Chesterfield & District Local History Society

March 2016

New Committee, New Newsletter...

Although the roots of our Society are firmly in the historical past of Chesterfield, we needed to bring the look of our communications into the 21st century. This is essential if we are to attract new members – and there are a lot of younger folks out there that are intrigued with the history of our town that are unaware of the amount of information and research that CADLHS have accumulated over the years.

These people are used to a different form of communication, they expect an Internet presence, downloadable documents, new forms of visual communication - as well as photography, they expect video and animations.

But essentially the information stays the same - only the presentation has changed.

In a way, I am typical of these people, until three years ago when I decided to embark on a project to record all and any information on the Dog Kennels area of Chesterfield. As I was starting to read everything relevant and started collecting copies of all known photographs of the Dog Kennels I was introduced to Janet Murphy. Most of you will know Janet as a keen member of the Society and a prolific contributor to the newsletters, history papers and to the Journal. I cannot thank her enough for her patience with me as I spent more and more time in the Local History section at Chesterfield Library. At times I felt like a child as she explained all about the maps available, how to operate the miro-fiche machines - and the mysterious goings on in the "back room".

Then Janet invited me to a Society meeting. I enjoyed that very much and the rest, as they say, is history. Fast forward to the present day and with my project, The Dog Kennels and Yards of Chesterfield, live on the Internet a wealth of information has been gained and shared. I now find myself at the heart of Society, and with that, the responsibility to ensure both the survival and promotion of Chesterfield and District Local History Society.

and where did you get that logo?

Anyway, the story of the logo...

One day, as I researched old photographs of Chesterfield I noticed this lovely street lamp and as I looked at subsequent photos, there it was again. Now I know all about the lamp that was at the bottom of Packers Row and was moved to the Parish Church, but the beauty of this new one really appealed to me – and it was all over the town centre in old photos. So when I started to design the new printed materials for the Society earlier this year, there was really only one choice – and thanks to local artist David Charlesworth we now have a professionally drawn logo at the heart of our new identity.



Peter Maycock



Annual Subscriptions

Individuals - £12.00 - Couples - £16.00

Payable by cheque at the March meeting

*Please makes cheques payable to Chesterfield and District Local History Society

Or online at - www.cadlhs.org.uk/

by clicking on the Membership/ Subscriptions button

A Message to our Members

The Society produces a monthly newsletter and an annual Journal. Contributions are being sought for both.

Items for the newsletter are short, an example is the piece about letterboxes in this issue.

Articles for the Cesterfeld Journal are longer and based on research carried out by members, examples from earlier Journals are articles about the Markham Pit disaster in 1938 and Chesterfield's blue plaques.

Contributions may be handed in at meetings or sent by e-mail to info@cadlhs.org.uk

New Meetings

Speakers for our autumn meetings are now being booked.

Suggestions are always welcome.

Janet is to give us a talk in October entitled **"Life on the Boythorpe Estate**"



Revolution House Reopens in March

In 1688, three local noblemen, the Earl of Devonshire, the Earl of Danby and Mr John D'Arcy met at Whittington disguised as a hunting party, to begin planning their part in the overthrow of James II.

A rainstorm sent them seeking shelter to the Cock and Pynot alehouse.

Now known as Revolution House, it is a free public museum. There is a display of 17th century furniture, a video on the Revolution of 1688 and a programme of special events through the summer.

Revolution House is currently closed, it will reopen on Saturday 26 March for the Summer Season, when it will be open Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 11am - 4pm





Recent Findings Will Be Revealed

when CADLHS Secretary Janet Murphy gives a talk at the Winding Wheel on Wednesday 16th March on one of Chesterfield's most distictive architectural features, the Black and White Buildings.

After years of research and presentations to local history groups, businessmen and even some of Chesterfield's politicians, Janet finally has her chance to bring the plight of these wonderful buildings, and the challenges they face, to the general public of Chesterfield.

Tickets are priced at £7.00 and £5.45 and the talk starts at 7.30 pm.



SLEEPING BEAUTY, THE CROMFORD CANAL & IT'S RESTORATION

By Mike Kelley

The history of a canal once of great importance to the area.

The cost is £2.00, refreshments are provided. Rose Hill United Reformed Church, (next to Town Hall), on Tuesday March 15th at 7.30pm The entrance is at the rear and there is ample free parking around the Town Hall after 6.00pm



World War One Centenary Trail will be launched at the Barrow Hill

The World War One Centenary Trail will be launched at the Barrow Hill Village Open Day on Saturday 9th April at 10:30. Entitled Barrow Hill – A Community Remembers, it is part of a project begun in August 2014.

The trail is part of a scheme that involved researching the names on the Barrow Hill Club War Memorial, carrying out refurbishment of the memorial and memorial garden and purchasing and fitting memorial plaques on the surviving houses where the casualties of World War One lived.

The final part of the project will be to publish a Book of Remembrance in the summer of 2016 giving details of the lives and deaths of the men named on the Barrow Hill Memorial Club memorial.

Why not walk the World War One Centenary Trail? We did and it was very interesting.

Wendy Pockson



Post Boxes are EVERYWHERE!

When did you last post a letter?

Post boxes really are everywhere but they are a dying presence on our streets. Once you have learned to spot them, know a thing or two about them, they have the power to become suddenly interesting. Actually, they can become totally addictive.

In a series of articles I shall describe the various post boxes that can be found in the town and provide a little history about them.You will soon be getting out and about taking photographs of the post boxes near you.

Dave Feltham





Chesterfield & District Local History Society

Peter Hawkins Retires



After many years of commitment to the Society, Peter Hawkins has retired as Chairman.

A much loved and respected man, Peter played an active part in the Society from the very beginning in 1989, rising to vicechairman and then chairman in 2014.

His interest in engineering is well known and his contributions to the Society's newsletter and history papers reflect this. His talks about the industrial history of the area have always been very popular.

In his retirement, Peter intends to spend more time with Chesterfield & District Model Engineering Society.

We all wish him well and good luck for the future

The New Committee

Chairman: Peter Maycock

Secretary: Janet Murphy

Vice Chairman: Wendy Pockson

Treasurer: Janine Le Mire

Membership Secretary: Brian Dick

Committee Members:

John Lilley

Rodney Ward

April & May Presentations



Listed Buildings & the Conservation Areas of Chesterfield

by Scott Nicholas

Conservation Officer for Chesterfield Listed Buildings, Parks & Gardens & Scheduled Monuments

Tuesday April 19th



Derbyshire Churches Architecture & Archaeology

by Peter Newsham

Peter is an excellent speaker who brings his subject to life in a special way.

Tuesday May 17th