



# Chaddesden Historical Group



[www.chaddesdenhistoricalgroup.co.uk](http://www.chaddesdenhistoricalgroup.co.uk) or 01332 665333

Newsletter #43 , June 2014.



**The Spinning Wheel in Wood Road.**

## Editorial

Time moves on in Chaddesden and this last month has seen the re-emergence of another much valued building in a different guise. The Spinning Wheel is now a One Stop Shop and we feature an article in this issue on the memories of one of its patrons from its days as the Tree Tops Club. We also received good news on the fate of 146 Chaddesden Lane for which approval had been sought to build bungalows in the garden and demolish 3 metres off the end of the cottage to allow an access road to be built. I am pleased to say that this is not now going to happen. I received an email from the lady who has recently purchased the property inviting small group to call round and have a look at her plans and expressing the wish to involve our group in the renovation process. Julie set our minds at rest immediately by saying that there would be no 'shortening' of the property and no building on the Chaddesden Lane end of the plot. The cottage is going to be her place of residence and will be modernised sympathetically and in keeping with its heritage. When Rita pointed out that prior to 1930 it had been known as Fern Bank Julie applied to have this, its original name, reinstated by the council and the mail service. We all appreciate that times move on and requirements change and I am just pleased that both these properties have been maintained and not fallen foul of our City Councillors bulldozers as have so many other examples of Chaddesdens history. This issue also features the final part of Peters excellent article on Bradcar Watermill. The full and complete version of this work can be seen on our website. *AJB*

### Bradcar Watermill Pt 3 of 3.

It is not known for how long William Turner retained his *Bradcar* property at Chaddesden, or whether he ever attempted to re-establish the water-mill there. Derbyshire Record Office has a deed to declare the uses of a fine dated 1727 (D5955/343), again involving property belonging to William Turner at Chaddesden. Since this land was then in the holding of Francis Cockayne (very probably the son of the “widdow Cockayne” mentioned above) there is the possibility that it included the *Bradcar* property. A couple of years later, the will of John Smith, a Chaddesden blacksmith, dated 1 January 1729/30, features several references to land in the village which belonged to Turner. Significantly, Smith owned a small piece of land which is described thus: “Two Roods lying and being in another Field belonging to Chaddesden aforesaid called *Spoondon Field* on a place there called *Windmill Hill* butting North on Land of Mr. Turner and South on Land of Mr. Rowland” (Cholerton 1983). So whether or not Turner still owned the site of *Bradcar Mill* in 1730, he certainly held land at *Windmill Hill* close by. As will be seen later, Turner or his descendants must have eventually sold the properties at *Bradcar* to the Wilmot family prior to the commencement of parliamentary enclosure at Chaddesden in 1791.

Turner died in late 1751 and was buried at All Saints’ Church, Derby, on 13 December. The *Derby Mercury* of 6–13 December 1751 described his death thus: “On Monday last died suddenly Mr. William Turner, an eminent Attorney at Law in this Town.” By his will dated 26 October 1750 and proved at London on 17 June 1752 (National Archives, PROB 11/795/359) Turner gave to his son Exuperius, “all my Lands Tenements and Hereditaments whatsoever” subject to his paying all the testator’s debts and legacies. Perhaps Exuperius Turner sold his father’s Chaddesden properties to the Wilmot family in order to raise the necessary funds. William Turner had been churchwarden at All Saint’s between 1720 and 1721 (Cox & St. John Hope, 1881, 37) and was evidently continuing a family association with the church, for in its chancel a memorial tablet to his parents (William and Mary Turner) could once be seen inscribed as follows:

Near this Pillar / Lie ye Bodies of Willm Turner / Gent: and Mary his Wife, one / of the Daughters of Roger / Allestry Esqr. She dyed the / 30th of April 1712: He the / 28th of October 1716. / And Also ye Body of Exuperius / Turner Gent: younger Brother / of the said William: He dyed / the 27th of Jan 1728. He had only / Issue one Son Exuperius, who / dyed before his Father without / Issue. / The said William Turner / and Mary his wife had Issue, / Mary, Willm., Sarah, Roger, Seth, and Bethia.

*Bradcar Mill* at Chaddesden must have been situated on the north bank of Lees Brook in the vicinity of grid reference SK 390 373 and close to the approximate location marked on Figs. 2 and 3, however, an examination of detailed aerial photographs taken between 1948 and 1951 has failed to pinpoint its exact site. This is perhaps unsurprising for the water-mill was most likely a fairly basic wooden structure with a simple undershot wheel, and once abandoned (sometime prior to 1719) its timbers would simply be removed for re-use elsewhere. A working mill, of course, would need road access and we may speculate that carts and wagons once reached *Bradcar Mill* by means of a ford, since *Sparrowford*, first recorded back in the early seventeenth century, is known to have been close to *Bradcar* and therefore must have crossed Lees Brook, most likely downstream from the mill

By the time of parliamentary enclosure at Chaddesden and thus forty years after William Turner’s death, the three closes of land abutting the north bank of Lees Brook at the base of *Windmill Hill* were called respectively (from west to east) *Bradcar*, *Mill Close*, and *Mill Close Pingle* (Fig. 2), all three of which had belonged to Sir Robert Mead Wilmot of Chaddesden Hall in 1791 immediately prior to enclosure and were still in his ownership in 1793 after the process had concluded. These three closes feature only once in the associated enclosure award (on page 74), when the boundaries of the adjacent 113 acre Allotment Number 52, which was awarded to Sir Robert Mead Wilmot on the south side of Lees Brook, are described thus: “One other piece plot or parcel of Land marked Number 52 in the said plan ... bounded ... Northwardly ... by ancient Inclosures belonging to the said Sir Robert Mead Wilmot called respectively Soggs, Townend Close, New Close, Bradcar, Mill Close and Mill Close Pingle ...”

Walking to the top of Tennessee Road in late November 2011, I noticed that just inside the gap in the fence leading into Brook Farm fields was a notice stating that the property was now owned by the Radleigh Group Ltd and advising members of the public that the land might be used for recreational purposes, so I took the opportunity to investigate the general area of Lees Brook from the opposite bank to Lees Brook School. The brook course was still obscured by

many trees, but there were enough gaps to see that it runs for much of its course hereabouts in what amounts to a small ravine. In some places the stream is perhaps almost twenty feet below the level of the fields on the left-hand (south) bank and maybe ten to fifteen feet below the fields on the right-hand (north) bank, and a dam of timber and stone (or clay) might have been constructed relatively easily to turn part of the brook into a linear mill-pond. This would certainly have been an essential pre-requisite of any water-mill here, for the flow of water in Lees Brook could never have supported a water-mill without the provision of just such a mill-pond. For example, on subsequent visits to the site the depth of water in the brook (which is perhaps on average some seven feet wide) has always been in the region of six inches or less.

It remains to be seen whether additional information can be found relating to *Bradcar Mill*, for example, were there any ancillary buildings such as a miller's house or a drying kiln, and how long had a mill been operating on this site? Some 300 years after the mill processed its last sack of corn, we can only speculate what the circumstances were which brought about its closure. Maybe proximity to a larger and more efficient competitor played a significant part, but I suspect that ultimately the main problem lay with the inadequacy of the water supply. It is certainly ironic that the existence of a second water-mill at Chaddesden has come to light at the very point in time at which it is likely that any surviving traces of it will soon be obliterated. To the north, Lees Brook School expands ever closer, whilst immediately to the south of the brook a large, new housing development on the remaining fields of Brook Farm is being contemplated.

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I would like to thank Nottinghamshire Archives for permission to quote from the text of their deed DD/BK/1/334.

### **The Spinning Wheel, Wood Road.**



*The following article appeared in the Derby Telegraph on 22 April 14 and was penned by Jean Barlow nee Bromage. The Derby Telegraph have kindly given their permission for us to reproduce it here. AJB.*

*Jean Barlow nee Bromage, of Chaddesden, recalls happy times at The Spinning Wheel pub and bemoans its loss to the community.*

I was very sad to read about the Spinning Wheel on Wood Road being converted into a convenience store.

Years ago I remember it as a beautiful house surrounded by trees and in the early 1960's it was purchased by Jim Gadsby and his wife Millie. They had been 'mine hosts' at the Chaddesden Park Hotel for many years and they were a very popular couple. Jim sold the land on either side of the house for private development of housing. Hence the Tree Tops Club came into being.

My husband and I became members towards the end of 1965, along with friends, and it was a great place to go as it seemed that all the members were Chaddesden residents. There was Charlie Hunt and his wife ( Charlie was the works convener at Rolls-Royce), the Burns family from Chaddesden Lane, George the gardener, the Owen family and Derek Smith, the local policeman, who all lived on Wood Road. There was also Jock and his wife at the corner of Grindlow Road as well as Jack and his wife from Taddington Road along with Dom Hanks and his wife Joan and many, many more. In 1966 the ladies went by coach to Nottingham to see a showing of *The Sound of Music*, what a great night that was.

In 1968 I started to help behind the bar along with Joan Hanks and I loved it. We had parties at Christmas the son of one of the members had his wedding reception there. When Millie died Jim's brother John and a friend moved in to look after him. Jim took ill and when he died the wonderful Tree Tops went up for auction in 1972.

It was acquired by Hardys & Hansons for £10,000 and so the Spinning Wheel came into being. It did quite well for a few years but it was never quite the same. Greene King then purchased it but, unfortunately, after a succession of managers and a decline in the pub trade generally, it will open as a One Stop Shop in May. The happy memories remain and it will always be the Tree Tops Club to me.

I went on to work at the Buck in the Park in Curzon Street but that's another story. JB.

*Photographs by Rita Bailey.*



#### **Mrs Jean Smith RIP**

We were saddened to hear of the death of Jean Smith on the 20th of March. Jean joined us after the death of her husband 18 months ago and was a lovely warm and friendly member of the group. She leaves 2 sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren. In her youth Jean worked at Rolls Royce in the Inspection Dept where she met her husband. She later worked with Sandra, another of our members, at the local paper shop on Wood Road for several years. She will be sadly missed. *RMB.*

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#### **Contact Us**

Andrew Bailey, Editor and Chairman 01332 665333 or [andrewjbailey50@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewjbailey50@btinternet.com)  
Linda Crosby, Group Secretary 01332 676425 or [linda.crosby2@ntlworld.com](mailto:linda.crosby2@ntlworld.com)