

Stapleford and District Local History Society



Newsletter No 28 – SPRING 2010

£1.00

Free to Members

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MEETING REPORTS

14 October 2009

GOINGS-ON BELOW STAIRS

by Dr Wendy Freer

Wendy's talk was packed with details about the life of servants 'below stairs'. Her information came from the servants themselves - from diaries and memoirs - and revealed often strained relationships when the only social interaction live-in servants had was with other servants.

In large houses the lunchtime meal, eaten in the servants' hall, was the main meal of the day. Seating at the table was in a strict order of seniority. The butler carved the meat, the cook served the vegetables. Later senior servants adjourned to the housekeeper's room where they were waited on and served pudding and wine by their juniors.

In some houses servants were encouraged to have hobbies, such as woodwork, reading, playing musical instruments or singing.

At Welbeck the servants had a ball on Twelfth Night with hundreds of guests. The master and mistress, accompanied by the butler and housekeeper, started the dancing. An orchestra came from London and fifty waiters were employed. The servants dressed up in smart clothes and were treated as people, not as servants.

In the secret world below stairs there were often bad habits. When the master and mistress went out, the butler might summon the servants and give them strong drink, forcing it on anyone who was reluctant. Sometimes servants accompanied their masters to the races and placed secret bets. Nursemaids were sometimes accosted by soldiers or policemen when out in parkland near the big house. As well as flirtations with other servants, liaisons were often struck up with butchers, milkmen or other tradesmen who called at the house.

Masters or male family members might seduce servant girls and there were occasionally secret marriages. Lady Henrietta Wentworth even married her footman, John. Any maidservant who became pregnant was immediately dismissed and could end up in the workhouse. If a servant managed to keep her pregnancy secret she often gave birth alone, killed the child and continued working. Sometimes babies were secretly farmed out to relatives.

Occasionally servants received 'perks' from their employers, such as a rabbit skin or an old candlestick, but more frequently they stole things like feathers from pillows, slabs of butter or pieces of meat. One coachman used his master's carriage to remove furniture for his lady friend.

There was even the odd case of murder!

However, on the whole life 'below stairs' was tedious, full of drudgery and very boring.

Barbara Brooke

11 November 2009

MELBOURNE IN DERBYSHIRE

by Bill Clarke

Bill Clarke said that at the mention of 'Melbourne' most people think of the large city in Australia named after Queen Victoria's first Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, who came from Melbourne, Derbyshire. The name 'Melbourne' has humble origins. It was originally the place where there was a mill on a stream or burn, Milburn, or Melbourne as spelt today.

Bill took us on an extensive tour of the town of Melbourne and of the surrounding areas. Each slide had a story, often known only to people familiar with the district. There was a slide of the bowling green that marks a site where a bomb fell during World War Two.

Other slides illustrated the following: the large pool or lake that once provided the head of water to power a water mill. The building that housed the mill was shown, together with the miller's house. It is a house like many others in Melbourne, having been modified or rebuilt in later centuries.

The iron railings on the walls of Melbourne Hall, that have been restored recently, are of some interest. They were made by Thomas Bakewell, as was the 'Birdcage' (a gazebo in the grounds of Melbourne Hall), and ironwork to be seen in Derby Cathedral. Bill showed a portrait of the Lord Melbourne known to Queen Victoria and of Lady Melbourne, who was known locally as 'Mad Madge'. She is reputed to have walked through Melbourne dressed in fathers and white shoes and to have often shouted at local children. Lord Melbourne sent her back from London to live in virtual exile at Melbourne because of her wild lifestyle. Her name was linked with Lord Byron.

Melbourne Church dates from the Middle Ages and was built by an early Bishop of Carlisle. The windows are of more recent design, but one

can see the main Norman doorway and (inside) impressive Norman columns and arches, and old stained glass.

Bill's slide tour of Melbourne included Forge House (a Tudor house with a brick front wall built in the 18th century), several chapels, many framework knitters' houses of classic three storey design with large arched windows, the Georgian workhouse, a house built in granite by a quarry owner, Hair's Brewery, the 'Athenaeum' (the monument celebrating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887), a hidden garden area that was originally a cemetery, a pub where farmers once came to pay their rent, a cruck house (one of only three in Leicestershire), a memorial to Thomas Cook, the travel pioneer, who was born in Melbourne, almshouses funded by Thomas Cook (at a rent of one penny per person per week), a glove making factory and other buildings of interest.

The tour around Melbourne included the church at Breedon on the Hill. The church was built near the site of a Saxon hill fort and was originally a priory. It is a treasure house containing many superb tombs of the Shirley family from Staunton Harold, possibly the finest set of Saxon stone wall carvings in England, interesting plaques and stained glass.

Bill Clarke's illustrated talk about Melbourne and the surrounding area, including Staunton Harold and Calke Abbey, demonstrated, once again, what a fantastic cultural heritage is on our doorstep.

Harry Houldsworth

09 December 2009

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

This was, as usual, a most enjoyable occasion with Christmas fare brought by members and an intriguing slide show quiz of local historical items, prepared by Pat and John Hodgkiss.

13 January 2010

CROMFORD & HIGH PEAK PART 1 AND SETTLE & CARLISLE RAILWAYS

by Les Henshaw

Unfortunately, due to appalling weather, this meeting had to be cancelled, but Les Henshaw has agreed to try again in 2011.

10 February 2010

OWD IL'SON
by Stephen Flinders

It is difficult to do justice to Stephen's talk on Ilkeston in words alone, because it was richly illustrated with slides of former, as well as current, buildings.

The first slide was a map of the manor of Ilkeston in 1598 when there was an estimated population of 550. St Mary's church is a landmark building at the top of the hill on which the town stands. The nearby large market place was established in 1840 when local farms were cleared from the area. The Town Board was established in 1866 with a Town Council and became a Borough in 1887.

In 1252 King Henry III granted Ilkeston a Charter Fair and Market, both of which still operate successfully today.

In the 1830s mine workers found an underground spring with therapeutic properties. Ilkeston soon became a spa town with a railway station to receive the more than four thousand people a month who took the waters, and the smart Rutland Hotel for them to stay at, also giving rise to the name of Bath Street. This success was short lived, however, as the spring suddenly dried up.

Following the Industrial Revolution Ilkeston grew into a thriving mining and manufacturing town and, in 1903, was the first town in Derbyshire to introduce the electric tram. Strangely, the trams never made a profit and closed in 1931, to be replaced by buses and trolley buses, many operated by Midland General Bus Company.

Music hall performances took place in large back rooms at the Market Inn and the Poplar Inn, in more recent times replaced by live music groups.

The Theatre Royal, seating more than two thousand people, was built in 1890 and Charlie Chaplin gave his last performance there before going to America. The theatre later became the Coliseum cinema with an Art Deco facade, then a bingo hall, and was finally demolished. There were six cinemas in the town, including the Scala, the oldest cinema in continuous use in England.

The Dukes of Rutland were the lords of the manor of Ilkeston and granted Victoria Park to the people of the town in perpetuity.

The first Co-op shop was built in Bath Street, being replaced by the large store with banqueting suites in the market place in 1937.

We saw slides of the changing shop fronts, as Victorian window displays gave way to more modern styles. Despite these changes, there remain many interesting shop frontages dating from the 19th century.

As well as the many images we had seen, by the end of the evening we all felt that we had learned a great deal about the town of Ilkeston from the Stephen's interesting and amusing commentary.

Barbara Brooke

10 March 2010

TYNTESFIELD – A HIDDEN GEM
by Marion Wallwork

When the 2nd Lord Wraxall died in 2001 he bequeathed Tyntesfield to 19 beneficiaries, which meant that the house and contents and the estate would have to be broken up and sold.

To The National Trust this was a horrifying prospect because Tyntesfield was the only one of some 26 large Victorian houses in the entire country to remain intact. It had to be saved for the nation! The National Trust immediately launched a campaign to raise £24 million in three months. Meantime, the Inland Revenue worked out the amount to be paid in death duties, and all items in the house were valued, listed and labelled with the required price.

The National Trust project received national and international publicity, the £24 million was finally raised, and The National Trust took over Tyntesfield. A huge programme of restoration of this unique Victorian house and estate began, and still continues.

George Abraham Gibbs from Devon was a slave trader and surgeon, then his son Anthony traded in cloth. When his business failed he moved to Spain, started up in business again and married Dorothea. Their son William, born in Madrid, joined his father in business, but in the Napoleonic Wars they decided to return to England.

William, an astute and devout man, worked on the building of the Great Western Railway from London Paddington to Bristol and the development of ships. He became an agent for guano from South America and made a fortune from bringing the organic fertilizer back to Britain. His business ventures included copper, tin, silver and wood and he became the richest commoner in the country.

He was a member of the Tractarian Movement, committed to establishing more ritual and better singing in church services and employing religious symbolic architecture when building new churches.

When his brother died, William bought his modest manor house, Tyntesplace, at Wraxall, near Bristol, renamed it Tyntesfield, and set about remodelling the house and developing the grounds. The house was transformed into a Gothic extravaganza, including a £15,000 chapel with a permanent chaplain, who conducted services for the family every morning and evening. When he died in 1875, the coffin of this 'merchant prince' was carried by relays of estate workers.

His son Anthony's happy marriage produced 10 children, but only one married. He commissioned many alterations and improvements to the house, with only the finest craftsmen working there.

His son, George Abraham, succeeded to the house and estate. He was in the Army, was MP for Bristol and moved in high circles. He remarried when his first wife died and Ursula produced 2 sons. When George died, the elder son, George Richard, was only three years old, so Ursula managed the estate. In World War Two Americans were based near there and later council houses were built nearby.

Gradually, with income decreasing, Tyntesfield started to decline and the house was burgled three times.

Finally, in 2001, the 2nd Lord Wraxall died with no direct heir and a potential breaking up of the estate.

So, the National Trust took charge of Tyntesfield, the massive achievement of 'unlimited money seasoned with religion and romanticism'. From the very beginning it was decided that the public should be admitted while the major works were carried out. Specialist craftsmen were recruited and conservation workers taken on to restore the stunning interior to its former glory. Meantime, gardeners have improved the estate, revived the garden, woodland and home farm, and returned them to productivity.

In addition, more than 600 volunteers are on hand to help complete the picture and deal with the many visitors. Care and inspiration have been and are still the watch words in this great undertaking.

Having heard Tyntesfield's story and seen Marion's slides of some of the fabulous rooms, many of us decided we must visit this amazing place that was so nearly lost.

Barbara Brooke

15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 14 APRIL 2010

CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was coming up to the 50th anniversary of the end of World War Two in 1995 and Nottinghamshire County Library Service were hoping to mount a programme of commemorative events, harnessing the memories of local people. It was against this background that they asked librarians to invite local people who might be interested to attend meetings in the hope of establishing local history societies. Andrea Lowe, Stapleford librarian, called such a meeting in March 1995 and here we are, 15 years later, at our 15th Annual General Meeting. Once again we have had a good year.

Nigel arranged a very good programme enjoyed by appreciative audiences, with talks varying from Calke Abbey and Elvaston Castle and the families who lived there to 'On the Buses', the refurbishment of St Helen's Church and 'Owd Il'son'. There was a 'first' when the January meeting had to be cancelled due to the appalling weather. Let's hope it doesn't happen again!

The newsletter goes from strength to strength and was again featured in the British Association for Local History News No 94, Winter 2010. It pinpointed a feature from *The Nottingham Guardian* of 18 June 1929 about Stapleford Fire Brigade winning two contests at the North Eastern District Fire Brigades Competition. In the last two editions ten members have contributed, by submitting newspaper cuttings and writing articles or reports. Have YOU had anything published yet?

Eileen Bloor, Nigel Brooks, Colin Rowland and I are working steadily on the Society's archive material and have another meeting this coming Friday. We have put out a display this evening of some of the items we have received during the past year. Do have a look at them at refreshment time.

I have given talks on the History of Stapleford to the Stapleford Carers' Group at Rockwell Court and to an audience of more than 80 at Beeston & District Local History Society.

On two Tuesday evenings in July Eileen and I led walks round Stapleford Town Trail for Beeston & District Civic Society and for Ilkeston & District Local History Society. The former attracted 6 walkers on a wet and windy evening, but 30 people turned up from the Ilkeston Society on a

cool, but dry, evening the following week. As part of the National Heritage Weekend, we led a walk round the trail on Sunday morning 13 September.

As a contribution to the *Borough of Broxtowe Guided Walks 2010* programme I am leading a walk round the town trail on Tuesday 18 May, starting at The Roach at 7.15pm. If you haven't been on the trail, do come along and join us.

In September Eileen, Colin and I put on a comprehensive display of archive material at Bramcote History Societies' Fair, when all three of us were kept busy talking to the many people who came to look at our stand.

A number of members enjoyed participating in the four Beeston Society's outings to Audley End House and Saffron Walden, Horncastle, RAF Coningsby and Woodhall Spa, Llangollen and Prince Charles's Highgrove Garden and the Westonbirt Arboretum. These were varied and interesting days, well organised by Alan Clayton. The first 2010 outing to Northwich, the Anderton Boat Lift and Salt Museum takes place tomorrow.

On Wednesday 5 May Nigel has arranged for our Society to have an exclusive, guided, evening tour of the Erewash Museum at Ilkeston.

Several members have attended Nottinghamshire Local History Association study days, at Oxtun village hall on 'Castles in Nottinghamshire' and at Ravenshead village hall on 'What about the Workers - Aspects of an earlier Working Class'. Both were stimulating and informative events.

Now it's time for me to thank all the people who contribute in so many ways to the success of our Society – Eileen for running the sales stall, Nigel for producing his popular, illustrated Stapleford cards and for organising the programme and publicity, and both of them for working with Colin and me to organise the archives. Pat Kelly, with helpers Dorothy Prentice and Jean Smedley, does an excellent job managing our comprehensive library. Lillian and Tony Britton have continued to organise refreshments at our meetings, which we all appreciate. I have already mentioned the newsletter. Thank you to Malcolm Jarvis who edits and organises it very capably. Tonight he will also be giving us a talk after the break.

You will hear shortly from our Treasurer, Pat Hodgkiss, when she presents the Society's Accounts for her first full year in office. Thank you to her for all her efforts on the Society's behalf, ably assisted 'on the door' by husband, John. We also appreciated the photographic quiz they prepared for the Christmas Social.

Finally, I want to thank Robert Butler for his good offices in arranging for our Accounts to be audited by C J Lucking & Co, free of charge.

I am proud to be Chairman of such a warm, friendly, successful Society. I feel sure we can look forward to another good year ahead.

Barbara Brooke
Chairman and Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT

You will see from the balance sheet that we achieved an increase of £219.21 over the full year to 31 December 2009. Increased meeting charges, refreshments and other sales contributed to this. I would like to thank Robert Butler (C J Lucking and Company) for auditing the accounts and also the committee for their continued support.

Average attendance over the year was 43 and again we had some very popular speakers, thanks to Nigel's organisation.

During 2009 we had 68 fully paid up members, but unfortunately two of these are now deceased. There are 58 paid up members at present this year.

Pat Hodgkiss
Treasurer

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS (COMMITTEE)

No nominations had been received for additional Committee members. All current Committee members had indicated their willingness to continue, so they were automatically re-elected for a further two years: Eileen Bloor, Nigel Brooks, Malcolm Jarvis, Pat Kelly, Meg Oliver, Colin Rowland.

Below is information about two new ventures for our Society. Please see me if you would like more details.

Barbara Brooke

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

The VCH project, originally begun in 1899, is being revived and we have been invited to find out about contributing to the Nottinghamshire section.

The work involves writing the history of individual parishes. It is very much a factual undertaking, written in specific sections and to a straightforward strict formula. I have attended two out of three meetings held so far and Philip Riden, (employed by the University of Nottingham), who is in charge of the Nottinghamshire project, is preparing a handbook to work from.

There are to be several afternoon workshops at the Nottinghamshire Archives office in Nottingham to look at ways to tackle the work.

If anyone is interested in helping to write the history of Stapleford or any other parish in Nottinghamshire, please have a word with me later. Keith Goodman is very keen to take part and has already started research.

PLAQUES IN SOUTH BROXTOWE

Our society, along with Beeston & District Local History Society and Beeston & District Civic Society, are hoping to erect blue plaques to renowned people connected with the area. The two most significant figures from Stapleford are Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren and Arthur Mee. Plaques have to be placed on buildings directly connected with the individuals concerned.

Sir John's birthplace and home, Stapleford Hall, was demolished in the 1930s. However, he was baptised at St Helen's church on 5 October 1753 and it would seem most appropriate for a plaque to be placed somewhere on the outside of the church.

I have written to the Parish Administrator giving details about Sir John's amazing life and asked her to put the matter before the Parochial Church Council. If they approve, the proposal has to go before a diocesan panel for approval. If they say 'No', then that is the end of the matter.

The cottage where Arthur Mee was born was demolished and the church hall now stands on the site. However, he attended Church Street Boys' School (now the Arthur Mee Centre of Castle College) so that is the ideal place for a plaque to him.

I have contacted the College's Sites Manager and Estates Manager who are both very keen and they will ascertain who is authorised to give formal permission.

Of course, there are many procedures to be gone through with English Heritage and the need to raise money for a high quality, durable plaque, but we have started. Keep your fingers crossed!

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Programme for 2010

9 June	The Dukes of Portland: the 9 Peers	John Taylor
14 July	Discovering D H Lawrence	Ronald Morris
11 August	The Arkwright Story: a Thread in History	Ruth Jordan
8 September	Kill or Cure: a story of bygone medicine	Chris Weir
13 October	Dr Robert Thoroton 1623-1673	Adrian Henstock
10 November	Lucy Hutchinson – wife of Governor of Nottingham Castle and town during the Civil War	Valerie Henstock
8 December	Christmas Social Evening	

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ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

May 2009

Beeston Echoes, Spring 2009 – local interest

June 2009

Basford Bystander, Feb/March 2009, no.132

Basford Bystander, April/May 2009, no.133

Local History News, Winter 2009, no.90 – The Wonder of Woolworth's

The Local Historian, Feb 2009, vol.39 no.1

'Basford Between the Wars 1919–1939' Basford Local History Society project – a well documented illustrated piece of research

July 2009

Basford Bystander, June/July 2009, no.134

Donations of extra copies:

- 1 History of Stapleford by George Miller (2 copies)
- 2 Stapleford – a pictorial view 1889-1999, Notts County Council
- 3 A Collection of Views of Old Stapleford by Ralph Penniston Taylor
- 4 Stapleford & Bramcote on picture postcards – David Ottewell
- 5 Albert House by Lily Brayton - extremely interesting, family life in Sandiacre, 1905 – 1934

Local History News, Spring 2009, no.91

The Local Historian, May 2009, vol.39,no.2

September 2009

Basford Bystander, August/Sept 2009, no.135 – Sankeys, Bero Flour

The Australians in England on old picture postcards – Grenville Jennings (to celebrate winning the Ashes!)

Notts County Football Club (extra copy)

October 2009

Basford Bystander, Oct/Nov 2009, no.136

The Local Historian, August 2009, Vol.39,no.3

Local History News, Summer 2009,no.92

Southwell Minster – interesting old guide

History of Nottingham Castle by Gott – in English, French, German and Dutch! (an extra copy)

February 2010

Nottinghamshire Historian, Autumn/Winter 2009, No.83

Basford Bystander, Dec/Jan 2010, no.137, Feb/Mar 2010, no.138

March 2010

Local History News, Autumn 2009, no.93

The Local Historian, Nov 2009, vol.39, no.4

'Stapleford in World War Two' by Stapleford & District Local History Society!

ARCHIVE MATERIAL ACQUIRED 2009/2010

Photograph of 62 Brookhill Street + 3 children, 1905 (Eileen Marshall)

Set of 8 photo cards of Stapleford, early 20th century (Eileen Marshall)

St Helen's Church – A Guide by Sarah Graham (Audrey Choulerton)

St Helen's Church – text of research work by Keith Goodman

3 photographs of Stapleford Hill and fields (Malcolm Jarvis)

Pegasus FC Club tournament, Stapleford – Evening Post, 12.09.2009

Cobbler's shop, Nottingham Road + Mr Fullwood 1929? (N.Brooks)

Article re Arthur Mee – Evening Post, 21.10.2009

A History of Chambers' Pencils – Evening Post, 20.10.2009

Fun at Stapleford Carnival – Topper, 09.09.2009

University College Nottingham & its Context – Harry Houldsworth

Folder of family photographs (Bob Ramskill)

Binder containing family history (Bob Ramskill)

Album - photographs of construction and placement of Memorial dedicated to members of the armed forces from Stapleford who gave their lives in World War Two (David Grindell)

Service sheet, Act of Remembrance, Stapleford – 8 November 2009

'Toton Endowed School, Notts 1829 – 1933' by Gillian E Morral

'A 75 year History of W Westerman Ltd 1933 – 2008' by Alan Oxley

Westerman Homes article – Evening Post, 24.04.2008

Photo of class at Church Street Boys' School (1944/1948?) (David Grantham)

Stapleford & District Gardenholders' Assn Show - Ilkeston Advertiser 27.08.2009

Report of talk on the history of Beeston by Margaret E Cooper - Notts Family History Society newsletter

Service sheet, Royal Marines Assn Service of Commemoration of L/Cpl Walter Parker VC, RMLI – 26 April 2009

Patron Saint's Anniversary – photo of Nottm Corps of St John Ambulance Brigade, Stapleford Ambulance & Nursing Division, Drumhead Service on The Forest – Nottm Guardian, 24 June 1929

Turnpikes Heritage Group display at Beeston and Stapleford libraries 2001

Photographs of stained glass windows at St Helen's Church, Stapleford

Copy Abstract of Title of Sir Albert Ball to Stapleford Hall estate, 1927

Copy conveyance & plan between Sir Albert Ball and Pillatt & Co Ltd of coal, iron, ironstone and other minerals underlying 5646 sq. yards of land at Stapleford, 22 May 1928

Document winding up of Pillatt & Co. Ltd – 14 August 1958

Carr Fastener Co. Ltd, Nottm Road, Chambers Pencil Factory, Derby Road,
 The Mill, 1900 – photos from 'Picture the Past' - Grapevine
 Photo of Andrew Benney and friends of the Sealed Knot at Stapleford,
 after talk on The Civil War, 12 March 1996
 Photo of S&DLHS members dressing up at Oliver Cromwell's house,
 Cambridge
 Notes on the History of Stapleford by Robert Mellors, 1906 (A Choulerton)
 Salvation Army Citadel Centenary brochure 1985 (A Choulerton)
 CD-Rom – Don Gregory's memoirs, several sections of memoirs of
 Barbara Page

STAPLEFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, LOCAL STUDIES RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Littlewood, P	If Wishes were Horses	L85
Oxley, A	Barton 100	L38.8
Thompson, D	Both Sides of the Fire	L98
Smedley, M J	Manna from Abaddon	L85
Ottewell, D	Long Eaton on old Picture Postcards	L90.2
Hull, A	Recollections and Reflections	L85

MEMBERS

**If you have any old photographs of local people or places, may
 we borrow them to photocopy for the Society's Archives?**

Repatriation Wootton Bassett

The formalities of the Annual General Meeting were over, the tea and coffee consumed. There was still some evening left and Malcolm Jarvis stepped up to tell us about his visit to Wootton Bassett for the repatriation of Dave Greenhalgh originally from Ilkeston and sadly killed in action in Afghanistan. To begin with he described how, the now familiar sight that we see on our televisions, of the street lined with people standing as the coffins of the soldiers killed in battle pass down the road, began.

Through the good offices of the Royal Air Force, it is now policy to bring all deceased members of the armed forces home. Initially casualties were brought in to Brize Norton airfield, but when refurbishment started there, the planes landed at RAF Lyneham. From there the coffins are brought through Wootton Bassett on their way out of the area. There is just one main road, very much like Derby Road in Stapleford. The Royal British Legion had been involved from the start, when a couple of members of the local branch thought it fitting to salute those returning to this country who have paid the ultimate price in giving their lives. The local branch members were asked if others from the country could come and pay their respects. This resulted in others bringing their standards from the areas where the deceased had come from, and the Regimental Associations, ex members of the regiment, all bringing their standards to pay their respects. The beginning of the salute to the soldiers had begun quite low-key, with people just stopping while shopping. But as the coffins passed by the church bells were having a practice, and somehow this made the occasion more significant and the crowds grew, the coffins acquired their bikers' escort, an official branch of the British Legion but all who are bikers. The bell tolled and the media arrived, making the town the centre of a nation's mourning. Malcolm then movingly described his own involvement on one occasion. David Greenhalgh, from Ilkeston, was killed in action. It is the aim of the British Legion that the sacrifice of the Armed forces should not be forgotten.

Malcolm wanted to go and represent the Ilkeston British Legion, and Derbyshire, and especially as the family were known to him personally. So he went with another British Legion representative to 'see home one of our own'. Malcolm then described his day. We were there, standing in the rain, catching glimpses of the bikers as they went off to RAF Lynham to escort the coffins back to Wotton Bassett, and then being part of the crowd waiting. As the coffins approached the town went quiet and the many standards, British Legion and Regimental Associations, were ordered, 'up'. So quiet was the town that not even a cough was heard. Then as the coffins came level no order was given to the standard bearers but the standards went down into the act of homage, one after another, like a Mexican wave. Old soldiers stood there, ramrod stiff, shoulders back, well dressed in their blazers, shoes polished, many with glistening eyes. The families made their farewells to their loved ones at the War Memorial, trying to ignore the intrusive cameras. The standards, 38 in all, were given the order, 'dismiss'. After the procession had gone the crowd melted away. But the sound that remains with Malcolm is the unmistakeable note of the tolling bell from the church. As Malcolm finished the usual round of applause was stilled, and quietness embraced the room as we reflected on what we had heard. A memorable talk, later acknowledged with a heartfelt round of applause.

Meg Oliver

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD.

***AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN,
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN, AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.***

The Royal British Legion act of homage.

KEN LEDGER

John 'Ken' Ledger was born on 17th August 1924 at Stapleford and went to Church Street Boys School.

During WWII he went to do his service for his country only to be told at the medical in Nottingham that he was unsuitable due to having flat feet.

At the time he was employed at Stanton Iron Works in the Technical Services Department.

He also joined the A.T.C. (Air Training Corps) with the Stapleford Squadron, serving between 1941 to 1945 reaching the rank of Flight Sergeant.

Finding that he was a good sprinter Ken enjoyed football and went on to play football for the A.T.C. (see the attached list of fixtures for the Stapleford Squadron in the Notts A.T.C. League during the war years), then went on to play for Notts County, and then Nottingham Forest, later going on to play for Ilkeston Town Football Club, (see the attached article on Ken from the Ilkeston Town Football Club website).

During the time that Ken was playing football for Nottingham Forest, Billy Walker was the Forest manager. At that time players were not full time, but mostly, like Ken, having daytime jobs.

In October 1945 Nottingham Forest football team received an invitation to play a Forces Representative team in Hanover, Germany. This was obviously to boost forces morale, and the invitation was accepted. Ken was asked to be one of the team to go to Hanover. On hearing this Ken informed Billy Walker that his employer would need a letter confirming this. (see attached a copy of that letter dated 3/10/1945 from Nottingham Forest Football Club confirming that Field Marshall Montgomery had made this request).

During my interview with Ken he told me that the team went to Hanover, flying from RAF Syston. The flight was initially delayed by fog so the team stayed overnight at the RAF station until the fog lifted.

After arrival at Hanover they went on to play football against the forces eleven, being beaten 4 - 1. The team also went on to play against a services eleven in Flensburg, Norway.

(see attached the newspaper article regarding the team's visit to Flensburg) (my apologies for the darkness of the picture but we tried to get it a lighter shade)

Back in England Ken continued his football enjoyment and he remembers on one occasion when the A.T.C. team playing against an Italian prisoner of war team stationed in Nottinghamshire.

Ken met Kathleen Witte and in 1947 they were married at St Helen's Church, Stapleford. In 2007 they received a card from the Queen congratulating them on their golden wedding celebrations. In 1969 Ken and Kathleen bought the wool shop, 73 - 79, Church Street, Stapleford. Many will remember it as, J & K Ledgers (wool shop). This shop had been previously owned by Albert and Rita Quail. Both Ken and Kathleen enjoyed working at the shop until in 1976 Kathleen was found to be allergic to the airborne fibres from the wool there. Sadly they had to sell the shop in 1976. Ken still enjoys his football and is still held in high esteem by those who remember him from his Stanton, A.T.C., Notts County, Nottingham Forest, and Ilkeston Town days.

I am indebted to the following for help with this article;

Ken and Kathleen Ledger

Their son Chris who first intrigued me when showing me the letter mentioning Field Marshall Montgomery.

Keith Burnand, Secretary of Ilkeston Town Football Club.

Nottingham Forest Football Club.

Malcolm G Jarvis.
Editor.

FOOTBALL.

NOTTS. A.T.C. LEAGUE.

LIST OF FIXTURES FOR STAPLEFORD SQUADRON.

Date.	Opponents.	Gd.	Result.	Scorers.	Pts.
19.9.42	(Morley O.B.)	A (F)	13 - 3		-
26.9.42	(Long Eaton)	H (F)	6 - 2		-
3.10.42	Arnold	H	33 - 0	Bowley 11, Ledger 5, Bradwell 1, Millership 4, Brothers 3, Ormsley 2, Crawford 2, Peden, Goadby	4
10.10.42	Long Eaton	A	6 - 3		4
17.10.42	West Bridgford	H	5 - 2		8
24.10.42	Ilkeston	H	3 - 2	Ledger 1, Bowley 1, Peden (1)	6
31.10.42	Heanor	H	4 - 2		10
7.11.42	Carlton	A	5 - 4		12
14.11.42	West Nottingham	A	8 - 0	Bradwell 2, Ledger 2, Millership 2, Brothers 2	14
21.11.42	412 Scouts	A	3 - 3	Ledger (1), Brothers (1), Millership (1)	15
28.11.42	(Co-op. Youth Club)	H (F)	4 - 1		-
5.12.42	Trent Lane	H	7 - 1		18
12.12.42	South Notts.	H	12 - 0		19
19.12.42	High Pavement	A	10 - 1	Ledger 5	21
25.12.42	(Naval Cadets)	H (F)	7 - 0	Ledger 4	-
26.12.42	West Nottingham	H	Cancelled		-
2.1.43	Mundella	A	2 - 2	Millership 1, Brothers 1	22
9.1.43	Ilkeston	A	1 - 4	Millership	22
16.1.43	N.C.S.	H	12 - 0		24
23.1.43	West Bridgford	A	7 - 2	Ledger 5, Brothers 2	26
30.1.43	Arnold	A	8 - 0	Ledger 2, Brothers 2, Millership 3, Bradwell 1	28
6.2.43	Trent Lane	A	Cancelled		-
13.2.43	412 Scouts	H	6 - 3	Millership 4, Brothers 1, Wingate 1	30
20.2.43	Mundella	H	2 - 1	Ledger (1), Fletcher (1)	32
27.2.43	SHERWOOD	A	6 - 0	Ledger (3), Bradwell (1), Millership (1), Brothers (1)	34
6.3.43	SHERWOOD	H	7 - 1	Fletcher (3), Ledger (2)	36
13.3.43	Heanor	A	2 - 1	Peden (1), Millership (1), Crawford (1), Mee (1)	38
20.3.43	N.C.S.	A	13 - 0	Ledger (3), Wingate (3), Brothers (3), Mee (2), Millership (2)	40
27.3.43	Beeston	H	3 - 3	Ledger (2), Peden (1)	41
		--	2 - 0	Brothers (2), Wingate (2), Millership (2)	43

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Opponents.</u>	<u>Gd.</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Scorers</u>	<u>Pts.</u>
17.4.43	Carlton	H.	6-0	Ledger (2) Brookes (2) Mullenship (2)	50
4.43	South Notts.	A.	10-0	Mullenship (3) Brookes (2) Ledger (2) Peden (1) Wingate (1) Crawford (1)	52
43	Don	A.	2-2	Ledger (2)	53
17.5.43	DERBY RD JUNIORS	A (F)	4-1	Wingate (1) Ledger (1) Kendrick (1)	

Signed

O.C. STAPLEFORD SQUADRON:

KEN LEDGER



BORN: STAPLEFORD 1924

POSITION: OUTSIDE RIGHT

PREVIOUS CLUBS: STAPLEFORD AIR FORCE CADETS,
STAPLEFORD BROOKHILL, DERBY COUNTY, NOTTS COUNTY,
NOTTINGHAM FOREST

MILESTONES:

ILKESTON DEBUT: 21ST AUGUST 1948 v WARSOP WORKING
MENS CLUB (HOME)

FINAL APPEARANCE: 25TH APRIL 1959 v CLAY CROSS MINERS
WELFARE (HOME)

FIRST GOAL: 21ST AUGUST 1948 v WARSOP WORKING MENS
CLUB (HOME)

100TH GOAL: 7TH JANUARY 1956 v GRANTHAM RESERVES
(HOME)

100TH APPEARANCE: 15TH MARCH 1952 v CRESWELL
COLLIERY (HOME)

150TH APPEARANCE: 24TH APRIL 1953 v BELPER TOWN (HOME)

200TH APPEARANCE: 28TH AUGUST 1954 v SOUTH
NORMANTON MINERS WELFARE (AWAY)

250TH APPEARANCE: 17TH SEPTEMBER 1955 v LANGWITH
MINERS WELFARE (HOME)

300TH APPEARANCE: 16TH FEBRUARY 1957 v ROTHWELL TOWN (AWAY)

HONOURS:

EVER PRESENT: 1950/51

CENTRAL ALLIANCE CHAMPION: 1951/52, 1952/53, 1953/54, 1954/55

DERBYSHIRE SENIOR CUP WINNER: 1949/50, 1952/53, 1955/56

DERBYSHIRE DIVISIONAL CUP WINNER: 1950/51, 1951/52

GOALSCORING FEATS:

3 v RETFORD TOWN (HOME) 26TH AUGUST 1950

3 v MATLOCK TOWN (HOME) 6TH SEPTEMBER 1950

3 v BENTINCK WELFARE (HOME) 31ST DECEMBER 1952

3 v MATLOCK TOWN (AWAY) 6TH MARCH 1954

Ken Ledger is arguably the finest outside right ever to play for Ilkeston and in his prime was certainly the best winger in the Central Alliance. Described as Ilkeston's Stanley Matthews he was also known as 'Twinkletoes' by many supporters. Blessed with blinding pace, he could cross a ball with deadly accuracy and had a blistering shot that brought him many goals, often referred to as 'Ledger Specials'. He also had excellent close control that enabled him to turn defenders inside out. These qualities enabled him to become Ilkeston's fifth all-time top appearance maker and only five Town players have scored a greater number of goals.

Ledger joined Derby County during the War but, unable to break into the first team, he tried his luck with Notts County where he scored 4 goals in 16 Wartime appearances. Then he crossed over the Trent and played 10 times for neighbours Forest, adding a further goal to his collection. After the War he remained with The Reds until the summer of 1949 despite not making the first team again. During his time as a Forest player he made a single appearance for Ilkeston at the start of the 1948/49 season although it was a year later before he joined Town on a permanent basis.

Ledger remained with Ilkeston until 1959 apart from a three month spell at South Normanton Miners Welfare at the start of the 1951/52 season. He was certainly one of the reasons why Town enjoyed so much success in the Central Alliance up until the mid 1950s and he scored a penalty when they clinched the title at Bentinck in 1952/53. This goal was the club's 1000th since their formation. However, by his early thirties, he was no longer an automatic choice in the team. His pace, so important to his game, was on the wane and Ilkeston began to try alternative wingers in his place. The fact that they kept going back to him speaks volumes of the esteem in which he was held and how difficult it was going to be to replace him. Eventually the club signed John Carrington in 1958 who, while he was no Ken Ledger in his prime, was certainly impressive and able to keep the veteran Ledger out of the team once and for all.

Ledger was granted a benefit game, which he shared with Les Smith, Horace Hackland, George Darwin, Cliff Hancock and Jackie Ward, against Port Vale in May 1957. Two years later he played his final game for Ilkeston and returned to his Stapleford roots to play local football with Stapleford Villa.





Please reply to;
Keith Burnand
Secretary, Ilkeston Town F.C.
2, Woodland Grove
Clowne,
Chesterfield
S43 4AT

Tel; 07887832125

Malcolm G. Jarvis

2nd February 2010

Dear Malcolm,

Ilkeston Town Football Club would have no objection to you using there name in your newsletter on Ken Ledger.
May we wish you every success with your publication.

Yours sincerely

Keith Burnand
Secretary
Ilkeston Town F.C.

Ilkeston Town Football Club Ltd

New Manor Ground, Awworth Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 8JF
Tel/Fax: 0115 9442949 Social Club: 0115 9324094 www.ilkeston-townfc.co.uk
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ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE CLUB, AND NOT TO INDIVIDUALS.

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NOTTM. FOREST FOOTBALL CLUB.

ENGLISH CUP
WINNERS
1897-8.

Colours
RED SHIRTS
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Members of
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SIR ERNEST JARDINE, BART. J.P.

CHAIRMAN:
MR H. R. COBBIN.

MANAGER:
W. H. WALKER.

HON. SECRETARY & TREASURER:
G. NOEL WATSON, J.P.

City Ground,
NOTTINGHAM

October 3rd 19

Dear Sir,

We have received from Field Marshall Montgomery an invitation to play in Germany on October 23rd-October 25th. My Club has accepted this invitation. We are to play Forces Representative Team's in Manover, Germany.

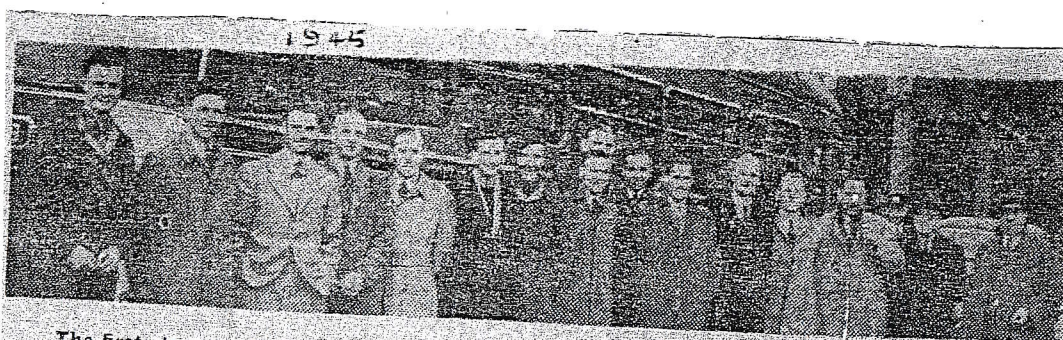
I am writing you on behalf of my Club for the service's of J.K. Ledger. to play in these games. We leave Nottingham on October 22nd and return on October 25th.

We are asked by the Football Association to mention to you that the Field Marshall asks for your co-operation by releasing the said player to make the journey. My Club will also be very grateful for your assistance.

Yours Faithfully.

Manager.

25



The first stage of the journey to Flensburg, where they play a match against a Services XI to-morrow. Nottingham Forest team and officials snapped at the City Ground this morning before setting out by road for Syerston, where their long air trip commenced. Fifth from the right is Mr. W. H. Walker (manager), and on his left are T. Graham (trainer), Mr. J. Brentnall, Mr. G. S. Osoff and Mr. H. R. Gobbin (chairman).

ARRY PLATTS GORDON BOB MCNEIL BILL BAXTER RON LEBGER GEORGE MEE
EDDIE BARKER TOM NATH TROBLAGY TOM JOHNSTON NOEL SIMON BILLY WALKER
(CENT) TOM GRAHAM

St Helen's yearbook. 1948/9

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STAPLEFORD

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Continuous Sunday from 5.0 p.m. Doors open 4.45 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck in **BLOWING WILD (A)** 5.0, 7.45

Also William Lundigan, Maris Wrixton in

THE CASE OF THE BLACK PARROT (A) 6.45

MONDAY, JUNE 25—3 Days

Frank Sinatra, Debbie Reynolds

In

THE TENDER TRAP (A)

6.25, 8.25

With

FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, JUNE 28—3 Days

Audie Murphy, Marshall Thompson

In

TO HELL AND BACK (A)

5.0, 8.30

Also

Tony Curtis, Pat Crowley in

THE SQUARE JUNGLE (A)

Stapleford and Sandiacre News 23rd June 1956
Courtesy of Alan Clayton.

J. ROWLSON

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18 DERBY ROAD, SANDIACRE, NOTTS

Phone: SANDIACRE 3395

Miss Kate Cordon
Midwife
27, Derby Road, Stapleford.

In Dunkirk there is one of Nottingham's oldest rope merchants.

W. COATES & SONS. NOTTINGHAM LIMITED.

Their sign says;
ROPES, TWINES, TARPAULINS.

Whilst visiting there I mentioned Stapleford. The shop owner, Mr Coates, said, 'Stapleford, I was born there'. This is how it came about.

Due to the nature of the rope business the Taylor farmers of Stapleford often visited the rope makers of Dunkirk.

Consequently there was discussion between them of where the Coates expected baby, (the Mr Coates I met in Dunkirk) should be born.

With all the contacts between the Coates and Taylor families, 27, Derby Road, Stapleford, was selected and Midwife Kate Cordon selected to be present. The cost apparently was £6, Mr Coates still proudly has the cheque as the cost of his birth.

The 1928 copy of Kelly's shows:

Miss Kate Cordon, a midwife, of 27, Derby Road, Stapleford.

A great number of Stapleford people were born at the Maternity Home.
Miss Kate Cordon obviously being an important person of Stapleford.

The Coates family came from Lenton in Nottingham, and the history of them as rope merchants is well written of in Nottingham archives, Nottingham Post Bygones etc.

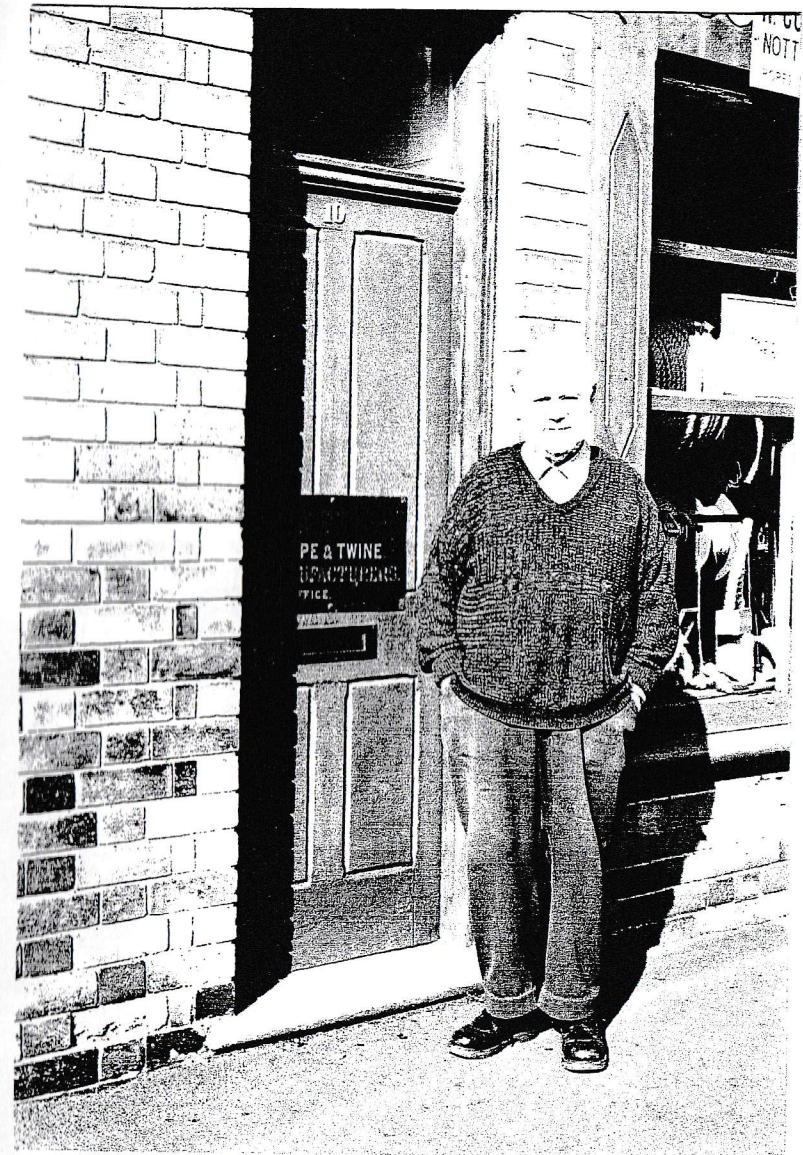
How many people have connections to 27, Derby Road, Stapleford, and Midwife Miss Kate Cordon?

Were you one of them, and what stories have you to tell of there?

The following two photographs were taken of Mr Coates at his Dunkirk rope merchants.

Malcolm G Jarvis. Editor.

Thanks to Mr Coates at Dunkirk,
Kelly's 1928 Edition.





Snippets from *Ilkeston Pioneer*

THE BAND OF HOPE

Friday 8 March 1912:

Under the auspices of the Stapleford and District Band of Hope Union, a concert was given at the Albert Hall on Thursday. Recitations were given by Alice Towle, Maggie Woodthorpe, May Stafford, Ralph Waller, Doris Hall, Ethel Keeble, Miriam Benton and James Rawling; solos by Gertie Shelton, Ethel Cockayne and Lizzie Browett; and action songs by the Hallam Fields and the Stapleford Primitive Methodist Band of Hope. The following also took part: Misses Burton, Gill, Cockayne, K Smith, Widlake, Baker and Staniland; Messrs Bastable, Buxton, Buckley, Hockley, H Elston, E Marriott and H Wragg. The programme concluded with a humorous sketch by Mesdames Towle and Watson and Misses Pearson, Smith and Greasley. Miss Blackshaw was the accompanist. On the motion of Mr J Stafford, seconded by Mr Whitlock, the artistes were accorded a vote of thanks.

Friday 22 November 1912:

The Stapleford and District Band of Hope Union held a musical service in the Church schoolroom on Sunday, when Mr E Plackett was in the chair. Mr Wm Dilkes gave selections on the concertina and trombone, and even performed the extraordinary feat of playing both instruments at the same time. Miss Daisy Cockayne recited nicely, and the soloists were Miss D Smedley, Mr R Longmire and Mr Horace Wagg. Mr F Gillett of Long Eaton gave a temperance address.

(From Alan L Clayton)

NOTE: Does anyone recognise any of the names from their family past? Was Miss Blackshaw the teacher that Albany School pupils would remember from the 1930s and 1940s? She could play the piano. (A.L.C.)

From *Ilkeston Pioneer* Friday 8 September 1916

THUNDERSTORM

On Sunday afternoon, Stapleford and Sandiacre were swept by a heavy thunderstorm, and so great was the downpour of rain, that in several places the drains were unable to take the water. In the Pinfold at Stapleford one of the mains burst; and against the Old Manor Farm the roadway was submerged for about 100 yards for several hours. This is a locality which calls for immediate attention of the authorities, as it is continually being rendered impassable after heavy rain.

CO-OPERATIVE STORES ENTERED

John Wm Coxall (*), a fitter, of Stapleford, was remanded at the Nottingham Shire Hall on Saturday on a charge of breaking and entering the premises of the Stapleford Co-operative Society and stealing articles value £1 7s and 3s in money. P.C. Pollard (**) stated that he discovered that the Society's shop had been entered early on Saturday morning, the back door having been forced open. When arrested the prisoner had in his possession other articles which might lead to further charges.

(From Alan L Clayton)

(*) The name 'Coxall' is unusual, but by coincidence there is a notice on the same page of the newspaper about the Water and General Rates being due for Ilkeston - signed by the Borough Accountant, no less than a Mr Wm C 'Coxall'. Could an accountant and a thief be related? Surely not, but one never knows!

(**) I remember a P.C. Pollard who lived on Ilkeston Road, New Stapleford, in the 1930s. Probably the same person. (A.L.C.)

From *Ilkeston Pioneer*, Friday 15 June 1917

WESLEY PLACE METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday last was the school sermons day for the children of the Stapleford U.M.C. (Wesley Place). The anniversary attracted unusually large congregations. The preacher, Rev A C George (Long Eaton), delivered two striking and eloquent sermons, whilst his address to the scholars at the afternoon's musical service was greatly appreciated. The singing of the children was up to the usual high standard. Several martial pieces were contributed. A beautiful solo was sung by Miss Katie Martin (soprano) "Thy will be done". The conductorship was under the baton of Mr Arthur Doar, and Miss Gladys Doar A.T.C.L., presided at the organ. Recitations were given by Muriel Taylor, Mary Ward, Annie Greasley, Gwennie Rudd, Percy Smalley, and Arthur Aldridge. An especially dainty feature was "A Garland of Flowers" presented by five girls, viz., Misses Doris Marshall, Nellie Jones, Daisy Watkins, Elsie Annable, and Annie Ward. The training of the scholars for reciting etc., was in the capable hands of Miss G Thuman and Miss E Greasley. The collections were substantially higher than for many years past, reaching £14.

(From Alan L Clayton)

PRICE LIST of items for sale at Society Meetings

At any other time please apply to the Chairman

Stapleford Town Trail £1.00

Stapleford Tea Towels £2.95

Leather bookmarks £0.80

Local views – framed priced individually

Local views – cards with envelopes £1.00

Pen & ink drawings by Jack Vernon £1.00

Full colour illustrated maps of Stapleford + Borlase Warren
Coat of Arms in gold frames (produced to order) £14.00

Society Newsletters – some back copies available at reduced
prices

.....
NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Malcolm Jarvis - 0115-932 3457
CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY– Barbara Brooke 0115-939 4979
TREASURER – Pat Hodgkiss – 0115-939 5273

**The deadline for submission of items for the next Autumn
2010 issue of the Newsletter is 30 September 2010.
Material can be given to any of the above named.
This is YOUR newsletter! We'd love to hear from you!**

Front cover
Bob's Rock, Stapleford
(now hidden by trees)
on the hill to the left of the cemetery