



Chesterfield & District Local History Society

NEWSLETTER September/October 2018



Sutton Scarsdale and the Arkwrights

A talk by Paul
Halksworth

Tuesday 18th September 7:30pm.
United Reformed Church.
Rose Hill

Richard Arkwright junior purchased the Sutton Scarsdale estate in 1824. It remained in the hands of the family until William Arkwright sold the hall and estate in 1919.

The Eastwood Family

A talk by Tony Hallam

Tuesday 16th October 7:30pm.

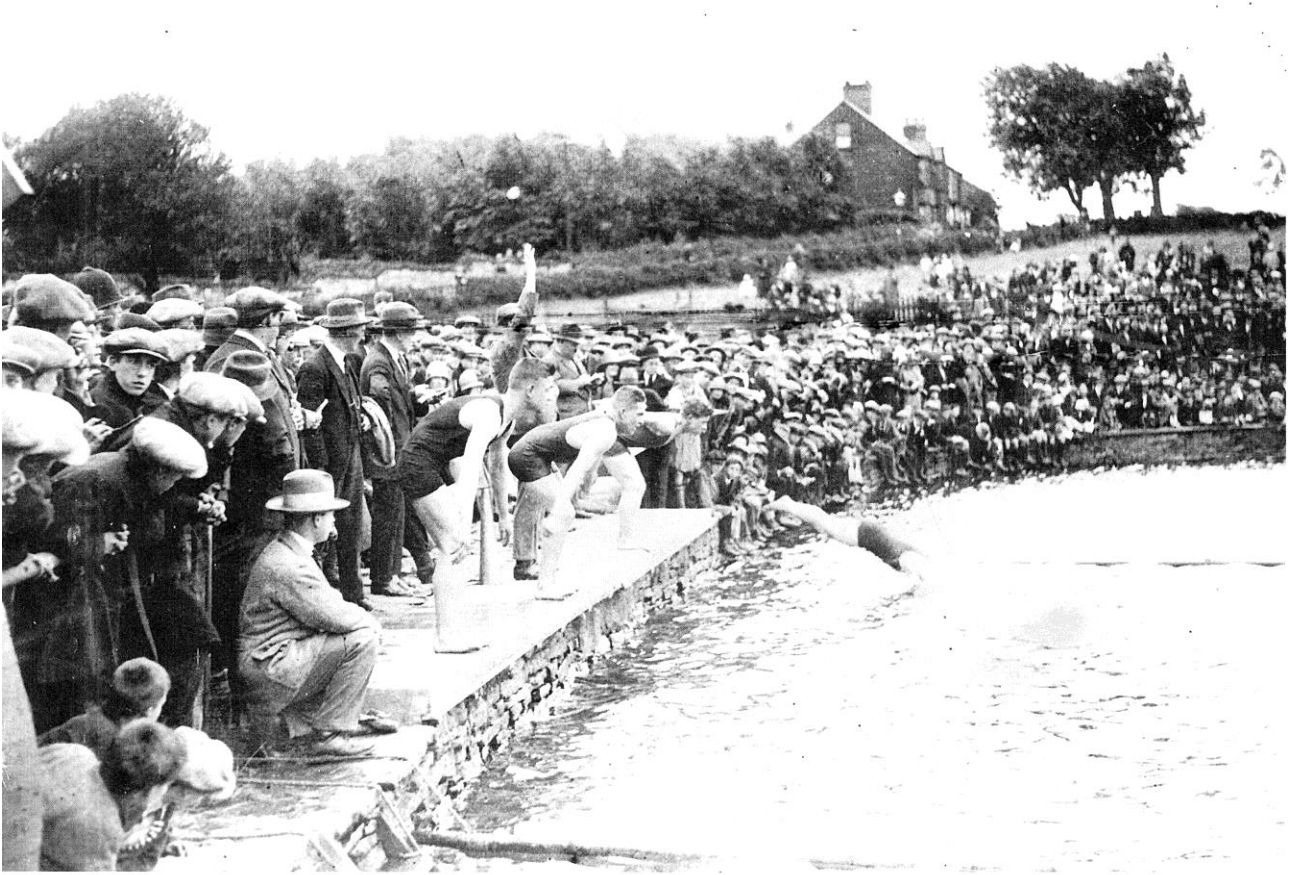
United Reformed Church. Rose Hill

As well as being the manufacturers of railway wagons, members of the family were public figures and philanthropists.



Chesterfield's Swimming Pools

A Chesterfield Swimming Club was formed in 1893 and held its first gala at Walton Mill Dam in August of that year. The club decided to make Walton Dam its headquarters and a year later the proprietor, Mr J. Brailsford, was said to be repairing existing dressing rooms and accommodation for non-swimmers. He agreed that Chesterfield Swimming Club should have, for their own use, dressing rooms and a spring diving board etc. The Club's pavilion which housed the dressing rooms had a short life as a gale the following December demolished it. As well as the galas the club provided displays during the lifeboat days in the 1890s to raise funds for the RNLI when a procession round the town finished up at the Dam where a lifeboat was launched.



Walton Dam. The houses in the background are on Walton Road. Photo Courtesy Chesterfield Museum

From 1911 the club had to find elsewhere in the town for its headquarters as presumably Robinsons now owned the site although the galas continued at the Dam until the 1930s, with permission from Robinsons.

The headquarters of the Chesterfield Swimming Club moved to the Inkerman (or Ashgate Road Baths!) where the Club had its own changing huts and diving board. The pool was formed after the Inkerman Colliery workings were flooded with water following the closure of the colliery in the early 1900s. The overgrown spoil heaps around the pool were a reminder of earlier coalmining on the site. Polo matches were held in the swimming baths at the Central School which was opened in 1901. The pool was situated in the basement and many generations of children from schools around the borough had swimming sessions there. It was reconstructed in 1935/6.

One of the plans drawn up for the layout of Queen's Park included a swimming bath but the Council decided that the cost of providing the pool proposed by the swimming club was too high and the plans were abandoned although when the Park was opened in 1893 part of the celebrations included swimming competitions in the lake.

Plans were drawn up for a swimming pool next to the electricity station on Chatsworth Road in July 1914. Alderman Eastwood provided the land, Alderman Rhodes designed and built the pool and Alderman Markham paid for it before handing it over to the Council. Water used for cooling purposes at the electricity works was pumped through cast iron pipes around the pool to heat it, which saved the construction of a cooling tower on the site. Another advantage was that the pool was adjacent to a tram route.

By the 1920s Chesterfield Swimming Club was campaigning for a new covered pool which was larger than the Markham and Central School baths. New open-air baths were opened at the Stand Road recreation ground in 1936, but plans for a pool at Hasland were abandoned. Finally in 1937 there were plans for a pool on the Rose Hill estate. Unfortunately, due to bureaucratic wrangling by the Council, the National Fitness Council and the Ministry of Health, and a sixth month delay by the latter, meant that loan sanction for the scheme was not received until May 1939. Finally the Town Clerk received a letter from the National Fitness Council dated September 2nd saying that due to the national emergency no further applications for a grant could be received and the scheme had to be abandoned. Finally an indoor pool was built on the site of the much loved children's playground in Queen's Park in 1967. It was surrounded by an indoor leisure centre in the 1980s.

Today little remains of these pools. The pools at the Inkerman and Stand Road have been filled in and form part of the recreation grounds there. The pool at the Central School fell into disuse before the building was demolished in 2013 to make way for a new medical centre. The pool in Queen's Park continued in use until December 2015 when it was closed prior to the opening of the new sports centre, including a new pool, in the Annexe in January 2016 and the old centre demolished.



However the passage which led to the entrance to Markham baths remains as does the footprint of the baths but no swimmers just parked cars.



Walton Dam is now a tranquil spot with swimming only for the wildlife.

Have you any memories of these pools that you could let us have? I did not enjoy swimming – the best bit of a trip to Markham bath was the visit to the sweet shop on the opposite side of Chatsworth Road to purchase a packet of Butterkist to consume on the long walk home!

Chesterfield Museum

The Park Life exhibition continues until September 15th



Chesterfield Local History Open Day

22nd September 2018

Come along and meet a variety of local organisations, including CADLHS, exploring Chesterfield's history.

10am to 4pm.

A Walk Down Chatsworth Road

22nd September to 8th December 2018

An exhibition focusing on the local heritage of Brampton, exploring community, social and industrial histories of this well-loved area of Chesterfield.



WW1 – The Trench Experience – Explore World War One and discover personal histories of soldiers from Chesterfield. 13th October 2018 to 12 Jan 2019

Did you know that?

Today many pubs serve food. But did you know that, according to an article in *The Times* of May 20th 1964, serving food in Chesterfield pubs began following the arrival in the town of the Post Office Accountant-General's department.

Before the arrival of the department's staff *no public house in the town would have wasted its effort in offering a sandwich for sale. By northern custom, eating – except for a packet of crisps – and drinking are separate occupations.*

Among the newcomers were *over 700 from the London area, where people like to be able to eat when they drink. And so the sandwiches came too (the fact that home-made bread is used and the standard of filling and trimmings would make a London landlord hang his head in shame, is another matter.)*

How times have changed!

Wanted

Contributions for the special November *Newsletter* commemorating the signing of the Armistice in November 1918 and articles for next year's *Journal*.