

## SOCIETY PROJECT NEWS

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

In the last newsletter I announced the 'Society Project'.

To remind you, we proposed to create a history of local shops and businesses. To get the project moving the committee has been busy.

Christine Herbert has been out and about with her camera, and has produced colour photographs of ALL the buildings along Manchester Road, from Nanny Hill to the United Reformed Church.

Phillip Scott has come up with a standard record sheet, on which we can enter information for each property.

We also have a VERY large scale map of the area we are looking at.

Mick has been mining the Archive for old photographs, which will enable us to compare today's buildings with those of yesteryear.

Mary Hepworth & Basil Spooner have been combing old directories and almanacs, gathering advertising which will help us in our search for the histories of our buildings.

So now it's down to YOU! I know that some of you have already been making notes - Mr. & Mrs. Harrison for instance - but we need more information and more helpers - **SO COME ON LET'S GET GOING.**

Oh by the way I nearly forgot, we've come up with a name for the project - **"DAHN T'ROOAD"**.

Graham Norton.

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### HOW WILL WE GET DAHN T'ROOAD?

We have split Stocksbridge town centre up into 4 areas. These are:-

1. **Nanny Hill**, From the 'Peggy Tub' to Smithy Hill on the North Side and the ex-Stocksbridge Ford Showroom on the south.

2. **Central North**, From Smithy Hill to Thicketts Shop on the north side of Manchester Road.

3. **Central South**, From Stocksbridge Ford to the College, on the south side of Manchester Road.

4. **Horner House**, From Thicketts/the college to Park Drive, on both sides of Manchester Road.

It is envisaged that each area will have a co-ordinator whose role will be to keep track of who is researching which buildings, record keeping, and generally keeping an eye on how the research is progressing.

Mary Hepworth is showing an interest in the Nanny Hill area, and Mr. & Mrs. Harrison in Horner House. What we now need is for two people to take on the co-ordinating role for the central areas. It's not going to be hard work, and you won't have to do the whole of the research yourself. **If you're good at keeping track of things - why not give it a whirl and come and keep track of our things!!**

Priority is being given to work in the central areas, with a view to being able to mount a display of progress to date, at the History Fair in November.

We need people, who may want to work alone or in small groups, to take on responsibility for a single building, or group of buildings, or say a terrace.

These properties will then be 'yours' to research as you like. Don't worry there are no deadlines - no one will be breathing down your neck and telling you to get on with things. The only requirement will be to keep your co-ordinator informed of your progress.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

In order for the project to succeed it will be necessary to have photographs of all the buildings involved in the survey.

As has already been mentioned, a photographic survey of Manchester Road as it is today has already been undertaken.

This is fine for the buildings that exist now, and for premises that have altered little since they were built. A problem is going to arise when it comes to

trying to describe buildings which no longer exist.

We will have to try to obtain photographs of all buildings which were demolished prior to 1992. We already have a number of them, thanks to the Archive Photo collection, but need older photographs of properties on Manchester Road.

Initially the photographs selected have been ones containing recognisable shops, but in the later stages of the project we will need shots of ordinary houses. We also need to be aware of properties which have changed their function over the years, especially the ones which were originally shops but which are now private houses.

All photographs lent to the project will be treated with the utmost care.

One further source of material is the extensive collection bequeathed by Jack Branston. This has yet to be fully catalogued and accessioned - but has already proved to be a useful resource, especially, as might be expected, on the old Co-op building.

#### ADVERTISING MATERIAL

To back up the building survey, we are collecting adverts etc. These will not only enable us to have records of the type of business operated from an address, but will allow us to discover changes of business and function over the years. Please dig deep into the boxes in your attic and if you have any old almanacs, trade directories, or newspapers, we would like to see them!

#### THE END RESULT

OK, we've got the photos, collected the adverts, and done a lot of the research - what then, what's it all about?

In Stocksbridge we are actually very lucky when it comes to history, we should give thanks to people like Kenworthy & Branston that they bothered to record the past. We should remember though that history doesn't stop, history isn't all about events that happened hundreds of years ago - history started 5 minutes ago. If it isn't recorded, then it is lost for ever - we need to record the recent past for posterity.

This is where we can play our part. Hopefully our project will result in information which will be of use to future generations - there may even be a publication as a result.

**One final word - it might actually be FUN to do!!!!**

#### THE RECORDING PROCESS

For each building there will be a record card. (see below) There will be 2 sorts of cards.

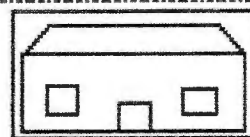
1. A working card - which will be used when recording information. This will have a photocopied photograph of the property and the information will be written on the card as it is gathered.

2. The final record card - this will carry a photograph of the property (either colour or black & white, depending on whether the building is still standing). The information will be typed on the card. These cards will be used for display and exhibition purposes. The information will be updated from the working cards.

There will be more than one record card for buildings that have had a number of uses and changes of use over the years.

What we need to know straight away is:- Where there are modern buildings, what was there before they were built, what was the old building used for, can we get a picture of it?

**SO COME ON - SIGN UP FOR A BUILDING OR TWO AND DO YOUR BIT!!!!!!!**



ADDRESS: 445 Manchester Road

Date Built: May 28th, 1876

Builder: Walter Bloggs

Built For: Stocksbridge Co-op Society

Original purpose: Co-operative general store, Later used as Drapery Section

Owners/tenants & Business(es) carried  
ON: 1876 - 1901 General Grocery, 1901 - 1933 Drapery Department, 1933 - 1939 Fred Smith Grocery shop (using only half of the premises), DEMOLISHED AUG 1939.

Other information:

## STOCKSBRIDGE AND DISTRICT MOTOR CLUB

The following piece came to be written as a contribution to work being gathered together on the history; pastimes and social activities of Green Moor, but as the motor club's roots and development were in Stocksbridge, I felt that this would be of interest to the members of the History Society.

Many local people will remember that Green Moor used to resound to the sound of reverberating motor bikes every year, especially at the beginning of September, when the Green Moor Scramble was held at the 'Trunce'.

The club was originally formed in the 1920's, during the depression it fell into disuse, but the trophies were saved and used again when a new Stocksbridge and District Motor Club, containing old and new members, was formed after the second World War.

The first meeting was held at the 'King and Miller' at Deepcar, and the first headquarters and grounds were at Alderman's Head farm at Langsett. The club joined the Auto Cycle Union early in 1946. Proper rules were drawn up; membership cards printed, and conferences were attended in Leeds. The more established Sheffield and Hallamshire club was contacted for advice. A logo and badge were designed by Mr. Fred Harrison in the chosen colours of black and green.

In 1947, Mr. Jack Godley welcomed the club to Trunce Farm land at Green Moor; Dean Head was also used in trials through the help of Mr. Chad Steel. Mr. Macro Wilson assisted by contacting the farmers, in order for the courses to be built on the club's behalf. Walls had to be taken down; I understand that Mr. Jimmy Birch and his father helped with this work. They even drained a swamp after Mr. Jack Hughes on his O.A.C. bike, known as O'heck, sank up to its handle bars and had to be dragged out by a tractor.

In these early days the club had many activities, both with and without bikes. These included dinners, dances, picnics down the Trunce, Club runs, treasure hunts, time trials and quiz runs. Early meetings were held in 'Pladdy's pub', officially the Sportsmans arms at Old Haywoods. Mr. Pladdy was an old motor enthusiast and he and Mrs. Pladdy were eager to help. I have it on good authority that it was Mr. Pladdy who invented and patented the snow chains used by vehicles in bad weather conditions. Later meetings were held at the Rock Inn at Green Moor, during the time of Joe and Ivy Bacon. You have probably noticed by now that 'pubs' seem to figure a lot during these early days!

The early founders and officials were as follows:-

President:- H. Battye : Vice Presidents:-

T. Westward, W. Hayward, E. Knowles,  
B. Donkersley: Chairman:- J. Hughes:  
Treasurer:- A.D. Leather: Competition  
Secretary:- F. Harrison: Assistant  
Competition Secretary:- J. Mason: Social  
Organiser:- K. Rowlands: Convenor:- F. Fox:  
General Secretary:- G. Torry; Assistant  
General Secretary:- B. Shale.  
The membership at this time numbered approximately 25.

The scrambles at Green Moor were organised on official lines. First a permit had to be acquired from the Auto Cycle Union; then the scramble had to be announced six weeks prior to the event. Applications were sent out and the entrance fees collected; the St. John's Ambulance and a doctor contacted for attendance; track stewards appointed; the track marked out and double roped for safety. Mr. Eric Shales, who frequently rode in the scrambles, tells me that for the first event, he collected hundreds of linen wallpaper paste bags, washed them, and used them as flags to line the course. It was a good job he was an interior decorator! For this event programmes were sold at one and sixpence each.

For each event in the scramble, four heats were held and the fastest from each heat went through to the finals. The scramble usually ended with a 'Grand National'; where any competitor who wanted to race, could. It was a free-for-all, with as many as 20 - 30 riders on a mass start. It sounds quite dangerous!

Stocksbridge and District Motor Club believe they put Green Moor on the map as regards scrambling. They certainly attracted some very good riders from all over the country. Two local riders, Frank Fox and Alan Raynor went on to ride in the Isle of Man's famous T.T. races.

I, like a lot of other people, still miss the scrambles; my brother was one of the founder members, and coming to the 'Trunce' at Green Moor to see them was a yearly must. The last scramble was held at Green Moor in the early 1980's.

I wish to thank Mr. George Shires, Mr. Eric Shales, and Mr. Fred Harrison for letting me share their memories of the above events.

Joan Firth.

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## BOLSTERSTONE GLASS HOUSE LATEST NEWS

Helen Jackson, the local MP, has informed the Society that she is showing a keen interest in the current situation at the Glass House and will continue to monitor events.

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At recent meetings of the History Society, members have been invited to contribute to the fund for the lift which, it is hoped, will make Stocksbridge Library accessible to people who are unable to climb the stairs.

Readers may be interested in the source of one of the grants of money which has helped the Steel Valley Forum to raise its share of the cost of the lift.

Sheffield Town trust was established in the year 1297 and is almost certainly the oldest charity in England. The original Trust Deed, which is still in existence, related to a bargain struck between Thomas de Furnival (Lord of Hallamshire from 1294 - 1332) with his tenants. In an unusual arrangement Furnival granted land to his tenants as a community, to be managed by themselves in return for a chief rent of £3.9.6 1/4d. Thus the Sheffield Town Trust was incorporated and left to look after its own affairs. As long as the Chief Rent was paid to the Lord of the Manor, all other rents collected went into the trust fund, to be used for the benefit of the community. The Chairman of the Town Trust is still known as the Town Collector.

The following are some of the works for which the Sheffield Town Trust has been responsible during the last seven centuries.

The repair of Lady's Bridge.

The repair & maintenance of Barker's Pool and the town's water supply.

The construction of important roads linking Sheffield with The Flouch (1777), Chesterfield (1795), Baslow (1812), Snake Pass (1818).

The lighting of Sheffield streets by oil lamps (1734).

The formation of the Sheffield Gas Company (1811).

These are but a few of the projects for which the Trust has been responsible.

Over the years the funds have been added to by interest and by bequests and gifts.

The Trust is no longer called upon to fund major public works as in the past. Instead it makes grants to assist with smaller projects which are likely to benefit citizens of Sheffield.

The grant towards the cost of the lift is £5000. We are grateful to the Sheffield Town Trust and pleased to become a small part of history stretching back to 1297.

Joan Banks

-oOo-

October 8th.

Ken Hawley  
Tools

November 12th.

Doug Walton  
Stocksbridge By-pass II

**SATURDAY**

**NOVEMBER 14th.**

[Note change of date!!]  
Stocksbridge & District  
Local History Fair

**December 12th.**

Christmas Carol Cracker.

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Stocksbridge & District History Society  
Chairman

Graham Norton Tel.885512

Deputy Chairman & Publicity Officer

Basil Spooner Tel.884456

Treasurer

Mary Hepworth Tel.885295

Secretary

Brenda Duffield Tel.882349

Meetings are held on the Second Thursday of each month, at the library Manchester Road, Stocksbridge at 7.00pm.

Annual Subscription £2.00 (£1.00 to OAP & unemployed)

Non members 50p per meeting.

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 1992**

Publication Deadline

Friday November 13th.

All articles and letters for publication should be sent to:-

The Editor,

c/o The Library, Manchester Road,  
Stocksbridge,

Tel. 882576.

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Editor - Mike Spick.

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**HISTORY FAIR**

**SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 1992**

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

Volunteers are wanted to help to organise the society display, and to act as stewards on the day.

If you can only come along for an hour or so then we would appreciate your being there.