

# Ranmoor Society

July 2003

News

## The Programme So Far

Thank you for supporting the Society's programme during 2003. Our seven meetings so far have offered a varied menu, and without exception they have been extremely well attended. We have three further meetings arranged after the summer break; see the box below for further details.

Four of our meetings involved outside speakers, but of course we can't always find people to cover the Ranmoor area specifically. Over the coming months the committee will be racking their collective brains to see what it can come up with for the 2004 season. It is never easy, and we are always open to suggestions from members.

Tell us which meetings you have enjoyed most. How do you rate the *Archive Topics* format, for example? We are always looking for more help and support on these. If you have any fresh ideas, know of any particular speakers you feel we should contact or visits or walks you would like to go on, please contact Gerald Eveleigh.



Supertram circa 1901

Correspondents in the Sheffield Telegraph have been suggesting that the Victorian suburb of Ranmoor developed due to the extension of the tram system. Queen Victoria would have been amused! The villas on the Storth Crescent Estate, including Gladstone & Graham Roads, had long been built, back in the late 1860s, about 35 years before the tramway reached the end of Storth Lane in October 1901. The tower of Ranmoor College (seen here in the distance) became a local landmark after Mark Firth opened it in September 1864.

## Next Meetings

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|----------------------------|--|
| September 16 <sup>th</sup> | <b>The Chesterfield Canal</b><br>Peter Wild will tell the story of its renovation over recent years                |
| October 21 <sup>st</sup>   | <b>A Year in the Life of a Hill Farmer</b><br>Kath Birkinshaw will describe a shepherd's life in the Peak District |
| November 18 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>The Ranmoor Archive on CD-ROM</b><br>Venue: the SW City Learning Centre at the Notre Dame site, Fulwood Road    |

## More on Supertram

At the AGM in January we carried out some "rough and ready" market research of members' views about Supertram after we learned Ranmoor was a *possible* destination. Although Supertram said that it had consulted local people, we have yet to find a single Ranmoor Society member who has been asked for his or her opinion on it.

All the more interesting, therefore, to find a recent pamphlet entitled *Extending Supertram* stating that the level of public support for the Supertram extension found amongst Ranmoor residents was 99% (compared to 81% to 95% in other parts of Sheffield). We have asked how many interviews this was based on, but, although a reply has been promised, we have not yet received one.

No firm proposals for the precise route have yet been made, nor how the estimated £400 million costs are to be funded. However, the same pamphlet shows that the Clarkehouse Road/Endcliffe Vale Road route up to Fulwood Road and Ranmoor is now favoured by the feasibility study. This is causing legitimate consternation amongst those living near this line, but the scheme is by no means final.

NB If you are concerned, contact John Potter (266 5164), who is forming a local action group.

In the coming months, Public Exhibition days will be arranged (possibly in the Parish Centre), where the latest thinking on the Supertram extensions will be unveiled. These are described as *detailed consultation exercises*, and provide an early opportunity for anyone of us to make our feelings known. We urge everyone to look out for the details and try to attend.

The main concerns expressed at the AGM were:

- ☐ the harmful effect on the Conservation Area and its trees of the erection of tram posts and wires
- ☐ the likely increase in on-road parking near any terminus or tram stop

The proposed route would carve through the middle of both the Endcliffe and Ranmoor Conservation Areas. Supertram rightly says that any future extension of the system must be accompanied by the provision of associated *park & ride* facilities. If you have a piece of garden going spare contact Supertram! Seriously though contact us and let us know your views.



## Ranmoor History on the World-Wide Web

A surprising amount of local historical information can be found on the Internet. If you have the technology you may like to follow up some of these possibilities.

**Search engine terms** can give rise to many interesting links. Try typing in "Ranmoor history", "Sheffield history" or "Upper Hallam history". Or what about "Sheffield trams"?

**Sheffield Family History Society** can be found at <http://www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk/>. That site covers several local topics, has booklets for sale, and offers computer disks of the 1891 Upper Hallam census, Christ Church Fulwood burials index (1839-1908) and All Saints Ecclesall burials index (1789-1923).

**The (Mormon) Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints** has an extensive genealogical network at <http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/default.asp>. (Click "Search" at the top of the page.) You can trace individuals and families by inputting names and approximate dates, and the entire 1881 census of the British Isles is also available there. (That census material is also offered for purchase as a set of CD-ROMs.) The wealth of information is considerable, but one must remember that coverage of possible sources is some way from being complete.

**The 1901 Census for England and Wales** can be accessed at <http://www.census.pro.gov.uk/>. Original completed pages can be viewed, and items of information can be printed off. Payment is required for most viewing and printing, by credit or debit card or by pre-purchased voucher. The cost of an image is either 50 or 75 pence, and there is a minimum charge for credit card users of £5 per viewing session. Information can be sought about individual persons or specific addresses.

**Other genealogical information** is available on many sites. You might try <http://www.genuki.org.uk/> or <http://www.ukgenealogy.co.uk/>. Historical information about Sheffield can be found at <http://www.sheffgen.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/> and <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/%7Eengsheffield/>.

**Digitised versions of street directories** can be viewed free of charge at:

<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/>. For example Sheffield directories for 1839 and 1852 are at that address. CD-ROM versions of several Sheffield directories and other documents can be purchased from <http://www.archivecdbooks.co.uk/>.

**Early maps of Sheffield** and other parts of the country can be printed off from <http://www.old-maps.co.uk/>. **Photographs of earlier Ranmoor scenes** are available (via the Local Studies Library) at <http://www.picturesheffield.com/>. Printed copies of individual photographs can be purchased.

**A Ranmoor website** does not yet exist, although Broomhill, Dore and other suburbs have their own web pages. The Society would like to set up a Ranmoor site, but we could do with some help on this. Anyone who can offer expertise and a little time please get in touch.

## Archive Topics

### Members' Open Meeting, November 18th

In November we can at last hold a practical demonstration for members of our CD-ROM, and show the progress we have made in putting the Ranmoor Archive material in an interactive format.

How do we propose to do this? By becoming one of the first community groups to use the brand new facilities of the City's South West Learning Centre, which opens its doors with effect from September in the grounds of Notre Dame school. We will hold the meeting in their computer suite, that boasts the most modern computers and projection equipment.

We will be able to show how it all works on the big screen, and then the more adventurous among you will be able to explore the Archive at your own leisure at one of a number of individual computers we will have at our disposal on the night. Don't worry if you don't know your mouse from your elbow. If you wish to you can lean on the latter and just watch the anoraks at play!

However, remember that City Learning Centres are essentially designed for *local community* use. After our visit in November we expect a sudden outbreak of enthusiasm for their computer courses. You may find yourself signing up for one immediately!

## Ranmoor Society Committee 2003

<b>Chairman:</b>	David Lee	230 1633
<b>Secretary:</b>	Gerald Eveleigh	263 0937
<b>Membership Sec:</b>	Shelagh McDonald	230 4090
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Gill Battye	230 1596
<b>Archive Coordinator</b>	Peter Warr	230 9174
<b>Planning Matters:</b>	John & Elizabeth Bridgewater	230 5567
<b>General Matters:</b>	Margaret Kerry	230 5255
	Andrew Swift	268 5158

## Exhibition on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2004

You may feel this issue has over concentrated on computer applications. But please don't think we have abandoned computer illiterates! We are planning another exhibition of the Ranmoor Archive in May 2004, as part of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of St John's Church in 1879, so there will be another chance to peruse our collection of photographs and maps and other information in the traditional manner.