



NEWSLETTER / September 2020

Cancellation of Meetings

It can come as no surprise that in view of the continuing uncertainty about meetings and the regulations involved the committee has reluctantly decided that the rest of the meetings for 2020 should be cancelled with the hope that we might start again next February.

All people who have paid their subscriptions for 2020 will be regarded as having paid their subscriptions for 2021.

The Family History/Local History Fair has been postponed until next May and the Local History Day at the Museum has been abandoned. As there will be no easy way of distributing or selling the *Journal* – it will be held over until next year.

Robinson's Coronation Garden Clean-up



The garden is thought to date back to just before the Second World War, and it was primarily a place for Robinson's staff to sit and relax during their breaks and after work. Between the buildings

at the rear there was a footpath and a footbridge over the Hipper to provide access for staff working at Walton Works.



After the war the garden took on a more solemn significance and became known by staff and locals as the Memorial Garden.

However, with the desire to move on after the tribulations of the war, the garden was given a new lease of life and was formally laid out with the low level stone flower beds that are still visible today. In 1952 it was re-opened and dedicated as the Coronation Gardens to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

When Walton works was closed in the 1980s the garden was abandoned and the main part separated from the part fronting Chatsworth Road by a fence. The site became overgrown until it was cleared about 2018 but the horse chestnut trees in the front section remained smothered in brambles, ivy and rubbish.

Unable to meet during the pandemic, volunteers from the Society have been clearing the site revealing the original gravel base. If anyone has memories of the garden or any pictures, the Society would be pleased to hear from them. It is hoped that the area will be restored by Armistice Day in November with a notice board explaining the significance of the site.

CADLHS is grateful to Guy Robinson for permission for the clean-up to take place.

New Book

Members might remember a talk by Suzanne Bingham about Edward Carpenter in November 2017 and an announcement in 2019 by Ed Fordham that the letters by Carpenter to William Martin Ashmore, a Chesterfield architect and family, and which were written between 1878 and 1913, were among the papers of the Ashmore family which had been purchased with the aid of grants and donations.

The letters have now been published as ***The Chesterfield Letters of Edward Carpenter*** edited by Ed Fordham and Luke Povey and published by Brockwell Books. Priced £8 the book is available from the stalls of Ed and Luke at Chesterfield on a Thursday (Market Place) and a Saturday (New Square).

Ashmore designed Millthorpe and Carpenter often stayed overnight with the family when he was delivering lectures in Chesterfield. Also included are images of handbills for meetings of the Chesterfield and District Working Men's Radical Association at the Falcon Café and a Great Demonstration in the grounds of Rose Hill.

Chesterfield in Lockdown

Chesterfield Museum are working with local organisations to put together an exhibition that conveys different experiences of 'lockdown' in Chesterfield. We would love your help with this project. We are looking at 3 main areas and would love you to get in touch and get involved.

Items (any items borrowed by the Museum for display will be returned)

☒ Artworks, pictures, paintings, models, textiles –any projects that you've embraced and focused on...for example, all the rainbows created.

☒ Items and objects that will always remind you of this time / period (random examples –PPE, home-made mask, walking shoes, toilet roll, bottle of hand gel)

Stories and Thoughts

☒ Your thoughts about the past six months and 'Lockdown' expressed through diary extracts, blogs, poems, letters, emails.

☒ Anecdotes & little stories of some of the things you've experienced.

Photographs

☒ Images that you've taken on your **mobile** or with your **camera** whilst you've been at work or anything that you feel is an image of 'Lockdown' in Chesterfield (signs, queues, empty parks or streets)

☒ Images of what has helped you cope with Lockdown (nature, your garden, cooking, reading, screenshots of chats with friends and family online).

Please contact Chesterfield Museum at

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Alec Jackson

Long term members of the Society will be sorry to learn of the death of Alec Jackson in August. He was 91. A lifelong resident of Chesterfield he spent much of his working life in the coal industry.

Until comparatively recently he was a regular attender at the CADLHS meetings along with his wife Kathleen. He contributed two History Papers about Whitecotes colliery and the Wagon works at Whittington where he started work after leaving school. He also contribute items to the Newsletters.

He was a member of Rose Hill United Reformed Church where the funeral service was held

Centenary of Chesterfield Council Housing

The Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890 gave urban authorities the legal power to buy land and to construct tenements and housing estates. However finance for the housing would have to come from loans, which would be serviced by a charge on the rents. At that time, the Borough of Chesterfield occupied just half a square mile and the income from the rates and the market was inadequate for the council to undertake all the improvement work which was necessary.

In 1893 an application to extend the boundaries of the Borough was successful and Chesterfield expanded from 322 acres to 1,219 acres by taking in parts of Brampton, Walton, Hasland and Newbold. The expansion of the borough resulted in an increased revenue from the rates, which in turn made it easier to obtain loans in order to carry out improvements. The first capital project was the extension of the sewerage system throughout the borough – a major task as the area absorbed from Brampton alone was greater than the size of the original Borough.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1896 summed up the housing situation. Although it had been suggested that all substandard property should be demolished. *‘Such a course would entail condemnation of a large part of the old Borough. Insufficient new houses are being built to accommodate the tenants who would be displaced also many of the evicted tenants would be unable to afford the rents demanded for the newer houses’.*

In 1913 a scheme to build 38 houses on St Augustine’s Road fell through because of the outbreak of war. The 1919 Housing and Town Planning Act placed a statutory obligation on local authorities of over 20,000 population to provide working-class housing. Building schemes had to follow the recommendations laid out in the manual produced by the Tudor Walters Committee in 1918, the chief author of which was Raymond Unwin.

Following the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919 Act it was announced that a subsidy would be provided by the Treasury for municipal loss beyond a penny rate. The Act was passed on 6 February: by the end of the month plans had been submitted for approval for 26 houses to be built on St Augustine’s Road and by the end of the year plans were submitted for the first 120 houses on the Boythorpe estate.

The first two council houses were completed St Augustine’s Road in July 1920. The architect was Bailey Deeping. The accommodation consists of a kitchen, a living room, a parlour, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The provisional rents were to be 10s per week, plus rates. The living rooms are fitted with Yorkshire ranges and the kitchens are fitted with gas coppers.



Once houses were occupied then income from rents could be invested in more housing. Construction continued on estates at Boythorpe, St Augustines, Springfield, Racecourse, Barker Lane and Highfield Hall and by 1939 2,600 houses had been built.