



Chesterfield & District Local History Society

NEWSLETTER November/December 2019

70s Costumes



Growing up in South Yorkshire in the 60s and 70s

Anita Spencer

Tuesday 19th November 7:30pm.

United Reformed Church Rose Hill

Anita had 35 different homes. She will be bringing with her items from past eras to hand round and put on display.

December Meeting Short talks and Mince Pies

Tuesday 10th December 7:30pm.

United Reformed Church Rose Hill

Please note that this is the 2nd Tuesday in the month. There is no meeting in January and the first meeting in 2020 will be on February 18th when it will be preceded by a short AGM. Visitors are also reminded that admission for visitors will be £3 beginning with February meeting

During the winter months there is the possibility that meetings may be cancelled due to adverse weather. Please check with the Society's website <http://www.cadlhs.org.uk/> in case it is necessary to cancel a meeting.

Frederick Turner and Frank Tory

Janet Murphy

The Tory family were architectural sculptors based in Sheffield. Frank Tory (1848-1939) came to Sheffield in 1880 to undertake carving on the Corn Exchange and stayed in Sheffield. His twin sons, Alfred Herbert (1881-1971) and William Frank (1881-1968) joined him in the firm. In Chesterfield it would have been the sons who were responsible for the stonework on the Town Hall, opened in 1938, and work on the Golden Fleece, which opened in 1939. Models of the grotesques, of about 1930, on Knifesmithgate are in the Sheffield Hallam archives so it is known that the firm were responsible for those.



38 Glumangate
Until 1955 Brampton Brewery
owned the building



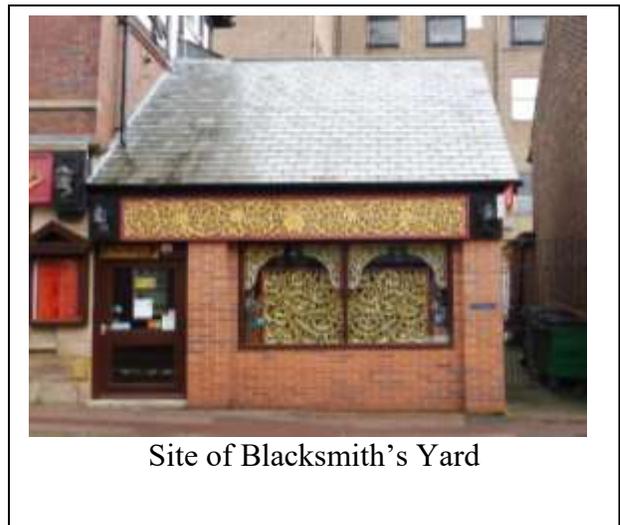
Parade Chambers



Drill Hall

It is possible that there are other examples of their work in Chesterfield, in particular the Sheffield and Hallamshire Bank (now HSBC) and the carving on the front of the Hotel Portland (now Portland Hotel) built for William Stones Cannon Brewery of Sheffield but the press reports of the openings make no references to the sculptors. The style of date stones on the Hotel Portland and 38 Glumangate are very similar to that on Parade Chambers, Sheffield, known to be the work of Frank Tory which suggests that they might be by the same person i.e. Frank Tory. When the Ashgate Road Drill Hall (now demolished) was opened in 1898 there was a similar style for the date stone. However on this occasion there was a complete listing in the *Derbyshire Times* of the people responsible for the work and credit for the carving went to F. Turner not Frank Tory. Who was F. Turner and what, if any, was the connection with Frank Tory?

Frederick, or Fred, Turner was born in 1860 the third son of Charles Turner, who like his father George was a blacksmith, living on Saltergate. The smithy was in Blacksmith's yard near the top of Glumangate. With two elder brothers who were working for their father there was no need for Frederick to become a blacksmith and at the time of the 1881 census he was described as unemployed. Presumably this was because he was continuing his studies. In 1878 he was attending the town's Science and Art Classes, which began about 1870, alongside G.A. Eastwood, J.M. Clayton and the Pearson brothers. In 1883 Fred was awarded grade 3 in modelling in plaster from the ornament at the same time that Johnson Pearson



Site of Blacksmith's Yard

was awarded the same grade for advanced perspective. By 1884 Turner was studying at Sheffield School of Art, where his modelling in clay was said to be excellent. A year later he won the Montgomery Medal for the best study of flowers and foliage from nature with Frank Tory being the sculptor. Clearly the two men knew each other. Turner was obviously an excellent student as he won a studentship allowing to attend school free for the year ending July 1886. In 1886 Turner won a National Silver Medal in the examinations for a modelled design for a panel and a book prize for a drape figure. A year later Frank Tory was appointed master at Chesterfield School of Art lecturing in woodcarving and Frederick Turner was assistant master. At the time of the 1891 census he was as a stone carver and was employed. Ten years later he was working as a stone carver on his own account. It is possible that Frederick took up stone carving with the encouragement of Frank Tory. Unfortunately there does not seem to be any way of identifying examples of Frederick Turner's work Frederick Turner died in 1927 after a long illness. His obituary said that:-

Mr Turner was a wonderful worker in stone and many of his carvings are to be seen on the public buildings of the town. For some years he taught at the art school which was held at the Stephenson Memorial Hall before being transferred to the Grammar School. He excelled in drawing and was successful in gaining a silver medal offered by South Kensington and the Montgomery Medal given by Sheffield Art School.

Money was for the raised for the drill hall to commemorate Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. It was opened on September 28th by Lord Roberts. The previous Saturday another prominent building was opened in the town. These heads can be found on the exterior of the building. Where is it? Answers in the next *Newsletter*



New Exhibitions at Chesterfield Museum

[‘Down t’Pit’](#) is an exhibition on coal mining. Try out the ‘mine’ tunnel, discover what life was like for a coal miner on October 31st and learn why coal was so important. It will be open from October 5th until January 4th 2020.



In the Art Gallery from October to December Chesterfield Rugby Club will be celebrating their centenary with their exhibition ‘Scrum’