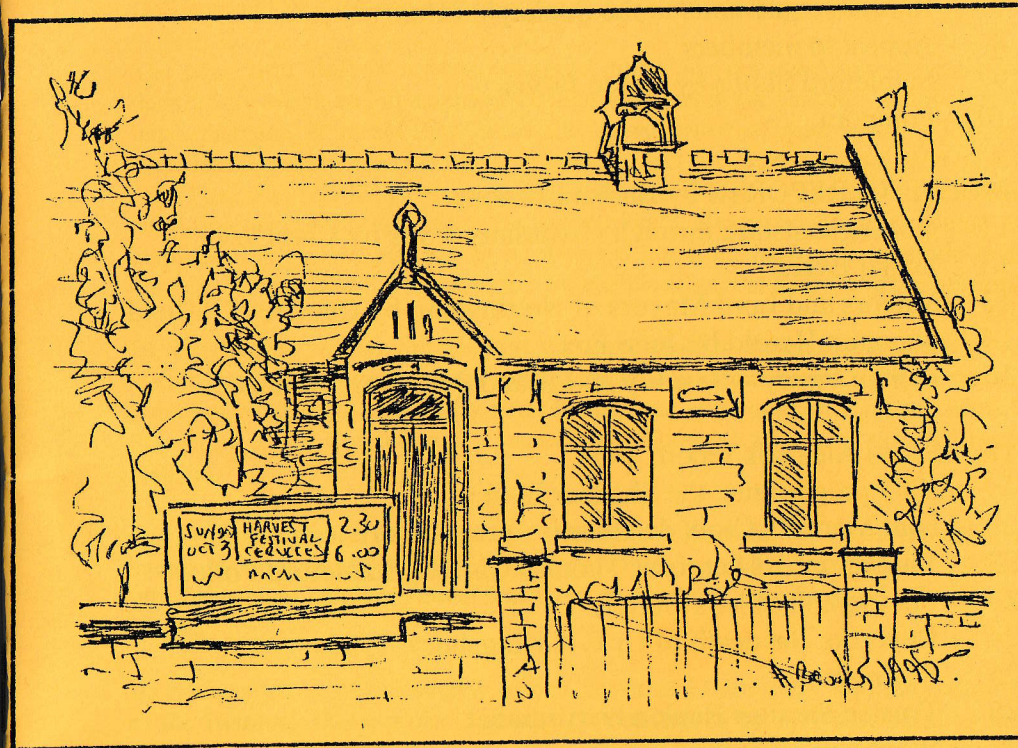


Stapleford and District Local History Society



Newsletter No 14 – Spring 2003

50p

Free to Members

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8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2002/2003

I must start this report by apologising for my absence from the Annual General Meeting. When arranging my holiday I ensured that I would be back by the second Monday in April, completely forgetting that when we had moved to the Maycliffe Hall it would be the second Wednesday in April. Please forgive me!

The Maycliffe Hall is a very congenial place for our meetings – very clean, delightfully warm and in a central position with ample car parking. Judging by the large increase in attendance since the move, most of you agree. The new amplification system seems very efficient. In fact, we were congratulated on it by John Fox, who had the privilege of being the first to use it. The folding bookcase, providing secure storage space for the society's library books, microphone and amplification system just has to be wheeled out from its storage position in the kitchen. This makes life much easier for our librarian, Pat Kelly, and her helpers.

During the past year we did not have the opportunity to mount displays at any local events, but we did operate two guided walks round our Town Trail. One on a Saturday, with more than thirty participants, was sponsored with refreshments by Stapleford Town Council, and a second on a Thursday afternoon attracted twelve walkers.

Our warmest thanks go to society member, Chris Bull, who has produced an excellent video based on the Town Trail, which has delighted everyone. Almost 200 have been sold and have been sent to relatives and friends in Britain and abroad.

As representatives of this society, Alan Clayton and I are on the steering committee of the Hemlock Stone project, which is continuing to be very successful. I have already reported to you about the celebration to mark the completion of the first phase last November and this week this Society was presented with a copy of the Hemlock Stone Story Trail book, which showcases the creative work produced in the past few months by children from Frederick Harrison and Albany Infant Schools and Foxwood Special School. Copies of the book have been given, as a creative resource, to all schools in Bramcote and Stapleford and copies have been lodged in Beeston and Stapleford libraries. It certainly demonstrates how to make the most of history and the local environment.

The Hemlock Happening, mounted by Bramcote and Stapleford Golden Jubilee Group to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, made excellent community use of

the Bramcote Hills Park and walled garden and Stapleford Hill and the Hemlock Stone. A specially commissioned play about the history of the two settlements was the focal point of a day of activities and fun, culminating in the lighting of a beacon on top of the Hemlock Stone and a splendid firework display watched by about six thousand people. Such were the appreciative comments of local people as they left the event that it was decided to continue with the committee and to mount another free community event in 2003 to showcase the talents of local groups and individuals. This will take place on Saturday 14 June, so watch out for more details nearer the date.

On Thursday 10 July the Thoroton Society, the premier historical society of Nottinghamshire, is making an evening visit to the same site to view the restored Walled Garden, the Ice House and the Hemlock Stone, then, after supper in Bramcote Church Hall, to go on a tour of St Michael and All Angels' Church. You are warmly invited to be present on that occasion.

I am sorry to report that Brian Clark is still very poorly after the removal of a brain tumour, but I have taken him a copy of our video and gave him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

One of the pleasures and privileges of being Chairman is to receive various enquiries about Stapleford and its people past and present. Recently Tom Towle of Queensland, Australia, asked about his great grandfather, Thomas Towle, who was elected to Stapleford Rural District Council on its inauguration in 1895 and was its Chairman three times. His name appeared in our book at least six times and I have been able to find out quite a lot of other family details through research at the library.

A woman in Halifax, Nova Scotia, recently phoned me and said that her diving club, while exploring the underwater rocket site at Pienemunde, Germany, had found the remains of a Lancaster bomber shot down in a raid in 1943. They have identified the plane and know the names of the crew members. Two were Canadians and a third was Sergeant Stanley Shaw of Stapleford. The club is involved in making a TV programme for the National Geographic Society and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and want any further information about him. Several of our society members, who knew of his family, are following up leads on his daughters and members of Derby RAF Association are pursuing other contacts. The society may even end up on the list of credits for the TV programme. Fascinating stuff!

Work on the 'Home Front in Stapleford in World War II' project is proceeding slowly, with some interviews completed and many more still to do. The members of the project group have agreed that all interviewing will be completed by the start

of 2004, leaving us a year to turn them into a book, ready for publication in May 2005 to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. I should like to encourage any members with local wartime memories to talk to us about them.

This is my opportunity to thank everyone who has helped the society in any way during the past year and especially committee members – Eileen and Audrey for running the sales stall, Roy for taking the money, Nigel for producing cards and publicity materials, Alan for inviting members to take part in Beeston's outings and for his talk 'Wandering through Stapleford's Past, Pat for running the library and Malcolm for editing the newsletter. Finally, many thanks go to Barbara P for her sterling work as Secretary and Treasurer and for producing another excellent programme.

I thank you for your friendship and for your interest in the society and I look forward with confidence to its success in the future.

Barbara Brooke
Chairman

SECRETARY'S AND TREASURER'S REPORT

This has been another busy and successful year. We have a number of regular attenders who are still loyal, enthusiastic, hard working and excellent at furniture removing. Our membership has increased to 69 from 63 in 2001/2002 and we had some completely new members. With the change of meeting day we lost officially one member (the only one who wrote to me) but we have several potential new members who have come along to the talks in 2003. I suggested they attended as visitors then joined in April at the beginning of our financial year. I hope our expectation of increased numbers will soon be justified. Our best year, with 75 members, was 2000/2001. Let's try to make it 80 for the future. Do encourage friends and relatives to come along.

Attendance at meetings has improved, an average of 42/43 as against 39/40 last year, the AGM being the lowest at 29 and Peter Holland's on Lenton the highest at 61. Our next lowest was 31 in January, our first in the Maycliffe Hall, but it was a bitterly cold night and snowy conditions did not help.

I am always open to suggestions for speakers and visits and we had two new faces in 2002. In 2003 we have four new speakers besides old favourites. I continue to send details of meetings to BBC Radio Nottingham, the Stapleford and Sandiacre News and the Evening Post, although occasionally the information is misprinted. Details are also to be found at the library, Broxtowe Borough Council Offices in

Beeston, the Carnegie Centre, Archer Road Post Office, the foyer of St Helen's Church Hall and in future in the Maycliffe Hall.

With regard to visits I was bitterly disappointed that after initial enthusiasm for a second visit to Bletchley Park on a Saturday, when added attractions are available, the numbers were not large enough to be viable and it had to be cancelled. However, all was not lost as a new member, Maurice Hodgkinson, took three members by car and they had a most interesting day.

Further to Peter Holland's talk, walks round Lenton and the University will be arranged. He liked our Society very much and soon telephoned me with ideas. 'Let's look at Lenton', 'Lenton - a different perspective' by walking along the canal bank and 'Round the University'. Please indicate your interest, preferred day of the week and daytime or evening on the sheet.

At the recent Committee Meeting a visit to the Houses of Parliament and to meet our MP, Dr Nick Palmer, (who is a member of the Society) was suggested. When I see the response on the sheet I'll see what can be arranged. Obviously numbers will have to justify hiring a coach.

I believe over the past eight years I have kept a critical eye on our finances and they are in a very healthy state. At our first AGM the Society's bank balance was £139.67 and now at our 8th AGM our assets are £4,238.25, over £4,000 more. The hall rental has been paid until the end of the year and since the accounts were completed I have received a cheque for £98 for video sales, so the assets are now £4,336.25. Therefore I see no reason to increase membership fees or meeting charges.

I saved the Society £240 during the four years we were at the church hall, as I negotiated a reduction from £30 to £25 per evening by paying a year's rental in advance. In the first year a friend, formerly an accountant at Raleigh, and for the following seven years another friend, Gordon Smith, formerly an accountant at Stanton, audited the accounts - all for free. I understand that an accountant could cost around £50. Incidentally, Gordon has indicated that next year will probably be the last time he will be able to oblige the Society.

With regard to speakers we have been very fortunate and none has been avaricious. In fact, some wanted no fee, but I insisted they have something for their favourite charity. The highest charge has been £25 - very lucky as speakers are now thinking in terms of £30.

You may not have noticed, although our Honorary Auditor has, that over the years there have never been Secretary/Treasurer/Programme Secretary expenses. Stamps

and envelopes have occasionally been included in the statement. I have to send out AGM agendas to members not present at the March meeting and membership card/programmes for the following year to members not at the December social evening. I also have to send out newsletters to people unable to attend meetings. In future I shall have to include telephone expenses - each speaker usually requires about 3 calls (plus letter of confirmation), calls arranging visits and transport and calls (as well as letters) to the media. In the six years since I have been Programme Secretary that is about 180 calls.

When the move to the Maycliffe Hall was suggested, involving a change to Wednesday evenings, I personally was not very enthusiastic as sometimes I have another meeting on a Wednesday afternoon, but the advantages were considerable - more convenient and central, warmer, cleaner and safe accommodation for our new bookcase, better car parking, an earlier start, no church bells, cheaper and an adequate speaker system. So it's been a bit like the curate's egg, good in parts. At the last moment, after I had written to the church cancelling our agreement, the Maycliffe Hall rental was upped from £7 to £10 an hour, making it £30 a night. The microphone and amplification system were not satisfactory, (though the speakers are fine) so we had to buy our own, purchased at cost from the chairman's electrical contractor son in law. I felt great sympathy for Tom Martin, who had been so keen for us to move to the Maycliffe Hall, at this unexpected increase. However, all is well now. I am sure we shall be happy here and I wish to thank Tom for his support.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who contributed to the success of our Christmas meeting by providing quizzes and prizes for some, raffle prizes and, of course, such a variety of food.

Also I wish to thank other members who have helped me personally during the year - Roy Allen for taking the meeting charges, freeing me to collect subscriptions, sort out queries and to greet our speakers - Pat and John Hodgkiss for typing and duplicating (for free) and for transporting one of our speakers, and of course it goes without saying the support of our Chairman.

Insurance cover for our assets kept in the hall (book cupboard, books and microphone) is now in hand.

I commend the Statement of Accounts to the Society and I suggest a letter of thanks be sent to our Honorary Auditor, Mr Gordon Smith.

Barbara Page
Secretary and Treasurer

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were elected unopposed for two years:

Chairman Barbara Brooke

Secretary and Treasurer Barbara Page

Brookhill's Welfare Concert

In spite of a certain amount of uninformed criticism, work for the welfare of old people in Stapleford has been forging steadily ahead. The first result was the presentation at the Albert Hall, Stapleford, on Tuesday, of a concert given by the Brookhill Concert Party under the auspices of the Beeston and Stapleford Old People's Welfare Committee.

More than 150 people saw a first-class show presented by the hard-working and talented Brookhill group who gave their services voluntarily.

Mr. F. Palling, vice-chairman of the Welfare Committee, represented the Beeston group and County Councillor F. W. Harrison, who presided, thanked the concert party for their efforts.

The concert was arranged by Mr. J. Cunnington.

Stapleford and Sandiacre News 21 April 1951

Courtesy of Alan Clayton

GREEN'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP

There has been mention of Green's Fish and Chip shop.

Do you remember it, and, if so, what are your memories.

I am told it was an old wooden building.

Let us know your memories.

Editor.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

RECOUNTING GOLD

by Lynn Adgar

A collection of poems by residents of the Clifton Estate, recalling their life in the 1950s when the Clifton Estate was created.

FURTHER COPIES OF:

- a) **BROXTOWE HALL** by R A Horton - a history of the hall - well illustrated
- b) **ASPLEY HALL** by R A Horton - another well illustrated and interesting booklet by the same author as 'Broxtowe Hall'
- c) **NEWSTEAD ABBEY** and
- d) **THE DUKERIES** - both published by P E Jones and M Riley - mainly a collection of old postcards with accompanying text

THE KING'S REIGN told in pictures - a pictorial history of the reign of George V containing many unusual and interesting photographs of different events that occurred during George V's reign - civil, military, political etc

NOTTINGHAM - A HISTORY

by Chris Weir

The author gave us an excellent talk in November - 'Nottinghamshire through Historians' Eyes'. This is a book that traces the history of Nottingham from its early beginnings to the end of the century.

ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET - Royal Visits to Nottingham

by Stephen Zaleski

Visits from the 11th century to the present day - contains interesting facts and information

NOTTINGHAM CITY CENTRE on old picture postcards

by Grenville Jennings

A selection of picture postcards featuring scenes from the past century with informative captions

NOTTINGHAM'S LOST LANDMARKS on old picture postcards
by David Ottewell

A timely reminder of buildings etc that have disappeared, and a warning to preserve important buildings that still survive

NOTTINGHAM FOREST FOOTBALL CLUB on old picture postcards and cigarette cards
by Grenville Jennings

A blast from the past for all Forest's supporters

APPEAL TO MEMBERS

We are very keen to include contributions from members in the Society's newsletters.

Have you any interesting memories from Stapleford's past? Can you remember some event or a particular place that no longer exists? Have you an interesting story from schooldays, or World War II?

Don't be shy!

We should love to hear from you!

STAPLEFORD SHOPS
by Grace Jarvis

At last November's meeting Chris Weir gave a talk on Nottinghamshire through the eyes of the Historian. At the end of his talk he mentioned the shops of Stapleford and this triggered my memories of these emporiums.

The shop Chris mentioned was Rowell's. My sister worked there until she married in 1946. She met her husband there; he was the milkman Ken Clarke. My sister had the ability to draw so she was given a number of projects to do at home for the shop window. One was to promote War Savings and the thing that stays in my mind is a large tank drawn on cardboard, but I cannot recall the wording. My memory is not fading! I was only 5 or 6 at the time. Her colleagues were Miss Sheehan and Miss Field, and they were always addressed this way, no Christian name terms in those days. Times have changed but the shop has not altered a great deal from my first memory of it in the 1940s.

The rest of Stapleford shops have not survived so well, in fact many have vanished without trace. There was the Co-operative store, most of the way along Albert Street. There you could buy every item for your everyday needs. Your entertainment and amusement were catered for too in these large premises. There was a shoe shop, grocer's, greengrocer's, butcher's, hardware, drapery, furniture, carpets and clothes. Above the store was a ballroom – Rene Shimwell's paradise. Miss Shimwell also hired one of the clubrooms for her famous dancing lessons. Whist Drives were also held in these rooms. I am sure there were other meetings held there, but these were the ones attended by members of my family. Wedding receptions and other parties were also held in the clubrooms. Going even higher there were the billiards rooms, but being female I never got to explore these. Behind the stores were the dairy and, I think, the bakery. Of course, to take advantage of the Co-op you needed a number so that the 'divi' your purchase earned was credited to you. Woe betide the errand girl who lost the check!

Going from the Roach, there was Marsdens, later this was Pools' Electrical Store. Miss Annis the schoolteacher's family ran the Post Office. There were the Edgington brothers, one had a greengrocery (that was on one side of the shop, with fish on the other side) and the other had a sweet shop. I never saw many sweets being bought there because of the rationing. This

brother went to Skegness – and opened a sweet shop! In between these two shops there was George Hooley with his bicycle shop. Mustn't miss Boots with Mr Winstanley and Miss Collett! I hope that I have got the spelling of her name right because she comes to the meetings! Further along the road there were Hutchinson's and Chatfield's, where most wedding outfits were bought (and Sunday School Anniversary dresses if you were lucky). On the corner was the Electric Bakery. There was the newsagent Mr Lilley, Mr Goring the greengrocer, Mr Greenaway the grocer, I don't know the name of the barber, then Wortley's the chemist and how about Candy Cabin. Was Woodward's the bakers, near here too? Allen's was another sweet shop. I am getting out of my area now as most of these shops were passed on the way to the Victory cinema, but I must mention Mr and Mrs Garland, the grocers (I think the shop was called Mee's) and Frettingham's, the hardware store. Littlewood's shop catered for the knitter and needlewoman. Lewin and Smith dealt with all the posters and things that needed printing. Over the road there was Chell's, the toyshop.

Finally, how could I not include Mrs Nails (or Mrs Tin Tacks) who had a shop next to the Chequers? In later years came the Handyman's store selling hardware, but it did not have the atmosphere of Mrs Nails' shop, paraffin, wood, metal and grease – a heady mixture!

These were the shops I grew up with and there were more. There were the cobblers and the hairdressers, the butchers and the bakers. I hope I have jogged a few memories of the people who were in Stapleford in my youth, and that I have let people who were not here then know that Stapleford was a well provided for place in the days before the supermarkets.

POMPOM

Many thanks for all your input regarding Pompom. This has revealed the following:

He played as a conductor for Stapleford Brass Band.

He was small in stature.

He lived in a house on Isaac's Lane.

He was a Stapleford man.

He collected horse manure from the roads after horses had passed by. He used this at the allotments.

'Or – do you know different?'

MEETING REPORTS

11 November 2002

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE THROUGH HISTORIANS' EYES

by Christopher Weir

On his return visit to our Society Chris Weir surveyed some of the many authors and the material they have written about the history of Nottinghamshire. He noted that there were many chronicles of the past that were, in fact, tabloid type records which could not be relied on as the truth. Real local history, however, was very different and appeared in many forms.

An outstanding early record, the original manuscript of which survives in Nottinghamshire Archives, is the memoir of Lucy Hutchinson, wife of Parliamentarian Colonel Hutchinson, who commanded the garrison at Nottingham Castle in the Civil War. She gives a first hand report of the personalities, army life in the castle, graphic descriptions of local skirmishes and of her family, especially of her husband who was later executed at Carisbrooke Castle for his support of the king.

Two men made major contributions to the survival of ancient documents. After the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th Century John Lennard went round England to save manuscripts held by local religious houses. The task was so huge that he had a breakdown, but did salvage many documents. In the 17th Century William Dugdale, Garter King of Arms, made nationwide heraldic visitations checking on the pedigrees and standing of important local families. While in Nottinghamshire, he met Dr Robert Thoroton, who made the first important breakthrough in writing about the history of the county by publishing in 1677 'Antiquities of Nottinghamshire', saying of himself, 'I practise more upon the dead than upon the living'.

In the 18th Century John Throsby, a man with very strong opinions, looked at the county's landscape. Unfortunately, he chose to leave out of his descriptions anything he did not like or substituted something he preferred! Around 1750 Charles Dearing, of German extraction, gave a more accurate view. Looking at local industry, he described the suffocating smoke connected with tanning in Nottingham, and following leisure pursuits of the local people, told how families visited St Ann's Well regularly, explored the maze and listened to bands playing.

Major Hayman Rook showed a great interest in Sherwood Forest, describing many of the oak trees, including the hollow Greendale Oak 35

feet in diameter that coaches could drive through, and drew the more remarkable specimens in the forest to illustrate his book. In fact, the Major Oak was named after him!

In 1815, framework knitter John Black, who taught himself to read and write, thought that previous histories of Nottinghamshire had been slovenly, so he set about detailing local trade and manufacture accurately.

Cornelius Brown, editor of the Newark Advertiser, wrote many books about industrial development in the county, once describing the Erewash Valley as a smoking furnace, in contrast with the quiet rural valley it had once been.

William Stevenson, a 19th Century timber merchant, who worked through many early documents in Latin, selected suitable extracts and got them printed, presented the first paper to the Thoroton Society when it was established and was a regular contributor to the society for many years.

The Society, named after Dr Robert Thoroton, has made available much more Nottinghamshire history by publishing in its annual transactions articles on many aspects of the county's history.

Victoria county histories were published around 1900 based on documentary research. Only two of the proposed four volumes on Nottinghamshire were completed but, nevertheless, made an important contribution to local history.

In the 1930s Stapleford's Arthur Mee, newspaper man and author of the Children's Newspaper and many books, took on the huge task of organising and publishing the King's England series of county histories, including Nottinghamshire, which are still widely used today.

In the 1940s Arthur Cossons, headmaster of Beeston, researched and wrote 'The Turnpike Roads of Nottinghamshire' and 'The Parish Chest' a seminal publication for local historians.

Oral history has come very much to the fore in recent times. Nottingham University and the county library service have made great efforts to record ordinary people talking about their own lives, and much of this material is available at local studies libraries throughout the county.

Aiming to promote local history, the Nottinghamshire Local History Association brings together organisations and individuals interested in all aspects of local history in the county. Most local history societies, including Stapleford, are members. Their publication 'The Nottinghamshire Historian', as well as articles of interest, gives information about local publications (they reviewed our millennium book) and the activities of local societies.

Chris Weir concluded his very interesting talk by noting how much the way we look at local history has changed. The emphasis now is on everyday people and things and everyday happenings shared with others.

Barbara Brooke

9 December 2002

SOCIAL EVENT

At the start of the Christmas season we were intrigued by two quizzes, one devised by Alan Clayton, based on newspaper items, and one on Wollaton Hall and Park by David Grindell. Members brought many items as raffle prizes and ample food for a delicious supper. A very pleasant evening.

Barbara Brooke

8 January 2003

MAYORS AND LORD MAYORS OF NOTTINGHAM

by Geoffrey Oldfield

The first Nottingham settlement was a Saxon 'burh' (defended place) in the Lace Market area, joined after 1066 by the Norman settlement around the castle rock. This elevated site commanded an important bridge crossing the River Trent on the main route north. The town soon became prosperous though the two settlements retained separate identities.

A series of royal charters from 1155 onwards established markets, granted increased powers of self-government and other privileges, but demanded higher taxes. From 1284 seven aldermen were appointed, one of whom was made mayor annually. Aldermen had to be burgesses, born in Nottingham, remained in that position for life and were not answerable to anyone. In 1449 a charter separated the town from the county and granted two sheriffs, one for the former Saxon settlement and one for the Norman. This system stayed in operation until the Municipal Corporation Act of 1835 which allowed all property owners in the borough to vote for councillors in open elections. A third of the elected councillors then appointed aldermen, but any council member could be mayor. Councils did not have many statutory functions, but had to ensure that Acts of Parliament were observed, had to be responsible for a rudimentary police force and had to care for the whole community.

As the leading citizen, the Mayor had to carry out ceremonial and social duties with appropriate pomp, including welcoming royal and other important visitors to Nottingham and presiding over local events such as the annual civic service. The splendid regalia of the mayor and historic uniforms of such supporting officers as the mace-bearers reflect local civic pride. When King George V opened the new University College at Highfields in 1927 he granted Nottingham, which had become a city in 1897, a Lord Mayor to replace the Mayor and to reflect the city's increased status as a flourishing, successful centre.

Geoffrey mentioned many successful Nottingham businessmen and benefactors who have been its Mayors and Lord Mayors, but only a few can be named here. Thomas Thurland, wool merchant, helped finance St Mary's Church and William Lambert, bleacher and dyer of Talbot Street, contributed towards the construction of the Theatre Royal and presided over the opening of the Castle as the first municipal museum in the country in 1868. Lewis Heyman, lace manufacturer, exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851 and Richard Enfield set up the University College in Shakespeare Street, as part of London University, in the 1880s. Sir Albert Ball, who owned a considerable amount of land locally, gave the site for the construction of the Carnegie Library in Stapleford to the town.

Barbara Brooke

12 February 2003

STAUNTON HAROLD

by John Fox

Staunton means 'stony town' and, as the natural resources there include limestone, coal, iron and some copper, this seems a very appropriate name! Henry de Ferrers leased the manor to Harold of East and West Leake, so it was called 'Harold' to differentiate it from Henry's many other manors gifted by William the Conqueror.

Margaret Staunton married into the wealthy Shirley family of Warwickshire in 1423 and the estate has been in their hands ever since.

Although a Staunton was knighted for bravery on East Stoke battlefield in 1487, the family had no hereditary title or a church to bury their dead.

Staunton Harold Hall was a magnificent house in a splendid setting with very formal gardens, a rectangular lake surrounded by a border of trees, a vegetable garden and many outbuildings.

After the dissolution of the monasteries the Shirleys bid for Breedon on the Hill and so acquired a substantial church to bury their dead.

When James I started sending presbyterians to settle in Ulster, he required a sizeable army to protect them from Catholic attacks so, in order to foot the bill, he sold baronetcies for £1,095, the cost of maintaining 30 foot soldiers for 3 years at 8d a day! Thus the Shirleys acquired both the things they had badly wanted.

Hugh Shirley researched the family history and produced the lesser family pedigree, measuring 13 feet by 6 feet, in 1628. Following lengthy additional research he was able to produce in 1632 the great family pedigree measuring 30 feet by 13 feet. It is an extraordinary work of scholarship, enhanced by many detailed illustrations of coats of arms and battle dress and is the result of the first real family research.

The Shirleys were 'high church' and were ardent royalists in the Civil War. Robert, head of the family, was active in the Sealed Knot, a guerrilla movement against Cromwell, was arrested seven times, held prisoner in the Tower and is believed to have been poisoned there. He had built a splendid chapel near his hall, the only church designed and built in the Commonwealth period, a proud act of defiance. It is a magnificent building, beautifully decorated, with a painting of the creation on the ceiling, lovely contemporary altar silver and an excellent organ.

Charles II was so appreciative of Robert's support that, while he was still in exile, he wrote to Catherine, Robert's widow, promising to restore the family fortunes on his return. He kept this promise and Robert's son was Privy Councillor to Charles himself, to William and Mary, then to Queen Anne and in 1711 he was created Earl Ferrers.

Selina Shirley married the Earl of Huntingdon and lived in Donington Hall. She was full of good works and was friendly with John and Charles Wesley. She invited all the delegates to the first Methodist conference to visit her London home at 12 Downing Street. She was responsible for taking the Methodist message to high society and later became a Calvinist, setting up a college in Wales and churches in many parts of England.

The 4th Earl created a national scandal by illtreating his wife and divorcing her. He later shot his steward, was arrested, tried and hanged on Tyburn gallows, being the last peer to be executed. He wore his white wedding suit for what he called the two unhappiest days of his life – his marriage and his execution! It took him a long time to die, so a member of the family invented the 'drop' to ensure quick hanging deaths in future.

His brother, the 5th Earl, remodelled the house and grounds so that the estate appeared much as it does today with an informal parkland setting.

The 10th Earl was the last to live in the hall. In 1910 he had 40 indoor and 40 outdoor servants and had individual photographs taken of each one with the tools of his or her trade.

Gradually the hall and church fell into disrepair. Eventually an appeal was launched in the Times to save the church and arrangements were made for it to be taken over by the National Trust, who have carried out a faithful restoration. The hall was to be demolished but, following an outcry, this was postponed for six months. Meantime the earl and his wife met Leonard Cheshire who managed to raise enough money to buy the hall and have it restored, opening the fourth Leonard Cheshire Home in 1954, despite not having electricity until the following year. The home is now closed and the hall is being sold.

In the recent ballot for the 92 peers to be retained in the House of Lords Earl Ferrers received the most votes from his fellow peers.

John Fox's talk, full of interesting anecdotes and spiced with humour, was much enjoyed by all his audience and was well illustrated by slides of the hall and grounds.

Barbara Brooke

12 March 2003

LENTON PRIORY – SANCTITY AND SCANDAL

by Peter Holland

Though little now remains of Lenton Priory, it was once one of the largest religious houses in the Midlands.

It was founded in 1108 by William Peveril, the builder and custodian of Nottingham Castle on behalf of William the Conqueror. His loyalty and service to the king had resulted in his ownership of huge estates throughout the Midlands and he was very generous in his endowment of the priory. The Cluniac order was chosen because its buildings were large and richly decorated, it enjoyed the splendour of elaborate church ceremonials and supported a good life style.

The Abbot of Cluny, France, who was the head of all Cluniac establishments, was invited by William Peveril to send twelve monks and a prior to set up Lenton Priory. The site was chosen with care, inside the curve where the course of the River Leen turned from a southerly to an easterly direction, and near the route from Nottingham to Derby (Derby Road) and the ancient track from Nottingham to Attenborough (Cut Through Lane). It was also close to a north/south track leading to a

crossing of the River Trent (near Clifton Bridge). Nearby Sherwood Forest provided plenty of timber and stone was brought from Stony Clouds, Bulwell and Derbyshire. There was a plentiful supply of labour from local villages and Nottingham, which also provided a market and the protection of Nottingham Castle. The River Leen gave a fresh water supply and saw to the disposal of sewage and rubbish.

Cloisters were constructed on the warmer south side, as well as the refectory, brewery, bakery and kitchen. An upstairs dormitory was on the east side and store rooms on the west, as well as very palatial upstairs guest rooms for visitors, who included at least four kings. A hospital was founded for the treatment of St Anthony's Fire, a serious fungal skin disease caused by eating infected rye. A small part of the hospital chapel remains as the chancel of the present Priory Church.

Lenton Fair, granted to the priory by Henry II, ran for eight days from 11 November and was responsible for more than a quarter of its income. It was one of the largest trading fairs in the country and while it was operating no market could be held in Nottingham and most local shops closed. It was far more important than Goose Fair with hundreds of tents and stalls selling everything – surplus animals too expensive to feed through the winter, salt and spices, glass, vestments, gold and silver, furs, saddles, tools. Food and entertainment were laid on and local people hired out rooms and outbuildings to accommodate visitors. It was a great social occasion and a special court was set up to deal with crime. The fair continued until early in the 20th century, but over the years had become a sale for farmers and horse dealers.

After the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII lead was taken from the roof for the king's use and Sir Francis Willoughby took much of the stone for use in the construction of Wollaton Hall. Over the centuries stone and other items were used in nearby buildings until little now remains of the once great priory.

In the 1980s Nottingham City Council purchased a piece of land at the junction of Abbey Street and Gregory Street, later opened as Priory Park, to give protection to the site for future excavation.

This was a fascinating talk and there was widespread interest in Peter's offer to lead an evening walk around the former site of Lenton Priory during the summer.

Barbara Brooke

Swiss Alps Visited

There was a large audience at the Stapleford Adult School on Sunday afternoon to hear Mr. Alan L. Clayton speak on the subject, "A Swiss Tour."

Mr. Clayton and his wife went to Switzerland in June and stayed at a small hotel in a tiny hamlet five miles from Interlaken.

They found the village, which was a railway junction, an excellent centre from which to explore some of the finest scenery of the country.

The speaker was able to take over 200 coloured photographs, and 120 of these were shown and gave the audience a realistic impression of the magnificence of the mountains, the grandeur of the glaciers, the wonders of the waterfalls and the loveliness of the lakes.

The talk brought back many happy memories to several of the audience who had also visited Switzerland.

The Society's programme for the rest of 2003

All meetings are held at the Maycliffe Hall, Toton Lane, Stapleford, starting at 7.30pm

14 May	Dame Laura Knight – Big Top to Nuremberg by Nigel Brooks
11 June	Myths, Murders and Mysteries by John R Hughes
9 July	Looking at Games and Pastimes by Maureen Newton
13 August	Well Dressing by Derek Palmer
10 September	Nottingham – Then and Now by Bill Clarke
8 October	Lead us not into Trent Station by Geoffrey Kingscott
12 November	Epitaphs in Cathedrals and Churches by Bertel Hutchinson
10 December	Christmas Social Event

THE SHADOW BOXER

I am told that in the late 1930's there was a Stapleford man who would walk along the roads shadow boxing. He was a tall thin man.

Do you know of him, what stories?

Another Stapleford character?

Editor.

"She's a Useful Girl. . . ."

"VERA" PAVED THE WAY FOR TROOPS IN SICILY

Stapleford Sapper Uses Bulldozer Named After His Wife

By A Military Correspondent

"VERA," the Steel Squeegee, went into action for the first time in Sicily. For days since the first landings Sapper Tom Martin had had jeers thrown at him by passing tank crews as he sat on the transporter which carried "Vera" just behind our leading tanks. "Vera"—named after Sapper Martin's wife, who lives at Eaton's-road, Stapleford—is a bulldozer, a giant tractor with a steel scoop in front which pushes rocks, stones, earth, to make roads or clear debris.

Smoothed Out The Demolition

Advancing on the little town of Militello "Vera" had her first trial. Retreating Germans had blown the road where it wound round the side of a hill. The tanks got through, rearing up almost on their back sprockets as they cleared the obstruction, but wheeled vehicles could not pass. Speedily Sapper Martin brought up his bulldozer. Manoeuvring skilfully, he pushed rocks, debris with it the steel scoop in front acting like a squeegee. In twenty minutes a way was clear. "Vera" had smoothed out the demolition so that even a motor bicycle could get through.

She Proved Her Worth

"She's a great girl, is Vera," said Sapper Martin afterwards. "I hadn't done anything like this before, but when we found that bulldozers were just the job for clearing up any of Jerry's messes I soon learnt how to handle her. The 'Tankies' may laugh about my 'ironmonger's shop,' but she certainly proved her worth to-day."

Porter At Stanton Gate

A native of Glan-Conway, Wales, Sapper Martin came to Stapleford three months before the outbreak of war, and took up employment with the L.M.S. Railway Company as a porter at Stanton Gate Station. Prior to this he worked as a gardener on Lord Aberconway's estate in Wales.

Sapper Martin joined up in March, 1940, and went overseas with the Royal Engineers in August of last year.

His wife, to whom he refers affectionately as "Vera," lives with her mother and their baby at 8, Eaton's-road, Stapleford.

AWARDED CROIX DE GUERRE

Stapleford Soldier

Honoured
In Germany

EXTENSIVE WAR SERVICE

IT is announced that a Stapleford soldier, Sapper Thomas Martin, of 8, Eaton's-road, was one of four soldiers to be awarded the Croix de Guerre at Verdun, Germany, recently. His medal was pinned on by Commander J. J. Rheims, deputy chief of the French Mission to 21st Army Group at the headquarters of the Divisional Royal Artillery.

Through African Campaign

Sapper Martin served throughout the African campaign from El Alamein to Sicily, and went to France on the day following D-Day. He



SAPPER T. MARTIN

served in Belgium and Holland and took part in the battle for Germany. He is 28 years of age, and has a son aged three and a half years.

Native of Wales

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His wife lives with her mother and their son at 8, Eaton's-road, Stapleford.

Now you know!

Courtesy of Tom Martin



Sergeant 75 Thomas Garrett

Stapleford Police 1908 – 1909

Thanks to his grandson
Donald Garrett



Mrs Garrett

Thanks to her grandson
Donald Garrett

STAPLEFORD'S LOSS.

Sept 14th 1935

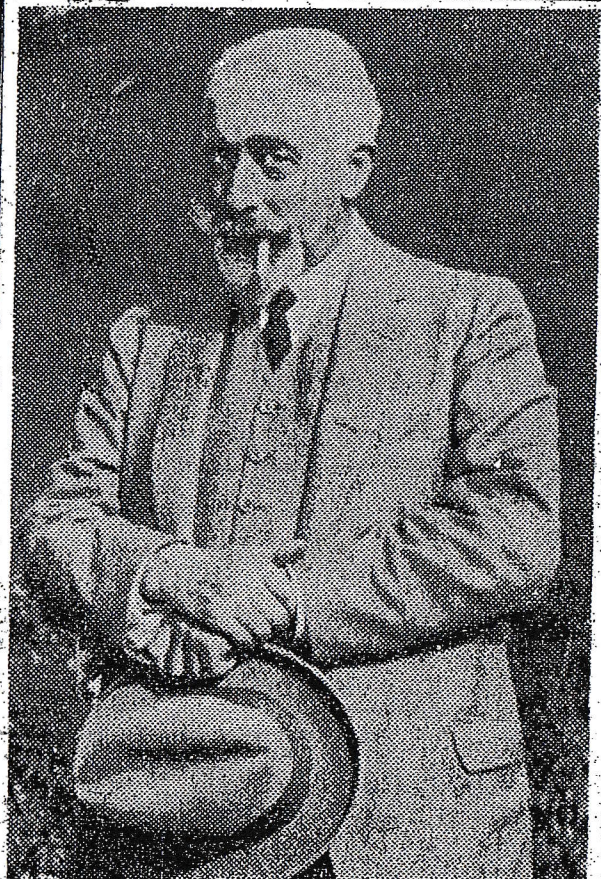
DR. E. A. KINGSBURY'S NUMEROUS OFFICES.

An extremely well-known character in the Stapleford and Sandiacre district, Dr. Edward Andrew Kingsbury, passed away on Saturday after a short illness.

The deceased gentleman, who was 68, had practised in the Stapleford area for 45 years and held many public appointments in the district.

A native of Dublin, he graduated at Trinity College in that city, taking his medical degree at the age of 20 and being one of the youngest men to qualify at Dublin. He later practised at Blackpool for two years before coming to this part of the country.

Dr. Kingsbury was M.O.H. to the Shardlow Rural District, was factory inspector for the



Stapleford and Sandiacre area official examiner to the St. John Ambulance Brigade; medical officer to the Public Assistance Committee, the Post Office, and the Stanton Ironworks; and public vaccinator and certifying surgeon for the Home Office. He was also a member of the local School Board for many years.

An outstanding personality, Dr. Kingsbury had with his brusque Irish manner endeared himself to a great many people. Generous in the extreme, he set out to be not only a doctor, but a "father" to all his patients, and his advice on everyday difficulties was frequently sought by them.

A keen sportsman, Dr. Kingsbury was one of the five founder members of the Erewash Valley Golf Club. He was a tennis player, and an exceptionally good billiards player. He married a daughter of the late Ald. James Fish, a former Mayor of Blackpool, who survives him together with one son and one daughter.

Courtesy of Alan Clayton

SAYINGS

1. Cheer up for Chatham. Dover's in sight.
2. As old as my tongue and a little older than my teeth.
3. I can't run, bend down, etc - 'I've a bone in my leg'.
4. Talking of stiffness and aches 'I've got the screws'.
5. Curiosity killed the cat.
6. Ask no questions, hear no lies.
7. Old enough for a walking stick.
8. School teachers called 'Governors'.

Meg Oliver.

(Or as my dear Father once wrote - The Headmaster was always known as Gaffer). - Editor.

IN PEACE AS IN WAR
THE TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK

Offers you
the Finest Savings Service obtainable

Amounts received from 1/- to £500
in any one year at

2½% INTEREST

NOTTINGHAM
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK

DERBY ROAD,
STAPLEFORD

Government Guarantee for Your Savings

JUST AFTER THE WAR

Stapleford and Sandiacre News
16 February 1946

VICTORY
STAPLEFORD
TELEPHONE • SANDIACRE • 3120

SUNDAY, September 6th — FOR ONE DAY ONLY

Audie Murphy, Lisa Gaye in DRUMS ACROSS THE RIVER (a)

Technicolor — Also

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

MONDAY, September 7th — FOR THREE DAYS

Kathleen Mathews, Kathryn Grant in

THE 7th VOYAGE OF SINBAD (a)

Technicolor — Dynamation

Showing at 5.45 p.m. and 8.40 p.m. — Also — At 7.15 only

Guy Madison, Valerie French in THE HARD MAN (a)

THURSDAY, September 10th — FOR THREE DAYS

Kenneth More, Taina Elg, Brenda De Banzie in

THE 39 STEPS (u)

Showing at 6 p.m. and 8.40 p.m. — Also — At 5.0 and 7.40 p.m.

In Eastmancolor

Huntz Hall and The Bowery Boys in SPOOK CHASERS (u)

JUNIOR CINEMA CLUB MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY AT 2 pm.

SATURDAY, September 12th —

JUNGLE BRIDGE — LITTLE RASCAL FOLLIES

Dr. BLUEBIRD — THE GREEN ARCHER (Ep. 3)

PALACE CINEMA, Stapleford

Continuous Daily from 5.45 Matinees Mondays and Thursday at 2.30

Reduced Prices. O.A.P.'s 6d.

SUNDAY, September 6th —

Dorothy McGuire, Stephen Nally in MAKE HASTE TO LIVE (a)

—: Also :—

Wayne Morris in THE GREEN BUDDHA

MONDAY, September 7th — FOR THREE DAYS

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

A service of song entitled "Little Minnie," was given in Stapleford Methodist New Connexion Chapel on Sunday. Connective readings were given by Mrs. G. A. Harrison and Miss Dalley.

In the Albert Hall, Stapleford, on Tuesday evening, a presentation of the drama, "Joseph and his Brethren," was given in aid of the funds of the Baptist School.

A meeting of Stapleford parishioners was held in the Board School on Thursday evening, under the chairmanship of the Vicar, the Rev. J. W. Tapper, to consider the question of establishing a Local Board. It was decided to hold a further meeting on the matter, in a month's time.

Long Eaton Advertiser
5 March 1887

Courtesy of Alan Clayton

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

You will find the following items of interest at our History Society Library:

Wharfedale Family History Group Newsletter – (for those who do not know where Wharfedale is – it is up in the Yorkshire Dales).

Gwent Family History Society Journals – (for those who do not know where Gwent is – it is in South Wales).

Durham County Local History Society Bulletin – you should know where that is.

Copy of the 1851 Census for Wragby, West Hardwick, and Foulby with Nostell. From the Wakefield and District Family History Society.

The VICTORY

Phone: Sandiacre 3120 STAPLEFORD Phone: Sandiacre 3120
Continuous every Evening (including Sunday) from 5.15 p.m. Doors open 5.0

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Jack Carson, Janis Paige, Robert Hutton, Martha Vickers in
LOVE AND LEARN (A) At 5.40 and 8.10

Also Brenda Marshall, William Lundigan in HIGHWAY WEST (A)
At 7.0 only

Your Comfort and Entertainment is assured at THE VICTORY!

MONDAY, APRIL 23—For 3 Days

DANE CLARK
GERALDINE BROOKS in

EMBRACEABLE YOU

At 5.35 and 8.50 (A)

Also Humphrey Bogart, Eleanor
Parker in

CHAIN LIGHTNING

At 6.55 only (U)

CHILDREN'S VICTORY CLUB MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.0

THURSDAY, APRIL 26—For 3 Days

LEX BARKER
VANESSA BROWN
ROBERT ALDA in

TARZAN AND THE
SLAVE GIRL

At 6.30 and 9.0 (U)

Also William Lundigan, Dorothy
Patrick in

FOLLOW ME QUIETLY (A)

At 5.15 and 7.45

STAPLEFORD PALACE

Phone: Sandiacre 3152. Continuous every Evening from 5.0 p.m.
Matinee: Monday and Thursday at 2.0

This week-end: ROGUES OF SHERWOOD FOREST

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

Dennis Price, Greta Gynt in EASY MONEY (A)
Also Michael Powell's THE EDGE OF THE WORLD (A)

MONDAY, APRIL 23—For 3 Days

Johnny Sheffield with Peggy Ann
Garner in

BOMBA, THE JUNGLE BOY (U)

Also Lee Bowman, Elyse Knox in
THERE'S A GIRL IN MY HEART

THURSDAY, APRIL 26—For 3 Days

Jerome Courtland, Beverly Tyler in
HILLS OF THE BRAVE (U)

(Technicolour)

Also Jiggs and Maggie Out West (U)
And

Adventures of Captain Marvel Ep. 1

Stapleford and Sandiacre News
Saturday 21 April 1951

Courtesy of Alan Clayton

PRICE LIST of items for sale at Society Meetings
At any other time please apply to the Secretary or Chairman

Stapleford Town Trail £1.00

Stapleford Tea Towels £2.95

Leather bookmarks (5 colours) £0.80

Local views – framed priced individually

Local views –hand painted cards £0.80
(with envelopes)

Heart of Stapleford maps 1904 £0.50

Framed full colour illustrated maps of Stapleford + Borlase Warren
Coat of Arms (produced to order) £5.00

As above, but in gold frame £8.00

Society Newsletters – some back copies available at reduced prices

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Malcolm Jarvis - 0115-932 3457

CHAIRMAN – Barbara Brooke 0115-939 4979

SECRETARY – Barbara Page 0115-939 2573

**The deadline for submission of items for the next Autumn 2003
issue of the Newsletter is 30 September**

Material can be given to any of the above named.

This is YOUR newsletter!

We should love to hear from you!

Front cover:

Brookhill Methodist Chapel, built 1885, demolished 1978
by Nigel Brooks