

# Heritage Boards Appleby Magna

Created by Sir John Moore Foundation Local History Café Extended  
Group and Heritage Team for Hello Heritage 2020

Supported by North-West Leicestershire District Council

# Hello Heritage...

## Sir John Moore Foundation



Engraving of the School from about 1800—What has changed?

This Christopher Wren designed school opened in 1697. It was endowed by Sir John Moore who was born locally and became Lord Mayor of London.

The building is Grade 1 listed and is widely regarded as the finest example of a late 17<sup>th</sup> school in the country.

The building has been a school for all but a brief period. It currently hosts the Sir John Moore Primary School. For this reason, visits are by appointment only.



A re-imagined classroom from 1891

The top floor (behind the round windows) originally housed dormitories for boarding pupils. There is now an accredited museum with recreated school rooms, including this classroom, and a gallery with changing exhibitions.

Tours can be arranged by appointment and on regular open days. See [www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk](http://www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk) for more details.

Tours include a visit to the original school hall. We have an accessible ground floor space where we also host community activities and displays.



The bell—which is 16th century—was originally in the dome

Mr Riley on the flat roof next to the cupola which housed the bell (origins unknown) in about 1900. He was head of the English / village school 1887 – 1925.

At this time, the village school co-existed with the original Latin / grammar school. Its head from 1873 – 1891 was William Bamber.

The pupils came in through separate entrances. The village children used the path along the boundary wall – as they do now.



Original clock mechanism

Behind the clock face a windowless room houses this original clock mechanism (although they are no longer connected).

Part of the original design of the building, it is a pendulum clock – a type only invented in 1656. It was connected to the bell which struck on the hour to regulate a school day which started at 7am in summer.

Precise time was a novelty in this period – the original clock only had an hour hand.

# Hello Heritage...

## The National School and Church St Shops



The postcard shows this building, then a National School. It was built to educate village girls (who were excluded from the Sir John Moore school). It opened in 1845, funded by then Squire George Moore.

National Schools were founded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education. They provided elementary education, in accordance with the teachings of the Church of England to children of the poor. During this period education was first provided to almost all children.

Now a Church Hall it provides facilities for the Church and a social meeting place for the village.



In 1934, the girls were joined by the younger boys from the English (village) school to create a mixed Primary School.

Numbers of pupils proved too large for the facilities. In 1935 an inspector reported 96 children registered, with 3 classes, 2 taught in 1 room. Additional space was found in the Baptist Chapel on Church St (now demolished) and a temporary canteen. In 1947 water supplies to all 3 buildings were declared unfit to drink.

These arrangements continued until 1957! This picture shows Leaving Day after which the children moved to a refurbished SJM building, where they remain today.



Before supermarkets and widespread car ownership most people shopped locally. In the 1950's there were many village shops including, on Church St, a butcher, a baker and an ironmonger. None of these remain but you can still see signs of a shop window and of Bates general store (opposite Bowley's Lane), both now private accommodation. There was also a Co-op, demolished when Wren Close was built.

Additionally, retail vans visited the village, either on a regular basis or to deliver a specific order. These included paraffin for stoves and lamps, more extensive groceries and pots and pans.



# Hello Heritage...

## St Michael and All Angels' Church and The Almshouses

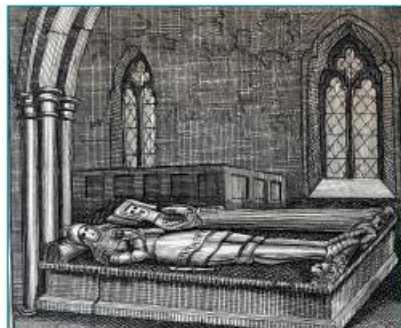


From Nichols, History and Antiquities of Leicestershire 1811

This church was built in the first part of the 14<sup>th</sup> century in the Decorated Gothic style.

The engraving shown was based on a late 18<sup>th</sup> century drawing by John Glover, at that point a Writing Master at the SJM school. At the end of his life he was a painter of Australian landscapes.

There were extensive renovations and remodeling of the church during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, much of it funded by the Moore family.



These tombs are in an area now used as a vestry

The de Appleby chapel in the NE corner is the earliest part of the church. It contains the tombs and alabaster effigies of Sir Edmund of Appleby and his wife, Lady Joan. Sir Edmund lived in the Moat House, fought in the battle of Crecy, and died around 1375.

Other interesting memorials include a stained-glass window to William Bamber, a SJM school head, and a plaque to Joyce de Appleby a protestant martyr in 1557.



An early example of a syndicated magazine

The Parish Magazine remains a valued way of sharing village news. The Appleby Parish magazine dates from 1882. A first edition is held by the museum at the SJMF.

In early editions, what initially seems to be a local magazine, contained only one page of local information. The rest appears to be shared content with a moral / spiritual focus. Which geographic area received this shared content is unknown – but it was published in Beverley, Yorkshire.



Unchanged building but 20th century photo shows cultivated gardens

The Almshouses (behind you) were funded by the Misses Moore. These were 3 daughters of Squire George Moore. They were born in the 1770s and remained unmarried.

Built in 1839, following the closure of a workhouse in Measham, the Almshouses consisted of 5 cottages and gardens. They were let for a modest rent to poor persons of the Parish who were of "good character and repair and members of the established Church".

# Hello Heritage...

## The Moat House



There are records of William de Appleby living in the Manor House on a moated site in 1166. The remaining stone gatehouse dates from the 15<sup>th</sup> century (the main house has disappeared). The de Appleby family (see Church board for more information) left in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. The timber framed additions date from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and there was a Victorian brick extension in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century there are records of this house being occupied by tenant farmers.

This engraving, based on a drawing by John Glover, a master at the SJM school, dates from 1790.



This view of the Moat House, c. 1900, is no longer visible due to hedges and trees. The more open landscape seen here (and see Eastgate House board) must have given a quite different sense of the village.

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the house was occupied by two or three different households of tenant farmers. The moat was dry, but still obvious, with wooden bridges erected over the gap.

The house deteriorated and without drainage, mains water or other services it was condemned in 1960, the families re-housed, and the house likely to be demolished.



Thanks to new owners and a public grant the house was saved, modernised and has become a family home. Subsequent owners have continued to maintain and improve it. It is now a Grade II\* listed building and its site a Scheduled Ancient Monument in the heart of Appleby's Conservation Area.

Understanding how buildings have changed over time often draws from paintings, but some are more accurate than others. This is a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century watercolour of the Moat House by James Lawson Stewart. His London street scenes illustrated Charles Dickens' novels. Some of the features shown here are certainly artistic license!



# Hello Heritage...

## The Old Rectory



Aubrey Moore's memoir of village life was published in 1982. His father, Charles, was rector from 1877 to 1922. He was appointed by his brother, Squire George of Appleby Hall (now demolished), whose estate included 'the gift of the Rectorial Living of Appleby'.

The Rector played a significant role in local life. He and his wife visited the poor and sick, hot soup was dispensed weekly to the elderly, and they hosted events including the Choir Supper to recognise those contributing to church life. The rector was also a keen participant in fox hunting which continued here (see inset picture).



Built in 1807, the Rectory originally had 50 acres of farmland which provided produce for the household.

A grand house required many staff. This photograph shows a groom, gardener, stockman, cook, housemaid, governess and housemaid. Aubrey also remembered a butler and other 'outdoor' staff for farm work.

Without domestic appliances, or services such as electricity, the work was hard. All heating and cooking required coal to be brought in, and cooling required ice collected twice a week from Measham Station. Bread and butter were made twice a week – and visitors knew on which days to call!



Aubrey was the last of the Moore family to live in Appleby. He and his father were enthusiastic adopters of new technologies, including motorbikes and early cars. These were often unreliable, not helped by unmade roads.

Squire George and Rector Charles were descendants of Sir John Moore's elder brother. Much earlier generations, Sir John Moore's nephews, supervised the building of the school.

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century also saw social change for the family. Aubrey briefly attended the village school. He said "It taught me about other boys and their upbringing and cured me of being the spoilt brat I was."

# Hello Heritage...

## The Black Horse Inn and nearby Sunken Lanes



This postcard is captioned 'Bull Ring, Appleby Magna'

The Black Horse dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and may well have originally been a house. In 1789 it was sold as the Black Horse. From 1827 ownership passed to a brewery, initially Bass & Ratcliff, to discharge debts. A major fire in 1932 destroyed the thatched roof. It was rebuilt with an additional floor.

This card shows this area referred to as The Bull Ring – although the reason is not known.

Appleby Magna & Parva still have three pubs. But at least 2 have been lost – the Queen Adelaide and the Anchor. The Appleby Inn was previously called the Moore Arms.

Sunken lanes, also known as holloways, were created by centuries of use by herdsman or drovers moving cattle.

Mawby's Lane was previously known as Cow Lane. Widening has changed its appearance, but signs do remain.

The name Stoney Lane usually refers to crofters' practice of clearing stones from their fields into the lane. In Appleby, this lane was lined with magnificent Elm trees so that even in the height of summer it was cool and shady. These were lost to Dutch Elm disease.

The view from Measham Road, down Stoney Lane, gives the best sense of how these lanes looked.



This evocative photograph with period clothes and cars, also shows changes to the pub and street scene. This shows the pub with a thatched roof and two floors.



The right side of Duck Lake still looks like this. The name derives from once frequent flooding. On the left were 2 farms and cottages now replaced with new houses.



The route cattle followed through Appleby seems likely to have been Stoney Lane followed by Duck Lake then Mawby's Lane. Perhaps they stayed at Herdsman's Croft on Duck Lake overnight.



# Hello Heritage...

## Eastgate House



The house in the early 20th century

Built in 1720, Eastgate House was originally the home and workplace of the Estate Manager for the Bosworth Hall Estate. The distinctive look of the house is created by Flemish Bond brickwork where 'headers' are placed between 'stretchers' in alternate rows. This provides structure as well as visual impact.

Behind the house (alongside the footpath) are buildings which were originally a gig house and stables. A gig was a light two-wheeled carriage pulled by one horse. Its use is indicative of the status of the manager. These outbuildings have had various uses over the years, including as a blacksmith.

This end of Top Street is part of the Conservation Area and has some of the oldest remaining houses in the village which, like Eastgate House, are separately listed.

Walk to your left to see the one remaining thatched cottage – we know that there was another, occupied by the Garton family, where new houses are now.

To your right are some 17<sup>th</sup> century houses in both brick and stone at 8, 12, 14 – 16, (formally one property known as Walker's Hall after David Walker, a yeoman). Opposite the Black Horse (see separate board) is No 1, Hill House.



These steps led to the Estate Office where tenants would have come. You can see signs of heavy wear and that they have been turned over to extend their use.



Hall Yard, the footpath joining Top St to Church St looks quite different today with hedges and fences. Walk down and the footpath on the right leads to the Moat House.



Although the carving is worn, this date stone in the lintel above the door shows that 2020 is the 300-year anniversary of this house.



# Hello Heritage...

## Appleby Magna—A Village through time



Aerial photograph of the village taken in the 1930's

Welcome to our village. Appleby Magna or Appleberie as it was known in Saxon times later took the Danish ending -by. Appleby has strong links with the past. The school and the Moat House are well documented historic buildings. There are 27 listed structures in the parish and the village has a Conservation Area. Other places worth viewing are the Church and the Almshouses and the bridge across the stream at Old End. The village was described by Nichols History of Leicestershire in 1811 "... viewed from any point, no village is better bosom'd in trees"

The place name Appleby is a combination of Saxon and Danish elements and this is an indication that the settlement appears to date in the Saxon period before the Danish invasions of the 9th century. Archaeological evidence suggests that human activity in and around the Appleby Magna area was as early as the Neolithic Period around 6000 years ago. It is likely that there was a simple Iron Age settlement near Appleby Magna based on evidence from a series of crop marks. It was most probably a collection of single roomed wattle and daub roundhouses surrounding a central area.



Archaeological excavations in advance of building the hotel at Appleby Fields produced evidence of a small 4th century Roman Farmstead. There was also evidence of a corn drying oven.



Appleby first appeared on a map from a survey of 1576. This map is based in the first Ordnance Survey Of the area. It's dated 1882.



The Old Post Office was situated on the corner of Black Horse Hill and Mawbys Lane. The image shows the Munday family and staff outside in 1903.



Other Hello Heritage boards are sited around the village ...



After the 1947 Planning Act there was an increased need for housing within the village and the 1950s saw a boom in construction in Appleby.