



ITPAS NEWSLETTER

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ITPAS Autumn History Walk

In a break from our usual routine of quarterly talks, we have decided to have a guided walk around Irby and Thurstaston instead. It will pass several points of historical interest and whilst there won't be a big lecture at these points we do hope folk will add any of their own knowledge of the area for us all to benefit. The walk will culminate at Barnstables and Irby Hall to view the moat and ancient ice-house of the former. Tea/coffee and cake will be served as part of the event.

The walk will be about 3.5 miles and will take up to 3 hours including stops. It is mainly level with three stiles and some stepping stones to negotiate. Dogs on a leash are welcome. Some of the route may become muddy after rainfall.

Toilets are situated at the start, mid-point rest and at the finish.

The walk will take place on Wednesday September 25th meeting in the new garden area at The Anchor public house in Irby (inside if wet) at 1.30 pm.

Take in ancient wells, lost cabins in the woods, Viking race tracks, ridge and furrow fields, sailors' pathways etc.

There will be much to see photograph and talk about so don't miss out. This is a chance to meet other ITPAS members too.

Contact: John Heath 648- 6015 or Ian Chalmers 648 - 5619 to book



IRBY VILLAGE HALL



Our Village Hall is a wonderful asset to the community but it desperately needs volunteers to help out and/or serve on the Committee. Please contact 0151 648 5025 if you are able to help.

Area Snippets

Litter in Irby Copse

The area adjacent to McColl's in Irby village is known locally as "The Copse". In recent years, your ITPAS committee has been instrumental in improving this small gem in by planting 150 daffodil bulbs, trimming overhanging branches and erecting the community notice board. The photograph below illustrates what The Copse should look like.



However, we have received reports from members who are concerned about litter and an overflowing bin next to the bus stop. Whilst the committee members are equally concerned we are small in number and would ask members to either contact Wirral Borough Council's "Streetscene" in the first instance or, if they are feeling particularly public spirited, to don a pair of gardening gloves and "do a litter pick".

The Streetscene telephone number is 606 2004.

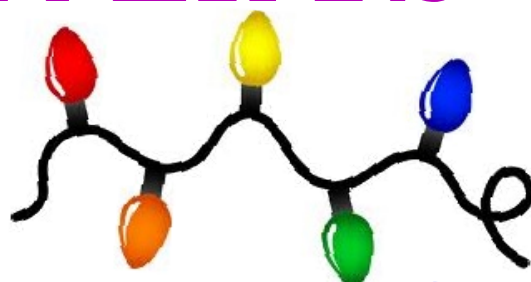
Stop press!

ITPAS annual subscriptions are now due for the 2013 calendar year.

If you already pay by standing order you've no need to worry. If you pay by cash and have already paid the treasurer this year, then you've no need to worry either.

For everyone else, please contact the secretary (Ian Chalmers on 648 5619) to arrange for a committee member to call round to collect your subscription.

EVENTS



IRBY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

This event is going from strength to strength each year and the 2013 'Switch-on' promises to be just as good if not better than previous years. As usual Father Christmas will be arriving to switch on our Christmas lights in Irby centre heralding the start of Christmas events and trading in the village.

This year's event will be held on **Friday, December 6th** and another full programme is planned. The Steering Committee is drawn from many organisations within the village and they meet every two months to plan things. If you have any ideas, contributions, issues etc then contact our secretary, Ian Chalmers who will take it to the Committee.

Keep watching the ITPAS noticeboard for details of timings and happenings on the day.

ITPAS Talks

Forthcoming talks of ours include a talk by an RSPB Ranger on the new centre at Burton. This illustrated talk will describe the facilities and functions of the new centre plus descriptions of birdlife in the Dee Estuary. This will be on the Wednesday afternoon of January 22nd at 2.15 pm. We also will be having our Spring Talk on the evening of March 26th. David Hill will talk about the Ismay family, their mansion, Dawpool, on Thurstaston Hill and their link to the Titanic. Gavin Hunter is likely to be booked for later in 2014 to talk about Wirral's Lost Halls.

Beach Clean up



ITPAS are organising a beach clean on **Thurstaston Shore on Saturday September 28th. Meet at 10.0 am suitably attired at Dee Sailing Club.**



There was a lot of discussion from folk who remembered 'cabins in the woods' nearby. This photo was published -



I realise that many of our readers won't be on FaceBook for various reasons but I joined a FaceBook group called 'Wirral in Old Photographs' a few months ago. I discovered many people with the same interest in what our locality used to look like. They have unearthed and published a wealth of old photos from personal collections, old postcards, the internet and from many publications. Efforts are made (usually successfully) to get permissions from copyright holders and if I use any of these in this newsletter or subsequent ones I acknowledge all those copyrights also. It may be that some of our membership can add to the store of old photos for the enjoyment of all of us and may even be able to add detail of information and memories.

I went and looked for myself and discovered some remains in the woods. The 'discovery' was greeted with great delight.

Much interest was also created by the postcard below showing scouts camping in a field at Quarry Farm, Irby. This tied in with the adjacent pic from a publication showing a camp, pre-1912,



As a member of Irby Methodist Church I was interested in its origins and the 'Tin Chapel' opposite Irby Hill Farm on Mill Hill Road. From my own photo of the remaining vestry before it was blown down, I then discovered some excellent photos of the full chapel.



next to the 'Tin Chapel' where the woods have now grown. This was deemed to be the first 'official' scout

camp following Baden-Powell's creation of the Scout movement but I'm not so sure about that. More research needs to be done on that one.

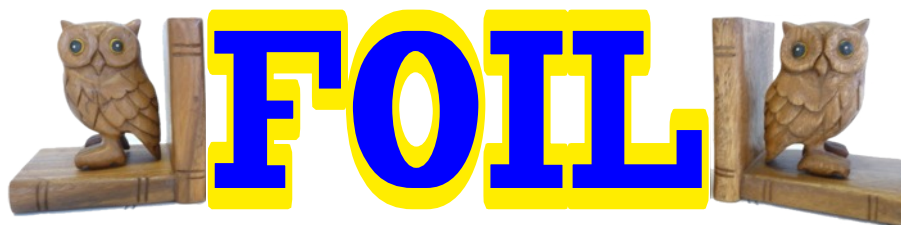


From there I unearthed more of Irby Hill Farm (Dodd's Farm) including this one of Mrs. Cooke feeding chickens in the road outside the farm.

Finally, a postcard view from the top of Thurstaston Hill showing the Cottage Loaf and very little vegetation. It is interesting to ponder on why suddenly the open heathlands should become overgrown with gorse, silver birch and other trees.



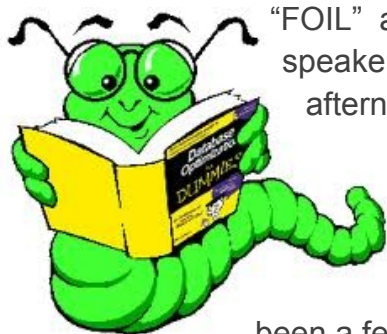
Roy Fisher



In 2009 **FRIENDS OF IRBY LIBRARY** was formed. The aim of the group is to further enhance the use of our Library by the community and to promote the cause of the Library in the wider community of Wirral.

To date “FOIL” (as the “Friends” are known) have a membership base in excess of 200. Obviously more members would be welcomed. It is easy to join, just complete an application form as available in the Library. If you are already a member, thank you for your support. Perhaps you would be kind enough to also encourage some of your neighbours to join.

Recently it has been confirmed by Wirral Borough Council that our Library in Irby will not be closed in the near future, however, there could, and probably will be changes in the functionality of the Library.



“FOIL” activities to date have included numerous topical evenings featuring speakers on a wide range of subjects of interest. Coffee mornings and summer afternoon teas have always proved to be popular.

“FOIL” has been active in supporting special Library events such as “IRBY from the Iron Age” which was fascinating. Special children’s events such as “The Wild Owl Trust” providing children with essential knowledge of the importance of wildlife and the environment have also been a feature.

“FOIL” also, in a practical way has taken into account the overall environment of the Library, ever wanting it to be a pleasant place to be in. We have financed 50 chairs for use at meetings, three book carousels including a special centrepiece to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.



We have renewed and renovated the window blinds throughout the Library, and have provided a sound system to enable speakers to utilise a microphone allowing all the audience at our events to hear clearly.

In September we will be launching a ‘Book Sponsorship’ scheme and we look forward to the support of members of our community who are just as passionate about keeping our library as we are. We must **USE IT OR LOSE IT!**

This is a summary of what “FOIL” is all about. To continue with this activity of course we need the help of the community as a whole, and therefore welcome any suggestions you may have.

Jacquie McKelvie
Chairman of FOIL



PLANNING MATTERS

The ITPAS Planning Officer's case book

This year has seen many planning applications coming forward but the vast majority have been normal domestic extensions and improvements with little contention. Concerns over the relaxation of small scale development, with larger extensions than previously being classed as 'permitted development' not requiring Planning Application, have been unfounded to date. The majority of such developments would have been approved anyway and the net effect is to reduce the workload of the local Planning Department.

One query, raised by an ITPAS member, was in respect of a property beside Thurstaston Roundabout, 'Ivy Bank', which involved modifications to a converted barn and outbuildings. This application was thought on balance to be positive and no Objection was lodged. Happily, it appears that the works are being completed to a good standard and the result looks attractive.



Our special watch of development within Green Belt and of green spaces continues. Four items of note are: firstly, an unused and overgrown 'green' area off **Acre Lane**, where we suggested a reduction in the number of proposed units. Secondly, we have alerted the Council to apparent divergence from Approved detail at **Hillbark Hotel**, regarding the large marquee and also to modular accommodation units which have appeared, seemingly without permission. The Council has promised to report back.

ITPAS objected to a proposed detached building alongside the iconic '**Shore Cottage**', located just



up from the beach at Thurstaston, as it was thought unsuitable in form, access and function. The Council did not agree and ITPAS will watch developments. Not far inland from 'Shore Cottage' are '**Rose Cottage**' and '**Orchard Cottage**', two relatively recently-built houses within Green Belt, permitted with the condition that they are used for agricultural workers. The current applications follow quite recent expansions and are for two storey dwellings to replace single storey ones. Impact would be low if the Applicants' statements are followed but assurance regarding the continuation of the Condition of usage is the main issue for ITPAS.

Regarding two local footpaths, there has been some progress following ITPAS action. Firstly, protection is being introduced to reduce the risk of further injury from exposed barbed wire at elbow height along the fence to the 'corralled' section of the Footpath from Irby (Nursery) towards Harrock Wood.

The second Footpath is No. 44, from Hill Farm (beside Thurstaston Roundabout), across the open field leading towards Dawlish Road (and thence along another open field to the Anchor Public House). After a site meeting with the Council's Footpath Officer, local residents and ITPAS, further points have been put to the Applicants of the proposed Diversion by the Council and a response is awaited. ITPAS's objection to the proposed Diversion and enclosure of this historic and pleasant walk ranges from loss of visual and other amenity to Health & Safety concerns and may require additional public support to be fully effective.

ITPAS Committee 2013 -14



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If you did not receive this Newsletter by email or post to your home it may be because we do not have your current address. Please contact me if you have any doubts about the completeness of our records.

Since the recent mailshot in our membership has increased. We are hoping that our new members become involved in shaping future policy and events by coming up with ideas and suggestions and maybe by offering to serve on our committee for a time. New blood and new contributions are always welcome. Please contact me if you feel you would like to be more involved.

Latimah Sinclair - Membership Sec.

DIARY



All talks are 7.00 for 7.30 pm start in Irby Village Hall unless otherwise stated. Free for members.

Autumn Event - September 25th, 2013

AUTUMN WALK

Taking in Historical Points of Interest
Including the Moat and Icehouse at Barnstables
and Irby Hall

Meet at The Anchor - 1.30 pm

Members - Free Non-members - £5
Includes tea/coffee/cake

Wednesday, Jan 22nd, 2014 at 2.15 pm



Winter Talk



RSPB at Burton

A Ranger talk about the new centre

Illustrated report about the Dee Estuary birdlife



Spring Talk

“A Mansion, a Family and a Ship”

Dawpool - The Ismays - RMS Titanic

By David Hill



Wednesday March 26th, 2014

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