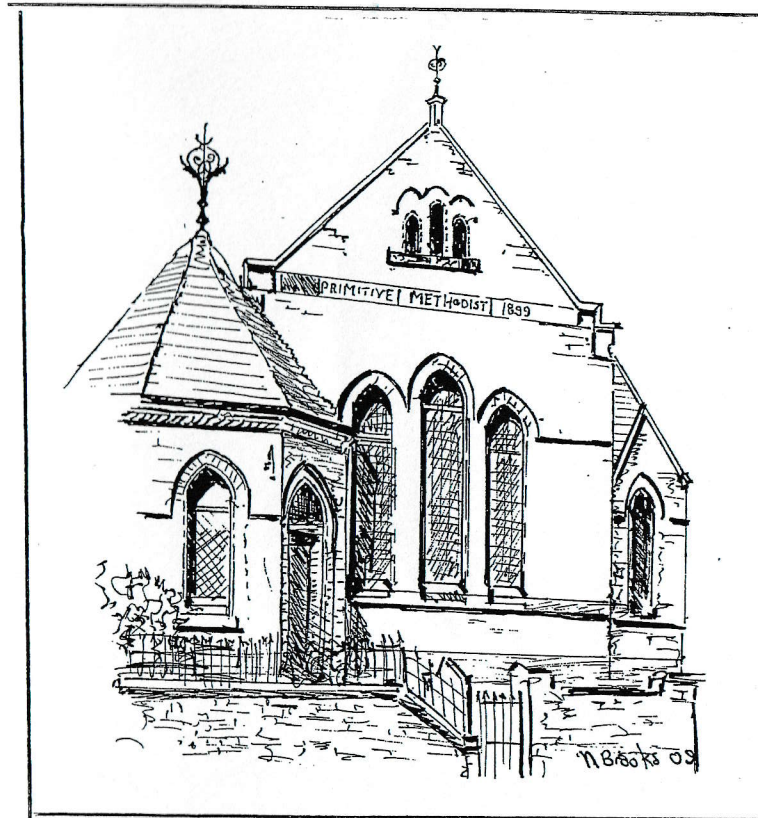


Stapleford and District Local History Society



Newsletter No 44 – Spring 2018

£1.00

Free to Members

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MEETING REPORTS

14 November 2017

THE MUSIC HALL ON FILM

by Bob Massey

Of course I hadn't thought it out and I hadn't realised that the films of the early Music Hall artists would be silent. Although film arrived in England in 1895, sound was not added to films until 1928. However, this lack of sound on early films was well used by Bob to explain that for most of the Music Hall audience the sound was very restricted anyway.

Early Music Halls were not theatres as we think of them, but were halls, often at the side of a public house, that served food and drink. They were basically a hall full of tables with a stage at one end. Not only was there no amplification for the artist, but there was also all the cacophony and movement of food and drink being served. Beyond the front row it must have been almost impossible to hear anything.

In order to cope with this, the artists would use large hand and body movements to illustrate the songs. They also dressed distinctively and used different devices to enable the people at the back of the hall to be able to understand and join in the songs. Bob showed us some films and asked us to notice these things.

He also mentioned that there were all sorts of other acts that helped fill a Music Hall bill. We were shown films of performing animals (including elephants), dance and gymnastic routines. This was actually a form of entertainment enjoyed by the working class. The middle and upper classes went to proper theatres.

Bob mentioned that Music Hall artists usually started very young and continued doing the same act until old age. They would sometimes perform the same act (usually about three minutes long) four or five times a night.

Henry was born in Manchester on 2 February 1784. He was the son of Richard and Ann. His grandfather was John Parr, who was the Governor of Nova Scotia in 1782.

In 1803 Henry joined the Navy and became a midshipman on the *Bellerophon* in 1804. Stephen recommended that we watch the film 'Master and Commander' in order to learn what life was like on board ship at that time. He told us that the British Navy was the best in the world. One of the reasons for this dominance was how accomplished we were at firing cannons. We could fire cannonballs three times more quickly than any other navy. The prime reason for this was the invention of the flintlock firing pin. Another reason for our superiority was 'The Nelson Touch'. While other navies tended to attack head on to their enemies, Nelson's plan was a sideways attack that would split the enemy fleet. These smaller segments could then be dealt with.



While he was on the *Bellerophon*, Henry took part in the decisive Battle of Trafalgar. Stephen then gave us a very detailed and graphic description of the course of the battle. He explained this very thoroughly with clever diagrams. After the battle Henry wrote letters about it to his mother. He also told her about the severe storm that

followed the battle. He said he was so much in despair that he wrapped himself in the Union Jack and waited for death.

After this Henry served on a number of different ships. He served twice under Sir John Borlase Warren. He then moved around between London, Nova Scotia and Edinburgh.

At one stage he took command of a paddle steamer, the *Alban*. In this he rescued Captain Hugh Piggot's ship from a sandbank. Instead of being grateful, Piggot and Walker fell out and finished up arguing in court. Henry lost his case. He was so upset at this that he decided to go into politics to get the laws changed. He failed to win a seat as MP for Chatham.

Henry died in London in 1848.

Stephen finished his talk by very proudly showing us a nail (rivet) from Nelson's ship, *Victory*. This nail (rivet) was authentic and genuinely 'rescued' in 1955 from the people renovating the ship by Stephen's friend, Danny Corns (who was present at the talk).

As usual with Stephen's talks, this presentation was extremely well researched and the slides were well chosen and arranged. His talks are always very easy to listen to because of his relaxed manner, his complete knowledge of his subject and his humour. We have booked him for next year.

John Shaw

13 March 2018

NOTTINGHAM SUFFRAGETTES – HOW THEY WON THE VOTE by Rowena Edlin-White

Rowena began by telling us that Nottingham has always had a reputation for being independent thinking and rebellious. As early as 1851 a lady from Nottingham was arrested in London for wearing 'a bifurcated skirt' (bloomers).

By the end of the nineteenth century, there were many groups that supported votes for women. Some of them were:

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies
The Women's Freedom League
The Church League for Women's Suffrage

All of these were well supported in Nottingham. Most of them were non-militant. But when Emmeline Pankhurst founded The Women's Social and Political Union (which was dedicated to 'deeds not words') the Daily Mail labelled them insultingly as Suffragettes. Mrs Pankhurst proudly claimed the label. Soon to many people the Suffragettes and the Suffragists (non-militant) were regarded as one movement.

Members of one Nottingham family that were very closely concerned with the suffrage movement were the Dowsons. They lived in The Park. Alice Dowson became the secretary of the Nottingham Women's Suffrage Society in 1896 and her daughters and daughters-in law became very active political supporters. Because of the reputation of dissenting in Nottingham, which was maintained by many families like the Dowsons, the Pankhursts often visited Nottingham. In 1911 there was a march of over 40,000 women to Westminster and many Nottingham women took part. They also joined the 'Women's Pilgrimage' to Hyde Park in 1913.

Edith Lees, another Nottingham woman, was arrested in London for demonstrating outside Parliament. She was imprisoned for six weeks and very quickly was arrested again for the same crime and given three months. She took part in many London suffrage processions and was famous for dressing as Joan of Arc. The women who were arrested often caused trouble in prison. This sometimes went as far as going on hunger strike and being forcibly fed. In 1912 she was arrested again for breaking the windows in Liberty's, Regent Street, London.

The suffragettes began to produce their own medals for women who had been imprisoned and they often proudly wore prison

uniforms when giving speeches. They also produced their own Roll of Honour (which is now available on the web).

Rowena went on to mention Helen Kirkpatrick Watts, whose father was a vicar in Lenton. She heard a Pankhurst talk at the Circus Street Hall in Nottingham, and became a suffragette. She was arrested in 1909 and spent one month in jail. She was very widely welcomed back to Nottingham. She was arrested again later in 1909 and this time went on hunger strike while in jail. She made speeches all over England. In 1912 she trained to be a nurse and in 1915 (after the outbreak of war had caused a political amnesty) she began to work in the War Office. A very big scrapbook that Helen had made during her suffragette years was found years later and a lot of information and pictures were gleaned from that. Rowena had written a booklet about Helen Kirkpatrick Watts.



Rowena concluded by telling us that Castle Rock Brewery were planning to produce a commemorative beer with the name 'Helen Watts'. Although Rowena appreciated the gesture, she was not sure how suitable this was to celebrate the life of a teetotaler!

This talk cleared up two puzzles for me. Firstly, that the difference between suffragettes and suffragists was that suffragettes were militant and suffragists were non-violent. Secondly, that the suffragette colours were green, white and purple and the suffragist colours were green, white and red.

It was a very unusual and enjoyable change, that Rowena did not use a PowerPoint presentation. She is such a good, clear, well prepared speaker that the talk was very easy to listen to. She conveyed her own enthusiasm for her subject and she had brought a whole table full of interesting and important pamphlets and photographs. I left the meeting having had an enjoyable evening, and feeling that I knew a lot more details as background to the recent celebrations.

John Shaw

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY 2017/18

Sandiacre History Group Newsletter, No.33
Local History News, Nos. 122 to 126
The Local Historian, Vol. 47, Nos. 1 to 4 / Vol. 48, No. 1
The Nottinghamshire Historian, Nos. 98, 99
East Midlands History and Heritage, Issues 4, 5, 6
Beeston and Bramcote in Times Past by H. Lawton & H. O'Connor
Ilkeston as It Was by Ann Featherstone & Beverley Kilby
Once Upon a Time in Notts by Francis William (Bill) Midwinter
Glimpsing The Past with an Eye to the Future – St.Luke's Church
Warsop 1816 to 2016 – Warsop Footpaths & Countryside Group
King John in Sherwood by Friends of Thynghowe
Discover King John's Palace at Kings Clipston, Notts. by Sherwood
Forest Trust

23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 10 April 2018

Chairman's Report

2017 saw a big change for the Society when Barbara stepped down from the role of Chairman after 20 years. I nervously stepped into the role knowing it would be difficult to take over from Barbara. I have tried my best to steer the Society through the past 12 months, and I feel we have had another successful year with some excellent talks which I have found fascinating and enjoyable, and I hope that you have too.

The Society was once again represented at the following events: The Nottinghamshire Local History Day at Mansfield Library in May; Nottinghamshire History and Archaeology Festival at Nottingham University in July and Stapleford Carnival in September. Barbara and Eileen once again took people out on the Town Trail on two occasions but sadly the numbers were very poor and so it has been decided by the Committee to only offer walks to interested pre-booked groups.

We have had more copies printed of the book "Stapleford Past and Present" as we had sold out. We have recently printed 150 copies of the leaflet "Stapleford Cemetery in World War One" in readiness for the commemoration of the ending of World War One in November.

I would now like to thank all members for their support and work during the year especially Treasurer & Secretary - Pat Hodgkiss, Vice-Chairman – John Shaw for his help and taking over the task of organising the 2018 programme, and Committee members - Barbara Brooke for production of the Newsletter and work on the archive, Eileen Bloor for looking after the merchandise table, John Hodgkiss for assisting Pat on the door and for preparing our Christmas Quiz, Pat Kelly who runs the library assisted by Dorothy Prentice and Keith Goodman and Margaret Watt for their work on the archive indexing.

We must not forget our thanks to Lillian and Tony Britton for providing us with refreshments for our meetings. We are also grateful to Robert Butler for arranging to have our accounts audited by C J Lucking & Co of Long Eaton. Finally, I would like to thank you the members for supporting us by coming along to the meetings and hope you will continue to do so, and perhaps you could bring a friend or two!

Nigel Brooks, Chairman

Report of the Treasurer/Secretary

The balance in the bank on 23 March was £3,785.19. You will see from the Annual Statement of Account that we paid significantly more for the hire of the Church Hall; this was due to the fact that the Secretary was on maternity leave and we were mistakenly charged for an extra half hour each month. This will be corrected by paying less for the current year.

We had 38 paid up members and the average number of members attending meetings was 22. We have a number of members who are unable to come to meetings due to age and mobility difficulties, but we are grateful for their continued support by their membership fees.

Thank you to Robert Butler for auditing the accounts and to the committee for their support, which has been particularly appreciated over the last few months.

Pat Hodgkiss, Treasurer and Secretary

Elections

The following Officers were elected unopposed: John Shaw as Chairman, Nigel Brooks as Vice Chairman, Pat Hodgkiss as Treasurer and Secretary. All Committee members had indicated their willingness to continue, so they were automatically re-elected for one year: Eileen Bloor, Barbara Brooke, Keith Goodman, John Hodgkiss, Pat Kelly, Margaret Watt.

SANDIACRE MEMORIES

by David Bastable

After the Annual General Meeting and refreshments, David Bastable, supported by several members of his family, gave a presentation on the Bastable family and their business ventures in Sandiacre.

He explained how his great grandfather, George Bastable, born in Staffordshire in 1855, had married Sarah Archer in Barrow in Furness in 1877. Her family had moved there from Halesowen to work in the shipyards and George had followed her there to work on the Grange-over-Sands railway viaduct. When this was completed, he set off southwards, working along the way, and eventually got a permanent job in Draycott. He and Sarah settled to live in Town Street, Sandiacre.

In 1880 he fell from a scaffold and was taken home in a tumbrel cart which dumped him down outside his home. He is said to have uttered these words: 'From this day on I will work for no man.' He decided to set up his own business.

George and Sarah had eleven children. The five girls were all given biblical names. Their mother was a staunch Methodist and the girls seemed to follow in her footsteps.

Roland, one of the sons, died in childhood but the other five all became tradesmen and worked for the family business. They were kept living at home and were only given pocket money until they got married. As married men they were paid tradesmen's rates so they could pay their own bills.

The eldest, Alec, died of pneumonia after contracting sunstroke in the very hot summer of 1935. George Edward was a very good all round tradesman and loved a challenge. He eventually worked for Crossley Premier and Rolls Royce. Thomas Wilfred was a joiner and later an undertaker, his wife's family business. Herman James was a bricklayer and Joseph Albert, David's father, could turn his hand to anything and when his father died of Parkinson's disease in 1922, took over the running of the business.

George Bastable built houses all over the district and in about 1890 started building them to rent out, 28 in all. We were shown

pictures of various houses in Brooke Street, Victoria Road, Stevens Road, Longmoor Lane and Westminster Avenue.

When ET Hooley went bankrupt in 1911 he owed George over £1,200 for properties. At the sale of Hooley's assets George 'bought' eleven houses he had not been paid for.

After George's death Joseph Albert managed the business, continuing to build houses and doing general repairs and renovations.

In 1939 when World War Two broke out, there were over forty employees, most of whom went off to fight. After the end of the war all the men who returned had to be found jobs. The company was involved in a lot of general building and renovation work, and then won a contract to build ten pairs of council houses on the Ryecroft Estate in Stapleford. Work continued to be carried out in general building repairs, factory building and renovating the Baptist chapel in Long Eaton.

As the brothers died, with only two of them reaching retirement age, shares in the business were paid out to their widows, which left Joseph as sole proprietor and he passed it on to David, his brother Joe and sister Josie in 1966.

They carried on with the staff they had inherited, who gradually retired. They found it hard to hire new staff of the same calibre and a number of craftsmen went self employed. They carried on until the mid 1970s when they turned the business into a builder's merchants. They became increasingly busy throughout the 1980s and 1990s, until brother Joe died in 1996.

Josie and David carried on until 1998 when they closed the business and sold up.

David concluded by talking about some of the people and companies they had worked with over the years – Topps, the Painters, Dr Russell Boyd, Alf Morley, Plumber of Eatons Road, Bancrofts Garage, Griffin Brothers etc.

The talk was much appreciated as it involved the story of a family's business over many years and was closely connected with the local area.

Barbara Brooke

Barrie Greateorex

We are sorry to report the recent death of Society member Barrie Greateorex, who was very active in earlier years. He wrote a chapter entitled 'Earning a Living' in our first book *Stapleford at the Dawn of the 20th Century*. In our second book *Stapleford in World War Two* his chapter was 'Fighting from the Factory Floor'.



He is pictured, seated, in the photograph of some of the authors at the launch of *Stapleford at the Dawn of the 20th Century*.

Andrea Lowe, Nigel Brooks, Brian Clark, Meg Oliver, Barbara Page, Barbara Brooke, Malcolm Jarvis

Thomas Towle

The name Thomas Towle will not be familiar to most of the residents of Stapleford today. In the years around 1900, Thomas Towle would have been a respected and important figure within the community. He was at the forefront of the development and evolution of the town at the time.

Ralph Penniston Taylor writes about him in his book, and tells us that Thomas was a member of the oldest family, along with the Greasleys, living in Stapleford. The name was originally spelled Tulle, and the 'e' was pronounced, and can be found in records from 1454. There is strong evidence that they were descended from one Toli, who held the manor of Sandiacre along with Cnut and Gladwin before the Norman Conquest in 1066.

Ralph also informs us that Warren Avenue was originally called Towle's Avenue, and relates the story of how the name was changed.

Thomas Towle died on 18 November 1918, his obituary appearing in The Ilkeston Pioneer on Friday November 22, 1918. He was 85 when he died at his home Park View House, (*does anybody know if this house still exists and where it is ?*). The report gives an account of his numerous activities and achievements, which include being a member of the Notts County Council for nine years, and of the Shardlow Board of Guardians for over 20 years. He was elected on to the Stapleford Rural District Council in December 1894, and served as Chairman three times in 1899, 1900 and 1901. A local Magistrate was another of his offices. He was also one of the founders of the Co-operative Society in Stapleford acting as the Secretary for 20 years and it was largely due to his effort and enthusiasm that the Society prospered and expanded. A pioneer of the allotment movement and a keen gardener himself, he believed that every family should have their own allotment. He encouraged the Building Society movement and was responsible for building the houses on Moorbridge Lane near Stanton Gate station.

Thomas was a nonconformist who believed in a closer relationship with the Anglican Church, and was largely responsible for the building of the Brookhill Methodist Chapel, and for years he was Superintendent of its Sunday School. In business he was associated with the lace industry in Stapleford being connected for forty years with Messrs Whiteley, Stevens and Co. Thomas Towle was a pioneer of the lace curtain industry along with the other Stapleford lace manufacturers such as Joseph Fearfield and John Harrison. He was responsible for several improvements in design particularly in the field of plain net designs. He was a man who led a full and active life working for the public good.

He was buried in Stapleford Cemetery in plot 48. I have not been able to find a headstone but I am sure he must have had one. In the area of his burial there are a number of headstones lying face down, which is always annoying to people like myself who like to read such stones. I am fairly certain that one of these stones belongs to Thomas Towle.

If anyone has any information on the Towle family or Thomas Towle the history society would be very pleased to hear from them.

Sources

Ilkeston Pioneer, Friday, November 22, 1918

Penniston Taylor, Ralph : *A Collection of views of old Stapleford Nottinghamshire* (pub 1983)

S & D L H S, *Stapleford at the dawn of the 20th Century*

Nigel Brooks

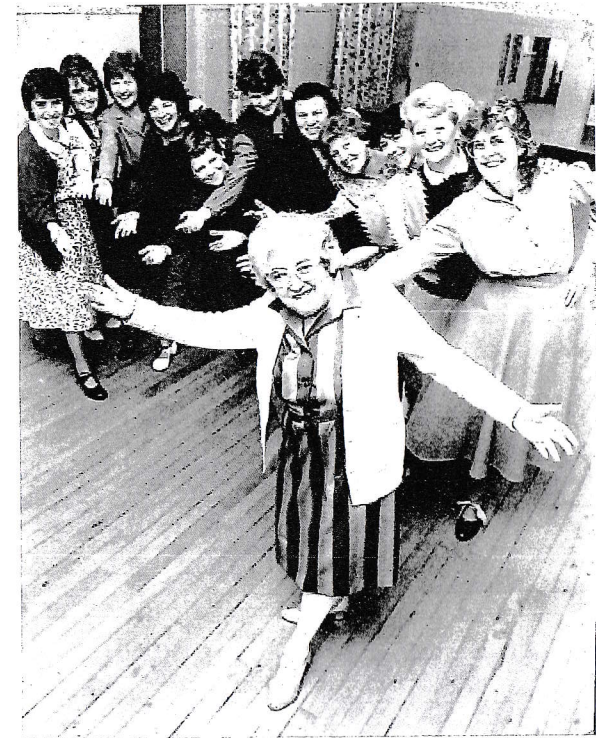
Rene Shimwell

Irene (Rene) Shimwell was born at 1 Church Street, Stapleford on 13 June 1911. She was one of triplets with George and Ivy, but sadly Ivy died soon after birth and tragically George died in 1956 from cyanide poisoning. There were two older sisters, Gwendoline (4) and Theresa May (10). Their parents were Albert (39) who was a hairdresser and Fanny Shimwell (34). Rene began dancing at a young age, giving her first public performance in 1919 at the Stapleford Albert Hall for the Johnson and Barnes Christmas Party.



She started teaching dance at the age of 15 in 1926, giving lessons behind her mother's shop (her father Albert had died in 1924 at the age of 53). Before long the classes were popular and she needed more space so started to use the Conservative Club on Saturdays, and the Albert Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays. Over the years Rene owned up to

four dance studios in Stapleford, Ilkeston, Heanor and Nottingham. It is thought that 5,000 pupils passed through her classes over the years. The highlight for the pupils was the Annual Display at the Albert Hall, which gave them the opportunity to show off their talents to their parents and friends. During WWII, Rene organised concerts and dancing displays to keep up morale on the Home Front, and raised money for the HM Forces Comforts Fund. A highlight of one of the concerts was Rene wearing Grecian costume, performing the Greek 'Temple Dance of Spring' to the accompaniment of Handel's 'Largo', which was sung by Mrs Cope. She was still performing as well as teaching up to the age of 50. She retired at the age of 75 in 1986 after a teaching career of 60 years. Rene died in a Long Eaton nursing home in 1994 at the age of 82.



Nigel Brooks and John Shaw

THE
RENE SHIMWELL SCHOOL OF DANCING

(Principal: Miss Rene Shimwell, A.N.A.T.D.)



THE
12th Annual Display

ALBERT HALL, STAPLEFORD

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE 3rd & 4th, 1942

IN AID OF

NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

Pianist: MISS M. PINDER
Violinist: MR. E. WALKER
Drummer: MR. A. SHAW

Programme

RŌWELL'S

Retain their old faith that value is the finest advertisement of all. And those who use the shops of this well-known firm are served to-day as in the days of old.
KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT AS
THE VALUE SHOP.

A. SHIMWELL,

Hairdresser and Tobacconist,
Watchmaker and Jeweller,

The Roach, STAPLEFORD.

Fishing Tackle of all kinds in stock.
Umbrellas Re-covered.

R 31, 1919.

PRICE 1½d.

THE NEW HOUSING SCHEMES

Will soon be under weigh.

Keep your money in your own Townships and thus ensure local prosperity

Every kind of estimate given, and most careful attention devoted to orders, great or small.

Frank Martin, Builder & Contractor,
STAPLEFORD

ESTABLISHED A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.

100 Girls Wanted

About 14 to 16 Years of Age.

APPLY:

LACE WEBB CO., SANDIACRE.

For
PASTRY and CAKES
OF THE
Highest Quality & Lowest
Prices, try

V. FLETCHER & CO..

67 Station Road, SANDIACRE.
Have you tried our NOTED PORK PIES,
&c., &c.

WHIST DRIVES & DANCES
catered for.
Teas and Refreshments, provided.

H. H. TURPIN

(17 years with the late W. S. Turpin, Esq.)
ESTATE AGENT

Station Road, Sandiacre.

Agent for the Royal Insurance Co.
Rents Collected. Phone No. 7, Sandiacre.

Established over 50 years.

H. W. MOULT

Builder & Monumentalist.

Adverts from 31 October 1919 found in the Sandiacre & Stapleford Weekly News and Beeston Chronicle, (Note the age of the girls !)

**The Best Boots under the Sun
are Frisby's.**

160 Branches. SPECIAL.—1000 ARMYS,
Soled and Heeled, from 8/11.
CLOGS, 1000 pairs at 4/11 and 5/11.
Send your Boot Repairs.

FRISBY'S BOOT STORES,
Derby Road, STAPLEFORD.

For Dainty Millinery.

BLOUSES & HOSIERY.

A Speciality.

MRS. HALL, 3, CHURCH ST.,
STAPLEFORD.

CARS FOR HIRE

HALL & BANCROFT,

Motor Garage,

Near RAILWAY STATION,

STAPLEFORD.

FOR SALE.—HARLEY-DAVISON M.-C.

and SIDE CAR

CARS & MOTOR CYCLES REPAIRED.

More adverts from 1919

Long Eaton Advertiser, March 1916
"Could Hear Zeppelin Coming"

An inquest was held at Stapleford on Wednesday on the body of Alice Ethel Hickling, aged 24, East Street, the wife of Rifleman Hickling, now in France.

The deceased had for a few weeks been living with her parents at 12 East Street, and since the recent air raid over the Midlands had been in a very nervous and frightened state. She imagined that she could "hear Zeppelins coming", and was much upset. Her mother retired to rest at night in the belief that deceased would follow her example, but next morning the mother discovered that her daughter's bed had not been occupied. Outside the house a shawl was found on the top of the cistern, the lid of which had been removed, and inside the cistern, in almost 4ft 8ins of water, was the dead body of the deceased. It was stated that the deceased had had a cheerful letter from her husband on Monday, in which he described himself as being "in the pink".

The jury found a verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity".

Long Eaton Advertiser, July 1916
Infantile mortality at Stapleford

Due to the initiative of the Stapleford Adult School, an important public meeting was convened last Monday, under the Chairmanship of Councillor S Hickling, of Long Eaton. Councillor G Spencer said they were met to consider a most serious question. When it was realised that the death rate of children under 12 was twice as high in Stapleford as it was in West Bridgford, the rates being 125 per thousand in their township against 62 per thousand in Bridgford, the gravity of the position must appeal to all. In the whole county of Notts, there was only one town with a less enviable record than their own. Doctor Handford, Medical Officer for the County of Notts, then presented a graphic and illuminating report of child mortality. Since the introduction of infants and mothers welfare centres, the death rate among the little ones had been checked. He fancied that rather too much importance was attached to the effects of hygiene and sanitation as panaceas for this evil, but these two very important studies are not sufficient. Nothing can possibly take the place of parental personal care. It was decided by a large show of hands that the establishment of a mothers and infants welfare centre for Stapleford was greatly desirable.

Nigel Brooks

Memories by Danny Corns

Memories of post-war Stapleford cinemas

The article by Nigel Brooks regarding the Victory Cinema prompted me to recall my own early memories of Stapleford. It was around 1948 (when I was 13 years of age) that lads off Crompton Street, Hallam Fields, discovered the Stapleford cinemas. We played football and cricket all the time but Sunday afternoon was reserved, during the winter months, for Crompton Street lads to meet in the old tram-sheds opposite St Bartholemew's Church at the top of Crompton Street. Mrs Potts had hired the tram-sheds, installed a gas ring and kettle, and baked a few cakes and set up a small cafe where we would join the trolley-bus crews, (unless you were a church goer). Sundays in the post-war years were very boring and most things were still on ration.

One Sunday a couple of lads from Stapleford joined us, and told us about the Stapleford cinemas that opened on Sundays. I suppose local bye-laws were in operation at the time because Ilkeston cinemas were closed on Sundays until the 1950s. We decided to give it a go. I think the film started around 4pm so we always went for the first house. We set off down the Erewash Canal to arrive at the Palace Cinema. I thought the Scala in Ilkeston was a bit creaky but the Palace took the honours! I doubt any film made it right through without breaking down. The kids became restless after about 2 minutes of flashing from the screen and started chanting "Why are we waiting?" until with a great cheer the picture started up again. The Palace was a bit quirky with the original seats but I expect all the better for it. Even the noisy curtains belonged in a horror film! When a steam train went by the film would shake. One story went that rats had been seen to scuttle across the cinema. There was always a 'B' film in those days – usually a Cowboy film with Hop Along Cassidy or Tex Ritter. All films were in black and white and usually pre-war. I do remember a new film with Alan Ladd called "Lucky Jordan" about a gangster. Horror films featured regularly – Bella Lagusi as Dracula, Boris Karloff as the Frankenstein Monster and Lon Channy as "The Man with a thousand faces" along with zombie films. The zombie films were the most scary. Try walking home along the Erewash Canal on a semi-moonlit night. We saw zombies behind every bush and ran all the way home!

Our Stapleford pals said "We'll try the Victory one Saturday afternoon. The two-penny rush". There were always films to suit kids – Tarzan, Cowboys and of course Flash Gordon. Flash Gordon films were always serials ending with "To be continued next week ...". Of course we had to be there. The Victory was a bit like the Ritz in Ilkeston – much more modern than the Palace.

Carr Fastener Cricket

My family were cricket fans – during the summer months in the late 1940s we made many visits to the Carr Fastener Ground on Hickings Lane in Stapleford to watch county cricketers taking part. For some reason there wasn't much cricket around the Ilkeston area on Sundays. Stanton Ironworks – who I played for later – only played on Saturdays until the 1950s. Carr Fastener always had guest players on Sundays – very often county cricketers who had played at Trent Bridge in Nottingham the previous day. These were very often testimonial matches with Reg Simpson of Notts and England always in the Carr Fastener team. Les Mabbot was the Carr Fastener Groundsman – what a character he was! He played for the team but was much more skilled as a groundsman. There would be no larking about by the local lads – Les didn't miss a trick.

Sandiacre Premier Cricket

I started playing cricket for Stanton Ironworks in 1950 at the age of 15. My first game was at Sandiacre Premier where Denis Watkins was the star man – another was Melvyn Wood who I was to play with later on at Stanton. I recently discovered that Sandiacre Premier was a private club and not the Crossley Premier Works Team. Also I am sure their ground was in Stapleford – why wasn't it called Stapleford Premier?

Notts County Supporters Club

As a big Notts County fan during the 1940s and 50s I naturally joined the Supporters Club and there were 14,000 members in total. I joined the Stapleford Branch. We met every Tuesday evening at the upstairs room of the Chequers Pub. Jack Randall and Harry Wesson ran the club. Jack was a relation of mine and I was to work with Harry later on at Stanton. These were the days of Tommy Lawton and Jackie Sewell. I never missed a match – home or away – for three years – great days!

The Factories

Between the two World Wars in particular, Hallam Fields residents worked at places like Johnson & Barnes and Chambers Pencil Factory – they were mainly the young girls who would walk in groups down the canal to their place of work. Wages weren't great so they would move jobs for an extra 10 shillings per week. Word soon got around that Lace Webb and Buoyant or Charnos, Meridian or Carriers Textiles in Ilkeston were paying an extra 10 bob per week and they would soon move on.



Danny at the Ilkeston Heritage Vehicle Show in 2016

The Poltergeist

Do any of the older members remember the poltergeist – said to be resident at a house on The Crescent (opposite the top of Moorbridge Lane) in Stapleford during the late 1940s or early 1950s? This story fascinated a group of us from Hallam Fields so we would pop over and just stare at the house – what we expected to see I don't know, but there was always a large crowd doing the same thing! It made the national newspapers at the time – it was rumoured that lights were flashing on and off of their own accord and that drawers were opening and shutting. It was said to have stopped when an engagement ring was found in one of the drawers. I can see the house today – I wonder if the present occupants are aware of this story?

The following report appeared in the Evening Post on Friday 28 June 1946.

“KNOCK, KNOCK”

Passing Of The Stapleford ‘Ghost’

The Stapleford “ghost” it is believed, has been laid.

After a week of weird tappings in a bedroom of a house at Stapleford the “Post” understands that, last night the services of a medium were enlisted.

And this is the explanation as told to-day :

The tappings were said to be those of the occupier's deceased husband who died two years ago. He requested that a ring in a drawer in the house should be given to his 14-year old daughter.

The drawer mentioned was searched, the ring was found and given to the daughter. Since then there have been no tappings.

The Daily Chronicle

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TEXTILES IN STAPLEFORD

As can be seen from the figures below, a significant percentage of Stapleford workers of all ages were employed in the textile trade.

Men aged 50 +	38%
40-49	32%
30-39	40 %
20-29	27%
15-19	16%
Boys 11-14	16%
Girls 15-19	56%
11-14	38%

By far the most important branch of the textile industry in Stapleford was lace manufacture. The 1851 census reveals that no less than 108 heads of households were employed in lace manufacture. The Lascelles and Hogan's Commercial Directory of Nottinghamshire, published in 1848, lists 35 tatting lace manufacturers in Stapleford, the three largest of which also had warehouses in Nottingham itself. These were Booth and Taylor of Nottingham Road, employing 25 men, Fearfield and Bircumshaw of Wesley Place and Messrs. Whiteley, Ward of Nottingham Road. Thomas Whiteley, one of the four owners, was a lace pattern designer, and the firm owned 270 tatting and warp lace machines. They employed 65 men, 40 women and 31 girls, a considerable concern.

As early as 1786 improved machinery for the first time enabled machine lace production to be a viable commercial proposition. English lace was superior to that of her chief competitor, France, but French lace was better finished, enabling her to capture much of the market. After research had improved finishing, a petition from Nottingham was presented to Queen Adelaide beseeching her to wear a Nottingham lace dress at some important function. This she readily agreed to do and the gown worn at the Juvenile Ball given to honour the young Princess

Victoria was so beautiful that the English lace trade found itself in a position of boom !

A further important development was the manufacture of lace caps and lace hosiery on stocking frame machines and the importing of jacquard machines from France, where mobs refused to allow them to be used.

So in 1851 there had been a period of innovation and improvement in the lace trade. There were at this time 2760 lace machines in Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, and only 787 in all the rest of England! The application of power was, however , in its infancy, and a power warp machine was exhibited for the first time at the Great Exhibition that year.

By this time existing Factory Acts applied to all textiles except lace and silk. A report of the Children's Employment Commission in 1843 on the conditions in the lace, hosiery and silk manufactories found children starting work at 3 or 4 years of age, in full employment at 7 or 8 years of age, working 12 to 18 hours a day.

Women, children and young persons in the lace finishing processes worked very long hours in very crowded, badly ventilated and unhealthy conditions, in warehouses or private houses. They separated breadths of lace and joined lengths together, clipped edges and scalloped them.

All the working members of some Stapleford families were in textiles. Thomas Atkins, aged 35, of Lot Close, was a warp lace maker. His wife Ann, 33; was a lace mender, daughter Mary, 16, was a lace drawer; daughters Eliza, 13 and Sarah, 8, were hose seamers, and son Samuel, 11, was a lace thread winder.

There were a number of factors working against change and improvement in conditions. There was plentiful, cheap labour. Hand

knitting frames were beyond the means of most people, costing between £100 and £200, so many were forced to work in factories, but there were also many outworkers when frames were hired out to workers and their families. Their isolation, working at home, delayed quick and substantial improvements in conditions and payment. A witness to a Factory Commission in 1833 said "Each man has full liberty to earn what he likes and how he likes and when he likes. We have no factory bell, it is our only blessing".

Many people were beginning to see that better prospects lay elsewhere and were starting to send their sons into other industries. This certainly happened in Stapleford, as is borne out by the figures:-

	<u>Textiles</u>	<u>Iron & Coal Mining</u>
Men aged 20-29 years	27%	32%
Men aged 15-19 years	16%	53%

And the employment pattern of some families.

Marmaduke Atkins, 36, of Lot Close, was a lace maker, his wife Frances, 34, was a lace mender, and daughter Betsey, 8, was a hose seamer, but son John, aged 11, was following the current trend and worked as an iron miner.

Similarly Henry Draycot, aged 37, was a lace maker and his wife, Ann, a lace mender, but sons William, aged 16, and Charles, 12, were iron miners.

By 1851 there were only twenty heads of households described as framework knitters, of whom fifteen were still in the trade. Of the 15, 11 were over 50 years old and only two under 40.

Some older framework knitters were lucky and had still got families to support them, such as William Button, an 80 year old former framework knitter, living in Nottingham Road. In the same household

were his son, George, a 48 year old agricultural labourer and his daughter Sarah, aged 54, and her husband and children. Sarah's husband, John Richardson, was a 63 year old joiner, originally from Sussex, whilst William, the eldest son, aged 26, like many fellows of his age, was an iron miner. His sisters, Elizabeth and Hannah, both in their teens, were employed in the lace trade as a minder and drawer respectively, whilst younger brother John, aged 11, was still at school. Button had also taken in two lodgers, Isaiah and Sarah Soar, both in their early twenties, a coal miner and dressmaker respectively.

Other former framework knitters were less lucky and had become paupers. Such were Lydia Gill and Sarah Wallis, both widows living on Pinfold Lane. Michael Rigley, a 54 year old framework knitter, who lived with his wife Mary Ann and daughter Fanny, aged 18, both worsted winders, was also described as a pauper.

Several of the older framework knitters lived alone with their wives, sometimes having taken in one or more lodgers. Where their children still lived with them, they had usually taken up other occupations. William Daykin's 20 year old son, Samuel, was an "engine worker", for example. However, sometimes the children followed their fathers into the trade. William Buttler, aged 25, was taking up his father George's trade, although his younger brother was an iron miner and his sister a lace drawer. All three older children, two daughters and a son of Thomas and Mary Beardsley of New Stapleford had followed their parents into the trade.

There were only two framework knitters aged under 40 who were heads of households. Edward Beardsley of Lot Close, born in Kent, was aged 38 and had moved to Stapleford from Strelley a few years earlier. He is described as a Chelsea pensioner and stockinger; his 12 year old son Thomas was also a stockinger, whilst wife Jane and two older daughters, Elizabeth 9, and Sarah 7, were hose seamers. There were two younger children, William 5, and Jane 2.

John Branson, also living in Lot Close, had been born in Caythorpe, Nottinghamshire, 30 years before and married Louise, his Stapleford born wife, in 1844. She helped, hose seamer, to support son, David, 6, and 7 month old daughter, Mary Ann. Three lodgers, Sarah, 53, John, 23, and David, 20, members of the Smedley family brought in additional income to the household.

As well as the large groups of workers in the lace and allied trades, there were other individual workers in textiles.

Dressmakers were very important and necessary in the days before sewing machines had been invented! For example, Ann Atkin, 43, who lived with her 21 year old lacemaker son, Henry, on Nottingham Road, and Ann Starbuck, 36, of New Stapleford, whose husband was in a lunatic asylum and whose 14 year old son, Samuel, worked in the coalmines to help support the other four children in the family, the youngest of whom was only 11 months old.

Two young Stapleford born men, married with young families, Thomas Burrows of East Street and Edward Johnson of Wesley Place were glove cloth makers and William Harrit of East Street, aided by 17 year old son Charles, was a glove maker.

Margaret Johnson, whose husband had been transported to Australia, supported her three daughters aged 8, 3 and 2 months, by working as a seamstress. The eldest daughter Mary Ann had been born before marriage in Shardlow workhouse.

This report was produced by members of a WEA Local History group which met in the Carnegie Library in the 1970s. The details about local residents are based on extensive work with the 1851 Census Returns for Stapleford.

Cromwell House, Stapleford

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Advertisements from Stapleford Parish Magazine, January 1896

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Technicolor — Also

Donald O'Connor, Julia Adams in FRANCIS JOINS THE W.A.C.S. (u)

MONDAY, September 7th ————— FOR THREE DAYS

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THURSDAY, September 10th ————— FOR THREE DAYS

Kenneth More, Taina Elg, Brenda De Banxie in

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William Hartnell, Bob Monkhouse, Shirley Eaton, Eric Barker in

CARRY ON SERGEANT (u)

—: ALSO —:

Joan Rice, Sheldon Lawrence in THE LONG KNIFE (u)

THURSDAY, September 10th ————— FOR THREE DAYS

Danny Kaye, Curt Jurgens in

ME AND THE COLONEL (u)

with Nicole Maurey — Also

David Brian, Lynn Bernay in GHOST OF THE CHINA SEA (u).

Ilkeston Pioneer (Stapleford and Sandiacre Edition)

4 September 1959

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**The deadline for submission of items for the next
Autumn 2018 issue of the Newsletter is 30 September.
Material can be given to any committee member or the
above-named.**

This is YOUR newsletter! We'd love to hear from you!

Front cover

Trinity (Old Primitive) Methodist Church, Derby Road

Opened 1899, closed in 1965

Demolished in 1973

By Nigel Brooks