

## PUBLIC SERVICES.

Trying to imagine the village as it was in 1900 is almost impossible to those of us brought up with services and utilities we take for granted. Then there would have been the Church, the Chapel, a few large houses and a couple of hundred small cottages arranged around numerous farmsteads and along "cottagers" road.

Even the largest houses were without gas or electricity being lit by oil lamps or candles and the unpaved streets were completely dark. Water came from wells and rainwater collected from the roofs. Cattle were driven through the unmade lanes to the shallow river Trent to drink.

Coal for fires came by barge along the Trent and was hauled by horse and cart up Trent Lane to the weighbridge near the horse trough. Many of the cottages had outside ovens though pots could be boiled over the fire and fire itself was an ever-present danger when there was no organised fire brigade.



Main Street about 1908-10 looking west with the fronts of Teapot Row on the right. The state of the road shows that cattle were regularly moved to and from the yard at "The Haycroft" on the left hand side. At this date Main Street had the only pedestrian pavement in the village, but the roadway was not tarred.

Outside privies would have their night soil removed by the night-soil man with his horse and cart as there was no sewage system and village ditches were often polluted from being used as dumping grounds for rubbish. The village had a resident doctor, nurse and policeman but travel to Newark or Nottingham would normally have been by walking to Lowdham or Bingham to catch a train.

It is possible to trace the development of the public services through the minutes of the Parish Council (set up in 1894), and through the Village magazine. In some instances the people of the village delayed the arrival of public services for, never having had them, they saw no need for them and were certainly unwilling to pay for them.

By 2000 the village had been transformed. We had over 3 times as many houses, the farmsteads had been turned into housing and their activities moved outside the built-up area, and most of the fields in the village centre had been built over. Cable television and "broadband" Internet access had still to arrive but a comprehensive range of modern services (gas, electricity, water, mains sewage, and telephone) was available to virtually all properties. All could receive radio, television and cell-phone signals, and many houses had satellite television receiver dishes.

The streets, and the roads leading into the village, were all paved and had storm drains. All the streets within the village centre had electric lighting, which also extended to the en-

trances to the playing field on Butt Close, and along several of the footpaths. Most of these streets had pavements to separate pedestrians from the busy motor traffic – we were approaching two motor vehicles per household.

## Electricity and Street Lighting

In April 1901 the Parish Council signed the petition to Parliament in favour of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill but it took nearly 50 years before street lighting was provided in the village.

In March 1902 the following proposal to light the streets was put to the Parish Meeting by the Parish Council – “*That the village be lighted by oil lamps fixed on posts or brackets where thought equitable. It is suggested that they be provided free of cost as a commemoration of the Coronation Year (Edward VII). That the annual cost of maintenance be defrayed by a rate not exceeding three pence on buildings and levied on an area to be defined as including the village only. This would amount to about £26 which is thought sufficient to maintain 24 lamps*”. The proposal was not carried.

Following this, matters seem to have gone into abeyance and lights from houses and shops still provided lighting in the street for in 1916 the Parish Council requested that all shopkeepers take immediate steps to shade the lamps in their shops with blue or purple shades so that no direct light whatsoever is cast into the street. The lighting regulations in the event of an air raid were: -

- 1) *All householders are earnestly requested to have no lights outside and to shade lights in their homes owing to the possible visits from zeppelins.*
- 2) *In the event of zeppelins coming near again, the Council will endeavour to give warning by ringing the School bell. Every householder must then at once put out all lights and no flashlights must be used in the streets.*
- 3) *The above regulations for private houses apply to public buildings.*

The Great War also affected the coal supply to the village as in 1919 the Council protested to the fuel overseer “*against the inadequate supply of coals under the rationing system as many people do receive only a small proportion of the amount they are entitled to while others from other sources get their full allowance in advance*”

In 1929 the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Company anticipated that they would be in a position to deal with customers requirements for electricity in private houses in October and enquired as to whether the Council had considered the advisability of utilising the supply for street lighting. They must have included likely costs as a minute notes that the Council considered “*that charges of 7/6d (37p) for the quarter ending September 30<sup>th</sup> is too much for the summer months when no light is required.*” In the event a supply to private houses became available in the early thirties.

In 1937 there was a suggestion that street lighting be provided as part of the Coronation celebrations of George VI but after a public meeting at which the majority felt that the maintenance charges would come too heavy on the rates the matter was dropped.

In 1948 a public meeting was held and it was agreed that East Bridgford should adopt the Lighting and Watching Act of 1933 and install six lights initially with the proviso that numbers should be added to as necessity or circumstances warranted. At the annual Parish Meeting in 1949 further lamps were agreed to in order to support the general policy of the Ministry of Transport in respect of distancing for automatic speed control to become effective. By 1952 the completion of the lighting scheme allowed the speed limit of 30 m.p.h. along Main Street and Kneeton Road to be introduced.

In 1968 it was reported to the Parish Meeting *“that the Parish Council had most reluctantly agreed to hand over street lighting functions to the Bingham Rural District Council”*.

Since then the responsibility has passed to Rushcliffe District Council with faults being reported directly to them and the Parish Council making suggestions for improvements.

## Gas

A supply of gas did not reach the village until the gas main along the Fosse was laid in 1954 and the branch line came up Closes Side Lane. Some older villagers were reluctant to use gas originally but it has now been in common use for heating and cooking for many years. Natural gas replaced coal gas around 1974.

## Water

The latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century brought about a greater awareness of the causes of disease and the newly formed Parish Council canvassed the villagers in 1895 regarding the need for a mains water supply.

At the annual Parish Meeting in 1903 the Rev. A. Du Boulay Hill proposed that *“as much as the water supply of East Bridgford is insufficient and much of the existing supply unwholesome this meeting requests the Parish Council to take the steps necessary for providing a suitable supply of good water for the use of the inhabitants”*.



The water pump on the rear wall of the Methodist Chapel, and the well in the yard behind the Chapel both survived into the 21<sup>st</sup> century—though not as prime supplies of domestic water

An amendment was immediately made *“that we the ratepayers and parishioners do not ask the Parish Council to take steps in respect to providing any water supply out of the rates as there are plenty of good wells in the parish, people have gone to the expense of providing cisterns, it would result in enormous expenditure, large increases in rates to the inhabitants and property owners and require an extra charge in our sanitary system”*. The amendment was carried.

They were not alone in their views as even in 1922 in a reply from Bingham R.D.C. there is a sentence *"Assuming a public water supply to be necessary (as to which the District Council are not at present convinced)...."*.

That this lack of water supply could have serious effects can be seen by reference to three extracts from the Village magazine: -

October 1911. *"On September 11<sup>th</sup> a stack fire broke out at about 9.30pm at the Toll Bar Farm which resulted in the total destruction of 4 stacks with 2 carts and farm implements. Plenty of willing helpers stopped the spread to adjacent land. But the lamentable lack of water supply in this district is always felt on occasions such as this and Mr Fletcher's rainwater cistern was all that was available"*.

February 1924. *"We are thankful that Mrs Reuben Morris has recovered from her alarming accident, which but for prompt assistance might have had very serious results. A cistern 9 feet deep is not a pleasant experience."*

July 1924. *"Another providential escape, this time from a deep well in Mr A. Morris' yard which is used by so many, has occurred. Mrs Young, a newcomer to East Bridgford, fell in as she was drawing water on July 16<sup>th</sup>, and it was some time before she was extricated, but we are glad to know she is recovering"*.

In 1923 in the leasing conditions for the Wharf – *"the parishioners will continue to have access convenience for carting water and the right of fishing and bathing from the bank"*. This was reinforced in 1933 when access conditions were to be strictly adhered to. However the drive towards a supply of mains water continued and the Council wrote to Bingham R.D.C. in 1929 to obtain particulars of the proposed water scheme that the R.D.C. had in hand and by 1932 the main village had the Nottingham Water laid on. However the farms along Kneeton Road had, in 1948, to petition for an extension of water supply to obviate waste of time and manpower entailed in their drawing of water from the Trent for their stock.

A number of older villagers have commented that the provision of mains water in their homes has been the most significant development in their lifetime in the village.

## **Sewage And Waste Disposal**

At the start of the century the District Surveyor was responsible for seeing that all drains were trapped and the Roadman was responsible for seeing that they were kept in working order. However as late as 1931 complaints were made to the Parish Council re the offensive stench from the drains of: -

1) *Dr Torrance – the sewage from his house runs into an open dike on the main road to the Fosse and the stench proceeding from this drain is very bad.*

2) *Mr Swain's four cottages on the same road. There is a cistern to receive the slop water, this is full and running over onto the road and requires someone to clean it out.*

3) *Miss Fox has a drain that overflows into Cherryholt Lane.*

*The Sanitary Inspector saw the people involved and the matter was remedied.*

A new sewage system was proposed in 1935 and built soon after. An effect of the economic depression affecting the country in general and the village in particular is indicated in a letter from the Parish Clerk to the surveyor trying to influence the contractors to get the unemployed of the village work on the sewage scheme.

Although the sewage scheme helped, some of the old open dikes were neglected and caused problems until 1945 when it was agreed to fill them in with old tins and rubbish.

The Parish Council had inaugurated a scheme for collecting rubbish after the Great War but in 1925 the Auditor objected to the payment for this, as the Council had no authority to do so! Sanction was gained from the Ministry of Health for payment who suggested that they approach the R.D.C. with a view to future expenditure being put on a legal footing.

Following further representations after the end of WW2, in 1946, it was reported that Bingham R.D.C. had decided to undertake scavenging of ashes and night soil throughout the whole district. The scheme included the utilisation of existing water and sewage undertakings by conversion to water lavatories and the provision of special sewage collecting wagons for districts not served by these amenities. Bingham R.D.C. *"approved the scheme for collecting night soil as soon as 4 vehicles are delivered and direct labour obtained."* No progress had been made on the collection of ashes.

In 1947 a fortnightly collection of ashes was requested from Bingham – especially in the winter months. In December 1947 Bingham R.D.C. informed the Parish Council that after July 1948 the sanitary department would not empty pan closets or middens in a sewered area and that no grants for conversion would be available after that date.

Towards the end of the 1960s proposals to extend the Sewage Works were made at an estimated cost of £200,000 for the scheme. The completion of the scheme in 1972 allowed the further expansion of housing that had been on hold as the old system was overloaded.

In 1974 the Local Boundary Commission and the R.D.C. were asked for their support to set up a new boundary for the Parish along the line of the A6097, thus bringing the Sewage Works into the Parish of East Bridgford.

## **Fire Brigade.**

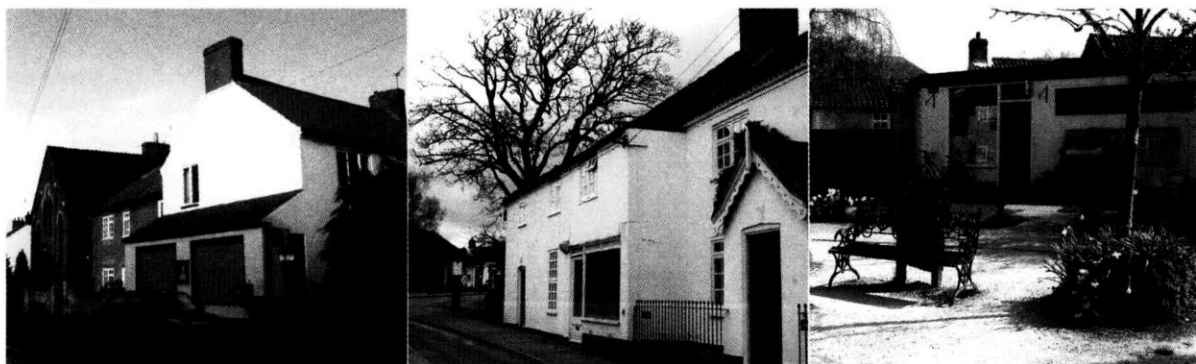
The arrival of mains water created the opportunity to improve the way fires were dealt with. In 1933 Messrs A.H.Smith, George Priestly, George Bateman and Alfred Ellis were appointed members of the Parish Fire Brigade to act and give their services in case of fire and the Council agreed to purchase 300 feet of Fire Hose and fittings at a cost of £30. A fire committee was formed the following year and George Priestly was appointed Captain of the Brigade. The Captain would be paid 3/- and members 2/6 for each practice attended. 3 members of the Brigade were paid an additional 8/- for cleaning out hydrants. Insurance was



taken out on members and equipment to £50. In 1938 Bingham R.D.C. informed the Parish that under the Fire Brigade Act 1938 the function of the Parish Council in connection with the extinction of fires and protection of life and property would cease as from 21<sup>st</sup> January 1939. At this time the Fire Brigade members were interviewed to see if they were willing to be enrolled in the A.R.P. fire fighters and to take a course of training at West Bridgford.

## Postal Services.

Prior to the establishment of a Post Office in the village it was served by the Bingham Private Post. The Bingham Postmaster, John Strong, charged 4d for delivering or collecting letters to and from East Bridgford. This charge was in addition to the cost of conveying letters in the general post.



From 1948 to 1993 the location of the Post Office was 57 Main Street and then from 1993 to 1999 at 12 Main Street and finished the century at 16 Main Street.

The first East Bridgford office opened in 1845 and until 1871 was classed as a Country Receiving House/ Office. Since 1876 the classification has been Country Sub-Office.

The location of the P.O. has changed several times and has often been run in conjunction with another business. In 1900 it appears the P.O. was located in the first cottage of Teapot Row, almost opposite the site of the P.O. in 2001. From 1916 to 1941 it was at 1 Main Street and then from 1941 to 1948 it is thought to have been located in a wooden hut on Kneeton Road opposite the end of Brown's Lane.

Until the 1990s mail was delivered to the village P.O. from Nottingham and postal workers sorted it here – older villagers remember sitting round a kitchen table doing the sorting prior to delivering the mail. Local



Post boxes from 4 reigns, VR on Kneeton Rd, GV at Straws Lane, GVI on Main St and EIIR on Cross Lane

mail could be posted and franked in the village without the need to go to the Nottingham sorting office. At the time of writing postmen and women are taken by van to the Beeston depot to sort mail prior to returning to make deliveries.

The mailmen were an important part of village life as witnessed by the letter from the Parish Council to the Postmaster of the Nottingham G.P.O. in 1920 – *“The Parish Council unanimously agrees that Mr George Thraves has given great satisfaction in his work as Mail Driver and Postman for East Bridgford and most strongly recommend that the situation he has held for the last 61/2 years be made permanent. The Council considers that his claim on your consideration by the fact that he is a discharged soldier from the regular army (23 – 9 –05) and on medical examination in 1917 was found to be permanently unfit for service”*

As the village developed there were increasing demands being made on the G.P.O. and in 1949 there were serious delays in delivery due to mail being insufficiently addressed. The requirement for house numbering became nation-wide and compulsory from 1st January 1950.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Century Postmasters/Postmistresses of East Bridgford.**

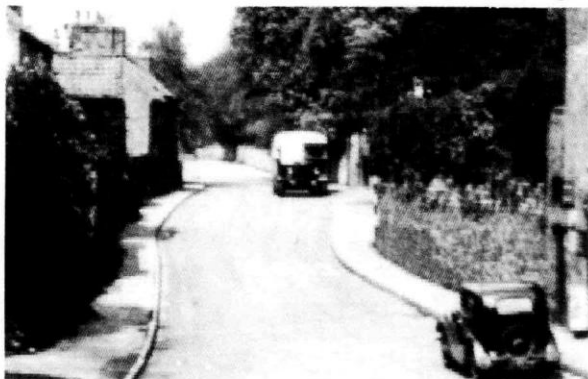
|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1895 – 1902  | Mrs Caroline Mee (initial remuneration £18 per annum)         |
| 1902 – 1904  | Thomas Simpkin (initial remuneration £30 – 19s –0d per annum) |
| 1908 – 1909  | Alfred Henry Simpkin (Stationer and Tobacconist)              |
| 1909 – 1916  | Miss Emma Jane Simpkin  |
| 1921 – 1925  | Miss Mary Dexter  |
| 1928 – 1941  | Miss Gertrude Moore   |
| 1941 – 1948  | David Simpson   |
| 1948 – 1957  | Thomas Caldicott  |
| 1959 – 1982  | Albert Lodder (Electrical Contractor)                         |
| 1983 – 1993  | James Ian Lodder (Son of above, General Store)                |
| 1993 to date | Mrs Jennifer Holt (General Store).                            |

## **Telephones & Telegraph**

The G.P.O. were also responsible for telegraph and telephone services and a letter in March 1910 regarding the telegraph line in Trent Lane states *“ that arrangements are being made to adopt a different route and remove the poles to which they object. The line understood to be a through telephone route from London to Newcastle will take a more direct route along the Fosse, along Newton Street bridlepath to Gunthorpe Bridge.”* By the end of the century East Bridgford still had overhead telephone lines although the old telephone exchange in Butt Lane had been replaced by a modern automatic exchange in Springdale Lane around 1965. In the early -1980s we became one of the first places in the country to convert to a digital exchange.

## Transport.

Walking was the main mode of transport in the village at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century though the more affluent owned horses or employed a coachman. Trains ran from Bingham and Lowdham as they do now. The Great Northern Railway ran through Bingham into Victoria Station in Nottingham with all trains calling at London Road Station. The LNW Railway also ran through Bingham (Nottingham Road) into Nottingham London Road (Low



The village bus in c1950—a classic half-cab single decker seen here outside the school.

Level). The Midland Railway ran from Lowdham into the Midland Station in Nottingham. In the opposite direction one could travel to Grantham, Boston and Skegness by GNR from Bingham, to Melton Mowbray, Market Harborough and Northampton by LNWR from Nottingham Road, and to Newark and Lincoln from Lowdham. Many ways to travel to London were possible, but it is unlikely that many villagers ever did.

Probably a few cars were in private possession prior to the First World War. Mrs Owen Taylor of Manor Farm is reputed to have owned the first car in the county, registration TO 2. However, in February 1914 the village magazine reported that "*East Bridgford is certainly going ahead with the times for Messrs Attfield and Charles Edward (Ted) Bullers will shortly begin to run a covered motor to Nottingham on Market days, capable of carrying 20 passengers. The fare will probably be 1/6d for the journey there and back*". C. Bullers continued as the village carrier for many years.

From 1925 – 1956 Thomas A. Lewis ran an omnibus from the village. Amongst other journeys was the transportation of up to 20 children from Kneeton to and from the school. They stopped at Mrs Newcombe's on Kneeton Road for the children to leave their eggs or sandwiches with her to be eaten later at lunchtime.

By the 1960's the majority of households owned at least one car and public transport

| Monday to Friday.         |      |      |       |       |      |      |      |      |  |
|---------------------------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|--|
|                           |      |      |       | Daily | W.O. |      |      |      |  |
| EAST BRIDGFORD, dept. ... | 7-0  | 8-0  | 1-45  | 4-0   | 5-30 |      |      |      |  |
| SHELFORD ...              | 7-10 | 8-10 | 1-55  | 4-5   | 5-40 |      |      |      |  |
| RADCLIFFE ...             | 7-20 | 8-15 | 2-5   | 4-15  | 5-50 |      |      |      |  |
| GAMSTON LANE END ...      | 7-31 | 8-26 | 2-16  | 4-26  | 6-1  |      |      |      |  |
| NOTTINGHAM, arr. ...      | 7-40 | 8-35 | 2-25  | 4-35  | 6-10 |      |      |      |  |
| NOTTINGHAM, dept. ...     | 7-45 | 8-45 | 2-40  | 4-40  | 6-20 |      |      |      |  |
| GAMSTON LANE END ...      | 7-54 | 8-54 | 2-49  | 4-49  | 6-29 |      |      |      |  |
| RADCLIFFE ...             | 8-5  | 9-5  | 3-0   | 5-0   | 6-40 |      |      |      |  |
| SHELFORD ...              | 8-10 | 9-10 | 3-5   | 5-5   | 6-45 |      |      |      |  |
| EAST BRIDGFORD, arr. ...  | 8-20 | 9-20 | 3-15  | 5-15  | 6-55 |      |      |      |  |
| Saturday.                 |      |      |       |       |      |      |      |      |  |
| EAST BRIDGFORD, dept. ... | 7-0  | 8-0  | 9-30  | 1-45  | 4-5  | 5-40 | 7-30 |      |  |
| SHELFORD ...              | 7-10 | 8-10 | 9-40  | 1-55  | 4-15 | 5-50 | 7-40 |      |  |
| RADCLIFFE ...             | 7-20 | 8-15 | 9-50  | 2-5   | 4-22 | 5-55 | 7-50 |      |  |
| GAMSTON LANE END ...      | 7-31 | 8-26 | 10-1  | 2-16  | 4-32 | 6-6  | 8-1  |      |  |
| NOTTINGHAM, arr. ...      | 7-40 | 8-35 | 10-10 | 2-25  | 4-42 | 6-15 | 8-10 |      |  |
| NOTTINGHAM, dept. ...     | 7-45 | 8-45 | 11-37 | 12-55 | 2-37 | 4-52 | 6-37 | 8-22 |  |
| GAMSTON LANE END ...      | 7-54 | 8-54 | 11-46 | 1-4   | 2-46 | 5-1  | 6-46 | 8-31 |  |
| RADCLIFFE ...             | 8-5  | 9-5  | 11-57 | 1-15  | 2-57 | 5-12 | 6-57 | 8-42 |  |
| SHELFORD ...              | 8-10 | 9-10 | 12-2  | 1-20  | 3-7  | 5-22 | 7-7  | 8-52 |  |
| EAST BRIDGFORD, arr. ...  | 8-20 | 9-20 | 12-10 | 1-30  | 3-12 | 5-27 | 7-12 | 8-57 |  |
| Sunday.                   |      |      |       |       |      |      |      |      |  |
| EAST BRIDGFORD, dept. ... |      |      | 1-45  | 7-50  |      |      |      |      |  |
| SHELFORD LANE END ...     |      |      | 1-55  | 8-0   |      |      |      |      |  |
| RADCLIFFE ...             |      |      | 2-5   | 8-5   |      |      |      |      |  |
| GAMSTON LANE END ...      |      |      | 2-16  | 8-16  |      |      |      |      |  |
| NOTTINGHAM, arr. ...      |      |      | 2-25  | 8-25  |      |      |      |      |  |
| NOTTINGHAM, dept. ...     |      |      | 2-37  | 8-37  |      |      |      |      |  |
| GAMSTON LANE END ...      |      |      | 2-46  | 8-46  |      |      |      |      |  |
| RADCLIFFE ...             |      |      | 2-57  | 8-57  |      |      |      |      |  |
| SHELFORD LANE END ...     |      |      | 3-2   | 9-3   |      |      |      |      |  |
| EAST BRIDGFORD, arr. ...  |      |      | 3-12  | 9-12  |      |      |      |      |  |

Stand No. 4, Millstone Lane.  
W.O.—Wednesdays Only.

**T. A. LEWIS, LTD.**  
Phone: 224 EAST BRIDGFORD, Notts.  
August, 1943.

Established 1919.

In 1933 a bus service to Newark on Wednesdays was added to the timetable and by 1938 buses ran daily to Nottingham and in 1941 daily to Newark.



services, which were never frequent, became endangered and remained at a low level with poor connections. However towards the end of the century government policy changed. Bus services, subsidised by Notts County Council and Rushcliffe Borough, provided hourly connections to Nottingham (via Gunthorpe, Shelford & Radcliffe), Bingham and Newark.



The 1990s services were provided by new mini-buses with low steps at the entrance allowing easy access for the less agile

## Library Service.

At the turn of the century the East Bridgford Reading Room celebrated its seventeenth season. It was open three nights a week – Monday, Wednesday and Saturday in the Temperance Hall (Village Hall) between 7.00 and 10.00pm. The newspapers supplied were Nottingham Guardian, Express and Evening Post, London Daily Mail, Penny Illustrated, Tit Bits and Snaps. Games were also provided. Members paid 1/- per quarter and the room remained open during the two winter quarters. Discussion meetings were also held.

In addition there was also the Jalland Library founded in 1891 by the gift of books by Mr Henry Gibson Jalland a Wine Merchant and Farmer. Books were added as the years moved on and in 1909 it was reported *“the Librarians attend at the school every Monday evening between 6.00 and 7.00pm. Persons residing in East Bridgford are entitled to membership on payment of a subscription in advance of 1/- per annum, 6d half-yearly or 3d quarterly. The subscription entitled each member to the use of one volume at a time or additional volumes at 1d for each volume. A fine of 1d per week is incurred for each book kept beyond the allotted time.”* The Rev. Weatherall was connected with the library in its early days and Mr Thomas E. Jesson acted as Librarian between 1912-1925. In 1932 it held 1,400 volumes and was run by a committee of 8. Nothing further is known about the library’s later history although it has been reported that the books were absorbed into the County Library system.

In 1946-47 The West Bridgford Region of the County Library Service extended its service to include the entire district south of Trent Bridge and Bingham Library was opened. A direct service by means of a travelling library was considered and a year later the County purchased a third van fitted with shelves for 1300 books which was to carry out exchanges at village centres and also spend part of the time in visiting outlying farms and hamlets. It is likely that this van visited East Bridgford. Certainly in 1963 the village asked for an additional stopping place in Cuttle Hill. The mobile library still visits once a fortnight and serves approximately 45 adult readers plus the school. As well as books the mobile library stocks videos and spoken word tapes, which are rotated on a monthly basis. Many now travel to Bingham or Nottingham for their material or to surf the Internet.

## Health Services

It is difficult to establish the health of the village as a whole but the parish records at the start of the century show large numbers of deaths of infants and middle-aged women. School records show the school being closed for weeks on end because of outbreaks of scarlatina and measles.

Knowledge and understanding of health matters were low - witness the opposition to a main water supply and the need for numerous reminders regarding re-vaccination against small-pox. In 1903 the County Council arranged five lantern lectures on "Health" and the early meetings of the Women's Institute also emphasised health measures and simple nourishment. Parents often resented being given advice hence in 1910 the rector wrote, "*The Medi-*



Doris Hand, Dr & Mrs Brooks outside the "Hen house".

*cal Inspection at the school is so entirely for the benefit of the children themselves that we hope that all parents will value the advice given and take away any precautions which may be suggested".*

By 1906 there was a Loan Society that lent out articles such as crutches, hot water bottles, wheelchairs, and steam kettles to the sick and needy who paid a fee or made a donation. These loans appear to have gone into abeyance between 1922 and 1945 though Miss Campion and Miss Richardson had started the 142<sup>nd</sup> detachment of the Red Cross prior to the Second World War. The Society continued to make loans to villagers until it was disbanded in 1987. In addition the unit purchased a disused hen house at the corner of Walnut Tree Lane and Brunts Lane as a storehouse and physiotherapy treatment centre which ran from 1948 until 1987 with professional services being donated by Katherine Cave, Mrs White and finally by Mrs Felicity Jay who maintained the service for 29 years.

The National Health Service now provides a visiting community physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy service but the voluntary service lives on in the East Bridgford Care Group formed in 1996. Their main service is to provide transport for various medical appointments in and outside the village, as well as escorted shopping, for the disabled.

## Doctors And Their Surgeries

At the start of the century one doctor, one district nurse and Mrs Thornton, who laid out the dead, all working from home, provided medical attention for the village. Since WW II, and

the coming of the NHS no less than 3 Surgeries/ Medical Centres have been built.

By the close of the century the purpose built Medical Centre on Butt Lane employed 3 partners, 1 trainee general practitioner (qualified doctor) and 1 part-time doctor. There were three practice nurses, 1 district nurse plus 1 State Registered Nurse and 1 Care Assistant working in the District. Staff working for the Centre includes a Practice manager, a Secretary, 7 Receptionist /Dispensers, 2 Health Visitors, 1 Visiting Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist and part-time cleaners.



LEFT. The first dedicated surgery was in the grounds of Dr Brook's house, Inglenook, 115 Main Street. CENTRE. This was succeeded by the Surgery building opposite the newsagents. RIGHT. Finally the new Medical Centre on Butts Lane was provided in 1998.

### East Bridgford Doctors.

| From | To      | Doctor                  | Surgery  |
|------|---------|-------------------------|--|
| 1891 |         | Eade                    |  |
| 1898 | 1930    | Duff                    | Originally in 'The Hollies' and then in the 'Old Hall'         |
| 1930 | 1932    | Torrance                | 115 Main Street – corner of Cross Lane                         |
| 1932 | 1967    | G Brooks                | 115 Main St. (note: service interrupted by WW II)              |
| 1940 | 1945    | Robinson & Roger Brooks | 115 Main St<br>(Brother of above from Lowdham)                 |
| 1955 | 1957    | P Kilby                 | As above   |
| 1957 | 1990    | JS Fraser               | 115 Main St and then at the newly built surgery at 87 Main St. |
| 1967 | 1976    | W Taylor                | As above   |
| 1977 | To date | A Harrison              | 87 Main St and from 1999 at the new Butt Lane Medical Centre   |
| 1984 | 1999    | Ms J Banks              | As above   |
| 198? | To date | R Scaffardi             | As above   |
| 1999 | To date | Ms A Stewart            | As above   |

## District Nurses.

Prior to the establishment of the National Health Service in 1948 each district was expected to raise funds to employ their own nurse. The fund raising activities of the District Nurse committee provided some of the social functions of the village. In 1909 Capt. Jeffcock put on an entertainment, which raised £12-13-6d for the fund. Evidently a "Bigaphone band" contributed to the amusement of the audience. 1910 brought 7 lawn tennis courts into action for a tournament raising £9-3-0d and a whist drive raised a further £6-13-9d.

By 1916 subscribers were being urged to increase their subscriptions to the service and others encouraged to join. The nurse's salary, excluding insurance, was £63-8-0d per annum and her report showed; -

|                |                     |                    |              |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <u>Cases</u> - | Medical 48          | Surgical 38        | Maternity 28 |
|                | Nursing visits 2063 | Casual visits 164  |              |
|                | Operations 2 and,   | Nights on duty 12. |              |

By 1920 the lowest subscriptions were 2/- per quarter or 2d per week. Other subscriptions were to be proportional.

Maternity fees – Class I with doctor 10/- - without doctor 20/-.  
Class II with doctor 15/-.  
Non-members with doctor 20/-, without doctor 30/-.

The higher rate was paid to the district nurse when the doctor did not attend as she had full responsibility for the birth.

## District Nurses

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1905 – 1911               | Nurse Musson                                     |
| 1912 – 1913               | Nurse Davis                                      |
| 1914 – 1919               | Nurse Pike                                       |
| ? - 1924                  | Nurse Lovell                                     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> World War | Nurse Alcock – Children's welfare Nurse Robinson |
| Post N.H.S.               | Nurse Edith Brennan                              |
|                           | Nurse Jackie Wheeler.                            |

## Police

Originally the village came under the Newark Police Force which was established in 1836 with 5 men. The Nottinghamshire Police Force (founded in 1840 with 42 men) absorbed the Newark force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1947 (and Nottingham City on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1968).

For centuries the Parish appointed their own Constables and even in 1906 five men were qualified and liable to serve in the office of Constable although their duties were different from those of the Police Force.

Throughout the century until 1998 the village had its own resident Police Constable. Traditionally police lived in the first (or last) house in a village and indeed in 1891 it is recorded that Sgt. Dobinson was living at Chapmans Corner. The police house remained there until 1930 when it was relocated to 49 Kneeton Road. In 1947 a Police house was built at 73 Kneeton Road and was finally sold when our last resident Police Constable (John Newton) left in 1998.

The regular police force was supplemented by Special Constables and in 1919 it is recorded that Superintendent Lucas of Newark attended a demobilisation of wartime specials which included from East Bridgford Messrs J.Allwood, C.Bullers, E.Colville, J.Mussell, J.Pickford, W.R.Sharman and J.Wilkinson.

Policemen evidently took a full part in village life as, for example, when P.C.Sears was moved to Costock in 1916 the report read "*Apart from his village duties he has taken his share in the interests and life of the village especially as Secretary of the Cricket Club.*"

The records of police who have served in the village are incomplete but we believe the following have served here over the years: -

Sgt. Dobinson in the early years of the century.

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1898 - 1900 | P.C. Wilson             |
| 1901 -      | P.C. Samuel Beardsley   |
| To 1916     | P.C. Edgar Norman Sears |
| 1916 - 1920 | P.C. Cleal              |
| 1920 - 1925 | P.C. Anderson           |
| 1925 - 1932 | P.C. Fossey             |
| 1932 - 1942 | P.C. Goddard            |
|             | P.C. Gilbert            |
|             | P.C. Degville           |
| 1950        | P.C. Latham.            |
| 1951        | P.C. Smedley            |
| - 1958      | P.C. John White         |
| 1958 - 1967 | P.C. John Bingham       |
| 1967 - 1973 | P.C. David Holland      |
| 1973 - 1975 | P.C. David Devenport    |
| 1975 - 1976 | P.C. John Green         |
| 1976 - 1979 | P.C. John Atkin         |
| 1979 - 1980 | P.C. Mick Cleminson     |
| 1980 - 1998 | P.C. John Newton        |



The last Police house and  
PC John Newton, the last resident PC)

## Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme relies on volunteers to act in liaison with the police to raise levels of security within the village. Members of the Scheme can provide advice on se-



curity, they are prepared to keep a *"neighbourly eye on nearby residents property and are willing to report to the police anything suspicious, perhaps a person, a vehicle or activity that might help the prevention or detection of crime"*.

The Parish Council initiated the Scheme by holding a Parish Meeting in September 1988. Arthur Holt agreed to be the first Head Co-ordinator of the Scheme in 1990. A team of volunteers agreed to be street co-ordinators and divided the village area between themselves. The Scheme was in danger of folding in the late 1990s and the role of Head Co-ordinator passed in 1998 to John Latham. In the same year the village lost its resident policeman and the need for locally aware people to keep an eye on the local scene became more apparent. 2001 John Latham passed the key role to David Linnington along with David Barnsdale, Derek Atkinson and Paul Bancroft as it proved impossible to find one individual to take sole responsibility for the organisation.

## **Parish Paths Partnership**

East Bridgford is fortunate in having some 16 miles of footpaths and bridleways within the parish. In the past these were used to provide access to the field system or places of work but are now used mainly for recreational walking or as short cuts within the village.

In the 1960's Parish Councillor Albert Lodder identified that many of the paths were in danger of being lost either as farmers ploughed them over or they became impassable when undergrowth grew unchecked. He instituted a system of biennial footpath walking whereby small groups, with a leader, walked and cleared the paths thus raising public awareness of the existence of the paths.

In 1993 the Countryside Commission set out to have all public footpaths in the countryside identified and marked by the time of the millennium. The Parish Paths Partnership was established to undertake this task and in East Bridgford the Parish Council signed up to the initiative, asking Mrs Mollie Burnett to organise the local effort. Assisted by Hilary Linnington and Tony Ford much excellent work has been done to secure our network of footpaths and bridleways for future generations to use and enjoy. In 2003 the group published a leaflet describing our paths and providing a copy of the definitive map of the footpaths and bridleways for all households.

## **Parish Council**

Whilst not strictly a service in the sense of gas, water etc. there have been numerous references to the Parish Council in its key role of representing the village on many crucial issues affecting village life. For this reason we make reference to the Council and its formation and development at this point in the book.

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 1894 the Parish Overseers for East Bridgford convened a meeting in the Temperance Hall (Village Hall) for the nomination and election of Parish Councillors under the Local Government Act 1894. Eleven of the twenty men who were nominated were

elected and signed their acceptance at the first Parish Council meeting held in the National School on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 1895. The first Councillors were: - Leonard Millward (Chairman), Charles H. Bell (Vice-chairman), James Alvey Snr, Charles Clough, Thomas Euerby, George Huskinson, John Huskinson, Arthur W E Mason, Joseph Turner, Rev. Edmund F Weatherall, and John S Wilkinson. The first Clerk to the Council was Frederick Sharp who acted in this capacity for 39 years up to March 1934.



The site of the old Cuttle Hill cottages, now a public open space owned by the Parish Council

The original standing orders provide for four statutory meetings per year on the first Thursday of January, April, July and October. Although the number of meetings and the venue has varied greatly over the years the number of Councillors has remained constant at eleven. It is noteworthy that the first woman, Mrs Cartwright, was elected to the Council in 1925.



The entrance to Springdale Wood on the footpath from the Medical Centre to Springdale Lane, planted in 1999 as part of the Woodland Trust Millennium Woods Scheme

In the early years of the Council one of the constant issues was the allocation and upkeep of the allotments scattered around the village. At 1900 there were 49 acres of allotment land but this was insufficient to meet demand and additional land had to be rented. It was the policy to give preference to agricultural labourers and to limit the size of the holding of individuals to one acre at the rent of £2.10s.0d (£2-50p) per annum. Today only 5.2 acres of land between Butt Lane and Springdale Lane, owned by the Parish Council, is used for allotments with about 20 allotment holders working the area and paying £8.80p per annum for an allotment of one sixth of an acre.

The Parish Council also owns land at the Wharf, which is now let as a marina and boatyard. Other land owned by the Parish Council includes the village Car Park, the land adjacent to Butt Close, on which the bowling green, tennis courts and the pavilion are situated, and the open grassed area on Kneeton Road opposite the school (the site of the old Cuttle Hill cottages). Butt Close itself is rented from Nottinghamshire County Council.

Whilst the powers and finances of all parish councils are limited and subject to being overruled by higher levels of local or national government, nevertheless East Bridgford has many facilities only obtained through the foresight, persistence and planning by the Parish Coun-

cil. In recent years the provision of traffic lights at the A6097 junction near Chapman's Corner would not have been obtained without the dogged persistence of the Council. In years to come the environmental benefit of the grant by the Council to the Woodland Trust to purchase and plant Springdale Wood should be apparent to all.

It is perhaps appropriate to list all those who have held the office of Chairman of the Parish Council not only because of their significant personal contribution to the well-being of the Parish but also because they have over the years led teams of councillors dedicated to East Bridgford.

| <b>Chairman</b> | <b>Years</b> | <b>Dates in Office</b>                       |
|-----------------|--------------|--|
| L. Millward     | 2            | Jan 1895 – Jan 1897                          |
| C.H. Bell       | 4            | Feb 1897 – Mar 1901                          |
| A.W.E.Mason     | 19           | Apr 1901 – Mar 1906 and Apr 1917 to Mar 1931 |
| H. Forrest      | 6            | Apr 1906 – Mar 1912                          |
| J.Wilkinson     | 5            | Apr 1912 – Mar 1917                          |
| R.K.Beaumont    | 2y 9m        | Apr 1931 – Dec 1933                          |
| C.C.Allwood     | 3m           | Jan 1934 – Apr 1934                          |
| A.H. Smith      | 4y 6m        | Apr 1934 – Sept 1938                         |
| N. Rhodes       | 8y 6m        | Oct 1938 – Mar 1947                          |
| E. Fulford      | 4y 7m        | Apr 1947 – Nov 1951                          |
| R.F.Chapman     | 18y 6m       | Nov 1951 – May 1970                          |
| D.D.Atkins      | 8            | May 1970 – Mar 1976 and May 1986 – May 1988  |
| A.Lodder        | 5            | Mar 1976 – May 1981                          |
| E.G.Lomax       | 5            | May 1981 – May 1986                          |
| S.C.Cumberland  | 6            | May 1988 – May 1994                          |
| D.R.Emblin      | 4            | May 1994 – May 1998                          |
| J.G.Powell      | 5+           | May 1998 to date.                            |