



NEWSLETTER March/April 2020

Folklore and Customs of Derbyshire and the Peak District

Richard Bradley

Tuesday 17th March

Traditions and customs still practised that
are centuries old.



Renishaw Hall and the Sitwells

Christine Beevers

Tuesday 21st April.

Christine is the archivist and a guide
at Renishaw Hall

Meetings are held at the United Reformed Church on Rose Hill commencing at 7:30pm.

Members free, Visitors £3

Chesterfield and District Local History Society 2020 AGM

Chairwoman's Report

This year has been one of progress. We have more members and more people are attending meetings. Last year (i.e.2018) the biggest change was that we experimented with meetings during the summer months. This was again a success and we are continuing with summer meetings.

Unfortunately the costs of speakers continues to rise and this year we have an increase in the cost to hire the room. This year we have increased the entrance fee for non-members from £2 to £3 but member's subscriptions have remained unchanged.

It is pleasing that amongst the new members are people from outside the county for whom the *Journal* and the *Newsletters* are important. The Family and Local History Fair in May was again successful for us as was the Local History Day at the Museum. We again took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at the Crooked Spire and this year even more leaflets advertising the talks were taken.

We also had a visit to Elder Yard Chapel which the people who went found very interesting. Thank you to Ed.

I couldn't manage without the support of the committee. Unfortunately Mick Spracklen has had to stand down this year but we are very grateful for his help with the AV system. Thank you all and to Jane and Alison gallantly do the washing up after the refreshments.

Treasurer's Report

The cost of speakers has risen, but we did not have the expenditure of reprinting *Brampton Feast*. The income from visitors has fallen but this has been counterbalanced by an increase from members' subscriptions and sales from publications particularly from the sales of *Brampton Feast*. The net result is a healthy increase in the amount in the bank.

Committee

The committee was elected as follows: Chairwoman Janet Murphy; Vice-Chairman Rodney Ward; Treasurer Janine Le Mire; Secretary Chris Thomason; Membership Secretary Brian Dick and Ed Fordham.

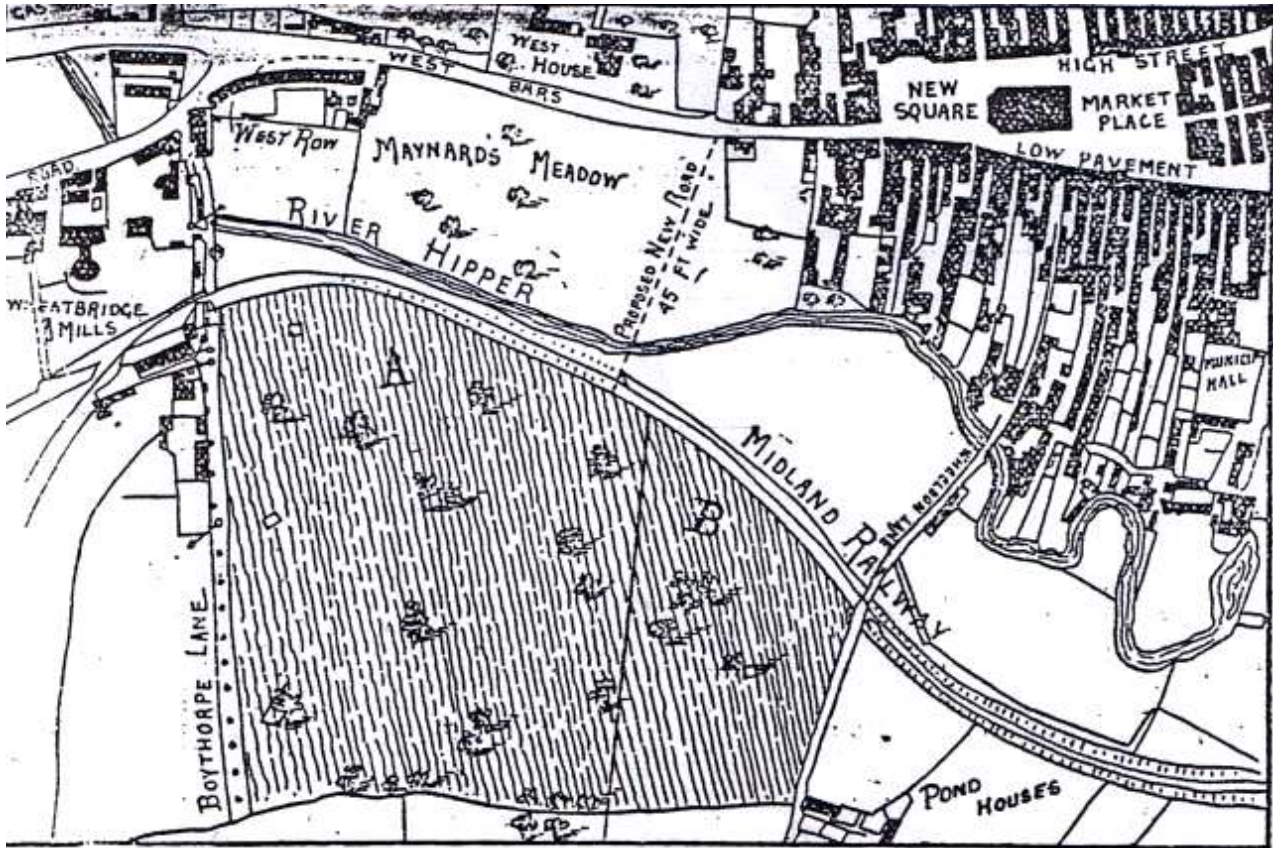
Full details of the Chairwoman's and the Treasurer's reports are available to members on request.

John Lilley 1935-2019

Long term members of CADLHS were sorry to hear of the death of John Lilley on Christmas Day. John was a founder member of CADLHS in 1989 at which time he was the Librarian of the Chesterfield Local Studies Library having been the Reference Librarian when the library was in the Stephenson Memorial Hall John was Vice-chairman for many years and then became a committee member until he retired at the end of 2018. He contributed to books about the history of Chesterfield. He was a life-long fan of Chesterfield Football Club. The funeral service was held on January 14th at the Rose Hill United Reformed Church where he had been a member of the choir. CADLHS was represented by several members including Janet Murphy and Rodney Ward.

Chesterfield and the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway.

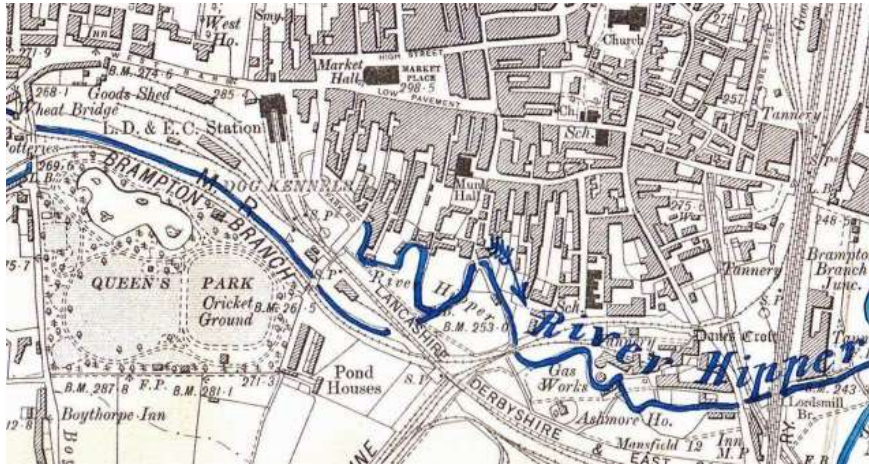
What would the area around Markham Road would be like today if it hadn't been for the LDEC. Indeed would Markham Road have been built? The line had a comparatively short life opening in 1897 and closing to passenger traffic in 1951 and to freight traffic in 1957.



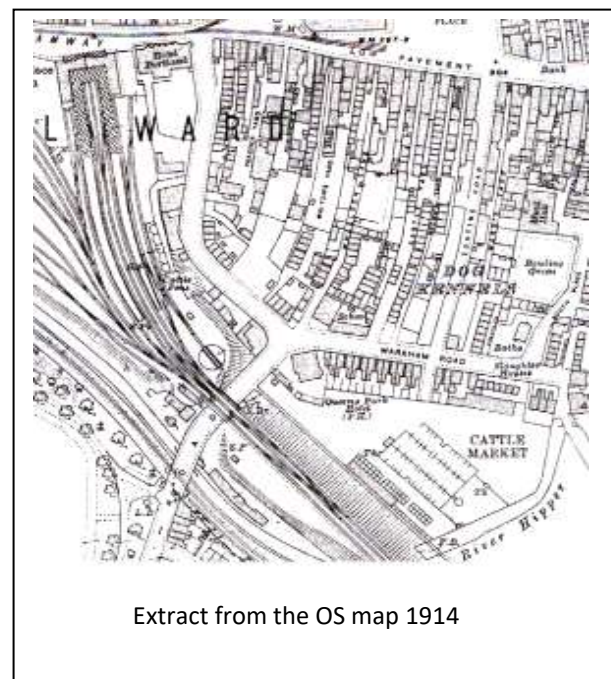
This map was produced in 1887 at the time of the appeal to raise funds to buy the land for Queen's Park and is probably based on the OS map of 1876. It shows the meanders of the River Hipper and a 'proposed new road' which was to provide access to Queen's Park from the town centre via West Bars.

Work on the construction of the railway resulted in the re-alignment of the River Hipper and the closure of the original access to the Park. As a result the railway company had to pay for a new road, Park Road, from New Square to the Queen's Park and for a new entrance to the Park. The Corporation did quite well out of the deal as they gained a more prestigious access to the Park; the alternative would have been through the slum area around Wheeldon Lane (the access to which can still be seen on Low Pavement at the side of the Crown and Cushion).

This map is based on the 1898 map. Although it shows the original path of the Hipper it must have been straightened by 1910 to allow the Cattle Market to be built on the site with its entrance on Park Road.



Charles Markham received considerable acclaim for contributing £10,000 towards the cost of the first stage of Markham Road hailed as the first steps towards the removal of the slums of the Dog Kennels but actually the demolition of the west side of Froggatts Yard to make way for Park Road had been the first step. Although undoubtedly generous, Markham must have been a very astute businessman and probably saw the new road as the first step in improving the way from his Broad Oaks works at the bottom of Hollis Lane to the west without going through the town centre – in effect the first Inner Relief Road. If the LDECR had not already borne the cost of re-aligning the Hipper and building Park Road would Markham Road have been built or would the east – west route instead have been along a continuation of Beetwell Street (shown on the map as stopping at the Municipal Hall)?



Extract from the OS map 1914

Fast forward to 1957, the closure of the railway left a vast unused site close to the town centre. If the site had not been 'protected' by the LDECR it could have been developed for factory use, or housing. Shortly afterwards came the Government scheme for the dispersal of some of its offices. The AGD came to Chesterfield, and the estate at Loundsley Green was built. Would this have happened if the site had not been available?

Once the embankment was removed, Markham Road was extended. Closure of the cattle market allowed the site eventually cleared for the Ravenside development which was adjacent to the town centre rather than an out-of-town development.

What would the Chesterfield of today have looked like without the LDECR?