

Local History Cafe



Sir John Moore Foundation, Appleby Magna



Taking the Air

This was considered fashionable in 1870



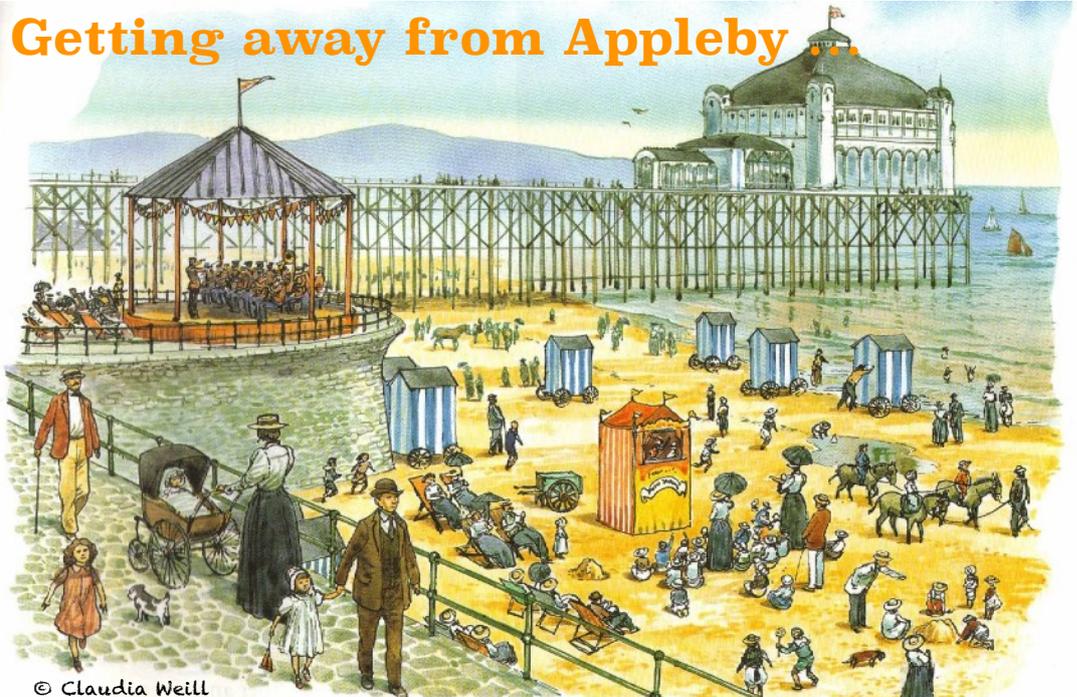
Beside the Seaside

Holidays through the ages



Standby studio

The invention of television.
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© Claudia Weill

Although both rich and poor Victorians had time off and could go on day trips and holidays it was far easier for wealthy families. They could travel by train or by carriage. It had long been fashionable for very rich families to move between town and country depending on the season and to visit the seaside to 'take the air.'

A trip to the seaside was still an exciting treat. Men, women and children would have looked forward to bathing in the sea. It was unacceptable to show off lots of skin so they wore bathing suits and made use of bathing machines. These were huts on wheels which were wheeled into the sea allowing the bathers to enter the water without being seen.

Families from Appleby Magna may have visited the new seaside resort of Skegness which became a popular destination during the Victorian period.

The Earl of Scarborough engaged an architect to plan a model watering place as the Victorians called them, on the site of the existing village. Work began in the late 1870's building wide, tree lined streets promenades and gardens, a park and a pier, as well as a new main shopping street, a church and lots of new houses.

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THE BATES ...

A local family history

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I-SPY BOOKS

Did you collect I-Spy points whilst on summer holiday?
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HISTORY CAFE

Next Month's meetings are at 10.00am on 10th & 31st August

Explaining the Mystery ...

Last month's mystery object was a **Bronze Age Mace head**

It was found half a mile south of the religious site of Stonehenge, a Bronze Age leader was buried under a mound in the richest prehistoric grave found in Britain. The gold objects buried in his grave allow the exploration of power and status in this period and of the far-reaching network of contacts between Britain and Europe.

The beautifully crafted object is on display in the British Museum

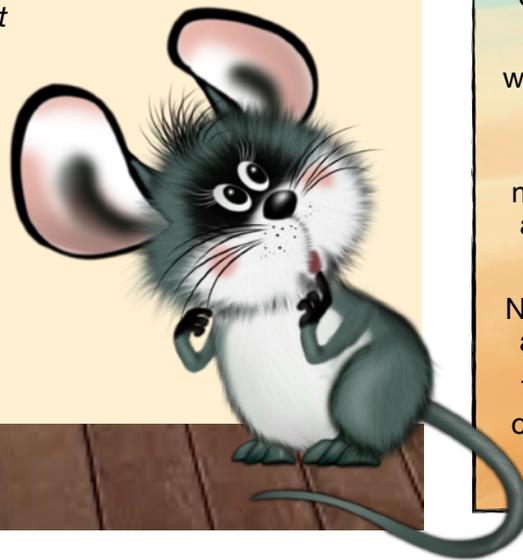
Basil's bit ...

Hi there folks! Summer is well and truly here. My family love to leave the school and scurry off to a seaside resort. We sometimes sneak a ride in a van or a car.

However over a hundred years ago my great grandmother had to catch the train from Snarestone Station. She wrote about it in her diary ...

August 10th 1894. *I couldn't sleep last night. I was too excited. I've never been on holiday before, I've never even been outside Appleby Magna. I've never been on a train. And I've never seen the sea. A few months ago on my birthday my dad said 'You're ten years old now, Annie. It's time you saw the sea.'* 'The sea's miles away,' I said. 'How would I get there?' 'You'll go by steam train,' said Dad. 'We'll all go...in the summer. We'll stay for a whole week.'

A whole week? I thought Dad was joking, but he wasn't...and that's why we're on a train now...Dad, Mum, my little brother Joe and me. We're nearly there. In a few minutes time, we're going to see the sea!



Adlestrop' by
Edward
Thomas

Yes, I remember
Adlestrop –

The name,
because one
afternoon

Of heat the
express-train
drew up there

Unwontedly. It
was late June.

The steam
hissed.

Someone
cleared his
throat.

No one left and
no one came
On the bare
platform.

What I saw
Was Adlestrop –
only the name

And willows,
willow-herb, and
grass,

And
meadowsweet,
and haycocks
dry,

No whit less still
and lonely fair

Than the high
cloudlets in the
sky.

History mystery ???

This month's History Mystery Object is a more recognisable object. Monday morning?

The answer will be in our September Newsletter



Holiday Tales

Middle Age Travel ...

In the Middle Ages wealthy people went on pilgrimages for religious reasons. However pilgrimages were not really holidays - or they were not meant to be! In the 14th century Chaucer wrote the Canterbury Tales about a group of pilgrims on their way to Canterbury. In England people went on pilgrimages to shrines in places like Winchester. Sometimes people went on pilgrimages abroad to places like Rome or Jerusalem.

However in the Middle Ages there were no holidays in the modern sense. People travelled for work, for war or for religious reasons.

However even for Medieval peasants life was not all hard work. People were allowed to rest on Holy days (from which we get our word holiday). During them, poor people danced and played a very rough form of football. The men from 2 villages played on a 'pitch', which could include woods and streams!

In the late Middle Ages people in England began dancing around a Maypole. (Although they did not tie ribbons to the pole. That was invented in the 19th century).

In 1644 during the Civil War in England, the Puritans banned the Maypole as they believed it had pagan origins. However, after the Restoration in 1660 Maypoles became common again

Fossils by the seaside ...

Marina Sketchley recounts the life of Mary Anning. The 19th Century fossil hunter who stunned the world ...

Have you heard of Mary Anning? She was born in 1799 and she made some of the most significant geological discoveries of all time and was an acknowledged expert, even in her lifetime.



© NHM

Mary's father was a cabinet maker and carpenter. Her mother had at least 10



© Fred Haynes

children – with only two surviving - Mary and her brother Joseph. Can you imagine the grief of losing almost every child?

Their father was a fossil collector who sold his finds on the beach to tourists, and he taught Mary and her brother how to collect them. However, when he died he left £120 of debts and the family had to rely on Relief by the Overseers of the Parish Poor.

In 1811 Mary and Joseph found the ichthyosaur - the "crocodile", near Lyme Regis.

This was the first complete fossil ever found and it caught the attention of scientists in London. A paper was read about their

discovery before the Royal Society in 1814.

In 1823 she found the Long-tailed plesiosaurus - the "sea dragon" and a few years later she found the pterodactylus – the "flying reptile".

Mary became very famous, both here and abroad. Tourists came to Lyme Regis to buy fossils but also to see her. She was described as a poor, ignorant girl who, by reading and application, became sufficiently knowledgeable to talk with professors in their own language. The professors acknowledged that she understood more about the science than anyone else.



© NHM

Charles Dickens wrote the following in his magazine that;

"She was little appreciated by the locals, but she was famous abroad."

Anning received three different annuities and subscriptions in recognition of her work.

Mary Anning died of cancer aged 47 years. Her death was recorded by the Geological Society – which did not admit women until 1904.

The Bates Family History ...

Sandra Bates researched the history of a well established Appleby Family

The Bates family arrived in Appleby nearly 300 years ago. Thomas Bates and Elizabeth Sheldon married in Lichfield in September 1729.



Three generations of the Bates Family. A photograph taken in 1912

Thomas was from Measham and Elizabeth was from Appleby and it was here that their daughter Mary was baptised in 1733. Jane Sheldon of Appleby, probably Elizabeth's sister, married George Bates in Ashby in 1732. Thomas & George were the sons of George Bates, a tailor, and his wife Mary Miles. George senior's date and place of birth are unknown, but it is possible that he came from Packington.

Thomas & Elizabeth had seven children baptised in Appleby between 1733 and 1752. George (1740) married Ann Leavesley in 1764, their second son Thomas (1770) married Elizabeth Murwood in 1794; they had seven children in Appleby between 1794 and 1811.

George (1811) became a blacksmith in Whittington near Lichfield and married his employer's daughter Eleanor in 1846. Their son Abraham (1855) became a pork butcher in Burton and founded the Bates butchery business which he ran with his two sons. The shop was in several locations before finally moving to new premises at 22 Borough Road in the early 1900's. The business was sold in the 1960's but continued trading as Bates until its final closure.

Thomas & Elizabeth's eldest son William (1794), a tailor, married Mary Plant in 1817.

Mary was single with a 2½ year old illegitimate son. He had been baptised in 1814 as Thomas Kirkland Plant but was

known as Thomas Kirkland. Thomas's marriage certificate named his father as Thomas Kirkland, a carpenter, and recent DNA testing has identified his birth family as coming from Barlestone. Thomas Kirkland senior was probably the son of Ambrose & Elizabeth Kirkland.



A photograph of Roger Bates possibly in Mawbys Lane

Thomas Kirkland became a tailor, the same occupation as his stepfather. He moved to Birmingham where he was a tailor, a maltster, and a property developer / landlord.

This would accord with the Bates' family belief that their forebears were from Measham or Ashby.

At the time of his death, he owned a malting business, a freehold house and land, and at least twelve freehold properties in the city including six he had commissioned to be built, his estate was valued at "under £3000"

Standby studio ...

Marina Sketchley digs into the history of the invention of television

During the long summer holidays from school the BBC used to broadcast special children's programmes during the day but what do we know about the inventor of television?

I remember our family having one of the first tiny television sets and the sense of amazement we had as we stared at that small screen.



© The Daily Record

Baird was a Scottish electrical engineer who made the first mechanical television able to transmit pictures of objects in motion.

He was, born in Helensburgh in 1888, the youngest son and fourth child of a Scottish parish church minister. By his early teens he had a fascination with electronics and was already conducting experiments. He studied at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow and in 1914 went to Glasgow University to study Physics/Chemistry.

For several years he experimented and in 1923 he took out his first patent. In 1924 he transmitted an image of a Maltese cross over three yards. He had no money for further work, so he showed his experiments to some newspaper men and one day a Mr Day, owner of a small wireless business in London, bought one-third of his invention for £200, then became a 50/50 partner.

In 1925 he demonstrated his first prototype, transmitting a televised image of a ventriloquist's dummy. He said "I could scarcely believe my eyes and felt myself shaking with excitement."

Baird moved to Soho, London. In 1925 Mr Selfridge of Selfridge's department store visited him. He offered him £25 per week and a free supply of all materials if he would

appear three times a day in their Oxford Street store to demonstrate his apparatus to customers and answer their questions.

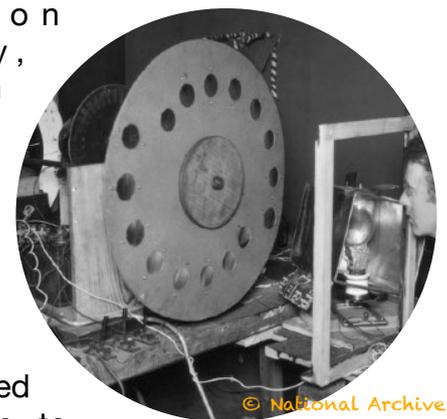
This didn't work out well, though. One lady, for example, asked if it was sufficient to close her bathroom curtains to be safe from his invention: he felt like a performing seal.

Now he could improve his apparatus. Dishevelled, he rushed downstairs and asked the first person he saw, a young boy, to come upstairs with him. The young lad was frightened by this 'madman'. He got him to sit down and not move, while he went into the next room and turned on the receiver - but the screen was empty. The boy was so scared of the whirling contraption that he had bent down and the machine went out of focus. Baird gave him 2/6d and they tried again. This time, the boy appeared on the screen - the first face to be on television! The theory had been known for 40 years but scientists with means had never put it to the test.

In 1926 he demonstrated to 50 scientists at the Royal Institution London. Fame, money and offers were now showered on him. Interest in America was enormous, where Jenkins, another inventor, has already had some initial success.

For some time his Television Company, formed in 1928, had a monopoly but was soon faced with rival interests.

Baird



© National Archives

The BBC used his technique to broadcast between 1929 and 1937. However, they decided Baird's mechanical transmission was inferior to the electronic television being developed by Marconi.

He died of a stroke in 1945 in Bexhill on Sea.

School Memories ...

Our many FaceBook friends have recollections of the Chemistry Lab ...

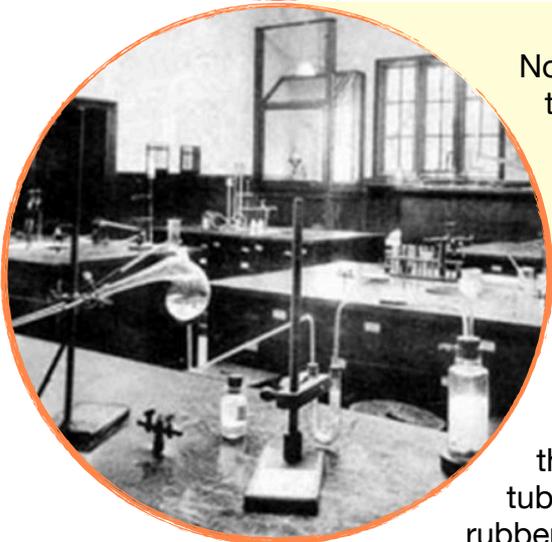


I didn't have any disasters, but we were permitted in biology to prick our fingers and look at blood under a microscope. I was very confused at the time as my blood cells appeared to differ from my fellow schoolmates. It was years later, I found I have a rare blood group, which anyone can have but I can't have any one else's. Life is tough

Helen Newbold

I was messing around with a Bunsen burner once and inadvertently set light to a varnished worktop. Got my backside tanned for that.

Steven Nugent



Not a disaster, but quite funny. The class used to stand on the opposite side of the workbench to the master, with a Kipp's Apparatus in between. We'd then cough or exhale heavily in unison so the H₂S (stink bombs) wafted all around him!

Mike O'Sullivan



My daughter did! There was a long thin glass tube going through the rubber bung of a conical flask like the one in the picture. Instead of grasping the bung to secure it into the neck of the flask, she pushed her hand onto the top of the tube. It snapped in two and went right through her hand! The rubber bung and 6 inches of glass tube on one side and 6 inches on the other! The teachers were annoyed because it was last thing on a Friday afternoon and someone had to take her to A&E!

Lynda Rose

I can remember in the late 60s our Chemistry Teacher who we called 'Plug' tried to make water by exploding oxygen and hydrogen together in an empty Fairy Liquid bottle! The noise was tremendous and the bottle shot across the laboratory. It was a wonder no one was killed!

Andrew Shawcross

Thank you for all your wonderful memories and contributions

Day-trippers

Appleby Magna, being in the centre of the country, meant that whichever way you chose to go on holiday in 1910, it was at least a hundred mile journey. Great Yarmouth was one such popular destination for the well to do from the village.

Seaside resorts became hugely popular during the Victorian era but the origins of the appeal of some, such as Great Yarmouth, actually date back to the 18th century when they became fashionable destinations for the upper classes.

In the mid 18th century Dr Richard Russell promoted the idea that seawater was a sort of miracle "cure-all", the benefits of which could be enjoyed by bathing in, and drinking, it. He advocated that half pint doses of seawater should be drunk, mixed with either port or milk if desired, and listed a whole range of ailments and diseases which would be rectified. The aristocracy took this onboard and began to visit seaside towns around the country, looking at them as an alternative to the popular spa towns such as Bath.



The seaside towns responded to this by building facilities for the wealthy visitors - in Great Yarmouth a grand bath house was built along the seafront in 1759 and bathing machines, a changing hut on wheels which were led into the sea by horse, began to appear on the beaches soon afterwards. Throughout the remainder of the 18th century and the early years of the 19th century Great Yarmouth remained a fairly exclusive resort, the social aspect of visiting the seaside towns was probably of equal importance to the well-to-do as the supposed health benefits which could be gained.

The arrival of the railway in 1844 saw a huge increase in visitors as cheap tickets opened the region up to the masses. Snarestone Station could be the start of a great holiday adventure.

During the latter half of the 19th century and early years of the 20th century the popularity of Great Yarmouth continued to grow and many new hotels, guest houses, theatres, restaurants and tourist attractions were opened to cater for the increasing amount of summer visitors.



A number of daytrippers and holidaymakers also arrived by one of the many steam ships which operated up and down the east coast and others began their cruising holidays on the rivers from here. For those who began their boating holidays from the various yachting centres around Broadland a visit to Yarmouth during their time afloat was also a must!

Being seen ...

Walking on the Prom ...

As late as the early Edwardian period middle class ladies would never been seen paddling in the sea. Only their maids or children's nannies could do something so undignified as lower their guard so publicly. The highlight of the seaside day visit was not morning bathing or sitting on the beach, but the afternoon promenade.

Throughout the century, the walk about the town and particularly along the seafront, was an essential part of the life of a resort. Everyone came out to see and be seen. The rich in their carriages, or on their horses and later in their motors. The rest on their feet, all dressed in their finest, but with the formal etiquette of the town now relaxed.

Don't just book it ...

The very first package holiday ...

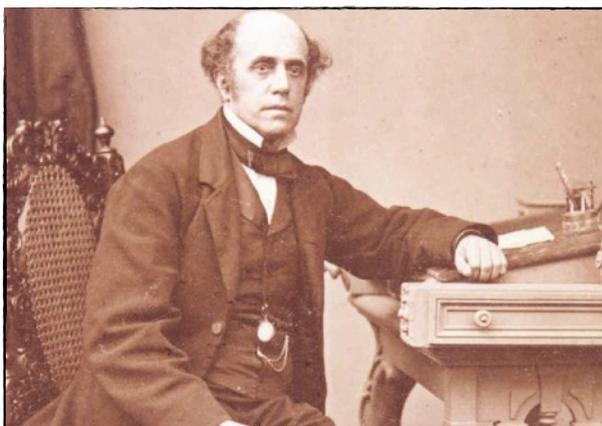
On July 5th, 1841, Britain's Thomas Cook organised an excursion for workers and their families in England. Tea, ham sandwiches and a brass band were included. It was the birth of mass tourism.

Thomas Cook is regarded as a pioneer of modern tourism. Within England's class society Cook came from humble beginnings: He was born in 1808 in the small Derbyshire village of Melbourne. His father was a labourer and his mother illiterate. He had to leave school at the age of 10 in order to start earning money.

A few decades later, he was to become England's most successful travel agent. From 1872 onwards, he organised an annual 222-day world tour, covering 24,000 miles.

It all started 175 years ago, on July 5, 1841, when Thomas Cook organised a one-day rail excursion for workers and their families, from Leicester to Loughborough, a mere 11 miles away.

Cook, a former Baptist preacher, believed that most Victorian social problems were related to alcohol and that the lives of working people would be greatly improved if they drank less and became better educated. So his excursion was to offer an alternative pastime to drinking. He chose Loughborough because there was a temperance meeting taking place there on that day.



© Thomas Cook

Licence to view ..

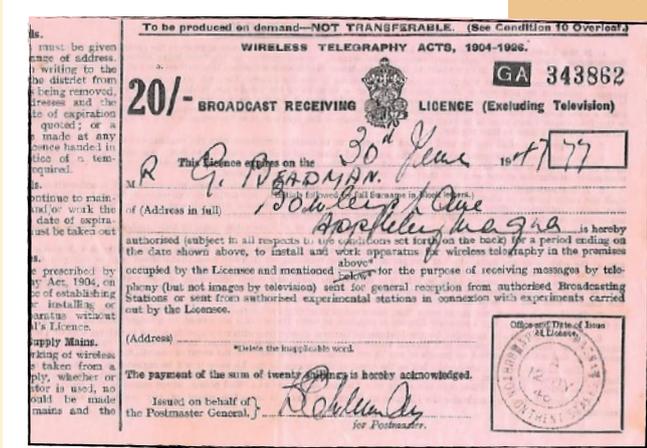
Pauline Perrott shared her Uncle's TV licence

We have featured the Post Office in Appleby Magna in several editions of the Newsletter, however the document below clearly shows that the postmaster issued a Receiving Licence to Geoff Beadman on 12th July 1946 for the coming twelve months, something he had done just 77 times previously that year.

For the sum of twenty shillings Geoff and his family would have been able to listen to the Home Service with such delights as

“Much Binding in the Marsh” and the very first edition of “Twenty Questions and in November there was the debut of “Round Britain Quiz”

BBC television programmes were interrupted by the national fuel shortage during the year the licence was issued.



The Radio Times ...

The day the Receiving Licence was issued at the Appleby Magna Post Office to Geoff Beadman, Volume 91 of the Radio Times was published. At 5.00pm on Monday it lists under Children's Hour, two stories, one being the *Kind Scarecrow* and the other *The Chronicles of Henry*. Children's Hour closed with songs from Hillside Convent College.



Later in the evening at 8:30pm there was a full radio dramatisation of Charles Dickens *Dombey and Son*.

Just before close down The BBC Singers gave a short recital of popular songs including *Evening by George Dyer* and *Evening Fancies by Grieg*.

Closedown was at midnight after the chimes of Big Ben



KNOCK AND
WAIT IN
SILENCE

Discover more behind the headmaster's door ...

A remarkable Victorian Classroom, headmaster's study
and dormitory ...

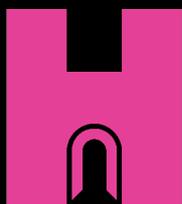
Children can experience life in a Victorian Classroom

Follow the story around this delightful North West
Leicestershire village and check in on the Digital Earth
Museum

Open Day

Sunday 19th September 2021

Sir John Moore Foundation is a Grade 1 listed building based on
an original design by Sir Christopher Wren



heritage **open** days

Sir John Moore Foundation, Top Street
Appleby Magna DE12 7AH



Supported by players of



Awarded funds from



Geo-location ...

Adding Appleby to the map
of the World ...



The traditional method to locate a place on the planet's surface is to use Longitude and Latitude. In the UK in recent years six figure grid reference was traditionally used, however a totally new and different way of fixing a point is now available. It's called the Three Word Location.

The whole of the planet has been divided into three metre squares and each has been allocated its unique three word description. This allows very precise geo location anywhere on Earth.

SJMF Heritage has used this method to locate some of its archived items to be included in the Earth Museum Project

“Happiness consists of living each day as if it were the first day of your honeymoon and the last day of your holiday .” – Leo Tolstoy

In this month

1926 ... Britain's first set of electric traffic lights appeared in London

1900 ... The very first Coca Cola is sold in Great Britain

1963 ... The Great Train Robbery



© Historic UK

Roman Holiday

Tony Perrottet explains the
very first holidays ...

Romans were the first nation to travel because foreign holidays required a period of peace and prosperity. The Roman Empire was the first civilization to enjoy such a period and put the infrastructure in place to allow for holidays to happen.

The work of the army and navy in securing borders and transport against banditry, along with the ever expanding borders of the empire, gave citizens freedom to travel without ever technically leaving Rome's jurisdiction. This freedom led to the establishment of inns, restaurants and tour guides, everything a budding traveller would need to enjoy their trips.

The Romans even had guidebooks, with Pausanias' Description of Greece setting the standard for what a travel guide could look like. It's a classic of its kind, providing insights on everything from the geography of Greece through to religious art and architecture.

Hi-De-Hi ...

Holiday camps for all

In the 1950s and 1960s it was unusual for families to holiday abroad, most stayed in the UK.

Those lucky enough to have relatives living by the coast might holiday with them, some would rent a flat or house, some would stay

in a guest house, B&B or hotel, whilst many would head for the holiday camps such as Butlins or Pontins.

Holiday camps became popular in post war Britain with family entertainment and activities available for the equivalent of an average man's weekly pay.

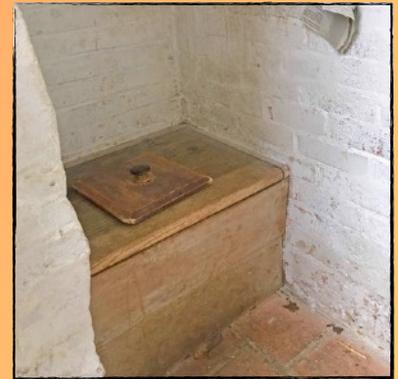
Travel to the camp would be by charabanc (coach); campers would be greeted by the entertainments staff (red coats for Butlins, blue for Pontins). There were three meals a day, served in the communal dining hall, daytime activities for both adults and children and of course, evening entertainment.

A child's delight, all activities including the swimming pool, cinema, fairground rides and roller skating rink were free of charge!

Peelings ..”

The privy, unlike its aristocratic cousin, the toilet, was always situated outside. With luck this meant it would just be outside the back door. Often though, it entailed a walk down the garden.

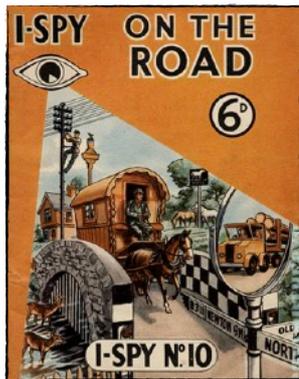
The privy in Rose Cottage, Appleby Magna, was situated in a separate brick building near the back door, and was a two seater! I heard of a ten seater in a Leicestershire village. There was no problem visiting the privy during the day, however at night it was more difficult and often freezing in the winter. Proper toilet paper on a roll was only reserved for visitors, we had to make do with newspaper!



© Joan Noble

Holiday journeys

Driving to the seaside was less boring using the i-Spy series



The i-SPY series began in 1948 when Charles Warrell, known by i-SPY spotters as 'The Chief', began selling small paperbacks in his local Woolworths.

As the series' popularity soared, so did the number of i-SPY titles available to spot. The series was supported by News Chronicle in the 1950s, then published by the Daily Mail until the late 1980s, when publication was taken over by Michelin.

For holidays in Britain i-Spy *On the Road* and *At the Seaside* were a must for many children

Long journey south ...

Teri Kopec recalls journeys from Snarestone to the south coast ...

I used to long to go to somewhere like Butlins for our holidays but we could not afford it so always went camping to places like Bognor Regis or Clacton. Not a great holiday for mum as she had to do all the cooking on a small calor gas cooker, and the shower blocks were dank, spider ridden places which took an old tanner (6 pence) in the meter for about 5 minutes luke warm water. Mum used to tell us to share the shower with my sisters to save money. We used to sometimes go with the neighbours or aunts and uncles and always had a good time. Waiting for the photos to come back from the developers was always eagerly anticipated.



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Foundation
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NEXT ISSUE

Back to school
The EE Project

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