

# Ranmoor Society

January 2006

News

## A Very Happy New Year to Everyone



Christmas in Ranmoor by *George Cunningham*

Many thanks to all of you who continued to support the Ranmoor Society during 2005. Many of you who were able to attend our meetings during the year have said you enjoyed our selection of speakers covering various aspects of Sheffield's history. Subjects included Sheffield's pot clay and ganister mines, its early theatres, its canal basin, the early days of Totley, and the sort of housework typical in Victorian times. You may have been on our June local walk. You will certainly have seen our regular newsletters, in which we try to cover interesting tidbits of local history, planning issues and reviews of meetings.

At the end of last year we had 160 member households on our records; which gives us a nominal membership of about 250. We are now putting the finishing touches to the 2006 programme, which we have outlined in the box overleaf. We think this will prove to be as good as last year, and hope it will encourage you to sign up for another year's membership.

A 2006 membership slip is attached to this newsletter – for your action! Subscriptions are still £7 for a household or £5 for individuals. Either send your subscription with the enclosed slip to Shelagh McDonald, our Membership Secretary, or see her in person at the Annual General Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

## AGM Tuesday 17th January

As in previous years, the Annual General Meeting will start at 7.30 p.m. in the Ranmoor Parish Centre. It will be structured to give members a chance to learn about current issues, voice any general concerns, and perhaps influence the Society's future activities. Wine and soft drinks will be available, and, for those who want a challenge, we will have another photographic quiz similar to the ones we have had before.

The main agenda items will be as on previous occasions: Reports, Planning Issues, and the Election of Officers. We will also take a look at one topic that is of concern to the committee, which is in the next section. If there are any other items you would like included, please inform the Secretary in advance.

## Garden Room Capacity

Last year a main problem was that certain of our meetings attracted more interest than the Garden Room of the Parish Centre could satisfactorily cope with. As long as our audience totals no more than 75, technically we meet the fire regulations. However we know that at times, whenever numbers exceed about 60, people have to be squeezed in. It can then be either rather uncomfortable or difficult to see slide and overhead materials being projected.

One of the suggestions we have begun to investigate is to move some meetings to another venue, such as Ranmoor Hall in Belgrave Road. The facilities there are spacious and modern, but such a move would be less straightforward than it first appears. For example, would many people have problems getting to Belgrave Road?

We are also very attached to our regular venue and suspect that most members are too. One possibility is to schedule just a few meetings in Ranmoor Hall. However, it seems impossible to predict in advance which ones will attract the large audiences.

Accommodation has, perforce, to be arranged well in advance, and there seems to be no easy answer apart from barring the doors to the Garden Room when we reach the maximum number! Perhaps you could let us have your ideas on this subject at the AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup> January.



## Meetings Programme 2006

(All meetings are on Tuesday, except June 29<sup>th</sup>)

January 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Victorian Bathrooms</b> Susan Deal*
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Place Names in South Yorkshire</b> Ray Battye*
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Local History Items</b> To be arranged
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sheffield Manor Lodge and its Main Characters</b> David Templeman
June 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Thomas Boulsover and Sheffield Plate</b> Julia Hatfield
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>A Summer Walk</b> (A Thursday; see the next column)

(July and August: no meetings)

Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Transport in Ranmoor</b> Andrew Swift
October 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Sheffield Flood</b> Malcolm Nunn
November 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Totley and The Tunnel (Part 2)</b> Brian Edwards*

(December: no meeting)

The three speakers marked above with an asterisk formed part of our 2005 programme, and were very well received.

In addition to the above programme, we are happy to arrange extra events outside the main programme. The committee has considered some possibilities, but would welcome other ideas

### The June Walk (29 June)

This has been arranged for a Thursday, and will be restricted to a maximum of 20 people. Details will be fixed nearer the time, but in the meantime we will be happy to receive suggestions from members about particular local roads or buildings they would like to see included. These things always need a certain amount of research in advance.

## Sheffield Local Studies Library and the Sheffield Archives

From time to time, members have indicated that they would like to learn more about Sheffield's information facilities. If there is sufficient demand, we are quite prepared to arrange an evening visit and guided tour to either the Local Studies Library or the City Archives. Please let Gerald Eveleigh know if you wish to take advantage of this.

### Local History on CD

As many members know, we have brought together some historical information about Ranmoor on an interactive pictorial CD. In recent years we have arranged "hands on" sessions with that CD, involving computer and mouse, at the City Learning Centre based at Notre Dame School on Fulwood Road. With such wonderful facilities at such close hand and supposedly available to local community groups, we really ought to take further advantage of them. We are prepared to organise further sessions of this type if people are interested. Again, please contact Gerald Eveleigh.

### 2006 Committee

For next year all the current committee members are prepared to stand again, gluttons for punishment that they are! So unless anyone objects, we will not need to spend much time on this subject at the AGM.

We are a small team (see the box below), and could do with at least one other new face. One of the jobs that arises a mere four times a year (at each of our quarterly committee meetings) is to take the committee minutes and distribute them to the rest of us. (This is much less formal than it may sound!) At present we each undertake this task on a rota basis, but there would be great advantage in having the job done by a single person.

If anyone out there, preferably with a computer/word processor, would like to take on this small task, and thereby become a member of the 2006 committee, please contact Gerald Eveleigh (230 1992). Thanks very much.

### Ranmoor Society Committee 2005

<i>Chairman:</i>	Andrew Swift	268 5158
<i>Secretary:</i>	Gerald Eveleigh	263 0937
<i>Membership Sec:</i>	Shelagh McDonald	230 1048
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Gill Battye	230 1596
<i>Archive Coordinator</i>	Peter Warr	230 9174
<i>Planning Matters:</i>	David Barber	230 4717
<i>General Matters</i>	Bob Loynes	230 3004