Nuneaton & Bedworth

2Millennium Nuneaton & Bedworth

Nuneaton Millennium Project

The History of the Nuneaton area

Notable dates in the area's history 1000-2000 A.D. (C.E)

By
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PREFACE

Most of us will be interested in our roots. Our ancestors may have come to Nuneaton for one of many reasons, whether it was for the mineral wealth or as new industries established. They may have come here to learn new skills or find manual work or in search of better living conditions.

This account of our historic town was compiled with the blessing of the Borough Council. Alan Cook presents to the residents of Nuneaton, particularly future generations, a comprehensive account of the beginnings and growth of the area. This record will be of great value to old Nuneatonians spread throughout the world, giving them a feeling of belonging to the town we call our own. [It is also fitting that Bedworth and Bulkington should be included in special sections of this story, but they warrant there own specific histories. The Bedworth Society, John Burton and the Nicholas Chamberlain Trust will hopefully address these issues in the Parsonage Project.]

Without modern information processing it is hard to imagine how it could have been accomplished. Alan is a well known and regionally respected lecturer, author and compiler of geological and historical publications, he is also a resourceful collector of information. He presents facts accurately and has searched far and wide into various sources where records have never been fully investigated and compiled it for this project.

Compiling Nuneaton's local history is similar to conquering Mt. Everest or carrying the Olympic flame. Many people are involved - Alan is but one of a long list; e.g. Dugdale, Beighton, Stukeley, Bloxam, Page, Ratcliff, Gover, Nason, Chatwin, Beresford, Salzman, Brown, Bates, Haight, Jabbett, Jackson, Betts, Clarke, Gooder, Milburn, Phillips, Veasey, Bland, Dr . Burton, White, Grant, Cook, Burton and Lee.

Alan's profession as a geologist has equipped him with fundamental principles for understanding history. He has dedicated himself to collecting thousands of items of information in his quest for accurate accounts of the past events of his town and area. He has already written accounts of our local history: e.g. (Weddington, Park House, Teddy Kem and Bramcote - to name but a few) dealing with historical data and characters from the past generations, as have other writers to whose valuable contributions Alan pays tribute in his acknowledgement.

I do not think anyone has attempted the mammoth task of investing over 30 years of research to establish such a complete work for present and future generations. As he collected the vast amount of information and started to computerise the results, Alan sorted his findings into chronological order, making a record of our past, including all the eventful periods in our history. The full 9 volumes will be produced as books (with limited edition 3.5" diskettes also).
It is interesting to note that another Nuneaton historian had a geological background, namely Dennis Milburn, whom I knew (who wrote in 1959-62: Nuneaton. The Growth of a Town).

Alan's Nuneaton Millennium Project fully revises the geological, archaeological and geographical content of Milburn's book that is over 40 years out of date. However, he acknowledges Milburn's excellent historical account of the 1805-1950 period, some of which was derived from John Astley's meticulous "Nuneaton Diary".

The Trent valley, with large areas prone to flooding, seemed an unlikely place for a settlement. There was another side to that coin however; water was valuable both for irrigation and for the keeping of livestock. In addition there were local hardwood forests providing early building materials and fuel for domestic and industrial use. This was soon supplemented by the discovery of local sandstone, coal, clay and limestones.

Soon waterwheels and windmills gave added value to the townscape, encouraging early Christian foundations to establish nunneries, priories and monasteries. As the art of building progressed, masons, carpenters and other tradesmen settled in the area near to these respective resources. Each

newly discovered mineral enticed families to the area and a steady stream of workers settled ever after, reaching a climax in the early 20thC.

During this period many of our ancestors came, from all parts of Britain (and even abroad) to work and live in our community. They brought new trades and ideas, gradually turning a village into a town of importance. Railways, canals and highways were linked to our economy, transporting raw materials and importing goods and capital to sustain growth and stability. Our French, Flemish, Scottish, Welsh, Irish and English ancestors came together over the centuries to populate Nuneaton as it is today.

As a Nuneatonian, born and bred, I have great affection for our town. The past is part of us, our values and present characters being moulded in past generations by our genes and family traits. Nuneaton provided me with a good education that enabled me to work and teach for the National Coal Board and also teach at colleges in Coventry and Nuneaton. At the end of the Second World War, I was fortunate enough to be accepted by the British Horological Institute to be trained in the techniques of watch and clock making, working in two well known establishments in the town. I saw this trade as the ultimate in excellence in engineering and so began an enduring interest in time and the history of it - the use of it by past and present generations becoming of importance to me. I also had a business for 30 years in my home town, settling here for my retirement. I found in both my work and business that Nuneaton people are generous and resourceful, I am proud and happy to be one of them.

The author of this work is a friend of many years. His consultant expertise has been sought by leading civil and mining engineering companies as well as governmental bodies. He, like me, shares a deep interest in time, its measurement and mechanism of placing world events in their context. (Hence the emphasis on the true Millennium dating!). Historians and librarians also welcome his knowledge on local past events and I greatly admire him for making this contribution to the millennium that both enriches our knowledge and puts the facts on record for future generations.

Ron Beasley

I became aware of Nuneaton's heritage from reading books in the Queens Road library. The pictures of earth scenery made connections with what I saw in Nuneaton quarries and clay pits. My grandparents told me many stories about coal mining and the strikes. They all worked at sometime or other in the local coal or brick industry.

My first memories were of exploring old clay pits when my parents took me to Bermuda to visit relatives. The Blue Lagoon on Harefield Lane, seemed liked a Mediterranean scene with its turquoise-blue waters. In later years on summer days I would play on the raft that was moored there.

Despite their industrial surroundings the clay pits and quarries were nature havens. There were dragon flies and butterflies - the occasional stream cascaded into these old workings. The clay pits showed off their multi-coloured strata against the blue of the water. They made me think about the physical world: inclined rock layers would meet level water; water flowed by gravity down the sides; mineral lines and railways ran on a level or the trucks fell down by gravity.

There were also geometric shapes, cones and pyramids of the mine waste tips - accentuated by the sunlight. With all the shafts and tunnels there was something mysterious about it all. Here were the ruins, here was the lost world. I hope that this Millennium Project will help show just how amazing Nuneaton's heritage was.

John Allen

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our town history is not just about facts, it is about people. This town's history was made from millions of hours of human work, millions of thoughts, millions of conversations, millions of kind actions and thousands of lives. We can all take a small piece of the credit. (could do better - as the old school report states!)

My thanks to all the staff who help researchers like me. They work in our under-rated and underfunded libraries, museums, universities and record offices! I thank those institutions in Coventry, Leicester, Birmingham and London particularly. My special thanks to the librarians, archivists and museum staff at Nuneaton and Warwick.

I am indebted to the following for their friendship and inspiration over the last 30 years:

John Allen BSc - for introducing me to Nuneaton's industrial heritage and geological scenery
Ron Beasley - for his enthusiastic and vivid memories of old Nuneaton
Canon Guy Cornwall-Jones MA - for his enthusiasm for the good that people can do in this world
Peter Lee - for his friendship and dedication to Nuneaton local history
Dr Zoe Jane Playdon - for many years of intellectual debate about everything
Dr Adrian Rushton - for encouraging me to keep studying Nuneaton's fossil trilobites
John Scott-Scott - for his exceptional integrated understanding of physics, biology and engineering

I thank the following, some of whom were my mentors or teachers - others just made me think at various times:

Harry Armstrong, Sydney Barlow (Nuneaton Librarian), Trevor Evans, Francis L. Fawcett (Francesco L. Frangini), M/s M. A. Gilpin, Prof. Malcolm Hart, Mrs. B. Jones, Dr. Bob King, Dennis Labram, Ray Laity, Michael J. Lee, Dr. Hal Lister, Peter Marston, Frank Matley, Prof. Duncan Murchison, Dr. Trevor Myers, Dr. R. Raper, Norman Rollason, Jane M. Scott-Scott, Trevor Smith, Barbara Tinsley, Dr. Alick Walker and Ray Watson.

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Prof. M. W. Beresford, Jeremy Brett, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, John Clare, Charles Darwin, Antoine de Saint-Exupery, Sir Archibald Geikie, Kenneth Grahame, Thomas Hardy, Prof. W. G. Hoskins, Rev. John Hutchins, Dr. Vincent Illing, Nigel Kneale, Dr. Philip Lake, C. S. Lewis, A. A. Milne and Prof. J. A. Moy-Thomas.

I am privileged to have known the following people (now all departed), they gave me encouragement and support. I knew many of them as friends.

M/s Jan Andrews, Mary Ashmore, Jack Bates, Charles Betts, Rev. Teddy Boston, Lionel Brown, John W. Cantrill (my grandfather), Ron Collier, Frederick Cook (my grandfather), Arthur Cross (Nuneaton Chronicle), John S. Gammie, Dr. C. Gibby, Prof. J. E. Hemingway, Harold Lapworth, Harry Leedham, Charles Mallabone, Kate Parker, Fred (A. A.) Phillips, Frederick Reeves, M/s Ann Robson, Keith Scott, John Sherwood, Prof. Frederick Shotton, Harold Tunnicliffe, Philip Vernon, Dr. Gordon Warwick and Prof. Terence S. Westoll.

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Reg Bull (for his lifelong photographic interest in Nuneaton).

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* John Burton

I am really glad that John completed the “treble” with the Nuneaton, Bulkington and Bedworth in “old photographs”. He is a generous, enthusiastic and popular local historian and has done an immense service in presenting history to all generations.

* S Charles Clarke

When I first met Charles Clarke in 1970, I thought he was the most fascinating antiquarian I had ever met. He was enthusiastic and incredibly well informed about old Nuneaton. He knew of archives that I had never heard of - many of them he had helped transcribe. His map collection was also impressive; he certainly challenged me to look into Nuneaton in a way that I had never considered.

* Peter Lee

In the last twenty years, Peter has produced a body of work on “Old Nuneaton”. His ability and style are those of the enthusiastic local historian; he has tackled railways, social history, genealogy and the industrial growth of towns. Much of this work has been published as books, newspaper serialisations and heritage society newsletters; he has also produced several microstudy papers on specific topics. He finished the millennium on a high note with “Nuneaton” published by Tempus Pub. Ltd. He is well known on the InterNet and is compiling the unique “Project Nefam” on the inter-relationships of old Nuneaton families.

* Ted Veasey

In the last thirty or so years, Ted has painstakingly studied Nuneaton's archives as well as leading the Nuneaton Local History Research Group. He has published this research as well as contributing to local newspaper articles and Nuneaton's Heritage Guides. There are also books and audio cassette tapes of his research in the library.

I quote from the preface of the late John Sherwood's book "A brief history on the Parish of Ansley":

"I am indebted to those who have gone before me. I owe them more than words."

Robert Hooke asked Sir Isaac Newton in 1675 how he had accomplished so much - his reply:

"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants!"

DEDICATIONS

This whole work is dedicated to:

Alfred Lester Scrivener 1845-1886, co-founder of the Nuneaton Observer in 1877. This man, the son of Joseph, the local ropemaker, truly set the standard for local history articles. In the past he has been frequently copied and plagiarised without rightful acknowledgement. His articles are worth reading, he stands head and shoulders above his English Victorian contemporaries. I doubt if many have equalled his journalistic output in so few years. He wrote a 5,000 word local history article most weeks in the period 1877-1881.

Francis Fawcett, Nuneaton curator from 1967-72. I was one of many people who knew Francis, he fostered in many of us a lasting interest in our local area. He encouraged us to talk with our fellow 'researchers'. At the moment of his untimely death in 1972, I began to realise just how much encouragement he had given me to pursue my interest in Nuneaton and how much faith he had in my ability. He gave me a geology hammer for my 20th birthday (that I still have!).

Ridgley Allen (1974-99), the son of my friends, John and Penny Allen. Ridgley showed us that there are many ways of appreciating and understanding this world - he particularly liked trees. He was tragically taken from us at a young age. He was named after the spectacular "ridge" hill features of Oldbury and Hartshill.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This work draws on many varied educational resources; it also addresses key stage data for Geography and History in the National Curriculum (see references).

I began to study old Nuneaton at school after meeting John Allen (c. 1964); over the next few years my scribbled notes grew into notebooks full of history. This process went on for the next 20 years! I began to write articles for various local exhibitions or newspapers from as early as 1972.

In 1993, I was asked to write specific texts for a forthcoming local exhibition. It was tedious extracting all of the information - eventually I realised I had got to put this data into a more accessible form. I began to enter all the data on to computer files; within a few years the framework of this work had emerged. It was now obvious that all this data could not be contained in one volume - it would be over 630 pages long and in excess of 245,000 words! By 1999, I had reached a point where it was clear that 9 volume work could be produced in time for 2001. Here is Volume 1 with its personal perspective on the growth of our town!

In the not too distant future, information will come in more and more forms (www, http, e-mail, DVD/CD-ROM, chips, discs and brain implants etc.) This computer-based project on Nuneaton history could be transmitted to anyone, anywhere, via the internet in a few seconds. It is of more than passing concern that the Y2K (Millennium Bug) threatened to incapacitate many computers on 1st Jan. 2000. (In reality it was not as bad as predicted e.g. the Registrar of Birth issued some birth certificates that stated babies born in 2000 were 100 years old, some power stations had problems etc.) This potential risk was flagged up by Peter de Jager in 1977 (IBM), but he was told not to worry. But that should not prevent us from disseminating information in many varied forms!

People's appetite for information will never decline; what appears to be changing is the selective nature of the information. People are seeking more and more specific information. A century ago, the average person was seeking pieces of simple information, only the select few could get detailed information, and then it would be in the parlance or jargon of the subject - perhaps a new breed of dataholics!! The society of that time did not offer pre-digestion and interpretation of information (even statistics were in simpler categories). There will be a whole new vocabulary to accompany this change: Cybersquatting, Cybercafe, Cybercash, Cyberchic, Cybergeek, Information Super Highway, Mondo-Culture, Psycho-babble, Search Engines, Surfing the Net, Technophobe, Virtual Reality and WYSIWYG!

I would be making an unjustified claim to say that I have been able to find out historical events for every year of Nuneaton's story 1001 to 2000 A.D. (or C.E.). Where there are gaps, I have used published data for north Warwickshire to paint a picture that I believe to be accurate. It may refer to the weather, crop prices or other related natural events. The chronological account of eclipses is of great importance because our ancestors did not know what they were and generally thought they were signs of the end of the world. When this did not happen society often underwent a period of change when things seemed to improve.

The arrival of television and recorded music has taken the place of many previous social activities. In the late 20thC. western society has been heavily influenced by the media; people remember where they were and what they were doing by association with what record was at No. 1 in the charts or who scored the winning goal in the World Cup!

There have been several books produced on the history of Nuneaton. Their scope and format varied from lengthy dissertations to "photo-books". However, new information and research constantly opened up the brief for any new book or project as soon as it began. In the past, the magnitude of such a study was limited by many factors: - money, time, location, access to archives and the lengthy national programmes of research and translation (many still in progress). Nevertheless, in the past, brave antiquarians, historians and journalists began their own work on this momentous task.

It is relevant to mention two photo-books that I compiled with John Allen, nearly 30 years ago, called Nuneaton through time - an Odyssey and Nuneaton - its State and Environment. They contain many errors, as time has revealed; however, many people said kind (and critical) things about them. John and I were young heritage enthusiasts; perhaps unrealistic dreamers?

John gave me many of the original photographs for those books and he has provided some new pictures for this book. I leave him to say what it is about Nuneaton that meant so much in his early life (in the Preface). John is a rare and gifted person of scientific, philosophic and artist talent.

We can both trace some of our roots back to 18thC. Chapel End/Hartshill. Some of my roots ultimately lead me back to late-Mediaeval Coventry as well as the Measham-Melbourne-Derby area. In this Millennium Project I have re-visited those pictures, places and captions for inspiration and memories. We got our 1960's ideas from many sources as can be seen in the acknowledgements.

In the late 19thC. there was a dedicated team interpreting archives to produce the Victoria History of Warwickshire in 8 volumes. By contrast, in the latter quarter of the 19thC. one solitary journalist (Alfred Lester Scrivener) researched hundreds of years of local history to produce dozens of reliable and authoritative newspaper articles in the Nuneaton Observer. He was in regular communication with several leading historians, librarians and antiquarians; this gave him a leading edge when reporting local historical facts.

If this noble town had been made into a city hundreds of years ago, with a stable form of local government, guilds, banks, a cathedral etc. how different would it be? Nuneaton has certainly undergone many changes in its local government, each time there has been re-organisation the town has had to respond. One set of administrational committees replace a previous one etc. etc. It does not help build stability; in the last 150 years there have been so many versions of this town and its political and bureaucratic structure.

All these efforts were both subjective and objective masterpieces; what may have been lacking in some of the scholarly books were the rustic day to day characters of "Old Nuneaton" - the small cogs in the big machine! However, there is always a place for the encyclopaedia that places facts and figures in their regional and national context; defining national trends and socio-economic phenomena. The difficult task is trying to merge both styles and retain a balance between strict historical fact and anecdotal town folklore and enterprise.

At this moment in time there have been several university theses ranging from coal mining ventures at Arbury to the social and educational development of the town to regional histories published quite recently that give Nuneaton a mention.

A Leeds University poet, Anthony Quayle, wrote this poem:

"History's the accumulation of dead moments,
Alive they were felt; which are now fashioned,
To a dead and wordy truth.
Scars; pyramids, stricken machinery
In rainy valleys,
These presences remain and are in their distant way relevant.
A creation of Roman Wall flanks a plumber's yard,
No more or less profound
The object lingers; or it is adapted.

INTRODUCTION

The following chronological account (or time scale) attempts "to boldly go" where no one else would go. It would be impossible to write a single book that covers such a vast period of time. It would run to a set of encyclopaedia. This might be compressed to fit on to latest computer technologies such as the DVD/CD-ROM.

It seemed fitting to try to summarise millions of years of Nuneaton history as a taster for the remainder of this Millennium Project.

The historical period from the 11thC. onwards becomes better reported and understood. There are still many documents that must be translated in various record offices and archives; these may not be included in this project because they are not available as yet. The Pipe Rolls and Feet of Fines are but a few that have been translated and they help paint a very brief outline of old Nuneaton.

By the time the 16thC. is reached the Constable Rental Survey alone could justify several volumes. With the appearance of local newspapers in the late 18thC. and mid-19thC. day to day information became comprehensively available. This work can in no way summarise the daily news for one year let alone 100.

Some of the following facts are simple and of interest to all e.g. the weather. It has now become possible to accurately describe the patterns of Nuneaton's historic weather. There are some years that have proven very difficult to find anything recorded. Sometimes the date records an event that had an influence on the whole region or country. All the events and people recorded in this Millennium History have a connection with Nuneaton - some very directly. Many would be classed today as inspectors, civil servants or company managers - all of whom have an affect on us at some time.

It perhaps seems unjust that many people in this book were recorded for the wrong things they did at the time. Indeed some of those things would be absolutely petty by modern history's standards. There are millions, if not billions, of good acts, thoughts and kind words that have never been recorded - what's more they never will be.

Our definition of what is newsworthy can be so negative, the media only seem interested in tragedies, crime or those things that threaten society's value systems. I have tried to include news items that were unusual or far reaching in their affects on Nuneaton. There is inevitably some bias towards Weddington (my home area) and Attleborough (Teddy Kem research).

One further phenomena dramatically affected this research work. In the 19thC. the Earl of Longbridge began to assemble an archive on Warwickshire's history. He employed the services of several top antiquarians who bought many prints, deeds, books and archival documents for the collection. In the end this collection (known as the Staunton Collection) was bought by Birmingham Library. A mammoth indexing and cataloguing project began, it was to take nearly three years to complete. Sadly there was a great fire and the whole collection was destroyed along with the catalogue on the 11th January 1879.

The Staunton compiler tried to write a list of some of the major items from memory after the fire. From that list it was clear that this was a disaster of major archival significance and it accounts for many gaps in local historical records concerning the area. It is known that our own Alfred Lester Scrivener consulted some of this archive because he mentioned them in his Observer articles.

It is recommended that a general social-economic history book is studied (or series of books e.g. Longman Regional History of England) to help fill out the background. The amplified details of many of the following facts can be found in the Local History Collection in Nuneaton Library, Warwick County Records, British Museum, British Library, Bodleian Library and the Public Records Office. Nuneaton can not be viewed in isolation, the English background of politics, economics, geography, science and sociology have had a tremendous affect on the town.

THE HERITAGE ROOTS!

Nuneaton was undoubtedly settled in pre-Roman times as exemplified by many artefacts dating back to pre-10,000 B.C. The density of that settlement at any one time is very small. The Upper Palaeolithic human population is thought to be 250 at any one time in the whole of England!! This was followed by successive Stone Age peoples, then Bronze and Iron Age cultures. Stone Age site densities were 1 per 3 square miles; Bronze Age 1 per 4.3 square miles, Iron Age 1 per 8 square miles, Roman 1 per 4 square miles.

The Roman colonisation of the Nuneaton area is not fully investigated or understood, but the extensive kiln remains and evidence of stone working bear testimony to it being locally important. (Mancetter, Fenny Drayton and Arbury being the main focal points). There are small sites at Weddington, Camp Hill, Oldbury and Hartshill etc. After the Romans left Britain the Dark Ages ensued and these are poorly understood; however the exceptional Anker valley Saxon burial site discovered in 1997, near Mancetter, has done much to increase understanding. Much of the Roman structure decayed, some was deliberately destroyed or "robbed out" to make new buildings. It is clear that many peoples invaded from the Franco-German-Scandinavian area. Some came to settle; some came to plunder and destroy.

By the time of the Conquest and the Domesday survey, settlement had increased to a local density of 1 village (or DMV) per 3.5 square miles (by Mediaeval times it was 1 site per 1.3 square miles). The density of farms was approximately 4 per square mile. Church sites were 1 per 1.6 square miles and Castles and Halls to 1 per 1.3 square miles.

SOME BASIC GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS

The highest point in the Borough is the roundabout west of Galley Common (O.S. Grid Ref. SP302910) 526 feet (160.3 m) and the lowest point is on the River Anker near Caldecote (O.S. Grid Ref. SP351939) 250 feet (76.2 m). The watershed of England passes through the Borough; this means that 20% (approx. 4025 Acres) of the Borough (mainly in the south) belongs to the Severn drainage basin and all the streams in that part therefore drain to the River Avon then on to the Severn. The other 80% of the Borough drains to the River Trent via the Anker.

Nuneaton was firmly established as a riverside agricultural village with an ever-growing industrial facet to its economy. The coalfield and its abundance of various minerals exerted a growing influence on the village area and its monastic sites. The local rocks have a strong regional trend (both from folding and faulting), their outcrop alignment (or strike), is north west to south east. This has not only controlled scenic evolution but also communication routes. It is abundantly clear that the earth's geology drives the whole planet and its activities. Most of us are not aware on a conscious level that this is the case apart from the comments about the daily British weather. On the global scale over millions of years the continents gradually change their position, the oceans change shape, ocean currents change, climate changes and so on. These processes also produce masses of new rock, enrich existing mineral deposits and create new ones. The rocks uplift or plunge - thus, some become accessible, some become buried again.

The late curator, Francis Fawcett, was a great believer in the principle that some races had a habit of settling in places previously inhabited by other peoples. It may be a primitive unwritten ability or instinct that mankind usually recognises a good place to make a home. Sometimes “he” got it wrong but in most cases “he” could eke out a living there. The remains of such habitation survived the “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” for many centuries. The threats to such survival increased in number and magnitude. By the 17thC. local collieries, clay pits and quarries began to expose and destroy archaeological remains; this was compounded by the canals in the 18thC. then the railways in the mid 19thC. By the 20thC. roads and housing added to the agencies of “heritage annihilators”. It is quite amazing to find that archaeological remains still occur and often in good condition considering the metres of man-made ground that has either buried or displaced them!

In Nuneaton, this is perhaps more than just basically evident. The local geology had a profound influence on how the rivers and scenery developed. This in turn controlled the canal, rail and road networks that developed. It also provided a very varied mineral wealth - but on a smaller parochial scale. So, although there was limestone it was not as extensive as Dudley, the Peak District, ditto the sandstone and ironstone. The soil types were also very varied. These factors did not lend themselves to any sort of extensive exploitation - rather a short term intensive depletion.

Perhaps we have to come nearer to home and be grateful that Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot) attempted topographic description of our area and its people. As great as she was; it is my personal opinion that Thomas Hardy was the greatest observer of topographical places and their peoples (thankfully influenced by the work of the Rev. John Hutchins, the Dorset Antiquarian). I say this because I have sat entranced in the moody scenery of this area and observed the "titanic struggle" as did Hardy in the Return of the Native set in the fictional Egdon Heath.

As hard as I tried to paint, draw, photograph, write poems or just capture it - it always eluded description. Oldbury Hill overlooking the Anker Valley is something special - be it spring or autumn.

Thankfully people have seen the potential in our area, not only for preserving green hills and fields but also for reclaiming the derelict land. Combined with that potential are the wonderful extra benefits of our area. There are old quarries that have special habitats for plants and animals and even more they have unique exposures of rocks and fossils, all telling the fabulous story of Nuneaton.

English Nature (Nature Conservancy Council) work alongside local borough councils and nature conservation trusts to identify areas for preservation as nature reserves, RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites) and SSSI (Sites of Special Scientific Interest). In recent years we have seen the marking out of the Heart of England Footpath, planting of a new Midland's National Forest, establishment of the much-needed Green Track Scheme by Nuneaton and so on. In our area there are at least 4 quarries that should be preserved for their wonderful rocks and fossils (Hanson Judkins,

Woodlands Quarry, Griff Gypsy Lane and former Tarmac Quarry at Hartshill). There are many RIGS site that are being assessed at the moment.

It is a balancing act: houses and factories for people to live and work versus unique historical and geological heritage that would pride any leisure and recreation department's booklet. Nuneaton town and its story are unique. That is a word too easily used today - let me add exceptional, singular and distinctive. Nowhere else in the world perhaps has such an incredible range of rocks and fossils in such a confined area; nowhere else had such a profound mining and quarrying history and industry in such a small area, nowhere else had so many historical businessmen trying to establish their kingdoms and so on. There could never be square miles of arable agriculture because of the river floodplains, heavy cold clay soils, sudden steep slopes etc. The earliest settlers found much to their advantage; the soils were not quite as good as those in Wessex, the growing season not as extended - but they were forested and could be cleared to make simple fields. In places the soils were thin or residual, the early farmer would soon discover bedrock and its rich potentials.

The industrial minerals were very much to their advantage: flint, building stones, coal, iron, manganese, limestone for mortar, clay for kiln activities. It is interesting to note that there is no other town named Nuneaton, but there is a Nuneaton Street in central Queensland.

I could divide towns in England into one of two destinies:

DESTINY NO. 1

The rural and industrial wealth turned the town into a city or regional hub. A long term plan developed to influence development of the area. Creation of new industries to replace those about to expire. Creation of banking and commerce founded on that wealth. That wealth generated social structures and institutions that created a long-standing centre of excellence. This was especially true where powerful landed families have profited and re-invested some of that profit into the community to create philanthropic ventures (colleges, universities, almshouses, charities etc.)

DESTINY NO. 2

The rural and industrial wealth was not subject to long term planning, but merely exploitation. As soon as the source of wealth neared exhaustion the entrepreneur abandoned the area and took the profit away to another region. The net result was growing dereliction and resource exhaustion with nothing to replace it.

On this basis I would place Nuneaton into DESTINY NO. 2. There have been many times in the past where the town began to develop great potential. The actual town centre was not on the coalfield or the hard rock quarry sites. Unfortunately it was founded on the Anker floodplain, not only destructive from floods but not very good for public health.

In 1971 there could have been a new destiny. The architect Ivor de Wofle (nom de plume) produced a revolutionary scheme combined with technical articles and a book. It was called CIVILIA. The plan was to build a super city in the abandoned quarries of Nuneaton. It would house 250,000 people, there would be a cathedral, university, marina and vast leisure developments. It was not to be!

As the end of the 20thC. approaches, the optimists who favour Utopia square-up to the pessimists who predict Dystopia! e.g. Dyson envisages mankind conquering the galaxy, inhabiting comets, riding the cosmos, planting trees to thaw the entrapped ice therein etc. etc. Jefferies forecasts mankind in decline, ruining a diminishing habitat that is eventually taken over by the plants once more!

This work is part of Vol. 1 of the Nuneaton Millennium Project, the 9 volumes include:

Vol. 1	The history of the Nuneaton area
Vol. 2	Heritage Map: Nuneaton
Vol. 3	Nuneaton area field names
Vol. 4	Extractive Sites in the Nuneaton area's history
Vol. 5	Halls, manors, granges and castles in the Nuneaton area
Vol. 6	Nuneaton area heritage: chronological history of features
Vol. 7	Extractive Industry of the Nuneaton area
Vol. 8	Surname-Type Index Nuneaton area
Vol. 9	The Sword, the snake and the curse at Pyreway Field, Watitune (a fictional mystery based on local facts)

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996 13-27th Apr. A thousand years since Jesus was born. This could be argued as the true beginning of the Christian 11th Century A.D. and the start of the 2nd millennium A.D.

996-1002 Wulfstan, Bishop of London. He was a prominent royal counsellor and prolific writer in old English. One of his most famous works was "Institutes of Polity, Civil and Ecclesiastical". He delivered a sermon that forecast the world was rushing with haste towards its end. This caused a fatalistic reaction in people of the time who began to see the Vikings as the anti-Christ. The various attacks by these people were seen as a precursor to Armageddon as described in Revelation. The year 1000 became a fearful time as people expected the end. When it did not happen morale and human spirit rallied once again.

Many of the personal surnames mentioned in the next 1,000 years have been located in local history books and archives - most are in Nuneaton Library, Birmingham University Library and Warwick County Record Office. The essential sources are printed in Bold Type in the reference list. However the companion work to this Nuneaton Millennium Project is the Surname-Type Index of the Nuneaton area, Volume 8 of 9, that contains extensive cross references as well. In this volume for the date 1687, Nicholas Bradnock was mentioned - who was he and why was he mentioned? If you look in the Surname-Type Index at BRADNOCK you will see this man was mentioned in the 17thC. Nuneaton Hearth Tax and in the Quarter Sessions Order Book.

1000 Leofftan or Leofwine son of Leofric alive in 1000. His son was Leofric III; (related to Norman, Edwin and Ermenilla) Leofric IV married Godiva (sister of Thorold, Baron of Lincoln) - all leaders in England.

A possible Saxon Weddington existed (WATITUNE). It had all the evidence of being a purposefully planted village because it was on the floodplain of the River Anker. It was likely that the Anker river was prone to some degree of flooding from its origins. It was not a good settlement site because of the flood risk. It may have been a good fishing river, but probably had coarse fish only. There was evidence of cool summers at this time. Anglo-Saxon England was a wealthy place, sheep formed an important part of their economy. The coinage was withdrawn every 6 years and re-melted and minted into new coinage to stop forgery.

Social structures were quite complex, people would pay their local Priest to bury a person; marriages were often arranged formal contracts between neighbouring families. The practice of TITHING consisted of ten families living close together, where they were committed to each other and to their community to keep the peace.

Although the Anglo-Saxons were undergoing Christian conversion they were fatalistic about life and believed their life and death was all mapped out. Slaves came about by several processes, captives from a battle or war; born into slavery or conviction for a crime with no means paying the fine. Many people were in panic at the expectation of the second coming of Jesus Christ; they prostrated themselves at the foot of crosses; gave many possessions away; others committed suicide. Many people roamed the countryside publicly flagellating themselves in acts of repentance.

c.1000 The West Saxon version of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) used in early Christian church services. Honey derived from beekeeping was the principal source of sweetness. At this time a woman caught in adultery would lose all of her wealth and the husband would take it all. She would also have her nose and ears cut off!

1000-34 Nuneaton part of the Danish empire of Cnut

START OF THE 2ND MILLENNIUM A.D.

START OF THE 11TH CENTURY A.D.

1001	Danish raiding and exploration activity in the Midlands
1002	King Aethelred ordered the massacre of all Danes in England
1002-23	Wulfstan, Archbishop of York. He composed most of the legislation issued by Aethelred II and Cnut. His teachings stated that the Viking invasions were punishment for man's sin.
1003	Wulfstan's influence saw the popular spread of churches, usually painted white and included a small graveyard. Women were active prayers in their community; many went into holy orders where they received a good 0education.
1003-14	Annual Danish invasions of central England
1003-20	Godwine, bishop of Lichfield
1004	King Aethelred confirmed various privileges for Burton Abbey.
	Mount Etna erupted in Sicily.
1005	The Great Famine in England was recorded in documents, as a result many villages were depopulated
1006	The aftermath of this famine prevented many settlements evolving into hamlets and villages
1007	Local settlements began to exist in and around the Nuneaton area
1008	Mercia was organised into shires or counties based on the old boroughs.
	Ethelred II organised the English fleet to defend England, he ordered that all England must produce ships for this war effort.
1009	Shire counties were eventually based on their main town e.g. Warwickshire from Warwick
1010	Local laws were still very vague and did not apply to geographically large areas
1011	Church reform still carried on despite various Danish invasions into the Midlands
1012	Priests were still expected to be unmarried
1013-14	Swegn Forkbeard, King of Denmark, England and Prince of Mercia
1014	28th Sep. A great incursion by the sea into East Anglia and the low lying East Midlands
1014-16	Aethelred the Unready, King of England
1015	The sword was revered in English society; it was passed down the family line, an elaborate vocabulary developed to describe its various ornamentation, the old English poem "Beowulf" became popular and widely recited
1015-35	Cnut, king of Mercia
1016	Edmund Ironside, King of England (eldest son of Aethelred II).
	Edric the traitor invaded Mercia, he wrecked many towns, including Coventry and its area

1017	Cnut divided England into 4 Earldoms
1017-35	King Cnut (the Dane) ruled; he later ravaged the Mercia area. He divided England into 4: Wessex (ruled by himself) East Anglia (ruled by Thorkell), Mercia (ruled by Leofric) and Northumbria (ruled by Eric the Norwegian) He later married Emma, widow of Ethelred II
1018	The Assembly at Oxford accepted Cnut, (the king of Denmark)
1019	The concept of people accepting a one true God gained gradual acceptance
c. 1020	Aelfric (also called Grammaticus) died. He was a monk at Winchester, he wrote several major works e.g. Catholic Homilies, De Veteri et de Novo Testamento. At this time the Julius Work Calendar was compiled by a cleric at Canterbury. It had 12 pages, each page deals with one calendar month. It lists the religious high days and holy days. It lays out each working day for the typical Englishman.
1020-24	St Vitus' dance (Chorea) swept north west Europe; this genetic condition appeared to be passed by the female line. St Vitus' dance may be another illness, also known as 'the evil writhing', 'bewitching' and St Anthony's fire. This is now thought to be poisoning by the ergot fungus that grows on dampened rye. The illness (ergotism) causes powerful hallucinations and seizures not dissimilar to those experienced by hippies in the 1960's when taking LSD (its close chemical cousin). To the mediaeval mind the fits were associated with witchcraft. Several outbreaks of witch persecution may have correlated with poor weather causing the ergot fungus to infect rye and bread. e.g. Warboys near Cambridge.
1020-26	Leofgar, bishop of Lichfield

Nuneaton entered the water-powered era

1022	King Cnut granted Cambridge lands to Leofric (Abbot of Ely)
1023	Cnut came back to England
1024	King Cnut granted land in Dorset to Orc, his minister
1025	The River Anker was recorded as the ONCER
1026	Cnut was a serious defender of the church
1026-39	Beorhtmaer, bishop of Lichfield
1027	Cnut visited Rome
1028-29	A period of warm summers from tree ring data
1029	Cnut again returned to England
1030-31	Cool summers from tree ring data
1032	A very cold year based on tree ring data
1033	29th Jun. A partial eclipse of the sun This was believed to be the 1000th year since Jesus was crucified; many people thought it marked the second coming; thousands of people made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
1034	The country was not unified in agreeing to Cnut's successor

1035	King Cnut died.
1035-40	Harold I (Harefoot), king of Mercia, (son of Cnut)
1036	Thored gave land in Surrey to Christ Church (Cambridge)
1037	Archbishop Aethelnoth granted land in Kent to Christ Church
1038	Lyfind, Bishop of Worcester leased land in that county to Aethelric.
1039	22nd Aug.? A total eclipse visible in England and severe winds later in the year?
1039-53	Wulfsige, Bishop of Lichfield
1040	Macbeth, King of Scotland
1040-42	Hathacnut (Hardicanute), king of Mercia (son of Cnut). The price of wheat increased due to the bad weather
1040-1200	Punishment by burning at the stake was common place for heresy and witch craft, it was repealed until the 18thC. (see 1020-24)
1041	A period of extensive bad weather causing crop failures and cattle starvation
1042	Hereward held Weddington before the Norman Conquest. A wooden church possibly existed in the area.
1042-66	Edward the Confessor, king of Mercia and England (a Norman, son of Ethelred II).
	Edward inherited a country with Godwin waiting in the shadows.
	At about this time Emma, who was related to King William I, was given Winchester, Exeter and Rutland. She also received 100 shillings from Warwickshire (and Worcestershire, Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire). This was supplemented with 2 to 4 ounces of gold from Luton, Leighton Buzzard and Houghton Regis.
1043	The King organised councils usually attended by ecclesiastical people as well as laymen, an early Coventry cathedral consecrated
1044	Mercian councils were often attended only by laymen
1045	Nuneaton was part of the Earldom of Ralph
1045	The councils often alienated land by charter for the religious houses of the time
1046	A severe winter in England
1047	Robert de Arbrissel born; he later founded the Order of Fontevrault; the Priory of Etone (“The Abbey” or sometimes colloquially known as St. Mary’s) was a daughter house in 1155-59. He later moved in 1099 to the Forest of Fontevrault. (Tranche-Col)
1048	The Knight's Hospitallers movement was founded in Europe.
	1st May. Severe earth tremors in the Midlands, this was reported to be associated with forest fires in the Midlands
	The Cluniac religious movement founded (origins in 909 and 994)
1049	Pope Leo IX was a great church reformer and issued decrees against Simony (selling of pardons)

1050-60	Augustinian monastic order established in Europe
1051	King Edward promised the succession to William of Normandy.
1052	Pope Leo IX issued decrees against clerical marriages
1053	Pope Leo IX continued his campaign against many abuses practised in the church
1053-67	Leofwine, Bishop of Lichfield
1054	The Great Schism divided the early Christian church; this was a serious and long lasting split.
	The Crab Nebula (in Taurus) explosion was recorded by the ancient Chinese, for many months the night sky was bright enough to write and read by. The actual event probably took place about 5,000 years earlier (it took that long for the light to reach us)
1055	Cardinal Humbert excommunicated Michael Cerularius followed by excommunication of western European papal representatives
1056	The papal shock wave of this action spread rapidly across Europe eventually creating an Eastern Orthodox church
1057-59	Leofric III Earl of Leicester and Mercia, died in 1057 ALGAR III married Sister of William Malet, a Norman Lord Algar died 1059
1058	William of Normandy defeated Geoffrey of Anjou at Varaville
1059	King Edward granted land in Cornwall to Ealdred
1060	Severe earth tremors in the Midlands
1060-1200	Norman period of Architecture
1061-65	Pope Alexander II continued to reform the church with decrees against Simony, clerical marriages and gave his blessing to William's invasion of England
1062	King Edward confirmed many privileges in England
1063	Harold II - Godwinson , king of Mercia, Wessex began to conquer Wales
1065	Nuneaton was part of the Earldom of Edwin

pre-1066

Thorkell of Warwick - Robert d'Oilly held some of the Nuneaton area. Alwin (Thorkell's father) held before 1066. There may have been lands at Woodeaton in Oxfordshire. Harding held Nuneaton before 1066.

INVASION, CONQUEST and DOMINION
BATTLE OF HASTINGS

King William I ruled, House of Normandy. He took possession of mines and minerals. With the help of Lanfranc he re-organised the English Church.

He fostered the growth of towns by supporting industry and trade. Commonly justice was TRIAL BY ORDEAL supervised by the Church. The land owning peasant or villein depended upon his feudal master who demanded his services and might take all he owned. He was the illegitimate and only son of Robert the Devil.

By law he was bound to the soil; he was bought and sold with the manor and if he ran away he might be dragged back into slavery. King William started the feudal system, he gave land to his barons and bishops, who then allotted land to their knights. This was divided into manors and the work was done by Saxon peasants. Sports and past times included: hawking, sword fighting, bird catching with clap net, playing bears, bowling, bob-apple, wrestling and country revel.

The Churl's holding was equal to 1 Hide. A nobleman was known as one of the 1200 Class. A wergeld was one sixth of that of a nobleman (or a man of 200 shillings)

The population was about 1,000,000. At first the surviving English kept their lands, but a series of rebellious outbreaks destroyed all the remaining magnates. Their lands gradually passed to the Normans. The old great earldoms were disbanded and were replaced by new Norman ones.
The Domesday Book had a long and complex background dating back to the mid 7thC.

NORMAN DYNASTY

1066	20th Mar. Halley's Comet returned.
	24th Apr. Halley's Comet was very visible for 7 nights
	Sat. 14th Oct. The Battle of Hastings
	Mon. 25th Dec. King William crowned
1066-70	A Priory for Benedictine Nuns existed at Oldbury.
1066-86	The Earl Aubrey de Courci held Nuneaton from the king. Lordship granted to Earl Aubrey (Alberic), formerly belonged to Harding.
1067	First Saxon uprising was subdued by William
1068	Robert de Beaumont (Meulan) marched through the Midlands with William. Meulan strengthened Seckington Castle. William had 4 houses cleared in Warwick so that he could build his castle. The Norman conquest reached the Nuneaton area.
	Oct. to 1069 Feb. Severe winter frosts
1068-69	Second uprising of the Saxons under Edwin of Morcar, assisted by the Danes, was defeated by William. Saxon land given to Norman Barons. Ely uprising under Hereward again defeated.
1069	Ivo Tallboys (also called Cut-bush) married Lucy. He was in charge of the siege of Hereward the Wake at Ely. He was steward to William II. Tallboys held land in Lincolnshire and Norfolk. He was in the direct line to Joseph Kem (see 1440, 1700, 1774,1780 etc.)
1070	The Knight's Hospital founded in EurAsia by a citizen of Amalfi, the first recorded occurrence. It was sometime after 1135 when the Arbury house was created.
1071	The last Saxon uprising led by Morcar and Hereward the Wake

1072	The two-pronged fork (cutlery) gained popularity
1073	The re-organisation of English Church; York became sub-ordinate to Canterbury; there were Ecclesiastical Courts established.
1074	First uprising of Norman barons
1074-75	Halley's Comet returned; featured on the Bayeaux Tapestry.
1075	Dictatus Papae outlined papal world dominance
1076	Aethelric, bishop of Selsey, was brought to judicial enquiry at Penenden Heath to answer questions on Anglo-Saxon law.
1077	English Church reforms began
1078	An eclipse of the moon; a very dry summer with many grass and forest fires that destroyed many villages and their crops
	The decline of English nobility as Norman Feudalism was imposed
1079	King William in France fighting various uprisings
1080	Monastic research into dissection and medicine; the first Pharmacopoeia
1081	Normans began to build castles in England
	King William I assembled a council referred to as “Parliament”
1082	Odo, Bishop of Bayeau, Earl of Kent imprisoned (brother of William)
1083-84	Bishop Wulftan II of Worcester controlled the Diocese. The English Church Council met at Gloucester.
1085	Cnut, king of the Danes prepared to invade England; William imported large number of fighting mercenaries and billeted them with his own troops. He laid waste a strip of coastal land so that the invaders would find no food or homesteads.There was ultimately a mutiny in the Danish fleet, Cnut on his return to Denmark was murdered by his own men. William, on hearing the news let some of his own men return home. At midwinter William was at Gloucester with his witan, holding court for 5 days. This was followed by a synod for 3 days.

25th Dec. Thursday: William’s great consultation, he spoke at length with his witan concerning the land that he now held and its occupants. He then sent his men over all England, into every shire to find out how many acres of land it contained, what land the king possessed, what cattle there were in the counties, how much revenue he should receive yearly and so on. This may have prompted the Domesday Survey or Inquest into how much the king could demand from his subjects with regard to taxes, military service etc. He made the Commissioners write down how much land belonged to the archbishops, bishops, abbots and earls. He also wanted to know what every inhabitant possessed in land or cattle and how much money it was worth.

The country was divided into 7 circuits, each with 4 Commissioners.Their brief was to ask the following questions and to systematically record answers to the following questions:

- The name of the place. Who held it before 1066, and now?
- How many hides? How many ploughs, both those in lordship and the men's.
- How many villagers, cottagers and slaves, how many free men and Freemen?

- How much woodland, meadow and pasture? How many mills and fishponds?

- How much had been added or taken away? What the total value was and is?

- How much each free man or Freemen had or has? All threefold, before 1066,when King William gave it, and now; and if more can be had than at present?

December. The Great Survey began. Local population density 5 to 10 people per square mile. 1 to 2.5 Plough teams per square mile. England was 15% covered by woodland.England was predominantly an arable economy, with a typical worker expected to plough an acre or more a day. He would work from dawn to dusk every day of the year. The Norman stone-built church was at the centre of the village.

There was a chain of social obligation. The villein would have to work every second day on the Lord's land; he would have to give the Lord a quarter of wheat, some oats, 2 chickens and one half penny of silver. Many families would make their youngest or weakest do the Lord's work, thus saving their best energies for their own strip.

1086 In the Domesday Inquest (Liber de Wintonia) the king held 9 Manors in Warwickshire. He maintained a strong presence in Warwick where he had 113 houses. 6 lay Lords held 205 Manors in Warwickshire.

The greatest land owner was Robert of Beaumont (Count Meulan) who held 62 Manors, 43 were granted to tenants. Only 8 villages in Warwickshire were declared as waste (vasta est), they were in the south near the Fosse Way.

Carthusian monastic orders founded

The weather in this year was poor and caused the death of livestock, corn and crops failed in their growth. Thunder and lightning storms killed many. The density of woodland in England was about 15% of the land area.

Domesday landholders included:

- Aelmer (Fenny Drayton)

- Aubrey, Earl of Northumbria also known as Aubrey of Coucy. He was made earl in 1080, but sent back in 1086 as incompetent. He held land in Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire to Yorkshire. (Nuneaton, Bramcote)

- Peter, bishop of Chester, moved the Diocese from Lichfield to Chester in 1075, succeeded in 1085 by Robert de Limesy (Caldecote). Roger, bishop of Chester, nominated in 1085; moved to Coventry in 1102. Held land in Hertfordshire. Church holdings in 6 Midland counties.

- Henry de Ferrers from Ferrier-St. Hilaire. Lord of Longueville, Normandy; castle at Tutbury. He was a Domesday commissioner. Ancestor of Earls of Derby, large land holdings in Derbyshire and 14 other counties. (Burton Hastings)

- Fulk (Weston in Arden)

- Countess Godiva, wife of Earl Leofric of Mercia, sister of Thorold, sheriff of Lincolnshire, grandmother of rebel earls Edwin and Morcar. She founded Stow Priory in Lincolnshire. Held land in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire. (Hartshill, Ansley)

- Roger, Count Meulan or Roger Beaumont, he was brother of Henry, son of Roger (a prominent Norman magnate). He was rewarded with land valued at £254. His wealth improved when he succeeded to his uncle's lands. He later inherited his father's estates. He was a loyal supporter of the Conqueror and his immediate successors. He was tenacious at holding on to his lands and refused to hand them back, even on his own deathbed. By 2000 value he was worth £9,600,000,000 when he died.

- Earl of Leicester from 1107, died in 1118. Robert became close advisor of King Henry I. His twin children, Robert, who inherited the title, and Walerun, Count Meulan and later Earl of Worcester were a great influence on King Stephen. Gilbert de Clare was a brother-in-law; their half brother William de Warenne became second Earl of Surrey. de Warenne was granted land by the Conqueror equivalent to £57,000,000,000 by 2000 values. He died in 1088 after the siege of Pevensey. Held land in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. (Astley, Weddington, Bulkington, Smercote, Sole, Bedworth, Marston Jabbett, Barnacle, Weston in Arden)

- Coventry Abbey (Burbage)

- Richard the Forester (Bramcote)

- Godric (Astley, Sole)

- The King

- Harold son of Ralph (Chilvers Coton)

- Hereward (Weddington, Barnacle, Marston Jabbett)

- Nicholas (Hartshill)
- Richard the Hunter (Bramcote)

- Ralph (Burton Hastings)

- Ralph de Mortimer - son of Roger Seine-Maritime, Lord of Wigmore castle. Received lands that had been Earl Roger of Hereford after his rebellion in 1075. He held land in 13 counties. (Stretton Baskerville)

- Robert d'Oilly (Nuneaton)

- Roger (Stretton Baskerville)

- Salo (Bulkington)

- Thorkell of Warwick (Nuneaton)

- Robert of Vessey held lands in Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire (Wolvey, Shenton)

- Ulfketel (Bedworth)

In 1085 there was between 3,500 and 5,000 acres of silva (wooded area)
[There were sites not recorded in Domesday, there may have been settlements that were depopulated deliberately as the survey commenced; or they may not have existed at all e.g. Arbury, Attleborough, Galley Common, Griff, Higham on the Hill, Hydes Pasture, Lindley, Mancetter, Oldbury, Stockingford, Stoke Golding and Witherley.]

<u>The following were recorded in Domesday:</u>

ARDRESHILLE and HANSLEI
(Harsthill and Ansley)
Land of Countess Godiva
2 hides

BEDEWORD (Bedworth)
Land of the Count of Meulan
Ulfketel holds from him
4 hides

Land for 7 ploughs
13 villagers with 5 ploughs
Meadow 6 acres
The value was £4; now 100 shillings

Land for 6 ploughs
In Lordship 1
2 slaves
5 villagers and 3 smallholders with 2 ploughs
Meadow 16 acres
Woodland 1 league long and 0.5 league wide
Value 10 shillings when exploited
The value was and is 40 shillings
Earl Edwin held it

BERNHANGRE (Barnacle)
Land of the Count of Meulan
Hereward holds from him
3 virgates of land
Land for 2 ploughs
2 villagers and 2 smallholders with 1 plough
Woodland 4 furlongs long and 3 wide
The value was and is 20 shillings
Hereward also held it freely before 1066

BOCHINTONE (Bulkington)
Land of Count Meulan
Salo holds from him
4 hides and 1 virgate of land
Land for 8 ploughs
1 In Lordship
2 slaves
5 villagers with 1 plough
Meadow 100 acres
The value was and is 20 shillings
Alfgeat and Alfsi held it freely

BORTONE (Burton Hastings)
Land of Henry Ferrers
Ralph holds 4 hides from Henry
Land for 8 ploughs
In lordship 2
13 villagers with a priest and
7 smallholders have 6 ploughs
2 mills at 7 shillings 8 pence
The value was £4; now 40 shillings
Siward held it.

BRANCOTE (Bramcote)
Land of Earl Aubrey
1.5 hides
Land for 3 ploughs
Salo held it; he was a free man
1 villager
Value was 5 shillings

BRANCOTE
Land of Richard the Forester (and others)
0.5 hide
Land for 1 plough
1 villager with 0.5 plough
Value 2 shillings
Saxi held it freely

BRANCOTE (Bramcote) Land of Robert of
Land of Robert of Stafford
Robert Hunter holds 1 hide from him
Land for 2 ploughs, which [are] there, with
1 villager
Value 10 shillings

CALDECOTE (Caldecote)
Land of the Bishop of Chester
2 hides
Land for 6 ploughs
King
In Lordship 1
2 slaves
7 villagers with a priest have 5 ploughs
A mill at 2 shillings
Meadow 12 acres
Woodland 3 leagues long and as wide
Value before 1066 40 shillings, later and
now 60 shillings
Tonni held this land, but he could not go
where he would with the land.

CELVERDESTOCHE (Chilvers Coton)
Land of Harold
Son of Earl Ralph. Harold
Son of Ralph, holds Celverdestoche from the

8 hides
Land for 10 ploughs
In Lordship 0.5 plough
9 slaves
15 villagers and 7 smallholders with 7 ploughs
Meadow 3 furlongs long and 1 wide
Woodland 1.5 leagues long by 1 league wide
The value was 40 shillings, now 50 shillings
His father held it.

DRAITONE (Fenny Drayton)
Land of the Earl Aubrey
Aelmer holds 5.5 carucates of land
Land for 5 ploughs
In Lordship 2
14 villagers with 8 smallholders have 4 ploughs

ESTLEIA (Astley)
Land of the Count of Meulan
Godric holds from him
1 hide
Land for 2 ploughs
In Lordship 1 plough

The value was 30 shillings; now 40 shillings

ETONE (Nuneaton) Land of Earl Aubrey
Land of Earl Aubrey
[Eatun = a farm by the stream, Nun = Nuns]
Aubrey held Nuneaton from the king
Harding held it before 1066
Land for 26 ploughs
In Lordship 3
3 slaves
44 villagers
6 freedmen and 10 smallholders with 16 ploughs
A mill at 32 pence
Meadow 20 acres
Woodland 2 leagues long by 1.5 wide
Value before 1066 £4; later £3; now 100 shillings

HINCHELIE (Hinckley)
Land of Earl Aubrey
14 carucates of land
In Lordship 4 ploughs; 8 slaves
42 villagers with 16 smallholders and 3 Freemen
have 9.5 ploughs
Meadow 6 furlongs in length and 3 furlongs wide
The value was £6; now £10

SCENTONE (Shenton)
Land of Earl Aubrey
The Earl also held 1 carucate of land
3 smallholders
The value was 12 pence; now 3 shillings

Harding held these lands

SCENTONE (Shenton)
Land of Robert of Vessey
Norman holds 6 carucates of land less
2 bovates in Scentone
from Robert
Before 1066, 5 ploughs
In Lordship 1
7 Villagers with 3 smallholders have 2 ploughs
The value was 12 pence; now 30 shillings

STRATONE (Stretton Baskerville)
Land of Ralph of Mortimer
Ralph of Mortimer holds Stratone and
and Roger from him
3 hides
Land for 6 ploughs

5 villagers and 3 smallholders with 1 plough
Woodland 1 league long and 0.5 league wide;
when exploited
Value 10 shillings
The value was and is 20 shillings
Alfsi held it freely before 1066

ETONE (Nuneaton)
Land of Thorkell
Robert d'Oilly holds 3 hides
Land for 5 ploughs
In lordship 3 ploughs
5 slaves
9 villagers and 8 smallholders with 8 ploughs
Meadows 5 acres
Woodland 1 league in length and width
The value was 40 shillings, now £4
Alwin held it freely before 1066

MERSTONE (Marston Jabbet)
Land of the Count of Meulan
Hereward holds from him
1 hide
Land for 4 ploughs
In Lordship 2
1 female slave
12 villagers and 8 smallholders
with 4 ploughs
Meadow 6 acres
The value was and is £3
Hereward held it freely before 1066

SCENTONE (Shenton)
Land of Henry of Ferrers
Roger hold 2 bovates of land in Scentone
from Henry
1 villager
Value 2 shillings

SMERECOTE in SOULEGE (Smercote and
(Smercote and in Sole)
Land of the Count of Meulan
Godric holds from him
1 hide
Land for 2 ploughs
2 villagers
Woodland 1 league long and 0.5 league wide;
when exploited
Value 10 shillings
The value was 15 shillings; now 5 shillings
Szxi held freely before 1066

ULUEPA (Wolvey)
Land of Robert of Vessey
Robert holds 5.5 hides from the King
Land for 8 ploughs
In lordship 2
4 slaves

In Lordship 2

8 villagers and 4 smallholders with 4 ploughs
Meadow 5 acres
The value was 40 shillings, now 30 shillings
Edric held it freely

WATITUNE (Weddington)
Land of the Count of Meulan
Hereward holds from him, he also held it
before 1066
he was free
3 hides
Land for 7 ploughs
In Lordship 1.5
4 slaves
12 villagers and 5 smallholders with 4 ploughs
Meadow 20 acres
Woodland 2 furlongs long by 1 furlong wide
Value 30 shillings
He was succeeded by his brother
Henry de Newburgh Earl of Warwick.
(its population would have been about 150)

15 villagers with a priest and 2 smallholders

7 ploughs
Meadow 50 acres
Pasture 0.5 league in length and width
The value was was £3?; now 50 shillings
Alfric son of Mergeat held it freely before 1066

WESTONE (Weston in Arden)
Land of the Count of Hereward
Fulk holds from Count Meulan
2 hides
Land for 7 ploughs
In Lordship 1
6 villagers and 7 smallholders with 3 ploughs
Meadow 8 acres
The value was and is 40 shillings

Land Sizes in Domesday

1 Hide, Carucate or Ploughland = 4 Virgates or Yardlands
1 Virgate or Yardland = 2 Bovates or Oxgangs
1 Bovate or Oxgang = 2 Farthingdale or Farthinghold
1Farthingdale or Farthinghold = 10 Acres
1 Acre = 4 Rods by 40 Rods

Knight's Fee = this depended on the soil's quality; it was the amount of land needed to support a Knight and his family for 1 year (could be between 4 and 48 Hides).

Categories of Tenants in Warwickshire as a percentage of the total recorded population.
(total people = 7,000+)

Villeins 55%	Bordars 28%	Serfs 13%	Other 4%
3,850	1,960	910	280

Warwickshire Rural population:

Villeins	3,764
Bordars	1,843
Serfs	880
Miscellaneous	169
TOTAL	6,656

in 279 Domesday villages approx. average 25 people to a village.

English population between 1,250,000 and 2,250,000 probably nearer 2,000,000.

Domesday recorded 275,000 tenants.
Villani 109,000 (held 45% of the land)
Bordari and Cottars 87,000 (smallholders with 5% of the land)
Liberi homines and Sokemen 37,000 (held 20% of the land)
Servi 28,000 (held 30% of the land)

Other notable Domesday sites:
Burbage (Burbece), Exhall (Ecleshelle)

William relied on an army of 4,000 knights supplied by about 200 barons. His conquest enabled him to call on a further 780 knights from the ancient churches. The land held by a baron or large church were called a barony, fee or an honour.
Etone was bestowed by William to Geoffrey de Wirce. His nephew, Nigel d'Albini passed it to the Earls of Leicester. ***Ea tun*** means "farm by the stream". Nuneaton
area population a minimum of 200 adults

1087 King William I created many hunting forests; if any one killed any of his livestock they were punished severely. When he died his son gave to monasteries and churches generously. A typical local church was given 60 pennies. £100 was given to every county to look after the poor for the sake of William's soul. King William II (also known as Rufus) he had little time for religion and was reluctant to fill vacancies in the Church, his court was very liberal.

Phillip invaded Normandy

1088 The River Anker was recorded as the ONCER

A Rebellion in support of Robert Curthose

1089 11th Aug. Saturday, a severe Midlands earth tremor

Gloucester Abbey church construction

1089-90 The Domesday Book was produced. By the early 12thC. it was known as “the book of the Treasury”. By 1179 it was known as ‘liber judiciarius’.

1090 William Rufus invaded Normandy

1091 William and his brother made peace

Oct. Violent winds and storms damaged much of London and the home counties

1092 Pope Urban II held a council against Simony and lay investitures, also againstclerical marriages; he helped launch the First Crusade and called the Truce of God.

1093 Anselm appointed Archbishop of Canterbury,

Durham Cathedral commenced.

1094 The war with Normandy renewed

1095 Clergy forbidden to take Oath of Fealty to laymen

Pope Urban II announced the First Crusade against Jews and Muslims

1096 A severe famine in England

The First Crusade rallied 30,000 men and caused anti-Semitic uprisings. 100,000 silver marks were needed to join the First Crusade, William imposed such a severe tax that the treasures of many churches and cathedrals were melted down. This caused severe famine and homelessness.

1097 Robert de Beaumont (Meulan) returned to France - see Domesday

4-11th Oct. A bright comet was visible in the Midlands

1098 The Cistercian monastic movement founded

1099 Robert de Arbrissel moved to the Forest of Fontevrault (Tranche-Col or Cut-Throat Forest); over 3,000 men and women joined him their. Their influence for good became famous and it was re-named the Forest of Prayer. (see 1047 and 1101). Nuneaton's Etone Priory belonged to this order.

The Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem founded. (by the 12thC. it was a house at Clerkenwell) They were suppressed in England in the 16thC.

The word SELION has several synonyms = Paull, Land, Loon, Rap, Ridge, Rigg, Shot, Stetch and Stitch.

King Henry I, 1100-1135 A.D. He was the fourth son of William I. The first literate King who was able to read. When he came to the throne he received no lands from his father but was given £5,000 in silver!! He quarrelled with his brothers and soon mistrust existed; there were plots and counter-plots regarding inheritance and succession. He tried to win over the English church by various schemes and charters. There were Gregorian reforms at work in the church. These reforms included purifying the moral and spiritual life of the clergy, freeing the church from secular controls. The church hated the investiture procedure where a new bishop or abbot received a staff and ring of office from the local secular prince.

Henry was survived by only one legitimate heir, Matilda. In 1128 she married a 26 year old boy, Geoffrey of Anjou. This enabled Henry to keep his Angevin alliance in France. The Norman Barons were not pleased at the thought of being ruled by Geoffrey of Anjou. Geoffrey asked for some castles and power; Henry refused; war ensued in 1135, Henry died after eating too many lampreys at a meal.

1100 Weddington given to Philip Astley by King Henry I. The Astley family had local connections from 12th to 20thC.

The Order of Fontevrault founded in France by Robert of Arbrissel, by his death in 1117 A.D. the order was so successful there were 3,000+ nuns. The Nuneaton site would soon be established.

Henry I issued the Charter of Liberties (for churches)

c.1100 70 estates transferred to Henry (Earl of Warwick) from Thorkell of Arden to supplement his Earldom. Henry later acquired 16 other estates in Warwickshire from Hugh de Grantmesnil.

Post-Domesday sites recorded at Lindley and St. John's church at Lindley; and a Priory at Oldbury

START OF THE 12TH CENTURY A.D.

"The great period for monasteries"

1101	Robert of Normandy invaded England
1101-02	Robert de Arbrissel and his followers began to build an Abbey in the Forest of Fontevrault.(France) (see 1100 etc.)
1102	The first mystery plays reached England; the French and English language began to emerge
1103	King Henry quarrelled with Anselm and the Church.
	This was recorded as a grievous year, with heavy taxes, death of cattle, wheat and fruit. Severe winds on 3rd Feb.
1104	Volcanic eruptions in Iceland affected the weather in north west Europe. Early June the mid day sun had 4 white haloes around it.
1105	Henry I at war with Robert of Normandy. A grievous year for crops.
c.1105	The windmill invented
1106	Pope Paschal II issued a BULL (a Papal Order) that confirmed the new Order for Fontevrault.The men devoted their life to prayer and the women to prayer and contemplation they followed the Benedictine Rule together with stricter rules given by Robert. The Nuns were dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Monks to St John the Evangelist. (A Bull was the lead seal attached to the Pope's edicts; or an expression that contains an obvious and silly contradiction).
	An un-named comet reported in England; the second warmest summer between 1000 A.D. and 1998 A.D.
1106-30	A period of severe winters
1107	Settlement of Investiture Dispute in England. After that date there were free elections of bishops at the court of the king followed by the bishop's confirmation by means of a document the king then conferred the temporalia upon the elected before he was consecrated.
1108	The Era of Scholasticism was the doctrine of Schoolmen that was the doctrine of theology as taught at the time.
	The Halfpenny coin issued (0.5d) (short cross)
1109	The year's weather suffered many thunder and lightning storms
1109-11	Anglo-French war
1110	The introduction of Pipe Rolls; these became invaluable records of everyday life in England. They finally ceased in 1832.
	May. A spectacular lunar eclipse, bright starlit nights caused late frosts which destroyed much of the fruit crop.
1111	Pope Paschal II supported the rebellion of Emperor Henry V against King Henry. He did not manage to settle the Investiture Controversy
	A severe winter, many crops failed and many animals died
1112	Henry I suppressed the Norman rebellion
	A good year for fruit and crops, but severe pestilence raged

1113 Theulf the Bishop of Worcester

1114 May. A comet seen at the end of the month, many Biblical prophecies were claimed. Very low tides on the Thames estuary.

Oct. Severe winds

18th Nov. Very severe local winds

1115 One of the worst winters in living memory (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle)

Peter the Hermit died (he inspired the crusades)

1116 Another disastrous year for crops because of heavy rain
Paschal II withdrew concessions to the Kings of Europe

1117 Henry I and William Clito at war

3rd Jan. Wednesday, a severe Midlands earth tremor

Dec. Violent weather, thunder, hail, lightning, red skies as if they were burning (Anglo-Saxon Chronicle)

1118 Robert Beaumont (Count of Meulan and Earl of Leicester) controlled Nuneaton for the King.

There were severe storms at Epiphany (Jan. 6th)

Order of Knights Templar established by Hugh de Payens (Clemens V suppressed and dissolved at the Council of Vienne in 1312). Their apparel was a white coat with red cross.

1119 Premonstratensian monastic order founded; it did not establish in the Nuneaton area

1120 Henry I made peace with France.

Latitude and Longitude first measured in degrees

1121 5th Apr. lunar eclipse

The first Bishop of Coventry: Robert Peche

1122 Henry I created the earldom of Gloucester

22nd Mar. A great storm

25th Jul. Tuesday, a severe Midlands earth tremor

7th Dec. A long bright red sunrise reported

1123 The marriage of priests forbidden, Simony (selling of pardons) condemned

When Henry Earl of Warwick died he was lord of 75% of Warwickshire

1124 11th Aug. A partial eclipse of the sun
In the summer poor yields of many crops in England

Henry I at war with France

1125 St. James Church, Weddington 's sandstone font existed, not of local sandstone however.

Many local storms caused flooding

1125-50 Hartshill castle was part of a defence (de-militarised) 2,000 sq.km. zone created by Ranulf de Gernons, the Earl of Chester and Robert de Beaumont, Earl of Leicester linking Coventry, (Brandon, Brinklow, Shawell, Gilmorton, Husbands Bosworth, Stoke) Rockingham, (Wardley) Oakham, (Garthorpe) Belvoir, Castle Donington, Whitwick, Ravenstone, (Shackerstone) Hartshill

1126 The earliest European artesian well was described

1127 Pope ex-communicated the people of England

1128 Marriage of Empress Matilda to Geoffrey of Anjou (the parents of Henry II)

1129 6th Dec.? A severe earth tremor on St. Nicolas' day.

1129-30 The first Pipe Rolls

1130 Jan. Severe mortality in livestock (pigs and cattle) almost total death of some herds

Dec. The sky appeared as if burning on fire

1130-31 King Henry I: The Exchequer brought the Pipe Roll into force. This year preserved a single "Pipe" that was of great significance. The "pipes" or enrolled accounts came from the sheriffs and others for the financial year. The complete run started in the reign of King Henry II (1154).

1131 English Barons renewed Oath of Succession

1132 Baronial unrest led to anarchy

1133 2nd Aug. A partial eclipse of the sun

Bartholomew Fair founded in London

1134 Pope Innocent II continued the move towards papal interference with secular matters outside the church

1135 Nuneaton Parish Church granted by the Earl of Leicester to the Monks of ira in Normandy. Hartshill Castle built by Hugh de Hardredshull, it was ranted by his kinsman Ranulf, Earl of Chester.

King Henry I died; succeeded by Stephen. Stone manor houses began to be built.

King Stephen 1135-54 A.D. After Henry's death there was dispute over the succession. Few Anglo-Saxon lords wanted to be ruled by Matilda and Geoffrey of Anjou. One group of barons wanted to elect Count Theobald of Blois; his younger brother Stephen, had already been crowned!! Stephen crossed the channel and took control of England.

For some years Stephen had no problems then Geoffrey of Anjou invaded Normandy, King David of Scotland invaded the north and Robert of Gloucester (both Matilda's relations) rebelled in the west country. Stephen initially held on to power but made mistakes later. There was ever after a power struggle between Matilda and Stephen. Stephen's later ambition was to secure the throne for his son Eustace; he later died and the throne passed to the Angevin Henry. The Angevin Royal family regarded the Order of Fontevrault with special favour. King Henry II, his wife Eleanor, their son, Richard I, were all buried at Fontevrault.

The area had several powerful landowners in the post-Domesday period: Duke of Lancaster, Earl of Warwick, the Hastings, Greys, Stafford and the Duke of Clarence.

post 1135	Chilvers Coton/Arbury Knights Templar House founded. No known illustration or photograph exists of this building; no detail building outline is known on any map or plan.
1136	Agreement of Durham: this began to affect local churches
1137	Stephen successful against Geoffrey of Anjou
	The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle recorded widespread torture of the English people by the castle builders of the time
	10th Nov. to 19th Jan. 1138: severe winter freeze (e.g. Thames frozen)
1138	Robert, Earl of Gloucester, began a Civil War against Stephen
	Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote the History of the Kings of Britain
1139	Stephen upset churchmen by his arrest of the Bishops of Salisbury
1139-41	Civil War in England between Stephen and Matilda
1140	Robert de Curci the Steward of the Royal Household (his family held local Nuneaton land at Domesday)
	20th Mar. Midday - a spectacular eclipse of the sun
1141-45	Geoffrey of Anjou conquered Normandy
1142	William of Malmesbury wrote Historia Regum Anglorum
1143	A site in Stockingford with woodland and arable was granted by Earl Robert 'le bossu' and William de Newmarch (with whom he had exchanged it for Whitwick) to the canons of St. Mary de Pre of Leicester.
	William of Malmesbury wrote about early British mythology and history
	Bulkyngtona (Bulkington) recorded in monastic deeds
1144	Geoffrey of Anjou, Duke of Normandy
1145	Preparation for the Second Crusade
	18th Apr. Halley's Comet returned
1146	Second Crusade began
1147	500,000 men rallied, but the Crusade failed.
	26th Oct. A partial eclipse of the sun
1147-1289	Block printing invented
1148	Earl Robert de Ferrers founded the Abbey at Merevale and he gave to it all his Forest of Arden. The grant was later confirmed by Henry II in 1155 and by Edward II in 1326.
1149	Robert of Chester published Astronomical Tables
1150	Robert, Earl of Leicester gave to the nuns of Chaise-Dieu, in France, 6 virgates of land in Eton and Attleborough in exchange for land in Olney (Bucks) that he had previously given them.
1150-1400	Warwickshire depopulated villages: 4 definitely, 2 probable
1151	Hardredeshella (Hartshill) recorded in ancient deeds

Sep. Henry became Lord of Anjou after the death of his father.

1152 Sep. Henry of Anjou (later Henry II) married Eleanor of Aquitaine

ANGEVIN or PLANTAGENET DYNASTY

There was a steady national development, the mixing of English and Normans became complete. Social life began to break free from the established feudal controls; towns became important; trade and industry grew; finance, administration, law and education were reformed. The struggle between civil and religious powers came to their height in Henry II's time; the state won!
Henry II reformed and founded the administrative, judicial and financial systems that still existed in the 20thC!! The church tried to assert its spiritual supremacy and also permeated all political, social, commercial and industrial organisations and gilds.

Many of the Midlands' religious foundations were established to achieve a whole range of interconnected objectives. Religion was to be given a visible and permanent identity, the leadership of the patron and his family was strengthened as a result.

Economic advantages would increase; family dependants could be provided for; the weak and poor could be looked after, prayers and masses could also be requested. The revenue of these houses came from endowments, gifts and "spiritualities".
By providing regular services income could be earnt. Moral issues were raised - should priests be earning money for conducting services?

The local increase in population made great demands on society; a method of coping involved taking in assarts i.e. clearing woodland, ‘grubbing-out’ bushes to make way for the plough.
Additional land was also brought into cultivation by improving drainage.

This may have involved straightening local meandering streams or actually cutting new canalised ditches to help run-off. There was much evidence in the local area for the three-field system and three-course crop rotation.

Local fields were small and irregularly-shaped; their geometric layouts were influenced by the river floodplains (and their drier gravel flood terraces); the interfluvial spurs of higher land separating adjacent river systems; the local aspect of hills slopes - those facing south west being preferable. The Nuneaton area has a very mixed geology and soil type.

The river valleys have established on the younger softer rocks, many of them clayey or silty. The early cultivation by ploughing and later manuring began to change the primary soil types from damp, cold clays to red brown loamy soils more suited to arable farming.

Medical knowledge was still based on that from the 5thC. B.C. (Empedocles). This consisted of humours:

Black Bile = cold and dry and corresponded with earth (hot and dry, melancholy temperament, formed in the spleen)
Blood = hot and wet and corresponded with air (sanguine temperament)
Yellow Bile = hot and dry and corresponded with fire (choleric temperament)
Phlegm = cold and wet and corresponded with water (phlegmatic temperament)

A person’s state of health was seen as a balance of these four humours. If there was an excess then one or more of these humours was drained off by purging, emetics or blood letting. Such practices were reported in monastic places in the mediaeval times. There were even specific places set aside for such treatments on the monastic lands.

1153 King Henry landed and began his conquest

26th Jan. A partial eclipse of the sun

ETONE PRIORY PERIOD

(also known colloquially as “The Abbey”, “The Nunnery”, “The Monastery”, St. Mary’s)

1153-55 Etone Priory was founded by Robert, Earl of Leicester and Gervase Paynel, his son-in-law, gave some land at Kintbury, Berkshire to the Abbey of Fontevrault for the founding of a priory. But soon after its foundation it was transferred to Etone.

For reasons unknown the new priory was given Robert's manor of Etone with the exception of certain land at Attleborough and Stockingford.

It was one of four houses in England sub-ordinate to a wealthy French Abbey at Fontevrault. The Beaumonts gave many endowments to the priory with more coming in the 13thC.

The priory eventually had possessions in 10 different counties. There were miscellaneous parcels of land, messuages, tenements, meadows, pastures and mills in some of the following places (see 1535 for details)

Berkshire	Kintbury
Buckinghamshire	Mursley
Hampshire	Winchester, Katryngton Farm and Rectory, Chawton, Clensfyld, Blendworth
Leicestershire	Wigston, Burley, Rotby, Claybrook, Wykin, Rotherby, Waltham, Ullesthorpe, Leicester, Wibtoft and Wardley
Lincolnshire	Upwell End
London	A tenement in the city
Northants	Swynford, Hazelbeach, Braunston, Ashby St.Legers, Helmdon
Oxfordshire	A cottage in Oxford
Rutland	Exston
Warwickshire	Stretton Baskerville, Stockingford, Wyken, Horeston lands, Burton Hastings, Marton, Hodenhull, Nuneaton, Attilburgh, Arbury, Monks Kirby

It became a centre of education; Hawise the daughter of Earl Robert was educated there. It became a shelter for the aged - Amice, the Countess of Leicester; Emma, mother of Ralph de Turville both ended their lives there as nuns. (Turville was a wealthy benefactor). Charity money was also given to the local poor, sick and aged of the town. The priory helped develop the small Saxon vill on the Anker into a market town. This priory enjoyed patronage from both French and English Royal families. Fontevraultine houses were originally double, but from an early time the number of brethren seemed generally to have been small. They were mostly nunneries. Benedictine Black Monks Alien Priory founded in Nuneaton. This was later closed, post-1412. Benedictine Nuns Priory also founded in Nuneaton.
Sometime later, half of Burton Hastings was given to Nuneaton Priory. The priory church and probably the greater part of the main conventual building were built in the latter half of the 12thC. The east end of the church and transepts were largely rebuilt in the next hundred years.

1154 19th Dec. Henry II crowned. The complete run of the "Pipe Rolls" began.
He devoted much time to regaining control over his barons and the Church.

Towns arose through the growth of industry and trade, the increasing wealth or burghers enabled them to buy charters freeing them from the control of feudal lords. In general, local government became vested in a mayor and council of aldermen who framed laws, imposed dues and tolls and maintained the defensive walls and gates.

This was a period of Latin literary eminence: Ranulf de Glanville: chief justiciar of England, the author of the great treatise on English laws "Tractatus de Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliae". Henry eventually ruled over a large territory comprising England, Normandy, Brittany, Anjou and Aquitaine.

Dialogues de Scaccario (Dialogue of the Exchequer): the work of Richard Fitz-Nigel, treasurer of England 1195-98, king of London 1189-98. Walter Map(es): Archdeacon of Oxford, author of satirical "Denugis curialium". Giraldus Cambrensis (Giraldus de Barri 1146?-1220?): wrote many works e.g. "Expugnatio Hibernica"; "Gemma Ecclesiastica"

Carmelite monastic orders established in the Midlands

King Henry II of Anjou succeeded Stephen, first of Plantagenets. A period of great Latin literature.

post 1154 Augustinian Canons priory founded at Arbury by Ralph de Sudeley. This family had local connections from 12th to 14thC.

1154-58 Henry II destroyed many baronial castles that had been built without royal licence.

1155 Robert filius Hugonis, Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire.

Earl Robert "le bossu" made a gift of St. Nicolas, Nuneaton, to the Monastery of Lira in Normandy. This was taken back in 1414. A period of cooler summers locally.

Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelverthescote (Documents illustrative of Danelaw).

1155-56 Great Pipe Roll of King Henry II recorded Warwickshire local area: £128 12s 6d

(£128 62p) due in Danegeld; valued £80 11s 0d land in waste, the proportion of waste land to the total was 2/3. Pipe Rolls continued regularly until 1832.

1155-59 Nuneaton recorded as EATONA in Calendar of Documents preserved in France

1155-60 Agnes, Prioress at Etone Priory; William was the Prior

1156 Pope Adrian IV made an order concerning Etone Priory

Carmelites settled in England

5th Feb. King Henry II secured the title to Normandy, Anjou and Aquitaine by homage to King Louis VII of France. He later suppressed a revolt by his brother, Geoffrey of Anjou. He then gave control of Brittany to Geoffrey as the Count of Nantes.

1157 Stoccinford recorded in documents preserved in France

Privileges granted to German merchants in England

1158-69 Geoffrey Trussel; Prior of Monks Kirby. (Trussel name on 1690 Hewitt Survey) Family had local connections from 12thC. to 19thC.

1159 Henry II accepted Scutage (shield money) in place of Feudal service - especially in times of war

1160 Nuneaton recorded as EATONA in Documents illustrative of the history of Danelaw Stockiford (Stockingford) recorded in old charters

c.1160 Agnes was the Prioress and William was the Prior at Etone (Priory)

c.1160-75 Hugh was Prior at Etone

1161 Edward the Confessor was canonised

1162 Danegald raised for the last time as a tax for Henry II

1163 Robert filius Gaufredi, Sheriff of Warwickshire.

In Henry II's reign, Etone granted an annual fair (fayre) from 3rd-7th May for Feast of the Invention of the Cross (confirmed and extended in 1239) A market charter is often associated with this event.

1163-c.1175 Alice was Prioress at Etone

1164 Council of Clarendon summoned by Henry II to meet in that Wiltshire town. It was to check the power of the Clergy.

The most important of the 16 articles stated that beneficed Clergy should not leave the Kingdom without the king's permission. After the murder of Becket Henry II had to give up this Constitution. Danegeld tax abolished (see 991)

1164-79 Henry II reformed the English legal system.

1165 Stokingforth (Stockingford) recorded in old monastic documents

Louis VII of France and Henry II agreed to levy an Income Tax to raise money to defend the Holy Land.

1166 Caldecote: a half fee held by Herbert Ruffus (from the king of Coventry). Ralph Sudeley gave the patronage of the Norman church at Chilvers Coton to Arbury Priory.

Assize (or Edict) of Clarendon "If controversy shall arise between laymen, laymen and clerks, or clerks concerning the advowson and presentation of churches, the matter shall be discussed and terminated in the king's court." This enabled people to complain if they were ill used. Patronage remained property that a layman could hold, buy or sell, or give away.

1167 Oxford University founded

Cartae Baronum was an important document that referred to some of the data in Domesday

1168 A sophisticated exchequer organised by Normans; this began to raise money from the land and its occupiers

1169 Normans began the conquest of Ireland

1170 Orbiri (Arbury) recorded in ancient documents

Inquest of Sheriffs

29th Dec. Thomas a Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury was murdered. He opposed the King of many occasions, he was against the numerous privileges that the church enjoyed. The king ultimately sent 4 knights to Canterbury to execute him.The struggle between the ‘Church and the Crown’

1170-1300 Early English (Gothic) period of Architecture

1171 Henry II claimed Ireland as his own

1172 Eleanor of Aquitaine raised Aquitaine against her unfaithful husband; he was forced to make peace with the Pope

1173 Henry II introduced Dei Gracia into his style

1174 Henry II had to do penance for Becket's murder.

1175 Treaty of Windsor

	The great eruption of Krafka volcano in Iceland; this affected weather and climate patterns in north west Europe
1176	Assize of Northampton organised the Judicature into districts
	11th Apr. A partial eclipse of the sun
1177	Philip de Kyme (in Nichols Leicestershire) Prestwould in East Goscote.
	Belvoir Priory granted 7 score kyrves of turf to be dug in parish of Kyme, confirmed by William de Kyme in 1339. Connected with The Hyde, Attleborough and Leicester Abbey.
1178	18th Jun. Sunday, a meteorite was seen to hit the moon by observers in various monasteries.
	13th Sep. Near total eclipse of the sun in the Midlands
1179	Grand Assizes of Windsor curbs Feudal Court in favour of King's Court
c.1180	Berengarius was Prior at Etone
	Bruges became the international mart for Europe
c.1180-83	Juliana was Prioress at Etone
	Vitalis was Prior at Etone
1181	Henry II found it necessary to issue an Assize of Arms; this defined the weapons and equipment befitting a knight, a freeman and a burgess.
	Henry II re-defined military obligation of the Englishman
1182	The Jews driven from France
1183	Early English Architectural style began
1184	Assize of Woodstock concerned the Royal Forests.
1185	Ralph de Sudeley (Griff) had granted lands to the Templars and in the inquest of this year their returns showed Ralph received 6.5 marks annual rent for the farm. Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelverdeschote (Records of the Templars)
	1st May. A near total eclipse of the sun in the Midlands
	The only prison recorded in Warwickshire was at Kenilworth
c.1185-98	Alice was Prioress at Etone
	Hugh de Nonant Bishop of the local area
1186	The great age of cathedral building
1187	Nuneaton recorded as ETTON in Pipe Rolls
	4th Sep. A partial eclipse of the sun
1188	Prince Richard paid homage to Phillip II for the English possession of France
1189	6th Jul. Henry II died, buried at Fontevrault Abbey, France.

1189-99 Richard I crowned king of England. Feet of Fines introduced. These were formal legal agreements regarding the conveyancing of land. The agreement was legal but the dispute it settled was fictitious. The "fine" was a formula of conveyance adopted to ensure the transfer was registered in a court of law. The agreement was registered in duplicate, on going to each of the parties, but in 1195 a third copy - the foot of the fine - was made for filing in the treasury.

1190 The floating magnetic compass was developed (a written account by Alexander Neckham survived from 1125)

1191 23rd Jun. A partial eclipse of the sun

Third Crusade - 100 ships were amassed; they were beset with problems making the journey

1192 John claimed to be King of England

1193 Reginaldi Basset, Sheriff of Warwickshire.

1194 Privileges granted to German merchants in England

1195 Nuneaton recorded as ETTON in Curia Regis Rolls

1196 Walter de Mancetter granted land for endowment of Mancetter parish church.

1197 Papal programme of world policies

1198 William of Newburgh (1136-98) wrote Historia Rerum Anglicarum. It is the best historical work by an Englishman of this period.

1198-1208 Geoffrey Muschamp Bishop of the local area.

1199 10th Dec. to 15th Mar 1200. A severe winter freeze

Establishment of Chancery Rolls

King John 1199-1216 A.D. He was the youngest of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine's children. He was brought up in the home of his eldest brother. He possessed the least of the 4 children; he was named "Lackland". There were continuing feuds with his brothers about land and rights; his father attempted to give him land in Ireland but that failed. John eventually plotted various deceits in order to get the throne. He conspired with King Philip of France; he even arranged with Philip to buy Richard from the German Emperor for £100,000!!. In 1194 Richard was released and John was forced to sue for pardon. It was immediately granted. John was forced to live under his brother's shadow but eventually became the heir apparent.

Nuneaton burgesses elected Bailiffs and Goodmen

In the period 1200-1300 between 15 and 20 major building projects (churches, cathedrals) per decade were begun. As a contrast, the "in progress" statistics were very different: in 1200 = 23; 1290 = 37 followed by a steady decline until 1400.

King John had lost many territories through the bad strategic management of his various skirmishes and battles. From 1206 to 1214 he made plans to fight the king of France, he built up the armed forces year on year. Scutage was levied eleven times in 45 years between 1154 and 1199. It was then imposed eleven more times between 1199 and 1215. He devised tax on rents and chattels. It was levied at 1 in 13 rate and yielded £60,000 in 1207 - nearly twice the total annual revenue of the Crown in the 12thC.

The forest laws were tightened. John disputed with Pope Innocent III over the election in 1205 to the See of Canterbury. He eventually confiscated the estates of the churches. He was all but ex-communicated from Rome and faced a possible invasion from France.

1200 Robert Trussel (related to the Attleborough family) lived at Monks Kirby

The draught harness for horses was invented

Chilvers Coton recorded as Cheluerscote (Index to Charters and Rolls in the British Museum)

c.1200 Matilda was Prioress at Etone

G. was Prior at Etone

Nuneaton's population estimated at over 500

The following settlements existed in the Nuneaton area:

Ansley, Astley, Bramcote, Bulkington, Burbage, Burton Hastings, Caldecote, Coton, Exhall, Fenny Drayton, Griff, Hartshill (and Castle), Higham, Hinckley, Lindley, Mancetter, Marston Jabbett, Oldbury, Shenton, Sole End, Stretton Baskerville, Upton, Weddington, Weston and Wolvey. Arbury?,

The following additional monastic sites were also founded Arbury, Knights Templar, Hinckley, Oldbury, Etone.

Churches existed at St. Peter's, Higham; St. Peter, Mancetter; St. John's, Lindley and St. John, Wolvey.

Most churches and cathedrals at this time were elaborately painted and decorated both internally and externally. They would also possess many statues both inside and outside.

START OF THE 13TH CENTURY A.D.

"The great period of cathedral building"

1201	Margaret, widow of William Ruffus, then wife of William Fitz Odo, claimed the manor of Caldecote as dower against William, grandson of Herbert Ruffus.
	Kaudecote (Caldecote) recorded in Curia Regis Rolls
	May-Sep. Unusually wet period
	A very wet period with crop damage; storm and flood damage in July.
1201-04	A period of bad harvests and high prices
1202	Mabel was Prioress at Etone
	Fourth Crusade
	Leonardo Fibonacci of Pisa introduced Arabic numbering system into Europe.
	A. was Prior at Etone Robert le Potter recorded at Arley as a potter
1203	Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelverdecote (Index to Charters and Rolls in the British Museum)
1204	Philip conquered Anjou (Etone Priory was closely connected with Anjou)
1205	Jan.-May. Unusually cool period
	John prepared for French invasion with defences
	Issue of new coinage. King John declared that money that did not lack more than 2 shillings and 6 pence (12.5p) in the pound's weight should remain current, but all money below that standard should be bored through and returned to its owners.
	The practice of clipping money tended to reduce its weight and all clipped money was to be bored through. In every borough, town or castle the Sheriff appointed 4 lawful men to whom the owners pay in this clipped or bored money. This was then supposedly sealed in a box for the king's use. It was then presumably re-coined into the new fat penny. The short cross remained on one side.
	A severe frosty local winter, many rivers frozen
1206	The Council of 24 men elected
1207	Liverpool became a major port
1208	N. was Prior at Etone
	Local price of Grains per Quarter (28 lbs or 12.7 kg): Wheat 2s 11d (15p) Barley 1s 11d (10p) and Oats 1s (5p)
	Last recorded year for Bishop Muschamp (Coventry area)
	Emma was the Prioress at Etone
1208-14	The Pope Innocent III placed England under an Interdict, this barred persons and places form certain privileges and stopped all church services in England.
1209	Franciscan monastic order founded
	The foundation of an early Cambridge university

1210	8th Jan.-21st Feb. A severe frosty local winter, ice and snow up to 12 inches thick locally. Spring cold and windy.
	Jan.-May. Unusually cool period
c.1210	Archives recorded a Royal Hunting Lodge at Weddington. Forest laws protected Red Deer, Fallow Deer, Roe Deer and Wild Boar. The cost of an ordinary cart horse doubled in the next 100 years. This was probably equivalent of 10s to 20s.
1210-14	Lawsuit between Walter de Baskerville and Prioress of Nuneaton concerning the chapelry at Burton Hastings church.
1211	The concept of a royal wardrobe of special clothing developed.
1212	Jul.-Aug. Unusually cool period
	Sep. Severe weather with heavy rain
	Sep.-Oct. Unusually wet period
1213	King John accepted the Pope as overlord
1214	King John campaigned in France, Midlands were affected by recruitment
1214-23	William Cornhill was Bishop of the local area.
1214-26	Ida was Prioress at Etone Priory
c.1214-94	Roger Bacon, Oxford philosopher, writer, alchemist and scientist; he also invented spectacles.
1215	Thomas Astley (Weddington) tried to buy his freedom from the Army.
	Magna Carta; King John quarrelled with the Church and the Barons. National liberties were first defined. There was Civil War in England. Trial by Ordeal was virtually abolished. There were 61 Clauses. Liber homo - the status of a freeman was initiated. It set up the “Law” so that even the king was answerable to the law.
	The oaths made at a coronation were maintained:
	1) The King must protect the Church
	2) It was essential for the king to preserve the lands of his ancestors
	3) Justice must be done
	4) Evil customs and practices should be suppressed
	Courts began to travel to various places, the retinue could cover up to 30 miles a day on its circuit.
	Dec. A period of mild weather
1216	French invasion of England King Henry III 1216-1272 A.D. He inherited a much-reduced kingdom from that of the Angevin splendour of his grandfather, Henry II. The Midlands generally recognised him as the rightful king. Within a year he was widely recognised as king of England. He maintained the kingdom with the help of trusted men around him.

The Pope and the church were on the King's side. He championed Gothic art in England. He paid craftsmen well for the work they did in his reign; most castles underwent alteration in his reign. His own castles and hall became increasingly more decorative. A common theme was the "Wheel of Fortune". The King's tastes were extremely wide ranging - world maps, cities, seasons, saints, crusaders, kings, bible stories, romances of chivalry.

1st re-issue of the Great Charter (Magna Carta)

Newcastle upon Tyne coal trade developed

Dec. Unusually warm period

1216-72 Gold Penny = (20-24d) or 8-10p issued

1217 Magna Carta 2nd re-issue.

6th Nov. Forest Charter issued by Henry II.

The French army was defeated at Lincoln, they left hurriedly

1218 The Peace of Worcester.

1219 Jun.-Sep. Unusually wet period

1219-20 Stretton Baskerville was possessed by Ralph son of Nicholas, steward of William, Earl Ferrers.

1220 Jan.-Mar. Unusually wet period

Jul.-Nov. Unusually wet period
Roman numerals (numbers) were being widely replaced by Fibonacci's Arabic ones.

Horeston Grange (Oaston Fields area) may have begun construction

1220-1430 English records note 99 dry summers in this period against 36 wet ones.

1221 Weddington in the Assize Rolls = Whetinton: Chilvers Coton recorded as Kotes.

23rd May. A partial eclipse of the sun

Jul.-Aug. Unusually dry period

Dec. Unusually cool period

Entries from the Selden Society analyses (by D.M. Stenton) of the assizes at Coventry for Nuneaton offenders. (the descriptions have been simplified)

Selden Entry Nos.

319 Ralf, son of Nicholas was the plaintiff against the prioress of Etone; this also involved Nicholas son of Thomas.
342 John Russel complained against Aleis, daughter of William.
405 The prioress of Etone denied draining a pool at Stockingford that Henry of Lilbourne had constructed.

430 Johannes Russel, brought another action against Aleis for illegally altering a covenant on a piece of land at Chilvers Coton.

551 Asce, son of Hugh offered himself on the 4th day against Ralf Stut and Eleanor, his wife and Maud and Agnes daughters of William in a plea of assize. It involved illegally altering the covenant on a piece of land at Chilvers Coton.

Nobody ultimately appeared at the court hearing. Sureties had been offered by Roger, son of Kachenild and Drogo, son of William de Ware.

556 The Abbot of Leicester and Henry of Lilbourne were accused of depriving the prioress of Etone of her free tenements at Stockingford.

565 John de Wytewell, Abel of Stockingford, Alexander the Smith, Robert Brid, Geoffrey the tailor, Thomas de Witewel, John Terry, Harding of Stockingford, Richard Bonseriaunt, Edith of Stockingford and Gilbert de Coudres were charged with trying to deprive Henry Lilbourne of his pasture and free tenement at Stockingford.

645 The Abbot of Leicester took action against the prior of Nuneaton concerning 60 acres of land (with all of its rights) which he claimed belonged to Leicester.

The prior declared that King John had given the priory a charter showing it was Nuneaton's legal property.

650 The Abbot of Leicester claimed rights on land in Nuneaton; this also involved Nicholas de Hintes, William of Arden of Radbourne, Gilbert de Poel and the prior of Etone.

843 An unknown man was found dead in the water at Caldecote - presumed murdered.

844 Clarice and Richard de Rudeill stated that William son of Odo and John his son and John his nephew did wound Richard de Rudeill.

Rannulf of Lindley and Ralf, son of Herbert of Lindley were also mentioned.

854 William Boby killed William de Pole of Nuneaton and fled he was a stranger to the area and was declared an outlaw.

855 Humphrey Shakewar and Lettice, Robert the miller, Lettice's brother killed Robert Brun and fled. Humphrey was in frankpledge and a Nuneaton villager.

They were declared outlaws.

894 Stephen Brun of Caldecote was suspected of robbery; he was taken to Sheriff Walter le Poher: le Poher let him go on sureties from Henry, son of Gilbert and William, his brother; both of Grandborough. Brun, ultimately escaped and was declared an outlaw.

Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelvredescote in the Feet of Fines

c.1221 English glass industry established (windows may have appeared as early as 1180)

1221-24 Arrival of Dominican and Franciscan Friars in England

1221-42 In this period Griff Manor House built ("Sudeley Castle") occupied by Ralph de Sudeley. (No known illustration or photograph exists of this building; no known map exists showing its outlines)

1222 23rd Apr. St. George's day established at Oxford Council

Apr. Unusually cool period

Jun. Unusually warm period

Jul.-Aug. Unusually dry period

28th Sep. Halley's Comet returned

30th Nov. A great storm recorded in Warwickshire

1223 Jan.-Oct. Unusually wet period

Leprosy arrived in north west Europe

1224 Caldicote (Caldecote) recorded in Bracton's Note-book Henry de Bracton (Bratton or Bretton) died in 1268, he was a judge and ecclesiastic; he wrote De Legibus et Consuetudinibus Angliae, this was the first attempt at a complete treatise on the laws and customs of England. He also left his Note-Book containing 2,000 legal cases with comments.

Anglo-French war began

Jan.-Mar. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

The first Poll Tax first introduced

1224-25 Bad harvests: all grains

1224-38 Alexander Stavensby, Bishop of the local area.

1225 Jul.-Aug. Unusually dry period

Assessment of one-fifteenth Tax from local rural area. 12 shillings (60p) per square mile

3rd re-issue of the Great Charter

1225-91 Typical number of animals per tax-payer or per tenant

Horses and oxen	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs
1-2	2-4	11-15	1-2

1226 Osebert Tilemon recorded as a clayworker at Exhall

Henry III asked Mayor of Winchester to obtain 3 lbs of sugar, a quantity considered vast at that time.

King Henry III confirmed the right to a weekly Tuesday market in Nuneaton. A fair (fayre) and charter are often associated with this event.
Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period
1226-67 Bad harvest: all grains

1227 To attract new traders and craftsmen the Priory of St. Mary issued a charter granting freedom from servile duties to all who took up new Burgage Freehold plots. They would also have the right to elect a mayor. The burgesses were to pay a chief rent of 15d (7p) per annum, free of all services, for their burgage plots, the sizes were 3 x 9 Perches (50' x 150' or 15.25 m x 45.75 m).

The majority of plots were in Abbey Street indicating that the market area had already been defined as early as 1227. Not more than half of the plots were ever sold. Previous attempts by the Priory to increase its income included developing a new housing area along the Abbey Street Plot.

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

c.1227 Richard was Prior at Etone

c.1227-32 Sibil was Prioress at Etone

1228 Henry de Hastings owned Yardley Gobion and Burton Hastings. Mentioned in Close Rolls. Also 1250, Yardley Hastings, Higham Gobion. Joseph and Alfred Scrivener's ancestral villages. (see 19thC.)

William Le Archer disputed Caldecote manor's half Knight's fee to William Ruffus.

c.1228-1245 Robert was Prior at Etone

1229 First mention of an English Royal Mint

1229-31 Earls of Chester overlords of Hartshill. Constable of Kenilworth ordered to grant Ralph, 200 bream for his fish pond at Stretton Baskerville.

1230 Jan. Unusually wet period. The legendary outlaw and fugitive, Robin Hood may have been recorded in a Yorkshire Pipe Roll. The first detail history was printed c.1495 as "Lytell Geste of Robyn Hoode". Joseph Ritson in the 18thC. stated that Robin was born at Locksley in 1160.

14th May. A partial eclipse of the sun

Local price of grains per Quarter (28 lbs or 12.7 kg): Wheat 4s (20p) Barley 2s 10d (14p) and Oats 1s 7d (8p)

Dec. Unusually cool period

c.1230 The central tower of Etone Priory collapsed, it destroyed the presbytery and part of the transepts. Sudeley Castle (Griff Manor House) constructed

1231 William Fitz Warin was the Steward of the Royal Household, members of this family had Nuneaton connections

1232 Mar.-Oct. Unusually dry period

Frederick II (Holy Roman Emperor) issued an edict that entrusted the hunting down of heretics to state officials. This persecution became known as the Inquisition. (see 1258, 1320, 1479, 1542 and 1820)

The mechanical clock was invented

1233 1st Jun. Wednesday, King Henry III's charter changed Nuneaton Market day to Saturday (a fair or fayre may have been associated with this)
Nuneaton recorded as ETHON in Calendar of Close Rolls

Gryva (Griff) recorded in ancient deeds

Jul.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1233-39 Nuneaton recorded as ETHON in Calendar of Charter Rolls

1234 Etone Priory had 93 Nuns and 7 Chaplains.

Jan.-Feb. Unusually dry and cool period with a severe frosty local winter

3rd Feb. Friday, Papal Registers and Papal letters recorded: an indult to the Prioress and nuns at Etone; they were to hold for their use, on its voidance, the church of Cau(n)ton, of their patronage. The value was under 16 marks, provided a vicar was appointed.

1235 Weddington in Book of Fees = Wetintone

Chelverdescote Combe (Catalogue of Ancient Deeds)

	Arbury Priory had 5 canons
	Statute of Merton: this authorised Manorial Lords to enclose portions of waste provided sufficient pasture was left for tenants.
	Walter de Astley held 1 Knight's Fee at Weddington
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
1236	The King refused to allow magnates the right of putting their poachers in private prisons.
	Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period.
	May.-Oct. Unusually dry period
	May.-Aug. Unusually warm period and very hot and dry summer locally
1236-38	The Etone Priory central tower was being rebuilt after it collapsed some years previously. King Henry III granted 25 oaks from the Royal Forests for its restoration.
1237	Hugh le Poer, Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire.
	Nuneaton recorded as EYTON in Calendar of Close Rolls
	Feb. Unusually wet period
1238	A very hot and dry summer locally
	Nuneaton recorded as EATONA in Bracton's notebook
	Jan.-May. Unusually wet period.
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period
1239	Jan.-Mar. Unusually wet period
	3rd May. Tuesday. Henry III confirmed Nuneaton's "Feast of the Holy Cross" and added 4-6th May. Priory church rebuilt.
	3rd Jun. A partial eclipse of the sun
1239-41	Hugh Pattishill, Bishop of the local area.
1240	Jan.-Mar. Unusually dry period
	Apr.-Oct. Unusually wet period
c.1240-1247	Ida was Prioress at Etone
1240-70	Bartholomaeus Anglicus or Bartholomew de Glanville wrote one of the greatest histories of the Mediaeval period. He was professor of Theology at Paris. His book was first printed in English in 1495.
1241	Thomas de Estley confirmed that land at Marston belonged to the Combe estates.

The Mongols, ruled by Ogodei, (one of Genghis Khan's 4 sons) sent armies led by Genghis' grandson, Batu, reached parts of Silesian Poland (Legnica) and Eastern Europe! They were poised to attack Vienna when Ogodei died! They brought the Black Death plague to Europe with their horses. The bacteria Yersinia pestis lived in the bloodstream of the flea that lived on their horses; the flea then adapted to live on the west European rat. There were 2 forms: Pneumonic, which caused spitting of blood, followed by death in 3 days; Bubonic, which caused bleeding beneath the skin producing black skin, followed by death in 5 days.

The epidemic stopped wars and ruined many land owners because their male workforce died It allowed surviving workers to negotiate better wages.

Medical science was still trying to perfect a vaccine in 2001 to combat recurrent outbreaks of black death in the closing years of the millennium. (see 1347 A.D.)

Apr.-Oct. Unusually dry and warm period

6th Oct. A partial eclipse of the sun

The word "La Poterie" (pottery) recorded in the Nuneaton area

Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelv(e)r(e)scote (Catalogue of Ancient Deeds)

1242 Thomas de Astley held 1 Knight's Fee and Book of Fees = Wetintone

May.-Oct. Unusually dry and warm period

1243 Adelina was Prioress at Etone

The 5 year Truce

Etone's Prioress leased manor of Attleborough to Eton. The lease was converted to sale in 1293.

1244 The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield gave 60 oaks for the rebuilding of parts of Etone Priory destroyed in a fire. The nuns income was so badly affected they were allowed to appropriate the tithes from Chawton in 1234 and Catherington in 1292 (Hampshire) as long as they provided and paid for a vicar for each parish.

England held the First Dunmore Flitch Archery Competition in King Henry III reign.

Aug.-Oct. Unusually dry period

1245 Book of Fees = Wetinton (Weddington)

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1245-56 Roger Weseham, Bishop of the local area.

1246 William de Hartshill enclosed Ansley and 'injured the tenants'.

Jun.-Oct. Unusually wet period

William Trussel, Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire

1246-47 Feet of Fines: Ralph, Abbot of Miravalle, (Merevale), Robert and Margeryde Baseuile (Basevile), Geoffrey and Elizabeth de Sepia.

Bad harvests: wheat, barley

1247 Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelvredescote (Assize Rolls) and Chelfredescote (Feet of Fines)

	Issue of new coinage. The cross was enlarged to the coin's edge to prevent clipping.
	In a short time the 3 mints were increased by 16.
	Etone Priory leased a mill to Fr. Henricus, "a mill by an old fishpond, which mill he had built himself"
	The River Anker was recorded as ANKER in the Assize Rolls.
	Nuneaton recorded as NONNE ETON in Cartae Miscellenaea
	Gilbert was Prior at Etone
	Mar.-May. Unusually cool period
	Jun.-Oct. Unusually dry period
1247-48	Bad harvests: wheat and barley
pre-1248	Thomas Potter of Atherstone recorded as a clayworker
1248	Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelurecote (Calendar of Charter Rolls)
	Jan.-Mar. Unusually warm and dry period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
1248-49	Midlands had heavy snow, this forced the Northampton tournament to be cancelled.
1249	Jan.-Mar. Unusually warm and dry period
1250	Local price of Grains per Quarter (28 lbs or 12.7 kg): Wheat 4s (20p) Barley 2s 9d (14p) and Oats 1s 7d (8p)
c.1250	The ships rudder invented, after this time the value of wood and timber increased rapidly; the remaining forest had to be protected to stop “wood stealing”. The offenders were given 3 months hard labour with a whipping.
	Henry III proclaimed the first government in England. After the Conquest the Barons had developed successful estates and resented the King’s power. They wanted to manage in totality their, lands, the justice systems and economy.
1251	Simon de Montfort suppressed Gascon rebels. De Montfort came from France in his early twenties with poor prospects; he tried to make good his tenuous claim to the earldom of Leicester. He succeeded in his claim to Leicester and later secretly married King Henry’s widowed sister. This gradually fanned the flames of rivalry between the king and Simon. Simon gained popular support from the barons.
1252	Jan.-Aug. Unusually dry period
	Mar.-Aug. Unusually warm period
	Sep.-Oct. Unusually wet period
	25th Oct. Friday, Writ of Sheriff of Warwickshire and Leicestershire to inquire whether Prioress and Nuns have enjoyed the liberties contained in charters of the King of England.
	Inquisition of Prioress and Nuns confirmed they had enjoyed liberties.

1253	Apr.-Jun. Unusually dry period
	Jul.-Aug. Unusually wet period
	Anglo-French truce reprieved
1254	A council of Prelates and Magnates refused to grant King Henry III a tax without the assent of knights and lesser tenants; the subsequent assembly of knights were elected by the Shires
	A severe frosty local winter
	Jan.-Nov. Unusually cool period
1255	William de Grey was Steward of the Royal Household, his family had Nuneaton connections from 13thC. to 20thC.
	Feb. Unusually wet period
	Apr.-May. Unusually dry period
	7th May. Friday, a grant was made to the prioress of Etone in consideration of their hospitality and service to the poor of the church of Cleibrok, Lincolnshire, of their patronage, to take effect on its voidance, without the Bishop's or Archdeacon's assent, a perpetual vicars portion.
1256	Henry II made to Etone Priory to aid nuns to the sum of 200 marks
	Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period
	Cecilia de Lexynton was Prioress at Etone
1256-57	Bad harvests: wheat and barley
1256-60	William de Verney was Prior at Etone
?	Peter de Palerne was Prior at Etone to Henry III
1257	The Gold Penny issued, it was twice the weight of the silver penny (worth twenty times as much) at that time the was great economic distress in England; this was based on the gold florin from Italy.
	Jan.-Nov. Unusually wet period
1257-58	Bad harvests: wheat and barley
1257-72	Cecilia de Sutton was Prioress at Etone
1257-95	Roger Nieuland, Bishop of the local area.
1258	The barons led by Simon de Montfort forced reforms on King Henry III (Provisions of Oxford). The absolute power of the crown was replaced by a council of nobles and clergy with all foreign courtiers ejected. There were to be 3 parliaments a year; each county would send 4 loyal knights to attend it.
	Jan.-Feb. Unusually warm, wet period
	Mar.-Jun. Unusually cool wet period
	Pope Alexander IV allowed the Inquisition to deal with witchcraft if it was connected with heresy.
1259	Aug. Unusually dry period

	Oct.-Nov. Unusually wet period
	Provision of Westminster a plan for legal reform to enact a Baronial council. In effect a "bachelry".
	Matthew Paris died; he was a historian and monk at St. Albans. He carried on compiling Chronica Majora from 1235. He also wrote “Historia Minor” and “Historia Anglorum”.
1260	Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Jul.-Oct. Unusually cool period
	Henry III extended trading rights in all of Germany
	Kubla Khan established the Mongol dynasty
1261	A severe frosty local winter
	There was growing misgovernment in England which led to Baronial wars
	Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool period
c.1261	Brett’s Hall began construction near Ansley Common
1261-70	A thatcher earned 2d per day (less than 1p)
1262	William de Hartshill died.
1263	Simon de Montfort returned from France
	Jun.-Jul. Unusual dry period
	Jun. The Battle of Lewes where Simon de Montfort captured King Henry III and Prince Edward (the future Edward I).
	5th Aug. A partial eclipse of the sun
1264	Thomas Astley was slain at the Battle of Evesham. He held Weddington at a value of £12 3s 4d. Weddington was later forfeited to the king. Andrew Astley later redeemed the estates.
	Earliest record of a Justice of the Peace
1265	Simon de Montfort summoned the first House of Commons (Model Parliament). By August he had been captured and beheaded near Evesham.
	Edward (the future Edward I) rescued Henry III at the Battle of Evesham.
	Simon was brutally dismembered by Edward.
1266	Andrew Astley was granted Astley by Royal Confirmation; an order to crenellate
	Astley Castle was issued. Kenilworth Castle fell after a siege.
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
1267	Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelveredescote (Calendar of Charter Rolls)
	25th May. A partial eclipse of the sun
	The Statute of Marlborough

1268 William and Agnes Trussel at Monks Kirby (an important family who later had connections with Attleborough

1269 Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

Nicholas de Turvile tenant at Burton Hastings

1270 Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool period

13th Feb. Thursday, Etone's Prioress satisfied the king that she had collected taxes

Mar.-May. Unusually wet period
Local price of Grains per Quarter (28 lbs or 12.7 kg): Wheat 5s 9d (29p) Barley 3s 11d (20p) and Oats 2s 2d (11p)

1270's An upward surge in prices, sometimes due to bad harvests

1271 Jan.-May. Unusually cool period

13th Feb. A tax of 20 marks paid by Etone Priory

A severe frosty local winter

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1271-80 Local prices Decennial averages:

shillings pence	s d	or /-	
Hurdles	7s	11d	per 100
Horseshoes	4s	6 3/4d	per 100
Horseshoe nails	14d		per 1,000
Ploughshoes	2s	8 1/2d	per dozen
Ploughshares	8s	0 3/4d	per dozen
Clouts	5s	5 1/2d	per 100
Clout nails	1s	0 3/4d	per 1,000
Wheels plain	1s	6d	
Wheels	2s	6d	ad ferr (with iron)
Ligatures	8s	0 1/2d	
Great nails	1s	0d	
Laths	3s	6d	per 1,000
Plain tiles	2s	11 3/4d	per 1,000
Crests	-		per 100
Tile pins	0s	1 1/2d	per 1,000
Lath nails	0s	8 3/4d	per 1,000
Board nails	0s	3 1/4d	per 100
Millstones	36s	6d	foreign
Millstones	-		Bucks.

1272 Nuneaton recorded as NUNNE ETON(E) in the Feet of Fines

Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

Jun.-Nov. Unusually dry period

c.1272 Henry was Prior at Etone

1272-94 Roger de Verney was Prior at Etone Priory

King Edward I 1272-1307 A.D. He was an imaginative law maker and just law enforcer. He pushed forward the British Constitution and strengthened the Royal Household. He was involved with the Midlands on many occasions. He attempted to subdue Wales and Scotland.

The late Plantagenet period was characterised by great men, great struggles and great progress. Conquests were attempted against Wales, Scotland and France. Parliament was organised to take its part in government.

The King's right to set taxes was transferred to the Parliamentary process. Feudalism decayed, the rise of the more law-abiding middle-classes. Towns and cities grew in independence and importance. Industry and commerce were extended; the law was strengthened. At the end of this period there were excessive taxes, high food prices and scarcity of labour caused by the French wars and the Black Death.

This all led to social revolution, that released many labourers from feudal services, converted large areas of corn land to enclosed pastures for sheep and greatly increased commercial prosperity through the woollen industry. The use of gunpowder destroyed the importance of the knight and the castle. Trade, industry and commerce increased extensively, wool being the most successful. In most towns weekly markets established.

1273 Osbert de Beresford, Sheriff of Warwickshire.

Mar. Jun.-Jul. Unusually wet period

1274 Mar.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Treaty for commerce between England and Flanders

1274-75 Bad harvests: wheat

1275 May. Unusually dry period

Jun.-Nov. Unusually wet period

Rotuli Hundredorum = Wetintone

Nuneaton sent its first MP to parliament? This may be without foundation, none were listed in the contemporary rolls of members.

First Statute of Westminster; this was set by the King and limited the amount a Lord could ask.

Alexander de Compton accounted for 36s received for 1 perch of sea coal sold at Chilvers Coton.

1276 Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period

Apr.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Warwickshire Coalfield: Alexander de Compton accounted for £103s 4d from 3 rods of sea coal sold. His family had local connections from 13thC. to 20thC.

1276-77 Bad harvests: barley

1277 Feb.-Mar. Unusually wet period

Apr.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Bramcote: Richard the Hunter’s (or the Forester) estate added to the Weston estate.

16th Oct. Saturday, the king commanded grain to be provided for Etone Priory

1278 Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Statute of Gloucester, restricts Feudal jurisdiction; decreed necessity of a trial before granting of a Royal Pardon

1278-9 The following tables are compiled from various statistical data compiled in the mediaeval period. This data has been the subject of much research and interpretation of prices and agricultural returns. (see references: Stratton 1969 and Beveridge 1937)

Typical local prices: years Michaelmas to Michaelmas (29th Sept.)

D= drage M= malt BM= barley malt DM= drage malt
m = mixtil b= bladum p= peas v= vetch

Quarters	Bushel	Pecks	
Quarters/sums or strikes			
shillings pence s d or /-			
Wheat		4s	4 5/8d
Barley		3s	8 7/8d
Drage		2s	8d[mixture of barley and oats]
Oats		2s	4 3/8d
Beans		3s	2 3/8d
Peas		2s	9 3/8d
Vetch		3s	9 1/8d
Rye		4s	1d
Malt		4s	0d 1st quality
Malt		-	2nd quality

Labour Rates:

	pence per day
Threshing:	
Wheat	2 1/2d
Barley	1 1/2d
Oats	1 1/4d
Reaping:	
Wheat	5 1/4d
Barley	6 1/4d
Drage	6d
Oats	5d
Rye	5d
Beans	5 5/8d Peas and Vetch
Mowing per acre	4d
Thatching	2 1/4d
Help	-
Thatcher and man	4 1/2d

Labour Rates:

		pence per day	
Carpenters	3d		(average)
Carpenters	3d		
Mason		-	
Tiler		5 1/4d	
Slater	-		
Sawyer		-	
Sawing per 100ft	-		

Livestock:

shilling pence	s d or /-			
Bulls	10s	6d		
Oxen	11s	9d		
Cows	9s	1 1/2d		
Affri	14s	11 1/4d		stotts [affri = female draught animal ox, horse]

[stot = inferior horse or young castrated ox]

Cart horse	23s	1	1/2d	
Porci	3s	4 3/4d	[pigs]	
Porculi	-		[piglets]	
Sowi	-		[young pigs?]	
Hoggets	-		[sheep of either sex between 6 mths old and first shearing or boar in 2nd year]	
Porcelli	0s	8d		[pig in 2nd year]
Sows/pigs	-			
Boars	5s	0d		
Muttons	1s	5 1/4d	highest	
Muttons	1s	1 1/2d		
Ewes	1s	0d		
Hoggasters	1s	0d		[sheep in 2nd year]
Hurtardus	-			[a ram]
Lambs	0s	8d		
Capons	0s	1 1/2d		
Cocks	-			
Hens	0s	1 3/8d		
Pullets	0s	0 5/8d		
Geese	0s	2 7/8d		
Goslings	0s	1 7/8d		
Ducks	-			
Pigeons	-			per dozen

Farm produce:

po= pondus [weight], risa [rice?] or wey

stone 14 lb clove 7 lb butter in gallons

Hides	2s	7d		highest
Cheese	10s	2 1/4d	po	
Butter	10s	0d		po
Eggs	0s	3 3/4d	per 100	
Lard	1s	6d		per 10 lbs
Cepum	1s	1 1/4d	per 10 lbs [onions]	
Unctum	1s	3d		per 10 lbs [grease or fat]
Pinguedo	-			per 10 lbs [fat from the season of grease in hunting]
Candles	-			per dozen

1279 Jan.-Mar. Unusually warm period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Silver Groat coin issued = (4d) or 1.5p

Statute of Mortmain forbid the granting of land to Corporations

Household Ordinances and new coinage issued.

1279-80 Hundred Rolls suggest that much of Midland England yardlanders were in a distinct minority, nearly half of all holdings were smaller than a half-yardland.

Size of tenant holdings in the Hundred Rolls:

Villein Free

over 1 yardland	521 (8%)	173 (1%)
1 yardland	904 (15%)	3,940 (25%)
half yardland	1,083 (18%)	5,724 (36%)
quarter yardland	775 (12%)	1,378 (9%)
small	2,251 (47%)	4,687 (29%)
TOTAL	5,534 (100%)	15,902 (100%)

1279-1553 The Farthing coin issued = (0.25d) or 0.1p

1279-1660 The Halfpenny gold coin issued = (0.5d)

1280 Hugh de Lilleburne granted messuages, mill and land at Stockingford to his son Hugh.

By the end of the 13thC. England had a thriving agricultural economy. This High-Mediaeval period saw population as high as 5 to 6,000,000. Much land had been reclaimed back into use, prosperity was improving.

Within 20 years a period of famine, flood, freeze and disease began.

Oct. Unusually wet period

1281 Gilbert, vicar of Eaton bought Brett's Hall off Sir John de Montalt. (No known illustration or photograph exists of Brett's Hall; the building outline is not recorded on any known map)

La Gryve (Griff) recorded in Assize Rolls

Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool and wet period with severe frosty local winter

1282 Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelveriscote (Catalogue of Ancient Deeds)

Jan. Unusually cool period

1283 John Paynel was Lord of Caldecote

Social Hierarchy Landed/Rural

Laity	Clergy
earls	archbishops
bishops	abbots
barons	
knights	rectors
lesser gentry	vicars
franklins	lesser clergy
free cottars	
unfree cottars	
servants	
marginals	

Jun.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1283-84 Bad harvests: all grains

1284 Nuneaton recorded as NUNE ETON in Calendar of Patent Rolls

Jan.-Feb. and Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry periods

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet periods

1284-87 Agnes de Sutton was Prioress at Etone

1285 Andrew de Astley claimed view of frankpledge (each member of tithing was responsible for the good behaviour of the others) gallows, free warren (game) and waif (ownerless animals) but acknowledged the vill was eldable cut off or barren with the hundred and county.

Assize Rolls = Wetyngton and Waddinton; Chilvers Coton recorded as Cheluerescote.

2nd Statute of Winchester: It bound every man to serve the king in case of invasion or revolt and to pursue felons when the hue and cry was raised against them. The wall or fence of a park should be 200 feet (60 m) from the king's highway; the trees were cleared to prevent ambush. This gave responsibilities to landowners to maintain roads and protect travellers from robbery by clearing bushes and undergrowth from land adjacent to the highway.

Statute of Westminster: Also saw the enclosure of manorial wastes; the common rights belonged to the tenants. First Justices of the Peace installed in England; it set three assizes a year to meet, *nisi prius* began, most civil actions would be heard previously by assize judges; this saved parties and jurors a weary journey to London.

Jan.-Apr. Unusually warm and wet period
Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

bosco de Eton wood in Nuneaton

1286 Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool period

May.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Edward defined and issued Circumspecte agatis, this described those offences triable in Ecclesiastical Courts

1287 Robert Fitz John was Steward of the Royal Household, his family had Nuneaton connections

Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1287-92 Roger was Prior at Etone

1288 Ralph Walpole Bishop of Norwich, his family had local connections

Jan.-Mar. Unusually warm period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1289 Richard de Alanson took goods from Caldecote
1290 Campo qui vocatur Godsalmes Wode in Stockingford (ancient woodlands recorded in Stockingford)

Lay Subsidy Rolls began. There was an extended period of 42 records between 1334 to 1434. This was a system of taxation based on the number of Knights' fees or ploughlands a tenant held and was replaced by one based on that part of a person's wealth which could be classed as movable.

King Edward I expelled the Jews from England and seized most of their assets.

Their place as royal creditors was taken by the Italians, papal bankers and wool exporters. The Jews were forced to wear yellow badges; Edward had over 300 hanged and a further 3000 expelled.

Local price of Grains per Quarter (28 lbs or 12.7 kg): Wheat 5s 4d (27p) Barley 3s 10d (19p) and Oats 2s 1d (12p)

Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool and wet period

Mar. Unusually dry period

Jul.-Oct. Unusually wet period

Queen Eleanor's' funeral cortege passed within 30 miles of Nuneaton on its way from Lincoln to London. The nearest surviving Eleanor Cross was at Hardingstone, Northampton

1290-91 Bad harvests: all grains

1290-97 Agatha de Sutton was Prioress at Etone

c.1290 Muddimansland recorded at Coton

1291 Horeston Grange owned by Etone Priory It contained 6 carucates of land worth 10s. (No detail illustration or map is known to exist of this building)

St. James church, Weddington valued at £4: Taxatio Ecclesiastica = Wedinton

May.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

Chilvers Coton recorded as Chelvercote (Taxatio Ecclesiastica)

1291-1300 Local prices Decennial averages:
see 1278-9 for definitions

shillings pence s d or /-

Hurdles	9s	3d	per 100
Horseshoes	3s	10 3/4d	per 100
Horseshoe nails		13 1/2d	per 1,000
Ploughshoes	2s	2 1/2d	per dozen
Ploughshares	9s	9d	per dozen
Clouts	5s	0 1/4d	per 100
Clout nails	1s	1 1/2d	per 1,000
Wheels plain	1s	10 1/4d	
Wheels	2s	11d	ad ferr (with iron)
Ligatures	8s	11d	
Great nails	1s	8d	

1292 Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period
May. Unusually wet period

Jun. Unusually dry period

Edward I ordered Judges to train for the English legal profession

A severe frosty local winter

1293 Jan.-Feb. Unusually warm period

May. Unusually wet period

Jun. Unusually dry period

Jul.-Aug. Unusually wet period

	The first Christian missionaries reached China
	Wolvershill and Bulkington (and other manors) were settled on William la Zuche and Maud his wife and the heirs of Maud by William de Boys.
	Etone's Prioress's lease for the manor of Attleborough to Eton was converted to sale.
1293-94	Bad harvests: wheat and barley
1293-1332	A period of high prices for all grains
1294	The Archers and Margaret were still feuding over Caldecote
	Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool period
	Apr.-Nov. Unusually wet period
	Walter was Prior at Etone
1294-95	Bad harvests: wheat and barley
1295	Jan.-Mar. Unusually wet period
	British Parliament was organised
1295-96	Bad harvests: wheat and barley
1296	Nuneaton recorded as NUNNE ETON(E) in Calendar of Patent Rolls
	Calendar of Patent Rolls = Wedynton
	Mar.-Apr. Unusually dry period
	Jun.-Jul. Oct-Nov. Unusually wet period
	William Trussel owned Monks Kirby
1296-1321	Walter Langton, Bishop of the local area.
1297	22nd Feb. Friday, Etone's Prioress was ordered to deliver certain items without delay to the Sheriffs of Rutland, Berkshire, Warwickshire and Lancashire.
	2nd Mar. The Prioress of Etone ordered to cease tax collection
	May.-Jul. Oct.-Nov. Unusually dry period
1298	May. Unusually wet period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period.
	Liber Sextus on the Decretals (Papal decree) issued (Sacrosanctae)
	Spinning wheel invented
1298-1300	Hugh was the Prior at Etone
	Hawise de Sancto Mauro was Prioress at Etone
1299	Feb.-Mar. Unusually wet period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually warm period
	Bad Coinage Act restricted poor minting

In the 13thC. over 200 moated sites were recorded in Warwickshire. By the end of the century a typical lowland married couple with three children aged 5 to 12 would have required the following food needs: 6 quarters 5 bushels of wheat, barley and oats; 3 quarters of barley for malting and brewed to give the family an ale supply. Grinding this grain and malt required payment of a mill toll (1/24th).

Mediaeval Pottery industry established and lasted for 200 years in Chilvers Coton area. Horse drawn wagons predominate in Warwickshire. Roast swan was a popular dish at the Lord's banquet, the bird was plucked before it was cooked and then the feathers were put back in for serving.

In the early part of this century the admirers of poverty were losing the argument within the church. The growing hostility towards the poor came at a time when economic measures were beginning to bite hard.

An Englishman holding an Irish Bishopric (Fitzralph) believed that property could be found in Paradise, and poverty - not wealth, was a product of a sinful life. He saw labour as an alternative to poverty, he began to develop the "work ethic".

"He who will not work neither shall he eat"

William Langland writing in 1370-80 advocated the same ideas. He idealised the working peasant; criticised the greed and idleness of the mendicant orders and secular beggars - he believed they should be made to work by hunger. These harsh attitudes towards beggars were related to the labour shortages of the time (brought about by plague deaths, bad harvests etc.) The poor provoked a moral panic; they were said to poison wells, mutilate children etc. In the eyes of the wealthy the poor became divided into 2 groups:

1) the idlers and criminals who deserved no charity

2) the real poor, incapable of work, fallen on hard times after a period of respectability

1300 Nuneaton's population estimated at over 800

A Jubilee Year proclaimed, a Biblical rule where debts from some of the previous years were cancelled. This generous measure recognised that loans would accumulate within a family and then be passed down the generations never to be fully repaid.

Hallmarking first instituted. All gold articles had to be 19 carat quality. (This was unchanged until 1477)

Typical local prices: years Michaelmas to Michaelmas

(derived from Stratton 1969 and Beveridge 1937)
D= drage M= malt BM= barley malt DM= drage malt
m = mixtil b= bladum p= peas v= vetch
see 1278-79 for definitions

Quarters Bushel Pecks
Quarters/sums or strikes
shillings pence s d or /-

Oats	1s	11 3/8d	
Beans	2s	3 7/8d	
Peas	2s	4 1/4d	
Vetch	1s	9 3/8d	
Rye	3s	6 5/8d	
Malt	4s	6 1/8d	1st quality
Malt	2s	8d	2nd quality

Labour Rates

	pence per day	
Threshing:		
Wheat	3d	
Barley	1 1/2d	
Oats	1d	
Reaping:		
Wheat	6 1/8d	
Barley	5 3/4d	
Drage	5 3/4d	
Oats	5d	
Rye	-	
Beans	-	
Peas and Vetch		
Mowing per acre	6 1/2d	
Thatching	2 1/2d	
Help	0 1/2d	
Thatcher and man	3 1/8d	
Carpenters	3d	(average)
Carpenters	4d	
Mason	3d	
Tiler	-	
Slater	-	
Sawyer	3 1/2d	
Sawing per 100ft	8d	

Livestock:

shilling pence	s d or /-		
Bulls	10s	1d	
Oxen	10s	0 1/2d	
Cows	8s	0 1/4d	
Affri	12s	2 1/4d	stotts
Cart horse	13s	4d	
Porci	2s	6d	
Porculi	2s	1d	
Sowi	3s	4d	
Hoggets	-		
Porcelli	0s	8 3/4d	
Sows/pigs	-		
Boars	8s	0d	
Muttons	2s	0d	highest
Muttons	1s	1d	
Ewes	0s	11 1/4d	
Hoggasters	1s	2d	
Hurtardus	2s	6d	
Lambs	0s	6d	
Capons	-		
Cocks	-		
Hens	0s	1 1/2d	
Pullets	0s	0 5/8d	
Geese	0s	3 1/2d	
Goslings	-		
Ducks	0s	2d	
Pigeons	0s	3d	per dozen

Farm produce:

po= pondus, risa or wey

stone 14 lb	clove 7 lb	butter in gallons

Hides	3s	4d	highest
Cheese	10s	3 1/2d po	
Butter	-		po
Eggs	0s	4d	per 100

Farm produce:

po= pondus, risa or wey

stone 14 lb	clove 7 lb	butter in gallons

Lard	-		per 10 lbs
Cepum	1s	1d	per 10 lbs
Unctum	1s	3 1/2d	per 10 lbs
Pinguedo	1s	0 1/2d	per 10 lbs
Sagmen	-		[root sag, to fill or feed]
Candles	2s	0d	per dozen

The Groat coin issued = (4d) or 1.5p

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1300-30 A period of climatic instability

The following settlements existed in the Nuneaton area:

Ansley, Arbury, Attleborough, Astley(and Castle), Bramcote, Brett's Hall, Bulkington, Burbage (and Hall), Burton Hastings, Caldecote, Coton, Exhall (and Hall), Fenny Drayton (and Hall), Galley Common, Griff (and Manor House - "Sudeley Castle"), Hartshill (and Castle),Higham, Hinckley (and Castle), Horeston Grange, The Hyde, Lindley, Mancetter, Marston Jabbett, Oldbury, Ryton, Shelford, Shenton, Sinney, Sketchley, Sole End, Stoke Golding (and "castle"), Stretton Baskerville, Upton, Weddington, Weston, Witherley, Wolvey and Wykin.

The following churches existed: St. Nicolas, Nuneaton; All Saints, Coton; St. James, Weddington; St. Theobald and St. Chad, Caldecote; Stretton Baskerville; St. James, Bulkington; St. Mary the Virgin, Astley; St. Margarets, Stoke Golding; St. Michael's, Fenny Drayton, Wykin Chapel, St. Peters, Higham; St. Peter's, Mancetter; St. John's, Lindley; St. John the Baptist, Wolvey, Sketchley Chapel.

The following monastic sites existed: Arbury Priory, Arbury/Coton Knights Templar, Nuneaton Priory and Alien Priory, Brett's Hall and Horeston Grange were also recorded as existing.

1300-1350 Decorated (Gothic) period of Architecture

START OF THE 14TH CENTURY A.D.

Park House (near Caldecote) may have begun construction

1301 Weddington recorded in the Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem [as Wetyndon]

Wedinton (spelling) in many old documents

King Edward I 's son, Edward of Caernarvon, became the first Prince of Wales

Mar.-May and Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

3rd Jun. Saturday, King Edward I (Longshanks) stayed at Etone Priory after visiting Kenilworth Castle.

25th Oct. Halley's Comet returned

1302 May. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Oct.-Nov. Unusually warm period

Bordeaux expelled French and British traders

1303 Catalogue of Ancient Deeds = Wedinton

Apr.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period

The Avoirdupois (hundredweights, stones, pounds and ounces) weight system replaced the merchant's pound in England

Additional building at Brett's Hall

1303-18 Joan de Bristol was Prioress at Etone

1304 Margaret sold Caldecote to Robert de Herle.

An old deed referred to a messuage near "the rivulam venientem de molindario abathie de Eton"

Jan.-Mar. Unusually wet period

Jul.-Sep. Unusually dry period

1305 29th Dec. William Jabet and John Panke agreed to go to arbitration about a messuage in Nunne Etone.

Sir William Wallace of Scotland (Braveheart) was executed after he was treacherously betrayed

Jan.-Mar. Aug.-Oct. Unusually cool period

Feb.-Oct. Unusually dry period

1306 A severe frosty local winter

Phillip IV expelled Jews from France, many came to England, migrating along the Watling Street.

Edward I prohibited the burning of coal in London "an intolerable nuisance" that caused environmental pollution

Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1307 Bulkyngtona (Bulkington) recorded in monastic deeds

Piers Gaveston made Earl of Cornwall

Mar.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Oct.-Nov. Unusually wet period

King Edward II succeeded his father, Edward I. He enjouyed rustic activities and kept company with artisans. He attacked Scotland and was defeated, he was later heavily influenced by the Earl of Leicester. After treachery, Leicester was executed in 1322.

1308 Coal was worked at Chilvers Coton on the Templar's Manor. Ancient deeds recorded the Templar's clay pit with sales to the Heath End area of the town

19th Jan. Will de Knychtcote, chaplain and patron of Chilvers Coton

Jan.-May. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period

church
1308-12 Chilvers Coton/Arbury Knights Templar House was closed down.

1308-28 Robert (de Rodborne) was Prior at Etone

1309 Nuneaton recorded as NUNNE ETON(E) in Catalogue of Ancient Deeds

11th Apr. Grant by John de Kenteburi in Attleborough to John de Hynkeleye, clerk perpetual vicar of Nuneaton of a messuage with gardens and land in Attleborough.

24th Jun. Tuesday, King Edward II stayed at the Templar's Manor House, Bermuda/Griff (Knights Templar)

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Sep. Unusually wet period

Oct.-Nov. Unusually dry period

1309? Grant by John son of Matilda de Benington to John de Hynkele clerk for 12 marks of land in Nuneaton with seven butts at the head Nuneaton town lying by the cross and reaching to the high road towards Weddington and with land on Northcroft, paying 12s yearly. Witnesses: William de Kentebury, bailiff of Nuneaton

Grant by John son of William de Kentebury living in Attleborough to John de Hynkel, clerk perpetual vicar of Nuneaton, of 3 acres in Attleborough, part at Ruggethurne extending into Mukkelslade part on "le Stonihul" upon Laftershul and upon Hornetehul, and the reversion of 5 acres in Attleborough lying at Murehulles in Mukkelslade upon Ruggethurne in the "le Honginde" upon Lefterdeheth and in Gingestret witnesses: William son of Ralph Page Attleborough

1309-74 Uneven harvests in this period; 13 good ones and 13 bad ones.

1310 Galf de Vilers vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Local price of Grains per Quarter (28 lbs or 12.7 kg): Wheat 6s 2d (31p), Barley 4s 5d (22p) and Oats 2s 9d (13p)

William, son of Stephen de Risindon of Nuneaton Priory, was an ordained sub-Deacon (recorded in Bishop of Worcester, Walter Reynolds' register)

31st Jan. A partial eclipse of the sun

John, called Colles of Caldecote was a tenant of D. Blokley

May.-Jul. Oct.-Nov. Unusually dry period

1310-11 Bad harvests: all grains

Severe winds struck Warwickshire, the local Knights Templar transported stone from the Nuneaton area to Temple Balsall for building repairs.

1311 22nd Jan. Robert de Herdwyk, priest and patron of Chilvers Coton church Lord Ordainers issued Ordinances that transferred Government from the King to the Barons

Jan. Unusually cool period

May.-Jun. Unusually dry period

1312 May.-Jul. Unusually dry period

5th Jul. A partial eclipse of the sun

30th Oct. Weddington: Rev. Geoffrey de Sutton first vicar recorded at St. James

Clemens V dissolved the Orders of Knights Templars and transferred their lands and money to the Knights of Hospitallers.

1313 John de Hastings held Mancetter

John Colles (priest) of Caldecote, rented local property (40s) from P.D. Blockele

Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period

The heirs of Henry de Hastings held the third part of a knight's fee at Bramcote (of the deceased John de Hastings).

1314 Etone granted 5 years dues on all goods brought into town to pay for paving
A very wet year locally

Robert the Bruce won the Battle of Bannockburn

Lord Zouche had free warren granted to him at Bramcote.

William Trussel, Sheriff of Warwickshire.

Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

Jun.-Nov. Unusually wet period

10th Sep. Stephen de Stocton, priest and patron of Chilvers Coton church
1315 Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool wet period

Jun.-Nov. Unusually wet period

This period was preceded by an advance of the ice caps, ice bergs came further south than normal. This caused the abandonment of the higher marginal farm lands.

Crops began to fail due to very wet dark winters.

1315-18 Great Famine: bad harvests: all grains - caused by severe weather conditions

1316 Weddington in Feudal Aids = Wodynton; Calendar of Inquisitions

Post Mortem = Wetendon

Mar.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1317 Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool wet period

29th Jun. Grant by William de Dunstaple son of Richard de Dunstaple, of Coventry, to John and Alice de Puysford of Coventry of 2 portions of curtilage in the street of the spring (vico fontis) Coventry towards Hulle Mulne.

1318 A very wet year locally

Nuneaton recorded as NONNETONE in Catalogue of Ancient Deeds Vol. V.

Thomas de Blyburgh vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

May. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1319 The Scots defeated the English at Myton-in-Swaledale

1320 Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period

Henry le Bret had 3 acres of waste land from William de Hartshill. Caldecote also passed to William.

Pope John XXII allowed the Inquisition to deal with witchcraft if was connected with heresy.

1320-21 Isabella de Sulleo (or de Sudlee) was Prioress at Etone

c.1320-84 John Wycliffe, born in Yorkshire, a religious reformer, he defied Papal teachings and eventually died at Lutterworth. It is recorded that the remains of his body were dug up and tipped into the nearby River Swift by Bishop Fleming of Lincoln. He was responsible for encouraging a Bible translation c. 1390; now thought to be by Nicholas of Hereford; the later versions are thought to be the work of John Purvey.

1321 Edmund de Schireford vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1321 Great Famine

Apr.-May. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1321-22 Bad harvests: wheat and barley

Civil War in England

1321-58 Bishop Northborough was responsible for the local area.

1322	Feb.-May. Unusually cool period
	Jul.-Oct. Unusually wet period
1322-23	Katherina de Stafford (or Stamford) was Prioress at Etone
1323	Nuneaton recorded as NONETON in Calendar of Inquisitions post mortem
	Weddington in the Lay Subsidy Rolls = Wedinton
	Apr.-May. Unusually wet period
	Oct.-Nov. Unusually dry period
1324	Bolkyngton (Bulkington) recorded in registers of Bishop Robert de Norbury, Lichfield
	English estates of foreign religious houses were constantly taken into the King's hands during wars with France.
	Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period
1325	Local price of Grains per Quarter (28 lbs or 12.7 kg): Wheat 6s 3d (31p), Barley 3s 11d (20p) and Oats 2s 10p (14p)
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Nov. Unusually cool period
1326	Edward II confirmed grant to Merevale Abbey.
	John the first Baron (John the Elder) granted to his grandson John and wife, Eleanor de Scales the manors of Griff and Sudeley. John the elder did not die until c.1336.
	Jan.-Mar. Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period
1327	Lay Subsidy Roll = Wedinton. There were 11.3 tax payers per 1,000 acres in Arden. Total number of Warwickshire tax payers = 6,000. Amice Potekyn recorded at Nuneaton as a clayworker. Clayworker taxation was largely undocumented; this could imply many women were working; they would have been sworn into Frankpledge, but would not serve on juries of the manor courts or leets.
	Justices of the Peace drawn from the gentry (lower nobility) with police and judicial authority were appointed to serve alongside Sheriffs (Royal County Officials)
	King Edward II was deposed by parliament
	25th Jan. King Edward III came to the throne. He would reign for the next 51years. He set about restoring the ruined dignity of the monarchy. He kept the loyalty of his barons, he was a good leader and great soldier. He established the Knights of the Garter.
	Hugh Trussel (family connected with Monks Kirby and Attleborough) in Lay Subsidy Rolls
	Jan. Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
1327-77	The gold Florin (Double Leopard) coin issued = (6s) or 30p

The gold Helm (Quarter Florin) coin issued = (18d) or 7.5p
The gold Leopard (Half Florin) issued = (3s) or 15p

1328 Etone Priory recorded 89 Nuns, Prior and 6 chaplains

Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

1329 Richard de Greneborough was Prior at Etone

The French culture dominated England

Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Oct. Unusually cool period

1329-32 Agatha de Aversham was Prioress at Etone

1330 Robert de Radbury was Prior at Etone

Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

May.-Nov. Unusually wet period

16th Jul. A partial eclipse of the sun

Weddington = Catalogue of Ancient Deeds = Wetintone

William Jabet had lost his common pasture in 80 acres of woodland in the Nuneaton-Stockingford area.

1331 Feet of Fines = Wedington

Mar.-Jun. Unusually dry period

1331-32 Overlie, le Neutakenhin and le hywod woods recorded in the Nuneaton area
1332 William Trussel (see Trusswell) on Rolls

The all-time peak of Pewter tableware production was attained = 1,600,000 lbs.
First division of House into Lords and Commons

Lay Subsidy Rolls = Wedinton with Sir Thomas de Astley (worth 30p), Emma le Cocus, Henry Lyne, Maynard Godbody, Richard the Smith, Robert de Stoke, Simon Russell, William Sweyn, Robert at the Mill, Geoffrey le Parker, Geoffrey de Corleye, John Matheu. 66 Taxpayers recorded in Nuneaton. Edith the smith also recorded, a woman blacksmith?

Other names included:
Adecock, Aldridge, Alinore, Allen, Alys, Arundell, Ashe, Atherston, Atterton, Aumbresbury, Allewyne, Bagot, Barker, Basevile, Baxter, Bay, Bedwyth, Bertram, Bolessover, Bonner, Braundeston, Brett, Broughton, Bryan, Carpenter, Carter, Cattell, Cave, Chadd, Coleugh, Copstone, Cormel, Cours, Curteys, Dande, Dobb, Dobyn, Dowenetoun, Dunstall, Falk, Flavel, Flore, Foleuyll, Forryan, Frere, Gerueyse, Gilbert, Gould, Grenneburgh, Hall, Henry, Herford, Hereward, de Herle, Hopper, Hore, Humfrey, Hunt, Hurn, Idle, Isabel, Jabet, Jeffery, Jervis,

Johh, Jurdan, Kemp, Large, Lavender, Lench, Loteman, Malyn, Marciers, Maud, Maydegod, de Merston, Mey, Moresleye, Muresleve, Newcomen, Odam,Orchard, Paget, Passer, Payne, Pearson, Peek, Periston, Pyrk, Ralphs, Rawlett, Rede, Reynauldyn, Roberts, Rodbourn, Rodene, Rogers, Rolf, Russell, Ruydyng, Sadler, Salamon, Sampson, Seler, Shelhill, Shepherd, Sherwynt, Shireford, Shirlock, Shoteswell, Soule, Spoek, Steff, Stefne, Stele, Stot, Stylle, Sudeley,

Sumner, Swain, Swann, Taylor, Thorkell, Trewe, Turn, Twyford, Waite, Ward, Ware, Waring, Wedynton, White, Whytyng, Woodward, Wodynton, Wright, Wykhay, Ygald, Zouche.

Weddington had 12 households.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Parliament divided for the first time into Lords and Commons

1332-42 Richard de Overton was Prior at Etone Priory

1333 Jan.-Feb. Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

14th May. A partial eclipse of the sun

Annual English tribute to Rome (promised in 1213) fell into arrears

1334 Local population density 19.5 people per square mile

Midlands area practised 2 or 3 field system of agriculture. The 0.5 acre fields were selions and the bigger ones known as furlongs or cultura. A 3 course system was:

winter wheat or rye/spring barley or oats/ legumes or fallow.

The strips of land held be the Lord were Demesne and that 32% rural in the local area. Lay Subsidy Roll valued local land at £10-£19 per square mile. A local deed mentioned Old Close - a marl pit.

1334-1434 Lay Subsidy Rolls: an extended period of records.

1335 23rd Jan. Grant by Agnes Lovote of Nuneaton, to John son of Jurdan le Turnur of Stockingford and Matilda her daughter, upon her marriage of a tenement and curtilage in Nuneaton.

A severe frosty local winter

1st Feb. Grant by John son of Jurdan and Matilda le Turnur of Stockingford to Agnes Lovote of Nuneaton, for her life a third part of the tenement in Nuneaton which they held of her grant.

Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

Aug.-Sep. Unusually wet period

Oct.-Nov. Unusually dry period

Internal free trade established in England

1336 Roger Jabet granted the Manor of Stockingford to William Jabet and Maud, with reversion to their son William and his wife Ellen.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1337 - c.1455 The Hundred Years War

1337 3rd Mar. A partial eclipse of the sun

Jun. Unusually dry period

Jul.-Nov. Unusually wet period

31st Dec. Grant by Henry and Alice Geddyng to John de Merynton of messuages, lands and tenements in Nuneaton and Attleborough.

William Merlee of Oxford made early scientific weather forecasts Duke of Cornwall created

1338 A quarrel between John le Colyere and Richard le Synekere suggested that Richard and his relatives were sinking pits in the Griff/Arbury area.

Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period

16th Apr. Etone Prioress acquired a messuage and carucate of land in Kenitbury and Holte.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period

1339 Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool wet period

27th May. Will de Mershton, chaplain and patron of Chilvers Coton church Edward invaded France

7th Jul. A total eclipse of the sun between Orkney and Shetland, one of the shortest and narrowest tracks on record

Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period

1339-40 Bad harvests: all grains

1339-41 Political crisis in England

1340 John, son of John and Eleanor de Scales, succeeded his father in 1340, and with his death in 1367 the male line of the Sudeleys (Griff) died out.

Jan.-Feb. Jun.-Jul. Unusually cool period
May.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1341 Jan. Simon de Thorp vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Edward III removed all Sheriffs

William de Allesworth complained that Walter de Sylby had taken away and sold his quarry coals (carbones quarere) at Eaton to the value of half a mark.

Typical long term changes in the size of holdings
(free, customary and leasehold in both)

31 acres or more	24-30 acres	12-23 acres	11 acres or less	Total
2 (3%)	25 (40%)	3 (5%)	32 (52%)	62 (100%)

1341-50 Local prices Decennial averages:

shillings pence s d or /-
see 1278-79 for definitions

Hurdles	10s	0d	per 100
Horseshoes	5s	5 1/2d	per 100
Horseshoe nails		16 1/2d	per 1,000
Ploughshoes	3s	0 1/4d	per dozen
Ploughshares	12s	4 1/2d	per dozen
Clouts	7s	11 1/2d	per 100
Clout nails	1s	7 1/2d	per 1,000
Wheels plain	2s	6 1/2d	
Wheels	3s	6 1/2d	ad ferr (with iron)

Ligatures	9s	0 1/4d	
Great nails	2s	10 1/2d	
Laths	5s	6 3/4d	per 1,000
Plain tiles	2s	5 1/4d	per 1,000
Crests	2s	10 3/4d	per 100
Tile pins	0s	1 1/2d	per 1,000
Lath nails	0s	8 7/8d	per 1,000
Board nails	0s	3 7/8d	per 100
Millstones	30s	0d	foreign
Millstones	12s	9d	Bucks.
Hurdles	9s	3d	per 100
Horseshoes	3s	10 3/4d	per 100
Horseshoe nails		13 1/2d	per 1,000
Ploughshoes	2s	2 1/2d	per dozen
Ploughshares	9s	9d	per dozen
Clouts	5s	0 1/4d	per 100
Clout nails	1s	1 1/2d	per 1,000
Wheels plain	1s	10 1/4d	
Wheels	2s	11d	ad ferr (with iron)
Ligatures	8s	11d	
Great nails	1s	8d	

1342 William Trussell (Knight) Admiral of the Northern Fleet; his family had local connections

Feb.-Apr. Unusually cool period

May.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1342-45 Margery de Schireford was Prioress at Etone

1342-44 John de Wappenbury was Prior at Etone

1343 William Waggestaf was ordered on pain of a fine of 2s to fill up the coal pit (puteum carbonum) which he had opened up at Stockingford.

A Secular College and Chantry was founded at Astley. Much of the the church was rebuilt at that time.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1343-44 Bad harvests: all grains

1344 Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

8th Dec. John Rodene was appointed Prior of Etone

Bailiffs and good men granted pontage to repair Nuneaton town bridge

The gold Noble coin issued = (80d) or 33p

1344-62 John Rodene was Prior at Etone

1345 14th Dec. Demise by Alice de Lageleye of Coventry to John son of Hugh de Merynton of the same, of lands and tenements in Nuneaton.

Margaret was Prioress at Etone Priory

Jan.-Feb. Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1346	Oliver de Turville and William Charnales were tenants at Bedworth.
	Jan.-Apr. Unusually wet period
	Jun.-Jul. Oct.-Nov. Unusually dry period
	26th Aug. Saturday, the Battle of Crecy; the English longbow proved its superiority over the cross bow. (see 1354, 1356, 1415) in King Edward III's reign
1346-47	Bad harvests: all grains
1347	Apr.-May. Unusually wet period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period
	The Noble issued to celebrate the victory of Calais
	13th Oct. Weddington Rev. William Ernald
1347-51	The Black Death killed 3,000,000 people in Europe. It was said to have been caused by the Tartars catapulting infected dead bodies into an Italian city. The terrified local residents abandoned their homes by travelling in ships to new countries. A ship landed in Dorset that recorded the first deaths. (see 1241 A.D.)
1348	Jul.-Nov. Unusually wet period
	Life expectancy for a baby was 18.7 years; for a small boy child 35.3 yrs. The serf was "ascripti glebae" or bound to the soil
c.1348	King Edward III founded a Garter Order in honour of George, the Martyr. George later became the patron Saint of England, soldiers and boy scouts; his festival day is 23rd April. There has been some difficulty in establishing the truth about who he was and where he lived and worked. This led to the Catholic church proposing he should be de-canonised in the late 20thC. His flag is a Red Cross on a white background.
1348-9	First wave of Black Death in the area.
1348-85	The Black Death passed through the urban areas 30 times in this period. It was a national epidemic 12 times in that period. 1,500,000 died, 2,500,000 survived.
	Scarcity of labour meant sheep farming took over. There was evidence of plague burials in the local area. Villages were depopulated, the agricultural system collapsed, crops went unharvested, livestock wandered, there was a severe labour shortage.
1349	Exhall had highest clergy death rate in Warwickshire as a result of the plague.
	3 vicars died in a short space of time.
	The Great Persecution of Jews in Germany.
	Rev. Richard de Bulcote, instituted at Mancetter, he died almost immediately of the plague.
	Simon de Shireford, vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton, took his ex-Rent Collector to Court for incorrect accounting of his extensive agricultural interests.
	The Ordinance of Labourers: Passed during the labour shortage that followed the Black Death; bound a labourer to serve under anyone requiring him to do so for wages current two years before the plague began.

Sir Robert de Herle was patron of Caldecote manor.
Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool wet period

Jun.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1349-52 Bad harvests: all grains

1350 The Prioress of Nuneaton, Agatha Bruz (1350-63), complained against Richard Gibbe, Henry Lombe, Roger Hargreave, Thomas Huwet, Geoffrey Huwet, Walter Cartere, and William Soule that they had with armed force dug in the private land (in separali solo) of the priory at Eaton. They had carried away sea coal to the value of £40.

This suit was adjourned and the next years roll is missing, whether the defendants could plead right of prospecting was unknown. By this time England was only 10% covered in woodland.

19th Mar. Richard Palfreymon (Nuneaton) was granted a Nuneaton burgage by Adam Wytyng of Hulton.

The Leake Chapel was added to St. Nicolas parish church.

A Will of this date ordered a hospital to be built at Astley, it is doubtful if this ever happened.

Apr.-May. Unusually wet period

15th May. A grant by Richard Palfreymon of Nuneaton, to William Jabet of Stockingford, of a burgage in Nuneaton, which he had of the feoffment of Adam Wytyng of Hulton. Jabet had local family connections from 14th to 19thC.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

21st Nov. A grant by Nicholas and Alice Galf of Nuneaton to William de Cuttul, chaplain of the parish of Nuneaton, of a tenement in Nuneaton.

22nd Nov. A grant by William de Cuttul, chaplain of the parish of Nuneaton to Nicholas and Alice Galf of the tenement in Nuneaton. Cuttul had local family connections from 14th to 19thC.

Typical local prices: years Michaelmas to Michaelmas

(see Stratton 1969 and Beveridge 1937)

D= drage M= malt BM= barley malt DM= drage malt
m = mixtil b= bladum p= peas v= vetch

see 1278-79 for definitions

Quarters Bushel Pecks
Quarters/sums or strikes
shillings pence s d or /-

Wheat	8s	3 1/8d	
Barley	6s	4d	
Drage	6s	0d	
Oats	3s	8d	
Beans	4s	11 1/8d	
Peas	4s	5d	
Vetch	6s	3 1/2d	
Rye	5s	3d	
Malt	6s	7 1/8d	1st quality

Malt	5s	0 3/4d	2nd quality

Labour Rates:

	pence per day

Threshing:

Wheat	4 1/2d
Barley	4 1/2d
Oats	3d

Reaping:

Wheat	7 3/4d	
Barley	8 7/8d	
Drage	-	
Oats	6 3/4d	
Rye	-	
Beans	7 3/8d	Peas and Vetch
Mowing per acre	11d	
Thatching	3 1/4d	
Help	2 1/8d	
Thatcher and man	6d	
Carpenters	4 1/4d	(average)
Carpenters	7d	
Mason	3d	
Tiler	-	
Slater	10 1/2d	
Sawyer	-	
Sawing per 100ft	-	

Livestock:

shilling pence s d or /-

Bulls	7s	8d	
Oxen	9s	8d	
Cows	9s	8 1/2d	
Affri	12s	0d	stotts
Cart horse	24s	7d	
Porci	2s	7d	
Porculi	1s	10 3/4d	
Sowi	3s	9d	
Hoggets	2s	6d	
Porcelli	0	7 3/4d	
Sows/pigs	-		
Boars	3s	2d	
Muttons	1s	3d	highest
Muttons	1s	0d	
Ewes	0s	7d	
Hoggasters	-		
Hurtardus	-		
Lambs	0s	4d	
Capons	0s	3d	
Cocks	0s	1 3/4d	
Hens	0s	2d	
Pullets	0s	0 3/4d	
Geese	0s	3 3/8d	
Goslings	0s	2 3/4d	
Ducks	0s	2 1/2d	
Pigeons	0s	4 1/4d	per dozen

Farm produce:

po= pondus, risa or wey
stone 14 lb clove 7 lb butter in gallons

Hides	1s	4d	highest
Cheese	11s	9 1/2d	po
Butter	-		po
Eggs	0s	6 1/4d	per 100
Lard	-		per 10 lbs
Cepum	-		per 10 lbs
Unctum	1s	4d	per 10 lbs
Pinguedo	0s	10d	per 10 lbs
Sagmen	-		
Candles	1s	10d	per dozen

Social Hierarchies

Generosi	(gentry)
Libera familia	(free household)
Valletti	(yeomen)
Garciones	(grooms)
	(young pages)

Nuneaton entered the wind-powered era

c.1350 The lathe invented; the Pope banned mistletoe as a pagan rite

1350-65 Agatha Bruz was Prioress at Etone Priory

1350-1570 THE RENAISSANCE

1350-76 In this period there were 12 years of high prices.

1350-1500 Perpendicular (Gothic) period of Architecture

1351 Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

Apr.-May. Unusually wet period

Oct.-Nov. Unusually dry period

William de Allesworth demanded that Geoffrey Harding should pay him 2s 10.5d being his seventh share of 20s which the lord of Hardeshull had paid to Geofrey and his partnership for 2 rods of coal.

The Statute of Labourers sought to peg wage levels and enforce contracts between masters and servants.

The Half Groat coin issued = (2d) or 1p

Walter de Heyworth vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Nov. Simon de Thorp vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Statute of Labourers attempted to regulate wages and prices at 1340 levels

1351-1662 The Groat coin issued = (4d) or 2p

1352 Henry de Beaumont was overlord of Bulkington.

Apr.-May. Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1353 Etone Prioress complained against John de Allesworth for digging in her ground at le Haunche at Nuneaton and taking 'marsh coal' (carbones maresc) to the value of 10s.

Edward III moved wool staple from Bruges (here it was previously graded for quality) to England

Jan.-May. Unusually dry period

Statute of Praemunire (this law referred to an offence punished by life imprisonment and loss of all property; the offender was one one who said the Pope was supreme over the monarch or tried to appeal to the Pope for a benefice)

1354 Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period

17th Sep. A partial eclipse of the sun

Hundred Years War resumed, the development of archery soon followed (see 1346, 1356, 1415) in King Edward III's reign

1355 The bailiff of Nuneaton was ordered to compel Richard Sper, Robert Postelee, Robert Raven and John Page to fill up 2 pits which they had made 'in the high wood'. (digging for coal)

May.-Jun. Unusually dry period

Jul.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1356 Sir John de Hartshill received the manor of Hartshill.

Mar.-Jun. Unusually dry period

Jul.-Oct. Unusually wet period

19th Sep. The Battle of Poitiers; the English longbow men defeated a numerically superior French army (see 1346, 1354, 1415)

1357 Robert de Haselbech vicar of St. Nicolas Parish Church, Nuneaton

William Retford; Keeper of the Royal Wardrobe (may have had local family connections).

Jan.-Mar. Unusually wet period

May.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1358 Caldecote juxta Wedington recorded in ancient deeds

John Buridan died, a scholar and early scientist

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1359 William de Bret had licence for an Oratory at Brett's Hall, de Bret had local family connections from 14th to 19thC.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1360 Sub-bailiff deeds (in the British Museum): 25s was due to Etone Priory for coal sold in the previous year, he accounts for 100s for 6 rods of coal mine sold to himself (possibly for the use of the convent); 56s 4d delivered to the treasurer for coal mined (de carbonibus lucratis) that year, 25s for coal retained to the use of John Chamberlayn and 14s for coal retained for the use of Alexander Waterdrauer of Coton. Also 4s paid to miners examining a seam,(?) (vinam) of coal on Wickayhull sold for the benefit of the convent.

	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
1360-62	Black Death swept through the area.
1360's	Coal was worked on monastic lands, Coton, Stockingford and Haunchwood
1361	12th Mar. Grant by Elias de Checkeley of Coventry to Sir William vicar of Chilvers Coton and Sir William de le Hul of the same of the tenement mentioned
	John Bosevill vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	19th Sep. Will de Hull, priest and patron of Chilvers Coton church
	24th Oct. Weddington vicar: Rev. Robert de Shakelthorp
1362	15th Jan. A great freak wind caused widespread damage
	Introduction of English as the official language in the Courts of Law
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period
1362-63	Bad harvests: all grains
1363	John de Meryngton was Prior at Etone
	Flemish weavers settled in Manchester and elsewhere. Legs of roast mutton sold in London at a price equal to a farm workers wages for a day.
	Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period
	Apr.-Jul. Unusually wet period
1363-64	Bad harvest: wheat
1364	Jan.-Apr. Unusually cool period
	Feb.-Mar. Unusually wet period
	Aug. John de Carswell vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
	Quarter Sessions established statute
1364-65	Henry de Eton was Prior at Etone
1365	A severe frosty local winter
	2nd Mar. Richard and Isabella Rodbourne (Nuneaton) granted a Nuneaton messuage to Alexander and Margaret Dariol of Coton.
1365	Countess of Pembroke connected with Mancetter.
	Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period
1366	May.-Jun. Unusually dry period
	Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period
	English Parliament refused to pay Feudal Tribute to the Pope

William de la Pole (of Hull) died. He was an active merchant as well as in royal service as a baron of the exchequer. He and his descendants built up landed estates, mainly in East Anglia. His sons and grandsons were created Earls and Dukes of Suffolk. (see 1432, 1669, 1874, 1911) He was the 30th richest man in British history, worth £9,900,000,000 by 2000 values.

1366-72 Baldwin was Prior at Etone

1367 John Sudeley died, held Griff manor for £8 per annum. (see 1340) The succession passed through the female line, Joan and Margery, sisters of the last John Sudeley. Joan the elder sister died, left a 12 yr old son, Thomas by her husband William le Botiller (knight). Thomas was co-heir with his aunt, Margery (Joan's younger sister); she received Griff as part of her share and later married but died in 1380 without issue. The Botillers (Butlers) were sole heirs, their family seat was at Wem (Salop). The Manor house decayed thereafter. Botillers had local family connections from 14th to 19thC.

Jan.-Mar. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1367-68 Bad harvests: all grains

1367-86 Margaret Seliman was Prioress at Etone

1368 William Larkin vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Apr.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1368-69 Hanch or Haunch wood was recorded in old documents

1369 Sir Ralph de Hastings gave Caldecote to the warden and priests of the collegiate chapel of St. Mary's, Noseley, Leicestershire. This transfer cost £400.

24th Mar. Confirmation by Thomas son of John de Merynton, to Thomas and Agnes Mareschal of lands and tenements in Nuneaton and Attleborough. Assigned to her by the said John, her late husband, in dower.

Black Death re-occurred

1369-70 Bad harvests: all grains

Le hackyng wood recorded in the Nuneaton area

1350-1570 RENAISSANCE

1370 Etone Priory recorded 46 Nuns (numbers diminished because of the Black Death)

Jan.-Apr. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

13th Dec. Grant by Henry de Lutheburgh, chaplain, and John Pale of Sutton, to Thomas de Meryngton, of the reversion of lands and tenements held by Thomas Marschall of Nuneaton and Agnes his wife for life in Nuneaton and Attleborough.

1370-1401 Sir William de Astley had licence of Oratory at St. James church, Weddington

Le Neuwode (woodland) recorded at Weddington

1371	Jan.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Jan.-Apr. Unusually cool period
	Sep.-Oct. Unusually wet period
1372	Robert Ferror vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period
1372-73	Bosco de Horston, Neunemenhin and Haliwellesich woods recorded in the Nuneaton-Attleborough area
1373	11th Feb. John de Sampson, priest and patron of Chilvers Coton church
	Apr.-May. Unusually wet month
	11th Jun. Release by Agnes Lovot of Nuneaton, widow to Hugh Jabet of Stockingford, of all claim to lands or tenements in "le Abbeyend" of Nuneaton.
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period
	£10 was obtained from Griff/Coton Coal source. (see 1360)
	Henry Hunt vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
	A local document mentioned Gilbert the Smythe (blacksmith)
1373-78	William Ledbury was Prior at Etone
1374	Abbey Street area recorded as le Abbeyend (Aston Papers)
	Jan.-Feb. Unusually warm and wet period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
1374-75	Bad harvests: all grains
	Le Heywode and le merlinde woods recorded in the Nuneaton area
1375	70s from 10.5 rods at 6s 8d the perch, of coal mine in the high wood.(Nuneaton area)
	William Trussel, Sheriff of Warwickshire.
	Black Death re-occurred
	Jun.-Oct. Unusually warm and dry period
1375-94	An unusual good run of harvests. The English climate became warmer.
1375-1519	A period of low prices for wheat grain
1376	Burton Hastings produced between a fifth and a quarter of its crops as peas and beans, with 50% dredge.
	Mar.-May. Unusually wet period
	Jul.-Nov. Unusually warm period
	Aug.-Nov. Unusually dry period

A version of Piers Plowman, attributed to William Langland of Malvern and London described the labour problems of the day.

1377 100 shillings (£5) from 10 rods of the mine in the 'le Hanche'

Poll Tax for local area states 20-29 people per square mile. English population between 2.5 and 3 million

King Richard II ascended the throne. He was the son of the Edward, the Black Prince. He was young when he succeeded, power was in the hands of the Parliamentary Council led by his loyal uncle, John of Gaunt. He faced the Peasant's Revolt as a teenager. After Wat Tyler was killed he became embittered, many of friends were tried and executed by the Merciless Parliament, led by the Duke of Gloucester.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Sep.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1377-78 Joneswode (woodland) recorded in Nuneaton

1378 Le Hanche Mine yielded £8 from 16 rods.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

10th Nov. Halley's Comet returned

1378-79 Boscum vocatum le Clos subtus villa de Eton wood recorded in the Nuneaton area

1378-1417 A great schism in the church caused by the creation of the anti-Popes

1379 The High Wood Mine (Nethurstryng) bought in £6 6s 8d at 13s 4d the rod.

The first national tax on coal was introduced; Poll Tax introduced again

Imposition of graduated Poll Tax: people classified as:

CULTORES	(cultivators)
AGRICOLAE	(farmers)
LABORATORES	(labourers)
SERVIENTES	(servants)
FAMULI	(servants)

Jul. Unusually wet period

1380 The Nethurstryng Mine produced £10 13s 4d for 14 rods of which 10 (sic) rods were sold at 16s 8d and the other two at 6s 8d. 12 pence given to various men called colierns for ale (beer), suggested that mining was thirsty work.

Additional building work at Griff Manor House (Sudeley Castle) see 1367.

The first Bible translated into English by Wyclif.

Severe winter freeze, the English Channel reported frozen for many yards

Mar.-Oct. Unusually wet period

1380's Even though manorial lords had commuted field service; the customs of MERCHET (fine paid for marriage); HERIOT (seizure of the family's best beast on death of a tenant and compulsory use of the Lord's mill for grinding the family's corn at a monopoly price.

1381 Johannes Wayte de Nuneaton, Willelmus Reynaldyn de Attilburgh. Jurors of Leicester confirmed Jurors of Hemlingford concerning Robert and Roger Harpere, John Rode, Adam Arlond etc.

House of Commons petition against the employment of clergy in royal service.

Johannes Bailly de Nuneaton, Johannes Roger de Nuneaton, Willelmus Brakkele de Nuneaton assaulted Robertum Boner, beating and wounding him, they were fined 20d. Bailly had local family connections from 14th to 20thC.

The Peasants' Revolt led by Wat Tyler and John Ball. John Ball, an English priest, incited the people to kill those who opposed social equality. He was executed in 1381 as a traitor. After this date feudalism rapidly decayed. Yeoman farmers, who rented land from an overlord and worked it themselves, became prosperous.

Villeins had practically won their freedom and were labourers who received payment for their services. Manorial services included: ploughing, breaking ground, harrowing, sowing, weeding, reaping, threshing, feeding pigs, catching rabbits, windlass operating, milling and felling trees. Some of the peasants captured the Tower of London until the revolt was brutally crushed by soldiers. After this 3,000 villages became deserted, new ways of farming evolved, farms became larger and they were mainly sheep farms.

Jan. Apr.-May. Unusually wet period

c.1381 Movable printing type invented

1381-82 Bad harvests: all grains

1382 Feb.-May. Unusually dry period

Jun.-Oct. Unusually wet period

Church Council condemned John Wycliffe for his theology

1382-1401 Roger Appleby was Prior at Etone

1383 6th Mar. Grant by Geoffrey and Alice Obbesone of Nuneaton, to Sir John Hayne, chaplain of the tenement in Nuneaton, which the said Alice had of the feoffment of Sir William Cutul, chaplain.

Receipts from coal mines £4, yet averaged 50s.

Jun.-Sep. Unusually dry period

1384 Mar.-Aug. Unusually dry period

Oct.-Nov. Unusually wet period

John Dombleday published Stella alchimae (an early book on alchemy)

1385 Thomas Boteler settled Coton on himself (see 1398 and 1473).

Johannes Porter, Nuneaton, (tried and acquitted) received Thomas with his goods and chattels knowing he was counterfeit. Porter had local family connections from 14th to 20thC.

Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period

Feb.-Jul. Unusually warm period

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1386 Weddington vicar: Rev. John de Upton died

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Sep. Unusually wet period

28th Dec. Rev. Henry de Upton succeeded at Weddington.

1387 Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Nov. Unusually wet period

Beginnings of English literature and stories in English. Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales- comprised 23 tales. He travelled extensively in England as a page with the Countess of Ulster. The dialect in this work was that of the central and east Midlands. He was friends with John Gower, a Kentish gentleman. 29 (or more) pilgrims gathered at the Tabard Inn in Southwark in London, on a pilgrimage to Thomas a Becket's tomb in Canterbury. (see 1170).

The prologue stated that the following pilgrims would tell their tales:

The Knight's Tale
The Miller's Tale
The Reeve's Tale (bailiff)
The Cook's Tale
The Man of Law's Tale
The Wife of Bath's Tale
The Friar's Tale
The Summoner (officer of ecclesiastical court)
The Merchant's Tale
The Squire's Tale
The Franklin's Tale (freeholder and freeman)
The Second Nun's Tale
The Canon's Yeoman's Tale
The Doctor's Tale
The Pardoner's Tale (seller of indulgences)
The Shipman's Tale (sailor)
The Prioress's Tale
Tales of Sir Thopas and Melibeus
The Monk's Tale
The Nun's Priest's Tale
The Manciple's Tale (steward)
The Parson's Tale

1387-98 Rose Everingham was Prioress at Etone

1388 Jan.-Feb. Unusually cool period

Mar.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

The Lollards persecuted (Lollards were originally followers of Wycliffe, but the term came to describe anyone who was critical of the church)
Parliamentary Statute passed that stated in harvest time journeymen and apprentices should be called on to lay aside their crafts and should be compelled "to cut gather and bring in the corn"; Mayors, bailiffs and constables of towns were to see this was done (Statute of Realm II, 56).

1389 Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

The Commons complained to Parliament " artificers and labourers, and servants and grooms keep greyhounds and other dogs, and on holy days, when good Christian people be at church, hearing divine service, they go hunting in parks, warrens and coneyries of lords and others, to the very great destruction of the same." Evil is the heart of man! Henceforth let no layman with less than forty

shillings a year in land, and no priest or clerk with less than ten pounds income a year, be so bold as to keep sporting nets or dogs. (Statute of Realm II, p.65)

Richard II appointed the Bishop of Wykeham as Chancellor

1389-90 Good harvests: wheat and barley

1390 Feb.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Jul.-Oct. Unusually warm period

Nicholas Derby vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1390-91 Bad harvests: wheat and barley

1391 Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Statute of Provisions enacted

1391-1400 Thatcher's daily wage 4.25d (less than 2p); Thatcher's mate 2.75d.

Local prices Decennial averages:

shillings pence s d or /-
see 1278-79 for definitions

Hurdles	17s	8d	per 100
Horseshoes	13s	6 1/2d	per 100
Horseshoe nails	-		per 1,000
Ploughshoes	4s	0 1/2d	per dozen
Ploughshares	15s	8d	per dozen
Clouts	15s	8d	per 100
Clout nails	2s	9 3/4d	per 1,000
Wheels plain	6s	2d	
Wheels	7s	2d	ad ferr (with iron)
Ligatures	22s	1 1/2d	
Great nails	7s	3 1/4d	
Laths	7s	10d	per 1,000
Plain tiles	4s	4 1/2d	per 1,000
Crests	8s	7d	per 100
Tile pins	0s	3d	per 1,000
Lath nails	1s	3 1/4d	per 1,000
Board nails	0s	5 5/8d	per 100
Millstones	60s	2d	foreign
Millstones	14s	1d	Bucks.
Hurdles	9s	3d	per 100
Horseshoes	3s	10 3/4d	per 100
Horseshoe nails	13s	0 1/2d	per 1,000
Ploughshoes	2s	2 1/2d	per dozen
Ploughshares	9s	9d	per dozen
Clouts	5s	0 1/4d	per 100
Clout nails	1s	1 1/2d	per 1,000
Wheels plain	1s	10 1/4d	
Wheels	2s	11d	ad ferr (with iron)
Ligatures	8s	11d	
Great nails	1s	8d	

Ten year wage average from different parts of England in pence (d)

	Time work (per day)				Piece work	
	carvers joiners	carpenter mate	mason	mason's labourer	agricultural winnowing a qr. wheat	threshing/reaping binding stacking an acre of wheat
	6.25	4.625	5.625	--	3.25	7.375

1392 Receipt from local coal mines 9s 8d.

Bond Gate recorded as le Bondende (Catalogue of Ancient Deeds)

Statute of Praemunire, this confirmed the one of 1353 that said the English Realm should be free of all earthly subjection. The procurement of Papal Bulls was punishable by being made an outlaw or forfeiting land and property.

1393 Jun.-Jul. Unusually warm period

Nuneaton recorded as ETON MONIALIUM in Calendar of Patent Rolls

1394 Potters Coton first mentioned
Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

4th Nov. John Parker, priest and patron of Chilvers Coton church

Court of Chancery made permanent

1395 Mar.-May. Unusually wet and warm period

Second edition published of Wycliffe's translation of the Bible. (see c.1320-84)

1396 Mar.-May. Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

28 year truce of English-French war

1396-97 Bad harvests: all grains

1397 Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

The Commons claimed the right of impeachment

King Richard II had the Earl of Warwick arrested. The king had been at the mercy of his barons' and earls' private armies.

1397-99 Juxta boscum de le Temple wood recorded in the Nuneaton area

1398 Haunchwood recorded as le Haunche (Court Rolls)

Alice Boteler received livery from Coton (see 1385 and 1473).

LANCASTER DYNASTY

An era of extreme contrasts, on the surface it appeared dreary with incessant warfare, social and religious revolt, political and administrative failure, industrial unrest and commercial decay. Parliament was occupied in consolidation and regulation. The Commons exercised their rights and increased their importance by settling the internal constitution of Parliament; thus also establishing their procedures and privileges. Henry V tried to revive chivalry by renewing the Hundred Years war with France.

The failure of England to conquer France combined with the distress due to warfare and Henry VI's incapacity to govern led to civil conflict in the Wars of the Roses which destroyed the power of the feudal nobles, increased the strength of the Middle Classes and established the Tudors.

After the Black Death the Feudal System finally broke down. It had been common practice to pay workers (serfs/villeins) in ale or beer instead of money. Most manors had a brewery somewhere in their area. Public houses (taverns/inns) began to establish to cater for the poor people who became migrants; these taverns often had small internal shops that sold food, tallow, candles etc.

1399 Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period

30th Sep. Henry (Bolingbroke) IV crowned was the son of John of Gaunt and grandson of Edward III. He gave the church the power to burn heretics.

1400 Earl of Warwick, the overlord of Astley, his family was confirmed as tenants British Treasurers' Accounts and Receipts stopped.

Typical local prices: years Michaelmas to Michaelmas
D= drage M= malt BM= barley malt DM= drage malt
m = mixtil [wheat and rye] b= bladum [corn,wheat] p= peas
v= vetch

see 1278-79 for definitions

Quarters	Bushel	Pecks	
Quarters/sums or strikes			
shillings pence s d or /-			
Wheat	7s	11 1/8d	
Barley	6s	3 5/8d	
Drage	3s	6d	
Oats	2s	3 1/4d	
Beans	3s	1 3/8d	
Peas	4s	6d	
Vetch	4s	4d	
Rye	4s	4 5/8d	
Malt	6s	11d	1st quality
Malt	5s	0 3/4d	2nd quality

LABOUR RATES

		pence per day
Threshing:		
Wheat	5d	
Barley	3d	
Oats	3d	
Reaping:		
Wheat	7 1/8d	
Barley	7 7/8d	
Drage	7 1/2d	
Oats	7 1/8d	
Rye	7 1/8d	
Beans	7 1/8d	Peas and Vetch
Mowing per acre	6 3/4d	
Thatching	4 1/4d	
Help	2 5/8d	
Thatcher and man	9d	
Carpenters	4 1/2d	(average)
Carpenters	6d	
Mason	4 1/4d	
Tiler	13 1/2d	
Slater	-	
Sawyer	6d	
Sawing per 100ft	-	

Livestock:

shilling pence s d or /-			
Bulls	8s	5d	
Oxen	15s	8 3/4d	

1400

Cows	10s	5d	
Affri	-		stotts
Cart horse	26s	7d	
Porci	2s	11 3/4d	
Porculi	1s	4d	
Sowi	6s	8d	

Livestock:

shilling pence s d or /-			
Hoggets	2s	0d	
Porcelli	0s	4d	
Sows/pigs	-		
Boars	5s	0d	
Muttons	2s	5d	highest
Muttons	1s	5 1/4d	
Ewes	0s	10d	
Hoggasters	1s	8 3/4d	
Hurtardus	1s	2 3/4d	
Lambs	0s	8d	

Farm produce:

po= pondus, risa or wey			
stone 14 lb	clove 7 lb	butter in gallons	
Hides	2s	0d	highest
Cheese	9s	4d	po
Butter	-		po
Eggs	0s	5 1/8d	per 100
Lard	-		per 10 lbs
Cepum	-		per 10 lbs
Unctum	1s	1 3/4d	per 10 lbs
Candles	1s	6d	per dozen

Hops, onions and cabbage introduced into Britain from Flanders.

6th Jun. Sunday, King Henry IV passed within 20 miles of Nuneaton on his way to fight the Scots (via Leicester). He was trying to raise money to create an army.

Alured Trussell was M.P. for Warwickshire
The headless brass in Astley church dated from this time.

Jul.-Oct. Unusually wet period

Nuneaton's population estimated at less than 800

A £1 was worth £600 by the 2000 A.D. price, estimate: 8 pints of beer cost about 1 farthing (0.25p)

The following settlements existed in the Nuneaton area:

Ansley, Arbury, Astley? (and Castle), Attleborough, Bramcote, Brett's Hall, Bulkington, Burbage (and Hall), Burton Hastings, Caldecote, Coton, Exhall (and Hall), Fenny Drayton (and Hall), Galley Common, Griff (and Manor House), Hartshill (and Castle), Higham, Hinckley (and Castle), Horeston Grange, The Hyde, Lindley, Mancetter (and Manor House), Marston Jabbett (probably deserted), Oldbury, Park House/Farm, Rowden, Ryton, Shelford, Shenton, Sinney, Sketchley, Sole End, Stoke Golding (and castle"), Stretton Baskerville, Temple House, Upton (and Hall),

Weddington, Weston, Witherley, Wolvey and Wykin (and Hall).

The following additional monastic sites were also founded:

Astley Secular College and Chantry; the other sites included: Arbury Priory, Arbury Knights Templar, Nuneaton Priory and Alien Priory.

Churches existed at: St. Nicolas, Nuneaton; All Saints, Coton; St. James, Weddington, St. Theobald and St. Chad, Caldecote; Attleborough Chapel, St. Mary's Hinckley, St. Botolph's, Burton Hastings, Bramcote Chapel. Stretton Baskerville Chapel, St. Peters, Higham, St. James, Bulkington, St. Mary the Virgin, Astley; St. Peter, Mancetter; St. Margaret's, Stoke Golding; St. Michael's, Fenny Drayton; Wykin Chapel; St. John's, Lindley?; St. John the Baptist, Wolvey

Brett's Hall, Horeston Grange, Park House (Hartshill) and Sketchley chapel existed.

1400-01 Bad harvest: wheat

Bosco vocato Hanchemor wood recorded in the Stockingford area

START OF THE 15TH CENTURY A.D.

"The great period of parish church construction"

Those attending churches were strictly segregated into men and women's seating. Monastic discipline transferred into early worship. Most churches held 8 services or offices a day.

Matins: Hymn, Psalms, Lessons, antiphons (songs by choirs), versicles and responses (short lines from the Psalms), prayers, the Te Deum (a Latin hymn) and a collect (short prayer asking for God's help)

Lauds: Morning prayer hymn, Psalms, Lessons, antiphons, versicles and responses, prayers, a collect. The word *laudate* was used (praise you)

Prime: 1st hour = 6.00 a.m. morning prayer hymn, Psalms, Lessons, antiphons, versicles and responses, prayers, a collect

Terce: 3rd hour - Hymn, 3 Psalms, antiphons, short Bible reading, responses with a closing prayer

Sext: 6th hour - Hymn, 3 Psalms, antiphons, short Bible reading, responses with a closing prayer

None: 9th hour - Hymn, 3 Psalms, antiphons, short Bible reading, responses with a closing prayer

Vespers: Hymn, 2 Psalms, New Testament canticle (a song or prayer), a short lesson, a short response, the Magnificat (the song that Mary sang when she met her cousin, they were both expecting babies), antiphons and prayers.

Compline: Evening hymn, Psalms, Nunc Dimittis (the Song of Simeon - the elderly Jew who held Jesus and prophesied how he would die)

After each office or service 4 Psalms, canticle and hymns were said or chanted.

1401 Warwickshire depopulated villages: 2 definitely

Rous's data: 46 definitely, 2 unidentified

Dugdales' data: 24 definitely, 2 probably

Additional building at Park House/Farm (Caldecote)

1st May. Release by Thomas, son and heir of John de Meryngton of Lalleford, to John de Northampton, of Coventry and chaplain John Happesforde and others, of his right to the reversion of lands, tenements etc. in Nuneaton and Attleborough held by Thomas Marchall of Nuneaton for his life.

Coton church's advowson had been granted to Arbury Priory originally; this was confirmed by Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Jun-Oct. Unusually wet period

Statute of Heresy: Provided that all heretics were to be imprisoned and, if they refused to give up their heresy to be burned alive.

1401-02 Bad harvests: all grains

Middelle, Nethurle, Wyshawe, boscum vocatum le hardecnol and Neusonle woods recorded in the Nuneaton area

1401-03 Eleanora Frechevyle was Prioress at Etone

1401-1410 Local prices Decennial averages:
shillings pence s d or /-
see 1278-79 for definitions

Laths	7s	5d	per 1,000
Laths	-		per load
Plain tiles	4s	9 1/2d	per 1,000
Crests/concave	6s	9 3/4d	per 100
Slates	5s	0 1/4d	per 1,000
Tile pins	0s	7d	per bushel
Bricks	7s	6d	per 1,000
Planch [planks]	-		per 100 (quarter)
Glass	1s	0d	per foot
Rope	15s	1d	per hundredweight
Lath nails	1s	2d	per 1,000
Board/sixpenny	5s	4 1/2d	per 1,000
Carpenters	0s	7d	highest
Carpenters		5 1/2d	average
Mason		6d	
Mason labourer		3 3/4d	
Sawyer (pair)	1s	0 1/2d	
Sawing per 100ft	1s	3d	
Tiler/slater	0s	6 1/2d	
Thatcher	0s	4 1/2d	
Man	0s	3d	
Plumber	-		

Threshing and winnowing (per quarter)

Wheat	0s	3 3/4d
Barley	0s	2 1/2d
Beans/peas	0s	3d
Oats	0s	2 1/8d
Mowing grass	0s	7d

Reaping per acre

Wheat	0s	7d
Barley	0s	7 3/4d
Oat	0s	7 1/4d
Unskilled	0s	3 5/8d
Oxen	19s	6 1/2d
Calves	1s	10 3/4d
Boars	6s	11 3/4d
Capons	0s	4d
Geese	0s	4 1/2d
Hens	0s	2 1/4d
Chickens	0s	1 1/4d
Ducks	0s	1 3/4d
Swans/Cygnets	3s	6d
Pigeons	0s	3 1/4d per dozen
Rabbit	0s	6d per pair

1402 Jun.-Oct. Unusually wet period

Jul. William Peper vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

7th Sep. Release by Lawrence Cooke, of Coventry, Henry Denton and Henry Drope, chaplains, to John Happesforde of Coventry, and John de Northampton of the same chaplain, of their right to the reversion, upon the death of Thomas Marchall of Nuneaton, of lands, tenements etc. in Nuneaton and Attleborough, which reversion they had of the feoffment of Thomas, son and heir of John de Merynngton of Lalleford and others.

A statute in this year decreed that all church curates must be from monastic orders.

1403 King Henry killed Hotspur, the challenge to the throne was removed

1404 Henry granted a novel tax on land revenue by parliament

Jun.-Oct. Unusually wet period

Parliament of Dunces held at Coventry

1405 Jan.-Feb. Unusually warm period

Thomas Mowbray Earl of Nottingham executed as a rebel

1406 16th Jun. A partial eclipse of the sun

Dec. John Wylton vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1406-07 Le Outwode wood recorded in the Nuneaton area

1407 Astley confirmed as tenant of the Earl of Warwick at Astley.

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

22nd Jul. Release by Thomas Merston of Coventry to Hugh Lilburne, Lord of Stockingford of his right to a messuage in Nuneaton in the corner towards Wykax.

1st Aug. Release by John de Northampton of Coventry chaplain to John de Happesford of the same of his right to the reversion upon the death of Thomas Marchall of Nuneaton of lands tenements etc. in Nuneaton and Attleborough that reversion they jointly had of the feoffment of Thomas son and heir of John de Meryngton of Lalleford

4th Nov. Grant by John Happesford of Coventry to John Preston, John Barwe, Ralph Garton, Thomas Abell and Richard Southam all of Coventry of the reversion upon the death of Thomas Marchall of Nuneaton of lands and tenements in Nuneaton and Attleborough which reversion he jointly with John Norhampton of Coventry, chaplain and others had of the feoffment of Thomas son and heir of John de Meryngton of Lalleford and others

1407-08 bosco vocato Blakewater wood recorded in the Nuneaton-Weddington area

1408 Thomas de Muston (Musson?); vicar of Burbage, moved from Sleaford. Mussons were related to Kems, Palmers and Scriveners.

7th Feb. Weddington vicar: Rev. John son of William de Whatten

A severe frosty local winter

1408-09 Bad harvests: wheat

Margaret Wauere was Prioress at Etone

1409 The Pope ordered the surrender of all books by J. Wycliffe
1409-10 Bad harvests: wheat and barley

1410 Sir Thomas Colepeper (grandfather of Sir Alexander Colepeper) enfeoffed Henry Ludford of 50 acres of pastures at Ansley

Jan.-Jun. Unusually dry period

1411 4th Jul. Grant by Thomas Asteley, Esq. John Bernard clerk, Thomas Elkyn and others to Hugh Lilburne Esq. lord of Stockingford and John Botiller of the same of a messuage in Nuneaton which they had of the feoffment of John Wemme of Nuneaton.

4th Jul. Release by John Wemme of Nuneaton to Hugh Lilburne Esq., Lord of Stockingford and John Botiller of the same of his right to a messuage in Nuneaton.

1412 Feb. D. Richard Morton vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

16th Feb. Letter of attorney by William Botiller of Sudeley and William Babyngton authorising John Palmere and Nicholas Prentoft to receive from Hugh Lylleburne Esq. of Stockingford, seisin of a messuage in Nuneaton

Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

Dec. John de Tybbay vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1412-46 Elizabeth Walcote was Prioress at Etone

post-1412 The Alien Etone Priory of Benedictine Black Monks was closed.

1413 24th Jan. Grant by John Preston of Coventry, Ralph Garton, Thomas Abell, Richard Southam to William Botiller of Sudeley and William Babyngton of lands, tenements in Nuneaton and Attleborough which they had of the feoffment of John Happesford of Coventry. Will de Deene, chaplain and patron of Chilvers Coton church

Jan.-Jul. Unusually dry period

2nd Feb. Release by John Botiller of Coventry to Hugh Lilburne Esq. Lord of Stockingford of his right to a messuage in Nuneaton.

Thomas Crewe, Sheriff of Warwickshire.

King Henry V ascended to the throne. He thought about renewing the war with France. He was eventually involved in the Battle of Agincourt.

Jul. Nicolas Derby vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1414 Lord Grey of Ruthyn (Hasting's heir) held Mancetter.

3-4th Jan. Lollard rising in Leicestershire

Earl Robert "le bossu", took back his gift of St. Nicolas, Nuneaton, from the Monastery of Lira in Normandy (see 1155)

The newly formed Board of Ordnance controlled the King's Works and Arsenal; they employed king's Military Engineers. These went on to become the Corps of Royal Engineers that played a vital part in 1939-45 World War, many Nuneaton men were conscripted for that army in the 20thC.

Warwickshire’s depopulated villages brought to Parliament’s attention

Jan.-Mar. Unusually cool period
Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period

1414-18 Thomas Malory born

1415 Jan.-May. Unusually wet period

Jun.-Oct. Unusually dry period

	Parliament granted Henry V customs of wool for life
	Warwickshire's depopulated villages brought to Parliament's attention
	7th Jun. A partial eclipse of the sun
	25th Oct. Friday, St. Crispin's Day: The Battle of Agincourt. Henry V's longbow men defeated a numerically superior French army as at Poitiers and Crecy (see 1346, 1354, 1356). This battle was immortalised by Michael Drayton in 1605.
c.1415	23rd Apr. St. George's Day was acknowledged as a Saint's festival day in England
1416	Feb.-May. Unusually wet period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	The custom of "wool for poundage for life" began to take affect Treaty of Canterbury
1416-17	Bad harvest: wheat
1417	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Henry V suspended the Assizes
14--	Richard Busville vicar of Nuneaton. Busville had local family connections from 14th to 15thC.
1418	Caldecote claimed by Sir Ralph de Hastings
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
1418-19	Bad harvests: all grains
1419	Mar.-Apr. Unusually cool period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period
	Height of popularity for the Lollards (from the Dutch for mumblers) - many were burnt in England (Lollards were originally followers of John Wycliffe [1330-1384], but later included anyone critical of the church)
1420	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Henry V introduced a tax on coal to be paid to the Crown; 2d for 1 cauldron (2.4 tn) for coal shipped from Newcastle
1420-21	Bad harvests: all grains
1421	Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period
	Henry V returned to England for the Queen's coronation. He journeyed from Bristol to Welsh Marches, on to Leicester then on to York; back to Lincoln, Norwich and Westminster.
1422	Mar.-May. Unusually wet period
	Jul.-Oct. Unusually wet period
	Thomas Walsingham wrote "Historia Anglicana"

	King Henry VI became king before his first birthday. He was in the care of the Earl of Warwick. He was later declared insane in 1454. He temporarily lost the throne to Edward in 1461 but was reinstated in 1470.
	Coventry Cross erected (made of Attleborough Sandstone)
1423	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	Aug.-Oct. Unusually wet period
	The earliest picture of a crank and connecting rod for a drill
1424	Etone Priory became independent of Fontevrault
	Jan.-Feb. Unusually wet period
	Jun.-Jul. Unusually dry period
	John Dene was Prior at Etone
1425	William Pottar recorded as a clayworker in Nuneaton, a tenant of the Priory
	Riots in London due to Humphrey of Gloucester and Henry Beaufort
1426	Parliament of Bats at Northampton Humphrey of Gloucester reconciled with Henry Beaufort.
1427	Bakhous Lane (Nuneaton) recorded in Catalogue of Ancient Deeds
1428	Feudal Aids = Whytendon (Weddington)
	Jan.-Feb. Unusually dry period
	Mar.-Nov. Unusually wet period
1428-29	Bad harvests: wheat and barley
1429	Jan.-Feb. Unusually dry period
	Grocers' Company succeeded the Spicers' Guild - its title Vendre en gros
1429-30	Bad harvests: wheat
1430	First Disenfranchisement statute fixed 40 shilling freeholder as a means of being able to Vote.
1431	Jan. Unusually warm period Joan of Arc (Maid of Orleans) burnt at the stake. It is reputed that the Earl of Warwick (Richard Neville) paid many thousands of pounds for her capture, some of that money was no doubt raised from his estates in Warwickshire! 12th Feb. A partial eclipse of the sun
1432	William de Pole 4th Earl Steward of the Household, his family retained connections with Nuneaton
	Jul.-Aug. Unusually wet period
1432-33	Bad harvests: all grains
1433	9th Apr. John Cooke, chaplain and patron of Chilvers Coton church
	17th Jun. A partial eclipse of the sun

1434 6th Feb. Grant by Roger Wayte of Nuneaton to William Baxter of the same of a croft in Nuneaton lying between the highway and the Ancurwater. Wayte had local family connections from 14th to 20thC.

1435 Feet of Fines = Wytyngton juxta Merevale (Weddington)

28th Mar. Will Woodcote, Canon of Arbury Priory and patron of Chilvers Coton church

1436 25th Jan. Letter of attorney by John Preston of Coventry, Ralph Garton, Thomas Abell and Richard Southam authorising William Reynaldyn and John Waryn to deliver to William Botiller of Sudeley and William Babyngton seisin of lands tenements etc in Nuneaton and Attleborough.

Leonard de Hastings acquired Caldecote

Nuneaton valued at £5 6s 8d, vicarage, no glebe and the Valor was £7 4s 0d.

1437 16th Oct. Weddington vicar: Rev. Henry Shirewode

1437-38 Bad harvest: wheat

1437-40 A severe famine affected the Midlands, England and parts of Europe
1438 Margery Kemp wrote the mystical " The Book of Margery Kempe"

1438-39 Bad harvests: wheat and barley

1439 Famine and pestilence were so bad in England that Holinshed recorded instances of cannibalism (parents eating their children)

1439-40 Bad harvests: wheat and barley

1440 Eton public school established (the famous one!)

Christmas carols began to be sung in England accompanied by ring dancing

Johann Gensfliesch (Gutenberg) invented the art of printing

1440-50 William Tailboys (of Kyme in Lincolnshire) was a powerful “gangster” who sat for Lincolnshire. He was ultimately sent to the Tower of London where he had to pay £30,000 for his attack on Lord Cromwell. He had feuds with Lord Willoughby of Eresby, Lord Cromwell and Lord Welles. The Umfravilles (Lords of Redesdale) were closely related to the Percies. (see 1069 A.D. and 1774)

1441 Ralph Butler (of Sudeley connection) Treasurer

Sir Thomas Malory knighted

1441-50 Local prices Decennial averages:
shillings pence s d or /-

see 1278-79 for definitions

Laths	6s	8d	per 1,000
Laths	-		per load
Plain tiles	5s	0d	per 1,000
Crests/concave	10s	1 1/2d	per 100
Slates	4s	6 1/2d	per 1,000
Tile pins	0s	8d	per bushel
Bricks	6s	2 1/2d	per 1,000
Planch	2s	6 1/2d	per 100 (quarter)
Glass	1s	0d	per foot
Rope	12s	5d	per hundredweight
Lath nails	1s	1 1/4d	per 1,000

Board/sixpenny	4s	7d	per 1,000
Carpenters	0s	7 3/4d	highest
Carpenters		5 3/4d	average
Mason		6 1/4d	
Mason labourer		4 1/4d	
Sawyer (pair)	1s	0d	
Sawing per 100ft	1s	2d	
Tiler/slater	0s	6 1/2d	
Thatcher	0s	5 1/4d	
Man	0s	4d	
Plumber	0s	6 3/4d	

Threshing and winnowing (per quarter)

Wheat	0s	4 1/4d
Barley	0s	2 1/2d
Beans/peas	0s	2d
Oats	0s	2 1/2d
Mowing grass	0s	7d

Reaping per acre

Wheat		-	
Barley		-	
Oat		-	
Unskilled	0s	4 1/2d	
Oxen	18s	0 1/4d	
Calves	1s	8 1/4d	
Boars	6s	8 1/4d	
Capons	0s	4d	
Geese	0s	4d	
Hens	0s	2d	
Chickens	0s	1d	
Ducks	-		
Swans/Cygnets	1s	8d	
Pigeons	0s	4d	per dozen
Rabbit	0s	4 1/4d	per pair

1442 6th Oct. Grant by William Austeley and John Clerk to Isabella Westwode of a messuage and curtilage in a street called "le Abbeyende" in Nuneaton containing a quantity of a moiety of a burgage with remainder to John Duston of Stretton on Dunsmore.

1443 5th Jun. Grant by John Bonde of Nuneaton to John Baker of the same, of a tenement and curtilage in Nuneaton abutting on the lane leading to Hallecroft. Bond had local family connections from 14th to 20thC.

1444 Anglo-French truce

1445 13th Apr. Weddington vicar: Rev. William Staunton

Sir Thomas Malory elected Member of Parliament for Warwickshire.

1446 20th Oct. Sale by Robert Nevelle of Coventry to John Stokes of Nuneaton for 20 marks of a "place bild" with a croft in Nuneaton lying between the King's highway and the water of the Unkur.

1447 Elizabeth Hastings died (her family held Burton Hastings)

1447-78 Bad harvests: all grains

1448 William Purefoy, Sheriff of Warwickshire. Purefoy had local family connections from 15th to 18thC.

1448-c.65 Maud Everingham was Prioress at Etone

1449 English break the truce with their enemies

1450 Weddington had passed down female line of Astleys to Reginald, Lord Grey. Local lands held by Duke of Clarence or it was under Lancastrian influence (i.e. Neville and Percy)

1451 The famous knight and author Sir Thomas Malory (author of Le Morte Darthur) was tried at a Nuneaton assize shortly after he escaped from custody. Malory lived at Newbold Revel near Rugby, he succeeded to these estates in 1433-4. In 1450 he was charged with attempted murder, he later was imprisoned for other serious crimes. He again sat for Warwickshire as an M.P. in 1456. It was likely he wrote the story of King Arthur whilst in prison. He went with the Earl of Warwick to Northumberland to fight alongside King Edward IV. He may have joined the Lancastrians; but was excluded from the pardons later issued by King Edward. (see 1414-18, 1441, 1445, 1469-70, 1471, 1485)

24th Aug. William Kyme and 19 others of the Kyme faction were outlawed for the murder of John Saunders. He was later knighted for his part in the Battle of St. Albans. He was later involved with Edward IV and was later found hiding in Redesdale with 3,000 marks of Lancastrian money. He was beheaded at Newcastle 20th July 1464. He was one the ancestors of Joseph Kem (see 1700 etc.)

Wool market became depressed for many years.

1451-60 Ten year wage average from different parts of England in pence (d)

Time work (per day)				Piece work		
Carvers joiners	carpenter mate	mason	mason's labourer	agricultural	threshing winnowing a qr. Wheat	reaping binding stacking an acre of wheat
6.75	6	6.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	10.5

1451-65 Simon Billyng (or Billingay) was Master and Receiver General at Etone

1452 1st Apr. John Lolleworth, chaplain and patron of Chilvers Coton church

1452-53 Agreement between Ecclesiastical electors
1454 26th Sep. William Outelade, chaplain and patron of Chilvers Coton church

Parliament Lords appointed Richard of York as protector during Henry's insanity.

1454-56 Good harvests: wheat and barley.

1455-85 Wars of the Roses began

Owing to the unfitness of King Henry VI, the Duke of York was appointed Protector.

c.1455 End of the Hundred Years War

William Hastings acquired Caldecote

4th May. Letter of Attorney by John Duston authorising John Seman and Richard Buttiller to deliver to William Wodcok prior of Arbury seisin and messuage and curtilage in Nuneaton.

Countess Close (in a triangle of land between Abbey Street and Queens Road) was recorded as a 20 acre pasture and part demesne land of the priory. Walkmill Close ontained a fulling mill on the lower section of the Bar Pool and Hollystitches Brook.

	Grant by John Duston to William prior of Arbury of a messuage and curtilage in Abbeyende Street in Nuneaton. Witnesses John Beaufitz Kenilworth Castle, Richard Bosvyle, vicar of Nuneaton church.
1455-56	Priory tile kiln at Barr Green (lower Tuttle Hill) recorded in an old deed
1455-1607	8-9% of Warwickshire Enclosed in this period
1456	The first Latin translation of the Bible
	9th Jun. Halley's Comet returned
1457	Personal bondage declining in society.
	Trade depressed in the Leicester area.
1458	Grey family hold Weddington
	13th Aug. Weddington vicar: Rev. Ralph Wode
1459	Etone Priory had 40 Nuns (based on an order for choir stalls)
	Warwickshire's depopulated villages brought to Parliament's attention
1460	Richard of York defeated Henry VI at Northampton
1460-62	bad harvests: wheat and barley
1461	4th Mar. Edward IV crowned temporarily. Jun. John Norton vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

YORK DYNASTY

1461-1509	The gold Ryal coin issued = (10s) or 50p
1462	William Hastings became Lord Hastings of Hastings.
1463	Feb. William Umfrey vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
	English landowners gained monopoly in the home grain market. A statute prohibited the import of grain; the cost rose for the next 200 years with no compensation.
	An Act of Parliament was passed forbidding the import of cloth from the continent. It was designed to encourage British cloth manufacture but succeeding in annoying the Flemish.
1464	Edward married Elizabeth Woodville, widow of John, Lord Grey of Ferrers
	The gold Angel coin issued = (80d, later 90d, 96d, 120d, 132d) or 33 to 55p
	The gold Noble coin withdrawn
1464-70	The gold Rose Noble (Ryal) = (10s) or 50p
1465	Arbury Prior and Prioress removed for misrule
1465-85	Elizabeth Barton was Prioress at Etone
1466	Louis XI allied with the Earl of Warwick
1467	3rd Feb. John Worcester, Canon of Arbury Priory and patron of Chilvers Coton church

2nd Aug. Weddington vicar: Rev. Roger Friton

1468 Statute to encourage archery and prohibit dice, quoits and football.

Sunday sport was regulated (see 1346, 1354, 1356, 1415) King Edward IV's reign

1469 King Edward IV was captured on Wolvey Heath by the Earl of Warwick and carried off a prisoner to Middleham Castle.

1469-70 Sir Thomas Malory finished writing Le Morte Darthur

1469-1539 Guru Nanak founded the Sikh religion; God transcends all religion

1470 Jubilee Year celebrated every 25 years (Ecclesiastical). This was based on the Biblical Old Testament practice of cancelling all debts every so many years. It allowed people to get out of long term financial misery because of compounding debt.

c.1470 Polydore Vergil born (see 1502, 1534-1555)

1471 May. Thomas Walford vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

King Edward IV was reinstated as King.

1472 The Synod of Constantinople finally completed the split of the early church (first started in 1054)

Edward Grey of Astley was granted a general pardon

1473 Ralph Boteler died childless (see 1385 and 1398)

1474 Hugh Mitchell was Master and Receiver General at Etone

Aug. Richard Cokkys vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1474-76 Caxton printed the first book in English "The Game and Playe of the Chess" followed by Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales".

1475 William Trussel, Sheriff of Warwickshire.

1476 25th Feb. A partial eclipse of the sun

Sir Edward Neville was overlord of Burton Hastings

26th Feb. A grant by John Baker of Nuneaton to Richard Cok' vicar of Nuneaton, John Leke and Richard Astell of the same of a tenement and curtilage in "le Bondynd" in Nuneaton abutting on the lane leading to Halcroft. Baker had local family connections from 14th to 20thC.

Judge John Fortescue published Governance of the Realm, it reiterated the three freedoms - liberty, life and property

pre-1477 The following woods were recorded in the Nuneaton area (see S.J. Wager 1998, reference:

Name	Owner	Locality
magno bosco	Gaufridus de Turvilla	Stockingford
bosco de Newhay	Stephen de Segrave	Stockingford

1477 The Gold standard was changed to 18 carat quality.

Cricket was banned in England by Edward IV. There was a fine and 2 years prison because it interfered with archery practice. (see 1346, 1354, 1356, 1415).

King Edward IV's reign

1478 22nd Apr. Demise by Thomas Hay, prior of Arbury, to Thomas Framton of Wyken next to Nuneaton for 9 years of a messuage, garden, croft and lands in Nuneaton and Attleborough paying yearly 56s 8d.

1479 Ferdinand V (King of Aragon), established the Spanish Inquisition with Papal approval. It was originally intended to deal with those people that converted from Judaism to Islam, but was later used against Protestants. It was finally suppressed in 1820.

1479-80 Caxton printed the "Chronicles of England"

1480-1520 Scientists were inspired by the introduction of Greek scientific texts that made their way into western Europe

1481 20th Feb. Demise by Richard Cokys, vicar of Nuneaton, John Leke and Richard Astell of the same, to Edward Gray lord of Lysle, John Huggeforde, John Smyth of Coventry, gentleman and Richard Haye of Halesowen of a messuage and curtilage in "le Bondeynd" in Nuneaton, abutting upon the lane leading to "le Halecroft"; also letter of attorney authorising Thomas Miryng to deliver seisin of the same.

24th Feb. Release by John Baker of Nuneaton to Edward Gray knight lord of Lysle

John Huggeforde, Esq. John Smyth and Richard Hay of his right to a messuage and curtilage in "le Bandeynd" in Nuneaton abutting upon the lane leading to "le Hallecrofte"

12th-14th Mar. Sir Thomas Malory died

21st Jun. The release by Edward Gray, lord of Lysle, John Smyth and Richard Haye to Thomas, prior of Arbury of all their right to a tenement and curtilage in "le Bondyende" in Nuneaton

20th Dec. Weddington vicar: Rev. Richard Walton

1481-84 Bad harvests: wheat and barley

1482 Henry, Lord Grey, held Hartshill

10th Jun. Demise by Edward Gray, Lord of Lysle, John Huggesforde esquire, John Smith of Coventry, gentleman and Richard Haye of Halesowen to Thomas Haye, prior of Arbury for 20 years of a messuage with a curtilage in "le Bondyende" in Nuneaton abutting on the lane leading to Le Halecroft.

1483 William Hartshill arrested on Duke of Gloucester's order and beheaded.

SOCIAL HIERARCHY

URBAN	LANDED/RURAL
Laity	Clergy
dukes	archbishops
earls	bishops
	abbots
barons	
merchants	knights
esquires	rectors
gentlemen	vicars

master Craftsmen	yeomen	lesser clergy
husbandmen		
journeymen labourers	labourer	
servants		servants
marginals		marginals

The title of the Duke of Norfolk created

Warwickshire's depopulated villages brought to Parliament's attention

King Edward IV died of fever whilst planning an invasion of France. His son Prince Edward came to the throne at the age of 12. As Edward V he was allegedly murdered by his uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester. Richard, Duke of Gloucester became King Richard III. He was distinguished as a warrior and administrator. His opponents soon organised themselves to plot his demise. He was demonised somewhat by Shakespeare's portrayal of him.

1484 Sep. Earl Grey of Astley (created Lord Lisle) granted manor of Astley to 28th Feb.

A severe freezing winter

1485 16th Mar. A partial eclipse of the sun

21st Aug. Henry (the future King Henry VII) travelled along the A5 Watling Street to meet Richard at Market Bosworth/Dadlington area.

Bail first introduced for defendant in legal courts

22nd Aug. Monday. St. Timotheus and Symphorianus:

The Field of Redemore - Battle of Bosworth.

"The end of Mediaeval England!"

John Hardwick, of Lindley, steward of Nuneaton Priory, joined Henry of Richmond at Atherstone on the eve of the battle with men and horses raised in the local neighbourhood. The site of the Battle was revised by Dr. Peter Foss in 1990. The site is 1.3 km to the north west of Stoke Golding on the Fenn Lane at Redemore.

Field of Redemore: Battle of Bosworth. The geology and historical geography have re-assessed the original landscape. Henry Tudor travelled from Milford Haven, via Cardigan, Aberystwyth, Welshpool, Shrewsbury, Newport, Lichfield, Tamworth and Atherstone. His troops then marched along the Watling Street to the Fenn Lane. Sir William Stanley marched from the Wrexham area to Stone then on to Atherstone. Lord Thomas Stanley marched from Blackburn-Bolton area to Stafford, Lichfield, Tamworth and Atherstone. The Earl of Northumberland (with Richard III) marched from Hexham-Corbridge area south to Nottingham, then to Leicester. The Duke of Norfolk (with Richard III) marched from Bury St. Edmunds to Leicester. The various encampments on the day of the battle were as follows: Battle of the vanguards to the south of Shenton (Oxford, Savage and Talbot to the south west) (Brackenbury and Norfolk to the north east). William Stanley from near Stoke Golding, Lord Stanley from Dadlington, Northumberland near Sutton Cheney and Richard at Ambion Hill. Henry came via Fenny Drayton.

TUDOR DYNASTY

The Tudor period was the turning point from the Middle Ages to the Modern Age. The Protestant Reformation re-structured the Church; it served to transfer land from the church into other hands. The Renaissance that led to the Revival of Learning and to the evolution of a new civilisation throughout Europe.

The establishment of Monarchical despotism against a backdrop of world explorations, new territories, new imports and scientific experimentation. There was an overall increase in English prosperity. Food was plentiful, dress became extravagantly rich, money was spent lavishly by some classes. A typical christmas meal was boar's head, peacock and swan; these were gradually replaced by the Indian Fowl (brought back from the Americas).

Nobles built stately mansions; country gentry built roomy manors; yeoman farmers and peasants dwelt in substantial cottages. It was well into King Henry VIII's reign before the verdict and outcome of the Battle of Bosworth was finally accepted by everyone.

THE END OF THE WAR OF THE ROSES

22nd Aug. Monday, Henry VII crowned at Stoke Golding according to local history.

Sir Richard Radcliffe died at this battle; he was the 152 nd richest man to have lived in Britain. His wealth by 2000 values was £2,800,000,000; he was an ally of Richard the third. Henry faced many rebellions and has interest in foreign trade and the profitability of the crown lands.

Houses were now less fortified, the first windows of small panes of glass set in wooden frames appeared.

Caxton printed Sir Thomas Malory's Le Morte Darthur

1485-1500	16,000 acres were enclosed in the counties of Warwick, Northampton, Oxford, Buckingham and Berkshire, over 13,000 of this were pasture.
1485-1547	The Testoon coin issued = (12d) or 5p
1485-1558	Warwickshire depopulated villages: 18 definitely, 1 probably, 3 rebuilt later
1486	22nd Jan. John Causey, priest and patron of Chilvers Coton church Nov. William Fletcher vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
1486-99	Maud Everingham was Prioress at Etone
1487	Parliament entrusted power to Court of the Star Chamber
	Protectionist and Bullionist statutes against the export of unfinished cloth and precious metal and measures to finance foreign trade by Bills of Exchange.
	"The Book of Good Manners" published
1488	King Henry VII granted Bulkington to John, Lord Zouche.
	The first Hebrew translation of the Bible
1488-93	Stretton Baskerville became extinct after the enclosures
	The Nuneaton area developed a sheep grazing agriculture
1489	The + and - symbols come into use in mathematics
1489-90	Henry VII's statute (Enclosure Act and priority in the purchase of wool to the native cloth industry) attempted to halt rural depopulation. Warwickshire's depopulated villages brought to Parliament's attention no action taken!
1490	SHEEP CLEARANCE FOR WOOL: much land was depopulated to make way for grazing
c.1490	The spring clock invented

1491 Thomas Grey, the Marquess (Marquis) of Dorset enclosed Weddington's land, may have built a mansion. 300 acres lost, 10 houses ruined, 60 persons driven off.

The village became a permanent deserted mediaeval village (DMV).

15th Mar. Weddington vicar: Rev. Robert Legge

1491-1500 Local prices Decennial averages:
shillings pence s d or /-

see 1278-79 for definitions

Laths	4s	8 1/2d	per 1,000
Laths	9s	1d	per load
Plain tiles	5s	1 1/2d	per 1,000
Crests/concave	14s	7d	per 100
Slates	5s	2 1/2d	per 1,000
Tile pins	0s	6d	per bushel
Bricks	8s	0d	per 1,000
Planch	2s	10d	per 100 (quarter)
Glass	-		per foot
Rope	11s	5 1/2d	per hundredweight
Lath nails	0s	10 1/2d	per 1,000
Board/sixpenny	3s	8 1/4d	per 1,000
Carpenters	0s	6 1/4d	highest
Carpenters		6d	average
Mason		5 3/4d	
Mason labourer		3 3/4d	
Sawyer (pair)	0s	11 1/2d	
Sawing per 100ft	1s	0d	
Tiler/slater	0s	5 3/4d	
Thatcher	0s	5 1/2d	
Man	0s	3 1/2d	
Plumber	0s	7d	

Threshing and winnowing (per quarter)

Wheat	0s	4 1/2d
Barley	0s	2 1/2d
Beans/peas	0s	2d
Oats	0s	2 1/2d
Mowing grass	0s	7d

Reaping per acre

Wheat	-		
Barley	-		
Oat	-		
Unskilled	0s	4 1/2d	
Oxen	15s	11 3/4d	
Calves	2s	1d	
Boars	7s	8 1/4d	
Capons	0s	6 3/4d	
Geese	0s	4d	
Hens	0s	1 3/4d	
Chickens	0s	1d	
Ducks	0s	2d	
Swans/Cygnets	-		
Pigeons	-		per dozen
Rabbit	0s	4d	per pair

1492 Nuneaton recorded as NONEATON Calendar of Inquisitions post mortem

Christopher Columbus began the modern exploration of the “New World” it is now believed that Vikings also explored and settled the east coast of North America.

There is growing evidence that ancient Egyptians, Polynesians, Romans and Chinese may have also visited it.

1493 Henry Smith bought the manor of Stretton Baskerville, he finished the enclosures, evicted 80 people from 12 messuages and 4 cottages on 640 acres.

1494 Poyning's Act: Forbade the Parliament of the Pale of Ireland to deal with matters not first approved of by the king of England and his council.

Maximilian I recognised Perkin Warbeck as the King of England

26th Oct. Amias Halghton, priest and patron of Chilvers Coton church

1495 Bulkington manor restored to Lord Zouche

Act against Usury (the taking of interest on loans)

1496 Magnus Intercursus - England and Flanders settled a commercial dispute English merchants returned from Calais to Antwerp

J. Stanbridge published “Vocabula”

1497 Perkin Warbeck rebellion
Merchant Adventurers Act to fix the fee charged by them.

1498 Humanism became a problem caused by Religious Dissent

1499 Earl of Warwick executed as a Pretender

England ceased to be a bilingual country, there was still variation in the spelling of English words and dialects were still plentiful. The "English" of London, that was an amalgam of 3 or more regional dialects (East Midlands, Southern and South Eastern) began to exploit the prestige that it had been building since the times of Chaucer.

1500 The Great Jubilee Year

George Bayly, a freeholder, (alias Potter) paid a chief rent in the Coton area
80% of the British people were farming the land

Nuneaton’s population estimated at over 900

A £1 was worth £500 by the 2000 A.D. price

c.1500 Estimate: world’s living population reached 10,000,000

1500-07 Christiana Topcliffe was Prioress at Etone

The following settlements existed in the Nuneaton area:

Ansley, Arbury, (and Temple House), Astley (and Castle) Attleborough, Bulkington, Bramcote, Burbage (and Hall), Burton Hastings, Caldecote (depopulated?), Coton, Exhall, Fenny Drayton (and Hall), Galley Common, Griff (and Manor House), Hartshill (and Castle, Grange), Higham, Hinckley (moved) (and Castle), The Hyde, Lindley, Mancetter (and Manor House), Marston Jabbett

The following settlements existed in the Nuneaton area:

Oldbury, Rowden, Ryton, Shelford, Shenton, Sinney, Sketchley, Sole End (deserted), Stoke Golding ("castle"), Stretton Baskerville (deserted),

Upton (and Hall), Weddington (becoming deserted), Weston, Witherley, Wolvey and Wykin.

The following monastic sites existed: Arbury Priory, Astley

Secular College and Chantry, Nuneaton Priory and Alien Priory,

Churches existed at: St. Nicolas, Nuneaton; All Saints, Coton; Attleborough Chapel; St. James, Weddington; St. Theobald and St. Chad, Caldecote; Stretton Baskerville Chapel; St. Peter's, Higham; St. James, Bulkington; St. Mary the Virgin, Astley; St. Peter's, Mancetter; St. Mary's,Hinckley; St. Botolph's, Burton Hastings; Bramcote Chapel; St. Margaret's, Stoke Golding; St. Michael's, Fenny Drayton; Wykin Chapel; St. John's, Lindley; St. John the Baptist, Wolvey and Sketchley chapel.

Brett's Hall, Horeston Grange and Park House (Hartshill) existed.

1500-1560 Tudor (Gothic) period of Architecture

START OF THE 16TH CENTURY A.D.

	Holm oak, Oriental plane, Tamarisk, Privet, Quince introduced into Britain
	Ansley Hall, Marston (Jabbett) Hall, Hartshill Grange, Lindley Hall and The White House (Caldecote Hill) built in this century
1501	Jun. Thomas Waryn vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
1502	The Eton School (London) choir book completed
	Polydore Vergil came to England (see 1534-1555)
1502-03	Bad harvest: wheat
1503	Parliament passed Statute of Retainers
	The pocket handkerchief became popular
1504	English Trade Guilds were placed under supervision of the Crown
1504-05	Bad harvest: barley
1505	Thomas Wele vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton (he was also the Bishop of Panadensia)
	Sir Alexander Colepeper gave to John Ludford (Henry's grandson) Ansley and Ox Hayes (see 1410)
1506	George Bayly, elected a Nuneaton constable in court leet. This office was confined to wealthy husbandmen.
	British Commerce Treaty with Holland
1506-33	George Bayly served as juror 7 times in this period.
c.1506	John Leland, the first English antiquarian was born, he later visited the Nuneaton area in the period (1534-43) when he researched "History and Antiquities of this Nation"
1507	Etone Priory listed 23 Nuns
	Thomas Trussel, Sheriff of Warwickshire.
1507-21	Elizabeth Hasilrigg was Prioress at Etone
1508	John Leeke obtained a licence to found a chantry at St. Nicolas parish church.
1509	Henry VIII came to the throne; he became renowned for the way he treated his 6 wives. It was said that over 80,000 were hanged during his reign for all manner of reasons.
	Henle of Nuremberg invented the watch
1510	Coventry Cross demolished (Attleborough Sandstone)
1510-40	Owing to silver production in Germany, the dispersal of Henry VII's hoarded treasure by Henry VIII, the price of foodstuff went up by 30%. Other prices increased by less.
1511	The wheel-lock musket invented in Nuremburg
1512	Humphrey Adderley (later of Weddington) was born
1513	Battle of Flodden

Messrs. Potter and Slade ordered to scour their ditches.(Coton area) This was an early example of this clause in a lease; it occurs very regularly after this date in local deeds and leases. This indicates the flooding liabilities of the area and the need to maintain water courses for good land drainage.

1514 Greek New Testament published

1515 Thomas Grey granted the lease of Astley to Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire.

J. Skelton, the 'Oxbridge' poet laureate published "Magnificence"

25th Oct. St. Crispin's Day: The 100th anniversary of The Battle of Agincourt.

Henry V's longbow men defeated a numerically superior French army.

The 'Shakespearian' Henry V urged us to remember this day forever!

1516 Erasmus published his Greek version of the New Testament

Thomas More published "Utopia"

Fabyan published his Concordance of Histories and chronicles, this was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles

1517-1598 REFORMATION

1517 Weddington had ten houses pulled down and 60 people were expelled

Martin Luther protested against the selling of pardons and indulgences

May Day riots: many were hanged in London

1517-58 Warwickshire depopulated villages: 1 definitely

1518 Royal College of Physicians founded by Linacre

1518-25 Coventry Crisis: a local slump; high food prices; national trade depression and huge sums of capital removed from the city.

1519 The New Learning in England and reform in the Catholic Church

1520 A deed in the British Museum recorded two masons from Lichfield worked on Etone's cloister.

The Pope declared Luther a heretic

1521 21st May. William Warde, Canon of Arbury Priory and patron of Chilvers Coton church

Jun. Robert Whittington vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1522 Agnes Olton was the last Prioress at Etone Priory; she retired in 1539.

Zwingli (the Swiss reformer) published his first tract about reforming the church

Luther reformed the church service

1523 John Fitzherbert published "Husbandry" the first agricultural handbook in England

1524 Erasmus entered the Reformation controversy

1524-25 Warwickshire local area had less than 20 people per square mile

1524-26	George Bayly paid 6 shilling (30p) tax on £12 worth of goods. This indicated a high level of wealth for someone in the clay industry. Of the 16 tenants in the Priory precinct Robert Tylar, paid tax on 40 shillings of goods, John Tylemaker on 20 s worth. (Nuneaton)
1526	The Tyndale Bible published
	The gold George Noble coin issued = (80d) or 33p
	The gold Crown of the Rose coin issued = (4s 6d) or 22.5p
1526-44	The gold Crown of the Double Rose = (5s) or 25p
1526-1612	The gold Half Crown issued = (30d) or 12.5p
1527	Robert Tylar paid tax on 20 shillings wages, the miller paid a similar amount.
	Chemotherapy founded at the University of Basel by Theophrastus von Hohenheim
	Severe winter freeze
c.1527	The world's living population reached 100,000,000 (one tenth of a billion)
1528	English merchants arrested in Spain and Flanders as a reprisal against Wolsey's policy on wool trade.
1529	William Weston, Prior of Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem brought an action against Martin Docwra.
1529-39	English Church reformed.
1530	Thomas, Marquess of Dorset, left a life interest in the manor of Astley, to his widow, Margaret.
	The population once again began to grow.
	John Fysshepole was Master and Receiver General at Etone
1530-31	Tyndale's translation of the Bible published
15311	26th Aug. Halley's Comet returned
1532	Sir Alexander Colepeper held 300 acres of land at Ansley
1533	Leland appointed king's Antiquary, he later made a tour of England on behalf of the King.
	Elena Pot (Pott) was ordered to mend her manners towards her neighbours or remove herself from Nuneaton. She was also warned for not showing her pigs to the town herdsman.
1534	Act of Supremacy: The king shall be taken, accepted and reputed the only supreme head on earth of the church. Hence the Church of England severed from Rome.
	Act of Succession: Required an oath to be taken by all acknowledging that
	Henry VIII marriage with Catherine of Aragon was invalid.
1534-43	John Leland, the great English antiquarian made his tour of England. He visited the Nuneaton area in that time.
1534-55	Polydore Vergil compiled "Anglicae Historiae Libri XXVI). This was a valuable chronicle for the reign of King Henry VII and therefore the Battle of Bosworth.

1535 Etone Priory survey made no reference to issues from coal mines.

St. James church, Weddington valued at £8 10s 6d.

Valor Eccliasticus = Weddyngton

The Valor Ecclesiasticus recorded the following possessions of Etone Priory. The parish Churches appropriated to the Priory

			£	s	d
Hampshire	Katryngton Farm of Rectory		£10	0	0
Leics.	Burley	"	£6	13	4
	Rotby	"	£8	16	0
	Claybrook	"	£10	0	0
Warwickshire	Burton Hastings	"	£2	13	4
	Merton	"	£6	13	0
	Hodenhull	"	£1	6	0
Stretton Baskerville annual pension				10	0
Hants	Chawton	"	£6	0	0
	Clensfyld	"	£2	0	0
	Blendworth	"	£13	4	
Bucks.	Mursley	"	£1	0	0

Land, Tenements, Meadows, Pastures and Mills

Warw.	Nuneaton Land, Messuages and burgages		£52	7	9
	Attilburgh	"	£21	13	6
	Hodenhull	"	£11	13	10
	Arbury	"	£3	5	8
	Marton	"	£12	16	13.5
	Burton Hastings	"	£5	17	8
	Monks Kirby	"	4	0	
Leics.	Wykin	"	£7	13	0
	Rotherby	"	£3	9	2.5
	Waltham	"	£3	10	8
	Ullesthorpe	1 tenement	£1	7	0
Leicester	Land in town			12	0
Wibtoft	Land and tenements		£2	19	4
Wardley				4	0
Northants	Swynford	"		8	2
	Hazelbeach	"		10	0
	Braunston	"	£1	4	0
	Ashby St.Legers	"		9	9.5
	Helmdon	1 tenemet		6	0
Rutland	Exston Land and tenements			5	0
Berks.	Kintbury	"	£27	10	6.5
Lincs.	Upwell End	"	£3	19	7.5
Hants.	Winchester	Messuage in city		10	0
Oxon.	Oxford Cottage			2	0
London	tenement in city		£2	13	4
Leics.	Wigston Land and tenements			10	0

Warwicks.	Stretton Baskerville	"		8	0	
	Stockingford	"	£9	1	6	
	Wyken	"		19	0	
	Horeston	Land, tenements, meadow and pasture	£15	9	8	
Lands, meadows, pastures belonging to the Priory and annually reserved for use of the hospice				£27	9	4
Sale of wood with profits of Courts						
Annual sale of wood, profits of courts and views held in the various Lordships belonging to the monastery				£10	0	0
The Office of Claustrall Prioress Receipts from lands and tenements set aside for the Claustral Prioress			£1		17	6
The Office called "A Brother" Rents of lands and tenements belonging to the office of Robert Green, clerk				£3	7	0
The total income from these sources was				£290	15s	0.5d

Coverdale's translation of the Bible published

1536 The Parliamentary Act of Dissolution of the Smaller Monasteries. In this period

Wales was effectively united with England. There was a dramatic change in land ownerships.

A period of warm summers.

The Augustinian Canons' Priory at Arbury was dissolved, it had 5 canons, a novice, A Prior and 26 dependants; Sir Edmund Anderson acquired it. (because it was valued at less that £200) The Crown was patron of Chilvers Coton church until 1557

1537 Some of the church's land was sold, wealthy men bought this land and built their stately homes. Weddington Hall was probably of this type. Most churches and land were legally transferred to the Church of England.

1538 Weddington St. James (and many other local churches) ceased being Catholic and became Anglican. Churches were sometimes bought by local Parishes or usually legally transferred. Etone Priory income was £227 per annum. Many local churches finally closed or fell into ruin.

A document stated that "corn to the value of twelve shillings was given every week to the poor and aged, at the gate of The Nunnery while on Easter day bread, beer (or ‘ale’) and herrings, to the value of forty shillings were distributed. On Easter day a donation of money to the value of five shillings and four pence, bread, beer and herrings was also made to the poor and sick in the Nunnery"

The Great Bible published

4th Mar. Prioress Agnes Olton held a court after receiving a letter from Lady Dudley to grant leases.

1539 William Fyndern was the last Master and Receiver General at Etone

Act of the Six Articles against heresy: An anti-Protestant measure, establishing the celibacy of the Clergy, monastic vows and private masses

The Parliamentary Act of Dissolution of the Greater Monasteries. 12th Sep.King Henry VIII's Act dissolved:

Etone Priory; Dr. John London, clerk and King's commissioner attendedNuneaton to receive from the Prioress and the Convent the surrender of the house and all its possessions from Agnes Olton the last Prioress.

There were 27 cross (no signatures). Deed of surrender valued at £253 14s 5.5d.

The long process of suppressing St. Mary's, Nuneaton began. The central part of the conventual complex became the site of the Manor house.

The following Nuns received pensions as follows:

Agnes Olton £40; Agnes Wilsey, Isabel Purfreye, Joan Whalleye, Elizabeth Milwarde, Mary Worseley and Joan Wetnall, £3 each, Isabel Babington and Joyse Fitzherbert, 53s 4d each; Anne Everatte, Lucy Hasilbrigge, Joan Bate, Joan Haseley, Margaret Dyxwell and Rose Ceton, 46s 8d each, Joan Copstone, Mary Barington, Elyne Townesende, Dorothy Riddell and Joyse Clarke, 40s each, Elizabeth Berdemore, Isabel Bannister, Joan More and Agnes Kingstone, 26s 8d each, Joan Palmer, 33s 4d

The Priest for the Nunnery received a pension of £6.

The total pensions amounted to £100 6s 8d

Agnes Olton spent the remaining 11 months of her life at Astley Collegiate church of St. Mary.

Attleborough retained a separate Manorial constitution until 1815. Everything of value in the church was removed, the lead stripped from the roof thus causing the building's ruin.

1540 May. Sir Marmaduke Constable received transfer of Monastic land and properties (later known as Horeston Manor).

The first tulips introduced into Britain; within a few decades over 300 varieties had been hybridised.

1541 A water mill was recorded on the Hospitaller's land at Coton

Comiteswoode (wood) recorded in Nuneaton-Weddington area

1541-43 William Syggyswyke, from Bolton, took a lease on Colefield Close
1541-44 Coventry Cross erected (Attleborough Sandstone)

1541-50 Local prices Decennial averages:
shillings pence s d or /-

see 1278-79 for definitions

Laths	5s	4d	per 1,000
Laths	11s	6d	per load
Plain tiles	6s	1 1/4d	per 1,000
Crests/concave	6s	3 3/4d	per 100
Slates	6s	7 3/4d	per 1,000
Tile pins	0s	11 1/2d	per bushel
Bricks	7s	6 1/2d	per 1,000
Planch	2s	5 1/2d	per 100 (quarter)
Glass	0s	5d	per foot

Rope	18s	3d	per hundredweight
Lath nails	0s	11 3/4d	per 1,000
Board/sixpenny	3s	9d	per 1,000
Carpenters	0s	9d	highest
Carpenters		7d	average
Mason		6 3/4d	
Mason labourer		4 3/4d	
Sawyer (pair)	1s	1 1/2d	
Sawing per 100ft	1s	1 1/2d	
Tiler/slater	0s	7 1/2d	
Thatcher	0s	6 1/2d	
Man	0s	4 1/2d	
Plumber	0s	7 1/2d	

Threshing and winnowing (per quarter)

Wheat	0s	5 1/4d
Barley	-	
Beans/peas	-	
Oats	-	
Mowing grass	-	

Reaping per acre

Wheat	-		
Barley	-		
Oat	-		
Unskilled	0s	4 5/8d	
Oxen	42s	3 1/4d	
Calves	3s	7 1/2d	
Boars	13s	10 1/4d	
Capons	0s	8d	
Geese	0s	8d	
Hens	0s	5 3/4d	
Chickens	0s	2 1/4d	
Ducks	-		
Swans/Cygnets	2s	8d	
Pigeons	-		per dozen
Rabbit	0s	7d	per pair

1541-60 Henry VIII debased coinage, prices rushed upwards by almost 100%. This was not helped by silver mining in America.

1542 Coal mines at Hawkesbury passed into Coventry's possession following thedissolution of Erdbury (Arbury) Priory

England was at war with Scotland, mustering of troops

Pope Paul III established the Holy Office as a final court in trials for heresy.

1543 John Butterton (alias Tyler) held a tenement and shop/tilehouse. He paid the rest of his rent with a third of all his paving tiles, gutter tiles, bricks and crests

Copernicus introduced the idea that the earth orbited around the sun. The Greeks, (Ptolemy) proposed this idea. However, the ancient Chinese, Indian, Egytian and Arabs cultures had ideas about the earth rotating around the sun.

Hyrdmanys grove wood recorded in the Nuneaton area

Constable survey showed 'Proffyts of collpitts there every year'. Also 180 houses in Nuneaton.

The survey recorded the following tenancies:

Freeholders
Tenant at will (annual tenancy from the Lord of the Manor)
Tenant of a named freeholder
Copyholder (held by a copy of court roll for lives or term)
Leaseholder (held by indenture for term of years)
Co-tenant (joint occupation by tenants)

John Ambros	118 Abbey Street	tenant of Sir Anthony Cooke
Thomas Ambros	67 Market Place	tenant of Marquis of Dorset
William Astell	76 Swans Yeat	freeholder/occupier
Thomas Barnwell	189 Barr Green	tenant at will
Eton Chantry	146a Bakhouse Lane	freeholder/tenant J.Wattes jr.
William Coggreve	89 Precinct	co-tenant at will of Wyshawe Close
Marmaduke Constable	Countisclose	freeholder/demesne
	Newmylmedowe	freeholder/demesne
Randall Warbarton	132 Wykey End	tenant of Eton Chantry

The Precinct was within Etone Priory precinct.
Wykey End was the north end of Croft Road
Bakhouse Lane was Newdegate Street

1544 24th Jan. A partial eclipse of the sun

Sir Marmaduke Constable's Rentall recorded in the western half of the former priory precinct:
- several houses
- barns
- tile makers
- workshops
- Etone Abbey Mill driven by water from the Bar Pool.

Thomas Ludford arbitration of Astley land

The Lion Passant quality mark was struck on English Sterling silverware

The gold Crown coin issued = (5s) or 25p

1544-47 The gold Quarter Angel coin issued = (2s then 2s 6d) or 10-12.5p

1545 The Secular College and Chantry of Astley was dissolved.
Sir Ambrose Cave M.P. for Leicestershire

1546 Thomas Grey of Barwell held Mancetter

1547 The Constable Rental survey recorded an Iron Furnace in Weddington on the River Anker in Blackwater Field.

Monastic estate survey recorded Nuneaton Priory as owning a farm at Marton (Marston), rectories at Wibtoft and Claybrooke. Oldbury manor with appurtenances granted to most noble Charles, Duke of Suffolk and his heirs. (part of Polesworth)

Merevale Abbey owned 2 tenements and 2 cottages at Oldbury in tenure of Richard Robinson, Richard Barfotts, John Scott and John Goodie.

A period of cooler summers.

King Edward VI succeeded his father Henry. His reign saw intense persecution of the Catholics.

Sir Ambrose Cave M.P. for Leicestershire

1548 Sir Ambrose Cave appointed Sheriff for Warwickshire

Nuneaton recorded as NONEYTON in Feet of Fines

Sir Marmaduke Constable made a settlement of 'the manor of Horestone'

Nuneaton recorded as CONSTABLES EYTON in the Feet of Fines

Caldecote granted to Michael Purefey of Wellsborough

Act of Six Articles repealed. (enacted in 1539, it was Henry VIII's attempt to stop the spread of the Reformation). Statute of Heresy repealed. The first book of Common Prayer published as a result of the Act of Uniformity. Local churches would gradually adopt this type of church service.

E. Hall published "The Union of the Noble and Illustrious Families of Lancastre and York".

A severe Vagrancy Act was passed by parliament. The fines could not be paid because a man could not get work or earn enough to pay the fine.

1548-1966 The Silver One Shilling coin issued = (12d) or 5p

1549 Marmaduke Constable used Horeston as security for a £100 loan

First book of Common Prayer sanctioned by Parliament. The wedding ring finger changed from right hand to the left.

The Enclosure Commission appointed

1550-1850 THE LITTLE ICE AGE - winters became colder

1550 Constable leased Blackwater Field to John Oughton, draper, and other persons, especially reserved the right to dygge for iron stone colles mettall and ewre (ore).

A final Act was passed to hasten the removal of religious images from churches or to paint them over.

c.1550 Caldecote Hall first began construction

1550-96 The gold Fine Sovereign coin issued = (30s) or £1 50p

1551 26th Nov. Weddington vicar Rev. Robert Thurman

A bloomsmith smelted iron downstream of Etone Priory Mill.

Local coalpits valued at £5 per annum

W. Turner published "A new herbal"

John Colepeper (Thomas's brother) sold the Manor of Ansley to Robert and Edmund Wyeth of Loughborough

1551-1623 William Camden, antiquarian and historian, he visited Nuneaton sometime before 1586 on his tour of Britain.

1551-1944 The 12 sided Three Pence coin issued = (3d) or 1p

1551-1965 The "silver" Crown coin issued = (5s) or 25p

1551-1967 The "silver" Half Crown coin issued = (2s 6d) or 12.5p

The "silver" Six Pence coin issued = (6d) or 2.5p

1552 Sir Marmaduke Constable granted 'the grange of Horeston' to London goldsmith Jasper Fisher. The property stayed out of local hands for 90 years. Constable was a local family name from 16th to 19thC.

John Leland, the antiquarian died (see 1534-43)

2nd Protestant Book of Common Prayer.

Spryngwood grove wood recorded in the Nuneaton area

1552-53 King Edward VI, by letters patent, dated 21st May founded and endowed a free grammar school at Nuneaton, 1552-1696 the first school. 1694-1880 the old school and 1877-1974 the new school, 1974-2000 additional buildings to make it a sixth form college. Marmaduke Constable and 11 others were appointed governors.

1553 A local tilehouse held by Annes (Agnes) Butterton

The restoration of Roman Catholicism. Clerical poverty still existed, this helped to prolong Simony (selling pardons) and Plurality (clerics holding more than one parish living).

6th Jul. King Edward VI died, Bishop Ridley announced to the public that Lady Jane Grey should be acknowledged as rightful Queen. Jane was the grand-daughter of Mary and younger sister of Henry VIII and was married to Lord Guildford Dudley. She reigned from 6th July to 19th July. Is it widely believed that Lady Jane Grey stayed at Astley Castle on occasions.

Margaret Knollys leased coal mines in Blackwater field to 4 persons described as colliers; the lessees undertaking not to employ more than 6 workmen at one time, and to fill up the pits with 'yearthe and slecke'.

Queen Mary I restored the Catholic faith. Over 300 Protestants were burned at the stake during her reign.

Sir Ambrose Cave appointed M.P. Leicestershire

1553-1603 The gold Ryal coin issued = (15s) or 75p

1554 Henry, Duke of Suffolk, who owned Astley Castle and was father of Lady Jane Grey (Jane Dudley), attempted to raise a rebellion in Warwickshire and Leicestershire but failed. He was betrayed by his keeper, Underwood, while hiding in a hollow tree at Astley. He was eventually beheaded 23rd Feb. He also forfeited estates after the execution of Lady Jane Grey

1555 Robert Glover (Mancetter Martyr), Laurence Saunders and Cornelius Bongaywere burnt at Coventry.

The Highway Act: this passed responsibilities from landowners to the parish to maintain local roads. Consequently most roads were poorly maintained.

Highway Act: Two persons from each parish were to be surveyors for one year and on four appointed days of the year certain people were required to assemble with carts, horses, implements and material for the repair of the roads leading to any market town. All householders were liable to contribute according to their means.

c.1555 Saunder's Hall, Bedworth was built around this time, it was probably demolished in 1955-63.

Polydore Vergil died (see 1534-1555)

post-1555	Schooling was promoted; in Nuneaton certain ornaments were sold to pay for "sutes for a free schoole there which is nowe established by our said sovereigne".
1556	Robert Butterton took out a 21 year lease on Tuttle Hill Field for clay working Nuneaton recorded as NONNE ETON in Recovery Rolls
1557	14th May. Henry Wylkins, patron of Chilvers Coton church
	Mrs Joyce Lewis of Mancetter was burnt at Lichfield.
	Thomas Tusser's book "Hundredth good pointes of husbandrie" was published. It was in quaint verse; but served to revolutionise farming, it had basic instructions about farming, gardening and housekeeping. It helped to encourage diligence and guarding one's property and observing boundaries. This led to a growing interest in map making and surveying. Use of fertilisers increased obtained from by products from starch making and brewing. New plants were introduced to Britain such as hops, artichokes, asparagus, cherries and potatoes.
1558	James Lyngard, the first Protestant Anglican vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
	Rev. H. Grene was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
	26th May. The 2 arched stone town bridge swept away by floods.
	17th Nov. Queen Elizabeth I succeeded to the throne. From the beginning of her reign she tried hard to establish a church that was broadly based with doctrines sufficiently elastic to satisfy the majority of English people. Many Protestants did not like this approach (especially parliamentary ones).
	Sir Ambrose Cave appointed M.P. Warwickshire
	William Perkins of Marston Jabbett born, he was the son of Thomas and Hannah Perkins.
1558-1600	Warwickshire depopulated villages: 2 definitely, 1 rebuilt later
1559	Rev. Ellyot was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
	Act of Uniformity: Restored the English Prayer Book and enforced its use on the clergy.
	Sir Ambrose Cave appointed M.P. for Warwickshire
	Act of Supremacy: Elizabeth I prayer book issued, she became head of the church.
	The Puritans regarded Elizabeth's effort to reform the church as incomplete and called for further purification of the church. Many Justices of the Peace and clerics were trying to overturn and remodel the church from within. The development of the "Priest Hole" where clerics could hide if they were hunted.
1559-60	Rev. Walton was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1560	Rev. Sadler was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
	The Geneva Bible published, this English translation was produced in Switzerland
	21st Aug. A partial eclipse of the sun
	Marmaduke Constable died, buried at St. Nicolas. The Priory lands passed to his son Robert. In the next 200 years the manor descended through 2 families, each who owned half. (The Astons and the Pagets)

	Laburnum and Judas Tree introduced into Britain
1560-61	Rev. Harmon was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1560-1600	Elizabethan (Early Renaissance) period of Architecture
1561	Mr. Trye rebuilt Weddington Village
	Thomas Stonynge vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
	John Bayly kept the Beare Inn in Nuneaton, a substantial place.
	Owing to Mary's better finance and Elizabeth's re-coinage prices stabilised and rise more slowly.
	Rev. Leven was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
	21st Nov. William Pate, patron of Chilvers Coton church
1561-82	The Three Half Pence coin issued = (1.5d) or 0.5p
	The Three Farthing coin issued = (0.75d) or 0.3p
1562	Sir Ambrose Cave appointed M.P. for Warwickshire
	Council of Trent re-opened. Originally sat 1545-1563
	Bay tree introduced into Britain
	4th Apr. Queen Elizabeth's favourites, were given land and property, e.g. Henry, Earl of Huntingdon (Hastings), John Cholmeley and Humphrey Adderley, Groom of the Wardrobes of the Robes and later Yeoman of the Wardrobe of the Robes, part of Queen Elizabeth's Great Wardrobe.
	Weddington was valued at £30 19s 4d.
	Rev. C. Walker was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
	Milled coinage introduced to prevent clipped edges
1562-1601	Poor Laws: this placed on local authorities the responsibility for settling the and supporting the poor.
1563	Weddington village again decayed
	Anglican Church: 39 Articles of belief issued.
	Test Act: First anti-Catholic Act, exacting from all office-holders an oath of allegiance to Queen Elizabeth I and a declaration that the Pope had no authority.
	Rev. Betts was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
	Queen Elizabeth passed the Statute of Artificers (see 1814)
	(1561 in some sources) Michael Drayton, the famous Elizabethan poet and contemporary of Shakespeare was born at Hartshill.
1564	Robert Constable sold the Priory land to Sir Ambrose Cave, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.
	Rev. N. Clayton was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
	William Shakespeare born at Stratford on Avon.

May. Thomas Dabridgecourt's survey estimated the Barpool to be 12 acres (4.86 Ha). From the time of its construction the dam must have formed the north west limit of the priory precinct and Constable referred to "lez overgates next to the said le bargrene".

Griff Coalpits valued at £4 per annum.

First punishments of the Puritans

1564-67 Rev. G. Bowley was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1565 Nicholas Cleyton vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1566 Nuneaton recorded as ETON AL NUNE ETON in Feet of Fines

Humphrey Adderley the sole owner of Weddington. A Suit mentioned a Capital Mansion House i.e. WEDDINGTON HALL or CASTLE; it is possible that gatehouse Lodges were built at this time and later modified by Lugar in 1805.

William White claimed the lease of Earl of Suffolk and tried to depose Adderley. He failed. Adderley could trace his ancestry back to King Edward IV. Adderley was given a black satin gown with silk edged borders and trimming lined with sable fur, by Queen Elizabeth I.

1567 9th Apr. A partial eclipse of the sun
Huguenot conspiracy

1567-70 Rev. Donner was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1568 John Bayly held 4 yardlands and 5 crofts locally.

Sir Ambrose died. The Priory land passed to his daughter Margaret, wife of Henry Knollys.

The Bishop's Bible published, this was an English translation and Church Wardens were ordered to obtain copies for their local churches in 1571

1569 Rising of Northern Earls

1350-1570 RENAISSANCE

1570 Richard Hussey, Stephen Verney and Michael Purfrey were appointed to report on the state of mining in Bedworth "there is one mine called Stone cole or Seacole in a place called Parkefield and how far it extends they do not know. And the said mine of coals is worth 20s yearly if it be let."

The Pope issued a BULL deposing Queen Elizabeth I and absolved her English subjects from their allegiance to the throne. Practising Catholics were turned into potential traitors.

Population of England and Wales 4,038,879

22nd Jul. Michael Purefoy died and an alabaster monument was placed in Caldecote church.

1570-82 There was no recorded Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1571 Humphrey Adderley of Weddington married Anne North from Northampton.
Various governments acts promoted the export of grain

Penal legislation against Roman Catholics

Sir John Newdigate born who became a famous magistrate

1571-82 Local prices Decennial averages:

shillings pence s d or /-

see 1278-79 for definitions

Laths	12s	4 1/2d	per 1,000
Laths	22s	0 1/2d	per load
Plain tiles	12s	3 1/2d	per 1,000
Crests/concave	14s	6 1/2d	per 100
Slates	14s	5d	per 1,000
Tile pins	1s	9 1/2d	per bushel
Bricks	12s	6 1/2d	per 1,000
Planch	4s	10 1/2d	per 100 (quarter)
Glass	0s	6 1/2d	per foot
Rope	24s	5d	per hundredweight
Lath nails	1s	4 1/2d	per 1,000
Board/sixpenny	4s	10 1/2d	per 1,000
Carpenters	0s	12 1/4d	highest
Carpenters		11 1/2d	average
Mason		11 1/4d	
Mason labourer		8d	
Sawyer (pair)	1s	8 1/2d	
Sawing per 100ft	1s	3d	
Tiler/slater	0s	11 1/4d	
Thatcher	-		
Man	0s	8d	
Plumber	0s	12 1/4d	

Threshing and winnowing (per quarter)

Wheat	-
Barley	-
Beans/peas	-
Oats	-
Mowing grass	-

Reaping per acre

Wheat	-		
Barley	-		
Oat	-		
Unskilled	0s	7 7/8d	
Oxen	85s	10 1/2d	
Calves	12s	9 1/4d	
Boars	30s	5d	
Capons	1s	1 1/2d	
Geese	0s	10 3/4d	
Hens	0s	5 1/4d	
Chickens	0s	3d	
Ducks	0s	5 1/2d	
Swans/Cygnets	4s	7d	
Pigeons	1s	2d	per dozen
Rabbit	0s	9d	per pair

1572 Jun. George Downes vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Humphrey Adderley acquired Melton Mowbray rectory's living; he did not retain this to his death; it appears to have been replaced by Castle Donington rectory, Wartoft and Wavertoft Granges

1573 The local Parkefield mine was granted to Edmund Anderson.

1574 30th Mar. Hugh Conwey, patron of Chilvers Coton church

Catholic activities began to re-establish; an Act was passed allowing Pursuivants to chase Catholics around the country in an attempt to stop them. The development of the Priest Hole in many houses to protect priests.

17th Aug. John Ashby, patron of Chilvers Coton church

1575 24th Aug. William Burton born at Lindley, first son of Ralph Burton

The gold quality standard was raised to 22 carat.

1576 Cherry laurel introduced into Britain

1576-77 8th Feb. Robert Burton born at Lindley. The second son of Ralph Burton, he was educated at Nuneaton King Edward VI Grammar school for part of his early life.

1577 Weston in Arden Hall was constructed

Holinshed Chronicles (humorous accounts of places, written by several authors) W. Harrison published his Description of England

William Welwood discovered the principle of the siphon; this would ultimately led to early experiments to de-water coal mines using steam power

Jun. William Perkins (Marston Jabbett) matriculated as a pensioner from Christ's College, Cambridge.

Horeston(e) Grange was extended, probably using local building stone such as Hartshill Quartzite.

10th Nov. a bright comet was visible

c.1577 Weston in Arden Hall constructed

1578 Nuneaton recorded as NUNYETON in Admissions to Gonville and Caius College

Sycamore tree introduced into Britain

Anne, the daughter of Humphrey Adderley was baptised. Adderley had two parcels of land one at Groby the other at Higham on the Hill.

Jasper Fisher (see 1552) died childless and left his possessions (including Horestone) to his two cousins - Katherine Norwood, a widow, and Anne, wife of Richard Wolriche.

1579 Political theory of Huguenots

1580 Local earth tremor tremor, Stoke Golding church spire partly collapsed

Wolvershill (Bramcote) was sold by Edward, Lord Zouche to Humphrey Davenport and Richard Bucknam; they in turn later sold it to George Purefoy, whose son, Gamaliel inherited it in 1616. Wolvershill Hall was constructed at this time.

Robert Butterton took a 21 year lease for half of Tuttle Hill Close, Brownes Meadow and the right to dig in Claypit Field. He paid 20s for the tilehouse and digging rights, 28s for the close, and 8s for the meadow.

1580 J. Stow published The Chronicles (Annales) of England, this was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles

1580? William Purefoy born at Caldecote, the eldest son of Francis Purefoy

c.1580 Robert Browne founded the Congregational Movement

1581	Humphrey Adderley (of Weddington) married his second wife, Elizabeth Capell of Rudgwick, Sussex. They had three children
	English Mercantilism
1582	Attleborough: Henry Knollys died. He bequeathed everything to his two daughters - Elizabeth and Lettice.
	The Catholic New Testament published 10 days were omitted from the calendar. Thursday 4th October was followed by Friday 15th October. This was not adopted by Britain until 1752.
	Turkish Hazel introduced into Britain
1582-85	Rev. Burton was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1583	Weddington: Humphrey Adderley (II) born
	Richard Brenand of Nuneaton, recorded as a tile layer, had the remains of a cottage lease.
	Sir Thomas Smith published “The Manner of Government of England”
	Sep. James Persons vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
1584	Anthony Cooke gave Hartshill manor to his uncle, William Cooke.
	William Burton was educated at Nuneaton Grammar school.
1584-1613	William Shakespeare’s traditional period of writing the now famous plays. The true identity of Shakespeare is still challenged by many researchers; a body of evidence points to the Oxfordshire “Poet Earl” de Vere.
1585	Parliamentary Act for security of the Queen against the Jesuits and priests
1585-86	Rev. Yates was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1586	Arbury passed to the Newdegate (Parker) family. Arbury Hall construction began
	28th Jul. The potato was introduced into England by Sir Thomas Harriet/Harriot
	Camden’s Britannia mentioned the quarrying of sandstone at Tuttle Hill, Nuneaton.
1586 - ?	Rev. Heath was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1587	3rd Oct. William Willoughby gave his lands in Nottingham, Lenton and Radford for the charitable needs of the poor in Nuneaton, Great Marlow, Normanton, Nottingham and Wolvey.
1588	Aug. The defeat of the Spanish Armada; Catholics wanted to volunteer for the services but were denied access.
1589	William Cooke died (owner of the Hartshill manor)
	Legislation on Cottages: this enactment stated that no cottage could be built for a land labourer unless it possessed at least 4 Acres. The cottage could not be sub-let or divided, no one could be given lodgings or board. This was repealed in 1775.
	William Lee invented an early type of knitting machine
	Sir John Harrington (godson of Queen Elizabeth) installed a water closet at his home.

1590	The Parkefield mine (or another mine of stone coal in Bedworth) was granted by Duke of Suffolk to John Welles.
	Nicholas Beale vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton and Antiquitates de Dadlington Manorie
c.1590	Nuneaton town local population may have reached 1,000 for the first time. It would take another 100 years to double that figure.
1590's	William Burton wrote 'Antiquitates de Lindley'
1591	Feb. William Gurrie vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton Several closes in Nuneaton occupied by William Astell were re-leased Michael Drayton published 'Harmonie of the Church'
	William Burton entered Brasenose College, Oxford
	1st Dec. Richard Taylor, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church
1592	Plague killed 15,000 in London and also affected the larger towns
1592-1600	The gold Pound coin issued = (£1 or 20s) or 100p
1593	Michael Drayton published 'Idea, the Shepheards Garland' and 'Piers Gaveston'
	The British linear mile established by law
	The first Five Mile Act (repealed in 1843-4). Papal supporters, who would not go to Protestant churches, had to stay in their normal home area and could not go more than 5 miles away from it. William Burton was admitted to the Inner Temple.
	Robert Burton (Lindley) went to Brasenose College, Oxford.
1594	Bad harvests began
	Michael Drayton published 'Matilda' and 'Ideas Mirrour'
	William Burton (Lindley) gained his B.A. from Oxford
1594-99	William Shakespeare wrote King Henry IV Part II, it mentioned Hinckley Fair. Act 5, Scene 1, lines 21-22.
1594-1610	Rev. R. Inge was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1595	Michael Drayton published 'Endimion and Phoebe'
	Coal mines in Arley and Bedworth were in the possession of Sir Francis Willoughby by grant from the crown. The four venturers established mining at Griff - Newdigates being the prime movers. Coventry Aldermen signed a lease with Huntingdon Beaumont for him to mine coal at Hawkesbury
c.1595	Hawkesbury colliery recorded, developed in 1745 to 1888, site workings finally ceased in 1946?
1596	William Burton (Lindley) wrote 'Comedy de Amoribus Perinthii et Tyanthes'
	Michael Drayton published 'The Tragicall Legend of Robert Duke of Normandie'
	Sir H. Savile published the Croyland (Crowland) History/chronicle 14-15thC. attributed to Ingulf, Abbot of Croyland c. 1080, this was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles.

Cornelian cherry introduced into Britain

1597 Michael Drayton published 'England's Heroicall Epistles'

Acts for the erection of workhouses

Libavius published “Alchemia” the first book on chemistry
Tobacco was being smuggled into south west England in open defiance of the custom-house officers.
John Gerard, the gardener at Burghley, wrote “Herball or generall Historie of Plantes”

Phillyrea and Lilac introduced into Britain

William Burton began the research for his Leicestershire masterpiece.

1598 29th Jul. Weddington: Humphrey Adderley (I), died leaving manor to his son Humphrey the (II)

1598-1601 The Willoughby's took control of coal mining south of Bedworth.
1599 Margaret, widow of Nicholas Saunders of Ewell (Surrey) sold Horeston Grange to Edward Blunt of Arleston, (Derbyshire) see 1540, 1548, 1552 and 1578.

Prices up by six fold what they were in 1499. An English worker needed to work 48 days to buy 8 Bushels of wheat; 32 days to buy 8 Bushels of Rye 29 days to buy 8 Bushels of Barley. (8 Bushels = 64 gallons or 291.2 litres)

Robert Burton (Lindley) went to Christ Church College, Oxford.

14th Aug. William Purefoy entered Gray’s Inn.

The local population growth (overall net gain per year) reached 10.

Nuneaton population estimated at 1,220.

1600 Richard Vines born, he became a celebrated preacher

Coal tax increased to 5s (60p) for coal shipped abroad and 1s (5p) for coal shipped to home parts.

Population of England and Wales. 4,811,718

East India Company established

The Spire of Astley fell down and damaged the nave.

A £1 was worth £400 by the 2000 A.D. price

c.1600 Galileo Galilei developed the astronomical telescope

1600-1700 Warwickshire depopulated villages: 2 definitely, 2 probably

The following settlements existed in the Nuneaton area, some were totally or partly deserted (DMV). The new village having moved a short distance from the original site.

Ansley (DMV) (and Hall?), Arbury (DMV?)(and Hall and Temple House), Astley (DMV) (and Castle), Attleborough (DMV?), Bramcote (DMV?), Bulkington (DMV?), Burbage (DMV?) (and Hall), Burton Hastings (DMV), Caldecote (DMV), (and Hall), Coton (DMV?), Exhall (DMV), Fenny Drayton (DMV?) (and Hall), Galley Common (DMV), Griff (DMV), Hartshill (DMV?) (and Castle and Grange), Higham (DMV), Hinckley (and Castle), The Hyde (DMV), Lindley (DMV?)(and Hall), Mancetter (DMV?)(and Manor House), Marston Jabbett (DMV) (and Hall?),

Oldbury (DMV?), Rowden (DMV?), Ryton (DMV?), Shelford (DMV?), Shenton (DMV) (and Hall), Sinney (DMV?), Sketchley (DMV?), Sole End (DMV), Stoke Golding (DMV) (and "castle"), Stretton Baskerville (DMV), Upton (DMV)(and Hall), Weddington (DMV) (and Hall), Weston (DMV) (and Hall), Witherley (DMV), Wolvey (DMV)(and Hall), Wykin (DMV)

Churches existed at: St. Nicolas, Nuneaton; All Saints, Coton; Attleborough Chapel; St. James, Weddington, St. Theobald and St. Chad, Caldecote; St. Peter's, Higham; St. James, Bulkington; St. Mary the Virgin, Astley; St. Peter, Mancetter; St. Mary's, Hinckley; St. Botolph's, Burton Hastings; Bramcote Chapel; St. Margaret's. Stoke Golding; St. Michael's, Fenny Drayton; Wykin Chapel; St. John's, Lindley; St. John the Baptist, Wolvey, and Sketchley chapel.

The following Monastic sites existed: Nuneaton Priory and Alien Priory (ruins); Astley College (part of Astley), Arbury, Hinckley Cell and Oldbury Priory some foundations may be buried beneath the surface.

Brett’s Hall, Caldecote White House, Caldwell "Hall" (Cuttle Mill), Horeston Grange, Park House (Hartshill) and Wolvershill Hall existed.

START OF THE 17TH CENTURY A.D.

Norway spruce, European larch, Sassafras, Stagshorn Sumach, Tulip tree, Robinia, Swamp cypress, Juniper and Box elder introduced into Britain.

Higham on the Hill Hall constructed in this century

The Age of the Telescope

1600-1625 Jacobean (Early Renaissance) period of Architecture

1601 Willoughby's acquired several mines in the Griff area; which then gave them a large holding of mines in the whole Bedworth area. Sir Thomas Beaumont, secured a virtual monopoly on the Coventry coal market. From this base he started on a programme of steady expansion in north Warwickshire. He leased the coal beneath the lands at Chilvers Coton from the Gifford family for a fine plus an annual rent of £100.

Last Parliament of Queen Elizabeth I forced her to reform Monopolies Queen Elizabeth's Poor Law Act made each parish responsible for its own poor and helpless and ordered them to collect a rate, a tax on landed property to pay for them; the sick, aged, orphans etc., were distinguished from the able bodied poor, or unemployed; the former were to be cared for by the parish the latter punished in houses of correction; they were held responsible for not having a job.

24th Dec. A partial eclipse of the sun

Volcanic eruptions adversely affected the European summer, locally a cool summer and a very cold winter

1602 William Burton of Lindley issued a corrected Saxton map of Leicestershire Sir Richard Newdigate born William Perkins of Marston Jabbett died; in his later life he was a respected author and teacher who wrote many religious pamphlets and tracts.

William Burton corrected a copy of Saxton’s map of Leicestershire.

Dutch East India Company established

A Bill of Complaint was lodged in the Court of Chancery by Jeffrey Foe. He leased all the Griff and Potters Coton mines before being thrown into prison for debts he owed his master Sir Francis Willoughby.

1603 1st Mar. Arthur Oldame, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

23rd Mar. Queen Elizabeth I died

STUART DYNASTY

This period was a vivid expression of the spirit of the English people; the struggle for civil and religious liberty waged between king and Parliament. The British Empire was founded, North America colonised.

The Stuarts strove to rule absolutely by "Divine Right of Kings" they resisted all Parliament's attempts to participate in Government. In 1604 Parliament opposed the Monarchy and declared the right to share in Government. In 1621 it revived Impeachment to control the king's ministers. This led to civil war. The military success of Parliament concentrated power in Cromwell’s hands. The growth of colonial Europe and America with the development of science and technology led to Britain's commercial greatness.

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 that forced James II into exile in France and created the William and Mary period. The law was upheld to be supreme, Parliamentary Government became the norm. In Anne's reign the war with France and the Netherlands was ended; this helped establish British supremacy in America. The political Union Act of 1707 created the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

The following sports and pastimes existed: archery, snowballing, hurling, bull and bear baiting, tilting, otter hunting, Morris dancing, hawking, hunting, May Day, bowls, tennis, golf, hockey, games of Fives and football. Silk weaving was established in Coventry and soon the weaving specialised in silk ribbon and this eventually overspilled into Nuneaton.

The technique adapted French methods in an attempt the fashion conscious. This industry actually enjoyed state protection. The import of French silk was prohibited in 1698 and Indian and Chinese silk were banned in 1701. The wearing of mourning jewellery became popular; it often included human hair woven into elaborate shapes and decorations.

24th Mar. James I (James VI of Scotland) was crowned.

20th May. William Burton (of Lindley) called to the Bar.

Michael Drayton published "Mortimeriados" later re-published as "The Barrons Wars".

Local coal mining records:

Sir Thomas Beaumont secured control of the mineral rights under Chilvers Coton, Griff and Bedworth (belonged to Sir John Newdigate). They agreed a 5 year lease at an annual rent of £10 plus 80 loads of coal to be supplied to Sir Edward Fitton and Sir Richard Leveson. 2 groups of pits were opened at Griff, one of these managed by William Henshaw, succeeded in raising and selling over 5,000 tons of coal during a 15 month period (commending 30th July 1603)

"11 Ells were sunk at 3s, the Ell, the next 3 Ells at 6s, at this point it was necessary to drive a head from the pit to the water pit, a distance of 6.5 yds, which cost 19s 6d.

Another 6.5 Ells were sunk at 6s the Ell, the customary reward of 4d was paid for hitting the Ryder Coale; another 3 Ells, at the same price brought them through the stone or slate coal; water proved troublesome, 2s 6d had to be paid for garlanding the stone water into a corner of the pitt. A further 2 Ells at 6s 8d entitled the sinkers to 4d for hitting the seven foot coal. The top of the pit when ready for working appears to have been protected by a 'hovel' which was roofed with faggots, as payments were recorded for 'fagots to cover the pit that they may worke dry'. An account for sinking a shallow pit: A Bassett called theare pit on the Bare Coal. For feinge (cleaning and levelling) the pit bottom and setting a peire of cupplings for drainage 1s 2d For 3 yds driving in the earth towards the coal and summering (timbering it) 9s 0d For 3 yds in the head and sommering the same 9s 0d For driving 10 yds in the coal £1 0s 0d For holing 10 yds Turning out the coals; the 10 yds, yielded 2.5 3qrs and the spoyle 3s 0d."

Additional building at Wolvershill Hall

1603-07 Henry Green, brick and tilemaker, had old Nuneaton Priory tilehouse.

1604 Local coal mining records:

"Sinking 1 pit there are payments for making a lade hole to lade the water to the water-pit 'sumpe' (hole or boring) for two laders lading the water to the water-pit, with 1s for candles for the laders and the same amount for 3 ould scopes to lade water with; 6s 8d for opening the water head to the sough and timbering the same; 7s 'for feing the earth that was falling in by reason the

work was rooffed with water' and also for timbering andrecovering his shaft running in by reason of flood. The water was dealt by surface drains or gins, often worked by horses, water pits and soughs. The latter were closed wooden drains, of which the sections were called 'dearns'; they sometimes contained a board pierced with holes to stay the sludge and appear to have been lined with clay, as in 1604 there wereentries of feing and claying the water gutters and 'getting clay at several times for tacking trees in the water pit.' Outbreaks of fire 'filling up Wottons pit to damp the fire out' 'filling the top of the pit where the fire bred first' 'stopping the eare pitt with earth to damp the fire out. Also colliers were hindered with dampe. Tools included: mattocks, picks, mandrels, wedges and shovels (wooden shod with iron; 6d paid for showinge (shoeing) a shovell. Skipes or baskets occur and ridles, while 1s 6d was paid for 3 gawne peyles (gallon pails). Colliers received 'chalter payment' for the coals which they obtained, at a rate of 10d; the three quarters coals at that time ranging from 2s 6d to 3s the three quarters. Besides this there were, at the Griff mines rewards; such as 4d given to the men in any pit when they got 20 3qrs in 1 day and ale (beer) given to those deserving it by following their worke. Ale was also 'geven to the sough steyers whyle the sough was in feyning' and there was 'geven to the watermen a gawne (gallon or 8 pints) of ale for drawinge the water down to sumpe the next day.

Evans and Yates agreed to sink a pit 1 ell below coal at 5s, the ell, and did so sinking 23 ells in 6 weeks they received 10s 'in reward for making so good speed to bottom their pit before Butcher'. The expenses of working the 'seven foot delph' and the 'slate coal delphe' at Griff from Apr. 1603 to Oct. 1604 were £625+, the receipts for the same just under £700; thus giving £70 profit, which , though working out at about 8% p.a. were not sufficient to induce Sir John Newdigate to continue working them for any longer."

Samuel Kem(e): Puritan spy, born in London or Surrey, the ancestor of Joseph (Teddy) Kem of Attleborough

Oct. William Butterton vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Michael Drayton published 'The Owle'

The 5th Sikh Guru - Arjun, compiled the Adi Granth

1604-12 The gold Britannia Crown coin issued = (5s) or 25p

The gold Thistle Crown coin issued = (4s 5d) or 22p

The gold Unite coin issued = (20s) or £1

1604-24 The gold Rose Ryal coin issued = (30s) or £1 50p

1605 'Eglogs' published by Michael Drayton, in 'Poemes Lyrick and Pastorall' that contained the famous "Battle of Agincourt" and 'To the Virginian Voyage'
12th Oct. A partial eclipse of the sun

Nuneaton recorded as EATON AL. NONEATON in Feet of Fines

Sat. 5th Nov: The planned date to blow up the Houses of Parliament “Gunpowder Plot” by Roman Catholics with Guido Fawkes. The plot was discovered on the 4th November after an anonymous letter betrayed the plan. Some of the conspirators had local connections with the Catesby family, one lived at Coleshill.

Guy Fawkes lived in a property at Dunchurch Heath, 14 miles to the south east of Nuneaton.

1605-12 The gold Spur Royal coin issued = (15s) or 75p

1605-86 Sir William Dugdale, the garter king-at-arms, author and antiquarian. (see 1655, 1656, 1662, 1675, 1730)

1606 15th Jan. Elizabeth Slingsby married Richard Oram (Nuneaton family) at Broughton Astley (both solicitors families)

The Union Flag first introduced after the Union of England and Scotland (see 1801)

1607 Enclosure Commission stated that Weddington had a growing number of pastures and many decaying husbandry houses.

May. Thousands of people gathered to protest against the enclosures in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire (and to a lesser extent Leicestershire). They cut and broke down hedges and filled in the drainage ditches. They attempted to convert the land back to it previous open condition.

Obadiah Grew born in Atherstone, third son of Francis Grew, a mercer and staunch Puritan (see 1628, 1632, 1641, 1662, 1670, 1671, 1689 and 1712)

William Burton (of Lindley) of Lindley married Jane Adderley of Weddington 27th Oct. Halley's Comet returned

Camden's Britannia (6th and enlarged edition) mentioned the quarrying of sandstone at Tuttle Hill, Nuneaton.

Burton's friend unearthed a coin hoard at Higham Lane/ Watling Street junction.

Also traces of Roman and Islamic treasure trove. A ring survived in an Oxford University museum display.

1607-1700 Two Warwickshire families emigrated to Virginia in this period

1608 Treaty of Mutual Defence with Holland

1609 First regular newspaper in Germany

1609-10 The first Catholic Bible published in Britain

1609-82 Coventry deeds record many people leasing coal mines in the Hawkesbury, Wyken and Sowe areas.

1610 Michael Drayton published "Legend of Great Cromwell" in 'Mirror for Magistrates'

Camden's Britannia (the Holland edition) mentioned the quarrying of sandstone at Tuttle Hill, Nuneaton
Local coal mining records:

John Newdigate ceased coal workings. A bitter quarrel broke out between Bedworth mine worked by Sir Thomas Beaumont (who supplied all the country around for 40 miles, with great water problems; Beaumont abandoned them. Most of Bedworth was reduced to poverty and misery.

Sir John Newdigate died.

1611 Attleborough: Henry Willoughby of Risley was created a Baronet Attleborough: Lettice married Lord Pagett, 5th Earl of Uxbridge William Purefoy whilst in Geneva he meditated on the ruin of the English monarchy.

The Authorized Version of the Bible published

English Baptist church founded in London

1611-15 Rev. F. Farmer was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1611-48	Nuneaton/Attleborough: The land was divided between Lord and Lady Pagett and Sir Henry and Elizabeth Willoughby
1612	Severe winter freeze
	The gold Half Crown coin issued = (2s 9d) or 13.7p
1612-14	Oxford University: Bodleian Library built.
1612-19	The gold Britannia Crown issued = (5s 6d) or 27.5p
	The gold Unite coin issued = (22s) or £1 10p
	The gold Thistle Crown coin issued = (4s 5d) or 22p
1613	Michael Drayton began to write "Polyolbion". This consisted of 30 songs each of 300-500 lines in hexameter couplets. It aimed to awaken its readers to the beauties of their country. Polyolbion meant “having many blessings”. The River Anker was recorded as ANCOR.
1613-49	The Farthing coin issued = (0.25d) or 0.1p
1614	Robert Burton (Lindley) gained his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Oxford.
	Napier invented Logarithms
1615	William Roberts held manors in the Nuneaton area
	25th Oct. St. Crispin’s Day: The 200th anniversary of The Battle of Agincourt.
	Henry V’s longbow men defeated a numerically superior French army.
	The ‘Shakespearian’ Henry V urged us to remember this day forever!
1615-35	Rev. A. Reay was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1616	1st Sep. William Purefoy of Caldecote died, alabaster monuments were created in the church William Shakespeare died. His “death mask” was ultimately sketched by Dugdale and is the source of all likenesses attributed to Shakespeare. (see 1605 and 1656)
	Gamaliel Purefoy inherited Wolvershill, Bramcote (see 1580).
	Horse chestnut (conker) introduced into Britain
1617	Snellius invented triangulation
	Society of Apothecaries founded in London
	Henry Briggs introduced decimal notation (no local connection) Fynes Moryson published An itinerary written in Latine tongue and then translated into English containing his 10 years travel through Germany, Bohmerland, Switzerland, Netherland, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Turkey, France, England, Scotland and Ireland
1618	George Ludford gave Ansley to Sarah Warren his intended wife.
	6th Dec. a bright comet was visible
1619	Michael Drayton published 'Pastorals'
	Local coal mining records:

Griff: John Bugges and Thomas and Anthony Robinson undertook the successful recovery of these pits. They gained a monopoly.

1619-25 The gold Laurel coin issued = (20s) or £1

1620 The rise of Puritanism

Coke formation was patented by Dud Dudley in the Black Country

The Pilgrim Fathers set sail from Delft Haven and Plymouth in the Mayflower to Cape Cod, America

1620-1660 Inigo Jones (Renaissance) period of Architecture

1620-1700 16 Warwickshire families emigrated to New England

1621 Robert Burton's 'The Anatomy of Melancholy, What it is. With all the Kindes Cavses, Symptomes, Prognostickes, and severall Cvres of it. In Three Maine Partitions with their seuerall Sections, Members, and Svbsections. Philosophically, Medicinally, Historically opened and cvt vp. By Democritus Iunior. With a Satyricall Preface conducing to the following discourse. Macob. Omne meum, Nihil meum'. The book was a fantastical and somewhat erotic work for its time.

Bedworth coal was sent to the Spencer estate at Wormleighton (24 miles)

12th Sep. John Malen, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

1622 23rd May. The first weekly newspaper produced in England

William Burton 'The description of Leicestershire; containing matters of Antiquity, History, Armorye and Genealogy' London

Local coal mining records:

"Matthew Collins, John Potter and other Coventry men obtained a lease of neighbouring Griff estate, where Beaumont had previously tried, but without success to work. Their objective was to reduce the price of coal, selling it at 3s 5d the load as opposed to 5s 1d, they took over pits incurring £2500 yearly because of water. Careful working they reduced outlay to £1,000 yearly, lowering coal price by 12d; they picked all their coal selling the inferior for 2s the load, and that as good coal as other men sold for 3s 1d.

Various charges of buying out rivals were explained away; a payment of 80 loads of coal yearly to Mr. Newdegate that he should not sink pits on his land being shown to have originally granted to the Sir John Newdigate by Sir Thomas Beaumont; while with regard to land leased from Peter Jefford at a rate alleged to be needlessly high and only give in order to prevent pits being sunk in it, they declared that it was necessary to them for hay for sixty horses employed in drawing water out of the pits. The main charge of drowning out a Coventry men's pits by boring, trenching and diverting a watercourse was denied; thedefendants accused the them of diverting streams so that poisonous water from the pits had flowed across their meadows with the result that cattle had to be moved, some of the horses even died. Bedworth men were finally forbidden to bore holes so as to endanger flooding Griff pits and the Coventry men were ordered to pay £30 damages for injury to meadows."

Michael Drayton's epic 'Polyolbion' published:

It was said that 40 church "spires" could be seen from Hartshill (some of the towered churches of the 1990's may once have possessed spires, or the spire definition was not strictly adhered to. Many of the 18-20thC. woodlands and suburbs obscure that complete view)

SPIRES	TOWERS
Witherley	Mancetter
Caldecote	Burton Hastings
Ratcliffe Culey	Higham on the Hill
Fenny Drayton	Dadlington
Weddington?	Wolvey
Hinckley	Claybrooke
Stoke Golding	Sharnford
Burbage	Frolesworth
Stapleton	Croft
Leire	Narborough
Broughton Astley	Elmesthorpe
Cosby	Aston Flamville
Barwell	Polesworth
Earl Shilton	Warton
Baddesley Ensor	Grendon
Dordon	Netherseal
Seckington	Overseal
Austrey	Sheepy Magna
Newton Regis	Twycross
Thorpe Constantine	Norton Juxta Twycross
Clifton Campville	Measham
Lullington	Donisthorpe
Harlaston	Shenton
Stretton en le Field	Sibson
Appleby Magna	Congerstone
Normanton le Heath	Shackerstone
Coleorton	Snarestone
Market Bosworth	Swepstone
Cadeby	Heather
Nailstone	Packington
Peckleton	Carlton
Thornton	Sutton Cheney
Markfield	Barlestone
Woodville	Kirby Mallory
Grace Dieu	Kirkby Muxloe
Shepshed	Ratby
Leicester	Glenfield
	Groby
	Copt Oak
	Bardon
	Ashby de la Zouche
	Willesley

1623 Local coal mining records:

Griff: Mining was temporarily stopped because of the above actions. Bugges and Robinson obtained from Mr. Newdigate a licence to work the coals on his land at Coton.

William Burton returned to Lindley; where he worked on revisions for his book.

1624 Jul. George Fox born at Fenny Drayton. His father Christopher was the villager weaver. He was later apprenticed to a shoemaker and cattle factor. (see 1691, 1694, 1698 and 1706)

1625 John Newdegate, Sheriff of Warwickshire.

Parliament granted Tonnage and Poundage to Charles I

The size of bricks standardised in England

1625-37 The Eleven Years of Tyranny

King Charles I, was at war with Spain, he had a treaty with the Dutch to provide 6,000 soldiers and he was bound to attack Spain with a navy. This caused him to raise money by many unpopular means e.g. Ship Money.

1625-62 The gold Unite coin issued = (20s) or £1

1625-65 Six sets of local deeds mentioned Horestone Grange

1626 Sessions Order Book = Whettington

May. Sampson Hawkhurst vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1627 Drayton published 'Nimphidia' 'To Henery Reynolds'

Sep. William Cradock vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Richard Vines married Katherine Adderley of Weddington

Michael Purefoy died and was buried at Caldecote.

The concept of dates Before Christ (B.C.) widely introduced into the calendar

The Silk Weavers Company founded.

1627-28 William Purefoy elected M.P. for Coventry, he was a strong Puritan.

1628 11th Mar. Rev. Richard Vine, the Puritan lived at Weddington. Paid £80 p.a. for Caldecote and Weddington. He was born in 1600 at Blaston, and educated at Cambridge; in 1642 he was noted as an Orthodox Divine and was a consultant to Parliament on Liturgy etc. He left Weddington in 1643 to flee to Coventry with Grew. (see 1607)

Parliament's Petition of Right: it forbade the king demanding taxes, imprisonment without trial, billeting of troops in private houses and use of martial law in peacetime.

1629 Walter Giffard transferred Coton to Richard Chamberlain

Parliament dissolved for 11 years.

16-- Weddington vicar: Rev. James Cranford

1630 Richard Chamberlain settled Astley on his children

Population of England and Wales. 5,600,517. Nuneaton town local population estimate 1,250. It took approximately 70 years to double (625 in 1560)

William Purefoy was elected the Sheriff of Warwickshire. He dealt severely with disorderly alehouses.

1631 Local coal mining records:

"Collins and his partners were found to be working coal again at Griff. They obtained coal, described as Ryder Cole, Bare Cole and Two Yard Cole from 4 pits, sunk 3 other pits on a deeper level of the same coal and sumped 2 of them through the 2 yard cole and found the water so easy as they might and did still sink into the cole intending to bottome them', one of these pits was newly headed and the work so opened up that they 'could have gotten' in the same pit one hundred three quarters in a week'. At this time 'the Coventry men had their water kept at their gin with two shifts of horses both worked not about 12 hrs in a day and night.

After a heavy November rain Thomas Robinson dammed an old watercourse through Eaton's Close, effectively turning it through 'the Hollowes' so that it flowed into old pits and then into the new works so that Coventry men 'could not

sink at all nor keep the water at abatement although they did continually turn water out of the pits, indeed the miners in the 'most Bassett or shallowest pits' had to fly for their lives, leaving clothes behind. Bugges and Robinson tried to blame Anthony Robinson (the brother of Thomas, but now his enemy). They declared that much of the water in Griff pits was due to natural causes. They also stated that until pumps were installed the pits would be unworkable. In fact they spent £4,000 on a sough, plus 2 engines and they managed to drain Griff pits. They found enough coal for some time without drawing of the water so low a level that they let it stand 14 ells higher as they had right to do.

Coventry men had also neglected due precautions, their pits filled with water. Since the rain and stream diversion pumps had to be used non-stop at Bedworth. This involved 30 men. Bedworth miners spoke scornfully of Griff mines. They said there was not enough coal for a month of country's needs, whereas Bedworth had 40 yrs. Bedworth could supply whole country. Bugges and Robinson denied that they ever sold coal above 6s the Butteresse, which is 4s 6d the three quarters beinge the ordinary load which moste do carry away; while Coventry men who had lost money in seeking coal at Hawkesbury, but had admitted making good profits at Griff had sold their coal only 3d a Butteress cheaper, although they had far less expense in drainage works than the defendants, whose outlay had been recently increased 'by reason of some quicksands met with.

In the end a water course was found that did not harm either venture.

Michael Drayton died and was buried at Westminster Abbey.

1632 Local coal mining records:

Coton and Griff mines were endangered by Newdigate's miners who followed a ribb of coal not only encroached upon the Griffe Lane road but also turned the water on to the hollowes or slate coal. Newdigate agreed to fill up these diggings and not to extend his pits at anytime into the lane so as to injure neighbouring pits.

Obadiah Grew taught at Atherstone (see 1607)

1632-1723 Antoni van Leewenhoek (Dutch) developed and made simple microscopes

1633 Declaration on Sport on Sunday re-issued

1634 Lord Dover (Cary) expressed an interest in the mines at Hawkesbury and Wyken

Forgery became a capital offence without benefit for Clergy.

John Ford published “The Chronicle of Perkin Warbeck”.

Ship Money 1st Writ: Charles I raised money by customs duties. Freeholders owning land worth more than £40 a year or more were fined for not taking knighthoods; the royal forests were enlarged, grants made by the Crown on Scottish lands were resumed; the royal jewels were pawned; monopolies were sold to companies (instead of individuals). Ship money, was a direct tax assessed on real property.

1635 Lord Dover entered into an agreement with Coventry to work coal at Wyken.

Weekly inland postal system first establish in England

Severe winter freeze

Ship Money 2nd Writ

The flintlock gun invented

1635-1703	Robert Hooke (English) made and developed the compound microscope
1636	Ship Money the 3rd Writ
1636 - ?	Rev. Packwood was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1637	10th Nov. Humphrey Adderley (II), died (Weddington)
	Lord Dover's venture at Wyken was minuted in Coventry's records as a failure
	The French philosopher Descartes separated the body from the soul in his system of philosophy
1638	10th Nov. John Barrowes (Burrowes), priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church
	National Covenant of Scots.
	The Earl of Dover's Hawkesbury venture was operating badly as were his Derbyshire lead mines.
	Cedar of the Lebanon and Norway Maple introduced into Britain
1639	Samuel Hutchins, late of Attleborough, prosecuted for allowing people to drink after hours
	Weddington: Humphrey Adderley (III) died, manor passed to John Adderley.
	The Act of Toleration allowed greater religious freedom
	Weddington: alabaster monument erected in St. James by Jane Adderley, widow of Humphrey (II) The Earl of Dover returned his lease quietly to Coventry. (see 1634)
	24th Nov. Horrocks, an amateur astronomer in the Lake District, calculated and observed the transit of Venus across the Sun
1639-40	25th Jan. Robert Burton (Lindley) died at Christ Church, Oxford.
1640	John Ellys, Nuneaton butcher, Daniel Whyte, butcher of Attleborough, assaulted
	Humfrey Craddock. John Ellys later assaulted Thomas Craddock.
	Nuneaton Abraham Mylhouse allowed to keep his victualling and alehouse to supply miners at Muspoole coal delph.
	The Short Parliament established and abolished.
	The churches were required to hand over their silver ware to raise money in the Cromwell rebellion. King Charles' war with Scotland required £100,000's to sustain it. Those areas that did not support the king in this often hid their silver and would not surrender it. Charles used many methods of raising money e.g. "Ship Money", this tax was imposed on inland towns and ports to pay for the upkeep of the navy. Tonnage and Poundage (Customs Duty) was levied illegally. The gentry were fined if they refused to accept knighthoods.
	27th Oct. William Purefoy was elected to the Long Parliament for Warwick. From the outset he took a decided stand against the King.
1640-53	The Long Parliament established
1640-55	Rev. W. Barford was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.
1640's	Richard Vines the exceptional preacher at Weddington; author of many books.

1641 Nehemiah Grew was born (see 1607)

Triennial Act: enforced the assembly of the House of Commons every three years.

1st Jul. Local Civil War skirmishes along Leicestershire-Warwickshire border

The pendulum clock invented

Grand Remonstrance, an indictment drawn up by the House of Commons because of King Charles I unconstitutional acts.

1642 Christopher Glover to be kept by Nuneaton Overseers of the Poor

Income Tax and Property Tax introduced in England

Very cold winter locally

William Burton (Lindley) returned to Falde, near Burton on Trent.

William Payne of Attleborowe presented for erecting a cottage and not laying 4 acres of land thereunto

1642-46 1st CIVIL WAR

The Midlands' economy was ruined for the next decade.

2nd Jun. Nineteen Propositions were presented to King Charles I when he was at York. They sought to control the State, the Church and the Royal Family. He rejected them outright.
22nd Aug. King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, this opened the military phase of the Great Rebellion and the outbreak of the civil war. The Queen fled to the Netherlands to sell the crown jewels to raise money.
28th Aug. The Cavaliers (Royalists) attacked Caldecote Hall, the seat of Colonel Purefoy (Parliamentarian). Princes Rupert and Maurice (the king's nephews) came with Cavaliers to capture Purefoy; he was elsewhere however. Only George Abbott (son of George Abbott, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Purefoy's son-in-law), defended Caldecote Hall. There were only eight other men, Mrs Purefoy and her maids in residence at the time. They stubbornly resisted the attack by the Cavaliers.

It is said that the household put up such a brave defence that they even melted the pewter plate to make bullets. In the end they were defeated when the Cavaliers set fire to outbuildings. The Abbotts surrendered to the Cavaliers, Prince Rupert was so impressed by their courage and spared their lives. The hall door eventually became the church door, it still contained metal shot in its fabric until the 1950's. (see J.T. Burgess, Historic Warwickshire, 1893)

Colonel Purefoy's signature ultimately and ironically appeared on the death warrant for King Charles at a later date!

There was a connection with the Victorian newspaper editor Alfred Scrivener and his Teddy Kem story of 1878. He had read Nehemiah Wharton's letters when published posthumously in 1854. Wharton was a subaltern in the army. When he had been stationed at Coventry he wrote about the fires in the Nuneaton area that they could see; they also heard about the fires by word of mouth. (the troop's Chaplain was Samuel Kemme - the Puritan Divine. Kemme preached to the soldiers in a Coventry church). St. James church, Weddington was burnt during this civil war according to Scrivener, the ruins were probably used in a damaged state.

There was evidence of troop movements through the Lindley-Rowden area in 1644.

	25th Dec. Isaac Newton born near Grantham and Galileo died in Italy. Two great scientists so coincidentally linked?!
1642-43	6th Mar. William Purefoy received a commission from Essex to be colonel of a regiment of horse and dragoons raised in Warwick.
1643	The local area was still predominantly Parliamentary Roundhead. However there were some families who supported the king (Cavaliers)
	George Fox left the district and moved from town to town.
1643-52	America silver mining caused prices to rise again in this period, after that surge they slowed down.
1644	William Purefoy at the head of his regiment took part in many small military operations in Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire
	The decisive Civil War battle at Marston Moor
	The silver pound coin was struck at Oxford.
1645	6th Apr. William Burton (Lindley) died at Falde.
1646	John Vicars wrote Magnolia dei Anglicani (England's Parliamentary Chronicles) in which the 1642 battle of Caldecote was described.
	The abolition of Episcopacy (the government of the church by Bishops)
	King Charles I surrendered to the Scots at Newark
1647	George Abbott founded a school at Caldecote, he gave £4 10s 0d per annum to pay a school teacher to teach boys and girls.
	The Society of Friends was founded, became the Quakers in 1650
1648	Horeston Manor bought back from William Englefield (absentee landlord) of Hinton Markaunt (Hants) by Edward Stratford of Nuneaton.
	Portugal Laurel introduced into Britain

1648 2nd CIVIL WAR

1649-53 The Commonwealth

1649	Nuneaton: Sir Henry Willoughby died, his estate passed to Anne, wife of Sir Thomas Aston
	30th Jan. 2.04 p.m. King Charles I was beheaded in London. It is said that Cromwell had difficulty obtaining many genuine signatures for this death sentence. Ten days previously Charles I had refused to recognise the court's authority.
	19th May. The Commonwealth declared
	J. L. Lilbourne published "England's New Chaines discovered"
	English Parliament abolished the House of Lords and the Monarchy
	5th Jun. Weddington vicar: Rev. Thomas Evans
pre-1650	Sometime before this date cloth weaving began to give way to silk ribbon weaving.
1650	Thomas Johnson ordered to settle at Chilvers Coton

Anne Parker (Nuneaton), her husband was killed in Civil War duties. She was given 20s pension per annum.

An Act of Parliament was passed making adultery punishable by death.

There were great numbers of Enclosure Acts passed in the Midlands.

1650 The world's living population reached 500,000,000 (half a billion)

1650? Thomas Savery born in Devonshire. He later developed the steam engine that was installed at Griff in 1714.

c.1650 Coffee introduced to England

Hickory, Scarlet oak, Canadian spruce, Eastern White Pine introduced into Britain

1651 Nuneaton: Edward Warden trespassed in William Robinson's house, he carried a load of wood and 20 feet of boards. Robinson was a local family name from 16th to 20thC.

John Beesley, John Ashby, George Ashby, John Tayler, Thomas Morton all of Coton, William Cowper and R. Mogges of Attleborough failed to send in labourers to repair highways for 6 days. Fines made by Morton, Cowper and Mogges

Joyce Flower and William Payne of Attleborough had land disputes.

1652 Navigation Act: Prohibited the importation in foreign ships of any but products of the countries to which the ships belonged. Aimed at the Dutch.

Act of Pardon and Oblivion

1653-59 The Protectorate

1653 Timothy Cleaveland illegally settled in Nuneaton from Hinckley.

Henry Halsall appeared in court for petty crimes.

Joshua Wills, constable of Nuneaton.

Nicholas Culpeper (and P. Cole), the Parliamentarian, published "The English Physician Enlarged - with 369 (396?) medicines made of English herbs." This was re-published in 1661 with A. Cole, then five more times up to 1698. It was then issued in 1802 and 1809- it became popularly known as Culpeper's Complete Herbal. He had earlier family connections with the Colepeppers of Leicestershire and Hartshill. (King Henry VIII's wife, Catherine Howard, was related, her mother was Jocasta Culpeper).

4th Jul.-16th Dec. Cromwell established a "Godly Parliament" known as the Little or Barebone's parliament; named after a member known as Praise-God-Barebone. It passed several good acts; notably the relief of debtors; another that all births, deaths and marriages should be registered.

1653-1700 Nuneaton parish demographic studies

Out of 303 families there were a total of 1532 children; mean average 5.06 children per marriage.

Frequency distribution of family size.

Children per marriage	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. of marriages	3	21	38	75	54	53	24	15	10	6	4	0

Marriages with 4 to 6 children make up 60% of the total.
Families with 1 to 3 make up 20.55 of the total
Larger families 7-11 make up 19.5% of the total.

Many marriages were ended through poor life expectancy (women may remain child-bearing until their late 40's) they may have died before infertility occurred or their husbands may have died before that time.

Full term Marriage duration

Duration (years)	0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	30+
No. of marriages	2	10	5	8	7	2	1

With twenty years female fertility as a guideline 71.5% do not appear to endure long enough.

Conception intervals

MONTHS

	0-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	31-36	37-42	43-48	49-54	55-60	61+
Number	6	73	154	269	276	191	122	68	33	19	56

total 1271.

The majority of conceptions occur between 18 and 36 months after a previous conception, the most frequent being 25 to 30 months.

Marriage to First Baptism

MONTHS

	0-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	31-36	37-42	43-48	49-54	55-60	61+
Number	6	41	19	13	8	3	1	2	1	2	0

Total 96. The great majority of first children were conceived within the actual marriage; 11 of these baptisms (11.4%) were recorded at intervals of less than 9 months. Most couples were married before any conception!!

Conception intervals - 2nd and subsequent children

MONTHS

	0-6	7-12	13-18	19-24	25-30	31-36	37-42	43-48	49-54	55-60	61+
Number	0	32	135	256	268	192	121	66	32	17	56

Total 1175. 60-9% of the conceptions occur within a period of 18-36 months with an adjusted median point rising to 28.3 months.

Relatively small numbers of children per marriage indicate marriages of short duration and conception intervals becoming longer. There are several reliable explanations; natural feeding (lactation) confers protection against re-conception; but perhaps more importantly inferior diets reduce fertility in both men and women.

Out of 303 families there were a total of 1532 children; mean average 5.06 children per marriage.

Child mortality had received growing research interest. For statistical purposes a child was considered anyone beneath 21 years of age. Of the 1532 children born in this period 488 died before reaching their 21st birthday. That was nearly 32%. The death of children was therefore a common experience. At least 70% of the local families experienced the death of one child!

Known ages of Children under 21 at death

Ages (years)	0.1-1	1.1-5	5.1-10	10.1-15	15.1-21
Number	178	106	48	31	14

Total 377.

These statistics confirm the higher pattern to infant mortality; the earlier in years the more vulnerable the person. The nearer to 21 a person reached, their overall life expectancy would increase. The most critical period was and still is the first month. Of the 178 babies that died within the first year of life; 91 did not survive the first month!!. However 75% of deaths occurred within the first 5 years!!

To achieve a viable family there needed to be 5-7 live births; at least 3 of these would need to reach 21, get married and start their own families. The fragmentation of inherited property and wealth also had to be avoided; the sex of children became critical in England as it did in the rest of the world.

1654 Nuneaton recorded as NONNEATON AL NUNS EATON in Feet of Fines

Richard Gilbert (pauper) was to be kept at 12d (5p) weekly as an ancient local inhabitant (an example of Poor Law records)

A farthing token bearing initials V.W. on one side and a miner on the other was issued 'AT GRIFF POOLE IN WARWICKSHIRE' and about the same date 'JOHN RAYNOR AT MERYVALE PITS' issued another with a man getting coal with an axe.

1655 Sarah Chamberlain had tried to break into a house at Arley to settle there, she was sent to Nuneaton.

Thomas Scotton was allowed 6d (2.5p) per week from Hartshill to keep him.

Richard Pyke vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton (minister appointed by Oliver Cromwell)

General Whalley ruled the Nuneaton area in the period of the Generals

1655-73 Sir William Dugdale produced his "Monasticon Anglicanum" in 3 Volumes.

1655-80 John Alexander, brick and tile maker, Nuneaton

1655-98 Rev. W. Trevis was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1656 Richard Vines (Weddington preacher) died

Richard Gilbert allowed 6d (2.5p) per week to keep him at Nuneaton. Gilbert was a local family name from 14th to 20thC.

The gold Broad coin (Cromwell) issued = (20s) or £1

Thomas Scotton's poverty to be re-assessed by Colonel Willoughby

John Sawford and Michael Payne of Attleborough were to be relieved of taxes because of their reduced circumstances

Red maple and Honey locust introduced into Britain

Sir William Dugdale's "The Antiquities of Warwickshire" N.B. spelling of "Wedington" and other local villages

1657 John Wagstaffe of Coton, fined for not scouring his ditch and annoying the Coton to Attleborough road. Wagstaffe was a local family name from 14th to 20thC. William Harris tried to settle in Nuneaton, but he was sent back to Coleshill

Act of Government: this made Cromwell's rule illegal and enabled him to name his successor.

John Ellis was licensed to victual in Nuneaton. Ellis was a local family name from 16th to 20thC.

Attleborough levied excessive and unjust taxes

1658 Coton inhabitants presented for not repairing the highway.

Katherine Greene's illegitimate child caused problems regarding upkeep

Cardinal James Ussher published "The Annals of the World" in which he stated the earth was created by God on Saturday 22nd October at 8.00 p.m. 4,004 B.C.

'Whole Duty of Man' published, a popular Christian devotional manual. It consisted of 17 discourses that were supposed to be read 3 times a year. Its moral standards were exacting, though adapted for life in the world. (see Daniel Dancer 1716)

3rd Sep. Cromwell died

1659 Colonel William Purefoy died. He was exempted from the Act of Indemnity at the Restoration and his estates were consequently forfeited to the Crown.
The cheque (for money) was first introduced into England

Nuneaton streets said to be in a bad state

Henry Floode's property destroyed by fire. Floode was a local family name from 17th to 20thC.

1659-60 The final Long Parliament established

1660 Anne Drakely (wife of John) indicted for stealing 2 pewter platters from Jarvis Buswell (Nuneaton)

The Royal Society founded in London

Maundy Money first issued as 1d, 2d, 3d and 4d until 1971; then it was 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p.

The Restoration: the return of King Charles II to England.

Parliament was tired of Puritan rule so offered Charles the crown. By the Declaration of Breda, just his coronation, he promised liberty of conscience to all Christians. After this period Chinese porcelain, coffee, tea, pepper, spices and raw silk were imported into England.

Bill of Indemnity: First measure passed after the restoration of Charles II; pardoned all offences committed during the Cromwellian period. The Convention Parliament passed 5 Acts of Supply to cover the question of the king's revenue.

Robert Ridgeway vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Thomas Arden petitioned for help, he was an ancient Nuneatonian

Jarvis Boswell, was the highway overseer. Boswell was a local family name from 17th to 20thC.

Thomas Clements of Nuneaton nominated as constable

1660-62 A severe period of winter freezing; many rivers froze; there were Frost Fairs on the River Thames.

1660's The Nuneaton area's dairy industry increased, cheap cheese became available and well known; it was sent in large quantities to London - the recipe was ultimately lost.

Anthony Gervase born in Long Clawson area (Jarvis and Kem family connections, see 1700,1774)

1660-1720 Wren, Baroque and Queen Anne period of Architecture

1661 John Stratford (son of Edward) confirmed the purchase of Horeston Manor (they were already tenants of H. Grange)

Nuneaton inhabitants presented for not repairing Pingley Bridge
Corporation Act: Required that anyone taking up a municipal office should receive communion according to the rites of the Anglican church and should declare it unlawful on any grounds to take up arms against the king. An anti-Presbyterian measure.

The hand struck postage stamp first developed

1662 Coton inhabitants presented for not repairing the road from Nuneaton to Coton

30th Jan. St Charles day (created after the execution of King Charles I). The Common Book of Prayer had a specially written service to celebrate the martyrdom of Charles.

William Tayler, husbandman, and William Keelinge, husbandman, late overseers of highways were presented for not repairing the highway.

Rev. Thomas EVANS, Weddington, sacked for his non-conformity

Local coal mining records:

Bedworth mines passed through a depression; Fuller reports:

'I am sorry to hear that those Black Indies both in quantity and quality fall short of their former fruitfulness; I wish they may recover their lost credit being confident the earth there will bleed profit as plentifully as any had of the miners but the good hap to hi the right vein thereof.'

Act of Settlement: this decided that the parish in which a person was born should be responsible for him/her unless he/she had lived and worked for a year in another parish.

Thomas Fuller published "Worthies of England"

Act of Uniformity re-established Anglican church

Sir William Dugdale's "The history of Imbanking and Drayning of divers Fenns and Marshes".

Obadiah Grew was granted Caldecote rectory (see 1607).
Weddington: John Adderley, the owner of the manor, died.

Additional building work at Brett's Hall and Park House/Farm (Caldecote).

THE HEARTH TAX 1662-66 and 1674-84

In the 17thC. the burning issue was "who should control the State"? The Restoration of King Charles II was a short episode; it marked the beginning of government by Parliament and Religious Toleration. When King Charles entered London the Exchequer appeared to contain £141 7s 11d. The accumulated debt was £2,500,000. The Hearth Tax was a first attempt at direct taxation to raise money quickly. The Tax although unpopular lasted for 27 years until repealed in 1689.

In the 17thC. Nuneaton was the largest town in the eastern half of the Hemlingford Hundred. Half the tenements in the town were exempt despite its apparent large size. There were many changes of tenure during the period and fluctuations in the number of hearths in anyone tenement. Attleborough and Stockingford (with Woodlands) were villages in the Nuneaton parish. The boundaries between the villages were poorly defined. The exemption certificate for 1671 contained 158 names. From 1660 to 1670 Warwickshire was in depression; little new building was undertaken. Mallabone was a common first occurrence of the name locally.

1662-66 and 1674-84 Hearth Tax

Summary of Nuneaton Parish

	TENEMENTS				HEARTHS			
Date	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid
1662	220			220	469	8		477
1663	229	5	212	446	397	67	213	617
1664		13	202		372	93	202	667
1665	215	10	185	410	411	13	185	609
1666	198	65	19	282	423	127	24	574
1670	217	9	189	415	498	18	193	709
1671	200	16	216	432	464	30	219	713
1673	197	9	233	439	458	21	244	723
1674	185	14	192	391	423	40	198	661

Summary of Nuneaton town

	TENEMENTS				HEARTHS			
Date	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid
1662	139			139	347	8		355
1663	146	5	163	314	292	61	163	516
1664		11	154			85	154	
1665	134	5	165	304	303	5	165	473
1666	138	61	6	205	339	117	8	464
1670	138	6	134	278	378	14	136	528
1671	123	16	162	301	347	29	165	541
1673	125	8	172	305	348	18	181	547
1674	114	12	142	268	314	35	148	500

Summary of Attleborough

	TENEMENTS				HEARTHS			
Date	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid
1662	39			39	62			62
1663	43		28	71	56	6	29	91
1664		2	28			4	28	
1665	41	1		42	58	2		60
1666	41	3	10	54	58	8	12	78
1670	34		32	66	52		34	86
1671	34		34	68	52		34	86
1673	32		38	70	49	2	38	89
1674	32		33	65	47	3	33	83

1662-66 and 1674-84 Hearth Tax

Summary of Stockingford and Woodlands

	TENEMENTS				HEARTHS			
Date	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid
1662	42			42	60			60
1663	40		21	61	49		21	70
1664			20			4	20	
1665	40	4	20	64	50	6	20	76
1666	19	1	3	23	26	2	4	32
1670	45	3	23	71	68	4	23	95
1671	43		20	63	65	1	20	86
1672			11				11	
1673	40	1	23	64	61	1	25	87
1674	39	2	17	58	59	2	17	78

Summary of Chilvers Coton Parish

	TENEMENTS				HEARTHS			
Date	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid	Liable	Not paid	Exempt	Total paid
1662	102			102	208			208
1663	106		83	189	198	16	83	208
1664		1	85		195	2	85	282
1665	101	1	48	150	195	2	48	245
1666	73	36	8	117	156	58	11	225
1670	91	4	93	188	183	8	94	285
1671	91	4	117	212	184	6	122	312
1672			100				104	
1673	82	6	106	194	173	10	111	294
1674	76	4	97	177	166	11	99	276

1662-76 Weddington Hearth Tax Returns: John Adderley, Woolestan Adderley, Rev. Thomas Evance, Dudley Ryder, Thomas Throwne, Rev. Michael Armstead, Widow Cattle, Thomas Greene, John Bancks, John Rawley

1663 Earliest Parish Registers of St. James church, Weddington.

Weddington: First entry: John, ye son of Mr Henry Watts of Weddington was Baptiz'd ye 22nd of July 1663.

The gold Guinea coin issued = (20s) or £1

Weddington: John Lee reimbursed £3 10s 4d

28th Jan. Rev. Michael Armstead installed at Weddington. Rectory was void for a while.

7th Oct. Richard Paul, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

1663-65 Clarendon Code restricted religious freedom of dissenters.

1664 The third Sheriff's collection (Hearth Tax) revealed 73 hearths in Nuneaton and Atherstone were taken up.

Act of Conventicle: this made it illegal for more than 5 people to meet for religious worship. An anti-Catholic measure.

"William Shakespeare" of Attleborough, fined for nuisance 1 shilling

William Tayler and William Keelinge late overseers of the local Highways

John Slingsby' clay pit at Chilvers Coton homestall

Nuneaton overseers of poor allow John Wootton 12d (5p) weekly

10th Nov. to 1665 15th Mar. severe winter freeze

1665 William Barbar and Alice Suffolke had an illegitimate child, local overseers make Barbar pay for upkeep
Sir Isaac Newton formulated the Law of Gravity (see Sep. 1999)

27th Mar. a bright comet visible

Richard Beighton executor of Henry Beighton's Will (see Henry Beighton's details: 1687 to 1743)

Samuel Shilton, Edward Bosworth, Henry Dafferne, overseers of Nuneaton highways

28th Sep. Edward Abbot, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

16th Nov. The Oxford Gazette first published (an early newsletter form of the newspaper) It later changed its name to the London Gazette.

29th Nov. King Edward VI pupils started a riot in the Nuneaton school, the reason was uncertain.

Sir Richard Newdegate made over the Arbury estates to his son when he came of age.

The Five Mile Act concerned clergy who refused the oath of non-resistance imposed by the act on all who had not submitted to the Act of Uniformity. They were not allowed come within 5 miles of a town corporation. Repealed in 1812.

The Plague of London - bubonic (it was not confined to London but spread into East Anglia as well some miles north and west of the capital). This was the last of many outbreaks of plague that had spanned the the previous 300 years.

1666 Job Lakin, Jonathan Talcott and John Ellis overseers of the local Highways were in arrears over repairs.

The Hearth Tax collection of this year revealed the local King Edward VI grammar school refused to pay!

2nd-6th Sep. The Great Fire of London

Severe winter freeze

Cheddar cheese produced from Wessex recipes

Sir William Dugdale published "Origines Juridicales"

1667 Weddington Manor conveyed by John's widow Jane Adderley and her son Wolstan.

John Milton's "Paradise Lost" published

Abigil Ashmore of Nutters Heath was a local destitute (Poor Law example)

Mary Swanne to be conveyed from Nuneaton to Leicester (Poor Relief)

1668 William Duffkin and Lettice Newey had an illegitimate child, Nuneaton Poor Relief was unwilling to support the child

William Pemberton and Abigail Ashmore had an illegitimate child, Nuneaton Poor Relief was unwilling to support the child

Attleborough inhabitants presented for not repairing highways and ditches (in a low lying floodplain where the rivers flooded easily this was a common requirement to keep ditches flowing freely)

1669 John and Thomas Chamberlain conveyed Coton to German Pole and Thomas Parker (probably acting for Newdegate)
William Sadler, a mercer, set up a General Baptist church in his Nuneaton warehouse

2 messuages were mortgaged, John Judkin the innkeeper was mentioned in the deeds

John Worlidge published "Systema Agriculturae, being the the mystery of Husbandry Discovered and layd Open". It was an early attempt to advise and improve on agricultural methods.

1670 Population of England and Wales. 5,773,646.

Nuneaton town local population 1,867.

NUNEATON PARISH STATISTICS
Baptisms and burials

Years	Baptisms	Burials	Surplus/Deficit
1671-75	291	256	35
1676-80	300	215	85
1681-85	286	284	2
1686-90	304	215	89
1691-95	297	264	33
1696-1700	292	207	85
Total	1770	1441	329

The annual average for baptisms was 59 and burials 48.

Year	Estimated population growth
1670	1867 (from Hearth Tax)
1675	1902
1680	1987
1685	1989

1690	2078
1695	2111
1700	2196

Inferred Birth and Death rates

Period	Birth rate	Death Rate
1671-75	31.05	27.72
1676-80	30.05	21.77
1681-85	28.77	28.74
1686-90	29.85	21.16
1691-95	27.93	24.83
1696-1700	26.91	19.06

Overall birth rate 32.06, death rate 26.24. However there must be a factor of under-registration; there were also illegitimate children who would not be baptised or recorded.

Seasonality of conceptions and burials in the period 1671-1700 (this was in the period of the Little Ice Age).

Conception Month/ Calendar Year	Baptism	Burials
April-January	169	139
May-February	173	112
June-March	191	151
July-April	183	144
August-May	141	118
September-June	119	116
October-July	125	112
November-August	127	93
December-September	122	119
January-October	134	112
February-November	151	114
March-December	135	111
TOTAL	1770	1441

Coal taxes used for St. Paul's Cathedral to be rebuilt

Nehemiah Grew (famous botanist) stayed at Caldecote Hall (see 1607)

Nuneaton inhabitants to be levied for highway repairs

Samuel Kem(e) the Puritan Divine of Monks Kirby, when he died he 2 sons (Samuell and Benjamin) and 2 daughters Elizabeth and Anne, 3 dead wives (Ann Ball, Jemima Ecllham, Mary (May) Bridger) and widow Elizabeth Kem

1671 Attleborough inhabitants presented for not repairing highways and ditches

Anne Smart and her 5 children were sent from Coton to Attleborough

Elizabeth Cooke alias Gallard had difficulty settling in Nuneaton

Nehemiah Grew published 'Album Studiosum' one of many great works (see 1607)

John Milton's "Paradise Regained" published

The local Hearth Tax recorded the School House as uninhabited; a reflection of the depressed economy of Warwickshire.

1672 Daniel Bemish, the local shoemaker died.

King Charles II made the Declaration of Indulgence, that removed most anti-Catholic laws and permitted freedom of worship.

St. James church, Weddington licensed for Non-Conformist meetings.

A licence was granted to William Sadler, an Anabaptist, to worship at his Nuneaton home. A meeting house was erected before 1715 when it was demolished by a mob.
Leather fire hose first used in fire fighting

1672-1828 King Charles was forced to accept The Test Act which required all people before holding office in Britain to take the test; that meant acknowledging oaths of supremacy and allegiance to the monarch. (see 1686)

1672-1956 The regal Farthing coin issued = (0.25d) or 01.p

1672-1967 The Half Penny coin issued = (0.5d) or 0.2p

1673 Extracts of parts of the Domesday Book began to be published. It was not until 1783 it was completely published.

1673-74 Test Act excluded Roman Catholics from Office

1674 Vesuvius and Stromboli erupted in Italy

John Milton died (Paradise Lost) John Bunyan wrote the first part of Pilgrim's Progress

1675 Nuneaton church wardens petitioned the JPs that Weddington should help relieve the poor.

Adam Broughton's brick kiln recorded in the town area

Nuneaton town local population 1,902.

Greenwich Observatory opened

1675-76 Sir William Dugdale's "The Baronage of England"

1675-1710 Sir Christopher Wren re-designed much of fire-damaged London

1676 Weddington population: 30
Nuneaton Hearth Tax figures declared: 500 Conformists, 0 Papists and 10 Nonconformists

16th Dec. to 15th Feb. 1677. A severe winter freeze

1677 Richard Newdegate, Serjeant at Law and formerly Chief Justice of the Upper Bench, was created a Baronet for services rendered to Royalist supporters during the aftermath of the Civil War.

Rights to Crown Taxes on coal were transferred by Charles II to the Duke of Richmond (Richmond shilling)

1678 John Juett = Inett? vicar of St. Nicolas Nuneaton

John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" part I published
Sir Richard Newdigate died; his son Richard succeeded to the estate

1678-81 John Juett (Inett?) Vicar at St. Nicolas Nuneaton - a church historian

1679 Samuel Kem born at Monks Kirby (related to Kem, 1700, 1780)

Habeas Corpus Act: Made it illegal to hold a man in prison without a trial.

c.1679 The Whig and Tory political party names first used

1680 The methods of coping with flooded mines in the Warwickshire field were crude horse drawn water mills to help pump water. They did not really work yet, were adopted liberally. This led to the closure of several large mines at Coton and Wyken.

Dockwra instituted the penny post in London.

Nuneaton town local population 1,987.

London Plane and Dutch elm introduced into Britain

John Fawcett, the glazier, leased and re-leased a messuage, a yard with common pasture rights in Abbey End

14th Oct. John Perkins (Parkins), priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

1680-81 Sir Richard Newdegate entered Parliament as a Knight of the Shire.

1680?-85 William Wyatt, vicar of Nuneaton, scholar and friend of Jeremy Taylor

1681 The Great Olt (or Potters Close) clay pit recorded near Heath End Road

Parliament met at Oxford

Thomas Houghton's book on mining was published. "Rara avis in terris" His experience was gained in Derbyshire and was rapidly absorbed by people such as Dugdale and Newdegate and their surveyors.

Sweet gum tree introduced into Britain

1682 15th Sep. Halley's Comet returned

29th Nov. Prince Rupert died

Plot of Radical Whips under Shaftesbury

1683 Anthony Stephens of Snitterfield was denied the right to settle in Nuneaton

Daniel Kem (snr) born at Smockington (related to Joseph Kem see 1700,1774)

William Baker illegally traded as an ironmonger in Nuneaton when he was only a nailer

John Shepheard (Nuneaton) bound £40, later convicted

William Awcocke of Wolvey ordered to go to a church service within a fortnight

William Bemeish fined for not going to Nuneaton parish church. Bemeish had local family connections from 17th to 19thC.

"William Shakespeare" (not the bard!) did not go to Nuneaton church

William Baker fined 2s 6d (12.5p) for contempt

Local coal mining records:

Griff pits eventually worked out a design for getting the 7 foot coal.

A) Obstruction, hardness of stone
B) Avoid by sinking in the Bassett
A) Site liable to floods

B) Our 6 diverting trenches to throw the flood into the Sow and landening (using landers or open surface drains) over the Crop and Soughs should prevent flooding.
A) The Mill stream
B) May be used to save horses
A) The Delph vastly watered
B) The Sough lets off 6.5 Ells and the throw back engine upon a Bassett gin will take some and sinking three gin pits at a time one will help the other down and two barrel gins should keep it while we fix the wheel which we hope to draw more than both of them.
A) Sough from Nuneaton Townsend below the Town Mill, 14 yds dee
B) Of vast use
A) The Hollow Medow Sough 7 yds deep
B) Will have its use to take off some water

Griff pits eventually worked out a design for getting the 7 foot coal.

A) A 6 yds diam. water wheel
B) Water wheel 8 yds 16" diam. turned by the water in a 3" bore pipe.
A) Horse gin for twenty four horses day and night in all
B) To be put on the Hollows to throw water into the Pool in a dry time with three horses 6 or 8 hrs a day
A) Toad or Trencher coal dangerous
B) What this was to the 7 ft. the Ell coal would be to the Rider, but we avoid that danger and a greater which is the 4 ft coal water by te Sough and by sinking so shallow as 22 Ell we need meet the coal.
A) A Querry pit to gain 3 Ell deep and get 9 Ell scope of coal
B) No need of a Querry Pit here.
A) Had there been a Querry Pit which would have gained 9 Ell scope there might have been 84 Ell scope
B) The scope we expect upon the Rider may be computed by the depth which we expect to 22 Ell out of which 11 ell already got 11 ells remain which at 1 in 3 dipping in 33 ell scope. John Broome, Thomas Peckham and others work the Bedworth mines in conjunction with other pits at Hawkesbury. Thes 5 or 6 pits had been worked from time to time, they prove a great loss to their owners. They were abandoned for 3 years after spending £17,000.

1683-84 A severe cold winter in the Midlands; frost fairs on the River Thames, many local rivers froze.

Robert Nutt fined for trading as an ironmonger when he was tallow chandler

1684 2nd Oct. A sudden fire near Richard Man's hayrick at Stockingford

John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" part II published

Local coal mining records:

Griff: The proprietors seem to have succeeded in coping with the water. A question arose as to whether the corporation needed to renew lease for Motehouse Farm. It was generally agreed that it was necessary for Hawkesbury mine for keeping their horses, stacking timber, and particularly for erecting the sough. Number of witnesses called to testify to the importance of encouraging the coal works at Bedworth and Hawkesbury, that were reckoned to be worth £400-500 yearly to the city, their absence during the previous hard winter lost them £100. If they ceased coal would cost at least anouther 2d per cwt.

John Winter, at Hawkesbury priced his coal 5.5-6d per cwt in the city, when he abandoned them it rose to 10d-1s per cwt. One deponent even foresaw a rise of 9d because the 'mines beyond Nuneaton are almost worked out'. William Benion, a baker, considered the fuel was no cheaper as before this was obtained from Wedgbury coals, at 7.5-8d per cwt. 'which is as cheap as Hawkesbury the goodness of Wedgbury being considered'

Gabriel Cattern of Whitmore Park also said that he had brought coals into Coventry for sale for the last 30yrs, and sold them as cheap, at 6d per cwt.(before Hawkesbury was working)

Robert Hewitt mapped parts of Coton for Newdegate family.

A severe local winter.

Sir Richard Newdegate entered into an agreement with Edward Cookes, and Thomas Coventry. They agreed to work coal at Nuneaton Common. The venture was not effective, Cookes withdrew. Serious flooding was the main problem. The mineral rights were leased in 1689 to 2 other venturers.

1684-90 Thomas Burnet, the Yorkshire Divine, published “The Sacred Theory of the Earth”

1684-92 The tin Farthing coin issued = (0.25d) or 0.1p

1685 John King presented for not going to Nuneaton church

In Nuneaton, Robert Smith, a wood-turner touched a dead body of Luke Mortimer (an old mystic medicine charm for curing certain sicknesses - this type featured in Thomas Hardy’s “The Withered Arm” from the Wessex Tales)

Edward Willes pleaded not guilty for Robert Nutt

Robert Sidwell, the glover did not appear in court. Sidwell had local family connections from 17th to 20thC.

Thomas Wootton vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Nuneaton town local population 1,989.

King James II, succeeded Charles II. He supported Catholics; this led to the Bishop of London to ask William of Orange to come to England.

1685-92 The tin Half Penny coin issued = (0.5d) or 0.2p

1685-1703 Celia Fynes published “Through England on a Side Saddle in the Time of William and Mary”, this was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles

1686 Henry Everett pleaded guilty for keeping greyhounds when not qualified. Everett had local family connections from 16th to 20thC.

Barne Close was re-leased. The field name is quite common in the Nuneaton area Robert Nutt was prosecuted, he traded as an ironmonger in Nuneaton without being qualified.

Mary Loveday from Wolvey settled in Nuneaton without permission; such people were often forced back to their originating parish.

Test Act: set aside (see 1672)

Blome’s “A Gentleman’s Recreation” first published

1687 Nuneaton: Richard Burges (poor) and John Green tried to settle illegally.
20th Aug. HENRY BEIGHTON was baptised, son of Henry and Ann Beighton (Chilvers Coton) parish Registers.

Nicholas Bradnock defaulted, fined (Nuneaton)

Henry Green brick and tilemaker recorded in Stockingford

Coventry became a worthwhile market for Arbury's coal, they were prepared to pay 12-14d per hundredweight. (5-6p for 50 kgs)

7th Nov. William Stukeley, the English antiquarian was born at Holbeach, Lincolnshire. He studied medicine at Cambridge University. He later visited the Nuneaton area (see 1712-13, 1718, 1723-25, 1740, 1743 & 1757)

2nd Act of Indulgence favoured English Catholics

Sir Isaac Newton's "Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica" was published; this work split "Science" from the "Arts".

From that point in time the two subjects evolved rapidly in different directions; although there would remain connections that linked them.

1688 John Farmer fined for crossing someone's property

4th Feb. Elizabeth Jervis born to William and Anne Jervis of Peatling Parva (she married Dr. Johnson). Her brother, Richard born 1683, married Anne, they had three children, Samuel William and Darell. Samuel married and has William Jarvis, only child who married Anne Benskyn, she died, he re-married Anne Davies, daughter of John Davies; A Nuneaton attorney, they had two children – Charles Jervis (attorney at Hinckley, owner of The Hyde) and William-Davies Jervis captain of the Leicester Militia.

Bryan the potter recorded at Arbury

Gregory King analysed the Heath Tax statistics to produce statistical data on the social class structure of England. e.g.

No. of Families	Ranks, Titles, etc.	Heads per family	No. of persons	Yearly income per family (£)
160	Temporal Lords	40	6,400	3,200
26	Spiritual Lords	20	520	1,300
800	Baronets	16	12,800	880
600	Knights	13	7,800	650
3,000	Esquires	10	30,000	450
12,000	Gentlemen	8	96,000	280
5,000	Persons in greater offices and places	8	40,000	240
5,000	Persons in lesser offices and places	6	30,000	120
2,000	Eminent merchants and traders by sea	8	16,000	400
8,000	Lesser merchants and traders by sea	6	48,000	198
10,000	Persons in law	7	70,000	154
2,000	Eminent clergymen	6	12,000	72
8,000	Lesser clergymen	5	40,000	50
40,000	Freeholders of the better sort	7	280,000	91
120,000	Freeholders of the lesser	5.5	660,000	55

The great political and constitutional settlement

1688-1702 William III and Mary II. William landed in England by secret invitation with an army. Mary II died in 1694 with smallpox, after this he ruled alone.

1689 Wolstan Adderley (of Weddington) died.

Obadiah Grew died (see 1607).

Robert Hewitt mapped part of Coton/Arbury for the Newdegate family. Richard Newdegate Bart. was M.P. for Warwickshire.

Gilbert Adderley (Weddington) inherited an estate from his father Wolstan.

Toleration Act: Established freedom of Worship. Bill of Rights: Established the right of the people, through their representatives in Parliament, to depose the King and set on the throne whomever they chose.

Edict of Nantes forced the Huguenots to flee from France.
The numerous methods of coping with flooded mines at Griff/Arbury were crude horse drawn water mills to help pump water. They did not really work yet were adopted liberally. This led to the closure of several large mines at Coton and Wyken.

1690 Jonathan Parker fined for keeping a disorderly alehouse in Nuneaton

Thomas Smith was ordered to settle in Nuneaton, his status was poor Robert Hewitt surveyed Attleborough, field names were used e.g. Lynch, no Kem was listed as tenant or owner in whole survey. He recorded heirs of Lady Skeffington with land in Stockingford.

Marlpit field recorded at Arbury; Nuneaton Brickyard recorded

The Battle of the Boyne - William of Orange defeated the pro-Catholic James II. Abolition of the Poll Tax

Nuneaton town local population 2,078.

1690's The Bank of England issued tally sticks or stocks (they became stocks of a different kind in the centuries that followed)

1691 16th Jan. George Fox (The Quaker) died and was buried at Bunhill Fields, London.

7th Mar. Daniel Lee born to Daniel and Judith Leigh (Lee) Long Clawson (relatives farmed much of Attleborough)

3rd Apr. John Viall, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

Weddington discharged from looking after the poor of Nuneaton

1692 Inhabitants of Nuneaton presented for not abating the height of the waste and floodgates in the brook near the bridge called Coventry Bridge at Nuneaton townsend, for want of which the water returned into the highway leading to Coton

Sir Richard Newdegate tried to put the coalmining venture on better economic footing; unfortunately his wife died. She was the mother of his 14 children and a good administrator.
The National Debt began; it was caused by the treasury being empty due the King's continuing war with France

Hop Hornbeam introduced into Britain
Robert Towe, the potter, recorded in Chilvers Coton

1693 John Knight silkweaver and Thomas Buswell tailor both of Coton indicted for breaking into the close and house of Henry Green.

1694 Edward Lea, a poor man, made to work

George Fox's "Journal" was revised and published. He was born at Fenny Drayton and founded the Society of Friends (Quakers)

Alexander constructed a brick kiln in Nuneaton

Henry Perry of Coton, a miller, presented for keeping water high in the road leading to Nuneaton at Coventry Bridge

The constable of Weddington was fined for not bringing presentments to Assizes 3s 4d (17p)

Bank of England established

The gold Guinea coin issued = (30s) or £1 50p

Joseph Kem, churchman of Copson, Warwickshire; a marriage bond to Frances of Burbage was issued

Additional building work at Marston Hall

The National Debt came into effect in England

1695 Nuneaton town local population 2,111

A very cold winter locally

Morden's map did NOT show a Weddington Road

The freedom of the press came into existence in England

1696 The Weddington constable presented for not bringing his presentments, Thomas Gibbard, constable of Weddington fined for contempt

By this year so much coin was being melted and converted into silverware that the trade of the country was being disrupted. The coinage was of sterling quality. Up to this point in history silver coins had been cut out of sheets of metal that allowed easy forgery. Charles introduced a mill that could stamp the coins out with a milled edge with words stamped into the edge. This would hopefully prevent further clipping of the money. An Act of Parliament was passed to raise the standard of silver articles from 92.5% (Sterling) to 95.84% (Britannia). This checked the melting of coins.

1696-1851 Window Tax introduced to balance the effects of coin clipping and melting.

13th Jun. Gulielmus Kem born at Wolvey son of Josephi Kem

1697 25th Sep. Anthony Gervase married Mary Broughton, Garthorpe he was a distant relative of Edward Kem Jarvis and possibly the Kems of Long Clawson

1698 A Bond for marriage settlement between Henry Beighton’s sister and Henry Jeoffcot was used on its reverse side for Beighton’s computations.

Savery's steam engine invented.

Celia Fiennes travelled through Wansford and noted people burning Warwickshire Coal.

George Fox’s “A Collection of Epistles “ was published

African trade opened up.

Dr. Thomas Bray founded SPCK - Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge (no local connection)

1698-1717 The gold Guinea coin issued = (21s 6p) or £1.07.5p

1698-1740 Rev. J. Liptrott was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1699 20th Apr. Sarah Duffkin baptised, daughter of Marmaduke Duffkin, a Nuneaton farmer. She was orphaned before the age of 5 and was probably brought up by her uncle Richard Duffkin. Her life was more eventful after that. By 1720 she was recorded in London, as a maidservant to the scandalous Mary de la Riviere Manley, whose novel writing earned her local infamy. Mary was the mistress of John Barber (not the Attleborough inventor), a friend of John Swift and Viscount Bolinbroke. Sarah was left a considerable sum of money in Barber's will. Sarah died on 7th Jan. 1756, her will states she provided various annuities for Duffkins in Nuneaton.

Horeston: A second probate inventory survived, made for Charles Beale. Stratford/Dugdale's Horeston Grange had reduced from 20 rooms to 13 rooms

Robert Towe's pothouse recorded in the Nuneaton area

The local population growth (overall net gain per year) reached 43.

pre-1700 At least ten weavers worked in Nuneaton. The industry grew steadily over the next 130 years.

1700 John Foxcroft vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Joseph Kem was born at Wolvey, son of Joseph and Frances Kem. He was the same Joseph Kem later married at Leicester in 1722. He left no descendants. (parish record = 14th May. Josephus Kem son of Josephi Kem baptised at Wolvey, see 1780)

A proposal was made to apply the 1683's (7 Foot.) extraction method for getting the Rider Coal at Collicroft.

Local coal mining records:

9th Dec. Griff: elaborate calculations for sinking a series of pits, presumably in connection with this scheme, from which the projector deduces a certain clear profit of £1,800 on a year and half's work. Also notes on a set of boring rods "5 dogs of which 1 for 2 men, 2 tops, 4 bottoms of which a hook to get up Rods when lost, 15 Middle Pieces".

Warwickshire under 100 people per square mile.
The great majority of these people lived in the country. They earned their money by working the land and supplemented it with weaving or carpentry. Nuneaton was a market town and totally depended on the countryside economy. In the country, land was being enclosed, much waste was also being turned over to the plough. The Agrarian Revolution began to make agricultural practice more effective in every sense. Land improvement and new drainage techniques were coming from the Netherlands. The revelation that root crops could be grown for winter feed for cattle meant the wholesale seasonal slaughter of livestock could be prevented. The revolution brought about new crops, new implements, new rotations of crops and better stock breeding. By the end of the century there were numerous books and pamphlets on husbandry. By 1760 these had been replaced by books on the business of farming.

Population of England and Wales 6,045,008. Nuneaton area population density was under 100 people per square mile (39 per sq.km). Nuneaton's local population reached 2196

A £1 was worth £300 by the 2000 A.D. price

A pint of beer was less than 1d (0.4p)

c.1700 Cockspur colliery, Collicroft recorded

Sir Nathan Wright (keeper of the Great Seal) made Caldecote his main seat.

Jethro Tull developed the seed drill. Horseshoes became common.

1700-9 Sir Richard Newdigate developed coal mining at Arbury, he encouraged the invention and development of new devices for test boring and blasting through hard rock as well as deeper mining. He recruited specialist labour from the South Staffordshire Coalfield. He used water, wind and horse-powered machinery.

1700-1800 Warwickshire depopulated villages: 1 definitely

The following settlements were mostly deserted mediaeval village sites. The population moved to nearby fresh ground to establish a new village. The remains of the old were visible as ridge and furrow (selions) and raised platforms.

Ansley (DMV) (and Hall), Arbury (DMV?)(and Hall and Temple House), Astley (DMV)(and Castle), Attleborough (DMV?)(and Hall), Bramcote (DMV?), Bulkington (DMV?), Burbage (DMV?) (and Hall), Burton Hastings (DMV), Caldecote (DMV)(and Hall), Coton (DMV?), Exhall (DMV) (and Hall), Fenny Drayton (DMV?)(and Hall?), Galley Common (DMV), Griff (DMV), Hartshill (DMV?)(and Castle and Grange), Higham (DMV)(and Hall), Hinckley (DMV?) (and Castle), The Hyde (DMV), Lindley (DMV?)(and Hall), Mancetter DMV?)(and Manor House), Marston Jabbet (DMV) (and Hall), Oldbury (DMV?), Rowden (DMV?), Ryton (DMV?) Shelford (DMV?)(and Hall?), Shenton (DMV)(and Hall), Sinney (DMV?), Sketchley (DMV?), Sole End (DMV)(and Hall), Stoke Golding (DMV), Stretton Baskerville (DMV), Upton (DMV), Weddington (DMV)(and Hall), Weston (DMV)(and Hall), Witherley (DMV), Wolvey (DMV)(and Hall) and Wykin (DMV)(and Hall).

Churches existed at: St. Nicolas, Nuneaton; All Saints, Coton;

St. James, Weddington; St. Theobald and St. Chad, Caldecote; St. Peter's, Higham; St. James, Bulkington; St. Mary the Virgin, Astley; St. Peter, Mancetter; St. Mary's, Hinckley; St. Botolph's, Burton Hastings, St. Margaret's, Stoke Golding; St. Michael's, Fenny Drayton;St. John's, Lindley; St. John the Baptist, Wolvey; Bramcote chapel; Sketchley chapel.

The following Monastic sites existed: Nuneaton Priory and Alien Priory (ruins); Astley College (part of Astley), Arbury, Hinckley Cell and Oldbury Priory some foundations may be buried beneath the surface.

Brett’s Hall, Caldecote White House, Caldwell Hall, Horeston Grange. Park House (Hartshill), Wolvershill Hall existed.

1700-1820 AGRICULTURAL (AGRARIAN) REVOLUTION
1700-1900 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

START OF THE 18TH CENTURY A.D.

Copper beech and Black Italian Poplar trees introduced into Britain

Communal farming evolved into a market driven business.

In the middle part of this century the Nuneaton composer Joseph Key composed many pieces for church services, much of which was later lost to history and musicology alike.

1701 6 pits at Griff; Sir Richard Newdegate employed migrant colliery workers from Coleorton.

Act of Settlement: this confined the succession to the throne to Protestants and settled it on the House of Hanover.

1701-25 The town's baptisms, burials and marriages were the subject of research by Ted Veasey and the Nuneaton Local History Research Group; published in 1995.

1701-26 Newdegate tried to raise revenue to build a new family mansion at Harefield.

Extensive changes took place in the Griff-Arbury coal mining enterprise.

1702 Early productivity agreement with miners drafted by Griff colliery managers.

The first national newspaper: Daily Courant

Brick Kiln close recorded at Chilvers Coton

Queen Anne ascended to the throne, she was Mary II younger sister. She had 17 children, but none survived her.

1702-09 Sir Richard sometimes relied on inspired guesswork to solve some of the problems at Griff collieries; this sadly proved economically disastrous.

1703 Gilbert Adderley paid for the Weddington bell to be re-cast; the bell founder was probably George Oldfield II of Nottingham.

Newdegate sent out agents to recruit specialist labour for the coal mines. A list of 25 debtors produced for the Griff venture.

1704 John Tipper, of Coventry, (mathematical hobbyist) founded "The Ladies Diary" eventually merged with Gentleman's Diary in the 1800's.

Newdegate and his managers still struggled with debt; the predicted profitability of the Griff collieries came later than expected.

1705 Samuel Bracebridge bought the Lindley estates and pulled down the old hall. He commenced building a new hall. The timbers may have been incorporated into Lower Farm Weddington.

A map produced at this time indicated waterwheels, windmills and other colliery machinery at Griff.

c.1705 Nuneaton town local population 2,500; it took approximately 75 years to double. (1,250 in 1630)

1706 Local coal mining records:

Griff Collieries: A principal bailiff was sick and his place was taken by a deputy. Part of the workings collapsed, much of the colliery ceased work for 8 months. Newdegate calculated it lost him £4,200.

Act of Union: United the countries of England, Wales and Scotland into Great Britain. Act of Security: Required the sovereign to swear to support the Presbyterian Church.

George Fox's "Gospel Truth" was published

Mr. Mill (not local) invented the carriage spring

1707 Henry Beighton began local surveys, he produced a map of Griff House

A draft survey of Bedworth Fields

28th Oct. note of lands in Griff which Beighton was to have, with acreage, annual value and number of animals that may be pastured on each plot, memo that Beighton should have the bay mare, Posthuma [including The Berresteads]

1708 Henry Beighton copied a survey map of 1690 of lands belonging to Lord Coventry

East India Company merged

Thomas Newcomen, a Dartmouth blacksmith, invented a self-acting atmospheric engine.

A shortage of malt at Arbury made it worthwhile to send and sell a load of coal at Warwick for 18s 5.5d (92.5p) to help offset the cost of 8 quarters of malt.

1709 Abraham Darby produced coking coal; he may have been preceded by Dud Dudley who published "Metallum Martis" in 1665

c.1709 The period of the "Reformation of Manners". Thousands of tracts were distributed to discourage drunkenness, swearing, public indecency and Sunday trading. A tract issued to Hackney Carriages "Kind cautions against swearing."

1709-10 Sir Richard Newdegate (I) ended his coalmining enterprise in bitter disappointment and family dissension.

1710 17th Feb. Daniel Kem born at Wolvey to Joseph and Frances Kem

20th Aug. Thomas Simpson (mathematician) was born at Market Bosworth, he later moved to Nuneaton

John Tipper founded "Great Britain's Diary"

Manna ash introduced into Britain

Richard Parrott and George Sparrow (from north Staffordshire) came to the Warwickshire Coalfield to begin a new venture.

1710-11 A magazine called 'The Hermit' published

1711 Local coal mining records:

Griff/Arbury: 4 pits in Sir Richard Newdigate's land. 30 yds apart, sunk to full depth. Worked from bottom upwards. The 1st deep north coal pit is about 19 ells down now and was about 27.5 at first opening, hath got 161 load in coming up 8.5 ells and may get 400 load more all 2 yd coales, the bare coal is most of it already got in this pit.
4 pits in Sir Richard Newdigate's land. The 2nd deep north coal pit is new opened in the 2 yd; hath got 423 loads of bare coal with some 2 yd coal got in opening; it is now 43 ell down hill and may get of 2 yd coal about 1030 loads more.

The 3rd ditto is about the same down hill; hath got 560 load of Bare coal and may get about 1030 load more of 2 yd coal; it is now setting level.The 4th ditto is 25 down hill; hath got 174 load of bare coal and Rider and may get 700 load of the same coal and may get 1,000 load or better of 2 yd coal, but this bare coal and Rider riseth very thin in this pit.

Henry Beighton, with his friend Dr. J.T. Desaguliers, studied the Newcomen steam engine and valve, at Griff. Beighton was credited with the invention of a new clack valve. Their experiments referred to in J. Harris's Lexicon. Newcomen and Cawley made an unsuccessful attempt to arrange for the erection of an engine.

Oct. Henry Beighton proposed a new survey map of Warwickshire. When Newcomen was testing a new steam engine at Griff, Beighton studied it; particularly the valves and later produced a technical drawing of the engine. George Sparrow and Richard Parrott entered an 11 year lease to work coal at Griff, then owned by Sir Richard Newdegate III.

Pope Clement XI started the Index of Forbidden Books; the list was not closed until 1966. [Index Librorum and Prohibitorum]

1712 Nehemiah Grew died (see 1607)

6th Mar. The History of John Bull. A series of pamphlets published by Dr. John Arbuthnot advocating the termination of the war with France. John Bull was described as an honest plain-dealing fellow, choleric, bold, and of inconstant temper, very apt to quarrel with his best friends.

29th Aug. The Nuneaton hurricane, extensive damage detailed by Henry Beighton

The last trial for witchcraft in England (see 1020-24)

1712-13 Jun.-Dec. William Stukeley travelled along the Watling Street and Fenn Lane on his second itinerary. This was later published in his Itinerarium Curiosum in 1724.

1713 An important lease signed concerning the Newcomen-Savery water pumping engine.

Sir Richard Newdegate, Richard Parrott and George Sparrow.

MP's were elected by wealthy voters

HANOVER DYNASTY

The material welfare of the people was assured by the rapid increase of commerce and industrial prosperity.

Manufacturing increased slowly until the invention of machinery in George III's reign. Steam power combined with weaving and textile machinery improved Britain's supremacy. Struggles began with colonial territories.
The Agrarian and Industrial Revolutions went hand in hand; industrial populations grew at the expense of rural depopulation. Religious passion faded in the Age of Enlightenment (or Reason). The standard of literature dramatically improved.

1714 *The Riot Act: stated if an unlawful assembly of 12 or more persons refused to disperse within 1 hour after a Justice of the Peace had read a proclamation calling them to do so they became guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for life.*

John Bellers published a pamphlet advocating a type of national health service

The Board of Longitude (London) was set up, £20,000 prize money was offered for the solution of how to find one's correct longitude. John Harrison (the son of a Yorkshire carpenter, died 1776) built a progressively more accurate set of clock chronometers (H1 to H5) 1742-61 that solved the problem. Captain James Cook used this device on his exploratory voyages.

Nuneaton entered the steam-powered era

Apr. The Newcomen-Savery Beam Engine No. 2 was installed at Griff, Little Brace.

It was very inefficient and required large amounts of coal to power it. It had a copper boiler and could lift 70 hogsheads per hour from a depth of 47 yards. It cost £7 per week in rent.

1st Aug. King George I ascended to the throne; he was James I, great grandson. He disliked England and spent of his time in Hanover.

The use of a large water wheel in conjunction with an atmospheric engine was a marked evolution in winding and drawing operations.

1714-43 Henry Beighton took over from John Tipper as editor: Ladies Diary (Woman's Almanack) who previously had 12 articles published pre-1713.

Ladies Diary (Beighton) Printed by J. Wilde for the Company of Stationers. Contained: Zodiac, planet positions, feasts and festivals, enigmatic problems, arithmetic puzzles, trigonometry, geometry, poems, questions and quizzes, monarchs, eclipses, health cures, paradoxes which he conducted with much success until his death. In his prefaces to that ingenious compilation, 'peculiarly adapted for the Use and Diversion of the Fair Sex,' he speaks of his gallant endeavours to introduce his readers to the study of the mathematical sciences. Robert Heath was an assistant editor as was Beighton's wife in later years.

1715 28th Feb. Weddington vicar: Rev. James Sherman

3rd May. A partial eclipse of the sun

An agreement and licence recorded exclusive use of the water pumping engine in a radius of 6 miles of the Griff colliery. Parrott, Parrott and Sparrow named parties.

The Riot Act was passed because of growing unrest in the Midlands, many people still supported the Stuart monarchy.

Colen Campbell published "Vitruvius Britannicus"

25th Oct. St. Crispin's Day: The 300th anniversary of The Battle of Agincourt.

Henry V's longbow men defeated a numerically superior French army.

The 'Shakespearian' Henry V urged us to remember this day forever!
The Independent Church was established by Dr. Robert Wild. He was ejected from Aynho in 1662. He probably founded Nonconformity in Nuneaton. He lived in Church Street, his church was destroyed after a riot. (see 1719,1793)

Among other drawings published by Beighton is a view of the south-east side of Fairford church (engraved by T. Harris), Gloucestershire

1716 A large finished drawing by Beighton, of Kenilworth Castle, with manuscript references, from a fresco occupying the whole side of a room at Newnham Paddox, a seat of the Earl of Denbigh. This was copied at the expense of John Ludford, Esq. of Ansley Hall, but was not engraved. He also drew the south east prospect of Weston in Warwickshire

Daniel Dancer born in Pinner Middlesex. (the famous miser, possibly influenced by 1658 Christian devotional)

Lancelot (Capability) Brown was born, this famous landscape gardener may have been involved with some of the landscape gardens of north Warwickshire's country houses. He died in 1783.

A free school founded for clothing and educating the poor children of Nuneaton. It was founded and endowed under the will of Richard Smith gentleman of Westminster.

J. Rous published Historia Johannes Rossi, Warwicensis de Regebus Anglia, this was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles

c.1716 Henry Beighton began to keep comprehensive weather records

1716-72 James Brindley, canal builder and engineer and developer of the water driven pump for mine drainage

1717 Henry Beighton made an engraving of the Newcomen engine at Griff, later used by Dr. J.T. Desaguliers in his lectures. The engraving is in Worcester College Library, University of Oxford, Dr. Desaguliers communicated with Beighton about using a steelyard over the puppet clack or safety valve. Beighton published a table of the power of the fire engine and in 1718 built an engine. He also held shares in Heaton Colliery at Newcastle upon Tyne

The older gold Guinea last minted = (21s 6d) or £1.07.5p

Walpole resigned.

The Union of England. Freemasons inaugurated.

Arbury/Griff coalfield ventures: Parrott completed his experiments with iron salt pans. Parrott and Sparrow became increasingly rivals.

c.1717 The process of smelting iron with coke developed

1717-18 Society of Antiquaries founded in London with help from William Stukeley

1717-1813 The newer gold Guinea coin issued = (21s) or £1.05p

1718 Henry Beighton erected a steam-engine near Newcastle (Washington) with an improved valve mechanism; he was acquainted with Halley.

The Cabinet re-structured

1719 Sir Richard Newdigate died; Sir Roger Newdegate born, the seventh and youngest child of Sir Richard the 3rd Baronet

The Old Meeting place (Independent) Coton Road was re-built.

George Sparrow extended his interests to the Trustees of Sir. T. White's Wyken and Sowe collieries.

Ladies Diary mentioned Beighton's engine at Newcastle

c.1719 Newcomen Beam Engine No. 16 was installed at Griff Little Brace. It was built by Stonier Parrott and George Sparrow

1719-1806 Sir Roger Newdegate, M.P. for Middlesex and Oxford. He founded the Newdegate Prize for English Verse in 1805.

1720 Arbury consumed considerable quantities of coal, for lime burning, brick making. It was even sold for coke making and brewing.

The South Sea Bubble: The South Sea Trading Company paid off the National Debt, many people flocked to buy shares, but the 'bubble' burst when the share price dropped, many were ruined. Sir Robert Walpole resolved the crisis and became the first Prime Minister.

The Sterling Silver (92.5%) standard was restored by an Act of Parliament.

Daniel Kem (Jr) of Burbage born (see Kem 1700, 1780)

England: Ralph Allen (from Bath) granted monopoly for private postal system.

The rise of the highwayman soon followed.

3rd Nov. Henry Beighton became a fellow of the Royal Society, certificates of election do not exist, no account in the Journal Book or Council minutes. He was a valued contributor to the 'Philosophic Transactions of the Royal Society of London.' His 'Description of the Water Works at London Bridge' was a favourable specimen of his skill in mechanics. Also, Beighton published a pamphlet with proposals for publishing a map of Warwickshire, 'on two sheets of large paper, about forty-three inches deep and thirty broad,' at the moderate price of five shillings in sheets, but he met with so little encouragement that the design was not carried into effect during his lifetime.

1720-30 Newdigate used money from coal mining to help build Coventry-Bedworth Road and Coventry-Southam Road.

1720-1800 Georgian period of Architecture

1721 Henry Beighton designed and made a new surveying plane table (reported in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society)

WALPOLE (Prime Minister.) Whig Government until 1769

Beighton's north prospect of St. Michael's church, Coventry South prospect of the cross at Coventry, built after the model of that at Abingdon in 1544. Beighton re-published his 1717 table in the Ladies Diary in later years. Computation of the building of a workhouse at Coton, gave size, amounts of materials by Beighton

Sir Nathan Wright died at Caldecote (keeper of the Great Seal). The estate passed to his sons William and George Wright.

1721-36 Beighton's notes on a perambulator and plotting table, designed and made a new plane table later published

1721-40 Beighton's description of plotting table for maps

1721-42 Dr. John Ryder vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton, later became the Archbishop of Tuam

1722 Arbury/Griff steam engines: Parrott and Sparrow's fortunes declined after much local success.
10th Apr. Joseph Kem married Mary Butler at St. Mary de Castro church Leicester. The marriage bond for them stated Mary Butler was from St. Mary or Claybrook.

Beighton published in Ladies Diary his intentions of producing a Warwick map; he also drew the East prospect of Charlecote in Warwickshire

1722-25 Henry Beighton surveyed Warwickshire at one inch to the mile

1723 Griff had steam engines introduced early. Money was paid to Mr. Mears as Fire Engine Rent.

(Also 1714-17) Workhouse Act

11th Jul. St. Margarets, Leicester, recorded a burial of Mary Kem (nee Butler)

John Ryder born, son of Rev. Ryder (see 1721) later became Dean of Lismore, right of sanctuary abolished in England for civil offenders

Beighton constructed a ‘way-wiser’ after the design of Thomas Eyre of Kettering.

He also gave a very detailed account of how he surveyed the Warwickshire map in Ladies Diary

1723-24 Stukeley visited Manduessedum (Mancetter Roman site). In 1724 he published “Itinerarium Curiosum”. He was also interested in Druidism and his local visit may have inspired Druidism to establish in Nuneaton and outlying villages. He interpreted the locally numerous field ponds and brick pits as marl pits; supposing them to have been dug for lime to add to the local clay soils. This fallacy survived well into the 20thC.

1724 11th May. A total eclipse of the sun in Britain, that influenced Thomas Simpson (the mathematician). The next ones would be 1927, 1999, 2015, 2081, 2090, 2133 and 2135.

Robert Billio was the vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

15th Aug. Marcellus Beighton baptised, son of Henry and Elizabeth there was also a daughter named Celia?

Carteret appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland

1724-27 Daniel Defoe published his Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain, this was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles

1725 Henry Beighton's map showed many collieries. 7 near Wilnecote and fire engines evidently at work at Griff and 2 other collieries between them and Coventry.

Dr. Stukeley wrote of a colliery at the time of his visit to Warwickshire in 1725.

“Griff coal works here, forty ells deep of vast compass. No sort of fossils found in them. Griff, from grave, groof, digging. The soil sandy from Coventry hither, then black earth. The coal mine runs from Coventry to Tamworth in a line: here are such breaches that intercept the strata, and such trapping and dipping as in Somersetshire: the fissures upon breaking the track and parallelism of the strata make them diverge generally. Great old toads are often found in the solid coal. leaving a cavity of their own shape. They draw away the water from the mines by an invention originally of the Earl of Worcester, improved by Captain Savery and others; it works with a vast power from the atmosphere pressing into a receiver exhausted of air by vapour and then condensed”.

Beighton published in the Ladies Diary: The Prize Aenigma in verse Beighton finished surveying the one inch to one mile map of Warwickshire (survey started in 1722). It was the first properly triangulated Warwickshire map

THE DAWN OF THE TURNPIKE ERA IN NUNEATON

Beighton and his mother leased certain coal mines to Sir Richard Newdigate; the property had been leased by an earlier deed from Beighton’s father. Henry Beighton's map provided a valuable bench mark because it showed mills, halls, churches, roads. Weddington Road was not shown, there was an implication that it may have existed but was not a properly constructed Turnpike or transport route. Weddington was the spelling. Camp Hill Hall was not shown (see John Barber c. 1780)

Parrott and Sparrow's relationship with the Tyneside colliers was so bad they pulled out to concentrate on their Warwickshire ventures

Horestone Grange shown as a substantial house.

Newcomen Beam Engine No. 37 was built by Richard Newdigate at Griff Colliery. It was made of Iron and weighed 1.25 tons. This could have been a rebuild of the 1714 engine or a complete new one. The most likely case was a rebuild.

Newcomen Beam Engine No. P6 was built at Hawkesbury. The cylinder was from Coalbrookdale. No. P7 was built at Bedworth by Stonier Parrott. This was probably a replacement engine.

Beighton, via the Ladies Diary, explained what the enigma was; it was about the invention and progress of the steam engine for raising water out of mines by force of fire [at Griff]

1726 Beighton drew the south west prospect of Honiley Hall and the south prospect of Castle Bromwich Hall

Gulliver's Travels widely published; on of the first fiction works in modern English.

Lloyd's List began

Indian Bean tree introduced into Britain

The Quakers established a church in Abbey Street

1727 Local coal mining records:

"Griffmen" (experienced colliers from Griff) went to Swannington collieries to help sink shafts and extend headings. The Bedworth and Hawkesbury mines began to succeed and caused the Griff coal market to suffer (it diminished by 65%) Parrott established his next successful venture that was to force Newdegate's Griff colliery to close in the next 2 years.

By this year schools existed in all but two counties in England and Wales.

King George II ascended to the throne. He disliked everything English.

1727-30 The population crisis of Warwickshire.

1727-38 This was the warmest ten year period in central England prior to 20thC. records

1728 Local coal mining records:

Griff: In September a payment of £2 2s was made to bricklayers and others putting in the 'new boiler at the lower engine' but these engines do not seem to have been long in use

The Beighton map of Warwickshire was engraved by Elisha Kirkall, was published.

Senex was the London agent for its sale. The first printing. 2nd printing in 1750. He also drew the south prospect of Blithe Hall in Warwickshire and Dugdale's family pedigree.

1728-29 Local coal mining records:

George Sparrow's Bedworth colliery was beginning to get in full working order. He was accused of poaching Parrott's men. John Smeaton, one of many mechanical engineers, was called in to advise on colliery operating machinery. Larger water pumping engines were investigated.

1728-31	Wages books by Beighton (preserved in Warwickshire County Records)
1728-90	Thomas Warton, Poet Laureate and professor of poetry at Oxford. He was friends with Dr. Johnson. (see 1758)
1728-1809	Matthew Boulton (Birmingham entrepreneur and developer of the steam engine, member of the Lunar Society) The society would meet on the eve of a full moon and walk home afterwards (hopefully in moonlight!)
1729	Thomas Simpson met a pedlar in Nuneaton who influenced him significantly. This man used to visit the Bristol annual fair and often stopped off at Nuneaton en route.
	Sep. Warmest on record in central England
	Nuneaton manor shown on the Buck map
	Weddington vicar: Rev. Thomas Liptrott
	The early pumping engines consumed 14.8% of the total Griff coal output
	Beginning of the Methodist revival
	Draft account of Beighton for the survey for the enclosure of Thurlaston
	Beighton map of Warwickshire one inch to three miles
c.1729	Haunchwood Nowells colliery recorded, it closed in 1925
1729-30	Beighton was best remembered as the illustrator of Dr. Thomas's edition of Dugdale's 'Warwickshire,' the maps were taken from an actual survey made by him. (e.g. Coventry Cross, St Michael's Church, Charlecote, Weston, Honiley, Castle Bromwich Hall, Edgbaston Hall, Four Oaks Hall, Shustoke church memorials, Blithe Hall and Dugdale's pedigree)
1730	Weddington had 4 farms and a Manor House
	The death rate peaked at 33.4 per thousand
	Weeping willow introduced into Britain
	Rev. Thomas Cox published Volume V (Warwickshire) of his Magna Britannia et Hibernia. Several pages dealt with the Nuneaton area and its ecclesiastical history.
	Dugdale's Warwickshire had Beighton separate maps for each hundred in Warwickshire
1730's	Gin drinking became widespread, there was an increase in the death rate.
c.1730	Thomas Simpson (the mathematician) married a widow, Sarah Swinfield, a local of Nuneaton (she was possibly born in 1680).
	The seed drill invented.
	Nuneaton Old Colliery recorded, site workings finally ceased 1899.
	The British Army used 65,000 tons of flour to powder wigs
1731	Beighton's description of the water works at London Bridge.
	Local earth tremor

17th Feb. Orders of Attleborrow Inclosure mention right of common land at Beighton's Griff Cottage

May. Jun. Sep. general survey by Beighton of Eaton Fields

Jul. survey of cottagers' land and vicars land in Nuneaton Fields by Beighton

Aug.-Nov. Local archives recorded how Whitehole Field was laid out by Henry Beighton and H. Walker's bill of costs for surveying and making a map of Nuneaton Fields to the commissioners

Sep. Memos and orders to Beighton from Commissioners as to the distribution of lands

10 Downing Street, London, was built

Dec. to Jan. 1732, Beighton's notebook of his survey of Attleborough – included all his field measurements.

1731-33 Some of the Attleborough area was subject to an Enclosure Act; names mentioned: Lord Pagett owner; Mary and Elizabeth Perkins, Daniel Lee, Joseph Marston and John Smith etc., holders.

1732 Newcomen engine used for rotary motion
The invention of pinchbeck, an alloy of copper and zinc by Christopher Pinchbeck (this family name has connections with Attleborough)
Richard Parrott attended Coventry for his bankruptcy proceedings

30th Mar. orders to Beighton from Commissioners for Attleborough

25th Apr. Beighton's field book on the laying out of plots in Attleborough Fields contains details of cottager's land

Apr.-Sep. Beighton survey of Nuneaton Inclosure listing proprietors, acreages and value

7th May. A period of great flooding (Henry Beighton)

Griff: Richard Hardy was paid for taking down the steam engine, the 'boiler and cillender were sold and Mr. Green paid £3 8s 6d for materials belonging to yefier engin'.
William Hogarth engraved "The Harlot's Progress", followed by "The Rake's Progress" in 1735; Marriage a la Mode in 1743-45 and "Election" and "Gin Lane" in 1751

Jun. Attleborough Fields notebook with proofs, calculations by Beighton

Jun.-Sep. 1732: calculations by Beighton on charges at the local pubs for Commissioner meetings

1733 May. Beighton account of the walking of field boundaries in Astley, Arbury, Coton and Griff

Patents on the inefficient water pumping engines were due to expire.

John Kay invented the 'Flying Shuttle' for the wool industry enabled weaving to be four times faster and wider cloth.This loom was then adapted for cotton trade.

27th Jun. Beighton reported great thunderstorm damage locally in Ladies Diary

Copy signed by Beighton of an Act for Inclosure and Dividing Common Fields of Chipping Warden in Northamptonshire

25th Sep. Joseph Wright, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

12th Oct. Beighton corrected and adjusted Bills of the Nuneaton Inclosure, gave details of costs to each landowner with costs of fencing and costs of surveying in Attleboro

27th Oct. Beighton reported Aurora Borealis locally - it may have been smoke pollution

A likely date for Weddington Road to have been improved to enable the transport of materials for the church rebuilding and some coal transportation by wagon.

Jethro Tull developed the Four Coultered plough

St. James church, Weddington rebuilt by Humphrey and Gilbert Adderley, except for old stone part of north Transept, to the Northwest. (Vicar's vestry).

One account stated that Adderley actually demolished the old church.

Charles Johnson published “A general history of the lives and adventures of the most famous highwaymen, murderers etc”

1734 8th Jan. Beighton reported heavy rains and the greatest storm for ages in the Ladies Diary

The sale of coal was constantly disputed, to sell by weight or volume could lead to large discrepancies. The density of coal varied (anthracite being heavy, steam/ house being light, bituminous in-between.) It was usually sold by volume, even then bigger lumps had larger air spaces when packed in wagons.

20th Feb. Hinckley Road-Long Shoot and the local Watling Street were subject to abortive petitions as Turnpikes

13th Jul. Beighton reported rains and floods

11th Aug. Beighton reported floods and storms

Aug. Local coal mining records:

Griff: 5s (25p) was spent 'on selling the last fier engin' for the cillender of which £23 was received.

30th Dec. Weddington: Gilbert Adderley died

Griff engines dismantled. Memos about fences in Attleborough and cottages there Bull Bay introduced into Britain

1735 The enclosure award of this year showed Squire Stratford of Oaston was a prime move in the act. The moated Horestone Grange was his home at the time.

The Witchcraft Act made this practice punishable by death. It was not repealed until 1961. This was also aimed at fraudulent mediums, misleading conjurors etc. (see 1020-24)

Linnaeus "Systema Naturae" published. An attempt to logically name and classify the plant kingdom.

Turkey oak introduced into Britain

Beighton reported the following weather in the Ladies Diary

25th Feb. great rainstorms

24th Aug. great floods
7th Sep. great floods
27th Oct. great floods
7th Dec. great floods

Parrott's Hawkesbury colliery was sabotaged and came to a complete halt.

1736 2nd Feb. floods and storms

Beighton reported the following weather in the Ladies Diary:

0° degree longitude fixed at Greenwich.

Britain repealed statutes against witchcraft.
Eastern Hemlock, Cucumber and Paperbark Birch trees introduced into Britain

1736-1819 James Watt (Scottish entrepreneur and developer of the steam engine, member of the Lunar Society)

1737 Thomas Simpson (Nuneaton and Bosworth mathematician) published 'Treatise on Fluxions'

All dramatic plays were subject to censorship

1738 Henry Beighton published articles on barometers and weather forecasting

An Enclosure parchment contained a detailed list for Horeston Grange and fields

Thomas Adderley inherited the Weddington estate from his father Gilbert.

May. John Wesley had his remarkable conversion experience: "I felt I could trust in Christ, Christ alone, for Salvation, and an assurance was given that He had taken away my sins"

Beighton wrote “The imperfections of the common barometer and the improvements made in them by Charles Orme with some observations, remarks and rules for their use”. Beighton’s Collections from the diary of the weather and barometer in order to settle rules for foretelling the weather by barometer.

1739-1815 The struggle between England and France

1739 14th Jul. Henry Beighton's surveying plane table reported in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society

England declared war on Spain

John Wesley opened the first methodist chapels in England

1739-44 Dr. Samuel Johnson edited Gentleman's Magazine

1740 Thomas Simpson wrote 'Nature and Law of Chance' and 'Essay on several subjects in Mathematics'

Sheffield city foundries produced Crucible (cast) Steel; this revolutionised tools

May and Oct. Coldest on record in central England

Local coalmasters accelerated their purchase of mineral bearing lands.

William Stukeley published “Stonehenge - a Temple Restor’d to the British Druids”

1740's There was a commercial incentive to plant oak trees to replace those that had been used to build ships for the Royal Navy. Many trees were planted, but never to be used, because iron and steel hulls superceded wooden ones.

1740-90 Rev. T. Liptrott was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1741 Beighton's paper on "A new plotting table for taking plans and maps in surveying invented in 1721".

John Wesley preached at Hinckley?

Jul. Thomas Simpson and Henry Beighton corresponded; Beighton expressed his admiration of Simpson's ability. Simpson also corresponded with Alexander Buller a Philadelphia Quaker.

1742 Thomas Simpson wrote 'Doctrine of Annuities'

Robert Billio vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1743 18th Sep. Marcellus Beighton was buried at Coton (son of Henry)

George II defeated the French

John Wesley preached at Hinckley

9th Oct. Henry Beighton died, aged 57, he was buried on the 11th at Chilvers Coton, where a small mural tablet mentions his death but not his merits.

William Stukeley published "Avebury - a Temple of the British Druids"

Thomas Simpson wrote 'Mathematical Dissertations'; appointed Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Military Academy.

1744 John Bourne signed a partnership agreement with Richard Parrott to work the newly established Exhall colliery

John Wesley preached at Hinckley (see 1741 and 1779)

The government Cabinet re-structured

20th Feb. A bright comet was visible

1745 Coton School founded (re-named in the 1980's Coton Heritage Centre)

21st Sep. THE BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS: An attempt to restore the Stuarts (A Jacobite army led by Bonnie Prince Charlie -Charles Edward <The Young Pretender> defeated the only Hanoverian troops in Scotland under Sir John Cope in 5 minutes. It encouraged the Scots to support him and led to an invasion of England, this ultimately failed as did Culloden in 1746) The 1878 Nuneaton

Observer story placed Teddy Kem at Prestonpans. However no Kem was found on Bonnie Prince Charles' soldiers lists. Cope's English squad had no Kems either.

By a remarkable coincidence a Joseph Kemmo was taken prisoner and put in Carlisle Jail until he was transported in 1746. He was an Aberdeen Blacksmith!!!

20th November to 4th December marched to Derby. A Scottish Army under James II grandson Charles (Bonnie Prince Charlie) reached Derby, via Carlisle, Wigan, Manchester. Bonnie Prince Charlie could possibly have reached London and reclaimed the throne. One of his brilliant strategists, Murray, was concerned about lack of supplies and the ensuing winter and wanted to retreat.

King George II's 3rd son (Duke of Cumberland) managed to get his spy, Bradstreet, to convey false information to Charles at his Derby headquarters. As a result Charles and his troops headed back to Scotland where the Clansmen were all but annihilated at Culloden. Many local north Warwickshire men volunteered or were mustered to fight with William Augustus (Duke of Cumberland) a large recruitment took place near Meriden Heath.

Gentleman's Magazine dealt extensively with the Pretender King and political unrest. The Magazine lists at the back of each month all the pamphlets and books published in Britain.

There was a dramatic increase in propaganda pamphlets in this year, many warning about the Pope, the Monarchy etc. It is possible that the Teddy Kem story was a locally published pamphlet warning local people about spies recruiting for the King's forces.
The first performance of the national anthem "God save the King"

Thomas Simpson wrote 'Treatise on Algebra'

5th Dec. Thomas Simpson was awarded his F.R.S.

Local collieries had short working lives, perhaps 2 years.

1745-1826 John Nichols, the famous Leicestershire antiquarian. He managed the Gentleman's Magazine in 1778 with, David Henry, then singularly from 1792-1826. He later produced "Bibliotheca Topographica" 1780-90. The History and Antiquities of Leicester were published 1795-1815.

1746 The Nuneaton Aston Estates sold off in plots until 1863.

Abolition of the Scottish Clan movement
The last person to be Hanged, Drawn and Quartered in England!! (this barbaric punishment was finally abolished by an act in 1870!!!)

1747 Thomas Simpson wrote 'Elements of Geometry'

The French defeated the Duke of Cumberland

Fletcher's colliery recorded, closed in 1840

1748 Thomas Simpson wrote 'Trigonometry of plane and spherical shapes'

Sanderson Miller helped Sir Richard Newdegate Gothicise Arbury.

Parrott made a lot of money and repaid his partner Bourne £2,000

1749 20th Jan. Burbage Cemetery Headstone:

"Here lies the body of Daniel Kem of Smockington who departed this life the 20th day of Jan. 1749 aged 66 years. O man contemplate on thy mortal state, Calmly submit to the decrees of fate, Let virtue be thy guide while here on earth, Then young or old ne'er fear to meet with death.

Here lies the body of Anne wife of Daniel Kem of Smockington who departed this life the 5th day of July 1749 aged 65 years.

Last Will and Testament Daniel Kem born 1683 Smockington, died and Buried at Burbage 20/1/1749

11th Dec. Richard Preston, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

1750 Population of Warwickshire 140,000. England and Wales 6,517,035

The Arbury coal masters began to attach much importance the more distant markets.

Speculators paid high prices for land between Foleshill and Bedworth.

Local earth tremor

13th Mar. Christopher Preston, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

Henry Beighton's second printing of his map was ultimately published by subscription, about 1750, in two sheets, with the several emendations left by the author, as also the same map reduced to a single sheet. Both map editions are of rare occurrence. Beighton's map was laid down by English measured miles, reduced to horizontal, by his own hand. He measured both with the chain and compass, and set down the medium scale. Elizabeth, his widow published new edition of the Warwickshire map probably as a memorial to her late husband

c.1750 Oldbury Hall constructed in this period; Brett's Hall probably demolished

1750's Cricket Bat willow introduced into Britain

THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT or REASON

This was characterised by the emergence, in France, of progressive liberal ideas that ultimately led to the Revolution and were to influence Western Philosophy for the next 200 years or more. The increase in scientific knowledge gave rise to new doctrines about nature, materialism and empirical logic. The main French group included: Diderot, d'Holbach, d'Alembert, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, Buffon, Turgot and Helvetius; their works were published in the "L'Encyclopedie" between 1751 and 1776.

Quote: p. 14, Riding the Third Wave, K. Springer, Marshall Pickering. 1987

The Enlightenment did not arise, peak, and decline like some other movements...it was not to reach its full flowering until after the middle of the 20thC.

The Enlightenment's opposition to metaphysics, its denial of the supernatural, and its exaltation of reason over revelation founds it classical expression in a world and life view (Weltanschauung) wholly inconsonant with historic orthodoxy; this was accompanied by an intellectual, moral, and cultural climate (Zeitgeist) in accord with this pagan world and life view. This meant the West lost its Judaeo-Christian foundations

1751 "Lord Hop" died (or Stratford). Many local legends surround this character.

Horeston Grange mostly destroyed by fire.

Tax on spirits; also controls on the number of gin shops

Turnpike Act: This improved the roads and increased the marketing opportunities for farmers and industrialists.

William and George Wright lived at Caldecote, they sold the estate to Robert Prinsep.

Chinese Tree of Heaven introduced into Britain

1751-90 1,600 private Turnpike Acts passed.
1752 2nd September (the Julian calendar ceased in Britain)

Britain adopted the calendar changes made in 1582, this caused Wednesday

3rd September to be followed by Thursday 14th

1752 14th September (Adoption of Gregorian calendar in Britain)

1753 Weddington Parish Book: Recorded Widow Ghent being supported by parish, 14 dozen sparrows shot as pests paid 2s 4d; Paid the Mole catcher £1 0s 0d for the year; 25 loads of stone to maintain the road (Derby Lane) = Weddington Road. £1 4s 0d.

The Broad Wheels Act: this fixed 9 inches as the minimum breadth for wagon wheels, except light vehicles e.g. traps. This design caused the subsoils to be pounded to dust.

Weddington Castle passed from Thomas Adderley (his wife was Mercy, daughter of Rev. Dormer Sheldon of Abberton) to Rev.Thomas and Elizabeth Liptrott. (nee Adderley, sister of Thomas)

Scholars Tree introduced into Britain

1754 William Huddesford vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton
Royal Society of Arts founded in London

James Mallabone (Nuneaton) born, local Yeoman Farmer. Mallabones had local family connections from 17th to 20thC.

Ginkgo tree introduced into Britain

Mrs Simpson, wife of Thomas Simpson, the mathematician wrote to Elizabeth Beighton (Henry's widow)

1754-60 Thomas Simpson (the mathematician) edited 'Ladies Diary'

1754-1839 William Murdoch (Birmingham entrepreneur and developer of the steam engine, member of the Lunar Society)

1755 Samuel Kem died and was buried at Monks Kirby (see Kem 1700, 1780)

Parrott continued to make progress, he took advantage of low land prices in the Arbury area.

- Dr. Samuel Johnson published the "A Dictionary of the English Language", a copy is preserved in Pembroke College library, Oxford; other copies exist, however. He was born in Lichfield 1709 and died in 1784. He wrote many great works and had literary and business connections with several Nuneaton people, e.g. Jervis/Jarvis

1756 Aug. Nuneaton Corn Riots; this was caused by high food prices and unemployment.

2 Quaker corn merchants bought up large quantities of wheat and cheese with the intention of sending it abroad. All the local food suppliers got involved; colliers urged that all grain should be brought to market in bulk and sold at reasonable prices. This affair escalated into riots; the Dragoons and troops were called in resulting in many casualties.

1757 Coalition - Prime Minister Pitt and the cabinet

William Stukeley published "Richard of Cirencester's De Situ Britanniae - it was later found to be a forgery by C. Bertram, this was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles

1758 Weddington: Mercy Adderley re-married Francis Vincent, barrister at Inner Temple.

He commissioned a painting by the artist Arthur Devis, of himself and family at the Castle. It was, however it was not a faithful representation of the Estate.

Liptrott family held Weddington Estate; it passed to Amice, 2nd daughter of Rev. Philip Bracebridge (Thomas Liptrott's cousin). Amice married George Heming of Jamaica. They later had a son, Samuel Bracebridge Heming.

Apr. Thomas Warton (Poet laureate) composed poems at Ansley Hermitage.

The Hermitage poem exists in several forms. He was pro-Jacobite in 1745. (see 1728-90)

Corsican Pine introduced into Britain

Griff: Stonier Parrott reported an upturn in the profitability of the mines. A yield of £2,000 was achieved despite a very wet summer.

1759 13th Mar. Halley's Comet returned

The British Museum opened

10th Oct. Elizabeth Beighton was buried at Coton

1759-61 Lengthy correspondence between Sir Roger Newdegate and Lord Coventry regarding the proposed new road (Coventry-Bedworth-Nuneaton turnpike)

1760 Population of England and Wales 6,736,000; the death dropped to 26.7 per thousand

21st Jan. Watling Street and Wolvey-Nuneaton-Atherstone road were subject to abortive petitions as Turnpikes

Caucasian Elm introduced into Britain

King George III ascended to the throne. He was born in England; after becoming King he found the real power lay in the hands of the Whig politicians. He suffered bouts of ill health, originally thought to be insanity.

c.1760 Barber's colliery opened in Nuneaton

1760-61 Feb. Local coal mining records:

Sir Roger Newdigate wrote to Lord Coventry proposing to purchase his estate in the parish saying:
"I am persuaded I may afford to give a better price than it ever did or perhaps ever will bear again. The Bedworth colliery (collieries) only one now lying between us, and the great sale I am told can last but a short time, the demand for coals increases daily; if it rises very high it may tempt the owners of Wiken colliery 3 miles nearer Coventry to set that on foot again, which will never be worth the while if the Griffe colliery is soon opened."

Lord Coventry suggested; valuation was difficult (under or over estimation was possible so they should jointly work the mines.)

1760-97 1,500 Enclosure Acts were passed in England.

1761 John Barber (gas turbine inventor) investigated a joint lease with Fletcher and Tomkys for a colliery north west of Nuneaton

17th May. Thomas Simpson died and was buried at Sutton Cheney.

John Rocque's map showed Weddington Road as a turnpike.

1761-62 Newdegate used money from coal mining to build Nuneaton- Mancetter-Atherstone Turnpike Road, and Nuneaton-Hinckley Turnpike.

1762 4th Dec. A Daniel Kem married Elizabeth Lane at Monks Kirby

Cigars introduced from Cuba

Boodle's Club founded, a country gentleman's club in London

Sweet Buckeye introduced into Britain

1763 John Astley was born, the Nuneaton diarist. (Nuneaton diary preserved from when he was 47 to 82 yrs old) The diary had some pages missing (period January 1838 to June 1843)

The Earl of Uxbridge (Lord Pagett of Anglesey) who owned half of the former Priory land, sold the moiety to the Tomkinson family. The Etone Priory and nearby house were in ruins. Lt. Col. Charles Tomkinson, a Peninsula War and Waterloo veteran wanted to build a new church on the Priory site; but he could not do it.

Pride of India and Rhododendron introduced into Britain

1763-65 Coton Enclosure award mentioned Joseph Kem as Proprietor of Sinney Fields, valued £3 17s 7d.

The Seven Year War - the fall of India and Canada cemented the victory over the French. English displaced French as the international language

1764 Joseph Barraclough (Baraclough) born; he later went on to print bank notes and pre-paid envelopes in Nuneaton (some of these sold for £10,000 in the 1980's)

James Hargreaves invented the 'Spinning Jenny', that could handle up to 80 cotton threads.

Seeswood/Seaswood Pool dam constructed, water to be used for supplying the Arbury Canal system. (Arbury network)

Arbury Upper (or High) Level canal, boating had been done on part of this stretch before 1764. By that date it had been surveyed to see if it could be incorporated into a complete network to link with the proposed Coventry Canal. It was probably completed by 1775 with the Garden Lock built in 1773. (Arbury network)

Musson owned part of Smockington (they were linked to Kem, Palmer, Jervis)

Brick Kiln close recorded at Nuneaton

Potter's Pit (sand and gravel) recorded at Attleborough

1764-95 Sir Roger Newdegate employed William Bean of Derby to engineer the Arbury canal network. John Morris, the estate mason and bricklayer helped him. Several miles of canal were eventually constructed through the Arbury estate. There were 13 locks, each 40 feet by 6 feet lifting the water 93.5 feet from Coventry Canal level to Seeswood/Seaswood Pool. These were early contour canals with a unique triple lock system.

It was the longest canal, built for and owned by, a private individual. (Arbury network). Some of the bends were so tight that normal sized canal barges found it hard to move. A specially shortened barge fleet was built to overcome this problem.

1765 James, Edward and Henry Tomkinson, brothers, bought the ownership of the land from the Earl of Uxbridge, thus owning great parts of Nuneaton; Joseph Garratt tenanted a farm site as did Daniel Lee (Leigh).

The Stamp Act: Imposed a tax on all legal documents issued within the colonies.

200 Bedworth miners went to Coventry and raided shops and stole cheeses

18th Jun. Margaret Elly died, aged 85 years buried with Sarah Musson, died 1766 18th Aug. Daniel Kem (jnr) died Burbage, aged 46 years. (see Kem 1700, 1780 etc.)

William Stukeley died (see 1687, 1712-13 etc.)

c.1765 Nuneaton town local population 5,000 (it took approximately 60 years to double:2,500 in 1705)

1766 The Purefoy tomb was dismantled and put into the Caldecote graveyard when the church was repaired. Some of the fragments were put into the cell beneath the

Chinese temple at Ansley Hall in 1778.

The Stamp Act: repealed.

26th November John Barber, of Standsby, Derbyshire, Patent No. 865.

Obtaining Motive Power, applicable to Mining and other Operations.

An Entire New Method of Raising Water out of Mines and Ships, and for Supplying Cities, Towns and other Places with Water, and in general for Raising Ponderous Weights of all Kinds, particularly Coals out of Mines, by Fire, by Water, or by both jointly. He succeeded Fletcher as a Nuneaton Colliery owner/manager.

c.1766 The Chronometer invented

1766-1839 EVERARD (John) monumental stone carver in Attleborough

1767 John Barber sank a shaft in Stockingford area, water pumps did not work well, the colliery declined. He spent £5,000+ on a colliery, losing most of his money.

Francis Moore developed the steam engine for ploughing

1767-75 Joseph Kem lived in Attleborough

1768 Local earth tremor

One of the wettest summers and years on record

THE DAWN OF THE LOCAL CANAL ERA

These man-made waterways revolutionised the transport of heavy loads such as coal, iron ore, lime and rock. They went from strength to strength economically over the next 80 years.

29th Jan. The Coventry Canal Act received its Royal Assent. The company appointed James Brindley as engineer on a salary of £150 per annum. The proprietors wished to foster long term public goodwill; this was achieved by preserving the fishing, manorial and mineral rights of all local property owners. The scheme's compulsory purchase powers allowed them to use all water courses within a 1,000 yards of the canal (there were localised limitations). The land take was not to exceed a 26 yard wide corridor except for passing places!

Another clause specified that no mills or wharves could be built within 50 yards of any Manor House or garden. There were 13 locks and a stop lock. Boats as large as 72 feet long by 7 feet 2 inches wide could be accommodated. The Coventry Canal Act received its Royal Assent. The company was not allowed to divert any stream without the owner's consent.

The Enabling Act empowered the proprietors to raise £50,000 to complete the 37.5 mile canal. 500 shares of £100 each were issued; no one could hold less than one share or more than ten. The Act also provided for the raising of a further £30,000 if required. The shareholders comprised:

20 shares	held by	Peers
54 "	"	Land Gentlemen
2 "	"	Yeomen, Graziers or Tenant Farmers
39 "	"	Capitalists
71 "	"	Manufacturers
53 "	"	Tradesmen
61 "	"	Professional Men
58 "	"	Clergy
51 "	"	Women
91 "	"	unknown persons

The Royal Academy of Arts founded in London

The Spinning Jenny invented

1768-79 Captain James Cook explored Australasia

1769 The Midland canal network grew, many coal masters entered a new period of co-operation.

James Watt's steam engine invented; this would truly revolutionise the mining of deep coal (where intensive water pumping was required).

3rd Apr. The Coventry Canal Company employed Samuel Wilday to construct the section from Abbey Close in Nuneaton to Atherstone. Wilday purchased local quartzite, sandstone and lamprophyre rock from quarries. He drew payment totalling at least £784 5s 6.5d. He sub-contracted Haden to build eight brick arch bridges.

Richard Arkwright's 'Water frame' water powered cotton spinning process, spins faster, thinner stronger thread.

The Oxford Canal Act was passed. It was fully opened 21 years later at 91 miles, later shortened to 77 miles. It had 42 locks on the main stretch and could accommodate barges 72 feet in length and 7 feet wide.

1770 Population of England and Wales 7,428,000

William Huskisson born Oxley, Wolv. (MP and statesman) he had no children. Mar. The Coventry Canal Company employed Daniel Wagstaff to complete the cut from Abbey End Lane to Abbey Close (600 yards) for the sum of £161 16s 0d.

The average cost of canals at the time was £3,323 per mile; this canal cost £5,395 per mile.

One of the wettest autumns on record

James Sharp developed the winnowing machine.

d'Holbach published "Systeme de la nature" - man is unhappy because he is ignorant of Nature. This was an influential book from the French Encyclopaedists. (see 1751 - The Age of Enlightenment or Reason)

1770 Onward Sir Roger Newdegate began embellishing Arbury Hall and new work began at Griff colliery. There were probably over 300 of the old Newcomen engines at work in the English coalfields. By 1776 the new Watt engines, manufactured in Birmingham began to enter the coalfields. The Dutch engine loom allowed the weaving of several plain ribbons simultaneously.

1770's Robert Bakewell of Dishley saw the population of England became more concentrated in new towns that were unable to feed themselves. In his early life a typical grazier would breed sheep for wool and cattle for leather or hauling. The animals became poor and scraggy in winter through lack of food. Bakewell travelled far and wide to find better breeds, he even experimented with husbandry. He finally succeeded in producing stronger, meatier animals, many of which were regular food for the table.

The Arbury Tea House (Umbrella House) was constructed adjacent to the canal network. By the 1970's it had become derelict.

1770-82 Government Coalition

1770-85 Thomas Edwards vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton, writer of religious subjects

1771 The Coventry Canal Company had exhausted its finances; the canal construction was halted. The excavated cut was 17 miles long to Bradley Green/Whittington (out of proposed 37.5 miles). The Coventry to Atherstone stretch was filled with water. It was another ten years before it re-commenced.

Coventry Wood Canal used, the locks at either end were completed in 1772. (Arbury network)

21st Jul. Wednesday. John Wesley preached in Hinckley, people from local towns and villages went to listen.

Arbury Lower Level or Griff Canal constructed as a boatway; it was then linked to the Communication Canal via 6 locks and eventually completed in 1794. (Arbury network)

Heavy rains and widespread flooding in England

1772 Richard Parrott was actively expanding his Griff/Arbury colliery enterprise with new canals planned, new shafts sinkings planned etc.

The Morning Post was the first published newspaper. Local, regional and national news began to be circulated more effectively; people became more informed.

Slavery declared illegal in Britain
One of the wettest autumns on record, the North Sea flooded the Wash and surrounding low land

1772-73 Joseph Kem (the hoarding miser) cited for not maintaining ditches and hedges leading to the late Daniel Lea's farm. Kem, probably migrated into the area and was either a labourer or tenant farmer of a small holding for a few years. Because of his mannerisms and ways he was soon brought before the Court. Possibly offered essoin in 1765-67. (Essoin was an excuse for not appearing in court) (see 1069 A.D.)

1773 27th Jan. Sarah Musson died aged 86 years buried in Burbage Church Chancel. This family was connected to the families of Kem, Jervis, Palmer and Turville.

Jan. William Gadsby born Attleborough, he later became a Baptist minister. Gadsby had local family connections from 18th to 20thC.

21st April John Barber, of Stainsby House, Derbyshire, Patent No. 1041. Smelting Furnace and c.

A Machine, with the Apparatus thereunto belonging, which, by Fire, Water, Air, and Steam, will Purify Fossil Coal, Extract Metals from their Ores, and collect their Ores, and collect their Particles when Volatilized by Heat.

The Turnpike Act: signposts were to be erected to show all Market Towns

Nathaniel Spencer published his Complete English Traveller, this was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles

The Communication Canal from Coventry to Griff was completed. The channel and the junction were made as early as 1771.

1774 Robert Abney (of Measham) pulled down the wings of Lindley Hall and built two new rooms. See 1705 and Lower Farm connection.

Joseph Kem voted in the Warwickshire Polls, registered as living in Nuneaton. (see 1069 and 1440 A.D.)

Richard Parrott, a Griff coal entrepreneur died (Grandson of Richard, see 1710). Francis his brother took over the colliery. Exhall colliery consisted of 8 pits with two more in preparation; their output was 1,800-2,000 tons per fortnight. John Wilkes M.P. established the Freedom of the Press

John Barber (the inventor) voted in Nuneaton's election

1774-89 Sir Roger Newdegate detailed planned to dovetail his own commercial plans for Arbury estate growth with plans to relieve local distress.

1775-1783 The American Rebellion and War of Independence

1775 An admeasurement of roads in the parish of Nuneaton was undertaken. The hand written book survives in the Town Hall safe room (2000)

England hired 29,000 German mercenaries for the war with N. America

T. Quincey published “A short tour in the Midland Counties of England performed in the summer of 1772 with an account of another excursion undertaken in 1774”This was a topographic account of parts of the British Isles

The legislation on Cottages repealed (see 1589).

c.1775 Barber’s Nuneaton colliery opened

1776 In a letter to Smeaton, James Watt mentioned an engine with a 58" cylinder as intended for Warwickshire use; this then justly supposed to be the most powerful engine in England, this was later erected at Hawkesbury.

Charles Jervis born, his ancestors go back to Garthorpe with Edward Kem Jarvis. Jervis lived at Stoney Stanton and Hinckley and later owned Hydes Pasture in 1810.

12th March John Barber, of Stainsby Hall, Derbyshire, Patent No. 1118. Machinery for Draining Mines, Propelling Vessels, and c.

An Engine or Machine for the more easy and expeditious Draining of Mines, Turning up Coals, Ore, and Minerals from Great Depths, and to operate in all other Mechanical Movements beneficial to Society.

1777 Seeswood/Seaswood Pool canal feeder made navigable for boats. The lock at the junction with the lake was built in 1784 (Arbury network)

W. Burton's 'The description of Leicestershire' 2nd Ed. published

The longest single mortgage granted to Newdegate by Robert Child to help the colliery construction.

c.1777 Taxes were transferred back to the State - £400,000 compensation was aid to the Duke of Richmond. Taxes were used to build fifty new churches in London and Westminster

1778 The first load of Warwickshire coal (200 cauldrons) loaded at the wharf for transport on the newly opened Oxford canal.

Relief Act for Roman Catholics; parliament repealed the oppressive laws that affected Catholics. (see 1766) Some of Purefoy's tomb was placed in the cell beneath the Chinese temple at Ansley Hall.

1779 Jan. One of the driest January winters on record (15 mm of rain!)

23rd Feb. Mary Kem married William Harvey Musson at Burton Hastings

Feb. Warmest on record in central England

Crompton's mule invented

Griff colliery became fully operational after £20,000 had been spent on it.

1780 John Barber (gas turbine inventor, see 1761, 1766, 1773, 1776, 1791 and 1792) owned Camp Hill Hall

Population of England and Wales 7,953,000. Before this date yeoman farmers had been in steady decline. They then increased for a short time only to decline by 1832.

Grey Alder introduced into Britain

29th Feb. Tuesday: Joseph Kem of Attleborough and Nuneaton was buried at St. Nicolas churchyard at an unknown site. (see 1700)

The Death Rate peaked at 28.8 per thousand

Sunday Observance Act passed to limit what could be done on Sundays; this was in respect of it being the Christian Sabbath day.

The first Sunday newspapers published: the British Gazette and Sunday Monitor

One of the driest years on record

Willow-leafed Pear and Irish Yew introduced into Britain

Law List: Hinckley - Thomas Smith Holland; William Norton; Elias Presteoll: Nuneaton - Abel Palmer; Francis Burgis

1780-95 A period of very cold years began, the Mannheim Observation Network began to collect and interpret accurate climatic data for Europe.

William Gadsby worked as a ribbon weaver in Hinckley

1781 Caldecote estate was conveyed to John Cave Brown from Robert Prinsep. Brown was related to the Fisher family of Leicester. The Fishers held land at Higham on the Hill, Castle Donington, Staunton Harold, Ravenstone, Earl Shilton, Thurlaston, Ratcliffe Culey, Measham, Oakthorpe, Hartshill, Oldbury and Repton.

Coffee monopoly: Prussia

13th Mar. The planet Uranus first recorded by Herschel

1781-82 Two rival companies presented Bills to Parliament to complete the Coventry Canal. (Birmingham and Fazeley Company and the Birmingham Canal Company). They defeated each other.

1782 Law List: Nuneaton - Abel Palmer; Francis Burgis; Hinckley - Thomas Smith Holland; William Norton; Elias Presteoll

Marquis of Rockingham Prime Minister of a Whig Government

One of the wettest springs on record

20th Jun. A meeting was held at Coleshill to find a method of completing the Coventry Canal; this involved all the competing companies.

15th Jul. John Wesley preached in Hinckley, people from local towns and villages went to listen.

Nov. Coldest on record in central England

The Gilbert's Act, part of the Poor Law system obliged parishes to join together into Unions to build poorhouses; only the aged and infirm could be sent there.

An act for inclosing and dividing the common fields, and common grounds, the manors of Nuneaton and Attleborow in the county of Warwick with the award of the commissioners appointed to put in execution the said act. Benjamin Dickens.

This book included the 1735 Enclosure of Nuneaton. (Now in the Town Hall safe room, 2000 A.D.)

1783 27th Mar. Thurs. John Wesley preached in Hinckley, people from local towns and villages went to listen.

Governmental Coalition
The Domesday Book was set and printed for the first time at Government expense. It was said to have cost £38,000 and took sixteen years to compile. 1,250 copies were made; the original plates were destroyed by fire in 1808.

Lancelot (Capability) Brown died (see 1716)

21st Apr. John Rennie, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

27th May. John Wesley preached in Hinckley, people from local towns and villages went to listen.

Jun.-Jul. Extensive lava outpourings at Laki in Iceland. The skies became opaque in Britain for several months.

21st Nov. The first manned free flight in a hot air balloon over Paris.

1783-1830 Tory Government

1784 Thomas Huskisson (brother of William) had four sons and two daughters in Nuneaton.

John Barber reached bankrupt status, an undated map c. 1775 showed him as owning Camp Hill Hall. He became a colliery manager.

The first balloon ascent in Britain

4th Jun. The first woman, to ascend in a Montgolfier hot air balloon in Lyon. Marie Elisabeth Thible, was a French opera singer.

Imposition of the tax on bricks (repealed in 1850)

Excise duty imposed on gold and silver wares. (abolished in 1890)

One of the driest autumns on record

Oct. Joseph Key died, he wrote music for Church of England services including: organ marches, 11 anthems for voices, five anthems, four Collects and 20 psalm melodies. His patrons included - William Craddock, Thomas Liprott and Thomas Trusswell

1785 George Champagne, vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton.
John Barber (gas turbine patent) married Ann Williams of Mancetter?

Mar. Coldest on record in central England.

One of the driest springs on record.

John Walter founded the “The Daily Universal Register” that later changed its name to “The Times” in 1788

Sunday School Society founded

13th Jun. An Act of Parliament confirmed that two companies would formally amalgamate to complete the Coventry Canal.

Huntingdon Elm introduced into Britain

1786 Thomas Smart Hughes, born in Nuneaton, later became an historian.

Meikle's thresher invented

Consolidation of Militia Act, commercial treaty England and France

22nd May. The Royal Assent was given to the remaining part of the Coventry Canal.

10th Jul. John Wesley preached in Hinckley, people from local towns and villages went to listen.

25th Sep. Bernard Gilpin Ebdell, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

1787 Sharp's map showed Weddington Road (Derby Lane)

Cartwright's power loom invented

John Wesley preached in Hinckley, people from local towns and villages went to listen.

c.1787 Griff Lowsey Meadows colliery recorded, it closed c.1850

1788 One of the driest autumns and years on record

The Linnean Society founded in London
Hinckley St. Mary's spire rebuilt by John Cheshire of north Warwickshire

The first British penal settlement in Australia. Several local manganese miners named Orton were transported.

c.1788 Panoramic drawing of Griff Colliery. (now preserved in Warwick County Records).

1789 Thomas Capenhurst bought some of the land from the Tomkinson brothers. The Garratt family were tenant farmers in the site area. However Capenhurst was not mentioned in the Nuneaton Diary.

Jul. Sir Roger Newdigate closed his account with his last architect Henry Crouchman. Sir Roger had spent 50 years re-modelling Arbury and had employed several architects. It appears that he designed and supervised the completion himself.

A daily mail coach passed through Nuneaton (Chester to the south)

1790 3rd Mar. "The long depending match between Francis Jacombs of Nuneaton and Ben Payne of Atherstone, will be fought for 30 guineas a-side - To fight on turf of 30 feet diameter, in a fair and manly manner, and neither party to fall down designedly (three times only accepted), but only by, with, or from what the pugilists call a knock down blow. Two thirds of the door-money to go to the winner and the remainder to the loser." (This fight was held in Birmingham)

The Oxford Canal began construction

Population of England and Wales 8,675,000; the birth rate peaked at 35.44 per thousand. Some estimates of monetary inflation state that £100 in this year would be equivalent to £40,000 in 2000; others would put it as low as £21,000!

Sir Roger Newdigate J.P. very rarely attended Warwick Quarter Sessions, although he was active in Nuneaton district. He had experimentally grown red cabbage and found "they grow to a large size, bear the winter well, and are more solid in their texture than any other sort".

Jul. The Coventry Canal was finally open along its full length. Oldbury Reservoir was later constructed to provide additional water to the canal system (due to loss from the locks).
Colliery companies were also allowed to discharge mine drainage waters from their soughs into the canal.

Warwickshire was largely a dairying county famous for its cheese.

Law List: Nuneaton - Benjamin Dickens; George Greenway; Robert Thornley
Hinckley - Stephen Dickenson; Thomas Skrymsher

Thomas Warton, the poet died, he knew Dr. Johnson

15th Dec. Local high winds that damaged trees.

Thomas Saint invented a sewing machine

Brick Kiln close recorded at Lindley

1790-94 Rev. T. Trusswell was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1790's Picturesque and Cottage Orne architectural styles develop.The Weddington Castle lodges (north and south) contained examples of this style.

1791 A draft lease was prepared between John Barber and Harper of Burton Latimer for a property in Attleborough. (Archive H(BL) 271 Northampton)

30th November John Barber, of Attleborough, Patent No. 1833. Obtaining and Applying Motive Power, & c. A Method of Rising Inflammable Air for the Purposes of Procuring Motion, and Facilitating Metallurgical Operations. (The Gas Turbine invention)

Libel Act: Made the decision as to what was a libellous matter for the jury and not the judge.

Opposition to the proposed canal from Northampton via Griff to Ashby Woulds.

1791-1860 SMART (Nathaniel) monumental stone carver of Attleborough

1792-1815 The Napoleonic Wars

1792 25th May. Samuel Kemm died at Hinckley workhouse aged 82. He was so heavy he had to be lifted by pulleys. (see Kem 1700, 1780)

Anti-Jacobin movement founded

22nd December John Barber, of Attleborough, Patent No. 1928. Smelting and Purifying Metallic Ores. A Method for Smelting and Purifying Fossil Coal, Iron Stone, Iron Ore, and Other Metallic Ores, and the Calx thereof, by Steam, Air, and Fire, and Impregnating the same and the Matrix thereof with Inflammable Air, producing thereby a Tough Metal.

Coal gas first used for lighting
Warwickshire County Directory (published by Universal British Directory.
Nuneaton's entry:
"Post Office: the post arrives from Hinckley every night at five o'clock.
John Robinson - postmaster"
"Excise Office: The Bull Inn, Joseph Fydoe - collector.
Edward Hythington - supervisor
Mr Appleby - officer and Mr Templeman - outrider."

Gentry included:
Mrs Burton; Jonathan Clark; William Cox; Mrs Edwards; Mrs Hambrig;
Joseph Nutt & Ann Nutt; Elizabeth Wagstaff; Mrs Wright;Rev. William Champney

Lawyers included:
George Greenway; Edward Thornley.

Physics included:
John Barber, surgeon; William Bindley, surgeon ; Mr Bond - surgeon.

Traders included:
John Ackett - gardener; Thomas Ball - baker; Thomas Baracle - grocer;
William Bostock - butcher; Samuel Bostock - wheelwright;
William Beetley - draper; Job Bemish - victualler; John Best - farmer;
Will. Ballard - ribbon maker; John Ballard - glazier; Henry Bray - miller;
John Bussell - victualler; Joseph Capenhurst - staymaker;
Jonathan Chaplain - cooper; Joseph Chaplain - carpenter;
James Clay - currier; John Cobbold - schoolmaster;
William Congrove - victualler; John Cook - gardener;
Thomas Cromer - collar maker; Sarah Cooper - draper;
Mrs Cox - victualler; John Cox - ribbon maker;
William Craddock - cheese factor; John Craddock - grocer;
Benjamin Crowshaw - grocer; Joseph Cross - tailor;
John Cross - victualler; John Dash - gardener;
William Dipple - New Inn; William Downer - coach maker;
John Drake - baker; John Ellis - victualler; Evison - draper.
William Goadby - hair dresser; Joseph Green - breeches maker;
Daniel Green - victualler; Henry Green - tailor;
Samuel Grimes - baker; John Grove - victualler.
Joseph Haddon - turner; William Hernsby - baker;
Miss Hernsby - milliner; John Heyton - shoemaker;
William Hickerbottom - saddler; Thomas Hinkes - gardener;
John Hood - grocer; William Hood - ribbon maker.
William Illiffe - baker; William Jeffrey - baker.
John Kirby - grocer; William Kirby - grocer.
Mrs Large - victualler.
Robert Marston - maltster; Benjamin Marston - ribbon maker;
William Mitchell - victualler and wheelwright;
Edmund Mollowdy- hatter; John Monday - grocer;
H. Munford - butcher; William Oliver - victualler.
Nathan Parnall - bookseller; John Perry - grocer;
John Powell - draper; William Preston - shoemaker.

John Robinson - Bull Inn. Sharp and Cox - drapers; Clem. Sheers - ribbon maker; Thomas Smith - shoemaker; Sprigg - brazier; William Suffolk - hair dresser; Mrs Suffolk - victualler. Thomas Tansell - schoolmaster; William Tansell - tammy weaver; William Taylor - nailor; William Thompson - wheelwright;John Thompson - liquor merchant; William Thurman - butcher and victualler; Thomas Thurman - maltster; William Tingle - baker;J. Trickle - victualler, Marquis of Granby. William Wagstaff - victualler; John Wagstaff - farmer; Daniel Wagstaff - victualler; Elizabeth Watts - victualler, Queen's Head; John Watts - smith; James Wheway - parish clerk; George Wheway - shoe maker; James Wheway - shackle maker; John Wheway - eating house; John Wilkinson - tailor; John Woodcock - baker; William Worthington - plumber.

1793 The Tomkinson brothers conveyed Nuneaton land to their father Henry Tomkinson.

The cotton gin invented

Rose's Act gave Friendly Societies legal protection; they began to establish locally.
The Independent Church in Coton Road was re-built. The church split shortly afterwards, the breakaway group built a Zion Chapel in Bond Gate. (see 1903-4)

13th Jul. The east Midlands nature poet John Clare was born; he wrote very detailed poems about rural farming life. e.g.
"Ye injur'd fields, ye once were gay,
When nature's hand displayed,
Long waving rows of willows grey.
And clumps of hawthorn shade;
But now, alas! your hawthorn bowers
All desolate we see!
The spoiler's axe their shade devours,
And cuts down every tree."

Board of Agriculture introduced, it was not effective and was later wound up.

Hinckley hosiery industry supplied 2,400 pairs of good strong worsted stocking for British troops fighting on the continent.

£5 pound note first issued by Bank of England

c.1793-96 Joseph Scrivener (ropemaker) born at Balsall; he was descended from Scrivener in Pottersbury and settled in Nuneaton

1794 Local coal mining records:

Griff: Many mines existed. The coal was described as sulphurous, making good hot fires. Most mines were shallow, ventilation was not practised very well. Explosive gas not too much of a problem. Fire Lamps to aid artificial ventilation. A "Blow George": 1 or 2 men cranked a windlass connected with pipes.

An act for dividing, allotting and inclosing commons and waste lands within manor or manors of Wolvey in the County of Warwick.

Law List: Nuneaton - B.Dickens; G.Greenway; A.Palmer; R. Thornley Hinckley - S. Dickenson; George Somerville; Edward Thornley

Ashby-de-la-Zouche Canal Act passed, it was not completed but opened in 1804. It was 30 miles long and had 1 stop lock. It could accommodate boats 74 feet 4 inches in length and 7 feet wide. It was originally built to take 14 feet wide barges. Sections between Moira and Donisthorpe were abandoned in 1944 and Donisthorpe to Ilott Wharf in 1957. It was bought by the Midland Railway in 1846.

Local earth tremor

Thomas Fisher held Caldecote until 1811.

Daniel Dancer (the famous miser) died in Middlesex

1794-97 Napoleon was portrayed widely as the greatest threat to Britain

1794-99 Rev. John S. Cobbold was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

Chinese Privet introduced into Britain

1795 25th Jan. Very cold day in the Midlands

Speenhamland Act; this agreed to make up the wages of working men out of the poor rates, so they would be able to buy a certain amount of bread each week. The result was that wages sank lower and lower and the rest of the community subsidised the workers.

Monkey Puzzle and Common Lime introduced into Britain

Law List: Nuneaton - B.Dickens; G.Greenway; R.Thornley, Hinckley - S. Dickenson; George Somerville; Edward Thornley

Coton Lawn Canal opened (Arbury network)

An English pamphleteer described "How to make a Peer"
Take a man, with or without parts, of an ancient or a new family with one or two boroughs at his command, previous to a dissolution. Let him renounce all former professions or obligations, and engage to bring in your friends and support yourself.

8th May. The planet Neptune first recorded by Lalande (who thought it was a star) it was confirmed on 23rd Sep. 1846 by Galle and D'Arrest

1795-1815 John Nichols, the famous Leicestershire antiquarian, published the magnificent History and Antiquities of Leicester.

(in 4 volumes, each was in 2 parts).

Parts of the Nuneaton area were dealt with in great detail.
He was a printer in Hinckley and knew Dr. Johnson well, his son and grandson continued the business in Hinckley. He probably knew Buchanan in Nuneaton. One of the many anecdotes mentioned was: "Higham on the Hill, Stoke in the Vale, Wykin for buttermilk, Hinckley for ale."

1796 Jan. Coldest on record in central England

The Comet Society in the Hinckley area were a gang of riotous law-breakers that killed sheep and horses, burned farmer's ricks, stables and barns. The protest was associated with poor living conditions in the local hosiery industry and mechanisation of industry.
William Gadsby married Elizabeth Marvin

Spain declared war on England

The hydraulic press invented; Edward Jenner discovered vaccination as a means of preventing smallpox.

25th Dec. Very cold day in the Midlands

1797 William Gadsby wrote 'An essay to show the advantages that result to Revelation from its being conveyed to us in the form of history' Coventry This won the Norrisian Prize

Biographical Curiosities published - The strange and unaccountable Life of the penurious Daniel Dancer Esq., a miserable miser who died in sack though worth upwards of three thousand pounds per annum.

The Bank Restriction Act suspended cash payments by the Bank of England.

The Seditious Meetings Act restricted the right to hold public meetings.

The cartwheel Twopence coin issued for one year = (2d) or 1p

Trevithick's road locomotive invented

1797-1813 The gold Third Guinea coin issued = (7s) or 35p

1797-1967 The copper/bronze/nickel brass Pence coin issued = (1d) or 0.5p

1798 The 18 carat gold standard was re-introduced.

Thomas Malthus published "An Essay on the Principle of Population as it affects the Future Improvement of Society" It was a gloomy book that painted a picture of a world where the population explosion would outstrip food production. There would as a result, be a desperate struggle for survival.

Anti-Jacobin journal ceased publication.

27th-28th Dec. Very cold days in the Midlands

1799 Weddington vicar: Rev. Samuel Bracebridge Heming

Combination Laws passed made Trade Unions and meetings to discuss wages and hours illegal. Pitt introduced Income Tax.

Complete freedom from slavery was granted to all miners.

1799-1800 Sir Roger Newdegate built the College for the Poor, (The Workhouse) College Street (it was extended in 1834 and demolished in 1971)

1799-1801 British Commercial Boom

1799-1830 Rev. H. Hughes was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school. The local population growth (overall net gain per year) reached 40.

Tradition stated that Nuneaton men stole the bull from Coventry's baiting game and bull baited in Nuneaton. (pre 1820). The first decade was a lean time for the Ribbon Weavers, French competition (before and after the war) proved a great enemy to the trade. The trade was also prone to changes in fashion as well as Royal Deaths causing prolonged periods of mourning.

1800 Bedworth food riots, miners came to Nuneaton to pillage bakers' shops.

John Massey (alias Topsy Turvy) murdered his wife and attempted to drown his daughter in Bilstone's mill pond. He was hanged at Belgrave and gibbeted at Bilstone. It is said that skeleton was exposed in the cage until 1818. The skull was allegedly rescued by a clergyman and used as a bowl. He was a common highwayman as well as a bare knuckle fighter. His criminal activities and haunts were usually mixed up with Dick Turpin. (Turpin 1706-39, had no connection with this area, his legendary antics were made popular by William Harrison Ainsworth in Rookwood published in 1834).

Combination Act: this made Trade Union meetings illegal.

Horrocks, of Preston, made the power loom

30% of the British population were farming the land

One of the driest summers on record

Law List: Nuneaton - G.Greenway; R. Thornley, Hinckley - Charles Jervis; Cowdell etc.

A £1 was worth around £200 by the 2000 A.D. price

1800-06 Tory Government.

In the first years of the 1800's Ribbon Weaving became an important local industry that complimented Nuneaton's important market town status. This industry had spread from Coventry where it had been long established (before 1620). The earlier mediaeval wool trade in Coventry developed laterally into silk weaving skills. Many women were employed in this work: this was mainly at home with hand looms. The factory system came later. The industry was prone to wild fluctuations thus producing the regular comments in the Nuneaton Diary.Journeymen and half pay apprentices forced wages to vary regularly.

The following settlements were mostly deserted (DMV), new villages established on nearby ground. The old village sites preserved field strip systems and ridge and furrow (selions):

Ansley (DMV)(and Hall), Arbury (DMV?)(and Hall and Temple House), Astley (DMV)(and Castle), Attleborough (DMV?), Bramcote (DMV?), Bulkington (DMV?), Burbage (DMV?) (and Hall), Burton Hastings (DMV), Caldecote (DMV)(and Hall), Coton (DMV?), Exhall (DMV)(and Hall), Fenny Drayton (DMV?), Galley Common (DMV), Griff (DMV), Hartshill (DMV?)(and Hall and Grange), Higham (DMV)(and Hall), Hinckley (DMV?)(and Castle), The Hyde (DMV), Lindley (DMV?)(and Hall), Mancetter (DMV?) (and Manor House), Marston Jabbett (DMV)(and Hall), Oldbury (DMV?)(and Hall), Rowden (DMV?), Ryton (DMV?), Shelford (DMV?)(and House), Shenton (DMV)(and Hall), Sinney (DMV?), Sketchley (DMV?) (and Hall), Sole End (DMV), Stoke Golding (DMV), Stretton Baskerville (DMV), Upton (DMV)
The following settlements were mostly deserted (DMV), new villages established on nearby ground. The old village sites preserved field strip systems and ridge and furrow (selions):
Weddington (DMV)(and Hall), Weston (DMV)(and Hall), Witherley (DMV), Wolvey (DMV)(and Hall) and Wykin (DMV) (and Hall).

Churches existed at:

St. Nicolas, Nuneaton; All Saints, Coton;
St. James, Weddington; St. Theobald and St. Chad, Caldecote;
St. Peter's, Higham; St. James, Bulkington;
St. Mary the Virgin, Astley; St. Peter, Mancetter;
St. Mary's Hinckley; St. Botolph's, Burton Hastings;
St. Margaret's, Stoke Golding; St. Michael's, Fenny Drayton;
St. John's, Lindley; St. John the Baptist, Wolvey.

The following Monastic sites existed: Nuneaton Priory and Alien Priory (ruins); Astley College (part of Astley), Arbury, Hinckley Cell and Oldbury Priory some foundations may be buried beneath the surface.

Brett's Hall, Caldecote White House, Caldwell Hall, Camp Hill Hall, Horeston Grange, Park House (Hartshill), Wolvershill Hall existed.

Neo-Gothic style of Architecture

START OF THE 19TH CENTURY A.D.

The political parties were thrown into confusion by their individual reactions to the French Revolution. The Tory party was little more than a union of men and groups who thought of Jacobinism as something to be resisted and destroyed. Under Pitt, Edmund and Burke, the Tories were opposed to radical and political reform. It remained the party of the Church of England, public order and administrative efficiency, continuity and traditional values in government. It clung to the aristocratic idea of a hierarchical society. The Whigs (led by Grey and Russell) shared some of this outlook, but were supported by Protestant Dissenters, rich city men, bank fund holders, rising merchant and manufacturers. They wanted to reduce the old power and privilege systems. It was these radical movements that set the pace for reform.

Western Red Cedar, Lawson's Cypress, Nootka Cypress, Golden Larch, Japanese Umbrella Pine, Plum fruited Yew, Lodge Pole Pine, Southern Beech, Cappadocian Maple, Jersey Elm, Pacific Dogwood and Sawara Cypress introduced into Britain

Higham Hall rebuilt as a new Hall

1800-1900 19thC. (Regency and Victorian) period of Architecture

1801 Nuneaton population 6,610, (or 8,590 from other sources) England and Wales 8,892,536

Agricultural returns for Nuneaton: (in bushels, a measure of capacity equal to 8 gallons or 36.4 litres)

Wheat = 421; Barley = 285; Oats = 367; Potatoes = 21; Peas = 9;
Beans = 2; Turnips = 64; Rye = 0

Acreage:
Wheat = 375 ac
Barley = 250 ac
Oats = 375 ac

9th Jul. William Liggins and Sarah Smith married in Nuneaton

6th Nov. John Barber (the inventor) buried St. Nicolas church.

27th Dec. Joseph Henry Liggins, baptised, Nuneaton, son of William and Sarah Liggins (nee Smith)

Weddington population: 60. The Place family owned the Castle, the Heming family held Weddington manor

The cross of St. Patrick was added to the Union Flag; it then became known as the Union Jack.

General Enclosure Act: streamlined the process of land enclosure

1802 A local Enclosure act allowed another 773 acres of Nuneaton and Stockingford to be enclosed. An act for dividing, allotting and inclosing commons and waste lands within manor or manors of Nuneaton and Stockingford in the parish of Nuneaton in the County of Warwick.

First protective law against child labour

1803 Lindley Estate passed to Samuel Bracebridge Heming of Weddington, his family retained it until 1856.
General Enclosure Act: simplified process of enclosure of common land. An act for dividing, allotting and inclosing commons and waste lands within manor or manors of Hartshill and Ansley in the parish of Mancetter in the County of Warwick.

Trevithick's rail engine invented

Rev. R. Bruce Stopford vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1804 Thomas Fenwick (Newcastle) published his book on mine surveying. This book was to form the technical basis for Warwickshire mine surveys.

Rev. Samuel Bracebridge Heming took over Weddington estate.

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel built at Coton.

Franklin Pierce born in New Hampshire (U.S.A.); he became the 14th president of America from 1853 to 1857. He died in 1869 after a fairly uneventful period as president. He was directly descended from the Wood family of Nuneaton - who emigrated many decades earlier.

1804 The world's living population reached 1,000,000,000 (one billion)

1805 15th Mar. Edward Kem Jarviss baptised at Ratcliffe Culey - son of Joseph (Postmaster of Atherstone) and Mary Jarviss. Edward later became a Judge and broke the Truck system in Hinckley. He was named after Edward Kem, a friend of Joseph , who left Joseph a substantial sum of money.

Law List: Nuneaton - John Burton; G. Greenway; R.Thornley, Hinckley - C. Jervis; E. Thornley

One of the driest autumns on record.

Robert Lugar, architect, re-designed Weddington Hall or Castle for Lionel Place incorporating the older house. It became a stone-faced building, possibly Attleborough Sandstone, similar to Arbury Hall.

Arbury Hall Estate: The north and south Lodges may have been built at this time or modified from older buildings. The grounds of Weddington Castle were landscaped, possibly by a disciple or assistant of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. On the 1811 O.S. map they were shown with ornamental lakes and a boating river course.

Sir Roger Newdegate founded a Prize at Oxford University for English verse.

William Gadsby of Attleborough, settled in Manchester, he became a prolific writer of sermons

1806 Sir Roger Newdigate died

The Holy Roman Empire ended.

Part of south Weddington subject to an Enclosure.

An Act passed to enclose common lands of Nuneaton. Sir Roger Newdegate died.

Estates bequeathed to Francis Parker.

1806-07 Whig Government: Coalition

1807 The Brayley map showed Weddington Road
The slave trade abolished
Aged Pilgrims' Friend Society founded in London

Sep. Coldest on record in central England

The Geological Society founded in London

Potkiln Close recorded in Chilvers Coton

J. Britton produced a topographical description of Leicestershire in “Beauties of England and Wales” London pp. 313-322

1807-30 Tory Government

1808 Smith map showed Weddington Road

27th May. Dempster Heming was called to the Bar.

13th-4th Jul. Very hot days in the Midlands

Independent Chapel at Chapel End founded by John Dagley.

1809 Attleborough Hall built

A Factory Act made work under 9 yrs of age illegal

National Society for Promoting Education founded. Christian Tract Societ founded

The French scientist Lamarck proposed the theory of organic evolution

1809-10 British commercial boom

Main period of the Nuneaton Diary (Memorandum Book of Occurrences

1810 19th Jan. 1810 to Dec. 1837; then Jul. 1843 to Nov. 1845. Memorandum Book of Occurrences (Nuneaton Diary) commenced (written by John Astley). Commenced with the Market Cross being pulled down. [N.B. Some of the original misspellings and abbreviations have been retained in the 1810-1828 entries for comparison] see Alfred L Scrivener in 1877 also, he rescued this diary when he saw it being torn up to wrap butcher’s meat in!

"Nuneaton Market Cross pulled down. It was in a ruinous state and had been for years past. It was claimed by the Lord of the Manor who refused to repair it. Application was made by the parish, that at length was complied with, to take it down, who had the proceeds arising from the sale for their trouble and expenses.

Nuneaton Diary - demolition of market cross

The wood was sold for	£ 2
The stone etc. was sold for	£ 5
The bell which was cracked and which weighed 1.1.21 and was made at Leicester in 1707 was sold for	£ 5
	£12

The tolls of the Market was also given up verbally at the same time. This transaction occasioned some familiar conversational disputes at the time. Mr. W. Craddock spoke of the affair as being his, and Mr. Astley as it being obtained for the parish."

Summer- a minimum period of sunspot activity
Law List: Nuneaton - J.Burton; G.Greenway; George Craddock, Hinckley - C.Jervis; E.Thornley.

Charles Jervis owned Hydes Pasture (in Nichols) it came via many families such as Henry Ferrers, then Sir Walter Smith of Sherford,(Shelford) Burton Hastings, then Littletons, Serjeant Hele (a great lawyer) Groves, Dyer, Lilley, Hawkins, Ball, Stokes, Talkington, Lady Gresley, and Earl of Stamford.

Foundation of the Independent Order of Oddfellows Temperance Society in anchester Coventry Penny Post introduced, Nuneaton’s local receiving station was the Black Bull; later known as the Newdegate Arms.

1811 Nuneaton Diary. "The Manor Court bridge having fallen Mr. Dorsey indicted the Township for the road as being impassable but gave it up after subjecting the Township to £54 expenses in preparations of resistance."

Commercial Depression

Jan. The Book Society established by subscription, the library was at Mr Parnel's.

Primitive Methodist sect formed

Association for the Relief of the Manufacturing and Labouring Poor.

Weddington population: 67. Weddington Bridge washed away. Nuneaton 8,910.

England and Wales 10,164,256

Manor Court Road bridge fell down

Thomas Fisher's son conveyed Caldecote to the Hon. Thomas Bowes, the brother of the Earl of Strathmore.

20th Oct. a bright comet was visible

Ordnance Surveyors produced the field survey outline drawings for the future One Inch maps of the Nuneaton area.

1811-14 Ordnance Survey map Weddington, it was spelled Wedington

Teddy Kem's Heaven site was not shown on Ordnance Survey Field Maps, only field boundaries. Several lanes and tracks shown heading southwards towards Marston Jabbett and Bedworth

Ordnance Survey map showed Horeston Grange building and enclosure

1811-16 LUDDISM, supposedly founded by Ned Ludd near Nottingham (born 1779?) a mechanic who hated machinery replacing handicraft. He may be fictional?

1812 Law List : Nuneaton - William Oram etc.

Nuneaton Diary. "Crickett Society established. Batts and wickets bought at the Hon. Thos. Bowes, Caldecote."

Framework Knitters (Framework Knitters) agitated for protection and for a Trade Union to be established. They had midnight meetings, drill practice, insurrectionary rhetoric and this went on for 40 years or more. These stories did not surface in some cases for a long time. e.g. A Yorkshire man in 1811 was a Luddite and did not tell his story until 1870.

The Five Mile Act of 1665 was repealed.

Purl edged ribbons were in great demand. The shoot was made to project beyond the edge of the ribbon. This fashion lasted until the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

c.1812 Gas first used to light British streets

Nuneaton entered the gas-powered era

1813 The gold Guinea coin last minted = (21s) or £1.05p

The Third Guinea coin last minted = (7s) or 35p

8th Mar. Nuneaton Diary. " A plank nail'd to the Old posts so as to form a bridge over the river leading from Aby End to Weddington. (i.e. the Weddington Meadow Bridge); by the order and expense of a few individuals."

Dec. Gas lamps erected in Nuneaton Market Place

Bonaparte's defeat celebrated with an ox roast on Abbey Green.

1814 Ansley Hall Park was well stocked with deer. (see 1766 and 1778) the fragments of Purefoy's tomb were moved from the Chinese temple to form a rockery at Ansley Hall.

7th Apr. Joseph Mallabone died (son of James)

16th Apr. Nuneaton Diary. " Trees on Turnpike Road Bond End cut down and poplars planted. The [Nuneaton] Windmill and machinery, House and garden sold by auction and purchased by Mr. Robbinson for £500 at the same time a pew in the New Gallery in the church for £11. The purchase was made for Mr. Robbinson. The above mill and premises was valued at £250. A House and croft bought by Mr. Walker of Mr. Dowler (situate Back Lane) for ab't £350."

Framework Knitters were persecuted under various laws

One of the driest winters on record

The Elizabethan Statute of Artificers was repealed; this left the common worker exposed to competition

19th May. A 1,700 signature petition presented at a meeting at the Peacock pub, Nuneaton, re: Corn Laws.

5th Jul. Joseph Scrivener and Judith Cattell married at St. Michael's in Coventry.

Street lamps erected in Abbey Street and Church Street

The Cary map showed Weddington Road

1815 Nuneaton Diary. "Mr. Payne bought his Bakehouse Tenement adjoining garden and c. of Mr. Harris, for about £340 [adjoining the Half Moon]."

10th Apr. Tambora erupted cataclysmically; by September of that year the Midland's sky became darker by 10-15%.

Ribbon trade up and down in Nuneaton, many people destitute

Isaac Swinnerton of Weddington owned a sawmill in Nuneaton. Craddock and Bull's bank established. Their notes carried the drawing of the ruins of Etone Priory
18th Jun. The Battle of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington's forces decisively beat Napoleon's armies.

25th Oct. St. Crispin's Day: The 400th anniversary of The Battle of Agincourt.

Henry V's longbow men defeated a numerically superior French army.

The 'Shakespearian' Henry V urged us to remember this day forever!

3rd Nov. Mr Gaskin, the Nuneaton comb manufacturer, ceased trading.

The Corn Law passed, it set the price at 80s a quarter. The penalties for catching and killing game were at their most severe. By 1816 this was punishable by transportation for 7 years.

Brick Kiln field recorded at Nuneaton

1815-17 British Commercial Boom

1816 Jan. Nuneaton Diary. "The Old Willow Tree blown down which stood at the Back of the Buildings in a garden at the west end of the Market Place. Last summer Mr. Waring and Mr..... built each of them a House [on] ground adjoining each other on the Turnpike Roadleading from NE through Coton to Cov'y.

Mr. S. Bostock Wheelwright Nuneaton made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. Sam Green Farmer of Camp Hill is said to owe £1,000, he served the office of Overseer of the Poor for Mr. H. Baines the money in hand and which Mr. Baines must pay is ..... Mr Wilson watchmaker bought a House off Mr. Jos. Hull at the bottom of Church Street for ab't £350." Bostock had local family connections from 16th to 20thC.

9th Feb. Very cold day in the Midlands

Spring - a maximum period of sunspot activity

18th May. The ribbon engine loom trade very bad.

A local factory established to make ivory and horn combs and a new burial ground consecrated.

1st Jun. A women was sold in Nuneaton Market Place for 4 shillings (20p)

Jul. Coldest on record in central England

3rd Jul. St. Nicolas: 1,527 confirmation candidates at the first confirmation service in 60 years. (Performed by Dr. Cornwallis, the Bishop of Lichfield).

New burial ground consecrated. 20 men attempted to haul a wagon load of coal from Atherstone to London, stopping at Nuneaton they asked for charity because theyhad no work. The government stopped them near London.

27th Dec. James Mallabone died (son of James)

Vigilante Committee used to patrol Nuneaton in the winter months

Sir Charles Newdegate Newdigate born
Inventions: John Macadam: the Macadamized road David Brewster the kaleidoscope

c.1816 Joseph Scrivener (Nuneaton relieving officer) his family came from Pottersbury; he was born in Southam

1816-18 Thomas Large led a large deputation in Nuneaton. Primitive Methodists saw revivals

1817 Jan. Nuneaton Diary. "Mr. Barnacle's indictment by J. Dent for an assault was fined by the Court £30 but was after mitigated to 1/- and his paying Law Expenses ab't £15. Mr. B. pleaded guilty.

Report of a Hampden Club being formed in the Town and of their Meeting in Manor Court Field whose Oath was - "I will overturn, overturn, overturn it and it shall be not more until he come whose right it is; and I will give it Him. 21 Chap. Ezekiel 27 verse"

Tramway built to Oldbury Engine Pit

British commercial slump

Mar. Nuneaton flooded by the River Anker

18th Apr. During the digging of foundations of the New Meeting House in Bond End a kiln was encountered.

Pitched battle between Kettle and Tom Green in Nuneaton

Leicestershire Framework Knitters put resolutions to Parliament

Rose's Act gave savings banks protection, these banks were for people to save a few pennies a week.

4th Aug. The River Anker flooded

One of the driest autumns on record
24th Nov. Henry Dewes born. (Weddington)

Zion Chapel Bond Street erected.

Law List: Attleborough - G.Greenway: Hinckley - C. Jervis; Charles King; W. Cowdell: Nuneaton - J. Craddock; W.Oram; John Mullis

1817-24 Thomas Wooler (London) published the subversive Black Dwarf publication in Britain

1817-78 George Henry Lewes, writer of many notable works; he met George Eliot in 1851 and by 1854 made a lifelong friendship with her.

1818 2nd Jan. Nuneaton Diary. "The Bridge across the river leading from the top of Abbey Street to Wedington new erected and ground raised at the expense of Mr. Place. [i.e. the Weddington Meadows Bridge]. A Farm on the Common belonging to Mr. Js. Booth sold by auction for £1770 and a lot adjoining for £220. The Crier informed the public that a subscription was solicited and to continue open for a few days to defray expenses in order to cause a Bridge to be erected across the River through the Pingle Fields, from Coton to Attleborough [i.e. the Pingle Bridge] Mr. Craddock pulled down the corner part of House lately occupied by Haddon in the Cheap Side. “Lionel Place had kicked a workman and broke his leg. Sermons preached in Nuneaton in aid of Sunday Schools. Amount collected £58 16s. Dissenters fined £15 for preaching in the road at Bedworth with no licence.

The old Cock Inn in the Market Place bought for £800 for a site for the Market House and sunday schools. A sum of £936 was raised by subscription. In 1820 a further £1,000 in £20 shares was raised. Mr Stowe ribbon manufacturer built a chapel in Wheat Street.”

One of the driest springs and summers on record

24th Jul. Very hot day in the Midlands
Ribbon weaving data: Nuneaton had 500 looms, 1,000 single hand, 1010 male and 590 female weavers. Coton had 12 looms, 110 single hand, 69 male and 83 female weavers.

Aug. during foundation digging in Back Street an ancient pavement was found 3 feet down

Parliament set up committees to investigate petitions etc.

Law List: Attleborough - G.Greenway: Hinckley - C.Jervis; Charles King; W.Cowdell; James Soden; Charles Wild: Nuneaton - J. Craddock; W.Oram; John Mullis

Nov. Mr. Finch widened the road to St. James church, Weddington .

Lionel Place had owned Weddington Castle (Hall) for some years. He was said to have paid £30,000

21st. Nov. Religious Sect (Nuneaton), the Ranters, preached in the street.

Langley map showed Weddington Road

c.1818 The Grove and Grove Cottages built in Weddington

1819 Further strikes and riots in Nuneaton

Jan. Nuneaton Diary. "First Assembly at the Newdegate Arms attended by ab't 40 persons. One Gent lost his Hat, a second had his exchanged and a third had his made use of in an improper manner. Second assembly better attended.

A Pitched battle fought in the Mannor Court Field between the noted bruiser Sam Beal and a Blacksmith lately come to the Town. The former was beat. Had no chance ag't the Blacksmith's hammering blows. Two other Battles took place on the ground one between Ruglass and ..... Ruglass was beat, the other was with an Irishman of the name of ..... and ..... the latter was beat.

On Shrove Tuesday a Main of Cocks was fought NEaton ag't Bedworth. NEaton beating having won 5 battles out of 5 which was the main. NEaton won in nearly like manner the subsequent Battles of the day."

Encke's Comet seen, returned every 3.3 years.

Law List: Nuneaton - J.Craddock; J. Mullis, Hinckley - C. King; James Sculthorpe; James Soden

18th Aug. A donkey with a man on his back, the man, Flyde, had been found working for a depressed price.

The Six Acts in Britain restricting right of meeting

19th Aug. Nuneaton silk ribbon weavers on strike over the price list. Many lived in Courts; these became hovels and were identified by the Board of Health Inspector as likely places for disease to occur.

22nd Nov. Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot) born at South Farm, Arbury.

Evans had local family connections from 17th to 19thC.

1819-26 Richard Carlile published the subversive Republican in Britain

1820 3rd Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "The Death of the Duke of Kent (who died Jan. 2) caused but little apprehensions by persons here of its affecting the Ribbon Trade much, but it being followed by the Death of His Majesty King George 3rd Jan. 30 1820, it was thought would be favourable to the Ribbon Trade. No particular occurrence here on account of his death or on account of the accession of George 4th at present."

15th Jan. Very cold day in the Midlands

St. James church, Weddington, figured in Aylsford picture collection without a spire and only the tower.

The expansion of the British Empire in a relatively short period caused a world civilisation to develop. British political ideals spread far and wide; there was an ample source of food, improvements in transport, communications, science, art, literature, philosophy. Social and medical revolutions became possible. Most British classes were wealthier, healthier and happier than a century ago.

1st Mar. William Cobbett, the author, was in Nuneaton as an election candidate
The calculating machine invented

A menagerie visited Nuneaton

May. Joseph Scrivener (ropemaker) bought land in Wash Lane for £400. Scrivener had local family connections from 18th to 19thC.

Rev. Rowland Hill preached to a crowded congregation at Zion Chapel.

The Royal Mail coaches were the fastest road vehicles of their time.

George Eliot moved to Griff House

King George IV ascended to the throne. He was extravagant and self-indulgent; his fondness of the seaside established a fashion lasting into the 21st C.

1820's Silver Wattle, Weeping Wych Elm, Weeping Beech, Fern leafed Beech, Winter's Bark, Italian Alder, Osage Orange, Japanese Maple, Red horse chestnut and Oriental thorn introduced into Britain.

c.1820 220 offences were punishable by execution.

1820-1910 Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing and a pioneer of hospital improvements

1821 Elizabeth Mallabone died

3rd Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "The annual Ball held at the Town Hall was resp'y attended by ab't 110. Brought in for the Schools ab't £5 15s 0d. A Considerable consternation was occasion'd here by the failures of the Cov'y Bank (Troughton, Newcomb and Troughtons). Many are reported to be considerable holders of their notes and others having property in their hands to great am'ts."
A new windmill erected at Tuttle Hill on the site of an older one

Weddington population: 91. Nuneaton 11,195. England and Wales 12,000,236

Samuel William King born in Nuneaton, son of Rev. King. He later became a scientist and traveller.

18th Aug. Nuneaton Diary: "This day an unusual appearance of the sun (about 10'o clock in the morning) resembling the moon and being an azure blue colour and appearing at intervals. The morning was cloudy. This atmospheric phenomenon was observed in London about the same time and was stated by the newspaper to be a solar eclipse!

Vesuvius and Stromboli had been erupting in the weeks before.

17th Dec. The River Anker flooded Nuneaton

William Cobbett first "Rural ride" surveying village life

1822 6th Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "The Provincial Bible Society held a second meeting in the Town Hall. A pauper belonging here and living on the Com. was found dead in her house when 7.14 - and a quantity of Potatoes were found on the premises which were taken possession of for the parish by the parish Officers."

28th Feb. A Weddington farm auctioned: 196 Acres for £13,500

Mary Ann Mallabone died, daughter of James Mallabone

Pitched battle at the Red Gate between Jupiter Payne and Zeph Dan. 1,000 people attended, some records say 10,000.

Stockingford church built.

Himalayan Fir and Bhutan Pine introduced into Britain

2nd Sep. A man's body found in local stables of Mr. E. Thurman. Court's verdict was "Visitation of God".

Anti-Jacobin movement stopped

1823 5th Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "Sermon at church preached by the Rev'd Vaughton of Arley when a Collection was made at door in aid of Society for the promotion of Christian Knowledge which am't'd to ab't £8 0s 0d. Was very thinly attended."

19th Jan. Very cold day in the Midlands

The Anti-Slavery Society founded.

Spring - a minimum period of sunspot activity

23rd Jul. Dempster Heming from the East Indies purchased Caldecote Hall and other local property for £22,500.

Charles Macintosh invented waterproof coat The dynamo invented by William Sturgeon (no local connections)

Memoirs of John Mallabone, late of Nuneaton Fields, Warwickshire, and his daughter Mary Ann Mallabone extracts from her diary and letters by R.M. Miller, London, Frances Westley. Mainly a religious prayer diary, the daughter perhaps suffering a terminal illness and trying to get closer to God.
The Royal Society of Literature founded in London

The first act preventing ill-treatment of cattle and horses.
Local November Nuneaton fair and bonfire night were hardly celebrated.

31st Nov? River Anker flooded Nuneaton.

Nuneaton Prison had two of the White family detained for poaching.

Law List: Nuneaton - W.Oram etc.

Samaritan Chapel Abbey Street opened. Police Station opened in Stratford Street.

The first Mechanics Institute founded in London; this helped to educate the local workers by means of evening classes. The government gave grants to educate children.

1823-76 BARACLOUGH (William, John and Albert) Monumental stone carvers in Nuneaton. Baraclough had local family connections from 18th to 20thC.

1824 5th Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "This Winter up to this time (5th) have had but little Frost, the weather has been generally mild and showery. Yesterday a Sermon was preached at the church by Rev'd Naughton when a collection was made at the doors am't'd to about £8 0s 0d in aid of the Society promoting Christian Knowledge at Home and Abroad.

Nuneaton Diary: Great anxiety excited here amongst the Sporting Character to witness the great battle between Spring and Langham for the Championship being expected to have taken place near here, but it being on Worcester Race ground but few went from here say ab't 12 to 20."

The Athenaeum Club opened in London; it was an association of literary, scientific and artistic persons. Its founders were the Earls of Liverpool and Aberdeen, Marquess of Lansdowne, Scott, Davy, Faraday, Croker,Lawrence and Moore.

22nd Apr. Stockingford church St. Paul's consecrated

Greek Fir tree introduced into Britain

May. Mr Taylor, the liquor merchant pulled down his tenement and brewhouse in the Market Place and erected a 3 storey building in its place.

Joseph Henry Liggins went to Cambridge (St. Catherines) the son of a Baker, later tutored in Isle of Man and Liverpool. Liggins had local family connections from 18th to 19thC.

Scowton erected his theatre on vacant land in Bond End.

Aug. Many soldiers came through Nuneaton on canal boats heading for Ireland.

Combination Laws repealed. Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals founded.

Hartshill/Oldbury tumulus excavated, a skeleton was found and other items indicating it was probably Celtic?.

British Commercial boom; the Imperial Gallon measure standardised

George Eliot attended Dame School at Griff

1824-38 A long period of low rainfalls and hotter summers in Nuneaton, there were frosts and snow however often into April.

1825 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "Mr. Hardy bought a piece of land on the Coton Road from Mr. Craddock at nearly 3 shillings per yard. Mr Bindley found clay in the Piece of Pool Bank which he bo't from Godfrey in the Wash Lane and commenced for Brick Making."

Commercial depression

Successful steam carriage invented, automatic spinning mule also

Messrs. Jervis and Co. (Hinckley and Commercial Bank failed)

The London Liverpool coached stopped running to Nuneaton, formerly called the Cobourg and later the Champion

15th Jul. Very hot day in the Midlands

J. Budge published "The practical miner's guide" - this brought about the introduction of the theodolite into the Warwickshire mines.

Sep. Mountebanks displayed their talents in town.

Wash Lane brick kiln recorded

Lord Brougham formed the Society for Diffusion of Useful Knowledge that published cheap books on history and science and other subjects.

Law List: Nuneaton - W. Oram etc.

1825-27 George Eliot a boarder at Miss Lathom's school Attleborough

1826 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "Nearly throughout this month was a severe frost with but little snow. The Ribbon Trade distressingly bad, arising in a great measure to the apprehension of the Injurious consequences expected to result from the Introduction of Foreign Wrought Ribbons in July next."

Lionel Place (Weddington) elected Sheriff of Warwickshire.

Nuneaton Yeomanry active

Western Yellow Pine and Noble Fir introduced into Britain

Patrick Bell invented the reaper

William Cobbett 2nd "Rural ride" observed English village life.

Mar. Wilday's Nuneaton Bank paying out 15 shillings for pound notes.

1827 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "London Manchester Coach stopped running.

The Nuneaton Assembly tolerably well attended. Intoxication was disgracefully conspicuous there. The Three Tuns public House in Abby Street with 3 tenements adjoining put up by auction and bo't in at £1250. Collections made for the relief of the Distressed Manufacturers in accordance to the King's Letter, at the church was ab't £8. Zion Chapel ab't the same am't at the other Chappals but little was made as was the case with the collections made from House to House."

Joseph Scrivener (ropemaker) built 10 houses in Wash Lane
Pitched battle between Abel Vernon and Mudge Green

Law List: Nuneaton - J.Craddock; G.Greenway; J.W.Buchanan; W.H.Soden Hinckley - J. Sculthorpe; W.Cowdell; C.Jervis; C.Marvin; C.Wild: Attleborough - G.Greenway; James William Buchanan.

Water turbine invented
The man trap was made illegal except in specially defined circumstances.

Douglas Fir introduced into Britain

1828 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "First Subscription Assembly at Town Hall was attended by about 100. Messrs. J. Robinson and W. Burton Stewards.

Jem Randle beat Billy Lenton in a pugilistic contest for a pound a side."

Mar. The Peacock Inn auctioned.

New London-Manchester coach "The Hawk" started, calling at Nuneaton.

Law List:Nuneaton - J.Craddock; G.Greenway; J.W.Buchanan; W.H.Soden Hinckley - Thos.Holford; Edward Kem Jarvis; C.Jervis; John Clayton Ross, W.Cowdell, C.Wild, J.Sculthorpe,: Attleborough - G. Greenway; .W.Buchanan.

20th Sep. John Huskisson served notice to quit a house in Hinckley to a Miss Ann Davison, niece of Mrs. Edward Kem Jarvis. Edward Kem Jarvis and wife must leave by 5th March 1829. Cross Collection No. 539 and 540.

Corn Laws, Huskisson's sliding scales

Test Act repealed (see 1672 and 1686)

1828-29 Pigot Directory Warwickshire. "Joseph Jervis" Postmaster of Atherstone; he was not there in 1835. Edward Kem Jarvis's father (see 1805).

1828-32 George Eliot a boarder at Mrs Wallington's The Elms school, Church Street, Nuneaton

1829 16th Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "Hitherto mild weather but now frost and which increased to a severity and continued with little intermission till the end. A slight fall of snow intervened. Second Assemblywell attended."

George Stephenson's "ROCKET" won the Rainhill trials near Liverpool, this locomotive was then chosen to haul the trains for the new Manchester-Liverpool railway.

Local Ribbon trade greatly depressed.

26th Feb. George Hake, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church. He was often absent and his curate John Gwyther served in his place.

Josiah Mason and Joseph Gillot perfected steel pen nibs, there was an increase in hand written documentation

R. Phillips described a unique new manganese mineral found at Hartshill. He named it VARVICITE; it was later discredited (1845) as it was found to be a variety of the well known pyrolusite mineral.

Catholic Emancipation Act: gave full civic rights to Catholics
Riotous outbreaks as people were paraded in Nuneaton market place on asses for having worked for low prices.

One of the wettest summers on record.

Late summer - a maximum period of sunspot activity.

New organ in St. Nicolas. 1s (5p) charged for admission to service. Rev. Greenway preached; collection amounted to £44.

Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis; C.Jervis etc.

1st Dec. Nuneaton's soup kitchen opened during ribbon weaving depression

1829-30 William Cobbett 3rd "Rural ride" observing decaying village life. He recorded cottages falling down, land running to waste, rural folk attracted from the villages to the cities. There was high unemployment in the country.

1830 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "In the year Mr. Everitt built house on the Coton Road. Mr. Taplin built house in Weddington Lane. Mr. Wagstaff in Bond End. The first steam mill at Attleborough,Nuneaton; this was too late for the locally depressed industry. It may not have lasted that long because in 1833 there was a large meeting to discuss the same subject.

Many local workers had already moved to Derby for better jobs.

The contract for ensuing for Nuneaton's Poor House

(College for the Poor or Workhouse) was Beef and Mutton 4.75d. Flour 44 shillings or 46 s. The Christ's beef sold @ 5d for the best 5 and 5.5d. Mutton to 6d. Pork and Cheese 5 to 7d."

Rev. Hughes died, 52 years as a Nuneaton curate.

Soup shops opened again ; Beerhouse Act passed to prevent local publicans selling adulterated beer (watered down).

Large breweries established on a grand scale; the "Tied House" developed.

The Royal Geographical Society founded in London

Jun. cold rainy weather ruined harvests

Deodar tree introduced into Britain

King William IV ascended to the throne. He joined the navy and grew up as a sailor. He led a frugal life which made him popular with the people. His reign saw the introduction of the workhouse.

1830-31 There was growing unemployment due to increasing farm mechanisation.

1830-33 "The Swing Riots"; allegedly led by the mythical Captain Swing. Throughout the Midlands, South and East England labourers burnt hayricks, destroyed threshing machines, demanded higher wages, higher rates of poor relief, lower rents and tithes.

There were no deaths, people were ducked in ponds etc. Special Commission Judges were appointed, 9 men were eventually hanged (some accounts it is as high as 250 hanged) and 457 transported; many were imprisoned.

Robert Evans' diaries mentioned Weddington many times.

1830-34 Whig Government
1830-36 Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis and Charles Jervis
1830-42 Rev. R. T. Docker was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1830-99 THOMPSON (R.) monumental stone carver of Chilvers Coton

1830-1910 THOMPSON (John) monumental stone carver of Attleborough

1831 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "The Subscription Assembly this season was well tolerably well attended. The working class having become almost generally employed the soup shop was discontinued."

The Garrick Society founded in London

The electric bell invented

Sitka Spruce introduced into Britain

May. Coventry canal drained after water let out near Punch Bowl pub.

District	No. of families	No. in families	Employed available	Unemployed	No. of looms
Church and Wheat Street	108	436	73	151	87
Bond and Back Street	159	653	108	252	199
Abbey Street	781	3033	752	1237	1134
Chilvers Coton	228	990	313	372	186
Attleborough	267	1110	345	484	466

A local Census revealed less than 250 townsmen worked in agriculture.

6th Oct. Joseph Barraclough died, aged 67 (St. Nicolas graveyard)

Many people went to Coventry to see a girl executed for poisoning her uncle.

British Association for the Advancement of Science founded

An industrial depression for Ribbon weavers.

Weddington population: 69. Nuneaton population 12,870, Eng. Wales 13,896,797

Local Board of Health established. William IV crowned, sheep roasting distribution of ale and meat.

1831-32 Truck Act: this outlawed the practice of employers paying their workforce in goods (or tokens) instead of money (especially in heavy industries and textiles). Many employers would not obey this law.

1832 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "Deputation from the Ribbon Manufacturers here waited upon the Board of Trade with a memorial urging the propriety of a return to prohibitionary Laws in regard to Foreign Ribbons.

A new steam engine erected in the Coton Coal Field about.....yards in the deep for the old one. They went down to about13 feet below the stratum of coal the dip of which being about 1 in 6 required the work of heading to be about 80 feet before they touched upon the coal again at which they arrived at the latter end of this month."

20th Feb. Polly Button (Mary Green) was found lying in the road in a field occupied by Mr. Beasley leading to Mr. Astley's New Mill Field Barn with her throat horribly cut and was dead. It was not doubted that the woman was murdered. Suspicion fell on John Danks a farmer's labouring carpenter. Danks ultimately confessed to Rev. King, the Curate of St. Nicolas. Green had local family connections from 16th to 20thC. Danks had local family connections from 18th to 19thC.

13th Apr. John Danks was hanged at Warwick, for the murder of Polly Button. His body was given to the Birmingham Institute for dissection to study the pathology of criminals.

Jul. Robert Evans went to Long Clawson on business. This was significant. He must have heard about the Kems in Clawson. He must have known about local Kems! R. Evans Diaries.

10th Sep. First Cholera outbreak started in Church Street

Great Reform Act: took away the right to elect M.P.s from 56 rotten boroughs, gave the seats to counties or large towns hitherto unrepresented in Parliament and gave the vote to £10 householders. Allowed Middle classes to vote

Pipe Office (Exchequer) was closed, bringing to and The Pipe.

By this date the housebreaking, sheep stealing and forgery ceased to be punishable by the death penalty.

A great depression in ribbon trade. A memorial tablet (Board of Trade) Nov. 20th stated 3482 weavers, warpers and winders were unemployed. Beck's steam power factory burnt by Weavers at Coventry. The windows at Hood warehouse smashed.

21st Dec. Festival to celebrate Reform Bill. Public procession, beef and ale were distributed to 3400 people and 1200 at Stockingford.

Election candidates Sir Eardley Wilmot (Whig); W.S. Dugdale (Tory); Dempster Heming (Lib).

Nuneaton constituted as a polling place for the Reform Bill. Popular feeling for liberals. A coalition was reported between Wilmot and Dugdale excited the liberals the Riot Act was read and detachment of Royal Scots Greys were sent to charge the mob, an elderly man was killed. Wilmot and Dugdale were elected. Roll records, issued almost continuously since 1155.

1832-35 George Eliot a boarder at Misses Franklin's school Coventry

1832-45 Edward Kem Jarviss, a Hinckley Solicitor and Judge acquired local notoriety for prosecutions against Hinckley Factory owners who broke the Truck Act and also for his evidence in the Royal Commission on Frame-work Knitters. His father was Postmaster and Innkeeper at Atherstone in 1820's. (see 1805)

1833 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "Criminal information filed against Rev. S. Heming charging him with encouraging riot on the days of Election at Nuneaton."

Feb. Nuneaton soup kitchen opened by Conservatives.

Apr. Coldest on record in central England.
17 Jacquard single hand looms sold locally

May. Warmest on record in central England

The state began to contribute to church schools
Abolition of Slavery

20th Aug. Henry Cunliffe Shawe J.P. born at Cliff Hall, Tamworth. He was educated at Eton and Christ Church College Oxford.

Local Bonfire Night was not celebrated with the usual street fires

7th. Dec. Trade Unions formed in Nuneaton and Coton

Dec. Local weavers held a meeting in the Town Hall about introducing steam powered ribbon looms into local factories. This was later unanimously agreed Factory Act: created inspectors, improved textile work, also limited child labour (under 13 yrs to 9 hrs a day)

1834 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "The township of Nuneaton indicted, Daffern and for the Manor Court Road. William Betteridge the Nuneaton pugilist died aged. He had fought many battles in the Prize Ring with success.

16th May. The Fair this year a small one to that the continued depression of the Ribbon Trade tended.

Considerable improvement making at the top of Wash Lane. Seven Cottages and Gardens purchased by Mr Dugdale with a view of laying the whole to his field at the back of the same and taking away the foot road from the field and making another road in lieu of the same – several large trees were fallen that grew alongside the Road. An underdrain laid with Blue piping at the foot of the Wash Lane Navigation Bridge below the Lime Yard Gate and deeply cov'd with Earth to the level with the road. The Culvert on the northern side of Abbey St. contin'd further up with Blue piping to Green's Factory Entry.

New Coach started thro' here for Hull. Two Stone works have been opened this Spring. The one at Tuttle Hill for Roads said to be let at 4d per Ton Mine Rent. The other a Free Stone Quarry at Attleborough which had formerly been worked near to the Linch Spring.

McMormick's reaper invented

10th Jul. Local church bells rung at the announcement that Earl Grey and Lord Althorp had resigned.

11th Aug. An earth tremor felt with noises and bright lights.

New Poor Law instituted parish workhouses and Tolpuddle Martyrs. Elizabethan Poor Laws were abandoned, parishes united into Unions (ancestors of Rural and Urban councils). The Poor Law in each Union was to be run by a board of guardians, elected by the rate payers.

The end of the practice of burying suicides at crossroads, transfixed by a stake
Cornish Mining Company began prospecting for Manganese again at Nuneaton-Hartshill. They dug several deep pits but found nothing of worth. The College for the Poor (The Workhouse) was extended.
Weddington vicar: Rev. George Sanford until 1872

William Harrison Ainsworth published “Rookwood” that made Dick Turpin a fictional hero with a legendary horse called Black Bess. He did not have a secret cave at Lindley, nor did he terrorise the Watling Street. His headless ghost is said to haunt the Royal Red Gate area. Many of these local stories are derived from John Massey (see 1800).

23rd Dec. Joseph A. Hansom patented and invented the Hansom Cab whilst living at Caldecote Hall with Dempster Heming's family. ‘Patent Safety Cab’ No 6733. He is said to have driven the prototype from Hinckley to London. The actual cab design that frequented London contained many design changes by William Gillett and John Chapman (1836, Patent No. 7,266). The changes included lightening the main framework, improving the access platform and placing the driver at the rear of the cab. He also designed Birmingham Town Hall and founded a company to actually build it.

1834-35 Tory Government

pre 1835 Weddington Change Brook straightened

1835 2nd Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "A.F. Gregory Esq., in the field as a candidate for the northern Division of Warwickshire. Mr. Dugdale was personally canvassing."

The local ribbon trade improved

19th Mar. A freestone wall erected in Blind Lane and Wash Lane.

First silk weaving by steam Barnwell's factory Wheat Lane.

Court Leets held at Fleur de Lis and Bull pubs.

Ordnance Survey re-mapped the area, map showed Horeston Grange as a small building with an enclosed paddock.

A Teddy Kem's Heaven Farmhouse was shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. A lane or track also.

Municipal Reform Act set up modern boroughs as Local Government; 178 chartered boroughs obtained town councils elected by rate paying householders who had lived in them for 3 years.

Unchartered towns were allowed to adopt the same type of government. The accounts were to be audited; they would take over the property of the old corporations; they could if they wanted take over the duties of the Improvement Commissioners; they were also given greatly extended powers within their own town boundary. It took a long time for this to fully operate. Conveyancing of property became simpler.

The Highway Act: this authorised the collection of highway rates to help maintain the roads.

Fox Talbot took the first photograph in the world (near London)

Bear-baiting and bull-baiting prohibited by an Act of Parliament

Francis Parker died aged 85. Arbury estate passed to Charles Newdigate Newdegate (a minor).
Brick Kiln close recorded at Nuneaton, Claypit Hill and Brickworks recorded in Nuneaton

16th Nov. Halley's Comet returned

1835-36 Commercial boom; "Little Railway Mania"

1835-41 Whig Government

1836 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: " On enlarging and deepening the well at Barnwell's Steam Ribbon Factory at the top of Wheat Lane, the earth continued to be from top to bottom a red Marl. The sum paid by the County for the new Coventry Bridge was £260 and £20 for the new wall fencing Mr. Buchanan's meadow."

Steam power was used to aid ventilation and hauling in coal mines, the horse had been previously used

First railway surveyors in Nuneaton area (Trent Valley)

15th May. An eclipse of the sun

Jul. Cornish Mining company again searched for Manganese locally

Nuneaton Gasworks (Gas, Light and Coke Co.) began construction

Nuneaton Union constituted under the New Poor Law Amendment Act. A major Enclosure Act passed.

The Botanical Society founded in London

Non-religious marriages made legal

The Revenue Stamp on newspapers was reduced to 1d that greatly increased newspaper circulation and production

Warwickshire was subject to extensive commutation of the Tithes in the course of Parliamentary Enclosure. By 1836, there were 65% of Warwickshire's Tithe Districts by number, but only 50% of the county by area that remained subject to payments; only 46 districts were wholly tithable.

Enclosure by Consent: private legislation used when 66% of parties consented to the proposals.

25th-26th Dec. Heavy snow, blocked roads. Nuneaton was 3 days without mail.

Primitive Methodist church built in Wash Lane.

1836-55 The Britannia Groat coin issued = (4d) or 1.5p

Queen Victoria 1837-1901 A.D. Victoria was born on 24th May 1819. During her first years on the throne her closest confidants were her governess and the Prime Minister. The Whig Prime Minister tried to dissuade her from making radical changes. The plight of the poor and their social conditions were causing alarm bells to ring in some ministers' minds and in 1840, 1842, 1849, 1850, 1872 and 1882 the Queen was assaulted (some may have been assassination attempts). This ultimately prompted social reformers to question the status quo of the times.

1837 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: " Plans, sections & c. of Railway deposited with the parish Clerk Mr. Jas. Wheway. Protest of 200 or more of owners and occupiers of property along the intended line of the Tamworth and Rugby branch railway against the obtaining a Bill."

Electric telegraph invented

2nd Feb. Nuneaton first lit with gas. Town Gasworks built. Repairs at St. Nicola revealed inscriptions and paintings underneath plaster. Roman Catholic church built.

William IV died.

Feb. A maximum period of sunspot activity

The end of the main preserved part of the Nuneaton Diary, it resumed 1843 to 1845.

VICTORIAN ERA

20th Jun. In Nuneaton, Victoria proclaimed as Queen by Mr Troughton, Deputy Sheriff in 3 or more parts of the town. Preceded by a band of music attended by Craddock, Buchanan and Burton the Constable.

An Influenza epidemic

Sankey kilns, Thomas Astley and Parishes & Co. Blue Brick and Tile Yards recorded at Nuneaton

Swan Lane Colliery owned by Cooper Handley, later by Stanley Robinson's Blue Brick and Tile Yard recorded (later Stanley's No. 4)

1837-42 John Orton of Hinckley, a scrivener by trade, a rare local profession.

1838 Local earth tremor

The first proposal to link Stone with Rugby (via Nuneaton) by rail.

The registration of births, marriages and deaths made compulsory in England and Wales. The death penalty was now only used for murder, or attempted murder.

The Camden Society founded, published documents relating to the early history and literature of the British Empire

The bicycle invented by Kirkpatrick Macmillan

15th and 20th Jan. Very cold days in the Midlands

The start of 20 years stability in the ribbon trade
2nd May. Reginald Stanley born in Hayle, Cornwall (the brickyard entrepreneur).

Stanley had local family connections from 17th to 20thC.

Weddington: Lionel Place died and was buried at St. James. Aged 72 years

1838-39 Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis clerk to the Court: C. Jervis etc.

1838-48 Peoples' Charter. Anti-Corn Law league

1839 Local earth tremor

The steam hammer invented

Oriental spruce, Spanish fir and Atlas cedar introduced into Britain

Indian tea reached Britain for the first time

post-1839 William Kirby Fenton acquired Caldecote estate

1840 Barber's Pit and Fletcher's Pit closed locally.

Bedworth Almshouses built on their present site.

William Wilson born in Nuneaton (co-founder of the Nuneaton Observer).

Another Royal Commission into Mining was formed.

Camperdown elm introduced into England.

Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis clerk to Magistrates and clerk to the court

James Smith (a Scottish engineer) developed the use of broken rock for field drainage, and also invented a special plough for deep ploughing after field drainage.

Warwickshire County Police force was founded

The term scientist introduced by William Whewell, Cambridge

Jan. George Eliot's poem 'The Farewell' published in Christian Observer

4th Jun. Joseph Fielding Johnson J.P. born at Stockport, he was educated privately at Nottingham. He later became proprietor of Nuneaton Wool Company, he was a founding member of Warwickshire County Council, and became an Alderman in 1909. He was a member of the Standing Joint Education and Roads and Bridges Committees.

Rev. Dagley died.

c.1840 Collycroft colliery opened, it developed through 1857, 1873-5, 1893-1901 it finally closed in 1910

1840's Benjamin Disraeli and William Gladstone owned property on Leicester Road (opposite Etone School). They may have bought these houses in anticipation of good compensation values from the London North Western Railway when it bought up local land. The surveyed route was eventually moved nearer the town centre and they did not receive any compensation!

1841 8th Jan. Very cold day in the Midlands

17th Mar. George Eliot moved to Foleshill
CENSUS - 30th April
Nuneaton

1841 Wash Lane

Joseph Scrivener	45 yrs Ropemaker born Warks
Judith S. wife	60 yrs Ropemaker born Warks
Joseph S. son	25 yrs Relieving Officer born Warks
John S. son	15 yrs Ropemaker born Warks

1841 Attleborough Church Street page 230

William Liggins Baker	65 yrs
Sarah Liggins	55 yrs
Joseph Liggins	35 yrs

Weddington population: 77. John Arnold at The Lodge; James Ward a servant at the Castle.

Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis, clerk to Magistrates

16th Aug. Joseph Scrivener (relieving officer) married Mary Ann Lester at Nuneaton

Attleborough Holy Trinity church built for £3,000

Nuneaton population 12,250. England and Wales 15,914,148
Prince Albert set up a German Christmas tree at Windsor; within a few years it became an established English tradition.

Whitworth standardised the screw thread (no local connection)

1841-42 The Royal Commission on the employment of Women and Children in Mines found the “Butty” system widely practised in the local collieries. This was a form of unfair sub-contracting that had been in use for a long time - it took many years for the tradition to die out.

1841-46 Conservative Government

1842 A lane to Teddy Kem's Heaven was shown on the Tithe Apportionment map.

The Farmer's Club founded

Japanese cedar introduced into Britain

1st Jun. Rev. Canon Frederick Rawlins Evans born at Griff; he was the son of Isaac Pearson Evans (brother of George Eliot). He was educated at Cheltenham College, Rugby, Exeter College Oxford.
27th Jun. Captain Harry Leigh Townshend J.P. born at Caldecote Hall. In later life he held a Commission in the Royal Dragoons and the 12th Regiment.

Corn Laws: Peel revised sliding scale. Chartist Riots

Mines Act: forbade women, girls and boys under 10 to work underground.

Woodford Lane bridge built over the River Anker

18th Sep. Rev. Canon John George Deed was born at Westminster. He later became Vicar of St. Nicolas and Chairman of King Edward VI Grammar School. George Eliot had dispute with her father about attending church.

George Edmund Donisthorpe (Market Bosworth) invented and improved a combing machine (based on Cartwright's machine)

1842-45-48 Income Tax established for those with more than £150. It was established at 7d in the pound. This tax lasted until 1845, then was renewed for another three years; then in perpetuity.

1842-56 The Half Farthing ("mite") coin issued = (0.125d)

1842-72 Rev. W.S. Bucknill recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1843 Local weavers were in full employment

Late spring - a minimum period of sunspot activity

Jun. Nuneaton Diary: " An old frame work house at the top of Church with six or more tenements at the back were taken down for a site for a new building which was now erected for Mrs. Thos. Robinson. It was said that a Councillor Nutt once lived at this house, hence the yard adjoining is called Councillor Yard. "

3rd Jul. a bright comet visible

7th Aug. Auction Sale at Weddington Castle, furniture, library, paintings. William Pullin. (Auctioneers)

13th Aug. Heavy rain and lightning storm, much damage.
Coast Redwood introduced into Britain

A great comet observed (tail 150,000,000 miles long)

British Archaeological Association founded in London

C. Newdegate elected M.P. He held it until 1885. Victoria, Albert, Duke of Wellington visited Sir Robert Peel at Drayton Manor.

Christmas cards introduced in Britain by Henry Cole, founder of the Victoria and Albert museum. It was designed by J.C. Horsley.

25,000 signature petition from Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Framework Knitters sent to Parliament.

Charles Jervis died (he knew Dr. Johnson)

28th Nov. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert passed through Nuneaton on the Royal Train on their way to meet Sir Robert Peel at Drayton Manor. Many Nuneaton people heard the Tamworth Castle cannon fired on their arrival

The Five Mile Act of 1593 was repealed.

1843-44 Royal Commission (Health) into "State of Towns and Populous Districts". Duke of Buccleuch. Mainly evidence from London and bigger cities. However a Framework Knitter, J. Brooks, was interviewed from Hinckley, seemed out of context with the rest of the report. No mention of Edward Kem Jarvis.

The Tithe Apportionment for Bramcote recorded Edmund Henry Dawson and Rev. C.A. Palmer as owning Wolvershill Hall with Richard Warner as the occupant.

1844 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "At the adjourned Meeting respecting the Swan Lane Road the Report of the Committee was made to the effect that road was in Stockingford that the Township has not repaired it but that Stockingford had done so. The meeting was further adjourned in order to obtain more accurate knowledge of the boundary which was to be obtained from Mr. Stelfox, land surveyor of Allesley who had recently been apportioning the tithe which the Act of Parliament required a survey in the so doing."

London North Western Railway negotiated land purchase for new route through Weddington with the Place and Heming family.

Old Malt house in Craddock's Nuneaton orchard pulled down

Royal Commission on "Handloom weavers": Edward K. Jarvis submitted evidence

River bed of the Anker lowered by Thomas Hollick of Nuneaton flour mills. A brick bridge in Bond Street built to replace timber one.

Cow’s Tail Pine, Lacebark Pine, Chinese Cow’s Tail Pine, Caucasian Fir and Californian nutmeg introduced into Britain

William Gadsby, (see 1773, 1780-95, 1796, 1797, 1805) died and was buried at Rusholme Cemetery.

Factory Act for dangerous machinery to be safeguarded
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. School Unions

Jun. A meeting to establish an Infant's school. Oaston Lane steam factory covered in and a chimney finished. Rev. Stopford died. (started 1791)
27th Jun. Henry Hake, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton Church.

The Shaftesbury Society founded in London

W. Gladstone, president of the Board of Trade, piloted an Act through Parliament compelling all railways to provide a daily train that would convey third class passengers at a penny per mile in carriages provided with seats and fully protected from the weather

Thomas Hood senior, Brick kiln piece and Marlpit field recorded in Stockingford.

Potter Meadow recorded in Nuneaton

Nuneaton Brickyard close recorded; Nuneaton kiln close recorded in the town area

1844-45 "Railway Mania" - Railway companies began surveying and buying land.

1844-73 Matthew Kirtley was the first locomotive engineer of the Midland Railway (not a local man)

1845 Jan. Nuneaton Diary: "Much frosty weather with little snow. Rev. Savage, vicar of Tamworth was offered the Nuneaton church living; Dempster Heming removed to Lindley Hall. A Mr. Fenton taken Caldecote Hall. Ewing stood in Market Place with his caravans of wax figures."

The dawn of the railway era in Nuneaton

With the arrival of railways the canal network was not badly affected at first. The barges were used to transport the rails, sleepers, ballast etc. By the 1860's railways began to take the urgent light weight traffic, mail, people etc. It was not long before they began to attract the heavier traffic as well. A steady and slow decline in the canals ensued over the next 40 years.

Rotary printing press invented

14th Apr. Martha "Patty" Townsend (local artist born)

21st Jul. The Trent Valley Railway bill received its Royal Assent.

Tithe Apportionment for Weddington stated Sophia Place as land owner at Weddington. Also vicar: Rev. Samuel Bracebridge Heming. John Atkin, Robert Swinnerton, Joseph Robottom farmers.

17th Oct. Alfred Lester Scrivener born in Coton

13th Nov. Sir Robert Peel cut the first sod of turf on the Trent Valley railway at Tamworth. The construction cost of the line was estimated at £1,050,000.

Robert Chapman Savage was the vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

27th Nov. Nuneaton Diary's last entry about a vestry meeting at the parish church. There was trouble from the large amount of navvies working on the new Trent Valley railway.

Enclosure Act: gave the Commissioner the power to allocate land for exercise and recreation.

Bramcote had 73 inhabitants and was described as a declining hamlet.

Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis clerk to Magistrates Court of requests for the district.

1845-46 Irish Potato Famine

1846 5th May. John Astley (senior) Nuneaton Diarist, died 83 yrs.
Jun. Warmest on record in central England

Cider gum tree introduced into England

White's History, (Hinckley) Gazetteer and Directory listed Edward Kem Jarvis as occupant of a mansion near the old castle in Castle Street, he was judge and assessor of the Local Court

The report of the Select Committee on Railways: this stated that a respected body should supervise the railways.

Corn Laws repealed by Peel

Monterey Pine and Monterey Cypress introduced into Britain

Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis clerk to magistrates, Judge of Hinckley and Market Bosworth court of requests.

Chilvers Coton Free School rebuilt.

Biela's Comet split; it returned as twin comets in 1852. In 1872 and 1885 they failed to re-appear but gave rise to spectacular meteor showers.

George Eliot published 'Life of Jesus' translated from Strauss's 'Das Leben Jesu'

1846-52 Whig Government

1846-76 Thomas Winfield and his family tenanted the Teddy Kem site: they probably did not occupy the Farmhouse. The 1851 Census recorded them at No. 1 Church Street, then No. 24 Church Street in 1861. In the 1871 Census Thomas Wingfield was recorded at Church Street. The Garratt family tenanted adjacent farmland. The farm was not named Teddy Kem's Heaven until after 1871. The Tomkinson family still owned much of the adjacent land. They then sold some to the Trent Valley Railway Company. John Robinson began to acquire land locally. The line eventually became part of the London North Western Railway (L.N.W.R.) National celebrities such Francis Trevithick and J. E. McConnell became first locomotive engineers, with Alexander Allen responsible for design at Crewe.

pre-1847 The Earl of Harrowby (Sandon Hall, Staffordshire and Lincolnshire) acquired various fields in the Attleborough area.

1847 20th Jun. Local celebrations for Queen Victoria’s ten years on the throne

26th Jun. The Trent valley line was formally opened by its Directors. However, the Tame bridge was found faulty, this delayed the public opening until five other bridges could be strengthened. The line was fully opened on 1st December, the same day as Greenwich Meantime was adopted throughout the railway system.

15th Sep. Nuneaton Trent Valley Station opened

Elizabeth Palmer Davis of Wilnecote born (later married Alfred Lester Scrivener)

Factory Act: limited working day to 10 hours women and boys under 18

Society for improving dwellings in the labouring classes
The Palaeontographical Society founded in London (for the study of fossils, producing monographs, some featuring Nuneaton specimens)

Elizabeth Barraclough died

The present Lord Leigh contested north Warwickshire for the Liberals but was defeated by Newdegate and Spooner.

27th Nov. Henry Arthur Dewes born (son of Henry Dewes) Dewes /Heming / Cooper /Kay /Hall owners or occupiers, a complex succession at Weddington 1845-1873

1847-51 Another Irish Potato Famine

1848 7th Apr. Robert William Swinnerton J.P. born at Weddington. In later life he held various offices: chairman of the Nuneaton Board of Governors; chairman of the Nuneaton Education Committee; he Honorary Auditor for the North East Warwickshire Conservative Association.

The first Public Health Act: set up local boards of Health and Medical Officers to provide towns with pure water, decent sanitation and facilities for isolating diseases.

This was largely the work of Edwin Chadwick, who began reporting in 1842 on the conditions of the labouring classes

National Schools for boys, girls and infants built at Nuneaton. Vicarage Street, Abbey Street and Attleborough.

1848-49 Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis clerk to magistrates, Judge of Hinckley and Market Bosworth, court of requests

1849 31st May. Robert Evans died, buried Coton church. Mary Anne visited Europe with the Bray's

19th Jul. James Knox J.P. born at Dysart, Fifeshire. He was educated as a civil engineer. He later became the Managing Director of Haunchwood Brick and Cement Company and the Arley Colliery Company along with others extractive concerns at Cannock and Barnstone.

A local health report recorded Coton clay as celebrated with great quantities of bricks and tiles made and exported by canal as far as London.

The Nuneaton and Warwickshire Building Society founded 9th Aug. Mary Ball was hanged at Coventry for poisoning her husband on the 18th May. Her burial site (in Coventry) was unmarked.

90 Acres of woodland remained in Weddington.
Rev. Samuel Bracebridge Heming became Lord of Weddington Manor until 1856.

10th Oct. Griff railway branch built

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRB) formed. It consisted of Dante GabrielRossetti, John Millais and William Holman Hunt. They took Jesus, King Alfred, Hogarth and Robert Browning as their main icons, with the works of Keats, Malory and Tennyson. The nature of English painting was transformed. Cock-fighting made illegal

1849-50 The Florin coin issued = (2s) or 10p

1850 Coton House (between Coton Arches and Hill Top) construction period

Stage coaches/wagons came via Abbey Green to Church Farm, horseshoes and cartwheel tyres could be fitted at their forge. The journey continued by the track at the side of the church to Caldecote and beyond. [anecdotal evidence].

Law List: Hinckley - Edward K. Jarvis working for Clayton, Gray and Co.

The built up area of the town comprised: Church Street, Wheat Street, Bond Street, Market Place, Wash Lane, (Queens Road) and Abbey Street.

A 15 year slump began in the local ribbon trade.

George Eliot contributed to Westminster Review

Jodrell Collection recorded Thomas Winfield tenant farming Teddy Kem's Heaven site for owner William who was conveying land to Edward Tomkinson.

Lawyer Henry Dewes of Weddington Castle made extensive repairs. Dewes was buried at Caldecote. b. 24th Nov. 1817. d. 23rd May 1910. Wife Helen Jane d. 27th Oct. 1863 aged 42. Son Henry Arthur Dewes b. 27th Nov. 1847. d. 7th June 1871

An effigy of the Pope was drawn around the streets in a coal higgler's cart, then burnt in the Market Place as a protest against Cardinal Wiseman and other bishops.

Lowsey's Meadow Pit and Oldbury Engine Pit closed

Mechanical butter churns developed.

Grand or Giant Fir introduced into Britain.

Act of Parliament: The Inspection of Coal Mines in Great Britain; this required local colliery owners to produce an accurate plan of their colliery's workings.

John Holt, the tobacco claypipe maker recorded in Nuneaton

2nd Sep. Chilvers Coton railway station opened; it survived 115 years.

c.1850 Camp Hill Grange and Lindley Grange constructed In the previous decade many cheap lodging houses opened to accommodate the increase in the labour force.

1851 First deep mine sunk in the Warwickshire Coalfield at Baddesley.

George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) met George Henry Lewes, she went to live at 142 Strand. Probably never returned to Warwickshire.

CENSUS - some notable characters

1851 27 Wash Lane

Joseph Scrivener	58 yrs Ropemaker born Balsall
Judith S. wife	74 yrs Ropemaker born Coventry
Joseph Henry S. grandson	8 yrs scholar born Coton

1851 Attleborough 4 Church Street page 407

Joseph Henry Liggins	48 yrs

1851 15 Market Place

Joseph Palmer	36 yrs Haberdasher born Hinckley
Ann Palmer wife	32 yrs born Nuneaton
Frederick Palmer son	10 yrs scholar born Nuneaton
John Scrivener Palmer son	8 yrs scholar born Nuneaton
Charles Palmer son	5 yrs scholar born Nuneaton
Edwin Palmer son	1 yr born Nuneaton
Mary Scrivener visitor	27 yrs born Leicester
Elizabeth Eagle visitor	15 yrs born Birmingham
Mary Johnson	15 yrs servant born Wolvey
George Pegg	14 yrs servant born Nuneaton

1851 110 Church Street

Joseph Scrivener	35 yrs Solc's Man'g Clerk born Southam
Egbert S. son	6 yrs scholar born Coton
Alfred Lester S. son	5 yrs scholar born Coton
Alice S. daughter	2 yrs born Coton

1851 99 Church Street

John Wilson	49 yrs Clock manuf born Nuneaton
Josiah Wilson	2 yrs scholar born Nuneaton
William Wilson	11 yrs scholar born in Nuneaton
Robert Wilson	9 yrs scholar born in Nuneaton
Martha Marsh	27 or 47 yrs housekeeper born Coton

Weddington population: 54. Nuneaton population 13,532 (Town was 8,133)

England and Wales 17,927,609. In England 1 in every 6 males over the age 10 years was a farm labourer.

Of the 7,261,915 people that attended church on 30th March 1851 only ,773,474 attended Anglican churches. Nearly one third of the population of uneaton worked in the ribbon trade, (or half the labour force).

Weddington, approximately 30 people attended a church service.

Indian horse chestnut introduced into Britain.

Coventry-Nuneaton railway opened.

The Ecclesiastical Tithes Act decreed that no other clergy could hold titles already in use by Anglican clergy. The Roman Catholics carefully chose their Bishoprics so as not to coincide with Anglican ones. The Act was repealed in 1871.

Library and reading room opened at the Nuneaton National School

George Eliot became assistant editor of the Westminster Review; she also met Lewes in this year.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION in London.

James Richard Quirk became Curate at Attleborough, he later told George Eliot of the local Weaver's plight. The Primitive Methodists established a church in Nuneaton.

Mechanical reapers introduced.

Thomas Hardy’s blue brick and tile yard recorded in Nuneaton

1851-52 Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis - perpetual commissioner.
1852 One of the wettest autumns and years on record

Tory Government

5th Jul. Very hot day in the Midlands

Biela's Comet reappeared as a twin.

The threat of Napoleonic invasion caused local volunteer regiments to form

The Burial Act required that all corpses be buried at least 6 feet deep. Previous to that bodies could be interred at any shallower depth.

1852-55 Governmental coalition

1853 Law List: Hinckley - Edward Kem Jarvis no longer listed yet his name occurred in the Index until 1859.
George Eliot resigned the Westminster Review Assistant Editorship

1st Jan. Joseph Scrivener, printer in Abbey Street (shared the same premises as Thomas Illiffe, chemist) there was at least 1 printing press until 1864

1853-56 The Crimean War

St. Nicolas church enlarged, restored and repaired. Foundation stone for chancel laid by Earl Harrowby. Church re-pewed, an organ gallery was removed. Dated lead drain pipes still survive.

Wellingtonia tree introduced into Britain

1854 George Eliot published Feuerbach's Das Wessen des Christenthums 'The Essence of Christianity'. George Henry Lewes formed a lifelong union with George Eliot. (see 1817)

North Western Railway allowed Warwickshire Coalfield to really develop.

The Crimean war broke out

5th Feb. Henry Stubbs J.P. born at Bowdon, Cheshire. He was educated at Rugby.

He later became chairman of Nuneaton Theatre Company. He was a keen polo player.

One of the driest years on record.

The Geological Survey mapped Nuneaton.
Weddington Wood cleared to make way for a farm, near the Watling Street.

Cooper Sinclair mapped Nuneaton at 1:500 scale or 1:528 scale for the Health Act requirements, they were probably in manuscript form (and not printed) they have never been located; it was presumed the maps did not survive. He was, however, paid for this survey.

William Cooper at Weddington Castle, Robert Swinnerton at The Grove

3 additional gold standards were legalised : 15, 12 and 9 carat.

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was dissolved when Millais and Holman Hunt went their separate ways. The style continued and was developed by many painters. Many local churches began to see their influence come into stain glass window design.
The cigarette introduced into Britain.

Sir Henry Ellis (British Museum Librarian) published Nehemiah Wharton's letters.

Wharton was a subaltern in the Civil War; he recorded how the Lord of Essex and his chaplain Samuel Kemme preached to his troop (Cromwell's men) in a Coventry church. These letters were also published in Archaeologia Vol 35 for 1853.

It also recorded that the Cavaliers had set fire to part of Nuneaton in an attempt to stop the Roundheads coming.

1855 John Astley (jnr) Nuneaton Diarist? was dismissed from his job as Relieving Officer (incompetency) and Joseph Scrivener was appointed.

Act of Parliament: The Coal Mines Inspection Act, this strengthened the 1850 Act and increased the penalties for proven offences, more Inspectors were appointed.

Stockingford school built.

A large party of wounded and invalid soldiers returned from Crimea, halted at Nuneaton station and were given lunch by the townspeople.

1855-57 Income Tax rate was 1s 4d in the pound

1855-58 Whig Government/Liberal Government

1856 White: Warwickshire Trade Directory listed:

Joseph Scrivener, Bookseller, Market Place
Joseph Scrivener, Grocer and Tea Dealer, Market Place
Joseph Scrivener, Shopkeeper, Wash Lane

George Eliot finished translating Spinoza's 'Ethics'
19th Aug. Thomas John Huskisson died aged 43, the local business; he was related to the parliamentarian.

Rev. Samuel Bracebridge Heming died. Weddington Advowson passed to

Rev. Bracebridge Heming Hall: Rev. G. Sanford remained Vicar.

Bessemer steel developed, new technological uses for steel followed.

British Coal output reached 65,000,000 tons.

Lindley Hall bought by Vincent Eyre.

1856-63 Gregor Mendel began his research into inheritance as witnessed in peas. This European scientist's results were largely ignored for the next 30 years.

1857 Exhall colliery opened

7th Jul. Edward Ferdinand Melly J.P. born in Liverpool. He was educated at Rugby school. He later became a local benefactor.

Matthias Dunn, Government Inspector of Mines for Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Scotland remarked: "Then with respect to the Warwickshire and Derbyshire coalfields, some of which have a 26 foot seam of coal, within 100 miles of London are they not likely to emerge from their local sales, and advance capital for fresh sinkings to compass some portion of the London trade. For although the nature of some of these coal renders them unfit for house or gas purposes, yet they are always suitable for breweries or others manufactories, for their hardness and open burning."

The Place family papers contained a dated parchment instructing that Weddington Castle and Estate be disposed of.

Isaac Swinnerton buried at St. James, aged 85 years.

St. James church, Weddington warden accounts –

	£	s	d
Holly and church cleaning	6	0	
Jenning's bill for draining churchyard	3	5	8
Lighting Fires	15	0	
Wine for sacrament	8	0	
Jenning's bill for repairing stove	10	0	
Clay's bill for grates for churchyard	1	5	10
Handley's bill for pipes and bricks	18	9	

George Eliot's 'The sad fortunes of the Rev. Amos Barton, Mr. Gilfil's Love-Story, Janet's Repentance' in (Scenes of Clerical Life) published in Blackwood's Magazine

Here are some of Eliot's characters and the family surnames they are based on:

Luke Byles = John Astley
Mr Bates = Mr. Baines
Mr Fitchett = Mr Baker
Mr Gruby = Thomas Barnacle
Mr Fellowes = Rev. Henry Bellairs
Mr Richard Pratt = Dr. Bond
Lawyer Dempster = James Buchanan
Janet Dempster = Janet/Nancy Buchanan
Mammy Dempster = James Buchanan's mother
Mr Furness = Rev. W.S. Bucknill
Mr Pilgrim = William Bucknill
Mr & Mrs Fred Phipps = Mr and Mrs William Bull
Mr Budd = Mr Burton
Mrs Brick = Mrs Clay
Mr Ben Landor = William Craddock
Rev. Maynard Gilfil = Rev. Bernard Gilpin
Jonathan Lamb = James Wheway
Mrs Wagstaff = Mrs Wagstaff
Mr Lowme = John Towle
Mrs Raynor = Mrs Wallington
Thomas Hincks = Mr Tomlinson
Rev. Prendergast = Rev. Robert Bruce Stopford
Caterina (Tina) Sastri/Sarti = Sarah Shilton
Mr Baird = Rev. G.W. Sanford
Mr Pettifer = John Robinson
Mrs Pettifer = Mrs J. Robinson
Durfey = Purefoy
Capt. Anthony Wybrow = Mr Parker-Newdigate
Sir Christopher Cheverel = Sir Roger Newdegate
Captain Wybrow = Sir Roger's nephew
Lady Henrietta Cheverel = Lady Hester Newdegate
Sir Anthony Cheverel = Sir Richard Newdegate
Mr Oldinport = Charles Newdegate-Newdigate
Mr Ely = Rev W.W. King
Joseph Kem = Silas Marner
Rev. Edgar Tynan = Rev. J.E. Jones
Mr Pullet = Richard Johnson
Mrs Pullet = Mrs R. Johnson
Bob Jakin = William Jacques
Mrs Patten = Mrs Hutchinson
Mr Crewe = Hugh Hughes
Mrs Crewe = Sarah Hughes
Nancy the servant; Martha Hough
Edward Tulliver = Thomas Hollick
Mr Tomlinson = Thomas Hincks
Mrs Linnett = Mrs Hill
Miss Linnett = Mary Hill
Miss Linnett = Rebecca Hill
Harold Transome = Dempster Heming
Mr Brand = William Harris
Mr Carpe = George Hake
Mr A. Duke = Henry Hake
Amos Barton = John Gwyther
Milly Barton = Emma Gwyther
Mr Pittman = George Green
Susan Deane = Ann Garner
Mrs Short = Mrs Fitchett
Rev. Martin Cleves = Rev. J. Fisher
Mr & Mrs Hackit = Mr & Mrs R Evans
Adam Bede = Robert Evans
Caleb Garth = Robert Evans
Mr Hackit = Robert Evans

Mr Poyser = Christiana Evans
Mrs Hackit = Christiana Evans
Celia = Christiana Evans
Lucy Deane = Christiana Evans
Thomas Tulliver = Isaac Pearson
Maggie Tulliver = Mary Ann Evans
Aunt Deane = Mary's sisters
Aunt Glegg = Mary's sisters
Aunt Pullet = Mary's sisters
Dinah Morris = Elizabeth Evans
`Seth Bede = Samuel Evans
Mr Jerome = John Everard
Jane Glegg = Mrs Mary Everard

LEE (J.) monumental stone carver at Bedworth

1857-71 John Ramsbottom was chief mechanical engineer of the L.N.W.R.(not a local man)

1858 One of the driest winters on record.

A whirlwind recorded at Attleborough.

Albion Mills built at Attleborough, the design retained weaver's cottage below and factory shed above. They were heavily restored in the early 1990's.

St. James church, Weddington; there was a dated plaque by Catherine Sanford wife of Rev. G. Sanford noting restoration of font.
7th Oct. a bright comet visible
Nov. The town surveyor approved design changes to the Market Place

Dec. Poors Piece Quarry stone was taken without permission (top of Tuttle Hill)

Lord Palmerston encouraged Volunteer Rifle Regiments to establish to protect Britain against Napoleon

1858-59 Tory Government

1859 (16th Jun.) to 1861 (10th Feb.) Joseph Scrivener senior died: 64-7? years old.

Alfred Lester Scrivener (founder of the Observer 1877) left Nuneaton.
George Eliot's 'Adam Bede' and 'The Lifted Veil' published.

Mrs Isabella Beeton's book of "Household Management" published. It mentioned French Fried potatoes (chips)!

Darwin's "Origin of Species" - this caused much debate in the church, science and education. His ideas on evolution discredited Lamarck's earlier notions. By the late 20thC. many of Darwin's ideas were being re-interpreted. Many organisms were found that could pass on inherited or acquired characteristics and skills!

15th Feb. George Mackie, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

23rd Feb. Rev. John Gwyther Vicar of Fewston, wrote to say he knew Liggins and believed him to have written Scenes of Clerical Life.
Mar. W. Garratt applied for help to improve guttering along Wash Lane

Apr. Abel Vernon applied to the Council surveyor board for a spanner and a jack to maintain the town's fire engine

May. The surveyor order cut paving slabs to improve Abbey Street

Jun. Building and drainage works approved for Swan Lane (Croft Road)

Jul. the town surveyor was directed to lay foundation in New Street using black stone from the Parish pit

Aug. Special meeting of Nuneaton Board of Health to discuss problems with sanitation etc.

Sep. Town surveyor ordered drainage work in The Twitchell

Oct. Town surveyor ordered stone from Paulsford road to replace the exhausted supplies from the parish pit

Nov. Swinnerton applied to alter the corner at Weddington Lane by building works

Dec. The fire engine house to be repainted

1859-65 Whig Government/Liberal Government

1860 Thomas Townsend, the cotton doublers, acquired the Albion Buildings and they were converted into a factory.

Act of Parliament: The Mines Inspection and Regulations Act. This repeated the previous two acts and penalties and required the owner to declare in writing abandonment and opening of collieries. This helped to establish an official repository for mine plans.
Warwickshire coalfield output: 545,000 tons mined.

One of the wettest summers on record.

Anker Mills first opened as a cotton mill by public subscription to alleviate poor conditions in the local ribbon trade. This failed; the mill was taken over by Fielding and Johnson in 1886 who converted it into a worsted yarn mill.

The commercial treaty with France dealt a disastrous blow to the Nuneaton ribbon trade. It abolished the 15% duty on imported ribbons.
Jodrell Collection recorded Thomas Winfield tenant farming Teddy Kem's Heaven site for owner Edward Tomkinson.

George Eliot's 'The Mill on the Floss' published

Post Office Directory: Joseph Scrivener, George and Dragon, Rope and Twine maker Wash Lane and Joseph Scrivener, Printer, Abbey Street.

Edward Noel Nason born; he became a founder member of Nuneaton Cottage Hospital

The Phantom bicycle invented

17th Apr. The last bare knuckle fight held in England (no local connection)

The Albion Mill was converted when Thomas Townsend (a cotton doubler) took them over, the weaving shed was put on the upper floor with the weavers living on the ground floor.

Griff No. 5 shaft sunk. British Coal output reached 100,000,000 tons.

1860? H.W. Bellair published "Traditions of Nuneaton and its neighbourhood" (poems)

F.D. Robertson at Chronicle Office. Bellairs had local family connections from 18th to 19thC.

c.1860 Higham Grange constructed

1860-69	Alfred Lester Scrivener received a prize from Walworth College, London and also worked for the Birmingham Daily Gazette.	
1861	Nuneaton Ribbon trade depressed, a Relief Committee took a census of the workers in the Nuneaton-Coton area that showed that half the weavers were out of work.	
	CENSUS	
1861	30th April	
	Census records 'Scrivener's Yard in Wash Lane, but no Scriveners lived there, mainly miners, silk weavers and labourers (about 20 in total)	
1861	43 Market Place	
	Charles Buchanan Attorney at Bar	55 yrs born Ashbourne (1806)
1861	125 Camp Hill	
	John Craddock Banker	75 yrs born Nuneaton
	The only Scriveners in 1861 Census :	
1861	96 Abbey Street	
	Sarah Scrivener (Head)	33 yrs Grocer and Printer, born Waltham
	Henry John Scrivener son	6 yrs Scholar, born Nuneaton
	Sarah Scrivener daughter	3 yrs Scholar born Nuneaton
1861	Church Street	
	Joseph Scrivener Manager of North Warwickshire Building Society	

1861 47 Church Street
Robert Wilson 19 yrs watchmaker born Nuneaton

1861 Attleborough 23 Church Street page 267
Joseph Henry Liggins 58 yrs Classical and Private Tutor

90 people worked in Brick and Tile industry with 42 in quarrying out of a male working population of 3,326.

After the census there were Parliamentary allegations that there were no more than 30,000 landowners, this was claimed to be a harmful monopoly. To settle this vexed question the Government ordered the Local Government Boards in 1872 to compile a return from rating records This was published as the Return of Owners of Land in 1873. (in 1874). It is an undervalued yet comprehensive historical archive.

George Eliot wrote and published "Silas Marner"

Weddington population: 74. Nuneaton population 13,046 (Town was 7,666) Warwicks 561,888, England and Wales 20,066,224 Census: William Cooper, clerk without care of lands lived at Weddington Castle. KAY owned the Castle.

A Relief Committee took a census of the workers in the Nuneaton-Coventry area that showed over half the weavers in Nuneaton and Coton were unemployed.

Horeston Grange buildings and paddock totally destroyed by the railway

Japanese larch introduced into Britain

27th Jun. a bright comet visible

Large cotton spinning and weaving mills built in Attleborough Road by joint stock company

Prince Albert died of typhoid, a few days before he had made an important diplomatic intervention in the American Civil War

1862 1st Jan. Nuneaton - Hinckley train service started

23rd Feb. James Quirk wrote to George Eliot with a pamphlet about Weaver's plight in Attleborough.

Mar. Town council received an application to convert part of the Holly Bush Inn, Bond End, to a slaughter house

Apr. The surveyor ordered the Wash Lane footpath to be completed

May. The town council approved the auditor’s report

Jun. Mr. Smith’s cess pool and grate at Whittleford were ordered to be completed

Jul. St. Nicolas parish churchyard needed drainage before it could be extended

Aug. Mr Ballard contracted to paint the fire engine

Sep. The town’s Board of Health served a notice on G. Minion of Hartshill because he had failed to deal with problems too numerous to list

Oct. The town fire engine needed a longer hosepipe

Nov. An obstruction in the road prevented coaches being handled near the Abbey Gate

Dec. The fire engine's new hose was purchased
Snowbell tree introduced into Britain

1862-63 George Eliot's 'Ro'mola' published in Cornhill

1863 Amington colliery opened

The Arts Society founded in London

Hereford area earth tremor felt in Nuneaton

9th Apr. Henry Shawe married Georgina Wilmot, daughter of Rev. Sir William Nigel Greasley.

20th May. The nature poet John Clare passed away (see 1793).

11th Jun. and 26th Nov. Alfred Lester Scrivener wrote in the Birmingham Daily Gazette

Isaac Swinnerton buried at St. James, aged 40 years. Son of Isaac and Ann Swinnerton.

27th Oct. Helen Jane Dewes died, wife of Henry Dewes, buried at Caldecote.

1864 1st Jan. Nuneaton to Leicester railway opened.

Court Pride of the Abbey (No. 4452) of the Ancient Order of Foresters founded in Nuneaton.

Katsura tree introduced into Britain

The Post Office Savings Bank set up.

12th Mar. River Anker flooded Nuneaton.

Edward Kem (Leicester) settled his children in Nuneaton Infant school, Vicarage Street - they did not stay long! When he died he left money to Joseph Jarvis of Atherstone. (see E.K. Jarvis 1805)

6th Aug. Auction at Weddington Castle.

Destitute Children's Dinner Society founded.
George Eliot's 'Brother Jacob' published

Nuneaton-Leicester and Nuneaton-Whitacre railway opened
1864-65 Charles Dickens "Our Mutual Friend" acknowledged he based Harmon (senior) on the gold hoarding misers Elwes and Daniel Dancer. (see Teddy Kem 1700, 1780)

1865 Henry Kay of Weddington Castle was buried at St. James, aged 56 years.

Apr. Warmest on record in central England

May. The Peacock Inn's drains were ordered to be repaired

Jun. Mr. Knowles wanted to enclose land the Bond and Bridge

Jul. The town surveyor ordered 100 yards of Abbey Street to be paved
Aug. A bill for new street light lamp posts was £1
Sep. Bones that were found in Wash Lane were ordered to be removed

Oct. Mr. Bindley wanted to extend his Quarry Yard at Stockingford

Nov. Attleborough and the Meadow footpaths were ordered to be repaired

Dec. Midland Railway sent a letter to the Council about the footpath to Weddington being satisfactory

"Commons" Preservation Society founded.

1865-66 Liberal Government/Whig Government

1866 F.H. Kay owned Weddington Castle

Benjamin Broadbent and Jacob Stanley acquired 2 brickyards/clay pits in the Croft Road area.

Extracts from a Warwickshire Trade Directory recorded the following: There was a statute in place with regard to hiring servants at local markets: 14 days before Michaelmas.

John Baraclough: printer, bookseller, binder, stationer, newsagent, agent for Horniman's Tea.

Joseph Baraclough: gravestone cutter

John Estlin: solicitor

C.N. Newdigate, J.N.F. Astley, C. Allison, S. Dugdale, A.C. Prettyman,
H.R. Harpur and R.R. Jee: Magistrates
H. Clews: Gasworks secretary
H. Farrow: ironstone contractor
J. Adams: Coton blue brick maker
Samuel Young: Governor of the Poor House
W. Camwell: road contractor, Marston Jabbett
Richard Lerins de Bary, owner Weston Hall
J. Hewitt: wheelwright, Burton Hastings

Local authorities compelled to appoint sanitary inspectors

The Nuneaton Institute established in Newdegate Street

Nov. The Leonids meteor shower gave spectacular shooting stars in the Midlands night sky

George Eliot's 'Felix Holt' published

1866-68 Conservative/Tory Government

1867 4th Jan. Very cold day in the Midlands

Feb. Town's stone pits to be inspected to see if they were still suitable

Mar. Stone pit at Stockingford was assessed by the surveyor

Apr. Messrs. Powers, Farrow, Palmer, Nowell, Hand, Ford, Nason were elected on to the town Board

May. Jebson applied for permit to kill pigs next to his house

Jun. Sewers ordered as part of Attleborough house building plots

Jul. Letters of complaint about Jebson's plan to kill pigs

Aug. Extra street lighting ordered, based on the previous winter's experiences

Sep. Market Place repairs ordered

Oct. A new rate set to pay for gas lighting

Nov. John Sand’s new building plan for Wash Lane approved

Dec. Town Clerk to write to Craddock about the nuisance his activities were causing.

Factory Acts applied to more industries. Dr. Barnardo's first home established in the Stepney slums.

Reginald Stanley returned from gold prospecting in the U.S.A. He joined his brother Jacob at Midland Brick and Tile Company

Open-hearth steel developed, Combined seed drill invented

British meteorological office records began on a daily basis.

2nd Great Reform Act allowed all rate payers to vote

London received 62,000 tons of coal from Warwickshire.

George Eliot's 'How Lisa loved the King' published

1868 Local earth tremor

Mrs. Kay at Weddington Castle, R. Swinnerton at The Grove, also a grazier,

George SANFORD, a farmer, John CROFTS a farmer.

Jodrell Collection recorded Thomas Winfield tenant farming Teddy Kem's Heaven site for owner Edward Tomkinson.

Catholic Truth Society founded in London.

The Royal Historical Society founded in London.
26th May. The last public execution (in London).

Disraeli, Prime Minister, Conservative Government.

George Eliot's 'The Spanish Gypsy' published

6th Jun. Vol. 1 of the Nuneaton Chronicle newspaper established.

Nuneaton Trent Valley station was altered. Harper of Coton House was given a silver cup to mark his guardianship of Coton Poor House (College for the Poor or Workhouse).

10th Jul. Explosion at Griff Colliery sawmills.

5th Dec. Joseph Rowbottom (of Weddington tithe awards and farms 1842) tried to commit suicide by walking on the railway lines near Attleborough Sandstone quarries.

1868-74 Liberal Government

1869 George Eliot's 'Agatha' published

The Harleian Society (family historians) founded in London

Jan. John Argyle applied to the council to sell meat on market days (from a table outside his house)

Feb. Samuel Kinder submitted a tender to the town council for stone carrying for road repairs; his rate was 5s per ton per mile

Mar. Marston Lane should be adopted, some of it had been repaired and the surveyor was asked to look at adopting it

Apr. Weddington's wooden footbridge was in poor repair, Nuneaton asked the Parish if they would supply 50% of the cost.

May. Weddington agreed to provide half the money to build a new bridge

Jun. J. Bostock, W. Iliffe, J. Orton, J. Sands, W. Garratt wrote to the council to complain about the smell from the gas works

Jul. Chairman of the Board of Health went to London to inquire about loans to build new sewage works

One of the driest summers on record

Aug. Nuneaton-Ashby Joint Railway line under construction, River Anker overbridge was piled with greenheart wooden piles. Contractor Barnes and Beckett of Rochdale, contract valued at £171,900. They made heavy losses on the contract.

16th Nov. The Suez canal opened

Benjamin Broadbent resigned from Nuneaton's Midland Brick and Tile Co.

Thomas Bottrell died, his will left £4,000 towards building a new church at Nuneaton.

1870 George Eliot's 'The Legend of Jubal' and 'Armgart' published
Edward Seymour of Scribner and Co of Limpsfield, London, wrote to G.H. Lewes; he asked if George Eliot would write a short story for his magazine, Scribners Magazine, founded 1870. He was told no!

Hanging, Drawing and Quartering abolished in England (last person so treated was in 1746)

Attleborough Sandstone Quarries (next to the railway line in Lutterworth Road) employed several Attleborough families on sandstone (Bareing Bed) excavation and quarrying. An average weekly wage of 12s 6d (62.5p) e.g. Gudgeons, Amos, Mallabone, Paul and Garrett.

The hat industry was introduced into the town.

Summer - a maximum period of sunspot activity.

4th Aug. The Red Cross founded.

Education Act: forced local authorities to build schools introduced elementary education for all. (5-13 yr olds)

Warwickshire coalfield output: 647,540 tons mined

c.1870 Automatic lathe invented and the electric furnace for steel

1871 Local earth tremor

The town's sewerage was to be prevented from entering the River Anker.

Weddington population: 84. Nuneaton population 12,868 (Town was 7,399). Warwicks 634,189 (633,902?), Eng. Wales 22,712,266

CENSUS

1871 15 Market Place

Frederick J. Palmer Haberdasher
Alfred Lester Scrivener (cousin) 25 yrs Commissioner's Agent born Nuneaton

19th Jul. Roman Coin hoard found near Harrow Brook.

Rev. Savage died; previous to his appointment no vicar had lived in the parish for more than a century

The Bank Holidays were recognised as a right for the working person

Trade Unions made legal.

Test Act relaxed the conditions for admission to Universities.

Elizabeth Kay died, wife of Henry KAY. Aged 61 yrs.

Shakespeare: Variorum-Furness version published; the written language of

Shakespeare was now easily available - Scrivener certainly quoted from it.
Frederick Henry Kay owner of Weddington Castle. R. Swinnerton at The Grove.

1871-72 Leicester Road bridge constructed, it replaced the level crossing that controlled the London North Western Railway (later known as the Trent Valley Line and West Coast Main Line)

George Eliot's 'Middlemarch' published

1871-1903 Francis William Webb was chief mechanical engineer of the L.N.W.R. (not a local man). He was prolific inventor, he turned Crewe works into one of the most efficient engine building facilities. Many of his engines broke the speed records to the north (often passing through Nuneaton).

1872 Weddington Vicar Rev. Richard Samuel Bracebridge Heming Hall

Joseph Liggins died destitute in Nuneaton Workhouse (Relieving Officer J.Wall) (see 1801, 1824, 1851, 1861 & 1872)

Secret ballot for elections.

One of the wettest years on record.
Biela's Comet appeared as spectacular meteor showers.

National Agricultural Labourers Union founded.

Joseph Arch led agricultural labourers who formed a Trade Union; some gained better wages but many were evicted

Henry Walford Bellairs vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Charles Holt Bracebridge died.

Bond Gate tramway disused. It was a horse drawn wagonway from Mr Knowles Mill to Trent Valley Station.

9th Sep. Dry bread colliery accident; 2 killed and 9 injured

Act of Parliament: Coal Mines Regulation Act. This required all mines to deposit an accurate plan of a mine at abandonment, it had to list the reasons. These plans were later transferred many times afterwards in 1990's they became housed at Bretby, Burton on Trent.

The report from the Joint Committee of Lords and Commons: this concluded that competition in the railway industrycould not go on indefinitely.

1st Oct. foundation stone laid at the Wesleyan Chapel

5th Dec. The Mary Celeste ship found abandoned in the Atlantic the story caught local people's interest.
Samuel Butler's "Erewhon" published

The Midland Railway admitted third class passengers to all trains, previously expresses had been first and second class only!

A very wet year!

c.1872 Stockingford "Dry Bread" colliery opened: the origin of the name has produced several explanations a preferred one was the wages were so poor all the collier could afford to live on was dry bread. The alternative - the majority of local collieries were wet; that usually spoilt the food taken down them. This colliery was dry and so the bread stayed dry.

1872-80 Rev. G. J. Eustace was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1873 Weddington Advowson passed to Rev. Richard Samuel Bracebridge Heming Hall

Robert Swinnerton buried at St. James, aged 60 years, he lived at The Grove (Weddington).

16th May. Gervaise Rainey Pennington, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

7th Jun. Henry Arthur Dewes died, buried at Caldecote.

1st Aug. Nuneaton-Ashby Joint Railway line opened for goods traffic. Trent Valley line widened in Weddington.

First petrol engine

1st Sep. Nuneaton-Ashby Joint Railway line opened for passenger traffic.
Rev. George Mackie of Coton, died.

Frederick H.J. Kay owned Weddington Castle : acreage 122Ac 1R 1P valued £401 9s.

Frederick H. Kay at Weddington Castle; Sarah Swinnerton at the Grove; G.W.Taylor at Grove Cottages.

1873-1903 Samuel Waite Johnson was chief mechanical engineer of the Midland Railway (not a local man) many of his engines were shedded at the Nuneaton depot

1874 30th Jan. Henry Nigel Pole born to Henry and Georgina Shawe.

21st Feb. Detail sale catalogue description of Weddington Castle in Nuneaton Chronicle, estate already sold by Kay.

First Trade Union M.P.s elected. The Public Worship Act. Any clergyman not using an authorised service could be summoned by the court.

SHAWE family held Weddington and occupied Weddington Castle.

Dempster Heming, son of George Heming of Weddington, buried at St. James, aged 96 years.

14th Mar. Nuneaton Chronicle published details of Oldbury Coal and Iron Company detailed reserves and life span of coal (80 yrs at 1,000 tons per day)

The Midland Railway introduced Pullman coaches for sleeping purposes.

A woollen mill was sited between Church Street and the River Anker and employed over 50 people. (later Union Wool and Leather) demolished in the late 20thC. for Sainsbury's.

13th Jul. a bright comet was visible

Francis White's Trades' Directory for Warwickshire

Ansley Hall	John N.F.L.Astley
Ansty Hall	Thomas Brooke, Capt. George C. Adams
Arbury Hall	C.N. Newdegate
Arley Slowley Hall	J.C. Minett
Astley Castle	Capt. Barnett
Atherstone Hall	Rev. B. Compton
Attleborough Hall	Thomas Townsend
Baddesley	Joseph Tompson
Barnacle	Rev. Joseph Orton
Bentley	William S. Dugdale
Binley	Earl of Craven
Bramcote	William Ward, William Witherington
Bulkington Villa	Thomas Croft
Burton Hastings	William Henson
Caldecote Hall	Capt. Henry Townsend
Caldwell Hall	Harper Crewe
Camp Hill Hall	Richard Ramsden
Corley Hall	Joseph Rock Cooper
Coton House	John Robinson
Coundon	Sir Thomas White/Joseph Liggins
Exhall Grange	John Neale
Exhall Hall	Arthur Startin
Exhall Moat House	Edward Wilson
Fillongley	C.B. Bruce
Grendon Hall	Sir George Chetwynd Bart.
Griff House	C.N. Newdegate
Hartshill Grange	Kirby Fenton, J. Taverner
Hartshill Manor/Castle	
Haunchwood House	John Nowell
Hawkesbury Hall	
Hopsford	John Hewitt
Mancetter Manor	Henry Bury
Marston Hall	Thomas Orton
Merevale Hall	William S. Dugdale
Monks Kirby	Feildings
Newland Hall	George Walker Camwell
Oldbury Hall	Lady Manners
Over Whitacre	Edward Weston, Edward Wilson
Park House/Hartshill	Richard Alkin
Ryton	
Saunders Hall	William Croft
Shelford	Isaac Wells/William Henson
Sinney Field	
Smercote	
Soul End	Gardner
Stretton Baskerville	T. Stokes, F. Tomlinson, T. Brown
Walsgrave	Earl of Craven
Weddington Castle	Frederick Henry Kay
Weston Hall	R.L. De Berry, Capt. Frederick Henniker
Willey	Earl of Denbigh, William Townley
Witherley Hall?	
Withybrook	Lord Overstone
Wolvershill Hall	Elmer Brown
Wolvey Hall	Charles Insley

33 pubs, taverns and hotels listed in White's Directory. Attorneys: Bland, Buchanan, Dewes, Estlin and Wood.

The Return of Owners of Land 1873 published as a Command Paper from the House of Commons. The land ownership in Nuneaton (excluding adjacent parishes like Attleborough, Weddington etc.) shows that most of the land belonged to eleven people.

Rev. H. Bellairs owned just over 202 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £493

Ebenezer Brown owned just over 3 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £95

Joseph Hood Clay owned just over 59 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £202

Joseph Cooper owned just over 15 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £102

Thomas Craddock owned just over 14 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £162

Henry Dewes owned just over 154 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £484

Isaac P. Evans owned just over 119 acres at a gross estimated rentalof just over £290

John Evans owned just over 183 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £42
Catherine Wells owned just over 178 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £412

The Wool Company owned just over 7 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £271

Trustees of Thomas Hood owned just over 72 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £254

Trustees of Joseph Hood owned just over 284 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £498

Trustees of 3 other charities owned just over 107 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £259

Charles Newdegate owned just over 5,318 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £8,318

Francis Newdegate owned just over 1,123 acres at a gross estimated rental of just over £1,518

There were a few others owning 1 or 2 acres valued at a few pounds!

Wright's: Globe Shakespeare version published

1874-76 Income Tax was very low at 2d in the pound

George Eliot's 'Daniel Deronda' published

1874-78 Alfred Lester Scrivener subscribed to "Funny Folk" whilst a member of Nuneaton Institute. He also read "Frasers Magazine", a source of fairy stories and all his favourite authors.

1874-80 Conservative Government

1875 Herbert Lewes died

15th Mar. Nuneaton Cemetery opened

Birch Coppice colliery opened

30th May. 3.00-4.00 p.m.Violent thunderstorm and floods, some fatalities.

Henry Cunliffe Shawe inserted three windows in St. James church nave, Weddington.

A tablet erected to Rev. Savage at St. Nicolas

More Public Health Acts

The Cross Act activated slum clearance

Agricultural depression deepened

1876 The Jodrell Manuscripts contained several documents related to Teddy Kem's Heaven Farm, the site, maps and measures of the owners. John Robinson owned the site. The name was probably coined after the Alfred Scrivener story of 1878.

Jan. Attleborough Road to have blue brick footpaths

Feb. Many local people suffered bronchitis, colds and chest infections
Mar. Rose's Patch well water was to be analysed, poor sanitation was causing concern in Abbey Street and Midland Road

Apr. The practice of giving children opium and narcoticswas pronounced as unsafe in Nuneaton

May. Small pox outbreak at Bulkington. The well at Rose's Patch was cleansed

Jun. Rubbish was tipped in the council's quarry, much of it had to cleared before fresh stone could be quarried

25th-26th Jun. Battle of the Little Big Horn, General Custer was totally defeated by Crazy Horse (Tashunca Uitco). Crazy Horse was likened to an Amerindian Jesus because he cared for the sick and homeless and took on the burden of their plight. After this defeat the American military machine were unrelenting in the task of utterly defeating the American Indian.

Jul. Youths congregated in the town near Knowle's Yard, New Bridge Street, their noise and language was bad

Aug. Attleborough Road bridge was left in a bad state after recent works

Sep. Samuel Sharpe, of Hinckley, was fined 10 s for selling unfit fish in Nuneaton

Oct. A temporary cess pool was created in Hinckley Road

Nov. A new privy, designed in West Bromwich, was approved by Nuneaton's surveyor

Dec. Scarlet Fever, epidemic in children

The first telephone developed.

The 4 stroke internal combustion engine re-invented by Nikolaus Otto. He made numerous improvements on the Etienne Lenoir 4 stroke engine of 1862.

Curtailment of Enclosures: this barred enclosures unless the Commissioner considered it was beneficial to the community.

Rev. Canon Frederic Rawlins Evans became vicar of Bedworth (see 1842).

Birmingham Public Library purchased "The STAUNTON COLLECTION" from William Staunton of Longbridge. Unique collection of Warwickshire antiquarian documents. It was assembled by W. Sharpe, W. Hamper etc. over years. THIS ACCOUNTED FOR THE ABSENCE OF MANY LOCAL DOCUMENTS.
Dec. Nuneaton Chronicle: article on old Nuneaton

1876-77 Nuneaton Trent Valley station enlarged.

1877 28th Jun. Griff railway branch extended to Westbury Road

Alvecote colliery opened

The phonograph developed

2nd Nov. William Wilson (music seller and stationer) founded Nuneaton Observer at 126 Abbey Street

Nuneaton Observer articles by Alfred Scrivener

2nd Nov.	Rambles Roundabout	No. I	Nuneaton
9th Nov.	"	"	No. II Nuneaton - the churchyard
16th Nov.	"	"	No. III Nuneaton- some old Taverns
23rd Nov.	"	"	No. IV Attleborough, Nuneaton
30th Nov.	"	"	No. V Caldecote
7th Dec.	"	"	No. VI Among the looms
14th Dec.	"	"	No. VII Burton Hastings, tragedy of Shelford Manor
21st Dec.	"	"	No. VIII Nuneaton Church
28th Dec.	"	"	No. IX

It appears that some time in this period Alfred Lester Scrivener was given the battered pages of the unique Nuneaton Diary as compiled by John Astley. The diary covered the period of 1810 to 1845, but many pages had already been lost.

Scrivener proceeded to extract many stories from the diary and serialised in the 1878-9 editions.

The name Teddy Kem's Heaven was cited by Scrivener in November 1877 Observer article. This inferred that it had been long known by that name.

Local landmarks (e.g. Lynch Spring, Kem Street) <Dumble Hole and Lynch Meadow were known in the 1690 Hewitt Survey and 1733 from the Enclosure Award> and the Ordnance Survey accepted these names and they were recorded for posterity.

St. Mary's church rebuilt on site of old church. James Tomkinson M.P. gave the site and Thomas Bottrell gave generous endowments. A new district St. Mary's, Nuneaton was created and Rev. J. Dunne Parker appointed. Font came from Glympton in Oxfordshire. Clapton Rolfe (architect) the project was partly funded by Thomas Botterill a silk master who lived in Wood Street, Cripple Gate London.

The price of wheat was 56s 9d a quarter (£2 83p per 12.7 kg) 3,630,000 acres (5,672 sq.miles or 14,520 sq.km) of wheat were grown. Over 5 times the area of Warwickshire. It's price then began to fall non-stop until 1894.

One of the wettest winters on record

1878 Nuneaton Observer articles by Alfred Scrivener:

4th Jan.	Rambles Roundabout		No. X Mancetter	
(and a weekly fiction story not by ALS: The Strange Claimant)				
11th Jan.	"	"	No. XI	
18th Jan.	"	"	Diary of an Old Townsman extracts from the Nuneaton Diary of John Astley continued every week until:31st May. Concluding notes on the Diary	
7th Jun.	Hartshill revisited after 40 years			
14th Jun.	"	"	2nd Series	No. 1 Drayton Manor
21st Jun.	"	"	"	No. 2 Atherstone
28th Jun	"	"	"	No. 3 Atherstone - eve of Bosworth
5th Jul.	"	"	"	No. 4 Bosworth Field
12th Jul.	"	"	"	No. 5 Atherstone - priory and manor
(new fiction weekly story not by ALS: Trials and Triumphs)				
19th Jul.	"	"	"	No. 6 Some Atherstone worthies
26th Jul.	"	"	"	No. 7 Atherstone - some old trades
2nd Aug.	"	"	"	No. 8 Hartshill
16th Aug.	"	"	"	No. 9 Hartshill Castle
23rd Aug.	"	"	"	No. 10 Ansley
30th Aug.	"	"	"	No. 11 Fenny Drayton – the first Quaker
6th Sep.	"	"	"	No. 12 Bedworth
13th Sep.	"	"	"	No. 13 Bedworth – church and dissent
20th Sep.	"	"	"	No. 14 Bedworth - coal and collieries
4th Oct.	"	"	"	No. 15 Bedworth charities
11th Oct.	"	"	"	No. 16 Villages in the coalfield
18th Oct.	"	"	"	No. 17 An old Warwickshire ballad
25th Oct	"	"	"	No. 18 Bulkington
1st Nov.	"	"	"	No. 19 Astley church
8th Nov.	"	"	"	No. 20 Gunpowder plot
15th Nov.	"	"	"	No. 21 Bulkington
22nd Nov.	"	"	"	No. 22 Warwickshire Ribbon Trade to 1824
29th Nov.	"	"	"	No. 23 Warwickshire Ribbon Trade
6th Dec.	"	"	"	No. 24 Bulkington – fortune telling extraordinary
13th Dec.	"	"	"	No. 25 Chronicles of Coventry
20th Dec.	"	"	"	No. 26 Chronicles of Coventry
27th Dec.				The story of Teddy Kem's Heaven

Ansley Hall colliery opened

11th Mar. Alfred Lester Scrivener married in Wilnecote, Church of England, Elizabeth Palmer Davis, daughter of David Davis, shoemaker

Jireh Baptist church built at Attleborough. William Booth founded the Salvation Army.
12th Jul. Two Nuneaton businessmen offered subscriptions toward a new recreation ground.

The dog licence created by Act of Parliament, it was eventually abolished some 110 years later!

Jacob Stanley left Midland Brick and Tile Co.
Late summer - a minimum period of sunspot activity

17th Oct. Nuneaton brewery commenced operations. Mr John Knowles, the local miller converted his disused flour mill in Bridge Street into a brewery. The mill connected to Trent Valley Station by a horse drawn rail line. This was dismantled in 1872 and was not used to carry beer. The brewery was not successful and was sold in 1881.
Astley church opened after restoration. Nuneaton Grammar school sold land in Coventry. Meeting at National Schools to promote the formation of a Coffee House company.

27th Dec. A quality story appeared in the Nuneaton Chronicle by Gordon Selborne "A wicked whisper" a genuine Midland's author. The Nuneaton Observer published their Christmas Story - TEDDY KEM'S HEAVEN, set in 1745. Found among the posthumous papers of "Nehemiah Addlesoul". The language and events suggested a Mid-Victorian date for the writer; it was most likely a "nom de plume" for Scrivener. How much was based on Joseph Kem, Daniel Dancer and Jemmy Taylor was hard to determine. The story suggests how the farm was named. The majority of the story was in a British setting. It draws heavily on the 1877 facts reported by Scrivener in the Observer article on Attleborough

1879 Nuneaton Observer articles by Alfred Scrivener:

10th Jan. Coventry elections new weekly fiction story not by ALS:
Farmer's foundling) 17th Jan.Warwickshire 200 years ago
7th Feb. Nuneaton and Bedworth Board of Health
7th Mar. Nuneaton Charities
14th Mar. Atherstone and Mancetter Charities

21st Mar.	Works and Workers		No. 1 Brick and Tile
28th Mar.	"	"	No. 2 Cotton spinning & weaving
11th Apr.	"	"	No. 3 Nuneaton Wool Company Works
2nd May	"	"	No. 4 North Warks Coal Field
9th May	"	"	No. 5 North Warks Coal Field
16th May	"	"	No. 6 North Warks Coal Field
30th May	"	"	No. 7 The Nuneaton Flour Mills (not Mill Walk)
13th Jun.	"	"	No. 8 Chilvers Coton Iron Foundry

27th Jun. George Eliot's Warwickshire
4th Jul. (new weekly fiction not by ALS : e.g. Marian's secret)

11th Jul.	Works and Workers		No. 9 Messrs. Jones and Underhill's elastic web Factory Attleborough
25th Jul.	"	"	No. 10 Messrs Hall & West

22nd Aug. " " No. 11 An old weaver's shop

29th Aug. " " No. 12 Messrs Hall, Phillips,
Hat Manufacturers Atherstone and Nuneaton
5th Sep. " " No. 13 Hartshill Stone Quarries

3rd Oct. "" " No. 14 Nuneaton Brewery

24th Oct. (new weekly fiction story not by ALS: e.g. For the Red Rover)
5th Dec. (new weekly fiction story not by ALS: e.g. Conscript Brothers)
12th Dec. Notable men of our neighbourhood No. 1 Introductory gossip
19th Dec. " " No. 2 Sir William Dugdale
the Warwickshire Historian
26th Dec. (new weekly fiction story not by ALS: e.g. To be delivered immediately

11th Jan. Sat. The great fire destroyed Birmingham Library. The Staunton Collection was lost. Birmingham Post (13/1/1879) listed some of the contents; there were about 1,500 parcels. Nuneaton papers also list some - The 1880 Nuneaton Observer was not very informative however. Nuneaton Chronicle and Advertiser were better. Alfred Lester Scrivener used this collection, he quoted pamphlet No. 19,758 about Sir R. Newdigate.

(Jan.-Mar.) Alice Elizabeth Scrivener born to Alfred Lester Scrivener
One of the wettest summers and years on record; it ruined most crops and harvests.

2nd May. The sale of Caldecote Hall caused by the death of K. Fenton. Captain Townshend bought the Hall that included a library, plate, pictures and outbuildings.

The library contained copies of Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum, the Domesday Book and Throsby's Antiquities of Leeds. The estate would be re-sold in November 1924 after Townshend's death.

Wesleyan school Bedworth foundation stone. New buildings at King Edward VI Grammar School. Nuneaton Rugby Club founded.

George Eliot's 'Impressions of Theophrastus Such' published

1880 Nuneaton Observer articles by Alfred Scrivener:
9th Jan. Notable men of our neighbourhood No. 3 Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk
16th Jan. " "No. 4 Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk
23rd Jan. " "No. 5 The Glovers of Mancetter
30th Jan.
(new weekly fiction story not by ALS: e.g. Sister Minnie)
6th Feb. " No. 6 V Bishop Latimer and How the Market House was built
20th Feb. " "No. 7 Sir Anthony Cooke
5th Mar. " "No. 8 William Gadsby - ribbon weaver, stocking maker and preacher
19th Mar. " "No. 9 Earls of Warwick

(new weekly fiction story not by ALS: e.g. Unexpected guests)
26th Mar. " "No. 10 The Devereuxs of Merevale
9th Apr. " "No. 11 John Dagley of Chapel End
23rd Apr. " "No. 12 Michael Drayton
30th Apr. Curious Local Notes Staunton Collection
(new weekly fiction story not by ALS:e.g. Beatrice Chester)
7th May " "Nehemiah Grew and Diary of George Fox
14th May " "Ancillary buildings in Abbey Street, Atherstone 1720

21st May	"	"Old names of streets and places
28th May	"	"Nuneaton fired by the Cavaliers 1642
4th Jun.	"	"Political Doctor and Nuns at Oldbury
11th Jun.	"	"A subterranean passage and Rev. A. Barton
18th Jun	"	"Nuneaton Parish Registers, Oaston/ Horestone Grange
25th Jun.	"	"New bridge in Bond Street, Trent Valley Railway, George Eliot in Warwickshire
16th Jul.	"	"Cricket 50 years ago, Woodman in Arden
23rd Jul.	"	"St. Swithins, Hollow Sticks Land, Polly Button
30th Jul.	"	"Effigies in the Burgage
6th Aug.	"	"Holly Stitches, Colonel Purefoy, Warwickshire Yeomanry
13th Aug.	"	"Lady Jane Grey, Ancestral Warwickshire Sheep
20th Aug.	"	"Derivation of place names
27th Aug.	"	"Ancient use of coal as fuel
3rd Sep.	"	"Gout victorious, Lindley Hall, Bracebridge
17th Sep.	"	"Dr. Doddridge of Bedworth, John de Astley
24th Sep.	"	"Thomas Simpson the mathematician
1st Oct.	"	"Nuneaton Clergymen, Coventry Parliament
8th Oct.	"	"Wolvey, Nuneaton Market Place 50 years ago
15th Oct.	"	"Birmingham 1538, Jacquard Looms
22nd Oct.	"	"Land Tax Assessment in Warwickshire, Ansley 1784
29th Oct.	"	"Hanging money, Inscriptions at Caldecote (Miles)
5th Nov.	"	"Gibbett Hill, Sir Marmaduke Constable
19th Nov.	"	"Warwickshire During the Civil War, the late Rev. Bucknill
26th Nov.	"	"Holinshed's Chronicle, Bull Ring at Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton
3rd Dec.	"	"How potatoes were first eaten in England
10th Dec.	"	"The old rector of Weddington, founder of Merevale Abbey

24th Dec. The Maid of the Mill, A tale of Nuneaton Abbey
24th Dec. Readings for the Chimney Corner, romance of the Zodiac
31st Dec. George Eliot
31st Dec. New Year readings for the Chimney Corner

7th Feb. Nuneaton Rugby club's first match against Tamworth.

6th May. George Eliot married John Walter Cross

4th Jun. Alfred Lester Scrivener mentioned "The Staunton Collection" and a sermon by a Nuneaton man in 1800; also a pamphlet numbered 19,758 about Sir R. Newdigate. This confirms his reliable and extensive history sources. a pint of beer was about 2d a pint (0.8 p a pint then, about 96p in 2000 A.D.)

Nuneaton developed an extensive dairying agriculture

Centenary of local sunday school movement celebrated in Nuneaton.

20th Oct. Capt. Harry Townshend married the Hon. A.E. Brooks daughter of Lord Crawshaw of Whatton, Leics.

First light bulb invented.

Refrigerated meat cargoes began to reach Britain

Thomas Hardy's Blue brick and tile yard recorded in Nuneaton

22nd Dec. Saturday, George Eliot died, buried at Highgate Cemetery

24th Dec. 2 Christmas stories "Face in the Glass" and "The Maid of the Mill - a tale of Nuneaton Abbey" Alfred Lester Scrivener

1880-85 Liberal Government, Gladstone was Prime Minister

1880-95 Mechanical milking machines developed

1880-1908 Rev. S. G. Waters was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1881 Nuneaton Observer articles by Alfred Scrivener:

7th Jan.	Curious Local Notes	Bread Riots in Warwickshire
14th Jan.	"	Roman Remains at Mancetter
21st Jan.	"	Sir R. Newdigate's will
4th Feb.		(new weekly fiction not by ALS: e.g. The light of Elstone Hearth)
4th Feb.	Curious Local Notes	Prize fighting, cricketers, George Fox
11th Feb.	"	Pantomimes, Hansom Cab
18th Feb.	"	Old Guardhouse and Local mathematicians
25th Feb.	"	Wholesale evictions in Warwickshire, George Eliot etc.
11th Mar.	"	Farmer's Charity and Market House, Old and New Psalmody
18th Mar.	"	Fire at Bulkington 1672
(new weekly fiction not by ALS: e.g. Love levels all things and Chapter on Ireland)		
1st Apr.	"	Nuneaton Churchwarden's Accounts 1727-1841
8th Apr.	"	Nuneaton Churchwarden's Accounts 1727-1841
15th Apr.	"	Alleged Will of Sir W. Dixie Bart. of Bosworth Park
22nd Apr.	"	Norman Earls of Leicester, Thomas Carlyle
(new weekly fiction story not by ALS: e.g. A terrible secret)		
29th Apr.	"	Translator of Josephus, Ecclesiastical Squint, Old Workhouse
6th May	"	Burgage area
13th May	"	Twyford witches, The Burgage,
(new weekly fiction story not by ALS: e.g. A grateful traveller)		
20th May	"	Curious Easter customs, Blackatree Gate
27th May	"	Royal Red Gate, Cricket, Royal Oak Day
3rd Jun.	"	Chetwynds of Grendon, Chilvers Coton Free School
10th Jun.	"	Mural painting at Nuneaton, Coventry Fair 1848
17th Jun.	"	Three 'L's, Taters, Warwickshire Heroines

January 2nd week: 'The Graphic" featured extensive pictorial obituary on George Eliot by Alfred Lester Scrivener, although anonymous. This was possibly picked up by other journals who copied it or summarised it.

17th Jan. North Warwickshire Liberal Association established in Nuneaton.

21st Jan. Very cold day in the Nuneaton area

CENSUS 30th April

127 Abbey Street

Alfred Lester Scrivener	36 yrs	Printer/Editor of Newspaper
Elizabeth Palmer Scrivener, wife	34 yrs	
Alice Elizabeth Scrivener daughter	2 yrs	

126 Abbey Street

William Wilson 41 yrs Newspaper Printer/Proprietor born Nuneaton

Populations: Nuneaton = 8,470 (5268?); Coton = 3005;Stockingford = 1777; Bulkington = 1590; Attleborough = 1419; Astley = 244; Arley = 207; Caldecote = 109; Weddington = 81

The number of agricultural labourer and farm servants totalled 983,919 in Britain; this would fall to 689,292 in 1901.

(between 17 and 24th June partnership between Alfred Lester Scrivener and William Wilson finished) the front and rear page advert changed from Alfred Lester Scrivener and W. Wilson to just W.Wilson. No mention of this fact in newspaper editions for June or July 1881; no mention in January 1882 edition reviewing previous year, or June 1882 (a year on) or June 1891, 10 years on.

July-August editions contain stories in the style of Alfred Lester Scrivener but they are not credited to him. Andrew Wilkins of Coton replaced Alfred Lester Scrivener as Wilson's partner. Alfred Lester Scrivener left Nuneaton to live and work in Bootle, Liverpool, West Derby. There was no reference to him joining the Bootle Times in 1881 editions. (checked Bootle Times).

(Oct-Dec) Henry Edward Scrivener born to Alfred Lester Scrivener, registered West Derby.

4th Nov. Mr Griff Alkin bought Knowles brewery after its failure to profit.

The site was where (J.C. Smiths) Debenhams is in 2000. The brewery was for sale within 4 months.

24th Dec. Alfred Lester Scrivener wrote in Bootle Times p.3 'In the Toils' a Christmas Story.

Warwickshire coalfield output: 1,133,419 tons mined

St. James church, Weddington, restored for £1,600 by S. Fox to a plan by A. Bloomfield.

Some accounts say the whole tower was built then, this disagreed with Aylsford picture of 1820.
Married Women's Property Act.

1882 Mar. Nuneaton’s brewery for sale

2nd May. Baddesley colliery explosion 30 died. This great tragedy caused widespread charitable reaction. Many people donated money for the victims and their families, many booklets were produced. Commemorative plaques were placed in the district.

11th May. Adams Holford bought Nuneaton's brewery at an auction by Alexander Daniel and Co. of Bristol. The waters used were from similar soft sandstones as those of Burton on Trent.

Weddington had a new church organ

Highways Act banned "skimmity rides" or "loo-belling" in Warwickshire.

Those thought guilty of adultery or fornication were paraded in effigy along the streets. (see: the skimmity ride, The Mayor of Casterbridge, Thomas Hardy)

Sep. A brilliant comet split into four comets that may return between 2500 and 2800 A.D.

The Dictionary of National Biography: designed and published by George Smith with Sir Leslie Stephens as editor. It was transferred to the Oxford University Press in 1917. It included biographies of all national notabilities from the earliest times to 1900. There were various supplements to bring it into the 20thC. In 1996 work commenced on the New Dictionary of National Biography to be fully published by 2004.
Alloy steels invented.

Edward Melly came to Nuneaton from a mining engineering background at Sheffield.

1883 Weddington stained glass window to Shawe's son

16th Feb. Nuneaton Chronicle listed the following drinks brewed at Adams Holford's brewery in Nuneaton.

Name	Type	Price of a barrel
XXXB	Bitter	54 s
XXXMMild		54 s
IPA	East India Pale Ale	48 s
XXX	Strong ale	48 s
	Nuneaton	36 s
PA	Pale ale (special)	36 s
AK	Family bitter ale	36 s
KX	Mild ale	30 s
BS	Brown stout	48 s
P	Porter	36 s

The premises were again sold in 1890.

16th May. Stephen Taswell Taylor-Taswell, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

27th May. Krakatoa volcano erupted, within 6 months very colourful sunsets were reported in England.

1st Aug. The parcel post founded in Britain

7th Oct. Rev. Charles de Havilland appointed Vicar of St. Mary's

Nuneaton Trent Valley station began to see the luxurious 42 foot London North Western Railway sleeping-car with Francis Webb's ingenious designs in its radial axles.

24th Dec. Alfred Lester Scrivener wrote in Bootle Times p.3 'The Rice Lane Ghost' - a legend of Walton church

1884 12th Apr. Nuneaton Co-op opened its first store

May. Nuneaton Rifle Volunteers led by Captain Neale and Col. Sgt. Cleaver.

Nuneaton and District Ornithological Society meetings Nuneaton Lawn Tennis Club meetings

Jun. There was a fatal accident at Hawkesbury Colliery

Nuneaton Cycling Club meetings

Nuneaton's Hope (Lodge of Good Templars) meetings

1st Jul. 64 Hussars were billeted in the town and paraded in the Market Place next morning Nuneaton Floral and Horticultural Society meetings W. Trinder was charged with nuisance for keeping pigs in the Market Place

8th Aug. Newdegate Arms Hotel to be sold by auction

Aug. A splendid hot summer reported

The Annual Dinner of the Nuneaton Foresters (Pride of the Abbey)
5th Sep. Joseph Hood Clay found shot in a field near Lindley Lodge Farm

19th George Templar, a pedlar, was found drunk an disorderly in the town

Oct. The town's steam roller was to be moved to a shed in the spinney in Bond End because of its noise and nuisance.

Towns dirty water wells were to be cleansed because of typhoid risk

3rd Great Parliamentary Reform Act

Criminal Lunatic Act

Steam turbine invented

Fabian Society founded in London (Scrivener's family became involved)

1885 Alfred Lester Scrivener, a reporter, lived: 18 Trevelyan Street, Walton, Liverpool; (extant in 1990, rough brick, pre-1885, now red painted) recorded in 1885 'Gore' Trade Directory.

Huguenot Society founded in London

Jan. The gate money from the Nuneaton Rovers football match was used to treat the local poor people

Feb. Edward Roadnight (16 yrs old) was described as a juvenile tramp in Coton

Mar. The town council decided to widen the River Anker weir and its retaining walls in Coton. No action would be taken until the Local Government Inspector inspected it.

Apr. The town council proposed a new recreation ground.
Rev. Asquith gave a lecture on "Popular Mistakes" at the Blue Ribbon Gospel Temperance Barracks, Nuneaton.

15th May. A disastrous fire at Nuneaton Flour mills

26th Dec. Alfred Lester Scrivener published 'Fairies in Townland' - a tale of the chimney pots.

Biela's Comet appeared as spectacular meteor showers

Daimler's petrol engine invented

c.1885 Nuneaton town local population approximately 10,000; it had taken 120 years to double in size. (from 5,000 in 1765)

1885-86 Ordnance Survey re-mapped Nuneaton

Conservative Government

1886 The only remaining woodland in Weddington was in the Castle grounds.

Electric welding invented.

The price of wheat fell to 31s per quarter (£1 55p per 12.7 kg)

407,000 tons of Warwickshire Coal was sent for sale in Bristol.
Fielding and Johnson took over the Anker (cotton) Mill (see 1860)

John Knowles built Nuneaton Flour Mills, Mill Walk

Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances founded in London

John Scrivener Palmer in Trade Directory

9th Jan. A fire at Astley Castle

20th Aug. WILL and TESTAMENT of Alfred Lester Scrivener of Bootle-cum - Linacre in the County of Lancaster; Journalist

Liberal Government

24th Dec. Alfred Lester Scrivener died of Morbus cordis chronic dropsy (oedema)

John Knowles built the blue brick Nuneaton Town Mill (flour mill)

1886-92 Conservative Government

1887 The first detailed survey maps and plans of the area were published by the Ordnance Survey.

The sheet for Griff Warwickshire [XI 13] showed the problematical "Battery" site. This was originally thought to be a Civil War defence structure - hence Cromwellian Battery. The feature was re-interpreted in the 1960's and many suggestions were proposed for it: Iron Age or Roman structure; the grinding platform for the Neolithic / Bronze Age Griff Axe Factory, site No XIV. It was even cited as a possible Danish / Viking structure! Quarrying had totally destroyed it by 1970.

Truck Act extended (see 1831).

The gramophone invented.
1st Jan. The death of Alfred Lester Scrivener published in the Bootle Times. It mentioned his extensive illustrated stories in the 'Graphic' and his wealth of local historical knowledge.

7th Jan. 18" heavy snowfall

15th Jan. Local and district news about fund set up by W.H. Hughes for Scrivener's widow.

16th Apr. C.N. Newdegate M.P.(42 yrs for N. Warw.) died

21st Jun. Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the town celebrated and a beacon fire was built by local miners at Tuttle Hill.

One of the driest years on record.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote “A Study in Scarlet” that introduced his consultant detective Sherlock Holmes.

6th Dec. Robert Chadwick, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

Pottersgrove sand and gravel pit recorded at Bedworth

1887-90 In U.S.A. the American Indian began to dance the Ghost Dance; they believed after a mystical vision that they could not be killed by the rifle bullet. After nearly every treaty had been broken by the “white man” and every tribe moved from their original homeland the Amerindian was totally disillusioned. No one knows how many were killed, estimates vary from 1 million to 30 million in the whole of the Americas.

1888 Local earth tremor

26th Jan. Nuneaton steam fire engine inaugurated

Patty Townsend (the local artist) married.

Nuneaton Salvation Army Corps founded

12th Oct. A fire broke out in Ward's rick yard.

Griff No. 4 colliery opened.

The County Councils created in Britain.

School attendance made compulsory.

St. James church, Weddington had Bath Stone facings installed

The following gentry recorded at local houses:

Astley Castle	C. L. Adderley
Fillongley Hall	H. A. Adderley
Sheepy Lodge	Lady Arbuthnott
Wolvey Hall	Henry Fraser J. Coape-Arnold
Ansley Park	John N. F. Ludford-Astley
Weddington Grove	Stanes Brocket Henry Chamberlayne J.P.
Grendon Hall	Sir George Chetwynd Bart.
The Hall (Ath.)	Rev. Berdmore Cope
Weston Hall	Richard Lerins Bary
Merevale	John Stratford Dugdale
Mancetter House	Capt. J. Francis Upton
Hartshill	Richard Robert Jee J.P.
Weddington Castle	Frederick Henry Jewell Kay
Mancetter Lodge	Maj. Robert George Manley
Arden Hill (Ath.)	Hanson Sale J.P.
Weddington Castle	Henry Cunliffe-Shawe
Camp Hill Hall	Henry Stubbs J.P.
Caldecote Hall	Henry Townshend
Hartshill	Henry Norwood Trye J.P.

1889 9th Mar. River Anker seriously flooded the area

1st Apr. The first meeting of Warwickshire County Council

Reginald Stanley founded the Nuneaton Engineering Company; it was a continuation of Messrs. Hall, West and Co. They originally built engines, railway sidings, shaft fittings and cages and engine repairs.

The Institution of Mining Engineers founded in London

Coal Trade Benevolent Association founded in London

The Dunlop tyre was invented, the motor car developed further
17th Aug. A large gathering of local miners demonstrated about wages and working conditions

Summer - a minimum period of sunspot activity

The Nuneaton Dramatic (Company) Society was formed. 7th Nov. Monday: The first performance was "Old Father Time" adapted in 3 Acts by Edward Arnold Shute.
The Palace Cinema, Victoria Street opened.

1890 2nd Jan. Coton church re-opened

Housing Act

The excise duty on gold and silver abolished.

Lunacy Act

Housing Act increased slum clearance powers

18th Jan. Quarrymen's lodge opened at Tuttle Hill

30th Jan. Adams Holford brewery put up for auction by Sands and son. The list price was £3,300, but it failed to reach that price. The property was withdrawn and subsequently demolished.

18th Mar. Great Warwickshire coal strike settled.

29th Mar. Coton recreation ground opened

4th Oct. Nuneaton Institution of Trained nurses established in Princes Street

19th Dec. Local severe snowfalls

An influenza pandemic

Dec. Coldest on record in central England

1890's River Anker dredged as far as Weddington

Alfred Connor established a small cardboard box business. They made boxes for the shoe trade, later egg and fruit boxes and eventually games boxes.

During World War II they made ammunition boxes. The company was taken over in 1980 and soon went out of business.

1890-1900 First milk dispensary and health visitors

1891 Haunchwood Tunnel colliery opened

Elementary School education free

17th Apr. Lister and Co. purchased Townsend's mill at Attleborough

17th-18th May. Local heavy snow storms

22nd May. Queen Victoria passed through Nuneaton
28th Sep. A mass meeting in the Market Place to protest about a house in Arbury Road being given a licence to sell alcohol.

Griff Clara colliery opened
1st. Oct. Inaugural lecture at Warwickshire School of Mining by Mr Brailes

Wesleyan Chapel built on the corner of Stratford Street and Abbey Street, it replaced an earlier chapel on that site
One of the driest winters on record

Nuneaton population 17,426 (Town was 11,580)
Population:

Arbury = 216	Astley = 275	Attleborough = 1782
Bulkington = 1400	Caldecote = 138	Coton = 3707
Nuneaton = 7091	Stockingford = 2666	Weddington = 100

Weddington Census- Charles Pendry at Gardener's Cottage. Alfred French at the Grove, David Blythe at Warden's, Henry Badger at The Lodge, Henry Cunliffe Shawe at the Hall.

1st Dec. Trent Mills bought by London North Western Railway for £1,000

7th Dec. Permanent Building Society started in Nuneaton.

1891-97 Roman tile kilns excavated in the Caldecote Hill quarries

1892 Mar. Mr. Oakey, the solicitor, was appointed to act for the Attleborough Burial Board

29th Jun. Local violent storm

Sep. Plans for new cemetery inspected

Dec. New cemetery layout agreed for Attleborough

Keir Hardie first independent socialist (Labour) MP.

Rudolf Diesel patented the first diesel internal combustion engine based on the 4 stroke Otto cycle petrol engines of Nikolaus Otto.

First women factory inspectors
1892-95 Liberal Government

1892-1906 Francis Alexander Newdigate Newdegate was the M.P. for Nuneaton

1893 Medical Officer Report for 1892:
Nuneaton population: 7318; 6112 acres; general death rate 15.43
Stockingford population: 2777; 1763 acres; general death rate 17.35
Attleborough population: 1827; 1613 acres; general death rate 20.25
71 cases of scarlet fever
No cases of smallpox
7 cases of diphtheria
31 cases of typhoid

Local earth tremor.

Nuneaton and Coton amalgamated.

John Deed vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton.

Jan. Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton Isolation (Smallpox) hospital built at the junction of Mancetter Road and Camp Hill Road.

13th Feb. First Nuneaton Farmer's Union
One of the driest springs on record
Apr.- Oct. National coal strike

16th Jun. Attleborough Cemetery opened

16th Jul. Forester's and Druid's Fete

20th Jul. The Great Coal Strike began

20th Sep. Nuneaton General (Cottage or Manor) hospital opened

19th Oct. James Tomkinson laid a foundation stone in the Nuneaton Liberal Club on the corner of Stratford Street.

Independent Labour Party set up

1894 The price of wheat reached it's lowest: 22s 10d per quarter (£1 9p per 12.7 kg).

18th Jan. A dinner to celebrate the Jubilee of the Nuneaton Tradesmen's "Hope" Lodge of Oddfellows

Jan. A maximum period of sunspot activity

14th Apr. Joseph Hansom's cottage at Caldecote was pictured in The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News pp. 196-7

15th May. A new cattle market was opened near the town centre by Messrs. Whittingdale and Dyer

Jun. Measles epidemic kept many children away from school

Kingsbury colliery opened

14th Jul. Local heavy thunderstorm

1894-5 Dec. Midland Counties Tribune established by Harry Fieldhouse, he lived in Tuttle Hill Road. His name was associated with the Midland Counties Tribune until at least 1915

1895 1st Jan. The first meeting of Nuneaton and Chilvers Coton Urban District Council.

Ald. Hadden elected as chairman

9th Jan. George Taylor of Weddington, elected chairman of Nuneaton Rural District Council.

15th Jan. River Anker extensive floods. Severe frosts also freeze the Coventry Canal. The Thames froze over.

8th Feb. Very cold day in the Midlands

24th Mar. Terrific gale force winds

22nd Jul. New Theatre Royal opened
First mass circulation newspaper Daily Mail.

Reginald Stanley built Manor Court, Manor Court Road.
Observer passed from Wilson's control into a Limited Company (George Orton, George McCormick, Charles Wade and W. Bates)

20th-29th Oct. Local heavy snow storms

c.1895 The cinema developed

1895-96 Nuneaton population reached 20,000

1895-1900 Conservative Government

1896 The Observer Annual for 1896 listed many societies, churches, schools and committees in Nuneaton.

15th Apr. The first indication that man was changing the earth's climate - a phenomena known as global warming. Prof. S. Arnhenius proved that mankind's burning of fossil fuels was causing an increase in Carbon Dioxide production that would be trapped in the atmosphere.

The town jail house was constructed. It was finally converted into a wine bar in the mid 1990's.

Midlands earth tremor felt in Nuneaton.

The River Anker flooded.

Radio telegraphy, the modern Olympic Games celebrated in Athens.

Act of Parliament: The Coal Mines Regulation Act. This required greater detail to be shown on abandonment plans.

1896-1930 William Samuel and Mrs. M. Jane Meakin occupied "Teddy Kem's Heaven" as tenants under John Robinson. After Robinson died the ownership passed to his wife Elizabeth and daughter Ellen, later to Trustees Messrs. H. Arnold, H. Spells and R. Swinnerton in 1906. In the late 1920's Nuneaton Corporation became part owners of the site with Mrs. J. Meakin.

1897 Nuneaton Corporation bought the Robinson's End waterworks from the East Warwickshire Waterworks Company.
4th Mar. Nuneaton Law Courts opened

Mar. local cost of graves as follows: (for perpetuity)
9 ft x 4 ft x 6 ft reduced from £1 to 15 s
9 ft x 4 ft x 7 ft 6 in reduced from £1 5s to £1

Jun. the Council bought an iron roller for a £1

Sep. All town graves to be kept level and numbered

Dec. Attleborough Burial Board comprised: Ebenezer Brown, W. Satchwell, G. Wells, R. Jones

Pooley Hall colliery opened

Apr.-Dec. H. G. Wells "The War of the Worlds" was published in Pearson's Magazine
Workmen's Compensation Act

1898 Newdegate colliery opened

19th Apr. Whitwick Colliery disaster in the Upper Main Seam Pit 5. 35 died, many families left the Leicestershire coalfield and moved to the Nuneaton area.

Nuneaton Free Library opened in Coton Road, it cost £2,000 that was raised by public subscription
18th Jun. F. Newdigate laid the granite foundation stone for the new Nuneaton Conservative Club.

Gate Hotel (Temperance) built by Stanley

c.1898 The submarine developed from earlier concepts

1899 Borehole at Spring Pools, 6 miles from edge of the coalfield, proved coal at 1900 feet depth.

Mar. The ASPIRIN was first used as a treatment for headache; it would be used to treat more and more conditions over the next century. It took another 80 years research before the chemical functions were understood!

The Boer War began.

Part of the Trent Valley line widened in the Nuneaton-Attleborough area

17th Mar. General Joseph Jee was awarded the Victoria Cross, one of only three V.C.'s ever awarded to local people.

Commons Act: Authorities created to care for commons by District Councils

The Nuneaton Conservative Club was built and opened officially, it also contained "St George's Hall". The Conservative Club closed in the late 1990's.

29th Jun. Nuneaton Free Library opened.

A supposed tumulus at Higham on the Hill was partly excavated; a large wooden cross was discovered; it was the foundation of a Post Mill (windmill)

The area of U.K. wheat growing had declined to just over 1,820,000 acres (2843 sq. miles)

1899-00 An article was published, attributed to Alfred Lester Scrivener. "Nuneaton: A chapter of the Past". The literary style was unmistakably the same as Teddy Kem.

The local population growth (overall net gain per year) reached 1,200.

The average British life style was as follows:

Male life expectancy	45 years
Female life expectancy	49 years
People per household	4.6
School leaving age	12 years
Old age pension	5p to 25p range
Recorded crimes	77,934
Cars	a few
Number of building societies	2,200

The local population growth (overall net gain per year) reached 1,200.

Railways (people carried per year)	1,100,000,000
Death rate	600,000 per annum
Army numbers	726,000
Navy numbers	112,000
Main source of energy	Coal
People emigrating (in excess of those immigrating)	800,000 per annum
Tramway mileage	1,177 miles
Tram passengers	1,000,000,000 per annum

1900 3,099,863 tons of coal was mined in the Warwickshire Coalfield

Government policy relented to allow the old to receive adequate relief from the rates in their own home

Henry Stubbs became a J.P. He lived at Camp Hill Hall.

14th Jul. Prince of Wales foundation stone laid in a local building

The National Labour Party founded

Zeppelin's airship launched in Germany

14th Dec. Max Planck proposed Quantum Mechanics theory, this is regarded by many as more significant than Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.

30th-31st Dec. The River Anker flooded very badly

The George Eliot hospital could trace its origins back to this date

1900-01 Ireland and Knight purchased Moor Wood to quarry the local "dun dick" rock (or Spessartite Lamprophyre)

Nuneaton New Colliery was recorded in documents, it closed in 1922

The following settlements were mostly deserted. The new villages established on nearby fresh ground. The old villages often preserved features such as Ridge and Furrow (selions) and platforms: Ansley (DMV)(and Hall), Arbury (DMV?)(and Hall and Temple House), Astley (DMV)(and Castle), Attleborough (DMV?)(and Hall), Bramcote (DMV?), Bulkington (DMV?), Burbage (DMV?) and Hall), Burton Hastings (DMV), Caldecote (DMV)(and Hall), Coton (DMV?)(and Hall), Exhall (DMV) (and Hall), Fenny Drayton (DMV?)(and Hall), Galley Common (DMV), Griff (DMV?), Hartshill (DMV?)(and Castle and Grange), Higham (DMV)(and Hall and Grange), Hinckley (DMV?)(and Castle), The Hyde (DMV), Lindley (DMV?)(and Hall and Grange), Mancetter(DMV?) (and Manor House), Marston Jabbett (DMV)(and Hall), Oldbury (DMV?)(Hall), Rowden (DMV?), Ryton (DMV?), Shelford (DMV?)(and House), Shenton (DMV)(and Hall), Sinney (DMV?), Sketchley (DMV?)(and Hall), Sole End (DMV)(and Hall), Stoke Golding (DMV), Stretton Baskerville (DMV), Upton (DMV), Weddington (DMV) (and Hall/Castle), Weston (DMV)(and Hall), Witherley (DMV) (and Hall), Wolvey (DMV)(and Hall) and Wykin (DMV)(and Hall)

Churches existed at:
St. Nicolas, Nuneaton; All Saints, Coton; Attleborough Holy Trinity; St. James, Weddington; St. Theobald's and St. Chad, Caldecote; St. Peter's, Higham; St. James, Bulkington; St. Mary the Virgin, Astley;
St. Peter, Mancetter; St. Mary's, Hinckley; St. Botolph's, Burton Hastings; St. Margarets, Stoke Golding; St. Michael's, Fenny Drayton; St. John's, Lindley; St. John the Baptist, Wolvey.

The following Monastic sites existed: Nuneaton Priory and Alien Priory (ruins); Astley College (part of Astley), Arbury, Hinckley Cell and Oldbury Priory some foundations may be buried beneath the surface.

Caldecote White House, Caldwell Hall, Camp Hill Hall, Camp Hill Grange, Park House(Hartshill), Sketchley Hall and Grange, Wolvershill Hall existed at this time.

1900 Modern period of Architecture

End of the 19th Century

START OF THE 20TH CENTURY A.D.

1901 22nd Jan. Queen Victoria died at Osborne on the Isle of Wight (81 yrs old)

With the increasing availability of telescopes in the 19thC. many local and regional societies became increasingly interested in astronomical objects; one of the more spectacular sightings are meteorites. Here are the main recurrent annual showers:

1st - 6th Jan.	Quadrantids
Jan. - Feb.	Alpha Aurigids
Mar. - Apr.	Virginids
19th - 22nd Apr.	Lyrids
1st - 8th May	Eta Aquarids
20th Apr. - 19th May	Alpha Scorpids
4th - 6th May	Aquarids
May - Jun.	Ophiucids
Jun. - Aug.	Alpha Cygnids
5th Jul. - 20th Aug.	Capricornids
15th Jul. - 20th Aug.	Alpha Capricornids
15th Jul. - 10th Aug.	Delta Aquarids
27th Jul. - 17th Aug.	Perseids
Aug. - Oct.	Iota Australids
Aug. - Oct.	Alpha Aurigids?
Sep. - Oct.	Piscids
8th - 10th Oct.	Draconids
15th - 25th Oct.	Orionids
15th Oct. - 25th Nov.	Taurids
16th - 19th Nov.	Leonids
26th Nov. - 4th Dec.	Andromedids
5th Dec.	Phoenicids
9th-13th Dec.	Geminids
20th - 22nd Dec.	Ursids

SAXE-COBURG DYNASTY

The last century of the millennium witnessed dramatic world change brought about by: better health care, exploding world populations, versatile communication, the computer revolution, the car, aeroplane, radio and television. The pace of change gradually accelerated in spite of two devastating world wars. In Nuneaton the same forces exerted their own special influence; these were further modified by subtler forces e.g. Dutch Elm disease, European agricultural policies, the collapse of the coal, clay and quarrying industries. This was combined with the closure of the rail marshalling yards, the loss of all primary industry and the rise of the warehousing industry. The pace of life has kept on accelerating and threatens to continue.

6th Jan. Farmer W.S. Meakin died (late of Teddy Kem's Heaven), buried in Coton Cemetery with a Red Granite headstone.

22nd Jan. Edward VII crowned; he was the eldest son of Victoria and Albert. He smoked heavily and ate too much. He embarked on a number of goodwill visits abroad. His state visit to France in 1903 paved the way to the Entente Cordiale.

Arley colliery opened. Whittleford Pumping Station brought into use, daily yield about 600,000 gallons.

A.F.Cross resigned editorial charge of Observer to take over the Nuneaton Chronicle. Edward Hale took over at the Observer.

Jan. Local report on flood prevention measures needed for the local rivers, including more weirs.
Boxing legalised in England

Nuneaton entered the electricity-powered era

Capt. Townshend elected the Sheriff of Warwickshire (see 1924).

Nuneaton population 24,996; Weddington population: 106; Astley: 293; Burton Hastings: 138, Caldecote: 136 and Stretton Baskerville: 42

Griff Colliery Company's most profitable year, they made 16.2p profit per ton of coal produced.

1901-02 Bramcote hospital built.

1902 Nuneaton Urban District Council became an Education Authority

Ordnance Survey re-mapped Nuneaton

13th May. General Booth of the Salvation Army visited Nuneaton.

26th Jun. Nuneaton celebrated the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. They acceded to throne on 23rd Jan. 1901. The festivities started with the Union Jack flag being flown at 6.00 a.m. from St Nicolas church tower.

Children under 14 yrs were later given commemorative mugs, a souvenir card and tea party.

The official souvenir programme contained dozens of pictures of local gentry, businessmen, teachers, ministers and corporation officers. There was a prodigious number of local entrepreneurs who were responsible for steering Nuneaton's destiny at this time. e.g. Boon (quarry owner), Bostock (butcher), Bull (haberdasher, banking), Cartwright (secretary of Nuneaton Liberal club), Clay (draper), Cleaver (saddler), Clews, Coleman, Conner (Box manufacturer), Cox, Cross (Managing Director Prince of Wales Theatre), Daffern (butcher), Ensor* (quarry owner), Fieldhouse (Tribune proprietor), Fielding, Griffiths (quarry owner), Haddon (councillor), Hall (Factory managers and owners), Hickman (engineering works), Johnson (Nuneaton Wool and Leather and Board of Guardians), Judkins (quarry owner), Knox (colliery owner), Lester (chemist), Melly (politician), Moreton (Borough Surveyor), Nason (Doctor), Newdegate, Nowell (Colliery manager), Orton, Pallett (builder and timber merchants), Parsons (agricultural supplier and ironmonger), Powell (plumber and decorator), Randle, Shawe, Sherwin, Shute (tailor), Sidwell (baby linen), Slingsby (Regalia manufacturers), Clare Speight (photographer), Stanley (Brickyard owner), Stubbs, Swinnerton,Taberer, Poer-Trench (Colliery manager), Wincot (builder) and Yoxall (confectioner).

*Ensor - this family can trace their origins back to pre-Conquest times in settlements such as Wilncote. Many of them emigrated to America!

15th Jul. Oldbury Hall and fields conveyed from John Aubrey Knight to Archibald Hardie Jackson.

12th Dec. 6.00 p.m. King Edward VII passed through Nuneaton/ Weddington on a train to see Earl Howe at Gopsall.

Balfour Education Act, Local Education Authorities created and secondary education reorganised

1902-06 Bramcote hospital opened as a smallpox treatment hospital; it remained empty because no one had the disease.

1903 The first phase of the Nuneaton Co-operative Society opened as as a shop in Abbey Street

Mar. Oakey, the solicitor, was paid a salary of £2 10s (four times a year by the town). Lipton's Original Friendly Society were paid £26 11s 9d (four times a year)

Jun. The town caretaker requested a pay rise

Sep. The Attleborough Burial Board met

Dec. The Attleborough Burial Board comprised the following: J. Wilson, R. Jones, T. Sharrod, G. Wells, T. Compton etc.

Local earth tremor.

One of the wettest years on record

The aeroplane developed.

Car registration introduced.

Mrs. Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (later Suffragettes).

1903-04 The Independent and Zion groups re-joined and built a new church (later known as the United Reform). There were commemorative stones placed by George Orton and Mrs Henry Liggins on 3rd September.

1903-09 George Whale was chief mechanical engineer of the L.N.W.R. (not a local man). His main task was to make good the deficiencies left by the ineffective compound engines. He produced in very quick time two simple new designs the Precursors and Experiment, both of which saw frequent service through Nuneaton.

Richard Mountford Deeley was chief mechanical engineer of the Midland Railway (not a local man) many of his engines were shedded at the Nuneaton depot

1903-50 George Orwell (Eric Blair) born in Bengal, later came to England.

He wrote the following:

Down and out in Paris and London	1933
Burmese Days	1934
Keep the Aspidistra Flying	1936
The Road to Wigan Pier	1937
Homage to Catalonia	1938
Coming Up for Air	1939
Inside the Whale	1940
Animal Farm	1945
Critical Essays	1946
Nineteen Eighty-Four	1949
Shooting an Elephant	1950

1904 Nuneaton's Aston Papers transferred to the British Museum; they contained many unique and important documents going back to the Mediaeval period.

The Market Place clock (old “Town Hall “) was shown on many local picture postcards. However it was not shown in the 1887 Ordnance Survey town plans. Nuneaton Urban District Council’s Prevention of Floods Act.

Arley Colliery shaft sunk and proved the Warwickshire Thick coal.

Local earth tremor.

Henry Cunliffe Shawe married Violet Agnes, widow of Stephen Pember Druce.

23rd Mar. Joseph Scrivener Palmer died, the two families (Scriveners were rope makers and local journalists and Palmer) were almost extinct locally.

Whitsun: fine weather brought thousands of people into the town centre for the sunday school festival day

1904-07	Borings proved coal between Exhall and Corley.
1905	28th Jan. The Boer War memorial unveiled by General Buller in Bond Gate with a local parade.
	St. James church (Weddington). A new Stained glass window to Isaac, Elizabeth, Sarah and Robert Swinnerton.
	An autumn storm damaged the 4 sail Tuttle Hill windmill operated by William Francis Wright.
	27th Nov. Nuneaton Golf Club formed.
	Nuneaton's population reached 30,000
1905-09	Royal Commission on the Poor Laws advocated abandonment of the 1834 principles
1905-16	British Liberal Government
1905-23	In this period: River Anker straightened in Weddington
1905?	John Brindley and his family came to farm at Weddington Church Farm.
1906	Stubbs opened the Hippodrome (built by A.F. Cross and Ebenezer Brown)
	17th Jan. William Johnson M.P. laid a stone tablet in the Nuneaton Liberal Club.
	3,939,497 tons of coal mined in Warwickshire Coalfield
	Trades Disputes Act protected unions from civil law suits for damages arising from strikes
	10th Mar. Nuneaton Golf links opened.
	Tuttle Hill windmill rebuilt by Cable Works of Preston and converted to 5 shorter sails designed by Dick Blizzard (Nuneaton Museum contains a very accurate scale model of the windmill).
	Weddington Advowson passed to Rev. Bracebridge Lindsay HALL, the Weddington rector.
1906-18	William Johnson was Liberal-Labour M.P. for Nuneaton; he also served as general secretary for the Warwickshire Miners Association
	Sir Guy Granet, General Manager of the Midland Railway was a barrister by profession. He completely re-modelled the Midland Railway by setting up novel chains of command that later became the pattern for L.M.S.R. and later British Railways in the first stages of Nationalisation.
1907	16th Jan. Edward Melly gave Riversley Park to the town. Apr.-Jun. Henry Edward Scrivener married at Greenwich St. Catherines.
	Ultimately they had a daughter Enid, who married G. Napier. The last direct descendant of renowned local journalist Alfred Scrivener; who died in the 1990's.
	29th May. Martha "Patty" Townsend, the local artist, died.
	The Tatler building was finished, a terracotta crest with date commemorated that.
	First volume of Victoria History of the County of Warwickshire recorded unique stickleback species in the Change Brook at Weddington. Gasterosteus aculeatus leiurus

St. James church, Weddington installed a carved reredos in the church; it commemorated Alfred French.

Stockingford and Attleborough amalgamated into Nuneaton

6th Jul. Riversley Park declared open officially by Edward Melly

28th Sep. Charter Day festivities to celebrate Nuneaton's new civic status as a Borough. Jacko, the last town crier announced the details. The borough pursued a vigorous policy of attracting industry by cheap land and cheap electricity.

15th Nov. Nuneaton Borough Council's first meeting

Lord Baden-Powell devised the Boy Scout movement; the first camp was held at Dorset in August.

School Health Boards set up

A severe winter freeze, the canals were impassable.

c.1907 Mr. Clare Speight opened his photographic business in Coton Road, Nuneaton. He was related to the Victorian Speight photographers in Rugby; other relatives opened branches in Sutton Coldfield pre-World War II. He was an exceptionally gifted composer of pictures, especially celebrations of George Eliot themes; many of his plates were used for Nuneaton picture postcards.

1907-08 Joseph Fielding Johnson J.P. was the first charter mayor of Nuneaton; he founded the Nuneaton Wool Company, later re-named the Union Wool and Leather Company. He later lived at Attleborough Hall. He was chairman of the Waterworks Committee and Vice chairman of the Governors of Nuneaton General hospital.

1908 Trent Valley railway line widened in Atherstone-Nuneaton-Attleborough area

Old Age Pensions Act: it introduced Old Age Pensions for the first time.

Mar. Talk of a sub fire station being needed at Stockingford

23rd -25th Apr. Local heavy snow storms; the town needed better street lighting, the Gas Works would provide them

May. A new town abattoir was deemed necessary
Jun. The Town Band to receive a grant

30th Jun.-1st Jul. The Tunguska event in Siberia, a giant meteor exploded in the air. This caused bright coloured lights and barometric pressure drops in England. Theground shock wave hit Nuneaton 5.25 pm.

Jul. The need for a new Town Hall was considered

Aug. Fumes from the lime kilns at Haunchwood Road were complained about

Sep. A new cemetery extension was approved

Oct. Local Board of Health reported death rate at 10.5 in 1,000. Scarlet fever cases still sent to the Isolation Hospital

Nov. A new Town Crier was appointed

Dec. Complaints to the town council about night hawkers making too much noise

10th Dec. The National Farmers' Union founded in England

Lewis Coleman and Arthur McCormick took over Nuneaton Observer

1908-29 A. B. Holman was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1909 Yoxall's Nuneaton Pork Pies were "requested all over the world"

Binley colliery opened

Jul. Coldest on record in central England

5th Oct. Crystal Palace public house and music hall closed

Nov. St. James church, Weddington dedicated altar screen for Richard Samuel Bracebridge Heming Hall.

In early December the Tribune was taken over by Percy Coleman, who had connections with the Observer.

9th Dec. The Empire Cinema opened, G.F. Ward designed it.

24th Dec. Midland Counties Tribune included "Teddy Kem's Heaven" story.This was mostly re-written and centred more on Attleborough. Probably the work of Percy Coleman or A.F. Cross.

Labour Exchanges set up

1909-20 Charles John Bowen-Cooke was chief mechanical engineer of the L.N.W.R. (not a local man). He introduced superheated boiler design at Crewe works. He was a remarkable engineer, his engines were frequent visitors at Nuneaton.

1909-23 Henry Fowler was chief mechanical engineer of the Midland Railway (not a local man) many of his engines were shedded at the Nuneaton depot. He was responsible for introducing superheating on Midland locomotives. He carried out an extensive modernisation programme on a very limited budget

1910 30th Jan. A bright comet was visible
The Palace, Short Street, Stockingford opened

The Royal Cinema, Stratford Street, opened
10th Apr. Halley's Comet returned

4th May. Nuneaton Girls High School first intake, it was created after the 1902 Act (It was at first a fee paying grammar school for girls)

WINDSOR DYNASTY

6th May. George V crowned; he was the second son of Edward VII and Queen Alexandria. When he came to the throne, Parliament was deadlocked on many matters. Ireland was becoming a growing problem.

10th May. Huge crowds gathered in the town to hear the proclamation of King George V. Lloyd George's budget introduced National Insurance; this would help provide unemployment, sickness benefit and state pensions. Lloyd George also introduced a valuation of all land in an attempt to find out who owned what and how much it was worth.

Dec. H. H. Asquith was prime minister of the Liberal Government

Sir Robert Baden-Powell founded Girl Guides Association

1911 Nuneaton population: 37,073; Astley: 377, Burton Hastings:169, Caldecote: 123, Stretton Baskerville: 50.

King Edward potatoes introduced to Britain.

Weddington population: 102. Henry C. Shawe died, buried in the churchyard. His son Henry N. Pole Shawe inherited estate but went to live in The Grove.

Firm or company	Trade	Males	Females
Fielding and Johnson	Worsted}		
Hall and Philips	Hats }		
Leake	Labels }		
Lister	Silk }		
Nuneaton Wool Co.	Wool }Textiles		
Poole, Lorimer and	}	358	1,123
Taberer	Hosiery}		
Rayner -	}		
H. Slingsby	Regalia}		
Conners	Boxes		
Geo.White	Minerals		
Nuneaton Leather Co.	Leather		
Parsons Sherwins	Agric. Goods		
Nuneaton Engineering Co.	Engineering	310	
Judkins	Quarrying	112	
Griff Colliery Co.	Coal	5,029	
Stanleys Ltd.	Brick and Tile	753	
A total working population		14,269	4,000

10th Aug. The Forgotten “great” Strike by dockers and railway workers

17th Aug. Nuneaton Railwaymen’s strike started, troops used later at Abbey Street

Parliament Act: Limited the power of the Lords; they lost their power to wreck Commons legislation. Unemployment Insurance Act, workers, employers and Government all contributed weekly to a fund, out of which, unemployed were to be paid. The working classes began a series of strikes in transport, docks and railways.

An air battalion was established in England that soon saw excellent cross county flying expeditions in balloon and airplanes.

23rd Dec. A fire at The Tunnel colliery

1911-22 The Geological Survey re-mapped Nuneaton area

1912 18th Jan. The coal miners went on strike after a 75% majority vote

15th Apr. The Titanic sank in the Atlantic

31st May. Stockingford (Bucks Hill) Cemetery opened

Jul. Lt. Cyril Porte landed his Deperdussin racing monoplane at Weddington Cricket Ground. This ‘monocoque’ racing plane had a moulded plywood fuselage had a streamlined shape far ahead of its time. It was one of the fastest aircraft in the world prior to WW I. It had a 14 cylinder rotary piston engine.

Lindley Hall owned by the Earl of Huntingdon.

Aug. Coldest on record in central England

One of the wettest summers on record

Lewis and Percy Coleman controlled the Nuneaton Observer entirely

The rents from the market stalls totalled £689

1912-13 First motorised bus service in Nuneaton

1913 Nuneaton Mining School opened

20th Mar. The River Anker flooded parts of the town and area

4th Jun. Epsom Derby: Emily Wilding Davison ran in front of Anmer, the King's Horse, grabbed its reins attempting to stop the race in the name of the Suffragettes, she died later of horrific injury. The Government passed "The Cat and Mouse Act" in Parliament. The authorities would release hunger-striking women from prison (to avoid force-feeding objections) then re-arrest them when they liked.

The second phase of the Nuneaton Co-operative Society opened in Abbey Street

National Strike of coal miners in Britain; settled by passage of Coal Mines (minimum wage) Act

30th Dec. Trent Valley Station rebuilding contract signed by Eli Kelley and Son for £31,822 5s 5d

1913-15 Vincent Illing (Cambridge University) commenced his research on the Abbey Shales in Hartshill Hayes. This was the earliest historical field research to a new standard.

He discovered many new and documented fossil trilobites from the Cambrian times. He also mapped many of the local rocks from Griff to Atherstone.

1914 Griff Pumping station opened.

1st Feb. The Scala Cinema opened

2nd Feb. The Cub Scout movement founded

J.C. Smiths shop opened in Nuneaton

The original Newdegate Arms Hotel demolished.

18th Jun. Matthew Archbold Dodds, the new priest and the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church

18th Jul. Reginald Stanley (brickworks owner) died at Bexhill on Sea (76 yrs old), buried at Oaston Road cemetery

FIRST WORLD WAR (WWI) 1914-18

The canal network experienced a brief revival in the business as many wartime goods and materials were transported by the networks. By the end of the war, a generation of men had learned to drive lorries. The canals now seemed laboriously slow and inconvenient. Another slow and steady period of decline was to follow.

28th Jul.-4th Aug. World War I began, many people volunteered locally. The day to day war news was regularly reported. "U" Boat submarines were used as well as aircraft.

Many men from the Warwickshire regiment died in the battle at Le Cateau

12th Oct.-11th Nov. First Battle of Ypres

1915 One of the wettest winters on record

Neuve Chapelle battle with British gains

22nd Apr.-24th May. Second Battle of Ypres, British gains

Battle of Loos, British gains

TOC H (Talbot House) founded

May. H. H. Asquith was prime minister of a coalition Government

18th Jun. newspaper article about Mary ball (local murderess)

22nd Sep. Exhall Pit fire disaster, 14 men died

Courtaulds expressed interest in land near Marlborough Road, iron girders were brought ready for construction. Later removed for WWI.

Trent Valley station rebuilt for the 3rd time.

Nuneaton's population reached 40,000.

25th Oct. St. Crispin's Day: The 500th anniversary of The Battle of Agincourt. Henry V's longbow men defeated a numerically superior French army.

The 'Shakespearian' Henry V urged us to remember this day forever!

Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) granted extensive powers to the state for the control of the economy and society

1916 Jan. Warmest on record in central England

31st Jan. Zeppelin air ships raided Foleshill, Coventry and the Black Country. This may have been noticed in Nuneaton.

Feb. National Service Act became law, this made conscription into the armed services legal (repealed in Apr. 1920)

National Insurance Act: First introduced compulsory national health contributions and a scheme of insurance against unemployment.

28th Mar. "Tornado wind" wrecked local telephone lines.

10th Apr. Nuneaton Chronicle published a telephone directory in the paper telephone numbers:

Nuneaton 1 = Borough Surveyor and Medical Health Officer
Nuneaton 2 = J. Massey, Callendar Grange
Nuneaton 3 = Lister and Co. Attleborough etc. etc.

31st May-1st Jun. Battle of Jutland

Jun. Coldest on record in central England

1st Jul.-18th Nov. Battle of the Somme, British gains

Jul. Henry Pole Shawe set up a 55 bed Red Cross hospital at Weddington Castle, being equipped after March 1916. Mrs. Shaw was Vice-President of Nuneaton Branch and Rev. Bracebridge Hall was Volunteer Aid Detachment Commandant.

Wards were sponsored by collieries and brick companies. Mrs Fowler was in charge of the castle.

Local earth tremor

St. James church, Weddington stained glass window to Henry Cunliffe Shawe

15th Sep. The tank was first used in World War I; it became an important propaganda symbol. There was a widespread increase in the reading of newspapers after its first use. Some were made in Birmingham!

27th Oct. H. Stubbs J.P. of Camp Hill Hall died.

Dec. David Lloyd George was prime minister of a coalition Government

1916-20 Unemployment Insurance extended to most factory and shop workers

1917 14th Jan. Strong earth tremor felt in the whole area

Feb. William Wilson (Nuneaton Observer co-founder) died

Keresley colliery opened.

Apr. Vimy Ridge battle, the Canadian made gains

Battle of Messines Ridge, British gains. A tunnelling machine used in the Stanley's coal mines was used to try to tunnel under the Messines Ridge, it failed because the soil was unlike brittle coal. It remained buried beneath the ridge.

7th Jun.-10th Nov. Third Battle of Ypres, British gains

Fri-Sat. 19th-20th Oct. 2nd Zeppelin air on Midlands. The airships flew in via the Wash from bases west of Hamburg (Nordholz). L41 headed for Lincoln, Manchester, Birmingham, south Coventry and headed via Brussels back into Germany. These may have been noticed in Nuneaton.

L45 headed for Hull, Lincoln, Nottingham, west Leicester and headed out over London to crash eventually in southern France. L52 headed for Leicester via the Wash and then into France and back to south Germany.

A severe local hail storm.

Nuneaton Trent valley marshalling yards handling 90,000 wagons per week

Nov. Passchendaele battle, British gains

Many local soldiers took copies of the book of love and praise of England, collected by Ernest Rhys: "The Old Country".

20th Nov. Cambrai tank battle, with news of the British gains many local churches rang their bells over the next 24 hrs.

Nuneaton Museum first opened to the public, it was a gift from Alderman Melly.

1917? The Nuneaton Empire Music Hall (Vint's) closed

1918 8th Jan. W. Johnson, Nuneaton's M.P. awarded O.B.E. in New Year's Honours list, he was also Warwickshire Miner's Agent

Mar.-Apr. Battle at Kemmel and Somme - German gains

9th-29th Apr. Fourth Battle of Ypres (River Lys)

11th-12th Apr. 3rd Zeppelin air raid, L62 commanded by Hauptmann K Manger, the Coventry area and the Midlands were the main target. These may have been noticed in Nuneaton.

7th Jun. Jubilee Nuneaton Chronicle newspaper produced

Red Cross withdrew from Weddington Castle. Sometime after this a former helper took the record book home to Birmingham to get it copied up neatly and lost it from his motorbike pannier, an advert was placed in local press but the book was never returned.

The school leaving age was raised from 10 to 14 years old

Oct.-Nov. Spanish 'flu' pandemic killed between 40 and 100 million world-wide.

The report of the Select Committee on Internal Transport: this concluded that the railways should brought under a united ownership and managed as one system.

1st Nov. Many men from the Warwickshire Regiment took part in a skirmish that cleared the way for the final battle.

11.00 a.m. 11th Nov. Germans signed an armistice, this allowed the peace conference to open in Paris within ten weeks. Bedworth began to commemorate this exact date (and not just the Sunday before it). In the next few years a military tank was preserved in Riversley Park. We should never forget the sacrifice that these people made so that we could be free!

Women over 30 given the vote. The Representation of the People Act introduced universal suffrage

Marie Stopes' book "Married Love" helped establish birth control in the U.K.

The villages of Attleborough, Weddington and Stockingford had retained some degree of separation from Nuneaton town, but after the war they would be gradually absorbed.

1918-20 Construction began on the initial ballast heap that was to become Mount Jud

1918-23 Sir Henry Maddocks was the Unionist M.P. for Nuneaton

1919 Weddington Castle was put up for auction but failed to find a buyer.

First Woman M.P.

George Eliot Centenary; Adam Bede was staged by the local Nuneaton Dramatic Society

Medical Officer of Health Special Housing Report

No. houses visited	No. of parlours	No. of living room	No. of sculleries	No. of bedrooms	Rent
481	-	1	1	2	1s 9d to 7s 2d
117	-	1	1	3	2s 6d to 8s
272	1	1	1	2	2s 3d to 7s 11d
1134	1	1	1	3	2s 6d to 9s 3d
70	1	1	1	4	2s 6d to 11s 4d
136	-	1	-	1	1s 3d to 5s
215	-	2	-	2	2s 1d to 6s 6d

Plus 274 of various types 2699 in all

The Board of Agriculture became the Ministry of Agriculture.

Jan. David Lloyd George was prime minister of a coalition Government

Housing Act enabled councils to borrow to build working class houses

Ministry of Health set up

1919-39 5,000 new houses built in this period. 40% were council houses. With the growth of population there was an immediate need to increase water and electricity supplies.

There was a need to improve sewerage networks as well.

1920 Henry Myatt farmed at Tom Thumb Farm, Weddington and Walter Reid at Church Farm.
Radio broadcasting developed. The automatic telephone first used

16th Apr. onwards: A series of local history articles in the Nuneaton Chronicle by 'Hugh Pilgrim'. He wrote about local villages.
23rd Apr. Wolvey
30th Apr. Astley
7th May Keresley
14th May Grendon
21st May Bulkington
28th May Ansty
4th Jun. Fenny Drayton
11th Jun. Ansley
25th Jun. Market Bosworth
2nd Jul. Merevale
8th Oct. The Anker
15th Oct. Lindley estate sale
10th Dec. Colliers

30th Apr. conscription ended

The Warwickshire Coalfield employed 21,506 men (coal), 7,000 worked in the Nuneaton area.

12th Oct. Lindley Estate buildings sold. Winterton and Son of Lichfield, auctioned it at Newdegate Arms Hotel. Land Agents, Heaton of Stoke on Trent. Solicitors, Witham, Roskell, Munster and Weld of Gray's Inn, London.

Courtaulds Mill began construction, it was delayed because of the coal strike, incomplete town electrification and a water main

National Insurance Act extended unemployment insurance to most employed workers.

Yevgeny Zamyatin's "We" was published. This book is regarded by some as more influential than "1984" and "Brave New World" - it pre-dates both of them.

8th Nov. Rupert the Bear first appeared in a national newspaper. The character was created by MaryTourtel, she was replaced by Alfred Bestall 1935-65.

1920-21 The Borough Surveyors, F.C. Cook and R.C. Moon published a technical paper in the Transactions of the Institute of Water Engineers concerning Robinson's End reservoir construction.

Capt. Hewitt Pearson Montague Beames was chief mechanical engineer of the L.N.W.R. (not a local man)

1920-29 Park House/Farm (Caldecote) in ruins and demolished in this decade, only the moat survived as "Perch Pool"

1920's The Grand Cinema, Chequer Street, Bulkington, opened

1921 Nuneaton population 42,104; Weddington population: 87.

Local and National Coal Strike

A depot of the Midland Red Bus Company opened. It employed 100 drivers and 120 conductors

122 Council Houses built, 39 private buildings.

1st Apr. Coal Miners' strike lasted until the end of June

Only 700 people left Nuneaton daily to work elsewhere. This number would rise to over 9,000 by 1962.
12th May. Lindley estate house and farm contents auctioned. Winterton and Sons etc. On the instructions of Lt. Comm. R.F. Eyre

12th Aug. Town Councillors visited completed Courtaulds Mill

Nuneaton Corporation Act (11 and 12 Geo. 5) Chap. xci for Nuneaton and Leicester water supply.

Oct. Edward Shute opened the Tatler Cinema (it became the Princes in 1936) One of the driest years on record.

Lindley Hall had been abandoned for some time.(post-WWI?).

Birth control for women became an important social issue; Marie Stopes' clinic opened in London.

Giles Gilbert Scott designed the first telephone kiosk - K1. It was ornate but not very practicable.

1922 Percy H. Howe bought Weddington Castle from Henry Pole Shawe for £7,000, agents were Nixon, Toone and Harrison. He wanted to convert it into luxury flats.

Women given equality in divorce proceedings

22nd Sep. Weddington Castle (Hall) Plans published to convert it into flats and to build houses on the estate lands.

Accurate details of room sizes. A brief description:
entrance hall 22' x 11' with polished Oak floor; Library 29' x 19' polished Oak floor, marble chimney piece, etc.
The gardens' gravel walks studded with 4 old cedars, rose garden, glass houses, vinery, greenhouse and peach house.

Sep. Mrs. M.J. Meakin of Kem's Farm died, she was buried at Coton. Her obituary mentioned how famous the site had become, with people from miles around looking for gold Extensive article in the Nuneaton Chronicle about her and the legend of Teddy Kem's Heaven. Reports on the large number of visitors tried to search for the legendary gold. However her husband's obituary was a few lines long and did not mention the legend. He died before the 1909 story was printed. (see 1700, 1780, 1878)

"The Flowers of the Forest" was the last play that Edward Shute appeared in

Oct. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) founded

A. Bonar Law was prime minister of a Conservative Government

12th Nov. The Nuneaton mayor was officially robed

George Hughes was chief mechanical engineer of the L.N.W.R. (not a local man)

Giles Gilbert Scott designed the K2, K3, K4 and K5 telephone kiosks over the next few years. Some were not even manufactured; it was not until K6 (King George's reign) that a long term design succeeded. It would last until 1985.

1923 Monty bus service started in Nuneaton (finished 1980)

Ordnance Survey re-mapped the area

First rationalisation of the old railway company, it came before Parliament in 1921.

May. S. Baldwin was prime minister of a Conservative Government

Jul. Bedworth Miners Welfare Park opened

12th-13th Jul. Very hot days in the Midlands

31st Aug. William Sully White (Billy Breen/Larry Grayson) born in Banbury - see 1946 etc. He lived in Stanley Crescent until 1935.
Edward Arnold Shute published his book "Across the Footlights" (118 pages) - some recollections of the Local Drama. Chronicle Press, Church Street, Nuneaton

Housing Act encouraged private building of houses for sale

John Lawrence White, vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

1923-24 Nov.-Jul. Weddington Castle converted into flats. The plans for houses were extensively discussed at meetings. Numerous objections on the necessity for housing and inadequacy of sewerage arrangements.

1923-25 George Hughes was chief mechanical engineer of London Midland Scottish (L.M.S.) - not a local man

1924 Lloyds bus service started in Nuneaton

Local earth tremor

16th Jan. The first 2 telephone kiosks erected in Nuneaton

Jan. J. Ramsay MacDonald was prime minister of the first Labour Government

Beam radio developed

Housing Act subsidised by Government funded council house building. Local areas around Bath Road and Winfield Road began.

30th Apr. Capt. Townshend of Caldecote Hall died after a horse riding accident, he drowned in the River Anker.

2nd Jun. River Anker flooded badly. Nuneaton Station renamed Nuneaton Trent Valley Station.
20th Jun. Dr. Brodie demonstrated his "death ray" at the Hippodrome

15th Oct. 4.50 p.m. a local earth tremor shook the whole of the greater Birmingham area

Nov. Caldecote estate sold by auction at the Newdegate Arms Hotel. The hall, rectory, village school, many other land parcels and lordship were withdrawn from the sale. The Church of England Temperance Society purchased Caldecote Hall as a retreat for inebriate men.

Nuneaton received it first adequate fresh water supply.

Adolf Hitler wrote Mein Kampf, a book that would lead to the establishment of the Third Reich, World War II and the Holocaust.

S. Baldwin was prime minister of a Conservative Government

Bus caught fire at Cock and Bear bridge, 8 killed

1924 The world's living population reached 2,000,000,000 (two billion)

1924-29 Stanley Baldwin became the prime minister of a British Unionist/Conservative Government

1925 Mar. the hire boats on the River Anker in Riversley Park made an income of £69 0s 8d in a year.

The town museum cost £240 12s 6d to run per annum.
Nightsoiling cost the town £759 1s 11d (these were the men who emptied the garden toilets), converting to privies cost £454 6s 3d.

Stabling horses and their upkeep cost £4,337 13s 10d.
Flood prevention cost £247 3s 5d.

17th Apr. Cleansing of the River Anker, required more time.

Summer. A. F. Cross wrote regular weekly local history in Midland Counties Tribune: Bye-paths of History.

New unemployment office opened in Nuneaton.

The town council comprised the following committees:

Watch and Fire Brigade
Market, Estates and Allotment
Waterworks and Sewage Works
Highways and General Works
Health
Public Libraries
Finance

4th Jun. Nuneaton Rotary Club founded

17th Jul. British Summer Time made permanent

Schwassman-Wachmann Comet first seen

43 Council houses built, 9 private houses, 154 private subsidised
15th Nov. The mummified remains of Tut ankh Amen were first examined in Egypt

11th Dec. Caldecote Hall opened as a home for the mentally ill

1925-31 The Government gave a subsidy grant of £75 to any private person who would have their own house built.

Sir Henry Fowler was chief mechanical engineer of L.M.S. (not a local man)

1926 2nd Jan. Heavy floods at Weddington.

Lindley Hall demolished

Jan. Nuneaton Observer commissioned 10 aerial photographs of Nuneaton area by Surrey Flying Service. This may have been the Airship reputedly seen by some people over Nuneaton.

George Eliot buildings opened on the corner of Mill Walk and Coventry Street.
8th Apr. The Shakespeare Memorial Theatre was destroyed by fire

Midnight of the 3rd to 12th May. Local and National Coal Strike

15th Aug. early Sunday morning: A severe Midlands earth tremor affected Nuneaton houses and churches.

The General Strike

John Logie Baird demonstrated the television

1927 Dexter colliery opened.

Midland Counties Tribune parochial histories of note
Jan. Shustoke, Coleshill, Guy's Cliffe, Balsall windmill
Feb. Coventry, Astley, Maxstoke
Mar. Shustoke, Baginton, Compton Wynates, Arbury, Mancetter, Bidford
Apr. Stonebridge, Leamington, Nether Whitacre, Charlecote, Three Pots Hinckley, Wolvey, Burton Hastings, Polesworth, Wroxhall
May. Arbury, Burbage, Baddesley Clinton, Fillongley.

29th Jun. A total eclipse of the sun in Britain, totality was from Abersoch, Southport, Giggleswick to Darlington. The previous one had been in 1724, the next one would be 11th August 1999

Manor Park School built

A separate maternity section was eventually provided at Nuneaton

20th Sep. Nuneaton Literary and Drama Society formed.

Queen Mary visited Arbury Hall and Astley Castle.

4th Nov. Jubilee Edition of the Observer Newspaper

6th Dec. A bright comet visible

25th Dec. Snowed and sleeted heavily all day, this was followed by local flooding
Heisenberg and Schrodinger formulated Quantum Mechanics

1927-28 “Dry Bread” colliery closed

1927-33 Nuneaton's first main construction peak in council house building

1928 Midland Counties Tribune published various parochial histories of note, as well as general articles:

Jan. Higham Grange hospital, Higham church

The great Wessex author Thomas Hardy died, he would be remembered for his novels and poetry!

The last phase of the Nuneaton Co-operative store opened in Abbey Street

13th Feb. A severe gale force winds caused local damage

31st Mar. John Alfred Bennett Davies, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church.

Old Nag’s Head pub demolished.
Mar. Stockingford “Dry Bread” colliery closed. It is thought that “Wrappers Hole” was closely associated with this colliery, they shared a similar locality and operational period.

6th Jul. Notice of sale, Weddington Castle to be demolished.

19th Oct. Weddington Castle demolished. Some of the rubble was used to build Castle Road on. Some possibly went to the Countess Road area according to the late Frederick Reeves. Example of sale items:

Fine old oak staircase, Italian carved marble mantelpieces.
Auctioneer James Styles and Whitlock.
Some of the house contents are believed to be in America.
The stone crest of arms was preserved in Nos.1 and 3 Shawe Avenue.
The icehouse was near Weddington Social Club. A well survives near

No.31 Castle Road. Several local residents stated that some of the house ruins survived until 1937!

The £1 and 10/- (shilling) notes introduced

Manor Park school opened

11th Nov. 10th Anniversary of the end of World War I

12th Nov. A partial eclipse of the sun

Dec. Nuneaton Chronicle : a research student found a document about Sir Thomas Malory (of Morte d'Arthur fame) who was tried in Nuneaton in 1451.

10th Dec. The New Palace Cinema opened

Capt. Richards and A. Refell credited with the development of a robotic machine

1928-29 Weddington Gardens and Alsted Lodge built by Hope and Aldridge. Some of the Castle timber was believed to be in the latter.

THE DEPRESSION 1929-34

The Depression began with the fall of timber prices because of Russian competition in 1928. This was followed by over production of wheat in Canada and the USA, this forced down the price of the crop in Europe, Australia and America. This was aggravated by financial collapse, especially in the USA. This led to panic and the Wall Street Crash In May 1931, the French Bankers withdrew short term credits to a major Austrian bank - the Credit Anstalt; that failed to meet its obligations. This disaster brought bankruptcy to many institutions in central and eastern Europe; it caused German bankers to repudiate foreign liabilities via a moratorium; this in turn endangered British bankers who had invested heavily in Germany - this caused a run on the pound in the summer of 1931. The shortage of capital led to a fall in exports and the internal consumption throughout all industrialised countries. The lack of a market closed factories; fewer goods needed transport - this harmed shipping and shipbuilding. In many countries this caused mass unemployment (2,800,000 in Britain). This caused a violent political swing to the Right in continental Europe and Latin America

1929 The Grand Cinema, Chapel End, opened

15th Jan. a very cold day in the Midlands

23rd-29th Jan. The planet Pluto first recorded by Tombaugh at Flagstaff Observatory, Arizona

8th Mar. The rebuilt Nag's Head opened in Queen's Road

Jun. J. R. MacDonald was prime minister of a Labour Government

Frank Whittle invented the Jet engine

County public assistance committees replaced the unions and boards of guardians

24th Oct. Black Thursday - until 29th Oct. The Wall Street Stock Market Crash

26th Oct. North transept of St. Mary's church completed

Clare Speight, the photographer, was last registered in Nuneaton trade directories.

1929-44 A. S. Pratt was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1930 26th Mar. Final meeting of Nuneaton Poor Law Guardians

Parliamentary Acts encouraged slum clearance and re-housing

A.F. Cross founded the George Eliot Fellowship

Nuneaton's first Carnival

The foundation stones for the Nuneaton Burton's were laid

Land Drainage Act (this formed the water board regions)
107 Council houses built, 101 private houses, 4 private subsidised.

21st Jun. First County Cricket match played at Coton

Oct. The R101 airship crashed into a hill near Beauvais, France. It was badly bunrt when the hydrogen gas ignited. Its sister ship, the R100, was subsequentlydismantled putting an end to British interest in airship transport. Youth Hostel Association formed

Caldecote Hall advertised as a "de-tox" home for inebriate men

19th Dec. A Griff coal miner was killed and five more injured

1930-33 The first part of the Weddington housing estate built. There was difficulty selling the houses at first, prices started at £350, built by Simms of Hinckley.

1930-37 Ernest C. Heard J.P. owned "Teddy Kem's Heaven Farm" and site; it was tenanted by the Wilson family.

1931 Nuneaton population 46,521; Weddington population: 643

12th Apr. Nuneaton-Ashby Joint Railway passenger service closed. Skegness excursions at Whitsun still ran. (Weddington)

Swinnerton School built (opened in 1932)

James Knox J.P. died, he had been the Managing Director of Haunchwood Brick and Tile works.

limited extracts from a Warwickshire Trade Directory:

Bakers:	E.G. Paul, Attleborough Green
	Yoxalls, 130 Abbey Street
Butchers:	E.A. Beesley
	E.W. Beesley
	R. Buckler
	B. Daffern
	W. Parker
Chemists:	Iliffe & Sons
	H. Lester
Dentist:	J. Dix

	W.J.B Bircher
Fishmongers:	Coleman & Sons
	G. Aldridge
Furniture:	E. Maybury
	G. Smart
Grocers:	F.A. Buckler
	S. Ebery
	Liptons, Bridge Street
Hotels:	The Bull, The Castle, Cock & Bear, Newdegate, Queens Head, Wellington
Ice Manufacturer:	F. Palladino
Iron foundry:	Nuneaton Engineering Co. Tuttle Hill
	Parsons & Sherwin
Opticians:	Isherwoods
Pawnbrokers:	A.J. Pearce, Abbey Green
Umbrella maker:	Kendall & Sons, Queens Road
Watchmakers:	J. Johnson, 131 Queens Road
	H. Johnson, 16 Abbey Green
Mrs. K. James:	The Noted Pie Shop, Broad Street Corner

Aug. J. R. MacDonald was prime minister of a National Government

3rd Sep. Newdegate colliery coal face explosion, 8 men died.

The Palace Cinema, Victoria Street converted to a Roller Skating rink

Nov. J. R. MacDonald was prime minister of a National Government

Weddington was incorporated into NUNEATON

1931-32 Sir Ernest H. J. Lemon was chief mechanical engineer of L.M.S. (not a local man)

1932 21st Mar. The Kosy Kinema opened at Attleborough

The 14 carat gold standard replaced the 12 and 15 carat standards. This provided the following 9, 14, 18 and 22 carats.

21st Apr. Nuneaton was granted its official Coat of Arms

22nd May. The famous River Anker flood (work stopped on Council House); people boated in the market place. The wooden paving setts lifted from their position and some floated away. Large areas of Nuneaton, Weddington and Attleborough were flooded. Many black and white photographs survive in peoples' albums. Brass marker plates were put on buildings in the Market Place and Bridge Street to mark the maximum height of the flood water. (notable flooding in: 1817, 1821, 1823, 1864, 1889, 1895, 1896, 1900, 1924, 1932, 1947, 1958, 1964, 1968, 1969, 1973, 1977, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1999 and 2000)

Town Planning Act introduced first scheme of planning the future. The old Nuneaton Rural District lost many villages to other areas

e.g. Arley and Astley to Meriden. Burton Hastings, Wolvey and Stretton Baskerville to Rugby. Caldecote to Atherstone

Midland Counties Tribune parochial histories of note

Aldhous Huxley's "Brave New World" published

Dec. Daventry transmitters began to broadcast BBC Empire Service

1932-44 Sir William Stanier was chief mechanical engineer of L.M.S. (not a local man). Many of his engines were shedded at Nuneaton depot as well as servicing most freight and passenger work by the 1950's.

1933 Midland Counties Tribune

Spots steeped in history by C.G. Gardner

1933
Jan. Seeswood/Seaswood Pool skating
Feb. Royal Red Gate, Coton Vicarage
Mar. Gopsall Hall, Coton Poor House (Workhouse) and School, Astley Castle, King Edward VI Grammar School
Apr. KEGS, Mancetter Martyrs, Bosworth Field
May. Bosworth, Caldecote
Jun. Drayton, Purefoys, Shelford, Wolvershill, Wolvey and windmills
Jul. Wolvey
Aug. Atherstone Grammar School
Sep. Polesworth
Oct. Polesworth
Nov. Polesworth
Dec. Polesworth, Pooley Hall and Warton

29th Jan. The start of Attleborough Hall demolition

23rd-26th Sep. Local heavy snow storms

5th Oct. A five year £95,000,000 plan was announced to demolish the old slum housing in Britain

1934 Midland Counties Tribune parochial histories of note

Spots steeped in history by C.G. Gardner

Jan. Pooley Hall
Feb. Pooley Hall
Mar. Pooley Hall, Polesworth (with Bramcote)
Apr. Freaseley, Baddesley
May. Baddesley Colliery, Hurley
Jun. local Church Fonts, Atherstone and Merevale Abbey
Jul. Atherstone and Merevale
Aug. Atherstone and Merevale
Sep. Atherstone and Merevale
Oct. Atherstone and Merevale
Nov. Atherstone and Merevale, The Dugdales
Dec. The Dugdales

One of the driest winters on record

The Pheasant Inn closed down

26th Apr. The official opening of the Council House by Sir Francis Newdegate

Weddington's first bus service to Nuneaton commenced.

10th Jul. HRH Prince of Wales, Prince Edward, landed by aeroplane at Weddington Lane at 11.15am. He also visited Hall and Phillips Hat Factory

Dec. The warmest on record in central England
The Modern Synthesis of the evolution and inheritance data, DNA first suggested by Friedrich Micher

1935 Riversley Park Clinic built.

Medical Officer of Health's report.

Basic Industry	Percentage of the total working population employed	
	Men	Women
Mining	52%	-
Brick and Tile	11.2%	1%
Wool, worsted	2.7%	4.46%
Silk and Rayon	5.5%	33.1%
Mixed fibres	2.56%	32.7%
Clothing and hosiery	6.85%	21.2%
Engineering	2.59%	-

1935 Midland Counties Tribune parochial histories of note

Jan. The Dugdales, George Eliot country
Feb. Shustoke, George Eliot
Mar. Shustoke
Apr. Shustoke
May. Shustoke
Jun. Shustoke area
Jul. Shustoke
Aug. Shustoke
Sep. Stretton Baskerville
Oct. Shustoke
Nov. Shustoke, Nuneaton Trent Valley station
Dec. Old Wharfe Inn, Nuneaton

Pictures exist of a rope hauled rail way line on Mount Jud. (see 1918-20, 1957)

Jun. S. Baldwin was prime minister of a National Government

30th Jun. A partial eclipse of the sun

3rd-4th Jul. The Chase, Higham Lane, was auctioned (Knox, the brick and tile entrepreneur's house)

Slum clearance in Nuneaton; Gladstone Square demolished.

Nov. S. Baldwin was prime minister of a National Government

1935-38 Houses built in Castle Road

1936 9th Jan. A storm broke a sail off the Tuttle Hill windmill, it was operated by Albert Thompson.

King Edward VIII came to the throne and abdicated shortly afterwards to marry Mrs Wallis Simpson.

Beer was 3.5 p (8.5d) a pint and petrol was 8p (19.5d a gallon)

17th Jun. Ken Loach, the film director, born in Nuneaton (see 1965,1967 and 1969)

21st Jun. A lighting strike damaged Attleborough Holy Trinity church spire.

New Catholic church built on Coton Road. It replaced an earlier catholic church in the town. The Dominican Order owned parcels of land in that part of Nuneaton.

5th Oct. The Jarrow Crusade march began, it passed through Leicester.

Coronation Walk created for coronation of King Edward VIII. This did not happen but the plan was retained for King George VI coronation in 1937. Locally known as the 'Brookie Fields'

1st Nov. Francis Walter Moyle, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church.

26th Nov. Weddington church Hall built.

King George VI succeeded Edward VIII. He had had no real preparation for the throne and had to preside over a revolutionary period in Britain and the world.

J.C. Smith's new shop was built and opened (later Debenhams)

1936 onward Camp Hill Estate began construction, eventually 1400 houses would be built.

The Coal Industrial Association built 231 houses there with local Council assistance.

1936-37 Wolvershill Hall (near Bramcote) finally demolished

1936-39 Bramcote hamlet demolished to make way for the new aerodrome

1937 12th May. Mrs C. Slingsby opened Middlemarch House in Newdegate Street (it had black timber beams)

May. N. Chamberlain was prime minister of a National Government

6th May. The Hindenburg airship exploded as it came into Lakehurst, New Jersey, USA. (see R101 disaster in 1930)

2nd-6th Jun. The Telephone emergency number 999 was established

23rd Jul. The Ritz Cinema opened
The town was highly decorated for the coronation of King George VI.

Queens Road flooded because the Stockingford Sewerage Scheme No. 1.

A tunnel was being driven beneath the Coventry Canal, the waterway was breached.

Larry Grayson performed professionally for the first time at the original Fife Street working man's club.

Arbury School, Greenmoor Road, was built.

Divorce laws liberalised

1937-38 Act of Parliament: Coal Act and Coal (Registration of Ownership) Act, all unworked coal reserves were transferred to the State, this came into force 1942.

The GROVE, Weddington, converted into a public house. Ordnance Survey re-mapped the area. Orient Close re-named Elmfield Road.

1937-39 Nuneaton's second main construction peak in council house building

1937-67 The 12 sided Threepence coin issued = (3d) or 1p

1938 Higham Lane school built (opened n 1939), many others were to follow.
25th Jan. spectacular Aurora Borealis seen in England

Jan. The town council announced a proposal to make the Pingles into a sports ground

Feb. Tenders were submitted to build the Hill Top housing estate

Mar. Bull Ring and Boot Hill bridge improvements

Mar. Hitler's Nazi war machine annexed Austria, this was then followed by a threat of invasion of Czechoslovakia to occupy Sudetenland. This act followed by meetings in Munich put Britain on a war footing. Air raid shelters were constructed and later gas masks were issued.

Apr. Part of the Cat Gallows allotments were to be Compulsory Purchased

May. Slum clearance order confirmed for Back Street, Meadow Street, Roses Patch, Upper Abbey Street and Garrett Street

Jun. St. John's Ambulance completed the training of 140 ARP (this indicated a drift into wartime)

Tuttle Hill windmill converted to electricity, continued to mill wheat until 1976.

Coal industry taken over by the state

30th Jul. The Beano comic first published; it became a very popular local comic] (in Feb. 1999 a first edition sold at a London auction for £6,200)

Jul. Money became available for a swimming baths at Nuneaton

Holidays with pay legally enforced

Aug. Numerous local road improvements were announced

Sep. The council proposed the following land for Public Open Space Wem Brook, Weddington Meadows, Horeston Grange and Camp Hill

Oct. The Nuneaton Baptist church applied for a plot of land to build a new church on the Vernons Lane estate. They were told there was no land spare!

11th Nov. 20th Anniversary of the end of World War I

Nov. Lutterworth Road improvements announced

Steam locomotive maintenance and running costs (in modern decimal money) [Nuneaton engines were predominantly LMSR types]

	GWR	LMSR	LNER	SR
Repairs and partial renewals				
per engine	£484	£530	£568	£512
per engine mile	£4.13p	1.8p	2.2p	2p
Running expenses (excl fuel)				
per engine	£1,517	£1,728	£1,514	£1,617
per train mile	8.2p	8.6p	8.8p	9.1p

	GWR	LMSR	LNER	SR
Wages connected with loco running				
per engine	£937	£981	£943	£918
per train mile	5.1p	4.9p	5.1p	4.9p
Coal				
per engine	£507	£369	£581	£675
per train mile	2.7p	3.2p	3.1p	3.6p
Water				
per engine	£26	£43	£43	£38

per train mile	0.1p	0.2p	0.2p	0.2p
Lubricants				
per engine	£12	£14	£12	£13
per engine mile	0.06p	0.07p	0.06p	0.07p
Stock of engines	3,630	7,613	6,518	1,816

One of the driest springs on record.

1939 Jan. Bermuda Road re-named to cover the stretch from Heath End Road to Harefield Lane.

River Anker flood relief culvert did not gain approval after much discussion.

Feb. The town was actively preparing for Air Raids, people were being trained and equipped

Mar. The Fire Service were preparing for wartime conditions, water supplies were being identified and secured for use.

Apr. The River Trent Catchment Board received a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries approving the Anker Flood Relief Culvert.

Apr. A new National Service Act permitted conscription for men aged 20 to 21.

May. Avenue Road was subject to improvements

Jun. Camp Hill Hall (former home of Stubbs and Barber) demolished by H. Jacques.

Marks and Spencers were registered as retailers and purveyors of milk for the borough.

Jul. A greyhound track was proposed for the Nuneaton Rugby Football Club ground

Aug. More Air raid shelters began to be constructed locally

Aug. The new National Service Act amended conscription for men aged 19 to 41.

Sep. Electricity supplies were laid to the flour mill and the Union Wool and Leather
N. Chamberlain was prime minister of a National Government

1st Sep. 3rd Reich: Nazi Germany invaded Poland

3rd. Sep. Britain declared war on Germany. World War II began, the newspapers did not report war news as frequently as in WWI.

SECOND WORLD WAR (WWII) 1939-45

Oct. Upper Abbey Street subject to improvements

Nov. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment were granted permission to drill troops on the town's car parks

Dec. The new National Service Act amended conscription to include single women aged 20 to 30 and the men's age was lowered to 18 yrs 6 mths

Dec. Milk was available for under fives and expectant mothers.

By this year Nuneaton had managed to clear 536 slum properties. The re-housing programme inevitably broke up the old communities - perhaps to the detriment of a Nuneaton community culture.

Slingsby's Ltd were the only ribbon manufacturer left; they produced Masonic Regalia, banners and medal ribbons.

The Co-op cinema began.

Sterling Metals factory and Marston Lane constructed; Sterling Metals gradually acquired total ownership of the site.

Only three out of the seven local brickyards survived the war.

The canals had undergone 20 years decline since the end of the First World War; but for a short time they underwent a revitalisation for the transport of heavy goods and materials (coal, iron etc.) By this time they had become weed and mud choked, they also became targets for enemy bombing raids. The 1947 and 1962 winter freezes showed that they were vulnerable as an arterial transport network. The arrival of modern lorry transport dealt a serious blow to canal and railways. The number of lobbying lorry / road groups seriously outweighed any other pressure group (12 to 1). This imbalance had not been corrected by 2000 A.D.

The Government started an evacuation programme of children and mothers from the big cities where German air raids were expected. Over 1 million people were sent to the rural counties for safety. This measured proved very unsatisfactory in many cases; when the raids did not materialise there was a gradual migration back to the cities.

1940 8th Jan. Rationing of tea, sugar, butter and bacon and ham

Fresh fruit and vegetables were not rationed.
Weekly allowance:

bacon	4 oz	[120g]
tea	2 oz	[60g]
cheese	1 oz	[30g]
cooking fats	2 oz	
onions	1 lb	[480g]
dried eggs	1 packet	
sugar	8 oz	[240g]
butter	2 oz	
margarine	4 oz	
meat	1s 10d	[9p]

Clothing was rationed to 66 coupons per year. Man's pair of socks = 3; boys = 1; women's skirt = 7, girls = 5; dungarees = 6 and 4.

10th Jan. The first Nuneaton Citizens Advice Bureau opened

The Government issued corrugated steel sheets for local communities to make Anderson bomb shelters. These were sunk into the ground a few feet and covered in earth and turf. They could not withstand a direct hit! There were larger brick-built community shelters (e.g. 113-115 Castle Road). They had a major design flaw, there was little cement content in the mortar. If they were near to a side blast from a high explosive the walls would collapse.

Dr Edward Noel Nason died after many years distinguished service to local medicine

27th-30th Jan. Local heavy snow storms, a severe winter developed.

6th Feb. The anti-gossip campaign is launched (Careless talks costs lives)

Apr. Germans invaded Norway and Denmark

May. W. S. Churchill was prime minister of a coalition Government

The Great Plough-Up began, 2,000,000 acres of grassland were brought under arable cultivation

26th-30th May. Dunkirk evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force

30th May. British Government orders the removal of all signposts and street names 4th Jun. Bramcote airfield opened, Pundit Code RT; constructed by John Laing.

Ceased operation 7th March 1943

The following Squadrons were based there: 300, 301, 304, 305 Wellingtons and Fairey Battles. No. 18 Officer Training Unit and 91 Group

15th Jul. An earth tremor felt in Leicester and surrounding areas.

A hot summer began.

10th Jul. - 31st Oct. The Battle of Britain; the Hawker Hurricane and Spitfire were dominant. The heaviest losses inflicted on the Lutwaffe were on the 15th Sep. this became known as Battle of Britain Day. The modern British generation owe much of their 20thC. liberty to the sacrifices made by British airmen in this period.

Bombs damage parts of Weddington. German aerial reconnaissance photographs show targets. A dummy airfield was created in the Weddington/Caldecote/Fenny Drayton area to divert bombs from Lindley; it was bombed on several occasions. This veracity of this site has been disputed by several people; however there were very reliable eye witnesses in the 1990's who performed maintenance on it. Many bombs were aimed at Nuneaton's railways and its operational property as well as collieries and known engine factories. They often missed owing to bomb-aiming technology of the time.

FIRST BOMBING RAIDS ON NUNEATON

25th Aug. WWII bombs hit Coventry Road and Gypsy Lane
27th Aug. Bombs landed near Caldecote school

A typical summary of some of the Civil Defence records:

DATE	27 AUG 1940
ROAD	242 WEDDINGTON ROAD
DAMAGE	DEMOLISHED
TYPE	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
DEAD	1 (girl who had been evacuated)
INJURY	0

DATE	27 AUG 1940
ROAD	244 WEDDINGTON ROAD
DAMAGE	DEMOLISHED
TYPE	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
DEAD	0
INJURY	0

DATE	27 AUG 1940
ROAD	246 WEDDINGTON ROAD
DAMAGE	DEMOLISHED
TYPE	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
DEAD	0
INJURY	0

DATE	27 AUG 1940
ROAD	VENTNOR STREET
DAMAGE	EXTENSIVE
TYPE	HIGH EXPLOSIVE
DEAD	0
INJURY	0

28th Aug. Bombs landed near Co-op Farm, canal side near Boon's Quarry Weddington Road post office

23rd Sep. Petrol rationing began

4th Oct. The dig for victory campaign began, everyone was encouraged to grow their own food

21st Oct. Bombs landed near Sterling Metals

28th Oct. Gypsy Lane, the railway near Gypsy Lane, Home Park Road, Marston Jabbett

29th Oct. Bombs landed near Arbury Wood, Brookdale Road, Cherry Tree pub, Crow Hill allotments, Griff Hill Farm, Griff Hollows, Griff House cottage, Heath End Road, fields near Higham Lane and, Hinckley Road and Sterling Metals

11th Nov. Bombs landed near Caldecote and Weddington

The Midlands were extensively raided by the Lutwaffe

14th Nov. Thurs. p.m. Coventry Blitz (568 died in Operation Moonlight Sonata) and Nuneaton: Bombs landed near, Gypsy Lane towards Bulkington, Lister Street and the Round Towers

15th Nov. Bombs landed near Galley Common, Griff No. 4 colliery, Gypsy Lane, railway near Gypsy Lane, Harefield Road, Heath End Road, Trent Valley marshalling yard

19th Nov. Bombs landed at Bermuda

19th Nov. Tues. and 22nd Nov. Fri. and 12 Dec. Birmingham raided
The following other cities were bombed: London, Portsmouth, Leicester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow

A new word came into the English language: COVENTRATION, to destroy a place in the manner that Coventry was destroyed by bombing.

Marcus Knight vicar of St Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton

Clarkson's Engineering moved to Nuneaton after the Blitz.

Popular prices for the following:

Tea & Cocoa	1d
Buns & cakes	1d
Meat pie	1.5d
Biscuits	2d
Slab chocolate	2d
Apple	1.5d

4th Dec. Bombs landed near Boon's, Judkins and Tuttle Hill Quarries

12th Dec. Bombs landed near Coton Road, Hinckley Road, Kem Street, Lutterworth Road and Pingles Fields

1940-43 For a period of 2 weeks a camouflaged Bofors gun was installed near Teddy Kem's Heaven farm to protect the Sterling Metals factory as it made engine castings for aeroplanes.

1941 Jan.-Jun. Colonel Sir Charles Frederick Arden-Close (1865-1952) published an article "The centres of England and Wales", pp. 179-81 in Volume XCVII (97) of the Geographical Journal stated the centre of England was not Meriden but the rail bridge near M.I.R.A. on the Watling Street. He was a first class surveyor and geographer.

Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close's calculated positions are as follows:

ENGLAND (derived from measurement on 2 projections)

Zenithal 52° 33.7' N 1° 27.7' W = 1 mile 865 yards [2,250 m]
O.S. SP36509625 north of Lower Farm, Weddington (near Rowden, Lindley)

Conical 52° 32.5' N 1° 27.8' W = 109 yds [100 m] west of Lower
O.S. SP36459400 Farm, Weddington

MEAN 52° 33.1' N 1° 27.8' W = 273 yds [250 m] west north west

O.S. SP364951 of the old Nuneaton-Ashby railway bridge on the A5 road near M.I.R.A.

ENGLAND and WALES

The mean Latitude 52° 32' N 1° 46' W = 109 yds [100 m] north of Hurst
O.S. SP159930 Green Farm, Minworth

Other centres based on the 1:1,000,000 map and 2 zenithal projections:
52° 32.2' N 1° 46.1' W = 600 yds [550 m] north north west
O.S. SP157933 of Hurst Green Farm, Minworth

Other maps and by 2 projections/calculation
52° 32.6' N 1° 45.8' W = 1367 yds [1,250 m] north north
O.S. SP161940 east of Hurst Green Farm, Minworth

Conical and by projection
52° 31.5' N 1° 46.1' W = Park Lane, near Minworth works
O.S. SP157919

By calculation 52° 31.4' N 1° 46.5' W = Park Lane, near Minworth works
O.S. SP153917

MEAN 52° 31.9' N 1° 46.1' W = junction of Hurst Green Road and
O.S. SP157928 Cottage Lane, Minworth
A simple mean:
52° 30' N 1° 48' W = junction Coleshill Road and
O.S. SP135891 Chipperfield Road near M6 Jct. 5

N.B. A note of caution: the coastline of the British Isles has changed because of erosion and deposition and general sea level changes since Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close first did these calculations. The maximum tidal limits on the estuaries have not been used, the various centres are therefore approximate.

(See 1971 for Ordnance Survey calculations)
The traditional centres of England were:

- the stone monument on Meriden village green O.S. SP240822
- the oak tree at Lillington, near Leamington O.S. SP325673
- Copston Magna near Wolvey O.S. SP453884

The point that is furthest from the sea in any direction on the British mainland is near Barby Nortoft 3 miles 845 yards [5,600 m] south east of Rugby town centre, O.S. SP550725 (it is approximately 62 miles as the crow flies!)

The centre of the British Isles continental shelf area is Beattock Summit in Scotland O.S. NS999150.

The centre of the British Isles mainland is 4 miles 880 yards [7,300 m] west of Clitheroe O.S. SD67154134.

The centre of gravity for the 4 land extremities i.e. Lizard (south), Lowestoft Ness (east), Ardnamurchan Point (west) and Dunnet Head (north) is 4 miles west of Morecambe (Yeomans Bank) O.S. SD360645.

The old turnpike milestone in Atherstone's main street. O.S. SP309977 was said to be a 100 miles from Lincoln, London and Liverpool. There is no possible place for that to be true. The nearest compromise is south east of Abberton (9 miles south east of Droitwich), the distances are 95 miles from each city at O.S. SP000530

Rationing of eggs, clothes, cheese and jam

Nuneaton population estimated at 50,000 because there was no census; Weddington, estimated 1,200?

Warwickshire Collieries (17 No.) produced 5,566,000 tons of coal

The cottage at Hartshill Green that once belonged to Michael Drayton, the Elizabethan poet, was demolished.

11th Apr. Bombs landed near Anker Street, Attleborough Road, Church Road, Coton Road, Gypsy Lane, Haunchwood Brick and Tile works, Riversley Park, Seymour Road Daimler factory, Tuttle Hill engineering works

16th-17th May. Town's worst air raid; 110 killed, including Alderman Edward Melly, 170 injured. Bombs landed near: Alexandra Street, Arden Road, houses near Attleborough Church, Bermuda Road, Bondgate, Brookdale Road, Caldwell Farm, Castle Road, Central Avenue, Church Street, Clifton Road, College Street, Corporation Street, Coton Road chapel, Coventry Road, Deacon Street, Edward Street, Fife Street, Fitton Street, Frank Street, Glebe Road, Graham Street, Greenmoor Road, Griff Colliery, Harefield Road, Harold Street, Heath End Road, Higham Lane, King Edwards Road, Kingsbridge Road, Kosy Kinema, Lister Street destroyed, Manor Court Road and hospital, Marlborough Road, Midland Bank, Monty's Garage , Newtown Road, Park Avenue, Pingles Field, Pool Bank Street Princes Street, Queens Road, St Mary's Road, Seymour Road, Stretton Road, Tomkinson Road park, Trent Valley station and timber yard, Tunnel Road and colliery, Tuttle Hill,Ventnor Street, Vicarage Street, Weddington Road near the Grove

31st May. Prince Andrei A. Lobanov-Rostovsky (Russian exiled prince, and author) of The Heights, Hazelmere (New Trees) became co-owner of a plot of land near No. 8, The Long Shoot. Land in that area was also owned by Swinnerton of Linden Lodge, Nuneaton and previously Alfred Charles Le Poer Trench, Summerhill, Nuneaton. Rostovsky wrote an account of Russian revolution and European history; he lectured in America and published widely in USA and UK. His father, grandfather and great grandfather were Princes and authors (Aleksyei Borisovich, Alexsandr Yakovlevich and Aleksander Ivanovich).

2nd Jun. Clothes rationing enforced

5th Jun. Bombs landed near Griff Lodge Farm and Arbury Lawn Farm

12th Jun. Bombs landed on Arbury estate

22nd Jun. Germany invaded Russia

5th Jul. Bombs landed near Bramcote hospital

13th Aug. Bombs landed near Gypsy Lane and Coventry Road junction

6th Oct. The Battle of Moscow begun

14th Nov. The Ark Royal sunk in enemy action

Rab Butler (Conservative), began to overhaul the school system, the church resisted until 1942 when a new archbishop was appointed

7th Dec. Pearl Harbour was bombed: Britain and USA declared war on Japan after Japan and Germany declared war on the USA.

1941-42 1937 and 1938 Coal Acts came into force, this transferred all unworked coal to the Coal Commission.

1942 11th Jan. 01.15 hours. A German Dornier Do 217E-2 bomber based at Soesterberg, Holland, crashed near a Bermuda clay pit. (O.S. Grid Ref: SP35709045). The plane was first damaged by gunfire near Liverpool, it then flew south to Birmingham, on to Sutton Park and the crew began to bail out in the Nuneaton area. The crew comprised:

P. Wolf – pilot
W. Wieland - observer
H. Vacano - wireless operator
H. Leppien - flight mechanic and gunner

They were all injured and were initially treated in George Eliot hospital, they were then moved to the British Army hospital at Lichfield. Wieland parachuted out to land near Weddington Junction Signal Box where he was detained by the signal man and the ARP.

Rationing of Sweets

19th Jan. Bombs landed near Briars Close, Central Avenue, Clifton Road, Frank Street, Gadsby Street, Graham Street, Higham Lane, Kingsbridge Road, Norman Avenue, Princes Street, Riversley Road, Weddington Road, Whittleford Road

25th Feb. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Nuneaton to inspect Civil Defence Corps.

30th May. “Bomber Harris” ordered 1,000 RAF planes to attack Cologne

13th Jun. Bombs landed near Blackatree Road, Cherry Tree pub, Cross Street, Eadie Street, Stockingford railway bridge, Whittleford Road

24th-25th Jun. Nuneaton bombed for more than 1 hour. 18 dead. Bombs landed near Abbey Green, Arthur Street, Beaumont Road, Blackatree Road, Bracebridge Street, Bridge Street, Brookdale Road, Caldecote, Camp Hill, Camp Hill Road, Coton Road, Coton station, Coventry Road, Deacon Street, Earls Road, Heath End Road, Highfield Road, Hill Top, Hinckley Road, Mancetter Road, Manor Court, Manor Park school, Midland Quarry, Midland Road, Oldbury Hall reputedly hit because it was a military intelligence centre. It was set on fire and badly damaged.

Oram's Factory, Park Farm Plough Hill, Plough Hill Road, Ritz cinema, Riversley Park, Stanley Road, Shepperton Street, Sterling Metals, Trent Road, Trent Valley Station, Tryan Road, Tuttle Hill, Vernons Lane, Whittleford Road, Willington Street.

The following German units were involved: Kustenfliegergruppe 106, 4/Kampfgeschwader 77, Stab/Kampfgeschwader 40.

28th Jul. Bombs landed near Attleborough Fields Farm, Brookdale Road, Coton Road bus garage, Gadsby Street, London laundry, Pingles Fields

LAST BOMBING RAIDS ON NUNEATON AFTER NEARLY 100 WEEKS OF THREAT

Desford Coal Company constructed two drifts at Merrylees; rocks were encountered, similar to the ancient Cambrian rocks at Hartshill, at depths of 170 yards.

11th Aug. The Battle of Stalingrad begun

10th Sep. A partial eclipse of the sun in Britain

Oxfam founded by Gilbert Murray

Beveridge's Report advocated a comprehensive insurance system; it also described the Five Giants on the road to social progress: want, disease, ignorance, squalor and idleness

1942-46 A Jubilee edition of the Tribune may not have been published. (estimated Dec.1944)

1943 Jan. stirrup pumps were being issued as well as sold readily

Coal tar leaked from the Gas works into the River Anker causing substantial pollution.

Feb. Part of the Lindley estate was converted into Nuneaton airfield for Wellington bombers; it ceased operation in September 1946. It was a subsidiary of Bramcote.

18 Officer Training Unit, 93 Group. This later became M.I.R.A. (Motor Industry Research Association, see 1947).

The Rescue and First Aid services were amalgamated

Arthur Koestler, the Hungarian writer, published “Arrival and Departure”. This story is prophetically accurate of criminal, socio-economic and leisure pursuits that dominated 1990’s Britain.

Mar. A new Fire Station was proposed by the council

Apr. Premises were required to be licensed to store Calcium Carbide (that made acetylene gas for lights)

May. The council proposed that a Rock Garden be built after the war ended; Judkins said they would donate the rocks

3rd May. Part-time work becomes compulsory for all women between 18 and 45.

May. The Dam Buster raid on the Ruhr dams

Jun. local public houses collected for the War Charities Committee; the giving was generous.

Jul. Seeswood/Seaswood Pool dam was found to be defective and had to had to be repaired

Aug. Nuneaton Gas Works installed a gas main to Burgage Place

8th Sep. Italy surrendered to the Allies.

Sep. The urban Ribbon Development Act stopped much suburban housing growing along main roads in Nuneaton

13th Oct. Italy declared war on Germany

Oct. Local conscientious objectors, who enrolled in the Civil Defence, had to have guidelines issued as to what was expected of them if they joined.

Nov. Nuneaton midwives were given greater recognition

2nd Dec. The Bevin Boys were sent to work in the mines
11th Dec. Ronald Thomas Murray, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church.

Dec. Nuneaton Co-op got a licence to distribute pasteurised milk

1944 Jan. A wartime privilege was granted to keep pigs at the rear of the Electricity Showrooms.

Feb. Fuel rationing was increased in severity

Mar. Wartime nurseries were set up at Attleborough Road, Avenue Road, Merevale Road and St Paul's Road.

Apr. There was a proposal to create an amusement park at Harefield Road

May. A local fuel overseer was appointed

The Town Clerk took up the issue of poor bus services with the Regional Transport Commissioner.

May. Chewing gum came into the Midlands via American soldiers.

6th Jun. "D" Day landings; many Nuneaton soldiers took part in this over the following days

12th Jun. The German V1 flying bombs (Buzz Bombs) began to land in the London suburbs causing widespread damage. One was reported to have reached the Warwickshire/Leicestershire area.

Jun. Riversley Park was granted permission for games evenings for youngsters

Jul. The Minister of Health was asked to approve the re-building of bomb damaged houses in Ventnor Street, Frank Street and Heath End Road

Aug. Education Act: Introduced secondary education for all. Rab Butler divided school into free primary and secondary.

Local Morrison air raid shelters were built, £5 for a single tier.

8th Sep. The German V2 (A4) rockets began to land on London causing widespread damage. A V2 rocket reached Northamptonshire.

12th Sep. Allied troops crossed the German pre-war frontier

Sep. Nuneaton Horticultural Show was the most outstanding in all of Warwickshire

17th Sep. The ‘dim out’ replaced the total Blackout in Britain

Oct. the Caldwell Hall estate was negotiated for sale

27th Nov. RAF Fauld (Burton on Trent) ammunition explosion. The blast was felt at Nuneaton, the flash in the sky was seen at even greater distances.

Nov. There was a shortage of temporary accommodation in Nuneaton

Dec. There were local health scares for Diphtheria

C.G. Gardner wrote: Notes on the history of Nuneaton

1944-45 Charles E. Fairburn was chief mechanical engineer of L.M.S. (not a local man) many of his engines were shedded at Nuneaton depot.

1944-51 D. C. Whimster was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school.

1945 Haunchwood Nowells colliery closed

7th May. Nuneaton celebration: Nazi Germany capitulated at Rheims.

9th May. The official end of World War II in Europe

We should never forget the sacrifices made so that we could be free!
May. W. S. Churchill was prime minister of a Conservative Government

Jul. C. R. Atlee was prime minister of a Labour Government

16th -17th Jul. The first atomic bomb exploded in New Mexico

6th Aug. The first Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. This may have been the day the world lost its confidence in scientists. Mankind certainly “turned a corner” or “opened a Pandora’s Box” depending on your perspective. Nobody (or nothing) had ever killed so many people in so few seconds!

14th Aug. Further Nuneaton celebration. Japan surrendered.

Nuneaton’s population was 51,689 based on ration book data

Arley colliery employed 1400 men
Ansley Hall colliery employed 670
Griff colliery employed 750
Haunchwood colliery employed 950
Newdigate colliery employed 1312

Frank Herbert vicar of St. Nicolas parish church, Nuneaton.

The Distribution of Industries Act required that a firm seeking over 5,000 square feet of workshop space must first obtain an Industrial Development Certificate from the Board of Trade. For the next 7 years these certificates were readily granted to any firm trying to develop in Nuneaton.

The National Grid system for electricity supply was established, pylons began to appear in the Midlands. The local housewife began to see her household acquire electric equipment such the Revo cooker and the basic agitating washing machine.

16th Nov. Prince Lobanov-Rostovsky sold his land at The Long Shoot.

1945-47 H. G. Ivatt was chief mechanical engineer of L.M.S. (not a local man) many his engines were shedded at the Nuneaton depot. (and 1948-51 British Railways)

1945-51 British Labour Government, they had to implement the Conservative's Butler Act.

Many new schools were built. Norwood had to implement the Act, he believed there were 3 types of human beings (= to gold, silver and copper); a selection process of IQ test in the form of the 11+. The Grammar and Technical schools.

1946 Jan. Many G.I. brides got their papers to live in America.

Feb. Sunday opening of the cinemas approved.

Brick shortages caused a slump in house building.

Hawkesbury colliery closed.

Mar. Nuneaton's rates the highest since 1929 at 18s 3d.

Apr. Mining training school re-opened

May. Shepperton Allotments refused to give up land for house and factory building

Jun. Mr. H.S. Turrell, L.M.S. railway clerk at Nuneaton 1922-30 was appointed Euston stationmaster

National Insurance Act

National Health Act

The first batch of 22 temporary prefabricated houses were built. The "prefabs" were sited at Byford Street and Wood Street in Stockingford. Another 100 soon followed.

22nd Jul. Bread rationing introduced
Jul. Nuneaton people began to book continental holidays for the first time since 1939.

Aug. Nuneaton led all the councils in numbers of houses built.

Sep. Opencast mining near Chapel End, Nuneaton

Oct. Parachute waste was dumped into the old mineshafts at Griff

Nov. There were plenty of jobs for the young

William S. White adopted the stage name "Billy Breen" this would change after 1953 to Larry Grayson.

Dec. Gamecock Barracks (Bramcote) was taken over by the Royal Navy.

Caldwell Hall demolished (Avenue Road)

1947 Jan. The mayor asked the local churches to welcome Prisoners of War

22nd Jan. - 16th Mar. Very heavy snowfall, and one of the wettest springs on record

Feb. Coldest month of record, one of the worst winters on record, very heavy snows, many local villages cut off.

Mar. The worst snow blizzards in living memory, followed by a thaw. The River Anker flooded badly; Weddington, Caldecote and beyond Mancetter were affected. The bad weather affected the harvest times and slowed down the ripening.

Spring: M.I.R.A. (Motor Industry Research Association) moved to Lindley.

Apr. Shepperton Allotment gave up 8.97 acres for buildings.

May. Frank Bowles gave up much of his business interests to become the M.P.

Jun. The Roswell incident in the USA, the reported crash landing of a flying saucer; later variously explained as a weather balloon, or a USSR atomic bomb shock wave recorder.

24th Jun. The first UFO was reported in Washington, USA
Jun. Mr. A. Flowers completed 60 working years at the Flour Mills

Jul. Warwickshire County Cricket agreed to play one match a year at a Nuneaton ground.

Aug. Nuneaton Timber yard caught fire.

Coal reached 4 shillings a ton (20p).

Sep. Proposals by the council to turn Seeswood/Seaswood Pool into a Lido.

Oct. Electricity was rationed in Nuneaton.

RAF Aerial Photograph of Hartshill area 42/39/SW

Nov. Lead was stolen from Oldbury Hall (that had been damaged by enemy action).

Electricity Nationalised

The second batch of 128 “prefabs” were built. The total distribution comprised: 98 at Stockingford, 74 at Weddington, 16 Glebe Road/King Edward Road, 62 Attleborough/Coton.

Work on the restoration of Chilvers Coton church (All Saints or “Shepperton”)

Town and Country Planning Act; Development Plan for Warwickshire

National Assistance Act made provision for national insurance contributions as a means of creating benefits to provide unemployment, sickness and retirement payments.

Nuneaton twinned with Roanne in France.

Dec. P.C. Joe Boneham retired after 37 years on the beat in Nuneaton

1947-48 National Coal Board took over the Coal Commission's role and assets.

Railways Nationalised. The Labour Government took the disjointed, devastated and demoralised railway industry into public ownership as an entirety. Since then most Governments have failed to address its commercial needs and have failed to implement a long term strategy.

1948 Jan. Nuneaton were the first to produce a list of historical buildings and present it in parliament after a government initiative

Feb. Local farmers clashed with opencast coal mineworkers at Moorwood/Ansley.

Mar. Mr. S. Barlow appointed as the new Librarian at Nuneaton, he encouraged an interest in local matters along with Mr Taylor his assistant

30th Mar. Stalin ordered a rail blockade of Berlin, this was followed by road blockade 3 months later. The Berlin Airlift began 1st Jul. and continued until well after the Russians capitulated on 12th May. Britain and USA sent 2,000 tons of supplies daily during the terrible winter on 1948-49.

Apr. Princess Elizabeth visited Bramcote base

May. Mr. R. Carder, a radio ham at Gypsy Lane picked radio transmissions regarding a UFO seen near Isle of Man.

Lindley airfield leased by M.I.R.A.

The Gas industry was nationalised

The West Midlands Plan by Abercrombie-Jackson. This defined how the area would develop, the density of new roads and houses etc.

4th Jun. Field Marshall Montgomery visited Nuneaton to unveil the War Memorial

28th Jun.-9th Jul. Very hot days in the Midlands

5th Jul. The National Health Service founded. Medical advice from doctors became free.

Jul. Alderman Bates died after long service in Nuneaton.

Rationing ended: Jam and Bread.

Aug. Early Saturday closing was proposed in Nuneaton, this would threaten the markets.

Sep. Nuneaton Infant schools were crowded but there were still places.

Exhall colliery closed

Oct. Nuneaton and Bedworth had cordial discussions about boundary changes that might affect them.

11th Nov. 30th Anniversary of the end of World War I

Nov. Proposals for a Nuneaton Festival of Arts

Dec. Meat rationing still existed, the amount was the smallest ever

1948-49 The “Baby Boom”, with the ending of war and the raising of national hope and expectation many people started families. (see 1965, 1967, 1970-1)

1949 24th-26th Jan. Spectacular Aurora Borealis seen in the Midlands

Feb. Local "post-war baby boom". School dental services were getting worse

Mar. A poll was taken in Nuneaton regarding allowing Sunday games in parks, the great majority did not want them.

The Royal Cinema closed.

George Orwell’s “Nineteen Eighty-Four” was published This was a propheticbook that seemed to predict an awful future for mankind. Many people in 1984 felt his predictions had been wrong and that his grim portrayal of life was completely wrong. However, it is similar to the The Prisoner (Patrick MacGoohan 1967) in its analogies.

4th Apr. NATO founded
Apr. 53,000 ration books were issued in town

28th Apr. A partial eclipse of the sun

May. Aerials were being erected in town in preparation for television

5th May. Council of Europe founded
Parliament Act: this limited the powers of the Lords.

Rationing ended on clothes

The Steel industry Nationalised.

Jun. Mr. J. Lee served on the local railways for 49 years

28th Jul. Ronald Robert Pierpoint Rigby, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church.

Jul. The town was suffering severe water shortages

29th Jul. Bread rationing ended

Aug. Coton railway station was voted best kept station

Sep. Mr. J. Pegg grew his own tobacco on his Higham Lane allotment

Oct. Arley railway tunnel was shortened by converting the western end into a cutting

Nov. A report said that King Edward VI Grammar School was in a disgraceful state

Dec. A report stated that Nuneaton lacked boys clubs

17th Dec. The Sutton Coldfield television transmitter broadcast the first BBC TV pictures to the Nuneaton area

1949-50 Oldbury Hall was finally demolished

Howard Brown, a teacher at the grammar school, excavated Etone Priory. He also made important discoveries at Astley in previous years. Much of his work was published.

1950 Jan. Nuneaton Arts school was 25 years old

Feb. Moves to merge Nuneaton and Bedworth were opposed

Mar. George Eliot memorial garden were designed.

C. R. Atlee was prime minister of a Labour Government.

Warwickshire Collieries (14 No.) produced 5,184,103 tons of coal.

Apr. A model engineering exhibition was organised by the Nuneaton and District Model Engineers

May. The Civic Restaurant was to close.

RAF Aerial Photograph of Nuneaton area 42/39/SE

26th May. Rationing ended on petrol

Non-stick cooking utensils developed

25th Jun. The Korean War forced many local servicemen to re-train (Z training)

7,000 Commonwealth troops ultimately died!

Larry Grayson performed at the Nuneaton Hippodrome.

Alvecote colliery closed.

Jun. Mr Newdegate condemned the destruction of good farmland for development

25th Jun. Dan Dare, the pilot of the future, started in the Eagle comic

Jul. Children's outing to Manchester.

George Eliot Philharmonic Society meeting (not the same as the G.E. Fellowship).

Beer was 7.5 p (1s 6d) a pint and petrol was 15 p (3 s) a gallon.

Aug. Nuneaton was asked to comment on a proposed one way traffic system

Sep. Nuneaton was estimated to need 2,160 Civil Defence Workers, they had 57 volunteers

Oct. Planning permission for Caldwell caravan site was refused

11th Oct. The first UFO photograph was taken in America.

Nov. M.I.R.A. applied to construct a high speed test track

Dec. There were objections to a potato crisp factory in Seymour Road.

20TH CENTURY A.D. (1950 – 2000)

1950-55 In this period Nuneaton Steam locomotive depot (shed) had a large number of the steam engine type known as 7F Super D (G2 or Duck 8). Many engine drivers had a love-hate relationship with these old locomotives. One driver reputedly would kick a certain engine if he were rostered to drive it! One was preserved for posterity andmay steam by the year 2000.

1951 Jan. Middlemarch School started construction.

Part of the Caldwell Hall estate was scheduled for Public Open Space

Feb. The Motor Omnibus Committee tried to add more bus stops in Nuneaton

Mar. The Whittleford well was deepened to improve water yield.

Nuneaton population 54,407; Weddington population: 1,828. 72% of the town's inhabitants were born in Warwickshire.

Apr. Land was purchased along Marston Lane for housing

May. Mayor Alderman W.S. Johnson J.P.

Jun. Dried egg was finally withdrawn from human diets

1st-8th Jul. Nuneaton Children's Festival

Aug. Gorsy Knob (Griff) was approved as a recreation area

Sep. Tuttle Hill quarries applied for fishing to be allowed

Oct. Further developments at Sterling Metals

W. S. Churchill was prime minister of a Conservative Government

25th Oct. The first BBC Television coverage of the election.

31st Oct. The first Zebra crossing introduced in Britain

Nov. The purchase of the Hippodrome was considered

Dec. 60,000 meals were provided each week in Nuneaton schools.

T. Sumner was recorded as Headmaster of King Edward VI grammar school during its four hundredth anniversary year.

1951-63 A British Conservative Government was elected

1952 11th Jan. Billy Breen (Larry Grayson) played a pantomime dame at Loughborough

Jan. the National Coal Board were told not to tip miners' coal allowances on to the road.

Rationing ended: Tea

6th Feb. Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne after the death of her father George VI.

21st Feb. Abolition of identity cards

25th Feb. A partial eclipse of the sun

Feb. Freer Street to be cleared of slums

Nuneaton Congregational churches amalgamated (Bond Street and Coton Road)

Mar. Air raid shelters were surveyed and counted

Apr. The Civil Defence were still very active

May. Mass radiography units came to town

Jun. The fourth stage of Camp Hill housing

20th Jun. A sandstone tunnel was found beneath Mount Street when flats were built. It was 20 feet long by 8 feet deep. It may have been a water cistern or culverted stream associated with the priory site nearby.

Jul. Many local houses being modernised

Aug. Wimpey won a contract to build 159 houses at Camp Hill

Sep. Land was compulsory purchased for the new Bus Station

Oct. Vicarage Street to be re-aligned and modernised

Nov. Smokeless zones came into the town

1st Nov. The first hydrogen bomb was exploded at Eniwetok Atoll by the United States of America. The British exploded their first atomic bomb

Dec. 22 houses approved for Oakdene Crescent to be built by Hope and Aldridge

4th Dec. On that night however it changed to cloudless conditions.

Smog = smoke and fog!

5th Dec. A widespread “smog” affected much of lowland England (and Nuneaton); the condensation contained molecules of sulphuric acid from all the coal fires in houses and factories along with power station smoke. The previous week had been very cold with rain, sleet and snow, followed by calm, cloudy conditions on the

Myxomatosis infected the British rabbit population. Some researchers maintain it was the result of hybrid germ experiment that escaped from a British laboratory.

1953 Prototype Diesel Electric locomotives Nos. 10000 and 10001 hauled passenger services through Nuneaton.

31st Jan.-1st Feb. The North Sea surge. This was caused by very low pressure in the North Sea, it caused a rise in sea level; this was due to large amounts of Atlantic Ocean water moving from one area to part of the North Sea. A violent gale was blowing from the north - the net result was great areas of East Anglia were inundated; this caused rivers to back up and flood the Soar valley to the east of Nuneaton.

3rd Mar. Nuneaton Technical School nearing completion

May. A new memorial garden opened in Riversley Park

29th May. Mount Everest was conquered by Sherpa Ten Sing and Edmund Hilary

2nd Jun. Queen Elizabeth II Coronation, many street parties

6th Jun. Saturday:

Borough of Nuneaton, Coronation Gala Day Programme.

Riversley Park Programme

2.30 p.m.- Fancy Dress Competition preceded by a parade leaving Harefield Road car park at 2.0 p.m. and headed by the Drum Band of the Coventry School of Music.

Route: Newtown Road, High Street, Edward Street, Princes Street, Riversley Park

3.00 p.m.- Marionette Show
4.15 p.m.- Ajax the Wonder Dog
4.45 p.m.- The Drum Band of the Coventry School of Music
5.00 p.m.- Dancing Display by the Nancy Bates School of Dancing
5.30 p.m.- Ajax the Wonder Dog
5.50 p.m.- The Drum Band of Coventry School of Music
6.00 p.m.- Display by the Boy Scouts
7.00 p.m.- Marionette Show
7.30 p.m.- Open-Air Concert by the Finalists of the Talent Contest and Jimmy Heath and his band

Other attractions in Riversley Park

The Band of the Coventry School of Music
Individual Bowling Tournament
Dog Show
Baby Show
Side Shows and Stalls
Balloon Race
Pony Rides
A miniature railway - constructed by the Nuneaton and District Society of Model Engineers will be on view - 2d a ride

Pingle Fields Programme

2.30 - 8.00 p.m. Horse Show and Gymkhana
7.30 p.m. Amateur Boxing Tournament
9.00 - 10.00 p.m. Concert by Coventry School of Music Brass Band
10.00 p.m. Grand Fireworks Display

Horse Show and Gymkhana
Pingle Fields, Avenue Road
first event 2.30 pm

2.30 p.m.- Class 1 Best Turnout
2.45 p.m.- Class 2 Best Child's pony under 13 hands
- Class 3 Best Child's pony 14.2 hands
3.20 p.m.- Performance by Drum Band
3.35 p.m.- Class 4 Bending Race
- Class 5 Bending Race
4.15 p.m.- Class 6 Children's Jumping
4.45 p.m.- Class 7 Potato Race
- Class 8 Potato Race
5.30 p.m.- Class 9 Grade C Jumping
6.15 p.m.- Performance by Drum Band
6.30 p.m.- Class 10 Open Jumping
7.15 p.m.- Class 11 Musical Bricks
- Class 12 Musical Bricks

8-13th Jun. Merrie England - Nuneaton's most spectacular Open Air musical, Riversley Park (part of Coronation Gala)

Rationing ended on sugar, eggs, cheese and sweets

12th Jun. Moorwood Chimney blown up; it was 250' high

Jul.-Aug. BBC TV broadcast Nigel Kneale's "Quatermass Experiment"; this caused widespread panic in local audiences.
Sunday 16th Aug. Severe train crash near Wilnecote. The previous week had been a heat wave with heavy thunderstorms.

18th Sep. Some of St. Mary's Abbey remains incorporated in Camp Hill church

c.1953 The local quarries contained many narrow-gauge steam locomotives that were no longer required. Some were ultimately rescued and preserved in other parts of the country, the rest were cut up for scrap metal. Named engines included: Oldbury, Londesborough, Dot, Dorsib etc. (it is thanks to local enthusiasts like Mick Lee and Maurice Billington that any of these locomotive's details were recorded)

1954 Jan. Area 2 of wartime damage to be cleared in the town

Feb. Donnithorne Road canal bridge to be approved

Mar. Camp Hill needed recreation facilities

Apr. British Travel Association was asked by the George Eliot Fellowship to improve their tourist data on the town

May. Mill Walk was due to get traffic improvements

Jun. Traffic control was needed for the Market Place

30th Jun. A partial eclipse of the sun in the Midlands

Jul. Street lighting and bus stops to be improved in the town area.

Oldbury Hill reservoir constructed.

Rationing ended: cream, butter and meat.

Sep. Nuneaton bought nurseries at the rear of Chase Close.

Oct. Midland Red expressed an interest in buying land for a new bus garage in Newtown Road.

Nov. A proposed new library was considered.

Bermuda village needed a flood alleviation scheme.

Dec. The Boundary Commission altered the Nuneaton-Bedworth boundary

1954-60 26th Aug. to 17th Jan. 1960. Alan Sheasby compiled his bird observations of Weddington in 3 volumes. It contained many sketches and photographs as well as weather records.

1954-67 The period of 'Che' Guevara's fame in Central and Southern America. He became a cult icon for many local teenagers and inspired student movements worldwide.

mid 1950's The Hippodrome partly destroyed by fire

1955 The Smog Act was passed
Jan. Prefabricated concrete bus shelters were considered for the town bus routes along with fee paying weighing machines in public conveniences

Feb. Labourers were hard to find on the construction of Oldbury Hill reservoir.

Griff Clara colliery closed.

Mar. Cambridge University Aerial Photography of Nuneaton.

Public rights of way were established in Arbury and Weddington
Apr. Sir Anthony Eden was prime minister of a Conservative Government

Apr. to Jul. 1956: A. E. Jebbett wrote history articles in the Nuneaton newspapers

27th Apr. Caldecote Hall (then St. Chad's public school/college) suffered serious damage from a fire that destroyed much of the roof and south west facing wing.

The college was relocated at North Kilworth near Lutterworth on 16th May.

May. The Civil Defence held their annual competition at Leamington, many Nuneaton entrants took part

9th May. 10th Anniversary of the end of World War II

Jun. The library stocked books in Polish to cater for the growing numbers of Polish people settling in Nuneaton
27th Jul. Nuneaton Council approved the twinning of the town with Roanne in France

Aug. There were moves to find the Art School new premises, their temporary home at the Museum restricted exhibition plans

Sep. The ITV began to broadcast. Over the next 5 years the growth of television, 7" 45 rpm records and transistor radios would sound the death knoll for the great variety in childrens' street and playground games. Marbles, whipping tops, hopscotch, What's the time Mr. Wolf, Off-ground-He, Tig, Leap Frog, Hide and Seek etc.

The council discussed with Midland Red a new site for bus garage

Oct. The new Bus Station was proceeding as planned. The new shelters would arrive in January 1956

Oct.-Nov. BBC TV broadcast Nigel Kneale's "Quatermass II"; this caused widespread panic in local audiences.

Nov. Riversley Park was earmarked for improvements

Dec. The town council approved equal pay for equal work (equality for women or age groups)

c.1955 Nuneaton livestock market average weekly sales: Cattle 150, Calves 100; Sheep 250; Pigs 300.

1956 Jan. Meadow Street flats to be equipped with lifts to help some of the elderly with their shopping or young families with children

Feb. Nuneaton corporation bought old properties between Black Horse Inn and Wheat Street.

Apr. The local education committee approved extra teaching staff as well as better service conditions.

One of the driest springs on record.

UK Premium Bonds were launched.

The new shopping phenomena "HIRE PURCHASE" H.P. or buy now pay later in never-never land. This period saw televisions, cars, washing machines, fridges, 3 piece suites and much more.

The thermal photocopier was launched.
3rd May. Nuneaton's new Bus Station opened, prior to that bus services used to leave from Bond Gate and side streets nearby

The last Farthing coins minted = (0.25d)

Jun. The new Bus Station cafe opened successfully.

Riversley Park pavilion was to be refurbished

29th Jul. The lowest summer pressure ever recorded in Britain 977 mb.

Severe gale force winds accompanied it.

Jul. Many bus stops were to be re-sited

Aug. The Post Office was to be re-sited

Sep. The Caldwell estate granted a public off licence

20th Sep. The white £5 note ceased to be printed.

Oct. The Girl's High School was granted an extension

14th Nov. The 3,000th post-war council house built locally

31st Dec. The Tangey needlework factory closed, many jobs were lost.

Rail traffic ceased on the Griff branch, track lifted.

Weddington rector Rev. John Gale

1957 F. Cross of Atherstone sold a collection of very important archives and papers to Nuneaton Library, see p. 9 and 131 of Borough Council Minute Books for 1957-8.

Colliery	Men	Output in tons
Arley	1751	524,000
Ansley Hall	724	224,000
Griff	694	187,000
Haunchwood	1238	391,000
Newdegate	1379	374,600

Jan. Harold Macmillan was prime minister of a Conservative Government

11th Feb. Local earth tremor shook Nuneaton causing some structural damage.

This Midland earth tremor centred on Castle Donington. About 5.2 on the ML Scale

25th Mar. The Treaty of Rome established the Common Market

Mar. The warmest March on record in central England

15th May. The first hydrogen bomb was exploded by Great Britain.

29th Jul. Nuneaton celebrated 50 years as a Borough; there were elaborate decorations outside the Council House.

4th Oct. Russia launched Sputnik I; it circled the earth for 95 minutes transmitting a radio signal.

8th-11th Oct. Windscale power plant fire; this sent radioactive Polonium 210 over the Midlands and northern Europe; this can be a potential cause of cancer in people.

The rents from the market stalls totalled £4,700

22nd Dec. ABC Cinemas closed the Old Hippodrome Theatre.

c.1957 The creation of Mount Jud was all but complete, 1,500,000 tons of stone were used to make it, all loaded by hand on to tippler wagons

1957-58 John Bacon and S. Charles Clarke began the 16 mm film on the story of Nuneaton.

It was finally screened in 1969.

1958 1st. Jan. The Common Market came into being. (EEC).

Jan. Local builders were suffering from lack of work.

The Nuneaton Burma Star was the third largest in Britain

Feb. The polio injection campaign in Nuneaton was very successful, the River Anker had noticed placed along its length

14th Mar. The second indication that man was changing the earth's climate – a phenomena known as global warming. There was a period of long hot summers; this enabled C. D. Keeling to prove that there was a definite increase in Carbon Dioxide. He convinced the American government that previous monitoring had been inaccurate and that the gas production was rising dangerously fast.

Mar. Nuneaton was to have four high schools (Alderman Smith, Arbury,Higham Lane and Swinnerton).

Nuneaton's new Technical College was opened.

The new Anker Public House was opened in Weddington.

Apr. There was little support for half day closing on Saturday after it was proposed.

John Sherwood tried to launch a Michael Drayton Fellowship.

The new Bus Station received street lighting.

May. The Clean Air Act came into force locally, there were many complaints from people about the cost of the new fuel or alterations

Jun. Hartshill High School opened.

Local rent increases on council houses caused a flood of complaints.

2nd Jul. River Anker flooded badly; Sandon Park, Weddington, was a lake; Brookie Fields under water. The bad weather affected the harvest times and slowed down the ripening.

The XLNC cafe in Queens Road for was known for its tomato and bacon batches.

D. Di Mascio's cafe was legendary for its ice cream. They used to deliver ice cream to the suburbs in their white van.

Heart in Hand pub in Wheat Street demolished.

7th Aug. The Litter Act came into force.

Aug. Nuneaton was one of the first council to pilot “Granny Flats” at Attleborough initially.

Green Shield stamps introduced; but by 1978 they had economically failed as had many others (Pink Stamps etc.).

Sep. Pallett’s proposed private enterprise house building at the first phase of St. Nicolas Park estate.

Oct. The new blocks of flats were built along Coton Road.
T.B. was on the increase in Nuneaton, the town had the highest incidence in the whole of the county.

Princes Cinema (Tatler) and The Palace, Stockingford closed.

Nov. There was a steady increase in the number of deaths from cancer in Nuneaton (was there a connection with the recent upsurge of televisions rented in previous years???).

Wimpey began to build the Weddington estate (Bramdene etc.).

British Rail advertised there introduction of diesel rail cars on the Nuneaton-Coventry-Leamington service.

11th Nov. 40th Anniversary of the end of World War I.

Dec. The mayor read a scroll from the Council House; it was in appreciation of the town’s Territorial Army

1958 The world’s living population reached 3,000,000,000 (three billion)

1958-59 Dec-Jan. BBC TV broadcast Nigel Kneale's “Quatermass and the Pit”; this caused widespread panic in local audiences.

1959 Jan. New concrete bus shelters began to appear in the town.

Town centre redevelopment began.

Ald. Hadden was a prolific speaker on occasions.

Feb. Nuneaton had a good record for looking after the elderly.

A new boys club was opened on Avenue Road.

Ansley Hall colliery closed. The branch line serving it was closed shortly afterwards.

There are no known photographs of any engines working this line.

Mar. There was a growing teacher shortage; Easter school leavers were finding it hard to get jobs.

Apr. Abbey Street flatblocks were constructed.

May. The council introduced 4 rent free weeks to its tenants; this was achieved by dividing a year’s rent by 48 (not 52).

Nuneaton Flour mills stopped grinding wheat.

BBC television experimented with colour broadcasting.

Jun. The Black Horse public house was demolished on the corner of Wheat Street and Vicarage Street.

Jul. Bridge Street demolition to allow for widening.

The Pingles was chosen for the new swimming baths.

A local printers' strike for 7 weeks.

A very dry year, Seewood Pool was very low.
Aug.- Sep. Weddington rectory demolished; new houses in Church Lane, Wimpey Estate and Castle Road.
Sep. Vicarage Street was made into a modern highway

13th Sep. Russia succeeded in crash landing Luna 2 on the moon.

16th Sep. Four local bridges were jacked up to make way for the electrification of the Trent Valley Line through Nuneaton. (Garratt Street, Canal Farm, Quarry Lane and Rose Hill Farm).

Oct. Frank Bowles M.P. retained his seat with a reduced majority.

The mobile X-ray service was very busy.

Warwickshire crime figures reached an all time high.

Harold Macmillan was prime minister of a Conservative Government.

Russia succeeded in sending a Luna 3 rocket around the moon and obtained some photographs of the dark side.

The manufacture of plate glass and flat floated glass perfected on Merseyside

20th Nov. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was established.

Nov. Roman Catholic church built at Westbury Road.

Rev. Sneath appointed the new minister at Camp Hill.

Slum clearance going as planned in the town.

Dec. A local outbreak of "Foot and Mouth" disease.

There was a two year waiting list (council housing) for young childlessmarried couples

1960 The Weddington Wimpey estate expanded with more streets

14th Apr. Coventry Cathedral Cross of Nails brought to Stockingford

15th Apr. Friday morning 2.00 a.m. Coventry Cross of Nails brought to Weddington.

May. EFTA (European Free Trade Area) commenced, Britain was a key member.

Nuneaton Museum and Art gallery re-opened with R.K. Dunham as the Curator.

Griff No. 4 colliery closed.

23rd Jun. Heavy storms, lighting, floods in town centre.

Land Utilisation Survey (survey by Hinckley Grammar School) mapped the Nuneaton area.

12th Sep. The MOT test for cars introduced; many local "old bangers" disappeared from the local roads.

Sep. E.G. Hellawell's notorious statue of the 2 wrestling boys was displayed in Nuneaton. The cement fondue sculpture was moved several times in the next 35 years. It suffered from many problems, chemical weathering and artistic embellishments were but two! Hellawell was the principal at Nuneaton Art College at the time.

King's Head pub in Church Street demolished

The National Coal Board gave permission for the fragments of Purefoy's tomb at Ansley Hall to be restored to Caldecote church. (see 1766, 1778 and 1814)

20th Oct. to 2nd Nov. Penguin Books were prosecuted for publishing Lady Chatterley's Lover. The jury found them "Not Guilty". Some critics believed this opened the floodgates of a more dangerous and easily obtained type of pornography.

1960's The Hippodrome completely destroyed by fire. Nuneaton gasworks site closed down permanently.

Boffin's shop in the passageway between the Market Place and Newdegate Street was legendary for its pork and stuffing batches!

Midland Red's old bus garage closed in Coton Road, a new one opened in Newtown Road.

There were 16 climate-related disasters (now believed to be caused by global warming)

1960-63 A period of great interest in local history, discovery of Nuneaton documents in Aston family home, local excavations, local history research group founded etc.

1961 The Grand Cinema closed at Chapel End

1st Jan. The farthing became illegal tender

Jan. The new abattoir was opened.

Nuneaton Borough Football club was threatened with a £500 fine if they left the Southern League.

15th Feb. A partial eclipse of the sun

Feb. There was little local enthusiasm for fluoridating the water supply.

A local teacher shortage.

Many local electric cable needed to be replaced.

Mar. The numbers of people renting television increased.

Nuneaton was one of the best areas for blood donation.
Apr. Nuneaton's new library was under construction.

12th Apr. Russia launched the first man into space : Yuri Gagarin.

May. The Conservatives took greater control of the council.
42 local drivers were fined in one week for speeding offences.

Jun. Nuneaton was told it had no chance of becoming a county borough.

Horses were still used in Man-Abell quarry, Hartshill to pull wagons.

Jul. Mr Sam Hutt retired after 66 years working at Stanley's brickyard.

Finn Shoes were recruiting for their new factory in Weddington.

Coton Road part of the ring road began.
Aug. The local Territorial Army needed men urgently.

10th Aug. Britain applied to join the Common Market.

Skegness Whitsun seaside excursions finished on Nuneaton-Ashby line.

Sep. The incidence of children being neglected increased in the town

Oct. The Nuneaton Festival Arts lost public support.

Nov. Nuneaton Savings Week

Dec. Nuneaton telephone exchange went over to trunk dialling.

Dugdale Street's new shops opened

1961-63 Drs. Smith and White discovered new fossil Cambrian trilobites at Camp Hill: Pool Road.

1962 Electrification of the local Trent Valley Line. Many signal boxes were demolished, bridges were either demolished, re-built or jacked-up on to new bearings.

The local employment paradox:

9,000 Nuneaton people worked outside the town on a daily basis, 4,000 different people travelled into Nuneaton to work from outlying areas. Thousands of others travelled within the town from one suburb to another! (to go to work!)

Aug. Leicester Road bridge was being widened and raised to clear the newelectrification works. The new one way system of traffic flow over the bridge was opened. The Nuneaton timber yard crane was removed around this period.

The new Crown offices opened opposite the library.

5th Aug. Marilyn Monroe was found dead in her apartment; the speculation about her death lived on for decades! (accidental overdose? suicide? murder? assassination?)

Nuneaton steam locomotive depot (shed) had 131 engines located in this year - the most it ever achieved.

Nuneaton Technical College's Commerce Department opened.
Mrs Jessie K. Pearson last mentioned in the Electoral Roll at The Lodge. (Grove Bungalow, Weddington Castle gatehouse).

White Swan pub in Market Street closed.

5th Oct. Friday: The Beatles appeared at the Nuneaton Co-operative Dance Hall; Tickets 5/- (25p) It was "Teen Beat Night" (7.45-11.00 p.m.), they were second on the bill to Buddy Brittain. Local legend states that they signed their autographs on a wall, the wall was later painted over. Pete Best was their drummer on that date.

The Avengers were the support group. The advert appeared on page 15 of the Evening Tribune Vol. CIII No. 236. This concert was not listed in many of the official diaries and biographies of the group. Some diaries actually record them as being in Liverpool that night.

The Beatles touched everyone's life over the next few years, they influenced culture, fashion, morality and history. Several of their significant achievements are listed between 1962 and 1970. In the next 3 years some of the following groups appeared at Nuneaton: The Kinks, Rolling Stones, Searchers, Billy J. Kramer and the Dakotas, Gerry and The Pacemakers, Screaming Lord Sutch and the Savages, Pretty

15th Nov. Nuneaton's new library officially opened

The Sixties had complex origins that could be traced back as far as the mid 1950's. The post-war baby boom that peaked in 1949, was however, the root of this phenomenal need of the young people to express their dissatisfaction and distrust with the existing authority systems of the world.

Charismatic personalities such as the Beatles, Ken Kesey and Timothy Leary tried to express the aspirations of this generation. This period was analysed by many sociologists in an attempt to find out any long term meaning of it.

15th Dec. The Beatles single "Love me do" entered the record charts

1962-63 This winter was one of the worst on record locally and nationally.

1963 21st Jan. The 25,000 Volt electrification of the West Coast Main Line reached Nuneaton. (the current was live in the wiring!)

23rd-24th Jan. Very cold days in the Midlands

Jan. The French vetoed Britain's application to join the Common Market.

3rd Feb. The Beatles single "Please Please Me" entered the record charts and reached No. 1 shortly afterwards. Over the next seven years the group dominated the music charts all over the world. They never returned to Nuneaton to play gigs. They achieved over 35 No. 1 records in the U.K. and U.S.A.

Mar.-Jun. Profumo scandal brought about the Conservative government's defeat in the election

8th Aug. The Great Train Robbery in the Northampton region

Oct. Lord Home (Sir Alec Douglas Home) was prime minister of a Conservative Government

One of the wettest autumns and years on record

22nd Nov. President Kennedy was probably assassinated in a conspiracy involving CIA, Arms/Aeroplane manufacturers, high level military intelligence officers, Free Cuba revolutionaries. Many local school children were affected by this tragedy.

Binley colliery closed.

Nuneaton's new Police and Magistrates' Court under construction.

Dennis Milburn produced his book: Nuneaton. The Growth of a Town.

The original Weddington Old Graziers Arms demolished.

The first Chinese take-aways appeared in the area.

16th Dec. Atherstone by-pass officially opened

1963-65 Dr. Adrian Rushton discovered new fossil Cambrian trilobites at Pool Road, Camp Hill

1963-70 A British Labour government elected after the Profumo scandal.

1964 Jan. The Pingles swimming complex under construction

21st Feb. The £10 note was resurrected.

Weddington's new rector: Canon Guy Cornwall-Jones.

One of the driest winters on record.

21st Apr. BBC 2 television began transmission; it took a further 3 years to establish UK coverage.

25th Jun. A total eclipse of the moon

Daw Mill colliery opened, the last new colliery in the Warwickshire coalfield; it went on to set many national productivity records in the next 25 years.

Summer - a period of minimum sunspot activity.

Abbey Street Methodist church demolished.

Aug. Ordnance Survey aerially photographed the Nuneaton district

Dec. The White Swan Inn and Lester's chemist demolished in the Market Place

19th Dec. A total eclipse of the moon

Dec. The new magistrates' court opened. The River Anker flooded parts of the town after heavy rainfall

1964-67 Dr. Rushton and K. Taylor found important Cambrian trilobite fossils in the Nuneaton-Atherstone area.

1965 1st Jan. Bedworth and Chilvers Coton railway station closed after 115 years.
Church Farm, Weddington, demolished
Pooley Hall, Dexter and Amington collieries closed

8th May. The Pingles opened

9th May. 20th Anniversary of the end of World War II
Ken Loach directed the television play "Up the Junction"; this was followed by "Cathy come home". They were vivid and harrowing stories about homeless young families.

May.-Jun. The C.S.E. examination was introduced this year as a future replacement for the G.C.E. This new examination also saw the demise of the Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Leaving Certificate taken at 15 years of age. There would follow a long period of experimentation until the G.C.S.E. would eventually take over in most schools by the late 1980's.

11th Jun. The Cosmic Poetry Visitation at the Albert Hall - "The Gathering of the Tribes". This event was seen as a precursor to the "Hippy flower power movement"

Jul. The Stanier Pacific steam locomotive No. 46235

"City of Birmingham" was temporarily stored at Nuneaton Locomotive Shed (No. 2B) before being moved to Birmingham museum.

Aug. local "1948-49 Baby Boom" children did exceptionally well in GCE "O" level examinations. Many children were transferred to the grammar schools in 1965, to build on this success. Many had failed the 11+ plus examination.

Sun. 8th Aug. The Byrds played at Coventry as part of their first British Tour, many Nuneaton fans went to see them

The new fire station in Newtown Road nearing completion

Weddington Road brick arch railway bridge near Shanklin Drive replaced with a steel one.

Yoxall's was legendary for its cakes, lunches and the meeting place for students.

Beans on toast was 1/-. (5p)

18th and 22nd Oct. The Beatles recorded "In my life". I quote from this song, one of their greatest compositons:

"There are places I'll remember all my life. Though some have changed, some forever, not for better. Some have gone and some remain. All these places had their moments..."

Nov. The new Salvation Army citadel building opened

5th Dec. Michael Winstanley Mansbridge, priest; the Newdegate family were patrons of Chilvers Coton church.

The Five Shilling Crown last minted = (5s) or 25p

24th Dec. 4.20 p.m. the Barwell meteorite landed in the village, England's largest example.

1966 1st Jan. 4 young people died in the Co-op Dance Hall at the New Year's Eve dance.

The Co-op Ballroom closed its cinema

25th Jan. The Byrds recorded the legendary "Eight Miles High" record; a previous recording was made in late 1965. (Rogan 1998) The song was given no airplay because it was thought to be advocating the use of psychedelic and hallucinogenic drugs (it was not!).
The boom era of local rock groups: The Fenders, Orphan Clyde, The Jones, Paper Lantern, In-finity, The Growth, Fresh Maggots, Max Holliman, Pinkerton's Assorted Colours - some even secured recording contracts!

31st Jan. Russia soft landed Luna 9 successfully on the moon; it transmitted scientific data back with pictures.

The One shilling coin last minted = (1/- or 1s or 12d) or 5p

The Russians succeeded in landing a spacecraft on the surface of another planet - Venus.

Frank Cousins tried to become Nuneaton's new M.P.

12th Feb. Pinkerton's Assorted Colours, a local Nuneaton group, had a hit record with "Mirror Mirror". It reached No. 9 in the charts.

Mar. The Dugdale public house opened, it soon acquired a reputation!

Apr. The new Warwickshire Fire Service station opened

Thurs. 14th Apr. An electric train broke the speed record for London-Crewe. It exceeded 100 mph on many stretches. Was it just a coincidence that in the next few weeks the last steam trains left Nuneaton.

23rd Apr. Sat. The last British Railways steam train left from Nuneaton. No. 46519 on a special RCTS (Railway Correspondence and Travel Society) St George Excursion.

27th Apr. It became illegal for a UK resident to hold more than 4 gold coins minted after 1837. This Act was revoked 1st Jan. 1971

20th May. A partial eclipse of the sun clearly visible over Nuneaton

4th Jun. Saturday; the final day of actual operation by the Nuneaton Steam Locomotive Depot.

6th Jun. Mon. Closure of Nuneaton steam locomotive depot (2B or 5E).

4th Jul. Mon. The last steam locomotive finally left Nuneaton locomotive depot. No. 78059. This engine was sent to Dai Woodham's Barry Island scrapyard. It was purchased many years later and was being restored as a tank engine version of a similar engine class.

The Beach Boys released their record album PET SOUNDS, one of the first advances in studio production techniques combined with brilliant arrangements and compositions.

The Beatles released their “revolutionary” album: REVOLVER
Aug. Newdegate Arms hotel demolished

Sep. National Coal Board start exploratory drilling at Griff/Bermuda for the opencast prospect (later named Sudeley, see 1986-89 period).

The Labour government began to modernise education, the 11+ test was to be phased out and university entrance would be made fairer. This allowed many Nuneaton children from ordinary backgrounds to go into higher education in October 1967 for the first time.

Friday 21st Oct. The Aberfan slag tip failed and a mud slide engulfed the local village school. Many children died!

Jimi Hendrix arrived in England. He came from a poor American background and became one the world’s greatest guitar players. He mastered jazz, blues, rock in his own unique left-hand style. He altered his guitar in unique and new ways - he used ‘cello strings, re-wound the electro-magnets on the pick-ups. He made unique records, his appearances at Woodstock, Monterey, Newport and Isle of Wight. Many Nuneaton students saw him perform at the Isle of Wight. By the 18th September 1970 he had died like so many pop stars from the excesses of stardom.

16th-17th Nov. The Leonid meteor shower gave a spectacular display in the Nuneaton night sky

Dec. The first Christmas stamps introduced

1966-67 The foundations of the InterNet were created in America

Francis Fawcett became the curator of Nuneaton Museum. He had previously worked at Aberdeen University and Sheffield Park Museums. (see 1972)

1967 Haunchwood Tunnel colliery closed

Warwickshire Collieries (8 No.) produced 3,553,334 tons of coal.

The One Penny last minted = (1d);
The Florin last minted = (2s) or 10p
The 12-sided Threepenny = (3d)
Half Crown coin = (30d) last minted
The Sixpenny coin = (6d) or 2.5p last minted
The Halfpenny coin = (0.5d) last minted.

The steel girder rail bridge over Heath End Road was removed.

Les Huckfield (Labour) became Nuneaton's M.P., he replaced Frank Bowles (Labour) who went to the House of Lords.

Apr. A prototype 12 cylinder Jaguar car reached 161 mph at M.I.R.A. test track.

This car was a prototype for the Le Mans race. The noise from the engine could be heard in Weddington quite clearly.

Apr. The Byrds released "Younger than Yesterday" regarded by many to be their greatest record with "Notorious Byrd Brothers" in May 1968.

12th May. Nuneaton Labour group lost control of the town council for the first time in 22 years

Thurs. 1st. Jun. The Beatles released the legendary Sgt. PEPPER'S LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND

The recordings first began as early as November 1966. It was originally available as a mono or stereo long playing album, reel to reel tape and later as a music cassette and compact disc. The Beatles were very popular in Nuneaton's culture. (see: Martin 1994, MacDonald 1994 and Rogan 1998 references)

Sun. 25th Jun. World television satellite link-up The Beatles sang " All You Need Is Love"

The Summer of Love and FLOWER POWER

Aug. The local "1948-49 Baby Boom" children did exceptionally well in GCE "A" level examinations, many went to university or college higher education.

29th Sep. to 2nd Feb. 1968. The Prisoner was screened on ATV to the vexation of everyone. No one could understand the surreal allegories in this series by Patrick McGoohan.

Ken Loach, directed the film "Poor Cow" (see 1936, 1969, 2000 etc.)

8th Oct. The breathalyser was introduced to reduce injuries caused by drink driving

Oct. An outbreak of "Foot and Mouth" lasted until March 1968.
18th Oct. The Russians sent Venera 4 to Venus and it managed to transmit data back on its descent.
19th Nov. The British £1 was devalued.

16th Dec. Awson's carriage works fire in Meadow Street, it was the biggest fire since the war.

Weddington Road, (Grove Bungalow) the Castle's northern round gatehouse lodge demolished. The local legend of tunnels between the Castle and the Lodges and church were not proven.

26th Dec. The Beatles film was broadcast on BBC2 in black and white. "Magical Mystery Tour" It did not please local or national viewers.

1967-71 Cambridge University aerial photographs of local archaeological sites. In this period

42 Mediaeval kilns were excavated at 19 sites in the Coton-Arbury area. The kilns were mostly built of clay and were ephemeral. This was a major indicator of how important the Nuneaton area was. The kilns evolved from double flue to multi-flue (3 or 4) and appeared to have two opposed stoking areas. Some were charcoal fired; others definitely coal fired. The move from double flue to multi-flue may be connected with the ready availability of coal from the nearby Griff area. The kilns and wares indicate an active period from 13th to 15thC.

The wares consisted of flat roof tiles, ridge tiles, oven tiles, undecorated floor tiles, jugs, cooking pots, wide mouthed bowls, storage jars, aquamanile, handled dishes, cisterns, bottles, skillets, lamps, money boxes?, mortars, fish dishes, spouted tripod jugs, chimney pots, pipkins, lids, small bowls, kiln furniture, saggars, cups, curfews, alembic, face jugs, clay heads, costrels, chafing dishes, crucibles, green glazed birds, lobed cups, and the problematical "chicken feeders"?

The research was eventually published in Monograph No. 10 of the Society for Mediaeval Archaeology in 1984.

1968 Jan. The first stage of Bedworth by-pass under construction; Griff Clara colliery slag tip was used to build the embankments.

Weddington went smokeless.

There were heavy snow storms.

Twenty girls demanded better youth facilities in Nuneaton.

Jan. The Moody Blues (a Birmingham group) released the concept album “Days of Future Passed”.

2nd Feb. Nuneaton's George Eliot's Maternity hospital opened by Princess Alexandra.

Nuneaton’s telephone numbers (e.g. XXXX) were put on the STD code 0682; e.g. 0682 38XXXX

4th Mar. The last passenger train to pick up people at Stockingford and Abbey Street Stations.

Mar. Nuneaton’s first “Pirate” radio station broadcast.

Nuneaton taxis complained that there was not enough work for them

21st Mar. Thurs. Barnacle/Bulkington tornado wrecked several houses in its path. The wind phenomena seems to have formed somewhere near Coombe/Walsgrave and then tracked via Ansty airfield towards Barnacle.

26th Mar. The railway sidings at Haunchwood Tunnel pit were removed
29th Mar. Arley colliery closed.

4th Apr. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in a conspiracy (as revealed in 1999)

13th Apr. A total eclipse of the moon

Apr. Alan Randle (Nuneaton’s George Formby impersonator) released a record

May. The Heron precinct development proceeded slowly.

The Hippodrome caught fire again.

The upper floor removed from the Albion Buildings in Attleborough. (The old silk weaving area).

Jun.-Aug. The Kinks (a London group) recorded their concept album “Village Green Preservation Society”. It was a lament on the destruction of the old English way of life; it is now regarded as one of the most quintessentially English record albums.

5th Jun. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in a conspiracy

29th Jun. The River Anker flooded part of the town after a summer downpour

Jul. The Heron Precinct was opened, this was eventually sold and refurbished in the 1990's as The Abbeygate.

Many people leaving Nuneaton find work and homes elsewhere.

The 5 and 10 New Pence coins issued = to 1s and 2s

Summer. The old Hippodrome Theatre was finally destroyed by fire. The terracotta statue of Euterpe was rescued and placed in the museum in the early 1970's.

Aug. A typical new house on the Glendale cost £3,450.

Whittleford pit head gear was blown up.

29th Aug. Thomas Kenneth Knox died (aged 84), he was the director of Haunchwood Brick & Tile Co.

7th Sep. The Hippodrome was partially demolished, leaving the perimeter walls standing to a height of about 12 feet.

Sep. Nuneaton's debt was £11.5 million;

16th Sep. The two tier postal system introduced, there was local anger over the cost of the charges i.e. 5d (2.08p) for first class and 4d (1.66p) for second class

Tuttle Hill windmill was used less and less.

Kingsbury colliery closed.

The Moody Blues released their second concept album "In search of the lost chord"

Late summer - a period of maximum sunspot activity

Oct. Important archaeological remains in the form of kilns were found on the Arbury estate (in the next few years the tally was impressive, Roman Tile kilns, Mediaeval kilns, post-Mediaeval kilns etc.).
11th Nov. Bedworth celebrated 50th anniversary of the end of WWI

Nov. Warwickshire County Council approve the Sixth Form College.
Barry Hines' novel "A kestrel for a knave" was made into the successful film "Kes". Loach, who directed it, was a locally born and educated (see 1936 and 1967). After release it received widespread acclaim.

Dec. The local public were unhappy about some Nuneaton hospital services being transferred to Coventry

1969 Jan. Natural gas from the North Sea reached Nuneaton

There was a crisis over the shortage of 'flu' jabs

Daw Mill colliery shaft was nearly finished

Harry Cleaver gave Weddington land for a local sports fields.

Feb. John Bacon's 16 mm film on the story of Nuneaton was shown to the press and other invited guests. It was some 12 years in the making.

Mar. Weston Hall was empty and in poor condition

The Thames-Mersey pipeline was finished; it allowed Kingsbury terminal to pump millions of gallons a day

17th Apr. The age for voting was brought down to 18.

Apr. Hartshill Castle archaeological excavations

5-6th May. River Anker flooded badly

Jun. A television show “Fraud Squad” was filmed in Nuneaton, it implied the town was scruffy

Jun. Arthur C Clarke’s book “2001 - a space odyssey was published”
20th Jul. Apollo 11 landed on the moon. Armstrong walked on the surface on the 21st. Jul. Lunar soil and rocks were brought back.

Jul. George Eliot’s 150th anniversary was celebrated with many special events

Mancetter Roman site was excavated

Hill Top and Caldwell Social Club “was built with ten bob notes”

17th Aug. Nuneaton-Ashby Joint Railway finally closed, it was used for wagon storage only.

Sep. The famous Nuneaton “pong” was headline news. (It was blamed on the river, St. Mary’s depot, De Mulders and other factories). It was mainly chlorine used to wash De Mulder lorries and the smell of decomposing meat at their factory
The Post Office advertised for staff, 18 year old could earn £10 2s.

The Pelican Crossing (and green man) first appeared in England, Nuneaton began to see them built on busy roads.

Autumn: Nuneaton steam locomotive depot demolished (2B later 5E), it may have taken until early April 1970 to complete.

The Open University was established, many local people have since gained their degrees through hard work and dedication.

5th Oct. Monty Python’s Flying Circus first broadcast on BBC 1, an evolutionary jump since The Goons.

The cupro-nickel New Pence was introduced = 1p (2.4d)

Oct. The old 10 shilling note was replaced by a 50p coin.

The warmest on record in central England

Willie Muir, a Nuneaton soccer ace fell 80 feet from Arley pit head gear whilst they were being demolished. He was badly injured, but recovered, he worked on the Market Place clock repairs later.

Nov. Arley pit head gear blown up.

The Nuneaton Observer published weekly Observer Girls, where did they all go?

Dec. Chapel End was considered an entertainment capital of the area with people coming from Birmingham to visit it.

David Brower founded "Friends of the Earth" in the USA

1969-71 Mount Jud was used for free advertising by various groups: (adverts for Ayres, the Conservative candidates, Union Jacks and Easter crosses on the summit etc.

In the 1990 period, a bulldozer was driven up for Red Nose Day!) see 1918-20, 1935, 1957

1970 7th Jan. The Palace cinema building destroyed by fire.

Feb. A Nuneaton Peace Concert was organised at St. John's Ambulance

An overtime fiasco developed at Midland Red buses

Prezact of Whitacre Road Industrial Estate supplied special parts for Concorde

12th Mar. Bedworth bypass opened

Mar. There was an adult mumps outbreak in Nuneaton

Apr. Paul McCartney went to court to dissolve the Beatles in an attempt to stop the American businessman Alan Klein gaining total control of all of their business concerns.

Apr. Weddington Junction signal box burnt down; the nameplate and train registers were rescued and donated to the Shackerstone Museum

A 12 storey tower block was proposed for Bond Gate, there were many objections. The building was reduced in scale and eventually became Blackburn House
22nd Apr. The first "Earth Day" organised in America. This was one of the beginnings of the environmental movement!

Richard Sandbrook founded the British "Friends of the Earth". Several local Nuneaton people tried to start a local branch in 1970-1. It took another 27 years before the environmental became a political issue; the Green Party even fielded a local candidate in the general election.

F.H.M. FitzRoy Newdegate was made High Sheriff of Warwickshire

4th May. The Kent State University in Ohio saw 4 innocent students shot by the police troopers. This signalled the end of the Summer of Love and the Hippy protest movement.

May. There was a Nuneaton hospital crisis

Open-plan school classrooms were to be adopted

Labour make a local political breakthrough after 3 years in opposition

Frederick Reeves wrote many local articles in the Nuneaton Observer "Frederick Reeves recalled his childhood"

17th Jun. The first decimal postage stamps issued

9th Jul. The £20 note was issued.

Jul. Skinheads banned from a local boys club unless they behaved better J.C. Smiths celebrated 100 years in business

Weston Hall saved to be converted into a night club and hotel

Aug. The local water board began to search for water supplies to avert a local shortage

12th Sep. Russia landed Luna 16 successfully on the moon; it collected soil samples and returned them to earth.

Sep. A local job crisis was developing

Bedworth market was improved

19th Sep. The first Glastonbury Festival began

Oct. The Pingles centre was in financial trouble

Public houses were hoping to be allowed to let drinkers play cards (e.g. Nap)

Nov. The town Market was closed for 2 consecutive weeks by strike action

The miners strike prevented old age pensioners from getting coal supplies

Dec. Frederick Reeves wrote his history articles in the Nuneaton Observer

The Nuneaton Arts Centre screened films as a cinema

1970-71 The local "1948-49 Baby Boom" children did well in university and college examinations.

Teddy Kem's Heaven farm was demolished in one weekend; the work was sub-contracted by Sterling Metals according to Charles Mallabone. The exact date was hard to establish. 1970 Electoral Register qualifying date was October 10th 1969.

Wilson's lived at that address up to the 10th Oct. were included on the 1970 register. However, Kem's Farm was not on the 1971 register. Occupants (Wilson's) were last recorded in 1970 Electoral Register; qualifying date 10th October 1969.

1970-74 British Conservative Government

1971 10th Feb. A total eclipse of the moon

8th Mar. The Ordnance Survey re-calculated the centres of the various countries comprising Great Britain in response to a query from the Common Market. (see also 1941 estimates)

Centre of Great Britain mainland (with Isle of Wight)
4 miles 880 yards (7,240 m) west of Clitheroe O.S. SD67154134
or Longridge Fell

Centre of England (exclude Monmouth)
1 mile (1,609 m) south west of Higham on the Hill church
O.S. 37229490 or Lindley Lodge

Centre of England and Wales
1 mile 1521 yards (3,000 m) west of Water Orton church
O.S. 14659100
or Comet House, Farnborough Road, Castle Vale

16th Mar. The Campaign for Real Ale was founded in Britain (CAMRA);
this society was established to halt the spread of mass-produced beer that was served from high pressure gas-filled kegs. It thankfully saved real ales from extinction.

Sund. 21st Mar. A freak local thunder and lightning storm. Stoke Golding parish church spire was hit by a lightning strike. The blast energy split and burnt pieces of the soft sandstone.

Summer: Ivor de Wofle and colleagues published the revolutionary idea to build a super city in and around Judkins, Midland and Jees quarries. It was to be called CIVILIA, It would involve flooding the Anker valley to make a giant lake. Mt. Jud would be the Citadel complex, the cathedral would have been at the top of Tuttle Hill Road. The city would house 250,000 people. The diluted remnants of this scheme were apparently re-located to London Docklands. The plan severely underestimated the geological problems that civil engineers would have to overcome (as pointed out by the author).

19th Jul. Railway: Nuneaton-Market Bosworth railway closed to all traffic.

23rd Jul. 3.20 p.m. Haunchwood brickyard chimneys blown to the ground.

Many downdraught kilns and Hoffman kilns (both as round beehive types or rectangular ones) were eventually demolished.

6th Aug. A total eclipse of the moon

Larry Grayson appeared on Saturday Night Variety, this marked the beginning of his television fame

The Nuneaton Council decided to begin the demolition of the 250 prefabs in the town. It was estimated to take the next 5 years. Old peoples' complexes were scheduled to replace these temporary houses that were originally intended to last 10 years. (see 1946 and 1947). In their time they had formed close-knit communities, many of their occupiers were sad to see them go!

The College for the Poor (Workhouse) was demolished (College Street).

The Decimal 0.5p, 1p and 2p coins issued = 1.2d, 2.4d and 4.8d

1971-90 The Teddy Kem's Heaven foundations remained largely overgrown. Demolition rubble widely spread. The site of the well and pump were still visible.

1972 Jan.-Mar. Railway track was removed from Nuneaton-Ashby Joint Railway.

Mary Ashmore (a former journalist) wrote a series of accurate historical accounts on the Nuneaton area in the Nuneaton Observer.

29th Jan. Francis L. Fawcett A.L.A., F.R.A.I. (Francesco Lionello Franghini), the Curator of Nuneaton Museum, died. His true story of wartime heroism and friendship with Churchill emerged some years later.

21st May. Nuneaton Junior Leaders Regiment (Bramcote) given the freedom of the Borough. This was the twelfth time the freedom had been given to anyone in the 65 year history of the Borough

The Decimal 25p coin issued = (Crown 5s)

23rd Jun. A local natural history society was launched at the museum; it did not prove successful

16th Jul. Mid-afternoon: a rare solar halo visible over Weddington

21st Jul. Weddington Road bridge blown up.

Aug. Fossil Cambrian trilobites discovered at Vernons Lane [Dumble Hole Bridge re-building], species included Clarella impar and Meneviella. This further confirmed Nuneaton's importance in the world of geology.
Nuneaton's J.C. Smiths re-named Debenhams officially

Sep. The first Infra-Red colour photographs taken of the deserted mediaeval village at Weddington.

31st Dec. Britain left EFTA to join the E.E.C. (Common Market)

1972-73 Hedges and field boundaries began to change with mechanised agriculture.

1973 Jan. Mary Ashmore wrote many articles in the Nuneaton Observer.

Byford Street prefabs demolished to make way for new flats.

8 die in local ‘flu’ epidemic!

Feb. Houses to be demolished to make way for part of the new Inner Ring Road

Mar. Les Huckfield M.P. was prepared to lead a deputation to stop plans for converting Ritz cinema into a Bingo centre

Apr. Bedworth people start a petition to save the town’s name in the Local Government re-organisation
Nuneaton flour mills demolition contract began.

May. The River Anker flooded Coventry Street

Jun. New plans were revealed for the old gasworks site

Jul. The Duke of Edinburgh visited town

Aug. Letter bomb hazard predicted by Nuneaton postal workers
Sep. New wing of the Technical College opened

Oct. Nuneaton allotments were in high demand

Nov. Larry Grayson was praised for his charitable work

Dec. Plan revealed to demolish Girl’s High School for new housing - it never gained approval

V.A.T. introduced

Great Britain joined the E.E.C.

Autumn. Petrol ration books were introduced and the 3 day working week. Local ration books were never used however.

1974 Local Government re-organisation: Nuneaton and Bedworth join, names suggested: Arbury, Nunworth, Bedeaton, Griff or Nuneaton District Council, it was finally granted "Borough" status.

The North East Warwickshire Water Board was incorporated into the Severn Trent Water Authority.

The following schools changed their status:
Nuneaton Girl's The Girl’s High School = Etone
King Edward VI Grammar School = KEGS Sixth Form College
Manor Park Grammar School = Manor Park School
St. Joseph's = Sir Thomas More etc.

LINK-UP Association (homes for the homeless) was founded by Malcolm Worsley and Nuneaton Council of Churches.

Apr. Coton House (HMS Vanquisher) demolished after a fire. Coton Road widened to dual carriageway, many houses demolished throughout its length.

A pipe excavation in Riversley Park encountered the old domestic landfill of pre-1880. Many old bottles, shoes and household items were unearthed.

May. The River Anker dredged and deepened as part of flood prevention measures.

David Jamieson vicar of St. Nicolas, Nuneaton

A scientist predicted that in 1982 the combined gravity of Jupiter acting with other planets would set up major earthquakes and lead to possible planetary destruction.

This “Jupiter Effect” proved wrong!

Jul. Weddington Gardens (Pearce's House) abandoned, sold to build Cleaver Gardens flats.

20th Sep. Sir John Betjeman (Poet Laureate) opened the memorial to MICHAEL DRAYTON at Hartshill Green.

Drayton was a famous contemporary of Shakespeare, who lived at Hartshill and became an early "Poet Laureate". The memorial was conceived by local poet and expert, John Sherwood and designed by Jepson the architect. It was built of Hartshill Quartzite.

Dutch Elm disease killed many local elm trees; they were gradually cut down and burnt over the next few years; the hedgerows and farm field boundaries changed forever. 25,000,000 trees died in England as a result

20th Nov. The third indication that man was changing the earth’s climate - a phenomena known as global warming. There was a period of severe winter; Reid Bryson (in the U.S.A.) stated that there was a serious increase in dust emissions that would cool the earth down. This seemed at odds with the gas emission theories.

21st Nov. The Birmingham Pub bombings (Mulberry Bush etc.) Local college students had friends injured in the double blast.

Dec. The warmest on record in central England

Site investigations began at George Eliot hospital site; there would be several major phases of building lasting into the 1990's. Several layers of rock were found containing fossil fish 300,000,000 years old.

1974 The world’s living population reached 4,000,000,000 (four billion)

c.1974 Marston Hall demolished

1974-75 Griff/Bermuda by-pass constructed; Coton Road made into dual carriageway, many old houses were demolished as a result.

1974-78 Many local elm trees were cut down

1974-79 British Labour Government.

1975 Jan. Les Huckfield M.P. gave a speech that said 1975 was the make or break year for the Coventry car industry

Feb. The Riding School for the Disabled was given the go ahead as soon as a site could be identified

Mary Ashmore wrote a series of superb history articles in the Nuneaton Observer

Mar. A growing rodent problem developed in Meadow Court

Over 1200 Nuneaton people affected by short time working

Apr. Severe snow storms caused traffic chaos
Nuneaton was seen a huge landfill potential area for decades to come

Many horseshoes found in the bottoms of the garden at No. 4 Shawe Avenue. There was a building on that site believed to be a farriers.

9th May. 30th Anniversary of the end of World War II

25th May. A total eclipse of the moon
May. Harold Wilson visited the town

5th Jun. The first British Referendum: the public voted on the Common Market.

The turnout was poor (less than 40%)

6th Jun. Trent Valley rail crash; this could have been a major human disaster if the train had been a commuter service. The carnival was on the same day; it was decided to go ahead with the procession despite the traffic chaos.

8th Aug. A very hot day in the Midlands

The Rubik cube was invented, within a matter of months many children (and adults) in Nuneaton were trying to solve the puzzle

Sep. Solar panel suppliers advertised in Nuneaton

Oct. Local craftsmen had no work

The pint of milk was threatened with extinction

18th Nov. A total eclipse of the moon

Nov. The town had growing unemployment, teenagers were badly affected

Dec. House prices soar; Chrysler cars at Coventry were threatening large redundancies, many Nuneaton workers would be affected.

1976 May.-Sep. The Great Drought. Many houses on clay soils experienced settlement damage. Numerous fields caught fire, the fire brigade were called out on numerous occasions. One of the driest summers on record. Many reservoirs dried out, rivers disappeared, water was rationed in many places with bowsers and standpipes.

Early summer - a period of minimum sunspot activity

16th Jun. The Soweto massacre, children and students marched in a peaceful protest about being taught all their lessons in Afrikaans. The police opened fire and killed many children. This was the day that Apartheid died in South Africa!

Jul. The Blue Lagoon, Harefield Lane, Bermuda began to be filled, despite local objections about its biological and geological importance.

3rd-5th Jul. Very severe hot days in the Midlands

Tuttle Hill windmill finally ceased operation as a grinding mill.

20th Jul. The Viking I spacecraft landed on Mars, Viking 2 landed 1,000 miles north of it. The pictures astounded scientists and proved once and for all there were no canals dug by Martians!

Sep. The Great Drought finally broke with a period of rainfall

NUNEATON ENTERED THE SOLAR-POWERED ERA
(a few brave homeowners installed panels)

1977	The Ritz cinema refurbished Feb. The River Anker flooded Caldecote and out to beyond Mancetter;
	The Grand and Scala Cinemas closed. 4th-11th Jun. Many local street parties for Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee.
	Jul.-Sep. Excavation work on the River Anker flood culvert in Weddington
	16th Aug. Elvis Presley died, many local people were devastated by this news, some made the pilgrimage to Gracelands in the next few months.
1977-78	Joan Allen published a series of booklets on Hartshill - "Heardred's Hill"
1978	Jan. Fossil Cambrian trilobites discovered at Camp Hill/Bar Pool valley and tunnel (e.g. Paradoxides hicksii) (see 1913-15, 1961-63, 63-65, 64-67, 1972 and 1985)
	23rd Jul. Canon Sinker (St. Mary's) died at Hartshill.
	Aug. River Anker Flood Relief culvert and weir under construction
	One of the driest autumns on record
	11th Nov. 60th Anniversary of the end of World War I
1978-79	Nov.-Feb. The "winter of discontent": lorry drivers, road hauliers, petrol tanker drivers (garages run out of petrol), hospital staff, (waiting lists grow rapidly), grave diggers, school teachers and all types of ancillary staff. The refuse collectors on strike in early February, huge amounts of waste accumulated locally. Many other industries went on strike for higher wages. The Government considered calling a state of emergency, many troops were trained to take over the duties mentioned above.
c.1978	Camp Hill Grange demolished, it may have been a few years either side of this date
1978-81	Larry Grayson hosted the "Generation Game" on television.
1979	One of the wettest springs on record
	28th Mar. Two weeks after the film The China Syndrome was released a very similar incident actually happened at Three Mile Island in America. The nuclear core was uncovered due to closed valves and water pump problems. This heralded the growing loss of public confidence in atomic power stations, Chernobyl being the straw that broke the camel's back. (see 1986)
	3rd May. A Conservative government elected - an 18 year period would follow.
	Many of the great social reforms of the late 1940's would be radically altered; some to an irreversible point. Money and business acumen were placed at the highest social status.
	Nuneaton and Warwickshire Building Society, 9 Queens Road, had 889 investors and assets of £1,297,000
	Late summer - a period of maximum sunspot activity
	15th Sep. The New Palace cinema closed
	21st Nov. Lister's factory chimney demolished, 121 years old.
	Fielding and Johnson's factory closed; for a brief period it was converted into small factory units; one company restored railway coaches.
1980	Jan. Land in the town was subject to compulsory purchase for the new ring road.

Feb. Bar Pool flood prevention schemes proposed
6th Mar. Surprise announcement that the Bermuda Sudeley opencast scheme would go ahead despite of many objections.

Mar. Sheltered housing proposed for Kingswood Road

Apr. Numerous plots of land at Bucks Hill released for housing

18th May. Mount St. Helens erupted in America, within 2 weeks the dust cloud had passed over the Nuneaton area.

The “Monty” bus service finished locally.

Jun. A Gypsy site proposed for the Griff Hollows area

Jul. Stockingford railway station was to be re-opened for a trial period

Aug. The River Anker flooded Caldecote and out to beyond Mancetter;The central town area was proposed for a conservation zone

Sep. A march was proposed in the town against Racism and Fascism

4th Oct. Daw Mill coal face caught fire, there were desperate efforts to save it.

27th Oct. Daw Mill coal face saved by various techniques.

Nov. Stan Williams Court to be built in King Edward Road/Glebe Road

8th Dec. John Lennon was murdered in New York; some theories suggest his killer Mark Chapman, was a former CIA agent!
Dec. Approval given to the relief road scheme

1981 Jan.-Mar. Etone Priory excavated by David Andrews; the findings were published in the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeology transactions. The excavation proved that much of the foundation structures still existed beneath the surface.

The Space Shuttle entered service in America

One of the wettest springs on record

31st. Jul. A partial eclipse of the sun

A water pipe laid to St. James church, Weddington , quartzite rubble was found from the old church and Swithland Slate from the roof.

Graham Hardwick vicar of St. Nicolas Nuneaton

8th-11th Dec. Local heavy snow storms

12th Dec. Very cold days in the Midlands

The council introduced bottle banks, they were to become very successful.

1982 Jan. Bermuda Road industrial estate began to develop.

Feb. The council proposed plans to kerb the high number of feral pigeons in the town

Mar. Newdegate colliery closed.
The Co-op revealed its plans to build a superstore at Attleborough

15th Apr. The Advanced Passenger Train (APT) failed at the Nuneaton area and was withdrawn from service ultimately. It would be replaced by an Italian system (Pendolino) in the early years of the next century.

Apr. Deeley construction applied to infill the Blue Lagoon in another landfill exercise. There were proposals to modernise the council house.

Nuneaton Liberal Club restored and converted into shops and offices. A stone tablet laid by Laybrook-Marath Ltd.

30th May. Pope John Paul II conducted a mass for the people at Coventry airport, many Nuneaton people attended

Jun.-Aug. Local freak cool weather caused by a Mexican volcanic eruption.

Aug. Local factories and buildings demolished to make way for the Attleborough Co-op superstore

Local car parts supplier Tony Scott went into liquidation with the collapse of De Lorean cars in Ulster.

Central Television broadcast a documentary on a local artist George Kirk (of No. 23 John Street). He had gained rapid international recognition for his paintings.

Sep. Nuneaton Inner Ring Road began construction, the completion date was scheduled for March 1984.

Sep.- Nov. The planet Jupiter was in a superior conjunction with other planets e.g. Mars, Earth, Mercury, Venus (and the sun and moon). The predicted global catastrophes did not happen as a result of this Jupiter Effect.

Oct. New streets were adopted by the council

Nov. Nuneaton twinned with Guadalajara in Spain

Stanley's Brickyard site was earmarked for a housing development

2nd Nov. Channel 4 television began first broadcasts

The Decimal 20p coin issued = 4s or 48d

1983 Jan. The early InterNet system became fully deployed, different types of computer anywhere in the world could communicate with each other.

31st Jan. Wearing front seat belts in cars was made compulsory

The Decimal £1 coin issued = (100p) or 20s or 240d

The former Nuneaton Gasworks site was re-developed

English society began to change as money and leisure "at a price" became the focal point to life. The leisure concept was promoted by industry and the media.

Lew Stevens (Conservative) became Nuneaton's M.P. after Les Huckfield did not stand locally because of boundary changes

Jul. The warmest on record in central England

10th Oct. 'Weddington Walk' was opened officially as the first Green Track by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.

Autumn: Eastboro Way (Eastern Relief Road) opened

1984 Jan. The local crime rate soared.
People formed a human chain across the Watling Street at the Higham Lane junction to highlight how dangerous it was. A roundabout was demanded to make it safer. Sudden heavy blizzards caused road chaos.
Feb. Newdegate colliery pit head gear was demolished

There were local calls for a BMX track for children to play on

Mar.-Apr. The local churches organised MISSION NUNEATON (part of Mission England) to tell Nuneaton about the good news of the Bible.

Apr. The Nuneaton Mosque was officially opened
May. St. Nicolas parish church launched a restoration appeal

20th Jun. River Anker flooded badly after 1 inch of rain in 24 hours

Jul. York Minster was hit by lightning that caused a lot of damage

Aug. There were Salmonella outbreaks in hospitals

Sep. Weddington's new rector Rev. John Barnes
Nov. The ACAS talks broke down between the NUM and the National Coal Board

The ABC Ritz cinema closed (later to be converted to Bingo!)

The major research Monograph No. 10 on the Mediaeval Pottery industry of Coton was finally published. The research proved that the Nuneaton area was probably the second most important pottery producing area in Great Britain.

Ted Veasey published his 3 part booklet: Nuneaton in the making.

Fire partly destroyed Weddington Lower Farm

1985 Jan. The Financial Times Index broke through the 1,000 figure.

Feb. The miners' strike (that was not official) began to crumble with 50% of workers back working.

Mar. The National Union of Miners voted to back to work. The Government issued a Green Paper on Home Improvement that was a new approach in its philosophy.

Mar. New fossil Cambrian trilobites discovered at Vernons Lane: Luhops, Clarella and Paradoxides abenacus was the only specimen found in the British Isles. The fossil finds during 1913-15 (Illing), 1961-65 (Smith, White and Rushton), 1964-67 (Taylor and Rushton), 1972 (Cook) and 1978 (Cook and Whitworth) Bob Kennedy in the 1980's successfully collected in the area as well. This again proved that Nuneaton is a major site on the world scene for trilobites. These ancient sea floor creatures resemble wood lice or king crabs. It is now known that creatures very closely related to Nuneaton specimens can be found in South and North America, Russia, Australia, China and Europe.

Apr. The new multi-storey car park was being built at the corner of Harefield Road and Corporation Street. It was built by "lift slab" techniques.

The council expressed concern about local stubble burning.

9th May. 40th Anniversary of the end of World War II

Jun. More houses being built on Horeston Grange estate

Summer: The BBC Domesday Project was an attempt to collect modern historical data 900 years after the original. Many schools began to collect local information. The whole project would be published on 12" laser disc technology. However many problems began to affect the project, many schools withdrew from it. Many libraries had copies of the disc but no means of playing them. The data could have been re-issued on CD-ROM or DVD technology; but it never was. Some of the Nuneaton data was included on the disc.

15th Jul. The Live Aid Concert in England and America; many people watched this programme locally. This was a fund raising concert that followed the previous record “Do they know it’s Christmas” by Band Aid

Jul. The Church of England approved women’s ordination, many local church congregations threatened to join other church denominations.

Aug. Town pedestrianisation was gaining much support

Sep. More land was granted for house building at Horeston Grange

The red telephone kiosk was to be phased out and replaced by stainless steel ones. (see 1921 & 1922). Nuneaton would lose nearly all its red kiosks. There was brief local flirtation in the early 1990’s with Mercury kiosks. These were all but extinct by 1996.

Oct. Many local miners resigned from the NUM and joined the Union of Democratic Mineworkers

20th Nov. The fourth indication that man was changing the earth’s climate – a phenomena known as global warming. J. Farman published the alarming findings that the Antarctic Ozone had reduced by 30% and had a hole in it. The causewas initially blamed on CFC or chlorine based propellants in spray cans. It is now known that aviation fuels may be contributing to this problem as well as to acid rain, carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

Dec. The Church of England produced the book “Faith in the City”. It was critical of the Government’s policy on growing homelessness in the cities, the Government was equally critical of it. 92 % of people in Britain lived in towns and cities.

1986 Sudeley opencast mining scheme at Bermuda-Griff commenced. It was controversial; many people did not want it to happen. There was concern about the noise and dust levels. The real problem with this method is insufficient compaction of the soil and rock when it is put back. The original strata are disturbed when they are extracted, the ground water movements are also disturbed. The infilling of such workings should contain properly designed deep drainage. This would allow the groundwater to move in the directions that it originally moved in (hydraulic gradients and hydrostatic heads). Northern Strip Mines won the contract and restricted visiting. As the schemeprogressed it was evident that thousands of tons of good coal were present and very few mining voids. There were numerous mineshafts, often lined with specially manufactured curved bricks. The archaeological finds were very important but sadly little was preserved in museums.

Late summer - a period of minimum sunspot activity
F.H.M. FitzRoy Newdegate became Viscount Daventry

9th Feb. Halley's Comet returned, it was hardly visible because of persistent cloud cover. It was later encountered by a space probe that captured its full nature, a “sooty snowball” about 120 cubic miles in volume.

26th Apr. Chernobyl nuclear reactor caught fire and released much radioactive fallout comprising Iodine and Caesium isotopes. The station was finally closed on 15h Dec. 2000.

2nd-3rd May. The Chernobyl fallout radiation reached the Nuneaton area, by the evening of the 3rd May, most of Britain had been exposed!

3rd Oct. A partial eclipse of the sun

Birch Coppice colliery closed

1987 St. James church, Weddington stained glass window to Margaret Taylor.

Warwickshire Collieries (3 No.) produced 3,124,041 tons of coal

The Nuneaton (Civic Trust) Society was established to save the Coton Free School. (Later to be named the Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre. Mrs Beryl Kerby was very committed to the whole project)

Jun. The emergency telephone number 999 celebrated its 50th anniversary

Jun.-Jul. The River Anker flooded Caldecote and out to beyond Mancetter

Aug. Henry Beighton's 300th birthday anniversary - it passed without any commemoration!

16th Oct. The severest wind and rain storm for decades it killed over 16,000,000 trees and cost £1,000,000,000 in damages.

19th Oct. Black Monday. The day the computers took over the UK economy. A tidal wave of speculation in share dealing set off by computers.

1987 The world's living population reached 5,000,000,000 (five billion)

1987-88 British Coal Corporation took over from National Coal Board.

Nuneaton town centre began to be pedestrianised with block clay paviours.

1988 Weddington Lower Farm demolished, a new discovery of a timber-frame building of high quality. It definitely belonged to the South Western School and had numerous carpenters' marks. The main doorway was less than 67" high and skilfully carved with rebates and grooves. Several explanations were possible:

a) It was the in situ remains of a 16thC. grand manor or farmhouse on that site.

b) It was from a larger 16thC. building that was demolished and sold e.g. Lindley Hall or Weddington's Capital Mansion House. It was dismantled and re-erected in the Ashbourne area.

24th Jan. The River Anker flooded Caldecote and out to beyond Mancetter

19th May. The new Council House officially opened; the original building was re-named the Town Hall. The new building cost £1,113,835 and was designed by the Council's Architects and constructed by Henry Boot Southern Ltd.

23rd Jun. The fifth indication that man was changing the earth's climate – a phenomena known as global warming. J. Hansen spoke to the U.S. government about the increase in drought as well as greater risk of flooding. The United Nations set up an Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.

Bedworth railway station re-opened

The wettest July on record.

Nuneaton's new bus station built, it had a short-lived computerised bus timetable display

Wheat stubble burning was still popular.

Wheelie-Bins began to replace old fashioned dustbins locally after much protest and suspicion

A British Archaeological report listed the following prehistoric finds in the county:

Flint handaxes	100
Flint flakes	70
Quartzite hand-axes	24

Other hard rock axes	26
Hard rock flakes	18

This total does not take into account the many artefacts found by the serious amateur fraternity, many of which were not reported. There were also substantial numbers undergoing study that did not get included. It tends to portray Warwickshire as virtually devoid of prehistoric activity - when the opposite is probably true. Sadly much of that heritage has been destroyed by development!

11th Nov. 70th Anniversary of the end of World War I

1988-89 The White House (Caldecote Hill) demolished; it had connections with Harold Lapworth (the Ranby's pharmacist and local historian)

1988-92 The mystery surrounding Alfred Lester Scrivener and Teddy Kem's Heaven (Attleborough) began to be solved by Peter Lee and Alan Cook (see 1878 and 1700)

1989 3rd Mar. Attleborough by-pass opened; this was not a popular scheme because it divided the village in half!

13th-14th Mar. The great Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) seen over Nuneaton - Henry Beighton may have recorded a similar phenomena in the early 18thC. This was caused by a sunstorm or gigantic solar flare or coronal mass ejection, (1,000,000 miles long). It also caused huge power cuts in Quebec because of its granitic bedrock that would not absorb the current.

Sudeley opencast came to the end of the final cut (No 3). Limited photography and specimen collecting was finally allowed.
Privatisation of the Water Authorities

Weddington's new rector Rev. Tony Adams

9th Nov. The Berlin Wall was opened to allow people to leave the communist controlled side. Pieces of the wall began to arrive in Nuneaton once its demolition began.

Baddesley colliery closed; great interest in the explosion disaster of 1882 would continue well into the 21st C.

late 1980's Nuneaton's Ring Road became famous on the Terry Wogan show for a while "the only ring road that went through a town centre".

1990 One of the driest springs and wettest winters on record.
Weddington Deserted Mediaeval Village site: 3 small diameter, soil bore holes were drilled in the field between the river and the church.

BH 1 found a rusted iron implement similar to an ancient plough blade at considerable depth.
BH 2 found a layer of burnt soil and charcoal at about 18" depth.
BH 3 found what appeared to be a piece of wattle and daub.

Feb. The River Anker flooded Caldecote and out to beyond Mancetter

13th Feb. The highest ever wind speed recorded on the British mainland at Fraserburgh it was 141 mph.

2nd Apr. The Shropshire earth tremor shook Nuneaton and the area (see Feb. 1957, and Sep.2000)

21st May. The sixth indication that man was changing the earth's climate - a phenomena known as global warming. Sir John Houghton addressed the British Cabinet with the findings of the UN IPCC (see 1988). The need to reduce Carbon Dioxide emissions was recognised as essential if the human race were to continue living on the earth. Within two years the EARTH SUMMIT was held at Rio de Janeiro.

2nd-3rd Aug. Record breaking hot days in the Midlands. A Peregrine falcon reported roosting in Judkins Quarry.

F.H.M. FitzRoy Newdegate became Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

Ann Robson, Nuneaton Museum Curator (1986-90) died after a long illness.

The Poll Tax introduced. Nuneaton Borough leased temporary offices in an attempt to handle the massive bureaucratic paper chase. Many local people could or would not pay this tax (that replaced "The rates"). A huge backlog of court cases built up locally, many people were never brought to court ultimately. The Poll Tax was scrapped and replaced by Council Tax. Poll Tax had been introduced in 1224 in Mediaeval times and failed.

Late summer - a period of maximum sunspot activity

14th Aug. An impressive meteor shower visible.

15th Sep. The first "March for Jesus" took place in Nuneaton involving many local churches. (several others took place 21/9/1991, 19/9/1992, 12/6/1993, 17/9/1994)

15th Oct. Soil Mechanics Ltd conducted trial pits and site investigation at Teddy Kem's Heaven Farm and found underground water cistern as well as large blocks of roughly dressed sandstone near Charles Mallabone's suggested position. (see 1700, 1708, 1878, 1923)

A book published on Weddington called 'Skylark Fields' by Alan Sheasby. Sensitive observations of the 1940-50's.

Autumn. Tim Berners-Lee at CERN invented the foundations of the World Wide Web

13th Nov. This date commemorates a local schoolgirl, Joanne Woodward, who lost her battle with 'cancer'. She was one of many children who caught the public's attention in this decade because of their incredible courage in fighting this ever increasing illness.

8th-9th Dec. Unusual blizzard, with winds. Power lines were shut down to prevent arcing. Much of Nuneaton was snowed in. Many neighbours formed workparties to dig their streets and cars out. There were electricity power cuts and the piped water supply failed.

1990-91 Warwickshire Collieries (2 pits surviving) produced 3,099,010 tons of coal

1990's There were over 70 climate-related disasters (now believed to be caused by global warming)

Peter Simpson campaigned to get Astley Castle restored. He went on later to write a series of articles in the Heartlands Evening News about local heritage sites.

Gerry Wisher (reporter) wrote a series of local history articles for the Evening Tribune

1991 Keresley colliery closed; the site would be opened as a smaller private venture and eventually close again. The site was scheduled for total redevelopment in 2000.

4th-5th Jun. Overnight temperature dropped to -6^{0}C, the coldest since 1877.

The Warwickshire Census data demonstrated the following Nuneaton phenomena:

Ward	Percentage of owners	Average people residence
Abbey	9%	2.33
Arbury	25.4%	2.71
Attleborough	12.8%	2.37
Camp Hill	13.1%	2.67
Chilvers Coton	12.5%	2.45
Galley Common	33%	2.87
St. Nicolas	46.9%	2.8
Stockingford	18.3%	2.63
Weddington	30%	2.49
Whitestone	57.2%	2.81

12th Jul. Volcanic fall-out (aerosols, sulphurous gases etc.) reached Nuneaton

27 days after Mount Pinotubo erupted. The whole planet was affected by

15th Aug. Later in 1991 to early 1992 there was a warmer than average winter.

Sep. Persimmon/Saxon homes began to develop the Teddy Kem site to the north with Sterling Way houses.

9th Sep. Doug Bower (Wessex) admitted that he and many others created the complex crop circles in England over the last 8 years. Nuneaton had several crop circles adjacent to Eastboro Way where it crosses the Nuneaton to Leicester railway.

1991-92 St. James church, Weddington alterations: new drive, doors, floor, central heating, gas pipes laid.

Warwickshire Collieries (Daw Mill) produced 2,140,000+ tons of coal.

1992 The North Warwickshire Railway Society established a narrow gauge railway in the Pingles near the Coton Heritage Centre. It consisted of industrial items rescued from various sites. (It was due to the energy of people like the late Peter Bayly that this happened as well as Ted Prince, David and Janet Stubbs and many others).

9th Apr. General Election: Labour, led by Neil Kinnock, would win according to all the poll psephologists. However, the Conservatives won by a small majority.

May. The dreaded Poll Tax had failed and was replaced by Council Tax, many people had not or would not pay their Poll Tax, the Courts were booked for months ahead for prosecutions. The local authorities handled the problem in very different ways!

The proposed new crematorium on Eastboro Way was discussed at Council meetings, eventually it was given approval.

Town security cameras were discussed as a means of improving local security.

Nuneaton resisted, but in the end accepted the new security trend would not go away.

Industrial estates developed on old derelict land as well as greenfield sites

28th Sep. Channel 4 began broadcasting the Big Breakfast. The casual style of the presenters was to change all the breakfast news programmes over the next 5-6 years.

1993 Second driest February on record.

Total communication between all types of data became possible on the World Wide Web. Nuneaton sites began to appear on the “Web”.

9th May. Abbey Street signal box burnt down.

12th Jun. "March for Jesus" involved many local churches in Nuneaton, it took place with the Carnival

14th Jun. River Anker flooded

25th Jun. The North Warwickshire Railway Society officially opened their narrow gauge railway in the Pingles. This was later removed to make way for the new sports facilities.

20th Jul. Manor hospital closed; it was due to be demolished at one point.
It was later carefully restored.

A rare native crayfish reported at Ensors Pool, Heath End Road. Angie Garrett, and Jan Andrews championed the cause to get them protected. The old clay pit site was later scheduled SSSI and a European conservation site.

Weddington factories and shops extended and improved e.g.

Parkside (Trinity), Jacques (Niall Bailey), Abbey Metals and ATS.
The railway track was lifted near ATS.

Two periods of high rainfall caused waterlogged fields especially in the Weddington ridge and furrow.

9th Oct. The two hundred and fiftieth anniversary since Henry Beighton died.

Oct. Houses and roads built over the Teddy Kem site. The old farm building site was partly under Sterling Way, its grass verge and partly in the garden of a new house.

Sterling Metals Hall demolished, the concrete was of poor quality

27th Nov. The Network Q RAC Rally held a stage at M.I.R.A. Colin McRae was second fastest in his Subaru Impreza 555.

Daw Mill colliery closed 2 out of 3 working faces

John Sherwood the local poet and Michael Drayton authority, died.

1993-94 Nuneaton Family History Group founded.

1994 One of the wettest winters on record

Jan. The council began to develop energy saving policy schemes as well derelict land reclamation

Feb. Nuneaton began to promote Health activities (HIV and AIDS data, being reported on a regular basis). Research pointed to the H.I. Virus being transmitted by one of two methods from monkeys/apes to humans in Africa 1929-35. Theory one suggests the blood from a wounded infected chimp got into the wound of a game hunter.

Theory two suggests that in early attempts to develop a polio vaccine, infectected chimp tissue got into the development serum. By 2000 A.D. science still had no cure or long term successful treatment!

Recycling initiatives promoted, poop scoops in Public Open Spaces.

Mar. Sterling Metals site cleared.
Apr. The council began to promote Economic Development Strategies

Keresley colliery re-opened privately as Coal Investments Ltd. (closed 8/96 again)

May. Renovation grants for local housing were promoted, council houses were increasingly recognised as an economic asset. Targeting resources to them became more economically complex.

May. PARKLIFE album released by Blur; this record captured the pent-up frustrations of the young in post-Thatcher Britain.

Jul. Traffic calming measures were widely adopted in the Borough.

Aug. The Warwickshire Draft Minerals Plan was issued, it dealt with hard rock quarrying in the Borough as well as potential gravel extraction in the Anker Valley.

Sep. The traffic calming measures comprised of ‘sleeping policemen’, humps and chicanes etc.

Oct. The Borough Council developed more energy saving policies in keeping with central Government initiatives.

Crime Prevention by Closed Circuit Television began to be installed in the town.

Nov. The warmest month on record in central England

Most land ownership was legally required to be registered.

8th Dec. Queen Elizabeth II opened a new wing of the George Eliot Hospital

Dec. Homelessness initiative by the council

British Coal Corporation collieries sold to Budge and other groups, the Coal Authority took over subsidence claims, abandonment plans of local colliery records stored at Bretby, Burton on Trent. Other mining records went to Warwick and Coventry Record Offices.

1994-95 British Rail privatisation into Railtrack and allied companies.

1995 Jan. Larry Grayson passed away, some say his funeral was one of the biggest ever attended! (see 1923).

Daisy McBean (Haynes) the tireless charity collector, passed away.

Mar. A television company made a programme about John Barber; the Attleborough patenter of the Gas Turbine in 1779 - screened as "Local Heroes"

May. An unexploded bomb from WWI ? found under Sterling Metals factory site. Don Jacques the first Conservative mayor for many years.

9th May. 50th Anniversary of the end of World War II

May. The next 30 months were the driest period on record. Some counties lost a year's rainfall by October 1997.

May.-Jun. BBC TV made a documentary 'One Foot in the Past' about the Courtaulds Mill, broadcast in August 1995

Jun.-Jul. Long intense heatwave causing widespread droughts

15th Jul. Courtauld's Mill roof removed, the upper storey was being demolished. The brickwork was in good condition but the concrete floors were very poor. It would be annihilated in the next 5 months.

1st-2nd Aug. Very hot days in the Midlands

Aug. The warmest on record in central England

29th Nov. The seventh indication that man was changing the earth's climate – a phenomena known as global warming. B. Santer stated categorically that man's activities were changing the earth's climate. This type of statement was still rejected outright by many scientists until recent times.

31st Dec. Courtauld's two main terracotta doors were left standing

1995-96 Nuneaton Rugby club moved to new site on Eastboro Way.

1996 Jan. 2 terracotta entrances survived at Courtauld's Mill.

23rd Jan. BBC2 broadcast Local Heroes: John Barber - the Attleborough patenter of the Gas Turbine

4th Feb. Roman mortaria and Samian pottery found at 284 Weddington Road, also some kiln and ditch remains.

16th Feb. Rare nacreous clouds seen over the eastern area, thought to be 20 miles high and about -90° Centigrade.

18th Mar. Houses built on Courtauld's site. The 1920 terracotta doorway still standing. The 1923 one fell down! Hanson Judkins rock garden museum opened.

Sterling Way extended over the Teddy Kem site, evidence of old foundations.

1996 13th, 20th or 27th Apr. Saturday. Two thousand years since Jesus was born! (see 5 B.C.) One these 3 dates could be argued as the true beginning of the Christian 21st Century A.D. and the start of the 3rd millennium A.D.

Apr. Aerofilms flew an extensive aerial sortie along the R. Anker Valley

18th Apr. The Weddington Hotel (Grove) underwent re-construction for a rear extension. The 1 metre deep foundations were in natural clay. No evidence of Roman remains. Re-opened 12/8/96.

19th Apr. Smith's undertakers left Stratford Street and moved to Avenue Road.

May.-Jun. Rebuilding of Newtown Road bridge commenced. It was on underpinned piled foundations, 10 metres long, through the Anker Valley gravels and cobbles into red brown mudstone.

May. One of the coldest Mays in the last 300 years!

The New Oxford Dictionary of National Biography was commenced, edited by Professor Colin Matthews. It replaced the Dictionary of National Biography originally designed and published by George Smith with Sir Leslie Stephens as editor. (see 1882)
Jun. Smith's Funeral site excavated: some Mediaeval pottery, a few features.

Old Attleborough Sandstone blocks. (became a public house - The Felix Holt)

Aug. Coventry Keresley Colliery closed again.

20th Aug. Spectacular thunder and lightning storm in the evening.

Sep.-Feb. 1997. Chilvers Coton/Arbury Knight's Templar area excavated to the south of Bermuda. The foundations indicate more remains exist in the village area.

Nuneaton joint winners of Britain in Bloom (with Cheltenham).

Cable Television network arrived in Nuneaton, the next 12 months would see many trenches cut in local pavements. Initially many trees were killed by trenches cutting through their root systems. (The 'scourge' returned to Weddington in Dec. 2000)

Oct. Teddy Kem's Heaven site landscaped, grass seeded, houses and garages built on or near it.

There were 358 billionaires in the world, their combined wealth was in excess of that owned by 2,200,000,000 of the poorest people.
Nov. Judkins announced the closure of their quarry.

Dec. Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council published a series of Heritage Guides

1997 Jan. Driest January for 200 years, further climatic records were broken.

Midland Quarry sold to Mininvest plc of Banbury

22nd Mar. Hale-Bopp Comet visible in Nuneaton's northern sky

The first car transporter train passed through Nuneaton from the newly built Hams Hall Channel Tunnel Depot.

6th Apr. The biggest sunstorm of all time was recorded by satellite; it did not bring the expected Aurora Borealis or electric power problems.

19th Apr. The Wagstaff Society held their annual meeting the Griff Hotel

1st May. The General Election - the polls indicated a Labour landslide; the results later confirmed a 179 seat majority. The Liberal Democrats obtained a decent share of the vote translating into 45+ seats. John Major resigned.

Bill Olner, Nuneaton's Labour M.P. successfully retained his seat.

May. Two amateur archaeologists found a Mediaeval Coin Hoard at Hartshill.
El Nino ocean current change caused subtle world wide climate change.

Jun. The Market Place clock was fully overhauled with a new time keeping mechanism installed.

The wettest June for over 100 years!

Jul.-Aug. Nuneaton Museum celebrated its 80th Anniversary and Riversley Park its 90th Anniversary. Nuneaton achieved victory in "Britain in Bloom".

Aug. A Saxon burial ground was discovered at Mancetter/Witherley near the A5

31st Aug. Princess Diana died in a car crash in Paris

Summer: new slimline 50 pence coin issued

Peter Lee's Project Nefam began to establish Nuneaton family connections in America. Peter successfully organised global family reunions over the next few years. (Wagstaff, Mallabone, Crowshaw etc.)

A new canal basin (Springwood Haven) neared completion at the foot of Caldecote Hill; it exposed the 200,000,000 year old desert erosion affecting the 600,000,000 year old ancient volcanic rocks of the area.

Sep. Weddington Road Surgery sold in preparation for the move to “The Grange” new surgery on Leicester Road. Weddington became a nursery and Hinckley Road a dentists.

22nd Oct. Several newspapers carried the story that the earth was 6,000 years old today. This was based on Cardinal James Ussher's original calculation that the earth was created by God at 8.00 p.m. on 22nd October 4004 B.C. (published in 1658)

27th Oct. International stock markets falling; they finally stabilised
winter: Eurostar trains began trial running through Nuneaton

31st Oct. Rainfall was 17% down in the local area.

This was one of the 5 hottest summers and years (all of which occurred since 1990) in the last 300 years of weather records.

Dec. Griff Lane was finally blocked off, it was partly diverted in autumn 1967 when the Bedworth By-pass was constructed.

1998 Jan. The Public Inquiry at Weddington rejected the proposed new church community centre next to St. James parish church. This building was known by some as the “Stealth Bomber” because of its shape (and other things?)!

Jan.-Feb. Small bore bullet firing guns were made illegal, all guns were to be surrendered at police stations.

Mar. A good mediaeval coin collection was found at Fillongley.

A new sewer and water pipeline constructed from M.I.R.A. to Caldecote.

Some Roman mortaria pottery found.

Mar. Ansley Hall underwent restoration and conversion into luxury flats; it was still ongoing in 2000!
Mar.-Aug. Nuneaton Pingles site changed dramatically: a new public house, new running track, football and rugby fields removed.

Mar.-Aug. Bovis Contractors began work on Trent Valley Station, the roof and drainage were repaired, platforms resurfaced, etc. The local newspapers announced that Walsgrave and Coventry and Warwick hospitals could be demolished to make way for a new hospital for the Millennium. It might cost £160,000,000, to be funded by Private Financial Initiative. This was still under council discussion in 2000.

Jun. The wettest June since records began!

A new Quasar discovered; it gives out 50,000 times more light than all the stars in the Milky Way galaxy (Via Lactia); it is over one billion light years away!

May.-Jun. TIME magazine nominated Winston Churchill as one the twenty greatest leaders of the 20thC. The Beatles were nominated as the greatest Rock ‘n Roll musicians

Jul. A new statue of a miner unveiled for 75th anniversary of Bedworth Miner's Welfare Park

Jul.-Nov. A new road was constructed from the Bedworth bypass to serve the Bermuda Industrial Estate (site of the Sudeley Opencast site) The hottest July worldwide since records began!!

10th Aug. An asteroid passed close to earth; it was near misses such as this that prompted the USA to research and catalogue these incidents more accurately and try to devise ways to destroy such asteroids.

Sep. Nuneaton was reported as being the most traffic congested town in Britain between 8.30-9.00 a.m. Mondays to Fridays in school term time. A new theory was proposed by a cosmologist that all the stars and galaxies are mirror reflections of just a few; a phenomena caused by light bending and splitting in deep space

The report of the Select Committee on Transport: The objectives of the Strategic Rail Authority:

i) To provide a single body accountable to the Secretary of State for strategic planning, co-ordinating and supervising the activities of the rail industry, and the refurbishment of public funds
ii) To provide a clear strategic direction for rail transport
iii) To promote rail passenger and freight transport both within government and publicly, and to foster a climate that encourages private investment in the railway
iv) To provide a link with other interested bodies such as Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, PTE and Greater London Authority and to act as a sponsor for railway interests in discussion with those bodies

Sep. Warwickshire County Council Structure Plan (WASP) was unpopular with many Nuneaton people because of the destruction of greenfield sites for houses.

The so-called job creation was still in the service industries. Virtually no primary industry is left locally, secondary is also poorly represented.
Oct. The British Geological Survey published the long awaited memoir (and numerous technical reports on the area)on the geology of the country between Nuneaton and Coventry. This contained many details on the unique rocks and fossils of the area.

11th Nov. 80th Anniversary of the end of World War I

Nov. The Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council announced a major redevelopment of the Queens Arcade and Woolworths car park area..

Nuneaton's Green Track scheme was adopted by the Countryside Commission as a type example of such a conservation and amenity scheme. (Dave Marriott was instrumental in developing this idea)

R.J. Budge mining announced a new £20,000,000 modernisation investment in Daw Mill colliery.

Nuneaton announced plans to twin with Cottbus in Germany. In April 1945, the Russian army captured Cottbus on their way to Hitler's Berlin bunker.

21st Dec. 8.00 a.m. one of the rarest and most beautiful sunrises over Nuneaton.

Many rare and varied cloud formations.

One of the worst years for British and local farming; this was a combination of weather, set-aside policies, subsidies and other EU policies.

1999 Jan. A McLaren F1 car broke the M.I.R.A. test track speed record set in 1967. It also reached 196 mph on the straight. A similar car broke the speed record for a UK circuit (Millbrook) in March 1999 at an average speed of over 195 mph.

1st Jan. Eleven countries joined the European Union Currency (Britain did not)

9th Jan. The first steam engine in over thirty years, powered a set of coaches out of Nuneaton Trent Valley station. Preserved engine No. 35005, a former Southern Region engine that did not run on this line normally.

15-16th Jan. The River Anker flooded Weddington, Sandon Park, Caldecote and out to beyond Mancetter; nearly as badly as the 2nd July 1958 flood.

Jan.-Feb. Roman or Romano-British remains found near Arley

21st Mar. Breitling Orbiter 3 hot air balloon successfully circum--navigated the whole earth. Its journey commenced from the Swiss village of Chateau-d'Oex, on the 1st March. This was regarded by many as the last unconquered air journey. Many teams had tried in the previous years but none had got further than halfway. The pilots were Brian Jones from Wiltshire and Bertrand Piccard from Switzerland.

May. A new super-plex cinema opened on the Sudeley opencast site, adjacent to the Bedworth bypass.

26th May. The local archaeologist Keith Scott (Keith Francis-Scott) died. He did much to raise the profile of local archaeology by excavating Roman, Romano-British and Mediaeval sites.

2nd Jun. Spectacular thunder and lightning storm over Nuneaton

4th Jul. Michel de Nostredame (Nostradamus) predictions were incorrectly interpreted as the end of the world on this day. He was born in Provence in 1503 and partly trained as a medic and astrologer. "The Centuries", his most famous work, was published in 1555; it consisted of 10 volumes of one hundred quatrain verses, in a cryptic and non-chronological form. The end of the world was also predicted for 3797 A.D. Most predictions are so vague or symbolic that it is possible to see many things or nothing in them depending on one's personal perspective.

Aug. Railtrack announced £100,000,000 was to be spent upgrading the Nuneaton area track and station layout in 2 phases for the proposed 140 mph tilting trains by 2005. Railtrack also announced the upgrade of Rugby-Coventry-Birmingham to four running tracks, two of which would be dedicated to the proposed tilting trains. This was part of a £52 billion investment over the next 12 years.

Wed. 11th Aug. 11.11 a.m. onwards, a total eclipse of the sun in Cornwall, after much 'hype' the event did not attract the crowds, it was mostly clouded over. Nuneaton saw 90-95% of the sun blotted out at 11 hrs: 18 mins: 32 secs., again it was clouded over for some of the time. The best place was Torquay and Exmouth where the cloud was thinner and quicker moving allowing long periods of clear vision of it. The previous British total eclipse was on 29th June 1927.

The next British Total eclipses are:

20th Mar.	2015, Faroe Islands
3rd Sep.	2081, Channel Islands
23rd Sep.	2090, Cornwall and Devon
3rd Jun.	2133, Hebrides, Shetlands
7th Oct.	2135, Southern Scotland, Northern England

The next global ones are:

21st Jun.	2001, Angola, Mozambique
4th Dec.	2002, Angola to South Australia
23rd Nov.	2003, Antarctica
8th Apr.	2005, Costa Rica to Venezuela
29th Mar.	2006, Ghana to Kazakhstan

12th Aug. The Perseids Meteor shower over Nuneaton was obscured by heavy cloud.

Sep. Nuneaton won “Britain in Bloom”

A national newspaper survey announced Isaac Newton as the “Man of the Millennium” (from any nation or background). Nuneaton’s Henry Beighton and Thomas Simpson were both heavily influenced by his 17thC. work in the 1730’s. (see 1665)

The warmest September for the last 50 years, the second warmest this century.

Oct. Net-Aid was organised; 3 rock concerts took place, Wembley, Geneva and America. The concerts were broadcast on the InterNet; their purpose was to inform countries about world debt. A Jubilee Year was proposed, as in older Biblical times - all debts should be cancelled.

Oct. Astronomers report the existence of a planet far beyond Pluto. This potential distant planet has been postulated many times and many observations have been later discredited.

British farming in serious decline, the industry was at its worst for 60 years. Local farmers were very disillusioned and pessimistic about its future.

1999 12th Oct. The world’s living population reached 6,000,000,000 (six billion)
10th Nov. The highest pressure anticyclone since records began: 1047 mb.

11th Nov. The House of Lords: over 600 hereditary piers lost their right to sit in the House. This was the first such major change in over 800 years.

17th-18th Nov. The Leonid meteor show: the earth passed through the tail of the Tempel-Tuttle Comet. Although spectacular elsewhere it was hardly visible in Nuneaton because of cloud cover.

22nd Dec. 8.00 a.m. A very bright moon was visible over Nuneaton due to the fact that it came as close to the earth as is possible in its orbit.

31st Dec. Leaded petrol became illegal in the UK (Britain negotiated a concession for a small percentage of leaded petrol to be still available)

Some piecemeal restoration work commenced on Astley Castle.

The Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) at Warwick, Solihull and Leicester contained extensive records of pre-historic man’s activities in the greater Nuneaton area. Upper Palaeolithic man c.175,000 years ago first settled in the area with a more or less continuous presence in the area ever afterwards. By the Iron and Bronze Age man was widespread! Most present day hamlets and villages preserve some sort of remnant or artefact as evidence of this. The SMR also contain industrial archaeological sites from the recent period as well as heritage buildings.

This was one of the warmest years on record

1999-2000 Dec.-Jan. A near epidemic influenza (flu, ‘flu’) outbreak occurred locally) Medical and social progress in Great Britain to date: 500,000 people die each year of cancer, 500,000 die from heart attack; 120,000 die in accidents and 20,000 commit suicide because of mental problems. The life expectancy for men is 75 years and for women 80 years.

2000 1st Jan. From just before midnight on the 31st Dec. the town’s skyline was lit up by huge numbers of fireworks that went on for at least 10 minutes. This was a celebration for the coming of the year 2000! (or the millennium if you were impatient!)

20th Jan. 4.00 a.m. A full lunar eclipse was obscured by thick cloud

27th Jan. There is growing belief that passing comets brought basic life forming substances to earth over 3,000,000,000 years ago

B.C. Before Christ dating was amended to B.C.E. Before Common Era of the calendar. C.E. (Common Era amended A.D.)

7th Feb. An emergency meeting of Nuneaton council to discuss the economic threat of the redevelopment of the Foleshill Gasworks site. Coventry Football ground, a giant cinema and numerous shops were planned.

15th Feb. Viscount Daventry (Francis Humphrey Maurice FitzRoy Newdegate) passed away after a long illness. His was educated at Eton, from where he went on to serve in the Coldstream Guards. He rose to rank of Captain. In 1948-49 he was the Prime Minister's personal representative in Japan working with the UK Liaison Mission.

Mar. Plough Hill Road area Opencast mine exposed old haulage roads and workings in the Dry Bread Colliery. This was largely infilled by the end of the year.

22nd Mar. The Hindu Year 1922 began

Apr. The new shopping complex in Nuneaton gained planning approval.

The Ropewalk; named after Joseph Scrivener's rope making site, in Nuneaton. (see 1790's to 1841)

5th Apr. The Islamic Year 1421 began

6th Apr. Several planets in conjunction next to the moon, followed later by the Aurora Borealis over many parts of England, 11.30 p.m. to 2.00 a.m. (although not definitely reported in Nuneaton)

16th-17th. Apr. World stock market lost billions of dollars in panic selling

20th Apr. Some " religious sects" believe this will be the day that the Messiah will return (the Second Coming). It appears to have been wrong!

22nd Apr. The telephone codes changed again: Nuneaton numbers changed from 01203 XXXXXX to 024 7XXX XXXX

4th May. Local elections, poor local turnout of less than 30%! The Conservatives gained several seats, including Weddington and Bulkington.

(Ken Livingstone was elected as the Mayor of London).

A Lovebug virus infected much of the InterNet!

5th May. Many planets were in a straight line conjunction; fear of earthquakes due to increased gravitational forces. More than 140 meteorite craters are visible on the earth; some scientists propose the serious risk that a giant asteroid will wipe out the earth.

May. The Phoenix rescue bid saved Austin/Rover/MG at Longbridge.

The alternative Alchemy bid predicted thousands of jobless in the local car industry and its feeder industries. The affects on MIRA and local factories was felt.

20th May 6.15 p.m. A rare triple rainbow visible over Weddington
20th May. Aston Villa lost (0-1) to Chelsea in the last F.A. Cup Final at Wembley (Twin Towers)

8th Jun. & 14th Jul. Massive energy emissions were ejected from the surface of the sun; they affected satellites, TV/Radio and telephones and caused Aurora Borealis.

20th Jun. England were defeated in the Euro 2000 competition, they did not reach the quarter final. France eventually won!

The River Anker enjoyed periods of clean water when the following fish were spotted (or caught) brown trout, pike, bream, roach, chubb and perch.

21st Jun. The northern side of Weddington St. James church was excavated for the foundations of a small extension. Large blocks of Attleborough Sandstone were found just beneath the surface (presumably demolition rubbish or footings from an older building). Mediaeval floor tile fragments were found. There were also humans remains found in the trenches! (pre-1852 coffins) The long term economic value of these internal and external alterations would depend on your point of view. (see 1875, 1881, 1888, 1907, 1991-2).

The heritage debate will continue with Astley Castle.

26th Jun. The Human Genome project published the full code for human DNA; the project was agreed in 1985 and finally decoded all the 3,000,000,000 codons of genetic data on the 46 chromosomes of the human cell. This work was compared with the discovery / invention of the wheel.
Jul. Britain failed to win the 2006 World Cup venue! Germany just secured it with South Africa a close second.

Nuneaton Pingles centre to be extensively refurbished. The Camp Hill Project to re-house resident in an urban village setting, moved nearer to full approval.

The last traces of “Mount Bermuda” were removed in Tenlons Road/Bermuda Road (Griff Colliery spoil heap)

The listed building at the Bull Ring was refurbished to preserve the ornate window frames

4th Aug. Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, celebrated her 100th birthday;there was widespread public interest.

Aug. The comet Linear was not very visible in the local skies in the Great Bear Constellation. The Perseid meteor shower was occasionally visible.

A petition was launched in Bedworth to test the public reaction to the idea of splitting the town from Nuneaton, i.e. back to its pre-1974 status.

The new dandelion water fountain was opened on the roundabout near Corporation Street.

Aug. The Bermuda/Sudeley site continued to develop with new warehouse units. One of which, was aircraft hangar-sized (legend now has it that Metres were mistaken for Feet on the plans!) The old opencast site is very waterlogged and many buildings still need much foundation work before building can commence. These are typical problems associated with opencast sites.

Sep. A large black leopard-like cat was filmed near Measham; it was the 110th report in Leicestershire this year! How long will it be before the first Nuneaton sighting happens? There have been sightings at Water Orton and Burbage Common.

Sep. Ansley Common school (Nursery Hill) had to be evacuated when dangerous levels of hydrogen gas were detected in nearby boreholes.

8th-15th Sep. Local and national protests about the cost of petrol and the excessive tax the government takes on petrol. All local garages ran out;panic buying at local supermarkets. Diesel trains were cancelled because of lack of fuel.

15th Sep. The Sydney Olympics began; some Nuneatonians braved the journey! The British medal performance was the best since the 1920 games. In 1908 we won 56 gold medals! Steve Redgrave from Buckinghamshire, won his 5th successive Gold medal for rowing. (1984, 1988, 1992, 1996 & 2000)

23rd Sep. 5.23 a.m. An earth tremor struck Nuneaton, 4.2 on the Richter scale. The epicentre was Budbrooke, Warwick; the focus was 8 miles deep!

30th Sep. The Jewish Year 5761 began

2nd Oct. The Human Rights Act became law in England, Wales and Ulster; it was seen as a major piece of legislation, as was Magna Carta.It gave people better rights to privacy and family's greater protection.

Oct. Ken Loach, the Nuneaton born film director, was making a film in Sheffield about the plight of the old unemployed railway workers.

Astronomers announced that a small planet had been discovered between Pluto and Neptune. It was about 400 miles in diameter, known informally as Plutino or Little Pluto.

12th Oct. A period of heavy local rain, the Anker nearly flooded Nuneaton, the area escaped with 25 mm of rain in 24 hours; in Sussex it exceeded 125mm in 24 hours.

17th Oct. Princess Anne (The Princess Royal) visited Bramcote Barracks as their Colonel in Chief. She thanked the soldiers for their heroic part in rescuing the hostages from Sierra Leone.

25th Oct. St. Crispin's Day: The 585th anniversary of The Battle of Agincourt. Henry V's longbow men defeated a numerically superior French army.

The 'Shakespearian' Henry V (Act. 4, Sc. III) urged us to remember this day forever!

27th Oct. Growing rail chaos as Railtrack start a major safety inspection of the track. Hundreds of pieces of damaged rail are identified, immediate repairs commenced. The Nuneaton stretch of the West Coast Mainline was affected in places.

29th Oct. The British Paralympic team gained 41 Gold medals in Sydney!!!

The overall medal total was 131, this fantastic achievement was only exceeded by the Australian team.

30th Oct. The River Anker flooded Weddington, Sandon Park, Caldecote and out to beyond Mancetter; nearly as badly as the 2nd July 1958 flood. There were severe gales in the early morning that caused local damage. Many mature oaks were severely damaged in the area. It was the wettest autumn since records began in 1766.
31st Oct. A medical research team at Birmingham University announced they had developed a cure for rheumatoid arthritis.

Nov. The Beatles launched their first Web site on the Internet. This was rapidly followed by their album 1, which topped the album charts in many countries within the first week. Worldwide sales exceeded 12,000,000 and still rising.

5th Nov. A deep depression brought further storm and flood conditions to North Warwickshire

6th Nov. The River Anker flooded part of Weddington and Caldecote again

24th Nov. 5 students (Jonathan Roberts, Adam Peberdy, Alex Seaton, Craig Wilson and James Carrington-Howell) from the KEGS VIth Form College died in a tragic car crash near Seeswood/Seaswood Pool. This stretch of road has claimed many lives in the last 35 years.

25th Nov. The Hague Climate Summit ended in no agreement. Britain's Deputy Prime Minister walked out in frustration! Not the way for a "statesman" to solve a crisis!?

4th Dec. Mike Palladino passed away; he had been a local councillor and was committed to Nuneaton's heritage and youth work. (see 1931)

8th Dec. The River Anker flooded Weddington, Sandon Park, Caldecote and out to beyond Mancetter. (notable flooding in: 1817, 1821, 1823, 1864,1889, 1895, 1896, 1900, 1913, 1924, 1932, 1947, 1958, 1964, 1968, 1969,1973, 1977, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1999 and 2000 - 3 times)
15th Dec. Chernobyl nucelar power station closed down! (see 1986)

16th Dec. 8.00 a.m. Another spectacular sunrise, "Mackerel Sky clouds"

Dec. The International Space Station had its solar panel sails fully extended;it should have been one of the brightest objects in the night sky over Nuneaton, except for thick cloud cover.

28th Dec. 3.00 a.m. heavy snow falls in Nuneaton, by dawn 4+" (100+mm)had settled. The thaw began by late evening of the 31st Dec.

30th Dec. This was now the wettest year since 1872

In the New Year Honours list, Professor Eric Ives was made an OBE for his services to history at the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham.

2000 31st Dec. The modern calendar and its celebration of centuriesand millennia can be traced back a long way (see B.C. 5, A.D. 525, 664, 1582, 1627, 1752 and Apr. 1996) Local firework displays went for about 20 minutes either side of midnight.

The average British life style was as follows:

Male life expectancy	74 years
Female life expectancy	79 years
People per household	2.4
School leaving age	16 years
Old age pension	£66.57p
Recorded crimes	4,500,000
Cars	22,000,000
Number of building societies	70
Railways (people carried per year)	890,000,000
Death rate	600,000 per annum
Army numbers	109,700
Navy numbers	43,700
Main source of energy	Oil and natural gas
People immigrating (in excess of those emigrating)	178,000 per annum
Bus passengers	4,300,000,000 per annum

The following local quarries were hopefully scheduled as either Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) or Local Nature Reserves (LNR):

Griff Quarry, (Pioneer) Gypsy Lane.

Judkins (Hansons) Tuttle Hill.
Poors Piece, Tuttle Hill
Purley Quarry, (Tilcon) Mancetter
Oldbury Hill, (Tilcon) Oldbury
Man-Abell/Boons Quarry, Hartshill.

The following settlements exist [most of the original sites are now (DMV) Deserted Mediaeval Villages] and may still be preserved with site remains:

Ansley (DMV) Hall partly restored, Arbury (DMV?),
Astley (DMV) Castle undergoing partial restoration,
Attleborough (DMV?) Hall demolished,
Bramcote (DMV) destroyed by the military base,
Bulkington (DMV?), Burbage (DMV?), Burton Hastings (DMV),
Caldecote (DMV) Hall. White House demolished, Caldwell Hall demolished, Camp Hill Hall demolished, Coton (DMV?) Hall demolished, Exhall (DMV) (and Hall), Fenny Drayton (DMV?), Galley Common (DMV) Hall demolished, Griff (DMV), Hartshill (DMV?) castle in ruins, Higham (DMV), Hinckley (DMV?), The Hyde (DMV) Hall demolished, Lindley (DMV?) Hall demolished, Mancetter (DMV?), Marston Jabbett (DMV) Hall demolished, Oldbury (DMV?) Hall demolished, Park House/Farm demolished, Rowden(DMV?), Ryton (DMV?), Shelford (DMV?) House demolished, Shenton (DMV) Hall extant, Sinney Fields (DMV?), Sketchley (DMV?) Hall and Grange extant, Sole End (DMV), Stoke Golding (DMV), Stretton Baskerville (DMV), Upton (DMV), Weddington (DMV) (and Hall demolished), Weston (DMV), Witherley (DMV) Hall extant, Wolvershill Hall demolished, Wolvey (DMV) Hall extant and Wykin (DMV) Hall extant.

The following Monastic sites existed: Nuneaton Priory and Alien Priory (ruins); Astley College (part of Astley), Arbury, Hinckley Cell and Oldbury Priory some foundations may be buried beneath the surface.

Churches existed at: St. Nicolas, Nuneaton; All Saints, Coton; Attleborough Holy Trinity; St. James, Weddington, St. Theobald and St. Chad, Caldecote; St. Peter's, Higham; St. James, Bulkington; St. Mary the Virgin, Astley; St. Peter, Mancetter; St. Mary's, Hinckley; St. Botolph's, Burton Hastings; St. Margaret's, Stoke Golding; St. John's, Lindley Hall outbuilding foundations (ruins), St. Michael's, Fenny Drayton; St. John the Baptist, Wolvey.

The following existed in 2000: Ansley Hall (partly in restoration), Arbury Hall, Astley Castle (partly in restoration) Caldecote Hall, Exhall Hall, Hartshill Castle (ruins), Hartshill Grange, Higham Grange, "Higham" Hall, Lindley Grange, Lindley Lodge, Mancetter Manor House, Shenton Hall, Sketchley Hall and Grange, Temple House, Weston Hall, Witherley Hall, Wolvey Hall, Wykin Hall.

The following spoil heaps ('slag tips') existed in the 1960's:

Colliery: 'Mount Bermuda' (Griff Colliery) - finally removed in 2000
'Griff Clara' - removed in 1967-68
'Arley' - removed in c. 1966
'Ansley Hall' - landscaped in the early 1970's
'Haunchwood Tunnel' - landscaped in the early 1970's

Quarry: 'Mount Jud' (Judkins Quarry) - survived into 2001
'Mount Jees' (Hartshill) - survived into 2001

2001 1st Jan. 0 hours 5 minutes and 51 seconds

End of the 20th Century A.D.
End of the 2nd Millennium A.D.

START OF THE 3RD MILLENNIUM A.D.

2001 1st Jan. 0 hours 5 minutes and 52 seconds past midnight, Monday, Nuneaton Market Place “solar time”; by the Christian chronological calendar, it is the: start of the 21st Century A.D.start of the 3rd Millennium A.D.

Jan. The Archers celebrated their 50th anniversary, it was the longest running radio fiction show

2001 Apr. The new Pendolino tilting train was due to run experimentally at 140 mph through Bulkington.

2020 There may be over 225 climate-related disasters in this year alone, believed to have been caused by global warming.

2050 There were predictions of a world population of 9,500,000,000 if the third world can not reduce its birth rate substantially. Some sceptics say it could be as many as 20, 30, 40 or 50,000,000,000 people by then. This can not take into account food shortage and disease. It was estimated that if every tax payer in Britain paid one extra £1 per year that could solve the Third World population crisis by introducing birth control.

So ends this Millennium History of Nuneaton.

As we enter the next Millennium, I feel privileged to have lived in this time. Man's pre-history (in years) is vast compared to our modern civilisation of the last few thousand years - yet it seems inconsequential compared to geological history! It would be good to think that by the year 3001 someone may write up the period 2001-3000.

History will probably record 1901-2000 as ‘humanity’s’’ greatest leap: - nursing the sick and elderly, advances in midwifery, learning to fly, landing on the moon, exploding the atom bomb, exploring the solar system, defeating small pox, splitting the atom and breaking the sound barrier in a car, flying around the world in a balloon!

Are we any nearer answering the following questions:

Where did I come from?
Where am I going?
Why am I here?

PERSONALITIES

The media have been encouraging people to nominate their person of the Millennium in telephone and newspaper polls - here are some of my candidates:

LOCAL :

Sir Marmaduke Constable (for the unenviable task of enforcing the Etone monastery dissolution in a firm and perhaps fairer way than others may have; this ultimately set the destiny of how Nuneaton would evolve for the next 400 years)

Henry Beighton (for his progressive work in cartography, surveying. mathematics and meteorology)

John Barber (for his numerous inventions and patents)

Alfred L. Scrivener (for his outstanding contribution to local history that has kept journalists and historians busy for over 100 years)

Francis L. Fawcett (for bringing enlightenment to Nuneaton Museum and the public; for helping the cause of truth and goodness in World War II and contributing to its end)

John L. Scott-Scott (a rocket and jet propulsion expert (Rolls Royce and NASA), who pioneeredinventions and designs to reach outer space by the hypersonic spaceplanes - Hotol and Skylon)

BRITISH:

Isaac Newton (for his visionary approach to new scientific thought and understanding)

Thomas Savery, James Watt, Thomas Newcomen, Richard Trevithick and Robert Stephenson (for their pioneering work on steam power)

John Clare and Gerard Manley Hopkins (for their nature poetry)

John Wesley (for renewing the vision of what personal salvation and wholeness were about)

Francis W. Webb, Charles J. Bowen-Cooke and Isambard K. Brunel (for the evolution of the steam locomotive)

Queen Victoria (for presiding over the revolutionary period of change in Britain)

Sue Ryder (for her charitable foundation and its work)

Francis Crick and Maurice Wilkins (for their pioneering work on DNA)

Ron Collier (he was a universal man, researched Einstein's relativity at Newcastle, was a pianist and composer, an exponent of Bach and Mozart, a wood carver, painter and first rate amateur vertebrate palaeontologist

Adrian W. A. Rushton (for his dedicated research into Cambrian geology and trilobites)

INTERNATIONAL:

Dr. Irene Bredt and Dr. Eugen Sanger (who were decades ahead of their time in the 1930's regarding aerospace travel)

Chao Meng-fu (for painting and seeing landscape in a new way : 13thC. China)

Crazy Horse "Tashunca Uitco" (for reminding mankind genocide is never justified)
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (for his great example of humbleness and selflessness)

Professor Friedrich Max Muller (for bringing many eastern philosophy books into English translation)

Mother Teresa (for her selfless giving and tough common sense)

Stan Kenton (for revolutionising jazz and big band music in the 1940's)

James Watson (for his work on DNA)

Nelson Mandela (for helping lead South Africa out of Apartheid)

John Wimber (for his Christian vision and teaching on what healing, salvation and love are for)

There are numerous inventors, developers and discoverers:

Telephone/Radio/Television/Electricity: Elisha Grey, Alexander Graham Bell, Johann Reis, Charles Bourseul, Michael Faraday, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison and many more.

Photographs: Fox-Talbot and Daguerre

Gunpowder, explosives, atomic fission: the Chinese, Bacon, Noble, Fermi, Bohr,Oppenheimer, Einstein

VARIOUS NATIONAL POLL RESULTS

1996 Channel 4 and Waterstones: The Books of the Century
1st: The Lord of the Rings (J.R.R. Tolkien)
2nd: Nineteen Eighty-Four (G. Orwell)
3rd: Animal Farm (G. Orwell)
4th: Ulysses (James Joyce)
5th: Catch 22 (J. Hellier)
6th: The Catcher in the Rye (J.D. Salinger)
7th: To kill a Mockingbird (H. Lee)

16th: The wind in the willows (K. Grahame)
17th: Winnie the Pooh (A. A. Milne)
21st: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (C. S. Lewis)

1996 Channel 4 and Waterstones: The Top Poetry titles
1st: The Waste Land (T. S. Eliot)
5th: The Prophet (k. Gibran)

1999 BBC poll for the Nation's favourite song:
1st: Imagine (John Lennon)
2nd: Angels (Robbie Williams)
3rd: Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen)
4th: I am the Walrus (Beatles)
5th: Millennium (Robbie Williams)
6th: Yesterday (Beatles)

1999 Music of the Millennium Poll (Ch. 4/HMV/Classic Fm) 600,000 voted Best song:
1st: Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen
2nd: Imagine - John Lennon
3rd: Angels - Robbie William's
4th: American Trilogy - Elvis Presley
5th: Teen spirit - Nirvana
6th: Stairway to heaven - Led Zeppelin
7th: Strawberry Fields - The Beatles
8th: Hey Jude - The Beatles
9th: Millennium - Robbie Williams

2000 Smash All-time Top 20 (top selling British singles of all time) ITV December
1st: Candle in the wind - Elton John (Diana's funeral song)
2nd: Do they know it's Christmas - Band Aid
3rd: Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen
4th: Mull of Kintyre - Wings
5th: Relax - Frankie goes to Hollywood
6th: She loves you - Beatles
7th: Unchained melody - Robson & Jerome
8th: Love is all around - Wet Wet Wet
9th: I wanna hold your hand - Beatles
10th: Tears - Ken Dodd
11th: Can't buy me love - Beatles
12th: Two tribes - Frankie goes to Hollywood
13th: Don't you want me? - Human League
14th: Last Christmas - Wham!
15th: I feel fine - Beatles
16th: Karma chameleon - Culture Club
17th: We can work it out/Daytripper - Beatles
18th: Careless whisper - George Michael
19th: Please release me - Englebert Humperdinck
20th: Wanna be - Spice Girls

2000 MOJO Songwriters special poll, August issue No. 81:
1st: In my life - Beatles
2nd: Satisfaction - Rolling Stones
3rd: Over the rainbow - Judy Garland

4th: Here, there and everywhere - Beatles
5th: Tracks of my tears - Smokey Robinson
6th: The times they are a-changin - Bob Dylan
7th: Strange fruit - Billie Holiday
8th: I can't make you love me - Bonnie Raitt
9th: People get ready - The Impressions
10th: You've lost that lovin' feelin' - The Righteous Brothers
11th: Yesterday - The Beatles
12th: I say a little prayer - Dionne Warwick/Aretha Franklin
13th: God only knows - The Beach Boys
14th: Something - The Beatles
15th: Every time we say goodbye - Ella Fitzgerald
16th: Fire and Rain - James Taylor / Isley Brothers
17th: Moon River - Andy Williams / Danny Williams
18th: Stand by me - Ben E King
19th: Eleanor Rigby - The Beatles
20th: Ain't no sunshine - Bill Withers
28th: I go to sleep - Kinks / Pretenders
29th: Hey Jude - The Beatles
60th: Let it be - The Beatles
69th: Jealous guy - John Lennon

Best Jazz performer:
1st: Louis Armstrong
2nd: Miles Davis
3rd: Ella Fitzgerald
4th: Billie Holiday
5th: John Coltrane

Classical music composition:
1st: Vivaldi - Four Seasons
2nd: Holst - The Planets Suite
3rd: Beethoven - 9th Symphony
4th: Tchaikovsky - 1812 Overture
5th: Carmina Burana - Orff

Best music group:
1st: The Beatles
2nd: Queen
3rd: Rolling Stones
4th: U2
5th: Oasis

Best male performer:
1st: Elvis Presley
2nd: Robbie Williams
3rd: Michael Jackson
4th: Frank Sinatra
5th: George Michael

Best record album:
1st: Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band - The Beatles
2nd: Thriller - Michael Jackson
3rd: Revolver - The Beatles
4th: Aloha - Elvis Presley
5th: Nevermind - Nirvana
6th: Stone Roses - Stone Roses
7th: What's the story - Oasis
8th: Dark side of the moon - Pink Floyd
9th: I've been expecting you - Robbie Williams
10th: The Bends - Radiohead
11th: The White Album - The Beatles
12th: O.K. Computer - Radiohead
13th: Ray of light - Madonna

14th: Talk on corners - The Corrs
15th: Abbey Road - The Beatles

Best Album as assessed by music critics/DJ's:
1st: Revolver - The Beatles

Best female performer:
1st: Madonna
2nd: Arethra Franklin
3rd: Celine Dion
4th: Ella Fitzgerald
5th: Mariah Carey

Most influential music maker:
1st: John Lennon
2nd: Elvis Presley
3rd: Michael Jackson
4th: Jimi Hendrix
5th: Paul McCartney

Best classical composer:
1st: Mozart
2nd: Beethoven
3rd: Bach
4th: Tchaikovsky
5th: Vivaldi
6th: Elgar
7th: Holst
8th: Wagner
9th: Chopin
10th: Handel

Best song writer:
1st: John Lennon
2nd: Paul McCartney
3rd: Bob Dylan
4th: Michael Jackson
5th: Liber/Stoller
6th: Neil Gallagher
7th: Elton John
8th: Robbie Williams
9th: Cole Porter
10th: Kurt Cobain

1999 BBC Radio poll for UK personality for the millennium:
1st: William Shakespeare
2nd: Winston Churchill
3rd: William Caxton
4th: Charles Darwin
5th: Isaac Newton
6th: Oliver Cromwell
Geoffrey Chaucer and Samuel Johnson deserve a mention for their development and use of the English language.
The Beatles/George Martin for revolutionising music for that brief moment in time.

A national newspaper survey of top 50 most influential people of all time:
1st: William Shakespeare
2nd: Sir Isaac Newton
3rd: Sir Winston Churchill
4th: William Caxton
5th: Charles Darwin
6th: 1st Duke of Wellington
7th: Queen Elizabeth I
8th: William the Conqueror

9th: Alfred the Great
10th: Captain James Cook

Some of the remainder in order: Charles Dickens, Sir Christopher Wren, 1st Duke of Marlborough, Isambard K Brunel, George Stephenson, Venerable Bede, John Constable, Lord Nelson, John Turner, Alexander Fleming, Oliver Cromwell, Henry VIII, Sir Francis Drake, Walter Raleigh, Edward I, Sir Thomas More, William Wordsworth, Queen Victoria, William Pitt, Wesley, Henry VII, Elgar, Field Marshall Montgomery, Adam Smith, Gladstone, Florence Nightingale, Lloyd George, Margaret Thatcher?, Tyndale, Clive of India, Dr. Johnson, Livingstone, Russell, Keynes, Burns, Jane Austen and Capability Brown

It is very interesting that Jesus does not appear on these lists. Although he never wrote a book or left behind fabulous palaces that could be visited, HE did exist. There are several independent historical works that mention him. His works and actions have been assessed in one of three ways:

i) was He mad?
ii) was He bad?
iii) was He who He said He was - God?

Most of the legal systems of the modern world are based on what he taught and confirmed about the Bible.

The Sunday Times Top 100 Power List for 1999:
1st: Prime Minister Tony Blair
2nd: Bill Gates (Microscoft)
3rd: Alan Greenspan (International financier)
4th: Rupert Murdoch (media)
5th: Gordon Brown (chancellor)
6th: Eddie George (financier)
7th: John Bridgeman (businessman)
8th: Lord Stevenson (businessman)
9th: Alastair Campbell (politics)
10th: Sir Brian Pitman (financier)

The Midlands sub-group:
1st: Michael Foster M.P. Worcester
2nd: Sir Ian Byatt (Ofwat)
3rd: Joachim Milberg (BMW-Rover) - ousted by the Phoenix rescue bid in May 2000.
4th: Jim Swire (chairman of Flight 103 group)
5th: Richard Branson
6th: Richardson brothers
7th: Sir Michael Bishop (chairman of British Midland)
8th: Sir Norman Fowler
9th: Lord Janner (Vice President of the World Jewish Congress)
10th: John Newing (Derby police)

The Sunday Times Richest of the Rich (wealth in 2001 values):

1st: William of Warenne, Earl of Surrey, died 1088	£57,000,000,000
2nd: Richard Fitzalan, Earl or Arundel, 1307-76	£48,000,000,000
3rd: Robert, Count of Mortain, 1031-90	£46,100,000,000
4th: Odo, Earl of Bayeux, 1036-97	£43,200,000,000
4th: John of Gaunt, 1340-1399	£43,200,000,000
30th: Sir William de la Pole, died 1366	£9,900,000,000
160th: Henry Paget, Marquess of Anglesey, 1835-98	£2,600,000,000
199th: Bernie Ecclestone, 1930-	£2,000,000,000

The BBC TV InterNet poll for the “greatest thinker of all” in 1999:
1) Karl Marx
2) Albert Einstein
3) Sir Isaac Newton
4) Charles Darwin

The British Film Institute top 100 TV programmes of all time:
1) Fawlty Towers

2) Cathy Come Home (Ken Loach - Nuneaton film director)
3) Dr. Who
4) The Naked Civil Servant
5) Monty Python's Flying Circus
6) Blue Peter
13) Dad's Army
16) Blackadder Goes Forth
24) Hancock
35) Porridge
40) Coronation Street
41) Top of the Pops
45) Only Fools and Horses
58) Live Aid
62) Ready, Steady, Go!
69) The Likely Lads
73) 1984 (Rudolf Cartier)
74) The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin
75) Quatermass and the Pit
86) The Tube
98) Spitting Image

British Library Patents Office top 100 inventions of the 20thC:
1900's: Vacuum cleaner; Meccano; Safety Razor; Tarmac; Disc brakes; Vacuum flask; Aeroplane; Air conditioning; Catalytic converter; Washing machine
1910's: Outboard motor; Neon lights; Rawlplug; Tank; Formica; Synchronised machine gun fire; Zip; Nissen hut; Supermarket; Stainless steel
1920's: Traffic lights; self winding watch; Television; synthetic insulin; Autopilot; power steering; rapid freezing of food; bread slicing machine; sticky tape
1930's: Jet engine; anglepoise lamp; Monopoly; Catseyes; Radar; parking meter; polythene; photocopier; nylon & nylon stockings; Teflon
1940's: biro; silly putty; Slinky coil spring; microwave oven; Tupperware; computer; Hologram; transistor; Bell telephone; Polaroid photography; bar codes
1950's: Velcro; birth pill; Geodesic dome; float glass; Scrabble; Hovercraft; Wankel engine; Lego; microchip
1960's: Pacemaker; lava lamp; ring pull can; computer mouse; waterbed; tomography; sailboard; Kevlar; baby buggy
1970's: MRI scanning; snowboard; wave energy; Rubik cube; Smart card; artificial heart; personal stereo; post it notes; dual cyclone vacuum cleaner; recumbent bike
1980's: Wind energy; HOTOL space plane; DNA fingerprinting; desalination of water; widget; video games; anti theft car devices; solar energy; mobil phones; cold fusion
1990's: Fullerenes; Viagra; programmable materials; clockwork radio; predator football boots; pyramid teabags (really tetrahedron-shape); cloning; convection technology; fuel cells; folding portable buildings

SOME 21st CENTURY THOUGHTS

Unknown quote

"I feel that mankind's moral and ethical progress may be more appropriately summed as his greatest slump. When mankind is ready to embrace every new idea on any topic "HE/SHE" will lose focus. Most successful civilisations in the past realised progress by focusing on goals. These goals were usually framed in moral and ethical codes!"

The song by George Harrison - Within You Without You - has some very challenging lines:

> We were talking about the space between us all, and the people
> who hide themselves behind a wall of illusion.....
> ..... and the people who gain the world and lose their soul.....

In the “Mayor of Casterbridge” by Thomas Hardy, ch. 26; Michael Henchard, who was trying to put his rival out of business, goes to visit the local weather prophet, Conjuror Fall. He wants the magician to tell him the weather for the harvest period - he half believes that this scheme will work!. Conjuror Fall’s thoughts are : He was sometimes astonished that men could profess so little and believe so much at his house, when at church they professed so much and believed so little.

It would be good to see the debate concerning the authorship of William Shakespeare’s plays finally concluded. The evidence for De Vere (the Earl of Oxford and Queen’s cousin) writing them is historically and palaeographically very impressive and yet it is still disputed. There are personal documents by De Vere signed in a stylish William Shakespeare. He had access to the closest secrets of the palace and government; he was linguistically of the highest calibre. There is a local connection; Michael Drayton of Hartshill was his contemporary and was as close to the Royal Family as any literary figure. It was said that he was considered greater than Shakespeare at the time.

As mankind enters the next millennium the 7 enemies of the human race still loom large on the horizon [eco-apocalypses]:

1) Over population
2) Famine
3) Shortage of resources
4) Degradation of the environment
5) Abuse of nuclear power
6) Technology going out of control
7) The human factor - inertia in our politics and an obstinate blindness to the reality of the 20thC!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In the early 1970's several environmentalists produced research that indicated the earth and its human population would not last much longer. The Ecologist journal published "Blueprint for Survival"; Professor Dennis Meadow's computer predicted all the trajectories of pollution, food production, disease, famine, resource exhaustion and resource discovery; the point of no return was 2010; if humanity had not mastered these problems by 2010 it would be extinct by 2070 A.D.!!! Some of the statistical data used was faulty and the model did not take into account man's incredible ability to improve himself. There are still many scientists who do not subscribe to this optimistic outlook.

Homo sapiens has been on the earth for hundreds of thousand of years; 0.0001% of the earth's age!!

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These have been simplified, with initials followed by surname.

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(There are 2 common methods of referencing: Normal Citation and the Harvard Referencing Method; because of the nature of this project, neither has been strictly adhered to)

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Sir. W. Dugdale, The Antiquities of Warwickshire	1656
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Admeasurement taken by Mr. Fenna and Mr. Smith of my Warwickshire Estate surveyed by them

1802 when they measured all the lands in the Parish of Nuneaton for the purpose of regulating the Poor's Rates (Henry Tomkinson)

A Survey and Valuation of the Estate purchased by Mr. Tomkinson from the Earl of Uxbridge lying in the Parish of Nuneaton in the County of Warwick taken in November 1764 by Mr. Darlington and Sam Jackson subject to taxes

Baptism records: Chilvers Coton (Methodist 1818-1836); Monks Kirby (Baptists 1805-1847) Stretton (Congregationalists 1787-1836)

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Leicestershire (1719,1741,1768,1775,1826 and 1830 NB only one Kem in the whole series i.e. Edward Kemm at Leicester 1768.) Staffordshire (1774-5 Edward Kemm at Sutton and Armitage)
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Quarterly Review from 1st edition
Warwickshire Quaker Records: Births/Baptisms 1623-1837
Westminster Review from 1st edition
Westminster Drollery. pub. 1672 (Come Lads and Lassies)

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WARWICKSHIRE PRINTED MAPS (Harvey)

(N.B. the scales of the Warwickshire and Leicestershire maps do not agree sometimes, the Warwickshire maps seem to be more reliably scaled)

	Cartographer or publisher/printer	date	Approximate scale
1)	CHRISTOPHER SAXTON	1576	1:264,000
2)	W.B.	1590	1:3,168,000
3)	PIETER VAN DEN KEERE	1599	1:1,267,200
4)	ANON.	1603	1:211,200
5)	WILLIAM KIPP	1607	1:275,478
6)	JOHN SPEED	c.1610	1:218,482
7)	JOHN BILL	1626	1:1,267,200
8)	GEORGE HUMBLE	1627	1:1,056,000
9)	JACOB FLORENSZ VAN LANGEREN	1635	1:3,168,000
10)	THOMAS JENNER	1643	1:1,584,000
11)	JAN BLAEU	1645	1:253,440
12)	JAN JANSSON	1646	1:211,200
13)	ROBERT VAUGHAN	1656	1:243,692
14)	RICHARD BLOME	1673	1:243,692
15)	ROBERT MORDEN	1676	1:267,200
16)	WILLIAM REDMAYNE	1676	1:3,168,000
17)	RICHARD BLOME	1681	1:422,400
18)	ROBERT MORDEN	1695	1:211,200
19)	JOHN SELLER	c.1695	1:704,000
20)	ROBERT MORDEN	1701	1:396,000
	HENRY BEIGHTON	1707-8	1:456? plan of Griff House
21)	EMANUEL BOWEN	1720	1:633,600
22)	JOHN LENTHALL	c.1720	1:1,267,200
23)	HERMAN MOLL	1724	1:352,000
24)	HENRY BEIGHTON	1725	1:63,360

25)	HENRY BEIGHTON	1729	1:192,000
26)	THOMAS BADESLADE	1741	1:633,600
27)	JOHN COWLEY	1744	1:487,384
28)	THOMAS READ	1746	1:452,571
29)	ROBERT WALKER	1746	1:452,571
30)	THOMAS HUTCHINSON	1748	1:576,000
31)	THOS. JEFFERYS/THOS. KITCHIN	1749	1:704,000
32)	THOMAS KITCHIN	1752	1:396,000
33)	THOMAS KITCHIN	c.1753	1:119,547
34)	THOMAS JEFFERYS	c.1755	1:126,720
35)	JOHN GIBSON	1759	1:1,267,200
36)	EMANUEL BROWN	1760	1:487,384
37)	RICHARD WILLIAM SEALE	1760	1:372,504
38)	THOMAS KITCHIN	c.1762	1:162,461
39)	THOMAS KITCHIN	1764	1:352,000
40)	WILLIAM PALMER	1766	1:372,705
41)	EMANUEL and THOMAS BOWEN	c.1767	1:288,000
42)	THOMAS KITCHIN	1769	1:452,571
43)	THOMAS CONDER	1784	1:487,384
44)	JOHN CARY	1787	1:301,714
45)	JOHN HAYWOOD	1788	1:192,000
46)	JOHN CARY	1789	1:704,000
47)	E. NOBLE	1789	1:150,857
48)	JOSEPH JOHNSON	1790	1:633,600
49)	JOHN LODGE	1790	1:275,478
50)	JOHN CARY	1792	1:704,000
51)	WILLIAM YATES and SONS	1793	1:63,360
52)	BENJAMIN BAKER	1795	1:352,000
53)	JONES and SMITH	1801	1:162,461
54)	JOHN LUFFMAN	1803	1:2,112,000
55)	R. BUTTERS	c.1803	1:704,000
56)	JOHN CARY	1806	1:704,000
57)	JOHN CARY	1806	1:158,400
58)	G. COLE	1807	1:372,705
59)	H. COOPER	1808	1:576,000
60)	CHARLES COOKE	c.1808	1:704,000
61)	JOHN CARY	1809	1:316,000
62)	ROBERT ROWE	1811	1:204,387
63)	JAMES WALLIS	1812	1:396,000
64)	JAMES WALLIS	c.1812	1:704,000
65)	SAMUEL J. NEELE	1813	1:316,800
66)	JOHN ASTON	1816	1:396,000
67)	EDWARD LANGLEY	1818	1:396,000
68)	SAMUEL JOHN NEELE	1818	1:301,714
69)	THOMAS DIX	1820	1:204,387
70)	SIDNEY HALL	1820	1:792,000
71)	T.C. BANISTER	c.1820	1:422,400
72)	SAMUEL JOHN NEELE and SON	c.1820	1:487,384
73)	W.H.REID	c.1820	1:905,142
74)	ROBERT MILLER	c.1821	1:905,142
75)	GEORGE and JOHN CARY	1822	1:704,000
76)	GARDNER	1822	1:352,000
77)	CHARLES and JOHN GREENWOOD	1822	1:63,360
78)	J. THOMSON	1823	1:1,056,000
79)	WILLIAM EBDEN	1828	1:198,000
80)	J. PASS	1828	1:316,800
81)	JAMES PIGOT and SON	1828	1:288,000
82)	CHARLES and JOHN GREENWOOD	1830	1:198,000
83)	T.L. MURRAY	1830	1:204,387
84)	HENRY TEESDALE and CO	1830	1:528,000
85)	R. CREIGHTON	1831	1:372,705
86)	WILLIAM COBBETT	1832	1:633,600
87)	ROBERT KEARSLEY DAWSON	1832	1:316,800
88)	SIDNEY HALL	1832	1:333,473

89)	SIDNEY HALL	1833	1:372,705
90)	HENRY MARTIN	1833	1:288,000
91)	LONGMAN, REES, ORME, BROWN, GREEN and LONGMAN	1834	1:1,056,000
92)	ROBERT SCOTT	1834	1:333,473
93)	R. CREIGHTON	1835	1:333,473
94)	JOHN BOWYER NICHOLS and SON	1835	1:792,000
95)	W. SCHMOLLINGER	1836	1:372,705
96)	JOHN and CHARLES WALKER	1836	1:204,387
97)	JOSHUA ARCHER	1842	1:253,440
98)	JOHN and JOHN JAMES HARRIS	1842	1:84,480
99)	JOSHUA ARCHER	c.1842	1:372,705
100)	JAMES PIGOT / ISAAC SLATER	c.1842	1:633,600
101)	BENJAMIN REES DAVIES	1845	1:288,000
102)	THOMAS JOHNSON	1847	1:396,000
103)	JOHN EMSLIE	1848	1:452,571
104)	E.C. LASCELLES and CO	1850	1:154,536
105)	JOSHUA ARCHER	c.1852	1:2,112,000
106)	JAMES SIBREE	1855	1:633,600
107)	JOHN MURRAY	1856	1:528,000
108)	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW	1857	1:218,482
109)	EDWARD WELLER	1858	1:186,352
110)	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW and SON	1862	1:198,000
111)	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW	1868	1:253,440
112)	WILLIAM HUGHES	1868	1:275,478
113)	HENRY THOMAS COOKE and SON	1870	1:792,000
114)	FREDERICK GREW	c.1870	1:576,000
115)	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW	1872	1:422,400
116)	EDWARD WELLER	1872	1:396,000
117)	WILLIAM COLLINS, SONS and CO	c.1872	1:70,400
118)	WHITE and PIKE	1873	1:704,000
119)	GEORGE WASHINGTON BACON and CO	1874	1:134,808
120)	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW	1879	1:80,202
121)	EDWARD STANFORD	1881	1:905,142
122)	EDWARD STANFORD	1882	1:487,384
123)	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW	1884	1:352,000
124)	KELLY and CO	1884	1:204,387
125)	ORDNANCE SURVEY	1885	1:253,440
126)	ORDNANCE SURVEY	1886	1:253,440
127)	WHITE and PIKE	1886	1:704,000
128)	ORDNANCE SURVEY	1887	1:253,440
129)	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW	1888	1:352,000
130)	WILLIAM and ALEXANDER JOHNSTON	1889	1:422,400
131)	GURNEY and JACKSON	1890	1:204,387
132)	ORDNANCE SURVEY	1891	1:126,720
133)	JOHN CARY	1895	1:126,720
134)	JOHN BARTHOLOMEW	1899	1:126,720
135)	BENJAMIN WALKER	1900	1:352,000

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF OTHER WARWICKSHIRE MAPS

I)	WILLIAM HOLE	c.1612	
II)	ROBERT VAUGHAN	1656	
III)	JOHN OGILBY	1675	
IV)	ROBERT HEWITT	1684-1716	
V)	HENRY BEIGHTON	1729-30	
VI)	GEORGE BICKHAM	c.1754	
VII)	BENJAMIN BAKER	1798	
VIII)	ORDNANCE SURVEY	1811-17	1:31,680
	(field survey outline drawings or Ordnance Surveyor's drawings)		
IX)	ORDNANCE SURVEY	1828-1976	1;63,360
	Nuneaton Geology	1855-8	Sheet LXIII SW
	Nuneaton Geology	1923	Sheet 169
	Nuneaton Land Utilisation	1947	Sheet 72

	Nuneaton	Soils	1947	Sheet 72
	Nuneaton	Land Classification	1974	Sheet 132 Coventry/Rugby
	Nuneaton	1st Series	1835	Sheet LXIII SW (63 Leicester)
	Nuneaton	2nd Series	1886/7	Sheet 169 Coventry
	Nuneaton	3rd Series	1898-02	Sheet 169 Coventry
	Nuneaton	4th Series	1921-31	Sheet 72 Coventry
	Nuneaton	5th Series		did not survey Warwickshire
	Nuneaton	6th Series	1939-47	Sheet 132
	Nuneaton	7th Series	1948-72	Sheet 132
X)	ORDNANCE SURVEY		1976	1:50,000
	Nuneaton	Landranger (Topo)	1976	Sheet 140
	Nuneaton	Geology	1993	Sheet 169
XI)	ORDNANCE SURVEY		1945/7	
	Nuneaton	Topo/Provisional/	1945	1:25,000
	Nuneaton	Soils 2nd Series	1980	SP29/39
	Nuneaton	Land Use capability	1980	SP29/39
	Nuneaton	2nd Land Utilisation	1961	Sheet 454 SP39/49
	Nuneaton		1990's	Pathfinder deleted
	Coventry & Warwick		2000	221 Explorer
	Rugby & Daventry		1999	222 Explorer
	Nuneaton & Tamworth		2000	232 Explorer
	Leicester & Hinckley		2000	233 Explorer
XII)	ORDNANCE SURVEY	1880's-1953	County	1:10,560
	Nuneaton	Topographic	1885-9	Warw X NE,SE
				XI NW
				XI SW,SE
				XVI NE,SE
				XVII NW,NE,SW,SE
	Nuneaton	Topographic	1902-5	Warw X NE,SE
				XI NW
				XI SW, SE
				XVI NE,SE
				XVII NW,NE,SW,SE
	Nuneaton	Topographic	1919-25	Warw X NE,SE
				XI NW
				XI SW,SE
				XVI NE,SE
				XVII NW,NE,SW,SE
	Nuneaton	Topographic	1938-47	Warw X NE,SE
				XI NW
				XI SW, SE
				XVI NE,SE
				XVII NW,NE,SW,SE

	Nuneaton	Geology	1922	Warw	X NE, SE
					XI NW
					XI SW, SE
					XVI NE,SE
					XVII NW,NE,SW,SE
			1949		Warw XI SW
			1953		1:10,560 OS Grid
	Nuneaton	Geology	1962		SP38NW, SP39SW
			1973		SP29NE
	Nuneaton	Land Utilisation	1959	60 SP39 and	49 all quarters:ms.
XIII) ORDNANCE SURVEY			1974-		1:10,000 OS Grid
	Nuneaton	Geology	1983		SP39NW,NE
			1989		SP38NW
			1991		SP39SW,SE
					SP38NE
	Nuneaton	Soils field mapping	1975-80		1:10,000 SP29
					SP39 all ms.
XIV) ORDNANCE SURVEY			1880-1953		1:2,500 County
	Nuneaton	Topographic	1885	Warw X	3,4,7,8,11,12,15,16
		Warw XI	1,2,5,6,9, 10,11,12, 13,14,15,16		
		Warw XVI	3,4,8,12, 15,16		
		Warw XVII	1,2,3,4,5, 6,7,9, 10,13		
	Nuneaton	Topographic	1902-5	Warw X	3,4,7,8,11, 12,15,16
		Warw XI	1,2,5,6,9, 10,11,12, 13,14,15,16		
		Warw XVI	3,4,8,12, 15,16		
		Warw XVII	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,13		
	Nuneaton	Topographic	1919-24	Warw X	3,4,7,8,11, 12,15,16
		Warw XI	1,2,5,6,9, 10,11,12, 13,14,15,16		
		Warw XVI	3,4,8,12,15,16		
		Warw XVII	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9, 0,13		
	Nuneaton	Topographic	1938-47	Warw X	3,4,7,8,11, 12,15,16
		Warw XI	1,2,5,6,9		
					10,11,12, 13,14,15,16
		Warw XVI	3,4,8,12,15,16		
		Warw XVII	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9, 10,13		
		1953-	1:2,500 OS Grid		SP3-8-SP3-9- squares
XV) ORDNANCE SURVEY			1948		1:1,250 OS Grid

(1911-special purpose at 1250)

SP3-8- NW NE

SW SE

SP3-9- NW NE SW SE

squares

XVI) ORDNANCE SURVEY 1884 County 1:500 Warw X - - XI -

LIST OF MANUSCRIPT MAPS IN NEWDEGATE COLLECTION
WARWICK CRO Archive: CR/136/M omits Harefield estates maps

CR/136/M/1	1807	J. KEMPSON, ARLEY,ASTLEY,BEDWORTH
CR/136/M/2	1694	R. HEWITT, COTON,ARLEY,ASTLEY,BEDWORTH
CR/136/M/6	c.1700	W. DEELEY, ASTLEY
CR/136/M/7	1807	J. KEMPSON, ARBURY
CR/136/M/9	1696	R. HEWITT, ASTLEY
CR/136/M/10	c.1700	ARBURY/GRIFF
CR/136/M/11	c.1700	ARBURY/GRIFF
CR/136/M/12	1709	ASTLEY
CR/136/M/13	1696	ASTLEY (or 1709?)
CR/136/M/14	1684	T. HEWITT?, COTON
CR/136/M/15	n.d.	ARBURY,ASTLEY or c.1825?; C.DEELEY?
CR/136/M/16	1794	LE QUESNE, COLLEYCROFT MILL
CR/136/M/18	c.1700	GRIFF
CR/136/M/19	1802	J. ASHMORE, BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/21	n.d.	J. KEMPSON, BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/22	post 1805	BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/23	post 1805	BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/24	n.d.	BEDWORTH
CR/136/M/25	n.d.	BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/26	n.d.	BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/27	n.d.	BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/28	n.d.	BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/29	n.d.	GRIFF COLLIERY
CR/136/M/30	n.d.	GRIFF
CR/136/M/31	n.d.	HENRY LANE'S LAND, BEDWORTH
CR/136/M/37	c.1700	ARBURY/GRIFF
CR/136/M/39	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/40	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/41	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/42	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/43	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/44	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/45	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/46	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/47	post 1787	ARBURY/GRIFF CANALS
CR/136/M/48	post 1787	ARBURY/GRIFF CANALS
CR/136/M/49	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL JUNCTION
CR/136/M/50	1774	T. HUTCHINS, GRIFF ENGINE
CR/136/M/51	1771	T. HUTCHINS, ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/52	1814	J. KEMPSON, COTON
CR/136/M/53A	1820	W. EDWARDS, BEDWORTH,COTON, COLLEYCROFT
CR/136/M/53B	1820	surveyors calculations
CR/136/M/55B	1820	key to survey
CR/136/M/59	1787	W. EDWARDS, BEDWORTH CLOSE
CR/136/M/60	1787	W. EDWARDS, BEDWORTH CLOSE
CR/136/M/61	c.1770	ARBURY ESTATE and CANAL
CR/136/M/62	c.1770	ARBURY ESTATE
CR/136/M/63	n.d.	ARBURY HALL

CR/136/M/64	n.d.	ARBURY HALL
CR/136/M/65	1771	T. HUTCHINS, ARBURY CANAL PLAN
CR/136/M/66A	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/66B	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/66C	post 1787	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/66D	1772?	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/67	post 1805	BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/68	post 1805	BEDWORTH MILL
CR/136/M/69	late 18thC	ARBURY/COTON/GRIFF
CR/136/M/70	n.d.	ARBURY HALL
CR/136/M/72	n.d.	ARBURY CANAL
CR/136/M/73	n.d.	BEDWORTH CLOSE, COLLEYCROFT MILL and CANAL
CR/136/M/74	post 1787	BEDWORTH CLOSE
CR/136/M/75A	post 1787	ARBURY/GRIFF and CANALS
CR/136/M/75B	key to above	
CR/136/M/76A	1819	COLLEYCROFT MILL
CR/136/M/76B	1819	COLLEYCROFT MILL
CR/136/M/76C	1819	COLLEYCROFT MILL
CR/136/M/77	n.d.	ASHBY TO GRIFF CANAL
CR/136/M/78	1876	plots of land to be auctioned
CR/136/M/79	1876	plots of land to be auctioned
CR/136/M/83A	n.d.	ARBURY ESTATE
	or c.1825?	C. DEELEY?
CR/136/M/83B	n.d.	ARBURY ESTATE
CR/136/M/83C	n.d.	ARBURY ESTATE
CR/136/M/91	1830	GRIFF COLLIERY
CR/136/M/92	n.d.	ARBURY CANALS
CR/136/M/93	1828	ARBURY HALL
CR/136/M/94	1664 or 1684	W. DEELEY, ASTLEY/COTON
CR/136/M/95	1689/1690	R. HEWITT?? ARBURY, ATTLEBOROUGH, COTON, NUNEATON
CR/136/M/96	1689/1690	R. HEWITT?? ARBURY, COTON, ATTLEBOROUGH
CR/136/M/97	1664	T. ELLIS, ASTLEY
CR136/M		COMMON FIELDS COTON
CR/764/104	1680	T. HEWITT, COTON/ARBURY ESTATE
CR/764/104/2	n.d.	Township
CR/764/104/3	n.d.	LAND EAST OF CANAL and WATER GAUL PIECE
CR/764/104/4	n.d.	COVENTRY WOOD
CR/764/104	n.d.	W. DEELEY, WHOLEFIELD? part of CR136/M1 and M7
CR/764/104/4		BEDWORTH DRAFT INCLOSURE
	1716	MANCETTER / ATHERSTONE BRACEBRIDGE ESTATE
CR/764/104/4	early 18thC	Newdegate Turnpike
CR764/105	1740	PLAN OF NEW MEADOW
CR/300g/164	1691	HIGHAM ON THE HILL birds eye view
CR764/		COMMON FIELDS (SINNEY FIELDS)
CR764/104/2-5	late 17thC	W. DEELEY
2323 (u)	1740-1	STRATFORD ESTATE, WALKER and KIDDINS
CR319/11	mid 18thC	J. SMITH, JOHN ASTLEY'S FARM
CR/319/10	c.1691	LORD COVENTRY'S ESTATE
Add 36901	1707	T. HOLBECHE, PART OF STOCKINGFORD (BM Aston)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

The author is local and lived and worked at various times in both Nuneaton and Bedworth. He was educated at Higham Lane and Manor Park schools 1960-7; read Geology (with chemistry and geography) at King's College, University of Durham/Newcastle (1968-71) and Warwick University (1976-77) and holds the status of European Engineer, Chartered Engineer and Geologist.

His publications include:

- Numerous geotechnical, geological and mining reports for West Coast Mainline Route Modernisation, power stations, highways, railways and land reclamation projects; archival desk studies, environmental audits and asset studies for various public and private utilities

- Warwickshire local history, archaeology, computer analyses of steam locomotives, genealogy and communication studies

Many of them have been presented at international symposia and conferences. Historically he was one of the youngest persons to become a Fellow of the Geological Society and Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and was recently included in "Geologists and the History of Geology" an International biography of all geologists from the origins to 1984, by Professor W. Sarjeant. Florida, U.S.A.

His research interests include: investigation of abandoned mineworkings with scanning Sonar; ground investigation with Ground Penetrating Radar; correlation of borehole cores with geophysical rock mechanics logging; fossil Cambrian trilobites and the ancient topography of north Warwickshire. To compliment this engineering and scientific background he qualified as a lecturer and has served on the panels of several university education departments (1973-80, 1988-91) as well as lecturing to numerous societies and visiting lectureships on undergraduate courses. In 1990-2 he was a consulting author on the NERC/Royal Society Earth Science 2000 and the HMSO National Parks Review. He also published a booklet on Henry Beighton the local cartographer, surveyor and scientist.

He recently researched and wrote the texts for Nuneaton's Local Heritage Guides. This led to contributions to television documentaries "Local Heroes" concerning John Barber the Attleborough inventor of the gas turbine and "One Foot in the Past" about the demolition of Courtaulds Mill. In 1997, the Black Country "cancer cluster" at Bradley involved him in BBC television, radio and national newspaper features; he was similarly consulted in 1999 with mining subsidence problems in the Birmingham and the Black Country that led to a BBC2 Midlands Report documentary broadcast in October 1999.

Memberships of societies include: Geological (London), Royal Geological (Cornwall), British Geotechnical Association (London) and Midlands Geotechnical (Birmingham); International Rock Mechanics; International Geotextiles; International Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy.

He is Vice Chairman of the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group and an active member of Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Family History Society and was the Nuneaton Civic Trust's spokesman on planning and environmental conservation. This has involved expert witness presentations at public inquiries. Other responsibilities include serving as a neighbourhood engineer with local colleges and schools where he collaborated with teachers and the Engineering Council from 1990-96.

He collaborated with the British Geological Survey on the Coventry and Nuneaton memoir and has been recently commissioned to describe Midlands' Cambrian sites for the Geological Conservation Review Vol. 18, a multi-volume Millennium project. Another commission involved writing four new biographies for the millennium revision of the "New Oxford Dictionary of National Biography". This has led to a set of Millennium projects for the Nuneaton area: a heritage map, a surname study, local field names, geology, mineral extraction history and the 1,000 year history. In 1997-98 he was commissioned to compile a Millennium report on the Thomas Barton Charity in Leicestershire.

PHOTOGRAPH DETAILS
[ALAN COOK COLLECTION 1 TO 28 and 31 to 37, JOHN ALLEN 29 & 30]

1. St. Nicolas Parish church in 1980
2. St. Nicolas Parish Vicarage in 1980 - a Dutch Gabled beauty
3. Sudeley Opencast coal extraction. August 1988
4. Tuttle Hill windmill. c. 1954
5. Reginald Stanley's masterpiece - The Gate Temperance Hotel in 1999
6. Nuneaton Observer's first printing office (Scrivener & Wilson 1877)
7. The spectacular eclipse. 11th August 1999
8. A typical water well, Chapel End 1988
9. The Anker in flood. 16th January 1999
10. The fresh water crayfish at Ensor's Pool SSSI. 1995
11. The Aurora Borealis over Weddington in March 1989
12. The geologically spectacular Nuneaton-Oldbury Ridge. 1988
13. Queen Elizabeth II Coronation celebrations. June 1953
14. Steam locomotives at Nuneaton motive power depot. c. 1958
15. The Chase, Knox's home. c. 1934
16. Weddington Hotel. c. 1958
17. Teddy Kem's Heaven, Marston Lane. c. 1958
18. Excavations at the Horeston Grange site. 1970
19. George Eliot's birthplace - South Farm, Arbury. 1970
20. The "Gothic Gem" of Arbury Hall. 1970
21. A Bee Hive kiln at Haunchwood Brick and Tile works. 1970
22. Mt. Jud and Judkins Quarry. 1967
23. A fossil trilobite from Vernons Lane Bridge excavation. 1972, it is the species Clarella impar, over 500,000,000 years old
24. A fossil trilobite from Vernons Lane tunnel. 1985, it is the species Paradoxides abenacus, over 500,000,000 years old
25. Excavations at Etone Priory. 1981
26. The old southern Gateway for Weddington Castle in 1970, demolished by 1975
27. Courtaulds Mill. April 1995
28. The spectacular sunrise of 21st December 1998
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34. The superb terracotta facade of the old Tatler building (built 1907). 2000

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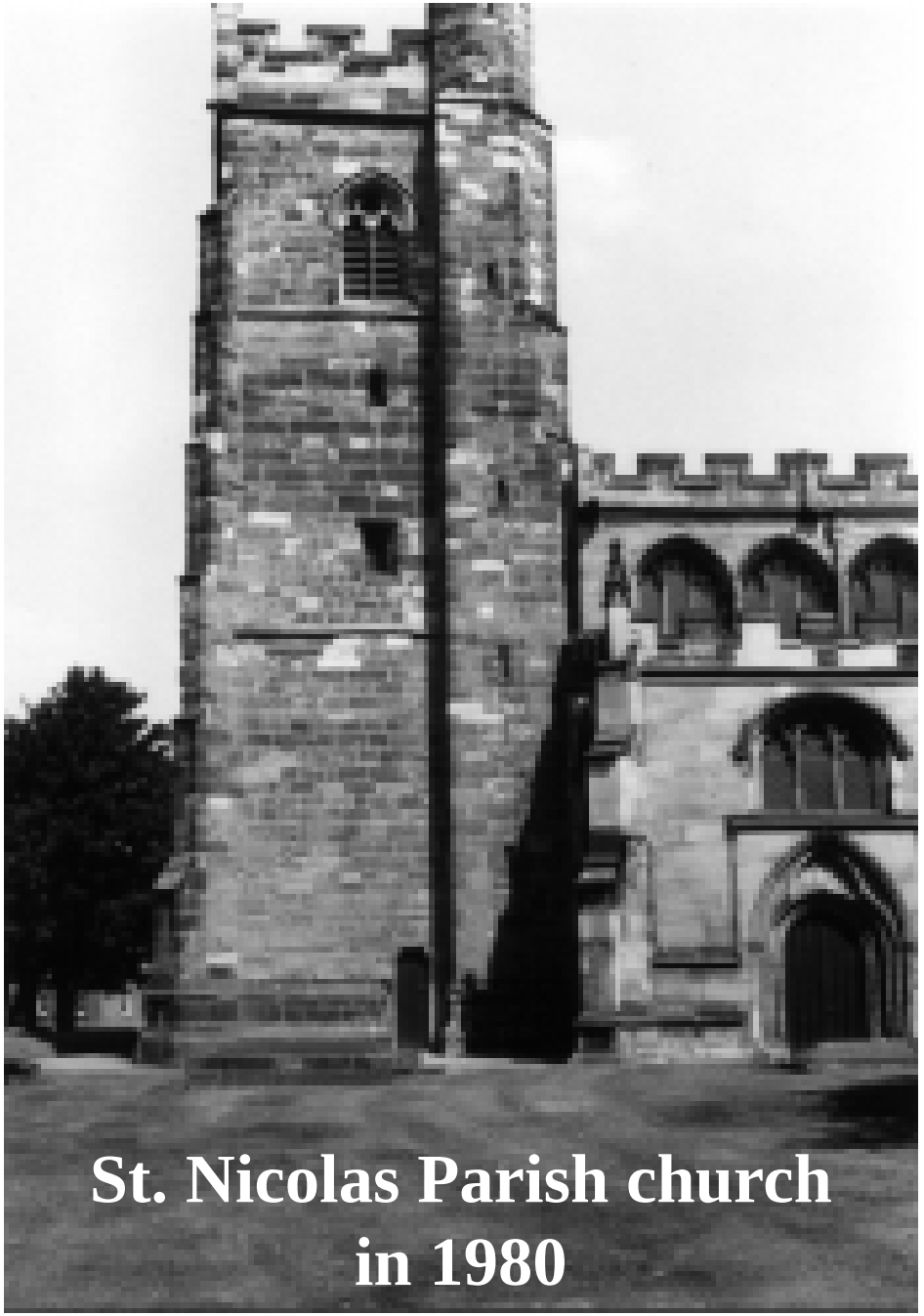

St. Nicolas Parish church
in 1980

St. Nicolas Parish Vicarage
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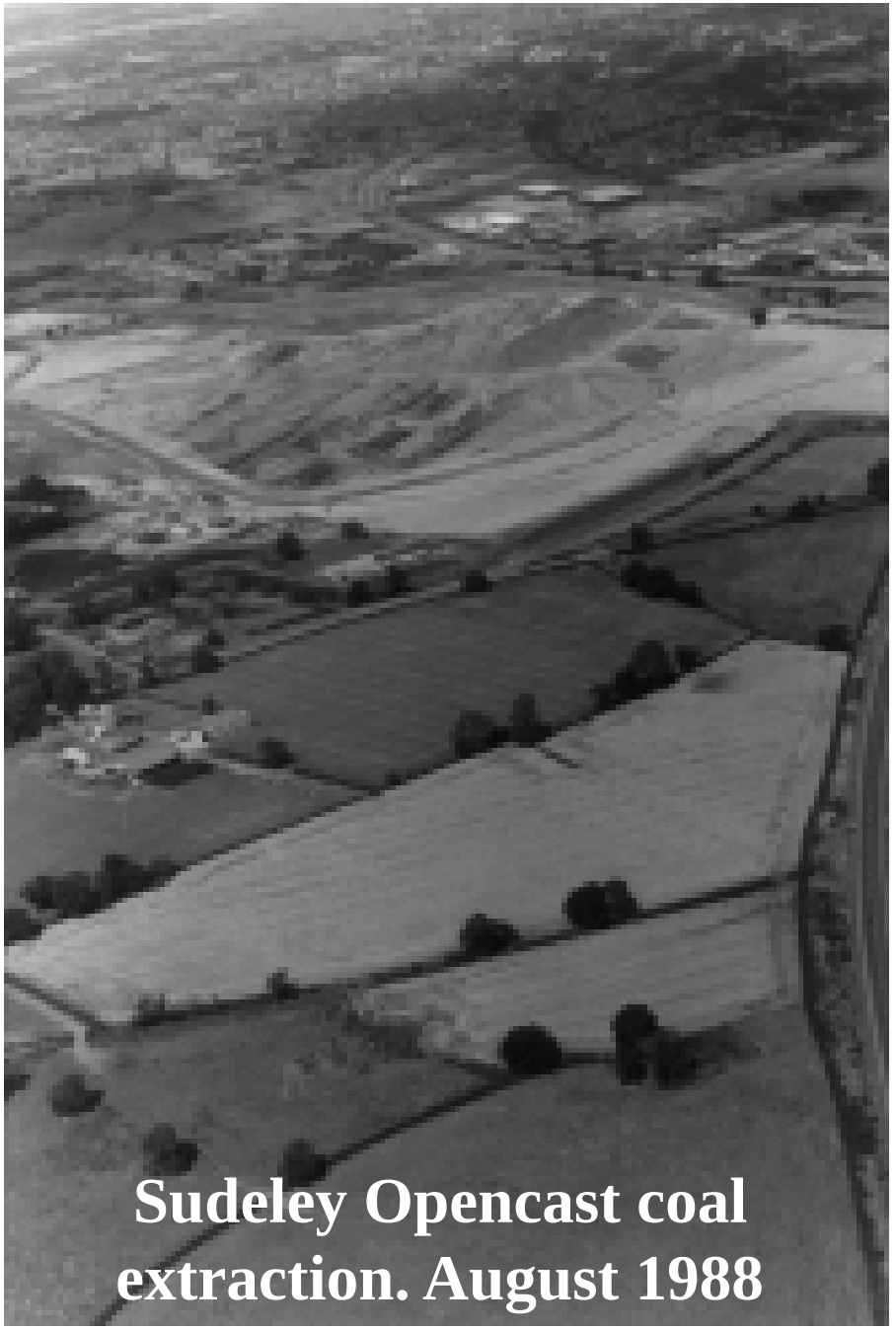
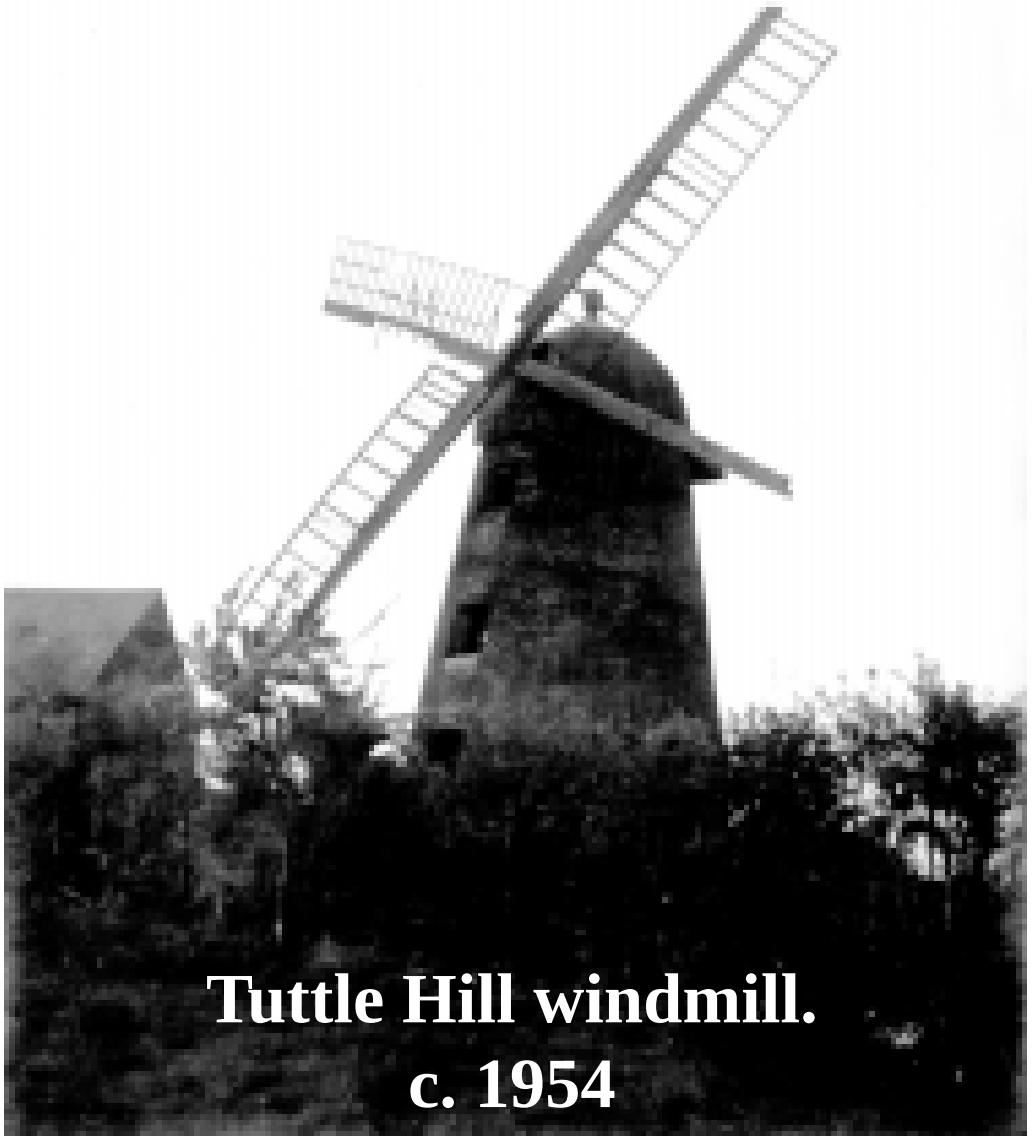


Sudeley Opencast coal extraction. August 1988



Tuttle Hill windmill.
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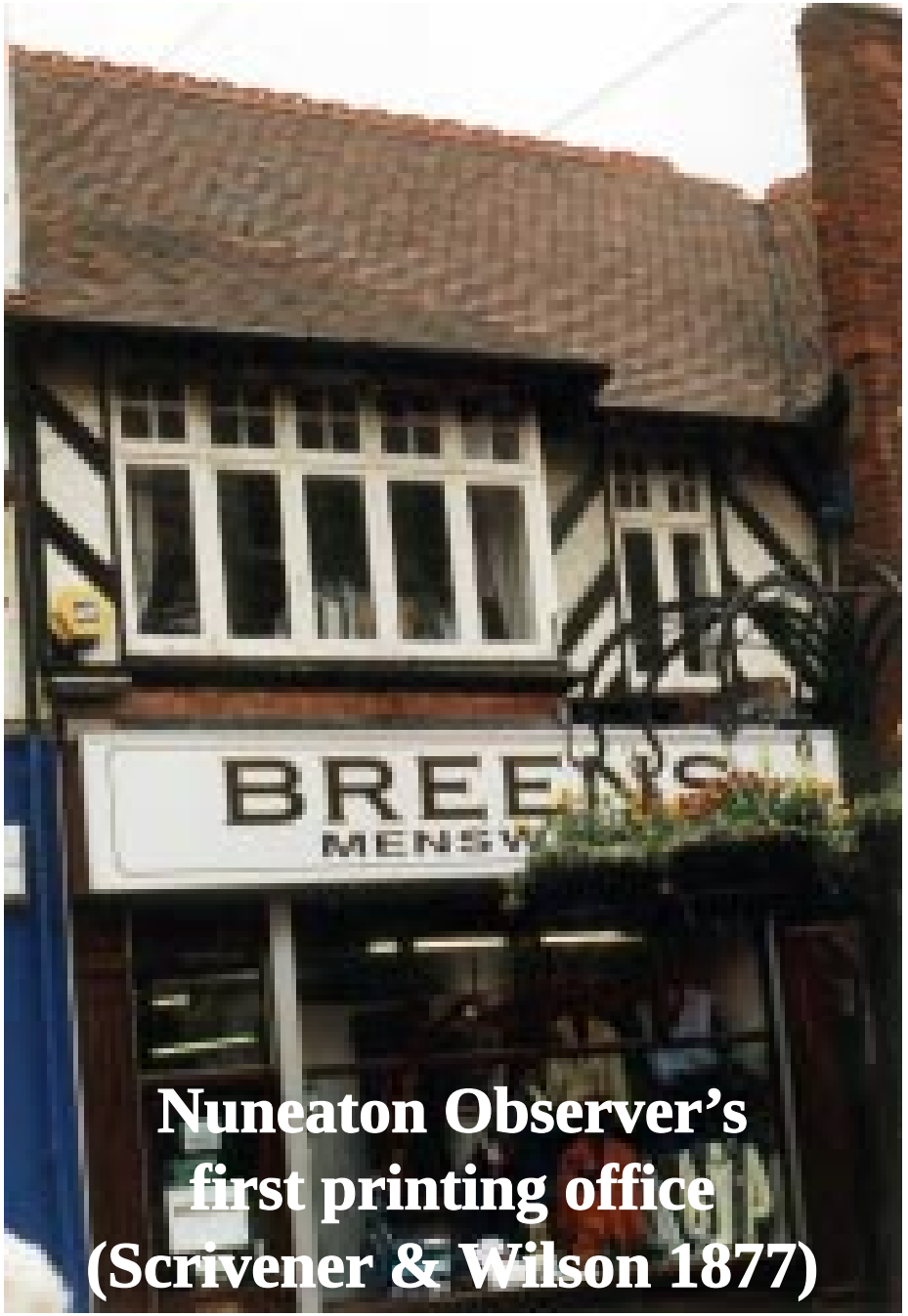

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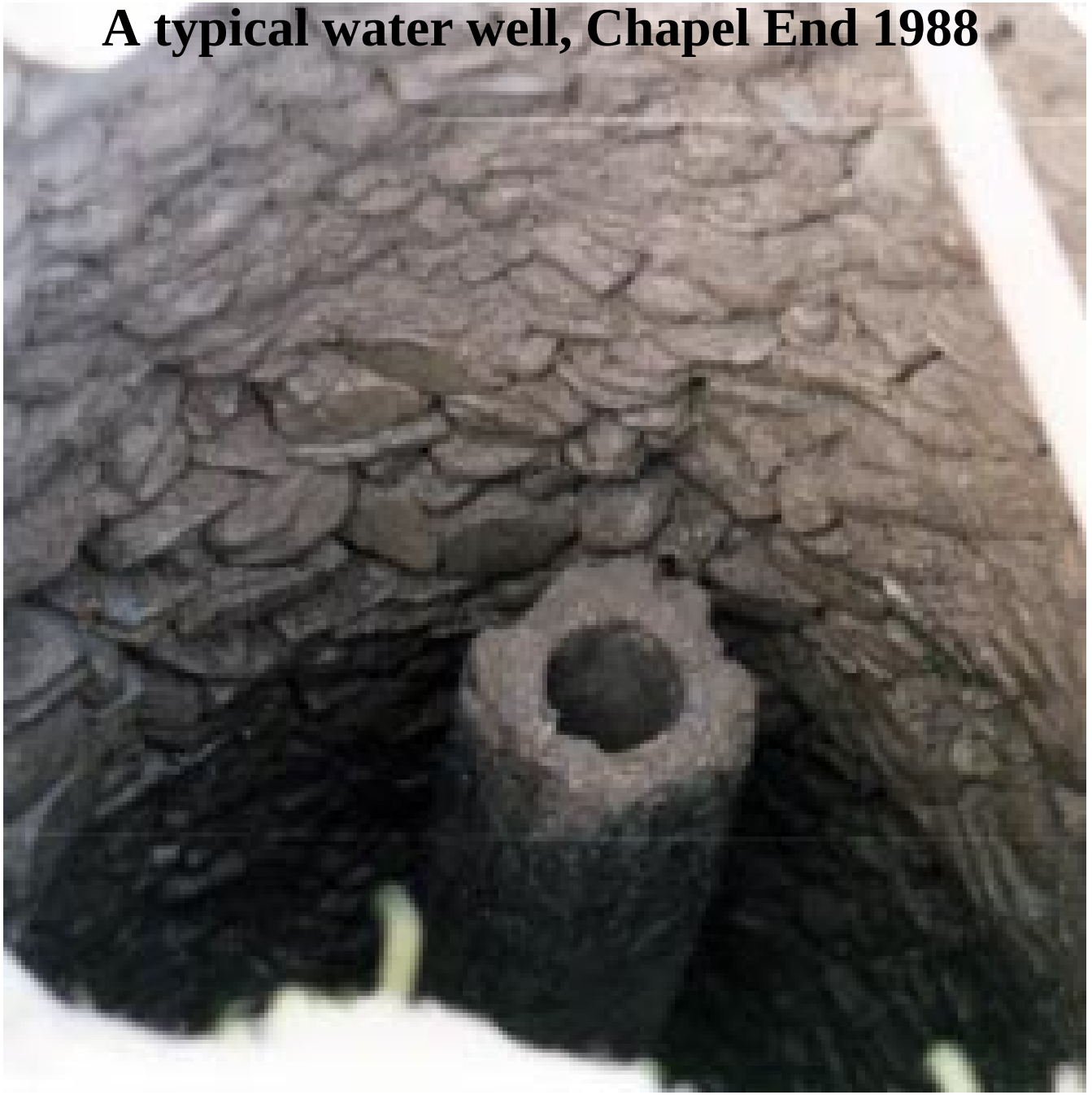

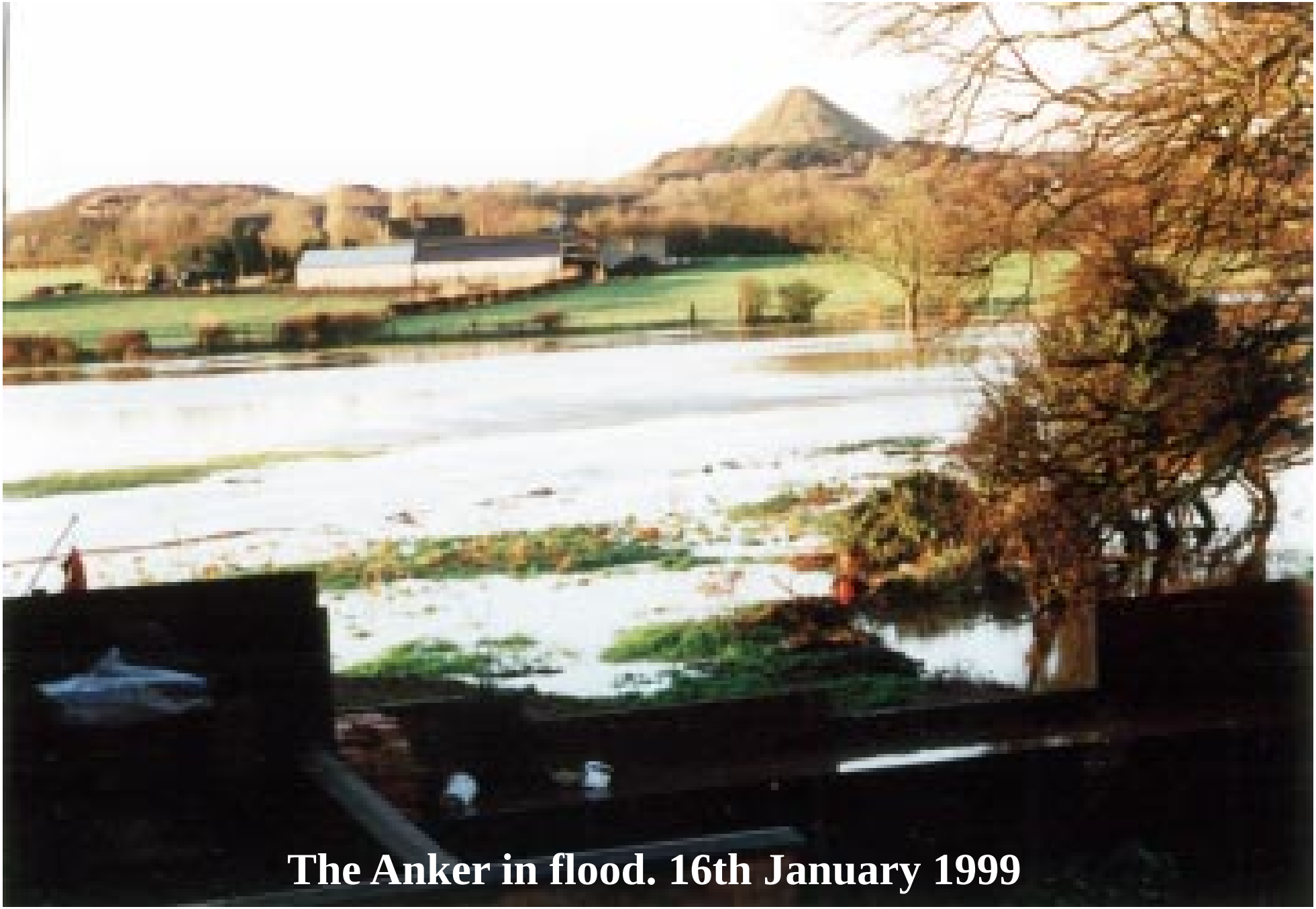

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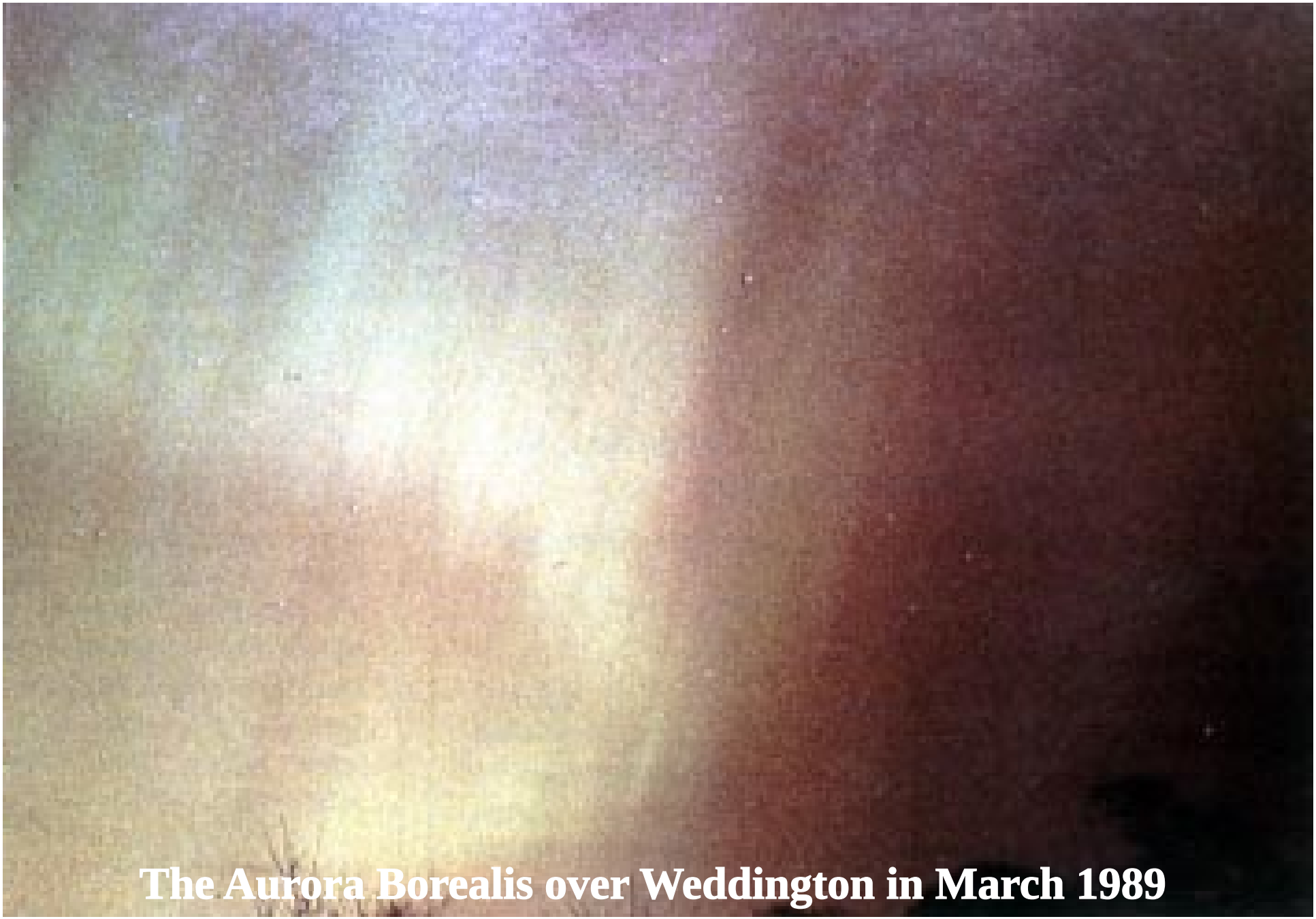

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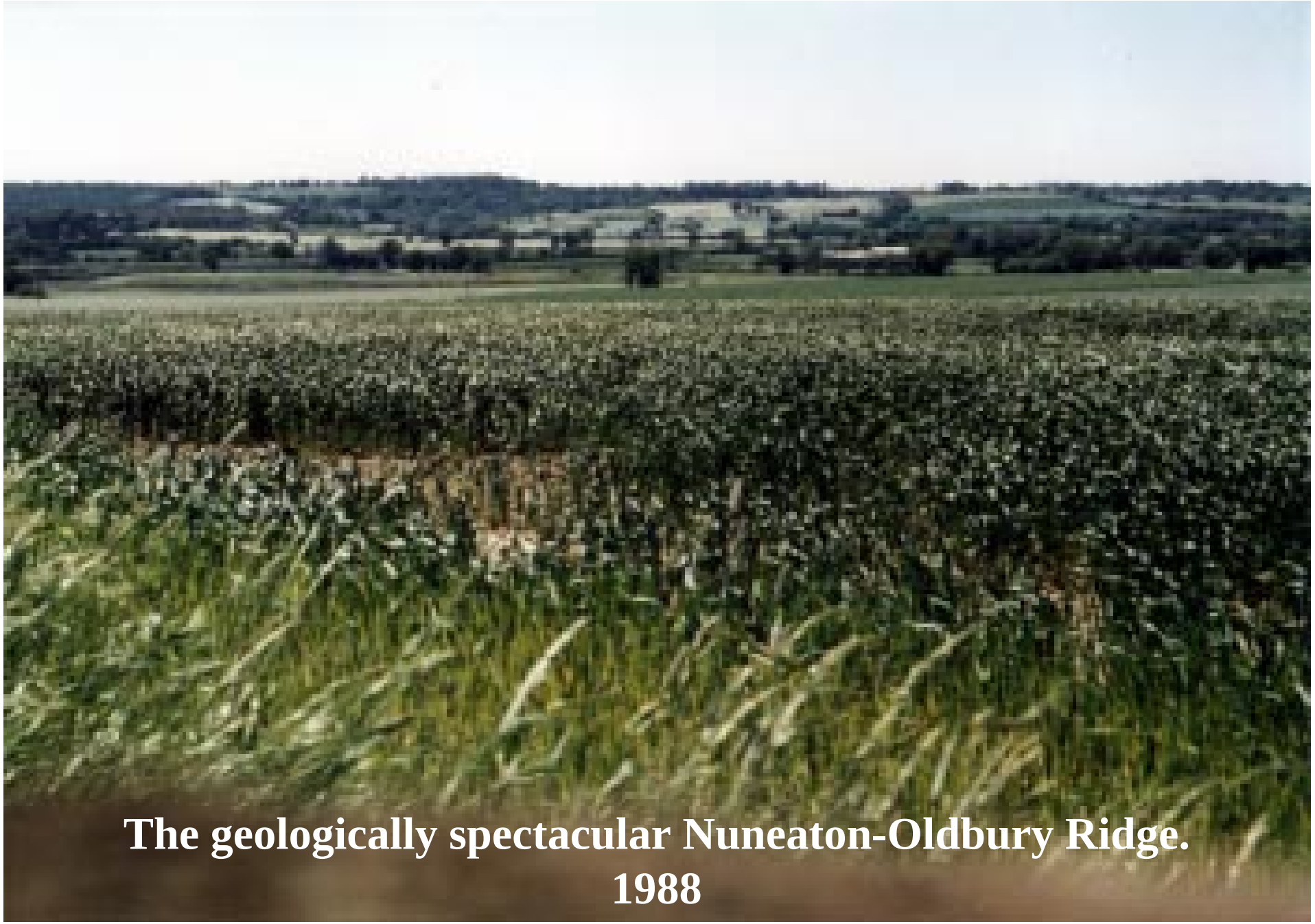

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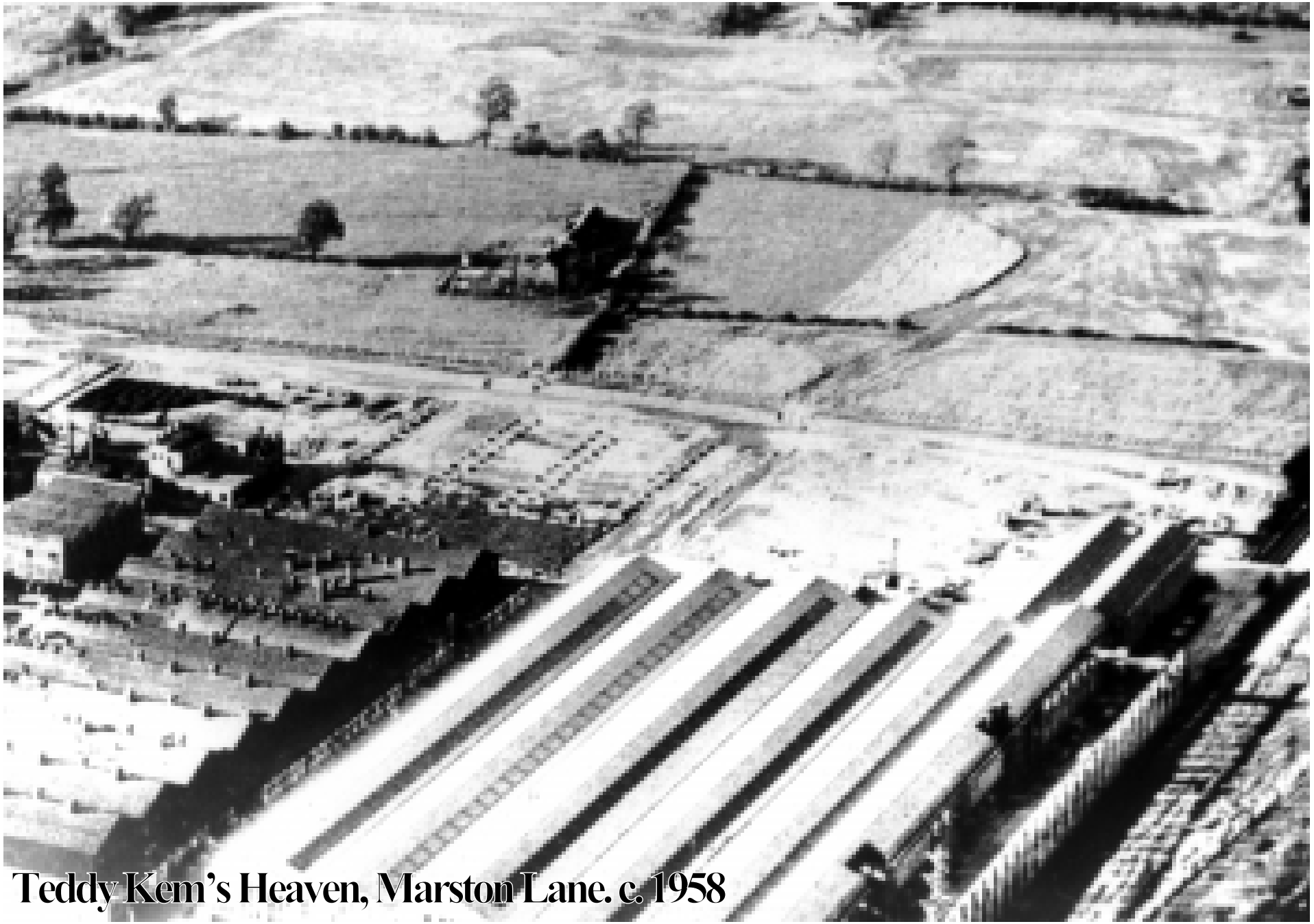
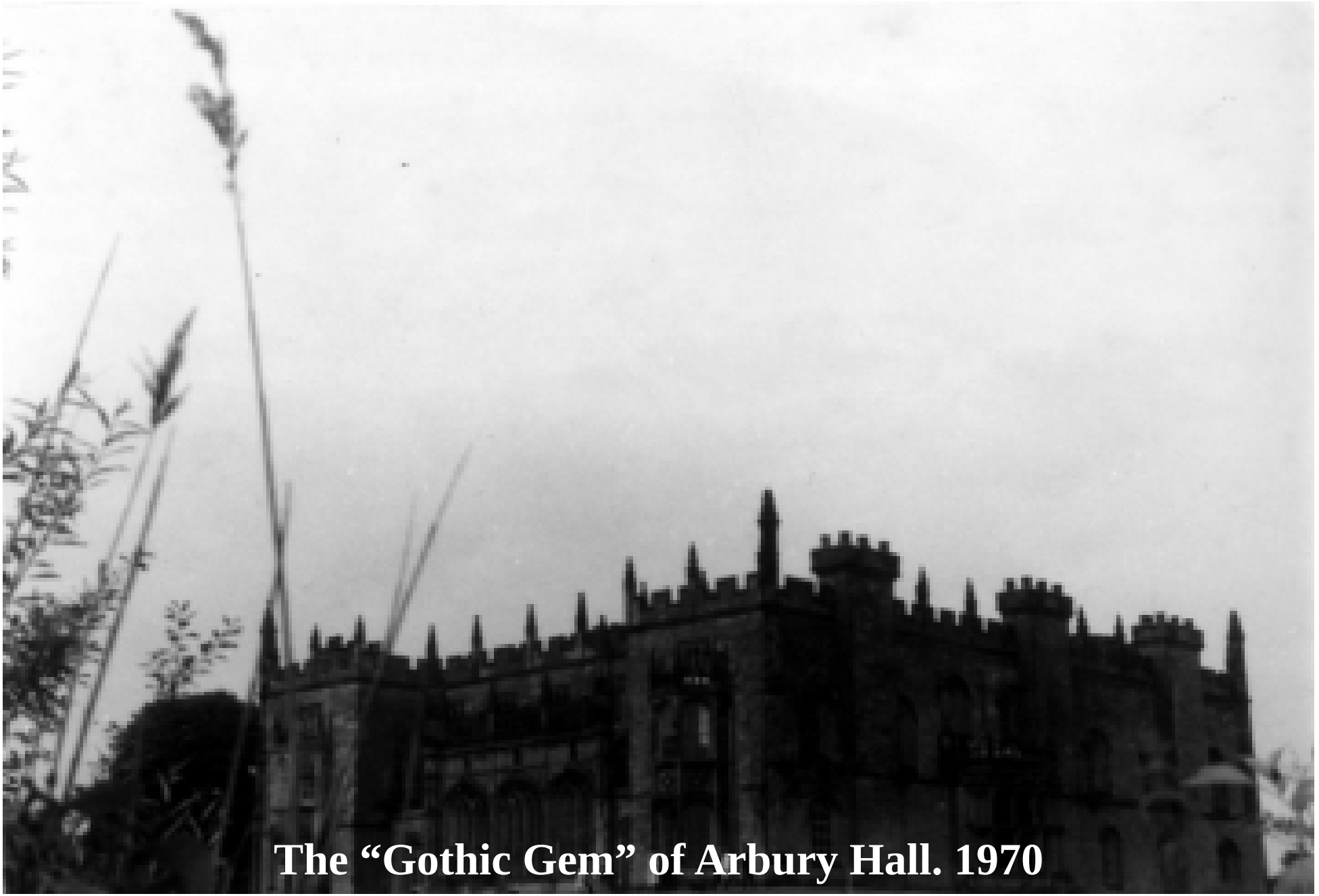


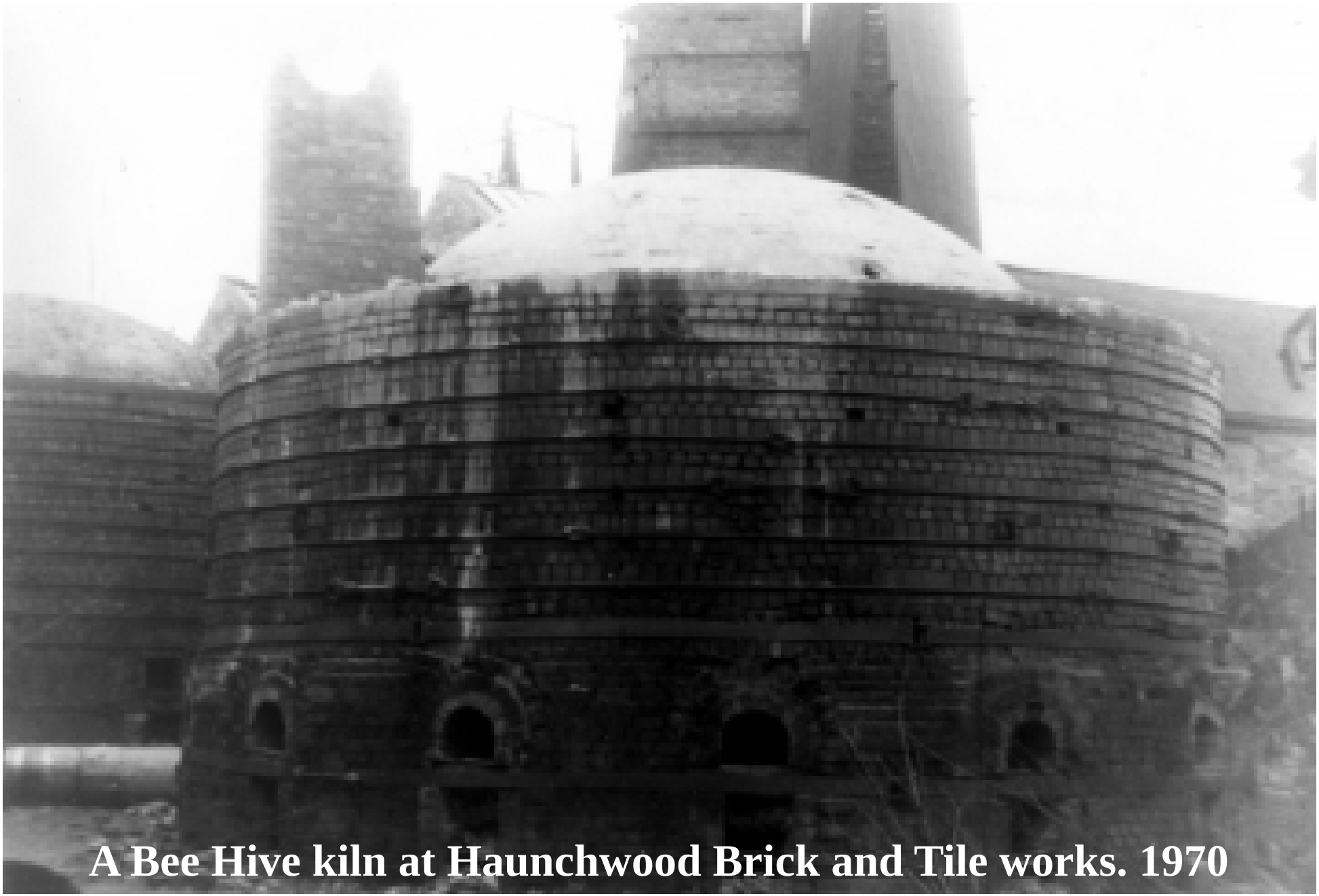
Teddy Kem's Heaven, Marston Lane. c. 1958

Excavations at the Horeston Grange site. 1970

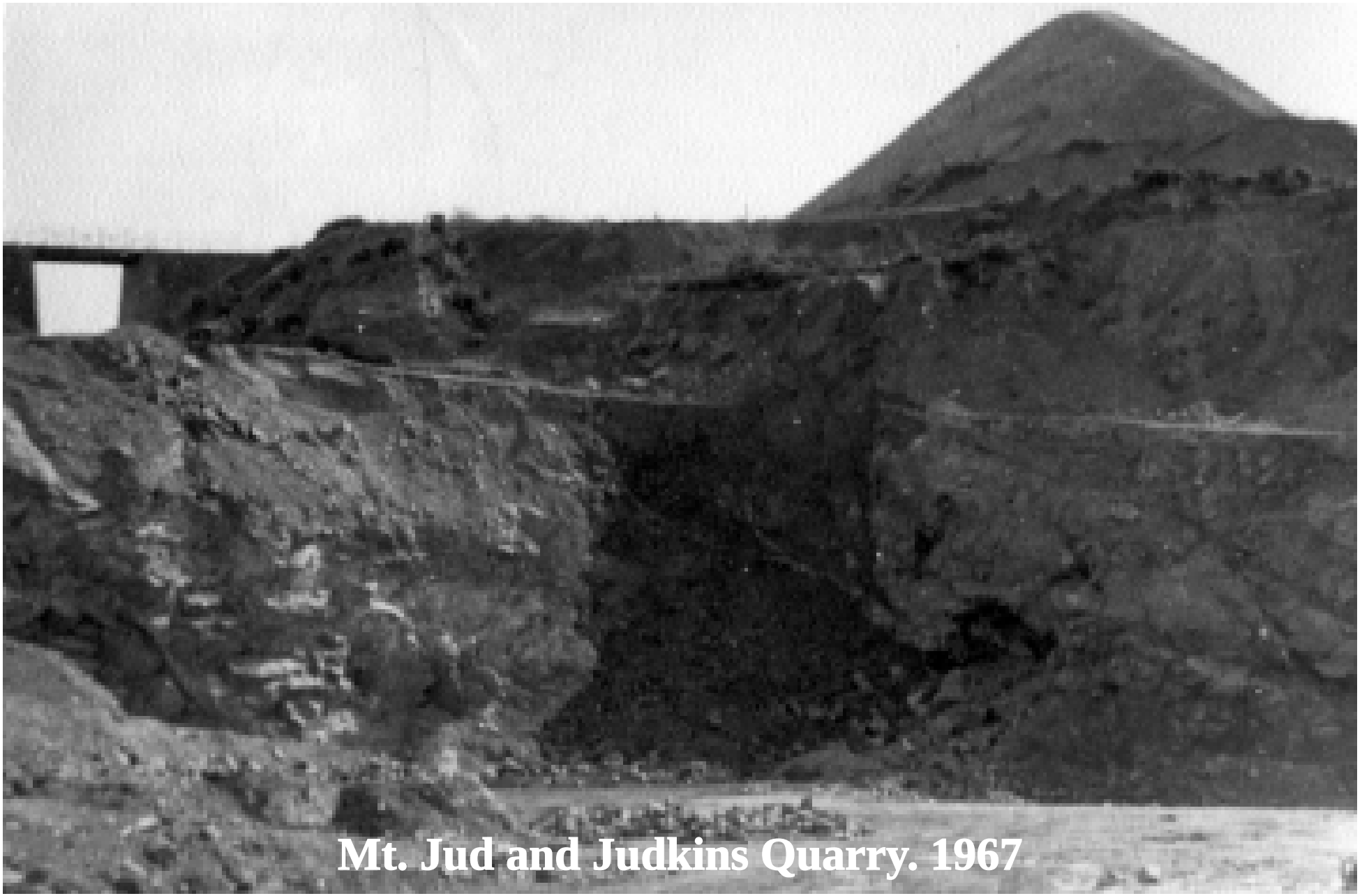
George Eliot’s birthplace - South Farm, Arbury. 1970



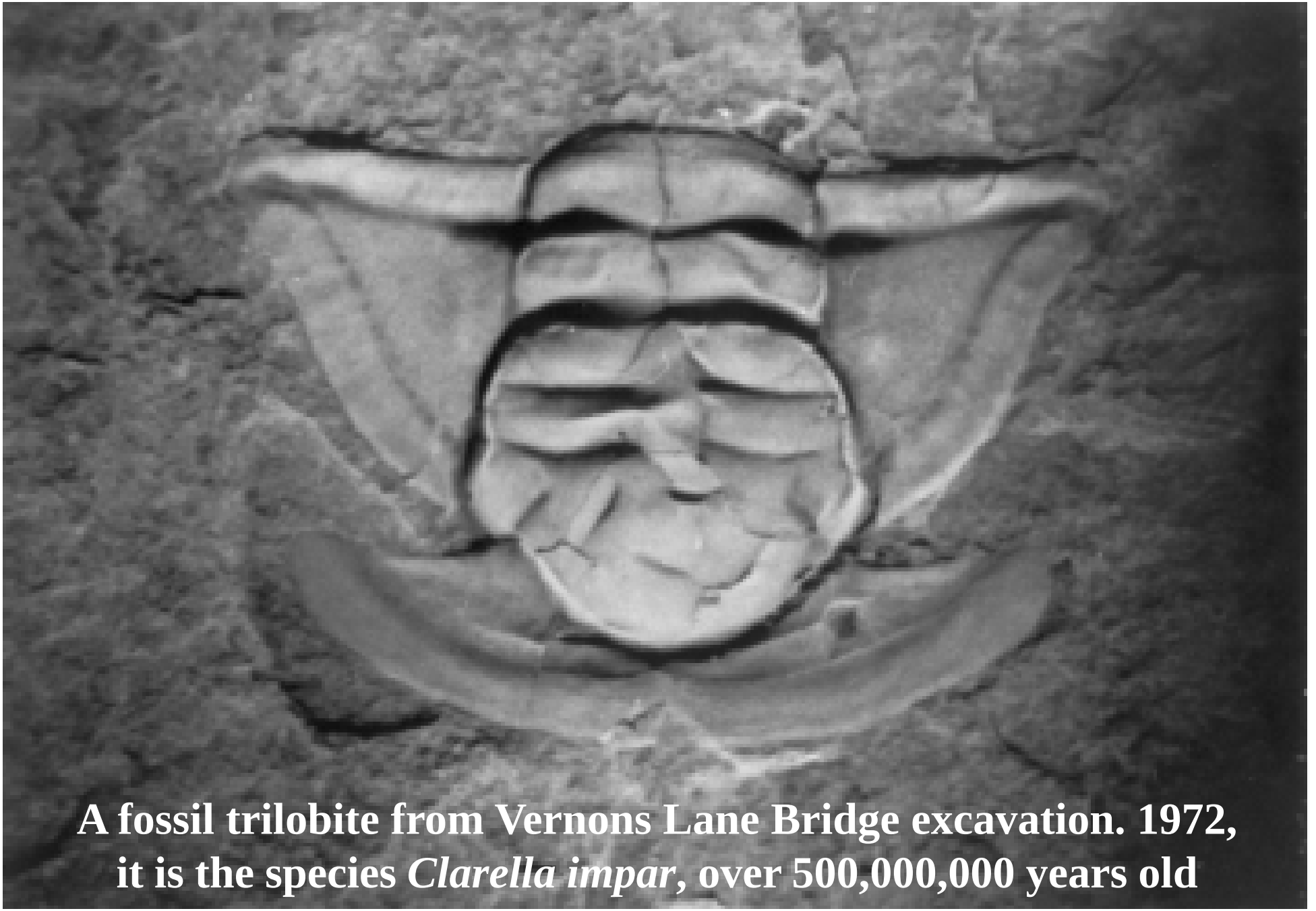
The “Gothic Gem” of Arbury Hall. 1970



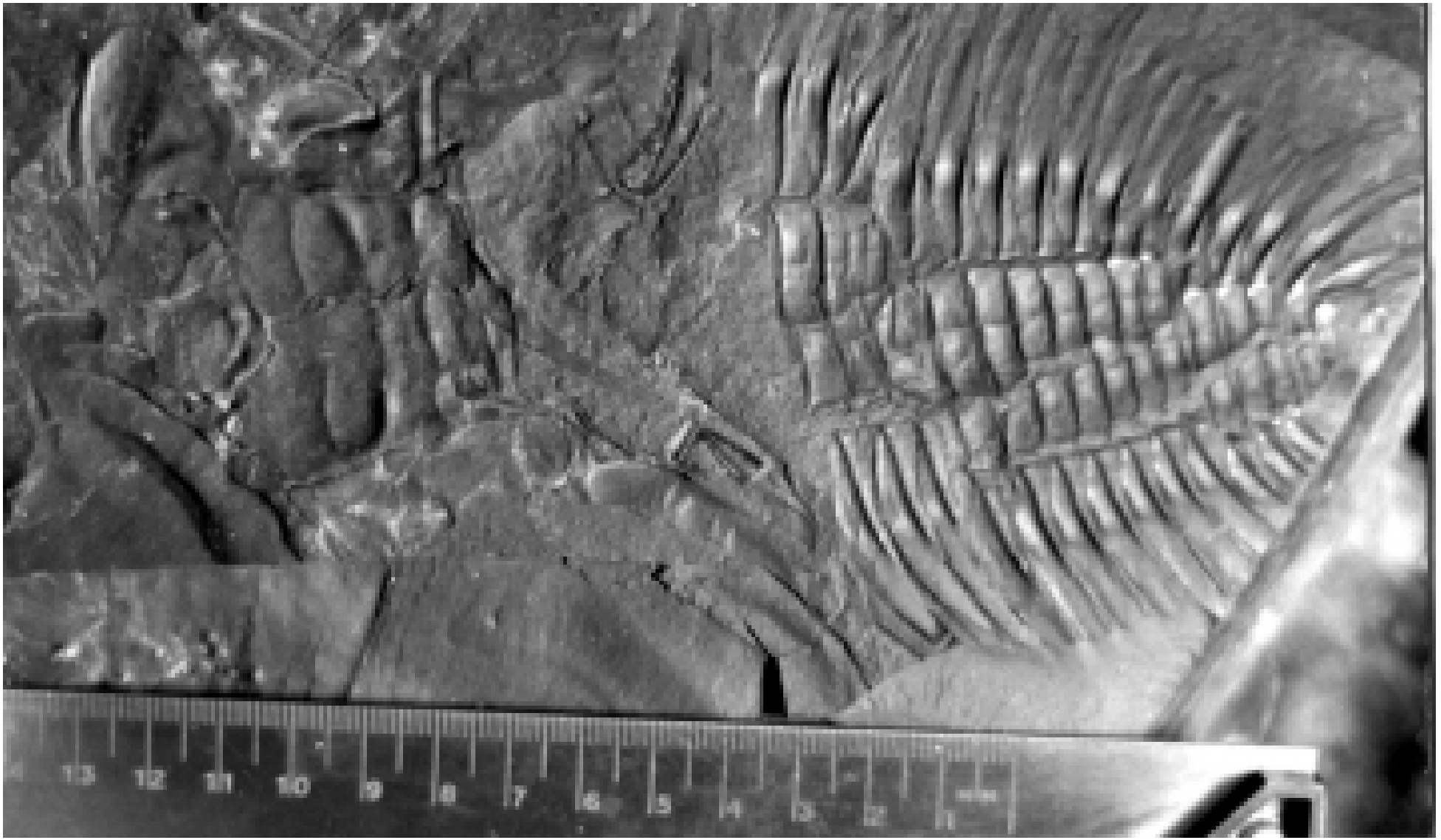
A Bee Hive kiln at Haunchwood Brick and Tile works. 1970



Mt. Jud and Judkins Quarry. 1967



A fossil trilobite from Vernons Lane Bridge excavation. 1972, it is the species *Clarella impar*, over 500,000,000 years old



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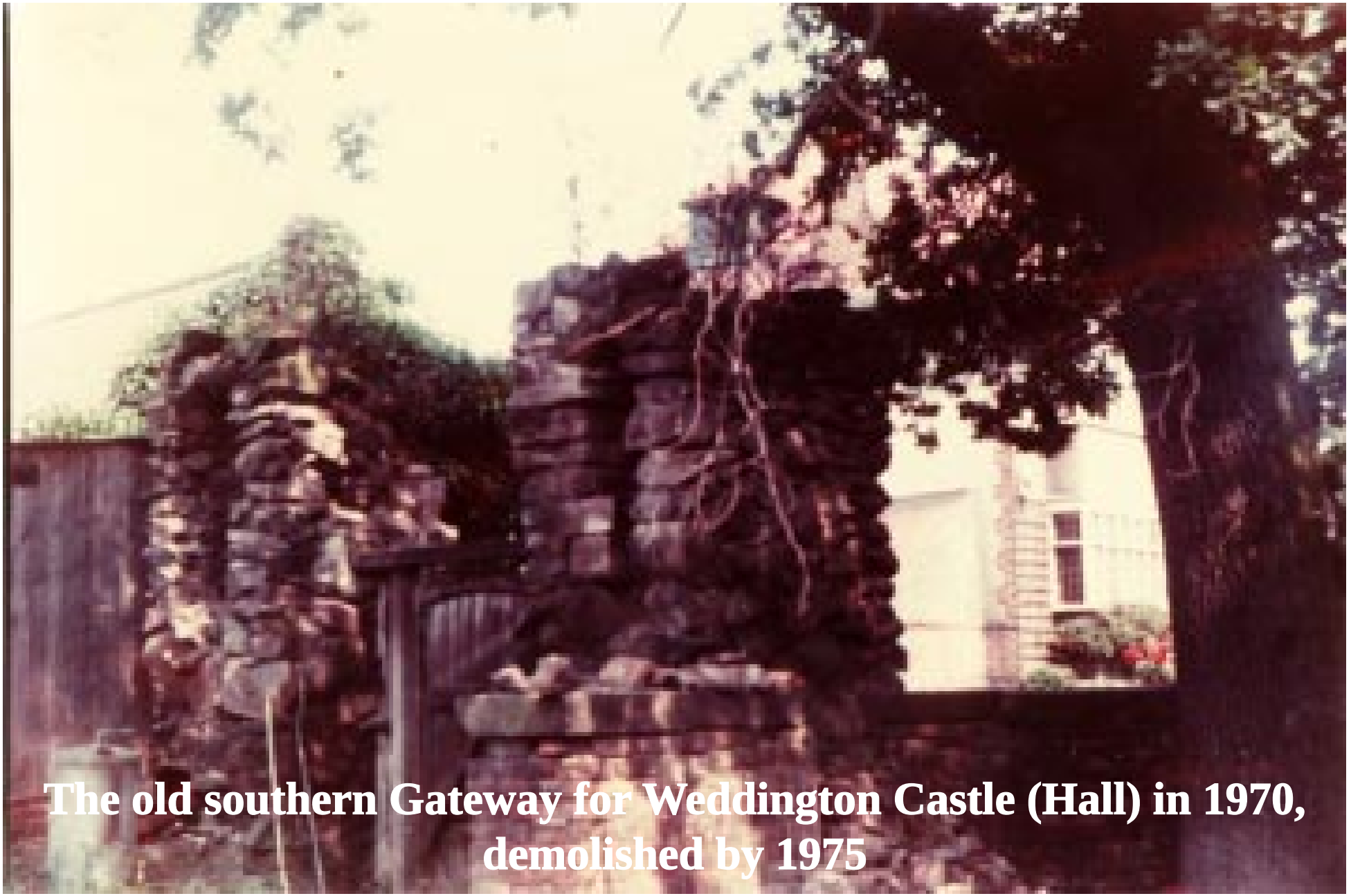

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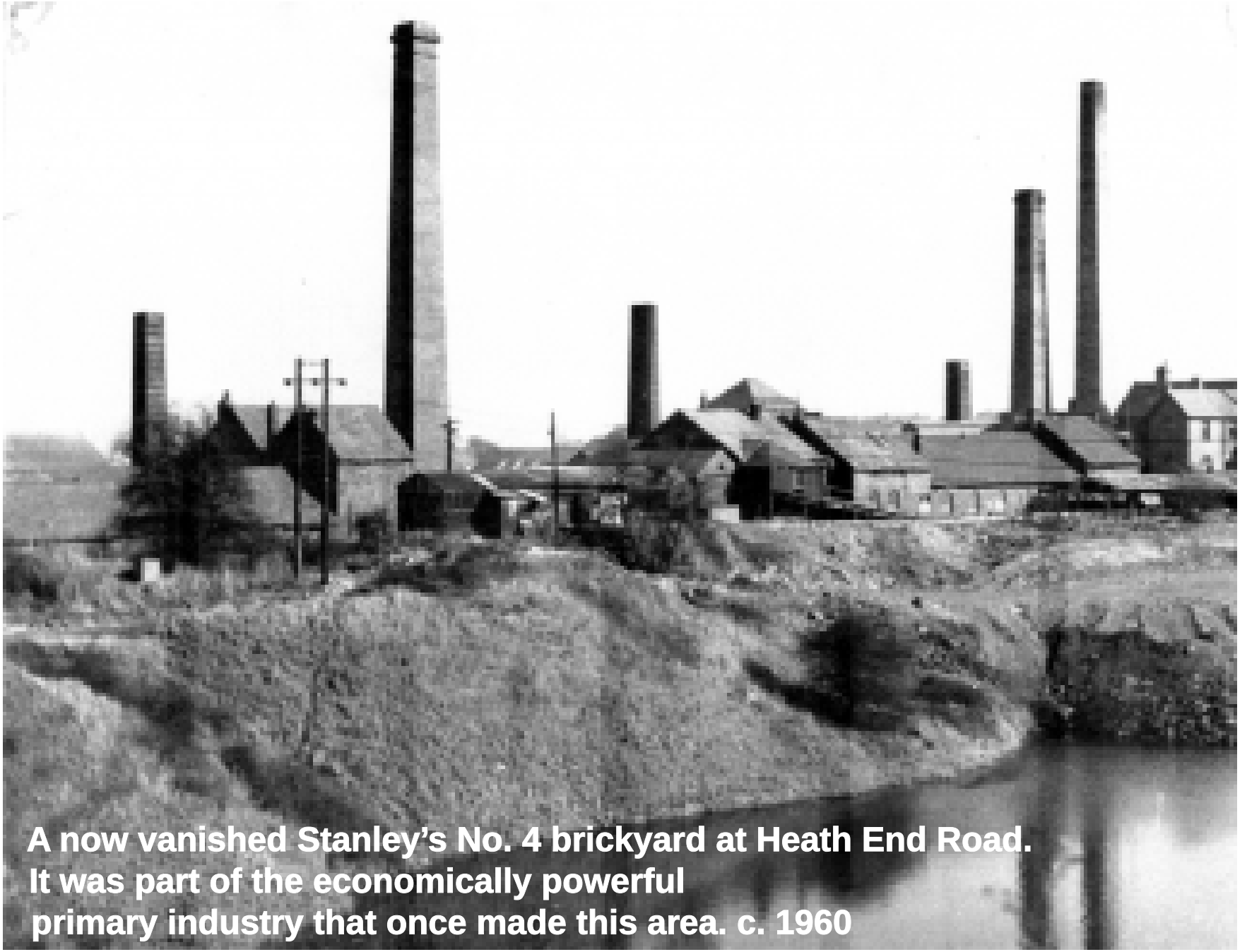

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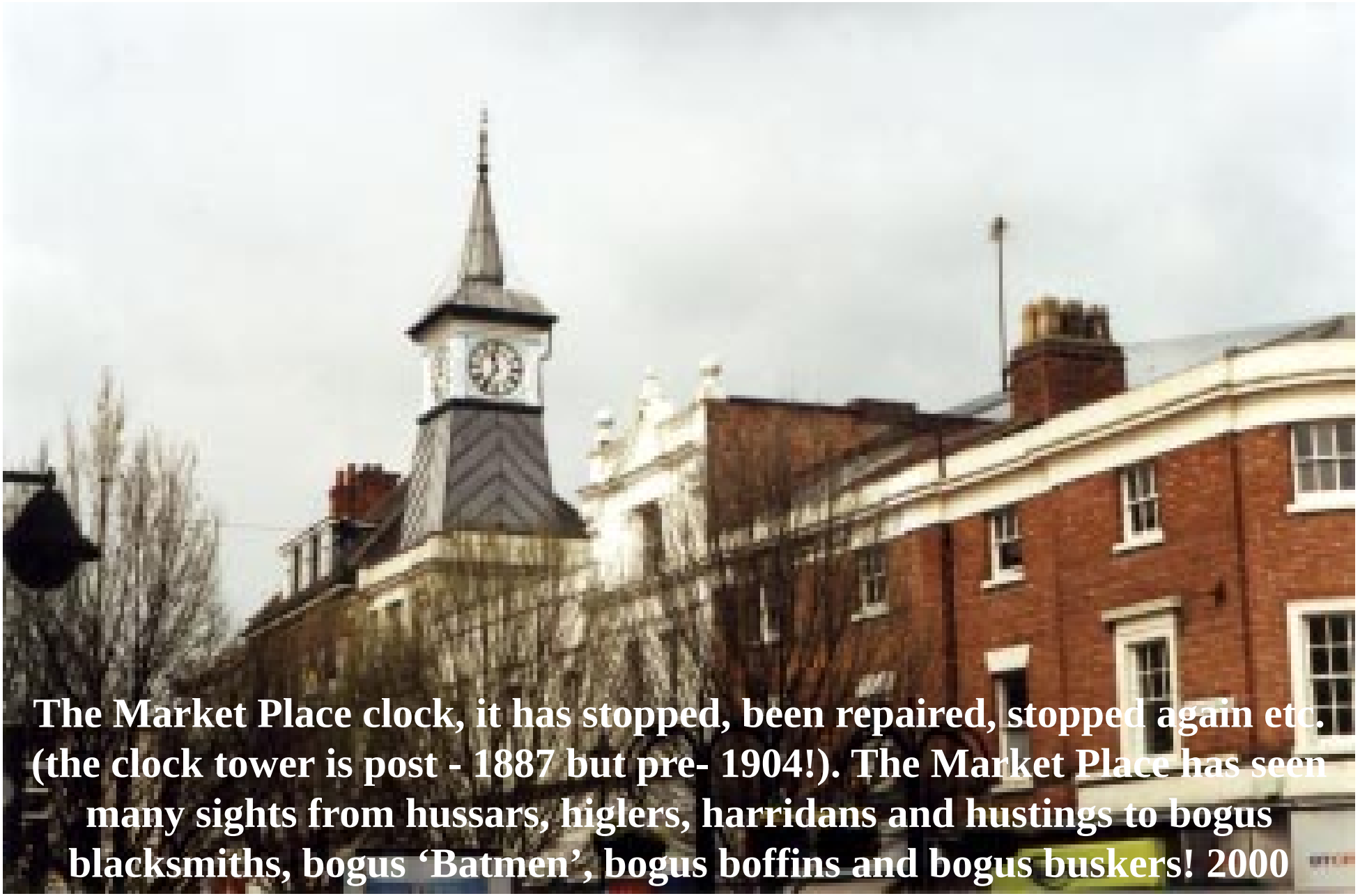

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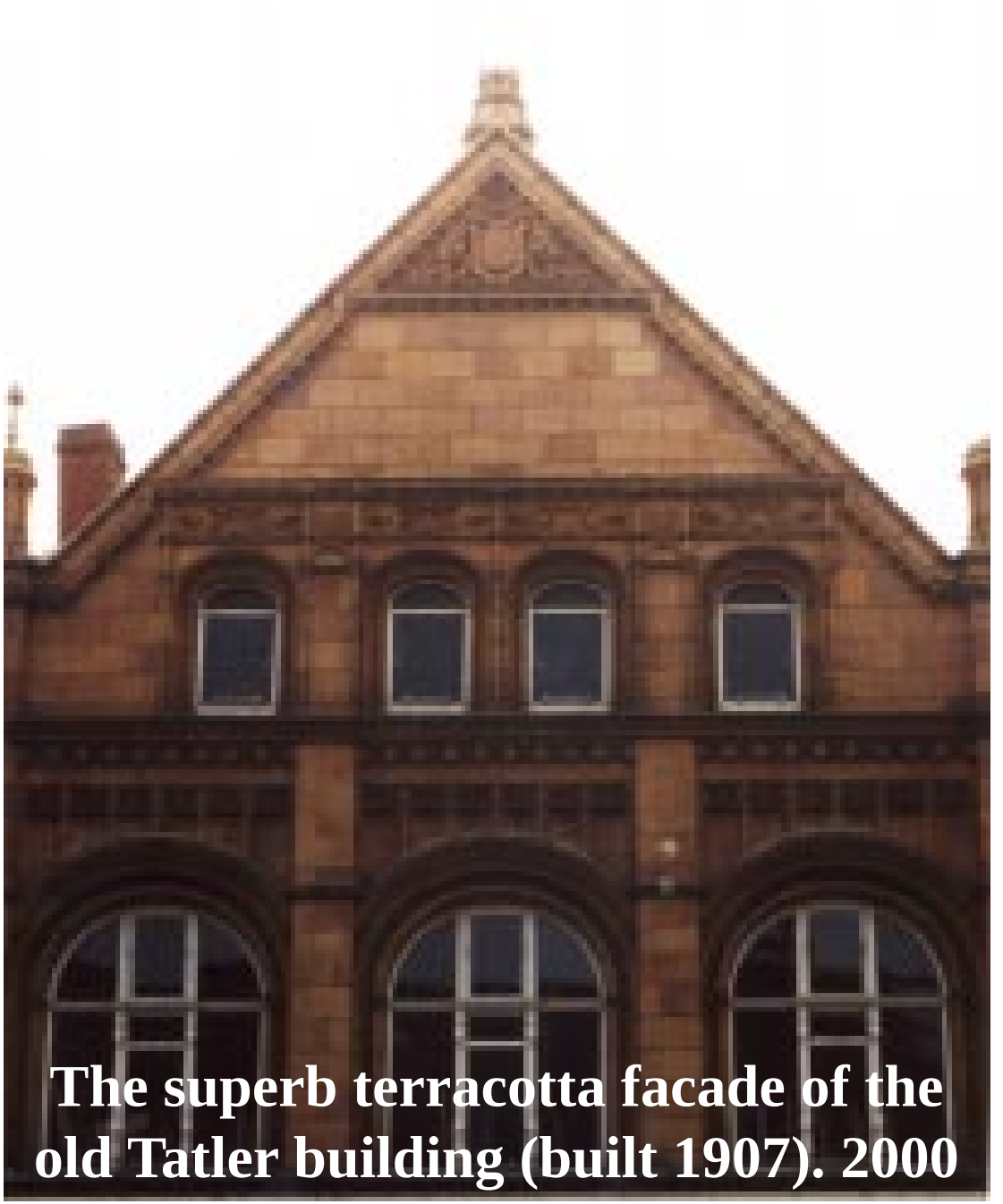

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