



NEWSLETTER N°5 AUTUMN 1998

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Over the Summer season meetings and outings have been well attended and of great interest. Reports of the various events appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Society mounted a stall in the Town Council's marquee at Stapleford Carnival at the Ilkeston Road Recreation Ground on 5 September. How fortunate that we were under canvas as the weather was very wet! The display boards attracted a lot of interest and a number of visitors stated their intention of attending meetings. Many thanks to volunteers Eileen Bloor, Audrey Choulerton and Margaret Gibson for their help with the stall and for selling some of our 'goodies'. Several individuals were named on our "Are your ancestors here?" board!

By the time you read this we shall also have had a display at St Helen's Church Flower Festival at the beginning of October.

Work on the Millennium Project is proceeding steadily and we are hopeful of some financial backing.

As I write this the nights are drawing in and our Autumn programme is about to start. Barbara Page is already busy planning next year's meetings which I am sure will be as interesting and well supported as this year's. Talks will include the Chilwell Depot Disaster, Civil War in Nottingham, Aspley Hall, Newspapers of the 1950s, 'Murder, Mystery and Mayhem' and 'Carrington - Village to Suburb'.

Barbara Brooke  
Chairman

## C O N T E N T S

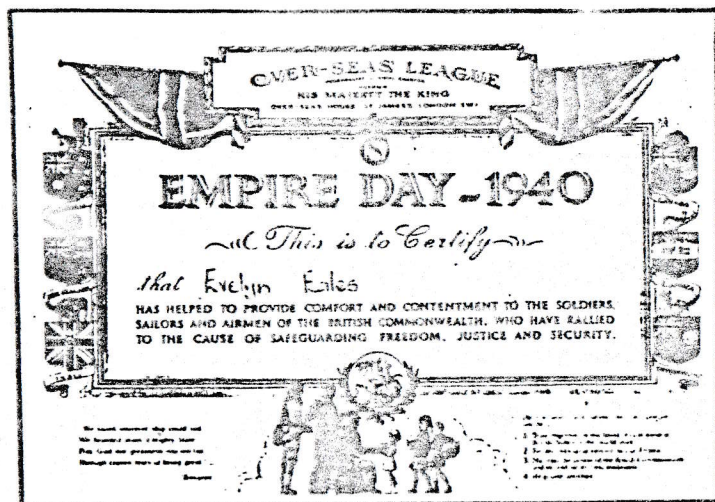
1. Chairman's report.
2. Contents.
3. Empire Day Certificate.
4. Turnpike Heritage Group.
5. Pillatt & CO LTD.
8. Rationing books.
9. Field Farm stock and contents sale 1919.
10. 1883 and all that.
11. The Pall Mall Gazette 1883.
16. Marsdens Grocers.
18. Arthur Mee's, The Kings England. 1938.
20. History of Strelley and the EDGE family.
21. Visit to Strelley.
23. Middles and muck.
25. V. Albon Ltd.
26. Visit to the Local Studies Library. Angel Row, Nottingham.
27. Visit to Dale Abbey and Gateway Christian Centre.
29. Joy Alans of Stapleford.
30. The Victory Cinema, Stapleford.
31. Stapleford & Sandiacre Co-Operative Society Ltd.
32. Jack Vernon Ltd/The Lace Web Spring Co Ltd.
33. House sales.
34. Where is it ???????

## VICTORIAN BRAMCOTE.

A book is currently being put together on Victorian Bramcote and help is being sought from anyone who has information and/or pictures on the Sherwin Gregory's, and Holders of Bramcote Hills House, or the Enfields of Bramcote Grange, or indeed, anything else of interest on this subject.

Please contact Jill Ward on 925 3469.





The above Overseas League Certificate was awarded to our member Evelyn Hirst (then Eales) in 1940 for knitting for the troops while at Halls Road School. Later she was a member of Church Street Girls' School Eureka Knitting Group, organised by Mrs Smith, and produced a pair of socks each week!

My own experience, as mentioned on the evening Evelyn brought her certificate to our meeting, was that a family friend, who was in the North Africa campaign, had come home on recuperation leave after an injury and brought my parents two lemons, which had, of course, disappeared from the shops in 1939. Mum suggested that I should raffle one for "Comforts for the Troops" so, armed with raffle tickets and the lemon resting proudly on a cushion, I toured the nearby houses where people were happy to pay 6d for the chance of winning such a prize! The following Saturday Dad took me to Nottingham where children were invited to hand in money raised for "Comforts for the Troops" and to shake hands with the Lord Mayor in full regalia in the Council House - an outstanding moment in my childhood!

Barbara Brooke.

### Turnpikes Heritage Group.

An initiative in November last, by some members of the Beeston and District Local History Society, led to the formation, with other local societies, of a working group - the "TURNPIKES HERITAGE GROUP" - whose objective, quoting from the Group's constitution, is "To research the feasibility and viability, to fund raise and to set up a Heritage Centre to serve the communities of ATTENBOROUGH, BEESTON, BRAMCOTE, CHILWELL, STAPLEFORD and TOTON. (Readers will realise that this is the area which at one time formed the Beeston and Stapleford Urban District.) Very early on, the Beeston LHS members were joined by enthusiastic representatives from the Stapleford and District Local History Society and the Bramcote Conservative Society and the Group was later completed with a representative from the Beeston Civic Society to give a total of ten members. Why "Turnpikes"? Finding a name which had both a historical ring about it and did not show bias to any one part of the district was one of the many tasks Group members set themselves. The name "Turnpikes" stood out from the quite large list of ideas. Turnpike roads were the 'main' roads, the toll roads in bygone times and it happens that there were three such turnpikes which between them connected or ran close by each of the six communities in the district, so it is an appropriate choice. The Group is doing much exploratory work but a considerable amount of further research is planned all aimed at preparing for the launch of a major fund raising effort within the next year. At that time the Turnpikes Heritage Group will be inviting sponsorship for the project from local businesses, local authorities, local organisations and the general public. The group will before long be looking to members of each of the four participating societies to offer help in a variety of specific ways - more on this at a later date. Alan Clayton, a member of both Beeston and the Stapleford Local History Societies is the Group chairman. The vice-chairman is Barbara Brooke, (chairman of Stapleford LHS), the secretary is Beryl Robinson, (vice chairman of Beeston LHS) and Maureen Rushton, (secretary of Beeston LHS) is the Group's treasurer. The district has a considerable amount of historical subject matter, perhaps more than even many local people realise. Indeed, the Group members have surprised themselves at the length of their preliminary list of subjects, running to several pages, suitable for displaying in a Heritage Centre or Museum. Something our district has never had before and which many people believe would be a distinct asset for the locality and an attraction for visitors. If all goes well, then early in the new Century, the district may well have a new focal point, the - "TURNPIKES HERITAGE CENTRE".

Alan L Clayton.



# PILLATT & CO LTD

The story continues.....

Since the last article appeared in the Spring issue of the newsletter, Barbara Brooke, Chair of the Society, made an exciting discovery at Papplewick Pumping station on a recent visit there. Barbara discovered that three of the combustion furnaces on the six Lancashire boilers which supply the steam to the two beam engines at the pumping station, were manufactured and supplied by Pillatt's of Stapleford. The volunteers working on the boilers were very interested to hear about the Stapleford connection, as I discovered for myself when I visited Papplewick a couple of months later on August Bank Holiday.

As soon as I saw the cast iron frontages of the furnaces, I recognised them as being the "Pillatt's Perfect Combustion Furnace" patented by Andrew Pillatt in the 1920's. These particular furnaces at Papplewick were fitted in the early 1920's though the actual boilers were manufactured in the late 19th Century, between 1880-1890. The boilers are worked on a 3 on, and 3 off basis, supplying steam at 50 p.s.i. to the beam engines. On the day of my visit, two of the Pillatt's furnaces had been fired to provide power to the one beam engine in operation.

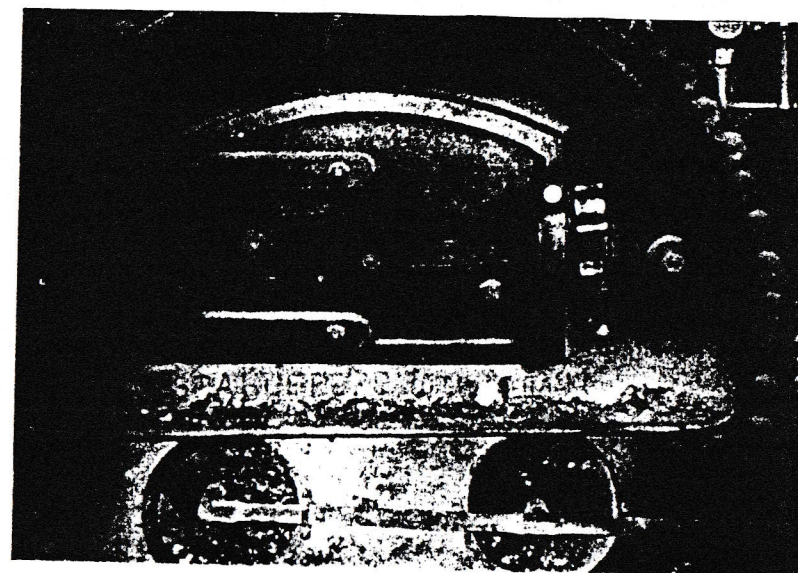
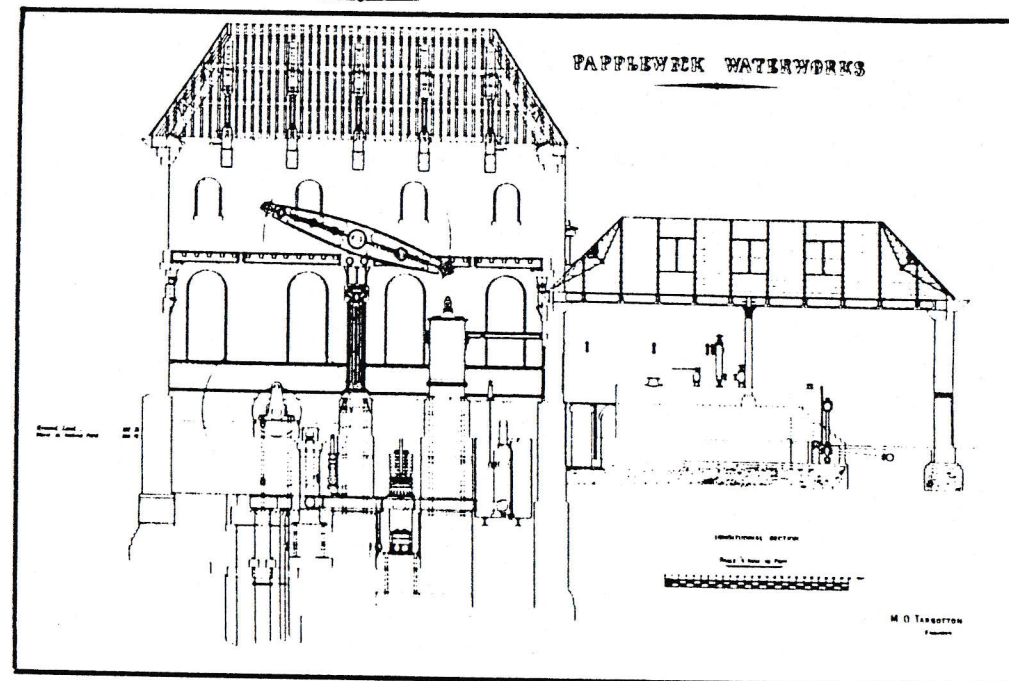
I asked Mr Jerry Mason, one of the volunteers, how these furnaces differed from the others, and he explained that the Pillatt's furnace comprised two chambers, 6ft long - 3ft wide, and had a more efficient means of drawing in air, therefore creating better combustion.

The technical specification of the "Pillatt's Perfect Combustion Furnace" is contained in the original publicity brochure which Mr Johnson very kindly let me copy for the ephemera collection at Stapleford Library. I hope to include this in another edition of a newsletter.

After my visit to Papplewick my appetite was whetted, and I decided to visit Nottinghamshire Archives to see if I could find any information relating to the decision to purchase and install the Pillatt's furnaces at Papplewick. This didn't prove to be fruitful, however, I did discover some interesting information about Andrew Pillatt.

In 1895, Andrew Pillatt signed an article of partnership with the lace manufacturer, William Godfrey Gregory, whose factory was situated on Canal Street, Nottingham. The indenture was made on 6th September 1895, in respect of an invention concerning improvements in the manufacture of furnace fire bars. It appears that William Gregory and Andrew Pillatt had worked together on the improvements to fire bar manufacture, and were seeking to patent their invention. Their application was No. 13371, dated 11th July 1895, and conformed with the provisions of the Patent Act of 1883.

CORPORATION OF NOTTINGHAM





The articles of partnership state that "...William Gregory and Andrew Pillatt have obtained or are about to obtain patent rights in respect of their said invention in America and Germany and other foreign countries... Both parties agreed to enter into a partnership in order to develop and perfect their invention..." Although their business was to be conducted at William Gregory's lace manufacturing premises on Canal Street, Andrew Pillatt had no interest or rights whatsoever in the lace manufacturing business of William Gregory. Clearly William Gregory was the lead partner, and the business was styled "Gregory and Pillatt". Gregory had the right to terminate the partnership, and remove the business from his Canal Street premises at any time of his choosing, providing he gave one calendar months notice of his intention.

As it happened the partnership was short lived, being legally dissolved six months later on 28th March 1896. Andrew Pillatt, described as a mechanical engineer, bought out William Gregory's share of the business, and all rights in respect of the Patent Fire Bar Manufacturers were duly assigned to him. The patent for "improvements in furnaces or fire boxes for locomotive boilers, traction engines and other purposes" had cost £5,000.

The bankers acting for William Gregory and Andrew Pillatt were Messrs. Samuel Smith & Co. of Nottingham, and the solicitors were Thorpe & Perry (&Son) also of Nottingham. The original papers are held in Nottinghamshire Archives.

One can only surmise why the partnership was so short-lived, though the relationship was probably what we would now style a 'turn-key' operation. Clearly the invention was advantageous to both Gregory and Pillatt, remembering that at this time steam power would have driven the machinery in the majority of factories, and, therefore, efficient boilers would have been a priority. It is my guess that the partnership was a legal expedient, formed so that both parties could secure equal rights to their invention before the patent was granted. Once the patent was secure, it was possible for Andrew Pillatt to purchase the rights from William Gregory and so dissolve the partnership.

Was it at this time, I wonder, that Andrew Pillatt looked for premises of his own, moving to Stapleford in the early years of this Century? I can find no documentary evidence of this, but the facts fit, since Kelly's Directory shows that Pillatt's iron foundry was established on Edward Street some time between 1908 - 1916.

I hope to discover more about Andrew Pillatt and the Stapleford foundry before the next edition of the newsletter. In the meantime, however, Papplewick Pumping Station has offered to put up a small permanent display in information relating to Andrew Pillatt and Pillatt & Co. of Stapleford.

Andrea Lowe.

CUT THIS OUT AND KEEP IT AS A GUIDE

## HOW to get your NEW RATION BOOK

*For your convenience special Distribution Centres are being opened for limited periods as shown below. Please apply for your new book promptly and note carefully what you should do.*

### WHAT TO DO

- 1 Fill in page 4 of your present book, do not tear it out; then take the book with your identity card to a **DISTRIBUTION CENTRE**.
- 2 If your identity card does not bear your right address, is lost, or in very bad condition go to your local **FOOD OFFICE** — not to a Distribution Centre.
- 3 If you hold a *temporary* identity card, or a grey ration book which is due for renewal, go to your local **FOOD OFFICE** — not to a Distribution Centre.
- 4 You will receive a leaflet with your new ration book. Follow it carefully. Be sure to register with retailers immediately you have your new book.

### WHERE TO GO

#### STAPLEFORD

A—E Central Methodist Schoolroom. April 21, 9.30-6.0. Sat. 12.30  
F—O " " " April 23-28, 9.30-6.0. Sat. 12.30  
P—Z " " " Apr. 30-May 5, 9.30-6.0. Sat. 12.30  
SANDIACRE. Memorial Inst., Doncaster Ave. Apr. 30-May 5, 10.0-6.0  
TROWELL. Parish Hall. May 3, 9.30-6.0

Prompt application will save you time and trouble.

MINISTRY



OF FOOD

Stapleford & Sandiacre  
News  
21st April 1951.



# FIELD FARM, STAPLEFORD

(10 minutes' walk from Stanton Gate Station).

## WALKER, WALTON & HANSON

Are instructed by Mr. RICHARD GOODSON, who is giving up on account of the Farm having been sold, to SELL BY AUCTION,

On **TUESDAY, NOV. 11th, 1919,**

The whole of his Valuable Live and Dead FARMING STOCK, well-got PRODUCE, &c., comprising:—

**23 BEAST,  
5 HORSES,**

30 COUPLES OF FOWLS

Agricultural Implements and Tackling.

THE PRODUCE (TO GO OFF).

**35 ACRES OF WINTER KEEPING**

In Two Lots and Enclosures, up to 24th March, 1920.

Intending Purchasers are requested to view the Grass Keeping before the Sale, as it will be Let at the Premises when the Produce is sold.

**SALE TO COMMENCE AT 12 O'CLOCK PROMPT.**

Auction, Valuation, and Estate Offices:—  
Exchange Walk, Nottingham; and at Melton Mowbray.

Readers of the previous Newsletter will recall some items of news from the early 1800s, in part local, but mainly interesting jottings from the press of the day. The source of such material is a collection of very old newspapers, which provide a fascinating glimpse into the past. One can trawl through microfilm records of old papers in a library, particularly if one is researching a specific subject, but to me it is much more satisfying to read an original paper and to see what surprises one might find. Believe me the most unexpected items can turn up. One is always on the lookout for local material even in the national papers.

Why 1883? I came across a local item in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of 22 August that year:

### MARRIAGES.

TOLSON—CONNELL—At St. Luke's, Paddington, Major Wilfred Tolson, The Royal Sussex Regiment, to Maud C., daughter of Mr. John Connell, of Halton, Barbadoes, Aug. 21.

WAGENITZ—MARCH—At St. John's, Hackney, Mr. Oscar Wagenitz, late of Berlin, to Eliza E., daughter of Mr. R. A. March, of Richmond-road, Hackney, Aug. 16.

WALKER—WALKER—At Caerwent parish church, Mr. Charles H. Walker, of New Passage, to Fanny, daughter of Mr. T. A. Walker, Mount Ballan, near Chepstow, Mon., Aug. 15.

WEBB—WRIGHT—At Stapleford, Notts, Mr. Elias J. Webb, of Tiddington, Warwickshire, to Rosamond F., daughter of Colonel C. I. Wright, of Stapleford Hall, Notts., Aug. 15.

Colonel Wright's family were the owners of Stapleford Hall from 1862 to 1893. They had purchased it from the descendents of Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren.

The *Pall Mall Gazette*, a London daily paper contained news, reviews, and some advertising. Although already long established, it happens that in 1883 a new editor, W T Stead, brought a new style to journalism by attempting to give popular appeal to the paper. So what was in his paper in just one short period in August 1883? Read on!



# THE PALL MALL GAZETTE

*An Evening Newspaper and Review.*

No. 5761.—VOL. XXXVIII.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1883.

Price One Penny.

**Dated Saturday August 18th**

## SERIOUS RAILWAY ACCIDENT

A railway accident of serious proportions took place on the Great Northern line between Tuxford and Newark stations on Thursday night. The Manchester and London express goods train included a waggon on which was a heavy funnel-shaped metal casting. On the floor of the waggon was a door which opened downwards, and the casting lay upon it. The fastenings of the door gave way, and the ponderous casting fell through on the four-foot way. It dropped clear of the line, but being two feet high it caught the axletree of the waggon. No less than seventeen of the inside waggons toppled over, and were smashed into fragments. The engine and tender were not thrown off. The guard was flung down in his van two or three times, and was a good deal shaken. Unavoidable delay was occasioned to both goods and passenger traffic and the railway was completely blocked for between six and seven hours.

## ROYAL VISIT TO GRIMSBY.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught opened the people's park at Grimsby yesterday. The weather was very fine, and a large number of people assembled. The Royal party were met by the mayor and others, and after a procession had been formed they proceeded to the park, which was declared open by his Royal Highness. The Royal guests were afterwards entertained at luncheon.

**Dated Monday August 20th**

**Here's a real "gem" - can you imagine today's 'Sally' Army embroiled in this way!**

## SALVATION ARMY RIOTS AT LUTON.

A disorderly mob has for some time organized a determined opposition to the processions of the "Salvation" Army in Luton, and in view of a breach of the peace the authorities issued a proclamation calling upon the "Salvation" and "Skeleton" Armies to stop parading the streets. General Booth, however, wrote to the mayor stating that the legal view of the question had already been settled in favour of the Army, and the Luton corps would be ordered to march out as usual. Accordingly, 150 special constables were sworn in, and when the Army marched out on Friday evening there was a rush at the procession and determined attempts were made to break up the ranks, a lively tussle ensuing, but the Salvation Army maintained its ground. Blows were struck, and several Salvationists and their opponents were taken into custody. In the struggle the captain's wife was seriously hurt.

**This was followed up on Thursday 23rd August:**

## SALVATION ARMY DISTURBANCES AT LUTON.

The expected disturbance in Luton occurred last night when the Salvation Army marched out into the town, in obedience to the orders of the "General." About two hundred of the Army formed in procession, under the lead of "Lieutenant" Hawker. Besides the police and specials the Army had obtained the assistance of a score of Blue Ribbonites—navvies and men of that class—to guard them. When a rush occurred the latter were most active in throwing aside the intruders and keeping the procession together. Various attempts were made to break up the ranks, but the special guard saved them from disorganization. In view of the resolve of the town council not to let them public buildings except they agree to abandon Sunday processions with bands, it is stated that the Army have bought land to build barracks.

**Monday 20th August**

**Some cricketing news mentioning one of the most celebrated players of all time.**

Last week's cricket resulted in a good deal of heavy scoring, and bowling averages suffered proportionately. Gloucestershire and Somersetshire scored 1,047 runs for the loss of thirty-two wickets, Mr. W. G. Grace playing in his best style for 75 and 58. On the opposite side Mr. Sainsbury carried off the honours, his contributions being 59 and 116. When Gloucestershire, however, came to face Middlesex, the former were treated to a long turn at fielding. This is always a run-getting match. In 1879 Middlesex scored 476, but last week they improved even upon that performance by putting together no less than 537 runs. The veteran, Mr. I. D. Walker, made 145, and the Hon. A. Lyttelton 181. Gloucestershire made 189 and 234—good enough scores on ordinary occasions, but insufficient in this case to effect anything more satisfactory than a draw, in reality a defeat, for with only one wicket to fall they needed 114 runs to save an innings beating. The performance of Messrs. Lyttelton and Walker surpasses anything that has hitherto been achieved in a first-class match, those gentlemen having scored between them 324 runs before they were parted. In a second-class contest last year, Orleans Club v. Rickling Green, Messrs. Trevor and Vernon made 603, and

Barnes and Midwinter, for the M.C.C., scored 454 runs against Leicestershire. In their match against Kent, Yorkshire scored 392, and beat their opponents by an innings and 94 runs. On this occasion Lockwood, another veteran, made 208, while on the losing side Lord Harris, an enthusiastic supporter of Kentish cricket, carried out his bat for 80 in the first innings, and only fell short of that number by one in the second.

**Wednesday 22nd August**

## ACTIVITY OF MOUNT VESUVIUS.

Mount Vesuvius displayed extraordinary activity on Monday night. Showers of incandescent matter were thrown up several hundred yards high, accompanied by loud reports. The continuous oscillations of the soil are injuring the buildings of the Vesuvian Railway and others on the top of the mountain. About 19,000 passengers annually are carried up the line.



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The item about Vesuvius activity was as nought compared to what was to follow a week later in another part of the world, for here is the first report of one of the biggest ever volcanic eruptions:

Tuesday 28th August

### ALARMING VOLCANIC ERUPTION.

#### DISASTROUS TIDAL WAVE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BATAVIA, August 28.—The eruption of the Krakatoa volcano which commenced on the 26th is of a formidable character, and North Bantam is suffering heavily from a dense continuous shower of ashes, mud, and pumicestone, which has almost ruined the crops and orchards, besides damaging the roads and bridges.

A tidal wave has swept away the European quarter of Anjer and the Chinese camp at Merak.

Telegraphic communication is now interrupted [between Bantam and this city.

Batavia was in darkness for several hours yesterday owing to the thick rain of ashes proceeding from the volcano.

The lower quarters of the city have been swamped by a tidal wave, but the godowns and entrepots are not damaged.

The Island of Krakatoa in what is now Indonesia, was literally blown apart. The effects were in the end to be far more devastating and longer lasting as further news came through.

The next item is a little depressing. The sad end of the famous Channel swimmer, whose name is still perpetuated on boxes of matches:

Thursday 23rd August

#### HOW CAPTAIN WEBB WAS BURIED.

The *Buffalo Express* says:—"Half way between Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge, well back in the cemetery well named Oakwood, and in a heart-shaped plot of ground known as 'Strangers' Rest,' the remains of the great swimmer repose. No one was present to do his memory honour. There were no tears shed by loving friends, no regrets by friendly neighbours as the remains were lowered into their resting place. It was a mere performance of duty by the sexton and undertaker, under orders from the Board of Health. It was a sad picture, doubly pathetic when the life and deeds and daring of this champion are considered—a man for whom half of England and more than that of the United States is mourning. There was no shroud, no clothing to hide his bloated form. In the same rough pine box from which the body was shipped from Lewiston to the Falls it was buried. Imaginative correspondents have written of a 'neat suit of black,' of 'clothing appropriate and well-looking' and of a 'stained coffin.' But the fact is that the body of the greatest swimmer of the world was buried in the same condition as it was found floating in the quiet waters of the Niagara below Lewiston, except that the scarlet breech-clout with which he entered the treacherous waters had been torn away. Looked at as the people at the Falls looked at this interment, it was pathetic and pitiful!"

14  
Other items in this short period were as varied as an 'Interview with Zulu Chief Cetewayo' - the Zulu Wars began in 1879. 'Lynch Law in America'. 'Undertakers - Horrible Discoveries' - reports on some gruesome finds in East London. Some news from Parliament, the Law Courts, and so on but I will end this part with news from the stage. Note the references to the "new" opera "Iolanthe" and in the second item to such celebrated persons of the time as Henry Irving and Lily Langtry!

### 1/ THE "FALL MALL" LIST OF ENTERTAINMENTS.

#### THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

(Lessee and Manager, AUGUSTUS HARRIS.)

- THIS EVENING, at 7.45, FREEDOM. Messrs. Augustus Harris, Fernandez, H. George, Edgar, Manley, Harry Jackson, Harry Nicholls, Kenny, Ridley, Morgan, Estcourt, Branscombe, Stephens, and George F. Rowe; Mesdames Sophie Eyre, Victor, Enson, Foote, Baldwin, Denvil, Gray Clare, and Blomley. Box-office open daily from Ten till Five.

#### ADELPHI THEATRE.

(Sole Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. A. and S. GATTI.)

THIS EVENING, at 8.15, THE STREETS OF LONDON. Mr. Charles Warner, Messrs. Beauchamp, Rosier, Proctor, Shore, Quinton, Travers, Byrnes, &c.; Mesdames Mary Rorke, Ada Murray, Mrs. H. Leigh, and Clara Jacks. At 7.30, TURN HIM OUT. Doors open at 7. Box-office open 10 till 5. No booking fees.

#### SAVOY THEATRE.

(Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D'OVLVY CARTE.)

EVERY EVENING, at 8.40, a new and original Fairy Opera in two acts, the words by W. S. GILBERT, the music by ARTHUR SULLIVAN, entitled IOLANTHE; or, THE PEER AND THE PERI. Produced under the personal direction of the Author and Composer. PRIVATE WIRE at 8.0. Characters by Messrs. George Grossmith, Rutland Barrington, Charles Manners, Richard Temple, Eric Lewis, Rowan, and Durward Lely; Mdmes. Alice Barnett, Jessie Bond, Julia Gwynne, Maud Cathcart, Sybil Grey, Minna Louis, Rosina Brandram, and Leonora Braham. Musical Director, Mr. Frank Cellier. Doors open at 7.30. MORNING PERFORMANCE of IOLANTHE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30.

### 2/ THEATRICAL NOTES.

Mr. Henry Irving is now said to be busily preparing for his American tour. The Lyceum scenery and properties have been packed, or nearly so, and represent in bulk quite a cargo.

Mr. Oscar Wilde's play has been withdrawn from the New York stage, having proved a complete failure.

Messrs. Robertson and Bruce state that, owing to the absence of the Licensor of Plays, the new farce at Toole's Theatre could not be played on Monday night.

Mrs. Langtry appeared last night at the Alexandra Theatre, Liverpool, as Juliana, in the "Honeymoon," and met with an enthusiastic reception.

Mrs. Bernard Beere is, the *World* says, spending her holiday at Aix-les-Bains, and has already derived much benefit from the invigorating sulphur douches and the system of "inhalation" which is so extensively patronised by actresses, vocalists, and the entire artistic world from all countries.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and the St. James's company appeared at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, last night, in "Impulse."



Now to go back 44 years to an item in *The Edinburgh Evening Courant* of Thursday 27th June 1839. When you read this you may well ask what it has to do with the Stapleford district? Not a lot I suppose, but after all, our own distinguished naval officer, Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren (1753-1822) was a contemporary of Lord Nelson (1758-1805), both fought many sea battles against the French. Anyway it is the sort of item which one comes across by surprise in these old papers and I hope it will be as absorbing to some of you as it was to me.

**THE NELSON MONUMENT.**—Saturday a very numerous meeting of the General Committee appointed to make the necessary arrangements for erecting the Nelson Testimonial was held at the Thatched House; the Duke of Wellington was called to the chair. The amount of subscriptions is about £18,000. A gentleman observed it was intended that the statue should cost £30,000. Another gentleman remarked that if they did not succeed in raising the £30,800, he would vote for returning the money; it would be better to erect no monument at all, than one unworthy of Nelson. Sir G. Cockburn was satisfied they would raise the necessary funds. As yet they had not heard from India. They had reason to expect large returns from the East. The ballot lasted from a little after one till four. Sir P. Laurie and Sir G. Cockburn were the scrutineers. Mr Railton was declared to be the successful competitor, there being a majority of votes in his favour. The model selected is No. 65 in the list, and consists of a fluted column surmounted by a statue of Nelson, and having on one of the sides of the square pedestal a carved representation of his being carried below deck when mortally wounded at Trafalgar.

So next time you are in Trafalgar Square, remember that Nelson's Column was not always there! Now you know when the great decision for such a landmark was made.

*Alan L Clayton*

## MARSDENS ADVERTISEMENTS.

Stapleford people will remember the Marsdens grocery shop on the corner of the Roach. One of a chain of shops in the region. Founded last century. Marsdens regularly advertised in several local newspapers and these are a few examples. The same advert would appear in more than one paper.

*Alan L Clayton.*

# PROVISIONS Galore!



**BUT NOT TO-DAY . . .** Supplies are all too difficult. No need to emphasize that fact!

**STOCKS ARE ADEQUATE** If not abundant at Marsdens, sufficient for every customer, shared out with scrupulous equity. They may be limited by circumstances beyond control, but in purity and quality no limitation applies. **PURE, FRESH, WHOLESOME FOODS**

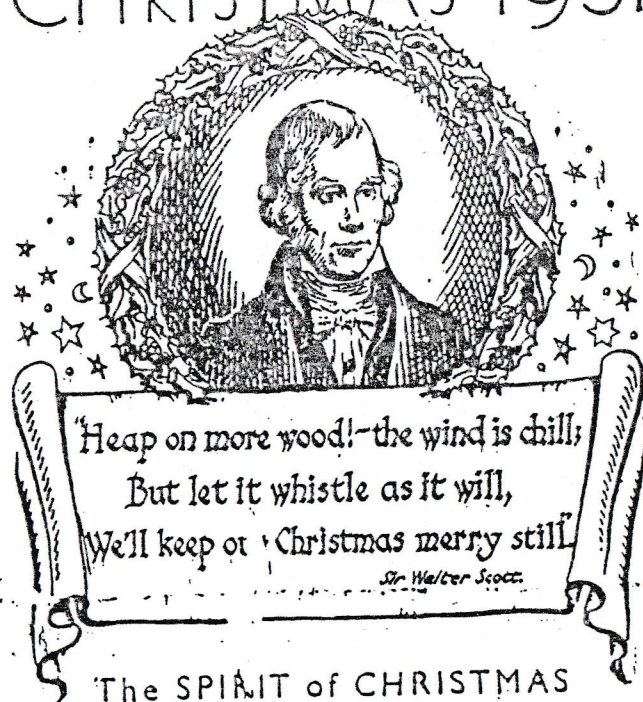
## MARSDENS

J. D. MARSDEN LTD. THE GROCERS FOR QUALITY

Beeston Gazette & Echo. Saturday 5th May 1951.



# CHRISTMAS 1951



The SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS

will find its happiest expression  
in a table well stocked with pure  
wholesome foods from

## MARSDENS

J. D. MARSDEN LTD. - THE GROCERS FOR QUALITY.

Beeston Gazette & Echo. Saturday 22nd December 1951.

Extract from Arthur Mee's - The Kings England - 1938.

STAPLEFORD. We come to it with amaze that half a century could bring about such change, for fifty years ago it was a quiet village. We leave it filled with wonder that in this world of change some things endure so long. Stapleford has given away its rural charm and accepted its place in industry. The great house, rebuilt in 1797 by a sailor of Nelson's day, is no more, and the little river near where it stood no longer turns aside to give power to the old mill. The stocks and pinfold are no more, but the gabled manor house, rebuilt near them in 1689, is still standing proud and trim. The church has something left of 700 years ago; in its shadow is a priceless thing which has stood while half a hundred kings have ruled in England; and close to the village is what is said to be the most curious natural object in the county, older than man can tell. It is more than a century since Stapleford's great sailor died. He was John Borlase Warren, whose ruling passion as a boy was for the sea. He took part in the Colonial Wars, the troubles arising out of the French Revolution, and the fight against Napoleon. He was made a baronet and an admiral. One of his victories for which he received thanks of Parliament, was over the French fleet when it was carrying troops and supplies to the Irish rebels in 1798; he captured a ship of the line and three frigates. A man of many parts was Sir John. He took his MA in 1776, and soon afterwards bought Lundy Island to accommodate his yacht and crew. In the intervals of naval service he lived at Stapleford Hall, representing the county town as MP. His last years were spent in the village, but he died when visiting Greenwich and was buried at Stretton Audley. He was greatly beloved for his courtesy and never-failing generosity. On re-entering the navy he bought out all the officers of the service who were imprisoned for debt in the Fleet and King's Bench prisons. The National School in the village is a monument to him for it was founded by his widow. In the church is a memorial to their only son who was killed at Aboukir.



Attractive outside, the church has a tower and spire from the three medieval centuries. The nave arcades are 14th century, the north a little older than the south. From about 1300 come the doorway letting us in (sheltered by the 18th century porch), some windows in the south aisle, and the east window of the chancel with its beautiful example of early tracery, formed by the simple intersection of the mullions. The font of this time has an unusual domed metal cover of about 1660. An oak carving of the Last Supper is foreign work, and was once the reredos. Two of the bells are believed to be 16th century. For some generations the Teverys of Long Eaton were Lords of Stapleford. Engraved on a floorstone are the portraits of Robert Tevery of 1571 in armour and his wife in Elizabethan dress. Gervase Tevery and his wife are lying on a massive monument; and kneeling on the floor are charming figures of three daughters and an only son, a tiny tot in a bonnet, all four battered through having been moved about since they were placed here 300 years ago. A bright little chapel has been built in memory of about 200 men who did not come back from the war, its east window showing St Oswald, St George, and St Edward. In our own time Stapleford's great treasure has been moved from its place in the street and set up in the churchyard. It is the famous cross, which has stood while England has seen the rise of all its royal dynasties. It was here when the Saxons worshipped in a little church of wattle and timber, and perhaps before there was a church at all. This tapering shaft of a Saxon cross, ten feet high and perhaps 1200 years old, is adorned with a mass of crude and worn interlacing work, and has on one side what is believed to be the symbol of St Luke, a horned figure with wings, treading on a serpent. The cross is the oldest Christian memorial in the county.

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### THE HISTORY OF STRELLEY AND THE EDGE FAMILY by Tony Horton

On a brilliantly sunny evening in May, with the curtains removed for redecoration, we had quite a challenge to darken the room enough to view slides, but the efforts were certainly worthwhile! Tony Horton's talk on 'The History of Strelley and the Edge Family' was given enthusiastically and in great detail, complemented by many clear slides.

Strelley (meaning road through a clearing in the forest) has been in existence since at least the time of the nearby Roman fort of Broxtowe, and consisted of three manors at the time of Domesday, but by 1120 these had been consolidated into one, owned by Walter de Stralei. The family and village prospered and in 1326 Sir Samson de Strelley ordered the construction of the present stone church on the site of an earlier one.

Through judicious marriages the family gradually built up one of the largest estates in Nottinghamshire, but this was greatly weakened when, with no male heir, four sons-in-law entered into protracted and very expensive legal battles over the inheritance. Additionally, following more legal activity, Sir Nicholas Strelley was forced to pay Sir John Willoughby three out of every four tons of coal extracted from his mine for having had a tunnel built to allow water leaking into his pit to flow through into Sir John's!

The Strelley family could no longer hang on to their estates and these were gradually bought out by the Edge family who took over the lordship of the manor in 1678.

In the early eighteenth century the scattered cottages of the village were rebuilt on the main street and after that the Edges resisted change at all costs, ensuring the survival of the unspoilt village until the death in 1978 of Miss Emily Mary Edge, last of the Edge family.



Tony also spoke of the school and other buildings, as well as the history and development of the Hall, on which he promised to enlarge the following month when he was to lead a walk through Strelley and a visit to Strelley Hall.

Barbara Brooke

#### VISIT TO STRELLEY led by Tony Horton

On Tuesday 9 June 35 members and friends gathered in the car park of the Broad Oak, Strelley. This ancient inn dates back further than the earliest record of John Dodsley, Victualler 1832. It is unusual as, in the time the Edge family were in power in the village, it only held a 6 day licence and was not allowed to open on Sunday. Only after the death of Miss Edge in 1978 was the full 7 day licence granted.

It was a lovely, though breezy, evening and we were all thankful the weather of the previous day was not repeated, when it poured with rain from morn to night.

Our guide, Tony Horton, led a leisurely walk along the Main Street of the village, pointing out the various houses and points of interest we had seen in his slide show, including the old school house and the gardener's cottage.

From Norman times to Charles II there was an unbroken line of Strelleys here, which gave them a name and a home. It was their proud boast that twelve successive generations were knighted. Between 1666 and 1710 the Edge family gradually purchased the estate which was controlled by the family until 1978. Miss Emily Mary Edge (1891 - 1978), known as 'Miss Mary', became the last Lord of the Manor on the death of her father in 1931. Father and daughter were very keen on keeping the Sabbath - no drinking at the inn, no gardening or hanging out of washing was allowed on a Sunday. When finally Squire Edge had piped water installed in his cottages the tap was fixed on the opposite wall to the sink so that his tenants would not waste water.

We viewed Strelley church from the outside as there was not time for a visit on this occasion, but it is something we hope to do next year.

Along the Main Street lies a single line of stone slabs and tradition calls this path the "Pilgrim's Way" or "Monk's Path" and the story is that it led from Dale Abbey to Trent Bridge, but is more likely to have been a Pack Horse track.

The icing on the cake for the Society came as we were given the opportunity of visiting Strelley Hall. After we had been introduced to Mrs Hershell, wife of the owner, we started our tour in the old brick built stable block, now used as a store room for computers, where Tony Horton himself had not been before. In the same area had been the bakery, the dairy, the brewhouse and the laundry in the days when the Hall had to be self-supporting.

It is believed that the first building on the site was fortified, as part of the medieval tower still remains, with walls 5 feet thick, reaching from the cellar to the floor above and showing that the original house was three storeys high. The Hall was rebuilt in 1789 and so is mainly Georgian, but a further wing was added around 1900. However, we entered the house through an entrance porch of a later date. With the Hall being built in several eras with a different number of floors it was rather weird looking through a ground floor window to see a floor level about half way up the height of the window!

We had expected to visit only the ground floor as the other floors are leased to different firms, but we were privileged to walk up the wonderful, unusual cantilever staircase. We came back down through a series of narrow passages and stairs which emphasised the various floor levels.

We were able to study views and pictures of the Strelley Hall Estate over the centuries and a Family Tree. We sat for a while in the irregularly shaped room, part of the original medieval tower, which even had a gun cupboard built into its



five feet thick walls. We went down into the cellars and fortunately the lights did not fail on this occasion and we did not see a ghost!

Our visit ended in the private quarters of the Hershells. The sitting room had a lovely wide, open fireplace and apparently when they were renovating the Hall they removed several fireplaces which had been placed one in front of the other over the years. Having removed the latest addition they kept finding others behind it. The large family kitchen had all mod cons but a wonderful atmosphere which felt as if a family really enjoyed living there.

A bowl was passed round for members to show their appreciation for the fascinating evening and a charming hostess. Mrs Hershell said the collection would be devoted to one of her favourite charities.

Barbara Page

#### MIDDENS AND MUCK by Peter Hammond

Peter Hammond's talk certainly made us thankful for water closets and dust bins and his tapes of Nottingham people's early memories reminded us of the great advances in relatively recent times in public hygiene and sanitation.

By the 19th century the disposal of household waste and sewage presented a huge problem, especially in urban areas, and the Commission of Inquiry into the State of Populous Towns in 1844 described the crowded courts and houses of the Broad Marsh and Narrow Marsh areas as among the worst in the country. Privies, common to the whole court, emptied into cess pits which frequently leaked into nearby wells, giving rise to cholera and typhoid. Household rubbish was left in stinking fly-ridden piles which accumulated until, in the fulness of time, the material was collected at night and carried away to be sold as manure to fertilise nearby farmers' fields.

When these commercial arrangements proved increasingly inadequate and were becoming the cause of vociferous agitation in the town, Nottingham Corporation resolved in 1867 to take on the responsibility for removing "night soil" on a regular basis, purchasing horses, carts and barges for the easy conveyance of manure by canal and river to Attenborough, Beeston and Stoke Bardolph and the creation of a manure dump at Gamston.

Scavengers went through the night soil to find saleable items - rag gatherers, grubbers collected bones for glue making and 'pure' finders gathered dung for the tanning trade.



Rapidly increasing population and growing demand for night soil removal led the Corporation to decide in 1883 to build a large furnace, known as the 'destructor', at Eastcroft to burn some of the material. Despite this increased capacity, night soil continued to be transported away from Nottingham for use on ploughed fields until the 1920s, while in rural areas this practice went on until after World War II.

Peter showed us a selection of the artefacts he had found in ploughed fields, which had been thrown away by our ancestors and taken away in the night soil. There were many clay pipe bowls, with designs of fruit, royalty, sport etc plus bits of broken stem, items of bone like toothbrush and brush handles, combs and buttons, rattles and spoons, as well as much broken pottery, heads and limbs from dolls, crockery and ointment pots. Bottles of ribbed blue glass which had held poison, green embrocation bottles, ink wells and bottles with marbles in the neck were quite common finds, as well as pot ginger beer bottles. There were also lead soldiers and many rat skulls!

Peter concluded an entertaining and thought provoking evening by reading short extracts from several of the many books written about 'loos' and a final taped memory of the "ten o'clock hosses" and the hastily closed bedroom windows when the night soil men arrived!

Barbara Brooke




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Stapleford & Sandiacre News  
27th December 1963

# VISIT TO LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY, ANGEL ROW, NOTTINGHAM

Joan Bray, the Librarian in charge of the Local Studies Library, hosted our August visit, along with her colleague Dorothy Ritchie. For many of us, this was a follow-up to Joan's talk to our Society last year.

After a general introduction we were divided into two groups, one being taken behind the scenes for an explanation of the department's resources, responsibilities and activities, while the other looked at specially retrieved material about the Stapleford area, later changing over.

The aim of the Local Studies Library, to encourage and support the cultural inheritance of Nottinghamshire, is carried out in co-operation with the Nottinghamshire Archives and with a network of 19 Local Studies Centres in key libraries throughout the county, of which Stapleford is one. It is also the public response centre on Nottinghamshire worldwide.

The card index catalogue, started by a Mr W E Doubleday late in the 19th century, was given to the Library in 1950. This has been added to until it now consists of over a million cards referring to people, events and materials in the city and county and would be the key item to be saved in case of fire!

In addition to books there are historical maps, parish registers, census returns, electoral registers, newspapers, trade directories, International Genealogical Index, theatre programmes and handbills, local authority structure plans, a video collection created by the transposal of old films of the area, oral history collection and more than 100,000 photographs and slides.

The Stapleford material consisted of a selection of large scale local maps, books, pamphlets and newspaper cuttings, printed matter about local commercial and industrial concerns, information about the church and Saxon cross and notable individuals, plus very many photographs.



Those interested were also shown how to use the microfiche and microfilm readers and how to access catalogues and indexes.

It was a most interesting and rewarding visit, inspired by the enthusiasm and commitment of Joan and Dorothy, and was an eye opener to most of us who had little idea of the volume and scope of the resources at our disposal.

Barbara Brooke

#### VISIT TO DALE ABBEY AND GATEWAY CHRISTIAN CENTRE

After several days of gloomy, rainy weather we were favoured with a light, sunny evening for our visit. We were met by Mr Sidney Leveux who took us first into an area of ancient forest on the hillside behind the village (approached by very slippery steps) where a 12th century Derby baker, having been called in a vision to live and worship God in solitude in Depedale, had carved out a cave from the rock and settled to a simple routine, living in the eastern end and using the western end as a chapel. He was given a small income by a local nobleman and eventually built a small chapel, incorporating living quarters as before.

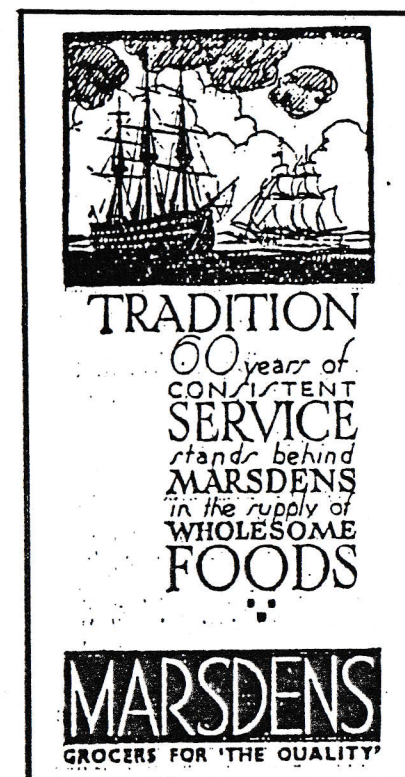
A local lady, known as the Gome, or godmother, of Dale built on to the hermit's chapel and persuaded her nephew to found a monastery there. After several unsuccessful attempts the inauguration service of the Abbey, dedicated to St Mary, was held in 1204. The building took about a hundred years to complete and was improved during its working life. It was self-supporting and self-sufficient and attracted many gifts of land, owning 24,000 acres by the time of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. The bulk of Dale Abbey's belongings and the site were sold to Francis Pole of Radbourn, near Derby, and much of the stone was used for building purposes in the vicinity.

When the neighbouring house was used as the Abbey infirmary, the original little church became its chapel and at the dissolution both passed into the hands of the local nobleman,

not the bishop, and All Saints' Church, Dale Abbey remains a 'peculiar', not under the authority of the local bishop but of the person who bought it. Its church court had the authority to issue marriage licences without banns being read and Dale became the Gretna Green of the Midlands! The church is also unique in continuing to share its roof with a house.

The interior of the church has not been altered since the middle of the 17th century and boasts irregularly shaped box pews, a pulpit built in 1634 that leans giddily, part of a medieval wall painting on the north side and the white painted gallery walls are patterned with irregular wooden beams. After hearing details about the church from Mr Leveux and exploring the building, we repaired in the dusk to the Gateway Christian Centre for refreshments and the opportunity to buy literature and souvenirs of an excellent evening.

Barbara Brooke



Stapleford & Sandiacre News.  
Saturday 25th April 1942.



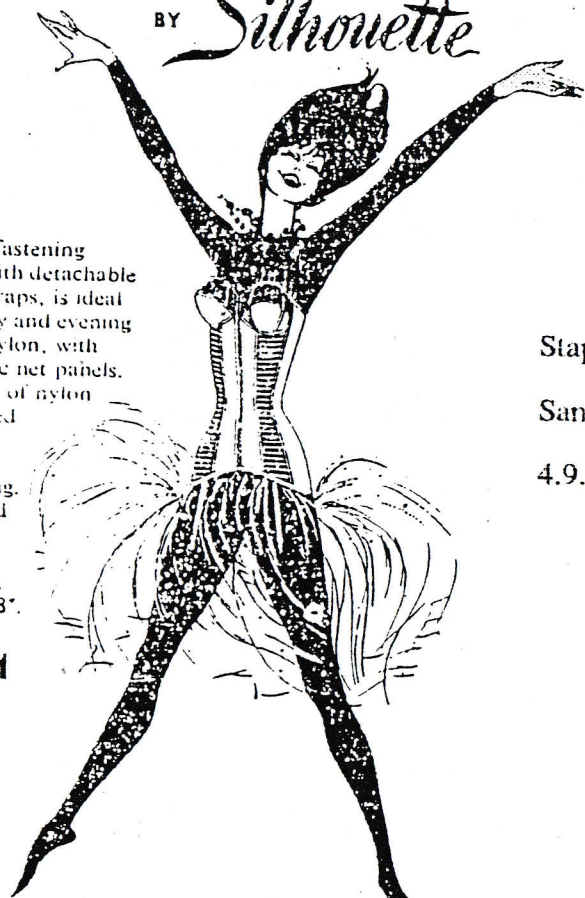
# Xtravaganza

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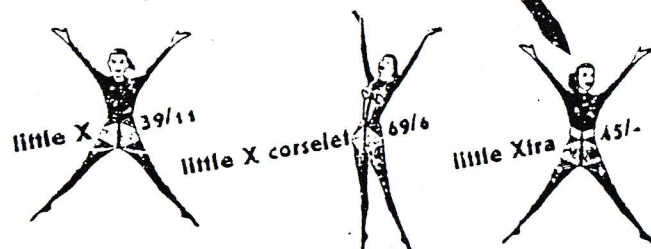
BY *Silhouette*

This front fastening garment, with detachable shoulder straps, is ideal for both day and evening wear. All nylon, with nylon elastic net panels. Upper-cups of nylon lace. Waisted effect is achieved by gentle boning. In white and in black, with silver Lurex braid. B cup 32"-38".

49/11



Stapleford  
and  
Sandiacre  
News  
4.9.1959



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**OF STAPLEFORD**

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**SPOOK CHASERS** (U)

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## STAPLEFORD PALACE

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Also Wayne Morris in **THE GREEN BUDDHA**

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BOB MONKHOUSE

SHIRLEY EATON

ERIC BARKER

In

**CARRY ON  
SERGEANT** (U)

Also

JOAN RICE, SHELDON LAWRENCE

In

**THE LONG KNIFE** (U)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10—3 Days

DANNY KAYE

CURT JURGENS

In

**ME AND THE  
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Also

DAVID BRIAN, LYNN BERNAY in  
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Stapleford & Sandiacre News  
4th September 1959



## STAPLEFORD

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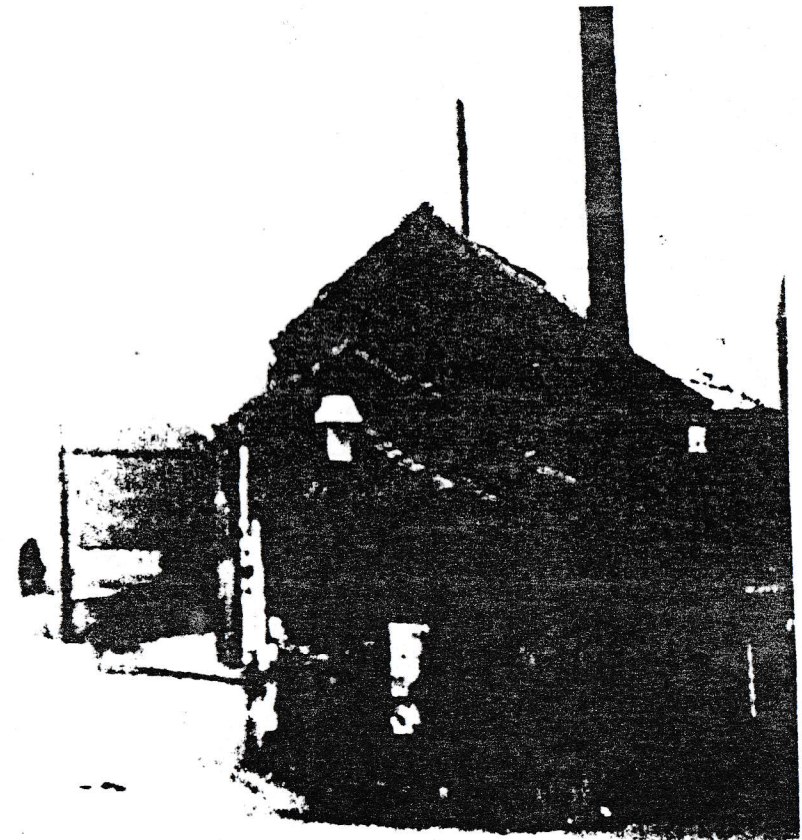
Stapleford & Sandiacre News  
4th September 1959

## STAPLEFORD

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This Newsletter No 5 Autumn 1998 £0.50

(One copy free to each paid up member of the Society).

IMPORTANT NOTE.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Malcolm Jarvis. Contact via  
Stapleford Police Station 0115 943 0999 extension 5761  
CHAIRMAN: Barbara Brooke. 0115-939 4979  
SECRETARY/TREASURER Barbara Page. 0115-939 2573

The deadline for submission of items for the Spring 1999 issue of the Newsletter is 31st March 1999. Material can be given to any of the above named Officers.