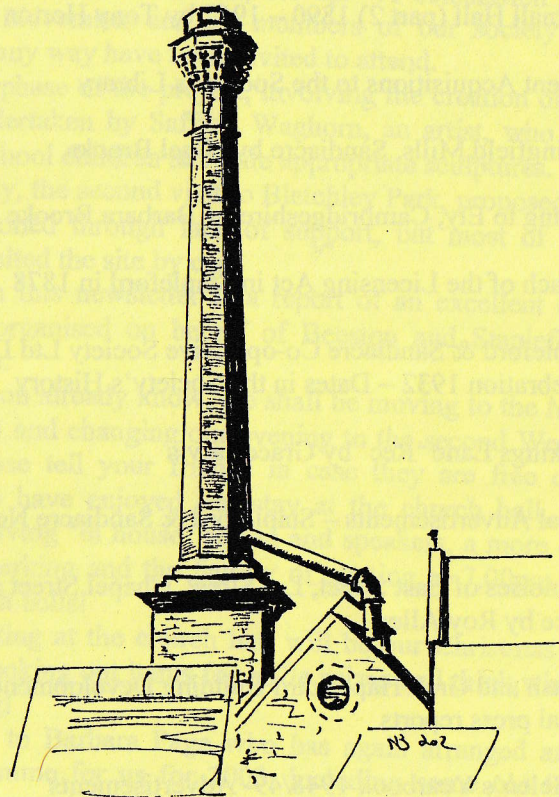


Stapleford and District Local History Society



Newsletter No 13 – Winter 2002

50p

Free to Members

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Phase one of the Hemlock Stone project is now complete with the bronze waymarkers installed on Stapleford Hill and the interpretation panels, one giving general information near the walled garden and a detailed one about the Hemlock Stone on the hill, set up. A celebration is to be held on Saturday 9 November and all members of our society who have been involved in any way have been invited to attend.

The second phase of the project, involving the creation of two stone seats, is being undertaken by Saffron Waghorn, an artist, who will be working with local school children to create appropriate sculptures.

Unfortunately, the second visit to Bletchley Park, proposed for August, had to be abandoned through lack of support, but most of those who were interested visited the site by car.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a report of an excellent outing to Ely in September, organised on behalf of Beeston and Stapleford societies by Alan Clayton.

As most of you already know, we shall be moving to the Maycliffe Hall in January 2003 and changing our evening to the second Wednesday of each month. Please tell your friends in case they are free on Wednesdays. Although we have enjoyed our stay at the church hall, we are looking forward to having 'in house' screen and speakers, a more central situation with easier parking and the facility of starting at 7.00pm for a 7.30 talk, plus no church bells!

Our last meeting at the church hall will be our Christmas social evening. Please start looking out items for raffle prizes and think what food or drink you will bring!

Many thanks to Barbara Page who has again arranged an excellent and varied programme for us for 2003, including some old friends and four speakers we have not heard before.

Barbara Brooke
Chairman

MEETING REPORTS

8 July 2002

A BACKWARD GLANCE AT EVERYDAY THINGS

by Maureen Newton

Before her talk Maureen had displayed a wide range of items on a large table at the front, to which she would draw attention during the evening's discussions.

She started by establishing the link between today's recycling and the 'make do and mend' of World War II significance. She quickly set up a rapport with her audience by asking them to answer her questions about other uses for items eg What could be done with handed down clothes? The answers came back thick and fast.

Unpick knitting then knit a new garment with the wool

Knit new feet on socks

Patch worn elbows

Undo seams and make into smaller garments

Cut material into strips and make into pegged rugs

Cut into shapes and make patchwork items

Worn sheets could be made into smaller ones for a child's bed or cot, cut in half lengthwise and sewn 'sides to middle', or used as decorating sheets to cover furniture etc.

Waste products were pressed into service. Soot from the chimney was used as fertiliser on the garden or allotment, cinders from the fire helped to surface garden paths, a bucket with a hole in the bottom was inverted over a rhubarb plant to force it, and vegetable peelings were taken to the neighbourhood pig bin to be collected daily and boiled for use as pig food.

The audience readily suggested numerous uses for newspapers, apart from reading them.

Cut into squares for toilet paper

Folded or rolled into long spills for lighting fires

To polish windows washed with vinegar

To make drawer liners

To wrap chips

To stuff down wet boots to dry them out

To spread on the floor as under lining for carpets or rugs

Items connected with Monday washdays evoked perhaps the most widespread response – lighting the copper fire very early, the ponch and

rubbing board, the tongs and copper stick, dolly blue and Robin starch, drying clothes on wet days on a high hung rack or on a clothes horse. The changes to gas coppers, then to square washers with hand wringers, then to twin tubs were well remembered, as was the flat iron on a trivet heated on fire or gas stove, to be replaced by the early electric iron that was fastened into a bayonet lamp fitting.

Maureen showed and discussed a tea infuser, a chilblain stick, gramophone needles, blakeys and segs, a toasting fork, a pointed tin opener, a gas mantle and many other things that possibly our children and certainly our grandchildren would not recognise or know how to use.

After the talk everyone crowded round the table to spot long remembered items, familiar everyday packets no longer seen and to continue their reminiscences.

It had been a fascinating evening! How times change!

Barbara Brooke

12 August 2002

THE MINOR CASTLES OF SOUTHERN DERBYSHIRE

by John R Hughes

For 19 years, between 1135 and 1154, there was chaos in England and civil war between the barons. King Stephen was on the throne and a very weak and soft ruler he made. The barons built themselves castles to protect their families and retainers. Derbyshire had its share of small castles. On the death of King Stephen in 1154 Henry II came to the throne, a much stronger and wiser ruler than Stephen. One of the first things he did was to demolish many of the castles built by the barons. Many of these castles have left very little trace, perhaps a grassy mound, some masonry or just the name of a road or field. Derby had a castle that was built during the reign of King Stephen. It was on the site of the present Derby Playhouse and Eagle Centre. Land to the north of this area was known as Castle Fields.

The site of Duffield Castle is owned by the National Trust who have done very little with it. There are just a few stones remaining. This castle was built by Henry de Ferrers and extended by his descendants, the Earls of Derby, in the mid 13th century, becoming one of the largest in England. In 1266 it was taken by the Crown and given to Prince Edmund Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster. It remained part of the Duchy of Lancaster until 1628 when Charles I sold off the estate to raise money.

There is only one reference to Netherseal Castle and that is in Arthur Mee's Derbyshire where it states that Netherseal Castle is built on the foundation of a Norman castle. A grassy mound is all that remains of Church Gresley's castle which was built by the de Gresley family who descended from Nigel de Stafford.

Bretby was owned by the Segrave family; John de Segrave had a licence to crenellate in 1301. All that remains of the castle is a moat on the corner of Bretby Lane and Burton Road. The estate was purchased by the Stanhopes of Shelford, Nottinghamshire in 1585, a large house was erected in 1630 by Philip, First Lord Stanhope, later Earl of Chesterfield, and was said to rival Chatsworth. This house was taken and looted by Sir John Gell, Commander of the Southern Derbyshire Parliamentarians in December 1643. The house was demolished in 1781. The present house, which looks like a castle, was built in 1812/13 to the designs of Sir Jeffery Wyatville, and is used as a hospital.

Morley Castle is on the old trade route from Breadsall Priory to the Trent. It was never a castle, but thought to be a look-out point. Newton Solney is a building that looks remarkably like a miniature Windsor Castle and is called Bladon Castle, or Hoskin's Folly, after its builder Abraham Hoskin. It was probably designed by Sir Jeffery Wyatville and is now used as apartments. There are no traces of Findern or Mickelover Castles, just names of Castle Pit Close at Mickelover and Findern Castle Way. There are no traces of Willington Castle, built by the Abbot of Burton in 1140, the same year that Mickelover and Findern were built. Burton Abbey was very wealthy because of the production of beer. These three castles cut across the line of defence of the Earl of Chester who built castles between Lincoln and Chester – one of his castles was Castle Donington! The Earl of Chester and the Abbot of Burton were competing with each other for control of the River Trent, which was very important for the transportation of goods, eg beer. Ockbrook Castle Hill on the Ordnance Survey map is in fact in Hopwell, not Ockbrook, and was owned by a Ralph Fitzherbert. Mackworth Castle, near the road to Ashbourne, is a gatehouse that is the only part remaining of Mackworth Manor House.

Mr Hughes finished off the evening by showing slides of the various places he had described.

Nigel Brooks

9 September 2002

NOTTINGHAM CASTLE

by Bill Clarke

The Norman Nottingham Castle, originally of timber, but soon rebuilt in stone, occupied a commanding position on a sandstone outcrop overlooking the river Trent and its tributary the Leen. The Normans diverted the course of the Leen to flow immediately below the castle rock and five water mills were constructed for grinding corn, as well as several quays and a fishery.

There had been a ford across the Trent for centuries and the erection of the first wooden Trent Bridge in about 920AD had reinforced this as a strategic north/south route.

The cliff to the south of the castle was kept clear of vegetation and an extensive system of stone walls and dry ditches on the other approaches completed a very defensible site. Successive kings carried out additional building programmes so that Nottingham Castle became the third most important castle in the land. Meanwhile the Norman town developed side by side with the earlier Saxon town to the east, while to the west lay the king's park, a royal preserve for deer hunting.

King John stayed frequently at Nottingham Castle and notoriously imprisoned 28 Welsh princes there, later having them hanged from the castle walls.

Mortimer's Hole, a tunnel from the bottom of the cliff through the castle rock into the castle itself, enabled the young King Edward III and his men to capture Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, and the king's mother, Queen Isabella, who had taken control of the country. Mortimer was hanged, drawn and quartered and the queen sent to a nunnery.

It is well known that in 1642 King Charles I raised his standard on a small mound in the northern bailey of the castle, now known as Standard Hill, at the start of the Civil War. In 1651, during the Commonwealth period, the castle and much of its defensive system were demolished. The Duke of Newcastle purchased the site in 1661 and built his ducal palace, retaining the name Nottingham Castle, and created gardens, which incorporated much of the area of the middle and outer baileys.

The mansion was set on fire in 1831 by Reform Bill rioters and stood derelict until the 1870s, when Nottingham Corporation initiated its rebuilding to become the first municipal museum and art gallery outside London.

Apart from the layout of the site and some of the walls, the only visible remains of the original castle to be seen today are the outer gatehouse with two towers and the stone approach bridge. The recent development on the former General Hospital site is within the outer bailey and the public toilet building nearby was the barracks of the Robin Hood Rifles, forerunners of the Sherwood Foresters.

As the town of Nottingham expanded rapidly, the open meadows between the castle rock and the river Trent, where for centuries Lenton Abbey monks had grown crocuses to make saffron dye to colour their habits yellow, were developed for housing. The river Leen was diverted to make way for the Nottingham Canal and this was later moved from the foot of the castle rock to make space for the construction of Castle Boulevard in the 1880s. A huge development of superior housing on the royal park area in the late 19th century created the Park Estate.

Bill's informative talk, accompanied by interesting slides, taught us all a great deal about Nottingham and its castle.

Barbara Brooke

14 October 2002

WATNALL HALL (part 2) 1890 – 1962

by Tony Horton

You will remember that Tony finished the first instalment of his talk on Watnall Hall with the marriage in 1882 of Lancelot Rolleston VII to Lady Maud, daughter of wealthy Earl Penarth. Lancelot now had land, property and money as well as important connections everywhere!

He was now able to buy promotion in the army, first as Captain, then Major then Lt Colonel. When the Boer War broke out he pestered the army to send him to South Africa with the South Notts Hussars. As the regiment already had a Commanding Officer, he had to be reduced to the rank of Captain and be second in command. Lady Maud also went to South Africa and set up a hospital for gentlemen.

Captain Rolleston was injured when the Boers attacked a convoy he was escorting and broke his spine and a leg. Fortunately his batman, Trooper Haywood, stayed with him and obtained help. Lancelot gave him his pocket book and asked him to give it to Lady Maud if anything happened to him. Meantime news of the injury had reached Lady Maud who asked Lord Kitchener's permission to join her husband. She set up house about 20 miles away and arranged for an ambulance to bring him to her. It came

by night, tipping over en route, but eventually arrived. As well as his injuries Lancelot was suffering from pleurisy and was not expected to live. However, Lady Maud sent for supplies and nursed him back to health, though when they later returned to Watnall Hall he was still in some pain, never again able to enjoy riding, but able to do so when required.

Later, at a major army parade at Wollaton Hall, Trooper Haywood returned his pocket book to him and Lancelot, who had recently bought Wellow Hall, gave the local pub to Trooper Haywood, where he remained landlord for more than forty years.

Colonel Rolleston helped to organise the coronation of King George V in 1911 and was created a Knight of the Garter in 1912.

Tony told us much about the lives of Sir Lancelot and Lady Maud, illustrated with many slides of the hall, gardens, trout pool and woods, as well as of his chauffeur, gamekeeper and his friend Lord Baden-Powell, who proposed to his wife on the steps of Watnall Hall! A hundred guests were invited to their golden wedding and a celebration was held for Sir Lancelot's 90th birthday.

In 1938 the RAF established an underground control room at Watnall Hall, linked to nearby Hucknall Aerodrome, and the hall itself became the WAAF Officers' Mess. Meanwhile, the Rollestons occupied a flat on the first floor. Sir Lancelot died in 1941 in his 94th year. He lay in state in St Mary's Church, Greasley, and was buried on top of a local hill, his grave surrounded by a holly hedge and iron railings.

After the war, in 1945, Hollygirt School used the hall as a dormitory for boarding pupils, leaving again in 1954.

Meantime, Lady Maud had died in 1949. The heirs to the estate did not want Watnall Hall, so it was put up for sale in 1955 and the government wanted it to be saved. However, in 1951, the Ministry of Works reported that it was subject to mining subsidence and could not be saved. It was eventually bulldozed in 1962. The site remained empty for ten years and houses were finally built on the land in the 1970s.

The talk was much enjoyed and a visitor member of the audience, who had grown up in Watnall, thanked Tony for bringing back her childhood memories.

Barbara Brooke

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

THE HERITAGE HERALD – Issue 7

Magazine published by the Erewash Museum (2 copies)

Contents: The Midland Railway Sheet Stores, A Taste of Tudor Ilkeston, What did the Romans do for Erewash?, Part 2 of the story of Terah Hooley, Saving the Erewash Canal

THE DUKERIES—CLUMBER, RUFFORD, WELBECK, THORESBY AND WORKSOP MANOR ON OLD PICTURE POSTCARDS

by Philip E Jones

The booklet to accompany the talk Philip Jones gave to the Society in May. Many photographs of an era long since gone.

NEWSTEAD ABBEY – A PORTRAIT IN OLD PICTURE POSTCARDS

by Philip E Jones and Michael Riley

Another interesting collection of postcards accompanied by lines from Byron's poetry.

GREAT NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GARDENS

by Philip E Jones

A very interesting pictorial record of some of the beautiful gardens in the county.

THE BEESTON STORY

by Margaret Cooper

A book packed with information about the history of Beeston from 80,000BC to the present day. We have all heard Margaret speak and know what a vast knowledge she has of many different subjects. This book contains so much about the area and the lives of the people who made their mark on Beeston.

A PARK FOR ALL SEASONS

By Rachel Marshall

An illustrated history of Wollaton Park from 1588 to 1990. It contains some interesting and unusual photographs.

THE EVENING POST – The Story of a Newspaper and a Family by G M Denison

A short booklet celebrating the centenary in 1978 of Nottingham's evening paper.

ROBIN HOOD COUNTRY

Published for the Tourist Information Centre

A potted guide to places of interest in Nottinghamshire.

NOTTINGHAM – A BIOGRAPHY

by Geoffrey Trease

A slightly more meaty history of the city, but written in a way that makes it easy to read. Contains some interesting information.

THE CENTURY SPEAKS – VOICES OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Compiled by Julie McGuinness

Based on interviews by Jeremy Evans for the BBC Radio Nottingham series 'The Century Speaks'.

Very interesting stories that bring back memories. Unusual photographs accompany the articles.

A STAPLEFORD CHARACTER.

One ex Stapleford resident mentioned an interesting old character known as

"POM POM"

Who remembers him, and more to the point what was his story.

Let the Editor know if you remember him.

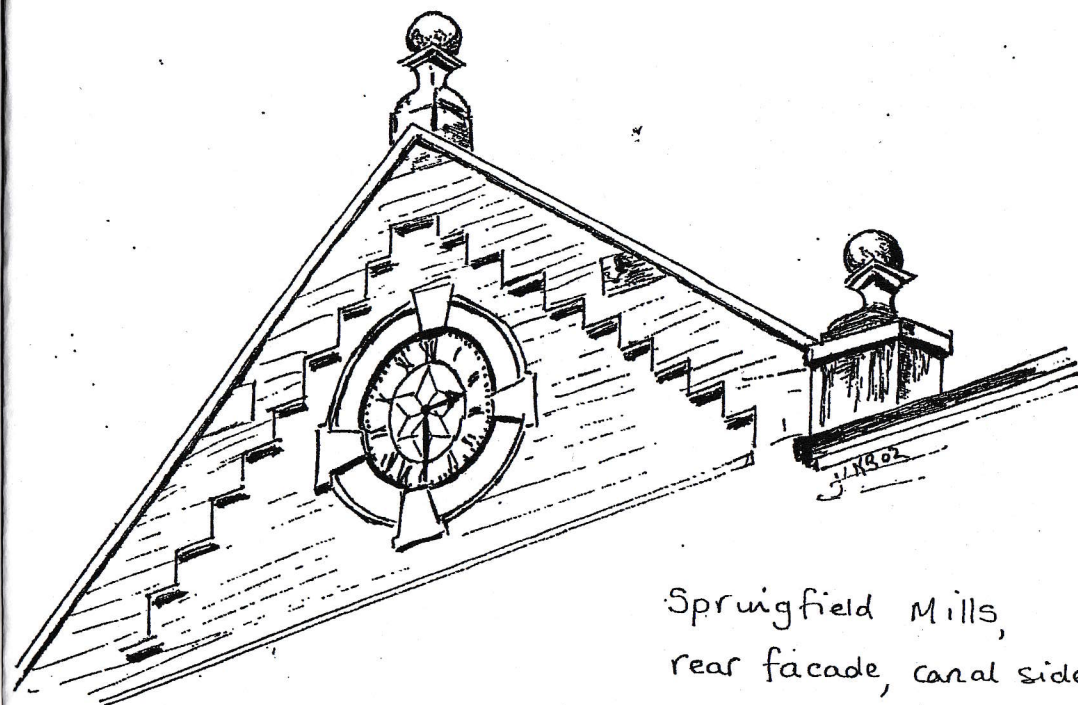
SPRINGFIELD MILLS, SANDIACRE

by Nigel Brooks

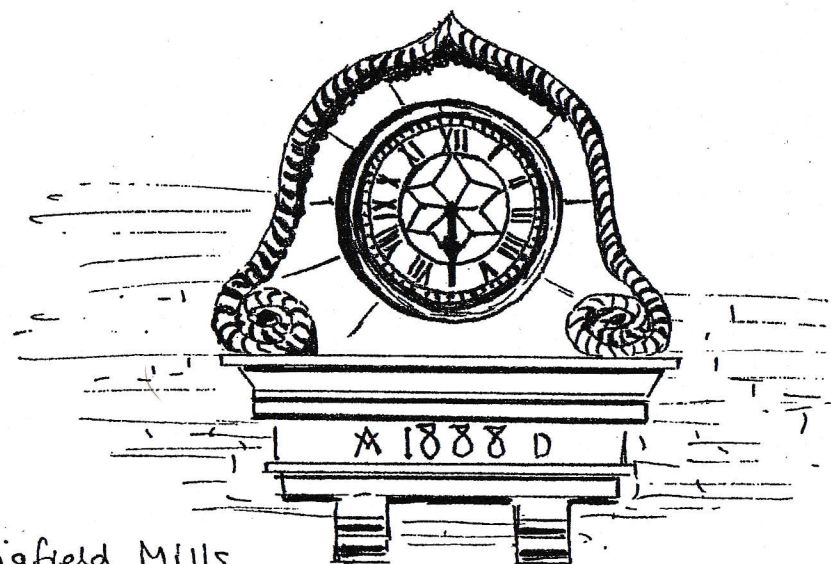
Springfield Mills, Bridge Street, Sandiacre has recently made the local newspapers with the news of the application to convert the buildings into a number of apartments. In itself this is not a bad idea and has been carried out with some success in other areas. Unfortunately the accompanying chimney and boiler house are surplus to requirements and the building company propose to demolish them. The chimney and boiler house are an integral part of the mill complex and are part of our industrial heritage, a landmark that can be seen for miles around and completes a picturesque view at the side of the Erewash Canal. The chimney is said to be in a good state of preservation and is not a plain structure, being octagonal in shape on a square plinth, with a beautiful corbelled peak that flares out. It has been compared with some of the finest minarets to be found in Afghanistan by some authorities, particularly 'SAVE Britain's Heritage'.

The boiler house would have been the power house to the mill when originally built, providing steam for the steam engine(s) that would have powered driving shafts running the length of the factory on each floor. Leather belts would have been attached to these shafts from the machines. I can remember in 1969, working in the Lead Shop of Chambers Pencil Factory in the school holidays and seeing similar drive shafts running close to the ceiling. Some of the machines could still be driven from these shafts and one particularly memorable day I saw the lathes and drilling machines in the Mechanics Shop being driven by leather belts. The drive shafts were obviously powered by electricity and not steam at this time. Today, machines being worked in a similar fashion can be seen at the Masson Mill at Cromford, Derbyshire.

The mill itself has a number of interesting features. The centre section of the building is crowned by a triangular pediment with stone ball finials, enclosing a clock on both front and rear elevations. The front section facing Bridge Street is more ornate, the central section composed of cream coloured bricks, which, after a hundred years, are somewhat discoloured. The clock on this façade has a stone surround in the shape of an ogee arch with cable decoration. The date AD1888 is carved in the stone frieze below the clock. The pediment on the rear elevation facing the canal is enclosed in cream brickwork. The clock is surrounded by a course of red bricks with stone at the quarters.

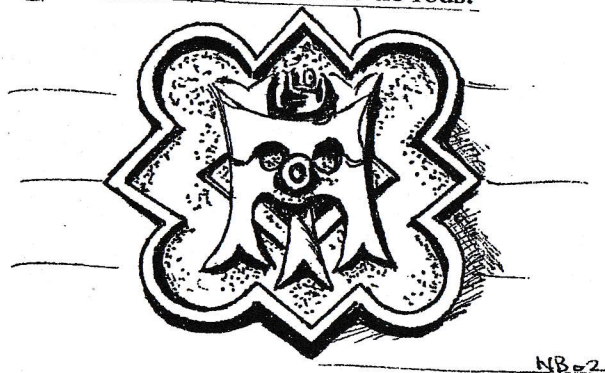


Springfield Mills,
rear facade, canal side



Springfield Mills,
clock on front facade

There are also a number of interesting tie-rod plates with 'T H Ltd' cast into them and I was told by the resident engineer that these are purely decorative, not actually being attached to tie-rods.



tie-rod plate

The office block to the south has the name 'T Hooley Ltd' cut into the stone frieze. Terah Hooley was the builder of the factory in 1888 and it was designed by the Long Eaton architect, John Sheldon. The company moved from West End Mills at Long Eaton to Sandiacre. Springfield Mills was built as a large four storey tenement factory and was designed to be let separately. T Hooley Ltd only used a small part of the building.

Terah Hooley was born in Long Eaton in 1839, starting his own lace business around 1871. He originally had one machine in Austin's factory behind Long Eaton market place. Before long he had a dozen lace machines and had been joined by his son Ernest, born in 1859, who worked as an assistant draughtsman. In 1874 he erected his own four storey factory in Regent Street, Long Eaton. In 1880 he took his son Ernest into partnership and by 1882 the company of T Hooley and Son was manufacturing lace on 21 machines in the newly erected West End Mills on Leopald Street. During the late 1890s the Sandiacre business of T Hooley Ltd was sold to the Sandiacre Mills Company Limited and Hooley presumably retired from manufacturing and went to live at Risley Lodge in Risley. His son, Ernest Terah Hooley, became infamous for making a fortune and losing it all by the time he died in 1947.

It would be a sad day for the Sandiacre townscape if it were to lose such a complete example of a Victorian factory after being a feature for 114 years.

OUTING TO ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

On Thursday 26 September eleven Stapleford members joined the Beeston Society on a day visit to Ely, Cambridgeshire. Despite early delays due to traffic problems locally, the driver made excellent time and we soon saw Ely Cathedral towers rising above the flat fenland landscape.

Alan Clayton, who had organised the visit, supplied us all with leaflets including city plans and details of local attractions, and shopping guides with cafes, pubs and restaurants. It was a bright, sunny day and we had about six hours to visit and explore whatever took our fancy. Many of us had paid in advance for joint tickets for Ely's four main attractions and set about exploring them.

We went first to Oliver Cromwell's house, close to the city centre, in which there are eight period rooms, exhibitions and videos to enjoy, giving a unique insight into the character of Cromwell the man and into 17th century domestic life. The handsome, timbered building, which also houses the tourist information centre, was built in the 13th century for the collection of tithes and has recently been restored. Cromwell inherited it and local estates from an uncle and was responsible for collecting taxes in cash and kind. Some of you will have seen Eileen Bloor's photographs of Stapleford members sporting 17th century head gear, available in one display for trying on!

We next approached the magnificent cathedral across the green and joined a guided tour around the building. St Etheldreda, who had been given the Isle of Ely as a dowry in 652AD, built a monastery which, despite turbulent times during the Viking invasions, flourished until the arrival of the Normans. Construction of the present building, at first as a monastic church, started in 1081 and, after several phases of development, the cathedral we see today was finally completed in the 16th century. The fine Norman nave is now surmounted by a 19th century wooden ceiling with magnificent painted panels.

The cathedral also houses a stained glass museum that shows how glass is made and the ancient art of making a stained glass window. Examples from more than seven centuries are on display from all over Britain, showing a feast of many different styles and developments.

A snack at the cathedral restaurant found us ready for our fourth visit, to Ely Museum, housed in one of the oldest buildings in Ely, dating from the 13th century and renowned as the local gaol. Displays included fossils from marine dinosaurs found locally, prehistoric tools and weapons, Roman

pottery and Anglo Saxon jewellery. Also shown was the history of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, displays about the many airfields in the fen country in World War II, local farming methods through the ages and information about the drainage of the fen lands.

A stroll round the central streets past the market area where the stalls were now being dismantled, a cup of tea in a café and it was time to return to the bus via Ely's award winning public toilets! As we climbed aboard many of us were, no doubt, promising ourselves to return to see more of this attractive, unusual and interesting city.

The driver had been advised to return home by a less busy route via March, the outskirts of Peterborough and on to Oakham and Melton Mowbray. The countryside looked beautiful, bathed in the golden glow of the setting sun, and we arrived home as dusk was falling. Many thanks to Alan for arranging such a superb outing.

Barbara Brooke

*During the Second World War
a Military Correspondent reported*

A bulldozer named Vera, a giant tractor with a steel scoop in front which pushes rocks, stones, earth, to make roads or clear debris, went into action for the first time in Sicily.

What connection did Vera the bulldozer in the height of the war in Sicily have with Stapleford.

In the next Newsletter all will be revealed.

Extracted from the Ilkeston & Erewash Valley Telegraph
Saturday 25 May 1878
by Alan Clayton

STAPLEFORD.

BREACH OF THE LICENCING ACT.—At the Shire Hall, Nottingham, on Saturday last, Mr. Johnson, of Stapleford, was charged by P.c. Dobbinson with having sold intoxicating drinks without a licence, on Saturday, April 14th.—It appeared according to the evidence of the prosecutor that he went to the house of the defendant at about one o'clock in the morning of the day mentioned. He found four men in the room with pints nearly full before them. The house is not a very large one, there being apparently only one room for people to go into. Witness said to those present that he thought it was tidy good stuff they were taking. Johnson was present, and one of them remarked to him to sit down and have something and say nothing about it.—A charge of assault was brought against witness by Johnson, which was dismissed.—Johnson called a man named Greesley who swore that he had two pints of beer, and had paid Johnson for them.—To Mr. Briggs, who appeared for the defence: They did not see any drink paid for. Mr. Briggs said that a club was holding its meeting in Johnson's house on the occasion in question, and that the members had a perfect right to be there then. He would be able to produce the books of the club to show that their meeting was a perfectly legitimate transaction. He asked their worships to dismiss the summons as he would prove by testimony that according to the rules of the club when a friend was introduced by a member what that friend partook of in the way of refreshment was paid for by the latter.—Henry Greesley was examined, and on cross-examination by Mr. Everall, who conducted the prosecution, deposed to the practices of the club referred to.—Wm. Moore (a Secularist,) said he was

a member of the Stapleford Working Men's Club, which held its meeting at the house of Mr. Johnson's, Church-street. He remembered the occasion on the 14th April. It was five minutes to one when the police arrived in the house. Witness paid for some drink for Collins and another of the persons there also paid for some.—To Mr. Everall: He was only at the club meeting once since his connection with the club. He never made entries in the books, and did not know how many members formed the club.—A man named Collins was also examined.—To Mr. Briggs: He did know he was a member of the club. (Laughter.) He had gone to the house about five times altogether. He paid a shilling some time ago and had received a card. He paid the money to Johnson, who did not tell him he was a member. On the night in question he supposed he attended the club in the character of a member of the club. (Laughter.)—Their Worships retired to consider the case, and on re-assembling, the Chairman said that the evidence brought forward did not support the statement that the meeting in question was a legitimate club meeting. In order to mark their disapproval of the conduct of the defendant he must pay a fine of £25.

Stapleford & Sandiacre Co-operative Society Limited
Diamond Jubilee Celebration 1932

Dates in the Society's History.

- 1872 (April)—Sandiacre Society founded.
- 1872 (October)—Stapleford Society founded.
- 1880—Albert Street premises first occupied.
- 1895—Club and billiard room added at Albert Street.
- 1897—Additional shops added at Albert Street.
- 1898—No. 1 branch, Derby Road, erected.
- 1900—Amalgamation of Stapleford and Sandiacre Societies.
- 1901—Northwood Street estate developed.
Stables and slaughter house erected on this estate.
- 1905—Central premises enlarged with addition of boardroom and office.
- 1906—No. 3 branch, Birley Street and four cottages erected.
Sandiacre (King Edward Street) erected.
- 1909—No. 4 branch, Stanton, erected.
- 1910—No. 1 branch extended.
- 1916—Dairy department opened at No. 1 branch.
- 1917—Mr. Stevenson, manager, retired.
Mr. H. Nuttall appointed manager.
- 1919—Bramcote property purchased.
Pasture Estate purchased.
- 1920—Albany property purchased.
- 1921—Central drapery department re-modelled.
No. 4 branch, Stanton, remodelled.
Mr. W. Pacey, secretary, retired.
Mr. Ll. Feber appointed secretary.
- 1923—Land at Stevens Road, Sandiacre purchased.

- 1924—No. 7 branch, Stevens Road, opened.
Mr. Fletcher's premises purchased.
Mr. Northwood retired from presidency.
Mr. Welch appointed president.
- 1925—No. 8 branch, Bramcote, opened.
Houses on Pasture Estate erected.
Land and cottages at Wollaton and Trowell purchased.
No. 5 branch, Wollaton, erected.
- 1926—Dairy (Albert Street) opened.
Mr. Ll. Feber appointed managing secretary at Nottingham Co-operative Society.
Mr. S. Garnett appointed secretary at Stapleford.
- 1927—Cottages in Wesleyan Walk purchased.
- 1928—Fletcher's premises converted for tailoring and outfitting.
Cafe and imported meat departments erected.
- 1929—Central drapery remodelled.
Millinery department separated from drapery.
- 1930—No. 3 branch, Birley Street, remodelled.
No. 6 branch, Albany, remodelled.
Mr. W. Pacey, late secretary, died.
Land at Stanton Lane purchased.
- 1931—Land at Risley purchased.
Converting cottages into warehouse and garage.
Converting warehouse into a billiard hall and newsroom for the educational department.
Converting old tailoring department to a confectionery bakery.
- 1932—Two houses at Wollaton erected.
Proposed enlargement of No. 5 branch, Wollaton.

Extract from a report in 'The Wheatsheaf', August 1932
 Journal donated to the Society by Roy Allen

HICKINGS LANE "REC"

I moved on to Hickings Lane in 1940. My early recollections of the 'recreation ground' opposite my house are of ploughed land, so presumably they were "digging for victory". There was a large wooden shed on the side of the field that ran along side of Hickings Lane and it was there you could often see big horses, so I am assuming these were used as plough horses - to a child they were enormous beasts. However somewhere in time grass grew and it became the large expanse of grass that is there today.

This was my playground. Along with every other child from 3 or 4 years old upwards! My parents played bowls on the bowling green, my uncle played tennis on the tennis courts and I just played.

The Bowling Green was sacred, guarded ferociously by everyone involved in the Bowls Club. The Lady Bowlers, as they called themselves, provided tea and refreshments when it was the Bowls Drive. This was an event held on August Bank Holiday Monday. I am not sure what the men's contribution was, children were kept out of the grownups way in those days! My instructions were clear - you do not go on the bowling green. The grown ups had special shoes if they were Club Members and they could hire overshoes from the GroundKeeper if they were "visitors". All in all the Bowls Club provided quite a social life for the people on Hickings Lane and around.

The Tennis Court came alive in the Summer time, it was very popular. I do not remember a Tennis Club, anyone played who was lucky enough to own or borrow a racquet. A lot of time seemed to be spent waiting for some-one to finish their allotted time, so that you could knock your ball about and spend time looking for it in the flower beds outside the court.

There was a Putting Green but I cannot remember playing on it. It was here that the party was held for the VE celebrations - organised by the Bowls Club no doubt. There is a photograph of the time, and in the Main Pavilion window are two of the stalwarts of the Lady Bowlers - Mrs Crisp and Mrs Starnes.

The Main Pavilion was a larger building than the one that occupies its space today (a pathetic thing). This one seemed really grand. It was the lookout spot for the groundsman, his territory. This was where you went to pay for your time on the tennis court, to hire your overshoes and bowls, and was used of course as the Cricket pavilion and a changing room for the Football.

Then there was the Playground! Swings, of course, a slide, naturally, horse roundabout and a maypole. These were all of metal; how they survived the war effort I do not know (the gates had gone into it). The swings always had a queue and you could get two people on them if one stood on the back, and then how high could you swing? The horses were not for the faint hearted, particularly if you got the back seat - every passenger rocking with all their might to throw the unfortunate one off! The slide had its moments - there was the clever one who climbed up the hard way instead of using the steps and there was the occasional one who missed the slide altogether and broke a limb. Then there was the maypole - this was popular, and I suppose was dangerous but we could not wait to have our turn. The pole had chains hanging from it and attached to them was an iron ring to hold on to. First of all you crossed your chain with the one next to you, then you ran round the pole and at some given time some of you let go of the chains and some clung on! YOU COULD FLY. I collected many a bruise from the loose rings... Parents today would go pale and I suppose ours did too, but most of us survived.

The field itself was used for a meeting place in the week. Each part of the surrounding district seemed to have its own place. West Avenue etc. the top end, the side with all the poplar trees was where the Wesley Place, Orchard Street etc. crowd gathered, outsiders came to the Hickings Lane side. There was Cricket in the summer and Football in the winter.

It was a well - used park. "I'll see you on the rec." was the usual cry coming out of school at home time. Those were the days.

Grace Jarvis.

1881 British Census

Robert Hallam a retired Police Officer,
along with his wife Mary, son Robert W Hallam,
Daughters Mary and Elizabeth Hallam,
All lived at Botheram Cottage
Nottingham Road
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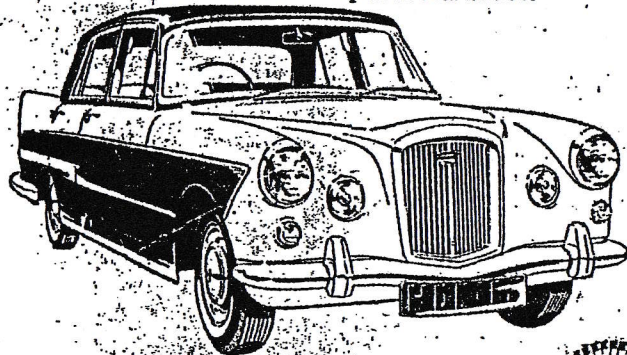
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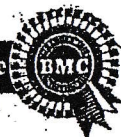
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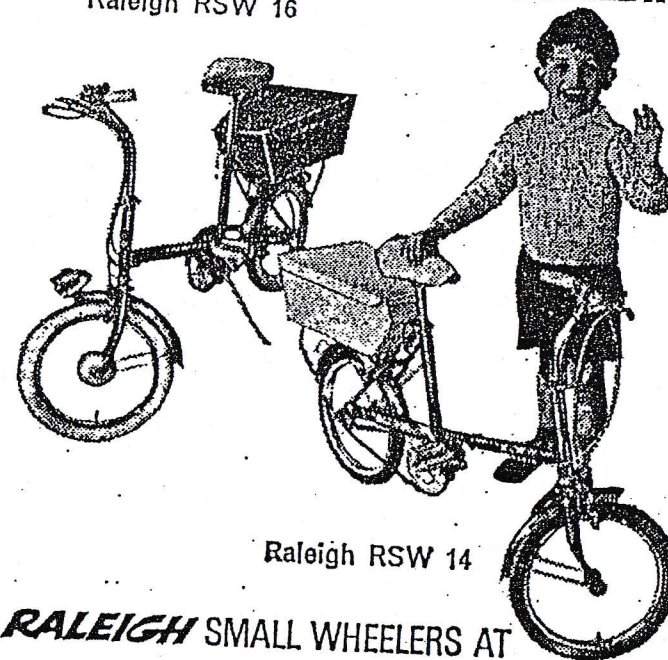
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YOUR WOLSELEY AND MORRIS DEALERS

Stapleford and Sandiacre News, 20 October 1961
Courtesy of Alan Clayton

GREAT GREAT FOR ADULTS NEW FOR CHILDREN

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Stapleford and Sandiacre News, 12 July 1963
Courtesy of Alan Clayton

MEMORIES OF EAST STREET. LOT STREET. CHAPEL STREET AND WESLEY PLACE.

This is a collection of happenings in Stapleford, and also people's experiences of life in general. Firstly the main areas will be East Street, Lot Street, Chapel Street, and Wesley Place.

East Street, was the last street at the Nottingham end of Stapleford up until the late 1920s early 30s before Ewelamb Lane. Only the left hand side of the street was built on. Most of the houses had a small living room and a kitchen fitted with a copper and cooking range (coal fired), and a sink. Water was laid on to the houses. Each house had a coal house, ash hole, and a tub toilet. The tub toilet was emptied weekly by the night soil cart. Some people called them pearl divers. They said if anyone found a pearl in that muck they were welcome to it. The ash hole was emptied weekly, shovelled into tubs and carried to the cart. Upstairs had just two bedrooms.

This was the main accommodation of all the houses in this area, and some of the families were quite large.

On the right side of the street there was the tip at the Nottingham Road end, used as a refuse tip by the council until about 1940. It was also used for Stapleford Wakes, Circuses, and after the war an ex War Department surplus sale ground.

About 1940 a family of travellers moved onto the land at the bottom of the tip. They brought with them their lorries and caravans. They also erected a couple of large tents, and they stayed there many years. They seemed to be of Gypsy stock, not like the travellers of today. Their name was Elliot and the mother of the family was always wearing lots of gold. They moved into a house on the street after the war and the old man used to do a lot of horse dealing. Most of us thought he was very cruel the way he treated the animals. The horses were often bolting up the street.

When the street was demolished the family had a bungalow built on Pinfold Lane, where some of the family still live today. When the old lady died it was the largest funeral ever seen in Stapleford, the cars stretched up Cemetery Road backing down onto Nottingham Road holding up traffic. If you go into the right hand of the Cemetery there is a large black obelisk on the grave.

From the Elliot camp to the dyke along side Hickings Lane recreation ground was Billy Whitehead's market garden. There was old Billy, a thin gaunt man who never seemed to smile much. There was young Billy, a roly-poly cherubic man with a high pitched voice who always seemed to be laughing. He never married, but loved children. Whiteheads' had a reputation for the quality of their floral tributes, and wedding flowers second to none.

Near the top of the Street on the left hand side was the oak tree that Bert Harlow would stand behind, when you drew level he would step out and scare the life out of you, and ask if you had a fag for him. He then asked why you were looking at his feet. He only came out at night. It was said that sleeping sickness left him in that condition. During the blackout a lot of children would hide behind the oak tree scaring people and running away. There was also a series of marker stones set at the side of the road, what for, I do not know.

Cock Brown also lived on the street. He was the local rabbit catcher, or poacher, and when he had a good catch his son Albert went door to door selling the catch, a shilling each, or one and nine for two.

The other lad who I remember in East Street was Billy Suthrington, who was nicknamed Billy Hedgehog, on account of his haircut. Once his dad fetched him in for misbehaving, clouted him and sent him to bed. Next thing his mates knew he had jumped out of his bedroom window to carry on with the game. He was called up to do his National Service, and the law was that if you served 28 days or more in the glasshouse it was added on to your time, and Billy had done time several times over. One of my classmates Harry Beardsley was serving in the same camp as Billy, and the only way the army saw to get Billy through his service was when Harry came on leave, to bring Billy with him, then take him back to camp after. Otherwise he would have been absent again.

Roy Allen. 2000.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

The Stapleford Wednesday Club Dramatic Society
WILL PRESENT

"Daddy Long-Legs"

(A COMEDY IN FOUR ACTS),

By JEAN WEBSTER.

FOR THREE NIGHTS,

Thurs. & Friday, Mar. 10th & 11th, and Monday,
March 14th, at 7.30.

PRICES OF ADMISSION, 2/4 and 1/3.

Smash And Grab At Stapleford

Smash and grab raiders hurled a brick through the plate glass window of Boots Chemists, Derby-road, Stapleford, just before midnight last night, and got away with about four cameras. The value of the property stolen has not yet been assessed.

This morning a notice pinned on the door of the shop said: "Smash and grab raid but a large quantity of cameras still on sale inside."

Shop manager Mr. A. R. Winstanley said: "We were lucky in one respect. The raiders took a 25s. children's camera and left another £25 model."

It is believed that a passer-by notified the police after seeing a man run off with cameras under his arm.

A police spokesman said: "Our inquiries have so far revealed nothing."

Nottingham Evening Post,
24 December 1958

Stapleford and Sandiacre News
20 October 1956

Courtesy of Alan Clayton

HAPHAZARD BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

Talk On Town Planning To
Stapleford Adult School

COUNCILLOR Raymond Banks, chairman of the Beeston and Stapleford Council Building and Town Planning Committee again visited the Adult School at Stapleford on Sunday afternoon.

In speaking of Town Planning, he said, "I want to deal with its human rather than its legal aspect. We need homes to live in, so the subject is vital to us all."

After describing the haphazard and chaotic building development of the last century, resulting in large populations having to dwell in congested areas close to industry, he went on to speak of the serious attempts now being made to plan our towns and cities on modern lines. It was not easy to remove old houses and factories and find alternative accommodation.

Most cities and towns were being remodelled, whenever opportunity and finance allowed in accordance with the modern standards, envisaged by planning authorities.

NEW TOWNS

Sprawling and ribbon development was being checked. Green belts were being made, special sites were being reserved for industry and others for houses, schools and other amenities. He had special praise for the development of the new towns now springing up in the country.

Many interesting questions were submitted by members of the audience. Coun. J. W. Plowman was in the chair.

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and Toddler

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St Helen's Yearbook 1948/49

C. S. RAWDING

Family



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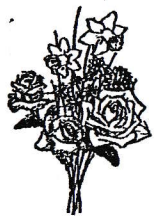
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STAPLEFORD ALBANY
PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

A WHIST DRIVE

Will be held in the SCHCOL HALL

On Wednesday, April 11

Commence 7.30 p.m.

ADMISSION 1/3

STAPLEFORD AND DISTRICT
GARDENHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION
THIRD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held in the
CHEQUERS HOTEL CLUBROOM
Thursday, April 12, at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA:

Minutes 1950 Annual General
Meeting.
Balance Sheet.
Secretary's Report.
Election of Officers.
Any other business.

ALL MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND
THIS MEETING.

A Cordial Invitation to all Gardeners
to join our Association.

Secretary:—C. E. MARTIN, 114,
Moorbridge-lane, Stapleford.

Stapleford and Sandiacre News
7 May 1951

WINTER OVERCOATS
made to measure at practically the same
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Practical Tailor & Outfitter,
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JOHN H. TOPPS The Wallpaper
Stores.

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Near the Station.

All Building Materials in Stock.

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Stapleford and Sandiacre News
4 March 1927

VICTORY

STAPLEFORD

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Continuous Every Evening from 5.30
Sunday from 5.00
LARGE FREE CAR PARK

SUNDAY, June 24th — Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck in
BLOWING WILD (a) 5.00, 7.45 — Also — At 6.45
William Lundigan, Maris Winton in
THE CASE OF THE BLACK PARROT (a)

Monday, June 25th — Three Days

Frank Sinatra, Debbie Reynolds
THE TENDER TRAP
6.25, 8.25 (a)

with

FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME

PALACE, Stapleford

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Sandiacre 3152

SUNDAY, June 24th — Maureen O'Hara and Jeff Chandler in
FLAME OF ARABY (u) (Technicolor) with
Maxwell Reed and Lon Chaney — Also — Van Heflin, Patricia Neal
in WEEK-END WITH FATHER (u)

MONDAY, June 25th — FOR THREE DAYS

Ralph Meeker, Maria English, J. Carol Naish in
DESERT SANDS (u)
Also — Cornel Wilde, Jean Wallace, Dan Duryea in
STORM FEAR (a)

THURSDAY, June 28th — FOR THREE DAYS

Kirk Douglas, Silvano Mangano in
The LOVES & ADVENTURES OF ULYSSES (u) (Tech).

Also — Bonar Colleano, Zoe Newton in NO LOVE FOR JUDY (u)

TRIPS BY TRAIN

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER

Leicester City v. Nottingham Forest
Cheap Trip to
LEICESTER
STAPLEFORD and S.

LONG EATON dep. 12.42 p.m. 3/6
Return Leicester London Road 6.46 p.m.

SUNDAYS 20th & 27th OCTOBER

KETTERING ... 7/3
WELLINGBOROUGH ... 8/0
BEDFORD ... 9/8
LUTON ... 13/3
ST. ALBANS ... 14/8
LONDON (St. Pancras) ... 18/6
SAWLEY JUNCTION dep. 9.52 a.m.
(Bookings also from Trent)
Light Refreshments available in each
direction.

SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER

CHESTERFIELD ... 4/0
GRINDLEFORD ... 5/6
HATHERSAGE ... 5/9
BAMFORD ... 6/0
HOPE ... 6/3
EDALE ... 8/0
TRENT dep. 9.51 a.m.
SAWLEY JUNCTION dep. 9.56 a.m.

CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS to BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS

Outward: Friday 18th October
LONG EATON dep. 4.50 p.m. 28/0
Return: Sunday 20th October
BLACKPOOL CENT. dep. 5.30 p.m.

CHEAP WEEK-END TICKETS to BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS

Outward: Friday 18th October
SAWLEY JUNC. dep. 6.20 p.m. 28/0
Return: Sunday 20th October
BLACKPOOL CENT. dep. 3.5 p.m.

WEEKDAYS (Fridays excepted)

Day Trips to
LONDON ST. PANCRAS ... 28/0
STANTON GATE dep. 7.22 a.m.
STAPLEFORD and S. dep. 7.26 a.m.
LONG EATON dep. 7.32 a.m.
ATTENBOROUGH dep. 7.38 a.m.
(Bookings also from Trent)
See Handbill A.812/R for return times.

TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS

Day Trips to
LONDON ST. PANCRAS ... 28/0
SAWLEY JUNCTION dep. 8.17 a.m.
See Programme A.741/R for return
times.

EVERY WEEKDAY

WORCESTER ... 15/6
CHELTENHAM SPA ... 19/6
GLOUCESTER ... 20/9
SAWLEY JUNCTION dep. 7.52 a.m.
or 8.10 a.m.
See Programme A.741/R for return
times.

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

BRITISH RAILWAYS

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

Stapleford Town Trail	£1.00
Stapleford Tea Towels	£2.95
Leather bookmarks (5 colours)	£0.80
Local views – framed	priced individually
Local views –hand painted cards (with envelopes)	£0.80
Heart of Stapleford maps 1904	£0.50
Framed full colour illustrated maps of Stapleford + Borlase Warren Coat of Arms (produced to order)	£5.00
As above, but in gold frame	£8.00

Society Newsletters – some back copies available at reduced prices
.....

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Malcolm Jarvis - 0115-932 3457

CHAIRMAN – Barbara Brooke 0115-939 4979

SECRETARY – Barbara Page 0115-939 2573

**The deadline for submission of items for the next Spring 2003
issue of the Newsletter is 31 March**

Material can be given to any of the above named.

This is YOU R newsletter!

We should love to hear from you!

Front cover: The chimney, Springfield Mills, Sandiacre
By Nigel Brooks