



NEWSLETTER December 2022



Happy Christmas Everyone

CADLHS took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at the Parish Church from 17th-27th November. This year the theme was Chesterfield's Remarkable Women. Judging by the number of leaflets advertising the talks in 2023 which were taken, it attracted considerable interest. Hopefully some of the people who took a leaflet will be attending talks.

French Prisoners of War

Despite the atrocious weather an appreciative audience came to listen to the talk by Marjorie Dunn about the French prisoners of war were paroled in Chesterfield between 1803 and 1814. Further information can be found in three blogs from the Derbyshire Record Office <https://recordoffice.wordpress.com/>

- French Prisoners of War by Helen Ellis 14 November 2013
- Napoleonic Prisoners of War in Chesterfield by Danielle Burton 19 July 2022
- The Escape of General Exelmans and Colonel de la Grange by Danielle Burton 9 August 2022

Chesterfield Local Studies Library also has some material including a list of prisoners of war and a list of marriages at the Parish Church. General d'Henin married Eleanor Dixon in 1806. A daughter, Sophia Anne Hamilton, was born in Chesterfield before he was exchanged and recalled to France in 1811, where three further children were born. He visited Chesterfield in 1836 on his way to Chatsworth. After his death in 1847 his wife returned to London to live along with a daughter Adelaide, who moved in high society. Presumably most of the prisoners of war were returned to France.

Elizabeth the daughter of the parish clerk, John Turner, married Francois Marie Dupe. The couple returned to France with their two children which caused John to write 'The 31st day of May 1814, a day of great sorrow to me, Dupe, my dear daughter his wife and two ever dearest grandchildren left me for ever to Cocarneau in France.' For Francis Moore it was probably worse as his two daughters married two Swiss prisoners.

Much of what we know about the French prisoners of war comes from an article written anonymously by Hannah Roberts in the *Derbyshire Courier* in 1845 but an extended version appeared in the issues of the *Derbyshire Times* of 24th and 31st May 1902.

World Cup Tickets

Janet Murphy



Sadly, England weren't victorious in the World Cup 2022. But the competition brings back memories of the 1966 competition. At the time my husband David and I were living at Harrow on the Hill, three stops away from Wembley Park. David invested the princely sum of £3 in a season ticket for nine matches at Wembley. As you see the final cost just 10 shillings or 5 new pence in today's money.

By contrast when our son went to Japan in 2002 a season ticket (not the cheapest) cost him £1500.

When the 1998 World Cup was played in France Robert travelled to Paris to see England play Columbia. He didn't have a ticket so had to buy one from a tout. It turned out that he had purchased a ticket for the VIP area for the international FAs on the night that Prince Charles had taken Prince Harry to

the match!! Fortunately, he was allowed into a different but equally prestigious part of the ground.

Marks & Spencer in Chesterfield

The end of an era came in Chesterfield as the town centre branch of Marks & Spencer (M&S) closed on 29 November 2022. To mark this the Derbyshire Victoria History Trust posted a blog in November, a shortened version is reproduced here with permission. The full blog can be found at <https://derbyshirevch.org/2022/11/marks-spencers-in-chesterfield/>

Early history

Michael Marks, after starting a simple market stall in Leeds went on to open a series of 'penny bazaars' in various towns and cities before the First World War. Thomas Spencer was Mark's business partner from 1894. After the First World War a series of shops were opened across the country but it wasn't until 26 May 1933 that Marks & Spencer opened their shop in Chesterfield. They selected a site on 2-6 High Street. The original building comprised the left-hand section of the present reddish brick and white stone structure.

The Derbyshire Times of 27 May 1933 enthusiastically reported that much interest had been caused in the town by this new 'super store', erected by 'Messrs. Bovis, London, the striking frontage of Empire stone and Jacobean brick being 150 feet in height and 40 feet wide. On the ground floor the sales department is divided into approximately 20 departmental counter displayers, comprising a wide range of merchandise.' Two floors above were used for 'stock accommodation, office staff, tea room, etc.' Fifty girls from Chesterfield and district were employed at the store.

Extension and reconstruction



Left: M&S under extension and reconstruction in 1938 and afterwards (right). (From TF Wright's History of Chesterfield, volume V and [M&S Archive](#) – P2/87/66).

The store was obviously successful as it was reconstructed and extended in 1938. It took over the former shop of Blackshaw & Sons, who were bakers at number 8 High Street.

In 1965 the well-known Hadfield's pork butchers and provision merchants closed. Marks & Spencer appear to have bought the site for expansion, but standing between this site and their shop on High Street was MacFisheries, as successor to Peter Warner's fish shop. A new shop was constructed on the site of Hadfield's in about 1967 – MacFisheries moving to this shop – their old shop next to Marks & Spencer was then demolished – leaving a gap, which was filled by scaffolding and a hoarding for some years.



In this 1960s postcard MacFisheries' new store can be seen after the white pillared building (TP Wood's – though there is an out-of-view building between Wood's and MacFisheries), with a gap between the new MacFisheries and Marks & Spencer. This was the site of Peter Warner's /MacFisheries old shop. (Collection Philip Cousins)

The *Derbyshire Times* of 6 October 1978 announced the 'shock' closure of MacFisheries' store early following year. By 1980 work was underway to convert the former store as an expansion to Marks and Spencer. On opening access to the converted MacFisheries was via a short walkway inside to and from the left hand Marks and Spencer High Street entrance. This took shoppers into the converted ground floor of the former MacFisheries building.



Left we see the former MacFisheries' building vacant on 2 September 1979 and by June 1980 (right) conversion of the former MacFisheries' building well underway into an extension of Marks and Spencer. (Philip Cousins).



A late 2022 view of the High Street and Market Place branch of Marks and Spencer. (Philip Cousins).

The new Marks and Spencer store at the Ravenside retail park opened on November 30th 2022. Although the loss of the store from the High Street is regrettable, it has to be recognised that Chesterfield has a new, expanded store whereas many towns have lost theirs.