



Plans for our Renaissance!



Hello Everyone and welcome to our third Newsletter.

Life in lockdown has certainly been a challenge for us all. Although we have not had an open meeting since February 2020, we have been working in the background, so to speak. We have held two meetings of the committee via Zoom and one meeting of the Research Team.

Our online presence has grown, too. We have 1,024 followers of our Worle History Society Facebook page, which is brilliant. Thank you all. And I finally worked out how to connect that official page to the Worle History Group, which allows everyone to post like mad! It now has 625 members, all approved and permitted to post. We would love to be able to meet you all when we are allowed out to play again!

The website is a global attraction and had over 25,000 hits in 2020. There were 2 very welcome contacts as a result: Brian Bull, son of Les Bull who was head of Worle Junior School and Mayor of Weston, contacted us and contributed memories galore. We also heard from Rev. Kemm, grandson of Dr. Frederick St. John Kemm who preceded the Petty family doctors. He has sent us a set of notes and a photograph album, which is very thoughtful and generous.

Amongst our major concerns is the planning to get started again.

One idea is to start with an exhibition. This would give us a chance to meet many new online friends, as well as catching up with our members. We will be considering possible venues and would dearly love to do a pop-up shop for a week or two. All we need is a free place to set up!! Please help if you can. We need somewhere safe to display our exhibition and have our archives available to the village.

Have a look at our ON THE SPOT challenge to get you out and snapping!



News Items

Happy 100th birthday to Arthur Spencer who became the first head master of Priory School in 1976. The RAF posted this message to him:

Today we are delighted to wish former Navigator Arthur Spencer a very happy 100th birthday!

Having undertaken training as a Navigator in Florida, Arthur joined 97 Squadron in late 1942 which was one of the first units to operate the Lancaster bomber and went on to join the Pathfinder Force in 1943 and took part in the raids on Peenemünde.

His RAF service saw him based in Lincolnshire, Africa, and the Mediterranean where he was awarded the Légion d'Honneur for his work aiding the resistance forces in Italy.

A switch to Transport Command at the end of the Second World War saw his navigation continue on Dakotas. After a brief spell as a Navigator in civil aviation with BOAC, Arthur went on to enjoy a long career in teaching.

Many happy returns from us all! Click on the link below for more information

<https://ibccdigitalarchive.lincoln.ac.uk/omeka/collections/document/3604>



Red Pits Allotments

These allotments, accessed from Church Road, will be celebrating their 125th anniversary in March. Please, if you have any memories, pictures, cuttings or other information, get in touch with us. Bob Champ is our main contact. Tel. 628502.





Our March meetings for the last eleven years have been an interesting, varied bunch

- 2010 March 4th: Worle War Memorial: Frank Gosden

- 2011 March 3rd Worle at War, 1940: Raye Green with austerity food

- 2012 March 1st : History of Ebenezer, Methodist Church in Lawrence Road -Raye Green

- 2013 March 6th St. Martin's School with Jane Dixon and Paul Davis, a tour of the buildings and displays in the hall.

- 2014 March 6th : Rhynes and Waterways in and around Worle for the past 400 years with Barrie Underwood.

- 2015 March 5th: Brian Austin's topic was 'By a 50 year researcher' and covered the work he had completed pulling together his mountain of information on Weston's past.

- 2016 March 3rd: Worle from the Air. A series of aerial pictures of the village since 1946, presented and discussed by Dave Hart. A different view of Worle.

- 2017 March 2nd: Professor Ronald Hutton was our guest speaker. His topic was The Great Civil War and its effects on North Somerset.

- 2018 March 1st : Glyn Hayes from Weston super Mare RNLI was our speaker. He brought to life the history of the lifeboat service on our North Somerset coast since 1882.

- 2019 March 7th: William Fraher told us about all the latest developments at Worlebury Hillfort, as well as touching upon its history.

- 2020 Weston Museum. An update of what our museum offers and how it is managed. Sadly cancelled!



The Round House, top of Lawrence Road



Jenny Kingsbury and Raye Green visited the house on Monday 3rd September 2018. These notes were taken that day.

Mrs Joan Gooch, who lived in the house, believed that the Round House was about 400 years old. Sadly Joan died recently and the house has been up for sale, but when we called on her Joan gave us some interesting tit-bits of information.

Originally there was a thatched roof which went up in flames sometime around the turn of the century 1900. There is still some thatch left attached to the chimney inside the attic.

There is a butcher's hook hanging from the ceiling on the landing.

At some point the current kitchen was created by building an internal wall in the main room, which is reached directly from the front door to the cottage. There is a huge stone fireplace on the left hand side as you enter the cottage.

There are 3 reception rooms in addition to the kitchen. One room leads from the lounge into the round part of the house.

3 bedrooms upstairs, again the round room bedroom is reached from the centre bedroom.

Mrs Gooch said that there was a Saddler's business in the house at one time.



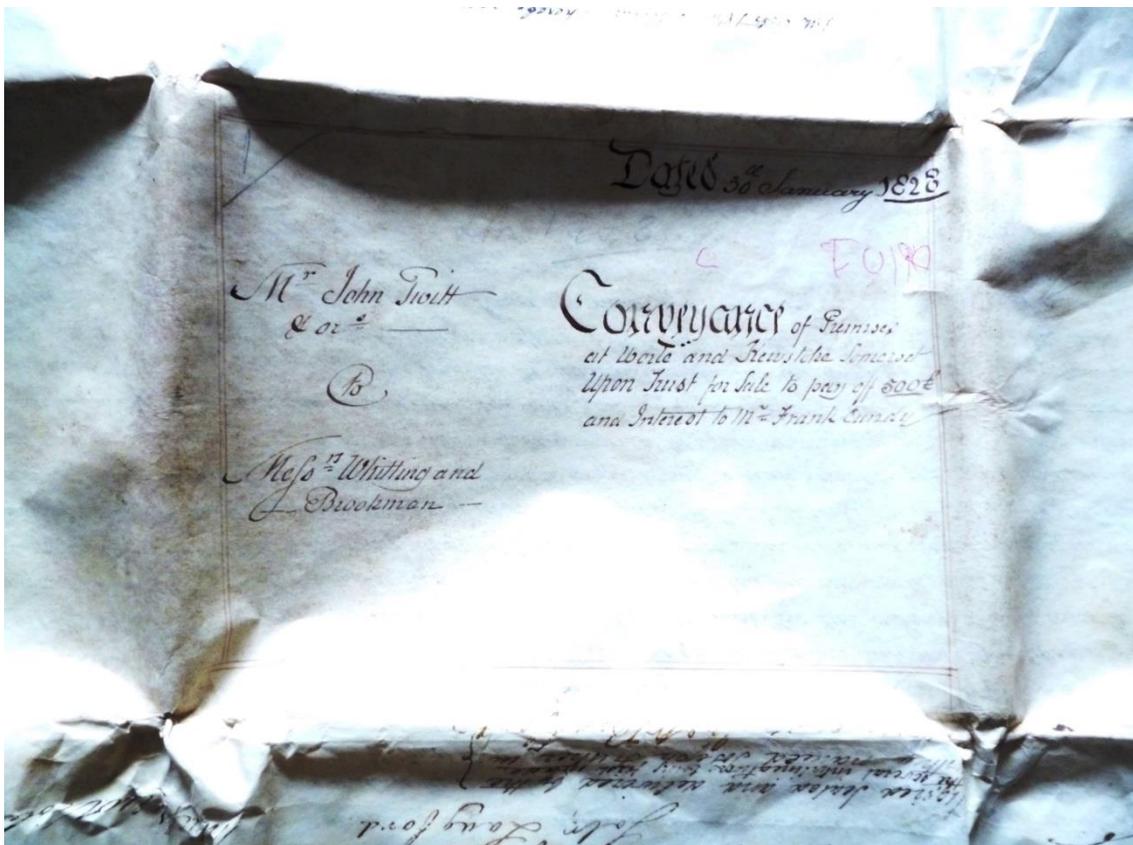
When Mr and Mrs Gooch were planning to retire to Weston, they viewed the cottage, and as soon as she stepped inside she knew it was her house.

Jenny and I were able to have a look at the deeds and I took a hasty set of photos of them

Names mentioned on the Deeds of 30 Jan 1828 are as follows:

- John Twitt
- John Fisher
- Joseph Fisher of Yatton
- Frank Cundy of Bristol
- Charles Whitting of Bristol – plumber and glazier
- James Brookman of Winscombe
- John Bailey
- Rebecca Stone
- John Lovell

It could be interesting to research the lives of the people named. The picture below gives us an idea of the condition of the deeds, which are the oldest documents we have found for the house. Several people have mentioned that the house was reputed to have been a toll house, which prompts some intriguing questions about toll roads and turnpikes.





On the Spot Challenge for happy snappers.

We have a set of photographs of Worle in Edwardian times, all dated in the first decade of the 20th century. It would be great to have a similar set of pictures of Worle in 2021.

So, we are challenging everyone to take out their cameras and find the best spot to take a picture of the same view over 100 years later. It will be hard work to find a time when you will not be run over, so take great care.

The originals were probably taken by R. Trueman, a photographer whose business address was 5 The Parade, High Street, Worle. If we are right in this assumption, we must thank him profoundly for leaving such terrific pictures of our village. Beginning at the bottom, so to speak, here are the set from circa 1909

1. The Square looking west.





2. High Street, looking west



3. Lawrence Road, looking north





4. The Scaurs, looking up the hill (maybe taken later than the others)



5. Church Road, looking west



