

FLINTHAM MUSEUM'S NEWSLETTER

February 2014

The Flintham Museum is a nationally Accredited, award-winning museum which looks at rural life through the eyes of a village shopkeeper. The Flintham Society is the educational charity which owns the museum. Its charitable aims are to run the museum and to organise educational and enjoyable activities for the community. Visit the museum's website for in-depth detail about projects or the new village website for up to date information about current events.



Ipsy, pipsy, palsy, gout
Pains within and pains without

Two lines from a traditional Plough Play which was performed by Foresters Morris at the Boot & Shoe and again at the village hall this January, just as it would have been in 1914. Generations of young agricultural labourers from villages throughout the East Midlands staged their own local version of the ten minute play from the 1760s through to the outbreak of the war in 1914. This 2014 adaptation about a fight, death and miraculous revival, with courtship between a Fool and a 'young' lady thrown in for good measure, was lively with over-the-top costumes and plenty of slapstick.

Following the second performance, a 'hot sausage supper' was served, similar to one served in 1914. Then, led by the Plough Play team, everyone joined in singing pre-WWI music hall songs such as 'Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do'. Surprisingly, for a song that is over 100 years old, most people knew all the words. A short history of the traditions connected with Plough Monday was given, followed by 'our own' George Tindale's memories of Flintham school children performing the play in the 1930s. And finally, exactly as happened in 1914, the National Anthem was sung. We were taken aback by the noise we generated, although grateful that we only had to sing the first verse.

All in all, it was a rustic evening with home-made entertainment and simple, locally produced food, but so enjoyable that we've been asked by many who attended if we'll organise another event. We know that villagers held a concert in November 1914 to raise money to send Christmas presents to the men who had gone to France, so that's one possibility. We're also hoping that the Scouts will use the 1930s Flintham script and put on their own Plough Play performance in January next year. We'll keep you informed.

In February 1914, the church choir was invited to a supper at the vicarage followed by musical entertainment. The Flintham Ploughing Match committee asked 15 other villages to join their annual event. The following year, February 1915, it was agreed to hold the ploughing match 'unless something unforeseen happens'. The church choir met for their annual supper in February 1917; games were played until 11pm when coffee and sweets were handed round.



Advertise your business here. For £10 a month you could promote your business to 250 households in Flintham and email subscribers in surrounding villages. Call 525641 or 525786 to arrange.

Forthcoming Events

A **free Family History Workshop** takes place at the village hall one Monday or Friday evening in March. The workshop is aimed at beginners and those who have started their family tree but would like to learn more. Lin O'Neill, who has years of experience in tracing family histories, will lead the workshop. The Flintham characters who featured in our 'Meet the Families' event last September will be used as examples. The resources we used to discover so much about each family are easily available and not difficult to use and interpret.

The first workshop is free, thanks to our Heritage Lottery funded grant, and will be sufficient to enthuse, inspire and get you started in finding out more about your own family. If you are interested in booking a place at the first free session, please contact Lin O'Neill, preferably by email: lin.oneill@tiscali.co.uk

Saturday 22 February, 11am-3pm, Hidden Gems at **County Hall**, West Bridgford. This event, similar to an Antiques Roadshow, is staged by the county's Trent to Trenches team. Visitors are invited to take WWI family artefacts and memorabilia for identification and advice. Volunteers from the Flintham museum will be there to explain how we are researching and managing our own WWI project about the impact of the war on Flintham. The event is free and there will be experts in weaponry, social and art history on hand to tell you more about your own objects and documents.

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