



Ropley History Network and Archive

Our Second Oral History Interview is ready to listen to!

Brian Lawes Interview - a walk through the village in the 1940's

(Recorded and edited, including the article on our website by Tom Osborne)

Ex Ropley Parish Chairman, Brian grew up in Ropley during the 1940's, and still lives in the village to this day. A member of the Ropley History Network volunteer group, he has donated vast quantities of information and a collection of photographs to the archive, many of which are connected to the local railway. In this interview he details a fascinating 'Phantom Walk' through the village in the late 1940's, when he was a child.

Brian's 'Phantom Walk' first takes us up and down Bighton Hill to the North of the village, close to the railway station where Brian works as a volunteer. He then continues on to include various places and people that you may recognise....

- Dene Farm at the bottom of Bighton Hill -Mr. Eddie Colebrook and his family owned one of the last working horses in the village
- Mr. Budd's builders. The Budds are a family who have lived in the village since at least the 1400's.
- Ropley Motorworks was owned by Mr E A Coles in the late 1940's.
- Mr Shelcott's Shop, Ropley Grove
- Ropley Lodge
- The Anchor Inn,
- Local people including Clifton Sheriff, Mrs Hawes and Frankie Darvil
- Home Farm, Slycombe Poultry Farm, and the Hampshire Hunt
- And lots more!

To listen to Brian - <https://www.ropleyhistory.org.uk/village-history/buildings-architecture-and-historic-houses/brian-lawes-interview-a-walk-through-the-village-in-the-1940s>

Whats On! - History Events and Talks coming to Ropley and the locality

For further details about these events go to Events on our Home page.

Saturday 6th July & Sunday 7th July – Hampshire Genealogical Society - Golden

Anniversary Event An event to mark a major milestone for their Society, as this year they celebrate their 50th Anniversary! This two-day event held in Hartley Wintney, is open to both HGS members and non-members – Interesting talks and help with genealogical research. Great venue and parking – See further details on their website- <https://www.hgs-familyhistory.com/2024/04/golden-jubilee-event-saturday-6th-july-sunday-7th-july/>

Thursday 15th August 2pm - Tour of Winchester School and Archives – places still

available The archivist at the Winchester College Archives has very kindly offered us a **Tour of the school and the archives**. We have a number of spaces that we will offer this on a "first come first served basis". Further important details on our website. Please email us to reserve a space at Ropleyhistory@gmail.com. Donation to Ropley History £5

Our next event is on Monday 23rd September 'What's a 'Ropley' anyway'

A talk about **Local Place Names**, by local historian Manni Kirchner and what they tell us about the meanings behind them and our local ancient history

Tickets on the door - £5. (card or cash)

Doors and Bar open at 7pm. Start 7.30

Have you ever wondered...
Who was the Gilbert in Gilbert Street?
Does Swelling Hill Swell?

Or... **What's a 'Ropley' anyway?**

These questions and many others will be answered in **A Talk on the Place-Names of Ropley** and what they tell us about our **ancient village**.
By local historian Emmanuel La O Kirchner

Ropley Village Hall
23rd September 2024
Bar opens: 19:00 Starts: 19:30 Tickets: £5

Supported by:
HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES TRUST
The Ropley Society
Ropley Parish Council
Heritage Fund

ROPLEY history
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Ropley History Network and Archive

Thank you to all who came and supported 'Rediscovering Hyde Abbey with David Spurling. The lead trustee of Hyde900 in Winchester and organiser of the three Hyde900 community digs 2016-18 talked about his work on the digs, the finds, the people and his personal connection of his house to the old Hyde Abbey.

Current Articles and Future Articles *shown on our homepage*

- **Historic Buildings in the area** - we are endeavouring to bring together as much information as possible about buildings that are historic or have importance in the area. If you have anything that may contribute to this growing collection - documents, images or some oral history other than what is in some of the local publications – please do get in touch
- **Celebrating local Ropley historian John Duthy** The Hampshire Field Club is currently running a project called Celebrating Hampshire Historians and has kindly given us permission to use the entry on a local 18th Century Ropley resident John Duthy, who lived in Ropley House.
<https://www.ropleyhistory.org.uk/village-history/celebrating-local-ropley-historian-john-duthy>

- **The Old School House on the Petersfield Road.** We are bringing together various existing and recently contributed images and documents to build a history of this historic building so if you can add any information about the building as a schoolhouse or later inhabitants – please do get in touch
- **Policing in Ropley-** have you any memories or images of policing in Ropley?
- **Land purchase map – a remarkable survivor** - 1850's 7 metre long map for Railway from Alton to Winchester <https://www.ropleyhistory.org.uk/village-history/land-purchase-map-a-remarkable-survivor>
- **Our Second Oral History** – Brian Lawes reminisces about life growing up in Ropley
- **The History of the horticultural Society** - including images of past and present
- **The History of the Coffee Rooms** - A time line including legal documents, letters and other related images.
- **Historic Maps** - We are adding new images and sources all the time <https://www.ropleyhistory.org.uk/village-history/historic-maps/historic-maps-of-ropley-and-the-local-area-2>
- **Found anything interesting?** Have you found something ancient, rare or just interesting looking? This article tells us this is not a rarity and perhaps what you found is really interesting – if so we can advise what you should do with it, how to register it etc
- **Update to The Mid Hants Railway – A Brief History of a Heritage Railway** – We have added a time line for the history of the railway. <https://www.ropleyhistory.org.uk/village-history/the-railway/the-mid-hants-railway-a-brief-history-of-a-heritage-railway>

If you think you might be able to contribute some more information to any of the above, please do get in touch and share. To see these and all our other articles, new collections of images of documents, photos and artefacts, please go to our easily found Ropley History website.

Getting involved

Can you offer your time – however much you feel you can give – to help us develop and grow the archive? Any contribution would help us preserve our local history. Do you have any local history documents that you would like to share or need some help with? Please get in touch or come along to our fortnightly Thursday archive workshop sessions.

Thursdays 2-4pm - in the back Hall or the small hall of the Village Hall.

- July 4th and 18th
- August 1st (not 15th) 29th
- September 12th and 26th

Thank you for your continued interest, involvement and support
Ropley History Network and Archive Steering Group
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