



Chesterfield & District Local History Society

NEWSLETTER July/August 2018



Do you recognise this building? If not why not come along to

Chesterfield's Historic Churches and Chapels

A talk by Janet Murphy

Tuesday 17th July 7:30pm. United Reformed Church. Rose Hill

Barlow and its Coal Mining Heritage

A talk by Andrew Neil Bridgewater

August 21st 2018

Sutton Scarsdale & the Arkwrights

Paul Halksworth

September 18th 2018

Did you know that in October 1916 the council debated the introduction of decimal coinage?

A resolution in favour the adoption of the decimal system of coinage in the British Isles was adopted the Town Council on Tuesday. The resolution was in the following terms: - "That the opinion this Council it of supreme national importance that prompt steps are taken secure the maximum trade with foreign countries when the war is over. To this end the Council considers it not only desirable but absolutely essential to adopt the decimal system of coinage and weights and measures throughout the British Isles, and thus enable our manufacturers and merchants to compete more easily and successfully with rival nations having that system already in use.

Derbyshire Courier 14th October 1916

Evidently decimal coinage was under consideration again in 1853.

It is affirmed that by the introduction of decimal coinage, the coins necessary to be withdrawn are 5,000 tons of copper coin, 21 millions of three-penny and four-penny pieces, 67 millions of sixpences, and 37 millions (in number) of half-crowns. that a new coinage of 750 millions of pieces would required.

Derbyshire Courier 17th December 1853

Park Life

an exhibition at Chesterfield Museum celebrating Chesterfield parks.



A concert by the Versatiles Concert Party in Queen's Park, probably during WWII. Notice the ventriloquist's dummy seated on the table.

The museum is open Mondays and Thursday to Saturday 10am to 4pm

Rutland Terrace

In August Neil Bridgewater will be talking to CADLHS about Barlow and its Coal Mining Heritage. Where did the workers live?

Few people travelling from Barlow to Commonsides notice the row of 30 terraced houses on the left (south) side of the road and few if any wonder why they were built there, not in Barlow and not in Commonsides.



Rutland Terrace was built by the Monkwood Colliery Company to provide housing for its workers following the sinking of a new shaft, which opened in January 1870, at the Monkwood Colliery in the valley to the north of the Terrace. Obviously the company thought the future looked bright but in 1881 Monkwood Colliery Company went into receivership owing £33,000. This may be why at the time of the census in 1881, only eight of the 30 houses were occupied. Ten years later only one of the houses was unoccupied but in 1901 only half were occupied following the closure of the colliery in 1898 due to a recession in the coal industry.

One of the first families to move into Rutland Terrace was the Howarth family; George Howarth, his wife Martha and four sons, three of whom Robert, George and Herbert had joined their father down the mine. In 1891 the fourth son Arthur had joined them. In 1901 only George junior was still at home, having left the mine to become boot and shoe repairer. By 1911 father George had died leaving a 70-year-old widow, Martha, who was recorded as helping her son in the business. However Robert was back in the Terrace with his wife, although there were no children. He was still there in 1939.

Many tenants of the Terrace were born locally. William Sid(d)all was born at Holmsfield, the son of a farmer. In 1891 he was living in the Terrace in with his wife and 11 children, four of whom George, Thomas, Herbert and Walter had joined their father in the mines. Ten years later William, now a widower, was working with threshing machines, with sons Thomas and Walter living at home and working in the mines and Herbert, also a miner, living elsewhere in the Terrace. In 1911, William was working as an agricultural labourer; his widowed daughter Emily had returned to keep house for him and two of her brothers, Fred and John, who were miners, and elsewhere in the Terrace lived Frank, George, Walter and Thomas and their families. Members of the family were still there in 1939.

Other family names which appear over a long period are Margerson and Stevenson, but most of the families stayed for a shorter time; miners in particular moving to where the mines were opening up to the east of Chesterfield. The nature of employment of the occupants changed as well; in 1891 86% of the men had some form of employment in the mining industry; by 1911 this had fallen to 52%. Others found work as general or agricultural labourers, in the iron foundries, and as joiners or bricklayers.

The colliery company also built a school alongside the Terrace. It was certainly needed in 1911 when almost half the residents of the Terrace were children under the age of 13 – no fewer than 65 of them! Robert Broomhead had one son and eight daughters and John Layton had five daughters and three sons under the age of 10. The most crowded house of all to be recorded in the census was that of the Siddall family in 1891 when it was shared by William, his wife Annie, seven sons and four daughters – at least, five of the men were working and bringing home money.



Because of the conversion of the properties in the 1970s which involved the addition of a ground floor bathroom at the rear, the addition of dormer windows in the attic, the cladding of the buildings and the home improvements of the owners it is difficult to visualise what the properties originally looked like.

However, temporarily at least, a small fragment of brickwork is visible together with the shallow Three blocks of ten houses with a pedestrian entry from Millcross Lane between numbers ten and eleven (number one being adjacent to the school). On the ground floor each house had a scullery, with the back door at the back and a parlour / living room at the front with entry through the front door, which was rarely used. Between the two rooms a flight of stairs led to the floor above where there were two bedrooms and another flight of stairs led to the attic lit by a skylight. arches above the windows.

Because of the steeply sloping nature of the site, a trench was dug across it which provided a cellar under the front room. Fred Haslam remembered the cellar:

Outside, under the front room window, was a grate giving access to the cellar when coal was delivered. I had the job of fetching the coal from the roadway at the end. I had a wheelbarrow that my grandfather had made of oak; it was heavy enough before it was loaded and the path at the end was quite steep. After dropping a load through the grate I had to go up the steps to the ginnel, round the back, down the stairs to the cellar to rake the coal out of the way of the next load. Back round to the front to collect the barrow and do it over again.

Each block of houses had a block of middens behind it. A dirt track ran behind the houses, which provided rear access to the houses and also allowed the middens, and presumably the ash pits for refuse disposal, to be emptied.

Barlow and its Coal Mining Heritage A talk by Andrew Neil Bridgewater August 21st 2018