



NEWSLETTER November 2021

Chesterfield in the 1960s

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Find about the changes in Chesterfield in the 1960s



Meetings are held at the St Thomas' Centre Chatsworth Road, starting at 7:30pm

Members free, Visitors £3

New Square Part 2



A bank has stood on the corner of the original New Square and Glumangate for nearly 200 years. In 1841 the building was occupied by Richard Hopkinson, attorney at law, who was a partner in the Crompton and Newton Bank, which was also known as the Scarsdale and High Peak Bank, and which had opened elsewhere in the town in 1808. Hopkinson moved out in 1843 when the bank purchased the site from the Duke of Devonshire.

The bank changed its name several times, the name Crompton disappearing when the Crompton & Evans Union Bank merged with Parr's Bank in 1914. In 1918 it became the London and Westminster Bank before shortening the name to the Westminster Bank in 1923. The Westminster and the National Provincial Banks agreed to merge in 1968 to form the National Westminster Bank which became the NatWest Bank in 1995. The site was extended to take in the Star Inn when the fairly plain building was replaced in 1894 by a more attractive building. In turn this was demolished in 1968 to make way for a new National Westminster Bank which opened in 1970. This somewhat unattractive building has two redeeming features. The first-floor windows facing the Market Hall illustrate Chatsworth House, Hardwick Hall and the industries of the town. The building is faced with Larvikite granite from Norway, called Blue Pearl which appears blue when the sun shines on it from a cloudless blue sky.



This illustration, dating to about 1900, shows the Angel Hotel with the Angel Vaults on the ground floor at the right. The second bank is just visible on the right. The Angel was described as having several parlours, a coffee room, a dining room, used also as an assembly room, and a great number of lodging rooms. The yard contained a barn, stables, hay-chambers, corn chambers, coach houses and a garden. It stretched back to Saltergate where the sign Angel Yard can still be seen on the side of the Barley Mow.

In 1782 the building was known as the Castle Inn and it was occupied by John Saxton. His widow married Gilbert Bluett who offered it for sale in 1788. In May 1789, Thomas Ostliffe advertised that he was moving to the Angel and (Old) Castle Inn lately occupied by Bluett who now owned the renamed Castle Inn on Low Pavement. At that time coaches left the inn for London, Leeds, Halifax and Birmingham. By 1817 it was owned by Sarah Johnson. Unfortunately for Sarah she was running the Angel at a time when Sir Richard Phillips in his book of travels entitled *A Picture of England* regarded Chesterfield as a dull, worn out town, where the residents were dull and lacking in ambition for change. Following the death of Sarah, only a few days before she was due to retire, the Inn passed to her brother in law and the new landlord was Thomas Evinson. He was quick to take advantage of the arrival of the railway in 1840, arranging for the conveyance of passengers and parcels to the station and operating a coach from Chesterfield to Worksop, Retford, and Gainsborough in the morning, and returning in the evening. With its extensive coaching facilities the Angel was ideally placed to serve travellers using the railway particularly those wanting to visit Chatsworth. Following the death of Evinson, the Angel was run by his widow but in 1850 she went bankrupt and the Hotel and premises were sold. The premises included comprise two large Assembly Rooms where the principal public entertainments, balls, and concerts of the neighbourhood were usually held. There was stabling for seventy horses and a covered Riding School. The new landlord was John Wilkinson and, after his death, his son Richard. In June 1876 the Hotel was sold to Richard Wilkinson for £11,300 compared with the £1,850 it had sold for in 1850. It was described as the chief hotel north of Derby and the Wilkinson had made many improvements. It now had less stabling and a billiard room with two tables. Tragically Richard died only a few months later aged just 39. The new landlord was Joseph Warner, a purveyor of fish, game and poultry in the town. By now there was competition from the Assembly Room in the Market Hall (1857) and the Station Hotel (1877). Clearly Warner was not financially astute; his affairs were liquidated in 1879 when he owed £10,000 and had assets of £7,000; he was declared bankrupt in 1885, when he survived by selling horses etc and wine spirits and beer, and again in 1896, when all the hotel's bedding and kitchen goods etc were sold. This time he was replaced as landlord, by W. H. Hawkins who was landlord until his death in 1907, and who started the Angel Carriage Company. At some stage the hotel had been acquired by Wm Stones Ltd. who opened the Hotel Portland in 1899. After the death of Hawkins the Carriage Company continued to operate and the building was used as a venue for auction sales but little else. When war broke out a room on the ground floor was used to store waste paper collected on behalf of the Red Cross Society where, in 1917, a fire started. It was a bitterly cold night and, in spite of the heat from the fire, the firemen's clothing and the adjacent ground were rapidly covered in ice. Damage to the structure was considerable and while the Vaults

escaped the flames they were deluged with water. The Vaults continued in business until 1926, when the licence was transferred to a new Angel Inn on Derby Road. Eventually the site was divided between the Post Office (enabling it to be extended) and the bank, with the entry to Angel Yard remaining.

The adjoining building was owned by the Duke of Devonshire and was used by his land agent before becoming the residence of George Crompton, the banker, until he sold it in 1884. It opened as the Post Office in January 1886. This had been in the Market Hall for about 15 years. The conversion of the building was described in the *Derbyshire Times* which recounted that “on the second floor provision is made for the accommodation of female clerks should they ever be employed which is unlikely.” The building remained the Post Office until 2014.

Soresby Street was named after the Soresby Family who occupied a house on the north side of the square, which was replaced by a terrace of five buildings probably at the time that the street was opened about 1813. In 1864, Thomas Evinson, son of Thomas Evinson who had been landlord of the Angel, took a grocer’s shop in what would become the Market Pub, and established himself as a Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

Ales and Porters for Samuel Allsopp and Sons. After Evinson’s death in 1874, Frederick Farnsworth, ran what was then called the New Square Inn, as a hotel until he went bankrupt. With the arrival of the next tenant, Alfred Redfern, the name was changed to the Market Hotel. He hosted an exhibition of cage and wild birds in the Market Hotel Music Hall. This was a room towards the rear of the building, used as for music recitals. Unfortunately it later caught fire destroying a valuable piano and furniture. At some stage two of the buildings were knocked into one to form the Market Inn. The wall dividing the lounge and tap room was removed in 1970.



At the time of the 1881 census Anne Walton was living next to the Market Inn. She was described as a stamp distributor, presumably the forerunner of the Post Office. Chesterfield Cooperative Society was established in 1894 in the last of the properties before No 1 Court but a year later it moved to a bigger property on West Bars. No 1 Court was originally the entry to Schofield’s Yard. Although not the worst of Chesterfield’s notorious yards by 1919 most of the properties were dilapidated and scheduled for demolition. At the top is a Nissen hut

The property which is now the Grace Chapel stands on the site of an earlier stone built house, which was occupied by Dr Jonathan Stokes, a member of the Lunar Society and a prominent botanist, between 1811 and 1831. It was taken over by the Sheffield Banking Company who demolished it and replaced it with one of a similar style.

The first manager was Robert Parker, father of Barry Parker, who with his partner Raymond Unwin designed Letchworth Garden City. Unwin married Parker's sister. The stone building would have been typical of buildings in the town before the opening of Chesterfield Canal in 1777. It contrasts with the neighbouring brick building which used new building materials particularly slate for the roof. In 1919 the bank amalgamated with the National Provincial and Union Bank. The branch closed after the merger with the Westminster Bank and the site was taken over by the Yorkshire Bank, which moved to Vicar Lane in 2015.

The last building on the north side of the square (no 87) has been known as the birthplace of Archbishop Secker (1693-1768) house but there is some doubt about this. Because of the problems of transportation it is unlikely that bricks were used for buildings before the opening of Chesterfield canal in 1777. It was not until the advent of coal mining on a large scale and the development of associated brick works that bricks became commonly available in the town.

In 1765 the ground on which the property stands was leased to William Manley, a solicitor. According to an article in the *Derbyshire Times* December 10th 1881, recounting reminiscences of old Chesterfield, the property was built for Dr Richard Milnes and was where he died in 1795. Dr Milnes was the son of Richard Milnes and his wife Elizabeth, half-sister of Archbishop Secker. When he was a boy, Archbishop Secker had attended Brown's School in Chesterfield staying with Richard Milnes and his wife Elizabeth. The couple also had a sister Elizabeth who married the Revd. James Heywood and their daughter, another Elizabeth, who married William Waller a solicitor who had joined the practice of William Manley. After Richard's death the property passed to the Waller family. Although William carried out alterations to the building and built additional rooms to serve as offices, he did not want to live there and passed the property to his brother Robert and left it to him on his death. Robert was clerk to the corporation from 1791-1818 when he was replaced by his son William until his death in 1857.

Part 3 will appear in the next Newsletter.



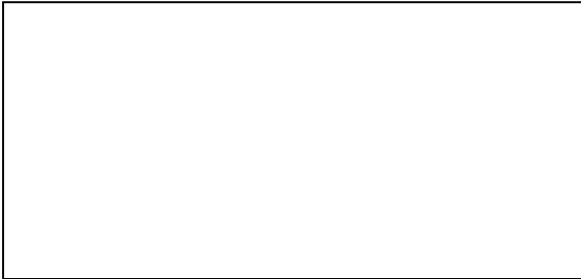
Chesterfield in the 1930s

One of the buildings mentioned in the talk about Chesterfield in the 1930s at the October meeting was Ashoka on Holywell Street. In the 1930s it was a newsagent's shop leased owned by George Henry Miles. Like the other buildings from Ashoka to the Punch Bowl it was designed by Wilcockson and Cutts. By a remarkable coincidence in the audience were Alison Hankey, granddaughter of architect Tom Wilcockson, and Andy Miles grandson of George Henry Miles.

Chesterfield Grammar School Roll of Honour 1939-1945

A new book by Philip Riden tells the stories of the casualties of the Second World War, whose names are recorded on the schools war memorial. Also included are the stories of two former pupils who died during wartime service but were not included on the memorial. The book is priced at £5. It is available for £7.50 (including postage and packing) from Tom Roberts @tomshirl@tsrobertsplus.com.

The building on the site of Subway was originally the Star and Garter Inn, which had an extensive yard behind it. The inn dated back to the 1830s. The site was purchased by the Borough Council and the building demolished in 1938



Low Pavement



Have you ever counted the number of pubs

Peacock Inn