

MALPAS HISTORY

NUMBER THREE

JANUARY 1985

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MALPAS HISTORY

NUMBER THREE

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A magazine for the Malpas area, including the townships of Agden, Bickerton, Bickley, Bradley, Broxton, Bulkeley, Chidlow, Cholmondeley, Chorlton, Cuddington, Duckington, Edge, Egerton, Hampton, Iscoyd, Larkton, Macefen, Malpas, Newton, Oldcastle, Overton, Stockton, Tushingham-cum-Grindley, Wigland, and Wychough, all in the ancient Parish of Malpas, and Threapwood.

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COVER PICTURE: Malpas Town Football Club 1906
(Photograph lent by Mr Les Boughey)

More about the Malpas Football Club inside back cover, where we reproduce another of Mr Boughey's photographs. The picture below is also from his collection.

BACK COVER PICTURE: Around Malpas Cross, early this century. Could anyone date this photograph for us please? Clues are Hesketh the Grocer (now Mrs Crawford's shoe shop), Gill the Tinsmith (now Lloyd's Bank) and Wycherley the Saddler (now Evans' antique hop). Wycherley's has now moved to the former Wyvern Inn, whose sign can be seen in the picture. The horse drawn tanker is selling "Finest American Lamp Oil" and the cart passing behind the Cross carries "Parker and Clegg's Pure Mineral Waters".
(Photograph lent by Mrs Norah Chesworth).



Were you there? Malpas Infants School 1912

"MALPAS HISTORY" is published by the Malpas Field Club History Group.
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EDITORIAL

"Malpas History" number 3 presents you with a wide variety of articles, demonstrating yet again what a wealth of history lies right on our doorsteps. In this issue you can march up Church Street with the Oddfellows, imagine the atmosphere of Broxton's ancient halls, re-live World War 2 in Duckington and go underground with the Bickerton copper miners. We look at how Nomansheath might have got its name, find out about the old crafts and trades of Bulkeley and ask the question "Who's got the Maesfen cup?"

This is the first issue to have included an article based entirely on the reminiscences of those still living and we are grateful to Olwen Davies, of Bank Farm, Duckington, for persuading her father and others to "spill the beans". People often protest that no-one will want to hear their memories but we must remember that most of what is in our head will never be written down, even though it could be of interest to this and future generations. There must be many living in the parish who have fascinating stories to tell or could describe crafts and trades that no longer exist - do please put pen to paper or persuade someone else to do it for you. We would love to hear from you and to include a selection of reminiscences in future issues of "Malpas History".

Finally I would like to thank all those whose hard work makes "Malpas History" possible - Veronica Scholes for all her typing of articles (the rough bits are done by me on my ropey old Remington), Kath and Graham Craddock who take such care with the photocopying, Malpas Post Office, Peter Eyre, Arrowsmith's Garage and Chorlton Lane Shop for their hard selling and all the members of the Malpas History Group who get nabbed each time to help with the collating. And, of course, thank you to all those who write the articles, the raw material without which the magazine could not exist.

David Hayns

WHO ARE THE ODDFELLOWS?

Bill Coffin

Many people tend to think that the "Oddfellows" are a secret society who meet and carry out secret rituals bordering on witchcraft. Others say the "Oddfellows" are the poor man's Masons.

Neither of these comments are in any way true and in fact we like to think of ourselves not as a secret society but as perhaps a society with secrets.

The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, which is our correct title, has been in existence for 174 years and is the largest Friendly Society order which provides for sickness, annuity and death insurances, having over 339 thousand members and an accumulated capital of over 109 million pounds. The year 1810 is regarded as that in which the Order was established in Manchester where a group of people formed a society whereby each one put a fixed sum of money into a box and any member in need was paid out of this fund, and if funds ran out a "whip round" amongst members was taken.

This humble beginning is a far cry from the Society today which has lodges in nearly every part of the UK, in the Commonwealth and in the USA. Members may pay contributions into and receive benefits from a Local Lodge when they are resident at a distance from their own lodge. The funds of each lodge are under the control of its members and the highest positions in the Lodge, District or Order are open, by perseverance, to the humblest member.

Lodges are held both in public and private rooms and in many instances in buildings owned by the Lodges themselves. Religion is held sacred in an Oddfellows Lodge and party politics are strictly excluded. The desire of the members at their meetings is to carry out the principals of the Society in relieving the sick; to assist the distressed and the widow and orphan in their day of trouble and bereavement; to educate the members; and to elevate them to their proper position in society.

Locally the Oddfellows District is called the Beeston Castle District and contains 5 Lodges, The Loyal Clutton Lodge, (Malpas), The Loyal Victoria Lodge (Tilston), The Crallan Lodge (Tattenhall), The Prince Albert Lodge (Bunbury) and The British Lion Lodge (Holt).

(continued on page 4)



THE MALPAS ODDFELLOWS PARADE MARCHING UP CHURCH STREET IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THIS CENTURY

(Photograph courtesy of Mrs B. Edge)



MALPAS ODDFELLOWS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS IN 1939

L to R: Geoffrey Pearce Allman, Ben White, John Parker, William Hewitt, William Capper, Horace Simmons, Robert McClaren, William Parker, Philip Steele, Robert Worth, Frederick Turtle (Photograph courtesy of Mr Ben White)

MALPAS UNITED FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

An annual Statement, ending July 4th. 1835

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
To Contributions from Members	83	17	2	By Cash to sick Members	19	19	10
To Ditto from Honorary Members	5	1	0	By Expenses at the Feast	23	7	7
To Cash at Feast	19	7	0	By Ditto at Monthly Meetings	11	8	4
To Cash Incidental	1	6	0	By Cash for Surgeon	12	19	6
To Cash for Surgeon	11	9	6	By Cash for Secretary	3	0	9
To Cash for Secretary	2	15	0	By Cash for Printing, Rosets and other Incidental Expenses	5	8	5
To Cash for Entrance, Articles, & Rosets	3	5	2	By Cash to Musicians on Feast day	2	0	0
To Interest from Savings Bank	16	18	6	To Balance	65	14	11
	£ 143	19	4		£ 143	19	4

ABSTRACT OF FUNDS.

July 18th. 1835.			Amount of Stock July 19th 1834.				
Deposits in Bank for Savings	600	19	0		535	6	6
Cash with Treasurers	0	2	5	Increase of Stock	65	14	11
	£ 601	1	5		£ 601	1	5

Number of Members 130.

John Ravenscroft Richard Battarbee, James Harris Stewards. Thomas Danily, Treasurer
and Secretary.

Malpas had a United Friendly Society in 1835, as can be seen by the statement of accounts reproduced here, and this was probably the forerunner of the Loyal Clutton Lodge which joined the Manchester Unity in 1839. The records of the Malpas Lodge show the names of the founder members who were Joseph Richards, Robert Roberts, John Antley, Robert Hale Hughes, Samuel Harris, John Bellis, Thomas Duckers, Samuel Faulkner, William Edwards, Daniel Young and Thomas Stockton. This lodge was then in the District of Ellesmere but in 1842 applied for transfer to the Peckforton District. It was then transferred to the Beeston Castle District where it is today.

The money in the box principle must still have applied in the Malpas Lodge as in 1842 it was resolved "that every Brother within 8 miles should attend, or pay for, the Annual Dinner, and in neglect of attendance pay in addition a one shilling fine to go in the box".

The Annual Dinner was the big event of the year and was either held in the lodge room at the Red Lion or, if the weather was kind, in various fields around Malpas. This function used the Town Band and Officers of the Lodge marched in procession wearing their regalia and carrying the Oddfellows banner and accompanied by ceremonial sword bearers (see photograph).

The benefits to members of the Lodge in times of sickness were very good in 1858. For a payment of one shilling per month the sum of ten shillings per week for the first six months of

sickness was paid, reducing to five shillings per week for the next twelve months and two shillings and six pence per week thereafter. The Lodge also paid the doctor three shillings per year for each member he attended. Besides caring for the interests of its members the Lodge also gave to charitable causes, as shown in 1868 when money was given for the restoration of Bunbury Church. It is the prudent handling of the monies received by these early Oddfellows that has made the Society what it is today. All accumulated monies were invested, as in 1878 when £900 was invested in the Mersey Dock Board at 4½% for 7 years. Also they purchased land and houses in Malpas and the surrounding district.

The monies accumulated today by the Society are put to very good use, to provide members with free convalescence, dental and optical aid, free legal aid, prompt grants in times of distress and many other benefits. Also the Society provides money for medical research and is currently sponsoring research into the Down's Syndrome (Mongolism). We have financed the Sheringham Lifeboat and many other charitable projects.

The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows can point with pride to its past history; to the sickness alleviated; the relief dispensed; and the comfort and happiness brought into many homes. In its ranks there are, both as financial and honorary members, persons of all stations in life.

MALPAS SOCIETY.			
No.	<i>W. David Jones</i>		
1835. August 1st.	1	"	<i>L. 10</i>
<i>July 4</i> September 5th.	2	"	<i>L. 10</i>
October 3rd.	1	"	<i>L. 10</i>
November 7th.	1	"	<i>L. 10</i>
December 5th.	1	"	<i>L. 10</i>
1836. January 2nd.	2	9	<i>L. 10</i>
February 6th.	1	6	<i>L. 10</i>
March 6th.	1	6	<i>L. 10</i>
April 2nd.	2	2	<i>L. 10</i>
May 7th.	2	2	<i>L. 10</i>
June 4th.	1	"	<i>L. 10</i>
July 2nd.	2	9	<i>L. 10</i>
Fives	1	"	

N. B. Members must bring or send this Card every Payment, and call the Number and place the Money by the receiving Steward.

Jones, Typ.

MALPAS FRIENDLY SOCIETY
SUBSCRIPTION CARD FOR A
JOHN DAVIES IN 1853. 1835

THIS IS THE REVERSE OF
THE CARD ILLUSTRATED
ON THE OPPOSITE PAGE.

NOMANSHEATH IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

During the last twenty years Nomansheath has expanded at a tremendous rate. From being a small "suburb" of Malpas town it has now grown to the stage where it, quite rightly, feels that it deserves to be regarded as a village in its own right.

There are in circulation a number of explanations as to how Nomansheath got its name. The most commonly quoted seems to be that the Heath was the site of a battle in the Civil Wars, similar to that which we know took place on Oldcastle Heath. During this battle, so it is said, every Cavalier and every Roundhead was slaughtered - thus "no man's"heath! However, there is no firm evidence to back up the story of a battle and the probable true explanation of the name's origin is far less exciting.

The plan reproduced opposite is a tracing of the original plan to be found among the papers of the Egerton of Oulton estate. These papers are deposited in the Cheshire Record Office. The reproduction here has been reduced to about two fifths of the scale of the original. Although the plan is undated, the Record Office staff believe that it was surveyed in the later 1700s.

As will be seen, the Heath lies on a section of "dead" ground between a number of estates. The names of the landowners with property adjacent to the Heath are given as "John Edgerton", "Lord Chalmondeley", "Lady Drake" and "Mr. Boswell". Hence we have the three main landowning families in Malpas parish at that time, Egerton, Cholmondeley and Drake, plus Mr Boswell, all surrounding the Heath but with no claim upon it. Hence the likely origin of the name "No Man's Heath".

There are a number of interesting features on the plan. Running down the centre is "The Dividing Line", suggesting that the plan may have been drawn up as a preliminary to carving up the Heath between the various landowners (a similar plan survives in the Cholmondeley Estate records). Near the bottom of the plan is "the old mear stone". "Mear" or "mere" is an old word meaning a boundary. The stone would have marked the boundary between the townships of Malpas and Bickley. In fact, four townships meet at Nomansheath, these being Malpas, Bickley, Hampton and Macefen. Could it be that at one time the Heath stood in none of these townships? This could be another explanation for its name.

A number of houses are marked, "Woodfin's house" probably being the present day "Cobweb Cottage". The road running up the centre of the plan is the present road from Malpas to the A.41 and that on the right is Back Lane. The broad, open track on the left is now lost under the modern houses. Other features, reminders of a vanished way of life, are Guest's Smithy and the well in the field marked "Taylors Intack". "Intack" or "intake" shows that it was a field that had been enclosed from the open heathland.

We are grateful to Denton Clark & Co., agents for the Oulton Estate, and the Cheshire Record Office for permission to reproduce this plan. Its Record Office reference number, for anyone who would like to see the original, is DEO 1/14. Because the Egerton papers are kept in an out-store, it is necessary to give about one week's notice to the Record Office (Chester 602574) if you wish to consult them.

THREE ANCIENT HALLS OF BROXTON

J. D. McKechnie

An extract from Ormerod reads:- "The County of Chester has few districts more likely to arrest the attention of the traveller, from mere natural beauties, than the township of Broxton. The immediate foreground is rich in timber, and luxuriant in verdure, and as the road ascends the pass of Barnhill, the magnificent vale of Chester, with the estuaries and the Welsh mountains, opens with a grandeur which the other views from the neighbouring hills rarely attain. The scenery then changes to a style of landscape not often met with in this county. The road winds between rocks and ancient oaks, which cast their branches over the road and



BROXTON OLD HALL

occasionally give a glimpse of the rich valley before mentioned, and at other times a nearview of precipitous elevations of the Bickerton Hills, whose bare and abrupt crags, crowned with the earthworks of a British fortress, close the immediate foreground. To the left the eye commands the long line of the broken terminations of this mountainous range, with minor well-wooded elevations scattered below, over which the prospect extends to the distant forest hill rising from the great vale, which intervenes between the districts of Broxton and Edisbury."

BROXTON OLD HALL

At the top of the Barnhill road is a signpost marked right for Duckington. It is part of the Old Coach road from Chester to Whitchurch. At the top of the hill Broxton Old Hall is on the right.

After the Norman Conquest Robert Fitzhugh Baron of Malpas granted land in Brosse (ref. Domesday) now Broxton, to de Broxen.

The remains of a stone Medieval manor house can be found in the cellars of Broxton Old Hall and below the floor of the present drawing-room. There are also many old foundations under the lawn to the west of the Hall.

Thomas de Broxen son of William de Broxen died in 1338. The Hall passed in marriage with his co-heiress Alice to William Dod of Broxton. Ormerod refers to "Smith's Pentry" as a residence of the Dods of Broxton. It has disappeared but the smithy near the brow of Barnhill may give a clue. The house behind the smithy, Bankhead, is Victorian and there may have been an older house on the site of it. A smithy there in the days of horses and carriages would have been well placed for the Old Coach Road and for the Nantwich road. Kelly's Directory of 1892 gave the Royal Oak Inn as a "Posting House".

Towards the end of Elizabeth's reign Thomas Dod built the black and white Hall above what was originally part of the ground floor of the stone manor house. His initials and those of his wife Katherine and of his daughter Anne are inscribed on a beam in front of the Hall. The Dods owned the Hall until 1601 when Thomas Dod died.

A most interesting Inventory of Thomas Dod was examined by the writer at the Cheshire Record Office. It comprised a complete record of every room in the Hall and out buildings and details of the contents. There were 24 rooms from the cellar upwards.

His heiress Anne brought the Hall in marriage to Edward Tannatt of Aber Tannatt, Shropshire. Edward died in 1647. His son Thomas, a Royalist, was taken prisoner by Colonel Brereton at Aldford in 1643. It is not known what the family suffered due to their support of the Royalist cause. Thomas died in 1670. His son Edward sold the Hall to Sir Philip Egerton of Oulton Park. The Hall was let as a farmhouse for a number of years in the 19th century until the Egertons had a farmhouse built across the road. In 1873 the Egertons employed John Douglas, Architect, of Chester to reconstruct the Hall. They then used it as a Dower House. During the first part of the 20th century the Hall was let as a private house, until the Egertons sold it in 1948.

In the private grounds below the Hall is an interesting Stone Parlour which was constructed out of caves, possibly in the 18th century, by the Egertons. There is a small cave leading out of it, on the walls of which can be seen the remains of iron hinges and in which it is thought bears for baiting may have been kept in earlier times. There are many legends about the caves, connected with rogues and outlaws and hermits. They have also been called the Gipsies' Caves.

There is the so-called "Judgement Seat" on King James' hill to the north of the Hall. Legend has it that prisoners were judged there in medieval times. There is a flat rock in front of the stone seat over which guilty prisoners were supposed to have been hung in chains. It seems more likely that the stone seat was made as a view point, possibly at the same time as the Stone Parlour. King James 1 is reputed to have visited the

Hall during his Cheshire tour in 1605.

It is interesting to note that a Bishop of Chester, Sir William Dawes, Chaplain to Queen Anne, resided at the Hall about 1709 for a short stay whilst the Palace was being repaired. He was translated to York in 1714.

The Hall was sold again in 1960. Extensive repairs were carried out in 1960-62 under the supervision of Mr Harry Banister, Architect, of Liverpool. Victorian additions which were not in keeping with the Elizabethan Hall were replaced.

The old Coach road from Whitchurch to Chester passed Hampton Post where there is a signpost marked Whitchurch - Chester. At the bottom of this road below Barnhill before it joins the Chester road is a milestone marked "1761 The Half-way House - Chester to Whitchurch 10 miles each". It is opposite a farmhouse which was then the "Plume of Feathers Inn".

GLEGGS HALL was to the North of Broxton Old Hall. The land was originally owned by Thomas de Broxen. His other co-heiress Mabell married David le Byrd and the land passed to him about 1335. It is thought that it was he who built the stone Mansion which was there.

The le Byrds or Birds as the name became were well known in the County. A part of the Bickerton Hills was called Bird's Hill. In 1541 John Bird D. D. (Oxon) was Bishop of Chester. He was deprived by Queen Mary in 1554. The name of a Thomas Bird is inscribed on a 1674 Communion Cup in St John the Baptist's Church, Chester. An Edward Bird was Vicar of Tattenhall in 1834. A member of the family John Bird was a Goldsmith in Chester and London. He married the daughter of Thomas Stegge of London. Their son William Bird emigrated to Virginia about 1670. He inherited his Uncle, Thomas Stegge Jnr's important Estate of Westover in Virginia. He became a Colonel in the local Militia, a member of the house of Burgesses and president of the Council. Described as a man of great note he died in 1702. There is a town called Broxton in Georgia.

The Hall was described in 1960 as partly Medieval but with extensive alterations in the 17th/18th centuries.

When Charles le Byrd died in 1724 the property passed to his nephew William Glegg who gave his name to the Hall. The Hall passed to Edward Glegg who according to Ormerod sold it to James Tompkinson of Nantwich. Later it was sold to the Egertons and they sold it in 1962.

For many years it had been a farmhouse, until it fell into disuse. By 1968 the building had deteriorated to such an extent that it had become dangerous and permission to demolish it was granted.

BROXTON LOWER HALL Ormerod refers to this as originally a seat of the Massey family.

It is a fine example of a black and white hall of the Elizabethan period. It became owned by the Egertons in the 19th century. Kelly's Directory of 1892 refers to the Lower Hall as converted into a Inn called the Egerton Arms. The Landlord was Alexander Jolly with "Good accommodation for hunting Gentlemen and summer visitors." When the present main road was made a new hotel was built on the opposite side of the road. It is now the present Egerton Arms.

The Hall then became a private house again until 1964 when it was sold. Since then it has been used as an hotel.

It is interesting to note that the Broxton Petty Sessions were held at the Hall until the present red brick building was erected on the opposite corner of the Barnhill road.

ST. CHAD'S, TUSHINGHAM.

NATIONAL SCHOOL.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand on April 1st, 1901	...	2	14	4	Salary of Head Teacher	...	90	18	0
Annual Grant	...	89	2	0	Assistant Certificated Teacher	...	50	0	0
Pee Grant	...	39	15	0	Monitress	...	8	0	0
Aid Grant	...	15	0	0	Books and Stationery	...	12	9	7
Voluntary Rate of 2d. in the pound	...	50	16	2	Apparatus and Furniture	...	2	0	4
Sale of Needlework	...	0	7	8	Fuel, Light and Cleaning	...	21	14	0
					Repairs to Buildings	...	2	9	8
					Gravel for School Yards	...	7	0	0
					Fire Insurance	...	0	12	9
					Diocesan Inspection and other expenses	...	1	16	8
					Balance in hand on March 31st, 1902	...	0	14	2
TOTAL	...	£197	15	2	TOTAL	...	£197	15	2

NOTE.—The School Accounts and Vouchers have been examined and passed by Mr. H. K. Mousley, Manager of the Birmingham and District Bank, Whitchurch.

TUSHINGHAM SCHOOL ACCOUNTS 1901/2, lent by Mr F. Moore Dutton.

The total payments for the year are roughly equivalent to the gross weekly pay for a senior teacher today!

SEVENTY YEARS IN DUCKINGTON

Olwen Davies

The township of Duckington has enjoyed a peaceful and mainly uneventful existence. Even after the Norman Conquest Edwin, a Saxon thane of some importance, was allowed to retain an interest in lands in the parish. The following is an account of more recent changes as remembered by some of the "natives".

The township is quite small, consisting of two farms. There were originally three but, as is common practice today, Lower Farm was divided and the land added to another farm whilst the house and buildings were sold separately. The other dwellings are privately owned and occupied usually by people with jobs away from the immediate locality. At one time these houses were the homes of farm workers, gardeners and other people whose employment lay within the parish. Mechanisation and better jobs to be found elsewhere have in Duckington, as in many other rural areas, caused a drift towards the larger towns.

One of the first progressions of note was the arrival of a tractor at Duckington Grange, then tenanted by Bert Murless, the father of the illustrious racehorse trainer Sir Noel Murless. At the time the tractor was closely observed by the locals. However they could not have been too impressed for it was not until some thirty years later, just after the second World War, that the next tractor was to appear. Farm work continued to be performed by man power and horses. Labour was plentiful and not too expensive. Although undoubtedly hard work, harvest time also had the air of a social gathering, people coming from round about to help and to enjoy a hearty supper afterwards.

As well as keeping a dairy herd the Murless family also kept a few sheep. These sheep were continually straying onto the neighbours' fields at Bank Farm then, as now, occupied by the Davies family. One morning the Davies children went to play in the orchard and found a sheep belonging to the Murlesses dead, having become entangled and eventually hanging itself in the children's swing. Not surprisingly, greater precautions were taken to prevent the sheep from straying after this episode!

In the spring of 1922 the Drake Estate sold its lands in the area. Most of the tenants bought their farms but it was to be a struggle because, still reeling from the after effects of the war, Britain was suffering a severe economic and social depression. As if this in itself was not bad enough, in the autumn of 1922 Foot and Mouth disease struck. All the herds in Duckington were wiped out. At any time this is dreadful enough but then the effect was devastating. The farms had still to be paid for even though the new owners had lost their source of income. Fortunately they managed to hang on by the skin of their teeth. The cattle were slaughtered and dragged out onto the fields using horses. Needless to say, some horses could not be persuaded to this work. Once on the fields the carcasses were burned and buried in shallow holes, shallow through

necessity as in 1922 the only excavators were of the human kind! After the quarantine period was over the farmers duly restocked. A lot of the cows bought for Bank Farm were purchased from Charlie Dodd of Malpas at the cost of approximately £25 per cow, most of these beasts coming from Ireland. Foot and Mouth disease was to strike again fifty six years later, again wiping out all the herds in the parish.

Milking was performed by hand until the mid 1930s when milking machines were introduced. These were usually driven by Lister petrol fuelled engines. Electricity did not arrive in Duckington until 1950 so cookers and lamps were run by either paraffin or calor gas. Oil lamps, though reasonably effective, required a lot of maintenance, having to be refilled, cleaned and to have their wicks trimmed every day.

In the summer when milk was plentiful the local farmers used to make cheese. Arthur Weaver, a local cheese factor who lived at the White House in Duckington, used to buy the cheese from Bank Farm. The neighbouring farmers would, as a rule, take their cheeses to cheese fairs. These were held weekly, usually alternating the venue between local towns. The winter milk was taken in tankards by horse and float to Reece's Dairy at Hampton. This continued until 1940 when motor wagons were used to collect the milk and to transport it to whichever dairy it was required by.

During the second World War the remaining local men and evacuees joined the Local Defence Volunteers, later to become the Home Guard. They were based in the neighbouring parish of Bickerton where drilling and lectures took place in the Bickerton Institute. There were nightly patrols carried out by four men, two of whom were on "lookout" in a hut positioned at the top of Bickerton Hill, on the site of Maiden Castle. Even in the heart of the country all was not quiet. One unfortunate German airman was found dead on a field at Larkton, having jumped from his aircraft and his parachute failing to open. Percy Done of Higher Hall, Edge, was looking at his cattle one night when, through the shadows, he saw a man in uniform approaching. Thinking it was a patrol member of the Home Guard he addressed the man. Imagine his surprise and horror when the answer was spoken in German! The German's aircraft had apparently crashed and he was giving himself up.

As was the case years ago, people had to make their own amusement. Whether it was terribly amusing if one was on the receiving end is a matter for debate. Pocket money was earned through netting rabbits or by picking and selling surplus fruit. One story is told about the Allman family who lived in a cottage at the foot of Larkton Hill, on the Duckington side. Most years bilberries, or wimberries as the locals call them, are in abundance on the hill. As is the case today anyone who wishes could go to pick them for themselves. However, the Allman family felt slightly possessive about the bilberries and consequently used to frighten the local children who went onto the hill in pursuit of pocket money in the shape of bilberries. As a "lark" and, I suspect, a hint of retaliation a few of the children started to amuse themselves by pushing

small stones from the top of the hill, seeing who could roll them nearest to the Allmans' cottage without actually hitting it. As the game went on they became more adventurous, finding bigger and bigger stones until one youth bent on going one better than anybody else managed to dislodge a boulder. This "hooligan" pushed it gleefully over the edge and stood back to watch his handiwork. The smile was quickly wiped from his face when the boulder suddenly changed its course and hurtled towards Allmans' cottage, narrowly missing it but with a splintering of wood crashing straight through an outhouse and coming out the other side. Needless to say, when an alarmed but furious Mr Allman came rushing out of the cottage there was not a soul in sight. My informant tells me that it was the last time they played that particular game!

Congregational Church,
 MALPAS.

RE-OPENING
SERVICES,
 On Sunday, July 3rd, 1898,
 THE PASTOR THE
Rev. J. Ogmore Morgans,
 Will Preach.

Services at 2.30 and 6.30 p.m.

Anthems will be Rendered by the Choir.

Collections in aid of Renovating Fund.

FLETCHER AND SONS PRINTERS, MALPAS.

This notice was found by Mr and Mrs W. R. Clutton of Church Street during renovations to their house, Hawthorne Cottage.

We would welcome such items for inclusion in future issues of "Malpas History".

LEWIS THE MALT AND BURROWS THE PLOUGH

Bulkeley in 1824

The following poem appears in an old account book which was in the possession of the late Miss C M Brassey of Bulkeley. We are grateful to Mrs Johnson of Bulkeley for obtaining a copy for us and to Miss J Brackenridge of Tilston for permission to reproduce it in "Malpas History". The poem provides an unusual and interesting insight into the occupations of a small Cheshire township in the days before published trade directories gave any detailed lists of occupations and pre-dates the first national census (1841) to give information on them.

A list of the Trades of Bulkeley 1824

If good October you would brew
There's malt at Lewis' old and new

If clothes you have to mend or make
The same to Twiss the Tailor take

If chairs are worn by sitting long
George Betley repairs with sedges strong

If clogs you wair for fear of cold
The sames' with Samuel Harding sold

Should Ladies wish for fashions new
Miss Colgraves needle them will do

If cows or calves or sheep are ill
They health may have by Harding's skill

Or if a midwife you should need
To Phebe Betley run with speed

Or if she should not be at home,
Mabel Burrows will do
Providing she is home

In working steel and iron well
I need not of Ralph Mottram tell

If pigs are fat and pork you wish
Apply to Brown and steak your dish

If hats of straw you do want made
Hannah Morris makes such and knows
her trade

Beehives and baskets to pack game
Thomas Pinnington makes, but now he's lame

At pigtroughs, burs, and stones to build
J Butler will not to a mason yield

If heat or cold your lungs do dry
Meredith's tap you then may try

The same you may unto him take
If bread or tea or snuff you
crave

These things and more at Youngs
you'll have,
Or if you cannot get them there
To Bebbington's go, they live
very near

And as all trades aim to be
winning
Betty Stokes does the same by
very good spinning

For weaving cloth and linstey
well
There's many of Parker's skill
can tell

If ploughs you want to go right
true
Joseph Burrows buy, he says
they'll do

Waggons, carts, & barrows good
Thomas Burrows makes and finds
the wood

If thatching or cutting of straw
you desire
Richard Williamson ask, he
worketh for hire

If shoes you want to last forever
Charles Harding makes, but has no
leather

With flour and meal and bran and gret
John Butler supplies his customers yet

Besides teaching the young their Creator
to know

Mary Bate teaches also to read and to sew

To ward off affliction or cure with ease
T Bate does his best, his neighbours to
please

Young Wilton, Walley, Dutton and Woolly
Are farmers who attend to their business
truly

With a few labouring men who
attend to the tillage
Makes up the account of this
wonderful village

No runaway bankrupts as yet we have
had

But dividends many which are
tidings too sad

Our future attendance to orders
once given

Will sure be exact if the payments
are even

A Retrospect from 1862

Near all this list their thread
of life have spun

Their labours ended and their
work is done

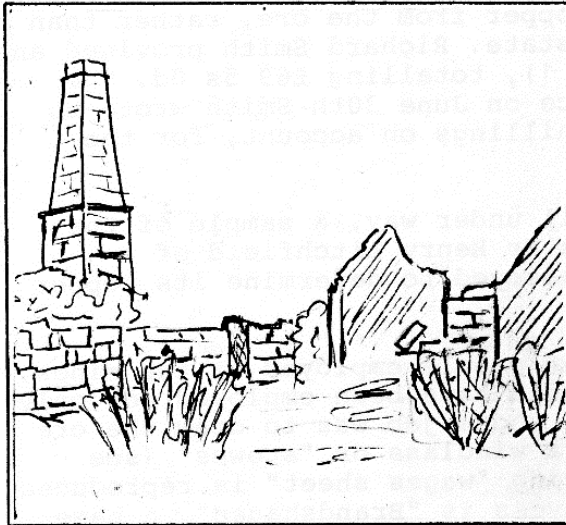
New names and trades for him who
shall explore

This village life, and annals of
its poor

For those who wish to find out more about the history of
Bulkeley, we recommend "Bulkeley: A Short History", written by
Elizabeth Gater, who lives in Bulkeley. It was published in
1983 and is available from the village shop in Bulkeley,
price £1.00.

HERR BRANDSHAGEN AND THE COPPER MINERS

David Hayns



Most readers will be familiar with the copper mine chimney that stands upon Gallantry Bank and many may have wondered about its history. The chimney itself dates from 1856 and was built as the flue for the pumping engine which drained the mines. It may also have been the flue for smelting works in the same field. Remains of various buildings survived within living memory (see illustration on this page, which shows the remains as they were in about 1906).

The last attempt to extract copper ore from the mines was in 1906 when a Liverpool firm of mining engineers, Edmund Spargo and Sons, attempted to raise capital to re-open the workings. The attempt seems to have been unsuccessful. It will probably never be clear exactly what was the outcome since Cable Street in Liverpool, where Spargo's offices stood, was flattened in World War II, during the bombing of the city.

However, records of earlier operations do survive among the papers of the Egerton family of Oulton Park. These papers are now preserved in the Cheshire Record Office and the earliest bundle of documents (Cheshire Record Office Ref. DEO/63) covers the years 1696-1698, during which time the mines were the scene of great activity. It has been suggested that Sir Philip Egerton had been trying intermittently to extract ore from the mines since 1694 but it was in 1696 that Thomas Orme took over as steward. In August he wrote to Sir Philip to say that he was ready to go ahead with operations but would need to be supplied with picks, hammers, wedges, ropes, powder and candles.

Work was put in hand to provide the necessary equipment and in March 1697 Ralf Povall, blacksmith, submitted a bill of £2 3s 10d for such items as "steeling eight picks" (2s 8d), "eight horseshoes" (1s 4d) and "seven weeks sharpeing" (14s 0d).

Richard Smith of Horsley (Beeston) was Sir Philip's local agent and in June he wrote to let his lordship know that Mr Orme was having difficulties with the miners over their pay. There appear to have been four miners employed initially since in July there is an account for payments to Thomas Pearson (£12 4s 2d), Randle Smith (£21 4s 0d), Thomas Brearley (£20 4s 0d) and William Huxley (£20 4s 0d) for their work at the mines.

Lord Cholmondeley had visited the mines and, having been shown the ore by the miners, offered through Thomas Orme to buy it from Sir Philip at seven pounds a load. However, it was decided that it would be a good idea to build a smelting house on the site, to extract the copper from the ore, rather than to sell the ore in its crude state. Richard Smith provided an estimate for the work (Figure 1), totalling £69 5s 0d. The work obviously went ahead since on June 30th Smith wrote to Sir Philip to ask for forty shillings on account, for the brickmaker.

Once work at the mines was well under way, a sample of the ore was sent to Bristol, via a Mr Henry Litchfield of Shrewsbury, presumably to be assayed to determine its copper content.

By August 1697 there were eight people employed at the mines, in various capacities. They would have been employed not only as miners but also as winders, whose job was to draw the ore up from the shaft by means of a windlass or "stowes" (see Figure 3). The earliest surviving "wages sheet" is reproduced here (Figure 2). Among the payees is "Brandshagen", a name which starts to figure prominently in the records. Traditionally the skilled miners were Germans; the standard "manual" on mining practice, written in Latin, was "De Re Metallica" by Georg Bauer, a German, better known by his Latinised name of Georgius Agricola. Figure 3 is one of the many detailed woodcuts used to illustrate this substantial work. It shows a winder at work and miners descending into the mines by various methods. Johannes Brandshagen was a German mining engineer who, it appears, may have worked at one time for the Earl of Guldenberg in Norway. He seems to have brought with him a compatriot described simply on the wages sheet as "the other Jerman". Possibly there were others of their countrymen who joined them later for it was on September 14th, by which time Brandshagen seems to have assumed the position of foreman (or shop steward!), that he wrote to Sir Philip in the following terms:

Worthy & most honourable Sir,

Your Worship give most humbly thanks for employment meself & my countrymen about your Worship mines, which I have enjoyed now above 4 weekes, & not to be att all further unacquainted unto your worship, I could not forbear to give a true & plain account of what I have observed in this time about these mines, as good as my smal understanding in ye English language would permit & if it was in any way acceptable then my wishes and desires where fullfilled. I have this time also endeavoured to blow up ye rocks by guns powder, as the best way to kill them, butt in ye first time I found ye elements as aire & water where against my designs, ye last I have conquered, & I hope I shall doe so ye other next time when I have occasion for it, I found also some other smal things which would not so soon agree with my hands, for there are many years past, that I did work under ground with my owne hands, butt all these things

(continued on page 20)

Brickwork 525 yards at
 11th of year - - - - 26-5-00
 Lime - - - - - 05-0-00
 Rooder - - - - - 20-0-00
 Coors - - - - - 08-0-00
 Clay - - - - - 02-0-00
 Total - - - - - 09-5-00



Length of the dry walls
 Mill feeds 5 Rooder 4 yards
 The mill - 49 Rooder

The Brick walling at Bickerton
 is 176-2-0 at 11th of year - 0-2-0

ABOVE LEFT: **FIGURE 1** Richard Smith's estimate for building a smelting house at Bickerton.
 BELOW: **FIGURE 2** The earliest surviving "Wages Sheet" for the Bickerton Copper Mines.
 Note the last two names on the list - "Brandshagen" and "The other Jerman".
 ABOVE RIGHT: **FIGURE 3** Miners at work, from Georgius Agricola's "De Re Metallica", a sixteenth century German treatise on mining and its associated processes.

Work done at the Mine at Bickerton
 from the 28 of August to the 11 of Sept 1694
 So much a day
 07:02 - Thomas Duxon 12 days - 00:14 : 00
 01:00 - Randall Smith 11 days - 00:11 : 00
 00:10 - Thomas Duxon 11 days - 00:09 : 00
 00:08 - Charles Giff - 12 days - 00:08 : 00
 00:04 - Ellen : Gwyn 12 days - 00:04 : 00
 00:03 - Mathew Hand 12 days - 00:01 : 03
 01:00 - Brandshagen 12 days - 00:12 : 00
 01:00 - The other Jerman 11 days - 00:11 : 00

are now disceased, onley that I was lately too covetous & would have more rocks blown up, then my powder was able to, what other blasts for effect have done, your Worship can be informed of it by Mr Smith. I shall endeavour all what is in my power to serve your Worship with that understanding I have about mines, to which I have employed meself now above 15 years, in spending a great deal of money as well for learning as travelling in many places in Europe, where good mines where, to come to any perfection in this art. I have received now my things for examination of ye oare, which I will doe, as soon as possibly I can come to it, in this desolate place, where nothing in ye world is to be had for any commodities, whatsoever it may be, & whilst we are strangers here, & must buy all things for ready, it is impossible to life of what your Worship has allowed unto us, & therefore I doubt not your Worship will make a distinction between workmen & workmen, with which I recommend me into your Worship' favour allways remaining.

Your Worship

Bickerton Sept: ye 14th

most humble
Servant

1697

J D Brandshagen

More pay claims! Did Sir Philip finally make a distinction between workmen and workmen and pay them what they considered they deserved?

Brandshagen obviously took his responsibilities very seriously. There were considerable workings dating from earlier times although there is no way, at present, to discover when mining started at Bickerton. Could the mines have been worked in Roman times, as is the case with the mines at Alderley Edge on the other side of Cheshire? Recent excavations at Beeston have shown extensive evidence for metal working which suggests that the whole of the Ridge may have been exploited for its ores, perhaps as early as the Bronze Age. The Bickerton mines lie between the Iron Age hillfort of Maiden Castle and the suspected Bronze Age settlement on Beeston Hill. Brandshagen produced a detailed report on the existing workings at Bickerton, saying that he found "the vein (of ore) of a great extent in length, neither the beginning or the end of it having been as yet discovered". He found, at the time, "5 shafts or holes, as I shall call them, because they are too narrow for any work of consequence, to enlarge them will be too expensive, and it is my unqualified counsel, to use them as they are, and make one head a chief shaft in the middle, to which all these holes may be connected ... if this is not done, I fear the whole work will be at a standstill, partly for want of air & partly from the water". He was not very impressed by the evidence for former operations, claiming that "the timber used for security in these mines has been fixed in a more careless and idle manner than any I have seen elsewhere".

Sir Philip sought a second opinion on the mines from a Mr D Garienceres, who disagreed with many of Brandshagen's suggestions. However, Brandshagen answered Garienceres' criticisms and continued to be employed at the mines.

As well as surveying the mines, he drew up separate sets of rules for the Steward (Figure 4), the Miners, the Winders and "all Workmen in general". If a miner was disobedient to the Steward he was "to loose one shilling" and "if he should find the orders of ye Steward where against ye interest of ye mines Lords, he may tell his reason in a modest behaviour unto ye Steward". He must "stay continually under ye ground in ye Summers time from 6 ye clocke in ye morning till 11 against noon, & in ye winters time from 7 ye clocke in ye morning till 11 against noon, as also in ye afternoon, in ye Summers time from 1 ye clocke till 6 in ye evening, & in ye winters time from one ye clocke till 5 in ye evening". On Saturdays he was allowed to finish at 3 o' clock in the afternoon. How many of us nowadays would fancy two 5 hour spells every day, underground in cramped and wet conditions, working only by candle-light?

The mine had its own equivalent of a factory hooter to call the miners to work. "One of every workmen shall come half an hour before ye duly time, & give a certain number of strucks with a hammer on a Iron plate, erected to this purpose, to give a Signe to ye other workmen to come att work". Tools had to be taken care of and "when it is pay day every workmen before he gett money must shew to ye Steward his tools & other things, what is trusted in his hand & if there should want any of such things, he must leave so much money of his wages as it is worthy, in ye Steward's hand, till he restores ye same".

The Winders had to "give every night an account to ye Steward, how many buckets full are come out of his pits that day, & how much of every sort, as oare, rocke or ye like". Every morning the Steward "must give to the miner so much candles, as he may burn in so many hours working, therefore he must procure always one sort of candles, and trye then how long they burne". At night "he must take all ye remaines of ye candles, it may be in piece or whole, ye pieces he can give to use for blasting". He must also "keep all ould & broaken Iron & when he has a quantity, he may send it to ye Iron work". His accounts "must be rightly drawn to a moddell made for this purpose, in which all things are brought in a good ordre".

By 1698 the Steward seems to have been the Henry Litchfield mentioned earlier. In this same year John Stamford and John Mather signed (with their marks) an agreement to sink a fathom (in mining, this means six cubic feet) in each of the three pits at Bickerton "viz. the crabtree pitt, the Rock pitt and the Roade pitt", at the rate of four pounds for the three fathoms.

In April 1698 Henry Litchfield presented his accounts for March 12th until April 16th, which showed that the following work had been carried out:

Every morning he must give to every miner so much candles as he may burn in so many hours working, therefore he must provide always one sort of candles, & trye them how long they burne which he can turne to y^e weight & make his account about it, yett he must considere y^e place where y^e miners work, because in one place burnt more away then in an other, butt he must putt downe in his account how much they have burnt, att night he must take all y^e remainder of y^e candles, it may be in piece or whole, y^e pieces he can give to use for blasting. He must also keep all out & broken Iron, it may be so small as it will & what can be made of out he must reffe y^e new, & when he has so small pieces that he cannot use them, he must nevertheless keep it, & when he has a quantity, he may send it to y^e Iron work, & change a quantity new Iron for it, which may be y^e half part, in y^e accounts he must make remember what is made of new or out Iron, he must also deliver y^e Iron to y^e Smith by weight, & received so again, yett that he allows

ABOVE: **FIGURE 4** Extract from Brandshagen's "Rules for the Steward". This section sets out the rules governing the provision of candles for the miners and instructs him on what he is to do with any scrap iron from the mines (i.e. broken pick heads, etc.).

RIGHT: **FIGURE 5** Copper Mine accounts for September 1698 to April 1699.

works done at Birkeston
 until Sept: 10: 1698
 3 fatham att 13-6
 90 m of foot line -
 Count Stamford - 2 = 6 = 0
 Candlers 4
 Ballam 10 tall - 9 = 0 = 0
 20 of m & plank
 9 = 0 m of
 Row: 200
 12 fatham
 Smiths bill - - 0 = 12 = 00
 Rod of m & Whaley
 0 = 12 = 00
 20 = 22 = 20
 20 fatham grinding
 Smiths bill in - 14 = 01 = 6
 Rod of m & Whaley
 14 = 1 = 6
 14 = 14 = 00
 12 fatham grinding
 50 of Iron
 10 of foot -
 1 Rod
 2 of nails - 9 = 4 = 9
 Rod of m & Whaley
 9 = 4 = 9
 12 = 10 = 2699
 10 fatham grinding
 Smiths bill
 making for ever 13 = 05 = 3
 Rod 13 = 5 = 3

for driveing 3 ffathom in the crabtree pitt
& 3 ffathom in the Rock pitt
& 3 ffathom in the way pitt each
att 15s the ffathome is £6 15s 0d

A further three fathoms had been driven in each pit by May 15th, yet another three fathoms in each by June 11th and another ten fathoms altogether by July 2nd. Much of this driving was carried out by blasting and the accounts for the same period (March 12th - July 2nd) include total payments of £1 0s 4d for the purchase of powder. The final accounts preserved (Figure 5) cover the period September 1698 to June 1699, during which time a further total of eighty five fathoms was driven.

Therefore it seems that the mines advanced well under the supervision of Johannes Brandsgahen. Unfortunately no plans survive from the period, to show the extent of mining then, but the booklet produced by Edmund Spargo and Sons in 1906 includes a plan (Figure 6)* of the workings remaining then. All the shafts have been filled in now and only the isolated chimney remains, to remind us of two centuries or more of industrial activity on the slopes of the Cheshire Ridge.

*(P.T.O. for Figure 6)

REFERENCES

The papers from the Egerton Estate are preserved in the Cheshire Record Office (in Chester Castle), reference DE/63,64. A copy of the booklet produced by Edmund Spargo and Sons in 1906 is also to be found in the Record Office.

In 1981 the Northern Mine Research Society published "The Gallantry Bank Copper Mine, Bickerton, Cheshire: With a review of mining in the Triassic rocks of the Cheshire-Shropshire Basin" by Chris J. Carlon (ISBN 0 901450 19 7). This comprehensive monograph contains an account of the history of the mines but, unfortunately, the history of the 17th century operations, as covered by this article, is incorrect due to a misreading of the dates on some of the Egerton documents.

"A Brief Outline of the History of Bickerton Copper Mines" is an unpublished manuscript by D H Gladden, written in 1969. It was written partly from the Egerton papers before they were deposited in the Cheshire Record Office, when they were held by Denton Clark & Co., agents for the Oulton Estate. It seems that Mr Gladden may have been able to see some documents that were not eventually deposited in the Record Office.

I am grateful to Denton Clark & Co. and the Cheshire Record Office for permission to reproduce the documents used to illustrate this article.

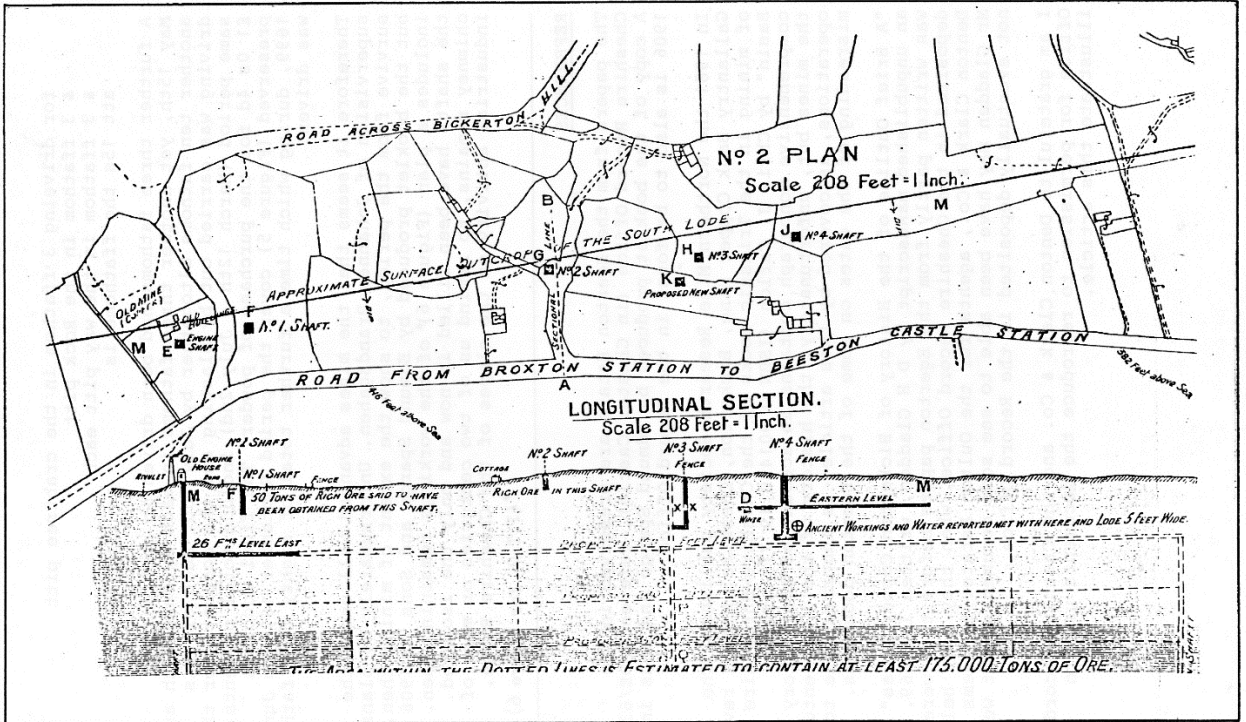


FIGURE 6: The plan and cross-section of the Bickerton Copper Mine workings, included in the booklet produced by Edmund Spargo and Sons in 1906. The Engine Shaft (chimney) survives at Ordnance Survey reference SJ 517.542.

THE MAESFEN CHARITY FOOTBALL CUP



L.-R. Back Row Tom Povey Joe Ridgeway Stan Fletcher Middle George Chesworth Sam Ankers George Allman Bob McClaren Sam Corbett Bob Wilson Martin Downey Les Boughey Tom Coffin Front Frank Hewitt Ted Corbett Bill Jones (Captain) Jacky Allman Bernard Battarbee

Malpas Football Club photographed 20 years after our cover picture was taken. They are shown as the proud winners of the Maesfen Charity Cup. The rules for the Cup are shown below - many thanks to Mr D. Adams of Bradley for the loan of his copy. The same year (1926) the team were runners-up for the Tilston Charity Shield and the drawing on the right shows the runners-up medal in the possession of Mr Bill Jones (Captain), of Church Street. No-one seems to know what happened to the Maesfen Cup - do you know of its whereabouts?



RULES.

1. The Cup to be known as the "MAESFEN AMATEUR CHARITY CUP." The Trophy shall never become the property of any Club. The annual Subscription to the Cup Competition shall be 2/6 each Club. Medals will be awarded to the Finalists.

2. The entire control and management of the Competition shall be vested in the Cup Committee.

3. No Club shall be allowed to enter the Competition unless their Headquarters is within a radius of 4½ miles from Malpas Cross.

4. Each player must reside not more than one mile from his Club Headquarters, and must be within the 4½ miles' radius. No individual shall play for more than one Club during any one season of the above Competition. No player shall be allowed to take part in the Competition who has played in more than two matches for any League Club since January 1st, 1925.

5. Any Club playing a member who is not qualified as above shall be removed out of the Competition, fined, and otherwise dealt with by the Committee as they may decide.

6. The Secretary of each Club must hand in a list of his team to the Secretary of the Competition not later than 3 days after the match.

7. Proceeds of matches, after defraying expenses, such as printing and referees, will be divided between the Royal Infirmary, Chester, and the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Rhyl.

8. Protests and appeals must be intimated to the Referee and the competing Club at the time that the violation takes place, and must be lodged by the protesting Club with the Secretary of the Competition within 3 days after. The sum of 10/- to be handed over with all protests.

9. All Clubs must be registered; all players to sign a registration form which can be obtained from the Secretary, price one penny each.

10. The Secretary of each Club must notify the Secretary of the Competition the result of each match.

11. The Final to be played on the Maesfen United Football Ground; the Semi-finals on a ground selected by the Committee.

12. Clubs wishing to enter this Cup Competition must send in their names to the Secretary not later than Monday, March 30th, 1925.

