



NEWSLETTER May/June 2019

Harry Brearley

Robin Fielder

Tuesday 21stth May

Harry Brearley is usually credited with the invention of stainless steel. Less well known is the fact that he lived in Chesterfield for many years



My Life in Steam

David Darwin

Tuesday June 18th 2019

Dave has been a locoman for 60 years. He began work at Barrow Hill on the 10th January 1955, straight after leaving school, and finally retired in 2003. He is now a volunteer at Barrow Hill

Meetings are held at the United Reformed Church on Rose Hill commencing at 7:30 pm. Members free, Visitors £2

New *Cestrefeld Journal*

The latest issue of the society's journal will be available at the May meeting. It is free to members but for non-members the cost is £4. The price has increased since last year but there are an additional four pages. The subjects include Chesterfield Swimming Pools; Brampton Congregational Church; English Grandmother, Australian Grandfather; William Oliver – the early years and Robert Ernest Wardell, Chemist and Druggist and more.

Chesterfield Family History, Local History, Heritage and Crafts Event

Proact Stadium on May 18th from 10am until 4pm.

Copies of the *Journal* will be available for sale together with other Society publications.

The Ashmore Papers

These family papers were recently offered for sale at auction. I'm pleased to say that Chesterfield and District Local History Society was able to make a small donation towards the cost of purchase.

William Ashmore was an architect and the papers include plans and images demonstrating the development of Newbold Road and New Queen Street, on land purchased by Ashmore, and subsequently the Highfield Lane estate.

Edward Carpenter had been in lodgings on Victoria Street about 1868/69. Astonishingly the papers also include no fewer than 82 items of correspondence from Edward Carpenter to the Ashmore family after he had left Chesterfield for Sheffield and Millthorpe. These date from 1870 to 1913 and give an insight to his life at Millthorpe and the frequency and nature of visits to Chesterfield as a visiting lecturer, activist and radical.

Among the papers are a number of very scarce handbills and flyers about radical demonstrations and public meetings in Chesterfield.

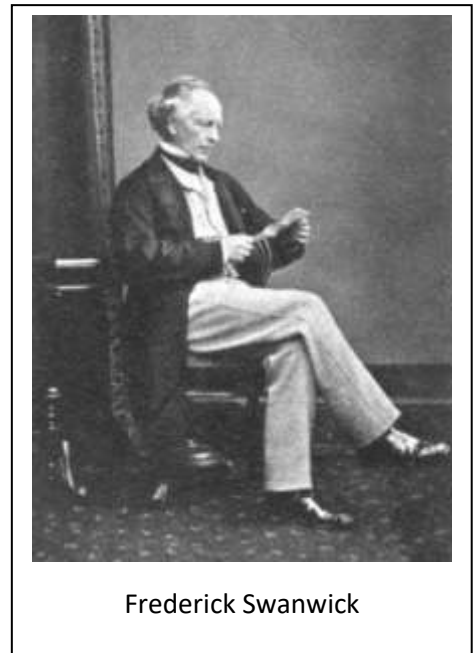
The collection forms a significant addition to the history of the St Helens area and the radical history of Victorian and Edwardian Chesterfield. The papers will be deposited at the Derbyshire Record Office but it is hoped that Chesterfield Museum will be the venue for the first public exhibition.

Whittington House

Christine Thomason

Whittington House, the home of the Swanwick family, was situated on land at the rear of the Red House 87 High Street, Old Whittington.

Frederick was born in Chester, son of Joseph and Hannah Swanwick. He came to Old Whittington in 1837 at the age of 27 years, when he was the chief engineer to George Stephenson. Initially he lived at the Red House but then bought Whittington House and enlarged the property. He married Elizabeth Drayton in July 1840 and they had two children Mary and Russell. At the time of the 1841 census his parents were also living with them. Frederick died in 1885 and Elizabeth died in 1893. Russell had become a farmer in Gloucestershire, but by 1900 his son Eric Drayton Swanwick was living with his aunt in Whittington House having qualified as a solicitor. He became the longest serving District Coroner in the country.



By the late 1960s Whittington House had become a nursing home for the residential care of elderly ladies. The owner at the time was Wilf Price, who was about to retire, and he decided that he wanted to get rid of some items. My father had been doing some electrical maintenance work for him and together with my mother he was able to purchase a few small items. I visited the house on numerous occasions and was given guided tours by both Wilf and the matron.



At the front of the property there was a covered portico flanked by two owl statues (visible on the right of the building), which still belong to my family. To the left of the long entrance hallway was a dual aspect reception room, above which was the matron's bedroom. The central bedroom over the entrance was used by the matron's son and the bedroom to the right was Wilf's, beneath which was a smaller reception room with a rose marble fireplace. To the rear of this room was a single storey

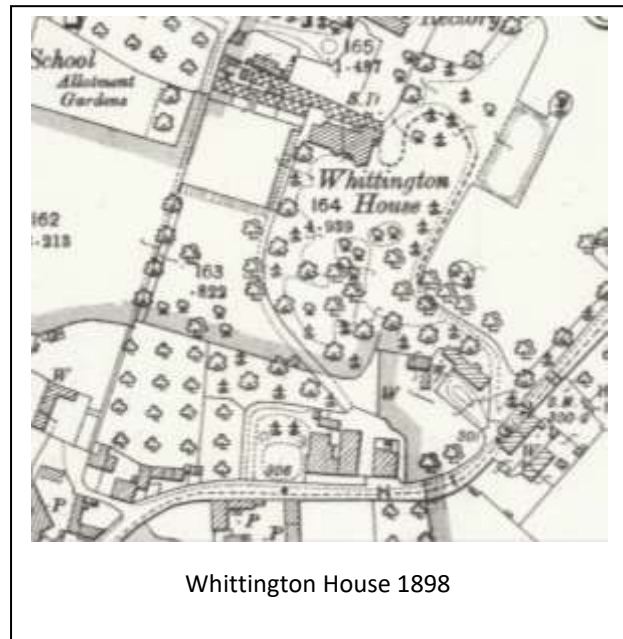
with a domed (?) glass roof. Across the hallway was a further long reception room overlooking the gardens with a bedroom on the floor above. The staircase ran from the rear right hand side of the hallway and from the landing there were steps down into the older part of the house where the bathroom was situated.

I believe that the rear of the house was the oldest part; stone built with low ceilings and steps up or down from that part to the Victorian extension. There was a living room on the left with a low

ceiling and other older architectural features; on the right there was a long kitchen. I don't know what the rooms were on the first floor of this part of the building.

There were outbuildings in the rear yard including an outside toilet and an old cast iron water pump against the rear yard. Nearby there was a gate in the wall which led into the lane leading to the church. This doorway can still be seen, but it is now bricked up.

The cellars were quite extensive and contained some ancient photographic equipment which Wilf had used for his earlier photographic business. There was a heavy studded door on the garden side of the house leading to an arched tunnel which was bricked up a few yards in.



Whittington House 1898

The 1898 map shows extensive greenhouses on the north side of the house.

The front portico was supposed to have been retained but was left to deteriorate after the rest of the house was demolished and it was finally demolished in the late 1970s. When the property was sold in the 1970s it fetched about £8000. The site is now occupied by a sheltered housing complex but the original entrance driveway on the right from the High Street remains.

These are my memories of the property; any errors are my own. If anyone has any further recollections regarding the property, I would be interested in hearing them.

Where are these buildings?



- 1901 Stephenson Place / Church Alley
- 1934 Holywell Street Vibe Night Club
- 1887 36-38 Glumangate Offices
- 1930 Church Lane Rectory Public House
- 1911 Stephenson Place Furness Chambers

- 1931 High St Burton's Buildings
- 1899 West Bars Portland Hotel
- 1887 New Beetwell Street Peakland
- 1923 Glumangate /Saltergate Thai Pavilions
- 1873 Spa Lane / Corporation St Midland Buildings
- 1885 Low Pavement Grape Tree
- 2013 Market Hall extension
- 1887 Sorry!! This was a repeat of Peakland
- 1899 Central Pavement Yorkshire Penny Bank