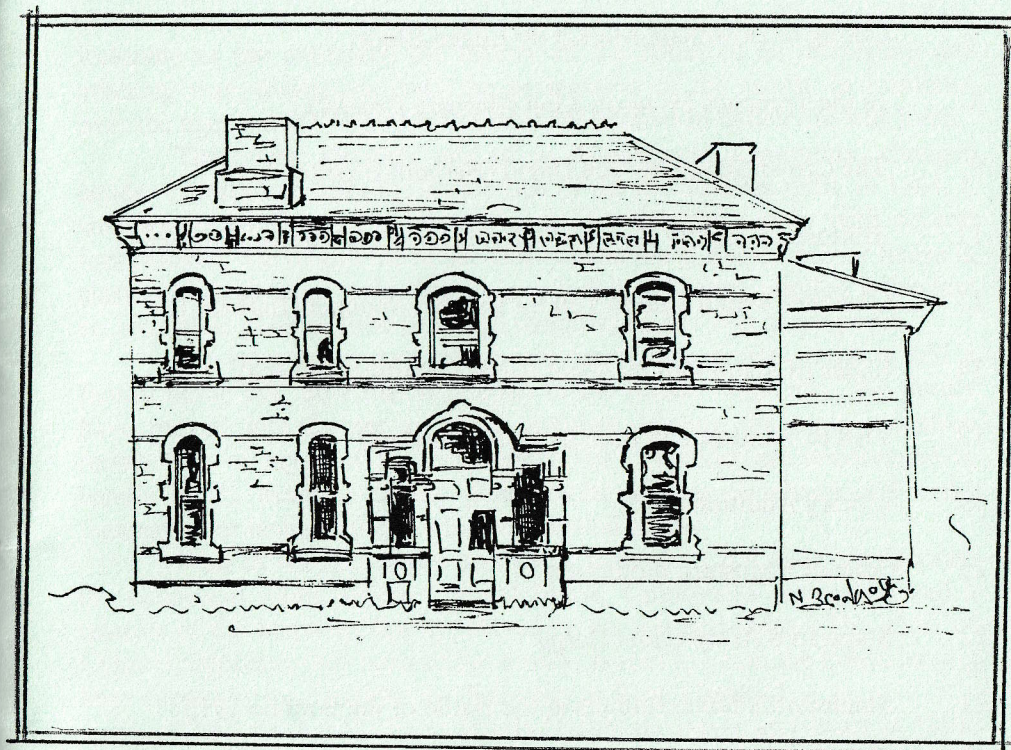


Stapleford and District Local History Society



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50p Free to members

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26 April 2006

OUTING TO CHAVENAGE, HISTORIC COTSWOLD HOUSE

Report by Barbara Brooke

After a problem free journey and a comfort stop at Moreton-in-Marsh our coach arrived safely at Chavenage, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, where we were greeted by Caroline Lowsley-Williams, whose father, David, is the present owner. In his absence she was to be our guide. We were indeed fortunate as she explained the history of the house in an interesting and amusing way, giving not only the perspective of the family in residence over the ages but the religious and national context in which life was lived.

The estate, formerly part of an Augustinian community, changed hands several times after the dissolution of the monasteries until, in 1564, it was bought by Edward Stephens, head of a wealthy family with several local estates. He rebuilt the house and created the E shaped manor house in classical Elizabethan style that we see today. He incorporated redundant ecclesiastical glass to form the large windows on the side of the porch.

We were taken on a conducted tour of the house which is still a family home but, now that it is open to the public frequently, the family have moved into former servants' quarters, leaving the main reception rooms free of signs of modern family life. Visitors are encouraged to handle items, examine family photographs and sit on chairs and make themselves at home in the handsome panelled rooms.

Wall to wall tapestries and items from the Civil War era decorate the Cromwell room, where Colonel Ireton, Cromwell's son-in-law and a relative of the Stephens family, stayed on several occasions. The ghost of Colonel Stephens, then head of the family, is said to haunt the house having been cursed by his daughter for disloyalty to King Charles I.

The Lowsley-Williams family bought the house and estate in 1891. They extended the house by building a ballroom with sprung floor and service rooms. Here we were served with a delicious hot meal, prepared by Caroline's sister, Joanna, whom some of us had seen cooking at the house on a TV programme 'Stately Suppers' two weeks prior to our visit.

The house and grounds have featured in many other TV programmes - Poirot, House of Eliott and Casualty - to name but a few.

Chavenage sits in rolling Cotswold countryside and its immediate neighbours are the country estates of Prince Charles and Princess Anne.

We saw the countryside at its best, with blackthorn and gorse in bloom and trees bursting into leaf. Primroses and cowslips were much in evidence in the Gloucestershire hedgerows.

Whilst we were at Chavenage the family's cairn terrier produced four puppies and another followed later in the day.

On the return journey we stopped for about two hours at Stow-on-the-Wold, an old market town built of mellow Cotswold stone beside the Fosse Way. Here we had time to wander around the attractive streets, browse in the local antique shops and enjoy a cup of tea in one of the pleasant tea shops.

Then it was time to head for home after a fascinating day, once again in glorious weather. Many thanks, Alan, for organising it.



Old Postcard of Derby Road, Stapleford
Courtesy of Andrew Knighton

Thomas Cook "Patron Saint of Travel"

Talk given 11th May 2006 by Danny Wells

The warm Spring evening, following a hot and sunny day, with promise of holidays in the air, was a fitting setting for our talk on Thomas Cook. We learned of the roots of the tours for which Thomas became famous. He was born on 22nd November 1808 in Melbourne in Derbyshire. He attended school until he was ten, then worked as a gardener. When he was 14 he was apprenticed to his uncle, a cabinet maker. As well as carrying on his work, he became an itinerant Baptist preacher. In one year he covered about 2700 miles as he tramped to congregations in the area. Melbourne was a centre for the Evangelical religious revival. Thomas was a liberal by politics, hating war and slavery. He married Marian Mason in 1833, and the following year a son John Mason Cook was born.

By 1829 he was producing religious tracts and this business grew. The year 1841 was when Thomas organised his first excursion. Thomas was much involved in the Temperance movement, which grew out of the concern about the level of drunkenness in the population. In 1830 a Beer Act had been passed to encourage the Beer halls as an antidote to the ravages of the gin palaces. As a result 30,000 new beer shops opened. 1841 the Midland Temperance Press began in Leicester. The family moved and Thomas Cook was a leading light in the organisation.

On January 12th 1841, while Thomas was walking from Market Harborough to Leicester and contemplating how to attract people to the movement and help them to spend days out free from drink he had an idea. He would organise a day out from Leicester to Loughborough. He hired a train and filled it with enthusiastic passengers. The fare was 1/- As the train passed under bridges on its journey, crowds waved from them. On arrival in Loughborough a crowd of 500 awaited them, complete with a brass band.

The assembly made their way to the centre of Loughborough where they formed a circle and gave "One more cheer for Tee-Totalism and Railwayism"!

Danny Wells then gave a short analysis as to why this simple idea of an excursion took off in such a spectacular manner.

The time was right. Even in the eighteenth century the English had had 'a fondness for gadding'. In 1763 40,000 people went through Calais. In 1840 100,000 Britons went to the Continent. At home 'taking the waters' at various spas had become the fashion. The Romantic Movement, with its emphasis on 'natural places', had made areas like the Lake District seem attractive instead of wild and inhospitable. The seaside was also becoming popular. And then there were the Railways. As new tracks snaked across the country travel was more possible. The railway timetable, the station hotel, made their appearance. This challenged the pressure there was to 'stay put'. In fact in the early days of railways, you were checked up on when buying a ticket to make sure your business was legitimate! This of course could not be maintained and so old patterns of society broke up. Thomas Arnold, the Master of Rugby School said that 'Railways brought an end to feudalism'. So with the railways as the new roads the time was ripe for new customers to spend their spare cash, earned in the prosperous boom of the Industrial Revolution, on travel.

As well as promoting the Midland Temperance Press, Thomas worked as a bookseller. He opened two Temperance Hotels. One was in Derby and his wife ran the one in Leicester.

Thomas set his sights on new areas to open up to travel. Walter Scott's novels and Queen Victoria's visits had made people aware of the beauties of the scenery in Scotland. So Thomas organised cheap excursions to Scotland. In 1840s and 50s he ran outings to the great houses like Chatsworth and Belvoir Castle. This was seen as a way of creating social cohesion in troubled times. Paxton, builder of the Crystal Palace, and Gardener at Chatsworth encouraged these trips.

It was his connection with Paxton that led to the next expansion of the tours. Travelling on a train to Liverpool to look at the possibilities of arranging trans-Atlantic tours, Thomas met Paxton and a friend at Derby Station. They persuaded him to temporarily abandon his plans and concentrate on arranging excursion trips to the coming Great Exhibition in London in 1851. So it was Thomas Cook's was responsible for arranging the journeys of 165,000 of the 6 million who attended. Thomas was particularly glad to participate as the Exhibition allowed no intoxicating liquor, was shut on Sundays and had a Bible Depot near the entrance.

His Scottish enterprises flourished and then he branched out into Europe. In 1863 he took a party to the Alps. As his foreign destinations multiplied, there was criticism of 'Cook's Circus', 'Cook's Vandals', 'Swarms of intrusive insects'. But Dickens thought excursions 'commendable'.

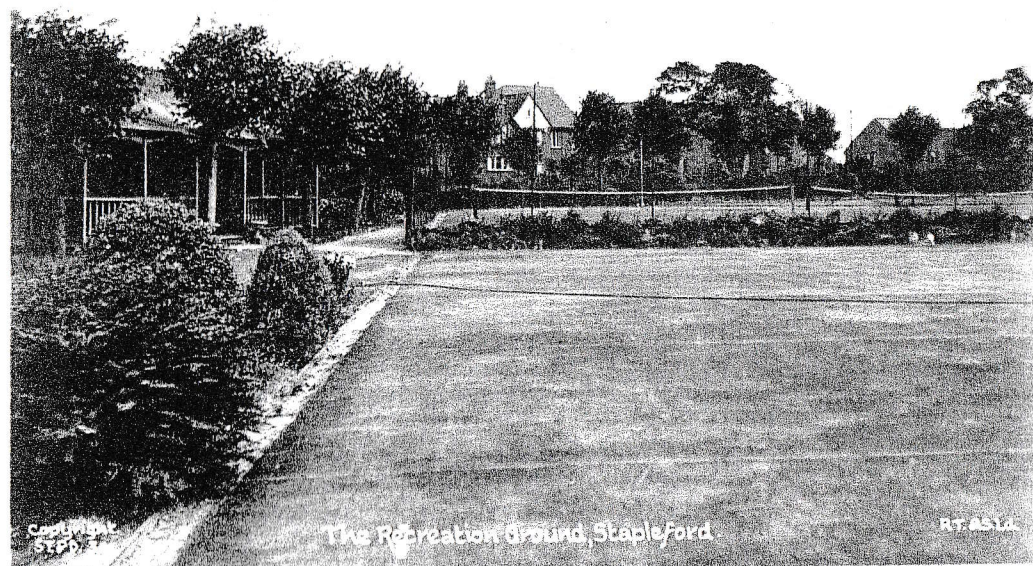
In 1865 the main office moved to London, but the Leicester office was retained. John Mason Cook, the only son, ran the London office. He was a businessman and introduced a professional attitude to the enterprise. New destinations appeared rapidly. Egypt and the Holy Land (1869) Egypt and Palestine (1872) Scandinavia (1875) Australia and USA (1880s). Alongside this expansion new services were introduced. In 1872 there were 130 hotels, by the 1890s there were 1200. Travellers' cheques were introduced in 1872.

The Main office moved to palatial accommodation in Ludgate Circus, where the business was run for 50 years.

Thomas' relations with his son John were not harmonious. Thomas was the ideas man, while John wanted to develop in a practical business-like way. In 1879 John became sole managing partner, and Thomas' involvement was diminished.

From 1880s the firm was responsible for the movement and supply of the army sent to relieve Khartoum and did similar service in the Boer War.

Thomas' declining years were shadowed by the death of his daughter from gas fumes (1880) and his wife (1884). His relationship with his son did not improve. It was rumoured that at the Jubilee of the organisation in 1891 Thomas was sidelined by his son, and did not attend. So he was not present to hear himself referred to as the 'Patron Saint of Travel' or he and his son called 'Julius and Augustus Caesar of Modern Travel'. He died in 1892 but the work he had founded lived on, his three grandsons joining the firm and the horizons broadening all the while. By the twentieth century India was a tourist destination.
Meg Oliver 12th May.



Recreation Ground, Toton Lane, Stapleford
Courtesy of Andrew Knighton

1 June 2006

OUTING TO DOWNHAM MARKET AND COLLECTORS' WORLD

Report by Eileen Bloor

Didn't we have a luvverly time the day we went to Downham? Even though Alan didn't quite manage to work his usual miracle with the weather, our spirits were not dampened as we enjoyed another superb day out. After a brief comfort stop along the way, we arrived in Downham Market shortly before 11 o'clock and were able to explore the town with its interesting history at leisure. What a pleasure to find no multiple chain stores here, but a varied array of independent traders. Nelson House, now a small department store was, in a previous incarnation, the school attended by no less a personage than the Admiral himself. Local legend has it that Nelson had his first sailing lessons on the river at Downham and during rainy weather he sailed paper boats down the gutter on his way to class.

After lunch we re-boarded the coach for the short journey to the Collectors' World of Eric St John-Foti. Mr Foti was away attending the funeral of Freddy Garrity (Freddie and the Dreamers), but we were warmly welcomed by his son, who gave us a brief history. However, nothing could have prepared us for the overwhelming variety of exhibits.

In the Nelson Room we saw the actual cask in which the admiral's body was pickled in rum after Trafalgar for the journey back to England, his birth and marriage certificates and also his death mask, as well as artefacts and ephemera too numerous to mention.

We then moved on to the Victorian Christmas Street and the World of Dickens. No electric lights, of course, so very dark and atmospheric, which frightened this writer half to death, particularly upon turning a corner and being faced with Sweeney Todd.

I quickly moved on through the century, passing war-time England, the Barbara Cartland Room, the farming and horse drawn carriage collection to the car and aero museum. This is the only Armstrong

14 June 2006

IN THE TRENCHES

by Jason King

There was great anticipation in the air as members helped Jason to carry in and display all the artefacts he had brought to show us. Obviously, as this evening's session was about World War I, members would not have the personal recall that had been the case for most in his World War II presentation.

He explained the activities during the early weeks of the war in summer 1914, when the highly mobile German forces aimed to be in Paris in six weeks. They almost made it but a counter attack by the British and French at the Battle of the Marne forced them to withdraw.

Instead of the fast moving war the Germans had envisaged, it gradually changed into a static affair, epitomised by the trench warfare of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 when, between July and November, more than a million men died. On the first day alone more than 500 of the many thousands of British soldiers killed were younger than the lowest recruitment age of 18. 'Your Country Needs you' shouted the posters at every street corner, but it was not necessarily patriotism that drove young men to enlist, but huge unemployment and the need for jobs with pay. 20% of British enlisted men were non-white. Indian maharajahs forced their men to fight, but in the whole army there was only one non-white officer.

We heard about soldiers' basic training, route marches with heavy weights, exercising with guns - sometimes with wooden models when the real thing was not available. There was a shortage of uniforms too, so some men wore civilian uniforms instead.

Jason called out six men from the audience and lined them up smartly with six assorted guns. Which type of gun would have been the most useful in the trenches? There were many different replies, but a long barrelled gun allowed its bullets to spin longer and faster and was therefore more useful when the enemy trenches could be as much as 800 yards away.

With the comment that everything can tell a story if you ask the right questions, Jason invited us to go and look at the items on the tables.

These were items of equipment belonging to British officers, British and German artillery, German infantry, British infantry, the Home Front and the French army.

Of what possible use were those white pieces of cloth, we wondered. They were primitive masks against chlorine gas, which had been released by the Germans near Ypres. What were those triangular 'War Service' badges for? When you wore one it showed that you were on war service, even if you weren't in uniform, and were not a coward avoiding the draft. Were those periscopes? What were they for? They enabled men in trenches to see over the top and what was happening in no man's land. What were those small metal cans for? You brewed your tea in them and, as all men were required to be clean-shaven, even in the trenches, you rinsed your cut-throat razor in them. Why were some of the inside seams of greatcoats light coloured? This was a favourite place for lice to lay their eggs so men regularly checked there and 'popped' them. It was also an essential chore to search your own body for lice as hygiene and lack of water were perennial problems.

These are just a few of the many questions raised and, when he had persuaded us to return to our seats, Jason finished with the imagined story of a young soldier, seriously injured by enemy fire. There was nothing that could be done for him and all the other men had to lie there in the darkness listening to him calling, like a little boy, for his Mum, until he finally died as dawn broke.

It had been a memorable evening and we left with increased understanding of the horrors of World War I trench warfare brought home to us in a unique and very personal way.

Barbara Brooke

12 July 2006

THE CROWN JEWELS

by Joe David

Joe David, a retired Yeoman Warder of the Tower of London, and a former

Regimental Sergeant Major in the British Army, began his talk by telling

us that every year more than two and a half million people visit the Jewel House in the Waterloo Building at the Tower of London, which was opened by the Queen in 1993.

The questions most frequently asked by visitors are whether the jewels are real, what they are worth and why they are kept at the Tower.

He explained that the jewels are indeed real and are symbols of the nation and belong to us all! Many of them are used in the Coronation Service, which has remained unchanged since that of King Edgar in the year 973. They form a unique and priceless collection and are unsurpassed in the world.

Long ago the jewels were kept in store at Westminster Abbey, but it was discovered that various items had been pawned by the monks and were on sale in Bermondsey market. At this point the collection was moved to the Tower of London, being kept at first in the Martin Tower and later in the Wakefield Tower.

In more recent times members of the public were allowed to see the Crown Jewels but there was poor access by a long flight of stairs. They were protected by tungsten carbide steel and bullet-proof glass and were difficult to see. It was not unusual to have to queue for more than three hours and the Governor of the Tower arranged for them to be moved to a new home in the Waterloo Building in 1967. Here they were 44 feet down in the bedrock, but were still difficult to see as they were in a large safe. When the sentries on guard outside changed direction the very sensitive alarms frequently went off, resulting in the whole Tower being evacuated and a full scale alert swinging into force. Needless to say, the sentries had to 'pussyfoot' their marching changes!

As a result a new jewel house was constructed in the centre of the Waterloo Building where access is easy, there are no queues and all the items are clearly visible as they revolve on their stands. Visitors are conveyed on a moving platform, which passes the items displayed. Joe joked that the speed is turned up at 5.00pm to get the visitors through by closing time.

He then showed slides of many of the fabulous items and explained their construction and roles. The Imperial State Crown, dating from the time of King Charles II, has been much altered and weighs only one kilogram. It is the one we are used to seeing in official photographs. It

contains 2,668 diamonds, 17 sapphires and 273 pearls, as well as the Black Prince's ruby, given to him by the King of Spain in 1367 and worn by Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt. It also contains the second Star of Africa, part of the Cullinan diamond (the largest ever found and cut into four main stones and many lesser ones and all in the Crown Jewels), the huge Stuart sapphire and pearls from Queen Elizabeth I's earrings.

St Edward's crown has been used for every coronation ceremony since 1661, but is so heavy at more than three kilograms that it is actually worn for only eleven minutes!

We saw slides of the two sceptres, the orb, the jewelled sword of state, the golden spurs of St George, the bracelets, the coronation ring, the ampulla that holds the anointing oil and the anointing spoon.

Joe's admiration for the Queen and the pride he felt in serving her was evident to us all. We had spent a fascinating evening in the company of this larger than life character and had learned a great deal about the coronation of our monarchs and our shared heritage of the incomparable Crown Jewels.

Barbara Brooke

9 August 2006

BURTONS OF SMITHY ROW

by Valerie Henstock

Valerie's detailed and informative talk, accompanied by slides depicting shop displays, uniformed assistants and fleets of delivery vans brought back memories of this much missed store.

Joseph Burton was born in 1832 in the village of Winstar, Derbyshire of a long line of blacksmiths, who also made equipment for lead miners in the area. His father, realising that there was only enough work in the business for one son, apprenticed Joseph, his second son, to a grocer in Derby. After an additional time in London, Joseph set up business in St Ann's Well Road, Nottingham.

At this time Nottingham was expanding rapidly and in the new developments of Sherwood and Mapperley many houses were being built for those with considerable disposable income. Joseph's ambition was to

supply the 'carriage trade' with high quality goods and excellent service.

In 1868 he moved his shop to premises in Smithy Row in a parade of buildings where the frontage was under cover and carriages could stop outside. In the 1880s he expanded into double fronted premises next door but one, with the Shoulder of Mutton public house in between. He opened a café upstairs which soon became the 'in' place for ladies to meet their friends.

He had married the daughter of a lime burner and for many years they lived over the shop with their six children and two shop assistants.

Joseph's policy of keeping abreast with the latest developments in the grocery trade, his early adoption of refrigeration and daily home deliveries (twice daily in areas close to the city centre) ensured that his business prospered and he became very wealthy.

The family moved to Burns Street near the Arboretum and later bought a huge mansion, Malvern House, on Mapperley Road. His son Frank's marriage to Mabel Lambert of the wealthy non-conformist Nottingham family, was the wedding of the year in 1902 and the young couple lived at Orston Hall.

The company's large headquarters on Talbot Street housed an ice factory four storeys deep in the sandstone, serviced by lifts. Here the butchery and frozen goods were stored and the firm leased space to other merchants, as well as selling ice to them. The large fleet of green and gold liveried delivery vans were based here and in nearby Wollaton Street were the firm's bakery and jam factory.

By this time Frank had succeeded Joseph as head of the firm, but Joseph still went to the shop every Saturday to look round and have a chat, not hesitating to tick Frank off if anything was not to his liking.

The business, built on quality and service, continued to thrive and eventually had more than 200 branches nationwide, with a distribution centre in Bristol. When the Smithy Row premises were demolished for the construction of Nottingham's Council House, Joseph Burton & Sons Ltd were given a 99 year lease in the new Exchange Arcade.

Here, in what became known as 'Burton's Arcade', they specialised in wonderful window displays, the most splendid of which marked the Queen's coronation in 1953.

However, challenging times were ahead for the firm. There was

increasing competition from the growing supermarket chains, home deliveries were no longer viable and there were double yellow lines outside the shop, preventing customer parking.

Eventually the business was sold to Garfield Weston, but in the minds of Nottingham people the name of Burtons of Smithy Row lives on as a beacon of excellence.

Barbara Brooke

13 September 2006

CHURCHES THAT HAVE A TALE TO TELL

by Spencer Spooner

Spencer's talk described many churches and unusual stories about them, illustrated by slides of those special attributes.

He started by telling us of his visit to Boscastle church very shortly before the village was deluged by floods in 2003. If he had been there several days later his car would have been swept away in the torrents.

St Benodel's in Cornwall, the favourite church of Sir John Betjeman, was almost completely buried in encroaching sand in the 19th century and the vicar was lowered in through the roof in order to keep it consecrated. In 1860 the decision was taken to restore the church and it is now completely free of sand, with a golf course close by.

Eleanor of Castile (the Infanta [Princess] of Castile remembered in the name of the London district Elephant and Castle) was the devoted wife of King Edward I. She bore him 15 children and even went on a Crusade with him to the Holy Land. When accompanying the king to Scotland to arrange a peace settlement in 1290, she fell ill with a fever and died at Harby, near Lincoln. Her heart was buried in Lincoln Cathedral but her body was transported to Westminster Abbey. In the 12 places that her body rested overnight on its sad journey back to London, the heartbroken king raised an elaborate Eleanor Cross. Only three remain, at Geddington, Hardingstone and Waltham, but the last one on the journey gave the name to Charing Cross.

Elton church in Derbyshire fell down and its stone font stood in the churchyard. It was later removed and was used to grow flowers in a

garden. It was later taken into Youlgreave church and again used as a font. Elton church was later rebuilt, but Youlgreave refused to return the font, so the lord of the manor had a replica created. Thrumpton, Nottinghamshire's Norman font stands, neglected, in the churchyard.

In Southwell Minster are the font and four candlesticks rescued from the lake at Newstead Abbey, where they had been thrown by Newstead monks in 1538 at the time of Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

The church at Whatton in the Vale has a one legged effigy of a warrior, which originally had two legs. A school was held in the church and when wood was chopped for a fire, while using the effigy as a support, one leg fell off and broke into many pieces.

At Swithland in Leicestershire an owner wanted his dog buried in the churchyard, but the parishioners refused to allow it. The dog was buried in a tomb outside the churchyard, but right by its wall. When the owner died, the wall was demolished and he was buried in an extension of the dog's tomb.

In Orston church is a drum beaten at the Battle of Waterloo.

Burton Joyce has a colourful, architect designed, millennium carpet right up the central aisle.

In Sudbury church, Derbyshire, is a stained glass window, presented to the church by former World War Two child evacuees to mark their stay in the village.

Spencer spoke about dozens of churches and I have given you only a taster from among them. He ended his fascinating talk by showing us a sign near a Chicago church, bearing the legend 'Thou shalt not park here'.

Barbara Brooke

11 October 2006

SLIDES OF STAPLEFORD

by Nigel Brooks

Nigel's slides of Stapleford understandably attracted the largest audience of the year, with well over 50 members and visitors present.

He started by showing the Saxon Cross, the oldest Christian

memorial in Nottinghamshire, as it stood formerly in the street topped by its stone ball, later in the churchyard minus its ball, then with a new ball as Broxtowe Borough Council's millennium project in 2000.

St Helen's Church was shown before refurbishment in the 1870s, then with the memorial chapel, constructed in the 1920s. We saw the gravestone of Thomas Bramley, a five year old Stapleford boy, run over by The Times coach.

Inside the church we saw the fine 1639 tomb, though much damaged, of Gervase, last male member of the important Teverey family, who had lived at Stapleford Hall for 300 years and owned much land locally. Nearby is the wall monument to John Borlase Warren, son of Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, who, as a young soldier, was killed in Egypt.

Stapleford Hall, rebuilt by the admiral in about 1788 on the banks of the River Erewash, was shown, as well as its fine lime tree avenue, roughly along the line of Warren Avenue and the lodge, now part of Hyper supermarket.

A fine portrait of the admiral hangs in Sudbury Hall, Derbyshire as his daughter, Frances Maria, married George Sedley (later Vernon) heir to that estate.

The Carnegie Library was built in 1906 and a slide of a 1988 newspaper cutting showed Lord Richard Attenborough (whose grandfather Frederick Attenborough had a baker's shop at the Roach) officially opening the Carnegie Centre, converted to be the home of Stapleford Town Council.

Next door was the fire station, built in 1909, and we saw the splendid early motorised engine, as well as a slide of the original horse drawn outfit.

St John's Church of England School, the first in Stapleford, was endowed by Lady Caroline Warren, the admiral's widow, and is the oldest school building still in use as a school in the county.

Pictures of the various former chapels were shown - the New Connexion 'Top Hat' Chapel on Nottingham Road, Church Street Methodist Chapel on the site of the new Care Centre, Trinity Primitive Methodist Chapel on Derby Road and Brookhill Methodist Chapel, opened in 1885 and used as a school to house the increasing number of local

children before Halls Road School (William Lilley) was built. The Wesley Chapel (now Stapleford Bureau) at Wesley Place, was built close to the spot where John Wesley preached to the people of Stapleford in 1774.

A slide was shown of the Grade II listed framework knitters' cottages on Nottingham Road with their large windows on the top floor to admit as much light as possible for working on the machines. In 1844 there were 33 stocking frames in Stapleford.

The Arthur Mee Centre of Broxtowe College (now Castle College Nottingham) was built as Stapleford Board School in 1880 at a cost of £4,000. We saw a slide of a class of 1927, that included Gordon Brooks, Nigel's father, and George Spencer, who was head teacher there for 38 years. Mr Spencer played a very active part in Stapleford life for many years and was much admired in the town.

Stapleford Co-operative Society's complex of buildings in Albert Street, constructed in 1880, was later expanded when the society had become Stapleford & Sandiacre Co-op. We saw a slide of Nigel taking part in a play at the Albert Hall there.

The Manor House on Church Street was built in 1689 by George Jackson, lord of the manor, and remained largely unchanged until its demolition in 1970.

We were shown views of the Victory Cinema and the Palace, which was destroyed by fire in 2000, when part of Michael's Carpets.

Chambers' Pencil Factory, formerly Fearfield's Lace Factory in a Garden, demolished in 1973, and the nearby hosiery factory of Johnson & Barnes Ltd, closed in 1981, have been replaced by the Broad Oak housing development.

Many of the buildings shown have now disappeared, but new ones are taking their place. It was a fascinating evening which evoked many memories and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Barbara Brooke

Don't forget the Christmas Social Evening

on Wednesday 13 December

Come along and enjoy the quizzes.

Please bring a food item towards the supper.

7 September 2006

VISIT TO WINDSOR AND ETON

Report by Colin Rowland

'Plenty of sunshine' was the order of the day when members of our society once again joined the Beeston Society on another of their outings, splendidly organised by Alan Clayton.

Windsor is dominated by its castle, the largest and oldest occupied castle in the world, first established by William the Conqueror in the 1080s. Originally made of wood, the castle has been successively enlarged and rebuilt over the centuries by monarchs from Henry the Second the Elizabeth the Second.

St George's Chapel, within the precincts of the castle, was begun by Edward IV in 1475 and completed by Henry VIII. It is the resting place of ten monarchs, including Henry VIII with his favourite wife, Jane Seymour, and Charles I. Interestingly, these are buried side by side in the same vault. Apparently when Charles had his head chopped off, Cromwell didn't want him to be buried in an ornate tomb. So when it was found that there was a space next to Henry, in he went! The chapel is also the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter, the oldest and most senior British Order of Chivalry.

The magnificent state apartments are lavishly furnished with treasures from the Royal Collection, including masterpieces by Rubens, Hans Holbein and Van Dyck. Windsor is one of the official residences of Her Majesty the Queen, where she spends a lot of her private weekends. It is also used regularly for ceremonial and state occasions.

From Castle Hill it is possible to take an open top bus ride around the town, hopping on and off the bus as you please. Or perhaps you would prefer to take a leisurely trip on the river.

Over the River Thames, by way of a footbridge, is the world famous Eton College, founded in 1440 by Henry VI. One of the oldest schools in the country, its original purpose was to provide education and accommodation for 70 deserving scholars; today there are more than a thousand students.

Leaving Windsor at 5.30, after being delayed by road works, we arrived home about 9.30.

Siddeley museum open to the public and boasts models dating from 1920 to 1960, when the last limousine was produced. The Bristol Siddeley Olympus engine which was mounted on Concorde 001 for its first supersonic, record breaking flight was also amongst the awesome exhibits.

In between we saw the swinging sixties room, the telephone museum, which houses the old Norwich telephone exchange, radios, photography, the earliest typewriters through to computers, and the Liza Goddard Room which contains memorabilia of her life and acting career. Mr St John-Foti created this tribute as a friend and admirer and the star opened it on her fiftieth birthday. Old rockers will remember that Miss Goddard was once married to local lad, Shane Fenton, also know as Alvin Stardust.

Across from Collectors' World is the Hermitage, containing the Pilgrims Hall, Reliquary, Chapel of the Nativity, Walsingham Slipper Chapel and the Tapestry Room, together with Mary's House and the 17th century bell which came from York Minster. The Hermitage is a religious retreat for all faiths and is still used by pilgrims travelling to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Outside is the Rosary Way and a very poignant shrine dedicated to the memory of unborn children and their mothers.

About thirty peacocks were strutting their stuff around the grounds. Mr St John-Foti advised us that there was also a clutch of six eggs about to hatch. In the animal sanctuary sheep, ducks and geese were evident, together with a very evil looking billy goat, which caused several members to beat a hasty retreat when he made a move towards them.

Just after 4.30 we left for home, our minds still grappling with the enormity of the collection we had seen. It needs at least a couple of days to take it all in. We had another stop at the café/farm shop en route and arrived home, not only with memories of another great outing, but also with sacks of potatoes, plants, fruit and salad ingredients at bargain prices!

Thanks a million Alan - when's the next trip?

Library additions

July 2006

1. Eight into One – Joe David.

A very easy to read account of Joe David's life – from gunsmith to after dinner speaker with time spent as Soldier, Yeoman Warder, Special Constable, Bodyguard extraordinary to the Monarch, Town Crier, Toastmaster and Lecturer in between.

August 2006.

1. Lost Houses in Nottinghamshire – Philip E. Jones.

A pictorial record of the many houses that have disappeared, some before the First World War, but most since that date.

2. Viewing the Lifeless Body – Bernard V. Heathcote.

A Coroner and his inquests held in Nottinghamshire Public Houses during the Nineteenth Century – 1828 – 1866 – Page 32 – inquest at the Horse & Jockey of the young boy run over by the Times stagecoach. – page 34 – inquest at the Commercial Inn, Beeston.

May be more – read and fine out.

3. A Victorian Lady's Diary – 1838 – 1842 – Elizabeth Nutt Harwood of Beeston – edited by Margaret Cooper.

The daily life of a twenty year old. Good opportunity to compare the weather then with the weather now.

September 2006.

1. Guide to Staunton Harold Church – National Trust.
2. Basford Bystander – Issue 117 – contains many interesting bits of information of times gone by.
3. The History of Blue John Stone – R.J & D. Harrison.

Interesting booklet produced by the proprietors of the Speedwell Cavern.

They are working specialists in Blue John Stone.

4. Basford & District from 1821 – 1851.

A detailed project from the Local History Society.

October 2006.

Thank you to Mrs Sharp for the following donated books.

1. The King's England – Nottinghamshire – Arthur Mee.
2. Train on Churches – contains information on fifty four churches within easy reach of Nottingham.
3. Old Nottingham – Malcolm Thomas – contains much information about the history of our city.
4. Nottingham – A biography by Geoffrey Trease – contains two interesting bookmarks – a 6d and a 7d but ticket – are these collectors' items?
5. Old Nottinghamshire – J.P. Briscop – published in 1884.

A most interesting book – quite fragile – but full of unusual information. Contains list of subscribers and dedicated to memory of the "Duke of Albany".

Thank you to Colin Rowland for the following book: -

6. A Corner of Derbyshire – Volume I – to accompany the Volume II that is already in the library.
7. The Midland Line to London – John Palmer.

For railway enthusiasts.

November 2006.

Local History News Number 80 Summer 2006.

A postcard photograph taken by H Holme of Long Eaton



Back row left to right

Dolly Fox, Mrs Williams, Mrs Moorley, Tom Moorley, John Williams, Mrs Ross, Miss F Fox

Third row

Mr Thorn, Freda Oldershaw, May Atkin, Agnes Boyer, May Boyer, Doris Stone, Alice Shaw, Ernest Ridgard, Andrew Burton

Second row

Beryl Gill, Doris Elliot, Ivy Trindel, Alice Norris, May Burton, Ada Stone, Flossie Ball, Edna Fox

Front row

Ivy Thorn, Ida Williams, Gwen Burton

Carol Moore had seen this photograph, including the names, in an old newspaper. Her grandfather, Andrew Burton, and two aunts, May and Gwen Burton, are pictured. Then, while visiting a post card sale at Harvey Haddon Stadium, she found an actual postcard of the group. It is believed to be something to do with the CWS (Co-operative Wholesale Society?) and features fancy dress costumes for some sort of Colman's Mustard promotion. Whereabouts in Stapleford was the photo taken? What was the year? What was the occasion? Can you help?

Another Stapleford jewel in the crown.
Stapleford Army Cadet Corps
 Stapleford and Sandiacre News.
 Believed to have been taken April - May 1943.



ADVERTISER

A BIG GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTS

PHOTO

Pictured above is a group of members of the Stapleford Army Cadet Corps, who recently celebrated their first birthday with a ceremonial parade. The Corps is under the command of Lieutenant Chambers (centre), with Lieutenant Paul Taylor (on his left) as second in command. In their first year of life, the Corps has progressed through the "teething" stage to a strong body of smart youths who are a credit to themselves, to the town and to their officers. Every effort is being made to provide themselves with a new headquarters and with the necessary equipment to facilitate their specialised training to fit them for entry into H.M. Forces.

Known cadets;
 Front right, arms folded. John Fisher. On his right Sergeant
 Derrick Saville, then Paul Taylor, then the Commanding
 Officer Finlay Chambers. Who else do you know?

Photograph courtesy of The Rev H.J. Fisher
 and Alan Clayton.



90 years ago during The Great War one of the worst days in British military history happened, the start of **The Battle of the Somme.**

At 07.00 hours on 1 July 1916 the battle commenced.

The following Stapleford men gave their lives during that time.

To know exactly where they were in battle would require much research

CLEAVER, Albert I

Private 13156 of the 9th Battalion, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was killed in action on the 1st July 1916 He has no known grave but is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial on Pier and Face 11 C and 12 A.

CAVEY, Arthur Henry

Private G/2011. 9th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers Died on 7th July 1916 when aged 22. The son of Mrs. E.A. Cosway of 18, Balfour Road, Stapleford. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Mash Valley Memorial number 8 at the Ovillers Military Cemetery.

TUCKER Isaac A. Military Medal.

Private 14314. "A" Coy. 10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). He was killed in action on 8th August 1916 when aged 20. Son of Mary Ann Tucker, of 35, Antill St., Stapleford, Notts, and the late John Hallam Tucker. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 10 C 10 D and 11 A.

MERRIMAN, Samuel.

Lance Corporal 11874, B Company, 17th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment). He was killed in action on 3rd September 1916 when aged 22. He was the son of William and Agnes Merriman of 'The Ash', Town Street, Sandiacre. He is buried in grave E9 at the Knightsbridge cemetery, Mesnil-martinsart.

POLLARD, Percy

Lance Corporal 32385. 17th Battalion. Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment). He was killed in action on 3rd September 1916 when aged 19. He was the son of William and Kate Pollard, of The Nook, New Stapleford, Notts. He is buried in plot VI. Row F. grave 9., at the Ancre British cemetery, Beaumont-hamel

GREENSMITH, John Thomas

Private 10657 of the 2nd Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. He was killed in action on 19th September 1916 when aged 21. He was the son of John and Maude Greensmith of 33, Antill Street, Stapleford. He is buried in grave 11, plot V, row C, at the Vermelles British Cemetery

THORNHILL Frederick

Sergeant 27275 16th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment)

He was killed in action on 10th October 1916 when aged 34.

He was the husband of Mrs M Thornhill of 43, Frederick Road, Stapleford.

He is buried in grave 16, row A, plot IV of the Contay British Cemetery, Contay.

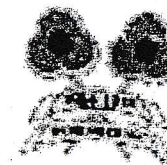
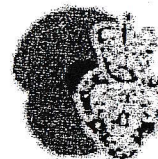
WHEAT John.

Private 17676 of the "2nd Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). He was killed in action on 29th October 1916 when aged 23. He was the son of Mr and Mrs J. WHEAT of 28. Moorbridge Lane, Stapleford. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial on Pier and Face 4D.

SHAW, James Alec

Private 70513 10th Battalion. Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) He died of his wounds on 8th November 1916 when aged 22. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, of Stapleford, Notts. He has no known grave but is remembered on Pier and Face 10 C 10 D and 11 A. at the Thiepval Memorial.

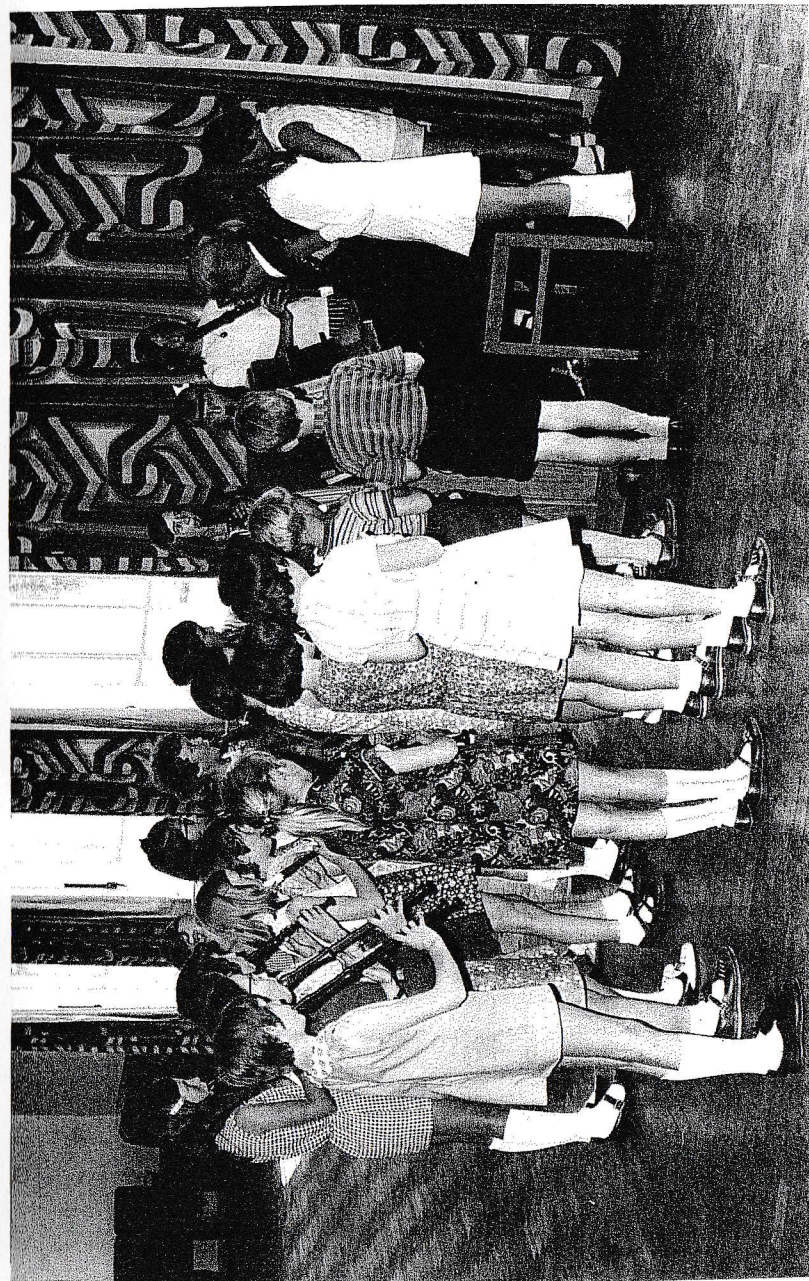
They, and others, who have given their lives during that war, will be remembered.



William Lilley School
Halls Road



Apologies for the quality of pictures. Ed.



Making music, Fairfield school hall, Stapleford, 1971
Mr Victor Martin, Headteacher, at the piano

Letter and survey by the late
May Davis. M.B.E.

June 1993
Dear

42 Valmont Road
Bramcote
Nottingham
NG9 3JB

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

For some time I have felt that the banning of corporal punishment in both the home and school is not in accordance with the wishes of the majority of people in Britain. To prove this I decided to conduct a survey of the opinions of about 100 people, details of which are attached. The result is highly significant; 95 people out of 102 are in favour of the re-introduction of corporal punishment in our schools. At present, the voice of the majority of people is not being heard. Because of this I should be pleased if you would use your influence to discount the directive from the EC abolishing corporal punishment and help bring about an acceptable policy of discipline in our schools which would include a measure of the wise use of corporal punishment.

I am of the opinion that in the long-term, over-indulgence of our children is more damaging to them and eventually to society, than over-strictness. When children are incapable of, or deaf to reasoning, then strict obedience to authority should be complied with or the pain of punishment suffered. Shakespeare wrote, "He who jests at the scar never felt the wound."

In view of the result of this representative survey, I should be pleased if you would take whatever action you can to implement the voice of the silent majority who have the welfare of our children and society very much at heart.

Yours sincerely

May Davis

Head Teacher
Edwalton County Primary School 1956-74

cc.

Rt Hon Jim Lester MP
Rt Hon Kenneth Clark MP
Rt Hon John Patten MP
Alderman Fred Riddell
Chairman, Education Committee
Notts County Council
County Councillor D.J. Morton, Bramcote.

Survey on Corporal punishment

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT?

Name Age over 50/
.....under 50

1. Were you ever caned or punished physically at School? Yes/no
2. How old were you?
3. On hindsight do you think you deserved it?
4. Did you commit the offence again? Yes/no
5. In your opinion, do you think that the threat of caning acts as a deterrent for unacceptable behaviour? Yes/no
6. Would you recommend that corporal punishment be re-introduced:-
 - a) in school for certain misbehaviour? Yes/no
 - b) out of school for offences such as joy-riding. Yes/no
7. Any observations on corporal punishment.

Please return to May Davis.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT - ANALYSIS of SURVEY. June 1993.

Total replies 102

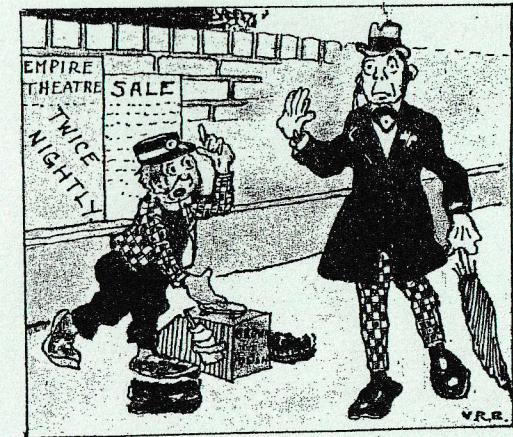
	Yes	No
1. Were you ever caned or punished physically at school?	60	42
2. How old were you?		
Primary age	38	
Secondary age	30	
3. On hindsight do you think you deserved it?	46	14
4. Did you commit the offence again?	14	44
5. In your opinion, do you think that the threat caning acts as a deterrent for unacceptable behaviour?	95	4
	unsure - 3.	
6. Would you recommend that corporal punishment Be re-introduced:-		
a) in school for certain misbehaviour?	95	5
b) out of school for offences such as joy-riding	82	17
	unsure - 1.	

Observations on corporal punishment from item 7

The following are representative of the very many submitted.

1. Any chastisement I had at school I deserved. It didn't harm me physically or mentally. The current 'namby pamby' ideas are not conducive to maintaining discipline in schools.
2. The ground rules were already set so one knew that to misbehave would result in punishment. I consider that if I misbehave at work I would be "Sacked" and if children misbehave at school they too deserve punishment.
3. Today we are seeing what can happen in, and out of school when the old adage "spare the rod and spoil the child" is NOT followed. Disruption in the classrooms by unruly children and vandalism and mindless violence on the streets by teenagers.
4. There must be an ultimate deterrent, particularly for persistent offenders and I feel corporal punishment is probably the most effective deterrent.
5. The children need to know the limits of acceptable behaviour. If they do, they are much happier in their school environment. The lack of any form of corporal punishment has meant that discipline has gone in the schools.
6. As I see it, a sharp slap to the bottom or legs (definitely not to the head) will have a salutary effect, when sweet reason will not prevail. In schools, the 'THREAT' of punishment even though rarely administered, is good for the discipline of the whole school.
7. In my opinion the threat of caning should be used in school. This could help the teaching staff, by having a deterrent for unacceptable behaviour.

THEN THERE WAS A SHINE



BOOTBLACK BOY: "SHINE SIR? I'LL POLISH 'EM UP
SO'S YA CAN SEE YA FACE IN 'EM."
GRUMPY MAN: "GET OUT, LAD. I DONT WANT
A SHINE."
BOY: "I DONT BLAME YA, MISTER. IF I
HAD A FACE LIKE YARN I WOULD'NT
WANT TO SEE IT NEITHER

VINCENT R. BROOKS

From the autograph book of Beatrice Brooks, 1900-1920

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

Stapleford Town Trail £1.00

Stapleford Tea Towels £2.95

Leather bookmarks £0.80

Local views - framed priced individually

Local views - hand painted cards £1.00
(with envelopes)

Pen & ink drawings by Jack Vernon £1.00

Framed full colour illustrated maps of Stapleford + Borlase
Warren Coat of Arms (produced to order) £7.00

As above, but in gold frame £10.00

Society Newsletter - some back copies available at reduced prices

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CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY - Barbara Brooke - 0115-939 4979

TREASURER - Grace Jarvis - 0115- 916 7617

**The deadline for submission of items for the next
Spring 2007 issue of the Newsletter is 31 March 2007**

**Material can be given to any of the above named.
This is YOUR newsletter! We'd love to hear from you!**

Cover: Fearfield House, Stapleford
drawn by Nigel Brooks