Friends Moving On

It is with some sadness that I report that after many years of dedicated service two members of the Friends of Teesside Archives committee are standing down. Jim Nicholson, a founder member and twice chairperson of the Friends is standing down as the current chairperson for medical reasons. Also leaving is Linda Polley who is standing down as Friends Secretary due to work commitments. As many of you will know as well as being Secretary Linda took over as chairperson from Jim when he original left due to medical reasons.

While we are all sad to see them go we hope both will remain, in their own ways, active members of the Friends. We all also wish them both all the best for the future.

With the lost of both Linda and Jim the Friends need your help! Do you think you can make a positive contribution to the Friends? Do you want to be part of what promises to be a bright future? Do you think you can help lead the Friends or think your can assist with administrative side of the Friends then we want to hear from you. We are also looking for someone to help with raising funds to help pay for all the projects the Friends are involved in. Of course there will be a lot of support available to those who do get involved, not only from those on the Friends committee but also Jim Nicholson who will be staying with the friends as honorary President.

If you think you have what it takes and have time to spare then please put yourself forward at the Friends Annual General Meeting in May, you would be more than welcome. If you would like further information on any of these positions then please contact Jim Nicholson.
Friends A.G.M.

Friends, it's that time of year again! The Friends of Teesside Archives Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Wednesday May 12th 6pm at Teesside Archives. Following the successful re-launch of The Friends we want to increase the size of the committee as we feel this would be an ideal way to get fresh ideas on board.

As a member, the AGM is your opportunity to put your name forward.

We meet every other month and the meetings, which are friendly and informal, last about an hour and a half. We would especially welcome anyone who feels they could take on the role of Secretary and Chairman as the present post holders cannot continue after May 2010. We are also interested in someone to help raise the necessary funds to keep the Friends going.

Please complete the form below if you are interested you will be made very welcome.

Nomination Form:…………………………………………………………………
Name:………………………………………………………………………………..
Address:……………………………………………………………………………..
Phone:………………………………………………………………………………
E-Mail:………………………………………………………………………………

Please return completed forms to: James T Nicholson, 7 Pennyman Way, Stainton Village, Middlesbrough, TS8 9BL (Tel: 01642-594017).

As well as the AGM, May is also the time of year to renew memberships. Even though we are in a recession our membership fees remain the same as last year! £15 for joint membership and £10 single. Please could you complete the enclosed renewal form and return to us by June as it would be appreciated. If members could also include an email address to the slip members can be sent out reminders of events.

Following the AGM there will be a special screening especially for the Friends of the last surviving film of the Teesside Cine Club, “The Adventure of the Kilton Cup – A Burlesque”. Made between 1930 and 1931 this 26 minute feature was filmed in and around Middlesbrough by Thomas H Brown and other members of the cine club as a spoof of Sherlock Holmes mystery. Something a little different and very funny!
Steelmaking woodcuts and other woodblock prints by Viva Talbot (1900-1983)

30 March - 18 July 2010

DORMAN MUSEUM
Linthorpe Road
Middlesbrough TS5 6LA

Open Tuesday - Sunday
see www.dormanmuseum.co.uk
FREE ENTRY
Cafe, disabled access, local parking

Talk by Dr Joan Heggie
17th June 7.00-8.30pm
Free Entry
“SECRETS OF THE GRAVE”
Report by Beryl Turner

Friends gathered in the Archives on 9th February to hear a talk by Mark Whyman, who is a well-known Friend for all his hard work scanning photographs from the Pennyman archive and for his diligent research and recently published second volume on ‘The Last Pennymans of Ormesby’. However, that evening we were entertained by one of his funniest presentations entitled “Secrets of the grave” - a perfect subject for family and local historians who have crawled around graveyards looking for long lost ancestors and hoping that the inscription will reveal more secrets about their family.

Mark’s fascinating photographs were from all over England as well as several from this area and ranged from most elaborate carvings like Sir John Hotham at Dalton on the Wolds; and Katherine of Aragon and Mary Queen of Scots in Peterborough Cathedral (subsequently moved to Westminster Abbey); to a simple roadside memorial. His opening photograph of St Mary’s churchyard in Richmond showed a gravestone with a small additional stone on top reputed to be where the leg of Robert Willance was erroneously said to be buried in 1606 followed some time later by his body. Willance’s Leap is commemorated by three large memorials on the edge of Whitcliffe Scar where his horse bolted, gave three leaps over the edge and died. Willance’s leg was amputated and buried, but he survived the hunting accident by cutting open the belly of the horse and inserting his leg to keep it warm to delay the onset of gangrene. Only one of several gory stories.

We chuckled and laughed at Mark’s theatrical presentation of the epitaphs he had found on tomb stone memorials, and from amusing stories and legends written after the person’s death. Here’s a good one:

_Here lie I and my three daughters,_
_All from drinking the Cheltenham waters,_
_If we had kept to the Epsom Salts,_
_We would not now be in these here vaults_

If you missed this funniest of illustrated talks, and want to suggest a speaker to any group or society, check out Mark’s website www.bargatepublications.co.uk.

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Tom Brown, Victorian Middlesbrough Dentist
by Tony Brown
£12.50  post and packing free,
from Teesside Hospice Trading Ltd.

A rags to riches story of a Northumbrian country boy whose father died when he was very young and who overcame many obstacles to become, through hard work, by the age of 46, a prosperous Middlesbrough dentist with his own busy practice.

Carders to:
Teesside Hospice Trading Ltd.,
01642-355866
Local History Events

To mark both Local History Month and Adult Learning Week Teesside Archives are holding a number of events at the archives. The first, in collaboration with Middlesbrough Libraries and the Northern Region Film & Television Archives, will be a special screening of several important local films and television items relating to Teesside and the surrounding area. This event will be on Tuesday 11th May between 6pm and 8pm.

The second event will be a Local History Fair to be held between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 15th May. As well as a number of stands, including one for the Friends, the day will offer tours of the conservation suite with a demonstration of the work that takes place. Jacqui Bareham and Michelle McCarthy, the archives Learning Access Officers, will be on hand to offer a full day of fun Craft Workshops suitable for all the family.

Friends are more than welcome, however reservations for both events are required so please contact the archive to book your spaces. My advice, get in quick as I’m sure both events will prove very popular.

Christmas Party at Teesside Archives December 10th 2009

If you weren’t there you missed a treat!

We were a smallish group but nonetheless it was a very enjoyable occasion. The evening began with a quiz devised by Jim on the theme of superstitions. Despite crossing my fingers I still didn't get all the answers.

Then we watched three short films from the fifties showing life in and around Middlesborough. Some buildings are still recognisable but it seemed so long ago.

There was real party spread with some super food. Thank you. Cori and Anne for your hard work in getting it ready. There was also a raffle with some excellent prizes including chocolates, gifts, books of local interest and wine. It was a good, if somewhat early, start to Christmas.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the preparations and the washing up!
**Tom Brown, Victorian Middlesbrough Dentist by Tony Brown**

**REVIEW**

The author of *Tom Brown, Victorian Middlesbrough Dentist*, Dr Tony Brown, is the third generation of dentists in the North East of England. He has researched meticulously his family background to produce this book which provides a fascinating account of not just dentistry in the early part of the 20th century, but also the life of a professional person.

Tom Brown was quite an amazing clinician whose clinical domain was mainly based upon extractions and the provision of dentures for those who could afford them. He was for the most part of his practicing life a single-handed dentist in the truest sense of the word. His practice was at times, peripatetic often visiting patients in their homes and carrying out extractions under ‘general anaesthesia’. In such instances, the patient’s general medical practitioner provided the anaesthetic whilst Tom completed the extractions. The next remarkable stage is that Tom himself then made the dentures in his workshop in whatever time he could make available. This summarises the true apprentice nature of his training.

Shortly after the First World War, Tom opened up his own practice at 41 Parliament Road, Middlesbrough, an area of town that provided dental care until the last owner (Tom's grandson, the author) retired in 2004. Soon after launching his practice, the 1921 Dentists Act came into force and Tom was required to register with the Dental Board of the UK. Tom retired from dental practice just before the outbreak of the Second World War, but he lived to see the introduction of the National Health Service and also ensured that his son (Tom Jun.) and grandson Tony had a legacy to continue with the family tradition.

This is a delightful book, full on anecdote, character and very well researched. It provides an excellent insight into how dentistry was practiced all those years ago and how such practices have changed.

I have enjoyed reading this book and I hope others do so as well.

*Professor Robin Seymour.*