



Cheadle Civic Society Newsletter



Autumn 2021

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

Chairman/ Hon. Treasurer/

Membership Secretary: Phillip Gould-Bourn 428-0199

Vice-Chairman: Andrew Frazer 07931 826737

Hon. Secretary: Helen Moorhouse

Membership Co-ordinator: Damien Lynch 428-5994

Committee Members:

Geoff Thompson 485-8069

Rev. Rob Munro 428-3440

Norman Redhead 486-6541

Amanda Mattison 283-6566

Helen Tyler 07767 461861

Natalie Kaciubskyj

Julie Fraser

Cat Atkins

Bridie Meehan



On the Cover:

A view of Wilmslow Rd dated 1905. Taken from the Junction of Wilmslow Rd, Gatley Rd and High St.

Contents:

Page 3: Cheadle Matters.

Page 9: The Origins of Nursery Road Cheadle Hulme.

Page 14: The Travels of Sir Alan Sykes Baronet of Cheadle.

Page 17: The Walled Garden of Abney Hall.

Page 18: The Strange By-law from the Cheadle and Gatley UDC.

Page 19: Cheadle Remembers.

Society Views:

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor or the contributors, not necessarily those of the Committee members or members of the Society. Material in this newsletter is copyright to the Society and the contributors, and may not be reproduced without permission. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy, neither the editor or the Society can be held responsible for the consequences of any inaccuracies in the newsletter.

Cheadle Matters

A comprehensive round up of news from Cheadle.

Society News:

The Chairman and Committee sincerely hope that this newsletter finds you all in good health. The summer months have passed, and life has returned to some normality. As we emerge, cautiously, from lock-down, the Society has been out and about in the community, with some semblance of business as usual. Committee meetings reconvened in September, and will continue to be held on their traditional monthly basis.

Cheadle Green:

Maintenance has continued through the summer months, and our thanks and appreciation goes to Peter Rowley for all his hard work, maintaining the Green and producing stunning seasonal flower displays on the Ockleston Memorial.

The Committee is currently considering a request by the owners of the Makers Market to increase the number of markets held in the year. Currently there are 10 market days running between March to December, the request is to add February as a market day.

Thank you Mr Jabez:

Initially, there was Cheadle Civic Society, with little membership communication. Our first newsletter was produced in 1988- 4x A4 sheets, photocopied and hand folded.

Then came Alan Jabez, with his professionalism and knowledge. Constantly innovating, and improving, Alan created the superb 20 page glossy colour newsletter that you read today, which is now ably edited by Andrew Frazer.

Alan developed and maintained the website, one of the highest quality. He was constantly promoting ideas to raise the profile of the Society. Andrew has a high standard to follow, and is already moving forward with his own ideas. Cheadle Civic Society have much to thank Alan for, and we wish him every success in his new ventures. The Chairman and Committee will always be grateful for his friendship and support.

New Litter bins in Cheadle:

The Society has been actively lobbying the local Council and Councillors in respect of the poor condition of litter bins in the village. In recent months we have seen replacement bins sited at Rectory Gardens and Cheadle Green.



It is the Society's intention to continue its campaign of highlighting areas for improvement. Next on the list is the bin outside the George & Dragon.



Above: The bin at Rectory Gardens before and after.

Left: The bin outside the George & Dragon.

Cheadle Matters

A comprehensive round up of news from Cheadle

Duke of Edinburgh Award:

The D of E Award is a programme of self-development for young adults aged 14-25.

It was established in 1956 by the Duke himself, and aims to develop the 'whole person', by building fitness, practical skills, and team working abilities.

In July, 2021, a local young man, Jack Bray, requested help with the community section of his award. Since then he has litter picked Abney Park every week, and provided photographic evidence of his work. When the course is complete the Society Chairman will 'sign him off'.

Jack's efforts will be missed, and it is hoped that he has inspired many who have seen him working.

Thanks again Jack, and good luck with the rest of your award.



St Ann's Charity Shop Closes:

The sad closure of the St Ann's Hospice Charity shop on the High St, has meant that the former Wienholts Bakery building is currently standing empty and for sale. This building, which many readers will remember as the 'Premier Café', is of particular historical value to the community due to its original Art Deco interior. With this in mind, the Society has applied to Historic England for the listing of the interior, in order to protect it from future development.



Above: Litter in Abney Park.

Top Right: Jack Bray takes up his litter picking challenge.

Right: The Premier Café in its Heyday.



Cheadle Matters

A comprehensive round up of news from Cheadle

Belmont House:

In the last edition of the newsletter (Spring 2021) we reported on the demise of Belmont House, and of the concern for its future. It was with great sadness therefore, when in late July the news was received that the property had fallen prey to fire.



The fire, which has destroyed the roof and interior of the building, happened in the same week that Historic England awarded the house a Grade 2 listing status.

The future of the house remains uncertain at this time with a planning application still under consideration. The listing by Historic England will undoubtedly affect the development plans.

Cheadle War Memorial:

In October Cheadle War Memorial received a much needed clean. The stone work which had become very dull and dirty was expertly cleaned by a specialist firm of stone masons, Farmers Bronze Restoration.



The work was commissioned by Cheadle Royal Rotary Club who had originally planned to complete the work in 2019. Those plans had to be shelved due to the pandemic. The project was possible due to the support of local Councillors with funds from the local Ward fund being made available.



Cheadle Matters

A comprehensive round up of news from Cheadle

Litter Pickers Cleaning up on the Streets of Cheadle...

In recent years the Society has encouraged members of the community to come and join their community litter picks.

The litter picks have been held seasonally 4 times a year. This year, the Society took the decision to prioritise the issue of litter in the community, and have been holding litter picks twice monthly, targeting different areas of the village and surrounding parks.

The response from the community has been impressive, with people of all age groups attending and helping. Perhaps most encouraging, is the large number of children and young adults that have taken part. Pupils from all the local primary schools and secondary schools, have picked up the challenge of keeping Cheadle litter free, and shown a keen understanding of the impact litter has on the environment.



Above: The Clean Team.

Right: Society Vice-Chair Andrew Frazer collects the kind donation of litter grabbers from Shepherds Friendly.

If you are interested in helping joining the team on a litter pick please contact the Society by emailing:

editor@cheadlecivicsociety.org

The response from the wider community to the litter picks is always very appreciative, so much so, that locally based 'Shepherds Friendly' who have their head office at Haw Bank House in the village, kindly donated 16 litter grabbers. The Society is very grateful for this kind donation.



Coming Soon!!

A New Society Website:

December will see the release of the new Cheadle Civic Society website.

The website, **cheadlecivicsociety.uk** which is being designed to run hand in hand with our social media platforms, will contain details on all you need to know about the Society, along with details on how you can get involved with Society projects in the community. The decision to retire the original website doesn't mean that it will disappear, the Society intends to keep the site available to all as a legacy site.

Cheadle Matters

A comprehensive round up of news from Cheadle

Chairman's Project by Phillip Gould-Bourn.

The Before the pandemic, the Society received a request from UC3A Gatley, to continue the maintenance of the garden situated in the courtyard of Cheadle library.

The Society were involved in the creation of the garden, in memory of Patsy Calton MP, for Cheadle, in 2009. Over the years the garden had deteriorated.

Funding was applied for from the Councillors Ward Fund, and Cheadle Co-operative. A plan of action was drawn up-then came Covid 19!

Nearly two years later, the renovation has taken place. Other members were busy, and, not wanting the project to linger any longer, as soon as the weather permitted, I took up and cleaned the soakaway drains.

The planters were weeded and pruned. The wooden benches had to be quietly hand sanded (this being a library!), and coated with Danish oil. The concrete planters were sanded and painted a cheerful yellow. The walls were scrubbed. The most arduous task was to hand clean, with a wire brush, on hands and knees, all 70 floor flags. Because of the situation of the garden, it was not possible to use a pressure cleaner.

Three weeks later, and with the addition of a table and chairs, potted plants and new gravel, the intended Mediterranean look was achieved.

A follow-up visit to spray weeds and clear debris has been made.

Please take a look next time that you visit Cheadle library.

Top Right: The garden before its recent renovation.

Below: 3 photographs showing the results of 40 hours work.

If you are interested in helping maintain the garden in the future please contact the Society by emailing us at:

editor@cheadlecivicsociety.org



Cheadle Matters

A comprehensive round up of news from Cheadle

Cheadle Town's Fund Update:

Things in Cheadle are really beginning to change as we see the results of the successful Town's Fund bid start to take shape.

Work is well under way on a number of the initiatives created, following the community consultation and work between the Town's Fund board, Cheadle Village Partnership and Stockport Council.



The Village Parklet:

The Parklet has been positioned on the High St and serves as an area where people can stop for a while to chat with friends or maybe even eat their lunch. There is also provision for cyclists to securely lock the bicycles to purpose built rails.

The Parklet was installed in September, and whilst it was met with some objection and in some cases amusement, by the public, it is hoped that in time people will see its true value in the community.

Ashfield Rd Community:

Work is well under way on the creation of a community garden in Ashfield Rd. The area, which was in an unkempt state for many years, will be enhanced by the project.



Cheadle Railway Station:



Plans for the new Railway Station are reaching their final stages. Following a recent consultation by Stockport Council a final business case is being drawn up for submission in early 2022. One point which has been raised is the question of parking and the effect this will have on surrounding residential roads and streets. The Station car park is to be sited on land currently used for parking by the staff at the Alexandra Hospital, which could create the issue of an overflow of vehicles looking to park.

Do you have an opinion on the new Railway Station? If so, we would be interested to hear from you.

Email: editor@cheadlecivicsociety.org

Above: The Parklet on Cheadle High Street.

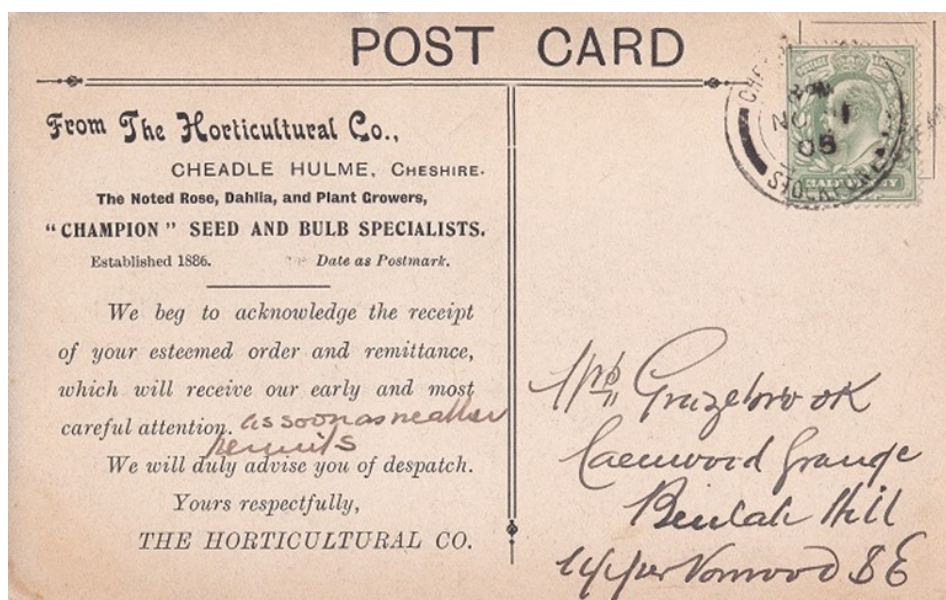
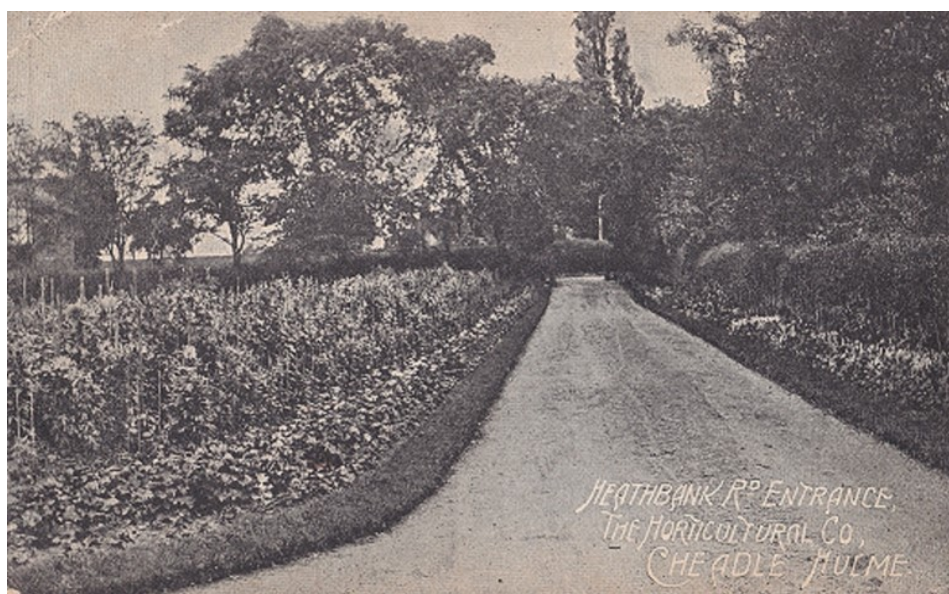
Top Right : Work continues on Ashfield Road.

Bottom Right: The Proposed Cheadle Station.

THE ORIGINS OF NURSERY ROAD, CHEADLE HULME

by Norman Redhead

In the private collection of Phillip Gould-Bourn, Chair of Cheadle Civic Society, is a post card which references a former horticultural company in Cheadle Hulme. The post card photograph shows the entrance off Heathbank Road. The reverse of the post card acknowledges receipt of an order and proclaims the company as 'Champion' seed and bulb specialists. It is interesting to note the handwritten comment 'as soon as weather permits'! The post office stamp indicates a date of November 1905.



The late Morris Garratt, in his excellent booklet on Cheadle Hulme ('Pictures and Postcards from the Past' 1999) has further information on the horticultural company: it 'was formed in 1886 and during the 1920s and 1930s was run by Mr J. Looker. Described as "nurserymen", the Company survived until the war period'. The site of the nursery has long since been built over by housing but is commemorated by 'Nursery Road'. The post card prompted me to look at this bit of Cheadle Hulme's landscape through time. It encapsulates the transformation of the settlement from a rural area with several small hamlets to a densely populated commuter village.

Mapping-wise, a good starting point is the 1846 Cheadle Mosley tithe map. An extract is shown below. Field and owner's names have been transcribed onto the map in this version. The original station site is shown (A), close to Hulme Hall (B). The Manchester to Birmingham Railway was opened in 1842. The station was moved to its current location at the junction with a second railway line that opened in 1845. Billy's Lane, which today provides access to allotments and Highfield Park, is clearly of ancient origin. It is shown as a dog-legged track at 'C'. The future site of the Nursery (indicated by the blue arrow) is taken up by long, narrow fields having a pasture, meadow or arable function.



1846 Cheadle Moseley tithe map, with relevant plot details listed below:

Plot 677 Henry Henshaw occupier and owner – House, workshop and garden

678 Henry Henshaw – Worthing's Croft pasture

682 Henry Henshaw – Worthing's Croft arable

681 Henry Henshaw – Worthing's Croft meadow

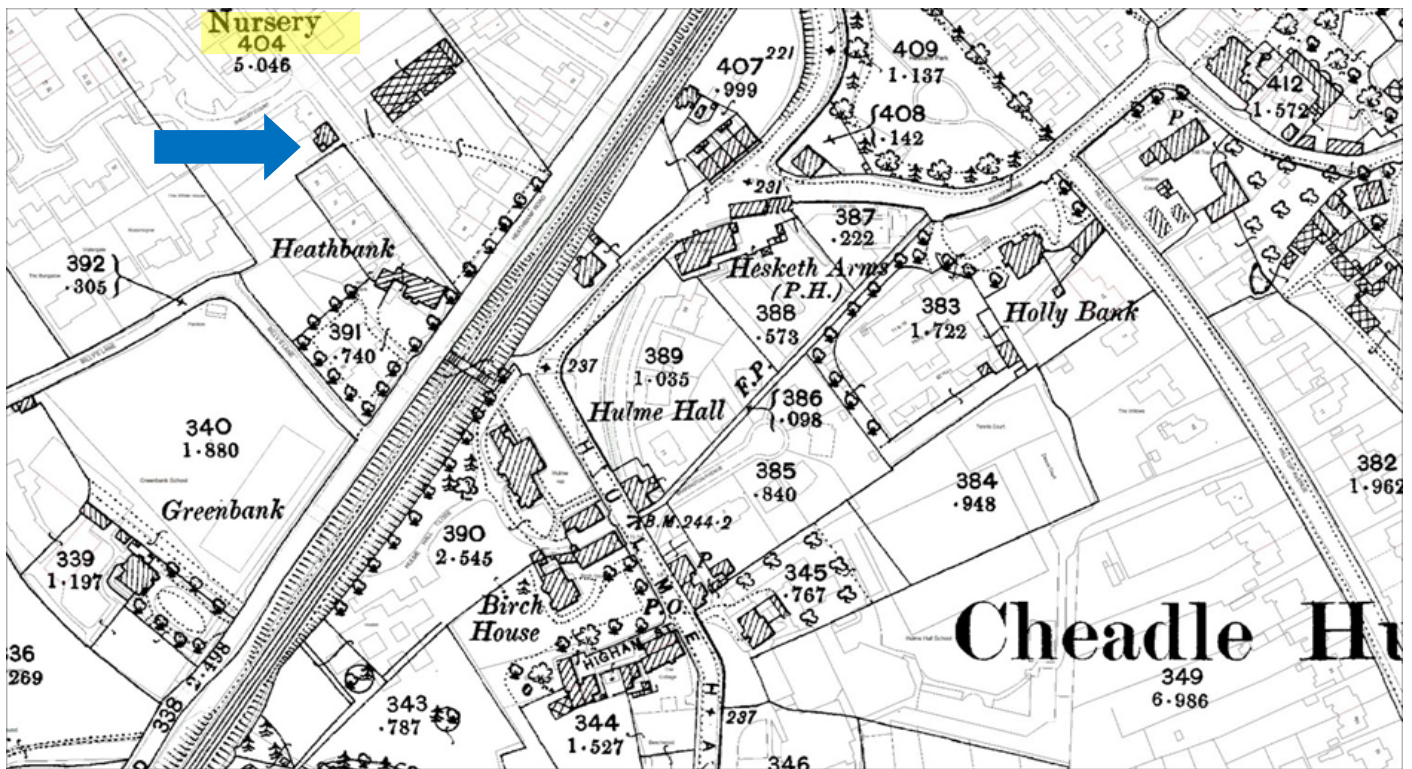
683 as above – meadow and arable

679 Lloyd Hesketh Bamford Hesketh owner, John jnr Hooley occupier – Worthing's Croft arable

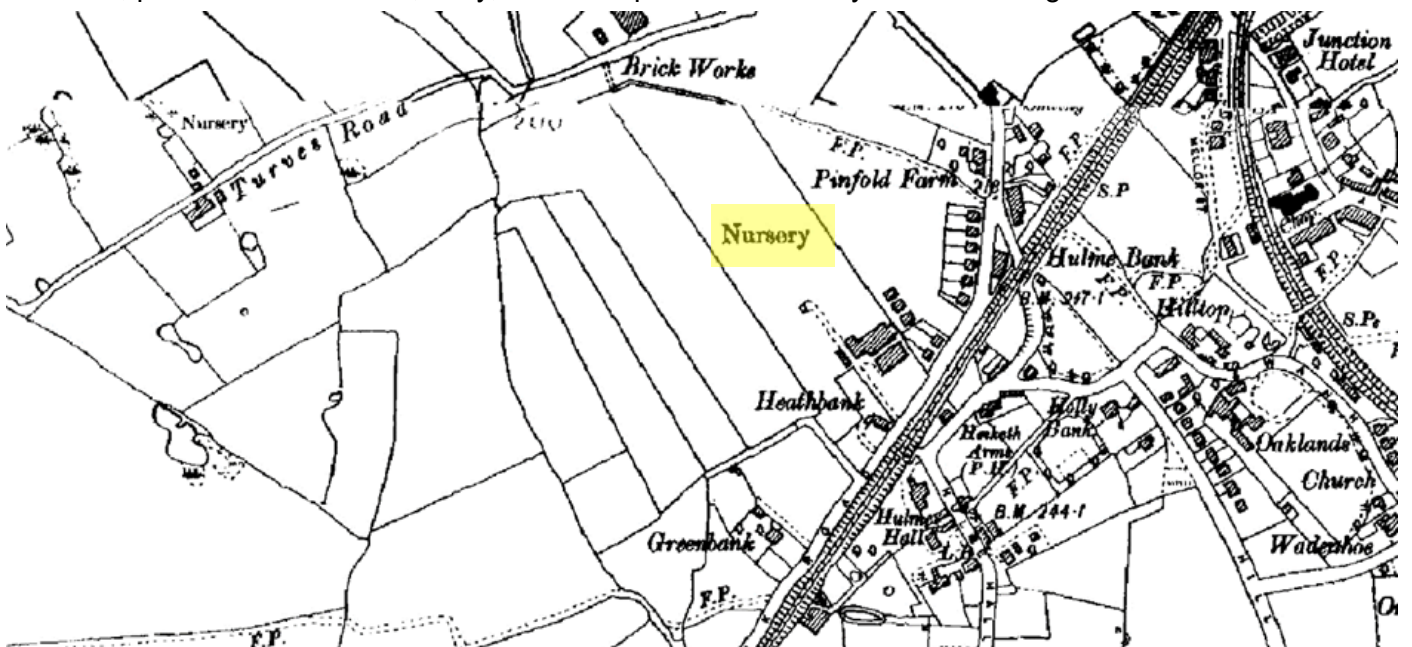
680 as above

684 John Bentley owner, Henry Henshaw occupier – part of Worthing's Croft meadow

693 Hannah Maria White owner, William Junior Bayley occupier – Swindellents meadow and arable (later Highfield Park and nursery)



By 1897 the Nursery is mentioned on historic mapping, as can be seen on this Ordnance Survey 25 inches to 1 mile map of that year. Here you can see the buildings and field boundaries in dark print, overlaid onto the modern map (shown as faint lines). The Nursery is annotated at the top left of the map, with a small building (arrowed) and a large glass house (hatched) opposite and there is an angled approach track. It occupies field nos. 681, 682, and 683 from the Tithe Map – named Worthing's Croft and owned by Henry Henshaw. At this time there are several grand houses including Heathbank (where Henshaw lived at the time of the 1846 Tithe Map) and Greenbank which are relative newcomers compared to the ancient Hulme Hall with its 16th century timber framing. Cheadle Hulme, with its strong rail links, provided a semi-rural, leafy, desirable place to live away from the smog of the industrial towns.

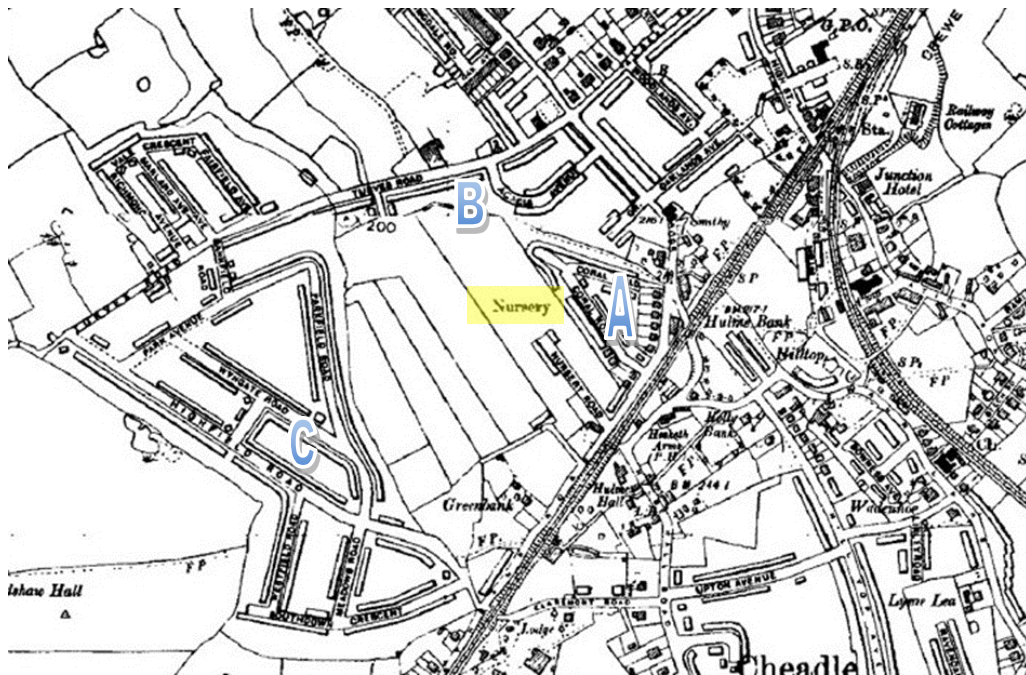


By 1910 (above) the track leading to the Nursery has changed and is now on the course that later became Nursery Lane. There are now two glass houses and a small building at the end of the track. Rows of housing have been built on Heathbank Road and Hill Top Avenue to house commuters and these are the precursor to a period of sustained housing estate construction. To the right (east) of the Nursery the row of houses on Heathbank Road now form part of a Conservation Area. Interestingly, Turves Road (top left of the map image) at this time is a winding affair, with a brick works where the fire station is now located. The angled, possibly much older, footpath running from Pinfold Farm to the brick works survives and cuts through later housing estates.

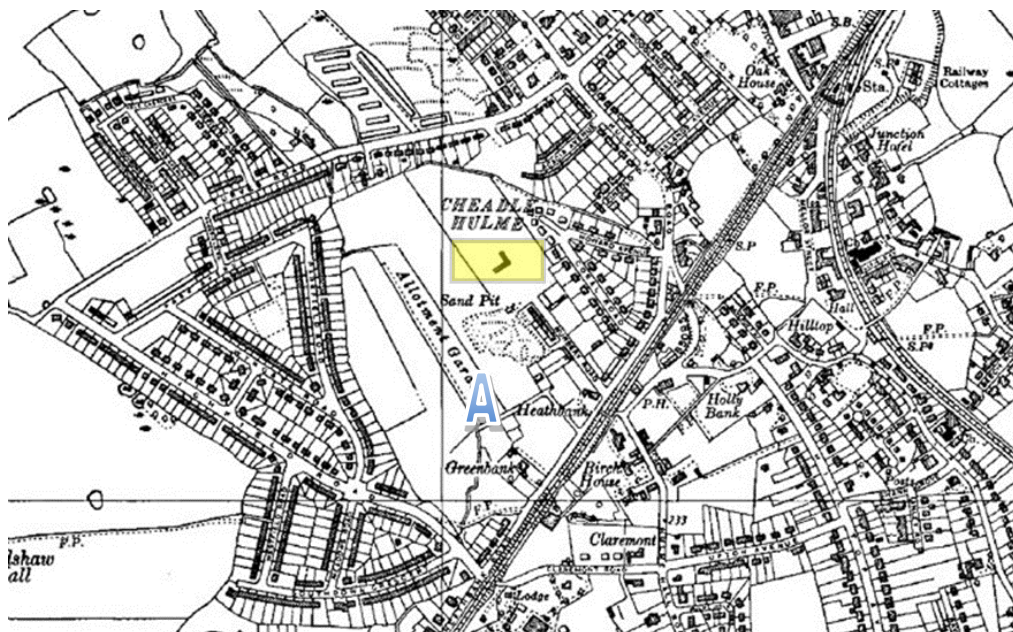


This photograph from 1956 shows Nursery Road and the single building by the Nursery entrance.

A recent photo from around 2010 shows the building has changed very little (right photo).



By the time of the 6 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of **1938** it can be seen that housing estates are in the process of being constructed across Cheadle Hulme. However, the Nursery is still in operation and the entrance road is now annotated as 'Nursery Road'. But modern housing is starting to impinge on the Nursery in the form of Coral Road (A) and Accacia Avenue (B) to the east, with some new housing alongside Nursery Road. To the west can be seen the new estate alongside Highfield Road (C).



The Nursery has disappeared by the time of this Ordnance Survey map of **1954** (previous page). One of the former tithe fields has been turned into allotment gardens (off Billy Lane, marked 'A') and this is still in use today. Separating the allotments from the Highfield Road housing to the west is an area of park land. A large sand extraction pit has developed just to the west of Nursery Lane and there appears to be an 'L' shaped structure occupying the Nursery site (highlighted in yellow). More infill housing development has taken place, for instance at the former brick works site just to the north of Turves Road.

The modern aerial photo below shows the former nursery fully redeveloped for housing. Nursery Road (indicated by the blue arrows) has been extended whilst new roads have been created for the estate. The original house on Nursery Road is indicated by the red arrow.



The housing estate was built in the late 1950s and includes the streets Almond Tree Road, Cherry Road, Larch Avenue – names redolent of the former nursery. The sand pit site is now occupied by blocks of flats. Billy's Lane is flanked by Greenbank School and large house plots, but walk down to it's end and you find yourself in a large open space with grassy meadows, lines of mature trees and community orchards which transport you back to an earlier time and landscape. An indication perhaps of what much of Cheadle Hulme would have looked like before housing development.

The transformation of the former Horticultural Company site on Nursery Road reflects the massive impact of new estate development in the 1930s and from the 1950s onward that is seen across Cheadle Hulme. The village has changed dramatically from its description of 'beautiful, lonely country' in the 19th century where just under 1300 people resided in 1811 to the large suburban settlement of over 25,000 souls today. But you can still make out the impression of the old landscape: boundaries of many of the 20th century residential developments reflect former field boundaries shown on the 1846 Tithe Map, whilst many of the footpaths that criss-cross housing estates have survived from previous times. When you walk round Cheadle Hulme today you will come across old farms and outbuildings, houses and halls that belong to the former agricultural landscape but which have been swallowed up by suburbia. The past is still there, you just need to look carefully to find it!

The Travels of Sir Alan Sykes Baronet of Cheadle.

When Society Chairman, Phillip Gould-Bourn received a phone call earlier this year from a member of the public who had some albums of old photographs she thought might be of interest to the Society, he couldn't have imagined just exactly what they would turn out to be.

The albums had been sat in the loft for many years and they had belonged to her late father, a gift given to him by his former employer, Sir Alan Sykes, 1st Baronet of Cheadle.

Alan Sykes was born in 1868 at Cringle House Cheadle, the second son of Thomas Hardcastle Sykes of the Sykes Bleaching Company in Edgeley. As a child he attended Rugby School, following in the footsteps of his brothers and cousins. He then went to Oriel College, Oxford and while at Oxford joined the Freemasons, to which he remained deeply committed in his adult life. Upon leaving university at the age of 23, he joined the family business. Keen to learn, he worked his way up through the various departments, before taking up the position of general manager. Sykes remained in this position at the bleachworks, until 1907, when he was adopted as the Conservative candidate for Knutsford. However this had not been the beginning of his involvement in civic matters. After his father died in 1901, he took on a number of local civic positions in Stockport, becoming treasurer of the Infirmary and a Governor of Stockport Grammar School.

As early as 1897, he had become a Justice of the Peace, and was active in the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Cheshire Regiment until 1904.



Along with his enthusiasm for business and civic life, he was passionate about travel and adventure. Traveling many times to Europe and further into the continent of Africa, always in a Rolls Royce, yellow being his favorite choice of colour.

The 4 photograph albums appear to detail one of his journeys across Europe and into Algeria, Africa. Although they are undated, one can surmise from the style of vehicle, that the photographs were taken circa 1910.



Above Top: Sir Alan Sykes.

Above: The 4 photograph albums given to one of his staff and now part of the Cheadle Civic Society Archive.

Left: The Cringle, Cheadle.





Above: Along the coast road in Algeria.



Above: Alan. J. Sykes.

Below: Roadside repairs on the road to Blida, Algeria.





Above: The Market at M'sila, Algeria.



Above: Feeding the homeless in Bida, Algeria.

Below: Outside the hotel Blida, Algeria.



Above: Encountering a caravan of Camels.

The photographs on the previous and current page form a very small selection of the photographs contained in the 4 albums.

All of the photographs are of Alan Skyes's journey through Europe and the African country Algeria.

Work is currently underway to digitise all of the photographs in order to make them available as part of the Cheadle Civic Society online Archive.

The Victorian Walled Garden of Abney Hall.

By David Hayle & Andrew Frazer

A phone call from my friend and fellow local history enthusiast David Hayle, is usually all it takes for me to arrange meeting him to discuss his latest interesting historical find.

The walled garden at Abney was created by Sir James Watts and built by the firm of Travis and Mangnall, at a time when Cheadle was very much in favour with the rich industrialists and businessmen of Manchester. The creation of a garden was crucial to the running of the household, with vegetables and produce being grown in the main. For the wealthy home owner, the garden also gave the opportunity to grow more exotic fruits and vines. For these a glasshouse would have been required, and more importantly heat. The ever ingenious Victorians had a clever but simple answer to the question of how to raise the temperature in the glasshouse. They heated the wall of the garden. The walls of the Abney garden are thick, the reason for this is that there is a cavity within the wall. Along the length of the wall are small window like openings. One could be mistaken in to thinking that they once where windows or hatchways into the garden, They are, in fact, fire places into which a fire was set, with the resulting smoke filling the cavity and heating the wall. This in turn heated the glass house. .



Left: A fireplace set in the wall.

Below: Purpose built fire places used to heat the wall of the garden.



Left: If you've ever wondered about the purpose of the ornately decorated gothic spire on the corner of the walls was? This was the flue which would allow the smoke escape the wall cavity.



Cheadle Community Archive

A rather amusing by-law introduced by Cheadle and Gatley Urban District Council.

SHHH... After representations made by Cheshire Urban Councils Association on the question of nuisances caused by singing and shouting late at night, Cheadle and Gatley U.D.C has approved the terms of a proposed by-law to abate the nuisances.

The by-law is as follows:

“ Noisy conduct. No person shall, in any street or public place between the hours of 11pm and 6am sound or play any musical or noisy instrument or wantonly and continuously sing or shout or otherwise make any loud noise to the annoyance or disturbance of residents.”

“Penalty clause. Any person offending the foregoing by-law shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5.”

In a sound-proof hut, by Cheadle Station, Blows a trombone virtuoso, in splendid isolation,

Sucking his mouthpiece -without offence, For he alas, has no audience.

No more his notes will echo, strong and fair, Upon the cool of the evening air,

No more his strident notes will blast, Tween 11 and six or down aghast,

Will descend , not Jericho's walls, so straight and true, But night-shift policemen in navy blue.

Looking for the man, who with felonious intent, Is playing a noisy instrument, And organ grinders, who, with handles round,

Pollute the sleeping peace with sound. Will learn with cost, that the place to play,

It's o'er the hills and far away. And the law will come down with equal force,

On budding Caruso's, however hoarse, Who are caught by policemen on evening beat,

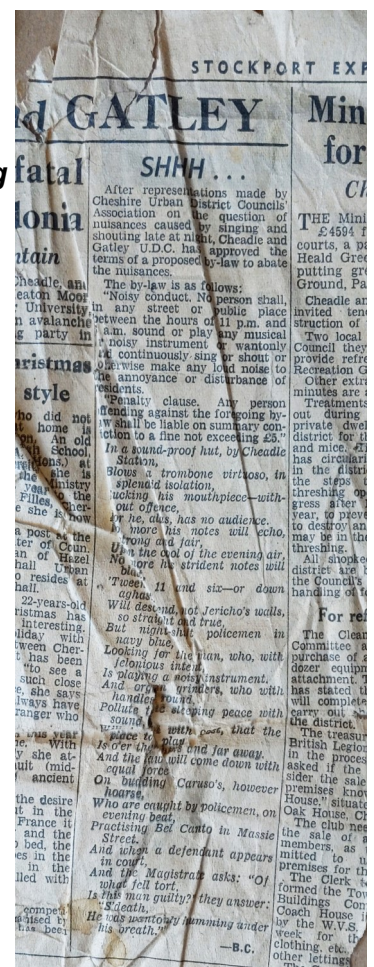
Practising Bel Canto in Massie Street. And when a defendant appears in court,

And the Magistrate asks: “ of what fell tort. Is this man guilty?” they answer: “ s'death,

He was wantonly humming under his breath. “ -B.C-

(Found in the bottom of a box, this rather tatty newspaper clipping was published by Stockport Express Newspaper its date of publication is unknown .

The author of the article obviously saw the funny side of this rather bizarre By-law.)





It real should come as no surprise, that the Cheadle community, at the first service of Remembrance since the Covid restrictions were relaxed, came together in record numbers to remember their fallen.



Civic Society Corporate Donors

The Civic Society is an entirely voluntary organisation which has no public funding and relies on the generous support of local individuals and companies to undertake its important work.

While all donations are greatly appreciated, we are particularly grateful to the companies listed below for the very generous support they have provided in funds and kind over the past 12 months.



The George and Dragon.



The Saleh Clinic



YOUR CIVIC SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!!!

Join The Cheadle Civic Society Today and Help Make A Real Difference to This Wonderful Village!!

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.org

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.