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Committee Meetings: Held at Cressy Fields on the second Friday of each month at 7.30 p.m.

MEETINGS: Held at Cressy Fields, Alfreton, on the last Friday of each month (except July and August) at 7.30 p.m. Speaker to begin at 7.45 to allow time for returning magazines.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Become payable on joining the Society and thereafter annually on JANUARY 1st

<u>SUBSCRIPTION</u>	INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP	£3.00
<u>RATES</u>	FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	£4.50 (one magazine to one address.)
	STUDENTS, RETIREMENT PENSIONERS and DISABLED PERSONS	£2.00
	OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP: If sent in British Currency or Bankers Draft in London - £4.00; If you wish Branch News to be sent by Air Mail please add £1.00 extra. If sent in Dollars or other currency please add £1.00 equivalent to your above specified amount, for currency exchange charge.	

All cheques and postal orders to be made payable to: Derbyshire Family History Society.

MEMBERSHIP entitles you to attend all meetings, visits and activities of the Society. Receive a copy of each quarterly magazine issued by the Society. Use all the facilities of the Society provided for its members, together with any external facilities the Committee may arrange. Members may introduce non-members to meetings and be accompanied by friends on any visits organised by the Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARIES: It is up to you to contact your Correspondence Secretary if you need any help or advice. They will do their best to help you from the information we have available in our Reference Section. Please remember that they are voluntary helpers and this is as much a hobby to them as it is to you. Do not forget that all important stamped and addressed envelope.

"WHAT IS CRESSY FIELDS?" several members have asked. It is the Derbyshire County Council Home for Disabled People, where, thanks to the good offices of our first Chairman, Ken Davis, himself disabled, we have been able to hold our meetings ever since the inauguration of the Society.

QUERIES: Members may place a query under HELP WANTED free of charge.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Members and non-members may place an advertisement in "Branch News" at the rate of 50p per line (85 characters per line). Frame 50p extra.

COMING MEETINGS: 25th June - Mr. D. Fowkes, on Enclosure and tithe awards. There will be no meetings during July and August. Meetings resume on 24 Sept.- Members' Evening. Articles for possible inclusion in "Branch News" No. 22 to be with the Editor by 31st July.

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EDITORIAL

The A.G.M. saw the resignation of the following stalwart committee members:- Mary Johnson, Fred Hall, Joan Smedley and George Milnes. As most of you know, it was through Mary's perseverance that the Society was formed. Fred has been a committee member willing to take on any responsibility. Projects have been ably supervised by Joan, and George has given his general support over the years. We are extremely grateful to these members and can only express our thanks to them and hope that they will long continue to attend our monthly meetings.

We are pleased to welcome distant members to our meetings, some travelling long distances and attending regularly, others from even further afield have joined us when visiting the area. It is also a pleasure to call on members when in their area. I recently called upon Sandra Tomkinson and Mr. R. Chawner who live in the tiny village of Boylstone, and although I had met Sandra at our meetings, and wondered how she was able to negotiate those narrow twisting roads at night to come, I had not met Mr. Chawner, and it was indeed a pleasure to talk to him in his garden and to put faces to names. This is what family history is all about, meeting members and exchanging information and ideas. We are always happy when we hear of contacts being made, but we are disappointed when we hear occasionally that letters have not been answered, even when S.A.E.s have been sent. In some cases a member has been happy to send information to another member without being asked, hoping to help that member, and not even an acknowledgement has been received. Please answer letters, someone is waiting patiently for a reply. Courtesy pays.

W.E.W.

PROJECTS NOTICE: A new projects co-ordinator has taken over since the A.G.M. so naturally needs time to familiarise herself with the material involved. We would be most grateful if members would curb their enthusiasm patiently until she feels able to allow more transcription, slipping etc. to continue.

COVER PICTURE: St. Chad's, Wilne. Isolated from the centre of population, the parish church of Wilne with Draycott stands near the banks of the River Derwent. It was the flooding of the river that finally drove the villagers of Wilne away to seek the drier, higher ground of Draycott. However the flood water has never entered the church. Today all that is left of the village are two cottages and Wilne Mills, once a cotton mill, which is now a firework factory. There was a church here on the site before the Norman Conquest and the present church is the third on the site and is mainly 13th and 14th century. The most notable items of interest are the Saxon font and the Willoughby chapel. The chapel contains the tomb of John Willoughby and his family of Risley Hall. In 1817 the church was badly damaged by fire but a full restoration was carried out in 1923.

The registers date from 1540 and until 1719 recorded the baptisms, marriages and burials from Risley and Breaston until these villages were made separate cure. Burials from Breaston continued at Wilne until the consecration of the churchyard there in 1824.

Today services are held in St. Chad's during the summer and on festivals; at other times at St. Mary's Draycott, a former Methodist chapel converted to Anglican use. Wilne has two claims to fame (1) it being the home of the Earl of Shrewsbury's steward, Nicholas Williamson, who was imprisoned in the Tower of London for a succession conspiracy in 1595. and (2) the reputed ghost of Marcus Astle has been seen walking along Wilne lane from the church to the mill. He went to the church, played a hymn on the organ, walked across to the mill and there hung himself from a beam.

(Many thanks to Sandra Smith for this interesting account and the cover picture.)

