

# A New Website & Accessible Databank !

*Gringley History Club launches a brand new approach to accessing our village history.*



Gringley History Club is delighted to announce the online publication, in easily accessible form, of its full historical Databank of village and related history. This information, which is steadily growing, has been collected and stored over the 5 years of the Club's life. We heartily thank the dozens of village residents, past and present, and especially Club members, for locating and gathering this rich archive.

The Databank contains over 900 Notes, now stored in a free multi platform computer application called Evernote. Half the Notes contain multiple pages, so there are 700 pictures and over 1000 documents included, all tagged and indexed to aid retrieval. Access to the Databank

is via the Club's brand new totally redesigned website. This resides at [www.gohistory.org.uk](http://www.gohistory.org.uk).

Those who have previously visited or book-marked the original website, with this same domain name, are urged to navigate to the new site soon to bookmark that, and to check out the complete reconstruction. Once you are there, it takes just three clicks to start reviewing the Notebook that interests you. All visitors will be surprised by the breadth and depth of our collection. A PC or Mac will yield the best results, but most of the data can also be viewed on tablets and smartphones, though a reasonably brisk internet connection is best to enjoy browsing the collection.

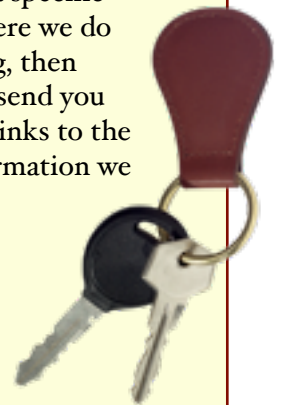
## How & Where?

Over 80% of the Databank content is free to browse. Either a £10 donation by cheque to the Club, or annual membership of £10 a year, is required to access the remaining 20%. An Evernote account (which is free) is not essential but to take full advantage of all the Databank's indexing and word searching you are advised to access the information via Evernote. Just contact the Club to have the info shared directly to your Evernote account.

The Club still offers researchers the service - in response to a specific request - where we do the searching, then retrieve and send you directly the links to the specific information we have in the Databank.

This informal search process has been available ever since we started and several researchers have benefitted. The real difference now is that we can ourselves actually find more of the stuff you might be seeking!

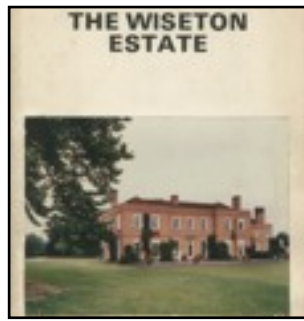
We suggest a £5 donation from non-members to Club funds for any successful searches.



9 SAMPLE NOTES FROM 900 IN THE NEW DATABANK



**Retford Times Feature written by James Roffey 1982 - see in our PRESS Notebook.**



**The full illustrated catalogue and sales particulars from Wiseton break-up, 1970 - see in our COLLECTIONS Notebook. (membership reqd)**



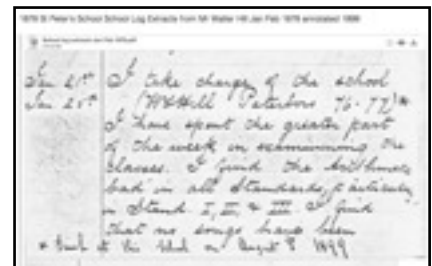
**An early edition of BEACON from 1972 - see in our BEACON MAGS Notebook.**



**Register of Electors, 1955. This is one of over 20 from 1950 to 1988. in our ELECTORAL ROLLS Notebook. (membership required)**



**The Green, Gringley, pre-1910 Postcard - see in our POSTCARDS Notebook. (membership required)**



**Early thoughts on becoming teacher at the School by Walter Hill 1878 - see in our TOPICS Notebook.**



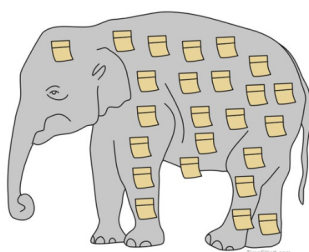
**School Group Photo from Ann Rhoades Village Survey 1974 - see in our PHOTOGRAPHS Notebook.**



**Point to Point picture c1910 - see in our REPRODUCTIONS Notebook.**



**Metal Detector Finds by Patrick Withers in fields to the south of Bypass - see in our MAPS Notebook (membership required)**



## THE ELEPHANT AT THE HEART OF OUR NEW DATABANK

Our unit of storage within Evernote is a Note, which might contain only one paragraph, but might contain an album of dozens of separate photos or press clippings. We now have 900 Notes organised into 20 Notebooks. Every Note is index tagged for searching purposes. A Note can only appear in one Notebook, but a Notebook will contain many Notes. For a full explanation go to our website at [www.gohistory.org.uk](http://www.gohistory.org.uk)

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE DATABANK

Sometimes we are passed historical information and do not quite appreciate its significance at the time. A good recent example was the correspondence from Mrs Winifred Leaning of Bristol. She had grown up in the village, living at Dunstan Farm, as Winnie Spencer and in 2014 sent the Club some photographs and information about the Evacuees who were here in the early months of the war.

We had dutifully scanned and stored the information but our previous indexing and retrieval system meant it was buried out of sight unless somebody actually happened to remember it. With our new tagging system the information came readily into the light and we were

able better to appreciate its value and bring it more into the public domain.

One of Winnie's photographs shows the group of evacuees carrying their gas masks along Finkle Street in 1939. Winnie herself is on the extreme left of the picture.



To read the letter and look at the pictures access is via the Topics Notebook in the Notebooks section of the Club's website:

[www.gohistory.org.uk](http://www.gohistory.org.uk)

or go directly to it within Evernote:

<https://www.evernote.com/pub/gohistory/topics>

## ADDING TO THE POSTCARD COLLECTION

The Chairman of the Gringley History Club was an

The album itself will pass to the Club upon his demise.



avid collector of old PostCards before he moved to Gringley. He is steadily building up his personal collection at his own expense. All newly acquired cards of the village are scanned and added to the Club's Databank.

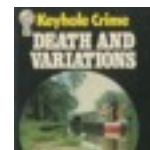


### 'New' Books



The Club Library now has its own copies of the above titles which feature the village to an extent.

REV. IVON BAKER



The Club is also collecting copies of the fictional works of Rev. Ivon Baker. (at Gringley from 1962 to 1994).



## GRINGLEY 800 PLAYERS

Thanks to Marilyn Barber for passing over to the Club her folders and photographs from her time as Secretary to Gringley 800 Players. This very successful amateur dramatic society was a regular source of entertainment for the village in the 1980s

### HAVING A CLEAR OUT ? CAN WE HELP ?

Please don't forget the History Club when you are having that overdue tidy up! We'll just love your old house documents, your labelled photos of village views, people or events, pre 1991 Beacons etc. etc.

## THE CURIOUS CASE OF MICHAEL FAWDRY



**Michael Fawdry**

Michael has recently contacted the club seeking information about his birth mother and father.

One of our members, Sharon Keeble, is attempting to piece together more of the story.



During the Second World War young Sylvia Alberta Christina Fawdry moved to Gringley with her father who was being transferred around the country guarding P.O.W.s. She arrived in Gringley in 1941 aged about 20 and apparently lodged "in a grocer's shop on Cross Hill, one of two shops set back from the road." She already had one child, with her grandparents.



### ENTER THE U.S. AIRMAN

During 1943 or 1944 she met an American air force engineer,

Luis Huerta, who was also lodging in the village "based at a large house in its own grounds which had been taken over by the US Army... and Luis was in

charge of the place". He was based at a nearby airfield.

Michael was the result of their friendship in Oct 1944, but Luis had broken with Sylvia well before that on going to the European theatre after June 1944. Sylvia departed again with parents for Cornwall in Feb 1945, and deposited Michael in the porch of St. Marie's Cathedral in Sheffield on the way.

Fortunately he was found and



cared for, and successfully adopted within Sheffield where he became Michael Calton.

Sylvia was eventually traced, and she was arrested and tried and eventually sent to prison for three months for abandoning the baby. She claimed to have married Luis but no proof exists.

Michael grew up happily with his foster parents, but in the 1990s began to seek out more. He visited Gringley and spoke with Rev. Baker who was unable to assist other than suggesting a Mrs Kirk as Sylvia's possible landlady in Cross Hill.

We have forwarded Michael a 1930s picture of the two shops in Cross Hill, believed to be Whaleys and Blakes, and suggested that Sturgate might have been the American airbase (though it only transferred to the USA in 1952) and suggested The Beeches might have been Luis' base in the High Street.

**Any ideas or info please to either Sharon or Alan**

## Calendar

### March 17th 2016

Guest Speaker Adrian Gray at History Club Meeting at Community Centre 7.30pm

### April 6th 2016

Open W.I. meeting at Community Centre 7.30pm featuring guest speaker Jean Townsend.

### April 21st 2016

Next History Club meeting in Blue Bell 8pm

### May 8th 2016

History Club exhibiting at Great Nottinghamshire Local History Fair at Mansfield Library 11a.m to 3pm

### May 19th 2016

Provisional History Club meeting at Blue Bell 8pm

## PUBLICATIONS

OUR FULL CATALOGUE, PRICE LIST AND ORDER FORM IS SHOWN ON OUR WEBSITE:

[www.gohistory.org.uk](http://www.gohistory.org.uk)

COMING VERY SOON:

**A new book of verse & village views from a lifetime citizen of Gringley!**

## Contacts

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