

# Ranmoor Society

August 2004

News

## Ranmoor Society: Member Profile

At our May meeting Andrew Swift drew interestingly on his personal reminiscences of childhood, school and maturity to focus on Ranmoor's more recent history, and these were complemented by memories recalled by members.

Andrew incidentally observed that to date the Society had not gathered much information about its own members, particularly their links and relationships with the area.

In an attempt to rectify matters, he distributed a short informal questionnaire, which a large percentage (36 people) completed on the night. The results showed Ranmoor residents have a variety of "habitats" but almost all share an underlying love of the area's buildings, spaces and its vistas. Some of the main pointers were as follows:

- ❑ Many members have lived in the Ranmoor district for a good number of years; the range spanned between 4 and 80 years!
- ❑ Nearly a quarter of us has attended or had connections with schools or youth groups in Ranmoor.
- ❑ Between us we own all sorts of properties from two bedroom terrace cottages to a seven-bedroom gentleman's residence. In between, there are a mixture of coach-house conversions, apartments, modern semis and dormer bungalows.
- ❑ We are not all exclusively owners of old properties. A few hark back to the mid-eighteenth century and not surprisingly, in what is a Victorian suburb, many were built between 1865 and 1880. However a substantial number of us live in houses or flats built since the 1960s.
- ❑ The change most often regretted was the significant increase in traffic and concomitant parking problems. The recent closure of our Post Office, along with local shops was also mourned. There were some positives: two members thought that public transport in Ranmoor area had improved.
- ❑ No single favourite building emerged, but members appreciate the way that vistas and groups of buildings complement each other in our area.
- ❑ No one nominated an existing building for demolition! However flat-roofed buildings close to those with traditional pitched roofs clearly tend to raise member's hackles.

Our thanks to everyone for participating.

## 100 Years of Nether Green School

Marie Taylor's new book is now available



When the School opened in April 1904, it was as the *Ranmoor Council School*. That replaced the *Ranmoor Temporary Board School*, previously located for three years at the Wesleyan School behind the Wesleyan Chapel in Ranmoor Road. It was renamed *Nether Green Council School* in 1928.

Besides being a teaching establishment, the School also did service as a Military Hospital after 1915 and was again requisitioned for "military purposes" for a short spell in 1939.

Marie's book illuminates the School's history as recorded, until 1976, by Headteachers in official Log Books. She first embarked on the painstaking quest to analyse and interpret these back in 1999 when we decided to assemble the Ranmoor Archive. Members will remember that we used her early material, in conjunction with the library photographs, in our exhibition of November 2000.

The book is a delightful compendium of verbatim entries, extracts from various documents, drawings and photographs. Besides being a subject that will particularly interest ex-pupils, teachers and those interested in education matters, it will also fascinate anyone interested in the broader history of Ranmoor and Nether Green.

Marie's book is published to coincide with the School's Centenary. Priced at £8.95, it is available from The Print & Design Shop at 279 Sharrow Vale Road, and from Blackwells in Broomhill and Waterstones in the city centre.

## Hangingwater in 1905



This late Victorian terrace, 95 to 107 Hangingwater Road, was we think built around 1893-95. The Ordnance Survey map shows that numbers 109-129 (out of view) had already been built by 1890.

Many of the early occupants worked locally as grinders. For instance, the Ibbotsons were file grinders, probably working at Ibbotson Wheel, just below what is now Westwood Road. The family rented this from the Sheffield Corporation for £17 per annum until they were given notice to quit in 1902. During the mid-nineties William Henry lived at number 111, John E. at 115 (later 121), and Albert at 123.

The Hindes were table-knife grinders at Shepherd's Wheel from 1818, and remained tenants there until 1930. Henry lived at 105 Hangingwater Road and Thomas at number 121.

Michael Gill has been following up clues to try to put names to some of the faces on our photograph. The 1901 census confirms that the doorway where the small baby is being held serves number 105. This was home to Henry Hinde (then aged 30) and his family. Therefore it could well be Florence, his wife (aged 26) holding their baby daughter, Nellie. Michael has checked her daughter's date of birth, 30<sup>th</sup> July 1904. If so the photograph could be dated to early 1905.

The man with the horse and dray, appears to be selling crockery (several jugs are visible on the cart). He is surrounded by the mothers and children of Hangingwater Road, dressed in what may be their "Sunday best". Michael has followed up his theory of a Russian connection, based on the man's facial features, beard and hat. Photograph in hand, he tracked down Edward Patnick, who confirms that the man is almost certainly his grandfather. If so, his name would have been Harry Lapatnick.

The story is that Harry's father Nathan fled to Britain with his family from Estonia, following the Czarist pogroms in the late nineteenth century. The 1901 census gives Harry as a dealer in china and glass, based at 37 Solly Street in Sheffield, and confirms he was of Russian descent.

Michael Gill remembers, in his youth, buying books from a stall run by Harry's son, Aaron, at Sheffield's "Rag and Tag" market. Aaron subsequently shortened the surname to Patnick and had two sons, Edward and Irvine. The latter is Sir Irvine Patnick, former Conservative MP for Sheffield Hallam.

## Eyam and the Plague

The story of the plague is already familiar to most of us. John Clifford, the speaker at our June meeting, moved from Sheffield to Eyam 20 years ago and immediately became fascinated by the story. He has since successfully challenged several of the facts in the traditional account

One of these was the size of the village at the time. An analysis of the 1664 Hearth Tax Returns shows that there were then 160 households rather than the 76 alleged by contemporary accounts. So John argues that Eyam's population must have been approximately 800 rather than 350. This means that the total of 260 individuals that succumbed to the plague bacilli in 1665/6 represented 32% rather than 74% of Eyam's population.

As a result of the new knowledge revealed by John's researches, information panels on the houses in the village are currently being modified.

## Ranmoor Society Autumn Meetings

Events for your diary (7.30 p.m. in each case)

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2004

### From Rand Moor to Ranmoor

Peter Warr will outline the history of Ranmoor, Hangingwater and Nether Green. There will be plenty of pictures!

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2004

### The Sheffield Church Burgesses

Canon George Tolley will tell us about this ancient charity, which has been important in Sheffield since its foundation in 1554.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2004

### History of the Ranmoor Road area

Gerald Eveleigh will report on recent findings through the Ranmoor Archive about the early development of this part of the suburb.

## Ranmoor Society Committee 2003

<i>Chairman:</i>	Andrew Swift	268 5158
<i>Secretary:</i>	Gerald Eveleigh	263 0937
<i>Membership Sec:</i>	Shelagh McDonald	230 4090
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Gill Battye	230 1596
<i>Archive Coordinator</i>	Peter Warr	230 9174
<i>Planning Matters:</i>	John & Elizabeth Bridgewater	230 5567
<i>General Matters</i>	Margaret Kerry	230 5255
	Bob Loynes	230 3004