

ATTLEBOROUGH HERITAGE GROUP

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES INTERACTIVE INDEX

curiosity: an object of interest; any object valued as curious, rare, or strange

In September 2020, with our regular programme of Group meetings and social activities still curtailed by Covid-19 restrictions, we launched our online 'cabinet of curiosities' and refreshed it with a new collection every few weeks until December 2020. Many 'curiosities' included links to external websites. These were added in good faith but some may have expired.

Collection 1 (September 2020)

- We open the 'cabinet of curiosities' with [revelations from the registers of Attleborough baptisms between 1615 and 1645](#)
- Trawling our Group archives and book collection, we're looking for mystery objects or obscure words: [here is the first quiz](#) for you to try.
- With the autumn solstice behind us, we've picked on rosehips to launch our armchair presentation. [Click here to enjoy the story of 'Delrosa'](#): this offers members' memories and research, and links to one of our own articles and an archive FILM from the 1950s.

Collection 2 (5th – 14th October 2020)

- Our 1630 parish register reveals the story of an exemplary 23-year old Attleborough maiden: [click here](#) to discover more about the life and death of Prudence Spoorle.
- The first Monday in October was the traditional date of the Annual Turkey Sale in Attleborough. Our '[Talking Turkey](#)' presentation includes material from our collection of archives and ends with a link to a 1930 free film clip from the British Film Institute archive.
- '[More to Explore](#)' offers a wide range of other sources and resources inspired by the presentation...
- ...and there is a '[Talking Turkey Quiz](#)' to try, too (with a link to the answer and more obscure facts to follow up)

Collection 3 (15th – 20th October 2020)

- the events of the Great Storm of 15th-16th October 1987 are recalled in our [Eye on the Storm presentation](#) of recollections and storm-related records going back in time to 1652 and ending with a link to 'More to Explore' sources and resources
- and there is a weather-related [quiz](#) to try (with a link to the answer and more)
- we launched a new feature this week: **Did you know...** that in the 1600s the old A11 road from Attleborough to Wymondham was "a foul way, very deep and no one knew the road". It went through the Attleborough Mere and then became the first turnpiked road in Norfolk, second in the country.

Collection 4 (21st October - 4th November 2020)

DID YOU KNOW... In 1930 a report for Attleborough School said: "Senior boys have excellent singing skills & are good at handiwork. There is a welcome move towards art with an emphasis on colour. They also learn fruit, vegetable & flower culture".

This sounds like good preparation for a career in a town that specialised in the raising and processing of apples. Find out more...

- our presentation, [Celebrating the Apple in Attleborough](#), is a meander through past events, people and places, ending with a link to a 1970s film inside Gaymer's factory
- our 'Cabinet' relies upon a wide range of other people's expertise and collections: links to sources and resources are gathered together in [More to Explore](#)
- and there is a [QUIZ](#) to try

Collection 5 (4th - 19th November 2020)

DID YOU KNOW... Rev Maxwell Webb, in 1918, removed the Sunday School from the School Rooms to the Church Hall, due to increased fees. He said, "It is with regret as they had been held at the County School since 1870."

Some of the Reverend Maxwell Webb's predecessors added notes and comments to their records in the Attleborough Parish Registers that invite us to take a closer look. This time we find out [how TWINS were recorded in the 16th and 17th centuries](#)

RENT is the focus of this fifth delve into the archaic and obscure in our 'cabinet of curiosities' with an illustrated presentation on: [Curious Rents: beyond the peppercorn](#)

In filling our 'cabinet' we rely upon a wide range of other people's expertise, contributions and collections: links to sources and resources for the curious are gathered together in [More to Explore](#)

And there is a [QUIZ](#) to try, too.

Our 'Did you know' snippet is one of many that you can discover from our 'History of the Streets of Attleborough' booklets and we've made it straightforward to order copies by post. To see a list of titles, prices (most at £2), p & p costs, and details of how to order, [view and print from here](#)

Collection 6 (20th - 30th November 2020)

DID YOU KNOW that if you boarded the 'post chaise' from Norwich, calling at Attleborough's Cock Inn, your journey to London in 1778 would take 16 hours and cost you 1½ guineas?

Assuming you could afford the fare (which would have paid a skilled tradesman for about ten days work in 1778), where would you have found the information? Perhaps from one of the numerous trade directories designed to 'inform residents and attract strangers' (at a price).

'TRADING PLACES' will visit Attleborough through a series of these directories, beginning with [Part 1: 'Lifting the Lid on Trade Directories - a glimpse \(or two\) of Attleborough in 1839'](#). This ends with a challenge to the more recent memory - see how much of 1975 Norwich you recognise from the 12-minute film clip that ends the presentation.

For a view of St Mary's church in the year BEFORE the trade directories were published, we offer a [Cotman pencil and watercolour drawing of the interior in 1838](#) - and a hint of what is to come...

There is a **TRADING PLACES** [QUIZ](#) to try, too (with links to the answers and more).

'Trading Places' allowed us to fill our cabinet from a selection of other people's expertise, contributions and collections: we acknowledge these with links to sources and resources (online and printed) for the even more curious, gathered together in [More to Explore](#).

Did you know... that you can explore Attleborough's history, even in lockdown, with one of our books to guide you on your short walk, and you won't need to travel for 16 hours or spend more than £2 plus p & p. Edited by Christine Williams, there are ten titles in the series **'A look at the history of Attleborough's Streets'**. Our 'Did you know' feature at the top of this page came from No. 6 (Surrogate Street and Thieves Lane). Each booklet is filled with illustrations and packed with facts to bring the town's past to life. Details of all the titles, and how to order by post, can be found [here](#).

Collection 7 (24 December 2020 - 3 January 2021)

DID YOU KNOW... that by 1854, Eastern Counties Railways operated four passenger services up the line and five down, in addition to four goods trains up and down the line DAILY from Attleborough Railway Station.

[Full Steam Ahead](#) lifts the lid on Part 2 of 'Trading Places', exploring three trade directories of Attleborough published between 1850 and 1856 and revealing their individual views of the town and its trades after the coming of the railway in 1845 - click the link to be transported back in time.

'Full Steam Ahead' was supported by a selection of other people's expertise, contributions and collections: we acknowledge these with links to sources and resources (online and printed) for the even more curious, gathered together in [More to Explore](#).

All aboard for the free film!

Be transported back to 1984 with a film of the [train journey](#) between Norwich and Cromer with an emotive commentary. This is 'free to watch' from the archives of the British Film Institute.

[The changing face of St Mary's church](#) is an **illustrated follow-up** to our 1838 image, exploring why and how the church interior was 'modernised' after 1844.

You are also welcome to use our interactive 'Lockdown Library' offering over thirty articles contributed by Attleborough Heritage Group members from March until late July 2020. [Click here for the ABC](#)