



Chaddesden Historical Group

www.chaddesdenhistoricalgroup.co.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

Newsletter 58

February 2017



Mystery Photos: Two views of a red brick building that stands next to a main road in Chaddesden. Do you know what the building is and where it is? The answer will be in the next newsletter.

Editorial

Previous editors always placed a photograph on the front page of the newsletter. That was done with good reason. It increases visual interest and it makes it easy to identify each issue of the newsletter. The present editor has agreed this standard with the committee:

Front page always to include a photograph, preferably full width, in the upper half of the page. The photograph may be stand-alone with a paragraph caption or it may refer to an article on a later page.

The problem is that there is not an infinite supply of old photographs of Chaddesden; none at all prior to the invention of the dry glass plate process in 1871 that made photography possible outside a studio. Victorian photographs are mainly family groups in studios as it was easier to move the subject than the camera. There were a few pioneers like Richard Keene and W.W. Winter who carried heavy cameras and glass plates to take the historic Derby photos that fascinate us today.

The fashion for picture postcards from the end of the 19th century resulted in people like Francis Frith touring the country taking photographs of street scenes. Unfortunately none of them appears to have visited Chaddesden.

The introduction of roll film and then 35mm cameras in the 20th century increased the popularity of photography but it was still expensive. A look at the Picture the Past web site finds several hundred photos of Chaddesden, most of them postwar and still covered by copyright. These photos are available to us as non-commercial users but the cost would be around 10p for each copy of the newsletter printed, which is a significant increase on the present production cost for a newsletter that is nominally free of charge.

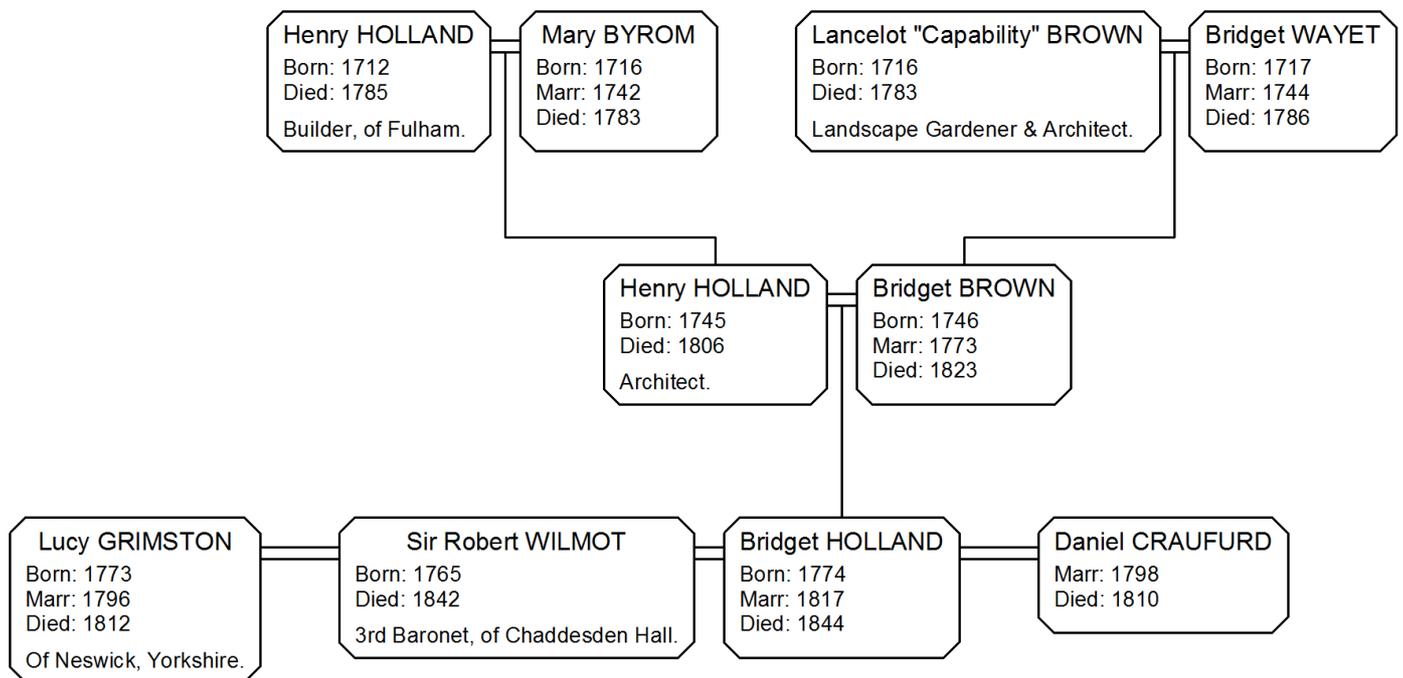
The alternative is to illustrate the newsletter with modern digital photographs of historic objects in Chaddesden as in the photos above. Readers' views are invited. Do you like a front page photo? Would you be happy with extracts from historic maps or other documents instead? Have you any old photos of Chaddesden that could be published?

Peter Barnes

A Very Capable Gardener

If you have ever visited one of our grand country-houses, there is probably a good chance you were informed that Capability Brown was responsible for setting out its gardens. Lancelot "Capability" Brown (1716-1783) is perhaps our most famous landscape-gardener, and acquired his nickname from his habit of referring to the capabilities he saw in the grounds he had been commissioned to redesign. The parks and gardens he created were so contrived as to give an uninterrupted scenic view from his patron's house as far as the eye could see across a "natural" looking landscape, with artfully arranged placid lakes, clumps of trees, and winding paths. With his pioneering use of sunken fences (or ha-has) he enabled his clients to enjoy vistas from their windows which gave every appearance that the natural landscape reached right up to the house itself ... a far cry from the formal gardens hitherto in vogue.

Thanks to his influential clientele, Capability Brown was celebrated by Georgian society, but even so you might be surprised to learn that his grand-daughter married into the Wilmot family of Chaddesden Hall. A memorial stone mounted on the north wall of the chancel in St. Mary's Church commemorates Sir Robert Wilmot (3rd Baronet, 1765-1842), who married his second wife, Bridget (the widow of Daniel Craufurd) in 1817. Bridget was the daughter of Henry Holland the younger, the talented London architect, who not only worked with Capability Brown but had also married his daughter. The simplified family tree should help to make things a little clearer! In due course the Chaddesden estate passed to Sir Robert's eldest surviving son from his first marriage to Lucy Grimston, but Sir Robert and his second wife, Bridget, had a daughter, Ellen Frances, who later carried the Capability Brown connection to her husband, William Sawrey Morritt of Rokeby Park, Yorkshire (now County Durham). Rokeby, of course, is well known as the setting for Walter Scott's poem of the same name, and also as the former home of the *Rokeby Venus* (or *Venus at her Mirror*), a celebrated painting by Velazquez.



Capability Brown: The Chaddesden Connection

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It is now 300 years since the birth of Capability Brown and given the subsequent fame which has accrued to him since then, it is tempting to think of the great landscape-gardener when reading the last two lines on the Wilmot memorial in Chaddesden Church ... "Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore."

© Peter Cholerton, 2016



Gordon Mills Bowley 1932 – 2016

It is with deep regret that we report the death of Gordon Mills Bowley, one of our longest serving members and a keen supporter of Chaddesden and its history. Gordon was born in Ravenscroft Drive in Chaddesden in 1932 and his memories of Chaddesden, and the people who lived here, were of incredible use to me whilst setting up the group archives. He also took a very active role, along with others, in contributing to a project called 'The Past on Your Doorstep' recorded by the Derby and Derbyshire Groundwork Team. This involved him working with local schoolchildren from 2005 to 2007 answering questions and keeping them spellbound with tales of old Chaddesden as he remembered it. This project is still active on our website and Gordon can be heard recalling stories his mother, who was born in 1904, told him about the behaviour of the Wilmot family up to 1916 when the last of the Chaddesden Wilmots, Constance, died leading to the eventual breakup of the estate and the demolition of the hall.

His many memories of Brook Farm and helping the owners Ted and Eunice, his sister and brother in law, were invaluable to me and others in putting together a case to try and stop the intended development of that area.

Gordon completed his National Service in The Royal Air Force in the early 1950s, and he served as secretary to the head of the RAF Regiment at that time, an extremely prestigious post for a National Serviceman to hold. Though he spent his later years living in Borrowash with Janet he was a Chaddesden Lad at heart and he would always find time to talk (and could he talk!) to me and that, along with the fact that his memories have been recorded on our website, is an indication of the passion he held for Chaddesden and its history. I will certainly miss our conversations and our sympathies must go to Janet and all of Gordon's surviving family in the time of their sad loss. RIP.

Andrew J Bailey

Where It Is

The mystery photo in the previous issue is one of two community artworks that were installed in Chaddesden Park in autumn 2016.

This explanation was received from Councillor Sara Bolton: *They are as a result of *Section 106 money from a local planning application that was specifically earmarked for local Public Art. The two pieces were designed by Lees Brook School students and are based on leaf patterns as they are in a Park. One piece is near the Chaddesden Lane entrance, opposite Tudor Road, and the other alongside the footpath from the Parkside Road entrance.*



The artwork pictured in the previous newsletter is near the Chaddesden Lane car park entrance to the park. The Age UK building is in the background.

*Town and Country Planning Act 1990, section 106

William (Bill) Lamb

Bill, for 46 years the husband of Jane Lamb passed away on December 28th 2016. He was a member of Chaddesden Historical Group and enjoyed going on our visits when his health permitted. Jane and Bill enjoyed cruising and holidays, and had only recently moved into their bungalow. All good wishes go to Jane at this sad time.

Meetings

Thursday 2 March - T.G.Green Pottery (Cornishware) by Dr Iain Hambling (www.gresleypottery.uk)

Thursday 6 April - Annual General Meeting followed by Stanton at War – Stephen Flinders
Non-members may attend but they are not allowed to vote in the AGM.

Outing to the Victorian Baths at Stockport
on Thursday 16 March leaving at 09:15.
£16 per member.

A guided tour of the whole of the baths, changing rooms, turkish baths etc which are accessible on the ground floor. Anyone with walking difficulties may take a walker or stick. Members who wish to climb upstairs for a view from above may do so.

It is suggested that sandwiches are taken to eat on the coach as the cafe has to be booked in advance for lunch. Expected time of arrival will be around 11.30. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served, hopefully on arrival.

After the tour we make our way to Elizabeth Gaskell's house by coach for a guided tour. There is a lift to access all areas of the house. We finish the day with tea/coffee/cake before departing around 16:15, arriving back in Derby around 18:30

Contributions to the Newsletter

should preferably be large enough to fill one page including one photograph, map or drawing. The preferred formats are Microsoft Word, Open Office, plain text or legible handwriting.

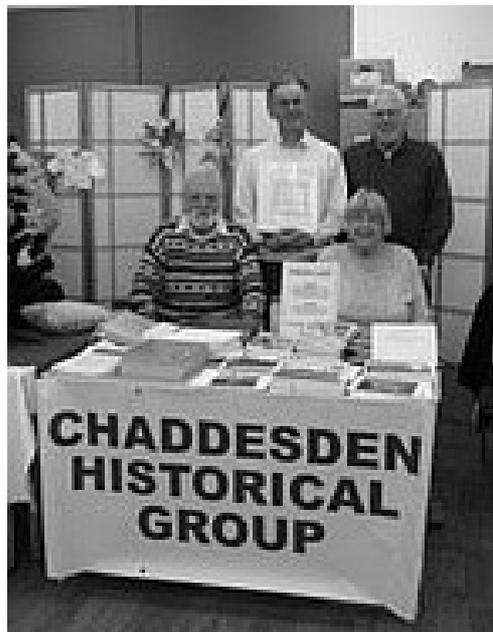
Please send contributions to the Editor, Peter Barnes
email: northwoodave14@hotmail.co.uk
phone: (01332) 673234

Chaddesden WI Christmas Market

The Group attended this event on Sunday 27 November from 10.00 until 12 noon. It proved to be a very successful occasion with local stall holders and most importantly lots of customers to spend their money.

Festive dress was the order of the day and there was lots of chatting and catching up time by some people who hadn't seen each other for a while. It was a very well organised event by Chaddesden WI with lots of tea and cake as advertised to keep us going.

Linda Crosby, Secretary



[photo by Barbara Smith]

We also attended the St Philip's Church Christmas Market on the afternoon of Saturday 3 December.

Disclaimer

The Chaddesden Historical Group does not guarantee the accuracy of items published in this newsletter. While every attempt has been made to trace the original ownership of photographs and maps, we apologise for any acknowledgement that we have failed to make. Our thanks go to our contributors, to Derby Local Studies Library, to Peter Cholerton for proof reading and to West Park School for printing.