



CHADDESSEN HISTORICAL GROUP



www.chaddesdenhistoricalgroup.co.uk

Newsletter 27, October 2011.

Stopped for a drink on Morley Road.



Rita and I found this 1908 Fowler General Purpose Steam Engine being watered at the top of Morley Road having got lost between Elvaston Castle and Ripley. With the DVLA registration number SV5785 the driver and crew had tried to negotiate Derby's Ring Road with a very old map. We pointed out that people get lost in Derby with a brand new map so we directed him towards the A38 and left him to roar off into the distance at 3 mph.

Editorial.

I first heard about the intended move of Derby Local Studies Library to Littleover back in January but I thought it was just a rumour. Confirmation of the move came a few months ago in an email from the manager of the DLSL in response to an enquiry about Archive training.

I soon realised that I was not the only one to be concerned about the wisdom of this move of the collection out of the city, and after discussions with Peter, I decided to get actively involved on behalf of the Archives Team. Several emails were sent to various city Councillors and administrators to try and find out the reasons behind the proposed move and why the facility could not be kept in the city centre.

It soon became obvious that that the Council had hoped that they could slip this decision in through the back door and the first the public would have known about it would be when we arrived at the door in Irongate to find a notice saying that the collection had now moved to Littleover.

After several weeks of emails flying backwards and forwards and visits to not only Irongate but also the Littleover Library in Blagreaves Lane we have been informed that the Deputy Leader of the City Council, Councillor Hilary Jones, has called for council advisors to take a fresh look at the possibility of keeping the local studies collection within the city centre. The decision due to be made on 6th Sept will now be delayed pending the outcome of the new study.

I would like to think that we as a group can remain politically neutral but every now and again we have to stand up and be counted. We may not be successful in keeping this valued and well used facility within the City Centre but at least we tried. *AJB.*

Memories

*Ex-Derbeian Colin Campbell, who now lives in Australia, recalls his childhood living in pre-fab houses in **Chaddesden** and playing on the old racecourse ground, off Nottingham Road, which was used as a camp during the **Second World War**.*

I grew up on the pre-fab estate at Chaddesden, which was built at the end of the Second World War.

I was one of four boys and we were there until about 1956, when we moved to Bloomfield Street, in Litchurch. I think that our house in Berwick Avenue, number 33, was one of the first to be occupied. I think that mum and dad moved in there after dad was de-mobbed from the Air Force in 1946.

Along with another lad, who lived further down the road, I used to spend hours playing on the old racecourse ground which, in those days, was still being used to grow crops of wheat and vegetables.

I remember there was an old farmhouse which was left behind well after the **football** and **cricket** fields were replaced by the camp, which was established there during the war.

There was also an arm of the old **Derby Canal**, overgrown with rushes, which lined the eastern side of the fields. The camp was surrounded by anti-aircraft gun pits, with concrete walls that we all loved playing around.

I recall that the other lad and I would sneak off across the central path to the Nissan Huts, which were used to house Italian prisoners of war. These men were kept busy keeping Derby Canal cleaned out.



ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS - IN USE ON DERBY RACECOURSE, CIRCA 1940s

We often tried to talk to them but there was someone in charge (Colonel Klink?) who would chase us off. I remember taking home to my mum a spray of flowers made from twigs and coloured candle wax which had been made by one of the inmates.

One day, the man in charge chased us off, threatening dire consequences if we returned. Of course, we did, and we were caught again. The man locked us both into a solid concrete building with steel shutters across the windows. We were terrified.

Eventually, he let us go and we ran back across the rec as fast as we could. My house was in line with the path that went across the middle of the rec and, while viewing the area recently on Google Earth, I noticed that the path was still mostly there.

What looks like the old concrete building is still there too. In 2000, on my last visit to the UK, the building looked exactly as I remembered it. I would love to share memories with anyone who lived in or near Berwick Avenue after the war, especially an old friend named Patricia Wright (or White?) and Victor Witcherly?

Cheers to all "back home".

Disclaimer.

Whilst every attempt has been made to trace original ownership of photographs, pictures and articles used in this Newsletter we apologise for any acknowledgement that we have failed to make.

Neither the editor nor committee of Chaddesden Historical Group guarantee the accuracy of items submitted for publication in this newsletter.

The Committee wish to thank West Park School, Derby Local Studies Library and Derby Telegraph for their continued support in the production of this newsletter. AJB.

Nottingham Road Cemetery.

The cemetery on Nottingham Road, Chaddesden was opened in 1855 and the first burial was of Henry George Moseley, a carver and gilder who at 20 years of age died in Babington Lane, Derby. He was buried on the 1st of May 1855 in consecrated ground in plot No 9492, the service was conducted by Rev William Hope MA the Vicar of St. Peters.



The Entrance and Chapel from within the grounds.

The need for a cemetery on the site was due to overcrowding in the municipal cemetery on Uttoxeter New Road and the surrounding churchyards. By 1880 the cemetery had acquired a further 18 acres and spanned both sides of the road. It now covers over 100 acres with over 250,000 people buried there as well as a herd of cows that are buried under the car park opposite the vets on Nottingham Road. They were victims of a foot and mouth outbreak.

One of the first problems was the gradient of Cemetery Hill linking the town with Chaddesden, the hearses couldn't get up the slope! This gave rise to the distinctive high wall that we see today. The top of the wall was the level of the original hilltop and according to records in Derby Local Studies Library, soldiers returning from the Napoleonic Wars were set to work lowering the top and improving the road. This road had only been established in the mid 16th century replacing the old Roman Road that used to run from the area of Nottingham Road by the Fire Station, and down across the Racecourse on its way to the Roman settlement at Derventio. As you drive up the hill from Chaddesden towards Derby the road went straight on at the top as opposed to veering left as it does now. The builders of the wall neglected to put in drainage holes at the base and this resulted in the rather gruesome collapse of the wall in the early 1920's. This event as well as a later partial collapse is the subject of a future article at present being researched.

The materials for construction as well as a lot of coffins for burial arrived at the cemetery by means of the old canal which ran alongside the cemetery on its way to Spondon and Borrowash. The wide set of steps used at this time can still be seen not far from Soldiers Corner leading from the canal (now the A52) up to the area originally intended to be Catacombs but never fully developed for this purpose.

We are still discovering details of this important area of Chaddesden's history and there are many tales still to tell. The location of a large underground tomb containing the bodies of some 200 stillborn children, which was sealed up in the 1950/60's, is another area of research and once located I would like to see a memorial erected to their memory.

I would like to thank the family of the late Richard Wood for allowing us to include his comprehensive article, 'Are They Dying Too Get In?' on our website. It is a well researched and informative article that should be read by anyone interested in the topic. I would also like to thank the staff and managers of the cemetery for their help in allowing us access to the burial records as part of our project to digitalise the collection. *AJB.*

Contact Us

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Margaret Poyser

Asst Archivist and Researcher

Jean Moss

Admin Support and Research

Members Profile.

Jean has been a keen and very supportive member of our group since its beginning in 2006. She produced the first 19 issues of this newsletter practically single headedly and is still a great supporter of Tony, our chairman, and myself in our efforts. AJB

Jean Moss

Jean was born in Derby and can trace her Derbyshire roots back to the 17th century (so far). She moved to Chaddesden as a child and attended the temporary school in Chaddesden Lane, before moving to the new Chaddesden Park Infants, Cherry Tree Hill Junior, then Spondon Park Grammar School. On leaving school she joined Derby Council and was the first woman to become a qualified local authority accountant at Derby. The advent of computers saw a change of direction when Jean joined the newly formed Council Computer Department and married Fred. Following the birth of her second child, she finished work. However within a few months she was asked to join a company exploiting the new technology, pcs. This led to lecturing on Finance and Computers at Nottingham Trent University. Jean has continued working with Computers and Finance ever since. A particular interest has always been local history, and she decided to gain a formal qualification in this area and in 2002 achieved a BA (Hons) degree. This involved studies in areas of local interest including the Midland Railway Company, Methodism in Derby and as a final dissertation German Prisoners of War in Derbyshire. Currently Jean works as Community Development Officer at West Park School, and recently became a Microsoft Office Master.

Remembrance in the Park

What does the 11th November mean to you?

To ex service people it is a day to reflect on those lost in the many conflicts this nation has participated in.

To Chaddesden Park it is a time for the Old and Young to come together. Normally on the Friday closest to the 11th, this year the ceremony will be held on Thursday the 10th at 10am. The five schools closest to the Park send their Year 6 to be part of the service. Everyone assembles by 10am in the Bowls Club car park.

The service is similar to the one held at the cenotaph, in Whitehall every year. The local Royal British Legion bring their banners. Medals are worn. The Mayor is present to welcome everyone. The Vicar holds an act of Remembrance. The Royal British Legion Homily and the Kohima Epitaph are spoken. The last Post and Reveille are played.

This will be our 5th year and each year more schools and members of the Legion and public have joined in. It is a solemn moment but it is also a time for the old and young to realise that both have something to offer. It is a chance for the older generation to pass on memories and traditions, and bring to life the act of remembrance. For the young it is chance to experience at first hand the service and be part of the wider community.

I hope that you will want to join us in the Park on Thursday the 10th November at 10am.

If not there is also a Soldier's Corner service at the Nottingham Road Cemetery on Friday the 11th November.

For further details contact Harry Mycroft 663581 or Nancy Wawman 672347.

Dorothy Ireland. Secretary, Friends of Chaddesden Park.