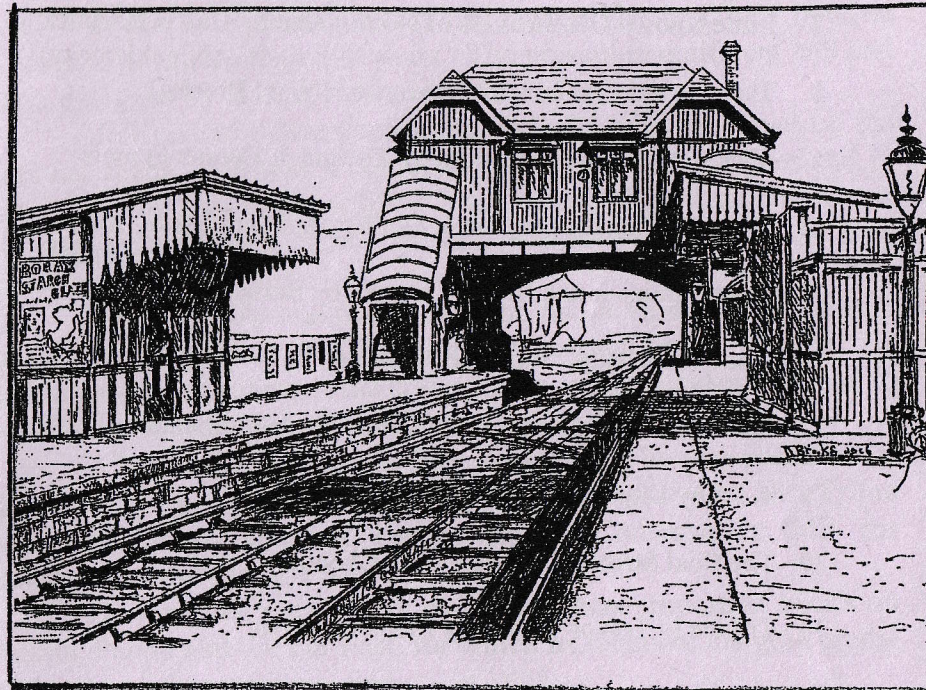


Stapleford and District Local History Society



Newsletter No 23 – Autumn 2007

50p

Free to Members

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MEETING REPORTS

9 May 2007

LORD CURZON OF KEDLESTON – VICEROY OF INDIA by Danny Wells

George Nathaniel Curzon was born at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire on 11 January 1859 into a distinguished family who came to England with William the Conqueror and had owned the land and lived at Kedleston for more than 800 years. The present magnificent hall and park, designed by Robert Adam, date from 1759.

He lived an extraordinary life and was a major player on the national scene. He was a colourful and controversial figure and in his public life was to know great triumph and bitter disappointment. He saw himself as a great man and was interested to know how history would judge him.

His early life was not easy as he had a vindictive governess and a tyrannical father, and his mother died when he was sixteen. He had incurable curvature of the spine after a riding accident and had to wear a corset to hold his body erect.

After Eton and Oxford University, where he was president of the Union, he became assistant private secretary to the Prime Minister, before entering Parliament as Conservative MP for Southport at the age of 27.

He travelled extensively and wrote three important books on Russia, Persia and the Far East, for which he received the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1895.

In the same year he married Mary Leiter, daughter of a very wealthy American industrialist, and they had three daughters.

Meanwhile, his political career was advancing. He served as under Secretary for India in 1891-2 and for Foreign Affairs 1895-8 before achieving his life's ambition when he was appointed Viceroy of India in 1899 at the age of 39. He was given an Irish peerage so that he could continue to sit in the House of Commons.

When he sailed into Calcutta 1400 dignitaries filed past him and he was conveyed into the city in a gold and white train.

Impressive Government House had its own squad of cavalry and a 120 strong vice regal bodyguard.

He performed his role as Viceroy very capably and was commended for his handling of the severe famine of 1900. His wife, Mary, was much loved and admired by the Indian people.

Curzon hoped that King Edward VII would visit India at the time of his coronation to hold a Durbar, a gathering of all the noble heads of the various Indian states. The King did not visit, but nevertheless Curzon planned and organised a splendid Durbar, held in 1903, to show symbolically the power and majesty of the British crown. It lasted a fortnight and 150,000 people took part. A magnificent tented town was constructed where Curzon entertained 2774 noble guests, looked after by 1190 servants. There was a dazzling parade, including many decorated and mounted elephants, 40,000 troops were reviewed and a glittering state ball was held.

He was a controversial and turbulent Viceroy who found it impossible to delegate and oversaw all his many social and political reforms personally. This brought him into conflict with his officials and the government back in Britain, as well as with Lord Kitchener, the new Commander in Chief of the army in India. This problem came to a head in 1905 when Curzon offered to resign and was shocked when his offer was accepted.

He returned to England quietly and was largely ostracized by those in power, but said 'Let India be my judge'.

Sadly, a few months later, his wife Mary died of a heart attack at the age of 36. Lord Curzon was heart broken and felt that God had turned against him. Typically, he replied to all the many hundreds of letters and telegrams of condolence in his own hand. He built a gothic chapel in her memory within the ancient church at Kedleston, which he also renovated.

He had no important position in politics at this time but was made Chancellor of Oxford University and President of the Royal Geographical Society. He bought several large country houses and Tattershall and Bodiam Castles, all of which he set about conserving. He had a passionate affair with the author Elinor Glyn, then in 1917 married Grace Duggan, a wealthy American widow.

In 1911 he was created an Earl and took his seat in the House of Lords. He was made Lord Privy Seal in the Coalition Government and became a member of the War Cabinet in 1915. As Chairman of the Committee set up to formulate the nation's homage to its war dead, he created the Remembrance Day Service we know today.

In 1919 he was made Foreign Secretary, his other main ambition in life, but was often irritable through over work. When Bonar Law resigned as Prime Minister in 1923, Curzon fully expected to be made Prime Minister, but Stanley Baldwin was unexpectedly preferred, as having a more modern outlook. A disappointed Curzon offered his support and remained as Foreign Secretary until 1924.

George Nathaniel, Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Earl Curzon of Kedleston, 1st Viscount Scarsdale and 1st Baron Ravensdale died in 1925 at the age of 66 and was buried beside his beloved first wife.

He is indeed still remembered in India today. He had carried out a major programme of renovation and conservation of much of India's neglected architectural heritage and visitors today are informed, when visiting the Taj Mahal, that he was responsible for creating the lovely walks and gardens that highlight its beauty.

Danny ended his fascinating talk by showing slides of Kedleston Hall, now owned and cared for by the National Trust.

Barbara Brooke

13 June 2007

THE ECCENTRIC ENGLISH GENTLEMEN –
AN ILLUSTRATED STORY OF THE TOWN CRIER
by Joe David, former Yeoman of the Guard at the Tower of
London

It was good to welcome back Joe David, a larger than life former Regimental Sergeant Major turned Yeoman of the Guard, to speak about his most recent incarnation as a Town Crier.

Before taking on this role, he read up on the subject and found the earliest mention in the book of Isaiah in the Bible. Runners with very loud voices had been used in the era of the original Greek Olympic Games to make announcements to the crowds. William the Conqueror had brought town criers to England to make royal proclamations in English on his behalf and they had carried a bell to call people's attention to their message. Additionally they had nailed news items to church doors and this was called '*posting the news*'. The town crier system later became widespread and was exported to all parts of the British Empire.

When Joe became a town crier he and his wife designed his uniform and took their inspiration from uniforms of the armed forces and lords of the manor. As a former Yeoman of the Guard he is the only one allowed to have EIIR emblazoned on the back of his tunic. He joined *The Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers*, of which there are now 120 members in Britain. Medals are often struck to commemorate special events and these are worn as part of the uniform.

He showed slides of other town criers in their wonderful outfits and described some of their amorous adventures. Apparently they are very popular with the ladies!

A Town Criers' Competition was held at Cambridge for Commonwealth and UK cups and trophies and he won them all at the first attempt. When he showed us the slides of himself, resplendent in his magnificent uniform, we were not in the least surprised. Later he won all classes again at an all-British competition at Skegness.

At the end of 1999 at Buckingham Palace he proclaimed the start of the new millennium and followed this by making the official announcement of the Queen Mother's 100th birthday on 4 August 2000. He has also been toastmaster at the Lord Mayor's Banquet.

After the talk he showed his extensive 'scrapbook' of press cuttings and photographs of his latest career.

Barbara Brooke

11 July 2007

**MONKS AND MONASTERIES OF
DERBYSHIRE AND EAST STAFFORDSHIRE**
by Keith Blood

The Rule of St Benedict, written by Benedict of Nursia, Italy in the 6th century, was a monastic guide that formed the model on which the many European monastic orders based their ways of life.

Monks were required to live in chastity and poverty, to participate in communal worship in church several times a day, and do several hours of manual labour daily, which might involve looking after the monastery buildings, cleaning, cooking, work in the fields to grow food crops or, as was very common in England, tend sheep. Others studied the Bible and spent months on end writing new copies by hand. Private devotions were also very important, as was confession.

Within a century of its first arrival in Britain in 597AD, Christianity had spread throughout the country. Many churches were built and a number of monasteries were founded, built on the sites of Roman towns, so that stones from the buildings could be used again. During the Viking invasions some of the monasteries were destroyed but, after the Norman invasion of 1066, continental religious orders founded many more monasteries in Britain, so that in the 13th century it is estimated there were about 17,000 monks, as well as about 40,000 priests at work. Royalty and wealthy families frequently paid for the founding of these religious settlements as a sure way of obtaining forgiveness for their sins and assuring a place in heaven.

Keith used as his main example the Cistercian Croxden Abbey, 5 miles NW of Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, unknown to most of our members. The abbey was founded by Bertrand de Verdun and monks from Normandy in 1176. His great grandfather had come to England with William the Conqueror. Keith showed us slides, mainly of aerial photographs, that revealed the layout of the buildings and he explained their uses.

The abbey was sited near a stream for fresh water and the cloisters were on the south side, facing towards the sun for warmth.

A slype (an arched passageway) can still be seen, leading from the cloisters to the chapter house, where a chapter of the Rule of St Benedict was read each day. There are the towering remains of the church, with the sacristy where valuable items were kept. Nearby are the ruins of the infirmary and the warming room, where a monk was allowed to spend ten minutes near a fire. The *necessarium* (toilet) was situated over a trench that channelled the stream's running water to take away kitchen and toilet waste. The abbot's own lodgings, where any visiting dignitaries stayed, had its own chapel. The fishponds that supplied food throughout the year are still in evidence. Unfortunately, a road was constructed through the site in the 1960s which prevents a comprehensive view of the buildings.

It is said that the then abbot attended the death of King John and that his heart was kept at the abbey, being buried secretly after the dissolution of the monasteries.

Keith went on to mention other monastic settlements in Derbyshire and Staffordshire – Church Gresley, Barrow on Trent, Locko and Repton Priory, demolished by the Vikings and rebuilt in 1172. The famous Victorian school was built on the site of the abbey church. Calke Abbey only functioned for a short time and was a subsidiary house of Repton. The abbot's chapel and lodging house of the great abbey of St Mary at Darley Abbey can still be seen and much of the stone has been used for more recent building. St Helen's Oratory housed Augustinian Canons in Derby and St James's Priory was built in 1140 and survived until 1536. The Friary, established in 1224 by the Dominican Black Friars, was very popular with local people as the monks provided medical services for the area. The Friary Hotel now stands on the site. St Mary of the Peak and Breadsall Priory were also mentioned. Nearest to Stapleford, Dale Abbey was founded by a baker from Derby who created a hermit's cell, and the abbey followed soon afterwards. Many houses in the village incorporate stones from the abbey and nearby Morley church has some treasures – a range of stained glass windows from the cloisters and some beautiful floor tiles, while Bradbourne church has a pew with linen fold decoration and a font cover.

Barbara Brooke

8 August 2007

LITTLE KNOWN GLASSMAKERS OF NOTTINGHAM

by Gloria Roebuck

Gloria told us she had become interested in glassmaking whilst a mature student at Nottingham University, when she chose Nottingham glassmakers as the subject of her dissertation. She was allowed access to the Brewhouse Yard's large collection of glass fragments which had been found at various building sites around Nottingham, but which had not been catalogued at the time. Gloria was able to draw some of these fragments and had slides to illustrate them.

Glassmaking was discovered around 2000BC in Syria, probably accidentally whilst firing pots in a kiln. The art of glassmaking was a very prestigious skill and its recipes were jealously guarded by individual families, so much so that they tended to prefer to marry into other glassmaking families in order to protect the secrets.

In the mid 15th century Venice had a virtual monopoly on fine glass ware in Europe. The government of Venice tightly regulated the activities of the glass workers to such a degree that they were not allowed to leave Venice or fraternize with foreigners. They were also restricted to living on the island of Murano.

Glass was made in England at this time but was of poor quality. In around 1567 John Carr and Partners wanted to improve their glass making skills – they did this by bringing European glassmakers to England, such as the Thysoe family from France and Jacob Vercellini from Italy. Glass furnaces required a lot of timber for fuel. The life of a glass furnace was about three years before all the surrounding timber was exhausted.

In 1615 a Bill was introduced to stop the felling of trees for the use of glass houses. This closed them down in the south of England. At about this time Robert Mansell was experimenting with the use of coal for making glass in Nottinghamshire. One of the first glass houses was set up in Wollaton because of its proximity to coal

mines. Higher temperatures were required when using coal because the glass had to be made in enclosed vessels to prevent contamination. Jacob Hensing designed new furnaces to use coal in Nottinghamshire. The Wollaton glass house closed down and moved to Awsworth. There were also two glass houses in the town of Nottingham itself, which were mentioned by Celia Fiennes in 1697 when she visited the area. She spoke of a man who spun glass and made birds and beasts. She apparently tried her hand at blowing glass and saw him make a swan with different coloured glass. He also made glass buttons which were very strong and would not break.

Thoroton records that Nicholas Strelley lived in Nottingham 'upon some ingenious manufactures in glass which he spins and orders very commendably'. Another glassmaker in Nottingham was Robert Brentnall, who married Sarah Reeve in 1690 – she was from a glass making family in Awsworth. Robert became a Councillor and Sheriff and had a glass house on Carter Gate in Nottingham.

Production of glass in Nottingham declined around 1750 due to competition from Stourbridge and was superseded by the textile industry, for which Nottingham is more renowned.

Nigel Brooks

12 September 2007

THEY PLAYED THE HALLS

by Trevor Lee

Trevor not only told us the history of music hall and about the performers, but also entertained us with songs and dressed up to look the part. He introduced the subject by telling us that music halls had originally started out in public houses where they had entertainment (stories and songs) known as 'free and easies'. One of the first purpose-built halls was The Canterbury situated in London, built by Charles Morton in the early 1850s. Other major cities soon followed and built their own.

Nottingham had a number of halls, the most famous being The Old Malt Cross in St James' Street, built in 1877 and closed in 1912. It was re-opened in 1983 and closed again in 1987. It is still

standing today and can be visited. Most people will remember the BBC programme 'The Good Old Days' which was held at The City Varieties, Leeds and ran for thirty years. This was introduced by a Chairman who had a gavel to call order, essential in the early days when the music hall was associated with drinking and the 'turns' could find themselves showered with rivets or eggs.

The first artist featured was George Robey (1869 – 1954). He was billed as the 'Prime Minister of Mirth' and was famous for his heavily accentuated eyebrows. Trevor played an original recording of George singing to Violet Lorraine, 'If you were the only Girl in the World' and he encouraged us all to sing along. A lot of his material was dated and would not amuse modern audiences. Trevor then introduced us to the work of Charles Coborn (1852 – 1945). In 1886 Coborn heard a song 'My Nellie's Blue Eyes' written by an American, William J Scanlan, who died in an asylum. Coborn liked the melody but not the lyrics so he wrote his own words and changed the title to 'Two Lovely Black Eyes', which Trevor played for us. His other most famous song was Fled Gilbert's 'The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo'. He sang these songs for the rest of his life.

We then heard about a very special lady – her real name was Matilda Alice Victoria Wood, but we would know her as Marie Lloyd. She was a star by the age of twenty and stayed top of the bill until her early death at the age of 52. She travelled all over the country, including Mansfield in 1921. She also made five trips to America. She had a reputation as a lady who used saucy innuendo – there were no microphones so all the gestures had to be larger than life – she would wink, give a naughty look or flick her dress. Her songs included 'Oh Mr Porter' and probably her most famous song 'Don't Dilly Dally', which Trevor sang to us, wearing a lady's hat.

Another personality introduced to us was Billy Bennett (1887 – 1942). His most famous monologue was 'A Soldier's Farewell to his Horse'. He was billed as 'Almost a Gentleman' and was from Liverpool. He distinguished himself in the First World War, serving with the 16th Lancers and was awarded the DCM and the Croix de

Guerre, something he never referred to either in ordinary conversation or in his monologues.

Trevor moved on to tell us about Vesta Tilley (born in Worcester in 1864, died 1952). She was the greatest male impersonator in the music hall and one of the most loved figures on the popular British stage. Her father was the manager of St George's Music Hall in Nottingham, where she performed at the age of four years, billed as *'The great little Tilley'*. Her most famous song was *'Burlington Bertie'*. Another lady who performed in the halls was Vesta Victoria (born 1873 in Leeds). Two of her famous songs were *'Daddy wouldn't buy me a Bow Wow'* and *'There was I waiting at the Church'*. Trevor put on a little white hat and encouraged us all to sing along.

We then heard about *'Little Tich'*, who was only 4 feet 6 inches tall and famous for his *'Big Boot Dance'*. His shoes were half his height and at one point he stood on his tiptoes. Another performer mentioned was Jack Pleasants, who was famous for *'I'm Shy Mary Ellen, I'm Shy'* and *'I'm 21 Today'*.

Trevor moved on to mention Harry Champion and played some of his songs *'Boiled Beef and Carrots'* and *'Any Old Iron'*, both very fast performances. By 1894 he had so many songs that he developed his quick fire approach to try to fit them all in the time allocated. Another of his famous songs was *'I'm Henery the Eighth I am'*.

Billy Merson was born in Nottingham in 1881 and became an acrobat initially. He moved on to writing songs and dressing up to entertain the audiences. He wrote and performed in *'Rose Marie'* at Drury Lane in London, which ran for 851 performances. Merson unsuccessfully sued Al Jolson for twice recording *The Spaniard who Blighted my Life'* without permission, which cost Merson £15,000 and left him bankrupt. The evening ended with Trevor's rendition of that song, wearing a little, black matador's cap.

A most enjoyable time was had by all.

Nigel Brooks

Has long been the Song of Public without fear or favour, except at Theatres and Music Halls.

EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN'S LOVELY!

Chorus
 Everything in the garden is absolutely grand!
 Everything in the garden is just what I understand!
 You will be wiser by his fire,
 As he listens to his case,
 That everything in the garden's lovely!

Chorus
 Everything in the garden is absolutely grand!
 Everything in the garden is just what I understand!
 But says 'another, they'll understand'
 That it's all in my own hand,
 And everything in the garden's lovely!

Written by
J.P. HARRINGTON

Composed by
GEORGE LE BRUNN

Sung by
MISS MARIE LLOYD

Published by J. & W. G. & Co., 14, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

25 April 2007

VISIT TO THE CITY OF HEREFORD

Report by Thelma and Dennis Francis

About a dozen members of our Society joined the Beeston Society on their coach outing, leaving Stapleford at 8am. Once we were on the motorway Alan, as per usual, gave us information on our visit, together with various leaflets and a town map. In particular, for those members visiting the cathedral, arrangements had been made for our own guided tour and a special discount on the admission price to the Mappa Mundi!

After a stop for refreshments at the Strensham Services we continued on the motorway for a short time and we were soon into rural Herefordshire. We had a lovely drive through beautiful old villages with their black and white houses, past cider orchards, hop fields and the occasional glimpse of bluebells in the woods. We arrived in Hereford about 11.30 and were dropped off on Bridge Street in bright sunshine.

Hereford was an important Saxon town on the banks of the River Wye and has been a cathedral city since 680AD. There was much rebuilding in the 18th century, but it still retains its old world charm. Having visited the cathedral, museums etc on previous visits, we decided to spend our time on a city stroll.

From our start on Bridge Street we walked round the Left Bank Village, into Gwynne Street, where Nell Gwynne was born, and up to the cathedral to eat our picnic lunch with an excellent pot of tea from the Cathedral's Cloister Cafe. Suitably refreshed, we strolled up Broad Street past the Hereford Free Library with an interesting collection of carved animals and birds on its façade. Further along is the Green Dragon Hotel, where a plaque informed us that the hotel hosted the inaugural meeting of the Three Counties Agricultural Show in 1797. Opposite is St Francis Xavier RC Church, where the hand of Father John Kemble, a Jesuit Martyr, executed at Hereford in 1679, is supposedly enshrined.

Our stroll now took us to High Town, a large, pedestrianised area with the usual range of shops. It was Market Day, so we looked in the Butter Market, built around 1861, where there was a good variety of stalls, and bought a piece of Hereford cheese. On our way to the nearby Old House we noticed that there were 'ribbons' of brass inlay in the paving, giving the names of famous Herefordians – a great idea! The Jacobean Old House, dated 1621 and now a museum, is the lone survivor from a long street of half-timbered houses called Butchers' Row. We had a short

breather on a comfortable seat nearby and were entertained by a group of young musicians – very enjoyable!

At the side of Marks & Spencer's is a narrow passage called Capuchin Lane, which leads into Church Street, a pretty street with a fascinating assortment of small shops. Behind the shop fronts are timber-framed buildings with stone cellars. On the left hand side near the end of the street is a 15th century house which became the home of Dr George Sinclair, cathedral organist and great friend of the composer, Edward Elgar, who was a frequent visitor and wrote some of his music here.

We were now back in Cathedral Close, which we crossed to admire the statue of Elgar with his bike. On this side of the cathedral a team of stone masons were doing restoration work, using stone quarried in Derbyshire. We strolled on down Quay Street past 18th and 19th century development, built to deal with the commercial river traffic, then up Castle Hill and onto Castle Green. Only earthworks remain of the strongest castle in the Border country. A monument to Nelson stands in the bailey. We crossed Castle Green and walked down a short slope to cross the river on the suspension bridge, built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, replacing a ferry. A pleasant walk along the right bank of the Wye gave us some fine views of the cathedral, Bishop's Palace etc. We passed over the 15th century stone bridge into Bridge Street, ready for some refreshments in the Left Bank Village café and then relaxed until pick up time.

We had an interesting journey home via the A49, passing Leominster, Ludlow, a glimpse of Stokesay Castle, Craven Arms and Church Stretton. We had a short stop at Telford and then home – a grand day out!

6 June 2007

OUTING TO MARKET DRAYTON AND

HODNET HALL GARDENS

Report by John Hatfield

A somewhat cloudy morning as we left Stapleford, but the clouds parted before we arrived at Market Drayton in pleasant, warm sunshine. Appropriate to the town's name it was market day and the main street was lined on both sides with a grand variety of stalls – garden plants to household pots – together with an inviting indoor food market full of local produce.

The information centre proved difficult to find, hiding behind the title of *Shropshire Customer First and Visitor Centre* and one of the larger stalls, but provided a host of useful information. The town of Market Drayton is renowned for its street market, canal and gingerbread. Having seen the street market, I opted next for the canal.

It is a pleasant walk to the outskirts of the town and the Shropshire Union Canal. It is very much a working canal with a picturesque canal basin and wharf. I decided to walk to Tyrley locks along the towpath that takes you out into the countryside, in places high above the surrounding fields. Tyrley has a flight of five locks and as one boat owner said *'After I've done the five I can have my lunch'*. I think he would have deserved it! There were many pleasure boats on the canal that day – what a splendid way to view such lovely countryside. One boat I noticed was aptly named *The Kids Inheritance* – I wonder?

I returned along the towpath to the aqueduct, down the forty steps and back into town and to the local museum. Here I was greeted by a pleasant young lady *'Ah, you must be a visitor from Beeston'*. *'Well, Stapleford actually'*, I replied, but never mind what a pleasant introduction to their museum that was housed in an old shop building. It was full of items of local interest with many exhibits, one from a local mechanic building bicycles to rival Raleigh!

Out of the museum and just a few steps down Shropshire Street was the gingerbread shop. Here I was greeted with *'You must be a visitor from Beeston Local History'*. Well, never mind, it was another friendly welcome. I was invited to try the local custom of tasting gingerbread dipped or dunked into a glass of port wine. Sadly, the original Market Drayton recipe for gingerbread is now made in Yorkshire, but there is still a local one, made in the shape of gingerbread teddy bears, which I decided to try, icing buttons and all! Dunked in port it was really delightful, a good appetiser for a quick snack at the Tudor House Inn and then off to our next port of call.

Hodnet Hall Gardens was only a short drive from Market Drayton and here we were met by one of the gardeners, who gave us a potted history of the gardens and the house.

The original dwelling was demolished as it was on marshy ground and a new neo-Elizabethan style hall was built in 1870 on higher ground, only later to have the third storey removed, leaving the house in its present two storey form.

In 1922 A G W Heber Percy started to create a beautiful garden with a series of lakes on the 60 acre site. It was not a conventional garden, but a whole series of gardens framed by beautiful trees and flowering shrubs. I especially liked the walled kitchen garden. What a place to grow all your own vegetables. Close by were the 17th century dovecote and timber framed tithe barn.

The present owner, Algy Heber Percy, was busy weeding in the garden and stopped to greet me with *'Ah, from Nottingham are you, the city of pretty girls?'* What a nice thought.

Then the 21st century struck – the electricity had failed in the tea room, so no refreshing cup of tea, but luckily Alan had included a bonus – a visit to the nearby Bridgemere Garden World, a vast garden centre with a huge range of plants and gardening products to buy, plus beautiful ornamental gardens, and a cup of tea. All in all a great finish to a most enjoyable day.



Stapleford & Sandiacre News, 4 September 1959
Courtesy of Andrew Knighton

30 August 2007

STEAM TRAINS IN THE BRONTE COUNTRY

Report by Barbara Brooke

After a good journey via the M1 and M62 and with no delays, we arrived at Oxenhope station, the terminus of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, at about 10.30am. En route Alan had distributed pamphlets about the railway and the Bronte family, as well as a map of Haworth and an information sheet with various options about planning our day to maximise use of our rover railway tickets, which included free admission to local railway museums.

Like most people, I was happy to take the first option and made for the exhibition shed at Oxenhope which housed 'out of traffic' engines and carriage restoration works. I was lucky enough to hear two members of our party, who had worked with locomotives at Toton and Derby, describe some of their tasks and the great interest and affection they felt for those steam giants. As we walked past the largest engine at ground level, we were dwarfed by its huge bulk and its wheels more than six feet high.

Our first steam train journey took us the full length of the Worth Valley line from its terminus at Oxenhome, via Haworth, Oakworth, Damems and Ingrow West to Keighley, where the line joins the main railway system. Here we stood on the platform and watched as the engine was uncoupled and moved round to what had been the rear of the train to start its return journey up the valley. Back on board we soon reached Ingrow West and walked up the railway yard to the Museum of Rail Travel. Here were carriages from different periods and companies, some with compartments completely refurbished, so that you could enter, sit down and remember journeys from your childhood. Here, too, you could climb onto the footplate and imagine having a go at driving *Lord Mayor*, a small steam locomotive.

All round the large building and on the walls were items of railway hardware, such as station name plates, notices to the public, warnings, posters, porters' trolleys, trunks, guards' lamps and seats.

I spotted a poster for LNER camping coaches, placed in sidings at beauty spots or at the seaside and rentable between the wars for family holidays for £2.10s.0d. per week. My parents bought one of them, after its use in World War Two for fire watching duties, and, until the East Coast floods of 1953, we had many happy holidays in it sited on a farm at Chapel St Leonards.

It was time to eat my sandwiches and then board the train to Haworth, where the coach took us up the steep hill to the top of the village and the approach to the Bronte Parsonage Museum. This symmetrical Georgian house was home to the Bronte family from 1820 to 1861. Charlotte, Emily and Anne created their world famous novels here and brother Branwell, who also wrote, painted many of his fine portraits. The house had changed little since my previous visit some forty years ago, apart from the large upstairs area for temporary displays and the addition of a large, well stocked shop at the rear. In the cellar we listened to a talk about the family and the day to day lives of its members.

Outside, the footpath that leads up to the wild moors and *Wuthering Heights* beckoned, but time did not permit. The village was very different from what I remembered. Bustling souvenir shops and busy cafes were a hive of activity and bright, colourful little gardens and hanging baskets seemed to spill down the steep, narrow cobbled street. At the bottom of the hill was the attractive village park with wide vistas across the Worth valley, then just around the corner was the immaculate Haworth railway station, very spick and span and looking as it might have done 70 or even 100 years ago. We steamed up the line to the Oxenhome terminus, experienced again that wonderful steam smell and took our last photographs of the engine before we boarded our Lavender's coach and headed for home. This time we drove over wild Wadsworth Moor, bright with heather in the glorious sunshine, to Hebden Bridge, Halifax and Huddersfield, then through more lovely scenery along the A629, before joining the M1 near Barnsley.

All agreed that it had been an excellent day with something to interest everyone. Thank you, Alan!

**We are very keen to include contributions from
members in the Society's newsletters.**

**People? Places? Childhood? School? Buildings?
Events?**

Don't be shy!

WHAT'S IN A NAME

'The Lady with the Lamp' – Florence Shore – could have been! Florence's Grandfather Peter Nightingale founded Lea Mills at Lea Bridge in 1784 – his overseer was John Smedley of Wirksworth who later took over control of Lea Mills. In the early 1800's Nightingale died – without issue and it was his nephew William E. Shore, at the age of 21, in 1820, who inherited the Lea estate and his Uncle's fortune. William promptly changed his name to Nightingale. Three years later he married, moved abroad, where his wife gave birth to 2 daughters – Parthenope and Florence, each named after their place of birth. On their return to England, William built Lea Hurst at Holloway for his new family, but it didn't suit them – too cold and not enough social life! The family moved to Hampshire and only used Lea Hurst during the summer months. It was during these visits that the young Florence showed an interest in nursing – tending the poor and sick of Holloway. After the Crimean war was over it was to Lea Hurst that Florence returned to live and remain until her Mother's death in 1880. CTF.



Portrait of Florence Nightingale,
Circa 1858. From the Library of
Congress Prints and Photographic
Division.

Florence Nightingale.

Florence Nightingale was a legend in her lifetime but the Crimean War years which made her famous were just two out of a life of ninety years. FNM

Early years

Florence Nightingale was born in Italy on 12th May 1820 and was named Florence after the city where she was born. Her parents, William Edward and Frances Nightingale were a wealthy couple who had toured Europe for two years on their honeymoon. During their travels their first daughter, Parthenope, was born in Naples (Paranthorpe being the Greek name for the ancient city), followed one year later by Florence. On returning to England the Nightingales divided their time between two homes. In the summer months they lived at Lea Hurst in Derbyshire, moving to Embley in Hampshire for the winter. Lea Hurst is now a retirement home and Embley is now a school.

Call from God

Florence and Parthenope were taught at home by their Cambridge University educated father, Florence was an academic child, and from the age of 12 insisted on learning mathematics. Her sister excelled at painting and needlework. Florence grew up to be a lively and attractive young woman, admired in the family's social circle and she was expected to make a good marriage, but Florence had what she described as her 'calling'. Florence heard the voice of God calling her to do his work, but at this time she had no idea what that work would be.

The years of struggle and the visit to Kaiserswerth

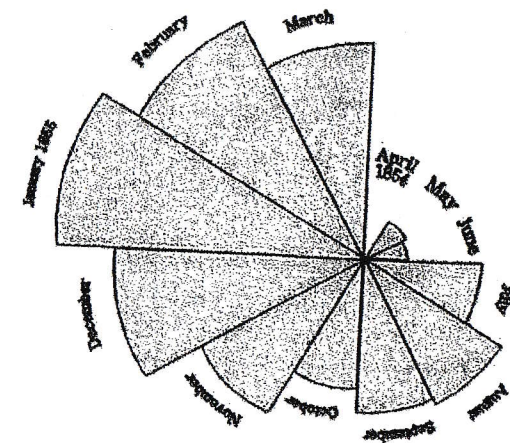
Florence developed an interest in the social questions of the day, made visits to the homes of the sick in the local villages and began to investigate hospitals and nursing. Her parents refused to allow her to become a nurse as in the mid-nineteenth century it was not considered a suitable profession for a well educated woman. While the family conflicts over Florence's future remained unresolved it was decided that Florence would tour Europe with some family friends, Charles and Selina Bracebridge. The three travelled to Italy, Egypt and Greece, returning in July 1850 through Germany where they visited Pastor Theodore Fliedner's hospital and school for deaconesses at Kaiserswerth, near Dusseldorf. The following year Florence Nightingale returned to Kaiserswerth and undertook three months nursing training, which enable her to take a vacancy as Superintendent of the Establishment for Gentlewomen during illness at No.1 Harley Street, London in 1853. H.S.

The Crimean War

In March 1854 Britain, France and Turkey declared war on Russia. The allies defeated the Russians at the battle of Alma – (see Newsletter No 17 in connection with Mr Longmire – autumn 2004), – in September but reports in *The Times* criticised the British medical facilities for the wounded. In response, Sidney Herbert, the Minister at War, who knew Florence Nightingale socially and through her work at Harley Street, appointed her to oversee the introduction of female nurses into the military hospitals in Turkey. On 4th November 1854, Florence Nightingale arrived at the Barrack Hospital in Scutari, a suburb on the Asian side of Constantinople, with a party of 38 nurses. Initially the doctors did not want the nurses there and did not ask for their help, but within ten days fresh casualties arrived from the battle of Inkermann and the nurses were fully stretched. The ‘Lady-in-Chief’, as Florence was called, wrote home on behalf of the soldiers. She acted as a banker, sending the men’s wages home to their families, and introduced reading rooms to the hospital. In return she gained the undying respect of the British soldiers. The introduction of female nurses to the military hospitals was an outstanding success, and to show the nation’s gratitude for Florence Nightingale’s hard work a public subscription was organised in November 1855. The money collected was to enable Florence Nightingale to continue her reform of nursing in the civil hospitals of Britain. When Florence Nightingale returned from the Crimean War in August 1856, four months after the peace treaty was signed, she hid herself away from the public’s attention. In November 1856 Miss Nightingale took a hotel room in London which became the centre for the campaign for a Royal Commission to investigate the health of the British Army. When Sidney Herbert was appointed chairman, she continued as a driving force behind the scenes. She used her mathematical skills analysing data she collected herself in military hospitals. She wanted to clearly show that disease, not wounds, caused most of the British Army’s deaths during the Crimean War. Most other statisticians at that time thought statistics should be very plain (and maybe very boring), but Florence decided to use interesting graphs to make her points stand out and to show people what was going on so that she could convince them to make changes in the way things were run.

For her contribution to Army statistics and comparative hospital statistics in 1860 Florence became the first woman to be elected a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and was also later made an honorary member of the American Statistical Association. One of her inventions was called a polar area chart, which is similar to a pie chart. In a polar chart, the circle is divided into angles or “wedges” of the same size for each category. The radius of each wedge is then equal to the square root of the count (or frequencies) for that category. The square root is used for the radius because the area of a circle is πr^2 , and using the square root of the frequency for radius means that the wedges in the polar area chart are still proportional to one another, like in the pie chart.

H.S.



Polar
chart

Nightingale Training School for Nurses

Florence Nightingale's greatest achievement was to raise nursing to the level of a respectable profession for women. In 1860, with the public subscriptions of the Nightingale Fund, she established the Nightingale Training School for nurses at St Thomas' Hospital. Mrs Sarah Wardroper, Matron at St Thomas', became the head of the new school. The probationer nurses received a year's training which included some lectures but was mainly practical ward work under the supervision of the ward sister, "Miss Nightingale", as she was always called by the nurses, scrutinised the probationers' ward diaries and reports. From 1872 Florence devoted closer attention to the organisation of the School and almost annually for the next thirty years she wrote an open letter to the nurses and probationers giving advice and encouragement. On completion of training Florence gave the nurses books and invited them to tea. Once trained the nurses were sent to staff hospitals in Britain and abroad and to established nursing training schools on the Nightingale model. In 1860 her best known work, *Notes on Nursing*, was published. It laid down the principles of nursing; careful observation and sensitivity to the patient's needs. *Notes on Nursing* has been translated into eleven foreign languages and is still in print today. H.S.

Public Health

Florence Nightingale's writings on hospital planning and organisation had a profound effect in England and across the world. She was the principal advocate of the 'pavilion' plan for hospitals in Britain. Like her friend, the public health reformer Edwin Chadwick, she believed that infection arose spontaneously in dirty and poorly ventilated places. This mistaken belief nevertheless led to improvements in hygiene and healthier living and working environments. She also advised and supported William Rathbone in the development of district nursing in Liverpool and many Nightingale trained nurses became pioneers in this field.

H.S.

Old Age

Although she was bedridden for many years, she campaigned tirelessly to improve health standards, publishing 200 books, reports and pamphlets. In 1883 in recognition of her hard work Queen Victoria awarded her the Royal Red Cross. In her old age she received many honours, including the Order of Merit (1907), becoming the first woman to receive it. Florence Nightingale died at home at the age of 90 on 13th August 1910 and, according to her wishes, she was buried at St Margaret's, East Wellow, near her parent's home, Embley Park in Hampshire. Florence Nightingale's farsighted reforms have influenced the nature of modern health care and her writings continue to be a resource for nurses, health managers and planners. H.S.

The Florence Nightingale Medal

Instituted in 1912 by the International Committee of the Red Cross for award to trained nurses, matrons, nursing organisers or voluntary aids for distinguished or exceptional service.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL



Date: 1912.

Ribbon: White with narrow yellow and broad red stripes towards the edges.

Metal: Silver with enamels.

Size:

Description: An upright elliptical medal coming to a point at both ends, with a three-quarter length portrait of Florence Nightingale from the Crimean War period, inscribed MEMORIAM FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE 1820-1910 AD. The reverse bears the recipient's name.

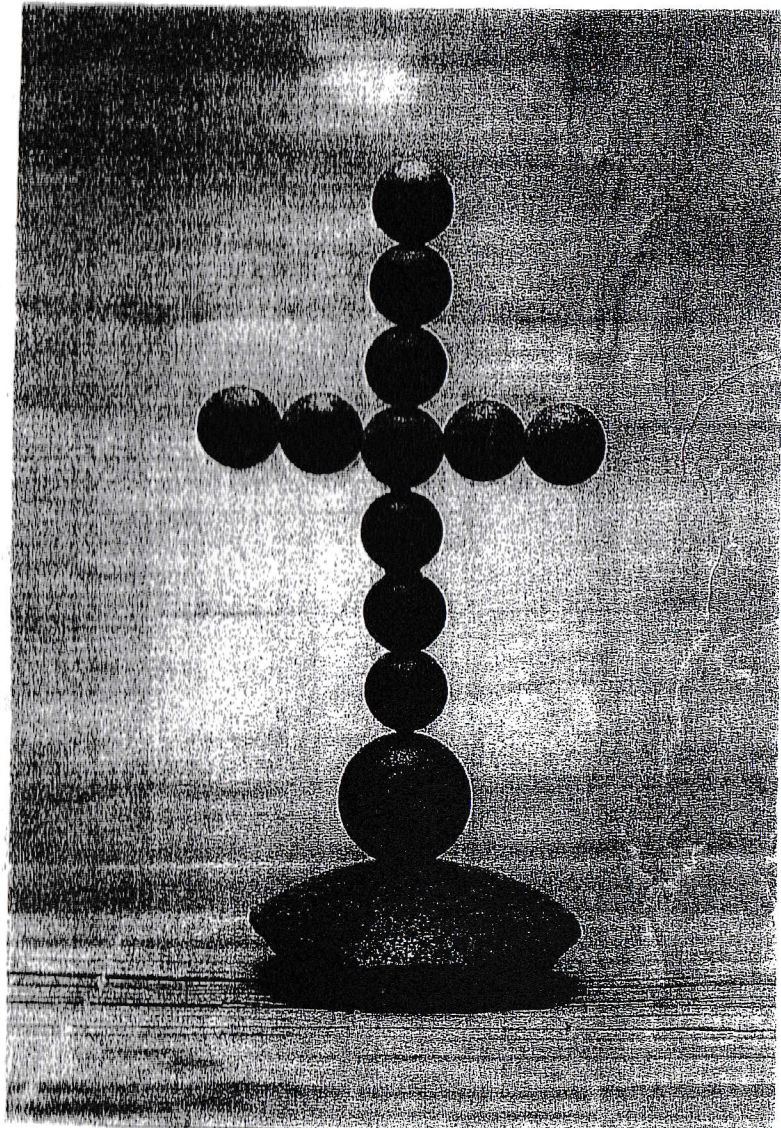
Comments: Instituted by the International Committee of the Red Cross for award to trained nurses, matrons, nursing organisers or voluntary aids for distinguished or exceptional service. Awards are made every other year on the anniversary of Miss Nightingale's birthday. This medal has been awarded very sparingly.



Grave of Florence Nightingale in the graveyard of
St Margaret of Antioch, East Wellow.
Ann Harries



St Margaret of Antioch, East Wellow.
By an unknown artist.



Cross made of bullets from the Crimean War on the altar
in the Church of St Margaret of Antioch, East Wellow.

Sources;

Thelma Francis.

The Florence Nightingale Museum.

Hugh Small, who kindly gave the Society permission
to use his article from the Florence Nightingale Museum's
website. He is also the author of the book *Florence
Nightingale, Avenging Angel* (Constable 1998) information
of which is available on his website

www.hugh-small.co.uk

Medal News.

My thanks to;

Barbara Brooke who encouraged me to research
Florence Nightingale.

Barbara Page who assisted me with information and
pictures connected with Florence Nightingale.

Editor.

STAPLEFORD LANDMARK TO BE DEMOLISHED

The old Stapleford vicarage is to
be demolished. This was reported on
Tuesday by the Rev. J. S. Lemon,
Vicar of Stapleford.

Mr. Lemon said he understood the
new owner, Mr. Marshall, of West
Bridgford, intended having the
vicarage demolished before carrying
out further plans.

Foundations are being laid at the
present time for a new vicarage next
door to the old building. The Vicar
expects it will be eight months
before the new house is completed.

A RAINY DAY IN OXTON

On Monday 25th June 2007 Barbara Brooke, Barbara Page, Eileen Bloor and Malcolm Jarvis set off to visit the lovely rural village of Oxtun in Nottinghamshire to attend a training day on writing and editing articles, to be held at the village hall.

Oxtun, is described thus in their 'Walk around Oxtun', leaflet; 'Oxtun lies ten miles North East of Nottingham, it is mentioned three times in the Domesday book, and has a beautiful Parish Church with both Saxon and Norman traces'.

Instead of a lovely sunny June day out, we found that heavy downpours had caused severe flooding in many parts. The earliest sign being the river Erewash, up high and in full spate. Then as we approached the Daybrook area we saw that one old sports ground (where Barbara Brooke once played hockey whilst at school) was well and truly flooded. Along the route we saw large areas where parts of roads were flooded and which caused long traffic queues for motorists travelling into Nottingham City areas. The flooding water was of a deep orangey brown colour, fresh from the land and carrying along the soil from the fields.

We eventually approached the village and a short distance from the village hall where the course was being held, we were stopped by local residents. All the locals were kitted out in waterproofs and all wore Wellingtons. The road outside the Parish Church, St Peter and St Paul's, was heavily flooded, up some 10 to 12 inches. Locals told us that it had been much higher than what we witnessed. Entrances to nearby houses were heavily protected by sandbags, keeping out the water where possible. Sadly the church did not have any protection and the water seeped along the pathway to the entrance to the church. Having got out of the car we walked along as far as we could but were stopped by the flooding which was some 120 yards long. Approximately 60 yards ahead of us we could see the sign for the Village Hall, but were unable to get to it. Then we noticed that the water was receding, this was due to one local hero, only known as James, who was pulling up the drain covers. As he removed most of them we saw the water swirling around the manholes and rapidly receding before our eyes. After 15 minutes of watching the water receding we were able to make our way to the village hall where the course commenced. As we sat down in the hall, the dark clouds fell away and lovely blue sky appeared. In this quiet village suddenly a cockerel crowed and quiet village life returned to normal.

MJ

THE COAL STRIKE OF 1912

A major strike by coal miners over six weeks from February to April 1912 had a very distressing effect on the people of Stapleford - and of course elsewhere. The strike was called by the Miners' Federation for better pay. The call was for a minimum wage of five shillings per shift for men and two shillings per shift for boys. It was even known as 'the five and two strike' It began on 26 February and soon gathered momentum across Britain to gain support from over 1 million workers. In the local area, whilst factory and shop businesses were seriously hampered by fuel shortages, the strike particularly affected the poor, as I have discovered from a number of reports in local papers of the time.

Here are some of those reports, all taken verbatim from editions of the *Ilkeston Pioneer*.

Friday 15 March 1912:

PROSPECT AT STAPLEFORD

Regarding the strike, very little change has taken place in the situation at Stapleford. The lace factories are still working.

There has been a change in the temperature. From sunset till long after the dawn of day it has been very cold, with fog and slight frost, and many of the poor have suffered greatly through lack of fuel.

One large firm of meat purveyors closed their shop on Tuesday for an indefinite period. The suspended ironworkers from Stanton are in angry mood. Most of them have been for years members of the Gas Workers and General Labourers Union, and have looked forward to receiving their pay during the period of suspension, only, however, to be disappointed. They were told that the rules do not entitle them to pay when idle from such a cause as the coal strike. Loud protestations have given way to stolid bitterness, and numbers have been heard to voice that they will never pay another penny into the Union. The secretaries of local branches have been having anything but a pleasant time of it.

Friday 15 March 1912:

GLOOMY PROSPECT AT STAPLEFORD

Stapleford is hopelessly caught in the tentacles of the struggle - writes our correspondent at the commencement of the week. Although the lace industry, which employs a large amount of female labour, and the engineering trade, which is one of the leading activities of Sandiacre, are still at work, it is expected that for lack of coal these places will be silent before the week-end.

Regarding the railway men, of which there are many hundreds in the district, there is an irony regarding their position. Whereas during the railway strike the miners had perforce to be idle because there were no trucks, the position is now reversed, and railway men are suffering because the stoppage of pits has cut off the flow of traffic into Toton sidings. About 1,250 men are employed in the railway area covered by the local branches of the A.S.R.S.

The arrangement arrived at by the Midland Railway Co and the Men's Conciliation Board representative, whereby the whole of the staff are kept in the service, and are sharing the work of their own particular grade, is working well, and the men express their satisfaction with it. The arrangement is a decided improvement on what transpired during the strike of 1893. On that occasion the whole of the firemen and cleaners were dismissed at Toton, while men of other grades were either dismissed or scattered about the country among the passenger and goods departments.

The 250 men employed at Taylor's engineering works were to have left work on Saturday, but the firm have decided to keep on right up to when their fuel is exhausted. During the week they have been burning house coal obtained at an exorbitant price. The position of affairs at the Premier Engineering Works is very similar. At both works, notices have been temporarily suspended.

Both Sandiacre and Stapleford fared badly at the week-end and shop-keepers are already complaining.

Friday 15 March 1912:

FIND OF COAL

Rendered well-nigh desperate by the coal famine, several householders living in the Moorbridge Lane district of Stapleford went on Saturday, armed with picks, shovels and pails to the face of the clay pits in the

old Stapleford brickyard. Here they found several small seams of coal, which they attacked with vigour, soon dislodging considerable quantities of poor quality coal, and filling their receptacles. Several of the strikers employed at Trowell Colliery close by, were soon on the scene, and exerting considerable pressure, the amateur miners drove them from the find, but under cover of night the seam was repeatedly attacked, and a considerable quantity of coal carried off.

Friday 22 March 1912:

SURFACE SEAMS AT STAPLEFORD

Primitive Methods of Securing Coal

The news that Messrs S J Claye's waggon building works at Long Eaton would close down on Friday - writes our correspondent - came as a severe blow, for not a few of the 800 men and boys employed there reside either in Stapleford or Sandiacre. The staff of men employed at the Premier Engineering Works, Sandiacre, was still further reduced. Strolling bands of miners from Ilkeston are beginning to be looked upon as unwelcome visitors, so strong is public opinion setting against them. It has been a difficult matter with many middle class residents to 'keep the family pot boiling', as pride forbids them going out coal-picking.

Several surface seams of coal have been found in the neighbourhood and 'worked' for all they are worth. The coal, however, was of poor quality, and the implements used in getting the mineral and carrying it home were of strange devices. Daily, hundreds of people set out with pick, bucket, shovel and barrow. The coal lies but a short distance from the surface, and is easily secured.

A large number of trees have been felled in the Bramcote and Risley borders of the two townships, while trees left standing have been lopped of superfluous branches. Many tons have been conveyed by road to Nottingham where they have been sold at a higher price than that of local buyers. Thousands of railway sleepers have also been utilised for the same purpose.

A few of the men thrown out of employment have found work on the land; many farmers in the district availing themselves of the opportunity, while so much cheap labour is obtainable, of getting farming operations well in hand. Farmers have also found it advisable to have a few extra hands at work just now, to keep a watchful eye out to prevent hedges being attacked for the sake of fuel.

Friday 29 March 1912:

TOTON'S DEPRESSING SIGHT

Some of the poor of Stapleford and Sandiacre, emboldened by the privilege of picking up coal on the tracks of the Midland Railway, wandered the other day across the road to the west side, where there are some hundreds of tons of coal stacked, and had to be driven off in haste.

Toton sidings present a most forlorn appearance. Locomotives to the number of upwards of 200 stand motionless, each representing a loss of wages to driver, fireman, cleaner, guard, shunter and filler.

Friday 29 March 1912:

HUNGRY CHILDREN AT STAPLEFORD

The story of Stapleford during the past week makes bitter reading, but it is today the story of hundreds of townships throughout the land. A few weeks ago the staple industry, the manufacture of lace was showing an upward tendency, after a long period of depression, and practically all the men and women were at work. Today the distress is widespread and serious, and except in the case of the children, the various charitable agencies are barely able to touch the fringe of it. The poor are in the depths, but in "the upper strata of society", things are very serious. Shopkeepers have given as much credit as they can afford, and are faced with the demand for rent and rates. Small savings have vanished.

The Stapleford Poor Children's Care Committee are daily feeding 300 families. The room built by the Education Committee of the Notts County Council as a cookery centre for pupils, is the best available accommodation.

Our Stapleford representative was present at the mid-day meal a few days ago. The meal consisted of meat sandwiches and cocoa, which is made of one-third milk. This is regarded by the Medical Officer of Health as the most nutritious meal the Committee could conveniently give. Sandwiches weighing seven ounces are served out to each child. This is generally found to be sufficient, but there is practically an unlimited supply. The Rev. G W Potter, the secretary to the Poor

Childrens' Care Committee, regards no sacrifice too great to make on behalf of the little ones. Among the children were some whose pale faces and mean attire spoke of poverty, but for the most part they were a bright, happy lot of children, and seemed to regard the event more in the nature of a Sunday School tea-party than a charitable meal. It was delightful to see them eat, hugging a sandwich in one hand and a cup of cocoa in the other. The room in which the meal was served was all too small, but even in their cramped quarters they took pains to help one another. Mr George Spencer, the head-master of the Council School was present, and none worked harder than he.

.....

The strike was resolved by the presentation to parliament of minimum-wage legislation - an unprecedented demonstration of the government's willingness to intervene in wage negotiations.

It ended officially on Saturday 6 April 1912. In the local area, a few miners returned to the pits on the Monday, many more on the Tuesday and large numbers were back at work by the Wednesday. There were scores and scores of pits in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire operating in 1912 - local ones at Trowell, Wollaton, Radford, Cossall, Ilkeston, West Hallam, Mapperley, Shipley to name but a few. In stark contrast, nearly 100 years later, there are no working collieries anywhere close to the local area.

Alan Clayton

Tribute to Trevor Tyman

Trevor was a Staplefordian through and through. He came from the Brookhill Street area and was a member of our Society. He loved life to the full and would help anyone at anytime. He was a real gentleman. He fully supported the Society and loved to give historical facts about Stapleford. You may well remember how he assisted with the article about his Uncle Harold Jackson of Stapleford in the Spring 2006 issue of the Newsletter. He passed away on the 18th April this year. With the kind permission of his widow Marian here is a selection of his poems that have appeared over the years.

Any complaints?

There's a breathless hush in the cookhouse,
a silence unheard before.

The lads all sat to attention,
as the officer strode through the door.

The sergeant cook followed him closely,
a grim smile upon his red face.

As it was well known in the billets,
the food was a blooming disgrace.

"Are there any complaints?" said the officer.

In a voice that was mellow and sweet.

No one replied for a moment,
then a young airman got to his feet.

"I have," said the airman all nervous,
who then gave a quiet reply.

"It's the peas sir – they're harder than bullets,"
the officer said – "Let me try".

The lads all looked on, as the officer
tried a spoonful of some of his peas,
with a satisfied smile, said the officer.
"There's not a lot wrong with these."

That may be so sir," the airman replied,
trying to hold himself steady.

"But that particular portion of peas,
I've chewed them myself once already."

Those happy days.

Stand by your bed, the corporal said
as he opened the billet door
you'll do your bit, lay out your kit
then polish up the floor.

With sickly grin, the lads fell in
their duties to perform
those new recruits, in best blue suits
were feeling quite forlorn.

They'd shaved in water cold as ice
and polished up their boots
they all wished they were somewhere else
those brand new raw recruits.

They by the left and by the right
they marched with arms swung high
they ran around in PT kit
and some wished they could die.

They did their best and stood the test
with grit they made the grade
but what delight, when they marched out
in the passing out parade.

Each of us has a tale to tell
and gone our different ways
but all of us remember well
those National Service days.

Trevor Tyman.

Bless you Trevor.

Amendment to the Spring 2007 Newsletter.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY FIRE BRIGADE SNIPPETS.

Unfortunately the pages for this article were mixed up and should be read in the following order;

1. Page 21 is in order
2. Page 23 should be next dated 11th March 1904
3. Page 22 should be next dated 1st February 1907
4. Page 26 should be next dated 26th April 1907
5. Page 24 should be next dated 30th August 1907
6. Page 29 should be next dated 27th September 1907
7. Page 27 should be next dated 2nd August 1912
8. Page 30 should be next dated 2nd June 1916
9. Page 28 (1) should be next dated 2nd November 1916
10. Page 28 (2) should be next dated 15th June 1917
11. And page 31 dated 12th July 1918 is last.

Full blame is taken by the Editor for this mix up.

**Don't forget the Christmas Social Evening
on Wednesday 12 December**

**Come along and enjoy the quizzes.
Please bring a food item towards the refreshments**

'A Gesture of Christian Fellowship'

It was October 21st 1942. In Egypt Montgomery was about to take on Rommel at the Battle of El-Alamein, 'The end of the beginning', as Churchill called it. The Russians were suffering heavy losses. The Germans were very much the enemy. Cities in Britain had suffered beneath German bombs. In Stapleford the relatives of Fred Johnson and Thomas Stanton were mourning their recent deaths.

Round the table at Stapleford Vicarage sat the Church council The Vicar, Rev. C.R. Baggs presided over the 18 members. The usual small items were dealt with: church hall heating: the state of the flagpole. The Vicar announced that 50 Hickings Lane, had been acquired for a curate's house. And then he laid before the Council details of the two men being considered to fill the vacancy of curate. One, the Vicar said, he did not wish to consider as the candidate did not have the Bishop's confidence. The other, he continued, was recommended by a Canon Griffiths of Hastings. He was a refugee, a Pastor of the German Lutheran Church, Pastor Ludwig Horlbog, M.A. He had been in the country since 1938. He was 39, married with a child and had had experience in a parish. The Bishop, Mr. Baggs went on, had advised him to consult the Church Council before inviting the Pastor to preach in Stapleford, to judge the suitability or otherwise of engaging him.

So it was over to the Church Council. Should Pastor Horlbog come to Stapleford? The Vicar had no objection. What did the Church Council think? Several people entered the fray. Some worried about how Pastor Horlbog would feel about being asked to come and be "put on trial", but that if he came to visit

the parish at all he should preach. Someone wanted to hear the experiences of any other churches which had accepted German Pastors in similar circumstances. Some feared opposition from the parishioners, with mothers of Sunday School children keeping them away from prejudice. Some else quickly rejoined that 'prejudice' would find out the true believers! The Vicar backed this up by saying "we ought no to consider too much the prejudice of the uninstructed"! The Vicar put the main objector on the spot by asking if he would propose that no invitation should be issued. 'No!' was the immediate reply. And so the invitation to Pastor Horlbog to visit for the weekend was made, possibly on November 1st. After this momentous motion was passed, it was a return to the usual items - state of the curtains, Sale of Work dates etc.

The minutes of the next meeting on November 9th return to the matter of Pastor Horlbog. It is likely that Pastor Horlbog had been to the parish since the last meeting, (Also in the interval another Stapleford man, John Bardill, had been killed at the battle of El-Alamein). Several parishes had sent letters about their refugee pastors, all favourable. Each member was asked for an opinion. A 'lengthy discussion' ensued. Eventually the following motion was passed unanimously

That this Council is of the opinion that as in their view Pastor Horlbog might well exercise a valuable ministry in Stapleford and as a gesture of Christian fellowship - they agree to support the Vicar wholeheartedly if he accepts the Pastor as his colleague".

The Pastor's name then regularly appears as present at the Church Council meetings until November 1947. At the Annual Parish Council meeting held in January

1945 the Vicar, in his statement said he wished to pay tribute "the extraordinary way his colleague, Rev. L Horlbog had found into our hearts, and to his help and unswerving loyalty". Mrs Horlbog was involved in the Mothers' Union, according to present parishioners.

Those same parishioners can remember Pastor Horlbog at Abbey Field for the end of war celebrations.

He returned to Germany in 1947 but kept contact with some Stapleford families, particularly those whose daughters had been friends with his daughter.

And so in the middle of the war, with Stapleford men being killed, the parish church showed love and generosity in difficult circumstances. Some church members did leave, but on the whole the Pastor was welcomed and accepted. Perhaps they remembered Jesus' words of commendation at the day of judgement when he said to those he accepted "I was a stranger and you took me in".

Sources:

Minute Book of the Parish Council minutes of St. Helen's Stapleford

A.J.P. Taylor. English History 1914 -1945

Oral History Memories of present parishioners of St. Helen's.

Memorial records prepared by Malcolm Jarvis

Meg Oliver.

*We wish everyone a Happy Christmas
and good wishes for the New Year
2008.*

See you all in 2008.

CHILD MORTALITY IN STAPLEFORD

In looking at a few newspaper reports of the Burial Committee, presented to monthly meetings of the Stapleford Parish Council in the early part of the 20thC, it makes one realise how high the level of child mortality was at that period. As interest I show the reports in full, as printed in issues of the *Ilkeston Pioneer*, because a few other matters appear, although I have highlighted those about child deaths.

Meeting on Wed 27 July 1904 (*Pioneer* Friday 29 July 1904)

Mr R Hardy reported that there had been nine interments during the month, and for the year ended June 30th there had been 102 interments, 58 males and 44 females, five of which were those of non-residents. **One half of the deaths had been those of children under one year of age. That was a considerable increase.** Taking the population of Stapleford at 7,500, the death rate would be 13 per 1,000, and if the population were estimated at 7,000, the death rate would be 14 per 1,000. Since the last Council meeting, Mr Ireland had presented a seat to the cemetery. A vote of thanks had been sent to Mr Ireland for his gift.

Meeting on Wed 25 September 1907 (*Pioneer* Friday 27 September 1907)

Mr H Clark presented the Burial Committee's report that they had received £13 14s 6d for graves, 7s 6d for headstones, cash in hand £13 7s. Payments for the month were £8 17s 4d. During the month there had been **seven interments, four adults**, two of whom were non-parishioners **and three infants**, and at the time there were upwards of 20 perambulators and mail carts in the cemetery, which interfered with the proper work. He therefore moved that that in future, no perambulators or mail carts be admitted to the cemetery while a funeral service is going on. This was carried.

Mr Briggs: I should like to suggest that the Burials Committee purchase a bier with india-rubber wheels to convey the coffins to the top of the hill. It certainly is very hard work, especially in slippery weather to get to the top.

This was referred to the committee.

Someone had cut their initials on one of the trees in the cemetery, and it was decided to take steps to prevent a recurrence.

Meeting on Wed 27 November 1912 (*Pioneer* Friday 29 November 1912)

Mr S S Hardy presented the report of the Burials Committee, which recommended that a uniform fee of five shillings be charged for **burial of all still-born children, and also those under a month old.**

Mr H E Stevenson moved an amendment that the charge be four shillings.

The committee's recommendation was adopted.

Meeting on Wed 1 November 1916 (*Pioneer* Friday 3 November 1916)

Mr S S Hardy presented his brief review of the Burial Committee's work. There had been 9 interments, viz. **7 adults and 2 infants.**

.....
I suspect that if I found other reports for that period they would show similar figures to some of those above.

Alan Clayton

From *Ilkeston Pioneer* Thursday 30 August 1860

STEALING FRUIT

At the Shire Hall, Nottingham, on Saturday, a youth named George Johnson was charged with stealing apples from an orchard in the parish of Stapleford, belonging to Mr Butler. Mr Briggs appeared for the complainant. Mr Joseph Smedley said that on Wednesday last he saw the prisoner knocking apples off the trees and pocket them. He called to him, when he took to his heels.

It appeared that the prisoner had frequently committed these depredations in the village, and had been cautioned on two or three occasions by Mr Butler. The prisoner, and another youth named Luke Draycott, were then charged with having stolen apples from the orchard of Mr Robinson, in the same village, on Monday last.

Police-constable Hallam deposed to seeing Johnson in the tree and shaking apples off, whilst the other prisoner was on the ground pocketing them. The magistrates convicted in both cases. Johnson, who had been previously convicted, was fined £3 or six weeks' hard labour. Draycott was fined 30s, or in default of payment, to undergo three weeks' imprisonment.

(From Alan L Clayton)

From *Ilkeston Pioneer* Friday 4 November 1904

THE WAKES

The main thoroughfare of Stapleford was extensively patronised on Monday evening, hundreds of folk visiting the Fair Ground, where there was to be found the customary paraphernalia associated with "the Wakes". Roundabouts, shooting galleries &c, did pretty good business. The youthful members enjoyed the bustle of the throng. The proceedings passed off very orderly.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST BAZAAR

On Monday a bazaar was opened at the Primitive Methodist School, Stapleford, the object being to reduce the debt and to provide funds for the cleaning and decorating of the premises. The pastor (the Rev J T Goodacre), in setting forth the objects of the bazaar, said that five years ago the premises &c, cost £2,054, and with additional expenditure, the total cost amounted to over £2,200. When the place was opened they had a debt remaining of £900. They had paid £100 off, thus leaving £800 as the present debt. It was intended, if possible to pay £100 more off the debt and also to clean and decorate the premises. Mr Wm Smedley, senior, one of the oldest members of the church, declared the bazaar open.

(From Alan L Clayton)

From *Ilkeston Pioneer* Friday 27 September 1907

VOTING REVISION COURT

Mr Edward Lumley, the Revising Barrister, held a Court at Stapleford on Saturday, for the revision of the lists of voters, for STAPLEFORD, BRAMCOTE, TROWELL and WOLLATON. Mr H Bradwell (agent) and Mr J Smith (the sub-agent) represented the Conservatives, and Mr H Lee, the Liberals. The Conservative agent sustained 18 new ownership claims and the Liberals 8 ownership and 6 new lodger claims. The Conservative agent sustained the claim of Rev E R Nicholls as a ratepayer for the Rectory of Trowell. This being the last court for the Division, a vote of thanks was passed to the Barrister.

From *Ilkeston Pioneer* Friday 10 June 1904

STAPLEFORD ACCIDENT

A young man named Hands, living with his mother at Canary Isles, Stapleford, and employed as a cleaner on the Midland Railway, was accidentally run over early on Sunday morning, towards the close of his shift, by a truck. All his toes, with the exception of the big toe, being taken off one foot.

From Alan L Clayton

Note: Where was or is 'Canary Isles'?

Curious that 'Hands' loses 'toes'! (A.L.C.)

From *Ilkeston Pioneer* Friday 30 August 1907

From the Stapleford Parish Council meeting on Wed 28 August 1912

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE. A letter was read from the District Council stating that if the Parish Council would name a site suitable for the erection of a public convenience, they were prepared to consider the matter, but it would be a separate charge on the Parish of Stapleford. A Committee consisting of Messrs Taylor, Lilley and Stevenson were appointed to select a site.

STREETS and FOOTPATHS RESPONSIBILITY. The Council were not prepared to take over Wesley Place, Lot Street, East Street, and Chapel Street. The surveyor was instructed to deal with the footpath to Stanton Gate. It was decided to repair the footpath from Victoria Street to Brookhill Road. Messrs Maltby, Clark, Hardy and Chivers to superintend the work.

From *Ilkeston Pioneer* Friday 27 September 1907

The Stapleford Parish Council meeting on Wed 27 September 1912, includes this item as a follow up to the above:

FOOTPATHS. The Footpath Committee had met and considered the condition of the footpath from Eaton's Road to Brookhill Road, and it was decided that as the District Council had repaired similar footpaths in the place, they be requested to undertake the repair of the footpath before-mentioned.

Also:

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES. On Sunday, harvest festival services were held in the United Methodist Brookhill Church. In the afternoon, a musical service was held, the principal soloists being Miss E Voce of Nottingham, and Mr H Longmire of Stapleford. The Rev T Coleman, of Ranmoor College, conducted the service and gave a short address. In the evening he preached to a good congregation and the church was beautifully decorated.

(From Alan Clayton)

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

Stapleford Town Trail £1.00

Stapleford Tea Towels £2.95

Leather bookmarks £0.80

Local views – framed priced individually

Local views – cards with envelopes £1.00

Pen & ink drawings by Jack Vernon £1.00

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 Newsletters – some back copies available at reduced prices

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Malcolm Jarvis - 0115-932 3457

CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY– Barbara Brooke 0115-939 4979

JOINT TREASURERS – Barbara Page - 0115-939 2573

And Pat Hodgkiss – 0115-939 5273

The deadline for submission of items for the next Spring

2008 issue of the Newsletter is 31 March 2008

Material can be given to any of the above named.

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

Front cover: Stapleford & Sandiacre Station

Drawn by Nigel Brooks