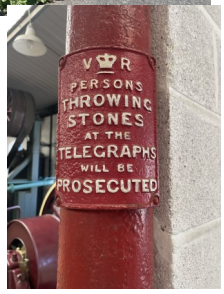
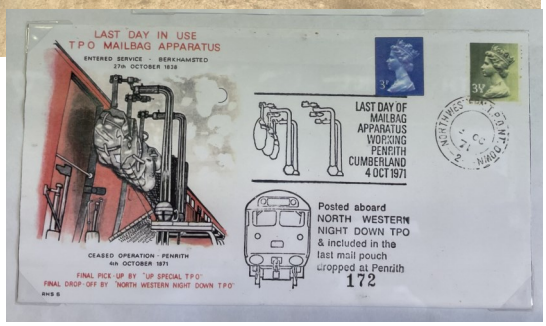
We needed somewhere where Bessie the dog would be welcome, and I suggested the Midland Railway Centre and Swanwick country park. We all make mistakes. We got to Butterley station to find nothing there, just a wait for a Pacer to Swanwick, via Riddings (north curve, which is not linked to the main line). At least there was a café there. I went for an explore by myself, and it was all very depressing. Somewhere whose glory days were a few decades ago, when there had been money to rebuild churches, build loco sheds and bus garages, and the volunteers to run them. Now there is an obvious lack of the latter, with lots of groups not working together and slagging each other off - the old boys on the miniature railway were not at all keen on the Midland Railway Centre staff. It felt like a site in total decline, a bit like the Church of England. We did manage a ride along all the track, include the bit west to Hammersmith. We came home via Croots and consoled myself with cake.





Cover from the Midland D.S.C. which ran from Euston to Normanton from 22 February 1859