

MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Newsletter

November 2016

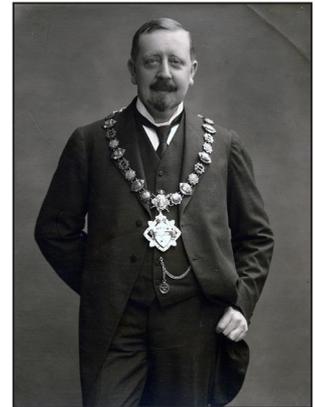
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Tonight

We are delighted to welcome Jane Aldrick who will give an illustrated talk on *'The History of the Ingle's Leather Works'*. I've known Jane for a good number of years and can assure you of her strong interest and knowledge of Churwell and Morley. She is highly qualified to give this presentation because she is the great-granddaughter of the works founder, William Law Ingle. I will leave Jane to give you the fine details of this man and his family. They certainly made their marks in both Churwell and Morley during much of the 20th Century, making notable contributions to the social, business and administrative side of the community.



*William Law Ingle
as Mayor of Morley*

The Last meeting

Janet Niepokojszycka made a return visit to us and her illustrated talk was entitled *'If You go down in the Woods today'*. She is a fluent, practised presenter and her love of nature was palpable. Her talk was a fascinating study of the landscape, natural history and archaeology of the country in general but with Cumbria in particular detail. This is an area in which she has strong experience of guiding folks around. And so we learned a great deal about such activities as charcoal production, bobbin making and swill basket making. It was a delightful evening.

The Society Trip

As mentioned at the last meeting, plans for the trip have been put in place very quickly this year. The coach will take us, first, to the old Stockport Air raid shelters which were converted into an attractive museum cum visitor centre in 1996. I think you can be assured that it's quite safe - it is a very popular venue.

In the afternoon we will be going onto Bramall Hall, also in Stockport. This manor house dates back to the 14th Century with additions later and it's situated in attractive parkland with lakes. The meal is not yet finalised but Robert thinks it will likely be in Holmfirth where we have eaten before.



Bramall Hall

The meal is not yet finalised but Robert thinks it will likely be in Holmfirth where we have eaten before. The cost will depend on numbers but should be about £22 per person.

The Dartmouths and Lewishams

The Dartmouth family's interest in Morley started in 1707 when the 1st Earl bought the land which had been in the possession of the Savile and Cardigan families for hundreds of years. The family has been a major landowner in Morley ever since and its influence on our area is still evident as they own areas of land which has been or could be sold to property developers.

From what we can gather, the family did not visit the town much, if at all, until the late 19th Century. Before this time, we know that they had strong commercial interests in textiles, helping to found the Crank Mill, and various coal mining interests. The Dartmouth Arms tavern which was at the bottom of Bruntcliffe Lane by Morley Hole was used by the Earl's agent who collected rents there from tenants who farmed on various parts of the estate.

The 6th Earl did come to the town on a number of occasions, the highlight being the opening of Dartmouth Park in 1890 which was built on land he donated to the town on a pepper corn rent. He was the first person to receive the Freedom of the Borough in 1896.

It was the tradition of the family that their eldest son be named the Viscount Lewisham and in 1914, the 6th Earl gave land which was to be converted into a park and named after his son. A grand opening was planned for 8-August. Unfortunately, a much more important event, the beginning of World War One, prevented this although the council had prepared a lovely programme and a memorial coin for 4000 local school children. In November the Earl wrote a formal letter expressing his disappointment at not fulfilling the engagement but that the park should now be regarded as opened. We note that his second son had just been killed in the War.

However, this particular Lord Lewisham, William Legge, and his wife Ruperta did visit the town in January 1931 on the occasion of the annual speech day of Morley Grammar School (now the Academy). By all accounts it was a splendid occasion.

William and Ruperta had five daughters and one son, also William. However, he was killed at the Battle of Alamein in 1942. As a result the title reverted to the 7th Earl's younger brother Humphry who held the Earldom until 1962.

On the 23-May-1959, Morley received another member of the Lewisham family when the 7th Earl's daughter-in-law came to open the Lewisham Park Youth Club. I think that many of you will remember this lady. At the time she was Raine Legge, née McCorquodale, daughter of the novelist Barbara Cartland. Later she and her husband Gerald divorced but their son, another William, is the present Earl of Dartmouth. She then married Lord Spencer and became the step mother of Diana, later Princess of Wales. Very recently Countess Spencer, a remarkable woman in her own way, died on 21-October. Let us hope that the Youth Club lives on.



The Official programme for the Opening of Lewisham Park: 8-August-1914.



Lady Lewisham opens the Youth Club with the Mayor Ald. Wilfred Pumphrey and his wife, Mary Anne.