



NEWSletter

Number 59

Time moves on ...

Digging up the past ...

Volunteers at the museum have been hearing rumours about a time capsule for some time. Then when we were digging around in the museum's collections room, we found a newspaper clipping. In November 1989, the Brownies had buried a time capsule in the church grounds. But there were no other clues about the location! And the contents seemed to include lots of Brownies items – but again, no real information. So our intrepid Museum Manager Sally (or super sleuth) got on the case. She tracked down Maria, who was the volunteer running the Brownies at that time.

Following Maria's information, it seems to have been buried somewhere near the church. And – there was another time capsule buried somewhere in the grounds of the Sir John Moore primary school in 2000! We last saw Sally heading off in the direction of the village with a spade. Updates to follow....

Do you have memories of a time capsule being buried? Get in touch:

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The end of an era ...

The past crumbles ...

In 1889, Appleby Hall was up for sale. Over a few decades it was sold off, piece by piece. The collection at the Sir John Moore Foundation Museum houses many of the sales catalogues.

However the Appleby Hall Estate was more than simply a grand house. It was a source of employment for many people in the village. And in February 1889, the parish magazine shows that a soup kitchen was organised by a Miss Muir. It is not known how many people had to make use of this charity, but the fact that it was necessary at all shows just how many people were affected by the Hall's demise.



Anne Silins recalls ...

*Mr. Vincent Saddington. Teacher and my Saturday morning
Arithmetic Tutor.*

Vincent Charles Saddington, lived with his sister at Bateman House, Top Street, Appleby Magna. My Grandparents decided to send me to the Ivanhoe Modern School in Ashby de la Zouch rather than move with the other Appleby students to the school in



Ibstock. I missed being with the village students on their bus to Ibstock. Soon, as happens with young people, I got used to catching the Ashby Midland Red bus where it stopped along side the stone wall in front of the Alms Houses. Once aboard I listened to the conversations and giggles of the young women who travelled each morning to jobs in Ashby or Measham. Later and after our move to Lower Rectory Farm, I waited for the same bus after carefully placing my Wellington boots open side down on the side of our ditch. By doing this, I found my Wellies were dry for the walk down our muddy driveway and across the barnyard to the kitchen door. Mr. Saddington rode the Ashby bus with me, he boarded the bus at the Bull Ring, where Snarestone Lane and Top Street meet. He usually read a book on our

journey, and so did I. He enjoyed quizzing me about the books I was reading. Usually these books were gifts from my Godmother, Eileen (Chapman) Lower, who was also a teacher. Most were from the series of books by author Enid Blyton - "the Five Adventures". Mr. Saddington would quiz me about the plots, the character studies and the endings, he would ask, "was I happy with the end". He wanted me to have an answer. As an adult I realised that I slowly learned a great deal from those morning rides sitting beside him. As a child I was teased by my family about 'always having my head in a book', and yes I usually did have my head in a book. Perhaps that is why I have joined so many book clubs over the years.

Mr. Saddington taught at the Ivanhoe Modern School and his subjects were for the most part Science and Arithmetic. For many of us girls he made these subjects we thought of as dull, interesting and sometimes exciting. For the boys in our classes they took to these subjects like 'ducks to water'. He never raised his voice, and he had an excellent aim when he threw a piece of chalk at a student's back, a student who was 'larking around'. "Ouch" yelled the receiver as the chalk found its mark, and for that day, at least, he paid attention. With all of Mr. Saddington's teaching I still had problems with Arithmetic. After studying my school report card one Christmas my Grandparents decided that I needed some extra studies in Arithmetic. My low marks must improve. And so each Saturday morning I would ride my bicycle, be seated at Mr. Saddington's kitchen table studying my number tables, learning fractions, divisions and multiplication until my report card showed some improvement.

There was a bonus to those Saturday morning classes, Mr. Saddington's sister was an excellent baker. There was always a special snack set out for me, it made a rainy morning ride worth getting wet.



I remember Hopscotch, though the teachers never happy with you chalking the grids in the playground. I also recall something we called "kingfisher" that involved throwing a tennis ball at each other to get hits, if I recall right.

Stephen Nugent

I recall a game called Snobs, but I cant remember the rules. Also skipping, double ball and bouncing a ball up against the wall, all in Summer of course.

Hated being sent out to 'play' in the freezing cold of Winter.

Hilary Walton

I remember as girls playing skipping games, also many games played in groups like 'Oranges and Lemons', 'Who stole the watch and chain', 'Poor Jenny is a weeping', 'Farmers in his den' and 'What's the time Mr. Wolf'.

Janet Wall

May has played a crucial role in various aspects of British history, intertwining seasonal celebrations with significant events. The celebration of May Day, observed on the first of May, has ancient roots, with traditions that include Maypole dancing and crowning a May Queen. These festivities were not only about welcoming spring but also about community bonding and celebrating fertility.

In 1536, the marriage of King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn marked a turning point in religious and political history, as it led to the establishment of the Church of England, fundamentally altering the religious landscape of the nation.

The Mayflower's departure in 1620 was another landmark moment. This voyage carried a group of English Pilgrims seeking religious freedom to the New World, ultimately leading to the establishment of Plymouth Colony and influencing the future of American society.

The 20th century brought forth significant social changes as well. The Women's Institute, founded in 1915, aimed to empower women through education and community service, playing a vital role in rural life and the war effort during World War I and this continued during the Second World War.



These events, among others, illustrate how Maytime has been a period of both celebration and transformation in the UK's history, reflecting the resilience and evolving identity of its people.

In March the Local History Café had a fascinating talk from Danny Wells about the history of 'indoor gardening'. While the talk covered the changing fashions for particular house plants – some familiar, others less so – there was so much more of historical interest, including global explorers, urban development, architecture and domestic heating! While Danny opened his talk by showing us an image of a book from 1638 describing indoor plants, he also told us that the Chelsea Flower Show only started judging them in 2021.

I expect many of us put our house plants on a window sill without much thought but we learnt that the invention of the sash window brought enough natural light into houses to allow plants to survive. This was further enhanced when heavy Victorian curtains and furniture gave way to lighter, more minimal fashions. Other domestic changes were not so benign – gas and coal fumes from lighting and fires, as well as the soot produced, meant only very tough plants could survive. Increasing urbanisation – often taking the form of houses with no, or very small, gardens – led to an increased interest in house plants. In recent years covid restrictions, and ongoing popularity of working from home has led to another revival.

The amount of care required for some plants to survive led them to be indicators of social class identifiable in 19th Century paintings. The diversity and popularity of plants also affected designs for wallpaper (such as William Morris) and the patterns that became popular on tea services. The design of Wedgwood's majolica vases and pots often competed with the plants or flowers they contained.

Initially many plants were cultivated for their fragrance, culinary or medicinal properties.

The history of the indoor plant ...

Danny Wells presented a talk considering the history of indoor gardening

Colonial exploration led to the availability of a much greater variety of plants. In some cases so many plants were collected that they threatened local populations – and many died on the voyage back to Britain or did not survive once there due to a lack of understanding of the conditions they needed.



Another source of new varieties was horticultural techniques to create new cultivars. One surprising example was 2000 hyacinth cultivars created from just four original varieties.

If you are interested in attending a future LHC meeting contact Sally on

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