

Hello Heritage...

The Baron's Children Who Become Village Legends

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Dorothy Lesley Hale - Lesley hosted many Women's Institute events such as this 2003 musical evening



Dorothy Lesley Hale - On duty, greeting visitors to the Heritage Trust's Swannington Before The War exhibition at the school in 2014.

Leslie, Bill and Lesley Hale

The Hale family lived in the former isolation hospital on St George's Hill for a short period in the 1930s. Bill and Lesley's grandparents lived in The Grove during the second world war. The brother and sister duo bought the house when they retired to Swannington in 1987. For nearly 30 decades Bill and Lesley had a legendary impact on Swannington village life, including:

- The 1999 structural restoration of Hough Mill and installation and addition of the fantail in 2009.
- The restoration and maintenance of the Swannington Incline, Gorse Field and Califat Spinney, including planting the arboretum trees in the spinney.
- Starting and writing for the Trust's Now and Then magazine.
- A huge volume of historical research and establishment of the village archive of thousands of documents and photographs.
- Hosting numerous village events in their garden such as concerts, jubilee celebrations.
- Active members of the village Open Gardens, Women's Institute, Heritage Trust and other activities.



Ian William Percy Hale - Bill Hale and the horse handler sculpture in 2006



Garden Party at The Grove

Bill and Lesley Hale hosted numerous village events in the garden at The Grove - such as this 2012 picnic to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.



The Grove Main Street

The Grove is one of the oldest buildings in the village and is listed with Historic England. The Hale family owned the house 1937-1946 and 1987-2015.



Charles Leslie Hale - Partner in Hale and Mander solicitors in Coalville. He was the Labour MP for Oldham West 1945-1968.

He served in the House of Lords as Baron Hale 1972 until his death in 1985.