

## Castleton Historical Society

On Thursday 19th July Castleton Historical Society visited Bishops' House in Sheffield. Our guide was Ken Dash who is a friend and volunteer of the House - he has acquired an immense amount of detailed knowledge over a considerable number of years involvement, even carrying out archaeological surveys of the building.

We began with an exploration of the external features of the building, noting it had been constructed in two principal phases in the 16th century by the Blythe family. A timber framed building using oak constructed off a stone plinth gave it a typically Tudor appearance. The name Bishops' House seems to have come from a local tradition that two brothers of the Blythe family who became bishops had lived in the house. However very recently dendrochronology has proven otherwise, showing that the house was built after the brothers died. Ken pointed out the various modifications to the appearance which can be seen from the outside and which split the house into two sections also inserting a floor.



The furniture although not original to the house, is generally of 17th century. The interior of the house has many interesting features including fireplaces, decorative plasterwork, a wind eye, and interesting marks in the timber which are possibly associated with protection from evil spirits. Ken explained the many alterations to the layout that has taken place over the years and given rise to the current arrangement.



After several changes in ownership to farming families, the property was acquired by Sheffield City Council in 1886 when Meersbrook Park was formed, being used for the parks gardeners. It became a museum after 1976 when the council restored it.

The Society is very grateful to Ken for showing us around and providing such an interesting evening.

There is a considerable amount of information on the web site [www.bishopshouse.org.uk](http://www.bishopshouse.org.uk) if you wish to know about the Bishops' House.