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*Working for
Warwickshire*

PLACES TO VISIT

Places to Visit in Nuneaton and Bedworth that support Working Lives Activities

Chilvers Coton Heritage Centre, Avenue Road, Nuneaton, CV11 4LU Tel:024 7638 2198

Opening hours: Tuesday 10am -12noon or by appointment for groups including schools

An interesting collection of materials and equipment from local clay, mining and quarrying industries.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Museum, Riversley Park, Nuneaton Tel:024 7634 3559

Collections include artefacts and images from a wide range of local industries. There is an education officer and learning packages are available.

Whittleford Country Park access from Haunchwood Road and Camp Hill

The site of Haunchwood Brick and Tile Works. A heritage trail follows the outline of the works now demolished. There are interpretative sculptures and a great deal of evidence of past industry on the ground. Possible guided walks by countryside rangers or Friends of Whittleford Park.

Quarryman's Walk a towpath trail for groups and schools. See: www.quarrymanswalk.co.uk

Starts at Bridge 32 Hartshill Canal Yard and includes Hartshill Quarry, The Anchor Inn at Bridge 29, Boon's Wharf, Judkins Quarry, Midland Quarry and finishes at Tuttle Hill Bridge 23. The trail leaflet is downloadable from the website above. The website contains a range of images depicting the quarry industry past and present.

Workplace Visit

Visit to a workplace would be an important element in the project.

Please contact Nuneaton Library and mention Working Lives. The library may be able to suggest local places for visiting.

The Parsonage, All Saints Square, Bedworth

The Parsonage tells the stories of Bedworth's past including the town's cultural, industrial and agricultural past. Also shows war time life in a small mining town in WW1. The Parsonage is open Tuesdays and Fridays 10.30am - 1.00pm. Saturday 10.30am - 3.30pm. Special visits from schools and groups can be arranged by request. email: contact@bedworth-society.co.uk

Nuneaton Library and Tourist Information Centre, Church St, Nuneaton

The Local Studies collections contains a wide range of information about Nuneaton and the surrounding area including newspaper cuttings, historical and current maps, photographs and books including trade directories. Some material is for reference only, but there is a good range of material that can be borrowed by anyone with a Warwickshire County library card. Please phone before visiting for further information 02476 384027.

Bedworth Library, High Street, Bedworth

The Local Studies collections contains a wide range of information about Bedworth and the surrounding area including newspaper cuttings, historical and current maps, photographs and books including trade directories. Some material is for reference only, but there is a range of material that can be borrowed by anyone with a Warwickshire County library card. Please phone before visiting for further information 02476 312267.

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Glossary of terms

Textiles

Altered the “twists” on the machine The amount of ‘twist’ in yarn can change the strength, smoothness, and uniformity of yarn.

Anthony Eden hat A widely used name for a type of silk-brimmed, black felt Homburg hat. The style was favoured in the 1930s by Anthony Eden, a politician who later became Prime Minister in the years 1955-57.

Bobbin A spool or reel that holds thread or yarn for spinning, weaving or knitting

Bobbin boy Someone who transported bobbins from the mules to be weighed and cleaned the bobbins.

Bowler hat The bowler hat (also known as a 'derby' or 'billycock') is a hard felt hat with a rounded crown

”Changed the belts” A system of leather belts and pulleys supplied power to looms or other machinery. The belts would sometimes slip off the pulley wheel which sent the power to the loom and would need to be put back on. This was very dangerous to do when the wheels were still spinning.

Creeler A textile worker who tends the creel which holds bobbins of yarn to ensure a continuous supply of yarn.

Cutter A worker who cuts out shapes from fabric which will be sewn together to make clothing.

Dye sheds An area in a textile factory where yarn or fabric is dyed.

Fez A red felt hat in the shape of a truncated cone, of Greek origin.

Foreman/foremistress/foremiss Someone that supervises a group of workers and manages their work.

Handfinisher A worker who adds the finishing touches to garments by hand, for example adding buttons.

Jacquard loom A mechanical loom, invented by Joseph Marie Jacquard in 1801. It can produce very detailed woven designs using a system of sheets of cardboard punched with holes. Each row of holes corresponds to one row of the design. Many rows of holes are punched on each card and the many cards that compose the design of the textile can be strung together. Each hole in the card controls a hook, which can either be up or down. The hook raises or lowers the warp thread so that the weft will either lie above or below it to create the pattern.

Journeyman Someone who has completed an apprenticeship in a trade.

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Loom A device for weaving thread or yarn together to make fabric. The most basic loom is a frame which holds the upright or *warp* threads under tension so that threads (the *weft*) can be woven through them with a shuttle.

Mule room A mule is a large multi-spindle spinning machine that make fibres into yarn. A mule room is an area in a textile factory where this type of machinery is installed.

Narrow weaving Weaving narrow fabrics like ribbons, elastic and webbing

Outworker Workers who were based outside the factory, taking in work to do at home. It would usually be delivered to them and then collected when complete.

Pick A weft thread in a fabric.

Quality control A procedure to check the quality of production to ensure it meets set standards.

Reeler A worker that tends textile machinery that winds yarn.

Shuttle A device used with a loom that carries the weft thread back and forth between the threads of the warp to weave fabric.

Steam presses Large machines used to press fabric and garments to remove creases.

Tannery A place where animal skins are processed to turn them into leather

Trilby A soft felt men's hat with a narrow brim and a deeply indented crown.

Twelve and six /eighteen and six One shilling equalled 5 new pence (as we use today), so 12 shillings would equal 60p in today's money. There were 12 old pennies in a shilling.

Velour A velvet-like fabric

Winding department Winding is winding strands of yarn from bobbins or 'cakes' (a large spool of yarn) into sized packages to be sent for further processing or use

Quarrying

Ballast Crushed stone used as a bed for railway tracks. Also/or stone used as ballast on ships, to provide extra weight.

Crusher Large machinery that crushes up stone to different sizes for different uses.

Detonator A device used to set off an explosion.

Landfill site A place where rubbish is put into a large hole in the ground to be buried. Often old quarry sites are used for this purpose.

Quarry face The part of the quarry that is being worked.

Shot-firing Using explosives to break up the stone in the quarry.

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Wharf A landing area where goods could be loaded and unloaded onto canal boats.

Brickyards

Airbrick A brick with ventilation holes.

Blue yard A brickyard producing blue bricks rather than red bricks.

Bullnose bricks A type of brick with a rounded edge. Available as single or double bullnose.

Endless rope haulage A rope which has its two ends spliced together is driven by passing over a friction wheel which in turn is driven by a motor. The tubs are fixed to the rope which pulls them along rails.

Fettling Removing excess clay from the seams and edges of a moulded chimneypot before it is fired.

Gang A group of people working together to do a particular task.

Piece work A system where you are paid by how many items you make, so the faster you work, the more you are paid.

Saggars Containers made of fireclay which are used to enclose pots and protect them from the flames, smoke and gases in the kiln.

Tipping Tipping tubs containing clay or other material using a tippler to empty them.

Engineering

Alloy A metallic substance which has is composed of two or more chemical elements of which at least one is a metal. Different mixtures have different properties.

Blocking hammer A type of hammer used to shape sheet metal.

Capstan lathe A machine used to make shaped metal objects.

Cobalt A hard silver-grey metal, that is used in the preparation of magnetic and high-strength alloys.

Cutting tools Used in engineering. The part of a machine tool which comes into contact with and removes material from the workpiece by the use of a cutting medium. Also known as cutter.

Chuck/universal chuck A device that affixes to a mill, lathe or drill-press spindle. It holds a tool or workpiece by one end, allowing it to be rotated.

Die shop – Where a casting process takes place. Molten metal is forced under high pressure into the cavity of a metal mould.

Dollies A dolly is a shaped piece of metal, like a small handheld anvil, used with a hammer to shape sheet metal.

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Fettling Removing excess metal from a casting. Processes such as grinding, chipping and shot blasting are used.

Gestetner machine A machine for copying documents before the invention of photocopying.

Labour pool A group of workers who could be called on to do a variety of jobs around the works.

Lathe A tool designed for precisely machining hard materials. It removes material from a rotating object by movements of various cutting tools, such as tool bits and drill bits.

Metallurgical Metallurgy is the scientific study of metals and their alloys. In engineering, knowledge of metallurgy is used to achieve a balance between material properties such as cost, weight, strength, toughness, hardness and corrosion resistance, and performance by methods including production of alloys, shaping, heat treatment and surface treatment of the product.

Milling A machining operation where metal or other material is removed by applying power to a rotating cutter.

Munitions Military supplies, especially weapons and ammunition.

Planishing hammer A flat faced hammer used to smooth dents.

Shop boy Before becoming an apprentice, new employees may have to run errands and prove themselves capable of being good workers. At Midland Sheet Metal Works this role was referred to as the Shop Boy.

Snips A tool used to cut sheet metal.

Tail fin Part of an aeroplane or a bomb designed to fly through the air.

Turning A way of removing material from a rotating workpiece, usually with a single-point cutting tool in a lathe.

Welding A fabrication process that joins metal by melting the work pieces and adding a filler material to form a pool of molten material that cools to become a strong joint.

Wheeling A technique to shape sheet metal into curved three-dimensional shapes, for example to form car body panels, using Wheeling Machine or English Wheel. This is a device made up of a upper and lower wheel, the sheet metal being moved between them.

Alison Clague

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Notes on three important local companies

Haunchwood Brick and Tile Company Notes

Geology of area:

Nuneaton is on edge of East Midland Plateau with:

- Red and Grey Marls
- Grey Shales and Sandstones
- Stockingford Shales
- Hartshill Quartzite

Area has long history of coal mining and brick and tile manufacture.

In the 19th century Warwickshire had over 80 brick and tile manufacturers, many in the Nuneaton and Bedworth area. By 1960s majority of the trade had ceased due to:

- clay supply diminished (in quality and quantity)
- unable to compete against more modern production methods introduced elsewhere in Midlands (South Staffs and Leicestershire)
- 1968 Clean Air Act restricting emissions of smoke – NB smoke needed in process of blueing bricks.

Many brickyards were associated with collieries – clay was removed as the shafts were sunk and used to manufacture bricks for the colliery buildings. In some cases the brick-making industry was more lucrative than coal mining and continued after the mines were closed. This was the case in the Whittleford area where coal mining had a long history stretching back in the 14th century.

Haunchwood Colliery was operating pre 1740s (land leases of 1732 recorded). It was later called Nowells Colliery and closed in 1925. The shafts were fitted with submersible pumps to prevent neighbouring collieries from flooding.

Nuneaton Colliery (other side of Whittleford Road) shown on 1903 OS map but not on 1887 OS map. Haunchwood Tunnel Colliery operated between 1891 and 1967.

A number of small brickyards manufacturing blue bricks existed in the area before and during this coal mining activity e.g. Henry Green, 1687, brick and tile maker recorded at Stockingford.

Haunchwood Brick and Tile Works established by James Knox in 1860s. He was a Scottish Engineer with mining interests in Nottinghamshire. It is said that he was passing through the area by train when he noticed bands of good quality purple blue clay exposed in the new railway cutting at Stockingford. He took over one of the existing brickyards and with partners expanded it into one of the principle brickyards in England.

The Haunchwood Brick and Tile Company had 3 yards:

No 1 Yard (now Whittleford Park) manufactured blue bricks, rustics, briquettes and chimney pots (reference also to bull-nosed and double bull-nosed, best blues, hard reds) (Yard closed in 1969, demolished 1971)

No 2 Yard manufactured red bricks, quarry tiles and class B bricks (Yard closed 1946, demolished in 1966)

No 3 Yard (Bermuda) made chimney pots and salt-glazed pipes (closed 1965, demolished c1969)

NB other products probably also made at each site – see company catalogues for reference. Well

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known product of Haunchwood Brick and Tile Co was the 'Rosemary Roof Tile'.

Clay Pits at Yard No 1:

From OS map evidence – first clay pit is adjacent to the brickyard buildings, second clay pit dug on south eastern side of railway line between 1887 and 1903. This was also a sand pit. Third clay pit appears to north west of Haunchwood Colliery site on 1924 map with tramway running from it, through tunnel under rail lines serving colliery and then to edge of first clay pit. This tramway further extended by 1955 beyond 3rd clay pit to Whittleford Road, where what may be a 4th clay pit shown to the south of the cemetery (colliery disused by this time).

Processes at No 1 Yard:

Clay was excavated and stock-piled to allow it to weather. In poor weather, when unable to work in clay pit (due to frost or heavy rain) waste clay that had been stored in sheds was processed. Very heavy work using picks and shovels – site had powder store so blasting also carried out. Men worked all day long with few breaks. Clay loaded into tram tubs (4 at a time) carried along a double track cable hauled tramway (34) to processing mill (21). Dangerous work – no safety equipment – clay face could fall and hit men working beneath also danger of getting feet tangled in tramway cable (described by one worker as ¾" thick). A Control House controlled the tramway cable. In later years site invested in mechanical digger, but the vibrations it caused resulted in the clay mixes becoming unpredictable and resulting in lower quality bricks which cracked on firing.

The clay holes had different seams of clay. When the yard wanted to change the type of brick it was producing the office phoned the clay hole to tell them to change the type of clay there were excavating e.g. from blue clay to fire clay. The tubs carrying fire clay were marked to show their contents were different.

Four tubs arrived together at the brickyard where the clay was tipped (via the Tippler) down a 45 degree slope into a large hopper (36) that was pulled up to the Top Mill (21) by a steel cable. Four tubs a minute could be emptied into the tippler. When the tippler was full a bell was rung to let the man in the mill know it was full. He pulled it up, emptied it and it was back down to be filled again in 3 minutes. When the tram tubs were emptied they were clipped back onto the cable to go back to the clay hole. Continuous process.

At the mill the raw clay was processed (milled using 2 sets of crushing rollers) into fine clay dust. It was mixed with water to make a workable clay and fed down a chute to the Drying Sheds (22). It may have had other ingredients added at the milling stage to affect the final colour or texture e.g. sand. The mill worked non-stop so the clay supply had to be non-stop as well. Working in the Mill was hot – the men wore shorts and boots.

The prepared clay was then transferred to the Drying Sheds (22) in one foot square blocks. In the Drying Sheds the clay was shaped into bricks and other products. It arrived via a chute where blocks were cut off using a wire cutting knife. Clay blocks for building bricks were loaded into a machine which made an indentation. 1" thick blue pavers with diamond patterned surfaces were made via machine pressing. The HBW stamp was also put into the wet bricks at this stage. Women tended to work the presses. In early 1960s yard had order for threepenny bit shaped blue floor tiles for new Coventry Cathedral – special press made to produce these.

The wet bricks were loaded onto boards and transferred to the drying sheds by a long barrow with 2 handles and 4 legs. Four boards were stacked on each barrow.

In the drying sheds the bricks were laid out on the floor end up. The floors were made up of 'molt tiles' which had holes in them to allow ventilation (warm air?). Once through this initial drying process the bricks were transferred to the kilns by lifting onto oiled boards and then

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onto fish carts (barrows with a wheel at the centre). Up to 48-50 full-sized bricks were carried on each barrow. Stacking the barrows was a skilled job – needed to ensure barrow was balanced to make it easy to push. Bricks and brickettes (small decorative bricks used for fireplaces and ornamental work) were carefully stacked either side of the wheel and then over the wheel to achieve a central weight load. The barrow had two stumps at the front – the weight could be put onto these for turning.

Chimney pots were carried two at a time on a flat barrow with four wheels. The barrow had a leather covering and a 'dip' in the middle to support the pots. Care had to be taken because if the barrow hit a bump the pot could collapse.

(Mechanised moulding generally introduced into brick yards in the 19th century. Hand moulding in Midlands area tended to be 'slop moulding' until 20th century. Moulder wets the mould and places it on the bench and fills with soft clay. The moulded item is then laid on a sanded 'flat' to dry for a day before being set on the 'hack' or main drying floor. Drying process could take 3 to 6 weeks unless heated drying floors used. These heated by under-floor flues piping hot air from a furnace or steam from the works engine. Bricks were set on end in a single layer on these floors.)

From the Drying Sheds the bricks etc were wheeled to the kilns and ovens by gangs of men (usually 4 per gang + a Setter who set the bricks in the kiln). The gang ensured the Setter had a continuous supply of bricks. They were set in sections with spaces between to allow the hot air to circulate. Between the layers, sand (white and yellow sand mix) was thrown over the bricks to prevent them from sticking together.

When the kilns were full, piles of loose bricks called 'baggins' were located between the fires and the bricks to prevent the flames from reaching the new bricks (not 100% certain about this – confusing description). Archways were built using bricks called 'plinths' in which the fires were set. The coal fires were lit and the entrances blocked up using piles of loose bricks and daub (sandy clay mix) to seal the gaps. There were specialist 'firemen' who lit and checked the fires. The fires were set using a mix of coal and DS nuts depending on the heat required. DS nuts generated more heat.

The bricks were stacking inside the kilns right to the top. On the top of the kilns were bricks with holes in through which a metal rod was placed (uncertain description of how this indicated when the firing was complete – maybe the rod was a thermometer?). To check the firing process the top hole (that had been sealed with daub) was opened and a brick taken out to check if it was ready. If not the hole was sealed back up again.

There were also 'manholes' inside the kilns that led to the chimney for a draw of air. The number of these depended on the size of the kiln. The bricks were stacked over these to form an arch. The tunnels to the chimneys were large enough for a man to go down to carry out repairs.

The temperature of the kilns was recorded on a 'graph' in the cabin (uncertain description of this – linked to thermometer in kiln?). It generally took 1½ to 2 days for a firing.

Removing the bricks from the kiln was called 'drawing' the kiln. The daubed up entrances were knocked in to allow the heat to escape. After a length of time the men went in to remove the brick. They wore special leather hand protectors as the bricks had very sharp edges. If any bricks had stuck together a rubber mallet was used to tap them apart. The sand that had been used to cover the bricks had to be riddled out. This was hot work – the men didn't need to wear shirts. The bricks were then taken by barrow again across the railway cutting, over a wooden plank, to the 'Bank' where they were stacked. While stacking the men rested the barrow against their leg and picked up four or five bricks at a time.

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From the Bank the bricks were loaded into railway wagons or onto lorries (formerly horses and carts) for distribution. The gang would throw bricks (four or five at a time) to a man who would stack them on the wagon. A lot of blue building bricks were exported to Ireland. A local lorry firm 'Farmer's Transport' carried bricks all over country. There were usually 10 of these lorries at the yard at any one time.

The yard had a number of different types of kilns. Flat Kilns (23) were used for firing building bricks and were fed from the side (these were long kilns - Hoffman Kilns?). Two sets of round kilns (ovens – were these beehive downdraught kilns?) – (24) where plain and diamond patterned, 2 inch thick pavers and hand-made coving were fired. (27) where bull-nose and oval shaped brickettes and fancy goods were fired. Oval-topped Kilns (26) which had 12 fire holes on each side. Chimney pots were also fired in the round kilns. *(To change dried mud into stone the bricks must be fired at 950-1150°C (1742 - 2102°F).*

Machinery was powered by steam engines (well kept with polished brass). The engines were fed by a mix of coal and slack that arrived on site by railway wagon. Men emptied 1 – 3 of these wagons a day onto a conveyor belt.

Workers entered the yard through a small gate next to the main gated entrance off Haunchwood Road (17). They walked down the road and over the railway bridge (Bridge No 31 across the Birmingham to Leicester Line) to the main office where they clocked in. The working week (during war years) was 5½ days (including Saturday morning).

Boilers closed down at end of Sat morning shift – 'letting off steam'. Over the weekend the man who fired the kilns and the man who stoked the ovens remained on duty.

In the 1960s yard employed 150 – 200 people. The working day was 7.30am to 5pm with half hour for lunch. Overtime was also available. Wages at HB & T were low compared to other local employers (£12 - £15 per week compared to timber yard which paid £18 per week).

Gangs worked on piecework.

1959 AGM refers to £53K for modernisation of No 1 Yard (doesn't state what this included). Also refers to No 1 Yard resuming manufacture of hand finished high quality facing bricks following rise in available labour after shortage during war years.

1961 AGM reports difficulty in obtaining quality workforce with ref to Peterborough yards employing foreign labourers.

1962 AGM reports mechanisation taking place while yards still operating.

1963 AGM reports cold winter causing low outputs and high costs.

1967 AGM reports amalgamation of company with Lewis (British Ceramic Research Assoc) and a reorganisation survey of No 1 Yard.

1968 AGM refers to Clean Air Act and need for smoke emissions to be curtailed. Concern that yards may have to close as smoke is needed in the blueing of bricks.

1969 AGM reports decision to close Haunchwood

Additional Archive Resources for Haunchwood Brick and Tile:

Haunchwood Brick and Tile Co Catalogue (Nuneaton Library) LC 691.4

Reg Bull Collection – photographs of Nuneaton life 1950s and 60s

Geoff Edmunds photographs – in ownership of Peter Lee

Painting of James Meldrom Knox in Nuneaton Library

Maps – Nuneaton Library – OS 1887, 1955, 1903, 1924 + Geological Maps + Titheable Land Map 1842

Company Catalogue c1970 – Warwickshire Record Office (CR 2816 / 411)

Aerial photographs of all 3 yards – Warwickshire Record Office (CR 1610)

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Minutes of AGMs 1903 – 1970 – Warwickshire Record Office (CR 2293 / 7)

Other local points of interest:

Memorial obelisk in front garden of Colliery House in Whittleford Road dedicated to men from Nuneaton (New) Colliery who served in Great War

When a member of a brick workers family died the workers often made special glazed commemorative plaques to place on the graves. Can still be found in local cemeteries

Haunchwood bricks used in construction of Town Hall

Haunch wood bricks and tiles used in late Victorian and Edwardian housing in Nuneaton and Bedworth. In particular Manor Court Road and Earls Road Nuneaton have excellent examples of late Victorian houses.

Carol Parr

Hart and Levy Limited Notes

‘Everywhere in Britain someone is wearing clothes made in Nuneaton.’

This branch of Hart & Levy Ltd, Leicester Merchant Tailors, was established in 1910, in Central Avenue, Nuneaton, with a floor space of 4000 square feet. By 1951, this had increased to 14,000 square feet. The factory made “Harlevia” suits, coats and other Outerwear.’

A large part of the factory was destroyed in May 1941 by an enemy landmine.

‘Rebuilt in 1946, the Hart & Levy Nuneaton factory is an up-to-date and modern business plant – completed equipped with Conveyor Belt System with Fluorescent Lighting...with model Washrooms for male and female workers...with a Works Canteen providing hot meals and light refreshments at low prices...and with a recently opened Clinic, Surgery and Welfare Department supervising worker health and environment.

‘WORKERS WANTED: Hart & Levy are always ready to take on good and loyal workers – both recruits to the trade and skilled hands. Useful work, good pay, a steady job can be guaranteed to those who “measure up” to our standards.

Source: *Nuneaton. The hub of industrial England. Industrial Exhibition, 4th – 9th June 1951*, 40pp promotional booklet, printed by W. Cawthorne & Son. Filed in Nuneaton Library Local Studies Section Vertical File ‘Industries and Trades’.

Related interviews: WL20, WL26

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Toye, Kenning and Spencer Notes

Claims 300 years in business

1685 - Guillaume Henri Toyé, a Huguenot weaver fled to London disguised as a cattle dealer to escape Louis XIV's persecution of French protestants (no citation). Settled in Hope Town (Bethnal Green) – began weaving silk, velvet, gold and silver laces. His sons carried on business until 1793 when great grandson Charles set up his own factory in Camden to produce gold and silver threads, cords, laces, braids, naval and military accoutrements.

1835 William Toye broke away starting own firm, forerunner of present firm.

Changes in military dress away from gold braids etc.

William Toye's eldest son (no name given) built brand new factory in Bethnal Green – diversified into producing regalia, embroidered and hand-painted banners and ornamental sashes for friendly societies and emergent trade unions. Also introduced metalwork, and company began making sporting trophies and cups

Toye's continued to prosper, surviving 1914-18 war and depression in the 1930s. Took over lots of small firms which had been in danger of disappearing.

'The coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1937 kept Toye's busy for many months working day and night on banners, emblems, robes and insignia. And following similar work for the coronation of the present Queen in 1953 the firm was granted the Royal Warrant.'

1956 – George Kenning and Spencer, makers of ceremonial insignia, taken over by Toye's and name Toye, Kenning and Spencer adopted in 1962

1968 – holding company Toye & Company floated on the Stock Exchange.

1969, January – Bryan Toye takes over as chairman following the death of his father.

1982 – restructuring of the company, and 3 autonomous companies formed under umbrella of Toye & Company plc in addition to Toye, Kenning and Spencer Ltd: Toye, Kenning and Spencer (Birmingham) Ltd, concentrating on insignia, medals, badges, trophies and awards; Toye, Kenning and Spencer (Bedworth) Ltd, comprising textile products and screen print, fraternal societies and uniform accoutrements divisions, operating from Bedworth and Nuneaton (East Borough Way); and Johns Taylor, Poston and Co. Ltd. Trading in jewellery and silverware.

1983 – Toye Corporate Clothing Ltd formed – new area of business

Today (ie 1985)

Main business is identity

'The firm takes advantage of the latest technology with screen printing, computerised looms for weaving ribbon, and the most modern equipment to produce "insert badges". Yet it still employs many of the traditional skills which date back centuries, such as hand embroidery, making military accoutrements in gold and silver thread and hand enamelling.

Still manufacture vast range of military uniform accessories.

'The firm has one department which must be unique in this country. Based at Bedworth, it is capable of kitting out a military band or designing the uniforms and equipping the entire services of an overseas government. From highland brogues for a pipe band to truncheons for a police force, the department claim they have never let a customer down.'

'Millions of woven, embroidered and screen printed badges are turned out for the armed, uniformed and other services every year at the Bedworth factory. Hundreds of miles of ribbon are woven on traditional and computerised looms, from cap ribbons for police forces and the royal yacht Britannia to medal ribbons for governments around the world. Salvation Army hat bands are woven in scores of languages – including Chinese.

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In the same factory, teams of embroideresses create exquisite hand embroidered work in gold and silver thread, including magnificent banners and regimental colours.'

Supplying Rotary International since 1911

Toye Corporate Clothing at Nuneaton specialise in corporate identity clothing. Have a design team and have produced the England Football team caps including Beckham's 100th cap

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