

Local History Cafe



Sir John Moore Foundation, Appleby Magna

A walk around the village ...

Extracts taken from "A Son of the Rectory"

The post office was next to the Crown pub, kept by Mrs Lucy Bowley and her daughter, Mabel, who sang in the choir and practised her shorthand by taking down the sermon. As a very small boy I took money to put in the savings bank. Mrs. Bowley would produce a little cloth bag into which I would place my bit of money, convinced it would stop there until I wanted it out. It was also a shop, which sold a variety of things from stationery to silks and cotton. Like most village post offices it was also the

gossip shop and I have cooled my heels outside for long enough when anything spicy had happened.



Next door was another bakery belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Smout and two daughters. The elder, Florry, was a schoolteacher, she and Fanny Smith taught at Measham for years. The younger one unfortunately had a defect in her hip so was partially crippled. Mr. Smout had a reputation for the beautiful cakes he

made. He was also a trained butler and stood in at the Hall when extra help was wanted. Besides selling bread and confectionery they sold chocolate and cigarettes. One could go in with sixpence, buy four bars of milk or plain chocolate, a packet of five cigarettes, Woodbine or Tabs, four boxes of matches and have threepence change.

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1

HISTORY MYSTERY

Last month's image was a kitchen item. Strawberry Tweezers!

2

1882 HARVEST SERVICE

The collection came to £8 3s 2d for the Infirmary at Leicester

3

UP COMING DATES

History Cafe Meetings
17th November*

* To be confirmed



November 5th

Guy Fawkes Night commemorates the failure of The Gun Powder Plot in 1605

Roasted Potatoes



Anne Silins recalls November 5th from her Country Diary

Appleby's Village Shops



Allan Condie details village shops in the 1950's on Page 2



The Village Shop ...

Taken from Allan Condie's detailed article on applebymagna.org.uk

In the 1950s Appleby possessed a number of shops. Firstly there was the Post Office on the corner of Black Horse Hill and Mawby's Lane. Aside from the Post Office the shop was a Grocers and General Merchants. It was the first shop in Appleby to get a deep freeze apart from the usual Ice Cream Cabinet, bringing the products of Captain Birds Eye to Appleby folk.

The Coalville and District Co-operative Society were resident in the former Bates' shop in Church Street. This was in the hands of the redoubtable Reggie Betteridge, aided and abetted by Pat Gothard and Lorna Lees. Mrs Johnson kept a small shop in Top Street – the cottage opposite Snarestone Lane. A limited range of groceries were available, and confectionery, but in the days of paraffin stoves and lamps, a tank round the back supplied Esso 'Blue'.

There were in my time two Butchers in the village, Lenny Betteridge had a shop in Church Street just down from the Church before you reached the Crown, and Messrs Starbuck & Taylor resided in Rock House on Mawby's Lane.

For everything else you relied on vans, although both Appleby Butchers also covered the local area by that means. Butchers who visited the village were Harry Ensor and Billy Ball from Measham; in the early 1950s Lionel Woodfield who had a pork butchers in Measham. The Co-op also had a butchers van which came from Coalville, Cyril Bull from Snarestone and Dawkins from Congerstone also attended.

Groceries were a different matter, what you couldn't get in the village came from either Measham or Ashby. Normal practice was that

a representative called and arranged delivery of the order later. Mr Ordish came from Simpkin & James at Ashby, and Mr Archer from Bullens. Mr Petcher from Measham however came in a van, but anything that was not on board could be ordered for the next visit.

Now to Bakers. Hughie Richardson from Netherseal called with his Reliant Van, and Blunts from Austrey plus the Co-op bakery van from Coalville.

The highlight of the week was a Thursday when a Ford Thames Cost Cutter arrived outside the Black Horse and the cry of 'Oil Duckie' resonated off the 17th century



brickwork at the side of Hill House. This was Grace Carter, nee Cull, with her husband Jabis. They had a shop at Overseal, but the van carried everything from pots and pans to tins of soup. It also had a paraffin tank and supplied 'oil' for the hurricane lamps and Valor stoves. Grace's father Bert used to deliver tractor vaporising oil (TVO) to the farms, using an ancient Austin car towing an ex War Bowser. He hand pumped this into the tanks on the farm. This business later passed to Buckleys when proper road tankers were evident.

Edgar Wileman retired from the Post-Office in the late 1950s but kept the shop on for a time until he moved to Rhyl to be near his daughter Peggy. Tom Lakin took over the Post Office and it moved to the cottages down Mawby's lane opposite Duck Lake.

© Allan Condie's 2011

Sir John Moore Foundation Heritage Centre Facebook

Our most popular post this month was all about scrumping apples

Many of you may know our online presence has been growing over the last month. We have been developing our Facebook page especially, so we thought it would be a great opportunity to share some of stories and pages that have been attracting the most attention from the wider public.



We share several different types of pages. Some are maps from the archives as well as photographs and documents such as newspaper cuttings.



We would like to encourage everyone to 'like' our page on Facebook and help us develop it further. Tell your family and friends ...

My brother and I had an old apple tree in our garden that had had three grafted apples on it over the years. One the original was an old cooking apple the second was a sweet small pink flesh eating apple that was last to ripen. The last one was an all round very crunchy slightly tart eating apple that was dark green. All of them were so nice. We loved them but we often eat the cooking apples by mistake when they were small because they were like the small dark green ones before they grew bigger. We soon learned the difference after two or three afternoons with tummy ache ...

Angela Hudson

We used to scrump from the vicarage garden in Appleby. His orchard used to back onto the field

Wayne Carter



© Ron Embleton

Scrumped in Appleby Vicarage garden. Took a bag of sugar with us to dip them in. They were really sour

Steve Guest

The noble art of scrumping is a long lost autumn pastime! Healthy food and exercise too.

Derrick Harris

I got caught scrumping when I had my leg in plaster and I was on two crutches! I really do not know what was thinking but no matter how adept I was at using the crutches the orchard owner could run faster and I was caught!

However he took pity on me and gave me some apples to take home

Mandy Hoggart

We got caught scrumping by our local bobby and gift a clip around the ear for our troubles. To add insult to injury we had to dig his garden as punishment ... and he kept the apples as well !

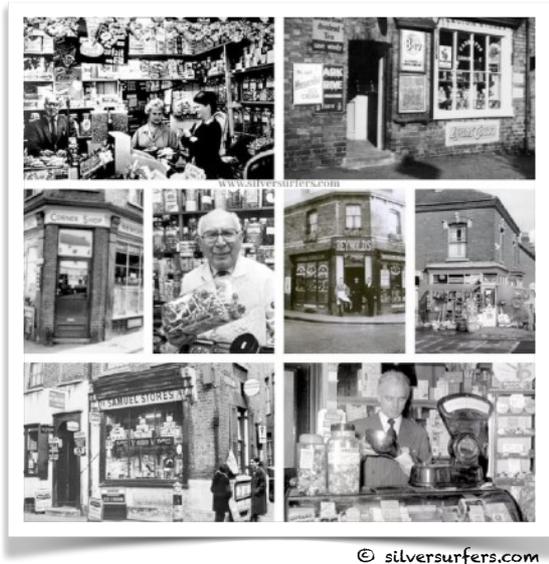
Rita-Mick Simmonds

“Whats happening on Whats App ...”

What’s been online this month

This month there was the usual eclectic mix of stories including gardening, green shield stamps, and Appleby Hall. We also discussed corner shops. Marina was brought up in Birmingham and remembers a corner shop close to her ...

“There was a wonderful corner shop in Alum Rock, Birmingham when I grew up in the 40s. It was a hardware shop which wrapped around the corner, in a prime location. It was an Aladdin's cave for the stock it kept, but light and spacious. Outside, on both sides and at the front, it was festooned with galvanized buckets and tubs, heavy brooms and mops and all manner of gardening tools - spades, hoes, metal sieves, hoses, etc hanging on hooks. Inside, I think



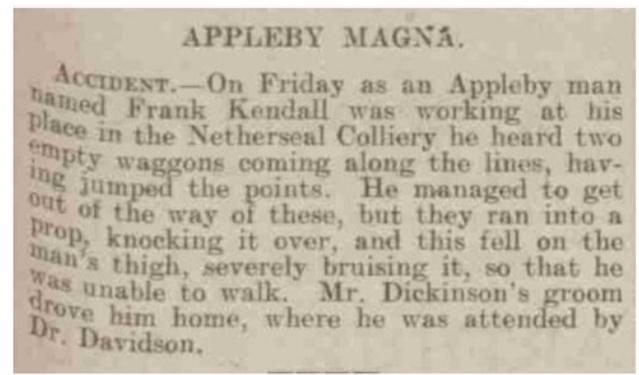
the floor was covered in wood shavings and around the walls were dozens of wooden tubs, holding everything from corn to dog biscuits. The shop was there for many years and provided a first-class service to the local community. Something fondly remembered.”

Colliery Accident...

Tamworth Herald reports an injury to an Appleby man ...

Netherseal Colliery was a source of employment for many Appleby Magna men over the years. It was originally sunk in 1867 by Binns Jackson and Company.

In 1874 it was taken over by the Netherseal Colliery Company which became a Limited company in 1881.



© NorthCliffe Media Ltd

It was always known as a ‘wet’ pit due to the water table constantly breaking through and this eventually lead to its demise in 1947 when flooding made the mine unsafe and uneconomic to run. A report stated it was “riddled with faults, washouts and bad work.”

We would like to feature other colliery stories in future Newsletters so if you have any stories please let us know through the usual channels.

History mystery ???

This month we are going to start off by giving you the answer to our History Mystery. It is a dice! But how old do you think it is and what language is on each face of the six sides?

The answer will be in our December Newsletter



Roasted potatoes ...

Taken from Anne Silins Appleby Magna Country Diary for November ...

After school on Guy Fawkes Day we children would race around yelling “Remember, remember the 5th of November” at the top of our lungs. This caused great upset for any cows being moved at this time of day - milking time. Women stood in their doorways shaking their fists and flapping their aprons in our direction. You see an upset, excited cow will usually lose control of its bodily functions. All during the week before November 5th the older boys and girls had been going from door to door collecting rubbish. All this rubbish was gathered and carried to a nearby field just off Church Street where a huge bonfire was built. As dusk approached, a prepared straw effigy of Guy was set on top of the bonfire. Everyone assembled and the fire was lit. The leathery smell of damp leaves blended with the smell of burning wood, sparks flew in all directions.. All of us faced towards the fire. Soon our fronts would be as hot as an ironing board and steam rose from our clothing and our Wellington boots. As the fire burned lower, older boys put potatoes into the embers for everyone. These potatoes had been begged from local farmers. Roasted potatoes never tasted so good as those crisp, burnt ones on a cold winter evening. We followed our families home, dragging our feet in the long, wet grass. In the distance behind us, we could hear the giggles, squeals and laughter as the older boys chased the older girls towards hedges, haystacks and barns. We knew the evening was just beginning for them, but we really were never quite sure what it all meant.

© anne silins

Facebook Snippets ...

Local History Cafe Online

A lot of the conversation on Local History Online Facebook Pages this month have been based on local heritage including Nottinghamshire Archaeology Data and Winston Knitters Museum. The Erewash Museum also shared some of its West Hallam Pottery images.

LOCAL HISTORY CAFE ONLINE NOW MIDLANDS WIDE

With restrictions in place for some time to come, we are widening our reach to support more older community members at risk of, experiencing or looking to keep isolation and loneliness at bay.

If you are an individual or organisation with a presentation on Midlands history and heritage, we would love to hear from you. £40 fee available for 45 - 60 minutes.

To get in touch, join our [Local History Cafe Online Facebook group](#) and send us a message.



The biggest news is that the Group is seeking to cover wider subject area talks, covering the whole of the Midlands ...

'Belgian Refugees'

A meeting, chaired by George Moore and attended by Rev. C T Moore was held in November 1914 in the Grammar School in Appleby Magna.



It was decided that The Grammar School House could be used by Belgian refugees and to supply, free of charge, a monthly supply of house coal, from Netherseal Colliery ...

© Tamworth Herald 14th November 1914 © Northcliffe Media Ltd



The Family Shop ...

Anne Silins was born above the village shop ...

I was born in the upstairs front bedroom, the room above the Shop in Church Street, Appleby Magna in October 1937. Some of my earliest memories are of that Shop and of the life which surrounded the Shop. I still cannot believe how lucky I was to have been born in that village of Appleby. It has been a blessing. I learned so much in those years that I lived and grew there. Lessons from the villagers that I came in contact with daily, and lessons which have helped

In this month

1936 ... The BBC started the worlds first regular TV service

1605 ... Guy Fawkes arrested trying to blow up Parliament.

1919 .. Nancy Astor becomes the first woman MP

me all through my life.

The village shop back then was so much more than a place to buy merchandise. It was a social place, a place where women gathered to buy their bits and pieces each day. The stock was arranged on shelves all around the walls. The shop was filled with the most wonderful aroma. The smells of cooked meats and spice, fresh bread and cheese all mixed with soaps and sweets. The whole place was full of

noise: customers talking, the patting and slapping of butter, the clang of weights on the scale, the sound of knives being sharpened and the ring of the door bell.



A large round of Leicester cheese sat on the counter. Hanging near it was a wire with wooden handles at each end, which was used to cut the cheese into smaller pieces. Customers would indicate the required size by holding up a thumb and forefinger.

I remember 'Sunlight', 'Lifebuoy' and 'Magical' soap packets were on the low shelves just where a little girl could play with them. Unwrapped, long bars of scrubbing soap sat next to them and hanging from a nail close by, a very sharp knife which was used to cut off the amount a customer needed.

It was wartime and everyone had a ration book. Ration books were for foodstuffs, clothes and petrol. The women of the village were very careful when making their purchases, and they guarded their ration books with great care.

Peelings ...

The census of 1841 showed there were 5 blacksmiths - shoeing horses and making wrought iron products for farm and home in the village of Appleby Magna ...



www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk



SirJohn
Moore Foundation
Heritage Centre



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

NEXT ISSUE

Winter
Yuletide Cheer

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