

Quorn Village History

On Monday evening, 12th November, Sue Templeman gave a highly illuminating talk and presentation to the Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves Local History Group. Entitled *Quorn Village History*, it demonstrated how one of the first, and one of the most successful, on-line village museums was established in Leicestershire.

This "virtual museum" won a Leicestershire County Award in July 2010. Perhaps not surprisingly, it also inspired Woodhouse Eaves to create something similar, and may well have encouraged other Leicestershire villages to do the same.

Sue Templeman explained how the project came about, how the on-line museum was created and how it is run. Furthermore she showed how its material is regularly updated with additional information contributed from all around the world. Occasionally a new addition to this virtual museum, be it factual, pictorial or a straightforward request for further information, results in a response within an hour or less of it being "posted" on line.

Sue then took the ever-popular subject of family history to demonstrate how one particular part of Quorn's virtual museum is used. She showed how traditional sources of information both national and local, ranging from village school records to gravestone inscriptions, can now be combined with the most modern on-line resources. The result is a remarkably detailed picture of the people of Quorn in times past, their family relationships and their everyday lives.

The second part of Sue's talk demonstrated how such "ancient and modern" resources can shed light on the life a man who, though only living in Quorn for a few years, left his mark in way that local historians can really appreciate. His name was William Shuttlewood (1865-1939), for some time the proprietor of a chemist's shop in Quorn and, perhaps more importantly, the publisher of a large number of village postcards. These photographs remain a vital resource and feature prominently in Quorn's virtual on-line museum.

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