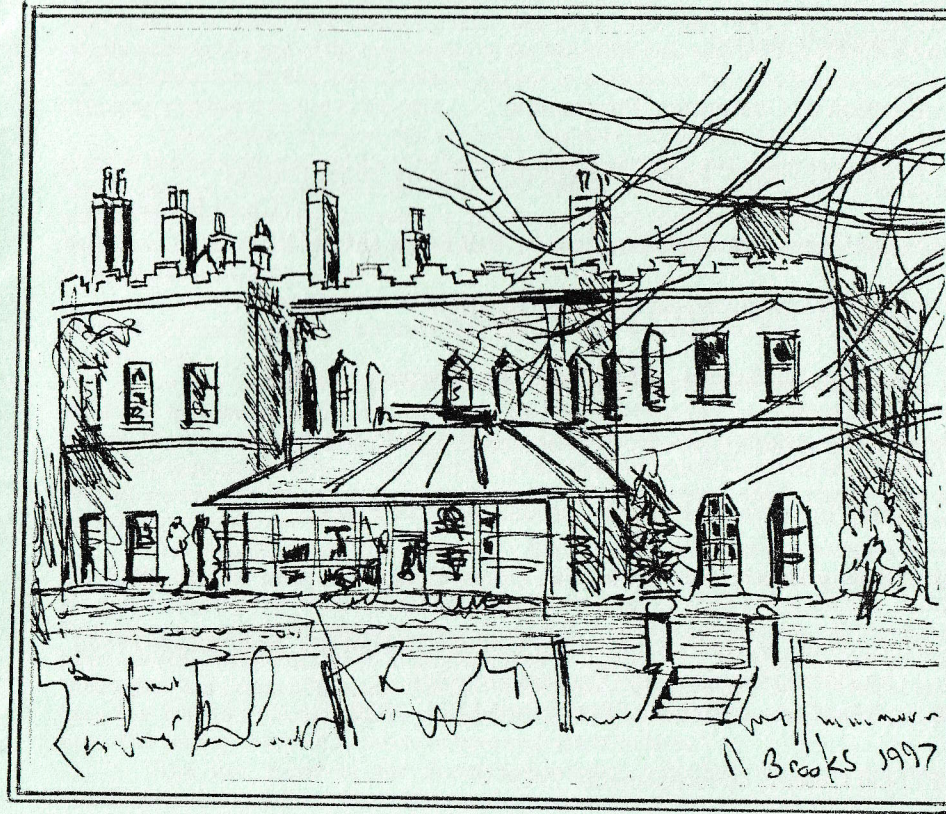


*Mr. R Goodman*

# **Stapleford and District Local History Society**



**Newsletter No 20 - Spring 2006**

**50p**

**Free to Members**



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### CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

This has been an interesting and varied year for the Society, but dominated by the publication, launch and sales of our book 'Stapleford in World War Two'. As you know, the launch was a splendid occasion supported by the Mayors of Broxtowe and Stapleford and representatives of historical and educational organisations, as well as by many of the interviewees on whose experiences the book was based. Our own members and Stapleford people made up the rest of the huge crowd in the Maycliffe Hall who drank coffee, looked at the interesting World War Two displays, listened to wartime music, then the speeches and, of course, purchased copies of the book.

I am pleased to report that we have now sold 972 copies, 101 free copies were given to the interviewees and for publicity and review purposes and many more are out on sale or return at 11 different outlets. Although I still have nine boxes of 30 books left in my garage, we have now broken even on the book project, thanks to support from South Broxtowe Local Area Forum, Stapleford Town Council and Councillor John Bell, Nottinghamshire County Council.

It has been my pleasure to receive appreciative phone calls, cards and letters about the book and expressions of gratitude that there is now a permanent record of the 'Home Front' locally.

In turn I want to record formally the great debt of gratitude the Society owes to those who took part in the project, especially the authors of the various chapters and my co-editors, Nigel Brooks and Alan Clayton. From his vast newspaper collection Alan was able to provide appropriate local cuttings and advertisements, including the cover illustration, as well as government agency notices, instructions and exhortations which played such an important part in the war effort.

The programme of talks arranged by Barbara Page, has been outstandingly good, and many members tell me how interesting they find our meetings. Not many societies can say that during the year three of their talks have been given by their own members; in July Philip Burton spoke about 'National Trust Treasures', Nigel Brooks gave his talk 'Painter of Light - Joseph Wright of Derby' in October, then in March Harry Houghton spoke on 'The Nottingham and District Technical College - Design and Construction 1950s'. It would have been four but Alan Clayton had to postpone his '1930s - Read all about it' until later this year. Our Society is indeed fortunate to have such talent 'in house'.

The two issues of the Society's newsletter published this year contained contributions from no fewer than eight members, again something of which we can be very proud. In Malcolm Jarvis's capable hands the newsletter has again been singled out for praise by 'Local History News', the magazine of the British Association for Local History, for the way press reports have been included - (from *Stapleford & Sandiacre News*, 1 February 1941) a piece about Richard Attenborough, grandson of Frederick Attenborough, baker, of Stapleford, obtaining a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and match reports from the *Nottingham Guardian* of 12 March 1934, when a professional football match was abandoned due to 'the heaviest winter thunderstorm in memory', but a women's international hockey match continued. The men 'who scuttled into shelter' were 'paid to play football for public entertainment' while the women played without remuneration.



During the year Society members have taken part in Beeston Society outings to Pickering and the North York Moors Railway and to Powis Castle with Welshpool. On a lovely June evening Tony Horton took members on a guided tour of Nuthall village and St Patrick's church, details about which he amplified in his September illustrated talk.

The Hemlock Happening at Bramcote Hills Park in June 2005 was again a huge success. The specially commissioned play 'When Arthur met Lara' focussed on the life and work of Stapleford born Arthur Mee. More than 8,000 people watched it and performances of music, song and dance by schools and local groups on the stage in the walled garden, culminating in the usual spectacular firework display. It fell in Nottinghamshire Sustainability Fortnight and there were many green 'have a go' activities on the park, as well as two re-enactment groups, archery, a dog show, children's fairground rides and refreshments. Eleven of our members had helped by distributing fliers beforehand and seven were stewards on the day. Preparations are going ahead well for Saturday 10 June 2006 when, with a healthy living theme, there will be more 'have a go' physical activities put on by local leisure centres. The organising committee would be delighted to welcome some stewards. I can recommend it as a very enjoyable and interesting activity.

I want to mention some of the many events that have taken place during the year. The Society mounted a stall at the Christmas Victorian Market at St Helen's church hall, which excited a good deal of interest and resulted in a lot of book sales. I guided the Hemlock Stone Probus Club on a walk round the Town Trail and led a Stapleford history morning with young people on a E2E (Education to Employment) course in the Youth Centre on Church Lane. Broxtowe College were persuaded to adopt the name 'The Whiteley Mill' for their new centre on the Nottingham Road/Albert Street corner. The 1360 Squadron Air Training Corps had a suitcase of old film reels about squadron activities in Stapleford, which I took on their behalf to James Patterson, Director of MACE (Media Archive for Central England), at Nottingham University. After renovation he has promised to show them.

The colourful, monthly, free 'Breeze' magazine is starting to expand locally at the request of Stapleford Regeneration Group and in the February issue for the first time featured a 12 page pull out section on Stapleford. It is funded entirely by advertising and is hoping to have a feature on Stapleford every two months and increase its circulation to cover most of Stapleford at the same time. I wrote a short piece about the Society and our activities and a feature on 'the factory in a garden' - Fearfield's lace factory, later Chambers pencil factory. This was well received and in the April issue I am writing the story of Sir John Borlase Warren and The Happy Man pub.

In a newly published book 'British Admirals of the Napoleonic Wars; Contemporaries of Nelson' edited by Peter le Fevre and Richard Harding, is a very interesting chapter on Admiral Sir John, detailing the great significance of his contribution to naval success in the Napoleonic Wars and his great leadership qualities. The book is in the Society's library and I recommend everyone to read it.

In 1906 the Carnegie Library on Warren Avenue opened. There is to be a season of celebrations of its centenary. The Society has been asked to help mount an exhibition in the Carnegie Centre and host a walk round the Town Trail.

Five members have started on the Society's next project, namely to organise our archives, and have already held two useful sessions.

As you know, committee member Audrey Choulerton has been severely disabled by a stroke, but I am pleased to report that she has recently been moved to Bramcote House Nursing Home on Town Street, Bramcote, where it will be much easier for friends and

relatives to visit her. Member Sheila Rawding is making a good recovery from a minor stroke. We look forward to seeing her again soon.

At the end of the year it is my pleasant task to thank all those who have contributed to the life of the Society. First of all, I want to thank Grace Jarvis, who has just completed her first year as a very efficient Treasurer and Membership Secretary. She will tonight present the Society's Accounts for your approval. Through the good offices of Robert Butler, the Accounts have been audited by C J Lucking & Company, Chartered Accountants, free of charge, and we are very grateful for their contribution.

Thank you to Eileen Bloor who is continuing to run the sales stall, to John and Pat Hodgkiss for being 'on the door', to Pat Kelly and her helpers for operating the library, to Nigel Brooks for continuing to produce full colour Stapleford cards and maps and to Barbara Page for arranging the excellent programme. Thank you to other committee members for their help and support. I have already thanked everyone connected with the book and those who have contributed to the newsletter, and Malcolm Jarvis for editing it. Finally, I want to thank all Society members for their help in getting the room ready for meetings and for tidying away afterwards.

Thank you all for a very good year and I look forward with confidence to the Society's successful future.

Barbara Brooke  
Chairman and Secretary

### TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that I have not damaged the Society's bank balance which stands at £5,879.20. Donations towards the publication of the book were included in last year's Accounts and book sales have held the bank balance at a nice, healthy figure. It has been agreed to spend a little on sorting and tidying our archives and we have just started on this project.

There has been an increase in the membership to 73, although the average attendance has only been 35 per meeting, the lowest turn out being at the AGM. There will be no increase in the yearly subscription, but for couples at the same address the subscription will now be £8 - they will only receive one newsletter.

We received two donations to the Society, one from Councillor John Bell and one from Norman Greatorex - he was so impressed by our book. There was also a donation from Stapleford Town Council towards the production of the book and I included that in the book sale receipts.

The cost of the hire of the Maycliffe Hall was reduced by one month's fee, thanks again to the generosity of Councillor Bell. The cost of the programmes is so much lower this year because my son did the layout and we only had to pay a minimum printing fee to the local printer.

I should like to thank John and Pat Hodgkiss and Carol Moore for their help on the door at the beginning of meetings.

Grace Jarvis  
Honorary Treasurer



## MEETING REPORTS

12 October 2005

### PAINTER OF LIGHT - JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY

by Nigel Brooks

Our very own Nigel Brooks gave us a wonderful talk with equally wonderful slides about local artist Joseph Wright.

Joseph Wright was born in Derby, at 28 Irongate, on 3 September 1734, third of the five children of John and Ann Wright (nee Brookes). His father, who was an attorney and Town Clerk of Derby, wanted him to be a lawyer like his brothers, but soon realised Joseph was more interested in painting. So he was sent to London to be an apprentice to artist Thomas Hudson, with whom he spent two years from 1751 to 1753. It was soon apparent, through his pencil and chalk drawings, that one day he would be a great artist. Like many artists of his day he began painting portraits, which were his bread and butter jobs. He lived in various places in the north of England, before going to Italy from 1774 to 1776. On his return, he moved from Derby to Bath, hoping to succeed to the practice of Gainsborough, who had left Bath for London. His expectations were not realised and he returned to Derby in 1779, where he stayed until his death. Joseph was a truthful painter, unlike many artists of his day, who tended to flatter their subjects. He exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1778 and became an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1781.

As well as painting portraits, he began painting scenes from industry and mythology, experimenting with light, particularly candlelight and moonlight, for which he has become world famous. He achieved wonderful facial expressions using shadows and skin tones. Joseph Wright painted some of the most powerful works in British art and they are hung all over the world, in galleries large and small. One painting was bought by Catherine the Great of Russia, and it still hangs in St Petersburg. Two of his best known paintings, 'The Orrery' (1766) and 'Sir Richard Arkwright' (1789-90) are in the Derby Art Gallery. Others, including 'The Experiment with the Air Pump' (1768), are in the National Gallery, London. The reclining figure of Sir Brooke Boothby' (1781) is in the Tate.

### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Sadly, due to her illness, we have had to remove Audrey Choulerton, one of this Society's most stalwart and willing members, from the Committee. Alan Clayton has tendered his resignation because of other commitments. Committee members Eileen Bloor, Nigel Brooks, Malcolm Jarvis, Pat Kelly, Meg Oliver, Barbara Page and Colin Rowland continue to be willing to serve. As there were no new nominations the existing members were confirmed in office by the meeting.

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### Programme for 2006

14 June	In the Trenches	Jason King
12 July	The Crown Jewels (former Yeoman of the Guard at the Tower of London)	Joe David
9 August	Burtons of Smithy Row	Valerie Henstock
13 September	The Drummond Murders (Sir Jack Drummond was Head of Research at Boots the Chemist)	Tony Horton
11 October	Slides of Stapleford	Nigel Brooks
8 November	The 1930s - Read all about it! (postponed from 2005)	Alan L Clayton
15 December	Christmas Social Event	

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Joseph suffered from bouts of depression, which prevented him from painting for several weeks. These were first recorded in 1783 but may have begun much earlier.

He married Hanna Swift in July 1773, by whom he had six children, only four surviving to adulthood. His wife died in 1790, aged 41. The conditions he sometimes had to paint in eventually affected his health. In 1791 bouts of depression and liver disease prevented him from painting once again. He died on 24 August 1797, a few days short of his 63rd birthday and was buried in St Alkmund's Church, Derby, sadly since demolished.

Joseph Wright will always be remembered for his portrayal of light and shadow, for which he has no equal.

Colin Rowland

9 November 2005

## **THE STAGE COACH ERA IN NOTTINGHAM**

**by Bill Shaw**

The audience at the stage coach meeting bowled along at a spanking pace in the company of Mr Bill Shaw. He guided us through the various aspects of a system that was the mainstay of transport in this country in the period directly before the advent of the railways. Coach travel before the days of the Royal Mail was cold, uncomfortable, dangerous and very expensive. Sometimes passengers had to get out of coaches and walk up steep hills, so that the horses could have a lighter load. Dick Turpin, the highwayman, was one of the dangers on local roads as he visited Nottingham regularly. His fence was thought to be Riordan at the Loggerhead pub.

In the 1790s roads were being transformed by the new way of laying them brought in by John Macadam. The rutted, potholed, uneven roads were replaced, the cost being met by the introduction of toll roads. This led the way to the introduction of a nation wide mail coach system. Horses could now pull coaches more easily. The coaches themselves underwent transformation. With a smoother surface coaches could be lighter weight and springs were introduced, resulting in faster speeds. The heyday of this system was from 1815 to 1840. Mail coaches carried people, packages and letters all over the country.

There was a network of stables, where horses were kept ready to take coaches from one destination to the next. The horses were specially bred. They were strong, but not carthorses. A local man would have a

contract to supply horses ready for the coach. Pubs were often changeover points where fresh horses were kept. One staging post was the Sherwin Arms at Bramcote. Horses usually did 14-20 miles. They were paced by the coachman and usually went at a steady trot. A coaching inn would have stables and ostlers, whose duty it was to have the horses ready. They were responsible for the health and care of the horses and they also had to be skilled in matching teams of horses. Passengers could stay the night and have a meal. At designated coach stops, where horses were not changed, passengers were picked up and put off.

The drivers of the coaches built up reputations. They were kings of the road. Such a one was a man named Wilkinson. He drove both four in hand and six in hand coaches (ie teams of four or six horses). Coaches were supposed to *trot* into Nottingham, but he used to canter in, with the coaching horn blowing. Wilkinson ran a nice little business. For a 'consideration' he would allow young men to take the reins as the coach came in, so that they could impress the ladies among the crowd that gathered to see the coach arrive. Jed Watson was a guard and was an employee of the Royal Mail. It was his responsibility to look after the mail in its box. Jed was an ex-bandsman, who had kept his cavalry trumpet and would play tunes.

Mail coaches were an important way that news was disseminated throughout the kingdom. For instance, news that the Reform Bill had been thrown out by the House of lords was brought by the stage coach to Nottingham, which resulted in the riots of 1831, when the castle was burned down.

There were several centres of mail coach activity in Nottingham. The Lion was a major coaching inn that specialised in coaches for Mansfield and beyond. The Black Boy was the coaching inn for Ireland. One coach on that route was called 'The Flying Machine' because it could do the journey from Nottingham to Holyhead in 32 hours. Yates's Wine Lodge was another coaching inn. The area around Smithy Row was like a present day bus station. Besides passenger coaches there were carriers' carts transporting goods. Their centre of operations was at the Swan Inn in Trinity Square where a system evolved to keep the traffic moving.

Sometimes there were accidents. At the Rose and Crown pub, where coaches stopped, a coachman jumped off his coach into the path of a coach coming the other way. The 'Paul Pry' overturned near Gainsborough and passengers were injured.



All this busy activity came to an end with the advent of the railways. In 1839 the line between Nottingham and Derby was opened. Railway travel was cheaper, faster and more comfortable. The stage coach owners knew that they were doomed. On this sad note our gallop through the mail coach world came to an end.

Meg Oliver

14 December 2005

### CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENT

The Christmas social evening was a pleasant and convivial occasion. We were intrigued by two good quizzes and enjoyed ample refreshments provided by members. A raffle raised £33 for the Society's funds.

Barbara Brooke

11 January 2006

### STEAM ON THE SCREEN

by Les Henshaw

Les Henshaw, Chairman of Matlock Railway Club, introduced a programme of three films about railways. He began by emphasising that railways were initially built to carry goods, not people, and that the first film 'Forward to First Principles', would show how this had happened.

The first primitive short lengths of wooden, later iron, narrow gauge track were laid to move minerals to rivers, and later canals, for onward carriage by boat. There were no locomotives, so they operated by gravity. Wagons were fastened to a continuous chain. When the full wagons were hauled down the slopes by horses, the empty wagons were automatically pulled back up on the chain. The next development was the introduction of stationary steam engines to operate the chain, replacing the horses. Soon steam locomotives began to haul trains of wagons along tracks that were engineered to tame the landscape. This system, based on the delivery of raw materials, led to the development of industry, which could now deliver finished products fast and reliably to customers all over the land. The railway system set the pattern of the Britain we now know.

Huge marshalling yards sorted wagons into trains for different destinations, the 'hump' system enabling the quick and efficient assembling of lines of wagons. Interestingly, the wagons remained the size that a horse

could move. Eventually, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this wagon sorting was done by remote control.

Trains provided the rapid movement of large quantities of goods from one centre to another. They could also, of course, transport people!

The second film was made in 1951 to celebrate the branch line to Wirksworth that had opened in 1867 and was closed in 1947. In 1999, after loving restoration by amateur enthusiasts, Les reported that the line had reopened for passenger traffic.

The last film, shot in 1954, told the story of 'The Elizabethan', a crack express that left London Kings Cross at 9.30am daily and arrived at Edinburgh Waverley at 2.00pm, averaging 65 miles per hour for the whole journey. It was hauled on this occasion by A4 class locomotive *Silver Fox*.

In between shots of the train steaming impressively through the countryside and scenes of people actually on the train, the film highlighted the work of all those who contributed to the construction and operation of the train. We saw the building of the carriages, the maintenance gangs checking and repairing the track and rails, the work of the signalmen, firemen stoking the engine, the locomotive sucking up water from the trough between the rails, the purchase of ingredients for meals, cooks in the galley and the attendants serving meals to passengers. There were shots of the train steaming through York, passing Durham Cathedral and crossing the Tyne at Newcastle.

Eventually, after managing to make up four minutes of lost time, the train steamed into Edinburgh Waverley Station at precisely 2.00pm, to be greeted by the station master in his top hat. This was only worn to welcome major express trains, a homburg being worn for ordinary trains.

The audience felt closely involved with the train, its journey and its punctuality, and Les told us that this was one of the top ten railway films ever made.

It was a splendid evening, informative and nostalgic, and many members commented on their love of the days of steam.

Barbara Brooke

8 February 2006

### A NIGHT AT THE EMPIRE

by Trevor Lee

Trevor gave us a very entertaining evening, which was not only informative, but a performance in its own right!



After giving us a brief history of variety theatre which started in about 1850, he informed us that the first music halls were built onto public houses. One of the first was the Canterbury Arms in London, completed in 1855. Nottingham had its own music hall, the Old Malt Cross on St James's Street, which was built in 1877. It was reopened after major refurbishment in 1983. It is a unique building - one of the few remaining in the country. The palace of varieties was an extension of the music hall, which had a male dominated audience. The organisers wanted to attract a wider audience with more women and the palace of varieties was born. Drink moved from the auditorium into a separate area or bar - the result was the variety theatres. Most cities and towns had their own Empires or Hippodromes. One of the most prolific architects of these theatres was Frank Matcham. He not only built the Nottingham Empire, but also other famous theatres, including Buxton Opera House, Stockport, Aberdeen and Chiswick Empires and the biggest of them all, the London Coliseum. Matcham also built the London Palladium and the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool.

Trevor showed us a photograph of the interior of the Nottingham Empire which had an Indian flavour to the decoration and an audience capacity of 2,200! The Empire had an orchestra of 20 musicians and we heard the opening overture from the first night.

The Nottingham Empire, which opened on 28 February 1898, was part of the Moss Group. Sir Edward Moss, who died in 1912, ran 33 theatres and his was one of the biggest theatre chains in the country. The theatres were divided into a sort of hierarchy - the top theatres were known as No 1, and the small ones as No 3. A performer might be top of the bill in a No 3 theatre but at the bottom of the bill in a No 1 theatre. Trevor showed us a number of advertising bills from various years, which mentioned some famous names and also some less well-known performers who have long been forgotten. For example:

- Ronnie Ronalde, *the world's greatest whistler*, who now lives in New Zealand and at the age of 80 returned to the Royal Concert Hall in May 2003 (we listened to his rendition of 'In a Monastery Garden')
- Vic Oliver, *Mr Show Business*, from 1953
- Dave Morris, a comedian, from 1930
- Bunny Doyle, a comedian
- Joan Hine, *Wondergirl Truumpeter*, still performing today on cruise ships, who was born in Eckington, near Sheffield and often appears with Ken Dodd. She now lives in Bognor Regis.

- Tommy Trinder, who was one of the first people to put billiards on the stage with a large mirror so that the audience could see.
- Philip Harben, the famous television cook, who tossed pancakes on stage
- Norman Evans, new star comedian before his garden wall sketch
- Cavan O'Connor, who was famous for *I'm only a strolling vagabond* and *I'll take you home again Kathleen* (Trevor sang this for us). He was from Nottingham and started at Boots as an apprentice printer. He died at the age of 97 in 1988.
- Top of the bill in 1937 was Billy Cotton with his famous *Wakey, Wakey*. We were treated to a rendition of Billy Cotton's *Lovely Bunch of Cocomuts!*
- Top of the bill in 1953 were Laurel and Hardy. On the same bill was Harry Worth.

No show was complete without its speciality acts such as:

- Derek Rosaire's wonder horse Tony
- Bob Bernard's pigeons
- Betty Kay's Pekingese Pets
- Holsen and his wonder sealion
- Skating Typhoons - thrills on wheels
- Ursula and Gus - continental jugglers
- The Two Condons - in the balance (originally from Ilkeston but now in America)

In 1949 Peter Collins presented his new *Would You Believe It* show, which included the tallest woman in the world in nylons at 8ft 4ins, the woman with ten brains, a man who exploded a live bomb on his chest, not forgetting Mushie, the forest bred lion, who ate steak from a lady's forehead.

These are just a few examples of the many delights that entertained the crowds at the Nottingham Empire until it closed on 25 June 1958. The final show was Billy Merrin and his Dance Orchestra, which was the number one band in the Midlands. Moss Empires decided to close the Swansea Empire, quickly followed by all the rest.

The audience enjoyed singing along to the songs of yesteryear, and happy memories were reawakened of visits to the Nottingham Empire before its sad demise.

Nigel Brooks



We are very grateful to Mike Powell of the Beeston Society for allowing us to use his account of the Powis Castle outing in this newsletter.

## **SUMMER OUTING TO POWIS CASTLE AND GARDENS**

### **Report by Mike Powell**

16 June 2005 saw the next of Alan Clayton's superbly planned days out for the (Beeston) Society and our friends from Bramcote and Stapleford.

Once again Alan offered us a choice of weather forecast, one from BBC and one from ITV. We chose the BBC's because it offered sunshine and that proved to be mainly correct, as the sun shone when we walked round the gardens.

We had a brief stop for refreshments at a motorway services near Telford - most of us taking out a new mortgage to buy a sandwich and cup of tea! At about 11.30 we arrived at Powis Castle which is situated about a mile from Welshpool.

The castle is owned by the National Trust and is built on a rocky bluff overlooking the Severn Valley. It was built as a medieval fortress of the Welsh Princes of Powys in 1200 and was remodelled and extended over 400 years as the home of the Herbert family. Around 200 years ago Lady Henrietta Herbert married the son of Robert Clive of India, and now the best private collection in the UK of Indian art is on display in the castle. I personally found the castle rooms dark and forbidding, even though they were well furnished and looked 'lived in'. Perhaps that was due to the lack of large windows, a pity because the view across the valley is magnificent.

Time for lunch in the splendid restaurant, at good prices, before tackling the gardens. It is the gardens for which Powis is justifiably famous. They begin with a series of terraces tumbling down from the castle to the valley below. Giant clipped yews are on each terrace where over the years they have almost draped themselves over the terrace walls, almost like snow lies. The history of these gardens is too lengthy to be included here, but they were started by William Herbert around 1680 and have developed ever since. In the valley below is the formal garden and croquet lawn with a daffodil paddock adjacent. On the opposite side of the valley is the Wilderness, a wooded area, with meandering paths and shady dells leading to the Stable Pond and back to the castle. They really are magnificent gardens and well worth a visit but, due to the hilly nature of the site, are somewhat tiring to get around.

The party now moved on to Welshpool, best known for the Welshpool and Llanfair light railway and the canal system. Time for shopping or to follow the heritage trail. I visited the old railway station, which is now a shopping centre - a lovely building, but its charm has been lost in its conversion to a vast clothes store.

Far more interesting was the Powysland Museum, situated in a former Montgomery Canal warehouse. The museum featured the history and development of life in Montgomery from prehistoric settlers to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nicely displayed and interpreted, this is a good example of how a small museum should be. Who knows, someday we might get one in Beeston!

A couple of hours' drive for home and yet another excellent day's enjoyment, thanks to Alan's detailed planning.

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Copy of an inquest held in Stapleford in 1833

Submitted by Colin Rowland

## **A YOUNG BOY IS RUN OVER BY THE TIMES COACH**

An inquest was held on Sunday 27 January 1833 at the 'Horse and Jockey', Stapleford relative to the death of Thomas Bramley, aged nearly five. The little boy was playing on the turnpike road, in front of his father's house, when the Times coach from Nottingham to Derby was coming down the hill. The coachman called out to him and the little boy attempted to cross the road but was knocked down by the leader. The driver succeeded in pulling up before the wheel reached the child but he was severely injured by the horses' hooves and died within the hour...It appeared that the road was being repaired and a bank had been left two feet high and being frightened he ran back again and was trodden on by the horses... Verdict: Accidental death with a recommendation that the surveyors of highways should immediately cause the dirt and rubbish at the side of the road to be removed and the causeway be lowered and put into a complete state of repair.

(The slate headstone, in memory of Thomas Bramley, survives and may be seen, with its long poignant epitaph, in the graveyard of St Helen's Church)



8 March 2006

## NOTTINGHAM AND DISTRICT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

### DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION 1950s

by Harry Houldsworth

The Newton Building of Nottingham and District Technical College, fronting to Burton Street, was opened by Princess Alexandra in 1958 and continues, nearly half a century later, and now as part of Nottingham Trent University, to make a bold statement in the centre of the city of Nottingham.

Harry told us the fascinating story of this building, illustrated with many photographs and plans.

After World War II the visionary Labour Government of Clement Attlee wanted to improve life in Britain with new housing, schools and colleges. Young architects and planners had new ideas of what they wanted to introduce, but were held back by more traditional, older people. Three local authorities - Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Derbyshire County Council - took the decision to build a new technical college. The Newton Building was the result.

The broad, low administration block is at the front, backed by a long, tall tower at right angles to the front block, with a central corridor at each level and classrooms on each side. Well equipped laboratories and workshops for crafts, building and civil engineering training occupy the ground floor and adjacent land. The building was designed by classically trained architect, T Cecil Howitt, who also planned the Council House and the Raleigh Head Office on Lenton Boulevard.

Harry explained that while he was studying the history of art and design at the Open University in the 1970s he decided to undertake a project on the design and construction of the technical college. He contacted T Cecil Howitt and Partners, the architectural practice, and was given unrestricted access to all the files, drawings and minutes of meetings.

He had imagined that Cecil Howitt was given a design brief by the authorities and that he had then gone away and done some drawings, which were later approved and the building itself quickly followed. This was by no means the case! The initial proposals were nothing like the building we know. We were shown the proposed layout, superimposed on a 1915 street plan. The new building was to cover the whole area between Burton Street, North Sherwood Street, Shakespeare Street and Goldsmith Street, requiring the demolition of the 19<sup>th</sup> century University College buildings (some of

which had suffered severe bomb damage in World War II), as well as some houses and a lace factory. Quite low buildings would be constructed round the perimeter of the site with two inner quadrangles and a pentagonal space. Corridors would occupy the outer edges to reduce traffic noise and the classrooms would face onto the inner open spaces. During his research Harry found a model of this design in the basement of the Newton Building.

When the plan was presented to a team of government architectural advisors in July 1949, they roundly rejected it. Outside corridors were not suitable, there would be no problems with traffic noise, there were too many entrances and the scheme did not conform to government guidelines. The design team were told to start again and design an administration building at the front, backed by a multi-storey block with central corridors and classrooms on either side with workshops at the base. The building committee accepted the recommendations and a year later were back with a new set of proposals.

The complete area would not now be used. The University College buildings would be retained and the bomb damage repaired. Assistant architect Mr Hyde's basic plan for the redesigned building was light and functional, with no expensive stone cladding, but Cecil Howitt himself added columns and other classical embellishments, stone cladding and a grand staircase. There would be a large examination hall from front to back of the building and an exhibition hall beneath. The government advisors did not want a grand staircase and the proposed large halls were to be replaced with laboratories and workshops.

This was the Newton Building that was opened in 1958. Some people think it looks old fashioned compared with other buildings of its era, such as People's College, which are basically prefabricated boxes, but it stands out as a bold landmark in the city centre.

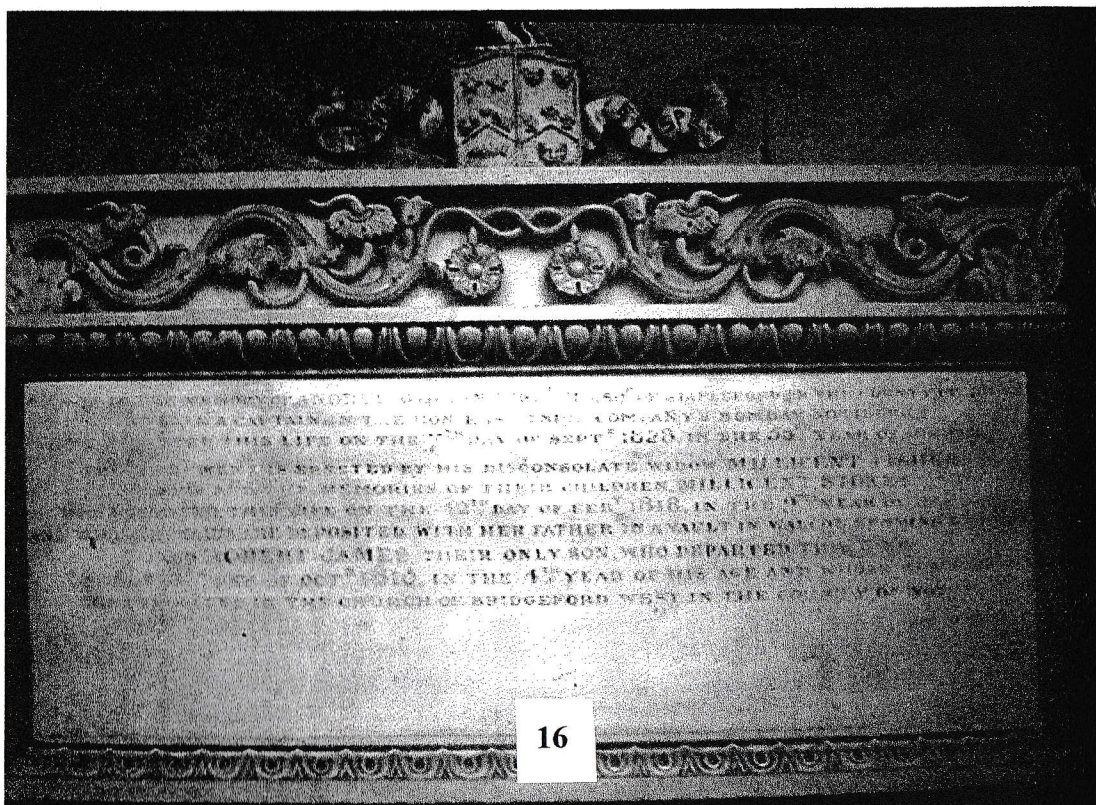
Harry, who had lectured there for many years, concluded that there was a general affection for the building itself because, as technical college, later as part of Trent Polytechnic and now as part of Nottingham Trent University, it has never been a target for graffiti artists, a sure sign that it was liked and respected.

Barbara Brooke



### Memorial plaque in Bath Abbey.

To the memory of Andrew Gideon Fisher Esq of Stapleford in the county of Notts. He was late a captain in the Honourable East India Company's Bombay Artillery. He departed this life on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1828, in the 53<sup>rd</sup> year of his age. This monument is erected by his disconsolate widow Millicent Fisher to his and the memories of their children Millicent Stokes who departed this life on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 1818, in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of her age and whose remains are deposited with her father in a vault in Walcot burying ground and Robert James their only son, who departed this life on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 1815, in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of his age and whose remains are deposited in the church of Bridgeford West in the county of Notts.



### Enquiries made with The National Army Museum by Rev J Fisher

FISHER Andrew Gideon 1774 – 1828  
Son of Robert Fisher of Quarryhead, and Isabel Paterson.  
Born 24<sup>th</sup> May 1774. Baptised Edinburgh 9<sup>th</sup> June 1774.  
Retired 9<sup>th</sup> December 1807,  
Married Miss Millicent Guy of Stapleford, Notts on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1809.  
Died 7<sup>th</sup> September 1828, interned Bath Abbey.  
Millicent died in Bath on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1857 aged 75.  
Their youngest and only surviving child, Isabella Mary married George Leighton Wood at Bath in February 1833.

During his service with the East India Company's Bombay Artillery he is shown as being Lieutenant on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1791, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1796, lieutenant in 1798, Captain Lieutenant 10<sup>th</sup> November 1800, and Captain 21<sup>st</sup> September 1804.

He is shown as serving during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mysore War of 1790 – 92; Seringapatam, the 4<sup>th</sup> Mysore War of 1799; Seringapatam.  
And the Mahratta War of 1803 taking Ahmednagar and Jalna.

The Mysore Medal – Indian Officers and men who served under Marquis Cornwallis and General Abercomby and Meadows received this medal for service in the campaign which brought about the downfall of Tippo Sultan of Mysore.  
(mn)

The Serngapatam Medal – The British and native troops who took part in the renewed campaign against Tippo Sultan were awarded this medal in 1808.  
(mn)

PTO for sources



sources of information:-

Nigel Brooks  
Rev John Fisher  
Alan Clayton  
National Army Museum  
Medal News  
Editor.

**THE VICTORY, Stapleford**

Tel. Sandlacre 3120

Sunday, May 29th Cont. from 5.15 p.m.  
Michael Redgrave, Jean Kent in *The Man Within*.  
Also Larceny With Music, with Allan Jones and Kitty Carlisle.  
Monday, 30th, for Three Days — Cont. from 5.15 p.m.  
ROBERT PAIGE & NOREEN NASH in  
**THE RED STALLION**  
Also OLSEN & JOHNSON in *HELLZAPOPPIN*.  
Thursday, 3rd June, for Three Days — Cont. from 5.15 p.m.  
LINDA DARNELL & CORNEL WILDE in  
**FOREVER AMBER (A)**  
Also CARTOON — NEWS — Etc.

**PALACE CINEMA, Stapleford**

Tel. Sandlacre 3152.

Sunday, May 29th Continuous from 5.15 p.m.  
The Bowery Boys in *Bowery Bombshell (A)*. Also *Murder Is My Business*.  
Monday, May 30th, for Three Days — Cont. from 5.15 p.m.  
DICK POWELL & SIGNE HASSO in  
**TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (A)**  
Also Comedy and News  
Thursday, Friday & Saturday — Continuous from 5.15 p.m.  
ROBERT YOUNG & MARGUERITE CHAPMAN in  
**RELENTLESS**  
Also RICHARD LANE in *DEVILSHIP (U)*

Ilkeston Pioneer 27<sup>th</sup> May 1949  
Courtesy of Alan Clayton.

**ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY**

**October 2005 to March 2006**

Bell, David: *Derbyshire Heroes* (potted histories of famous men and women from Bess of Hardwick to Brian Clough)  
Garner, Edward: *The Seven Canals of Derbyshire* (good colour illustrations and pencil drawings - includes a section on the Erewash Canal and the Trent & Mersey Canal)  
Basford Bystander Issue 112  
Beeston Heritage Trail (a choice of routes to discover Beeston's history)  
2<sup>nd</sup> copy  
Kendrick, Neil: *100 Not Out - A History of Schools' Cricket in the City of Nottingham*  
Basford Bystander Issue 113 (local memories)  
Nottinghamshire Historian, Autumn/Winter 2005  
Radio Nottingham, Local Boy Makes Good (interviews from the series *Local Celebrities of Notts*)  
Editors Le Fevre and Harding: *British Admirals of the Napoleonic Wars; Contemporaries of Nelson* (p219 for the chapter on Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren)  
Basford Bystander Issue 114  
Smith and Yates: *Dating of English Houses* (noticing features to help identify when the house was constructed)  
Hall, Tony: *D Day - The Invasion in Photographs* (extensive coverage produced for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary)  
Leicestershire Libraries & Information Service: *Bygone Loughborough*  
Anthony, John: *The Renaissance Garden in Britain* (some mention of local gardens - Melbourne, Wollaton, Haddon, Chatsworth etc)  
St. Andrews Through the Ages (absolutely full of photographs etc which will bring back memories of the church)  
The Local Historian - May 2005, Vol 35, no 2  
The Local Historian - August 2005, Vol 35 No 3  
The Local Historian - November 2005, Vol 35, No 4  
Local History News - Summer 2005, No 76  
Local History News - Autumn 2005, No 77  
Lund, Brian: *The River Trent* ) illustrations from  
Lund, Brian: *Goose Fair* ) postcards, plus  
Lund, Brian: *Nottinghamshire Railway Stations* ) information on their  
Ottewell, David: *Nottinghamshire Post Offices* ) history



### Harold Jackson

Very little is known about Harold Jackson's early years apart from him being born at Draycott in 1893. He excelled at all sports and was part of Draycott Corinthians football team that won the district championship three years in succession 1908 – 9 – 10. During that time he was a member of the team that won gold medals.



Draycott Corinthians F.C. Winners of minor medals 1911  
Derby and District Minor League Champions  
1908 – 9 – 10.  
Courtesy of Trevor Tyman.

After leaving school he continued his education in engineering by attending Loughborough College part – time. To achieve this he cycled from Stapleford to Loughborough to attend lessons. He was married to Ellen Colley who at one time was a corsetier and they took up residence at No1 Park Street, Stapleford. Now the site of S.J.B. Thomas solicitors.

On the outbreak of world war one, along with his pal Sam, he immediately volunteered for service. This they did by walking to Litchfield to enlist in The West Riding Regiment. After basic training they embarked with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Regiment to Gallipoli between August and December 1915. This being the only Battalion of the Regiment stationed in that area during these times.

The Battalion travelled by train from Milford to Liverpool where on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July they boarded the ship Aquitania. En route the ship was attacked by enemy submarine, luckily the torpedo fired missed the ship by about 8 feet. They landed at Imbros on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and camped under bivouacs. It did not take long for them to be in action as on 6<sup>th</sup> August they landed on B Beach in Suvla Bay and moved forward into attack on Lala Baba. They were heavily engaged with the enemy. In this theatre of war the Regiment engaged in heavy fighting and so suffered terrible casualties. After 6 months involvement of fierce fighting there the Regiment was evacuated from the beaches only to find themselves sailing to France to make up some of the dreadful losses in the trenches there of other fighting units.





THE ADVANCE, SUVLA BAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST, 1915. (2326)

WILKINSON.

The advance at Suvla Bay 21<sup>st</sup> August 1915  
Courtesy of The Imperial War Museum.  
And Trevor Tyman.

During the fighting there Harold was wounded in the hand and arm and had a brief spell of convalescence.



Cpl Jackson, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right centre row.  
Soldiers and Sailors convalescing  
All dressed in special hospitalisation uniforms.  
Courtesy of Trevor Tyman.

After convalescence he was returned to his unit fighting in France. By this time he had been promoted to Corporal and then further promotion in the field to Sergeant. Sadly this was to last only a short while as he was demoted having been found smoking in the trenches. For anyone who has walked about during the hours of darkness, or as any member of the forces who has done night time guard a cigarette glow can be seen for some considerable distance, and so it would have been that a cigarette glow during those situations could have caused an end to ones life from a night time sniper. Fortunately he was later promoted back



to Sergeant. After 4 weary years, having survived extreme hardships he returned home and found employment in the engineering section of Eastwoods Waggon works at Stapleford. Sadly he had no children of his own but always took a great interest in his many nephews and nieces. He was a generous man and was always prepared to give advice and financial support whenever it was sought. He was well respected and very patriotic and on the outbreak of world war two he immediately offered his services again and was accepted as Special Constabulary later holding the rank of Sergeant.



Special Police Sergeant Harold Jackson  
Courtesy of Trevor Tyman.

He took these duties seriously and made sure people observed the 'black out' regulations and kept the streets clear of rowdies. He was known to use his truncheon on rowdy drunks when required. On the closure of Eastwoods Waggon works his latter working life was spent at an upholstery firm in Long Eaton. Along with many others he served his country well and was proud to do so and on his death it was his wish to have a wreath of Flanders Poppies on his coffin remembering those who did not return from the war.

Those who had the privilege of knowing Harold Jackson found him to be a witty kind and compassionate man, truly patriotic and always with a smile behind his twinkling blue eyes, which he donated, on his death, to the eye hospital should they help someone else.

His medal decorations (5) are held by a member of the family as a lasting reminder of a true gentleman who served his country without complaint. He never forgot those who did not return.

There are many personal memories associated with Harold, such as, if you went to visit him, you made sure your shoes were clean.

A half-a-crown for giving him a lift on the motor-bike somewhere, particularly to visit his lifelong friend Sam who also survived the first world war. (What stories they could tell) (Knee deep in water in the trenches in France), but, their friendship lasted a lifetime.

Just another one of Stapleford's unsung heroes who was prepared to lay down his life for his country.



**8<sup>th</sup> Battalion West Riding Regimental losses in the  
Dardanelles**

**Men killed in action -**

7 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	8
8 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	2
9 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	18
11 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	1
12 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	10
18 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	2
21 <sup>st</sup> August 1915	25
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 1915	2
29 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	1
7 <sup>th</sup> September 1915	1
14 <sup>th</sup> September 1915	1
28 <sup>th</sup> September 1915	1
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 1915	1
29 <sup>th</sup> October 1915	1
30 <sup>th</sup> October 1915	1
31 <sup>st</sup> October 1915	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 1915	2
6 <sup>th</sup> December 1915	1
15 <sup>th</sup> December 1915	1

**Men who died from their wounds**

8 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	2
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 1915	2
28 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	1
5 <sup>th</sup> September 1915	1
9 <sup>th</sup> September 1915	1
18 <sup>th</sup> September 1915	1
7 <sup>th</sup> October 1915	1
14 <sup>th</sup> October 1915	3
18 <sup>th</sup> October 1915	1
19 <sup>th</sup> October 1915	2
24 <sup>th</sup> October 1915	1
28 <sup>th</sup> October 1915	1
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 1915	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> December 1915	1
11 <sup>th</sup> December 1915	1
other causes of death 20.	

**Officers killed in action.**

Lt. Colonel Johnson	7 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	
Major	7 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants	7 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	9 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	1
Lieutenant	11 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> lieutenant	29 <sup>th</sup> August 1915	1
died of wounds received.		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant	7 <sup>th</sup> November 1915	1.

A total of 115 Officers and men died during this six months tour of duty.

During the war in France the West Riding Regiment had 16 Battalions involved. They lost a total of 7,490 fighting men. Harold Jackson's Battalion, the 8<sup>th</sup>, lost a total of 427 men. How many were wounded during the war, or died after the war as a result of injuries received we are unable to identify. However, it is safe to say the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the West Riding Regiment was in the thick of the battles.

References;

Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 - 19.  
Trevor Tyman.  
1901 Census  
British Regiments at Gallipoli - Ray Westlake  
The Imperial War Museum

Every name on the remembrance plaque in St Helen's Church will have been involved in that sort of life during the wars.

Harold Jackson was a member of the British Legion in Stapleford and would have deep memories especially at Remembrance time when they would recite:-

*They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning. We will remember them.*

..... Trevor Tyman and Malcolm Jarvis.



**British Legion Journal**  
February 1937.

VOL. 16. No. 8

FEBRUARY, 1937



3<sup>D</sup>

# BRITISH LEGION JOURNAL

DUKE OF WINDSOR WRITES TO OLD COMRADES  
"SAPPER" STORY  
THE LEGION IN NATIONAL LIFE

Front cover

## The message from The Duke of Windsor



SCHLOSS ENZESFELD  
A. D. THIERING

20th, December, 1936.

*My dear General*

"To  
all  
my  
old  
Comrades"

THE  
DUKE  
OF  
WINDSOR'S  
PERSONAL  
MESSAGE

I am very touched by the letter you have written me on behalf of the British Legion. Will you please express to all my old comrades, my deep appreciation of their devotion and support in the past, and for their kind thoughts of me just now

Will you please also assure them, that any service I may have rendered to them as their Patron has been my privilege, and that I can be of some service to them again, is my sincere hope.

My best wishes to you all for a happy Christmas, and may the New Year be a successful one for the Legion.

*Yours very sincerely*  
*Schwartz*

This is a facsimile reproduction of the Duke of Windsor's reply to the letter (January JOURNAL, page 243) sent to him on behalf of the members of the Legion, by their President, Sir Frederick Maurice.

It was typed apparently by the Duke himself, on his portable typewriter at the Castle Enzesfeld in the Wienerwald, Austria.

It is unique in being the only letter written and signed by the Duke that has appeared in print since his abdication.

From the Legion's letter :

"You honoured us by treating us as your comrades; your ready sympathy and practical help have brought courage and comfort to many thousands of ex-Service men, and you take with you our undying gratitude."

FEBRUARY 1937



Back page of the Journal.



*The*  
**NATION'S CHAMPION**

Fearless champion of the people—friend of the "under-dog"—unbiased—outspoken. Revealer of scandals, of tricks and shams to catch the unwary. Confidant and adviser to many in trouble. A power in the land, a name to conjure with. In a word—"JOHN BULL" on sale every Thursday, price twopence.

Get a copy to-day and see for yourself why "John Bull" is the friend of more than a million and a half British families.

**JOHN BULL**

BRITISH LEGION JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 1937

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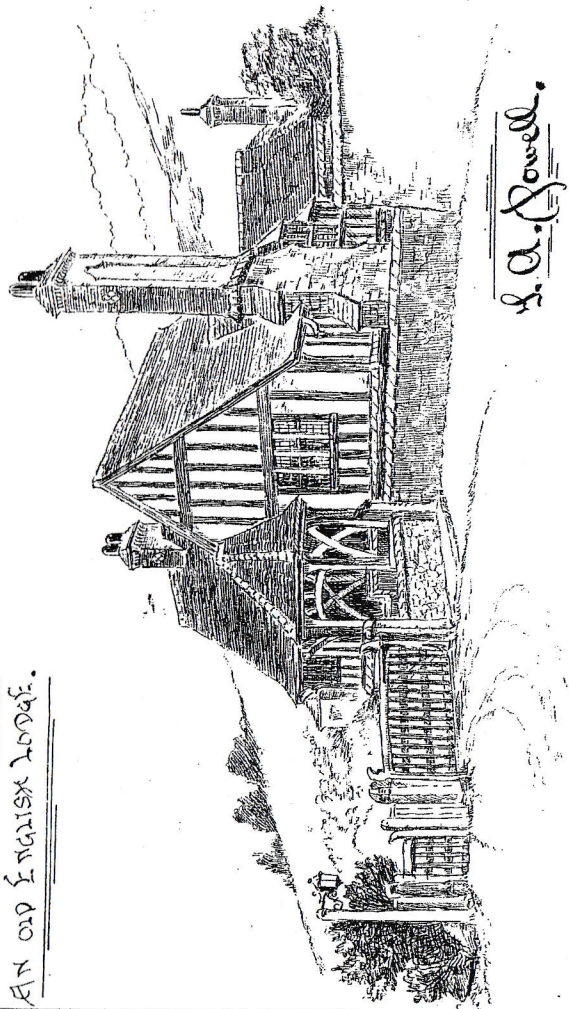
Courtesy of The Royal British Legion  
Editor.



From the autograph book of Beatrice Brooks - 1900 - 1920



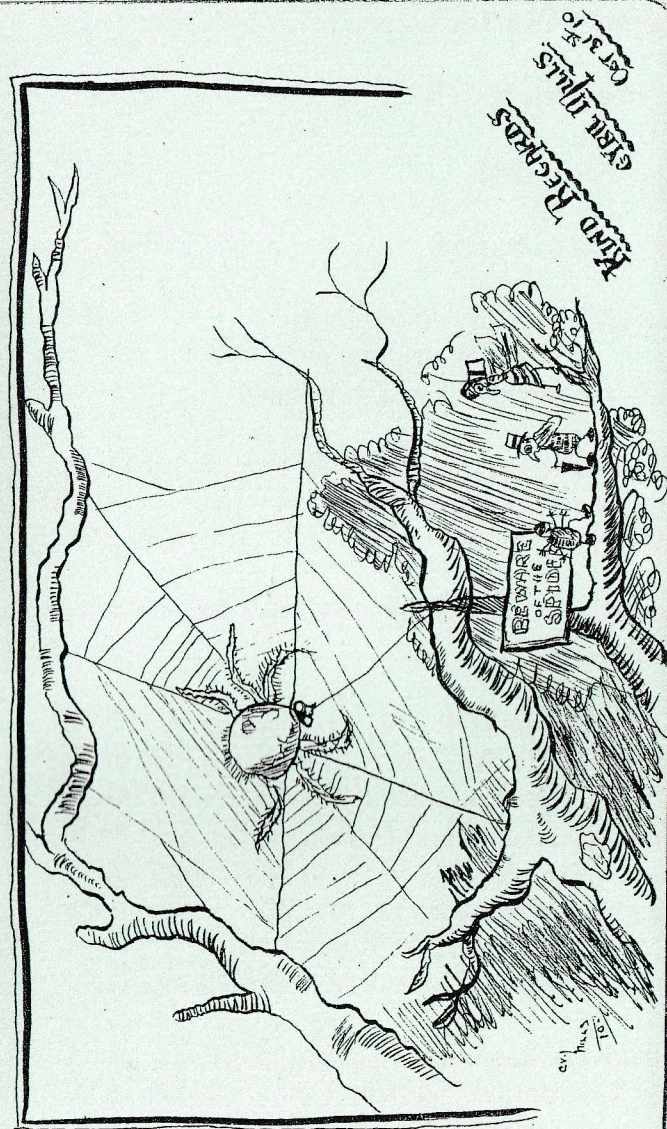
AN OLD ENGLISH LODGE.



L. A. Nowell.

November. 1913.

From the autograph book of Beatrice Brooks - 1900 - 1920



From the autograph book of Beatrice Brooks - 1900 - 1920



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

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Stapleford Tea Towels £2.95

Leather bookmarks £0.80

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(with envelopes)

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Coat of Arms (produced to order) £7.00

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.....

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CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY– Barbara Brooke 0115-939 4979

TREASURER - Grace Jarvis - 0115-916 7617

**The deadline for submission of items for the next Autumn 2006**

**issue of the Newsletter is 30 September 2006**

**Material can be given to any of the above named.**

**This is YOUR newsletter!**

**We should love to hear from you!**

Front cover: Stapleford Hall, birthplace and home of  
Sir John Borlase Warren. Demolished in 1935

Drawn by Nigel Brooks