

MORLEY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter

September 2017

Founded 1965

www.morleylhs.btck.co.uk



Tonight

Good evening and welcome to the first meeting of the 2017-18 season. Our first speaker, Marilyn Joice, will give an illustrated talk about Jane Austen (1775-1818), who remains so popular and acclaimed for her novels about the English landed gentry of her day. Marilyn has been closely associated with the Jane Austen Society for many years so we are assured of an authoritative guide.

The Last meeting

We had a good AGM with no points to cause anxiety and our attendance in the Labour Rooms is assured for the next year or so, at least. The price remains very reasonable and we have accommodated the slight increase with the yearly membership fee which is now £9.

Later, I gave an illustrated talk on Health Care in Morley during the 19th Century and up to the beginning of the Great War. Details were given of the difficult times as disease swept the town and folks argued about the necessity of a Health Board. Eventually reason won out and measures were taken, particularly after the formation of the Borough in 1886 when an improved water supply system was



Left: Dr William Gisburn (1805-1878), Morley Physician
Right: Sheard's Chemist's Shop, Queen Street. 1910c



introduced. The organisations and personalities who struggled to improve the public health of the town from the shocking conditions of mid-Victorian times were high-lighted and I took the story up till the time of the Great War, just after the social reforms of the Asquith Government when the National Insurance scheme of David Lloyd-George was introduced. I would like to continue the story during the 20th century at a later date.

Events, Research and Publications

The society helped the British Legion commemorate the 36 men who are remembered at Tyne Cot in Belgium. These men were killed during the latter days of the Great War in the Ypres area. We have made a booklet about them and Julie has some copies to show. Jeff Chambers, a friend of Morley Heritage, has reformulated one of the MLHS Yearbooks, making it easier to read. The text is practically the same as when originally printed. Again, Julie has copies to show. Please let us know about this. We would like to do other editions. A number of us showed groups of people around the Town Hall and the Dartmouth Park area of Morley over the last weekend. We will be leading another Heritage Trail walk during the Arts Festival, on 1-October.

The Society Trip

The trip was on Sunday 11-June when we centred our venues on Stockport. Considering the summer in general, the weather was reasonable, with rain interfering only slightly. First we went to the Air-raid shelters in the town and spent an agreeable couple of hours there, looking at the area where folks went for safety during the ferocious air raids of the Second World War. Of particular interest was how the planners had catered for parents with young children.

After this we went to Bramall Hall on the outskirts of the town. This is a delightful Tudor mansion set in large, well-kept parkland and run by the local council. We had a guided tour of the building and it is satisfying to report that these were well organised and delivered. Our party had plenty of time to explore the grounds and also take refreshment.



Upper left: Alan Briggs outside the Stockport Air Raid Shelter.

Upper right: The front of Bramall Hall.

Bottom left: Peter Waugh and Julie Heeley dress up, inside Bramall Hall.

Bottom right: Holmfirth Brian Dykes and friend leave the bus to go to the Old Bridge Inn.

When we left the area, our driver decided to avoid the M62 motorway, travelling to the south of this into Derbyshire. We met with a number of problems which led to us arriving late in Holmfirth where our meal was booked but I think most took this with good humour and, more important, found their meals enjoyable. Overall, the party showed the happy demeanour which is usually evident after such trips.

Thanks are due to Robert for organising this lovely and interesting day out.

Clive McManus