

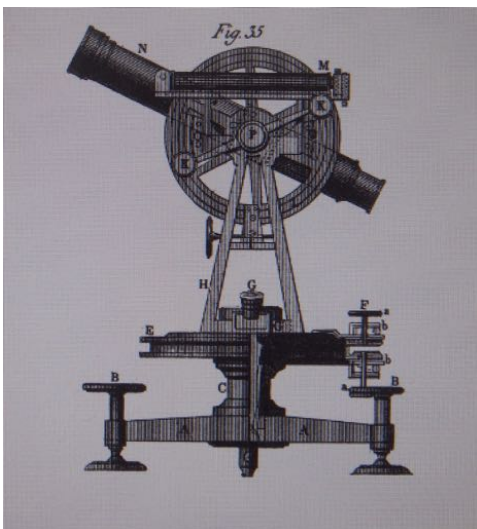


Cotgrave and District U3A

Keeping in Touch 15

Cotgrave Maps

As promised, we shall take a brief look at one or two more recent maps of Cotgrave, this week, all standard Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. OS mapping began as long ago as 1745 when a certain William Roy was given the brief to produce a set of maps of Scotland, in the interest of keeping better control of those unruly Highlanders! He did it, too, at a scale of 1.75 inches to the mile. It took him eight years. His next task was to help solve a difficulty with 'The French'!

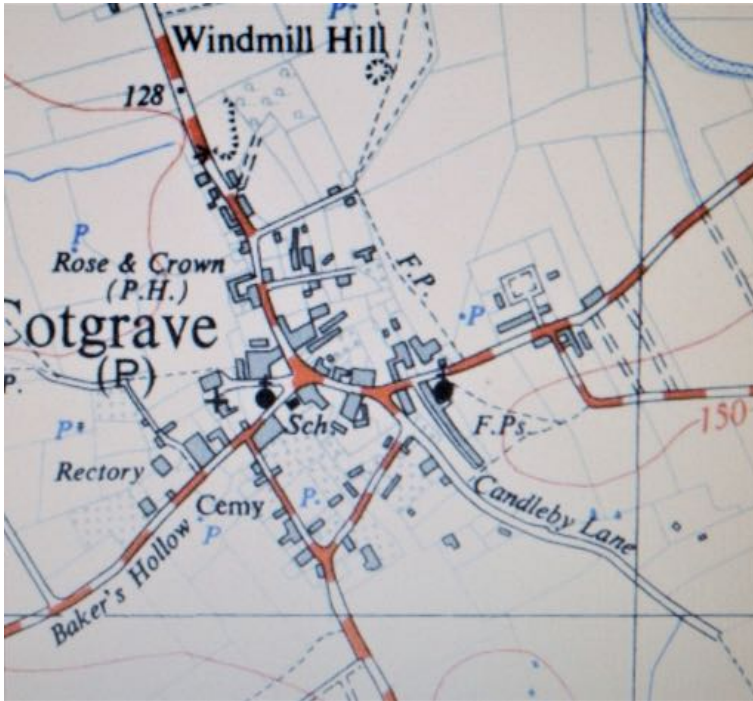


to the consternation of the gentlemen of the Royal Society of London, the French Academy of Sciences claimed, in 1784, that the latitude and longitude differences between Greenwich and Paris were incorrect, so, to resolve the issue, Roy built the largest theodolite ever known and measured these vital statistics with unprecedented accuracy. Oddly enough, there appears to be no record of who was right (!) but it stimulated the Ordnance Survey, and Roy himself, to produce an accurate survey of the whole of Great Britain. They started out in 1791 and finished the project in 1870 – though the first 1 inch to the mile map (of Kent) was published in 1801. This led to the subsequent publication of the so-called 'Leisure

Maps' which became extremely popular with walkers and cyclists during the twentieth century – some readers may remember the style of the example shown in our photograph – it dates from 1932, the very year of my birth! These 'One Inch' maps continued until 1974, when they were replaced (in the interests of metrication) by the 'Landranger' maps with a scale of 2cm to a kilometre. At the same time, the 'Pathfinder' series is also available, showing greater detail, at a scale of 4cm to a kilometre. We shall make use of all three versions in our study of Cotgrave.



The first such map (a Leisure Map) shows the village as it was in 1950 – note, again, the pentagon of roads defining the village centre and the three religious establishments with which we became familiar last week! However, in 1950, the Methodist Chapel adjoining All Saints Church was no longer functioning as a Methodist Chapel but, rather, as an Anglican Church Hall! Methodism had healed its wounds and congregated in what is the present building along Main Road. Two features to acknowledge (though they aren't named here) are Tofts Close and Chapel Yard, both of which appeared earlier - Chapel Yard is shown as a continuous long line of cottages which have long since been pulled down. Candleby Lane is hardly of any significance, petering out into

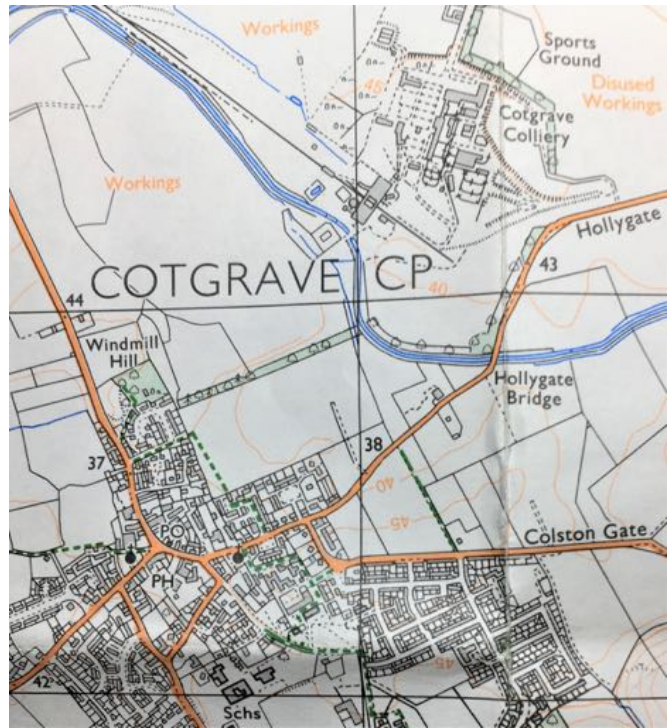


a mere footpath – this, of course, being well before the mine brought with it the accompanying housing development. An interesting point concerns the labelling of different features – the Rose and Crown pub is given considerable prominence, while the Manvers Arms is not labelled at all! Nor is the Post Office! However, the Church School is labelled. There does appear to be some degree of randomness in the labels used. Finally, note that the water pumps (the Ps) are still very much present – it would appear that it was only when the mine came along that Cotgrave's domestic facilities were finally modernised

Our next map is a Landranger map of 1989 which, of course, shows the position of the mine, together with its associated railway line, connecting to the main line to the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station (all Cotgrave's coal was used there). There are no longer any P's marked and there is now a sewage works along Woodgate Lane. Notice that there are now only two Churches/Chapels and no houses in Chapel Yard. We can hardly pick an argument with the labelling of local features because there is no labelling at all!



Finally, we look at a section of the Pathfinder map of 1990. This being at double the scale of the Landranger map, shows considerably greater detail, particularly of the mine itself and of the many new houses. There is an interesting line of trees connecting Mill Hill with the Grantham Canal, which would appear to correspond to the path through the Country Park and may well have been the path followed by miners – at least, those miners prepared to walk to work! There was, of course, a road entry from the Stragglethorpe Road which allowed miners to drive to work. With regard to labelling, we see that the Manvers Arms is marked but the Rose and Crown is not! The Post Office is marked, while the Church School is not marked but a pair of new schools are labelled. One must wonder just how the Ordnance Survey decides on its labelling philosophy!



Anyway, there endeth the second lesson on Cotgrave history. We'll think of something new for next week, but, first, I can't refrain from breaking into verse yet again to summarise the political success of the Ordnance Survey back in 1784. We mustn't let the Letter become too serious!

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Readers may be familiar with the well-known rhyme about Dutch commercial parsimony:

In matters of commerce
The fault of the Dutch
Is to offer too little
And ask for too much.

Let this, then, be our template.

In matters of science
The fault of the French
Was sticking too close
Au laboratoire bench.

While in matters of ordnance
The strength of the Brits
Was to measure the stats
To the best of their wits.

Then in ways diplomatic
(To our lasting delight!)
They chose *not* to claim
That, of course, they were right.

And, in case all this sounds unduly nationalistic, let me say that I love both Holland and France – I've worked with both Dutch and French colleagues, I've lived in Holland and I've holidayed in France – but it's good to be able to joke about them.

Nature



Rather than show more of our Art Group's work, this week, I've chosen to follow a somewhat different line. The attached photographs are stolen from The Times and I feel sure they will appeal to readers. It really is amazing how animals can come up with unexpected behavioural patterns (I think that's the right expression!). Apparently, the dog's owner found an abandoned duck egg, brought it home and hatched it out (in the airing cupboard?) and

the dog then took an interest in nurturing the resulting duckling. One can't possibly not be touched (assuming it's OK to use a double negative!).



The Polyptoton

It was just two weeks ago that we were introduced by Chris Soar to the concept of the 'polyptoton' (last week it was the quadruple negative, remember). And I have been musing upon it – also the fact that last week's Letter was totally lacking in limericks. The net result is the following:



There was a young man who was prone
To stating things close to the bone,
Or was he just lying
And prone, without trying,
To using a polyptoton.

We did manage to establish, courtesy of a rather old copy of the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, that the emphasis should be placed on the third syllable but I have, here, taken the liberty of placing it on the last syllable – how else was I to find a rhyme?

Puzzle Corner



Peter has been kind enough to send me his solutions to the 'Diseases' quiz, so here they are:



Answers

Q1:   Black Death

Q2:   foot and mouth

Q3:   TB

Q4:   swine flu

Q5:   yellow fever

Q6:    Ebola

Q7:    chicken pox

Q8:   corona virus

Q9:     typhoid

Q10:    rubella

Bonus: S  SARS

12:38

But you won't get away with it so easily – Peter Shreyhane has sent the following to keep us all busy for a little longer:

- Q1 . Which singer had a posthumous UK Number 1?
a. Fats Domino b. Buddy Holly c. Roy Orbison
- Q2. Which is the only city to have staged the Eurovision Final?
a. Bergen b. Saltzberg c. Seville d. Sligo
- Q3. Which is NOT an Australian Town?
a. Humpty Do b. Quorn c. Rockhampton d. Woolamaloo
- Q4. How many stations are there on the London Underground?
a. 170 b. 230 c. 270 d.290
- Q5. What is the depth of water immediately below the Horseshoe Falls (Canadian Niagara Falls)?
a. 25 feet b. 50 feet c. 75 feet d. 100 feet
- Q6. Is the River Trent the UK's
a. 2nd b. 3rd c. 4th d. 5th longest River
- Q7. Before it called in the Receivers, how many Shopping Centres did Intu own or part own in the UK?
a. 10 b. 14 c. 17 d. 20
- Q8. How many players in a Lacrosse Team?
a. 9 b. 10 c. 11 d. 12
- Q9. What is the Queen's second name?
a. Alexandra b. Mary c. Victoria d. Louise
- Q10. Which is England's SECOND largest county by area? Yorkshire is the largest.
a. Devon b. Lancashire c. Lincolnshire d. Norfolk

Answers in the next Newsletter.

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Chess Group

Bernie Besnard has sent me the attached photograph of the latest initiative of the Chess Group. In order to solve the 1 metre distancing problem, Yvonne Harris has acquired a large-scale chess board which allows opponents to remain the correct distance apart. He would welcome interest from other group members or, for that matter, any U3A members.



Creative Writing Group

Finally, we have the Creative Writing contributions – one from its leader, Chris Tomblin and one from John O'Dell. Thank you once again for keeping us stimulated and entertained. I well remember Egypt – I did a year of my National Service in the Canal Zone just a year or two before the military/political debacle of 1956.

The Creative Writing Group met in person for the first time since lockdown on Tuesday 23rd June in my garden. Although we have 7 active members only 6 members wanted to meet in the garden so of course we were able to follow the rules (maximum of 6 people from different households etc)

We have been much more prolific under lockdown producing 2 pieces of writing per month instead of the usual 1. Normally we just read our own piece of work to the group at meetings and have enjoyed being able to read each other's contributions at our own pace and quite often more than once. It has been great to stay in touch and be connected during this period.

It was so good to meet in person though and we all really wanted to hug each other. There was so much catching up and chatting that we almost forgot to read out our writing and get down to business.

We said goodbye to our lovely founder member Brian Franks and his lovely wife Anna who we were fortunate to have with us during lockdown although it was very frustrating for them to have their move delayed. If all went to plan, they will have been in their new home for a week at the time of publication. Good wishes from all of us in the Creative Writing Group, we will really miss you and your brilliant writing.

Royal Marine's draft to the Med. 1956 to 1957

Cyprus. June (Grey)

A posting to Paphos, oh what fun.
The change of climate and hot sun.
Journeys, on dusty, grey tracks.
A good look out for sudden attacks.

Egypt November. (Brown.)

Up the beach, no invitation.
Sun and flies, no sanitation.
A fight for the Canal.
A war that made it final.

Malta. November. (White)

The island lit by solar ray
Valletta, Sliema, Melina Bay.
St. Andrew's Barracks painted white
Most of which, a pretty sight.

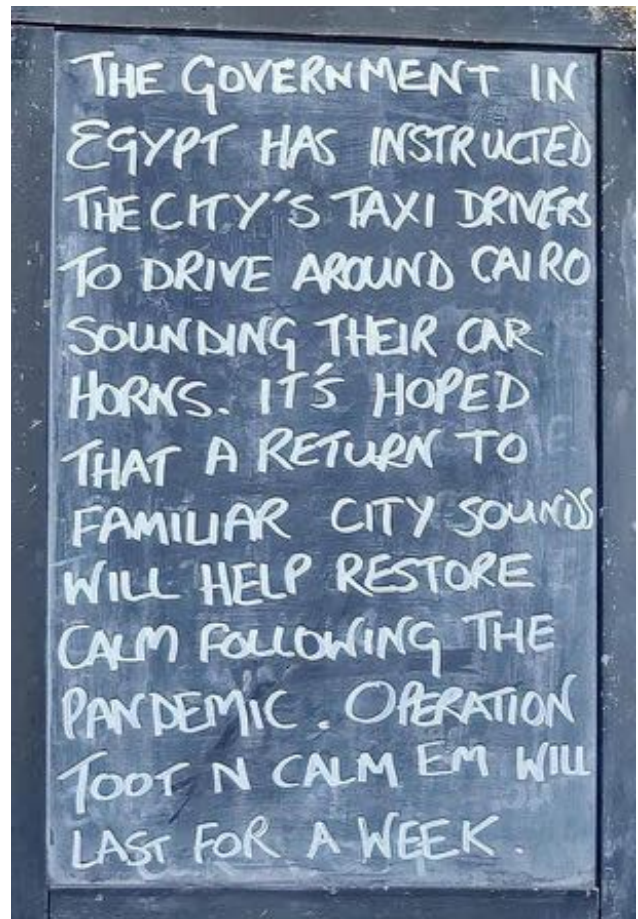
England. May (Green)

Back in England once again
And of course, a shower of rain
To see green fields, oh! what a wonder.
Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

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Talking of Egypt, reminds me that I should post the following notice – it speaks for itself! I can only wonder what Howard Carter might have thought of it.



Look after yourselves,

See you next week,

John

PS You may be amused by Sacla's operatic intrusion into the quiet of the Oxford Street Waitrose store. Just key in 'Sacla Stage Shopera' into Google and click on the video – make sure you have your sound turned on.

PPS Free to a good home, Red and White Currents and Gooseberries.
Contact Chris Soar on 07909 036600