



Repton Village History Group Newsletter

Winter 2024/25

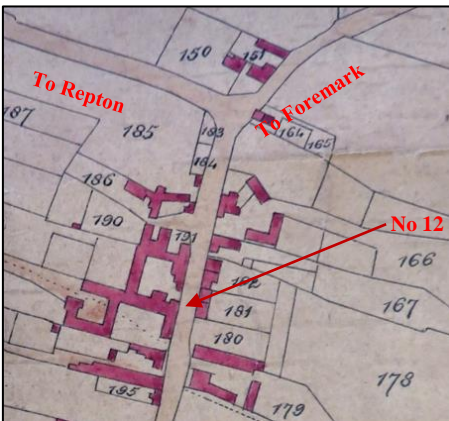


<https://reptonvillage.org.uk/repton-village-history-group/>

Membership matters:

- Meetings are being planned for the third Tuesdays of alternate months starting in January and with visits in the summer months. Meetings are at 7.00pm in the URC Schoolroom on Pinfold lane.
- On Tuesday 21st January, Phillip Heath will give a talk on South Derbyshire Parks and Gardens - Repton, Calke, Alvaston, Melbourne and Bretby. Phillip was the Heritage Officer for SDDC and is an expert local historian.
- A reminder that membership subscriptions of £8 are now due. Cash or cheque to John Kidd at a meeting or at 6 Burdett Way or by BACS to 60-12-01 A/c 05851238 (Repton Village History Group).

Derrick Pounds' memories.



Milton - 1829 map

In the last newsletter we included a contribution sent to us by Derrick Pounds from his memoir. Charles P checked his records and found William Pound living in Milton in the 1880s at what is now number 12 Main Street. He has studied the history of the house from the late 1650s through to 1921 and the comprehensive notes will be added to our archive.

The premises were owned by the Harpur-Crewe estate in 1655 when Charles picked up the trail and using the H-C rentals, the Poor Rate Book, Pew Allotments in St Wystans, the Land Tax Surveys and the Burdett Rentals, he has traced the occupancy. John and Margaret Clarke were there in 1655, then John and Grace Bryan and then their son William and then William's son (at which time it was a house and butcher's shop) and other members of the family through to the 1871 census by which time, the Colliers had moved in. In 1877

William Collier relinquished the tenancy to take over the Green Man at Willington and William Pound, who lived in a cottage near No.12 took over the tenancy. William Pound & Catherine Wheatcroft were married in Foremark in 1868. She was the daughter of the Wheatcroft family of Milton who lived just a few doors down Main Street at 24, Main Street. William worked for the Burdetts at Foremark and was from Ramsbury, Wilts, another of the Burdett mansions. This explains how the Derrick Pounds memoirs start with William working on the Foremark Estate. Derrick's notes may contain some generational confusion over the Williams, but a William Pound(s) seems to have led the family to Foremark though they were mostly born in Wiltshire.

Tim N contacted Derrick because there is a Newton Solney connection and Derrick provided the following:

"Awards received by Walter Pounds M.M.

As noted earlier, during the First World War Walter Pounds became a decorated soldier being awarded the Military Medal (M.M.) for bravery, the British Army's second-highest commendation for valour and three other medals with campaign ribbons shown next page.

Dad's Military Medal is shown top left (ref. ride. L.G.30897, 13/9/18), next his 1914-15 Star medal, his British War Medal and father's Victory Medal. Walter Pounds's name tags are shown below his medals.

After discharge from army service on 4th March 1919 my father continued his Gamekeeper and Woodsman duties on the Ratcliff estate located around Newton Solney, Derbyshire where he worked for almost 50 years.

While resident in Newton Solney before, during and after the Second World War he was a Special Police Constable becoming a Sergeant. For this volunteer service my Dad received two police medals and three long service bars shown on the right of the medals photo that follows."



The military medal is on the left.

The Village Green of Newton Solney

(By Tim Norman)

Quintessentially British or probably English, the village green has become one of the key features of many villages, if you've not got a green you may have duck pond, a cross, a monument, a well or maybe nothing at all. Most village greens in England originated in the middle ages. Individual greens may have been created for various reasons, including protecting of livestock from wild animals or human raiders during the night, or providing a space for market trading.

In most cases where a village green is planned, it is placed in the centre of a settlement. Village greens can also be formed when a settlement expands to the edge of an existing area of common land or when an area of wasteland between two settlements becomes developed.

One of the largest village greens is in Great Bentley and covers 43 acres.

Some historical village greens have been lost as a result of the agricultural revolution and urban development.



Newton Solney has what we call a village green but it's a little small and you wouldn't get much livestock on it; it does not appear on some earlier maps more of a fork in a junction but now it has some grass, an American Oak tree, a bench dedicated to our late friend Jim Ward and a lovely traditional finger pointer road sign.

The green has traditionally been a meeting place with friends before moving on, it has also served during the WW2 as a guard post where the home guard/fire warden would muster before given instructions. The Meynell hunt crowd also met there in 1908 with their many hounds. As you can see from the photo some lads/chaps have met up with their bikes on the green but unsure who they may be!

Recently the green has been smartened up and some bulbs planted. The American oak is believed to have been planted in the 1970s, so it has a few hundreds of years left yet we hope.



Yes the green is small; maybe the smallest, but we like it.

Russell's photos.

In the last Newsletter we pondered on the date of Russell's photograph of Boot Hill. Very much like today but



nowadays the Post Office has a garage door facing us.

Charles P points out that it has to be after 1882. The school had bought the cottages in 1879 and Furneaux who became head in 1882, built the music school on the site.

He also comments that there is no conservatory beside Cross House and both the 1881 and 1901 OS maps show what may be it but it is not on the 1920 map nor the 1907 plan. So he suggests 1907 to 1920.

There was also debate about the location of the Rifle Range – opened as part of the 1911 celebrations of the coronation of George V. Russell was pretty sure that it was where the Royal British Legion is now. The gas lamp suggests it was High Street and a photo taken

from Homelands has one in roughly the right spot.

Now Russell offers this photo which does confirm his original conclusion.

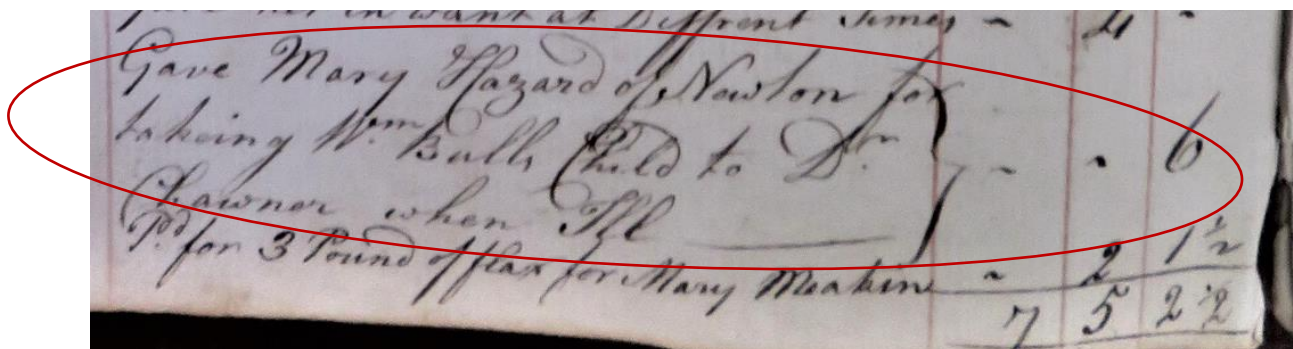


Chawner:

Someone with a medical background who was mowing St Wystans Churchyard asked about the grave of Charles Watkins - surgeon and pharmacist (1747 - 1809). We noted our findings in the Newsletter for winter 2023/24.

Among other things, he was, in 1771, paid "for inoculating [against smallpox] 16 poor children at Ingleby". There were two processes to try to ward off smallpox - inoculation and vaccination - and Charles P has found another Repton link:

Rupert Chawner Brooke, the First World War poet, owed his middle name to his mother's grandfather Dr. Rupert Chawner. Dr Chawner (1750-1837) was a surgeon in Burton on Trent and makes occasional appearances in the Overseers of the Poor accounts for treating Repton paupers. The entry below is from June 1789.



What makes Dr Chawner more significant to the Repton historian is his role in writing a 1821 pamphlet, using evidence from Repton to support vaccination against smallpox rather than the traditional inoculation.

Inoculation or variolation against smallpox had been introduced into England by Lady Mary Wortley Montague in 1721 and, after the success of an initial experiment on six prisoners at Newgate, soon became an established practice. It had long been known that smallpox survivors acquired immunity and inoculation, the subcutaneous insertion of material from the pustules of smallpox sufferers, usually gave the recipient a less serious case of the disease. There was a 2%-3% chance of the inoculated developing a fatal smallpox infection but the case-fatality of naturally acquired smallpox was some ten times higher and reached nearly 80% for infants.

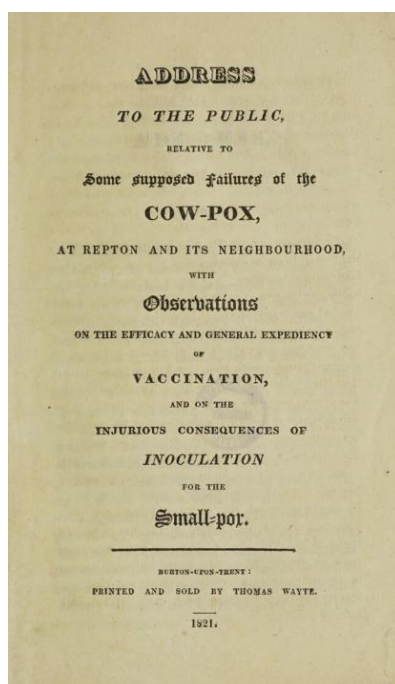
The earliest evidence we have of inoculation in Repton comes from Burdett estate accounts which record a payment

of 8s 8d paid to Mr Watkins, a Repton doctor, for inoculating 16 poor children at Ingleby in 1772. The Repton Overseers were paying for inoculation in 1805 as shown below.

Pol^d Hogg Watson -
Inoculation of Thomas etc 10
Mary Bird for her etc, Annas etc 12
... 5

There had been an awareness for many years that a cowpox infection provided some immunity to smallpox and had been some early efforts to use what later came to be called vaccination. It was Edward Jenner who in 1798 provided the key scientific evidence for vaccination, the injection of cowpox to generate smallpox immunity. Whilst vaccination gained rapid acceptance across the world there was considerable opposition from anti-vaxers in this country so whereas in Denmark smallpox had been virtually eradicated by 1820, in England tens of thousands of unvaccinated were dying, especially infants.

Dr Chawner's pamphlet was published in 1821 in Burton, apparently in response to opposition to vaccination within the area, particularly a Repton doctor. It notes that vaccination in Repton had started in about 1801 but that inoculation continued to be used. In particular it argues that recent smallpox deaths in Repton arose partly from poor vaccination technique, including that of non-medical persons including a 'farrier in Milton' and 'an old woman'. It also argues that while inoculation might provide protection to the individual, but at greater risk than vaccination, it encouraged the spread of the infection to the non-protected so overall deaths may actually increase. The last paragraph shown below indicates that at least one, unnamed Repton doctor was 'destitute of faith in vaccination'.



efficaciousness of the practice. Let it be admitted that here and there, as at Repton, an individual in the medical profession may be found destitute of faith in vaccination—still the exceptions to the persuasion of the efficacy and general expediency of the practice being with medical men universal, like the exceptions to the COMPLETE PROTECTION OF THE TEN THOUSAND VACCINATED PERSONS AT NORWICH FROM SMALL-POX, “are so few, as,” in the language of Dr. Jenner, “not to be worth detailing!”

Rupert Chawner, M. D.
 John Spender,
 S. Sep. Allen,
 Benjamin Granger, } Surgeons.
 Burton-upon-Trent,
 March 2nd, 1821.
 Printed by Thomas Wayte,
 High-street, Burton-upon-Trent.

The anti-vax doctor is unnamed in the pamphlet but the likeliest one is Benjamin Tabberer who was paid a salary by the Overseers to treat Repton paupers from c.1812 until his death in 1834. He and his brother Osmond, who took over his practice after his death in 1834, lived at 3, High Street. By 1836 at least, the Overseers were paying the local doctor for vaccinations as in the entry below and inoculation became illegal in 1840.

... the family during a ...
 of the ... Mr. Hutchinson shall be paid for attending upon Hannah ...
 in her case of ... and for *vaccinating* Ann Maddock's girl

The pamphlet can be accessed at:

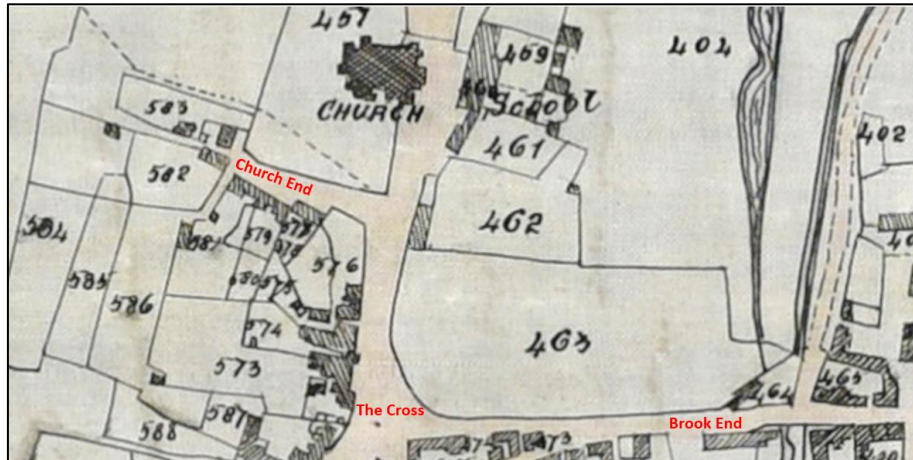
<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vbcytqf3/items?canvas=36>

A Church End Ramble:

This was a talk give to the history group at the December social and is included here for the wider membership.

Repton has 3 ends - Brook End (down the hill from the Cross), Wood End a.k.a Park End (a hamlet at the southern end of the village) and Church End - the road beside the church and thatched cottages.

It wasn't until 1839 when the bridge was opened, that the road went on to Willington so this was a very quiet corner.



The story really starts with the Vicar (Martin Flowerdew) asking us to try to trace the modern descendants of George Mugliston (1774 – 1853). He was a founder member of the Royal Sussex Masonic Lodge and a very well respected

Brother and so the Freemasons maintained the grave which now needed attention. The rules are that the family must give approval for any work if they can be traced. Otherwise it is important to show due diligence in the search.

George (a plumber and glazier) actually became a Freemason in 1811 but the lodge was in Derby. So attendance meant a lengthy ride on horseback or in a carriage, crossing the Trent by the ford or on the Willington or, more likely, the Twyford Ferry. After a few visits in inclement weather and arriving to find the meeting called off, they petitioned for their own lodge. As a result, in 1817, the Royal Sussex Lodge was founded and, till it moved to Burton, was based in the "Masonic Tavern" in Repton (probably the Mitre Hotel) . There are other masonic graves in the churchyard including two of George's sons – George and James. Others include John Roberts 1792-1826, Benjamin Tabberer, surgeon, 1788-1831 and

James Smith, surveyor 1782-1862. James was brought up at the Hayes (the large house on the left of Knights Lane as you go up the hill) and was the son of Seth Smith who was a real mover and shaker in village life. James eventually became one of the County Surveyors and lived at Hazeldyne (Hazeldene) – the double fronted house opposite the pastures and beside Matthews Jitty. He and his wife Priscilla owned land and properties in the village and had two daughters, one of whom wed John Twigg. The couple moved to Wales, living off a private income, and had two girls themselves. However John died young and the family moved back to join Priscilla who was by now widowed. They were comfortably off with income from property and land and the two Twigg sisters remained spinsters. They are remembered by a memorial in St Wystan's Chancel having donated the funds to replace the altar rail.

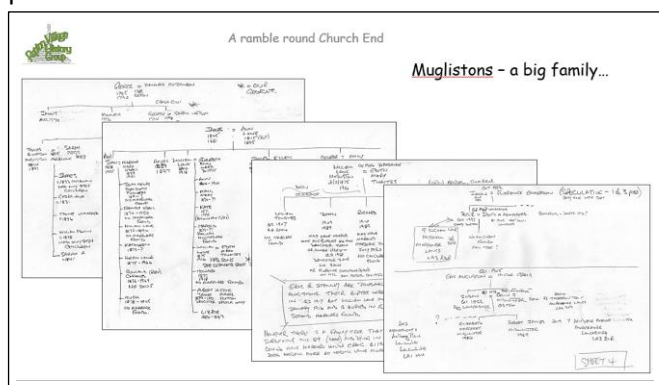
Another masonic grave belongs to Samuel Hanson (1784-1867). His grave stone was noted to be flaking and a good frost was likely to destroy the facing. The Masons agreed to pay for it to be repaired and it should now last a good few more years. Samuel's day job was as a weaver working in the braid mill at Winhill (later the flour mill we see today) and he lived in one of the thatched cottages opposite St Wystans Church. His gravestone records that Bro Samuel was Parish Clerk for over 60 years and Tyler to the Royal Sussex Lodge for 49 years. A parish clerk had to be chosen carefully because it took an archdeacon to remove him. In the days before parish councils, parish affairs were run by the Vestry Meeting – chaired by the Vicar and attended (in theory) by all property owners. Among other things they appointed the Overseer of the Poor, the Constable and the Surveyor (responsible for the roads). The parish clerk received a stipend and was the only one to be paid. Among other



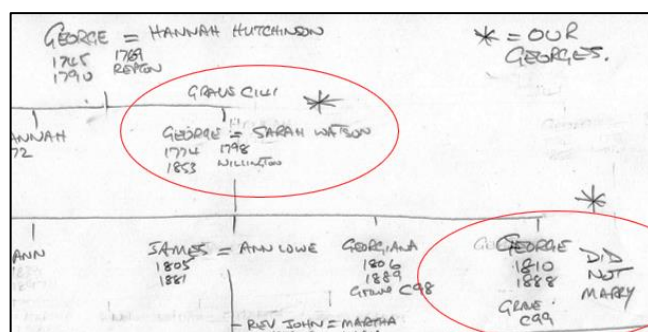
things, he would ring the bells, act as sexton or vergers and help lead the worship. Samuel was 6' 2" and big with it, a bell ringer and beer drinker. Thomas (Repton 1557 – 1957) says:

"Inside the church there were high box pews, a choir gallery at the west end, two side galleries and the three decker pulpit standing at the east end of the nave. The lower deck was for Sam Hanson the Parish Clerk, a gigantic figure who boasted that he was the only man in the village who was big enough to wear Macauleys cast-off clothes. By now he was very deaf and started the alternate verses of the Psalms in a manner peculiar to himself; married twice, he lived to be over 80 and was famous for bell ringing and beer drinking; while ringing for Queen Victoria's coronation he was said to have drunk 7 gallons of beer. (Macauley was headmaster of Repton School.)

As Tyler for the Royal Sussex Lodge, he would have stood, bearing his sword, outside the room where the ceremonials were taking place to keep out interlopers and to check that those entering were properly dressed and knew what their parts were.



Our Mugliston research did trace modern descendants living in Saffron Walden but we did not get replies to our letters to them. It is a big family and came to Repton around 1760 with an earlier George (1745-1790). He had actually been born at Calke, but his forbears came from Breedon via Osgathorpe.



From the 1830 land tax registers, we know that our George was living in plot 581 on the 1829 map and was still there on the 1842 register:

George <u>Mugliston</u>	in hand	581			ho
Sir George Crewe	Richard <u>Measham</u>	590			ho
	Thomas <u>Measham</u> senior	593			ho
		683			ga
		845			ga
Thomas Pearsall	John Marshall junior	595			ho

1830 land tax register

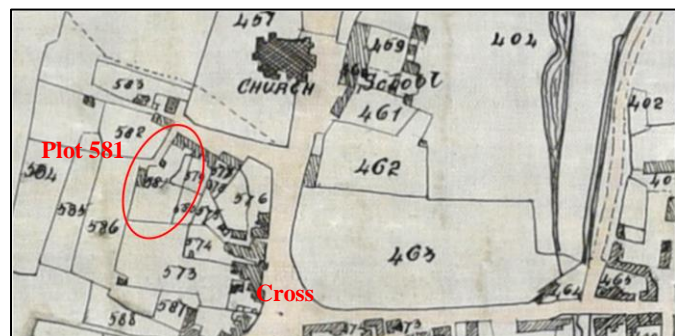
Thomas <u>Measham</u>	Mary <u>Measham</u>	4/0		House
George <u>Mugliston</u>	In hand	581		House
Robert Morley	In hand	613		Middle

1842 land tax register

(Transcriptions by Charles P)



Plot 581 now – the Red House



1829 map

Following the censuses through from 1841 to 1881 we find George (Snr) was there with his daughter Georgiana and son George (Jnr) till he died in 1853. Charles notes that George (Snr) left the property to his 5 children but George (Jnr) and Georgiana were still there in 1881. Neither had children or married. George died in 1888 and Georgiana in 1889.



Before 1895

It is likely that William Lowe Mugliston bought his siblings out because Charles noted that he is the owner on a valuation office survey and it fits the (much worn) foundation stone of the rebuilt house.



The 1891 census has the Meyer family living in the Mugliston house – the thatched version. Dr Meyer had a Phd and was a teacher at Repton School. He was born in Hanover in 1852 and married to Leopoldine who was Austrian. They applied for naturalisation in 1891 and this was granted in 1893. They had 5 children with them, 3 born in Austria, one in Switzerland and one in Repton. However, from the 1911 census we know she actually lost 2 children - one of whom, Dora, had died in October 1890 and is buried in the churchyard aged 1 year 9 months. The other may be Hans who disappears from the records after the 1891 census. Charley went to Canada and joined the Canadian Army to fight in WWI and died in France in 1918. Dr Meyer was popular locally and fully integrated into village life, its celebrations and its politics.

The Meyer's at the Mugliston House (Red House)



This photograph must have been taken about 1892 as the 1901 census includes baby Hilda, born December 1891

Mary	Elizabeth	Ella	Henry	Hilda	Charley	Leopoldine	Dr Henry	Hans
Maddocks	Watson	Meyer	Meyer	Meyer	Meyer	Meyer	Meyer	Meyer
Cook	Maid	(Austria)	(Austria)	(Repton)	(Austria)	(Austria)	(Bavaria)	(Switzerland)

There is another photograph of the house with some excellent beehives. It is probably earlier than the family portrait because a well seems to have been replaced by a pump (behind Hilda).



Sadly, in 1895, the house caught fire. Burton Chronicle September 1895:

"A fire broke out on Monday night in the roof of Dr Meyers house, a very old building opposite the church. Dr Meyer discovered the fire smouldering about 10.15 p.m. The new engine belonging to Repton School was quickly got into use, the hose fortunately being long enough to reach to the old Trent. The origin of the outbreak is unknown but is believed to have been smouldering for some time in a large disused chimney which was roofed over by thatch."

Bunty Marshall noted that a spark from a passing traction engine had started the fire.

Where the Meyers were living immediately after that is not clear - possibly Desford Terrace, but in 1896 Dr Meyer leased the tannery site (between Tanners lane and the Willington Road) from the Holdcrofts and by the following year had built Repton Steam Laundry . There were two springs to supply clean water -St Ann's and, nowadays under the sports pitches, St Thomas' Well which had healing properties for eye problems, never ran dry and never froze in winter. It was also in this year that he applied for a passport.



View from Tanners lane. The original buildings are on the right.

The next year, January 1898, Meyer mortgaged it for £1000 and in April sold it to Henry Kidd for £10. Henry was a well to do business gentleman (member of St James' Club in Piccadilly) from Lowood, Melrose, Roxburgh in Scotland. His connection with Repton was that one of his sisters had married Rev Gurney, an Assistant Master at Repton School and Housemaster at the Priory on High Street. Also with them was another sister. In July that year, Meyer resigned his teaching position and in August he disappeared. The village turned out to search woods, fields and ponds but there was no trace.

By the 1901 census, Leopoldine and daughters Hilda and Ella had moved into Desford Terrace on Milton Road. Leopoldine had private means but in 1901 Ella worked in the laundry - hand washing collars and shirts. Nine year old Hilda was still a school girl - but doesn't appear in the village school admissions register so was probably home schooled. She went on to train as a Kindergarten Teacher. Ella became Matron at the Clergy Daughter's School in Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmorland and then married an Engineer based in Cornwall.

The laundry provided work for a lot of Repton villagers and was managed by Mr E C Bayston. In 1905 Kidd brought in Mr W A Daniels (Ros Hudson's father), an accountant, to try to improve profitability. Daniels found little wrong with it and in 1909 he bought it. The next year a new company was launched – the New Repton and District Laundry Company. Eventually, it was bought by the Lichfield Laundry Co, but went bust. In November 1971, after protracted negotiations, Repton School bought the site for £1500 and it was demolished in 1973.

Which brings this verbal ramble to a slightly sad end.

