

Local History Cafe



Sir John Moore Foundation, Appleby Magna

Graveyard Games ...

Another memory from Anne Silins taken from applebymagna.org.uk

We children played a game similar to tag in the cemetery. The home base, where you were 'safe', was the headstone of any person who had been a member of your family. I stood a good chance of winning, even though I was the youngest and couldn't run as fast as the others. I had a lot of ancestors in the cemetery and I quickly learned the location of all their graves. Disputes arose from time to time over the name of



an aunt, cousins or other distant family members. Some playmates were not above inventing a few relations in order to be 'safe' and so not 'out' of the game. For justice to be done we would all march off to the mother of that playmate. The mother would counsel us and verify names. Many mothers were amazed at our interest in family history, until they realised that our games involved family headstones. We ran in the space between the graves, the paths making a grid or checkerboard pattern. The words we use to-day for death and dying would have been foreign to the children of Appleby."

1

HISTORY MYSTERY

Last months image was a 13th Century Jews Harp ...

2

QUOTE, UNQUOTE !

"We are not makers of history. We are made by history!"

Martin Luther King Jr

3

HISTORY CAFE MEETS

15th September, 10 am
at Duncans House,
22 Botts Lane
Appleby, DE12 7AL



Model Railways

The 1950's saw the rise of a model railways as a popular hobby



Dictionary Corner

Sonia Liff, a current LHC member, talks about Dr Samuel Johnson ...

The full story is on Page 6

Hello Heritage



Appleby's Local History Cafe are out and about. Page 3

“Whats happening on Whats App ...”

What’s been online this month

As things are slowly returning to the “new normal” traffic on the SJMF LHC & Volunteers Whats App has reduced quite a bit.

The topics still are wide and varied and this last month have concentrated around the topic of gardening Jean Turnbull has been harvesting her produce as well as making ‘bramble’ jelly. It was also this month that’s



Karen shared this stunning image of her ‘nearly white hydrangea’ that was in full bloom in her garden

Jean and her husband Bob celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary and the group sent them their best wishes.

Sonia arranged our next meeting in the village to finalise the positions of the boards for Hello Heritage. Our first actual face to social distant face meeting since February. There is a full story of how the group got on on Page 3.

Ashby Marblers ...

Duncan Saunders recalls the game of marbles ...

Duncan was a pupil at Ashby Grammar School in the 1950s, and explained that the younger boys' status was defined by the size and number of the content of his bag of marbles. He remembers that the school playground where it borders on the old A50 had, and still has, some magnificent beech trees and the surface roots provided some very good and natural basin type holes.



The objective for the boys was to get their marbles into the chosen hole with the minimum of moves and the winner won all the other marbles. However, the base of the trees had a non tarmac border which meant the marblers were referred to as the “dirty finger brigade” by the staff.

Duncan also recalls that another challenge was that of making a paper dart that would fly over one of the single storey buildings; that was quite difficult but not impossible.

History mystery ???

This months History Mystery Object would have been common both in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was worn around the neck of both men and women ...

The answer will be in our October Newsletter



Board Meeting ...

Appleby's Local History Cafe get out around the village ...

The weather forecast of showers did not deter Appleby's History Cafe Members from enjoying a couple of hours around the village this month.



The group were doing the final planning for the installation of the Hello Heritage Boards that will be telling the historic past of many of the buildings around Appleby Magna.



Lead by Sonia and Heather each selected site was reconnoitred to find the best place for each board. They will be installed during the first week of September and remain in place for just over two weeks

Facebook Snippets ...

Local History Cafe Online

Kate Cross has been maintaining a full and varied stream of both live events and historical topics. The Weekly Quiz still continues to baffle and the Saturday Photo of the Week always amazes.



This month one of the Saturday Photo was of Neil Armstrong having a hearty breakfast on the morning he left on his historic journey to the moon in 1969. It's well worth a look at these Facebook pages

The Top and Whip

The predecessor to the spinning top, a Whip and Top consisted of a cylinder type object (The Top) with a pointed bottom and a stick with a string or piece of



leather tied to the end (The Whip). A child would set the top to spinning by wrapping the string around the top and give the stick a pull.

The child would keep the top Spinning by whipping it on the sides with the string or leather strap.



Appleby Magna's Local History Cafe Extended Group discussing the positioning of Hello Heritage Board outside Sir John Moore Foundation

Back to School

September has always been a time of new beginnings ...

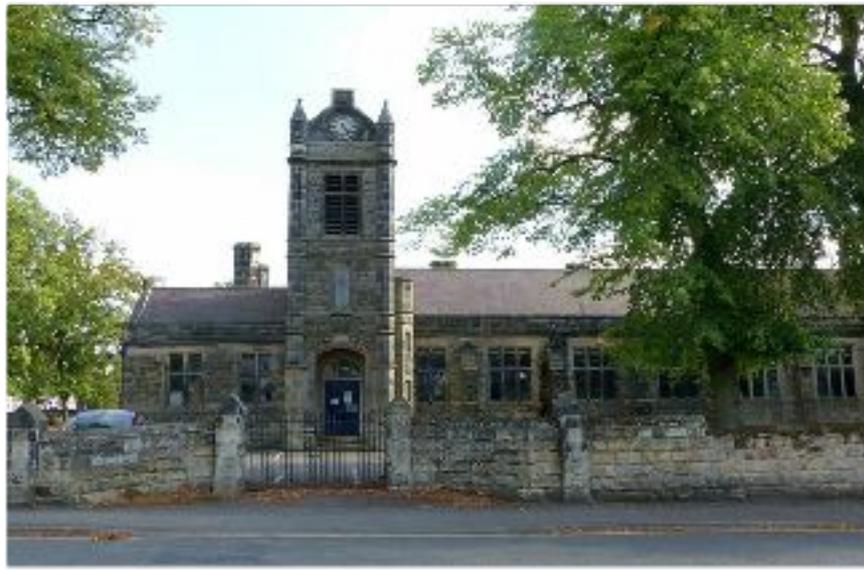
For many children the month of September held both fear and excitement. The summer holidays seemed endless but as the first leaves of autumn appeared on the trees, certain rituals started to manifest themselves. The back to school haircut! The new uniform that was always too big; but you will grow into it sometime before June the following year.

Reginald Joseph Eyre, spent his younger years at school in Appleby but remembers

attending Ashby Grammar School ...

“To get to Ashby Grammar School one had to catch the bus from the corner of Bowleys Lane at ten minutes past eight.

The bus was a “Royal Blue” owned by Charlie



Moore of Measham. The vehicles were Reo twenty-six seaters, petrol driven, with the driver seated inside the bus with the rest of us. There were a number of drivers but the conductor was Staffy Lewis, a well-known figure around

Measham and Charlie Moore’s father-in-law.”

Reginald found his first days there a complete change from life in Appleby Magna ...

“It was a complete contrast to anything I had

experienced before. A school uniform of, grey short trousers, a maroon blazer, grey flannel shirt, a maroon and grey knitted tie and a proper cap. The cap was maroon and grey in six segments with the school badge, the bull’s head from the coat of arms of

the Hastings family. The same badge was worn on the blazer. The school cap had to be worn at all times when out of school, even on days off if you were in the town you had to wear your cap!”

Jean Turnbull, LHC Member, recalls childhood games ...

In the schoolyard, skipping was a favourite. And marbles and 5 jacks. And tig, however if left to our own devices, we enjoyed playing 2 ball against a wall had all sorts of variations eg throwing one ball under your leg! If we had to be quiet eg during grandad's after

lunch snooze, various patience card games were the order of the day.

At home, we had a card game called "What" - you had to match the number value or shape denoted on the previous player's card to be able to play a card. First player to play all their cards won.

Games Kit

Marina Sketchley, current LHC member, went to school in Birmingham and remembers very noisy break times..



Marina recalls “the kids mostly played tag during playtime, screaming their heads off. Friendships, cliques and enemies were soon formed.

For outdoor sport, we were bussed to grounds in Washwood Heath. We played a little hockey and rounders. We played netball and I was goalie once - (scared I'd miss the ball if it came to me!).

For indoor sports, we had balancing on an upturned bench and jumping over a wooden horse. We made our own sports shorts, shiny black - looked very smart.”

A Page from History ...

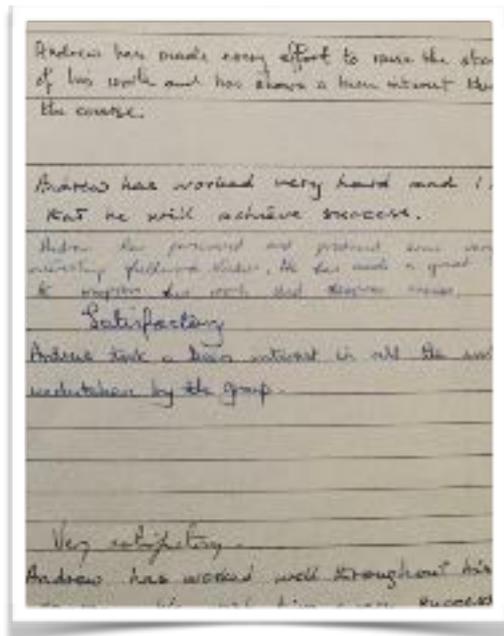
Pages that matter

There are great historic documents that steer us all throughout history recording events.

Many of them are great national documents, but some are personal and yet are still as important.

For current LHC member Andy Moore the last page in his school report served as his passport to a career in teaching.

“At eighteen and a half this page was my release paper into a whole new world on the other side of the teachers desk”



If you have a page that was significant in your life, let us showcase it here in our occasional series called “A Page from History”



The National School

From the memoirs of Eileen Margaret Lower

We all went to the school opposite the church. I remember my first day at school which would be in 1925. My cousin Evelyn Mary Rowland who was a year older than I was, escorted me. Mrs Tunnadine was the Headmistress and there were two other uncertificated teachers. Miss Woodward, who became Mrs Leslie Starbuck, and she was my first teacher. I remember that there was a bad thunder storm one afternoon and I was terrified. She had me on her knee and covered my face with her cardigan so that I would not see the lightening. Teachers were usually very strict in those days and often really cruel and sadistic monsters. She was not like that.”

In this month

1666 ... The Great Fire of London starts in Pudding Lane

1840 ... Britain and France declare war on Germany.

1758 Birth of Horatio Nelson

Dictionary Corner

Sonia Liff sets the record straight ...

In the 'Peelings' section of the August Newsletter we commented on how Dr Samuel Johnson was turned down as a Latin Master at SJM School. Sonia tells a fuller story!

"Johnson came from a relatively poor background and couldn't afford to go to university until the family inherited a bit of money. He went to Oxford University in 1728 but left after little more than a year without a degree, because he didn't have the funds to continue paying the fees. In the 10 years between then and his application to SJM he had applied for teaching jobs in several Midlands reputable schools and was turned down by them all. (He worked briefly at the Dixie school but was



classed as a servant rather than a teacher). The reason was the same in all cases, that he didn't have a degree. Sonia thinks that the SJM school statutes specify that the senior teachers had to have a master's degree from Oxford or Cambridge. He tried to get various people to petition Oxford U to give



him a degree without going back to study. He must have applied for these jobs even though he must have known that he didn't meet the requirements. It wasn't until 1755 just before his dictionary was published that they agreed to award him a degree in recognition of that work. The "Doctor" Johnson title refers to honorary doctorates from Dublin in 1765 and Oxford in 1775.

Sonia says that the requirement to have qualifications was in line with Sir John Moore's stress on the value of education, rather than other indications of merit and seems to have been widespread at the time. However this approach, sometimes known as 'credentialism', has come in for recent criticism from an equal opportunities perspective



Mind you if he had got one of those jobs he presumably would not have developed his writing career!"



www.sirjohnmoore.org.uk



SirJohn Moore Foundation Heritage Centre



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

NEXT ISSUE
All Hallows Eve
Autumn Fruits




Peelings ...
On a Sunday morning in September 1932 the thatched roof of the Black Horse Inn caught fire! Strong south westerly winds made it difficult to extinguish ...