



NEWSLETTER July 2024

August 19th

History and Future of Chesterfield Canal

Rod Auton

September 16th

History of Old Whittington: its Church and People

Philip Morris

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

starting at 7:30pm

Members free, Visitors £3

2024 Festival of Archaeology finale at Hardwick Hall

In addition to actual test pits that visitors can have a go at excavating, there will be re-enactors retelling the life of Bess of Hardwick, hands-on weaving and quill and ink writing activities, loom-weaving, family friendly joust training for the youngsters and a wandering minstrel playing the greatest hits of the 1590's!

Inside the festival marquee you can explore the work of the many local archaeology and heritage community organisations including CADLHS with a display about Roman excavations in Chesterfield.

Please note that, although admission to the Festival is free, there is a charge for admission to Hardwick Hall and the gardens unless you are a member of the National Trust.

Do You Remember Dustbins?

Graham Baldwin?

These are my memories of the service given to residents in Chesterfield up to the late 1960s

Anyone born before 1960 will remember "Dustbin" but how many will really know why these modern Plastic Wheelie Bins are generally called bins.

A dustbin was made of galvanized steel standing about three feet tall and about 20 to 24 inches diameter with a handle on opposite sides it also had a lid, and was used as a receptacle for dust, sounds obvious but what kind of dust and where did it come from?

Up until about 1970 every house that was built had a fireplace, this was a place in the home where you had a fire in a grate or hearth. This fire usually warmed only one room and after, sometime around, the 1920/30's had a water boiler at the back, this was called a back boiler, which heated cold water and by convection this now warm water went to a tank which was upstairs and more often than not was in a cupboard where newly washed and ironed clothes and bedding was aired, this was called the airing cupboard. This hot water could then be piped to the kitchen sink and bathroom, if you had one.

The open fire burned coal or coke and anything else that wasn't needed such as the odd cardboard cereal box and other wrapping paper which couldn't be re-used, newspapers were generally kept for starting said fire. Packaging as we know it to-day hadn't been invented, meat and provisions were first wrapped in greaseproof and then brown paper. Nearly every other product from the grocery came in a paper bag. Plastics and cellophane were around but not in common use. Mother would burn any leftover food scraps if the dog didn't want it. Potato peelings and other veggie stuff would all be deposited on the fire, that is, if Father didn't use it on the compost heap. In most houses in the morning the fireplace would be emptied of ash and cinders. This hot ash or dust would then be put in to the Metal "Dust Bin" which was placed handily near to the back door. All of the contents would be dry and would not emit any smells from decomposing food! Father might use some of the Ash in the garden to lighten and drain the soil as most back gardens, if you had one, were used for growing vegetables and in the Winter much of the Ash and Cinders would be used to spread on to snow and ice on paths and pavements. The odd glass jar might be in the Bin but Soft Drink and Beer bottles were returned to the shop from whence they came under a deposit system. "Thruppence" (three old pence) being the norm!

On every working day morning in every town there would be teams of "Dustbin Men" leaving the Cleansing Department Yard in "Dustbin Lorries". These Lorries had Crew cabs which would hold five people but at this time in the morning there would be only four in the cab! The fifth member of the team had started out much earlier to a point where the "Run" was to begin. There he'd left his Trolley the afternoon before and would then start to go to every house, shop, Public House or place of work on the street and bring, on his two wheel Trolley to the pavement, the full and quite heavy "Dustbins". The Trolley had a Swan neck shaped handle and a hook at the same level as the Bin handle so it was a quick and easy method of attaching and taking the Bin to the pavement.

Some houses had long paths some had none whilst others were up steps or down steps, some had more than one Bin but all were treated to the same service, the Bin was brought out and placed on the pavement ready for the rest of the team to empty into the Dustbin Lorry. He had to work quickly to keep in front of the Crew. The rest of the team consisted of a Driver and three men, two men would, together, lift and empty the quite heavy Bins in to the Lorry, not a pleasant job if the wind was blowing when there'd be dust flying all over the place. Both sides of the road were serviced at the same time. The fifth member of the team would follow along and take every, now empty, Bin back to where it came from. An intrepid team who really did brave the elements in winter with no sight of a Union man shouting "Health and Safety". At the end of the "Run" the now full lorry would return to the yard or corporation dump to empty the contents and then start another journey in the afternoon.

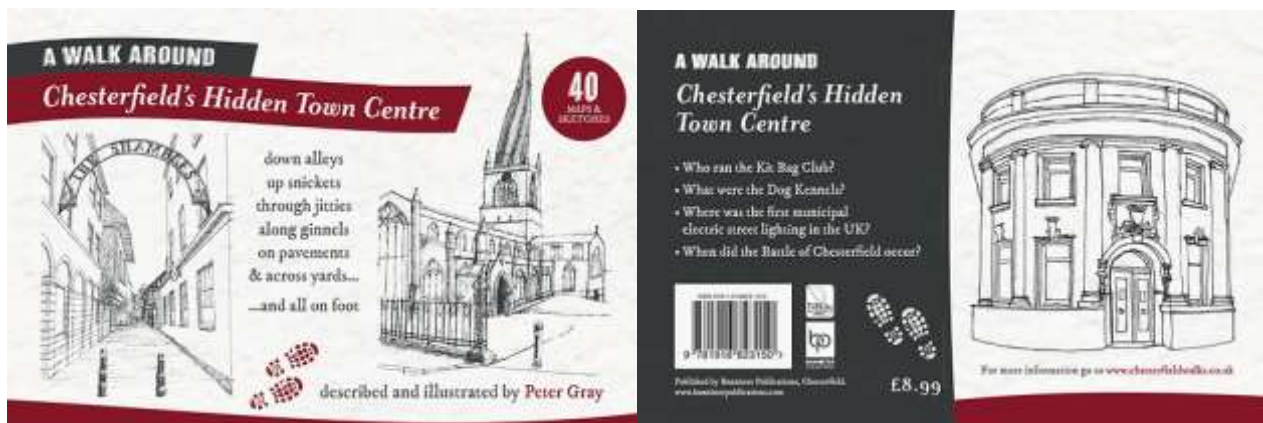
At the Yard the contents of the lorries would be tipped on to a screen where the dust would fall through and the larger material would be taken on a moving belt to be sorted and metal and glass removed. The big pieces of coke would then be sold to people like market gardeners who had big furnaces and the metal sold as scrap.

But now open fires in most new build houses are non-existent as gas and electric heating is the norm.

What do we have today? Wheelie bins placed in most streets all of the time, along with a multitude of colour coded plastic baskets to be used for recyclable rubbish. Single use Plastic Packaging has grown out of all proportion with no way of getting rid of it.

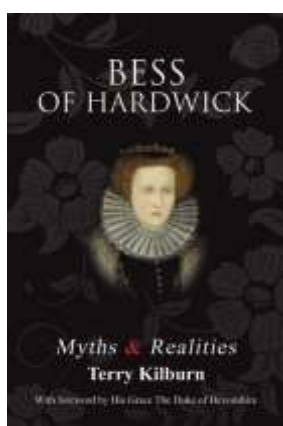
So there you have it, the end of the Dustbin as we knew it!

Recently Published



“Historical Tales & Traditional Ales” is a DIY pub tour booklet featuring 10 Chesterfield Town Centre public houses. The guide begins at The Rutland on Stevenson’s Place in the shadow of the Crooked Spire. The tour meanders through some of Chesterfield’s best pubs and many of its historical locations including the Crooked Spire and the Market place.

Available from the pubs on the route and at CADLHS meetings



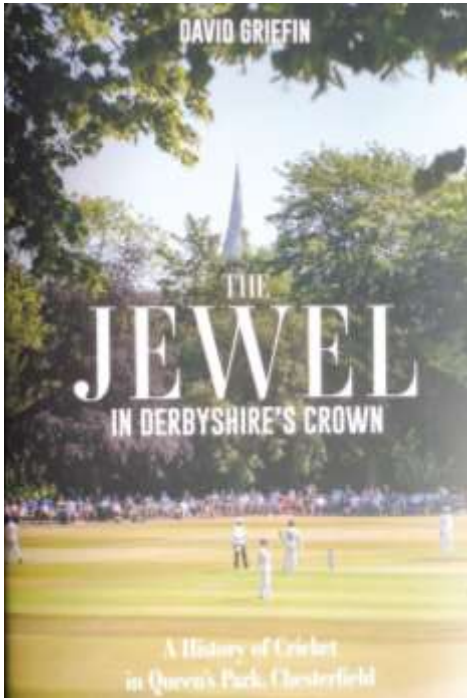
Bess of Hardwick: Myths and Realities

Terry Kilburn

Austin Macauley Publishers

ISBN: 781035844319

£14.99



A History of Cricket in Queen's Park Chesterfield is available from the Friends of Queen's Park Cricket r contact friendsqpcricket@outlook.com. The book costs £19.99 and p&p is £5.

ISBN 978 1 80150 985 5

Chesterfield's National Schools

The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales was founded in November 1811. In October 1812 a meeting was held with the aim of 'Promoting the education of the Poor in the Town of Chesterfield in the Principles of the Established Church'. A committee was established to raise funds and its Chairman, Joshua Jebb conveyed a plot of land for the purpose of building a schoolroom in the grounds of the former Soresby Hall for the National School, which was opened 29th May 1815 at a cost of £811 5 6d (History of Chesterfield Vol 3 p 101). Originally girls and infants were housed on the ground floor and the boys above.

Soresby Street was opened in 1821 and the land below the school was purchased in order to build the Independent Chapel which was opened in 1823.

In 1845 the Victoria (National) Schools for 180 girls and 120 boys were opened on Vicar Lane to commemorate Queen Victoria's passage through the town on her way to Chatsworth. They were linked to the parish church, and the original National School became linked with Holy Trinity Church.

The Elementary Education Act 1870 permitted local governments to open new elementary schools in order to fill any gaps. By 1873, at the National School, the ground floor room was used for infants; the girls having been transferred to the Victoria School, the new schools on Hipper Street and St Helen's Street, and the Central School.

Eventually the school was taken over by the Education Committee and plans were prepared for a new school on the site with a roof playground. However the outbreak of war in 1914 brought an end to all building operations.

The Soresby Street School, Victoria Schools and Brampton Church School were closed in 1930 and the Soresby Street School was demolished shortly afterwards. The Victoria Schools made way for the Vicar Lane bus station. The Brampton Church School survived for many years. I remember it as a Sunday school and youth club.

