



Chaddesden Historical Group



Newsletter #40, December 2013.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Chaddesden Home Guard Parading in 1940.

Editorial

After another busy year for our group Christmas is upon us again. This year has seen us continue to grow and from guided talks round Chaddesden Park to a display at the Big 1 held in partnership with Age UK our message is certainly reaching out to more and more people. The internet website is now reaching the stage whereby it needs to be upgraded to cope with the level of interest it attracts worldwide and we have just launched the first two in a series of books about Chaddesden history. The Heritage Lottery Fund project which saw us receive a grant of £32000 to set up our archives is coming to the end of its 3 year plan and the paperwork associated with its completion is soon to be submitted to the regional office in Nottingham. The completion of the project does not mean that collecting and cataloguing of the archive material will finish. Quite the contrary, the history group and its work is going from strength to strength and the HLF funding has given us the strongest of foundations to build a comprehensive history of Chaddesden and its people. None of this would have happened without the support of our members, and the comments of our invited speakers say it all when they talk to me about the numbers and enthusiasm of everyone at our meetings and how impressed they are with what we are achieving, well done, thank you and a Merry Christmas to everyone. *Andrew.*

HMS Ark Royal Survivors.



In December 1941 eight men, among them Leading Seaman Ernest Herbert of Albert Road, Chaddesden, who had been serving on HMS Ark Royal, came

home to spend Christmas with their families in Derby. Their ship had been torpedoed on 13 November 1941 by the German submarine U-81 and sank the following day. Her sinking was the subject of several inquiries, and Investigators were keen to know how the carrier was lost, in spite of efforts to save the ship and tow her to the naval base at Gibraltar. It was later discovered that several design flaws contributed to the loss, which were rectified in later British carriers. As part of the festivities, the men were all invited to the Plaza Ballroom in Derby by the proprietor Mr S Ramsden, where they received gifts distributed by Pamela Kershaw. The previous night the lads had been besieged by crowds of people who were desperate to hear stories of their actions at sea. Another seaman, Able Seaman Blavins of Derby, who had been on the flightdeck at the time of the attack, described how the torpedo had hit them amidships. Rushing from the flightdeck to collect their lifejackets, they passed the mess room where the table was laid for tea. They quickly realised that they would probably not get another chance to eat for a while so they coolly sat down and ate as much as they could before they were removed from the ship and taken aboard HMS Legion which had come to their aid. *Rita M Bailey*

Photos from Derby Telegraph and S W Roskill



Not quite Oliver Twist!

On Christmas Day morning 140 children of the Railway Servant's Orphanage proceeded to St Chad's Church in Derby where they attended Divine Service. Upon returning to what may truly be called their home, they sat down to a bountiful dinner of roast beef and plum pudding, to which, as might be expected, the youthful appetites did keen justice. The children are looking forward with the liveliest anticipations of pleasure to their customary entertainment on Wednesday the 2nd of January 1884.

From the Derby Daily Telegraph - Christmas 1883 . RMB.

Christmas 1931 - Children of Chaddesden Sunday School with the vicar Rev. J E S Hackworth



Coal Rationing

In this time of 'cutbacks' spare a thought for the children of Derby at Christmas time in 1950, when coal and coke were still rationed. Several hundred people formed 2 queues at the gasworks to buy 28lb of coal or coke each to see them through the festive season. There were widows, newly married men and children from all walks of life, pushing prams and wheelbarrows in which to carry their ration, the best Christmas present they could give to their

mothers. The queues formed before 6am, one stretched half the length of George St and the other along Deadmans Lane. At the head of the George Street queue was a young Chaddesden man and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. C Harris of Monmouth St. Despite valiant efforts by the coal merchants, not everyone would get coal, some would have to take coke, and many probably would get nothing at the end of their long wait. Good news for Santa, at least! *RMB.*



Christmas Cheer 1824

At Christmas, Sir Robert Wilmot's annual donation of a fat beast was distributed among the poor of Chaddesden, along with a supply of blankets and warm clothing from Lady Wilmot. The benevolence of Sir Robert and his Lady continue to be further exercised in the distribution of soup three days a week among the poor people of the village. DM 1824 RMB.

Derby Co-operative Farm and Dairy, Spondon.



Picture provided by Midlands Co-operative Society

When you come to the Chaddesden/Spondon end of Raynesway, you will see Acorn Way in front of you and what appears to be at first glance a large detached house. You will recognise the same house in the top right hand corner of the picture above. If you turn left towards Chaddesden you will see the front of the building shown above on your left, although the top of chimney has long gone. A few yards further on there is a detached house, you can just see the chimney in the picture above. These buildings were part of the Derby Co-operative Provident Society Farm, Dairy and Piggeries.

In 1894 the Society bought a creamery and land at Spondon and part of the land was planted with fruit trees. By the summer of 1900, the dairy workers produced 900 to 1,000 lbs of butter a week. Dairy produce was sold in the stores and used at the society's two restaurants. Piggeries were also built to accommodate 50 pigs and a residence for the dairyman was erected (the building on the left). Milk was bought from local farmers, converted to butter and the separated milk sold to members or given to the pigs. (Holyoake and Scotton 1900)

In 1908 the Society purchased a farm of 41 acres situated on Nottingham Road opposite the Creamery for £3,600. Interestingly at the time it was seen as an excellent investment, as the land might be required for building purposes. It was used at first for horses requiring rest from working in the town streets, as well as raising cattle and fowl. In 1909 a further 11 adjoining acres were purchased. (Unsworth 1927). The Derby Monthly Record of November 1909 (Derby Co-operative's Magazine), reports that the very large farmhouse house fronting Nottingham Road had been divided into two for the Society's men employed on the farm. The piggeries increased to allow 200 pigs to be kept and there were plans to extend these to allow 400 pigs to be kept at one time. The trees planted earlier yielded 34cwt apples in 1909 and the creamery dealt with 1,000 gallons of milk per week and daily deliveries were made to up to 5,000 members.

The creamery and piggeries were in operation until the 1970s, although by then production had changed to cheese making. The picture above shows the daily feeding of the pigs with the remains from the cheese production, supplemented by leftovers from the Co-operative shops and restaurants, together with bought in feed. Many people still remember the trolley buses that came along Nottingham Road with destination boards showing the Creamery, which was the end of the line.

Part of the farm land was sold to build the replacement school for the old Spondon House School in the 1960s, this has since been demolished following a fire. The Creamery and Piggeries are now home to a number of businesses.

References

Holyoake. J.H. and Scotton A. 1900. *The Jubilee History of Derby Co-operative Society Ltd 1850-1900*. Manchester: Co-operative Printing Society

Unsworth W.L. 1927. *Seventy-five Years' Co-operation 1850-1925*. Manchester: Co-operative Wholesale Society

Jean Moss.

Chaddesden Women's Institute 40th Anniversary

The original Women's Institute was formed in Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada in 1897, as a branch of the Farmer's Institute, bringing together women from isolated communities, offering training in home economics, child care, poultry keeping and animal husbandry. In 1915 Britain was at war and it was decided to form an organisation in this country to encourage women in rural communities to become involved in producing and preserving food to help increase the food supply while supplies were disrupted. The first WI in Britain was formed under the auspices of the Agricultural Organisation Society, whose secretary, John Nugent Harris appointed a Canadian woman Madge Watt to set up groups across Britain. The first ever meeting of the Women's Institute in the UK took place in Llanfairpwll in North Wales on the 16th September 1915, in a house about 100 yards from the toll house, and the movement then spread through the rest of the British Isles, the first in England being held in Singleton in Sussex.



After the war the members began to concentrate on planning programmes which would suit all of their members, from 'the Lady of the Manor' through the wives of businessmen and doctors, to the local servant girls. The idea was to try and break down the social barriers which were already crumbling as a result of the war. Since then, the organisation's aims have widened and the WI is the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK with 210,000 members in about 6,600 Wis and will celebrate its centenary in 2015.

Chaddesden WI held its inaugural meeting in Chaddesden Village Hall (now the Memorial Hall) on Tuesday, November 1st 1973 at 7.30pm with President Mrs Allsop, Vice President Mrs Oldershaw, Treasurer Mrs Knight, Press Secretary Mrs Kennedy, Register Mrs Finley and Mrs Hallam (no first names in those days!) The following month there was a demonstration on 'Preparing for Christmas' attended by 29 members. By January the following year membership had risen to 41 and continued to rise throughout 1974. Meetings were becoming a little cramped in the small room because St Mary's Church choir used the big room for its choir practice, which also made hearing very difficult. They then moved to the Community Hall on Chaddesden Lane. Members enjoyed regular visits to the Playhouse and Odeon in Derby.



In 1977 members made items to be sold for the WI Queen's Jubilee Appeal at Debenhams, London, which raised a total of £4,000. In that year, Jean Hunt and Pam Twells were elected to the committee and these ladies are still members, passing on their knowledge of crafts and other skills. For many years Chaddesden WI was always to be found at venues such as the County Show and Chaddesden Carnival. Every year WI members have the chance to put forward issues that they want the National body to campaign on. Over the years these have ranged from Pre-Natal Care, Under-age Drinking, Food Labels, Local Libraries and the Decline of Local High Streets. Representatives from Chaddesden WI always attend these AGM's. Chaddesden WI has gone from

strength to strength over the last 40 years and continues to 'make a difference' in local and national society. In November they will be celebrating their 'Ruby' Anniversary and we offer them our heartiest congratulations! *Rita M Bailey*

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.*

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Chaddesden Christmas 1883

On Thursday evening the parishioners and friends held their annual Ball in the schoolroom on Chaddesden Lane, which, as on former occasions, was placed at their disposal by Sir H Wilmot, Bart., V.C., C.B., M.P. Dancing commenced at 8.45pm and was kept up with much spirit until 6 o'clock on Friday morning. The room had been tastefully decorated for the occasion, and great credit is due to those who made the admirable arrangements for the evening's enjoyment. The thanks also of all are owing to Mr and Mrs Bailey, who exerted themselves to the utmost to ensure the general comfort of the whole assembly. No kidding? *RMB.*

Late News

At last, after another marathon form filling exercise and a major stand alone Evaluation Report the Project Completion report was submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund on Tuesday 12th of November. When we hear back from them there will be a comprehensive update in the next newsletter. *AJB.*

C & C of Chaddesden

I cannot let another year close without saying thank you to Kathryn and Anthony of C & C Magazine (The Chadd Mag). The support they give us by carrying our articles and advertisements is fantastic and by putting us in both Chaddesden and Oakwood issues we reach over 11 thousand homes. Thanks Again, *Andrew.*



In days' of not so long ago.

This article is taken from the Derby Evening Telegraph in what is believed to be the late 70's. The cutting is held in our archives and serves to show how the advice given in such matters has changed in a relatively short time.

Brownies and guides say vandalism and intimidation by gangs of youths have forced them to move out of their Derby headquarters. The groups, which have met in Chaddesden Park for the past 20 years, say they have had problems with vandalism for the past 10 years and have finally decided to leave because they do not feel safe.

Lyn Fowkes, Brown Owl of the 1st Chaddesden Brownies, says that damage was being done by youths between the ages of eleven and seventeen. She claimed that during brownie or guide meetings the youths had thrown a lighted firework through the entrance, banged on the wooden walls of the building and even locked the group in.

The building was used by about 50 children, aged between five and fifteen who are members of the 1st Chaddesden Brownies, the 3rd Chaddesden Brownies, 1st Chaddesden Guides and the Chaddesden Rainbows.

Ms Fowkes said, 'It breaks my heart that we have had to uproot. it was our home, but it is so frightening. We have never been able to relax, we now have a bolt on the inside door to keep them out'.

The groups will meet from September at the Chaddesden Memorial Hall in Chaddesden Lane but the rent will go up from £15 a month to £40. Sgt Martin Critchley of Roe Farm Police said, 'Until we get the parents to take control of these youths then we are struggling to contain the problem. 'I would suggest that the brownie leaders take photographs of the youths and take the pictures to the police so we can identify them and visit their parents'. *AJB.*