



Stow Parish Archive

Newsletter

January 2008

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the New Year. Last year was a very interesting and a very busy year for the Archive Group and this year we hope to continue to grow. We have a number of interesting ideas on how to take the Archive forwards this year and as these are "fleshed out" we will let you know.

Meeting on last Wednesday of the month

The first new development is that the Stow Parish Archive will now meet in the Town Hall on the **last Wednesday** of every month. Each month we hope that you can come along and add to our collection in some way. To get started, our first night will focus on **shops and businesses in the parish**. If you have any material that can be copied or stories or information then please drop by.

Street Lamps 1859

An effort has been made in our village to raise a subscription for the erection of street lamps. There has been some success with a few pounds raised. It is intended to light the lamps with paraffin oil, but hope before long to have them lighted with gas. We have the Town Hall that is fitted up for gas. We also have a railway station, which is also fitted up for gas, and we have our factory, which has its own gas works.

Gas Works 1862

A public meeting was held in the Parish School here on Saturday for the purpose of forming a company for the manufacture of gas for the village. A number of gentlemen

favourable to this desire were present. The Rev. Brydone proposed the motion and Henry Inglis Esq. was called to the chair. He spoke of the advantages to be obtained by the introduction of gas and was surprised that this had not been accomplished long ago. After some conversation as to the probable cost the resolution in favour of the project was agreed.

Following from this Mr Inglis demonstrated his encouragement in the proposed company by taking up £100 in shares.

New Gas Works

The contracts for these works are now taken up and operations commenced. The successful contractors are Messrs. Meiklejohn of Dalkeith and Alexander Melville of Galashiels. Mr Mitchell furthered the scheme by taking out a large number of shares and gave the company a grant of the ground for the new works.

Street Lamps 1864

Our streets were lighted up for the first time, with gas, which was a great improvement on the old state of matters. Mr. Currie of Musselburgh has erected the lamps and although they are not placed at such short distances as in some other towns of greater note, they meet the necessities of the case. Strangers and visitors who have occasion to traverse the streets after nightfall need not now grope their way past our bad corners.

In addition to those put up by the inhabitants we observe several being erected by private individuals; two on the Graigend Road by Mr. Peake one on the Mill Road by Mr. Mercer and Mr Thomson of Millbank also has one at his works.

Street Lamps 1874

A report showed that the number of lamps is now 20. At a meeting it was agreed to collect a subscription and engage a person to keep and light the lamps this winter.

Please come along on Wednesday 30th January from 7.30 onwards and help us add to the Archive anything of interest on the theme of shops and businesses in the parish. We can copy any photos or documents on the spot or we can simply make notes on any memories that you have that would be of interest.