

SEDGLEY JOURNAL

The occasional news-sheet of Sedgley Local History Society
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LOCAL CHURCHES RECORD THEIR PAST

All Saints is the Manor's parish church with 1000 years of history. The first recorded vicar, Ricardus, was mentioned in 1184 while Thomas Swindell was the longest serving incumbent from 1888 to 1929. Today's church was built in George IV's reign with a tower hiding parts of the earlier church. All this history and much more can be found on an excellent website [www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk] which started this spring

Our members have made contributions with Ron Baker's sketches prominently featured and the focus for some Friday morning memories meetings in the church.

This autumn St. Chad & All Saints RC Church is putting its history into print as 225 years of worship in Sedgley is celebrated. Meetings began in the 1780s in a cottage in Sandyfields. The present day church was opened in August 1823. It was one of the first English Catholic churches after the Reformation to be built with a tower.

BORN IN THE MANOR

Tony Collins joined Virgin Trains in 1999 and took up the post of Chief Executive in 2004.

He attended the Dormston School in Sedgley followed by West Bromwich College of Commerce & Technology for a Business Studies qualification.

In the 1970s Tony served an apprenticeship with Rockwell Thompson in Ettingshall and later worked for Austin Rover, Yale Fork Lift Trucks and GEC Cannon Industries. During these years he qualified as a chartered management accountant and became a Fellow of the Institute in 1987.

This year Wolverhampton University recognised his achievements with an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration.

Out of the office he likes a round of golf and riding on rollercoasters.

A SEDGLEY MANOR MYTH

Myth ~ Dudley Castle Hill [in Woodsetton village] is the highest point in the Manor and Dudley Borough at 737 feet.

Sedgley Beacon Hill [in Ettingshall village] beats it at 777 feet.

There are fine views of the castle and Beacon tower from the Wren's Nest Hill.

The Black Country's highest point, now in Sandwell, is Turner's Hill at 876 feet.

SEDGLEY MANOR TRIVIA

Upper Sedgley covered the villages of Sedgley, Upper Gornal, Lower Gornal, Cotwall End and Gospel End.

Lower Sedgley covered the villages of Coseley, Ettingshall, Woodsetton and Brierley.

In parish registers *Over Gornal* referred to Upper Gornal and *Nether Gornal* to Lower Gornal.

SEDGLEY, ETTINGSHALL AND DUDLEY IN THE DOMESDAY BOOK

The Domesday Book, in two volumes, was compiled in 1086. On the instructions of William the Conqueror a land survey of over 13,000 places was carried out to provide a basis for taxation and record of ownership. Omissions included Winchester and London.

The text was in shorthand Latin and numbers in Roman numerals.

Sedgley [Segeslei] was written up in two entries.

The larger settlement comprised 45 villagers, 2 cottagers, 3 slaves and one priest. The cultivated land required 18 ploughs. A plough was pulled by 8 oxen. The Lord in 1066 was Earl Algar and in 1086 William son of Ansculf (William Fitz Ansculf), the 2nd Baron of Dudley.

The smaller settlement comprised 9 villagers with 2 ploughs.

The Lord in 1086 was Geoffrey of Sedgley granted the tenancy from William son of Ansculf.

Sedgley's 60 households would have meant a total population of around 300.

Ettingshall [Etinghale] had one entry detailing 9 villagers, 3 cottagers and 2 ploughs. The 12 households meant a population of around 60.

The Lord in 1086 was Robert of Penn granted the tenancy from William son of Ansculf.

Dudley [Dudelei] had 3 villagers, 10 cottagers, 2 slaves, one smithy and 10 ploughs.

The 16 households meant a population of around 80.

This was the centre of William son of Ansculf barony.

Villager [villan/villain/villein] ~ a peasant with most land. Wealthiest of the unfree

Cottager [cottar] ~ a middle class peasant with less land.

Slave ~ unable to buy or sell and not able to move home or work without permission. No lands.

WEBSITE WATCH

Distinctly Black Country ~ www.distinctlyblackcountry.org.uk

Launched in May this year as a network for understanding yesterday's landscape today. Don't be put off by these words. The articles are fascinating and a good read. The links section is well worth a browse.

Tipton Civic Society ~ www.tiptoncivicsociety.co.uk

Tipton became a municipal borough in 1938. The longest boundary was with Coseley UDC binding its history closely with the old Sedgley Manor. Our neighbours also had a Domesday entry.

HeritageGateway ~ www.heritagegateway.org.uk

The site is your first stop to access national and local records for England's historic sites and buildings. You can search more than 1.5 million records held by local authorities, English Heritage and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation.

Black Country Geology ~ www.geologymatters.org.uk

The premier portal for rock and fossil research. The images are superb. There are links to all key sites including the Black Country Geological Society ~ www.bcgs.info