



Where do you get your buzz?

Sounds a little rude that, but I don't mean it to be. The "buzz" I am referring to is that feeling of satisfaction, the pleasure in having put disparate facts together to arrive at a new understanding of something, or simply the pleasure of knowing something new.

It seems to me, and I have only limited experience, but the demographic of local history groups is definitely ageing. Membership dwindles as members age. There is definitely a need to pull in new members, fresh blood who will carry things forward. I have only a limited interest in Chesterfield and the local history of its various parts. But I have a deep love of history and have found it hugely satisfying and rewarding. I thought I would write this little piece to try and explain why I enjoy "doing" history. You will have to forgive the fact that it is not connected to Chesterfield as such, although I intend to write something more specific to the town shortly.

A couple of weeks ago, Wendy and I could be found walking around the local Saturday market at Wimborne in Dorset. Nice interesting place with a lively flea market offering all sorts of stuff. Naturally there was a stall selling old tools and metal bits and pieces. I saw the weight featured below immediately. Picking it up I had that feeling that it felt somehow right in my hand. It was smooth, shiny, had mass and a polish achieved through years of use. It was one of those objects that just seem to have the power to talk to you. There was no way I was letting go of it without a fight. The princely sum of 50p bought it and I felt that it was a bargain as I consigned it to my pocket. Huge grin on the face. Now all I had to do was find out what those marks mean.



It's a sad fact but the photograph simply does not portray the wonderful bronze patina that so attracted me to this weight in the first place, but the marks can be seen quite clearly.

As I began researching my weight, I was amazed how much history I could purchase for 50p and just how much fun I would have finding out about it. With modern technology everything you need is at your fingertips.

The weight has a diameter of approximately $2\frac{7}{16}$ th of an inch. I am proud to be an imperial man, but for those among us who were born into a metric world, the diameter is about 60mm. For

those nerdy enough to want to know such things, google was not a lot of use here. I tried googling 60mm as inches just to check my measurements and discovered that 60mm = 2.3622 inches. Horrid – a decimal expression of an inch; that's just plain wrong.

Unusually for the time, this bronze weight was made provincially and not in London. London was generally the source of all bronze weights up to the about the end of the 18th Century. The practice was for weights made by the members of the Worshipful Company of Founders to be taken to the Founders Hall where marks were stamped upon the weight as proof of its accuracy and approval for trade.



A 4oz weight carrying the marks normally applied by the Founders Company. Working round from the top, a sword which is the mark for London; a crowned G for King George III or IV, the ewer (or coffee pot) which is the mark of the Founders Company and an "A" for Avoirdupois – the weight system.

Most weights, except for the smaller ones carry these four marks

When my weight was made it probably carried no marks at all. Legislation by Act of Parliament in 1795 (Amended in 1797) provided for examiners of weights and measures to be appointed by the Justices in each county. It is likely that the first marks this weight received were the three stampings showing a Crown / GR, one at 2 O'clock, one at 5 O'clock and the other at 9 O'clock but over struck by the figure 8.



In 1834 Samuel Pegler was appointed an Inspector of Weights and Measures for East Dorset – Blandford. At some time between 1834 when he was appointed and 1849 when he moved to Salisbury, he handled this weight, checked and verified it for use by stamping it with his mark and name.

Dorset County mark used by S. Pegler. In addition to stamping his name, Pegler would also have stamped the symbol for Dorset with the letters "ED" beneath, representing the East Dorset division which included Shaftsbury, Wimborne, Wareham and Sturminster, in addition to Blandford.



(Continued overleaf)

This mark is not as clear as one would like as it was later overstruck by the "Z" when the indication of 8 oz was struck on the weight.

Samuel Pegler was an interesting chap. As well as being a part-time Inspector of Weights and Measures he was also a clock maker with premises in Salisbury Street, Blandford. It seems he had to leave Blandford for Salisbury. It seems, rather imprudently, when a gentry customer failed to pay his bill, Pegler announced the fact in the local papers. Other local notables then boycotted his business forcing him to move to Salisbury.

As was common practice, local police superintendents were employed as inspectors of weights and measures in many parts of the country. They carried out this role in Dorset from 1858 until 1889. Marks struck during this time were typically composed of the letters DC above the relevant district initials. This brought the next mark, or marks, for it was during this period that Pegler's name was over struck by the letters DC and NC added.



The Act of 1834 brought about the gradual introduction of weights marked with their denomination to the extent that from about 1850 onwards most weights were marked with their denomination at the time of manufacture. It seems likely that the denomination 8 oz was struck on this weight after 1858 when the DC / NC mark was struck.

The Weights and Measures Act of 1878 introduced a new system of verification marks using a common format of Crown / VR / a number indicating the place. Chesterfield would be Crown / VR / 418.

As no such marks are evident on my weight it suggests it has not been used for trade and subsequently verified for accuracy since around 1878. One can only wonder where its been all that time?

Loads of history and cheap at just 50p.

Dave Feltham

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 - 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.

Chesterfield Peace medals

Scholars' Peace medals

Medals in commemoration of peace have this week been distributed by the head teachers of the majority of scholars attending the schools in the borough. All told the presentations number over seven thousand.

Representations of the arms of the Allies and colonials are shown on one side of the medal, which is made especially applicable to Chesterfield by an excellent reproduction on the obverse side of the borough arms. The medal is suspended from a tri coloured ribbon.

Derbyshire Times September 27th 1919

Quarrel over Peace Medal

A quarrel of two Chesterfield school children over a peace medal had a sequel at Chesterfield the other day, so far as the parents were concerned.

Emily Berresford, 1 Stoppard's Row, was summoned by Ada Boden,

4 Stoppard's Row for assault on September 23rd. Mr B Mather for

complainant mentioned that she saw her little boy leave for school but on following him found defendant's daughter had kicked him.

Mrs Boden accordingly went to her boy's assistance, when defendant rushed out and struck her. As complainant was falling her hand caught in defendant's hair. The defendant who pleaded not guilty understood the children were quarrelling over a medal. She denied assaulting defendant or in any way provoking her. The girl aged 13 years was called on behalf of the defence. The Chairman asked "What kind of medal was it you were quarrelling over? Witness replied "It was a peace medal" (Laughter)

After hearing other evidence the Bench imposed a fine of 10s and costs.

Wendy Pockson



New Members

We have welcomed seven new members to the Society in recent weeks:

Brian Crossland, David Charlesworth, Wendy Pockson and Dave Feltham, Christine and Ian Thomason and Mick Spracklen.

On behalf of the Society I extend a warm welcome to you all and hope you find membership of our Society stimulating and rewarding. We are also indebted to Dave and Wendy for their contributions to the Newsletter, you are example to us all - Thank you.

Peter Maycock



APRIL MEETING

LISTED BUILDINGS & THE CONSERVATION AREAS OF CHESTERFIELD

By Scott Nicholas - Conservation Officer for Chesterfield

A very important subject to many members and non-members alike. Which areas and buildings are safe? Which areas and buildings are threatened? What say in these matters do the people of Chesterfield actually have?

The meeting will consist of a short presentation followed by a question and answer session.

The cost to non-members is £2.00, refreshments are provided.

Free to Members, join online now at - <http://www.cadlhs.org.uk/> - only £12 per year.

Rose Hill United Reformed Church, (next to Town Hall), on Tuesday April 19th at 7.30pm

The entrance is at the rear and there is ample free parking around the Town Hall after 6.00pm

Post Boxes



Illustration of the UK's first post box

Nothing remains of the original post box illustrated above except for a few photographs and pieces.

Chesterfield's Oldest Pillar Box

The oldest surviving pillar box in Chesterfield is this magnificent old girl, bearing the VR cypher.

It was made by A. Handyside & Co Ltd; Derby & London around 1887.

Pictured here on Chester Street it has stood for many years.

But you'd never tell as you walked past it.

Being the last lone survivor, should it be given Listed Status?

Dave Feltham



Membership Renewals - By Post - Online or at the Next Meeting

Membership can be renewed for the current year:

- * at the next CADLHS meeting at United Reformed Church Chesterfield on April 19th
- * by post. Please make cheques made payable to Chesterfield and District Local History Society and post to 29 Compton, Street, Chesterfield S40 4TA
- * or online at <http://www.cadlhs.org.uk> by debit card or Paypal (no account needed)

Membership includes Free Entry to Society Meetings, access to exclusive online Member Content and Monthly Newsletter



This photograph is of a stained glass panel on display in York National Railway Museum. It shows the Chesterfield Coat of Arms ie the pomegranate tree and motto. It is one of many such panels on display depicting various County crests. It is often said that this panel was once part of the Market Place Railway Station but this isn't the case. The panels formed part of a display in the

boardroom of Gorton Works in Manchester c1895. When the works closed down the panels were gifted to the museum where they remain on display. Apologies for the poor quality of this picture. The position of the panel makes it impossible to get a better one.

Wendy Pockson

Next Meetings

Tuesday May 17th - 7.30pm

Tuesday Sept 20th - 7.30pm

Tuesday Oct 18th - 7.30pm



Derbyshire Churches Architecture & Archaeology *by Paul Newsham*

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

Admission £2.00 - Free to Members

United Reformed Church
(Next to Town Hall)



The History of Whittington *by Barry Bingham*

A personal journey around Whittington by a local collector and historian.

Admission £2.00 - Free to Members

United Reformed Church
(Next to Town Hall)



From Slums to Homes Fit For Heroes *by Janet Murphy*

The early history of social housing in Chesterfield

Admission £2.00 - Free to Members

United Reformed Church
(Next to Town Hall)