



HISTORY OF SANDBACH

PART 2 = G to S.

Compiled by Stewart Green © From 2013 to date.
(Including information from publications by the Sandbach History Society)
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PART 2 = 249 Pages 14 Oct 2018
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#HG. GAS COMPANY WORKS (Demolished)

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Built in 1874 near the Brook Silk Mill (On the West side of The Hill next to a large lake near where Waitrose is today) it had a capital stock of £3,00 raised by selling £10 Shares. The Gasometer held 24,000 cubic feet of gas. The gas was charged at a rate of 6-8d per 1,000 cubic feet. The company consisted of the Rev. John Armitstead (Chairman of the Directors) Mr Robert Bray (Manager) and John Bailey (secretary). Mr Walter hill was manager of the company for over 50 years after Mr Bray left the company. The supply from the "Sandbach Gas Company" ran to Sandbach, Elworth and Wheelock and later Malkins Bank, who had their own gas supplied by the Salt Union Ltd.

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GEORGE HOTEL (Bridge Street / High Street)

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Built in the 1600's as the "George and Dragon" it was the staging post for 'The Rocket' and 'Rocket Sovereign' stage coach from Liverpool to Birmingham. The old building held balls, dinner dances in a large club room at one side of the yard.

In the Early days of the Coaches they were used to take convicts from Liverpool to London for deportation to Van Diemen's Land and as they were usually bound on hands and feet the George was used as a resting point on the long journey.

The building we see today is of a much later date possibly built in 1810.

In 1834 the towns Post Office moved to "The George Inn" public house.

During the early 1800's the building was used for the Hunt Balls and Dinners as described below in a report about the 1822 to 1825 period.

The building was described thus; - "The Building was rough cut, it had large square windows and was approached by three semi-circular steps. It was here that the London Stage Coaches stopped to change Horses and to refresh the Passengers and Hunt Balls and dinners were frequently held in the Inn. There was a side gateway leading to an extensive yard and still beyond to the bowling green. A Mr and Mrs Emery kept the Inn".

In December 1980 two priest holes were discovered in the building. This surprising as Priest Hols are usually associated with the time of Henry VIII.

In 2012 the building was closed and in 2013 the building was taken over by the Wetherspoons group who opened the pub on the 18 December 2013.
GRADE 2 listed building.

LANDLORDS

- 1782 = William Lindop (George Inn)
- 1834 = Thomas Emery (George Inn and Posting House -Bridge Street, Sandbach)
- 1844 = Mr and Mrs Emery (“George and Dragon” known locally as The George)
The George also had a bowling green.
- 1899 = Henry Hildyard

GEORGE HOTEL 1834 Coach 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.



(19 May 2004 George Hotel)

#####

GRAMMAR SCHOOL (see Sandbach School)

#####

Started in the 17th Century, Sir George Gilbert Scott, R.A. of London helped with the designs for the current building of which he designed the gate house in 1850. Additions to the building were designed by A Price and Son with the builder being H. Hilditch and Son.

#####

#HH. HACKNEY’S ROAD HAULAGE

Frederick Hackney Brief History

Father Frederick Hackney (.b. 1881 .D. June 1970)

Mother = Marie Priscilla Robinson (.b. 1986 .D. 1909)

Frederick Hackney Born on the 25 September 1905 in the Stockport area.

Harold Hackney (Half Brother) Born on the 15 April 1912 (.D. 1996) in the Stockport Area.

Frederick married Eliza Davies (.b. 1908 .D. 1998) on the 12 May 1928 in Old Rode, Sandbach, Cheshire.

Frederick Howard Hackney their son born on the 10 Mar 1934 (.D. 1994) in Congleton.

Frederick Hackney (Fred) died on the 3 June 1985 in Sandbach (Congleton / Crewe District)

#####

14 December 2017

HACKNEY’S GARAGE DEMOLISHED

The end of another historic building in Sandbach happened on the 14 December 2017 when the Nissen Hut (First produced between the 16 and 18 April 1916 and produced commercially in August 1916) like Structure belonging to the Hackney Haulage Company was finally demolished as a digger was bought in to pull it down. Part of the town centre’s history this building for many years housed a Showman’s Traction Engine owned by Fred Hackney which had been a major attraction at most events in the town.

Mr Fred Hackney (Frederick Hackney b. 1881) started his haulage business in Sandbach in 1919 in a building in School Lane, Elworth with two Commer vehicles (Company formed in 1905). During the

Second World War all vehicles had been commandeered for the movements of essential equipment etc. by the Government and continued to be run by them until the 1950's after which they were returned to their owners with the Denationalisation of Haulage. It was at this time that 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 and this is where the metal structure stood until this year.

In 1933, Mr Hackney had purchased the fourth vehicle built by the newly formed ERF company of Sandbach and wherever possible over the years he continued to use lorries made in the town by ERF or Foden's.

By the 1970's, Fred Hackney started to take an interest in older forms of transport and entertainment including a Fairground Barrel Organ and the 1916 Showman's Traction Engine which was one of the oldest surviving vehicles of its kind (Registration number DO1932). "Enterprise" as it was called was built in 1916 by John Fowler and Co (Leeds) Ltd and worked up and down the country before it was purchased by Hackney's who proudly took it into the town under its own steam to become a familiar attraction at events in Sandbach.

In 1974, this Traction Engine came into its own soon after its boiler had been refitted when "Enterprise" was brought out of retirement to power the lighting at the E.R.F. Works at Middlewich when there was a problem with the electric supply to the repair department due to the UK Miner's Strike which meant power cuts across Britain. It had originally been used to power Hobby Horses on Fairgrounds and was driven to Middlewich one Friday by Fred Hackney, his brother Harold (lived in Glendore, Abbey Road, Elworth) and grandson Simon Rigby.

On the 17 December 1964 F Hackney (Sandbach) Limited was formed by Frederick Hackney and by 1991 the Company Directors were Eliza Hackney (8 Mar 1991 to 19 April 1998), Frederick Howard Hackney (8 Mar 1991 to 3 Aug 1994) with Jean Elizabeth Rigby as Director of the company (appointed 8 Mar 1991) and Simon Michael Rigby (appointed 4 Nov 2003 until it was dissolved in 2013). With the death of its founder and changes to the Commercial Haulage business the company was officially dissolved on the 18 December 2013 having moved off the Congleton Road site a few years earlier.

Fred Hackney also owned the Petrol Station on the Congleton Road next to his house and the Ambulance station and by the 1980's with profits declining they decided to sell the petrol business to Texaco who continued there until after 2000 when the buildings were demolished and they put their efforts into the station next to the M6. In April 2014, Mr Awat Murad (of Shelton, Stoke on Trent) applied to convert the land of the petrol station into a car wash having already cleared the site in June 2013.

With the demolition of the Nissen Hut on the site of the Haulage Garage on the 14th December 2017 and the redevelopment of the "Star Services Petrol Station" the only structural memory of the Hackney Haulage Company remaining is the family house next to the land, which has unfortunately been boarded up for many years.

(Location) Star Service Station CW11 4SP / CW11 1HG



HASSALL ROAD
(Cold Moss Heath, on the left of The Hill, going out of the town)
#####

There are various houses of various dates down this road but one group near the corner of Hassell Road and Houndings Lane are of particular interest. The first group of 2 sets of two houses were built in 1887 and are named "Stafford Terrace". In 1894 another house was added (Detached) called "Stafford Cottage" followed in 1906 by a second detached house (Also called "Stafford Cottage"). In 1911 two more houses were added followed by another detached building the date of which is not registered on the outside.



(17 May 2004)

HAWK STREET (at the back of St Mary's and Penda Way)
 #####

At the library end of Hawk Street is a black and white building that dates back over 300 years to 1570 (on Well Bank Road).

Another the other end of the road is a Black and White building which is a recent construction replacing an earlier building that fell down.

By 1925 Hawk Street was occupied by William Mellor's second hand shop (he also had stables for horses that would pull his wagonette) and a public house called "The Dunham Heifer", all of which have been demolished.



Hawk Street c. 1925 (behind St. Mary's Church). On the right is William Mellor's second hand shop behind which he had stables for his horses and wagonette. The white gable-ended house (centre) is the public house, "The Dunham Heifer".

© Sandbach History Society

HIGH STREET to the Hill.
 #####

On one side of the street it is made up of old houses, while on the other side it is more modern. Passing by the saving bank (Midland / HSBC) we come across a shop formally owned by Mr Ford as a Music Shop. Passing on towards the town Centre a group of shops ending with the Swan Hotel (See Swan Hotel).

The High Street also had a Café, or Cocoa House (as it was first described) (See Co-op or below) and a large shop next to them (See Woolworth). These two buildings were built at the same time as the Town Hall about 1889.

The Co-operative building or Pricefighter store next to the town hall was built in 1892. It was from 1892 until 1946 the Hungerford Café run on behalf of the Hungerford (Lord Crewe) family.

Next is the other shop mentioned above. This is now owned by the Woolworth chain and occupies a building constructed in 1936 as an original 3d and 6d (Woolworth) shop.

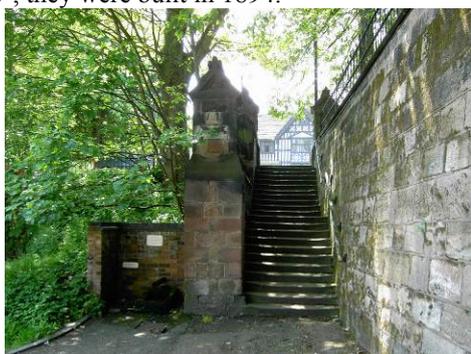
Shops on the opposite side include Chatwins bakeries. These premises were built between 1760 and 1860. In the early 1900's (Picture of shop taken in 1910) the corner buildings (Rumbelows / Coices Video Shop and Welsby's photographic shop) were owned by Wardle's with Charles Wardle as the proprietor.

Shops on the Southern side of the Red Lion Hotel date back to before 1758.

The George Hotel (See George Hotel) is next to the house of two ladies called Miss Sibons who were the maiden daughters of the Rev John Sibon, who was the Curate of the Parish for 36 years. They were described as being with precise manners, erect bearing and dressing in antiquated dress. They managed the old Post Office for many years. Miss Sarah Sibson died in 1857 at the age of 90 years. In her will she made provision for the church of St John's, Sandbach Heath, to be built. (See St John's Church). Down Bridge Street past the church gates there was a road which branched off to the left down Front Street just inside what is now the Church wall. In 1875 -77 the road was closed to make way for the enlargement of the churchyard.

It was at this time that the soil was put into a mound and the Brook Bridge was installed to take the road over the river rather than using a "Ford".

The town spout was positioned opposite Bridge House at the foot of the steps on the south side of the church graveyard (on High Street). It was moved in 1876 when the church graveyard was extended. Opposite the Church on the corner of Church Street and Well Bank are two buildings called "Dingle Cottages", they were built in 1894.



(Town Well at Front Street 17 May 2004)

Opposite the Dingle cottages now stands a monument to the original Pump used for the water supply to the town positioned at the bottom of the steps near the church graveyard (see later).

Bridge Street contains some old houses opposite the church with an opening to St Anne's Square.

"The Steppes" is a former farm house.

Next we come to Front Street in the hole between the Church and the Bridge. The Corner Black and White building dates back to 1639.

From Front street we join Church Street briefly and ascend on foot only as the road was blocked off in the 1980's towards the Bye-Pass.

Previously the road then sloped down to the "Ford" (See Ford) and Brook Bridge.

Next we come to the Bye-Pass (Opened in November 1986) where it used to be Factory lane (on the Right or West of the Road) and beyond that Lower Brook House (Also on the left near what was the Lower Brook Garage).

Lower Brook House had a shop on its ground floor which sold silks, cotton and wool. In 1792 a Sunday service was held at one o' clock by the Wesleyan Society. The house at the time was owned by Mr Thomas Mann who I presume was a member of the Wesleyan society from its foundation in Sandbach in 1785 (In May 1738 John Wesley founded the society of Methodism with a service in Aldersgate) with 20 members. The Lower Brook house was later owned by Mr Wm. Dean.

On the left of the High Street was a wood, some of which is still there. Some of the trees were removed to make way for a cinder tip. This cinder tip later became a transport Garage and yard owned eventually by British Road Services before it went out of business and was demolished to make way for new houses.

Next port of call down the road, now called "The Hill" are the Almshouses (See Almshouses).

At the end of the Almshouses is Smithfield Lane a road that led to cottages and nurseries. Now the road leads to a housing estate.

Next to the entrance of the Smithfield Lane was a spout and trough for drinking water.

A little further up The Hill is Mill Row and a set of houses known as Chimney Row (Built in 1850), due to the first building on the main road having a prominent Chimney. This site was originally a factory with a tall chimney built in 1850. Mr Bull introduced a silk making factory to this site at that time starting the silk trade in Sandbach. (See Mills).



On the opposite side of the road is the town Cemetery. As you enter the main gates you can see a memorial at the far end of the drive. This was in fact moved to this position in 1934 and is a war memorial for those who fought in the First World War (1914-1918). The monument had originally been at the "Brunner Mond and Co Limited" works at Malkins Bank Near Wheelock which closed in 1934. It was decided to move the monument to the cemetery instead of destroying it.



Next up The Hill behind the Mill was the first Sewage Works in Sandbach, constructed in 1891. In 1908 they were abandoned because they were too low in the ground and replaced by a larger works constructed by Mr John Stringer under the direction of engineer Mr William Wyatt. Again this was abandoned as a better facility was constructed in Hind Heath.

Near to the Chimney row (Mill Row) is the site of an 18th Century Inn known as the "Golden Lion". The building is now number 60 The Hill. During its Inn days the upper rooms served as a meeting place or Club room with the ceiling decorated with the emblem of the "All-seeing Eye".

72 The Hill is now occupied by Lawton Tools but was the venue for the Number 4 branch of the Sandbach Industrial Co-operative Society (Limited) (see Co-operative)

At the Top of the Hill there was a thatches cottage owned by Charles Dunning who owned a "Bear" that he took to various Wakes to perform tricks. Another owner of a bear lived in Church Street and kept it in the basement.

THE HILL (Leonard Cheshire Home)
 #####

Built in 1733 as a town house for the Twemlow family. The central portion being added in 1870 and a Billiard room in 1912.

After the death of Miss V Roydes in 1964 the building was given to the Leonard Cheshire Homes Trust.

HOLLIES – Wesley Avenue.
 #####

Built around the 1800's it was the home of John Stringer the builder of the Wesley Avenue Church who built the house for his family while he was supervising the Construction of the Chapel buildings (1872).

In the 1930's it became the home of a solicitors.

1938= Thomas, Jones, Alcock (Solicitors)
After 1938 = Poole, Alcock and Co (Solicitors)

**HOUNDINGS LANE or HOWNINGS LANE
(Coldmoss Heath).**
#####

This was possibly laid out by the Saxon Tribe of Hundings who had a village situated on the high ground overlooking what is now a mill building.
The word "Hund" is the Saxon way of spelling "Hound" thus making Hundings into "Houndings".
At the bottom of the hill in Houndings lane and Mill Hill Lane is a Corn Mill which was worked by a water wheel.

HUNGERFORD CAFÉ and SHOPS
#####

They were designed by Thomas Bower of Nantwich and built by Mr John Stringer in 1892 next to the Town Hall. The Building was later the home of the Co-op and Price City.
The Building was also known as CONISTON HOUSE and was later split into various units.

6 HIGH STREET

This was built in 1892 and was until 1946 the Hungerford Café a family run enterprise for over 50 years providing grocery and confectionary.

A Picture at about this time shows the building with the words Sandbach Garage on it (Town Hall Corner Side)

1899 / 1902 = William Tompkinson was the proprietor of the shop and also owner of the Commercial Hotel in Wheelock.

Next to the café was a Chocolate (Cadburys) shop (1899).

1911 = Walter Henry Scragg (Grocer and Confectioner)

1914 = William Tompkinson (Temperance Hotel)

1902 / 1914 = Frederick Allman (Clothier)

1933 = Whittle and Cope (Café)

1938 = A.T. Davies (Café)

1948 = By 1948 it had become part of the Sandbach Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd based in Bold Street, Sandbach and was still under the name Hungerford Café.

1960's/after 1987 = Co Operative Building in 6 High Street only expanding into both later.

In 1976 6b High Town was occupied by the Ambassador Staff Agency. The shop also did duplicating, typing and other office services.

8 HIGH STREET

1900's = Lunt (Hardware Shop)

1911 = William Tomkinson (Aged 72 – Grocer and Confectioner)

1914 = Nathaniel Gould and Co Ltd (Grocers)

1930's = Liberal Club (In the Ground Floor after the closure of Gould's Store at 8 High Street)

1938 = F.J. Glover (Optician Wed and Thursday only) Moved to Wesley Avenue.

1938 = National United Order of Free Gardeners Friendly Society (George C Reynolds – Secretary)

Pre 1971 = Department of Health and Social Security (Job Centre)

6-8 HIGH STREET

Between 1971 and 1994 the shop was the "Co-op" and later renamed "Pricefighter".

By 2000 with the closure of the supermarket it became PRICE CITY (Supermarket / DIY shop) and changed its name in July 2013 to "Handy Household".

#HI.
#####

#HJ. C.M. JEFFERIES AND COMPANY LTD.
#####

Manufacturers and printers of high class solid and corrugated fiberboard boxes and containers in the town.

#HK.
#####

#HL. H.J. LEA AND SONS LTD.
#####

In 1860 the building now occupied by H J Lea and Son was an Independent Chapel seating 200 people. It was later converted to become a Primitive Methodist Hall before again changing its use and being purchased by a new miller in the 1880's, H.J. Lea.
H J Lea were established in the 1880's as a Corn Merchants in Wheelock Mills producing animal feeds etc.
Today the company specialises in pet food etc.

Dr Charles LATHAM
#####

See July 1907 Dr CHARLES LATHAM died on the (6th or) 7 July 1907.
Born in 1816 the third son of Richard and Sarah Latham he was also the nephew of John Latham (1761 -1843).

LEISURE CENTRE
#####

It was officially opened on the 17 January 1976 and was a joint venture between the Congleton Borough Council and the Secondary Modern School.
While building took place it was discovered that one of the workmen knew how to play the bagpipes. I was at school at the time and I remember that he was persuaded to play them in school assembly. He was also heard to play the bagpipes during the daytime on the work site (See 1651).



(Leisure Centre 19 May 2004)

LEONARD CHESHIRE HOME (see The Hill)
#####

Home since 1964 to date.

LIBRARY
#####

Before 1899 R. A. Tomlinson's shop in the High Street 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.

In 1897 the Marriott family donated land (Now the Park) and their house (Marriott House, now the library) to the town. It was described at the time as a "Technical School, Public Gardens and Pleasure Gardens" and had various uses between 1897 and 1926.

On the 29 March 1926 a Library in Marriott House was opened on Scotch Common. It was run by Cheshire County and the library was only open on Tuesday and Friday evenings. It was run by a dedicated staff of volunteers from 7pm to 8pm. On average the library held about 70 books available from a stock of some 500 for the county. In May 1932 the library unfortunately had to start charging a 1d fine for overdue books after 14 days. By 1933 the library had issued some 31,231 books.

There was also a Group Library in the 1930's at 14 Crewe Road, Sandbach.

There was also a Library at the Library Institution, High Town Reading Room, Library and Billiards Room. (Literary Institute).

By the 1950's Marriott House was used as a Public Health Office, County Library and School building. In 1966 the town guide gave the number of books in the Marriott House library at 10,000 with over 84,000 volumes being issued to readers annually.

1966 OPENING TIMES

Monday	Closed / 2pm to 8pm
Tuesday	
Wednesday	10am to 12.30pm / 2.30pm to 5pm
Thursday	10am to 12.30pm / 2.00pm to 8pm
Friday	10am to 12.30pm / Closed
Saturday	10am to 12.30pm / 2.30pm to 5pm

In March 1968, after Marriott House has been demolished, works started on building a new library on the site.

On the 17 March 1970, the new library was opened on the Commons.

They are situated on the site of Marriott House (See Literary Institute /Marriott House).

On Tuesday the 7 November 1995 the Library took Custody of a Chair to be displayed in the Marriott Room. The chair was 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.

During October 2011 Cheshire East Council who were now running the Library Service as a joint operation with Cheshire West, decided to move its information point from Westfields in Middlewich Road to the library where it will provide the same service for more people and easier access to the facilities of the Council as it is more central to the town. Library staff instead of Council staff will take on the role of manning the desk which provides new Council Claims, Disability Cards etc.

In November 2013 the final votes were cast after a consultation as to what the public would like the library to look like in the future and the results were put to the Council for final approval. It was these suggestions that were implemented in March 2015 when building work started on improving the 45 year old library.

On Wednesday the 5 November 2014 a working model Foden Steamer was put on permanent display in the library after many years of discussions with both Sandbach Town Council and Cheshire East. Built by Dr Alan Braddock of Dobcross Nr Oldham it took him from 1983 to 1998 to build the replica, dates that are reflected in the registration number of the model, AB8398. Originally on show in his home it was decided by the family that it should have a more permanent place where it could be appreciated and when Sandbach Town Council was approached they were initially pleased to house it in what would have been the Tourist information office at the Town Hall. However as objections to the sighting of an information centre in the arches of the building by certain market traders meant that there was not to be a tourist centre in the town this display area was now not an option and the Cheshire East Council were approached to see if they could find space. A possible venue was Westfields but as this was being used less and less by the public it was suggested the Town's Library be approached and Rowena Gomersall was asked to find a space in the library for it and a prominent place for was set aside so it could be seen in the main entrance area.

David Braddock the son of the model maker, John Densem from Weston Nr Crewe and the man behind negotiations for it to come into the town, installed the engine in the library in time for a Foden

Exhibition on the 8 November to launch a Foden Pack dedicated to the history of the Foden Works by Cheshire Archives who distributed the memory boxes to libraries and schools in the area. There is one addition to the model that David has added himself and that is a reminder of the days when he was allowed to see the model at home. His father placed a toy mouse on the engine for them to find and if you look carefully there is one there in the display.

12 February 2015 a new computer system was installed in the library for staff to administer the lending of books and to compliment the Self Service facility within the building.

OPENING HOURS 2015

Monday	9am to 7pm
Tuesday	9am to 5pm
Wednesday	9am to 7pm
Thursday	9am to 1pm
Friday	9am to 5pm
Saturday	9.30am to 1pm
Sunday	Closed

USERS OF THE LIBRARY

- Sandbach U3A
- Credit Union
- Macmillan Cancer Support

NOTABLE VISITORS / SPEAKERS

- 20 May 2014 Robert Williams (Author)
- 13 Oct 2014 Roman Ring on Display from Sandbach on loan by Congleton Museum.



(Library 19 May 2004)

LITERARY INSTITUTE, Hightown.
 #####

Built in 1857 by Samuel Faram of Wheelock and Rode, to the design of Sir George Gilbert Scott, R.A. of London, at a cost of £2,700 (£2,100 being donated by the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood). Sir George Gilbert Scott also designed the restoration of the Parish Church of St Mary's. He also built The Almshouses, Sandbach School and St John's Church in Sandbach Heath. The building used local materials including Bricks from Staffordshire Blue Bricks and Staffordshire tiles, while the carved stone detailing comes from stone the Mow Cop Ridge Carboniferous Grit. It was built to provide affordable accommodation to inhabitants of the town and to provide a place for a Market and Corn exchange. Part of the building also housed the Literary and Scientific institute, a reading room and library.

The building has also been used as a Magistrates court with the upstairs being opened as a Ballroom and Dance hall.

Before the Institute building was constructed the Literary and Scientific Society met at the house of a Grammar School master Mr Christopher Herring in "Mountford House" Crewe Road. This building was later occupied by Dr Jack and Mr Alfred Stringer, a solicitor.

It is claimed that Ramsey Macdonald (Prime Minister) spoke in this building during a Parliamentary Bye-Election.

On Monday 19 September 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 for the use of animals who attended the institute.

In 1902 (Kelly Directory of that year) it was the County Court with Henry Latham the Congleton registrar and high bailiff in charge.

In 1914 the Literary and Scientific Institution had Alfred E Stringer - Chairman, Arthur E Slade – Treasurer and Matthew H Eardley – Secretary.

By the 1960's the Institute had a first floor Snooker Table which was removed when the Sandbach Town Council needed the rooms for an office and Council Chamber.

The Sandbach Partnership in 2004 helped to get the building renovated with the help of Architect John Carter a local man who in his youth attended dances at the building.

In 2005 the Sandbach Town Council rented rooms at the Institute in which they conducted meetings and held their archive and offices. This was a six year lease which by 2010 cost them £7,120 a year in rent.



(April 2004)



Opening ceremony 1857.

(The following was re-enacted on the 27 March 2004 during an open day at the building)

SIR GEORGE GILBERT SCOTT

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Literary and Scientific Society. This is a very fine day in the history of Sandbach and it is with great pride that I George Gilbert Scott of London, stand before you in 1857 to help unveil this most magnificent public facility the Sandbach Literary Institution.

As an Architect it is enormously gratifying to see my plans being realised by Mr Samuel Faram, builder but most of all I wish to pay warm tribute to you the inhabitants of this great town and neighbour hood for your great vision and inspiration in commissioning a building of quality to afford not only new premises for the literary and scientific society but a facility to act as a suitable place as a market and corn exchange for the numerous millers and farmers, who I understand are in the habit of attending here. I am sure that you have no doubt taken a wise and judicious step towards raising this town to that position in the commercial world, which its thriving importance and spirited enterprise so eminently entitle it to attain. I know hand you over to Mr Faram the builder who will now say a few words. (APPLAUSE)

MR SAMUEL FARAM

On behalf of the farmers, millers and towns people of Sandbach I wish to thank you Mr George Gilbert Scott for designing a building of such fine quality, the slender proportions afforded by the early English gothic style are particularly appropriate for such an important municipal building and I will I am sure form a distinctive local landmark that will grace this town for centuries to come. I am sure that everyone will agree with me that the internal arrangements are the most handsome and tasteful kind the upper room being brilliantly lighted by three gas sunlight's and the staircase and lower rooms by gas chandeliers and bronze lamps. In addition to the corn exchange the portion of the lower rooms of the building are appropriated to the purpose of a reading room and library and on the first floor you will find a very handsome room intended for the holding of public meetings, concerts, balls and lectures, however it must not be forgotten that the accomplishment of this great building could not have been achieved without you the inhabitants. For it is not only through your great vision but your most liberal contributions amounting to £2,100 that the building cost of £2,700 have been afforded. I therefore beseech you to make full use of the books, newspapers, magazines and maps which fill the reading rooms. And before I declare this building open Mrs Vale implores me to point out that tea and coffee can be obtained on the most moderate terms, in which case without further adieux I declare this building open. (APPLAUSE)

EVENTS AT THE LITERARY Institute.

CREMONA MUSIC UNION

The above was a show with various musicians. Mr Henry Taylor (Owner of the Lyceum, Crewe) said that the show was the same people who performed in front of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales with the Duke of Sutherland and a Party of dignitaries at Trentham.

Date **Venue**
11 Dec 1885 SANDBACH LITERARY INSTITUTE
 Under the Patronage of Mr George W. Latham Esq. M.P. (of Bradwall Hall)

CURRENT EVENTS

Tae Quando, Brass Band Rehearsals



LOWER CHEQUER INN

The Inn claims that this is the oldest building in Sandbach dating back to 1570 (The same year as 10 Well Bank, Sandbach – also Grade 2)

The Chequer board comes from the story that uneducated people used this board to count their money (I can only assume that the normal board of 8 squares by 8 squares was not used as a 10 Square board would make counting easier, however as it was used to count money by lenders they may have gained an extra 2 coins by using the standard board). It was thought that many of the early landlords were moneylenders as well as publicans.

The mounting block outside dates back to the times of horses and carriages and was used to mount the and alight from your chosen form of transport.
The house next door dates from about the same period.



(April 2004)



#HM. Sandbach MARKET History

© Stewart Green 2017 (2018 update).
There has been a Market in the town since it was granted a Royal Charter in 1579 by Queen Elizabeth 1st.

A charter granted by Queen Elizabeth 1st to the town a market in 1578 on application by Sir John Radcliffe, of Ordsell, in Lancashire. It would come into force in 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 charter was granted and so the market would be held on Thursday with two fairs each year being held.

The Market Charter allows for Two Fairs to be held on the Thursday and Friday before the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary (8 September) with the other Fair of the 1579 Charter to held on the Tuesday and Wednesday in Easter week.

In 1879 the market moved from the Market Square to the Common when the Rt. Hon. Hungerford, Lord Crewe gave the land to the town along with the perpetual rights to all market tolls. He also gave the site for the Town Hall at the same time.

On the 15 March 1882, Annie Hill was sentenced to 3 months hard labour after being convicted of Pick Pocketing at Sandbach Market.

However pictures from 1888 show that the market had moved back to the Market Square and in 1890 the new Town Hall and Market Hall was opened in the centre of the town.

In 1889, the Rt Hon. Hungerford, Lord Crewe of Crewe Hall donated the land for the new building of a Town Hall and Market Hall, along with the right to all Market tolls.

The foundation stone was laid on the 2 July 1889 and was designed by the architect Thomas Bower of Nantwich who was in charge of overseeing the project and who used locally built bricks made at the Ancient Britain yard in Congleton Road with construction of the building by John Stringer.

(Some books say that Sir George Gilbert Scott designed building but it is more likely that he was the architect of the 1888 -1891 building -2nd Town Hall)

The cost of the Market Hall and Town Hall was £5,000.

Mrs Jane Court of Wheelock House presented the Main Clock, with Gas illuminations in memory of her relatives the Peover family who owned the house that had been below the tower.

When the hall was completed Lord Crewe erected at his own expense the two statues either side of the main entrance (Above the doors). One is named "Bigot", he was the first Norman who held the manor of Sandbach, under Hugh Lupus, the Earl of Chester and the nephew of William the Conqueror.

The Second statue is that of Sir Randolph Crewe, Sergeant-at-law, an ancestor of Lord Crewe who lived in the reign of King James 1 (Accession 1603 - 1625). He bought the manor of Sandbach from John Radcliffe and became Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. He built Crewe Hall about 1620.

In October 1890 the Town Hall and Market Hall was officially opened.



Pre 1889



1888 Market Square Market

By 1890, in the book “History of Sandbach Co. Chester” by J.P. Earwaker” (Only 250 copies printed with 100 to be given away as Presentation copies) the fairs were held on the Tuesday of Easter Week and the first Thursday after the 12 September and on the 28th of December each year.

Both of these dates have long since been abandoned with the Wakes week being held on the first Thursday after the 12th of September. This date has again largely had been replaced with a fair on the Friday to Wednesday of a week in September and by the 21st Century had been moved again to a Friday to the following Tuesday in Wakes Week (September).

The traditional market at this time continued from 1578 with one being held every Thursday on the Market Square (Where the Saxon Crosses now stand).

On the 1st of December 1890 under the “Seal of the Sandbach Local Board of Health” a list of Tolls was published and still hangs at the back entrance to the Market Hall.

SANDBACH MARKET

TABLE OF TOLLS LEVIABLE

IN THE MARKET BELONGING TO THE SANDBACH LOCAL BOARD, ACTING AS THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

POULTRY AND PIGS

For any number of fowles or pigs brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a basket not exceeding 17 inches in length and 14 inches in width, the sum of 1d.

For any number of fowles or pigs brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a basket or hamper not exceeding 2 feet 6 inches in length and 2 feet in width, the sum of 2d.

For any number of fowles or pigs brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a basket or hamper exceeding 2 feet 6 inches in length and 2 feet in width, the sum of 3d.

For every turkey, goose, or pig brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale otherwise than in a basket, hamper, or other similar receptacle the sum of 1d.

For every fowl brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale otherwise than in a basket, hamper, or other similar receptacle the sum of ½d.

EGGS AND BUTTER

For any quantity of butter or for any number of eggs brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a basket not exceeding 17 inches in length and 14 inches in width, the sum of 1d.

For any quantity of butter or for any number of eggs brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a basket not exceeding 2 feet 6 inches in length and 2 feet in width, the sum of 2d.

For any quantity of butter or for any number of eggs brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a box exceeding 2 feet and not exceeding 3 feet in length, the sum of 4d.

For any quantity of butter or for any number of eggs brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a box exceeding 4 feet and not exceeding 5 feet in length, the sum of 6d.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

For any quantity of fruit or vegetables brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a basket, bag, hamper, pannier, cask or box not exceeding 17 inches in length and 14 inches in width, the sum of 1d.

For any quantity of vegetables, fruit, or agricultural produce brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a cart drawn by two horses, the sum of 9d.

For any quantity of vegetables, fruit, or agricultural produce brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a cart drawn by one horse, the sum of 6d.

For any quantity of vegetables, fruit, or agricultural produce brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a cart drawn by one ass or mule, the sum of 4d.

For any quantity of vegetables, fruit, or agricultural produce brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a cart drawn by two asses or mules, the sum of 6d.

For any quantity of vegetables, fruit, or agricultural produce brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, in a waggon, the sum of 1s.

For every score of live turkeys or geese brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, the sum of 6d.

For every score of live ducks brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, the sum of 3d.

For every calf, sheep, lamb or goat brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, the sum of 1/2d.

For every gig, carriage, cart, or other vehicle brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, the sum of 6d.

For every horse, mare, gelding, colt, or filly brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, the sum of 4d.

For every cow, bull, ox, or heifer brought into the market or sale or exposure for sale, the sum of 2d.

For every ass or mule brought into the market for sale or exposure for sale, the sum of 1d.

(d= Pence / s = Shilling)



1890 Prices

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1899 Picture

By 1893, Sandbach has a Waggonette coming into the town on a Thursday at 1pm and returning from the Wheat sheaf at 5.30pm especially for people to visit the Market.

In 1902 the Town and Market Hall was looked after by John Wood (Keeper) and by 1914 Jessie Wood was "Hallkeeper".

In 1908, at the Petty Sessions in Sandbach on the 29 July 1908 Sarah Basford of Goostry was fined 2 shillings (2/-) for cruelty to fowls after six were discovered in a confined small basket with their legs tied together when they were taken to Sandbach Market.

In recent times by 1914 (*Kelly's directory*) a Saturday Market has been added to the inside of the Town Hall along with stalls for Thursday (Not in the original Charter).



© Sandbach History Society 1924 Picture

In the local newspaper of the 15 June 1916 they announced that the price of potatoes had raised from 10/- per cwt to 12/- per cwt. But by the 6 July 1916, the price had increased so high that the paper reported that there was a big drop in the price to 20/- per cwt.

At this time the market was on the Market Square by the Saxon Crosses where it stayed until 1920 when it moved to Scotch Common with a wholesale market replacing it on the Market Square. The Tamworth Herald announced in its 14 October 1922 edition that Lord Crewe had donated the historic lands in Sandbach to the town including Scotch Common and the Market Tolls which was worth about £1,000 a year. He had owned the land around Scotch Common and Tolls for the outside Market had been paid to Lord Crewe. In 1889, the Rt Hon. Hungerford, Lord Crewe of Crewe Hall had donated the land for the new Town Hall and Market Hall with the tolls from the hall being paid to the town but now the rights to the outdoor market were also given to the town. Between the 4-7 September 1917, Lord Crewe sold off most of his land and buildings in Sandbach to pay off debts and is a possible reason for his generosity to not pay as much tax on his earnings.

In 1955 the Wholesale Market finished on the Market Square leaving only the general market on Scotch Common.

When Cyril Massey wrote his book "History of Sandbach and District" in 1958 he describes the market thus – "The Market proved a great success and hundreds of people attended from the Potteries, Crewe and the surrounding countryside. The Market was formally held on the Market Square, where the Crosses stand, but today there are the Market Hall, Market Ground and Scotch Common. The Market Square is the scene of the wholesale market of farm produce".

By the 1960's the Market had grown to cover the whole area including the smaller car park.

When the Borough of Congleton produced a booklet in the late 1970's the market was shown to be back to being a single market on a Thursday.
This was also a time when Casual Traders would wait by the Bus Shelters to see if any of the regular traders failed to turn up at which point a first come first served system came into operation with allocating a stall for that week.

On the 11 August 1977, the BBC filmed a feature on Sandbach Market.
The Market also celebrated the Queen's Silver Jubilee with a special Market with stall holders dressing up for the occasion with a snake charmer, female American Indian fire eater and other entertainment.
With the 400th anniversary of the original charter for the market the traders under the Town Council's initiative held a Tudor Market on the 3 to the 5 May 1979. This soon became an annual event with traders dressing up in Tudor or Elizabethan costumes and events were staged with entertainers joining in the spirit of the event. BBC Radio Stoke and Signal Radio broadcast at various times from the Market with presenters also joining in with costumes.

In 1984, the Elizabethan Market also included a selection of Morris Dancers who danced on the market square and paraded through the high street.

On the 6 May 1985, the renamed "Elizabethan Market" was the subject of a Children's Saturday Morning programme called the "Saturday Picture Show" with presenters Maggie Philbin and Mark Curry (Later Blue Peter Presenter) filming features with local traders, artists and even a snake.
The 1986 Elizabethan Market also included the appearance of a real brown bear, a magician and the Morris dancers who were by now performing in the new Penda Way Precinct behind the Crown Public House. The area by the Masonic Hall was also made available for a Kiddies Bike Ride area with small motorbikes.

Times were changing and so were the traders who felt reluctant to join in the spirit of the Elizabethan Market with token items on their stalls relating to the events and as for the costumes they became less and less visible until only one trader dressed up for a Thursday Market and by lunchtime he had changed back into his normal clothes.

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In 1984, a list of Stall Holders was published in a promotion leaflet for Sandbach and shows some of the stalls that attended the town's Market at this time.

OUTSIDE TOWN HALL

Marion Mitchell (Green Grocer / Fruit and Veg)

INSIDE TOWN HALL

B Bate (1984) (Readymade and Crushed Velvet Curtains)
Mrs T Strickland (1984) (British and Oriental Crafts and Clothes)
R and M Legg (1984) (Salad, flowers and pot plants)
The Banner Stall (Men's Shirts, Children's wear)
The Card Stall (1984) (Cards for all occasions, Jewellery and Key Cutting)
Joans Printing (1984) (Individual Printed T Shirts)
Josies (1984) the MARKET HALL CAFÉ (Hot and Cold Meals)
Leese Bros (1984) (Top Quality Butcher)
D and H Lainton (1984) (Cheese and Dairy requirements)
The Candy Stall (1984) (Sweets and Novelty Chocolates)
W Richardson (1984) (Lobster, Crab, Prawns and all fresh fish)
R F and V Walker (1984) (Quality meats and bacon)
G B Pet Care (1984) (Pet goods and food)

OUTSIDE MARKET STALLS

Mr and Mrs A T Capey (1984) (Men's and Children's Wear and Blazers)
Mr and Mrs Jones (1984) (Foam Products, Oil, Cloth and Chamois)
Dennis Pemberton (1984) (General Everything)
Eric Clark (1984) (China, Pottery and Stone wear)
Hart Brothers (1984) (Bulbs, Plants and Flowers)
Michael Faust (1984) (Ladies coats, raincoats and casual wear)
Carol Faust (1984) (High Class ladies suits, dresses, skirts and blouses)
George and Joan (1984) (Top quality dress fabric)
G Wood (1984) (Curtain and upholstery velvets)
Michaels (1984) (Children's Ladies and Gents wear)

James Dixon Carpets Limited (Est 37 years in 1984) (Carpets, Rugs, Kitchen Vinyl and Table Felts)
 Mellors (1984) (All Types of Covers, Seat Covers, Cushions and loose covers)
 Barry Allen (1984) (Top quality velvets, velvet curtains, screen prints and dralons)
 Bill Johnson (1984) (Lamps and lampshades with all cotton curtains to match)
 R Bostock (1984) (Vacuum and washer spares)
 Poniznik (1984) (Mail order surplus and clearance lines)
 J and M Nield (1984) (Stretch covers, zipped cushion covers and foam)
 Michael Harris (1984) (Wallpaper requirements)
 Frank Bellstone (1984) (Children's wear and hosiery)
 Taylor International Tools (1984) (Hand and Garden Tools)
 Monty (1984) (Chain Store seconds for all the family)
 Tinsleys (1984) (Best quality Fresh Fruit and vegetables)
 Nixons (1984) (Ladies and Gents underwear and thermal)
 Eddy Kay (1984) (Sheepskins, Fur, Leather and Lambskin Coats)
 Lees (1984) (Ladies and Gent's underwear, nightwear and hosiery)

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By the 1990's it had again expanded to a two-day market with a smaller market being held on a Saturday with mainly stalls inside the Town Hall on a regular basis.

On the 12 June 2010, a Farmer's Market was added to the Market Square on the Second Saturday of the month with a "Saxon" or Artisan Style market being added for the 4th Saturday from the 27 Apr 2013.

In 2011, Cheshire East asked local Town Councils to take over some of the assets in their area including the Town Hall's and Markets. Sandbach decided that taking on the Market on a permanent basis would be a good idea and started to promote and improve the facility.

On the 2 December 2012, Cllr Carolyn Lowe started a "Christmas Street Market and Late-Night Shopping" event starting at 4.30pm to encourage more people to come to the town and to see the facilities Sandbach Market has as well as bringing in speciality stalls to make Christmas a special occasion in the town with an event that compliments the Light Switch on held on another night. Choirs singing around the Christmas Tree, Bell Ringers, a Brass Band, Best Dressed Festive Character competition (Judged by the Mayor) and Santa in his Grotto were some of the attractions with stalls in the Town Hall Market, Down the Main Street and at the Market Square this was a successful event which was duplicated on the 30 November 2012 with the addition of a Best Dressed Trader and the results of the "Best Dressed Shop Window Display" Competition which the Town Council had taken over from the STAR organisation who between 2010 and 2011 had reintroduced the competition.

In 2014, the Artisan Market was closed and amalgamated into the Farmers Market and on the 11 April 2015 instead of the Town Council running the market a new company called "Makers Market" were brought in to organise the stalls and publicity for the monthly Saturday market. Makers Market also run stalls at Middlewich (Last Saturday of the Month which stopped in 2017), Cheadle (1st Saturday), Knutsford (1st Sunday of the Month) and Didsbury (Last Sunday of the Month).

On the 4 December 2015, the annual Christmas Market took place with a special guest "Tears for Fears", original drummer Manny Elias and his actress wife Deborah Bouchard (Coronation Street extra 2007, Emmerdale extra) who sold "Bongo's Chilli".



By March 2016, Sandbach Town Council had proposed a redevelopment of the Market Hall with the instillation of a second floor which would house the offices of the Council that would move from the

Literary Institute. The plans involved spending vast sums of money to alter the fabric of the GRADE 2 listed building with the closure of the area for a number of months while building work took place. Sandbach Town Council had given four options which the people of the town had to choose between in a questionnaire which was sent out to houses on the 21 March 2016 with a stand at the Makers Market on the 9 April 2016 for Councillors to explain the proposals in more detail. However, the option to leave the building alone and improve the facilities and publicity for the indoor market seems to have been left off the list in the leaflet. Rightly the stall holders were not pleased with the ideas and expressed their opinions at a meeting on the 17 March 2016 about the future of the Town Hall building and started putting together a petition to oppose the plans and keep the Market open. Customers on the Saturday following the meeting were also outraged at the proposals to change the indoor market and when news of the changes hit Facebook the town exploded in a wave of opposition to the waste of money. On the 13 May 2016, the results of the questionnaire were released despite its bias towards the Council's plans and was immediately condemned by all the members of the public who attended the meeting.

Various heated meetings then followed between public, traders and Council and eventually the Sandbach Town Council decided that it would not be worth the aggravation to implement the changes and they were dropped. A further meeting on the 6 June 2016, between the Council, public and traders was held to put forward proposals to save the Market and by late 2017 plans had been drawn up to improve the facilities within the hall and to redesign the stalls to make them into a more attractive area.

Plans were put forward for the improved look to the market in October 2017 by architects David Trowler Associates with work starting on the outside of the building during the beginning of May with Scaffolding being placed inside the Market Hall on the 20 May 2018 allowing work to start painting the ceiling and altering the electrics above the stalls.

Repairs to the tiled flooring took place from the 16 – 18 May 2018, with Baby Changing facilities and Toilet improvements being made outside the main hall with alterations to the Market continuing from the 7 May 2018 to the 5 July 2018 (44 Days) with the instillation of new glass canopies on top of the side stalls from the 16th June to the 5th July 2018, New signage added from the 2nd to the 4th July 2018 and the lobbies next to the doors being improved between the 4th to the 29th June 2018 with new picture shutters being added to the side stalls that will include scenes of old Sandbach supplied by local historians.

Work was completed with a hand over between the 6 – 7 July 2018 and then a new era will begin for this historic building.



On Thursday the 26 July 2018, Sandbach Town Council held the official opening of the renovated Market Hall at 2pm with various events taking place on the following Thursdays to help promote the new building improvements.

(see also Market Charter #14.)

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MARKET SQUARE

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The Square was the original venue for Markets in Sandbach as well as the home of the Saxon Crosses and the War Memorial.



(April 2004)



It is also the venue for many kinds of open-air meetings with speakers like Mr James Keir Hardy M.P. (b. 1856 .d. 1915 Scottish Labour leader and co-founder of the Labour party), Sir John Simon (b. 1873 M.P. for Walthamstow, Home Secretary for the Coalition Government in 1915-16, Secretary of State Foreign Affairs 1931-35) and Mrs Sylvia Pankurst (Daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst .b. 1858 .d. 1928 - suffragette).

The square also had a Church House, formerly the residence of the Curate, with a school forming part of the building.

Buildings on the left hand side of the square were constructed in 1767 while the Crown and Market Tavern were built a little earlier in 1680.

On the right is the old Post Office (See Post Office) and one of the original Police houses in Sandbach built in 1760 where C. Godfrey Williams and Son's now stands. Other buildings on this site were constructed about 1760 as well.

Between Ladbrooks where the old Post Office was and Godfrey Williams (Place of one of the old Police Houses) is a walkway for St Mary's Church Hall (See St Mary's).

NOTABLE DATES

- 1680 The Crown and the Market Tavern public houses on the Market Square were opened.
- Pre 1810 An engraving by W. Alexander, F.S.A. in 1810 showed the original town hall next to the Saxon Crosses. It was positioned where the War Memorial now stands on the Square. The Upper Floor was for assemblies while the ground floor was for Prison Cells and Shops. The stocks were placed besides the wall of the Town Hall.
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.
During an archaeological survey in 2009 it discovered the foundations of the original Town Hall with its High Street Stalls under the piers of the building for selling food and included a butcher's.
- 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.
- 1838 Sandbach Celebrated the Coronation of Queen Victoria at Westminster Abbey on the 28 June 1838 with an event on the Market Square.
- 1888 The 2nd **Town Hall** was built. (In 1891 it was demolished)
Also used as a Magistrates Court with Police cells underneath.
- 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.
He was the son of Colonel and Mrs Kennedy of Brookside, Arclid.
- 1972 Post Office and Sorting Office opened on the Market Square.
- 1972 In 1972 the Church House on the square, originally constructed in 1760 was rebuilt.
- 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.
- 2007 Archaeological Survey took place in the Market Square before it was redeveloped.
- Feb 2009 The Market Square refurbishment was completed. This also banned vehicles

- 12 June 2010 from the area with parking restrictions being enforced.
- 12 June 2010 A Farmer's Market was added to the Market Square on the Second Saturday of the month
- 12 Sept 2010 Fodens band held a free concert on the Market Square.
- 27 Apr 2013 The first "Saxon Crosses Market" took place on the Market Square, an Artisan Style market was held on the 4th Saturday of the Month. This was later changed to a "Makers Market" (Run by an independent company)

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MARKET TAVERN

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Built around about 1680 (The same date as the Crown). Inside are lots of little rooms that were used by Market traders to conduct their business in private over a jug of Sandbach Ale.

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MARRIOTT HOUSE HISTORY (Demolished)

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Built on the site that is now occupied by Sandbach Library.

John Wilson the owner of Brook Farm, Betchton and Dean Hill Farm, Betchton, built the house, probably in 1740. It was then called "The Commons House". It then changed its name to "Squire Wilson's Mansion" and was surrounded by a high brick wall that "Shut it off from vulgar observation".

In 1897 The Marriott family donated the building to the town. A letter at the time explains why,

"As a contribution towards a permanent memorial of the 60th year of the reign of Her Gracious Majesty and also for the more private purpose of doing honour to the memory of their late relative, the family propose to give to the Urban District Council of Sandbach for the use of the public forever, their house known as "Commons House" and the land attached thereto (Containing in the whole rather more than six acres of land) subject only to a small annual charge of few shillings for the tithe rent and, except certain buildings adjoining Hawk Street and about 16 feet of land attached thereto, which they propose to dedicate in another way. In making this offer it is with intention of transferring the building which may be used or adapted for public exhibitions, library, technical school, lecture rooms and class rooms, etc. and other means of intellectual improvement and enjoyment of old and young of both sexes and subject to reasonable requirement for enlargement of the building for any such purposes if required, that the remaining land may be retained and developed as an open space and place of resort, playground, etc. The donors do not propose to trouble you with any conditions, but would stipulate that the Council shall prepare on general terms some scheme for the development of the property in the interests of the community of Sandbach in furtherance of the proposal. A reference to the ratepayers shall be made whenever any important variation to the scheme should happen to be proposed".

In November 1897, Marriott House was opened to the public for the first time in its new role.

Between 1897 and 1926 the building was a Technical School and on the 29 March 1926 it became a Cheshire County Library.

Marriott House was used in the 1950's as a Public Heath Office, County Library and School building. It was demolished in 1969 to make way for the modern Library (See Library) which was opened in 1974. The only parts of the building to survive from the original structure are a fireplace that was incorporated into the Marriott Room at the library and a Staircase at the back of the building (Not on public view).

A white building next to Marriott House was the Coachhouse belonging to Tom Marriott who gave the building to the Freemasons in 1897. Like Marriott House the building has since been knocked down and a new building has been put in its place and is now known as the Masonic Hall.



MASONIC HALL

In 1877 a new Lodge of the “Independent Order of Good Templars” was opened under Dr Lees in the Temperance Hall, Sandbach (Schoolrooms and later the 2nd Fire Station) by the Rev. F Stanfast of Middlewich.

In 1897 a white building next to Marriott House (Now the site of the Library) which had been a single story Coachhouse belonging to Tom Marriott was given to the Freemasons for their lodge meetings. During the First and Second World Wars the military used the building with the Volunteer Battalion (5th) Cheshire Regiment (1902 and 1914 = C Co Captain C H W Bennett; Sergeant Major John Bevan – Drill Instructor c/o Armoury Scotch Commons Sandbach) in WW1 and the US Forces in WW2. Over the years further developments on the building included the addition of first floor accommodation.

Like Marriott House the building has since been knocked down and a new building has been put in its place and is now known as the Masonic Hall.

(With thanks to Peter Hanlon)

By 1948 the Masonic Hall was the home of the Freemason’s Samaritan Lodge No 368 and Saxon Crosses Lodge No 6227. It was also the venue for Dancing in the town, along with the Town Hall and Literary Institution.

MIDDLEWICH ROAD

Part way down the road towards Middlewich on the right is Wesley Avenue. Named after the Wesleyan Chapel on the corner (See Wesleyan Church) it was originally called “Seaman’s Bank” until after 1917.

On the left is a house called "The Cottage" with its own stables and outbuildings. For many years until 2004 it was part of a Doctors surgery, but it probably started life in 1787 as a vicarage and was the property of Lord Crewe.

This building was demolished in 1958 (Check Info).



(Magistrates Court May 2004 / Demolished 2015)

Opposite the old Magistrates court and Police station is the new Police station and what used to be "Westfields" (*Demolished*), a large property originally privately owned by the Foden Family. At various times it was used as a meeting place for the Sandbach Players (See Separate file) and was

eventually taken over by the Sandbach and Congleton Borough Council as their offices. However when the Congleton Borough Council decided to build its new offices the building was demolished to make way for the car park. The Fountain outside the house is still in the area of the new building.

On the corner of Abbey Road was a "Toll-Bar house".

"Abbey Fields" a large house between Middlewich and Crewe Roads was owned originally by the Abbey of Dieulacres (Monks).

Elworth Hall is a 16th or 17th Century farmhouse occupied by the Raven family. Mr Thomas Hulse owned the house around about 1679 when he married Mary Raven. Eventually relative John Hulse left the house to two of his servants, Thomas and Elizabeth Plant who owned the house until they died. The building then passed to Cambridge University.

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MILLS in Sandbach.

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On the 29 March 1538 Thomas Leversage of Wheelock died and at the inquest into his death his assets were named, The Manor of Wheelock, 300 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood and bruert and a water-mill there. The list then named land in Bradwall, Kynderton and Haslyngton (Now Haslington).

In 1552 Sir Richard Bulkley died leaving in his estate a water mill in Wheelock possibly the same one owned by the late Thomas Leversage.

In 1686 the estate of Hind Heath was purchased by Ellen the widow of Williams Ford, of Fordgreen in Stafford and consisted of various bits of land in the Abbeyfields area and a "Water Mill" in Hindheath (Now Hindheath).

In the 1700's an Iron works was built at Cranage by the Hall family. Unfortunately the family lost money in the venture and turned it into a flower mill which also was unsuccessful. However it later became the flower mill owned by Mr E Massey and his Family and became known as Cranage Mill of Massey's Mill.

On the road called "The Hill" is a set of houses known as Chimney Row. This site was originally a factory with a tall chimney built in c1809 and was the site of the first Silk Mill in Sandbach owned by Mr Bull (Possibly John Bull 1822 Pigots Directory).

c1809 The Wheelock Mill was constructed starting the Textile Industry in Sandbach.

In 1850 a new Silk factory was built on "The Hill" along with Mill Row (Chimney Row) houses for the workers.

Other Mills in Sandbach built around this time were Messrs. Makin, Walker and Hope's, "Brook Silk Factory" (on the West side of The Hill next to a large lake near where Waitrose is today), "The Commons Mill" which was built in the Mid 1800's – 1850 by Thomas Bull and produced Velvet fustian cutting at the Commons factory and Town Mill, with tenant Mr William Dumbrill (or William Durnbull).

Mr Edward Percival owned the "Town Mill", succeeding his father Mr Ralph Percival.

By 1860 there were 500 women working in the Sandbach Mills.

The "Brook Mill" in Factory Lane, was opened in 1860 with 365 windows on three storeys. At night time the light from these windows lit up the large pool between the Mill and Brook House near the Bridge.

In 1902 it was occupied by Thomas Skerratt (Silk Thrower).

Since 1938 there had been a lot of extension work done to the mill by its owners Messrs. G.H. Heath and Son Ltd of Macclesfield. (1938 Kelly's Directory) (See below)

Only one example of the mills still exists in Sandbach town centre, it is now Curshaws (2004) restaurant and Antique emporium and is down a passageway opposite the Black Bear.



(Back of Curshaws 19 May 2004 / Sandbach Crosses Antiques)

Another mill is down Mill Hill Lane (3 story building opened in the late 1800's) at the bottom of the hill that leads to Houndings Lane this is a corn mill worked by a water wheel using the river (Unnamed but goes to Dingle Lake and beyond on one side while the other joins the River Wheelock) to power it. The Corn milled would probably have been sold at the Literary Institute in its early days. John Jarvis of Darlaston, co, Stafford (1722 to 3 Mar 1747-8) owned property in Mill Hill in Sandbach which was possibly a forerunner of the mill in situ today. He also owned property in Bradwall.



(Mill Hill Lane Cotton Mill May 2004)



John Woolley (.b. Unkn .d. 27 Aug 1863 aged 80 years) built the Commons, or Newfield Silk Mill (Knocked down in the 1982 to later make way for old people's housing) in 1843 at a cost of £888.00. In 1853 it was first used to spin silk. In 1860 the mill was let to Mr William Damsbrell. John Woolley lived at Field House, which was later part of the employment exchange.

In 1902 John Shepherd and Sons were Fustian Cutters at the Scotch Commons and Town Mill, Sandbach.

By 1938 the mill was run by Condlow Ltd (Silk Manufacturer) / Conlowe Ltd.

COMMONS MILL

Built in 1843 (or 1850) for Velvet Fusion Cutting "The Commons Mill" or "Newfield Silk Mill" which was built by Thomas Bull for mill owner John Woolley (.b. Unkn .d. 27 Aug 1863 aged 80 years) who also had built "Field House" (40 Congleton Road, Near the Ambulance Station) for him to live in.

One story about the factory is that during World War 2 the American Troups used it as a base with its generals living at the Old Hall.

Another story is that at one time the building caught fire. With the fire station over the road you would have thought that their appliance would attend the incident and indeed the crew were called out to the "Shout" but the appliance developed a fault and wouldn't leave the Fire Station so while crew's from the whole of Cheshire attended the fire, Sandbach was unable to assist.

By the 1980's the building had been abandoned and in 1982 the building was demolished.

CONLOWE LTD

Formed in 1924 under the name W.A. Lowe and Company Limited it was the knitting division of the English Sewing Cotton Co Ltd which has eight factories in Cheshire and Staffordshire. By 1966 the firm was manufacturing ladies and children's lingerie, dresses and suits sold under the brand names "Judy" (Girls' outerwear and lingerie), "Conlowe" (Ladies Lingerie) and "Tootal" (Dresses and suits for women). The company also produced fabric for their products and also for sale under the name "Condura".

G.H. HEATH AND CO LTD (Silk Throwers) at Brook Mill, Sandbach.

In 1834 Percival and Bull and Thomas Percival were Silk Throwers in Brook Mill.

Later in the 1800's the building was taken over by G.H. Heath and Co Ltd.

Established in 1876 the company were silk manufacturers from Macclesfield and had their main factory there. They ran the Throwing factory at Brook Mills which they acquired from Lord Crewe in 1908. By 1932 the mill had almost doubled in size. The Sandbach factory catered for the hosiery trade while they also had a controlling interest in a new factory at Middlewich called British Crepe Ltd which combined with Sandach employed well over 1,000 staff.

In 1926 the business was incorporated into a new company run by Colonel George N Heath (Who commanded the 125th Brigade of Lancashire Fusilliers) and Edward Lomas the Managing Directors, with Mrs K.L. Heath, Mrs H Lomas and W.E Whiston on the board.

In 1968 the Warehouse caught fire with six appliances attending the fire for over three hours. Although the main building wasn't affected it did put back production for a couple of weeks.



Brook Mill (c/o Sandbach Past and Present)

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MOSTON and the MOSTON DRAGON

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Just outside the boundary of Sandbach and Ettley Heath is the area known as Moston. Mainly known for the Brine Salt works it is also the home of Newfield Fabrications and a practice Golf Range.

There is however a more sinister story about the area and it concerns the Legend of the Dragon of Moston. The land was originally in the hands of Gilbet de Venables and was mainly swamp land In Dragon Lane (Named after Dragons Lake in 1839) off the Middlewich Road a dragon terrorised the local residents of the area in the 12th Century until one day a man called Terry Venables decided to kill the Dragon. The monster had terrorised the local people with its three rows of fangs, flaming eyes and a scaly reptilian body with six claws extending from each foreleg and a long tail capable of crushing a bear with one swipe.

Thomas Venables the son of Sir Thomas Venables and the first cousin of William the Conqueror, equipped himself and set off to the lake of the beast where he found it devouring a child that it had seized in the waters of Bache Pool (Later renamed Dragons Lake). On seeing the monster, he fired arrows at it until he hit one of the Dragon's eyes and then proceeded to attack it on its blind side with his sword until he eventually killed it.

This basic George and the dragon story dates back to the 13 Oct 1560's when it was recorded in the "Patent of Augmentation, of the Arms and Crest of Thomas Venables of Goulbourne in this County" and is commemorated in the naming of the lake and the dragon crest appearing on the Coat of Arms of the Venables family, who it is said was awarded the Manor of Moston for his bravery.

There is however a little doubt as to the stories true origins as George Ormerod in his "History of the County Palatine and City of Chester" says that Sir Thomas Venables (19th Century Baron of Kinderton, Nr Middlewich) applied for the patent of Augmentation in 1560 and wanted to attribute the slaying of the Dragon to his Great- Great Grandfather, Thomas Venables, but as William Venables the father of

the dragon slayer had already acquired Moston in 1412 it ruled out the possibility of the dragon having been slain by his son Thomas after that time.

The feature of a dragon being slain on the Venables crest appears in various branches including the Bradwall branch of the Venables family who have a Wyvern (Dragon) issuing from a fish weir and devouring a child having been pierced with an arrow a design made in the 13th Century.

Another problem as the location of Dragon's Lake as an 1842 Ordnance Survey Map seems to have placed the named pool of water next to a pool of water and not what was known as Bache Pool which by this time had been drained and was now just a dip in the land. The story also becomes blurred as the Venables had land at Kinderton (Nr Middlewich) which also has a Dragon's Lake and Dragon's Lane and as the Crest is housed in Middlewich Church the story could relate more to this area than that of Moston.



The Dragon of Moston (Egerton Leigh "Ballads and Legends of Cheshire 1867)

I.

OFT have we heard of that fell fight,
In which old *England's* patron knight,
By chroniclers *St. George* who's hight
The scaly dragon slew.

II.

But of that combat now I sing,
With which all *Cheshire* once did ring
A picture of the fight I'll fling,
And of a warrior true.

III.

A dragon *Cheshire* troubled sore,
Insatiate was his horrid maw;
Clotted with blood and poisonous gore,
Wide wasted he the land.

IV.

Widows and orphans would turn pale,
Were he but named, men's hearts would fail;
Warriors, ne'er known before to quail,
Durst not before him stand.

V.

Moston's curst township rued the day
When in its swamp it wallowing lay;
Like the thick dust uprose the spray,
As thrashed his tail the slime.

VI.

Remnant of monsters, that the flood
Retiring left (a deadly brood),
Or sprung from some gaunt giant's blood,
Spawn of some devilish time.

VII.

Sharp fangs gaped wide a triple row,
Its bloodshot eyes like flames did glow,
Its body like a serpent low,
And scaled o'er as with mail.

VIII.

Six claws on either side appear,
Its prey to seize, its prey to tear:
'Twas said, that e'en a grizzly bear
Had crushed its whelming tail.

IX.

Where'er it roamed, its upas breath
On all sides, round, above, beneath,
Like plague-sores, belched a horrid death,
'Gainst which 'twas vain to pray.

X.

This gallant *Venables* did hear
(A man he was to Cheshire dear),
And *Moston* he resolved to clear,
Or perish in the fray.

XI.

He vowed unto his ladye fair
To beard the dragon in his lair,
And offered up to heaven a prayer
To grant him strength in fight.

XII.

The dragon's swamp scarce had he won,
The beast had seized a widow's son;
He was his mother's only one.
Loud shouted then the knight.

XIII.

The morning mists that challenge cleft;
The dragon heard the shout, and left
The child of sense not life bereft,
And rushed on in his might.

XIV.

Bold *Venables* unflinching drew
With steady hand the sounding yew;
Forth, winged by death, the arrow flew,
And pierced the dragon's eye.

XV.

Well 'twas he aimed not at his side:
The sharpest bolt had vainly tried
To pierce elsewhere his scale-armed hide,
Or to the heart come nigh.

XV.
Fierce through the reeds the dragon crashed,
The swamp to foam in fury lashed,
Wildly at *Venables* it dashed
The knight ne'er dreamt to fly.

XVII.
On the blind side advanced he then,
And smote the beast once and again
Between the scales: soon in the fen
Black heart blood soaked the ground.

XVIII.
Far, far, that dying shriek was heard,
E'en distant *Beeston's* warders stirred,
And springing up some onslaught feared,
So awful was the sound.

XIX.
Who, who, may paint the widow's joy?
Again, again, she hugs her boy.
What can the mother now annoy?
Her lost child breathes again!

XX.
Broad lands in *Moston* for that deed
(Fortune's reward, and Valour's meed),
For *Cheshire* saved in utmost need,
The *Venables* did gain.

XXI.
But what than lands he valued mair,
Was a dark tress of glossy hair
(For this, what would not true knight dare?),
Gift of his ladye fair.

XXII.
A dying dragon bathed in gore,
Which e'en in death an infant tore,
In arms he proudly thenceforth bore,
Emblazoned on his shield.

XXIII.
Still, children at the dragon quake;
The fight to list they'll play forsake;
Still by the name of '*Dragon's lake*'
Is called that *Moston* field.

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MOTORWAY / M6

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A story I was told when I was young is that the bodies of the dead from the massacre at Scotch Common on Congleton Road Sandbach were laid to rest in a plot of land near Sandbach Heath, later

In 1945 Nantwich gained its own version of the Chronicle with the publication of the NANTWICH CHRONICLE edition.

During the late 1950's (1958-64) Avril Jones worked for the Crewe Chronicle from their offices in 39 Middlewich Road, Sandbach (Just before the corner of Chapel Street and now the Co-op Funeralcare shop) as a junior reporter who took her younger brother Blair Jones along to see her at work. He tells us that the shop window had pictures of local news stories on display, which were taken out the following week to be replaced by the next weeks story. The pictures were then put in a large draw to be archived or binned later. The editor at the time was John Gleave (Who had a daughter called Jenny) with his deputy editor David Leake who worked in offices upstairs with a public desk downstairs where the junior reporters worked. When Avril Jones left she was replaced by Peter Gallimore who went on to be a producer for BBC Radio 4 on the 1989 Budget and possibly the Today programme where he also made contributions and in 2000 he produced "5 Live Report" for the BBC.

By the 1960's the front page had changed to news items with all its publications.

In 1964 an edition of the Chronicle was published for the Middlewich area under the title MIDDLEWICH CHRONICLE and had been part of the Mid Cheshire Chronicle series.

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

In 1994 the paper became known as CHRONICLE with various town names printed underneath a title format it kept until 2000 when it again became the CREWE CHRONICLE.

The 5 April 2000 saw the last copy of the Chronicle in a broad sheet format changing to a tabloid format for the 12 April edition.

On the 30 September 2004 the Chronicle moved from High Street to 32-34 Victoria Street, Crewe. The Offices now housed the editorial departments of "The Crewe Chronicle" (Crewe, Sandbach, Nantwich Editions), Crewe Mail (Free Paper), and the sister paper "Buy and Sell" (Established in 1979) which has moved from offices in 234 Nantwich Road.

In 2007 the Middlewich and Sandbach Editions of the Chronicle merged together to cut down costs and the CREWE CHRONICLE (Sandbach and Middlewich Edition) hit the shelves.

However, with the increasing use of Home computers and the sale of the publication to Trinity Mirror it was decided on the 18 March 2014 that the Offices in Victoria Street would close in May 2014 with 8 staff being lost due to the main work of printing being moved to Chester and Journalists working from home.

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.

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SANDBACH CHRONICLE (Congleton Chronicle Series)

The Congleton Chronicle was founded in 1893 by Heads (Congleton) Limited with the Congleton Chronicle and Biddulph Chronicle. In December 2011 the publishers also printed the Alsager Chronicle.

Robert Head the founder of the paper and the publisher owned a shop on the corner of Swan Bank and Duke Street. The shop sold Toys, Books, music and stationary as well as publishing the Chronicle from this venue. A picture from 1906 shows the shop still in existence on the corner of Swan Bank and Duke Street, but a letter from 1922 shows the Chronicle had moved to its current position in High Street.

The Congleton Chronicle has only had four editors over the years with founder Robert Head passing on the job to his son Lionel in 1937 when he died and in 1988 the job passed to John Codliffe who bought out the paper that year, handing down the job of editor to his son Jeremy Condliffe who now runs the paper.

According to the Chronicle the first Sandbach Edition was published in 1949 (1944 IPSO Annual Report) but an "Old Sandbach" history book compiled and published by W J Harper R.A.I. (London) advertised a "Sandbach Chronicle and Mid Cheshire Journal" which had offices at offices in the High Street, Sandbach.

Trade books from 1896 has a "Sandbach Chronicle" being published by Eachus and Son on the Square, Sandbach on behalf of Robert Head of Congleton. In 1902 the local publisher was Miss Harrier Jones of High Town Sandbach who was also the publisher of other papers in Sandbach at the time.

At the start of the 1914 war the Sandbach Chronicle was still being published on a Saturday but it is possible that due to the paper shortage the local newspaper ceased publication as trade magazines from 1926 and 1933 failed to mention the Sandbach Chronicle during these years.

However in 1943 the Sandbach Chronicle re-appeared on a Friday priced 3d (Three Pence)
In 1949 articles about the Sandbach Players were in an edition of the Sandbach Chronicle and by
1951 the Sandbach edition also had on its headline title a Holmes Chapel and Goostry edition with the
lettering changing from a Block with letters in it to the old-fashioned lettering still used today (2016).

Up until 2004 the paper was published on a Friday, changing in 2009 to a Thursday on which day it is
still published.

The Chronicle offices moved to 11 High Street, Congleton where they still edit the paper although
printing which was done in Congleton in the 1970's was then moved to the Sentinel building in Etnia,
Nr Hanley, Stoke on Trent and is now printed by Newbury News Limited, Newspaper House, Faraday
Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2DW.

GLYN BOON Photographer.

At the age of 15 (1960/61) Glyn Boon who was born in 1945, joined the Chronicle as a darkroom
assistant. One day he was asked to do an assignment for the paper to take a picture for the chronicle.
This was the start of his long association with the camera starting with photographs taken on glass
plates with the print being made using hot metal at the firm's own press which at the time was run by
the sons of its founder, Lionel and Basil Head.

In 1969, Glyn married Gail who he met in Congleton where they both came from and where he was
living at the time. The couple married at Astbury Church and then moved to Sandbach Heath where the
couple still live and where they brought up their three children and by 2009 had three grandchildren.
On the 4 March 2009, Glyn Boon was made the Rotary Club of Sandbach's Citizen of the year and was
invited to attend the event he thought to take pictures of the latest recipient but was surprised with the
award himself with his colleague Emma taking the picture. Mike Garrett the Chairman of the
Community Services Committee of the Rotary club said that after the pictures were taken Glyn could
be seen checking what she had taken on her digital camera as he never felt easy unless he was behind
the lens of a camera.

In 2010, Glyn Celebrated his 50th anniversary and was given a surprise celebration at the White Lion in
Congleton. His colleagues made up a fake advertising assignment to show the renovations at the pub
owned at the time by Joe Manning who was in on the surprise and kept him working at the back of the
building while his colleagues came in through the front to surprise him with a presentation of a gift
voucher for a holiday weekend at a country hotel in the Yorkshire Dales along with a walking map of
Wensleydale.

Over the years Glyn has used Glass plate photography, 35mm Film SLR and finally by 2018 when he
retired the Digital SLR which made life so much easier as you could for the first time in his career
check the pictures you have taken before leaving the assignment.

Some of Glyn's more memorable assignments included photographing the Royal Family when they
came into the area, Up with the Red Devils (Parachute Display Team) and the Bosley Mill Fire on the
17 July 2015 when he also appeared in the background of the BBC North West coverage of the event.
Glyn has covered many events from plays, concerts, openings, celebrity appearances, transport
festivals, shop openings, Mayor's events, British Legion Ball, Remembrance Day Marches, Armed
Forces Day, Charity fund-raises, murders and fires.

In June 2018, Glyn decided to hand up his camera at the end of a long and fruitful career as the longest
serving employee of the Chronicle based in Congleton.

He will be remembered for the way he took pictures and the great friendships he has built up with the
whole community of Sandbach who looked forward to his arrival and his unique way of taking local
paper pictures by organizing the people, standing on a chair or platform to get that different angle and
the professionalism he brought to the occasion when he blended into the background for those
unplanned shots he took at concerts and special occasions.

One of his last assignments was to take pictures at Elworth and Sandbach's War Memorials on the
100th Anniversary of the death of Foden Band Member Edwin Firth on the 1 June 2018.

been published from before 1896. Staying in Sandbach for two years John returned to Congleton as Chief Reporter in 1951.

In 1957, John married Shirley (.b. 20 Nov 1935) and they had two sons Jeremy (.b. 16 Feb 1962) and Andrew.

From the 1950's John rose to Chairman and in 1988 along with business partner Ray Stacey bought the company from the Head Family.

John Condliffe died aged 76 in Jan 2005 having handed over the business to his son Jeremy.

In 1946 (After the War) Fred Jackson took on the role of head of engraving with the paper and then as photographer with the Chronicle having worked for Marson's in the High Street and during the war was in the Royal Navy. Fred who lived at 13 Moody Street a tied House owned by the Chronicle and stayed with the paper for about 10 years under editor Mr Lionel Head (15 Moody Street, Congleton)

In the 1960's John Clowes joined the newspaper as a reporter and became a familiar face at events in the area. John who was born in Congleton started working at his parent's butchers in Antrobus Street which is still being run in the same building as butchers now under the name of Ray Moss (Who died in 2016-7) and is now run by his family.

He became the deputy editor of the newspaper. He then became the editor in chief of the Stockport Advertiser and then editorial director of the amalgamated Express Advertiser and continued in that role until he retired. John didn't stop writing on his retirement and wrote a book on local manufacturers "Beresfords" (Ribbon manufacturer) which was published by his close friend Stephen Sebire (Owner of Beresfords) and as an accomplished pianist entertained patients at Stepping Hill hospital as a volunteer.

He was married twice, firstly to musician Doreen Clowes and had two children Ian and Mike. Later he married Sue who had children Matthew and Emma from a previous relationship. John Clowes died on the 3 April 2018 at the age of 85 in Stockport.

On the 28 April 1995, Jeremy Condliffe was appointed one of the Directors of the Heads (Congleton) Company (Also known as Tudorent Limited).

On the 14 April 2000, Raymond Leonard Stacey (Printing Manager) resigned as Director of the Heads Company with Albert John Condliffe also resigning on the 11 January 2005. Jeremy's mother Shirley Condliffe took over as Director on the 28 January 2005. Shirley has also been the companies secretary since the 21 December 1995.

EDITORS / SUB EDITORS

1893 to 1988 Robert Head

1940's Lionel Head

(1970's John Clowes = Sub editor)

(? Chris Proudlove = Sub editor)

1988 to John Condliffe (Died aged 76 in Jan 2005)

1995? Jeremy Martin Condliffe (.b. 16 Feb 1962)

2010 EMPLOYEES

Jeremy Condliffe (Editor), Glyn Boon (Photographer), Harry Leach, Peter Wetton, Dennis Proudlove, Mark Chaddock, Alan Bloor, Tom Byrne, Harry Wharfe, Steph Barnett, Chris Young and Lesley Telford.

2012 EMPLOYEES

Jeremy Condliffe (Editor), Shirley Condliffe (.b. 20 Nov 1935 - Company Secretary), James Jackson (Assistant Editor), Vanessa Todd (Sub Editor), Angela Anderson (Sub Editor), Glyn Boon (Photographer), Eileen Jackson (Photographer), James Byrne (Congleton Reporter), James Morris (Congleton Reporter), Rachel Naylor (Congleton Reporter), Katie Ollier (Alsager Reporter), Kelly Harris (Biddulph Reporter), Kayleigh Williams (Sandbach Reporter).

Alan Bloor (Pre Press Production), Pete Wetton (Pre Press Production), Jay Kelly (Page Make-up), Harry Chaddock (Advertising) Sue Thomson (Inputting), Dennis Proudlove (Maintenance).

Pam Austin (Advertising Manager), Tracey Jackson (Sales Executive), Rob Ryan (Sales Executive), Jennifer Banks (Office Manager/ Sales), Ann Durose (Sales and Invoicing), Elsy Booth (Newsagent Queries), Stephanie Davies (Newsagent Queries), Dawn Withers (E Mail Admin), Angela Wedgbury (E Mail Admin), Harri Wharfe (E Mail Admin).

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ROBERT HEAD

Robert Head was born in 1857 the son of James Head the manager of the Howey Hill Silk Mill. At the age of 12 in 1869 Robert Head left school to take a job with Andrew Cockayne as an errand boy with the printing side of William Clarke's (Previously Samuel Yates) business at 11 High Street. At the end of his apprenticeship he went to work at the Stafford bookshop. Samuel Yates a local publisher and bookseller had died in 1833 and his business was taken over by William Clarke who also started running a circulating Library in 1839. The printing side of the business was being run by Andrew Cockayne. Robert saved hard and in 1880 an opportunity arose to purchase the Cockayne business. With a loan, he set up the County Publishing House at 11 High Street and expanded to Swan Bank with a shop on the corner. Interested in journalism he set up a second newspaper in the town the Congleton Chronicle in 1893, with its rival being the Congleton Mercury (Congleton and Macclesfield Mercury started in 1858). In 1887, Robert Head had published his history of Congleton book. With the success of the Congleton Chronicle (1893) in 1896 Head's publishing took over the Congleton Mercury. In 1897, Robert Head opened a Library in the 11 High Street shop building a shop that dates back to 1800. In 1937, Robert died leaving his son's to take over the publishing business. The Head family continued to edit the newspapers until 1963 but the stationary and bookselling side of the business had closed in 1960. In 1988 the job of owner passed to John Codliffe who bought out he paper that year, handing down the job of editor to his son Jeremy Condliffe who now runs the paper. Today the newspaper continues to expand and to be a part of the community and are also responsible for the Biddulph Mercury, Biddulph Chronicle, Sandbach Chronicle, Congleton Mercury and the Macclesfield Mercury. In December 2011 the company launched the Alsager Chronicle.

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1894 NEWSPAPER

Sandbach Chronicle and Mid Cheshire Journal (Published by W.J. Harper) High Street, Sandbach

1896 NEWSPAPERS

Sandbach Chronicle (Robert Head Publisher and Printer - Published Saturday)
c/o Eachus and Son, Local Publishers at The Square, Sandbach
Sandbach Guardian (Mackie and Co Limited publisher and Printer – Saturday) High Town, Sandbach
Sandbach and Middlewich Advertiser (Swain and Co Limited – Proprietors and Printers – Friday)
High Street, Sandbach

1902 NEWSPAPERS.

Crewe Chronicle.
Sandbach Chronicle (Robert Head Publisher and Printer – Miss Harriet Jones, Local Publisher – Saturday) High Town, Sandbach
Sandbach Guardian (Mackie and Co Limited publisher and Printer – Saturday) High Town, Sandbach
Sandbach and Middlewich Advertiser (Swain and Co Limited – Proprietors and Printers – Friday)
High Street, Sandbach

1914 NEWSPAPERS.

Crewe Chronicle 12 Welles Street, Sandbach – John Frost agent (Published Fridays)
Sandbach Chronicle (Robert Head Publisher and Printer)
Jessie and Miss M A Wood 7 High Town, Sandbach, Local Publisher (Published Saturdays)
Sandbach Guardian (Mackie and Co Limited publisher and Printer – Saturday)
Miss Mary J Jones Agent at High Town, Sandbach
Sandbach and Middlewich Advertiser (Swain and Co Limited – Proprietors and Printers – Friday)
43 Middlewich Road, Sandbach

1926 NEWSPAPERS.

Crewe Chronicle (Sandbach Edition) - Published Saturday
Sandbach Guardian - Published Wednesday and Saturday

Sandbach Advertiser - Published Friday (Published from 1920 to 1942)
Weekly Sentinel - Published Saturday

1933 NEWSPAPERS.

Crewe Chronicle (Saturday 2d)
Sandbach Advertiser (Friday 2d)
Sandbach Guardian (Wednesday 1d / Saturday 2d)
Weekly Sentinel (Saturday 2d)

1943 NEWSPAPERS.

Crewe Chronicle (Saturday 3d)
Sandbach Chronicle (Friday 3d) NEW
Sandbach Guardian (Friday 2d) Now published only on a Fri.
Weekly Sentinel (Saturday 2d)

1948 NEWSPAPERS. (from Sandbach Town Guide)

Crewe Chronicle (Saturday 3d)
Sandbach Chronicle (Friday 3d)
Sandbach Guardian (Friday 2d)
Weekly Sentinel (Saturday 2d)

1958 /60 NEWSPAPERS.

Crewe Chronicle (Saturday)
Sandbach Chronicle (Friday)

1974 NEWSPAPERS.

Crewe Chronicle (Wednesday?)
Sandbach Chronicle (Friday)
The Saxon Crosses - Newspaper first published in 1974 and closed possibly in 1976.

2013 NEWSPAPERS.

Crewe Chronicle (Wednesday)
Sandbach Chronicle (Thursday)
The Saxon Newspaper first published in Feb 2013 although its cover has Feb 2012.

NUCLEAR BUNKER (Congleton Road)
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Near Fields Farm / Meadowley.

Sandbach had a Nuclear Bunker which was situated in a field just off Congleton Road and near the Junction of the M6 Motorway between Park House and Field's Fisheries.
Most bunkers were built in the 1960's for men to watch and monitor the world after a nuclear blast. By the 1990's most were abandoned and the one in Sandbach was filled in in 1990 with the surface structure removed leaving a field and the structure below.
According to the Subterranea Britannica (27 Apr 2001) the bunker was a Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post (OS Grid ref; SJ76386208) and was opened in September 1963 and closed in October

1968 on the East side of the track to Fields Farm, 240 yards North of the A534 and was demolished leaving no surface trace in 1990. However it is possible that the structure has since collapsed leaving a surface dip in one of the fields where the bunker was.

One of those who knew about its existence was Peter Hanlon (Electrician and shop owner working for MANWEB at the time) who was involved in checking the electrical systems to make sure it worked. He tells us that it was intended to be completely self-contained with living arrangements to house important people in times of a nuclear attack. It consisted of two rooms accessed via a big metal door set into a mound which led to another door and finally the bunker itself was found after going down some stairs. He only visited on about four occasions with a colleague and had to get the keys from the old Council Offices on Crewe Road (Opposite the Grammar School) and would be accompanied to the site where other people were also working on the bunker. It was larger than the monitoring stations but he thinks that they still had equipment to check what was going on above ground. His job was to check the independent generator which would have been used in the time of fallout as no external supply could be relied upon. All of this happened between 1955 and 1965 (Peter moved to Stoke on Trent from Sandbach) and suggests that it was built a little earlier than the ROC Stations and was possibly the result of World War 2 being built either just after the war because of Nuclear bombs or during the war to house important people from general bombing. Nevell Thornhill owned the Farmland the bunker was on.

The bunker is not listed as part of a network of ROC monitoring posts (Middlewich No 27, Audlem No 26 and Silverdale No 25) and its proximity to the M6 may suggest that it was a larger version that was used as a bolt hole for dignitaries in transit on the M6 rather than for local people although Peter Hanlon's account would mean that the government knew they were going to build the motorway many years before it was actually opened.

THE TASK

The task of the bunkers were to warn the public of any air attack, provide confirmation of a nuclear strike and the fall-out of radioactivity as well as providing information to NATO and as a post attack meteorological service to survivors.

They would be issued with a set of WB1400 carrier control warning equipment a unit that would broadcast a warning of a nuclear attack (HANDEL Nuclear Attack Warning equipment also known as Wire Broadcast System WB1400 – see <http://www.ringbell.co.uk/ukwmo/Page213.htm>) and the (Royal Observer Corps formed in October 1925 and disbanded December 1995) ROC stations would be manned by recruits from local secondary school science teachers, or commercial engineers and technicians with a scientific education. These employees would be trained once a fortnight by means of printed material provided by the home office Scientific Branch and lectures and training by the Assistant Sector Controller at UKWMO (United Kingdom Warning and Monitoring Organisation – Formed 1957 and dissolved 1992) who had their headquarters at Cowley Barracks in Oxfordshire. It was usually not known who the operators were in an area but one give away could have been part of the training as every couple of years with no notice given they would suddenly be called away and disappear for 48 hours into their bunkers as part of an exercise.

THE BUNKER

The top of the bunker would be very basic and have very little to show it was a monitoring post. A Green metal entrance with hatch for a person to climb down into the bunker would be at one side with a Ground Zero indicator on top (Cylinder). In the middle area a Radiac Tube and a B.P.I. Baffle would protrude from the ground and on the other end as a small area would be an Air Vent which would be filtered in the event of nuclear fallout etc.

Underneath would be a 20 foot vertical ladder leading down to a 7ft x 16ft x 7ft high underground chamber. In this area would be a main observing room and two person bunk bed. At the bottom of the ladder would be a small room with a chemical toilet inside. The building had no electricity, gas or running water with the only form of communication available via a UKWMO speaker / intercom system to other posts in the area and headquarters. It was under these conditions that the operators would stay for up to three weeks after a nuclear attack.

AREA

Each area of the country was equipped with a number of bunkers which were then sub-divided into groups with a Master Post and a special number. Those ending in 10, 15, 20, 25 etc. would be master posts while other numbers would report to the master post.

In our area (South Cheshire) Middlewich was numbered 27, Audlem 26 and Silverdale 25 (The MASTER POST) with Sandbach coming under this area but no number registered on the list.

Sandbach (Unknown)
Altrincham 11
Audlem 26
Bomere Heath 30 (MASTER)
Brierley Hill 51
Cheslyn Hay 50 (MASTER)
Church Stretton 47
Gnosall 42
Great Bolas 37
Helsby 10 (MASTER)
Knighton 56
Knutsford 15 (MASTER)
Ludlow 55 (MASTER)
Lydbury North 57
Malpas 21
Market Drayton 35 (MASTER)
Middlewich 27
Minsterley 31
Much Wenlock 46
Nesscliffe 32
Oakengates 36
Overton 20
Pattingham 53
Poynton 16
Rushton Spencer 17
Silverdale 25 (MASTER)
Standon 40 (MASTER)
Stottesdon 52
Upton Magna 45 (MASTER)
Weston on Trent 41

LOCAL BUNKERS (MAP Reference SJ...)

Altrincham (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ71478879) 1965 to 1991.
Audlem (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ66104485) 1965 to 1991.
Crewe (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ72215208) 1964 to 1968.
Faddiley (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ58735313) 1 May 1959 to 1 Oct 1968.
Helsby (MASTER POST) (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ49247544)
1 Oct 1962 to 1 Sept 1991.
Hyde (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ95789260) 1 Dec 1962 to 1 Oct 1968.
Knutsford (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ74847945) 1 Nov 1959 to 1 Sept 1991.
Macclesfield (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ92497256) 1965 to 1968.
Malpas (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ49454795) 1962 to 1991.
Middlewich (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ70856629) 1965 to 1991.
Neston (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ31487962) 1963 to 1991.
Northwich (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ67287225) 1965 to 1968.
Poynton (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ93208262) 1962 to 1991.
Preston on the Hill (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ571819) 1965 to 1968.
Rushton Spencer
Sandbach (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ76386208) 1963 to 1968.
Saughall (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ36656931) 1959 to 1981.
Tarpорley (ROC Warning and Monitoring station Ref; SJ53966386) 1965 to 1991.

Hack Green Secret Bunker outside Nantwich CW5 8AP (French Lane End, Nantwich)
or CW5 8EN (44 Nantwich Rd, Nantwich).

Hunt Green Nantwich CW5 8AQ ?

BBC RADIO STOKE – Bunker at Swynnerton MoD which was maintained by Chief engineer Simon Penfold.

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#HO. OFFLEY HOUSE

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Offley House stands on the opposite side of the road from Offley Road and was for many years owned by the Foden family.

In the 1902 Kelly Directory the house was owned by William S Billington a Farmer.

By the First World War Mr Harold Lloyd lived at Offley House and in May 1917 he was engaged in the Transport Office at the Abbey Field Hospital. 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. His wife was called Lucy Lloyd and during WW1 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.

In 1938 the House was still owned by H. Harold Lloyd an Auctioneer.

In 1967 it became the home of Ken Beresford, another local truck haulier (Business in Staffordshire). The land adjacent to Offley house was once a Horse-racing course which has now been built on with the Tatton Drive Estate.

BERESFORD'S TRANSPORT

During the 1930's and 1940's a company called Beresford, Caddy and Pemberton operated ERF trucks from a High Street depot in Tunstall, Stoke on Trent Stoke and carried Earthenware and Pottery products from the many "Pot Banks" in Staffordshire to places in London, Liverpool and Manchester. In 1953 the company split and became Beresford Transport with many customers coming from the old company. With changes in transportation there was less pottery moved by road and so the company went into distributing H and R Johnson Ltd Tiles.

In the 1970's the company expanded into Middle Europe and moved into Container movement.

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OFFLEY ROAD

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Over the years the road has been known as Cinder Lane (1932), Narrow Lane and Offley Road. It has many houses and Offley Avenue comes off the main road. It is also the home of Offley Road School one of the first "Open Planned" Schools in the Country which was opened in the 1960's.

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OLD HALL HOTEL

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Evidence of a 12th Century building on the site of the Old Hall exists with a wattle and daub rectangular building with a turf roof which was possibly used as a seminary for priests attached to the local minster (Now St Mary's Parish)

The site was also probably an ancient manor and home of the Sondbache Family from the 13th Century which according to historians was destroyed by fire. These were some stone roofing flags found when the building was restored in 2010 that had smoke damage making the assumption that they were reused in the New Hall.

The Old Hall was probably built for Sir John Radclyffe (The man who got the town a Market Charter in 1579). It is possible that Sir John's Son John Radcliffe built the house but no records exist of who actually organised the workforce.

Date of the actual building is unknown but a gable end has the numbers TB 1656. This is probably a later extension by Thomas Broome a local carpenter, who also did work in St Mary's Church. The building was a private residence until 1845 when it was split into two tenements, one of them becoming a public hotel called the "Three Turns Inn". The Inn was famous for its brewing of a strong malt liquor.

One feature of the Old Hall or Three Turn's Inn is a tunnel (Priest's Hole and an underground passage)

that leads to St Mary's church and was supposedly used to smuggle priests escaping from prosecution (Now Bricked Up). However another story is that they were used to smuggle in girls into the Coaching Inn. A second tunnel is also supposed to exist between the Hall and a house in Front Street but no evidence of this can be found.

In 1844 the "Old Hall" was owned by Mr Thomas Bostock a Silk Thrower who built "The Hill Factory" which by 1894 had been converted into flats.

In 1887 John Stringer did extensive restoration work for Lord Crewe (about £1,000 worth) who now owned the building. It was also at this time that a new extension was added to accommodate travellers on the Liverpool to Lichfield Coach which stopped off at the building. A Carriage Arch was built on the right wing of the hall leading to stables for the horses at the rear (Now Private Homes).

The Landlord of the Public House in 1938 was Harold Breakell.

Between 1939 and 1945 it is said that the building was requisitioned for the American Army under General Patton to house its officers during the war as the troops were based at Knutsford. It is also said that General Patton visited his troops at the Hall and at Knutsford on many occasions.

By 1958 it was owned by Lady Anabella Dodds-Crewe, a daughter of the late Marquis of Crewe.

Among the building there are three original fireplaces one of which has a secret door on the right of the chimney. There is also a left handed staircase, built this was so that swordsmen could have their sword hand free.

In the 1960's (?) while replacing a wall the skeleton of a baby was found in the cavity. This led to the usual stories of Ghosts haunting the building and indeed it is said to be haunted by the Grey Lady.

In 2007 the Old Hall was put on the English Heritage "At Risk" list after it was put up for sale and became unoccupied. A "Sandbach Old Hall Action Group" was formed (in 2006-7) to try and save the building.

In 2011 the hall was reopened after refurbishment by Brunning and Price Ltd. The action group changed to the "Sandbach Old Hall Appreciation Group".

The building is GRADE 1 listed by English Heritage.



(Old Hall April 2004)

GHOSTS AT THE OLD HALL

- Room 2 Matthew a man who hanged himself.
- Room 11 Lady in her 90's who possibly died in her favourite chair. Guests have felt that their beds have been on fire and some people while taking a bath have felt that they are being pushed under the water.
- Kitchen Poltergeists throw
- Behind Wood The panels came from Haslington Hall and when they were removed they discovered the skeleton of Lady Gray who is said to haunt the rooms in the old hall.

DEREK ACORAH

Priest in the Priest Holes and Ground floor.

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#HP. The PARK / Sandbach Park

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The area of the park was originally owned by the Marriott family who in 1897 gave both his house (The site of the Library) and the grounds to the community of Sandbach (See Marriott House / Library). The 6 acres of land at the back of the house were turned into a Park by the Sandbach Urban District Council (1894-1974) in 1901.

The oldest official tree was planted in 1935.

The Park and Bowling Green are also the home of the Marriott House Veterans Club who provides teas on a Thursday for visitors to the Market (To October each year) and facilities for the members club.

By the 1960's two hard Tennis Courts were installed.
 On the 17 April 1908 a Monument to Dr Charles Latham was unveiled outside the Town Hall.
 However, as the town became busier it was decided on the grounds of safety that it should be moved to the park and was positioned in the entrance and next to the Fire Station before being relocated to outside Ashfield's Doctor's Surgery.
 The Park has two bowling greens on the land, one named Marriott House and the other green was put into the park after developers built behind the George Hotel (Pub) (about 1989) and the Council moving their green to the park as a separately run space.
 In January 1991 the George Bowling Club was renamed the "Sandbach Park Bowling Club" after the move from the George Hotel green to the new green in the Park.
 On the 28 July 1998 a plaque commemorating the Centenary of the donation of the land by the Marroitt family was unveiled and placed on the main footpath side of the bowling green.



In 2010 the "Friends of Sandbach Park" was formed to look after the area and to redevelop it.
 The "Friends" installed a new Junior Play area (Opened by Cheshire East Mayor Gordon Baxendale and MP Fiona Bruce, April 2011), Toddler's Play area (Opened by Mayor Dennis Robinson, August 2011) and improved the tennis court area, ponds (Opened by MP Fiona Bruce, May 2014) and added gym equipment and a table tennis table.
 The Friends also helped to organise a number of events in the Park including an annual Foden's Band Concert ("Party in the Park" on the First Saturday in July), Fun Days and a Sports Day.
 On the 3 June 2012, an Oak tree was planted to Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as well as the official opening of a new flower bed (Dated 2 June 2012) in the main entrance to the grounds.
 In 2014 the park was awarded the "Cheshire County Playing Fields Association Les George OBE Memorial Award".
 In July 2015, Sandbach Park had been given a "Green Flag" for the high standard of the site. Sandbach Park was only one of 1,582 parks in the country to have the award for excellence.
 The following year the Park was able to keep its status after a surprise inspection and in July / August 2017 after another full inspection the park was given its second flag.

On the 23 September 2015 the 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.



Air Ambulance drops into the Park 23 Sept 2015

6th May 2017 TELEPHONE KIOSK ADDED TO SANDBACH PARK.

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In April and May of 2017 a new addition to the park was installed. A Telephone Kiosk which had originally been in Platt Avenue and had been saved for the community was installed near the entrance to the park.

By the 1960's the Post Office had installed 64,000 telephone kiosks in Great Britain including a K6 Phone Box in Platt Avenue. These boxes were designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and has become an iconic part of what many consider to be Britain. However, by 2005 BT (British Telecom) had decided to shed many of its phone boxes with less than half of the 72,000 boxes being used as there was an increase in personal phones from the Apple I Phone to phones by Samsung and many other providers. Many people even have two phones, one for work calls and one for personal calls.

One of the boxes abandoned was the one in Platt Avenue by Sweettooth Lane. It soon became a shell with its workings removed and cables disconnected, left to become an iconic memorial to a bygone age and something that should be preserved for future generations.



On the 17th August 2015, Stewart Green was passing the box as he had done for many years and noticed a message attached to it with the words “BT IMPORTANT NOTICE – Public Telephone Kiosk 01270- 759060 – BT is proposing to remove this Kiosk. If you have any comments about this, please contact the planning department at Cheshire East Council within 42 days from the date of this notice (30 July 2015), quoting the telephone number of this payphone.” With only a few days to object to its removal Stewart E-Mailed the Council and started a campaign to save the kiosk on Facebook via the “Sandbach Past and Present” page where hundreds of people started reminiscing about the times they used the box when they were young or living in the area. The Sandbach Chronicle then took up the story with a feature in the 20 August 2015 paper on page 56 and the letters page on page 40, that started the next phase of its salvation.

The Local PCSO's, Fire Cadets and Councillors started to show an interest in the campaign as well as Dot Flint of the Sandbach Partnership who took up the cudgel to save the kiosk. In 2008, BT introduced an “Adopt a Kiosk Scheme” where a charity or interested public body could take on the kiosk for a £1. BT needed to know Dot had serious backing and so she approached Cheshire East, Sandbach Town Council and many more to get permission and financial backing to renovate, restore and remove the box from Platt Avenue to a more secure location in the Park a suggestion made by many on Facebook and in the Chronicle.

Council Officials at Cheshire East agreed to the official adoption of the Kiosk on behalf of the Sandbach Partnership allowing Dot and her team to start making progress on the restoration of the kiosk.

The first job was to remove the Kiosk from its original location and to put it into storage until it could be stripped down to its base metal and then repainted.

On the 9 June 2016, Dot Flint and the Sandbach Partnership removed the Telephone Kiosk on Platt Avenue to a safe location to be sandblasted and repainted by Norman Belfield of M B Services, just before it was to be put into Sandbach Park the following spring. The operation should have taken place on Monday the 13 June but due to a crane being made available on Thursday the 9 June 2016, it was arranged for its removal to take place between 6.30pm and 7pm that night. Local residents were informed of its removal and to comply with a request from BT a notice had been put on the box showing that Cheshire East and the Sandbach Partnership had taken over responsibility for it. However, one local member of the public noticing the lorry removing the Kiosk called the Police and Cheshire Constabulary sent three cars from all over the County to see what was going on. Had a member of the Sandbach Police Force been available then they might have known of its removal as PCSO Spike Elliott has kept a keen eye on events to do with the phone box since its removal had been suggested back in August 2015 with the result that the story made a good headline in the Sandbach Chronicle. Dot managed to secure a large amount of funding for the project to take on phase three, installing the kiosk in Sandbach Park and on the 3 April 2017, the kiosk painted in grey suddenly appeared in the place left years ago by the removal of the Dr Charles Latham memorial which was moved to outside the Ashfields Surgery. Now by the Fire Station and opposite the bowling green and entrance Phil

Mason and his team at Care4CE including Bob Bowerbank, painted the kiosk with its red coat and put in the replacement glass (Plastic) along with the lettering.



With it looking better than it has over the last 20 years the kiosk now stands proudly in the park in tribute to the hard work done by Dot Flint and her team who have made this icon just that. A wonderful tribute to everything that is British and more importantly to this Sandbach K6 phone box with its history and stories from Platt Avenue and hopefully its future stories in its new location.

Booked for a ceremony before an election had been called the, at the moment ex MP for the area Fiona Bruce performed the official opening ceremony for the kiosk on the 6th May 2017.

After completion, the plan is for the Sandbach Fire Cadets to take over its upkeep and responsibility with suggestions being sort as to its final use. One early suggestion was to house a Defibrillator inside but since the kiosk was moved from Platt Avenue the regulars at the Military Arms have purchased their own machine which is accessible to all opposite the Park. Other suggestions are a book drop (leave your old books for others to take and read before returning them for the next user), Notice board for local events, Art instillation, Picture gallery, Tourist information kiosk for leaflets and posters of local attractions or just a meeting place with a seat where people can meet to reminisce or just to watch the world go by.

Stewart Green who started the campaign to save the Telephone Kiosk was full of praise for Dot Flint who has put so much time and effort into saving this part of Sandbach and has made his wish for it to be part of the town for many more years to come true. It has been a long struggle to get funding and to arrange everything for its repositioning but as people walk past the fire station, library and park it has already become a very prominent part of the Town Centre and Stewart for one is very grateful for the effort Dot has put in to the project.



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EVENTS

Annual	BONFIRE “Fireworks Display” (to 2012 Sandbach Lions Club / 2013 to 2016 “Blitz”)
July 2000	Sandbach Dog Show (First of the Annual Shows – See 2010)
2 Sept 2000	FODENS BAND Concert in the Park.
3 July 2004	FODENS BAND Concert in the Park.
11 July 2010	Sandbach Dog Show (10 th Annual Dog Show)
6 Nov 2010	Bonfire Night
2011	Bonfire Night
5 June 2012	FODENS BAND “Party in the Park” to Mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.
3 Nov 2012	Bonfire Night
20 July 2013	“Family Fun Day”. Includes Zorbing (In a Big Plastic Ball), Team games, Arts and Crafts, Face Painting, Willow Arts, Bat The Rat, Balloon Modelling. Free activities were organised by Nasar Raiz who organised team games such as Cricket, Football and Basketball. For the older person there is shove ha’penny and table skittles. The library also presented a ‘Story time’ in the Park
1 Aug 2013	“Sandbach Street Sports” organised by Leisure Development at Cheshire East.
7 Aug 2013	“Play and Sport Day” organised by Leisure Development at Cheshire East.
12 Aug 2013	“Sandbach Street Sports” organised by Leisure Development at Cheshire East.
23 Aug 2013	FODENS BAND “Party in the Park”.
3 Nov 2013	Bonfire Night (Blitz)
10 Dec 2013	Community Pride Tree Planting – Planting of the Oak Tree which was part of the prize from the Community Pride Awards.
17 May 2014	Opening of the Pond and Boardwalk by Fiona Bruce MP.
5 July 2014	FODENS BAND “Party in the Park”.
19 July 2014	“Summertime Fun in the Park” (Sandbach Town Council)
6 Aug 2014	“Play and Sports Day” (Cheshire East)
2 Nov 2014	Bonfire Night (Blitz)
27 June 2015	“Family Fun Day”.
4 July 2015	FODENS BAND “Party in the Park”.
5 Aug 2015	“National Play and Sports Day” (www.Playdays.org.uk)
6 Nov 2015	Bonfire Night (Blitz)
12 June 2016	Queen’s 90 th Birthday Celebrations – Giant Picnic in the Park.
2 July 2016	FODENS BAND “Party in the Park”.
16 July 2016	“Family Fun Day”. (Later than last year)
3 Aug 2016	“National Play and Sports Day” (www.Playdays.org.uk)
30 Oct 2016	Bonfire Night at Sandbach Park (Blitz) Last one.
24 June 2017	“Family Fun Day”.
1 July 2017	FODENS BAND “Party in the Park”.
2 Aug 2017	“National Play and Sports Day” (www.Playdays.org.uk)



19 May 2004



Pond Re-Opening May 2014

TREES PLANTED IN THE PARK include.

6 May 1935	To Commemorate the Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary Planted by Cllr. George Booth JP (Chairman of Sandbach Urban District Council)
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- 12 May 1937 To Commemorate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Planted by Cllr. J H Jennings JP (Chairman of Sandbach Urban District Council)
- 3 June 2012 To Commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Planted by Cllr. Carolyn Lowe (Mayor of Sandbach Town Council)
- 10 Dec 2013 Community Pride Tree Planting – Planting of the Oak Tree which was part of the prize from the Community Pride Awards.

FLOWER DISPLAYS

- Unkn Teddy Bears Picnic
- Unkn Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- 1977 Silver Jubilee
- 1981 Wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer
- 1994 Lions International in Sandbach 1984 to 1994 Anniversary.

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#PC01.

POLICE STATION – SANDBACH POLICE HISTORY

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SANDBACH POLICE A BRIEF HISTORY.

There has always been a body of people who have kept law and order from the Chief of the local area through the Roman Empire and via the Magistrates and Mayors of an area but the true Police Force didn't appear until the 1800's and the introduction in 1829 when the Home Secretary Robert Peel introduced the "Metropolitan Police Act" which led to the formation of the Metropolitan Police on the 29 September 1829. Constables were quickly nicknamed "Bobbies" after Robert "Bobbie" Peel or "Peelers".

As to when a building in Sandbach became a Police Station is not clear but in 1800 an Act of Parliament encouraged local town authorities to be more involved in Policing. It is possible at this time that Sandbach started its own force based at Market Square where C.Godfrey Williams and Son's now stands, it was built in 1760 and the row of buildings next to the station were used as housing for the Sergeant and his constables.

The 1856 "County and Borough Police Act" opened the door for a Cheshire Police Force to be formed and on the 3 February 1857 the first full Cheshire Police Committee met at the Crewe Arms Hotel in Crewe to discuss the setting up of the new force.

According to Kelly's Directory (1896) the venue for a new Sandbach Police Station was in Bold Street where the Barclays Bank is now (New Building). The "New County Police Station" had been erected in 1857 at a cost of £800 with an edifice of Brick and Stone. It had offices, cells and a residence for the chief officer. The building has since been demolished but the Cells within the original Police Station are still there and are now used by the Barclays Bank as a storage area.

In June 1965, Sandbach Police did a "Moonlight Flit" from their offices in Bold Street to rooms behind the Courtrooms in Middlewich Road (The Magistrates Court were opposite what is now Cheshire East's Headquarters, Westfields) a building that was formally the Congleton Rural District Council Offices and were built by John Stringer.

The first enquiry at the new offices was at 3 O Clock when a man asked them where the Police Station was!

After 20 years Sandbach was ready for a change and moved into a portacabin opposite the magistrates court in the 1980's. It was also decided to build a new station for the officers and staff and so the Sandbach Police moved back on a temporary basis to their old station and a portacabin behind the Courthouse until a new building had been erected.

In April 1990 the new purpose built Police Station on Middlewich Road next to Westfields the home of Congleton Borough Council was ready for duty and the officers. The building was officially opened by the Chairman of the County Council's Police Committee Cheshire in May 1990.

However the new police station soon became a closed building to the public as only a direct phone link to Winsford headquarters was made available for the public to contact the constabulary with the police using it as a stopping off point and administration building.

(A full history of Sandbach Police will be available as a Data CD / DVD / PDF version soon)

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#PC02.

SANDBACH POLICE A COMPLETE HISTORY.

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The origin of a Police Force in Sandbach has been lost in time but we do know that nationally law and order has always been a part of civilised life.

When the Anglo Saxons invaded Britain, they brought with them the concept of laws and customs, believing that breaking the law was a crime and that it was a crime against the whole community breaking what was known as the “King’s Peace” and it was the responsibility of all the adult males to catch any criminals or offenders. Small community groups were formed as an early form of Neighbourhood watch to keep an eye on their group of about 10 families and anyone who committed a crime within that community was brought to the court or “Moot” by the other members of the group or they themselves were fined for failing to uphold the law.

In the early days of Cheshire, the Sheriff of the County was responsible for the enforcement of law and presided over courts of justice or the “Shire Court” where they would dispense judgements including the hanging of serious criminals. These would be convened if the crime was thought to be more serious than a local tribunal as in the case of murder, rape and crimes against the King.

In the **MIDDLE AGES** a local Lord of the Manor was given the responsibility of looking over the “Manor Court” and would appoint the “Manor Officers” (Early Police), The Constable, ale-taster (to make sure the ale was not watered down), swine ringer (Tax was paid on pigs and so they were ringed to let the Lord know who owned the swine.) and bread weigher (Early customs and excise as bread was regulated by weight when sold). It was the constable’s job to arrest criminals, report crime to the Lord of the Manor and to call out the “Hue and Cry” (Public Uproar usually in pursuit of a Criminal). The job of the Lord of the Manor was also taken on by the Mayor of a town or county and they were the “Custodian of Peace” with the name Mayor coming from an early version of the word for Magistrates who would preside over Borough, Civil and Criminal Courts.

In 1285 the “Statute of Winchester” stated that every town should “keep an eye on the city gates and arrest all suspicious night walkers” with the constable taking charge of the “watch” and taking offenders to court.

In 1761 under King Edward III, “Justices of the Peace” were established to try less serious crimes and could issue a warrant of arrest for the constable to carry out.

By the **TUDOR TIMES** the Mayor acted as Chief Magistrate and had the power to arrest those disturbing the peace, to search premises suspected of unlawful gaming and they had the power to compel people into service.

Many Constables during the Tudor period paid deputies to do their job despite the constable not being paid themselves. This led to widespread corruption and inefficiency with many law enforcers turning a blind eye to criminal activity.

In the **1600’s** the Mayor’s role changed to that of the Chairman of the Council, Chief Magistrate, Borough Coroner, Clerk of the Market, Keeper of the Jail and was allowed to appoint a Town Clerk. The Mayor was also able to create “Freemen” of the area.

In 1663 the City of London started to pay their Watchmen who guarded the City Streets at night and they became known as “Charlie’s” possibly after Charles II who was on the throne at the time. The pay was not good and so only the old and those unable to find employment elsewhere took the jobs. They did start to have equipment provided for their work. This included a bell (To summon assistance), a Rattle to ward off criminals and a lantern to see their way around the streets. They also carried a long staff which was used to stop fights and catch criminals and was also a symbol of authority. However, the main sport at the time for young men on the streets of cities was “Baiting Charlie’s” the art of taunting a Watchman and as gangs of kids surrounded the watchmen the stick was ineffectual.

By the **1700’s** policing was organised by local communities such as town authorities and a constable could be attested by two or more “Justices of the Peace” a procedure that could go back to an act of the English Parliament in 1673.

In the 1730’s the “Local Improvement Act” made by town authorities often included the provision for a paid “Watchman” or “Constable” outside London who were employed to patrol the towns at night making it a safe environment as it meant that burglars and disturbers of the peace could be dealt with, without the townsfolk being disturbed in their sleep.

In 1737 an act of Parliament was passed so that the City of London could have “Better Regulating the Night Watch” specifying the number of paid constables that should be on duty each night.

Henry Fielding established the "Bow Street Runners" in 1749 (1748 he was appointed Chief Magistrate of Westminster) and between 1754 and 1780 Sir John Fielding reorganised the "Bow Street Runners" with the inclusion of a central building from which they were deployed. The runners were issued with guns and were paid sufficiently not to be open for bribes.

This was the start of the Police Station idea which soon spread to all parts of the country.

In 1762 Chester employed its first paid watchman and by 1806 the city had 18 men in the job (1 over 69 and 11 old soldiers) with a wage of 12 Shillings a Week.

By 1819 the number of paid watchmen was increased to 28 but the wage was decreased to 10 shillings a week.

SANDBACH

There have always been crimes in the area of Sandbach from Roman times to the present day and there has been some sort of law in the area to deal with the criminal element.

In 1602 at the end of the Elizabethan era a gang lead by Robert Sponne terrorised the area of Sandbach, Warrington and Middlewich. A notorious thief he stole from neighbours their timber, corn and let their cattle out at night to graze on other people's grass. To get out of being hung he would accuse innocent neighbours of the crimes instead and they would be hung instead. He also used to accuse other people from Cheshire and terrorised the folk of the area so much they feared he would burn down their houses and kill their cattle.

One of the original police houses in Sandbach was on the Market Square is where C. Godfrey Williams and Son's now stands, it was built in 1760 and when it was used as Police Station we do not know but the officers entered the building from the rear (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 in the building.

A building at the back of the row of shops and numbered 7a Market Street, Sandbach has for many years been described as the Old Police House and indeed rumour has it that it housed the Sergeant of Police.

As to when the building in Sandbach became a Police Station is not clear but in 1800 an Act of Parliament encouraged local town authorities to be more involved in Policing. One major force that was established was the "City of Glasgow Police" which has been described as the first professional police force in Britain.

More towns followed the example of Glasgow including Rochdale in 1825 and Oldham in 1827.

In 1819, Riots in Peterloo in Manchester occurred at St Peter's Field when 11 people were killed and 400 were wounded when the Military ordered the arrest of the speaker Henry Hunt who was addressing 60,000 people in what became known as the Peterloo Massacre. Although no immediate action was taken to improve the law it did see a change in attitude and reforms soon followed.

In the 1820's Cheshire was under the Jurisdiction of Justices with six chartered Boroughs. These were Chester, CONGLETON, Macclesfield, Stockport, Northwich and Wirral with each appointing a High Constable and 500 parishes that elected one or more constables annually.

On the 24 December 1828, Robert Mosley a farmer of Roughwood Farm, Betchton had been to Sandbach and visited various hostleries in the town, The George Inn, Thatched Tavern and finally the Crown. Just before 10pm he noticed three men having a few pints they were James Harrop (Aged 29), John Proudlove (Aged 25) and James Statham. On his way home to Betchton Robert saw the three men and called out a greeting which unfortunately for him was met with a blow on the head and he was pinned down by Harrop and Proudlove while Statham rifled through his pockets for cash totalling 10 sovereigns from a canvas purse they had seen in the Crown. With no Police Force in the town the farmer went home got out his gun and called for his servant and dog to assist in a search for the attackers. A local elected constable was also called for. A few days after Christmas Harrop was spotted in the street by another farmer with Proudlove being found at a pigeon shoot in the Red Lion where they were arrested by the local constable. The two were taken with Statham to court in Sandbach and after witnesses produced unreliable alibis for Statham and Harrop, Proudlove confessed to the crime by making no defence but said that he alone had been at the scene. The Judge decided to sentence Proudlove to hang while Statham and Harrop would be transported for life.

John Proudlove was the brother of William Proudlove who had been hanged in 1809 for shooting at an excise officer at Lawton Salt Works. He and his partner George Glover from Sandbach became well known as 'The Man they Hanged Twice' after a new 'drop' (Hangman's noose and trap) failed and the rope broke while hanging Mr Glover so after repairs he was hung for the second time an hour later.

Proudlove's mother travelled round the area selling items with a horse and cart having been a shoe maker and John left behind a pregnant wife and two children.

John Proudlove was hung alongside John Leir (Aged 21), a fellow member of the 'Middlewich Gang' who had been found guilty of brutally attacking an old man, retired clergyman the Revd Matthew Bloor on the 14 March 1829 in his home at Stablach (or Sandbach) 2 miles from Middlewich.

On the 1 June 1829, a Parliamentary Act came into force allowing Cheshire to appoint and pay "Special" High Constables and "Assistant" Petty Constables a pilot format used to set up more forces around the country.

In 1829, the Home Secretary Robert Peel introduced the "Metropolitan Police Act" which led to the formation of the Metropolitan Police on the 29 September 1829. Constables were quickly nicknamed "Bobbies" after Robert "Bobbie" Peel.

In 1832, the "London City Police" were formed and in 1839 they were renamed the "City of London Police" establishing the idea of a modern "Police Force".

In 1835 the "Municipal Corporations Act" was passed which required 178 Royal Borough's to set up "paid" Police Forces followed in 1839 by the Rural Constabulary Act which allowed county areas to set up their own Police Force with Wiltshire being the first to do so. Eight County Police Forces were formed in 1839 and twelve in 1840 ("County Police Act 1840"), four in 1841 and four in 1851 by which time there were 13,000 policemen in England and Wales. Cheshire was not one of the counties that set up their own force, they still relied on local authorities setting up night watchmen and constables.

On a Friday night in January 1841 the solicitors "Skerret and Remer" were holding a large amount of bank notes from the Bank of England in £100, £50, £20 and £5 denominations adding up to about £1,100 in a large metal safe in their High Street Offices. At this time there were many local banks who issued their own notes and these were among those held at Skerret and Remer and on the Saturday a clerk discovered that the doors to the building had been forced and the safe had been broken into with the money taken by persons unknown. However, on that morning James and Thomas Hampton were found to be spending Imperial Bank Notes and Lane End Notes in various shops in Tunstall and Longton along with some bank notes that were no longer valid as the local banks had closed and so had no value.

A Sandbach Policeman had taken an impression of a footprint from the scene of the crime and a Congleton police officer suspicious of the two compared the impression from the crime with shoes found in the suspects house after they had been charged with another crime in Tunstall. The two brothers were transported for a total of fourteen years.

In 1842 the Metropolitan Police set up a "Detective Department" to investigate crimes and solve murders (After the Turf Fraud Scandal in 1877 the department was reorganised and renamed the "Criminal Investigation Department" or CID in 1878).

In 1847 the "Town Police Clauses Act" and the "Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act" came into force, suggesting the idea of a national police force.

On the 3 May 1855 Mr James Sproston a visitor to the village of Wheelock with his wife was staying with his widowed sister Mrs Gill. A cabinet maker from Southport James killed his wife with a sword in the kitchen where she was found surrounded by blood and with the sword by her side by her sister in law Mrs Gill when she returned home at 9.30am. Mrs Sproston was still alive but died half an hour later from her wounds. James Sproston was discovered in a chair in the parlour having blown his brains out with a pistol which was found next to him. Local Police concluded that he had committed suicide after killing his wife but reports do not say why he killed her. (*Murder happened on the 27 April 1855 according to the Staffordshire Advertiser 5 May 1855 Pg 8*)

The Cheshire Observer of Saturday the 22 December 1855 reported on the Sandbach Police Court (Town Hall) when James Pool of Sandbach was charged by Mr Farr the relieving officer with "Neglecting to maintain his wife" on the Monday and on Tuesday a William Leckett (alias Taffey) an unemployed 16 year old from Shropshire who was brought up in custody of police officer Walker who charged him with sleeping in the salt works at Malkins Bank. This was not an unusual crime as many tramps were in the habit of sleeping at the works and in the morning would steal the workers meat, clothes and tools etc. leading to many complaints from the men at Malkins Bank who insisted it be stopped. On the Tuesday morning at about 6am constables Walker and Faram found the prisoner in one of the drying rooms at the works. Mr Leckett was committed for 14 days.

In 1856 the "County and Borough Police Act" was brought in, requiring Policing throughout England and Wales to be paid for by the "Central Government Treasury Department" and distributed to local Governments. It also set up a "Central Inspectorate of Constabulary" that assessed the effectiveness of

each Constabulary and would report to the Home Secretary (1857 Parliament passed a similar act for Scotland). It made it compulsory in England and Wales for Counties to have a Police Force and this act led to the setting up of forces in the remaining counties of England and Wales including Cheshire and by 1860 there were 200 separate forces in England and Wales.

CHESHIRE POLICE FORCE

The 1856 "County and Borough Police Act" opened the door for a Cheshire Police Force to be formed and on the 3 February 1857 the first full Cheshire Police Committee met at the Crewe Arms Hotel in Crewe to discuss the setting up of the new force.

On the 20 April 1857 Cheshire Police came into operation on this day with stations being occupied all over the county by new officers. The first headquarters were at 4 Steller Street, Chester.

According to Kelly's Directory (1896) the venue for the Sandbach Police Station was in Bold Street where the Barclays Bank is now (New Building). The "New County Police Station" had been erected in 1857 at a cost of £800 with an edifice of Brick and Stone. It had offices, cells and a residence for the chief officer. The building has since been demolished but the Cells within the original Police Station are still there and are now used by the Barclays Bank as a storage area.

A little known fact today joins the Police and Fire Brigade together at the Bold Street Station as a Fire Siren was put on the top of the building to summon the part time firemen to the station house on Scotch Common as this could be activated by the Police who had a continual presence in the building. (Pre 1961 when the new Fire Station opened)

It was at this time that the Literary Institute came into operation (1857) and along with the usual cattle sales and meetings the building was also used as a court house. The Petty Sessions and Special Police Courts were held in the building situated next to the new police station.

In 1858 a document from the Chief Constables Office in Chester dated the 9 March 1858 shows "The Full Rent will be charged to each constable occupying a County Police Station and the following will be the several sum allowed to be charged per week for cleaning and same including brushes, soap and materials". Sandbach had 2 Cells at 2/6 per week (Police rate and County rate) with Crewe having 4 Cells at 2/- per week (Police rate and County rate), Nantwich had 4 Cells at 1/- per week (Police rate) and 2/- per week (County rate), Congleton had 6 Cells at 1/6 per week (Police rate and County rate) and Middlewich had 6 Cells at 2/- per week (Police rate and County rate).

In 1860 there were 9 Divisions of Cheshire Police with the Chester Headquarters at 4 Seller Street.

CHIEF CONSTABLE	Captain John Smith, Hoole Lodge, Chester.
(1857 to 1883 - First Chief Constable – Captain Thomas Johnnes Smith)	
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE	Joseph Little (also in charge of Hyde division)
SUPERINTENDENT	G.E. Oldmeadow (Chief Clark)
HEAD CONSTABLE	John Hill at Chester.

DIVISIONS in 1860

Broxton, Bucklow, Eddisbury, Hyde, Macclesfield, Nantwich (Included Crewe and Stoke), Northwich (see below), Stockport and Wirral

NORTHWICH DIVISION Superintendent William Blake at Middlewich.

Included

- Alsager
- Brereton
- Buglawton
- Castle Northwich
- Cranage
- Davenham
- Hartford
- Holmes Chapel
- Lostock Gralam
- Minshul Vernon
- Newbold Astbury
- Odd Rode
- SANDBACH**
- Wharton
- WHEELOCK**
- Winsford
- Witton

On the 27 August 1861, Martin Doyle was executed at Chester for the attempted murder of Jame Brogiue at a place near Sandbach. The execution was reported in the Liverpool Mail on Saturday the 31 August 1861. Martin Doyle was 26 years old at the time of his execution.

The courts were told of the events that occurred on the Thursday before the 8 June 1861 when members of Cheshire Constabulary were called to New Road, Church Lawton, near Sandbach after reports that a murder had been committed. When PC Dale (County Force) arrived at the scene he found a large quantity of blood and Jame Brogiue (Not Jane) who was supposed to have been killed, covered in blood and covered in cuts and bruises at a local public house a short distance from the crime scene. The man named Martin Doyle was taken into custody and charged with committing the offence. He was brought before G W Latham Esq magistrate who went to see Mrs Brogiue at the "Talk O' th' Hill" in Staffordshire where the supposed dying woman, was staying. Her statement read "My name is Jame Brogiue; I am the wife of John Brogiue; he left me at Ormskirk about nine months since; he took my children with him, a boy and a girl; I have not seen him or them since. I became acquainted the prisoner, Martin Doyle, about a month after my husband left me at Ormskirk. He stayed with me three or four days there; we then went to Wigan and lived together about 11 weeks, at the house of a man named Daugherty; he there left me to go in search of work. I then went to Burnley and stayed about two hours at the house of my brother, Robert Livingstone: I then went to Bradford Infirmary and remained there about five weeks with a bad leg. I then went to the house of Maria Curtis and remained there about three weeks from there I went to Oldham and lived at the Star Hotel as maid of all work; I remained there until Friday the 24th May. I then went to Ormskirk by train and remained there one night at the house of Thomas Marrenals. The prisoner there came after me; he followed me next day on my way to St Helens; he had another young man with him; he carried my bundle and came with me to Prescott; we slept together at a lodging house and left there about 11 O Clock the following morning, and came the next day to Warrington, and slept there one night; we left about a quarter to 12 the next day and went to Holmes Chapel, and slept there at a lodging house near the railway bridge; we left there about 10 O'clock this morning and came on our way to Newcastle, as the prisoner said he had a brother there and could get work. We came through the Linley Tollgate between one and two O'clock. We then came to a hollow place on the side of the road; it was raining fast; we sat down under a tree about five or six yards from the turnpike road; we remained about one hour and then I went to sleep, and he pulled my head on to his knee. I awoke and found his elbow a great weight upon my head; I should think I was sleeping about three quarters of an hour. He then got up and said he would go and see it had done raining; he came back with a great stone in his hand, and stood at the back of a tree; he threw it at my head, and it knocked me down and made me feel quite silly. I then shouted, and put up my hands, and said "Don't. What is that?" he then came and placed his nee upon my breast, and seized me round my throat and forced my tongue out. He then saw he could not finish me with that, and got a sharp stone and said he was determined to have my life as he came there for it. I had expressed a wish that morning, if he did not get work at Newcastle, to return back. He then began to knock me about the head and face with a stone. I asked him to spare my life, he said "No, your life I intend to have". He kept hammering at me until I was covered in blood; he said "Now, you b----r, aren't you done." I then drew my breath and gave a great sigh, he then gave me four or five more knocks; I could neither speak nor see, and fainted as he went away from me. As he went away he said, "Now, Devil, you are done." I remained there a short time and was getting a little better, when I heard the noise of a cart coming up the road, and crept towards it as well as I could, but I could not see my way, and the man stopped the cart; he said, "Oh, Woman, who has been committing murder?" I said "It is the man who has gone down the road in a white jacket, that has done this."

In 1862 the Cheshire Police Headquarters moved to 1 Edgerton Street, Chester and in 1870 it was moved to 113 Foregate Street, Chester.

On the 4th October 1869, it was reported in the Staffordshire Sentinel and Commercial and General Advertiser (9 Oct 1869 edition) of an assault on PC James Green by Middlewich Shoemaker, George Edgerton and Sandbach Bricklayer, William Yates who were brought up before the Sandbach Police Court in front of Mr G Latham and J.H. Deakin esq. who put them both on remand. George Edgerton was fined 4s and 15s costs with Yates being remanded until the Monday to allow both of them to find witnesses.

MURDER OF PC GREEN

On the 24 February 1873, PC James Green (b. 1836 .D. 24-25 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 in 1836, James Green had been a member of the Cheshire Force for six years and was stationed at Bradwall near Sandbach under the Command of Superintendent Rowbottom of Middlewich and Inspector Hulme of 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).

Inspector Hulme had offered to provide a companion for Green but he declined. James Buckley was arrested by Superintendent Rowbottom for the murder and had found him at the time 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 on the 17 March 1873 at Sandbach Town Hall, James Buckley was brought before Joseph John H Yates Esq. (Mr B. D. Richardson, Barrister for the Defence) 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.

An enquiry was held into the death of the policeman and on the 24 March 1873, Mr Dunston the Coroner concluded his investigation into the death with Mr Cooper watching the case on behalf of James Buckley who was lying in Chester Castle on a charge of murder.

EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE TRIAL

In the November sessions of the year 1872, James Buckley was found guilty of stealing straw from the farm of Kester Kettell of Moston (Grandfather of Crewe Mayor of 1916 – 1918 J A S H Kettell ESQ) and had been observed by PC Green who was the principal witness in the case and who, had hidden himself in an outhouse where he had seen the accused carrying the sheaf from the direction of Mr Kettell's farm. Mr Buckley denied that he had stolen the straw and stated that the farmer had given him the sheaf. James Buckley was found guilty of the crime and sentenced to one month's hard labour.

The Crewe Guardian at the time stated that PC Green was the type of Policeman who struck terror into the hearts of the lower classes.

On Monday the 24 February 1875, James Green informed his superior, Inspector Hulme that he was certain that Mr Buckley was up to his old tricks and would like to watch his premises at night to catch him red handed. At 7pm his wife Mary, sat down with PC Green to finish their meal before he set off to watch Mr Buckley a meal that turned out to be the last time she saw him alive. It was not until Wednesday the 26th February that Mary reported her husband missing and it was not until the Thursday that Inspector Hulme instructed PC Thomas Jones of the Wheelock Police station to search the ditches and fields around Mr Buckley's house at Elton Moss. With no success on the Thursday the following Friday PC Williamson and PC Booth were joined by Superintendent Rowbottom to drag the Trent and Mersey canal with borrowed equipment from the locals to see if the policeman had fallen into the water.

Acting on "Receipt of Private Information" Inspector Hulme went to James Buckley's house to question the gentleman about the disappearance of PC Green and while there received the news that a body had been found in the canal. Mr Buckley had extensive bruising and scratches on his face which he explained were from an incident when he fell out of a neighbour's apple tree (Mr Hill) that he was pruning while blood stained clothing that his wife, Martha Buckley, had recently washed were down to slaughtering.

After viewing the body of the policeman according to the Crewe Chronicle, Inspector Hulme then arrested Mr Buckley on suspicion of killing PC Green. When the police returned to the cottage on the Saturday they interviewed his wife Martha Buckley who was living there with her two sons from a previous marriage and James Buckley's 16 month old son. She was also arrested as an accomplice to the murder of PC Green after she had admitted to washing the blood stained clothes.

Mr Buckley was brought before J St John Yates the local Magistrate at Sandbach on Saturday the 1 March 1873. Mr Charles Latham the local doctor had conducted the post mortem examination that morning and described the injuries to the packed court. Twenty three cuts on the head and face, none of which could have caused the policeman's death which he said was mainly due to the rupturing of the bladder caused by a heavy kick, along with the shock from the cuts being a contributory factor. Dr Latham put the time of death at about 8 hours after his last meal which would put it at about 3am the following day the 25 February 1873. A local residents son gave a rambling statement to the court

before Mr Buckley was sent to the local lock up followed soon after by his wife but not in the same cell.

When James and Martha Buckley were brought in front of the local coroner Mr W R Dunstan they were represented by Mr Richardson a barrister from Hanley who questioned his client as to his injuries from sliding and bumping from the tree in Mr Hill's garden (Falling while pruning) and stated that the police had not found any signs of a struggle at the Buckley residence.

Mrs Buckley was refused a discharge requested by Mr Richardson despite a glowing character reference from a Mr Dixon of Northwich.

A further inquest later in the week challenged the Buckley's statements and a Mr Campbell Brown from the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine was asked to examine the items given to him by the police including the blood-stained clothing which he concluded could be either animal or human. Mr Richardson the defendants lawyer also established that the police had failed to investigate the claims by his client that he had indeed killed a pig and that it was that carcass that had stained his clothing.

The case against Martha Buckley was dropped (9-10 March 1873) due to a lack of evidence after nine days inside but the case against Mr Buckley was considered enough to take it to the assizes.

Below is the report of the original inquest into PC Green's death.

THE MURDER OF A POLICEMAN (Cheshire Observer – Saturday 29 March 1873)

The adjourned inquest on the body of Police Constable James Green was held on Monday, at the Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Sandbach, before Mr W.S.R. Dunstan the district coroner. Mr Cooper, solicitor, represented the prisoner James Buckley; and Captain Arrowsmith the police.

Thomas Davies, who for more than 40 years had been in the employment of the Trent and Mersey Canal Company, and the depth of the canal in the vicinity of the point where the body of the deceased was found was 4ft 10in: and the depth did not vary much for the considerable distance. Boats passing along the canal and carrying 22 tons weight would draw 2ft 10½in of water. The largest boats on the canal would carry 27 or 28 tons. A boat passing down the canal would not touch a body lying at the bottom of the bed. All the boats he had seen on the canal had flat bottoms and no keel. – In Cross-examination the witness said the constant opening of the locks would cause the water to draw a little, and so perhaps remove a body. In his opinion a passing boat could not cause the injuries on the head and face of the deceased, considering where the body lay. The bottom of the helm in the boats is sharp, but he had never seen it projected lower than the bottom of the boats.

Police Superintendent Rowbottom was recalled at his own request, and, as an addition to his previous evidence, said he had searched a heap of sand opposite the prisoner's house, and found that there had been an excavation beneath it of about eight feet in length and two feet wide. – In cross-examination witness said this night he accounted for the removal of a fence.

Joseph Wakefield, platelayer, said he saw the deceased about eight o'clock coming from the direction of a public-house; and Police Constable Williamson produced a hatchet and several butcher's knives which he had found in the prisoner's house.

This concluded the evidence brought by the police, and Mr Cooper proceeded to call witness on behalf of the prisoner.

John Hill, Ettiley Hill, said he had been sixty-two years in the employ of the Canal Company as a lock carpenter. He had assisted in taking many bodies from the canal; some of them had no bruises whatever, whilst others were cut and crushed almost to pieces. Among the boats which plied on the canal were some which were flat bottomed and others which had a keel. The bottoms of all the boats were sheathed with iron, and when the sheeting got loose it turned down and dragged along the bed of the canal, cutting with the sharpness of a knife anything it came across.

George Lewis, farmer, Moston; Joseph Turner, Elton Moss, retired tradesman: and Thomas Dodd, labourer, Moston, gave evidence, the effect of which has already been published.

The Coroner having summed up the evidence, the Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of wilful murder against the prisoner Buckley.

We have the satisfaction of stating that the inhabitants of Sandbach, where poor Green resided previous to his death have originated a subscription for his widow and three children, aged respectively five years, three and one. The widow, we regret to add, is in a very delicate state of health, so much so that she is unable to attend even to the requirements of her children. The deceased officer having lost his life whilst in the execution of his duty, his wife and family have a claim upon the County for their support; and we are glad to know that the highest official in Cheshire intends to bring the matter before the Court of Quarter Sessions next month. The Magistrates comprising the Police Committee have only

power to award the widow twelve months pay; and knowing this, the members of the Cheshire Constabulary have already commenced a subscription among themselves for her benefit, to which effort the Constabulary of Lancashire have generously given their assistance. (Reports also appeared in the Liverpool Mercury – Tuesday 25 March 1873, Huddersfield Chronicle – Wednesday 26 March 1873, Cheshire Observer – Saturday 29 March 1873)

Mr Buckley was put on trial in early April 1873 before Mr Justice Lush who heard testaments that Mr Buckley had threatened PC Green after he had testified against him for stealing the straw and that the house of the suspect was near the canal making it an ideal place to dump the body. Another piece of evidence came to light during the trial that a knife belonging to the victim, PC Green had been found during a search of the accused cottage.

Dr Charles Latham repeated his results of the post mortem and Inspector Joseph Hulme spoke in moving terms about the constable saying that he had more confidence in the policeman than others and he had more latitude than others to the extent that PC Green was “given the freedom to pursue investigations on his own account, even to the point of carrying a privately-owned pistol when he went out that Monday night”.

Mr Justice Lush also heard testament that George Lewis a Farmer from Moston had seen PC Green at Charles Tattnall’s public house the Railway Hotel on the 24th February dressed in a corded jacket and an old hat. He then said that the policeman went on to the Burgesses, Fox Inn which was confirmed by plate layer Joseph Wakefield who had seen him outside the Tattnall’s that evening when he had left at 8pm (Claimed by another witness) having had a glass of ale. Another witness claimed to have seen him at Moston Bridge on the Monday Evening (24 Feb 1873). The coroner looked at these movements as suspicious and also wondered why the policeman had refused help from a colleague saying that by 9pm he would be in hiding by Mr Buckley’s cottage and so couldn’t be found by a relief constable. Neighbours of the prisoner stated that he had been home at 9pm and had heard no sounds of a struggle or seen any sight of one in the morning when they rose to a light snow covering over the yard. Mrs Phillips also confirmed that the prisoner Mr Buckley had killed a pig about three weeks before the murder.

The question of more blood being found at the cottage on a waistcoat and some cobbles was explained by Mr Buckley as being from his son who had cut himself with a knife while his mother was at work in Crewe. Dr Charles Latham examined the child’s cut and said that they would have bled profusely. The investigating team had failed to examine the child’s pinafore when asked. The Police suggested that scratches found on the flagstones at the cottage had been caused by PC Green’s boots but this was dismissed by the Judge who said it could be caused by anyone visiting the building.

Expert witness Thomas Alcock a watchmaker from 38 High Street, Sandbach was asked to examine the policeman’s watch recovered from the body in the canal and found it to have stopped at 3.19am along with the glass being broken and the fingers damaged. In his opinion it had been damaged by an object which had been in contact with cinder, or similar material of the type used to make paths.

Joseph Turner a resident of Elton Moss who lived about 160 yards from Moss Bridge said he heard unpleasant voices from the canal during the night in question and had out it down to people in the boats which were tied up nearby. As to the question that PC Green’s wounds could be caused by a boat were dismissed by Dr Charles Latham as false as in his opinion they were caused before his death.

Mr Bowen summed up the case for the defence for 80 minutes and the judge summed up the case before sending the jury out to consider their decision. After a brief 10 minutes they came back and pronounced James Buckley not guilty of the murder of PC Green and he was released to face the crowds of people outside the court who wanted to see the accused man before he caught a train from Chester to Crewe where he was again greeted by crowds who wanted to see who had been released from imprisonment.

James Buckley returned to his work as a gardener and farm labourer but by 1881 in the census he was a widow living with his son, Arthur. In September 1896, he died suddenly and an inquest was held by the coroner who decided that Buckley had died at the age of 69 from natural causes.

FUNERAL OF A POLICEMAN

The Funeral of PC Green took place at St Peter’s Church in Elworth and was packed when the Revd G Littlewood conducted the service. There were about 2,000 onlookers for a procession to the church led by four constables bearing the coffin on their shoulders, his wife Mary aged 26 at the time and their elder 5-year-old son (Younger son not present according to the papers) along with relatives and members of the Police Force including Superintendent Rowbottom, Inspector Hulme and twenty constables in dress uniforms.

Mary Green however never recovered from the loss of her husband and 14 weeks after his funeral she died leaving her sons in the care of trustees of the estate.

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The Saturday 8 December 1877 edition of the Cheshire Observer reported on the Sandbach Petty Session on Monday (3 Dec 1877) at which Samuel Eaton of Moulton (Aged 46) was committed to Knutsford goal for three months for stealing a watch from a boat at Wheelock by magistrates G.W. Latham and F.H.R. Wilbraham esquires.

In 1883 the Cheshire Police Headquarters moved to a new building down the road to 142 Foregate Street, Chester.

SMALLWOOD DOUBLE MURDER.

1883 was the year of the “Smallwood Double Murder”, when Thomas Earlam (Listed in some reference books as Samuel Carlam (British Executions Website) / Thomas Eastham) aged 64 (Born in 1820 in Smallwood near Congleton, Cheshire) and his common-law wife Mary Moarne (Mary Moran or Mary Mohan = British Executions Website) aged 62 who was virtually blind from soon after her birth in Ireland, were killed at their lodging house in 127 Turnpike Road (Also described as High Road), Smallwood just outside Sandbach.

On the 9 February 1883, their bodies were discovered by John Stack and Edward Sempey (or Samped), two lodgers at the house, with Thomas already lying dead from him having been brutally battered and Mary was barely alive from the attack. The house had also been robbed and a hammer was found next to the bodies. A tramp called Patrick Carey had disappeared soon after the bodies had been found was the only suspect of the murder.

Thomas Earlam and Mary Moarne (Mary Moran) were known locally as “Old Tommy” and “Old Mary” with Tommy having been a farmer before retiring and opening a Lodging House.

Patrick Carey alias John White was a married man whose wife and two children were living in Glossop and hadn't seen him for a number of years, thinking that Patrick was seeing another woman. He had actually been staying in the Workhouse in Arclid for a while and then in the Earlam Lodging House in Smallwood for about eighteen months.

On the 2 February 1883, the 35 year old man walked down the road and knocked on the door of the Lodging House. The door was opened by Mary who by this time had difficulty seeing but still recognised her previous lodger and let Patrick into the house. He was then introduced to Thomas who shook his hand and agreed to let the Tramp stay as long as he wanted for a nominal fee. He was housed in the same room as Issac Jones and Edward Sempey.

The lodgers in the house at the time were Carey / White along with Issac Jones (Umbrella Mender), Edward Sempey (Farm Labourer), Mrs Lavinia Sharman (Sewing Woman) and John Stack (Rag and Bone Man).

On the 8 February 1883, Edward Sempey went to Sandbach Market in his best clothes which he had laid out on his bed the night before.

On the 9 February 1883, Edward Sempey went downstairs to find Thomas Earlam and Mary making breakfast with John Stack outside cleaning his rag and bone cart. By 9am Edward and John had left the lodging house, leaving Thomas and Mary in the kitchen with Patrick Carey still asleep upstairs.

At 12.15pm a Eugene Gorton passed by the lodging house and heard a faint groan from the cottage. By 12.40pm, Patrick Carey alias John White was seen by Mr James Austin leaving the building with a Paisley handkerchief with his belongings inside. A few minutes later a P.C. William Booth from Congleton Police saw the suspect not realising there had been a murder.

At 3pm Edward Sempey returned from his job as a Farm Labourer to discover the bodies of Thomas and Mary between the washroom and living-room. With Mary still breathing he then rushed to the nearby Bulls Head Public House for help. Mrs Platt administered to the wounds of Mary Moarne while a Mr Gorton rushed to Sandbach to call a Doctor and to summon the Police to the scene of the crime while a Mr Austin sort out the local Smallwood Constable. An hour later Sergeant Oldham of Sandbach Police with a number of Constables turned up at the cottage to start investigating the attack. In the next few days Superintendent Hindley of Middlewich Police arrived to take over the investigation along with the newly appointed Chief Constable of the Cheshire Force, Captain (Later Lt Colonel) John H. Hammersley who brought various Magistrates to the scene of the crime. An initial inquest into the death of Thomas Earlam was held at the Salamanca Inn at Smallwood with the health of Mary still in the balance as she was at the time in a coma.

With the only suspect being Patrick Carey, an appeal was put out into the local press and the Police Gazette. The report said that he had been staying at the lodgings for the last week and had been seen soon after the attack with a bundle of clothes. “Patrick Carey alias John White who had also tramped

under the names of Jack or John, and will in all probability assume another name.” He was described in the Police Gazette, or Hew-and-Cry, which was published for Ireland on every Tuesday and Friday in Dublin on Tuesday 27 February and the 6 March 1883 as being “about 35-36 years old, 5 feet 7 or 8 inches tall, stout build, tanned complexion with no whiskers or moustache, slightly pock pitted wearing a hard brown felt hat, long blue pilot cloth overcoat, corduroy trousers patched on the right knee with light cord, also at the bottom. Various items were stolen from the house including a suit of men’s clothes, of blue-black worsted cloth, slightly ribbed and nearly new.”

A Post Office Savings book belonging to the lodger Edward Sampey which had been wrapped in a Paisley handkerchief had been stolen. A reward of £100 was to be paid by Her Majesty’s Government to any person other than a person belonging to a Police Force in the United Kingdom “who shall give such information and evidence as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the murderer or murderers, and the Secretary of State for the Home Department will advise the grant of Her Majesty’s gracious pardon to any accomplice, not being the person who actually committed the murder, who shall give such evidence as shall lead to a likely result. Information to be given at the Chief Constable’s Office, County Police Office, Chester or at any Police Station.”

On the 12 February 1883, an inquest was held into the death of Thomas Earlam gave the result as being that he had been unlawfully killed by person or persons unknown.

Census records from 1861 show lodgers at 127 Turnpike Road as Thomas Bailey who was born in Macclesfield in 1801 (Aged 60) and was a broom maker. Thomas Earlam was 39 and the lodging house Keeper with Mary Moarne 31 as a general servant from Ireland.

Survivor of the initial attack, Mary Moarne (Moran) was described on the 1881 census as being the housekeeper of the lodgings and was born in 1818 in Ireland. She died on the morning of the 16 February 1883, from wounds sustained in the attack by killer Patrick Carey.

On the 24 February 1883, Patrick Carey (John White) had been found by Police Detective Sergeant Jackson at a Booze / Lodging House in 1 Court, Ashley Lane, Charter Street, Manchester where he was arrested and taken to court wearing clothes he had taken from the Smallwood lodgings and belonging to Mr Edward Sempey. Patrick had tried to pawn the clothes he had stolen to a local woman called Mary Murphy who had refused the sale. She was also found in the Manchester area at the time of the arrest of Mr Carey. After an appearance in a Manchester Court, Superintendent Hindley applied for Mr Carey and Mary Murphy to be moved to Sandbach for their trial for Murder by Patrick with Mary facing a charge of Receiving Stolen Goods (Items from the Smallwood Lodgings).

News spread quickly back to Sandbach that the couple were on their way to the Railway Station where a group of 2,000 people turned out to greet the Police and to see the murderer.

The following day some 600 to 700 people gathered outside the Police Station on the Square to again catch a glimpse of the Murderer (This report may have been wrong as the Police Station had moved to Bold Street and although the Original Town Hall on the Market Square was possibly still in use as a Court the Literary Institute next to the Police Station was also said to hold “Police Courts” which this was). They were however thwarted as Magistrate Mr G. W. Latham decided to hold the hearing in the Police Station in-front of Chief Constable John H. Hammersley and a number of press reporters. The Sandbach Police Court on the 27 February 1883 was held with Mr Wilbraham, Captain Kennedy and Mr E Ashton presiding. Mr Patrick Carey (John White) was remanded in custody for a week at Knutsford before being sent for trial at Chester Crown Court, with Mary Murphy being released on Bail.

According to some reports at this time, Murderer Patrick Carey was actually a father of four and was also known as John or Jack White and it is possible that he was the same Patrick Carey who on the 28th June 1876 had been convicted of Larceny at Nether Knutsford and sentenced to two months in prison, which may account for him being of no fixed abode and living as a “Tramp”. This trial on the 28th June 1876 also convicted a Mary Ann Davies of Larceny and Indebtmments (4 Months in jail), Emma Place for Larceny after a previous summery conviction (3 Months) and John Lea for Larceny (2 Months) with William Gaynor, Wright Hurst and Henry Andrew all being acquitted of the crime.

After the appearance in the Sandbach Police Court, Patrick Carey alias John White was taken to Chester jail and on the 12th April 1883, was sent before Mr Justice Hawkins, with Mr Marshall and Eldon Banks prosecuting, with Mr Colt Williams appearing for the Defence.

Patrick Carey pleaded guilty to stealing the clothes and other items but throughout the trial continued to plead innocence to the crime of Murder. The Jury took just six minutes to convict Carey of the Murder during the trial at the Chester Assizes and he was sentenced to death by hanging.

While in jail his wife and children visited him before he was hung by executioner William Marwood at Chester prison at 8am on the 8th May 1883.

Patrick Carey's last words before he was hung were "My Jesus, My God, Have Mercy and Compassion on me a poor wretched sinner". He then entered the record books as being the last person to be executed at Chester Castle (Prison).

In 1891, an intoxicated tramp called Teresa Virgo from Liverpool was convicted at Sandbach Magistrates Court by Major Kennedy of being drunk in the Market Square, Sandbach on Monday the 20 April 1891. PC Henry Eden stated that at 11.30pm he heard the prisoner making a noise. A man was with her. And was trying to persuade her to go to her lodgings. This she declined to do and sat on a step. The man tried to drag her along, and she then began to be noisy and made use of abusive language.

The prisoner said at her trial that she was sorry for what had occurred and was fined 5d including costs or in default of payment seven days imprisonment with hard labour. She went to gaol.

PC Henry Eden was born in Leeds in 1867 the son of George Eden (1841 in Leeds) and Jane Eden (1840 in Unchard, Staffs) with a sister Sarah J Eden (.b. 1864 in Burslem Staffs) in 1891 he was living at 31 Wheelock Road (Now Crewe Road) a few doors down from the Cricketers Arms as a lodger with Samuel Fox (37), Eliza Fox (30), Alice Fox (3) Edwa Fox (10 Month Old).

In 1911, Henry Eden had married Sarah Eden (43 Assistant School Teacher), and had a Son Henry Eden (16 Coal Minor Hooker on), Daughter Ethel Eden (11) Oswald Eden (5) and was living with his widowed mother Jane Eden (75) at Englesea Brook, Weston, Crewe and was a Coal Minor, Hewer.

In 1896 the Sergeant at Sandbach was Charles Green with six men based at the Bold Street, station.

CHESHIRE POLICE

In 1896 there were 11 Divisions of Cheshire Police with the Chester Headquarters at 113 Foregate Street.

CHIEF CONSTABLE	Lt Colonel John H. Hammersley.
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE AND SUPERINTENDENT	Lt Colonel G.H. Cope.
SUPERINTENDENT	W. Leigh (Chief Clark)
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR	David Pearson.

DIVISIONS in 1896

Altrincham, Broxton, Eddisbury, Hyde, Macclesfield, Middlewich (see Below), Nantwich (Incl; Crewe), North Wirral, Runcorn, South Wirral and Stockport.

MIDDLEWICH DIVISION Superintendent Nathan Large at Middlewich.

Inspector Jonathan Dodd at Middlewich

Included	Alsager
	Astbury
	Betchton
	Booth Lane
	Brereton
	Buglawton
	Castle Northwich
	Davenham
	Goostrey
	Hartford
	Holmes Chapel
	Latch Dennis
	Leftwich
	Lostock Gralam
	Mow Cop
	Moulton
	Newton
	Radnor
	Rode Heath
	SANDBACH (Sergeant Charles Green at Bold Street with 6 men)
	Scholar Green
	Smallwood
	WHEELOCK
	Wimboldsley

Winsford
Winnington
Witton

In the 1902 Kelly's directory Sergeant Charles Dean and 6 men occupied the building in Bold Street and the same directory in 1906 still lists the following serving officers at Sandbach, Charles Dean (Sergeant of Police living at Hightown, Sandbach) and William Elwood (Constable living at Bellevue Terrace, Sandbach).

CHESHIRE POLICE

In 1902 there were 11 Superintendents, 13 Inspectors, 79 Sergeants and 334 Constables in Cheshire

CHIEF CONSTABLE	Lt Colonel John H. Hammersley.
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE	W Leah based at the County Police Office, Chester.
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR	William Hoole, Chester.

The Middlewich Division of which Sandbach was still part of was under David Pearson at the County Constabulary office at Middlewich. Inspector John Sherwin was based at Northwich

SANDBACH

In 1914, William Lawson was the Sergeant in charge with six men in Bold Street.

NATIONALLY AND LOCALLY

It was also a time when many of the police wanted to volunteer to fight for their country and this left the country with a lack of officers willing to enforce the law. In 1914 Sir Edward Ward the Chief Commissioner of Police, called upon volunteers to become Special Constables wanting men not able to fight for one reason or another to apply for the positions, however journalist Nina Boyle in the newspaper "VOTE" called upon women to apply for the jobs as well. Margaret Damer Dawson (.b. 12 June 1873 at 1 York Road, Hove in Sussex) and Nina Boyle joined forces to found the Women Police Volunteers with Margaret taking on the role of Commandant in 1915 with Mary Allen (.b. 1878 in Cardiff) as her Sub Commandant. Mainly made up of suffragettes the movement grew but in February 1915 when they were asked to enforce a Police Curfew against women Nina and Margaret fell out leaving Margaret and Mary in sole control of the volunteers working for free. As the movement grew the organisers decided to change the name from the "Women Police Volunteers" to the "Women's Auxiliary Service". When the Armistice was signed there were over 357 members of the Women's Police Service. Margaret and Mary decided to ask the new Police Commissioner Sir Nevil Macready to make the women a permanent feature of the Police Force but he refused saying that women recruited by Margaret were "Too educated" and would "Irritate" male members of the force. He did however feel that women could be recruited into the force and so he decided to recruit and train his own women for the new Police Force.

Cheshire Police did hire women during the war with 12 ladies being employed in Birkenhead in 1917 with 2 of them being employed after the war on a more formal basis. These women were the exception to the rule and according to Peter Wroe from the Museum of Policing in Cheshire website as the County didn't employ women until 1944.

In Sandbach under the "Special Constabulary Act 1914" the Chief Constable appointed men (and 12 Women in Birkenhead.) to this Second Police Reserve as Special Constables who were sworn in and had the full powers of Police Constables with Warrant Cards, a Baton, a Whistle and a Badge issued to allow them to do their new job.

At the start of WW1 (28 July 1914) there were a number of anti-German riots and attacks including one on a German Pork Butcher in Crewe resulting in the arrest of 17 persons charged with a breach of the peace.

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 Fire Brigade to put out the fire and an investigation was started into the landlord's death. (*4 Aug 1914 Liverpool Echo Pg 6*)

A report in the 30 June 1916, Nantwich Guardian gave an account of an assault on a PC Green and Mr John Walsh of 7 Steven Street at 9am on the previous Saturday by Mr Dobbins who was at the time drunk. (Possibly not Sandbach)

At the end of September 1915 at a Petty Session various members of the public were given the job of special constable to cover the area during the first world war.

1915	Mr George Boulton (Special Constable for Sandbach)
1915	Mr William Gibson (Special Constable for Moston)
1915	Mr Herbert Farr (Special Constable for Moston)
1915	Mr Herbert Chesters (Special Constable for Wheelock)

The 1916, Sandbach Petty Sessions were held before Mr E Hartban (In the Chair), Messrs J.F.T. Rowds, William Foden Mr J. T. Dunson and Mr S Hollinshead.

The 1917, Sandbach Petty Sessions were held before Messrs J.F.T. Rowds (In the Chair), William Foden and W.M. Cross.

In 1919, everything changed in society and the same with the Police force as prior to 1914, forces were allowed to pay their officers what they wanted. In 1918 the Metropolitan Police went on strike to have their Union the "National Union of Police and Prison Officers", recognised by their employers. On the 1st March 1919, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Desborough was formed to look at Pay and Conditions for all Police Officers in England and Wales. One condition of the new pay was the loss of the Union something officers were not prepared to do and so they went on strike in 1919 to keep their freedom. The result of the strike was an increase in better conditions but also didn't see the Union's power increasing; it was however kept as a representative body for discussions.

In April 1920 the Chief Constable was authorised to purchase ex War Department motor cycles for each division at a cost of £75 each and one with a side car for the Headquarters costing £110.

In 1930, the force were allowed to buy cars and purchased three Alvis Cars to work alongside some new motorcycles also purchased at this time.

The 1930's also saw the first automated traffic lights installed in Cheshire at Crewe (1931).

In 1934, Cheshire Police introduced Radio's to their officer's patrol cars to allow them to communicate while on duty. The force also introduced its first Criminal Investigation Department (CID) based at the Chester Headquarters. In 1935, a training centre for new recruits was set up in Crewe on Nantwich Road. The following year in 1936 a Forensic Science Laboratory was set up to help with investigations and was housed in a wooden hut next to the HQ Building.

During the 1939-45, Second World War 254 Constables and 31 Cadets from Cheshire signed up to fight in the armed forces.

The Second World War also saw the instillation of an Air Raid Siren on the top of the Bold Street station which was used to call attention to an Air Raid by German planes. It was kept on the station roof after the war for use by the local fire brigade who used it to call retained firemen to a "Shout" until it was moved in 1961 to their own new station tower on the Common.

In 1944, Cheshire Police appointed its first POLICE WOMAN with 12 women from the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps which had been set up during WW2, officially joined the regular force having been appointed as Police Constables.

In 1947, Congleton, Hyde, Macclesfield and Stalybridge merged with the Cheshire Constabulary and in 1948 the force had 1,016 policemen and 34 policewomen.

Building work started in 1952 to produce over 500 houses in a new housing scheme which would be owned by the Police Committee.

Cheshire Constabulary also purchased various buildings to house its Officers around the county. These buildings included some on the Palmer Road estate in Sandbach which housed policemen and their families in about 9 or 10 houses which had been purchased between 1968 and 1971. The force also purchased a few houses in neighbouring Ormerod Close which were occupied by officers who were attached to the Motorway Unit based at Knutsford Services. However, a change in policy in 1974 meant that the houses were no longer needed as Officers had to find their own accommodation rather than rely on the force to provide a home and so the buildings were surplus to requirements and were sold off by the Cheshire Constabulary, mainly to those occupying them.

The 1960's saw the force investing in new modern Police Stations to replace the 1896 buildings they had acquired at the start of the Cheshire Constabulary.

The 1961, Annual Police Ball was held at Sandbach Town Hall with music provided by Ralph Cowdall with various policemen attending including PC Bailey, PC Barlow, PC Clarke, PC Jones and PC Wright.

In 1961, Traffic Wardens were introduced to Cheshire. Sandbach by the late 1960's had two wardens Beryl Brindley and Jean Langford whose job it was to keep the roads clear and also at various times to act as crossing wardens in Congleton Road, Offley Road and Elworth when the lollipop person was unavailable. Mr Coppenhall was one of these on Congleton Road with Elizabeth Bailey on Offley Road which were installed at these places due to public demand for safety for the new school built in the late 1960's. Beryl recalled that the Police Officers would drive them to the location of the crossing and then would sometimes leave them there on their own, possibly returning for them after the school had opened or on a number of occasions they would park their car a little further away and wait for them to finish their job before driving her back to the station or the town where she would continue to do her job as a Traffic Warden. Wardens in the 1960's were not out to book all cars in the street they were at the time tasked with educating the drivers to the correct procedure written in the highway code. This also meant that to book a car disobeying the law they would have to wait 10 minutes while observing

the car to see if the owner returned to the vehicle before being allowed to book them for the fine of £2. There were however occasions when a visiting senior officer was coming to the town that they had to impose the law a little bit more or should I say be seen to impose the law on habitual offenders including one shopkeeper on the corner of Crewe Road and Middlewich Road who parked his van for a long time in a restricted area while he unloaded and presumably had a cup of coffee and served a few customers before moving on. It was not unknown for Beryl to be told by a Senior Officer to move the vehicle as it was obstructing the road and she had to have stiff words with the shopkeeper.

Traffic Warden Jean Langford knew her job and a story told by Beryl shows the power of the traffic warden at the time. Sandbach was on the route of various military convoys that came off the M6 and headed towards Nantwich, Crewe and North Wales. On one occasion Jean was on traffic duty directing the cars in the centre of the town when one of these convoys came through. She put her hand up to stop the military vehicles from moving when the officer in the lead jeep put his head out of the window and told her that they were the Queen's Army and she should let them pass. Jean's priority was the other vehicles and possibly people crossing so she refused to let them continue on their journey until she had sorted out the other civilian vehicles etc.

The 1960's also had another job for the Traffic Wardens as in the middle of Sandbach in front of the Town Hall were a set of Traffic Lights. It was the job of the Wardens to pop along to the lights when Foden's and ERF's were finishing for the day to change the timing of the lights to allow the workers to get home quickly and not clog up the town. They would also reset them back to their normal settings for the rest of the day with a little button connected to the control box.

At the start of 1965 Margaret Hare was asked by one of her neighbours a local policeman if she would be interested in a cleaning job and making cups of tea for the police at Bold Street. Having just come out of Hospital Margaret only wanted a temporary job and so agreed to have an interview. When she turned up in her finery to meet the station officer she was very nervous but what happened next was very quick as she was introduced by her friend the Officer took one look at her and said "Can you start tomorrow?" and that was that. Margaret was soon put upon as she started at 6.30am when Officers were starting to come on duty they asked her if she could make them some breakfast. In those days there were no cornflakes for workers it was bacon and eggs with toast and occasionally some black pudding which she would then take their orders and what they hadn't got in she would pop down the road to Yates Butchers to get for their fry-up. So keen were the policemen to have their early morning breakfast they soon started to pick up Margaret in the morning, with her loaf of bread and take her to the station.

MOONLIGHT FLIT TO A NEW STATION.

In June 1965, Sandbach Police did a "Moonlight Flit" from their offices in Bold Street to rooms behind the Courtrooms in Middlewich Road (The Magistrates Court were opposite what is now Cheshire East's Headquarters, Westfields) a building that was formally the Congleton Rural District Council Offices and were built by John Stringer.

The first enquiry at the new offices was at 3 O Clock when a man asked them where the Police Station was!

Margaret Hare was asked if she would continue to work for the police at their new premises and after seeing them decided to stay on to clean the building and to make those all-important breakfasts and cups of tea. She also didn't want to forget the old Bold Street station and before it was demolished to make way for a new Barclays Bank (Who paid £9,000 for the site) she acquired the Union Flag that flew on the top of the building. This Flag would accompany her to all the stations in Sandbach until she retired and then on a trip to the Counties Police Museum in Warrington she donated it to their exhibition.

Sandbach had two police officers and a sergeant permanently based in the town, but because of its proximity to the Motorway it was also the signing in place for the Motorway patrols and so at one time you could have about 20 people in the station plus many senior officers from both Congleton and Crewe who turned up for various reasons. Tuesdays were also busy as this was the day of the trials in the Courtroom and so more officers from the surrounding area turned up to the station wanting to be fed and supplied with drinks. It became a very friendly place for Margaret as she got to know many of the Policemen and they soon became part of her extended family. When she decided to learn to drive it was Sandbach Police who taught her and also took her to the test centre.

In the 1970's Her Majesty the Queen visited the Crewe area and was due to arrive at Crewe Station before visiting a number of farms in the area and then going up the Motorway to the Airport. The procedure for such an occasion needs a bit of practice to make sure that everyone knows what they are doing and so the Motorway Patrol needed someone to stand in for Her Majesty. Who better than Margaret Hare their cleaner and friend who needed little persuasion to put on her best clothes and to be taken in the Queen's transport from the Station in Crewe and then round the route the Queen was to

take while at the same time giving a Royal wave to those passing by and chatting to the farmers so the escort could time the visit. With outriders and Police cars in-front and behind the convoy at the end of the trip then joined the M6 at Bartomley before being escorted to Manchester Airport in about 17 minutes. The trip back however took a little longer as there were not flashing blue lights or outriders but what a superb day for Margaret one she will never forget, Her day as the Queen.

By the end of the 1980's court proceedings were moved to Crewe and soon after it was decided to sell the building and create a new temporary Police station opposite. After a number of occupants in the old courthouse the building was offered for sale by Right Move on the 16 October 2013 for £275,000 but the building was later withdrawn from sale only to be offered to HB Community Solutions Living Ltd who then put in an application to demolish the courthouse and erect a three-storey accommodation building with 15 supported living apartments (Application 14/5285c) for people with physical and learning disabilities. This application was approved by Cheshire East on the 30 March 2015 and on Wednesday the 12 August 2015 the bulldozers moved in to knock down this historic building in the town.

In 1964 work started on the new Cheshire Police Headquarters on Nuns Road, Chester and was opened in 1967.

In 1967 Cheshire Police introduced the "Panda Car" to their fleet of cars.

This was also a time of change for the organisation of the force with nine divisions being introduced in 1967 based at Chester, Crewe, Altrincham, Macclesfield, Northwich, Stalybridge, Stockport Birkenhead and Wallasey.

In February 1968, the Police Station in Bold Street was demolished in preparation to build a bank on its footprint.

In 1971 the Cheshire Police Force introduced a Drug Squad to deal with the increasing amount of illegal drugs coming into the area. The squads were based at Stockport, Chester and Bromborough with 10 officers.

TEMPORARY BUILDING TO BRICK BUILT STATION

Sandbach was also ready for a change after moving to a portacabin opposite the magistrates court in the 1980's it was decided to build a new station for the officers and staff and so the Sandbach Police moved back on a temporary basis to their old station and a portacabin behind the Courthouse until a new building had been erected.

In April 1990 the new purpose-built Police Station on Middlewich Road next to Westfields the home of Congleton Borough Council was ready for duty and the officers and cleaner Margaret Hare took their work back over the road. The building was officially opened by the Chairman of the County Council's Police Committee Cheshire in May 1990.

However, the new police station soon became a closed building to the public as only a direct phone link to Winsford headquarters was made available for the public to contact the constabulary with the police using it as a stopping off point and administration building.

A year later from the opening of the new station, Beryl Brindley retired as a Traffic Warden having given 17 years of service.

In 2003 the Cheshire Police Headquarters moved to bigger premises at Clemonds Hey, Winsford.

On the 5 August 2005 police were called to the back of the Iceland store on the High Street after delivery men discovered the body of Peter Harris while they were delivering to the store at 5.15am. Peter had sustained head injuries and had died at the scene. Sean Carrahar was later charged with his murder.

In 1855 Sandbach Police had dealt with a suicide / murder and in 2009 they had a similar case when Sarah Richardson was stabbed to death by her estranged husband after she had changed her Facebook from married to single. Her ex-husband Edward Richardson killed Sarah at her parent's home in Sandbach before he headed to Congleton where he slashed his own wrists. Officers called to the crime discovered Mr Richardson 40 minutes after the killing and took him to hospital where he was charged with murder.

On the 10 September 2011 the Police held its first Open Day at the station and Westfields Car Park.

On the 11 June 2015 the emergency services were called to Sandbach Police Station when it became the centre of attention after a suspicious letter was take to the station by a member of the public. It sparked a major incident when the contents were found to be an unknown substance. Two Fire engines an Ambulance and specialist units were called to join the Police in dealing with the item which turned out be harmless but the activity certainly gave the people of Sandbach something to talk about on Facebook.

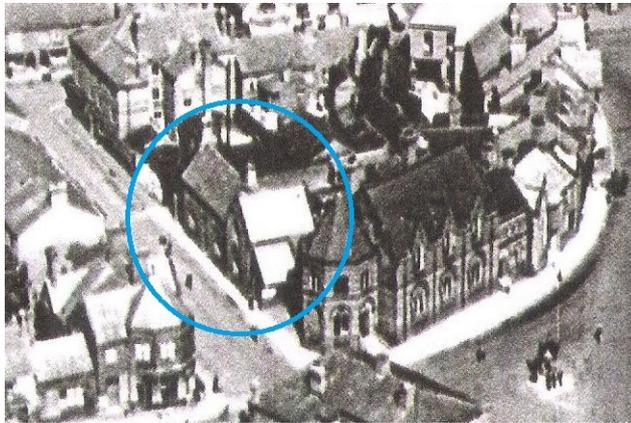
In 2015 Sandbach became part of the Crewe division, one of 8 Local Policing Units based in Chester, Crewe, Ellesmere Port, Macclesfield (Including Congleton), Northwich, Runcorn, Warrington and Widnes.

In July 2015 the Chief Constable decided that it would be better if Sandbach PC's could be briefed at the Crewe or Macclesfield Headquarters leaving the Sandbach Station left alone for longer periods of time.

In May 2016 it was announced that Cheshire Police would be wearing a "Hard Cap" Rather than a Hard Helmet as was traditionally worn giving the impression of a more relaxed force but still with the protection needed on their heads. The unisex hats were first tried out in Northwich and Chester and were proposed in 2014 but took two years to make sure they were suitable for officers, making Cheshire the first force in the country to adopt these across the board in 2016.



(1760 Police Station / Now a Shop)



(Bold Street 1857+ / Demolished Feb 1968)



(Bold Street 2016)

Bold Street Station 1857 to 1965? (in 1914 Kelly's Directory)



(1965 to 1980's now demolished)
(Site of the Police Station at the back of the Magistrate's Court)

Temporary building opposite.



(1990 Police Station, 19 May 2004 pic)

EXTRA INFO

Sandbach Special Constable Sergeant 568 John Edward Hind was 44 years as a Special Constable making him the longest serving Police Special in the area (.D. 21 Sept 1970).

POLICE STATIONED AT SANDBACH (Not all known)

DATE	NAME (Rank etc.)
1855	Constables Walker and Faram
1861	PC Dale (County Force)
1866	Inspector / Sergeant Hulme (Sandbach Police)
To 1873	PC James Green (Killed on duty) (earned just over £1 a week)
1873	Superintendent Rowbotton
1873	PC Thomas Jones (Wheelock Police)
1873	PC Williamson
1873	PC Booth
1883	Sergeant Oldham (Market Square Police Station)
1891	PC Henry Eden (.b. 1867)
1896 +-	Sergeant Charles Green at Bold Street with 6 men
1902 to 1906 +-	Sergeant Charles Dean (Sergeant of Police living at Hightown, Sandbach)
1906 +-	Constable William Elwood (Living at Bellevue Terrace, Sandbach).
1914	Sergeant William Lawson (Sergeant in charge with six men in Bold Street)
1915	Mr George Boulton (Special Constable for Sandbach)
1915	Mr William Gibson (Special Constable for Moston)
1915	Mr Herbert Farr (Special Constable for Moston)
1915	Mr Herbert Chesters (Special Constable for Wheelock)
1920's – 1930's	Sergeant William James Bendall (Sergeant)
1936 to 1960's	Les Bendall
1954 to 1966-7	Harry Elder (.D. 1979)
1950's	Sergeant Ambrose Mort
1960's	Keith Hopley
1960's – 1970's	Sergeant Andy Findlayson
2009 to date	PCSO "Spike" Elliott
Tbc	PCSO Suzanne Green
Tbc to Date	PC Steve Dutton

SANDBACH POLICE Cheshire Constabulary website 2017-18.

- Sergeant Claire Lloyd
- PC Mark Cook
- PC Barbara Evans
- PC Deborah Jerman
- PC Louise Austin
- PCSO "Spike" Elliott (2009 to Date)
- PCSO Suzanne Green
- PCSO Anthony Lemon
- PCSO Jill Cope
- PCSO Nigel Hobbs

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CHESHIRE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS and Police killed on duty.

- (1984 Police Memorial Trust established to erect memorials to serving officers killed in action. / Police Roll of Honour Trust)*
- 1788 **Police Officer John Parry killed in the line of duty** while arresting a suspect on Warrant in Chester.
He died in December 1788 while arresting a man for assaulting his wife. (Chester Police)
- 1863 **PC Daniel Lalor died** on the 23 March 1863 and was discovered dead in the yard of the Commercial Hall in Chester having been on night duty. (Chester City Police)
- 1867 The “Fenian Plot” by Irish Nationalists intended to seize Chester Castle and take all its weapons. Cheshire Police received information about the plot on Sunday the 10th February 1867 and immediately enrolled 500 Special Constables under Mr G.L. Fenwich the Chief Constable. Along with the military who guarded the castle armoury they thwarted the plot by about 2,000 “Finians” who had come to the area.
- 1873 On the 24 February 1873 **PC James Green (.b. 1836 .D. 24 Feb 1873 aged 36) was murdered** while on duty.
His body was dumped in the Trent and Mersey Canal near Elworth (Moston).
(Sandbach / Middlewich Police of Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1885 **PC John Miller** was fatally injured when he was run down by a horse while on duty at local races on the 24 July 1885. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1887 **PC James Davies** was found drowned on his beat at night in suspicious circumstances on the 17 December 1887 aged 44. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1891 **PC Joseph Darlington** died on the 11 September 1891 aged 36 when he collapsed while chasing youths who were causing a nuisance. (Chester City Police)
- 1894 **Police Constable Charles Alfred Cartledge killed in the line of duty** when he was fatally injured stopping a disturbance. He died on the 23 January 1894 aged 49 when he intervened in a disturbance while he was off duty. (Congleton Borough Police)
- 1897 **PC Henry Williamson** died on the 10 November 1897 aged 49 from injuries sustained when he fell while chasing a suspect (Cheshire Constabulary).
- 1900 **Police Constable Alfred Kerns killed in the line of duty** when he was fatally injured while struggling with two men and sustained a fractured skull on the 7 March 1900 aged 42. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1909 **PC John Edward Edmonds** died on the 26 February 1909 aged 38 when he fell off a wall and sustained injuries while checking premises. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1909 The Gorse Hall Murder took place on the 1 November 1909 when an intruder was discovered in the building by one of the maids at 9pm. Mr George Henry Storr the contactor who owned the building on the Stalybridge and Duckinfield border, went to investigate and was stabbed to death by the intruder who then escaped.
Cornelius Howard the Nephew of the deceased was accused of the crime but a court acquitted him. The following July a Mark Wilde was convicted of another stabbing crime in Stalybridge was put in front of witnesses at Gorse Hall and identified as the intruder. Like Mr Howard when it reached court there was not real evidence he had committed the crime and was acquitted.
The family coachman committed suicide three weeks after the stabbing and like the others in the case no connection was made to the murder of Mr Storr.
- 1940 On the 29 July 1940 the first air raid took place in Cheshire when bombs were dropped on the Southern Suburbs of Crewe.
- 1940 August 1940 bombs again fell on Crewe, damaging 50 houses in Bedford Street, Crewe.
- 1941 **PC Frank Marshall** died on the 8 April 1941 aged 24 when he was killed by a high explosive bomb during an enemy raid on Crewe. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1958 **Sergeant Charles Hector Brown** died in Cyprus when he was seconded to the British Police unit there and was involved in a car crash on the 14 January 1958. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1963 The Moors Murderers take their first victim on the 12 July 1963.
Ian Brady and Myra Hindley were arrested on the 7 October 1965 after an investigation by Cheshire Police and a search of Saddleworth Moor for their victim’s bodies.
In April 1966, the two murderers were tried at Chester Assizes for three of the murders and were both found guilty.
- 1967 **PC Anthony Wood** was killed on the 19 February 1967 aged 28 when his patrol car was responding to an emergency call. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1967 Plane Crash in the middle of Stockport killing 72 people when a British Midland flight returning from Palma, Majorca crashed in open area at Hopes Carr near the centre of Stockport on the 4 June 1967 missing houses and demolishing a garage.

- Twelve passengers survived the crash including the Captain which was investigated by Cheshire Police and investigators from the Board of Trade.
12 hours before another chartered DC4 crashed in the Pyrenees.
- 1967 **PC Gwynfryn B Williams** died on the 3 September 1967 when his Police Dog van crashed on an emergency call. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1969 **PC Michael Adrian Sheppard** died on the 13 April 1969 aged 22 when a police car he was travelling in crashed at Hoylake. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1974 PC3213 Wright a Cheshire Police Officer was kidnapped while on duty, responding to a 999 call with a detective. They approached a suspicious man who drew a gun and took PC Wright hostage.
- 1975 **PC Frank Taylor** died on the 29 August 1975 aged 44 when he was killed in a motorcycle road traffic accident while on duty as a motorcycle officer at Penketh (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1977 Police Officers shoot and kill escaped convict William "Billy" Hughes a rapist who stabbed two of the officers in the neck with a 7inch blade while they were taking him to court. While on the run he took a family hostage for three days in an isolated "Pottery Cottage" on the 12 January 1977 killing all but the mother (Morgan family) who he used to escape from the police who had surrounded the cottage on the 14 January 1977. Billy was apprehended in Rainow in Macclesfield.
- 1977 **PC Graham Simmonds** was killed in a motorcycle accident on the 26 February 1977 aged 26. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1984 Lindow Man a 1,500 year old corpse was dug up in Cheshire sparking a murder investigation when it was thought to have been a 25 year old wealthy man who had been hit on the head, garrotted and had his throat cut. Cheshire Police were involved in the excavation of the site. The body was discovered on the 1 August 1984 by professional Peat Cutters.
- 1986 **Sergeant Alan Robert Wyman** died on the 5 February 1986 aged 30 when he was fatally injured in a road traffic accident while driving to assist in a vehicle pursuit. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1989 **Detective Sergeant Neil Ross Gibson** died on the 7 January 1989 aged 32 in a traffic accident while on a crime squad attachment. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1993 Terrorists attacks in Cheshire on the 25 February 1984.
- a) PC Mark Toker shot in the leg and lower back by three men during a routine stop and check.
 - b) 50 minutes later a Motorist in Lymm was kidnapped by the gunmen who stole his car.
 - c) 4pm a gas depot in Warrington exploded.
- 20 March 1993
Terrorists explode the Warrington bomb outside Boots killing 2 children
Tim Parry and Jonathan Bell and injuring 56 shoppers.
- 1996 Helicopter Crash in Middlewich killing five people including Matthew Harding the Chelsea Football Club Vice Chairman on the 22 October 1996. The helicopter was on its way back from a Chelsea match at Bolton Wanderers.
- 1998 Murder of Teenager Claire Hart on her way to school in Congleton in June 1998. Her body was found five days later floating in the river Dane.
In May 1999 Craig Smith was found guilty of her murder.
It was said that within five-minutes of Smith meeting Claire he had beaten her, Shot her and strangled her to death.
- 1998 Julia Webb (aged 52) a Northwich mother was battered to death while walking her dog in Sandiway near the Primary School on Norley Road on the 22 July 1998.
The crime is still unsolved (www.unsolved-murders.co.uk)
- 1999 **PC Neil Anthony Heathcote** died in May 1999 aged 30 when his crime car crashed while responding to an emergency call. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 1999 Winsford Train Crash between a Virgin Train and a First North Western Pacer Train on the 23 June 1999.
- 1999 **Detective Constable Stuart George Cookson** collapsed and died while on duty at Widnes Police Station on the 2 November 1999 aged 45. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 2001 **PC Robert Graham** was killed in a motorcycle accident while travelling home from day duty on the 13 February 2001 aged 56. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 2003 Murder of Shafilea Ahmed by her parents in what was described as an 'Honour Killing'. They were found guilty on the 3 August 2012 and sentenced to life (25 Years).
- 2004 **PC Mark Leach** was killed in a motorcycle accident while travelling home from night duty

- on the 19 July 2004 aged 38. (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 2005 **PC Jonathan Richard Speakman** (from Chester) died while on holiday on the 29 January 2005 aged 33 when he drowned trying to save a child swept out to sea off Spoon bay beach, north of Sydney, Australia. He was surfing and gave up his bodyboard to one of the three children and a man swept out to sea by a rip tide. The child was saved due to the actions of the PC.
PC Speakman joined the police in 1998 and had just been assigned to the CID (Cheshire Constabulary)
- 2005 **PC Kevin Brinkman** died on the 29 March 2005 aged 33 when he was killed in a road accident while seconded to the Asian Tsunami disaster area.

CHIEF CONSTABLES

5 Jan 1857 to 28 Nov 1877	First Chief Constable – Captain Thomas Johnnes Smith (Thomas Johnnes Smith died at the age of 64 on the 28 November 1877)
(1877) 19 Feb 1878 to 18 June 1881	Chief Constable Captain John William Arrowsmith (Tbc) (Chief Constable of Bedford Borough who was then appointed Superintendent of Hyde division and then Deputy Chief Constable in 1871, succeeding Mr Little who had died in 1870. In Feb 1878 Capt Arrowsmith was appointed Chirf Constable of Cheshire. A Scandal involving the appointment of his sons to senior positions led to a reprimand by the Police Committee. On the 18 June 1881 Captain John William Arrowsmith died at his home “The Elms”, Hoole Road, Chester aged 49)
4 Aug 1881 to 29 Sept 1910	Captain / Lt Colonel John H. Hammersley
30 Sept 1910 to 30 Apr 1934	Lt Colonel P Malcolm
1 May 1934 to 30 Sept 1935	Captain Sir A. F. Hordern
1 Oct 1935 to 30 Sept 1946	Major Sir Jack Becke
1 Oct 1946 to 1963	G. E. Banwell
1963 to 1974	H Watson
1974 to 1977	W Kelsall
1977 to 1984	G. E. Fenn
1984 to 1993	D. J. Graham
1993 to 1997	J. M. Jones
1997 to 2002	N. K. Burgess
2002 to 2008	Peter Fahy (Deputy Chief Constable = Graham Gerrard = 2003 to 2009)
2008 to 2014	David Whatton (Assistant Chief Constable = Janet McCormick = 2010 to 2012) (Assistant Chief Constable = Ruth Purdue = Date Unknown) (Deputy Chief Constable = Helen King = Date Unknown)
2014 to date	Simon Byrne (Suspended in August 2017 for Pending Gross Misconduct hearing) (Assistant Chief Constable = Darren Martland = Jan 2018 to Date)
Aug 2017	Acting Chief Constable Janette / Janet McCormick (ACC = 2010 to Date) Acting Deputy Chief Constable Darren Martland (Appointed Jan 2017) Temporary Assistant Chief Constable Sacha Hackett Assistant Chief Officer Julie Gill

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (Elected)

2012 to 2016	John Dwyer (Conservative / Former Assistant Chief Constable of Cheshire) (13.74% Turnout due to no other elections at this time / Results 15 November 2012)
	1 st Ballot
	John Dwyer 40,122 (+ 8,469 2 nd Round) (CONSERVATIVE)
	John Stockton 30,974 (+ 6,376 2 nd Round) (LABOUR)
	Sarah Flannery 18,596 (INDEPENDENT)
	Ainsley Arnold 10,653 (LIB DEM)
	Louise Bours 8,557 (UKIP)
2016 to Date	David Keane (Labour) Votes went to Second Preference. (23.85% Turnout due to local elections in some areas / Results 16 May 2016 / Cheshire East 20.52% turnout no Local elections)
	1 st Ballot
	David Keane 72,497 (+ 12,104 2 nd Round) (LABOUR)
	John Dwyer 69,322 (+ 12,330 2 nd Round) (CONSERVATIVE)

	Jonathan Starkey	21,991 (UKIP)
	Neil Lewis	18,530 (LIB DEM)
2 nd Round Totals		
	David Keane	84,601 (LABOUR)
	John Dwyer	81,652 (CONSERVATIVE)

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POLICE TERMS

Bobbies = Named after Sir Robert Peel (Bobbie)
Panda Cars
Thin Blue Line
Z Cars

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SANDBACH POLICE HISTORY compiled with the help of;
Will Brown the Curator at the Cheshire Police Museum.

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POST OFFICE

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The earliest post-mistress in Sandbach was Miss Sarah Sibson (Died in 1857 aged 90) along with her letter carrier being a Betty Kent. There were two Miss Sibsons, maiden ladies who were the daughters of the Rev. John Sibson who for 36 years was the curate of the Parish of Sandbach. In her will in 1857 Sarah made provision for the building of St John's Church in Sandbach Heath (Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott).

The 1822, Piggots Directory has the following information. Sarah Sibson (Post Mistress) Post to Knutsford every afternoon at three o'clock from whence the letters are sent to all parts of the United Kingdom.

After Sarah Sibson the job was passed on to Mr R Eachus an auctioneer in the Town who then passed it on to Mr W Eachus.

In 1834 the Post Office moved to "The George" Public House and then to the "Wheat sheaf".

In 1850 Thomas Proudman was the Post Master at the Post Office, Market Place, Sandbach with letters arriving from London and other places at 6.30am and 4pm with the collection being despatched at 6.30am and 9.15pm,

The 1896 and 1902 Kelly's Directory shows the Post Office at the Express Delivery and Annuity and Insurance Office, The Square, Sandbach with Postmistress Mrs Kate Eachus.

(1896) Post, M.O. and T. O., S. B.

Letter arrive from all parts of the Kingdom at 3am and are delivered at 12.45pm, 3.30pm and 6.45pm

Letters are dispatched from Sandbach at 11.15am, 9.45pm and 10pm.

Money Orders are granted and paid from 8am till 8pm (Opening Hours)

There are wall boxes at Bradwall Road, Wheelock Road, The Hill and a Pillar Box at High Town.

One of the workers for Mrs Eachus was Albert Bullock of Colley Lane. When he left school, he became a telegraph messenger on the square. In those days there were four postal deliveries in the town including one on a Sunday. Albert then became a worker for the GPO engineering department and was one of those who helped relocate the post office from Eachus's shop on the square to the new post office in Bradwall Road. Albert recalled that most of the equipment was relocated using a hand cart to move it to the other side of the town. In 1910 Albert Bullock joined the Manchester City Police Force but when war started in 1914 he joined the Brigade of Guards, the Cheshire's and the Royal Army Medical Corps. Albert was wounded in Ypres and was transferred to become an Officer at the Criminal Lunatic Asylum in Broadmoor. Albert returned to the police force after the war and became a sergeant in Bootle where he stayed until 1935 when he retired having gained the rank of Inspector. In 1936, Albert started working for the Sandbach Savings Bank and during the Second world war taught civil defence organisations about air raid precautions.

A telephone directory of 1913 lists Frank Blease as a postman in Elworth with Mr Brickhill as Sub Post Office manager.

Kelly's directory of 1914 lists Moses Smith Brickhill as a Stationer and Post Office in Elworth.



(After 1902 - 1914) 1932 Picture location in Bradwall Road.

After 1902 and before 1914 the POST OFFICE – Post, M.O.T and Telephone Express Delivery Office, was at Bradwall Road (Letters should have Cheshire Added) with Postmaster William M John.

LOCAL POST OFFICES in 1914.

Based in various locations including a public house / hotel in Sandbach called the George and the Wheat Sheaf (Run in 1914 by James H Rowbotham) the Post Office was now based in Bradwall Road Postmaster William M John and was responsible for the distribution and collection of mail in its area. It was also responsible for the Telegraph Service and in certain areas the Telephone exchange which serviced the various private telephones as during 1914 there were no public call boxes (Introduced in 1920) on the streets. Some exchanges did have a phone in them for people to use at a cost but most didn't. Alsager had a Public Call Office on Crewe Road in the Post Office which also provided money orders and a Telegraph Office and a Post Office off Sandbach Road run by Mrs Sarah Barrett in her confectionary shop.

During the war the opening times changed to a 9am opening and a 7pm closure for the taking of Telegrams with a 6pm cut off time being implemented for telegrams to be sent that day as after 6pm it would be delivered the following morning.

LOCAL POST TIMES

BRADWALL Letter Box Cleared 9.05am and 7.30pm by Elworth Post Office

BRERETON GREEN – (Mrs Emily Lloyd Sub Post Mistress) Letters through Sandbach arrive at 7.30am and 5.50pm and are dispatched at 9.05am and 6.20pm with no delivery on a Sunday.

ELWORTH (Post M.O and T and Telephonic Express Delivery Office Mr Moses Smith Brickhill as Sub Postmaster) and his wife Mrs Pattie Brickhill who worked part time at the Abbey Fields Hospital. Letters through Sandbach arrive at 6.30am and 4pm and are dispatched at 11.45am , 12.30pm, 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 7.20pm and 9.45pm.

HASSALL 7.30am and 4.40pm weekdays and Sundays at 8.15am

HASSALL Bridge 7.40am and 6.25pm weekdays and Sundays at 8.05am

HASSALL GREEN 8.20am and 6.15pm weekdays and Sundays at 8.00am

SANDBACH (Money Orders and Telegraph Office)

Before 1914 the POST OFFICE – Post, M.O.T and Telephone Express Delivery Office, was at Bradwall Road (Letters should have Cheshire Added) with Postmaster William M John.

Kelly's 1914 Directory lists the following Collection and Delivery Times.

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)

In 1917 Miss Hilda Mary Swain 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.

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.

The Post Office on Bradwall Road remained at this location until 1972 when a new building was constructed on the Market Square along with a Distribution Centre / Sorting Office at the back. The current one is near the Waitrose (Superstore) on George's Walk (opened in November 1991) with the main sorting office being on the Market Square now only used as a distribution centre.



(Market Square 19 May 2004)

The Current POST OFFICE is situated at 5 St George's Walk, Sandbach CW11 1AF and has been there since 1989 when the development was built at the same time as the Safeway's Supermarket (Now Waitrose). Although it is still a Main Post office (Rather than a Crown Office) it is privately run as a shop and Post Office in one building.

EXTRA INFORMATION

In October 1927 Harry Mortimer (Cornet Player and Conductor with Foden's Band) became the new Postmaster at Elworth Post Office taking over from Mrs Bicktill.

Elworth had a Post Office at 11 London Road for many years until cutbacks in the Post Office Counters closed the branch April 2005 when it was run by Fiona and Kay.

POST BOXES IN SANDBACH (Letter Boxes)

1896 POST BOXES

There are wall boxes at Bradwall Road, Wheelock Road, The Hill and a Pillar Box at High Town.

CURRENT POST BOXES

Abbey Road / Middlewich Road Corner (Queen Elizabeth II – Wall Tower)

Belle View Terrace / Cecil Rigby Close (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

Bradwall Road / Bold Street / Literary Institute Corner (Elizabeth II)

Bradwall Road / Bradwall Street Corner (George VI)

Urban myth says that the wall box was replaced by the George VI Box after a car crash knocked down the wall. This was however not true as it was considered too small to take the amount of mail being dropped off and so the Post Office, Much to the dismay of the owners, knocked down the wall to fit a larger box. However the owner of the wall was not happy and complained to the head office and so John Keane was approached to see if he would mind having a pillar box next to his garden wall. He agreed and the George VI Box was installed making everyone happy.

(Adapted from Sandbach History Facebook – John Keane)

Common / Outside the Library (Elizabeth II)

Congleton Road in the wall by Symphony Restaurant / 48 Med Bar (Wall Mounted – George VI)

Fairfield Ave (37) / Third Avenue (Queen Elizabeth II – Wall Tower - Not pointing to road)

Gawsworth Drive / Tatton Drive (Pole Box originally but by March 2009 it had become an ERII Box)

Heath Road (Sandbach Heath) / Wrights Lane (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

Hill Sandbach / Newcastle Road / Hassell Road Corner (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

Middlewich Road / Outside Golf Club (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

Newcastle Road / Dubthorn Lane Corner (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

Park Lane / Crewe Road (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

Post Office Distribution Centre / Market Square (Elizabeth II)

Queen's Drive roundabout (**Edward VII – Oldest Post Box in Sandbach**)

St George's Walk / Outside Post Office (Queen Elizabeth II – Double Box and Franked Box)

BRADWALL

Pillar Box Lane / Brawall Road Corner (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick in Hedge)

ELWORTH

Abbey Road / Deans Lane (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

The Avenue / Marsh Green Road (38 Corner) (Queen Elizabeth II ? Wall Pillar)

Elworth Road (93) / Deans Lane (*Known also as Garden City Post box*) (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)

Lawton Road / St Peter's Rise (Superstore Car Park) (Queen Elizabeth II)

London Road / Near Railway Station / Park (Queen Elizabeth II) (Installed after April 2005)
 London Road / Elworth Post Office (Queen Elizabeth II – DE COMMISSIONED)
 Mill Lane / Warmingham Lane (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick Next to K6 Telephone Kiosk
 De-commissioned?)
 Watch Lane / Plant Lane (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick Next to Telephone Kiosk)

ETTLEY HEATH

Elton Road / Rookery Tavern (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
 Millbuck Way – Industrial Estate (Queen Elizabeth II New Box)
 Thornbrook Way / Next to Playground (Queen Elizabeth II New Box)

MALKINS BANK

Hassell Road (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick – Set into the hedge Near canal bridge)

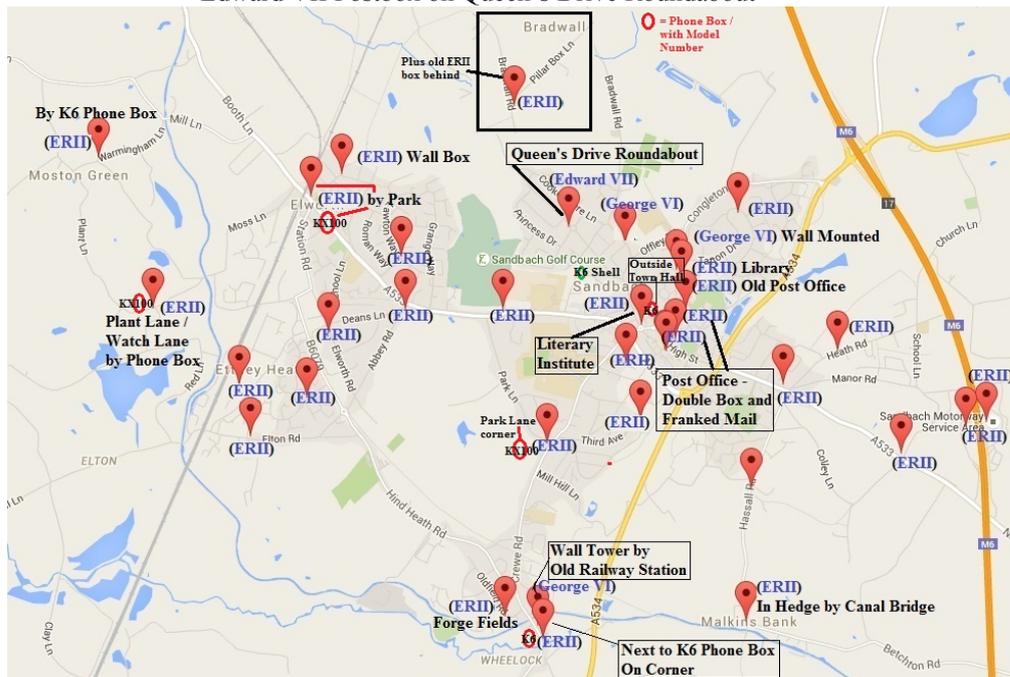
WHEELLOCK

Crewe Road / By Old Railway Station (George VI)
 Crewe Road / (Nags Head) Village Green by K6 Telephone Kiosk (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
 Forge Fields / Oldfield Road (4) (Queen Elizabeth II – Stick)
 Post Office at Wheelock (NO LONGER A POSTBOX)

<http://www.postboxfinder.co.uk/>



Edward VII Postbox on Queen's Drive Roundabout



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PHONE BOXES IN SANDBACH

SANDBACH has a few examples of the K6.

1) Outside the Town Hall. – Grade 2 Listed.



2) On the corner of Platt Avenue and Sweettooth Lane (De-commissioned).

After a campaign to save the box in 2015, Sandbach Partnership took on ownership of the box with the assistance of Cheshire East's Assets department and in 2016 plan to move it from its current position to be renovated and then to the park where it will be looked after by the Sandbach Fire Cadets.

The story goes that when they moved the box on the 9 June 2016 someone called the police who turned up in three cars from all over the County thinking someone was stealing the box.

(see also below Platt Avenue / Middlewich Road Corner)



Platt Ave / Sweettooth Lane

In 2017 the box was repositioned in the park.

3) Crewe Road / (Nags Head) Village Green (Now and E-Mail / Text / Phone Site)



Wheelock (In Use)

4) Mill Lane / Warmingham Lane K6 Telephone Kiosk (De-commissioned) – Next to Moston notice Board.



Moston K6.

5) Warmingham Opposite the Church. (Now run by the Village Committee and is a tourist Point)



Warmingham K6

6) Third Avenue (Near Bottom of Road) / Near Town Fields. By 2009 it was a E-Mail / Text / Phone Site but by 2015 it had been removed.

7) Sandbach School has a Private box next to the Theatre.

8) Ken Beresford (Offley House) has a Private example stored in his garden shed.

PHONE BOXES IN SANDBACH (Still in use).

1) Park Lane / Crewe Road KX100

2) Somerfield (2009) / Co-op / Kwik Save shop car park in Elworth Lawton Road. KX100 (Next to QEII Post box)

3) Elworth Park / London Road KX100

4) Watch Lane / Plant Lane Corner KX100 (and Post Box on stick)

5) Hassell Road / The Hill Sandbach Heath – near the Top of the Hill Chip Shop KX100 (With Post box on stick)

OTHER SITES IN SANDBACH - Phone Boxes no longer available.

1) Outside the Library K6 / Replaced by KX100 in 1990's to 2006+ next to Steps near Masonic Hall.

2) By the Bus Station on the Common K6 replaced.

3) 2 x KX100 outside Martin's Newsagents / Back of the Town Hall.

4) Lightly Close / Crewe Road Corner – Wheelock

5) Platt Avenue / Middlewich Road Corner – It has been suggested that this box was moved to the Platt Avenue / Sweettooth Lane position.

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TELEPHONE BOXES (A History / K6 and KX100 in Sandbach)

K1 1920 the First standard telephone box introduced. It was made of Concrete.

Few examples exist today with one in Trinity Market, Kingston upon Hull still in use.

By 1925 (1,000 Made)

K2 1926 Designed by Giles Gilbert Scott after a competition was launched in 1924 to find a design acceptable for the London streets.

Erected only in the London Area with the K1 being erected elsewhere.

K3 1929 Designed by Giles Gilbert Scott and built of Concrete. A costly product it was not widely

used and a rare example exists at London Zoo outside the Penguin Beach.

By 1930 (K2 and K3 8,000 Made)

K4 1927 Designed by the Post Office Engineering Department they included a

Postage Stamp dispenser which was quite noisy and the stamps stuck together in the damp atmosphere. Only 50 K4's were built.

K5 1934 Made of Plywood and designed to be used at exhibitions and to be portable for demonstrations.

#####

K6 1935 (19,000 Made)

Produced by Lion Foundry in Kirkintilloch (K2 to K6 until 1984).

K6 also produced by Carron Ironworks near Falkirk in the 1960's.

K6 1940 (35,000 Phone boxes Available)

K6 1950 (44,000 Phone boxes Available)

K6 1960 (64,000 Phone boxes Available)

Designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott the kiosk has become an iconic part of many towns in the Country but is now being lost due to the increase in mobile phones and so the need for phone boxes is becoming less and less. Many of the K6 Kiosks have been converted into book lending posts or made into a feature in an area so that it would not be lost to the areas in which they stand.

This icon of British life was designed in 1935 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and is sometimes known as the "Jubilee Kiosk".

It was the first red telephone kiosk used outside of the London area with a total of 16,000 being installed between 1935 and 1940 bringing the total number of phone boxes in the UK at that time to 35,000.

Initially the phone box was not loved by all Councils and the public as many thought the Post Office red to be intrusive in the area and so the GPO (at the time) allowed some areas of natural beauty to paint their K6's in grey with red glazing bars.

However in most areas the colour scheme was kept red and is now reproduced in models, coin boxes and on tourist postcards and tea towels becoming as British as the bulldog or the red London bus or even the iconic Police Box used in Dr Who.

K7 1959 Designed by Neville Conder but never went into production.

K8 1970 (70,000 Phone boxes Available) K8 introduced in 1968 and designed by Bruce Martin. However it was only used as a replacement for damaged boxes and with the introduction of the KX100 only 12 K8 models remained in service making it a rare model.

1980 (73,000 Phone boxes Available) Post office Telephones were rebranded BRITISH TELECOM and in February 1981 it was announced that the Red Telephones would be repainted Yellow the new corporate colour of BT. After a public outcry it was announced that only 90 of the 77,000 boxes had been painted Yellow as an experiment.

KX100 1982

January 1985 Nick Kane the Director of Marketing for BT announced that the old style Red Phone Boxes would be replaced by modern silver boxes that could accommodate disabled access etc.

Local authorities managed to save 2,000 K6 and others by getting "Listed Status" for them and

rural areas were allowed to keep them as it was cheaper than putting in a replacement for underused models. There are about 11,000 red boxes still existing in the UK (2015).

KX100 1982

KX200 and KX300 January 1985

KX100 Plus 1996

Multiphone kiosk introduced in 1999

ST6 2007

By 2005 BT had decided to shed many of its phone boxes as less than half of the 72,000 boxes were profitable with 99% of homes having a landline or access to a mobile phone and 85% owning a mobile.

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PRINGS / John Pring and Son Ltd, Elworth.

(Adapted from an article by Allan Littlemore in the Sandbach Chronicle 27 March 2014)

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Established in 1834 in Sandbach the business eventually moved to the Wire Mills, Elworth in 1834.

It was in Elworth that they manufactured all types of steel wire and wire products both domestic and industrial. Nails, Springs, Mattresses etc.

John Pring was born in Bristol in 1811 and by 1832 had established a business in Sandbach on the Common selling metal products including nails, staples and mouse traps.

By 1851 he was advertising his work as a "Wire Warper" and employed a man to help him. With the railway coming to Sandbach he decided to invest in a factory at Elworth and purchased land on the Station Road and New Street corner extending to Hill Street to produce bed springs, bird cages, meat safes (Netting to keep the flies off) and toilet chains. As part of the buildings built for John was his home which he named "Linden Bank" (Now the Bail Hostel) and was at the top of Station Road. Unfortunately John Pring died in 1864 at the age of 53 from what was thought to be connected to drink. John Victor Pring his son had been born in 1845 and took over the business on his father's death. John Victor Pring was also a devout Methodist who along with his wife held regular meetings at their house before he donated land on station road for the building of a Methodist Church in Elworth. The Foundation Stone was laid on the 29 September 1860 with the official opening being on the 19th March 1861.

With no heirs John Victor Pring decided that he should take on a partner to run the company and by 1914 the company were named "John Pring and Son, Partners F.J. Finlow and L W Finlow, wire manufacturers of Elworth Wire Mills, Sandbach".

The Finlow Brothers served in the Great War as it became known and in 1918 they returned to the company as managers of the works. Brother, Percy Finlow was appointed Director in Charge of operations and Leonard W Finlow became Works Director with Charles Salmon as works manager. Between 1918 and 1939 the company made extensive alterations and extensions to the premises to produce wire nails and wire netting which has since been dropped from their catalogue.

In the early 1920 the company built larger premises knocking down the original Methodist Church and building on land on both sides of Station Road with a mini railway between the Station and the works. The original nail shop on the corner of Station Road and Hill Street later became the rehearsal room of the Foden Motor Works Band.

In 1925 John Victor Pring died having handed the company over to Colonel Freddie J Finlow (who had served in the 7th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment .D. 1959)

By the 1930's the company were also producing springs for furniture and even railway carriage seats. They also started producing a rustless wire unrivalled at the time in the country.

By the 1960's a new factory had been built on Hill Street, for the production of their domestic wire work. The demand for plastic coated wire exceeded the capacity of Sandbach and so a new factory was opened in Derby Street, Crewe.

However finance was a problem and in the 1960's the company were taken over by "Hall and Goulding" (of Bognor Regis) in 1967 and in 1971 "The Bullock Group" took over Prings and Hall and Goulding.

In 1999 USA Company Leggatt and Platt Inc. of Carthage Missouri became the owners eventually putting Prings into receivership in Autumn 2009. In November 2009 the administrator sold the company for £3 to KTS Wire of Leeds and for a while it looked good but then it soon turned back to having financial problems and a plan to save the company by selling off the land at Elworth to build houses on which would in turn pay for a new factory in Middlewich was a bluff by the owners to fold the company and their plans were thwarted when Cheshire East Council insisted that the factory be built before the houses were started. Loyal workers found out there was no money in the company for wages in 2010 and volunteered to work for nothing until a buyer could be found but it was not to be and the company again went into administration and 176 years of Prings in Sandbach came to an end. Today all the buildings have been demolished and nothing remains of the wire company except photographs of the landmark signs and memories.

OTHER WIRE WORKS IN SANDBACH (1933 Town Guide reference)

NEWFIELD WIRE WORKS – Congleton Road, Sandbach.

At the Newfield Wire Works, Messrs A.V. Bosson and Son made a speciality of wovern and spiral wire mattresses as well as Riddles, Meat safes, Fire Guards and Upholstery Springs.

GEORGE VANABLES (Founded 1863) – Bradwall Road, Sandbach.

They made products for home use. Items included Riddles, Screens, Sieves, Meat safes, Fire Guards and Fencing.

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PROVIDENCE SCHOOL (Chapel Street)

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The Providence School was built in 1859 and has an entrance for boys and girls at either side of the building frontage.

As discussed earlier in the Almshouse section 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. In 1865 the almshouses were built but as some of the money from the charity must go to schooling it is possible that this earlier building was part of this charity's donation to the town. In 1906 the charity "Sandbach School and Almshouse Charity" were split into two parts.

The building is now owned by Sandbach Scouts as their headquarters.



(19 May 2004 Chapel Street)

On the 23 April 2016 Sandbach Scouts celebrated the anniversary of the building they had occupied for the last 40 years. They gathered together past and present scouts and leaders for a look back at the building and activities and even had a cake made for the occasion. Dennis Fricker, Jim Thompson, Reg Shallcross and Tony Harrison were guests of honour as founders of the group in Sandbach.

In September 1968 Les Bassnett, Jim Hampson, Stuart Hurst and the Rev R Warner (Wesley Avenue Church) held a meeting to form the 3rd Sandbach (39 South West Cheshire) Group. It was the idea of Reg Shallcross whose son wanted to join the scouts but found that there wasn't a group in the area so he decided to form one and became Chairman of the Scouts in Sandbach. They were soon joined by Tony Harrison who was a leader in Chelford but lived in Sandbach and had been thinking of joining a group nearer his home. With the popularity of Scouts the groups grew until it was full to capacity and with such a demand for new places in the cubs and scouts the leaders decided that a new meeting hall was needed to replace their meeting place in the Wesley Avenue Church Hall and so in 1971 they looked at the Old Providence Sunday School in Chapel Street (1859 Boys / Girls) which was at the time in a derelict state. As it was owned by the Wesley Avenue Church and one of the Founders of the Scouts in Sandbach the Rev R Warner was in charge it was a simple matter of sorting out contracts and in December 1973 the purchase went through. There was however a new problem as the cost of the building had bankrupted the account of the scouts so there was no money to add new toilets, windows or even make basic repairs to the structure including the repair of the roof and installing electricity, water and drains. An appeal was launched and £800 was raised by the generosity of the people of Sandbach which went a long way towards the £7,000.00 cost of the building and the work needed to make it fit for holding meetings.

The scouts also purchased the two cottages next door which at the time housed Chickens in the back yard and were to be turned into storage spaces for the money making venture of collecting newspapers. In 1976 the Scouts opened up their new Scout Hall at the back of the Wesley Avenue Church with space for a stage, a fitted kitchen, Hobbies room, large Committee room and library as well as the main meeting hall. By now there were 2 Cub Packs, 1 Scout troop and one Venture unit using the hall along with local MP Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe District which at the time included Sandbach) who held her surgeries there on a Saturday afternoon.

Eventually the stage area of the building was demolished and underneath were a couple of Chamber Pots which were sold for £400 by the antique shop on the corner of Chapel Street which was split between the Scouts and the Wesleyan Church who had sold the building to the scouts and who must have had something to do with the pots origins.

In 2016 the building was used by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the Sandbach U3A and a Guinea Pig group who hold their National Show at the Scout Hall.

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#HQ.

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#HR.

RACES AT SANDBACH
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One of the events that happened in Sandbach during the 1800's was the "Sandbach Races". Held on its own Racecourse just off Congleton Road near Offley House it was a big event with various side shows taking place as well as the main races.



1818 Poster



1824 Poster.

29 Sept 1818

SANDBACH RACES

- 1) Will be run for PONIES not exceeding 13 Hands, a valuable Cup was donated by Mr Mellor for the winner of the race. Twice round the Course – Best of Heats.
- 2) HACKNEY SADDLE, BRIDLE AND WHIP.

Best of Heats. Three times round the course.

WEDNESDAY 30 Sept

- 1) A Valuable Cup for any Horse, Mare or Gelding that never started for a Fifty.
- 2) HACKNEY SADDLE, BRIDLE AND WHIP

Best of Heats. Three times round the course.

THURSDAY 1 Oct

- 1) CART- SADDLE, BRIDLE AND WHIP

By Cart Horses – Best of Heats.

29 Sept 1824

SANDBACH RACES

TUESDAY 10am. (29 Sept)

- 1) Purse of 15 Sovereigns with £50 added for Hoses of all descriptions.

Three year olds to carry 6 Stone 10lb

Four year olds to carry 8 Stone

Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 9lb

Six year olds to carry 9 Stone

Mares and Geldings allowed 2lbs.

Best of Heats Four Times Round the Course.

- 2) Purse of 5 Sovereigns with £50 added - By Galloways for Horses not exceeding 14 Hands. Best of Heats Four Times Round the Course.

- 3) On the same day a "Match" or Race took place between Mr West c.m. Augusts and Mr Bent's c.c. Regulus – Three times round the course.

WEDNESDAY 3pm.

- 1) A "Silver Cup" value 20 Guinaes with £50 added. – by Horse belonging to the Second Cheshire Regiment of Yeomanry Savalry, such horses ar not being Thorough bred and never having started for a £50 and being bona tide the property of the Non-Commitioned Officers and Privates and having been on permanent duty this year. – To be rode by Members of the Regiment in Drill Dress – Best of Three heats, 3 Times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 8 Stone

Four year olds to carry 9 Stone 4lb

Five year olds to carry 10 Stone 8lb

Six year olds to carry 11 Stone 10lb

- 2) LADIES PURSE of 10 Sovereigns with £50 added – Best of Heats Four times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 7 Stone 7lb

Four year olds to carry 8 Stone

Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 7lb
Six year olds and aged to carry 9 Stone

3) A Balloon will ascend from the race Ground immediately after the Cavetry Race.

THURSDAY 2pm.

1) THE PUBLICAN'S PURSE of 10 Sovereigns, with £50 added –
By Horses that never won a £50 Best of Heats, Three times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 7 Stone
Four year olds to carry 7 Stone 10lb
Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 12lb
Six year olds and aged to carry 9 Stone 12lb

2) A HANDICAP RACE for 5 Sovereigns with £50 added.

To be handicapped by the Stewards – Best of Heats 4 times round the course.

STEWARDS assembled at the George Inn on Wednesday at 1pm

HORSES to be entered at Mr J Hilditch's on Monday 27 September at 12 O Clock.

Mr J Skerrett Esq (Steward).

Mr W Hall (Steward).

Mr J Hilditch (Clerk of the Course)

SANDBACH RACES 2pm

TUESDAY 2pm. (27 Sept)

1) A PLATE VALUE OF £50 with 15 Sovereigns by the Stewards.

Three year olds to carry 6 Stone 10lb
Four year olds to carry 8 Stone
Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 9lb
Six year olds to carry 9 Stone
Mares and Geldings allowed 2lbs.

Best of Heats Four Times Round the Course.

2) Purse of £50 with 5 Sovereigns added the Shopkeepers.

For Horses not exceeding 14 Hands. Best of Heats Four Times Round the Course.

WEDNESDAY 3pm.

1) A "Silver Cup" value £50. – by Horse belonging to the
Second Cheshire Regiment of Yeomanry Savalry, such horses ar not being
Thorough bred and never having started for a £50 and being bona tide the
property of the Non-Commitioned Officers and Privates and having been on
permanent duty this year. – To be rode by Members of the Regiment in Drill Dress –
Best of Three heats, 3 Times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 8 Stone
Four year olds to carry 9 Stone 4lb
Five year olds to carry 10 Stone 8lb
Six year olds to carry 11 Stone 10lb

2) LADIES PURSE of £50 with 10 sovereigns added by the Ladies–

Best of Heats Four times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 7 Stone 7lb
Four year olds to carry 8 Stone
Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 7lb
Six year olds and aged to carry 9 Stone

THURSDAY 2pm.

1) THE PUBLICAN'S PURSE of £50 with 10 Sovereigns added by the Pulicans –
By Horses that never won a £50 Best of Heats, Three times round the Course.

Three year olds to carry 7 Stone
Four year olds to carry 7 Stone 10lb
Five year olds to carry 8 Stone 12lb
Six year olds and aged to carry 9 Stone 12lb

2) A HANDICAP RACE for £50 with 5 Sovereigns with added by the Town.

To be handicapped by the Stewards – Best of Heats 4 times round the course.

STEWARDS assembled at the George Inn on Wednesday at 1pm

HORSES to be entered at Mr T Emery's on Monday 26 September at 12 O Clock.

Mr W.J. Brown Esq (Steward).

Mr R Cockson (Steward).

Mr T Emery (Clerk of the Course)

27 Sept 1825

RAILWAY / RAILWAY STATIONS
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In 1840 the Manchester to Crewe Railway was opened (it was known as the Manchester-Birmingham Railway) and was constructed by G.W. Buck.
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 Armitstead (.D. 1 April 1885 aged 64) wrote in 1860 that there were seven trains each way daily calling at the Sandbach and Holmes Chapel stations.
The station also served the Middlewich line which was constructed in 1871 with the Sandbach and Winsford Junction Railway following on from this date.

The Stations in Sandbach also had a Taxi service with a carriage available to take passengers and their belongings from the station to the town. Mr Jack Hulme of Green Street was one of the drivers.

ETTLEY HEATH STATION (Hind Heath Road near Elworth)

In 1852 there was a new line put in between Lawton Junction and Ettley Heath by the North Staffordshire Railway.
In 1866 the station at Ettley Heath was opened as part of a goods service run by the North Staffordshire Railway which stopped off at Ettley Heath and at a Goods Depot at Sandbach.



Ettley Heath 2013.

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 Armitstead wrote in 1860 that there were seven trains each way daily calling at the Sandbach and Holmes Chapel stations.

SANDBACH RAILWAY STATION (At Elworth)

On the 4th July 1837 the “Grand Junction” opened between Birmingham and Warrington with the first train on the line stopping off at Crewe at 8.57am.

In 1840 an operating centre was opened at Crewe with the arrival of the Chester and Crewe Railway (C and CR) to the area.

SANDBACH STATION

The first train to run on the line was on the 4th May 1842 from Manchester to Sandbach.

On the 10 August 1842 the Manchester and Birmingham Railway (M and BR) trains arrived at Crewe having passed through Sandbach Station.

In 1845 work started at Crewe Works building locomotives for the network and doubling the town's size by 1861. However as things changed in Crewe, part of the works were demolished in 1977 and after a two year closure reopened for business in 1979.

On the 1 January 1846 the Manchester and Birmingham Railway (M and BR) joined the London and Birmingham (L and BR) and the North Western Railway (NWR) to form the London North Western Railway (LNWR)

In 1850 there were seven trains despatched to all parts of the kingdom with John William Gargit as Station Master.

In 1852 the new line between Lawton Junction and Ettley Heath which was run by the North Staffordshire Railway stopped off at Ettley Heath and it wasn't until 1866 that the goods service continued to a Goods Depot at the town of Sandbach.

The Rev. John Armitstead wrote in 1860 that there were seven trains each way daily calling at the Sandbach and Holmes Chapel stations.

In 1863 LNER were granted approval by Parliament to install a line from Crewe to Northwich via Sandbach. It was opened in November 1867 for goods and industrial freight.

On the 1 July 1868 a Passenger Service started between Sandbach and Northwich stopping off at Middlewich, Chelford Bridge Holt and Billinge Green Holt.

However the line to Chelford Bridge Holt and Billinge Green Holt was stopped in 1942.

In 1890 the "London and North Western Railway" put in plans to widen the railway between Crewe and Sandbach. The plan also mentioned that Sandbach had a turntable (Tbc).

In Kelly's Directory of 1896 (and 1902) the stationmaster was a Mr Robert Thomas Humphreys, Manager of the goods depot and Station Master of the L and N W R. Omnibuses were available at this time from the George, Swan and Wheat Sheaf Hotels to meet the different trains on the London and North Western Railway. One of the Carter's on the Horse Drawn Wagon between Sandbach Station and the town was Herbert Hampton (.b. 1887 in Moulton) who by 1914 had married Alice Bradbury and had two son's James and John and lived at 57 Foden Terrace, Middlewich Road, Sandbach.

During the Great War (1914-18) Private 7730 Herbert Hampton of the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment TA had enlisted in Crewe. On the 22 August 1914 Herbert travelled to France with the 1st Cheshire's (15th Brigade, 5th Division) and fought at the Battle of Mons where Private Hampton was reported missing in the local papers on the 28th September 1914 and he was again reported this time as a POW on the 2nd October 1914 (Local papers) but died at the Bramhar Camp Hospital at Bawinkle on the 8 Nov 1918.

December 1893, the station master Mr Frederick Fleming died of influenza at the age of 34 years old after a short illness of a few days only. He had only just been promoted to Sandbach before his death. His interment took place on the 22 December 1893 at Disley in Manchester.

In 1904 the newspapers announced that the Signaller in charge of the North Western cabin at Sandbach Station had gone to work in his usual health but at 9.30pm he called to a shunter that he was ill and asked him to come to the signal box where he found the signaller unable to move the levers as he was in great pain. The shunter at once took charge and after signalling the trains then due – the box being a busy one on the main line to Manchester – he left to find a relief man. He returned about 9.40pm when the signaller was sent home. The signal box had eighty levers with some requiring great strength. There were also four telephones and four bells to attend to and only one man to do the work. When visiting the signaller, the stationmaster asked him how he had met his injury and he said he felt it after pulling the levers at about half past nine. He added that he suffered terrible agony on his way home and had to stop a number of times before arriving at his house where he sat down. He was admitted to the railway company's hospital at Crewe where he died on the Friday morning (16 Sept 1904) from collapsing and exhaustion due to an internal disease which had been accelerated due to over exertion after pulling a lever.

On the 19 July 1906 an Express Goods Train from Manchester on the London and North-Western Railway caught fire after passing through Sandbach Station.

A 1913 telephone directory lists Mr Cauldwell as Station master at Elworth.

Prior to the 1914-18 War Harold Kirkham was employed at Sandbach Station. He became a Captain 44778 of the 14th Battalion King's Regiment – Liverpool who unfortunately died from wounds on the 7 May 1917 aged 22 while serving in Greece.

In 1914 the stationmaster was a Mr George Cordwell (or Cauldwell) of the L and N W R.

To get people to and from the station into Sandbach the railway joined with a number of busses. One ran from Bollington to Nantwich and in 1916 the Driver was a man called Mr Maurice Williamson who in 1916 was aged 21 and lived in Elworth Road, Sandbach. He would work a seven day week for a wage of 4d (Four Pennies) and hour with no annual holidays. Maurice also had a conductor who was paid even less than the driver.



(Repairs being made to the roof Pre 1960's)

On the 4 January 1960 the Passenger line to Northwich closed as did the station at Middlewich. Only the platform remains of Middlewich as the Station buildings have since been demolished.



(1966 Image)

In May 1969, there was a derailment of a 50-carriage goods train at Rookery Bridge about one mile on the Crewe side of Sandbach station when about 20 of the goods vans came off the rail. There were delays for a couple of days while the area was cleared.

In 1970 the Sandbach to Kidsgrove line was disused and part of it was converted into the Salt Line trail.



(1987 Image)

By July 1994 (or the 1980's) the station was looking like a prefabricated building rather than the brick structure it had been in its early days.



(1994 Image)



(1994 Image)

By 1998 a new brick built building housed the ticket office.



(1998 Image)



(2005 Image)



(2010 Image?)

In December 2004 Northern Rail were formed to operate the Train service in the North of England until April 2016 including trains through Sandbach Station with 2,500 services each day operating on their network. The company serves some 96 million passenger journeys each year with 15 million travellers, 500 stations and 333 trains.

Between April 2010 and February 2012 a new foot bridge was installed on the Manchester side of the platforms.



(17 Feb 2012 Image)

In 2012 the “Friends of Sandbach Station” were formed by local people including Jenny Baker after seeing the state of the station with its unkept look. The Friends replaced a previous group that was running prior to 2008 with Larry Sharps (Feature in the Transport Festival Brochure in 2008) and disbanded in 2009.

In 2013 the station received the Cheshire Best Kept Station award for “Most Improved”.

By the end of October 2013 the car park had been expanded for travellers.



(2013 Image)



(Apr 2013 Image)

On the 23 July 2015 the Union of South Africa stopped off at Sandbach Station after repairs had been made at the Crewe Heritage Centre / Railway Age in preparation for transporting Her majesty on a trip to Scotland later in the year.



Union of South Africa stops off at Sandbach Station. (23 July 2015 Images)



(2015 Image)

At a ceremony in Ellesmere Port on the 15 October 2015 Sandbach Station was awarded a Highly Commended award at the Cheshire Community Pride Award's ceremony.

Between April 2016 and March 2025 Arriva Trains took over the Franchise from Northern Rail.

In January 2016 Sandbach Station was awarded a ARoRP Award for an impressive series of planters and their community involvement. The award was picked up by Jenny Baker with Pat and Joe Wilson from the Friends of Elworth Station.

7 June 2016 and another historic train travels through Sandbach Station, The Flying Scotsman.

Unfortunately the train didn't stop at the platform instead went on to the Heritage Centre where it stayed overnight before making a trip to Holyhead the first of a number of quick visits it would make to Sandbach over the following months.

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1906 WORKERS AT SANDBACH STATION

Alfred James Farr (Station Master)	N.S. Railway, Station House.
George Collins (Station Master and Goods Agent)	Sandbach Station
John Elsby (Engine driver)	Elworth Street, Sandbach

1913 WORKERS AT SANDBACH STATION

Mr George Cauldwell (Station master) or Mr George Cordwell of the L and N W R.

Harold Kirkham was employed at Sandbach Station.

1933 RAILWAY FARE – From London to Sandbach

Ordinary Single

1 st Class	34/-
3 rd Class	20/5

Weekend Return

Return 1 st Class	45/6
Return 3 rd Class	27/3



PASSENGER NUMBERS SINCE 2002.

2002/03	106,496
2004/05	106,051
2005/06	98,217
2006/07	86,255
2007/08	136,022
2008/09	144,072
2009/10	130,418
2010/11	147,252
2011/12	159,008

WHEELOCK STATION

In 1866 a station was opened in Wheelock.

On the 3 July 1893 the railway line was opened between Sandbach and Kidsgrove stopping off at Wheelock and going towards Kidsgrove.

By the turn of the 1900's Wheelock was a passenger station and continued until the 1930's when due to cutbacks the Wheelock Station was closed on the 28 July 1930 as a Passenger station. The line was still in place until the 1970's as a diversionary line designed to avoid Crewe if there was a problem. With very little use it was decided to close the line through Wheelock on the 1 January 1971. The railways tracks were removed and it has now become a Bridal Path. The Station itself lay closed for many years and then it was taken over and converted into a Tyre Centre.





Rail Tour at Wheelock & Sandbach, 1952 and 2010
 This photograph can be a quiz question for our rail experts out there. The photograph shows a train at the platform surrounded by enthusiasts. The photograph is thought to be of the last passenger train on the line: a rail special of 1953. Here is the evidence: the carriages and clothing's correct for the period. The opposite platform has gone and is overgrown. We know that passenger working ended on 28 July 1930 and the line occasionally carried freight until the early 1970s. The SLS/MLS were enthusiasts' organisations. The engine is from Warrington Dallam (8B), but why does it have LMS on the side and not a British Railways logo, since that is what the LMS became part of in 1949? It's over to you.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Various bits of the Railway around Sandbach have been removed over the years. The Signal Box at Elton Crossing is now at the Chernet Valley Railway and Steam Centre at Cheddleton, Staffordshire.

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ROOKERY BRIDGE REFINING COMPANY

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Located on the bank of the Trent and Mersey Canal by Rookery Bridge the "Rookery Bridge Refining Co Ltd" or "Rookery Bridge Bone and Manure Works" part of the Manchester Bone and Manure Works started by Thomas Vickers who in 1853 announced in the Chester Chronicle that he was building a new works in Sandbach and by 1875 can be seen on the OS Map as the "Rookery Mills Bone". They were a bone grinding company which was used to make various glues.

In 1856, "Long's National Dressing Compositions" were being advertised as available from Thomas Vickers at Rookery Bridge Bone Works in Sandbach.

In 1857, the Post Office directory lists Thomas Vickers at Rookery Bridge and a second operation in Wheelock.

In 1878, the Post Office directory listed Robert Finlow (.b. 1849) as the Manager of the works at Rookery Bridge and Wheelock but by 1891 he was classed as a traveller for the Bone works and was living at Elton Cottage, Elton, Sandbach with his wife Emily (.b. 1850), 5 Sons and 4 Daughters.

In 1937, the London Gazette announced the dissolution of the Ernest Hancock and William Jump Partnership at Rookery Bridge who had taken over the company on the death of Herbert Vickers in 1917.

In 1942, the Managing Director of the company was Ernest W Hancock.

In 1961, the Rookery Bridge Refining Company was sold to the John Wallace Group of Glasgow who probably closed the factory soon afterwards in 1964/5 when the Wallace Group bought the Edward Gorton Group (Animal Glue and Co makers / Also known as “Cheshire Gelatines” of Warrington) for £275,000 and moved its manufacturing elsewhere. (Edward Gorton .b. 1836-7 .D. 1912)

By 1981, the building was derelict

(From information at http://www.themeister.co.uk/hindley/rookery_bridge.htm)

#####

#HS. SALT WORKS

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There were built before 1696 two salt works, in Malkins Bank, Sandbach which were eventually owned by the Salt Union Ltd.

There was also a Salt works in Wheelock, established in about 1868.

PALMER, MANN AND CO. LTD Rookery Bridge Salt Works (1919).

Founded by John Alexander Palmer who moved from Liverpool to Sandbach in 1913 the firm started to sell Salt from the area having purchased land at Ettley Heath in 1919. However to make it more cost efficient it needed to manufacture its own salt and in 1923 it started to do this with a factory on the site. The first Bore Holes were drilled and yielded brine of rare density and exceptional strength.

Following the first permanent hole they drilled another two each giving exceptional output.

In 1932 the company decided to expand its processing works with a new up-to-date “Vacuum Salt Plant” which they estimated would cost between £20,000 and £30,000.

By 1933 the company had a frontage of 3,000 feet facing the main London, Midland and Scottish Company on the main line from Crewe to Manchester. The company have agreed to have a private siding to the main line to transport its output to all parts of the country.

The new building had the trade name SIFTA on the side of a building along with a 120 foot chimney.

The name SIFTA was invented by John Palmer’s wife and in 1935 they produced a book called “Reasonable Recipes by Sifta Sam” a sea captain like character used on its packets and advertising.

In 1956 Mr John Palmer a keen cricket fan issued a series of 24 collector’s cards of famous English and Australian cricketers rather like the cigarette cards of the time. (2016 they fetched £6 each)

The company not only traded under the name SIFTA but also produced table salt under the names A1 and POPULAR.

Another product for Palmer and Mann was “Velvasel” a salt used for softening water (A Poster on the Web dates from 1934).

In 1965 the company was taken over and after a few owners became part of the “British Salt Company” and later Rank Hovis McDougal (RHM) who built their own factory next door.

THE BRITISH SODA CO. LTD Elworth (1923).

Formed in 1923 they acquired the Salt Works at Elworth in 1923. Previously owned by Palmer Mann and Co Ltd to produce salt in the area, a tradition that goes back to the days of the Romans.

By the 20th Century not much had changed in the process of extracting salt from the ground until a Vacuum Process was introduced to revolutionise the industry we know today.

#####

SAND QUARRY (Arclid Quarry, Congleton Road)

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These seems to have been a sand quarry opposite Brookside Hall (Owned in 1908 by Colonel John Kennedy) on the Congleton Road since ancient times with Commercial mining taking place from the 1950’s (Or Previous) to date.

Evidence of an older mine is in the middle of the wood where a pond had been found to have a deep sided hole to one side of it with straight sides pointing to the fact that sand was dug out of the pit well before the trees were grown. It was possible the sand was used to supply the Roman Road at Arclid but so far evidence for this has not been found.

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 Technology, Vallant Holdings Ltd, Viaton Industries Ltd. 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.

OWNERS OF THE QUARRY

Pre 1995 = HEPWORTH MINERALS AND CHEMICALS LTD (Symbol a Camel)
Suppliers to the Glass and Ceramic industry, Foundries and Construction.
1996 = BATHGATE SILICA SAND LTD / Hepworth Minerals and Chemicals Ltd.
2002 = WBB MINERALS (Symbol a Camel)
New owners of Hepworth Chemicals.
2014 = BATHGATE SAND / SIBELCO MINERALS

SAVINGS BANK (Now TSB - Next to Literary Institute)

Dates back to 1854 it was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, R.A. of London and was built by Thomas Stringer.

The TSB expanded into the next door shop which was built at a later date.

GRADE 2 Building

(See TSB / Banks)



(19 May 2004)

SAXON CROSSES

No one knows the real reason why the crosses were built in Sandbach but the most popular version is that they were built c 653 A.D. to celebrate the marriage of Peada, Son of Penda, King of Mercia to his bride (Aichfled or) Aichfleda, the daughter of King Oswy the Christian King of Northumbria and brother of Alchfrid. As a condition of the marriage Penda permitted four Christian Priests to accompany Peada on his return journey to Mercia.

As they rested on their journey home from Northumbria they stopped off at Sandbach to listen to four priests who were teaching in the square, one of which was St Chad. They were so impressed that they were baptised on the spot. The Crosses were erected by Peada to celebrate this event.

This story was probably first quoted in Earwaker's History of Sandbach 1890 and is the story most children in the area grew up with. He probably got his information from the Venerable Bede's Ecclesiastical History of England Chapter XXI "How the province of the Midland Angles became Christian under King Penda -653AD". In Bede's account he says that Penda was baptised a place called "At the Wall" which is possibly Walton or Walbottle near Newcastle in 653AD.

(See #22. Venerable Bede's account of his time in the Midlands).

In recent years another theory has been that they were erected as a monument to King Egbert who lived some 200 years later.

Some record books also date the Crosses at between 800 to 850 AD, the reason was still to commemorate the marriage / baptism, but as a posthumous monument to the event.

In 1585 William Smith a herald, documented the crosses for the first time, describing them as being in the market place.

Between 1585 and 1621 (Or possibly 1649) they were demolished by the Iconoclasts. They knocked down the larger cross with a hammer and chisel and in its fall, it carried away the head of the smaller cross. The fragments were scattered far and wide.

The central portion of the larger cross and some parts of the lesser cross were carried off to Utkinton by Sir John Crewe, who had the figure of Christ on the cross concealed with a layer of clay or mortar as an unedifying spectacle for Protestant eyes. From there they were moved to Tarporley Rectory and then to a grotto at Oulton Park, seat of Sir John Grey Edgerton, Bart.

Other parts of the crosses were recovered from the churchyard walls foundations and the market place in Sandbach. More pieces were recovered from local doorsteps and roadside corners. One piece is said to have been used as part of the foundations to a house and so were lost beyond recovery.

Still standing by 1810 were the platform, base stones and a large part of the lesser Cross shaft.

Between 1815 - 16 the pieces were collected and pieced together at a cost of £37 / 5s / 4d. They were then re erected on its original site. Dr George Ormerod the historian of Cheshire supervised its restoration at this time, with the architect Mr John Palmer of Manchester.

In 1816 the square and surrounding streets were also cobbled at the same time as the reconstruction of the crosses.

The Crosses can be used as a compass as they point to each of the four points of the compass with the circle at the base of the larger cross pointing to the East.

During the course of renovations by the Ministry of Works they removed the Spur Stones from the site to a position outside the main doors of St Marys. Undoubtably ancient and of extreme archaeological interest and value they do not seem to be a part of the original structure. Bishop Browne of Bristol believed that one of them was covered in a basket work body with its neck encircled with a heavy collar like similar figures in Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

There doesn't seem to be an inscription on the crosses to tell its story or purpose. There is however a story that during the time of Queen Elizabeth 1st there was indeed an inscription. William Smith, born at Old Hough four miles away describes "certain writings and images thereon graven which a man cannot read except he be holden with his head downwards and this verse (as they hold opinion) is graven thereon,

"In Sandbach, in the Sandy Ford,
Lieth the ninth part of Dublin's hord.
Nine to or nine fro,
Take me down or else I fall."

The lines have puzzled many a scolar but if authentic may possibly mean that the cost of the monument was defrayed with booty captured from the Irish or the Norse settlers in that island.

A Ministry of Works publication on the Crosses stated that there were so many monuments in the town built around the eighth or ninth century that they suggested that Sandbach was the site of an old Saxon Minster, served by a community of priests who were responsible for the conversion of those who entered the district.

There are similar crosses at Bewcastle in Cumberland and at Ruthwekk in Dummfriesshire which both date from the late eighth century. In AD 684 Egfrid the King of Northumbria sent an expedition to Ireland and lais waste the country far and wide. Churches and Monasteries were not spared and many of the citizens were carried off into slavery. Their presence in Northern England may be responsible for the peculiar decoration of the Northumbrian crosses.

The larger cross may have stood 25 feet above the pavement and was possibly surmounted by a circular stone four feet in diameter. The smaller cross is said to be the story of Penda's return to Mercia.

Sandbach had its own newspaper "The Saxon Crosses" which was edited by Mrs Annette Bowland. "Volume 3 Number 8" from November 1976 has the headline "Saxon Crosses Restoration" and goes into debth 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 theron 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.

In 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. (Crewe Chronicle article 15 Dec 1977)

In 1986 the Town Council funded a scheme to put floodlighting and protection for the crosses. At this time eight stone columns were erected round the base of the crosses and a brief history of the crosses was donated by the Sandbach Chamber of trade to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

According to a theory by Dr Jane Hawkes in her book "The Sandbach Crosses" she concludes that the larger of the two crosses was carved in the first half of the 19th Century with the smaller cross being carved in the middle of the 19th Century and would probably have been painted with bright colours and decorated with Jewels and metal inserts. This theory however doesn't match the long felt theory that the crosses were built about 800 AD.



(Saxon Crosses April 2004)

EXTRA INFO

St Augusta (Augustine of Canterbury) who was born in the 6th Century (.D. Possibly 26 May 604) and was sent to Britain by Pope Gregory the Great to Britain where he landed at the Isle of Thanet in 597 with 40 men (According to the Venerable Bede) at Ebbsfleet (In the Parish of Minster-in-Thamet) before going to Canterbury where he founded Britain's Second Christian Monastery and become the First Archbishop of Canterbury (in 597).

A Cross was placed at the site of the landing in Ebbsfleet and was carved by J Roddis of Birmingham and erected by Granville George Levenson-Gower, the second Earl of Granville and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1884. It has been said that the design for the Cross was based on the smaller of the two crosses that make up the Sandbach Saxon Crosses and when you look at them you can see why.



Ebbsfleet Cross (Based on Saxon Crosses at Sandbach)

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SCHOOLS IN SANDBACH

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SANDBACH SCHOOLS	SANDBACH SCHOOLS (See Below for History Details)	SANDBACH SCHOOLS
NAME	ADDRESS	NUMBER OF PUPILS
ELWORTH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL	School Lane, Elworth, CW11 3HU 01270-762787 Mr Richard Jerman (Headmaster 1985) Mr Tom Edgley (Headmaster 2005) Mrs Samples (Headmaster 2010) Mr Rob Whittle (Executive Head teacher 2014) Mr Neil Garrett (2014 to date)	285 (2005) – First Year Admissions 40
ELWORTH HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL	Lawton Way, Elworth CW11 1TE 01270-764669 Mrs Margaret Blease-Bourne (Head 2005)	189 (2005) – First Year Admissions 30
OFFLEY INFANT SCHOOL (1960's to Date)	Offley Road, Sandbach CW11 1GY 01270-763956 Mrs Brenda Hughes (Head 2005) Mrs Jenny Davies (Head 2013)	164 (2005) – First Year Admissions 60
OFFLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL (1970's to Date)	Offley Road, Sandbach CW11 1GY 01270-764894 Mr Mark Avis (Headmaster 2005) Mrs Jenny Davies (Head 2013)	239 (2005) – First Year Admissions 60
SANDBACH COMMUNITY PRIMARY (1911 to Date)	Crewe Road, Sandbach CW11 4NS 01270-763701 Mrs Janet Broadley (Head 2005) Lynn Treadway (Head 2013)	232 (2005) – First Year Admissions 40
SANDBACH HEATH ST JOHN'S CE PRIMARY (1867 to Date)	Heath Road, Sandbach CW11 2LE 01270-762859 Mr Graham Stephens (Headmaster 2005) Mr Rob Whittle (Headmaster 2014)	157 (2005) – First Year Admissions 35
WHEELOCK PRIMARY (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)	Crewe Road, Wheelock, CW11 3RT 01270-759447 Ms S Tomlinson (Head 2005) Joanne Dyson (Head 2013)	223 (2005) – First Year Admissions 30
"Norfolk House School" (Private)	120 Congleton Rd, Sandbach CW11 1HF 01270-759257 (Headmaster 2005)	Unknown (2005) – First Year Admissions Became "Kids Corner Nursery" 2000.
	#####	#####
SANDBACH SECONDARY SCHOOL (Boys School) (1677 to Date)	Crewe Road, Sandbach CW11 3NS 01270-758870 Mr Peter Wiles (Headmaster 2005) Mrs Sarah Burns (Headmaster 2013)	1,164 (2005) – First Year Admissions 195
SANDBACH HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (old Secondary School) (1960? To Date)	Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 3NT 01270-765031 Mr John Leigh (Headmaster 2005)	1,259 (2005) – First Year Admissions 210

SCHOOLS IN DATE ORDER.
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1677 SCHOOLS

Sandbach School (1677 to Date) Middlewich Road, Sandbach

1809 SCHOOLS

Sandbach Congregational Sunday School opened 1809.

Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

1834 SCHOOLS

Sandbach School (1677 to Date) Grammar School – Crewe Road , Principal Rev Robert Batty (Master)
Wheelock – Richard Caulton

1867 SCHOOLS

Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School opened on the 21 January 1867 as a school for infants.

Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

1871 SCHOOLS

Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

1894 SCHOOLS

Collegiate School for Girls (Conducted by Mrs H J Mann) Bridge House, Sandbach (Next to the Old Hall)

Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)

Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

1896 SCHOOLS (Kelly's Directory)

Temperance Hall on Scotch Common (Plain red brick building holding 300 Persons) used as an Infant School in connection with the National School.

1897 SCHOOLS

In 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".

Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)

Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

1902 SCHOOLS

Miss Sarah Bull (Ladies School) - Wheelock Road, Sandbach

Mrs Marian E Mann (Ladies School) – (Bridge House) Bridge Street, Sandbach (Next to the Old Hall)

William Nock (Master of National School) - Congleton Road, Sandbach

Thomas Steele (School Attendance Officer) Bradwall Street, Sandbach

Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)

Sandbach School (1677 to Date)

Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

1911 SCHOOLS

Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)

Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)

Sandbach School (1677 to Date)
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

1914 SCHOOLS

George William Braddock (School Attendance Officer) at Park Lane, Sandbach
Miss A Henrietta Harris (Private School) at 59 High Street, Sandbach
Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)
Grammar School (Headmaster S.W. Finn MA) at Wheelock Road
Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

SCHOOLS

Grammar School	S.W. Finn M.A. (Headmaster)
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)
Council – Chapel Street (erected 1874)	Miss Jane Cheetham (Mistress)
	Miss Mary Ann Wood (Assistant Mistress)
Council Senior School, Crewe Road (Built 1911)	Arthur Maskelyne (Master)

1933 SCHOOLS

“Bridg House School for Girls” with Principal Miss Harris.
Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)
Grammar School – Crewe Road.
Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

1966 SCHOOLS

Chapel Street (Infants only)
Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)
(was Secondary School Now in 1966 an Infant school)
The Square
Elworth
Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)
Grammar School (Boys only – Girls went to Congleton County Grammar School for Girls)
County Secondary School, Middlewich Road.
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)
Wheelock (Church of England)
Wheelock (Methodist)

1973 SCHOOLS

Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)
Elworth Church of England (to Date)
Elworth Hall Primary School (to Date)
Norfolk House – Private School (to Date)
Offley Road Infant (1960's) Junior (1970's)
Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)
Sandbach High School (1960's Secondary School / 1980 High School)
Sandbach School (1677 to Date)
Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

2015 SCHOOLS

Crewe Road - Secondary School / Primary School (1911 to Date)

Elworth Church of England (to Date)
 Elworth Hall Primary School (to Date)
 Norfolk House – Private School (to Date)
 Offley Road Infant (1960's) Junior (1970's)
 Sandbach Heath -St John's Primary School (1867 to Date)
 Sandbach High School (1960's Secondary School / 1980 High School)
 Sandbach School (1677 to Date)
 Wheelock Primary (1871 Old Building / 19 Nov 1973 New Building)

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SCHOOLS IN NAME ORDER.

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BRIDGE HOUSE SCHOOL. (Next to the Old Hall)

Established about 1863 the private day and boarding school for girls from the ages of eight to seventeen was run by Mrs Mann (Principal) and then in the 1930's by Miss Harris.

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CHAPEL STREET SCHOOL.

Back of the Wesley Avenue Chapel. (Now the Wesley Centre Building) the Sunday School building was added in 1870 (Now the Scout Hall).
 In 1933 the School was an Infant School only.

#####

CREWE ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL

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.
 By 2013 it was the Sandbach Community Primary School.

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ELWORTH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

20 Nov 2015 a new extension was opened at the school by MP Fiona Bruce and the Bishop of Chester the Rt Rev Peter Forster with Sandbach Mayor Gill Merry in attendance. The new build included two classrooms for the reception classes and a head teacher's office and stands on the spot used previously as an early years play area.
 In April 2016, Diane Harrison stepped down as the school's Crossing Patrol Lady (Lollipop person) after 22 years crossing children and as a Midday assistant (Dinner Lady) at the school for the last 31 years starting in 1986 when her son joined the school as a pupil.

DATE	HEADTEACHER	DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER
<i>(Dates Known = If you have more accurate dates please E Mail)</i>		
1985	Mr Richard Jerman	
2005	Mr Tom Edgley	
2010	Mrs Samples	
To 2014	Mr Rob Whittle (Executive Head teacher 2014)	
2014 to date	Neil Garrett	Alison Steele (Assistant Head Teacher 1) Sally Mace (Assistant Head Teacher from 1991)

TEACHERS

Sally Mace (Started in September 1991. In 2016 she had been Assistant Head Teacher for 25 years)
 Meryl-Jane Miller (Started in 1995 and by 2016 was Senior Teaching Assistant)
 Alison Steele (Started in September 1989 moved from Alderley Edge. In 2016 Assistant Head Teacher)

OTHER STAFF

Diane Harrison (Midday Assistant since 1986 / Crossing Patrol Lady since 1994 / Retired 2016)
 Pauline Rawlinson (Midday Assistant since 1986)
 Jackie Spurr (Catering Supervisor since 1988)

#####

OFFLEY ROAD (Infant and Primary School)

E MAIL admin@offley.cheshire.sch.uk

Built in the 1960's The original Infant and Junior School catered for the pupils of the Queen's Drive and Congleton Road estates. As the population grew a new building was needed and it was decided to split the Infants into the existing School building while the Juniors were to be housed in a new purpose built school next door.

Built in the 1970's the Junior School was one of a number of schools built to the open plan system where pupils were allowed to roam from one area to another to do studies with occasional lessons in a class format. This was soon dropped as no work was done and a more formal class was set up within area's surrounded by blinds.

The School has produced a number of well known pupils including BBC Presenter and ITN Newsreader **Katie Derham** (Also Classic FM / The Proms and Strictly Come Dancing). Katie went to Offley Road School and was taught by Mrs Bennion. She lived with her family in Bradwall Road. Katie (.b. Catherine Beatrice Margaret Derham) was born in Canterbury, Kent on the 18 June 1970 to John Derham a Chemist at Fisons and Margaret a teacher and has a brother called Richard. In 1971 the family moved to the north west and she was educated at Offley Road Sandbach and then Cheadle Hulme School where she took O Levels.

Between 1995-1998 Katie worked for BBC Radio 4's "Money Box" and Radio 5 Live's "Moneycheck". In 1996 she moved to BBC TV as a consumer affairs correspondent and "Film 1996" reporter.

1998-2010 Katie joined ITN as a media and arts editor and in 2004 became the 1.30pm Newsreader progressing to 6.30pm and a main news presenter before moving on with her last news on ITV1 on the 25 June 2010. Since then she has presented a number of Arts programmes for the BBC and Classic FM and in 2015 was a contestant on BBC's "Strictly Come Dancing".

HEADMASTERS / HEAD

OPENING STAFF

Mr Lea (Headmaster)

TEACHERS INCLUDED

Mr Brian Stutard

Mr Hassel

Mr Gower

Mrs Astrid Jennings

OFFLEY ROAD INFANT SCHOOL

Pre 2005 Mrs Brenda Hughes (Head 2005)

Pre 2008 Mrs Jenny Davies (Head 2013)

OFFLEY ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Pre 2005 Mr Mark Avis (Headmaster 2005)

Pre 2008 Mrs Jenny Davies (Head 2013)

OFFLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL (Both Schools)

DATE	HEADTEACHER	DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER
Pre 2013 to 2014	Mrs Jenny Davies	Unkn.
2014 to date	Mrs Jill Robertson	Mrs Emma McLoughlin

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SANDBACH HEATH (St John's Primary School)

The School was built in memory of the Rev. John Armitstead M.A. a former Vicar of Sandbach (20 Feb 1828 to 20 Oct 1865) and opened on the 21 January 1867 as a school for infants. It was provided by parishioners and friends of the outstanding cleric.

In 1891 the school received £72/5s in education grants when Free Education was brought in by the Government with the headmaster Mr A.F Carter being paid £80 a year. The Sewing mistress was paid £1 /5s and rates, insurance and taxes cost the school 15s 7d.

In 1933 the school provided places for 80 mixed and 45 infant pupils.

DATE	HEADTEACHER	DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER
1867	Eliza Matthews	
1884	Mr A.F. Carter	
1903	Mr A.W. Allen	
1922	F W Edwards	
1948	J Austin	
1952	Mr W P Llewelyn	
Missing		
2005	Mr Graham Stephens	
2014	Mr Rob Whittle	

#####

SANDBACH HIGH SCHOOL / Sandbach Secondary School

The School opened as Sandbach Secondary School in Middlewich Road.

The original Secondary School was the building opposite Sandbach School on Crewe Road and is now the Crewe Road Primary School and was in operation as a Modern Secondary School in 1948.

In (June / July) 1960 the Sandbach County Secondary School held its first Sports Day at Crewe Road.

In 1960 one of its longest serving members of staff joined the school. Mr Harry Monkhouse was parts of the PE staff until the late 1970's when he was appointed Deputy Headmaster. He continued at the school until the end of the summer term in 1994.

By 1966 a New School had been built on Middlewich Road to house the increasing number of pupils.

On the 17 January 1976 the LEISURE CENTRE attached to the School was officially opened.

The Leisure Centre was built next to the Sandbach Secondary School (Now Sandbach High School) during the previous year. During the building 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.

In 1979 the School became a single sex Secondary School or High School as it was now to be known.

DATE	HEADTEACHER	DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER
1970's to =	Mr David Clarke (Headmaster)	Mr Jackson (to 1979) Mr Fisher - Department Head under Mr Jackson Mr Jack Evans - after Mr Jackson 1980

(OTHER TEACHERS =

Mr Steve Austin (RE / MATHS),
Mr Harry Monkhouse (SPORT),
Mr Betley (TECHNICAL DRAWING),
Mr Bragg (SPORT / GEOLOGY etc.),
Mrs Twemlow,
Mrs Sue Wyatt (FRENCH),
Miss Davies (FRENCH),
Mrs Anne Macaulay (MUSIC),
Mr Ravenscroft (MATHS),
Miss Wynne (PE / SPORT),
Mrs Proudlove (COOKERY),
Mr Les Jackson (Jnr),
Mrs Proudlove.

1980's	Mr Jack Evans (Headmaster)	Mr Harry Monkhouse (Late 1970's to 1994) Mr Les Jackson - Deputy Head
Unkn to date	Mr John Leigh (Headmaster 2005)	To 2013 = Les Jackson -Deputy Head. 2013 = Mrs Carol Cooke and Miss Rebecca Darlington (2013)

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SANDBACH SCHOOL History.

There has been reference to a school in Sandbach as early as 1606 when John Shaw the son of the Vicar of Sandbach was described in the parish register as "Schoolmaster".

The Sandbach School celebrates its anniversary each October with a service at St Mary's Church in the first week of October when old and current pupils get together for a special service.

We know that Sandbach School was Founded on the 28th September 1677 by Richard Lea and Francis Welles. It was what they called an “Endiwed School” for children between the ages of eight and eighteen. This first building seems to have been built at the cost of Mr Francis Welles, of Sandbach along with contributions from collections made in the parish.

The first building (Possibly called Egerton Lodge) was at 33 Middlewich Road, Sandbach (now the site of Butcher and Barlow Solicitors) and was demolished after the new building was erected over the road (In 1849).

The first indenture of the 28 Sept 1677 was assigned to William Hayes (Vicar of Sandbach), Charles Mainwaring, John Aston, Francis Welles, John Furnival, Richard Loundes, John Stonier, Randle Rode and George Twemlow.

Due to donations given to the school there were certain people who could nominate children for the Indenture scheme.

PERSON	NOMINATE
Sir John Crewe and his Heirs	2 Pupils
Roger Wilbraham	2 Pupils
Francis Welles	4 Pupils
Randle Rode	1 Pupil
Robert Hulme	1 Pupil
Thomas Moore	1 Pupil
Trustees	9 Pupils

On the 10 December 1718, a second indenture was made between Thomas Welles, Clerk, Vicar of Sandbach, Richard Loundes of Hassall, Thomas Stephens of Wheelock, Randle Wilbraham of Rose, John Amson of Lees, Lawrence Booth of Twemlow, William Oldfield of Bradwall, Charles ward of Shrewsbury, Richard Vernon, Samuel Watkis, William Furnival and William Rode. The school was built on land donated by the late Mr Francis Welles who had also paid for the original school. As with the previous school it was designed to teach 20 poor boys belonging to the parish and was run by clerk and Schoolmaster Thomas Hall.

Between 1718 and 1729 Charles Ward Esq. of Bradwall left £200 in his will which was invested and the interest was paid to the school.

In 1731 a sum of £420 was donated to the school. This was invested in land at Smallwood and the rent from this was used to pay for a Schoolmaster. In 1836 a Charity Commission report noted that the rent raised £67/ 14s /0d which was passed on to the Rev. Robert Batty who was schoolmaster for 20 years. THE SCHOOL BECAME A GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

In 1848 a new Private Act of Parliament allowed the school to become a Grammar School with a new headmaster (1848 to 28 March 1869) the Rev. Lewis Evans M.A. (Died 28 March 1869 in office.) taking it into a new era.

The school moved onto its present site in 1849 and was surrounded in 18 acres of land on the Crewe Road.

In 1850 a Gate House had been built at the Sandbach School site and was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott who was also asked to design a new School Building which was finished and officially opened in 1851.

Between February 1882 and 1898 the Headmaster at the school was Mr G.H. Heslop M.A. who had inherited a very badly runs school and it was through his efforts that the school started to gain its reputation. By 1898 the school was now one of the leading establishments in the area with Mr Heslop installing a new Laboratory and new classrooms as well as an open air swimming bath. He also added a Gymnasium and a large attached playing field to the facilities of the school before he left in 1898 to go to Sevenoakes School in Kent as Headmaster.

In 1911 a new wing was added to the orignal building consisting of extra classrooms, woodwork room, library and Masters’ common room. Work was done by Mr John Stringer of Sandbach under the designs of architects Messrs A. Price and Sons.

In 1912 Ernest Craig was elected to the Crewe Constituancy as an MP. He had been a pupil at Sandbach School as a boarder in Mr Imrie’s House in the Headmastership of Mr Evans and Mr Chambers and was the first of its pupils to become a Member of Parliament.

SANDBACH SCHOOL 1914-18.

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 a couple of times a year and was then dropped to one edition per 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 with the first ex pupil to be killed in action being 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 Bellwaarde 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).



Miniature Rifle Association.

Between 1914 and 1918 the "Old Boys" from the School who had fought and died in the Great War (and subsequently in the Second World War) are featured on a memorial "Roll of Honour" has been placed in the School Chapel. A plaque also appears on the Cricket Pavilion dedicated to those who died in the First World War.

1918 also saw the official formation of the School's Cadet Corps when it received official recognition from the Cheshire Territorial Association on the 11 February 1918 and affiliation to the 4th Battalion Cheshire Volunteer Regiment. It had 49 N.C.O.'s and Cadets with a Captain (Captain Wright) and 2nd Lieutenant (2nd Lieut Boffy) and used dummy rifles loaned to them by the Sandbach and Middlewich Volunteer Corps while waiting for the arrival of D.P. rifles promised by the War Office.

In 1927 the school celebrated its 250th Anniversary with the building of a Cricket Pavilion in memory of the "Old Sandbachians" who fell in the Great War. In the August 1914 Sandbachian it mentioned that Mr Ernest Craig (MP) had donated a cheque for £100 to the school to use as it wished, however he was set on them building a Cricket Pavilion and at this time he felt it would be a fitting commemoration of the restoration of peace a date that wouldn't come for another 4 years (November 1918).

WAR DIARY 1914-1918

Headmaster Sidney Wallace Finn MA

- 19 Nov 1915 Measles in the school with 14 pupils away with the illness with the Attendance Officer being called on Thursday 18 November to make sure they were indeed sick with the illness.
The Headmaster was on recruiting duties on Tuesday afternoon as part of Lord Derby's Scheme to register the names of able bodied men who wished to be called up. He had been constantly interrupted all week by callers wishing to be registered. The Sandbach School Log Book described the activities of the Head as "The Work is So Immense".
The Head was out at 1.45pm and 3.30pm on Tuesday and 2.30pm (16 November 1915) and 3.30pm on Friday (19 November 1915).
- 3 Dec 1915 The school still had a lot of sickness but not as much as last week.
- 10 Dec 1915 Still more sickness at the school with attendance again very low.
On Wednesday the 8 December 1915 the Headmaster was officially appointed "Attesting Officer" under Lord Derby's Scheme.
On the 9th and 10th December (Thursday and Friday) men flocked to the school to be attested and classroom A was turned into a recruiting room.
- 19 Dec 1915 The Headmaster was absent practically all Monday and Thursday

- (13th and 16th Dec 1915) on work connected with Lord Derby's Scheme.
 Dec 2015 At the TOWN HALL possibly on the 15th or 22nd of December the Headmaster Was involved in the last recruitment drive under the Lord Derby Scheme.
 The Sandbach Chronicle reported the event;-
 Khaki Armllets 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.
- 1916**
- 19 May 1916 A large Circus was due to appear in the town on the 23 May 1916 (Tuesday) and it was decided that the school should have an extra holiday in the afternoon to allow the pupils to attend the entertainment.
- 26 May 1916 On the 24 May 1916 (Wednesday) the whole school had a lesson on the British Empire and then sang the National Anthem along with a number of Patriotic songs.
- 1917**
- 2 Feb 1917 The Headmaster arranged to visit soldiers and sailors at the Nantwich Hospital, leaving school at about 3pm on Friday the 2nd February.
- 9 Feb 1917 On Tuesday the 6th February 1917 the Headmaster was called out to attend a meeting connected to "War Savings Work". (Savings Bond)
- 24 Mar 1917 The School collected 100 eggs for the "Red Cross" to take to the front.
- 2 April 1917 Only 70 students out of 150 on the register turned up to school this week. Another 41 were sent straight home after their feet were found to be wet.
- 1918**
- 18 Jan 1918 The year didn't get off to a good start as the school had to be closed on Tuesday the 15th January 1918 due to a failure in the coal supply.
 On Friday the 18th January 1918 the Children 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".
- 11 Mar 1918 The compiler of the Sandbach School Log Book reported that her Daughter had died and she was of no use to the school.
- 15 Mar 1918 In the 15th March entry it was reported that the Headmaster was absent all day on Tuesday to attend his daughter's funeral.
- 15 Mar 1918(2) Mrs Hobbs left on Friday 15 March 1918 at 11.30am to assist at the Food Control Office with Miss Egerton helping out at the same place at 3pm.
FOOD CONTROL OFFICE
 Between April and June 1917 over 2 million tons of Allied shipping was lost and along with it large supplies of food leading to high prices and profiteering leaving the Board of Trade with a problem as many items had doubled in price. In July 1917 when Lord Rhondda became Food Controller he aimed to fix the price of essential food and monitor the supply of such items. This work was decentralised to local Food Committees who had powers under the Food Controllers Orders and were able to register local retailers for various foodstuffs and recommend what they stocked and the price they could charge. The first committees met in August 1917 with sub committees set up for Sugar, Meat, Flower and Bread, Potatoes and Milk (Which already had Food Orders). In October 1917 Sugar Ration Cards were issued to every household in the country. In November the Committee was given £1 per thousand members of the population to spend on posters and food economy campaigns by the Ministry of Food. By Christmas 1917 the country had a shortage of Butter, Margarine and Tea with queues outside the shops trying to get what little they could for the festive season. In February 1918 the Ministry of Food finally started issuing ration books / cards for butter and margarine.
 Wednesdays became meatless days when butchers closed their shops hoping that the public would eat less meat as it was becoming in short supply and in March 1918 it too was added to the ration cards.

- 3 May 1918 The Headmaster left the school at 2pm to fulfil his job with the War Saving's Committee after he was requested by the County Organising Secretary to interview Farmers and to take the chair at a meeting among the Market Traders.
- 28 June 1918 New Ration Cards were to be issued and the school was asked if it could close for three days to allow teachers to assist at the Food Control Office to get the new cards issued. (New cards after the February issue had run out).
- 12 July 1918 School Closed again to allow the teachers to assist the Food Control Office.
- 13 Sept 1918 On Tuesday and Friday (10th and 13th Sept) the teachers organised for the pupils to go Blackberry picking as the fruit was not on ration and a good option for the healthy growth of the children and their families.
- 4 Oct 1918 More Blackberry picking with a total gathered to date of 6cwt (1 x hundredweight from the Latin Centum = 100 (C) / 112 Pounds) or 112lb of fruit (UK Measurement) (100lb in USA measurements).
- 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.

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**WAR DEATHS Pupils from Sandbach School. (in date order)**

- 1915 1) 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 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry and was killed on 24 July 1915 at Flanders (Arrived in France and Flanders 17 April 1915).  
BURIED At Kemmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Heuvelland in West Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
FAMILY Born at Bank House, Sandbach in 1881.  
He was educated at Sandbach School between 1892 and 1895.  
Also on a **Plaque in St Mary's Church.**
- 2) **Private Harold Bradley** (School 1907-08)  
2/10<sup>th</sup> Manchester Regiment died on the 19 August 1915 aged 22 on board the Hospital Ship "Galika" from wounds received at Gallipoli.
- 3) **Private Richard William Eachus** (School 1909-12)  
7<sup>th</sup> Cheshire's he was killed at Suvia Bay on the 19 August 1915.
- 4) **Private Tom Hall** (School 1908-09)  
17<sup>th</sup> Anzacs was killed at Gallipoli on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1915 aged 20.  
He had moved prior to the war to Australia for the sake of his health.
- 5) **Sergeant Frank Lunt** (School 1902-07)  
1/7<sup>th</sup> was killed at Sulvia Bay on the (19<sup>th</sup> or) 18<sup>th</sup> September 1915 while dressing the wounds of a fellow comrade.
- 6) **Leonard Gibson** (School 1906-8)  
Pioneer with the Cheshire Regiment died at the age of 22 on the 20 December 1915 at Home after he went to France in January 1915 until his health failed and he was invalided home.
- 1916 7) **Private Frank Taylor** (School 1910-12)  
Public Schools 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers was killed by a German Sniper In France on the 16 January 1916 aged 19.
- 8) **Mr Harry Latham** Son of the late Dr Charles Latham (Died 18 Jan) (1916 Sandbachian)
- 9) **Mr Peter Hall** (Died 10 Feb) (1916 Sandbachian)
- 10) **Sergeant Major Bevan** previously the Drill Instructor at the School. (1916 Sandbachian)
- 11) **Mr J.M. Yates** KC Manchester County Stipendiary and Chairman of the Salford Quarter Sessions (Died 16 April) (1916 Sandbachian)
- 12) **Dr Arnold W.W. Lea** MD FRCS (Died 7 May) (1916 Sandbachian)

13) **Sergeant John Brocklehurst** (School 1904-09)  
16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Manchester Regiment was killed on the 2 July 1916 aged 25 in France. Early in the attack he was wounded in the forearm but after being treated he returned to his men and was killed.

14) **Second Lieutenant Cyril Richard Ward** (School 1895-1900)  
Royal Engineers (East Lancs.) was killed at the age of 32 in France on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1916. He was the youngest son of the Director of Education for Cheshire and after leaving school went to the School of Technology in Manchester and was a Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

1917

15) **Second Lieutenant William Clarke Wheatley** (School 1908-09)  
City of London (also listed as W. I. Wheatley) Died on the 3 May 1917.

16) **Captain G.H. Heslop**  
Middlesex Regiment only son of a former Headmaster of the School (1888-1898)  
Killed in action on the 21 July aged 21. (1916 Sandbachian)

17) **Second Lieutenant Alfred Stanhope O'Dwyer** (School 1912-14)  
Killed in action on the 30 July 1916 aged 19. (1916 Sandbachian)

18) **Gunner James Twemlow Cooper** (School 1893-1895)  
R.F.A Died on the 7 October 1917.

19) **Second Lieutenant William Frederick Allen** (School 1907-08)  
East Lancashire. Died on the 9 October 1917.

20) **Second Lieutenant Gerald Pearson** (School 1908-13)  
R.A.F. (Royal Air Force / Was RFC Royal Flying Corps) Died on the 29 October 1917.

1918

21) **William George Upton** who won many school rifle shooting competitions and was also a keen pilot. 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).

22) **Private H. J. P. Howard** (School 1909-10) (.D. 1918?)

23) **Private Seymour Jackson** (School 1906-11)  
Manchester Regiment died on the 22 November 1918.

24) **Second Lieutenant Rutland Villiers Wheatley** (School 1900-05)  
East Yorkshires died on the 29 November 1917.

25) **Lieutenant T Boffey** (School 1912-16)  
Died on the 1 March (?) he was a member of the School Cadet Corps while at the School.

**ON THE SCHOOL MEMORIAL AND NOT LISTED ABOVE (A to Z)**

26) Harry Barker (1898-1900) (.D. 25 Jan 1918)

27) Edwin Booth (1897 -1901) (.D. 5 June 1916)

28) Ben Fletcher Chapman (1900-1906) (.D. 19 Apr 1917)

29) Edward Mosely Cope (1909-1912) (.D. 3 June 1919)

30) W. H. Fortnam (1908-1910) (.D. 31 July 1916)

31) Sydney Hall (1896-1899) (.D. 28 June 1917)

32) Tom Whitfield Houghton (1909-1913) (.D. 21 Apr 1919)

33) Frank Moss (1910-1911) (.D. 24 March 1918)

34) Alfred Stanhope O'Dwyer (1912- 1914)

35) F Parker (1903- 1906) (.D. Unkn)

36) Gerald Pearson (1908 – 1913) (.D. 29 Oct 1917)

37) G. E. S. Poole (1899-1903) (.D. Unkn)

38) Frank Molineux Reaney (1904-1910) (.D. 7 Oct 1916)

39) Frederick William Redfern (1902-1904) (.D. 26 Oct 1917)

40) C Shaw (1906-1907) (.D. Unkn)

41) Frederick Alvin Sproston (1910-1912) (.D. 30 July 1918)

42) Alan Stevenson (1909-1912) (.D. 26 Sept 1916) **SCHOOLMASTER**

43) John Frederick Tanner (1902-1904) (.D. 21 Feb 1919)

44) Oliver Wakefield (1909-1913) (.D. 21 Feb 1921)

**WAR HEROS (Not mentioned above)**

- 1) **Sergeant-Major Joseph Watson** of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry who was Mentioned three times in despatches and was awarded the D.C.M. and was wounded at Ypres. (D. 30 April 1918)
- 2) **Lieutenant J.S. Middleton** of the Kings Liverpool who was awarded the Military Cross. Since then he was captured by the enemy. (1917 Sandbachian)
- 3) **Lieutenant Frank Latham** of the 3<sup>rd</sup> attd 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Cheshire Regiment won the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and resource when he led his platoon in an attack against intense machine gun fire.
- 4) **Lieutenant C James** of the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Liverpool Regiment R., T, F. for Conspicuous Gallantry and devotion to duty. On the 26 September 1918 he commanded a company in the advance on Anneux. On the way he was wounded in the face and leg by a shell but carried on for 18 hours in great pain only leaving when ordered by his Commanding Officer.
- 5) **Lieutenant Colonel Moir** who gained the D.S.O. distinction in October 1918.
- 6) **Major H.L. Moir** of the Cheshire Regiment who under trying circumstances handled his Battalion. On one occasion he was wounded in the side but still commanded his unit under heavy fire encouraging his men.

### FUNDRAISING

The School also raised funds for the war effort and charities connected to it.

The Belgian Relief Fund (Local)  
 St John's Ambulance Society  
 The 'King George' Hospital Fund  
 The Public Schools Base Hospital (Boulogne)  
 The Public Schools Base Hospital (Rouen)  
 The Public Schools London Hospital  
 "Our Day"  
 The Local Sewing Society for Sandbach Soldiers  
 Y.M.C.A. Hut  
 Relief of Belgian Children  
 Jack Cornwell Ward (1917 Collection)  
 Public Schools Hospital (1917 Collection)  
 Cheshire Prisoners Fund (1917 Collection)  
 Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors (1918 Collection)  
 The Kings Fund (1918 Collection – 1919 Sandbachian)

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| TOTALS up to | 1914-16 = £20/9/- |
|              | 1917 = £29/15/ 11 |
|              | 1918 = £38/1/6    |
|              | 1919 = £41/6/3    |

The 1919 Sandbachian gave a list of special days in the school year.

11 November Armistice Day  
 18 November Influenza Day  
 19 July 1920 Prize Day  
 29 July 1920 Prize Day

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### SCHOOL HISTORY 1919 to date.

In 1927 the school celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the building of a Cricket Pavilion in memory of the "Old Sandbachians" who fell in the Great War. In the August 1914 Sandbachian it mentioned that Mr Ernest Craig (MP) had donated a cheque for £100 to the school to use as it wished, however he was set on them building a Cricket Pavilion and at this time he felt it would be a fitting commemoration of the restoration of peace a date that wouldn't come for another 4 years (November 1918).

In 1932 due to increased numbers of pupils the buildings were again extended and opened by the Marquess of Crewe, K.G., P.C.. This provided the accommodation for another 100 pupils as well as commodious chemical and physics laboratories. A science lecture hall was also provided as well as a preparation room and store room, a specially equipped geography room, one large classroom, a cloak room and lavatory accommodation. The Architects for the project were again Messrs A. Price and Sons with Messrs H. Hilditch and Sons of Winterly providing the labour.

By 1933 the school had a camera club and dark room and had an annual cross country race for a challenge cup for the best "House" of which there were four. The school also produced its own annual magazine "The Sandbachian" which is still published on a yearly basis.

Between 1851 and 1955 the school had operated as a Charitable boarding and day school with the last boarder being taken in during 1954-5.

However in 1955 its unique legal status was established and it became an Independent School admitting boys only in the comprehensive system being funded by the Cheshire Local Education Authority and the Learning Skills Council.

On the 24th May 1958 a new extension was opened at the school.

In 1969 a new Sports Hall and Swimming Pool were added to Sandbach School complex.

The school had previously had an open air swimming pool (Lido Type) in roughly the same position as the new pool.

With the introduction of Secondary and Grammar Schools the "Sandbach School" kept its policy of boys only and became the Sandbach Grammar School with girls being shipped out to Congleton or the town's Secondary School on the Middlewich Road.

In 1979 changed to the education system meant the introduction of Comprehensive Schools and the "Sandbach School" was required to take on boys of all abilities while the Secondary School became the Girls only school in Sandbach.

On the 7 October 1987 Fodens band played at a Private Concert at Sandbach School when they opened its new music centre called the MAXWELL DAVIES CENTRE at a cost of £200,000. Sir Maxwell Davies was invited to officially open the building and an inaugural concert was arranged featuring Fodens who played "Peat Cutters" which was premiered by the band at the event. It was a piece written for School Choir and Brass Band and had been commissioned by the Carnegie Trust in 1985 to celebrate 150 Year's of the birth of Andrew Carnegie and was about a fire on the island of Hoy which had been the home of the composer. Harry Mortimer travelled to Sandbach to conduct the Britannia Building Society Foden Band (As the band was called at the time) in the first half of the concert and the English premier of "Peat Cutters".

In 2003 John Barber formed the Sandbach School Big Band which has toured Boston, USA and Berlin (Oct 2005). They have also performed concert at the school with Georgie Fame and Derek Watkins the trumpet player on most of the James Bond Soundtracks (Dr No to Casino Royale)

In 2006 the school was awarded Specialist Arts College Status which was won by the School's Theatrical director John Lonsdale (2014 awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours).

2006 also saw the drama group at the Edinburgh Festival with the play Oedipus. They have also performed "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and toured Edinburgh with "Amadeus" (Also in 2006).

In 2008 a second tour of the Edinburgh Fringe costing £20,000 took place with the production of "Oh What a Lovely War".

In 2011 the School became a "Free School" one of the first to be established in England.

An article in 2013 gave the following statistics – Staff 170, Students 1167 (Male aged 11 to 18), Houses – Craig, Lea, Ward and Welles with colours Green, Red, Yellow and Blue.

In 2014 School boy Connor Reeves (Year 12) had been preparing a tribute to the fallen of World War One at the school for the last few years after a visit to some war graves and his efforts have been wonderfully put together outside the main entrance to the building. Designed by Stuart Bloor and with a team of helpers they put together a tribute garden that the school can be very proud of consisting of a headstone and flowers.

The garden was officially opened on Saturday the 18 October with a march past by local army cadets, followed by speeches from the School Head, Connor Reeves and Fiona Bruce MP who unveiled a plaque to celebrate the event.

In September 2014 Girls had been able to enrol in the sixth form at the school rather than at the High School (Girl's School) or Collages. In July 2015, Izzy Montgomery and Alice Mountford were given awards for Psychology and Performing arts respectively for High Achievers at the school's annual ceremony at the end of year, becoming the first girls to be given awards in the 338 years of Sandbach School.

#### **WELL KNOWN EX-PUPILS**

Will Cliff - Rugby Player Sale Sharks

James Collins – Footballer

Prof. David Eastwood – Vice Chancellor of the University of Birmingham.

James Gaskell - Rugby Player Sale Sharks

Tom Holmes - Rugby Player Sale Sharks

Nick Powell - Footballer Manchester United

Nigel Stonier – Record Producer / Married to Thea Gilmore (Well known Singer)

William Tempest – Fashion Designer

John Waite – Broadcaster BBC Radio 4.

**HEADMASTERS / HEAD**

1606 to 1614 John Shaw  
1614 to Unkn Thomas Bailey  
1718 Thomas Hall. (Schoolmaster)  
Unkn Ottiwell Kent  
Unkn Thomas Kent  
Unkn Thomas Addenbrooke  
Unkn Randle Haslehurst  
Unkn Richard Holder  
Unkn William Dickin  
1741 John Davies  
1741 to 1796 Unknown  
Unkn Rev John Sibson (Curate in Charge)  
1796 Rev Charles Lockett B.A.  
1836 Rev. Robert Batty

**THE SCHOOL BECAME A GRAMMAR SCHOOL.**

1848 to 28 March 1869 Rev. Lewis Evans M.A. (Died 28 March 1869)  
1869 to 1871 Rev John Chambers M.A.  
1871 to Dec 1881 Rev W. H. Maddock M.A.  
Dec 1881 to Feb 1882 Mr R. C. Imrie (Acting Head / he had been the Deputy Head)  
Feb 1882 to 1898 Mr G. H. Heslop M.A. (went to Sevenoakes School in Kent as Headmaster)  
1898 to 1926 Mr Sidney Wallace Finn M.A. (1902 = Headmaster S.W. Finn MA with  
W Booth-Tyrer as second master) in Wheelock Road  
1926 to after 1933 H.L. Crockett MA (Appointed 1926 he was a Mathematical Scholar of  
Jesus College, Oxford)  
Appointed 1946 (1948) W Ross Cubbon MA (Cantab)  
#####MISSING #####  
1964 to 1980 Mr John H Bowles BA (London .D. May 2003) + 43 members of staff.  
1980 to / Mr Brian Hooton / Deputy Head Mr Banks  
2005+ Mr Peter Wiles (Headmaster 2005)  
2013+ Mrs Sarah Burns (Headteacher 2013)

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**SANDBACH TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

Crewe Road, Sandbach  
1938 William Hancock (Headmaster)

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**THE SQUARE (Market Square, Sandbach)**

Now no longer a school. In the 1930's there was an elementary school on the square providing accommodation for 350 pupils both boys and girls.

#####

**WHEELOCK Primary School**

Education in Wheelock started in 1871 at the Church of England School on Crewe Road. The School soon became too small and a second building was opened behind the Methodist Church and includes Hancock Hall which is still used as a pre school. The original school didn't have catering facilities and so the pupils had to wald down to the Methodist Church to have their meals and later for Television Lessons. By the 1970's the number of pupils had reached 320 in the two schools as was growing so it was decided to build a new school further up the road. There was also dry rot in the buildings, cold damp conditions, outside toilets which flooded when it rained and half of the main hall in the Methodist site had to be used as a classroom so it became difficult to do dinners, hold assembly's and PE. In 1960 funding for a new school had been promised but not materialised until a local government and parents campaign got the go ahead.

Building started on a new school in Wheelock during 1972-3 with a completion date of the 19 November 1973 when the building was opened for staff and pupils to start working. Originally built for 280 students but 320 moved into the new school along with a number of temporary mobile classrooms.

The first head teacher at the new school was Janet Hodgson (Now Janet Field). Janet also started a woodland area at the bottom of the field with chickens, sheep and ducks. On the 19 November 2013 the school celebrated an exhibition of the school's history compiled by Sue who has provided the basis for the above history. By September 2014 the school hoped to extend to cater for an increasing number of new students to the area. In June 2014 work had already started at the site to increase its capacity from 210 to 315 or should that be decrease from its original intake of 320 (with Prefabs).

| DATE       | HEADTEACHER                        | DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER           |
|------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Unkn       | Mrs Atherton                       |                               |
| Pre 1973   | Mr Brewster (1960's)               | Mr Shorton (1963 to 1969 + -) |
| 1973       | Janet Hodgson (Now Janet Field)    |                               |
| 2003 (Pre) | Mrs M A Patrick                    |                               |
| 2007 (Pre) | Ms Susan Tomlinson (to After 2011) |                               |
| 2015 (Pre) | Mr D Thomas (Acting Headmaster)    |                               |
| 2015       | Richard Walker (Site Manager)      |                               |

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## SCOTCH COMMON

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The first reference to the area being known as "Scotch Common was in October 1583 in the time of Good Queen Bess 32 local land owners and gentlemen were indicted (Indict - vt Abuse esp. by legal process) for bowling upon the common green or commons, contrary of the statute. They were fined 3/4. Many of those who took part in this incident were also fined in April 1583 for the same offence, that of "Playing the unlawful game for long periods in any open place where everyone that will may see him". The men concerned were William Liversage (High Sheriff of Cheshire, of Wheelock Hall, Richard and Thomas Liversage (His Brothers), William John Shaw (The Vicar of Sandbach), William Lingart (Curate of Sandbach), Ralph Hassall (of Hassell, the son in law of William Liversage). The above men actually had the right to bowl on the common but were fined as the Lord of the Manor's Steward thought that playing in public was illegal.

Bowling had been played in Sandbach on the common before the time of Sir Francis Drake playing on Plymouth Hoe after seeing the Spanish Armada (29 July 1588).

The name SCOTCH COMMON came from an incident on the 3rd September 1651 whilst the September Fair was in full swing. A skirmish took place when a party of about 1,000 of the King's Cavalry, a bunch of Scotsmen, after their defeat at the Battle of Worcester on the 3 September 1651 (Cromwell's final victory), were travelling through the town of Sandbach who were at the time loyal to the Parliamentarians and seeing the poor state of the King's army the town's folk set upon the army with poles from the Market stalls and killed many of them. The bodies of the dead were laid to rest in a plot of land near Sandbach Heath, later called 'Pipers Hollow', 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. With the sale of the Manor in 1917 the supervision of the Common moved from the control of the Lord of the Manor of Sandbach, Lord Crewe to the town of Sandbach for the benefit of the inhabitants. The rights were to any timber on the site, Mineral's found under it and to hold any sporting events. The Rights do not include the right to change to nature of the Common or to enclose it.

In 1978 the rights of the people of Sandbach were disputed by Congleton Borough Council to the ownership of the Common. The Council's Solicitor Mr Horace Lawton said that as they paid a rent of 13p for the use of the land it was not technically "Common Land" as the payments were an acknowledgement of ownership. The Council did agree to pay £5,000 to the Earl of Crewe's Estate for future use.

The common was changed into a car park and in 2004 parts of the common were enclosed with walk ways to make it a bit more user friendly.



(Car Park 19 May 2004)



(Military Arms Scotch Common April 2004)

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## **SCOUTS in Sandbach.**

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In September 1968 Les Bassnett, Jim Hampson, Stuart Hurst and the Rev R Warner (Wesley Avenue Church) held a meeting to form the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandbach (39 South West Cheshire) Group. It was the idea of Reg Shallcross whose son wanted to join the scouts but found that there wasn't a group in the area so he decided to form one and became Chairman of the Scouts in Sandbach. They were soon joined by Tony Harrison who was a leader in Chelford but lived in Sandbach and had been thinking of joining a group nearer his home.

Tuesday evenings were set aside in the Wesley Avenue Schoolroom (Now the Wesley Centre) for the Cubs to meet while Scouts met on a Thursday. Demand for the Cubs was so high that soon a second group met on a Monday with a waiting list for both groups.

In 1969 the Sandbach Scout Group held its first Scuba-Do which was a different name for a fundraising fate held at the Wesley Avenue Schoolrooms. In 1974 however on the 20 April the venue was changed to St Mary's Church Hall as renovations were taking place at Wesley Avenue. Starting at 2.30pm the Scuba-Do-74 was opened by Mrs Eileen Henshall MBE, BA (Sandbach Council / Mayor) and included a lucky programme competition with prizes from the Cheshire and Northwich Building Society at 23 High Street, Sandbach Freezer Centre in Queen's Drive, the Sandbach Garden Centre in Green Street, Martins Newsagents at 8 Hightown and Carousel Sports in 1 Bold Street, Sandbach. Other attractions included a White Elephant stall, Tombola, Bottle Stall, Crockery Stall and the Egg and Bacon Game. The evening of the 20 April 1974 included a Scuba-Do Disco with music supplied by the Amplificoustics and like the money raising fate was an annual event for the group.

With such demand for new places in the cubs and scouts the leaders decided that a new meeting hall was needed and in 1971 they looked at the Old Providence Sunday School in Chapel Street (1859 Boys / Girls) which was at the time in a derelict state. As it was owned by the Wesley Avenue Church and one of the Founders of the scouts in Sandbach the Rev R Warner was in charge it was a simple matter of sorting out contracts and in December 1973 the purchase went through. There was however a new problem as the cost of the building had bankrupted the account of the scouts so there was no money to add new toilets, windows or even make basic repairs to the structure including the repair of the roof and installing electricity, water and drains. An appeal was launched and £800 was raised by the generosity of the people of Sandbach which went a long way towards the £7,000.00 cost of the building and the work needed to make it fit for holding meetings.

The scouts also purchased the two cottages next door which at the time housed Chickens in the back yard and were to be turned into storage spaces for the money making venture of collecting newspapers. In the 1970's this was before recycling became a necessity for Councils and private companies paid a good amount for old newspapers which they could then turn into newsprint etc. Many Scout groups used this as a money making scheme and the Cubs, Scouts, Guides and Venture Scouts all took their turn to collect the papers which until 1976 were stored at Offley House in Congleton Road (Home of Ken Beresford) in their barn.

In 1976 the Scouts opened up their new Scout Hall at the back of the Wesley Avenue Church with space for a stage, a fitted kitchen, Hobbies room, large Committee room and library as well as the main

meeting hall. By now there were 2 Cub Packs, 1 Scout troop and one Venture unit using the hall along with local MP Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe District which at the time included Sandbach) who held her surgeries there on a Saturday afternoon.

In the 1970's the group purchased an old Crosville Single Decker Coach which they used to transport the Cubs etc to various places and one of its original outings was a tour round Derbyshire and included Mow Cop. Driver at the time was Jim Thompson who managed to knock over a wall at the top of Mow Cop. The following day the scouts returned to the scene of the accident with wheelbarrows and cement and set upon repairing the damage they had caused to the wall. The Crosville Bus was built in 1951 and used in the North Wales routes and is now owned by a Society in the South who hopes to bring it back to Sandbach for the Transport festival.

The Bus was a Bristol LL68 registration number NFM46 and entered service in Chester in May 1952 working on the Bangor route and continued with them until 1970 when it was sold to Martin and Sons Limited of Weaverham (Dealer) who sold it to the 39<sup>th</sup> South West Cheshire Scout Group in June 1971. By November 1979 the cost of repairs and running made it a costly investment and so the scouts sold it to S Cheetham, Billinge of Black and White Motorways, Winchester. By February 1988 it entered service with Classic Buses Limited, Four Mark and then continued to run trips with the Crosville Motor Services Limited, Weston-Super-Mare until April 1991 when it was taken out of service and was still in the Crosville Motor Services Limited depot in Weston-Super-Mare in August 2012.

Eventually the stage area of the building was demolished and underneath were a couple of Chamber Pots which were sold for £400 by the antique shop on the corner of Chapel Street which was split between the Scouts and the Wesleyan Church who had sold the building to the scouts and who must have had something to do with the pots origins.

Original Scout leader Les Bassnett decided the colours of the neck scarf for the Sandbach Scouts as originally the group wanted a blue scarf but Les was a Liverpool supporter and was having nothing to do with the Everton colours on his scouts and so it was Red with a White trim that was adopted, the Liverpool colours.

The building in 2016 is used by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, the Sandbach U3A and a Guinea Pig group who hold their National Show at the Scout Hall.

On the 23 April 2016 Sandbach Scouts celebrated the anniversary of the building they have occupied for the last 40 years. They gathered together past and present scouts and leaders for a look back at the building and activities and even had a cake made for the occasion. Dennis Fricker, Jim Thompson, Reg Shallcross and Tony Harrison were guests of honour as founders of the group in Sandbach. It was also a chance to meet old friends and those involved in making the building what it is today. Unfortunately the building is looking as though it could do with a 40 year face lift and Dennis Fricker was keen to find out if any local people could help the group with renovations including a plasterer for some of the holes in the walls and painters for the rest of the building.

Scouts Leaders included:-

Les Bassnett =

Jim Hampson =

Stuart Hurst =

Jim Thompson = Having been a Scout in the 10<sup>th</sup> Crosby / Liverpool Group in his younger days before National service Jim was interested in the Scout movement. In 1965 Jim and his family moved to Sandbach and about 1967 he started to become involved with the formation of the group in the town after he had let it be known he had been a scout to one of his friends who was connected to the formation of the Sandbach Group. In 1971 he became the assistant Scout Leader with Stuart Hurst.

Tony Harrison = Tony was a leader with Chelford Scouts but lived in Sandbach and on one day while travelling home he was followed by some lads on a Friday evening. They had noticed that he was wearing a scout uniform and told Tony that the Sandbach Scouts would fold unless they could find a new scout leader. Thinking about the distance he was travelling each week to Chelford, Tony decided to switch to Sandbach and helped to keep the Sandbach Scouts going.

Dennis Fricker =

Alan Darlington (Group Chairman 2016)

Brian Jones (Acting Group Scout Leader 2016)

#####  
**SCRAP MERCHANTS**  
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1902 / 1914      John Beech (Metal Broker / Scrap Yard) – 18 Church Street, Sandbach.  
1938              WILLIAM BEECH Chapel Street / Bradwall Road (See below)  
1960's – 70's    Dougie Beech (Scrap Yard) – Bath Street (Nr Dingle Lake)  
7 Mar 1966      J and H COPPENHALL LTD                      The Beeches, Bradwall Rd, Sandbach  
                         Scrap Metal Merchants and later a Bus company      Tel; 269

**TILLEY AND PRYOR**

Run in Sandbach for 40 years Bill Tilley (Aged 65 of Sweettooth Lane) became the last of three generations of Tilley's to be in the Scrap Metal business in the town.  
Among the family there is something called the Tilley Whistle which was used at Malcolm Tilley's (Lawrence Tilley's Son) funeral by Bill Tilley as it had been handed down through the family and probably came from Grandma Tilley who it was said would ring up the Swan (Public House) when Granddad Tilley was due home or if someone wanted to see him and tell them that she would get him from the office. She would then give the "Tilley Whistle" down the phone line to tell him to come home saving a long conversation. Unfortunately by the time of Bill's funeral no one remembered what the "Tilley Whistle" was and so it has been lost to time.  
The family at one time owned 10 Well Bank (Built in 1570) a house that was next to their scrap metal business which was behind the house on what is now Dingle Bank of Dingle Lane.  
The company also used the old Co-op Stable yard off Hawk Street opposite and the land by the side of and at the back of the Lower Chequer for (Lol Tilley) Lawrence's scrap metal business as a storage area a piece of land that was compulsory purchased to build the shopping precinct and houses that are now Penda Way and Hawk Street.  
At the age of 14 Bill Tilley had worked for his Grandmother's business before moving on to his Uncle Lawrence's Yard. He then purchased a wagon and started his own business at the age of 25 in 1966 in Norton Way, Elworth which he ran on his own for 10 years before joining with Peter Pryor and forming "Tilley and Pryor" in 1976.  
Around 1974, the company had moved to Cooper's Opening off Bradwall Road (Next to J and H Coppenhall's Coaches) taking over the Coppenhall Scrap Yard. Tilley and Prior moved to Norton Way in Sandbach where they stayed until Bill retired.  
In the 1960's and 70's Jock Hilditch a local auctioneer would use the name of Charlie Tilley if an item of metal failed to reach its required price and so it would be knocked down to "Charlie Tilley" for scrap.  
Peter Pryor died in in 2002, three years before Bill was of retirement age at 65 leaving him in charge again of his own company and thoughts of retiring with his wife Joyce in 2004. In 2004 Bill sold the business to Peter Pryor Jnr and his brother Darren Pryor who kept the name "Tilley and Prior".  
Bill's own son William Jnr (Real Name = James William Jnr) worked briefly for the company but moved on the same day as his father from the company to work for (And Own) Saxon Mini Skips with Martin Skellern (Business Partner) going down this direction rather than Scrap Metal and so Bill decided to close down the scrap yard and retire.  
By 2007, the company now run on his own by Billy Tilley (Jnr) was dealing in skip hire doing industrial and domestic work along with scrap metal collection and demolition removal and were based at Unit 3a Norton way, Moss Lane Industrial Estate, Sandbach CW11 3WL.  
In 2011 Billy Tilley (Snr) passed away.

**OTHER SCRAP YARDS**



Ettley Heath Scrap dealer 2013

(In 2017 the Aircraft had gone from the scrapyard).

#####  
**SHACKLETON TOYS**  
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When you think of Model Toy Cars and Lorries you think of Matchbox or Dinky Toys well you can also add to the list Shackleton Toys of Sandbach who made scale models of Foden Commercial Vehicles at their Wheat sheaf works at Malkins Bank, Sandbach. This was on the site of the old Brunner Mond works club.

Formed in 1939 by Maurice Shackleton (an ex Foden worker) they were originally called James Shackleton and Sons Ltd and produced a range of Wooden Toys from dolls to lorries. The lorries were a simple design based on the local Foden trucks and had a wooden chassis and body with a metal radiator and Foden name badge along with the Shackleton green name badge attached to the rear of the cab (2015 on sale for £100).

In 1948 the company went into the manufacture of Diecast models employing 40 staff with each toy using separate parts that could be taken apart and reassembled using a basic tool kit supplied with each model. The first of these was based on the Foden FG 6 Wheel Lorry and was housed in a lift off lidded cardboard box and included a clockwork motor situated inside the cab which was connected to the back drive wheels by a drive shaft. These models were not cheap, retailing at £2 / 19 / 6d (About £3 in new money) compared to its rival Dinky toy at 10/- (50p).

High costs and low sales meant that the company was forced to close its doors in 1952.

In the 1990's however when Foden's introduced the S21 Lightweight glass reinforced plastic cab with a split widescreen (Nicknamed the Spaceship or Sputnik by the Commercial press and Micky Mouse by possibly the drivers -Actual origin of the nickname not known to the author) the Shackleton Model company was resurrected to manufacture the model in a limited edition by Frank Hardern using original tooling and dies and instead of clockwork had an electric motor to drive the back wheels.

**MODELS IN THE RANGE Included.**

- Foden FG 6 Wheel Lorry
- Foden FG 6 Wheel Tipper 2 (Green) (2015 on sale for £300 - £400)
- Foden FG 6 Wheel Tipper 3 (Grey)
- Foden FG 6 Tipper (Red)
- Foden Wooden Chain Lorry (Blue and Red)
- Foden FG 6 Platform Lorry (Yellow, Silver and Red)
- Shackleton 8 Ton Dyson Trailer (Green) (2015 on sale for £145)
- David Brown Trackmaster 30 (Red Crawler Tractor with Caterpillar Tracks)
- Foden S218 Wheeler (Limited edition produced in the 1990's)

<http://roddgersantiques.co.uk/?p=1276>

#####  
**SIMCOX PRINTERS (Sandbach)**  
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Hidden on the Middlewich Road it was next to one of the openings for the old ERF Factory. At 46 Middlewich Road, Sandbach it started before 1925 and has been printing posters, Stationary etc. since pre 1925.

Posters for the 1925 "Crewe District Congregational Union 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Musical Festival" had the name of A Simcox written on the bottom with its founders name Arthur Simcox.

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## **SWAN HOTEL (Swan and Chequers Hotel)**

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The site originally extended towards Wells Street as the "Old Swan ", a thatches building.  
In 1895 it was rebuilt by Mr John Stringer along with Manchester Architects "Bird and Whittenbury".

PUBLICANS

1834 = Jas Hilditch

1902 = Samuel Bullock (Swan Hotel)

1914 = Percy Bumby (Swan Hotel)

1938 = Mrs Jane Slack

Unkn = Douglas Webb (Phone 109)

1960's = Mr Bitner

1987 = Ian and Barbara

2005 = Simon and Jayne Proudlove (to date)



Swan and Chequer 2004

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## **SWEET SHOP (Market Square)**

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From my childhood in the 1960's and 1970's there was only one sweet shop in Sandbach. It was owned by Mrs Timmins and is now occupied by an Italian restaurant. It is just to the left of the Market Tavern and was built in 1767.

The white shop on the corner was in the 1970's a Model and Toy shop. It, like Mrs Timmins sweet shop became part of the Italian Restaurant and then after a row within the family the building was split again and then the White shop became a café owned by a completely different business.

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END (See Part 3)

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