



Our Heritage Matters

Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society

Volume 11, Issue 4

June 2020

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Notes from the Editor

If anyone has anything they think would be of interest to our members either that they can create or would be interested in, then do let the chairman know as below. We would also really like a few extra helpers – you don’t have to be on the Committee – to especially help with research to help produce this newsletter! Contact Peter Alexander (the Society Chairman) at chairman@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk or enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk

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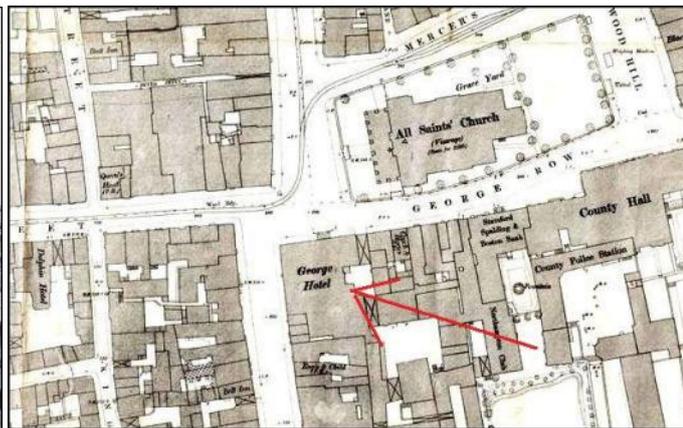
Society Meetings

Open to all: non-members just £4 including refreshments and members £3. The full programme can be found on our website www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk Planned meetings are listed on page 19.

The talks are cancelled until further notice. We hope to see you all again as soon as circumstances permit

Pub of the Month – George Hotel

1 George Row, Northampton, 17th Century



The origins came from St George rather than any King as the first King George wasn't crowned until 1714. It was one of the 'Ancient' Inns named in records of 1585 and could well have dated back to the 1300s. It was occasionally known as 'St George's' so its provenance isn't in dispute. It was one of the first buildings rebuilt after the 1675 Fire which obliterated so much of Northampton, accommodation for traders being a key component in getting Northampton back on its feet.

The rebuild was by a John Dryden who gifted the Hotel to the town upon his death in 1707. In 1806, it was sold off to a consortium for £1,500. A total of £4,500 was raised, the balance being used for urgent repairs to the building. The scheme involved 54 investors with the plan being that when only 5 were left alive, the building would be sold and the proceeds would be shared between the 5. This happened in 1887 when it was sold for £10,550 to George L Moore. Clever fellow was Mr Moore, he sold it 10 years later for £25,500.

Here are several good hotels. The George at the junction of Bridge Street and Gold Street and The Drapery, is a large and handsome building containing 50 bedrooms,. In 1899 it was enlarged and new fronted and decorated at a cost of £10,000.

This is a description from a trade directory. Newspaper reports from the 19th Century reveal usage for auctions, AGMs of the Northamptonshire Union Bank and a roll of noteworthy guests. Although when Queen Victoria visited the town in 1844 it was noted that she only spent 4 minutes inside The George Hotel (one can but speculate why).

Queen Victoria may not have been very amused as she had to alight the royal train at Weedon. If she had waited a year she could have ridden direct to the then newly opened Bridge Street Station.



This is a rare glimpse (on the left of the photo) of how it looked before being made to look posh with stone cladding



On the side entrance in Bridge Street, a separate pub was opened in 1878 called the Hole In The Wall which existed as a separate entity for almost 20 years. This did cause a certain amount of controversy as it was run under the main 'George' licence, nowhere else in the town allowed two businesses to run under the one licence. The Hole In The Wall was 'filled in' in 1897 and the Bodega Vaults briefly replaced it.

The George Hotel closed in 1916 and was used by the military for the rest of the war, a sale of the contents of the bedrooms raised a huge amount of money. Its future was still in the balance after the war though, it was bought by Provincial Cinemas Ltd and in 1919, its licence, which still hadn't lapsed, was renewed but on the strict proviso that it couldn't be used without further permission. Sadly, it wasn't.



Permission for a cinema was refused and Lloyd's Bank bought the site and demolished it in October 1921. Public opinion is divided about this Lloyd's bank building as the style from a bygone age is pretty good and perhaps fools people into thinking it is much older than it is.

Although a 17th century hotel adjacent a 17th century County Hall opposite a 17th Church would have been a neat package.

Robert Vaughan. Based on an original article by Dave Knibb.

PS did you spot the tram lines in the map above?

THE QUEEN'S VISIT AS REPORTED IN THE GLASGOW CITIZEN, PRICED 4 ½ d, 16th NOV 1844

THE QUEEN'S RECEPTION AT NORTHAMPTON.
 There are few provincial towns better adapted, by their situation, aspect, and extent, for the exhibition of an imposing spectacle, such as a royal procession, than Northampton, and certainly the manner in which the townspeople improved upon the materials thus prepared for their hands was most highly creditable, and could scarcely fail to be acceptable to the amiable and illustrious lady in whose honour these efforts were made. Everything was conducted on a scale of the most unsparing liberality, directed by the most correct taste. The profusion of gay flags and banners, evergreen wreaths of laurel, interspersed with artificial flowers and commemorative emblems of every variety that ingenuity could suggest, was such as almost to bewilder the eye. Not the least interesting of these consisted of the letters "V and A," very ingeniously formed of laurel leaves put together by the girls of one of the charity schools, who formed a conspicuous feature in the arrangements of the day, being arrayed in their neatest attire to give additional interest to the scene. From an early hour in the morning the impatience for the arrival of the desired moment was great and general. All idea of business was out of the question—the shops were universally closed. The streets were crowded

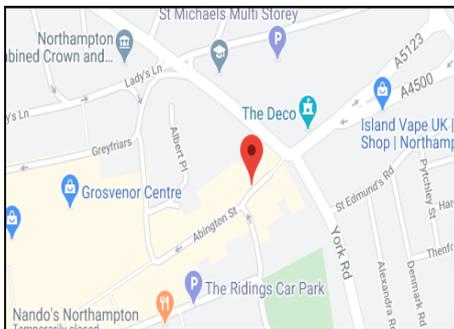
The Northampton Mercury
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16.
 The visit of our gracious Queen to this town is an event which will never be forgotten by the present generation, and will be handed down to those yet unborn as one of the most remarkable occurrences in the history of our county.
 Queen Elizabeth, it is said, in one of her various "progresses," passed through Northampton: but from that day to the present our town has never been honoured by a visit from a reigning Monarch. Kings (we leave the cause to be decided by others) have not the locomotive propensities of Queens. If they have the same confidence in a welcome from their subjects, at least they do not evince it in the same frank and hearty manner. Certain it is that of all the Monarchs who

The train was driven by Mr. Berry, and soon proceeded at a tremendous speed, flying over the country and the several stations at a glorious fast rate.
 The morning was dark and lowering, a heavy wet fog rolling in wreaths over the fields and clumps of leafless trees, and everything certainly looking cold and cheerless enough.
 No person who was stirring in the little hamlets and villages along this portion of the line, appeared to have any notion of who the distinguished persons were who were whirled past them, although the glittering crown on the roof of the royal carriage might have given them a hint, had they observed it.
 At Tring the train stopped for water. The distance from London to Tring was performed in about 34 minutes.
 After starting again, the speed was considerably reduced, in consequence, it was stated, of the train which had left Euston-square about a quarter of an hour before the royal train, being only slightly in advance.

IN HONOR OF THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT, TO NORTHAMPTON
 THERE will be a GRAND BALL at the GEORGE HOTEL, on WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT, the 13th instant.
 STEWARDS.
 E. H. Barwell, Esq. Mayor
 T. Sharp, Esq.
 C. W. Holdich, Esq.
 Mr. T. B. Hewlett
 Ald. Porter
 Mr. W. Hollis
 Mr. Ellis
 Mr. T. Hanson
 J. Marshall, Esq.
 Geo. Abbey, Esq.
 W. Percival, Esq.
 J. Hensman, Esq.
 Mr. F. Parker
 Mr. Osborn
 Mr. J. Macquire
 John Jeffery, Esq.
 Dancing to commence at Nine o'clock.
 Tickets, 7s. 6d. each, to be obtained at the Bar of the Hotel.
 Chaises will be provided for the in-town company.

The Wedgewood, 79-81 Abington Street

The Wedgewood Tea Rooms opened in August 1926 at 79 Abington Street. As searches of newspapers for several years before reveal no mention of anything at the property, it may be reasonable to assume it was previously a private house. W. Q. Adams, part of the Oliver Adams dynasty, had a bakers, confectioners and tea rooms at 212 Kettering Road and wanted a slice of the town centre trade (his brother was already doing a roaring trade at his 'Corner House'). Rebranded as the Wedgewood Café the following year, trade steadily grew and it extended its premises, taking over No.81.



NORTHAMPTON CHRONICLE AND ECHO 27th AUGUST 1926

"The Wedgewood opening today, is faithful to its name as regards the colour scheme in its decorations and furnishing, which with the uniform of the waitresses, affords a restful change for the eye"

It graduated into the Wedgewood Restaurant in the 1950s and it was only a decade later that it finally became a Berni Inn and was officially a pub for the first time. An incredibly popular place during the 1970's and 80s, (I loved it as a Berni Inn: Avocado Marie Rose, Steak and chips, apple pie with cream!! Yummy) its days as a Berni Inn ceased in 1995 and the trade steadily dwindled and eventually the Wedgewood closed its doors in the 21st Century.

It then became Momo. This was a short-lived experience with high expectations.

Momo brings an exciting new concept in drinking, dining and entertainment to Northampton's bar and club scene. Set over two floors boasting a large bar, expansive roof garden, upstairs club and exclusive VIP area, Momo is the ultimate venue when it comes to versatility.

Two men have been stabbed at a nightclub in Northampton.

The victims, aged 18 and 19, were attacked in the men's toilets at Momo Bar in Abington Street, police said.

It happened between 02:30 and 03:00 GMT on Friday.

The 19-year-old was taken to University Hospital Coventry and is in a stable condition. The 18-year-old also required medical attention. Police are appealing for witnesses.



The incident happened in the early hours of Friday morning



The next experiment was as Rhubarb. That turned out to be, well, Rhubarb

Currently, there seems to be a happier tale as The Wedgewood reopened in 2018 under its original name and new ownership by the Lion Group. Certainly looks nice doesn't it.

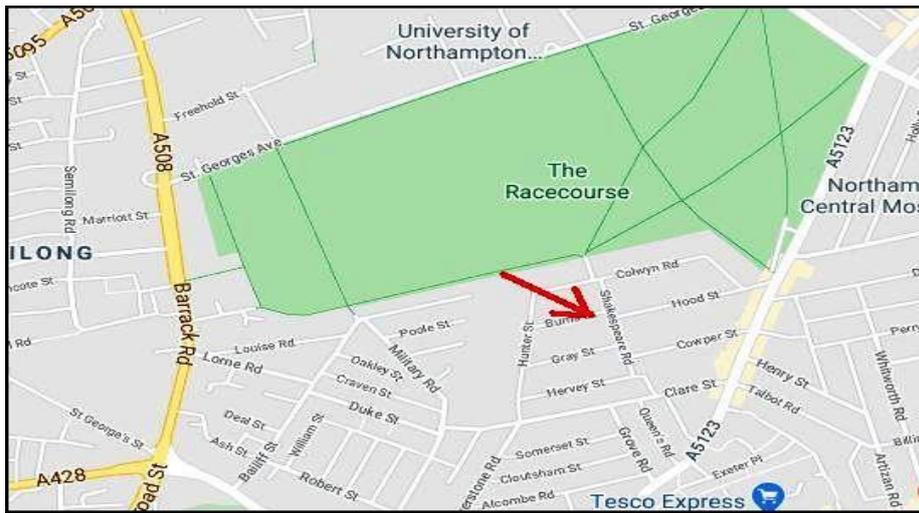


Many Northampton people have fond memories of the 'old' Wedgewood, but it will only survive if people pop into town, pay it a visit, and create new ones – once social distancing has been sorted out!.

Robert Vaughan, adapted from an article by Dave Knibb

7-9 Burns Street

Burns Street is situated in a grid-iron of Victorian terraced housing by the side of the Racecourse.



With street names like Burns, Shakespeare, Cowper, Clare, Gray etc. it's no wonder this area is labelled 'Poet's Corner' (by Estates Agents trying to create appeal for their wares!).

The corner and middle of every street had some business. The term 'corner shop' could have been invented here. The local butcher did his own slaughtering by bringing a cow back from market. But you couldn't throw a stick without hitting a factory – invariably forming some part of the boot and shoe trade. You could always tell the clicking rooms by the sound.



This is Burns Street just by 7-9

I lived in Gray Street until I was 13 and could see the back of factories, including 7-9 Burns Street. In the days pre Elf-n-Safety these factories were our playground. Clicking produced a lot of waste leather scraps, known colloquially as 'leather bits'. It was not unknown for workers to take them home to use as fuel or stuff between rafters for insulation – "times wus ard in the 50s". For us lads, the mountainous piles of leather bits were superb for playing on/in/under.

The family home was acquired for demolition to extend the Nimbus factory which employed blind and disabled people – they made Nimbus soap – who remembers that? – and yard brushes and other artefacts that could be done with nimble hands. That business had been in existence since mid-Victorian times but today, I think society tends to think of 'social care' as a modern invention.

Nimbus moved to modern premises at Moulton Park in 1971 but, despite diversifying, in 2004 it could no longer remain a competitive business and had to close, putting 69 people out of work.



Incidentally, there are probably more cars in the above Burns Street photograph than were owned by the whole population of Gray Street when I was a sprog. Just look at this current photograph, our house was No 33, left of the brown door. It's now all Affordable Housing.

The former shoe factory of 7-9 Burns Street has an interesting and unexpected history. No 7 started life as Burns Cottage, has a date stone of 1883 and appears on the 1885 OS map as a lone house in the street with a small workshop behind it. Later, No 9 was added and eventually the building covered the whole plot as well as part of the garden of No 11. Both sides of the street were eventually filled-in with the only gaps being access yards for factories.



The facade is undoubtedly Victorian but most of the current structure behind is quite uniform and has more of the characteristic of 1920/30s construction. Original stairs still lead up to what would have been offices at the front.

A well known Northampton shoe manufacturer, Edward Green and his family lived at No 7 in 1911 and Census records describe him as a Shoe Trade Manager. That would seem to imply he was then a paid worker and not owner of a business. This is surprising as Green & Co were known to be there in 1912 – later to become Tysoe Green and then finally, by 1928, it was trading as Edward Green – clearly he had an entrepreneurial streak and built his own business. That business moved out in 1929 and one possibility is that the front remained a family house until Green moved out and was then converted to offices as part of building a new factory.

Leather Factors, Rushton & Roe, were in the factory from 1933 until the late 1960s so that was the business I saw there.

After some decades of indifferent use, the 21st century saw a change of direction. Every shoe factory in the area had ceased manufacturing and 95% had been converted to apartments. The path for 7-9 was quite different and its use now is for what I would describe as arty crafty stuff. It's a collection of rooms (more grandly called studios)



A large part of the ground floor now forms the home base for the Masque Theatre group, the pre-eminent amateur dramatics group in Northampton - but I would say that wouldn't I, as I am a member.

So now, I often find myself going back to the streets of my childhood. The Victorian heating, insulation and weather-proofing are indeed as I remember them but ,Fred's Chippy is now a Chinese Chippy. Whatever happened to batter bits and newspaper wrappings?

By Robert Vaughan, based on research published by Northamptonshire Industrial Archaeology Group.

Carvings in the Oak Room, Abington Park Museum

From late medieval times, oak panelling was a common feature in houses to provide warmth, cut out draughts and for insulation against cold stone walls.



The panels in the Oak Room at Abington Park Museum contain a range of interesting subject matter and stand alongside some excellent linen fold carving. The panelling would have adorned the adjacent Great Hall before it was moved to this room by William Thursby when he rebuilt the house in the late seventeenth century.

Over one of the doorways there is a large heraldic panel which enables the work to be dated. The owners of the then manor house were the Barnards. Among a number of other heraldic devices there are the bears of the Barnard family who had come to Abington when Robert Barnard had married Elizabeth Lylling. The three pikes (fish) of the Lyllings are alongside. Below are the initials B, I and M. These refer to Margaret and John Barnard. The union of these two names occurred twice between 1464 and 1508 and the carving must date from this period. Two bears are also carved on another panel, said to represent the Barnards' strength, cunning and ferocity protecting their family. The Tudor Rose and a pair of lions are also shown, illustrating the family's support for the monarchy. Various arms of other families are to be found around the room.



Horizontal panels form a frieze around the top of the woodwork and there is a full set of representations of the labours of the month, a popular subject on contemporary church carving and manuscripts. They show the following:

January – a winter scene with a bearded peasant in hooded cloak before a fire, alongside a cauldron and ladle

February – a snow scene

March – a peasant digs a drainage ditch beside some pruned and tied up vines

April – sowing, a harrow drawn by horses and a ploughman with a whip

May – a female figure with flowers, denoting the arrival of spring

June – a peasant weeding to keep the crops growing

July – cutting hay with a scythe (hay was an important winter fodder crop)

August – harvest, two peasants cutting wheat and binding into sheaths

September – carrying poles with bunches of grapes, a man in a barrel treading grapes

October – acorns knocked from the trees for feeding pigs (locals were allowed to feed pigs in the royal forests, a practice called pannage)

September and October



November – a tethered bull about to be slaughtered and butchered by a peasant with an axe

December – three figures at a table representing Past, Present and Future (the turn of the year)

The scenes varied in different parts of the country and the calendar changed further north according to climate. They illustrate the importance of preparing food sources to negotiate the winter and show the cultivation of grapes at that time. Feasting and drinking wine were a major part of life in the manor house. Carvings of grapes are found throughout the room on the various panels, one of which also shows a jester drinking wine. A Green Man carved above the fireplace was associated with spring and regrowth.

Other panels of the frieze show the entertainment of Tudor times. There are hunting scenes from when the boundaries of Rockingham Forest stretched as far as Abington. Bear-baiting was popular and was not banned until 1835. A man uses a flute to entice the bear. Rules for hare coursing were drawn up in the sixteenth century and this also appears on the Abington carvings. It was not made illegal until 2004. There are two depictions of medieval life. In one, a tapster is drawing ale from a barrel and the alewife is below him carrying a flagon. The other shows a woman with a distaff (used for spinning wool at home) attacking her husband who is holding a child in swaddling clothes. He has the head of a monkey (denoting sin and foolishness).



Medieval woodcarving often illustrated the satire of the time and there is a panel of Reynard the Fox. The fox is shown in a pulpit preaching to geese around him while below he is eating one of them. This was used to portray the popular belief in the hypocrisy of the friars. Similarly, an ape is carved looking at what appears to be a urinal, with a line of similar vessels in front of him. The ape was used to demonstrate the poor regard for the medical profession at the time.



Religious subjects were in the minority even on church choir stalls, but the symbols of the Passion of Christ cover a complete panel. The Five Wounds are in the centre and the cock for Peter's denial above. Below is a ladder and the seamless cloak with the dice used to decide its owner. Shields in the centre carry the instruments associated with the scourging, crucifixion and deposition. The Pelican in her Piety, representing the resurrection, is carved elsewhere.



Perhaps the most interesting subject is the representation of St Veronica's handkerchief. St Veronica came from the crowd to wipe Christ's face on the cross and His image appeared on the cloth. This is a very rare subject on medieval woodcarving but does appear elsewhere in the county on a misericord at Higham Ferrers. On either side of the Abington example are angels dressed in feathers. This was the usual garb for actors taking the parts of angels in the medieval miracle plays.

The woodcarvings in Abington Museum are excellent representations of the kind of subjects often to be found in medieval times on church bench ends and misericords but probably rank among the finest to be found anywhere in the country in a domestic building. They are complemented by some fine linen fold panelling coming into fashion at the time of their construction. In recent years the room has been opened up to allow the public to see them closely and their story forms part of monthly guided tours of the museum.

Douglas Goddard

From the Northampton Mercury, 1938.
This advice might have been useful during lockdown.



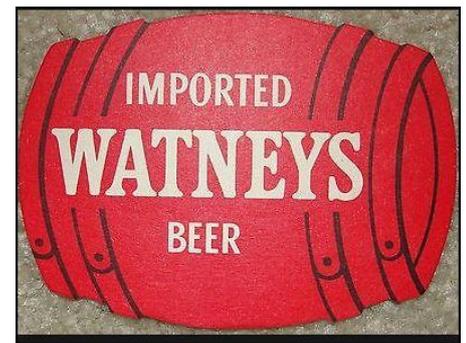
Watney Mann and Red Barrel

Report on the talk given to the Society in 2019 by Robert Vaughan

The object of the presentation was to cover three areas: The Business; The Breweries; The Products

A table of items of 'breweriana' was exhibited to illustrate the talk.

The story of Watneys itself began with Daniel Watney, born 1705 in Wimbledon. The surname Watney has no trace whatsoever before that date. Theories around that were explained! The family expanded from agents for Malted Barley into brewing and grew by both expansion and take-overs of other brewers. The end as an independent company was the fiercely fought take-over by Grand Metropolitan in 1972



The story of the breweries travelled from about 300 years ago with a Mr Green's Brewhouse at Mortlake to the Stag Brewery in Victoria, London – larger than Billing Aquadrome. The Phipps Brewery at Bridge Street was met along the way and then that morphed into Carlsberg.

The range of products was explored but focussed on Red Barrel which morphed into Watney's Red and itself came to a sticky end after prolonged campaigning by CAMRA.

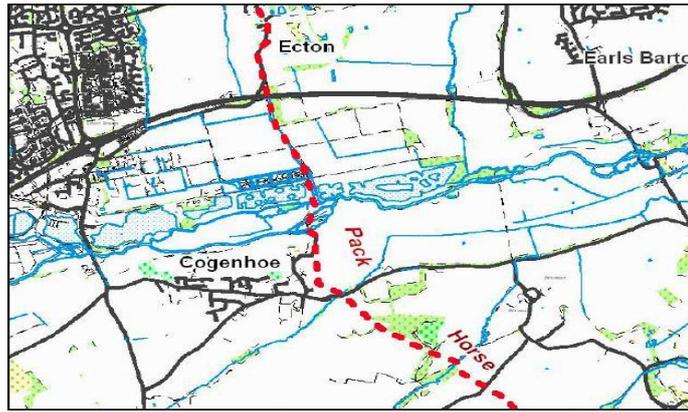
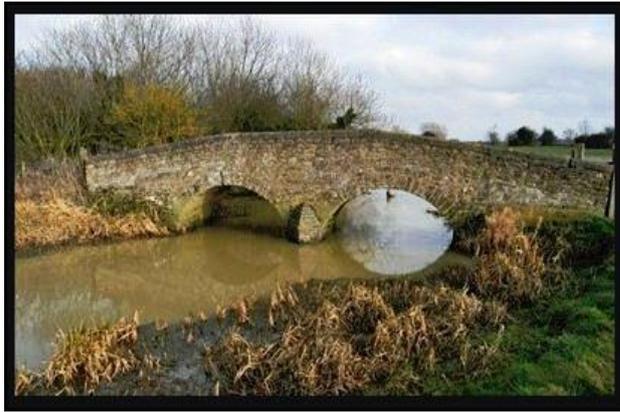
Some of the old product names have been revived with the opening of a new independent Phipps brewery in Kingswell Street Northampton. Well worth a guided tour.

**Coles Thomas, beer retailer and baker.
Facer John, blacksmith.
Hollwell Mary, National Schoolmistress.
Hartshorne Rev. Chas. Hy., M.A., curate.
Rickard William, shopkeeper.
Sharman Charles, carpenter.
Sharman Daniel, victualler, *Royal Oak*.
Sharman Daniel, butcher.
Sharman Thomas, joiner and builder.
Smith John, grocer.**

Cogenhoe in 1848, a few years after the National School & Baptist Church, both in Church St and The Royal Oak had been built.

Cogenhoe Leather Mill

Adapted from Heritage Matters, June 2008 edition



Just to the north of Cogenhoe Parish, on or near the backwater lies a number of interesting features. As you walk past Cogenhoe Mill on the way to Ecton, you soon pick up the old pack-horse route which probably dates from the Napoleonic War period.

The packhorse bridge remains across the backwater as does another

old crossing an old ford just a few dozen yards upstream.

Following the backwater, which was once the main stream of the Nene, a little farther upstream, we come to the weir which is shown in Mick Flower's water colour.

On the northern bank is an old stone lined boat house which is shown on the 1:2500 series 1885 Ordnance Survey map of the area but most likely dates from much earlier than that and logically, must have been associated with some other feature beside the river.

It seems that there were two other structures in the immediate area.

Ecton Mill was a corn mill, like the one at Cogenhoe and was owned by the Lord of the Manor at Ecton. For a time, it was rented by the Cogenhoe miller, probably a William Easton who died in 1668 leaving two sons – John and Danyell.

Ecton Mill was run in conjunction with a windmill which stood north of the river and on the right hand side after you had passed over the Packhorse bridge. The windmill was shown on the Eyre and Jeffries map of 1791 but not on the later Bryant map of 1827. At some point, the water mill burnt down.

It was probably built mainly of timber and with the constant flour dust and friction caused by the moving parts, would have been a tinder box.

The other structure near to the present weir is more of a mystery. The spinney in that area has always been known as the Old Leather Mill but no one in



THE OLD LEATHER MILL by Charles Hartshorne. Courtesy of Northamptonshire Record Office, (loose in Hartshorne, XXII).

living memory seems to know why. Neither the Eyre and Jeffries map from the 1790s records it, nor do the later Ordnance Survey maps. Bryant, however, on his 1827 map shows; 'Old Leather Mill or Fish Pond Head'. The label suggests though that this is below the Packhorse Bridge rather than above it.

It may well be a cartographical error since what little evidence there is points to the spinney near to the weir.

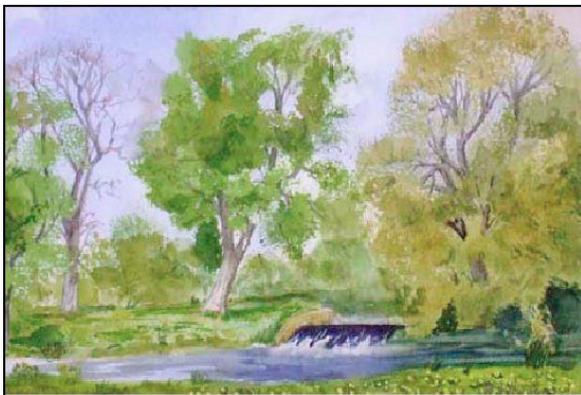
That evidence though, is limited. Only within the last few years has a small painting come to light. Titled, 'Cogenhoe, The Leather Mill' it was painted in approximately 1850, by Charles Hartshorne who was the curate of St Peter's Church Cogenhoe between 1838 and 1854.

The picture gives little help in suggesting the use of the leather mills. It is shown as a small, squarish shaped building with a steep, pyramidal shaped roof covered with thatch. There is a large, central chimney. The river can be seen in the foreground.

The purpose of the leather mill is open to conjecture but on balance, it was most likely a tannery. The tanning process can produce extremely unpleasant odours and the siting of one close to a residential area would not have proved popular.

It does however, make use of a large quantity of water and so, it's location next to a river was ideal. Ultimately, we may never know all of the details concerning this interesting building but Hartshorne at least shows us that there was something behind the place name.

(This modern painting shows that no signs remain of the mill.)



OLD LEATHER MILLS, by Mick Flower of Cogenhoe, C. 2000

(Charles Henry Hartshorne, a Cleric, was in charge of the parish of Cogenhoe 1838 to 1850 and he published *Historical Memorials of Northampton* in 1848)

Barry Road School, Northampton





Any member of the Society who lived in Northampton as a child will know the location of this school. Unique amongst Primary Schools it had a swimming pool and many of us will have undergone the delights/terrors of learning how to swim at the end of a rope tether!

It opened in 1902 [but some accounts say 1901 with enlargement and pool in 1903] as a Temporary Board School with three departments – Infants, Boys, Girls and the signs of that remain.

The opening of the Barry-road Board School on Friday afternoon marks an important step in the development of educational facilities in Northampton. The school, which gives accommodation for 1,370 children – 420 boys, 420 girls, and 530 infants—has, with the swimming bath and the caretaker's house, cost £24,396. Erected by Councillor A. P. Hawtin, from designs by Messrs. Lay and Harris, the school is at once a striking testimony to the ability of both architect and builder. The rooms are lofty and well-lighted, while the arrangements for heating and ventilation are of the best, and altogether the school is the finest establishment of its kind to be found within a wide radius of Northampton. There was a large attendance at the opening ceremony, which was performed by Mr. F. Covington, J.P., the chair-

The above article from the Chronicle and Echo of 1902 talks of space for 1370 children which seems gigantic. "Lofty rooms, well lighted, with heating and ventilation. The finest of its kind in Northampton". Why a "temporary" Board School? Schools in Northampton at that time were governed by the Northampton School Board. It seems likely a temporary Board was set up for the period of creating and establishing such new schools. This one was dissolved on the 30th September, the day after formal opening.

But they certainly kept themselves busy, seeking a caretaker able to use "carpenter's and locksmith's tools".

It took until 1968 for inside toilets to appear.



But, who was Barry, worthy of the "Finest School in Northampton"?

The Mayor, Councillor F G Adnitt (I bet he owned a department store) at the opening ceremony, remarked that "Barry Road School would happily perpetuate the name of one who in many capacities had faithfully served Northampton for a long period". Apparently, Councillor James Barry JP, Chairman of the Board and Councillor Covington, were the only gentlemen who had enjoyed unbroken possession of a seat on the Northampton School Board ever since the School Board was formed.

However, as reported in the Chronicle and Echo, it seems some citizens were not enamoured by the NSB!

NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL BOARD.
THE BOARD Wish to APPOINT a CARE-TAKER of the BARRY ROAD SCHOOL.
 Applicants must be dwellers in the Borough, married, able to manage the heating apparatus of the school and swimming bath, and accustomed to the use of carpenter's and locksmith's tools. The wages will be 30s. per week, with a free residence, rates, gas, and fuel being paid for by the Board.
 A statement of the duties of the Board's Care-takers may be inspected at the Offices of the Board, and a Form of Application may there be obtained.
 Applications, with copies of testimonials, must be forwarded to the Clerk before the 23rd July instant. Canvassing any member of the Board will disqualify.
 By order of the Board.
STEWART BEATTIE, Clerk.
 Offices of the Board:
 4, St. Giles's-street, Northampton.
 8th July, 1902. 2307

use. - A good many people now looked upon the School Board as a tyrannous coercive body, and if the Board offered the facilities he suggested

Records show that in preparation for the opening of the swimming pool, Adnitts (now Debenhams) supplied four hundred bathing towels (he definitely owned a department store).



In 1917, during the First World War, the school was taken over by the military authorities and staff and pupils had to transfer to Vernon Terrace School. The swimming pool was boarded over to be used as a hospital ward.

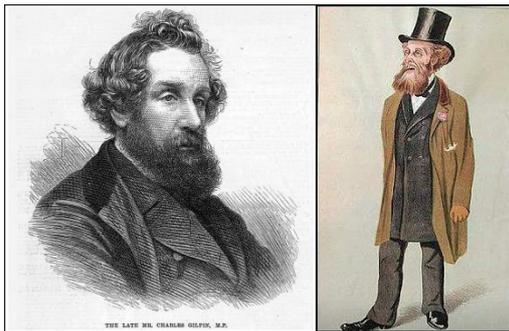
Over the past 120 years the school has undergone quite a few changes of purpose but is currently secured as a Primary School run by an Academy Trust with 430 pupils – with the swimming pool operated by Aqualight despite previous fiercely fought cost-cutting proposals by the County Council who, to their great credit, have found this workable solution.

A fine tale to recall should grandchildren and great grandchildren enter Barry Road Swimming Pool for their training to join the delightful world of Jacques Cousteau.

Robert Vaughan

The Politics of Northampton – Charles Gilpin MP

Charles Gilpin (31 March 1815 – 8 September 1874) was a Quaker, orator, politician, publisher and railway director.



At the General Elections of 1857, 1859, 1865 and 1874, Gilpin was elected to represent the Northampton constituency. In the election of 1857 he was listed as a Radical but later as a Liberal. The Liberal Party formed 9th June 1859 to oppose the Conservative Party and arose from an alliance between The Radicals, The Whigs and the Peelites. Amongst his many causes were the movement to repeal the Corn Laws, to establish world peace through the Peace Society, abolition of the death penalty and the anti-slavery movement.

In later years, Northamptonians seemed to have continued their affection for non-conventional MPs with support for the likes of Charles Bradlaugh and Reginald Paget.

It is only fitting that Charles Bradlaugh's sterling personal qualities and his noble fight for the constitutional rights of constituencies to elect whomsoever they will to the House of Commons should be annually recalled on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the late junior member for Northampton. A few of Mr. Bradlaugh's old friends arranged a memorial gathering in Northampton on Thursday night—the day before the birthday anniversary, and I am glad to see that Dr. Shipman, M.P., was able to be present to pay a tribute to the great qualities of his predecessor. Mr. Bradlaugh lived long enough to have won the respect and admiration of his erstwhile foes in the House of Commons, and had his physical powers not been weakened by years of unselfish public labour and strife, would in all human probability have taken a commanding part in the controversies of the past few years. As it was he died just at the . . . of his power nobly won in the teeth of so much abuse and bitter hostility. He died honoured and mourned by all sincere men in both political parties, and it should be the duty not of a handful of old personal friends only, but of the Liberal and Radical party throughout the town to keep green the work he did. In every treatise of constitutional law Mr. Bradlaugh's contests stand out as leading cases, and to every student of Liberal politics his speeches on political subjects rank as models of clear-headed and cogent arguments possessing the true qualities of statesmanship. I would suggest

Arthur 'Beeby' Thompson: The Global Expert on Oil Exploration from Northampton



Almost unheard of today, this giant of the oil industry arose to such regard that Herbert Hoover, 31st President of the United States, wrote the foreword to his autobiography. He was born in 1873, son of Beeby Thompson, Headmaster of Northampton Science School, who specialised in teaching Geology and Physics. At 16 he was articled to a firm of engineers where he learnt engineering and skilled drawing and plan making. His first move after qualification taught him about well boring and sinking of shafts and then in 1896 he went as a water engineer to the Gold Coast [now Ghana]. There he was horrified by the culture of heavy drinking amongst expats who regarded anyone consuming less than a bottle of whisky per day as a “bloody teetotaller”.



(photographed in Ghana 1896)

Results in Ghana were poor and mostly saline water was found.

He then joined the London reservoir project but having learnt the skill of field surveying he felt his inclinations lay elsewhere “in foreign fields”.

1899 was the year of his big advancement as Beeby-Thompson, as he was then known, joined the European Petroleum Company in Baku, Azerbaijan. Although he joined as a water engineer, Baku produced 50% of the world's oil, more than the 40% from the USA. Naturally he familiarised himself with the techniques of the oil industry and in 1900 was appointed Chief Engineer. He experimented with new techniques such as screw-threaded casings and using petrol engines to replace steam engines. A big breakthrough was his use of an air-lift system which enabled wells to increase production five-fold and also, with help from his father, worked out how to extract oil from previously discarded mixtures of curdled oil & water – this saved hundreds of thousands of barrels each year. He became a geology expert by microscopically examining the sands and clays where oil might be found.

Life in Baku oilfields was dangerous; constant risk of fire and explosions, robbery, murder, shadowing Russian engineers, tapping of pipelines to steal oil. By 1904 the region was politically unstable and he returned to England with his acquired wife and two daughters. He wrote a book on Russian oilfields, set up in partnership in oil consultancy, got elected as a Fellow of The Geological Society and, after a sticky patch, the firm really took off and was noted for treating staff well.



“Our staff were treated as colleagues, rather than as employees and they knew there was no need to invent sick or deceased relatives as reasons for absence when important football matches or the Wimbledon finals were in progress”

It was a significant achievement to persuade large British engineering companies to start manufacturing oil-field equipment that until then could only be obtained in the US.

Between 1904 and 1914 he worked on projects in over 30 countries and started his lifetime association with Herbert Hoover, first as advisor and then as friend. His skills were in demand during the war, first in London and then overseas, including meeting Lawrence of Arabia in his pursuit of water supplies for the Allies.

After the war his work boomed in Prohibition America where he learnt that ordering a cup of “red tea” with dinner, would result in a cup of “decent claret” complete with saucer on top and a jug of cream.

Then it was back to the Middle East and one particular problem in Iraq where wells produced poisonous hydrogen sulphide “**one whiff was enough to cause instantaneous unconsciousness and muscle paralysis. But after dragging the victim away, after ten minutes or so, they would be recovered so the experiment could be repeated**” A system of fans and extractors was invented to solve the problem.



Little was said by him of his role in WW2. But he changed his name in 1946 by deed poll to Beeby Thompson. Afterwards he carried on working and eventually died in London in 1968 at the age of 95.

Although now largely forgotten, he was a true giant of the oil industry -and from Northampton.

Robert Vaughan. Based on an original article in GEOExPro geosciences magazine 2017

From the Northampton Mercury 1938.
Advice for those who have maybe done too much sitting down during lockdown.

**Secret Enemy
of Millions
HÆMORRHOIDS**
(Piles)
Rapid Remedy Now Available

It has been left to the Veno chemists to perfect a really reliable treatment for this agonising ailment which, it is calculated, affects four adults out of ten, besides many children.

This treatment, by means of Germoloid Suppositories, is inexpensive, simple, clean and self-applied. It affords immediate relief from pain and irritation, and soon takes down swellings, shrinks distended veins and protects painfully exposed nerve-endings. During sleep its antiseptic principles continue their healing work, whilst its soothing lubricants reduce the absorption of moisture and so help to prevent constipation.

Germoloids

FROM CHEMISTS—1/3 per box of 12
(For External Piles use Germolene brand Ointment, in conjunction with Germoloids.)

Market Square Fountain

The people of Northampton presently have a passion for the old fountain in the Market Square – the one that got demolished in 1962 without seemingly much protest.



The fountain was, in 1863, the gift of Captain Samuel Isaacs, Commandant of the 5th Corps of Northamptonshire Rifles, to commemorate the marriage of Prince Albert to Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

The only remaining part is the engraved plaque which can be found in the Abington Park Museum.

The 14 tons of the 50-section granite base were originally stored upon their later removed in 1972, at the Borough Engineer's yard but, the likelihood of them being around now is zero. The steps had been an oratory platform for over one hundred years and were used by many worthies such as George Bernard Shaw and Charles Bradlaugh.



The fountain was cast by Eagle Foundry, Northampton and there is an historic tale that they made a second one which sank en-route to Australia. **So, how do we account for this exactly identical one in Mumbai, India?**



This fountain 4000 miles away was erected in 1867 in honour of Sir William Robert Seymour Vesey-Fitzgerald, the Governor of Bombay (now Mumbai). It had been dismantled and the parts moved and dumped in the grounds of a museum until engineers started a restoration and needed advice. The Patent number is how they traced its origins to Northampton.

So, did it sink or swim? Who knows. But ships bound for Australia often called at Bombay....

Is the Isaacs at the start of this tale related to me? Not as far as I know, yet! But it surely wasn't co-incidental that the gift of a fountain arose when he was the prospective Parliamentary candidate.

The campaign for a new Northampton fountain continues vigorously but is, alas, a likely lost cause. Still, you know where to go to gaze admiringly at what might have been.....

Robert Vaughan. Information about Mumbai from the Chronicle and Echo.

Cow Keepers.
Amin, George, Newland.
Cattell, John Wm., Wool-monger-street.
Cattell, Wm., Upper Mount-st
Clark, Rt., Wellingboro'-rd.
Coe, John, Lawrence-street.
Flavell, Joseph, Regent-st.
Green, Thompson Thomas, Bridge-street.
Wilkinson, Jonathan, Leicester-street.
Smith, Thomas, Sheep-street

A snippet of more humour from the 1849 Kelly Directory of Northampton

It strikes the funny-bone to have a Cow Keeper named Cattell

Fowl Play in Cogenhoe

This tale commences with the Society's recognition of the contribution to cricket made by George Thompson with a Green Plaque on The Elms, Station Road, Cogenhoe, where he lived between 1884 and 1896 as the first tenant of this splendid example of a house built by Josiah Deacon.



The family of GEORGE THOMPSON moved here in 1884 as the first occupants. George was born in 1877 and as a young man played for several cricket clubs including Cogenhoe Cricket Club and later Northamptonshire as an amateur. He is acknowledged as a key to establishing the County into First Class Cricket, becoming professional in 1895. He was the first Northamptonshire player to achieve 1000 runs and take 100 wickets and an illustrious player for England in several Test matches in the Edwardian era.



He has been described by Steven Hollowell (a distant relative of Charles Hollowell mentioned below) as a 'very interesting' character. And as a cricketer, who played for Cogenhoe and Northampton and England, he once accidentally booked to play for two teams on the same day. Luckily, both teams had their matches on the Racecourse in Northampton and, because of the order of play, Thompson was able to play both matches at the same time – reportedly with satisfactory performance.

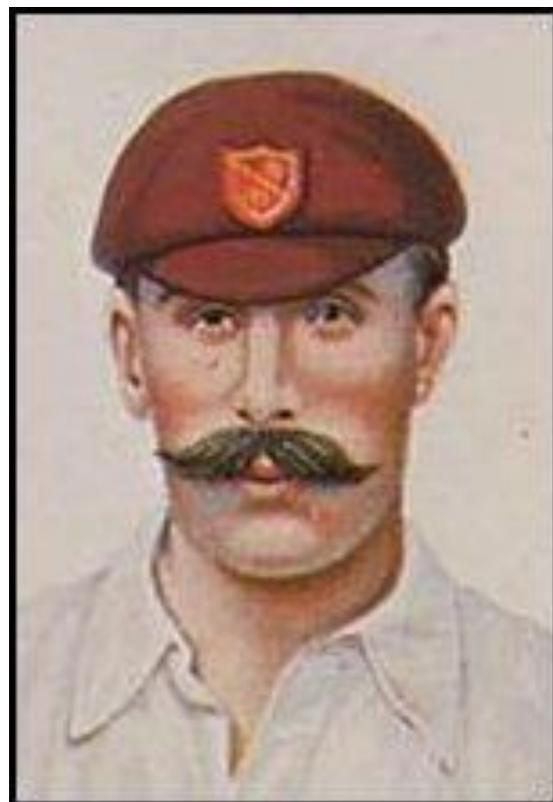
Steven's late grandfather, Harry Busby, a keen amateur player, practice bowled for Thompson in his back garden.

The affairs of George Thompson do indeed turn very interesting as shown by this case when he lived in Cogenhoe. A dispute came before the Northampton Divisional Petty Court over charges of keeping a dangerous dog. The accusation was being promoted by one Charles Hollowell, market gardener of 63 Station Road, Cogenhoe, who told the court that twice he had seen a black dog owned by Thompson with one of his hens in its mouth.

The court was told how he threw a stone to make the animal drop the bird but, according to Mr Hollowell, the clever canine came after him the next time he saw him. And when he next saw Thompson, he refused to believe his dog capable of such tricks and humorously advised Hollowell to catch the dog next time he saw it with a fowl and bring the bird to him. Thompson alleged that Hollowell retorted that he would shoot it and also threatened to deal with the owner in like manner. Thompson also insisted that the dog was a pet and had the manners of a dove. Further, that it was locked up when supposed to be robbing hen roosts.

The court could make nothing clear of this case and so it was dismissed.

Robert Vaughan, based on a 2010 report in the Chronicle & Echo. [Although the Echo said it occurred '100 years ago' a search of their archives 1890 to 1914 didn't find the original report]



Wednesday Group – Part II



Following the article about the cloth with the sunflower, I had a call from Val Loader. It is definitely a table cloth and all the embroidery was done by Val. The sunflower emblem was chosen as Sunflowers always turn to face the sun no matter what their circumstances. To raise money for the club, each member paid a fee to have their name embroidered around the Sunflower.

COGENHOE WEDNESDAY GROUP



COMPETITION 2000

Prizes for the tallest, shortest and widest

Judging week commencing
14th August 2000

Winner's announced
23rd August meeting

PRIZES ARE:

1 ST TALLEST	£15	WRIGHT & SMITH
2 nd TALLEST	Yorks £10 voucher	BURROWS GARAGE
WIDEST HEAD	£10	YORKS TRAVEL
PUNIEST SPECIMEN	£5	LONDIS SHOP
2 nd WIDEST HEAD	£5	JOHN & MOLLY'S SHOP
		PHILLIP HOLLOWELL

SPONSORED BY:

Another fund-raiser was the Grow a Sunflower Competition for which Ted Mann was roped in as judge. At the time, it was slightly novel as apparently few people had experience of growing sunflowers.

Tony Loader didn't have green fingers and struggled to make much happen with his sunflower. However, when Ted came to judge he was initially very impressed with the achieved height. It took a while to realise it was actually rather puny but was sitting on a table behind a fence!

The group undertook numerous social events and here are some moments to enjoy.

OLD TYME MUSIC HALL

PRODUCED BY
JULIE FROST

PIANIST
JOHN WALTON

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
CLIFF BILLING

JILL	MONOLOGUE	
VAL AND TONY	DUET	
CLIFF	SONGS	
JOHN	PIANO SOLO	
TONY BANDY	MONOLOGUE	
JUNE	SOLO	
TWO TONY'S	DUET	
JULIE	SOLO	
JULIE AND CLIFF	DUET	
	SING ALONG	
	TEA AND MINCE PIES	



ASCOT HATS.

Place House, which is now an out-building attached to a farm house, was formerly a considerable mansion, surrounded by entrenchments, which may still be traced. Tradition says that it was a seat of King John; part of the stone was carried away to build the manor house at Ecton.

The principal inhabitants of Whiston parish are—the Rev. Samuel Hornbuckle, M.A., curate; George P. Welford, corn miller, Whiston Mills; Mr. Joseph Coles; William Higgins and Thomas Pell, farmers.

It's not often we discover anything to publish about Whiston but this is a snippet from 1848.

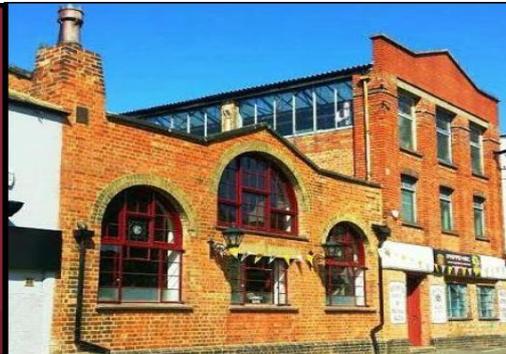
Do you know your Claret ?

Which is the odd one out of these three items?

(1) THE COBBLERS

(2) A NORTHAMPTON BREWERY

(3) A GLASS OF CLARET



The Albion Brewery in Kingswell Street once owned and operated by Phipps & Co Ltd was lovingly rebuilt and restored as Albion Brewery over the period 2014/2015 in the ownership of a new Phipps Northampton Brewery Company.

The internal roof trusses and exterior windows can be seen in a distinctive claret colour



A glass of Claret is a French wine of purplish-red colour.

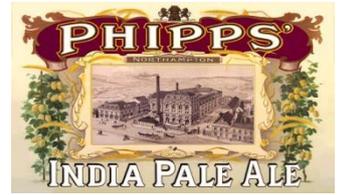
The corporate colour of Northampton Football Club has the same distinctive claret as the brewery.

But why?



The answer lays with Pickering Phipps who founded the company in 1801 and instilled the principles of excellence in everything he did.

One innovation in brewing at Phipps was to treat the water so it was the same as water at the great breweries at Burton. Phipps beers were distinctive and superior to all others in this area.



When Phipps purchased the Northampton Football Club (founded 1897), the colour invented for them was unique, distinctive and called Claret as can also be seen on beer advertising

As homage to Phipps, the Albion brewery is painted with Phipps Claret.

So, the answer is (3) as Claret wine is the odd one out.... Cheers!!!

Before and Now : Yorks Bros Cogenhoe Garage

Until recently I didn't know that the Yorks double-decker livery was dark blue. Former London Routemaster buses would have been red and I assumed they still were.



Present hoardings in an appropriate colour!

It's a shame the buildings are so utilitarian. With a bit more Victorian-style ornate design to the exterior it might have been worth preserving as a Cogenhoe Heritage Centre and Museum. I wonder whether the architect responsible for the former Northampton Bus Terminus got his design inspiration when driving through Cogenhoe.

Robert Vaughan (photo enhancement by Chris Vaughan)

The Snippets from Our Past

A bit of humour from our June 2007 edition. But think on: if Scotland gets Independence then the EU might well compel them to refurbish this Customs Barrier. Usefulness restored?



Checkmate – After Hadrian's Wall. A.D. 120.

The indignation of the Picts and Scots when on their next excursion south they found their way barred by Hadrian's Wall was intense. Though large portions of the Wall still remain after nearly 2,000 years, its original usefulness has departed.

Name that Place

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS PHOTOGRAPH?

This slide is from the archive we have of slides by Cyril Penn



It's the only one for which no description was given. Richard Deacon is sure it is the field behind 156 Station Road (the hedge and tree on the left being the garden hedge) and it extends behind Glebe Way and the tractor is Holloway's MF65 and the driver Pete or his Dad.

The background scenery over the river is not as today. There are some hard features/buildings in the middle and far distance. Is anyone able to provide any insight into these?

And what is he doing with the tractor? Maybe turning over straw/hay? And who is driving?

The slide seem to be 1960s and 1970s but is this much earlier?

QUIZ

WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- 1 How many World Heritage sites are there in the UK: 22; 32; 42; 52?
- 2 Is the Lake District a WHS?
- 3 Which country has the most WHS?
- 4 Is the Eiffel Tower a WHS?
- 5 How many WHS in the world: 1121; 2111; 12112?

ANSWERS TO THE MAY ABBEY QUIZ

- 1 Netley Abbey was the inspiration for which novel published in 1817? = Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen
- 2 What caused considerable damage to Whitby Abbey in 1914? = shelling by German Fleet
- 3 Which part of Battle Abbey traditionally marks the spot where King Harold was killed in the Battle of Hastings? = The High Alter
- 4 Which 18th-century landscape gardener landscaped the valley in which Roche Abbey in South Yorkshire is set. = Lancelot "Capability" Brown
- 5 Which abbey in Surrey has been used as a backdrop in the films Elizabeth (1998) and Disney's Into The Woods (2014)? = Waverley Abbey

Society Publications

The Society has publications for sale (the cd will be free with any book purchase). Ask a Committee member or email to enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk



Copenhoe's Fallen Heroes

The story of the men from Cogenhoe who fell in the First World War
Price £15

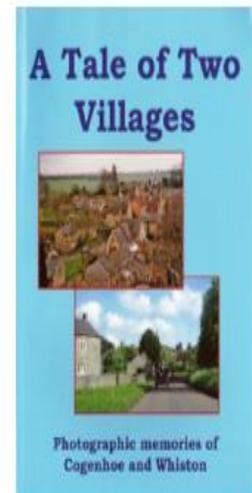
The War Memorial Project was born out of a fervent wish to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by the young men of Cogenhoe in the Great War.. This book is a tribute to those men.

An addendum detailing further research has been published and can be obtained from members of the committee.

A Tale of Two Villages

Photographic memories of Cogenhoe & Whiston
Price £10

A pictorial record of the two villages showing people and places through the past and based on the first photographic exhibition held by the society during April 2008. Since then in 2010 a second exhibition was held.



A Century of Change *Copenhoe 1901 - 2000*

This hardback book was produced from the interviews of over 50 people from many walks of life who had their memories recorded. Some were born in the villages, others worked here and still more came to live here.

Voices of Copenhoe

CD £3.00

This CD based on the interviews is an opportunity to listen to the memories and recollections of the many people who lived in Cogenhoe and Whiston. In all over 40 villagers contributed over 60 hours of taped interviews and this was condensed into a double CD with a running time of about 120 minutes.

Planned Meetings

No meetings currently planned until July at the earliest.

Wednesday 8 July 2020 - 78 Derngate - Robert Kendall

78 Derngate was owned by Bassett Lowke and in 1916 was renovated by the architect Rennie Mackintosh of Glasgow fame. His most famous work is owned by the museum which has burned down for the second time. The style is quite astonishing. They have just one wooden chair on display which is on loan and is worth £250,000. The restoration project cost millions and is really worth a visit.

Wednesday 12 August 2020 - The Battle of Waterloo - Roy York.

A blockbuster film was made in Irthlingborough in 1913. The 70 minute presentation describes choosing the area, the filming, world wide distribution before the loss of part of the film following WW1 – the discovery of part of the film by the Irthlingborough Historical Society – plus a tragic ending. We show 19 minutes of the rediscovered film and also the Evan Bros 'parody' Pimples Battle of Waterloo.

Wednesday 9 September 2020 - Northampton to Bedford Railway - Richard Deacon.

Not just another Railway history, but a detailed look at how to go about the legal process of building a railway in Victorian times and then a journey following the railway then and now of what was chronologically the last railway to link Northampton to another town.

Wednesday 14 October 2020 - 'The Ship of Dreams': The Life and Death of R M S Titanic - Steve Dimmer

375 miles south of Newfoundland, 2.5 miles beneath the Atlantic Ocean lies the wreck of the most famous ship ever, R M S Titanic. We examine its journey through its conception, construction, triumphant launch and catastrophic maiden voyage, showing the many mistakes that were made and the lessons that we learned too late.

Wednesday 11 November 2020 - The Life of Bassett-Lowke of Northampton - Douglas Goddard

Illustrated by a selection of postcards, catalogues, publications and ephemera, this talk traces how W. J. Bassett-Lowke developed his hobby into a model making business with a name established throughout the world. It also shows his large-scale commissions, his life and work as an author, photographer and designer and his civic achievements for Northampton.

Wednesday 9 December 2020 - Noel, Noel, Well - Derek Harris.

The show consists of a debate between the Christmas tree decorations as to who should have the coveted spot at the top of the tree. There is some audience participation.

Wednesday 13 January 2021 - 'Any Old Iron': The History of the Butlin Family and their Furnaces in Wellingborough - Jon-Paul Carr.

An illustrated and informative talk of the history of a Northamptonshire family and involvement in the 19th century and early 20th century iron ore manufacturing industry.

Wednesday 10 February 2021 - The Home Guard - Chris Bazeley

The talk considers the national and local scene with anecdotes from former members. What led to the formation of Dad's Army and what did they actually achieve?

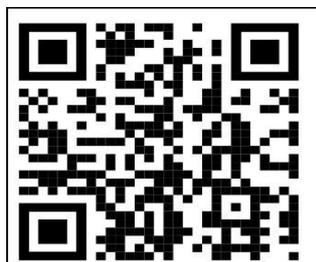
Wednesday 10 March 2021 - Annual General Meeting followed by The History of Country Houses since 1900 - Neil Lyon

This illustrated talk traces the changing fortunes of the principal houses and landed estates over the past century. It is not a story of decline and fall; on the contrary, it is the story of survival and the renaissance of our local country houses.

QR Codes

Just a reminder of two QR codes which your smart-phone should recognise and take you easily to various websites. Just point the phone camera at it.

HERITAGE SOCIETY WEBSITE



THE GREEN PLAQUE HERITAGE TRAIL

