

STAPLEFORD & DISTRICT

Local History Society

Newsletter No 1

March 1995

The Society gets off to a good start

Approximately 20 prospective members attended the lively first meeting of the Stapleford & District Local History Society on March 2. A number of topics were covered, including future direction of the Society, potential areas of interest, committee membership and a diary of events for the next few months. The enthusiasm and willingness to participate expressed is very encouraging and puts the Society on a firm footing.

We were very fortunate to have as our guest Maureen Rushton, who is secretary/treasurer of the Beeston & District Local History Society, to talk about her experiences of establishing a local history society, covering such topics as annual subscription rates, frequency of meetings, experiences of speakers, likely costs, publications and the advantages of being affiliated to other historical associations.

She also outlined the growth of the Beeston society, which currently has 150 members, and their hopes of establishing a museum in Beeston. The effectiveness of the Beeston Society demonstrates what can be achieved from small beginnings, so we can be encouraged and look to the future with some optimism.

Also on hand to answer questions about the early life of a local history society was Michael Bennett, Area Librarian of Eastwood and Kimberley Libraries and founder member of the Eastwood LHS. Michael underlined Maureen's experiences, and between

them they provided much food for thought. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their very valuable contributions to the meeting.

Andrea Lowe

MEET THE COMMITTEE

The following members have offered to serve on the Committee:

Andrea Lowe, Chairperson

Barbara Paige, Treasurer/ general secretary

Peggy Crawford, Events secretary/ programme organiser

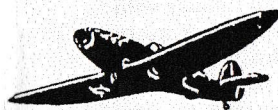
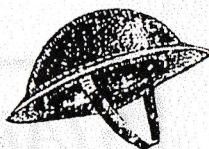
Diane Hough, Projects/research co-ordinator

John Beadsmoore, Newsletter editor

Members of the Committee met on March 10 to discuss a number of constitutional matters including subscriptions (£4 a year, plus 50p per member per meeting/£1 for non-members), opening a bank account, membership cards and so on.



**DIG FOR
VICTORY**



**CARELESS TALK
COSTS LIVES**

*Join the
WOMEN'S
LAND
ARMY*

HOME FRONT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Most people will be aware of the circumstances which prompted Andrea Lowe to call the meeting to establish a LHIS in Stapleford, namely NCC Leisure Services' celebration of the Second World War in a series of exhibitions and events commemorating the Home Front in Nottinghamshire, 1939-45.

Andrea has made appeals for artefacts, photographs and ephemera relating to the Home Front and has been fortunate to acquire a number of items of interest, kindly loaned to the Library by customers for the occasion. Her favourites to date include an ARP armband and badge, a photograph of the Home Guard in Stapleford - and a tin of ersatz coffee!

These and other items will be on display in the Library from April onwards, when the first theme will be Home Defence.

The official launch of Home

Front Nottinghamshire will take place on Tuesday, March 28, in the Library, from 11am to 1pm, and you are welcome to drop in to be entertained by members of Stapleford's Creative Writers Group with "Here is the Blitz - Readings from the Home Front". Wartime rations will be available and 1940's dress welcomed - don't forget your tin hat and gas mask.

After the Home Defence exhibition in April, following themes will include:

May - Women's Organisations (Land Army, WVS etc.)

June - Evacuees

July - The Social Impact (rationing etc.)

September - The Economic Impact

October - The Military

November - General: The Home Front in Broxtowe

So if anyone has information, or items we could borrow, or knows

someone who might be able to help with any of the above, please contact Andrea Lowe at Stapleford Library (Telephone: 0115 939 8405).

Make your Food Budget go Further with

HP SAUCE

H.P. Sauce will help you to use up every scrap of meat, fish, vegetables, etc. H.P. improves all roasts and grills, savouries and made-up dishes. Here is one excellent recipe :-

BAKED EGG BELFORT

Cut the tops of some large tomatoes and scoop out insides. Half fill with chopped cold meat mixed with a teaspoonful of H.P. Sauce. Add tiny piece of butter or margarine. Break an egg into each. Stand on greased tin and bake in moderate oven.



"It is better to know the value of H.P. Sauce in wartime. Buy a bottle today."

In association with the Home Front, the following events will take place in Stapleford Library:

**March 28, 2.30-5.00pm: Members of the public are invited to share their memories of life in Stapleford during the Second World War with members of the Society*

**April 20, 2.30pm - Music Memories of the Home Front. Speaker: Alan Guest. All welcome; there may be a small admission charge.*

**July 18 - Reminiscence with Gillian Tanner on a World War 2 theme, to an invited audience of elderly people. Members of the oral history and memory projects might also like to attend.*

Watch the Library's Notice Boards for news of other events.

MEETINGS DIARY

To accommodate as many members as possible, future meetings have been arranged for Tuesday and Thursday evenings alternately. Dates are:

Thursday, March 23, 7.00pm. Suella Postles, Social and Economic Historian, Brewhouse Yard Museum: 'Recording Local History.'

Tuesday, May 2, 7.30pm. Nigel Brooks: Talk and Slide Show, 'The George Hooley Collection.'

Thursday, June 8, 7.30pm. To be arranged

Tuesday, July 4, 7.30pm. P.c. Malcolm Jarvis: 'History of the Police in Stapleford.'

FUTURE PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

A number of members have very clear ideas about what they want to achieve within the Society, and the following areas of work were discussed:

Reminiscence/oral history project - primarily to research the social and economic history of Stapleford from 1939-45 by using people's recollections and memories, in keeping with the Home Front Nottinghamshire theme for 1995.

Barbara Brooke has kindly offered to co-ordinate this group, and will be working with Karen Gunn and Meg Oliver. Karen will be able to use a number of contacts she has made while researching her own family history in the Stapleford/Trowell area, and Meg is willing to undertake reminiscence work with elderly people in nursing homes.

Andrea Lowe will provide a list of wardens of local sheltered housing and nursing homes, and will organise the audio equipment needed with the help of Judy Kingscott in the Nottingham Local Studies Library on Angel Row.

RECORDS AND RESOURCES

Diane Hough and Sue Collings are keen to index and organise material in the local

studies section of Stapleford Library with a view to making information more readily accessible to family and local historians. Diane and Sue have both been involved in family history for a number of years and are extremely familiar with the resources available in the Public Library in Stapleford as well as the more extensive resources available in Notts. Archives. They will be happy to collect and organise information about Stapleford's history from other sources which they will then make available to the Library.

PROJECT CO-ORDINATION

Diane Hough has also offered to maintain a register of current research and to provide information on who is doing what. Diane will also act as Librarian and will include work being undertaken by members and other individuals engaged in local historical research. This information will then be included in the Society's Newsletter/Journal in order to keep members up to date with what is happening.

S&S NEWS ON MICROFILM

Miss Choulerton and Mrs Hodder have offered to index the obituaries in the S&S News, pending the purchase of a viable microfilm reader. The present machine is uncomfortable to use and a bid to purchase a new one has been submitted using money from the Public Library Fund; this will be subject to the approval of the District Librarian and the Director of Leisure Services.

POLICING IN STAPLEFORD

P.c. Malcolm Jarvis is currently researching into the history of the Police Force in Stapleford and has managed to accumulate a substantial amount of information which he hopes to publish in book form at some time in the future. Malcolm envisages another two years' work before the project is completed.