon, Chair

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