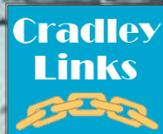


# 150 Years of Two Gates Ragged School



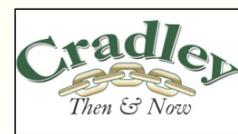
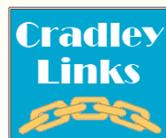
150 Years of  
**Two Gates Ragged School**

***Cradley Then & Now***

welcome you to

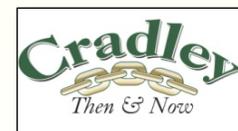
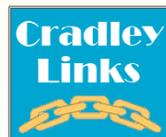
**Cradley Day - 2016**

Visit our website: [www.cradleylinks.co.uk](http://www.cradleylinks.co.uk)



# 150 Years of Two Gates Ragged School

**Two Gates Ragged School Sesquicentenary  
project marking 150 years of this chapel is  
funded by a Sharing Heritage grant from  
Heritage Lottery Fund.**



# 150 Years of Two Gates Ragged School

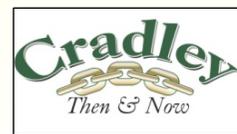
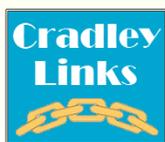
## How to get involved:

- Share your photos and documents
- Take part in recording your memories
- Write down your story and hand it in

# 150 Years of Two Gates Ragged School

## Contact:

- Barry Willetts (Supt): **01384 561424**
- Midland Film & Art: **01384 635969**
- Email: **[midlandfilmmandart@hotmail.com](mailto:midlandfilmmandart@hotmail.com)**





Cradley Then & Now meet on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.

For further details contact:

Jill Guest **01384 635241**

Email to: **jillguest18@hotmail.com**

Visit the website: **<http://www.cradleylinks.co.uk>**

# Two Gates Ragged School

## VESTRY CINEMA

Today's screenings in the Vestry Cinema of Limited License movies

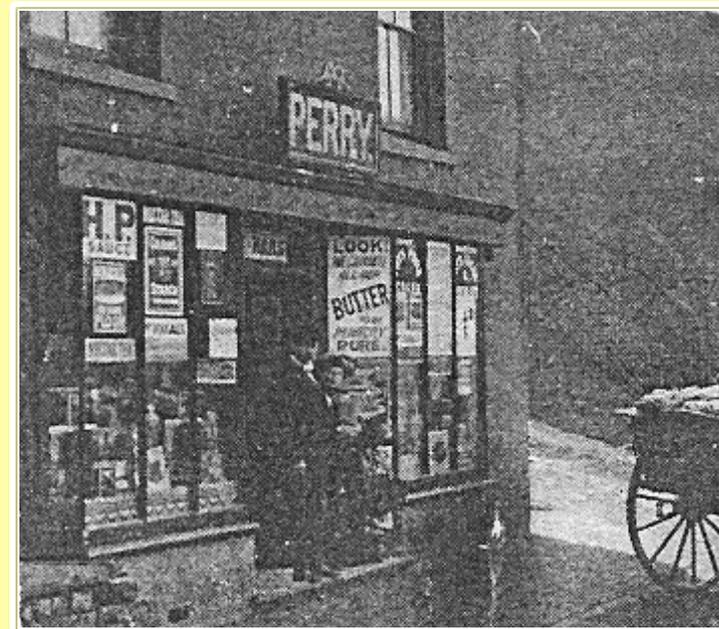
MIDLAND FILM AND ART			
Film Shows			
1 <sup>st</sup> Show	Movie Title:	(Time)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Show
11:00	Cradley Early History	(11m)	14:00
11:15	Flint Fields of Oldnall	(10m)	14:15
11:30	Beech Tree Colliery	(20m)	
12:00	The Children's Friend (Joe Stevens – extended)	(17m)	
12:30	Chainmaking	(17m)	
13:00	Clifford Willetts (extended)	(20m)	
13:30	Brickmaking 'a forgotten industry'	(15m)	



# Harry Perry

## 1<sup>st</sup> Superintendent

Harry kept the shop on  
Two Gates opposite to  
Toys Lane



A sepia-toned portrait of an elderly man with white hair and a full white beard. He is wearing a dark, high-collared coat over a white shirt and a dark bow tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera.

# Noah Hingley

(1796-1877)

**One of the founders of  
Two Gates Ragged School**

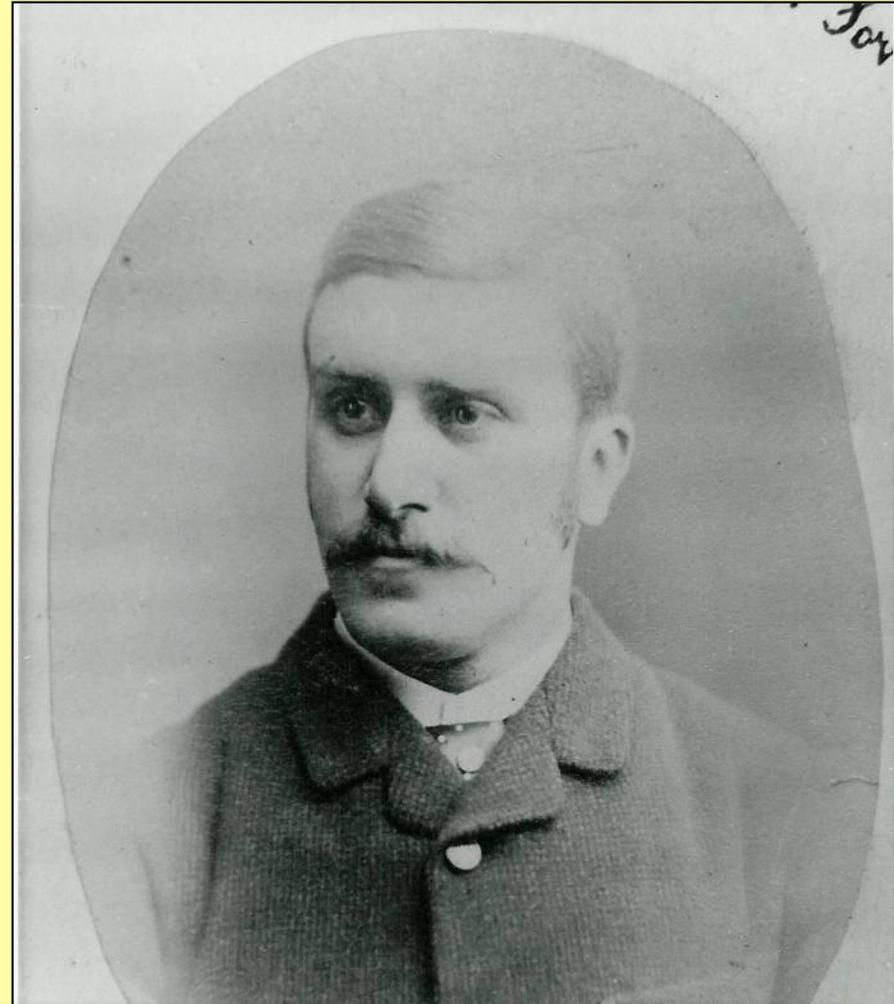
Noah was a churchwarden at Cradley Chapel and an Ironmaster who started his chain works in Cradley in 1839 before moving to larger premises at Netherton

# John Forrest

## Superintendent

Born at San Cristobal  
in Spain, 1859.

Was the manager of  
Whitley Colliery,  
Halesowen



His classes were popular and a note made on June 28<sup>th</sup> 1881 showed:-

- average morning attendance 120
- average afternoon attendance 152

John grew up with his first language being Spanish.  
He arrived in England in 1865.



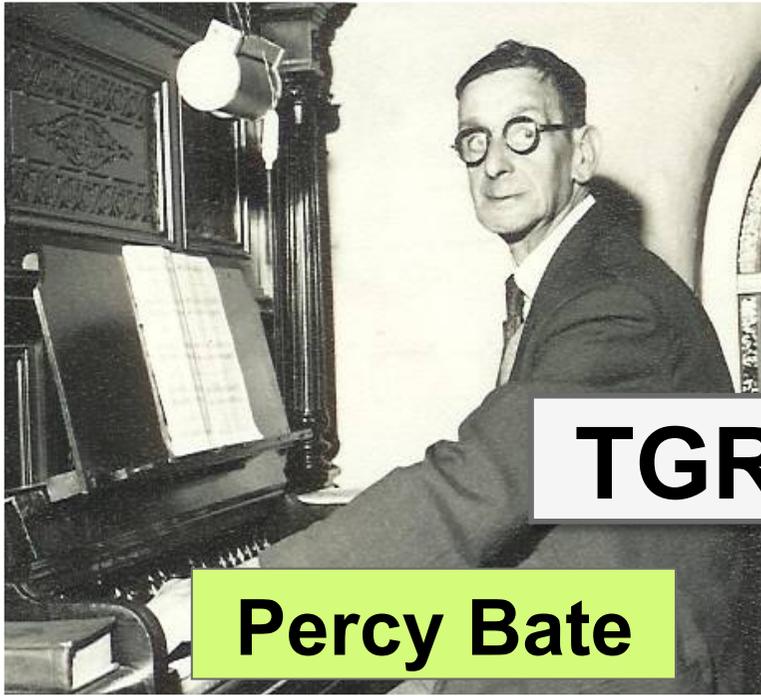
Winners of the Woodhouse Shield 1936



**Mrs Phoebe Bloomer**  
**President**  
**Two Gates 'Bright Hour'**

Phoebe attended the Sunday afternoon ladies class and also the normal 6:00pm evening chapel service.

She led Two Gates 'Bright Hour' for ladies which was held at 3:00pm on Tuesday afternoons.

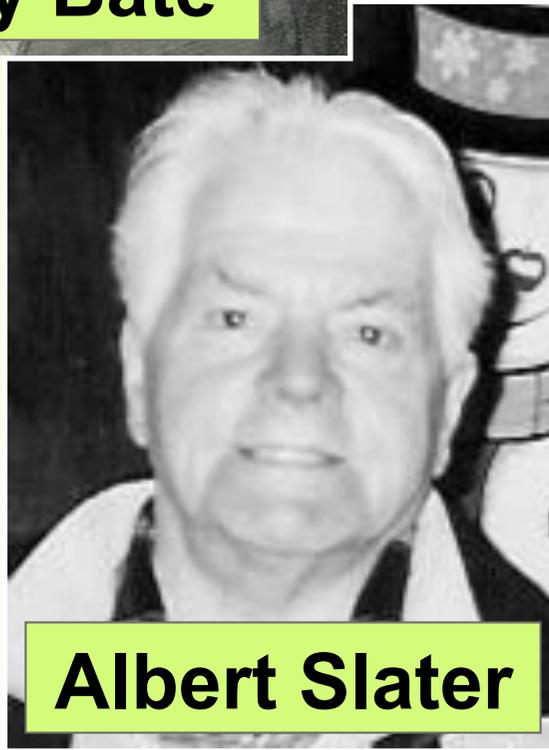


**Percy Bate**

**TGRS Organists**



**Eddie Truman**



**Albert Slater**



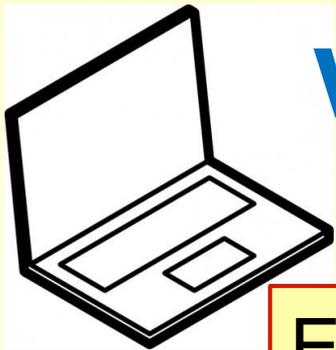
**Harry Clift**



# GEOCACHING

## 3 Steps to Begin Your Adventure!

Step 1: Create a free geocaching account.



[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

Explore, find and log geocaches around the world. You can also get access to more tools to make geocaching even better with a Geocaching Premium membership.

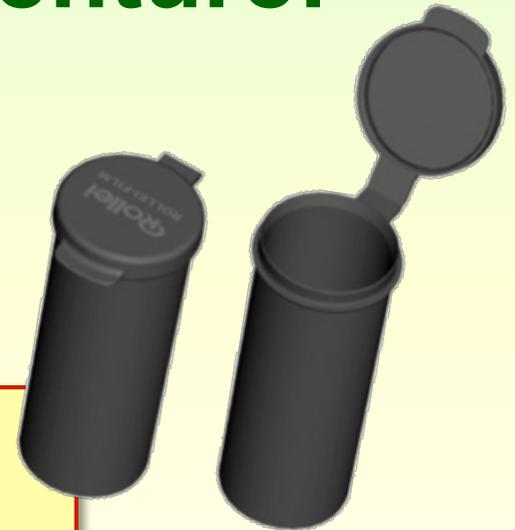


# GEOCACHING

## 3 Steps to Begin Your Adventure!

**Step 2:** Find a geocache.

Use Geocaching.com or the official Geocaching® apps for iPhone and Android to pick a geocache and navigate to its location.





# GEOCACHING

## 3 Steps to Begin Your Adventure!

### Step 3: Share your experience.



Once you find it -

- sign and date the logbook,
- re-hide the geocache exactly how you found it, and
- share your experience online.



# GEOCACHING

## How to find our geocache

**Title:** Cradley Trail Ragged School

**Geocache Ref:** G C 3 P 6 Y 9

**Co-ordinates:** N 52° 27.322 W 002° 05.239  
British Grid: SO 94164 84163

### Description:

A 35mm film canister set in the grounds of Two Gate Ragged School. Due to tree cover co-ordinates may be a bit out.



## Cradley Early History

The first sign of human occupation in Dudley Borough was found at Cradley in 2001, this was a chert axe head of the Palaeolithic period, made by a forerunner of our own species, a proto Homo Sapien Neanderthal. It dates to about 475,000 BC and was authenticated by Birmingham University

John Hemingway (2005)

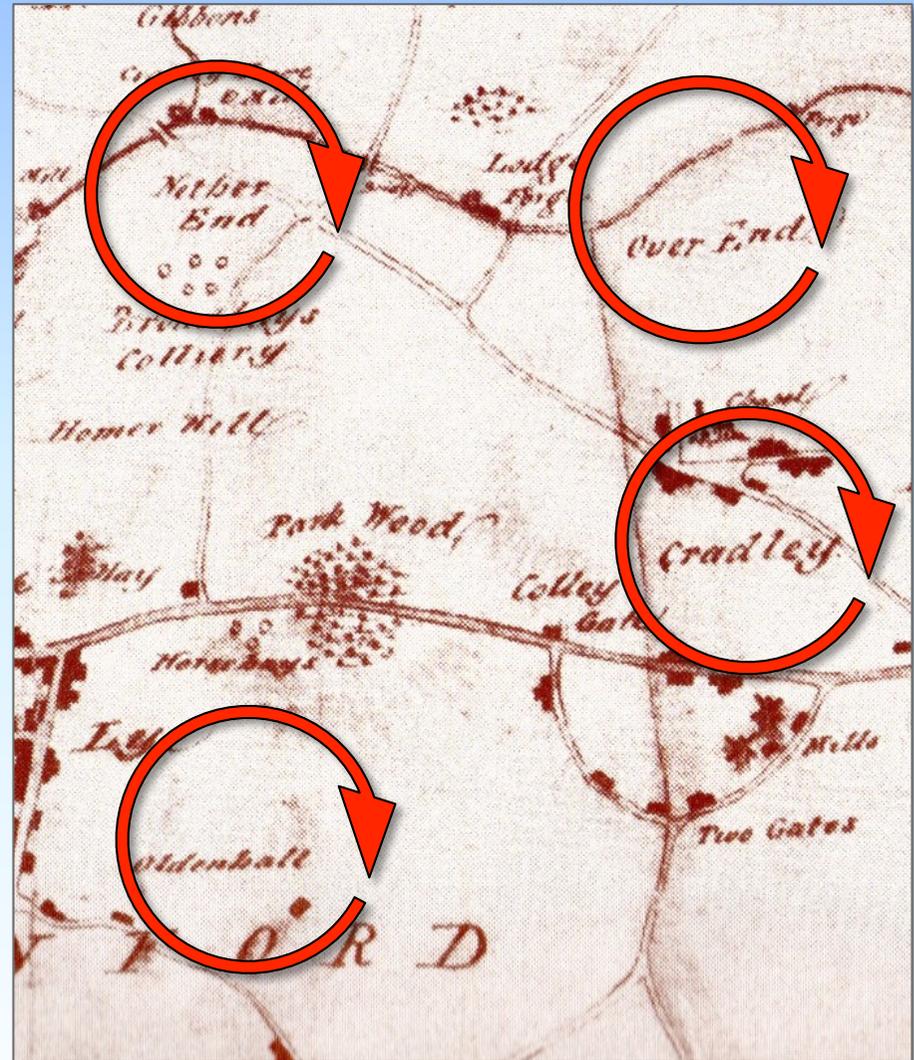


# Cradley Early History

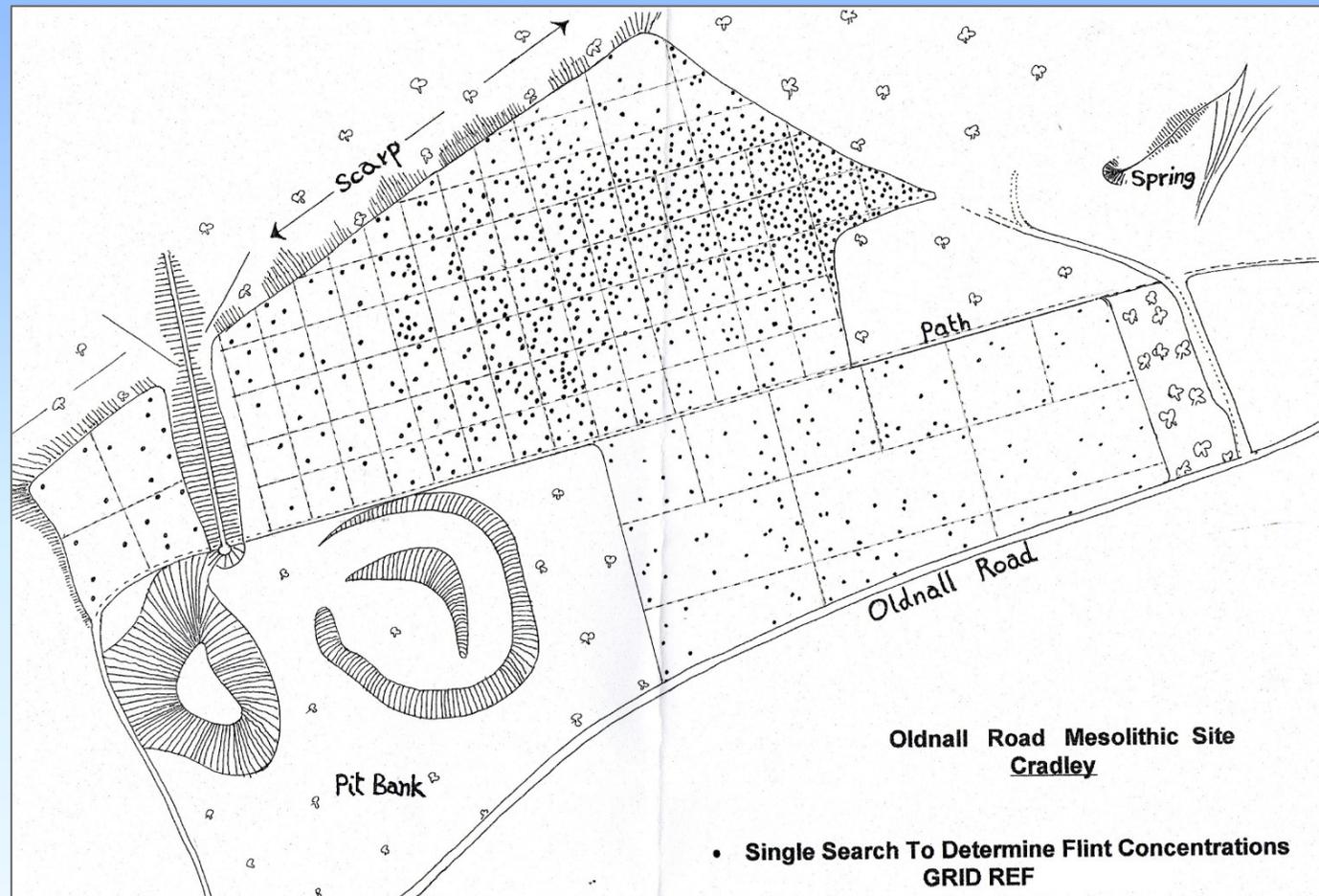
A landscape study shows that there were four main settlements in the medieval period:

- Netherend,
- Overend,
- Cradley and
- Oldnall.

John Hemingway (2005)



# Cradley Early History



## Oldnall Flint Fields

Nearly 6,000 struck pieces of flint dating to Mesolithic times (Middle Stone Age) have been found on Oldnall fields.

# Cradley Early History



## Oldnall Flint Fields

Also found were arrowheads from the later Neolithic and Bronze Ages, as well as a pottery shard from the Iron Age. A dolphin brooch and a glass phial dating from the first four centuries AD, suggest that at one time there was a Romano-British farmstead at Oldnall.

# **Cradley Early History**

## **The Broadstone**

Formed some 280 million years ago during the carboniferous period, this ancient stone weighs some 15 cwt. A map dated 1610 shows it as a boundary marker between the parishes of Cradley and Lutley at Foxcote Lane. Local folk believed it capable of granting wishes. 'Spit upon it and wish'. Brought from Foxcote Lane and placed here by residents of Two Gates, 27<sup>th</sup> August 1967

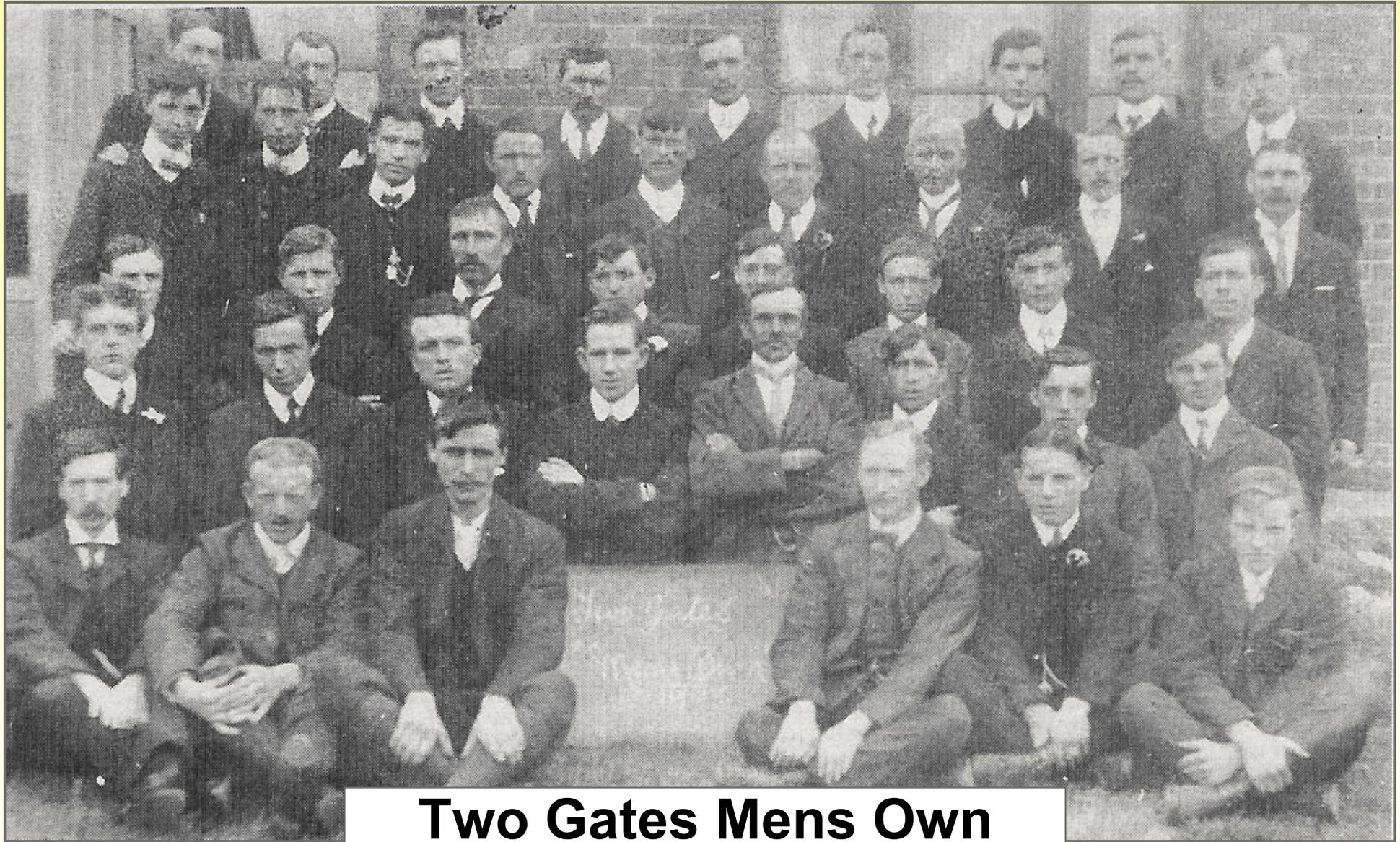
**Volunteers will help you find the Broadstone in the chapel grounds.**

# Cradley Early History

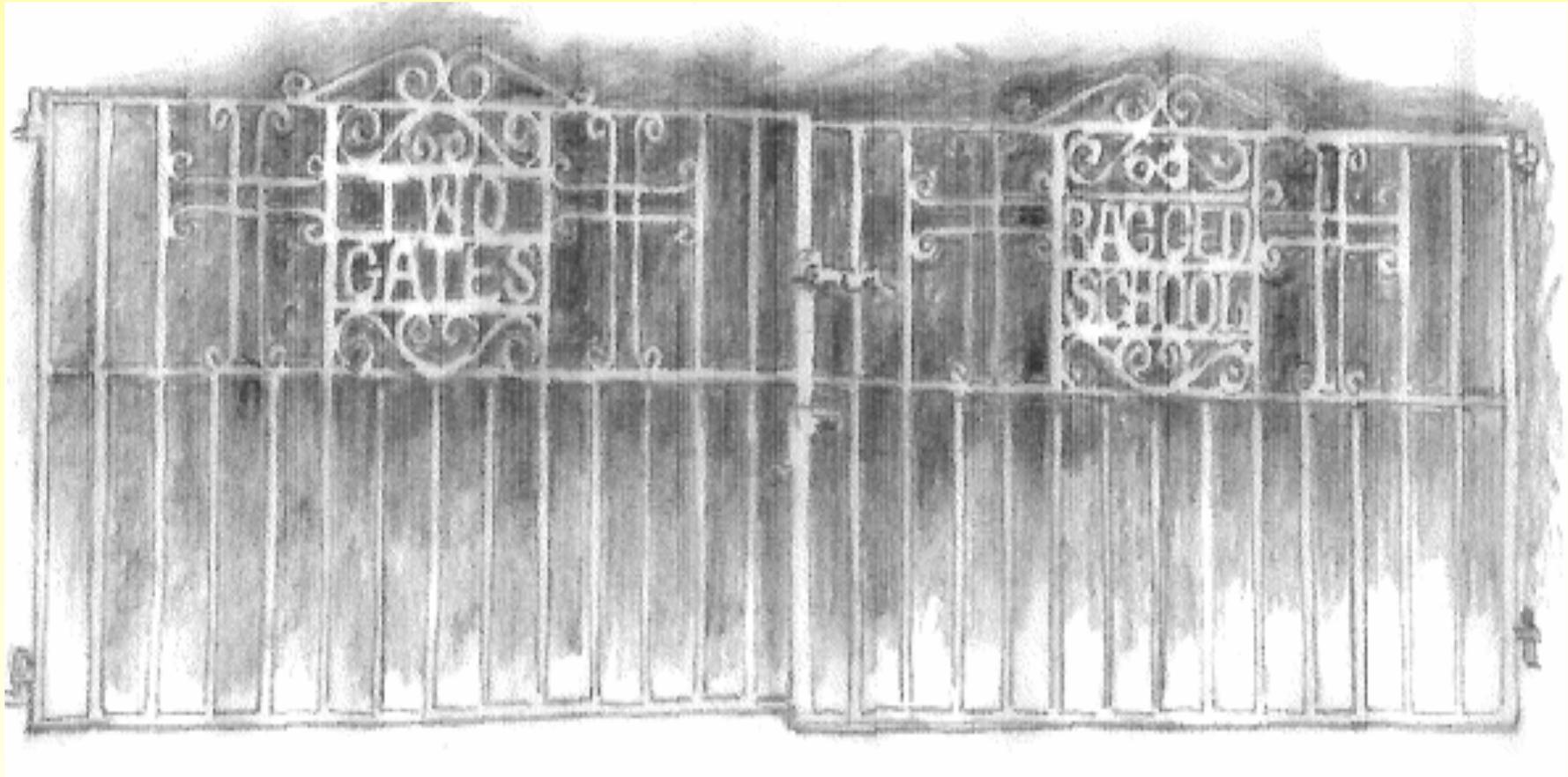


## The Broadstone

An ancient Cradley boundary marker removed from Foxcote Lane to the chapel for safekeeping



**Two Gates Mens Own**  
Circa 1909



# **The Gates**

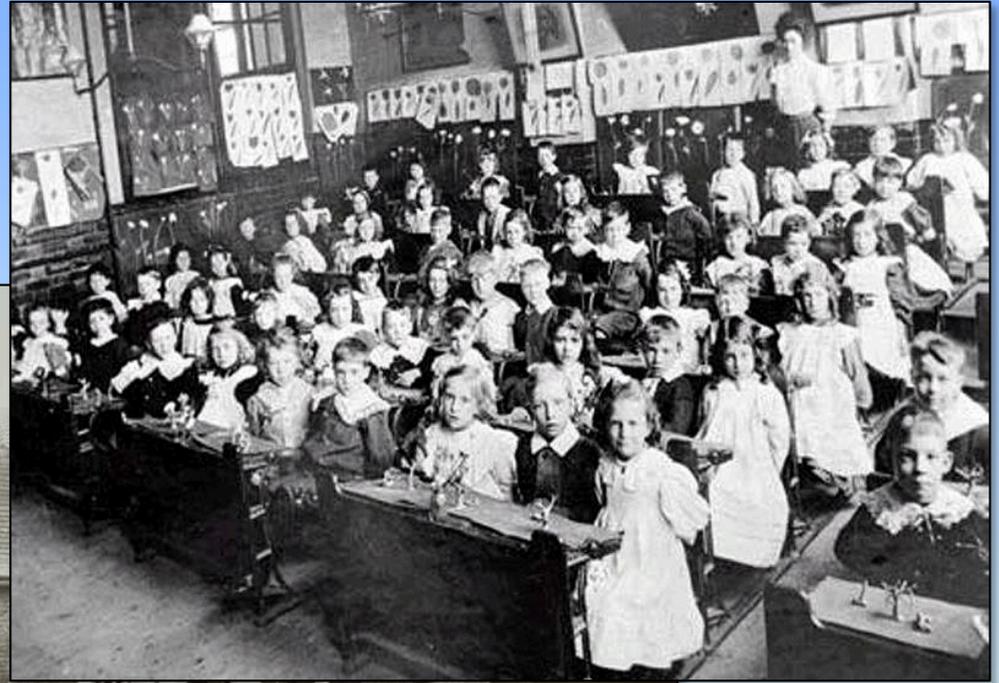
## **at Two Gates Ragged School**

Illustration by: Jim Round

# John Pounds and the First Ragged School in his Cobbler's Shop at Portsmouth (c.1818)



Illustration by B Sharp



Images with permission of The Ragged Schools Museum



### **TWO GATES, CRADLEY**

A lovely scene outside the grocer's shop belonging to Perry. Notice the old adverts all over the shop windows. They include Colman's starch, Nectar Tea, H. P. Sauce and one guaranteeing their butter is perfectly pure. It looks as if the horse and trap is loaded with baskets of grocery, ready for delivery. The photographer is unknown but the card was produced c. 1907.

# Vernon Broughton HARRIS

Air Mechanic Royal Air Force (WW1). Service No 264387



Vernon died on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1923 at the General Hosp, Birmingham

# Cradley a History

## Two Gates Ragged School

(Methodist)

Superintendent:

Mrs. H. M. Clifton, J.P.  
"Unity," Two Gates,  
Halesowen, West Midlands. B63.  
Phone 01384 567851

Asst. Superintendent

Mr B. G. Willetts, J.P.  
23, Beecher Street,  
Halesowen, West Midlands. B63. 2DP.  
Phone: 01384 561424

Times of Services:  
Afternoon Sunday School at 2.15  
Evening Worship at 6.00 p.m.

### Cradley a History

Dear Friend,

You are cordially invited to attend the history of Two Gates Ragged School.

On May 7th 1997 at 7.30p.m.

**History**, written by Clifford Willetts O.B.E. and daughter Hazel Clifton J.P.

Cliff, who was superintendent until his death in 1981, wrote this book during his lifetime. It is appropriate to publish it in conjunction with the celebration of his life.

The 57 years of dedicated service offered the community of Cradley is a long history of this area which culminated in public and religious activities in 1980.

**Cradley a History** will give you a chance to meet together for a social celebration!)

Profits from the sale of the book will go towards the refurbishment of the chapel now taking place.

Come along meet old friends and hope, be a most memorable and interesting day.



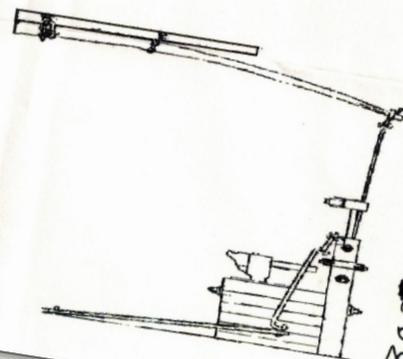
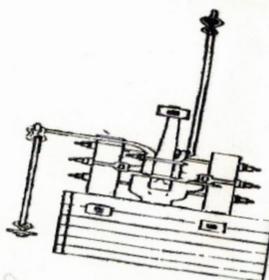
Ginger Bread Row



Doomsday Book



The Village



B037

Tel. 0062 893536  
01902

77 Springhill Park  
Lower Penn  
Wolverhampton  
West Midlands  
WV9 6SP  
Monday 5 May

Dear Mrs Clifton,  
It was so nice talking to you yesterday & thank you for helping to bring back a few old memories for me, for when I was working in the factory so many years ago. I was so happy to see you on a on...

Vera Denmark,  
Flat 2, Albionfield,  
21, Waters Road,  
Huckley, Stourbridge,  
West Midlands DY8 8JY

Apr 30 197

Dear Hazel,  
Book received safely.  
Very interesting & do hope you will be successful with the response & I would for all the luck to...

Mrs Z A Price  
27 Glyn Road  
BIRMINGHAM  
B32 2TB

16/1/98. RNID

Dear Mrs Clifton,  
I write to thank you for sending me the book by your father and the other two books which I will read with interest. Talking with you on the phone recently brought back many happy recollections of the time when I & Chadley and dad was a Miss Ann Hill and then Dick the old county of the book I will remember read it too. I enclose I hope will cover postage. I'm

N & DAVENPORT  
VICTORY GUESTHOUSE  
THE BUSH HOTEL  
ASBENTHURST  
GWENT NP23 1DD

April 29.

Dear Ms Clifton  
Hazel Clifton  
& Barry Willets.

It was most interesting to read in the Express & Star of your late father's testimony.

May we send our love to you all, and may I say, that my grandmother was a chapel superintendant at Hansfield Nottingham: where she took me for 7yrs as a child.

Your story reminded me, that scripture of training a child in the way he should go. Indeed... she prayed for me, and as you can see by the enclosed pamphlet, we have been following the way for 28 yrs now.

MISS J. M. WHITE  
8 PARK ROAD WEST  
WOLLASTON  
STOURBRIDGE  
WEST MIDLANDS DY8 3NQ  
TEL: STOURBRIDGE (01384) 373748

17-05-97

Dear Hazel,  
I hope that the book launch evening was successful. I was sorry to have missed the event but as I said - the Black County Society evening visit to Gravelly Old Hall had been booked for sometime. It was very kind of you to go. The book I ordered



30-6-97

Dear Hazel,  
Thanks for copy of 'Cradley' book, it's excellent.  
Apologies for not being able to make May 7<sup>th</sup>, as I'm playing in a tennis match. Please find enclosed, a small donation to the republication fund. Kindest regards & thanks,  
*Bob King*

**CRADLEY CASTINGS**

Cradley Castings Limited  
Mill Street Cradley  
Halesowen  
West Midlands B63 2UB  
Telephone 01384 560601  
Fax No. 01384 639181

With Compliments

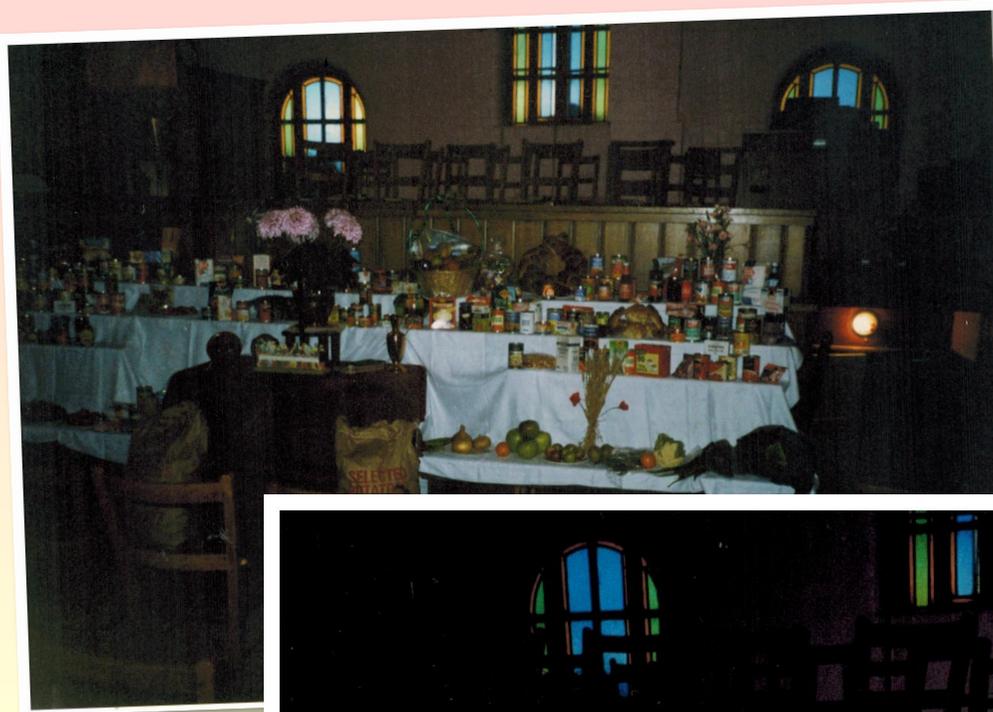
45, Lansdowne Rd,  
London W11 2LG

19. 5. 97

Dear Mrs Clifton,  
I was very interested to hear about your Father's book on 'Cradley' & would like to order 2 copies. One for my Mother to be sent to:-

TA 19 9LG  
to be :-  
Rd,  
W11 2LG.

# Letters of support



Harvest  
Festival  
1997



Two Gates Ragged School  
(Cradley)

Christmas Fayre

12.00 - 4.00p.m.  
Saturday 29th November

Father Christmas in His Groto

With Photograph

Stalls      Games

Hot Food    Tea    Coffee    Sandwiches

A £23,000 refurbishment project at a Colley Gate chapel has been completed in time for its Christmas fair this Saturday, November 29. The Two Gates Ragged School, Two Gates, has been repointed, had new windows, new bell tower and new doors. The Christmas fair with stalls and Santa's grotto is from noon-4pm.



## Barry's Little Helpers

**'The Ladies' who help to organise events at Two Gates Ragged School**