

Ranmoor Society

October 2003

News

Next Year's Programme

As we said in the last newsletter, the committee is racking its collective brains to see what things we can include in our programme for the 2004 season. We are still open to suggestions from members. Over the last couple of years we have invited *outside* speakers to address 7 out of 10 meetings. Several of you have said you particularly enjoyed meetings that covered the Ranmoor area specifically.

However, it is difficult to find people to focus on only the local area. It seems we are the experts here! And while we can certainly expand the *Archive Topics* meeting format, we could do with more help in describing local material. Remember that for these presentations we aim to have about three 20-minute items in an evening, rather than having one long talk. Could you take part one evening in that way? Please contact Peter Warr (230 9174).

Another possibility: if you would like us to arrange a group visit to the Sheffield Archives, for general interest or to pursue a topic, let Gerald Eveleigh know as soon as possible (263 0937) and we will see what we can do.

The Next Meeting

November 18th ***The Ranmoor Archive on CD-ROM***
Venue: the Hallam City Learning Centre.
Take the entrance to Notre Dame School in Fulwood Road, and the Reception is on the left hand side. **START TIME 7.00 pm**

This will be a practical demonstration of our CD-ROM, showing progress to date in making the Ranmoor Archive material interactive. The Hallam City Learning Centre is located in the grounds of Notre Dame School, and also serves the needs of Tapton, King Edward's and Silverdale Schools.

We are one of the first community groups to use the brand new facilities that opened this September. The meeting will be in the computer suite, where there is overhead projection equipment and 30 computer terminals.

As access to the individual computers is limited, we have decided to start at 7 o'clock, to provide time for everyone who wants to have a go. The Centre is kindly providing us with tea, coffee and biscuits in the Cybercafe. Internet surfing is not included!

If you were not at the last Society meeting and wish to come, please contact Gerald Eveleigh on 263 0937.

Archive Material Wanted

On 8th & 9th May 2004 we are linking with St John's Church to mount an exhibition 125 years after the consecration of the original church. The exhibition content will not be confined to the Church itself, but will cover the 125 years of local history that has unfolded since the original church was built on land donated by James Harrison of Tapton Grange (next door).

We hope to re-use much of the material we collected for our first exhibition in 2000, giving those who missed it the first time another opportunity to see it. But we should be able to give the exhibition a different look by incorporating information and photographs we have continued to gather in the meantime.

So perhaps it's time to think again about what you may have got tucked away in the bottom of a drawer, an old tin box or your family photo album. We were very much aware that last time our exhibits were focused on Ranmoor's earlier years – the Victorian villas and their inhabitants. This time we would like to concentrate more on the people and activities that have characterised everyday life over the last three-quarters of the 20th century, as seen through the lens of the box brownie rather than the plate camera.

Perhaps you have some forgotten photographs, cuttings or other records of social occasions, sporting events, wedding days, family groups, Dad digging on the allotment or Mum trying out her new washing machine (or vice versa for that matter!). Any of these activities are likely to bring back memories of people, occasions and places. If you are prepared to share these with visitors to the exhibition next May, please let us know.

If so, we have the technology to copy most originals and we can promise to let you have them back within a day or so, with an extra copy if you wish. Contact Peter Warr on 230 9174.

In this regard, we plan to devote one or more of next year's Archive Topic meetings to *Recent History*, to stimulate reminiscences of what the Ranmoor area was like and how it has changed over the last 50 years or so. We are dedicated to bring our Archive material further up to date, as we (like others) tend to forget that "recent" memories and experiences sometimes taken for granted can make interesting history for others.

More on Supertram

We can now explain the statistic in the recent pamphlet entitled *Extending Supertram*, which indicated that the level of public support for the Supertram extension in Ranmoor was 99% (compared to 81%-95% in other parts of Sheffield). It was based on interviews with 70 people who were asked generally whether they supported the Supertram idea. This was well before any specific routes had been discussed.

Some of you may since have attended the *Consultation Sessions* in the Parish Centre in early October and made known your feelings about the proposed extension of the line to Ranmoor. If not, you now have another opportunity to do so at any time between 2pm and 7pm on Tuesday 4th November. Apparently the plan to send out advance information packs to residents living within one mile of the proposed route went awry.

Information available at the previous session was uneven. Participants were treated to a computer-generated video of Supertram gliding (noiselessly) round the corner from Fulwood Road into Endcliffe Vale Road. But no-one could confirm whether the proposal was for a double track, what were the plans for Park & Ride parking, or why particularly it was felt that the route avoiding Broomhill was the best option.

We think that 90% of those attending these sessions were against the proposed scheme. If you were not able to get there to ask your questions, try and get to the session on 4th November.

Planning Guidelines

Most of you know that the Ranmoor Society receives, each week, a list of all the planning applications relating to Southwest Sheffield. The information provided is brief: the address, whether it is a full or outline application, a very short description of the proposed changes, and the developer's name.

In fact, initially there is not really much to go on. So in order to understand the full implications of any given application, it is essential for us to make a trip to the planning office at Howden House in the city centre. It is possible there to study the drawings and make notes, but photocopying is very often impractical due to the size of the drawings. It is usually necessary to subsequently contact the relevant planning officer to ascertain the date the application is to be considered by the Planning Committee before deciding on our considered response.

All in all, it is a time-consuming process. But with the resources available to us, it is not something we can afford to do unless we are fairly sure that it is likely to be a widely controversial issue (such as the

Ballard Hall apartments), or that a significant number of Ranmoor Society members are concerned about it. The main criteria we generally apply are contained in the questions:

- ❑ "Is the proposed development likely to preserve or enhance the character of the area?" and
- ❑ "Will it affect the way in which the buildings and spaces fit together?"

We are very happy to support local action groups, attend their meetings, offer our expertise, and if appropriate add the Society's weight by submitting our own written objections to the planning authorities. For example, because we feel that current government policy to drive up average housing density is increasingly putting Ranmoor (along with other areas characterised by Victorian style houses) at risk, we are happy to become involved in applications that propose the demolition of existing buildings and build apartment blocks.

However, unfortunately we are not in a position to follow up planning applications that may affect your individual situation, unless they can be shown to have wider implications for the conservation area as a whole. Applications by your neighbour to build an extension that you feel will affect your unobstructed view of the moors beyond, or to remove a mature tree that provides shelter or privacy, must perforce be left to individuals to deal with.

We will continue to raise key planning issues at the Society's regular monthly meetings, although we accept that there is rarely sufficient time to do them sufficient justice because we usually have an invited speaker waiting in the wings.

However, members rarely contact us about the broader planning issues affecting the area and how we should deal with them. Are we getting the strategy right? Could we do more? In which case, are you prepared to offer us some help in this sphere?

Liz and John Bridgewater (230 5567) look after the planning matters for us, and would like to hear your comments on this aspect of the Ranmoor Society's activities. But not about how your neighbour's new porch will stop you enjoying your amenity!

Ranmoor Society Committee 2003

<i>Chairman:</i>	David Lee	230 1633
<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
	Andrew Swift	268 5158