



NEWSLETTER January 2024

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

Meetings start at 7:30pm. Members free. Visitors £3

However there is no meeting in January and the meetings in April and May 2024 will be held in St Thomas Church

February 19th 2004

Brief **AGM** followed by

Pictures of Chesterfield in the 1980s

Philip Cousins

Meetings 2024

There will no meeting in January and the meeting in February will be preceded by a short AGM. We are still looking for a new Secretary. If you are interested please let us know by the beginning of February.

Please note that the meetings for April and May will be held in St Thomas church rather than the hall.

Please remember to check with the Facebook page if there is any doubt about the meeting due to adverse weather conditions.

Chesterfield Library

The story of Ludwig Loewy, a Jewish engineer who left Nazi Germany in 1936 as a refugee, to set up the Loewy Engineering Company. Chesterfield Tube used some of the company's machines in order to manufacture light alloy components used in the construction of parts for planes for the RAF in WWII. Come along to hear the story.

A free event. No need to book. Thursday 1st February 10am

Journal 2024

We are aiming to produce the next edition of the Journal in May. We have been promised some articles but we would like more. Now that Christmas is over, the weather is conspiring to keep us indoors and you are wondering what to do, you have the opportunity to write something. Thank you.

Chesterfield Market Place according to T.P Wood

This illustration is from the T. P. Wood's Almanac 1905. Although it is fairly common, there is rarely any information about the buildings.



I have chosen as a frontispiece a view of Chesterfield Market Place about 100 years ago. It is reproduced from a water-colour drawing I have in my possession, which was on view at the annual meeting of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society in Chesterfield this year. You will notice that when the picture was drawn there was no Burlington Street in existence, the traffic going by Packer's Row and Knivesmithgate. At the end of what is now Burlington Street was the house belonging to Mr Wilkinson, the banker, whose bank was the premises in the High Street, recently pulled down by Messrs. Taylor Bros. and rebuilt. When their residence was demolished to make way for the New Street ((as Burlington Street was frequently called), the Wilkinson family built Tapton House, and resided there for some years. Then it was occupied by George Stephenson, the celebrated railway engineer, who died there, and was subsequently used as a Girls' School. It was eventually purchased by the late Mr Charles Markham, whose family still occupy it. The last of the family of Wilkinson was Captain Ricketts Wilkinson, who was an officer in the Derbyshire Militia when they were embodied during the time of the Crimean War in 1854¹. A fellow officer was Ensign Brabant (now General Brabant) who received his first military training in Chesterfield in that year.²

A further feature in the picture which you can hardly overlook is that nearly all the shops in the Market Place had bay windows, with small squares of glass — plate-glass was unknown at that time. They had a decidedly old-world appearance, and although the fashion in Chesterfield now-a-days is to go in for large plate-glass windows, it is curious that in the most up-to-date shops in the fashionable quarter of London the tendency is to return to the bay windows and small panes which we have been discarding.

The coach in the foreground is the "Nelson" afterwards called "The Traveller", which within my own recollection was run by the brothers Hopkinson, the well-known carriers of Packer's Row, Chesterfield and Change Alley, Sheffield.

Judging by the costume of some of the figures in my picture, it is fair to imagine that they were some of the French prisoners, for the confinement of which Chesterfield at that time a large depot.

¹ CADLHS Newsletter October 2023

² Edward Brabant left for South Africa at the age of 17 where he rose to become Commander General of the Cape Colonial Forces.

The History of Hurst House



In December 1845 the Duke of Devonshire conveyed to Francis Hurst a plot of land one thousand nine hundred and forty seven square yards and three quarters or thereabouts at the corner of the newly constructed Abercrombie Street and Sheffield Road. The original Hurst House possibly looked something like this as it is known to have been considerably extended at a later date. This was the original front door and entrance from Abercrombie Street was via the right hand side of the building. The door opened to a small hallway with rooms off the hallway on either side

Francis Hurst was draper with premises on the High Street. He also took an active part in the life of the town. He was Chairman of the Board of Guardians for the Chesterfield Union, overseeing the running of the nearby workhouse, for many years; vice-chairman of the Chesterfield and Brampton Mechanics Institute; director of the Chesterfield and District Waterworks; Deacon of the Independent Chapel on South Street and at the time of his death he was auditor of the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Bank.

He died in January 1855 and his funeral took place at the Independent Chapel on Soresby Street. He left a widow Clara, and they had no children. Clara moved out of Hurst House and the house was let to Charles Stanhope Burke Busby. He purchased Hurst House from Clara Hurst in 1862, and, with a growing family, decided to extend the house. This is the house we see today.

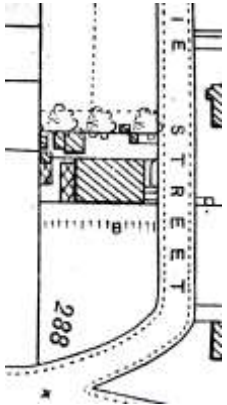
At the time of the 1861 census Busby was described as Steward of the High Peak Barmote Court, Attorney, Solicitor and Brewer. He was elected to the Town Council in 1856 and two years later he became Mayor. He was also very involved with the establishment of the Chesterfield Benefit Building Society. In 1880 he became Clerk of the Peace for Derbyshire, which in turn led to him becoming Clerk of the County Council when Derbyshire County Council was formed – a position which he held until he resigned as the result of ill health in 1894. In July 1881 the property was offered for sale or lease – the advertisement in the *Derbyshire Times* provides a description of the interior of the house at that time.



A considerable part of the property was laid out as a terraced garden and lawn tennis ground, and being raised above the adjoining roads, is private and commands extensive views. The house which is stone built, has a frontage of about 60 feet, and contains a drawing room, 24 feet by 18 feet, and 13 feet high, dining room, library, store room, seven bedrooms, cistern and luggage room, two kitchens, larder, excellent cellars,

two dressing rooms, two water-closets, washhouse, vinery, conservatory, carriage house and outbuildings. The house is provided with a service of hot and cold water.

The family continued to be based at Hurst House and in 1884 their daughter Kate Emma married, Alfred Winter Barnes, an engineer with the Staveley Company, and they moved into Hurst House before moving to Sutton Rock at Sutton Scarsdale until the marriage ended in divorce in 1894. The Jeudwine family were living there at the time of the 1891 census but by 1896 Charles George Busby, another solicitor who followed his father as Coroner to the Hundred of Scarsdale, was living there with his wife Alice. Charles Busby senior had retired to Eastbourne and a year after his death in 1901 Hurst House was sold to Dr Worthington, Honorary Physician at the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Hospital for £2124. The description of the house at the



time of the sale is little altered from the earlier description but the coach house was now a motor house.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1913 shows that the conservatory was a large glass house taking up nearly the whole width of the south wall of the house, a second glass house lies alongside the wall of the property.

The house was offered for sale once more in 1908 but instead it was let to a Mrs Whitworth who sold the contents as she had decided that she was 'giving up housekeeping'. George Albert Rooth rented the house from June 1910; he was Secretary and General Superintendent of the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Hospital, as well as being a J P and Mayor of Chesterfield on two occasions. His wife and daughter had run a school in Ashover which they transferred to Hurst House, initially for girls but later a preparatory school for 'small boys' was added.

In 1915 the house was sold to Dr Albert Green for £1300. He was the Coroner for Chesterfield and his wife was the former Miss Gertrude Gilbert, who had been a mistress at the ill-fated Holywell House School, before it closed following an outbreak of diphtheria. She was then principal of the Chesterfield College for Girls until 1903 and she may have continued the college/school at Hurst House until Dr Green sold it to the Governors of Chesterfield Grammar School in 1928 for £2000. The house became the home of A.C. Bescoby headmaster of the school, until 1934 when it became a junior school. The major internal alterations probably date to this time. Mrs Green continued to run her school in a different property on Abercrombie Street. After the war Hurst House housed the Sixth Form of the school until the new school was built at Brookside.

By September 1964 adult classes organised in Chesterfield by the Sheffield University Extramural Department and the Chesterfield Branch of the Workers' Education Association were held there. WEA continued until 2017

Hurst House is perched high above Sheffield Road, and before the trees had grown, there would have been extensive views across the valley of the River Rother. This is the view in 2017 from the third floor. The former Grammar School building opposite is now West Studios and beyond that is Chesterfield College.

