

Ranmoor Society

April 2005

News

Ranmoor Conservation Area Extended

At a meeting of the South West Area Planning Board on 21st February, it was agreed to substantially extend the boundary of the Ranmoor Conservation Area with immediate effect.

This has happened very much as the result of lobbying by the Quarters Action Group with our support. Members will remember that we invited Elizabeth Norman and Diana Rybinski to the AGM in January to talk to us about the future of Quarters. Extending the Conservation Area gradually became part of their strategy.

We are still unsure what implication these changes may have on Quarters' future. At least any developer must now seek prior written consent to any proposed demolition, including walls, within the area. It does not mean the house is saved, but it is certainly a step forward.

To summarise the geography, the Conservation Area now includes several significant houses on either side of Carsick Hill Road: Carsick Hall, Heald House (now Fairbanks House), and the adjacent stone cottages to the north; The Croft and Quarters join Carsick Grange which was already in the area, to the south; houses on Carsick Hill Road, west from the top of Snaithing Lane, are also included.

The southern additions to the Conservation Area fall between Graham Road and Tom Lane. Now included are the pre-1790 stone cottages that once fronted on to the Nether Green (previously listed buildings, but outside the Area), and the late Victorian villas at the bottom end of Tom Lane.

The main changes are detailed on an A4 map, and copies will be available for members at our next meeting, together with further comments on the implications for householders of the more restrictive planning controls now imposed.

2005 Subscriptions

125 members have now paid their subscriptions for this year, but a number of others have not yet responded and may need a reminder! If you find a yellow slip enclosed with this Newsletter, you may be one of those.

Please send your payment to Shelagh McDonald, our Membership Secretary. She will then send your 2005 membership card, with details of the year's programme. Her telephone number is 230 1048, and her address is on the subscription form.

Planning Matters

This January at the AGM, David Barber offered to join our 2005 committee and was duly elected.

There was even better news on this front, because at our recent committee meeting he kindly offered to step into the vacuum left by Liz and John Bridgwater and take responsibility for monitoring planning applications for our area.

We expect to continue our policy not to oppose every new development and to rely on members to guide us on the actions we need to take.

Future Meetings

Tuesday April 19th

Housework in Victorian Households

Susan Deal, a member of the Victorian Society, will be tracing the changes that took place in homes over the second half of the 19th century. In the early days, the typical working class house was a back to back, perhaps with three rooms and a cellar, and was lit by oil lamps. Water was available only from a tap in the street. By the 1880s, houses were of better quality with a range in the scullery for cooking. Tinned food was available, and soap, toilet paper and linoleum had been invented. By the 1890s, the WC and the gas stove and geyser had made their appearance.

In Ranmoor, we will be inevitably be drawn to the contrasts between family life in the small stone cottages dating from the farming era, and the fine mansions on t' hill that were being built from the 1870s.

Tuesday May 17th

Archive Topics: Looking at Documents

This meeting will cover the Ranmoor Cutlery Works, Nether Green Cottages, the Ranmoor Rise Cottages and Ranmoor Grange. All but the last are marked on the 1850 O.S. map, and are mentioned in 19th century directories and plans.

Archive meetings are arranged to remind members of our collection of street directories, census records, sale plans, maps, photographs, and other material. Those will be available for exploration on May 17th, looking particularly at the buildings mentioned above.

Focus on Belgrave Road

Belgrave Road, running from the top of Gladstone Road and Storth Lane across to Tom Lane, was built around 1875, as Ranmoor was gradually expanding. Two large houses were soon placed there: Snaithing Brook and Dale Brook. (The Snaithing Brook water-course runs between those two estates.)

Snaithing Brook (known since 1936 as "Ranmoor Hall") was constructed in 1880 by William Harrison, an electro-plater, and occupied from about 1899 to 1903 by Herbert Andrew, a wire manufacturer. Mr Andrew enlarged the house and extended the garden all the way down to Stumperlowe Crescent Road. In 1947, the National Coal Board set up offices in the Hall, and it has been in government use ever since. At present, it is a conference centre for the Department for Work and Pensions.

Dale Brook, to the west of Snaithing Brook, was constructed around 1879 for Charles Porter, a grocer and wine merchant, who was there until 1917. The building was demolished in 1974, so that blocks of apartments could be built in the grounds.

University of Sheffield Conservation Area

At the junction of Belgrave Road and Snaithing Park Road is an undeveloped area that previously included the kitchen garden of Maurice and Doris Cole. They lived in Rydal, in Snaithing Park Road. Mr Cole was the Managing Director of *Cole Brothers* department store for several years up to 1941. He died in 1980.

Mrs Cole (who died in 1976) gave this land to the University in 1959 for use in botanical research and teaching, but it has in recent years been ignored and become overgrown. However, the University has now regained enthusiasm for the area and has removed undergrowth, repaired fences, and has new plans for its use.

Ranmoor Society to Take a Stand

Saturday May 7th
at the *Sheffield Local History Fair*

This will be held at the Banqueting Suite on the first floor of the Town Hall between 10am and 4pm. The Ranmoor Society, along with many other local history groups, will be there. This time we plan to have a computer to publicise our CD.

We need one or two people to help on the stand, speaking to any interested visitors and recording membership inquiries if we are busy with the computer. If anyone would like to volunteer for just an hour or so, please contact Gerald Eveleigh.

As a natural site, it is available for teaching field observation techniques. Bird boxes will be erected, and possibly beehives and bat boxes. Studies are proposed into bird and animal behaviours, and the University has promised to maintain the site in the years to come. That's good news; thank you, Mr and Mrs Cole!

Belgrave Road Pond

Our archive photograph shows a fishing expedition c. 1927. The pond is in what are now front gardens of modern houses in Belgrave Road. In the background is Snaithing Brook.



The children are Kathleen Creswick (of Hangingwater Road) and Eileen and Kenneth Harker (of Fulney Road), watched over by John Creswick and his sister Nora. The parents of John and Nora were Joseph and Mary Creswick of Snaithing Farm.

John, father of Kathleen with the net, ran a dairy in Hangingwater that delivered locally. Nora lived at Snaithing Farm until she died in 1974 at the age of 90. She had been a dressmaker and a Sunday school teacher at Ranmoor Methodist Chapel where she was an active member. The church was located in Ranmoor Road until demolished in 1964.

The pond was edged with forget-me-nots, and was a popular place for local children. Its tadpoles and sticklebacks were widely renowned! It was filled in when the new houses were built.

Ranmoor Society Committee 2005

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