

Chesterfield and District Civic Society

NEWSLETTER 2010

2009 -10 Talks

Last September saw the very welcome return of Keith Lysons whose talk “The Rise and Fall of the Gentry” in the 19th century discussed the said lives (and houses). Lesley Phillips’ “Newspapers” talk in October was a fascinating introduction to the archives of local (and national) newspapers that can be accessed by computer at a library or at home. Our Christmas meeting is always held in November, the talk on this occasion, “A Tudor Christmas” by Pam Orridge, and was particularly fittingly. This meeting was a special occasion for the Society as the Mayor and Mayoress, Coucillor and Mrs Kitch attended.

Although there was much snow and ice earlier this year we were luckier than in the previous year in that our planned programme stayed intact. Clive Hart showed us the beauty and intricacy of “Anglo Saxon Art and Architecture” in February. Margaret Thomas followed in March recounting her experiences in “Memories of the Queen Alexandra Nurses”. April’s meeting had local historian David Howes eliciting memories of “Shops on the High Street from Glumangate to Packers Row”. The annual presentation by the Head of Planning Services CBC, Mike Hayden, in May was well attended as usual and gave further insight into the many developments starting and planned for the town. Some interesting questions were also raised by members. Helen Carrington, the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Officer gave a short presentation on the same evening to update the Society on projects. To complete our year, in June, Jean Henshaw told us of the career of her brother John Allen, a gifted knitting designer, and at the AGM in July we will welcome Alva DeChiro speaking on “Keeping up Appearances, Italian Style”.

Summer Outing

When the Mayor and Mayoress attended the November meeting they gave an invitation for a group to visit the Mayor’s Parlour. This visit took place on the evening of May 5th and was much enjoyed by all who attended.

Civic Society links

The Society has made two appearances at events in the town, both were in May. On 19th photographs and part of the very popular quiz organised by Mary Cheetham and Catherine Troth for the November 2007 meeting, were on display in the Urban Studies Centre in conjunction with the THI walk on that day. On 22nd the same display plus the Society’s scrapbook, compiled by Maurice Tither, were at the Local and Family History Fair held at the Library. Looking forward, it is possible that the Society will be able to have a display in one of the empty shops in the town. If our application is successful it will give us a wonderful opportunity to recruit members.

Through the year the Society has continued to be represented on the Steering Group of the THI. Also on a number of occasions representations have been made to the Planning Departments of both CBC and NEDDC concerning applications about which we have had concerns and we have noted that our views have been taken into account.

The Society has volunteered to research street names for the new Waterfront Project taking into account previous land use. Anyone who has a suggestion they would like included please let us know.

Shortly, details and photographs of our Blue Plaques will be submitted for inclusion on the website ‘Open Plaque’ which lists all Blue Plaques by area, it is hoped this will help visitors to the town.

Your Society is in need of Committee members to guarantee its continuation. If you can spare a few hours a month please contact either 01246 211200 or 01246 768133.