



# Chaddesden Historical Group



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

Newsletter # 38, August 2013.



**The restored Wilmot Family Graves.** ©Rita Bailey 2013.

## Editorial.

There was an excellent turnout for the rededication service of the restored Wilmot graves in St. Mary's Churchyard recently. After a considerable amount of work by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Victoria Cross Committee over the past two years and helped by donations from several local groups the grave is now a fitting tribute to a family that featured prominently in Chaddesden's rich history. I hope we are now turning the tide on the destruction of items of significant historical interest within our township and thanks to support of all our members we are now in a position to make our voice heard as was shown with the protection of the School Plaque from 1736 mentioned in our last issue. (*Township? Yes, the Domesday book refers to Chaddesden as a township and a township is defined as any parish with a manor house.*) We were approached recently by Cavendish Close Junior School and this led to your archives team taking 70 year 4 pupils on a guided walk round the park followed by spending a day in school with the same children telling them something of what it was like living in Chaddesden in Victorian times. The behaviour and enthusiasm for local history shown by the children was fantastic and very reassuring for the continuity for groups such as ours. I have copied a letter from the children later in this issue. *AJB*

## The Opening of the Derbyshire Records Office.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 three members of The Chaddesden Historical Group had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of the recently completed Derbyshire Records Office. This excellent facility now combines art storage space alongside the County Local Studies Library as well as a comprehensive Records Office. The opening of this £4 million facility was performed by Professor John Beckett, Professor of English Regional History at Nottingham University accompanied by Councillor Andrew I Lewer, Leader of Derbyshire County Council which funded the project.

During the afternoon we were given the opportunity to see the much improved visitor facilities including a sandwich and coffee room and some of the more interesting treasures in the collection which included a map of Breaston dating from 1722 and a rather gruesome medical tome guaranteed to put you off the excellent buffet.

The most memorable contribution undoubtedly came from the Derbyshire Poet Laureate Matt Black who read his new poem entitled, 'Somewhere in this building' to a most appreciative audience. Matt was kind enough to give me permission to reproduce this poem here which was inspired by a rather difficult to spot feature on the 1722 Breaston map, a ladder propped up against an apple tree.

### ***Somewhere in this building***

*on an old map, a ladder climbs quietly  
into the arms of an apple-tree.*

*Once a man stood on that ladder. Where is he?  
I want to know him, he comes from Then  
but must still live Here, among these records,  
frayed books and letters writ in goose quill.*

*Somewhere in this building you might find  
his mother, rummaging through last month's bills.  
We're all here, amongst the litter of our lives,  
our marks, traces, footprints on these shelves,  
like a new layer in a town of strata  
where sea-lily feathers once washed the lagoon.*

*He is our data, our DNA, on yellow paper.  
Somewhere in this building, he is real,  
he walks the fields, you can find his children.  
I can almost smell him, that hot afternoon,  
four centuries back, on the Breaston breeze,  
golden scent-of-earth in apple-sun.*

*Matt Black*

*Matt Black © 2013*

*Derbyshire Poet Laureate 2011-2013*

*[www.matt-black.co.uk](http://www.matt-black.co.uk)*



The poem, based on this map, encompasses everything that the DRO stands for and along with Rita and Mary, I enjoyed a memorable afternoon that also gave us all the opportunity to say hello to some old friends.

AJB.

## A Letter

Rita and I received this handwritten letter from the children. The original can now be seen in our archive collection.



Year 4 at the King George V gates.

Cavendish Close Junior School  
Friday 28th June 13.

Dear Andrew and Rita,

We are writing to you to tell you how much we enjoyed the walk around the park and when you came into our school. You make history fun and fascinating at the same time.

We especially liked it when you came into the classroom and dressed some of our friends up. It was hilarious. Our favourite part was when you told us about Chaddesden Hall. We found it fascinating. We have learnt what a Victorian washing machine looks like, it doesn't look like we thought it would. We also didn't know how heavy the iron was.

We have also learnt that the people who sold the little boys to Sweep Master would lure the children away from their friends and kidnap them.

Thank you for spending your time with us to tell us more about the Victorians. You are very kind to do so. We have learnt a lot from you.

Yours Sincerely  
Year 4.

## Books and Pamphlets

We are coming to the end of the HLF funded project to form an extensive archives for our group. We have ticked most of the boxes on the jobs to do list and the final one is the book and pamphlet production. This is now in hand with the printer already on board and the material sourced we hope to have the first book available in the autumn. This will be an anthology of articles about Chaddesden all drawn into one volume as opposed to them being scattered around the newsletters, Chad Mag and the website. This will be followed by a biography and a further volume about the characters who have lived in Chaddesden. We have purchased a block of ISBN numbers and our aim is to keep the cost as low as possible and aim at the 'coffee table' book market where you will be able to pick it up and put it down as the mood takes you. The archives will not stop at the 3 year point, indeed it will continue to grow but it does mean that it will become self supporting which is why book, map and memorabilia sales will be introduced to fund the work. HLF funding is already in place to get the ball rolling so watch this space for further updates. *AJB.*

## Notices.

### Your Committee

#### **Tony Bowler**

*Honorary President*

#### **Andrew Bailey**

*Chairman and Archivist.*

#### **Linda Crosby**

*Secretary and Visits Coordinator*

#### **Deryck Morley**

*Treasurer*

#### **John Crosby**

*Deputy Chairman*

#### **Pam Bowler.**

*Newsletters Distribution.*

#### **Sandra Rainsford**

*Researcher*

#### **Rita Bailey**

*Deputy Archivist and Chief  
Researcher*

#### **Margaret Poyser**

*Asst Secretary*

#### **Jean Moss**

*Admin Support and Research*

#### **Pam Helm**

*Raffle Organiser, Museums Liaison*

#### **Mary Adelman**

*Researcher/Minutes Sec*

#### **Catherine Felber**

*Committee Member*

### Obituary

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of two members of the Chaddesden Historical Group.

#### **Mrs Brenda Bradley**

Brenda died on 4th of June after suffering a heart attack the previous Sunday. Brenda was married to Larry, our groups first treasurer and as well as being a founder member she also enjoyed organising our Thursday morning raffle during her time with us. When Larry died in 2007 Brenda moved first to Chester Green and then Mickleover but we always kept in touch through her daughters. I know that she remembered the Historical Group with affection and several of our members attended her funeral on June 18th. Our deepest sympathy has been to passed to all of Brenda's family.

#### **Mr Colin Gardner.**

Colin died on 25th June having finally lost his battle with cancer. Colin was a man of many interests but cricket was his lifelong passion. His interest in local history bought him to our group and his willingness to talk and share his experiences will be sorely missed. As is fitting for a Derby man he also had a passion for steam engines and was a keen supporter of the LMS-Patriot Project where a new steam train is being built to the original 1900 design. The CHG were represented at Colin's funeral on 9th July and our deepest sympathy was passed to his wife Sylvia and his children.



### The Old Library

And there it was, gone. The site is now a disabled car park for the AGE UK Centre. I'm pleased they can't tarmac our memories. *AJB*

### 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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