

# AMBLECOTE

## History Society



recording yesterday - today - for tomorrow

No. 27

<http://www.amblecotehistorysociety.org.uk>

Spring 2010

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter.

If you have any snippets of news, gossip, or memories that will be of interest to your fellow members, then DO LET US KNOW !!

### Members corner.

John James has sent in a cutting from the *Blackcountry Bugle*, in which a reader asks for help regarding the drowning of Solomon Charles Jackson in 1886 'in a pond'. The '*County Express*' for 13<sup>th</sup> February 1886 reported on the accident. During the afternoon of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February a number of youths were skating on a pool in the grounds of Mr. George Mills, at The Hill. George Mills was a glass manufacturer who owned the Holloway Glass House situated on the site now occupied by Westland Gardens. He became mentally ill in the 1880's, and shot himself on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1885 at Iverley, and his will was proven on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1886, only a few days before the accident.

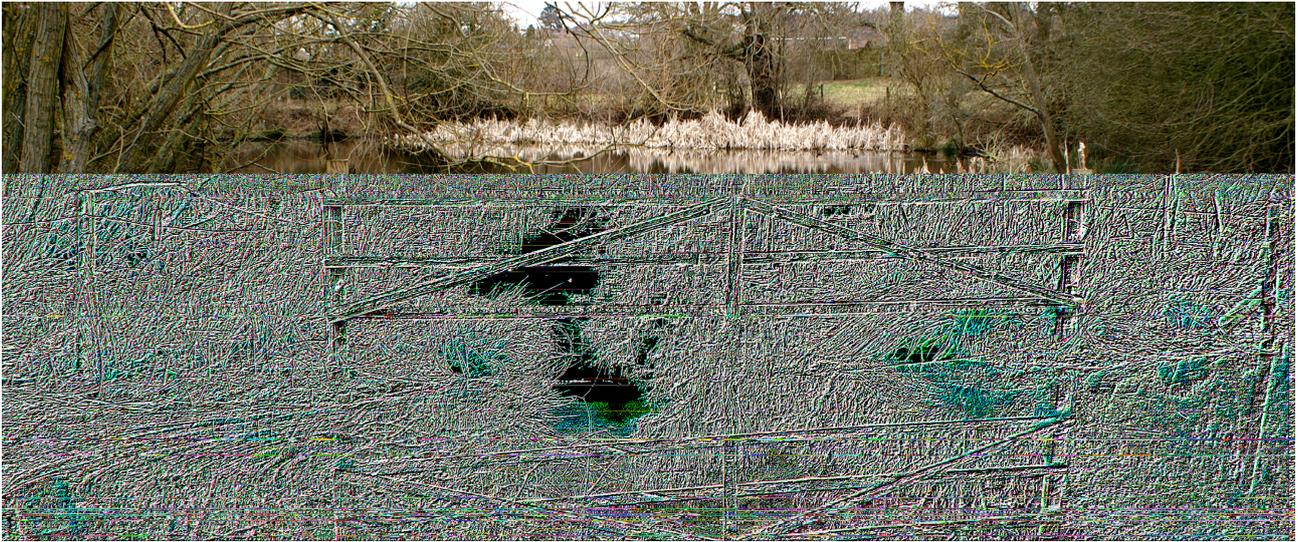
About 3pm one of Solomon's skates slipped and he fell, causing the ice to give way, and the 13 year old labourer of Holloway End, fell into the water. Unfortunately, no means of rescue were at hand, though an effort was made by another youth named Frederick James who thrust out twigs to Solomon, and even went into the water himself up to his neck. The dead body was recovered 40 minutes later by Police Constable

Mountney using a drag. An inquest was held on the following Tuesday at the Holly Bush Inn by Mr. W H Phillips, district coroner, and Frederick James said he could see the ice crack at every step.

The Coroner suggested that it might be well known that the pool was rendered unsafe for skating purposes by water running into it, which prevented the ice attaining any great thickness. There were also pools in the district into which hot water ran, and such pools must be particularly dangerous.

The Jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

The Rev. J S Boldero, in his sermon at Amblecote Church on Sunday night, referred to the accident, which caused considerable feeling in the neighbourhood. Solomon was buried in Amblecote churchyard at 3 pm on Thursday. He was a member of the choir had been a regular attendant at the services of the church. The clergy and the choir met the corpse near the gate, and preceded it into the church, while the organist, Mr. Skelding, played 'O Rest in the Lord'. A large number of people assembled in the churchyard to witness the funeral.



The pool in March 2010 – not frozen, but quite cold !

*In the late 1940's and early 1950's the hospital grounds were part of our playground, and we fished in the pool all year round, swam in it in the summer, and played on the ice in the winter. The stream that flowed into the pool often carried a lot of silt, and the pool had probably become shallower by the 1950's - editor.*

Norman Robins has also been reading the *County Express*, this time from 1940, and we are indebted to Norman for these extracts from January of that year.

**Blackout collision.** At 7.30 on Tuesday morning there was a collision in Brettell Lane near the premises of the Brierley Hill Stone Co. Ltd. Between a motor cycle driven by Will Stokes of Gerald Road, Wollaston, and a motor lorry driven by Joseph Southall of Brook Street, Lye, in the direction of Brierley Hill. The motor cyclist sustained a bad cut over his right eye, and was taken to the Corbett Hospital for treatment, but not detained. His pillion rider escaped injury. The motor cycle was damaged in the front.

**Fog collision.** During the fog on Monday morning a vehicle collided with the bollard at the bottom of Brettell Lane and demolished it. The bollard has been knocked over several times in recent months.

**Cars in collision at Brettell Lane – Pedmore motorist fined at Brierley Hill.** A fine of £2 with special costs amounting to £4 7s was imposed at Brierley Hill Police Court on Monday on Guy Weaver of Pedmore for careless driving. It was alleged the defendant crossed the junction of the Stourbridge to Wolverhampton road at Brettell Lane at 40 miles per hour and collided with a lorry coming from Dudley.

**At the Panto.** Holy Trinity Wolf Cubs and Scouts with Akela visited the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, on Saturday to see the panto Jack and the Beanstalk. The boys had an exciting time and thanks are due to Messrs Samuel Johnson 'Supreme' Ltd. For making all the arrangements. The party arrived at the Church Hall, Amblecote, at 5.45pm and found waiting a first class tea given by the parents who very kindly waited, making it the end of a perfect outing.

## 2010 AGM

The 2010 AGM was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, having been postponed from January due to inclement weather. This meeting was also scheduled for a talk by Brian Draper M.B.E., so the AGM was held at a good pace.

**Apologies:-** Apologies were received from our Chairman, Pat Martin, and, in her absence, the meeting was chaired by Mike Perkins.

**Minutes:-** The minutes of last years meeting were distributed to the members present, there were no objections, and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters Arising:-** There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's Report:-** The chairman was not present, but the Winter 2009 Newsletter contained an excellent summary of the 2009 season.

**Treasurer's Report:-** Joyce Robins told the meeting that last year's coach trip had added monies to our funds, and the raffle continued to raise towards our running costs.

**Election of Officers:-** No nominations were received prior to the meeting, and there were none from the floor. Mike Perkins nominated Pat Martin for Chairman, Joyce Robins for Treasurer, and Helen Cook for Program Secretary. The nominations were seconded and there was a unanimous vote to accept. The post of Secretary had been vacant for most of last year, and Angela Doherty was nominated, seconded and returned unopposed.

**Other Appointments:-** The committee has three co-opted members, and, as such, are appointed not elected.

The AGM was declared closed, and Brian Draper asked the question "What is a River?". Brian then gave the meeting a fascinating and quite thought provoking answer.

## Impney Grange.

What a strange name for this development. Barratts are very fond of the name Grange, despite The Hill never being a grange. And Impney ???? Impney is 15 – 20 miles away, and John Corbett never lived here, so this site has no connection at all with the estate near Droitwich.



Photo taken with the kind permission of the Three Villages Medical Practice.

Two 'houses' are being built on the corner of John Corbett Drive, land that was originally designated as twenty-two parking spaces for the Health Centre. There is very

little room at the rear of these houses, and an amenity area for these houses is being ripped out of the shrubbery along the side of the drive at the bottom of the slope up to the old Hospital.



Work is proceeding on the elimination of the site of the old Corbett Hospital. The sewers are in and the roads laid, and some twenty houses are in various stages of being erected.

### **Archives.**

Member Mike Hoggins has donated super photographs of Withymoor taken during an aeroplane flight in 1975. These show the scars left by the open cast mining operation before the area was covered with houses.

Geoff Longmore has also loaned us some old family photographs for copying.

### **The May meeting.**

**WILL ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING ON MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> HAS HAD TO BE PUT BACK ONE WEEK TO MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

Mr. Adrian Durkin will be telling us about Dudley Castle.

### **Membership report.**

Welcome to

Our latest members are Alan and Margaret Deeley and Beatrice Harris, all of Wollaston, Shirley Fox of Oldswinford, Lydia Hodgetts of Stourbridge and Pamela Sparry of Amblecote.

Present membership stands at 60 +.



**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUBSCRIPTION YET ??**

