



NEWSLETTER

January/February 2019

Society News

There is no meeting in January and the first meeting in 2019 will be on February 19th when it will be preceded by a short AGM followed by a presentation by David Howes.

Subscriptions are due on the 1st February. Anyone who joined the Society after August 31st does not have to pay again until February 2020. Eagle-eyed members who have read the Meetings leaflet carefully will have noticed that there has been a slight increase in subscriptions. The subscription for members remains at £12 but for couples it has increased to £18.

Resignation of John Lilley. The first meeting of the Chesterfield and District Local History Society was held at Chesterfield Library, where John was Local Studies Librarian, on September 1989 at Chesterfield Library. John had been elected Vice-Chairman, a position he held for many years. Although he is no longer vice-chairman he has continued to serve as a committee member. Finally he has decided that the time has come to retire from the Committee. On behalf of past and present committee members I would like to thank John for his support over the years and not forgetting the important contribution of his wife Audrey.

Committee – this means that there will be a vacancy on the committee for someone to help with running the society. There are about three committee meetings per year. If you can help please let Chris Thomason or myself know.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday in the month except for January (no meeting) and December (second Tuesday) at the United Reformed Church, Rose commencing at 7:30pm. During the winter months there is the possibility that meetings may be cancelled due to adverse weather. Please check with the Society's website <http://www.cadlhs.org.uk/> in case it is necessary to cancel a meeting.

Janet Murphy

Chairwoman CADLHS

Chesterfield Museum

Remembering WWI – the Mercian Regiment on tour

The museum of the Mercian Regiment will be hosting an exhibition to commemorate the end of WWI and the impact it had on Chesterfield and the surrounding area as well as members of the Sherwood Foresters.

The exhibition is open from 15th December -16th March

The Old Manor House

The author of an article in the *Derbyshire Times* for 3rd December 1881 recounted his memories of a property on the north side of New Square, which had heavy ornamental rainwater spouts bearing the date 1600 and something, and the balconies at the windows. However there no evidence to support the idea that it was once a manor house.

In the 1820s the property was the home of a Dr Jonathan Stokes – a practitioner who lived and died in Chesterfield and who was revered by all his patients. His son Joe however was the black sheep of the family. He had his own part of the house and one of his bosom companions was a man called Hayward who was afterwards hanged at Newgate. Stokes was ultimately arrested for abducting a girl whom he imprisoned in his rooms for six weeks. Rumours eventually reached the ears of Gratton, who was head constable at the time, and forced his way into the house with the assistance of Constables Pierce and Bray where they found the girl in an upper room and Stokes was found hidden under blankets in a cupboard. He was arrested and taken to the lock-up. Although some of his friends tried to rescue him, he was tried and sentenced to two years in prison. Returning to Chesterfield he sought his revenge against Mr Waller who he thought had informed against him. He lay in wait for Mr Waller returning to New Square from his office and shot an arrow which fortunately missed his target and embedded itself in the shutter of a neighbouring shop owned by a Mr Slack.¹

After the death of Dr Stokes in 1839 it remained a private house, owned by the executors of a Mr Slack and occupied by Thomas Jones, a surgeon, who was the poor law union surgeon for Chesterfield parish and held other public appointments. He died suddenly in December 1863, aged 46, shortly after his year of office as mayor had come to an end; he had been a town councillor since 1851. He was the father of the solicitor, William Tom Jones, of the partnership Jones and Middleton.



In 1865 the Sheffield Banking Company moved from the Market Hall into the property. In October 1867 *the 'old grey slates'* on the roof were offered for sale as the company, who by now owned the property, embarked on a rebuilding programme² The architects, Messrs M. E. Hadfield & Son of Sheffield, sought to preserve the

¹ *Derbyshire Times* 15th November 1935

main features of the original design. The exterior is of Darley Dale stone and the roof covered with small green Westmorland slates. The banking room was described as being 27 feet by 18 feet with a ribbed ceiling and a massive fireplace of Derbyshire marble. Adjoining was the manager's room, with a fire-proof safe. The house for the 'resident servant' was described as *being comprised within the building, where the old dining and drawing rooms wainscoted in black oak have been preserved intact. And the staircase from the hall, of striking character, leading to the upper floors, is a careful reproduction of the old one.* How much of the original building survived.

By January 1869 (when Mrs Parker advertised for a servant) the house was occupied by Mr Robert Parker the manager of the Sheffield Banking Company. Accompanying their parents was a daughter Fanny Ethel and son Richard Barry Parker (another five sons and one daughter were born during the family's time in the property). Robert Parker was active in the public affairs of the town serving on the Free Library Committee and the committee for the establishment of the Stephenson Memorial Hall amongst others. His son Barry trained as an architect and he entered into partnership with Raymond Unwin, who had married Parker's sister Ethel Parker and Unwin are world famous for their development of Letchworth Garden Suburb, Hampstead Garden Suburb

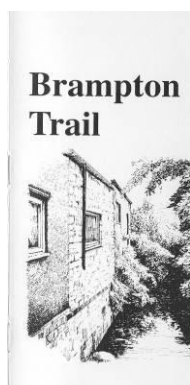
St Andrew's Church, Barrow Hill. Robert Parker moved to Buxton in 1881. He was replaced by John Woodcock who was also involved with local affairs and became a trustee of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on Saltergate. In 1902 he retired to make way for William Stevenson.

In 1918 the National Provincial Bank of England merged with the Union of London and Smiths Bank Ltd, to become the National Provincial and Union Bank of England Ltd which took over the Sheffield Banking Company in 1919. In 1920 the bank managers announced the retirement of Mr Stevenson, who suffered from ill health, and moved him to a smaller branch where it was hoped that *he would have more leisure and feel less the strain of present day conditions.* It would be surprising if the take-over of the bank, the war years and the continuing changes in Chesterfield had not had some detrimental effect on Mr Stevenson.

The National Provincial Bank merged with the Westminster Bank in 1970 to form NatWest and the company decided to replace the former Westminster Bank property at the corner of High Street and Glumangate. The branch in New Square, which was a smaller property was closed. Replacing it was the Yorkshire Bank which in turn moved to Vicar Lane in 2015/6. After standing empty for a while the building is now the home of the Redeemed Christian Church of God better known as Grace Chapel.

British Newspaper Archive – cautionary note

Recently I tried to find an article in the British Newspaper Archive that I knew had been published in the *Derbyshire Times* in the early 20th Century, but I was unable to find it. I found the details by using the subject index in Chesterfield Local Studies Library, however it was still not in the issue in the British Newspaper Archive. This would appear to be because the copied digitised was the Alfreton edition not the Chesterfield edition and some of the Chesterfield news items had been omitted. Therefore it is worth checking the library's subject index as well



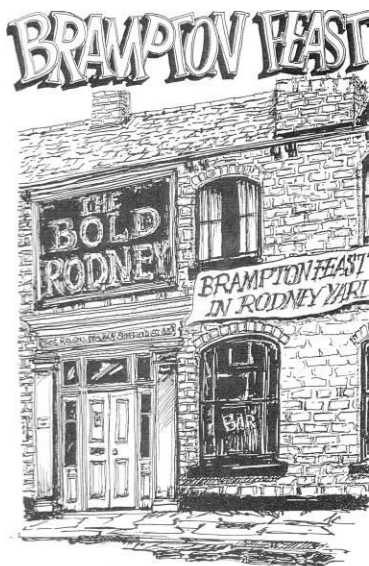
New Books

Brampton Trail

Chesterfield Civic Society 2018 ISBN 978-1-898937-82-1

A reprint of the booklet which was originally published in 1996. Although some of the buildings have been demolished it remains a valuable to the industrial history of Brampton.

Copies are available at our Society's meetings, at the Visitor Centre and Chesterfield Museum. Price £3.50



Brampton Feast

Memories of life in Brampton contributed by members of the Brampton Living History Group. Originally published 1992.

This revised edition is published (2018) by Chesterfield and District Local History Society. The text is unaltered but the illustrations, apart from the cartoons, could not be reproduced and alternatives were found in the collections of Brampton Living History Group archives; Chesterfield Local Studies Library; Chesterfield Museum; Friends of Queen's Park and members of Chesterfield Local History Society.

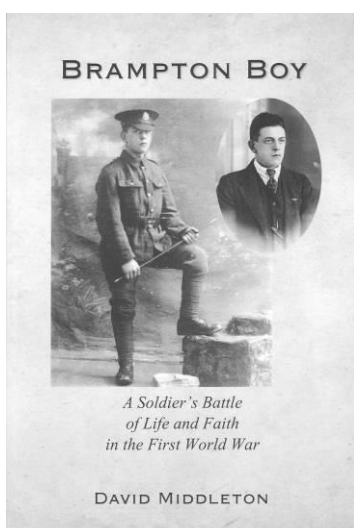
Copies are available at the Society's meetings, at the Visitor Centre and Chesterfield Museum. Price £6



More than an Ironmonger

The story of 'Tinny Johnsons' in Phil's own words together with additional contributions on the history of the ironmongery trade and Phil's service within St 'Tinny Johnsons' i Phil's own words together with additional contributions on the history of the ironmongery trade and Phil's service within St Church. Price £6 (proceeds to St Thomas's Community Fund)

ISBN 978-1-527233-16-4. It is available at St Thomas' Coffee Bar or it can be ordered at wordpress@st-thomas-brampton.org



Brampton Boy

by David Middleton

The story of David's grandfather Chris, who was born in Brampton, served as a machine-gunner in WWI and served in ARP in WW II.

Bannister Publications Ltd. 2018 ISBN-978-1-909813-47-2
Available from Waterstones