No.21 William Lyons

During the first quarter of the twentieth century four brothers: William, James, Alfred and Albert Lyons, along with their father Alfred (senior), signed professional forms for the top teams of their day. Between them, they played in a FA Cup final, two FA Cup semi-finals and served seven different League clubs. all were born in Hednesford. Career wise, William was the unlucky one.

Born in 1890, Bill Lyons made his Hednesford Town debut, 5 September 1910, against local rivals Cannock, joining Aston Villa via Stourbridge immediately before the outbreak of the First World War, with little chance of gaining a first-team place before League Football closed down for the next five years.

Bill returned to Hednesford, during the hostilities, to hold his place alongside former League Football players in the very strong Hednesford Collieries team, which performed in the Midland Wartime League.

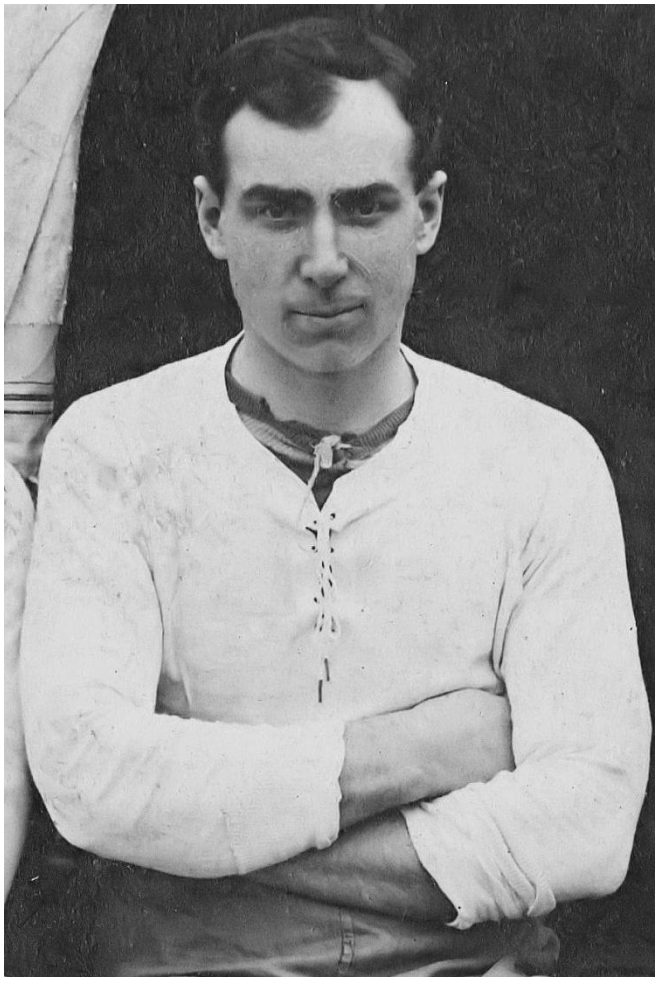
With the outbreak of peace, in 1919, Bill was in the Hednesford team, along with his brother Jim, who reached the first round proper for the first time; Bill, and full-back Roberts, were both injured during the game and the team went down 2-0.

Nevertheless, he and his team-mates were back the following season, at Southend, where three disputed goals saw the Third Division side luckily go through 3-1 in the final qualifying round.

Bill was at Hednesford until 1926 when he joined a local minor league team until his retirement some five years later. He had played 268 games for the Town (mostly as catain), 79 before and 189 after WWI.

Bill died in 1960.

Historians believe that Kevin Foster with 220 games (70-years later) has played the most games for Hednesford Town. However, back issues of the Cannock Advertiser show us that Bill Lyons, with 268, held the record in 1926. But, records are made to be broken...



Hednesford Town in 1925-26. Bill is the player far right, back row.

The Hednesford Town 'Supper Team' in 1919-20.

From the Dave Shaw archive.