



# The **Old Hall** Club News



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## THE FIRST "OLDE HALL" TEAPOTS

Although the very first Olde Hall teapot (shown on the right) was made as a prototype in 1930, it was not until July 1933 that one was listed for sale, along with a corresponding hot water jug, sugar bowl and cream jug, under the name of "**Ye Olde Hall Tea Service**"; both plain and hammered finishes were available, in  $\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ , 2 and 3 pint sizes (shown below are the plain  $1\frac{1}{4}$  and 2 pint models). The description contained the words "Solid Staybrite - and no soldering".



During the 1930-33 period, numerous design modifications were made, the most significant of which were (a) the "seat" on the top of the body for the lid to rest on was replaced by a turning-in operation to the top of the body (b) some shaping was put into the spout to replace the straight sides of the original one (c) the taper to the side of the body was slightly re-

duced to make the manufacture a little easier (d) the ferrule at the bottom of the handle was riveted directly onto the body to match that at the top of the handle (e) the Olde Hall backstamp was moved from being somewhat surprisingly positioned on the top of the lid to being on what was subsequently always the case on the bottom of the teapot. Mystery - the picture in the 1933 catalogue shows the teapot having all the modifications described above apart from it having a seat for the lid. All the very few of these early teapots that we have seen have got a turned-in top, so it looks as though there may well have been an intermediate version as per the catalogue!

The method of manufacture of both teapots was as per **Patent 389945** of March 30th 1933, having been applied for on October 14th 1932, in the name of **Nellie Wiggin** under the title "Improvements in Sheet Metal Kettles, Teapots and other vessels of a like kind". The unique feature was that the body and the spout were made out of a single piece of stainless steel sheet, with a half spout formed at each end, which was then bent round and welded from the top to the bottom of the spout. The drawing for the patent is shown on the right.

