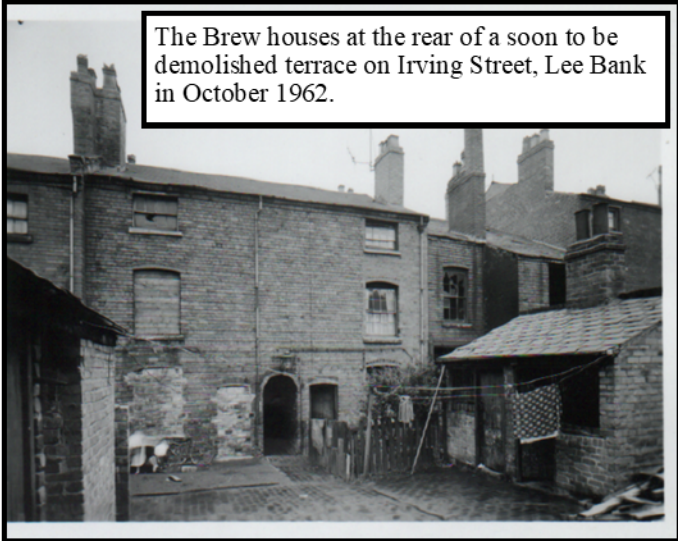


WELCOME

Welcome to issue 56 of The Brew 'Us Bugle, the long running magazine of The Ladywood History Group, which was first produced in 2001.

Any new reader may be unfamiliar with the term Brew 'us, or brew house. A brew house was the name given to the building in the backyards and courtyards of the old Victorian and early Edwardian houses which once were a feature of the streets of Ladywood. It was in these buildings the women (always women in those days) did the washing and stopped for a chat with neighbours. News and information was exchanged there. From time to time the men folk used the buildings to brew their own beer. The title reflects these historic structures, and although we can't provide the beer, we can supply the news and information!

The Brew houses at the rear of a soon to be demolished terrace on Irving Street, Lee Bank in October 1962.



If you would like to comment on this issue or contribute to the next edition, please get in touch.

Thanks to Tony Spettigue for proof reading tissue!

Norman Bartlam magazine editor
Albert Trapp chairman Ladywood History Group

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Spring Hill Library, Spring Hill, B18 7BH

Website: Our website is run in conjunction
with TNT News www.tntnews.co.uk

Please call into Spring Hill Library to see our extensive collection of photographs and memorabilia of things 'Made in Ladywood.'

HISTORY IN THE NEWS

A major regeneration plan for the historic Edgbaston Reservoir and Tower Ballroom has been given the go ahead by the City Council. The once proud, but now derelict, Tower Ballroom is to be demolished. The area will become a residential development, but with an added advantage of a wide landscaped public pathway which will enable people to walk completely around the perimeter of the reservoir without needing to pass under any concrete monstrosities such as the current ballroom extension over the pathway. More news to follow in the coming months.



Then and Now:
The Tower Ballroom as it looked 30 years ago in November 1992 and on the day the redevelopment plan was approved.

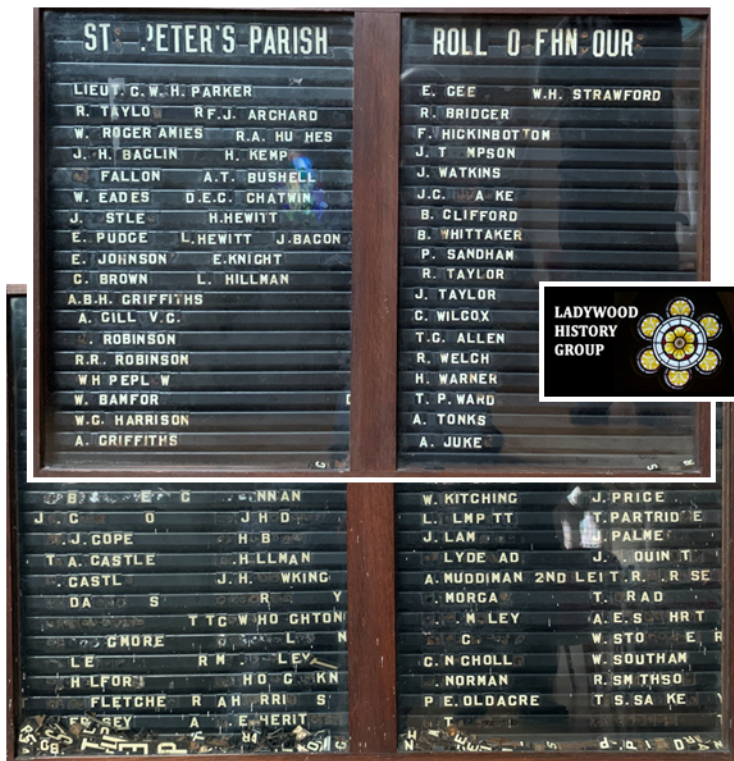


A PORT-A-LOO SUNSET!

The fabulous bull which stole the show at the Commonwealth Games earlier this year is now at an undisclosed venue where it is being renovated ahead of a return to the city. For a while after leaving Centenary Square it was stored on a derelict site in Ladywood. It was guarded by one man and a port-a-loo at the corner of St Vincent Street and Great Tindal Street, by a kink in the road ... creating a port-a-loo sunset for keen photographers!



VICTORIA CROSS WINNER IS IDENTIFIED ON WAR MEMORIAL ... BUT MANY NAMES NEED TO BE DECIPHERED



St Peter's Church at Spring Hill was closed in 2001 and the parish merged with St John's Church, Ladywood. The building was sold and since early 2004 it has been home to the New Testament Church of God the Rock.

The war memorial consisting of two large panels was removed and taken to St. John's Church. As can be seen many of the letters of the names on the Roll of Honour have fallen off. Whatever adhesive was used in the original work was not very good!

Graham Hesp, Operations Manager at St John's Church, who is pictured with the St Peter's memorial on the cover of this issue, is keen to unjumble the scrabble of letters and restore the memorial to its former glory.

Do you know the names of anyone who is named on it?

The first name is that of Lt C Parker, he was the son of the vicar of St Peter's and another, Petty Officer Robert Taylor, was one of 150 men who went down on HMS Tipperary in the Battle of Jutland.

The most well-known name is that of Sgt Albert Gill who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross in July 1916.

Albert, a former Steward Street School pupil and Hockley based postman, was killed in action in July 1916 at Delville Wood during one of the offensives on the Somme.

Scan here to see a TNT News report by Alex Pawlowski from Delville Wood.



Sergeant A J Gill VC 1st Bn The King's Royal Rifle Corps



For Most Conspicuous Bravery

The enemy made a very strong attack on the right flank of the Battalion, and rushed the bombing post after killing all of the Company Bombers.

Sgt Gill at once rallied the remnants of his platoon, none of who were skilled bombers, and reorganised his defences, a most difficult and dangerous task, the trench being very shallow and much damaged. Soon afterwards the enemy nearly surrounded his men by creeping up through the thick undergrowth and commenced sniping at about 20 yard's range. Although it was almost certain death, Sgt Gill stood boldly up in order to direct the fire of his men. He was killed almost at once, but not before he had shown his men where the enemy were, and this enabled them to hold up their advance.

By his supreme Devotion to Duty and Self Sacrifice, Sgt Gill saved a very dangerous situation.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: NOVEMBER

3 November 1953

Edith Pitt MP for Edgbaston made her maiden speech in Parliament: 'I am very conscious that this is really an honour to my own constituency of Edgbaston and to the city of Birmingham, now the largest of our provincial cities. We who are native to Birmingham are very proud of the considerable contribution it makes to the progress and prosperity of our country. It is a city, too, with a great tradition of good local administration and social progress. It is not just a city of machines, although there are plenty of them, but of hardworking, warm-hearted men and women. I know, because all my life—all my working life until the last few months—I have been one of the thousands of weekly wage earners in the city of Birmingham.'

5 November 1960

The first Bonfire Carnival of Birmingham Corporation was held in Summerfield Park. 10,000 people attended.

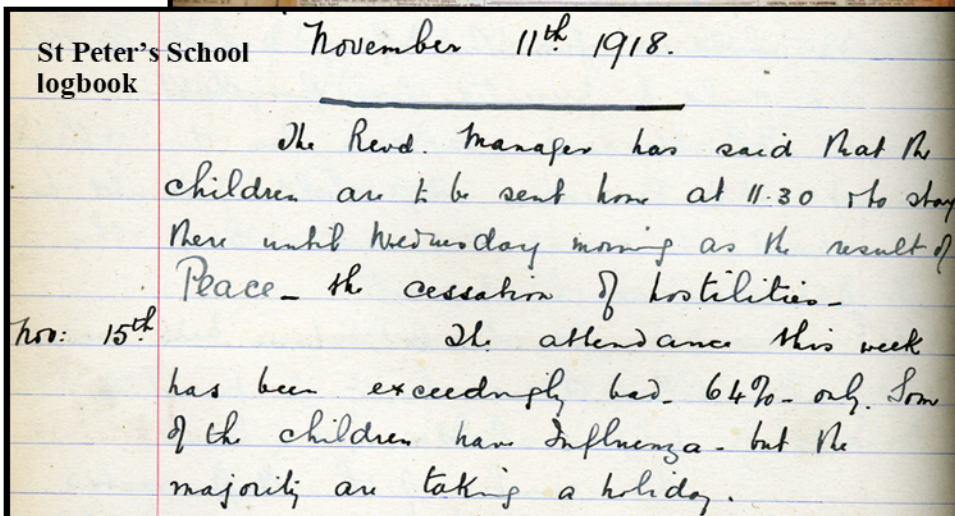


The Evening Despatch
11 November 1918

November 1918

'On notice given by the maroons at 11 o'clock of the signing of the Armistice, work was suspended. A joint celebration by the three departments was held in the playground and school was dismissed at 11.45am to assemble in the afternoon' The following day, a Tuesday was given as a holiday.

Nelson Boys' School logbook



15 November 1940

'The raids appear to get worse and worse and all parts of Birmingham are affected. The children spend all night in the shelters and then come to school unwashed and practically asleep. The alerts have sounded several times during the day and it has been necessary to go up and down to the shelters'.

St Peter's School, Broad Street logbook

4 November 1966

The first yellow box junction in Birmingham was installed at the junction of Hagley Road and Rotton Park Road/Norfolk Road.

November 2019

Jasper Carrott unveiled a tram named in his honour on Broad Street.

MEMORIES OF CLARK STREET AREA

The Brew 'Us Bugle recently received an email from a former Ladywood man called Tony Hill, who now lives in USA. He writes:

Hello,
I have just watched on YouTube your video with the kids looking at how things were around Clark Street and Osler Street 50 years ago. It brought back memories, as I lived in Clark Street opposite the entrance to Osler Street School for the first 21 years of my life -1947 to 1968 when the family was rehoused in Weoley Castle.

I attended the Oratory School round the corner in Hyde Road and later the senior school in Oliver Road. I'm 75 now and living in America.

I still hope to get back to the UK someday and revisit the old haunts even though it's all changed.

Thanks again for the memories.

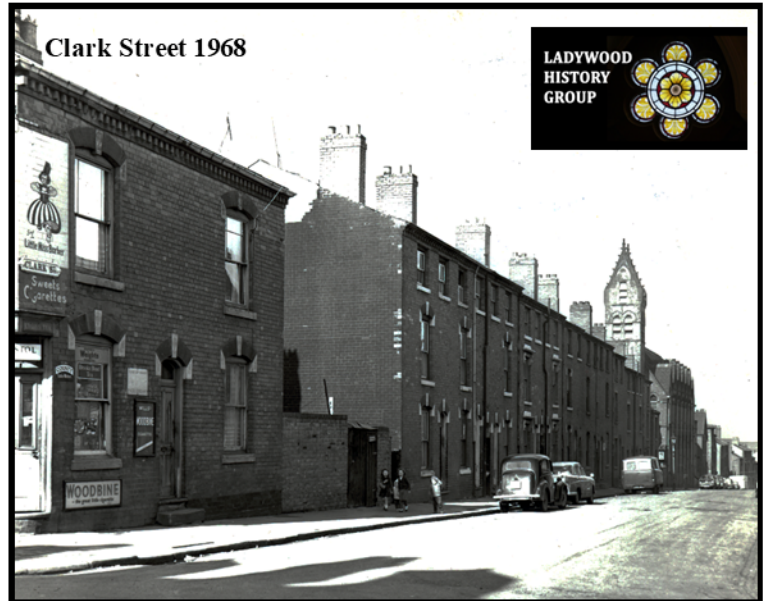
Regards Tony Hill

Norman replies:

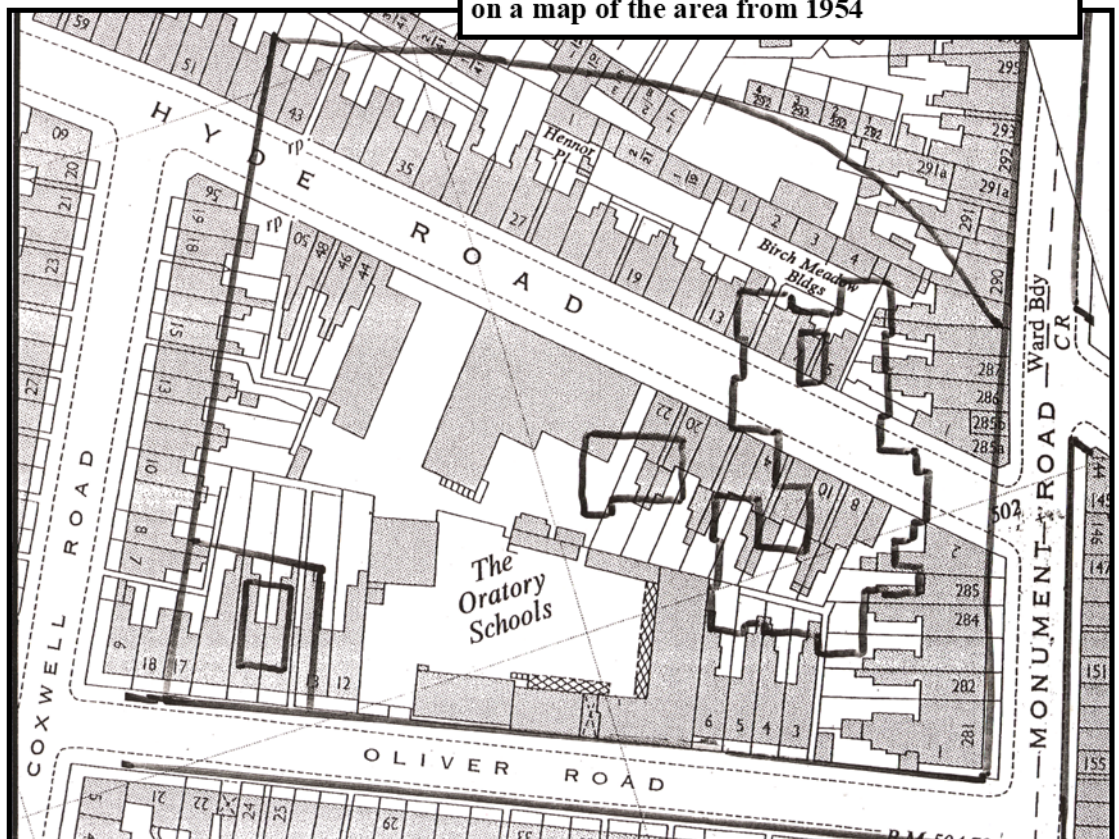
It is always good to hear from former Ladywood people especially from overseas.

The video Tony refers to was made a few years ago looking at the contrasts between the Osler Street and Clark St area and the present day it is available on our website.

It can be viewed if you scan this QR code.



The present day school (2019) as superimposed on a map of the area from 1954



BULPITT & SONS IN WWI

Although the First World War had terrible consequences many industrial concerns in the city benefitted financially from being awarded Government contracts.

Spring Hill based Bulpitt & Sons, the well-known producers of Swan Brand kitchenware was one such company and in 1919 they produced an astonishing Victory Souvenir, some of the pictures are reproduced here.



1950s and 1960s Swan Brand goods on display in the Ladywood History Group's permanent local history exhibition at Spring Hill Library



The war had made a large difference to the Company's business, and had made an enormous demand on the resources and energies of the directors and managers who had for months been working practically night and day. It had also involved a larger employment of capital to cope with the Admiralty and War Office contracts.

After the war was declared the authorities

altered the whole basis of their contracts to cope with the needs and urgency of the position. The turnover had increased very largely. It amounted to £133,000 compared with £80,000 in the previous year of 1913 and £56,000 in the year 1912.



For those of you with iPhones here's your chance to use modern technology to view stories with a World War II theme via the QR codes which take you directly to our website. If you haven't an iPhone all the stories can be accessed on TNT News. www.tntnews.co.uk



80 years ago in July 1942 a number of men were killed in Ladywood in the last major bombing raid of World War II. Enemy bombers hit the Docker's Bros paint factory. A documentary was made by TNT News in July 2012 and also features a report from BBC Midlands Today.



A memorial service and wreath laying ceremony was held on a Dutch naval vessel on the North Sea to remember the 34 crew men who went down when a submarine sank off the coast of Norway in 1940. One of those people honoured was James Spettigue from Monument Road. TNT accompanied his surviving relatives to the ceremony and compiled this unique report.



A German WWII Dornier aircraft was cleaned up after it was lifted from the seabed. A former Ladywood schoolboy, Ken Collins, recalls seeing a Dornier over Spring Hill, Ladywood in 1940. TNT saw the plane at RAF Cosford.



Two programmes from the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas on the day we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings. Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge led the tributes. Local veteran Harold Pearsall speaks about his experiences of being on the Normandy beaches during June and July 1944.



SOMME 100 is a series of six programmes produced by TNT News and Big Centre TV to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Battle of the Somme 1916-2016. The build up begins with news bulletins from the last week of June 1916 using real news stories from the newspapers of the period.

It is presented by veteran TV man Bob Hall.



The six part series, Somme 100, is presented from a Somme 100 exhibition at Oratory Church—opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Ladywood Cllr Carl Rice, in June 2016.

CHECK OUT MORE LOCAL NEWS STORIES ON TNTNEWS.CO.UK

**WE
WILL
REMEMBER
THEM**

Recalling moment of tragedy in rural England

19 YEAR-OLD PILOT KILLED WHEN HIS PLANE CRASHED INTO A CHURCH SPIRE



Wastell's official RFC photograph

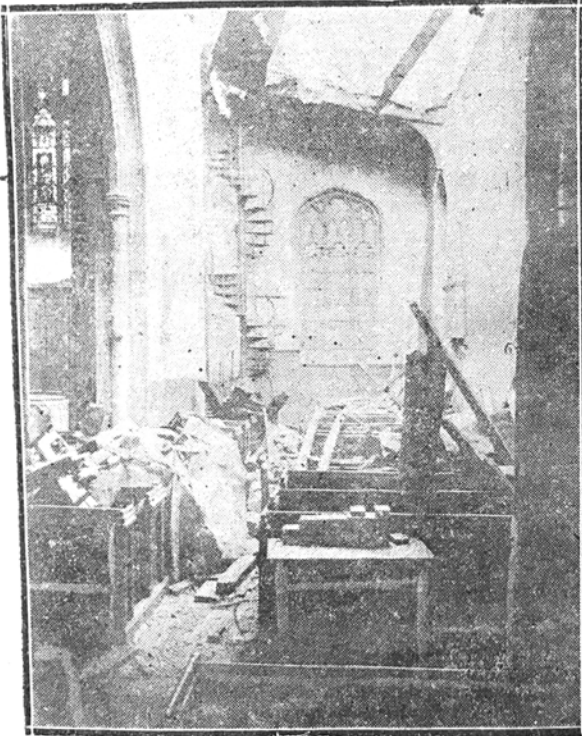
Second Lieutenant Kenneth Wastell of the Royal Flying Corps from Gillott Road, Edgbaston, was killed in a flying accident in March 1918.

The church in question was All Saints in St Ives, Huntingdonshire (now Cambridgeshire) and Kenneth was in training at nearby base known today as RAF Wyton.

On the day of the tragedy, and in days of limited technology, he landed in a nearby field to ask for directions to his air base. As he took off the plane turned and collided with the church spire and the top 40 or 50 feet was demolished, sadly the young pilot, and much of the plane ended up in the church and he died at the scene from his injuries.

Reports suggest the weather was gloomy at the time and it was a simple but fatal navigational error, however, to this day, some aviation enthusiasts maintain stresses in the wood on the aircraft may have caused the plane to veer off course.

Destruction in St. Ives Church. ^{7/12/18} _{Dec 7th 1918}



NORTH AISLE.



SOUTH AISLE.

THESE striking Photos, show the damage done to St. Ives Church, Hunts., on March 23rd, 1918, at 6.45 p.m., when its spire was smashed by an aeroplane collision. About 50 ft. of the spire fell in two portions, the plane itself falling into the north aisle, the pilot being instantly killed. In another column we give some further details of the great damage done to this noteworthy 15th Century Church. The cost of restoration will be over £7,090, towards which the Government will pay £3,873 15s., and for the balance an urgent appeal is being made. Photos. just released by Air Board.

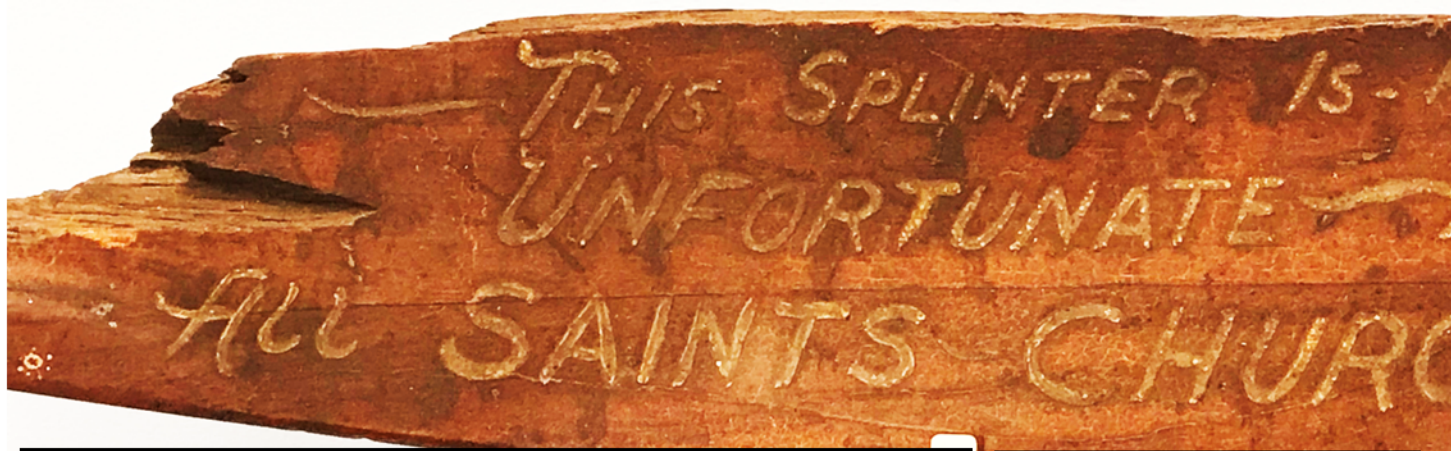
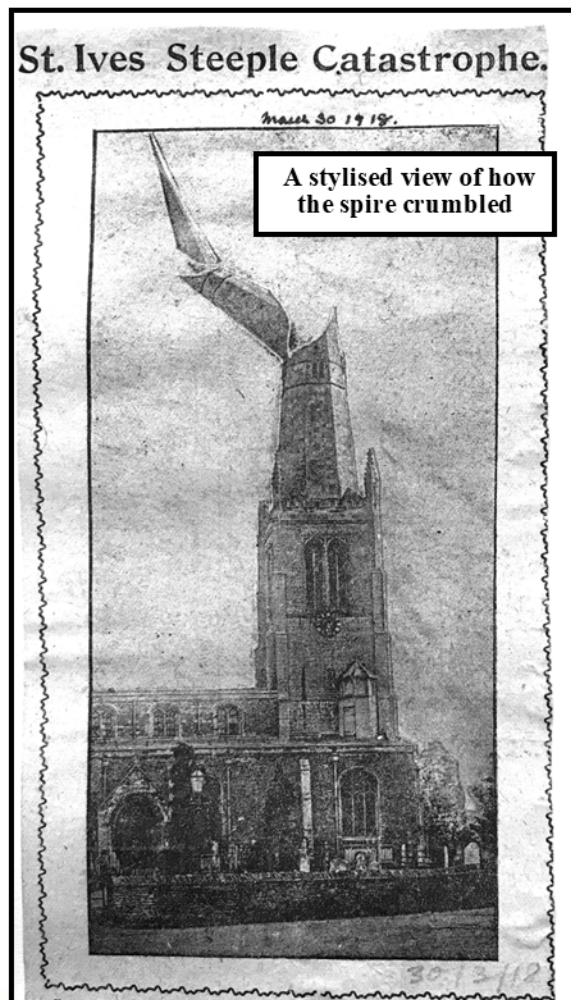
Kenneth Wastell was buried at Priory Road Cemetery in Huntingdon and he is commemorated on the War Memorial plaque at the Church of the Redeemer on Monument Road in Ladywood, Birmingham. His parents, Edgar and Annie lived at 320 Gillott Road, Edgbaston.



On a note of historical accuracy the plaque states Kenneth was in the Royal Air Force, however, he was in the Royal Flying Corps, RFC, as the RFC did not become the RAF until a few weeks after his death.

He was only 19 years old and died for his country even though he never got to serve overseas.

We will remember him.



Part of an exhibition in the excellent Norris Museum in St Ives.

The elongated piece of wood is part of the propeller which contains details of the crash and Wastell is described as the 'unfortunate airman'.

Bottom left is a photo frame made from part of the wing.

The rectangular block is a domino board from the wooden spire of the church.

A news feature about this story including an interview with Assistant Curate, at the time of recording, Alexander Shannon will be available on tntnews.co.uk shortly. Our thanks go to him.

Veteran Sports Argus man Ian Johnson shares his World Cup 1982 scrapbook

A scrapbook was produced by the Evening Mail containing colourful pages and blank pages for cuttings and Ian, who covered the finals for the Sports Argus, Birmingham Evening Mail and Birmingham Post, has kept his copy which is crammed with reports that he filed from Spain.

He recalls the help he had from England players, Peter Withe, then of Aston Villa, Trevor Francis, formerly of Birmingham City and England assistant manager Don Howe, who he knew through his stint at West Bromwich Albion – all three had established links with the Sports Argus.

This was the tournament in which Bryan Robson (ex-WBA) scored after 27 seconds against France and England topped the group winning all three group matches against France, Czechoslovakia and Kuwait. Then two 0-0 draws against West Germany and Spain meant England went home empty handed.

In the semi-final when West Germany beat France via extra time and penalties Ian recalls: 'in the noise I was shouting down the phone who had scored the penalties to the copytakers and they were saying to me on the other end 'finish, finish you've got to finish we've run out of time we can't include anymore' as the deadline for production had been reached and I shouted: 'I'm going to give you everything I've got' as I wanted to make sure they got it in the paper.

He recalls it was wonderful to see players like Italy's Paulo Rossi, who scored in the final as Italy beat West Germany 3-1 in Madrid.

Back in England Ian's sons kept the newscuttings and presented him with the scrapbook when he returned home and forty years on it is a treasured souvenir of his time working at the World Cup.



WORLD CUP PICTURE SPECIAL

ARGUS MAN'S WORLD CUP '66 SOUVENIRS FROM VILLA PARK

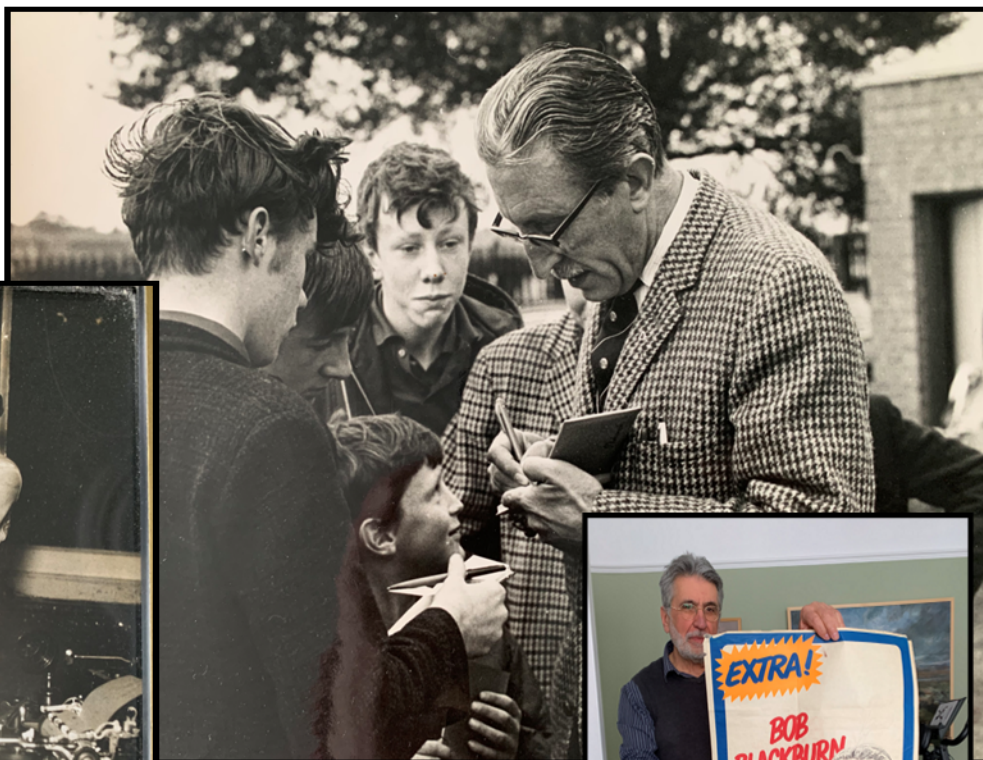


With the Qatar World Cup 2022 tournament about to start our attention has been drawn to the 1966 final, which you may recall, England won 4-2 at Wembley against West Germany. Keith Blackburn, the son of legendary Sports Argus reporter, Bob Blackburn, has unique souvenirs of his late father's role in the events of 1966 where he covered the three group games which were held at Villa Park. Bob (or Robert as he initially known in the Sports Argus) was already a well-respected reporter by the time of the 1966 finals and he was appointed to overseas the press affairs team at Villa Park.



Bob's World Cup press badge and tie, manufactured by a company owned by former Derby County and Tottenham Hotspur player Dave Mackay, hence the Spurs cockerel emblem. Mackay later managed Birmingham City 1989-1991.

Bob signing autographs outside The Hawthorns in the early 1970s and an early 1940s photo of young Bob (on the telephone) with a copytaker when he was a reporter in the early 1940s in Liverpool.



Keith, a talented artist, holds an Evening Mail poster showing his dad. This has special memories for Keith as he drew the sketch of his dad! He later drew sketches of players and these were featured in the Sports Argus and various football programmes.





Sports Argus

VILLA PARK - BIRMINGHAM

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
1966

Jules Rimet Cup



Three games were held at Villa Park during the 1966 World Cup final tournament. The Sports Argus produced parts of various editions in Spanish and German to appeal to visiting fans and to boost circulation.



Don't miss the Sports Argus tonight for a report and pictures of the match.

Achten Sie auf Sports Argus — Bilder und Bericht über das grosse Treffen.

No deje de leer esta noche el Sports Argus con una amplia reseña y fotos del encuentro futbolístico.



On the day of the final at Wembley the early edition of the paper had the headline: **IT'S EXTRA TIME**
Imagine the excitement in the newsroom as the Stop Press read: **HURST GOAL IN EXTRA TIME** followed by the result.

A later edition of the Sports Argus on the same night had a hastily redesigned front page, maybe not the best designed front page ever, but a glorious headline: **WE'RE TOP OF THE WORLD**