

THORPE HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter - Winter 2015

Recent activities

Our last talk of 2014 was held in November, just before the country marked Armistice Day, and was rather appropriately entitled "Thorpe in World War One" when John Balls, Chair of the Thorpe History Group, gave an excellent account of how Thorpe was affected by the war, focusing in part on how the asylum became a military hospital. There is a report of John's talk in this edition of the newsletter. As you can see from the photo below the talk was well attended.



Our next event

'The Churches of Thorpe'

a talk by Nicholas Groves.

Friday 6th February - 7.30pm
at the St Andrew's Centre, Thunder Lane,
There will be a charge of £3 per person.
Please arrive in good time.

Thorpe Lodge

Thorpe Lodge is the office of Broadland District Council but also one of the most historic buildings in Thorpe, having been the home of the Harveys and a number of other prominent local families. Last September, thanks to the support of the council, the Thorpe History Group held a talk and tour at Thorpe Lodge as part of the Heritage Open Day event which makes interesting buildings accessible to the public.

It enabled over 20 people to see the inside of the building and hear a talk on its history. Here are two photographs of Thorpe Lodge as it was. There will be more about the building in the next newsletter.

To the right is the former lounge which disappeared when the east wing was demolished and below is Thorpe Lodge prior to the alterations of the 1930s which included the demolition of the east wing.



Thorpe, Lodge Norwich.

Our Last Talk: Thorpe in World War One

John Balls, the Chair of the Thorpe History Group, presented a 45 minute talk and slideshow on "Thorpe in World War One". Anna Meek kindly helped with the slideshow and Malcolm Martins helped collect the photos together. John also used information from the Thorpe Hamlet CD ROM on the First World war and from Trevor Nuthall's recent book, 'Thorpe St Andrew, a Revised History'.

The first few photos showed what Thorpe-Next-Norwich (as the village was called then) was like in the period from 1908 to 1917, using photos of Thorpe Narrows, aerial photos and maps. In 1913, the population was 3,601 and the village was centred near the River Yare. There was a foundry and a ferry and John showed a contemporary photo of the King's Head public house which is now known as the River Garden.

In 1915, Thorpe Mental Asylum became a hospital for the war wounded and had 2,450 beds but was later expanded with the use of a camp and an annexe. It was first used as a clearing centre but then became the Norfolk War Hospital.

Two soldiers who were treated there but died, Claude Kysh and Joseph Amos, are commemorated on Thorpe War Memorial at River Green – for more details about these two young men, please refer to John's book about Thorpe War Memorial, 'Lest we Forget' which is still available and contains a mass of information about all the men commemorated on the memorial.

There were two other hospitals in Thorpe set up to treat the wounded during the war; one was Coonoor, just off Yarmouth Road which still stands and which was generously lent by Major Dods' widow to be a hospital for wounded soldiers and sailors in memory of their son Lieutenant William Henry Gordon Dods. The Major and his wife lived there before moving to Devon. The other was at Sunny Hill near Thorpe Lodge which was the home of William Clabburnn, a well known wealthy silk manufacturer.

In 1919, William Birkbeck, the Lord of the Manor, gave the river green to the Parish Council. A War Memorial was erected in the shape of a Celtic Cross and 40 names of the fallen from Thorpe St Andrew were recorded.

Pam Harwood

Thorpe Asylum Chapel and Organ

Thorpe Asylum was commissioned by the Norfolk County Magistrates and opened for patients in April 1814.

The Chapel is a Grade II listed building, designed by John Brown the County Architect/Surveyor, and is built in the Classical Revival style and dates from 1856-59.

It is in octagonal shape with a porch and vestry on the east side and an organ chamber and tower to the north. The rectangular nave with a western vestry was added in 1877.

The organ in the chapel was built by Goerge Maydell Holditch (1816-1896), a Master Organ Builder of Marylebone, London. It was two manual instrument with pedals consisting of nine stops on the great keyboard, ten stops on the swell keyboard and five pedal stops. Charles Joseph Campling (1852-1906) had been a pupil of Norwich Cathedral's Organist, Dr. Zackariah Buck and was appointed Organist of the chapel by the County Magistrates in 1880.

During the First World War, the hospital became the Norfolk War Hospital and in 1919 the asylum became known as 'St. Andrew's Hospital'.

A report by an inspector from Norfolk County Council dated 17th September 1903 stated:

"There is a church of England Service twice on Sundays led by the Chaplain, Reverend Edward Ram, Vicar of St John's Timberhill. There is a choir and organ, with an attendance of about 450 persons".



By the 1960s however, it was evident that the Chapel had become far too large for the small numbers attending and services were moved to a nearby building. The organ from the Chapel was then transferred to All Saints Parish Church, Rushton, Northants where it replaced their former organ which had been destroyed in a fire in 1963.

The hospital itself closed in 1998 and the site was developed into a business park and residential accommodation with the Chapel being converted into luxury apartments. The Holditch organ is still giving good service at Rushton, a testament to the excellent workmanship of it's builder all those years ago.

We are grateful to Richard Cockaday for this article. Richard has details of the specification of the organ and can be contacted via the Thorpe History Group.

Thorpe People: Geoffrey Affleck

This small token is sent with affection and heartfelt thanks from the residents of Thorpe St. Andrew to

Geoffrey Affleck

We gave the inheritance of our fathers into your keeping and you served us well. May God's blessing be with you and yours in the days that are to come

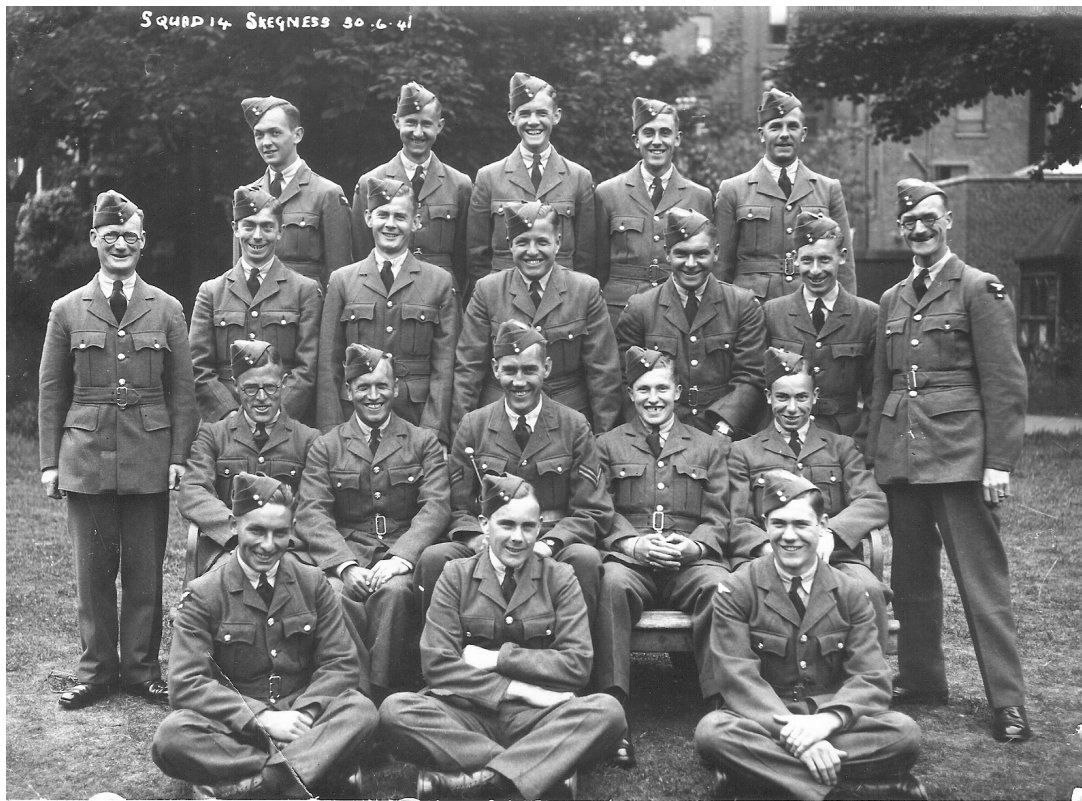
1939 - 1945

Recently the Thorpe History Group received some photographs and personal mementoes of former Thorpe resident Geoffrey Affleck from his cousin Sue Butcher. Included was a wallet which had been given to Geoffrey by the Parish Council to celebrate his safe return from service after the Second World War. In the wallet was the card shown above which expressed the thanks of the parish for his service.



Geoffrey was born in Norwich and served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 until 1946 when he was discharged with a glowing reference from his Squadron Leader in which he described Geoffrey as 'A most reliable and keen airman who has been employed in the Orderly Room where his work as a clerk has been superior'.

In civilian life Geoffrey was an accountant and after living on Dereham Road and at Lakenham returned to live in Pilling Road where he had been brought up. The picture on page 6 shows him in training at Skegness in 1941 (back row far left).



His father Samuel James Affleck (shown right) had been born near Barnsley in 1885 but moved to Norwich where he became an inspector on the railways, first with the London and North Eastern, and after nationalisation, with British Railways, until retirement in 1950. He lived in Thorpe at number 16 Pilling Road with his wife Eileen until his death in the 1980s.

The Thorpe History Group is grateful to Sue Butcher for permission to use the material used in this article.

If you have information about Geoffrey or other Thorpe people you think may be of interest please contact us.



Thorpe Visit to the World War 1 Battlefields.

Tuesday, May 26th - Saturday, May 30th, 2015

Executive coach from Thorpe, through the Channel Tunnel to Ypres - b&b accommodation in a minimum 3* Hotel. Visits to all the main sites and cemeteries, including those associated with some of the Thorpe soldiers.

Our guide will be Martin Ruddock, who has led many tours to this area. The trip will be organised by Leger Holidays.

The cost is £329 per person sharing a twin/double room, with a single room supplement of £99. The trip is definitely going ahead, but we need more people to come with us.

If you are interested please contact John Balls at 01603 433712 or by email johnb1912@btinternet.com

Archive Day -Saturday 18th July

On Saturday 18th July at the Morse Pavilion on Laundry Lane the Thorpe History Group is holding an Archive Day when items from the History Archive held by the Thorpe St Andrew Town Council will be on show.

But it will also be an opportunity for you to bring along your mementos of Thorpe for us to see. We are particularly interested in seeing photographs of Thorpe as it was and of Thorpe residents.

The Archive Day starts at 2pm and finishes at 4pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

One Year Old

Last November the Thorpe History Group was one year old and at the meeting held on 7th November it was agreed to formalise the way the group is run. The group is now run by a committee which will be up for election each autumn at the Annual General Meeting when the annual accounts will also be presented.

The committee members are:

John Balls - Chair

Joanna Barker - Treasurer

Nick Williams - Secretary

Phyll Hardie

Pam Harwood

Malcolm Martins

Events in 2015

Date	Title	Venue	Time
Friday 6th February	'The Churches of Thorpe St Andrew' a talk by Nick Groves	St Andrew's Centre	7.30 pm
Friday 17th April	'A Tour of Thorpe' a talk by Janet Smith and Nick Williams	St Andrew's Centre	7.30pm
Saturday 18th July	Archive day - see details on previous page.	Morse Pavilion	2pm
Sunday 26th July	History tour of the Rosary cemetery by Nick Williams	Rosary - meet at chapel	2pm
September	Heritage Open Day event	To be confirmed	
Friday 13th November	'Thorpe Hamlet Miscellany' by June and Jim Marriage	St Andrew's Centre	7.30pm

If you receive your newsletter by post please read this.

We currently post a number of newsletters and we are happy to do so for people without access to email who would like to hear about our activities. However, postage costs are expensive so we need to know that we are only sending newsletters to people who want them.

If you receive a newsletter by post and would like to continue please confirm
this to Nick Williams by phone at 01603 438766 or email
Spinney72@aol.com.

Getting in contact

If want to know more about the Thorpe History Group or have something interesting on the history of Thorpe you would like to share please contact Nick Williams on 01603 438766 or email him at Spinney72@aol.com