

Local History Cafe



Sir John Moore Foundation, Appleby Magna

High Summer in the countryside ...

High Summer on an Appleby Farm

Anne Silins' stories contain memories of high summer at Lower Rectory Farm. She remembers "the sun started to turn the crops yellow. The cows kept to their daily schedule of fields and milking, the farm carried on almost alone and the sun shone down on these lazy days. August often brought thunderstorms. The thunderstorms filled up the three ponds where the cows went in search of a drink on a hot afternoon. The corn would be growing so fast, I thought I could see it grow taller each day. We watched the crops as they ripened,



always keeping an eye on the sky for rain and thunder heads which could flatten our crops"

1

HELLO HERITAGE

5th to 20th September
Look out for boards
around the village

2

HISTORY CAFE ONLINE

153 regional members
Great source of local
historical information

3

UP COMING DATES

History Cafe Meetings
18th August
21st September*



Iron Age Farm
Farming in Appleby
can be traced back
to the Iron Age.

Horse Power



Duncan Saunders, a
current LHC
member, reflects
on his equine life ...

The full story is on
Page 4

Appleby's Farming Past



Joan Noble's
memories of
farming in the
village.

“Whats happening on Whats App ...”

What's been online this month

You may well ask what connects the Fast Show with Bishops Finger Ale. It is of course the wide and varied conversations that happened on the SMJF LHC Volunteers What's App Chat during the last month. Another thread started with a photograph of a mobile shop and Joe reminded us of the shops that visited Appleby including a fishmonger and a baker.

The good weather that peppered the month allowed some of us to show off our gardening prowess including some images



of the blue cornflowers that turned out pink! We also celebrated Andy Pandy's 70th Birthday, back in the days when Looby Loo didn't have an identity crisis; and with that its 'time to go home!'

Zooming around ...

History Cafe remote July meeting

During the COVID-19 lock down History Cafe meetings have moved on line to allow us to meet remotely each month. The Duke of Wellington was famous for organising his military campaigns. In our July

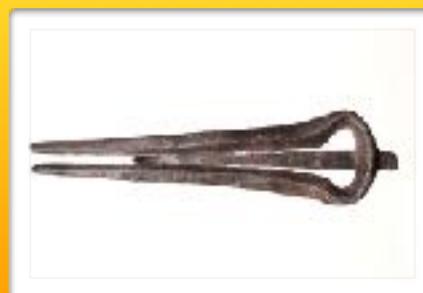


meeting the group started to organise its own campaign for the upcoming Hello Heritage fortnight in September. The sites for each poster, how it will be displayed and where they will be assembled were all points of discussion. Sonia also reminded the group of the progress made with the videos about the village prior to putting them on the group's You Tube Channel. Another project talked about was our "Lockdown" thoughts to be collated as a group video ...

History mystery ???

Each month we are going to bring you a mystery object to test your historical knowledge. This month it is from the 13th century. It's made from iron and is 66 mm long!

The answer will be in our September Newsletter



Appleby farming ...

An extract from Joan Noble's memoirs taken from her book "Appleby Peelings"

Joan remembers how things changed on Appleby farms in the middle of the last century.

"After the Second World War the picturesque but less efficient methods of farming gradually



became mechanised. For many years the tractor could be seen in one Appleby field while in another the same task was performed by shire horses pulling the plough or binder.

A farmer on a reasonably sized farm might have two men working permanently for him. Sometimes they lived at the farm. His son would also make up the team. At certain times of the year, though, more help would be needed. Perhaps six extra men and women would be engaged to help with the haymaking, for instance. They would turn the hay with pitchforks so that it dried out. When this was done the hay was loaded on to wagons and taken to the rick-yard near the house. The best part was when refreshments were brought to the field in large baskets. This consisted of tin cans of sweet tea and piles of cake and sandwiches."

In this month ...

1485 ... Richard III becomes the last English king to die in battle, killed at Bosworth Field.

1840 ... Britain bans the employment of climbing boys as chimney sweeps.

Facebook Snippets ...

Local History Cafe Online

If you've not had time to dip into Local History Cafe Online yet do set aside some time to browse through the many topics there. Kate Cross posts a weekly program of topics which this month



have included the stylish Commemorative Plaque on the wall of the Ockbrook Moravian Meeting Hall, with links to William Morris.

One of this month's Friday Features was on Richard III.



It has been 5 years since the re-burial of Leicester's most famous tenant. The discovery was an unprecedented event, and a coup for local historians and museums.

It's a great day out in Leicester too.

The Farming Ox

Oxen was once a generic term for all cattle. Seventeenth Century farmers in Appleby Magna would have used oxen to pull carts and ploughs.



Heavy draught oxen (eg. Devons, Sussex) were reckoned to do half the work of a horse and they were slow. They were retained for non critical work for far longer than they might have been because they had a second purpose.



At the end of his working life an ox could still be sold for beef.

Appleby Horse Power ...

Duncan Saunders reflects on a quieter village

Duncan came to Appleby in the 60's and has memories of the number of horses there were in this rural area.

"After moving to Appleby in 1966 I first became involved with horses, my wife wanted one! I soon realized how many horses and ponies there were in and around Appleby and was able to easily count up to 56.

At 'Greyfriars' at the end of Bowleys lane, Freddie Denson ran a small livery yard where he would also break in thoroughbred horses. On most days and in any weather conditions he could be encountered riding one horse, and leading another alongside, around the village roads. Private parked cars were few and far between and his route would be Church Street, Measham Road, Stoney Lane and then Top Street. When available two teenage girls, one being Rosie Abbott who still lives in the village, would ride two of the horses for Freddie. Freddie had an old black Ford Escort and the driver's door was severely dented because horses have to be forward going, especially in the hunting field, and he would drive behind the two horses and if they hesitated for any reason he would have his arm out of the window and would bang loudly on the door of the car.

When I broke in a young horse in the early 1980's I would long rein her for

several weeks. Long reining is when the horse wears a bridle and attached to the bit are two long ropes which allowed me to walk behind the horse and steer or stop her. This again was to teach her to be forward going. I would carry a long lunging whip which I would crack if she hesitated.

As a total contrast, Mr Henry Hall, who restored and lived at the Moat House, had a donkey and a small two



wheeled trap and would occasionally be seen trotting around the village. The donkey lived in the brick dovecot which can be seen in the Moat House grounds.

Today we have on Snarestone Road an Arab racing stable and opposite a thoroughbred breeding stable and within the village as a whole more than 56 horses and ponies but the freedom to use our roads in a relaxed and enjoyable manner has been lost."



www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk



SirJohn Moore
Foundation Heritage
Centre



The Local History Cafe
Extended meets every
third Tuesday of the
month

NEXT ISSUE

Autumn in the Village
Back to school
Childhood Games



Peelings ...

Dr Samuel Johnson applied for a post as Latin master at Sir John Moore School the school but he was turned down!