



THE PARAGON

Journal Of Stocksbridge & District
History Society

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50P (FREE TO MEMBERS)

PARAGON?

Paragon n 1. Model of excellence, supremely excellent person or thing. 2. Large size of type between Great Primer and Double Pica.

I don't know if definition 1 fits this replacement for the Newsletter, only time will tell. Definition 2 is certainly true, as the type face I am using is large, clear and easy to read, important when, like me, you are getting on a bit and things need to be as clear as possible. There is also a third definition of the word, bound up for ever with Stocksbridge and its one-time industry of umbrella making, *Paragon* - the trade name Samuel Fox gave to his special wire and to his umbrella frames.

The new layout will allow us to publish more in each issue, more room for your articles and reminiscences of the past, and with the facility to include pictures drawings and maps, we can build on the success of the Newsletter and make the *Paragon* a vital tool in the recording for posterity of the history of Stocksbridge and district.

And now...It's over to you!!
Mike Spick [editor]



PARAGON



GAS LAMPS

When the days became shorter and the evenings darker, the gas lamps became our play centres. Every day at dusk the lamp-lighter would come along, open the glass door of the lamp and ignite the pilot light with a long pole. Unlike the modern neon lighting the gas lamps were small and reachable. A lad could 'scrim' up and sit aside the cross bar. In the shadowy dark they shed a pool of light just big enough to hold a good half-dozen of us.

Under them, the garden walls might have been specially designed, they were exactly the right height for children to sit on. Lining the walls were dense privet hedges, which the householders had grown to give their gardens some privacy, but for us they provided wonderful back rests. You could even lean right back and tumble over them into the gardens. This was best done a little way from the gas light, where you couldn't be recognised too easily. We knew all the grown-ups and they all knew us and everyone knew that if we broke the 'thirteenth commandment' and got caught, then we would receive punishment

and deserve it.

The lamps were our dens for 'Lockey'. They were where we stood to count the statutory one hundred as quick as we could, before going after the ones who had hidden. If it was

your turn to be 'on', each time, after counting you would venture a little further, always remembering that you had to tear back to the gas lamp base and shout 'Lockey-done-one-two-three' at the top of your voice, before the ones you'd espied sneaked up and got to the base first, for if they did, you had to be 'on' again.



The lamps were where we gathered to exchange gossip, tell stories, make plans and the boys tried out their dirty jokes to test our reactions to them. It was all so

innocent and to us so funny. It was there that the older children would sometimes join us, telling tales, showing off their superior sexual knowledge, which we received with round-eyed astonishment, disbelief and laughter.

And it was there that my mother, anxious and annoyed, knew where to look for, and catch me, when I'd forgotten the time and stayed out too late.

Joan Firth



**ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS
A BACKGROUND HISTORY**

The primary responsibility of the Ordnance Survey is to survey and provide maps of Great Britain. Generally considered to have been founded in 1791, it has its roots in both civilian and military cartography. During the Napoleonic wars the military need for accurate maps was the driving force of the Survey, and in the early years of the Victorian era the great civil engineering feats of the canal and railway builders needed maps as the foundations of their schemes. The maps were used to record data for other scientific uses, such as the mapping of geological features and archaeological sites.

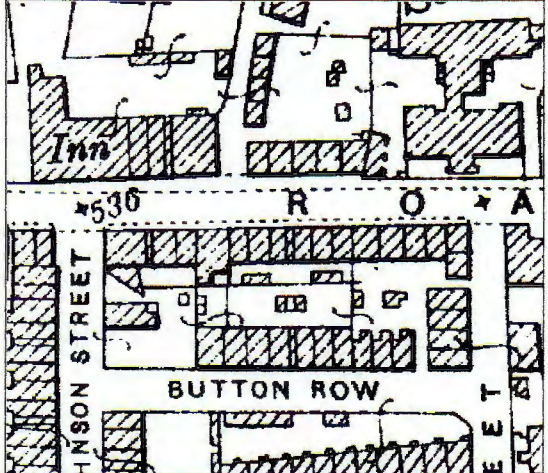
The original maps were at a scale of 1:63,360 [1 inch to 1 mile] but as early as 1824 it was realised that maps at a variety of scales would be needed to fulfil all the demands being made on the O.S. In 1840 the 1:10,560 [6 inch to 1 mile] scale was authorised for the survey of Northern England and Scotland, (Basically the area not covered at the time by the 1 inch maps) but it became obvious that this scale was not adequate for all the purposes of a national survey. There then followed a protracted, 20 year debate, the 'Battle of the Scales' until a final decision was taken in 1858.

This resulted in a set of standards for mapping. Cultivated areas were to be surveyed at a scale of 1:2500 [25 inches to 1 mile], 1:10,560 for uncultivated areas and 1:500 [120 inches to 1 mile] for towns with a population of 4000 and over. Maps at smaller scales were to be derived from these large scale surveys.

It took from 1853 to 1896 to survey the whole of the country

at 1:2500 but, in contrast the whole of this first survey had been revised by the start of World War One. Rapidly rising costs were to hit the Survey, in some cases almost before maps had had time to be produced. The 1:500 plans were abandoned in 1893, except in cases where local authorities paid for the surveys to be undertaken.

The activities of the Ordnance Survey were severely curtailed after the first World War and staffing was reduced to 1000. The revision cycle for sparsely populated areas was to be reduced from 20 years to 40 years. The growth of Britain in the 1920's and 30's, with its need for accurate mapping for all



Extract From O.S. Sheet
281/16 1905 Edition

kinds of construction and legislative uses meant that the Ordnance Survey was ill-equipped to meet these demands and in 1935 the Davidson Committee was set up to seek a way forward and to set priorities for the Survey. The final report and recommendations appeared in 1938 and in most cases any action was not taken until after World War Two.

The results of the Davidson Committee are still with us today. They decided that:-

That a National Grid should be used on all large scale plans and smaller maps. ..to provide one reference system for the

whole of the country.

That the international metre should be used as the unit on which the grid system should be based.

That the large scale maps in the new National series should be square in shape.

That the new 1:2500 series National maps should cover an area of one square kilometre.

That the one inch to the mile and smaller scales should be retained in their existing form.

To investigate the possibilities of mapping urban areas at a scale of 1:1250 [50 inches to the mile]

The only major effects on the Davidson recommendations have been due to the gradual adoption of metrication since the 1960's. In 1965 it was announced that the familiar 1 inch to 1 mile map was to be replaced with a metric equivalent at a scale of 1:50,000 [2cm to 1 kilometre]. The 1:10,560 was to be altered to 1:10,000, although many people still refer to this as the 'six inch', and the 1:1250 and 1:2500 were to be printed using completely metric measurements. The 1:25,000 was to be kept as it was, except for the introduction of metric measurements.

This gives us the present day situation, and the current, widely available maps are at the following scales:-

- 1:250,000 [approx 0.25 inches to the mile]
- 1:50,000 The Landranger Series
- 1:25,000 The Pathfinder Series
- 1:10,000 The 'six inch'
- 1:2500 The '25 inch' available for all areas except mountain and moorland.
- 1:1250 The '50 inch', Urban areas only [currently available for only about 5% of the total country]

The 25 and 50 inch maps are nowadays only available in the form of digital data suitable for computer display and manipulation. It is far easier for agents to supply sheet maps

computerised sources than to carry a stock of 'paper data', and of course updating individual areas is much easier. Computer data is also useful as a base for adding other material such as archaeological data to existing maps for special purposes. The final benefit of computer mapping is that the data can be produced as hard copy at a variety of scales, the 1:500 town plans last seen in the late 1800's are once again a reality, and all thanks to the computer.

Further reading
Harley, J.B. *Ordnance Survey Maps a descriptive manual*: Southampton, Ordnance Survey: 1975
Mike Spick

THE APPRENTICE'S TALE

I left school in 1921. My first job was at Thickett's the tailors. I started each day at 8 am. The shop door, always open, I passed through the shop and went up the steep stairs to the workroom, which was an addition to the main building. This had large windows on three sides, one overlooking Broadheads the butchers, and the one opposite the door overlooked Samuel Fox's yard. The yard was such a busy, noisy place that it was like a magnet to us.

The workroom was large and had long "boards" on each of the two opposite sides. One was low, this was the one at which we all sat and worked. The one opposite was higher and was where Mr. Roland Thickett, the tailor, did the cutting. In the centre were four or five sewing

sew and treadle on a large piece of brown paper, with no cotton in the machine, Mr. Thickett said that this was to see if I could sew in a straight line. This was no trouble to me as there had been a sewing machine at home, and I had been sewing on it since before I was twelve. I passed and was given a piece of the "board". As a matter of interest the wages were 5/- for the first year, 7/6 for the second, 10/- next and later 15/- weekly.

I remember that every two or three weeks, Mr. Edwin Thickett would come upstairs to clean and service the machines and keep them in good order. He talked non-stop the whole time he was there, and we found it very quiet when he left. His wife would go up to the back room in her house and keep an eye on us through the window, and woe betide us if we were laughing or talking!

I was the apprentice and had to light the fire in a funny little stove with a kind of oven on top,

Thickett's. Thickett's. Thickett's.

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED

LADIES' & GENTLEMEN'S TAILOR

IN THE DISTRICT.

THE BEST HOUSE FOR VALUE.


All Garments Cut and Made on the Premises
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Ladies' Costumes from £2. Gents' Suits from 35/-.

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Agents for the Parth Dye Works, the very best Firm known.
Also Agents for the WOOD VIEW LAUNDRY—one of the very best in Sheffield.
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Advertisement from 1910
Stocksbridge Almanack

where the tailor's irons were placed side by side, to get hot enough to produce steam when used to press our work, which got well pressed at every stage. This stove burned coke which had to be broken into very

small pieces in order to burn properly.

I hated the coke business! I had to go down two flights of stairs to the back yard which sloped down towards Fox's. I crouched there, every morning, chopping away on the coke with a hammer. If I didn't do this and took up large pieces, the fire simply went out!

In a corner by the far window was a large zinc bath, which needed two buckets of clean water every morning. The pressing was done with a piece of silecia, which was wrung out in the bath, and by the end of each day the water was very grubby looking. Each morning I carried out the dirty water and took up the clean water for the days working. I estimate that I carried water and coke, and climbed up and down these stairs, three times every day, in addition to my comings and goings, to walk home for dinner and back for 1.30pm for years! I remember now that the apprentice who followed me, flatly refused to light fires, carry water etc. and only then were electric irons introduced. I

think this must have been around 1925 or 26.

I was always very happy at work. Mr. Thickett sang in the Wesleyan choir, and I believe in Dr. Robertshaw's as well. He would sit in the board sewing and singing and sometimes there were five of us there.

I thought in later years that perhaps I had been fortunate to have been there at that time, because the depression and unemployment, even then, were with us, and as I showed some aptitude, I progressed from trousers to waistcoats, then to jackets etc. much quicker. I was earning less than

a qualified tailoress, so it must have been cheaper for Mr. Thickett to keep me on when some of the others went on the dole!

Mr. Thickett had a "round" in Wombwell, which he visited every Saturday, so Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings were pretty hectic. He had quite a number of Stocksbridge customers too and most of the time we were pretty busy

Sometime after I went to work there, Mr. Edwin retired, and Roland took over the business. It didn't really affect the way we worked, we seemed just to carry on. I got to know Dolly, Mr. Roland's sister very well. She was always so pleasant to us all and she was really nice to me. I remember that often she would be in the far shop, where the millinery was on display, and she would show me the hats. I would tell her how I couldn't get a hat to fit or suit me, because I had so much hair. At

that time, girls put their hair up into a bun, and I couldn't find a hat that didn't perch on top and look foolish.

I left work a little before my five years were up. My mother was ill, and I never went back to work again. I have sewed for many years and I always believe that I got a good training at work.

Mrs Helliwell

throughout the nineteenth century.

Wallace Charlesworth, weighman, lived at Spring View Cottages, Bolsterstone, in the 1880's and was the local historian who wrote the "Notes on Bolsterstone" to be found in the Stocksbridge Archive. He was often consulted by Joseph Kenworthy. His grandson was George Hepworth, the antique dealer.

STOCKSBRIDGE SURNAMES

Brenda Duffield

CHARLESWORTH

A place-name near Glossop, Derbyshire, not with the obvious meaning but from Old English words for a jaw shaped enclosure.

John Charlesworth bought Over Hag Farm, Bolsterstone; now known as Waldershaigh Farm; in 1806 from John Rimington, and he and his sons farmed at Bolsterstone

FOOTNOTE

There is now a complete index to all 14 issues of the *Newsletter*, available from **Mary Hepworth** for £1.00, and here is an offer you cannot refuse.

If you have a copy of the previous index (issues 1-12 only) then return it to **Mary** who will exchange it for the full index **AT NO EXTRA CHARGE!**

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HELD ON THE SECOND
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AT THE LIBRARY MANCHESTER
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NEWSLETTER' AND SENT TO:-
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★ PROGRAMME 1995 ★

OCTOBER 12TH

A. BRACKENBURY

WILDLIFE FROM THE SIGNAL
BOX

NOVEMBER 9TH

R. YOUNG

WENTWORTH & THE
FITZWILLIAMS

DECEMBER 14TH

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL GATHERING

→ NEXT EDITION ←

☆ WOODHEAD 150 ☆

A HISTORICAL CELEBRATION OF
OUR LOCAL RAILWAY LINE

☆ VAUGHTON HILL ☆

A HUMOUROUS MONOLOGUE
ABOUT DEEPCAR AND SOME OF
ITS CHARACTERS

☆ PLUS SOMETHING ☆

☆ SEASONAL! ☆

→ REMINDER ←

DON'T FORGET
THE SHEFFIELD
LOCAL HISTORY FAIR
SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER
TOWN HALL BANQUETING SUITE
9.30 - 4.30
★ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ★
★ TO MAN THE STAND ★