



Chaddesden Historical Group



www.chaddesdenhistoricalgroup.co.uk

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Can you supply any names to this photograph taken outside the West door of St. Mary's Church early last century.

Editorial.

As we move into 2014 our group will, like many others seek to commemorate the start of the First World War and the men of Chaddesden who gave their lives between 1914 and 1918. If you can help with any family photographs or anecdotes from this time we will be able to incorporate them in the WW1 based archives day to be held in the Autumn. Andrew or Rita will be happy to copy any photos and let you have them back immediately.

The next newsletter will coincide with our Annual General Meeting in April and hopefully all of the business to be transacted at that meeting will again be published at our March meeting thus giving everyone time to read and digest it.

This early part of 2014 will be spent updating and overhauling our website which hasn't been changed since its launch in January of 2011. When it was developed we didn't expect it to be as popular and well visited as it has been (87,600 hits in Dec 13) and as such it isn't coping with the iphone, ipad and touch screen tablet technology that is now part of life. This overhaul will bring us up to date in this, and other, areas as well as making the system more user-friendly with regard to posting new articles and pictures whilst maintaining the straightforward system enjoyed by our many visitors and followers. The end of 2013 also saw the HLF

funded project to set up our archives come to an end and a final report on our involvement with HLF is now being prepared. So, all in all, it should be a quiet year! That'll be right then. *AJB*

The Quakers Name.

I've become very involved in the Co-op and the role of women in the early days. Researching this I found the following entry in the book "Jubilee History of the Derby Co-operative Provident Society Ltd 1850-1900." Jean.

"It is singular that a Society of Friends first acquired the name Quaker in Derby. George Fox, whose intrepidity was such that no charter, or intimidation, could keep him out of any place he chose to go-presented himself in the town in 1650. When it got a live Quaker it kept him, in the unpleasant way of imprisoning him for twelve months in its most unwholesome gaol. One day, Mr Justice Bennet, who was not a pleasant, but a ready witted person, was addressed by Fox, who told him "he ought to tremble at the word of the Lord". Whereupon he called Fox "a quaker", a name, which for the first time was applied to Fox's followers.

Jean Moss

This next article is another well researched piece by Peter Cholerton. In light of proposed development in the area and historical accuracy the article has not been edited but will, instead, be published in 3 parts.

AJB

BRADCAR WATER-MILL, CHADDESSEN Part 1

The following article is an account of a hitherto unknown water-mill at Chaddesden which I have called *Bradcar Mill*, and includes brief details about some of the individuals who were associated with it. The mill, which once stood on Lees Brook, seemingly fell into disuse in the early eighteenth century and its very existence has been forgotten until now. Fig. 1 shows the approximate location of *Bradcar Mill* in relation to the rest of the village, but as the exact site of the mill has not yet been determined it must be stressed that this is only a general indication to its whereabouts.

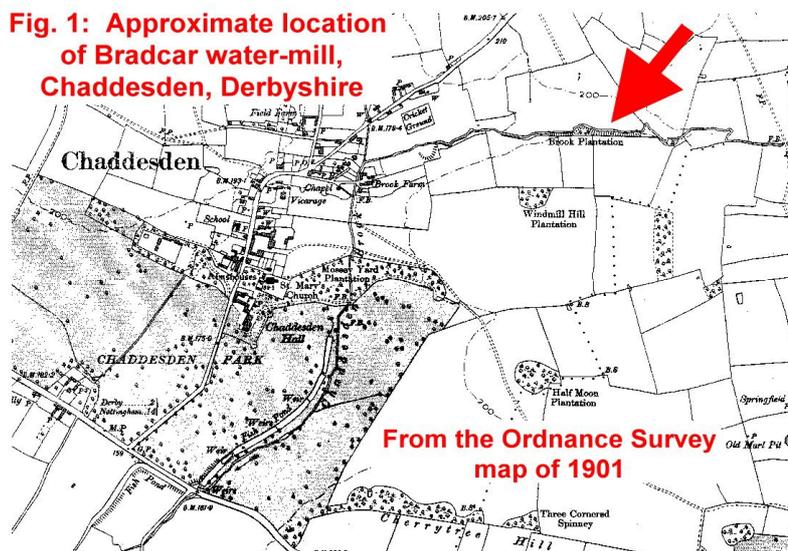
In 1791 the three commissioners responsible for overseeing the parliamentary enclosure of Chaddesden

appointed Robert Smedley, a Chaddesden man and a cartographer of some skill, to act as their surveyor. His task, which took the best part of a year to complete, was to survey the whole of the village and then draw the resultant enclosure map. Carefully plotted at a scale of 1:4752 (i.e. one inch to six chains), the map shows the individual houses of Chaddesden, its four open fields – *Breadsall Field*, *Derby Field*, *Ryley Field* and *Spondon Field* – as well as the common, meadow and previously-enclosed land.

At around 159 acres in size, *Spondon Field* was the third largest of the open

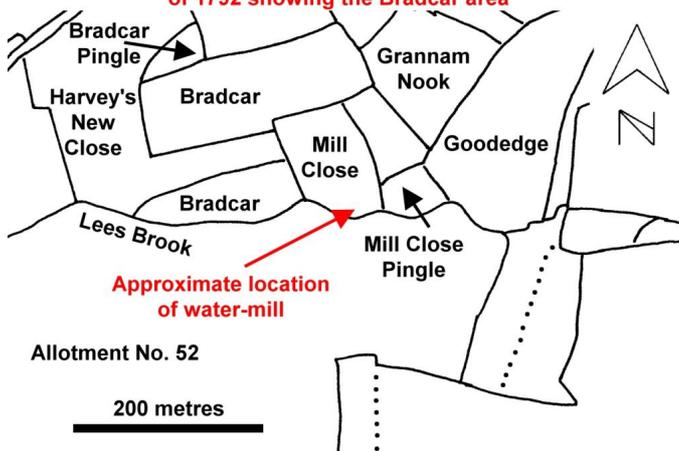
fields and in modern terms extended from Albert Road across Nottingham Road, over Chaddesden Park and beyond Tennessee Road and the adjacent prominence of *Windmill Hill* before dropping down to Lees Brook, which formed its northern boundary. Lees Brook runs from east to west at the base of *Windmill Hill* and from at least the early seventeenth century onwards, an area of land abutting its right-hand (north) bank was known as *Bradcar*, its name apparently meaning a broad, overgrown marsh. When Robert Smedley drew the Chaddesden enclosure map in 1792, *Bradcar* already lay subdivided into three separate closes called (from N-S) *Bradcar Pingle*, *Bradcar* and another *Bradcar*, whilst adjoining these to the east were two further smallish parcels of land, *Mill Close* and *Mill Close Pingle* (Fig. 2). Today all this land lies

Fig. 1: Approximate location of Bradcar water-mill, Chaddesden, Derbyshire



within the grounds of Lees Brook School on Morley Road, Chaddesden, but prior to the construction of the school in the 1950s formed part of Brook Farm on Chapel Lane.

Fig. 2: Simplified version of the Chaddesden enclosure map of 1792 showing the Bradcar area



When I first saw a copy of the Chaddesden enclosure map some forty years ago, I assumed that *Mill Close* and *Mill Close Pingle* were so-named because of their proximity to *Windmill Hill* only 250 yards away. *Windmill Hill* (Fig. 3) is a prominent local landmark and (so I reasoned) it would have been quite logical for someone enclosing a couple of pieces of land in the vicinity of *Bradcar* to name their new fields after the village windmill which had once dominated the summit of the hill looming above them to the south. However, with the passage of time I began to have doubts about this initial assumption – could *Mill Close* and *Mill Close Pingle* actually indicate the site of an otherwise unknown and undocumented water-mill

which had utilised the water of Lees Brook? Chaddesden certainly once possessed a water-mill, but this was in the far south of the parish near the Derby Canal and the River Derwent, in-between what is now Highfield Lane and Meadow Lane (SK 376 360).

A hint that Chaddesden might indeed have had a second water-mill appears in William Woolley's *History of Derbyshire*, written c.1713. Commenting on the subject of Upper Locko, Woolley says: "There is now standing an old house with an estate of about £100 p.a. It was lately Mr. Walker's of Derby, whose daughter married John Harpur of Little Over Esq., whose it is now. There is on the backside of the house a curious well of springing water called St. Ann's well which is walled and paved with stone; it feeds the fishponds, runs down by Nether Locko, through the gardens and turns a mill in Chaddesden liberty, about a mile below the fountain" (Glover & Riden 1981, 83). Now, Woolley of course did not have any detailed maps to use, but even so the true distance between the "fountain" or St. Ann's Well at Locko (SK 412 390) and Chaddesden Mill down by the River Derwent was nearer to three miles – could his estimate have been so far out, I wondered? However, if the mill Woolley was really describing lay close to *Bradcar*, then it would have been just under two miles away from its source at Locko and thus more in accordance with his estimate.

Back in c.2000 I walked the north bank of the brook in the grounds of Lees Brook School looking for any traces of a former water-mill, but overgrown vegetation thwarted a detailed examination. Certainly there were places along the brook-course where the banks (particularly on the south side) were very steep, almost vertical, and it seemed feasible that the brook might once have been dammed to provide a water-supply for a mill. A few years later the School authorities stopped access to the field immediately to the north of Lees Brook by installing a two metre high fence, making further investigation impossible from their side of the brook.

Eventually, in 2011, I discovered evidence proving that back in the early eighteenth century, *Bradcar* was indeed the site of a previously unknown water-mill, for a document of 1719 in Nottinghamshire Archives (DD/BK/1/334) refers to a small piece of land called *Bradcar* or *Bradcar Pingle* at Chaddesden "whereon a Water Corne Mill lately stood".

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Unexpected Callers

Surprisingly, over the years, Chaddesden has had its fair share of flying visitors. The first of these was in September of 1913 when a relative of the vicar of Chaddesden, Lieut. Smith of the AFC did an impromptu flying exhibition at the Church Parade of D Company of the 5th Sherwood Foresters which took place on the meadow in front of Chaddesden Hall, in front of a crowd of some 2,000 people including Miss Wilmot of the Hall. Among many members of the Foresters were NCO's Col. Sgt. Tansley, Ord. Sgt. Chadwick and Sgts. Godlington, Baker, Matthews, Horn, Toon, Derrick and Clarke. Lieut. Smith spent some time explaining the finer points of the aircraft to interested officers and SNCO's before flying off into the sunset.

The second visit was on 13th February 1931 when a Blackburn Bluebird service aeroplane descended onto a field belonging to Mr J W Burnett, Field House Farm. One of the occupants of the plane explained that they were experiencing slight engine troubles and had lost their way. This happened a few months before the King's Cup Air Race where a number of Bluebirds were entered. The photograph on the left shows an aircraft similar to the one which landed in Chaddesden. *Photo FlightGlobal*



The third was in February 1937 when a civilian pilot flying a Gypsy Moth bi-plane from Ireland to Mansfield lost his bearings over Derby, and after circling over Breadsall and Chaddesden landed in a field at the top of Grove Road in Chaddesden. The pilot was given directions by Mr S W Johnson of 180, Chaddesden Park Road and he was able to take off again within five minutes. *Rita Bailey.*

St Valentines Day.

Saint Valentine's Day, also known as **Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is observed on February 14th each year. It is celebrated in many countries around the world, although it remains a working day in most of them.

St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus.

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