



NEWSLETTER February 2022

The Foljambe Family

Philip Riden

Monday February 21st

AGM followed by

Chesterfield Museum

Charlotte Mitchell and Amanda
Brassington

Monday March 21st

The history of the Museum and how the
collection is cared for

Meetings are held at the St Thomas' Centre, Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield S40 3AW

starting at 7:30pm

Members free, Visitors £3

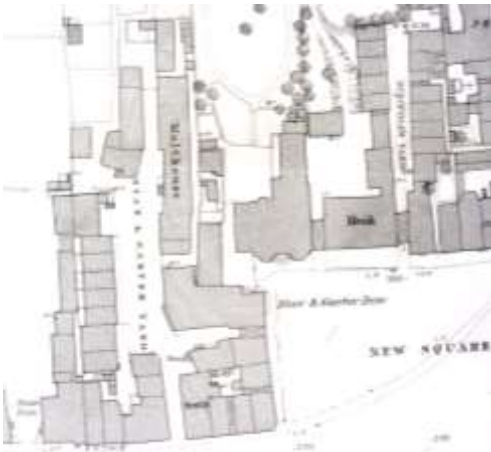
Relaunch of Chesterfield and District Local History Society

At the AGM in February 2020 it was announced that the Society had more members and more people were attending meetings. The future looked bright. A month later everything had changed. The last two years have been difficult. The Society is unable to continue meet at the United Reformed Church because of structural problems. At a committee meeting in May 2021, three long term members of the committee indicated that they wished to retire from the committee at the end of the year and a fourth was unable to continue for personal reasons. Infrequent issues of the Newsletter and meetings in the autumn kept the Society ticking over. Now it is the time for a new beginning. We urgently need a new website. The committee needs someone to advise us how to set about this as none of us has sufficient technical knowledge. Can you help? If so please speak to Janet Murphy at the next meeting or contact her at janmurphy255@btinternet.com

New Square 3

Additional information about 87 New Square has been discovered since the issue of part 2. Following the death of William Waller in 1857 the house was occupied by his son Robert until his death in 1870. In 1881 it was occupied by Dr Manson before becoming the Chesterfield and District Club – a political and social club. The Post Office acquired the building to be used as the telephone exchange until the Post Office was extended in 1927 and then it was occupied by the Borough Treasurer’s Department until the Town Hall was built.

In 1830 the properties on the west of New Square and the corner with West Bars were offered for sale. Lot 3 was the Star and Garter occupied by Charles Allsop. It consisted of a house, yard, gardens and out buildings together with a house fronting New Square: there were entrances to the yard from New Square and West Bars. The purchaser was Thomas Renshaw. The earliest directory entry for the Star and Garter was in 1818 but in the 1790s Allsop was listed as a victualler possibly in the same property.



In 1935 it was owned by Scarsdale Brewery who sought to transfer the licence to a new public house, the Walton, on St Augustines Road which opened in 1937. The Star and Garter was then sold to the council who demolished it and cleared the buildings at the top of the yard to allow the construction of Rose Hill enabling access to the new Town Hall. John Dent opened his chemist’s shop in 1903; later offering the services of an optician. In 1914 cameras were offered for sale. The remaining buildings on the west of New

Square and the corner with West Bars were demolished to make way for a four storey building with Dents pharmaceutical retail premises on the ground floor. The photography department was on the floor above, the rest of the space being occupied by offices. Dents pharmacy department moved to Saltergate in 2021.

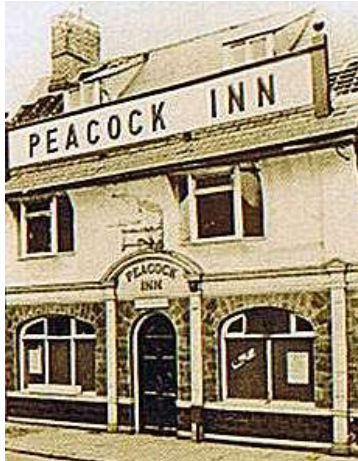
The construction of the Lancashire and East Coast Railway blocked the access to Queen’s Park from West Bars. The demolition of the Bird in Hand and the White Horse Inn to make way for the Hotel Portland enabled a new road, Park Road, to be constructed connecting New Square and Queen’s Park.

The burgage plots on the south side of New Square were narrower than those on the north side and the buildings were smaller. Originally they were dwellings and their yards extended down to the River Hipper. Over time they became commercial premises and the yards were filled with other buildings.



The first yard was Froggatts Yard, the entrance has been filled in to form a barbers. As late as the 1830s this was described as one of the healthiest and most respectable yards in Chesterfield. In the yard were a lace factory, the chapel belonging to the Independents (until 1823) and a school. The arrival of the railway in the town in 1841 brought great changes. The population in the yard rose from 97 to 241 between 1851 in an additional six properties.

Froggatts Yard was now notorious, the presence of the Travellers Rest beer the lodging house between 1857 and 1869 didn't help matters. To make way for the new Park Road the lower west side of the yard was demolished, including the chapel which had been converted into a lodging house with 82 occupants in 1891, mostly of whom were single men. The Peacock existed as an inn in 1818 but it looked very different. The timber frame was revealed as the result of a fire in 1974. At that time there was a proposal to redevelop the town centre which would have resulted in the demolition of buildings on Low Pavement including the



Peacock. Excavations on the site revealed a timber framed building dating back to the 16th century and there were at least two earlier buildings on the site. Two bays of the building survive although there was likely to have been another bay. After restoration the building became the Tourist Information Centre from 1981 until 2002. It stood empty for a while before becoming Peacocks coffee lounge.

In 1829 John Bradbury Robinson opened his chemists shop in the building immediately east of the Peacock. Ten years later he began manufacturing pill boxes at Brampton leaving the shop on Low Pavement where his son William ran his drapery business.

Next after the Robinson's property was Princes Court. John Prince had lived in a house with seven rooms near the bottom of the yard. In 1911 this was occupied by seven people. The other 13 houses which were mostly two up and two down were described as being dilapidated and without adequate ventilation. 58 people were housed in them. They shared one tap in the yard and only six had wcs. The larger house had both. Living conditions in Princes Court were the worst to be found in the yards below Low Pavement.

The properties in Princes Court were demolished in the 1970s to make way for the entrance to the Pavements Shopping Centre. For the properties eastwards the frontages were retained with the development behind. The opening adjoining the Crown and Cushion was originally the entrance to Wheeldon Lane.



The name Crown and Cushion dates back to at least 1838, before that it was known as the Wheatsheaf, the name change was probably because of confusion with another Wheatsheaf on Packer's Row. Eventually the inn was the property of William Stones Ltd. and it was rebuilt in William Stones house style in 1930.

Have you counted the number of pubs in New Square? Beginning at Glumangate they were the Star, Angel, Market, Star and Garter, Peacock, and the Crown and Cushion.

Membership Subscriptions are now due

Membership subscriptions are now due unless you have paid a subscription from last September onwards. They are £12 single and £18 for a couple. Admission to meetings remain at £3.

April Meeting

Our usual meeting night is the third in the month. In April this coincides with Easter Monday. We are restricted to three choices. One is to meet on Easter Day, the second to meet on Easter Tuesday and the third to abandon the April meeting. Please let me know your preference at the next meeting or by email at janmurphy@btinternet.com

Ian Thomason

Ian Thomason died on 11 January 2022, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was born and grew up in New Brampton. He started at Chesterfield Grammar School in 1962; in the sixth form he excelled in English and, on leaving school in 1969, won a place at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge where he read English for Part 1 of the Tripos switching to what was then the Social and Political Sciences degree for Part 2. For ten months between school and university and during later summer vacations he worked in the weaving sheds at Robisons (see Cestrefeld Journal number 5)

Outside school in the 60s he worked for the Chesterfield men's clothing retailer Mr Six, and was responsible for sourcing stage wear for many of the local rock groups of the time (including David McPhie's Blueberries outfit, and designing the tartan 'Bo Diddley Jackets'.

Ian was a good guitarist and a very accomplished harmonica player. For some time he was one half of 'Mac and Tomo', a blues duo in the style of Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, with his good friend Malcolm David Colton (Mac).

Ian graduated in 1973 and went on to make a career in information technology mainly in London but latterly working for several months for the Post Office in the AGD building. In retirement, Ian renewed his interest in Chesterfield joining CADLHS, NEDIAS, the Civic Society and the Friends of Spital Cemetery bringing to them a lifetime's knowledge of the town and enthusiasm for both its history and its future. His experience in information technology enabled him to manage the web sites for CADLHS and the Civic Society.

He was also a keen walker, especially in the Peak, where he could indulge his interest in photography. In recent years he became a valued and much appreciated member of the 'Intrepids' Railway Walking and Archaeological Groups, contributing his considerable historical perspective to the Friday morning forays along old railway track-beds and latterly canals too. He was forensic in his analysis of the existing geographical features surrounding their location, assisting considerably in the group's understanding of the railway system around Chesterfield before its reduction.

Ian's friendship with Christine Merrick dated back to the late 1960s; they had been together for 25 years when they married in September 2015.

(Including contributions from Malcolm Colton, David McPhie and Philip Riden)