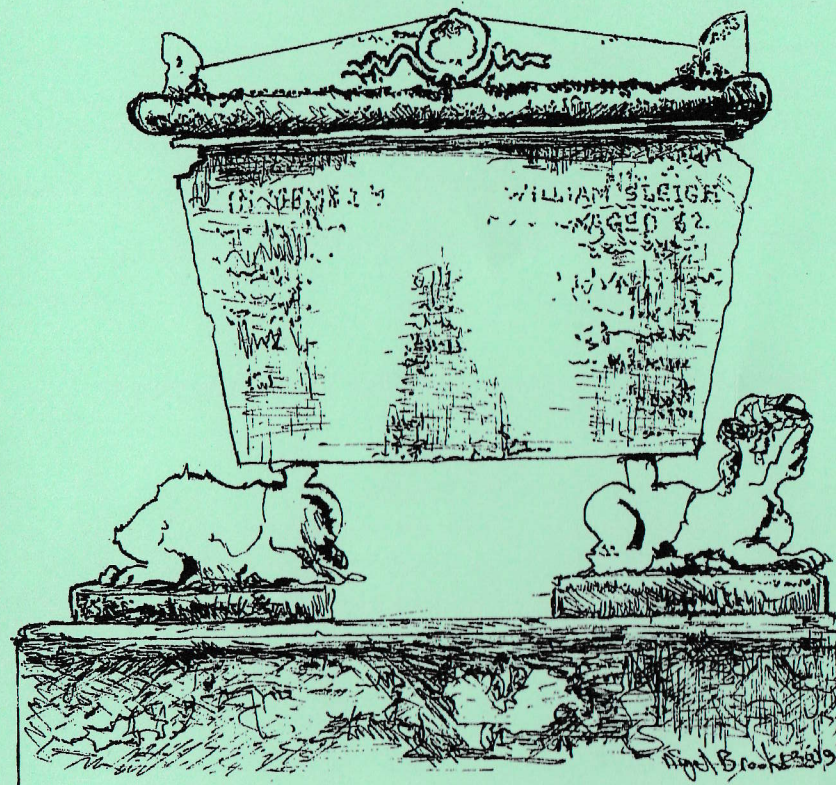


Stapleford and District Local History Society



Newsletter No 47 – Autumn 2019
£1.00 Free to Members

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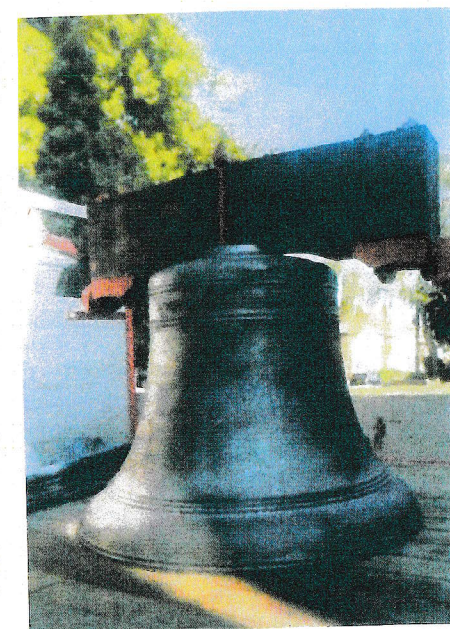
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STAPLEFORD CEMETERY BELL

At 12 o'clock on Friday 8 February 2019 several members of the Society met at Stapleford Cemetery. We were there, along with about forty other people and various dignitaries, to hear the newly restored cemetery bell. This was the first time that the bell had been rung since the 1970s*. After this time the bell had fallen into disrepair. The £8,318.00 restoration project had been funded jointly by Broxtowe Borough Council and Stapleford Town Council.

On Friday 8 February the Bell at Stapleford Cemetery rang 12 times at 12 o'clock.



The Cemetery building itself was a gift to the people of Stapleford in 1880 by Mr Joseph Fearfield, and the bell was cast in 1885 by the John Taylor Foundry in Loughborough. The bell was refurbished by this company, who originally supplied it 134 years ago.

From now on the bell will ring 12 chimes at midday each day and may also be used as part of burial services and events.

** Actually it rang at 11am on 11 November 2018 – but a lot of us were elsewhere.*

(John Shaw)



Barbara Brooke, Keith Goodman, Margaret Watt, Pat Hodgkiss, John Hodgkiss, John Shaw

MEETING REPORTS

14 May 2019

FOLKLORE AND CUSTOMS IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

By David Mooney

To begin his talk David gave us his definition of folklore. He said that this classification was not inflexible and some of the things he would be mentioning broke these rules, but it was a good place to start.

The rules are:

1. Oral traditional basically – although some have more recently been written down or ‘collected’.
2. Passed down by ‘folk’ – not rich and famous people.
3. Not attributable to specific individuals – more of a community memory.

The Haxey Hood Game – Haxey is in Lincolnshire. This is a sort of mob football game that takes place on 12th day of Christmas (6th January). It is thought to be based on a story about Lady de Mowbray and a shy agricultural worker. There is some evidence that this game existed in 1360.

Plough Monday – takes place on the first Monday after Epiphany. It is a sort of Mummers Play that happened in many places. One version of this has now been revived by a group from Calverton.

Blidworth Cradle Rocking – takes place the first Sunday after Candlemas. A baby boy from the village is placed in a cradle that is very highly decorated with flowers, and blessed in the village church.

Royal Shrovetide Football – occurs in a few places but the most famous is Ashbourne. This has become a very crowded affair. Special buses are run out from Derby. David said that it was very drunken and

rough. It is called Royal because Edward VIII visited the games in 1928. (Dave suffered two broken ribs when taking part in this event.)

Hallaton Bottle Kicking – Hallaton is in Leicestershire. This is another mob game but this time the ‘ball’ is a small keg (bottle). Takes place on Easter Monday.

Wellow Maypole Day – Wellow has the largest maypole in Europe. Maypole dancing is most probably a Victorian revivalist tradition. The Victorians worked hard at producing their version of ‘Merrie England’. Certainly the earlier maypoles were not made for dancing round with ribbons.

Castleton Garland Day – 29th May, the birthday of King Charles II. David described the various ceremonies that take place on this day. They are connected to the restoration of the monarchy. He recommended this as probably the best folklore event to visit.

Well Dressing – This has recently suddenly increased. Many villages and areas have taken it up as a community event all through the summer months.

Poor Owd Oss – this was a sort of Mummers Play that took place between Christmas and Plough Monday on the Notts/Derbyshire borders. David himself has recently revived it and, in a group, they travel round the pubs (with a horse’s skull) singing.

Owd Tup – More a Derbyshire tradition. This is like Poor Owd Oss but with a ram’s skull. David used finger puppets to perform some of this play.

Village Carols – Very common in the Peak District where every village had its own carols (and tunes). This custom happens in each village, in the pubs, just prior to Christmas. There is a tradition of these carols in Beeston, very near to Stapleford.

Mummers Plays – there are lots of versions of these all over our area. They are performed between Christmas and Plough Monday. David told us that these plays are now very popular in America and large crowds attend performances. David himself has revived one from his village of Selston (mentioned by D H Lawrence in one of his books). He performed the whole of this play with his finger puppets!!



David gave us a very enthusiastic and lively talk. He had a good knowledge of all the ceremonies that he described. He had been to all of them and was able to add very effective personal stories to the information that he had. His knowledge was impressive and his delivery excellent. We had facts, legends, opinions, music, songs and puppets all in one brilliant show.

John Shaw

11 June 2019

THE GREAT WAR – SHATTERED ILLUSIONS by Danny Wells

At the beginning Danny explained that he was not going to be talking about the causes of the war or about military strategies, but his talk was going to be based around the Victorian romantic view of war.

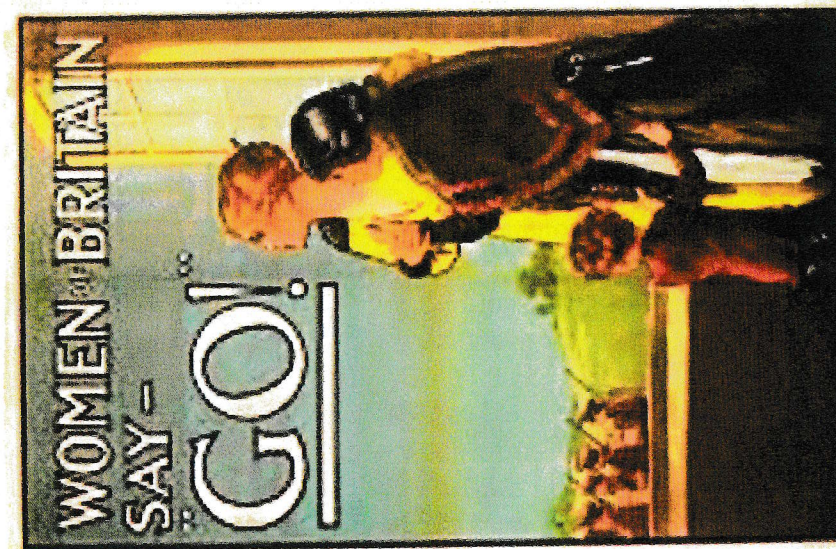
At the beginning of the war people enlisted voluntarily in their thousands. Why? Because of the prevailing view of war. Danny quoted two examples. One was Vincent St Morris of Ashbourne who wrote in a poem how he accepted that it was his duty to go to war. The other was Roland Britton from Buxton who wrote in a letter that war was 'enabling' and 'beautiful'. He said these views were typical of writings at that time. There was a romantic pleasure culture of war expressed in such phrases as:

"An Englishman is more than a match for any foreigner."

"War is a game."

These writings in books, magazines, newspapers and comics all sanitized the reality of battles and there was very little mention of the enemy; much more about doing your duty and the chance to be a hero. The stories were often concerned with the wonderful extension of the British Empire and the glories of war.

Englishmen were inspired to "Play up and play the Game", (Henry Newbolt) and this included fighting in a war. There was also a feeling that the Edwardian period was quite dull. By 1914 the Boer War had been over for twelve years.



Men volunteered in their millions. A lot of them worried that they would be too late. They didn't have the faintest idea what war was like. The Kaiser told the German soldiers that it would all be over by autumn.

There were also posters and leaflets to encourage joining up (over two million posters and twenty million leaflets). We were shown posters that were aimed at women and children. The Music Halls were full of patriotic songs.

In the first 16 months the army expanded by 2,500,000 men. They were also joined by millions of overseas soldiers from all parts of the Empire. The Press were told not to repeat bad news, to encourage the belief that victory was within easy reach, and to make little of the actual dangers.

Danny's talk then turned to the reality of war.

The truth was that in the first five months of the war there were over a million casualties. In the Battle of the Somme, which lasted three and a half years, there were over a million casualties. In the Battle of Loos eight thousand men were killed in the first few hours. We were reminded about the horrors of the trenches and the gas.

Danny then gave us quotations from things written as the truth dawned. These no longer talked about the glory and adventure of war. They spoke of the actual horrors. Some of these quotations came from the famous WW1 poets and some from 'ordinary' soldiers in their letters home.

This was a hard-hitting talk. Danny apologized that there would not be many jokes. He said it was hard to find humour in the First World War. He had obviously done many, many hours of research to find the very relevant and strong quotations and pictures. He used them well. We saw pictures of people we had heard about and of people whose words were quoted. These quotations and pictures brought a real immediacy to the story Danny was telling. A lot of it was very moving.

Danny finished this excellent talk with this quotation:

"Only the dead have seen the end of war". (Wilfred Owen)

John Shaw



THE 1950s –
DID WE REALLY HAVE IT SO GOOD?
by John Whitfield

John started by saying that the 1950s was a decade of great change. He described it as having started in black and white (or grey), and finished in colour.

Politically the period started in 1945 when Labour, very surprisingly, won the election. Churchill and the Conservatives lost by a landslide. The Labour Party government had the strength to start enormous reforms. They seemed to be working for Working Class people and produced the National Health Service, the Welfare State and nationalised industries.

However, the country had no money and there were a lot of shortages and rationing. In the next election (1950) Labour won by only five seats, perhaps because people were sick of rationing and wanted to move on, or because people were not happy with the fact that we had entered another war – in Korea.

In 1951 the Conservatives won an election and gained a twenty seat majority. Churchill was back in power. John suggested that this was power in name only. Churchill was not well and relied on his clever ministers, especially R A Butler and Anthony Eden. Churchill was often unwell, but this fact was concealed from the British people. According to John, Churchill was doing well to survive on a diet of champagne, brandy and cigars!!

It seemed that this Conservative government's policy was based around "Don't rock the boat" and "Give the people what they want". The whole idea was to 'free-up' people and industry to help expansion.

Harold Macmillan was in this government as Housing Minister. 300,000 houses were built each year, replacing a lot of slum housing.

A good symbol of rebirth and rejuvenation was the impressive Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

In 1955 Churchill retired and, surprisingly, Anthony Eden took over. John explained how the Suez crisis was a total British failure and a signal to the Empire that the all-powerful British Lion was losing its strength.

Most people seem to relate the Macmillan phrase 'never had it so good' to material things and it is true that there was a boom in the Western world industries. There was work, therefore there was more money. This money made great changes in the lives of the working class. They had never had wealth like it before.

John listed the reasons for this:

- 1 Full employment – there were lots of jobs
- 2 Some innovative technologies had been developed during the War
- 3 We had good relationships with many Middle Eastern countries and therefore cheap oil
- 4 We still had the remnants of the Empire to trade with
- 5 We were the second richest country in the world. We had very little competition and we became very skilled at many major industries
- 6 We had plenty of coal
- 7 We had a good, successful education system

There was definitely a growth of affluence. Socially this did not seem to affect the old and middle-aged, but the young were changing. 'Teenagers' became a recognised section of society, and a market. They wanted to change things radically, as signalled by Rock and Roll music and new fashion.

John ended his talk by stating again that the decade had started grey but had now become coloured. How long was this going to last?

I must admit that when John arrived without any notes and without any visual aids ("Wot no Power Point?") I was a little worried. I need not have been. John was a very clear and knowledgeable talker. He had a very good way of simplifying complex situations. He held everyone's attention from the minute he started. He certainly explained to me some things that were, until then, uncertain to me. I learned a lot. I am booking him again for next year. Don't miss it.

John Shaw

10 September 2019

TREASURES IN THE ATTIC – Part 2

by Brian Howes

Those of us who had seen Brian last year knew the format. Brian filled the table with interesting things. He would talk about each one in turn and our job was to try to decide which was the star item, with the most value. With each piece Brian would tell a little story, either some unusual facts or an anecdote as to how he found the item. Sometimes there would be clues in these descriptions. He started with fifteen objects on the table. They were:

1 A child's seaside bucket. This was made of metal and had pictures of Mickey and Minnie Mouse on it. We were told that Minnie's full name was Minerva. The bucket dated from the 1940s.

2 A big (about 3 feet high) promotional Double Diamond bottle. The bottle was made of fibre-glass, so it was made just after World War Two.

3 A souvenir Coronation Magazine published by the Daily Mirror, dated 2 June 1953. Many audience members remembered watching the Coronation on very small black and white television sets.

4 A Roy Rogers book, a children's book from 1952. Brian talked a lot about how clever Roy Rogers' (real name Leonard Sly) horse, Trigger, was. He also mentioned that the family were shoemakers. Roy made over 1,000 films.

5 A Matchbox toy with original box, made in 1957. The company had made toys that were replicas of the Coronation Coach. These had been so successful that the company started making match box toys. This car was a Vauxhall Victor and was pale yellow. Brian mentioned that a few red ones had been made and they were extremely rare.

6 A plastic kit to make a model car from 1952. Later Airfix was to dominate the plastic model market, but this was pre-Airfix and was made by a very small, and hard to trace, German firm.

7 A motor badge – hallmarked solid silver. It was made for the Nottinghamshire Automobile Club. The car depicted had the number plate AL271 and belonged to M.H.Appleby.

8 A toffee tin with a picture of the R101 airship on it. We were told that the airship had cost £4 38,000 to build and that on Friday 18

October 1929 it had flown over Nottingham. Brian judged the tin to have been made about that time.

9 Another tin, this time with the words Cricket Polish on it. It was a tin designed for keeping string in and had a cutter on the top. Brian had been able to find very little information about Cricket Polish or the tin, except that it was made in Liverpool.

10 A metal washboard (used in skiffle bands as well as for scrubbing clothes). This washboard was unusual because it was metal (they were more usually glass) and was small. For this item Brian played a 45rpm record of 'My Old Man's a Dustman' by Lonnie Donnegan. This record had appeared in 1958 under the title 'The ballad of a Refuse Collector'. Brian talked about skiffle music in the late 1950s and also mentioned that Lonnie Donnegan's father was a professional violinist.

11 A Chamber Pot (a "gusunda???"). Not much explanation needed. Vital before indoor toilets, and now used for indoor pot plants.

12 A Ladybird book 'British Birds'. Ladybird was started in 1940 in Loughborough by Wills and Hepworth who cleverly worked out how to print a 56 page book on a single sheet of paper. They had made a few books during WW2 and these are extremely rare. This book (in excellent condition with its paper dust-jacket) was presented to Brian in 1965 'for endeavour'.

13 'The Young Ones' vinyl lp record from Cliff Richard's 1961 film. The film cost £230,000 to make and the set was later used for 'The Avengers' and 'The Saint'.

14 Earliest example of a Roses Chocolates tin from 1936. Rose Brothers of Gainsborough had made machines that could wrap individual chocolates.

15 Enamel Hudson's Soap clock advertising sign from 1910. Hudsons made the first washing powder by grinding up soap bars.

For the second half of the evening we had to guess the values of these items and choose a 'star' item.

Brian was a very lively speaker and engaged the whole audience. We enjoyed ourselves a lot and learned a lot.

Here are some of the values:

- 1 Metal bucket £50
- 4 Roy Rogers book £2
- 5 Matchbox toy £75 (a red one would bring in over £3,000)
- 12 Ladybird book 'British Birds' £5

The identity and value of the star item can be found on page 25

John Shaw

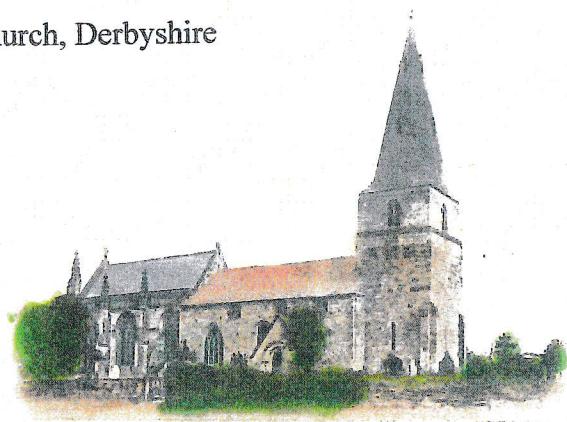
8 October 2019

THE SANDIACRE STORY **by Mike Reed**

Mike started his talk by explaining the name Sandiacre, the most likely origin of which was the fact that the church stood in about an acre of land near the top of Stoney Clouds, which is a very high sandstone outcrop.

He pointed out that there was no prehistoric or Roman evidence in Sandiacre, but the Normans had noticed it and it was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The church, part of which dates from Norman times, is the most historic building in the town and is very well worth a visit, having some unusual features.

Sandiacre Church, Derbyshire



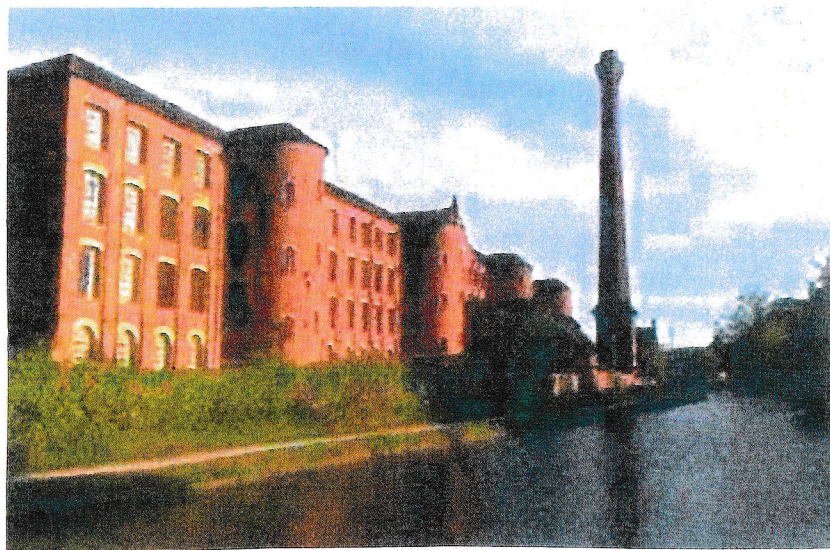
There is a Sandiacre Imp at the top of one of the pillars and a carving of a blindfolded woman near one of the windows on the North side. The church has six bells, which were paid for by Joseph Stevens (a lace-maker partner with John Whiteley of Stapleford's Whiteley Mill). Joseph Stevens lived in Sandiacre Hall with his sister Matilda. When he died she paid for the East window in the church to be dedicated to him. (Stevens Road is named after him – this was originally his carriageway down to the Hall)

Over time there have been five Methodist churches on Town Street. Some have gone, some remain. Sandiacre man Henry Taft was a friend of Charles Wesley and his son married Wesley's companion Mary Barrett. Together they preached all over the country, but eventually settled in Sandiacre. There is a line of Taft graves near the church door.

Three of the five public houses were built at the foot of Sandiacre Hill and provided stabling for the change of horses before going up the steep hill.

The area was mainly agricultural before industry came with the canal and the railway. The main industries were on Station Road. There was a large starch factory which was sued by the canal company for polluting the water. It was later bought by Coleman's and closed down. Taylor Brothers made railway lines and this was a very successful company. There was a screw factory and also The Premier Gas and Engine Company was formed and developed by a Mr Hamilton. They produced diesel engines – big ones. This company lasted until the 1960s.

On the other side of the road was Lace Webb, the furniture makers. They fitted out the *Queen Mary*. There were lots of lace factories in Sandiacre, the biggest of which was Springfield Mill, built by a Mr Hookey of Risley. The factory was so big that the River Erewash had to be diverted, causing problems because the river was the Stapleford and Sandiacre boundary between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.



Springfield Mill

Mike said he regretted that nearly all the old buildings in Sandiacre had been knocked down. The Hall was used for a time as a furniture factory, then demolished in the 1990s. However, two survivors were the very small 'Lock up' on Church Street and the Dr Bland's Alms-houses (1910) half way up the hill.

For the second half of the talk Mike read excerpts from the writings of a Mr Bastable, dated about a hundred years ago. The readings were very informative and witty. They were about various Sandiacre happenings (eg the Wakes) and many local characters.

This was a well thought out and well delivered talk. Mike knew his Sandiacre history and conveyed it well. Lots of us 'Staplefordians' learned a great deal about our neighbours.

John Shaw

More war time memories by Danny Corns The Hemlock Stone to D-Day.

I was a youngster growing up during the Second World War and a number of events tend to stay in my memory. There are five events in particular which remain very vivid.

Seeing the Heinkel III dropping its 2,000kg bomb on Stanton in September 1940.

Sitting in an air-raid shelter listening to German bombers on their way to bomb Coventry and other major cities, wondering if Stanton was their target.

Witnessing the doomed Short/Stirling bomber just before it crashed near Grove Farm, Stanton- by- Dale.

Sharing a cup of tea with German and Italian prisoners of war working at Stanton in an air-raid shelter near the New Works Furnaces which they used as a canteen during WW2. It was obvious to a 9 year old that the Germans and Italians hated each other. I believe the Germans were based at a PoW Camp near to Heage, while the Italians were billeted at Wollaton Park. They would never be put together of course. Our parents didn't know we visited them.

The most vivid memory of them all was:

Playing cricket with a group of lads on Hodges field at the bottom of Crompton Street when we heard a sudden drone coming over from a southerly direction. As it got louder, the sky became full of large transporter aircraft. It took quite a while before the sky cleared. Of course, we didn't know what it was all about. We learned later that they were heading for Arnhem.

This year's D-Day commemoration sparked another memory which I had put to the back of my mind. I was 8 years of age and it was towards the end of the August school holidays in 1943. I seem to remember a group of us lads off Crompton Street were having a snobs competition. One of the lads said "Let's find Hemlock Stone". I believe he had heard about the Ice Age at school when the teacher talked about the Hemlock Stone being a perfect example from that period. The older lads would be about 12 or 13 so a couple of us younger ones decided to tag on behind them. We made our way over Trowell Boards and on to the Nottingham Canal where eventually we spotted this hill – officially

called Stapleford Hill where the Hemlock Stone was supposed to be. We found the stone at the back of the hill. A couple of the older lads decided to climb to the top but couldn't get past the over-hang. I tried the same thing a few years later but had the same problem.



It was then we heard gun fire. We knew what gun fire sounded like as the Stanton Home Guard used to practise firing at some butts, near to what is now the Nutbrook Trail. We followed the sound of the gun fire to arrive at a quarry opposite what is now the Bramcote Crematorium. An American soldier stood at the entrance. He wouldn't allow us any further but he did let us see what was happening. We had seen Gaumont British News and Pathe News at the cinema which featured American soldiers wearing lightweight uniforms, not khaki like the British troops. The soldiers were diving around firing their rifles into the quarry bank. We could hear rapid fire guns and heavier guns firing away further into the quarry. I suppose they were the American equivalent of the British Enfield 3.03 rifle along with the Sten and Bren guns. Even today there must be millions of bullet cases lying around at the bottom of the quarry.

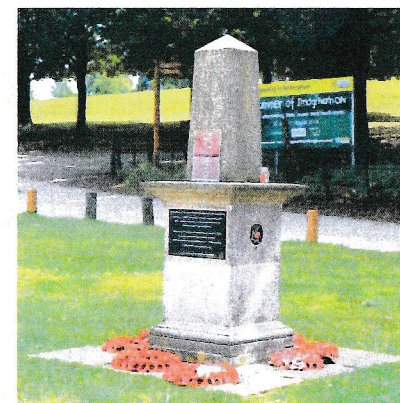
We got into the habit of visiting the quarry every Saturday morning for the next 9 months, along with the October school holidays. The troops

also used a corner shop at the top of Hickings Lane. We would follow them down to the shop. They were very generous to us kids. They gave us chewing gum – the American strip sort. It tasted like Germolene but we chewed it even though it was lousy.

Now and again we shared some chocolate between us. What we couldn't understand was how they were getting all this stuff from a little corner shop. Everything was on ration in those days, even into the early 1950s for some things. British families needed coupons for everything. It didn't dawn on me until 10 years later, they weren't buying from the shop, they were supplying it with goodies from their PX – the American equivalent of the British NAFFI.

The Easter holidays arrived and they had all disappeared. We had no idea why until well after the war had ended. They had obviously been preparing for D-Day on 6 June 1944. I later discovered they were camped at Wollaton Park. They were troops of the American Airborne Forces. A friend tells me they were nicknamed 'The Screaming Eagles'. They were also the first American troops to parachute into the Utah and Omaha area of Normandy. I believe there is a memorial in their memory at Wollaton Park near the car park.

Over the last 50 years or so, I have visited the American Cemetery in Normandy a number of times. I believe there are over 10,000 buried there. I remember the last time I was there, around 15 years ago, I did wonder if any of those airborne troops buried there gave us kids that chewing gum.



Memorial in Wollaton Park to the American 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division (NB 2019)

Before the NHS

These days we tend to take the NHS for granted, and hardly a day goes by when there is not some criticism of the NHS in the media eg lack of nurses, doctors and long waiting lists and the difficulty of making an appointment to see a GP. The National Health Service, historically speaking, has only been in existence for a comparatively short period of time. The majority of our members will be able to remember a time before the NHS because as children, along with housewives and old people, they were excluded from the National Insurance Act of 1911. Prior to the NHS children were unlikely to have seen a GP, dentist or optician as these services had to be paid for.

The NHS came into operation on 5 July 1948. It provided a universal and free medical service for all citizens. In the first 15 months of the NHS, 5.25 million pairs of free spectacles had been supplied as well as 187 million free prescriptions. By then 8.5 million people had already had free dental treatment. Before the NHS existed many of the people not covered by the 1911 Act would have relied on the medical knowledge of family and friends.

The following are recollections from two members of our society:

Pat Hodgkiss

Pat can remember that her grandfather was often called upon by neighbours to provide poultices and other remedies for their ailments. He had a great cough recipe which we used to take to "Wortley's" Chemist to have made up. It was collected in a large square necked bottle and resembled dandelion and burdock in appearance (but it was much nicer), and had to be put out of reach of the younger members of the family would have imbibed it by the glass full. I had an accident myself (I sat on a knife), and he pinched the wound together until it stopped bleeding. I do have a scar but was saved a hospital visit.

Keith Goodman

Keith remembers going with his grandmother to pick skullcap (a plant from the same family as marjoram), which grew along the banks of the canal near Long Bridge. This was dried and crushed and then used to make a kind of tea which was drunk to cure headaches.

Keith can also remember his mother making up a secret recipe for a cough syrup which was very efficacious. The cough had always gone before the bottle was half empty. Keith still has his mother's recipe book and many years later he tried to replicate the famous syrup, which contained among other things peppermint, aniseed and something which came out of a very small green ribbed bottle called "three haporths". However, when he visited the local Boots to purchase the said secret liquid, the chemist came out to speak to him and informed him that it was a controlled drug which contained opium (or laudanum as it was known to the Victorians), and would not sell him it without a prescription!

No wonder it worked well as opium was one of the few drugs used before the modern age of medicines which actually gave relief from many ailments.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the family medicine chest would have been incomplete without a bottle of laudanum and many proprietary medicines of the time contained opium as the active ingredient. The drug was often cheaper than alcohol, and until the Pharmacy Act of 1868, the drug could be obtained from barbers, tobacconists and stationers. The 1868 Act banned the sale of opium outside of approved pharmacies. It is a Class A substance under the Misuse of Drugs Act of 1971. "Gee's Linctus" is still available from most UK pharmacies, especially the Independent stores. This contains "Opium Tincture", at 0.083ml per 5ml.

Laudanum was said to be effective for treating headaches, persistent coughs, gout, rheumatism, diarrhoea, melancholy (depression) and "women's troubles". The infants of framework knitters would often be drugged with Godfrey's cordial (a mixture of opium, treacle and sassafras) so they could work their frames late into the night, to try and make enough money to live on. The problem was that opium is seriously addictive and resulted in many Victorian celebrities becoming addicts, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Branwell Brontë are just two examples.

Today dependence is still a big problem and recently it has been shown that there has been a big increase in the overuse of opioid analgesics.

If anybody else has any stories relating to health remedies or visits to hospital prior to the NHS we would like to include them in future editions.

Nigel Brooks

No more early morning huskiness—no „UCAL Bronchial „ 9d. and 1/6 per box from coughing and barking—just take—**“LOZENGES”** JACKSON—SANDIACRE.

ZINCREE
CLEAR THE SKIN
FOR ALL SKIN AILMENTS.
Excellent for Eczema. Sores. Irritation.
Safe. Healing & Soothing.
1/3 per box on POST FREE for 15 Penny Stamps
 Prepared only by
JACKSON, Chemist, Sandiacre.

Adverts taken from the Stapleford & Sandiacre News 1927

“WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.”
BEECHAM'S
PILLS
 FOR ALL
BILIOUS & NERVOUS DISORDERS,
 SUCH AS
Sick Headache, Constipation,
Weak Stomach, Impaired Digestion,
Disordered Liver and Female Ailments.
 ANNUAL SALE, SIX MILLION BOXES.

Advert from 1898 (N Brooks)

DO NOT LET YOUR CHILD DIE!

Fennings' Children's Powders Prevent Convulsions.
 ARE COOLING AND SOOTHING.

FENNINGS' CHILDREN'S POWDERS!

FOR CHILDREN CUTTING THEIR TEETH.
 To prevent Convulsions. (Do not contain Calomel, Opium, Morphia, nor anything injurious to a tender babe.)

Sold in Stamped Boxes at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. (great saving), with full directions. Sent post-free for 15 stamps. Direct to ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W.

Read FENNINGS' EVERY MOTHER'S BOOK, which contains Valuable Hints on Feeding, Teething, Weaning, Sleeping, &c. Ask your Chemist for a free copy.

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FENNINGS' LUNG HEALERS ARE THE BEST REMEDY TO CURE ALL
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The largest size Boxes, 2s. 9d. (35 stamps post-free), contains three times the quantity of the small boxes.

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DO NOT UNTIMELY DIE!

SORE THROATS CURED WITH ONE DOSE.

FENNINGS' FEVER CURER!

BOWEL COMPLAINTS cured with One Dose.
 TYPHUS or LOW FEVER cured with Two Doses.
 DIPHTHERIA cured with Three Doses.
 SCARLET FEVER cured with Four Doses.
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Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d. each, with full directions, by all Chemists.

Read FENNINGS' EVERYBODY'S DOCTOR. Sent post-free for 13 stamps. Direct A. FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W.

FENNINGS' EVERY MOTHER'S BOOK sent post-free on application by letter or post-card. Direct ALFRED FENNINGS, West Cowes, I.W.

Advert taken from “Good Things, Made, Said & Done,
 For Every Home and Household.” From 1898 (N Brooks)

The late Earl of Beaconsfield,
Sir Morell Mackenzie,
Oliver Wendell Holmes,
Miss Emily Faithful,
The late Gen. W. T. Sherman,

and many other persons of distinction have testified
to the remarkable efficacy of

HIMROD'S CURE FOR ASTHMA

Established nearly a quarter of a century.
Prescribed by the Medical Faculty throughout the
world. It is used as an inhalation and without any
after bad effects.

A Free Sample and detailed Testimonials free by
post. In tins 4s. 3d.

British Depot—46, Holborn Viaduct, London.
Also of Newbery & Sons, Barclay & Sons, Lynch & Co.,
J. Sanger & Sons, W. Edwards & Son, John Thompson.
Liverpool, and all Wholesale Houses.

Beetham's AND Glycerine Cucumber

IS UNEQUALLED FOR
PRESERVING THE SKIN AND
COMPLEXION

FROM THE EFFECTS OF
FROST, COLD WINDS, & HARD WATER.

IT REMOVES AND PREVENTS ALL
ROUGHNESS, REDNESS, & CHAPS,
AND KEEPS THE SKIN

SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE
during the COLDEST WEATHER.

BOTTLES, 1s. and 2s. 6d.

M. BEETHAM & SON, CHEMISTS, CHELTENHAM.

*Taken from The Illustrated London News Sat, Nov 17, 1894
(N Brooks)*

Before the NHS Part two

Before the National Health Service (NHS), many of our hospitals were voluntary institutions, which depended on benefactors, charitable events and regular subscriptions for their financial survival.

By the beginning of the twentieth century these hospitals were finding it more and more difficult to fund their activities and were struggling to finance the most recent medical treatments and equipment. Below are some of the events that the people of Stapleford were organising to help the Nottingham General Hospital which was opened in 1782.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

"Warren Arms," Stapleford

6th ANNUAL

HOSPITAL SHOW.

OF FLOWERS, FRUIT, and
VEGETABLES,

SAT, SUN., & MON., SEPT 17th,
18th & 19th,

At 6 p.m. each Evening.

CONCERT by
STAPLEFORD SILVER PRIZE BAND

ON SUNDAY EVENING

Nominal Admission Fee. All proceeds
Devoted to Nottingham General Hospital.

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See Treasures in the Attic, Part 2 (on page 12)

The star item was the Enamel Hudson's Soap Advertising

Sign from 1910, worth £5,000.

* * *

BRITISH LEGION HOSPITAL EFFORT.

The Stapleford branch of the British Legion anticipate maintaining their position at the head of local contributors to the Nottingham Hospitals from proceeds of gifts of garden produce. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday contributions of produce were received from all parts of the district and there was a wonderful display. In connection with the event a concert was given by Messrs. A. Smith, Draycott, Mr. Joey Woods, Stapleford, and Mr. H. Walker, Nottingham.

Mr. George Dukes, the local organiser of efforts for charity, presided, supported by Mr. J. Wakefield, chairman of the branch, and Mr. F. E. Bryant, secretary. It is hoped to forward approximately £16 to the hospitals.

* * *

£184 has been handed to hospitals during the last five years from the fruit, vegetable and flower shows held at the Warren Arms Inn, Stapleford. This week-end the sixth annual show is to be held and opened by Mr. H. M. Sail, supported by other prominent local gentlemen. It is anticipated that there will be a record entry and a successful financial result is assured.

* * *

Stapleford & Sandiacre News, Friday, September 16, 1927.

Nigel Brooks 2019.

THOMAS HOVEY OF NIAGARA COTTAGE

A large somewhat dilapidated tomb, which stands on the bank in front of the east window of St Helen's Church, is said to be that of Thomas Hovey and his wife and daughter, who lived at Niagara Cottage in Stapleford. A 1931 photograph in Ralph Penniston Taylor's book 'A collection of views of old Stapleford, Nottinghamshire' shows the tomb with iron railings around it, the remains of which are still visible, but any inscriptions have now disappeared.



Thomas Hovey was born in 1795, the fifth of ten children of George and Elizabeth Hovey. The family were Baptists and the children were all registered at Friar Lane Baptist Church, which later

became the George Street Particular Baptist Church (now the Nottingham Arts Theatre). George and Elizabeth's gravestones could still be seen in the Dissenters' burial ground at Mount Street, Nottingham, before it was cleared in 1902.

Thomas married Ann Hughes at St Nicholas' Church, Nottingham, on 23 March 1884 and they had four children: Catherine Anne, John Thomas, George Henry and Jemima. He was a prominent businessman in Nottingham during the 1830s and 1840s, manufacturing lace and silk edgings at St Mary's Gate and Stoney Street. He had various partnerships and his elder son, John Thomas, followed him into the trade, carrying on the business until the late 1890s.

Thomas sat on the Grand Jury in Nottingham on several occasions and was a signatory for petitioning Parliament for the "entire abolition of negro apprentices in British colonies", and later for the repeal of the Corn Laws.

George Henry, Thomas's second son, married Frances Baldwin at Bramcote in 1854. By 1861 he had moved to Sheffield and established a drapery business and by 1881 is a draper, upholsterer and cabinet maker, employing over one hundred staff. In 1882 he built extensive new premises on the corner of Angel Street and Castle Street in Sheffield, said to be the first shop in the town with electric lighting. However, in December 1893, a catastrophic fire gutted the building and destroyed the six other businesses in the area. Sixty two members of staff were sleeping on the premises, but only one person was lost in the fire.

Thomas bought Niagara Cottage in Stapleford at auction in 1842, after the death of the previous owner, Captain William Sleigh, another well known Stapleford figure. The cottage was situated on the Turnpike Road, or Nottingham Road, close to St John's School. It is described as an imposing residence with a variety of outbuildings and extensive well-stocked gardens.

When Thomas died in December 1849, leaving his money and property in trust for his wife and children, his widow Ann continued to live at the cottage with her children, George Henry and Catherine, and two servants. The younger daughter, Jemima, was a boarder at a private school in Kegworth, run by a Baptist minister and his wife. She later joined her brother George Henry in Sheffield in the drapery business. The elder daughter, Catherine, who was an invalid, died in August 1854, aged 29, followed by her mother Ann a month later. Niagara Cottage was once again put up for auction and, after having several owners, was demolished some time after 1881 and the site developed as a quarry.

Margaret Watt



Miss Edith Gregory

80 Derby Road, Stapleford. Notts.

1950's

Memories by Granddaughter Miss M D Hayes of Long Eaton

The Shop

Part of a terrace of shops, from Horace Avenue to the Warren Arms, Gregory's shop was a busy store. Until the end of July 1939 Mrs. G Gregory was the shopkeeper.

My childhood memories are

On the eastern side of Horace Avenue a chip shop run by Mrs Fairbrother

Scrimshaws Pork Butchery

Rufus Goring-a Greengrocery

Mrs. Gregory – General store

The Home & Colonial-Groceries

The Warren Arms – Landlady Mrs. Beardsley

The last shop on the corner of Albert Avenue was a Newsagent's belonging to the Lilly Family.

Gregory's was No. 64 Derby Road. It was a 3 bedroomed building with dining room and kitchen behind the shop, and a large cellar below. The toilet was reached outside. The galvanised iron bath-tub hung on the wall there. Outside was a garden with a lilac tree growing beside the gate. The rear entrance was off Horace Avenue.

In the kitchen was a sink with a draining area. The hot water was provided by a gas geyser. The cooking was done in a coal-fired Range which required cleaning and black-leading once a week. In the living room were 2 doors and a fireplace on the western wall. One door led upstairs-a difficult manoeuvre-one door led downstairs. The pantry was to the right of the steps on a ledge, before descending. Another difficult manoeuvre.

The Dining Room was furnished by a wooden arm-chair for Grandpa. A rocking chair by the fireside for Grandma, a large oval table with chairs, the organ, and a sofa with horse hair stuffing. There was a net at the window for privacy. Curtains, Grandpa's clock and a picture of the Camp of the Israelites around the Ark of the Covenant on the wall. The carpets were hand pegged. A treadle sewing machine was under the window.

The shop-very similar to the photograph contained a counter with stool behind and a chair in front for customers. A hinged ledge separated the shop from the residents and a green curtain gave privacy to the family.

The cellar below, reached via stone steps was large. It smelled strongly of soap and coal. Before the war the shelves were stacked with soap powders and life-buoy soap. The coalman emptied his sacks from Derby Road, pouring the coal through a moveable grating.

Mrs. G Gregory lived with her husband and younger daughter at the shop. They had one dog. From 1934 Mrs. Gregory's health began to deteriorate. She was widowed in 1936 and died in July 1939.

Mrs. Gregory had one stepson, 2 daughters, 3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. She had a happy knack of keeping the family together. She was fearless in her regard for truth, justice and respect. As a shopkeeper she was an astute business lady. As a Christian she walked humbly but surely. As a family member she was love. As an employer she was understanding and caring. Miss Eva Parker (daughter of Walter Parker, VC,) was her loyal and capable shop assistant. The shop was open till 6.00p.m. Monday to Saturday. Half day was Wednesday.

Our grandma was a herbalist. As far as I know she was the only one in Stapleford. The herbs were stored in drawers, each drawer bearing its name on a neatly printed card. From "Culpepper's Herbal" she would advise the customers who consulted her. Each consultation was private. The smell of the herbs combined with the other articles was heightened at the end of the week when Aunt Edith scrubbed the floor with green soft soap.



Miss E. Gregory in her shop circa 1950's

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*The following has been written by Keith Goodman of the
History Society*

Gregory's was a small general store near the Warren Arms. It didn't stock perishable items, apart from the eggs, and concentrated on a small range of common household goods. There were a lot of cleaning products of various kinds and a good stock of do it yourself shoe repair items – stick on soles etc. Unsurprisingly, given Mrs Gregory's talents as a herbalist, there is a wide range of medical products. She also sold paraffin, vinegar and firewood (these dredged from my own personal memory).

Unfortunately, the original photograph is not sharp enough to read the small print on some packets and the list that follows is mainly of the more obvious ones. I am sure it can be added to.

Reading from left to right:

Top shelf: VIM, Senior Service

Second shelf: Ajax (a cleaner), VIM, Lion? Johnson's Wax Polish, Izal toilet roll, Nyleska pan scourer, Cadum - a French soap - Its catch phrase was 'Cadum for madam', the drawers containing the herbs.

Third shelf: Brillo, Supreme? John Bull, Fiturite (shoe repair) Whiting, small brushes, soda, Oxo, Cadum, Glempec cough Mixture, Kilkof, Cut Lump Salt

Fourth shelf: Fudurite, Ajax, Oxo, Aspro (headache), Cough mixture

Fifth shelf: San Izal, Phensic, Beechams Pills, Swarfega, 3 something, Quix washing up liquid, Cherry Blossom shoe polish, Colman's starch, Bryant and May matches, Sauce, Nescafe

Sixth shelf: Lux, Tide, Surf. Daz, Oxydol, Brasso, Sunlight soap, Saxa salt, Camp coffee, Pearce Duff's custard powder

Counter: Woodbine counter mat, Radiance hazel nut toffee, Robin Hood confectionary, Eggs, Kilkof Kones, Fiturite poster, brown paper carrier bags

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Northgate Cott.

BRAD FORD

Apperley Lane

BD 10 ONS

Apperley Bridge

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
Stapleford fabric bags	£2.50
Leather bookmarks	£0.80
Local views – cards with envelopes	£1.00
Key rings	£2.00
LHS ball point pens	£1.00
Pen & ink drawings by Jack Vernon	£1.00

Full colour illustrated maps of Stapleford + Borlase Warren Coat
of Arms, framed (produced to order) £14.00

.....

CHAIRMAN – John Shaw: 0115-9397601

email: johnshaw111@gmail.com

TREASURER/SECRETARY – Pat Hodgkiss: 0115-9469152

Website: www.staplefordlocalhistory.co.uk

**The deadline for submission of items for the next
Spring 2020 issue of the Newsletter is 31 March.
Material can be given to any committee member or the
above-named.**

This is YOUR newsletter! We'd love to hear from you!

FRONT COVER; Monument to Captain William Sleight of
Niagara Cottage (1780 – 1842) in St Helen's Church Yard, near
the South Porch (pre 1950). A number of the sphinxes can still
be seen today near the church – without their heads.