# HISTORY OF SANDBACH

## PART 1 years to F.

Compiled by Stewart Green © From 2013 to date.
(Including information from publications by the Sandbach History Society)

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Update 205 Pages 9 April 2019

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## SANDBACH CHURCHES HISTORY
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#01. STATISTICS.

POPULATION
1664 Population of 664 (Estimated by the Hearth Tax)
1801 Population of 1,844
1851 Population of 4,659
1860’s 713 Houses and a population of 3,252.
1901 Population of 5,558
1914 URBAN DISTRICT WARDS East 2,707; North 1,975; West 1,041
  SANDBACH ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH 4,171 and Sandbach Heath 1,258
  Parish Clerk William Nock
  Sexton Arthur Allcock
  (1914 Kelly’s Directory)
1951 Population of 9,253 (National Census)
1961 Population of 9,862 (National Census)
  (Men 4,811 / Female 5,051 / with a density of 2.7 people per acre of land)
1966 Population 10,350 (Town Guide)
1970’s Population 15,000 residents
1984 Population 14,724 (5,331 Houses)
  (Men 7,200 / Female 7,385 / Married Male 4,011 to 4,4023 / Pensioners 2,382 /
  CAR OWNERS Families with –
  0 car = 1,383 / 1 Car = 2,838 / 2 Cars or More = 980 /
  3 Cars or more = 128)
1991 Population 15,839 (National Census)
2001 Population 17,630
2013 Population 18,023 (Supplied by GeoNames Database)
  (Ages 0 to 15 = 17.6% / 16-64 = 62.7% / 65+ = 19.6%)
  (3172.048 People) (11300.421 People) (3532.508 People)
  (180.23 People per 1% Approx)
  Approx 7,416 Houses in Sandbach. (based on 2 Adults per house)
  (8,000 Houses Quoted in 2013)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICTS
1875-1894 Sandbach Urban Sanitary District
1894-1974 Sandbach Urban District Council
1974 – 2009 Congleton Borough Council
2009 to Date Cheshire East (County Council)
+ Sandbach Town Council (Town Council)

REGISTRATION DISTRICTS (Birth Death and Marriage + Census)
1837-1937 Congleton
1937-1974 Crewe
1974 -1988 Crewe or Congleton (and /or)
1988 – 1998 South Cheshire
1998-2007 Cheshire East
2007-2009 Cheshire (East and West)
2009 to date Cheshire East

HIGHEST TOWN POPULATION IN THE CHESHIRE EAST AREA. (2011 Census)
1. Crewe (Highest) (71,722 People)
2. Macclesfield (56,581 People)
3. Wilmslow (35,945 Population)
4. Congleton (26,482 Population)
5. Sandbach (17,976 Population)
6. Nantwich (17,466 Population)
7. Poynton (15,282 Population)
8. Middlewich (13,595 Population)
9. Alsager (13,395 Population)
10. Knutsford (13,191 Population)
11. Bollington (7,373 Population)
12. Holmes Chapel (5,605 Population)
13. Haslington (4855 Population)

#01a. DEFIBRILLATOR’S IN SANDBACH
There are a number of Defibrillator’s in Sandbach available for Public use.
Ambulance Station, Congleton Road (Available Emergency Services only Via 999 Call)
Ashfields Primary Care Centre (Middlewich Road).
Co-op on Middlewich Road, Elworth
Fire Station (On Emergency Vehicles / Access for Emergency Services only)
Leisure Centre (Middlewich Road)
Military Arms, Congleton Road (AVAILABLE 24/7 via key code available on 999 call)
Sandbach Community Primary School, Crewe Road (Term Time Only)
Sandbach High School, Middlewich Road (Term Time Only)
Saxon Cross Antiques, Town Mill, High Street, Sandbach (Opening Times)
Town Hall (On Stairs)
Town Hall as part of the Market Hall.
Turnpike Court, Middlewich Road, Elworth (Old People’s Home)
Westfields (Cheshire East Council Building / Monday to Friday opening times)

COUNCIL TAX PAYMENTS (% Rate to nearest 3 Decimal Places)

PAYMENTS Band F Comparison Years.

2014-15
SANDBACH – BAND F
£1,756.94 = Cheshire East
£83.33 Sandbach Town Council
£99.80 = Cheshire Fire Brigade
£221.30 = Police / Crime Commission
£2164.37 TOTAL

2015-16
SANDBACH - BAND F
£1,756.94 = Cheshire East (No Change)
£90.60 Sandbach Town Council (Up £7.27) 8.2%
£101.78 = Cheshire Fire Brigade (Up £1.98)
£225.67 = Police / Crime Commission (Up £4.37)
£2174.99 TOTAL (TOTAL Up £10.62) 0.49067% Rise

Police / Crime Commission
- BAND A = £104.15
- BAND B = £121.51
- BAND C = £138.87
- BAND D = £156.23
- BAND E = £190.95
- BAND F = £255.67
- BAND G = £260.38
- BAND H = £312.46

Snapshot of Payments 2015-16 BAND B (£1,122.35 + Local Council Tax).
%  SANDBACH  CONGLETON
80.386% = £946.04 = Cheshire East £946.04 = Cheshire East
4.632% = £48.78 Sandbach Town Council £54.52 = Congleton Town Council
4.656% £54.52 = Cheshire Fire Brigade £54.52 = Cheshire Fire Brigade
10.324% = £121.51 = Police / Crime Commission £121.51 = Police / Crime Commission
100% £1171.13 TOTAL £1176.87 TOTAL

BANDING FOR COUNCIL TAX 2015-16
(The following columns are for Cheshire East without a Town Council tax included, Sandbach with Cheshire East and Sandbach Town Council Tax added and Congleton with Cheshire East and Congleton Town Council Tax added)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAND A (£40,000 or Less)</th>
<th>CHESHIRE EAST</th>
<th>SANDBACH TOWN</th>
<th>Congleton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£962.01</td>
<td>£1003.82</td>
<td>£1008.74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAND B (£40,001 to £52,000)</td>
<td>£1,122.35</td>
<td>£1,171.13</td>
<td>£1176.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£1,282.69</td>
<td>£1,338.44</td>
<td>£1,345.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAND D (£68,001 to £88,000)</td>
<td>£1,443.03</td>
<td>£1,505.75</td>
<td>£1,513.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£1,763.71</td>
<td>£1,840.37</td>
<td>£1,849.39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAND E (£88,001 to £120,000)</td>
<td>£2,084.39</td>
<td>£2,174.99</td>
<td>£2,185.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£2,277.60</td>
<td>£2,276.80</td>
<td>£2,276.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAND G (£160,001 to £320,000)</td>
<td>£2,405.04</td>
<td>£2,509.57</td>
<td>£2,521.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£2,886.06</td>
<td>£3,011.50</td>
<td>£3,026.26</td>
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</table>

2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAND D</th>
<th>CHESHIRE EAST</th>
<th>SANDBACH TOWN</th>
<th>Congleton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire East Council</td>
<td>£1,216.34</td>
<td>£1,237.62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire East Borough (Adult care)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>£24.33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheshire Fire</td>
<td>£70.46</td>
<td>£71.86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police / Crime Commission</td>
<td>£156.23 (If unchanged)</td>
<td>£161.23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbach Town Council</td>
<td>£81.76</td>
<td>£81.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACTUAL PRICE</td>
<td>TOTAL £1,576.80 per annum</td>
<td>£1,576.25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BAND A (£40,000 or Less)</th>
<th>CHESHIRE EAST</th>
<th>SANDBACH TOWN</th>
<th>Congleton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£1,051.21</td>
<td>£1,050.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAND B (£40,001 to £52,000)</td>
<td>£1,226.39</td>
<td>£1,225.96</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£1,401.61</td>
<td>£1,401.12</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BAND D (£68,001 to £88,000)</td>
<td>£1,237.62</td>
<td>£1,576.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£1,927.21</td>
<td>£1,926.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAND F (£120,001 to £160,000)</td>
<td>£2,277.60</td>
<td>£2,276.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£</td>
<td>£2,628.01</td>
<td>£2,627.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAND G (£160,001 to £320,000)</td>
<td>£2,405.04</td>
<td>£2,509.57</td>
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</table>
### 2019-2020

#### Cheshire East Borough Council Tax

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Banding 2019-2020</th>
<th>Sandbach Town</th>
<th>Congleton</th>
<th>Crewe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band A (£40,000 or Less)</td>
<td>£1206.31</td>
<td>£1207.11</td>
<td>£1191.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band B (£40,001 to £52,000)</td>
<td>£1407.35</td>
<td>£1408.28</td>
<td>£1390.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band C (£52,001 to £68,000)</td>
<td>£1608.40</td>
<td>£1609.46</td>
<td>£1588.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band D (£68,001 to £88,000)</td>
<td>£1809.45</td>
<td>£1810.65</td>
<td>£1787.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band E (£88,001 to £120,000)</td>
<td>£2211.55</td>
<td>£2213.02</td>
<td>£2184.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band F (£120,001 to £160,000)</td>
<td>£2613.65</td>
<td>£2615.38</td>
<td>£2581.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band G (£160,001 to £320,000)</td>
<td>£3015.76</td>
<td>£3017.76</td>
<td>£2978.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band H (£320,001 and Over)</td>
<td>£3618.90</td>
<td>£3621.30</td>
<td>£3574.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Nantwich

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Banding 2019-2020</th>
<th>Nantwich</th>
<th>Nether Alderley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band A (£40,000 or Less)</td>
<td>£1225.71</td>
<td>£1209.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band B (£40,001 to £52,000)</td>
<td>£1429.98</td>
<td>£1411.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band C (£52,001 to £68,000)</td>
<td>£1634.26</td>
<td>£1612.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band D (£68,001 to £88,000)</td>
<td>£1838.55</td>
<td>£1814.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band E (£88,001 to £120,000)</td>
<td>£2247.12</td>
<td>£2217.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band F (£120,001 to £160,000)</td>
<td>£2655.68</td>
<td>£2620.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band G (£160,001 to £320,000)</td>
<td>£3064.26</td>
<td>£3024.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band H (£320,001 and Over)</td>
<td>£3677.10</td>
<td>£3629.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Banding</th>
<th>Sandbach Town</th>
<th>Congleton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Band A (£40,000 or Less)</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Band G (£160,001 to £320,000)</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band H (£320,001 and Over)</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The name Sandbach means 'The Sandy Valley of a Stream' in "Olde English".

### Unkn
Over the years the Welsh and the Danish had invaded this quiet town in Cheshire.

### c 43 to 82 A.D.
A Roman Road from Middlewich to Chesterton passed through Sandbach. Between 2005 and 2009 Alex York and a team of volunteers excavated the Roman Road through Elworth and onto Malkin’s Bank on the Middlewich to Chesterton link and has found links to Reesheath, Whitchurch and Wrenbury. He has also discovered the remains of a road near the M6 at Hassall.

### c 653 A.D.
The Saxon Crosses were made to celebrate the marriage of Peada, Son of Penda, King of Mercia to his bride Alchfleda, the daughter of Osway the Christian King of Northumbria. (First quoted in Earwaker’s History of Sandbach 1890 and is the story most children in the area grew up with.)

### 9th Century
A Minster is recorded in the Town but seems to have disappeared during the late 9th Century. Like a number of other ecclesiastical foundations, Sandbach may have become a victim of Viking raids but as Sandbach is far inland this may not be the case as most Viking raids were on the East Coast by the sea.

### 1086 AD
In the Doomsday Book the town was called SANBECD (or Sanbec).
This was the earliest evidence of a town in this part of Cheshire. It records two entries.
(I have added Numbers after ii’s to make it easier to understand)

1. "The same bigot holds Sandbecd. Dunning held it and was free. There is i (1.) hide reteable to the gelt and a virgate and a half so rateable. The land is ii (2) carucates. There is a foreigner with half a carucate and iii (3) serfs and there are two villeins with half a carucate. There is a priest and a church. A wood half a league long and xi (11.) perches broad. In King Edward's time it was worth iv (4) shillings; now viii (8) shillings”.

2. "The Earl himself holds Sandbec for two virgates and a half rateable to the gelt and Clive for i (1.) virgate so rateable and Sutton for iv (4) virgates so rateable and Wibaldelai for i (1.) virgate so rateable and Wever for i (1.) virgate so rateable and Aculvestune for i (1.) hide so rateable. Six free men hold these lands for vi (6) manors. The land is vii (7) carucates among them. The whole was and is waste”.

### About 1200
The first church was built in Sandbach.

### 1260
The town was recorded as being called SONDBACHE from the Anglo Saxon "sand baece” meaning sand stream or sand valley.

### 13th Century
The land around Sandbach was held by Richard De Sandbache, who in 1230 was High Sheriff of Cheshire. He unsuccessfully laid claim to the advowson of Sandbach Church against Earl Randle de Blundeville.

Richard’s son John De Sandbache also claimed the right to the land winning the day temporarily against the Abbey of Diemlacres, only to lose it soon after when the dispute was carried to the King’s Bench and the case was won by the Abbot on the evidence of the Doomsday Book which proved that the Earl Randle Meschimes (Earl of Chester) had originally given the advowson to the Monks of Diemlacres. An estate in Sandbach is called Abbey fields after the Abbey of Diemlacres.

When Richard de Sandbach died, this was the end of the family line as he didn't have any male heir's. His only heir was a daughter called Elizabeth who became the wife of John de Legh (the son of John de Legh, of Booths.) John de Legh and Elizabeth only had one child. The child was again a daughter called Matilda de Legh who eventually married Richard de Radcliffe of Ordsall. The line of the manor again passed down through the distaff (female line) of this new family the de Radcliffe's in about 1361 (See 1611). Richard also inherited his
father's estate. The estate was finally purchased by Sir Randulph (or Randle) Crewe.

Mid 13th Century The area responsible by Sandbach Minster Church could have extended towards Middlewich and Davenhan (Near Northwich). By the mid 13th Century it was reduced to an area around the Church with two chapelries at Holmes Chapel and Goosery.

1570 The Lower Chequer Inn was built.
1578 It is mentioned in a publication that the excellent quality of Sandbach Malt Liquor and Worsted yarns were made in quantity.
1578 A charter granted by Queen Elizabeth 1st to the town a market in 1578 on application by Sir John Radcliffe, of Ordsell, in Lancashire.
1579 On the 4th May 1579 Sir John Radcliffe of Ordsall (In Lancashire) applied to hold Fairs and Markets in Sandbach from Queen Elizabeth 1st. The market would be held on Thursday with two fairs each year being held. One of these two dates still takes place during the September ‘Wakes’.

Sir John Radcliffe also applied for the right to establish a Court-Leet and a Court of Pied-Powder.

1580 The Black Bear Public House was built.
1583 Gentlemen fined for playing bowls on Scotch Common.
1600’s The George Hotel was built as the George and Dragon. It is possible that the building was replaced in 1810 with the current structure.

1611 In 1611 Sir John Radcliffe became the last member of his family to hold the Manor of Sandbach as he mortgaged it for the sum of £2,200 before eventually selling the majority off it off. The family had held the manor for the last 250 years.

In a deed dated the 7th November 1611 the Radcliffe family sold the Manor’s land to Richard Steele, Hugh Moss, John Wright, William Shaw and other Sandbach yeomen and land owners. The Manorial rights and the remaining lands were sold to Sir Randolph (or Randle) Crewe.

1634 The George Hotel was built as the George and Dragon.
1639 Black and white building built on Front Street.

3 Sept 1651 On the 3rd September 1651 whilst the September Fair was in full swing, a skirmish took place at (What is now called) Scotch Common when a party of about 1,000 of the King's Cavalry, made up of a bunch of Scotsmen, came to Sandbach after their defeat at the Battle of Worcester earlier in the day (on the 3 Sept 1651) a skirmish that turned out to be Cromwell’s final victory.

King Charles 2nd had been in France since the Battle of Naseby where he gained support from the Covenanting Party in Scotland. In 1650 Charles returned and was then crowned King of England in Scone, Scotland. Despite Cromwell’s victory at Dunbar, Charles decided to invade England resulting in the Battle of Worcester. The pretender King had been in the town since the 22 August 1651 and on the 3 September Cromwell's army and the Kings army of Scots met at Worcester.

After the battle the Kings army scattered with some of the Scots, who had seen action under David Leslie, attempting to pass through Sandbach on their way home. Sandbach at the time was loyal to the Parliamentarians and seeing the poor state of the Kings army, the town's folk set upon the army with poles from the Market stalls and killed many of them. Those captured were stored in the Churchyard. The Rev. Henry Newcome in his diary wrote on the 7th September 1651 that he had to preach in the Churchyard on that Sunday due to the prisoners being in the church waiting for Cromwell’s Militia to come.

A story I was told when I was young is that the bodies of the dead were laid to rest in a plot of land near Sandbach Heath, later called ‘Pipers Hollow’, the exact spot that the M6 Motorway passes through the town and where the Saxon Cross Motel used to stand.

On the occasion of the burial a lone piper, who it was thought to be dead, recovered enough to play a lament while the bodies of his comrades were being buried. On completion of this task he was also killed and buried along with his kinsfolk. It is said that the Ghost of the Piper can be heard along that stretch of the motorway. The area of land where the piper is buried along with his comrades has become known as “Piper’s Hollow” and the meadow next to it is called “Scotch Meadow”.

An account of the incident on Scotch Common was recorded in one of the earliest newspapers “The Mercurius Politicus” number 66 which refers to the incident as
follows:
“They so managed the business that, when the Scots offered to fire, they ran into
their homes and soon as that party was past which had the pistols and powder,
they fell upon the remainder of the troops and continued pealing and billing
them during the passage of all their horse.”

1660 Charity set up by local people that would eventually lead to the “Almshouses” (See
Almshouses).

1661 St Mary’s Church was built (See above for more details)

28 Sept 1677 SANDBACH SCHOOL ESTABLISHED. (see 1851)
We know that Sandbach School was Founded on the 28th September 1677 by
Richard Lea and Francis Welles it is surrounded in 18 acres of land on the
Crewe Road. It was what they called an “Endowed School” for children between
the ages of eight and eighteen.

1680 Two public houses were built in this year. "The Crown" and "The Market Tavern".

17th Century During the 17th Century Sandbach was noted for the quality of its Ales, which
were popular in London. Production of a Sandbach Ale seems to have ceased
by the late 19th Century.

1733 The building that now houses the Leonard Cheshire home on "The Hill" was built.

1740 Marriott House built. It was originally called "The Commons House". (see 1897)

1760 Police Station built on the Market Square (Now Godfrey Williams Delicatessen).
The Police entered from the rear of the building (Now the St Mary’s Hall Side)
and had the top floor of the building (Now a Hairdressers) as their rooms with
the station in the basement. It is possible that the cells were situated there or
were accessed via a tunnel to the Original Town Hall which had cells under the
Magistrate’s court.

1760 Church House on the Market Square was built. In 1972 it was rebuilt.

1785 Sandbach Wesleyan Society formed.

19th Century Sandbach was a busy coaching point with 'The Royal Sovereign' coach running to
London on a daily business, with the 'Rocket' taking its passengers to Liverpool and
Birmingham. Another coach 'The Nettle' journeyed daily to Manchester and
Nantwich.

Stopping off points.
THE ROYAL SOVEREIGN The George.
THE ROCKET The George.
THE NETTLE The Wheat sheaf yard.

COACHES

GEORGE HOTEL 1834 Timetable
12.30pm (Every Day) To London – The ROYAL MAIL from Liverpool
2pm (Tuesday to Sun) To London – RED ROVER
10pm (Every Day) To London - ERIN GO BRAGH
Various Times Each day To Liverpool from London.

WHEAT SHEAF 1834 Timetable
7.30am (Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat) To Manchester –
ROYAL WILLIAM via Middlewich.
8pm (Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat) To Nantwich – ROYAL WILLIAM.

TURNPIKE ROADS
Sandbach also had some Turnpike roads with Toll Bars on them in the following places ;-:
Sandbach at the Middlewich Road end of Abbey Road.
Wheelock at Crewe Road, opposite the churchyard.
The Black and White Toll cottage is still standing.
Crewe Green at the junction of the Crewe and Sydney roads.
Holmes Chapel at London Rd, about 100 yards on the Brereton side.
At the Cross-roads at Saltersford on the far side of the River Dane Bridge.
Betchton beyond the New Inn on the Newcastle Road
and at the Junction of Chells Hill Road.

SANDBACH TOLL ROADS INFORMATION
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Act of Parliament</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Length in Miles</th>
<th>Main Gates</th>
<th>Side gates and Bars 1848</th>
<th>Income from Tolls</th>
<th>Total debt 1838</th>
<th>Average income per gate</th>
<th>Road Names</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nantwich to Wheelock Wharf</td>
<td>56 Geo3 c15</td>
<td>11 Apr 1816</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>A49 to A5020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandbach To Congleton</td>
<td>5/6 will4c37</td>
<td>1835</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>3250</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>A534 (Congleton Road)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runcorn and Northwich</td>
<td>59 Geo3 c85</td>
<td>1819</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3800</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>A533 (Middlewich Road)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Span Smithy, Linley Lane</td>
<td>28 Geo3 c104</td>
<td>1788</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>2520</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>A533 Middlewich Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Span Smithy, Booth Lane</td>
<td>26 Geo2 c84</td>
<td>1753</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>876</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>A533 Middlewich Road (Via A5018)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TURNPIKE ROAD HISTORY
Established in England and Wales from about 1706 they were used to pay to maintain roads rather like the toll roads of today. Each Road was set up by an individual “Act of Parliament” and by the 1830’s there was about 1,000 trusts and over 30,000 miles of road with 8,000 toll gates.
Between 1873 and 1878 most of the trusts were wound up by General Acts of Parliament.

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c1809  The Wheelock Mill was constructed starting the Textile Industry in Sandbach.
1809  Sandbach Congregational Sunday School opened.
1809  In 1909 on the anniversary of the school they held a service on the 12 and 15 September in celebration.

1810  The first Town Hall was built in Sandbach.
1810  In 1882 Thomas Hughes (.b. 20 Oct 1822 ,D. 22 Mar 1896 - The writer of Tom Brown’s Schooldays) was appointed to a County Court Judgeship in the Chester District in July of that year an appointment that included Sandbach and worked out of the Town Hall.

1815-16  Saxon Crosses collected from all over the area to be rebuilt in the Market Square.
1816  The Market Square and the yard of the Malt-Kiln in Bradwall Road were cobbled.
30 May 1825  On the 30 May 1825 the first stone was bought for a new Bridge in Sandbach (Later named Brook Bridge). It had been bought by Charles Whittingham and was laid by William Smith the Builder on June 22 1825.
30 May 1825  On the 3 November 1825 the Last Stone of the arch was laid by William Smith and William Dickinson in the presence of Mr William Cross Snr at 10am.
30 May 1825  On the 13 December 1826 (or 1825) the “Cinter” or Centre stone of the Battlement was laid by Francis Johnson Ford Esq. one of the Magistrates of the Hundred of Northwich, Cheshire.
30 May 1825  Under a Copper Plate Mr Ford deposited one Half Crown, One Shilling, one Sixpence and one Silver Sheffield “Jobu” with a value of sixpence.
30 May 1825  Also deposited was one Copper Penny and one Half-Penny.
30 May 1825  See Ford

1835  Nationally, Local Government came into being with the introduction of the “British Municipal Corporations Act”.
1835  This act led to the formation of the SANDBACH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT which operated between 1875 and 1894.

1836  An Independent (Congregational) Chapel was built in Hope Street in 1836.
1836  In 1860 a Sunday School and burial ground were added to the site.
1836  In 1893 an extension was added to house a new Schoolroom (Later used as the Little Theatre by the Sandbach Players).

1837  Christ Church Wheelock opened.
5 Sept 1837  The Hope Street Chapel was opened and dedicated by Preacher Reverend J Hill of Oxford and the Reverend Samuel Luke of Chester.

Sandbach in 1837  SANDBACH AT THIS TIME from a leaflet by E Wakefield.

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Sandbach Celebrated the Coronation of Queen Victoria at Westminster Abbey on the 28 June 1838 with an event on the Market Square.
1840  The Manchester to Crewe railway opened. (see railway).
1842  The South Porch of St Mary's was destroyed.
4 May 1842  SANDBACH STATION
The first train to run on this line was on the 4th May 1842 from Manchester to Sandbach while the first train to Crewe didn't run until the 10th August 1842 with six trains running a regular service. The Rev. John Armistead wrote in 1860 that there were seven trains each way daily calling at the Sandbach and Holmes Chapel stations.
1843  Commons or Newfield Silk Mill built for John Woolley.
1844  Two "Poor Houses" on The Hill replaced by Workhouse in Arclid. (See Almshouses)
1846  On the 1st September 1846 the Rev. W Sylvester from the Hope Street Chapel died (Aged 69). On the day of his funeral the whole town turned out with all the shops shutting in respect for the well-loved Preacher. A tombstone was paid for by public subscription and laid on his grave in the Hope Street Chapel graveyard (Now the Car Park to the side).
1847 - 1849  Sir George Gilbert Scott (.b. 13 July 1811 .D. 27 Mar 1878) reconstructed St Mary's Church. (Built the Albert Memorial in London)
1850  The gate house at Sandbach School was built by Sir George Gilbert Scott.
1850  Silk factory built on "The Hill" along with Mill Row (Chimney Row) houses for the workers.
1850  In 1850 there were Twelve establishments recorded as Hotels, Inns, Taverns, or Beer Houses.
1851  SANDBACH SCHOOL NEW BUILDING
The school moved onto its present site in 1851 when a building designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott was finished. (see 1677)
1853  The 1st Public baths were opened in Sandbach on Newcastle Road.
1854  The Savings Bank was opened next to the Literary Institution (Now the Lloyds Bank). It was built by Mr Thomas Stringer and designed by Jas Harrison.
1857  The Literary Institution was built by Sir George Gilbert Scott.
1857  Miss Sarah Sibson died leaving enough money to build St John's Church Sandbach Heath.
1857  A New Country Police Station was erected in Bold Street at a cost of £800 with an edifice of Brick and Stone. It has offices, cells and a residence for the chief officer. In 1914 William Lawson was the Sergeant in charge with 6 men.
1859  Providence School built in Chapel Street. (Now the Scout Hall).
1860's  Sandbach had 713 Houses and a population of 3252. Its business was as shoe makers for the Manchester and Liverpool Markets and Silk-throwsting activities. Its buildings included, a Head Post Office, Railway station, Corn exchange, Banking office, 3 Chief Inns, a Market place, A Town Hall, a County Police Station, a Savings Bank (in the Tudor Style), Public Baths, a Fire engine station, a Church, 4 dissenting Chapels, a Grammar School, large national schools. It also had a weekly market on a Thursday, an Easter Fair (Easter Tuesday) and Fairs on the Tuesday after 12 September and on the 28th December. Also in the market square are the Ancient Crosses.
1860  Brook Mill Opened.
12 June 1861  St John’s Church in Sandbach Heath was consecrated.
1862  Sandbach Industrial Co-operative Society (Limited) formed. The “Sandbach Industrial and Co-operative Society Ltd No 2 Branch” was at 462 Crewe Road Wheelock now the Magus Electronics building.
1865  20 Almshouses were built in Sandbach on Newcastle Road. They were designed by
Sir George Gilbert Scott at a cost of £2,500.

1866. Wheelock Railway Station was opened (see 1930).

1866. The auctioneers Hilditch and Sons opened.

In 2004 it is being run by Andrew Hilditch at a different location.

1868. Salt works opened in Wheelock.

1870. George Hancock retired from the business, officially but still acted as a consultant when the company became (Edwin Foden) FODEN AND HANCOCK.

1871. Wesleyan Society open a Sunday school building on Church Street behind what is now the Wesleyan Chapel (See 1872)

22 July 1871. Coroner for Mid Cheshire Mr Dunstan resumed the inquest into the death of Joseph Birley and Samuel Hamerton who had been killed in a Railway Accident. The Court was held at the Commercial Hotel, Sandbach.

24 Feb 1873. PC James Green (b. 1836. D. 24 Feb 1873) was murdered while on duty and his body was dumped in the Trent and Mersey Canal near Elworth. He was the first Cheshire officer to be killed on duty and is now buried at St Peter’s Church along with his wife Ann.

A bridge in Moston is known as “Stabbers Bridge” after the event. Born in Handbridge, Chester James Green had been a member of the Cheshire Force for six years and was stationed at Bradwall near Sandbach.

It was while he was on plain clothes duty observing a James Buckley a farm worker, known larcenist and petty pilferer of Moss Green near Elworth that PC Green was attacked and dumped in the canal at Moss Bridge (Oakwood Lane / Moss Lane). Buckley was arrested by Superintendent Rowbottom who found him working on his farm with a bruised forehead, face, a lacerated nose and two black eyes which the criminal put down to a branch falling on him while he was pruning the tree.

At his trial evidence of tools including a garden fork were presented with blood stains on them which specialists were unable to say had human blood on them and Buckley said they were in fact pig’s blood.

After a 10 minute deliberation the jury acquitted Buckley of the murder a clear case of injustice when a guilty man is set free due to a lack of evidence.

1874. Gas Works built near Brook Street Silk Mill.

1875. Williams delicatessen was opened for the first time. In 2004 it was being run as Godfrey Williams and Son (David) and now is run by Godfrey’s grandson Daniel.

1877 -77. The area round the St Mary's church closed for extension work on the cemetery to take place.

1876. The Town Water Fountain was moved due to the extension of the churchyard.

1876. The company “Foden and Hancock” changed to EDWIN FODEN AND SON.

1877. Sandbach Industrial Co-operative Society (Limited) built a factory and shops in Bold Street.

1877. Andrew Martin (Timber Merchant and Saw Mill) – Established in 1877 at Wheelock Nr Sandbach. They continued until after 1933.

1870 - 1880. Manchester District Bank built next to the Wheat sheaf Hotel. Established in Manchester in 1829 the bank had branches in Sandbach, Holmes Chapel and Elworth as part of 400 branches by 1906.

April 1885. An inquest was held into the death of Mr John Seaman (Aged 49) who died after the paraffin lamp he was turning down exploded. This was one of three deaths from the same cause that year that coroner Mr Deputy-Corner Blunt.

1885 to 1886. George William Latham (Liberal) (Crewe CONSTITUENCY) became the first MP for the area representing Sandbach.

SANDBACH URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT 1875- 1894

1886. Sandbach Cricket Club was Formed.

4 Oct 1886. Living at Bradwall Hall was Mr George W. Latham M.P. who died on the 4 October 1886. Known thru-out Cheshire he was the founder of the Bradwall Reformatory (Institute for Reforming Juvenile Offenders). He suffered for many years from the most painful Malady and after his death in 1886 his funeral was probably the largest public ceremony in the town up until this date.
Mr George W. Latham was the area’s first M.P. representing the Crewe area Between 1885 and 1886. After his funeral he was buried at St John’s Church, Sandbach Heath.

1888
The 2nd Town Hall was built. (In 1891 it was demolished)
Also used as a Magistrates Court with Police cells underneath.

1889
The Foundation Stone of the present Town Hall (3rd building) was laid on the 2 July 1889.

September 1889
The local newspaper reported that the Snapes “BRITANNIA” Theatre Started a second season of plays on Scotch Common Sandbach.
The season started on the 16th September 1889 with the play “The Dark City”
And ended on the 9 November 1889 with the two plays “Monte Christo” and “Oliver Twist”. This would have been a portable theatre possibly in a big tent which toured the country.
A report in the 8 May 1875 Chester Observer showed that Mr Snape had applied to erect a theatre on the Common which had been rejected despite having been to the town before.

1890
The Wheat Sheaf Hotel opened.

1890

1890
Water fountain in the centre of the town donated by Lord Crewe. It was erected in the middle of the Roundabout outside the Wheat sheaf Hotel.

c1890
Sandbach Cricket Club was founded on Crewe Road in about 1890.
In the 1980’s PICCAR took over the assets of the Foden Company and decided to sell off the Cricket Ground at the top of Wells Street / Green Street which has also held numerous Company sports days.
In the early 1980’s (before July 1984) the club moved to the former Fodens Company Sports ground who had now moved all its sports activities to Elworth.
In 2005 an offer was put to the club by Morris Homes a housing company for the land to build on and it was decided to sell the grounds in the town centre and move to Hind Heath Road, Ettley Heath with a new playing field and pavilion built by Termax who had no end of trouble building the pavilion as the ground had an underground stream and sinking sand which collapsed drains in the area.

Oct 1890
The 3rd Town Hall was opened.
(Tuesday before 29 Oct / 1 Nov 1890 Newspaper coverage)

1891
Waterworks built near Dingle Lake. A Water tower was also constructed near the Common. The Water Tower was demolished in 1962.
The Water Tower was designed by William W Wyatt (Civil Engineer of Whitchurch) and was built by John Stringer (District Surveyor and Engineer) with a design that resembled Windsor Castle.

1891
Sewage works opened on "The Hill". (see 1908)

1891
Dingle Lake created by Mr Walter Lea with an island in the middle.

1891
2nd Town Hall demolished.

1892
The Hungerford Café and Private Hotel opened next to the Town Hall.
Over the years the building has been a Co-op store (Closed 1994) and various
other shops and businesses.

19 Sept 1892 A new fountain in the middle of the town of Sandbach was handed over officially to Lord Crewe. The fountain is positioned in the middle of the roundabout by the Literary institute.

1893 The CONGLETON CHRONICLE started. It would later produce a version called the SANDBACH CHRONICLE that continues to date. In 1902 the Sandbach Chronicle was published and printed by Robert Head (Or Robert Hend) with Miss Harriet Jones, Local Publisher (Saturday) based in High Town, Sandbach.

1893 On Wednesday the 30 August 1893 the Cheshire Agricultural Show was held at Sandbach.

19 Sept 1893 On the 19 September 1893 Miss Manchester laid the foundation stone of a new School building next to the Hope Street Chapel. The extension was opened in early 1894 at a total cost of £850. The building later became the home of the Sandbach Players until the Chapel found Dry Rot in the building and they decided to sell the old School room.

1894 Mr W.J. Harper, R.A.I. (Lonson) wrote a history of Sandbach book called “Old Sandbach”. Published in 1894 by James Hitchings at Excelsior Works, Printers at Market Street, Hanley it was available for One Shilling.

1895 The Swan Hotel rebuilt by Mr John Stringer.

1896 “Wrights” the printers started in the town. The company produced leaflets and publications at its Middewich Road works for 117 years before it closed in 2013.

Before its closure the company produced brochures for Bentley, Nissan, Michelin, Odeon Cinemas, British Airways, Wrights Pies and since 2009 have sponsored and produced leaflets and programmes for Foden’s Band.

In June 2012 the company went into administration but was rescued by Andrew Schne the managing director who bought out the company.

However on the 31 July 2013 the company went into liquidation and closed its doors for the last time.

1897 The number 4 Branch of the Sandbach Industrial Co-operative Society (Limited) opened in premises at the Top of “The Hill”.

1897 The Marriott family donated land (Now the Park) and their house (Marriott House, now the library) to the town. It was described as a “Technical School, Public Gardens and Pleasure Gardens” and was opened in November that year.

1898 The Town Celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Queen Victoria’s Coronation.

1899 Mr R.W. Tomlinson wrote a history of Sandbach book.

1899 R. A. TOMLINSON (A relative of R. W. Tomlinson who wrote the history of Sandbach) Owned a building in High Street which was a Printers, Bookseller and Stationer.

The building also housed the Sandbach Branch of “THE MODERN CIRCULATING LIBRARY” with the latest novels from the best authors as soon as they are published. Books could be borrowed at a cost of 2d for four or seven days according to the value of the book.

The shop also provided a Photographers which produced - “Artistic Photographic Views of the District”

The company provided two series of Albums of Views each containing
16-17 May 1900  INTERNATIONAL EVENT.

The “Relief of Mafeking” happened when British Soldiers were in South Africa defending it from the Dutch settlers known as Boers who wanted independence from Britain.

Unable to stop the Boers the British were penned in at the small African township called Mafeking.

The town had been left under siege for 217 days until it was finally given its freedom by the relief forces.

The British troops in the town were Commanded by Lt. Gen. Robert Baden-Powell (Later founded the Scout Movement) who was made a national hero as he kept the troops moral high and refusing to surrender.

The event was transmitted to Reuters in London at 9.17pm on Friday the 18 May 1900.

This was the event that eventually led to the formation of the FODEN’S BAND which came into existence from the old Sandbach town band and Wheelock Temperance Society Band who had been playing during an event to celebrate the event at Mafeking.

26 May 1900  LOCAL EVENT IN SANDBACH

At 3pm on the 26 May 1900 Mr Francis Poole led a procession from Sandbach to Elworth that included the “Sandbach Volunteer Brass band”.

Decorated floats and a new Foden Steam Traction engine joined the procession and it was suggested by nearby Sandbach Chairman of the Council Cllr. H Billyard that in the evening, all should meet on Sandbach Common for an informal get together.

It was suggested that the bands lead the procession back to Sandbach and they marched through Wheelock where they were joined by the Wheelock Temperance Band. After various speeches it was planned to march back to Elworth for the Evening bonfire, led by Wheelock Temperance Band.

However a local public house in Sandbach, offered free drinks to band members on this day. Some of the Temperance members felt that by accepting this offer it was seen as being against their beliefs and so they decided to take their instruments back to Wheelock and failed to continue with the planned march back to Elworth.

The return event had groups depicting the Army and Navy leading a parade to Elworth where a bonfire had been built on which effigies of the Boer leaders, Kruger and Kronje were to be burned rather like Guy Fawkes on the 5 November.

The members of the Sandbach Volunteer Band also decided not to return to Elworth as the offer of free drinks was too tempting and they stayed in the public House.

The organisers were not pleased at this snub to the celebrations and vowed that Elworth would have its own independent band for these occasions. They met together in the “The Commercial Hotel” in Elworth to discuss this new venture. Mrs Danvers of the “Commercial Hotel” gave the first “Golden” Guinea towards the fund with John Pring of “Wiremaster”, Thomas Plant a local gentleman, John Poole a boot and shoe manufacturer and Edwin Foden all donated to the fund along with numerous other local people.

In “The history of Fodens Motor Works Band” published in 1936 as a promotion leaflet for the company, it described the events of the march and says –

“A vigorous demand for a Military March was passed down the line.
Not a trumpet or a drum was heard!
Jim Davies, a founder member told Allan Littlemore that the Wheelock Temperance Band was tired and it had volunteered to go home and the procession returned without musical honours.”

“Indignation, brought the Elworth leaders together on the very same night …. Resolved forthwith that Elworth henceforth should be musically independent – resolved also that a public subscription should be raised for the purpose of organising and equipping a BRASS BAND.” The Band in question became FODEN’S BAND.

1901 The Park was opened in Sandbach.

27 May 1901  WHIT WEEK - Dingle Lake opened in Sandbach with a “Grand Swimming Gala”. Mr Walter Lea was the Proprietor.
26 June 1902

Medal issued with the date 26 June 1902 and the words Saxon Crosses on it. The reason for the medal is unknown. It is possible it is to commemorate the original date of the Coronation of King Edward VII which was planned for the 26 June but due to the King getting appendicitis it was postponed until the 9 August and many of the commemorative items were left with the original date.

1902

The Boys Brigade was formed in Sandbach – 1st Sandbach and 1st Wheelock Companies were formed. They were founded by the Reverend E. Hampden-Cook from the Hope Street Chapel and lasted for over eight years meeting every Wednesday at the Hope Street Sunday School. The group also had an annual Summer camp at the Seaside.

On his retirement in 1912 the Boys Brigade held a reunion celebration of past and present members to wish the Reverend Hampden-Cook well in the future.

1906

A. W. Dickenson’s Exors, Ironmongers of 27-29 High Street, Sandbach were established in 1906.

19 July 1906

An Express Goods Train from Manchester on the London and North-Western Railway caught fire after passing through Sandbach Station.

July 1907

Dr CHARLES LATHAM died on the (6th or) 7 July 1907.

A prominent local physician, surgeon and registrar who worked in Sandbach and a monument to him was erected outside the Town Hall on the 17 April 1908.

The reason for the monument is unsure but it is said that he would treat the poor for no charge and so when he died a public collection was made by the town with many of the poor (and rich) giving as much as they could afford in memory of this kind doctor.

The Monument was later moved to the Park and now it finally situated outside the Ashfield Primary Care Centre (Middlewich Road).

On the 3rd November 1867 the doctor, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) delivered triplets to the wife of a brass dealer which was reported in “The Lancet”.

Born in 1816 the third son of Richard and Sarah Latham he was also the nephew of John Latham (1761-1843). He went to Manchester Hospital to serve a 5 year apprenticeship with Scottish surgeon, Dr John Robertson.

He then became a dresser at Manchester Infirmary before moving to London to obtain his MRCS and LSA at St Bartholomew’s Hospital.

Dr Latham then returned to Sandbach to become a partner with Mr Sutton.

On the 29 March 1842 he was appointed medical officer for the Sandbach Relief District a position he held for 57 years before he retired on the 22 December 1899.

On the 25 March 1845 Charles Latham was appointed to be the medical officer to the District after the Workhouse was opened another role he held for a long period of 60 years.

For 30 years he was the public Vaccinator and surgeon to the Bradwall Reformatory from its foundation in 1873 until the 19 March 1903.

Before his death he was also the registrar of births and deaths in the town, handing over this duty to his son in 1888.

Dr Charles Latham .b. 1816 .d. (6th or) 7 July 1907.

1843 Married Miss Mary Newnham Cobbe

(Daughter of William Venables Cobbe of Hough, Near Wybunbury)

1845 Son Richard Venables Latham

1849 Son William Henry Latham
1851 Daughter  Catherine Maria Latham
1852 Son       George Frederick Latham
1854 Daughter  Louisa Mary Latham
1856 Son       Harry Newham Latham
1857 Son       Francis Gordon Latham

(see Mr George W. Latham M.P. 4 Oct 1886)

1908 Sewage works closed on "The Hill". (see 1891)
17 April 1908 Monument to Dr Charles Latham unveiled outside the Town Hall. (See above)
Platform dignitaries were Colonel John Kennedy (Brookside, Arclid),
Mr Ezra Harthern (Blackacres), Mr E Holland (Hounding’s Lane),
Reverend John Richard Armistead (Vicar and Chairman of the Memorial Fund Committee), Mr J M Yates (Hassell Hall) and Mrs Kennedy who unveiled the memorial. She was the wife of Colonel Kennedy and sister to the Reverend Armistead.

1910 Sir Ernest Craig speaking in Sandbach on the Market Square a number of pictures show him talking from the back of a carriage outside some shops on the Market Square. In attendance were Mr Arthur Alcock the Sexton of St Mary’s Church, Mr Billie Mainwaring the Undertaker (Double Fronted Shop at the Centre of the Picture), Mr E.R. Foden and Mrs Furnival in the doorway of her sweet shop.
(MP for Crewe 1912 to 1918 and 1924 to 1929 = Sir Ernest Craig, Bt - Conservative)

1910 The Dingle Lake froze over and was used as a skating rink.
1 Oct 1910 FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND WIN THE DOUBLE.
On the 1 October 1910 William Halliwell conducted the band in the second major competition of the year and winning first place with both gave them a unique Double Win in the Brass Band World with the “British Open Championships” and now the National Championship trophies in their cabinet it would not be done again for many years and in 2012 they did it all over again (See 20 Oct 2012)
WINNING TUNES
“Acis and Galatea” by Handel arranged by C Godfrey (British Open 5 Sept 1910)
“Gems of Schubert” (National Championship 1 Oct 1910) arranged by William Rimmer.

1911 CREWE ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL opened.
Designed by A Price and Son it was constructed by John Huxley of Malpas in 1911. In 1933 the school had room for 450 students. In 2013 it was the Sandbach Community Primary School.

1912 Congleton Chronicle started.
June 1912 New Wesleyan Chapel opened at Elworth. Costing £1,700 of which £1,200
was donated by the late Edwin Foden’s estate.
Miss A Foden opened the Chapel door and Miss H Hollinshead opened the
Sunday School door with the service afterwards conducted by the
Rev F.L. Wiseman.

23 April 1913
King George V and Queen Mary visited Sandbach. They were accompanied by the
Marquis of Crewe, K.G.
A Special Medal was made for the tour with a picture of the King and Queen on
the Head and the tail side was the date they visited each town on their tour.

The Pewter Medal for Sandbach included the Saxon Crosses on one side and the
King and Queen on the reverse. In 1977 one of the coins was discovered by
Mr George Kesteven (Aged 41) of Abbey Road when he was at the Malkins Bank
Tip along with a number of other coins.

23 April 1913 am
FODEN MOTOR WORKS BAND PLAY FOR KING AT CREWE.
The FODEN band played for King George V and Queen Mary by Royal Command.
E.R. Foden decided that nothing was too good for the band and so he purchased a
new set of uniforms in the “Prussian Style” for the band in 1912 to be worn on stage.
These new uniforms were put to good use when in 1913 it was announced that
King George and Queen Mary would be visiting the North West and Midlands in
April 1913 to see the “Industrial North” and would be staying at Crewe Hall the
residential home of the Marquis of Crewe.
A request for the band to play in front of the King and Queen and a programme was
put together with the assistance of Lady Crewe.
On the morning of the 23 April 1913 the band travelled by Steam Wagon to Crewe
Hall where they got into their new uniforms and at 9.30am they played the following
programme in front of the hall.

PROGRAMME
- Overture from Bohemian Girl (Balf)
- Merry Widow Selection (Lehar)
- Selection from Tannhauser (Wagner)
- The Lost Chord (Sullivan) (Cornet Solo Edwin Firth)
- Selection from Yeomen of the Guard (Sullivan)
- Waltz from The Dollar Princess (Fall)

After the band had played this selection of music the Marquis of Crewe was
instructed to convey their Majesties congratulations and asked the band if they would
be prepared to play the following day at 9am with a much longer programme. This they did.

Selection from William Tell (Rossini)
Waltz from Salome
Cleopatra (Damare) (Cornet Solo Edwin Firth)
Evening Bells
Waltz from Inspiration
March from The King’s Courier
Selection from The Quaker Girl
March ‘Honest Toil’ (Rimmer)
Overture from Light Cavalry (Suppe)
Waltz from The Merry Widow (Lehar)
Overture from Tancredi (Rossini)
March from Harlequin

After the event the King and Queen congratulated William Halliwell and the band and as the Royal Cortège left Crewe Hall, Foden’s played the National Anthem. The King and Queen then went to Congleton for a short visit as part of their tour of Cheshire. A decorated canopy was erected in front of the Town Hall where they were welcomed by the Mayor Councillor W I Fern and the Mayoress Miss Fern.

1913
Elworth Cricket Club was founded as the Mount Pleasant Cricket Club.

In 1927 the club moved to its present location on London Road, Elworth with a tenancy agreement with the Poole family who owned the land.

The first team captain was Francis Poole.

In 2013 the daughters of Francis Poole (Jennie Woodham, Val Corbett and Chrissy Boyd agreed to sell the land to the Cricket club for £45,000 an amount that Allan Littlemore its oldest serving member (Joined in 1951) started fundraising for in August 2012 reaching its target in September 2013. £10,000 was donated by Sandbach Town Council in April 2013.

£10,000 was donated by Sandbach Town Council in April 2013.

1914
POPULATION (1914 Kelly’s Directory Pages 552 to 556)
URBAN DISTRICT WARDS East 2,707; North 1,975; West 1,041
SANDBACH ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH 4,171 and Sandbach Heath 1,258
Parish Clerk William Nock
Sexton Arthur Allcock

1914
POST OFFICE – Post, M.O., T and Telephone Express Delivery Office, Bradwall Road (Letters should have Cheshire Added)
Postmaster William M. John
Letter arrive from all parts of the Kingdom at 3 and 5.45am, 12.45pm, 3pm and 6.15pm and are delivered at 7am, 1.10pm, 3.15pm and 6.30pm. Letters are dispatched from Sandbach at 10.30am, 11.15am, 3pm, 9.30pm and 10pm. Money Orders are granted and paid from 8am till 8pm (Opening Hours)

(Post Office opened after 1902 and before 1914) 1932 Picture location in Bradwall Road.

One lady recalled that during this period of time because mail was delivered on size she wanted to send a copy of the local Chronicle to her relative and regularly put the paper through her Mangle (To squeeze clothes dry) to make it smaller.

1914
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Meetings at the Town Hall on the 2nd Monday in the Month at 7pm
CHAIRMAN Alfred Ernest Poole
VICE CHAIRMAN James Proudlove

EAST WARD RETIRE FROM OFFICE (Changed at outbreak of War)
James Buckley   April 1915
Charles Wardle   April 1915
George Boulton   April 1916
Matt. Hassall Eardley April 1916
Edward Butler    April 1917
Walter Lea       April 1917

NORTH WARD RETIRE FROM OFFICE (Changed at outbreak of War)
Alfred Ernest Poole April 1915
Arthur Buckley    April 1915
George Newall     April 1916
James Proudlove   April 1917
George Wright     April 1917

WEST WARD RETIRE FROM OFFICE (Changed at outbreak of War)
Ralph Ruscoe     April 1915
Alfred Price      April 1916
Edward Holland    April 1917

OFFICIALS
CLERK Alfred Edward Stringer of 3 Crewe Road.
TREASURER John William Twigg of the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank Ltd, High town
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH Robert Riddell M.B., C.M. Edinburgh of West View, Crewe Road.
SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR John Rowland Price of 16a Welles Street
MARKET INSPECTOR AND RATE AND WATER RENT COLLECTOR Amos Wood of 7 High Street.
POLICE SERGEANT William Lawson with 6 men.
FIRE SUPERINTENDENT Edmund Allen with 10 Men.

1914

CHURCHES
St Mary’s Rev. Canon John Richard Armitstead
St John’s Rev Charles Edward Muckleston
St Winefred Catholic Chapel Rev. Patrick Kearney
Congregational Hope Street Rev William Plasket
Primitive Methodist (Welles St) Rev David Rogers
United Methodist Church (Bradwall Road) Rev. Arthur Lee
Wesleyan (Seaman’s bank) Rev William Brookes
Wesleyan (Sandbach Heath) Rev William Brookes

1914

SCHOOLS
George William Braddock (School Attendance Officer) at Park Lane, Sandbach
Council – Chapel Street (erected 1874) Miss Jane Cheetham (Mistress)
Council Senior School, Crewe Road (Built 1912 – or 1911)
Miss Mary Ann Wood (Assistant Mistress)
Arthur Maskelyne (Master)
Crewe Road Secondary School (Now Primary School)
Grammar School at Wheelock Rd S.W. Finn M.A. (Headmaster)
Miss A Henrietta Harris (Private School) at 59 High Street, Sandbach
The Square (Built 1841) William Nock (Master)
Miss Annie Robbins (Mistress)
Sandbach Heath (erected 1866 and enlarged 1891) Arthur William Allen (Master)
Miss Maude Newall (Mistress)
Miss Annie Hoole (Infants Mistress)
Sandbach School (Built 1677) Private School with some pupils sponsored in Crewe Rd.
St Mary’s Church – National Day School (Built in 1841 and closed in 1961)
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

1914

NEWSPAPERS.
Crewe Chronicle
1914
DAIRY
By 1914 Sandbach had its own Dairy with the
"Lancashire Hygienic Dairies Limited" based on Congleton Road.
There was also a Lancashire Creameries Limited
at Bosley, North Rode near Congleton. Shepherds Dairies Limited at
63 Market Street, Crewe and 6 Witton Street, Northwich.
The Lancashire Hygienic Dairies Limited was based in Manchester and produced
“Superior Pasteurised Cream” which was sold all over the area. As a company it
possibly started prior to 1898 when it issued shares in the company.

10 Mar 1914 FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND CONCERT – Sandbach Town Band (Paid £15)
1 Concert
May 1914 St Winefride’s Roman Catholic Church opened on Middlewich Road.
22 June 1914 Mr G Venables the Vice Chairman of Sandbach School’s Governors was killed
when he was knocked down by a bicycle rider outside his home.
7 July 1914 The Sandbach Urban District Council clerk read a letter from the
Secretary of the National Relief Committee in London asking for Sandbach
to open a fund to keep the people of Belgium alive. This was adopted by the Council.

1914-18 World War 1. The Great War between Britain and Germany
28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918.
“Abbey Fields” a large House on an estate accessed from the Middlewich Road
near Abbey Lane was converted into a Hospital for the wounded.
The Reverend William Plaskett from the Hope Street Chapel not only looked
after Sandbach and Wheelock but was also the Free Church Chaplin at Abbey fields.
His wife and daughter Rene also worked in the Hospital as VAD auxiliary nurses.
It was also a sad time for the Reverend Plaskett and his family as their eldest son
William Chris Plaskett was killed in the fighting (29 July 1916).
Another VAD Nurse working at the hospital was Millicent Eva Ash who lived at the
Lakes Farm in Ettley Heath. Later she married Ted Johnson.
FAMILY - Father William Ash born in 1860 farmer in Ettley Heath with his
wife Grace Ash (.b. 1863 in Sandbach) and their children Nesta Lillie Ash
(.b. 1883 in Sandbach), Norman Ash (.b. 1890 in Sandbach) and
Millicent Eva Ash born in 1894 in Sandbach. (Details from the 1901 Census)

At the age of 13 Millicent’s mother died leaving the family to work together
with their father on the farm and Millicent had to leave school and education
behind. She helped out by selling the families vegetables outside the Town Hall
on the market.
Millicent worked with Essba Twemlow the daughter of Sam Twemlow who
later married Jack Hawthorne and lived opposite the Grange.
They both learnt the basics of medicine working with very primitive treatments
including the use of Iodine, Sulphur and Soap and Water to make sure the hygiene
levels were kept. Miss Ash remembers that there were a number of suicides at
the Hospital when the soldiers were unable to recover from their wounds and the terrible traumas they had witnessed at the front.

Aug 1914  The War Office ordered 10 Steam Wagons from Foden’s Motor Works at three days’ notice making the employees work over the Bank Holiday Weekend and later the Wakes weekend to finish the order.

19 Aug 1914  It was suggested by Sandbach Urban District Council that surplus funds from the Dramatic Society (Possibly Sandbach Amateur Dramatic Society) were donated to the Relief Committee. It was not confirmed that this happened in minutes from the Council files.

Aug 1914  Men of all ages signed up to join the forces.

SANDBACH SCHOOL
At Sandbach School they published “The Sandbachian” which included a list of those who had joined up to fight in the war. The magazine was published three times a year and then reduced to one edition a year until after the war. More than 200 students signed up with 35 students and one Master being killed. After the war the names of the fallen were put on a memorial in the school chapel. The first ex pupil to be killed in action was Second Lieutenant Alfred John Haughton who had been at the school between 1892 and 1898. He was in the Cricket XI of 1896 and 1898 and the Football XI in 1897. A. J. Haughton was a member of the 9th Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was killed on 24 July 1915 at Flanders (Arrived in France and Flanders 17 April 1915).

In late May 1915 the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions were part of a force that was sent to slow the German assault on the Bellewaarde Ridge the last battle of the Second Battle of Ypres.

Keiser Wilhelm II inspired a branch of the “Miniature Rifle Association” that included 16 year old William George Upton who won many rifle shooting competitions and was also a keen pilot. The School’s Rifle Club for many years featured in the Sandbachian (School Magazine published three times a year before the war and once a year between 1915 and 1918. It was at this time printed by Eachus and Son, The Square, Sandbach) over many editions.

William Upton took part in class debates and was able to pinpoint British Troops on a Map of France during Geography lessons. However on the 4 October 1918 at the age of 20 William George Upton died when his plane a Sopwith Camel was shot down five miles over enemy lines during a fire-fight over Roulers in Belgium.

He is buried at Dadizelle Cemetery in Belgium and commemorated with a
plaque in St Mary’s Church (On the Right when looking at the altar).

12 Sept 1914  
FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND CONCERT – Sandbach
Sandbach Co-op Society’s Fate (Paid £12)
Commencing 1.45pm. Play in Procession (Tea Provided)

27 Sept 1914  
FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND CONCERT – Sandbach
One afternoon concert for the National Relief Fund.
If wet 4 Oct 1914

October 1914
Belgian Refugees are welcomed into Sandbach with some of them going to work in the Foden Factory. Ernest Wakefield a Pattern Maker of Eva Street, Elworth (Lived with his wife and two young daughters at the time) had attended evening classes to learn French and was given the task of interpreting for the Belgium employees at the works.
Two of the women refugees who came over from Antwerp (Antwerpen) joined the Red Cross Working parties to help raise funds for the Abbey Field Hospital in Sandbach.
Madam Philomena Deliage who now lived at High Town, Sandbach having previously lived at Boervase Street, Antwerpen (Antwerp) and Madam Maria Van Lynt who was staying at Wheelock House, Wheelock and originally had been at 154 Sg. Horbrock sn. Antwerp.

28 Oct 1914
Samuel Bolshaw Killed in action.
(Sandbach Methodist Church and on the Market Square Memorial)
NUMBER Private 1st Battalion Kings Royal Rifles
BURIED Unknown
FAMILY His father had died before his son’s death while his mother lived in Middlewich Road, Holmes Chapel.
He managed a Butcher’s shop in 8 Welles Street, Sandbach for his Aunt Mrs Mary Bolshaw, who he had lived with since the age of 12. He attended Cranage School and had been a member of the School Choir.
He later trained as a butcher.
At the start of the 20th century Samuel joined the army and served in Egypt, Malta and Gibraltar for seven years.
He was one of the Crack Shots in the Regiment and in one year he won the battalion prize.
He then left the army when his Uncle John Edward Bolshaw died and his aunt asked him to take over the butchers shop as manager for her.
On the 4 August 1914 he received his papers instructing him to re-enlist which he did at Winchester.
Samuel was one of the first men in Sandbach to be killed in Action.

20 Dec 1914
FODENS BAND CONCERT at Sandbach (Venue Unknown)
In Aid of the War Relief Fund.
On the 14 December 1914 (Monday) Sandbach Urban District Council were asked if they could let the War Relief Committee use the Town Hall Free of Charge in the event that it was raining on the day of the event, next Sunday. This was granted unanimously.

1915 (Date Unkn)
Pickford’s ordered 50 steam wagons from Fodens.
1915 (Date Unkn)
Foden’s issued a badge in 1915 to all employees with the words “On War Work” inscribed on it to stop people thinking the workers were not doing their best for the war effort. Some Suffragettes pinned white feathers
on those young men not in uniform as a sign of cowardess and this badge gave the employees some security from this misconception.

1915 (Date Unkn) Workers at Foden’s demanded an extra 5/- a week for a 54 hour week (on Top of their current wage of £2 a week). This didn’t go down well with the Foden family and many who had joined a Union were asked to leave the union or be sacked. The Union held a mass meeting where 304 people to 13 voted to strike. The Foden family decided however to bring in “Black Leg” labour and issued an ultimatum to its workers to return to work or be sacked.

The workers had to survive on 17/6 a week on strike pay. (see June 1915)

3 Feb 1915 The Crewe Parliamentary Division Recruiting Committee applied to the Sandbach Urban District Council on the 21 Jan 1915 to hold a recruiting meeting on the 3rd Feb 1915 at the Town Hall (Free of Charge).

March 1915 Pub house opening hours in industrial areas in March 1915 were reduced to stop all day drinking from 5am in the morning to 12.30pm at night to 12 noon until 2.30pm and 6.30pm to 9.30pm. In rural areas the opening hours stayed the same allowing all day drinking.

May 1915 The Chronicle recorded the death of Frank H Knowles aged 35 the licensee of the New Inn at Betchton. He had died while out shooting rabbits. His body was found by Ernest Leese a local boy who found the body in Love Lane said that a gun was by the man’s side. West Cheshire Coroner Mr J C Bate and the jury decided that death was due to accidental causes.

June 1915 Foden workers returned to work by June 1915 with the Union gaining a 2/- increase and the reinstatement of sacked workers. One exception was Jim Wakefield (the brother of Edward) who went on to work for Rolls Royce.

11 Aug 1915 A £1 reward was offered by the Superintendent of the Bradwall Training School, Sandbach for the apprehension of John James Stanfield who absconded from the Reformatory on the 8th instant (11 Aug 1915 Poster) and is supposed to have enlisted, or to have gone to Belfast.

Any information to be sent to the School (Tel 40 Sandbach) or to Superintendent of Police, Police Station, Middlewich.

£1 REWARD.

THE ABOVE REWARD will be paid by the Superintendent of the Bradwall Training School, Sandbach, for the apprehension of:

JOHN JAMES STANFIELD, who absconded from the Reformatory on 8th instant, and is supposed to have enlisted, or to have gone to Belfast.

Particulars:
Age: 30 years 3 months.
Height: 5ft 8in.
Weight: 12st 11lbs.
Complexion: Fresh.
Eye: Blue.
Hair: Light Brown.
Mark: Scar near right eye.
Features: Already attached above eyebrow.
Speaks with a slight Irish accent.

Any information to be sent to the School (Tel 40 Sandbach), or to SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, Police Station, MIDDLEWICH.

28 Sept 1915 A detachment of the 3/7th Territorial Battalion Cheshire Regiment under Major Taylor visited Congleton on the Monday in connection with a Recruiting Rally of the Western Command after marching from Macclesfield. On the Tuesday morning (28 Sept 1915) they visited Sandbach and were given a Grand Military Smoking Concert in their honour at the Town Hall in the presence of the Mayor of the Town. There will also be a boxing competition and local personality Ex-Sergeant, now Pioneer Noah Kennerly, of the Cheshire Regiment depot appeared in new patriotic sketches.

Oct 1915 Sandbach Council formed themselves into a Committee for the purpose of sending Christmas Presents to all the men from Sandbach who were serving at the front. By November packages for Soldiers and Sailors were being sent
to the Dardanelles in order to reach them by Christmas.
Each parcel contained a card bearing the Cheshire Coat of Arms and inscribed
“From the Ancient Town of Sandbach to her gallant sons at home
and abroad, who have answered the call and are fighting, or eager to fight, on
sea or land, for liberty, for freedom, for motherland and home, wishing them
a happy Christmas and joyful homecoming. God Save the King 1915”.

Nov 1915
MP for the Eddisbury area Captain Harry Barnston announced that as he was a
Soldier in the Cheshire Yeomanry, fighting for his country and at the
same time the area’s MP he would return the cheque for his work as a
Member of Parliament as he was unable to do his constituency duty.
He had in reality always put the cheques into a separate bank account,
only spending it on public services as he is strongly opposed in principal
to the payment of Members of Parliament.
He was however Sir Harry Barnston, 1st Baronet MA JP DL son of
Major William Barnston of Crewe Hall and Mary Emma King.
In 1906 he stood unsuccessfully in Stockport but was elected for Eddisbury,
Cheshire from 1910 until his death on the 27 February 1929.
He became a Controller of the Household from 1921-1924 and Nov 1924 to
Jan 1928. In 1924 he was created a Baronet.

Nov 1915
Figures were released of those effected by Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and
Typhoid Fever in the town with Sandbach having 17 cases compared with 94
in Congleton.

Nov 1915
Mr S Maskery and Co (Bakers) announced that with great regret that due to an
increase in the cost of Raw ingredients that he would have to increase the cost of
his Congleton Gingerbread. A tin of 1½lb would cost 1/10d, a 3lb tin = 3/7d,
4½lb = 5/3d and a 6½lb tin costs 7/6d.
Special tins for the troops were also available with Christmas Boxes to Soldiers
and Sailors in the Dardanelles and Egypt via Parcel Post costing 2/9d, 3/6d, 5/1d
and 6/9d.
Some of those who received the Christmas Parcels sent letters to
Cllr James Proudlove the Chairman of the Sandbach Urban District Council
thanking them for the gift.
D.W. Beard of the Royal Flying Corps,
Private H Bowyer in the Trenches,
Private T Vine,
Private Cecil Mason of the 2/7 Battalion Cheshire Regiment,
Chas Cooke of the Machine Gun Section, 8th South Lancashire Regiment,
T Pratt writing from France,
Private Albert Bullock attached to the Second Irish Guards,
Private A Mainwaring,
Captain A Chapman,
Private A Pass,
Private J T Snelson of the 3rd Battalion 7th Cheshire Regiment,
Private H Morrey of the 68th Welsh Division, Cyclist Company.

Nov 1915
In Macclesfield the British Motor Bus Company who ran the local service
started to employ lady conductors on their routes after Cheshire County Council
set up a committee to promote the employment of women in agriculture and
other jobs in the area including on the railway with female booking clerks,
ticket collectors and carriage cleaners. The bus routes probably included trips
to Sandbach and Crewe, similar to those run today.

8 Dec 1915
On Wednesday the 8 December 1915 the Headmaster of Sandbach School,
Headmaster Sidney Wallace Finn MA was officially appointed “Attesting Officer”
under Lord Derby’s Scheme to recruit soldiers in the area.
On the 9th and 10th December (Thursday and Friday) men flocked to
Sandbach School to be attested and classroom A was turned into a recruiting room.
(see Below)

Dec 1915
Khaki Armlets were distributed to the men of Sandbach who had attested under
Lord Derby’s Scheme in the Town Hall on Wednesday evening.
The Town Hall was full of those who waited their turn to receive the symbol
of Patriotism.
The first wave of recruits under the Derby scheme were encouraged to join up in December 1915 and had until the 29th January to report to their unit. If they needed more time before joining up they had until the 30 December 1915 to lodge an appeal to be placed in a later group of recruits.

Lord Derby was appointed British Minister of War between 1916 and 1918 and had been brought into the Wartime Coalition Government in 1915 when he was given the job of being the public face on the issue of Conscription after he had proved his support in Liverpool during August 1914 when he encouraged the idea of the PALS BATTALIONS where men from a town could all serve together in one unit.

Asquith appointed Lord Derby as Director-General of Recruitment in 1915 and he unveiled what became known as the DERBY SCHEME which was a recruitment policy where young men could give their “Assent” to being called up if needed with Single men being called up first and the government promising to only call up Married Men last.

In the Spring of 1915 enlistment averaged 100,000 men per month but this figure was dwindling and it was soon decided to raise the upper age limit in May 1915 from 38 to 40 years old. On the 15 July 1915 the Government passed the National Registration Act to discover how many men were between the age of 15 to 65 and who were eligible to be enlisted. The act, like the census of 1911 asked for occupations so the Government could decide who were needed on the home front and who could be asked to join up. By Mid-September 1915 the results showed that there were 5 million males of military age who were not in the forces or in “Starred” (or Protected, High or Scarce skill) Jobs.

On the 11 October 1915 (Edward George Villiers Stanley) Lord Derby’s Scheme (or officially the “Group Scheme”) started to recruit single men to join the war and men aged between 18 to 40 with events in public places to recruit those who wanted the chance to enlist voluntarily or attest (Sign up) with an obligation to be called up later with the last date of the scheme to sign up being the 15 December 1915.

Once signed up the volunteers were segregated into groups. Those who volunteered but wanted to defer service were put into “Class A” while those who wanted to join immediately were put into “Class B”. Class A men were paid a day’s army pay for the day they Attested and were given a grey armband (or Khaki Armlets) with a red crown on it to signify that they had volunteered and were officially transferred to the Section B Army Reserve before being sent home to await their call up.

Those who were Called up were done so according to age groups from Single Men born in 1897 = Group 1 to those born in 1875 = Group 23 and Married Men born from 1897 = Group 24 to those born in 1875 = Group 46. They were then mobilised between (Group 1) the 28 Mar 1916 and (Group 46) the 13 June 1916. (See also http://www.1914-1918.net/derbyscheme.html)

In some areas like Sandbach the scheme was popular however it didn’t produce enough men to satisfy the demand with only 350,000 putting their names forward and so in January 1916 Conscription was introduced via the Military Service Act.

DEATH IN WW1

NUMBER Pte 58191 20th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment)

It was with great sadness that the Foden Motor Works Band learned of the death of its first ex member of the band during World War 1. Pte 58191 HARRY BOWYER was serving in the Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment) as a bandsman and stretcher-bearer. On the 24 December 1915 he was attending wounded soldiers when he was killed at the age of 23. He is buried at Ridge Wood Military Cemetery, in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium (Grave number II K1) and like Edwin Firth (.D. 1 June 1918) he is commemorated on the Elworth War Memorial.

The second son of Mr and Mrs John Bowyer of East Elworth Harry served his
apprenticeship in the blacksmith’s shop at Foden’s Motor Works in Elworth and joined the Brass Band along with his father John Bowyer (Dates Not listed). He had also been a keen sportsman and played football as a half-back and won 6 medals, which he distributed to his family before he left to find employment abroad.

In 1912 Harry emigrated to Toronto in Canada where he found employment with a Military Band.

In 1915 the Contingent arrived at Shorncliffe and Harry obtained leave to see his family in Elworth the first time in four years. On the 14th September 1915 his regiment was sent to France where he played with the band and was a stretcher bearer on the front.

On the 24 December 1915 while he was attending the wounded he was killed.

Captain Nicholson wrote to his parents – “All I can say is that in my opinion a more glorious sacrifice could not be made by a soldier and a gentleman as he was. It was a terrible shock to me and my heart goes out to you and I want you to know that he will be remembered by me and his comrades as a brave soldier and true friend.

1916 (Poss Jan) Private Enoch Gater of 69 Park Lane, Sandbach sent a letter back home to his parents telling them of a narrow escape he had while serving with the Cheshire Regiment. A large piece of Shrapnel caught a cigarette box he had in his left breast pocket and bounced off it towards his hand grazing it which undoubtedly saved him from serious injury. Enoch intended to send home the Cigarette box to his family as a souvenir.

POSSIBLE FAMILY in 1911 Census at 45 Sandbach Heath (The Hill).

Enoch Gater (Head) .b. 1852/3 (Aged 59) in Kidsgrove (Steam Engine Fitter 1901 / Turner at Chemical Works 1911) (Died 1925 aged 72 in Sandbach)
Leonard Gater (Son) .b. 1892 (Aged 19) in Sandbach (Apprentice Turner at Foden Motor Works)
Enoch Gater (Son) .b. 1897 (Aged 14) in Sandbach (Bricksetters Labourer) Samuel Gater (Son) .b. 1900 (Aged 11) in Sandbach (At School) (Also on St Mary's List of Soldiers with an Ernest and James Gater)
Harold Gater (Son) .b. 1901 (Aged 10) in Sandbach (At School)

ST MARY'S SANDBACH GRAVE
Enoch Gater .b. 1896 .D. 4 May 1965
Also in the Grave are – James, Mary, Martha and Miriam your children who died in infancy.
John Gater their son .D. 5 Apr 1905 aged 24 (b. 1881).
It is possible that this is a family grave and it was the grave of (Father) Enoch Gater (D. Jan 1925) who’s family is that above along with his Son Enoch who died in 1965 when the names were re-registered in the church records.
Those who died in infancy are 4 of the 5 children noted in the 1911 Census.
By the 1901 and 1911 Census John Gater had moved out of Sandbach.

1916 Private Tom Shaw has been awarded the Military Medal.
The son of Mrs Shaw of Wheelock who was informed of the glad tidings by Lieutenant Thompson who wrote -

“Private Shaw has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the recent offensive and for the following incident: after being wounded he took his gun into a dangerous position to repel a counter attack and by his behaviour rallied his team under heavy machine-gun fire.”

Private Shaw had been injured in the arm by shrapnel.

He was a former employee of Brunner Mond at Malkins Bank.

Feb 1916 Zeppelins were seen flying over Sandbach prompting the town to start “Blackout procedures”.

1916 Women started working at Foden’s as many of the men had been called up.
21 May 1916 British Summertime started by act of Parliament. The Idea of British Summertime was campaigned for by William Willett to allow more time for Farm workers to work in the fields during daylight hours.

23 May 1916 A large Circus appeared in the town on the 23 May 1916 (Tuesday).
It was decided that Sandbach School should have an extra holiday in the afternoon of the Circus to allow the pupils to attend the entertainment.
(Venue not mentioned but possible behind the George Hotel where various fates were held)

27 May 1916

FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND CONCERT – Sandbach May Festival

A picture has come to our attention which shows what happened to the “Prussian Style Uniforms” that were worn by Fodens band but had to be abandoned because of their association with the Great War (Purchased in 1913). It shows Joiners at Fodens Motor Works winning first prize at the Sandbach Festival with a mock up German Zeppelin on top of a Steam Wagon wearing the uniforms along with other soldiers in costume.

A Parade went from Elworth via the Market Square

(Picture of float above outside the Black Bear on the Market Square)

The festival raised £538 which after expenses was reduced to £371.00 of which £300 was donated to make a Y.M.C.A. Hut in France to be named the “Sandbach Hut”.

The event also crowned its first MAY QUEEN in Sandbach.
She was Barbara Sophia Foden aged 12, the daughter of William Foden.

8 June 1916

WAR RELIEF FUND

Chairman Mr Alfred Ernest Poole

(1914 Chairman of Sandbach Urban Council)

Below are some of the cases featured in their files.

Mrs Elisabeth Bowen of Crewe Road, Sandbach had been given an allowance of 3/10 Per week. She was by now working at Brunner Mond where she was earning 3/23 per week and so it was suggested that her allowance be suspended while she was working at Malkins Bank. (8 June 1916 Meeting)

Joseph Chambers was being given an old aged pension from the fund, but his wife was earning a little money by taking in washing so the committee resolved to reduce their payment. (8 Dec 1916 Meeting)

Mr James Lees of 25 Forge Fields who had joined the Cheshire Regiment on the 10th December 1915 was discharged from the army on the 24 July 1917. He applied to the War Relief Fund on the grounds that he was unable to keep his wife, 5 children with the eldest child being 4 years old on an a pension of £2 a week as he was unable to work. He had been a chemical labourer before he joined the army. The War Relief Fund felt they were unable to help him as it was not a case for the Committee. (3 January 1918 Meeting)

20 July 1916

Lieutenant Donald Wainwright Beard (Service Number 839)

(Born and Bred in Elworth near the Midland Pub and possibly played Cricket for Elworth Cricket Club.) gained the Military Medal for his action on this date. He was a WW1 Pilot who shot down 8 German planes and was awarded the Military Medal (Established 25 March 1916 for Non Commissioned officer’s / below commissioned rank it was the equivalent of the Military Cross) for this action.

Born on the 20 May 1895 in Elworth.
The 1911 Census puts the family in Elworth.

(Father) John W Beard .b. 1857 in Oldham and he was
On the 20 August 1913 Donald Beard joined the RFC as a Mechanic with 4 Squadron. By 1916 he was flying as a rear gunner and on the 20 July 1916 he was in a Royal Aircraft factory B.E. 2 during a number 4 Squadron mission with Captain Copeland as his pilot. Unfortunately he was wounded by an attacking Pfalz E1 which Sergeant Donald Beard shot down before he grabbed the controls and flew the plane home earning himself the Military Medal (Serial No 839) and a chance to do Pilot training. (No 4 Squadron formed at Farnborough in 1912 as part of the Royal Flying Corps and moved to Netheravon just before the Great War where it stayed during the First World War. Useful Aircraft of the Squadron were sent to France under Major G.H. Rayleigh on the 16 August 1914 where they carried out reconnaissance missions supporting the British Expeditionary Force with Lieutenant G.W. Mapplebeck flying the first mission on the 19 August 1914 searching for German Forces over Gembloux in Belgium. Other aircraft of the squadron were used to carry out Anti-Zeppelin patrols.) After training on the 26 November 1917 Donald Beard was assigned to 11 Squadron as a Sergeant Pilot flying a Bristol F2 Fighter (1916 made Sergeant, Service Number 839). On the 9 March 1918 with Sergeant H.W. Scarnell as his rear gunner they shot down a Pfalz D III and six days later an Albatross DIII and two other planes. A week later with Second Lieutenant H.M. Stewart as his Gunner they set a D.V. on fire. On the 3 April 1918 Donald Beard was commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant with his final mission of WW1 on the 9 May 1918 when he destroyed a Pfalz D III and downed another plane. In the London Gazette of the 31 December 1920 Donald relinquished his commission for health reasons connected to his active service days. Between 1926 and 1936 Donald sailed from Argentina to Cape Town. He was also a member of the Port Elizabeth Light Aeroplane club until he left Port Elizabeth (in South Africa) in December 1930. Between the wars Donald Beard married Stella Marie Gladys Londt who he met on a ship when he was delivering a Foden Steam Tractor to Koster, Transvaal. At the time she was 18 years old and so they waited until she reached 21 and married in England (1931-2) possibly in Darlington in 1932. Unfortunately Stella died on the 27 December 1933 in a Car Crash aged 22. They had a daughter called Sally who died on the 1 January 1934. The reason for her death is not reported but it was possibly from injuries in the same crash as her mother. The 1939 Sandbach Urban District Council register has Donald living with Marjory J Beard. In WW 2 he became a Commissioned Officer from the 18 November 1940 as a flying officer but by the 22 January he was assigned to administrative duties due to ill heath, something he had suffered since the end of WW1 (1918) and finally resigned as a Pilot Officer on the 13 March 1942 with a brief return to duty until the 8 April 1947. One possible date for his death is in December 1980 at the age of 85 in Haringey, London. (Tbc) (Dec 1980 as Donald Wainwright Beard)

**DONALD’S VICTORIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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1. 20 Jul 1916  Unkn 4  B.E.2c  Pfalz E (DES)
2. 09 Mar 1918  1130 11  Bristol F.2b (C4846)  Pfalz D.III (OOC)  Douai
3. 15 Mar 1918  1115 11  Bristol F.2b (C4846)  Albatros D.V (DES)  Rumilly
4. 15 Mar 1918  1115 11  Bristol F.2b (C4846)  Albatros D.V (OOC)  Rumilly
5. 15 Mar 1918  1115 11  Bristol F.2b (C4846)  Albatros D.V (OOC)  Rumilly
6. 22 Mar 1918  1835 11  Bristol F.2b (C4846)  Albatros D.V (DES)  Quéant
7. 09 May 1918  1220 11  Bristol F.2b (C807)  Pfalz D.III (OOC)  Albert-Combles
8. 09 May 1918  1225 11  Bristol F.2b (C807)  Pfalz D.III (DES)  W of Combles

Donald Beard.

His war record is available at www.forces-war-records.co.uk/records/5344368/serjeant-d-w-beard-british-army-royal-flying-corps/

12 Sept 1916  The results of the Christmas Present Fund were announced with money collected totalling £77/9/1 which provided 362 parcels and 33 plum puddings for Soldiers and Sailors from Sandbach fighting abroad.
A further meeting was arranged for the 20 September 1916 when the subject of presents was raised again. Groups involved were the ladies sewing committee, Belgian Relief Committee, the Red Cross Committee, Mr Hancock and Mr William Foden as well as ministers from the local churches.

12 Dec 1916  Sandbach Urban Council allowed the “Sandbach Wakes” to take place on the Common for one week for the sum of £17 as long as Mr Patrick Collins closed his show and sideshows at lighting restriction time. The Council also asked for a £50 deposit as a guarantee of Mr Collins sticking to the conditions they had laid down.

14 Dec 1916  POST OFFICE
Nationally the hours of the Post Office were being reduced to cater for the lack of Postmen to deliver the mail and to sort it. Sandbach was asked to reduce its hours to 9 per day and a letter was sent to the Postmaster on Bradwall Road and the Sandbach Urban Council to this effect. It also said that it may be necessary to reduce the hours and Postal Services further should the war continue.
By March the Council had asked the “Secretary General Post Office”, London About extending the hours again to which he replied that ‘In consequence of depleting the staff and the imperative need for economy, it was not possible to modify arrangements now in force in the direction of extensions of service.’  
(13 March 1916)

Feb 1917  Rationing introduced in Britain.

25 May 1917  George Wright the Chairman of the Sandbach Urban Council lent 3 sets of bowls and 2 jacks for the wounded soldiers to use at Abbey Fields with arrangements being made for the Marriott House Green to be available free of charge for soldiers.

4-7 Sept 1917  The Crewe family (Lord Crewe) who had purchased the Manorial rights to Sandbach sold the Sandbach properties they owned in a sale that took place on the 4th, 5th and 7th of September 1917 at the Town Hall at 11am and 3pm each day by auctioneers, Messrs Frank Lloyd and Sons.
The sale included buildings and land owned by the family. It is possible that the sale was needed due to gambling debts by the Crewe family.
The map of property to sold included some alternate names for streets in the area.
Seaman’s Bank became Wesley Avenue
Narrow Lane became Offley Road.
PROPERTY SOLD IN THE SALE
1) The Temperance Hall Mr John Beech for £200
2) Mrs W Mainwaring’s House in the Square also used as the Liberal Club Mr H Beech £480
3) The Lilly Works in Crewe Road Mr John Henry Jennings for £1,325
4) Portions of the Premises occupied by Mr J Warburton and others Mr E R Foden for £960

Offices of Mr H Ferrand Clerk to the Congleton Union Guardians Congleton Union Guardians for £200

Businesses occupied by Messrs Johnes and F Allman in Hightown Mr F J Poole for £600 and £400 (2 Lots)

Shops in Hightown and High Street Mr Poole (Tenant) £500
Mr C Wardle (Tenant) £1,200
Mr J J Hawley (Tenant) £460
Mr Lightfoot (Tenant) £480
Messrs Wood (Tenants) £760
Mr J Johnson (Tenant) £470
Mr Higgins (Tenant) £470
Frank Alcocks Shop (Tenant) £380
Mr Daniel Clowes (Tenant) £360

Houses in Sandbach Mr F Wakefield and Mr Morrison £452.10s
The School House Miss Harris (Tenant) £520
Hungerford Café, Shop and Land next to it (Next to Town Hall) Mr Foden (of Elworth) £3,725

Mr Scuttleon’s Boot Shop Mr Scuttleon £520

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED £90,854

1917
Due to the sale of the estate of Lord Crewe the supervision of the Common was taken over by the Town Council.

18 Aug 1917 FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND CONCERT – Sandbach Hospital Fate and Pageant (Paid £15)
The event was to raise funds for the Hospital based at Abbey Fields on Middlewich Road.

Nov 1917 NATIONAL NEWS – School children in two North East English Villages went on strike to protest that they wouldn’t go to school unless they could have free school meals.

18 Jan 1918 On Friday the 18th January 1918 the Children of Sandbach School were taken by their teachers to a lecture and picture show in the afternoon by Mr Mock at the Town Hall on “War in the Air”.

1 June 1918 Edwin Firth killed in action at a place called Varennes, North West of Amiens on the 1 June 1918 while returning to the trenches a shell exploded just outside some woods killing Edwin and his party, he was only 29 Year’s old.

Edwin had been the principal Cornet Player with Foden’s Band up until his last tour of duty

www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/bygones/11688328.Tragic_tale_of_a_top_wartime_trumpeter/

28 June 1918 New Ration Cards were to be issued by teachers at Sandbach School who were working for the Food Control Office.

July 1918
Sunday Schools were suspended in Sandbach due to an outbreak of Influenza. The epidemic became one of the most serious global epidemic in recorded history.

15 July 1918 Butter, Marge, Lard, Meat and sugar were added to the Ration list.

20 July 1918 FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND CONCERT – Abbey Fields Hospital, Sandbach (Paid – Gratis)
The concert was for wounded soldiers at the Hospital.

18 Aug 1918 FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND CONCERT – Sandbach Hospital Fate (£15)
J H Broad (Secretary). (Tea Provided)

25 Oct 1918 On Wednesday afternoon (23rd October 1918) all the boys from the school and all other students from the town were taken to a Lantern Lecture at the Town Hall given by Mr Mock on the subject of “War on the Land”.

EXTRA INFO.
This would have been like a slide show with a narrative given by the lecturer and possibly as it was a lantern show some of the glass slides may have had
animated parts to them allowing a moving illustration to the lecture rather like an early form of animation.

11 Nov 1918  

On the 11 November 1918 War officially ended at 11am with a cease fire. It was an opportunity for all the churches to put aside their differences and to join together for a “UNITED THANKSGIVING SERVICE” at St Mary’s Sandbach on the 17 November at 3pm when Fodens Band would provide the musical entertainment and various ministers would take part doing readings and prayers for the congregation. (see below)

17 Nov 1918  

UNITED THANKSGIVING SERVICE at St Mary’s Parish Church 3pm. Opening Voluntary “Lead Kindly Light” played by Fodens Band Conductor Mr Hines.

HYMNS

1. All People that on Earth do dwell.
2. Psalm XLVI God is our Hope and Strength.
3. Psalm XCVIII O Sing unto the Lord a new Song.
4. Psalm XLVII God me merciful unto us.
5. Hymn 165 and 376
   O God our Help in Ages Past
   Now Thank we all our God.
7. The Hallelujah Chorus Played by Fodens Band
8. The Trumpet of Victory Played by Mr W Nock on the Church Organ.
9. The National Anthem
10. Concluding Voluntary Played by Fodens Band.

1919  

WHEELOCK held a Peace Celebration celebrating the end of the Great War.

Mr Fred Hackney started his haulage business in Sandbach in School lane, Elworth with 2 Commer vehicles and the 2nd ERF to be produced.

After the war when all vehicles had been commandeered for the movements of essential equipment etc. by the Government in the 1950’s after they were returned to their owners with the Denationalisation of haulage, Fred Hackney acquired the Tower Garage (Named after the Water Tower near where the Fire Station now stands) in Sandbach off Congleton Road where he stayed until the end of his business.

Wherever possible over the years he had used lorries made in the town by ERF or Foden.

In 1933 Mr Hackney purchased the fourth vehicle built by the newly formed ERF company of Sandbach.

Fred Hackney also owned a Barrel Organ and a 1916 Showman’s Traction Engine one of the oldest surviving vehicles of its kind Registration number DO1932.

“Enterprise” was built in 1916 by John Fowler and Co (Leeds) Ltd it worked up and down the country and when it was purchased by Hackney’s it became a familiar attraction at events in Sandbach.

This Traction Engine came into its own soon after its boiler had been refitted when in 1974, “Enterprise” was brought out of retirement to power the lighting at the E.R.F. Works at Middlewich. It was originally used to power Hobby Horses on Fairgrounds and was driven to Middlewich one Friday by Fred Hackney, his brother Harold and grandson Simon Rigby.

Fred Hackney also owned the Petrol Station on the site and by the 1980’s with profits declining they sold the site to Texaco who continued on the site until after 2000. The Nissen Hut on the site of the garage was demolished on the 14th December 2017.
1919  ZAN works in Wheelock Mills, Wheelock opened by Mr R.B. and Mr E.L. Hovey.

1919  Tom Whitfield Houghton Biography.
2nd Lieut. T.W. Houghton (Tom Whitfield Houghton) b. 1897 in (b. Runcorn or) Bradwall, Congleton District, Cheshire and by 1903 living at 36 Marsh Green Road, Elworth. This was the house of his aunt, Mrs A Houghton who had only moved into the house that year (1903) and stayed there until the 1980’s when she was forced to leave the property.

His father was John Houghton an illegitimate child who was brought up by his Grandparents for a couple of years until a tragic accident happened when his Grandmother fell down the stairs and broke her neck. When John was older he went to work as a cooper (Barrel maker) in the bleach industry at Runcorn and after the war was also one of those walkers who took part in the Kinder Scout Trespass on the 24 April 1932. At the age of 45 John was called up to the Cheshire Regiment 2nd E.C.V. Cheshire Rifle Volunteers where he became a Sergeant and was injured at Gallipoli, brought back to England where he never really fully recovered from his experience.

John had two sons John, known as Jack and Tom.
Tom Houghton was educated at Sandbach Primary School (Sally Lunn’s?) (about 1906 to 1909) and was an old boy of Sandbach School (1909 to 1913). Tom went on to train as a teacher at the Crewe and Alsager Collage where he met a girl who he hoped to marry after he had returned from the forces.

He then did a term as an Assistant Schoolmaster at the Seaman’s Moss School in Altrincham and in 1915 joined the Cheshire Regiment, Machine Gun Corp, a regiment his father had also joined and both he and Tom served together in Ypres, France before Tom was posted to another company.

Tom saw service in France, Libya, Syria, Egypt and Palestine where he died in 1919 of Amoebic Dysentery caused by contaminated food and water.

He was reburied in the Damascus CWG Cemetery.

1920  The Sandbach Advertiser (Newspaper) was published on a Friday.

1920  It was Published from 1920 to 1942.

1921  A new Super Cinema was proposed for the town in Congleton Rd.

1921  The plans were however turned down.

1921  The Sandbach Branch of the British Legion was formed.

1921  The Legion was given Royal Status in 1971 becoming the Royal British Legion.

1921  In 1998 Marjory Newton joined the group and later became the Chairman and Poppy appeal organiser until 2016 when a difference of opinion left Marjory as the Poppy appeal and event’s organiser.

16 Apr 1922  The War Memorial was unveiled on the 16 April 1922 at 3pm by Lieut Colonel John Kennedy, C.M.G., D.S.O., of the Black Watch on the Market Square.

16 Apr 1922  He was the son of Colonel and Mrs Kennedy of Brookside, Arclid.
1922 The Tamworth Herald announced that Lord Crewe had donated historic lands in Sandbach to the town including Scotch Common and the Market Tolls.

29 Mar 1926 On the 29 March 1926 a Library in Marriott House was opened on Scotch Common.

1926 INFO By 1926 Sandbach had four newspapers covering events.
   Crewe Chronicle (Sandbach Edition) - Published Saturday
   Sandbach Guardian - Published Wednesday and Saturday
   Sandbach Advertiser - Published Friday
   Weekly Sentinel - Published Saturday

1926 1926 was also the year of the General Strike by the TUC.

1930 Wheelock Railway Station closed (see 1866).

1930 The Sandbach Congregational Amateur Dramatic Society was formed.
   (Hope Street Chapel – Became the United Reform Church)

July 1931 A Box of Matches in the pocket of the wicket keeper caught fire when they were hit by a ball in a Sandbach Cricket fixture. (7 July 1931 Aberdeen Journal Pg 6)

July 1931 In July 1931 Reverend Robert West formed a Controlled group of Baden-Powell Scouts known as the 14th SW Cheshire Scouts. Mr Robert West was the Scoutmaster until he left the Hope Street Chapel in 1932.

1931 The 124th Anniversary of the Congregational Church in Sandbach (Hope Street)
   The Rev Sydney M Barry, Secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales gave the service along with Sandbach Vicar Rev R.T. West.
   Special music and songs were sung by Mrs H Healey of Middlewich.

18 Feb 1933 Captain H.P. Rigby was elected president of the Sandbach Branch of the British Legion with Mr A W Lees being reappointed Secretary.

1933 By Easter 1933 the company of E.R. Foden was formed (ERF).

1933 “Sandbach the Official Guide” issued. A guide to the Town it included a brief history and adverts for local businesses and was published by the Sandbach Urban District Council.

28 Aug 1934 Sandbach Cemetery was opened on the Hill, Sandbach Heath with a United Service on the 28 August 1934 at 7.30pm. The gates were officially opened by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Thomas Platt J.P.

1936 Woolworth opened a shop in the High Street.

8 May 1937 Elworth Park was opened. It included a concert by the Foden’s Motor Works Brass Band with Harry Mortimer conducting.

1939 In February / March 1939 the first women fire (person) man started at Sandbach fire station.

3 Sept 1939 (“We are at War With Germany” Speech) to 8 May 1945 (Germany Surrendered) SECOND WORLD WAR
   1st September 1939 Germany invaded Poland.

14 May 1940 On the 14 May 1940 the Local Defence Volunteers were formed by the Government to defend our shores from invading German Armies.
   The Volunteers later became known as the Home Guard on the 23 July 1940 and the TV programme nicknamed them “Dad’s Army”.
   On the 11 November 1944 the Home Guard were disbanded.
   Sandbach had its own unit led by Colonel Findlow.
   Although they were official disbanded in 1944 the members of the group held reunions in the town for many years and the Foden Band played at a number of them including a concert on the 8 January 1971 and the 7 January 1973 which they did for free. I know that when the band went on tour with ENSA they travelled in Home Guard Uniforms so it may be possible that some or all of the band members were a part of the Home Guard in Sandbach.
26 Apr 1941  A Bomb was dropped on Wheelock. The Parachute mine dropped by the Germans blew a crater 57 feet across by 22 feet deep and destroyed many nearby houses.

30 Nov 1941 Foden’s Band played for the “Sandbach Warship Week” when the town officially adopted a warship “HMS Vimiera”. (see below)

1941 In December 1941 the town adopted HMS Vimiera in a civil ceremony after a successful “Warship Week National Savings Campaign”. A relic of the first great war HMS Vimiera was built at the Swan Hunter yard in Tyne and Wear from October 1917 (Laid down) and was launched on the 22 June 1918. On completion on the 19 September 1918 it sent into service with its motto “Sicut clin” (Victory as Formerly). An Admiralty V class destroyer it was 300ft (91.4m) o/a 312ft (95.1m) in length and 26ft 9in (8.2m) wide. It had a top speed of 34kt with a crew of 110 sailors. During the first world war it was involved in conveying Leonid Krasin and Viktor Nogin to Reval for the first stage of negotiations in the Anglo-Soviet Trade Agreement. During the second world war it was adapted to an Escort destroyer (WAIR) with anti-aircraft and Submarine capability in September 1939. In January 1940 she became part of the “Nore Command” for coastal duties in the North sea and English Channel. In April 1940 she was transferred to Dover Command supporting military operations in France including the Battle of Dunkirk including the evacuation of troops from Flushing. On the 19th May 1940 she rescued survivors from HMS Whitley. After assisting other ships in Boulongne and Calais when HMS Wessex was sunk the Vimiera sustained damage and was taken for repairs on the 25 May 1940. After being adopted by Sandbach in December 1941 the Vimera under Lieutenant-Commander Angus Alexander Mackenzie, RNR was sunk in the Thames estuary when it hit a mine on the 9 January 1942 off East Spile Buoy with the loss of 96 hands.

1941-1942 Just outside Sandbach at BETCHTON a Decoy Bunker was in operation. It was designed to act as a Decoy to deflect enemy bombers away from the RAF Base at Cranage. The decoy was a “Q type” night decoy which was lit up to look like the Royal Air Force Base at Cranage (known locally as Byley Airfield [http://www.rafcranage.org.uk/history-of-raf-cranage.html]). Jack Bowser (D. May 2015) was the last survivor of the 4 men who manned the decoy.

1943 British Pathe filmed a sequence about Sandbach and Great Budworth. The film featured the Old Hall, Saxon Crosses and St Mary’s Church.

1945 Winston Churchill the Prime Minister visited Sandbach and gave a speech on the Congleton Road towards the side of the Town Hall (Sandbach Chronicle article about the event in the 28 June edition, Actual date not recorded). He had disembarked at a siding in Ettley Heath. (Film exists of the visit and a copy is held by the Sandbach History Society.)

WW2 When the Americans entered the war some GI’s were billeted in the area with their headquarters being based at the Wheat sheaf Hotel.

1946 Sandbach Urban District Council sent out a Certificate to all Service Personnel from the Town of Sandbach. The wording goes as follows:- “The Townspeople of Sandbach present to ….. This Certificate in
Appreciation and Gratitude for the devoted service you have rendered in the cause of Freedom and Justice for the benefit of humanity generally. Your contribution to Victory is a source of pride to your fellow townsmen, and on their behalf the Urban District Council tender to you sincere thanks.” The certificate was then signed by F.T. Blease, Chairman of the Council and the Clerk of the Council at the time.

KNOWN CERTIFICATES Issued to:-
Kenneth Chester (Prisoner of War and served in the Cheshire Regiment)
J. Minshull (Gunner and diver in the Royal Navy)
The Town of Helsby also issued these certificates and it is thought that each town, village or city produced their own certificates in thanks to their own brave servicemen.

1946 The Sandbach Amateur Dramatic Society (Sandbach Players) were formed.
1947 Cath Jones converted her father’s cabinet making shop in Congleton Road into a Music studio. It opened in August 1947 (See 2000)
1948 Clifford Welsby opened “Welsby’s Chemists” at 1 Crewe Road.
Nov 1948 Sandbach Round Table formed.
Founded by Mr Louis Marchesi as a national organisation in 1927 the Sandbach branch was the brainchild of Fred Bennett a company secretary at the Zan Works in Wheelock.
Mr Bennett and Mr Charles Lowe were joined by Chris Peyton and Joe Lewis from ERF, Harold Charlesworth and Cecil Rigby, Solicitors at the Co-op Café, later the Price City building and later 15 more members.
The Sandbach Round Table officially started in 1948 with its Charter being granted in May of 1950 when they met at the Market Tavern.
The Group then met at the Old Hall and then the Wheat sheaf by 1953.
In 1957 the Round Table started the famous Ox Roast during Wakes Week.
In 1970 they also started organising the Christmas Lights.
By 2003 the group had moved back to the Market Tavern for their meetings.
They also help Father Christmas seeing children around the town in their annual tour.

CHAIRMEN
1948 Mr Chris Peyton
1953 Mr Charles Lowe
(TBC)
2003 Steve Walsh

12 Jan 1954 BBC LIGHT PROGRAMME “WOMAN’S HOUR”
Interviewed Mrs Mary Ferguson from Sandbach Cheshire on Namesakes.
4-12 Sept 1954 WHEELOCK HEATH BAPTIST CHURCH 250th Anniversary Celebrations.
The Church was founded in 1704 with the Present Church erected in 1860.
(Hassall Road between Coppice Road and Sandy Lane)
1955 The BBC Radio Programme “Down Your Way” came to Sandbach.
15 May 1955 Sandbach Churches held a procession for “Rogation Day” (Days of Prayer and Fasting around the 25 April) starting at the top of The Hill at 2.15pm and hope to reach the church at 3pm.

# Foden Centenary Celebrations #
FODENS Ltd Celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a Gala Day at the Sports Ground in Sandbach.
The day started with a procession led by Foden’s Band followed by various trucks and floats with events throughout the day including sports and the day ended with a concert and firework display. The
Foden Band and parade would march from the Foden Works to the Foden Sports Ground at the top of Welles Street / Green Street, Sandbach.

Some of the men at the Foden Motor Works formed “The Beard Club” which vowed to grow a beard until after the event to give that authentic look to their costumes. President of the society Mr J Hollingshead (Drawing Office) was joined by Mr D.V. Lloyd (Engine department), Mr S Harrison (Buying department), Mr N Hollingshead (Buying department) and Harry Bayley took part in the group.

After the Procession from the works in Elworth the party continued at the Sports Ground at the top of Welles Street / Green Street with various games for employees to take part in.

Events also included -

CHILDREN’S CORNER

Hobby Horse (For Youngsters), Donley / Pony rides, a miniature Railway, Durham’s Royal Punch and Judy show, Yoxani Clowns, The Sensational Lesters in their Trapeze Acts, Model Locomotive and Train.

INSIDE LARGE MARQUEE

Joe Marsh in Comedy Juggling Act, Clifford Hough with Magic for Young and Old, Yoxani and his performing Animals and Birds accompanied by Mr Arthur Bailey and Compere Fred Yoxall.

PROCESSION

1) Centenary procession banner carried by two members of the Beard Club in period costume (Mr J Hollonshead and Mr N Hollinshead).
2) Fodens Motor Works Band.
3) Heavy Horse-drawn Passenger Coach (Mr John Stringer, Somerford)
4) Light Horse-drawn Passenger Coach (Fodens Limited)
5) Landau (Mr W Proctor, Hanley)
6) Phaeton (Mr W Proctor, Hanley)
6a) Shooting brake (Mr W Proctor, Hanley) Members of the Beard Club and Ladies Committee in Period Costume will ride in the horse drawn vehicles.
7) Penny Farthing cyclists (Mr J Keaton and Mr K Hockenmull)
8) The Red Flag Bearer (1865 act requiring a flag bearer to walk in-front of a mechanical road vehicle) – (Mr Rex Harrison)
9) Foden Traction engine No 1174 (Drivers Mr G Nicholas and Mr Whittingham)
10) Foden Traction engine No 2654 (Drivers Mr W Foster and Mr P Davies / Owner Barlow Brothers of High Leigh)
10b) Threshing Machine (Owner Mr W Davies of Holmes Chapel)
10c) Binder (Owner Mr W Davies of Holmes Chapel)
10d) Baler (Owner Mr W Davies of Holmes Chapel)
11) 1898 Butler “Quad” Veteran Car (Owner Mr J Broadhead of Bollington)

VARIOUS CARS AND FODEN VEHICLES (12-52)

53) 1939-46 Crusader Tank loaned by the Royal Armoured corps Museum and carried on Messrs Adamsons 30 Ton Trailer Towed by Foden “GOLIATH” breakdown crane, Vehicle No 15070.
54) Congleton Town Band

CURRENT FODEN VEHICLES(55-72)

/ CUSTOMERS’ DECORATED VEHICLES (73-80)

81) Assembly Shop Copper Pipe Band (All instruments hand made in the works out of copper)
82) “Revelry” Troupe of Morris Dancers
83) Lower Withington Troupe of Morris dancers
84) Fodens Centenary Queen
85) Fodens Centenary Queen’s Maid of Honour

DEPARTMENTAL TABLEAUX

86) Assembly Shop
87) Bond Stores
88) Cost and Accounts
89) Cricket Club
90) Drawing Office
91) Despatch Stores
92) Employees Children
93) Engine Shop
94) Experimental Department
2.30pm to 4.30pm POTTED SPORTS – MEN
Various Athletic and Gymkhana Events with teams from Gamast (Garage Maintenance and Stores), Scratch and Pop Boys (Assembly Shop), Johnson’s Jokers (Erecting Shop), Mostonross (Repair Shop and Despatch Stores), Alf’s Nitwits (No 2 Machine Shop), Barber’s Inkspots (No 1 Machine Shop), Hollinshead’s Hoboes (The Beard Club), Diehards (Office Staff), Geoff’s Agile Imps (Lab Tool Room and App School) and the Olympic Rejects (No 1 Machine shops). The took part in a number of events including, Football Dribbling Relay, Putting the Shot, Relay Sack Race, 50 Yard Sprint in Costume, Hop – Skip and Jump, Target Bowls, Wheelbarrow Race, Ringing the Bell, Arch and Tunnel Ball and a Comic Obstacle Race.

4.30pm to 5.00pm LADIES SPORTS
Egg and Spoon Race, 50 Yard Sprint, 3 Legged Race and a Comic Obstacle Race.

5.10pm TUG OF WAR

5.30pm OPENING CEREMONY by William Foden.

6pm PRIZES

OUTSIDE ENTERTAINMENT
7pm to 7.15pm Lower Withington Morris Dancing Troupe
7.15pm to 7.30pm The Revelry Morris Dancing Troupe
With the Congleton Town Prize Brass Band (Conductor Mr E Ogden)
7.30pm to 7.45pm Ross and Ross (Comedy Aerial Gymnastics)
7.45pm to 8.15pm Old Time Cricket Match
8.15pm to 8.30pm Jeep Assembly Demonstration

7pm to 8.30pm FIRST CONCERT
Fodens conducted by Harry Mortimer
Scott Joynt (Bass Singer of the BBC)
Robbie and Platt (Laughter Makers)
Clifford Hough (Illusionist)
Fodenway (Arthur Bailey)
Poet and Peasant (Suppe)
The Gay Highway – Sung by Scott Joynt
Myself when Young – From In a Persian Garden (Liza Lehmann)
Sung by Scott Joynt
The Song of the Flea (Mussorgsky)
Sung by Scott Joynt Accompanied by Mr Bailey
Lilac Time (Schubert)
Silent Worship - Trombone Solo by Mr Alex English
Firefly - Trombone Solo by Mr Alex English
Invincible (H. Scott) – Solo by Mr Wilf Mountain
Drinking – Solo by Mr Wilf Mountain
Slavonic Dance No 8 (Dvorak)
Paso doble “Amparita Roca” (Texidor)
Selection from “Ivan Susanin (Glinka)
(Originally called A Life for the Tsar)
Mr Clifford Hough provided Magic for the Youngsters.
Robbie and Platt “The Inimitable Laughter Makers”

7.30pm to 8.40pm DANCING AND CABERET
Sid Phillips and his band
Kay McKinley and Frank Nelson

8.40pm to 9.10pm Robbie and Platt
Clifford Hough
Compere Mr Fred Yoxhall

8.40pm to 10pm SECOND CONCERT (Different Hall from above)
March from Tannhauser (Wagner)
Chit Chat Polka (Strauss)
Overture to “Der Frieschutz” (Carl Maria von Weber)
Slavonic Rhapsody No 2 (Friedemann)
Alpine Echoes (Windsor) - Mr E Gray (Cornet Solo).
Carillon – Cornet Trio
Czardas (Monti) - Mr W Illingworth (Xylophone Solo).
Vulcan’s Song (Gounod) – Sung by Mr Scott Joynt
Yeomen of England (Ed. German) – Sung by Mr Scott Joynt
Simon and Cellarer (Hatton) – Sung by Mr Scott Joynt

8.45 to 9pm Ross and Ross (Comedy Gymnasts and Comic Wire walking Act)
9.15pm to 10.45pm DANCING AND CABARET
Syd Phillips and band
With Kay McKinley and Frank Wilson
(The programme comes from the Sandbach Chronicle and differs from the official programme)

10.45pm FIREWORKS DISPLAY
Feature 14 July 1956 Crewe Chronicle.
A film of the event was made by William Bell (Bill Bell) a test driver with Fodens and has been put on Youtube by his grandson Derek Walker (5 July 2011). www.youtube.com/watch?v=keclO4I5QA

1957 The “Elworth Flower Club” was formed.
1958 Cyril Massey wrote his “History of Sandbach and District” book. (see 1978)
1960 The Leonard Cheshire Home held the first of its annual Fate’s or “Faterama” in June. (15th year it was held on the 7 June 1975)
1960 Sandbach County Secondary School held its first Sports Day (June/July).
1960 Bradwall Hall (Nr Sandbach) was demolished.
21 June 1961 Sandbach Fire Station was officially opened on the 21 June 1961 by Alderman F.D. Gee the Chairman of the County Fire Brigade Committee.
1962 The Old Water Tower in the Town was demolished.
1963 On the 15th November 1963 the Minister for Transport officially opened the M6 Motorway between Bartomley, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel and Thelwall near Warrington.
1964 The Sandbach Original Small Livestock Society held their first “Open Pen Show”
of 1964 at the British Soda canteen with 330 entries for secretary Frank “Chubby” Payne to organise.

June 1965
Sandbach Police did a “Moonlight Flit” (On a Thursday before 25 June) from their offices in Bold Street to rooms behind the Courtrooms in Middlewich Road which were formally the Congleton Rural District Council Offices. Their first enquiry was at 3 O Clock when a man asked them where the Police Station was! (Sandbach Chronicle 25 June 2015, Pg 14, “Glancing back”)

17 Oct 1965
BBC2 reached Sandbach when the UHF Transmitter was switched on at Winter Hill allowing viewers to see programmes on the channel for the first time. BBC1 was broadcast on VHF and so you had to have a duel receiver on your TV to view BBC2 which had only been produced in the last two years. Previous versions were unable to be converted to the new frequencies. BBC Television was supposed to have been launched BBC 2 at 7.20pm on the 20 April 1964 in the London Area but due to a power failure at Battersea Power Station the programmes failed to go on the air. At 11am on the 21 April 1964 BBC was officially launched with the blowing out of a candle in jest at the power failure the previous night and the children’s programme “Play School” became the first programme to be broadcast. As mentioned above BBC 2 didn’t reach Lancashire and Cheshire until 1965.

Jan 1966
Sandbach Town Council announced the names of some new streets in the town. A new street at LIGHTLY CLOSE will be called Ordsall Close after the home of the Radcliffe family the Lord of the Manor. FACTORY LANE ESTATE
   Palmer Road = Named after the man who restored the Saxon Crosses.
   Ormerod Close = Named after a Cheshire Historian
   Birch Gardens = Named after the Predecessor to Mr Arthur Skeath who is now the Clerk of the Town Council.
   Saxon Way = Self Explanatory

Jan 1966
Councillor Sam Riley and his wife retired from running their butchers shop in Elworth ending 100 years of business which had started with Samuel Riley and a portable shop he had outside the Red Lion in Sandbach. The shop then moved into 6 Congleton Road (1902 / 1914) as Samuel Riley and Sons (Butcher) and then by 1938 Ernest Riley had taken over the Butchers shop and by 1955 had opened the shop in 13 London Road, Elworth.

1966
The Sandbach and District Bowling League was formed. By 2015 there were 72 teams in 6 divisions (12 Teams in Each).

Dec 1967
Fire gutted the Foden Fibreglass Shop on the Friday when workers ran for their lives as flammable Fibreglass resin exploded into flames at the works. (Looking back 2017 21 Dec 2017 Sandbach Chronicle)

Sept 1968
Sandbach Scouts were reformed by Reg Shallcross and others after a break of about 15 years when the Cubs and Scouts were disbanded due to a lack of leaders.

1969
A new swimming pool was added to Sandbach School.

1969
Sandbach had a “Sandbach Arts Festival” sometime in March or April.

31 Aug 1969
BBC RADIO 4 PROGRAMME “DOWN YOUR WAY” came to Sandbach. Franklin Engelmann visited Sandbach, Cheshire for the programme broadcast on the 31 August 1969 at 5pm with a repeat on the 3 September 1969 at 12.15pm. The producer was Richard Burwood.

Oct /Nov 1969
The impressionist Mike Yarwood opened the new TESCO Store in Sandbach, High Street. (Now Iceland)

1960’s - 1970’s
Sandbach was visited by an Elephant. Not the usual type but a mechanical one which children could sit on and were taken for a ride round the car park. There was a lot of Mechanical Elephants after the Second World War with seaside resorts using them to give rides without the danger of a temperamental live elephant.

On the 28 July 1950 Frank Stuart (.b. 27 July 1883 .D. 12 Jan 1977) premiered his man made walking elephant on the roads of Essex with children on its back in what is known as a Howdah.

Frank was a theatrical mask maker and scenic artist who came up with the idea in 1948 while watching donkeys on the beach and wondered if he could do the
same thing with a mechanical elephant. Powered by a 10 horsepower the elephant could do 27 mph and had to have a special licence to go on the roads.

Frank had about 25 elephants made and by 1957 he was in debt as they didn’t bring in enough money to run them. One was transported to America for a Republican Parade but was damaged by a hurricane and in 1965 Frank Stuart put his creations up for sale to an amusement park and it is possible that it was this elephant that came to Sandbach on that magical day.

In 1966 one of Frank’s “Electrophant” (As they were called) appeared at Whiteley’s Department Store with Mr Colin Cook driving the elephant. He was an ex-employee of F Barry in Aldham, Colchester, who had worked on making the model frames for Mr Stuart.

In about 1967 an elephant named Jessica appeared on Blue Peter with Valerie Singleton and Christopher Trace. It was made by a new company called the “Electrophants Limited” who produced them in Stretford St Mary, Suffolk and they marketed them with a promotion film and a brochure of the product.

In December 1975 and April 1976 one of the original versions called “Bertha” appeared on Blue Peter with John Noakes, Peter Pervis and Lesley Judd. They even interviewed the creator of the elephant for Frank Stuart, Mr Maurice Radburn who came up with the frame design to make it walk. He said there were about 25 elephants made both Petrol driven and some like Berth with a Battery powered motor.

Margate in Kent had one on the Sea front (about 1950) and Pickering Park in Hull, Humberside had one which was featured in trials as shown in Pathe News in 1949.

A Large Blue Whale (or Finback Whale) was parked on the Common.

It was one of three whales that toured the country, Jonah, Goliath and Hercules. Two of the models / Whales have since disappeared but the third one Jonah was by 2013 being restored for exhibition. (Poss in Sandbach 1970-72)

JONAH was a 70ft, 70 ton Finback Whale which had been caught off Trodheim in Norway in 1952. It was originally exhibited at Oslo University. It then had its organs removed and was fitted with a refrigeration unit and was put onto the back of a 100ft trailer (At the time the biggest lorry in the world). It then toured Norway to promote Whaling along with a stuffed dormouse in a glass case which was put in its mouth (or on its nose) to show the largest and smallest mammals in the world.

It then toured for 25 years to just about every town in Europe, Japan and Africa. Eventually it was sold to a Circus Owner and then a Swiss businessman who exhibited it as an educational exhibit touring places like Sheffield in the 1950’s, 60’s and 70’s. In 2006 after a newspaper article about the link with Sheffield and a book of its visit, Mike Austen the head of one of the UK’s Oldest Circuses contacted the author to say he had driven the lorry with the whale on it in the 70’s and that it still existed and had been kept in Holland and Belgium over the last 30 years. The interest from the article allowed the writer to see the whale which was in a good condition and it was subsequently purchased by a showman is being restored for another tour round the UK.

HERCULES – The second Whale on tour was disposed of when the Circus went bust in Spain.

GOLIATH – Has just disappeared. It may have been destroyed in Barnsley or Soot Hill, Dewsbury when it was burnt due to it going off. The kiln that the whale was burnt in is supposed to have exploded due to the gases in the whale.

The Library was opened on the Commons on the 17 March 1970.

Aquarius Swimming Club for the Disabled formed in 1970.

The first meeting and subsequent meetings took place at the Sandbach School Swimming pool.

The club encouraged those with disabilities to do something able bodied take for granted and with support from volunteers they have ways of getting people into the water if they are unable to do so without assistance as
well as having competitions which involve a handicap system depending on the ability of the swimmer to start at various times making the winner being the one across the line (Touch the wall) first.

Sandbach Secondary School 6th form sponsored one of the prizes and members of the 6th form attended to present the cup.

In October 2015 the club celebrated its 45th birthday.

1971
The Wheelock Railway line closed on the 1 January.

1972
Post Office and Sorting Office opened on the Market Square.

1972
In 1760 the Church House on the Market Square was built. In 1972 it was rebuilt.

1 Nov 1973
Jimmy Greenoff from Stoke City opened a Sports shop in 22 Congleton Rd, Sandbach. (2014 = Peppers Café)

2 June 1974
BBC Radio 4 Broadcast its “Morning Service” for Whit Sunday from the Methodist Church, Sandbach conducted by the Rev Arthur Shaw assisted by Rev Stanley Waite.


Hymns (MHB): Father of everlasting grace (730); Away with our fears (278);

On all the earth (301); Come down, 0 love divine 1273)

Anthem: God is a Spirit (W. Sterndale Bennett)

Choir director Jessie Rosson
Organist Derek Jennings.

1974
A new Sandbach newspaper was launched in 1974 and by November 1976 “The Saxon Crosses” was being edited by Mrs Annette Bowland of 78 Belmont Avenue, Sandbach (Phone Sandbach 4996).

“Volume 3 Number 8” was dated November 1976 so in theory the paper could have been started in February 1973. According to the minutes from the Sandbach Players they indicate a new newspaper in April 1974.

The headline on the above edition was Saxon Crosses Restoration and goes into depth about a new process seen on “Tomorrows World” about a preservative that could be added to the stones to allow the stone to “breathe” yet hold its fabric and design thereon for many decades.

After writing to Raymond Baxter (Presenter of “Tomorrows World”) for the company that produced this magic liquid it was then down to David Carrington-Brown who was the Chairman of the Sandbach Chamber of Trade to persuade the Inspector of Ancient Monuments to allow this process to be used.

On the 1 April 1976, Mr Carrington-Brown, Mrs Pauline Taylor, Mr Arthur Holliday and President of the Chamber of Trade, Mr John Gleaver met with a trio of representatives from the Ancient Monuments, Mr Weaver (Inspector), Mr Clark (Architect) and Mr Whayman.

After a long discussion the meeting agreed to the use of the new covering and after a delay of seven months scaffolding was erected and the job was done in November 1976.
re-organisation.

The Council had a budget of £85,520.00

1975
THE SANDBACH FOLK DANCING CLUB was formed.

28 Sept 1976
The **Sandbach History Society** held its inaugural meeting on the 28th September 1976 at St Mary’s Church Hall.

The following were elected –
- President – Lawrence Massey
- Vice President – J Rigby
- Chairman – Cllr Don Broad

17 Jan 1976
The LEISURE CENTRE was officially opened.

The Leisure Centre was built next to the Sandbach Secondary School (Now Sandbach High School) during the previous year. One of the workmen was from Scotland and knew how to play the bagpipes.

Once the roof had been finished he decided to play the bagpipes from the top of the building. Instead of being told off for his stunt he played them so well that he was invited to play at the school’s assembly for the pupils.

1976
The Road Chef at the SANDBACH SERVICE STATION was opened.

1977
The Department of the Environment put forward a plan to move the Saxon Crosses from the Market Square to a controlled environment to halt erosion of the old Sandstone. The D of E had been given control of the Crosses by Congleton Borough Council because it was thought that they knew how to protect the ancient monument but Cllr Mrs Henshall said she could hardly contain her outrage against the suggestion to move the Crosses and the people of the town were absolutely adamant they should not be removed.

1977
Sandbach formed a “Silver Jubilee Committee” to raise funds for the Queen’s celebrations. Chairman of the committee was Mr Robert Holmes who helped to organise a number of events to raise funds including a Cheese and Wine evening at the Town Hall which raised £300 and involved the Rotary Club, Ladies Circle, Darts and Dominoes League and local traders who donated prizes for the evening.

18 June 1977
JUBILEE FAIR and Carnival in Sandbach.

The Market Traders dressed up in costumes Medieval Costumes (Later to become the Tudor or Elizabethan Market)

1977
The First SANDBACH MARATHON took place.

There were 158 runners who finished the course with C Taylor (Airedale) finishing in a time of 2 Hours 17 minutes and 17 seconds.

**WINNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>C Taylor (Airedale) 2h17m17s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>A Simmons (Luton) 2h12m50s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>C Kirkham (Coventry G) 2h17m30s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>T Wright (Wolves and B) 2h13m43s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>A Robertson (Army) 2h14m23s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982 (12 September 1982)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMEN’S</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Joyce Smith (Barnet L) 2h41m37s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Joyce Smith (Barnet L – No 15) 2h33m32s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Julie Barleycorn (Crawley) 2h48m21s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Fifth Marathon (Men’s) was held on the 21 June 1981 and was sponsored by Sandbach Engineering (Fodens) and had their Band Playing on the Lawn by the outside gates.

1979 Start. 1981 Fodens Band
11 Aug 1977  The BBC were filming Sandbach Market.

1978
The Sandbach History Society Founded (Officially) in memory of Cyril Massey who wrote the book "History of Sandbach". (see 28 Sept 1976)

1 Apr 1978  The Original TOWN CRYERS Competition took place in the Market Square in April some 150 years since the town had a town Cryer. Organised by Councillor’s Bob Holmes (Sandbach Town Council) and Mrs Eileen Henshall (Congleton Borough Council) the competition was won by 45 year old Don Burgess a wages boss at Fodens Motor Works Ltd Marcia Brooks was the only entry in the female class and so was awarded a bottle of Sherry.

7 May 1978  Sandbach Marathon – Started at Offley Road and finished at Sandbach Secondary School. (see below)

13 May 1978  BBC GRANDSTAND (BBC1 TV at 1pm) Introduced by Frank Bough.
The programme broadcast a filmed report of the Sandbach Marathon (7 May 1978)

1978
FODEN’S MOTOR WORKS CARNIVAL
The Manufacturer opened its Welles Street Sports and Social Club to the public and staff for a Carnival.
The event had a number of old and new lorries including the “Pride of Edwin” one of the first steam wagons and a new £5 Million Army Truck.
A 47 strong Royal Artillery Junior Leaders Band provided the music and the Whitworth Morris Men of Rochdale provided a dancing display.
The day’s events ended with a disco.

3-5 May 1979
SANDBACH TUDOR CELEBRATIONS (Elizabethan Market)
In celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Charter given to the town by Queen Elizabeth 1st (1579) the town went Tudor for three days in May (3-5 May 1979 – Crewe Chronicle 10 May)
Continued as an annual event (Later than 1984).

31 Jan 1981  Sandbach Folk Club held its first evening with a rendition of “San Francisco Bay Blues”

1981
An Archaeological Dig took place in the Central Market area revealing deposits from the Medieval Period. The evidence comprised a Domestic Settlement with a potential oven within the boundaries of the property. Evidence shows that the property ran at right angels to the High Street frontage and backed onto what is now Hope Street.

1981
In 1981 Sandbach was given its own version of the Chronicle with the CREWE CHRONICLE (Sandbach) edition being published.

24 May 1982  BBC 2 (TV) programme “A Moment to Talk” broadcast a programme filmed in Sandbach with workers from ERF. (Cameraman Steve Saunderson and Editor Greg Miller).

15 May 1982  Larry Grayson (The Generation Game) was the special guest at the Sandbach County Primary School (Crewe Road) PTA Fair.
The event also had an ERF Stand as well as the new JIMP manufactured by P.K. Manufacturing (Sandbach).

1982
Commons Mill was demolished. Built in 1843 (or 1850) it had been unused for years and was finally knocked down in 1982.

5 May 1983  BBC Radio 4 presented a programme called “Enterprise” which featured the Sandbach based “The Jimp” car designers and builders.
Steve Robinson and Peter Kukla were childhood friends who worked together on the project. (Producer Ann Tennant at BBC Birmingham)
Repeated 6 Aug 1983

1984
John Minshull produced a pictorial history of Sandbach called “Bygone Sandbach” Which was published by the Rotary Club to commemorate Christian Heritage Year.
John photographed Sandbach since 1949, recording the changes in the town and also collecting postcards and pictures for an archive of the town’s history.

1984
A leaflet about the town lists some of the events during the year.

| April    | HOME AND LEISURE FAIR |
| May     | ELIZABETHAN MARKET     |
|         | (The Sandbach Players took part in the festival in 1980, 1982) |
|         | Including Morris Dancers. |
| May     | WHEELOCK MAY DAY       |
(The Sandbach Players took part in the festival in 1977)

June LEOAND CHESIRE HOME FATE AND PARADE  
August BRADWALL SHOW  
September SANDBACH WAKES  
September SANDBACH MARATHON  
November BRIDAL FAIR  
December CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

July 1984 Sandbach Cricket Club on Crewe Road was demolished to make way for houses.  
This was situated behind the houses at the Town Centre end of Crewe Road behind Hope Street and The Gardens and behind the Cricketers Arms  
Spring 1984 The Shopping Precinct was built. Now Penda Way to Sunbec Walk.  
6 May 1985 The Elizabethan Market was the subject of a Children’s Saturday Morning programme when on the 6 May 1985 the “Saturday Picture Show” recorded items at the Market for the following week with Maggie Philbin and Mark Curry (Later Blue Peter Presenter).

1985 A new Surgery was built on Middlewich Rd, opposite the Wesley Avenue Chapel. It was later taken over by Poole and Alcock (Financial / Legal Services).  
May 1986 Elizabethan Market Day (Tudor Market / May Day)  
Included Ox Roast, Morris Dancers, Kiddies Motorbikes, Magician and a Performing Brown Bear act.  
27 Nov 1986 The Sandbach Bye-Pass opened in November with the official opening being performed by Cllr Mrs M.E. Melrose on the 27 November 1986. The contract to build the Bypass was awarded to A Monk and Company PLC who put in a tender for £2.3 million. They started work in March 1985 with a 90 week contract for completion with a completion date of December 1986. The road was opened to the public on the 31 October 1986 (Friday) after a car boot sale was held on the road the previous Sunday 26 Oct 1986.  
Dec 1986 Sandbach Talking Newspaper formed. Their first home was in the offices of Stuart Lowndes in Hind Heath Road. They then moved to Lea House on Old Middlewich Road and in 2004 they moved to 501 Crewe Road, Wheelock CW11 3RX in the Tarmx building.  
June 1987 The Slaughter house in Sandbach was demolished.  
19 Mar 1988 BBC 1 TV programme “First Class” featured a team from Sandbach School against Kirkland High from Methil, Fife. The presenter was Debbie Greenwood. The team won through to the next round on the 28 May 1988 where they met the All Saints High School from Huddersfield.

Jan 1989 Plans were submitted for a new SAFEWAYS Supermarket in Sandbach. (now Waitrose)  
1-17 Mar 1990 Sandbach Festival (Music Festival) – Including the group Bandersnatch. (see 1992 for first Balcony Arts Music Festival)  
April 1990 or 91 Sandbach held its first “Festival of Transport” (Sandbach Transport Festival).  
Apr / May 1990 NEW POLICE STATION  
Opened since April 1990 the new purpose built Police Station was officially opened by the Chairman of the County Council’s Police Committee Cheshire (May 1990) next to Westfield’s the home of Congleton Borough Council’s Headquarters and the site of the temporary building.  
Jan 1991 The George Bowling Club was renamed the “Sandbach Park Bowling Club” after the move from the George Hotel to the Park.  
1991 Sandbach were placed first in the “Best Kept Town” awards (Community Pride)  
1991 Sandbach Art Club formed.  
8 Oct 1991 SAFEWAYS opened in Sandbach (Date to be confirmed Poss first Tuesday in Oct 1991)
The new superstore was opened by Mayor Cllr Trevor Howkins and a 10 year old called Gemma Stevens who won a painting competition to win a bike and open the store.

1992
Sandbach were placed first in the “Best Kept Town” awards (Community Pride) for the second year.

May 1992
The first Balcony Arts “Sandbach Arts Festival”. Formed in 1991 ten people who had been involved in a Pantomime decided to do something different and organised the arts festival which ran over 3 days and had Tom Robinson as its Headlining Act. Manchester Camerata also featured at the festival and comedian Dave Gorman.

1992
SANDBACH HISTORY SOCIETY Produced a Heritage Trail leaflet.

February 1993
ARCLID HOSPITAL RADIO closed after 5 years of broadcasting. Presenters were told of the stations closure in January and they stopped broadcasting at the end of February. The closure was due to the closure of the Hospital at Arclid. Many of the presenters moved onto other Hospital Radio Stations including Hospital Radio Leighton.

30 Apr – 2 May 1993 2nd Balcony Arts “Sandbach Arts Festival” with Lindisfarne and The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

5 June 1993
Leonard Cheshire Home Carnival and Fun Day with a parade through the town centre.

Mar / Apr 1994
The new Post Office was opened in George’s Walk Sandbach by regional manager Gwyn Owen and Sub Postmistress Pauline Mountford.

27 Apr – 1 May 1994 Balcony Arts presented the “Sandbach Arts Festival” between the 27 Apr and 1 May 1994. Headlining acts included Labi Siffre, Jooles Holland and His Big Band, The Halle Ensemble. Dave Gorman (2nd visit of the Comedian) and Humphrey Lyttleton (Trumpet Player and BBC Radio Presenter).

22 Apr – 7 May 1995 Sandbach Arts Festival included the Searchers, Hue and Cry, Christine Collister, Frank Sidebottom, Jeremy Hardy (Comedian), Hattie Hayridge (Comedian / Red Dwarf) and Linda Smith (Comedienne) with Dave Gorman (3rd visit of the Comedian)

6 May 1995
VE DAY STREET PARTY
To celebrate VE day Sandbach Community Partnership under the chairmanship of Carol Burgess organised a Street Party in the Town with music provided by the Dave Brown Big Band.

23 Sept 1995
FIRE AT FODENS WORKS
The old Foden factory on Station Road, Elworth had been the home of a Go-Carting Track and other businesses. On the evening of the 23 September 1995 the building caught fire destroying the area in what was described as the biggest fire in the town with fire appliances from all over the area in attendance trying to put it out without success as far as the building was concerned as it had to be demolished.

St Stevens had to be evacuated and various local residents helped house those in need while the fire was tackled by appliances from Sandbach, Crewe and the surrounding area.

Firefighters were still dampening down on the 24 September 1995.

7 Nov 1995
LODGE CHAIR TO BE HOUSED IN LIBRARY
Library takes Custody of Chair to be displayed in the Marriott Room. On Tuesday the 7 November 1995 a chair originally used by Masters of the Sandbach Bud of Hope Lodge, a section of the “National United Order of Free Gardener’s Friendly Society” whose headquarters were based in the town.

Founded in 1842 the chair was presented in 1893 as a memorial to Brother Noah Lees for 50 years of service to the organisation. In 1993 the chair was offered to the Sandbach History Society and was restored by Mr John Minshull and local wood craftsman Mr Reg Lewis.

After many years in the Marriott room a member of the management of Cheshire County Council’s Libraries decided it was a Fire Risk and a new home was sort to house the chair. At this time it was offered to the Sandbach Town Council and can now be seen in the Literary Institute’s Council Chamber.
9 Nov 1995  American Folk Singer Tom Paxton appeared at Sandbach School.

May 1996  The May Day celebration was swapped from an Ox Roast to a Hog Roast due to an outbreak of BSE in the UK.

25 Apr-5 May 1996  5th SANDBACH ARTS FESTIVAL
Sandbach Arts Festival included The Manfreds, Fairport Convention (Acoustic), Mark Lamarr (Comedian / TV Presenter), Nigel Planer (Young Ones), George Melly with John Chilton’s Feetwalmers, John Shuttleworth, Snowy White (Singer), Circle Sensible

22 June – 13 July 1996  SANDBACH SCHOOL FESTIVAL
Included Vin Garbut (6 July 1996 - Comedian) and Singer Alan Price (13 July 1996)

28 Feb 1997  Lindisfarne appeared at Sandbach School.

5 May 1997  May Day celebration 5 May 1997.

1997  SANDBACH TODAY event.
Organised by the Sandbach partnership and Dot Flint the event brings together local groups to publicise themselves to the people of Sandbach.

Jan 1998  SANDBACH SOCIETIES EVENING (Sandbach Today) 2nd event.
Groups included:-
(Murial Farnsworth Smith) Ladies Association
(Jim Thompson) Sandbach Scouts
(Don Haynes) Sandbach Unplugged / Folk Club
(Helena Massey) Sandbach Community Events
(Jean Marriott) Lions Club
(Mike Mate) Sandbach Transport Festival

1998  Sandbach were placed first in the “Best Kept Town” awards (Community Pride) for towns with a population of between 10,000 and 20,000. The award was sponsored by Shell UK / Cheshire Building Society.

1999  FODEN MOTOR WORKS stopped producing Lorries in Sandbach.

June 1999  Sandbach Rugby Union Football Club held its first “Donkey Derby”.

26 Nov 1999  SANDBACH TODAY (3)
An event organised by Congleton Borough’s Arts officer Carol McGregor and Ex-Mayor Dorothy Flint at Sandbach Town Hall.
Carol Mc Gregor and Dorothy Flint (Organisers)
Lyn Slack (Sandbach Talking Newspaper)
Phil Umberg (RNLI)
Dave Sant (Sandbach Players)
Jean Bold (CPRE)
Pat Riley (Churches together) 2 July 2000 event
Joe Wilson (Transport Festival) 16 April 2000

29 Feb 2000  Cath Jones Music Studio closed for the last time on the 29 February 2000 exactly 18 Months after is owner Cath Jones had died. (See 1947)

2 July 2000  MILLENIUM CELEBRATION on Scotch Common.
The event included the play “Have you Seen my Son?” which told the story of Christ. It was performed by Sandbach Churches Together.

2001  The ERF Factory, Offices and Car Parks were demolished.

29 Dec 2001  One of the largest car crashes on the Motorway took place on the Northbound lane of the M6 Motorway between Junctions 16 and 17 with 40 Cars and Lorries colliding. Only two people were injured in the crash but it involved emergency crews from all over the Staffordshire and Cheshire area.

2003  Sandbach were placed first in the “Best Kept Town” awards (Community Pride) for towns with a population of between 10,000 and 20,000. The award was sponsored by Shell UK.

Nov 2003  Sandbach Chamber of Trade started a Loyalty Card / Sandbach Traders Card to boost sales locally.

24 Apr 2004  Sandbach Talking Newspapers new studio was officially opened by Sandbach MP Lady Ann Winterton. Situated in Wheelock in a building owned by Termox they have a studio and reproduction area to copy the programmes onto cassette and now MP3 format.

12 Sept 2004  Battle of Sandbach re-enactment on the 12 September 2004 at Sandbach Park.

Oct 2004  Sky Tv programme “Most Haunted” filmed at the Old Hall with Yvette Fielding and Gaby Roslin meeting Derek Acorah. (Series 5 Episode 2)
April 2005  The Sandbach Transport Festival was cancelled when its volunteer committee were unable to find time to sort out all the arrangements.

Aug 2005  In August 2005 Peter Harris was murdered by Sean Carrahar a local drug dealer. The murder took place in the car park of Iceland.

23 April 2006  The Sandbach Transport Festival returned with over 10,000 spectators. The theme of the event was “Farewell to Fodens” which was started in 1856 and employed 5,000 people. The event had 30 Foden trucks in the parade including a 1908 and 1925 steamer.

Organiser Reg Shallcross said the event also had an art exhibition in the Town Hall, a performance by the Lion’s Youth Brass Band and a chance to have your teddy bear parachuted from the top of the Fire Station training tower.

Marshall for the event was provided by members of the Rotary Club of Saxon Crosses and the Sandbach Lions.

1 May 2006  MAY DAY Celebration with Hog Roast on Market Square.

6 May 2006  The WESLEY CENTRE was opened by MP Ann Winterton.

2006  Battle of Sandbach on the weekend of the 16-17 September 2006. The event took place at Sandbach Heath with members of the Sealed Knott Re-Enacting the battle of Sandbach (see also 2004)

2006  In July 2006 the last Foden Truck (Name Badge only) was produced at the Leyland Factory ending 150 years of truck building. (see 1999)

7 Oct 2006  A new Community Garden was opened on Scotch Common. It also houses replica Saxon Crosses made out of Wood. Town MP Ann Winterton, Cheshire County Council Chairman Neville Price and Cllr Elsie Alcock opened the garden officially on the 7 October 2006.

Mar 2007  First Sandbach Town Council Newsletter issued.

2007  The Old Hall was put on the English Heritage “At Risk” list after it was put up for sale. A “Sandbach Old Hall Action Group” was formed to try and save the building.

2007?  WESTFIELDS the Home of the Fodens Family for many years was demolished to make way for the New Congleton Borough Offices. Now the Cheshire East Headquarters.

Oct 2007  Archaeological Survey took place in the Market Square before it was redeveloped.

30 Nov 2007  Christmas Light switch on with Sandbach Ladies Choir and Sandbach School Band.

19-20 Apr 2008  The Sandbach Transport Festival became a two day event for the first time. Fodens Band and the Lions Youth band also held a concert on the Friday night (18th) to launch the festival.

28 May 2008  A Fire took place at the Bear’s Paw in Warmingham on the 28 May 2008 during renovations and was attended by two Fire Engines from Crewe an incident that closed the building. It was reopened on the 20 May 2009 after extensive rebuilding. (Some websites put this event on the 27 May 2008)

17 July 2008  Sandbach became a “Fairtrade Town” with a local group being formed to bring awareness and to promote Fairtrade products.

2008  Sandbach Town Council was awarded “Quality Status” having met certain standards. Sandbach Clean Team formed (Pre 13 Sept 2008).

8 Sept 2008  Results announced in the “Sandbach in Bloom Competition” held at the Masonic Hall.

Feb 2009  The Market Square refurbishment was completed.

1 Feb 2010  On the 1st February 2010 at 11pm a fire ripped through St Peters Church Hall in Elworth taking eight hours to put out. Crew’s from Sandbach, Crewe,
Nantwich, Middlewich and the Aerial Appliance from Macclesfield arrived on Scene to extinguish the fire.

2010
Formation of the Sandbach “Woodland and Wildlife Group”.

May 2010
STAR (Sandbach Traders and Retailers) formed to develop opportunities for shops in the town.

12 June 2010
First of the Sandbach Farmers Market. Held on the second Saturday of the month on the Market Square. (Later taken over by the Makers Market)

2010 “Friends of Sandbach Park” formed.

2010 The first “Day of Dance” was held in Sandbach with Morris Dancers from all over the country converging on Sandbach. After 7 years of the event organisers Lynn Purcell and Ray Archer decided to call it a day. Started as an event on its own in later years it was combined with the Farmer’s Market run by the Town Council and later the Maker’s Market which took over in 2015. The event usually had some sunny weather but in 2015 and 2017 the rain came down for part of the days event with performers moving to St Mary’s Church Hall as well as a gazebo at the Old Hall. One of the highlights of the final day of dance was the inclusion of the ‘Danze de Sans Chuse’ a group of dancers from Spain who were given the loudest applause by the public and also by their fellow performers.

GROUPS TAKING PART in 2017.
Black Dog Molly
Chorlton Clog Hoppers
Danze de Sans Chuse (From Spain)
Domesday
Horwich Prize Medal
Miltown Cloggies
Mobberely
Rivington
Thelwall

12 Sept 2010
Foden’s Band held a free concert on the Market Square.

29 Sept 2010
The first concert took place of the “Sandbach Concert Series” at St Mary’s Church Hall. Organised by Lauren and Andy Scott (Local Composer)

3 Dec 2010
The First CHRISTMAS MARKET

2 Dec 2011 / 30 Nov 2012 / 6 Dec 2013 /

July 2011
A new Sandbach Town Guide was issued (Picture of Crosses on purple background) by Sandbach Town Council.

8-11 Sept 2011
200th Anniversary of Sir George Gilbert Scott was celebrated in the town.

27 Feb 2012
FODEN MEMORIAL STONE
A Memorial stone and Time Capsule were placed on the road near the spot of the Foden Administration Building on London Road (joined to Middlewich Road).

June 2012
The Town Council took over ownership of the Town Hall and appointed an operations Manager to run it.

5 June 2012
“PARTY IN THE PARK” (Queen’s Diamond Jubilee)
Foden’s Band were playing in Sandbach Park to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.
The event was attended by about 1,000 people who braved the rain and the cold to listen to the band who played in the dip of the park on a specially constructed stage. When the finale came a volley of fireworks accompanied the “Pomp and Circumstance March No1”.

20 Oct 2012
FODEN’S BAND WINS THE DOUBLE CHAMPIONSHIPS For the Second Time.
On winning the “National Championships” at the Royal Albert Hall, London with the test piece “Daphnis and Chloe” by Maurice Ravel Arranged by Howard Snell, they had pulled off a unique double, double win in the brass band world having won the British Open Shield (1 Sept 2012) this meant that the band had won both Major British Brass Band Championships.
The last time they had done this was back in 1910 when William Halliwell conducted the band in “Acis and Galatea” by Handel arranged by C Godfrey (British Open on the 5 Sept 1910) and “Gems of Schubert” (National Championship) arranged by William Rimmer on the 1Oct 1910. Conductor for Fodens Allan Withington.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULTS</th>
<th>FIRST</th>
<th>FODENS BAND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SECOND</td>
<td>Brighouse and Rastrick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIRD</td>
<td>Cory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BEST INSTRUMENTALIST** Richard Poole (Foden’s Bands Soprano Cornet)

**BRITISH OPEN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIP WINS**

**“NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS” OF GREAT BRITAIN WINS**

27 Oct 2012 Sandbach Partnership held its first “Halloween Event” on the Market Square.

27 Apr 2013 The first “Saxon Crosses Market” took place on the Market Square.

It was an Artisan Style market and was held on the 4th Saturday of the Month.

6 July 2013 ELWORTH PARK RE-OPENING
Crows flocked to the reopening of Elworth Park on Saturday 6 July 2013. After a major overhaul the park has been given some new gates superbly designed by Christine Wilcox-Baker, who has incorporated a number of events in the history of Elworth.

July 2013 A Herb Garden was opened to the public by the Bus shelters.

10 October 2013 Sandbach won the **COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARD** for the Best Town in Cheshire organised by “Cheshire Community Action”. The town won in the best Market Town category for town’s with over a 10,000 population. The awards ceremony at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall, also gave the Old Hall a “Little Gem Award” for its improvements over the year and Sandbach Park was Highly Commended under the title “Best Community Initiative Award”.

1 Jan 2014 The **NEW YEARS HONOURS list** had three names from Sandbach in it.
- Mrs Valetta Mary Cranmer – For services to Charity through the Sandbach Ladies Choir. AWARDED BEM (British Empire Medal)
- John Lonsdale – For services to Education (Teacher of Performing Arts / Head of Sandbach School – Retired). AWARDED MBE
- Ms Alison Marjorie Wild – For services to Higher Education (Formally Chair, Association of Heads of University administration and deputy Chief executive, Liverpool John Moores University. AWARDED OBE

9 October 2014 Sandbach won the **COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARD** for the Best Town in Cheshire for the second time in succession. Organised by “Cheshire Community Action” the town won in the “Best Market Town” category for town’s with over a 10,000 population, A “Little Gem Award” for Sandbach Park’s Sensory Garden in the Toddler’s Play area and the CHAMPIONSHIP AWARD for overall best town / village.

Dick Macaulay of the Clean Team was also Highly Commended in the “Community Champion Award”.

14 Apr 2015 BBC RECORDING – The Daily Politics Show filmed Foden’s Band as part of the live Broadcast they were to make the following day.

15 Apr 2015 BBC BROADCAST – BBC 2 “Daily Politics Show”
- Ian Raisbeck (2nd Cornet), Dave McGlynn (Principal BbTuba) and Stewart Green (Archivist) took part in a live Broadcast from the Foden’s Bandroom as part of the Election Coverage of the BBC’s “Daily Politics Show”.

**BBC DAILY POLITICS COMES TO SANDBACH**
The BBC’s Flagship daytime Politics Show came to Sandbach on the 14th and 15th of April to film and produce a live programme insert as part of a series of articles. Giles Dilnot a reporter for the programme, goes round the country talking to ordinary people at work or doing their hobbies and on this occasion he visited the Foden’s Band members during a rehearsal and the following day, the BBC broadcast live to the studio from the Sandbach bandroom. The day picked for the broadcast turned out to be a significant one as the latest policy release was to do with schools and in particular the impact it would have on the teaching of music within the education system a subject that is close to the heart of many members of the band including Ian Raisbeck (Cornet) who took part in the programme. Ian was joined by Dave McGlynn (Bb Bass) and Stewart Green...
(Band Archivist) to discuss the issues of the day for three minutes on BBC2 and then a repeat performance live on the BBC News Channel.

On the Tuesday the BBC crew turned up to film the band perform its signature tune “The Cossack” which was recorded three times along with bits of the rehearsal which were then used to great effect when Giles added a narration to the introduction for the live broadcast on Wednesday when the three people connected to the band were asked their opinions as part of the Daily Politics look at what normal people think of the 2015 election.

During the 2005 election coverage the Daily Politics programme decided to find out what the electorate in the marginal constituency’s really thought of the coverage of the election and what their views were. The format of going out to meet people in their place of work or play worked and the programme repeated the format in 2010 and again this year. Giles said that this election is a very different one as the voter really does have the chance to make a difference as it is going to be a very close run election with the public having more choice of candidates as different parties have joined in the mix. The new dynamic of the race has changed the view of the traditional voter who was brought up in a one party society to them having more choice than ever before. The programme put a list of policies on a board and asked voters to decide how they would make their choice based on the policy only and surprisingly no one party came out on top but a mixture of all the different parties.

This year Giles Dilnot and the BBC team have spoken to Aquarium workers in Plymouth, Cheese makers in Cornwall, Film Prop makers in Bristol, Stone masons in Somerset, Iron workers in North Yorkshire and after the broadcast from Foden’s Bands rehearsal room at Flowcrete in Elworth they went Water rafting in North Wales.

May 2015
ST LUKE’S (Cheshire) HOSPICE Opened its second site at the Winterley Grange, Wheelock Heath Business Park.
The ceremony was conducted by Phil Redmond (Creator and writer of Grange Hill / Brookside etc.)

July 2015
Sandbach Park was given a “Green Flag” status in recognition of the standard of the Park.
It is only one of 1,582 parks in the country to have the award for excellence.

12 Aug 2015
The old Magistrates Court and Police Station on Middlewich Road were knocked down to make way for houses.

15 Oct 2015
Sandbach won the COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARD for the Best Market Town in Cheshire for the third time in succession.
Organised by “Cheshire Community Action” the town won in the “Best Market Town” category for town’s with over a 10,000 population on the 15 October 2015.
The town also won a “Little Gem Award” for Dingle Lake, Sandbach and Sandbach Station was Highly Commended in the Best Community Initiative category.

4 Feb 2016
Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne (Tatton MP) arrived in Elworth in a helicopter to visit the Persimmon new homes and promote the Governments “Help to Buy Scheme”. He landed at the Cricket ground in Hind Heath Lane.

17 Apr 2016
FIRE AT THE FODEN’S BAND REHERSAL ROOM at Flowcrete on Middlewich Road, Moston.
Foden’s Band played at the Sandbach Transport Festival from 12noon until about 3pm when they left the Old Hall car park and returned their instruments, red jackets and stands to their bandroom at Flowcrete. By 5.39pm smoke was entering the building in the upstairs music store room. A crew from Sandbach were called out by the smoke alarm being activated and when they arrived they saw no smoke until they entered the building and at this point decided to call in for support. 8 appliances and a Hydraulic Turntable turned up to tackle the fire which destroyed the bandroom.
The cause of the fire was later revealed as an electrical fault.

APPLIANCES AT THE FIRE INCLUDED.
Y495PTU Sandbach
PO11FZN (P380) Possibly Northwich
May 2016
An estate off Middlewich Road near Albion Lock has been named after members connected to the Elworth Cricket Club. These included the three ladies who donated money to fund the purchase of the ground and Allan Littlemore (Littlemore Road) who set up the fund and has been a main player (Chairman etc) in the club ever since.

3 July 2016
DENNIS ROBINSON GIVEN FREEDOM OF SANDBACH
Dennis Robinson received the greatest honour a town can give to one of its Citizens “The Freedom of Sandbach” for his many years of contributions to the life of this Market Town and in particular for his work as Town Crier.

8 July 2016
“ANY QUESTIONS” broadcast live from Sandbach Town Hall with Jonathan Dimbleby in the chair.
With the political situation in Northern Ireland at this moment in time the “Any Questions” producers at BBC Radio 4 decided a new venue should be found to host the live programme on the 8 July 2016. Sandbach Town Hall was the perfect venue for the broadcast and Lisa Jenkinson the producer of the programme set about organising the event.
Jonathan Dimbleby as usual was in the chairman’s seat with Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron, Conservative Dominic Grieve, Labours Gisela Stuart and Daily Telegraph columnist Liam Hagan on the panel.
Eleven questions were chosen by the production team with the question setters sitting on the front row for the broadcast and Lisa choosing the appropriate question for that part of the programme.
After a warm up and housekeeping rules by town hall staff, Mayor Keith Haines and BBC Radio Stoke presenter Terry Walsh the hall went quiet at exactly 8pm for the PIPS on Radio 4 followed by the news and then an introduction to the programme by Jonathan Dimbleby who then held the programme together for just over 45 minutes until 8.50pm when the programme came “Off Air”.
A brief chat about one of the questions not asked during the show and it was time for the politicians and presenter to mingle with the audience in the hall and the bar of the Town Hall after a very successful broadcast.

6 Sept 2016
TOUR OF BRITAIN Cycle Race Congleton to Knutsford via Sandbach.
Cyclists included Sir Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish.
11am Congleton Start
11.30am Rode Heath
11.58am Willaston / Nantwich
12.26pm Middlewich
(approx) 12.30pm Sandbach
(Time Trial on Middlewich Road outside Sandbach High School)
Bradwall Road to Brereton
On the 5 October 2016 the CREWE CHRONICLE Sandbach and Middlewich editions of the paper merged with the CREWE CHRONICLE (Crewe Edition) leaving only the Nantwich Edition as a separate paper.

13 Oct 2016 Dame Mary Peters visited Sandbach to officially open the Latham Court Retirement Living Accommodation on Middlewich opposite the Police Station. The 1972 Olympic Gold Medallist gave a talk to residents and guests at the new McCarthy and Stone building.

#03. SANDBACH BUILDINGS.

LISTED BUILDINGS IN SANDBACH

www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/listing/listed-buildings/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 1 (Scheduling)</th>
<th>Saxon Crosses (EH Ref: 1159937 Listed 11/08/1950)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1 (Scheduling)</td>
<td>Early Medieval Sculptural Fragments in St Mary’s Churchyard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1 (Scheduling)</td>
<td>Standing Medieval Cross 10m South of the Nave of St Mary’s Church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Old Hall (EH Ref: 1310849 Listed 11/08/1950)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dated 1656 with a later Gable on the left hand side.**

**GRADE 2**

**HIGHTOWN** (EH Ref: 1130350 Listed 27/04/1978)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Town Hall and Market Hall, Hightown, Sandbach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(EH Ref: 1130352 Listed 27/04/1978)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Built in 1889 by Thomas Bower of Nantwich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Market Hall was added later.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>K6 Telephone Kiosk in front of the Town Hall, Hightown, Sandbach.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(EH Ref: 1330424 Listed 28/02/1989)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott but was added later to Sandbach.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>5 and 7 Hightown, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130350 Listed 27/04/1978)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5 = Swift Shoe Repairs) (7 = Eric Alcock TV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Built in the late 1800’s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>17 Hightown, Sandbach (Blockbuster / Rumbellows etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(EH Ref: 1130353 Listed 27/04/1978)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Trustee Savings Bank, Hightown, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1330935 Listed 27/04/1978)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Built in 1854 with an extension to the left. The original building was possibly designed by George Gilbert Scott.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Drinking Fountain, Hightown, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1330936 Listed 27/04/1978)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Designed by Thomas Bower of Nantwich.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Literary Institute, Hightown, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130351 Listed 03/06/1976)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Built in 1857 by George Gilbert Scott.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HIGH STREET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Sandbach Bridge, High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130360 Listed 27/04/1978)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Outbuildings of the Old Hall Hotel, High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130357 Listed 27/04/1978)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(see also Grade 1 Old Hall Building)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>34 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130358 Listed 11/08/1950)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Designated while it was Williams Decon’s Bank building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Also shop occupied by F J Glower Optician (1950).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(34 = Flowers on the Cobbles)

Grade 2 36 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1330400 Listed 27/04/1978)
Built in the 1700’s.

(36 = Northwood Estate Agents)

Grade 2 38 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1310817 Listed 27/04/1978)

(38 = Stephen Brown Estate Agents)

Grade 2 **George Hotel**, 39 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1330397 27/04/1978)
Built in 1810 with later alterations.

Grade 2 40, 42, 44 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130359 Listed 27/04/1978)

(40 = Carpets and Rugs)

(42 = Little Stars)

(44 = Eureka Studio)

Grade 2 41 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130354 Listed 27/04/1978)

(41 = Guardian Accountancy)

Grade 2 43b High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130355 Listed 27/04/1978)

(43 = Heart Tree Furniture)

Grade 2 45 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1159843 Listed 27/04/1978)
Late 16th or 17th Century building.

(45 = Empty was Just Jill)

Grade 2 47 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1330398 Listed 27/04/1978)
Early 1800’s

(47 = N A Whieldon Solicitors)

Grade 2 49 and 51 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1159844 Listed 06/03/1978)
Late 17th or Early 18th Century.

(49 = Williams and Lowe Funeral)

(51 = Pink Feather Boutique)

Grade 2 53 and 55 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130356 Listed 27/04/1978)

(53 and 55 = H G Hopkins Gun Shop)

Grade 2 57 and 59 High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1330399 Listed 27/04/1978)
Built in the mid 1800’s

(57 and 59 = Private Houses)

Grade 2 **Black Bear Inn**, High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1159872 Listed 11/08/1950)
Dates 1634

Grade 2 **Churchyard** Walls, Gateways and Railings to South East and North of St Mary’s Church, High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1159891 Listed 27/04/1978)
Built round about 1850.

Grade 2* **St Mary’s Church**, High Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1330401 Listed 11/08/1950)
Built in the 15th Century it was restored in 1847-49 by George Gilbert Scott (Inscription above West entrance) who also installed some monuments. In 1894-5 the west end suffered a fire. The Choir and vestry was restored by Austin and Paley in 1930. Caen stone Font in the South West Corner of the Nave installed in 1859 by builder Thomas Stringer. Leversage Arms in the panelled ceiling, north isle built c1587. A Marble Relief of the Rev John Armistead, M.A. Vicar from 1828-1865 was designed by G.F. Watts and sculpted by George Nelson in 1876. Nave contains a font dated 1669 (Richards).

**MARKET SQUARE**

Grade 2 1-5, 5a and 7 Market Square, Sandbach. (EH Ref: 1159924 Listed 03/06/1976)

(1 = Francesco)

(3 = The Real Thing Jewellery Shop)

(5 and 7 = Bridgefords)

Grade 2 **Market Tavern** Public House, 4 Market Square, Sandbach
(EH Ref: 1159934 Listed 14/08/1970)
Dated 1767.

Grade 2 **Crown Hotel**, 10 Market Square, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1330405 Listed 03/06/1976)
Built in the 17th Century the front was altered in 1910.

Grade 2 9 and 11 Market Square, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130365 Listed 03/06/1976)

(9 and 11 = Williams Delicatessen / was old Police Station)
Grade 2  19 Market Square, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130366 Listed 03/06/1976)
Built in the early 1800’s.
    (19 = Butters John Bee)
Grade 2  **War Memorial,** Market Square, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130367 Listed 27/04/1978)

**WELL BANK**
Grade 2  10 Well Bank, Sandbach – Built 1570 (EH Ref: 1130327 Listed 27/04/1978)

**HOPE STREET**
Grade 2  4 Hope Street, Sandbach (Next to Shoe Shop) (EH Ref: 1330403 Listed 27/04/1978)
Grade 2  11 Hope Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130363 Listed 03/06/1976)
Built in the early 1800’s.
    (Now the CVS Building)
Grade 2  **Hope Chapel,** Hope Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1159911 Listed 27/04/1978)
    (Church built in 1836 with the Hall Added in 1893- Not Listed)

**CONGLETON ROAD**
Grade 2  Oakley House (A533 CW11 1JZ) (EH Ref: 56230 Listed 27 April 1978)
Grade 2  Farmhouse, Brickhouse Farm No 2, Congleton Road, Sandbach
    (EH Ref: 56189 Listed 27 Apr 1978)
Grade 2  New Field Terrace 92-104 Congleton Road, Sandbach (EH Ref: 56187 Listed 27 Apr 1978)
    (Opposite Tatton Drive built in 1850-1851)
Grade 2  Old Hall Farmhouse, Congleton Road, Sandbach
    (EH Ref: 56188 Listed 11 Aug 1950)
Grade 2  Outbuildings of Brick House Farm No 2, Congleton Road, Sandbach
    (EH Ref: 56190 Listed 27 Apr 1978)

**CREWE ROAD**
Grade 2  Grammar School Lodge, Crewe Road, Sandbach (EH Ref: 56193 Listed 3 June 1976)
Grade 2  **Grammar School,** Crewe Road, Sandbach (Sandbach School)
    (EH Ref: 56194 Listed 3 June 1976)
Grade 2  **The Commercial Hotel,** Crewe Road, Sandbach
Grade 2  21-25 Crewe Road, Sandbach (EH Ref: 27 April 1978)
    (25= Harbour Dental Practice)
    (21and 23= Towards Roundabout)
Grade 2  32 and 34 Crewe Road, Sandbach (EH Ref: 56195 Listed 16 May 1974)
    (32 = NUNU)
    (34 = Dixon Rigby and Keogh)

**MIDDLEWICH ROAD**
Grade 2  6 Middlewich Road, Sandbach
    (6 = Pool and Alcock / was Doctors Surgery)
Grade 2  15-21 Middlewich Road, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130369 Listed 27/04/1978)
Built in the early 1800’s.
    (15 = Express Cantonese Takeaway)
    (17 and 19 = Piyata takeaway)
    (21 = R.J Edmonds - Dental laboratory)
Grade 2  31 Middlewich Road, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130325 Listed 27/04/1978)
Built in the late 1700’s.
    (31 = Butcher and Barlow Solicitors)

**THE HILL**
Grade 2  2-40 The Hill, Sandbach (**Almshouses**) (EH Ref: 56228 Listed 3 June 1976)
Grade 2  Oakley House, The Hill, Sandbach (EH Ref: 56230 Listed 27 April 1978)
Grade 2  Coach House of Oakley House, The Hill, Sandbach
    (EH Ref: 56231 Listed 27 April 1978)
Grade 2  The Hill, The Hill, Sandbach (**Leonard Cheshire Home**)  
    (EH Ref: 56229 Listed 27 April 1978)

**VARIOUS**
Grade 2  Abbey fields, Park Lane, Sandbach (EH Ref:56250 Listed 11/08/1950)
Grade 2  Old Farmhouse, Hassall Road, Sandbach
Grade 2  21 Hawk Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130349 Listed 03/06/1976)
Grade 2  Farmhouse, Brickhouse Farm No 1, A5022 Holmes Chapel Road, Sandbach
        CW11 1SE (EH Ref: 56232 Listed 27 April 1978)
Grade 2  **Lower Chequer Inn**, Crown Bank, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130388 Listed 03/06/1976)
        Early 17th Century building much altered and restored.
Grade 2  6 Elworth Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: )
        **FRONT STREET** (EH Ref: 1130347 Listed 27/04/1978)
Grade 2  2-20 Front Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130347 Listed 27/04/1978)
        Built in 1861 for Lord Crewe. Red Brick with stoke dressings and
        blue brick diapering tiles.
Grade 2  22 Front Street, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1130347 Listed 27/04/1978)
Grade 2  47 Church Street, Sandbach / Front Street. (EH Ref: 1130347 Listed 27/04/1978)
Grade 2  Dingle Farmhouse, Dingle Lane, Sandbach (EH Ref: 1159813 Listed 11/08/1950)
        (11 Aug 1950 Amended 27 Apr 1978)
        Was first listed under Back Street, Sandbach, 17th Century building
        with a 19th Century extension.
Grade 2  **Sandbach Methodist Church and Sunday School**, Wesley Avenue, Sandbach
        (Wesley Centre and Church) (EH Ref: 1239994 Listed 26/01/1993)
        Sunday School added in 1870.
Grade 2  Hall Cottage and attached Coach House of former Bradwall Hall, Sandbach Road,
        Bradwall Nr Sandbach
Grade 2  **St John the Evangelist’s Church**, Church Lane, Sandbach Heath (1861)
        (EH Ref: 56185 Listed 2 June 1976)
Grade 2  92 Heath Road, Sandbach Heath (also listed under 2 Bailey Crescent CW11 2JY)
        (EH Ref: 56259 Listed 16 Oct 1990)

**ELWORTH**
Grade 2  Elm Tree House, London Road, Elworth, Sandbach CW11 3BF
        (EH Ref: 56237 Listed 27 April 1978) (See Below)
Grade 2  Outbuildings of Elm Tree House, London Road, Elworth, Sandbach
        (EH Ref: 56238 Listed 27 April 1978)
Grade 2  **Fox Inn**, London Road, Elworth, Sandbach (17th Century)
        Also listed under Moss Lane, Sandbach CW11 3BF
        (EH Ref: 56236 Listed 27 April 1978)

**CANAL**
Grade 2  Trent and Mersey Canal Stable with attached Ticket office at Wheelock Wharf.
        Trent and Mersey Canal, Sandbach, Cheshire.
        Crewe Road, Sandbach CW11 3RJ
        (EH Ref: 351193 Listed 5 July 1994)
Grade 2  Trent and Mersey Canal Bridge Number 157 at SJ7387 5938
        (EH Ref: 351195 Listed 5 July 1994)
Grade 2  Canal Milepost East of Wheelock Wharf, Trent and Mersey Canal,
        Red Lane, Wheelock Sandbach. Ngr 7322 6056
        (EH Ref: 56407 Listed 5 Dec 1986)
Grade 2  Canal Cottage, Wheelock Wharf, Sandbach
        Also listed under Chapel Street, Sandbach CW11 3RJ
        (EH Ref: 56253 Listed 3 Dec 1986)
Grade 2  Lock Number 66 Trent and Mersey Canal, Wheelock, Sandbach
        Also listed under Cotton Lane, Sandbach CW11 4RB
        (EH Ref: 56255 Listed 3 Dec 1986)
Grade 2  Double Bridge at Lock Number 66, Trent and Mersey Canal, Wheelock, Sandbach.
        Also listed under Cotton Lane, Sandbach CW11 4RB
        (EH Ref: 56254 Listed 3 Dec 1986)
Grade 2  Trent and Mersey Lock House, (Canal) Cotton Lane, Wheelock, Sandbach
        Also listed under Cotton Lane, Sandbach CW11 4RB
        (EH Ref: 56257 Listed 3 Dec 1986)
Grade 2  Trent and Mersey Canal Milepost West of Bridge No 157 at SJ 7380 5934,
#04. SANDBACH BUILDING and business history.

#HA. to #HZ.

#HA. ABBEY FIELDS

Situated on the Middlewich Road “Abbey Fields” is a large house that was owned originally by the Abbey of Dieulacres (Monks) in the 13th Century. Originally known as Field’s House it later changed its name to Abbey Fields.

The original owners of the house and land on the site were the Monks of the Abbey of Dieulacres in the 13th Century. However the land around Sandbach was held by Richard De Sandbach, who in 1230 was High Sherif of Cheshire. He unsuccessfully laid claim to the advowson of Sandbach Church against Earl Randle de Blundeville in 1224.

Richard’s son John De Sandbach also claimed the right to the land winning the day temporarily against the Abbey of Dieulacres in, only to lose it soon after when the dispute was carried to the King’s Bench and the case was won by the Abbot on the evidence of the Doomsday Book which proved that the Earl Randle Meschimes (Earl of Chester) had originally given the advowson to the Monks of Dieulacres.

In 1256 Roger de Sandbach the son or grandson of Richard laid claim against the Abbey and won the rights back to the family.

In 1280 Sir Richard de Sandbach confirmed that he owned the lands from the Abbey in Sproston and Middlewich as part of his Knights Fees bestowed upon him by the King.

It was at this time that the land now known as Abbey Fields came into the De Sandbach Family. When Sir Richard de Sandbach died he only had a brother Roger de Sandbach (Also known as John in some histories) and so the Abbey went down his line of family.

He had a nephew from his marriage called Thomas de Sandbach who became heir in 1307 and his siblings became the direct line. Eldest son Richard de Sandbach, middle child Thomas de Sandbach and daughter Elizabeth de Sandbach.

With the eldest being Richard he inherited the land in 1309 when he became of age. As he didn’t have any male heirs the land went to his only daughter Elizabeth de Sandbach in 1337 and to her husband’s family on her marriage to John De Legh of Booths in Chester (the son of John de Legh, of Booths).

John de Legh and Elizabeth only had one child Matilda de Legh. Matilda de Legh eventually married Richard de Radcliffe of Ordsall in Lancashire (Died 19 July 1380 Drowned in Rossendale).

His son was John de Radcliffe (Died 8 Aug 1422) who at the age of 24 became Sir John de Radcliffe Knt. He married Margaret the daughter of Sir Henry de Trafford and they had four sons and two daughters.

After the death of John de Radcliffe in 1422 Margaret married for the second time to Robert de Orrell of Turton near Bolton in Lancashire in 1423. John Norreys Esq and Robert Halsted were clerks who transferred the estate to Margaret’s new husband and thus his family would now inherit the house. Margaret died in August 1434 and the family line went to her son John de Radcliffe aged 50.

John de Radcliffe married Clemence (Daughter of Hugh Standish of Duxbury in Lancashire) and on his death on the 26 July 1442 the estate passed to his son Alexander Radcliffe aged 42.

Alexander Radcliffe married Agnes (Daughter of Sir William Harrington of Horny Castle Lancashire) and passed away in June 1476. His son William Radcliffe (Died May 1498) then became owner of the manor (aged 40) and married Jane (Daughter of Sir Edmund Trafford of Trafford Kent). The manor
then jumped a generation as it passed to his grandson Alexander Radcliffe (aged 21). Alexander became High Sheriff of Cheshire on the 30 November 1539 and then High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1547.

Alexander Radcliffe married Alice (Daughter of Sir John Booth of Barton in Lancashire) and died in 1548 at the age of 72 leaving four sons and three daughters. The eldest son Sir William Radcliffe (aged 42) then inherited his estate and married Margaret (Daughter of Sir Edmund Trafford of Trafford Kent) by whom he had issue and then married Anne (Daughter of Ralph Catterall Esq and widow of Sir John Townley of Townley, Kent). Alexander Radcliffe died on the 12 October 1568 and is buried at the Collegiate Church in Manchester with his heart deposited in an urn in Sandbach Church.

His eldest son Alexander Radcliffe jnr had died before his father on the 26 September 1568, just a few days before his father. So the estate went to Alexander Radcliffe snr went to his second son Sir John Radcliffe of Ordsall Kent who was married to Anne (Daughter and heir of Thomas Ashall on the hill in Lancashire) died in February 1589-90 with Anne surviving him until 1629-30 aged 82.

Her successor to the estate was the eldest son Sir Alexander Radcliffe of Ordsall Kent who had been a fighter in Spain and gained a knighthood but on the 31 August 1599 was slain at the battle of Cunlew Hills in Ireland. As he was unmarried the estate passed to his brother Sir John Radcliffe and his wife Alice (Daughter of Sir John Byron of Newstead, Nottinghamshire). His marriage was found to have issue and was dissolved before he, like his brother was slain in battle at the isle of Rhee on the 29 Oct 1627.

After 250 years the family line finally came to an end at Abbey Fields when in 1611 Sir John parted with the estate. On the 1 July 1611 he mortgaged the manor to John Weld of the Middle Temple, London for the sum of £2,200. A deed dated the 7 November 1611 sold the estate to Richard Steele, Hugh Moss, John Wright and William Shaw for a total sum of £3,038.

In May 1612 Sir John Radcliffe and Richard Steele agreed to the sale of the estate to Thomas Rowe of Hartford in Cheshire and William Crombecke of Salford in Lancashire with the deed being signed on the 28 June 1612.

In the 1700’s the estate still belonged to the Moss family.

The estate eventually passed to a Mr Ford and it was then passed to Mrs Ford’s 3rd son Andrew.

By now “Abbey Fields” was a large house on an estate accessed from the Middlewich Road near Abbey Lane with its own Gate House (Near Abbey Road) and a Coach House.

The 1901 Census shows the lodge occupants as –

**ABBREY FIELDS LODGE – MIDDLEWICH ROAD**
- Thomas Lovell (Head) aged 31 (Coachman / Groom) .b. at Bridport in Dorset
- Emmiline A Lovell (Wife) aged 26 .b. at Growan in Cornwall
- Violet W Lovell (Daughter) aged 5 .b. in Sandbach
- Primrose M Lovell (Daughter) Aged 2 .b. in Wistaston

**ABBREY FIELDS LODGE – HULSES LANE (?)**
- James Ford (Head) aged 51 (Brewers Labourer) .b. at Lawton, Cheshire
- Mary Ford (Wife) aged 48 .b. Bridgnorth in Shropshire
- Annie Ford (Daughter) aged 24(Shift Seamstress) .b. Lawton, Cheshire
- William Ford (Son) aged 22 (Brewers Labourer) .b. Lawton, Cheshire
- James Ford (Son) aged 20 (Bricksetter) .b. Sandbach, Cheshire
- Elizabeth Ford (Daughter) aged 12 .b. Sandbach, Cheshire

**ABBREY FIELD PARK COTTAGE**
- Unoccupied

On the 21 June 1909 at the Royal Hotel, Crewe the house was sold by Henry Manley and Sons, Ltd at 3pm. The Estate consisted of a Picturesque Mansion and Agricultural Property with a total area of 341a
or 39p lying in a ring fence. The Mansion had modern domestic offices, excellent stabling, garage, coach house, large walled garden, ornamental grounds, large lake, modern sanitation with filter beds and a good water supply obtained on the property. The residence was approached by two carriage drives with lodges at each entrance and stood in the midst of a beautifully wooded grounds with a large lake.

The estate was finally purchased by Sir Randulph (or Randle) Crewe (possibly in 1909 – See above) and by 1933 when a Town Guide was printed the Marquess of Crewe K.G., P.C. was described as the present Lord of the Manor.

WORLD WAR 1 AND ABBEY FIELDS
Between 1914 and 1918 during The Great War between Britain and Germany “Abbey Fields” was converted into a Hospital for the wounded.

Since the start of the war Mrs Lavinia Hindson (wife of Rev. John Hutchinson Hindson M.A. at Bradwall Hall) had been involved with the Red Cross Hospital in Sandbach for the medical treatment of wounded men. She had worked indefatigably for the Red Cross and it was through her efforts that she was Chiefly responsible for the setting up of the hospital. Her second son Leslie R. P. Hindson a Lieutenant in the “A” Bty. 187th Bde Royal Field Artillery was killed in action on Sunday 10 June 1917 aged 22.

Leslie had been hit by a piece of shrapnel while he was resting in his bivouac and a shell burst near him causing fatal wounds.

The Reverend William Plaskett from the Hope Street Chapel was the Free Church Chaplin at Abbey Fields. His wife and daughter Rene also worked in the Hospital as VAD (Volunteer Aid Detachment) auxiliary nurses.

Another VAD Nurse working at the hospital was Millicent Eva Ash who lived at the Lakes Farm in Ettley Heath. Later she married Ted Johnson.

Eva (as she was known) also worked at the Abbey Field Hospital, Sandbach and The Quinta in Congleton from May 1917 until December 1918. She was described as doing “General Work and nursing at the Hospital as well as a Flag-seller” working 653 hours.

FAMILY (1901 Census) at Goose Lakes (?) Ettley Heath
- William Ash (Father a Farmer) .b. 1860 in Peover
- Grace Ash (Mother) .b. 1863 in Sandbach
- Nester Lillie Ash (Daughter) .b. 1883 in Sandbach
- Norman Ash (Son) .b. 1890 in Sandbach
- Millicent Eva Ash (Daughter) .b. 1894 in Sandbach

At the age of 13 Millicent’s mother died leaving the family to work together with their father on the farm and Millicent had to leave school and education behind. She helped out by selling the families vegetables outside the Town Hall on the market.

Millicent worked with Essba Twemlow the daughter of Sam Twemlow who later married Jack Hawthorne and lived opposite the Grange. (Miss Nora Twemlow May 1917 and Mrs S.P. Twemlow – No dates available / also worked at the hospital)
They both learnt the basics of medicine working with very primitive treatments including the use of Iodine, Sulphur and Soap and Water to make sure the hygiene levels were kept. Miss Ash remembers that there were a number of suicides at the Hospital when the soldiers were unable to recover from their wounds and the terrible traumas they had witnessed at the front. Mrs S P Twemlow of Springfield, Sandbach was the Honorary Secretary of the Cheshire Branch, Sandbach Division of the Red Cross and according to the records worked for 3 hours a week for 3 years as well as time working for the cause at home and was awarded a certificate in recognition of her work. Her daughter (Essha) Nora Twemlow had joined in May 1917 and by the 8 May 1919 was still working as a nurse having done 957 hours work at Abbey fields.

**HOSPITAL HISTORY**

As mentioned before the building was soon put to use as a hospital for wounded soldiers and was populated by many with local nurses and doctors looking after them. There were also a number of entertainers employed to amuse the patients including on the 8 June 1914 (14 June 1914 Nantwich Guardian) the Crewe Apollo Male Voice Choir who sang on the lawns of the estate on that Saturday. On the 23 February 1916 an advert appeared in the Congleton Chronicle asking for volunteers to act as “Night Orderlies” as those men who had volunteered at the Hospital had been called up and joined the colours leaving the supply of young men limited. Offers were asked from those willing to give up one night each fortnight to do this work. Applications should be made to Mr Watkinson in High Street who could also supply details of hours and duties if required. The advert was signed Margaret G Ormiston, Commandant.

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(1914-18 Dr C.W.H. Bennett reviewing the LDV and the V.A.N’s with the Dowager Duchess of Westminster)

*Picture from Sandbach Past and Present website.*

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### WORKERS AT ABBEY FIELD HOSPITAL

(The list doesn’t include all the General workers that helped out with the day to day running of the Hospital)

**ACCOUNTANT**

- Mr Charles Dayman Braddon 1 Aug 1914  
  **(HOSPITAL AND DIVISIONAL TREASURER until March 1919)**
- Mr Cecil Consterdine (Treasurer) June 1918
- Miss Mabel Holloway (Assistant Treasurer) 1915
- Mr Arthur Edgar Slade *(c/o)* Parr’s Bank, Sandbach (2 Bradwall Rd, Sandbach)

**COOKING**

- Mrs Eva Bumby June 1917
- Mrs Phoebe Hobbs June 1917
- Miss Maria Latham October 1918
- Mrs Elizabeth Ramsell June 1917
- Miss Clara Wakefield May 1917

**DOCTOR**

- **Dr Christopher Henry Bennett** May 1917  
  *(Lived at Ashfields Doctor’s Surgery in Middlewich Road, Sandbach. As a GP he was the Medical Officer being paid 3/- per patient per day)*
until April 1918 when he was paid 3/- per equipped bed until January 1919.

**Dr Robert Riddell**  
May 1917

**DRESSMAKER**  
Miss Clarice Birchenough  
May 1918

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Rev. Charles Muckleston  
August 1914

**NIGHT WORK**  
Mr John William Bagnall (Private)  
May 1917  **Night Orderly**
Miss Marion Holtham  
May 1917
Mrs Elizabeth Ramsell  
June 1917

**NURSE (Part time and Full Time)**  
Miss Eva Ash  
May 1917
Miss Annie Elizabeth Ball  
March 1917  
(Lived at Abbey Fields while she was the **MATRON** at Abbey Fields.  
She had been a Nurse on Army Reserve until she was appointed in  
March 1917 as Sister I/C being paid 1 guinea a week until May 1918  
when she was paid £1/4/2 until February 1919.)
Miss Mabel Annie Beetlestone  
September 1917
Miss Marion Bennett  
June 1918
Mrs Mary Bennett  
May 1917
Miss Lisa Val Broadhurst  
6 Oct 1917 (Aged 23)
Mrs Lucy Clough  
May 1917
Miss Elisabeth Consterdine  
August 1917
Mrs Charlotte Cragg (also Night Nurse)  
May 1917
Miss Mary Spencer  
May 1917
Miss Marjorie Swain  
May 1917

**MASSEUSE**  
Miss Louie Tomlinson  
May 1917

**ORDERLY**  
Mr Frederick Brookes  
May 1917
Mr Enos Ezra Twiss (Private)  
May 1917

**SECRETARY**  
Miss Celia A Sladen  
May 1917

**TRANSPORT**  
Mr H. Harold Lloyd  
May 1917

**VICAR**  
Rev. Herbert Samuel Ware  
December 1913

**WASHING**  
Mrs Sarah Alcock  
September 1917
Mrs Annie Fore  
March 1918
Mrs Sarah Fox  
May 1917
Mrs (?) Moses  
May 1917
Mrs Sarah Ryder  
May 1917
Mrs Francis Stockton  
January 1918

#=# Hospital  
**NAME**  
DATE OF ENGAGEMENT  
(Lived at “Grove House” Wheelock and was part of the  
working party and Flag Seller until June 1919 working 12 hours a week)

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**RED CROSS MEMBERS CONNECTED TO ABBEY FIELDS, SANDBACH (A to Z)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DATE OF ENGAGEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Miss Amy Alcock</td>
<td>April 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Lived at Rose Cottage, The Heath and was a General Worker at Abbey Field until January 1919 working 231 Hours)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Miss Hanna Ellen Alcock</td>
<td>Oct 1914</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Lived at “Grove House” Wheelock and was part of the working party until June 1919 working 10 hours a week)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Mr James Alcock</td>
<td>23 April 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Mrs Rachel Maud Alcock</td>
<td>October 1914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Lived at “Grove House” Wheelock and was part of the working party and Flag Seller until June 1919 working 12 hours a week)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mrs Sarah Alcock  
September 1917  
(Lived at Union Street, Sandbach and was employed as  
“Washing and Scrubbing” being paid 3/- at Abbey Fields  
working 1788 hours until February 1919)  
Miss Mary Henriana Armitstead  
1915  
(Lived at The Vicarage, Goostrey and was a member of the  
Working Party Committee putting in 346 hours until 1918)  
Miss Eva Ash  
May 1917  
(Lived at The Lakes, Ettley Heath doing General work and  
Nursing at the Hospital in Sandbach and the  
Quinta Red Cross Hospital, Congleton working 653 Hours  
until December 1918)  
Mr George Ashcroft  
29 October 1915 CONGLETON  
Mr John William Bagnall (Private)  
May 1917  
(Lived at 165 Crewe Road, Sandbach and was a Night Orderly at  
Abbey Fields working 904 hours until May 1919.  
He was also part of the St John Ambulance Brigade)  
Miss Annie Bailey  
15 November 1918 (Aged 26)  
(Lived at Clay Lane, Winterley, Sandbach while she was in  
the East Lancs Reserves until the 15 January 1919)  
Mrs Marjorie Bailey  
October 1917  
(Lived at East View, Congleton Road, Sandbach and worked  
at Abbey Fields as a General Worker until November 1918)  
Miss Annie Elizabeth Ball  
March 1917  
(Lived at Abbey Fields while she was the MATRON at Abbey Fields.  
She had been a Nurse on Army Reserve until she was appointed in  
March 1917 as Sister I/C being paid 1 guinea a week until May 1918  
when she was paid £1/4/2 until February 1919.  
Previously Annie had been awarded the South African Medal.  
On her VAD card under Particulars of Duty her work was described  
as “Usual Matron’s work, also trained VAD’s and looked after men  
splendidly in every way.”)  
Mr George Banks  
27 April 1915 CONGLETON  
Mrs Mildred Barker Clayton  
15 December 1915 (Aged 25)  
Trained Nurse  
(Lived at 20 Crewe Road, Sandbach. Served until 28 Feb 1919  
in the (Trained Nurse) T N Department, Location not listed  
but not at Sandbach)  
Mr Harold P Barlow  
9 October 1915 CONGLETON  
Mr William Barlow  
14 October 1917 CONGLETON  
Mrs Becket  
Details not known  
(Lived at Station Row, Elworth and was a member of the  
Working Party spending 3 hours weekly for 3 years)  
Miss Mabel Annie Beetlestone  
September 1917  
(Lived at 9 The Avenue, Elworth and was engaged as a teacher  
and at Abbey Fields she spent every 3rd week of evenings  
to do General Work as a Nurse)  
Dr Christopher Henry Bennett  
May 1917  
(Lived at Ashfields Doctor’s Surgery in Middlewich Road, Sandbach.  
As a GP he was the Medical Officer being paid 3/- per patient per day  
until April 1918 when he was paid 3/- per equipped bed until January 1919.  
He attended twice a week and more if needed.  
Also on the card was Wentworth Bennett)  
Miss Marion Bennett  
June 1918  
(Lived at Bradwall Road, Sandbach and worked as a Nurse doing
General work at Abbey Fields until January 1919 working 73 Hours)

Mrs Mary Bennett May 1917
(Lived at Abbey Fields and worked as a Nurse at the Dowery Hospital Nantwich and Abbey Fields Sandbach doing General Work on a part time basis doing 100 hours during her time.)

Miss Agnes Beresford Sept 1918 CONGLETON
Mrs Lily Beresford 1 November 1917 CONGLETON

Mrs Helena Berkley July 1917
(Lived at Victoria Avenue, Sandbach she was part of the Working party rising funds and did General Work at the Hospital until January 1919.)

Miss Clarice Birchenough May 1918
(Lived at Elworth Street, Sandbach and worked as a Dressmaker at Abbey Fields giving up every other Sunday Morning from 8 o’clock doing a total of 101 Hours until January 1919)

Mrs (?) Jane Birchenough May 1917
(Lived at Bradwall Road, Sandbach Jane worked in Abbey Fields doing General work and as part of the Working Party until December 1918.)

Mrs Blackhurst Details not known
(Lived at The Avenue, Elworth, Sandbach in the working party doing 3 hours a week for 2 years.)

Mrs J Blackmore Details not known
(Lived at Garden City, Elworth she was a member of the Working Party donating 3 Hours a week for 2 years)

Miss Constance Bloor October 1917
(Lived at 333 Bridge Terrace, Wheelock. General Work in the Hospital at Abbey Fields Constance worked 148 hours until January 1919)

Mrs Thurza Bosley 1915
(Lived at Elworth Street, Sandbach Thurza was a member of the Red Cross Working Party and a Home Worker until 1918 putting in 100 hours.)

Mr George Henry Bourne May 1917 (1) and October 1914 to Jan 1919 (2)
(Lived at 62 Crewe Road, Sandbach and was the Superintendent / Officer in Charge of the St John Ambulance putting in 904 hours until May 1919.
He helped out at Fates, Flag Days and during the day worked in a Pottery in Staffordshire, going to work by train daily.
He also managed to put in 45 Hours for fundraising)
(2 cards issued one for St John and one for St John fundraising)

Mrs Hannah Bourne Oct 1914
(Lived at Prospect terrace, Crewe Road, Wheelock and was part of the Working Party putting in 6 hours a week until June 1919)

Mr Charles Dayman Braddon 1 Aug 1914
(Lived at The Heath, Sandbach he was the HOSPITAL AND DIVISIONAL TREASURER until March 1919 and only resigned when he was called up for the Army.
He was most particular about checking all Hospital and Divisional Accounts and by March 1919 was still serving in the job.
Mr E Hindson (Vice President) did ask him to retire as Charles was occupied with extra work at home and in business but he continued to do his job as long as he was able.)

Mrs Pattie Brickhill May 1917
(Lived at the Post Office at Elworth and worked at Abbey Fields doing General Work putting in 100 hours until November 1918)

Mrs Elizabeth Ann Broadhurst 1915
(Lived at Green Street, Sandbach and was on the working party doing 388 hours until 1919)

Miss Lisa Val Broadhurst 6 Oct 1917 (Aged 23) (2 cards)
(Lived at 20 Green Street, Sandbach and was a Nurse at Abbey Fields.
She had worked at the Fasstule Mil: Hospital in Carlisle and was one of the Cheshire Reserve working in J.W.V.A.D.)
Lisa was paid £20 Per annum for her work and was a “Spec. service Nurse, Fasehill W.H, Carlisle” according to her Particulars of Duty card.)

# Mr Frederick Brookes May 1917  
(Lived at 135 Crewe Road, Sandbach he worked as a Hospital Orderly until May 1919 and worked 809 hours during his time. He was listed as a “Private” (Rank) and in the St John Ambulance Brigade)

# Mr Percy Brookes May 1917  
(Lived at 365 Crewe Road, Wheelock, Sandbach and was the Ambulance Officer in Charge of all the Orderlies etc as part of his work with the St John Ambulance putting in 904 hours until May 1919)

# Miss Annie Buckley May 1917  
(Lived at The Hawes, Sandbach she was a School Teacher who gave up every evening for a whole week every 3rd week to work at Abbey Fields Hospital doing General Work for a total of 600 hours until January 1919.)  
(Sister of Below)

# Miss Maria Louisa Buckley February 1918  
(Lived at The Hawes, Sandbach she was a School Teacher who gave up every evening for a whole week every 3rd week to work at Abbey Fields Hospital doing General Work for a total of 600 hours until January 1919.)  
(Sister of Above)

(End Page 3) Miss Louie Buckley May 1917  
(Lived at The Hawes, Sandbach POSSIBLY “MARIA” ABOVE)  
(Lived at The Hawes, Sandbach she was a School Teacher who gave up every evening for a whole week every 3rd week to work at Abbey Fields Hospital doing General Work for a total of 600 hours until January 1919.)

Mrs Barbara Budge 1915  
(Lived at 82 Bradwall Road, Sandbach she was a member of the Working Party and a Flag Seller until 1919 putting in 390 hours)

# Mrs Eva Bumby June 1917  
(Lived at Belle Vue, Sandbach she was a Helper in the Kitchen at Abbey Fields Hospital putting in 220 hours until January 1919 as well as a member of the Working Party)

Mr George Henry Burgess 10 November 1915 CONGLETON

# Miss Mabel Burgess May 1917  
(Lived at Well Street, Sandbach she worked as a General helper at Abbey Fields Hospital putting in 230 hours until January 1919)

Mrs Annie Burgess October 1914  
(Lived at Hampshire Terrace, Crewe Road, Wheelock and was one of the working party putting in 6 hours weekly until June 1919)

Miss Maud Burrows 1916  
(Lived at Congleton Road, Sandbach and was a member of the Working Party and Flag seller until 1918 putting in 300 hours)

Mr William Burslam 3 May 1915 CONGLETON

# Miss Nellie Bygott June 1915  
(Lived at Winterley Nr Sandbach she did General work at Abbey Fields Hospital and was on the B.R.C.S. Working Party Number 1293 Sandbach. She put in 102 Hours until July 1918)

Miss Mary Carson March 1915 CONGLETON  
Mr John Carter 9 January 1917 CONGLETON

(End Page 4) Miss L Cartlidge Details not known  
(Lived at Elworth and was a member of the working party putting in 3 hours weekly for 2 Years)

Miss Julia Cartlidge March 1915 CONGLETON  
Miss Agnes Chaddock March 1915 CONGLETON  
Mr Walter P Chaddock 23 August 1915 CONGLETON
Mr Enock Chadwick 1 May 1918 CONGLETON

Mrs Alice Chapman 1917
(Lived at 64 Bradwall Road, Sandbach she was a member of the working party and a flag seller putting in 200 hours until 1918)

Mrs J Chapman Details not known
(Lived at Marsh Green, Elworth she was a member of the working party putting in 3 hours a week for 3 years)

Miss Jane Cheetham 1916
(Lived at 94 Boughbey Road, Shelton, Stoke on Trent she was a member of the Working Party and a Home Worker travelling to Sandbach as part of the Red Cross 1293 Sandbach Branch. On her card the words Elworth Street have been crossed out and replaced by SOT Address possibly as she was in temporary accommodation in Sandbach.)

Mr Samuel Woolley Clare 21 December 1916 CONGLETON

Mrs Lucy Clough May 1917
(Lived at 62 Bradwall Road, Sandbach she was a Nurse at Abbey Fields until January 1919 putting in 1022 hours work as well as doing General Work in the Hospital she was also a member of the Working Party and a Flag seller)

Mrs J Clowes Details not known
(Lived at Elworth she was a member of the working party doing 3 hours a week for 1 year.)

Mr Cecil Consterdine June 1918
(Lived at Holly Bank, Elworth he was the TREASURER at Abbey Fields Hospital until March 1919. He looked at all the bills before presenting them to the Committee making sure all cheques were paid and attended to money matters generally on top of his normal work when he left for his business at 8am and returned at about 6pm.)

Miss Elisabeth Consterdine August 1917
(Lived at Holly Bank, the daughter of the Treasurer Cecil Consterdine, Elizabeth was a Nurse at Abbey Fields until January 1918 working 182 hours doing general work in the Hospital.)

Miss Grace Cook March 1915 CONGLETON

Mr George R Cooke 19 November 1915 CONGLETON

Mr H Cooke Details not known
(Lived at The Avenue, Sandbach he was a member of the working party for 1 year putting in 3 hours a week)

Mrs Sarah Jane Cooke 1914
(Lived at Beech Tree House, Wheelock, Sarah worked for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity, Working party putting in 400 hours until 1919)

Miss Doris Cookson May 1917
(Lived at Elworth and worked at Abbey Field, Sandbach and Dowery House Nantwich doing General Work and Flag selling for a total of 119 hours until January 1919)

Mr William Cookson 15 June 1916 CONGLETON

Mrs Ada Cooper October 1914
(Lived at Garden City, Elworth Ada was one of the working party putting in 6 hours weekly until June 1919)

Mrs H Cooper Details not known
(Lived at the Commercial Hotel, Elworth and was a member of the working party for 3 hours a week for 2 years)

Mrs Cooper (Snr) Details not known
(Lived at the Commercial Hotel? Elworth and was a member of the working party for 3 hours a week for 2 years)
Mr Charles Coppinger  
14 April 1916 CONGLETON

Mr Ernest Coppinger  
22 October 1917 CONGLETON

Mrs Cordwell  
Details not known  
(Lived at Elworth and was a member of the working party for 3 hours a week for 3 years)

Mrs J Cowap  
Details not known  
(Lived at Elworth and was a member of the working party and a flag seller for 32 hours over 4 years and 3 hours weekly for 3 years?)

Mrs Charlotte Cragg  
May 1917  
(Lived at 25 Eva Street, Elworth and was a trained Nurse working at Abbey Fields working 620 hours unpaid until September 1918 when needed and after that 15/- weekly until January 1919 as a night nurse)  
(Her son Richard T Cragg was an Engineer in the Royal Navy and was Lost at Sea on the 26 February 1916 off the west coast of Scotland in Scapa Flow.)

Mrs Margaret Crewe  
January 1918  
(Lived at Clayhanger Hall, Haslington and had worked at 10 Cambridge Square W2 before coming to Abbey Fields doing General Work and organising whist drives etc. putting in 156 hours until June 1918)

Mrs Mary J Critchley  
9 June 1916 (Aged 34)  
(Lived c/o Mrs Skelton, Malkins Bank, Sandbach she was a NURSE who worked at Cliff Mill Hospital Felixstowe between 9 June 1916 and 9 July 1917 when she moved to the Caterick Camp between the 14 September 1917 and 5 March 1919 on the 11 March 1919 she was awarded the Scarlet Eff: Stripe)

Miss Florence Daines  
August 1917  
(Lived at Green Farm, Langmere, Scole. NfR. Florence was a Nurse at Abbey Fields and was part of the Norfolk Joint Committee Auxiliary Section working in Sandbach until after the 31 May 1919)

Mrs Harriett Dale  
September 1916  
(Lived at Chapel Street, Wheelock and was part of the Working Party putting in 6 hours a week until June 1919)

Miss Dorothy Dalrymple  
March 1915 CONGLETON

Madam Philomena Deliage  
1917
(Lived at High Town, Sandbach having previously lived at Boervase Street, Antwerpen (Antwerp) and was a member of the Red Cross Working Party Reg:1293 Sandbach and a Home Worker putting in 390 hours until 1918)

Mr Fred Denham  
7 November 1916 CONGLETON

Miss Edith Dixon  
October 1914  
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and was a member of the working party putting in 1 hour weekly until June 1919)

Mrs Grace Dodd  
November 1917
(Lived at 56 Elworth Street, Sandbach and worked at Abbey Fields who worked in a shop in the town and gave up her half holiday each week to do General work in the hospital until January 1919)
Mrs Dutton  
Details not known  
(Lived at Moston Mills, Elworth who was a member of the working party putting in 3 hours a week for 2 years)

Miss Nancy Eardley  
June 1917  
(Lived at 5 High Town, Sandbach the daughter of Eardley and Son – Pawn Brokers in the town (Edward / Matthew H) and did General Work at the Abbey Fields Hospital working 433 hours including the Red Cross working party until January 1919)

Mrs Grace Egerton  
1915  
(Lived at Crewe Road, Sandbach and was a member of the working party and a home worker until 1917)

Mrs Gertrude Farr  
October 1914  
(Lived at Station House, Wheelock and was a member of the working party, putting in 6 hours until June 1919.)

Mr G Faulkner  
September 1914  
(Lived at The Avenue, Elworth and was part of the Committee and Entertainments until December 1918)

Mrs (?) Elizabeth Ferrand  
1915  
(Lived at Newfield House, Congleton Road, Sandbach and was a Member of the Working Party and a Flag Seller for the Hospital providing the Market Collections until 1919)

Mrs Emily A Finlow  
October 1918  
(Lived at Elton, Sandbach and was the Township Leader until after February 1919 with the Cheshire Branch)

Mrs Amy Finn  
1915  
(Lived at The School House, Sandbach and was part of the Working Party and Flag Seller putting in 300 hours until 1919)

Mrs Edwin Firth  
Details not known  
(Doris Twemlow. Daughter of Samuel Poole Twemlow and Fanny Foden (Edwin Foden’s daughter)
(Lived at Springfield, Sandbach as part of the Working Party and did 3 hours weekly for 2 years – Mrs Edwin Firth / Mrs Doris Firth 1916 to April 1918. She married Edwin Firth a cornet player with Fodens’s band who died on the 1 June 1918 and had a son called Edwin Jnr in April 1918)

Mrs Edwin Firth (End Page7)  
(Lived at Elworth House, Elworth worked at Dowery House, Nantwich as a general helper until October 1918 doing 101 hours)

Miss Dorothy Foden  
June 1917  
(Lived at Hilary House, Crewe, worked at Abbey fields until January 1919. She worked 716 Hours during her time.)

Mrs Ellen Foden  
1915  
(Lived at Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross Working Party and the organiser of Whist Drives for Working Parties making £50 (Red Cross working party Ref No 1293) and worked 100 hours at the job until 1917)

Mrs W Foden  
Details not known  
(Lived at Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross Working Party doing 3 hours a week for 1 year)

Mrs Annie Fore  
March 1918  
(Lived at East Elworth, Sandbach and was engaged at the Abbey Fields Hospital to do the washing and scrubbing at 3/- a day until January 1919.)

Miss Hope Foulkes  
1915  
(Lived at The School House, Sandbach and worked 60 hours until 1917)
as a member of the Red Cross and a House Worker for the working party.)

Mrs Sarah Fox May 1917
(Lived at 72 the Heath, Sandbach and was employed without pay from May to August 1917 to do the washing at Abbey Fields and paid 3/- per day after September 1917 until January 1919.)
(Her son was Absalom Fox, Sergeant 51017 of the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry was killed in action on Saturday 8 May 1915 aged 33.)

Mrs Fox Details not known
(Lived at The Heath (Possibly as Above - Sarah) and was a home worker for the Sandbach Red Cross Working Party putting in 50 hours work.)

Mrs Rose Frost March 1915 CONGLETON
Mr William Gardiner 26 May 1917 CONGLETON
Mrs Eleanor Gardner March 1915 CONGLETON

Miss Florence Gater May 1915
(Lived at 69 Park Lane, Sandbach. Florence was a shop assistant who gave up every other Sunday Morning to work at the Abbey Field Hospital as a Nurse and the Arclid Mil: Hospital, Sandbach and later took up hospital work at Bramley Bridge being paid £24 annually.)

Mrs Mary Gater October 1914
(Lived at “The Willows” Talke, Staffordshire and was a member of the working party in Sandbach giving 2 hours a week for 2 years.)

Mrs Annie M Gee March 1915 CONGLETON

Mr Richard Goodall 4 November 1915 CONGLETON (Killed in Action 28 May 1916?)
Miss Dorothy Gordon 12 April 1917 CONGLETON
Miss Maggie Gorst August 1917
(Lived at 158 The Heath, Sandbach and worked at Abbey Field Hospital as a Nurse and the Arclid Mil: Hospital, Sandbach being paid £24 annually. Still working after 1919)

Miss Vera Gwendoline Leila Griffiths 7 September 1916 (aged 27)
(Lived at Warmingham Rectory, Sandbach and worked as a nurse at the 1st South General Hospital in Birmingham until 17 March 1917)

Miss Mary Mallinby Grisedale 15 Oct 1917 (Aged 22)
(Lived at The Moss, Elton, Sandbach and worked as a nurse J.W.V.A.D. in the Derby Reserve until 11 July 1919. She had also been part of the Canadian Eastbourne Military)

Mr John Percy Grundy 5 February 1917 CONGLETON

Miss Emily Guest 1915
(Lived at Stafford Terrace, Sandbach and was part of the working party and a flag seller until 1917 putting in 166 hours work.)

Mrs Alice Hall 1915
(Lived at Rose Mount, Crewe Road, Sandbach and was part of the working party and a flag seller until 1919 putting in 420 hours work.)

Mr Herbert Hall 28 April 1915 CONGLETON
Mr Joseph Hall 25 February 1917 CONGLETON
Mr Harry Hamlett 27 February 1916 CONGLETON

Miss Annie Hancock October 1914
(Lived at Hind Heath Villas, Wheelock and was part of the working party until June 1919 working 6 hours a week.)
Miss Ethel Hancock  October 1917 CONGLETON
Mr A Hardaker  6 July 1915 CONGLETON

Miss Gertrude Mary Harris  24 June 1916
(Lived at Betchton, Sandbach
Worked at various places until April 1919 -
March 1916 to June 1916 Manchester Royal Infirmary (whole time)
June 1916 to June 1918 1st Southern Gen: Hosp: Kings Heath Section.
B'ham (whole time) Oct. 1918 to April 1919 Military Hosp: Ripon.
(whole time) as part of the East Lancashire Regiment 222 Division)

Miss Nellie Marjorie Harris  20 April 1918 (Aged 19)
(Lived at Betchton, Sandbach. Worked at Can; Hsp. Bramshott until 17 July 1919.

Mrs Mary Jane Harrison  1914
(Lived at New Road, Wheelock and worked for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity, Working Party until 1919 putting in 350 hours)

Mrs Emma Hatton  1914
(Lived at Hampshire Terrace, Wheelock and worked for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity, Working Party until 1919 putting in 350 hours)

Mrs Alice Hawley  May 1917
(Lived at High Street, Sandbach and did general work and night work at the Abbey Fields Hospital and part of the working party and a flag seller putting in a total of 450 hours until January 1919.)

Mr Robert Head Jnr  15 May 1917 CONGLETON
(Lived at Moody Terrace, Congleton and was a Night Orderly at the Red Cross Hospital Sandbach Road, Congleton for 54 Hours until the 26 July 1918)

Mrs Annie Healey  October 1914
(Lived at Prospect Terrace, Crewe Road, Wheelock and was part of the working party putting in 6 hours a week until June 1919. She was the mother of Miss Nellie Healey.)

Miss Nellie Healey  October 1914
(Lived at Prospect Terrace, Crewe Road, Wheelock and was part of the working party putting in 6 hours a week until June 1919. She was the daughter of Mrs Annie Healey.)

Mrs Margaret Heap  Details not known
(Lived at the Commercial Hotel, Wheelock and provided Teas and Work for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party Putting in 400 hours)

Mr Frank Higginbotham  9 September 1916 CONGLETON
(Lived at )

Miss Eliza Hilditch  Details not known
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and Worked for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party Putting in 350 hours until the end of 1918)

Miss G Hill  September 1914
(Lived at Elworth, Sandbach and was part of the Sandbach working party and flag seller until January 1917)

Mr George Hill  20 July 1916 CONGLETON
Miss Minnie Hill  March 1915 CONGLETON

Mrs Lavinia Hindson  Duration of the War
(Lived at Bradwall Hall and was the Vice President for Godstone serving the Red Cross at the Hospital as O/c since May 1917 to January 1919 when it finally closed. She spent her whole time at the hospital between May and September 1917 and then an average of five days a week except for a three and a half month period when he was ill at home.)
Lavinia still served the Red Cross after the war in the Cheshire Branch 80, Sandbach Division.

Mrs Phoebe Hobbs  June 1917
(Lived at Elworth Street, Sandbach and **worked in the Kitchen** at the Abbey Fields Hospital as well as working for the Red Cross Working Party putting in 232 hours until January 1919)

Miss Mary Jane Hockinhull  September 1916
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and was part of the working party putting in 1 hour a week until June 1919)

Mrs Harriet Hodgson  May 1917
(Lived at Sunnyside, Elworth and was a Nurse at Abbey Fields doing General Work and taking Night Duty working 449 hours until January 1919. She was the Mother of Miss Winifred Hodgson)

Miss Winifred Hodgson  May 1917
(Lived at Sunnyside she did General work at Abbey Fields Hospital putting in 298 hours until January 1919. She was the daughter of Mrs Harriet Hodgson)

Miss Mary Jane Hockinhull  September 1916
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and was part of the working party putting in 1 hour a week until June 1919)

Mrs Alice Hollinshead  June 1917 CONGLETON
(Lived at Hill Top, Sandbach and was a Nurse at Quinta Hospital in Congleton – Possibly the Sister at the Hospital.)

Miss Annie Holloway  1915
(Lived at Crewe Road, Sandbach and was a part of the Sandbach Working party until June 1919)

Miss Lily Holloway  1915
(Lived at Crewe Road, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross Working Party at Sandbach, a Flag seller and helper at the **Hospital Market Stall**. She put in 400 hours until 1918)

Miss Mabel Holloway 1915
(Lived at Crewe Road, Sandbach and was the **Assistant Treasurer** and a member of the Red Cross Working Party in Sandbach putting in 400 hours until 1919)

Miss Marion Holtham  May 1917
(Lived at Bradwall Hall, Sandbach and **SLEPT AT THE ABBEY FIELD HOSPITAL** to help Night Work if required. Putting in 948 hours until November 1917)

Miss Emmie Jinks  May 1918
(Lived at Hill Street, Elworth, Sandbach and worked at Abbey Fields Hospital as a Helper and as part of the working party with the Red Cross. She did 200 hours at 3 hours per week until January 1919) (see Eva Jinks)

Mrs Lilian Huntington  Duration of the War
(Lived at the School House, Wheelock and worked for the Red Cross by fundraising through holding Tea parties and work for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party and collections working a total of 500 Hours.)

Miss (Sister) Annie B Jebb  April 1916 CONGLETON
Miss Emmie Jinks  May 1918
(Lived at Hill Street, Elworth, Sandbach and worked at Abbey Fields Hospital as a Helper and as part of the working party with the Red Cross. She did 200 hours at 3 hours per week until January 1919) (see Eva Jinks)

Miss Eva Jinks  May 1918
(Lived at Hill Street, Elworth, Sandbach and worked at
Abbey Fields Hospital as a Helper and as part of the working party with the Red Cross. She did 200 hours at 3 hours per week until January 1919 (see Emmie Jinks)

# Miss Hetty Johnson November 1917
(Lived at 30 Bradwall Road, Sandbach and worked at Abbey Field Hospital doing General Work with 380 hours until November 1918)

Miss Emily Jones February 1917 CONGLETON

Mrs G Jones Details not known
(Lived at Elworth Sandbach and was part of the working party doing 3 hours weekly for 2 years)

# Mrs Joyce Details not known
(Lived at London Road, Elworth and was a General Helper at Abbey Field Hospital putting in 225 hours until December 1918)

Miss Annie Kettell February 1918
(Lived at 331 Crewe Road, Sandbach and was a General Helper at Abbey Field Hospital putting in 97 hours until January 1919)

Miss Mary Kettell October 1914
(Lived at 474 Crewe Road, Wheelock and was a member of the working party putting in 6 hours a week until June 1919)

Miss Ellen Anita Kidd May 1917
(Lived at The Avenue, Elworth and worked as a Governess. Ellen gave up her spare time to work in the hospitals at Abbey Field, Sandbach and The Quinta in Congleton as a nurse. She worked 900 hours from April 1916 until April 1917 and her name was put up for Honourable Mention)

Mrs Kinsey Details not known
(Lived at Poplar View, Elworth and was a member of the working party Donating 3 hours a week for 6 months)

Mrs Annie Kirkham 1917
(Lived at 98 Bradwall Road, Sandbach and was a member of the Working Party donating 100 hours until 1918)

Mrs Hester Kirkham Details not known
(Lived at Marsh Green Road, Elworth and was a member of the working party donating 3 hours a week for 3 years)

Mr and Mrs D Kirkham's son Harold died from wounds on the 7 May 1917.

Mr Fred Lancaster (Deceased) 4 May 1915 CONGLETON killed in Action after Feb 1916

# Miss Louisa Mary Latham 1916
(Lived at Oakfield Cottage and worked at Abbey Field, Sandbach (1916 to Jan 1919), The Quinta in Congleton (1916 to 1917) and Dowery House in Nantwich (1916 to 1917) as a Hospital Worker. Louisa also sold Flags and was also one of the Parcel Packers as part of the Red Cross Working Party. She finished in January 1919 as a Q.M. (Rank.) (Sister of Maria Latham)

(End Page 12) # Miss Maria Latham October 1918
(Lived at Oakfield Cottage and worked in the Kitchen at Abbey Field Hospital and as part of the working party since 1915. Maria was a trained Nurse and finished her time in Sandbach in January 1919 (Sister of Louisa Latham)

Miss Phylis Latham September 1917
(Lived at Abbey Fields Hospital and was one of the Nurses doing General Work and put in 110 hours until May 1918)

Mr Fred Lawrence 8 September 1918 CONGLETON
Mr George Lawton 23 March 1916 CONGLETON

Mrs Annie Louisa Lea 1916
(Lived at The Dingle, Sandbach and was part of the
Mrs Martha Lea October 1914  
(Lived at Prospect Terrace, Crewe Road, Wheelock and was  
Part of the working party donating 6 hours weekly until June 1919)

Mr Ernest Lees 24 September 1916 CONGLETON  
Miss Grace Lees March 1915 CONGLETON

Mrs Joan Lewis 1916  
(Lived at 106 Congleton Road, Sandbach and was a member  
of the Red Cross working Party until 1918 donating 150 hours.)

Mr H. Harold Lloyd May 1917  
(Lived at Offley House, Congleton Road, Sandbach and was engaged  
in the Transport Office. Presumably he was in charge of organising  
the movement of injured soldiers to and from the Hospital via the  
Railway Station and local transport. Harold was also involved with the Garden Committee.  
He was the organiser of Entertainments, Sports and games and was  
described as “Invaluable for the practical interest he took in the men,  
being constantly at the Hospital in the Evenings”. He worked at Abbey Field until January 1919. During the day Mr H. Harold Lloyd was an Auctioneer.)

Mrs Lucy Lloyd May 1917  
(Lived at Offley House, Congleton Road, Sandbach and was the  
Assistant Commandant for the Red Cross at the Abbey Field Hospital,  
Sandbach and the Dowery Hospital in Nantwich organising whist drives,  
flag selling etc. and the working parties putting in half days for 18 months  
plus 200 hours until September 1918)

Miss Alice Lowe October 1914  
(Lived at Wheelock Farm, Wheelock and was a member of the  
Red Cross working party putting in 6 hours a week until June 1919)  
(Daughter of Annie Lowe)

Mrs Annie Lowe October 1914  
(Lived at Wheelock Farm, Wheelock and was a member of the  
Red Cross working party putting in 6 hours a week until June 1919)  
(Mother of Alice Lowe)

Dr Peter J Lowe September 1916 CONGLETON  
Mr Robert H Lowe 28 November 1915 CONGLETON

Mrs Sarah Lowe October 1914  
(Lived at Grove Farm, Hassell and was a member of the Sandbach  
Red Cross Working Party until June 1919)

Miss Muriel Edith Lucy 12 April 1917 CONGLETON

# Miss Eva Mainwaring August 1918  
(Lived at Elworth Street, Sandbach and worked at Abbey Field  
Hospital as a General Worker donating 96 hours until January 1919)

Mr Charles Manley 31 May 1917 CONGLETON

# Mrs Elizabeth Martin July 1917  
(Lived at Vicarage Lane, Elworth she was a School Teacher who  
gave up 2 to 3 evenings every week to be a helper at Abbey Field Hospital.  
Putting in 258 hours until January 1919)

Miss Kitty Meakin 5 March 1917 CONGLETON

Mrs Leontine Meens 1917  
(Lived at ? from 156 Lange Loobroeck Straat, Antwerp, Belgique  
And was part of the Sandbach working party putting in 156 hours  
until 1918)

# Miss Beatrice Mellor November 1917  
(Lived at 31 London Road, Elworth and did General work at the
Abbey Field Hospital putting in 443 hours until January 1919)

Mrs C Mellor  Details not known
(Lived at Vicarage Lane, Elworth and was a member of the working party and Flag seller putting in 3 hours weekly for 3 years.)

Mrs Annie Meredith  1916
(Lived at Wettenhall Cottage, Wheelock and was
Treasurer of the War Charity Working Party at Wheelock Vicarage. She put in 500 hours work until 1919.)

Mrs Julia Meredith  1914
(Lived at Cotton Row, Wheelock working for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party putting in 300 hours work until 1919.)

Mrs Mary Meredith  1914
(Lived at Cotton Row, Wheelock working for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party putting in 300 hours work until 1919.)

Mrs Annie Elizabeth Middleton 1918
(Lived at 110 Congleton Road, Sandbach Annie was a member of the Sandbach Working Party putting in 170 hours until 1919.)

Mrs Milford March 1915 CONGLETON

Mrs Marion Milward Duration of the War
(Lived at Wheelock Vicarage, Sandbach and was the PRESIDENT and SECRETARY OF THE WHEELOCK VICARAGE WAR CHARITY working Party putting in 600 hours until the end of the War.)

Dr John Lounder Moir March 1915 CONGLETON

Miss Amy G Moore May 1917
(Lived at 14 Marsh Green Road, Elworth she was a School Teacher who gave up a whole week of evenings every 3rd week and about a whole week at holiday time to be a Nurse at the Abbey Field Hospital. Amy did general work in Surgery and the Hospital as well as the Sandbach Working Party putting in 997 hours until January 1919.)

Mrs J Moores Details not known
(Lived at The Avenue, Elworth, Sandbach and was a Member of the Sandbach Working Party outing in 3 hours a week for 1 year.)

Miss Ethel Moseley July 1917 CONGLETON

Mr W Moses Duration of the War
(Lived at 321 Crewe Road, Wheelock who Wrote Poems and sold them to raise funds for the Red Cross and made £11. Mrs Lavinia Hindson Vice President of Sandbach Working Party said the Mr W Moses and his wife were “a most deserving couple who I should be glad could be mentioned in some way”. (see below)

Mrs (?) Moses May 1917
(Lived at 321 Crewe Road, Wheelock and was a Charwoman at the Abbey Field Hospital and would not accept any money for her efforts. She was not a well woman but came whenever she could usually about once a week to help out including Washing and Scrubbing along with the Working Party. She put in 728 hours until December 1918)

Rev. Charles Muckleston August 1914
(Lived at Betchton Villa, Sandbach and was the secretary of the Hospital and the Sandbach Red Cross Division. He also helped on play days and organised entertainment at Abbey Field Hospital putting in 130 hours until after 1919.) (Husband of Gwendoline Muckleston)

Mrs Gwendoline Muckleston May 1917
(Lived at Betchton Villa, Sandbach and did general work at Abbey Field Hospital as well as manning the Market Stall and Flag Section.
She put in 97 hours until November 1918.
(Wife of Rev. Charles Muckleston)
Mrs Florrie Oldfield 1916
(Lived at 76 Bradwall Road, Sandbach and was a member of the Sandbach Working Party and a Flag Seller putting in 200 hours until 1918)
Mrs Annie Ollerhead 1915
(Lived at Hope Street, Sandbach and was a member of the Sandbach Working Party and a home worker putting in 250 hours until 1917.)
Miss Cicely Owen May 1917
(Lived at Heather Lea, Elworth and worked at Abbey Field, Sandbach, The Quinta, Congleton, Oakfields, Upton Arclid Mill Hospital Nr Sandbach and had transferred from Eaton Hall in Chester.
Cecely was a General Worker at the Hospitals and a Flag Seller for the Sandbach Branch of the Red Cross. She put in 279 hours until January 1919.)
Mr Daniel Owen 21 November 1915 CONGLETON
Miss Gwendoline Pamphilon March 1915 CONGLETON
Miss Gladys Mary Parry 1916
(Lived c/o Mrs Sherratt, The Hill Cottage, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross Working Party and put in 250 hours until 1918.
Miss Parry’s permanent address was 112 New Road, Greatbridge.)
Mrs Martha Peakman Duration of the War
(Lived at Cotton Row, Wheelock and constantly worked for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity working party putting in 500 hours.
(Her son Thomas Edward Peakman was killed in action on the 7 June 1917 aged 23)
Miss Ethel G Ramsden November 1917
(Lived at Dane Croft, Holmes Chapel and worked at the Abbey Field Hospital doing General Work until January 1919 putting in 1029 Hours.)
Mrs Elizabeth Ramsell June 1917
(Lived at The Square, Sandbach and worked in the Kitchen and Night Work at the Abbey Field Hospital and as a helper for the Sandbach Red Cross Working Party. Elizabeth put in 352 Hours until October 1918.)
Mr Herbert Rees May 1917
(Lived at agricultural Training College, Holmes Chapel and was The Organiser of Several entertainments and a Member of the Garden Committee for a year and worked for the Red Cross in Sandbach until December 1918)
Mrs Sarah Renshaw 1914
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and was part of the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working party, putting in 300 hours until 1919)
Mrs Annie Riddell May 1917
(Lived at West View, Sandbach and was a helper doing General Work at the Abbey Field Hospital and the Red Cross Working party, organising the GARDEN FATE.
Annie put in 375 Hours until October 1918.)
Dr Robert Riddell May 1917
(Lived at West View, Sandbach and was paid 3shillings per day per patient until April 1918 after that 3shillings per equipped bed.
He attended the Hospital at Abbey Fields twice a week or as required until January 1919 (when it Closed??)
Mrs Ada Roberts Duration of the War
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and provided Teas and work on behalf of the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party
Miss Elsie Rosson  June 1918
(Lived at 21 Crewe Road, Sandbach and worked as a Helper at the Abbey Field Hospital doing General Work, putting in 50 hours until January 1919)

Miss Nellie Rosson  May 1917
(Lived at 21 Crewe Road, Sandbach and worked as a Flag Seller and General Worker at both the Abbey Field Hospital and the Quinta Hospital, Congleton putting in 619 Hours until January 1919.)

Mrs Margaret Rowe  September 1917
(Lived at Brook Villa, Wheelock and was a General Worker at the Abbey Field Hospital putting in 336 Hours until July 1918.)

Miss Elsie Rudge  May 1917
(Lived at 157 Crewe Road, Sandbach and was a Teacher who gave up every evening for a whole week every 3rd Week and was a Nurse at the Abbey Field Hospital doing General Work until January 1919 putting in 678 hours.)

Miss Mary Rutlidge  March 1915 CONGLETON

Mrs Sarah Ryder  May 1917
(Lived at Union Street, Sandbach and worked at the Abbey Field Hospital and was employed with no pay for 3 months to do the washing and scrubbing. After August 1917 Sarah was paid 3/- per day putting in 2728 hours work until February 1919.)

Mrs Maggie Sawyer  October 1914
(Lived at the Holly Bush Inn, Wheelock Heath and was part of the Sandbach Red Cross working party putting in 4 hours a week until June 1919.)

Mr Joseph A Shaw  24 April 1915 CONGLETON

Miss Mary Sheffield  May 1916
(Lived at Belmont, The Avenue, Elworth and worked at the Congleton hospital.)

Mr John Shepherd  2 May 1915 CONGLETON

Mrs Mabel Shepherd  1915
(Lived at Oak Cottage, Hope Street, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross working party in Sandbach as well as a home worker putting in 150 hours until 1916.)

Mrs Emma Sherratt  1915
(Lived at The Hill, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross working party in Sandbach as well as a home worker putting in 420 hours until 1919.)

Mrs Emily Sherriff  1915
(Lived at Wells Street, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross working party in Sandbach as well as a home worker putting in 100 hours until 1917.)

Mrs Sherwin  Details not known
(Lived at New Street, Elworth and was a member of the Sandbach Working Party putting in 3 hours a week for 2 years.)

Miss Margaret Sherwin  1917
(Lived at 15 Crewe Road, Sandbach and was a member and the Assistant Head of the Red Cross Working Party in Sandbach in 1918 and 1919. She was also in Charge of the HOSPITAL MARKET STALL, helping in 1917 and organising the stall in 1918. Margaret put in 485 hours until 1919.)

Miss Grace Sidebotham  March 1915 CONGLETON

Mr John Bentley Skellard  19 March 1916 CONGLETON
Mr Fred Skelton 7 November 1915 CONGLETON

# Mr Arthur Edgar Slade August 1914
(Lived at (c/o) Parr’s Bank, Sandbach and was the
Divisional Treasurer until May 1917 of the Red Cross
Sandbach Division. In May 1917 he resigned his post as he
could not take on the Hospital Accounts when his Staff
numbers were depleted by the War and soon after his
resignation he had a break down and had to have a long rest.
Between 1915 and 1918 he did continue to be the treasurer
of the Flag Day collections.)

Miss Diana H. Y. Slade 1915
(Lived at Wellbank, Bradwall, Sandbach and was a member
of the working party and worked at home putting in 440 hours until 1919.)

(End page 17) Miss D Sladen Details not known
(Lived at Bradwall, Sandbach and was part of the working party
putting in 3 hours a week for 2 years)

Mrs Augusta St. J Sladen 1915
(Lived at Wellbank, Bradwall. A Member of the
Red Cross Working Party and a House Member
working 300 hours until 1918)

Mrs Sladen Details not known
(Lived at Bradwall she was a member of the Sandbach Working Party
putting in 3 hours a week for 3 years)

# Miss Celia A Sladen May 1917
(Lived at Wellbank, Bradwall. Celia was the
Secretary at the
Abbey Field Hospital and a Member of the Red Cross Working Party
Packing parcels she put in 796 hours until January 1919.)

Miss Mary Slater April 1915 CONGLETON
Mr Hardy Snelson 30 April 1915 CONGLETON

Miss Frances Spencer 1918 (Card 1 of 2)
(Lived at Sandbach Heath Frances was a member of the
working party putting in 141 hours until 1919)

Miss Frances Spencer (2) 21 Oct 1915 (Card 2 of 2)
(Lived at Sandbach Heath and was a helper in
Abbey Field Hospital as well as a Flag seller putting
in 96 hours until the 19 September 1917)

# Miss Mary Spencer May 1917
(Lived at 152 South View, Sandbach Heath and worked at the
Abbey Field Hospital as a Nurse and General worker putting
in 264 hours until January 1919)

Miss Mary Jane Spencer Details not known
(Lived at Moss Lane, Elton, Sandbach and was a member of the
Sandbach working party putting in 3 hours weekly for 2 years)

Miss Mary Wilding Spencer 1916
(Lived at South View, Sandbach Heath and was a member of the
Sandbach Red Cross Working Party as well as a Home Worker
putting in 290 hours until October 1919)

Mrs (W.J.) Alice Stephens Details not known
(Lived at 23 Eva Street, Elworth and was a member of the
working party putting in 3 hours weekly for 3 years)

Mrs Roberta Stockton July 1917 CONGLETON

# Mrs Francis Stockton January 1918
(Lived at The Heath, Sandbach and was at the Abbey Field Hospital
as a Washer putting in 416 Hours at 5/- per day when she started
and 3/- per day when she finished her contract in January 1919)

# Mrs S Ellen Stringer 1914
(Lived at Montford House, Sandbach and was the TOWNSHIP LEADER
working as the head of the B.R.C.S. Working Party at Sandbach from 1916 to 1919 and was the organiser of the “Our day, Red Cross Russian and France’s Day” and the head of the FLAG SELLERS from 1915 until 1918. She was also a general worker at the Abbey Field Hospital and continued after the war with the Red Cross.)

(End page 18)

Mr Albert Stubbs  2 March 1916 CONGLETON

Mrs Betsy Stubbs  Details not known
(Lived at Marsh Green Road, Elworth, Sandbach and was a member of the Working Party putting in 2 hours a week for 2 Years)

Miss Fanny Stubbs  1917
(Lived at Victoria Street, Sandbach along with Mrs Berby. Fanny’s address is also listed as Church View, Holmes Chapel and was a member of the Sandbach Working Party and a Home Worker putting in 50 hours until 1918)

Mrs Sutton  Details not known
(Lived at Bridge House, Sandbach and was a member of the working party putting in 3 hours a week for a year.)

Mrs Annie M Swain  1917
(Lived at Wheelock Road, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross Working Party putting in 80 hours until 1918.)

Miss Hilda Mary Swain  May 1917
(Lived at 72 Crewe Road, Sandbach and worked at the POST OFFICE from 6am until 8am in the morning and then went to work at the Abbey Field Hospital for 5 hours as a General Worker putting in 240 hours until February 1918)

# Miss Marjorie Swain  May 1917
(Lived at 72 Crewe Road, Sandbach and worked full time at the POST OFFICE giving her spare time to work at the Abbey Field Hospital as a Nursing Member putting in 370 Hours until January 1917.)

Miss Alice Taylor  6 October 1915 CONGLETON

Mrs Hannah Thomas  Details not known
(Lived at Beech Lawn, Elworth and was a member of the working party putting in 3 hours a week for 3 Years.)

Mr Arthur Holt Littler Thompson  Details not known
(Lived at 53 Vicarage Lane, Elworth and was the Honorary Secretary of the ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE and arranged entertainments during the war for Red Cross objects. In one year they made £89 for the Abbey Field Hospital.)

Mrs Margaret Thompson  October 1914
(Lived at Brook Villa, Crewe Road, Wheelock and was a member of the Sandbach Division Working Party until June 1919 putting in 6 hours weekly)

Mrs John Lizzie Timmis  Details not known
(Lived at Clay Lanes, Wheelock and provided Teas and Work as part of the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party putting in 400 hours over the war years.)

Mrs Clara Tomkinson  Duration of the War
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and provided Teas and Work as part of the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party putting in 600 hours over the war years.)

Mrs Eliza Tomlinson  1915
(Lived at Fairholm, Victoria Street, Sandbach and was part of the Sandbach Working Party putting in 380 hours until 1918.)

# Miss Louie Tomlinson  May 1917
(Lived at Fairholm and was a Masseuse at the Abbey Field Hospital putting in 400 hours.
Her VAD card said “Massaged any Men who required it at our hospital, sometimes coming twice a day – over a mile”.

Mrs Towers  July 1916 CONGLETON

Miss Hesba Twemlow  (Spelling could be Essba)
(Essba Twemlow Daughter of Samuel Poole Twemlow and Fanny Foden (Edwin Foden’s daughter)
(Lived at Springfield, Bradwall, Sandbach and was a Nurse in LIVERPOOL / CONGLETON)

Miss Nora Twemlow  May 1917
(Lived at Springfields, Sandbach and worked at the Abbey Field Hospital as a General Worker putting in 957 hours until after 1919.)

Mrs S. P. Twemlow  Details not known
(Lived at Springfield, Sandbach and was the Honorary Secretary of the Sandbach Working Party putting in 3 hours a week for 3 years as well as working at home.)

Mrs Gertrude Mary Twigg  1915
(Lived at The Bank House, Sandbach and was a member of the Sandbach Working Party putting in 350 hours until 1918.)

Mr Enos Ezra Twiss (Private)  May 1917
(Lived at Wells Street, Sandbach and was a HOSPITAL ORDERLY at the Abbey Field Hospital and as part of the St John Ambulance Brigade putting in 809 hours until May 1919)

Miss Alice Mary Upton  May 1917
(Lived at Dubthorne Villas, Betchton, Sandbach and worked as a NURSE at Abbey Field Hospital, Sandbach, Quinta in Congleton (six weeks in 1916-17) putting in 60 hours until November 1917.)
(Sister of William George Upton who died on the 4 October 1918 at the age of 20 when his plane a Sopwith Camel was shot down)

Miss Jessie Mary Upton  1916
(Lived at Dubthorne Villas, Betchton, Sandbach and was part of the working party in Sandbach and a home worker putting in 340 hours until 1919)
(Possibly Mrs Jessie Mary Upton the mother of William George Upton – See above – and Alice Upton and the wife of George Henry Upton)

Mrs Madam Maria Van Lynt  1917
(Lived at Wheelock House, Wheelock and originally Madam Van Lynt was at 154 Sg. Horbrock sn. Antwerp.
She was part of the Sandbach Working party and put in 300 hours until 1918)

Mrs Martha Venables  1916
(Lived at 100 Bradwall Road, Sandbach and was a Flag Seller and member of the Sandbach Red Cross Working Party putting in 390 hours until 1918.)

Miss Clara Wakefield  May 1917
(Lived at 11 High Street, Sandbach and helped with the Cooking at the Abbey Field Hospital putting in 149 hours until January 1919.)

Mrs Marion Walker  1915
(Lived at Crewe Road, Sandbach and was a Flag Seller, Home worker and member of the working party putting in 200 hours until 1918)

Mr Frank Walley  8 May 1917 CREWE webb orphanage

Miss Amy Ward  March 1915 CONGLETON

Miss Ethel Ward  June 1918
(Lived at Bradwall Road, Sandbach and was a General Worker at the Abbey Field Hospital putting in 50 Hours until November 1918.)

Mrs Margaret Ward  January 1916 CONGLETON

Rev. Herbert Samuel Ware  December 1913
(Lived at Crewe Road, Sandbach and was the Chaplin at Abbey Fields until June 1917 holding services at the Hospital for 70 men and spent about 6 hours a week as Chaplin and “Commandant Men’s” in two periods from December 1913 to April 1915 as Commandant and May 1917 to June 1917 as Chaplin.)

Mrs Rosa Elizabeth Ware  1915
(As above she lived in Crewe Road and was a member of the Red Cross working party and a Flag Seller putting in 50 Hours until 1916)

Mrs Rhoda Warrington  1915
(Lived at 8 Congleton Rd, Sandbach and was a member of the Red Cross working party putting in 400 Hours until 1919)

Mrs Emily W. M. Harrison  1914
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and worked for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity working party putting in 350 hours until 1919)

Annie Whaler  
(Lived at The School House, The Heath, Sandbach and was a Home washer and member of the Red Cross Working Party putting in 100 hours until 1918.

Mrs Deborah Whewall  March 1915 CONGLETON
Mr D Whitehurst  August 1916 CONGLETON

Emily William Harrison
(Lived at Crewe Road, Wheelock and worked for the Wheelock Vicarage War Charity Working Party putting in 350 hours until 1919.)

c/o http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/History-and-origin/First-World-War/Search?hosp=sandbach (21 Pages x 15 = 315 Staff Approx)

A picture taken at the time shows Dr C.W.H. Bennett reviewing the Local Defence Volunteers and the V.A.N’s (Volunteer Aid Nurses) with the Dowager Duchess of Westminster. (See above)

At a Town Council meeting on the 25 May 1917 it was announced that George Wright the Chairman of the Sandbach Urban Council had lent 3 sets of bowls and 2 jacks for the wounded soldiers to use at Abbey Fields with arrangements being made for the Marriott House Green to be available free of charge for soldiers.

On the 14 December 1917, ventriloquist Mr Arthur Argo held a concert for the troops with Foden’s Band holding a concert at Abbey fields Hospital, Sandbach to entertain the injured troops on the 20 July 1918.

When troops were injured in the field they were brought back to England using a rail network set up by the troops and then via ships to Southampton which was the chief port for debarkation for the sick and wounded men (Other ports also used). From Southampton they were taken by Hampshire City Ambulances to the Railway Station and then on special trains, they were transported all over the country to hospitals including Sandbach via the station at Elworth. So well organised were they that a man could be wounded in battle on the morning, been passed through an aid post, field dressing station, casualty clearing station and even a base hospital before boarding a train, boat, disembarking at Southampton, Train and on the following morning find himself at an infirmary at home in Great Britain.

Normally there were only about 20 General Military Hospitals in the country that could deal with the wounded but with the increase in casualties it soon became necessary to take over public buildings and great houses to cater for the injured.

In a further development Auxiliary Military Hospitals were brought into being for the care of patients who were approaching a condition of partial convalescence not to be confused with the convalescence homes for those who had recovered from their injuries and just needed a rest before being sent back to the war or home.

The VAD (Volunteer Aid Detachments) were organised in every part of the Country and consisted of both men and women. Before each person was accepted to be a VAD they had to pass an examination in First Aid and in the case of women in Home Nursing as well. Large numbers also held certificates in hygiene and sanitation as well as a full knowledge of stretcher bearing, invalid cookery etc. The VAD took over in many Red Cross Hospitals from where the nursing Sisters left off and usually came from
the more well off homes in society having lived lives of leisure before and were now confronted by more basic tasks like cleaning, making beds, washing patients, serving meals, assisting with changing dressings as well as a hundred and one other minor jobs no one else wanted to perform. Male VAD’s performed many of the same tasks as the women but also were asked to remove the dead, carry patients to X Ray departments and operations. There were 20,000 male VAD’s during the war “None were Medially Fit for General Service with the Colours” but all wanted to help in some way with the war effort.

**ABBEY FIELDS AFTER THE WAR.**

In 1929 Abbey Fields was purchased by Percy Finlow (Owner of John Pring and Son) from Carl Brunner of Brunner Mond fame.

Once converted into flats one of its residents were Colonel Finlow’s Family in the 1960’s (Mum, Dad and Heather their daughter and Rowland)

In July 2015 the Lodge House (202 Middlewich Road) permission was granted for the building to be partly demolished after many years of neglect to have a single story extension put in place and the removal of the original garage at the rear of the building with work starting in August 2015 for Mr Peter Brackley of Park Real Estate Ltd, 167 Bradwall Road, Sandbach CW11 1GP (Architect Darren Curry Architects 19b Jack Lane, Davenham, Northwich CW9 8LA).

The building is now a GRADE 2 Listed Building and can be accessed via a dirt track from Middlewich Road (Next to the Lodge House / Gate House) or via a tarmac drive from Park Lane.

**FAMILY information and dates of Deaths.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIED</th>
<th>NAME (Info)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 Jan 1771</td>
<td>John Moss .D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Dec 1809</td>
<td>Mary Ann Ford .D. aged 9 Months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Sept 1813</td>
<td>Harriot Ford .D. aged 9 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Apr 1839</td>
<td>Colonel John Ford .D. Aged 72-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Dec 1845</td>
<td>Francis Ford .D. aged 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Edmund Ashton Esq (of Luton Bedfordshire) Co-operative Governer who lived at Abbey Fields.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ALMSHOUSES**

In 1660 a number of prominent people of the town donated a sum of money totalling £304 /6 /8d to form a charity to help the poor of the area. With good investment in the town of Burslem and other areas this increased the amount of money owned by the trust.

On "The Hill" in the 1700's there stood two "Poor houses". In 1844 they were replaced by a Workhouse at Arclid.

On the 31 August 1848 an Act of Parliament was passed to make sure charities were better administrated. Much of this act involved the making of an annual donation to various worthy causes, in the case of Sandbach donations were made for the benefit of Sandbach National Schools for boys and girls, as well as the setting up of a fund for the maintenance of the almsepeople of Sandbach at an annual donation of £200. The trustees were ordered to expand the funds to be able to erect 20 almshouses each containing a bedroom, living room and kitchen. The buildings actually contain two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and pantry.

In 1865, 20 Almshouses were built on the site by designer Sir George Gilbert Scott at a cost of £2,500. The first 10 buildings were constructed by Mr Thomas Stringer of Sandbach, while the other 10 were built by Samuel Faram of Rode Heath.

In 1887 a further act of Parliament increased the sum paid for the upkeep of the houses from £200 to £350 per annum with a further yearly sum of £120 to be paid in Pensions to "out-pensioners”. A donation of £100 was continued to be paid to Sandbach National Schools.

The charity "Sandbach School and Almshouse Charity” was split into two parts in 1906 each looking after its own part of the money.
By 1890 the income from the charity was £1,600 a year.
From 1920 the property in Cobridge and Burslem that the charity had invested in was gradually sold off to be knocked down or used by pottery factories for their workers.

Applicants for the occupation of an Almshouse have to meet the requirements of the Charity. "they must live within the town of Sandbach and shall have been householders assessed to and have paid rates for the relief of the poor, for a period of five years, or the widows, or the daughters of persons who have been such householders. No person shall be appointed unless he or she have attained the age of 60 years, excepting that in the case of a married man of that age being an inmate, it shall be lawful for the trustees to permit the wife of such a married man to reside with him, provided she be of the age of 50 years".

As a resident you also had to fulfil some conditions of residence,
1) You must attend some form of Divine worship on Sunday.
2) The keeping of dogs or pigeons is not permitted.
3) General behaviour must be acceptable and will be observed by the trustees.
4) The Gardens and houses must be kept clean and tidy.

Applications had to be supported by one or more of the Governors of the trust who could vouch for the needs and proper character of the applicant. Married couples applying could be declined a house if they had received Poor Relief Pay from the charity.
Built by Thos. Stringer the building was off what is now Platt Avenue and behind the Westfields House owned by the Foden Family.

A Picture of the building shows various people outside the building.

Dr Christopher Henry Wentworth, Miss Mary Bennett, Mrs Mary Bennett, Phyllis Latham (A Nurse in the 1914-1918 War who unfortunately died at the age of 27), Dr Tom Latham, Dr Anthony Bennett, Dr Randle Bennett, Frank Latham, Susie Bennett and Betty Bennett.

The Doctors Surgery is now on the opposite side of the road and named after “Ashfields”.

Since those early days of Ashfields there has always been a surgery in the town. However after the closure of the original Ashfields there seemed to be a split in the provision of surgeries in the town with one on Congleton Road above a café, one in Wesley Avenue / Middlewich Road (Rebuilt in 1985 and now a Solicitors “Poole and Alcock) and a clinic at Platt Avenue (also originally a Dental Surgery and now part of the 6th Form building for Sandbach High School).

However with changes to Government funding in the 1990’s it seemed that these facilities should combine into a larger surgery which would be built on the site of the old ERF factory and next to Aldi.

DOCTOR’S IN SANDBACH (in Date Order) 1st Surgery in Sandbach

Tbc  Dr Milner  Commons Surgery
Tbc  Dr Mercer  Commons Surgery
1972 to 31 Mar 2014  Dr Peter Broadbent (Retired after 42 years in Sandbach)
1985  Dr Michael Tate  Middlewich Road Surgery
1995  Dr Kate Rosson (Joined as a Partner)
1996  Dr David Barker  Sandbach
1999  Dr Rachel Broom (Broome)  Commons Surgery
2000  Dr Neil Paul  Sandbach
2002  Application for Parking spaces (18/07/2002) at Ashfields
2002  Application for Change of use at The Commons Surgery for Office Space (31/07/2002)
2006  Dr Joanne Broklebank  Ashfields
2007  Dr Sally Whittaker  Ashfields
2007  Dr Stephanie Kelsall  Ashfields
2009  Dr Simon Gowda  Ashfields
#HB. BANKS in Sandbach.

BANKS IN SANDBACH Not covered by main articles.

PARR’S BANK
1902-1914 (1917) = Parr’s Bank Limited (Manager Arthur Edgar Slade) Bradwall Road, Sandbach.

In August 1914 Arthur was the at Parr’s Bank, Sandbach and was also the Divisional Treasurer until May 1917 of the Red Cross Sandbach Division. In May 1917 he resigned his post as he could not take on the Hospital Accounts when his Staff numbers were depleted by the War and soon after his resignation he had a break down and had to have a long rest. Between 1915 and 1918 he did continue to be the treasurer of the Flag Day collections.

SANDBACH PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY
1902 = Sandbach Permanent Building Society (George E Clough Secretary) High Town, Sandbach
1914 = Sandbach Permanent Building Society (Herbert Price Secretary)

Barclays Bank (Bold Street).

On the side of a building at 6 to 8 Crewe Road it is dated 1884 and it was at this address that Barclays Bank was situated.

In April 2018, it was with great sadness that the news came to our attention that Barclays Bank in Sandbach was to close on the 20 July 2018 after 96 years in the town, the victim of Internet Banking and a change in policy for banks to move customers from buildings to the faceless On-line and phone banking with physical deposits and withdrawals being taken over by the local Post Offices.

Formed on the 17 November 1690, in London when John Freame and Thomas Gould formed the Goldsmith Banking business which later took on a James Barclay the son in law of John Freame who became a named partner in the business in 1736.

In 1728, the Goldsmith Bank moved to 54 Lombard Street and adopted the “Black Spread Eagle” logo which has stayed with the company ever since.

Smaller banks, Backhouse’s Bank and Gurney’s Bank joined together to form the larger Barclays and Co Bank in 1896.

Between 1905 and 1916, Barclays Bank acquired many small local English banks and in 1918 the bank acquired the London Provincial and South Western Bank, a year later in 1919 the British Linen Bank with the Mercantile Credit Union joining in 1975 and the Woolwich Building Society in 2000.

On the 27 June 1967, Barclays deployed the world’s first Cash dispenser with “On the Busses” actor Reg Varney becoming the first to use the Cash Machine in their Enfield Branch.

Between 2001 and 2016 Barclays sponsored the Premier League football.

By 2018 the company had 4,750 branches in about 55 countries with 1,600 in the United Kingdom.

Barclays Bank came to Sandbach on the 17 July 1922, when it opened its first building at 6 – 8 Crewe Road with its first mention in a local trade directory in 1933 when the other banks listed in the publication at the time in the town were the District Bank (Now the Nat West Bank), and the Sandbach Permanent Benefit Building Society (Meeting at the Literary Institute 1st Tues in the Month 6.30pm to 8pm c/o Mr Herbert Price - Secretary, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, the Sandbach Savings Bank (C Richardson – Actuary) at 10 High Town. There was also the Savings Bank – Sandbach Branch, Westminster Bank Ltd and the Williams Deacon’s Bank Ltd.

By 1938, the Sandbach Barclays Bank was managed by Arthur A Goodwin and was still in Crewe Road.
By 1943, Barclays Bank Ltd was joined on the streets of Sandbach by newcomers the Westminster Bank Ltd and Williams Deacon’s Bank Ltd with the other banks still in the town being the Savings Bank and the District Bank Ltd.

By the 1960s’ a bigger bank was needed in the town and in 1965 the Cheshire Police decided to downsize from its Bold Street Police Station and moved to behind the Magistrates Court in Middlewich Road leaving a space in the road that could be filled by the bank. In February 1968 the bulldozers moved in to demolish the Police Station and work started on the new building to house Barclays Bank which had been designed by Architects “Green Lloyd and Sons” of London and opened on the 23 June 1969.

Since then the bank has stayed pretty much the same in its design until 2018 with its closure. It is always sad when a part of the town closes down but this business is different than most as it is the last of the banks to have existed in Sandbach without having been taken over since the 1920’s.

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**District Bank**

Manchester District bank built next to the Wheat sheaf Hotel.

Established in Manchester in 1829 the bank had branches in Sandbach, Holmes Chapel and Elworth as part of 400 branches by 1906. Its main office were in London and Liverpool with its head office at Spring Gardens, Manchester.

In 1902 David Houghton was the Manager of the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank in High Street, Sandbach (Head Office Spring Gardens, Manchester; draw on London Office 75 Cornhill, London, EC) at 3 High Street, Sandbach.

In 1914 the Manager was John William Twigg (3 High Street, Sandbach).

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**Lloyds (Hightown)**

The building that now houses the Lloyds Bank (was Lloyds T.S.B.) was built in 1854 by Mr Thomas Stringer as a "Savings Bank" indeed there is a carving to this effect on the facade of the building. The building was designed by Jas. Harrison.

The Savings bank has now been joined to the neighbouring shop for the TSB bank. In 1912 a picture shows the building was owned by George Leese's grocers shop. On the opposite side was George Norris the butcher.

GRADE 2 Listed Building.

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**Midland Bank (Hightown)**
Royal Bank of Scotland (Bradwall Rd / Bold Street corner)
Built by Mr John Stringer in the 1870's on the corner of Brawall Road and Bold Street this bank in its time it has been the District Bank (1950's) and the William's Deacon's Bank Ltd (Later the William's and Glyn's Bank).
In 1957 Godfrey Williams opened his first shop with his wife Maureen at 1 Middlewich Road. In 1982 they moved into premises on the Market Square leaving the building to be taken back as a bank. The building has now been taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Nat West Bank
The building was constructed sometime between 1870 and 1880 by Mr John Stringer. Adjoining the Wheat sheaf hotel by 1958 there was the Manchester District Bank. The premises are now the Nat West Bank.

Northwich Building Society.
Established in 1848 it had a branch in The Square, Sandbach in the shop owned by Mr J.W. Hilditch.

Royal Bank of Scotland (Bradwall Road)

Sandbach Permanent Benefit Building Society.
Established in 1859 it was incorporated under the Building Societies Acts in 1896. The number of members on the 31 December 1932 were 704 with assets of the society amounting to £98,531/9s/10d with a reserve fund of £8,271/1s/1d. The secretary of the society was Mr Herbery Price of Middlewich Road, Sandbach.

Sandbach Savings Bank (10 High Town, Sandbach)
Started in 1818 it was set up to encourage the habit of thrift among the people of Sandbach and to induce them to save regularly. The Sandbach Savings Bank was part of 124 Penny Banks connected with the Chester, Wrexham and District Savings Bank of which 122 were Schools. During 1922 the bank was in talks with the Trustees Savings Bank and National Savings Committee to secure the future of investors.

1902 = Savings Bank (Alfred E Stringer – Actuary) in 10 High Street, Sandbach
1914 = C Richardson - Actuary
(See also Literary Institute)

BATHS

The first public baths in the town were at "The Dingle" (See Below) in the 1700's. The public baths were then constructed in 1853 on the Newcastle Road. They included a large Plunge bath, Slipper Bath, Shower room and Vapour baths. The Plunge bath was 42½ feet square and from 3 feet 4 inches to 4 feet 9 inches deep and held 40,000 gallons of water which is changed every 36 hours. It was owned by Mr John Matthew's a builder and cabinet maker.

The water comes from a natural spring in the field to the west of the bath house.
(See Leisure Centre)

Baths THE DINGLE

On the site of the Dingle Bath house this 16th century brick house was described in 1850 as "Public Baths are in Bath Street and consist of private warm and shower baths, swimming bath, etc. Mr John Brookhouse is the keeper.

This was the original Leisure Centre going back as early as 1860 with a Dance Hall, Indoor and outdoor Swimming bath (See Above) Boating Lake and is now a Fishing lake. Originally owned by John Brookhouse it was later sold to Walter Lea a local well known personality.

By 1902 Walter Lea who was a local Joiner, Cabinet Maker and House Furnisher, became the Proprietor of the Dingle Lake, Baths, House and insurance agent.

BEER BOTTLER – Maskery

There was a Bottler in Sandbach called Mr Maskery who was producing glass bottles filled with beer and stout in the Mid 1800’s to the turn of the 20th Century. Possibly made local the beer was then bottles into the raised named bottles and sold locally along with bread Mr Maskery also made.

He would carry his bottles on a cart which was made by local blacksmith Len Cooke whose father, John was the town’s fire chief. Mr Cooke ran the smithy behind what was the Cinema and later the Regent Social Club Bingo Hall which is now the Smithy Garage.
BERESFORD TRANSPORT / Ken Beresford

A Sandbach resident for over 40 years in Offley House Ken Beresford has been part of the Sandbach Transport Festival and also a great supporter of local manufacturers ERF. Beresford Transport was based in Staffordshire and was started by Ken’s father until his death in the light 1960’s. The company ran over 90 ERF Vehicles until it was sold in 1994. Ken received the British Empire Medal in 2016 for services to the community of Sandbach.

BLACK ACRES HOUSE

Built by Thos. Stringer.

BLACK BEAR HOTEL (Ye Olde Black Beare Inn)

Built in 1634, it has been owned by Lord Crewe and is the only building in Sandbach to have a thatched roof. It is said that this is where Bear baiting took place in Sandbach. One other tale is that the Highwayman “Dick Turpin” stayed here, however there is doubt about there actually being a Mr Turpin as the term seems to have applied at one time to any well-known highwayman throughout the country. With the George being a stopping off point for the Mail Coach it is possible that Highwaymen stayed or visited the Black Bear to check on the times etc. of the coaches’ movements.

The Thatched roof part of the building was added to after 1908 with a building originally run as “Burgess the Butchers” and “Mr and Mrs Allen’s Shoe Shop”. The attractive black and white of this new extension was added as a fixture to blend into the original building at a later date (After 1940’s). At the beginning of October 2013 Sandbach had a new tourist attraction in the form of a straw bear. The bear has appeared on the roof of the Black Bear Public House and caused a stir among the locals and tourists with cameras being brought out to take its picture. Tradition has it that when a new thatch is put on a house the thatcher adds their own symbol to the roof in the form of an animal so that everyone knows who has done the work. However in this case the new owners have installed a bear on the roof in celebration of the reopening of the building after they had refurbished the building.

Previous animals that have appeared on the roof included a mouse or rat and a bird, but none have drawn as much attention as the bear.

On the 11 August 1950 the building was listed Grade 2 ID56220.

LANDLORDS

1822 = Mary Allcock
1834 = Luke Bradford (Black Bear)
1850 = Thomas Moors
1902 (1906) = Mrs Clara Booth (Black Bear)
1911(1914+) = Arthur Hambleton
1938 = Charles H Dickinson (Ye Olde Blacke Beare)
1960’s / 70’s = William “Bill” Gott.
1970’s = Frank Stead and Beryl Stead (Ex customers of William Gott’s time in charge) then moved to the Limes.
1978 = Linda and Derek Thompson
1980's / 90's = Michael and Dorothy Kovacs
1990's = Tina and Jimmy (See 2013-15)
Tba = Sam and Sharon?
Tba = Rob and June?
2013 = Christina Bolland
2013-15 = Tina and Jimmy (Punch Taverns)
2016 to Date = DV8 at the Black Bear (Congleton Company) Officially opened 18 November 2016.

#BRADWALL#

Not actually part of Sandbach but a separate area. It is mentioned here due to the involvement of the owners of the estates connection with events in Sandbach and the area.

#BRADWALL HALL#

Originally built for the Oldfield Family it passed in to the Jervis Family.

In 1802 Bradwall hall came into the possession of Mr John Latham M.D. the grandfather of Mr George William Latham M.P. (.b. 1827 .D. 1886) who was known throw-out Cheshire as he was the founder of the Bradwall Reformatory (Institute for Reforming Juvenile Offenders).

George W Latham suffered for many years from the most painful Malady and after his death on the 4 October 1886 his funeral was probably the largest public ceremony held in the town up until this date. Other members of the family included Richard and Sarah Latham whose son was Dr Charles Latham (.b. 1816) who died on the (6th or) 7 July 1907. A prominent local physician, surgeon and registar who worked in Sandbach and a monument to him was erected outside the Town Hall. It was then moved to the Park and finally it is situated outside the Ashfield Primary Care Centre.

On the 3rd November 1867 Dr Charles Latham became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS). He delivered triplets to the wife of a brass dealer which was reported in “The Lancet”. Born in 1816 he was the third son of Richard and Sarah Latham and was also the nephew of John Latham (1761 -1843). He went to Manchester Hospital to serve a 5 year apprenticeship with Scottish surgeon, Dr John Robertson. He then became a dresser at Manchester Infirmary before moving to London to obtain his MRCS and LSA at St Bartholomew’s Hospital.

Dr Latham then returned to Sandbach to become a partner with Mr Sutton.

On the 29 March 1842 he was appointed medical officer for the Sandbach Relief District a position he held for 57 years before he retired on the 22 December 1899.

On the 25 March 1845 Charles Latham was appointed to be the medical officer to the District after the Workhouse was opened, another role he held for a long period of 60 years.

For 30 years he was the public Vaccinator and surgeon to the Bradwall Reformatory from its foundation by Mr George W. Latham M.P. in 1873 until the 19 March 1903.

Before his death he was also the registrar of births and deaths in the town, handing over this duty to his son in 1888.

**FAMILY HISTORY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1816</td>
<td>Married Miss Mary Newnham Cobbe (Daughter of William Venables Cobbe of Hough, Near Wybunbury)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1843</td>
<td>Son Richard Venables Latham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>Son William Henry Latham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Daughter Catherine Maria Latham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Son George Frederick Latham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>Daughter Louisa Mary Latham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>Son Harry Newham Latham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1857</td>
<td>Son Francis Gordon Latham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(see Mr George W. Latham M.P. 4 Oct 1886)

**FAMILY MEMBERS**

- George William Latham M.P. (.b. 1827 .D. 1886) English Landowner and Barrister
- Charles Latham (.b. 1816 .D. 1907) Physician (Public Statue outside Doctor’s Surgery)
By 1902 (to after 1914 Kelly’s Directory) the Rev. John Hutchinson Hindson M.A. and his wife Mrs Hindson, their sons, including Leslie Hindson resided at Bradwall Hall. Their second son Leslie R. P. Hindson was a Lieutenant in the “A” Bty. 187th Bde Royal Field Artillery and was killed in action on Sunday 10 June 1917 aged 22.

By May 1917 a Miss Marion Holtham was also living at Bradwall Hall with the Rev. Hindson.

In the 1950’s, Bradwall Hall was demolished, however the estate and a smaller house on the site passed from the Oldfield family down to the Jervis and Latham families and then to the present owners the Barlow family of which Sir John Barlow and Lady Barlow were in residence in the 1950’s (Lady Barlow surviving until the 1990’s or 2000’s). Lady Barlow was the first voice heard on the BBC during a broadcast on the 18 February 1937 when a show at the Lyceum theatre included;--

15-20 Feb 1937 VARIETY SHOW
Incl; The Four Hillbillies
     Jack Warman (BBC Comedian)
     Frank Colman (Tenor)
     Lilian Mc Avoy (Violinist)
     Falos and the Hurdles (Comedy)

18 Feb (Thurs) BROADCAST WEEK The BBC will broadcast from the theatre the Thursday evening performance of the above variety show. The Opening speech will be made by Lady Barlow (of Sandbach).

BRICK WORKS
There were Brickyards at the Ancient Britain (Congleton Rd), Bradwall, Brown Edge and Tetton. Brick from the Ancient Britain works were used to build the Town Hall, the banks, Hungerford Café and various offices in the town.

BRIDGE HOUSE
Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, R.A.
In 1933 the Building was the “Bridge House School for Girls” with principal Miss Harris.

BROOK HOUSE
One of the large houses in Sandbach it was situated in the land next to the Old Hall on Bridge Street. It was last owned by Basil Rigby and family but by the 1990’s it was demolished.

BROOKSIDE HALL (Congleton Road near Arclid)
EARLY YEARS
Tbc
SCHOOL
I am told that the building was used as a school and the head teacher’s wife haunts the building looking for lost children.

ERF / SAND HEADQUARTERS
In the 1970’s Ken Dodd opened the ERF Club at Brookside Hall for the benefit of employees. However with the loss of the company the building was taken over by the sand quarry owners as an administration building and by 2015 it housed Bathgate Sand, Sibelco UK and Sibelco Europe (Sand Company), Sibelco Mineral and Chemicals (Holdings) Ltd, Fordath Ltd, Ilamian Ltd, Rufford Soil
By November 2013 the company decided to test the water and put the building up for sale but with not buyers it was kept by the original company.

BRUNNER MOND factory.

(A Northwich firm which had a factory at Malkins Bank, Wheelock, Sandbach.)

In 1872 John Tomlinson Brunner and Ludwig Mond (German Chemist) who had met while working for the Hutchinson’s Alkali Works in Widnes, set out to find a site for an ammonia works of their own in the Cheshire Salt district and discovered a site in Winnington near Northwich where they built the first of three plants in the area.

In April 1872 Ludwig Mond acquired the rights from Ernest Solvay (Belgian Chemist) to manufacture soda by the Solvay’s ammonia-soda process.

The company was officially launched in 1873 having purchased the Winnington Estate north-west of Northwich and by 1874 had built their first factory to produce soda ash by the new ammonia soda process especially for the cotton industry.

By the 1900’s a factory had been set up at Malkins Bank near Wheelock.

A report from 1902 shows a canal boat making a round trip from Bugsworth basin near Whaley Bridge, Lancashire (South side of Manchester and to the North West of Buxton) to “Brunner Monds Alkali Works at Malkins Bank near Sandbach. The 40 mile round trip with 76 locks took about four days to complete with the fastest bargeman called Archer taking 3 days for the trip. They were horse drawn barges and were loaded with 25 tons of burnt lime with 47 boats between November and December 1903 carrying 1175 tons of Limestone.

A series of 45 notes were discovered by David Wilde in July 2004 which cover a period of time from 1902 and from the 20 Oct 1903 to the 31 Dec 1903. They were to deliver boat loads of broken stone to “Our Betchton Sidings, Near Ettley Heath Station, North Stafford Railway” which was the 4th Lock from the bottom of the Wheelock Flight some 40 miles from Bugsworth. As the company didn’t have separate order forms for rail and canal the canal forms seemed to have been used for both forms of transportation. The canal forms were possibly issued to the boatman prior to departure for loading at Bugsworth with the bargeman’s name on the form so the contract was for him and not anyone else to pick up. It is possible the Brunner Monds company had its own boats as some of the forms were written in red so when they arrived at the limestone quarry it was thought they would be given preferential treatment.

BOATS BASED AT MALKINS BANK 1891

Beatrice – Samuel Hodgkinson (Captain aged 49 .b. Elton)
Sarah Hodgkinson (Daughter aged 19 .b. Tetton)
Joseph Hodgkinson (Son aged 14 .b. Tetton)

James – John Wakefield (Captain aged 65 .b. Leek Staffordshire)
Martha Wakefield (Wife aged 54 .b. Stoke)
David Wakefield (Son aged 8 .b. Eturia Staffordshire)

By 1911 the company had acquired the soap manufacturer Joseph Crosfield and Sons of Warrington and William Gossage and Sons of Widnes.

On the 19 January 1917 at 6.52 a blast occurred at the Brunner Mond munitions factory at Silvertown in West Ham, Essex (Now London Borough of Newham) killing 73 workers and injuring 400. The company was making explosives for the First World War and this made the national news headlines as well as destroying parts of the surrounding area. It was possibly this event that made the owners of the company want to commemorate the debt owed to those who lost their lives in the explosion and a monument was positioned outside where the works used to be. This was also repeated at all their works.
with memorials to the individual workers of each factory being commemorated outside their place of employment as was the case in Sandbach (Now at Sandbach Cemetery).

In 1919 the company then sold on its shares in the soap manufacturers to Lever Brothers. The following year (1920) Brunner Mond and Co acquired Castner Kellner Co by an exchange of shares and formed the Synthetic Ammonia and Nitrates Ltd which worked on plans to extract Nitrogen from the air at a site in Billingham, Stockton-on-Tees, Durham which had been acquired by the Ministry of Munitions (MOD).

At the end of the war some of the companies employees had not made it back home from the fighting and the company decided to erect a monument on their sites to those who had “Fallen”. The monument at the Malkins Bank, Wheelock site was an impressive structure but when the works there closed in 1934 instead of being destroyed like the factory it was moved to the Sandbach Cemetery where it has pride of place at the end of the driveway.

In 1924 the company acquired the Magadi Soda Company of Kenya and in 1926 they merged with three other companies to become ICI a year later.

In 1927 the company became part of the Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) group. In 1929 the house at Abbey Fields, Sandbach was owned by Carl Brunner of Brunner Mond fame but as with the company it was sold and was purchased by Percy Finlow (Owner of John Pring and Son). In 1934 when the Brunner Mond Works closed and was later demolished by landowner Wilf Wakefield, the Hovey family acquired the clock that was attached to the factory building and installed it on their own ZAN building where it can still be seen today.

On the site was a Work’s Recreation Club with a very good bowling green and tennis courts. In 1911 the bowling team won the Mid Cheshire Division 1 under the name Sandbach Alkali.

When the club shut down the area became part of Shackleton’s Toys who were formed in 1939 by Maurice Shackleton and made wooden replica Foden Trucks, Unsworths (?) and finally part of Jeffries Box Makers.

The site now is part of the Malkins Bank Golf Course and Complex and open fields in the dip formed by the River Wheelock. This site also became the training ground in the 1940’s and 1950’s for the Sandbach Fire Brigade who would use the river water to pump out and spray over the land to practice their firefighting skills.

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**BYPASS**

This was officially opened in November 1986 by Sandbach M.P. Ann Winterton. However its first event was a little earlier with an antique and car boot sale on the stretch of road near and including the Safeway (Now Waitrose) roundabout being held on a Sunday.

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**#HC. CANAL**

It was constructed in the 1770's (possibly 1775) by James Brindley, the man who also constructed the first Canal for the Duke of Bridgewater from Liverpool to Manchester.

It was reported that at a coming of age party for Richard Lowndes Salmon on the 3rd February 1775 forty navvies who were working on the Grand Junction Canal at Hassall Green and attended the event.

The Wheelock Canal was first known as the "Grand Trunk Canal".

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**SANDBACH CEMETERY**

The Hill Sandbach
Opened in 1934.
A report in the Staffordshire Advertiser 4 February 1933 edition tells of a special meeting by the Sandbach Urban District Council to adopt a new plan for the cemetery with an amended cost of £2,375.00

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**CHESHIRE HURDLES.**
A unique feature of the Cheshire Countryside are the “Cheshire Hurdles” a Black and White metal fence designed in the late 1920’s or early 1930’s by a Cheshire Councillor. They were designed to make it easier to see the corners of the road in the dark with the white of the fence reflecting any light in the area at a time before street lights became part of many town’s landscape. The Hurdles distinctive bent over top made them ideal for keeping cattle and sheep in the fields. Their distinctive shape is also found on racecourses, lining the course itself to stop horses jumping over them into the watching crowds and are called a running rail. The original designs were made of wrought iron but modern copies are now made of mild steel which retains the character of the Hurdles but not the authentic materials.

Mainly found on corners of roads they can be found all over Cheshire and original versions can be found on:

1) Middlewich Road and Mill Lane corner, Elworth.

![Image of Cheshire Hurdles](image1)

2) Congleton Road on the M6 Junction (Congleton Side) / Holmes Chapel Road.

![Image of Cheshire Hurdles](image2)

3) Congleton Road and Church Lane Corner by the Chimney House Hotel (Built about 1929).

![Image of Cheshire Hurdles](image3)

4) Congleton Road and Emerald Drive. The new estate has used old Hurdles to surround houses 1 and 3 Emerald drive and at the bottom of the small estate the fence has had a gate put in it for access to the field behind.

![Image of Cheshire Hurdles](image4)

5) “Canal Fields” (Bellway Homes) / Heron Way Estate Moston off Hall Lane (Near Canal and Newfield Fabrications) NEW VERSION OF CHESHIRE HURDLES

6) WARMINGHAM – Hall Lane (Back Road to Crewe / Leighton Hospital) / Clay Lane / Crabmill Lane Junction. (On Corner of Clay Lane)
7) WARMINGHAM – Warmingham Road (Warmingham to Crewe) and Hall Lane Corner.
8) WARMINGHAM - Warmingham Lane and Meadow Lane (Opposite) corner (On the Road to Crewe)

ASTBURY Nr Congleton
1) Childs Lane (R70) / Wallhill Lane / Brownlow Heath Lane – Near the Garden Centre.
2) A50 / Love Lane / Church Lane

ALSAGER (From Sandbach To Alsager)
1) Sandbach Road (B5078) / Newcastle Road (A533)
2) Sandbach Road / Sandbach Road North (Opposite on Bend) Near Betchton Lane
TAKEN DOWN 2017 for new building development.

BETCHTON (Just outside Sandbach on the Newcastle Road)
1) The Hill, Newcastle Road (A533) / Dubthorn Lane / Vicarage Lane (Crossroads) (Post Box on Corner) (Hurdles on all 4 corners)
1b) Betchton – Boult’s Green (Corners of the road) Removed March 2014.
2) Newcastle Road (NEW INN) / New Inn Lane / R70 (Crossroads) opposite the New Inn on 2 Corners South Side of junction.

CHURCH LAWTON
1) Sandbach Road / Knutsford Road or Liverpool Road (A5011) corner
2) Knutsford Road / Hoose Hollow Brodge (Crewe Road To Alsager B 5077) (Near Lawton Arms)

CONGLETON
1) Loachbrook Estate on the Sandbach Road, Congleton. (New Estate) NEW VERSION OF CHESHIRE HURDLES

CREWE
1) (Built after 2011) “Saxon Gate” on the Parkers Road and Bradfield Road corner (New Estate) NEW VERSION OF CHESHIRE HURDLES

HOLMES CHAPEL
1) (Area Unknown) NEW VERSION OF CHESHIRE HURDLES

OTHER LOCATIONS (c/o Rambes with a camera blogspot. Co.uk 2011)
Appleton near Warrington (New Railings)
Forest Gate Lane / Yeld Lane Corner Nr Tarporley
High Legh
Lymm
Whitegate

 SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY / Sandbach Voices /Belmont Choir

Sandbach has had a tradition of Choirs that dates back many years with a Sandbach Male Voice Choir which was threatened with extinction in 1931 after the resignation of Mr Trefor Jones (of the Lion Public House and conductor) and Mr J H Kay the secretary and Treasurer of the choir. (1 Jan 1931 Sentinel)

There was also a Co-operative Choir conducted by Mr Fred J Dossona (Fred Bossons) of Talke who won first prize in a competition in 1932 and in 1935.

Started in 1947 the Sandbach Choral Society has seen many changes over its years. Its first name in 1947 was the Belmont Choir and by 1967 it was under the leadership of Mrs Rossan.

Sandbach Voices to August 2017.
On the 3 September 2017 the Sandbach Voices became “Sandbach Choral Society”.

# SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY / Sandbach Voices /Belmont Choir #

# SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY / Sandbach Voices /Belmont Choir #
MUSICAL DIRECTORS

To 31 Aug 2019  Christopher Cromar

EVENTS / CONCERTS = SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY

11 Jan 1967  Concert at a Monthly Meeting under the leadership of Mrs Rossan
(20 Jan 1967 Cheshire Observer)

#-------------------------------#
Sat 16 May 2015 SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY COME AND SING EVENT
At Sandbach High School, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT
Featuring Songs of the Fleet (Stanford)

14 Nov 2015  RNCM with Altringham Choral Society – Verdi Requiem
15 Dec 2015  Sandbach Town Hall – Christmas Concert

Sat 14 May 2015 SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY COME AND SING EVENT
At Sandbach High School, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT
Featuring Mozart’s “Requiem”.

26 June 2016  Sandbach Town Hall –
13 Nov 2016  UNKNOWN – Remembrance Sunday Concert – Faure Requiem
2 Apr 2017  Sandbach Town Hall – A Slice of Heaven

Sat 13 May 2017 SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY COME AND SING EVENT
At Sandbach High School, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT
Featuring Gilbert and Sullivan Choruses

25 June 2017  St Mary’s Church – An American Supper
Sat 2 Sept 2017 SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY COME AND SING EVENT
At Sandbach High School, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT
Featuring Messiah

12 Nov 2017  St Mary’s Church – Remembrance / The Music Makers
13 Dec 2017  St Mary’s Church – Peace on Earth (Carols, Songs and Readings for Christmas)
25 Mar 2018  St Mary’s Church – Fling Wide the Gates / Music for Passiontide
30 June 2018  St Mary’s Church Alsager – Amazing Day

Sat 1 Sept 2018 SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY COME AND SING EVENT
At Sandbach High School, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT
Featuring The Armed Man (Karl Jenkins) and Gloria (Vivaldi)

18 Nov 2018  St Michael’s Crewe – Lest we Forget / Karl Jenkins The Armed Man
19 Dec 2018  St Michael’s Crewe – Good Will to All (Christmas Concert)
13 Apr 2019  St Mary’s Alsager – Chilcott St John Passion
30 June 2019  St Mary’s Church – Merry England by Edward German

Sat 31 Aug 2019 SANDBACH CHORAL SOCIETY COME AND SING EVENT
At Sandbach High School, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT
Featuring Mozart’s “Requiem”.

CONTACT DETAILS
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TWITTER SandbachChoralS

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CHURCHES IN SANDBACH
#CH01. Baptise Church
Originally in Crewe Road Services are now held at Sandbach High School.
Main Church Hall, Green Street.
VICAR
Rev’d Alistair Stewart (2013)

#CH02. Bradwall Methodist Church
(Closed 2013)
Bradwall Methodist Church opened on the 15 August 1882.
Closed on the 15 September 2013

#CH03. Catholic Church
Designed by John Stringer and built by Joseph Cooke of Longport, Staffordshire.

#CH04. Christ Church Wheelock
Crewe Road, Wheelock CW11 3RX (Near the Farm Shop)
Church of England Founded in 1843.
HISTORY
Erected by Public Subscription in 1836 and was used as an Un-Consecrated building until the 20 February 1843 when it had its Consecration Service.
In 2013 the front porch was altered to comply with disability regulations.

VICAR
1843 Thomas Gardener Morgan
1870 John Dobbie M.A.
1873 Charles Lane M.A.
May 1966 Rev. B.D.A. Spurry B.A.B.D. (Details from Parish News)
Rev’d Gill Standing (2013)

#CH05. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SANDBACH.
(see Building History by Elizabeth Bayley)

1648 to 1809 (see Hope Street Church)

#CH06. ELWORTH METHODIST

Station Road, Elworth, Sandbach CW11 3JG
The First Methodist Church in Elworth was built between the Commercial Public House and the end of Prings Works.
The Foundation Stone to the Mount Pleasant Methodist Chapel was laid on the 29 September 1860 with the official opening being on the 19th March 1861 with money for the land provided by John Victor Pring Jnr (Wire Works).
The music was provided by a small orchestra and a harmonium which originally came from John’s own house which he loaned for the service and then took back up to his home.
With increased attendance they decided to build a new chapel and the original building was sold back to John Pring for £200.
The new building was just down the bank from John Pring’s house at the top of Station Road and the trustees paid £115 for the land again of Mr Pring. The Foundation Stone was laid by John Pring in July 1888 along with other local dignitaries. In 1891 a pipe organ was installed in the building at a cost of £200.

VICAR
Rev’d Anthony Tagg (2013)

#CH07. ETTLEY HEATH PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH

Elton Road, Ettley Heath, Sandbach CW11 3NE
Built in 1888.
VICAR
Rev’d Rebecca Ingrouille (2013)

#CH08. HOPE CHAPEL in HOPE STREET
(Closed 1995)

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HOPE CHAPEL in HOPE STREET (Closed 1995)
By Elizabeth Bayley (23 Offley Rd, Sandbach © 1989)
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(see Congregational Church)
In 1835 a plot of land was purchased in Hope Street to erect a New Chapel for the Reverend William Sylvester who had been running his services in a converted barn in the Crown Bank area of the town
with his Sunday School on Congleton Road at the site later occupied by the Palace Cinema and was at this time the “British School”.

At a cost of £1,200.00 the new chapel had seats for 400 people. Money was donated by the congregation of Sandbach as well as funds from various other churches in the area and donations collected by Rev. Sylvester on various fundraising tours of the county from which he collected £900.

**COSTS OF THE BUILDING**

- John Siddell for 2,500 Bricks: £2-19-0
- Straightening the Bank / Plot of land: 4/-
- George Mason for fetching lime from Astbury: 6/6d
- John Stringer for Timber: £29/1/-
- John Stringer’s Big Bill: £68/10/-
- Printing costs for opening: £3
- Robert Burgess Toll Bars: 1/8d
- For Robert Burgess men: 6d

On the 5 September 1837 the Chapel was opened and dedicated by preacher Reverend J Hill of Oxford and the Reverend Samuel Luke of Chester. The Reverend Samuel Luke’s wife wrote the hymn “I think when I read that sweet story of old”.

The Chapel’s main door was originally facing Hope Street but was later moved to the side when pews were removed to make a vestibule. Part of this part of the building was also used as a Sunday School as well as some rooms situated under the chapel which could be reached by a flight of stairs. The building also had the Minister’s House to the rear of the building which was later demolished to make way for a new Sunday School.

The Reverend William Sylvester was paid a salary of £70 a year (Never more than £80 in his lifetime) until his death on the 1st September 1846 after 39 years of devoted service to the Independent Chapels of Sandbach and District. It is said that on the day of his funeral the whole town joined mourners with all the shops in the town closing in respect of the preacher. A tombstone paid for by public subscription was placed over his grave in the Chapel Yard in front of the main doors to the chapel.

Rev. Sylvester’s successor was the Reverend John Moss who unfortunately had a difference of opinion between himself and his congregation and left after just two years in 1848.

In July 1849 the Reverend William Rhodes became another popular parson who stayed with the church until his death on the 30 June 1870.

The Chapel was lit by Gas in 1856 when a general renovation of the building was undertaken by Mister John Stringer who erected a new front entrance and replaced the floor and seating. During his term of office the Rev. Rhodes decided to move the Sunday School into the Chapel and the Sunday School was taken to the Temperance Hall on the Commons. The building has since been the home of the Sandbach Fire Station and now it is used as a storage room for the Sandbach Market stalls.

The Sunday School became the home of many groups and both church and community performances by the Sandbach Players who made it their home in 1976-7.

In 1862 a second organ was installed in the church to commemorate the Ejection of 1662 by-Centenary celebrations and was made possible by the work of Mr John Wakefield. It was a chamber instrument and gave good service until 1899 when it was replaced by the third electric blown organ used until well after 1957.

When the Reverend William Rhodes died on the 30 June 1870 he was buried near the grave of the Reverend William Sylvester. The legacy he left behind in his will was a bequest to fund the future salaries of the minister’s which became known as the “Rhodes Charity” with the interest from the charity becoming available ever since.

In 1871 the Reverend Thomas Lunt B.A. from Lancashire College was ordained. Like his predecessor he became a popular preacher with very few seats vacant during his sermons in the main hall and balcony areas.

With growing congregations there was talk of building a new church where the District Bank stands (Nat West Bank). However the Congregation and the Reverend Thomas Lunt decided that it was not a good idea and this led to the resignation in 1878 of the Pastor and he decided to convert to the Anglican Church which led to the Reverend Thomas Lunt being given the church of St Peter’s in Elworth a post he kept until his death in 1921.

In 1878 the Reverend D.R. Davies became the Minister of Hope Street. He had come to Sandbach from Newport in Monmouthshire where he had done some excellent work. During his time he was also the minister at Wheelock before his retirement in 1884 on the grounds of ill health.
Three years later in 1886 the Chapel gained the services of the Reverend A. J. Basden who had been the assistant of Dr Palsford of Edinburgh. After the loss of Thomas Lunt in 1878 the church had suffered from financial difficulties having to borrow from the Cheshire Union of Churches to meet its debts during the time of D.R. Davies but as by the time of A. J. Basden it was back on track for a short period of time.

It was also during the time that the Rev. A. J. Basden decided to open a fund to make improvements to the church. Called the “Organ, School and Alterations Fund” the money would be for the named improvements to Hope Street. The Ladies Working Party were put in charge of raising the funds via a series of Bazaars and sales of work. The men were also involved with the fund by making collections and the organist at the church would arrange a number of concerts during the season to entertain and raise more capital for the improvements.

In 1883 Mr Samuel Jones led a Choir from Sandbach in the first performance in the town of Handel’s “Messiah”, leading to the formation of the Philharmonic Society.

The chapel also asked the Trustees of the Brereton Chapel if they would consider placing the propriety of placing their surplus funds into the same scheme for the benefit of as new school due to the unsuitability of the current building.

In 1887 the chapel celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its consecration in 1837 with a Jubilee Tea, meeting and Sermon which was preached by the Reverend H Evans and the Reverend M MacFadgyen of Manchester.

When the Rev. A. J. Basden retired in 1888 the fortunes of the church went back to being in debt and leading to its lowest ebb when thirteen members moved away from the district.

In 1890 Reverend Fry arranged a series of lectures including the Bishop Harrington and Reverend Harries of Stockport speaking on Welsh Preachers.

In 1891 the Deacons and Congregation decided to adopt the “Congregational Hymnal” for use in the chapel.

In 1892 one of the Deacons and treasurer of the Chapel Mr H Saxton died. Mr H Saxon was also a well-known shop owner in the town. His son Mr Edwin Saxton took over the job of treasurer.

In 1893 the Reverend Joseph Howard Fry resigned from the Sandbach Chapel but kept his job at the Alsager and Wheelock chapels until 1897. One of his daughters went on to work for the London Missionary Society in India.

His successor was an honorary pastor from Northwich called Reverend F Carter who along with a student from Nottingham College (Mr J.F. Houghton) were engaged to fill the gap until a fulltime pastor could be installed at Hope Street.

The Sunday School had been until 1893 in the Temperance Hall on Scotch Common when the Manse beside the chapel was demolished to make way for a new Sunday School building. On the 19 September 1893 Miss Manchester laid the foundation stone of the new school building. The extension was opened in early 1894 at a total cost of £850. The building later became the home of the Sandbach Players until the Chapel found Dry Rot in the building and they decided to sell the old School room.

In 1894 Mr J.F. Houghton (A student paster, Later became the Rev. J.F. Houghton) formed the Young Peoples Christian Band which continued for many years with a short dip in the period between 1899 and 1901. This group had a varied programme of events each year with various debates over the years.

1902 Manliness
1906 The Channel Tunnel
1909 Oliver Cromwell

They also had an annual outing to various local attractions including Biddulph Grange, Trentham Garden and Liverpool.

In May 1900 the Reverend E. Hampden-Cook M.A. from Dolgelly, North Wales took over the Ministry and Presidency of the movement in Sandbach, bringing a library of 1000 books. He was paid £120 per annum made up of £100 from the Church and £20 saved from not having pulpit supply preachers.

He had been the resident secretary at the Mill Hill School in London and while he was at Sandbach he acted as the Editor to the late Dr Weymouth’s “New Testament in Modern Speech” a work which followed the path of Wycliff and Tyndale, seeking to render the writings of the Apostles and Evangelists into a homely and understandable language for today’s readers.

The Reverend E. Hampden-Cook formed the town’s Free Church Council and was its secretary from 1902 to 1912 as well as founding a local branch of the British Jews Society.
In 1902 the church set up The Boys Brigade in Sandbach when the 1st Sandbach and 1st Wheelock Companies were formed. They were founded by the Reverend E. Hampden-Cook from the Hope Street Chapel and lasted for over eight years meeting every Wednesday at the Hope Street Sunday School. The group also had an annual summer camp at the Seaside. On his retirement in 1912 the Boys Brigade held a reunion celebration of past and present members to wish the Reverend E Hampden-Cook well in the future.

In 1907 the Gallery in the Schoolroom which had until then been available as a viewing area was blocked off to make a recreation room for friends and members of the chapel. The new area included a Billiard Table which had been donated by Mr F. A. Howard of Holmes Chapel. How they managed to get it up to the second floor facility I do not know but the area helped to strengthen the young men’s allegiance to the Chapel.

When the Reverend E Hampden-Cook left Sandbach in 1912 he was replaced the following year in April 1913 by the Reverend William Plaskett who brought with him his wife and nine children to the parish (Sidney became Church secretary in 1922, Vincent later moved to Malpas, Rene became an auxiliary Nurse at Abbey fields).

At this time the Manse (Home of the Vicar) was at “Sunnyside” in Crewe Road. It was not the best of times for the town of Sandbach or the Country in General as in 1914 a War broke out between Germany and the rest of the world.

Abbey fields a large house on the Middlewich Road (Now a GRADE 2 listed building) was converted into a Hospital for the wounded. The Reverend William Plaskett not only looked after Sandbach and Wheelock but was also the Free Church Chaplin at Abbey fields. His wife and daughter Rene also worked in the Hospital as VAD auxiliary nurses.

The eldest son of the Rev. William Plaskett was William Chris Plaskett Private 17681 of the 19th Battalion The King’s (Liverpool Regiment) who was killed in action during the First World War on the 29 July 1916 aged 25 at Thiepval-Maltz Horn Trench. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. His Brother served in the Royal Scots.

The Reverend William Plaskett was also responsible for the formation of the Wheelock Brotherhood and was Secretary of the Free Church Council and President of the Sandbach and Middlewich “Band of Hope Union”.

The church also had a successful social group with a sports club at the chapel with tennis being played in the garden of Mrs Ashmore of Dickenson’s Gardens.

On the 11 November 1918 War officially ended at 11am with a cease fire. It was an opportunity for all the churches to put aside their differences and to join together for a “UNITED THANKSGIVING SERVICE” at St Mary’s Sandbach on the 17 November at 3pm when Fodens Band would provide the musical entertainment and various ministers would take part doing readings and prayers for the congregation.

17 Nov 1918 UNITED THANKSGIVING SERVICE at St Mary’s Parish Church 3pm.

Opening Voluntary “Lead Kindly Light” played by Fodens Band
Conductor Mr Hines.

HYMNS
1. All People that on Earth do dwell.
2. Psalm XLVI God is our Hope and Strength.
3. Psalm XCVIII O Sing unto the Lord a new Song.
4. Psalm XLVII God me merciful unto us.
5. Hymn 165 and 376

O God our Help in Ages Past
Now Thank we all our God.

8. The Hallelujah Chorus Played by Fodens Band
9. The Trumpet of Victory Played by Mr W Nock on the Church Organ.
10. The National Anthem
11. Concluding Voluntary Played by Fodens Band.

On the 16 April 1922 the War Memorial in Sandbach was unveiled by Lieut Colonel John Kennedy of Brookside.

In 1924 Mr Edwin Saxton retired as Treasurer due to him moving out of the area (.D. 1930).

In April 1926 the church obtained a new Recreation Ground at Crossfields (Now Norfolk House) on the corner of Congleton Road and Offley Road. A Tennis Court Pavilion at the site had been opened by Mr C.F. Poole Esq in May 1926.

In 1927 Reverend William Plaskett retired from Sandbach but returned as Minister Emeritus in 1938 and continued until his death in 1944 aged 82.
With the retirement of the Reverend William Plaskett his place was taken by the Reverend Robert T. West who was the first Minister to live in a new Manse built in Crewe Road, near the Wheelock Infants and Junior School.

His first service was on the 11 March 1928 which has singers Miss Lucy Allen and Miss Jessie Leese who also performed as a quartet that included Miss Broadhurst and Miss Cross.

In March 1928 the church performed a concert and two sketches “Handy Andy” and “Uncle Ben” under the name of the Congregational Drama Society.

In October 1928 the “Young People’s Guild” was formed.

The 1898 Marriage Act was finally adopted by the Chapel at Hope Street Chapel in September 1929 through the efforts of the Reverend Robert West. This meant that any Marriage within the church didn’t need to have a Local Registrar present to make it official.

In 1930 The Sandbach Congregational Amateur Dramatic Society was formed and performed their shows at the Sunday School building in Hope Street. Set up for the Younger members of the congregation they performed such plays as “The Prince was a Pauper”, “The Lady of Lyons” and “Rob Roy” with the Reverend Robert West taking various roles in the productions.

1931 THE PRINCE WAS A PAUPER

24-28 Nov 1931 THE LADY OF LYONS

Incl; Miss Kathleen Allen as Madame Deschapples
Miss A Ward (Miss Gladys Ward) as Pauline Deschapples
Miss D Edwards as Marion
Miss E. M. Shinmell
Mr T Mitchell (Mr Fred Mitchell) as Monsier Beauseant
Mr E. R. Allen as Colonel Damas
Mr Ernest Bagnall as Glaris
Mr A Shaw as Landlord of the Golden Lion
Miss D Allen as Widow Melnotte
Mr J. W. Bayes as Claude Melnotte
Mr C Heathcote as Gasper
Mrs T Hewitt as Janet

Rev. Robert T. West as Monsieur Deschapples

Mr F Mitchell and Mr E Bagnall (Scenic Painters)
British Legion Orchestra conducted by Mr R. Baskerville

Mr W Bowyer (Violin)
Mr Haydn Richards (Violin)
Mr W Birchenough (2nd Violin)
Mr Johnson (2nd Violin)
Mr T Hewitt (Viola)
Mr R Bower (Cello)
Mr A Hindley (Bass)
Miss Hesba Twemlow

Producer Mr E Allen

1932 ROB ROY

In September 1930 Mr J.T. Shimmell the Sunday School Superintendent passed away. He had held the job for 35 years at the School and had been a Deacon with the church for the last 30 years.

In July 1931 Reverend Robert West formed a Controlled group of Baden-Powell Scouts known as the 14th SW Cheshire Scouts. Mr Robert West was the Scoutmaster until he left the Hope Street Chapel in 1932.

In August 1931 Mr Trefor Jones left the District. Not only a member of the church he was responsible for forming and conducting the Sandbach Male Voice Choir and the Sunday School Juvenile Choir (Pre 1923).

In 1931 the 124th Anniversary of the Congregational Church in Sandbach (Hope Street) took place with the Rev Sydney M Barry, Secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales giving the service along with Sandbach Vicar Rev Robert T. West. Special music and songs were sung by Mrs H Healey of Middlewich.

In the early days the service was accompanied by a small orchestra consisting of Violins, Double Bass, Obo, Serpent Circular Bass and other instruments. However, they were soon replaced by a Pipe Organ situated in the Gallery which dates back to the 1800’s (1899 on the Organ) and was owned by the Duke of Devonshire.
The Reverend A. E. Bayley took over in September 1932 having been the relief Pastor of the Chester Churches. From 1926 to 1931 Mr and Mrs Bayley had been in Bonesteel and Wagner, South Dakota USA with the children Freda, David, Winifred and Joan. In 1934 they had another son called John who was born in Sandbach.

Mrs Bayley was in great demand as a speaker and Singer within the town and became connected to the Cheshire Women’s Guild Movement. Her son David attended Sandbach School and was awarded the “Evans medal” for Literature in 1936. Freda ran the Youth and Tennis Clubs and Winifred and Joan attended the Crewe Academy.

The whole family enjoyed singing and while in Sandbach took part in many concerts and were involved in the shows the Dramatic Society put on.

On the 5 May 1935 Mr George Booth J.P a prominent member of the congregation was elected as Chairman of the Sandbach U.D.C. and decided to hold his Civic Ceremony not at St Mary’s Church but his own Church in Hope Street.

In January 1938 The Reverend Bayley was recalled to his old haunts in Farndon, Barton and Tattenhall leaving a vacant place which was filled by the return of the Reverend W.P. Plaskett.

It was during the second term of office for the Rev. Plaskett that Electricity was installed in the Chapel and Sunday School. After redecoration the planned re-opening of the buildings on the 3rd September 1939 was delayed as War was declared for the second time in twenty years. By now Mr Plaskett was living at Market Drayton with one of his daughters, paying a monthly visit to Sandbach. He was assisted by the Reverend A. P. Smith of Nantwich who would attend to the day to day work of the parish.

With the end of the war in 1945 it made more vicars available to take on Parishes with the Reverend F.W. Smith being asked to take over from the locum Reverend Bayley who went back into retirement. In 1948 Rev Smith left Sandbach and in 1949 he was replaced by the Reverend J. G. Snell of Manchester who had been the Free Church Chaplin at Withington Hospital where his wife had been Sister Tutor.

Unfortunately, the Reverend Snell suffered from ill health and was unable to do many of his duties. In 1954 he retired but was allowed to stay at the Manse for a while longer before moving into a bungalow at the end of Platt Avenue and Middlewich Road.

Between 1949 and 1954 the Mascot Choir was formed by Mrs Lucy Grocott and Mr Frank Maskelyne and performed at various festivals and were used to provide the lead singing for the services.

With the forced retirement due to ill health of Rev. Snell it was a woman who then took on the role of Minister at the church. Miss Margaret Knee B.D. came to the parish as Lay Pastor and improved the Children’s Corner in the chapel before her short appointment ended in 1956 when Margaret took up a full-time appointment in Coventry.

Between 1956-7 Lay Preachers including Mr J.W. Baxter from Shelton Congregational Church took the services at Sandbach.

In 1957 the church celebrated its 150th anniversary with celebrations and a history of the chapel being produced by Mr E Wakefield. In it he gives a list of Superintendents and the earliest recorded organist for the church Mr G Furnival who played for the Congregational Church back as far as 1857 and then transferred to hope street when an organ was installed there.

ORGANISTS
Mr G Furnival, Mr John Wakefield (Who rode on horseback from Middlewich to do the job), Mr S Proudman, Mr James Hilditch, Mr Samuel Jones, Mr Gorst, Mr E Wakefield and by 1957 Councillor F Maskelyne.

Mr E Wakefield also listed some of the other features in the church. The Communion Plate and Chalices were over 100 years old at the time and the Chapel Clock was made by “Thomas Bostock” (Pre 1834) an old Sandbach Clock maker 120 years ago (1837) and was still keeping time.

In August 1972 the Sandbach Players (Amateur Dramatic Group) held a meeting between the elders at Hope Street and the society about using the Hope Street schoolroom for a rent of £250 yearly. The proposal was to build a theatre within the schoolrooms and was put to the Church Synod and the Elders to be confirmed after the elders had agreed to the terms and conditions.

A report to the society in January 1975 stated that the Fire safely officer had inspected Hope Street and found some problems with the building. The main problem was the boiler room in the cellar under the kitchen. This was a potential fire hazard as the roof is made of wood and was considered unsuitable for theatrical use. With various other problems with the building and the contract it took another two years before the Players moved into the theatre for its first play “I’ll Get My Man” between the 31 May and the 4 June 1977.
In 1991 Dry Rot was discovered in the walls of the Church and the Schoolroom where the Sandbach Players had their Theatre. Madge Cartlidge one of the Church Elders said that the estimated costs of repairs were between £25,000 and £30,000 which was beyond the means of the church. The Church hall needed a new floor and dry rot in its walls. By 1992 the Sandbach Players had moved out of the building to Sandbach School on Crewe Road and it was decided by the Church to sell the building as there were not enough people attending its services to justify the expense of sorting out the building. The buildings were taken over by PEP (Personal Financial Planning Ltd) (17 Hope Street = Purchased on 14 Dec 1995 for £33,000 by PFP Ltd and renamed Centaur House) and the Main church became the home of the Multistar Group dealing in Container transport. The 1866 Organ from the church was moved to the Butt Lane Baptist Church in Talk where it is in regular use for services and concerts.

VICAR
1835 to 1846 Reverend William Sylvester (D. 1 Sept 1846)
1846 to 1848 Reverend John Moss
July 1849 to June 1870 Reverend William Rhodes (D. 30 June 1870).
1871 to 1878 Reverend Thomas Lunt (D. 1921 see St Peters Elworth)
1878 to 1884 Reverend D. R. Davies
1886 to 1888 Reverend A. J. Basden (retired 1888)
1889 to 1893 Reverend Joseph Howard Fry
1893 Reverend F. Carter (From Northwich as a locum)
Temporary Mr J. F. Houghton (Student)
To 1898 Reverend H. Hooper
1900 to 1912 Reverend E. Hampden-Cook M.A.
Apr 1913 to 1927 Reverend William Plaskett
1927 to 1932 Reverend Robert T. West
Sept 1932 to Jan 1938 Reverend A. E. Bayley
1938 to 1944 Reverend William Plaskett (returned as Minister Emeritus .D. 1944)
(1939 to 1945 Assisted by Reverend A. P. Smith of Nantwich)
1945 to 1948 Reverend F. W. Smith
1949 to 1954 Reverend J. G. Snell (Left due to ill health)
1955 to 1956 Miss Margaret Knee B.D. came to the parish as Lay Pastor.
1956-7 Lay Preachers including Mr J.W. Baxter from Shelton Congregational Church.
17 Mar 1982 Welcome service for the Rev Paul Frampton
1995 CLOSURE OF THE CHURCH.
14 Dec 1995 Purchased for £33,000 by PFP Ltd and renamed Centaur House.

#CH09. GRACE CHURCH
Formed in 2018 from the Congregation of Wheelock Baptise Church it held its services on the 1st Sunday in Sandbach Town Hall at 4pm.

#CH10. KINGDOM HALL OF JEHovah’S WITNESS
(Sandbach / Wheelock) Forge Fields, Wheelock
Originally built in the 1980’s it was redesigned and rebuilt in the 1990’s.

#CH11. Light and Life Mission.
Bradwall Road, (next to Wrights)
Built in 1839 in Bradwall Road as the Providence Methodist Church which closed in 1964. Reopened as the “Light and Life Mission”.
#CH12.  METHODIST CHAPEL (Closed)

Welles Street, Sandbach

Primitive Methodist

The first Primitive Methodist Church was built in 1832 in Union Street. In 1857 it was rebuilt in 1857 in Wells Street as the Union Street Chapel was considered out of the way. The land had been green fields status until local lawyer Mr Latham drew up plans for a street of houses on the recommendation of Mr W Dean, he also secured a stone yard which was owned by Lord Crewe. The Church closed in 1950.

The building then became St Mary’s Church Hall and the stone work under the eaves of the building has the words St Mary’s on it.

1960’s = Breeden and Middleton (TV Shop) it was named after Frank Middleton and Charley Breeden who opened their first television shop in Edleston Road, Crewe (Breeden House) and by 1961 had a shop in Sandbach and in an advert from the Crewe Theatre dated 1969 a shop in High Street, Winsford.

Pre 1992 = Fashion Footwear Centre (Shoe Shop).


Records available from 1911-1946 @ Cheshire Records Office.

#CH13.  PROVIDENCE METHODIST CHAPEL (Free) (Closed)

Bradwall Road, (next to Wrights – Now the Life and Light Mission?)

Built in 1839 in Bradwall Road.

Closed in 1964.

Reopened as the “Light and Life Mission”.

Records available from 1863 -1964 @ Cheshire Records Office.

MINISTER

Rev John Ellerby (United Methodist Free Church Minister) ?

#CH14.  SANDBACH HEATH METHODIST (Wesleyan)

Heath Road, Sandbach Heath, CW11 2LE

Original Built in 1851 and closed in 1902.

MINISTER

Rev’d Kim Stilwell (pre 200o 1 Aug 2015)

Reverend Jeremy Tresise (1 Sept 2015 to date)

#CH15.  ST JOHNS Sandbach Heath (see Buildings History).

Church Lane, Sandbach CW11 4ST

Anglican / Church of England

#CH 15.  ST JOHN'S CHURCH. (Sandbach Heath)

When Miss Sarah Sibson died on the 11 July 1857 at the age of 90 years she left a large sum of money in her will to make provision for the church of St John’s, Sandbach Heath, to be built. Along with her sister Sarah was the maiden daughter of the Rev John Sibon (D. 1796 aged 60), who was the Curate of the Parish of Sandbach for 36 years. For many years Sarah and her sister managed the old Post Office in Sandbach.

The Church was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott and built by Thomas Stringer of Crewe Road (Formerly Wheelock Road) at a cost of £5,000 in 1861.
The Church was Consecrated on the 12 June 1861 with a seating capacity of 300 persons. The carvings in the church were done by Mrs Kennedy of Brookside, with Carved wall inscriptions by Augustus Marshall. The first vicar of St John's was the Rev. Sydney Armitstead. He was succeeded by the Rev. Rose-Price, followed by the Rev. C.E. Mucklestone and Canon A.J. Ward.

In 1864 Ann Woolley donated the organ in memory of her husband John Wooley. In 1865 Mr Peter Hollins of Congleton Road, Sandbach donated the east window in memory of his wife, Joyce Jane, who died on the 2 September 1865, aged 60. In 1887 Anne Woolley also made a gift of the clock in the tower to the church which was donated in memory of Charles H Richards of Brick House. The Lych Gate was erected in memory of those who died in the Great War of 1914-18 by designer Mr Francis Harris, Architect of Betchton.

**VICAR**

1861 Rev. Sydney Armitstead.
    Rev. Rose-Price
    Rev. C.E. Mucklestone
    Canon A.J. Ward
1955 Rev. N Louch

2013 to date (Mrs) Rev. Gill Stanning (Also in charge of Christ Church, Wheelock and St Phillips Church, Hassall Green)

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#CH16. ST MARY’S, High Town, Sandbach.

High Town, Sandbach CW11 1HD
In 2013 it was estimated that the running costs without major alterations would be £93,000 per year.

**VICAR**
(see Buildings History)

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Mentioned in the Doomsday book (1086) as having a church on the site the book also mentions a priest was in the town. The original building would have been a timber and thatch church.

From 1128 there is a list of a vicars. The Earliest reference was of a priest called Steinulf who died in 1128. He had been presented to the Sandbach church by Randle, Earl of Chester.

A stone church has stood on the site since 1200 and before that it is thought that a wooden thatched building was also on this area of ground.

According to an old return dated 1549 Sandbach then possessed “One Chales” or Communion Cup and a ring of iii bells (4 bells)

The Leversage Arms in the panelled ceiling of the north isle were built c1587.

The actual date of the church is unknown but some of the older roof masonry dates back to 1661 when it is believed the Cheshire Oak beams were carved.

The Font of Caen Stone outside the main doors dates back to 1667 (or 1669), while the two fonts in the church itself date from 1200 AD and is housed to the left of the nave, while the other dates from 1857 and was supplied by Thomas Stringer. On the side are the words "Niyon Anomhna Mh Monan Oyin" which can be read both ways (A Palindrome). It translates to "Wash my Guily and noy my countenance only".

In 1719 four of the peal of eight bells were installed in the church. In 1938 they were re-tuned and rehung on a steel frame. The money for this was donated by Mrs Frances Poole in memory of her late husband, C.F. Poole, Esq.

In 1842 the south porch was destroyed.

Between 1847 to 1849 Sir George Gilbert Scott largely reconstructed the church, with builders Cooper and Co., Derby at a cost of £6,000. It is said that they encased the 1661 wooden building in stone work.

The stone for the building was given by Sir Philip Grey Egerton, M.P. The sand stone was mined from a quarry in Mow Cop.

The prominent West Tower is an exact replica of the original Perpendicular one.
The Stained-glass windows are by Kempe. A report from the Macclesfield Courier of the 14th July 1849 about the reopening of the church said that the original building had been made of sandstone. “The whole building north, south, east and west were crowded with galleries, the capirals of the pillars had been cut again and the windows blocked up and in the side galleries there was little room to stand upright. The roof was found to be insecure and the tower was also found to be in a very dangerous state. The tower which was a very fine one, presented the peculiar feature of open arches, upon which it rested and was beautifully proportioned”. During the rebuilding, a few remains of an earlier Church were met with and these fragments are now preserved in the vestry.

When Miss Sarah Sibson died in 1857 (See High Street and St John's Church) she donated money for a South porch at St Mary’s in memory of her father Rev John Sibon. It was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott.

The Caen Stone Font in the South West Corner of the Nave installed in 1859 by builder Thomas Stringer.

In 1875 the church yard was enlarged Mr John Stringer, of Sandbach under the direction of Messrs Chapman and Snape, Architects and Surveyors, of Newcastle, Staffs. Work was apprived on the 18th March 1874 and completed by the 1st January 1876.

A Marble Relief of the Rev John Armistead, M.A. Vicar from 1828-1865 was designed by G.F. Watts and sculpted by George Nelson in 1876. The Church Clock originally had a stone face installed in 1892 by the Hon. H Holbrook J.P. the Minister of the Crown in British Columbia, Canada.

In 1894 the old organ and gallery caught fire due to a boiler fire and defective flue. The Chancel is paved in black and white marble which replaced the sandstone paving in 1918 in memory of the vicar the Rev. Canon John Richard Armitstead, M.A.

Prior to 1919 the choir was seated in the organ gallery. After this date a surpliced men and boys’ choir was formed and moved to the chancel pews.

In 1930 the Choir and vestry was restored by Austin and Paley.

In the 1890’s St Mary’s had a Football Team which took part in various competitions. The Birchenough family from Haslington were keen players for the team and Herbert Birchenough became so good he eventually went on to play for the England Team.

Born on the 21 September 1874 (.D. 28 Feb 1942 in Newcastle under Lyme) in Haslington Nr Crewe, he played 167 league games for Port Vale (Burslem Staffordshire), Glossop and Manchester United between 1898 and 1903. His earlier playing career was first with Haslington, Crewe Hornets, Nantwich, Sandbach St Mary’s and Audley before he joined Burslem Port Vale in October 1897 making his debut in goal for the team on the 6th November 1897 contributing to a 4-0 home win against Ilkeston Town. Port Vale won the Staffordshire Senior Cup in 1898 and moved from the Midland Football League to the Football league Second Division in the 1898 -99 season. After 24 league and cup appearances (1897-1900) he was sold to Glossop in an 1900 for £250 but the team lost the following seasons finishing 5th and 8th in the second Division League. In 1902-3 Herbert Birchenough moved to Manchester United playing his first match against Arsenal on the 25 October 1902. He then played in 25 league and 5 FA Cup games for the club before moving to Crewe Alexandra in 1903 who were playing in the Birmingham and District League.

Other members of the family also played for St Mary’s with J Birchenough receiving a Silver medal in the C and D. J.F.A. (Possibly Crewe and District Junior Football Association) for the 1895-6 season.

In November 1961 the National Day School was purchased by the Parochial Church Council for St Mary’s to be run by them.
During October 1962 repairs were according to the Sandbach Chronicle, “Going on satisfactorily at St Mary’s Church, Sandbach, in restoring damage by death watch beetle and dry rot. The roof of the South Porch and the roof above the South Porch room have been replaced by good timbers and work is now being done on the long roof of the south nave. As the workers remove the timbers they bring to light some amazing examples of the damage done by the beetle. Thick timbers from the tops of the walls appear to be all right at first glance, but it needs special care as the delicate interiors have been eaten away.”

In 1963 the church had a Ladies Circle which the Rev. Canon Betts felt should be widened and at their AGM in April 1963 the “St Mary’s Church Women’s Fellowship” was formed with an annual subscription of 3s 6d (17½p). Canon Betts became its first President with a Chairman elected every two years. The first Chairwoman was Mrs Riggs who along with her fellowship ladies held an annual Shrove Tuesday tea for 100 women only to raise funds.

In 1964 the Church started work on building a new Church Hall which was opened in 1965 with a donation of £148 being donated by the “Women’s church fellowship” to equip a new kitchen for their use and for functions.

In July 1964 the church magazine changed its name to “Challenge” which is the name still used to date. In the 1960’s the “St Mary’s Church Women’s Fellowship” was run by Mrs Riley (Mother of Margaret Dickinson) and the local WVS asked for help delivering a meals on wheels a service which the fellowship were keen to help with.

When the Rev Geoffrey Thomas Wykes died in 1972 the Rev Basil Rigby took over the church and suggested that the Women’s and “Men’s Church Fellowship” join together for certain talks and events. By the time David Stockwell became vicar in 1983 he decided to form better links with the community and set up the “Pastoral Link Scheme” which encouraged people to come to church including the Fellowship delivering cards to new households as they arrive in the area.

In May 1986 there was a fire in the South Aisle Roof of the Church which caused £17,000 worth of damage.

In 2005 the “St Mary’s Church Women’s Fellowship” became the “St Mary’s Fellowship” as the men’s group joined the women on a permanent basis. Marjorie Burgess was secretary at the time (Joined in 1997) and continued until 2011 when membership has dropped to 26, an all-time low and Marjorie was appointed Chairperson.

In 2000 and Apr 2015 the Rev. Thomas Shepherd hosted a Political Hustings (Debate) as part of the Election run up, inviting the prospective Candidates for MP to a meeting in the church.

On the 10 March 2015 the Church Fellowship was closed. Marjory Spencer had been at the helm of the group for the last five years but as she retired and no one was willing to take over arranging speakers and events it was decided to fold the group.

Information on the Fellowship History by Pat c/o Challenge May 2015.

St Mary’s VICAR

RECTORS OF SANDBACH

Unkn to 1128 Steinulf the Priest.
1128 to 1153 Roger De Lech
1230 Thomas (Name Unknown)

VICARS OF SANDBACH

c1300 to 1887 Richard Burgillon (.D. 1327)
7 Apr 1327 Philip De Goodrich Castle (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
5 Jan 1344 William De Mere
23 June 1349 William De Upton (Alias Welton) (.D. 1349)
15 Oct 1349 John De Tydrynton (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
7 Mar 1371 Randle del Ford (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
18 Oct 1401 Thomas de Hassall (After the Resignation of Above)
21 Sept 1418 Thomas Hassall
7 May 1455 James Whiteacres (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
Sept 1465 Ralph or Randle Penketh (After the Resignation of Above)
7 Mar 1481 Roger Clifton (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
c1517 Hugh Brereton
15 Sept 1535 Thomas Smyth (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
27 Sept 1548 Richard Smyth (After the Resignation of Above)
19 May 1554  Peter Prestland
23 May 1576  John Shaw  (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
1616  Laurence Wood  (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
16 Nov 1630  Thomas Tudman  (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
c1648  Joseph Cope  (Ejected from the Job)
c1662  Thomas Tudman (.D. 27 Jan 1673)
15 May 1674  William Hayes  (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
19 Mar 1695  Thomas Welles MA  (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
13 May 1729  Hugh Mee MA (.b. 1703 .D. 1733)
13 Apr 1733  Samuel Allon BA  (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
25 Sept 1736  Blayney Baldwyn MA  (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
13 May 1739  Henry Baldwyn MA
21 Apr 1773  Peter Haddon MA  (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
30 Jan 1787  Richard Lowndes Salmon MA
20 Feb 1828  John Armitstead MA (.D. 1 April 1885 – or 1865 aged 64)
   (Installed after the death of his predecessor)
   (Carving in the Church to commemorate him was designed by G.F. Watts and sculpted by George Nelson in 1876.)
20 Oct 1865  John Richard Armitstead MA  (Installed after the death of his predecessor?)
   (Son of above John Armitstead)
1919  John Hornby Armitstead MA
(1931  Rev. H.B. Dudding?)
1964  Geoffrey Thomas Wykes BA (Died 1972)
1972  John Basil Rigby (.D. Dec 2001 aged 82)
9 Sept 1983  David Stocker BA
2001  Rex Buckley
2008 to date  Thomas Shepherd BA

ST MARY’S CHURCH HALL

Originally built in 1841 Sandbach had a National Day School in the town. In 1961 it closed and the Parochial Church Council at St Mary’s Church took over the school and built a new schoolroom which was also adapted for use as a Church Hall and opened in 1964.
(See fire station)

ST MARY’S PANCAKE BELL
CUSTOM FOR SHROVE TUESDAY - RINGING the “PANCAKE BELL”.

This traditionally takes place at mid-day and used to be a common tradition of the festival when it signalled the shops to close down and for the start of a Little Carnival and for apprentices to have the day off. The bell is called the "Pancake bell", "Fritter Bell" or "Pan-Burn Bell", depending on the area and was a continuation of the tolling of the bell to call people to church in the medieval custom of "Shriving" (Confession, absolution).

An old custom that died along with the Sexton Arthur Alcock was the ringing of a Pancake Bell on Shrove Tuesday at 10.55am. A local lady from a shop in the square brought up the stairs of the Tower a newly made pancake which was eaten by the Sexton (or Bell ringer) at 11am.

Sandbach no longer has the Pancake Bell but a clapper in the church from when the bells were recast has the words “Pancake bell” on it.

According to the Book “Riots and Riots” the “Pancake Bell” was once in common use all round the country but by the 1980’s it was only in a few places including the bells at St Nicholas in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The tradition goes back to Medieval times and is part of the religious festival of Lent which starts on the day following Shrove Tuesday. Lent involves the eating of small amounts of simple food for 40 days up until Easter and thus the pancake has become part of that tradition as it is a small amount of food with a filling content.

The Pancake Bell was used to tell the townspeople to use up their eggs for the main meal of the day and was rung to tell the women of the town when it was nearing lunchtime (12noon) and to start preparing the batter which is best left to rest before making the pancakes.

Since the 16th Century it had also been a holiday for apprentices who were full of boisterous high spirits and were released from their duties by the ringing of the Pancake Bell at 11am. In York the apprentices had the right to enter the Minster to ring the bell for this purpose and it is said they would try and ring the bell as soon as possible and to get a longer day off work would bribe the Sexton to let them in as early as they could to start their day off as early as possible.

In Bingley’s All Saints Parish Church in 1950 Dorothy Winup took on the duty of ringing the Pancake Bell or the 7th Bell (in her opinion the best sounding bell) at 11am and rang it continuously for 5 minutes a record for its time which wasn’t broken until 1997.

Many churches gave up the tradition at the start of the 20th Century as more watches became available and there was less reliance on the Parish Bell to inform them of various events. However it is still practiced in various towns and in Scarborough the bell is not part of the church but on the side of one of the shops in the town and after the Town crier introduces the event it is the Mayor who rings the Pancake Bell.

PANCAKE DAY REFERENCES

Play “The Shoemakers Holiday” by Thomas Dekker (1600)
“When the Pancake Bell rings, we are as free as my Lord Mayor, we may shut up our shops and make holiday.”

William Shakespeare in his play “All’s Well that Ends Well” (1602 – 1603)
CLOWN “As fit as ten groats is for the hand of an Attorney, as your French Crowne for the taffety punke, as Tibs rush for Toms fore-finger, as a pancake for Shrove-Tuesday, a Morris for May day, as the maile to the hole, the Cuckold to his home, as a scolding queane to a wrangling knave, as the Nuns lip to the Friers mouth, nay as the pudding to his skin.”

“Jack A Lent” by John Taylor (1620)
On the Morning of Shrove Tuesday the whole Kingdom is in quiet, but by the time the clock strikes eleven, there is a bell rung, call’d The Pancake Bell, the sound whereof makes thousands of people distracted and forgetful either of manners or humanities. Then there is a thing call’d wheaten flower, which the Cookes doe mingle with water, Eggs, Spice and other tragical magical enchantments and then they put it by little and little into a frying pan of boiling suet, where it makes a dismal hissing, until at the last by the skill of the Cookes, it is transformed into the forme of a flap-jack, which in our tradition is call’d a Pancake which the ignorant people doe devour very greedily.

EARLY RECIPE

Take 2 or 3 Eggs and break them into a dish and beat them well. Then add a good quantity of running water and beat well together.

Put in Cloves, Mace, Cinnamon and Nutmeg and then season with salt.
When done to make it thick add Wheatflower until as thick as you feel fine.
Then Fry the cakes as thin as may be with sweet Butter, or sweet Seame and make them brown.
Serve them up with sugar strowed upon them.
Some mix with Milk or Cream but this makes them tough and not so crisp as making with running
water.

OTHER CHURCHES who still ring the pancake bell.
Bingley – All Saints Parish Church.
Dareham – St Nicholas (Re Started the tradition in 2011)
Richmond – Trinity Church.
Scarborough – The Mayor rings the Pancake Bell.

#CH17. ST PETERS CHURCH (Elworth)

London Rd, Elworth CW11 3HU

ST PETERS CHURCH (Elworth)

Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, R.A. it was erected between 1845 and 1846.
In the 1970’s the Rev R Stephens opened HIS PLACE in 2 Congleton Road, Sandbach as a Youth
Club.

VICAR
1873 Reverend G Littlewood
1879? to 1921 Reverend Thomas Lunt (.D. 1921 in office)
1955 (+-) Rev. Edward G McCorkindale
1970’s Rev. R Stephens
To date Rev’d David Page

#CH18. ST PHILIP’S CHURCH (Hassall Green)

The Pink Church.

Smithy Grove, Hassall Green
CW11 4XY
The Church was built during the Second World War when the Americans were in the area. Built from
what they had it has survived for many years.
I am not sure it has always been painted pink but it has certainly been a talking point when it is seen
from the Motorway.

VICAR
Rev’d Gill Stanning (2013 to date)

#CH19. ST WINEFRIDE’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Middlewich Rd, Sandbach CW11 1HU

MINISTER
Father Michael Morton (2013)
May 1914 St Winefride’s Roman Catholic Church opened on Middlewich Road

#CH19b. ST WINEFRIDE’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Union Street, Sandbach CW11 (DEMOLISHED)

MINISTER
The building seems to have been in a house on Union Street during the 1940’s (1948 Map).

#CH20. UNITED REFORM CHURCH (Sandbach) (Closed)
Hope Street, Sandbach
Built in 1807 as the SANDBACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.
Closed 1990’s.
Records available from 1799-1837 @ Cheshire Records Office.

#CH21. WESLEY AVENUE CHURCH (Sandbach)
Wesley Avenue, Sandbach CW11 1DG
Founded in 1788 on Middlewich Rd.
Rebuilt in 1871 in Wesley Avenue (was Seaman’s Bank to after 1917) and opened in 1872.
Records available from 1834-1838 @ Cheshire Records Office.
(see Building History)

#CH22. WESLEYAN CHAPEL ELWORTH
June 1912 New Wesleyan Chapel opened at Elworth. Costing £1,700 of which £1,200 was donated by the late Edwin Foden’s estate.
Miss A Foden opened the Chapel door and Miss H Hollinshead opened the Sunday School door with the service afterwards conducted by the Rev F.L. Wiseman.

#CH23. WHEELOCK HEATH BAPTIST CHURCH (Chapel)
The Church was founded in 1704 with the Church on Hassall Road being erected in 1860 (Between Coppice Road and Sandy Lane).
Between the 4-12 Sept 1954 the Wheelock Baptist Church celebrated its 250th Anniversary and included the unveiling of a Memorial Window and the official reopening of the Church and Sunday School.

#CH24. WHEELOCK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Crewe Road, Wheelock (Halfway up the Hill)
Founded in 1824
MINISTER
Rev B Colclough (2013)

#CH25. WHEELOCK INDEPENDENT / PRIMITIVE CHURCH
1860 = Independent Chapel seating 200 people.
Unkn = Became a Primitive Methodist Hall.
1880’s = H J Lea established its business in the church during the 1880’s as a Corn Merchants as well as in Wheelock Mills.
#CH26. WHEELOCK METHODIST (Wesleyan)

Crewe Road, Wheelock. (In the Dip)
Built in 1874
MINISTER
Rev Rebecca Ingrouille (2013)

#CH27. WHEELOCK METHODIST CHAPEL (Primitive Methodist)

Built in 1868

CINEMA IN SANDBACH

The original Cinema was in the Dingle Lake Complex and just put on the odd show for a limited audience in a building known as the Dance Hall.

In 1921 a new Super Cinema was proposed for the town, in an article in the Crewe Chronicle dated the 16 July 1921 plans were shown to the public. With slight changes the new cinema was opened in Congleton Rd.

Proposed Cinema 1921 © Crewe Chronicle

According to a local historian, in the late 1920’s Mr Jack Beech (of The Cottage, Middlewich Road) decided to build a Cinema in Bradwall Road (The building was later owned by the Wright Company until 2013). However, the foundations were found not to be strong enough and it was decided to abandon the project in favour of a new location in Congleton Road. The already built shell was purchased by Tom Painter (of Offley Road) a local decorator and building contractor (who had a shop over the road next to the Post Office) who later went in to the funeral business.

It then became a garage and finally it was taken over by Wright’s Printers as their shop and storeroom.

In June 1929 the Cinema had been built by Jack Beech (Father John Beech and Mother Eliza Chapman) in Congleton Road, Sandbach and was run as an independent Cinema.

Opened Pre 1933 the Palace showed the most up to date News and Travel pictures and the best variety of good First Class Films.

In June 1935 ”The Palace” Cinema was showing a double feature "The Secret of the Loch" and "Whirlpool".

The 1938 Kelly’s directory shows that the building was run by Sandbach Cinemas Ltd (Proprietors). A reference in the 1938 “Kelly’s Directory” shows the CREWE LYCEUM BUILDINGS CO LTD as Cinema Proprietors at 3 Crewe Road, Sandbach who were unlikely to own the Sandbach Cinema but held a connection to the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe and was formed Henry Taylor the owner of the original Crewe Theatre.

I don’t know if it was the Terence Byron Company who ran the Lyceum at the time or an offshoot of the company formed by Henry Taylor to run the Lyceum in the 1800’s and last referenced in 1904.

By June 1959 The Palace Cinema was a “A Miles Jervis Cinema” (Tel 103) and was showing the following films;
5.35 and 8.45pm “Tarzan’s Fight for Life”
7.05pm Debbie Reynolds in “The Mating Game” (1958 film)

**Monday 13 June 1959**
5.50 and 8.50pm “The Camp on Blood Island” (X Adults Only)
7.14pm Bridget Bardot in “Heaven Fell That Night” (1958 Film)

**Thursday 16 June 1959**
5.15 and 8.35pm Norman wisdom in “Follow a Star” (U) (1959 Film)
7pm Fred Mc Murray in “Gun for a Coward”.

Grand Children’s Matinee Saturday. Doors open 1.30pm Tickets 1/- and 9d

In 1961 the Sandbach Players thought of hiring the Congleton Road Cinema as a funraiser and were quoted the following rates. There were 164 seats upstairs at 5/- and 280 seats downstairs at 3/-. June 1962 The Palace Cinema (Tel 103) was showing the following films;

4 June (3 Days)
5.30pm and 8.25pm The Innocents (X) in CinemaScope with Deborah Kerr and Michael Redgrave.
7.05pm 20,000 Eyes (A) with Gene Nelson

7 June (3 Days)
5.00pm and 8.20pm Come September (A) in Technirama Technicolour
   With Rock Hudson, Gina Lollabrigida, Bobby Darin and Sandra Dee.
6.30pm The Sergeant was a Lady (U) with Venetia Stephenson.
With a Children’s Matinee Saturday at 2pm.

In 1966 the Palace was still showing the latest films to the people of the town.
By the mid to late 1970’s with dwindling patrons the cinema changed into the Regent Social Club Bingo Hall.
By the 1980’s Cinema’s and Bingo Halls were starting to dwindle and a chance to sell the building led to many interested people putting in offers including the Sandbach Players who needed a new home. However the cost put them off.
By 1984 the Picture Palace was in a very bad way and was closed. It was demolished in 1985 to make way for some new shops.
CLOCK MANUFACTURERS in Sandbach.

WATCH AND CLOCK MAKERS in Sandbach during 1834.
Thomas Bostock Market Place, Sandbach
Thomas Leadbeater Bridge Street, Sandbach (Pre 1822)
Thomas Leadbeater Jnr Bridge Street, Sandbach

“Thomas Bostock” (Pre 1834) was an old Sandbach Clock makers since before 1837 when they made a clock that was used in the Hope Street Chapel and was still keeping time in a report from 1957.

WATCH AND CLOCK MAKERS in Sandbach during 1902.
Thomas Allcock (Watchmaker) High Street, Sandbach
Thomas Pace (Watchmaker) Union Street, Sandbach

SANDBACH “CONCERT SERIES”
The Concert Series was the vision of Lauren and Andy Scott who on the 15 July 2010 pitched the idea to Sandbach Town Council who along with Cheshire East, the Arts Council England and the National Lottery helped to fund their first season at St Mary’s Church Hall. A total amount of £20,000 was needed to fund the original three-year project with Sandbach Town Council being asked to donate a grant of £9,500 over the three years which they agreed and have supported the venture ever since with support from Councillors and including information about the series in its publications. St Mary’s Church also publishes information about the series in its Challenge Magazine and supports it through the venue both at the Church Hall and on occasions in the Church itself when the music is better suited to that environment.

Run by volunteers from the local community and the church the non-profit making venture was designed to bring music and arts to the town that they may not have listened to before and to spotlight local talent through both the “Spotlight Concert” before the main act and since 2015 a “Young Musician of the Year Competition” as part of the Sandbach Transport Festival in April.

The 2016 season saw the Sandbach Concert Series as a Charity with the group successfully applying for Charitable Status to help secure funding for the project.

Over the years the concerts have included a number of artists who have gone on to perform in events in the surrounding area including Goosefest, the Holmes Chapel Music Society Concert Series, Middlewich and District Concert Series and have locally been sort after performers like guitarist Craig Ogden and local singer Linda Richardson. Sophie Rosa (Violin) and Sally Wigan (Pianist) have also become popular with the Sandbach audience and have for the last two Young Musician of the Year competitions been the judges of the local performers. Musician’s from Foden’s Band, the Halle Orchestra, RNCM and the Northern Chamber Orchestra have also featured along with a look back at the music that Samuel Pepys may have enjoyed as well as South American music, Saxophone solo’s, guitars and Chris Stout and Catriona McKay playing the Shetland Fiddle and Scottish Harp.

website at www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk/tickets.htm

| SANDBACH CONCERT SERIES SEASONS |
| SEASON 1. |
| 29 Sept 2010 | Lauren Scott and Claire Southworth (Harp and Flute) |
| 27 Oct 2010 | Aquarelle Guitar Quartet |
| 24 Nov 2010 | Musicians from the Halle Orchestra |
| 23 Feb 2011 | Equivox Trio |
| 30 Mar 2011 | Richard Marshall and Harvey Davies (Cornet and Harp) |
| 29 Apr 2011 | Jane Irwin and Julia Lynch (Vocal and Piano Concert) |
| 25 May 2011 | Gwilym Simcock (Piano Concert) |
| 29 June 2011 | Chris Stout and Catriona McKay (Shetland Fiddle and Scottish Harp) |
| 20 July 2011 | Jazz on a Summer’s Evening |

| SEASON 2. |
| 28 Sept 2011 | Rosa Campos Duo (Clarinet and Piano) |
| 26 Oct 2011 | Paul Edmund- Davies and John Alley (Flute and Piano) |
| 30 Nov 2011 | Foden’s Ten Piece Brass Band |
| 29 Feb 2012 | Craig Ogden (Classical Guitar) |
| 28 Mar 2012 | Nick Kok (Piano and Song) |
| 25 Apr 2012 | Finzi Quartet (String Quartet) |
| 30 May 2012 | Apollo Saxophone Quartet |
| 27 June 2012 | Andy Findon and Geoff Eales (Flute and Piano) |

| SEASON 3. |
| 26 Sept 2012 | Shropshire and Other lads (A.E. Houseman in Words and Music) |
| 31 Oct 2012 | Musicians from the Halle Orchestra |
| 28 Nov 2012 | Soloists from Foden’s Band |
| 27 Feb 2013 | Soloists from the Northern Chamber Orchestra |
| 27 Mar 2013 | Anna-Clare Monk and Lauren Scott (Soprano and Harp) |
| 24 Apr 2013 | George King |
| 29 May 2013 | Aurora Percussion Duo |
| 26 June 2013 | Karen Street and Andy Tweed |

| SEASON 4. |
25 Sept 2013  Sioned Williams (Harp)
30 Oct 2013   Sophie Rosa (Violin)
27 Nov 2013   The Courtois Trombones – Including John Barber (Fodens)
26 Feb 2014   Tango5
26 Mar 2014   Craig Ogden and Gerard McChrystal (Saxophone and Guitar)
30 Apr 2014   Halle Youth Choir with Special Guest Linda Richardson
28 May 2014   Tempest Flute Trio
25 June 2014  Tina May and Nikki Iles

SEASON 5.
24 Sept 2014  Zephyr Winds (Wind Quartet)
29 Oct 2014   Sally Wigan (Pianist)
26 Nov 2014   Foden’s Band 10 Piece Group
25 Feb 2015   Mike Hall and Dan Whieldon
25 Mar 2015   Celiento Trio
18 Apr 2015   SCS Young Musician of the Year Final (SATURDAY)
29 Apr 2015   Solem Quartet (String Quartet)
27 May 2015   Aquarelle Guitar Quartet
24 June 2015  Linda Richardson and Friends (41st Concert)

SEASON 6.
30 Sept 2015  Sophie Rosa (Violin)
28 Oct 2015   Huw Wiggin (Saxophone)
25 Nov 2015   Dave Newton Trio
24 Feb 2016   Dave Hassell “Celebrating Brazil” Quintet
30 Mar 2016  Gary Woolf Trio
16 Apr 2016   SCS Young Musician of the Year Final (SATURDAY)
27 Apr 2016   Soloists from the Northern Chamber Orchestra
25 May 2016   Hexachordia Presents “Pepys Playlist”.
29 June 2016  Craig Ogden (Guitar)

SEASON 7.
28 Sept 2016  After Syrinx (50th Concert Celebration)
26 Oct 2016   Trio Martinu (Czechoslovakia String Trio)
30 Nov 2016   Hermanos Corbalian (Harp Duo from Paraguay)
22 Feb 2017   Trifarious (Jazz / Classical Trio)
29 Mar 2017   Consome Quartet (String Quartet)
22 Apr 2017   SCS Young Musician of the Year (SATURDAY)
26 Apr 2017   David Thornton (Euphonium player with Foden’s Band)
31 May 2017   Sally Wigan (Pianist)
28 Jun 2017   The Amy Roberts / Richard Exall Quintet (Flute and Saxophone Jazz band)

SEASON 8.
27 Sept 2017  Northern Chamber Orchestra Soloists.
25 Oct 2017   Jacqui Dankworth and Craig Ogden” (Vocal and Guitar)
29 Nov 2017   Amy Green and Charlotte Harding (Saxophone Duo).
28 Feb 2018   Dominic Degavino.
28 Mar 2018   Sophie Rosa and Benjamin Powell (Violin and Piano).
21 Apr 2018   Young Musician of the Year”.
25 Apr 2018   Rachel Hellelr-Simcock and Gwilym Simcock (Piano and Cello).
30 May 2018   Anna-Clare Monk and Lauren Scott (Singer and Harp).
27 June 2018  Tubalate (Brass Quartet).

CONGLETON RURAL DISTRICT OFFICES

Crewe Road Sandbach
Designed by Cyril Massey and built by Birchall Bros. of Middlewich.
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SANDBACH.
– A HISTORY
By Elizabeth Bayley (23 Offley Rd, Sandbach © 1989)

There was an Independent Church in Sandbach as early as 1648. On the 22 August 1648 a gentleman named Harry Newcombe of Sandbach was ordained. This was a purely classical organisation, which held services of the Quaker persuasion until as late as 1669. During this time there was an Act of Parliament against such meetings. The Act was repealed for about one year in 1672. In this period licences were issued for preaching: there were two such licences issued in Sandbach.

Non-conformity in general Sandbach can be traced back to the Civil Wars and the Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell. In 1644 a Priest called Thomas Tudman was ousted from the Parish Church and one Joseph Cope was installed. The displaced Priest had to be paid £70 per annum until his reinstatement in 1662 when the Rev. Joseph Cope was ejected from the living because of his non-conformity with the Book of Common Prayer and the Thirty-nine Articles. Thomas Tudman the ousted priest was reinstated as the Parish Priest.

Joseph Cope became an itinerant preacher in North Staffordshire and Cheshire. After the Glorious Revolution of 1688 he settled in the Public Chapel, now St Matthews Church, Haslington. He stayed there until his death in 1704, aged 83 years. There is also evidence to show that he preached in the Ancient Chapel at Winterley from which sprang the present Baptist Church – this was the only non-conformist church in the area for nearly 100 years.

When Bishop Gastrill, Bishop of Chester, took a census there were found to be 28 dissenting families in Sandbach who must have met in the Wheelock Heath / Winterley Chapel.

As time moved on people began to hold house meetings in their own homes. There were two licensed houses in Sandbach but there was no attempt to form a church until about 1790.

In the year 1790 the reverend John Reese, sometime of Sheffield and Congleton, assisted by a Deacon, (Mr Richard Dale of Congleton who was also a farmer) began to preach in a cottage, the home of Mr John Mellor, a man of some influence in the town.

As time went on a barn in Crown Bank, Sandbach was purchased to convert into a schoolroom and church and it was here that services took place in the “Barn” for about 12 years (It was later burnt to the Ground – Pre 1957).

At the Barn, two men were ably assisted by Jonathan Scott and the Reverend Job Wilson, an evangelist from Northwich to conduct the services which continued until sometime between 1799 and 1802. In 1802 work on the Barn’s conversion ceased and it later became the home of the early Methodists (see Hope Street).

Services in the town began to decline until in 1807 there was a revival and Mr William Sylvester arrived in Sandbach.

These facts were collected by the Reverend William Rhodes in 1862 from an old inhabitant of the town. Mr Rhodes also found the old thatched cottage which had been used by the Primitive Methodists and later by the Mormon Church.

1806 CONGREGATIONAL UNION
In the County of Cheshire there were many Gatherings and chapels which ceased when Dissent died out. We have to thank two men for the revival of non-conformism, Jonathan Swift and Job Wilson. On the 15 November 1806 these two joined together with others to form the Congregational Union. The Rev. Job Wilson was Pastor at Northwich but travelled widely about Cheshire. He was a very popular man in Sandbach.

In July 1807 the newly formed Congregational Union made Sandbach the centre of its activities with a new church being situated on the corner of Green Street and Congleton Road (Later the Palace Cinema). This new church would hold 150 people and had a gallery at one end.

REVEREND WILLIAM SYLVESTER
During April 1807 the Reverend William Sylvester came from the Rev. W Roby’s Academy having been recommended personally by the Principal. He came as a friendless stranger but soon became a friend to all the people. It is strange to think that at this time there were no Parish Churches in Elworth, Wheelock or Sandbach Heath.
Reverend William Sylvester found a room where he started to hold services originally with just nine people in the congregation but this soon changed as his popularity increased. Soon a new venue was needed and he converted a commodious barn into his first chapel. This building was situated in the area of Crown Bank, Well Bank and Dingle Lane and by 1811 a report said that he there was “a large congregation and Church”.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THE COMMON
In 1809 the Sandbach Congregational Sunday School started in the Old Chapel and was known as the oldest Non-conformist Sunday School in the area.
By 1813 Reverend William Sylvester who had set up a Sunday School in the Barn Chapel on Crown bank, found that it was proving to be a great success and like the church itself it needed a bigger room to hold its lessons. The school transferred to an upper room over the British School on Scotch Common.
The site was later occupied by a Smithy and workshop and later still it became the site of the Palace Cinema. After it was demolished it became shops.
(see HOPE STREET CHURCH)

CO-OPERATIVE BUILDINGS (Bold Street)
The Sandbach Industrial Co-operative Society (Limited) was formed in Sandbach in 1862. In 1877 they had constructed a factory and a number of shops in and behind Bold Street.
By the 1960's the co-op had sold all the shops and the space behind. Today it still has various shops including Oxfam a Cleaners and various Take away shops. In previous years there was also a bike shop. In 2004 the top rooms of all the shops were converted into flats by the landlord.

CO-OPERATIVE BUILDINGS (High Street)
This was built in 1892 and was until 1946 the Hungerford Café a family run enterprise for over 50 years. The building was next to the Town Hall.
Pre 1970’s and after 1992 the shop was the Co-op “Pricefighter”. With the closure of the supermarket it became PRICE CITY (Supermarket / DIY shop) and changed its name in July 2013 to “Handy Household”.

CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING (Top of "The Hill")
The number 4 Branch of the Sandbach Industrial Co-operative Society (Limited) was based at premises at the Top of "The Hill" now owned by "Lawton tools". The building was constructed in 1897.
In 1860 a small group of people got together at the Sandbach Temperance Hall to consider the establishment of a Co-operative Society in the town of Sandbach. The Sandbach Industrial Co-operative Society was formed in 1860-1 with just 14 members. By 1932 it had over 3,300 members and a yearly trade of £15,000. Led by Mr S Bailey (President of the management Committee), Mr William Gibson (Manager and Treasurer) and Mr James E Sparrow (Secretary) the society had a loyal group of supporters behind the venture and slowly increased its foothold in the town ending up with over 5 branches and various shops.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS (Crewe Road)

The Sandbach Urban District Council had chambers in Crewe Road on the corner of Belle View Drive. They were designed by A Price and Son and built by H Hilditch and Son. Today they are still part of the Council and has played host to the Dial a Ride Scheme etc for Cheshire East Council.

CREWE ROAD

Various shops in Crewe Road were built about 1780. They now house the Harbour Dental Practice etc.

THE CROWN (see also Public Houses)

Built around about 1680. (The same date as the Market Tavern)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LANDLORD</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Kent</td>
<td>1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Hancock (Seller of Wine Spirits and Tobacco)</td>
<td>1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Thomas</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Thomas (also in 22 Jan 1975)</td>
<td>1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Thomas</td>
<td>1970's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy and Anita</td>
<td>1991 to 1996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elworth CYCLE CLUB

Possibly formed in the late 1800’s a picture exists from about 1890 and shows various members of the club.

CLUB MEMBERS
Arthur Buckley (of Vicarage Lane, Elworth)
Harry Burgess (Sandbach Butcher)
Harry Cooper (Licensee of the Commercial Hotel, Elworth / Father of Mr R M Coper Licensee of Commercial Hotel after father)
Polly Cowap (Sister in Law to Edwin Foden)
Jack Dainton (Manager of the Old Silk Factory in Sandbach)
Henry Dickinson
Oliver Dunning (Eldest son of William Morris Dunning)
Mr William Morris Dunning (Licencee of the Rookery Tavern, Ettley Heath)
Edwin Foden (Owner of Foden Motor Works)
Mr Edwin Richard Foden (Later owner of ERF)
William Foden (Son of Edwin Foden)
Miss Gregory (of Middlewich)
John Jinks (Elworth Grocer)
Charlie Lea (Caretaker of Elworth Cricket Club)
John Mellor
Lillie Minshull (Elworth Shopkeeper)
Mrs Harold Pearce
Samuel Pickering (Miller of Middlewich)
Gilbert Plant (Joiner at Messrs Foden Motor Works)
Mr JC Plant (Senior Goods Superintendent of Crewe Railways)
Percy Plant (Schoolmaster of Elworth)
Alfred Poole (Shoe Manufacturer)
Mr F J Poole (Solicitor of Sandbach)
Mrs F J Poole (Wife of Mr F J Poole)
Issac Poole
Harold Pearce (Teacher at Bradford Street School, Crewe)
Herbert Price
Fred Scragg (Worker on the Crewe Railway and brother of Walter Scragg, grocer of Elworth)
Eleanor Wilton (Milliner in The Square, Sandbach)
James Worthy (Licensee of the Fox Inn)

CYCLE HISTORY
1839 Kirkpatrick Macmillan (Blacksmith in Dumfries) invented the first Bicycle.
1860’s Velocipede (known as Boshakers)
1871 Ariel (known as Penny Farthing) – Invented by James Starley
1885 Rover Safety
1888 John Boyd Dunlop invented the pneumatic tyre.

#HD. DINGLE LAKE

As early as 1860 the site was owned by John Brookshouse and had an outdoor Swimming Pool. The site also had an Indoor Swimming Pool and Dance Hall.

In 1891 the site was owned by Mr Walter Lea a local personality who built the artificial lake with the island we now see on this site. The lake was constructed to bring water from Taxmere but was also used for Boating and leisure activities.

On the 27 May 1901(Whit Week) Dingle Lake opened to the public in Sandbach with a "Grand Swimming Gala". A report at the time said that Mr Lea also had a boating-shed, dance hall and open
air swimming-bath on the site. These facilities continued for about 30 years (1931) with the Dance Hall also being used as a local Cinema showing the occasional films on the site.
In Kelly’s Dictionary in 1902 Walter Lea was described as a Joiner, Cabinet Maker and House Furnisher as well as Proprietor of the Dingle Lake, Baths, House and Insurance agent also based in High Street, Sandbach.
In 1910 the lake froze over and was used as a skating rink.
By the 1950's the site was used as a fishing site with willow beds being used to produce material for making hampers.
Dingle Lake Farm was also called Church House Farm and looks over this man made feature.
Just beyond the willow beds is the town's waterworks built in 1891, where water was softened and pumped into the nearby water tower near what is now the Library.
(See The Dingle / Baths)

#HE. ELECTRICITY

By 1933 electricity in the town distributed by North Wales and District Ltd.

ELWORTH PARK.

Opened on the 8 May 1937 it was the inspiration of two local benefactors who had donated land and facilities for a park in Elworth including a children’s playground. It was presented to the people of the village on the 8 May 1937 on which day Fodens Motor Works band were asked to play at the opening ceremony. F D Burgess the author of “By Royal Command” remembers the band playing “Alpine Echoes” a solo for Mr Harry Mortimer who played at the event with the echo in the arrangement being provided by the soprano cornet player hiding in the shrubbery almost one hundred yards away from the band. Colour film of the event was taken, showing Harry Mortimer constructing the band due to his father Fred being unwell.
Crowds flocked to the reopening of Elworth Park on Saturday 6 July 2013.
After a major overhaul the park has been given some new gates superbly designed by Christine Wilcox-Baker, who has incorporated a number of events in the history of Elworth.
Designed around two wheels signifying the old Steam Tractors and the newer diesel lorry made by the Foden Motor Works the design also features the notation of “Alpine echoes” a piece of music played by Harry Mortimer at the original opening of the park along with the Foden Motor Works Band and for which the music required another cornet player to hide in the bushes and for them to play the echo of what Harry had played, creating the Echo effect of the composition. Salt crystals on the design represent Palmer Mann who mined the salt in the area while two birds represent the salt marshes today, a popular nature reserve full of birds. A Fox head on the gates link the Public House and the Cricket Club through a local story which in the near future will be posted on the railings next to the gate along with a full explanation of the images on the gates.
A wood carved Fox is also in the picnic area along with its cubs and a whole new set of playground apparatus which was enjoyed by the children of the area and makes Elworth Park something the hundreds of residents who turned up for the event say they were pleased with the results. They all seemed to enjoy the facilities and will hopefully continue to use them for many years to come. If the reaction of the people I spoke to is anything to go by, this is a welcome addition to the area and those involved in the project can rightly be proud of their achievement.
The Mayor of Sandbach Cllr Mike Benson opened the play area while local MP Fiona Bruce had the privilege of being the first through the magnificent gates.
On Congleton Road is “Field House” (40 Congleton Road, Near the Ambulance Station) which was owned by Mill owner John Woolley (b. Unkn .d. 27 Aug 1863 aged 80 years) who built the Commons or Newfied Silk Mill in 1843. The house was built in 1850 at the same time that the houses along Turnpike Road (Now Congleton Road) which are listed Grade 2 (Built 1850-51). In 1860 the mill was let to Mr William Damsbrell with John Woolley the owner of the mill living at Field House.

When the mill closed and it was sold the building became a cottage hospital and maternity unit (known births in 1939 and 1940) and in 1938 was named in a local directory as the “Sandbach Nursing Home”. In 1950 the building became the home of the local Labour Exchange (Pre 1971 the Department of Health and Social Security was at 8 High Town – Now part of what was the Co-op and by 2015 Handy Households) and in 1970 it was renamed the Job Centre.

In 1970 a 27 year old Brenda Kean was the manager of the Job Centre the youngest Job Centre manager ever appointed and was invited to the Woman of the Year lunch in London but was unable to attend due to her Area Manager being jealous and didn’t tell her before it was too late to get a ticket. Brenda left the service in 1972 never to return to the Job Centres.

By 1990 -2000 it become the “Field House Resource Centre” run by CWP for Jobseekers while a port-cabin next to it became the jobcentre.

In 2013 with cuts in Benefit offices the building was put up for sale and lay unused for many years. The portacabin next to it enjoyed a new lease of life for a bit as a gymnasium.

In September 2015 an application was made to demolish the building (15/3974c) an erect 7 dwellings and 4 apartments.

In 2018 plans were submitted to turn the building into an undertakers (18/0433C).

The history of Sandbach Fire Brigade starts with a mystery. We know when the first documented fire station was built and its location. What we don’t know is when the first Fire Brigade started. In the Gazetteer of Chester and Cheshire dated 1850 there was a list of Fire and Life Offices (Insurance Companies) in Sandbach with the “Alliance” via Ralph Lindop in the High Street, “Crown” via C Latham in Wheelock Road (Now Crewe Road), “General” via William Burgess in the High Street, “Globe” by William Latham in Hope Street and the “Royal Farmers” via Joseph Remer in Hope Street. These companies would arrange fire cover in the area via the local brigade. However, many towns in Cheshire don’t seem to have been ruled by Insurance Companies they had their own Volunteer Fire Brigade made up of local people who would be called upon to put out fires in the area. Funds were raised locally and equipment was purchased by the people of the area for the people of the area and it didn’t seem too reliant on the practice of if your building wasn’t insured it would be left to burn.

One theory about Sandbach is that Lord Crewe who was based at Abbey Fields was responsible for the fire cover as it was reported in the 1860's that Sandbach had its own Fire Brigade with a compliment of between 12 and 18 fire-fighters and on Wednesday the 3 January 1866 at 1.10am a large fire took place.
at Crewe Hall with fire brigades from Crewe, **Sandbach**, Nantwich and Chester turning up to tackle the blaze to no avail. As Lord Crewe owned most of this area it makes sense that he would contact his own staff to tackle the blaze and would have a network of people to contact them should anything happen on his estates.

The only other fire brigade in Sandbach at the time worked for one of the local salt extraction works at Ettley Heath who used large salt pans to evaporate the water from the salt / Brine who on a number of occasions caught fire so they had a fire crew on standby from the 1800’s.

The first known picture of the Sandbach Fire Brigade appeared in 1870 and shows the crew in-front of a Carnival float along with children and possibly the two horses that drew the fire appliance. Another picture near the Black Bear, possibly from 1900 shows the horse drawn fire engine / pump drawn by two white horses wearing black plumes which are usually a sign of a death or funeral.

By about this time in 1870 the Superintendent was a Mr John Cooke a local Blacksmith of 10 Congleton Road who by 1895 had a horse called Polly which was stabled at his smithy (Where the Palace Cinema used to be) and on hearing the fire bell would trot over the road to the fire station to be harnessed to the “Engine”.

In 1873, the town had a new Fire Station erected on the corner of Scotch Common which was a plain structure of red brick and consisted of an engine house only with the horses housed elsewhere in the town. The fire station did have a small space at the back of the building which was used to do the administration of the brigade as well as to hold training meetings as well as a place to hang up the hoses to dry them out.

During this time fires were mainly during the summer with hay bales catching light and then on the 4th May 1842 steam trains started coming through Sandbach Station and suddenly there was a new type of fire the verge fire caused by sparks from the trains lighting the dry grass at the side of the track or buildings nearby.

In 1894 the Local Government Act put the responsibility for fire cover onto Local Government / Council’s to provide cover for the town and the Sandbach Urban District Council (1894-1974) took on the responsibility of providing the fire cover and purchased the existing fire station and equipment to fulfil its obligation.
A report in the 20 March 1914, Nantwich Guardian tells of a new Sandbach Steam Fire Engine turning out for a test on Saturday the 14 March 1914 with satisfactory results. The brigade was led by Fire Superintendent Edmund Allen and had 10 Men under him to cover for calls.

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An interesting article appeared on the 4th March 1939 in the local paper, the Crewe Chronicle announced that two women had become qualified to drive the Sandbach Fire engine for the first time. A picture showed Captain Thomas Leese showing new drivers Mrs Harrison and Mrs Robinson with the Sandbach fire engine. Unfortunately, they didn’t last in Sandbach during the war as one member of the wartime crew reported there were no women in the brigade at the time. However, they could have been redeployed as at the start of WW2 Sandbach was split into two groups with a new crew being based in the town and a second Auxiliary Fire Brigade unit based in Liverpool or Manchester.

On the 20 May 1941, the Fire Services (Emergency Provisions) Act 1941 was passed through Parliament, establishing a National Fire Service (NFS) with Local Authorities providing 75% of the funding for a regular Fire Brigade and the Country being divided into 12 regions with Sandbach in Region 10 included (Cheshire, Lancashire, West Moreland and Cumberland). This was then divided into smaller areas with Sandbach coming under Fire Force No 26 with its headquarters at “Holly Mount”, Mill Lane, West Derby, Liverpool 12 and was commanded by a former London Fire Brigade Officer Mr Charters.

In 1947 another Act of Parliament gave rise to the Cheshire Fire Service which started its duties on the 1 April 1948 with 28 Stations in 5 Districts (Districts designated from A to E).

In about 1948, the Fire Brigade moved to a new fire house which was situated in the old Temperance Hall on Scotch Common a building that was demolished and then rebuilt to house the Market Stall for the Sandbach Town Council.

With various changes in Cheshire a plan of building new Fire Stations was started with the present Sandbach Fire Station being officially opened on the 21 June 1961 by Alderman F.D. Gee the Chairman of the County Fire Brigade Committee. These plain brick buildings would go on to last for through to date with Holmes Chapel, Congleton, Middlewich and the larger Crewe stations all being built in the 1960’s and 1970’s.

The 1960’s also introduced the station to the major transport accident as the M6 Motorway was opened and with the freedom to travel at great speeds the number of accident started to grow and still continues to dominate the figures with the M6 being the cause of at least one call out per week if not more.

Two major fires in the area since the 1960’s included the call in September 1995 to the old Foden Factory which was now being used as a Go Carting circuit with appliances from all over Cheshire and Staffordshire bring called to the incident. Firefighters were still dampening down the area on the 24 September 1995.

The other incident was on the 17 July 2015, at 9.11am when fire crews were called to a village between Congleton and Macclesfield for what became known in the media as the Bosley Mill Fire. The incident was in a wood clip mill and was so fierce that it took weeks to put out completely and to recover bodies, one of which has never been found.

Today Sandbach is one of the busiest fire stations in the County with its retained firemen saving the community from dangers and rescuing people and animals 365 days a year.
#FB01. SANDBACH FIRE BRIGADE a History.

It is thought that the first Fire Brigades were started by the Roman’s when they invaded Britain in AD43 and were possibly just water buckets or primitive syringes used to squirt water onto a fire. With the loss of the Romans and a backward decline in communities the brigade idea also fell into a decline. In the middle ages, many towns burnt down due to inadequate Fire Brigade provision including the Nantwich Fire when on the 10th December 1583 a fire took hold in the town and burned for 20 days until the 30 December destroying most of the town centre which was rebuilt during 1584 with the help of money and timber from the Royal Forests of Delamere donated by Queen Elizabeth 1st. However, in 1666 when the Great Fire of London destroyed most of the City things started to change. Nicholas Barbon a property developer decided to introduce an insurance scheme against fire and soon after its formation he introduced his own Fire Brigade. Soon other companies were formed to provide the service which continued until the early 1800’s. By this time companies issued a Badge or Fire Mark to attach to the insured building to indicate their payments and so the Brigade would give assistance to them to put out their fire. Once you had paid money to the insurance company for fire protection when the fire brigade turned out to a reported fire they would only deal with the buildings that were paid up, however if you were not insured by the named company brigade that turned up they would leave the building to burn while protecting their own properties.

In 1721, Richard Newsham patented a new “Water Engine” to extinguish fires by providing a continuous jet of water with some force so the fire could be tackled from a distance. However, it was hard work using this manual pump and so some forces during a particularly large fire would not only use their own Fire personnel but also would hire local bystanders to man the pump by offering them “Beer Token’s” for their assistance. This proved a very popular idea with many following the engine as it rushed through the town hoping to assist with the pump.

Sandbach was no stranger to Fire insurance with a 1922 “Pigots” Directory listing the local “Atlas Insurance” (1741 to 1963) agent was a John Allen in Wheelock with Richard Leather as the local agent for the “Globe Insurance Company” and Peter Joinson as the “Norwich” Agent. Unfortunately, what the publication doesn’t tell us is if any of the three companies had a fire appliance in the town or they were served by outside brigades.

In 1833, many of the London Insurance Companies merged to form “The London Fire Engine Establishment” and in 1824 the same thing happened in Edinburgh making sure all insured properties were dealt with rather than various company pumps turning up with each company only dealing with their own badged houses rather than working together to extinguish the seat of the fire which now started to happen.

By this time manual pumps were being used with a number of men providing the pump movement on either side of an appliance to produce a stream of water.

In the 1850’s the first reliable Steam Powered appliance were made available for Brigades across the country. In the Gazetteer of Chester and Cheshire 1850 there was a list of Fire and Life Offices (Insurance Companies) in Sandbach with the “Alliance” via Ralph Lindop in the High Street, “Crown” via C Latham in Wheelock Road (Now Crewe Road), “General” via William Burgess in the High Street,
“Globe” by William Latham in Hope Street and the “Royal Farmers” via Joseph Remer in Hope Street. These companies would arrange fire cover in the area via the local brigade. A notable fire in the area was in the 1850’s at Brereton Hall (Built in 1580’s near Holmes Chapel and stayed with the Brereton family until 1722) which was assumed to have been caused by the dropping of a lighted coal by one of the chamber maids. The fire destroyed the middle bar part of the E Shaped building which now has had a conservatory built in the area of the fire damaged part of the building and is now used for wedding receptions. Renovated in 1829 Brereton Hall was later bought by industrialist John Howard and after the Second World War was for the next 60 years turned into a Girl’s Boarding School, closing in July 1992. In 1992, the building was closed and then owned by two musicians who according to one report caused the building to “Suffer the effects of Pop Star Excess”. In 2003 the property was purchased by a business man for £2 Million plus renovation costs which after repairing the hall he then put on the market for £6.5 Million in 2005 and was again up for sale in 2013. Another notable fire closer to home was reported in the Chester Chronicle (24 Feb 1855 Page 8) and said that on the 17 February 1855 “at about noon a fire with a threatening appearance had broken out on the roof of 3 Thatched Houses on Scotch Common which was occupied by 3 aged people”.

At this time many town’s in the UK had Volunteer Fire Brigades or Town Fire Brigades including Cheshire with local brigades in Chester, Nantwich, Crewe, Congleton and of course Sandbach.

SANDBACH.

The earliest fire appliance and crew in the Sandbach area was in the 1800’s when one of the Salt works had its own brigade (Later to become "Palmer and Mann"). As Salt was extracted from the ground using water and then heated up in large Salt Pan’s using fires to heat the water (Brine) to produce crystalline salt by the pan method the area was often prone to going up in flames and so a fire brigade was continually on standby as an essential part of daily life at the works. At this time the pump would have been a manual machine with two bars on either side of the pump which the crew would move up and down to produce the pressure needed for the water to be expelled towards the fire (In 1919 Palmer Mann started its Salt works at Ettley Heath and in the 1920’s had a factory to extract the salt with its own fire crew on standby).

By the 1860’s Sandbach had its own Fire Brigade with a compliment of between 12 and 18 fire-fighters.

On the 6 May 1865 a report in the Cheshire Observer reported that there had been a fire at the homestead of Mr Charles Burgess a farmer at Hindheath Farm on the Sunday previous at 11.30 and a message was sent to call out the Sandbach Fire brigade with their two powerful engines, and in about an hour the fire was extinguished. The incident was supposed to have been caused by some sparks from a wood fire flying up the chimney and onto the thatched roof, a portion of which was destroyed. Damage was estimated at costing £20 to the property of C Ford which was not insured.

On Wednesday the 3 January 1866 at 1.10am a large fire took place at Crewe Hall (Restored by E.M. Barry for Hungerford Crewe after the fire and completed in 1870) with fire brigades from Crewe, Sandbach, Nantwich and Chester turning up to tackle the blaze to no avail. The hall apparently had its own fire appliance but “Although a good one, with an abundant supply of water, could not be got into working order”.

One report states that the estimated damage is £120,000, a great portion of which was covered by insurance in the Exchange, Phoenix, and Sun Fire insurance offices.

At 1.10am Hungerford Crewe the owner of the hall retired to rest but smelt burning and called his valet to look into the matter, a suspicion well founded as indeed the hall was on fire.
It was said that the fire had originated in the heated air pipes and by noon only a small part of the building was left standing. Many fine works were destroyed including works by Josua Reynolds along with musical instruments and Mathematical instruments that had been insured for £250. The building was a rather square looking structure, unlike the new Crewe Hall of today and had been built for Sir Randolf Crewe between 1615 and 1636 and was possibly designed by Inigo Jones or at least based on designs by him. In 1837-42 Edward Blore altered the building for Hungerford Crewe and made major changes to the ground floor and included plate glass windows throughout as well as a new heating system which was later to cause the fire. (Articles in the 6 Jan 1866 Chester Chronicle Page 5 / Sat 6 Jan 1866 Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser Page 11)

How the Sandbach and Chester Brigades were called to Crewe Hall is not related in the newspapers and so has to have been assumed as being called to the area by a man on horseback travelling to the various stations to raise the alarm.

This was not the only fire at Crewe Hall of note as one happened in 1925 when one woman died.

On the 27th October 1866, at 11pm there was a fire at the stable of Mr Thomas Wilding a Butcher in Chapel Street, Sandbach which was discovered by Sergeant Hulme who raised the alarm and the Brigade turned out from Sandbach with their two fire engines. (3 Nov 1866 Chester Chronicle Page 6)

On the 3 November 1866, the brigade was also called out to a fire involving two corn sacks owned by Mr Robert Shaw.

The next incident I mention here possibly has nothing to do with the Sandbach Brigade unless they were also called out to the incident, which is possible, but it was reported in newspapers all over the country. It involved the death of eight people in a fire in Kinderton Nr Middlewich (Sometimes reported in newspapers as being near Nantwich) when the thatched farmhouse of Mr Edward Cooke, his wife, four children, three male servants and two female servants, was burned to the ground on the 23 November 1867. It was reported that Mrs Cooke was up late Saturday Night ironing linen in the kitchen and left the clothes horse full of clothes next to an open blazing fire which caught the linen and started the building fire killing eight of the occupants. A servant who was sleeping on the premises came down to discover the fire but was unable to save those trapped by the fire as the violence of the fire was so bad that scarcely any trace of human remains could be found for some hours afterwards. The event caused a profound sensation in the locality with thousands visiting the blacked remains of the building in the days that followed the event.

By about this time in 1870 the Superintendent was a Mr John Cooke a local Blacksmith of 10 Congleton Road who by 1895 had a horse called Polly which was stabled at his smithy (Where the Palace Cinema used to be) and on hearing the fire bell would trot over the road to the fire station to be harnessed to the “Engine”. John had a son called Len Cooke who also became a blacksmith and during World War 1 he made 10,000 horse shoes for the army. (Extra info - John Cooke’s Great, Great Grandson is Garry Wilkes who still lives in Sandbach and Phil Hartley is also the Great, Great
Grandson). Len or Leonard Cooke lived at 6 Green Street and by the time of his death in 1954 had had a leg and foot amputated which towards the end of his life had caused him to be bedridden.

(Leonard had been born in 1852 and married Mary (.b. 1854) and had a daughter Nellie (.b. 1880))

In 1873, the town had a new Fire Station erected on the corner of Scotch Common which was a plain structure of red brick and consisted of an engine house only with the horses housed elsewhere in the town (see above / Kelly’s 1896 and 1902 directory). The fire station did have a small space at the back of the building which was used to do the administration of the brigade as well as to hold training meetings as well as a place to hang up the hoses to dry them out.

In 1875, the Sandbach Urban Sanitary District was formed and took over responsibility for the Fire Brigade. In 1894 the SUSD became the Sandbach Urban District Council.

One of the first incidents from the new station happened on the 27 August 1875, when executors of Mr Thomas Witter of Wheelock Hall discovered the building on fire at about 12 noon and called the brigade to put out the flames.

On the 4th May 1842 the first trains ran through Sandbach Station at Elworth. These were of course steam trains and not the best machines for stopping sparks flying out of the engines which would occasionally set fire to the embankments alongside the tracks and on the 1st November 1875 a Railway engine passing through the town at 5 O’clock in the afternoon set fire to farm buildings occupied by Mr Joseph Booth at Church Hulme with Mr Booth’s servant Mary Reyner raising the alarm for the Sandbach Brigade to attend the incident. (Article in the 6 Nov 1875 Cheshire Observer Page 7)

The report in the local newspapers of the 6 November 1875 reported that the fire was put out by Sandbach and Holmes Chapel Fire Brigades, the first mention of the two brigades working together.

Another Farm fire took place on the 12 December 1890 on land belonging to Mr Siddall at Hassall near Sandbach with the brigade again putting out the flames effectively. At this time and well into the 1960’s the majority of incidents in the town were the number of barn fires only being replaced in numbers by incidents on the M6 when it opened.

On Saturday the 14 November 1891, a fire broke out at Linley Hall between Newcastle and Kidsgrove, the residence of Miss Marsh and Miss Caldwell. While the family was at dinner one of the servants had occasion to go upstairs and found one of the bedrooms on the upper floor in flames. An alarm was raised and a telegram was sent to the Tunstall Fire Engine while at the same time a messenger was despatched on horseback to Sandbach which was about six miles away to ask for their fire engine to attend. The fire was so intense that members of the public could see it from a long distance away and
soon many attended as the flames burst through the roof. The public helped remove the contents of the building while waiting for the appliances to arrive. Two bedrooms occupied by Miss Rosamond Marsh-Caldwell and another servant were gutted by the fire. The Sandbach Fire Brigade under Captain Cooke were praised by their prompt action, arriving first on the scene in an article from the Congleton and Macclesfield Mercury and Cheshire General Advertiser (21 Nov 1891). The Tunstall Brigade under Captain Lee arrived with their steamer soon after Sandbach which allowed water to be pumped up a steep hill from the meadow below, a feat no hand pump could have accomplished. The Sandbach pump was supplied from the hall’s tank of water and the volume from both appliances at first seemed to have had no effect but after a while the fire was gradually subdued turning from flames to smoke and after about two hours the fire was extinguished. The Tunstall appliance remained at the hall until 9pm in the event that the fire had a fresh outbreak. The fire was thought to have been started during the fumigation by sulphur of one of the bedrooms.

On Wednesday, the 30 August 1893 at about midnight Messrs Hall’s Steam Corn Mills at Rode Heath were found to be alight with flames lighting up the night sky and could be seen from about 3 miles away. Some people returning from the Cheshire Agricultural Show at Sandbach including Mr Hall noticed a bright light above the Mills which are situated by the side of the canal. The buildings were indeed on fire and the alarm was raised with Fire crews from both Sandbach and Tunstall (Staffordshire) being called to the scene to put out the building. (1 Sept 1893 Huddersfield Chronicle P3) This event showed that by now there were cross county co-operation between fire authorities which were at the time run by some local authorities and also Volunteer Brigades sponsored locally or by insurance companies. With a plentiful supply of water from the canal the firemen dowsed the building but it was so intense that it didn’t matter how much water was put on the fire they were unable to save the building. The Mills were four or five story buildings and as the roof and upper floors gave way one after another with a crash, the flames leaped up a hundred feet into the air and could be seen twelve miles away. The fire brigades worked through the night until after 5 O’clock when all that remained of the buildings were the outer walls and a heap of machinery damaged beyond repair. The Sandbach Fire Brigade were not finished after the Mill Fire as they returned at about six O’clock on the Thursday morning they received news from a messenger that there was another fire at the farm of Mr Beech, Chell’s Hill in one of the hay stacks. On arrival the brigade found that the farm hands had managed to extinguish the fire.

On Wednesday, the 20 September 1893, Sandbach Fire Brigade were called to an incident at the Middlewich Dairy and Domestic Salt Company Works to tackle a blaze which was so fierce that it destroyed the works completely. An article in the 23 September 1893, Manchester Courier it reported that the fire on Wednesday was extinguished by fire crews from Sandbach, Crewe and Middlewich.

In 1894 the Local Government Act put the responsibility for fire cover onto Local Government / Council’s to provide cover for the town and the Sandbach Urban District Council (1894-1974) took on the responsibility of providing the fire cover.

In Kelly’s Directory of 1896 the Fire Superintendent was still John Cooke with 10 Men.
Various insurance companies still covered fires with the “County Fire”, “Norwich Union Fire” (R Bygott and Sons in Hope Street), “Phoenix Fire” (Robert Finlow in the Post Office), “Sun Fire” with the “Union” (Charles Bradbury in the High Street) in the area. There was also an insurance company “The Westminster Fire Office” in Sandbach High Street run by W Lea who could have paid for some of the call outs in the town.

# 1902 FIRE BRIGADES IN CHESHIRE (Kelly’s Directory)

Alderley Edge (No Fire Station in Kellys 1902).
Altrincham (Frederick Youlton Superintendent, John Wright Deputy with 12 Men) Engine House, Town Hall, Market Street. Run by the Urban District Council the station house had a Steam Fire Engine and a comfortably fitted-up room for the firemen and also a mortuary.
Bebbington (Unkn) Higher Bebington Urban District Fire Reel Station Higher Bebington.
Bebbington (Unkn) Lower Bebington Urban District Fire Station and Mortuary, Grove Road, New Ferry.
Birkenhead (Superintendent William H Smith, Whetstone Lane.
Assistant Superintendent Henry G. Morrison Whetstone Lane. With 16 Men) Corporation Fire Station Whetstone Lane – Telephone 112. Built in 1895 for Officers and men with stabling for four horses the station contains two new vertical Greenwich Steam Fire Engines, One Hose Tender and fire escape combined, Horse hose –carriage and fire escapes. There are all fitted with the necessary accessories for working by Messrs Merryweather and Son of London.
Electric appliances by Messrs W.A. Shaw and Co of Stockport.
Bromborough Pool (Charles Ellis Secretary)
Chester (Captain and Treasurer Alfred Clemence, Lieut. J Williamson Secretary; John Shone Superintendent with 3 Sergeants and 19 Men) Volunteer Fire Brigade Station, 8 Northgate Street, Chester.
Congleton (Captain George Banks) Corporation Fire Brigade consisting of 17 Members and had Three Engines and a Hose Cart kept in the Market Place.
Crewe (Superintendent George Eaton-Shaw, Captain George Harding, Lieutenant W. H. Grieves, Lieutenant Roberts and 6 Reserve Men) Earle Street, Crewe. (Moved 1904)
Duckenfield (Superintendent James Hensky) Town Hall, Duckenfield (Office)
Frodsham (No Fire Station in Kellys 1902).
Holmes Chapel (No Fire Station in Kellys 1902).
Hyde (Superintendent John William Danby) Corporation Fire Brigade, Corporation Street. Erected between 1894 and 1895 it cost £3,000.
Knutsford (Superintendent John Jackson – 4 Princess Street, Sergeant and 10 Men) Run by the Urban District Council with Two Manual Engines at the Engine House, Northwich Road Knutsford.
Liscard (Superintendent Edmund Brown / Superintendent John Howarth) 7 Manor Road, Liscard.
Lymm (Captain William Kirkpatrick) Whilbarrow.
Macclesfield (Captain Harry Newton) Volunteer Brigade, Fire Station, King Edward Street. Macclesfield (Superintendent Edward Egerton Adshead) Borough Fire Engine Station Commercial Road, Macclesfield.
Macclesfield (Captain Harry Newton) Volunteer Fire Engine Station King Edward Street, Macclesfield.
Middlewich (Unkn) Birchall Brothers Builders erected a Stable and Fire Station for the Middlewich Urban District Council about pre 1897 (Also in Kelly’s Directory 1902).
Nantwich - Urban District Fire Brigade (Captain Edward Wilkinson) Market Street.
Nantwich - Volunteer Fire Brigade (Captain Herbert Gentry) Market Street.
Northwich (Superintendent Joseph Arrowsmith) Urban Council Fire Brigade, Whitton Street, Northwich
Runcorn (Superintendent Robert Wright, Deputy Superintendent Henry Cousins and 11 Men)
Fire Station at Delph Bridge, but the keys are kept at the Police Station in Bridge Street.
Sale (Superintendent John J Hunt) School Road, Sale.
Sandbach (Superintendent John Cooke and 10 Men) Scotch Commons.
Erected in 1873 it is a plain structure of red brick and consists of an engine house only.
Seacombe (Captain William Clark with 7 Men) Platt Lane, Seacombe.
Stalybridge (Superintendent, Captain John Bates who was also Chief Constable of the Police as well as Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.)
Town Hall, Stamford Street.
Stockport Central Fire Brigade Station. (Superintendent Howard Beckwith – Also Inspector of Police based at Corporation Street.).
NEW STATION erected in 1902 at a cost of £12,000 and was situated in Mersey Square.
They had 1 Motor fire engine, 3 Steam fire engines, 1 Horse escape, 1 Horse ambulance, 42 fire alarms and 26 private wires.
Tarporley (Captain Commandant The Earl of Haddington, Captain and Secretary Henry Heald Lieutenant George Gregory, Treasurer Thomas Hayward and 20 Men)
Urban District Council Fire Brigade, Tarporley.
Wallasey (Caretaker A Halewood) Leasowe Road, Wallasey
Wilmslow (Commandant, Captain A Price) Wilmslow Volunteer Fire Brigade.
Winsford (Superintendent Thomas Hulse) 1 Station Road, Winsford.

In 1902 (Kelly’s Directory) Mr Walter Lea (Owner of Dingle Lake) was the agent for the Westminster Fire Office in High Street, Sandbach.
It was also noted in Kelly’s Directory that in 1902 the Sandbach Fire Superintendent was still John Cooke with 10 Men at the Engine House on Scotch Commons.
One area of town that caused a lot of fires and incidents was in Elworth near the railway line. There were the usual grass fires and sometimes buildings set alight by sparks from the engines but with an increase in rail traffic engines themselves started to have problems including on the 19 July 1906 when an Express Goods Train from Manchester on the London and North-Western Railway caught fire after passing through Sandbach Station which again had to be dealt with by the Sandbach Brigade after it stopped on the track.

On the 29 August 1904, Messrs J Stringer’s Sawmill in Wheelock Road was gutted by a fire on that Tuesday afternoon shortly before 2.20pm when two people named George Sparrow and George Smith were working in the mill and noticed flames bursting through the floor. Sandbach Fire Brigade under Superintendent Broad were called out but the intensity of the fire had engulfed the building by the time they had arrived. Three lengths of hose were used with water from the main supply. After about an hour the brigade had the fire under control. The roof of the building was completely gutted and crashed to the floor.
A large crowd assembled to see the fire and were contained by Sergeant Charles Dean at a safe distance from the burning building.
Soon after Seven O Clock the fire was finally extinguished. At an inquest into the fire it was learnt that a counter shaft which drove all the machinery had overheated and ignited some hay which caused the biggest fire in the Sandbach area since the serious outbreak at Rode Mills ten years previous.
The fire caused about £1,000 worth of damage including some beautiful and very expensive carved oak work which had been intended for Brereton Church and should have been delivered that week.

On the 10 August 1910, the National Telephone Company was licensed to provide telephone circuits for the Fire, Police and Ambulance Services giving a quicker response time for emergencies but only to those who could afford a phone or had access to one as it wasn’t a common household item.
In 1911, Congleton had a new Fire engine which had been provided by the local community as at this point there was no National Government funded equipment (National Fire Service 1942). They named their appliance “George” in a ceremony in the park with the Mayoress naming the appliance and with their 17 firemen and three other fire engines in the town also in attendance. The pump could have been the same model that Sandbach UDC went on to acquire in 1913.
In July 1913, the Fire Brigade in Sandbach took delivery of a new Steam Fire Engine from Messers’ Shand, Mason and Company. It was tested at Dingle Lake and later water from the appliance was
sprayed over the top of the Church and the Town Hall to check the power of the pumps (Possibly a Horse drawn engine with a Steam Pump).

(Article in the 5 July 1913 Crewe Chronicle Page 4)

“From the excellent results attained at Monday and Tuesday’s test of the new Steam Fire Engine, Farmers and inhabitants generally will have a little more confidence and feel themselves a little more secure as regards the efficiency of the town’s fire extinguishing appliances. Not only has a new up-to-date engine been acquired, but men of the right stamp have been appointed by the Urban Council to man it. The result cannot but be satisfactory. Under an expert from the firm of Messrs’. Shand Mason, the makers, the engine was got under steam, and taken to the Dingle Lake. The members of the Council, together with a large crowd of interested people, witnessed the throwing power of the engine with four branches attached to it. On Tuesday, water was obtained from the mains, it being poured over the Town Hall spire and St Mary’s Church. The test proved Highly satisfactory.”

The Crewe Chronicle of the 26 July 1913 (Page 7) reported that the first call out for the new appliance was to a fire at Haslington on the Tuesday at Noon. The Conflagration was at the farm of Mr Joseph Haynes in a barn containing a quantity of hay. However, before the Sandbach Brigade arrived a number of men successfully extinguished the flames thus the steamer was not required.

The report then goes on to talk about a new Fire Bell that had been recently purchased for the Town Hall which again had proved a failure. This device would have been the only way to call the firemen to a “Shout” and so having failed it delayed the response time due to a runner (or word of mouth) having to contact the local firemen to inform them of the incident.

A report in the 20 March 1914, Nantwich Guardian also tells of a new Sandbach Steam Fire Engine turning out for a test on Saturday the 14 March 1914 with satisfactory results.

I am told that as soon as the crew arrived at the station they would light the boiler on the pump and would continue to keep it going as they sped down the road to an incident. Within 10 minutes the steam generated from the boiler ready to be used to pump water on arrival at the fire.

The term “ON THE RUN” which is still used today comes from this period when the station floor was slopped towards the front doors so the appliance would slide down the ramp when the break blocks were removed from the cart wheels, helping the horses to start moving the heavy equipment on its way to the incident. The term is still part of today’s terms although the floors are usually flat now as it is much easier to move a modern day motorised vehicle.

At the beginning of August 1914, a local Police Constable passing the Holly Bush Inn, Sandbach noticed flames from the rear of the house. On investigation, the Constable discovered the body of landlord George Eccles in flames. He immediately called out the Sandbach Council Fire Brigade to put out the fire and an investigation was started into the landlord’s death.

(4 Aug 1914 Liverpool Echo Pg 6)

According to Kelly’s Directory of 1914 the Fire Superintendent was now Edmund Allen with 10 Men. Edmond was a Shoe maker / Clog maker in the High Street, living with his family.

EDMUND ALLEN’S FAMILY TREE.

1871 CENSUS Chapel Street, Sandbach.
  Thomas Allen (Head) .b. 1834 (Aged 37) in Radcliffe, Lancashire (Clogger)  
  Alice Allen (Wife) .b. 1830 (Aged 41) in Heywood, Lancashire.
  Edmund Allen (Son) .b. 1859 (Aged 12) in Heywood, Lancashire.
  Anne Jane Allen (Daughter) .b. 1865 (Aged 6) in Sandbach, Cheshire.

1881 CENSUS 36 High Street, Sandbach (New Address).
  Thomas Allen (Head) .b. 1834 (Aged 47) in Radcliffe, Lancashire (Clogger)  
  Alice Allen (Wife) .b. 1830 (Aged 51) in Heywood, Lancashire.
  Edmund Allen (Son) .b. 1859 (Aged 22) in Heywood, Lancashire (Clogger).
  Anne Jane Allen (Daughter) .b. 1865 (Aged 16) in Sandbach, Cheshire (Dressmaker).
  Alice Allen (Daughter) .b. 1872 (Aged 9) in Sandbach, Cheshire (Scholar).

MOVED OUT - John Thomas Allen (Son) .b. 1861 (Aged 20) in Heywood, Lancashire.

1885 Edmund Allen married Margaret Lea (Congleton District)
1888 Edmund and Margaret moved to Middlewich Road. His father still lived in High Street.
1889 Edmund and Margaret moved to Elworth Street.

1901 CENSUS Elworth Street, Sandbach (New Address from 1889).
Edmund Allen (Head). b. 1859 (Aged 42) in Heywood, Lancashire (Clogger).
Margaret Allen (Wife). b. 1864 (Aged 37) in Sandbach, Cheshire.
Alice R Allen (Daughter). b. 1892 (Aged 9) in Sandbach, Cheshire (Scholar).
Dorothy Allen (Daughter). b. 1894 (Aged 7) in Sandbach, Cheshire (Scholar).
Ellin G Allen (Daughter). b. 1897 (Aged 4) in Sandbach, Cheshire.
Lucy Allen (Daughter). b. 1889 / 1900 (Aged 1) in Sandbach, Cheshire.
Edith Lea (Niece). b. 1892 (Aged 11) in Crewe / Sandbach, Cheshire.

1911 CENSUS 20 High Street, Sandbach (New address).
Edmund Allen (Head). b. 1859 (Aged 52) in Heywood, Lancashire (Clogger).
Margaret Allen (Wife). b. 1864 (Aged 47) in Sandbach, Cheshire.
Dorothy Allen (Daughter). b. 1894 (Aged 17) in Sandbach, Cheshire (Scholar).
Lucy Allen (Daughter). b. 1889 / 1900 (Aged 12) in Sandbach, Cheshire.
Edmund Rhodes Allen (Son). b. 15 Oct 1901 (Aged 9) in Sandbach, Cheshire.
Stanley Allen (Son). b. 1907 (Aged 4) in Sandbach, Cheshire.

MOVED OUT Alice R Allen (Daughter). b. 1892 (Aged 19) in Sandbach, Cheshire.

1912 School’s Admissions for Sandbach County Secondary School shows
Edmund Rhodes Allen (Son) entering the school and his date of birth as .b. 15 Oct 1901.
In 1933 Mr and Mrs Allen owned a Shoe Shop next to the Black Bear.
By 1938 Miss Lucy Allen was a Draper in Bradwall Road, Sandbach.

1914 FIRE BRIGADES
Alderley Edge (Charles Hoylands Captain) Heyes Lane.
Altrincham (Francis A Myers Superintendent with 16 Men – Telephone 1447)
   Town Hall, Market Street.
Birkenhead (Superintendent James T Burns, Whetstone Lane.
   Assistant Superintendent John W Beech Whetstone Lane.)
   Corporation Fire Station Whetstone Lane – Telephone 1160 and 1161.
Bromborough Pool (Charles Ellis Secretary)
Cheadle (Captain William Hines) High Street.
Chester (Superintendent Albert Ernest Clarke with 3 Sergeants and 20 Men)
   Volunteer Fire Brigade Station, Northgate Street, Chester.
Congleton (Unkn) Corporation Fire Brigade consisting of 17 Members and had Three Engines
   and a Hose Cart kept in the Market Place.
Crewe (Superintendent George Eaton-Shaw, Captain George Harding, Lieutenant Roberts
   and 4 Reserve Men) Beech Street, Crewe.
Duckenfield (Unknown)
Frodsham (Major W.G. Linaker Superintendent and 11 Men)
Holmes Chapel (?)
Hyde (Superintendent John William Danby) Corporation Fire Brigade, Corporation Street.
   Erected between 1894 and 1895 it cost £3,000 and by 1914 was in telephonic
   communication with various parts of the town. The building contained sleeping
   and living accommodation for the Brigade and also contained a “Firemen’s Shoot”
   and recreation room, drying house and stabling for two horses.
Knutsford (Superintendent John Jackson – 4 Princess Street, Sergeant and 10 Men)
   Run by the Urban District Council with Two Manual Engines at the Engine House,
   Northwich Road Knutsford.
Liscard (Superintendent George William Byne) Wallasey, 8 Anglesey Road.
Lymm (Captain William Kirkpatrick) Whilbarrow.
Macclesfield (Captain Walter H Braid) Volunteer Brigade, Fire Station, King Edward Street.
Macclesfield (Captain Samuel Charles Baggott, Sub captain Orlando Corbishley with 18 Men)
   Borough Fire Engine Station Commercial Road, Macclesfield.
Middlewich (No Fire Brigade in 1914 Kelly’s directory)
   In 1915 Superintendent Cooper was in charge at Middlewich.
Nantwich - Urban District Fire Brigade (Captain Thomas V. C. Thistlethwaite) Market Street.
Nantwich - Volunteer Fire Brigade (Captain Harry Johnson) Market Street.
Northwich (Superintendent James Earlham) Urban Council Fire Brigade, Whitton Street, Northwich
Runcorn (Superintendent Thomas Bowden, Deputy Superintendent Henry Cousins and 11 Men)
   Fire Station at Delph Bridge, but the keys are kept at the Police Station in Bridge Street.
Sale (Superintendent Joseph Royle) 75 Chapel Road, Sale.
Sandbach (Superintendent Edmund Allen and 10 Men) Scotch Commons.
Stalybridge (Captain John Bates who was also Chief Constable of the Police as well as Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade. He was also the Inspector of Food, Drugs, explosives and common lodging houses and local taxation officer)
   Town Hall, Stamford Street.
Stockport Central Fire Brigade Station. (Superintendent Howard Beckwith – Also Inspector of Police based at Mersey Square -, Assistant Superintendent R. A. Knighton with 6 engineers, 24 firemen and 3 watermen).
   Erected in 1902 at a cost of £12,000 and was situated in Mersey Square.
   They had 1 Motor fire engine, 3 Steam fire engines, 1 Horse escape,
   1 Horse ambulance, 42 fire alarms and 26 private wires.
   The Brigade served the areas of Hazel Grove, Bramhall Urban District and the north portion of Bredbury. There was also a Branch Station at Gorton Road, Reddish equipped with a hose tender and horse escape.
Tarporley (Honorary Chief Officer, Captain the Honourable Henry Robert Arden-Baillie-Hamilton, Chief Officer Edward H Wilkinson, Sec and Treasurer Thomas Hayward, and 16 Men)
   Urban District Council Fire Brigade, Tarporley.
Wallasey (Superintendent G. W. Byrne)
Wilmslow (Commandant, Captain A Price) Wilmslow Volunteer Fire Brigade.
Winsford (Superintendent William Dodd) Station Road, Winsford.

1900's Picture outside the Town Hall in Sandbach
(Poss 1915 after 3 members went to War)

In March 1915, some members of the Sandbach Fire Brigade retired from Service, these were James Buckley a Butcher of 25 High Street, Charles Wardle a Draper of 1 High Street and Ralph Ruscoe an Insurance agent from 106 Middlewich Road, Sandbach. (12 March 1915 Nantwich Guardian Pg 5)
They had also been Councillors with the Sandbach Urban District Council and in April 1915 they all three gave up their positions possibly to go off to war. Ralph Ruscoe (West Ward) did however return to politics and in 1921, 1929 and 1939 was the Mayor of Sandbach.
James Buckley (East Ward) had also been Mayor / Chairman of the Council of Sandbach in 1901 and 1910 with Charles Wardle (East Ward) also taking on the role in 1913.

On the 21 August 1915, Sandbach Fire Brigade and Winsford’s appliance were called to a fire at the Verdm, Cooke and Co’s Salt works at Cledford near Middlewich after Superintendent Cooper of the Middlewich Brigade decided that the fire was too big for his crew to tackle on its own. The fire took all of Saturday and Sunday (22 Aug) to put out and had started in the drying room of the works. (28 Aug 1915 Chester Chronicle Pg 6)
A report in the Nantwich Guardian of Friday the 17 September 1915 shows that Sandbach Fire Brigade had made a charge of £11/5/0 for their services at the recent outbreak at Messrs Verdin Cooke’s Works at Middlewich.

In August / September 1915, the Sandbach Urban District Council purchased a new horse for the brigade at a cost of £75. (Nantwich Guardian Friday the 17 September 1915)

The 19th December 1916, Nantwich Guardian published an advert for a new First Engineer for the Sandbach Steam Fire Engine. It also looked for a second engineer to look after the appliance if the First Engineer was unavailable.

In the 16th March 1917 edition of the Nantwich Guardian it was announced that at the 12 March 1917 meeting of the Sandbach Urban Council at the Town Hall with Mr George Wright presiding it was recommended by the Fire Brigade Committee to appoint Mr Ernest Warrington as second engineer of the brigade during the absence of Mr Richard Wade who was on Military Service.

On the 18 August 1917, the Sandbach Fire Brigade with their Steam Fire Engine led the procession in a parade down the High Street to the Top of the Hill in Sandbach Heath and then back via Middlewich Road for the annual Pageant. The procession had formed up on the Common with the Chief Marshall, William T Rosson (Cab Proprietor) of 21 Crewe Road, Sandbach and organiser of the parade as he had done for a number of years. Mounted on his charger (Horse), he led the way via the high street to the hill and back by Middlewich Road to the field. The event was part of the Sandbach Hospital Fate and Pageant organised by various people including secretary Mr J.H. Broad to raise funds for the temporary Hospital based at Abbey Fields on Middlewich Road, Sandbach which had been set up by the Red Cross to look after soldiers injured in the war.

The Sandbach Fire Brigade were followed by the Foden’s Band and various floats including a tableau based on “Gypsy Life” and a party from Congleton, a juvenile character “Little Man from China” played by J Ridley; Folly, Miss Sherratt; Woodland Fairy, Miss Irene Platt, A French Girl, Miss Irene Platt; Flower Girl, Miss M Oliver, Charlie Chaplin played by F Jackson, Red Cross Girl, Miss O Stockton, Irish Girl, Miss A Ruscoe, Spanish Girl, Miss R Warburton. Also taking part were the St John Ambulance Brigade under Chief Officer G H Bourne.

Nurses and Men from Abbeyfields Hospital also took part along with the Bradwall Training School, boys and their bugle band, Lord Jam Hangers, Komikal Heutertainers (Comical Entertainers) – Messrs Dutton, Tilley, Elsby and Bagnall. Fairy Character on Foot, Red Cross Knight, Mr W Ridley; Artistically dressed gentleman., Mr F S Kenyon, Red Cross, Miss R Coppenhall and Miss H Hulme; Ivy Girls, Miss H Wheeldon and Miss E Hulme (Congleton), Rosy and Bolis, Miss E Frost and Miss A Elenson (Congleton); Billiard Cue, Miss Allcock (Sandbach); Turkish Towels, Miss Tagell and Miss Wheeldon (Congleton); Cow Boy and Girl, Miss E Dickenson and Miss L Oakes (Congleton); “Charlies Day Out” Mr J Wilson and Party; Tableau “The Allies” Mr G Bloor and party; Sandbach Town Band conductor Mr S Charlesworth; Sandbach Company Cheshire Volunteer Regiment. There were also a number of collectors in costumes. On arrival at the field the judging of characters took place with many prizes handed out for costumes and floats.

In 1919 the Brunner Mond Company held a Fire Brigade Competition between various brigades in the area with Sandbach coming first as they competed in a number of challenges to do with fighting fires. A picture taken of the winning crew shows them possibly aboard a Dennis Merryweather (In Production 1905 to 1920’s) what is not clear is if it was the Sandbach Fire Brigade or one run and
owned by the Brunner Mond Factory. A report in the Nantwich Guardian 7 June 1918 tells of a fire at Malkins Bank which was attended by the Brunner Mond Fire engine and quickly put out using water from the nearby canal.

Brunner Mond had held a Fire Fighting competition since before 1894 when it was reported that the newly formed Crewe Corporation Fire Brigade had taken part in the event (11 Aug 1894 Crewe Guardian Page 4).

Looking at the personnel on board and the fact that there were 10 firefighters it looks as though it was the Sandbach Brigade based at Scotch Common.

In 1925, there was a 2nd major fire in Crewe Hall. Having been rebuilt a report in the Birmingham Gazette of the 27 January 1926 (Page 5) gives details of the inquest into the death of Florence Allen aged 62.

A graphic story of the Crewe Hall fire, from which the novelist Mayoress of Bath, Madam Sarah Grand escaped in night attire, was told at the inquest yesterday on Florence Allen, Aged 62 the cook who perished in the flames.

Miss Tindall described how, when awakened by a crash, she thought it was burglars in the sitting room adjoining her own room. She jumped out of bed and tried to open the door, in which she was obliged to exert great pressure. It opened a few inches and she then smelt fire.

Elsie Washer, a maid who last saw the deceased said four of them went to the top of the house to fetch some of their belongings. She went with Miss Allen to her bedroom, where the deceased handed her two suit cases. The witness then went into another maid’s bedroom, thinking that Miss Allen was going downstairs. Suddenly three of them were cut off by the smoke. They crawled along a passage but were driven back and took refuge in a bathroom from whence they tried in vain to escape by the window.

Then they crawled back into another bedroom and on to the roof, where they were nearly half an hour before being rescued by the firemen and others, who tore down an obstruction.

The coroner said the fire probably broke out in a joist in the sitting room through a flue from the kitchen underneath.

Apparently, Miss Allen was cut off, and in a dazed condition sort shelter in a room where she was found dead. It was very sad after she had herself roused the other girls and had actually been downstairs into the servant’s hall. He recorded a verdict of “Accidental death”.

A fire at a farm in Bradwall on Monday the 16 August 1926 was only just put out by the brigade as they had unfortunately insufficient coal on board the appliance to keep the steam boiler working at full power. They did however keep the water flowing with a decreased pressure by burning wood from the farm which gave just enough to water to extinguish the flames. (17 Aug 1926 Hull Daily Mail Page 1)

On the 24 August 1926, Sandbach Fire Brigade not only had to tackle a farm fire when a stack of hay burst into flames but also a swarm of wasps that were disturbed by the smoke and the movement of the brigade. Many of the firemen were stung by the wasps but kept going until the fire was out.

A report in the Staffordshire Sentinel on the 18 November 1932 reported that there was an investigation into the breakdown of the Sandbach Town Steam Fire Engine at a farm blaze last week and allegations against the brigade were being inquired into at a private meeting of the Urban Council, the members of which sat until a late hour. They met the farmer concerned, and also two of his neighbouring farmers and the statements made were thoroughly discusses. The question was finally referred to the Fire Brigade Committee to prepare a scheme of reorganisation.

On the 1 July 1937, the 999 Emergency telephone system was introduced to call for assistance by the Police and Fire Brigade. Before then it was down to the operator at the Telephone exchange to ring the appropriate Brigade personnel. Now anyone with a phone could call a central control centre which would call out the brigade members either by a siren or bell in the homes of the firemen.

On the 22 December 1937, the Air Raids Precautions Act 1937 was established and came into law on the 1 January 1938. The act stated that Central Government would supply pumps (Fire Engines) for a new Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS) but Local Authorities were still tasked to supply a Station and to recruit personnel, train them and equip them ready for the possibility of another great war between Britain and Germany.

According to newspaper reports in May 1938, school children had a thrill when a bus carrying them from Bradwall to Sandbach suddenly caught fire causing the brigade to be called out. (6 May 1938 Dundee Evening Telegraph Pg 13)

An interesting article appeared on the 4th March 1939 in the Crewe Chronicle on Page 14.
“The Crewe Chronicle announced that two women had become qualified to drive the Sandbach Fire engine for the first time. A picture showed Captain Thomas Leese showing new drivers Mrs Harrison and Mrs Robinson with the Sandbach fire engine”. One of the first fires they could have driven to was at Park Farm in Sandbach owned by Mrs Riddle on the 7 September 1939. Things didn’t quite go to plan as there was a lack of water in the area which then had to be pumped from a distance.

Another firefighter who was part of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade during the Second World War was Fred Street (b. 1918) who during the day was working in the Ammunition factory at Foden’s. After a visit to his home in October 2007 at Heath Road, Sandbach by the modern-day firefighters who were fitting fire alarms they got to know about Fred’s past and decided to arrange a treat for him with a visit to the Sandbach Fire Station and a chance for him to dress up in his old uniform as well as meeting up with a 1960’s Dennis F8 (Audlem) fire engine and the current modern fire appliance with its crew.

c1939 World War 2 Fire Brigade regulations were brought in stipulating that stations had to be manned with a telephone, Siren and toilet facilities. Sandbach certainly had a telephone and the siren on top of the Police Station which complied with the request but no-one seems to remember there being toilet or washing facilities in the very basic station.

The little-known fact today that joined the Sandbach Police and Fire Brigade together was the use of the siren on top of the Police Station to call retained firemen to a “Shout”. As the Police Station was based in Bold Street (Now Barclays Bank) during the Second World War they had an “Air Raid Siren” on the top of the building which was used to alert the public of Air Raids. It was also used to call the fire brigade to the Fire Station using a different sound from the long notes indicating an Air Raid and a long note to call off the Air Raid warning. A series of short bursts would call the brigade to an incident a sound that would continue well into the 1960’s.

(1939-45 AFS Crew from Sandbach Including Richard Mellor and Bill Russell)
On the 20 May 1941, the Fire Services (Emergency Provisions) Act 1941 was passed through Parliament, establishing a National Fire Service (NFS) with Local Authorities providing 75% of the funding for a regular Fire Brigade with the Country being divided into 12 regions. Region 10 included Cheshire, Lancashire, West Moreland and Cumberland. This was then divided into smaller areas with Sandbach coming under Fire Force No 26 with its headquarters at “Holly Mount”, Mill Lane, West Derby, Liverpool 12 and was commanded by a former London Fire Brigade Officer Mr Charters.

Before 1939 the area covered in the 1941 act had the following stations (Number of Fire Stations in each town in Brackets)

- Sandbach UDC (1), Alsager UDC (1), Congleton B and RDC (1), Crewe B (1), Middlewich UDC (1), Nantwich UDC and RDC (1), Liverpool City (9), Birkenhead CB (2), Bootle CB (1), Chester City (1), St Helens CB (1), Southport CB (1), Wallasey CB (1), Warrington CB and RDC(1), Bebington B, Crosby B (2), Widnes Borough (1), Ellesmere Port UDC, Formby UDC (1), Haydock UDC, Hoole UDC, Hoylake UDC (1), Huyton with Roby UDC (1), Litherland UDC, Neston UDC, Newton le Willows UDC (1), Northwich UDC and RDC (1), Ormskirk UDC (1), Prescot UDC (1), Runcorn UDC and RDC (1), Tarvin RDC(1), Winsford UDC (1), Wirral UDC (1), West Lancs RDC (1) and Whiston RDC (1)

During the Second World War some of the fire crew from Sandbach were redeployed to Manchester. They were also sent to Liverpool, a City which became the heaviest target for German Air raids in the North West and so needed as many experienced firefighters as possible leaving Sandbach with only a Skeleton Crew of five and a Dennis fire engine (Or possibly Jennings / Dennis) until 1945. Two of the firemen at the time were William (Bill) and Wilf Wakefield. William joined first with his younger brother Wilf (b. 30 Jan 1930) joining in 1942 at the age of 12. Wilf was also working for Harold Dunn as a milkman and as a farm hand with one of Wilf’s jobs while he was still at school was helping to take the cows to Crewe Market before he started his lessons by making sure all the gates were closed on the way. When he left school he then went to work for Foden’s Motor Works in Elworth where he started in the Office before moving onto the Wages Department, Planning Office, Casting Shop and finally the Repair Shop.

Before the current fire station was constructed the fire brigade, were summoned to the station by the tolling of the Fire Bell in the Town Hall. This was augmented by the ringing erratically of church bells at St Mary’s and others in the town. By 1941, when Wilf joined the brigade he remembers that they used a bell system in the firemen’s home which would sound at night time when they were called out to a “Shout” with the bells being used during the daytime. When he was working at Foden’s a staff member who had heard the church bells would come to where he was working to tell him there was a call for him to go to the fire station.

Wilf Wakefield had a 1932 MG Sports Car at the age of 15 which helped to transport him and his brother William to the station, giving them the advantage over those on pushbikes to get to Sandbach for the call first as Elworth (Foden’s Motor Works) where he and other firemen were working was about a mile from the Fire Station situated behind the Town Hall on Congleton Road. Because of his experience on the farm, Wilf was one of the firemen who drove the appliance as he was able to drive tractors etc. from the age of 15. He was not the only one to drive the engine to a shout as it was all down to who arrived first at the station and who among the designated drivers could start the appliance, with the next five people arriving at the station being able to go to the incident. However, if it was a small fire then a smaller crew was able to go to the shout first with other members following on their bikes as a back-up crew.
The first fire vehicle Wilf Wakefield drove had a starting handle at the front which was used to get the engine up to full compression before it would start. The Dennis Fire Engine also had a bell on the front to let people know when they were coming, as it made its way as quickly as possible to an incident. However it was not advisable for it to go round corners very fast as the large amount of water inside would slosh about and could turn it over. Wilf never heard of anyone having an accident in the vehicle but it is fair to say it was not incident free as it was only a front wheel drive appliance and so on occasions it would get stuck in mud if it went too far into a field.

Two of the most memorable incidents were at Alsager Hall and the Salamanca pub on Newcastle Road, Smallwood. The Alsager Hall fire started one evening and lasted right through the night which seemed to be a regular time for calls according to Wilf Wakefield and looking at today’s calls, the time just after midnight still seems to be a popular time for call outs although by 2017 it is mainly road accidents at this time of the day. Wilf remembers the Alsager Hall call out in particular because there seemed to be a lot of money floating about when they arrived at the scene alongside crews from Crewe and the Potteries. The fire itself took two days to put out, making it a very large fire for this era.

The other big fire at the Salamanca Pub in Smallwood also took a while to put out but ended with the landlord giving the crews free drinks in the bar afterwards. The pub was named after Wellington’s Victory in Spain in 1812 when local (Smallwood) worthy Stapleton Cotton commanded the British Cavalry at Salamanca. The building served the community until about 2010 when it closed and fell into disrepair and was demolished in Aug 2016 (Tbc) after many years of neglect and also after a last-ditch attempt to restore the building in 2009 by Mr Michael Jefferson of Jay Ashall Associates whose application was turned down by the Council Planning Committee resulting in them putting the property up for sale on the 24 April 2014 for an estimated price of £94,000.

Another popular call in the area was to rescue Cows from canals and marshland which didn’t always go to plan as the Dennis appliance, when full of water was sometimes unable to get close to the canal to attempt the rescue so they had to either put a carpet down to stop the appliance from sinking or they got as close as they could to the animal and used a very long rope which was attached to a ratchet pully at the back of the appliance and then was put round the animal before using the pully system to pull it out. At this time Wilfred Wakefield described the fire station as being in a shed like structure at the back of the Town Hall opposite the Palace Cinema and consisted of an engine shed leading onto the Congleton Road with offices behind for administration. There were however no wash basins to let the firemen clean up after a blaze, so they had to take the uniform home to get them cleaned before the next shout which sometimes meant a rather smelly trip as they were at times covered in farmyard smells from tackling hay fires and getting cows out of holes and the rivers.

The retained firemen used to practice their firefighting skills on Scotch Common on a Tuesday night which was also a time when they had a visit from one of the fire inspectors from headquarters who would inspect the crew in their polished uniforms as well as the appliance which after each shout would be washed down by the crew. The canvas hoses they used were also looked after by being rolled up to get the water out of them and then hung up to dry. Wilf Wakefield doesn’t remember how they dried the hoses in the first fire shed but when they moved down the road to what is now the storeroom for the market stalls, they used to string them up alongside the appliance in the parking bay.

Looking back on his time with the brigade Wilf remembers that when he joined at the age of 12 he had still been allowed to drive the engine as at this time they were short of experienced drivers and that this was why he had been allowed at such an early age to be part of the crew. As mentioned at the age of 15 he had his own car which at this time was something unusual in the area as owning a motor car was still not something everyone had or could afford to drive with most people working close to the town or only yards from the fire station they didn’t need this form of transport to get them to work they could just walk or ride a bike. It is ironic that in later life Wilf would own and sell Austin motor cars in his garage in Wheelock and become a land owner himself. Wilf now lives on the site of the old Brunner Mond Factory down Cotton Lane in Wheelock which again ironically was the site of the field where the fire brigade used to practice their firefighting skills by pumping the water from the river Wheelock and spraying it over the fields or possibly over the nearby buildings.

Wilf Wakefield left the Fire Service when he was 21 to join the army. During his time at Sandbach Fire Station Mr Gledhill who owned a paper shop in Wheelock was in charge with Mr Arnold Proudlove taking over in the 1950’s.

A list of officers dating from the 30 March 1942, for the No 27 Fire Force Area gives the following:-

- Fire Force Commander: Mr F Dann O.B.E.
- Fire Force Commander (2): Mr W Smith B.E.M.
- Divisional Officers: Mr B J Brown (P/T)
On the 20 September 1942, the ‘National Fire Service (Alteration of Fire Areas) Regulations 1942’ came into operation with three new Fire Force Areas being created. Taking over from the Fire Force 26 Area, Sandbach become part of Fire Force 41 with its HQ now being based at “Thelwell Heyes”, Grapenhall, Warrington with Commander W. Ewart Greenhalgh in charge. Fire Force 41 covered Sandbach, Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Haydock, Middlewich, Nantwich, Newton Le Willows, Northwich, Prescot, Rainford, Runcorn, St Helens, Tarvin, Warrington, Whiston, Widnes and Winsford, a total of 68 stations.

By the 1 July 1945, area (Fire Force) FF26 was reduced to 63 stations and on the 31 March 1948, it was reduced again to 42 stations. At Midnight on the 31 March 1948, control of the Brigades was taken again taken over by Local Authorities.

The end of the Second World War it was evident that the Country needed a special force to look after the needs of the people with regard to fire cover and like a lot of other bodies the fire service needed to change to reflect its needs.

The WAR YEARS were not only a time of great losses in the armed services but also in the Fire Brigade with many firefighters being killed by falling building’s, bombing and other catastrophise. Locally in Crewe four firemen were killed during this period.

John Alcock and Cyril Langley were killed while on an Air Raid Precautions (ARP) training exercise when on the 17 May 1939 they became trapped under their Home Office lorry and trailer pump when they were involved in an accident along with 12 other firemen from the Derby Street, Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS). At the time Crewe has over 200 firemen in the AFS to support the Crewe Corporation Fire Brigade. John Alcock was 37 at the time and lived in Ludford Street and served as a retained fireman with the Crewe Corporation Fire Brigade and often represented them in fire brigade competitions as well as working as a general worker with the Crewe Corporation. Cyril Langley was 29 when he died and lived in Goulden Street and was with the AFS in Crewe, a prominent member of the Order of Oddfellows and was a fitter in the brass finishing department at Crewe Works. When the two were buried they has a public service at Christ Church with the coffins mounted on the Crewe Corporation Fire Engine with 5,000 mourners following the cortège.

Colonel Officer Joseph D Entwistle was at the age of 40 when he died, he was also part of the National Fire Service and was unfortunately electrocuted at a house in Stafford Street when a hanging live cable came into contact with his steel metal helmet on the 29 November 1941.

Fire watcher William Roberts was killed when an enemy bomb hit his home in Hall-O-Shaw Street on the 8 April 1941. Aged 38 William was one of the Firewatchers who was operating on the top of the Crewe Municipal Buildings.

From 1945 to 2019 no fire-officer has been killed in the service of the Cheshire Brigade.

A NEW STATION AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD BUILDING.

With changes to the fire service the building behind the town hall was no longer needed and a move was planned with the old station being used by Sandbach Urban District Council as a store for Newspapers. Part of the building was also used as a newsagents by Frank Tunny with shutters on the front.

CHESHIRE FIRE SERVICE.

Established under a 1947 Act of Parliament the Cheshire Fire Service was formed and started its duties on the 1 April 1948 with 28 Stations in 5 Districts (Districts designated from A to E).

- District A to D included Sandbach, Congleton, Crewe, Middlewich, Nantwich with -Altrincham (District ?) Audlem (District ?), Bollington (District ?), Cheadle Hulme (District A), Hazel Grove (District A), Hyde (District A), Knutsford (District ?), Malpas (District ?), Marple (District A), Macclesfield (District ?), Northwich (District ?), Sale (District ?), Stalybridge (District A), Stockton Heath (District ?), Tarporley (District ?), Wilmslow (District ?), Winsford (District ?).

Cheshire District E covered – Ellesmere Port (District E), Frodsham (District E), Heswall (District E), Hoylake (District E), Port Sunlight (Lever Brothers) (District E), Runcorn (District E), Wirral (District E).
In about 1948, the Fire Brigade moved to a new fire house which was situated in the old Temperance Hall on Scotch Common. Like its predecessor it was described as a plain red brick building that had held up to 300 people and by 1902 was used as an Infant School in connection with the National School scheme. The building is now used as a storage room for the Sandbach Market stalls by the Town Council and it was this building that was the base for the engine until 1961 when the Brigade moved to its present location. Dennis Bell a fireman in the 1960’s said that the building could hold two appliances, one a main engine and a second smaller vehicle.

In 1948, Government regulations changed the way Fire Appliances were made and insisted that Fire Engine Cabs be enclosed with no firefighter sitting on the outside of the appliance as they had the potential for firefighters to fall off the machine. New or adapted appliances were brought into the town to comply with the regulations.

On the 1 April 1948, London Fire Brigade resumed operation after the war regulations and work started rebuilding the Fire Brigade nationally with new equipment being installed in engines having learned a lot during the wartime operations. This meant the introduction of Compressed Air Sets and the introduction of a 999 central Control System for emergency calls. It also meant an upgrade of the vehicles with many pre-war models being scrapped and across the country the old Fire “Red Boxes” in the streets were removed. These were like the Police summoning boxes and looked like the Dr Who TARDIS but in red. They were designed to allow the public to call the Fire Brigade without owning a phone in your home. An example of the TARDIS box painted red was for many years at the entrance to the Blackwell Tunnel in London.

A greater emphasis was also now being put on fire prevention with officers playing a more active role in teaching fire safety. The summer of 1949-50 was exceptionally dry and this led to a 33% rise in call outs to fires in Cheshire. It was also a period of increased malicious calls with 53 being logged in Cheshire over the year (1949-50) a trend that continued until 1956-57. At this time the main cause of fires were chimney related with a third of calls being for this reason. Other causes of fire were children playing with matches and sparks from locomotives.

After the war, the Fire Brigade kept the siren on the top of the Police building in Bold Street to summon the part time firemen to the station house on Scotch Common. The Siren was possibly kept on the Police Station so that it could be activated by the Police who had a continual presence in the building and so were available to start the alarm after the call came through from the telephone operator. When the new station opened in 1961 the siren was moved to the top of the tower at the back and was activated remotely.
With the end of World War 2, many new innovations were being introduced to the three services of Fire, Police and Ambulance including better communications. After trials by the Police Force in Cheshire the Fire Brigade followed in their footsteps by trialling radio communication and by the mid 1950’s, 25 appliances in Cheshire had a radio installed to direct the appliances once they were on the road to incidents.

The 1950’s were also a time for a change of skills connected to fighting fires with 240 members of the Cheshire Brigade becoming qualified in using breathing apparatus and some demonstrations were held to show underwater equipment. Speciality teams still exist in the area to help out at major incidents in this Country and today they can also be called upon to deal with incidents all around the world as well as their role in Cheshire.

In 1952 the Cheshire Brigade started a Fire Safety Campaign with two films being shown in Cinemas in the area. The two films were called “Every Five Minutes” and “Fire the Enemy” and were the start of educating the public of the area to be safe rather than rely on the Fire Service to extinguish their fires once they had caught hold. To back this up they also involved the local stations in going around discussing fire safety in the home which is something they still continue to do, mainly in the full time stations like Crewe and Congleton rather than the retained stations like Sandbach. Today, Sandbach is active in promoting fire safety at various events and also through a scheme to provide the elderly with fire alarms for their homes as well as safety checks.

In 1953 and 1954 the officers were issued with new tunics giving them better fire protection and a new type of helmet issued to all staff in the years that followed. The new tunics were made of wool which is hard to burn giving them that extra protection from sparks from fires etc.

A report in the Liverpool Echo of the 22 February 1955 tells of a fire that day in the “Times Supplies Stores” building in the High Street, Sandbach which was in-front of the Lion (Red Lion) Public House. The fire was caused by a spark setting fire to a beam in the building which destroyed hundreds of pounds worth of clothing stock and the building to be burnt out. Cardboard clothing boxes on the shelves and a display of frocks were reduced to charred fragments. A display of corded trousers and women’s underwear in the window were only singed.

The fire happened shortly after Midnight when Miss Rose Scutchon who sleeps in a flat in the same building block as the lock up shop and was still awake contacted Mr Reginald Sergeant a clerk employed at an electrical contractor who also occupied part of the building. He was told that smoke was coming from the premises and as he was unable to gain access to the offices because of the dense smoke which was sweeping down the central stairway he rang the fire brigade.

Firemen fought the blaze for over two hours and the fire was largely confined to the shop. Documents belonging to the electrical contractors were unharmed save for the water from the firemen’s hoses. The Times Supply Stores are owned by Mrs Elsie Broadhurst of Hassall Road, Sandbach who has had the business for only a few months and rented the premises from Mrs Kate Williams of High Street, Sandbach. It is possible that the building was demolished in 1957 as it no longer exists in the town centre.

In the Mid 1950’s Cheshire decided to improve stations in the area with major updates and the rebuilding of various stations. In 1954-5 a new fire station was opened in Audlem followed in 1956 by one at Ellesmere Port and in 1958 Poynton gained a new fire station, followed a year later in 1959 by one at Bebington.

Before, during and after the war up to the 1960’s they had the siren mentioned earlier as well as the bell network in each of the homes of the firemen, a system that had been available since the 1940’s as related by Wilf Wakefield for night-time calls. 1960’s fireman Len Mountford and Glynn Robinson (son of fireman Dennis Robinson) recalled that if you lived in the Town Centre, the siren on the Police Station and later the Fire Station itself would call you to a shout otherwise the bell system in your home would announce your attendance when needed. At this time Sandbach had two circuits for the system, one in the Main Town (Like Platt Avenue) which would call those in the area to the station and another network for the Top of the Hill area of Sandbach Heath and Wheelock. Depending on the severity of the fire or incident the station commander could then call out half of the crew or the whole division to attend the “shout”. Len Mountford recalled that it was not unusual for only the Town part of the crew to be called out rather than the Sandbach Heath personnel. One of those on the Town team was Dennis Robinson who at the time lived at 1 Platt Avenue and his son Glynn Robinson. Glynn recalled that the house had an enormous electric bell that would go off at any time Day or Night and his father would dash to the fire station. Len added that his bell was so loud that everyone in the street could hear it and would all dash out into the road to see him on his way to tackle a blaze or deal with an accident. He also adopted a way of ensuring he didn’t miss a call when he was out of the house. He would place a 3d
piece between the clapper and the bell (Outside) which would drop if the bell sounded. When Len returned home, and found the coin on the floor he would dash to the Fire Station to see if the appliance had left or was on standby hoping to get paid for the call.

In 1956, Dennis Bell joined the retained fire brigade in Sandbach having left school at the age of 13 in the Summer of 1946 with no qualifications but was informed by his headmaster in his class that if anyone found a job during the summer break, that as long as he was told about it they would be allowed to leave school before the exams. Dennis took him at his word and found employment with a local plumbers in the High Street, staying with them as an apprentice for the next seven years. At the age of 21 he joined the RAF having had his National Service deferred due to his occupation as a plumber. In the RAF he was a trained wireless operator and Marksman and gained qualifications as an interceptor which tracked Russian aircraft during the Cold War. After his service, he couldn’t settle back into civilian life as it lacked the life he had had in the RAF so when he saw an advert in the Crewe Chronicle for Retained Firemen at Sandbach he jumped at the opportunity to join up along with his neighbour Stan Hatton. They had only been in the service for a couple of weeks, when after the Tuesday parade had finished at 9pm they set off home on their bikes to Elworth Street. When they passed the Police Station in Bold Street the Siren went off calling them to an incident. Not having had much training they didn’t expect to be part of the crew that turned out. However at this time the station had two appliances in the Common’s Station and with the first appliance full of qualified men it set off to the “Legs of Man Hotel” for what was at first sight a chimney fire. With more retained firemen turning out the fire officer shouted at them, “For Christ Sake Jump on to the Second appliance”, so with no training and very little uniform they jumped on and headed for the fire. Dennis was put with a man called “Tippy Hollier” who told him that “the men were inside dealing with the chimney fire, but just in case we are needed we will put a ladder in the thatched roof so we are able to give assistance if needed”. After a few moments on the roof “Tippy” said “I don’t know about you, but doesn’t this thatch feel warm to you?” Dennis agreed and they both decided very quickly to get off the roof which within five minutes was alight with the customers still inside the pub. It soon became a major rescue mission to get them out safely while the sparks from the chimney started to reduce the thatched building to a burnt-out shell with the roof and top floor completely destroyed.

Arnold Proudlove, who was in charge at the time thought that the best training for a fireman was on a shout, however headquarters didn’t quite agree and so on Tuesday nights they still had to do training in the station in Sandbach on the common as well as travelling to Winsford and Crewe for specialist training. Scotch Common was by this time was also filling up with HGV’s on overnight stays from the M6 and on many occasions the brigade were called to an incident involving one or more of them bursting into flames. Training sometimes involved using breathing apparatus in a smoking building which took place at a specialist area at Crewe. This training was something that at the time was not much use to the retained fireman at Sandbach as the appliances didn’t have the breathing apparatus on board as this was reserved for the full time crews at places like Chester, Winsford and Crewe. According to Dennis Bell at this time had two appliances in Sandbach which were a Commer (Main Appliance) with a Dodge Flat Backed Wagon (2nd Appliance) which had what looked like a builders hut on the back of the vehicle and behind the wagon there was a pump.

NEW FIRE STATION AT SANDBACH.
The present Sandbach Fire Station was officially opened on the 21 June 1961 by Alderman F.D. Gee the Chairman of the County Fire Brigade Committee.

A picture at the time showed the 14 firemen at the station;

- Dennis Bell,
- Dennis Cotton,
- Alec Gamblin,
- Stan Hatton,
- Ted Heathcoat,
- Ted Horth (Who drove the Council Street Cleaning Vehicle as well as the Fire Engine),
- Jim Lancashire,
- Ted Lunt,
- Fred Mitchell,
- Tom Parkinson,
- Arnold Proudlove (Sub Officer),
- Bernard Stanway,
- John Truman,
- Eric Vickers,
- William Wakefield,
- Jack Whitby.

A picture at the opening of the station shows what looks like a Commer QX (Possible – Built in 1954 or Commer QX Mark IV) with the firemen in front of it.

According to Dennis Bell the Commer followed the crew from the 2nd Station to the new building and the Dodge was replaced by a brand new Land Rover Series 2 Redwing (AMB587B) which held four men and had a pump and water onboard.

Also, known as a Carmichael Forward Control Conversion fast light tender it carried a 100 gallons of water, a 10 gallon Foam Tank and dry powder in its standard format.

In the 1960’s the Sandbach Land Rover vehicle had been made into a Matchbox model with the Sandbach registration number (AMB587B) but with Kent Fire Brigade colours (Series Number 57 now worth between £44 and £89.99 on E Bay). Either the vehicle had been originally with the Kent brigade before being purchased by Cheshire or it had been a number plate destined for Kent but registered in 1960 to the Sandbach Appliance.

A new feature of the 1961 fire station complex was the inclusion of a telephone call box at the road entrance which could be used to call out the brigade using a direct line from the red phone inside a box on top of a metal pole. This link was directly connected to the fire brigade headquarters via the 999 system. It was later disbanded when a BT phone box was situated on the other side of the fire station / library entrance which could be used to dial 999, making what was by this time a rather tired looking and possibly vandalised box redundant.

On the 7th March 1962 one man died in a triple pile up of Heavy Goods Vehicles on the main London to Lancashire trunk road at Rode Heath near Sandbach. The Sandbach Fire Brigade raced to the crash spot to free the driver from Leeds, after his six-tonner had crashed into the back of a furniture van seconds after the van had been in collision in front of it on the south bound road. The last vehicle had been carrying a load of 40-gallon drums of paint which shifted forward and crushed the cab of the dead driver. With so much paint on the road fire fighters used hundreds of gallons of water to hose down the road to stop a spark igniting the fumes from the paint.

In December 1962 Dennis Bell was promoted to “Leading Fireman”, a quick rise in rank due mainly to the fact that when he joined the brigade the average age of the retained personnel was about 50 with many of them having been seconded during the Second World War to Manchester and Liverpool for help with the bomb damage. As you were forced to retire at 55 this meant that a lot were leaving due to reaching this age and were being replaced by younger people like himself.

Mr Bell had worked in about 5 different jobs since leaving the RAF and decided that if he wanted to do more with the Retained Brigade at Sandbach he should be available at all times rather than only at night or weekends and so decided to become a self-employed plumber, only taking jobs in Sandbach making him available 24 hours a day so he could attend “Shouts” when called.

The first major incident from the new station was the Boxing Day Rail Crash at Minshull Vernon in 1962 when 18 people were killed. On Wednesday, the 26th December 1962 the whole of the UK was watching on TV what Sandbach Fire Brigade was witnessing for themselves, a crash between two
trains on the line at Coppenhall Junction. They collided at just after 6pm with a flash of light streaking
across the sky that had been caused by the newly installed electric cables being hit by the last carriage
of the Liverpool to Birmingham train after it had run into the diesel-hauled Glasgow to Euston train
and headed skywards just a few yards from the Verdin Arms. The crash had been caused by a delayed
Birmingham Train which had been halted by frozen points and at the same time the driver of the
London Train went through a red light thinking it had been faulty due to the ice as his train had been
stopped earlier in its journey, resulting with the trains colliding and killing 18 people with another 34
injured.
Winsford fire brigade were first on the scene and put search lights onto the train which had jack-knifed.
Right at the top of the jack-knifed train, Dennis Bell remembers one dead body in particular, that of a
Soldier hanging out of one of the carriages a sight he will never forget.
There must have been eight or nine appliances on the scene helping with the recovery of people and
bodies from the wreckage. Dennis Robinson recalled that he was singled out to help find the bodies of
the dead at the scene of the accident and to try and identify them, a job he would also remember for the
rest of his life.
Dennis Bell also remembers that usually after a call the firemen were chatting about what had
happened but this time they returned to the station in complete silence, so horrific was the crash no one
wanted to speak about it.
The new road systems were coming into operation all over the country in the 1960’s with the M1
opening in 1960 and the M6 stretch between Bartomley, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel Thelwall near
Warrington being officially opened on the 15th November 1963 by the Minister for Transport. The
early drivers were given the opportunity to go at whatever speed they liked on these new roads as few
drivers actually took to them in the first few years. However, it soon became obvious that some sort of
speed restriction should be imposed as cars and lorries were starting to have an increased amount of
accidents.
On the 22 January 1964, 200 Vehicles collided in Freezing Fog on the M1 causing the worst disruption
to the Motorway since it had opened in 1960 with 22 people being taken to hospital.
The new stretch between Junction 16 and 17 of the M6 didn’t fare any better as on the same day (22
Jan 1964) two people were killed on Staffordshire Border near Keele after a Multiple Collision of 50
cars. A lorry driver died (Plus 1 other) at the scene of the accident and 6 people were taken to hospital.
The road remained closed for eight hours to clear the wreckage of 7 lorries.
On the 27 March 1964, the firemen from Sandbach helped in the rescue of a dog from a pit at Malkins
Bank, Sandbach and were awarded a Commendation from the Royal Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) for the rescue.
Dogs were not the only animals rescued at this time as the nearby canal trapped a number of Pigs,
Cows and Horses. Some other stations had a hoist which they could use to get the animals out of the
water once a strap had been placed around it. On a number of occasions the Sandbach crew were asked
to help place the strap on the animal in the water and a Fireman would strip off to his underclothes and
dive into the water usually with a crowd watching to make the rescue. On one occasion a crew member
showed a little bit more than he should have done as he went into the water much to the pleasure of
some young ladies watching nearby.
In the 1960's and 1970’s the new fire station still had the old War-time Siren which called the volunteer
brigade to the “Common”. It had also been used during the Cold War as a Warning system if there was
an imminent attack and the fire brigade were often called out when there was information about some
danger of attack coming and someone had to go into the fire station to wait to see if they had to switch
the siren on to warn the public and brigade members of a nuclear attack. If the siren lasted for a while,
then it was a call to a fire or incident however if it was a series of short blasts then it was a nuclear
attack warning.
However, in the mid 1960’s the Brigade received a number of complaints with regard to the length of
time the siren was sounded and so the time was reduced to a 30 second call rather than the longer
length of time until the part time firemen had all turned up at the station.
In later times Firemen were given Bleepers (or Bleeps), Radio Pagers or Fireman’s Personal Alerters
that were made by PYE (Issued in Humberside in January 1971) and were activated by a radio signal
issued from an aerial on top of the Fire Station which was activated by Brigade Control using telephone
lines.
A new Control Room at Brigade Headquarters was opened in the late 1960’s to deal with some 7450
calls a year including a 20% rise in property fires costing an estimated £120 million worth of damage.
In March 1965, Leading Fireman Bell was promoted again with the retirement of Arnold Proudlove to Sub Officer Dennis Bell.

In 1966 it was the tercentenary of the Great Fire of London and firemen from all over the country including Sandbach went down to London for an exercise at the Docks. Dennis Bell and a crew took a Green Goddess to the capital, stopping off at Cardington in Bedfordshire where Dennis had done his National Service in the RAF.

In January 1967, Sandbach, Congleton and Crewe fire engines were called out to Yew Tree House Farm following reports of a glow over Smallwood. When an appliance from Crewe arrived in the area they found a chicken shed alight and over 400 hens had been suffocated by smoke from the fire which had been caused by an Infer Red Ray Lamp overheating. Other appliances from Sandbach and Congleton were called to assist the Crewe appliance but were unable to save the birds owned by Mr J Hill.

In December 1967, a fire gutted the Foden Fibreglass Shop on the Friday when workers ran for their lives as flammable Fibreglass resin exploded into flames at the works. (Looking back 2017 21 Dec 2017 Sandbach Chronicle)

In March 1968, the Mill Warehouse belonging to G. H. Heath and Son Ltd in Sandbach at Brook Mill, was destroyed by fire with its stock of raw and processed yarns worth thousands of pounds going up in smoke. The fire started at about 1 pm during a lunch break when employees were out of the building and an employee heard a large explosion followed by flames licking through the roof seconds later. Firemen from six Cheshire Brigades tackled the blaze and stopped it from spreading to the adjoining spinning and coning rooms. The fire was so intense that metal chimney pots on the roof melted and black smoke from burning Terylene darkened the town on the crowded Thursday Market day and could be seen as far away as 5 miles. Appliances from Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Congleton and Crewe fought the fire for over three hours before it was extinguished.

In 1968, the Sandbach Fire Station played host to a special dinner at the Wheat Sheaf in the town for three local brigades with guests including Chester Staff Officer Mr Heaney-Glenn, Crewe District Officer Barnton and Assistant Officers M Fenton and Turner along with Chief Sub Officer for Sandbach Dennis Bell who headed over twenty members and ex members of the brigade who attended the meal. Vice Chairman of Sandbach Urban District Council Charles Kelly was also a guest at the event. A year earlier in 1967 the Sandbach Brigade were called out halfway through the meal so in 1968 they were glad it was all quiet.

The brigade also held an annual Children’s Christmas Party which in 1968 included seasonal goodies and gifts for the children of firefighters in the recreation room and games in the huge engine bay. Leading Fireman Taylor from Crewe showed cartoon films while Sandbach Sub Officer Dennis Bell held various games and “Mr E” provided a magic show alongside a Punch and Judy Show.

1968 SANDBACH FIRE DEPARTMENT
Sub Officer Dennis Bell
Leading Fireman Dennis Robinson and Ron Greenwood
On the 22 May 1971, the BP Chemical plant at Sandbach was damaged by an explosion after a pipe came adrift in the hydrogen compressing plant, allowing hydrogen to ignite. Divisional Officer Lightbody who was in charge of Crewe Fire Brigade said “It was fortunate this occurred on Saturday morning while the premises were unoccupied, otherwise there could have been some casualties”. The only member of staff on duty was taken to Crewe’s Memorial Hospital where he was treated for shock.

In March 1972, on the M1 North of Luton a crash involving 200 vehicles was recorded with nine people killed. This was due to the fog at that time and was the worst crash on any road in the country to that point.

By 1975, the Sandbach station had a Dennis F45 (WLG317J) with an on loan Dennis F8 main engine (RMB996), a model built by Dennis about 1955, which was at the time the loan machine for Cheshire Fire Brigade and had been based at the Audlem fire station. Today it is now one of the preserved engines in the Cheshire fleet with its Audlem name restored on its side, still with its wooden ladder. While based at Sandbach it was used as a second appliance and to check hydrants. The station also still had the smaller Land Rover (AMB587B) vehicle which was used to transport extra firemen to the scene of accidents and fires as well as dealing with small incidents. This was left outside the station with the two main engines housed inside the bays. The uniforms were also replaced in this decade with the old wool based tunic now being made redundant by a safer modern material which was a lot lighter and so made it easier to run and tackle the incidents as well as giving added protection.
The 1970’s were also a time of change as many of the larger forces were split into smaller areas including Cheshire which lost some of its northern towns to Merseyside and Greater Manchester with 23 stations being retained as the newly named “Cheshire Fire Brigade” (losing the Cheshire County Fire Brigade name).

One incident the Sandbach crew had to deal with was a car crash on the M6 at Sproston when an articulated lorry crashed into a car killing a mother and daughter from Surrey. Mrs Daphne Kingsbury and her daughter Fay Kingsbury aged 17 were killed with 20-year-old Miss Susan Kingsbury being injured by the crash and taken to the Manchester Royal Infirmary with her father Mr Richard Kingsbury escaping with minor injuries. An inquest into the incident was opened at Arclid Hospital the following Wednesday by Deputy Coroner Mr David Daniel and adjourned until Thursday the 17th September at 11am.

Another incident in Sandbach during this time was spotted by Leading Fireman Dennis Robinson who was walking across Sandbach Common near the fire station and spotted a Chemical Tanker on the car park leaking poisonous liquid from its side. Dennis then halted a passing police patrol car and they immediately put out the call to alert the fire brigade who turned up to deal with this corrosive problem which threatened the tyres of other vehicles on the square. A search was then started to find the driver of the vehicle in the various Transport Café’s and public houses. When he was located, the police escorted him back the vehicle and he was instructed to drive back to the Sandbach Chemical Works where he had first loaded the chemicals and was followed by a fire crew to make sure no more damage was done by the corrosive material inside the tanker.

In 1976 Cheshire Fire Brigade had to lose a number of personnel as it was forced to make £38,000 worth of saving to its budget. This led to a major strike in 1978 lasting 9 weeks by the brigades nationally, with stations only dealing with emergency calls and major fires like the “Rock Oil” fire in Warrington.

1976 also had the Sandbach brigade out for the longest time as at about 10am a call went out to attend a grass fire in Sandbach. When that was extinguished the crew were then directed to a stand by position at Winsford Fire Station, but as they turned up they were then redirected to another grass fire. After again dampening down the grass fire the crew returned to Winsford to resume stand by duties but were again redirected, this time to Northwich Fire Station where they were again sent out to tackle another blaze. Another return to Northwich and yet another redirection this time to Ellesmere Port to deal with two incidents. One of these incidents was to act as a relay pump to get water out of the River Mersey which was then directed to one of the main pumps dealing with a fire. At the end of this shout it was about 2am the following day and the Crew were sent back to Sandbach to rest after a total of 16 hours dealing with fires. Len Mountford described the day’s events as being like the London Blitz with fires breaking out all over the area.

In May 1977 the Odex Factory of Crewe Chemicals’ Works at Rookery Bridge were wrecked by an explosion that caused £500,000 worth of damage. One person was taken to Leighton Hospital with minor injuries. The blast also started a blaze with fire crews from Cheshire and Staffordshire attending the incident which also spread to the factory of Newfield Fabrications opposite.

During 1977 the station had 17 Men with two Leading Firemen including Mr Dennis Bell (44) who was the Sub Officer and had by this time 20 years of Service with the County Fire Department.

The Chain of Command at the time in South Cheshire was thus –
Brigade Headquarters at Chester.

Commander  Mr Bert Brennon
Deputy Commander  Mr George Barton
Assistant Deputy Commander  Mr Noel Lightfoot

Divisional Headquarters at Crewe

Divisional Commander  Mr William Foster
Assistant Divisional Commander  Mr William Pearce
Divisional Officer (Operations)  Mr David Jones

Sandbach Fire Station.

Sub Officer  Mr Dennis Bell

The 1978 strike by the Fire Brigade Union was not a pleasant experience for the Sandbach Station. Dennis Bell and the other Union members decided that there were sufficient grounds for them not to work during the strike period leaving cover for area in the hands of the army with their Green Goddesses. Although Dennis and the retained firemen didn’t want to picket they decided that they would lock the station and not return to the building until the strike was over. This was not the unpleasant experience I mentioned above as this action was peaceful and the Sandbach Firefighters thought that this action was all that was needed to express their opinion in the industrial dispute. However some of the militant part of the Union decided to come to Sandbach and picket outside the station against the wishes of the Sandbach Brigade. At the time all firemen had a standard set of keys which enabled them to open all the stations in the Country and these particular Union Members decided that it was not good enough for Sandbach to just shut the station doors in protest and so they decided that they had to make sure it was not able to be used by anyone else and went inside the building to destroy equipment that allowed the station to be used after the strike and would have been needed to return to work. Dennis still feels angry at what this minority did to his station by vandalising what in essence belonged to the people and firefighters of Sandbach.

On Saturday, the 23 February 1980 (or Friday 22 February 1980) a Hydrogen Tanker was on fire next to a bridge on the M6 near Bartomley. Sandbach and crews from both Cheshire and Staffordshire attended the incident with over 60 fire fighters. As Sandbach’s crew drove down the slip road they met a police car coming in the opposite direction. The officer inside the car informed the Sandbach firefighters that the tanker was on fire and the driver was trapped inside his cab. He went on to say that if the tanker exploded it would probably take out the Motorway bridge and was something he was not staying around to witness before he sped off in the opposite direction to the incident. The Leading Fireman in charge of the incident took the Sandbach men to investigate the crash scene and yes there was a fire coming out of the expansion tube at the back of the tank which in the opinion of the firemen posed no problem and that they would let it burn itself out.

Getting the driver out of his cab was another problem as he was well and truly trapped. His first words to Dennis Dell were “Don’t let your men smoke as the tanker is highly flammable”, not realising there were flames coming out of the back of his trailer. It was decided to enlist the services of a giant crane which could lift the truck onto its four wheels after the fire was out, allowing better access for the rescue team to free the driver. However, the Heavy crane which was based at Longton, Stoke on Trent took three hours before it arrived at the scene and longer before the driver could be freed. Luckily the driver of the Hydrogen tanker, Mr Thomas Sharpe (aged 53 from Urmston, Manchester) only sustained a few bruises, cuts and an ankle injury. In the end the incident involving 284 hydrogen cylinders in the tanker had crews from Sandbach, Crewe, Burslem, Hanley, Kidsgrove, Newcastle under Lyme and a flying squad medical team who administered pain killing injections to the driver during his ordeal before taking him to the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary for treatment. The police shut off roads along a 15 mile stretch of the M6 between Handchurch and Sandbach and notified residents of the danger within a mile of the incident.

By 1986, the PYE alerters in many Brigades were withdrawn and replaced by a model made by Multitone and in 1996 these were again replaced with a version by NEC Pagers.

1986, also saw the brigade tackle an incident at St Mary’s Church in the town centre when the South Aisle Roof of the building caught fire causing £17,000 worth of damage. It was caused by workmen making repairs to the roof and unfortunately, they set the building alight. Dennis Bell and Ron Greenwood were probably the saviours of the Church as they made a foolhardy decision that professionally was wrong, but had they not done so would have meant the loss of the St Mary’s Church to the people of Sandbach. The Fire Service always says do not use other people’s
ladders, use your own as you never know how stable other ladders can be. However, on this occasion Dennis and Ron decided to use the wooden ladder the workmen had left up to gain access to the roof and with a hose from the appliance they put out the fire. Had they waited for a ladder from the appliance to be erected and made secure then the building may have burnt to the ground. They both got into trouble for their efforts, but the people of Sandbach I am sure think they made the right decision to save the building.

In 1986, four South Cheshire Firemen received Long Service awards and good conduct medals from the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lord Leverhulme. Sub Officer William Evans of Nantwich (Joined 1966 at Bebington and then Heswall and Ellesmere Port), Divisional Officer Brian French (48) from Crewe (Joined in 1965 at Ellesmere Port then Winsford and back to Ellesmere Port, Chester, Frodsham and Widnes), ex-Retained Fireman Eric Langley of Audlem (1965 to 1985 at Audlem) and Retained Fireman Leonard Mountford of Sandbach were given a 20-year service award. Len (51) had joined the Sandbach Brigade in July 1966 from Staffordshire where he started at the Burslem Fire Station.

On the 16 June 1987, there was a fire at the 160-year-old Bradwall Manor, the home of Sir John and Lady Barlow who had died in 1986 after 60 years in the building. The building was in the process of being renovated for Mr George Barlow and his wife Anne at the time with workers finishing their day at 5.30pm. The fire was spotted by neighbour Wilfred Gleave who alerted his daughter 21-year-old bank employee Miss Jenny Gleave of Oakley Farm who raised the alarm, alerting the fire services at about 11pm. Eight Fire Appliances from Sandbach, Middlewich, Crewe and Congleton attended the incident with the last appliance arriving at about 1am. The fire is said to have started in the basement of the building and quickly spread along the floor which collapsed into the basement during the night. Mrs Anne Barlow the daughter in law of Sir John and Lady Barlow, was called from her home in Hanbury where they were staying during the building work only to discover the building surrounded by dense black smoke when she arrived. Water to fight the fire was not readily available and a water relay scheme was implemented to bring water from a nearby pond. Divisional Fire Officer Ian MacDonald said he was satisfied with the way his officers had tacked the outbreak saving much of the building and finally putting out the flames some two hours later at 3am. Some officers had used breathing apparatus to tackle the blaze from the inside, saving some of the main rooms.

On the 11 July 1987, Ron Greenwood took over as Sub Officer at Sandbach with Dennis Bell officially leaving the job the previous night, the 10 July which was the day of his 55th Birthday an age that was at this time a compulsory retirement age within the Cheshire Fire Brigade. Dennis Bell (55) had begun his career with the fire service in October 1956 as a retained fireman at Sandbach and by December 1962 he was promoted to leading fireman. In March 1965, he again stepped up the ladder to Sub Officer which meant that he was now Commander of the Sandbach Station, taking over from the late Arnold Proudlove. On his retirement after 30 years the Sandbach station threw a special evening at The Saxon Cross Motel (Holmes Chapel Road) and presented him with an engraved tankard, while Cheshire County Council gave him a silver salver and a free pass to Tatton Park. In the 30 years of service Dennis had attended over 15,000 call-outs. The evening also included a presentation to Fireman Les Jones who also retired after only 20 years at Sandbach.

On the 8 January 1989, a Boeing 737 crashed into the embankment of the M1 motorway near the East Midlands Airport killing 47 Passengers and crew on board. Luckily no one on the motorway was caught up in the crash which technically was the worst death toll in one accident on a British Motorway until this point.

On the 9-10 March 1989, headlines appeared on the front page of the newspapers after a Motorway Crash on the M6 that had caused major disruptions. Four People (2 Men a Woman and a young Girl) were killed and 10 others were injured in a 33 car and lorry crash between Junction 16 and 17 on the M6. It was thought that a tanker spilled a load of chemicals which sent cars and lorries skidding out of control. This was the first crash of the day at 6.28am between Sandbach and Barthomley and was attended by 14 Crews from throughout Cheshire. Dozens of Ambulances were also on the scene of the crash which has tailbacks of 15 miles.

A second accident happened a few miles south of the first accident when an HGV spilled several barrels of deadly sulphuric acid causing four HGV and several cars to be involved in this second crash between Keele and Barthomley causing more delays and as the acid burnt the surface of the M6 it had to be replaced causing even more delays as well as the Staffordshire Fire brigade having to use breathing apparatus and lots of water to dilute the acid.
On the 1 December 1989 and another crash on the M6 when two people died and 11 were injured in a multiple crash on the motorway near the Staffordshire / Cheshire border at Junction 16 in freezing fog at 11.15am on the northbound carriageway.

Technology was becoming common place in fire engines in the 1980’s including in 1989 the introduction of a Thermal Imaging Camera to find people trapped in smoke filled rooms. Another new device that was starting to appear on Fire appliances was a “Combi Tool” which was used to help free injured people who were trapped in a car crash. With this high tech cutting equipment the Firemen were able to cut the time of releasing a person from a car from up to 45 minutes with the old equipment (Black Hawk Zip Gun and Power Saw) to 10 minutes with the new tool. However, at a cost of £4,500 the County couldn’t afford one for each station and so Sandbach was one of those stations who decided to raise funds for the equipment by a public appeal. On Tuesday, the 12 September 1989 the fund received a boost of money when Nigel Wood, the Chief Executive of Hays Chemicals presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Sandbach Station Commander.

One of the stations equipped with the “Combi Tool” included Holmes Chapel who came to Sandbach to display how the equipment worked for interested bodies in the area as Sandbach launched its appeal with a car donated by Sandbach Car and Commercial, of Moston Road having its roof taken off by their Four fire officers who gave the demonstration.

The Chain of Command in 1989 (From a Feature in the Sandbach Chronicle) –

Chief Fire Officer of Cheshire Mr Dennis Davis
Divisional Fire Officer Mr David Greatorex
Sub-officer Mr Ron Greenwood

In the 1990’s a new phone system called “Voicebank”, was installed at headquarters for the media to contact the brigade for the latest information about incidents. This has since been replaced by an internet page where everyone can access the information on the latest and historic fires in Cheshire.

http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/news-events/incidents

The 1990’s also saw the introduction of the Gallet or Eurohelmet which offered an increased protection compared to the Cork helmet of the 1940’s.

In Audlem during October 1990 the first female Firefighter with Cheshire County Council joined the Brigade as a trainee. Gill Dimelow had seen her children grow up and decided to look for a new challenge when an advert in the local paper caught her eye for new firefighters at her local station. She applied and was appointed to the retained brigade. In 1994 she was part of the response units to the Octel Fire and had to wear a chemical suit before retrieving cows from a swimming pool nearby. Although Gill is the first Female Firefighter in the Cheshire Brigade, she was certainly not the first in Cheshire as we discovered in 1939 when Mrs Harrison and Mrs Robinson drove the Sandbach Urban District Fire Engine. However she did follow in their footsteps by becoming a qualified “Blue Light” driver of the Audlem Appliance and trained drivers on LGV Vehicles and Fire Appliances. Gill also attained the rank of Watch Manager and in 2011 she was awarded her Long Service Good Conduct Award from the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire becoming the first female firefighter to do so. In July 2011 Gill Dimelow decided to retire from the Audlem Station and was presented with a retirement certificate at the station by Cheshire East’s Unitary Performance Manager Alex Waller.

On the 13 March 1991, this time on the M4 at Junction 14, a crash involving 51 vehicles and included 10 fatalities with 25 reported injuries. It had been caused by a van driver skidding into the central barrier. This took the highest death toll on the Motorways to 10, more than the 1972 M1 Crash.

It was also at this time that Sandbach had a major incident at the old Foden factory on Station Road, Elworth. The building had been the home of a Go-Carting Track and other businesses when on the evening of the 23 September 1995, the building caught fire destroying the old factory area in what was described as the biggest fire in the town with appliances from all over the area in attendance trying to put it out the fire without success as far as the building was concerned as it had to be demolished. St Stevens Church also had to be evacuated and various local residents helped house those in need while the fire was tackled by appliances from Sandbach, Crewe and the surrounding area. Firefighters were still dampening down the area on the 24 September 1995.

ATTENDING FIRE APPLIANCES Included:-
SANDBACH = Dennis / Carmichael SS133 (D688PMB)
SANDBACH = Land Rover L4T (DMB902X)
MACCLESFIELD = Dennis F124 (1980) Hydraulic Platform
In October 1996, an incident involving Sandbach and area firemen hit the national headlines after a helicopter crash near Middlewich, when Chelsea Manager Matthew Harding (b. 26 Dec 1953, d. 22 Oct 1996 aged 42) died on his way home from a football match in Bolton on the 22 October. The pilot Stephen Holdich (aged 49) who was flying the aircraft, a Twin Squirrel helicopter was not supposed to have flown during the late night but defied this to take Mr Harding and three others home to Chelsea. When they reached the Middlewich area things went tragically wrong and 5 people died in the crash. Firemen from Sandbach discovered the body of Matthew Harding some distance from the wreckage as he seemed to have been thrown from the aircraft either on impact of before it landed.

In 1997, Leading Fire-fighter Martin Stone (d. May 2013) retired after 17 years with the Sandbach Fire Brigade having originally been a fireman in Birmingham. On looking back at his career in Sandbach he recalled that Sandbach Fire Fighters were joined by crews from all over Cheshire to control the fire at the Old Fodens Works but the buildings were so far gone they had to be demolished soon after the fire had been put out. He left to concentrate on his paving stone business in Elworth.

On the 13 February 1997, the appliance attended an incident where a horse had jumped into the Trent and Mersey Canal at Mill Lane, Moston. The fire-fighters treatment of the incident lead to their second award of a Commendation from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA).

In 1997, the station came third in the District National Fire-fighters quiz.

In March 1997, the Headquarters at Walmoor House closed down (Built in Chester in the 1890’s by Architect John Douglas, it was locally known as Douglas Castle or Douglas Folly where he lived from 1901 until 1911 when he died. In 1918 the Douglas family left the house and it became a Girls School called “Walmoor College”) and in October 1997 the Duke of York officially opened the new Headquarters at Winsford which in June 2010 had an extra extension added to the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ.

March the 10th 1997 was the date of another horrific crash on Britain’s Motorways when a total of 160 vehicles collided on the M42 near Bromsgrove killing 3 people and injuring 62. A lorry entering the motorway from the slip-road at a speed of 56mph before slowing down to 32mph and rammed into the back of a tanker which then struck a car and exploded causing 130 vehicles to collide in foggy conditions. On the opposite side of the road another 30 vehicles collided, 20 minutes after the initial incident. In total 5 Air Ambulances and 25 road ambulances took the injured to hospitals all over the Midlands area.

In 2001 there was a foot and mouth outbreak in the UK with a lot of farms being effected in this area. Sandbach Fire Brigade was sent out most days to deal with some event concerning the outbreak including visiting farms to wash down tractors that had been used to transport infected carcasses that had been slaughtered for burial.

In 2002, a Fire Cadet Unit was formed at the station with financial support of a £4,500 donation from the Sandbach Town Council which was presented on the 7th August by Councillor Dot Flint (Now with Sandbach Partnership), Mayor Elsie Alcock who continue to actively support the Cadet Unit to this day and are both Honorary Fire Cadets with Joy Cansfield. The project was co-ordinated by Sub Officer John Brownrigg and Firefighter Chris Wardle with Sally Beresford who became the units first leaders.
On the 19th August 2002, the Brigade held an Open Day where parents and boys were invited to the Sandbach Fire Station at 7pm if they were interested in joining the group. After a tour of the station the first 15 people interested were invited to join the scheme with their first project being to decorate a Portakabin which will be positioned behind the Fire Station. The Cadets officially started in October 2002, and on the 17 June 2003, they held their first Presentation Evening when Ben Bradbury who had joined the team as Cadet Instructor earlier in 2003 gave a speech along with other Cadet leaders. Ben was well placed to help with the cadets having joined a similar scheme in Macclesfield before becoming a retained fireman at Sandbach. In all six girls and nine boys were awarded certificates, having completed a ten-week introduction course which actually took 31 weeks to complete due to a National Fire Brigade Strike. Congleton Mayor Doug Parker (Congleton Borough) officially opened the passing out event with Cheshire Chief Fire Officer, Steve McGuirk in attendance.

The Cadet Scheme provides young people aged 12 to 18 with an insight into working within a public service, encouraging them to develop personally and socially while promoting self-discipline, team work and citizenship. The first Cadet Unit in Cheshire was opened at Poynton in 1992 and is a typical unit consisting of around twelve Cadets with three or more voluntary Cadet staff. The scheme had been proceeded by a Junior Fire Fighters Scheme in the 1980’s to encourage those leaving school to join the Brigade and a Cheshire Council Youth Training Scheme from 1987, which became known as the Apprentice Firefighters Scheme which unfortunately proved difficult to recruit applicants for.

The Present Cadet scheme is very successful, with most Stations in Cheshire and across the Country having their own units, which promote physical, mental and emotional wellbeing through taking part in structured activities during one night each week at the Fire Station with additional events taking place at weekends and during School Holidays.

The Cadets make a positive contribution to the community through activities such as promoting Fire and Road Safety initiatives as well as supporting local community events. They have also fostered links with communities in Northern Ireland and Germany and have participated in projects to build much needed schools in remote regions of Ghana and Nepal; the cost of these being met by the Cadet’s own fund-raising. By the end of 2009 the Cadets had raised £580 and continue to add to this total for worthy projects. Fundraising included a number of Car washes in March 2003 (Comic Relief), December 2003 (For Children in Need), and March 2010 (Firefighters Charity raising £275).

Sandbach Fire Cadets meet every Tuesday evening from 7pm to 9pm with the unit currently being run by Fire Volunteers Craig, Anita and Charlotte Howell who together with Firefighter Nick Regan have seen over one hundred young people passing through the unit since it opened. Seven Cadets have since become Firefighters in Sandbach or at other stations around the County of Cheshire with a further dozen having roles within the Police, Ambulance and Health Services. In 1997 Craig Howell had purchased a Land Rover Fire Tender that had been stationed at Hartleypool which he decided to bring to the Sandbach Transport Festival and parked it on the Common. Chris Fox was in charge of the station at the time and was asked by Craig if he would like him to bring the Land Rover over to the Fire Station display and Chris thought it was a good idea. From that time Craig has brought it to the festival as part of the official display.

In 2006, Chris Wardle was awarded the Fire Cadet Leader of the Year Award for his work in Sandbach.

In April 2006 Charlotte Howell, Craig and Anita’s daughter joined the Sandbach Cadets with Craig dropping her off each week and staying outside on a Tuesday night until the evening was over. However organiser Chris Wardle enquired if Craig would like to help out as he and Sally Beresford were thinking of leaving the cadets. So in September 2006, Craig Howell and Anita started helping out and by the end of 2008 they were organising the Sandbach Cadets.

Sandbach Cadets participate in many local events including the Sandbach Today event, Transport Festival, Family Fun Days, the Christmas “Tree of Lights” service at the Cemetery, the annual Poppy Appeal, Help for Heroes and the ‘Sandbach Light Switch On’ with their mascot a giant “Tigger” (Winnie the Poo Character) often in attendance.

In 2004, Female retained Fire-fighter, Emma Hudson was awarded for her sporting endeavours during 2003 at the Cheshire Fire Service’s Second Annual Award ceremony. She had competed in the World
Fire Fighter Games in Barcelona winning a Gold Medal for the 1,500m event and a bronze for the 5,000m.
Emma had also come first in the Cross-Country Championships (2003), 3000m Ladies Track and Field Championships 2003 (Award) and 800m Ladies Track and Field Championships (Award).

2007 Aztec Chemicals in Crewe

On the 28 May 2008, a Fire took place in the local area at the Bear’s Paw in Warmingham during renovations and was attended by two Fire Engines from Crewe an incident that closed the building which had virtually been gutted. It was reopened on the 20 May 2009 after extensive rebuilding. (Some websites put this event on the 27 May 2008)

On the 18th August 2009, the station had a special guest, Ryan Moore (11 from Wistaston near Crewe) who sufferers from Cerebral Palsy and was the guest of “Caldwell Children” who during the Transport Festival that year treated Ryan to a behind the scenes view of the event with Joe Egan the Heavyweight Champion who was guest of honour that year. Ryan was presented with a special photograph album with pictures taken on the day by the charity and Chairman of the Town Council, Elsie Alcock.

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On the 1st February 2010, at 11pm a fire ripped through St Peters Church Hall in School Lane, Elworth taking eight hours to put out. Crews from Sandbach, Crewe (2), Nantwich, Middlewich and the Aerial Appliance from Macclesfield used a total of six main jets and a jet from above to stop the building from collapsing. The first two crews that attended were from Sandbach and Crewe. On arrival they soon realised that they could not deal with the incident alone and so they requested a second unit from Crewe to attended along with one from Middlewich and a request was also put in for the aerial appliance from Macclesfield, which was also deployed. The Command Unit from Northwich and the Environmental Protection Unit from Ellesmere Port were also mobilised to deal with the incident. Unfortunately, the fire damaged the building too much to save it and it was demolished to make way for a new hall.

On the 25th June 2010, Christopher Wardle was given a long service good contact medal for 20 years exemplary service.

One of the largest fires in the area happened on the 19 June 2011, when 20 Pumps and around 100 men attended a fire at Peckforton Castle near Tarporley. The call came in at about 4.48am with the fire taking hold in the premises off Stone House Lane. First on the scene were appliances from Tarporley and Malpas. Also sent to the scene were fire crews from Nantwich, Chester, Ellesmere Port, Crewe, a Hydraulic Platform, High Volume Pump and the Major Incident Command Unit. Soon more appliances were called including Sandbach, Runcorn and others from Cheshire and the neighbouring services including appliances from Merseyside, Shropshire and North Wales. All three wings of the hotel were affected and by 7.30pm that day the number of appliances were cut down to three and a Hydraulic Platform was used to dampen down the building. The incident turned out to be a crime scene with one man being arrested for causing the fire.

2011 was the 50th Anniversary of the station building at Sandbach and the service celebrated with an event on the Cobbles which also raised funds for Luke Tindell (Fire Cadets) to go to Ghana and Station Manager John Brownrigg who was climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in 2012 to raise funds for the Fire Fighters Charity and Northwest Air Ambulance. Following the event day, fire-fighters from 1961 were invited to a celebration at the Military Arms public house on Congleton Road for a celebration and special Dennis Fire Engine Cake.
By 2011, the station was issued with a Rapid Response Unit (Range Rover DK56OTN in 2007) and a main engine a Mercedes Atego (Y495PTU Purchased in 2000 for Winsford, which had also been stationed at Runcorn) with a compliment of 14 fire-fighters and two Watch Managers on call. The Rapid Response Unit was on display at the anniversary event along with the last appearance of the Rescue Land Rover before it was taken out of service to be restored. A Dennis Sabre and a vintage Green Goddess were also on display alongside a Jaguar E Type, the model having been launched in 1961, the same year the station was opened.

On the 20 June 2012, a fire broke out above a computer shop on Scotch Common with a number of appliances turning out to fight the fire including Sandbach’s Mercedes Atego (Y495PTU), Crewe’s Scania P320 (PO11FZR), Macclesfield Hydraulic Platform (V667KMA) and the Macclesfield Scania (PN10HRO).

On the 21 July 2012, the Fire Cadets filmed a Road Safety Video around the Library, Ambulance and Fire Station area.

In October 2012, a fire started at the Rubbish Recycling Plant at Widnes and burned for four weeks becoming the longest lasting fire in Cheshire with appliances from all over the county taking turns to try and extinguish the flames.

In 2012, Station Manager John Brownrigg climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the Fire Fighters Charity and Northwest Air Ambulance in a six day trek up Africa’s highest mountain. In April 2013, John Brownrigg received his Long Service and Good Conduct Award for 20 years in Sandbach at a ceremony at Eaton Hall in Chester with the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs. Over his years he recounted that he had attended about 5,500 incidents with the previous week of his award (11 April Sandbach Chronicle) seeing him attend a fire at the White Lion in Bartomley (Monday) where they tackled the blaze in the thatched roof for six hours and a couple of hours later on the Tuesday they were called out to the Busch GVT Factory fire in Congleton. He then went off to his day job as Fire Crew Manager at Manchester Airport. 22 years previously he had just arrived as an Undertaker and funeral director in Sandbach when he saw an advert for Retained Firemen and applied not thinking it would take over his life.

Sandbach Fire-fighters over the years included Sub Officer 3231Christopher Fox (b. 1949 .D. Feb 2014) who after his death had a Memorial Bell dedicated to him in the station along with a picture of his team at Sandbach. His funeral at Elworth on the 19 February 2014 included the Dennis F8 Appliance from the Heritage Society in the Cortege. The current Mercedes Fire Engine from Sandbach, The Rapid Response Range Rover and the old V8 Land Rover now owned by Craig Howell (Cadet co-ordinator) were parked opposite the Church entrance as a tribute to the retired station Sub Officer.

By 2015, retained Fire personnel had the use of the Gartan Availability system which shows when a fire-fighter is available for duty and links with the Control Centre so they know who can man an appliance in an emergency. By this time Retained Fire Personnel must live within a five-minute radius of the station and be within that area for active duty. The Gartan Availability system can be used by a Fire-fighter at any time to book in via a PC, Smartphone or Text to an automatic booking system rather than the old system of phoning the Control Centre to tell them when you were available.

On the 17 July 2015, at 9.11am fire crews were called to a village between Congleton and Macclesfield for what became known in the media as the Bosley Mill Fire. The incident was in a wood clip mill...
when a series of explosions took place creating a fire and the building to collapse. 4 people were taken to hospital and by 12 midnight another 4 people were still missing. Soon after the building had been declared safe 3 bodies were recovered from the rubble with a 4th still missing by Christmas of 2015. Since then there has been no report of the final body being discovered as it could have been near the initial explosion making it impossible to discover. 23 Fire Engines were called to the incident starting with appliances from Congleton, with the retained firemen from Sandbach being called in second. In all there were 12 Cheshire appliances, 9 from Greater Manchester, 1 Derbyshire unit plus a Water Tanker Engine, 1 Staffordshire, 2 Arial Appliances, 1 Command and Control Unit, 1 High Volume Pump and 1 Environmental Protection Unit. (Ellesmere Port’s Scania P320 Foam Unit PE63OUO attended on the 17th July and their Mercedes Atego DA02OZX, Scania PO12HVB and MAN PM184 -WX54VTY Environmental Protection Unit attended on the 18 July 2015) I was working in Congleton Post office at the time of the call and having just arrived at work we all knew in the town something big was happening as Fire appliance after Fire appliance drove through the town with helicopters flying over head towards Bosley. For weeks afterwards Sandbach and other appliances attended the scene to search for the missing bodies as well as securing the site for an investigation into the cause of the explosions.

2016, didn’t see a major incident like Bosley for Sandbach to attend but lots of events that caught the interest of the public. The first of these was the noise of an explosion in Elworth on the 27 January 2016, which was caused by a broken electric cable above the railway lines near Sandbach Station bringing appliances from Sandbach, Alsager (In training), Middlewich, Winsford and the Major Incident Unit (also from Winsford) to the town at 7.50am. It turned out to be a non-event with crews standing by if needed when the railway repair team cut the power to make repairs. The year continued with more incidents and yet another animal rescue on the 2 February 2016 when a horse fell in to the canal at Betchton Road, Sandbach. The call came at 8.16am and a crew from Sandbach and the Rope Rescue Unit from Knutsford attended the incident and managed to lift the horse out of the water with the use of a mechanical lifting machine from a nearby farm.

FODEN BAND ROOM FIRE

On what turned out to be a sunny day in the middle of Sandbach, Foden’s Band played for the crowds of people in the town for the Sandbach Transport Festival on the 17 April 2016. As usual during that weekend the Fire Station put on a display of old engines as well as their own equipment with the appliance itself having to leave the station twice as it was sent out during the event to attend calls. On the Saturday, they attended a false alarm (Alarm going off) and on the Sunday at 3.29pm they were called out to an incident at Boundary Lane in Congleton to help their crew tackle a petrol leak from some cans.
On the Sunday after the Foden Band concert outside the Town Hall they marched proudly down the main street to the Old Hall and from 1.30pm to about 2.24pm played in their current red uniforms for what turned out to be the last time. With Foden Steam engines and models pouring out smoke over the crowds and the band, little did they think that later that day they would fall victim to the cruellest of fates in their 116-year history, a fire in their band-room at “Flowcrete” in Moston on the Middlewich Road.

The band took their instruments and music back to the band-room at about 3pm in the afternoon when nothing out of the ordinary was detected at the time but at just after 5.45pm an automatic fire alarm was set off and alerted the fire brigade to smoke and flames in the building. A fire crew from Sandbach was despatched to attend the incident and soon realised that more pumps were needed as flames were seen coming out of the building to a height of about 30 feet in what turned out to be the band-room / rehearsal room of Foden’s Band. At about 6.15pm crews from the surrounding area arrived at the scene and started work to extinguish the flames. In all eight pumps attended the incident as well as a hydraulic platform. Two pumps were used to bring water from the nearby canal to the scene with three or four being deployed around the back of the site with the others being used to tackle the fire from the main entrance to the Flowcrete site. At first the hydraulic platform was deployed at the back of the building to tackle the fire from above but by 9pm was moved to the front to mop up small outbreaks in the adjoining roof space above what was the music library on the first floor.

Crews did a brilliant job of setting up fire breaks to stop the fire from spreading into the reception area of Flowcrete and the rehearsal room below but the upper floor which stored the main bulk of the band’s music was so badly damaged that it collapsed into the space below destroying some of the instruments and a number of trophies the band had been awarded over the years. So fierce was the fire in the music library that a recently acquired set of cutlery owned by Harry Mortimer was never found in the ashes of the building.

By 8.15pm the fire was under control and the number of engines was reduced to six. By 9.50pm the amount of crews were again reduced as it was a dampening down exercise and salvage operation with fire personnel retrieving as much as they could from the Rehearsal room which in real terms was not a lot. Saved from the fire was a bust of William Foden, a couple of trophies and surprisingly a poster dating back to 1900 with the words Relief of Mafeking on it. Many of the other objects from the band-room were far too damaged to be salvaged but some of the music library was saved along with some percussion instruments. Surprisingly a metal box of original manuscripts dating back as far as 1914 survived with most of the music burnt on the edges but otherwise in quite good condition. This was Sandbach Fire Brigade at its best, doing what it can to save property and stop a small fire destroying the livelihood of many of the workers at Flowcrete while retrieving artefacts as soon as possible to keep the history of the town alive, as much as it can.

SADNESS IN SANDBACH

Before 2.52am on Saturday the 30 October 2016, a fire broke out at a property in Platt Avenue which claimed the life of 8-year-old Lucas Carter and left his 35-year-old mother, Kelly-Ann in hospital. Four fire engines from Sandbach, Crewe and Middlewich attended the incident in an end house towards the Elworth Street end of the road. Lucas a pupil at Offley Road School was rescued from the upstairs by one of six firemen wearing breathing apparatus and was taken to Leighton Hospital along with his mother but he was pronounced dead at about 5am. His mother Kelly-Ann was found injured outside the building and was said to be in a stable condition when she reached Leighton Hospital and had been assessed at the time. A sad turn of events happened a few days later when grief stricken Kelly-Ann took her own life after being unable to live with the death of her child.

This had been the second death in that street in the last four years after a 46-year-old woman had died on the 25th May 2013, when a fire broke out, again on a weekend evening in an upstairs bedroom of her house. The Sandbach Fire appliance was on this occasion unable to attend the incident as there were insufficient staff on duty at the time due to sickness, leave and other commitments, so only crews from Crewe and Holmes Chapel were called out at 8.13pm. By 8.22pm (9 minutes later) one engine from Crewe had arrived with the Holmes Chapel appliance arriving five-minutes later (8.27pm) to assist. Firemen rescued the woman and administered treatment at the scene before handing her over to the ambulance service who took her to the special burns unit at the University Hospital of South Manchester in Wythenshawe where unfortunately she died on the Sunday Morning.

The death in 2016 of Lucus effected the whole town especially as the house was on a popular route to the Secondary School, so many people will have walked past the building and seen its burnt out shell. During the following days many friends and neighbours left tributes and flowers to the Carter’s outside the house. It is a sad reminder that despite the best efforts of the Fire Brigade that not everything goes
as it should. It also demonstrated the need for a Fire Brigade as this unfortunate event is very rare due to the quick response of the emergency units in Cheshire.

With the above incident in the minds of the public it was not surprising that Sandbach Fire Station was the choice for the gift of a Meddler Tree by Godfrey Williams and Sons, Daniel Williams. He had won the tree as part of a prize from a supplier and he put out a questionnaire on social media as to who he could donate it to. The reply came back of Sandbach Fire Brigade, and so it was decided to dedicate the tree to all the past and current members of the retained station. On the 2 December at just after 12 noon the spades were brought out and the tree was planted.

The day however was not without incident as in the morning the appliance was called out to an incident with the crew unintentionally timing their return to perfection as they arrived back at 11.55am just in time for the planting ceremony. John Brownrigg greeted his guests still dressed in his firefighting clothes and Cllr Gill Merry the Council’s Representative on the Cheshire Fire Authority planted the tree with help from current firemen, while retired personnel and guests looked on.

Unfortunately, due to high winds, possible vandals or the public walking across the grass and bumping into it, the tree failed to stay undamaged and unfortunately died within a few weeks of its planting.

M6 INCIDENTS

In March 2017, BBC Radio Stoke asked Cheshire Highways / Police “How Many Accidents had there been on the M6 between Junction 16 and Junction 19 in 2015 and 2016”. The reply was a staggering 510 Crashes in 2015 and a 4.5% rise in crashes during 2016 (February to December both years) to 533 incidents.

However, Cheshire Fire Brigade only attended 34 incidents on the M6 in 2015 and 31 incidents in 2016 showing a slight fall in major crashes and fires. Figures on the incidents website show that Sandbach Fire appliances attended 9 incidents on the M6 between Junction 16 and 19 in 2015 with an increase to 18 incidents in 2016 (Jan to Dec)

In the years from January 2000 to March 2017 on the Incidents website it shows Sandbach Fire Brigade has attended the M6, 106 times with the stretch northbound between Junction 16 and 17 heading the table at 26 “Shouts”.

9 March 2017 Crash on the Southbound Carriageway at Junction 17

On the 11 July 2017 at 8.11am a fire was reported at the “Bombardia Transportation” Railway works on West Street, Crewe. It took crews 11 hours 40 Minutes to clear and involved 14 appliances over that period of time to extinguish the flames.
In September 2017, Cheshire Fire Brigade installed Defibrillators outside all their fire stations including Sandbach (about the 18th September 2017) with a key pad lock that is accessible with a code from the 999 Call Centre in emergencies. By the start of February 2017 appliances had their station names removed from the sides of the vehicles. These alterations starting with the main stations like Crewe and eventually filtered down to stations like Sandbach in 2018. None of the firemen knew why this was done only suggesting it might have something to do with when an appliance covers a station while they are on a shout the public will not wonder why their appliance is not at the station? This does make it difficult to identify appliances in pictures from a shout or to know which one belongs to which station. In April 2018, Sandbach had a new appliance passed down from Warrington, a Scania P320 registration MX65BCF which was soon shown off to the public at the Sandbach Transport Festival on the 21 and 22 April 2018. How it happened no one knew but in 2018 the annual Wakes fairground transport was involved in an incident before it even entered Sandbach. Each year since the 1980’s the fairground attractions have been told to keep away from the town centre until after the Thursday Market has been finished and cars had been claimed from the Common to allow the rides to enter and set up without hindrance and causing a backlog of vehicles in the town centre. Up until recently they would come into the town down Congleton Road and stay there in line until called to enter the common. But it was still causing a blockage and so some of the vehicles were kept at Arclid while others were parked in layby on the Holmes Chapel Road. One of these was for the “Orbiter” ride which was left abandoned in the layby opposite Mill Lane on the A50, Holmes Chapel Road. At 8.19am on the 20 September 2018, reports came into the Sandbach Fire station that a car had driven into the stationary HGV trapping the lady driver. Firefighters had to remove the roof of the vehicle to extract the driver who couldn’t explain how she had managed to hit the vehicle. It took the emergency services from Sandbach and Holmes Chapel fire stations 1 hour 50 minutes to sort out the problem with the HGV only sustaining minor damage to the driver’s side front.

In September 2018, the Cheshire Fire Authority announced that a number of Fire Stations built in the 1960’s had out lived their lifespan and would be improved in a £8.5 million project. 21 stations are on the list to be upgraded after the county had built new stations at Alsager, Lynn, Mollington in Chester and Penketh in Warrington in the last three years. Audlem, Birchwood, Bollington, Congleton, Ellesmere Port, Frodsham, Holmes Chapel, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Malpas, Middlewich, Nantwich Northwich, Poynton, Runcorn, Sandbach, Stockton Heath, Tarporley, Widnes, Wilmslow and Winsford are to be updated while Runcorn, Macclesfield and Ellesmere Port need more work to bring them up to scratch with a complete remodelling on the cards with the whole project being finished by 2024. Crewe Fire Station didn’t escape redevelopment as a suggested move out of the town a few years earlier was shelved, new plans in 2018 involved knocking down the current station and rebuilding along with space for the Crewe Police station now in the centre of the town to move in with the Fire Brigade. The Crewe Police station was built in the 1960’s and like the fire station needed updating so it was decided to combine the two facilities into one hoping to make it more efficient.

In 2018 there were 28 Fire Stations. Listed below are the call signs of each station.

E01 Warrington (Wholetime / Cross Crewed)
E02 Birchwood (Nucleus)
E03 Stockton Heath (Retained)
E04 Widnes (Wholetime)
E05 Runcorn (Wholetime / Retained)
E06 Frodsham (Retained)
E07 Powey Lane / Mollington (Wholetime)
E08 Ellesmere Port (Wholetime)
E09 Chester (Wholetime / Cross Crewed)
E10 Tarporley (Retained)
E11 Malpas (Retained)
E12 Nantwich (Retained)
E13 Audlem (Retained)
E14 Alsager (Retained)
On the 15 May 2019 John Brownrigg retired after 27 years from working at the Sandbach Fire Station where he was the Watch Manager. His place was taken by Mike Robinson.

John Brownrigg joined Sandbach when he moved house from Winsford in 1991. In 1992 he saw an advert for an “On Call” Firefighter” in the local paper and applied for the job. Today firefighters have to go through eight months of training before going on a “Shout” but in 1992 he was put on the rota within a couple of days.

In 1998, John worked as a full-time firefighter for BAE Broughton and in 2001 he moved to Manchester Airport where he was appointed “Watch Manager”.

In 2000 John was made permanent Watch Manager after being appointed Temporary Sub Officer as it was called in those days.

John is not the only family member on call at Sandbach as his Son and Daughter have both joined him on jobs with Sandbach’s On Call Firefighters.

Memorable days included 1995 Fire at the Foden Works, 2007 Aztec Chemicals in Crewe and the 2015 Bosley Fire with Sandbach as one of the first on the scene.

John will continue his day job at Manchester Airport but handed over the helmet to his successor after many years of service.

Not always first on the scene, Sandbach Fire crew have attended many of the notable fires in Cheshire and slightly further afield. On the 27 June 2019, Sandbach was called out to a large warehouse fire at the Golden Triangle Estate in Harrison Street, Widnes which had a total of 16 appliances on the site at the height of the fire which started at about 8.45pm. Four units were on fire along with adjoining residential buildings. The fire was so large that by 5.17pm on the 28th June there were still a full set of appliances on the scene (Relief Crew’s). On the 1 July 2019 at 10am crews were damping down and by the 2 July 2019 at 12.02 noon the incident was closed with the demolishing of the buildings.

1x Sandbach
1x Birchwood
1x Chester Aerial Platform
2x Ellesmere Port
1x Lymm
1x Lymm Aerial Platform
2x Penketh
2x Runcorn
1x Stockton Heath
1x Warrington
1x Widness
1x Winsford
3 x MERSEYSIDE Fire and Rescue Service

Two days later Sandbach were again attending a large fire. This time 10 appliances turned up Bridge Lane, Woolston in Warrington when someone had set light to wooden pallets. The fire was so intense that it lasted 12 hours before it was out.
2019 was one of those years when everything was big and in the case of a fire in Crewe it was only the evacuation of residents that saved the incident from becoming a national disaster. At 4.30pm on the 8th August 2019, the call came in to the incident centre about a fire at the Beechmere Retirement Complex in Rolls Avenue, Crewe. Initial appliances attended but it was soon clear that it was a major incident and a total of 16 appliances and 70 firefighters were called upon along with the Major Incident Control Unit, two Aerial Appliances and back up caterers.

On arrival the Retirement complex had a stay put policy because of the age and condition of the residents but the first on scene Commander overturned the decision and Firefighters, Police, Ambulance, care home staff and local residents all helped to evacuate the building saving their lives. However, one resident had a heart attack at the shock of what was happening and various animals were left behind unfortunately to die in the building. All lost personal possessions collected over their lifetime including items belonging to one lady whose 22-year-old son had died in 1997 while serving in the British Army, lost the flag and hat owned by him and handed to her after his death. Another lady lost the ashes of her husband as they were left behind.

Soon Police, local residents and Council road staff were called in to close off a half mile radius using road blocks at all major junctions only allowing emergency vehicles into the area with flames being seen from the cordons and smoke as far away as Leighton Hospital. The Hospital was put on standby but no major incident was called as only two people were eventually admitted with heart attacks. The owners of the home (Advantage Cheshire Ltd) soon set about rehousing residents in other homes while some were taken in by their local families and friends with others being taken to the Crewe Lifestyle Centre which was quickly set up as an emergency centre. The Lifestyle Centre on the Friday became the centre of rescue activities as donations started to come in with clothes, basic sanitary items, food and offers of help were co-ordinated by staff with local MP Laura Smith, Cheshire East Chief Executive Sam Corcoran turning up to help and show support for the generosity from Crewe and surrounding town residents.

The Monday before the fire the home had celebrated its 10th birthday but by the end of the fire many were questioning the construction of the building as the owners boasted that it was made using the largest timber content of any development in Europe. With no sprinkler system in place this was a disaster waiting to happen as soon into the evening the building started to collapse as the wooden structure disintegrated within the outside single brick casing. Unfortunately, at the moment there is no legal requirement for buildings to have a sprinkler installed in such a building as Beechmere. Cheshire Fire and Rescue’s Assistant Chief Fire Officer Gus O’Rourke said that in his 29 years in the fire service he was “Extremely shocked at the speed the fire took hold”.

The fire! was thought to have started about 4pm in the roof of the Beechmere Residential Home and according to some media was started by a man who was using a blow torch to make repairs in the roof space of the building. By 4.30pm Fire Crew’s were called with Crewe and Holmes Chapel appliances first on the scene (Others to Be confirmed). By 5.50pm the fire had spread through the roof space and by 6.60pm 20% of the building was alight with twelve appliances now on the site. By 9pm Sandbach was called in to attend and due to roadworks on the Haslington By-pass came via Warmingham and the back way to Leighton, turning right at the traffic lights and left at the small roundabout through the Council road blocked road and onto Rolls Avenue. They were also later called back to help extinguish the embers of the fire on the Friday and I think the Saturday (TBC).

On Friday the 9 August 2019, the number of appliances were reduced at 12 Noon to five and on Saturday the 10th damping down continued as Crews were helped by torrential rain on both days. On Sunday the 11 August specialists and two fire crews helped to spread the material out from the building to check for hot spots and surviving items. Cars left at the home’s car park were retrieved by their owners on the 12 August and finally on Tuesday the 13 August at 11.35am firefighters left the scene at the close of the incident.
#FB02.
SANDBACH PERFORMANCE (Supplied by Cheshire Fire. Gov)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF INCIDENT</th>
<th>1 Apr 2013 to 31 Mar 2014</th>
<th>1 Apr 2014 to 31 Mar 2015</th>
<th>1 Apr 2015 to 31 Mar 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chimney Fires</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (Non Domestic Premises)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwelling Fire (House)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Alarms (Good Intent)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Alarm (Malicious)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Alarms</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Special Service Calls</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Fire</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Traffic Collisions</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Fire</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Fires (Primary)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>138</strong></td>
<td><strong>130</strong></td>
<td><strong>135</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Fires between 2015-16 dealt with = 88 incidents in the Sandbach Area and 58 outside Sandbach (Crewe etc. a total of 146 calls)

#FB03. OFFICERS IN CHARGE at Sandbach.

SUPERINTENDENT AT SANDBACH
About 1870 to after 1902 John Cooke
1904 Superintendent Broad
Around 1914 Edmund Allen
1917 Second Engineer Mr Ernest Warrington
Around 1939 Captain Thomas Leese

SUB OFFICER AT SANDBACH FIRE STATION
1940’s Mr Gledhill (Owned a Newsagents)
1940’s / 50’s Arnold Proudlove
March 1965 to 10 July 1987 Dennis Bell
11 July 1987 to (3 Years) Ron Greenwood
1990? Chris Fox

CREW MANAGER / WATCH MANAGER
2000 to May 2019 John Brownrigg / Station Manager Steve McCormick
May 2019 to Date Mike Robinson
Chief Fire Officer / Superintendent of the Fire Brigade in Cheshire.

1942 A list of officers dating from the 30 March 1942, for the No 27 Fire Force Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Force Commander</td>
<td>Mr F Dann O.B.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Force Commander (2)</td>
<td>Mr W Smith B.E.M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Officers</td>
<td>Mr B J Brown (P/T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr W Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr J E Whitaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Clerk</td>
<td>Mr H Griffiths (D.O.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Officer</td>
<td>Miss E M Leverson M.B.E.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1977 The Chain of Command at the time in South Cheshire was thus –

**Brigade Headquarters at Chester.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commander</td>
<td>Mr Bert Brennon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Commander</td>
<td>Mr George Barton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Deputy</td>
<td>Mr Noel Lightfoot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Divisional Headquarters at Crewe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Commander</td>
<td>Mr William Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Divisional Commander</td>
<td>Mr William Pearce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Officer (Operations)</td>
<td>Mr David Jones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER 1989 The Chain of Command in 1989 (From a Feature in the Sandbach Chronicle) –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief Fire Officer of Cheshire</td>
<td>Mr Dennis Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Fire Officer</td>
<td>Mr David Greatorex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1999) Dennis Davis O.B.E.  
(13 years as CFO for Cheshire and 5 years as HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services)

Pre 2003 to 2009 Steve McGuirk (Moved to Manchester Fire and Rescue)

**DEPUTY FIRE OFFICER Paul Hancock**  
(Spent 34 years in the fire service having joined Cheshire in 2007 from Cumbria Fire and Rescue where he became Assistant Chief Fire Officer.  
In 2014 he was awarded the Queen’s Fire Service Medal  
In 2016 -17 he was joint Chief Fire Officer for Cheshire and Cumbria.)

**DEPUTY FIRE OFFICER Mark Cashin**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

Aug 2018 to Date Mark Cashin

**AREA MANAGERS – Alex Waller and Gus O’Rourke**

2 Apr 2019 **ASSISTANT FIRE OFFICERS**

Alex Waller .b. 1975 (Specialising on Fire Safety, Operational Policy and Corporate Performance and projects)

Gus O’Rourke .b. 1961 (Service delivery and prevention)

Chairman of Fire Brigade in Cheshire.


(1999) George Edwards

2016 John Joyce (Chair of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Authority)

2018 Cllr Bob Rudd (Fire Authority Chairman)

#FB04.

SANDBACH FIRE ENGINES (In date Order)
1800’s Horse drawn pump.
Oct 1866 Two Fire engines
July 1913 Messers Shand, Mason and Company
Nov 1932 Steam Engine
1937/40 Jennings (Body 1934 to ERF) Sandbach Urban District Council – Fordson 7V (1937)
For some reason the word Thomas appears on the grill on the front.
1930’s-40’s Dennis (Sandbach Urban District Council)
1946 AFS Vehicle (Used in either Manchester or Liverpool by Sandbach Crew)
1950’s Dennis F1
1958 Dodge Flat Backed Wagon and Pump (2nd Appliance)
1961 Commer QX (Possible – Built in 1954 or Commer QX Mark IV)
1961 Land Rover Series 2 Redwing (AM587B)
1960’s Dennis F8 (Number not known / Possibly Audlem’s RMB996)
1960’s Rolls Royce – Number unknown – On loan for a short while.
1965 Dennis F38 (FTU716B) Also at Audlem
1969 Dennis F38 (MTU317H) Red and Silver with Bell on Front. It served from 1969 at Macclesfield and was also housed at Nantwich.
   It became the Rolls Royce in Crewe appliance before going into Preservation with the Dennis Society.
   It was on loan to Sandbach.
1970’s Dennis F45 (WLG317J) based at Sandbach for most of its life then at ICI Winnington.
1975 Dennis F8 (Picture 1975 checking Hydrants possibly RMB996 as a loan appliance)
1981 Land Rover Stage One V8 L4T (DMB902X) 1981 Land Rover Series III Jennings.
   Repainted it was used by cadets from 2002 when the Land Rover Fleet were taken “Off the Run” until the 11 Feb 2009 (10 Feb 2009 Final day as a Cadet Unit) when it was sold into preservation with Craig Howell (Sandbach).
1982 Dennis F45 (WLG317J) Red and Silver with Bell on Front the appliance went to ICI in Winnington.
1987 Dennis / Carmichael SS133 (D688PMB). (Picture C21 in Transport Festival Date Tba)
   Originally stationed at Sandbach it was then moved to Wilmslow.
To 1997 Mercedes 1124 (K628KMB) Also stationed at Widnes.
1997 Dennis Sabre (R42FMA) at Sandbach by 2 Aug 2011 (Introduced to Cheshire in 1995).
   (Now on reserve duty with Cheshire Fire and Rescue)
After 2000 to 2018 Mercedes Atego (Y495PTU) At Winsford in 2000, Runcorn then Sandbach
   Now location not known.
2007 Rapid Response Unit (Range Rover DK56OTN)

(Fire Station 19 May 2004)

Early information on Cheshire and Merseyside provided by -
http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/Historical/cheshireCounty.htm and
http://www.cheshirefire.gov.uk/about-us/our-history

#FB05.
SANDBACH FIREMEN / RETAINED FIREMEN / FIRE PERSONNEL.

Below is a list of some of the Retained Firemen / Personnel at Sandbach.

Edmond Allen (1914 to)
Steve Barnes (1994 / 2000’s)
Mr D Beech (1960’s)
George Beech (1980’s)
Dennis Bell (Leading Fireman 1956 to 10 July 1987 / Badge number 1167)
Superintendent Broad (1904)
John Brownrigg (1993 to 2019)
James Buckley (Retired in March 1915)
Dale Button (2000)
Phil Carney (1982)
Ken Chishom
John Cook (About 1870 to 1902)
Charlie Ellington (1994)
John Elsby (Leading Fireman / to after 1987)
Andrew Estcourt (Pre 1987)
Keith Farrington (2000)
Chris Fox (Pre 1987 to 1990’s) (Sub Officer / Station Commander 1990 - b. 1949 .D. Feb 2014)
Alec Gamblin (1960’s)
Mr Gledhill (Captain or Leading Fireman 1930’s -40’s)
Ron Greenwood (Leading Fireman / Sub Officer 1960’s to after 1987)
Bruce Hamilton (1960’s / Died after an accident at work during his time in the Brigade)
Mrs Harrison (1939 New Driver)
Stan Hatton (1960’s)
Ted Heathcoat (1960’s)
Ted Horth (1960’s)
Anita Howell (Fire Volunteer, Sandbach Fire Cadets etc)
Craig Howell (Fire Volunteer in Charge of Sandbach Fire Cadets etc)
Dave Hughes (1980’s /1990’s / Turned up to shouts on a Motorbike)
Ron Johnson (1960’s .b. in the 1920’s)
Les Jones (1967 to 1987)
James / Jim Lancashire (1960’s)
Jeff / Geoff Larkin
Harry Latham (1960’s / Started at Middlewich Fire station before moving to Sandbach)
Phil Lawson (2000)
Peter Lee (2000)
Captain Thomas Leese (Pre 1939)
Ted Lunt (1960’s / Ted was in the Navy and so did everything the way the navy did it)
Wes Maddocks (E.M.) (1960’s)
Richard Mellor (1939-45 AFS Crew from Sandbach)
Fred Mitchell (1960’s)
Len Mountford (July 1966 to after 1987)
Douglas Newall (1960’s)
Eric Palin (1980’s /1990’s)
Tom Parkinson (1960’s)
Arnold Proudlove (Leading Fireman or Captain 1950’s to 1960’s)
Dennis Robinson (Fireman 1960’s to 1970’s)
Mrs Robinson (1939 New Driver)
N Robinson (1960’s)
Ralph Ruscoe (Retired in March 1915)
Bill Russell (1939-45 AFS Crew from Sandbach)
Bernard Stanway (1960’s)
Fred Street (1939-45 Auxiliary Fire Service)
Martin Stone (1982 to1997) (.D. 7 May 2013 aged 70)
John Truman (Pre 1958)
Eric Vickers (1960’s)
Richard Wade (to 1917 2nd Engineer – left to go on Military Service)
Wilf Wakefield (1940's to 1950's)
(Bill) William Wakefield (1940’s to 1960’s)
Leonard Walker (1960’s)
Charles Wardle (Retired in March 1915)
Christopher Wardle (1990 to date)
Ernest Warrington (Appointed 12 March 1917)
Mr West (Pre 1987)
Jack Whitby (1960’s)
Paul Whitby (1994)

#FB06. SANDBACH – Location of Fire Hydrants.

Available as a concept from the 1890’s.
SANDBACH TOWN CENTER LOCATIONS
1) Fire Station
2) Outside back entry to Ambulance Station –
3) Outside Johnsons (Cath Jones) Congleton Road / Newfield Street Junction (Needham Stockport).
4) Top of Newfield Street (Glynned Doctile)
5) Top of Newfield Street in area of old Council Work offices / Refuse lorries (Brick House Dutch)
6) Outside Military Arms (Stanton PLC)
7) Green Street corner with Cross Street
8) Top of Green Street (Needham Stockport)
9) Top of Welles Street (BS)
10) Halfway down top half of Welles Street (Outside 22b) (NWWD)
11) Welles Street Corner with Bold Street (N & SECWB)
12) Bradwall Road Corner with Chapel Street (Thomas Dudley Ltd)
13) Ashfields Crossroads (Doctors)
14) Middlewich Road outside Police Station and Restaurant
15) Middlewich Road outside Police Station / Council Offices entrance on Grid
16) Middlewich Road outside Council Offices
17) Middlewich Road junction with Platt Avenue Near Crossing (Town Side)
18) Middlewich Road junction with Platt Avenue Near Bus Stop (School Side) (Warrior)
19) Middlewich Road outside Sandbach High School (1)
20) Middlewich Road outside Sandbach High School (2)
21) Crewe Road outside Dentist (B and S)
22) Crewe Road Junction with Sunny Mill Drive (Needham Stockport)
23) Crewe Road Junction with Belle Vue Terrace (Needham Stockport)
24) Crewe Road Junction with Union Street on School side Pavement (NWW)
25) End of Hope Street
26) Outside Town Hall near Phone Box in Road.
27) Outside Town Hall on Pavement (Needham Stockport)
28) Outside Black Bear
29) Crown Bank and Well Bank Junction
30) Outside 8 Well Bank (Needham Stockport)
31) Near Bus Stop Outside Sun Tan shop on the Common.
32) Near Library (Glynwed Ductile)
33) Church Street (quarter of the way down) (End of Crown Bank)
34) At the end of Bath Street near Dingle Lake
35 to 38) 4 Hydrants at the end of Front Street, Bath Street and on the Hill leading up to High Street (Blocked off)
39) Alms House Side of the Traffic Lights on Newcastle Road / Bypass Junction
40) At Town end of the Alms Houses
41) At the Cemetery end of the Alms Houses

OUTSIDE TOWN CENTER
65 Congleton Rd
CHESHIRE FIRE STATIONS / ENGINES

The list below includes a brief history of each station in the South Cheshire Area and a list of some of the appliances stationed at the venue.

ALDERLEY EDGE FIRE STATION HISTORY
In a 1914 Cheshire Directory there is mention of a Fire station in Alderley Edge with Captain Charles Hoylands at Heyes Lane, Alderley Edge.

ALSAGER FIRE STATION HISTORY
The newest of the Cheshire Fire Stations it was opened on the 7 August 2015 by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire at Brookhouse Road in the centre of the town and like Sandbach is a retained fire unit manned by on call fire-personnel.
Station Manager Steve McCormick (2015 to date) also works for Staffordshire Fire Service but wanted to put something into the community and decided to help with the setting up of the station in his spare time. With training at Crewe and Congleton the Alsager station has become one of the more active brigades as they turn up to a number of incidents to observe and take part in as a back-up unit until they are fully trained.

ALSAGER FIRE ENGINES
Dennis Sabre (R47FMA) This was based at Holmes Chapel 1997 / Audlem 2011 / Congleton / Alsager 2015 to 2016.
Mercedes Atego (DA52YZH) (2002) moved to Alsager from Northwich / Chester in 2017 to Alsager

ALTRINCHAM FIRE STATION HISTORY (Now Manchester)
By 1896 the Fire Station in Altrincham was in Market Street with a staff of 12 men under Superintendent Frederick Youlton. The Fire bell was attached to the Sessions House and Police Station in Durham Road which had been erected in 1866.
1902 Based at the Engine House, Town Hall (Next door to the Town Hall) still with Superintendent Frederick Youlton, Deputy John Wright and 12 Men as well as a Steam Fire engine belonging to the Urban District Council. The building also housed the town’s mortuary.

AUDLEM FIRE STATION HISTORY
The original Fire Brigade in Audlem was formed on the 14 February 1899 at the Crown Hotel with Chairman J H Bellyse and Secretary and Treasurer G U Beeston. On the 28 February there were 12 Firemen and 8 reserves on call at Mr Hassell’s Shed which was rented for £2 a year. On the 100th anniversary of the Brigade a plaque was unveiled at the station by the Chief Fire Officer Dennis Davis O.B.E. on the 31 May 1999.
In 1905 the Steam Pump “Jubilee” was moved to the Audlem Public Hall with horses stabled at the Crown. It was also used as the local Hearse with the top removed when it was needed to fight fires. In 1926 the brigade tried unsuccessfully to motorise the steam pump and in 1934 the public were approached to purchase a new Motorised Pump.
In 1954-5 a new fire station was opened in Audlem at Shropshire Street.

AUDLEM FIRE ENGINES
“Jubilee” Steam Pump (c1913)
Dennis F8 (RMB996) Purchased for Nantwich then served at Audlem. Now in the Historic Collection.
Dennis F38 (FTU716B) Also at Sandbach.
Dennis R61 (UMA287R)
Land Rover (DMB901X) Last Land Rover in Duty (Not used by Cadets)
Sold at Auction without Cheshire Markings and equipment. Now in Massachusetts.
BIRKENHEAD FIRE STATION HISTORY
In 1836 Birkenhead had a Police Force which was overseen by the Watch Committee who in 1837 decided to devote part of their time to a Fire Brigade and equipped a Police Fire Brigade with a hand-drawn manual engine which was rarely used in 1838 according to a local history of the town.
In 1843 several insurance offices offered to pay for a new Horse-drawn appliance at a cost of £200. This was delivered in June 1844 and was housed in the stables of a Mr Gough at the Woodside Hotel for which he was paid 5 shillings a week.
In 1846 Birkenhead acquired its first purpose built Fire station which was situated by the Town Hall on Hamilton Street and next to the Police Station who were still manning the equipment.
In 1855 one of the Insurance companies purchased a new fire engine for the town on the understanding that no charge be made when attending a building insured with them (Possibly the “Royal” Insurance company based in Liverpool). By 1861 the engine was upgraded to a Wheeled Escape, purchased from Merryweather and Sons of Greenwich Road, London, with the Head Constable in 1872 asking the Watch Committee if they could purchase a Steam Fire Engine. I’m not sure if they couldn’t afford a new appliance or just didn’t want to get one but it wasn’t until March 1895 that it finally arrived in the form of a H D Hose Tender with two horses followed in April by a Merryweather Steam Fire Engine and 3 escapes.

BIRKENHEAD FIRE STATION HISTORY (Now Liverpool)
In 1836 Birkenhead had a Police Force which was overseen by the Watch Committee who in 1837 decided to devote part of their time to a Fire Brigade and equipped a Police Fire Brigade with a hand-drawn manual engine which was rarely used in 1838 according to a local history of the town.
In 1843 several insurance offices offered to pay for a new Horse-drawn appliance at a cost of £200. This was delivered in June 1844 and was housed in the stables of a Mr Gough at the Woodside Hotel for which he was paid 5 shillings a week.
In 1846 Birkenhead acquired its first purpose built Fire station which was situated by the Town Hall on Hamilton Street and next to the Police Station who were still manning the equipment.
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Birkenhead decided that it needed a sub-station in the town and in 1878 they opened one on Greenway Road, Tranmere which was equipped with a Reel Cart followed in 1889 by a second sub-station on Dale Street.
By now towns and cities were employing professional firemen and it was suggested in September 1893 that the Watch Committee appoint a full-time Superintendent of the Brigade and on the 1 December 1893 Mr W J Monk from the London Fire Brigade was appointed to the post with a salary of £120 a year plus a house to live in and free coal and gas.
The arrival of the Merryweather Steam Fire Engine, which was named “G.S. Oldham” after the Mayor of Birkenhead at the time heralded a new era for the town as the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board agreed to build a two reel Fire Station on the Dock estate and fund 6 police constables for fire duty. In 1895 the new Birkenhead Fire Station was built in Borough Road with room for officers, men and four horses which were stabled there. The station contained two vertical Greenwich Steam Fire Engines, one manual, horse-hose-carriage and fire escapes etc, all fitted with the necessary accessories for working same, by Messrs. Merryweather and Son of London; Electrica appliances by Messrs. W.A. Shaw and Co of Stockport. On the 5 May 1895, the Police separated from the Fire Brigade with the second engine moving to Hamilton Street with the Dockland Force staying as they were with payments by the Dockland Company. In November 1895 Birkenhead installed 34 Street Fire Alarms which were connected to the telephone system which had also been made available to call out the brigade and for calls to be made to the exchange who would then call the firemen. 9 December 1895 also saw the opening of a station at Whetstone Lane which replaced the stations at Hamilton Street and Dale Street. 

In 1896, the Superintendent of Borough Fire Brigade was William J Monk. 

1896 FIRE OFFICERS (Kelly’s Directory)
Police Inspector, Inspector of Hackney Carriages, Inspector of explosives and Fire Brigade Superintendent = William Bennett of 41a Price Street, Birkenhead. 
Superintendent William J Monk 
Assistant Superintendent Henry Beckwith 
Head Coachman Edward Roberts 

In 1900, Birkenhead received a new Merryweather Steam Fire appliance (HD Chemical Engine) and a 2nd Steamer also by Merryweather and Son which was named “Thomas Cook”. 

Kelly’s 1902 Directory lists the station containing two new vertical Greenwich Steam Fire Engines, one horse tender and fire escape combined, horse hose-carriage and fire escapes etc. by Messrs Merryweather and Son of London. The station also had electric appliances by Messrs W.A. Shaw and Co of Stockport. The station was run by Superintendent William H Smith and by 1902 was based at Wherstone Lane with Assistant Superintendent Henry G Morrison and 16 Men. 

In 1903 a Bayley Escape appliance was delivered. 

In 1904 a twin Cylinder Merryweather Chemical ‘First Turn’ engine delivered. 
In March 1910 Birkenhead took delivery of its first Motor Appliance a Dennis N Type pump. 
Feb 1912 A Leyland appliance with a Morris Ajax escape ladder. 
28 Dec 1915 a second Dennis N Type Motor Appliance was delivered. 
During the years of the first world war many of the old horse drawn appliances were sold off for scrap to make way for the new motorised vehicles. 
On the 11 November 1918 during the Armistice Celebrations a Maroon (Firework) exploded, killing fireman James Williams. 

In 1927 the North End Sub-station was opened on Laird Street with 2 bays and 8 Fire Brigade Houses. In January 1929 a Leyland FE2 Motorised appliance was delivered. 
During Bonfire night events on the 5 November 1935, firemen were stones and their horses were cut while attending an out of control fire in the Watson Street area. 
The Second World War was not without incident with over 187 calls being made in 1940 and on the evening of the 3-4 May 1941 a fireman was killed when a bomb which had been dropped on a golf club exploded while it was being attended to by the brigade. The explosion also destroyed the attending fire appliance. 
On the 18 August 1941 Birkenhead became part of the National Fire Service (NFS FF26) which lasted until the 1 Apr 1948 when the County Borough of Birkenhead Fire Brigade was formed. 
In 1950 the Government “Home Office” offered grants for new appliances with their own list of appliances, however Birkenhead decided to choose its own appliance and opted for an AEC with a Meadows Engine. 

On the 2 December 1960 the Council accepted a grant for a new Fire Station at Woodchurch Road Upton which opened in May 1962, replacing the Lair Street Station. 
On the 28 March 1973 another new 8 bay station was opened in Exmout Street by Alderman J H Roberts to replace the 78 year old Whetstone Lane Station. 
On the 1 April 1974 Merseyside County Fire Brigade took over the area turning their call signs into West 1 and West 4 stations. 
Today the station is part of Merseyside Fire and Rescue and from 2003 has been based at Exmouth Street, Birkenhead, Liverpool CH41 4AX. 

(Information from various sources including the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services website 2011)
BIRKENHEAD FIRE ENGINES
Various hand carts
1895 Merryweather Steam Fire Engine
1900 Merryweather Steam Fire appliance (HD Chemical Engine)
1900 Merryweather Steam Fire Engine “Thomas Cook”.
1902 Greenwich Steam Fire Engines
By 1902 an electric appliance by Messrs W.A. Shaw and Co of Stockport.
1903 Bayley Escape
In 1904 a twin Cylinder Merryweather Chemical ‘First Turn’ engine delivered.
March 1910 Dennis N Type pump.
Feb 1912 Leyland appliance with a Morris Ajax escape ladder.
28 Dec 1915 Dennis N Type pump (2nd Appliance)
Jan 1929 Leyland FE2
20 Mar 1939 Leyland FK6 (BG7075)
1950 AEC with a Meadows Engine.
1973 Commer Foam Tender
28 Dec 1915 Dennis N Type pump (2nd Appliance)
Jan 1929 Leyland FE2
20 Mar 1939 Leyland FK6 (BG7075)
1950 AEC with a Meadows Engine.
1973 Commer Foam Tender
2010 Volvo FL10 (DK59BTU) Bronto Skylift Combined Platform Ladder.

BOLLINGTON FIRE STATION HISTORY
Albert Road, Bollington SK10 5HS

BOLLLINGTON FIRE ENGINES
Dennis F28 (840YTU) Originally at Macclesfield
Dennis R61 (UMA286R)
Land Rover 109 (DMB907X) also at Poynton now in the Historic Collection.
Land Rover L4P (AMB586B)
Land Rover L4P / Carmichael Redwing (Box) (AMB588B) Preserved in private collection.
Land Rover L4P (Open Back) Light Fire Vehicle (ECA65S) Also at Crewe and Wilmslow
Mercedes 1124 (L969TFM)
Dennis Sabre (N713GFM) 2008 Also at Warrington.
Dennis Sabre (V898JMA) 1999 This moved from Wilmslow to Bollington.
Vauxhall Brava Fogging Unit (DA51XTO) / Changed to an Animal Rescue Unit by 2015

BROMBOROUGH FIRE STATION HISTORY
1896 and 1902 Based at Bromborough Pool with Charles Ellis (Secretary)

CHESTER FIRE STATION HISTORY
Chester has the oldest documented fire brigade within Cheshire with the “Corps of Vigils”, Rome’s own Fire Brigade being sent to join the Twentieth Legion at Deva (Now called Chester).
1471 In 1471 the City was almost destroyed by fire and by 1700 the timber buildings in the area caused so many fires that the city purchased five fire engines and put them in their own building opposite what is now the Town Hall. This Fire Force was run by the local Police, but they soon wanted to leave these duties behind to concentrate on crimes and so in 1863 the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed.
1863 In 1863 the Cheshire Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed.
1866 On Wednesday the 3 January 1866 at 1.10am a large fire took place at Crewe Hall with fire brigades from Crewe, Sandbach, Nantwich and Chester turning up to tackle the blaze to no avail.
At 1.10am Hungerford Crewe the owner of the hall retired to rest but smelt burning and called his valet to look into the matter, a suspicion well founded as indeed the hall was on fire.
It was said that the fire had originated in the heated air pipes and by noon only a small part
of the building was left standing.  
*(See also Sandbach Fire Station History)*

1883 In about 1883 the brigade became known as the “Earl of Chester’s Fire Brigade” and was
stationed at Northgate Street.

1896 In 1896 Alfred Clemence was Captain and Treasurer with Lieutenant G Harrison (Secretary),
John Shone or John Stone (Superintendent) with 3 Sergeants and 19 Men.

1902 In 1902 (Kelly’s Directory) the Volunteer station was still based at Northgate Street with
Captain Alfred Clemence (And Treasurer), Lieutenant J Williamson (Secretary),
Superintendent John Stone (of 8 King Street, Chester) with 3 Sergeants and 19 Men.

1911 In 1911 “Earl of Chester’s Fire Brigade” moved into a new station also in Northgate Street.
Northgate Street housed 3 Horse Drawn appliances – a Scam Pump, a Manual Pump
and a Horse Tender) and Two Hand moved 2 wheel escapes (Ladders).

1914 In 1914 the name again changed to the “City of Chester Fire Brigade” with the Council
taking over the funding of the brigade.

1915 In 1915 they acquired their first motor appliance at a cost of £1070.00 from
John Morris and Co and included a 50 foot wheeled escape ladder and a
600gallon per minute pump.

**WW2** During WW2 the brigade had Three Dennis Appliances and two ambulances housed at
their station in Northgate Street. It was also at this time that the National Fire Service
was formed to co-ordinate areas by joining forced together including all of Cheshire.
This new service also opened a number of smaller stations in the Chester area to allow
more coverage and if that main station was destroyed by an air attack other stations
could still cover fires in the City.

1948 In 1948 responsibility for the Brigade was passed to the Local Authority and the
“City of Chester Fire Service” was formed with 5 appliances including an 80 foot
turntable ladder.

1971 In 1971 the Brigade moved to its new station at St Anne Street, Chester (CW1 2HP)
just off the inner ring road.

1974 In 1974 a new “Cheshire Fire Brigade” was formed and the Chester Fire Service
was swallowed into this new organisation.

(2016) Station Manager Phil Minchew

**CHESTER FIRE ENGINES**

Shand Mason Steam Wagon
Dennis TL (GLW433)
Dennis Light 6 (EFM808) (Now in Merseyside Heritage and Education Centre (Oct 2012)

**IN SERVICE AT THE SAME TIME**

AEC TL - Ladder (R3624FM)
Dennis F7 (LFM200) Restored. Purchased about 1947.
Dennis F8 (VFM77)
Dennis F24 (981DMA) Originally at Chester then at Runcorn.
Dennis F28 (1818FM)
Bedford (34GFM)
Land rover (SXF739)

**NEXT**

ERF (CTU542N) Later at Widnes
Dennis F49 Emergency Tender (HDM743N)
Dennis F108 (FLM673J) (Later at Ellesmere Port)
Dennis F108 (UFM379K)
Dennis F125 HP (WFM465W) at Chester about July 1986
Dennis RS133 (A359VFM) at Chester about July 1986
Dennis RS133 (SDM859V) Sold at Auction in 1995.
Dennis SS133 (E457XLG) Now in Preservation
Scania ALP (E717SON) Now at Christchurch New Zealand.
GMC Rescue Tender (F369KTU) Now a Hazmat Unit
Mercedes 1124 (K620KMB)
Mercedes 1124 (L968TFM) By 2006 it was the reserve engine at Crewe.
Mercedes (L968TFM) Moved to Chorley and now in Latin America.
Dennis Sabre (V897JMA) at Chester 1999 / Tarporley / 2017 no longer in the fleet.
Mercedes Atego (DA52YZH) originally at Northwich.

Scania P320 (PO12HVA) 2012 / Chester / 2017 became a driving training vehicle at Winsford.

**CURRENT APPLIANCES**

- Scania P320 (MX65BCE) (2017)
- MAN (DG53FYX) Incident Response Unit
- Ford Ranger (DK56JYO) Water Rescue Unit (Water Rescue Boat and 4x Wheel drive car)
- Volvo FL10 Bronto (Trade name for an extendable platform like a Snorkel) (N65DEM) 1996
  Originally belonged to Merseyside Fire Service
- MX16JDU (2016) SCANIA 26T ROSENBAUER HP PLATFORM

**CLEMONDS HEY FIRE STATION HISTORY**

New 2017?

**CONGLETON FIRE STATION HISTORY (Info from Congleton Museum +)**

1765 Congleton’s Fire Brigade purchased “Old London” a second hand engine for 2 guineas
  with money donated by the Congleton Lighting and Improvements Committee
  (Opened in 1754) and was a 12 Man Hand Drawn Pump.
1780 A second appliance called “Globe” (named after the London, Liverpool and Globe Insurance
  Company) was Stationed in Back Park Street run by 15 Volunteers
  (a 28 Man Hand Drawn pump)
1858 **Open in Tanner Street for the Corporation Brigade.**
1861 **Open in Back Park Street for the Volunteer Brigade**
  A Volunteer force was formed in December 1861 and by 1896 had 15 Members and an engine which had been presented by the Liverpool and London Globe Insurance Company, and is under the control of their local agent with the fire engine station being in Back Park Street, Congleton.
1890 “Victoria” a Horse Drawn manual pump was purchased from William Rose and Co Metropolitan Works in Salford for 105 (What is not listed – possibly pounds).
  It was stored at the Market Place.
1896 The Corporation Fire Brigade consisted of 19 Men with an engine kept at the Market Place with Captain George Banks.
  The Volunteer Fire Brigade in Back Park Street was under Captain John Eaton.
1900 **Open in Park Street (Behind the Town Hall) Volunteer and Corporation stations merged.**
  “Victoria” moved into new station and was joined by another pump in 1911.
  In 1902 the Corporation Fire Brigade consisted of 17 Firemen with three engines and a horse cart which was kept at the Market Place.
Dec 1911 “George” a Shand Mason Steam Pump named after George Banks the Captain of the Volunteers and was drawn by Three horses.
Unkn A Small Hand drawn pump was used alongside the above. In July 1927 it was offered to the Gas Works Maintenance Department.
1926 **DENNIS Solid Tyre Trailer Pump was purchased for £400 by J H Banks and was pulled by various vehicles including a Ford T Van.**
April 1932 Captain George Banks was authorised to buy a new pump and purchased a second hand “Charabanc” which was converted into a unique fire engine at a cost of £300 by a firm in Stoke.
  It carried 14 Firemen and could tow the Dennis Pump.
Aug 1934 11am Fire in Bridge Street, Congleton at “Johnny Howarth’s Newsagents” which was owned by Councillor J T Howarth (Later Alderman) and was a sweet shop that left a smell of burnt toffee.
  The shop next door was “Hepworth’s” which was managed at the time by Mr Osborne whose son Bill remembered that as the fire took hold the family were evacuated from the building until it was under control. This was the second fire in three years at the house and was remembered by the townfolks not only because of the flamboyant Councillor (Later Billeting Officer in WW2) but also there was a lack of water available to put out the fire. A supply was later available via the Bosley “Hug Bridge Scheme” but on a Sunday Morning in August 1934 the people of Congleton were boiling their kettles and
Mrs Lancaster raised the alarm after seeing smoke coming from the back of the shop where Cllr Howarth kept his Celluloid toys. Mrs Lancaster, Cllr Howarth, Sgt PS Wakefield (Policeman) who was on duty at the fountain where he was directing traffic and bystander Hugh Towers all tried to get water to put out the flames but no water was forthcoming from the taps. Had they managed to get a bucket or two they could have saved the building and the failure of the mains when the fire brigade attached their hoses also stopped them from extinguishing the flames which could have been out in 10 minutes had they worked.

After many generous gifts and kindness Councillor John T Howarth was able to get a new supply of newspapers and opened a new shop the following week in 6 Mill Street.

The Congleton Chronicle the following Friday published an account of the proceedings.

(11am) Anticipation as Councillor Haworth waited outside his shop.
11.15am Firemen ran out their hoses
11.25am Vexation as Hydrants in nearby Little Street and the Fountain at the bottom of Swan Bank failed to provide any water and so the fireman’s hose had to be disconnected and coupled to a trailer pump to take water from the nearby Howty Brook.
11.50am Resignation as firemen realised they were powerless to check the outbreak.
12.05pm Conflagration as the Firemen still relying on water from the brook, when the fire was at its worst as flames rose from the roof and licked Hepworth’s shop next door.

By now the fire was so intense that it was setting off fireworks in the building and shattering windows.
1pm Devastation when fire brigade had at last got an adequate supply from a Main in Antrobus Street and the bottom of Wagg Street and could finally show what they could do.
3pm Desolation when the smoke had cleared and the extent of the damage could be seen. The building was gutted. Two canaries also perished in the fire.

1939 to 1945 WORLD WAR 2 Auxiliary Firefighters.

The 30 or so members of the Auxiliary Fire Service in Congleton included Frank Nadin of Willow Street, Congleton (by 1979 he had moved to Banky Fields Crescent, Congleton) where he lived with his wife Nancy. At this time the appliance was based at Royle Street where the Congleton Glass shop is now situated and when a raid took place in Birmingham, Liverpool or Manchester the Auxiliary Firemen were called out and sent to the City to help with fire-fighting. When they arrived at the Blitzed City you could not move for fire appliances called in from all over the country. The citizens were seen evacuating the area as they arrived and on a number of occasions bombers were still dropping their loads while Frank Nadin and his colleagues were underneath.

Ronald Wood who at this time worked for the Congleton Auxiliary Fire Brigade lived in Waggs Road, Congleton (By 1979 he had moved to Nottingham) and during the day worked at the Waggs Road School as a Handicraft Teacher. He remembered that not only was the AFS at Royle Street but also had an appliance at Buglawton and by the Congleton Railway Station.

A Picture from 1940 shows a number of Firefighters in Black Uniforms with Tin Helmets but Officers were in their Civilian Clothes as their Uniforms had not arrived until later in the war.

In Charge at the time was a Mr George Banks and used to wear a black uniform and carried a Hatchet and gas masks.

AFS (Auxiliary Fire Service) MEMBERS IN CONGLETON

George Howarth (Officer in Charge before George Banks lived at Dane-in-Shaw)
Mr Starkey (Fire Officer with George Howarth)
George Banks (Officer in Charge)
Jack Banks (Deputy Officer in Charge and Brother of George)
Mr Wood
Frank Nadin
Jim Pilling (Of Mossley)
Mr Edison
Syd Edison (Of Antrobus Street)
Tom Baxter (Who Owned Baxter’s Mill in Dane-in-Shaw)
3 Nov 1967 The Fire Station moved to West Street near the roundabout and was officially opened by Sir Arthur Vere Harvey (CBE MP).

17 July 2017 On the 17 July 2015, at 9.11am fire crews were called to a village between Congleton and Macclesfield for what became known in the media as the Bosley Mill Fire. The incident was in a wood clip mill when a series of explosions took place creating a fire and the building to collapse. 4 people were taken to hospital and by 12 midnight another 4 people were still missing. Soon after the building had been declared safe 3 bodies were recovered from the rubble with a 4th still missing by Christmas of 2015. Since then there has been no report of the final body being discovered as it could have been near the initial explosion making it impossible to discover. 23 Fire Engines were called to the incident starting with appliances from Congleton, with the retained firemen from Sandbach being called in second. In all there were 12 Cheshire appliances, 9 from Greater Manchester, 1 Derbyshire unit plus a Water Tanker Engine, 1 Staffordshire, 2 Arial Appliances, 1 Command and Control Unit, 1 High Volume Pump and 1 Environmental Protection Unit.

30 Sept 2017 Congleton Fire Station celebrated 50 years on the same site. Past members of the brigade were invited to a celebration event. Mike McGonnell (Started in 1976), Alec Hurst (Sub Officer in 1967, b. 1930) and Norman Monk (Started in 1967) joined current Watch Manager James Groves (b. 1975) at the celebration which was also the date of the annual open day at Congleton.

CONGLETON FIRE ENGINES
Fordson (GGN761) I of 2 engines at old fire station.
AFS “GREEN GODDESS” Painted Red (NYV476) at West Street.
Dennis F12 Pump Escape (Wheeled Ladder) (RMB633) Purchased for Heswell. It is now Preserved
Land Rover L4V (Open Back) (34NMA)
Dennis F38 (WMA315E)
Dennis F45 (VLG787J)
Dennis R61 (DMB72S)
Ford CIU (DTU349S) Van now a motor home.
Dennis Carmichael SS (D687PMB) 1987
Leyland Roadrunner – Special Incident Unit (J299HCA) Moved to Crewe.
Mercedes Atego (DG53JNZ) Purchased 2003 and in August 2011 was written off in an accident / RTA.
Mercedes Atego 1124 (K629KMB) Started at Runcorn then moved to Congleton, then exported.
Mercedes Atego 1124 (L971TFM) Replacement for above in August 2011 from Northwich. Now in Latin America.
Dennis Sabre (N709GFM) Relief engine from Widnes. Now LGB Promotion vehicle. (Temporary)
Dennis Sabre (R47FMA) Was also at Holmes Chapel 1997 / Audlem 2011 / Congleton and is now at Alsager

FIRE APPLIANCES at Congleton 2016.
MAN (E18P1)
IVECO TRV – Van (E19P2)
MAN PM046 High Volume Pump and Horse Box (WX54VJP) in 2007 it was at Doncaster.
Mass Decontamination Disrobe Unit (Container)

CURRENT APPLIANCES 2017-18
MAN (DK08AHV) New 2008 (Full Time Appliance)
IVECO (MX59KOD) April 2015? (Retained fire appliance)

CREWE FIRE STATION HISTORY
(See below for LMS Railway and Rolls Royce Appliances)
Crewe hall
1843 A “Fire Coupe” was kept under the Chester Road Rail Bridge for the Railway Company to tackle fires in the town.
1866 On Wednesday the 3 January 1866 at 1.10am a large fire took place at Crewe Hall with fire brigades from Crewe, Sandbach, Nantwich and Chester turning up to tackle the blaze to no avail.
At 1.10am Hungerford Crewe the owner of the hall retired to rest but smelt burning and called his valet to look into the matter, a suspicion well founded as indeed the hall was on fire. It was said that the fire had originated in the heated air pipes and by noon only a small part of the building was left standing. *(See also Sandbach Fire Station History)*

1885
Crewe Town Council had a fire brigade.

1880’s
“Crewe Works Fire Brigade” and “Volunteer Fire Brigade”.

1892
Ye Olde Hostelry on Hightown housed the Crewe Corporation Horse drawn appliance owned by the Ward’s Horse Drawn Omnibus Company. (Next to the Market Hall)

The station was only eight yards wide in a Methodist Chapel built in 1847 and vacated in 1880.

23 Sept 1893 (Manchester Courier) Reports of a fire at the Salt Works owned by the Middlewich Dairy and Domestic Salt Company on Wednesday with fire crews from Sandbach, Crewe and Middlewich attending.

1895
Station at the Corn Exchange in Earl Street. The keys were kept at the Market Tavern. Equipment presented by the Royal Society.

1896 (and 1902 Kelly’s Directory)
Crewe’s Volunteer Fire Brigade was based at Earl Street, Crewe with 6 men under Superintendent George Eaton-Shore, Captain George Harding, Lieutenant Roberts and Lieutenant W.H. Grieves.

1900
Horse Drawn Steam Fire Engine purchased and named after Charles Welch the owner of the Royal Hotel and Robin Hood public houses and a major benefactor of the Brigade. Bell rope to call volunteers and horses situated in the Market Hall.

1904
Temporary station in Beech Street.

1906
New Fire Station officially opened in the Beech Street East Corporation yard.

1911
Crewe Theatre / Lyceum Crewe burnt to the ground after a fire beneath the stage.

1920’s
Leyland Motors Ltd provided the first Motor Driven Fire Engine and was named “Abraham Jarvis” after a local Councillor.

1927
Dennis Fire engine purchased and named “Jubilee” after Crewe Corporation’s Jubilee year.

1939
Firemen John Alcock and Cyril Langley were killed while on an Air Raid Precautions (ARP) training exercise when on the 17 May 1939 they became trapped under their Home Office lorry and trailer pump when they were involved in an accident along with 12 other firemen from the Derby Street, Auxiliary Fire Service (AFS).

At the time Crewe has over 200 firemen in the AFS to support the Crewe Corporation Fire Brigade. John Alcock was 37 at the time and lived in Ludford Street and served as a retained fireman with the Crewe Corporation Fire Brigade and often represented them in fire brigade competitions as well as working as a general worker with the Crewe Corporation. Cyril Langley was 29 when he died and lived in Goulston Street and was with the AFS in Crewe, a prominent member of the Order of Oddfellows and was a fitter in the brass finishing department at Crewe Works. When the two were buried they has a public service at Christ Church with the coffins mounted on the Crewe Corporation Fire Engine with 5,000 mourners following the cortege.

1941
National Fire service.

20 May 1941, the Fire Services (Emergency Provisions) Act 1941 was passed through Parliament, establishing a National Fire Service (NFS)

1941
Colonel Officer Joseph D Entwistle was at the age of 40 when he died, he was also part of the National Fire Service and was unfortunately electrocuted at a house in Stafford Street when a hanging live cable came into contact with his steel metal helmet on the 29 November 1941.

Fire watcher William Roberts was killed when an enemy bomb hit his home in Hall-O-Shaw Street on the 8 April 1941. Aged 38 William was one of the Firewatchers who was operating on the top of the Crewe Municipal Buildings.

1948
Cheshire Fire Department Formed on the 1 April.

1966
Fire station moved from Beech Street to the Crewe Road (Nantwich Road), Macon Way Roundabout and was opened on the 18 July 1966 by the Rt Hon. Alice Bacon MP.

21 June 2017 BUILDING SITE OFF DUNWOODY WAY, CREWE

The Fire Brigade and the Air Ambulance were called to an incident when a crane fell on a building site on Dunwoody Way, Crewe, killing two workers and injuring the driver of the crane who was air lifted to Staffordshire.

Two other people a mother and her son were taken to Leighton Hospital and released later. A third man died in August from injuries sustained in the accident.
2017 Fire broke out at a disused Council Building right next to the Fire Station at about 4.30pm on the 28 September 2017.

2017 The future of the Crewe Fire station was called into question as the Cheshire Fire Service was forced to make cutbacks and one solution was the downgrading of the station during the night. One Fire Crew would stay as full time personnel while a second crew currently full time would be turned into a part time retained crew like Sandbach, Middlewich and Nantwich. Newly elected MP for the area Laura Smith started protests about the downgrading of services. Plans for the downgrading were first put forward in 2013 but with increased housing and the possibility of HS2 the need for better cover was possibly needed.

Pic and Feature Page 3, 15 Nov Crewe Chronicle.

2018 At 9.50pm on Saturday the 10 February 2018, Cheshire Fire Brigade were called to the Lyceum Theatre in Crewe as the Fire Alarm was set off during the last 10 minutes of the play “Birdsong”. Once the audience had been evacuated two fire appliances from Crewe arrived to find that some tea towels had been smouldering and the resulting smoke had set of the alarm. Using a hose, the fire was quickly extinguished and a fan was used to clear the building of smoke.

Meanwhile as there was only 10 minutes left of the production on the final night the cast decided to finish the production in the car park outside making sure the audience had seen the whole production.

2018 In September 2018 plans were released for a new fire station and for the Cheshire Police based at Crewe to move into the same building, closing their own station in the middle of the town.

CREWE FIRE ENGINES

Dennis F8 (TLG887) Started at Hoylake then moved to Crewe before it was sold to Birkenhead in 1968.

Dennis F12 (NTU930)
Land Rover L4V (YMA815)
Dennis F28 (508PLG) Also based at Winsford.
Bedford Emergency Tender (DTU912F) Control Unit.
Dennis F45 (JTU775G)
ERF (FLG649K) (Seen at the station about 1983) It was built for Chester.
Land Rover L4P (DDM336S)
Dennis R61 Emergency Tender (EFM560S)
Dennis RS133 (SDM556V) Started as a Water Ladder then was converted to a Foam Tender and has been the low loader for the Heritage Steam Pump.
Dennis RS133 (HFM708X)
Dennis RS133 (HFM711X)
Bedford CF (A320RFM) worked at Crewe, Middlewich and Warrington as a Special Incident Vehicle. It was later converted to an Ice Cream Van.
Dennis RS133 (E459XLLG) Went to Poynton.
Land Rover L4P (ECA66S) Painted White
ERF 50 foot Snorkel PHP (NMA397P) Originally based at Crewe (1975). Moved to Warrington prior to March 1983. This ERF has a standard base with a hydraulic platform on top.
ERF (TCA861R) Also at Warrington
GMC 4x4 (F368KTU) Rescue Tender. Now used at the Falklands International Airport.
Leyland DAF DCU (J299HCA) Damage Control Unit./ Special Incident Unit at Congleton
Mercedes (K631KMB) Mercedes 1124 (L968TFM) Originally at Chester and by 2006 it was the reserve engine at Crewe. Mercedes (L973TFM) Dennis Sabre (N707GFM) Winsford / Crewe / 2017 No Longer in the Fleet.
Dennis Sabre XL (V895JMA) 1999 At Knutsford, Crewe and Frodsham.
Mercedes Hazard Management Unit / Van (DA52YZF)
Scania P320 (PO11FZR)
Mercades Atego (DG53JNX) 2003
Leyland DAF BA Command Unit (J781HCA)
LMS RAILWAY
Dennis Light Four (CNK496) Model Available from Oxford Diecasts

ROLLS ROYCE
Dennis F8 (TLG328) Was also at Nantwich. Now in Transport Museum in St Helens.
Dennis F38 (MTU317H)

DUKINFIELD FIRE STATION HISTORY
1896 Kelly’s Directory has the Duckinfield Fire Station, District Council Offices, King Street with Superintendent Joseph Summerfield.
1902 Based at the Town Hall with Superintendent James Hensky.

EGREMONT FIRE STATION HISTORY
1902 Based at Manor Road, Liscard with Superintendent Edmund Brown.

ELLESMERE PORT FIRE STATION HISTORY
30 Pump incidents in 1970 at Frosts Flower Mill.
Peckforton Castle 19 June 2011 (20 Pumps).
Bosley Fire 18 July 2015 (Mercedes Atego DA02OZX and Scania PO12HVB attended from EP the following day of the fire on the 17 July 2015)

ELLESMERE PORT FIRE ENGINES
Dennis F7 (MMB450) Later put into the reserve fleet.
Dennis F8 (RMB475) Also stationed at Wilmslow
Bedford Foam Tender (402HMB) Lorree
Land Rover L4T (422RMB) with ladder.
Dennis F24 Pump Escape (371YMA)
Dennis F38 (BMA536B)
ERF Bulk Foam Tanker (NKF470F) made from a concerted Fuel Tanker.
ERF Hydraulic Platform (JMB350G)
Dennis F49 Water Ladder (XMB497M) Delivered to EP before 1 April 1974
Dennis R61 (DMB70S) Converted to a Cherry Picker.
Dennis Delta 2 Foam Tender (EFM561S) Moved from Warrington to Ellesmere Port
Dennis Delta 2 Foam Tender (EFM562S) Moved to Frodsham after FFM561S moved to EP.
Dennis RS133 (SDM558V)

FRODSHAM FIRE STATION HISTORY
By 1914 Frodsham had its own Fire Brigade with Major W.G. Linaker Superintendent and 11 Men.
In the 1930’s Frodsham purchased a Dennis Pump (DTU862) which during WW2 was used by the National Fire Service and returned to the town afterwards. During 1939-45 the village brigade was entirely made up of female firefighters from the Land Army who won a national pump contest during their time with the brigade.
In 1974, Frodsham became part of the Lancashire brigade along with Widnes and Warrington. In 1978 a new station was built with the firemen becoming full time rather than a retained brigade but falling “Shouts” meant another reorganisation and in 1996 the station returned to a retained station.

**FRODSHAM FIRE ENGINES**
- Dennis Pump (DTU862)
- Thornycroft (NTU606)
- Thornycroft (NTU607)
- Dennis F28 (509PLG)
- Land Rover (JJD269D) Ex Home Office it was a Search and Rescue Vehicle with Frodsham.
- Dennis F38 (FTU332B) Started at Knutsford then at Frodsham.
- Bedford Control Unit (TMB502R) Was at Chester then Frodsham in 1985.
- Dennis R61 (DMB71S)
- Dennis RS133 (A361VFM) (1986)
- Mercedes 1124 (K623KMB)
- Dennis Sabre (N710GFM) 1995 became a reserve appliance / 2017 No Longer in the Fleet.

**CURRENT FIRE ENGINES**
- Dennis Delta 2 Foam Tender (EFM562S) Moved to Frodsham from Ellesmere Port.
- Dennis Sabre XL (V895JMA) 1999 At Knutsford, Crewe and Frodsham.
- Iveco Light Fire Appliance (MX05LLM) 2005 / 2017 Knutsford

**FRODSHAM COLLECTION**
The station is also the home of a collection of preserved vehicles.
- Weaver – Northwich Urban District Council 19th Century Horse Drawn pump.
- Horse Cart from Winwick Hospital near Warrington
- Dennis Trailer Pump WW2 Vintage
- Austin Gypsy (UCR934) from Newquay in Cornwall.

### HIGHER BEBBINGTON FIRE STATION HISTORY
In 1902 there was a Higher Bebbington Urban District Fire Station / Urban District Fire Reel Station. (See also Lower Bebbington)

### HOLMES CHAPEL FIRE STATION HISTORY
There has been a Fire Brigade in Holmes Chapel since the 1800’s when newspaper reports start to show incidents they have attended. Like Sandbach there is currently no actual start date but below are a few of the incidents reported.
- 6 Nov 1875 (Date of Newspaper) A train was on fire which was put out by Sandbach and Holmes Chapel Fire Brigades.
- 8 July 1882 (Date of Newspaper) Hay Fire attended by Holmes Chapel Fire Brigade.
- 1914 No mention of a Brigade in Kelly’s Directory
- 7 May 1915 (Date of Newspaper) Haystack Fire put out by the Homes Chapel Fire Brigade.
- 26 May 1916 (Date of Newspaper) Mention of Holmes Chapel Fire Brigade.
- 26 Aug 1931 (Date of Newspaper) Lorry fire attended by Holmes Chapel Fire Brigade which put out the fire using water from a nearby pond.
- 1960’s New Fire station built on the main street in Holmes Chapel.
- 2017 Paul Brider (62) of London Road, retired after 42 years of service at Holmes Chapel. Starting in 1975 Paul joined Cheshire Fire and Rescue as an on call officer aged 21 after his neighbour encouraged him to join him at Holmes Chapel as a fireman. Fellow Firefighter Simon Burch (or Birch) who has known Paul for 20 years praised his commitment to the service.

**HOLMES CHAPEL FIRE ENGINES**
- Dennis F38 (FTU721B) 1965 to 1970’s then transferred to Malpas until 1978.
- By 2008 it was possibly abandoned in a field on the Wirral. It is now Preserved.
- Dennis F45 (VLG788J)
Land Rover L4P (DMB904X)
Dennis Carmichael SS (D690PMB)
Dennis Sabre (R47FMA) Was at Holmes Chapel 1997 / Audlem 2011 / Congleton / Alsager 2015.
Dennis Sabre (V896JMA) was at Macclesfield 1999.
Range Rover RRRU Rapid Response Vehicle (DK07FWS)

HYDE FIRE STATION HISTORY (Now Manchester)
Between 1894 and 1895 the Hyde Fire Station was erected in Corporation Street at a cost of £3,000 and
was in telephonic communication with various parts of the town. The building contained sleeping and
living accommodation for the brigade and a Fireman’s Shoot, recreation room, drying house and
stables for two horses. Superintendent Elijah Redfern was based at Corporation Street and the Market
Place Hyde. One of the firemen was Walter Robinson of 7 Milk Street, Hyde.
1902 Based at Corporation Street, with Superintendent John William Danby.

KNUTSFORD FIRE STATION HISTORY
In December 1834, the town of Knutsford acquired its first two Steam Pumps for a cost of £130 and
£75 respectively which were housed in the Courthouse, Old Market Square with the cost of call outs
down to those who asked for the attendance of the brigade at £1 for the fire engine and 5 shillings for
each firefighter who attended the incident. With such a large cost at the time for a call out it would only
be the wealthy who could afford the Brigade to be called out so many fires would have been left to
burn or be dealt with by the householder until they threatened the building of someone who could
afford to put out the flames.
By 1896 the station was at the Engine House, Heath Side with Superintendent George Lee in charge.
In 1902 the Knutsford Fire Brigade based at the Engine House, Northwich Road consisted of a
Superintendent John Jackson, a Sergeant and 10 men with two manual engines and was under the
control of the Urban District Council.
That same year, (1902) the station and stables for the horses moved to the Ruskin Rooms, Drury Lane
and was staffed by local Council Workers moving again in 1939 to a new station behind the Council
Offices until 1948.
Now under the control of Cheshire County Council the brigade moved to Mobberley Road, Knutsford
where it is still situated.

KNUTSFORD FIRE ENGINES
Dennis F38 (FTU332B) Started at Knutsford then at Frodsham.
Bedford TK Emergency Tender (ULG998E)
Dennis F48 (CMB770K) Appeared in ordinary Red and in a Dayglo Orange paint (Pic 1978)
ERF WrL (TCA862R) 1980’s. Also served at Knutsford, Runcorn, Wilmslow.
Land Rover L4T (DMB903X) Middlewich and Knutsford.
Range Rover Rescue Tender (DMB68S) (1986)
Dennis RS133 (EMA951X)
GMC (H443AMA) Rescue Tender.
Mercedes 1124 (K627KMB) Started at Knutsford and then became the second appliance at Northwich.
Exported 20 March 2013.
Dennis Sabre XL (V895JMA) 1999 At Knutsford, Crewe and Frodsham.
Scania P320 (PN10HRR)
Mercedes Sprinter / Van (DE51J VX) Line Rescue Unit.
Mercedes Sprinter / Van (DK04MHX) Line Rescue Unit Replacement for DE51J VX.
Renault Kangoo (MV08MVX) Search and Rescue Dog Vehicle.

LISCARD FIRE STATION HISTORY
1902 Based in Manor Road, Liscard with Superintendent John Howarth (of 7 Manor Road).

LOWER BEBBINGTON FIRE STATION HISTORY
In 1902 the Lower Bebbington Urban District Fire Station and Mortuary was based at Grove Road,
New Ferry.
LYMM FIRE STATION HISTORY
(Cheshire then Manchester and then back to Cheshire)
In 1896 the Fire Station was based at Pepper Street under Captain Edward Rouse.
1902 Based at Whilbarrow with Captain William Kirk-Patrick.

In 2016 work started on a new building for a Fire Station to improve the response time across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington with a number of specialist units based at the station on land near the Motorway network on land off Cliff Lane, Lymm WA13 0SP.

LYMM FIRE ENGINES
2017 New Hydraulic Platform
2017 New Scania P320

MACCLESFIELD FIRE STATION HISTORY
In 1896 Macclesfield had two Fire Brigades the Volunteer Brigade based in King Edward Street under Captain Harry Newton and the Borough Brigade at the Town Hall, Church Side with Superintendent Edward Egerton Adshead in charge.
In 1902 the Volunteer Fire Brigade Station was based in King Edward Street with Captain Harry Newton while the Borough Fire Engine Station was on Commercial Road with Superintendent Edward Egerton Adshead.
Other sites for the station have been in Cumberland Street and built onto the side of the Town Hall in the Market Place.
The brigade’s history website lists the authorities that controlled Macclesfield’s brigade from the Macclesfield Borough Fire Brigade until 1941, the National Fire Service (World War 2) between 1941 and 1947, the Cheshire County Fire Brigade from 1947 to 1974, Cheshire Fire Brigade from 1974 to 2002 and now the Cheshire Fire Service (Cheshire East and West) from 2002 to the present day.
Now at Chester Road, Macclesfield the station was opened by Alderman A E Barwood OBE on the 4 April 1970.

MACCLESFIELD FIRE ENGINES
Dennis F24 (871CMB) Became part of the GMC in 1974.
Dennis F28 (840YTU) Originally at Macclesfield then Bollington
Bedford TK Turntable Ladder (WMB700E) from 1967.
Dennis F38 (MTU317H) Started at Macclesfield in 1969 and was then housed at Nantwich.
   It became the Rolls Royce in Crewe appliance before going into Preservation.
   It was on loan to Sandbach.
Dennis F49 (PMA208L) Sold at Stoodley’s Auctions, Belle Vue, Manchester 11 Sept 1988.
Dennis RS133 (EMA948X)
Dennis F125HP (WFM464W) Hydraulic Platform. This is available as a Corgi Classic model limited edition of 4,000.
Dennis SS133 (E458XLG)
Mercedes 1124 (K632KMB) Exported 20 March 2013.
Dennis Sabre (N708GFM) 1995 Originally based at Ellesmere Port it moved to Macclesfield.
Dennis Sabre (R48FMA) (By 2017 this was the 2nd appliance at Macclesfield and will be replaced by the main appliance with it being replaced by a new Scania in 2017.)
Dennis Sabre (V896JMA)1999. Now at Holmes Chapel
Scania P320 (PN10HRO)
ERF HPV (V667KMA) Hydraulic Platform
ERF ECU (ML02MTJ) Hydraulic Platform was at Stockton Heath.
2017 New Scania P320

MALPAS FIRE STATION HISTORY
Original Fire station was used until after 1993 and was based in the High Street. Now the building is “The Old Fire Station Café Bar”

Now an On-call fire station it is based only a few hundred yards away from the old station and is now at Chester Road, Malpas SY14 8PY.

MALPAS FIRE ENGINES
Dennis F8 Pump (PMA816)
Dennis F38 (FTU721B) Also at Holmes Chapel. By 2008 it was possibly abandoned in a field on the Wirral. It is now Preserved.
Dennis R61 (EFM563S) Now Preserved.
Land Rover L4T (DMB908X) Written off in an accident at Hampton Heath on the way to a shout.
Dennis Sabre XL (S227SMB) in 2017 this became a training vehicle at Winsford HQ.
Mercedes Atego (DA02OZX) (2002) was at Ellesmere Port / 2017 moved to Malpus.

MIDDLEWICH FIRE STATION HISTORY

30 Nov 1867 (Date of Newspaper) Fatal fire at the Farm of Mr Edward Cooke when the thatched farmhouse of Mr Edward Cooke, his wife, four children, three male servants and two female servants, was burned to the ground on the 23 November 1867. It was reported that Mrs Cooke was up late Saturday Night ironing linen in the kitchen and left the clothes horse full of clothes next to an open blazing fire which caught the linen and started the building fire killing eight of the occupants. A servant who was sleeping on the premises came down to discover the fire but was unable to save those trapped by the fire as the violence of the fire was so bad that scarcely any trace of human remains could be found for some hours afterwards.

Middlewich Fire Brigade attended.

7 Aug 1880 (Date of Newspaper) There was a Grand Fire Brigade Contest at the King Edward VI Grammar School, Newport Road, Stafford for Provincial Fire Brigades. In all 17 Brigades took part on the Bank Holiday Monday and assembled at the Market Place in Stafford before parading to the field of contest. The competition to hit above a 30-foot-high mark with water from a fire hose was won by the following.

Winners
1st Place = Middlewich
2nd Place = Crewe Brigade
3rd Place = Blackburn

22 Aug 1885 (Date of Newspaper) Fire in the stockyard of Mr Bowden’s (Yatehouse or) Gatehouse, Nr Middlewich put out by the Middlewich Fire Brigade.

23 Sept 1893 (Manchester Courier) Reports of a fire at the Salt Works owned by the Middlewich Dairy and Domestic Salt Company on Wednesday with fire crews from Sandbach, Crewe and Middlewich attending.

About 1893 A new station had been built for Middlewich Urban District Council by the Birchall Brothers Builders who erected a Stable and Fire Station at Wych House Lane.

An advert in the 1897 and 1902 Kelly’s Directory doesn’t give the location of the building which we later discovered via the Middlewich Diary Website. The building was part of the Middlewich U.D.C. Depot for many years and fell into a poor condition by the 1970’s. An inscription on the building had the letters L M B which indicated it was run by the Middlewich Local Board and attempts to save the lettering it was said failed when the building was finally demolished in 1991. However later rumours said that the terra-cotta lettering was taken to Sandbach for storage in the garage that housed the Congleton Borough Mayor’s Car in Westfields (Middlewich Rd) and by 2011 was back in Middlewich at the new fire station where it can be seen by appointment.

The building was part of the Town Wharf group of buildings the site was also once owned by Seddon and the fire station was situated next to the British Waterways Warehouse.

21 Apr 1897 (Date of Newspaper) Farm Fire at Middlewich dealt with by the local Fire Brigade.
21 Sept 1901 (Date of Newspaper) Farm Fire at Middlewich dealt with by the local Fire Brigade.
13 June 1903 (Date of Newspaper) Salt Works fire at Seddon of Middlewich which caused £6,000 of damage. The fire last Tuesday morning was put out by the Middlewich Fire Brigade.

1914 No mention of a Brigade in Kelly’s Directory.
1915 In 1915 Superintendent Cooper was in charge at the Middlewich fire station.
1915 On the 21 August 1915, Sandbach Fire Brigade and Winsford’s appliance were called to a fire at the Verdm, Cooke and Co’s Salt works at Cledford near Middlewich after Superintendent Cooper of the Middlewich Brigade decided that the fire was too big for his crew to tackle on its own. The fire took all of Saturday and Sunday (22 Aug) to put out and had started in the drying room of the works.

(23 Aug 1915 Crewe Chronicle / 28 Aug 1915 Chester Chronicle Pg 6)

27 Oct 1916 (Date of Newspaper) (Name unknown) in the Nantwich Guardian it was reported that a 77-year-old ex-fireman from Middlewich died in Crewe with his funeral being last Wednesday at Middlewich Cemetery.

1941 First mention in one of the trade directories, of a fire brigade in Middlewich.

1941 On the 20 May 1941, the Fire Services (Emergency Provisions) Act 1941 was passed through Parliament, establishing a National Fire Service (NFS) with Local Authorities providing 75% of the funding for a regular Fire Brigade with the Country being divided into 12 regions.

Region 10 included Cheshire, Lancashire, West Moreland and Cumberland.

This was then divided into smaller areas with Middlewich coming under Fire Force No 26 with its headquarters at “Holly Mount”, Mill Lane, West Derby, Liverpool 12 and was commanded by a former London Fire Brigade Officer Mr Charters.

Before 1939 the area covered in the 1941 act had the following stations (Number of Fire Stations in each town in Brackets) (FIRE FORCE No 26)

- Sandbach UDC (1), Alsager UDC (1), Congleton B and RDC (1), Crewe B (1),
- Middlewich UDC (1), Nantwich UDC and RDC (1), Liverpool City (9), Birkenhead CB (2), Bootle CB (1), Chester City (1), St Helens CB (1), Wallasey CB (1),
- Warrington CB and RDC(1), Bebington B, Crosby B (2), Widnes Borough (1),
- Ellesmere Port UDC, Formby UDC (1), Haydock UDC, Hoole UDC, Hoylake UDC (1),
- Huyton with Roby UDC (1), Litherland UDC, Neston UDC, Newton le Willows UDC (1),
- Northwich UDC and RDC (1), Ormskirk UDC (1), Prescot UDC (1), Rainford UDC,
- Runcorn UDC and RDC (1), Tarvin RDC(1), Winsford UDC (1), Wirral UDC (1),
- West Lancs RDC (1) and Whiston RDC (1)

1942 On the 20 September 1942, the ‘National Fire Service (Alteration of Fire Areas) Regulations 1942’ came into operation with three new Fire Force Areas being created.

Taking over from the Fire Force 26 Area, Middlewich become part of Fire Force 41 with its HQ now being based at “Thelwell Heyes”, Grapenhall, Warrington with Commander W. Ewart Greenhalgh in charge.

Fire Force 41 covered Sandbach, Alsager, Congleton, Crewe, Haydock, Middlewich, Nantwich, Newton Le Willows, Northwich, Prescot, Rainford, Runcorn, St Helens, Tarvin, Warrington, Whiston, Widnes and Winsford, a total of 68 stations.

1945 At the end of the War (1939-45) the Fire Crew’s were given awards for their service. Among those receiving medals was Edward J McSpadden of the Middlewich Brigade. He was born in 1906 and by 1911 lived at 58 Lewin Street, Middlewich moving by 1939 to 97 King Street along with his wife and son (Listed in the Census as an Invalid born in 1932 and who died in the 1940’s).

In 1939 Edward was a Rigger in a Chemical works and was at the fire station in Lewin Street (Previous location in Wych House Lane).

The Lewin Street Fire Station was situated near the Church, at the back of Lex House it was at the edge of the field by the canal and was a red brick building run by the Middlewich Local Board.

1945 By the 1 July 1945, area (Fire Force) FF26 was reduced to 63 stations and on the 31 March 1948, it was reduced again to 42 stations.

At Midnight on the 31 March 1948, control of the Brigades was again taken again taken over by Local Authorities.

1947 Established under a 1947 Act of Parliament the Cheshire Fire Service was formed and started its duties on the 1 April 1948 with 28 Stations in 5 Districts (Districts designated from A to E).

Districts A to D included Sandbach, Congleton, Crewe, Middlewich, Nantwich with - Altrincham (District ?), Audlem (District ?), Bollington (District ?),

Cheadle Hulme (District A), Hazel Grove (District A), Hyde (District A),

Knutsford (District ?), Macclesfield (District ?), Marple (District A),

Northwich (District ?), Sale (District ?), Stalybridge (District A),

Tarpole (District ?), Wilmslow (District ?), Winsford (District ?).
1960’s  One of the Fire fighters at Middlewich was Harry Latham, who later moved to Sandbach Fire Station when he moved houses.

1970  On the 29 October 1970 the Current Fire Station was opened by Lieutenant Commander B L. Butcher R.D. the Chairman of the County Fire Brigade.

1987  On the 16 June 1987, there was a fire at the 160-year-old Bradwall Manor, the home of The late Sir John and Lady Barlow who had recently died after 60 years living in the building. The building was in the process of being renovated for Mr George Barlow and his wife Anne at the time with workers finishing their day at 5.30pm. The fire was spotted by neighbour Wilfred Gleave who alerted his daughter 21-year-old bank employee Miss Jenny Gleave of Oakley Farm who raised the alarm, alerting the fire services at about 11pm. Eight Fire Appliances from Sandbach, Middlewich, Crewe and Congleton attended the incident with the last appliance arriving at about 1am.

1996  In October 1996, an incident involving Sandbach and area firemen hit the national headlines after a helicopter crash near Middlewich, when Chelsea Manager Matthew Harding (b. 26 Dec 1953 .D. 22 Oct 1996 aged 42) died on his way home from a football match in Bolton on the 22 October. The pilot Stephen Holdich (aged 49) who was flying the aircraft, a Twin Squirrel helicopter was not supposed to have flown during the late night but defied this to take Mr Harding and three others home to Chelsea. When they reached the Middlewich area things went tragically wrong and 5 people died in the crash. Crews from all over the area were called to the site and on arrival firemen from Sandbach discovered the body of Matthew Harding some distance from the wreckage as he seemed to have been thrown from the aircraft either on impact of before it landed.

2010  On the 1st February 2010, at 11pm a fire ripped through St Peters Church Hall in School Lane, Elworth taking eight hours to put out. Crews from Sandbach, Crewe (2), Nantwich, Middlewich and the Aerial Appliance from Macclesfield used a total of six main jets and a jet from above to stop the building from collapsing.

2015  17 July 2015 BOSLEY MILL FIRE
Fire at a wood clip mill after explosions. 4 people taken to hospital and by 12 midnight, 4 people were still missing.
In all 23 Fire Engines = 12 Cheshire, 9 Greater Manchester, 1 Derbyshire + Water Tanker Engine, 1 Staffordshire, 2 Arial Appliances, 1 Command and Control Unit, 1 High Volume Pump and 1 Environmental Protection Unit were initially called to the scene with most Cheshire Fire Stations providing cover over the next month in the largest operation the County has ever seen.

2016  On the 17 April 2016, Middlewich and Sandbach Crew’s were called out to the Foden Bandroom at Flowcrete on the Middlewich Road to tackle a fire at 5.40pm which destroyed the rehearsal room with a total of 7 crews from the area plus a hydraulic platform.

2016  FATAL FIRE IN PLATT AVENUE, SANDBACH 30 Oct 2016 at 2.52am
Four Fire crews arrived at Platt Avenue to deal with a fire in a semi-detached house. A young child aged 8 was rescued from the upstairs of the building but was pronounced dead at Leighton Hospital at 5am. His mother was found with burns outside the house when the first crew arrived. Six firefighters entered the building to tackle the blaze and evacuate the occupiers. Unfortunately, two weeks later the mother was found dead at a friend’s house having committed suicide. 1x Sandbach, 2x Crewe and 1x Middlewich Fire Appliances attended.

2017  FIRE AT BOMBARDIA TRANSPORTATION (Railway Works) on West Street, Crewe
The building was on fire from 8.11am (Call) on the 11 July 2017, and took 11 hours 40 Minutes to clear.
1x Sandbach, 1x Alsager, 1x Audlem, 1x Congleton, 1x Crewe, 1x Middlewich, 1x Nantwich 1x Winsford and 1x Lymm Hydraulic Platform

MIDDLEWICH FIRE ENGINES
Dennis F38 (RLG889H)
Bedford CF (A320RFM) worked at Crewe, Middlewich and Warrington as a Special Incident Vehicle. It was later converted to an Ice Cream Van.

Land Rover FT6 (NMB39P) also at Nantwich.

Land Rover L4P (DMB903X) Also at Knutsford.
Volkswagen L2P / Bedwas Body (L601HRN) Trialled at various stations as an Incident unit.
Dennis Sabre (R45FMA) Now at Headquarters.
Mercedes Atego (DG53JNV) Originally at Runcorn.

NANTWICH FIRE STATION HISTORY
1737 First Fire Engine House built in 1740 after a decision had been made to build one in 1737. Erected in 1740 on the corner of the Churchyard opposite the Rectory (St Mary’s) and one engine was purchased.
1746 12 Leather Buckets purchased for the Fire Brigade.
1750 The first Safety Campaign was carried out to convert Thatched Roofs to Tile so hopefully stopping fires spreading.
1853 Fire Station built in Pillory Street by Lord Crewe.
1866 On Wednesday the 3 January 1866 at 1.10am a large fire took place at Crewe Hall with fire brigades from Crewe, Sandbach, Nantwich and Chester turning up to tackle the blaze to no avail.
At 1.10am Hungerford Crewe the owner of the hall retired to rest but smelt burning and called his valet to look into the matter, a suspicion well founded as indeed the hall was on fire.
It was said that the fire had originated in the heated air pipes and by noon only a small part of the building was left standing.
(See also Sandbach Fire Station History)
1867 The Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade held its 1st Tea Party and Concert to raise funds (Working back from 1878 the 11th Fundraiser)
1868 Fire on the 31 July 1868 was failed to be put out by the current engine and destroyed a smithy, stables and six houses. A newspaper dated 1 Aug 1868 said that 12 houses had been burnt to the ground during the afternoon of the 31 July.
1869 A meeting took place of the Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade on the 2 March 1869.
1869 Messrs Shand, Mason and Co of London delivered a new Fire Engine to Nantwich last Wednesday according to a newspaper report of the 15 May 1869.
1870 Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade held its Annual Tea Party and Concert at the Town Hall (8 Dec 1870 Newspaper). The newspaper report says that the Brigade had been in existence for about 18 Months (but should have read 18 years).
1878 Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade held its 11th Annual Tea Party and Concert to raise funds.
1881 Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade held its 13th Annual Tea Party and Concert at the Town Hall on Monday to raise funds (30 Nov 1881 Newspaper)
1883 Shand Mason Lattice Escape Ladder purchased by the Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade.
1883 A disastrous fire in a Tannery owned by Mr Cooper took hold last Thursday Night according to a newspaper report in a 2 May 1883 paper.
1896 By 1896, there were two Fire Brigades in the town with the Urban District Fire Brigade based at Market Street under Captain Edward Wilkinson and the Volunteer Fire Brigade also based in Market Street under Captain William Johnson.
1900 The Volunteer Fire Brigade was based at Market Street with Captain Herbert Gentry in charge.
The Urban District Fire Brigade in 1902 was also in Market Street with Captain Edward Wilkinson in charge of its appliances and crew.
1903 A newspaper article of the 12 Sept 1903 stated that Superintendent Wilkinson had retired from the Nantwich Urban Council Fire Brigade and was presented with a purse of Gold as a gift.
1904 “Merry weather” Steam Fire engine purchased.
1908 A fire at the Wesleyan Day School in Nantwich was destroyed by fire (13 Jan 1908 Newspaper).
1920 Horses sold by Mr Edge of the Crown Hotel leaving the engine without transport. Various vehicles were then used until a new engine could be purchased.
1923 Appeal to raise £400 to purchase new steamer.
1924 “Nantwich and District Fire Brigade Limited” formed out of the Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade to make the appeal more formal.
1926 “Martin Light Fire Engine” purchased from Martin and Stamford of Lincolnshire.
1926-1936 Fire station moved to Beam Street.
1936 Dennis Fire Engine purchased from the Birmingham Corporation by the
“Nantwich and District Fire Brigade Limited”.
(1930’s the Nantwich Urban District Council also had a fire crew and worked in conjunction with the “Nantwich and District Fire Brigade Limited” to cover the whole of the area.)
1938 The “Nantwich and District Fire Brigade Limited” sold its shares to the Nantwich Urban District Council for £533
1939 A fire at Stapeley Farm was extinguished by the Nantwich Brigade.
1939 Beam Street Fire Station Remodelled.
1939 The Nantwich Fire Brigade gave a demonstration at Haslington Hall for 40 Wardens. The demonstration was led by Captain William Johnson according to a report in the local papers (17 Aug 1939 Date of Newspaper)
1939 Reports in newspapers dated the 11 Nov 1939 and the 28 Dec 1940 give the name of Harry T Johnson as Chief Officer of the Nantwich Urban Fire Brigade.
1939 A newspaper article on the 9 December 1939 reported that former Nantwich Fireman Mr Frederick Barnett had died in Llandudno. He had been a Lieutenant with the old Nantwich Volunteer Brigade for many years.
1940 A Newspaper article of the 24 February 1940 said that Mr Herbert Gentry had died. He had been for a considerable time the Chief Officer of the Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade.
1941 According to an article in the 4 January 1941 and 8 January 1941 (Liverpool Echo) the funeral had taken place of Nantwich Fireman (Henry or) Harry Evan Shakeshaft. His coffin was draped in a Union Jack Flag and accompanied by his helmet, belt and Uniform were placed on a Tender last Saturday. He had died while on duty in the North West Division leaving behind a widow and three young children.
1943 A newspaper article on the 2 January 1943, reported that Mr Harry T Johnson of Dysart Buildings, Nantwich has been given the Fire Service Medal after being the Chief of the Nantwich Fire Brigade for 37 years.
1953 Dennis F8 purchased for Nantwich, Reg No RMB996 (Now Kept at Tarporley under the Audlem station name as part of the Historic Collection)
1989 The roof collapsed on the Beam Street Station.
1991 Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service took over the running of the fire station with “On call” personnel attending over 300 calls a year.
Early 1990’s New Building erected on the same site.
1990’s Engines
Dennis SS133 Reg No D692PMB
Dennis DS151 Reg No B494CMB
Land Rover (FT6) Reg No NMB39P
2018 The Lifeboat Association is funded by donations only and is a vital part of the rescue services as Nantwich Fire Station Manager Paul Rowlands found out when he was in trouble off Anglesey on the 22 February 2018. Paul and his son Joe Rowlands were Kayaking off the coast when it started to take on water and capsized. Their only hope of survival was to swim to a rock about half a mile from shore but was the father and son swam towards the rock, using their boat as a buoyancy device Paul started to pass out and had to be woken by his son. On arrival at the rock Paul again passed out but this time with a heart attack. 13-year-old Joe gave his father CPR and revived him. Meanwhile Paul’s wife had rung for the Lifeboat who rushed to the rock along with a helicopter from the coastguard to rescue the pair who were suffering from the cold and the fireman’s heart problem.

NANTWICH FIRE ENGINES
1869 Messrs Shand, Mason and Co of London delivered a new Fire Engine to Nantwich in 1869.
1883 Shand Mason Lattice Escape Ladder purchased by the Nantwich Volunteer Fire Brigade.
1904 “Merry weather” Steam Fire engine purchased.
1926 “Martin Light Fire Engine” purchased from Martin and Stamford of Lincolnshire.
1936 Dennis Fire Engine purchased from the Birmingham Corporation by the “Nantwich and District Fire Brigade Limited”.
1953 Dennis F8 (RMB996) Purchased for Nantwich then served at Audlem. Now in the Historic Collection.
Dennis F8 (TLG328) Was also at Rolls Royce. Now in Transport Museum in St Helens.
Dennis F38 (ULG997E)
Land Rover (NMB39P) also at Middlewich it is now Preserved in Northwich.
Dennis DS151 (B494CMB)
Mercedes Atego (Y496PTU) Was at Stockton Heath / Widnes and now at Nantwich)  
Iveco TRV (MX06KWH) Van with ladders and a pump.

# NORTHWICH FIRE STATION HISTORY
In 1896, the Fire Brigade in Northwich was based at Whitton Street and was run by the Northwich Rural District Council with Superintendent William H Chadwick in charge.
In 1902, the Urban Council Fire Brigade was under Superintendent Joseph Arrowsmith.
The first Station at 50 Chester Way was in operation until 1973 when it was moved to London Road (Braddon Close, Davenham). The original building has been opened as a Northwich Fire Museum by Volunteers.
The new station is situated at London Road, Northwich.

# NORTHWICH FIRE ENGINES
Morris Commercial Merryweather Pump (GMB731)  
Dennis F12 Pump Escape (RMB634) Preserved in Bury Transport Museum  
Dennis F45 (VLG786J)  
ERF (FLG647K)  
Ford Transit Canteen Van (YTU184M)  
ERF WrL (TCA864R)  
Landrover L4P (DDM337S)  
Dennis RS133 (HF710X) Moved to Winsford as a OSU.  
Dennis RS133 (E462XLG)  
Leyland Articulated Control Unit (G999PFM)  
Talbot Express (J421PVR) Used as a Command Support Vehicle.  
Mercedes 1124 (K627KMB) Started at Knutsford and then became the second appliance at Northwich. Exported 20 March 2013.  
Mercedes (L971TFM) Based at Congleton after an RTA wrote off their previous vehicle.  
Sent to Latin America.  
Dennis Sabre (N712GFM) 1995  
Mercedes Atego (DA52YZH) Moved to Chester.  
Control Unit (AY05HXP)  
Scania (PO11FZN)  
Dennis Sabre (N712GFM) 1995 to date.  
Mercedes Atego Command Unit (FN54AFX)(2004)  
Ford Transit Welfare Unit (DK59DHG)

# PENKETH FIRE STATION HISTORY
Penketh gained a new fire station in 2017 when it was opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire. Staffed by Wholetime (Permanent Crew) and On Call (Part Time) Firefighters the station was one of a number of additions opened in 2016-17.
Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs MBE along with children from St Vincent’s Primary School, Penketh and Cllr Bob Rudd the Chair of the Cheshire Fire Authority officially opened the station in 2017.

# PENKETH FIRE ENGINES
SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast (2017) (MX17GAU)

# Powey Lane Fire Station, Mollington CH1 6LH (Chester)
Work started in December 2015 on a new fire station to cover the M56 and the response time across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington. Opened in August 2016 it is one of four new stations in Cheshire and houses specialist units along with a Wholetime crew. Cllr Bob Rudd the Chair of the Cheshire Fire Authority officially opened the station on the 2 May 2017.

# Powey Lane Fire Engines
POYNTON FIRE STATION HISTORY
Poynton had a Fire Brigade which was formed in December 1955 with 13 firefighters with an appliance housed in a small building behind the Poynton School, off Park Road. The first officer at Poynton was Sub Officer Norman Moss who served from December 1955 to February 1983. During his time his crew were called to the station firstly by the sounding of a WW2 Air Raid Siren followed by a bell housed in the firemen’s homes and finally with pocket alerters.
In 1968 Poynton gained a new fire station at School Lane, Poynton and by 2008 when it was 40 years old had since 1955 had seen 100 “On Call” firefighters serving the area.
On the 13 January 2014 Poynton station was transformed into a new emergency services hub housing “Fire”, “Ambulance” and “Police” vehicles.

POYNTON FIRE ENGINES
Dennis F38 (WMA427E)
Land Rover 109 (DMB907X) also served at Bollington now in the Historic Collection.
Land Rover L4P / Carmichael Redwing (Box) (RTU894H)
Dennis R61 (DMB69S) also based at Warrington
Dennis RS133 (E459XLG) based at Crewe before Poynton.
Dennis Sabre (R46FMA) 1997 Now a reserve engine.
Mercedes Atego (DA02MZU) Was at Warrington 2002

RUNCORN FIRE STATION HISTORY
Prior to 1840, Runcorn’s fire brigade was made up of helpful residents but as needs became bigger an appliance was needed and on the 23 October 1840, a request was put into the Council for the purchase of one. However Bridgewater Trustees at the local Soap Works had their own Fire engine and offered its use to the town to fight fires saving the town from having to supply its own crew and machines.
In April 1858, Runcorn purchased its own appliance which was manned by a crew under the Superintendence of Inspector Steen at the Town Yard, Delph Bridge.
In 1870, a paid crew was formed and given £2 10s 0d for attending a drill and 9d an hour to attend a fire.
By 1896, still at Delf Bridge (or Delph Bridge) with the keys at the Police Station in Bridge Street with Superintendent Robert Wright in charge. (Kelly’s Directory)
In 1902, the Fire Brigade was still based at the Engine Station in Delph Bridge, with Superintendent Robert Wright in charge with the keys kept at the local Police Station in Bridge Street. (Kelly’s Directory)
In 1908, the station moved to Lowlands Road.
One year into the Second World War in 1940 the Runcorn crew became a full-time crew rather than an Auxiliary one.
Under new powers in 1943, Cheshire County Fire Brigade took over Heath House in Heath Road, Higher Runcorn as its Fire Brigade HQ.
In 1960, after many years of neglect the original Lowlands Road building was demolished and replaced by the present station.

RUNCORN FIRE ENGINES
Leyland SPP (DTU862)
Austin K2 Canteen Van (GXH626)
Fordson (GXM798)
Dennis F24 (981DMA) Originally at Chester then at Runcorn.
Dennis F38 (TTU64D)
Land Rover L4P (YMB475J) with pump and roll of hose on the back.
Dennis F49 (PMA209L) Based at Runcorn but also part of the Driving School Fleet. (1986)
Dennis RS133 (EMA950X) (1980’s)
Dennis RS133 (A358VFM) (1980’s)
Ford Van / Chemical Incident Unit (SMB670R)
ERF WrL (TCA862R) 1980’s. Also served at Knutsford, Runcorn, Wilmslow.
Bedford CF L4T (XFA44T)
Mercedes 1124 (K629KMB) Moved to Congleton then exported to Latin America 20 March 2013.
Mercedes 1124 (L972TFM) Exported to Latin America 20 March 2013.
Mercedes Atego (Y495PTU) Also at Winsford 2000, Runcorn and now Sandbach.
Mercedes Atego (DG53JNV) Now at Middlewich
Scania (PO11FZP)
Scania (PO13AZJ)
2017 New Scania P320

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SALE FIRE STATION HISTORY (Now Manchester)
1896 Based at 4 School Road, Sale with Superintendent A. G. McBeath in charge.
1902 Based at 4 School Road, Sale with Superintendent John J Hunt.

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SEACOMBE FIRE STATION HISTORY
1896 Fire Engine Station Seacombe division based in Latt Street with Superintendent James Leather,
Captain William McGuire and 9 Men.
1902 Fire station based at Platt Street with Captain William Clark and seven men.

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STALYBRIDGE FIRE STATION HISTORY
In 1896 Superintendent William Chadwick was in charge of the Fire Brigade and was also the
Inspector of Hackney Carriages and Common Lodging Houses and was based in the Town Hall in
Stalybridge.
In 1902 the Fire Brigade and Police were run as a joint operation with the Chief Constable of Police
John Bates also acting as Superintendent of Fire Brigade at the Town Hall in Stamford Street.

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STOCKPORT FIRE STATION HISTORY (Now Manchester)
In 1896, the Country Borough Fire Brigade was based at Mersey Street with Chief Constable and
Superintendent of the Fire Brigade W. H. Jones in charge.
In 1902 the County Borough of Stockport Fire Brigade was based in Corporation Street with
Superintendent Howard Beckwith.

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STOCKTON HEATH FIRE STATION HISTORY
The original station was in essence housed in two garages of a house. The new purpose built station is
now based in Ackers Road, Stockton Heath.

STOCKTON HEATH FIRE ENGINES
Land Rover L4P (557WTU) Also based at Bollington and this version was made into
a 1/76 model by Oxford Models.
Dennis F38 (WMA314E)
Dennis DS151 (B493CMB) 1986
Dennis DS151 (C101JCA)
Mercedes Atego (Y496PTU) One of the 2 Mercedes first purchased for Cheshire in 2001.
The second unit was based at Winsford.
This unit was at Stockton Heath / Widnes and now at Nantwich.
Iveco LFA (MX05LKL) Van with Ladders / Birchwood / 2017 Reserve.
MAN (DK08AHX)
2002 ERF Aerial Appliance (ML02MTJ) Now at Macclesfield.
Iveco LFA (MX06KJW) Originally based in Winsford / Stockton Heath / 2017 Reserve appliance.
SCANIA 26T ROSENBAUER HP PLATFORM (MX16JCU) (2016)

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TARPORLEY FIRE STATION HISTORY
Situated in Park Road, Tarporley the town had its first brigade in 1866 having been established by the 11th Earl of Haddington (Owner of Ardene Hall) in 1865. The building is constructed of Red brick with a pitched slate roof, cast iron bell and timber sliding doors it had one room attached to the bay with a toilet added to the building in c1939 when World War 2 regulations were brought in stipulating that stations had to be manned with a telephone, Siren and toilet facilities.

In 1892, water mains reached Tarporley and soon after Fire Hydrants were made available for the brigade.

By 1896 and 1902 the Volunteer Fire Brigade consisted of 20 Men with the Earl of Haddington as Captain Commandant; Captain and Secretary Henry Heald, Lieutenant George Gregory and Treasurer Thomas Hayward. In 1897 Allan McCulloch M.B. Hon surgeon was the treasurer of the brigade.

In 1957, the main station in Tarporley was moved to the High Street as part of a shop façade with the second smaller station at 84 Park Road becoming a store room for many years until it became the home of the Fire Brigade Museum in 2001 housing the Shand Mason Horse Drawn Pump owned by retired fireman Maurice Hunt who acts as curator of the museum. The Shand Mason pump is actually one purchased from Peplow Fire Brigade and is an identical model to the one used at Tarporley which has been lost and so Maurice Hunt has repainted the pump in the Tarporley livery to show what it would have been like in the town.

On the 22 September 2006 the museum at Park Road was given Grade 2 listed status by English Heritage (ID 495721)

In 1993, the brigade moved out of the High Street, with the building becoming the “Old Fire Station Chocolate Shop” and the appliances were housed in a new building in Birch Heath Road.

**TARPORLEY FIRE ENGINES**

- Dennis F8 (YMB847)
- Dennis DS151 (C100JCA)
- Dennis DJ (CLG103K) Scrapped on the 28 Feb 2009.
- Land Rover 109 (VFM729R) Box like vehicle.
- Land Rover (DMB905X) From Tarporley it was transferred to Widnes. Now with a collector in France.
- Dennis Sabre (V897JMA) Was at Chester then Tarporley / 2017 was no longer in the Cheshire fleet.
- Dennis Sabre (R43FMA) 1997. Now a reserve appliance.

**WALLASEY FIRE STATION HISTORY**

1897 and 1902 Fire station based at Leasowe Road with A Halewod as caretaker.

**WARRINGTON FIRE STATION HISTORY**

1791, Formation of the Warrington Brigade with appliances based at the Market and the Old Bridewell (Police Station). In 1828 Mr John Smith was the Superintendent of the Warrington Brigade until his death in 1844 at the age of 50.

By 1842, there were six appliances in the town that were joined in 1856 by a pump called “The Nile” which according to local history needed 44 people to operate and six horses to move it.

In 1879, the town had a new station in Queen’s Street which included a smithy for the horses, a training area and Commander’s House.

Two new steam appliances were purchased for the station in 1880 (“Major” costing £2463) and 1894 (“Captain” costing £6520) and in 1913 a new Motorised appliance arrived from builders Thomas Burton costing £1000.

In 1967 a new station was built at Winwick Road and officially opened on the 17 July 1968 by Mayor David W Pickering.

**WARRINGTON FIRE ENGINES**

- 1880 “Major” Steam Pump.
- 1894 “Captain” Steam Pump.
- 1913 Leyland U (ED1400) dating from about 1913, built by Thomas Burton. (Motor Powered Engine)
- Leyland FT Pump Escape (ED8952)
- Bedford Busmar Body TK Foam Tender (8101ED) Only Lancashire and Warrington had this appliance
- Dennis F12 Pump escape (KED300)
- Dennis F15 (OED888) Used as a Lighting Unit.
- Austin EST (PED555)
Dennis F26 (YED111) Used at old and new stations in Warrington.
Dennis F27 Extendable Ladder Hayden / Magirus TL (4000ED)
Bedford TK Emergency Tender (EED999D) Only lasted 5 years.
Bedford TK Emergency Tender (NED101G)
Bedford SHZ Foam Tender (SED999) County Borough of Warrington Fire Service.
Dennis F46 (WED24J)
ERF84PF (NED832M) Later rebodied taking away the large wheeled ladder and replacing
the back with pump outlets by March 1983.
ERF 50 foot Snorkel PHP (NMA397P) Originally based at Crewe (1975). Moved to Warrington
prior to March 1983. This ERF has a standard base with a hydraulic platform on top.
ERF (TCA861R) Also at Crewe
Dennis R61 (DMB69S) also at Poynton
Dennis Delta 2 Foam Tender (EFM561S) Moved from Warrington to Ellesmere Port after 1986.
Dennis RS133 (HFM712X) (1980’s)
Dennis RS133 (SDM557V) (1980’s)
Dennis RS133 (E461XLG) (Still in service in 2002)
Range Rover Light Rescue Vehicle (6 Wheel) (DMB67S) Originally at Warrington
Moved to Birchwood.
Dennis Carmichael Extendable Ladder (B272BMB) Sold to Dublin Fire Brigade for a Training vehicle
under the registration 84 D 7459.
Bedford CF (A320RFM) worked at Crewe, Middlewich and Warrington as a Special Incident Vehicle.
It was later converted to an Ice Cream Van.
GMC Rescue Tender (H442AMA)
Mercedes Carmichael 1124F (L970TFM) Now in Latin America.
Dennis Sabre (N713GFM) Also at Bollington
ERF EC8 Foam Tanker (P135RMA)
Ford Ranger (DK56JYP) used to tow the rescue boat.
Mercedes Atego (DA02MZU) 2002 Now at Poynton.
MAN (DK08AHU) 2017 No longer in the Fleet.
Scania P320 (PO12HVK)
Scania P320 (MX65BCF) Moved to Sandbach in April 2018.
Mercedes Sprinter Hazard Management Unit (DA52YZG) Van

WIDNES FIRE STATION HISTORY
(Lancashire and later Cheshire)
Widnes had its first Fire Station in 1959 which was officially opened on the 12 November 1960 by the
Rt Hon Lord Cozens Hardy JP DL and was part of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade until the 1 April
1974.
In 1974 the station had two appliances, one a wholetime and one retained with an emergency tender.
In 1989 the two appliances became wholetime.

WIDNES FIRE ENGINES
(LANCASHIRE FIRE BRIGADE)
AEC Regent (LTJ858) by 1968 it was used by the Manchester Fire Brigade in their training centre.
Bedford J4 (276NTF) On the 22 April 1964 this appliance rolled over on the road at Ditton.
The Bedford was put back into action and served later at Widnes under
the Lancashire County Fire Brigade banner.

(CHESHIRE FIRE BRIGADE)
Bedford Emergency Tender (576YTD) with bodywork by Cocker (1970’s)
Dennis F49 or F131 (VTU433R) Originally based at Widnes it went to Ellesmere Port.
Dennis RS133 (HFM709X)
Dennis SS135 (E460XLG)
Land Rover (DMB905X) At Tarporley A10 and Widnes. Now with a collector in France.
Mercedes 1124 (K628KMB)
Mercedes (L969TFM) Exported in March 2013.
Mercedes Atego (Y496PTU)
Mercedes Atego (DA54YUB)
Scania (PO13AZN) Available as a Model by Fire Brigade Models 15, Grennell Close, Sutton,
**WILMSLOW FIRE STATION HISTORY**

The date of the first station opening is not recorded but it was situated at Green Lane. By 1897, Captain Mole was in charge of the Volunteer Fire Brigade in the town. In 1909 the brigade moved to Hawthorn Street in the same building as the town’s library. In 1902 the Volunteer Fire Brigade was under Captain A Price with records showing he was still in charge in 1914. Up until 1924 the brigade volunteers were summoned to the station by a hooter on the top of the Gas Holder and the Steam Pump was transported by horses supplied by the local Cab companies with them being detached from the cab and then re attached to the pump when needed. On the 29 July 1924, Wilmslow purchased its first motorised appliance with solid tyres. On the 5 June 1964 the present station at Altrincham Road was opened by the Lord Lieutenant, Colonel Sir Walter Bromley Davenport MP. It cost £54,000 to build the three bay building.

**WILMSLOW FIRE ENGINES**

Albion (DTU235) Purchased for the Wilmslow U.D.C.
Dennis F8 (605BTU)
Dennis F8 (RMB475) Also stationed at Ellesmere Port.
Dennis F12 (VTU645) Served at Wilmslow / Bebbington / Chester
Dennis F38 (DLG413F) Also used as a Spare at Chester.
Dennis F48 (CLG772K)
ERF WrL (TCA862R) 1980’s. Also served at Knutsford, Runcorn, Wilmslow.
Land Rover L4P (ECA65S) Also stationed at Crewe and Bollington
Dennis F131 (PKC475S) Previously owned by Merseyside it was kept as a reserve appliance.
Dennis RS133 (D688PMB) Originally at Sandbach it was then at Wilmslow.
Dennis Sabre XL (V898JMA) 1999. This then moved from Wilmslow to Bollington.
Iveco LFA (MX59KOB) Van equipped with ladders etc. / 2017 No Longer in the Fleet.

**WINSFORD FIRE STATION HISTORY / HEADQUARTERS**

By 1897 (Kelly’s Directory) the Winsford Fire Brigade was at the Market Place with Superintendent Thomas Hulse in charge. By 1902 (Also listed in 1914 Kelly’s Directory) the Fire Station in Winsford was listed at 1 Station Road with Superintendent Thomas Hulse in charge and in 1914 he was replaced in the listings by Superintendent William Dodd. 23 Aug 1915 (Date of Newspaper) A big fire was reported at the Verdin, Cooke and Companies Salt Works which was attended by crews from Sandbach, Middlewich and Winsford fire brigades. The next station was opened at the bottom of the High Street and Wharton Hill, Winsford and was then relocated to Sadler Road in 1976. In 2008 the station had major refurbishment including the removal of the snooker table in the recreation room. In March 1997 the Headquarters at Walmoor House Chester closed down and operations were moved to a new site in Winsford. In October 1997 the Duke of York officially opened the new Headquarters at Winsford which in June 2010 had an extra extension added to the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Fire Station to make it the HQ.

**WINSFORD FIRE ENGINES**

Thornycroft (PTU583)
Dennis F28 (508PLG) also based at Crewe.
Dennis F38 (DLG416F)
Dennis F45 (VLG789J)
ERF (TCA863R)
Ford Transit Salvage Tender (DTU347S)
Dennis RS133 (SDM860V)
Dennis SS133 (D692PMB)
Leyland Articulated Control Unit (G998RFM) 1 of 2 in the area at the time. This later became a
Fire Safety Demonstration / Exhibition Unit.
Peugeot Talbot Express (J422PVR) Command Support Unit.
Mercedes 1124 (K626KMB)
Dennis Sabre (N707GF) Also at Crewe / 2017 No longer in the Fleet.
Mercedes Atego (Y495PTU) At Winsford, Runcorn and now Sandbach.
Dennis SS OSU (HF7M710X) Started at Northwich as a Pump engine and now a low loader for specialist equipment. Decommissioned in 2009.
Iveco TRV Van (MX06KWJ) Originally based in Winsford / Stockton Heath / 2017 Reserve appliance.
MAN L2000 (DK57GCV)
Scania (PN10HRP) Part of the Driving School Fleet / 2017 Winford Advanced reserve.
Scania (PO13AZL)
Iveco Van (MX59KOE)
MAN Marchall IRU079 (DG53FYJ) Rescue Support Vehicle / Incident Response Unit provided by the Government to Decontaminate a large number of people in case of a CBRN attack.
Mercedes Vario 812 4 X 4 (DK61EXA) Major Incident Rescue Unit
Citroen Post Incident Support Vehicle (BF12BXB)
Dennis Sabre XL (V897JMA) (1999) 2017 at Winsford
MAN TGM PLASTISOL Light Mast (DK08AHU) (2008) 2017 at Winsford

#FB08. Previous CHESHIRE FIRE ENGINE FLEET

Various SHAND MASON STEAM PUMPS
DTU235 Albion (Wilmslow) Purchased for the Wilmslow U.D.C.
ED1400 Leyland U (Warrington) dating from about 1913. (Motor Powered Engine)
ED8952 Leyland FT Pump Escape (Warrington)
1936 Jennings (Body 1934 to ERF) Lymm Urban District Council – Fordson V8 (1936)
1937/40 Jennings (Body 1934 to ERF) Sandbach Urban District Council – Fordson 7V (1937)
8101ED Bedford Busmar Body TK Foam Tender. Only Lancashire and Warrington had this appliance
DTU862 Leyland SPP (Runcorn)
FMA210 Leyland Matz TL (Borough of Macclesfield). Now part of the Heritage Collection.
GGN761 FORDSON (I of 2 engines at the old fire station in Congleton).
GMB731 Morris Commercial Merryweather Pump (Northwich)
GXH626 AUSTIN K2 Canteen Van (GXH626)
GXM798 FORDSON (Runcorn) (Body by Jennings?)
NYV476 AFS “GREEN GODDESS” Painted Red (Congleton)
NTU606 THORNYCROFT (Frodsham)
NTU607 THORNYCROFT (Frodsham)
PTU583 THORNYCROFT (Winsford)
UNKN ROLLS ROYCE Appliance

DENNIS N Type 1905 to 1920’s.

1950’s to 1970’s
DENNIS F1 in service 1939.
NED146 DENNIS F1 (Warrington 1955) Cheshire (There were only 159 F1 models produced)
UNKN DENNIS F1 (Sandbach)
In 1948 Government regulations insisted that Fire Engine Cabs be enclosed with no firefighter sitting on the outside of the appliance with the potential of falling off.

DENNIS F7 in service 1949.
LFM200 DENNIS F7 (Chester) Restored as part of the Heritage collection.
MMB450 DENNIS F7 (Ellesmere Port)

DENNIS F8 in service 1956 to 1984.
(Nicknamed the Ulster after the Northern Ireland Fire Service who purchased the first model)
UNKN DENNIS F8 (Sandbach) Fate and Reg Number not recorded so far.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Model/Description</th>
<th>Last Station</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>605BTU</td>
<td>DENNIS F8</td>
<td>(Wilmslow)</td>
<td>Now in the Cheshire Historic Collection. (PRESERVED) (Possibly Purchased in 1953)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMA816</td>
<td>DENNIS F8</td>
<td>(Malpas)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMB475</td>
<td>DENNIS F8</td>
<td>(Ellesmere Port and Wilmslow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMB996</td>
<td>DENNIS F8</td>
<td>(Nantwich / Audlem)</td>
<td>Now in the Cheshire Historic Collection. (PRESERVED) (Possibly Purchased in 1953)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLG328</td>
<td>DENNIS F8</td>
<td>(Nantwich / Rolls Royce works)</td>
<td>Purchased for use at the Rolls Royce Works as part of their Fire Station which was also on call for Cheshire and later based at Nantwich. (PRESERVED) (Possibly Purchased in 1954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLG887</td>
<td>DENNIS F8</td>
<td>(Hoylake / Crewe)</td>
<td>Delivered to Hoylake (Cheshire) in 1954 and then was based at Crewe. In 1975 it was transferred to Birkenhead in Merseyside and is now in the Merseyside Brigade Museum (PRESERVED) (Possibly Purchased in 1954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFM77</td>
<td>DENNIS F8</td>
<td>(Chester)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMB847</td>
<td>DENNIS F8</td>
<td>(Tarporley D4)</td>
<td>Now in Louth, Lincolnshire (July 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Model available in the Day’s Gone Series of Metal diecast toys)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dk(PRESERVED) (Possibly Purchased in 1954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMB587B</td>
<td>LAND ROVER SERIES 2 Redwing</td>
<td>&amp; Model with this registration number and the Kent Fire Brigade colours.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KED300</td>
<td>DENNIS F12</td>
<td>Pump Escape (Warrington)</td>
<td><strong>DENNIS F12 in service Tba to Tba (Final year of production).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMB386</td>
<td>DENNIS F12</td>
<td>(Bebington)</td>
<td>With Ladder and Large Wheel to move it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTU930</td>
<td>DENNIS F12</td>
<td>(Crewe)</td>
<td>Purchased for Heswell in Cheshire. By the 1970’s it was based at Congleton, West St In 1974 the Heswell station was absorbed into the Merseyside Brigade. (PRESERVED) (Possibly Purchased in 1953)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMB633</td>
<td>DENNIS F12</td>
<td>(Heswell / Congleton)</td>
<td>At Wilmislow station from 1955 and Bebington. It stayed in service at Chester until 1977.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMB634</td>
<td>DENNIS F12</td>
<td>(Northwich)</td>
<td>(PRESERVED) (Possibly Purchased in 1953)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VTU645</td>
<td>DENNIS F12</td>
<td>(Wilmislow / Bebington / Chester)</td>
<td>(PRESERVED) (Possibly Purchased in 1953)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OED888</td>
<td>DENNIS F15</td>
<td>(Warrington)</td>
<td>Stayed in service until 1977 and is now being restored. In 1997 it was owned by D West of Mortimer near Reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(There were only 83 F15 models produced)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PED555</td>
<td>Austin EST</td>
<td>(Warrington)</td>
<td><strong>AUSTIN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>371YMA</td>
<td>DENNIS F24A</td>
<td>(Ellesmere Port)</td>
<td><strong>DENNIS F24a in service 1959 to 1962 (Final year of production).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>871CMB</td>
<td>DENNIS F24A</td>
<td>(Macclesfield)</td>
<td>Became part of the GMC in 1974.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>940NMB</td>
<td>DENNIS F24A</td>
<td>(Heswell)</td>
<td>1961 Based at Heswell. (1974 station became part of Merseyside)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>981DMA</td>
<td>DENNIS F24A</td>
<td>(City of Chester / Runcorn)</td>
<td>Pre 1975 at Chester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YED111</td>
<td>DENNIS F26</td>
<td>(Warrington)</td>
<td><strong>DENNIS F26 in service Tba to Tba (Final year of production).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818FM</td>
<td>DENNIS F28</td>
<td>(Chester)</td>
<td>Used at old and new stations in Warrington.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508PLG</td>
<td>DENNIS F28</td>
<td>(Crewe / Winsford)</td>
<td>Based at Crewe and Winsford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4000ED</td>
<td>DENNIS F27</td>
<td>Extendable Ladder Hayden / Magirus TL</td>
<td>(Warrington)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818FM</td>
<td>DENNIS F28</td>
<td>(Chester)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
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<td>DENNIS F28</td>
<td>(Chester)</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508PLG</td>
<td>DENNIS F28</td>
<td>(Crewe / Winsford)</td>
<td>Based at Crewe and Winsford.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DENNIS F36 in service 1963 to 1968 (Final year of production).
DENNIS F38 in service 1963 to 1970 (Final year of production).
DENNIS F38 in service 1963 to 1970 (Final year of production).
DENNIS F38 in service 1963 to 1970 (Final year of production).
DENNIS F45 in service 1969 to 1971 (Final year of production).
DENNIS F46 in service Tba to Tba (Final year of production).
DENNIS R61 in service Tba to Tba (Final year of production).

BEDFORD
WMB700E  BEDFORD TK Turntable Ladder (Macclesfield) from 1967.

DENNIS Light 6 in service Tba to Tba (Final year of production).
EFM808  DENNIS LIGHT 6 (Chester) Now in Merseyside Heritage and Education Centre (Oct 2012)

DENNIS F108 in service 1968 to 1971 (Final year of production).
FLM673J  DENNIS F108 (Chester) Later moved to Ellesmere Port
LFM6735  DENNIS F108 PHP50 (Chester) (1969 New station at Chester opened)
UFM379K  DENNIS F108 WRL (Chester) Pre 1976

DENNIS D in service 1969 to 1972 (Final year of production).
CLG103K  DENNIS DJ (Tarporley) Scrapped 28 Feb 2009.
It had been in Preservation.

ERF WRL in service Tba to Tba (Final year of production).
CTU542N  ERF WRL (Chester) Built for Chester then in 1974 it was transferred to the Merseyside force. (see below)
FLG647K  ERF WRL (Northwich) Built for Chester then in 1974 it was transferred to the Merseyside force. (see above) It was seen in 1983 at Crewe.
FLG648K  ERF WRL (Chester) Built for Chester then in 1974 it was transferred to the Merseyside force. (see above)
FLG649K  ERF WRL (Crewe 1983) It was built for Chester.
NED832M  ERF84PF (Warrington)
NKF470F  ERF Bulk Foam Tanker made from a concerted Fuel Tanker (Ellesmere Port).
NMA397P  ERF SIMON 50 foot Snorkel PHP (Crewe 1975 / Warrington Pre 1983)
JMB350G  ERF Hydraulic Platform (Ellesmere Port)
KMA152L  ERF Pump engine (Ellesmere Port)
TCA861R  ERF (Crewe / Warrington)
TCA862R  ERF WRL (Knutford, Runcorn, Wilmslow)
TCA863R  ERF (Winsford)
TCA864R  ERF WRL (Northwich)

1980’s
A320RFM  BEDFORD CF (Crewe / Middlewich / Warrington) As a Special Incident Vehicle. It was later converted to an Ice Cream Van.

DENNIS DS151 in service late 1960’s to Tba (Final year of production).
B493CMB  DENNIS DS151 (Stockton Heath) 1986
B494CMB  DENNIS DS151 (Nantwich) 1985 (to after 1990’s)
C100JCA  DENNIS DS151 (Tarporley)
C101JCA  DENNIS DS151 (Stockton Heath)

DENNIS F125 in service 1980’s
WFM464W  DENNIS F125 HP (Macclesfield) Hydraulic Platform. This is available as a Corgi Classic model limited edition of 4,000.
WFM465W  DENNIS F125 HP (Chester) About July 1986

DENNIS F131 in service 1980’s
PKC475S  DENNIS F131 (Wilmslow) Previously owned by Merseyside it was kept as a reserve appliance. (1970’s)

VTU433R  DENNIS F131 (Wigan and Ellesmere Port)

DENNIS / Carmichael in service 1980’s to Tba (Final year of production).
B272MB  DENNIS / Carmichael Extendable Ladder (Warrington) Sold to Dublin Fire Brigade for a Training vehicle under the registration 84 D 7459.
D687PMB  DENNIS / Carmichael (Connegton) 1987
D688PMB  DENNIS / Carmichael (Sandbach / Wilmslow) 1987
D689PMB  DENNIS / Carmichael (Middlewich) 1987
D690PMB  DENNIS / Carmichael (Holmes Chapel) 1987
D691PMB  DENNIS / Carmichael (Crewe) 1987
D692PMB  DENNIS / Carmichael SS133 (Chester = 1987 / Winsford / Nantwich = 1990’s) 1987

A358VFM  DENNIS RS133 (Runcorn) (1980’s)
A359VFM  DENNIS RS133 (Chester) Chester about July 1986
A360VFM DENNIS RS133 (Ellesmere Port)  Seen at Ellesmere Port 13 July 1986.
A361VFM DENNIS RS133 (Fodsham)  (1986)
E457XLG DENNIS SS133 (Chester)  Pump Ladder purchased for Cheshire in 1987.  (PRESERVED)  (Possibly Purchased in 1987)
E458XLG DENNIS RS133 (Macclesfield)
E459XLG DENNIS RS133 (Crewe / Poynton)
E460XLG Tba
E461XLG DENNIS RS133 (Warrington)  (1980’s)  (Still in service in 2002)
E462XLG DENNIS RS133 (Northwich)
EMA948X DENNIS RS133 (Macclesfield)
EMA950X DENNIS RS133 (Runcorn)  (1980’s)
EMA951X DENNIS RS133 (Knutsford)  (1980’s)
HFM708X DENNIS RS133 (Crewe)
HFM710X DENNIS RS133 (Northwich / Moved to Winsford as a OSU).
HFM711X DENNIS RS133 (Crewe)
HFM712X DENNIS RS133 (Warrington)  (1980’s)
SDM556V DENNIS RS133 (Crewe)  Started as a Water Ladder it was then converted to a Foam Tender and has been the low loader for use by the Brigade as a trailer to carry the “Shand Mason” historic vehicle. It was scrapped by 1996 and replaced by a Mercedes. (Reg No Could be SOW556V)
SDM557V DENNIS RS133 (Warrington)  (1980’s)
SDM558V DENNIS RS133 WRL (Ellesmere Port during 1990)
SDM859V DENNIS RS133 (Chester)  Sold at Auction in 1995.
SDM860V DENNIS RS133 (Winsford)
WFM466W DENNIS RS133 (Birchwood)  About 1983

LAND ROVER (V8 Safari / Jennings Conversion) information c/o Craig Howell.

557WTU LAND ROVER L4P (Stockton Heath / Bollington)  The Bollington version was made into a 1/76 model by Oxford Models.
AMB586B LAND ROVER L4P (Bollington)
AMB588B LAND ROVER L4P / Carmichael Redwing (Box) (Bollington)  Preserved private.
DDM336S LAND ROVER L4P (Crewe)
DDM337S LAND ROVER L4P (Northwich)
DMB901X LAND ROVER (Audlem C10)  The first and last operational Land Rover Pump it was still operational in 2010 but was due to be withdrawn shortly from service. It was sold at Auction without Cheshire
Markings and equipment. Now in Massachusetts.
DMB902X LAND ROVER (Sandbach C2)  Built in 1981 Land Rover Series III Jennings was later repainted and used by cadets until 11 Feb 2009 when it went into preservation. Owned by Craig Howell from Sandbach Fire Station.
DMB903X LAND ROVER L4P (Middlewich C3 and Knutsford B3)  Converted into a Line Rescue Tender for Knutsford and now in Operation with an Emergency team at a Power Station.
DMB904X LAND ROVER L4P (Holmes Chapel and Malpas)  Donated by Cheshire Fire Service to Operation Florian.
DMB906X LAND ROVER (Poynton C6)  Still in operation (2014)
DMB907X LAND ROVER 109 (Bollington C7 and Poynton)  Now with the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Heritage Society.
DMB908X LAND ROVER (Malpas)  Written off in an accident at Hampton Heath
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VFM729R</td>
<td>LAND ROVER 109 (Tarporley)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>422RMB</td>
<td>LAND ROVER L4T (Ellesmere Port) with ladder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34NMA</td>
<td>LAND ROVER L4V (Congleton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECA66S</td>
<td>LAND ROVER L4P (Crewe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMB39P</td>
<td>LAND ROVER FT6 (Middlewich / Nantwich)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTU893H</td>
<td>LAND ROVER L4P / Carmichael Redwing (Box) (Chester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTU894H</td>
<td>LAND ROVER L4P / Carmichael Redwing (Box) (Poynton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMA815</td>
<td>LAND ROVER L4V (Crewe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMB475J</td>
<td>LAND ROVER Light Fire Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTU390 / SSK504</td>
<td>LAND ROVER 1960-61 stationed at Ellesmere Port and used to bring lifting gear etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Used as a Foam Tender by Cheshire Fire Brigade at Stalybridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It has since been moved to Rochdale Fire Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMB68S</td>
<td>RANGE ROVER Rescue Tender (Knutsford) (1986)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990's</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E717SON</td>
<td>SCANIA ALP (Chester) (Hydraulic Platform)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Scania was then sold to New Zealand and served in Christchurch where it was replaced by a Mercedes Benz. The Scania has since become a reserve appliance in NZ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On the 11 Sept 2001 the Twin Towers in New York were destroyed by terrorists and in October 2001 Chester Fire Brigade put Firefighter Tony Jones in the cage of the Scania and he stayed there for 48 hours with the Appliance parked outside the Town Hall. Collectors below raised money for the widows of New York’s Fire Department. Cheshire Fire department raised a total of £64,000 with £32,000 being raised by the City of Chester Firefighters. The Scania was at the time not needed as the new Volvo had just arrived and the Cheshire Firefighters had just finished training when the 911 event happened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO11FZN</td>
<td>SCANIA (Northwich)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO11FZP</td>
<td>SCANIA (Runcorn)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G998RFM</td>
<td>LEYLAND Articulated Control Unit (Winsford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J299HCA</td>
<td>LEYLAND ROADRUNNER – Special Incident Unit (Congleton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As above</td>
<td>LEYLAND DAF DCU (Crewe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J781HCA</td>
<td>LEYLAND DAF (Ellesmere Port)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K620KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Chester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K622KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Ellesmere Port)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K623KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Frosham)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K626KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Winsford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K627KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 Knutsford / Northwich / Exported 20 March 2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K629KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Runcorn / Congleton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K630KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Ellesmere Port)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K631KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Crewe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K632KMB</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Macclesfield)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L968TFM</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Chester / Crewe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L969TFM</td>
<td>MERCEDES 1124 (Bollington)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
L970TFM MERCEDES 1124F / Carmichael (Warrington) Now in Latin America.
L971TFM MERCEDES 1124 (Northwich and Congleton) Based at Northwich then at Congleton after an RTA wrote off their previous vehicle. Sent to Latin America 20 Mar 2013.
L972TFM MERCEDES 1124 (Runcorn) Sent to Latin America 20 Mar 2013.
L973TFM MERCEDES 1124 (Crewe)
DG53JNZ MERCEDES ATEGO (Congleton) Purchased 2003 and in August 2011 it was written off in an accident / RTA.
DK56JYO FORD Ranger – Water Incident Unit (Chester)
DK56JYP FORD Ranger - used to tow the rescue boat (Warrington).
MX65BCE SCANIA P320 (Chester) (2016?)
MX65BCF SCANIA P320 (Warrington / Sandbach Apr 2018)
N713GFM DENNIS SABRE (Bollington / Warrington) Arrived at Bollington 2008

EXTRA VEHICLES
DMB67S RANGE ROVER Light Rescue Vehicle (6 Wheel) (Warrington and Birchwood)
EFN561S DENNIS Delta 2 Foam Tender (Warrington and Ellesmere Port)
EFM562S DENNIS Delta 2 Foam Tender (Ellesmere Port and Frodsham)
JJD269D LAND ROVER Ex Home Office it was a Search and Rescue Vehicle with Frodsham.
BEDFORD
402HMB BEDFORD Foam Tender (Ellesmere Port) Lorry
CLG510S BEDFORD Heavy Rescue Vehicle
ULG998E BEDFORD TK Emergency Tender
TMB502R BEDFORD Control Unit (Was at Chester then Frodsham in 1985)
OTHER VEHICLES
F369KTU GMC Rescue Tender (Chester) Now a Hazmat Unit
H442AMA GMC Rescue Tender (Warrington)
H443AMA GMC Rescue Tender (Knutsford)
P135RMA ERF EC8 Foam Tanker (Warrington) (2005)
P136RMA ERF EC8 Foam Tanker (Ellesmere Port) (2005)
DE51J VX Mercedes Sprinter / Van (Knutsford) Line Rescue Unit.
DK04MHX Mercedes Sprinter / Van (Knutsford) Line Rescue Unit Replacement for DE51J VX.
MV08M V X Renault Kangoo (Knutsford) Search and Rescue Dog Vehicle.
SMB670R Ford Van / Chemical Incident Unit (Runcorn)
XFA44T Bedford CF L4T / Van (Runcorn)
EED999D Bedford TK Emergency Tender (Warrington) Only lasted 5 years.
NED101G Bedford TK Emergency Tender (Warrington)
SED999 Bedford SHZ Foam Tender (Warrington)

EXTRA INFO Fire appliances in private collections in Cheshire.
PRX60 (1958) COMMER Karrier with bodywork by Carmichaels an ex Bedfordshire Fire Service Engine (Till 1970’s) stationed at Hungerford is now housed at a home in Cheshire.
Y3H663 COMMER Gamecock in field in Cheshire (Cheshire UK) with other engines to be restored (2006).
G788FWP DENNIS SS135 Owner in Cheshire the pump was used by Malvern Fire station in 1990 and is now in Private ownership.
XPK523Y FORD Series D now at Northwich Boat Yard (2007)

#FB09.
CURRENT CHESHIRE FIRE ENGINE FLEET

WATER RESCUE LADDERS
REG NUMBER MAKE LOCATION
N711GFM (1995) DENNIS SABRE Reserve (Was at Northwich)
N712GFM (1995) DENNIS SABRE Northwich
R42FMA (1997) DENNIS SABRE XL Reserve (Was at Sandbach)
R43FMA (1997) DENNIS SABRE XL Reserve (Was at Tarporley)
R45FMA (1997) DENNIS SABRE XL Headquarters / Workshop (was at Middlewich)
R46FMA (1997) DENNIS SABRE XL Reserve (Was at Poynton)
R47FMA (1997) DENNIS SABRE XL Alsager (Was Holmes Chapel / Congleton / Audlem 2011)
R48FMA (1997) DENNIS SABRE XL Reserve (Was at Macclesfield)
V895JMA (1999) DENNIS SABRE XL (Light mast) Holmes Chapel (Was at Macclesfield)
V896JMA (1999) DENNIS SABRE XL (Light mast) Was at Chester now at Tarporley (2017 No longer in the Fleet)
V897JMA (1999) DENNIS SABRE XL (Light mast) Was at Chelmer now at Poynton
V898JMA (1999) DENNIS SABRE XL (Light mast) Bollington (Was at Wilmslow)
Y495PTU (2000) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) Sandbach (Was at Winsford)
Y496PTU (2000) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) Nantwich (Was at Stockton Heath / Widnes)
DA02OZX (2002) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) Ellesmere Port / 2017 Malpas
DA02MZU (2002) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) Poynton (Was at Warrington)
DA52YZH (2002) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) 2017 Alsager (Was at Northwich / Chester)
DA52YZJ (2002) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) Birchwood
DG53JNJ (2003) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) Middlewich (Was at Runcorn)
DG53JNX (2003) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) Crewe
DA54JUB (2005) MERCEDES ATEGO (Light mast) Audlem
DK08AHV (June 2008) M.A.N. TMG Plastisol Light mast Congleton (Was at Ellesmere Port)
DK08AHX (2008) M.A.N. TMG Plastisol Light mast Stockton Heath (Was at Winsford)
MX05LLK (2005) IVECO / PLASTISOL 65C 2017 Reserve (Stockton Heath / Birchwood)
MX05LLM (2005) IVECO / PLASTISOL 65C 2017 Knutsford (Was at Frodsham)
MX06KWH (2006) IVECO / PLASTISOL 65C Nantwich
MX06KWH (2006) IVECO / PLASTISOL 65C 2017 Reserve (Was at Winsford / Stockton Heath)
MX59KOB (2009) IVECO / POLYBUILT 65C Auto Warrington (2017 No longer in the Fleet)
MX59KOD (2009) IVECO / POLYBUILT 65C Auto Congleton
MX59KOE (2009) IVECO / POLYBUILT 65C Auto Winsford
PN10HRP (Apr 2010) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast (Was at Winsford / Driver Training / 2017 Special Reserve)
PN10HRO (Apr 2010) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Macclesfield
PN10HRR (Apr 2010) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Knutsford
PO11FZM (2011) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Northwich
PO11FZP (2011) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Runcorn
PO11FZR (2011) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Crewe
PO12HVB (2012) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Ellesmere Port (Was at Warrington)
PO12HVK (2012) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Winsford
PO13AZJ (2013) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Runcorn
PO13AZL (2013) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Winsford
PO13AZN (2013) SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast Widnes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Number</th>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MX65BCE (2015)</td>
<td>SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast</td>
<td>2017 Chester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MX65BCF (2015)</td>
<td>SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast</td>
<td>2017 Warrington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MX17GAA (2017)</td>
<td>SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast</td>
<td>2017 Powey Lane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MX17GAO (2017)</td>
<td>SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast</td>
<td>2017 Ellesmere Port</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MX17GAU (2017)</td>
<td>SCANIA / POLYBUILT P320 DB4X2 Light mast</td>
<td>2017 Penketh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENHANCED STRATEGIC RESERVE at HQ**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Number</th>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N710GFM (1995)</td>
<td>DENNIS SABRE</td>
<td>2017 Winsford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIGHT FOUR WHEEL DRIVE APPLIANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Number</th>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y813SUB (2001)</td>
<td>Brava</td>
<td></td>
<td>Audlem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA51XTO (2002)</td>
<td>Brava</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bollington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK61EXB (2012)</td>
<td>Discovery</td>
<td></td>
<td>Headquarters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RAPID RESPONSE VEHICLES / MOBILE INCIDENT COMMAND 4X4 VEHICLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Number</th>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DK07FWS (2007)</td>
<td>Range Rover</td>
<td></td>
<td>Holmes Chapel (Rapid Response)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK56OTN (2007)</td>
<td>Range Rover</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sandbach (Rapid Response)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK61FAF (2012)</td>
<td>Free Lander</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pool (Various)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK61EZX (2012)</td>
<td>Free Lander</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pool (Various)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NEW DIMENTIONS APPLIANCES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Number</th>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DG53FYX (2003)</td>
<td>MAN IRU</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG53FYJ (2003)</td>
<td>MAN IRU</td>
<td></td>
<td>Winsford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WX54VJP (2004)</td>
<td>MAN DC92 - HVP number</td>
<td></td>
<td>Congleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WX54VMV (2004)</td>
<td>MAN MASS / DEC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Congleton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WX54VTY (2004)</td>
<td>MAN PRIME MOVER (Environmental Protection Unit)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ellesmere Port</td>
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</table>

**CO-RESPONDER**

<table>
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<th>Model Number</th>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DK61EZZ</td>
<td>FREE LANDER</td>
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<td>Nantwich / Pool vehicle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOAT PULLER / WATER INCIDENT UNIT**

<table>
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<th>Model Number</th>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DA52YZF (2002)</td>
<td>4 X 4 SPRINTER</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA52YZG (2002)</td>
<td>4 X 4 SPRINTER</td>
<td></td>
<td>Warrington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK61EXB (2012)</td>
<td>GS DISCOVERY (DEFRA WATER RESCUE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Winsford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TECHNICAL RESCUE UNIT / LINE RESCUE UNIT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Number</th>
<th>Make/Model</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DK04MHX (2004)</td>
<td>4 X 4 MERCADES SPRINTER</td>
<td></td>
<td>Knutsford</td>
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</table>

**WELFARE SUPPORT UNIT**
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<tr>
<th>Registration Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DK59DHG (2009)</td>
<td>FORD TRANSIT JUMBO</td>
<td>Northwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BX09MTK (2009)</td>
<td>CI BERLINGO DOG VAN</td>
<td>Knutsford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2017 No Longer in the Fleet)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK59DHG (2009)</td>
<td>FORD TRANSIT JUMBO</td>
<td>Northwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3011 (1995)</td>
<td>Moffett Mownty</td>
<td>L and D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DG17FFK (2017)</td>
<td>HONDA VFR800</td>
<td>Road Safety L and D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KM16YUG (2016)</td>
<td>VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ESTATE</td>
<td>Driver Training 2016-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KU60NNT (2010)</td>
<td>VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ESTATE</td>
<td>Driver Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KX03CSV (2003)</td>
<td>SCANIA P94D</td>
<td>Driver Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RL02VSZ (2002)</td>
<td>HONDA – PAN EUPOPEAN</td>
<td>Road Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30MHOL (2006)</td>
<td>Inflatable Boat and Trailer</td>
<td>Warrington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30MHOL (2006)</td>
<td>Inflatable Boat and Trailer</td>
<td>Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30MHOL (2011)</td>
<td>Inflatable Boat and Trailer</td>
<td>HQ Defra /Usart Water Rescue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N65DEM (1996)</td>
<td>VOLVO PLATFORM 32 HDT</td>
<td>Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FL10 Hydraulic Platform</td>
<td>Purchased from Merseyside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V667KMA (1999)</td>
<td>ERF EC8 Fire Turntable / SS263</td>
<td>Macclesfield (Hydraulic Platform)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ML02MTJ (2002)</td>
<td>ERF EC8 Fire Turntable / SS263</td>
<td>Stockton Heath / Macclesfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MX16JCU (2016)</td>
<td>SCANIA 26T ROSENBAUER HP PLATFORM</td>
<td>Stockton Heath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MX16JDU (2016)</td>
<td>SCANIA 26T ROSENBAUER HP PLATFORM</td>
<td>Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK14HCH (2013)</td>
<td>MOFFETT MOUNTY</td>
<td>Ellesmere Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE63OUO (2013)</td>
<td>SCANIA</td>
<td>Ellesmere Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNS4AFX (2004)</td>
<td>MERCEDES ATEGO</td>
<td>Oscar Unit / Northwich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J781HCA (1992)</td>
<td>LEYLAND DAF</td>
<td>Crewe. Originally it started life as a Damage Control Vehicle at Ellesmere Port but was by 2010 converted into a BA Support Unit based at Crewe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK61EXA (2012)</td>
<td>MERCEDES VARIO 812 4 X 4 / PLASTISOL</td>
<td>Winsford</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12 July 2017 NEW APPLIANCES

NEW FIRE APPLIANCES ARRIVE IN CHESHIRE
4 x Scania P320 arrive for Lymm, Macclesfield, Runcorn and Winsford.
MX17GBE (Lymm?)
MX17GBF
MX17GBO
MX17GBU
In 2018 Nantwich Fire Station will be getting a newer replacement appliance possibly one of those replaced by above.

#FB10.
HISTORIC VEHICLE COLLECTION -
ENGINES / APPLIANCES HELD AT CHESTER
(Historic Vehicle Collection).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAKE</th>
<th>REG NUMBER DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merryweather Manual Pump</td>
<td>None Hand Pump</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1870 Shand Mason and Co</td>
<td>None Named Weaver – Northwich Urban District Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1876 Shand Mason</td>
<td>None Steam Pump (City of Chester) Kept at Chester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1938 Leyland Metz TL / Ladder Vehicle</td>
<td>FMA210 (Macclesfield) Blue Bonnet due to Leyland advising it ran better with a blue and not red bonnet to aid heat dispersal. <em>(Came to Sandbach in 2010)</em> Kept at Crewe?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949 Dennis F7 Pump Escape</td>
<td>LFM200 (Audlem) Kept at Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953 Dennis F8</td>
<td>RMB996 (Nantwich / Audlem) Kept at Tarporley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955 Dennis Fire Engine</td>
<td>NED146 (Warrington) Wooden ladder and Running board.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Purchased in 1955 by Joseph Crossfield of Warrington (soap manufacturer) to provide cover at his works site it continued until 1977 when it was transferred to the Warrington Bus Corporation for preservation. In 2002 it was transferred to Cheshire Fire and Rescue who renovated the machine. The original Dennis engine was replaced when it became unserviceable and a Perkins diesel engine was fitted. Kept at Warrington?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAKE</th>
<th>REGISTRATION NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981 Land rover / Safari / Jennings</td>
<td>DMB907X (Bollington and Poynton) With the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Heritage Society and held at the HQ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992 Mercedes 1124F</td>
<td>K630KMB Held at Chester now Converted into a carrier for the “Shand Mason” Historic vehicle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 Scania P94D</td>
<td>KX03CSV Steamer Carrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tbc Matchless AFS</td>
<td>XYM580 Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#FB11. HISTORIC FIRE ENGINES STILL IN PRESERVATION /

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAKE / REGISTRATION NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEYLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JL2323 Used in the Dad’s Army Episode “ “.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#FB12. FIRE BRIGADE TERMS

AJAX A form of escape ladder known as the Morris Ajax escape ladder.

APPLIANCE The Fire Engine

ARIAL LADDER PLATFORM Large Hydraulic ladder attached to an appliance.
BA / Breathing Apparatus  Equipment used to breath within a smoke filled environment.

BACKDRAFT USA term used to describe the sudden inward rush of oxygen to a fire causing it to explode and to rush down corridors engulfing everything in its way.

BANGOR LADDER A 50-foot ladder with “Tormenter Poles” each side to stabilize the sides in a triangular way. Invented by a Major James M Davis a joiner from Bangor, Maine in the USA after the Civil War. He designed the ladder to stop the long wooden ladders from breaking as a firefighter climbed them. By 1890 hundreds of these ladders were in service in the major cities of the USA including New York who purchased 200. (USA Patent number 161010 on the 23 March 1875)

BELLS GO DOWN / DROP THE BELL A term used when Fire personnel are called to an incident. The term goes back to the Victorian Era when the “Duty Man” in the station watch room would be responsible for turning out the fire appliances. Once he had the information about an incident he would pull down an electrical switch which would operate the station’s call bells. During the Second World War when the bells went down the station lights would automatically switch on. In modern times when the call goes out for the Retained Firemen in Sandbach and other stations the headquarters are also able to switch on the lights in the station ready for the crew when they arrive for a “shout”. In 1906 in Weston Super Mare (Installed) and during 1916 Frank Herbert Chandos Dunmore of the Wickford Brigade recalled that the Fire Station had a huge wall of bells linked to a standard (Lamp) on every street corner. The standards had glass panels, which in the event of a fire, you broke and pulled a handle inside, which in turn rang a bell in the Telephone Exchange who would then call out the Brigade. The switches also operated a bell at the retained firemen’s house so once the call had come in then the crew could be summoned to the station. In 1943 Tommy Trinder made a film called “Bells Go Down” about the Wartime Auxiliary Fire Service. Another suggestion as to the origin of the term is that Church Bells, Town Hall Bells and others were used for summoning the Fire Brigade and so the tradition of using bells to summon the brigade transferred to the electric age. Church Bells are usually left with the open end upwards, making it easier to Drop the Bell when you start to ring it, using the momentum caused by the weight of the bell to make the chimes. (See also Putting the Bells Down)

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER Highest Ranking Officer in the area.

CONTROL UNIT / CU Used at an incident this is the base for communications and commanders.

DIVISIONAL OFFICER (DO) Commands a division or group of fire stations in an area.

EVAC A walkie talkie or Communications device.

FALSE ALARM When a call turns out to be to a non-existent fire or accident. Or a call to an alarm going off without a fire due to faulty equipment. Or for a time when the fire has been put out before the brigade arrives and so they are not needed.

FAN / POSITIVE PRESSURE FAN Used to get rid of smoke from a building after a fire.

FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM A Unit set up to find out what caused a fire.

FIRE STATION The home of the Fire Engines and Crew.

HAZMAT / HAZ Hazardous Materials. Specialist equipment and clothing is then used.
HOSE Used to convey water or foam from the Fire Appliance / Pump to the fire.

INCIDENT RESPONSE UNIT Specialist Unit with special equipment aboard.

JAWS OF LIFE / HURST TOOL Developed in Warminster, Pennsylvania, USA in 1963 by George Hurst (.b. 1927 .D. May 1986) for use in the Race Car industry in the USA after George witnessed a race accident that took over an hour to extract the driver from his car.
The “Jaws of Life” or “Hurst Tool” is a Hydraulic Cutting Tool used to cut metal or to spread an area to expand a hole to allow trapped people to get out of a vehicle etc. The tool is now standard equipment in all fire appliances.

LEADING FIREFIGHTER / (Now Crew Manager) The Commander of one appliance team with each crew having a Leading Firefighter.

MADE SAFE Isolating the Power / Remove Batteries etc. to make it safe for Fire Fighters to enter a building or to fight the fire / tackle an accident.

MAKE PUMPS Order given for more appliances to attend the scene of an incident.

OFF THE RUN / ON THE RUN Status of the Fire Appliance.
Off the Run = not available for use.
On the Run = available for use.
The term comes from the times when pumps were drawn by Horses and to make it easier to move the Carriage the station floor was raked (Sloped) so then the wheel blocks were removed from the appliance the Horses could get an easy start to pulling the Steam Pump and so helping use the momentum from the start to keep the equipment going until they reach the fire.

ON CALL Available to attend an incident.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT VEHICLE Canteen or back up team.

PERSON’S REPORTED Signifies that a person / persons are unaccounted for / Missing.

POLE / FIREMAN’S POLE Used in some two story (or more) buildings it is a quick way of getting the crew to the appliance by using a greased or smooth pole to allow a person to slide down it from one floor to another through a home in the building.

PUMP Fire Appliance equipped with a large tank of water.

PUTTING THE BELLS DOWN (See also Bells Go Down) A follow on term to Re-announce a Call / a second call to the station for retained fire personnel

RTA / RTC Road Traffic Accident / Road Traffic Collision.

RUN / ON THE RUN / OFF THE RUN Ready to go to an incident / Not ready

SHOUT Informal term for an incident to which the Fire Brigade are called out to attend.

SNORKEL Brand name for an “Articulating boom with a platform” and looks like a solid arm with a movable cage or hose platform at its end.

STATION OFFICER (Now Watch Manager / Station Manager) The Day to Day Commander of the Station.

SUB OFFICER Second in Command.
THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA A video camera which sees in the infra-red spectrum and used to detect hot spots at an incident which cannot be seen by the naked eye. This is used to help determine when a fire is out.

TOWER Found at most Fire Stations they were originally used to dry out the hoses. Today they are more likely to be used as a training platform for work with ladders.

WATCH Designated shifts of Fire Fighters at a Station. UK Watches are usually divided into Coloured Teams – Blue, Red, White and Green.

WELFARE UNIT A van and crew used for the welfare of crews at incidents.

WATER CARRIER Specialist unit used to carry water only to be pumped via the Fire Appliance as a reserve tank at major incidents.

#FB14.

AIR AMBULANCE ATTENDING ACCIDENTS IN SANDBACH

The North West Air Ambulance started in 1999 and by 2016 had helped over 20,000 people. In 1999 the charity was founded and was initially able to operate for just five days a week with its base at Blackpool Airport.

The aircraft for the charity are supplied by Bond Air Services Ltd which was founded in 1961 and has a fleet of 22 helicopters which are used by the Cornwall, East Anglian, Hampshire and Isle of White, Midlands, Thames Valley and Chiltern, Scottish, Wales Great Western Air Ambulance Services along with UK Police Aviation and of course Northwest Air Ambulance.

In 2002 supporters had raised enough to allow the helicopter to fly for seven days.

2004 saw a generous legacy of £500,000 which enabled the charity to upgrade its single helicopter.

In 2005 the charity opened its first fundraising shop in Southport.

On the 10 Oct 2005 G-NWAA Eurocopter EC135 T2 went into operation with the Northwest Air Ambulance.

In 2008 more fundraising allowed the charity to purchase a second helicopter.

2008 also saw staff at the Northwest Air Ambulance station pose for a naked calendar to raise funds for the service which sold for £5 each. Denise Baldwin, Judi Ellis, Lesley Pritchard, Julie Lomas and 21 others (26 in total) from Ramsbottom Soroptimists International, members of the public and NWAA Staff posed with the helicopters for the “Bare in the Air 2009” Calendar which went on sale in October 2008. However the Northwest Ambulance Service NHS Trust didn’t agree with the naked calendar and banned it from its premises but it was sold at the NW Air Ambulance headquarters and at Booth’s supermarkets and the charities own website. UNISON on BBC Northwest News condemned the calendar saying that the staff were “Not taking their job seriously” however Linda Brislin Chief Executive of the NWAA disagreed with their viewpoint but did apologise if it caused offence. Ed Thomas from BBC Northwest Tonight asked members of the public if they would be offended and overwhelmingly they didn’t think there was anything wrong with the calendar which raised much needed funds for the organisation.

They were not the only fundraisers to pose naked for the fund as in 2013 the Active Riders posed on their bikes to raise money for the organisation and other Air Ambulance services have benefited from a number of similar calendars.

In August 2009 G-SPHU Eurocopter EC135 T2+ became part of the helicopter fleet.

On the 28 June 2010 G-NWEM Eurocopter EC135 T2 became part of the fleet.

2012 and the Northwest Air Ambulance had an upgrade in staff with the introduction of a Doctor to one of the aircraft enabling them to give specialist care at the scene as well as on the way to hospital.

By 2013 the North West Air Ambulance Service had three helicopters in its fleet including a new Eurocopter EC135 from Bond Air Services which is the only Red coloured one in the fleet (Added on the 7 Oct 2013). It was based at Manchester’s Barton Airport and on its way to Sandbach used the Jodrell Bank’s Radio Telescope as a landmark to guide it on its way and again on the trip back home.

One little extra bit of information about the Aircraft it has a spectator on board helicopter, a teddy bear who sits in the front window next to the paramedic and I am told is a vital member of the crew. If a child is involved in an accident the bear administers to their comfort on the flight to hospital.
In August / September 2016 the fleet had a complete change in colour as it was due a respray and the two yellow and one red aircraft were to become yellow with a blue tail. The first to have this new look was Helimed 75.

September 2016 also saw the appointment of Heather Arrowsmith as Chief Executive taking over from Fiona Morris. Heather had been with the St John Ambulance before taking up this role with the NW Air Ambulance.

In June 2017 a new helipad was opened for the Northwest Air Ambulance at Aintree University Hospital. From this date many of the casualties from the Sandbach were taken to Aintree for care thus cutting the time down for emergency airlifts.

The Numbers of the Aircraft are

**G-NWAA Eurocopter EC135 T2** (Helimed 08 based at the Royal Preston Hospital) / Built in 2005 for Bond Air Services it went straight into operation with the Northwest Air Ambulance on the 10 Oct 2005 and is known as Katie.

**G-SPHU Eurocopter EC135 T2+** Delivered to Bond Services on the 3 March 2003 and was used by the Strathclyde Police from 2003 to June 2008 when it was transferred to the Great Western Air Ambulance Service and worked with them until August 2009 when it became part of the Northwest Air Ambulance fleet. (No Longer with the Northwest Air Ambulance)

**G-NWEM Eurocopter EC135 T2** (Helimed 72 based at University Hospital of South Manchester, Wythenshawe) / It started life in 2003 when under the registration number G-SSSX it was used by the McAlpine Company arriving with them on the 18 March 2003. On the 28 May 2003 it was delivered to Bond Air Services and was used by the Essex Air Ambulance from the 28 May 2003 to the 28 June 2010 when it was re-registered as G-NWEM and started work for the Northwest Air Ambulance Service.

**G-NWAE Eurocopter EC135** the red aircraft (Helimed 75 based at Manchester’s Barton Airport) went into service with Bond Air and the Northwest Air Ambulance on the 7 Oct 2013.

By 2016 the helicopters were based at Blackpool (Helimed 08) and Barton Airfield (Helimed 72 and Helimed 75)

INCIDENTS IN THE SANDBACH AREA 2013 to Date. (Not all events covered)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 July 2012</td>
<td>Air Ambulance took a man to hospital after he was trapped between two HGV Trailers on the Northbound M6 near Sandbach Services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Oct 2013</td>
<td>Air Ambulance landed towards Sandbach RUFC’s ground on Bradwall Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Jan 2014</td>
<td>10.50am CRASH ON M6 Between 16 and 17. Driver of one of the lorries needed to be extracted from the wreckage and was air lifted to Staffordshire. Police and Paramedics also on the scene. Fire appliances from Sandbach (1 + Sandbach Rapid response unit) 2x Crewe, 2 x Winsford and the AIR AMBULANCE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Feb 2014</td>
<td>3pm Fire appliances attended an incident (Details Unknown) with two Air Ambulances in attendance on the way to Middlewich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May 2014</td>
<td>Crash at 15.44pm on Hall Lane / 4 Lane End Crossroads on road to Leighton Hospital involving 2 Cars. Fire crews from Sandbach (1x Engine and Rapid Response Unit) plus a crew from Crewe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 July 2014</td>
<td>9.15am Crash on the M6 between 17 and 18 involving 5 Vehicles. (Fire crews in attendance 1x Sandbach, 1x Rapid Response Sandbach, 1x Crewe, 1x Holmes Chapel, 1x Air Ambulance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Oct 2014</td>
<td>14.49pm man trapped on Bradwall Road, Sandbach in a car crushed by a fallen tree. Paramedics and the Air Ambulance in attendance plus fire crews from Sandbach and Crewe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Jan 2015</td>
<td>Woman trapped in a car on Church Lane, Sandbach Heath. The Car Crashed into the wall of the School in icy weather. One lady and some dogs trapped in Car. Another car was also involved in the incident. Fire Crew from Sandbach and Crewe in attendance with the Air Ambulance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20 Jan 2015  11am Incident in Dragons Lane / Mill Lane, Moston. Red Air Ambulance in Attendance.
A 56 year old Man from Middlewich was found with injuries to his stomach.
He was rushed to North Staffs Hospital by Air Ambulance.

26 Apr 2015 Elworth Church of England School had the Air Ambulance on its grounds after an incident in the area when a man was hit by a car while he was on his bike on Middlewich Road.

23 Sept 2015 Sandbach Park had an unexpected visitor in the shape of the Northwest Air Ambulance which was attending a car crash on the Congleton Road near Tatton Drive.

15 Oct 2015 It was reported that the Air Ambulance landed in Elworth Park to take a person to hospital.

5 May 2016 M6 CRASH between Junctions 18 and 19 involving two cars and a tanker.
Man from a car was taken to hospital by Air Ambulance. Man from Tanker taken by Road to Hospital.
(1x Sandbach, 1x Holmes Chapel, 1x Northwich, 2x Winsford, + Air Ambulance)

23 June 2016 Incident outside Offley Road Primary School involving two old aged people who were hit by a speeding car while they were on their way to vote in the European Election. The man was slightly injured and taken by road ambulance to hospital for checks while his wife was thrown in the air by the crash and was taken by Air Ambulance to Hospital.

10 Oct 2016 A man was Air lifted by the NW Air Ambulance to the Royal Stoke Hospital after being attacked by a Bull in a field near Sandbach at about 11am on Monday the 11 Oct 2016.

15 Oct 2016 Air Ambulance landed in Elworth Park to help with a call (Details unknown). The helicopter left without a patient.

15 Mar 2017 Crash at M6 Junction 18 (Holmes Chapel) when a six car accident resulted in one man being trapped.

2 May 2017 MIDDLEWICH - Crash on the Bostock Road, Bostock, Middlewich when a car hit a telegraph pole and overturned. Off Duty Sandbach Fireman Phil Carney was passing on his way to a relative’s house and offered to help. Two fire appliances and the Air Ambulance attended.

22 Apr 2017 Newcastle Road and Old Mill Road traffic lights (Near the Alms Houses) during the Sandbach Transport Festival when a 58-year-old man collided with an Enterprise hire van at 1pm. The man sustained serious injuries and was taken by Air Ambulance to the University of North Staffs Hospital. The Air Ambulance according to reports landed in the field opposite Waitrose and Homebase. Traffic was diverted via the town centre causing congestion for a number of hours.

2 May 2017 NANTWICH BUILDING SITE – The Air Ambulance was called when a builder fell from a ladder on a Nantwich building site. Unfortunately, the man died from his injuries.

20 June 2017 CRASH on the Wrenbury Road at Cholmondeley with two women Air Lifted to hospital.

21 June 2017 BUILDING SITE OFF DUNWOODY WAY, CREWE – the Air Ambulance was called to an incident when a crane fell on a building site killing two workers and injuring the driver of the crane who was air lifted to Staffordshire. Two other people a mother and her son were taken to Leighton Hospital and released later.

UPDATE – a Third man died in August from injuries sustained in the accident.

23 June 2017 AIR AMBULANCE CALLED TO CRASH ON THE M6 Northbound between Junction 17 and Junction 18 with a Motorcyclist being taken to Hospital.

8 July 2017 WOMAN AND CHILD KNOCKED DOWN BY CAR IN TOURIST AREA. Two Air Ambulances were called to Wheelock Farm after a Mother and Child were knocked down by a 81 year old man in a VW Car after they had sat down on the grass for a picnic. The woman was taken to Aintree Hospital while the Child went to Alder Hey.

5 Aug 2017 MAN KILLED ON M6 – The Air ambulance was called to an accident on the M6 between Junction 19 and 20 (Near Knutsford) after an accident between a Vauxhall Insignia Car and a Flat Bed Lorry just before 8.24am.
The driver of the Vauxhall was taken to Aintree Hospital but died shortly after arriving. Fire crews from Knutsford, Lynn, Birchwood and Greater Manchester’s Altringham station.

12 Aug 2017  ACCIDENT on the Macclesfield Road, Over Alderley with fire crews from Macclesfield and Wilmslow as well as an Air Ambulance which took one of those involved to hospital.

21 Aug 2017  TWO PEOPLE KNOCKED DOWN BY A TRAIN AT HOLMES CHAPEL STATION Police and Two Air Ambulances were called to a report of two people having been knocked down by a train next to Holmes Chapel Railway Station at about 12.30pm. One of the victims was taken by land ambulance to hospital but the second was airlifted by one of the two aircraft to the Royal Stoke Hospital where they died a few hours later.

7 Nov 2017  PERSON FELL DOWN STAIRS IN MACCLESFIELD AND BECAME TRAPPED. A Fire Appliance helped free a person trapped after falling down stairs with the Person being taken to hospital by Air Ambulance.

11 Dec 2017  ACCIDENT ON THE CONGLETON ROAD / OLD MILL ROAD AT JUNCTION 17 OF THE M6 Municipal car accident in the Morning.

24 Sept 2018  CAR CRASH between a Van and a Saloon car on the Newcastle Road at Smallwood. A Man and a Woman were trapped with the man freeing himself before the arrival of the Fire Brigade. At about 4pm the woman was freed and flown by Air Ambulance to the Royal Stoke University Hospital. Fire crews stated on the scene until 5.15pm with Police left to investigate the collision.

29 (30) Sept 2018 At 10.35am two children were knocked down by a vehicle on West Street Crewe. The Air Ambulance was called however a Police statement said that both children were taken to the Alder Hey Hospital. One of the Children was an 11-year-old girl with a one-year old boy who were knocked down by a 74-year-old man in a Kia Car who was also injured.

2 Nov 2018  Car Crash on the Whitchurch Road (A530) in Aston nr Nantwich. Two Air Ambulances attended with one person taken to Stoke and one by Road to Leighton Hospital.

13 Nov 2018  Car Crash between Davenham and Heartford on the Northwich Road (A556). Air Ambulance attended but no one taken to hospital.

1 Dec 2018  Man Rescued from Helsby Hill Cliff on the Old Chester Road, Frodsham involving 4 Fire Appliances and the Air Ambulance in an incident that took 2 hours.

FEBRUARY 2019  The Air Ambulance attended 42 Missions in Cheshire during February 2019. They attended 224 incidents over the North West. Including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Road Traffic Accidents</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Incidents</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting Related</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Transfers</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Incidents</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29 Mar 2019  Crash on the M6 between Junction 19 and 18 at 2.07am involving six vehicles. A 37-year-old man was taken by Air Ambulance to Stoke.

24 May 2019  38-year-old man hit by a lorry in Weston Road, Crewe taken to the Royal Stoke Hospital.

21 June 2019  Man died after a fall from scaffolding at Stapley Gardens. He was taken by Air Ambulance to Stoke but died of his injuries.

26 July 2019  A Man collapsed at Nantwich Swimming Baths. The Air Ambulance attended but he was taken to Leighton Hospital by Road Ambulance.

___________________________________________________________
Sandbach FOLK CLUB
___________________________________________________________
Before the folk club formed there were a series of impromptu evenings at the Crown Hotel (Pub) with occasional concerts at the Town Hall organised by Nigel Stonier, Ian Ankers, Kevin Fletcher, Dave Hughes and Phil Brightman.
On the 31 January 1981 the Sandbach Folk Club held its first official evening with a rendition of “San Francisco Bay Blues” with the Providence Jug Band (Winston and Phil Barklett) at the George Hotel in the town.

In the 1970’s Winston and Phil Brightman went to the Crewe “Singout” Folk Club where they played songs at the club and where they were joined by Steve Green (Mandolin) and Nigel Stonier (Piano). Together the four of them formed the “Providence Jug Band” which played at various venues in the area.

After the formation of the Folk Club in Sandbach local singers joined in with local Sandbach Secondary School French Teacher Sue Wyatt becoming one of the early singers and guitarists, Dave Hughes another person at the opening session came from Warrington and continued for many years to join in with the singers sessions.

Another teacher John Stoker (Sandbach School) sang at the opening night and continued until his death on the 2 February 2013 (Aged 60), playing on his own and with Dave Hughes.

Other performers included Pete Johnson who is also known as “Snakey Jake” and owned a Guitar and amplifier shop in Crewe. He also went on to play with Dave / David Parton (“Isn’t She Lovely”).

In the early days the club held concerts at the Town Hall to raise funds for the club with their 3rd concert being the duo “Mr Gladstone’s Bag”.

The Sandbach Folk Club moved from the George in 2006 to the Market Tavern and on the 10 April 2012, they moved into a new room at the back with a stage.

On the 12 February 2019, the club celebrated its 38th birthday with a joint celebration of the 70th birthday of its current organiser Winston Baldwin.

CELEBRITY GUESTS
- Stanley Accrington (Oct 2018)
- Stan Arnold (16 June 1981)
- Gary and Vera Aspey
- Calico Jack
- John James (Sold over 100 tickets for the venue at the George)
- Phil Maddocks
- Pete Shirley
- Steamhead
- Clive Gregson (24 Oct 2018 as part of Blackedds)

http://www.brightman.me.uk/ (History of the Club)

WELL KNOWN MEMBERS OF THE CLUB (Locally)
- Winston Baldwin
- Liz Rosenfield-Boyle
- John Stoker (Died)

# # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #

FORD (High Street) / BROOK BRIDGE
(Named after the Brookhouse Family See Dingle Lake).

At the bottom of the hill just before the traffic lights on the Bye-pass (Opened in November 1986) lies a bridge under which is a "Ford". On the 30th of May 1825 the first stone was bought for the new bridge. It had been purchased by Charles Whittingham and was laid by the builders William Smith on the 22 June 1825. On the 3rd November 1826 (or 1825) at 10am the last stone of the Arch was placed in position by William Smith and William Dickenson with William Cross Snr. in attendance. On the 13 December 1826 (or 1825) the centre stone or “Cinter” of the Battlement was laid by Francis Johnson Ford Esq. in the absence of his father John Ford (A local Magistrate of the Hundred, of Northwich, Cheshire).

Under a Copper Plate Mr Ford deposited one Half Crown, One Shilling, One Sixpence and one Silver Sheffield “Jobu” with a value of sixpence. Also deposited was one Copper Penny and one Half-Penny. The bridge became known as "Brook Bridge".

GRADE 2 Listed.
(Ford and Bridge May 2004)

#################################################################