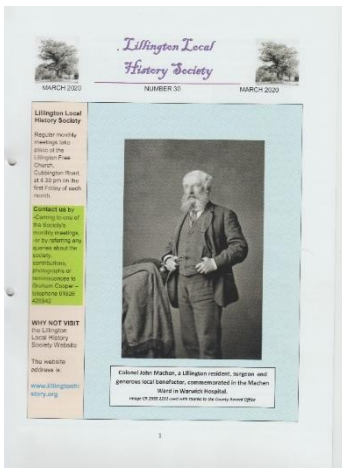


Lillington Local History Society



NEWSLETTER NUMBER 31 SEPTEMBER 2022



We're back!!

Who would have thought that the March 2020 newsletter would be the last printed version for over two years!

But we're back!

CAN YOU SOLVE A MYSTERY?



A correspondent writes:-

I recently came across the attached tankard at a thrift store in Rome. I am curious if you might be able to offer any insights or thoughts on its meaning, origin, etc. Or, perhaps direct me to someone who may be able to help.

The tankard is marked 'H&S London' which is Harton & Sons; the tankard appears to be silver plated pewter. There are many names crudely carved into the tankard with dates ranging from 1871-1874.



“Leamington Spa”

'WALTER': WW2 PRISONER OF WAR



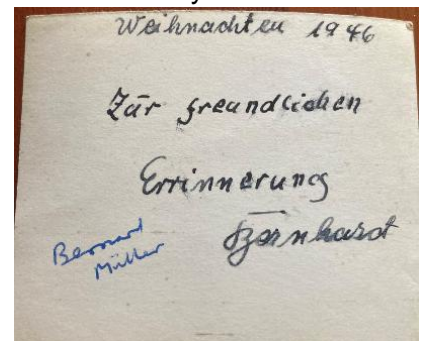
Sue Moore and her brother Alan Smith very kindly shared their story of 'Walter' a WWII German prisoner of war. As children, Sue and Alan lived at 91 Taylor Avenue. Walter was working on the construction of the prefabs directly behind the family home, the present day Rawlinson Road. You can see the prefabs in this picture. Sue and Alan's mom is hanging out the washing.

Walter was kind enough to make a money box for the children out of a disused weapons shell casing. Sue and Alan used to take food up to Walter who was stationed in huts on the Campion hills.



When Walter returned home to Germany, the family lost touch, although Walter sent a Christmas message on the reverse of a photo of himself in uniform. After years of the photo living in a drawer at Sue's home, she realised that Walter's name was in fact Bernhard Müller.

The message translates as, Weihnachten 1946, Zur freundlichen Erinnerung - Bernhard = Christmas 1946, As a friendly reminder - Bernhard.



In hope that I could try to track down Bernhard or his family, I wrote to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Antrag Persbez Recherche Militaer, the Federal Archives of Military in Berlin Germany.

The surname Müller is like Smith in England and having no other details of Bernhard, sadly I had to draw the tracing to a close as both agencies could not find any information.

However, Sue and Alan both have their memories and I thank them for sharing this amazing local history story which had its origins in a global war.

Sue and Alan pictured outside their childhood family home.

Images and text Gary Timlin, Sue and Alan Smith



LILLINGTON BLUE PLAQUES

In Lillington, we have just two Blue Plaques, - the first to Herbert Edward Cox, teacher and artist who lived at 7 Manor Road, and a more recent one to Henry Eric Maudslay, one of the youngest Dam Buster pilots of WW2, who was born at no 1 Vicarage Road.

Herbert Cox



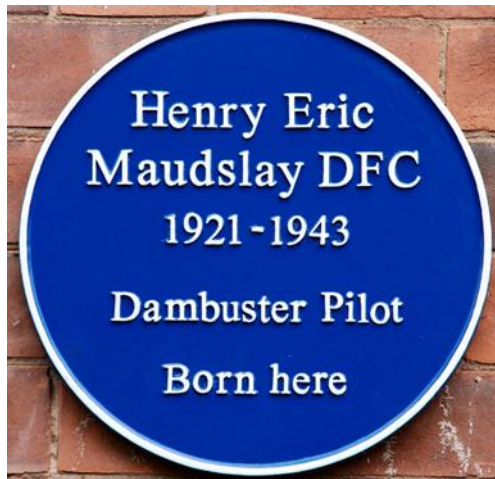
Herbert Cox was born in Coventry in 1869. After grammar school, he was apprenticed to a local firm as a designer and draughtsman, where he designed silks, wallpapers, fabrics and cards. At the same time he attended the Art School in Ford Street, and on his day off sketched the streets of the city, and occasionally the countryside, - something Cox continued to do for the rest of his life. After marriage to Margaret Shilton, he settled in Manor Road, taking commissions for local paintings and illuminated scrolls. He exhibited with the Coventry & Warwickshire Society of Artists, and post-WW1, occasionally organised his own exhibitions. He also taught part-time at the Coventry Institute, and gave some evening classes in the textile department. Cox died in

1941 and is buried at St Mary Magdalene's.

A collection of his paintings and water colours hangs in the Council House, Coventry, and many are in the hands of private collectors. In September 2011, a Blue Plaque was unveiled at Manor Road by Mayor Alan Wilkinson, commemorating a lifetime devoted to art.

Henry Maudslay

Henry Maudslay also had Coventry connections: his father founded the Standard Motor

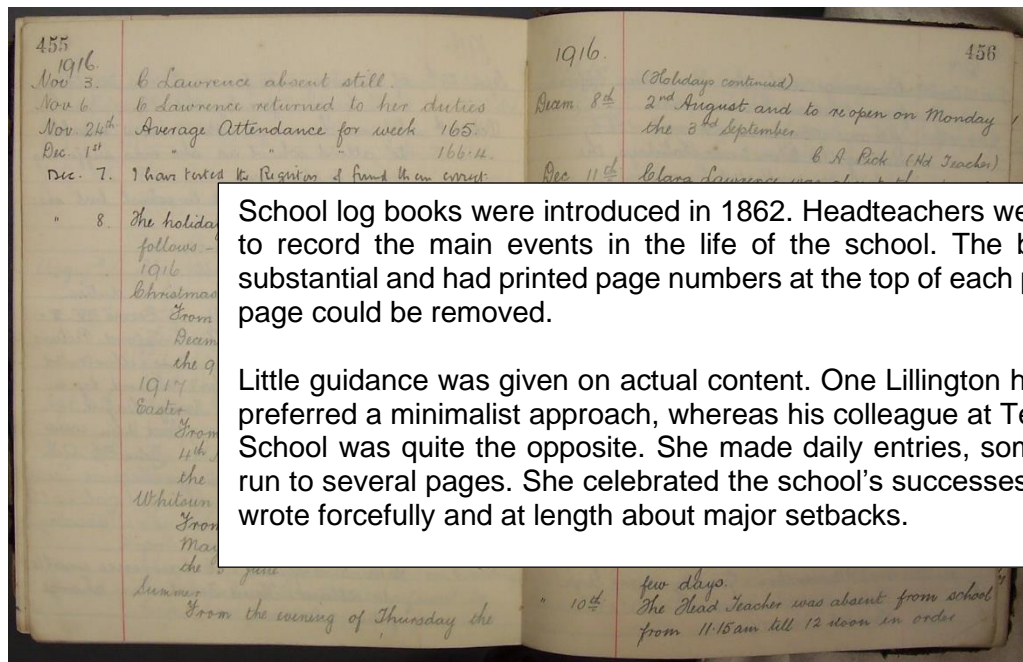


Company, and his ancestors include engineers and inventors going back to the Industrial Revolution. At school, he was a popular sportsman, excelling in athletics and rowing. His intention to join the RAF on leaving school was hastened by the outbreak of war, prompting him to volunteer in May 1940. Before long he had earned his wings, flying 29 operations and winning the Distinguished Flying Cross. He joined the elite 617 Squadron, training on the new Avro Lancasters for Operation Chastise, (the attacks on the Dams of the Ruhr Valley). Maudslay and his crew were killed en route for home from the raid on 17 May 1943. On 27th July 2017, a plaque in his memory was unveiled by his nieces and their grandchildren at no1 Vicarage Road.

There is a free leaflet detailing three self-guided Leamington Blue Plaques walks available from the Visitor Information Centre at the Pump Rooms or the Town Hall, and short biographies of the recipients can be found on the Town Council website, www.leamingtonspatowncouncil.go.uk.

Margaret Rushton

SCHOOL LOG BOOKS: LILLINGTON COUNTY JUNIOR SCHOOL



School log books were introduced in 1862. Headteachers were required to record the main events in the life of the school. The books were substantial and had printed page numbers at the top of each page- so no page could be removed.

Little guidance was given on actual content. One Lillington headteacher preferred a minimalist approach, whereas his colleague at Telford Infant School was quite the opposite. She made daily entries, some of which run to several pages. She celebrated the school's successes in detail or wrote forcefully and at length about major setbacks.

The two log books for Lillington Junior School chart the major events of the school from 1952 until 1990. The first book ends with blank pages, following the simple statement:

Mr Saunders died 10am today. The acting head, Mrs Enock, felt it only proper to start a new log out of respect for her predecessor.

The staffing lists at the beginning of each book enable us to record the headteachers from this period.



Mr T. Allen opened the new school in 1952. It was his second headship.

Sheila Luggar, the deputy, was acting head for four months from September 1957. She had been appointed deputy in 1953 and retired in 1970.

Mr James Saunders was appointed in January 1958 and died after illness in

August 1973.

Mrs Beatrice Enoch: appointed to the school in 1957, promoted in 1960 and again in 1965. She was appointed deputy head in 1970, acting head in 1972 and substantive headteacher in 1974. She retired in 1983. Her successor was Alan Franks, the former deputy head, who was appointed to the school as his second headship in 1983.

The log books also allow us to record the size of the school, built to house the rapidly increasing number of children living on the new estates. The roll in 1952 was 252. By September the following year it had grown to 400, with an overflow taught in St. Alban's hall, Portland Street. In September 1955 the roll reached 570. In April 1956 it topped at 684. The first Telford School opened in 1956 but numbers at the Lillington school stayed in the 500s for several years. Class numbers were high: some of 47 children. By the late 1960s the roll was in the 400s and was still very large for a Junior School. In March 1976 the capacity was fixed at 460- 8 classes of 40 children and 4 classes of 35 in temporary 'hut' classrooms.



The log books mention various aspects of the school's life from the annual Folk Dance Festival to the fact that the coal delivery for the hand stoked boiler was 36 tons 7 cwt.

When the caretaker was ill in November 1966, Mr Saunders was one of those taking turns with boiler stoking. In 1972 the school ran out of coal in the miners' strike and was forced to close.

References to Lillington as a community are rare. September 1966: the last willow tree on the course of Binns Brook fell and blocked Valley Road. A National Children's Home opened at 1 Vicarage Road in May 1968.



There are many references in the early 1970s to the pending reorganisation of the primary schools in Central Warwickshire, due in 1976. Lillington Primary School was to become Lillington County Middle School, and would teach the older children for an additional year. Younger children would stay an extra year in the Infant School- to be renamed as a First School. The curriculum implications were enormous.

In May 1976 parents started to dig the swimming pool.

Later entries reflect the many changes to affect schools in the 1980s. Not least the increasing pressures on the school's budget which threatened cuts in the school staff.

Computers appear in 1985 with many staff attending training courses.



The last item in the log book is dated July 1990. *Chris Rhodes*

If you have memories of Lillington School, we would love to hear from you.
chriscdmrhodes@aol.com

**SOCIETY MEMBERS MADE WELCOME
AT THE BUCKLEY ROAD JUBILEE STREET PARTY**



Local residents had collected their own memories of the area. *Images: Gary Timlin*

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS AT ST. MARY MAGDELENE

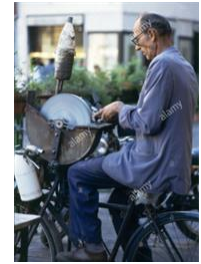


Margaret Rushton leads a guided tour of some of the important memorials in St Mary's churchyard.

Images Izabella Topalinska and Gary Timlin

THEN AND NOW: KNIFE GRINDER

The knife grinder was much in evidence in the area, particularly in Northumberland Road. He would wheel his machine (It was probably connected to a bicycle, but I cannot be sure now) to a chosen spot and would then up-end it in order to treadle the grinding wheel and sharpen the blades he had been given. The machine, which he kept well-maintained and freshly painted, was on view at St. John's House Museum in Warwick and is probably still there.



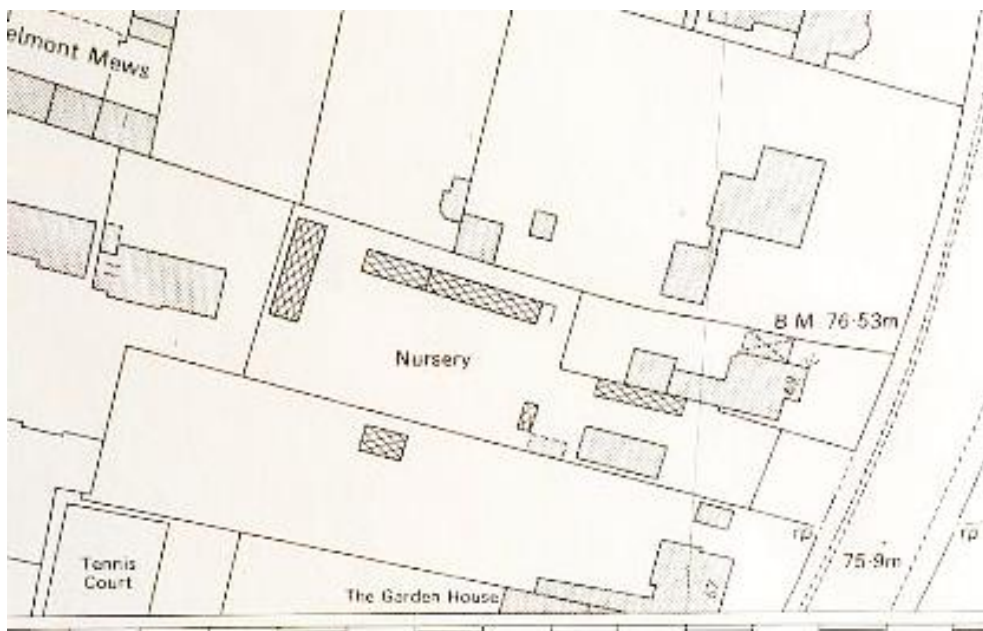
Not so long ago, another Grinder appeared and made an excellent job of restoring the cutting ability of a pair of shears. *Graham Cooper*

BEATY'S

I attended Blackdown High School in Park Road and remember going to Beaty's Nursery for penny sweets after school. They were served from an outhouse on the premises.

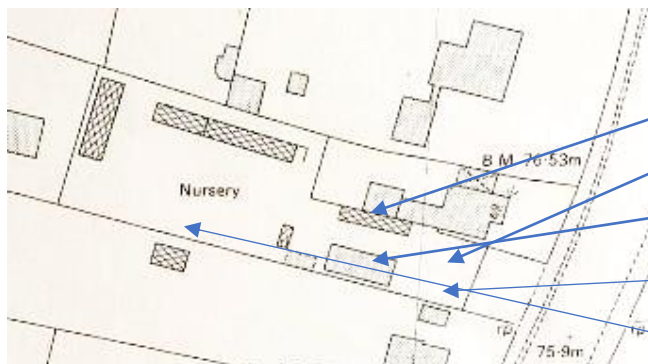
When I got married in 1971 Mrs Beaty did my wedding flowers.

Linda Reidy



1950

Anthony Coulls remembers working at Beaty's in 1991.



Potting shed

Car park

Office, shop and greenhouse

Compost and peat

Trees/shrubs



Beaty's Gardens 2021

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2022 - JULY 2023

2 nd September 2022	Annual General Meeting Followed by - Maps of Lillington: Chris Rhodes
7 th October	Defence and Defiance: The History of St. Paul's Fire Watching in WW2: David Morse
4 th November	The Gunpowder Plot [with local links]: Allan Jennings
2 nd December	Christmas Social Meeting with an exhibition of the work of local historian Elaine Rumary
6 th January 2023	The Fate of the Lillington/Binns Brook and Lillington's other hidden watercourses: Les Markham/ Gary Timlin
3 rd February	Sir Henry Parkes [1818-1898] - From Warwickshire to New South Wales: Sheila Woolf
3 rd March	Did Lillington have any Industries? Peter Coulls
7 th April	Members' Afternoon - Short presentations by members about their early memories or personal researches into local history.
5 th May	William Gascoyne: The Ambitious Stonemason: Kevin Hunt
2 nd June	To be advised
7 th July	A Medley of Mid-Warwickshire Musicians [including Lillington]: Les Markham

The Society's website is currently under development.

This Newsletter is published by the Lillington Local History Society, c/o Lillington Free Church, Cubbington Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 7AL. The views expressed in the Newsletter are personal to the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Society.