



NEWSLETTER January/February 2018



Tuesday October 16th

The Eastwood Family

A talk by

Tony Hallam

7:30pm. United Reformed Church. Rose Hill

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Tuesday 20th February

Annual General Meeting

7:30pm. United Reformed Church. Rose Hill

Followed by a presentation by David Howes

Membership

Subscriptions are due at the end of January. Membership £12: individual £16 couples.

However this year, following changes in legislation the Society has to obtain **signed** authorisation from members to enable us to collect membership details, which can be stored on computer to enable us to communicate with you.

You will be asked to fill in a new membership form which will enable us to check that the information is correct, and will give us authorisation to hold your details on computer, on the understanding that the information will not be revealed to third parties or used for marketing purposes .

Journal 2018

Work is proceeding on this year's *Journal*. Members who were present at the meeting in December will remember a short talk by Rodney Ward about Geoffrey Clayton who was Vicar of the Parish Church from 1924 – 34 before leaving for South Africa where he rose to be Archbishop of Cape Town. Rodney has done more research since then and written it up for the *Journal*. Also included will be the first part of a brief history of Chesterfield Borough Police force before it became part of the county force in 1947.

Last year the *Journal* included an article on *The Hipper Leather Works or Slack's Tannery*. I met Geoff Marsden, whom some of the original members of the Society will remember, at the Family History Fair at the Proact stadium last year. He told me that he had done a great deal of research into the Slack family

During the 1990s I researched this family run business but did not dwell on the commercial part of the business; instead I featured the family members and the effect they had on the business and local events, and the national and global events that affected the path the business took. I am of the opinion that local history is not just the buildings but the people involved are intensely interesting.

I met the family in Chesterfield, in Crick, Northamptonshire and relatives from Birmingham, Sheffield, and Blackburn, who in turn told me of the family, who came from Somerset. I was welcomed into their homes and they were more than willing to give me all the information they could muster along with their family photographs and memento's. They recalled stories their grandparents told them. It was so over whelming that during some of those discussions I forgot little bits yet recorded the important snippets. I found most of the 19th century family in their graves in Chesterfield Crooked Spire Churchyard, in Spital Cemetery, St Pauls Churchyard in Hasland, St Pauls Churchyard in Matlock and Ecclesfield Churchyard in Sheffield, and Buxton. It became somewhat of an obsession with me, an obsession I really enjoyed though.

He also told me that it was never a tannery but rather a fellmongering business. What is fellmongering? All will be revealed in the first part of the story. Two other articles are in preparation. If anyone else has anything to offer, please let me have it as soon as possible.

February Meeting

The meeting will begin with the AGM which will be as short as possible. However, as ever, we are looking for people to serve on the committee, i.e. chairperson; vice chair; secretary / speaker secretary; treasurer; membership secretary and members of the committee. Any volunteers?



After the meeting David Howes will be setting us a quiz, not a pencil and paper sort, but the sort when you call out the answers. He will be showing pictures of buildings and we have to identify them. He promises that some will be easy and some rather more difficult.

What is the connection between Bushey, Chesterfield and Scarborough?

Janet Murphy

Some of you may be aware that I used to live in Bushey in Herts. Whilst I was there I came across a surprising connection between Chesterfield and Bushey.

The Manor of Bushey was granted by William I to Geoffrey Mandeville. He was the most notorious of the lords of the manor of Bushey; the descent of the manor was a catalogue of disputes over ownership, charges of treason, confiscations, executions and deaths in battle up to the beginning of the 18th century. In 1326 the manor reverted to the crown and Edward II gave it to his brother Edmund of Woodstock, first earl of Kent (fifth creation). Edward II was forced to abdicate in favour of his son Edward III. Edmund of Woodstock was executed, accused of plotting to restore Edward II to the throne. However his widow Margaret retained his lands.

By comparison the descent of the manor of Chesterfield was more ordered. The manor of Chesterfield was granted by King John to William Brewer in 1204. It descended through the Brewer and Wake families until the death of Thomas Wake during the Black Death in 1349, when it passed to his sister Margaret, who was the widow of Edmund of Woodstock, and from 1349 the manors of Bushey and Chesterfield had the same manorial lords.

The descent of the manors continued through the turbulent times of the Wars of the Roses, at one time belonging to Thomas, earl of Salisbury, and later to Richard, earl of Warwick, until in 1475 the manors of Bushey and Chesterfield (just these two) and the Hundred of Scarsdale (in which Chesterfield lies), and some other Yorkshire lands were exchanged by Anne, wife of the duke of Gloucester (later Richard III) and King Edward IV. Whilst it was clearly advantageous for Anne to

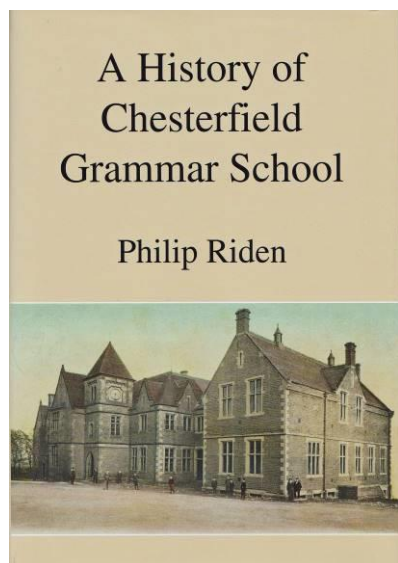
gain Scarborough with its castle and Edward would have gained property near London there seemed to be no obvious reason why Chesterfield should be part of the deal.

However there is a clue in the Parish Church to a possible reason. The Foljambe tombs are well known. The family rose to prominence as crown servants with the Duchy of Lancaster in the High Peak, where there were lead mines. Their seat was at Tideswell. However, at the end of the 14th century Thomas Foljambe (died 1433) inherited an estate at Walton, which became their base for the next 200 years.



His grandson Henry (1434-1504) is buried in the chest tomb at the left of the chapel. Henry is known to have acquired a great deal of property in and around Chesterfield. Perhaps he advised Edward IV to acquire the manor of Chesterfield in the hope that Edward might grant him the manor at a later date. If so he was to be disappointed. In 1512, by Act of Parliament, Margaret, grand-daughter of Richard earl of Warwick, was made countess of Salisbury, and the Salisbury lands were restored to her. She, in turn, exchanged Chesterfield and Scarsdale for four manors in Hampshire with George Talbot, fourth earl of Shrewsbury in 1531 and finally after nearly two hundred years Bushey and Chesterfield had different lords of the manor.

New book



A grammar school was founded in Chesterfield thanks to a benefaction of Sir Godfrey Foljambe of Walton, who died in 1585. The school was probably founded in 1598. The school closed in 1991.

This new study, based on extensive research in national as well as local archives, brings together what is known of the school throughout its history, and history of secondary education in the town since 1961.

Unlike many school histories, the scope is intentionally broad. It should appeal not merely to former pupils, but to anyone interested in the history of Chesterfield.

Philip Riden

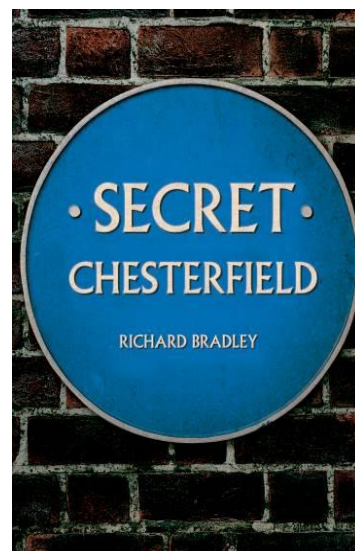
Merton Press. 2018 ISBN 978 898937807. 700pp. £35. Postage £5

Forthcoming Book

Publisher's press release

The Derbyshire town of Chesterfield has a long and interesting history. It has been a market town for the surrounding area since receiving its charter in 1204, and still hosts a large open-air market today. During the construction of the railway in the nineteenth century it was discovered that Chesterfield sat within a large coalfield and the history of the town and the surrounding area became associated with mining and manufacturing. The final colliery closed in 1994, with few signs of mining and many of the sites returned to the countryside. The town is still overlooked by the famous crooked spire of the Church of St Mary and All Saints.

Join author Richard Bradley as he explores the lesser-known episodes and characters in the history of the town and the surrounding area. With tales of remarkable characters, unusual events, local folklore and delicacies and tucked away buildings, *Secret Chesterfield* will appeal to all those with an interest of this Derbyshire town.



Amberley Publishing Co. Feb 2018. ISBN9871445662602. pb 96pp

Price £14.99 or £13.99 via the website

Workhouses Suzanne Bingham March 20 th 2018	Railways of Chesterfield Glynn Waite April 17 th 2018	The Brontes in Derbyshire Marjorie Dunn May 15 th 2018
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