Chairman’s report

2008

Welcome to the fourth issue of *The Wolds Historian*. During 2007 the WHO celebrated its twentieth birthday with a series of special meetings and events. The major event was the launch of the quiz booklet, *The WHO’s What, When and Where*, at the April meeting.

The birthday year began with the AGM followed by a presentation of maps by Joan and Peter Shaw. In February Bob Payne posed the question ‘The Melton navigation – a typical Leicestershire canal?’ followed in March with Freda Raphael’s ‘Upwardly mobile’ talk on one branch of a Nottingham family.

Saturday April 14th was the first of the special twentieth birthday events in the Memorial Hall with the launch of the quiz booklet at the showing of the slides taken by Philip Brown around 1900. These slides were shown at one of the first meetings of the WHO. The demand for tickets was such that a second showing was organised for the next evening. My thanks go to Chris, John and Joy Brown and family for allowing the slides to be transferred to computer for the presentation and for information regarding the slide contents. Thanks also to Bob Trubshaw for all the work digitising the original photographs.

‘Shock Horror! The radical restoration of Wymeswold church’, very well presented by Bob Trubshaw, was the second of the special events. May 14th saw Wymeswold church full to hear how Pugin’s restoration was regarded at the time and to have the features pointed out as the talk progressed.

Bob Trubshaw led a large number of members and visitors on the summer walk to Thorpe in the Glebe deserted village followed by his presentation ‘The Wolds: What, When and Where’ at the final special birthday meeting at Burton Village Hall. Hellen Jarvis was the outright winner of the quiz, with the Thomas family the winners of the Wymeswold section. Prizes of hand-crafted Nine-Mens Morris sets, specially commissioned from Loughborough craftsman...
Ernie Miller, were presented along with certificates at the September meeting. The prizes to the winners of the quiz were presented at the meeting by the well-known local personality Nick Shaw.

I wish to thank Bob Trubshaw for his sterling work in making the special events so memorable, the committee for all their hard work in attending numerous meetings to produce the quiz booklet and deliver flyers, and to everyone who helped celebrate the WHO twentieth birthday.

After the special events the meetings resumed in the normal venue of the Windmill Inn with Rodney Cousins explaining the technology of willow basket weaving on October 16th, followed by Richard Buckley on November 20th and his interesting talk on the archaeology of Leicester Abbey. The Christmas meal was once again an excellent repast provided by ‘Fred’ and staff at the Windmill Inn.

This year began with the AGM and by a brief history of Bulwell given by myself, followed in February by a talk on Grace Dieu illustrated with slides given by David Whitt. The March 18th speaker was unavailable and at very short notice Bob Trubshaw gave members more food for thought when he presented ‘The Wolds... part 2’

America during the civil war era was the context of a talk by Anthony Jarram on April 15th with ‘Fire Steam and Gunsmoke’. An account of Tollerton Airfield given by Bob Hammond in May which particularly delighted the aircraft buffs. Although rain threatened for a few minutes, the walk around Grace Dieu Priory in June was dry and most interesting but no ghosts were seen, although camera batteries flattened themselves very quickly.

The meetings resume in September with a talk on ‘Ashfordby and its environs’ by Richard Knox followed in October by Anne Tarver about life in the eighteenth century Leicestershire based on her new book subtitled ‘Woolley backs and bean bellies’! WHO member Debbie Bilham will give a talk on the history of audio recording in November, the year ending with the Christmas dinner.

Anyone with an interest in local and wider history is welcome to attend the WHO meetings which are held on the third Tuesday in the month in the back room of The Windmill Inn commencing at 7.45 pm. As last year I make a plea for all ‘at risk’ features of local villages threatened by village growth to be photographed and recorded so that information of use to future generations will not be lost.

As Chairman I thank, on behalf on myself and members, Joan and Bob Trubshaw for producing The Wolds Historian, Bob Trubshaw for his major contributions to the birthday meetings and for his invaluable support as Vice-Chairman, David Marshall for his good work as treasurer keeping the WHO solvent, David Keene for his secretarial skills and Debbie Bilham, Colin Lines, Viv Marshall and Albert Sleig for all their hard work and efforts as committee members.

The final thanks are to all members and visitors for continued support and attending meetings. Without you there would be no WHO.

Patricia Baker
Charles William Packe (1792–1867) was the Tory MP for South Leicestershire and a chum of Shelley’s at Eton. He was a patron of the arts and certainly did much to bring international music to provincial Leicestershire. Locally he is perhaps best known now as the man who had Prestwold Hall rebuilt in its present Italianate style. Now, as a result of a newly acquired account book (DE7340/1) we can say rather more about this intriguing character.

The book is a small, vellum-bound volume, inscribed on the inside of the front cover: ‘Charles William Packe Accomp Book Decbr 15th 1810’. It has some 180 paper pages, lined faintly in red for the pounds, shillings and pence. It is written throughout in a small, careful, round hand; varying only slightly in appearance with the effect of newly-cut quills and different inks.

The accounts begin on 15 December 1810 with, appropriately, the expenditure of three shillings and sixpence on an ‘Accomp Book’ and a further sixpence on a haircut. From then on, we are launched into the intimate world of Charles William Packe – who had just emerged from school, with £30 from his father and 11/6 ‘remaining in my purse from Eton’.

The first few pages record Packe’s expenditure in preparation for and at University in Oxford. He sets himself up with all the necessities of an undergraduate: the ‘Tea, Sugar, Soap, & candles’, ‘Inkstand’ and ‘Paper, pens, sealing wax, & Ink’ that we might expect, as well as candlesticks, snuffers, egg cups and spoons, corkscrew, decanters and a wealth of glasses, jugs, slop pail, etc., etc. We should notice too the fee for tuition, the cap and two gowns and the regular appearance of set texts; such as ‘Murphy’s Tacitus’, ‘Beloe’s Herodotus’ and ‘D’Anville’s Ancient Geography’.

It is at Oxford too that Packe’s love of music becomes apparent, the four pence laid out on a ‘music book for the flute’ clearly being one of his wisest investments. Certainly it was money better spent than the half crown for ‘Bull bait’ and probably stood him in better stead than the few shillings devoted to billiards about once a week. Whether the £1/14/9d charged by ‘Miss Lyne for et ceteras in term’ proved to be money well spent we have no means of judging.

The accounts cease in 1811, to begin again with the New Year of 1816. From then on the record gives so complete a picture of our young fellow’s expenditure that it is possible to follow in his wake, as he pays for lunch here, a haircut there, and sets off across country, paying his way through toll bars and putting up at inns. We can follow Charles William’s fads as they come and go and we can see those interests that remained constant, throughout his life.

Packe dashes back and forth across Regency England, closely pursued, Sancho Panza-like, by his servant, Richard Wade. This image is rendered even more vivid by the fact that we can picture ‘Richard’ so well too – in his hat from Manby’s (18/-) blue livery cloth coat (£1/11/6d) scarlet waistcoat (10/7½d) dressed with buff nankeen (6/8d) cord breeches (8/3d) and boots (£1/12/0); his pockets jingling with his £10 wages per annum.

Packe’s mode of travelling is almost as interesting as the reasons for his trips. Take the races and balls around Stamford in the first week of July, 1817. There is the cost of two balls, wine, a box at the theatre and hat cleaning but the entries for ‘logistics’ easily outnumber those for ‘fun’. There was the chaise back to Burghley (7/6d) the stable man there (£3/-) turnpikes (1/-) three nights’ bed at Mrs Priest’s (7/6d) tips to the chambermaid and ostler (1/- apiece) horse feed (7/6d) sandwiches (1/-) stabling at the George, Stamford (7/-) more turnpikes (6d) Richard’s expenses (7/-) and three items for the horses: a pair of horse girths (3/-) sponge (2/9d) and mane comb (2d).
The routes taken are instructive too. Often Packe and Richard travel locally by gig or chaise, paying for stabling and ‘baiting’ en route. There are hackney carriages in London – such as the one shilling ride from the Blue Boar in Holborn to Lincoln’s Inn, with an additional shilling for ‘dirtying cushion’! Just as often they resort to the coaches: the ‘Union’ to Leicester from London (£1 each outside), the ‘Express’ to Leeds, the ‘Hope’ to Leicester and Loughborough, the ‘Lord Nelson’ from York to Newark and by ‘Perseverance’ to ‘Deeping’. On several occasions the pair make their way across country, via Uppingham, to pick up the London coach at Connington on the Great North Road.

Young Mr Packe (as has been said) seems something of a faddist. Some fads were so long lasting and all-consuming that they might better be termed passions. We’ll leave those for now. Others however, were passing and typical of a young chap making his way in the world.

For a start there is food. We have already encountered the sandwiches at Stamford but for a time there are regular helpings of honey (2 lbs for 4 shillings, plus four pence for the jar!) or ‘apples and filberds’ washed down with porter. And then there is the ‘Damson tart for dinner for two’ that cost a shilling in March 1817! I shall say nothing of the dozen of oysters and ‘Rice pudding for one’ the following month and the two lobsters, two dozen oysters and a cucumber (for which C.W.P. appears to have paid half) will remain an unspoken reproach as far as I am concerned. I can sympathise with the one and nine penny ‘pot of Piccalilla Pickle’ and the ‘ounce of scotch snuff at Loughborough’ but ‘a bottle of French olives’? I don’t know. It surely was an age of indulgence: ‘3 ounces of refined Liquorice at Bells, Oxford St’ indeed! And don’t tell me it was medicinal!

Nor was Packe one to neglect his appearance. Probably the two most regular items of expenditure are ‘haircutting...6d’ (later this becomes ‘hair cutting and dressing’) and new watch ribbons. Young Charles had at least two watches (as he specifies a silver watch, for cleaning by King and a new main-spring by Palmer, both at Loughborough, and later pays ‘Mr Grignon for cleaning gold watch &c’) but even so, the wear and tear on ribbons was shocking. It must have been a sound investment when, in 1821, Mr...
Garrard was paid £13 for a ‘Gold and Platina watchchain’.

By the end of the account book there are frequent entries for dentifrice, bears’ grease, Naples soap and bottles of rose and violet essence. The purchase and repair of clothing and footwear is a constant presence too; sometimes suggesting the pursuit of fashion but at times indicating other interests – such as cricket outfits or the purchase of items of Yeomanry uniform.

Packe’s greatest love however, without a doubt, was music. He appreciated the Arts generally, visiting galleries and historic buildings but music – both as listener and player – is a constant theme. His accounts reveal many trips to Drury Lane, Covent Garden or to unspecified theatres, music rooms and operas, as well as expenses at a Birmingham music meeting’. His early purchase of flute music paid off too, as the flute was to became an abiding passion. There are payments for repairs to the flute, ‘entrance money to Jackson for learning flute’ and, regularly, purchases of flute music. On one day, 18 June 1817, Packe records £8/8/6 spent on ‘Mr Laust 17 lessons on Flute’, followed by Laust’s ‘Study for Flute’, and five sets of flute and piano music. It is by no means unusual, though there was, perhaps, an element of consolation as the very next item is for £31/10/0 to a Mr Wadd, ‘for surgical attendance’.

I could go on – there is no shortage of amusing, quaint and revealing expenditure. The strength of the accounts, more than anything, is in their depiction of ordinary life. However, there are occasional references that tantalise and I shall end with a few of those. Some crave further investigation, others will remain curios. There is, for example, the 2 guinea trip to Mr Thompson, the dentist, on 5 May 1818, ‘cleaning and stopping teeth’; followed the next day by ‘Camphorated tincture of opium at Savory’s’ for a shilling. Our sympathy, Mr Packe!

A different view of Prestwold Hall at a similar time to the Nichols illustration, from John Throsby’s Selected Views of Leicestershire.
In August 1817 there was a trip along the south coast, buying a guide book at Portsmouth, ‘ice’ at Chichester, and gaiter straps at Worthing – not to mention ‘Taken in by smugglers for 8 yds & ½ of East India muslin for neckcloths’. The year before there had been a shilling spent on ‘seeing Wild Beasts’ at Huntingdon and, to cap it all, perhaps my favourite; half a crown on 10 November 1811, for a ‘Medal of Sadler the Aeronaut’.

Don’t take my word for it though – have a look yourself, order up DE7430/1 and spend an hour or so in the company of Charles William Packe. He is an agreeable companion!

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Wysall’s ’Wise Boy’

In November 1623 fifteen people from five different parishes in Nottinghamshire (Upper Broughton, Lenton, Trowell, West Bridgford and Wollaton) were brought before the church court accused of visiting the ‘Wise Boy’, also known as the ‘Stroking Boy’, of Wysall. He seems to have been a young healer.

Interestingly the churchwardens at East Leake ‘present the following: that concerning the child at Wysall, they have none in their parish that went to him.’ The Costock churchwardens also claimed not to be able to find any ‘that were supposed to go to the child at Wysall.’ Whether this is accurate or disingenuous cannot now be established!

Unfortunately, nothing further is known of the Wise Boy despite the fact that his reputation must have been widespread judging by the distance people were prepared to travel to visit him.

Presumably people from north Leicestershire also visited – or at least were aware of – the Wise Boy but the jurisdiction of the Nottinghamshire church court did not extend over the county boundary.

All the accused pleaded guilty and were dismissed. Although such prosecutions were prevalent in the reign of James I the authorities were reluctant to formally punish such activities.

Information from Dr Martyn Bennett’s Society, Religion and Culture In Seventeenth Century Nottinghamshire (Edwin Mellen Press 2006). The source document is online at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/is/services/mss/online/online-mss-catalogues/cats/an_presentment_bills_297-314.html

Thanks to Mark Orridge for drawing the editors’ attention to the Wise Boy.
The name of Samuel Shalcrosse appears but fleetingly in the records of Burton on the Wolds, yet no one person played a greater part in shaping our modern village. Burton Hall was not built until late in the eighteenth century, but Samuel had laid the foundation for the Burton Estate over a hundred years earlier.

The Shalcrosse background

The Shalcrosse family originates in Derbyshire and takes its name from the ‘shall’ or ‘shackel’ cross close to Taxal. The form of the name is remarkably varied; Shalcrosse genealogists have recorded almost a hundred different spellings. One version only is used here in the interests of clarity.

The name appears in parish registers around north-east Leicestershire from the mid-sixteenth century. Entries in the registers of Melton Mowbray parish church confirm the marriage of William Shalcrosse to Johan Richardson in 1549 and his second marriage to Agnes Masser in 1561, the baptism of Simon Shalcrosse’s daughter Agnetain 1552, and the marriage of Joan Shalcrosse to James Guilson in 1564.

In 1599, one Simon Shalcrosse of Twyford emerges. He is obviously from the same family because in 1622 he represented his aunt, Joan Guilson, at the trial of Bartholomew Brooksby for high treason. Simon is described as a gentleman and in 1628 his son James was the richest man in Twyford.

James was probably the parish priest since the family held the rectory and rights to the tithes. James and his son, James the younger, along with his mother, Elizabeth, sold these, with several acres of land and their rights to the common pasture, in 1630. He may be the James Shalcrosse who graduated from Trinity College, Oxford, in 1625.

James Shalcrosse the younger married and made his home at Hoby. The Hoby parish registers list three children: Samuel baptised in 1643, An[n] in 1645 and Elizabeth in 1648.

A Shalcrosse who at one time was living very close to Burton was William Shalcrosse BA, who matriculated from Trinity College Cambridge in 1638 and took up the post of usher at Loughborough Grammar School and priest at the parish church.

Samuel Shalcrosse of Burton

In 1676 Samuel Shalcrosse negotiated with the family of Sir Henry Hudson to buy land at Burton on the Wolds. He paid £300 for 90 acres of meadow and 250 acres of pasture.

Four years later, he paid John and Joseph Earl of Quorn £160 for a house and two cottages, three gardens, three orchards, 70 acres of land, 24 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, and common of pasture, in Quorn, Woodhouse, Mountsorrel and the Forest of Charnwood.

Quorn was still working the old open field system and some of Samuel’s land there would have been in small scattered plots and strips. Enclosure of Burton parish had been progressive over several years, and by 1676 the open fields had gone. Samuel’s Burton land would have been in ‘closes’ or enclosed fields and this may have influenced his decision to make his home at Burton. In the year 1687 he was described as ‘Samuel Shalcrosse of London, gent’, but by that time he had probably been settled in Burton for several years.

Samuel was educated and well read. He was one of several men of standing and influence to be appointed trustees of the Quorn Charity Fund, following misappropriation of moneys, and he is listed among some of the most prominent men in the County who raised money to support William III in 1701. (Leicestershire raised 25,674 pounds, 5 shillings, 4 pence and 1/8 of a penny; the Borough of Leicester raised 479 pounds and 14 shillings.)
Samuel had two wives. In 1663 he married Elizabeth Chisholme, and their daughter Hannah was born in 1670. At the time of her death in 1683 Hannah was their only child. Elizabeth died in early August 1689 and was buried at Prestwold. Three weeks later Samuel married Ann Bushnell at St Mary’s Marylebone. She was a widow, and brought with her two daughters: Roe Bonfoy, then about nine years old, and little Ann Bushnell. Ann had married John Bushnell at St Mary’s Marylebone in July 1683; the assumption must be that Samuel was her third husband. Her first husband may have been Nicholas Bonfoy as Jewit Franciscus, son of ‘Nicholai Bonofoy and Annae’, was baptised at St Martins in the Fields on 16th April 1676. Roe was born around 1680.

A possible clue to Ann Bushnell’s identity could lie in the name given to her daughter, Roe. Ann was about 57 years old when she died in 1713, which fits the date of baptism given in the Prestwold registers for Ann Roe.

In Autumn 1698 Samuel Shalcrosse proudly walked arm in arm with Roe Bonfoy to Prestwold church, and gave her in marriage to William Stevens. William was a citizen of London and a gentleman, but he was also described as a clothworker. He was in his early twenties, Roe was about eighteen.

Samuel made a generous marriage settlement. Roe and William benefited from the house and homestead that he had bought all those years ago from the Earles – the White House on the north side of Meeting Street. He also included the two cottages, 96 acres of land in the Quorn fields, a further 42 acres of land in Quorn, Brink’s Close, Landland Close, and Lea Close in Woodhouse. The settlement was made on the condition that William and Roe were not contributing to the support of William’s parents or his sister’s family – a seemingly odd stipulation because on the face of it William was an eligible young man from a respectable family. His father was a London gentleman and a Member of the Common Council.

Samuel continued to invest. In August 1700 he paid £300 to Thomas Farnham of Quorn, plus £30 in silver, and five guineas in gold to Martha Farnham his mother, for another thirty acres of land in Quorn. The following November he paid £50 to Clifton Packe of Prestwold for a cottage in Burton on the Wolds in the tenure of a lady called Sarah Noone, and two cow pastures ‘to be had and taken in a place called the Twenty Acres and other commonable places of Burton’. Some of the old houses in Burton still retain their grazing rights, usually called cow or beast gates. Twenty Acres is close to Six Hills.

Samuel found himself playing a new role – that of grandfather to three boys: Shalcrosse, Samuel and William. Roe and William Stevens were destined to have a large family and these three were followed by Thomas, Elizabeth, Charles, Morton, Hannah, Ann, Juliana, Robert, George, Hannah-Shalcrosse and Roe. There was a good measure of grief – as in many families at that time – little Morton died of convulsions when he was just ‘three-quarters’, and Hannah, Juliana, George and Hannah-Shalcrosse all died when they were young. But most of Roe’s children survived, succeeded and multiplied.

Roe’s half-sister, Ann Bushnell, was married at St Mary’s, Leicester, on 29th August 1707, to Nicholas Mason of Walton. They too knew sadness. Little Maria died in 1712 and their precious son Shalcrosse in 1718, but they had four healthy daughters and in 1720 they were blessed with another son, William Shalcrosse.

William Shalcrosse Mason grew up in the company of Hannah, Ann, Elizabeth and Lucretia, first at Barrow, later at Burton on the Wolds.

Samuel Shalcrosse died in 1729. He was said to be in his ninetieth year, and John Nichols, in his History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester, records his monument as a flat stone on the south
side of Prestwold Church but it is no longer there. Several stones removed from the church now stand, half buried, in front of the south wall of the churchyard. Most are no longer readable but they include one that appears to have been the cover to the Mason family vault. Evidence suggests that the vault was beneath the nave and there is an old ventilation shaft by the south door that could be associated with it.

Samuel, his daughter Hannah, and his second wife, along with Nicholas and Ann Mason, are commemorated by simple brass plates on the south wall of the nave. There are three similar plates, probably made in 1890 when the church was restored. The wording on one may have been taken from the actual coffin:

Here lyeth interred the body of Hannah only child of Samuel Shalcrosse gent and Elizabeth his wife who departed this life 15\textsuperscript{th} August in the year of Our Lord 1763 aged 13 years 3 months 5 days.

Nowhere else is Hannah’s precise age given. According to John Nichols, the original stone monument stated simply that she died August 19\textsuperscript{th} 1683, aged 13. There is no obvious explanation for the incorrect year.

**Who was Samuel?**

Known facts suggest that Samuel Shalcrosse was born around 1639. He may have been Samuel the son of James Shalcrosse of Hoby, however, according to Nichols there was a second Samuel Shalcrosse buried at Prestwold whose age at death – 70 years in 1713 – makes him more likely to be Samuel from Hoby. He was doubtless related to the older Samuel, perhaps a cousin.

There is no solid information about Samuel’s origins and nothing to link him for certain with other Leicestershire Shalcrosses, but it is probable that he was related to William Shalcrosse the priest. William was intruding vicar at Whissendine during the Commonwealth period and Nicholas Mason Snr of Walton – ‘alias Castledine’ as he styled himself – the father-in-law of Ann Mason (née Bushnell), belonged to the Mason family of Whissendine. His kinsmen there served William Shalcrosse the priest as churchwardens. Perhaps Nicholas Mason Snr of Walton and Samuel Shalcrosse of Burton were old friends.

Samuel’s roots could really have been in London, or he might have been from Derbyshire where the main branch of the Shalcrosse family lived, but it is far more likely that he was a local man retiring to a part of the country he knew and loved.

**Samuel’s legacy**

Samuel left his personal and real estate to ‘my daughter’ Ann Mason, and in the event that Ann and her husband predecease him, leaving no children, to sons of Roe Stevens, by then all London businessmen: Samuel the distiller, William the cheesemonger, Thomas the grocer. He left several legacies, and to his godson John James he gave ‘ye house which Jacob Baradail doth now inhabit or dwell in’. It probably stood in the middle of the new David Wilson development.

The hasty marriage of Ann’s mother and stepfather does suggest they had a close relationship prior to the death of Elizabeth Chisholme, and is bound to prompt questions about Ann’s parentage. Was Samuel her natural father? The fact that he made his younger stepdaughter his heir does reinforce the theory. However, there is no evidence that Ann ever used the name Shalcrosse. Samuel had already provided very well for Roe Bonfoy and Ann was doubtless the support and comfort of his old age.

William Shalcrosse Mason was seven years old when Samuel wrote his will. At the age of seventeen he was a very wealthy young man, having inherited the Shalcrosse estate from his mother and Mason property from his father. He married well. His wife was Judith Jenkinson,
whose mother was the daughter and sole heiress of William Fiennes and granddaughter of Viscount Saye and Sele, and he was related by marriage to the Packe family of Prestwold and the Pochins of Barkby. Sadly, William and Judith’s only child, a daughter, died within a few hours of birth.

William’s childhood home in Burton was probably a small manor house, part of – or on the site of – the row of cottages to the east of the old Methodist chapel. He set about building a new house at the top of the hill, south of the village. It was known as the Manor House and is now Manor Farm though William never held the manor of Burton, nor did his parents or Samuel Shalcrosse.

Burton Hall was built in the final decades of the eighteenth century by his nephew, John Noon, son of his sister Lucretia. Only two of Lucretia’s thirteen children survived beyond childhood: John and his brother Edward.

When William Shalcrosse Mason came to write his own will in 1788, one of the charities that helped Burton’s poor – Kirk’s charity – had failed. The charity’s name remained but its work continued only thanks to William who created a fund and left money to support it. The charity was set up to provide £4 for a schoolmaster at Prestwold, £4 to buy coals for the poor, £4 to clothe six poor boys with caps, coats, stockings and shoes, and additional money to bind them apprentice. However, in 1836, the Charity Commissioners reported that ‘a great deal of evidence was gone into on this subject, but it was found impossible to trace the charity’.

William Stevens of Quorn did adopt the name Shalcrosse for several years and his eldest son became Shalcrosse Stevens Shalcrosse, perhaps to please Roe’s stepfather to begin with but the practice continued for some years following Samuel’s demise. Despite their London business interests the Stevens family retained their association with Quorn. Following Roe’s death in 1738 William married Ann, the daughter of Captain Henry and Martha Farnham, and Samuel Stevens, his son, married Hannah Sophia, sister in law to Sevile Hyde. In 1740 Samuel purchased Quorn Place (now the Quorndon Fox Hotel).

By 1763 the Stevens were considerable owners of property in the area and they received one of the...
John Noon had no children and left Burton Hall and the Burton Estate to Charles Godfrey Mundy of Markeaton.

From 1838 to 1920 the Hall and the Estate were owned by the Dukes of Somerset.

From 1920 to 1954 they were the property of the Earl and Countess of Huntingdon.

* John Nichols says that Thomas Greasley the second husband of Ann Mason and Thomas Greasley the first husband of Elizabeth Mason were cousins.
largest allotments under the Quorn Endowment Award.

In his account of Quorn written at the end of the eighteenth century, John Nichols lists the Rev Thomas Stevens DD among the principal landowners and says he owned a good house within the village. He also mentions Mrs Peach who was the daughter of Samuel Stevens and granddaughter of William and Roe. In writing about the Stevens family, John Nichols had the help of Robert Stevens, the son of William and Roe, then in his eighties.

In 1811 John Noon died, leaving Burton Hall to the son of a friend. By this date the name Stevens no longer appears among the freeholders of Quorn.

**The Burton Estate**

It had been William Shalcrosse Mason’s wish that the estate that Samuel founded should remain within the family. Instead John Noon chose as his heir Charles Godfrey Mundy of Markeaton in Derbyshire.

There is no way of monitoring the prosperity and growth of the estate while it remained in the hands of Samuel Shalcrosse’s heirs, but in 1834 Charles Mundy was forced to put it on the market. By that time, Samuel’s original 340 acres had grown to 1,200 with several farms and cottages and the Upper Mill on the River Soar close to Cotes. There were reserves of alabaster and limestone, osier beds, woods and plantations, a fox covert, arable land, meadow and pasture. Burton Hall had been transformed from a country gentleman’s home into a fashionable mansion with conservatories, hot-houses, pineries, walled gardens, hot walls, grottoes, fishponds, flower gardens, shrubberies, coach houses, stabling and an ice house. John Noon’s original house had been on the village street, but Charles Mundy completely changed the appearance of Burton, closing and re-routing roads, so that his much grander establishment stood in its own park with impressive gates and a sweeping drive.

It was Charles Mundy that laid out the plantations around the village and built the lion’s mouth fountain.

Also included in the sale was the Manor ‘or reputed Manor’ of Burton, with all its rights and privileges. Charles Mundy had purchased the Manor of Burton from the Hastings family, though its extent and status must be questioned. At Domesday, Burton was split between three of King William’s barons and its subsequent manorial history is far from clear.

The last remnants of the Burton Estate were sold off in 1954, two hundred and seventy-eight years after Samuel bought his first land from Sir Henry.

Houses and bungalows have been built on the park and gardens of the Hall, and the house itself has been divided into apartments to suit modern living. Charles Mundy’s Fishpond Plantation has become Burton’s newest amenity: the community wood.

Samuel left no descendants and the Mason line from Nicholas and Ann died with their grandson. John Noon had no children but did have several nephews and nieces. His reasons for disposing of the estate outside the family remain a mystery.

There are still Stevens in the Charnwood area, and Roe Stevens and her sister had several daughters. Genealogists researching their ancestors among the Hentons, Greasleys, Fullers, Loes, Kings, Warwicks, Peaches, Bostocks, Hydes, Norths, Orams, Simpsons, Wrights and many other north Leicestershire families can expect to come across the odd Shalcrosse hiding in the branches.
This picture of the Hall family at Gorse Farm hangs in the Local Studies Room of Loughborough Library.

Gorse Farm was built by the Packe family in 1887, and was sited on Wymeswold Road in Hoton. It was demolished to make way for the runways of RAF Wymeswold. The house had four-bedrooms and was of brick with a Welsh slate roof. Behind was a complete range of farm buildings. The photograph appears to have been taken when the farm was new and although the people are not named they are probably John Hall senior and his wife Elizabeth with their granddaughter Maria (Maria married John Harrison from Barrow).
Concerning the major restoration of Wymeswold church between the years of 1955–59, the following work was done:

1: The whole of the nave roof was stripped of its lead, and the wooden gutter supports, which had decayed with damp rot and death watch attack, were replaced with cement steppings. The whole of the lead was re-cast and re-laid, according to medieval procedure, with long water chutes replacing the old Victorian stone headers which were responsible for most of the structural damage. This, as you will readily appreciate, was the major undertaking.

2: Henry Alford’s great restoration of the 1840s, which some people describe as vandalistic, had meant that A.W. Pugin, his architect, according to his usual custom, had ‘trued’ the walls by floating on to the rubble, Roman Plaster, i.e. lime and sand with ground ashes and cow hair, in many places to a depth of 3 or 4 inches. Because of the decayed state of the roofs, water had poured down between the plaster and the rubble, and in many cases the plaster was standing 6 inches proud of the wall! Damp rot, fungus, grew riotously and huge fungoid growths hung on the interior of the clerestory wall. Again, the repair of this was a major undertaking. The plaster was stripped down on the apices of the arches, and after keying the rubble with gravel and cement, the whole was floated out level with the remainder and skimmed with Leighton Buzzard sand. The evidence of this work can be seen if you look at the clerestory and the chancel and the aisle walls with an expert eye! The stonework of the arches and pillars was in such a parlous state that it would have resisted any attempt to wash it and clean it effectively. We decided, therefore, to treat the arcades and the walls as a unity, in the same way as many East Anglian churches have been treated, and to whiten the whole of the interior. This, of course, was very useful in covering the old and new plaster surfaces.

3: The remaining work was re-setting of decaying stonework, in particular the castellations on the nave roof, and re-pointing some of a limestone and soft Lias in the exterior of the walls. The woodwork was all treated against beetle attack and various bits of colouring work done where it was thought appropriate.

The installation of the new altar with its riddell posts and scarlet dorsal curtain was the first move to do what our forebears had done in the Middle Ages; that was to use a pure white background to set forth primary colours.

If you look at Nikolaus Pevsner’s Leicestershire and Rutland you will find an article on the church, which I wrote for him while this restoration was in progress.
Unfortunately I left before my work was complete. The very poor Victorian chancel screen by Pugin, which replaced a superb but decayed oak screen of the Middle Ages, I intended to remove and replace at the base of the tower arch (Pevsner says that this has been done!). The nave was to have been widened and heating system rearranged to give great dignity to the east-facing aspect. The church was to be re-floored and coloured sconces placed on the aisle walls. Alas, I left before this was done, and no further progress has to date been made.

You ask me concerning my part in all this. My endeavour sprang from a great interest in things architectural and archaeological, and also in raising the money, some £6,000, which the village worked like fun to raise – you will realise this was quite a large sum for a village the size of Wymeswold to raise quickly.

Rev Jackson’s second letter, dated 5 April 1967 starts:

Thank you for your kind letter and for enclosing draft of the brochure you are preparing for Wymeswold church, I have had a look through this and think it is very good for the purpose intended.

I think on page 3 of the copy if I were you I would find another word for the word you have used ‘amusing’, with regard to the texts which Pugin painted all over the church! I would also not regard their disappearance as being at all unfortunate as it was entirely a Victorian foible to paint texts all over the interior of Gothic buildings, ruining the lines of the arcades and breaking up the unity of wall surfaces, which were part of the Gothic builders’ genius.

If you want to leave this sentence in I would suggest changing the word ‘amusing’ for the word ‘biblical’, for whatever else those texts were they were certainly not amusing!

On another tack I ought to tell you that I have written to the Vicar of Wymeswold warning him of the reappearance of fungal growths on the third roof truss of the north clerestory and suggesting that immediate action is taken to prevent what I had to deal with some years ago. Obviously water is getting in the nave gutters on the North side and should be attended to without delay. If you can stimulate him to take some action, without saying I have written to you also, it will be a good thing.

I particularly like your reference to the North Porch, which is perhaps one of the best things that Pugin did, and immediately ‘belongs’ to the building.

Anthony Weldon reports that water ingress from the roof into the nave has continued to be a problem over the years. And the curiously-worded phrase ‘the village worked like fun to raise’ the £6,000 also reflects the spirit of fundraising which has continued during the last twenty years.

Whether or not we can share Rev Jackson’s opinion about the ‘amusing’ – or otherwise – biblical texts, clearly the plaster of the nave needed major restorations so some of Pugin’s texts above the nave arches would have been lost. However the biblical texts behind the altar in the chancel were only painted over to meet Jackson’s
1950s taste in ecclesiastical fashions, notwithstanding his claims of medieval precedents. Jackson is correct that the Victorians favoured biblical texts, but omits to mention that what he describes as the ‘Gothic builders’ genius’ would originally have been decorated with figurative painted decoration.

Pugin’s writings roundly condemned painting the interiors of churches uniformly white, so – perhaps understandably – Rev Jackson was no fan of Pugin’s preference for the austerity of bare stone (which certainly did not have medieval precedents, as whitewashed and painted interiors were then typical).

As ever, ecclesiastical fashions have largely dictated the changes to parish churches, and these letters provide an unusual insight into how the 1950s saw the 1840s.

Two photographs by Philip Brown taken between 1896 and the 1920s showing Pugin’s biblical texts behind the altar and around the chancel arch.
This article is based on an article published in the Loughborough Echo on 29th June 1934 under the pseudonym Heywood.

The origins of Wymeswold cricket club are not recorded but seem to be around the 1850s. A second club, the Wymeswold United Cricket Club, was founded in 1922 in conjunction with the Wesleyan chapel. For a few years there was an annual match between the two sides – quickly nicknamed the wets’ and the ‘drys’ because of the Methodists’ teetotal principles – but these had been discontinued some time before 1934.

According to Haywood, ‘One of the best cricketers Wymeswold has ever produced is the present post-master, Mr Phil Brown, an old Loughborough Grammar School boy, who, years

Rev Henry Alford while at Wymeswold

Among Phillip Brown’s negatives are several copies of existing photographs. One of these shows the distinctive features of Rev Henry A. Alford. He was Vicar of Wymeswold between 1835 and 1853, during which time he commissioned A.W.N. Pugin to restore St Mary’s. Alford was born in 1810 so would have been 43 when he moved to London to take up the Incumbency of Quebec Chapel, London, and subsequently the Deanery of Canterbury.

Was this photograph taken in his early forties, shortly before he left Wymeswold? We may never know for certain but nevertheless this would have been more or less how many Wymeswold people remembered him after he left.

Philip Brown – Wymeswold’s cricket legend

This article is based on an article published in the Loughborough Echo on 29th June 1934 under the pseudonym Heywood.

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According to Haywood, ‘One of the best cricketers Wymeswold has ever produced is the present post-master, Mr Phil Brown, an old Loughborough Grammar School boy, who, years
ago, was a familiar figure at the old boys’ match. For many years he was the most consistent bat, and for fifteen seasons was top of the club averages, an inspiring record which gives a clear idea of the excellent service he rendered to the club. In his younger days there is little doubt that he was worthy of a trial in more representative cricket. He was always exceptionally keen on the game, and it was a great blow to him when, at the age of fifty-five, he was compelled to retire owing to recurring attacks of sciatica. In his last match, against Coalville, he played an excellent innings of 55, and had the satisfaction of carrying out his bat (i.e. was ‘not out’ at the end of the innings).

The suggestion that Philip Brown might have played at county level is borne out by Haywood’s account of another Wymeswold batsman, J. Wright, who was a ‘hard’ and ‘prolific’ hitter who went to play professionally at Skegness, and one of the Jallands (the unnamed son of F. Jalland depicted in the 1911 photograph) whose ‘many fine performances have attracted the notice of the powers that be at Aylestone Road’ (i.e. the home of Leicestershire county cricket).

Haywood concludes by noting that the 1934 club was ‘a young side with plenty of promising material and there is every reason that they will continue to hold a prominent position in the local cricketing world.’ Well it might be stretching it to thing of their twenty-first century descendants as a ‘young side’ but Haywood was correct in predicting a prominent place for the team in local competitions.

Below: Photograph of the Wymeswold cricket team taken in 1911 on the occasion of the opening of a new pavilion (this was on the previous cricket pitch at the back of the Three Crowns).

Standing: C. Mills (umpire), C. Morris, J. Richardson, F. Jalland, W. Handley, F. Kirkby, P.E. Brown

Sitting: J. Peel, A. Morris, J. Burrows

On ground: G. Morris, T. Hall.

Philip Brown is on the right of the back row.

George Morris (on left, front row) was a ‘successful bowler’. His brother Albert (middle of seated second row) was a ‘fine stumper’ (wicket keeper). F. Jalland (middle of back row) was a ‘terrific hitter’.

Tom Hall (on right, front row) was a slow right-arm bowler. ‘One of his best performances was against East Leake when, although suffering from a slight attack of gout, he took six wickets for 24.’
The planning of Wymeswold

Bob Trubshaw

Although it may seem odd, the name ‘Wymeswold’ is many centuries older than the village itself. The place-name is usually thought to derive from ‘Wymund’s wald’, with the Old English word *wald* meaning ‘high woodland’. Who Wymund was is lost in the proverbial mists, but he was likely to have been living around the sixth or early seventh century.¹ ‘Wymund’s wald’ originally referred not to a settlement but an area of land – perhaps the whole extent of the eight parishes we now think of as the Wolds (i.e. Willoughby, Burton, Walton, Seagrave, Thrussington, Ragdale and Old Dalby) with the different parishes becoming progressively defined so that, presumably before Domesday, something similar to the current parish boundaries were in place.

Although seemingly Wymund gave his name to an area of wald in the sixth century, people at this time were living in dispersed farmsteads. On the basis of archaeological evidence in south Leicestershire, these settlements were probably spaced about one to two kilometres apart. About three hundred years later there was a radical change to what geographers call ‘nucleated settlements’ – in other words the typical English village, usually centred on the parish church. Without these villages we would not have much of the ‘modern’ road system, so we have to thank the Anglo-Saxons for giving England some of its most characteristic geographical and social features.

**Earliest Wymeswold**

Why go to all the effort to create villages throughout most of England? Historians are still perplexed and there were probably various factors. Perhaps the best guess is that it was associated with the re-introduction of the so-called ‘heavy plough’, which required eight powerful oxen to pull it (see Williamson 2003 for details). This radical social change probably took place in the eighth or ninth centuries, the heyday of the Mercian kingdom. Wymeswold was certainly part of this revolution in agriculture and the earliest phase of the nucleated village must have clustered around the base of the mound on which St Mary’s church now sits.

Mercian England was Christian, although splendid parish churches were still a couple of hundred years in the future. Instead priests were based at minsters, which looked after the spiritual needs of an area equivalent to about sixty modern parishes. Instead of an impressive stone-built church, Wymeswold churchyard would have had a wood or stone ‘preaching cross’ and, maybe, a simple wooden church no bigger than the domestic houses.

Key to all life in the village was the reliable source of water which we know as the Stockwell – now culverted over but still rising up near to the bus shelter at the side of the churchyard. In medieval times this was probably thought of as a holy well. There is a twelfth century mention of a ‘Wulstanwelle’ at Wymeswold, although how the eleventh century St Wulstan of Worcester came to be linked with Wymeswold is unknown. Presumably the well was holy before the dedication to Wulstan. The word ‘stockwell’ most probably referred originally to a stream (Old English *wella*) crossed by a log (Old English *stock*) (see Cox 2004). Before culverting, such a simple bridge would have been desirable at the Brook Street end of The Stockwell. After the Reformation, when saints’ wells were largely forgotten, and as the sense of Modern English ‘well’ changed to denoting a water source rather than a stream, then presumably the word ‘Stockwell’ transferred from the bridged stream to the well itself.

So Wymeswold had reliable pure water and a stream – the River Mantle – to take waste water away. The soils in this part of the village are free-draining sands and gravels over a thin layer of Blue Lias – all very ‘des-res’ for Anglo-Saxon house builders.

However a look at any reasonably large-scale map of Wymeswold shows something much more
striking than a ‘typical’ nucleated village. Many of the houses with their long thin gardens line up neatly – I think of them as like slices of toast in a toast rack. Academic historians call this ‘toft and croft’ – the toft was the house and associated barn, and the croft was where vegetables were grown and a cow, pigs and poultry kept. There may have been a small area of orchard too in the croft.

This ‘toast rack’ of toft and croft is not the way that small ninth century nucleated settlements were planned. But is the way that small ‘towns’ were planned from the tenth to thirteenth century. Yet there was probably a village of some sort at Wymeswold from around the ninth century – well before the later planned town. Indeed, if we look closely at a map of Wymeswold, we can see that Church Street and The Stockwell do not fit neatly into the ‘toast rack’ – so these presumably are the oldest parts of the settlement.

Such planned towns were usually intended as trading places – York is a classic example, and both Narborough and Market Harborough are late examples in Leicestershire. They were intentionally set up by a landowner hoping to make a fortune from taxes on the goods brought in to trade. The homes would have mostly been occupied by tradespeople and craftsmen. These artisans would have bought most of their basic food, apart from the ‘luxuries’ raised on their toft.

**Four to three**

We will never know who thought it would be a good idea to make Wymeswold into what, at the time, would have been thought of as a new town. However there is some evidence that it happened soon after 1066. The reasoning goes like this: at the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 there were three lords of the manor but, the survey notes, shortly before the Norman Conquest, there had been four lordships. And, although Wymeswold seems to have a ‘four-fold’ symmetry around the churchyard, one of the quarters seems not have developed as the other three did.
The evidence is still to be seen as the sites of two of the manors are known – one is still called Manor Farm (the Georgian house next to the Country Pine workshop on Far Street) and another stood in Hall Field (on the south side of Brook Street) until the eighteenth century. Intriguingly, both these manors are situated near the extreme corners of the planned village (ignore London Lane as this was only fully developed in the twentieth century). We know the manorial lords were absent landowners so these manors would have been occupied primarily by their ‘reeves’ or stewards. Could the manors have been sited as far away as possible because the rival stewards did not want to bump into each other too often when going about their business? Or were the manors located to give the stewards the best chance to keep an eye on the workers going to and from the fields? Whatever, the placing of these two manors is distinctive. So does this distinctive siting enable some guesses as to where might the other two manors have been?

Well the corresponding part of the south-western corner of the village is the kink at the bottom of Clay Street where the pharmacy now stands. Take away that kink and Clay Street points more or less directly at Burton Lane. Was there a manor here? If so, perhaps it became disused before the Hall Field manor so, when brickmaking became fashionable, the land was available for use as a clay pit and kiln – hence Clay Street and the parcel of land there known as ‘Kiln Close’ before development. As the clay was dug out the pit would need to expand sideways, forcing the road to take a longer way round. There may be other reasons for the ‘kink’ but this seems the most probable.

So where was the fourth manor? If the deduction about a manor in the south-west is correct then clearly the fourth one should have been in the north-east corner of the village. But take away houses built in the last two centuries or so and – well there’s nothing much there in the north-east quadrant of Wymeswold. Even today this is something of an ‘empty quarter’ as, although houses on Brook Street continue well past The Civic, when you walk up The Civic to the main road you are facing allotments and fields.

My best guess is that Wymeswold was planned before the Norman Conquest, when there were four lordships and hence a four-fold village plan centred around the already-historic village core and the churchyard. One quarter remained almost empty, presumably when the number of lordships shrank to three after the Conquest. It may be that there never was a fourth manor house.

**Wymeswold was not alone**

We only have to look to an adjacent parish for another example of a planned village set up around a previously-nucleated core – Willoughby on the Wolds. I have not looked at the history of Willoughby in detail, but my first thoughts are that the planning of Willoughby is likely to be contemporary with the creation of Thorpe in the Glebe (which involved significant restructuring of Willoughby and Wysall parish boundaries). Dates are purely speculative but tenth or early eleventh century seems most likely (Cameron and O’Brien 1981) – the same timescale as for the planning of Wymeswold. Was one so successful that a competitor could thrive in the next parish? Or was there an element of competitiveness between adjoining landowners? We will probably never know. But clearly the pre-Conquest period was key to the planning of these two villages.

Furthermore, sometime during the tenth or eleventh centuries Walton on the Wolds was also being ‘promoted’ as a market town (Clarke 2008) – although clearly the layout of the village has none of the toft and croft planning of Wymeswold and Willoughby. So did Walton’s role as a market predate the substantial development of the other two places, but then get ‘sidelined’ as the other two succeeded?

So many questions, so few clear answers. Not for nothing is this era known as the Dark Ages. Yet for all the obscurity, the ‘evidence’ of ninth to eleventh century changes is all around us as they created the English landscape of villages and roads that has largely been sustained for over a thousand years.

**Notes**

1. S.P. Potter in his History of Wymeswold (1913) suggested that Wymund was the son of Wichtlaf, the Duke of Wicco, who was married to Alfleda, daughter of Ceowulf, king of the Mercians until 883. Wymund died of dysentery and was buried at Croyland Abbey, Lincolnshire. This is
based on information about Wymund given by the monastic scholar Ingulphus in about 870. However there was more than one Wymund (several people with that name enter the records in the twelfth to fifteenth centuries) so Wymeswold may have been named after a person living well before the ninth century, when historical records are almost entirely absent.

Furthermore, Wymeswold does not necessarily derive from Wymund’s wald but might be from weoh munds wald i.e. the ‘wald of the weoh (pagan shrine) mounds’, conceivably referring to now-lost mounds at or near to Six Hills (known to be a hearg or ‘harrow’ – another Old English term for a pagan ritual site). The Old English word weoh also gives Wysall, the next village to the north of Wymeswold, and other place-names such as Wyfordby (the settlement at the ford with a pagan shrine) to the east of Melton Mowbray. Weoh munds wald is clearly contemporary with the time when the area was likely to have been heavily wooded and fits in well with my suggestion that all eight parishes of the Wolds were once known as ‘Wymeswold’, as the eponymous mounds would have been at the centre.

2. The Domesday Book states that in 1086 Wymeswold was divided into four parts. The chief landholder was Hugh de Grantemesnil. Durant Malet and Roger de Busli also held land, while the land of the king’s servants was held under Robert de Jorz.

References


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George Kendall of Hoton:
Chartist and trade unionist

George Kendall was born in Hoton in 1811. He was the son of George Kendall, a Hoton framework knitter, and Sarah Fell of Bulwell. He started work at the age of five, probably winding the yarn for his father, and moved to Sutton in Ashfield in Nottinghamshire when he was a young man. Like most of his neighbours there, he worked on a stocking frame; in 1850 Sutton had 1,800 stocking frames. Life was grim, and “as poor as a stockinger” was a common saying. Hosiers controlled the work and rented out the frames, and the knitters had to rely on middle-men – “putters out”, “bagmen” and “undertakers” – to provide the yarn and collect the finished product. They had to accept the rates offered, however low, and frame rents always had to be paid even though there was no guarantee of wages.

George Kendall became the champion of the Sutton knitters. He pursued a relentless campaign to rid the industry of the despised truck system whereby the workers were paid in goods or in tokens, he was secretary of the local framework knitters’ trade society and helped to set up The Hosiery Board of Arbitration. He was an active supporter of the 1870 Education Act, using his influence to get fees waived for poorer families and encouraging parents to keep their children in school.

George married twice and had two sons and two daughters. He died at Sutton in 1886 and was buried at St Mary’s Church. He was a true son of Hoton. His yeoman ancestors were living in Hoton prior to 1600 and at one time owned the largest house in the village.
Wysall Lane, Wymeswold

Before George Wimpey East Midlands Ltd began work on the houses either side of Wysall Lane, Wymeswold, an archaeological evaluation was carried out by members of University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in the summer of 2006. This article is based on a report prepared by Gerwyn Richards of ULAS.

Before development the land still showed evidence of ridge and furrow, the tell-tale evidence of medieval ploughing for arable crops. Two filled-in old ponds were discovered (one to the extreme north-east of the development and one near the south-west corner) and these suggest that livestock were kept here, at least during some of the time after the land stopped being ploughed. The ponds are shown on the 1900 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map and may date back to the seventeenth century enclosure or even earlier.

Although a total of eighteen trenches were dug (with a total area of about 1,020 square metres), finds were minimal and comprised of a few fragments of twelfth century pottery (mostly made at Potters Marsden, where the majority of pottery of this age found in Leicestershire was manufactured). This near-absence of finds is hardly surprising as the land would almost certainly have never been built on previously.

Interestingly, the soil in the southern-most parts of the development is ‘colluvium’, which is soil washed down the slope by rain. The deepest layers of colluvium were 500 to 600 mm thick, and were themselves overlain by 200 to 300mm of more recent topsoil. These layers overlay older soils and can quite easily ‘mask’ archaeological features and artefacts. In one trench a pit containing traces of charcoal and a single sherd of twelfth century pottery was discovered beneath the top soil and colluvium layers, confirming that the colluvium had developed since the twelfth century. As the foundations of the new houses do not cut below the colluvium it may be that undisturbed archaeological evidence still survives underneath the buildings and gardens along the southern part of the development.

The archaeologists noted that the western side of Wysall Lane in the vicinity of the development was marked by a substantial ditch and bank, surmounted by a hedge (subsequently partially removed as part of the development). There is no similar bank and ditch on the eastern side, suggesting that at some time lane was widened and shifted to the east. Prior to this widening the lane would have been quite a deep ‘hollow way’, as might be expected to develop where livestock and horse-drawn vehicles make their way up a fairly steep slope over rather soft soils.

As with Manor Gardens, developed in 2003 to the east of Wymeswold, these pre-development archaeological evaluations do not reveal anything exciting about the history of the village, although they confirm that there has never been any settlement there previously.

Bob Trubshaw

The Wimpey development to the west of Wysall Lane photographed early June 2008. Note that the vista is aligned to the tower of St Mary’s church.
The Packe Arms at Hoton

This photograph of the Packe Arms was loaned to the WHO by Bob Terry of Bingham. His covering letter states:

The picture shows my grandfather Mr George Terry of West Bridgford on a Sunday out with two friends to the left of the picture. He was the manager of Burroughs Adding Machines in the Meadows area and [the] two friends worked with him.

The photograph was probably taken in the late 1920s. Note the ‘PRHA’ sign – this shows the pub was affiliated to the Peoples Refreshment House Association.

The Burroughs Adding and Registering Company was founded in America. The Nottingham subsidiary was founded in 1895 and began manufacturing there in 1898. It later changed its name to Burroughs Adding Machine Company.


Edward Packe-Drury-Lowe questioned the statement from Geoff Wilkes’ book that he took aircrews to use the swimming pool at Prestwold and thought it more likely that they used the pool at Stanford. This is quite possible, Mr Wilkes confused Wymeswold and Burton when talking about The Greyhound – with no signposts it was difficult to know exactly where you were. Mr Packe-Drury-Lowe also told us that there had been occasional flying of commercial aircraft since 1995, the year we gave for the last flights, and he confirmed that the airfield land is of poor quality. He wages a constant battle with drainage and with cables and lumps of concrete.

Colin Betts from Burton confirmed a story we had heard before. He said his old boss was stationed at Wymeswold and that social trips to Castle Donington were made by plane.

John Bantick, one of our members, recalled a conversation with Joe Fellows who lived at the corner of Wymeswold Lane in Burton. Because the lane was so narrow and there was no footway it was considered hazardous for the men walking back to camp, particularly at night. The Council requisitioned a piece of Mr Fellows’ garden (an unnecessarily large piece in his opinion) and constructed a path to the West of his hedge – there is still a hedge ‘twixt pavement and road at the Burton end of Wymeswold Lane.

Though not strictly related to the airfield, Mr Kowalski of Loughborough told us about a Polish pilot whose mother lived at Burton and who used to fly low over the village until she complained that he was frightening her hens.

Your comments are always welcome – the editors.
The Greyhound Inn was once part of the Burton Hall Estate. It was probably named during the time John Noon was at the Hall (1788–1811). John was an enthusiastic breeder of greyhounds.

The earliest known landlord was Joseph Brown. Joseph didn’t obtain his first licence to sell ale until 1812 but he could have been running the Greyhound for some years by then. He may have been forced into making formal application because Charles Godfrey Mundy, the new owner of the Estate, was a magistrate and noted upholder of the law.

Anthony Hart, who was landlord of the Greyhound from 1841 to 1854 supported his wife and three children from farming 180 acres of land plus what he made from the inn. He kept two servants and employed a labourer.

Richard Davis Grundy obtained the licence in 1861 but only stayed for a couple of years. He was a farm labourer from Stanley in Derbyshire, and there is no evidence that he had any experience of the licensed trade at all, but he shared the premises with his brother, James, who had been a publican in Loughborough. It seems probable that James was really the landlord but for some reason could not get a licence. After their short time in Burton, Richard returned to the land and James took an inn at Smalley.

The Tuckwood family kept the Greyhound for well over thirty years. William Tuckwood Sr came some time before 1871, when he was already in his sixties with grown-up grandchildren. He died in 1877 and his wife held the licence for a few years before handing over to their son, also William, who remained there until 1904. (There is a family story that John, son of the younger William Tuckwood, refused to allow the body of his favourite horse to be taken to the knacker’s yard, and with the help of friends, against his father’s wishes, he buried it in the garden.)

The landlords that followed William Tuckwood were Samuel Stenson, John Thomas Toon, Leonard Charles Potter, William Edward Kirby and John Wilkinson who were all tenants of the Duke of Somerset, but in 1922 the Duke sold the Greyhound to Samuel Ernest Ward who had just retired from the busy “Trip to Jerusalem” in Nottingham (the Wards had long held the licence of the “Trip to Jerusalem” and it is said that the ghost of Samuel’s father still haunts the cellar caves).

Mr Ward sold it on to Shipstones, the Nottingham brewers in 1941, though the Ward family retained the licence until 1945. It now belongs to the Everard chain of licensed houses.

During World War II it was a popular rendezvous for the men and women from RAF Wymeswold and affectionately known as “The Dog”.

It remained a small village pub catering mainly for local people – though attracting a few walkers and cyclists and the occasional coach outing – until the 1980s, when it was extended and modernised, and became the smart eating place we know today.

On the following pages are pictures of the Greyhound from the time of Samuel Ward to the 1980s.

The previous (2006) edition of *The Wolds Historian* included two photographs taken in the summer of 1945, one showing a group of service men and women from the airfield with their chaplain, the other a group of officers with Ralph Ward, the landlord, and his wife and staff. Overleaf is another photograph from the same collection, probably taken on the same occasion. Were these the cars belonging to the officers? We note that some of them still have light deflectors on their headlamps.
Opposite top and centre: Landlord Samuel Ward and his dog in front of the Greyhound Inn circa 1930. The Greyhound Inn kept by Joseph Brown in 1812 may not have been very different though when viewed without the rendering does it perhaps look as if that top floor could have been a later addition?

Top right: Probably taken summer 1945. The sign on the front still says the inn is a ‘free house’ although by this time it had belonged to Shipstones for four years.

Centre right: Taken on a snowy day in the 1970s.

Opposite bottom: From a series of postcards published in the 1960s.

Bottom right: An aerial photograph taken around 1980. A fairly large car park has been constructed but modernisation of the inn itself is still in the future.
Well leaped, Lumley!

Cotes has a wealth of stories to tell, though the one related below is not so well known as some of the others. It was published in John Nichols’ History and Antiquities of Leicestershire.

At Cotes Bridge, near Loughborough, in Leicestershire, some boys were leaping off the bridge. Amongst the rest was one Lumley, upon whose performance all the boys cried out ‘Well leaped, Lumley!’ At the same time a gentleman riding by, whose name was Lumley, called for the boy, asked him diligently about his name, made him spell it and write it, when he found it was the very same with his own. He took him home, bred him up carefully, made him his heir; and from him comes the present family of the lord Lumley, made noble by King Charles II in 1681, and earl of Scarborough by King William III 1690.

The notes at the foot of John Nichols’ page do not say when the above event is supposed to have taken place. He quotes a Mr Cross of Loughborough who said it ‘was a tradition in that town’, and there follows a brief account of the Lumley family:

The ancient barony of Lumley had become extinct in 1609, and was revived (1723) in Richard lord viscount Lumley, father of Richard earl of Scarborought; which Richard was chief heir-male of the family after the decease of John lord Lumley 1609, and inherited the greatest part of the estate of his ancestors by deed.

Cotes bridge in the late eighteenth century from John Nichols’ History and Antiquities.

of settlement, and the last will and testament of the said lord Lumley. He was created Baron Lumley 1681.

(The date given by Nichols for the revival of the barony is wrong and should probably be 1623.)

According to Burke’s Peerage, the only break in the direct line came in 1609, when John, the 7th Lord Lumley, died, leaving no children. (John Lumley was one of the peers who sat in judgement of Mary Queen of Scots and the Earl of Essex.) His estates devolved upon his kinsman, Richard, grandson of the 5th Lord Lumley, who was made Viscount Lumley of Waterford in 1628.

The Lumley family seat was in County Durham. Richard, Viscount Lumley, supported the King during the Civil Wars, made Lumley Castle a garrison, and was one of Prince Rupert’s principal commanders at the Siege of Bristol. He was succeeded by his grandson who had a chief command at the Battle of Sedgemoor, held several royal and national appointments, and was made Earl of Scarborough in 1690.

The family went on to spawn several more distinguished sons, and it would be good to think that Cotes did play a part in its history. Doubtless the Nichols tale has some substance, but if the leaping boy really was the grandson of the 5th Lord Lumley he was probably only visiting or passing through and we are unlikely to find local information that would give the tale credibility.

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Photographs of Wymeswold around 1900 available to buy online

A selection of about forty of the wonderful photographs of Wymeswold taken by Philip Brown between about 1895 and the 1920s are now available to buy as prints – or even table mats or jigsaws if you feel so inclined.

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Anyone without access to the Internet should contact Bob Trubshaw on 01509 880725.