



July & August 2016

Ye Olde Angel Hotel



Whilst sorting out some old paperwork about the Angel Hotel on High Street, I chanced upon some history of Ye Olde Angel Hotel on Packers Row. This made both delightful and fascinating reading.

A former Coaching Inn and very old building. Access to the pub was through an archway on Packers Row to a yard behind. As improvements were not viable, it was proposed to rebuild out of the town centre. However the proposals were not approved. The licence was objected to in 1939, when it was claimed that much of the building, including billiard and concert rooms, were disused. The pub closed for Compensation on 1st April 1940. Cantors furniture shop latterly stood on the site, but this has recently been rebuilt housing new shop units.

(Chesterfield Pubs - John Hirst).

From Old and New Chesterfield - It's People and Steeple by Tatler 1894

Whilst the greater portion of Packer's Row has been busy putting out "new fronts," and launching into more dignified places of business, its hostelries remain much the same as they were in 1830. The "Red Lion" and the "Old Angel" are amongst the oldest of Chesterfield's inns. Their signboards have cracked in the sun's heat, and creaked in the icy wind's face for scores of years. There is a certain charm about their names, which seem linked with the past, before the railways began their mad race,



these two hotels strove which could give weary travellers the warmest welcome. Big fires burned brightly in their old-fashioned rooms on wintry nights, and the tempting odour of cooking viands often obliterated from the wanderer's mind all thoughts of the footpads, and the rough roads, and the driving rain. The "Old Angel," where George Boot still reigns as host, has, besides, a special interest of its own. It has always fostered the turf, and has heard many racing secrets. During the period when Chesterfield races were held in greater estimation by the citizens than they are now, the "Old Angel" was a great rendezvous of lovers of horse-racing at Tattersall's Corner.

At that time, the race-course at Whittington Moor was not so hemmed in with houses, and the region near the Sheepbridge Works, known as "Monkey Park," was simply a slope of pasture land. From the grand stand the horses could be seen nearly from the start to the finish; and the straining steeds, with their hoofs flashing in the sunlight, and the jockeys in their fluttering silk jackets, made a beautiful picture of life and colour as they rushed past the winning-post, amid the cheers of those who had won, and the curses of those who hadn't.

The Duke of Devonshire, with his coach and six; Sir Henry Hunloke, with his gay equipage; and other members of the aristocracy, tooled their chariots in fine style to the course. Nearly everybody indeed (except the Sunday School children) rushed out of Chesterfield to the races, which were also "mush frequented by the mechanics of Sheffield." The St. Leger was not so easily accessible, and the long-established race meeting outside our own borough was much thought of. It was then that the "Old Angel" saw its halcyon days, and was as familiar to trainers and owners as the "Salutation Inn" at Doncaster.

The race committee were always crossing its threshold, and holding wise deliberations about stakes, and weights, and mounts. Proudly-stepping horses, in brightly-coloured cloths, were led out of the inn yard on their way to the paddock;

(Continued overleaf)

(Continued from front page)

bookmakers, with mysterious airs, hurried over the worn boulders, and out of the archway; "White-headed Bob," the notorious seller of race-cards, stood on the pavement, wringing his hands and shedding sham tears, because he could not get any tips; and beyond, in the roadway, loitered a miscellaneous crowd, waiting anxiously for — they knew not what,

Now-a-days people are whisked away to the Leger, and the Cup, by special trains; and the "Old Angel" has a quieter life — but it is a cosy, comfortable inn yet, much loved alike by prosperous, market-attending people, and the tradesmen who seldom allow their business cares to creep into their night's enjoyment.

From Old and New Chesterfield Its People and Steeple.
by TATLER



Aerial shot from 1928



Mystery Object

This item is in the collection of Chesterfield Museum.

What is it?

Answer next Newsletter

Next Meetings

Tuesday September 19th - 7.30pm



The History of Whittington *by Barry Bingham*

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

Admission £2.00 - Free to Members

Tuesday October 18th - 7.30pm



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

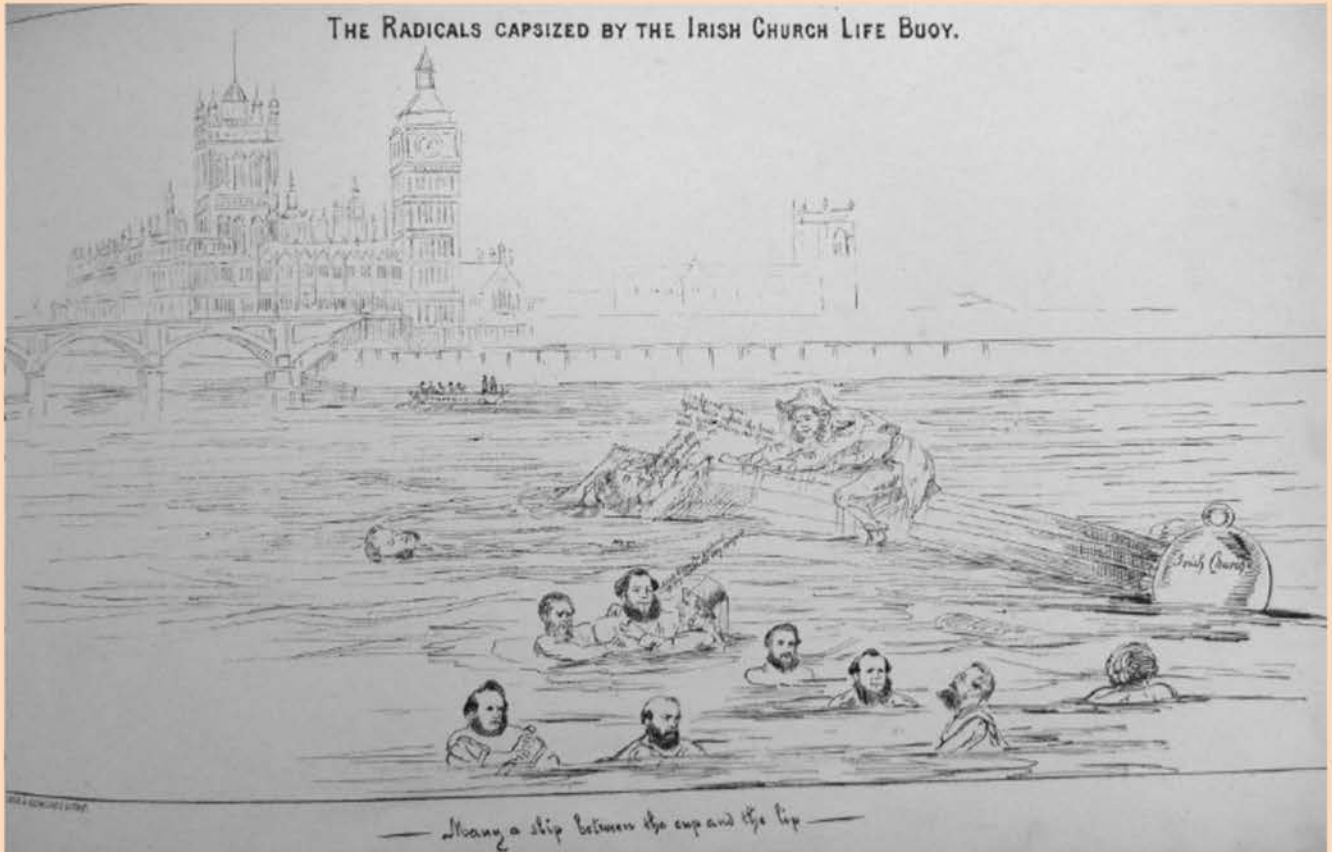
The early history of social housing in Chesterfield.

Admission £2.00 - Free to Members

Tuesday November 15th - 7.30pm

**To Be
Announced**

The Chesterfield Crow Cartoons (Continued)



The Conservatives produced three cartoons in response to the Liberal cartoons, published by Palmer and Edmunds, but only this one was a direct response to the Liberal cartoons.

On the upturned boat Captain Egerton is not happy, saying “Confound you, you have upset the boat and will drown me if you don’t let go.” Strutt doesn’t want to be left to drown – “Do pull me out. I’ll pay two thirds the passage money.” Cottingham is supporting Messrs Busby and Fearn—“Stick by me. I’m quite out of my depth but very buoyant.” Meanwhile the Conservative boat is approaching Parliament.



This is the second of the cartoons published and it represents the Liberals rowing along the Thames to Parliament, whilst the oarsmen from the Conservative camp are in some difficulty in the distance. At the rudder are Captain Egerton, in his naval uniform, and Henry Strutt. Immediately in front of them stands C.S. Busby wearing his mayoral chain. Facing him are the oarsmen J.G. Cottingham (nearest to the artist) and Fearn (or J.B.White); J Cutts and T. Ward; Revd. F. Bishop

and C. Haslam; and Hopkinson and R.T. Gratton. In the bow is Mr Haslehurst, grapple in hand. Some of these men are well known in the history of Chesterfield. J S Cottingham was the Duke of Devonshire's agent; John Cutts was the Town Clerk from 1857 until his death in 1893; Revd. Bishop, minister at Elder Yard Chapel; and C.S.Busby a solicitor and founder of the Chesterfield Benefit Building Society. Watching proceedings from above is the Chesterfield Crow.



Small but essential...

Chesterfield Museum doesn't normally collect natural history specimens but this little chap and other like him was an essential safety feature of Chesterfield's mines.

Canaries were an early warning system in coal mines as they are susceptible to lower levels of toxic gases such as carbon monoxide than humans. Any signs of distress in the canary, would alert the miners.

The birds were taken into the mines well into the 20th century as they were considered more sensitive than electronic detectors. In later years they were taken down by rescue teams only after an incident or accident.

In 1986 electronic gas detectors were considered more reliable and the birds were replaced. This is one of the last canaries to work at Markham Colliery.

He's going on display at the Museum in July along with all things animal related in a new exhibition called 'Chesterfield Menagerie'. It runs from 9th July until 24th September. The Museum is open Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 10am-4pm.

Chesterfield brothers killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme 1916

July 1st 2016 is the 100 year anniversary of the bloodiest battle of the First World War.

Known as 'The Battle of the Somme' it claimed the lives of over 73,000 men.

Of these men at least 45 came from Chesterfield and the surrounding area.

The front page of the Derbyshire Times featured row upon row of the faces of the local men lost on that day.

Two of those men were brothers Adrian and Richard Verner whose father Julius Anton Verner, a Russian immigrant was the manager of Staveley Iron and Steel Company.

The boys had enlisted on the same day with the York and Lancaster Regiment in Sheffield and they were given consecutive regimental numbers. Both shared the same birthday, July 2nd although there was two years difference in their age.



Private

JULIUS ADRIAN VERNER,
Yorks. and Lancs. Regiment.
Killed in Action.



Private

RICHARD HENRY VERNER,
Yorks. and Lancs. Regiment.
Killed in Action.

DOUBLE BEREAVEMENT

Chesterfield Brothers Killed in Action

The other day Mr and Mrs Verner of Spring house Calow received the devastating news that their two sons at the Front had been killed. The information was conveyed in the following letter; It is my painful duty to have to inform you of the death of both of your sons. They both fell during the attack we made on the first of the month with many friends. They could not possibly have had more noble deaths, though that is poor consolation I know for such terrible news. It was just such men as your two sons who has made the name of this battalion.

They were both held in great respect and it was a pleasure for me to recommend them for their commissions. The remnants of the battalion mourn for you and for the many brave parents left at home who have lost sons.

The two sons referred to are Privates Adrian and Richard Verner who in the September following the outbreak of war gave up lucrative positions to render what service they could to their country. Both boys were educated at Chesterfield Grammar School

Derbyshire Times July 29th 1916

The boys are remembered on war memorials at Calow and Chesterfield Grammar School as well as on Thiepval memorial in France.

Wendy Pockson