

The Ilkeston and District Local History Society

Established 1966. Patron: His Grace The Duke of Rutland



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November/December 2009

No1

Early newsletters revisited by Danny Corns.

I thought it may be interesting for newcomers to the Society to see articles published in the early newsletters and for the "old timers" of the Society to take a trip down memory lane. Below is the first newsletter from March 1969 and I thought it worthwhile to publish it in its entirety. As we proceed I shall extract articles from other newsletters for re-printing.

THE ILKESTON & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY'S NEWS-LETTER

No.1

March 1969

At the close of this the Society's third winter season of lecture meetings it has been decided that a monthly newsletter should be instituted to keep members in closer touch with the activities of the Society and to offer a forum for the discussion and exchange of views and information. Members are invited to support it by sending any comments and contributions to the editor, whose address appears at the foot of page 2.

Report- Snowbound as we were on Thursday 20 February, Mr. Alan McCormick was unable to speak to the Society about his work as Assistant Curator of the Nottingham Castle Museum as arranged. Instead a small but dedicated audience heard Malcolm Burrows introduce the series of booklets produced by the Standing Conference for Local History, publishers of the quarterly Local Historian (previously The Amateur Historian) at 15s per annum or 3/6d each issue. Especially recommended are "A booklist of Crafts, Trades and Industries" 2/6d, "Some Types of Common Field Parish" 3/6d, "How to read a Coat of Arms" 4s, "A Historian's Guide to Ordnance Survey Maps" 6s and "A Mediaeval Farming Glossary of Latin and English Words" 7/6d, postage 6d on orders up to 5s, 6d for every additional 5s up to £2 and every 10s thereafter, from National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, London W.C1.

Taking only a few examples from the last item, Malcolm showed that our local dialect could be less exclusive than some of us are apt to think. The introduction of a W sound into the pronunciation of the word pole had been recorded in Essex by the spelling powel as early as 1424 and the poke (or sack) in a which the pig might be bought goes back there to at least 1329. Causeway is found as kawse in 1415 and as caunsy or caucee in 1428, and might not the cotmanus (cottager or smallholder) of about 1390, settling in the common, have given rise to our own Cotmanhay? (See also Mr. Palfreyman's notes overleaf). These few samples ought to make us very wary of claiming priority for our own vernacular and the book is recommended especially to those members interested in this topic. Mr. Bestwick rounded off the evening by showing some of Malcolm's slides of Mapperley and Shipley and a series of his own upon the development of timekeeping from the Egyptian shadow-stick to the latest atomic clock, illustrating many types of clocks and watches in the process.

Notices - Wednesday 19 March- Mr. J. G. Fearn, member of the Society, will speak about Local Heraldry in the library of Gladstone School at 7.30pm.

Thursday 10 April- The second Annual Dinner of the Society will be held at the Regency Rooms of the Ilkeston Co-Operative Society at 7.0 for 7.30pm. Members may bring an unlimited number of guests at a cost of 25s each, exclusive of wines & and booking should have been in Mr. Bentley's hands by 13 March.

Thursday 24 April-Members should have already have received notice that the Annual General Meeting will be held in the library of Gladstone School at 7.30pm. Nominations for officers and members of the committee should be in the Secretary's hands by 24 March. Upon completion of the business meeting Mr. AF Palfreyman, member of the Society will speak about the excavations at Park Hall during the last two years.

Friday27-Sunday29 June- At the Vicar's invitation the Society is to stage an exhibition in the Chantry Chapel of St Mary's Parish Church during this year's Flower Festival. Its close association with the Cantelupe family and magnificent arcade should prove an ideal setting for the drawings of the "restored" tomb of William de Cantelupe, of Saxon work revealed during the church extensions, examples of local heraldry and industry, encaustic tiles from Dale Abbey and some of the results of the Society's archaeological activities at Park Hall Farm, Mapperley and at the site of Ilkeston's ancient mill on the river Erewash. It is hoped that these exhibits will attract wider interest in the Society's aims and activities. Arrangements are in the hands of Messrs Lally and Bestwick, who should be contacted if you wish to assist or for further details.

Summer Programmed - Suggestions have been made for visits to Sandiacre and Stapleford Churches, to an excavation site and the crypt at Repton, the museum at York, Beauvale Priory, Baldock Mill and a walk along the upper section of the Nutbrook Canal, soon to be excavated by the Opencast Executive. Further details will be given as they come to hand and the Committee invites ideas for further visits.

Action As a local history society we should seek to assist the County Planning Department in its survey of Natural and Historical Treasures, ensuring that buildings of architectural merit, antiquities and other objects of historical significance are not swept away without any thought as to their being recorded or perhaps even preserved. Malcolm Burrows is compiling a list of items in the area which might be worth considering and invites members to send their suggestion to him.

What is in a name? Asks Mr. AF Palfreyman

During the last war, all signposts were removed to confound the anticipated invader, a justifiable expedient to judge by the confusion which it caused to some of the defenders. One of these, hopelessly lost near Shipley, sought directions from a group of miners and was told to "Kayp on til tha come t'Hilson an then tay t'fost ton on t'rayt" which didn't help matters much: nor did a search for this place Hilson on his old survey map. Fortunately an interpreter was on hand to explain that it was the local pronunciation for Ilkeston.

The Conqueror's Norman clerks must have had similar problems in compiling the Domesday survey of 1086 and tended to write down the village names as they were pronounced. The Conquest itself and later influences gradually changed the old English spoken by the Anglo-Saxons into our language of today and while certain words became obsolete and forgotten, others suffered variations in pronunciation according to the current social fashion. As a result many of our present town and village names bear little resemblance to those originally used, which often had a

definite meaning. In fact certain names became so distorted as to evolve into a word of entirely different meaning, such as Eastwood, originally East Thwaite, a Scandinavian term for an outlying farmstead.

By intensive studies of old documents the English Place-name Society has attempted to trace many names back to their origins, which can reveal much information to the local historian and may well indicate both the age of a particular town or village and the race of people who founded it, sometimes even the nature of the landscape at that particular time. Local examples of that Society's work are Tilchestune for Ilkeston in the Domesday survey, probably a mispronunciation; it was called Elkesdon during the reign of Henry I and seems to stem from Ealacs dun, one particular Anglo-Saxon's hill. West, Kirk and Little Hallam stem from halh(um), the plural halh, an Anglo-Saxon term describing a particular scene or location, probably a nook or retreat amongst undulating countryside; Kirk is the Scandinavian form of church. Cotmanhay stems from the Anglo-Saxon cot-mann(ge)haeg, a cottager's land enclosed by a hedge or hurdle, and Heanor from heahn ofre, high over or a ridge.

A Hundred Years Ago. - A regular snippet from The Ilkeston Pioneer.

In March 1869 the local Board of Health approved the plans for five cottages in Park Rd submitted by James Goddard and two in Awsworth Rd for a Mr. Cook. Not everyone heeded the bye-laws in this and a gross breach was reported in the laying out of a new street through Mr. England's field near South St before any notice had been given, unlawfully interfering with certain footpaths in the process. The Pioneer also recorded the re-opening of the Untied Methodist Free Church at Cotmanhay, the Pioneer Steam Printing Works in the Market place near the new Town Hall and best Swanwick coal for sale at 11/7d per ton!

The Rutland Ground

The following article is from the Ilkeston Advertiser for 18 November 1948:

"...volunteers transforming the interior of a portion of Carrier's factory in Bath St into the Co-op Social Club found a scrap of newspaper stuck to the plaster, beneath dozens of caked layers of whitewash. It was a cutting from an Ilkeston paper of that day reading:

CRICKET

The Rutland Ground will be open for the season on Monday afternoon next at 4 o'clock. Clubs wishing to play thereon must pay their subscriptions previously by order of the Rutland Club.

John Paxton.

Ilkeston: May 16 1860.

The ground referred to, of course, is the old Rutland Ground which in those days lay to the left of the Market Place as you go towards White Lion Square."

Alan Edwards

“A day trip to Matlock” by Gary Henshaw.

Reprinted below is an account of Hill Top (Eastwood) Methodist Church choir’s annual outing, as published in the *UMC Ilkeston Circuit Magazine* for the year of 1915.

‘The trip seems to have been of an eventful nature. They had made all arrangements to start at 9.30 a.m. for Matlock, but alas! the weather clerk, who had not been in a good mood for some weeks, was doing his worst when they should have started. The rain descended in torrents, so they waited patiently, and about 12 a.m. their patience was rewarded – the rain ceased and the sun began to shine.

So now they would start. The choirmaster telephoned for the motor conveyances which had been engaged, but the disappointing news came over the telephone that the cars had been dispatched on a furniture removal errand. Disappointed but not downhearted, they boarded the tram car and set out they knew not where. After other adventures they arrived in Matlock about 5 p.m. and partook of the lunch which had awaited them for several hours. After a brief trip round the town – the sun shining as if it had never any idea of doing anything else – they adjourned to the station, when to their amazement, they were told that the last train had departed.

After visiting several motor depots they began to pull themselves together for a 20 mile tramp, but as they braced themselves for this night journey the station-master, who had come out to seek them appeared on the scene and informed them they had arranged a special train to carry them as far as Ambergate where they would catch a train for home. Some of the party seemed rather sorry to be robbed of this night adventure after a day of so much incident. They arrived home safe and sound, and will long remember the trip to Matlock.’

(Prior to the First World War, the choir had traditionally undertaken their annual outing to the seaside by train. With Great Britain’s entry into the war on 4th August 1914, the Railway Executive Committee was created to oversee the operations of the main line railways, and one of its first decisions was to withdraw all excursion trains and associated facilities. In the summer of 1915, the choir in noting the ‘difficulties of train service’ instead made alternative arrangements to visit Matlock ‘by motor’.

It can be assumed that the tram car referred to was the notorious *Ripley Rattler*, perhaps changing at Langley Mill Station. Glynn Waite of the Midland Railway Society has identified the likely train taken to arrive at Matlock. This would have been the 4.25 p.m. Derby to Matlock, which left Ambergate at 4.49 p.m. The service to connect into these from Langley Mill would have arrived at Ambergate at 3.12 p.m. via Pye Bridge.

This would have allowed plenty of time for 'refreshments' to be taken at the nearby *Hurt Arms*. Alternatively they may have taken the *Rattler* all the way to Ripley and then walked from there to Ambergate. The 'special train' that they returned on may perhaps have been improvised from local stock: a practice then apparently not uncommon, even in the wartime conditions prevailing.

The likelihood of such local initiatives occurring these days seems inconceivable.)

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Quiz Questions

- 1 Two marble columns stand in Victoria Park- where did they come from?
- 2 Who was Thurman St named after and what was his profession?
- 3 Who was the first Mayor of Ilkeston and where is he buried?
- 4 Who was the last chairman of the old Ilkeston Board?
- 5 What was Jack Hickinbottom famous for during the 1950s and where was his shop? He also had a famous niece-who was she?
- 6 Where was the Weaver pool?
- 7 Who was the architect of the New Inn on Bath St?
- 8 What year was the Ilkeston Secondary School opened and by whom?
- 9 A stone pineapple sits on the top of the Old Wine Vaults at the junction of High St and East St: what is the meaning of this?
- 10 Where were the Vauxhall Gardens and what was their purpose?

Answers on page 8

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Interesting Websites

Are you aware that the Society has a website? Currently maintained by Stephen Flinders, the site features information about IDLHS membership, forthcoming Society meetings and events, publications - and brief histories on Ilkeston, Dale Abbey, St. Mary's Church, Ilkeston's Markets and Fairs, the Local Coal Industry and The Stanton Ironworks etc. The site can be found at:

<http://www.ilkestonhistory.org.uk>

If you are aware of any website that you think may interest other members of the society please get in touch so we can share!

Ilkeston 100 years ago...

The newspapers stored in Ilkeston Library hold a fascinating insight into Ilkeston as it was back in the day and are made all the more interesting with hindsight: I was wondering if anyone in the Society would be prepared to pick out articles from the old newspapers so this could become an interesting feature of the magazine again. Anyone who is interested please see Beverley.

Visit to Nottingham University on 18 August 2009 by Beverley Kilby

An entertaining walk and tour was given by Janet Jones of the Friends of University Park. Janet commenced by giving a brief history of the campus' site. The Park extends to around 300 acres. In C12 it was owned by the monks of Lenton Priory. After the dissolution of the monasteries the land was given to a Michael Stanhope. In 1798 the land was sold, divided up and resold. The land was developed as small estates for wealthy locals.

The first property we looked at was Lenton Hall which is now part of Hugh Stewart Hall. It was built for John Wright a local businessman and one time Sherriff of Nottingham. A mystery surrounds a date on the house which is shown as 1792; so far this date has avoided explanation as the land was sold in 1798 and the house was said to have been built in 1805. The design of the house is pseudo Gothic with battlements and turrets. A modern extension was built when the property became halls of residence. Walking round to the front of the building we were shown the painted on windows which even had lace curtains. One explanation for these is that the architect/owner wanted symmetry on the outside but the internal design would have been compromised.

Below Lenton Hall



Walking round to Lenton Mount, we looked down over the Downs and caught a brief glimpse of Lenton Close which was built in 1934 for Henry Bowmer Fletcher. The frontage of this house, with its curving façade, was designed to encompass the views of the lawn, the beech tree and downs beyond.

Lenton Mount, now University Club, was built for William Sidney Hemsley, a lace and hosier manufacturer. A later owner was John Greenwood who was an active and keen sportsman. The house was provided with tennis courts, bowling green and a croquet lawn. Hallward Library, named after Bertrand Hallward the university's first vice chancellor, is built on the former tennis courts.



Above Lenton Mount with Hallward Library in the background.

The third property we looked at was the "The Orchard"; the name given because it is sited on the Lenton Hall orchard site. There are still fruiting trees in this area. The property was built for Alfred Richard.

The tour then took us to the Millennium Garden whose theme is time. We then walked through another garden to Highfields House who was built for Joseph Lowe a Nottingham draper: Lowe also became Lord Mayor and Sherriff of Nottingham. The architect of Highfields House was William Wilkins and the house was completed about 1800.

The house is almost unchanged with exception of the porch which was removed in 1928 and replaced with French windows. The current boating lake in Highfields Park was the ornamental lake for Highfields House.

The tour then finished by looking round the walled garden of the house. The group was told about the Trent Building, how the estate was given by Jesse Boot, design by Morley Horder and opened in 1928 by George V and Queen Mary for the university.

Below is the web address for more information:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/estate/friends/>

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Quiz Answers

- 1 They were part of the entrance to Nottingham Gaol.
- 2 Named after Henry Thurman- a solicitor on Bath St.
- 3 Francis Sudbury was elected the first mayor on 09/05/1897. He is buried in Stanton Rd Cemetery.
- 4 The same person Francis Sudbury.
- 5 Jack Hickinbottom made Teddy Boy suits during the rock and roll period. Customers came from all over the country. His shop was on the corner of Heanor Rd and Granby St currently where the school clothing shop is. His niece was Diane Westbury, a well known beauty queen who became Miss United Kingdom in 1963.
- 6 Roughly to the rear of Weaver Row at the bottom end of the Ritz car park: it was filled in during the 1930s prior to the Ritz Cinema being built.
- 7 Mr Harry Tatham Sudbury.
- 8 His Majesty King George V on 25/06/1914.
- 9 A pineapple means we offer you a warm welcome and can be found on many buildings.
- 10 Situated behind the former Rutland Hotel, roughly where Dunelm is placed, they provided a pleasant area for recuperation after guests had taken the waters at the nearby spa baths. Many local events also took place there.

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On our Doorstep

In the current period of poor trading, estate agents should try marketing Ilkeston to those interested in the history of England, for nowhere are there richer pickings to be found.

I knew I was coming to a town whose wealth peaked in late Victorian times; the prosperous men of trade had seen to that by leaving us our civic buildings and beautifully embellished town houses, but I had no idea of how much had gone before.

My imagination was stirred by Mrs. Sheila Mason, of the last remaining lace factory, when she told the history society of the twenty three such factories which Ilkeston once possessed. She gave me permission to refer to her meticulously researched book "Nottingham Lace 1760-1950" which I did and

as a result spent several happy afternoons poking about at the back of shops in the centre of town. My leg was troublesome at the time and I was an odd sight with my grey hair, walking stick and camera. The man in the car park at the back of Wilkinson's was particularly suspicious as I tried in vain to find traces of an old factory building behind his completely rebuilt store: as was the caretaker at Kensington Business Park who appeared behind a notice that said quite clearly it was closed for the weekend. I persevered, and eventually, with the help of the Museum and the Local Studies department of the Library, had sufficient notes and photographs to show a group of ladies who were interested, and indeed, surprised at some of the things I told them.

My next task was the former Rutland Hotel in lower Bath St, which was a sad wreck when I first came. Now it has gone, replaced by the new Aldi store. Some thought it had a long history; I doubted it was much more than a pleasant early Victorian building. I was wrong. Investigation produced the whole history of the mysterious spring appearing in the mine workings, of the hotel, the railway station and the beautiful gardens which resulted, bringing several years of prosperity to the town. As you all know, the prosperity disappeared overnight when a movement in the mine caused the chalybeate spring to disappear back where it came forever.

Stephen Flinders introduced me to the importance of the town long before the Victorians rebuilt it. The apparently simple Victorian lines of St. Mary's church at first glance conceal the three solid Norman pillars, with carved arches, not quite so perfectly symmetrical as their nineteenth and early twentieth century companions, but very satisfying to contemplate in that peaceful oasis. Even earlier traces of Saxon timber have been found during restoration too. The mediaeval rood screen, marbled and polished in the Victorian restoration though it might be, is a rare survival in a parish church.

Stephen's description of the later town "A Taste of Tudor Ilkeston" was another fascinating eye-opener, showing how little the shape of Ilkeston and main thoroughfares have changed since carts were first pushed up and down the hill.

I was asked if I knew anything about the Stanton Rd cemetery. I did not but there in the Library all was revealed. First class graves in front, near the former Lodge and gates in the most expensive plots, with lavish stones pointing straight to Heaven; second class further down, slightly cheaper and with plainer stones or none at all, third class right at the back in the cheapest graves of all. The irony is that thanks to the care lavished on this peaceful spot by the dedicated preservation society, the far end with no stones but lovely trees is the most beautiful part of all.

Since then Alan Edwards has explained some of the lovely houses in Stanton Rd and elsewhere in his remarkable talk on the Ilkeston architect Harry Tatham Sudbury and I have been fortunate enough to have been invited inside the last one he built "The Field".

I had become intrigued to find, from old maps, that there were once three canals nearby; they remain something to be looked into in the future. The

maps also showed mineral railways to and from old collieries, so I explored where these were and discovered the Nutbrook Trail. That is how I discovered where the Beauty Spot had once been and heard stories of what used to go on down there. In trying to find any remains of the old Little Hallam Pumping station, which had provided the lido for townsfolk to enjoy, I came across the crumbling remains of the huge, oval Hoffman brick kiln- the wonder of the age when it was built for the Oakwell Brickworks attached to the Oakwell colliery.

Nearer home, clearing my garden had produced two imprinted "Beardsley and Pounder" bricks, since found to have been made on the present Washmeadows playing field. Only this week the adjoining allotment plot has unearthed a brick fragment inscribed "Ilkeston Brick Co." Where was that? Another line of industrial history to follow.

I have not even started on the connections with Dale Abbey, although I noticed the name Monks Close some years ago, and have a picture of the old Park Farm which was rumoured to have links with a religious establishment.

Those estate agents are certainly missing a trick.

Joyce Rich

OLD ILKESTON (EAST) AND COSSALL Mike Jobling

The latest publication from the Ilkeston & District Local History Society indicates the extent of change on the Eastern side of the town, over the last 70 years.

'Ilkeston (East) and Cossall in 1937' is a reproduction of the Ordnance Survey '25 Inch' map, revised in that year, scaled down to about 15 Inches to One Mile for ease of handling. It shows the Station Road – Old Park – Larklands area of town at a time when much of it had yet to be built on; and when the staples of Ilkeston's industrial heyday, especially coal and textiles, still had a presence. Also shown are Ilkeston Junction, and Cossall village. On the rear of the map, a descriptive text identifies many of the features of this neighbourhood, just two years before the start of the Second World War (1939 – 1945).

Cossall Colliery continued to thrive, its operations extended with a drift mine; while another drift had been sunk to the East of Cossall village, at Oakwood Grange. The S. Fletcher Ltd. group of factories on Wood Street made glove and other fabrics; while at Ilkeston Junction, J.B. Lewis made hosiery, and the former J. Truman factory was occupied by needle manufacturers Amos Tatham.

In spite of the worldwide economic depression, new companies had started, such as the Beardsley & Widdowson fabric factory, off Park Road. At the

Junction, a former foundry, later textile factory, had been taken by a firm making leather board.

New housing had been built off Park Road, and in Cossall village; and a council estate was being built between St. John's Road and Greenwood Avenue.

Many of the local shopkeepers, on whom people depended for much of their routine purchases, are named; especially along Station Road and at Larklands.

Numerous allotments were cultivated around the edge of the built-up area. Former brickyards on the West bank of the Erewash Canal had been filled in and landscaped as the recreation grounds known since as 'Johnnies' and 'The Ashes'.

The Erewash Valley line of the L.M.S. Railway had four well-used tracks, with branches to Ilkeston Town, and Cossall Colliery. The former tramway system had closed in 1931, while its depot on Park Road was now occupied by the trolley buses which had replaced the trams.

'Ilkeston (East) and Cossall in 1937' is available, price £1.50, from Ilkeston Library, Erewash Museum, and Acacia Books, Bath Street, Ilkeston; or by post from the Ilkeston & District Local History Society, 17 Richmond Avenue, SANDIACRE, NG10 5GY, price £2.00, incl. post and packing.

Final Word... This is YOUR Herald!

We hope that you have enjoyed reading our new look magazine and would welcome any feedback both negative and positive as well as receiving your contributions to the next issue.

If any of the articles have stimulated, annoyed or if you have anything to add please get in touch. Also, any suggestions you may have as to what you would like to see included in further issues please contact any Committee member or see below.

Please send your contributions of any size and any topic to: Beverley Kilby. 38 Ilkeston Rd, Trowell, Nottingham NG9 3PX or by email to

KLBY.BVLY@NTLWORLD.COM

All contributors are responsible for ensuring that their contribution is factually accurate.

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