

DESFORD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

March 2016

It was good to see so many of you at the AGM in January. A warm welcome to our new members.

Your committee was elected. Brian Ward chose not to stand for election this year but, after 25 years on the committee and 15 years organising the annual trip, he does deserve a rest! Thank you, Brian.

Your committee for 2016 and their contact details

Chairman: Colin James, 01455 823198

Secretary: Angela Thomas, 01455 822934, email: angelthom1948@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Bernard Grimshaw, email: grimshawmfc@gmail.com

Committee members: Pat Crane, email: patcrane33@gmail.com

Gwyneth Reed, 01455 823557

Steve Thorpe, 01455 823868

Molly Marcus

John Richards, 01455 824648

We hope you enjoyed the talk (Leicester Forest – A Learning Adventure) by Dave Claricoates of Bosworth Academy. Dave had certainly put a lot of effort into his research and we learned new facts about Leicester Forest. I am sure the Academy students benefit enormously from his commitment and enthusiasm.

The Academy are keen to foster links with the community and we will be participating in their Open Day on 25th June with a small exhibition on the history of education in Desford.

Next meeting, 15th March

Great Central Railway: Past, Present and Future

Mike Riley

NB: See page 2 for Visits 2016

Important: Due to circumstances beyond our control the September and November talks are to be 'swapped'. They are now:

20th September: In the Steps of Susannah Watts (writer of the first guidebook to Leicester in 1804) by Virginia Wright

15th November: A Study of Walled Kitchen Gardens in Leicestershire and Rutland by Stephen Barker and Sue Blaxland

Visits 2016

Great Central Railway: Wednesday 8th June <http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/>

We will meet at the Loughborough station of Great Central Heritage Railway for a steam train ride from Loughborough to Leicester North (Birstall). After a brief 15-minute stop whilst they 'turn the train around' (you can disembark) we will return to Loughborough. Loughborough Central has a small museum, shop, 'atmospheric' buffet and waiting rooms, and you may be able to visit the locomotive sheds, where restoration takes place.

It is intended that we get the 2.15pm train and be back in Loughborough at 3.30pm, giving ample time to explore the station. Car parking is on the street by the station and car sharing will be arranged.

For a group booking price of £12.60pp we need a minimum of 16 people. Further details later. Please sign up and pay if possible at the March meeting. **Organiser: Angela Thomas**

ANNUAL TRIP

This year's trip (to Hereford) will be on Saturday 18th June, leaving Desford at 8am, having a refreshment / comfort break on the way down and stopping for a meal on the way home.

Only **3 places remain** on the coach. If you would like one of these please contact Colin James (13 Kirkby Road, 01455 823198) asap.

The basic cost is £25.00pp, inclusive of travel, "elevenses", a guided tour of the Cathedral and entrance to the **Mappa Mundi / Chained Library exhibition**.

It would be helpful if, at or before the next meeting (on 15th March), everybody paid Colin their £25, plus £4 if going on the guided tour of Hereford. If this is not possible then please pay asap, but no later than the end of April. Please make cheques payable to C. James (**not DLHS**). Cash is acceptable.

The menu for the evening meal is being distributed with this newsletter.

Kelmscott Manor: Thursday 7th July <https://www.sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor>

Kelmscott Manor was the Cotswold retreat of William Morris, a leading figure in the Arts and Crafts Movement. We will learn more about him at our July talk. The rural village of Kelmscott contains cottages and the Morris Memorial Hall designed by Ernest Gimson, designer of Stoneywell. Gimson had a long association with the Morris family. Kelmscott village consists of 36 houses and less than 100 residents, no shops and 'The Plough' (17th C) public house. There will be ample time to explore the village.

We have a group booking. There will be a short talk, followed by 'free flow tour', not guided, but guides in each room. We will be the only people going around the house at the time.

Travel is by coach (49-seater), leaving at approx. 8.30am from Desford library and returning to Desford around 7pm. Cost is £26pp. If you are a member of the Historic Houses Association (HHA) entrance is free (you must have your membership card with you). Coach only is £11.50pp.

Further details of timings, lunch suggestions, etc will be available later.

Please sign up and pay if possible at the March meeting. **Organiser: Angela Thomas**

Great Bowden: Tuesday 2nd August

We will explore this interesting village, including the ruined church of St Mary in Arden (and the parish church too, if you wish!). There will be an opportunity to eat and/or drink in one of the pubs. We will travel by car and the exact timings are to be decided. **Organiser: Pat Crane**

Newark: Saturday 17th September

We will need a full day to do justice to this lovely Georgian town. In the morning we will visit the National Civil War Centre. In order to get a group discount we need a minimum of 10 people. The cost will then be £6.30pp. There are plenty of places to have lunch and the afternoon will be free to explore on your own. You may like to visit the castle, take a trip on the river or follow one of the 8 different town trails published by the Civic Trust. The Town Hall in the Market Place is well worth a visit to see the assembly room. We will travel by car. **Organiser: Pat Crane**

DESFORD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May 2016

Historic moment for Desford.

At the end of March, the village post office, which has occupied a prominent position on the High Street for many years, closed. Good luck to Tracey who has taken over Kirby Muxloe Post Office. The building has seen many alterations, including moving the front door and the addition of an attractive clock. In the past, post was sorted on the premises. Luckily, we are not left without Post Office facilities. Kam, at Desford Express on St. Martins Drive has taken on the provision of most of the services previously offered. Not only can you post a parcel you can buy groceries and a bottle of wine! We wish Kam well in his new venture.



Pre 1997



2016



Closing day, Tracey with village residents



Kam outside, the new post office

Parish Boundary Project – Council for British Archaeology

Pat Crane and Chris Rouse recently attended a meeting about the Parish Boundary project which is being led by the Council for British Archaeology.

We would like to take part in this project and involve other groups and village residents.

- We are asked to walk the boundary, recording features: A linear feature is a length with a common characteristic, such as a hedge, ditch, embankment, road, river, canal, railway etc
- A spot feature eg. ancient tree, stone, bridge, mound

The 3 guiding principles are:

- All the surveys need to be done in the same way
- All data should be entered into a common database, which will be accessible to all.
- There should be no or a minimum cost

Parishes were first defined in the 7th century, based on Anglo-Saxon or in some cases Roman and may be even Iron Age divisions. They related to land ownership, much of which was ecclesiastical. There were no maps, so physical features were used as boundary markers. After constant changes, the boundaries were frozen by the church in 1180. By the early 14th century, the division of England into parishes was complete. During the Civil War period, in the 17th century there was some reorganisation. There were major changes in the late 19th century, when parish councils came into being and civil parishes were established as separate units to ecclesiastical parishes. (Some remained the same). More than 80% of the country is now "parished".

There are 3 types of parish

- Modern civil parish – shown on OS maps.
- Current ecclesiastical parish – frozen from 1861
- Ancient parish – for which research is needed, using 19th & 20th century 6" & 25" maps, tithe and estate maps

You may think you do not have the skills required, or are not fit enough to walk the parish boundary, but there will be 'jobs' for all. If you have a 'skill' you think may be useful, i.e. are a geographer, good at identifying plants etc., let us know. Please register your interest at the next meeting or by contacting a committee member. NB This is a long term project. It is not going to happen in the next few weeks!

ANNUAL TRIP TO HEREFORD – FINAL REMINDER

We'll leave Desford library on Saturday 18th June at 8.00a.m. and return at approximately 9.00p.m.

If you're coming to the Society meeting on 17th May please bring along your **food choices** if Colin hasn't already received them.

Food payment isn't needed yet, although Colin would appreciate receiving **all monies** at least 2 weeks before we go, i.e. **by Saturday 4th June**.

If you wish to pay at the May meeting, please bring a **cheque made out to C. James**. If Colin isn't there, somebody (to be announced on the night) will collect cheques and note food choices on his behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to pay Colin and let him have food choices some other time at 13 Kirkby Road (Tel: 01455 823198).

KELMSCOTT MANOR – 7TH JULY

Places are still available on this trip. Details were in the last newsletter. If you would like a place please advise Angela Thomas asap.

If you have not yet paid (£26pp) please do so at the talk on May 17th or by June 10th at the latest. (Cheque payable to A. Thomas or cash)

Great Central Railway – 8th June Spaces available, please pay Angela (£12.60pp) on May 17th

Walk around Great Bowden (evening) – 2nd August

Newark and the National Civil War museum – 17th September

Details were in the last newsletter, please sign up on May 17th or contact Angela or Pat Crane

Never mind the football - come and see us at

Desford Carnival on May 15th, 11am - 4pm at SiD

Our stall will have a small exhibition on Education in Desford. Bring your children/grandchildren along to see some of our archive photos.

Next meeting

May 17th

The Archaeology of the English Civil War in Leicestershire

by Peter Liddle

NB. We will be visiting the National Civil War museum, Newark in September