



# Chaddesden Historical Group



Newsletter 23. February 2011

**Welcome to the first newsletter of 2011.**

Following on from our last picture of the Hall, this one is taken from the park and shows the location relevant to the position of the mound at the back of the pavilion. The line of trees shown on the left can still be seen today as can the corresponding ones on the right which are out of shot in this picture. Looking at both photographs it is evident that the Hall was much further back from Chaddesden Lane as some would have us believe and would explain why some of the property owners are finding footings and stonework in their back gardens. We hope to carry out more investigation this year and will keep you informed. *AJB.*



Chaddesden Hall, from the park, looking North West

Guest Editorial.

I've always been interested in history, especially the history of the people who lived in this area. The history of Chaddesden shows how England has changed from a rural community to what it is today. It is a story of how people moved and adapted to different ways of life. Evidence of these changes is all around us, if only we look.

I noticed that we had a drain cover in our garden with the inscription C H COOPER, BUILDER, CHADESDEN. Looking on the Internet I found that C H Cooper of Chaddesden had an HM.14 Flying Flea (*Pou du ciel*) aeroplane G-AEHH registered as flying between 28<sup>th</sup> April 1936 and December 1946. This was the first model described in 1934 to be built by amateurs. So who was this Chaddesden builder who was able to commission drain covers to be made to advertise his work and was interested in flying. Are there any other examples of his work and does anyone have more information?



Another useful source of local information is house deeds, as well as papers and photographs from the past. We have a copy of St Mary's parish magazine from the 1940s, only saved because it records my husband's christening. This provides a fascinating list of shops and businesses that used to advertise in the parish mag. It is important that this information is recorded. Please pass on any information you might have, together with your memories of Chaddesden, to the archive team.

*Jean Moss. Community Development Officer at West Park School, Spondon.*

## Max Nepolski.

When Mordecai Neploski boarded the wrong ship and landed in Liverpool, the people of Chaddesden could never have imagined the change that that mistake would make to their village in the years to come.

When the Cossacks raided his village just outside the Russian town of Omsk one night in 1886, Mordecai finally snapped and dragged the leader from his horse and administered some grievous bodily harm. He was thus a marked man so his family and friends gathered a few coins together, gave them to him and insisted he flee for his life.

Mordecai was a bear of a man and worked his way south from Liverpool earning his living as a casual labourer and wrestling at fairs, taking



Max Road in a Russian Winter

on all comers. With the help of a marriage broker he met his future wife, changed his name to Max and settled in Nottingham where he made an enormous success of his business as a builder and developer.

Max Nepolski's last project was to build a large part of Chaddesden in the 1930's. He named Max Road after himself, Gertrude Road after his eldest daughter and Marjorie Road after his youngest daughter. He had another daughter, Celia, but no street bears her name. The Majestic Cinema, formerly in Wiltshire Road, was another of Max's creations and it is said that the neon on its 70 foot tower could be seen for miles around.

In an interview with the Derby Evening Telegraph in February 2003 Max's grandson, Derby Crown Court Judge Brian Appleby QC revealed more details of his grandfather's life. As well as arriving without a penny in his pocket he could not read or write English but he went on to teach himself, and then he developed a keen interest in British justice. He would never speak of, nor see his family in Russia again. He probably found it far too painful.

Max went on to become a very rich man with an office in Nottingham and a house that he built for himself on the south side of the city. Although he turned his back on Russia he never forgot his roots and tended to be a bit of an autocrat within his family, what he decided was law and nobody argued with him. He had a Rolls-Royce with chauffeur but he never travelled in it, when the judge asked him one day why they could not get in it he said, "I never ride in it in case I forget who I am". It even followed him to and from his office everyday whilst he walked, and when asked why he owned it, and he said that he had seen important Englishmen with theirs and he wanted one.

The houses built by Max Nepolski in 1935 were sold to a London investment company seven years after his death. He was in his eighties when he died in 1945 and he left his estate to be administered by the Public Trustees. The tenants of the 700 plus houses he built in the area around Wood Road and Max Road were given the opportunity to buy their houses for £800, some of the properties had already been sold at auction for between £1400 and £1700. The Derby Evening Telegraph reported on December 5<sup>th</sup> 1952 that an unnamed investment company had purchased about 500 of the houses for £300,000.

That a man who escaped the revenge of the Cossacks, fled to England, taught himself to read and write, built up a building and development company and is commemorated by the houses he built in Chaddesden gives testimony not only to the man himself but to a long past English way of life that allowed him to do it. *AJB.*

*With thanks to the Derby Telegraph and their Court Reporter Jo Hillier whose article was used in compiling this item. The full article dating from February 2003 is held in our archives.*

You have heard me say before that having an Archives of Chaddesden's history is only part of the job, we need to make it as accessible as possible to as many people as we can. The website is part of this aim and I am sure everyone will find something of interest in there. For those that do not have internet access at home we intend to have a laptop available at all of our future meetings so everyone will get a look at what's happening. *AJB*

### **And What a Party**



After a delay of 2 weeks due to the unbelievable weather our party went ahead on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2010. Thanks must go to all who made it a most enjoyable event and especially to the stewards and staff of the Jubilee Club for arranging the buffet and endless supply of hot drinks. Despite the fact that the majority of our invited guests had to send their apologies due to prior commitments and illness we still had a fantastic turnout of over 60 members.

We now have a total of 4 DVDs in our archives and hopefully more are on the way. These films will be shown again and can anyone who has any further information about them please come and talk to the Archive Team so that we can build up a commentary to support them.

Our first attempt at a calendar has been a huge success and thanks must go to all those involved. The initial cost has been met from our Lottery Grant so all of the monies taken in will fund next year's calendar should you want us to produce one.

What with our calendar, our website and the ever increasing membership, this coming year is going to be very busy for all of us and Chaddesden Historical Group has taken its place as part of our community's life. Many thanks to everyone for your support and keep the information flowing in. *AJB*.

### **Did You Know?**

In the years prior to the Second World War the infamous Sir Oswald Mosley was often a visitor to Chaddesden, staying in a local house with friends. Do you know who and where? More next time. *AJB*.

### **Notices**

#### **Disclaimer.**

Whilst every attempt has been made to trace original ownership of photographs, pictures and articles used in this

## **Committee Members**

### **Tony Bowler**

*Chairman*

### **John Crosby**

*Treasurer and vice Chairman*

### **Linda Crosby**

*Secretary and Visits Coordinator*

### **Deryck Morley**

*Asst Treasurer and Asst Archivist*

### **Ken Garner**

*Photo Archivist and Research*

### **Marie Garner**

*Asst Photo Archivist and Asst Secretary*

### **Sid Marson**

*Speakers Booking Secretary*

### **Pam Bowler**

*Raffle Prizes and Newsletters.*

### **Sandra Rainsford**

*Raffle Organiser*

### **Andrew Bailey**

*Archivist and Newsletter Editor*

### **Margaret Poyser**

*Asst Archivist and Researcher*

### **Know your Committee Member.**

#### **Margaret Poyser. Assistant Archivist.**

In 1937 my parents, Frank and Bertha Jackson, came to live at 24 Rupert Road and I lived there until I married Ken. After my parents died in 1974 we moved back into the family home. Our son Guy arrived in 1978 and there we stayed until moving to Field Lane 3 years ago. The house in Rupert Road will stay in the family with Guy and Jo's marriage this year.

My main interest is Steam Loco's, having worked for 10 years for the British Transport Commission at Friargate Goods Depot and other offices. My other interests include the Youth Hostels Association, working at Erewash Museum for 10 years and my time with the British Red Cross Society. Whilst with the Red Cross I was involved in staffing First Aid Posts, ward nursing at the City Hospital, the National Blood Transfusion Service as well as Derby Ladies First Aid Team for the British Railways Board.

My other passion is Chaddesden's history and I have collected a vast number of articles and stories of interest which I enjoy sharing with our group.

Margaret.

### **Oops Sorry.**

Following the inclusion of his article on Chaddesden's entry in the Doomsday Book in our last issue I spelt Alan Cawson's name incorrectly. Sorry about that Alan and I will make sure that our records have been amended. *AJB.*

### **The Chaddesden Magazine.**

You will, by now, have seen the articles based on local people in the Chaddesden Magazine. If anyone would like to see a particular person included in this feature please let me know, through the contact details above. These articles will also be included in our website. *AJB*