

HUCKNALL TORKARD TIMES

SPECIAL
EDITION

Issue 20 September 2001 25p



The Duke
of
Portland
who gave
the land
for the
Church
Hall
project.

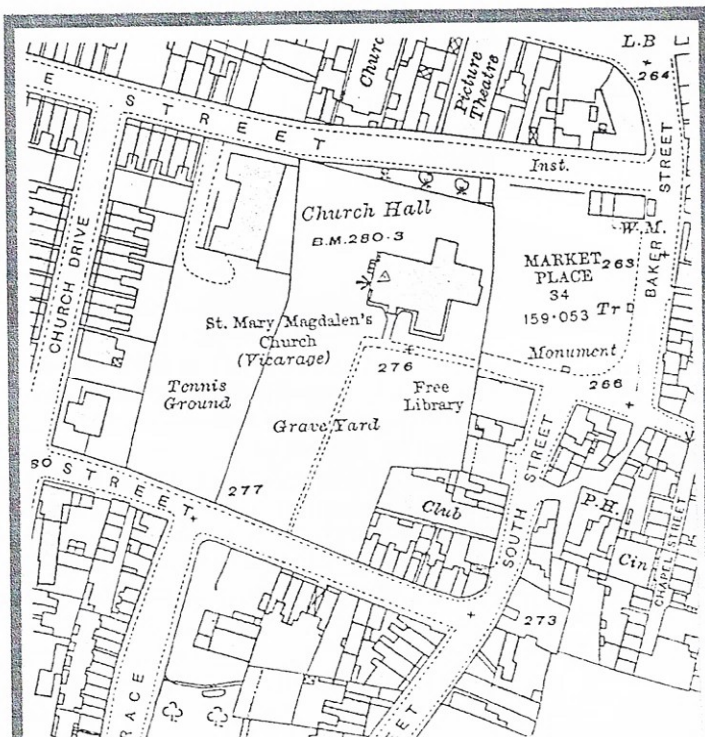
THE CHURCH HALL

This is the building on Ogle Street now called Hucknall Community Centre.

As I typed up this edition I felt that the church people of Hucknall in 1905 were tired of fund raising. In the past twenty five years they had already found money for two major extensions, of St. Mary's, the Parish Church, founded St. John's Church and Parsonage, and St. Peter's Church. Now there was a new project - The Church Hall. It must have been such a tremendous strain to raise the money for the building often in very small amounts but it was done with love and faith.

The building has touched the lives of almost everyone in Hucknall in some way. Inspired helpers or teachers, giving time and talents, seem to have ensured that memories are always happy ones.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with this issue. It has been a pleasure to write and compile the information.



Ordnance Survey Map dated 1916 at a scale of 25.344 inches to one mile. It shows Ogle Street and the area around the Church Hall.

THE CHURCH HALL

THE INITIAL IDEA

Hucknall Torkard Parish Magazine for April 1905 made a statement. "A very important meeting will be held in the Coffee Tavern on Tuesday April 4th at 7.30pm to consider the advisability of building a Church Hall." Canon Godber presided at the meeting and the new vicar Edward Roberts introduced the subject. He said "A hall is necessary for existing organisations and extension of church work. The Sunday schools are overcrowded, the Boys' Brigade is hampered, the Band of Hope has had to go to the Public Hall, all through lack of accommodation. The hall, if built, should be large enough to dispel all fears of any future occurrence of church work being hampered. It was thought a hall capable of seating 700, which could be divided by means of partitions into 12 or more classrooms with the addition of cloakrooms, kitchens, etc. and rooms upstairs, would not be at all too large."

The vicar did realise that it was a bad time to appeal for money especially since people felt they were tired of fund raising and "the work was bad", but at the same time a hall was urgently needed and the Duke of Portland had kindly offered a piece of land for the purpose. The scheme was well discussed and agreed upon. Finally a provisional committee was appointed to oversee the business of the scheme.

FANNING THE FLAME

A little later Canon Godber made a munificent offer. He promised to give £100 for every £50 raised by the people of Hucknall for Church Hall funds. This generous offer fanned the flame of enthusiasm in the heart of all church people in the parish. Many and varied were the ideas put forward to raise the money required; from direct donations to subscriptions of 3d per week; "remembering he gives twice who gives quickly and in this cause gives thrice who gives once". Parishioners were also asked to come and help excavate the ground under the direction of Mr. E. Bostock who had been appointed working ganger.

His Grace, the Duke of Portland, generously gave a strip of land towards the project. It stretched between Ogle Street and West Street 100 feet wide. The land was to be used for a recreation ground and as "an assembly ground for many of our open air gatherings".

A "Church Hall Tea" was held on the site of the proposed building. "The evening was ideal and the field looked very gay and bright. Over 400, a multitudinous muster, sat down to tea including 50 members of the band and of the Boys' Brigade in a large marquee. There were two display drills by the Boys' Brigade (under the command of Captain Carter who had specially come over from Ilkeston) which were much appreciated as was a glee excellently rendered by the Glee Club." A singing competition was won by Mr. Albon, the fire balloons were all a success, professor Baldwin did a remarkable parachute performance and the Excelsior Band under the conductorship of Mr. J. Cupit gave their services. Many people had to be thanked for helping by giving food, prizes, use of crockery, transporting goods, washing up, etc. but for one contest special thanks went to Mr. C. Daws for giving the shank of beef at the end of the greasy pole.

STEADY PROGRESS

By October 1905 the conveyance of the site had been signed and sealed. "At a meeting in the Coffee Tavern at the end of July the committee appointed an architect, Mr. Louis Ambler, F.S.A. of Temple Chambers, London".

Meanwhile in November fund raising continued with a Grand Concert in the Public Hall. The programme was in the hands of excellent artistes who kindly gave their services; namely:- Mrs. H. Tomlinson; Miss Gertrude Pegg; Mr. A. W. Kingston; Mr. W. H. Holland; Mr. H. G. M. Henderson; Mr. W. T. Kingston and Mr. J. Egan. Mr. J. Munks presided at the piano. Thanks are also due to Mr. Morley for printing bills and tickets entirely free of charge. The proceeds for this exceptional event amounted to something over £19. "A splendid result."

On Boxing Day, Tuesday December 26th 1905, "a short service was held at the church after which the the choir and congregation proceeded to the site" of the Church Hall where there was a large assembly. "A beautiful silver spade was presented to Canon Godber by Mrs. Roberts. Canon Godber cut the first sod and remarked that about 20 years ago the Coffee Tavern was built and had been very useful but now a larger building was needed. He commented on the generosity of the Duke of Portland in giving the site and said " he was glad that day to be able to dig and was not ashamed to beg for a liberal response in the collection to be taken." This amounted to £27 4s. The inscription on the spade was "Presented by the church people of Hucknall Torkard to the Rev. Canon John Godber M.A. at the cutting of the first sod on the Church Hall site on Tuesday December 26th 1905 as a token of their esteem and gratitude for his good deeds and kindly interest in the work of the parish." There were 250 people present at the tea in the Public Hall after the ceremony.

The register of plans for Hucknall Torkard Urban District Council lists plan No. 2225 on 19th January 1906, deposited by Louis Ambler, for a Church Hall/Parish Institute on Ogle Street.

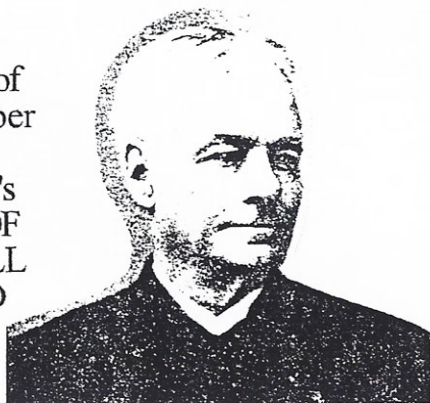
DOWN TO WORK

Excavation of the site began. Stalwart friends were welcomed to join in with pick, spade and goodwill. Thanks were given to the diggers who were already giving their labour, to those who had loaned a horse, cart, or carter but there was still the need of a large army of men to help with the excavation.

Fund raising carried on with a rummage sale, talk and sketch. Then in June it was recorded that "the contract for the building had been obtained by Messrs. Fish & Son of Nottingham," and we hope the firm will begin work soon. It was hoped during the building of the hall to publish a month by month report of the progress made.

News that the foundation stone was to be laid by His Grace the Duke of Portland on Wednesday August 1st 1906 pleased everyone. Meantime the contractors had begun work and "trenches for the footings of the front wall had been dug, the heating apparatus chamber has been excavated and much necessary material has been brought on site. Mr. D. Davies has been appointed clerk of works."

Illustration of Canon Godber taken from Beardsmore's HISTORY OF HUCKNALL TORKARD



SAD NEWS

After all this good news it was sad to discover that Canon Godber had died. "With deep regret and much sorrow we record the loss of our friend and benefactor. He fell asleep on Sunday evening July 22nd. We laid him in his last earthly resting place with reverence, respect and prayers on Thursday July 26th." "John Hankin Godber was born at Whyburn in our parish and Hucknall was written on his heart. His loss will be felt very much in our diocese, and in his city, but by no means least in the place he loved so well." He contributed much to make St. Mary's "exceedingly magnificent". He gave money towards the building, organ, painting, panels, windows and the Church Hall scheme was especially dear to him. "We shall miss his good cheer, happy face, generous gifts and his true heart."



Pen and ink drawing of the Church Hall by the architect Louis Ambler

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING

The site adjoins the church yard on the west and Ogle Street on the north and West Street on the south. It covers nearly an acre. Three quarters of the ground is fairly level, the remainder slopes down to Ogle Street, but most of the ground forming the slope has been removed to form a side of the building. "Advantage has been taken of the slope in planning the building by arranging an entrance on the level of the upper floor" as well as the entrance on Ogle Street at ground floor level.

The building has been arranged on economical lines. "The ground floor is chiefly devoted to recreation rooms, the largest room 53ft by 29ft can be divided by folding partitions into a reading room, lecture room, and a games room. A billiard room 29ft by 26ft for two tables, lighted on two sides, occupying the north east corner, the lads club room of the same size being placed at the south east corner. A dark room for photography and mens lavatories are also provided on this floor and close to the entrance is the committee room." Two stair cases give access to the upper floor which is "mostly occupied by a large hall 80ft by 37ft which is capable of seating about 700 people exclusive of the raised and recessed platform which will seat about 50 more." The hall can be "divided into three portions by folding partitions and adjoining it at one end is a music room whilst at the other is a suite of service rooms consisting of kitchen, scullery, storeroom, and serving room with a store above. Ladies lavatories are provided on this floor. The walls will be brick, faced externally with red brick and stone dressings and the roof covered with slates. Estimated cost of the building is between £4,000 and £5,000.

This Foundation Stone was laid by
The Sixth Duke of Portland K.G.
On The 1st Day of August 1906

Stone on front of building near Ogle Street door.

FOUNDATION STONES

"The weather for the ceremony was beautiful after the oppressive heat of the past days." His Grace motored over from Welbeck with his agent Mr. Warner Turner. "A general salute was given by members of the Boys Brigade, under the command of Captain Rhodes and Lieutenant Allcock, as the Duke passed through the gates to the church which was well filled." After a service which included a sermon by the Bishop of Derby the choir and clergy moved in procession to the site of the building.

In the presence of a vast assembly a silver trowel was presented to His Grace who laid the stone with the words "In the faith of Jesus Christ we place this stone in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen." In his speech the Duke described the main objectives of the building and "by happy inspiration which commanded the appreciation of all; His Grace made the suggestion that the building, which would rise on the stone he had just laid, should be named the Godber Memorial Church Hall." After the ceremony a large tea was served, by the generosity of Mrs. Needham Ball, in the Public Hall where 260 people were present. Mr. Jacklin proposed a vote of thanks to the Duke of Portland for his presence and for a contribution of 100 guineas. The total contribution of the day amounted to £177 12s 7d.

The November monthly report stated that the walls were raised 10ft 6in. above the damp course and the roller steel joists and girders were all fixed for the first floor.

Two more memorial stones were laid at the end of November near the entrance to the main hall on the first floor. A short service was again held in the church and a procession formed to the site where the service continued. The day was fine and the show ceremony was beautiful and solemn. Silver trowels with ivory handles and ebony mallets were presented by Mrs. Roberts to Mrs. Needham Ball and the Rev. Clifton Smith. The Rev. Clifton Smith M.A. who was vicar of Ince and a nephew of Canon Godber said with a few well chosen words "How much pleasure he and his relations had in the thought of the noble building which was being erected to the memory of his beloved uncle and exhorted all to follow the example of simplicity and unselfishness which Canon Godber had set."

This Stone was laid by
The Rev F Clifton Smith
In Memory of and in the stead of
The late Rev Canon Godber
Nov 24 1906

This Stone was laid by
Mrs E Needham Ball
Nov 24 1906

Stones near the entrance to the main hall.
First floor level.

WORK CONTINUES

Just before Christmas a letter of appeal from the vicarage was sent to all the friends and fellow workers of Canon Godber. Only another £600 was needed to pay the estimated cost for building and furnishing the hall. Severe frosty weather around Christmas time hampered building operations but by March the rafters had been fixed to the main roof and to the offices and sanitary blocks. The report in April told how the roof had been slated, lightening conductors fixed and most importantly plasterers and joiners were working in the interior. From this time it was exciting news of door jambs and window frames being fixed, plumbing work finished on roof and gas tubing run to all points on first floor, plastering done, sashes glazed and hung, and water services run to kitchen, scullery, lavatories, and dark room.

The building was inspected by the Duke and Duchess who expressed themselves as "charmed by the arrangements" and promised to come back to Hucknall and open the hall in November.

By September final touches were being made. Messrs. Fish & Son had started building the boundary wall; the committee had started ordering furniture, namely chairs and a billiard table (Cox & Yeman), but there was a problem. Considerable damage had been done to the front of the building by stone throwing. "Only the other day a youth was seen deliberately throwing stones at the windows and we are glad to say received the punishment he deserved from his father."

GROUNDWORK

Messrs. Baron & Son of Borrowash and Mr. William Bardill of Nottingham were asked to submit tenders for laying out the grounds and gardens.

BLOCK PLAN of THE GODBER MEMORIAL

CHURCH HALL HUCKNALL

CHURCH YARD

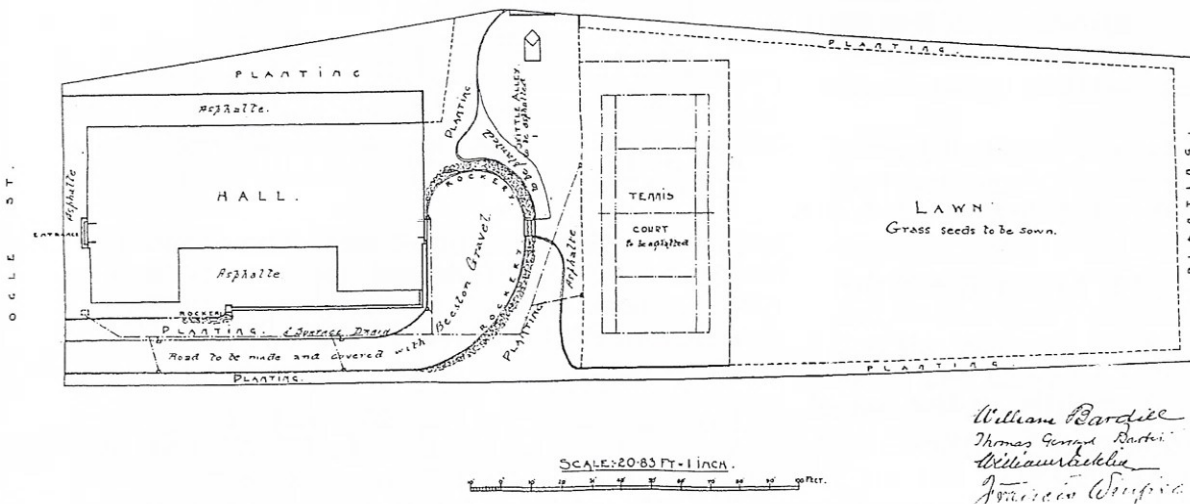


ILLUSTRATION
A copy much
reduced in size

Notts. Archives
Office Reference
PR 28,591 By kind
permission of the
Principal Archivist.
Showing plan of
grounds and garden
layout for Church
Hall to be carried
out by William
Bardill.

The agreement was
signed by William
Bardill, Thomas
Gerrard Barber,
William Jacklin and
Francis Winfield.

The Parish Magazine for October gave the following information. "The Church Hall Committee have accepted Mr. Bardill's estimate for laying out the ground. The work is now in hand and we hope it will be almost finished by November 16th. Specifications provide for an asphalt tennis court and lads drilling ground, skittle alley, a grass tennis court, and a bowling green. All this will be arranged according to a plan approved by the committee. There will be over 300 trees and shrubs planted in different parts of the ground." To add to all the other sporting activities the committee were considering forming a rifle club with a 25 yard range on the east side of the hall. Stonework of the front boundary wall was by now completed and just waiting for the iron gates and palisades to be fixed.

RULES & REGULATIONS

It was decided that the hall would be run by a board of management consisting of elected representatives from the various clubs and organisations connected with the parish church. Subscription fees were set:- annual subscription 5/-; monthly subscription 6d - but each club had individual subs. and to use the bowling club as an example entrance fee was 2/-, annual subs. 7/- and for the months of May, June and July 5/-. A long list of rules were also laid down for the membership. Opening hours, objectives, qualifications, were all noted along with another - misconduct. "No gambling, foul language, drunkenness shall be allowed on the premises. The name of any offender shall be fixed to the notice board. Shouting, playing, or noise of any kind on the staircases, in the corridor, or in the lavatories, is strictly forbidden. Each member must provide himself with a book of rules at the price of 1d."

DUKE & DUCHESS IN HUCKNALL

"November 16th will long be remembered by those privileged to be present for the opening of the Godber Memorial Church Hall."

It was November weather but as the day advanced the fog lifted until it was fairly clear. The Duke and Duchess of Portland arrived a few minutes early and the Boys' Brigade gave a general salute. "Their smart appearance evoked the admiration of the distinguished visitors." There was a large congregation at 3pm for the short service in church when the Bishop of Southwell preached. Immediately after the service a procession was formed headed by the church wardens bearing their wands of office walked round to the Ogle Street entrance where a guard of honour was formed by the Boys' Brigade under the command of Captain S. S. Rhodes. "Her Grace, the Duchess, on receiving from the Bishop a key, appropriately inscribed and bearing the Portland Arms, unlocked the door and with the Duke entered the building."

After an inspection of the billiard room the party went up to the hall where they were shown to seats on the platform with the other honoured guests. The Duke said "It gives me great pleasure to come here today and perform the opening ceremony of this hall". He said it had been completed satisfactorily and was a credit to the designer and builder and talked about Canon Godber who would be held in loving remembrance for his extraordinary generosity and benevolent charity. The Duchess then declared the hall open. A reception followed for afternoon tea after which a basket of carnations was presented to Her Grace by the daughters of the vicar.

SOURCES - for CHURCH HALL ARTICLE
 Nottinghamshire Archives Office
 Reference DC/HT 3/1/1 Register of Plans
 PR 29,033: PR 29,034: PR 29,035: Hucknall
 Torkard Parish Magazine for 1905, 1906, 1907.
 Hucknall Dispatch & Mercury December
 28th 1905: August 2nd 1906: November 21st
 1907.

Beardsmore. History of Hucknall Torkard.

* * * * *

CHURCH HALL MEMBERS for 1909 - 1910

Are any of your family in the list of
 church hall members for 1909 - 1910
 in Reference PR 23,925 at
 Nottinghamshire Archives Office?

To name just a few:-

W. Andrews, R. Morris,
 L. Spencer, J. Houldsworth,
 J. Green, W. Bullin,
 H. Tomlinson, W. Wiggett,
 Rev. T. G. Barber, R. Beswick,
 W. H. Proctor, F. Green,
 W. Ashley, W. Riley,
 J. Donaldson, S. Shepherd,
 H. Hartshorn, W. Massey,
 F. Franks, G. Hunt,
 G. E. Haslam, G. Dutton,
 C. Stinson, G. A. Wagg,
 A. Croft, J. Herbert,
 H. Knighton, C. Stacey,
 W. Whyatt, J. Sears,
 H. Parkin J. Johnstone,
 E. Marshall, Dr. Garstang
 & Mrs. Garstang.

Some of the ladies are:-

Mrs. C. Palmer,
 Miss L. Whittaker, Miss Wright,
 Miss Miller, Mrs. Jacklin,
 Miss Fieldhouse, Miss E. Parker,
 Mrs. Raynor, Miss Allcock,
 Miss Pickard, Miss L. Metcalf,
 Miss Edwards, Miss E Harrop,
 Miss A Corden.



THE BOYS' BRIGADE COMPANY DIARY

18th NOTTINGHAM COMPANY (HUCKNALL TORKARD)

1907 Nov. 16th. Opening of the Godber Memorial
 Church Hall by the Duke and Duchess of Portland.
 The company formed a guard of honour. Present 3
 officers, 2 staff sergeants, 44 boys. The Fife Band
 played selections.

1907 Nov. 24th. The Company paraded near the
 Vicarage and marched to the Church Hall at
 6.30pm. to attend Mr. J. Shepherds Mission Service.
 The Fife and Bugle Bands were both on parade.
 Present 2 officers, 46 boys, 2 staff sergeants.

1907 Nov. 25th. Monday 7.45pm. The first drill was
 held in the Church Hall.

1907 Dec. 1st. A Company Bible Class was
 inaugurated and held for the first time in the
 Church Hall at 9.30am. A class was also held in the
 afternoon but was not made compulsory.

1907 Dec. ? The Lads Club was opened by Mrs. T.
 G. Barber and the boys made members.

1908 Jan. 1st. The annual Christmas Party was held
 in the Church Hall when over 60 officers, boys and
 old boys, sat down to tea. The catering was done
 by a committee of ladies and cost 6d per head. The
 membership cards, prizes and 3 years anchors were
 distributed by Mrs. Barber and afterwards Capt. O.
 W. Hind, the Battalion President, spoke to the boys.
 A magic lantern entertainment was given by the
 vicar (Rev. T. G. Barber) and the remainder of the
 evening was spent in singing, recitations, etc.

1908 Feb. 9th. The Company attended the Mission
 Service at the Church Hall at 6.30pm. Both bands
 attended.

1908 April 1st. The Annual Inspection and
 Demonstration was held in the Church Hall; Colonel
 Rolleston being the inspecting officer and Capt. O.
 W. Hind (Battalion President) the Chairman. After
 the march past in column of half companies,
 Company Drill Displays were given of Physical
 Drill (with rifles), ambulance and camp scenes. The
 2nd Nottingham gave handbells and the 8th
 Nottingham (West Bridgford) gymnastics. A free
 tea was provided for the Company and visitors.
 About 70 were present. Prices of admission were
 6d, 1/- and 1/6d. The Fife Band gave selections and
 played the general salute and the National Anthem.

HAPPY MEMORIES OF THE CHURCH HALL



First of all there was the Band of Hope where we had singing and wonderful magic lantern shows; I was about five years old then. Mr. Riley, Mr. Beardsmore and Mr. Foster ran the Band of Hope.

There was also the May Festival, a very popular event. One year my mother's cousin Marion Hall (later Mrs. Drake) was May Queen and Mabel Moore was Gypsy Queen. They sang beautifully. I also remember Olive Streets who sang. Edith Hall (Marion's sister and now Mrs. Guest) was a Bluebell and I was a Primrose.

I remember from 1920 that on Sundays young children went to the National School for Sunday School, where Lizzie Baxter and Florence Wiggington taught them. The next age group went to the Church Hall and had assembly with Mrs Rhodes in the main room on the left as you go in through the door and then dispersed into the smaller rooms for classes. The senior group went to church where Canon Barber took the class.

In 1923 or 1924 came the "Maids of the Mountain". Miss Wagg, a dancer organised this operetta. I was one of the fairies. Miss Samson (her father had a chemist's shop on Annesley road just below the Scala Cinema) came to do our make up. Mr. Samson built the first bungalow on Wood Lane, next to the old reservoir.

About 1925 I attended 'gym' classes in the upstairs hall on a Saturday night. These classes went on for several years. We had a vaulting horse, parallel bars and I think there were two ropes for climbing. I cannot remember the name of the person who taught the classes but he was a very able gymnast. I loved the classes and have always enjoyed exercises and games from that time.

By 1931 there were Saturday night dances. I remember seeing Kitty Stringfellow and Harold Calladine before they were married; what a handsome couple they made. I think we had Chris Caunt's band which was made up of local people; one of whom was called Ru Butler.

The well-attended Church Bazaars, which were the highlights of the Church's social year were always held in the Church Hall. Miss Shatford, headmistress of Hucknall National Infants School, also organised a dinner in the Church Hall to raise funds for the new Infants Assembly Hall at the school. The teachers served at the tables and as I was a student teacher; I helped them.

In the late 1960's when I was a member of the Nottingham Flower Club, I was the first person to organise a flower arranging demonstration in the Church Hall. One of the demonstrators from Nottingham came and we had a very successful evening; from that the Hucknall Flower Group came into being and has held regular meeting there ever since.

I am sad that the building is no longer known as the Church Hall, but pleased that it is still being used for the benefit of the whole community. So many happy memories are still there.

Mavis Pavier
(née Hayes)



I LOVED TO DANCE

In my teenage years I loved to dance. My dad really didn't think I was old enough to go but my older sister used to take me. I went to the Church Hall where I danced to Ru Butlers' Band and to the Co-op Hall dances when the Orchette Royal played both of which I enjoyed.

There were always plenty of dancing partners as the R. A. F. were stationed at Hucknall Aerodrome and most of the airmen came to the dances. The men from the Army Pay Corps also came. They were based at the camp near the Top Pit site on Watnall Road; then when they moved to Chalfont Drive the Bevin Boys (who were drafted in to work in the mines) came to this camp.

Lots of romances emerged from these dances.

Lillian Voller
née Gregory



Dancing at the Church Hall – World War II

Our dancing teacher was Miss Gladys Simmons, or Simmonds, later to become Mrs Harper (see newspaper cutting). I think we must have danced for the troops by collecting for forces' charities, although I also remember members of the forces in the audiences.



*Irish Folk Dance dress,
made from red and green bunting*

My parents couldn't afford ballet shoes, or maybe they were in short supply. So they made me a pair, carefully copying the design of the real thing, out of heavy pink satin underwear, which women wore in those days, and strong leather for the soles, perhaps from my father's blacksmith's apron. I know it was a combined effort, Mummy having made the uppers Daddy cut and glued on the soles. I was very proud of them.



My favourite butter muslin dress



"Kitty Blue Eyes"

Another butter muslin creation was the "Kitty Blue Eyes" little number. Each girl wore either white or pale blue muslin, trimmed with contrasting white or blue bows. The style was classical ballet, but the skirts consisted of 6 yards of fabric and so had to be tied onto the wrists with more bows. We must have looked very pretty but, since there were no films nor cameras in World War II, we shall never know. My cousin subsequently resurrected this frock when she played the Angel Gabriel in nativity play at Butlers Hill Infants' School. I remember the forerunner of plastic, would it be oil-cloth, being used for a tap costume which was lime green with cut out orange spots stuck onto a circular skirt.

Most of the routines were choreographed to popular music of the time, as they still are, although "Wedding of the Painted Doll" used to crop up regularly. Patriotism was a constant theme too. I had a little soldier suit with shorts, battledress top and a tin helmet held on with elastic under the chin. Older girls wore sailor suits and danced a hornpipe and the big girls wore air force outfits and chip bag hats. They must have gone down well with the airmen stationed in Hucknall at the time. I seem to remember the song "Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer" in connection with that.

The most patriotic number I remember, which now fills me with amusement but must have filled us with pride when we were about eight, was "The Victory Polka", another popular song of the time. The entrance was traditional. A row of girls, starting with the smallest of course, up stage arm stretched to the shoulder of the girl in front, stepped toe heel, toe heel to centre stage. The costumes were like flags of all nations, well three of them. United States of America, Britain and USSR. We would have said America, England and Russia. The white lining fabric shorts, with the red stripe down each side represented America. The little cropped top, sewn out of a Union Jack, represented Britain and, the pièce de résistance, a white card board pill box hat, decorated with cut out, stuck on red shiny paper hammer and sickle, held on again with elastic, represented Russia.



"Victory Polka"

Something you rarely see now, possibly rarely saw then, was a dancer tapping en pointe. One of the older girls, Jean Hovell I think, was adept at this. I wonder if she suffered for it later.

When our dancing teacher was having her first child, I was sent for dance lessons to someone who had been in the theatrical profession with her brother, who played piano, she might have been a Jessie Matthews kind of a singer. They lived at the studio on Station Road. Her style had a kind of end of the pier feel about it, judging by a chorus number, part of which has stayed in my mind, which went "Roll away clouds, roll away clouds, glory be, glory be" followed by six syllables which I can't remember, all with appropriate arm movements.



"Dwarf"

We performed an acting with music version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, music from the Disney film of course. I was envious of the lovely Snow White, Molly Smith, who had gorgeous heavy curly hair. I was one of the seven dwarves, don't know which one, but my suit was dark green hessian and very prickly, with lots of small red buttons and a liriipe kind of gnome hat. At least I got to wear it again at school when I played Rumpelstiltskin, perhaps I got the part because I had the suit.

Something that has come to mind, the Snow White show was performed on the Church Hall stage, but the other displays were danced on the floor, with chairs set around like an arena. As far as I can remember, there was no special lighting, only on or off, and so no special make up was needed, except a dab of mother's lipstick, from a very small tube of dark red Tattoo in my case. I vowed never to wear make-up, a promise most definitely not kept. Strangely, I can't remember a single air raid warning during any show at the Church Hall or any of the other venues we used.

Madeline Scott née Draper
Brackenhurst.
Private Road,
Hucknall,
Nottingham
NG15 6PP

CHURCH HALL — HUCKNALL

DANCE

ON BOXING DAY (DEC. 26) 8—2 p.m.
One Shilling.

**EXHIBITION OF DANCING BY MISS
GLADYS SIMMONS.**

FRID BUTLER AND HIS BAND

Couple who had their wedding paid for by the vicar!

A FORMER Hucknall couple, Canon Thomas Barber — who who were married at the town's Parish Church have celebrated their diamond wedding. — conducted the ceremony — generously paid it for them as a wedding present.

Doug Harper (80) and his wife, Gladys (82), now live in Flamborough, on the Yorkshire Coast. Gladys was a dancing teacher for a long time. Now a member of Humberside Writers' Group, she has written a book about the 1940s era and has had one or two poems published.

Their wedding was a 'rush' job because it coincided with the outbreak of World War Two and Doug was in the Royal Air Force (RAF). Doug worked in the refrigeration and air-conditioning trade before his retirement.

Because they could not afford the £26 for a special licence,

WHAT A WINNER!

J. E. GREEN

International Attraction!

Church Hall Men's Club.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11, 7.30 - 9.30:

HORACE LINDRUM,

Will Play Exhibition Games of Billiards &
Snooker.

Tickets 3/- and 2/-

Every Seat Reserved and Uninterrupted View
Guaranteed.
Booking at the Church Hall

March 11th 1936

When Horace Lindrum returns to Australia, he will probably tell the tale of how he was beaten - well beaten - at his own speciality (snooker) one fine evening, March the eleventh, at the Hucknall Church Hall Institute, by a local fellow named Jack Green.

This is what actually happened last night when the 24 years old Australian came to Hucknall to give snooker and billiards exhibitions. Lindrum, who is the nephew of the famous Walter Lindrum, has already earned a great reputation during his English tour; many local folk heard the broadcast of his play recently on the radio. But there was no fluke about his defeat at the hands of J. E. Green, a member of the Church Institute, even allowing for the visitors strangeness to the table. In three sets the results were:-

Green 73, Lindrum 47.
Lindrum 85, Green 32.
Green 57, Lindrum 35.

Against Cecil Rhodes at billiards, the Australian delighted a large gallery with breaks of 257 and 119, and he scored 501 to Rhodes 138. The later returned two substantial breaks of 30 and 21.

The evening was organised by the Institute Committee and proved to be a really bright spot in the winter season.

SOURCES:- Shirley Robins and
Hucknall Dispatch March 12th 1936

CHURCH HALL IN WARTIME

Jack Green was one of a group of people who organised dances at the Church Hall especially for service personnel during the war. When a new contingent was posted to the aerodrome an officer would ring up to ask if a dance could be arranged. Some of the servicemen were Polish, or other nationalities, very far from home and often lonely. But they were made welcome at the Church Hall and often invited into local homes for Sunday dinner and at Christmas too. Mrs. Harradine and Marjorie and the Church Hall Ladies Committee made refreshments in the canteen for the benefit of the servicemen.

As a representative of the committees Jack Green received some letters of thanks. Extracts as follows:-

From - Hucknall Parochial Church Council. July 1941. Dear Jack, I am addressing this letter to you as a representative of the Dance Committee at the request of the Church Council. We wish to express to you all our appreciation of the very valuable work you are doing. No doubt you will feel some compensation from the knowledge that you are making a considerable contribution to the social well being of so many of the men serving with the forces.

From - L/Cpl. W. Mitchell. October 1941. I have been elected by the boys to send you this token of our gratitude for your kindness during the many happy months spent amongst you at Hucknall. We shall endeavour to keep in touch.

From - The Boys of 7 Wing Section. 2nd A. F. Signals. Dunstable Beds. October 1941. To all kind friends at the Church Hall Hucknall. (A long list of signatures follow)

From - L/Cpl. Mitchell No.1 Indian Air Formation Signals, India. August 1942. Dear Jack and all friends at the Church Hall, Please give everyone our regards and tell them we hope to have a re-union at Hucknall after the war. Best love to Mrs. Wagg, Flo, Jim and all the girls who used to go to the dance.

From - L/Cpl. Darby. India. March 1943. Dear Jack, We often discuss happy times in the past and that means first prize goes to the kind people in Hucknall. Our memories are mostly of the Church Hall, of the morning billiards and the cups of tea and cakes which Mrs. Wagg provided with a smile and always a kindly word.

SOURCE:- Shirley Robins née Green

1st Hucknall St. Mary's Guide Company.



I joined the 1st Hucknall St. Mary's Guide company in 1953, when I 'flew' up from Brownies and was presented with my 'wings' badge by Mrs. Dulcie Hanson; the Commissioner. We used to meet in the Church Hall on Monday evenings, and I was in the Bulfinch Patrol (later Robin) and was the Seconder and my friend Pauline Hinsley was the Patrol Leader. Our Captain was Mrs. Nancy Butcher and Lieutenant Miss Edna Knight. We did various tests to gain badges, like cooking, home maker, (making beds - learning to do the sheet corners properly - etc.) child care, first aid and others. We also practised marching in lines and into various formations around the hall for parades; then the meetings always finished with us forming a large circle and singing 'taps'.

I don't recall many of the names of the other Guides but the two daughters of Canon Thompson, our vicar, were in our company, the youngest being Elizabeth (Beth) and the other was Ann, a very tall girl with long thick fair platts.

In the Autumn of 1955, on October 31st, we held a Sausage & Mash Supper. I remember all the jolly bustle and activity behind the stage, in the kitchen, preparing the food and Pauline Hinsley and I and the other Guides serving our parents and friends with their meals at the tables. My most enduring memory is standing on the stage with the other Guides singing 'All in the April Evening' in a concert which I think was the same evening and formed the entertainment after supper. Now every time I hear a choir singing it I am transported back in my mind to my teens and am once more standing on the stage in Hucknall Church Hall in my Guide uniform.

Sometimes on Summer evenings we did 'stalking' around the churchyard hiding behind the tombstones, which I enjoyed, though we were careful not to do any damage and no one seemed to mind. We also went to watch people playing tennis on the courts at the back of the hall.

I also remember going to a dance at the Church Hall. I was wearing silver shoes and a pale blue figured satin dress which my cousin had worn when she was a bridesmaid. My mother later bleached it white for my confirmation dress, as it wasn't too long after the war and there wasn't much money available. Along the downstairs corridor were side rooms where men could play snooker or billiards and at the end was a cloakroom where we put on our dancing shoes. My friend Pauline Hinsley also remembers a canteen where refreshments were served.

My most recent memory is of a very pleasant evening, some years ago, when couples who had been married at Hucknall St. Mary's by Canon David Williams were invited by him to the Church Hall for a drink and a piece of 'wedding' cake. I still meet up with him occasionally, as his wife is a Branch Leader in the Mothers' Union in our Beeston Deanery, so I am pleased to say the connection is still there.

Pauline Hatton née Bell
Redfield House,
New Farm Lane,
Nuthall,
Nottingham.

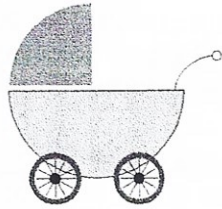


TELEPHONE MESSAGE

Perhaps you will remember putting the article "An Uckna' Childhood" in issue 18 of the newsletter? As a result of this a school friend called Frank Shepperson whom I haven't seen since 1940 rang me. We have arranged to meet for a chat and to catch up with the news. I am really pleased about this so I thought other readers would like to know about it.

Ralph Meakin, 59, Breckhill Road, Woodthorpe,
Nottm. NG5 4GO

A REGULAR VISITOR



I don't remember when I first went to the Church Hall but it was probably in my pram with my mother when she went to help at the canteen run for servicemen during the war or with my father to the billiard room. However I very soon became a regular visitor.

The first activity I attended at the Church Hall was the Brownies where we learnt to tie knots and do semaphore with Mrs. Butcher and Mrs. Calladine. Other things I joined or attended were:- The Girls Friendly Society where we did sewing and embroidery with Jean Kerry: School Holidays spent playing tennis on the courts at the back and feeling very clever: Dancing classes with Miss Borril and Joyce Rhodes and the childrens balls where we were all dressed up in our finery and felt very grown up: Church Youth Fellowship with Canon Thompson, where we danced played games and generally let off steam.

At one time I seem to remember classes from National School being held there and I have a memory of sitting the scholarship in the botton room. We went over from school for P. E. (Physical Education) lessons in the big hall with all the apparatus out. School Speech days were also held there. Although I never received a prize I used to try to raise the roof singing about "The best school of all". The Christmas parties for the Junior School are also a special memory and then the Christmas dance for the seniors.

I remember the Saturday night dances during the fifties when the floor seemed to shake with the rythms and men from the church on duty to control the 'Teddy Boys' with help from the local police. Tuesday night dances were a much more sedate affair of old time dancing and the waltz and quickstep.

The lovely hours I spent in the billiard room with my dad, Tom Herod, sitting in the tip up seats with a bottle of pop and a bag of crisps. Never playing myself of course, as women were not allowed in those days, but being allowed to take the money when Jim was elsewhere.

And - what about the Jumble Sales; Social Evenings with games and races, Mr. Reed making pancakes and tossing them for the lads to scramble for the biggest piece. Plays, Concerts, Fashion Parades, Gang Shows and later on Young Wives and Mother's Union. Taking my own children to Creche, Sunday School, Youth Clubs, Hoe Downs, etc.

Most of my memories though relate to the times I spent helping with the Catering Committee there. I started going with my mum when I was about 8 years old. My first job being to put the spoons and wafers into dishes of ice cream. I helped for the next 35 years, doing anything from tea for about a dozen after a meeting, to sit down dinners for over 100. Dances for 250 or a wedding for 50. We met lots of people and worked very hard - but above all - had lots of fun.

Looking back I realise what a big part the Church Hall has played in my life. There are no sad memories. Only happy ones.

Imelda Johnson (née Herod)
12, Newstead Terrace,
Hucknall,
Nottm.
NG15 7EF



Coronation Eve
Olde-Tyme Ball
Monday
June 1st 1953
at the Church Hall,
Hucknall



The organisation of this Coronation Eve Ball at the Church Hall is in the hands of the "Gay Byrons," the local branch of the International Sequence Dance Circle (I.S.D.C.). their objects are to preserve encourage, revive and maintain all forms of Olde-Tyme Ballroom Dancing in correct figuration, both nationally and internationally.

It was in February 1949 that the "Gay Byrons" branch was formed and it started off with a membership of 12. Such was its popularity that in October of the same year there was a membership of 200. At its first annual ball the "Gay Byrons" had a visit from Mr. F. J. Mainey, the circle director, of Blackpool.

Since its formation the branch has assisted a number of charitable organisations including the local blind, the Old Age Pensioners Association and the Hucknall Parish Church Organ Fund. Its most successful effort was at the time of the Cresswell Colliery disaster when the entire proceeds of their Birthday Ball of £50 was handed over to the relief fund.

Joint principals of the branch since 1949 have been Mrs. A. Berridge, who also carries out the duty of Hon. Secretary in a most efficient manner, and Mr. A. Wileman, the well known M.C. at the weekly Tuesday dances at the Church Hall.

A strong committee consists of Mr. Ralph Severn (Treasurer), Mr. & Mrs. C. Hardstaff, Mr. & Mrs. W. Cope, Mr. & Mrs. F. Stokes, Mr. & Mrs. Haddenham, Mrs. Banner, Mrs. Fearn, Mr. & Mrs. R. Walker, Messrs. Wathey, Hinsley, B. Berridge and A. Holland.

SOURCE - Coronation Eve Ball Programme
- kindly loaned by Marian Alflatt

PROGRAMME

The programme included a total of 24 dances some of which are listed below with the tunes played:-

ROYAL EMPRESS TANGO
(New Empress Tango)

CORONATION PARADE
(Pagan Love Song)
(Whispering)

BOSTON TWO STEP
(Take Your Partners)

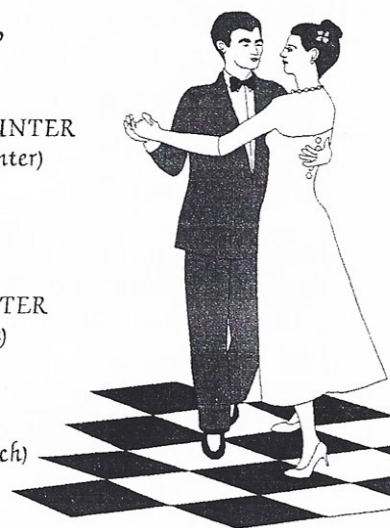
STROLLALONG SAUNTER
(Harry Davidson Saunter)

VELETA
(Inspiration)

MOONLIGHT SAUNTER
(Moonlight and Roses)
(Vilia)

TWINKLE TOES
(Waiting at the Church)

LAST WALTZ
(Loves Old Sweet Song)



Music by Fred Butler and his band
Dancing 8pm. - 12.30am.
Admission by this programme
three shillings and sixpence
M.C. Mr. A. Wileman

YOUENS BALLROOM GUIDE 1886

The ballroom should be an assemblage of elegance, vivacity and good humour, united with the utmost purity and propriety of conduct. Perfect ease of manner, free from restraint, and entirely removed from affectation or effrontery, are essential requisites in a gentleman, as the ability to dance does not give him the title, unless it is joined with good sense and an obliging disposition.

As ladies are not privileged to ask gentlemen to dance with them, it is the duty of gentlemen to see they are not sitting down for want of partners, for it is a breach of good manners for then to stand listless or inactive whilst ladies are wanting partners.

Whilst dancing you may converse with your partner and not with another lady. When the dance is finished conduct her to her seat. It is the privilege of a lady to command the unlimited attention of her partner.

GIRLS HELP

What Hucknall G.F.S. Is Doing.

January 1941. That young ladies organisations are willing to play a part in fire watching is evidenced by the fact that some of the members of the Hucknall Church Girls' Friendly Society have volunteered for service. They will be divided into three groups, and each group in turn will be on duty from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. during an alert. They will be called upon to patrol the Church Hall grounds and the churchyard and keep a look out for incendiary bombs.

Most of them have had instruction on how to deal with them and in the use of the stirrup pump. Some senior boys are also helping in this way.

A rota is being prepared and a notice will be posted on the Church Hall notice board when the different groups will be on duty. It is anticipated that the young people will take their work seriously, for should there be any activity, their work will be a very responsible one.

G.F.S. members are also preparing a number of sandbags which when completed will be kept in the Church Hall and the Parish Church. These will prove invaluable in dealing with incendiary bombs.

SOURCE: Hucknall Dispatch January 30th 1941

Advertisement.

Hucknall Furnishing Company, High Street
are selling: CAMP BEDS
For Fire Spotters 22/6d

Advertisement

W. Taylder & Co. Market Place.
Offer: GENT'S RAINCOATS
In fawn and blue proofed Gabardine interlined
waterproof oilskin and lined wool camel cloth.
Very warm absolutely waterproof and windproof.
Ideal for Fire Spotting. 55/-
Cannot be repeated.

SOURCE: Hucknall Dispatch January 30th 1941

CAN YOU HELP?

SHAWLS, SHIRTS,
SOCKS, FROCKS,
JUMPERS,
ROMPERS,
UNDERWEAR &
OUTERWEAR, ETC.



Some of you may remember reading in Hucknall Dispatch a little while ago that no one in Hucknall had taken up the offer of a grant to work on an assignment for the local community. Well I have taken up the challenge. I have applied for a Nottinghamshire Living History Archive Millennium Award funded by Notts. County Council and the National Lottery. If the judging panel feel that my submission is a worthwhile venture a grant will be awarded in September this year 2001. I have decided after much thought, to study the textile industry in Hucknall calling the project - FACTORIES AND FABRICS: A LOOK AT THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN HUCKNALL. The expected outcome of this enterprise will be a booklet and an exhibition showing what I discover about this subject which has (I feel) been a little neglected.

So - I'm asking you again for help. I will need to interview people about their work in textiles in whatever capacity: from machinists & mechanics to managers: from warehousmen & winders to wages clerks: from framework knitters & foremen to finishers, from pressers & packers to directors and dispatch clerks, and any others.

Did you work in any of the textile factories in Hucknall, recently or a long time ago? What did the factory make? Do you have any photographs, advertisements or artifacts which may be copied? Please think about it for me and help to make this a community effort. Thank you.

Latest News. Over the last few weeks my application has passed through several stages locally. I have just been informed it has been passed by the local selection panel and now goes before the Lottery Board. Just one last hurdle to jump. Wish me luck and please help if you can with the project. See back page for Editor of newsletter.

MR. TURTON COAL CARVER

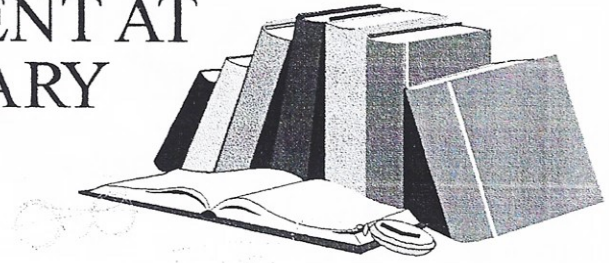


I have to tell you how lovely it was to see the article about Mr. Turton in the newsletter. He was my grandad. The article told me things about him that I didn't know. So thank you very much.

Margaret Foster Née Dennis

LOCAL HISTORY EVENT AT HUCKNALL LIBRARY

A week long trip down memory lane saw the history of Hucknall celebrated through a variety of events.



There was a Family History event where members of the public were shown how to trace their family tree using library resources such as parish registers and census information. This was presented on two different occasions by Maureen Newton and Joyce Hammond who had contributed an enormous amount of time into the displays which resulted in 2 popular and enjoyable mornings attended by over 100 people. Alan Smith and Marion Williamson were also on hand demonstrating how to use the internet for researching family history.

The newly refurbished library now has a Community Meeting Room which was the focal point of the week with exhibitions ranging from artifacts and memorabilia which had been loaned by members of the public and photographic displays from the library's own collection and culminated in 103 people visiting this exhibition on the first Saturday.

The Memorabilia Swap Shop on Monday morning saw an invited audience sharing memories of past times in Hucknall and was followed by a very popular Co-op Reunion hosted by Enid Molsher. On Monday evening Maureen presented an introduction to using library resources to aid users interested in Local Studies.

As the event was aimed at all ages of the local community our children's co-ordinator was able to invite Helen Crowfoot who specialises in history theme days for children. Helen focused in air raids and what life was like for children living in Hucknall in World War 2.

James Grundy gave a talk entitled "Small town Great War" which looked at Hucknall casualties in World War 1. James' presentation also included photographs of Hucknall servicemen and objects such as rifles, swords and bayonets used in the war.

On the Thursday morning there was the opportunity to view retired Rolls-Royce photographer George Webb's CR-Rom collection of aerial photographs of Hucknall and the surrounding area. In the afternoon Enid returned with her exhibition concentrating on "Friendship links with Hucknall". On that same evening we were treated to a very enjoyable slide-show of 'Old Hucknall' by local enthusiast Walter Fielding.

Finally there was a day devoted to our largest employer Rolls-Royce starting with the Von-Werra incident in the morning and Fight Development 1931 - 1971.

The many ups and downs of the week varied from "Will there be enough people or too many?" "Will the Rolls-Royce engine get through the library doors?" "And how is Enid going to fit in all those retired Co-op employees?"

On a more serious note - this very enjoyable event would not have been so successful without the help from all contributors and the hard work and enthusiasm from the team at Hucknall Library.

Sharon Wells & Ray Bickel

* * * * *

ACCIDENT

At 1 o'clock last Friday an accident happened to Mr. Luther Howiss, baker. He was driving past the police station when his trap was bumped by another trap, breaking one of the shafts, the horse took fright and bolted; but then the trap came into collision with Mr. Wilmotts cart breaking the other shaft. The result was a capsize. Mr. Howiss and the loaves of bread being pitched on the road. Passers by helped capture the horse and the damaged trap and bread was taken home. Luckily no one was injured.

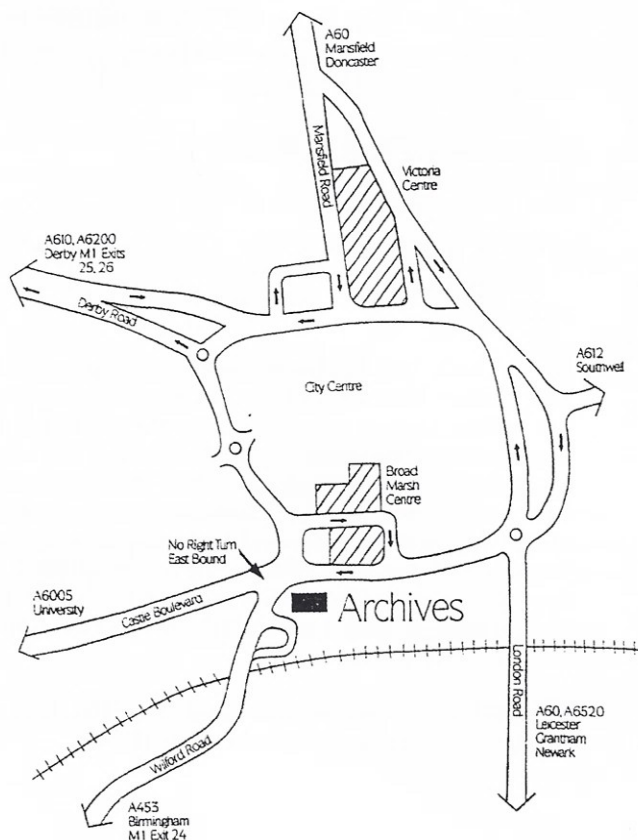
SOURCE - Mansfield and North Notts. Advertiser. Friday December 21st 1877

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ARCHIVE OFFICE

On Sunday 9th September 2001 Nottinghamshire Archives will be holding a 1940s OPEN DAY between 2 and 6pm. It aims to take visitors back to the days of evacuation, rationing, 'make do and mend' and the post war struggles of Nottinghamshire People.

There will be lots of activities, including a period quiz (1st prize, Raleigh bicycle), badge making for children, public tours of the Archives, conservation demonstrations and a chance to meet historical characters of the time. We are hoping Winston Churchill and Vera Lynn will appear.

Further details to be announced. Please contact Jenny Moran or Chris Weir for more information on 0115 9504524 (e-mail archives@nottscc.gov.uk)



CHURCH HALL, HUCKNALL

Crooning Competition-- Grand Final

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd.

Dancing 7.30—11.30.

Spot Waltzes.

ONE SHILLING

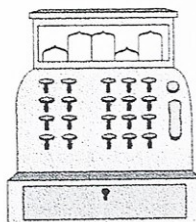
Were you the winner? Own up please.
If it wasn't you do you know who did win?

Advert. in Hucknall Dispatch February 20th 1936

Postal service available 60p per issue.

Next issue due December 2001

HUCKNALL TORKARD TIMES
is available from:-



"GREETINGS"
Card Shop on High Street

"PORTLAND NEWS"
Portland Road

"ST. MARY'S CHURCH"
Market Place

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of
HUCKNALL TORKARD TIMES
If you would like to send any items or
have any ideas for future editions -
please contact me -
MAUREEN NEWTON
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HUCKNALL, NOTTINGHAM.
NG15 7PQ
Telephone 0115 9631705



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