



## LIBRARY NEWS 2025

### APRIL - JUNE

#### OPENING HOURS

**April 9th** 1.30 - 3.30  
**April 26th** 10 -12  
**May 10th** **AGM 11am. Library open from 10 am**  
**May 14th** 1.30 - 3.30  
**May 31st.** 10 -12  
**June 11th.** 1.30 - 3.30  
**June 28th** **History Fair at Strutts. Library open from 10 -2**

#### WEBSITE

The newsletter can also be found on the website on the library page along with all the library information and the search facility for the catalogue. All books new to the Library are on the catalogue and suggestions are always welcome.

#### A SELECTION of BOOKS NEW to the LIBRARY

**Nathaniel Johnston's History of the Foljambe Family Parts 1 and 2.** Edited by Philip Riden. Derbyshire Record Society Vols 50 247pp and 51 632 pp. 2024

These volumes are the latest publications from Derbyshire Record Society. The original history of the Foljambe Family was commissioned from Nathaniel Johnston at the request of Francis

Foljambe to settle an inheritance claim. It was completed in 1704 but lay undisturbed until it was published eventually in 1834-5 in an antiquarian periodical. Philip Riden as well as editing the original manuscript has included in these books an extensive history of the Foljambe family beyond 1704 with its connections in Derbyshire, south Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. These volumes give real insight into the lives and vagaries of a gentry family of longstanding landowners. This quote from the cover might tempt you to delve into this history:-

“ After the death of Godfrey Foljambe in 1595, his extended family engaged in nearly forty years of ruinous litigation which led to the partial breakup of the estate. These lawsuits .....provide a wealth of new information about gentry life in north east Derbyshire in the early seventeenth century, involving a colourful cast of grasping guardians, unscrupulous servants, a suicidal lawyer, strong women and weak men. On one hand there are allegations of perjury, bigamy, will-forging and jury-tampering. On the other, a little known stay by Mary Queen of Scots at Walton Hall and a previously unrecorded early attempt to make steel at a forge on the site .”

For local historians, this may whet your appetite. These volumes are also available to purchase from the Derbyshire Record Society.

**The 1851 Religious Census for Staffordshire.** Collections for a History of Staffordshire. 4th Series vol 28 Staffordshire Record Society 2024.

This volume has arrived from Staffordshire. Like the Derbyshire Returns for

the 1851 Census which were published by the Derbyshire Record Society in 1995 and is in the library, it gives a snapshot, on one particular day, of the state of churches and churchgoing. There was some concern among the powers -that-be, given the spread of nonconformism, that the Established Church may not be as well -attended as it perhaps it ought to be but the census went ahead. Any set of returns gives more than just a set of figures and these volumes provide a view on what were challenging times for the Established Church with the fast growing numbers of people attending nonconformist churches.

There was a space for remarks in the census and this one from St Modwena in Burton on Trent is telling - ‘Half the pews are unoccupied owing to illegal traffic in pews. The poor are excluded because they cannot afford to pay for a pew.’ The questionable practice of buying and selling on pews for profit continued despite concerns.

The census day March 30th was very wet and stormy and many churches noted in their remarks how attendances were low because of the weather.

The introductions to both the Staffordshire and the Derbyshire volumes make for interesting reading.



St Modwena's  
Burton on  
Trent Wikime-  
dia commons

I'm very pleased to say that the article in this edition of the newsletter is by Dudley Fowkes . Dudley, a longstanding member of the society, has been out of circulation for some time due to health issues but we were delighted to see him at the Industrial Section's Annual Dinner in January. I tentatively asked him if he would be willing to contribute a short article for the newsletter and he kindly sent in this piece of unpublished research about the Railway Village of Westhouses. Dudley has been a prolific writer over many years. There are 29 entries on our catalogue which Dudley has either written, co-authored or which he has been editor or co-editor. After Dudley's article there is a list of his books on our shelves - books in his own right and collaborations with other important writers on Derbyshire both in local history and industrial archaeology. The earliest of these goes back to 1977. Publishers include DAS and the Derbyshire Record Society. There are also other books to which Dudley has contributed. Rather than select individual titles, I decided to add the complete list as it shows not just the scope and breadth of Dudley's interests but how much Derbyshire's local and industrial history is greatly enhanced by his work.

You can find out more information on these titles by searching the online catalogue or by coming to the library .

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## THE RAILWAY COTTAGES OF WESTHOUSES

Dudley Fowkes

The railway houses at Westhouses now constitute one of the best examples of a purpose-built railway settlement in Derbyshire.

There had been a short-lived navy settlement when the Erewash Valley extension from Pye Bridge was built in 1861-2, but it was in March 1889 that we get the first beginnings of the new permanent settlement when on 1st March 1889 an entry in the minutes of the Midland Railway's Ways and Works Committee records seeking to commission plans for a new engine shed at Blackwell Sidings. Coal traffic had increased to such an extent on the Blackwell and Tibshelf branches with the ever-growing number of new pits that a local depot was needed to house and service the locomotives needed to work the trains. On 6th December 1889, a tender of £11216 from Messrs H. Brown was accepted for the erection of the depot. All traces of the depot and the branch railway lines serving it have now, of course, disappeared following the recent open-cast operations on the site.

Also on 1st March 1889 it was decided to obtain plans and estimates for providing 39 cottages near Blackwell Sidings to be built on a site to be agreed, to house workers at the new depot. A tender of £1481 (just over £160 per house) was accepted, again from Messrs Brown and Sons.

By the time of the 1891 census, the creation of the new railway settlement had

begun in earnest. By 1893 the depot had been opened, Midland Terrace had been authorised to be extended to 45 houses, and the construction of the slightly later Allport, Bolden and Pettifor Terraces was also give the go-ahead. The chosen names for the terraces all had Midland Railway Company associations. James Allport was the Company's General Manager, Mr H. Bolden was the Northern Division Engineer and Joseph Pettifor was the Company's Stores Superintendent from 1855 to 1894. There was ample scope for expansion of the housing (Pettifor Terrace was always a terrace of just two houses).but the 1890s proved to be the zenith of the development.

Initially the Midland Railway Company also took the initiative to provide a mission church for the village as Blackwell Parish Church was a mile away or so, but in the event, it was left to Ernest Edward Morris, Vicar of Blackwell from 1890, to take the lead. The 'tin tabernacle' was eventually opened on 26th September 1898 by the Bishop of Southwell, the village being part of the Southwell Diocese.

Also in 1898 the Midland Railway Company provided the village school at an estimated cost of around £5000, the only railway school in the county. To complete the picture, in 1901 the Railway Institute, close to Midland Terrace, was opened . This is now light industrial use.

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This photograph gives a bit of an idea of what Midland Terrace might have looked like when it was built. These houses, although with new windows, have retained the curved lintels above the doors and



windows but many of the other houses have been rendered or cladded, hiding original features.

Midland Terrace  
Anne Allcock

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From our Catalogue.

*Chesterfield wills and inventories 1521 – 1603.* BESTALL, J. M. : FOWKES, D. V. (eds.)

*.History of Chesterfield. Vol. 3. Early Victorian Chesterfield.* BESTALL, J. M.: (FOWKES, D. V. (ed.)).

*Map of the Borough of Derby, with portions of Darley, Litchurch, and Little Chester.*

FOWKES, D. V. (ed.).

*Derbyshire industrial archaeology. A gazetteer of sites. Part 1. Borough of High Peak.*

FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*P. P. Burdett's map of Derbyshire. 1791 edition.*

HARLEY, J. B. : FOWKES, D. V. :

HARVEY, J. C. (intro.).

*Discovering early Chesterfield.*

DOE, V. S. : FOWKES, D. V. : RIDEN, Philip (compilers).

*Bygone days in the Peak District.*

PORTER, Lindsey : FOWKES, Dudley. {D. V.}

*History around Alfreton.* FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*Derbyshire industrial archaeology. A gazetteer of sites. Part 3. Borough of Amber Valley.*

FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology. A gazetteer of sites. Part 4. Derbyshire Dales.*

FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*William Senior's survey of the estates of the first and second Earls of Devonshire c. 1600 – 28.* FOWKES, D. V. : POT-

TER, G. R.

*The origins and foundation of St. Saviours Church, Westhouses.*

FOWKES, Dudley.

*Derbyshire industrial Archaeology. A gazetteer of sites. Part V. North east Derbyshire.*

FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*History of Chesterfield. Volume 2 Part 2. Restoration and Georgian Chesterfield.*

BESTALL, J. M. : FOWKES, D. V.

*.Derbyshire industrial archaeology. A gazetteer of sites. Part VI. South Derbyshire.*

FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*.Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology. A gazetteer of sites. Part VII. City of Derby.*

FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*Derbyshire industrial archaeology. A gazetteer of sites. Part 1. Borough of High Peak.*

FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*.Derbyshire industrial archaeology. A gazetteer of sites. Part 2. Borough of Erewash.*

FOWKES, Dudley (ed.).

*Tudor Alfreton.*



FOWKES, Dudley.  
*Bolsover castle, town and colliery.*  
 RIDEN, Philip : FOWKES, Dudley.  
*Hardwick, a great house and its estate.*  
 RIDEN, Philip : FOWKES, Dudley.  
*Somercotes before 1851. Laying the  
 foundation of a modern parish.*  
 FOWKES. Dudley  
*Early Swanwick as seen through old re-  
 cords.*  
 FOWKES, Dudley.  
*Derbyshire Industrial Archaeology. A  
 gazetteer of sites Borough of Amber Val-  
 ley. Part III. A gazetteer of sites.*  
 FOWKES, Dudley (ed.)  
*A guide to the industrial archaeology of  
 Derbyshire.*  
 FOWKES, Dudley : SISSONS, Mark :  
 MITCHELL, Ian.  
*Early Riddings as seen through old re-  
 cords.*  
 FOWKES, Dudley.  
*Bolsover and adjoining parishes.*  
 RIDEN, Philip (ed.) : FOWKES, Dudley  
 (assist.).  
  
*Derbyshire Turnpike Road and Bridge  
 Trusts 1724-1896*  
 RIDEN, Philip, FOWKES, Dudley

## JOURNALS RECENTLY ARRIVED

*Birmingham & Warwickshire Archaeolo-  
 gical Society* 2024  
*Medieval archaeology* 68 (2) The Peak  
 Dwellers revisited  
*Midland History* 50 (1) Reevaluating  
 William Ward's (1769- 1823) Early Rad-

icalism: An Archival Assessment of the  
 1797 Thelwall Riot in Derby and the  
 Parties Responsible

*Ulster Archaeological Society. 2024*

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AGM 10th May

There will be a display of a few draw-  
 ings from the Cromford & High Peak  
 Railway in the library before the AGM  
 and after the two short talks which are :-

The Cromford and High Peak Railway  
 Drawings

Minninglow Brick Kiln

We look forward to seeing you at the li-  
 brary where a pleasurable hour or two  
 can be spent browsing the shelves.

The Library Team

