

Hello Friends! I am delighted to give you our Programme of Events for the remainder of 2010 in this newsletter. If you have enjoyed our events over the last 12 months, we hope you will support us through the remainder of 2010 and renew your membership if you haven't already done so. We would love to have contributions for future issues of the newsletter, e.g. museum reviews if you have visited somewhere, articles, puzzles, pictures, postcards or information about local events or places of interest. This would really help us to continue producing our newsletters, which will be quarterly, i.e. seasonal, in future.

I am also including a joining/renewal slip with this newsletter, we have kept membership fees unchanged, individual £12, household £18 and corporate £24, and perhaps you could encourage a friend or neighbour to come along and give us a try. We are happy to allow one 'guest visit' before (hopefully) gaining another member. Some of you joined or renewed membership last year but have not yet done so this year. I do hope that this is an oversight, and that you will use the enclosed slip. (You would save £2 on the November talks and £2 on the October lecture)

We are still having temporary problems with the guest book section on the website, but we are working on it.

Our thanks go to Valerie Keal and Jonathan Smith who manned our table in the Heritage Tent at the Heckington Show, with Brian Kay and Jayne McMath providing relief. This great village show gets bigger and better each year and our table attracted a lot of attention. The WWI grave marker proved of particular interest to many people.

Programme of Events for the rest of 2010

Saturday 2nd October, 10-12 noon in St Denys Church Room, Sleaford Market Place – Autumn Coffee Morning, with display of artefacts, raffle and refreshments.

Saturday 30th October 7.30pm – Annual Heritage Lecture at Kesteven & Sleaford High School for Girls, Jermyn Street, Sleaford. 7.30 pm. An illustrated lecture to be given by Dr Kevin Leahy on "The Staffordshire Hoard". Tickets will include a glass of wine or soft drink and a finger buffet, as last year. They will cost £9.50, members £7.50 and under 18s £4.50. Tickets will be on sale at all our events, and at Keith Dolby, Jewellers, Bristol Arcade, Sleaford; Walkers Book Shop, Southgate, Sleaford and also from **Dr Wendy Atkin, kinword2@tiscali.co.uk 01529 415964 15 Castle Street Sleaford NG34 7QE.** We will be selling tickets on the door but it would help us with catering if most people could buy them in advance.

Thursday 4th November – 7.30 pm St Denys Church Room, Sleaford Market Place Reverend Clifford Knowles, will give an illustrated talk on 'John Betjeman's Lincolnshire Churches'.

Entrance to members and under 18s free. non-members £2. There will be refreshments

Treasurer

The Committee would like to express their sincere thanks to Brian Kay, who is stepping down as Treasurer after a very difficult year, during which he sorted out some inherited problems and put our accounts into a much improved state to hand on to Jayne McMath, who has agreed to take over this role. We wish Brian well in the other activities he is enjoying in his retirement. If you visit Belton House, you may be shown around by him! And we welcome Jayne with our grateful thanks for taking this on for us.

ANSWERS TO THE PUZZLE IN THE SUMMER ISSUE

Occupations of the 1800s

A **cordwainer** (or **cordovan**) was somebody who made shoes and other articles from fine soft leather. The word is derived from "cordwain", or "cordovan", the leather produced in Córdoba, Spain. The term cordwainer was used as early as 1100 in England. Historically, there was a distinction between a cordwainer, who made luxury shoes and boots out of the finest leathers, and a cobbler, who repaired them.

A **fellmonger** was a dealer in hides or skins, particularly sheepskins, who might also prepare skins for tanning. The name is derived from the Old English 'fell' meaning skins and 'monger' meaning dealer. Fellmongery is one of the oldest professions in the world and since ancient times, man has used the skins of animals to clothe himself, and for making domestic articles.

A **higgler** was a middleman and found in most English market towns — they went round the farms of the local area, buying up produce such as poultry, rabbits, eggs and cheese to sell in the market. In return they supplied goods the household needed. Some of the trade was done by barter rather than by money changing hands, but all of it involved haggling — which is where the name came from, as it's just a variant spelling of *haggler*. They were sometimes blamed for raising prices in the markets.

A **huckster** was a us seller of small articles, usually of cheap or shoddy quality, or one engaged in haggling or making petty bargains, that is, a certain type of peddler or hawker. In Scotland, it meant someone who bought in quantity and sold in very small amounts to poor people.

A **lumper** was a labourer who helped to load and unload ships, also known as a longshoreman.

A **tallyman** was the hire purchase collector, who visited each week to collect the payments for goods purchased on the never never, or hire purchase, especially in poorer parts of England, the North and the East End of London.

A **whitesmith** was a person who worked with "white" or light-colored metals such as tin and pewter. While blacksmiths worked mostly with hot metal, whitesmiths did the majority of their work on cold metal (although they might use a forge to shape their raw materials). Whitesmiths made things such as tin or pewter cups, water pitchers, forks, spoons, and candle holders.

Sue Titmuss

Source - **WIKIPEDIA**

Sleaford Charities

With today's welfare state and the National Health Service there seems little or no need for charities handing out money, coal and bread for the poor and elderly of parishes such as Sleaford. With benefits and pensions paid to those the state feels need it, and free health care, the days of individuals relying on the generosity of benefactors long gone has diminished, although has not vanished altogether.

A look at Morton's *Sleaford Almanack* for 1929 reveals a list of 11 charitable 'gifts' dated between 1604 and 1893 which provided a variety of benefits from coals to shawls, and meat to flour and bread. Entitled 'Sleaford Ecclesiastical Charities', these charities, often under the control of the incumbent and churchwardens, provided a lifeline to many poor men and women living in Sleaford.

The oldest of the charities, Carre's Gift, stated that coals were to be distributed annually 'to the poor, aged and impotent inhabitants of New Sleaford, Old Sleaford and Holdingham, who have not received parish relief for six months previous to December in each year'.

Two further 17th-century charities, Cammack's Gift and Callow's Gift, each provided a sum to be spent annually to provide shawls (Cammack's) to poor women and five coats (Callow's) to poor men of New Sleaford.

Banke's Gift, founded 1836, provided "meat, flour and coals to be distributed annually to the discreet and aged women dwelling in New Sleaford. Aged widows and females far advanced in life, who have not received parish relief for eight months previously to be preferred."

Although these charities were normally overseen from the parish church, an unusual Sleaford charity was The Manor House Gift, founded in 1893 by the request of Miss Peacock. 'Interest on Dominion of Canada stock worth £564 13s 1d was to be equally divided between the head ministers of the Parish Church; Wesleyan Chapel, Northgate; Temple, Eastgate; Congregational Church, Southgate; and Primitive Chapel, Westgate; "to be employed in the purchase of coals, to be distributed by them in five hundredweights to the most necessitous and deserving poor in their respective charges."

Much has changed over the last eighty years: these individual charities appear to have disappeared, perhaps absorbed into the current Sleaford United Charity which in 2008/09 spent £8,521.

Thanks to Jonathan Smith for this article

Steve Woods adds that in 1908 Mrs Anne Louisa Waldo-Sibthorpe left a bequest for annual wedding dowries. The Trustees were required to invite applications from 'deserving girls residing in or near Sleaford for five marriage portions'. We believe that it is still happening, nearly a century later, administrated by Lincolnshire Community Foundation.

Surgery & Anaesthetics in the 19th Century

As I am currently recovering from a hip replacement operation, which was painless under general anaesthetic and with good, infection-free healing of the wound, I started thinking how lucky we are, and how easy it would be to take these things for granted. Before the 19th century operations were horrific procedures, and most patients died from post-operative shock, infection, or loss of blood. In some London hospitals the death rate after operations was over 80 per cent.

The 19th-century up-turn in surgery actually pre-dated anaesthetics and antiseptics. Many new ideas were trialled in America (e.g. Dr Thomas McDowell performed an ovariectomy in 1809), with some success. One suggestion is that American surgeons were happier to try out new techniques on black slaves.

The improvements in anaesthetics and antiseptics occurred because surgery without them was too traumatic, and patients couldn't survive it. New blood transfusion techniques also saved many lives.



17 After inhaling nitrous oxide gas, on December 11, 1844, Horace Wells allowed one of his teeth to be extracted by Dr. John M. Riggs. Left to right, Riggs, Wells, Professor C. Q. Colton, and Samuel Cooley

1842 Crawford W. Long

(America) used ether as an anaesthetic while operating on a neck tumour (but did not publish details of his operation)

1845 Horace Wells (America)

tried unsuccessfully to demonstrate that laughing gas would allow him to extract a tooth painlessly

1846 Dr J C Warren (America)

removed a tumour from the neck of Gilbert Abbott using ether

1846 Robert Liston (Britain)

removed a leg using ether - 'this Yankee dodge'.

1847 James Simpson

(Britain) discovered chloroform.

1884 Carl Koller (Germany)

discovered that cocaine is a local anaesthetic



18 *Cartoon by George Cruikshank, showing one use of laughing gas: to subdue nagging wives*

Incidentally, half a century or so after Wells' pioneering experiments, the benefits of Nitrous Oxide reached faraway Sleaford, where the new godsend of painless extraction was being advertised in the Gazette by visiting dentists.

Sue Titmuss

Correction Steve Woods, in his article in Newsletter 15, 'New Light on a Dark Age', ended with the query: "If Michael Turland's conjecture is correct, this is the same George William Thomas who was convicted of fraud, struck off the Solicitors' Roll, and sentenced to eighteen months in prison with hard labour." Mike Turland has asked us to point out that this is not a conjecture but "a strong probability, sufficient to convince a jury beyond reasonable doubt", and he would refer you to the evidence in SLHA, *Lincolnshire Past & Present*, vol. 48, pp.9-10 [www.lincolnshirepast.org.uk].

Membership fees

We return now to the thorny subject of membership fees!! The Committee have decided to keep the fees unchanged from last year, that is, £12 Individual, £18 Household and £24 Corporate, and that we will continue to honour Life Membership. A number of Life Members are now paying for their subscription, which is very welcome. We continue to send out quarterly Newsletters but it is easy to work out that this is costly, in ink, paper and postage. Many members have kindly agreed to receive their newsletter online which saves us a lot of money. You can indicate this on the joining/renewal slip if you are happy to do this. We send them out individually so that your email address is not available to anyone else on the email address list.

We noticed that some people who joined last year have not renewed their membership, we hope that this is an oversight. In any event, we are including you on the distribution of this newsletter, and if membership is not renewed by December, we will assume that you wish your membership to lapse. Of course, anyone is welcome to come to our talks, but non-members pay £2 entrance fee.

We have managed to secure the services of Dr Kevin Leahy for our Annual Heritage Lecture at the end of October. Members will pay £7.50 instead of £9.50 and will be able to hear our November talk free, whereas non-members will pay £2. This means that you would save £4 on your membership fee!

I am enclosing a joining/renewal slip and would be grateful if you would indicate if you are willing to receive the newsletters by email and ensure that we have your details up to date.

Our programme of events for 2011 is almost complete and should be available at our November talk.

Best wishes to you all.