

Local History Cafe



Sir John Moore Foundation, Appleby Magna

Carved in stone ...

Martin Jarvis sent us this wonderful story after seeing our article on ancient graffiti ...

Martin recalls an interesting story about his mother in law...

“Her name was Sally Hicks, nee Stevenson. When Sally was a young teenager just after WWII, she and a friend (Emily Poynton) were watching workmen do repairs to Appleby Church spire. The men invited the girls up the church tower and right up to the spire. There were no health & safety issues back then! Whilst up there



© Martin Jarvis



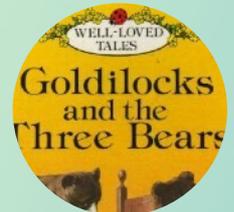
© Martin Jarvis

the girls carved their initials into one of the pieces of stonework. The story is even more strange because many years later in 2013, when further repairs were being carried out, the stone with the initials was found and removed. Stella, at the church had heard the story from Sally and recognised the initials. Unfortunately, Sally passed away just before she was reunited with the piece of masonry. It was on show at her funeral and given to us afterwards.



Church repairs
19th century repairs used stone from Hopton Wood quarry near Wirksworth in Derbyshire.

Goldilocks!



Karen Brown relates a true story of a sticky church situation. The full story is on Page 3

Welcoming the New Year



Appleby Magna's first footing ...
Page 9

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HISTORY MYSTERY

Last month's image was a curler for a wig ...
More on Page 7

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In Victorian times decorations came down on Twelfth Night and were burnt.

3

UP COMING DATES

History Cafe Meetings
19th January 2021

On the farm ...

Taken from
Anne Silins
Country Diary

January was the season for farm maintenance, hedging, ditching and fence repairs. Repairs were made to buildings and machinery and we were ever watchful during heavy frosts for freezing pipes and being aware of the needs of the livestock. In the barns, quarters were made ready for the sheep and expected February lambs.



© Reading.ac.uk

Stands the church clock ...

Taken from Richard Dunmore's article "History in Focus" ...

In 1850 a new church clock was installed as a gift of Misses Catherine and Elizabeth Moore (their sister Mary had died in January 1848).



© Toby Savage

James Tunnadine, a friend of the Moores' observed at the time ...

'1850 Mar 16th, New church clock put up given by Miss Catherine Moore and Miss Elizabeth Moore. Cost about £150

together with £10 more for flooring for it to stand on'.

The clock was a replacement as it is clear from accounts at the time which refer to 'a good peal of six bells, of very modern date, and a clock'; This shows there was already a clock in 1811.

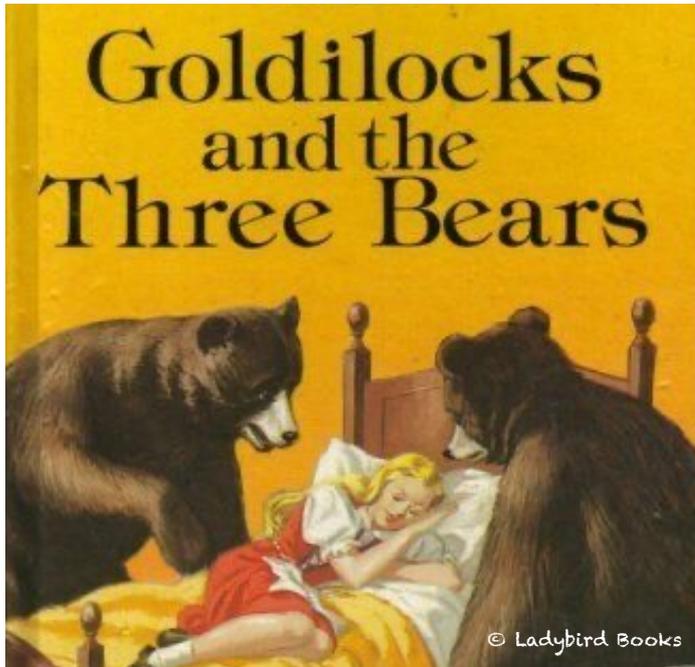
Images from our archives show the clock faces being repaired in the 1970s



© Toby Savage



© Northcliffe Publications



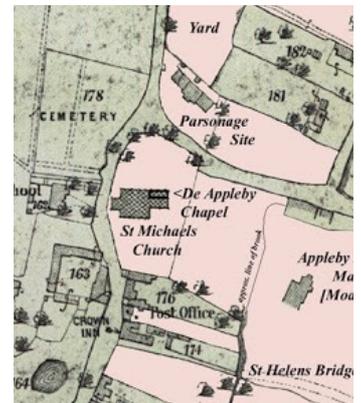
My brother got married at Saint Laurence's church in Meriden in 1982. The ceremony was beautiful. When my father went to the lectern to deliver a reading the church was silent. He opened the Bible, cleared his throat, and....My then 2 year old daughter piped up "Grandad. Can we have the one about The Three Bears." After a few minutes the giggling subsided, the ceremony continued, and my daughter sat quietly eating a packet of fruit pastels!

Karen Brown History Cafe Group

The church played a great part in the life of country villages during the twenties and thirties. The parson was a man to be respected and his wife was the unofficial social worker among the inhabitants. Charles Thomas Moore, the last of the Moores' to be directly connected with the village, was the parson when I was a small boy. He was a man who felt his station was as one of the gentility and preached the gospel according to the rich man in his castle as did many of his predecessors countrywide. A good old Tory he preached their gospel at election time from the pulpit 'six feet above criticism' as the saying went. He sent a letter to the Loughborough bell foundry, John Taylor, when they were re-hanging the bells at the parish church telling them not to employ the local blacksmith, my father, to make any bracket work "as he is not of our persuasion". Unfortunately Taylor's reply is non-existent, but Dad had done lots of work for them in the past and did so on this occasion. In the subscription list of the contributors to the fund for the work, F. J. Eyre is shown as contributing two shillings and sixpence, possibly all the profit he made out of the job.

The Lord of Appleby Magna Manor, Sir Edmund de Appleby, lived in his manor house a short distance east of the Church. The stone gate-house of this building survives as part of the Moat House.

Although the present church, on the evidence of its fabric and architectural style, dates from the early 14th century, surviving records show that a church and parsonage existed well before that ...

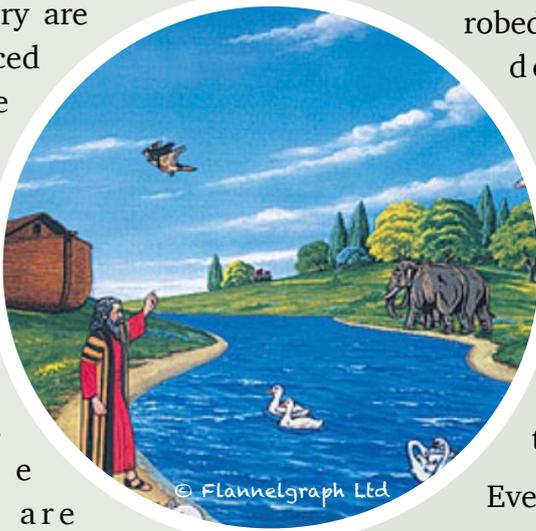


Recollections of Life in Appleby in the 20th century, by Reginald Joseph Eyre

Not all flannel ...

Flannelgraph

Flannelgraph is a storytelling system that uses a board covered with flannel fabric, usually resting on an easel. The flannel board is usually painted to depict a background scene appropriate to the story being told. Paper cutouts of characters and objects in the story are then placed on the board, and moved around, as the story unfolds. These cutouts are backed, either with flannel, or with some other substance that adheres lightly to the flannel background, such as coarse sandpaper.



Going to the chapel

Memories of a Birmingham Sunday School ...

When I was 8 or 10 years old I went to a Sunday School at a little chapel in Birmingham. This was a plain, single storey building with clear windows and no decorations. It was managed for many years by a kind, elderly couple, Mr and Mrs Walton. Classes were for 6 to 8 children, divided into age groups. We sat in a semi circle round our teacher, who told us a story each week - perhaps about Moses, Jonah and the whale or the disciples.

We always loved it when we had a flannel-graph lesson. To illustrate his story, the teacher used an easel covered with flannel, onto which he placed magnetic cut-out pieces of palm trees, biblical robed figures, a desert and maybe an oasis, plus a brilliant sun to illustrate his story.



Sometimes our teacher gave us text cards - like cigarette cards but with pictures of Bible scenes, with a text underneath. I wish I still had mine - they were beautiful.

Every year we had a day out by coach and one year we went to Drayton Manor Park.

Once a year there was a prize giving for good attendance, when we were presented with a Bible, New Testament or a worthy book, such as the story of David Livingstone.

We are grateful to such dedicated people for working hard to instil good values into us as at a tender age.

Recollections of Marina Sketchley,
She is a current History Cafe member.



Drayton Manor, once the home of Sir Robert Peel, was developed in the 1950's as a zoo and amusement park.

Schoolboy error ...

History Cafe Member
Andrew Moore recalls an
embarrassing moment

From a very early age I used to go to St Mary's Church in Newton Regis. Some Sundays it was twice at least, Morning prayers as well as Sunday school.

The embarrassing incident I remember was on a freezing November morning. Like most families there was a certain place we had to sit each time you went. It almost felt forbidden to sit in someones else's place. Well on this particular Sunday I was sitting there with my mother and grandmother, however the service was yet to start and Mrs Crook was up in the organ loft playing her usual mixture of complementative melodies.

I was looking around as any small boy would do and I noticed something happening at the front of the first pew. This continued throughout the service and I tried to ask my mother what it was but was promptly told not to talk.

When leaving the service the Vicar was saying his goodbyes at the church door and I just had to say something to him. I said, "I could see the Holiness rising". How embarrassing it was to be told it was simply the heat rising off a radiator at the front of the church

Son of the rector ...

Aubrey Moore remembers his
father ...

Being the son of the rector I was of course very close to the Church in so many ways. I was taken to church with the family. We spread out over the length of the pew, a long pew at the front of the north side. The rectory servants sat in the side seats on the north wall. The Hall pews were the first two front on the south side and their servants sat in the side pews on the south wall. The grammar school boarders and masters sat behind the Hall pews on the south aisle, and the headmaster assisted with the service. The Sunday school from the school opposite sat in the gallery. The church was always well filled for morning service and very full at night. The choir was good and the singing generally of a high standard.

The 'Squire and his relations' of course attended. Important relatives or friends sat between, lesser fry sat in the second pew. The Hall people rarely attended at night but the squire did on occasions. They never had a carriage out to go to church unless the weather was really foul.

Church landmark

Appleby Magna
Memories ...
Allan Condie

The Spire of St Michael's at Appleby Magna is a landmark and can be seen for miles around. Allan Condie remembers that his dad used to use it as a landmark when coming back to the village when on leave from the Army. He often used to get a lift rather than take the patchy wartime bus service. However on one occasion he mistook the spire for the one at Newton Regis and he had to walk home from there



Who scrawled that?

Joe Butler recalls his time at the church...

In the church there are a pair of identical lead plaques commemorating work done in 1829.



However I think of more interest is the third item which is a lead sheet about 15 inches square with graffiti on it. This consists of the outline of a shoe and a hand scratched into the lead and a small figure smoking a pipe. If the outlines are of realistic size then



by the size they were either quite small or a that of a child. The date on this is 1850. These were found in the church tower when work was done some years ago.

Not to be missed ...

Taken from Appleby Magna Parish Magazine January 1890

On Jan. 21st, a **Magic Lantern Entertainment** was held in the Girls' National School, in aid of the Crippled Boys' Home, Kensington.

A series of interesting slides were shown by Mr. Maxtead, depicting scenes from John Ploughman's sayings, and afterwards some

pictures of a more comic description

were exhibited.

The amount forwarded

to the

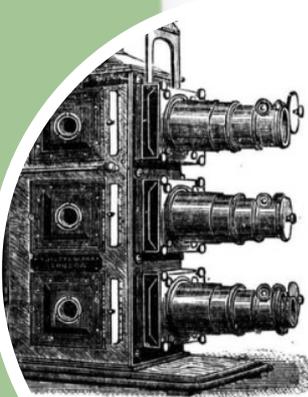
Crippled

Boys' Home,

after

expenses were

paid, was £2.00



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THE GALE.

Writing to "The Times," Mr. W. G. Lilley, The Beeches, Appleby Magna, states: "I remember a much worse gale (at least in Leicestershire) than that of last Sunday. I also think it was pretty general all over the country. It certainly did 10 times the damage in this locality. Strange to say, that was on a Sunday, too, March 25, 1895, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. I well remember seeing the trees fall one after the other as the gale progressed. It is only fair to say that it was after the terrible winter of 1894 and 1895, when frost continued until about the middle of March, no doubt leaving the ground very loose."

© Northcliffe Publications Tamworth Herald.
 January 14th 1930

The weather has always been in the news, especially the extreme variety

Facebook Snippets ...

Local History Cafe Online

Our FaceBook pages have been buzzing again with more posts and comments than ever before. One surprise was how many people have both fond and not so fond memories of school dinners.

Steph Lowe remembers hideous cold custard with her school dinner. They actually turned the skin on the custard to a dinner table game! Some of the children at the table loved it and if they wanted the skin they had to choose a number between one and ten, and if that number matched



© The Pudding Shop

with the number as the server had chosen, then that person “won” the skin and had it served onto their plate ...

Away from food we have discussed topics such as The Look and Learn Magazine from the 1960’s and the records teachers have kept about school life that we have stored within our archives. Next month we are tackling the vexed question of mathematic lessons ...

Wigging it ...

Its enough to make your hair curl ...

Wigs were very popular amongst men in England in the 17th and 18th centuries. The wig curler was heated up and the hair of the wig was wound round it. Wig curlers were normally made from the same white clay that was used to make tobacco pipes.



© The Dockyard Collection

Men wore the wigs over very short hair or even a completely shaven head. Wigs were a very fashionable look and they also helped to control the spread of head lice. Generally, people thought wigs were more hygienic than real hair but this wasn't always the case. In 1665 during an outbreak of plague, the famous diarist Samuel Pepys recorded his concern at wearing a new wig. He was worried that the hair used to make it might have come from a person with the plague.

History mystery ???

This month we are coming in the 20th century with our mystery object. It certainly would have been useful at this time of year

The answer will be in our February Newsletter



© The Canterbury Trust

Cold as Ice ...

Appleby snow bound ...

Seventy years ago, from late January until mid March, easterly winds drove a succession of snowstorms across the UK resulting in what was believed to have been the snowiest winter since the mid-nineteenth century. Six weeks of snow, which began on January 23, led to thousands of people being cut off by snowdrifts. As Appleby Magna was recovering from the effects of the Second World War, the armed forces were called upon to clear roads and railways of snowdrifts that were up to seven metres deep in places.

Anne Silins remembers that the winter of 1947-48 was a bad one for the Midlands. We had a great deal of snow. My school report card for that particular January and February, shows that I missed six weeks of school. Buses did not run regularly and if the journey to Ashby was possible in the early morning, who knew if I could travel home again in the evening? So I was kept at home. The milk was not always picked up on schedule either and while the men fed some to the pigs, a lot went to waste.



© Leicestershiretimes

“Whats happening on Whats App ...”

All the chat this month

This month on Whats App postings have been heavy with end of year irony, matched only by a surfeit of jokes and stories about looking forward to the back of 2020.

The group also discussed the dangers of online shopping ... Karen recalls that one such error in her online shopping order resulted in a hallway full of cans of baked beans! Rosie

also remembered that she had heard of a mother who had once ordered “sick bags” online for her travel sick son but somehow had ended up with a bill for more than £5000 and more bags than she could cope with ...

Whats App has been so successful at keeping our group close in this awful year.

St. Michael & All Angels ...

St Michael & All Angels Church was built in the decorated Gothic style which prevailed in the first half of the 14th century.



The *de Appleby Chapel*, in the north-east corner of the church, appears to have been constructed first, with the chancel, nave and side aisles added a little later. The chapel, now used for the vestries and the organ, contains the tombs and alabaster effigies of the supposed builder of the church, *Sir Edmund de Appleby*, and his wife *Lady Joan*



© maturetimes.co.uk

Best Foot forward ...

It's Midnight ... Did you hear the footsteps?

Queen Victoria had a passion for the New Year's Eve celebration of *Hogmanay*, which means the last day of the year. While it is a Scottish tradition, the origins are most likely Norse or Gaelic. As with most celebrations, the customs vary from one area to another. Gift-giving and special attention to the "First-Footing" were critical to New Year's Eve in the Victorian Era, as they are today.

In this month

1924 ... English explorer Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun

1807 ... London becomes the first city in the world to be lit by gas light

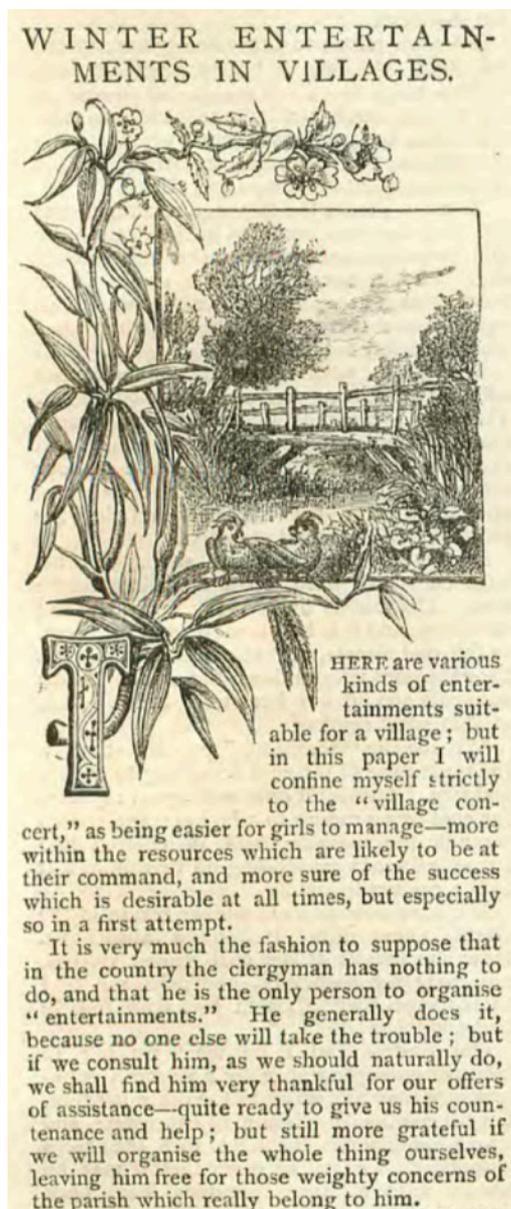
You can imagine in the candlelit cottages of 19th Century Appleby this tradition being carried out. Neighbours going to each others homes down a dark and gloomy Botts Lane.

"First Footing" literally means the first foot to cross your threshold after midnight. That person should bring a gift of bread, salt, coal, whisky, food or greenery to ensure a prosperous and healthy year ahead.

Winter Games ...

It's cold on the streets

One hundred and fifty years ago Appleby Magna winters were very cold and one of the most popular games played was skidding on ice slides in the street. However in "Girls Own Magazine" for January 1832 there was a whole article on village games ...



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SirJohn Moore
Foundation Heritage
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The Local History Cafe
Extended meets every
third Tuesday of the
month

FEBRUARY.

The Transport Issue

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Peelings ...

It was in January 1941 that the ARP Wardens in Appleby Magna held a meeting at the school to explain the new regulations for the fighting of fire bombs ...