

Local History Cafe

SJMF Heritage, Appleby Magna



Don't fence me in ...

Autumn is the season for Hedgerow Laying

Hedges have been described as quintessentially British frames for the landscape. Look at any picture postcard of a rural idyll and you will see a backdrop of rolling fields divided by a lattice of dense green foliage. And they are much more than an agricultural construct. They are a precious wildlife habitat and represent living archaeology. And just as we cherish, protect and restore our architectural heritage, so our hedges also need regular care and attention.

The oldest of these date back three or four millennia. They were literally whittled from the Iron Age woodland that stood on either side. The earliest were probably boundary markers (this was certainly their prime purpose for the Romans and Saxons), but by the late Middle Ages this changed as landowners



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started to legally seize the 'wastes'. These might be commons, heaths or even a village's communal fields.

These 'Enclosures' were doubly unpopular because they not only represented the loss of the mediaeval equivalent of allotments, but hedges were now there to contain livestock. This was far less labour-intensive than herding, so it meant job losses. As a result many newly-planted hedges were pulled up by indignant labourers – so many in fact that this became an offence punishable by transportation.

Hedges also reflect the agricultural history of the area. Across the richer land of Appleby Magna they were tall and thin and contained bigger trees which were often pollarded for fodder (the biggest perry orchard in Warwickshire is still effectively a series of hedges). But across Wales the aim was to contain and shelter sheep, so most remain low, thick and thorny. Along coasts, however, salt-burn stunts growth so many Devon and Cornish boundaries are just low prickly shrubs planted along earth-topped walls.



The turret clock at Sir John Moore Foundation

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The history of time pieces

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Marina Sketchley delves into the lives of Foundlings in the 18th Century

The next History Cafe meeting will be at 10.00 am on October 18th

Foundlings

Marina Sketchley researches some of these children lives ...

We are usually quite unaware of the struggles women endured in the 1700s in raising their families. They often had to give up their babies as they could not afford to look after them.



The Foundling Museum, London held an exhibition some time ago, of the tiny scraps of fabric the Foundling Hospital used to identify babies when they were given up by their mothers - and it reveals something of the heartbreak they endured.

Thomas Coram, a philanthropist, was born in Lyme Regis, Dorset in 1668 and died in London in 1751. He was a shipbuilder and naval captain who worked in the American colonies, and as a self-made businessman he made his fortune there.

When he saw young babies left on the streets of London to die he was horrified, and in 1741 he opened The Foundling Hospital in Bloomsbury, London (now the Foundling Museum and an independent charity) "For the maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children".

At that time half the babies in the city died.

Parents of poor or illegitimate children had two options - they could either leave them with the parish Poorhouse, or they could take them to the Workhouse, where the mortality rate was over 90%. Such was the need that The Foundling Hospital could not take all the babies brought or left on their steps. The Hospital was obliged to draw a ballot. Mothers would draw a white or a black ball from a bag - If it was black she was turned away.

On being accepted, they lost their birth identity on arrival; each baby was given a new name and hospital issue clothes. That scrap of cloth represented them, and it was kept in case the

baby was ever reclaimed. Of the 16,282 babies accepted by the Hospital between 1741 and 1760 only 152 were reclaimed.

Here are a few entries:

"A girl about one day old, admitted 4 March 1759. Named Sarah Tucker by the Foundling Hospital. Died 9 March 1759"

1757 A boy "Clothed with Rags and Swarming with Varmen".

1759 A note pinned to a boy's documents reads "Having a most dear and tender regard for it ... I have trusted it to a Charity establish'd upon so good a Foundation as knowing my circumstances will not permit me to take so great a care of it."

Ann Gardiner was cherished. Full details are given about her parents, her birth on "Octor ye 6th 1757" and place of baptism on "Octor ye 10th 1757". She was admitted on 13 January 1758 with a note: "Begg to have care Taken of her and they will pay all Charges in a little Time with a handsome acknowledgement for the same and have her home again when they get over a little trouble they are in. She is not a bastard child your care will be most gratefully acknowledged by your most obliged Humble Servant." How tragic. I wonder if she survived. Many patches featured red hearts. Sometimes mothers stitched on them initials, or names or dates of birth. Some had scenes of birds or butterflies, perhaps as a symbol of a more hopeful future.



The children who survived were sent to wet nurses for fostering until they were about five years old, then the Hospital took them back to educate them. When they were about 10 years old they were apprenticed to jobs in or around London. A 12 year old girl was apprenticed to a watch-case maker; a boy was apprenticed to a bricklayer in Essex. They were indeed the lucky ones.

Ticking on ...

Winding up ...

The turret clock on the north face of the Sir John Moore Foundation has been watching over Appleby Magna for over 300 years. Although we now take knowing the time for granted, in the seventeenth century the clock was a visual and audible reminder that the village was entering a new age of technology.

Prior to the construction of the school in 1697, village life functioned in time to natural rhythms such as the changing seasons and the position of the sun. With the industrial revolution, the development of public transport systems and the regimentation of school life an accurate method of telling the time was needed. People found themselves needing to know the precise time in order to catch stage coaches and later trains, start their shifts and arrive in lessons on time. The clock would have introduced a new sound to the village as it struck hourly using a complicated system of pulleys. The original bell, which was housed in the cupola, is dated 1585, pre-dating the school by over 100 years. It was later replaced, and is now a feature in the community lavender garden.

An additional hand was added to the clock face in 1773 to enable a more accurate reading of minutes

Parish News 1893 ...

An extract from The Parish Magazine ...

During the past year our Parish has good reason to be congratulated on the immunity from sickness that it has enjoyed, a blessing the value of which it is not possible to estimate whilst owing to an exceptionally bad harvest and other causes a generally depressed state of things has ensued both in the agricultural and commercial world, yet we must take courage and trust that the dark cloud which has seemed to be gathering more closely round us may be removed during the coming year. At the same time we cannot put out of sight the fact that prosperity can hardly be expected if indifference to religious matters, and a neglect of duty in this respect is encouraged and indulged. A New Year is distinctly a time to make resolutions for good for the future, and to amend the past.



A Concert in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes was held at the Grammar School on Wednesday, Dec. 7th. The programme was long and of varied character consisting of solos, choruses, and dialogues for the most part by children of the National Schools. It was opened by a prologue

well and distinctly spoken by Charles Garrod, after which the children sang the "Legend of the Bells" from Les Cloches de Corneville in excellent time and tune. The same may be said of the choruses sung later on, one in character "When I'm grown up" by four children being especially popular. The Musical Drill was performed by the boys with spirit and precision, and Miss Moore and Miss M. Davidson danced a pretty sword-dance, which received a well deserved encore. The Comic Element was well represented by Mr. Mills and Mr. Boss, whose coster songs were vociferously applauded. A duet by Messrs. Mills and Riley, a song by Charles Bates, and Mr T. E. Riley's "Heaving the Anchor" were well received.

Mr. Riley and those who are responsible for the training of the children are certainly to be congratulated for the perfection to which they had brought the choruses, a result which is only attained by constant and hard practice. The net proceeds amounted to £4 2s. 6d.

Radical Reforms at Sir John Moore Foundation School

Richard Dunmore investigated big changes in “The New Scheme of 1861”

Although Sir John Moore's School had emerged from previous enquiries as well run according to its statutes and the intentions of its founder, its curriculum was still limited by those statutes with their emphasis on the classics. The Grammar Schools Act of 1840 enabled the alteration of the statutes of endowed schools and in 1859 the governors resolved



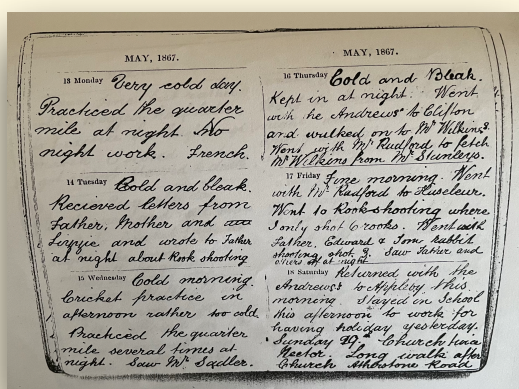
'taking into account the state of Appleby School' to apply to the Charity Commissioners for a new scheme of government.'

The report of the later Taunton Commission (1868) shows that the scheme of 1861 was a compromise between the realistic view of the situation held by the more disinterested governors and the parochial interests of the local gentlemen: When a new scheme was moved for, the governors ... wished to turn the grammar school wholly into a village school, but owing to the resistance of the professional men living near, the present plan was adopted as a compromise'.

The new scheme of 1861 at last permitted the teaching of modern languages and the sciences. The governors' right to dismiss the

masters for reasonable cause, as stated in the original statutes, was confirmed. The old Writing school was abolished and two separate schools, confusingly still called the Latin School and the English School, were created under one roof. The masters of both new schools were permitted to take boarders. The Latin or Upper School became in effect a small, fee-charging, boarding grammar school, preparing the sons of the wealthy for university entrance and the professions, while the English School became the elementary school for village boys run on the lines of a National school. In the words of the 1861 scheme:

“The Schools shall henceforth be conducted in two branches or divisions the Latin or Upper School by the Latin Master with the assistance of an Usher and the English or Lower School by a separate Master thereof to be appointed by the Governors ... with the assistance of an Under Master. The Writing School shall cease to be conducted as a third or separate School.”



This is an extract taken from the diary of John Argyle, a boarder at the school just some six years on from the introduction of The New Scheme in 1861. John was at the school in 1867.

It is interesting to read that he had to work in school on Saturday Morning to make up for his rook shooting the day before, the very event he had written to his father about two days before.

The original diary can be found in the Leicestershire Records Office

As time goes by ...

Time pieces have been ticking for hundreds of years

Europe sparked a change in timekeeping methods during the 13th century to repetitive oscillatory processes, like the swing of pendulums, which could provide more accurate results than methods relying on movements in nature, such as the sundials use of shadow position on a flat surface. A major advancement occurred upon the invention of the verge escapement, which involves a mechanical linkage in watches and clocks that gives impulses to the timekeeping element and methodically releases the gear train to move forward in order to advance the clock's hands. Verge escapements were used from the late 13th century until the 19th century in pocket watches and clocks. The invention of the mechanical escapement mechanism is important because it is what makes an all-mechanic clock possible.

Sir Francis Ronalds, an English scientist and inventor, was the first in history to invent an electric clock. It was powered with dry piles, which is a high voltage battery with a long life, however its electric properties varied due to the weather. Alexander Bain was the first to invent and patent a clock powered by electric current in 1840. Although Bain's clock did employ a pendulum to measure time, as was customary in the standard clocks of the time, he took revolutionary step of powering it with electric current instead of the traditional method of using springs or weights. It was not until 1906 that the first self-contained battery-operated clock was invented.

Electricity is used in a master clock system to give direct impulses to the pendulum, which in turn causes the clock's gear train to move or to lift a lever after it has imparted an impulse to the pendulum. This pendulum operates a light count wheel that turns through the pitch of one tooth every double swing and is arranged to release a lever every half minute. The lever gives an impulse back to the pendulum and is then restored to its original position by an electromagnet. Electric master clocks of this nature are good timekeepers since the electricity-based impulses can be given symmetrically as the pendulum passes through its middle position and the interference with its motion is small.

In 1929 the single greatest contribution to precise time measurement occurred when quartz crystal was initially applied to timekeeping. A quartz clock includes a ring of quartz about 2.5 inches in diameter, which is suspended by threads and enclosed in a heat-insulated chamber. Electrodes are attached to the surfaces of the ring and connect to an electrical circuit in such a manner that helps to sustain oscillations.

Since the frequency of vibration (100,000-hertz) is too high for time measurement, it can be reduced by a process known as frequency division, or demultiplication. This procedure works by applying the frequency division process to a clock dial-connected synchronous motor through mechanical gearing.

The timekeeping element in modern clocks and watches is a harmonic oscillator, a physical object (resonator) that vibrates or oscillates at a particular frequency. This object can be a pendulum, a tuning fork, a quartz crystal or the vibration of electrons in atoms as they emit microwaves.

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**THE
NEWSLETTER IS
EDITED BY**

Andrew Moore

SJMFHeritage@post.com

