



## Shearsby History Group Minutes 30/03/2015

### Attendees

Martin Reynolds, Ann Beeson, Jill Littlejones, Martin Littlejones, Richard Kew, David Durran, Manlan & Phil (Tigh Rhu), Rosemary Sharp, Paul Chawner, Jean Chawner, Bea Spree, Ann Charles.

### Apologies & interested others

Pearl Bircumshaw, Sue Timms, Gaynor Barnacle, Nigel Walker, Keith Beeson, Ann Blaine, Sue Parker.

### Structure

We thank the Littlejones' for the tea and biscuits. Richard Kew will cater for April.

A subscription of £1 each was collected to cover the hall hire. If extra monies are forthcoming they will fund the cost of photocopying or other work on behalf of the group.

### Aims

General interest, capture, record and share, website, newsletter, Hexagon, History Record Book, filing cabinet space, information for walking groups, leaflets in the Chandlers, history trail around the village? Please keep source references. Open day in the village hall? Other history groups and experts.

### Projects / Homework

Martin & Jill - housing history in Mill Lane (Post Office, bakery, etc.)

Talked of the Poor Law and the workhouses in Mill Lane. Checking property deeds circa 1790

Richard - search out Bill Mackie's history records and see what they contain

2 discs found but RK unable to read them. He believes they contain photos and slides. Phil will attempt to sort them out.

Phil & Manlan - Documents found since moving in, they will examine and report.

Tigh Rhu means house and water

There is a will from 1879, talk of land transfers.

Bea - Has a lot of handwritten notes from John Burton, also a stack of Parish Newsletters.

David - Church history

This was a plague village and the dead were buried in lime pits with no headstones for poor people.

The Church was built in the 1300's

There are old graves unmarked on the North side of the Church.

There is a tomb for John and Ann Seal

There is a tomb for the Wyatt family dated 1693 by the Church door.

1856 saw the restoration of the interior by Ordish

In 1872 the roof was jacked up to rebuild it

There are 3 niches for priests within the Church, (but they would have to be very thin!)

There is a wooden chest, 6' x 3', that was used as a safe and the keys were held by the vicar and the warden

The screen is believed to be from Knaptoft Church and dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century

The bells were "removed" from a cart when the couriers stopped for refreshments

The Church gates were presented as a dedication from the Reid family

Martin - Minutes, website, Nicholls books, and library visits

The History Group now has a place on the village website. Check it out for minutes, links and scans of documents and book pages

<http://www.shearsbyparishcouncil.gov.uk/history.html>

The present A5199 (A50) was turnpiked in 1765. The new road skirted the villages. It was built to improve the journey to Welford which had become a busy place due to its new canal basin.

Prior to this the main road was across the current footpath from Arnesby, up Church Lane, around Back Lane into Mill Lane and out of the village again across the current bridle path to Knaptoft.

Paul & Jean - the story of Black Tom Bott and a pregnant girl "in service"

Keith & Ann - farming history looking back over the last 200 years

Nigel - census information back to around 1841

Sue & Gaynor - diaries? An interest in dendro-dating older properties

### Discussions and notes

The water pump at the bottom of the square is not an original one DD

David Durran's grandfather was a former Parish Chair and David will provide a photo for us. DD

Yeoman's Cottage has a link to the Howcott family. More detail required.

Margaret Godsmark used to carry yokes of milk AC

Windom lived in Alan Birds house AC

There was a communal washhouse

There is a National Archives search engine

The village bonfires used to be held where the Walkers live in Welford Road.

The small green on Welford Road / Back Lane used to be the cess pit.

Where was the brickworks that made Shearsby brick? The clay was dug from the land opposite Beasley's farm on Bath Lane.

John and Jane Ball were highwayman operating on the turnpike (A50). When caught they were hung in chains and left to display as a deterrent.

Next meeting - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the village hall.