

HINCKLEY CIVIC SOCIETY

“striving for a better Hinckley”

registered with



www.hinckleycivicsociety.org.uk

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THE FUTURE – OPEN FOR DEBATE

...BUT WE ARE NOT

metropolitan area such as ours where resources are scarce and where few organisations attract really large memberships. Some very unscientific research suggests that several organisations with 'Hinckley' in their title, actually have only a minority of membership from Hinckley itself, and, that without the "outside" membership they may struggle to exist at all.

This raises the question that perhaps our vision thus far has been too parochial and narrowly focused in geographical terms? This theory was the very reason we had our visitors from neighbouring communities at our meeting to 'float' a concept of a larger network across South West Leicestershire for the benefit of all. We have also sounded out informally organisations as far away as Groby and Fenny Drayton in recent weeks. The overall concept has met with some interest and it is really up to us to take the initiative and produce a 'blueprint' as to how such an organisation might evolve and work in the long term for the preservation and enhancement of the cultural heritage right across South West Leicestershire; and please remember we are **NOT 'just about buildings'**.

This is a good link to the first of the Society's projects where we are working with two other local organisations; our first significant contribution to the annual September Heritage Weekend. This year we will have three literary lectures in Hinckley, Market Bosworth and Fenny Drayton. Full details are given elsewhere in this newsletter. We would urge you to support this initiative and spread the word of what we are trying to do.

Meanwhile your feedback and ideas for the future would be welcome. It is planned to have some firm proposals to put to our Membership at the September AGM, so please act now before it is too late.

A reminder for any outstanding subscriptions

£10 per household please remit to Greg Drozd (Treasurer)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 27TH April 2009

"Railways – Past, Present, & Future"

Chris Banks

7.30pm at The Great Meeting, Baines Lane

Saturday 2nd May 2009 – late morning

Unveiling of Blue Plaque to Robert James Lees

HERITAGE WEEKEND - SEPTEMBER 2009

SOUTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE LITERARY LECTURES

THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2009

7.30PM - FENNY DRAYTON PARISH CHURCH

"THE BURTON BROTHERS OF LINDLEY"

DR. BOB GIBSON

(IN COLLABORATION WITH FENNY DRAYTON, HIGHAM & WITHERLEY LITERARY & PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY)

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2009

2.30 PM HERITAGE CENTRE BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD

"THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LADY FLORENCE DIXIE"

HUGH BEAVIN

(IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BOSWORTH SOCIETY)

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2009

2.30 PM THE GREAT MEETING BAINES LANE HINCKLEY

"HINCKLEY'S TWO LITERARY LADIES - CHARLOTTE BRAME & ELIZABETH

COXHEAD

GREG DROZDZ

ALL THREE LECTURES ARE FREE

Blue Plaques

Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed two very successful unveilings of our Blue Plaques to Elizabeth Coxhead and Father Matthew Thomas Norton. Our thanks to the Governors and Senior Staff at Mount Grace High School and the Headmistress at St Peter's RC Junior School for their support and help with the organisation of these two occasions. In addition thanks to the Mayor of Hinckley, Councillor Jeffrey Bannister who was present at both events.

The Elizabeth Coxhead day was a particularly memorable one with no fewer than 14 of Elizabeth's family descendants present for the occasion – some having travelled from as far away as Glasgow. Our knowledge and understanding of Hinckley's most successful 20th century author was greatly enhanced through being able to talk so openly with them about their relative.

Our third Blue Plaque, to Robert James Lees, will be formally unveiled on the morning of Saturday 2nd May. This has had to be changed from the original date of 25th April as several family members were unable to make the originally chosen date. The plaque is already in position above Jilly Flowers on Upper Bond Street.

Literary Event

See Forthcoming Events above; this should only be the beginning. There is much more local literary heritage to resurrect. How many of you can name the poet born in Sketchley whose work is now held by Yale University? Just where would Stratford-on-Avon be without Shakespeare? A Birmingham dormitory town and little else I suspect.

Proposed Coxhead Lecture

As a follow up to the Coxhead Blue Plaque launch the concept of annual 'Coxhead Lecture' in memory of Elizabeth Coxhead and her father was put to John Herbert, present Chair of Governors at Mount Grace. He has discussed with colleagues and the Head and the idea is likely to be taken forward. This is yet another example of how a Civic Society can be a catalyst in developing and promoting the well being and enhancement of local heritage and culture. More details soon

Final thought.....

"A civilisation is a heritage of beliefs, customs and knowledge slowly accumulated in the course of centuries"

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944), French aviator and author *Flight to Arras Chap 12 - 1942*.

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