

Chesterfield

And

District

Family

History

Society



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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME TO THE SOCIETY

No 872. Ms S Cade, 3 Garden Close, Exeter, Devon. EX2 5PA

e.mail sue.c@eclipse.co.uk

GREEN	John Henry	Lincoln	owned a shop in Chesterfield		b ?1851
GREEN	Annie,(wife of above)		Chesterfield	DBY	?1852
GREEN	Hettie Eliza		Chesterfield	DBY	?1886
GREEN	Ernest		Chesterfield	DBY	? 1875
GREEN	Harold		Chesterfield	DBY	?1880
GREEN	Jessie		Chesterfield	DBY	? 1884
GREEN	Bernard		Chesterfield	DBY	? 1888
GREEN	Herbert		Chesterfield	DBY	? 1891
GREEN	Doris		Chesterfield	DBY	? 1894
GREEN	Reginald		Chesterfield	DBY	? 1899
GREEN	John		Chesterfield	DBY	? 1829
GREEN	Charlotte (wife of above)				? 1828
GUNNING	Herbert		Bath		? 1884
GUNNING	Edmund(Eddie)		Chesterfield	DBY	1913
GUNNING	Hettie Florence		Chesterfield	DBY	1920
GUNNING	Herbert		Chesterfield	DBY	1926

No 873. Ms R Sims, 4 Silver Meadows, Barton, Richmond, North Yorks.

DL10 6SL

SIMS	William		Newbold	DBY	1900+
SIMS	Selina		Newbold	DBY	1900+

No 874, Mrs J M Bonser, Jacaranda, Bancal De Domenech, Barx-Puig Mola, Valencia. 46758 Spain.

Email jmbonser@hotmail.co.uk

BONSER	William Henry		Whittington Moor	DBY	1800?
BONSER	Albert James		Whittington Moor	DBY	1894
CASBOLT	Honora		?	DBY	1800?
DAW(E)S	Mabel		Mansfield Woodhouse	NTT	1893

No 875, Mr J Cantrill, 46 Lea Road, Hayfield, High Peak, Derbyshire.

SK22 2 HE

Email astridhq@hotmail.co.uk

CANTRILL			Chesterfield	DBY	All
CUTTS			North Wingfield	DBY	All
EWING			Tupton	DBY	1840+
HESTER			Chesterfield	DBY	1850+
HOLMES			Chesterfield	DBY	All

JONES		Brampton	DBY	1800+
KIRK		Chesterfield	DBY	All
LOWE		Brampton	DBY	All
LOWE		Hasland	DBY	pre 1840
METCALF		North Wingfield	DBY	All
SILCOCK	George		DBY	1800-1871
WILLIS		Chesterfield	DBY	1860+

No 876. Mrs P D Holmes, 7 Holmley Bank, Dronfield, Derbyshire,

ELLIS	Grace	Sheffield	YKS	
GREEN	Ellis	Sheffield	YKS	1909-1975
GREEN	Frederick	Sheffield	YKS	
INGALL	Dorothy	Sheffield	YKS	1919-1999
INGALL	Arthur Edward	Sheffield	YKS	

No 877, Mrs U E Coles, 21 Nightingale Road, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6JX

e.mail Ula721sun@aol.com

EVANS	Rosie	Grassmoor	DBY	1913-1929
EVANS	Thomas J	Grassmoor	DBY	1861-1939?
GRICE	Rosa Annie	Grassmoor	DBY	1875-1945
GRICE	George	Grassmoor	DBY	1831-
GRICE	Elizabeth	Wymondham	LEI	1829-



HELP WANTED

I am trying to find out about the QUEEN'S PARK HOTEL that used to be on Markham Road, at the bottom of Park Road.

I would like to find out anything about it, who the landladies/gentlemen were, what events happened there & if anyone has any photos at all that have memorialized those events.

I would appreciate any help at all.

Dawn Rhodes, membership No. 726, 51 Didcot Close, Chesterfield, S40 2UF
e.mail dawn.r2@zoom.co.uk



My family history research has revealed a relative I did not know existed. I have established he was EDWIN MATTHEWS born at 2 White Houses, Chesterfield, Derbyshire in 1909 and was the youngest of a family of 4 boys and 2 girls.

EDWIN married MARY TURNER in December 1937 and the marriage was solemnised at the Methodist Chapel, Heath Road, Holmewood, North Wingfield Derbyshire.

MARY was 25 years of age at the time of the marriage and Holmewood Lane , Heath is given as the residence at that time for both EDWIN and MARY. Mary's father was SAMUEL TURNER, a Colliery Deputy.

I would greatly appreciate any information relating to Edwin and Mary Matthews also the TURNER family

Member no 506, Ronald Matthews, 77 First Avenue, Carlton, Nottingham. NG4 1PH
e.mail ron.matthews@btinternet.com



Cadfh's Programme 2008

St Hugh's R C Church Littlemoor:

1st July	Snapshots of 1895 Dronfield	Anne Brown
August	No meeting	
2nd Sep	AGM followed by	
	Pestilence, Intrigue and Murder	Ian Morgan
7th Oct	Who was Mrs Williamson?	
	An 18th and 19th century genealogical detective story	John Titford
4th Nov	Christmas at Chatsworth	Christine Robinson
2nd Dec	Christmas Party	

FICHE COPIES FOR SALE June 2008

St Bartholemew (Whittington) (some gaps)

BAPTISMS	1650-1902	(13 fiche)	£8.00
	1902-1912	(3 fiche)	£2.50
	1912-1922	(3 fiche)	£3.00

Brampton Methodist BAPTISMS (some gaps)	(4 fiche)	£3.00
St James the Apostle TEMPLE NORMANTON. MARRIAGES 1868-1919	(1 fiche)	£1.25
All Saints HEATH MARRIAGES 1760-1929	(3 fiche)	£2.50
St. Thomas' Brampton, BAPTISMS 1832-1944	(7 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES 1832-1972	(11 fiche)	£6.00
BURIALS 1832-1974	(6 fiche)	£3.50
St Peter & Paul Old Brampton MARRIAGES 1756-1928	(7 fiche)	£3.50
MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS	(3 fiche)	£2.75
St. John's NEWBOLD MARRIAGES 1861-1920	(7 fiche)	£3.75
1920-1937	(4 fiche)	£3.00
Christ Church STONEGRAVELS MARRIAGES 1914-1953	(3 fiche)	£2.00
Holy Trinity CHESTERFIELD MARRIAGES 1854 1933	(6 fiche)	£4.50
St. Paul's HASLAND/GRASSMOOR MARRIAGES 1851-1923	(3 fiche)	£2.00
St Mary & All Saints CHESTERFIELD BAPTISMS 1761-1801	(4 fiche)	£3.00
BAPTISMS 1908-1934	(7 fiche)	£4.50
MARRIAGES 1761-1822	(6 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES 1822-1844	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES 1844-1858	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES 1858-1871	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES 1871-1885	(5 fiche)	£4.00
MARRIAGES 1885-1901	(4 fiche)	£3.25
MARRIAGES 1901-1916	(4 fiche)	£3.50
MARRIAGES 1916-1933	(6 fiche)	£4.50
MARRIAGES 1933-1967	(7 fiche)	£5.00

St Mary & All Saints CHESTERFIELD			
BURIALS	1761-1801	(4 fiche)	£3.25

St Laurence (BARLOW)			
MARRIAGES	1754-1942	(3 Fiche)	£2.50

Derbyshire Times Extracts			
MARRIAGES	1880-1894	(3 fiche)	£2.00
DEATHS	1880-1894	(12 fiche)	£8.00

1851 Chesterfield Town Residents Name Index (2 fiche) £2.00

Copies of the Microfiche can be obtained at the prices shown from
 Mr R Batteson, 17 Orchards Way, Walton Road, Chesterfield, S40 3DA
 Please make all payments to C.D.F.H.S. Prices include UK postage,
 Overseas orders must be paid in Sterling and should include 2 IRC's to cover
 postage.



MEMBERS MEETING February 2008

"Bolsover Castle Past and Present"

Talk by John Taylor illustrated with slides

By way of introduction John explained that he used to work for the Inland Revenue but left their employ 10 years ago to pursue his interest in history. He is now a volunteer guide for English Heritage at Bolsover Castle.

John's interest in Bolsover Castle began when he was taken there as a small boy. His maternal grandmother's surname was Bolsover so he believed then that he was related to the people who lived there. This was the start of his life long interest in the castle.

Bolsover Castle was built on a permeable magnesium limestone ridge in 1186. This is not the castle that we see today. The remains of the original castle are buried under the present one. The castle we now know was built in what was then Mercia. Bolsover, as a place was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as having "14 ploughshares".

There are various theories as to how Bolsover got its name, one is that it was named after "Ball Man". Whatever the origins of the name it is known by the local inhabitants as "Bowser"!

When the Normans built the original castle they used 4,000 – 5,000 men, mostly soldiers and sailors and therefore it was built very quickly. The Saxons were better builders than the Normans and in 1186 they added a mote and bailey together with a palisade.

The original castle was built in the same style as the castle at Peveril. William Peveril, the illegitimate son of William the Conqueror, was given honours by his father and also accumulated much wealth. In the 1970's archaeologists constructed a facsimile of the original Bolsover Castle. Its exterior would have been white making it stand out in a dramatic way.

One of John's slides shows him standing on the wall walk illustrating the panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

In 1553 George Talbot the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury acquired Bolsover Castle. His second wife was Bess of Hardwick. He was her 4th husband. Bess was a hard person. Queen Elizabeth I adored Bess but even she put her in the Tower on two occasions. It was Bess who began the Cavendish line. All of her children were from her second marriage to Sir William Cavendish. Her three sons were William, Henry and Charles. William was her favourite, Henry was the black sheep of the family and Charles was the best looking.

Hardwick was Bess' childhood home. She was born at a farmhouse there in 1528 and died at the new hall in 1608, coincidentally 400 years ago this year. The farmhouse survives today and Bess' blood runs through the Cavendish dynasty.

The 6th Earl of Shrewsbury died in 1592. His son Gilbert became the 7th Earl of Shrewsbury. He was married to one of Bess' daughters and was stepbrother and brother-in-law to Sir Charles Cavendish! Bess' daughter Elizabeth married Charles Stuart, Earl of Lennox in 1574. The couple died young leaving Bess with the guardianship of her royal grand-daughter, Arabella.

In 1608 Gilbert passed Bolsover Castle to Sir Charles Cavendish on a token lease of £10 for 1000 years. In 1612 Charles' life changed and he started buying property and purchased Bolsover and Welbeck. Work on re-fashioning Bolsover started with the "Little Castle" a skilful representation of the medieval keep. He employed the best architectural stone mason, Robert Smythson, who had worked at places like Longleat, Woolaton and Burton Agnes. Robert Smythson was by then in his 60's and was helped by his son John Smythson.

Robert Smythson died in 1616 and Sir Charles Cavendish died in 1617. His son William the Earl of Newcastle continued with the plans to knock down the

medieval keep. The old castle was demolished in 5 weeks and the excavations were used as a base for its replacement.

John Pearson the biographer of the Cavendish family stated that the Earl of Newcastle was by far the grandest of the family but was foolhardy. In 1610 his father placed him in the royal household of Prince Henry to learn horsemanship and become a master of horse. He was trained by the best in Europe and built up a friendship with the king.

His father's tomb in Bolsover church is fashioned in alabaster and Ashford marble and was made by the Smythsons. The tomb also features his mother Catherine and includes portraits of his brothers William and Charles.

In 1612 William was sent by the king to the Duke of Savoy in northern Italy to learn the ways of courtiers. He became a favourite of the Duke who gave him a bejewelled saddle, now kept at Welbeck by the Dowager, Alice.

When he returned to England he aspired to be at the top of the nobility. By 1617 John Smythson's plans for the new Bolsover were complete but the art works were added later. These were similar to those in a gothic castle designed by Inigo Jones. The designs were classic and featured a baluster painted in expensive green paint, a split pediment, a figure of Hercules taking over from Atlas, two lions, the Cavendish coat of arms and King Charles himself. It was in an infusion of styles.

In 1619 King James I made him Viscount of Mansfield. The king also visited Welbeck.

At Bolsover the first of the grand rooms, known as the Anteroom, houses a painting of Hercules. The picture is styled on the classics. The belief at the time was that to achieve nirvana you had to start at the bottom. The picture features the four humours including melancholia. The globe in the picture represents the horoscopes and the stars.

One of the other rooms is known as the "Pillar Parlour". It also is a fusion of styles. The fireplace is gothic with classic Doric columns. The vaulted ceiling is decorated with horses.

It was here that the Earl of Newcastle housed Charles I and his wife Henrietta during their sumptuous stay in 1634. On one day, 13 July 1634, the Earl entertained the king with a feast that was unparalleled. It cost £15,000 (one million pounds in today's money).

Records for the period show the huge cost of the feast. 6500 birds were served including peacocks and swans. The cost of one tablecloth alone was £160. Workers were imported to do the gruelling work of catering for the king and his 250 courtiers.

In addition to the feast Ben Johnson wrote a masque entitled “Loves welcome to Bolsover” which was performed for King Charles and the Stuart court. All the characters including the royal party wore costumes and sweetmeats were served on silver platters by angels and cherubs.

Today weddings are performed in the room called the “Star Chamber”. Originally this room was used to try and judge people. But in 1641 when Parliament was abolished it became a place to entertain and eat. The room has been painstakingly restored to its original glory. Its ceiling is painted in the original vibrant blue colour with 250 stars made of lead coated in gold and a centre of roses and leaves. The massive fireplace here incorporates the Talbot dogs from the family coat of arms.

A room adjoining the Star Chamber features red damask curtains, blue panelling and marble from Italy, it is known as the “Marble Closet” and was used by Margaret Cavendish the Earl’s second wife to do her writing. She is reputed to haunt the room.

Upstairs there is a withdrawing room known as the “Duke’s Chamber”. This room houses a large collection of telescopes. One is dated 1603 and is 18 feet long. Further up there is a room called the “Heaven Room”. This contains a painting of Christ ascending into heaven with putti and cherubs.

In the garden there is a fountain in the shape of a naked female statue said to represent Venus/Aphrodite. Nicholas Pevsner described it as the rudest statue in the country!

In the 1630’s William added the vast and stately rooms of the terrace range. Originally it had a one hundred and forty-foot long gallery which was then shortened. The outside featured cannon pilasters. There is a Flemish influence on the gables. The entrance is approached by a flight of stone steps and one can imagine that King Charles I must have entered here when he visited the castle in 1634. Sadly the building is now a romantic ruin, the roof is said to have gone to Welbeck in 1752.

The last of the additions to the castle is the cavernous riding house with its magnificent roof. It is ninety feet long and was built for “menage” (similar to dressage). Here military horses would have been schooled in various manoeuvres. In 1638 William Cavendish became tutor to Charles II, age 8, in

menage and fencing at Richmond Palace. In 1651 William wrote a book on horse training.

There is a portrait of William at the time of the civil war. In 1641 he was general in chief of the royalist forces. His critics labelled him lazy and that he lay in bed until 11.00am, however, on the battlefield he was brave. He retained 3,000 troops, the Newcastle White coats and they were loyal to the death. He supported the royalist cause and lent the king £93,000 (equivalent to £6.2 million in today's money). William was condemned unfairly when the royalists were defeated at the battle of Marston Moor. In reality the royalists were outnumbered.

After the defeat by Cromwell in 1644 William went to the continent. His first wife Elizabeth had died on 17 April 1643 and at the French court he met and fell in love with Margaret Lucas who was 30 years his junior. He wrote her 70 love sonnets. Virginia Wolfe unfairly described Margaret as "man-like" but this may have been because there were few women in royal society in the 17c. Sadly William was impotent and despite various potions tried by both parties they were unable to have children.

William returned to England after the restoration of the monarchy, on the return journey their coach was mobbed by admirers at Gainsborough. They were the pop stars of their day.

In 1660 William became "Gentleman of the Bedchamber" to the king and was made Lord Lieutenant of Nottingham. In 1665 he was given a Dukedom.

A picture of the long gallery in 1916 shows a photograph of the 230 "Bolsover Lads". They had taken practice pot shots here and the bullet holes are still visible. Sadly 175 of them were slaughtered along with the "Sheffield Lads" in World War I.

In conclusion to his talk John urged members to visit the castle where there is a visitor centre and free guided tours. The Star Chamber is a splendid venue for weddings and can accommodate a few or many. In addition the castle hosts living history events like jousting to give a flavour of the medieval period. The 2008 season starts on 4th March.

Yvonne Mason gave the vote of thanks.



4th March

“The Golden Age of the Picture Postcard” a talk by Clive Holliday using a power point presentation of approximately 100 postcards.

Clive started his presentation with a seaside joke postcard produced by Bamforths. The words on the card had a double meaning. This particular one has the question “Do you ever get a little tickle?”

Older cards however can be more interesting and can tell us much about the times when they were produced. The next card was a photographic view of West Bognor from the pier. This shows bathing huts from the days when people changed into their bathing suits and hats in the privacy of the hut which was then drawn by a horse into the sea. This card dates from the period when George V uttered his famous words about Bognor!

A postcard of Weymouth shows men and women “promenading” on the sea front. The ladies here are wearing large hats and some are carrying parasols to protect them from the sun. Again bathing huts are in evidence.

One of the earliest postcards was produced in October 1869. An example of this type of card was posted in Belgium in 1877. It had the stamp printed on one side. The British Post Office copied this idea and in 1870 this was the first English Carte de Poste. The first British cards were designed with the address on one side and the message on the other so the postman wouldn't have time to read it!

By 1895 the picture was on one side of the card with a small space for a message and the address was on the reverse. In 1901 the size of the card was standardised at three and a half inches by five and a half inches. The pictures became bigger and the space for the message became smaller. This was the golden age of the postcard. People collected them, they put them in albums, swapped them and joined collectors clubs.

In 1902 the British Post Office changed the design of the postcard so that one side was divided to write the message and the address and the picture was on the whole of the other side. Before the reverse was divided the picture side sometimes included a flap or space for the message.

Different countries produced different types of cards. The Japanese were skilled in hand coloured tinted cards. These were produced with the card passing along a production line of different colourists. The French produced studio shots of young children beautifully lit by candlelight. Even leather cards were made in Canada. A German card of 1905 features a lady showing her ankle, this was quite racy for the time and would have driven grandpa crazy!

Bamforths were the leaders in the production of postcards until WWI when the Americans took over the lead.

A postcard showing a painting of three cats in a line with the words "Who said ghosts? I did", was based on a picture by Louis Wain. He was the artist who drew cats in human situations. His pictures are now very collectable and this particular postcard is worth about £10. Sadly Louis Wain's mind deteriorated and he ended his days in an institution for the insane. He was still drawing cats but his pictures became increasingly bizarre.

The American Company, Harrison Fisher, produced a set of six cards featuring the senses. These were sight, taste, smell, hearing, touch and last but not least "common sense".

We all know that in today's digital age photographs can be manipulated. Early postcards were also "doctored". Close examination of some cards show the same people appearing twice, the same herd of cows occurring in various places, shadows in scenes that are moonlit and the same country yokel brings greetings from "Darzet", "Zummerset" and "Dere ol Devon"!

Upturned boats feature as cosy homes in two cards. One was French and the other was from Loch Long in Scotland. Clive visited Loch Long and enquired about the whereabouts of the boat and was told that it had blown away!

On a recent holiday in Wimborne Clive tried to recreate the same scene as shown on a post card of East Street. The original card was black and white and included Frisby's the shoe shop. Frisby's was still there but Clive was informed that the original shop in the card had burnt down and had been rebuilt.

Picture postcards of royalty were very popular. One card features four generations ie Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V and Edward VIII. Other cards of the royal family show Prince John who tragically died very young; Queen Mary; Cicely Cavendish a direct descendant of Bess of Hardwick; the present Queen Elizabeth II as a baby and the children of the last Tsar of Russia.

The world of glamour was represented in a postcard of Gladys Cooper. She was a stage actress and mother-in-law to Robert Morley. She was considered a beauty of her day and was a star of stage, films and TV.

The cameras in the early days of postcards required long exposure times and models posing for a picture often had a fixed expression because they had to

stay still for a long time. Additionally any animals used were often stuffed ones so that they did not move!

Postcards are snap shots in time and are historical records of the period. One card features a charabanc outing. The vehicle shows a maximum speed for the vehicle as 20mph and the ladies on the coach are all wearing the cloche hats that were fashionable at the time.

Many thousands of cards were sent home during WWI. The messages on the cards were often censored with a black pen or words were cut out for security reasons. The Daily Mail produced postcards in aid of an army charity one of which shows the firing of a Howitzer gun. These cards are known as “Battle postcards”.

The most popular cards sent during this period were the woven cards with ornate silk embroidered designs. A black edged card was produced on 12 October 1915 to commemorate the death by German firing squad of the nurse Edith Cavell.

Men held as prisoners of war by the Japanese were allowed to send postcards home but were not allowed to write them themselves. The POWs ticked items on a prepared list and the Japanese then typed these details onto a postcard. The prisoner then signed the card. One resourceful Chesterfield man sent a card with dots on it which when joined up revealed a morse code message.

In 1908 Donald McGill was a prolific producer of seaside joke postcards. These cards were renown for their double meanings and were very popular. Some people took exception to the cards and Mc Gill was sent to prison for a short period. He claimed that any misinterpretation of the message was in the mind of the beholder. One typical McGill card features a nurse being rebuked with the message “No, no nurse, I said prick his boil”! This accompanied by much laughter concluded Clive’s talk on the golden age of the picture postcard.

A vote of thanks was given by Clyde Anderson.



1st April “Rags To Riches” A humorous talk by Jean Henshaw.

Jean began her talk with some background information about her family. Her father was born in 1902. They were a poor family of mother father and 9 children. The father died young and in those days there were no pensions or handouts so they all had to work hard to make ends meet. Jean’s father

became a coal merchant. It was hard work and she remembers in the terrible winter of 1947 that he would take 2 sledges out on the coal lorry so that he could deliver coal to inaccessible places to ensure that everyone had a fire.

Because he was poor he could not afford to get married straight away and so he was engaged for 9 years. He eventually married and had 4 children – Jean, twin girls and one son. In those days mums did not go out to work, they were always there when you came home from school. As Jean's father had had a hard life he was determined to give his own children every chance with theirs.

When Jean was young there was no television or "game boys" to entertain them in the evenings so they used to pass the time making peg rugs. Her mother was able to knit, embroider and crochet and she taught her 3 daughters these skills. Although her brother was 3 years younger than Jean he was determined that everything his sister could do he could do better. He not only learned to knit but also mastered the complex patterns of Fair-Isle knitting. He became so good at it that he made up his own patterns.

However, Jean's brother was not bright at school. He had a speech impediment and pronounced his "J's" as "H's". This was a problem as his 3 sisters were Jean, Joyce and Janet! Jean's mother blamed her for his backwardness as she said she spoke for him and didn't give him the chance to speak for himself.

In the 1950's a new curate was appointed to the parish church in Matlock. He was Paul Miller. He had been a prisoner of war in Japan. Before the war he had been an artist but due to his experiences in the war he turned to religion and became a priest. It was Paul who saw the artistic potential in her brother.

When her brother became 14 and eligible to leave school the headmaster said to her father "I'm sorry Mr. Allen but your son is backward", this condition would probably be described today as having "learning difficulties". Jean's father suggested that he could be a plumber but he turned this down and said he would get himself a job. He did indeed find a job as an apprentice dental technician (making false teeth).

Paul Miller suggested that he join Chesterfield Art school at Hasland. So he went to night school where he studied sculpture, painting and design and he excelled at all. His lecturer recognised that he was gifted and suggested that he studied full-time. There were no grants at this time and his lecturer helped him in a two year crash course. He passed this with flying colours. As he had come this far he decided to apply to a good art college. He was accepted at Camberwell Art College and did exceptionally well. He sat the scholarship and was one of only 5 in England to pass. He then spent a year at the Royal

College of Art and won a scholarship there. His mother and father went to London to see him receive his diploma in his cap and gown. However, his parents did not rate London and remarked, "you can keep it!"

Her brother was now out on his own. His first job was with Sandersons who were famous for producing co-ordinated wallpaper, paint and curtain fabrics. He went on to work as a designer at Courtaulds but he still loved Fair-Isle. Eventually he became head of Design at the Royal College of Art in the department of Design and Knitwear. Here he worked with various famous students including Princess Margaret's daughter, the Duchess of Kent's daughter and the Emmanuels who designed the Princess of Wales' wedding dress.

He still had speech difficulties and was unable to pronounce some words (he was probably dyslexic). His students were aware of this and said the unpronounceable words for him. Despite his difficulties with words he decided in 1985, with the help of his students, to write a book entitled "The Machine Knitters Book" by John Allen. His name was actually John Donald Allen but he was known as Don at home and John professionally. There was a book launch and signing at Harrods which was covered by Thames TV. Jean and her sister travelled to London by the early train (known as the milk train) to be at the launch of the book. Jean is the proud owner of a copy of the book which her brother duly signed..

John always remembered his days as a hard up student. His father had been good to him and during the holidays he used to work to get money to help with his fees. He had one job at the local colour works in Matlock and would come home on different occasions with his beard dyed red, blue and green. The chemicals made him ill so the next year he went to work in the local sewerage works which horrified his mother.

He retained his interest in Fair-Isle knitting and became Chairman of the Fair-Isle Industry. He went island hopping in the islands and visited the ladies who were doing the hand knitting.

John never married but he would have made a wonderful father. He is always treating the grandchildren and great grandchildren of his sisters who now number 15. Sadly none of them are as artistic or gifted as he is.

He bought his first house with his mother in mind. She was a great admirer of Winston Churchill whose constituency was in Woodford and this is where his house is situated. It is a Victorian house and it is filled with antiques and clutter. In 1987 the magazine "Homes and Gardens" featured his house. The pictures show pieces of furniture he bought in Sheffield. One particular item is

an ornate Japanese cabinet. He loves china and has a collection of some unusual Clarice Cliff pieces. He also collects clocks and has as many as 7 in one room all set to different times!

John has been to Nepal and Katmandu in the course of his work. He was so struck by the poverty of the children there that he and a friend sponsor the local school. John takes designs made in England to Nepal where they do wonderful textile work. They work outside on grass to produce collages and floor coverings. The Nepalese are happy people who work like mad to make money but stop when they think they have enough.

John contacted Jean because he wanted to arrange an exhibition of his carpets and collages in Derbyshire. The problem was finding a room big enough. Mansfield Museum was chosen and the exhibition "Dream-time Revisited" featured carpets, wall hangings and collages. He sold everything.

John is particularly interested in Aboriginal art and has lectured on the subject around the world. He held an exhibition of Aboriginal art and found a buyer for a rug priced at £1500, plus orders for 3 others.

Even when he became 70 two years ago he was still working, holding exhibitions at Thoresby and the NEC at Birmingham. He asked Jean if she would help him find a lady in Derbyshire who was a lecturer on textiles at Sheffield University. The lady's name was Sarah Burgess who turned out to be Jean's next door neighbour!

John is on the panel for the Duke of Edinburgh awards and when the panel meets he has lunch with the Duke on the Thames. He describes the Duke as having a good sense of humour but with a large vocabulary of swear words!

When John was 70 he held a party at Thoresby. Here Jean was introduced to a lady that she had met at a house party in London 20 years ago. She remembered that the house had its own swimming pool and obviously belonged to wealthy people. The lady said that her brother was disappointed not to have met her. Who was the brother? Non other than Richard Todd the film star!

During a recent visit to Nepal John was taken ill. He had drunk some yak milk that was not sterilised. He came home at Christmas but was losing weight and going downhill. In January he collapsed and was found to have cancer of the stomach as well as the infection from the yak milk. He was admitted to the Royal Marsden hospital and it was thought that he only had a few days to live. However, 3 days later he rang Jean to say he "felt champion", his Christian

faith had saved him. He is now back to normal planning to go to Nepal again and hold another exhibition at Thoresby.

So he has gone from rags to riches and achieved everything despite his headmaster labelling him “backward!”

Roy Pidcock gave the vote of thanks.



Hector Feltham’s account of his journey from Paris 1940

On Wednesday June 12th., we left Paris in a lorry at 3.30 p.m. There were fifteen of us, members of the staff and several of them had their families with them. The lorry, which was not a particularly large one, was loaded up with office safes, adding machines, big wicker baskets full of office files, etc. upon which we had to seat ourselves as best we could.

At this time there was only one road out of Paris that was left open to traffic – the Routed 'Orleans – and the sight it presented was pathetic. The whole width of the road was filled with traffic moving at a snail’s pace, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. The latter were already dead tired just a few miles out of the city, and the distance they were able to go is a matter of conjecture. Most of them were pushing cycles, prams or handcarts loaded up with as much as they could pile on to them in the way of personal belongings, which of course was not much, and there was hardly a car on the road which did not have bedding strapped on the roof.

At one point a few miles out of Paris a generous minded householder had rigged up a long board on trestles on the pavement in front of his house, with dozens of cups of water, which they were handing out to all and sundry, for the weather was very hot, and the cyclists and pedestrians especially were glad to refresh themselves.

We had each taken a little food with us, a sandwich or a packet of biscuits, and that night at 11 p.m.. We pulled up on the roadside so that our driver might get a little sleep.

After having partaken of a frugal repast, we settled down to rest as best we could on our safes and baskets. Naturally there was no question of being able to stretch out, and it was not very comfortable. We arranged however that the driver should lay full length on the front seat, for it was essential that he should get at least a little sleep. Incidentally, it was the first time that he had driven a lorry. He had previously only driven his own car, and the lorry took it out of

him, all the more so with the state of the traffic on the roads. We were then somewhere between Arpajon and Montlhéry.

We set off again at 4 a.m. next morning, after having stretched our legs a little on the road to get rid of some of the cramps we had got into during the night.

We managed to buy a little bread, some meat paste in tins and some biscuits in a small town we passed through, and once again ran into blocked roads, and traffic jams such as I have never seen. In one hour we covered exactly 110 metres – we measured it -, and as evening drew on we were seven kilometres off the town of Etampes, with nothing to eat.

Four of us set out on foot for the town to buy some food, and all along those seven kilometres we passed a continuous line of cars and lorries of all sorts and sizes.

On approaching the town, we came to a point where two side roads ran into the one we were on, both of which were equally as jammed up with traffic as our own, and no one was controlling it, hence the slow progress.

When we finally got into Etampes, all the inhabitants were packing up preparatory to evacuation. We found a baker's shop closed up with a notice on the shutters to the effect that there would be bread in an hour's time. We could only find one shop not closed up, and went in to see what we could buy in the way of food, but all that was left was one pound of dried prunes – which we bought. There was no wine left, but we managed to get two bottles of tap-water.

It then started to rain, and we went back to the baker's shop and stood outside in the queue for three quarters of an hour waiting for the bread to come out of the oven. We were only allowed to buy one pound of bread each, for there was not much of it.

So we started our return journey along the road to the lorry. By this time the military had started to regulate the traffic, and things were moving a little better, and the rain stopped. Darkness then fell, and by the time we reached the spot where we had left the lorry, it was quite dark, and we had to keep shouting out the name of our driver in order not to miss him. We eventually found the lorry at practically the same spot at which we had left it three hours previously.

To be continued.

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Keith Feltham member no 276

ADVANCE NOTICE OF A.G.M September 2008

7.30pm at St Hugh's Roman Catholic Church
Chesterfield.

Nominations are requested for the Election of the Executive Committee.
Please could you submit any nominations for:

Chairman,
Vice Chairman,
Treasurer,
Secretary,
Membership Secretary
Editor

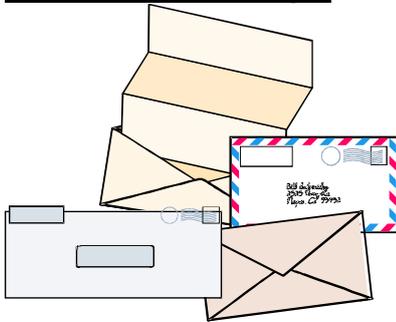
in writing two weeks before the AGM.

Permission must be obtained from the nominee before any names are put forward. Nominations should be sent to:

Correspondence Secretary Doreen Rodgers, 2 Highlow Close,
Loundsley Green, Chesterfield, S40 4PG



Editors Jottings



If all goes to plan, members should find in this magazine the latest free fiche containing the latest Members Interest Surnames.

We value your feed back regarding this.

Or would you prefer the Members Interest Surnames via email?

Have a good summer.

Carol