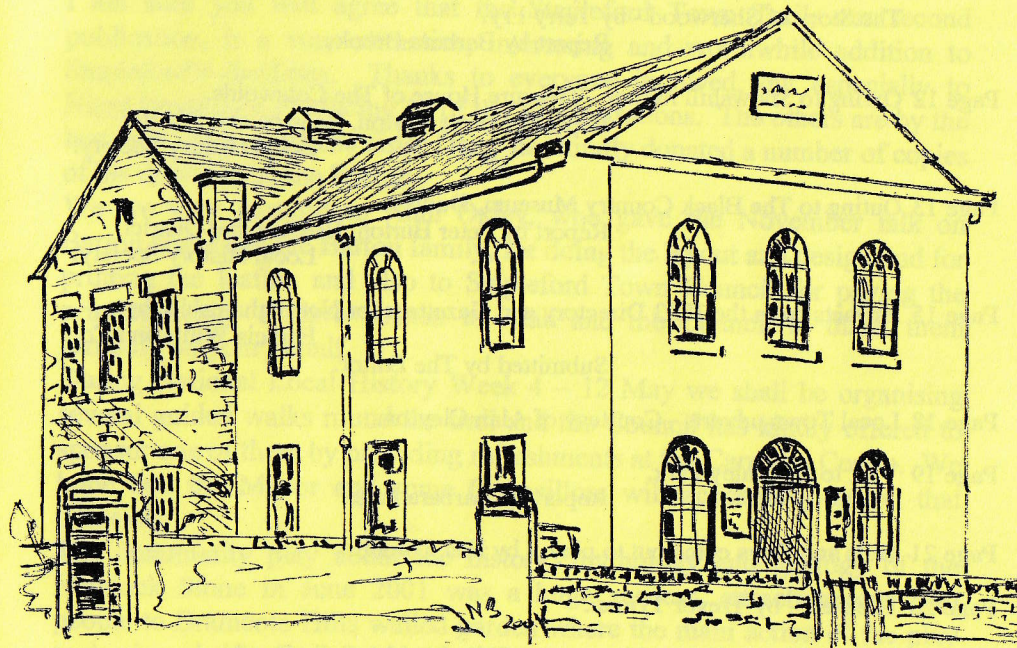


Stapleford and District Local History Society



Newsletter No 11 – Winter 2001/2
50p Free to Members

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I want to start my report by apologising for the lateness of this newsletter. It was impossible to work on my part of it when Patrick was so ill, and the period following his death has been very difficult. However, here it is at last!

There are first time inclusions from two members - Trevor Tyman's poem 'The Few' recalling the Battle of Britain pilots, first published in the Nottingham Evening Post, and a firm's set of staff regulations from 1852 submitted by Colin Rowland. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter and we shall be delighted to hear from any member with recollections or information about the past.

I am sure you will agree that the Stapleford Town Trail, our second publication, is a very attractive, interesting and worthwhile addition to Stapleford's facilities. Thanks to everyone involved, but especially to Nigel Brooks for producing 14 of the 18 illustrations. The others are by the late Jack Vernon, whose sister Daisy has kindly donated a number of copies of his drawings to the Society.

We are very grateful to Alan Oxley, who gave the November talk on Barton buses and the Barton family, for doing the layout and design and for printing the leaflet, and also to Stapleford Town Council for paying the printing costs. I have written to Alan and the Council to thank them formally on your behalf.

During National Local History Week 4 - 12 May we shall be organising several guided walks round the trail and the Council has kindly offered to sponsor one of them by providing refreshments at the Carnegie Centre. We hope that the Mayor and some Councillors will accompany us on that occasion.

The community play about the history, mythology and geology of the Hemlock Stone in June 2001 was a huge success, attracting over 700 people to Bramcote Hills walled garden where the main action of the play took place, with spectacular special effects staged across the road at the Hemlock Stone itself. The next stages of the Hemlock Stone project, the publication of a leaflet describing the area, new interpretation panels and way-marked walks are well under way.

In the autumn several members attended Bill Shaw's short course giving an introduction to family history at Stapleford Volunteer Bureau.

The Society's first 'full day' outing to Bletchley Park was a great success and there was so much to see that it is hoped to arrange a second visit in

2002, this time on a Saturday to see 'weekends only' displays operated by volunteers. Our thanks go to Barbara P for organising the outing, which I know involved a lot of hassle!

Barbara has arranged a varied and interesting programme for 2002 and I look forward to seeing you all at our meetings.

Barbara Brooke, Chairman

MEETING REPORTS

14 May 2001

THE HISTORY OF SPONDON by John Hughes

Spondon is now part of the city of Derby, although it lies about 3 miles to the north east and still remains a village in its own right. The farming settlement was founded by people of Celtic origin after the end of the Roman occupation. They wanted to evade the Angles, the next wave of invaders, who were sailing up the rivers Trent and Derwent to attack the Roman site of Derventio (Derby). So the village was built away from the rivers on high ground. It is thought the name Spondon means 'village on top of a hill in a spoon shape' and a church was built there in the 9th century. After the Norman Conquest Spondon was one of many manors given to Henry de Ferrers by William I.

The de Ferrers family improved the area and over the following century gave the village and land to the monastery at Burton Lazars in Leicestershire, who set up a leper hospice at Locko Park to the north of Spondon.

A disastrous fire in 1340 destroyed the church and most of the houses in the village. It took fifty years to build the present church dedicated, like its predecessor, to the Saxon Saint Werburgh.

There are houses in the village today dating from the 16th century onwards and in the 18th century wealthy people of Derby, seeing Spondon as a very desirable place to live away from the town, built very large houses there.

The village remained quite small until British Celanese built their huge industrial plant in the early 20th century, which employed more than 15,000 people in its heyday.

John Hughes finished his very interesting talk by showing slides of some of Spondon's splendid old buildings.

A few weeks later 25 Stapleford Society members were privileged to be taken on a guided tour of the village by members of the Spondon Historical Society.

Barbara Brooke

TRIPS BY TRAIN

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER

Leicester City v. Nottingham Forest
Cheap Trip to
LEICESTER
STAPLEFORD and S.
dep. 12.42 p.m. 3/6
LONG EATON dep. 12.48 p.m. 3/3
Return Leicester London Road 5.45 p.m.

SUNDAYS 20th & 27th OCTOBER

KETTERING ... 7/3
WELLINGBOROUGH ... 8/0
BEDFORD ... 9/6
LUTON ... 13/3
ST. ALBANS ... 14/9
LONDON (St. Pancras) ... 16/6
SAWLEY JUNCTION dep. 9.52 a.m.
(Bookings also from Trent)
Light Refreshments available in each
direction.

SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER

CHESTERFIELD ... 4/0
GRINDLEFORD ... 5/6
HATHERSAGE ... 5/9
BAMFORD ... 6/0
HOPE ... 6/3
EDALE ... 6/0
TRENT dep. 9.51 a.m.
SAWLEY JUNCTION dep. 9.56 a.m.

CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS to BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS

Outward: Friday 18th October
LONG EATON dep. 4.50 p.m. 26/0
Return: Sunday 20th October
BLACKPOOL CENT. dep. 5.30 p.m.

CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS to BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS

Outward: Friday 18th October
SAWLEY JUNC. dep. 6.20 p.m. 26/0
Return: Sunday 20th October
BLACKPOOL CENT. dep. 3.5 p.m.

WEEKDAYS (Fridays excepted)

Day Trips to
LONDON ST. PANCRAS ... 26/0
STANTON GATE dep. 7.22 a.m.
STAPLEFORD and S. dep. 7.26 a.m.
LONG EATON dep. 7.32 a.m.
ATTENBOROUGH dep. 7.38 a.m.
(Bookings also from Trent)

See Handbill A.812/R for return times.

TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS

Day Trips to
LONDON ST. PANCRAS ... 26/0
SAWLEY JUNCTION dep. 8.17 a.m.
See Programme A.741/R for return
times.

EVERY WEEKDAY

WORCESTER ... 15/6
CHELTENHAM SPA ... 19/6
GLOUCESTER ... 20/9
SAWLEY JUNCTION dep. 7.52 a.m.
or 8.10 a.m.

See Programme A.741/R for return
times.

Stapleford &
Sandiacre News

18 October 1947

Courtesy of
Alan Clayton

For details of the above and other cheap facilities please enquire at local stations, offices or official Railway Agents. Book in advance.

BRITISH RAILWAYS

11 June 2001

MEMORIAL CARDS –
A VICTORIAN CELEBRATION OF DEATH
by Philip E Jones

Philip Jones started his talk by reminding us that untimely death, especially of children, was a common occurrence in the 19th century, and that the lavish funerals of the day were very much a part of most moderately well off families' lives.

Occasionally, funeral invitations had been printed in the 18th century then gradually, in early Victorian times, the use of memorial cards gained popularity and, following the death of Prince Albert in 1861, reached its peak in the 1870s and 1880s, before declining in the early 20th century.

Large publishers, such as J T Wood of Stroud, Taylor Brothers of Leeds and Thomas de la Rue of London, produced and supplied cards, often in packs of one hundred. In most large towns and cities mourning warehouses, which advertised in local trade directories, offered these cards for sale, overprinted with individual personal details.

The cards were usually about 4.5 x 3 inches and were framed and printed in black or silver on white or cream card. The text consisted of personal information and a verse from a hymn or a biblical quotation. Personal details appeared on the right inside page of folding cards and included the undertaker's name, which was also printed inside the envelope flap.

Everyone understood the symbolism of the day. Death was represented by an inverted torch, a shrouded urn or, in the case of a soldier or young person, a broken column. Ivy meant undying affection, lilies meant purity and chastity, while a weeping willow stood for life and death and was often shown overhanging a tomb. Gothic pinnacles and tracery were often accompanied by the words 'In Memoriam' or 'Peace, Perfect Peace', and angels were a popular device for children's cards.

The cards were later kept in bibles or with family documents or placed in special albums. Some firms produced elaborate tracery mounts or stuck cards on black velvet before framing them for posterity. Arthur Hindley of Milton Street advertised this service in the Nottingham Journal. Frequently displayed in privies, framed cards showed up well on the whitewashed walls!

Later cards gave much more detail about the individual, such as date of birth, names of parents and spouse, schools attended, and for members of

the armed forces a photograph, plus number, rank and regiment and how they died. Cards were also produced in the event of the death of a public figure, such as Lord Kitchener and King Edward VII, or in the case of a pit disaster or the sinking of the 'Titanic'.

The use of memorial cards declined after World War I when advances in medical science made the experience of death a much less common experience.

Philip Jones's interesting talk was accompanied by numerous slides. He said that he had started collecting cards in 1990 and that there is now a national card index with more than 6000 entries dating from 1846 to 1994. Large collections can be seen at Cusworth Hall, near Doncaster, the Castle Museum in York and at the Welsh Folk Museum.

Barbara Brooke

9 July 2001

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – THE UNKNOWN COUNTY
by Geoffrey Oldfield

In an area as large as the county of Nottinghamshire, spreading approximately 40 by 25 miles, there are obviously many interesting places little known to other than local people. Geoffrey presented an excellent selection of slides, explaining the reasons for their inclusion.

Near the county's southern boundary with Leicestershire we were shown the long main street of Sutton Bonington with its interesting buildings and the Babbington chantry and 13th century alabaster monuments in Kingston and Ratcliffe on Soar churches. Moving eastwards, there were slides of the Grantham Canal, constructed in 1794, to transport country products from Lincolnshire to Nottingham, and coal and raw materials in the other direction. There were excellent views of the Vale of Belvoir from Upper Broughton. Flintham Hall looked splendid with its 'Crystal Palace' style extension, as did Kelham Bridge over the River Trent. Moving west towards Nottingham, Gonalston Mill was the home of early textile production and the farmhouses in Calverton Square were used by framework knitters in the 18th and 19th centuries. There was a lovely view from Dorkett Head of low hills rolling down to the Trent and near Oxtun were the earthworks of an Iron Age settlement.

The statue of Byron in Hucknall Market Place was followed by a little known view of Newstead Abbey and a slide of the newly created Greenwood Community Forest. The village green at Wellow, complete

with maypole, and the Laxton open field system demonstrated the current practice of ancient customs, and the restored Chesterfield Canal showed determination not to lose local heritage.

Hodsock Priory, famous for its annual snowdrop display, the village of Scrooby, from where the Pilgrim Fathers set off for America and Creswell Craggs, where there are remains of human life from 40,000 years ago, continued to show the diverse nature of the county.

Closer to home we saw the plaque to those killed in the explosion at Chilwell shell filling factory in World War I, Beeston memorial to the fallen of the Crimean War and a splendid wooded view over D H Lawrence country near Moorgreen Reservoir. The last slide showed a panorama over South Yorkshire from Beacon Hill, Gringley on the Hill, at the northern extremity of the county.

This was a very interesting selection of buildings, artefacts and views which made us realise how much there is to explore without leaving our own county.

Barbara Brooke

13 August 2001

A DEBT OF HONOUR

The evening of 13 August was very different from most of our meetings as it was a video presentation on the 'History and Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission'. As a representative of the Commission could only be present if an audience of 200 could be guaranteed I gave a brief introduction to the evening's programme.

Fabian Ware is acknowledged as the founder of the Commission. Too old for army duty he arrived in France in September 1914 in command of a mobile unit of the British Red Cross Society. He was quickly struck by the absence of any official organisation responsible for marking and recording the graves of those killed. The importance of proper care of the graves was soon acknowledged by the War Office, both in response to demands from relatives at home and for the morale of the troops in the field. In 1915 the Graves Registration Commission was set up under his command to record and maintain graves. This became the Imperial (later Commonwealth) War Graves Commission in 1917 with the Prince of Wales as President and Ware as Vice-Chairman, a post he held until his retirement in 1948.

His fundamental principles were to stress the importance of the individual, that every man or woman who lost their life should be remembered by name on a headstone or memorial, that the headstones should be uniform

and that there should be no distinction on account of military or civil rank, race or creed.

He shaped the Commission's organisation to meet efficiently the urgent demands of constructing and maintaining the cemeteries and memorials, of compiling records of all those killed, of publishing registers of those commemorated and of responding to requests for information from relatives.

The video 'A Debt of Honour' was then shown, depicting how the Commission was founded and illustrating how the war cemeteries and memorials were established in 145 countries throughout the world and how the Commission records and honours all those who died. It was shot on location in many countries and, supported by the sensitive commentary of Michael Palin, captured the poignancy of these unique places of remembrance. It showed the continued importance of maintaining and replacing headstones and the dedication of the gardeners with their imaginative use of local flowers and plants.

This was followed by a second video 'Memorial and Memory', which had been specially commissioned for use in schools when studying the two world wars as part of the history curriculum. It sought not only to introduce young people to the history and work of the Commission that rose from the unprecedented loss of life suffered in the two great conflicts of the 20th century, but also to draw attention to the wider lessons of this sacrifice in human terms.

In most cemeteries there is the Cross of Sacrifice representing the faith of the majority and the Stone of Remembrance, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, representing those of all faiths and of none.

On display were the posters I had made of the cemeteries of Kohima in Nagaland and Imphal in Manipur following a pilgrimage made with my husband to NW India in 1991. There were also numerous Commonwealth Commission information sheets ranging from El Alamein to Bayeux, Istanbul and Gallipoli, Crete to Hong Kong and the Burma-Siam Railway.

The evening ended with extracts from an amateur video taken on the British Legion's pilgrimage in 1991 to the Kohima and Imphal cemeteries. These had been carefully edited by David Huckaby but, in view of the poorer quality compared with the other videos, I was dubious whether they should be included. I need not have worried as many people expressed their appreciation of seeing the dignity and solemnity of actual Services of Remembrance and the occasional glimpse of someone they knew!

A vote of thanks was given to David Huckaby and to Mr L Henshaw of the Matlock Railway Club for bringing along and operating the special equipment required to show a video on a large screen.

A stipulation of the Commission is that the videos should be shown to a non-paying audience only, but everyone present agreed that there should be a voluntary collection and a cheque for £50 has been forwarded to them.

Barbara Page

10 September 2001

THE STORY OF MELBOURNE

by Bill Clarke

Melbourne once had a very large castle but little is known of its history. In the 17th century much of its stone was used by the Coke family to extend and enhance Melbourne Hall. The French styling of the gardens is still retained, with a magnificent wrought iron 'birdcage' as the focal point at the far end of the lake. Nearby is attractive Melbourne Pool, complete with nature reserves on two islands, which provided the water supply for the mill that operated until 1968.

The son of the 1st Viscount Melbourne, who took his title from the name of the town, was Queen Victoria's Prime Minister, after whom the city of Melbourne in Australia was named.

Melbourne church, one of the finest Norman churches in England, was built on a grand scale in the 12th century on the site of an earlier Saxon church, as a refuge for the Bishop of Carlisle when Scottish marauders attacked Carlisle.

Many of the dwellings in the older part of the town were built on top of earlier structures – Stone House has had a forge in its basement for more than 200 years and Close House has a Georgian façade covering a Tudor house. Alleyways run between the older streets where rows of cottages for farm workers and framework knitters still remain. The town still retains a number of timber framed houses. The coming of the railway gradually put an end to Melbourne's self-sufficiency when cottage industries of all kinds flourished, and farming gave way to market gardening. In modern times two shoe factories and a textile factory have provided much employment.

Breedon on the Hill, about 2 miles south east was the site of an Iron Age fort, destroyed by local quarrying. A monastery stood on the top of the hill before the Norman invasion and the church houses the finest Saxon

carvings in England mounted into its walls, as well as some very fine stained glass. The village has a pub dating from the 16th century and a lock up said to include Saxon stonework.

Bill concluded his interesting talk by showing slides of Calke Abbey and Staunton Harold estates, whose extensive landscaped parks, woodland and gardens lie to the south of Melbourne and complete a picture of rural continuity.

Barbara Brooke

8 October 2001

THE STORY OF SHERWOOD

by Terry Fry

In his talk Terry Fry described the development of Sherwood from 1790 when the area, part of Basford parish, had only one building, Woodthorpe House, and one main road, the Mansfield Turnpike. As a result of the Enclosure Act of 1792 what had been open common land with heather and gorse bushes was purchased by wealthy landowners.

The lace boom of the 1820s and the lack of land for development in the town of Nottingham led lace manufacturer Samuel Hall to purchase a large area to the east of Mansfield Road. He laid out a street plan that remains today and sold building plots.

Sherwood grew rapidly as a village quite separate from Nottingham and we saw slides of the original smithy in Marshall Street, as well as three storey lace makers' cottages, all of which remain today. At its junction with Mansfield Road, Marshall Street is still only 8 yards wide, as stipulated on Hall's plan. By 1881 there were 286 lace makers and manufacturers employed in the village.

Terry showed slides of the various churches and chapels, including St John's, Carrington, built in 1843, which eventually became the parish church of Sherwood in 1902. The first Methodist church was a single storey brick building 30 by 15 feet, off Marshall Street, which is now a small engineering workshop!

The Sherwood Inn, built by Ann Wilkinson in 1846, was kept by members of the Wilkinson family from then until 1926. Other pubs shown included the Robin Hood and Garden City (now Sherwood Manor).

Sherwood Board School in Haydn Road, although surrounded by fields when opened in 1878, was overcrowded by the early 1900s, when the present Haydn Road Primary School was constructed.

Woodthorpe Grange was built in the 1870s by Henry Ashwell, who also planned the grounds, through which the Nottingham Suburban Railway later passed, hidden from view in a cutting. As well as carrying passengers (Sherwood Station was nearby, now the site of a tall block of flats) coal was transported to Mapperley Brickworks and bricks taken in the opposite direction. The estate was sold to the City Council in 1921 for £15,000, £10,000 of which was donated by Jesse Boot, and is now an attractive and well patronised public park.

Sherwood's first cinema, the Kinema, was built in 1913 on Haydn Road adjacent to the school and is now a clothing factory. The Metropole was built in 1937, and after closure in 1973 was a bingo hall and is now a supermarket! I remember making many visits there in the 1950s when nobody would have imagined it closing down!

The Firs, built in 1895 as a residence, later became a well respected maternity hospital and is now a nursing and retirement home. The Cedars, another large house on Mansfield Road, was purchased by Sir Charles Seely in 1894 and conveyed to the trustees of the General Hospital as a convalescent home, for which he paid all expenses. This was very successful and he later purchased Woodthorpe Lodge next door, which was added to the Cedars, eventually accommodating 120 beds. This is now the Cedars Rehabilitation Unit, complete with gymnasium and swimming pool. J B Lewis's extensive factory on Haydn Road, built in 1914, was later known as Meridian and is now owned by Courtaulds.

Bagthorpe Workhouse (Baggy) was completed and opened in 1903 as a replacement for the Nottingham Workhouse, demolished to make way for the construction of Victoria Station. Some of the buildings, including the impressive tower, are still retained in the vast complex that is now the City Hospital.

Bagthorpe Gaol on Perry Road was completed in 1891, became Sherwood Borstal during the 1930s and 1940s and is now Nottingham Training Prison, enabling prisoners to learn various trades and study educational courses.

The Mansfield Turnpike Road had been the route for up to six coaches in each direction on various routes between London and the north of England, but local horse buses and later horse trams operated regularly between Nottingham and Arnold from 1848. The first local electric tram route, from Nottingham to Sherwood, was opened on 1 January 1901, and operated every 5 minutes, signalling a huge new spurt of building in the area.

It has only been possible to mention some of the many changes and developments that have taken place in Sherwood, as explained by Terry while showing his excellent slides of the area. May I recommend that you read Terry's book 'The Story of Sherwood' which gives more details about the life of this interesting Nottingham suburb.

Barbara Brooke

MOTOR CYCLE WRECKED.

DRIVER'S NARROW ESCAPE AT
DANGEROUS STAPLEFORD CROSS
ROADS.

The Roach cross-roads, Stapleford, were the scene of an alarming accident, on Saturday evening about 8 p.m., a motor-cycle and motor-car colliding, and the motor-cyclist having a narrow escape.

The car, a two-seater, driven by Mrs. Hill, of Littleover, who was accompanied by two lady passengers, was proceeding along the Derby-road in the direction of Nottingham and reached the Roach just as Charles William Palmer, pork butcher, of 18, Cyril-avenue, Stapleford, approached the cross-roads from Church-street. Both drivers sounded hooters, but it appears a misunderstanding occurred between them, a collision resulting. The motor cycle was completely smashed, and was carried under the car for a distance of eight or ten yards, but Palmer fortunately escaped with slight bruises on the legs. The radiator, a mudguard and lamp on the car were damaged. Had Mrs. Hill not controlled the steering gear of the car as well as she did the result might have been much more serious.

Both motor-car and motor-cycle were travelling at a moderate speed at the time of the accident.

Stapleford & Sandiacre News

16 August 1924

Courtesy of Heather Fitzsimmons

Snowhill Manor - Treasure House of the Cotswolds

24th May 2001. Peter Burton

Leaving Beeston on time on a fine sunny morning, the members of the Beeston society accompanied by our fellow historians of the Stapleford society, embarked on what promised to be an interesting trip on a glorious summer day.

The first stop was at the delightful village of Chipping Camden where our driver Alan 'collared' the only coach parking space in the centre square. This enabled us to disperse for a leisurely stroll round the historic buildings for which the village is justly famous. Many of us visited the Old Silversmiths' workshop, established in 1902 and is now a time capsule, - tools piled around the walls of the old workshop, bundles of dusty old bills swinging from hooks in the ceiling, nothing apparently changed since the beginning of the last century. Highly skilled silversmiths, descended from the founder, are still producing beautifully handcrafted works of great artistry. After wandering round the old back alleys and the many small tearooms and shops, several of our ladies succumbed dreadfully to temptation in one imaginatively stocked boutique, and we then returned to the coach and continued the short drive to Snowhill Manor

On arrival lunch was taken, either a picnic on a pleasant grassy bank, or at the restaurant which served a most welcome hot or cold meal, on a well sited patio, affording wonderful views over the valley.

Snowhill Manor, a beautiful old house was about ten minutes walk along an undulating path. The undulations were such, that several of us took advantage of the free motorised buggy plying along the path, seating perhaps seven people, if they are of a cuddly disposition. The house itself turned out to be an amazing collection of craftsmanship of the former owner, Charles Wade, an eccentric englishman. This unique collection of English, European, and Oriental furniture, musical instruments, craft tools, clocks, 19c bicycles, Japanese Samurai armour, model ships, weapons and hundreds of quaint artifacts of every description displayed in what seemed to be a myriad of small rooms.

Returning to the coach we wended our way to the nearby village of Broadway, one of the jewels of the Cotswolds. As they wandered through the ancient buildings in the sunshine the members of the societies, could be easily recognised by the universal consumption of icecream, as we enjoyed the beautiful surroundings.

Gathering at the 'Horse & Hounds' we boarded the coach once again and relaxed for the journey back to Beeston, arriving at about 7.45 enabling one of our members to scramble off the coach to chair a local meeting. The return was exactly as forecast by Alan Clayton our Chairman, whose organisation throughout the whole day ran like a well oiled clock, which allowed us all to thoroughly enjoy a wonderful day in the Cotswolds.

The Black Country Museum Dudley

Peter Burton

On September 6th members of the Beeston and Stapleford societies embarked on a drizzly morning and journeyed to Dudley to enjoy an informative day out at the Black Country Museum. The weather, sagely described by our chairman as "iffy" actually turned out well, generally warm and dry. After battling through heavy traffic we arrived about 11 o'clock and dispersed to follow our particular interests in the comprehensive open air 'living' museum.

The attractions of the cast iron house of the 1920's, the rock and fossil shop, and the Newcomen Engine, the world's first working steam engine introduced us to the site. We browsed round the three period cottages staffed by knowledgeable guides who described in authentic local dialect, the way of life experienced by the inhabitants in Victorian times. The artefacts included the old black leaded fire range with a central fire with a side oven. On enquiring about the absence of a side boiler and its associated brass tap we were treated to the observation "Ah, yo moost coom fra Nottinum then", apparently the incorporation of a boiler and tap on these Victorian ranges is peculiar to Nottingham, never in the Black Country. So there's your daily advance in knowledge!

The collection of 19th and early 20th century shops - haberdashers, chemists, glass and bottle inn, and old school, proved of great interest to our societies. Lunch in many cases was covered by patronising the old fish and chip shop - delicious!

The hardware shop particularly was quite intriguing. This was originally called the 'Canal Hardware shop' but when the guide who originally stood behind the counter for many years died, he left the proceeds from the sale of his house to the museum, and in recognition of his long service describing all his extensive stock to thousands of visitors, the shop now bears his name, a nice touch.

Many of our party then travelled on the canal barge through the dark and dripping tunnel, judged a very well worthwhile diversion. Also the trip down the coal mine, complete with helmet, along eerie and inky darkness, fully supported by detailed and expert description from the guides who made the trips come alive with tales from the past. Several of us were in time to catch the screening of the silent slapstick comedy in the old cinema from the early part of the last century.

Then on to the 'Anchor Works', piles of rusty wheels, rods and billets including two four ton anchors proved the origin of the name. Amongst all this clutter of forged ironwork we came to the hardworking chainmaker who with consummate skill fashioned link after link of red hot metal, finally riveting the brightly glowing ends of each link with skillfull hammering amidst a shower of flying sparks.

The sight of all this hard work necessitated a brief call into the Edwardian Pub, the interior of which could be recalled only too easily by many of us, and a pint of Black Country Mild slipped down with quiet satisfaction.

A return on the rattley old tram back to the entrance where we enjoyed coffee, and the obligatory browse round the shop and also the exhibition of the wide variety of manufacturing trades of the Black Country brought a fitting end to a fascinating day out immersed in the life and times of the hardworking and inovative skills of this community which was responsible for the birth of the industrial revolution and manufacturing enterprise of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries which contributed so much to the industrial birthright of our country.

We are very grateful to Peter Burton of Beeston and District Local History Society for allowing us to include his reports of the outings to Snowhill Manor and the Black Country Museum in this newsletter.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
HISTORY,
DIRECTORY AND GAZETTEER
OF THE COUNTY, AND OF THE
Town and County of the Town
OF
NOTTINGHAM,

WITH A VARIETY OF
COMMERCIAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION;

In One Volume,

BY FRANCIS WHITE AND CO.,

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and Northumberland.

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AND BY THEIR AGENTS.

Price to Subscribers, 8s. 6d.; Non-Subscribers, 3s. 6d. Extra.

1853.

In 1836 a large National-school was built and endowed by Lady Caroline Warren, at a cost of £3000.; it is situated on a commanding eminence near the east end of the village, and is a handsome structure in the Elizabethian style, 100 feet long and 25 wide; a portion of the building is occupied as an Infant-school. The Artisans' Library, established in 1837, has about 514 volumes.

The Wesleyan, Kilhamite, Primitive Methodists, and Particular Baptists, have each a chapel in the village. The feast is on the Sunday before Old St. Luke's, or on that day when it falls on a Sunday. The Midland Railway Company's Branch of the Erewash Valley Line runs past the village, and have a station here.

STAPLEFORD HALL was built in 1797, by the late *Right Hon. Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, Bart., and K.B.* It would far exceed our limits to enter on the biography of this gallant admiral who died in 1825; but his active and great services will be recorded among the achievements of British heroes, when this stately dwelling shall be crumbled into dust; one act of his generosity is worthy of notice; at the commencement of the American war, he went to the Fleet and King's Bench Prisons, and released with his own purse, all the naval officers confined there for debt. Lady Caroline Warren, relict of the Admiral, died in 1839, and the hall and estates have become the property of the Hon. William Vernon, the second son of Lord Vernon, a minor, and the heir at law; and the hall is at present occupied by I. C. Wright, Esq. It is a commodious mansion with a fine lawn and beautiful plantations. The poor parishioners receive 20s. yearly from Handley's charity, and 20s. from the funds of Willoughby's hospital at Cossal.

NEW STAPLEFORD is a small hamlet of 26 houses, chiefly occupied by stocking makers, one mile N.E. of Old Stapleford, and near it is the "Hemlock Stone," supposed by some to be the remains of a Druids' Temple, and by others the remnant of a quarry; the stone of which has been cut from around it; it is about 30 feet high, and composed of layers of sand-stone rock.

Post Office at Mrs. Sarah Butler's, Derby Road; letters from London arrive at 7 a.m. and from Nottingham at 6 p.m.; and are despatched to London at 6 p.m. and to Nottingham at 7 a.m.

Marked 1 Reside on Nottingham road; 2 Derby rd.; 3 Toton lane; 4 Church st.; 5 Eaton's lane; 6 Wesley place; 7 Church lane; 8 Cross st.; 9 Pinfold lane; 10 Lot close; 11 Chapel st., 12 East st., & 13 New Stapleford.

Almond Rev. W. R., M. A., incumbent, vicarage

1 Baguley Joseph, painter &c.
6 Bailey Fras., barber
7 Barrowcliff Mrs. Lydia
1 Booth John, lace maker
1 Booth Joseph, lace manufactur.
11 Bosquet Yelverton, surgeon
1 Brown Alfred, chair maker
1 Chapman Wm., tinner & brazier
1 Cheetham Mrs. Millicent
1 Daykin John, cattle dealer
4 Daykin William, parish clerk
6 Dixon Rebecca, needle and guide maker

7 Ellam Jno., surgeon, h. Sandiacre
13 Gibbons Joseph, nurseryman
4 Hemsley Thos., police constable
1 Hovey Mrs. Ann
2 Hill Edwd. S., station master
4 Jackson John, Esq.
Kent Peter, corn miller, Stapleford water mill

1 Martin Richard, pig jobber
1 Oldershaw John, bricklayer
3 Pearson Jno., chimney sweep
1 Pendleton Geo., draper & hatter
1 Scattergood Peter, machine builr.
10 Shooter Saml., dlr. in earthenwr.
4 Smedley Jarvis, warehouseman
1 Smedley Mr. John
1 Smedley Mr. Michael
4 Smedley Thomas and Joseph, Berlin, elastic, glove, cloth and Lile thread manufacturers

1 Stevens Jph., lace manufacturer
2 Summers Wm., railway inspector
4 Taylor James, lace manufacturer
1 Tomlinson E., dealer in earthenwr
1 Ward George, lace manufacturer
Whiteley John, lace manufacturer, Church walk
1 Whiteley Thos., lace manufactur
1 Whiteley Wm., lace manufacturer
Wright Ichabod Chas., Esq., Hall

Academies. 9 Scott William
1 Perrin Jas. E. & Walker Sarah, Jessica, national (infant)

Bakers, &c.

4 Etherington W.
1 Watkin Wm.

Blacksmiths.

5 Eaton William
1 Fearfield John

Boot and Shoe Makers.

12 Barton Wm.
1 Butler Charles

1 Hooley Wm.
1 Howard Thos.

4 Lowery John
4 Oldershaw Wm.

Butchers.

1 Aspinshaw Eliz.
4 Aspinshaw Sml.

1 Bosworth Geo.
1 Harris Alfred

Piggin Frederick
4 Wells Samuel

Carters & Coal Dealers.

4 Attenborough J.
1 Barrowcliffe J.

1 Wallis William

Dress Makers.

Mkd. † are Straw Hat Makers.

10 Hewitt Mary
12 Jackson Fanny

1† Johnson Eliz.
1 Lambert Ruth

1 Oldershaw My.

Farmers.

* Cowkeepers.

2 Birch William
7* Bridge Benj.

13* Dore John
2* Farmer John

13 Goodacre Chas.
13 Hall John

4 Hardstaff Thos.
Kent Peter, Water mill

7* King Thomas
1 Osborn William

2* Palmer John
1 Piggin Fredk.

7* Saxton Ann
1 Smedley John

2 Stretton Edward
2 Wallis Hannah

* Ward Robert, Pasture lane

Grocers.

1 Fletcher Wm., (& flour seller)

1 Ford Richard

Inns.

1 Nag's Head, William Gee

1 Old Careless, Wm. Smedley

2 Warren Arms, Thos. Barton

Beerhouses.

9 Atkin Henry
4 Rogers John

1 Sills Joseph
1 Wallis Joseph

4 Wells Thomas

Joiners.

9 Fisher Paul
1 Jones Edward

1 Richardson Jno.
10 Shepherd Wm.

Plumbers and Glaziers.

2 Gollin James
1 Gollin John

Shopkeepers
4 Atkin Martha

13 Bramley Fras.
1 Baguley John

4 Hunt Robert
Kerry Rd., (drgst.)

1 Oldershaw Ths.
1 Richardson Wm.

1 Smedley John
1 Wallis Joseph

OLD CROSS DYEWORKS, STAPLEFORD

Half Hose and Sock Trimmers Wanted

Also Boys for Learning. Commencing
Salary £2 - 2 - 0

Ilkeston Pioneer (Stapleford Edition)

Friday 9 September 1949

(note weekly salary!)

WOMEN & GIRLS required

for Clean, Light, Well-Paid Work.

Five-Day Week, Canteen, Holidays With Pay.

Full-Time and Evening Work, also some

Part-Time Vacancies.

Apply: WELFARE OFFICER,

CARR FASTENER COMPANY LTD.,
NOTTINGHAM ROAD, STAPLEFORD.

Ilkeston Pioneer (Stapleford Edition)

Friday 20 April 1951

VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

Further to the fascinating talk in January by Henry Balen on the 'The Enigma Machines at Bletchley Park', Britain's Top Secret Station X, a visit was finally arranged on Wednesday 24 October. 38 members of the Stapleford and Beeston societies and friends had a most enjoyable day.

We were greeted warmly on arrival and taken to the so called NAAFI which was to be our HQ for the day. As we were the only group we were able to leave our lunch and other items there in safety. Over coffee and biscuits we met our guide for the day, a volunteer, and in the drawing room we were given a brief history of the house and family who originally lived there. Sir Herbert Leon and his family lived in what had originally been a farmhouse until the 1930s. After each of his foreign holidays he had incorporated various additions, such as the arches and tower over the front entrance and the huge conservatory and cupola. Fortunately it was a lovely, sunny day and as we went on a tour of the exterior of the house we could see how the different extensions had been added to the original building, not always successfully.

Captain Ridley's shooting party arrived in late August 1938 – they were in reality members of the Government Code and Cypher School, a secret team of scholars turned code breakers, whose mission was to crack Nazi codes. To enhance the atmosphere of a country weekend at a friend's house they even brought along one of the best chefs from the Savoy Hotel.

Continuing our walk, we saw three cottages which were occupied by various members of the staff, including Alan Turing, a top mathematician. The first cottage was the home of the Quartermaster and his family. He was in charge of stationery etc because, of course, any government department requires masses of paper. His 14 year old daughter was the youngest person ever to sign the Official Secrets Act. She needed a pass to leave the park to go to school each day. I have nothing but praise for her – the need for secrecy was so instilled in her that even fifty years on, now resident in Australia, when asked by her local W I to produce a collage depicting life in 1945 for the anniversary, her production is still enigmatic. The collage is now on view in the hall.

No one was allowed into the grounds other than the thousands of working personnel, and we saw the back gates, complete with a sentry box. Dispatch riders brought coded messages from the 'Y' stations all over the country, but were never allowed past the gates. At peak times of activity up to 3,000 messages a day would arrive at the rate of 40 riders per hour.

Lunch was taken in the NAAFI which had wartime menus and prices on the wall, as well as Ministry of Information posters. There was a bar and a smoking area for those who had to!

From October 1939 onwards work began on the numerous wooden buildings and after lunch we went into several of the huts and were shown the mock up of Turing's bombe (which I believe was seen in the recent film 'Enigma') and how it worked. There were thousands of exhibits on show, including the teleprinter exchange and coding and decrypting machines. Along the corridors were so many maps and posters giving information it was all too much to take in. One poster particularly intrigued me as I had never seen it before. It showed Hurricanes in Russia. Only one squadron went to Russia and half the personnel were ex-504 Squadron, the local Nottingham Auxiliary Air Force Squadron.

Secrecy was paramount and no one knew or asked what was happening in any other hut. There were ingenious ways of passing information from one hut to another without physically going in and out. One example was a low lying tunnel which made it impossible to see the personnel at each end. A sliding wooden tray with information would sometimes be given a shove with a broom handle between the huts.

Time went all too quickly and soon we were in the excellent bookshop with its wide range of books, videos and other souvenirs, then it was time to return to the NAAFI for a final drink. Thanks were expressed to the permanent staff at Bletchley, the catering staff and to our guide, who had looked after us so superbly all day and enthralled us with his mine of information.

In the grounds there were a number of different exhibitions – uniforms and World War II memorabilia, wartime fire engines, military vehicles etc – so a further visit is a must as most of those are manned by volunteers at weekends only.

Barbara Page

GIRLS AND BOYS COME OUT TO PLAY

by Ena Cordall

My mother had three brothers, two older and one younger, and there was not money to spare for 'toys'. Imagination, invention and initiative had to be used as the desire to play is an innate part of development. The most primitive of peoples and some animals play as a natural part of growing up. My grandmother would have had none of this 'twaddle' unless it was productive and likely to be of benefit in the immediate future.

They had cycles and were allowed out on cycle rides which coincided with errands or the delivery of orders from the shop. There was no bus service when they were young so the cycle was the main means of local transport apart from walking.

Materials that came to hand were adapted for fun. When there was great acclaim and publicity on TV and the media for a troupe of performers playing diabolo, she was amazed – this was something that was done without thought. There were many variations in playing diabolo. Two players would throw the top to one another, and if there were other couples they would pass each other, tossing the top up high whilst the receiving pair passed by them. Thus it was something that one, two or a whole group could join in. To go the whole length of the street was an ultimate aim. A piece of string or cord and a spool from one of the factories was all that was required.

Barrel walking was another activity that was commonplace. Barrels were used for many purposes and had a fairly long life-span, but before being used as firewood the children would have a few hours of entertainment. Boys would really show off, but the girls would give them as good as they could.

Things that seem to take place only in schools or sports centres these days were performed as they moved around. A five-barred gate was there to be jumped over. If you couldn't do it first time, you kept on trying. You practised throwing – there were plenty of tin cans and stones around. When walking to deliver orders from the shop across the mill to Stanton Gate when the Erewash was in flood, skimming stones was one way to pass the time. Swings were pieces of rope slung over tree branches. Yes, children got hurt, but they didn't admit it, they were not sissies; maybe they should have been doing some task or other at that time or were in a place banned by parents. If it was a serious mishap, then you took the consequences.

It was a custom to picnic and make a family outing on bank holidays or feast days, eg Whit Monday, and Stoney Clouds, Hemlock Stone and Bluebell Hill were among the places visited locally. If my uncles were unfortunate enough to be found by my grandmother to be thinking of visiting one of these places, they were encouraged to do so, but they had to sport a sales tray of fruit or sweets to sell. So much for their holiday! This was possibly why they took to motor cycles as soon as they could escape, but they were getting older and so was she. My mother, not to be out-done, had a motor cycle, an Indian, which I believe was a 'Bikers bike' of that day. She and her dearest friend, Marion Littlewood, who also had a powerful bike, would race the trains into Nottingham. Many of the activities that have been seen as in the male domain were once enjoyed by girls and boys.

My mother did have a doll; this was kept in its box and was brought out of the cupboard on a Sunday, and she was allowed to look at it, very rarely hold it. The only activity allowed on Sunday, apart from chapel and a walk, was reading.

J. L. KERR

GENERAL STORES

Quality Fishing Tackle

Confectioner
Newsagent
Tobacconist

71 Nottingham Road . Stapleford

St Helen's Church Yearbook 1948/49

THE FEW

by Trevor Tyman

Did they give their lives in vain
In Spitfire and in Hurricane?
Down the ages folk will tell
Of the few who fought so well.

Few there were, much fewer remain.
The march of time has taken its claim.
They grow not old as we who live still,
Tired of limb and over the hill.

Who could take their place today,
Those brave young men of latter-day?
Dope and pills now seem to cheer,
To take the place of war time beer.

Fear they had but hid it well,
Their jokes and smiles so no one could tell.
Fly away Peter, fly away Paul.
God be with you, Heroes all.

BRITONS NEVER, NEVER, NEVER.....

Submitted by Colin Rowland

The following is an extract from the list of staff regulations laid down by one firm in the year 1852.† It was published recently in the Yorkshire Evening Post, to whom it is acknowledged.

Daily prayers will be held each morning in the main office. Clothing must be of a sober nature.

A stove is provided but it is recommended that each member of the clerical staff brings four pounds of coal each day during cold weather.

No member of the staff may leave the room without permission, but calls of nature are allowed and clerical staff may use the garden.

No talking is permitted during business hours.

The craving for tobacco is a human weakness and, as such, is strictly forbidden.

The hours of business have been drastically reduced, now 7am to 6pm, so the partaking of food is allowed between 11.30am and noon; but work will not on any account cease.

Wages are increased so that senior clerks, after fifteen years of service, will obtain 21 shillings a week.

The owners recognise the generosity of the new labour laws but will expect a great rise in output of work to compensate for these near-Utopian conditions.

ILKESTON ADVERTISER. FRIDAY 20th January 1915.

Headlines

STAPLEFORD VICAR AND THE LITTLE COTTAGE THREATENED TO PULL THE ROOF OFF REMARKABLE CASE AT LONG EATON COUNTY COURT

Evidence of a remarkable character was given at Long Eaton County Court last Thursday by Miss Martha C Daykin of Stapleford who brought a claim against the Reverend Crawford Hillis, Vicar of Stapleford and others for damage to her garden. Mr W B Smith of Nottingham appeared on behalf of plaintiff, Mr L I Lewis Long Eaton for defendant.

Martha C Daykin who has occupied a small cottage facing Church Lane, Stapleford, all her life, complained of the vicar, a Church Army Captain, the Churchwarden and another worker trespassing on her garden on December 8th. The fence which divided the garden from the Churchyard was broken down and a bonfire made of the fruit trees. It was stated that the Diocesan Surveyor had condemned the property as being insanitary while the Vicar had threatened to pull the roof off.

Mr Smith announce that the defendants had paid £2 into the Court which they considered sufficient for the damage.

His Honour characterised the action of the vicar as an outrage. Cross examined, plaintiff said she never asked the vicar if he intended charging 3s per week rent. She paid 2s per week until he refused to accept it in July.

The cottage was not in bad condition. After the late Vicar left, a gentleman examined the cottage, but he did not condemn it.

Mr Lewis suggested plaintiff was attached to the place and did not want to leave.

Miss Daykin. "I think it is perfectly wrong for the Vicar to do as he did. He might let me end my days there."

Did he tell you that the Bishop had issued an order for the cottage to be pulled down. NO. He put it in the magazine for everybody to see.

You were sorry you would have to go, but raised no objection. He told me he

would have the roof pulled off.

I suggest that the Vicar was very nice to you and never used a threat. Never in this world.

Mr Lewis then read a letter sent by the Vicar on May 21st to Miss Daykin, stating that the Bishop had issued an order for the demolition of the cottage and offering £10 for peaceable possession on July 1st.

Plaintiff said the Vicar had not spoken to her since May 1st.

His Honour: Why did you not speak to him? - I consider it was his place to speak to me.

His Honour. The Vicar had not spoken to her regarding giving up the cottage before the receipt of this letter, and she had never expressed a willingness to give it up

Why did you not give up possession on July 1st.

It is impossible to get a small house.

You have paid the Vicar rent? I dont know what it is. You were paying 2s per week and you didnt know whether it was rent - why were you paying it? - Because I was silly. If I knew as much as I do now I should not have paid it. The Reverend Holroyd (Mr Hillis's predecessor) always returned 25s a quarter. I lost the best friend I ever had when he left the village.

Cross examined by Mr Smith plaintiff said she had not received any notice from the local authority condemning the property and the Vicar had not taken any proceedings.

Sarah Gallaway said when she saw the Vicar and the Lay Preacher making a fire in plaintiff's garden she told him he ought to be ashamed of himself standing in the pulpit talking about the poor Belgians and treating a woman as he was doing. "I told him he was a second Kaiser". Added witness, amongst laughter. "He never replied. He was ashamed of himself".

Evidence was also given by Sergt Hart, who stated that on asking what they were doing on Miss Daykin's property, Hillis replied, "Her property indeed, I shall not interfere with anything but what belongs to the Church".

The Rev Crawford Hillis said the property stood on a part of the glebe when

he went to Stapleford. Miss Daykin asked him if he would charge her 3s per week for the cottage or the same as Mr Holroyd, 2s, and he told her the rent would not be anymore.

The Reverent gentleman was giving further evidence when the Judge reminded him that he knew nothing about the relation of evidence. After this he was repeatedly being pulled up. Continuing, the Vicar stated that the Diocesan Inspector recommended that the property would be pulled down, and it was proposed to add a garden to the Churchyard, and make a new approach to the Church from the road. Defendant offered plaintiff £10, not that she was entitled to it, as compensation. He never threatened her, but admitted he never had any communication with her before pulling the trees up. There was a working party improving the Churchyard and no protest was raised when the fence was pulled up. He had always understood the garden was part of the Churchyard, and it was so stated in his magazine.

Judge: Even though it was stated in your magazine it may not be true.

Cross examined by Mr Smith, the Vicar admitted stating in the Parish magazine that the order for the demolition of the cottage was to be regretted, especially in view of the tenant, and then followed the interesting information that it would reduce the value of the living £5:4s:0d per annum.

Was it not your deliberate intention to make a road through the garden to the Churchyard? asked Mr Smith. - Yes, I have the faculty for doing it.

Where is it, where is it, exclaimed Council.

The Vicar, hesitating, said there was a copy in the church safe.

Holding up an old volume which evidently contained some historic record, Mr Smith, with a note of triumph, asked the defendant if he had any idea that the cottage in which plaintiff resided was left years ago to the Monks and Monastery?

My knowledge does not go back so far - replied the Vicar.

That is perhaps the reason why you have not taken proceedings for an ejectment, remarked Mr Smith.

His Honour - Why did you not take the ordinary course to get this woman out

of possession? - It was simply out of consideration for her. We were not prepared to proceed.

Was it out of consideration for her that you went into her garden, pulled up the trees and made a fire - We do not admit -

Was it out of consideration for her that you went into this garden? - We went to do so in pursuance of our work in improving the Churchyard.

You would rather not answer, is that it? - I cannot say I went out of consideration for her.

Mr Selwyn, the Church warden, told His Honour, quite frankly that he understood Miss Daykin had left. Had he have known that she was still living in the house he would not have cut the trees down.

In giving his judgement, His Honour said the Vicar's action came from want of thought and want of a useful knowledge as to legal possession. It was to be regretted that a man who evidently meant well by plaintiff when he wrote the letter in May should afterwards allow himself to take possession in such a manner which was quite outside his legal rights. Defendants offer of £10 for peaceable possession on July 1st was a fair and perhaps generous one, but that was tantamount to saying, "I give you notice to quit on July 1st". The letter did not satisfy the requirements of law. From July 1st plaintiff remained in possession of the cottage and to pull up the bushes and trees and burn them was a high handed way of taking possession of one's own premises which were in the occupation of somebody else, even though notice to quit had been given and expired. In this case notice to quit had not been given and plaintiff was lawfully in possession. He realised that plaintiff was subject at any time to a week's notice, and as far as he was able to judge from the evidence, if defendant had only exercised his rights in a lawful way he would have obtained possession of the premises. Judgement was given for plaintiff £5:5s:0d damages and costs.

Malcolm Jarvis.

(see History Newsletter 6 spring 1999 page 28 St Helen's Church Cottage)

PROGRAMME FOR 2002

11 February

Lost Treasure House of the Dukeries by Philip E Jones

11 March

What we did on our Holidays - a celebration of the British Seaside
By Nigel Brooks

8 April

7th Annual General Meeting

13 May

Derby beneath our feet by Derek Palmer

10 June

Wandering through Stapleford's past by Alan Clayton

8 July

A Backward Glance at Everyday Things by Maureen Newton

12 August

The Minor Castles of Southern Derbyshire by John R Hughes

9 September

Nottingham Castle by Bill Clarke

14 October

The Story of Daybrook by Terry Fry

11 November

Nottinghamshire through Historians' Eyes by Chris Weir

9 December

Christmas Social Event

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
.....

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Malcolm Jarvis - 0115-932 3457

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SECRETARY – Barbara Page 0115-939 2573

**The deadline for submission of items for the next Spring 2002
issue of the Newsletter is 31 March.**

Material can be given to any of the above named.

This is YOU R newsletter!

We should love to hear from you!

Front cover: The former Wesley Place Chapel, now the home of
Stapleford Volunteer Bureau by Nigel Brooks