



Cheadle Civic Society Newsletter



Spring 2023

Cheadle Civic Society was formed in 1964 with the following aims:

To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Cheadle, Cheshire. To stimulate public interest in, and care for, the beauty and improvement of features of general public amenity, or historic interest. To pursue these ends by means of public meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, other forms of instruction, and publicity and promotion of schemes of a charitable nature.

Your Committee 2021/22

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On the Cover:

Cheadle Folk: Passing the time of day on Cheadle Green in 1908.

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Society Views:

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Society News

'Volunteering in the Community since 1964'

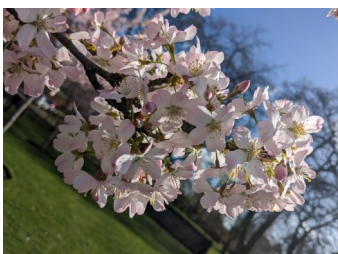
Society News:

The Chairman and Committee hope that this newsletter finds you well as we welcome the arrival of spring, and look forward to longer days ahead. In this edition of the newsletter, we are excited to share that the Society has been active throughout the winter, advocating for the community and establishing new partnerships with other groups and businesses. With these efforts, we are optimistic about the year ahead. The Makers Market returned in February, and continues to be as popular as ever with the public.

Cheadle Green:

The Green is now under the care of Andrew Frazer, who is relishing the challenge of maintaining it. There has been a delayed start due to the very wet March and the beginning of April. However, this didn't detract from the wonderful seasonal display of springtime flowers.

Springtime flowers on the Green.



In March, we also had the pleasure of welcoming Year 1 children from Cheadle Primary School onto the Green for a fun-filled history lesson. During their visit, they learned about the history of the Green, the history of Cheadle Hall, and, of course, a visit to the Green wouldn't be complete without saying hello to Scotch Bob. Before the children left, they also learned about the ancient Mulberry tree.



Your View:

The Editor would like to invite your feedback on the newsletter.

Your view on the current content and layout.

We would also welcome any suggestions for future editions.

Please send your suggestions to:

editor@cheadlecivicsociety.org

Society News

'Volunteering in the Community since 1964'

Chairman's Project by Phillip Gould-Bourn.

As part of our campaign to ensure that Cheadle is a pleasant environment in which to live, work, shop and socialize, CCS organizes regular community litter picks.

We decided to widen this theme, and discovered other areas that could be improved.

The Sainsbury's/John Lewis complex is surrounded by wetlands, streams, a pond and woodland. The litter from the carparks, especially from the recycling area, was becoming detrimental to the wildlife. Sainsbury's have endured much fly tipping, and from vandalised shopping trolleys being thrown in the stream.

After contacting their Executive Head Office, I firstly met with the store manager, then with various area managers. SMBC were copied in at every level.

A promising start has been made. Contract cleaners were brought in to remove skips of rubbish. Beds of bushes were replaced with easy to manage landscaping, and more hours allocated to the store car park cleaning rota. There has been much improvement, but there is a lot more to do. CCS will continue to monitor.

Cheadle Business Park covers 67 acres of landscaped grounds, walks, and ponds. The Park is advertised as a prestige site. However, the car parks of TGI Friday, Cheadle Royal, Premier Inn, and Table Table, have not been cleaned this year. They are heavily littered with broken glass, take away containers, rubbish, and signs of drug use.

I spoke to the Estate Management company, who maintain the Park. They told me that they received no co operation from these companies regarding the poor presentation of their businesses.

I emailed the CEO of each. A Whitbread Director promised a cleaning team in two weeks, and TGIF have yet to reply.

The project continues.



Above: The recycling point in the Sainsburys car park, before and after.

Society News

'Volunteering in the Community since 1964'

Belmont House Update...

In the Spring 2022 issue of our newsletter, we reported on the poor state of repair that Belmont House had fallen into under the present owners. Since then, the building has suffered an arson attack and almost complete demolition.

Although the present owners had been given permission to proceed with their development plans after a revised planning application was accepted, they were quickly halted by Stockport Council when their demolition work went too far. The council took legal action against the owners, resulting in an injunction that prevented any further work from taking place.

In late March, a ruling was made that required the owners to agree to a consent order, indicating that they were not contesting the council's case. The order mandates that the owners must erect scaffolding and a temporary roof around the remaining part of the building within two months, and submit planning and listed building applications for the rebuilding of Belmont House by March 2024. They must begin work within 56 days of receiving permission and complete it within 12 months, or face the risk of being in contempt of court.

There was also a dispute over legal costs, with the owners arguing that each party should bear their own costs. However, the judge rejected this argument and ordered the owners to pay the full costs of £12,497.42 within 14 days.

While the court ruling is a success, it cannot undo the loss of community heritage caused by unscrupulous owners.



Moseley Old Hall...

As previously reported, the deteriorating condition of Moseley Old Hall has been a concern for the Society due to neglect by the present owner. We have learned that Stockport Council has once again made representations to the courts regarding the matter, resulting in specific conditions that must be met before the property can be sold.

Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act 1990, Section 54, a schedule of urgent works has been drawn up, and any future sale of the historic property will be dependent on these works being carried out by the current or new owner.



Above: Moseley Old Hall.

Left and Above Top: Belmont House



Society News

'Volunteering in the Community since 1964'

Reverend Rob Munro

In January, the Society bid farewell to Rob, who had served on the Committee for many years. On Sunday, January 29th, the Society Chairman and other Committee members joined the Parish of St. Mary's in a special celebration at the Upper Room to say goodbye to Rob. We were delighted to present Rob with leaving gifts as a token of our appreciation for his years of service to the Society.



Above: Society Chairman Phillip Gould-Bourn presents Rob with a Holographic paperweight of Scotch Bob.

Left/Below: Committee Member Bridie Meehan (centre) presents Rob and his wife with a painting of St Mary's church, painted by Bridie.

Below: The Scotch Bob paperweight presented to Rob.



Society News

'Volunteering in the Community since 1964'

Cheadle on the Green...

Celebrating in the community is something that the Society has always promoted. In recent years, we have held our annual event 'Halloween on the Green.' However, last October, we saw this event appear on the community calendar for the last time. It is with great pleasure, therefore, to inform members of a new community event this year that we hope will become a firm favourite in the community calendar for years to come.

Taking place on June 17th, 'Cheadle On The Green' is being jointly organised by Cheadle Civic Society and Cheadle and Gatley Women's Institute, along with, and in aid of, The Emma Cosgrove Foundation, a local charity that supports teenagers and young adults with cancer.

'Cheadle on the Green' promises to be a community event in the true sense of the word, with lots of family fun, a selection of stalls from local crafters, entertainment from Cheadle School of Dancing, and the return of the 'Cheadle Quest' – a treasure hunt around the village with lots of prizes to be won."



The Emma Cosgrove Foundation provides relief for teenagers and young people suffering from cancer themselves or distressed by having a family member or friend with cancer through the provision of support, assistance, or positive experiences to aid in their relief. The charity was founded following the sad loss of Emma by her parents and family. They are a locally based charity in Cheadle and have granted many wishes to those in need since 2017. If you would like to learn more about the Emma Cosgrove Foundation, please visit their website.

www.emmacosgrovefoundation.org

Society News

‘Volunteering in the Community since 1964’



Walking and Talking...

It is commonly accepted that walking is good for your general health and levels of fitness, and that talking is very beneficial when it comes to our mental health.

So when Abney Court Care Home recently got in touch with the Society, to enquire whether we would like to join them, in creating a monthly walk and talk in and around the beautiful Abney Hall Park, we jumped at the opportunity.

Walking and talking in the community is more than just a form of exercise. It's a way to connect with others, learn about local resources and events, and build a sense of community.

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to feel isolated and disconnected from our neighbourhoods and the people who live there. However, by simply taking a walk and striking up a conversation with someone along the way, we can start to build meaningful connections, and make a positive impact in our communities.

We are inviting Society members, and members of the public to join us for a leisurely walk and discussion on topics such as history, nature, or any other subject that may take our fancy.

Overall, we believe that this event will provide an excellent opportunity to socialise, exercise, and learn something new, all while enjoying the beauty of Abney Hall Park.

Following the walk everyone is welcome to refreshments at Abney Court Care Home.

The first Walk and Talk takes place on Wednesday 26th April at 11am.

Meeting at Abney Court Care Home
Abney Hall Park Cheadle.

For more details please email:
editor@cheadlecivicsociety.org





Cheadle Community History Group

January saw the first meeting of the Cheadle Community History Group. The group will oversee and help create the online archive of items held in the Society's collection of ephemera, as well as other collections held by groups in the community.

The group meets once a month at Cheadle Library and is proving to be very popular. While the first couple of meetings were taken up with introductions to the archive and the processes behind creating an online archive, the work of physically sorting through the items has now begun.

The group, organised by the Society and led by Andrew Frazer and Jayne Redhead, hope to start uploading items to the digital archive this month (April). However, it's not all about archives and uploading! They are also looking forward to some local history walks and talks during the summer months and, hopefully, a visit to Stockport Heritage Library to see the Cheadle archive held there.



Above: Items wait to be sorted

Left: Members of the group busy working through items to be included in the archive.



If you are interested in joining the Cheadle Community History Group, and would like more details of when the group meets, please email us at the following address.

cheadleheritage@gmail.com

Or call Andrew Frazer on 07931826737

Cheadle Community History Group

Forming a part of the Cheadle Community Archive is the Dora Steele Collection. Dora, who lived in Cheadle her whole life, was a passionate local historian who spent much of her time documenting her memories of Cheadle throughout her lifetime. She authored "Cheadle Remembered," a locally published history book in the 1980s. Although she was a local historian, her style of storytelling would be considered today as social history, particularly in her depiction of Cheadle through the years.

Recently, a newspaper article written by Dora was discovered in the collection. The article was published in the District Advertiser in March 1989 as part of a series of articles she wrote for the paper. We are sharing the article here, so please sit back and enjoy a walk down Cheadle High Street as it was in 1929.

Down Memory Lane

Dora Steele has been writing a series of features in 'The District Advertiser' about the walks she took around Cheadle with her dad when she was a young girl.

My earliest recollections of Cheadle High Street begin about 1929, the year I started school. Throughout my childhood and even long afterwards, High Street was a real village street. At the Corner of Church Steet, opposite the Parish Church Lych Gate, stood Boothroyd's the confectioners. This was a half-timbered shop with glass doors and half-moon steps. As one entered the door a bell tinkled and the aroma of freshly baked bread filled the air. Mr Boothroyd was a round faced, portly man who wore a black bowler hat from which his black curly hair stood out in profusion. He was always dressed in a

gleaming white shirt with either a white apron or a blue and white striped apron. We children had to be very careful as we passed this corner, so as not to bump into Mr Boothroyd as he was stepping out of his shop with his huge basket of bread.



Above: The Blue Bird, originally Boothroyd's Store.

One summer's morning something happened which gave us a shock at first, but many a smile long afterwards. A friend and I were passing the shop and Mr Boothroyd had already stepped out on to the pavement with his bread. He took out his handkerchief, removed his bowler hat and mopped his bald head! We stood and stared; we had always assumed that as he wore his hat all the time and had such a mop of black curls showing beneath it, his hat must be full of curls too!

In those days one always had a clear view right along High Street up to Cheadle Green. Miss Allan's Bazaar stood a few doors along. This was a walk-around store which sold crockery of all kinds. Almost at the end of this block was Percy Weston, the fruiterer and florist. Percy was very well known and respected and had a thriving business. The shop had a central doorway with beautiful flowers all along the left hand side and greengrocery set out tastefully on the right hand side.

A little way along the street the shop entrances stood further back, just as they do today, but what a difference! Livesley's, the antique shop, was here, a real antique shop it was too, not like some of the so-called "antique" shops of today. Mr Livesley sold beautiful pieces of elegant antique furniture. I used to love looking through the plate glass window at the Chinese cabinets inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Next door Mr Mottram, the local cobbler, worked in his quaint little shop. This was a really small cottage and the door was always open to reveal a tiny wooden counter over which Mr Mottram could be seen, always busy. In front of the cobbler's shop was a small lawn, enclosed by a brick wall, from which rose green painted iron railings. How I would long to walk along that wall holding on to the railings— but I never dared to be so bold!



A tobacconist — Constantine — traded next door to Mottram's. the aroma of good cigars and tabaco wafted through their open door.

Mr and Mrs Constantine were a pleasant couple and I often used to see Mrs Constantine coming out of the shop to keep an appointment with her hairdresser. She would smile at her husband, who would be standing at the shop door, pass him and trip across the road. He always called after her: " don't forget—the darker the better!" (meaning, of course, her hair.)

Next door to Constantine's was Teddy Meadows' cycle shop. Many people remember "Old Teddy". It was not just the cycles in his window that attracted the children to his shop. To save up pennies and half pennies and be allowed into Teddy's place on November 5th to buy fireworks was one of the great thrills of childhood.

The Electra Cinema stood in the centre of the High Street for many years, opposite the pelican crossing; in fact it was here until the 1960's. When I was a child " Old Daddy Burns" was the manager. He was firm and stood no nonsense at all, but he was fair.

If you didn't behave, down came "Daddy" to pick you up by the scruff of your neck and seat of your pants and carry you up the middle aisle and outside — not to return until the following week. Many were the joys sitting in a 2d seat at the front on a Saturday afternoon watching "The men from Mars", starring Buster Crabbe: "Tarzan", with Johny Weissmuller; Laurel and Hardy, Mickey Rooney and many others.



Left: Seymour Mead's previously Miss Allen's Bazaar.

Top Right: The Electra Cinema.

Above: Mr Burns stands outside the Electra.

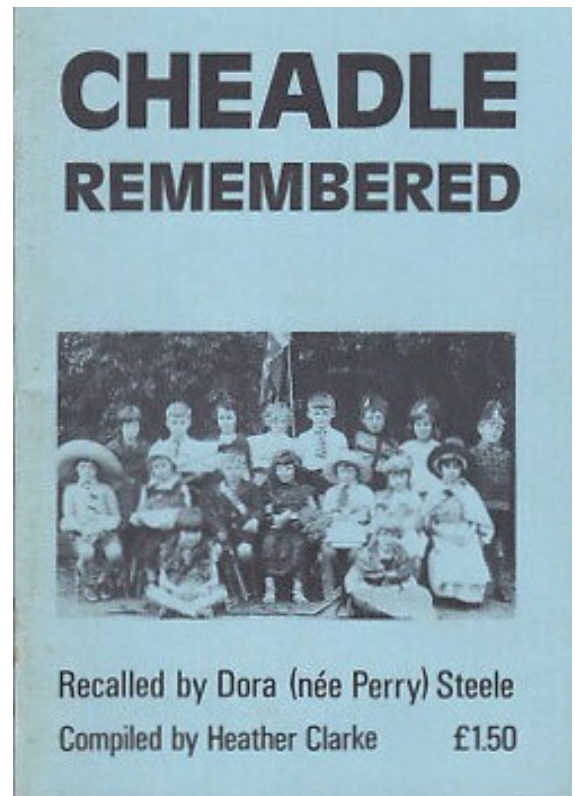
My Parents told me that before my time the cinema had a tin roof and a lady pianist accompanied a series entitled "The Perils of Pauline" starring Pearl White. Once the pianist told my parents that every time it rained on the tin roof it sounded like a military tattoo!

A little way along the High Street from the cinema stood a newsagent's and toy shop which went by the name of Higgins and Hilton. We used to

stand and gaze in the toy window, wondering what we would like for Christmas, knowing that really it would only be wishful thinking, as we knew that our parents could not afford it.

Daybell's the chemist stood in this block on High Street. It was a tiny shop and near to the counter stood a wicker basket-type of scales, shaped like a cradle, where mothers used to weigh their babies. I often wondered why they cried so...

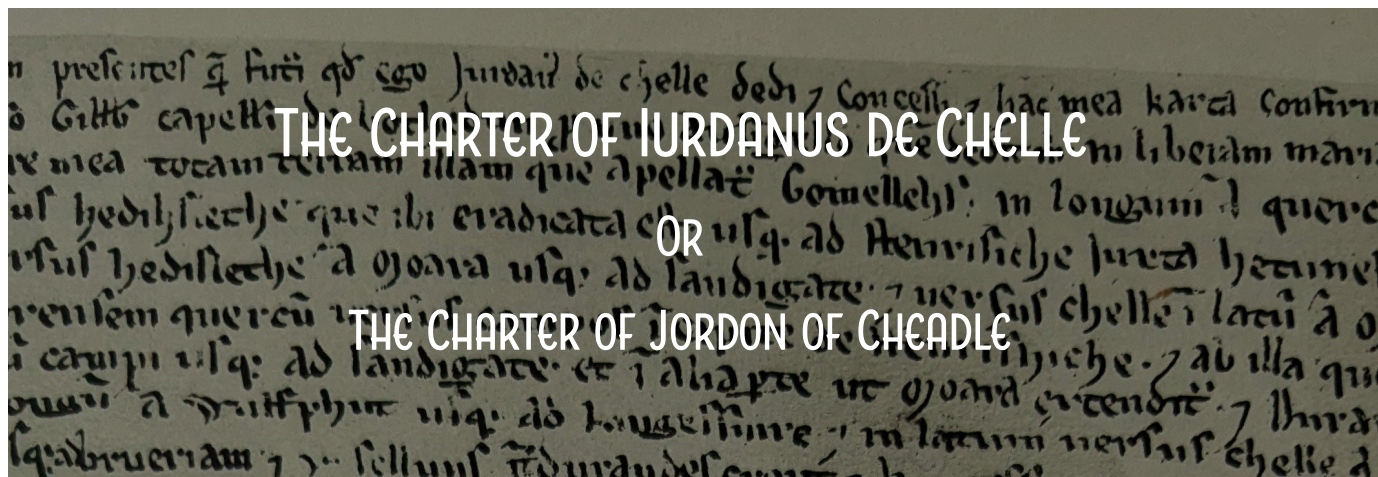
Standing well back from the middle of High Street was a large Victorian building known locally as the "Red Cap" school. This was originally a boarding and day school for boys, although a few girls were admitted as day pupils. The school's nickname came from the boys uniform which consisted of a red cap and tie worn with a grey suit. The girls wore a grey gymslip, a red blazer and a grey broad-brimmed hat with a red band. The wife of the second principal, Mrs Patterson, added a grey cloak lined with red to the girls uniform. The grounds of the School fronted right on to High Street and iron railings ran all the way round, enclosing the school and its grounds. The railings began at Eden Place and stretched as far as Mary Street. There was a path round the grounds and I well recall that in spring time the borders of the path were smothered in purple and yellow crocuses. A giant beech tree stood at the junction of Mary Street and High Street and in the 1930's my father was given the job of taking it down. Felling it was quite a task, as you can imagine.



Above: Cheadle Remembered by Dora Steele, published in 1983. Long out of print. Copies are to be found for sale online.

Below: Cheadle House c1819. The house was originally owned by one Dr Godwin. During WW1, it was used as a military hospital, and then became the Red Cap school as mentioned in Dora's story.





I recently took a book off my bookshelf that had been sitting there for years. The book, titled "Facsimiles of Early Cheshire Charters," was selected and edited by Geoffrey Barraclough and published by The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire in 1957.

To my surprise, when I opened it, I found a chapter dedicated to the Charter of Iurdanus of Chelle, also known as the Charter of Jordon of Cheadle, in English translation. This charter, written between 1185 and 1200, is one of the earliest surviving record referring to the place now known as Cheadle.

This unpublished charter is of great interest on account of the information it provides about the early topography of Cheadle, now transformed beyond recognition by modern industrial and urban development. The detailed description of the estate set aside by Jordan of Cheadle as his sister's marriage-portion is almost certainly the earliest evidence of its kind which has come down to us from this part of Cheshire. Known by the name 'Gomellehs', the estate fell into two parts, and included :-

'Gomellehs' itself. This extended longitudinally from a certain uprooted oak, situated near 'Hedilislethe', as far as 'Stenrisiche' by 'Hetunesti'.⁴ Latitudinally, proceeding in the direction of 'Hedislethe', it extended from the marsh as far as 'Sandigate'; and proceeding in the direction of 'Chelle', it extended from the marsh as far as the oak standing outside the estate near the fields at the head of 'Stenrishiche', and from this oak across the field as far as 'Sandigate'. In the other part, it was co-terminous with the marsh.

Durandescrout'. This extended longitudinally from the 'Wulfphut' as far as 'Kingessuire'. Latitudinally, proceeding towards 'Chelle', it extended from 'Godinesker' as far as the heath, and included five selions of

land between 'Durandescrout' and 'Kingessuire'. Proceeding latitudinally towards Hedislethe', it extended from the 'Wulfpuht' as far as the marsh, where the marsh ran to 'Godinesker'. It included specifically 'Shidgateswra' and 'Durandeshallit', with as much land as Durandus had by the mill.

It is possible to establish the general location of this estate; but I have unfortunately failed to locate most of the specific place and field-names mentioned in the charter, and it must be left to local antiquarian initiative to establish the exact place of the 'wolf-pit', of 'Sandygate', of 'Shidgateswra', and of the croft and hall named after Durandus. Even 'Gomellehs's has escaped me. On the other hand, 'Hedilislethe' or 'Hedislethe' is the modern Edgeley, at the western edge of Stockport, as the fourteenth-century form 'Edysshelegh' indicates. It is thus clear that the estate lay between Cheadle and Stockport, and was probably situated in the neighbourhood of Cheadle Heath (brueria) on the marshy land south of the Mersey.

Apart from its topographical interest, this charter is also important because it clears up a good deal of misunderstanding regarding the early manorial history of Cheadle. It is well known that the manor of Cheadle passed in the thirteenth century into the hands of a branch of the famous Cheshire family of Dutton; but how the Duttons came into possession, and the position before their time, have remained obscure, and the standard account requires correction. This account starts with a Robert of Cheadle, who received a charter from earl Hugh some years before 1181. Possibly he was identical with Robert, the brother of Jordan, who witnesses the present charter; but this cannot be determined with certainty, and it is perhaps as likely that he was their father.

Continued on page 15:

Sodalit etiam presentes q̄ futi qd̄ ego Jordān de chelle dedi 7 concessi 7 hac mea carta confirmavi.
 Simōi filio Giltb capellī de bothedun p̄ uno auberge q̄ue dedit m̄ in liberam maritagia
 cum sorore mea totam terram illam que apellat̄ Gomellehs in longum d̄ quereu qua
 latum versu hedilislethe a goara usq̄ ad sandigate 7 versu chelle i latu a goara
 usq̄ ad forensem quereu versu campos i capite de stenrisiche 7 ab illa quereu i
 cravensu campu usq̄ ad sandigate et i alia pte ut goara extendit̄ 7 durandescrout
 nelsker usq̄ brucriam 7 sellunf durandescrout 7 kingessuire 7 in latum versu chelle a godi
 nedilislethe a wulfpuht usq̄ ad moaram sicut moara nado in godinesker 7 no
 dnu. Totam istam p̄dictam terram p̄dicto Simōi 7 heredibus suis tenendam de
 me 7 heredibus meis liberam 7 quietam ab om̄i seruitio qd̄ ad terram p̄tinet
 concessi ei 7 hōis suis i p̄dicta terra manentib̄ p̄agagū porcorū suorū decem i
 nemore meo cū comū pascuo uille mee i bosco 7 plang. Hīs testib̄ Math de
 hebesleth. Henr de honeford. Will de hulme 7 Simon fr̄ suo. Will de bagileth
 7 Ric fr̄ suo. Rob fr̄ Jordā. Ada 7 Hen fil Giltb. Rog capell q̄ hanc cartam
 scripsit. 7 multis aliis



14. Charter of Jordan
 of Cheadle

Let both the present and the future know that I, Jordanus de Chelles, gave and granted and confirmed by this my charter to Simon son of Gilbert the chaplain of Bothedun for one auberge, which he gave me, in free marriage with my sister, all that land which is called Gomellehs, for a long time from with a certain oak towards Hedilislethe, which was rooted there, as far as Stenrisiche near Hetunesti, and in a broad direction towards Hedislethe from the moor to Sandigate and towards Chelle in a width from the moor to the forest oak towards the plains at the head of Stenrisiche, and from that oak to the cross field as far as Sandigate, and on the other side it is extended as a moar, and Durandescrout in length from Wulfphut to Kingessuire and in width towards Chelle from Godinesker to Brueria, and V. saddle between Durandescrout and Kingessuire, and in width towards Hedislethe from Wulfpuht as far as the moare, as the moare goes to Godinesker, and specifically to Shidgateswra and Durandeshall, as much as Durandus himself had near the mill. All the aforesaid land to be held by the aforesaid Simon and his heirs from me and my heirs, free and quiet from all service that pertains to the land, paying yearly to me and my heirs two solids at Pentecost. And, moreover, I granted to him and his men remaining in the aforesaid land the pasture of their swine in my wood, with the common pasture of my town in the wood and plain. To these witnesses: Matthew de Hedesleha, Henry de Honeford, William de Hulme and Simon his brother, William de Bagiletha, Benedict the clerk, Heitrop de Mulinton, Richard Stark, Stephen de Bredbury, Thomas de Chelle and Richard his brother, Robert the brother of Jordan, Ada and to Henry the sons of Gillbert, to Roger the chaplain, who wrote this charter, and to many others.

Jordan himself has been omitted from all previous accounts, and it has been assumed, on the authority of Williamson, that Geoffrey of Dutton acquired Cheadle on marriage with Robert's daughter and co-heiress, Helen. That assumption proves to be untrue. Helen was, in reality, the daughter of Jordan of Cheadle, and in a charter of which only one very poor copy appears to have survived, earl Ranulf of Chester granted her in marriage with all her inheritance to Geoffrey of Dutton, apparently about 1199-1204. This Geoffrey was the youngest son of Hugh Dutton, the grantor of charter above; and, as Ormerod points out, certain difficulty arises from the fact that there other evidence indicating that he married a daughter of John the Constable, with whom he received the village of Clifton, near Runcorn. But this was in the reign of king Henry II, and there is no difficulty in supposing that he subsequently contracted a second marriage with Jordan of Cheadle's daughter, Helen, about the beginning of king John's reign. His own son, also named Geoffrey, married Agnes, daughter of Hamon de Massey, early in Henry III's reign, and with her received a moiety of Bollington.

There is also in existence an interesting agreement between Ingrid of Cheadle (Chetle) and Geoffrey of Dutton, made at Easter next after the departure of Ranulf, earl of Chester and Lincoln, from England on his pilgrimage (i.e. 7 April 1219), by which, in return for certain rents in Cheadle, she quitclaimed to Geoffrey and Helen, his wife, her dower in Mercaston in Derbyshire, in order to bring about concord between her two daughters. Without much doubt Ingrid was mother-in-law of Geoffrey Dutton, and widow of Jordan of Cheadle.

These facts help to place the present charter in context and shed a welcome light on its date; for most of its witnesses are local men, of whom otherwise little is known, and their names provide little evidence for dating. The best known, probably, is Eytrop of Millington, a fairly frequent witness, whom it is, however, not always easy to distinguish from his son of the same name. He is found, with his wife Christina, granting a salt-house in Northwich to Patrick of Mobberley, evidently some time before the foundation of Mobberley priory in or about 1200. Also well known are Richard Starkey, the founder of the family of Starkey of Stretton, who acquired Stretton from Roger, son of Alured, not later than 1200, and Stephen of Bredbury, whose name occurs fairly frequently in charters of Robert of Stockport, who died in 1205 or 1206.

Of the remainder little can be said. A Henry of Handforth (Honeford) and a William of Baguley both occur c. 1233-37, but they were probably sons or grandsons of the men here mentioned: William of Baguley also witnesses the charter of Hamon de Massey. Of Matthew of Hedeslehe (Edgeley) and William and Simon of Hulme (presumably an early mention of Cheadle Hulme) nothing is known. Whether Thomas of Cheadle (Chelle) is identical with a Thomas de Chelleia, who witnessed a Chester charter of c. 1220, is uncertain; and the position regarding Robert, the brother of Jordan, has already been discussed.

Although nothing specific emerges from an examination of the evidence relating to the witnesses, it will be seen that it tends to indicate a date before 1205, and probably in the reign of Richard I. This is in agreement with such evidence as can be deduced from the other charters in which Jordan and his family occur. If, as we have seen, his daughter, Helen, was married around 1200, it is likely that the marriage of Helen's aunt, Jordan's sister, occurred at least a decade earlier. Unfortunately, nothing certain is known about Simon, the son of Gilbert the chaplain of Bowdon, whom she married; but a Gilbert the priest (sacerdos) occurs 'circa 1210' in the list of parsons of Bowdon, and he may well have been Simon's father who, having been in minor orders, proceeded to the priesthood late in life. As we have seen, it is not improbable that Robert of Cheadle, who received a charter from earl Hugh (1153-81), was the father of Jordan and Robert. This would point to a date about 1190 for the present charter; and that is probably as great a degree of accuracy as the available evidence permits. Even so, the charter increases considerably our knowledge of the history of an area for which early information is sparse, and it is itself an interesting specimen of the rather crude type of document produced in country districts where reliance had to be placed on the services of a local clerk. Who Roger the Chaplain, the writer of the present charter, was, I have been unable to establish; he may have been attached to Cheadle, or to Stockport or possibly, like the recipient, he was connected with the church of Bowdon.

(Copyright Acknowledgement: Text and Image taken from the original publication written by Geoffrey Barraclough and publish by The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire 1957)

Amateur dramatics in Cheadle after WW2
by David Huxley
Originally published in the Society newsletter Autumn 2015

'Home spun' entertainment has always been an integral part of village life, and Cheadle is no exception. I have a record of a Grand Concert, followed by a presentation of Trial by Jury, (Gilbert and Sullivan) held at the Parish Room – then in Ashfield Road – as early as 1917. But the first real attempt at organised theatre came in 1946, with the formation of the Bruntwood Amateur Theatrical Society (B.A.T.S), although, so far as I can ascertain, the society had no direct connection with Bruntwood Hall. The society performed several times a year in the Large Hall of the Literary Institute on Cheadle Green. The steep staircase to the hall on the first floor did not deter audiences, as neither did the nature of the stage, curtains, or scenery, or the wooden seating in rows on a flat floor, well below current safety standards.

Local G.P., Dr. R.O. Payne, was president of the Society, and among the vice presidents were James Watts Jnr., then the owner of Abney Hall and brother-in-law of Agatha Christie, and Harry Marsh, Printer and Stationer on High Street. Constance Mangnall was a prominent and regular member of the casts. The dramatic output was mediocre, with plays such as Is Your Honeymoon really necessary? (1950), The Happiest Days of Your Life (1952) and This Was a Woman (1953), a production which I remember seeing as a teenager. The society did not survive beyond the mid 1950s and although the reason is not clear, it probably fought against considerable odds and finally discovered that it could not continue.

Just after the Second World War an Evening Institute opened at Broadway Secondary School, and it had a 'Class' tutored by a man named Frederick Makin, who became a bit of a legend in Amateur Theatre in the area. But not content with tutoring young hopefuls in dramatic art, Fred, perhaps with the best of intentions, used the class, and the quite excellent stage facilities that then existed at the school, for mounting very ambitious amateur productions. He had links with the prestigious Unnamed Society in Manchester and managed to enrol into the class a number of very experienced amateur actors (possibly on the grounds that they would pass on their skills to the inexperienced students) but principally to take parts in the performances. I am told that he boasted an 'understanding' with Frank Sladen-Smith, Director of the Unnamed, that he could 'borrow' Unnamed actors, but to what extent this was true, we shall never know.

What is true is that the Cheadle Broadway Drama Group presented some excellent plays: A one-act play by Thornton Wilder was one of an evening of three presented in 1948 and in the same year Our Town by the same author was given a full production -probably the first stage play I ever saw. The Old Man of the Mountains by Cumbrian Poet, Norman Nicholson, came in 1950, as did another

Below: Local actors on the set of the play "The Old Man in the Mountain" in 1950.



Wilder play, *The Long Christmas Dinner*, among three more one-acts. *Pillars of Society* by Henrik Ibsen, and *The Women Have Their Way* by the Quintero brothers, came in 1951, and *The Vigil* by Ladislav Fodor in 1952. I joined the group in that year, and became involved backstage with the Northern amateur premiere production of Jean Anouilh's *Ring Round the Moon*. The dual part of the twin brothers was played by Alex Hudgton, who later was seen regularly in a TV commercial advert for the District Bank, until his untimely and tragic death in a car accident. Other notable players at Broadway were Rosina 'Bunty' Baker, Steve Todd, Harold Whitehead and Leslie Roberts.

Later in the same year, an evening of two plays was presented, one of which was *Still Life* by Noel Coward, the play having been filmed as *Brief Encounter*. Our final major production was the charming *Waters of the Moon* by N.C. Hunter, in 1956. Afterwards, Cheshire Education Committee imposed restrictions, specifically requiring the teaching of drama, rather than the mounting of full scale productions, and consequently the group had to close. This had something to do with claims for overtime by the new school caretaker, opening the school for extra rehearsals including dress rehearsals on Sundays.



Above: A highly decorative set for *The Ring Around the Moon*

The previous caretaker, a kindly old gentleman named Mr Potts, opened up whenever requested as a friendly gesture, and never asked for overtime. Another factor in favour of the group was the involvement of Eric Lord, Principal of the Evening School, actor and member of the Unnamed, who encouraged the group, supported Fred, and even took leading roles in some of the productions.

But the fact remains that instead of simply teaching Drama, Fred Makin was also preparing full length productions of very good plays to present to Cheadle audiences, without the knowledge or permission of the Cheshire Education authorities, although it is my opinion that we were fortunate to see these productions in Cheadle, and the ends were well worth the means. Unable to continue mounting productions, Fred closed the group



Above: Popular local actress Eunice Butterworth as Mary Magdalen in *The Vigil* in 1952. Eunice was married to stage manager Dennis Butterworth.

around 1957. Two members of the group subsequently joined Cheadle Hulme Players. They were Dorothy Furness and myself. As for Fred Makin, he became involved with the formative days of Heald Green Theatre Club before his own premature death in 1969.

It is interesting to consider, too, the contributions to local dramatics made by several Church groups. A drama group was attached to the old Methodist Church in Eden Place, off High Street, Cheadle, immediately behind what now is Costa Coffee, and in the years just after World War 2, plays were presented once or twice a year, many church members being cajoled into taking parts.

Another society was attached to Gatley Congregational Church when it was situated in Old Hall Road, now the site of a modern Health Centre, and before the new church was built in Elm Road. Occasional play productions were given at the Congregational Church in Swann Lane, Cheadle Hulme, where once there was an excellent production of *The Vigil*. Also, a society was inaugurated at Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church sometime in the 1970s. Occasional productions were presented on a fit-up stage in the Church Hall, the plays being comedies or farces. The group disbanded finally around 1990.

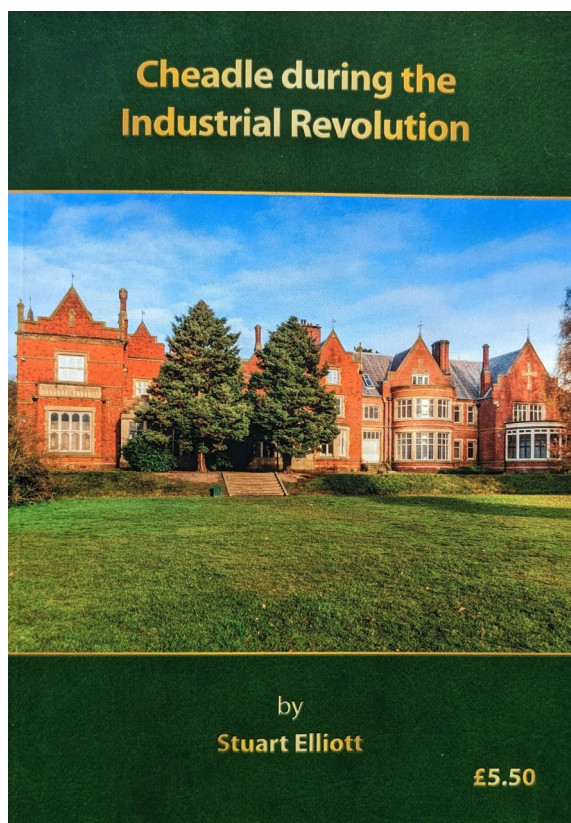
While there are two well-established societies in Cheadle Hulme (both nearing ninety years of longevity) and one in Heald Green/Gatley approaching its fiftieth year, no society has been able to sustain dramatic activity in Cheadle itself and there are no signs that the situation will change in the future.

Cheadle During The Industrial Revolution by Stuart Elliott



It is always exciting to see new works published that shed light on the history of a Cheadle, and Stuart Elliott's "Cheadle During the Industrial Revolution" is a valuable addition to the literature on this subject. Stuart's personal connection to Cheadle and his academic background in history and economic history, as well as his use of previously unexplored source materials, make him a credible and authoritative author on the topic.

Stuart Elliott was born and brought up in Cheadle, living for the first ten years of his life in a former tied cottage on the Watts Abney Hall estate. He attended Cheadle Primary School from 1943 to 1950 before attending Cheadle Hulme School. He then studied History at the University of Wales, graduating with an Honours degree in 1960. Subsequently, he obtained an M.A. in Economic History at the University of Nottingham in 1966, his thesis drawing on previously unexplored original source materials. The outcome of his research was subsequently published in historical journals. Most of his teaching career was spent lecturing on English and European Economic and Social History in further and higher education colleges. He left teaching in 1974 for a career in educational administration, becoming eventually the Deputy Director of a large Merseyside education authority. However, he has never lost interest in his subject, which has been invigorated by the writing of this work. This he regards as a contribution to the history of his native area, which he has been investigating intermittently since the early 1970s. Now in his mid-eighties, he feels he should publish the outcome of his research whilst it is still yet possible to do so.



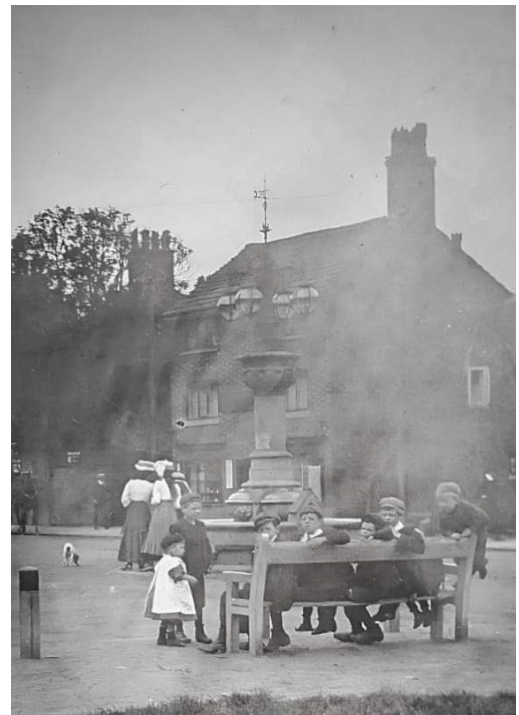
The Society has a limited number of copies available for sale at £5.50 + £2.50 P&P

To purchase a copy of "Cheadle during the Industrial Revolution Please visit:

www.cheadlecivicsociety/shopwithus

**To order a copy by post please send a cheque for £8 (£2.50 P&P) payable to Cheadle Civic Society
19 Mornington Road Cheadle, Cheshire SK81NJ.**

Please write your name and address on the reverse of the cheque.



Top Left: Outside the Red Lion c1920.

Above: The Ockleston Memorial c1890

Top Right: Meeting at the Ockleston Memorial 1907.

Bottom Right: Workmen painting a greenhouse on Brooklyn Crescent 1897.

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If you are not yet a member of the Cheadle Civic Society and would like to join, please send a cheque for £10 with your name and address to: Honorary Treasurer, Phillip Gould-Bourn, 19 Mornington Road, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 1NJ or you can join online at: www.cheadlecivicsociety.uk

Benefits of membership include your own copy of the Society's newsletter mailed to you and free admission to the Society's AGM and any other event.

Your contribution will also help the Society maintain its efforts to make Cheadle a Better and Safer Place.