

Read 'awl' about it

Lockdown Newsletter from the Cannock Chase Shed

Issue no. 4



This week...

- Motoring memories
- Barry's bubble car
- Mrs Dave's biscuit recipe
- Humour
- Quiz
- Rugeley: local history
- Tool storage ideas
- Project update



Shed meeting via zoom

Barry has suggested that we could possibly use zoom to hold a Shed meeting.

He has some simple instructions on how to do it.

We could just chat, or we could get one member to demonstrate a tool/machine or start to make something in their garage, or show what they have done before perhaps, or we could have a quiz.

If this is something that interests you, could you please email Barry at:

barrykjames@yahoo.com

Submissions and suggestions to:

annewallbank@talktalk.net

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Motoring Memories

Our first car was a fern green Austin Cambridge A60, with a cream flash down the sides. Very natty for a single chap, who had had a near fatal crash on his BSA 650 Super Rocket and did not fancy his chances any longer.

We met me just a few weeks later, while he was still an apprentice, and paying for the car meant that we did not have an expensive courtship. He was still paying for it when we got engaged the following year, and married as the year drew towards a close. He was still paying for it, and working 6 1/2 days each week, when we bought the house. I gave up work to have our child. Thankfully the Cambridge was paid for by then but we were living on a shoestring for years as more children arrived as if by magic.

We still had the car when I got a part time job as a petrol pump attendant in the evenings. I got at 2p discount on the petrol!

Finally it just gave up. Being much loved, it had served us well and seen many different stages in our lives. Sadly it had to be towed away to the scrap yard.

After that we had our first Rover and I learned to drive - but that is whole different story for another time.

Avril.



Pete's first scooter, a Lambretta TV175. Soon afterwards full Mod status was achieved by the addition of 8 mirrors, flyscreen, air horn, baffle-free 'silencer,' aerial with tiger's tail and my fish-tailed Parka with all the trimmings. Later followed by a GT 200 and an SX 200.

That lovely first Lammy caught the eye of a beautiful girl at a Youth Club in Gloucester and although I haven't got a scooter any more I am still married to that beautiful girl. Lucky me - Thank you Lammy!

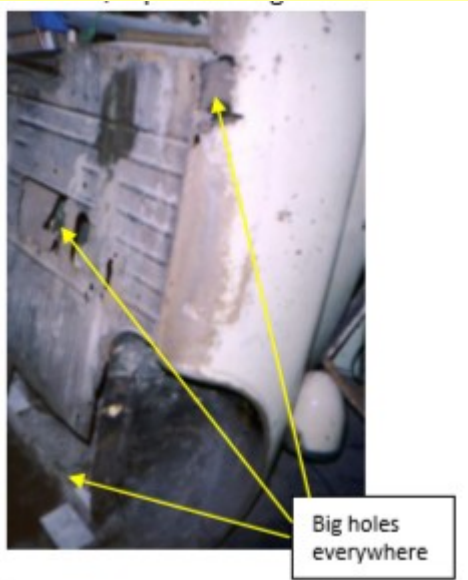
(Pete Ross)



The Yellow Peril ... turned Jaffa Orange

The BMW Isetta. Well it wasn't technically my first car, rather one that I wished I had after riding restored Lambretta scooters in the pouring rain or icy roads in my teens. My school friend upgraded to a bubble car which were all the rage in the fuel crisis of the 50's, so I was very jealous. To re-live my youth 25 years later, I had to find one.

However, the one I eventually found was full of holes and rust, as in the photos. Required was a replaced floor, repaired wings body and door, never mind all the rest of the chassis, seat and internal reupholstery, complete rewiring, and drive train. It was in a terrible state. So, a full restoration needed.



The whole body was lifted from the chassis and turned on its end to start the welding. It would wobble like a jelly as it was so weak. In the end it took me 10 years to restore, respraying it in a bright orange from its original yellow. Getting hold of parts wasn't easy. No internet then, so I had to make everything and weld steel sheet back into the body. The owners club helped with some rubber items that I was glad about. They try to re manufacture some parts fortunately.

And the orange version is how it looks today, still running – sort of. 20 years after restoration, it now needs restoring again in places. For those techie geeks, it has 3 wheels, a BMW one cylinder motorcycle engine, 300cc, 4 stroke petrol, 4 forward AND a reverse gear, contrary to opinion. (No jokes please about reversing and garages). You never know, I might even surprise you all and bring it to the Shed one day, once this awful crisis is over.



By the way, my real first car was a Reliant Regal 3 wheeler (as in Del Boy), but that's another long story...

Barry

At a loose end? ...why not do some baking.

Dave Pursall's wife is the kind soul that bakes delicious cakes for us to enjoy at the Shed.

She has very kindly given us one of her biscuit recipes to try.

Gav and Anne tried out the recipe, and this was their verdict:

"It's a quick and easy recipe, our mixture was a bit dry, so we could possibly have added a little more golden syrup to make it easier to roll. We also overcooked them a little, but they are really, REALLY nice. The thick ones are soft, sweet and cakey, the flatter ones are more crunchy. You can really taste the golden syrup. We'll definitely be doing these again."



The recipe
(makes about 18 biscuits)

INGREDIENTS

100g butter (room temperature)
100g caster sugar
200g self-raising flour
1 tbsp golden syrup

- Preheat the oven to 190°C / gas 5
- Cream the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy
- Add the flour and syrup, and mix to a soft dough
- Press each one down slightly
- Roll into small balls and place on greased baking trays, giving the biscuits room to spread
- Bake for about 6-10 minutes until golden
- Then allow the biscuits to cool slightly, before transferring them to a wire rack

On the behalf of all shed members, I'd like to present Mrs Dave with this virtual bouquet, in recognition of her wonderful contributions to our coffee breaks.

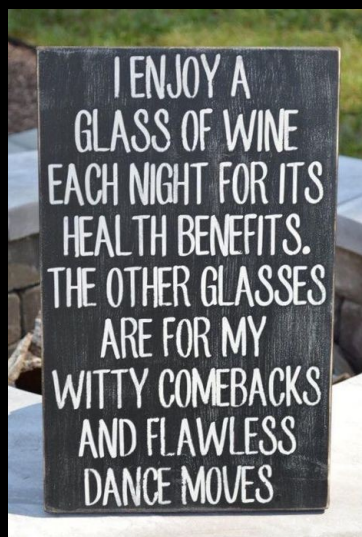
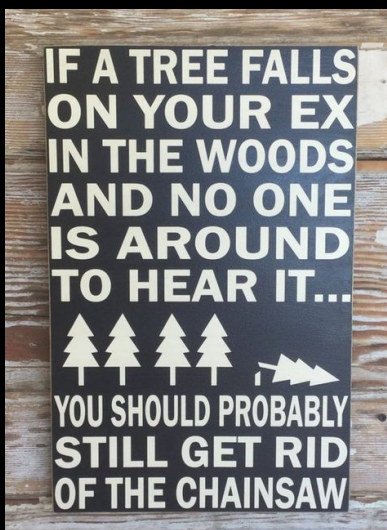


This morning I saw
a neighbor talking
to her cat, it was
obvious that she
thought her cat
understood her... I
came to my house,
I told my dog ... we
laughed a lot.

I LIKE TO MAKE LISTS.
I ALSO LIKE TO LEAVE THEM
LAYING ON THE KITCHEN
COUNTER AND THEN GUESS
WHAT'S ON THE LIST WHILE
AT THE STORE.
FUN GAME.



HUMOUR



Remember when people
had diaries and got mad
when someone read
them? Now they put
everything online and
get mad when
people don't.



WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING
TODAY, DO IT WITH THE
CONFIDENCE OF A 4 YEAR OLD
IN A BATMAN T-SHIRT.

Putting a drink in
each room of my
house today and
calling it a pub
crawl.

SHOP AROUND QUIZ

Name the shops from the clues.

Some of these may have ceased trading, but you'll remember the names.

1. Footwear for a cat (5)
2. Father neglect? Just the opposite! (10)
3. Space traveller (5)
4. Tries to get favours with copper on this planet? (6, 2, 5)
5. Motor? Call the store (8, 9)
6. Pebbles in the stream (11)
7. Hang around with a flower (8)
8. High moral standards. Or scientific rules (10)
9. Fail to hit target? Me? On the Long Mynde? (4, 9)
10. Something to mind when getting off the train (3)
11. William and Henry's horse-shoeing business (1, 1, 5)
12. Underground in America (6)
13. Beatle meets Alice's creator (4, 5)
14. Bill and Hillary's Kings and Queens (7, 5)
15. Good street shopping in France (3, 6)
16. Strange method of storage (7)
17. Chiswick Eyot (5, 6)
18. Sterling getting good exchange rate (14)
19. Celestial dollars (9)
20. Keeps papers together (7)
21. You should find the CEO here (4)
22. Where Dutchman lives with firearm manufacturer (7, 3, 7)
23. Dial wrongly (4)
24. Budgie seeds (7)
25. Princess Royal seasons (4, 7)
26. Hey hombre. How mucha is thatta drink? (5, 6)
27. English dance boys (9)
28. French Cotes transposed 5)
29. Henry crosses stream (8)
30. Check your camera setting or the picture will be blurred (5)
31. Values of sheeps' fleeces (10)
32. Middle of candles, with energy (6)
33. Automobile and domestic animal on the starboard side (11)
34. Dill or something different (4)
35. Communist and philosopher. Nearly (5, 3, 7)
36. Young lady comes out with headless chicken and pork joints (9)
37. House at military site (8)
38. Europe's most sparsely populated country (7)
39. Rugby, cricket, hockey, football. No deviation (6, 6)
40. Wood on the property (10)
41. Podgy visage (7)
42. Torrential downpour (7)
43. Fresh appearance (3.4)
44. Fantastic pill (9)
45. Queen doesn't reveal anything (9, 6)
46. Miss Phillips here when she's not out riding (4)
47. Not many bottoms on sale here (7)
48. A box of tricks? (7)
49. Seashore hill (4)
50. A place to buy a cadaver (4, 4)

Quiz kindly
contributed by
Maggie Causer

Hi all,

Further to Leslie's article in issue 2 regarding the heritage of Rugeley that we could use for inspiration for "Rugeley in Bloom" planters, I have added a little more info you may be interested in.

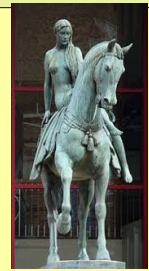
Rugeley was established in the 10th century by Ælfgar Earl of Mercia the son of Leofric and his famous mother Godgifu (**Lady Godiva**). As Aelfgar was a major Mercian Warlord, his daughter married King Harold; Rugeley would have been an important town at this time.



Aelfgar



Leofric



Lady Godiva

As the Capital of Mercia was Tamworth, at this time, the quickest and easiest way to travel between them would have been by boat along the Trent and Tam rivers.

How long traffic continued on the Trent at Rugeley is unknown, however river traffic continued to travel up to Burton-on-Trent until the opening of the Trent and Mersey canal in 1777.



The old chancel, all that remains of the original St. Augustine's Church.

In the Domesday Book Rugeley had an annual value of £1-12s-6p, Cannock did not exist at this time!

In the 12th century the first St Augustine's church was built, one of the earliest stone churches in England.

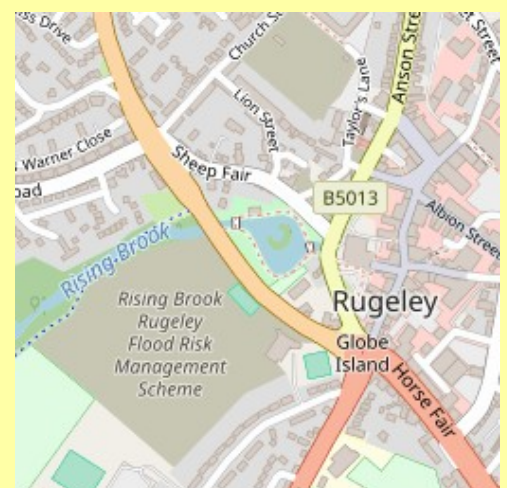
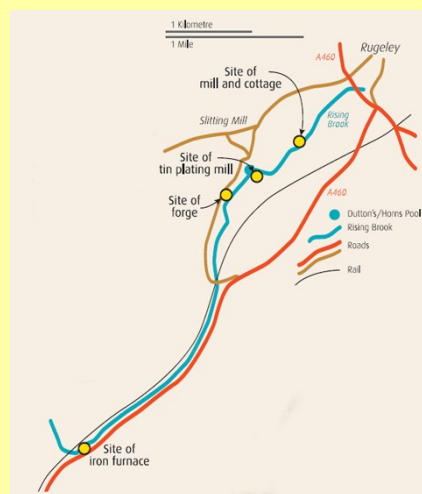
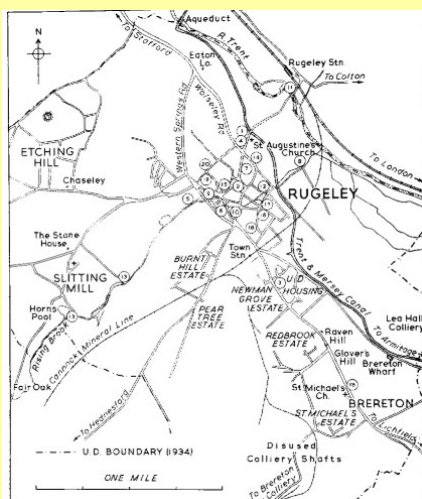
In 1259 Rugeley was granted a Royal Charter to hold regular markets, and became an important agricultural market town, holding regular Horse and Sheep fairs on the streets of the town which continued until the 1930s. A livestock market (located off Albion street) continued to operate until the late 1960s.



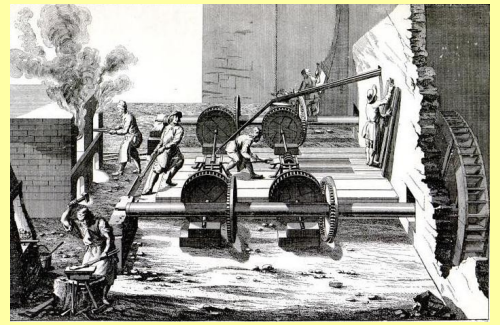
Rugeley livestock market

There are records that during the Tudor period, Charcoal, Iron and Glass were all produced in Rugeley. In the 17th Century, iron working in Rugeley increased. One of the first areas of development was the diversion of the Rising Brook stream; this originally ran from Sheep Wash, down through the centre of what are now Hagley Park Playing Fields. This was done so that the brook could feed three mill ponds - Horns Pool, Hagley Hall Pool and Elmore Park Pool.

If you look carefully you can see contour of where the brook originally flowed, which was confirmed in the 1970s when the brook breached its banks for the second time. This time it did no damage to the town centre, unlike the first time in 1709 when it washed away most of the town. Is this why in 2019 the Environment Agency spent £2m in putting flood defences to protect Rugeley from this happening again!!



There were a number of mills/forges along the repositioned Rising Brook stream, for converting pig iron into wrought iron and processing the wrought iron into goods. The largest of these being the mill on Horns Pool, which rolled out ingots of wrought iron into bars and chopped, Slitting them to length (hence the village name of Slitting Mill), their main products were nails (these were square not round nails). This Mill was powered by a large waterwheel located where the brook runs into to the mill pond; the feed for the waterwheel is still there.



The workings of a slitting mill

My dad has full details of the slitting mill, he always wanted to put the waterwheel back, but unfortunately old age and dementia got to him first. It one of my lockdown projects to dust off his research and try if not to refit the wheel, then build a large scale model of the mill (my future shed project).



Trent and Mersey canal, Kidsgrove

The industry of Rugeley, taking advantage of local coal and iron, continued to grow and was accelerated by the arrival of the Trent and Mersey Canal, which could transport goods produced in Rugeley to Liverpool and the East Coast Ports for export

As well as iron working, there were many other industries in Rugeley including: Tanning and Leather Working, Tinplate and Can Manufacture, Chemical and Gas Works, Hat and Clothing Manufacture,

Rugeley had very little involved in Coal Mining until 1960 when Lea Hall Colliery opened, other than providing housing for miners from Wales who came to work in the new West Cannock 5 Colliery. Does anyone know why this Colliery which is located in Hednesford which is East of Cannock is called the West Cannock Colliery?

During the war years, top secret research was carried out on radio, radar and sonar, in locations around Rugeley which led after the war to British Electronic Products being established in Rugeley, which later turned into Lancashire Dynamo then Thorn Automation and now, is Ultra Electronics.

In the late 1950s, construction started on Rugeley A Power Station and Lea Hall Colliery. The power station was designed to take coal direct by conveyor belt from the colliery, a first in Britain. The power station also had the world's first dry cooling tower, a prototype design which was later (and still is) used in power stations located in desert/dry areas. In the 1970s Rugeley B was opened which unfortunately could not utilise the coal from Lea Hall.



To operate the new Lea Hall Colliery, miners and their families were relocated in Rugeley from the North East and Scotland, which resulted in the late 60s early 70s Rugeley having the highest birth rate in Britain

Continuing Rugeley's clothing heritage during the 1960-70s, a world famous product was produced in Rugeley "The Donkey Jacket" and then later the "Partridge Wax Jacket" (modelled here by Prince Charles.)



Hope you found this interesting.

Stay Safe, Dave Causer

How do you store yours?



Please send us pictures of your tool storage ideas
annewallbank@talktalk.net



Last week's caption competition

The entries so far:

'Now you see it.....'

" Why am I thinking the first story should be 'Beauty and the Beast?' "

'Look!. I've made a lovely box for Pandora....'

'Hurry up and take the photo. The box is on my foot!!'

'Never mind 'story box'... I could fit a whole lot of tools in here...'

PROJECT UPDATE



The final two plant dollies are now completed, and have been delivered to their new owner. We have made 6 of these in total, screws and castors were supplied, and they have been constructed from the remains of some old garden furniture.

ARE YOU SAFE AND WELL?

We would like to do a welfare check on all members. If you have not already be in contact with me in the last week, please could you just drop me a quick email or text to let me know that you are safe and well. Anyone who I don't hear from will be followed up in the next few days. Thanks, Anne.

annewallbank@talktalk.net

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