

# **Cheadle Civic Society Newsletter**



**Spring 2022**

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:

Village Life in 1907, repairing the Ockleston Memorial.

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## Society Views:

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# 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 winter months have passed, and despite some very stormy days we have moved seamlessly into Spring.

## Cheadle Green:

Despite the stormy winter months, the Green has survived in great condition, thanks as always to the Society gardener. One issue which caused some concern, was the deliberate and wilful damage to the ancient mulberry tree. A community member was seen to be encouraging their dog to swing from the lower branches of the tree resulting in snapped and broken branches. When approached by the Society gardener the individual involved became aggressive and abusive, but beat a hasty retreat, and no further damage has been reported. The Chairman and Committee are very aware of the increasing cost to the Society, and environment, of lighting the Green during the evenings. It is felt that a more sustainable source of energy should be sought to help reduce the Society's carbon footprint. One method currently under consideration, is that of solar power.

## Society Website:

As reported in the last edition of the newsletter, we launched the Society's new website on the 31st December. The website, along with the new Community Archive site, and social media pages, has meant Cheadle Civic Society's presence on the internet is more accessible than ever before.

## The Queens Platinum Jubilee:

This Summer we will see a number of events taking place to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Over the extended bank holiday weekend (2nd June– 5th June) Cheadle will be treated to special events from groups across the community. The Society will be exhibiting a heritage display at St Mary's church, which will also be hosting an art exhibition of work by local artists. It's sure to be a fun filled family weekend.

## Archaeology in Cheadle:

Over the weekend 9th-10th April, Cheadle saw the return of SMART (South Manchester Archaeology Research Team) as they started to dig test pits on the site of The Beeches. SMART, whose last major project in Cheadle was the very popular dig on Cheadle Green, dug 7 pits over the two days, and the results were very encouraging. It is now hoped that a more extensive dig will take place later in the year. The Beeches was a Doctors surgery that stood on the ground opposite Cheadle Green. The surgery served the community from the late 19th century, until it was demolished in the 1960's and then grassed over by the council.



**Above Left:** Aerial view of the site of The Beeches, opposite Cheadle Green. **Above Right:** One of the test pits being excavated.

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## Stockport Talking Newspaper Christmas Victorian Market:

by Phillip Gould-Bourn:

The Society was contacted by the above charity, because they were aware of Norman Redhead's book 'An Ancient and Historic Place the Archaeology of Cheadle,'\* and thought it would be of interest to their members.

Blind, or visually impaired members, are loaned a free player, and every month, a memory stick containing articles and news, read by volunteers, is delivered FOC by the Post Office.

Norman and I volunteered to read an article each, and made an appointment to attend the recording studio in Stockport. We were made very welcome, and the procedures explained. As we had not made a recording before, we were a little nervous, but the retired BBC sound engineer was able to delete any errors, and the recording perfected (well, almost!).

Our efforts will be featured in the May/June issue.

We feel privileged to be involved with this charity, of which we knew nothing. We have been asked to record again, and if anyone would like to volunteer, please contact [STNA@LIVE.CO.UK](mailto:STNA@LIVE.CO.UK).

Their website is  
[www.stockporttalkingnewspaper.org.uk](http://www.stockporttalkingnewspaper.org.uk)

\*available from CCS or Cheadle Post Office.



December saw the return of the Victorian Christmas Market, following a break of 2 years due to the pandemic. The Market, which was made possible by an application for funding made by Cheadle Village Partnership to the Government community recovery fund, and a generous donation from the Society. Despite the rather wet weather, which saw the early closing of the Makers Market on the Green, the community came in large numbers to celebrate community life together once again. The Society had its usual stand on the Makers Market, and also had a display of historical photographs inside St Mary's Church, which proved very popular with visitors. One other highlight of the day was the presence of Father Christmas, who provided a special treat at the end of the day, when his reindeer arrived to take him back to the North Pole.

**Above Left:** Father Christmas attended the Christmas Market.

**Above Right:** The CCS display in St Mary's proved very Popular.



**Above:** In the Studio of Stockport Talking Newspaper.



**Right:** Father Christmas's reindeer arrived to take him home.





# Cheadle Matters

## A comprehensive round up of news from Cheadle

### A new Society brochure:



### Sir Ed Davey visits Cheadle:



On Wednesday 13th April, Sir Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrat Party, was welcomed in Cheadle, as he visited areas across the Northwest. Sir Ed spent time talking to the Society Chairman, Phillip Gould-Bourn, about the work the Society undertakes in the community. Sir Ed then took the opportunity to take part in a litter pick in Abney Park.

**Above:** Sir Ed Davey joins Society Chairman, Phillip Gould-Bourn and Vice-Chair Andrew Frazer, along with Lib-Dems Mark Hunter and Tom Morrison on a litter pick.

The Society are pleased to announce that a new Membership brochure has been produced as part of a new campaign to encourage new members. The brochure, which has been designed by Committee member Julie Fraser, gives a brief but comprehensive overview of what the Society does in the community today, as well as giving details on how to join. Along with the brochure the Society is producing a new range of merchandise to sell on the Market stall, and also online, helping to raise extra funds for the Society, whilst also raising our profile in the community.

The first product available is the Cheadle Civic Society tote bag, which will be available in May. Other products are currently in development.

**Above:** The new Membership Brochure.

**Top Right:** The Society's new Tote bag.



# Cheadle Matters

## A comprehensive round up of news from Cheadle

### Easter on the Green:

An Easter Eggtravaganza! was promised and that's what the community got! Over the Easter weekend there was a lot of activity on the Green, as local event company, Magical Moments staged two days of family fun. On the Saturday the community were invited to the Mad Hatter's tea Party. Tea and cakes were the order of the day, whilst being entertained with live music, and a whole host of family activities. The event was supported by Cheadle Civic Society and a donation made to MIND, the mental health charity.



The weekend fun didn't end there however. On Easter Sunday, we saw the return of the very popular Cinema on the Green, and a screening of the Easter themed film 'Hop'.

Both events were well attended and we look forward to more though out the Summer.





# John Charles Sever. Cheadle Photographer. By Phillip Gould-Bourn.

Earlier this year, an enquiry was received regarding a photograph of a train crash, in Cheadle around 1890. The photograph was originally part of a collection owned by James Henry Faulkner, who lived at 2 Eden Place, and worked with his mother Henrietta, in their grocery store at 28 High Street. The photograph was taken by J.C. Sever, and the enquirer was searching for information about this person. I was aware of several postcards featuring photographs by JCS. My research shows that, (please read carefully as there are some confusing name changes!); John Charles was born in 1867, to Clarissa Sever (born 1845), in Hulme, Manchester. Her parents were William Crompton (Cropton) Sever and Sarah Sever. The family are listed on the 1851 census as SOVER. It would appear that Clarissa did not marry the father of JC. He is unnamed and JC. was given his mother's surname.

In 1871, JC. was boarding with the Worrell family in Cheadle Village. Clarissa is not on this census. However, not transcribed from the original census, was another lodger, Charles Riding, aged 31, a labourer, who married Clarissa, the following year (1872).

On the census of 1881, living at Bank Street, Cheadle, JC. is listed as LEVER, a 13 year-old scholar, living with the Riding family, and his step father is now a railway plate layer.

By 1891, the family are living on Manchester Road, Cheadle, listed as REDINGS, and JC (23), is working in a bleach works. His step father is a railway labourer.

JC. married Annie Franklin in 1892, and in 1901, they were living at 11 Charles Street, Cheadle, he is a stretcher in a dye works. He is listed on the census as LEVER in 1911, and is a photographer living at 2 Hall Street, Cheadle. Their daughter was born at Wheelock, Sandbach, in 1895.

I conclude that JC. had an early interest in photography, and railways. My research ends here, and I would be interested to know if anyone can add to the story, as Sever is an unusual name.



**Above:** Two examples of J.C. Severs work, early 1900's.



**Above:** Train crash at Cheadle , circa 1890.

**Below:** Gatley Prize Band ,circa 1900,





# A Good Idea at the Time...

by Bernard Saville

In June 1967 Cheshire County Council produced a Cheadle Town Policy Map, the main purpose of which was to suggest a long term policy for the separation of vehicles and pedestrians in the "Village" centre. In other words, to pedestrianize Cheadle High Street.

In order to do so, the main proposal was for a relief road to run to the East and South of the village centre. To achieve this purpose, looking at it from today's perspective, it may have involved the demolition of the George and Dragon public house. It would certainly have involved the demolition of the buildings to the east of that property, which are currently occupied by a hair dressing business. The road would have then continued through what is now the 'Collectors Yard and the land to the rear. It was then to pass around the rear of the library on Ashfield Road, before bending to the right and continuing through the front driveway of two of the Victorian villas on Brookfield Crescent. It was then to travel along the line of Charlotte Street before forming a, signal controlled junction at Wilmslow Road.

In wonderful bureaucratese the accompanying explanatory leaflet (right) states that the proposals are in diagrammatic form only, and are not intended to give details of how the broad proposals would affect individual properties.

Further proposals include access roads via The Crescent and Grenvale Drive to a multi storey car park at the rear of Lime Grove, and also a further access road across the rear of Cheadle Primary school, leading to a further multi storey car park. This would extend across Massie Street, blocking it off.

I don't know what the local reaction to these proposals were at the time, but suffice to say they were never implemented. At least they would have dealt with the No Right Turn from Massie Street.

## CHEADLE CENTRAL AREA

Cheadle and Gatley Urban District

Plan No. TM.11/CDA.3/A.17

The Town Centre Policy Map presents the suggested long-term policy for the separation of pedestrians and vehicles in the "Village" centre at Cheadle and shows how the re-development or conservation of buildings could be achieved in such a manner as to give improved convenience and safety for shoppers and vehicular traffic.

The Cheadle "Village" centre is a lively and successful district shopping centre. There is only a limited requirement for expansion of existing shopping facilities because the centre is expected to continue primarily to serve only the daily and weekly needs of population living in its existing catchment area. Land is not available for any large scale increase of population in proportion to the existing resident population within this catchment area.

Briefly, the proposals are:-

- (1) To conserve and enhance as far as possible the existing character of the High Street which is the attractive historic centre of Cheadle.
- (2) To separate pedestrian and motor traffic as far as possible. This will be achieved by the provision of a new relief road between the junction of the Manchester and Stockport Roads to the north and a point on Wilmslow Road to the south, and the provision of rear service and access roads around the shopping centre. At a later stage it is also proposed to provide an additional relief road north of High Street.
- (3) To provide adequate off-street car parks for the town's growing needs.
- (4) To allow for an appropriate amount of expansion of shopping facilities in a compact form so that the continuity of shopping frontages is improved and conveniently concentrated facilities are provided for shoppers in the High Street.
- (5) The proposed relief road to the east and south of the shopping centre is aligned so as to allow space for the orderly re-development of the 19th century central residential area immediately south of the shopping centre.
- (6) The provision of sites on the periphery of the shopping centre for suitable ancillary uses including offices, town houses and flats and light industry.

At present, Cheadle High Street is so heavily loaded with traffic that much of its attraction as a shopping centre is vitiated. The proposed Sharston by-pass should remove much of the heavy east-west flows of traffic from the High Street, but counts of turning traffic at the road junctions in the central area indicate that, even when the Sharston by-pass is complete, traffic in the High Street will remain much too heavy to make it acceptable as a shopping centre without the implementation of the proposals outlined above to remove all vehicles from the High Street.

Since the proposals outlined on the map could only be fully implemented over a relatively long period of years, they are shown in diagrammatic form only, to indicate clearly the principles which will be followed both in positive planning and development control. The map is not intended to give details of how these broad proposals would affect individual properties, and further consideration will need to be given to the Wilmslow Road/Depleach Road area.

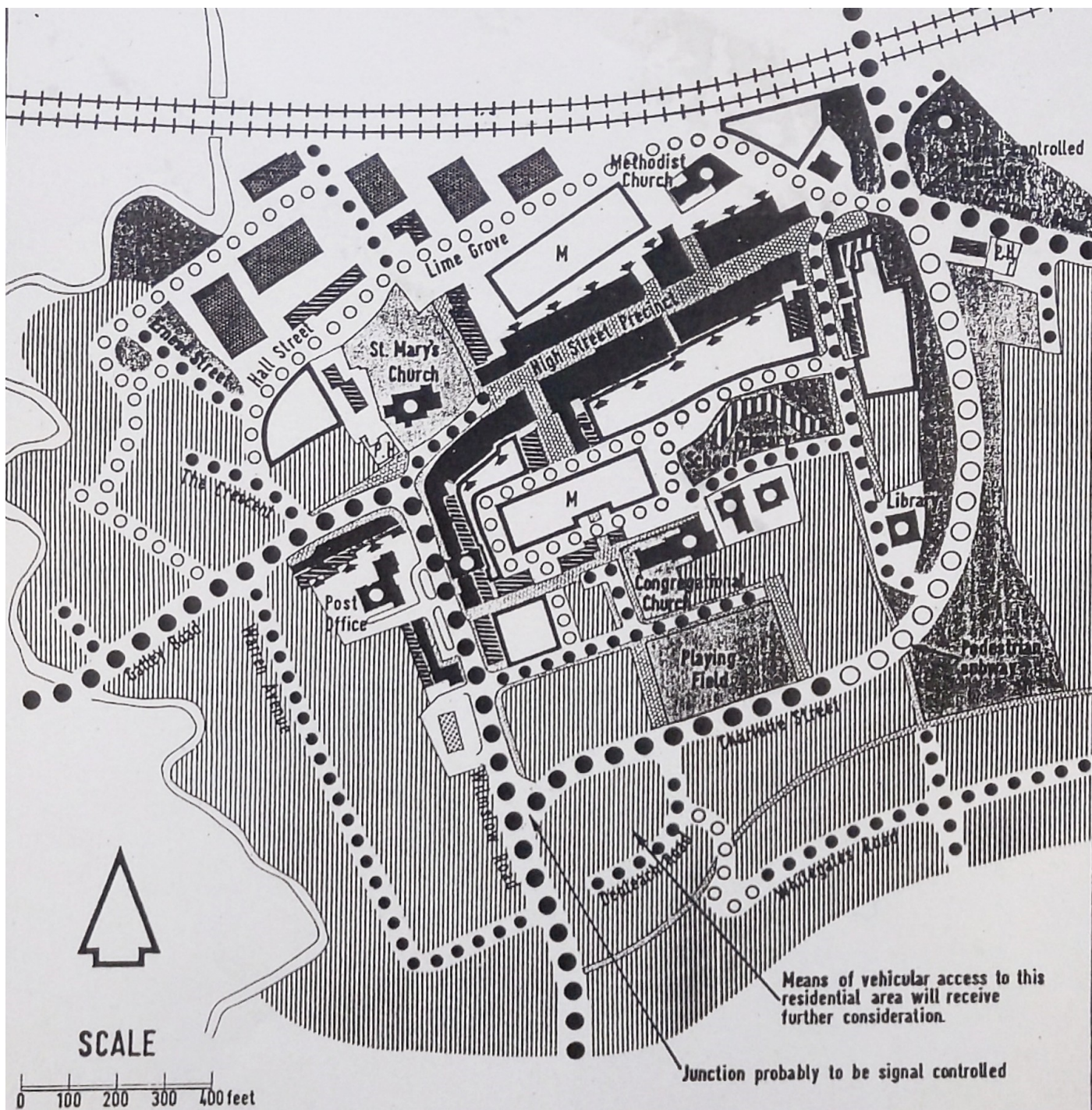
KENNETH O. MALE

County Planning Officer

County Hall, Chester

April, 1967





# CHEADLE TOWN CENTRE POLICY MAP





## Abney Hall Kitchen Gardens Archaeology by Norman Redhead

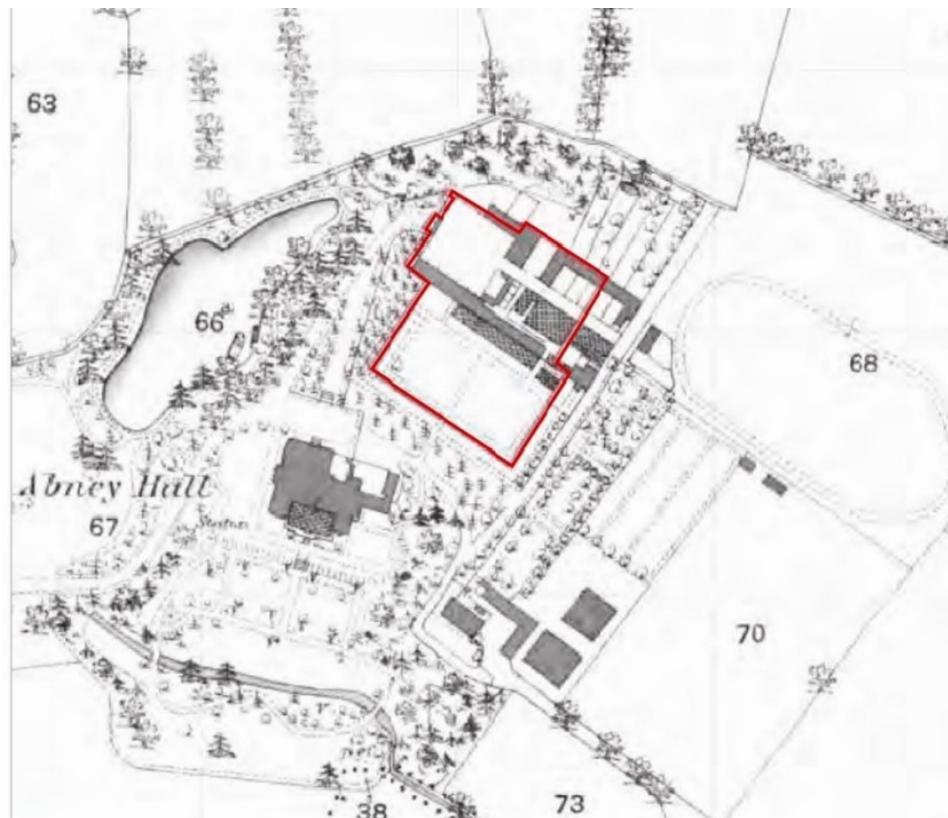
Following on from the article on the Walled Garden in the previous newsletter, I would like to bring readers' attention to the archaeological work that was undertaken in 2013 and 2014 ahead of the construction of the Abney Court Care Home. The work took the form of trench excavations to explore and record below-ground remains relating to the former kitchen garden buildings, followed by a measured survey record and interpretation of the kitchen garden wall.

Alfred Orrell, Mayor of Stockport and a wealthy mill owner, acquired the former Grove Print Works and built a large new dwelling on the site called The Grove (which he moved in to in 1846). He also radically transformed the landscape to provide for leisure and food. Sadly, he died only three years later at the young age of 33. The sale particulars of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1849, when the estate was put up for auction, provide an understanding of the scale and character of the original kitchen garden. Details included: *"Hot-houses, Coach-House, Stabling, Walled Gardens, Pleasure Grounds etc"* of which *"The Coach-Houses and Stabling are lofty, well ventilated and spacious; the walled gardens large and well stocked with fruit trees."*



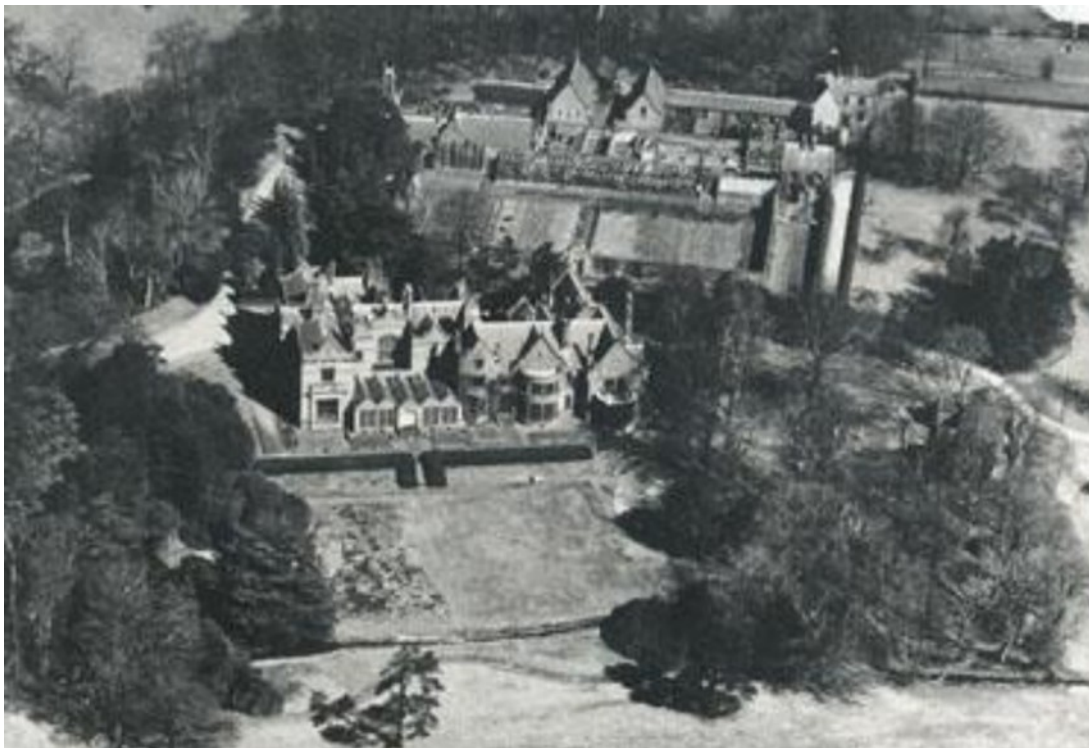
Printed illustration of The Grove at the time of the auction, with the kitchen garden and its grand entrance to the left.

The original walls of the garden have survived and are protected as a listed structure, but there have been many alterations over the decades. James Watt bought the hall at the auction and carried out substantial changes to it, changing the name to Abney Hall. The Ordnance Survey map of 1872 shows the site layout.



Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1872. The red line marks the kitchen garden wall and the boundary of the care home development application in 2013.

In its heyday the walled gardens must have been an impressive sight, with several large glasshouses and well stocked with fruit trees, with a dedicated head gardener's cottage at the north-east corner (which survives). The gardens formed two overlapping halves, with the southern half being a typical kitchen garden of the period and the northern half used for stabling and glass houses. The walls had ornate features including an impressive gateway with a double-faced clock over the main entrance and a ventilation shaft hidden as a Gothic tower which may have formed part of the heated wall system.



Aerial photograph dating to the 1950s showing the kitchen gardens behind the hall. This shows that they are divided into two with stabling and a coach house to the rear (top of photo). The gardener's house is top right.



The greatest change to the kitchen garden came in the 1980s when a large office block was erected in the southern half of the site. This was a functional building, with extensive car parking to the rear replacing the former garden buildings. The care home development included demolition of the office block. Ahead of demolition and construction, the Centre for Applied Archaeology from Salford University carried out a programme of archaeological investigation and recording. This was in accordance with an archaeological condition recommended by Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service and imposed by Stockport Planning Authority as part of planning consent. The first piece of work, in 2013, was archaeological trenching within the walled garden. Several exploratory trenches were excavated to examine the level of survival of below-ground remains relating to the foundations of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century garden buildings and glasshouses.



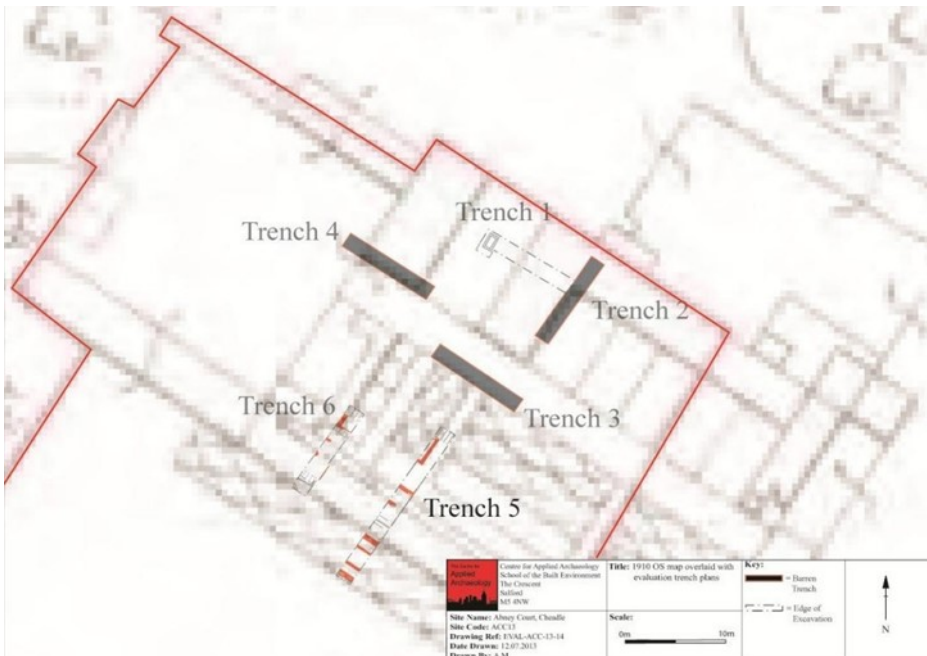
Aerial photograph showing the former office block and location of trenches in the car park.

Of the 6 evaluation trenches, only 2 retained evidence for structural remains. These included brick walls and demolition deposits relating to a long narrow building and glass houses in the central area of the walled garden. Once these features were recorded it was deemed that no further investigation was necessary as the new development ground works would not cause further damage to the remains.



One of the archaeology trenches, dug across the car park behind the former office block.





Left: The location of the six trenches overlaid onto the Ordnance Survey map of 1910, showing kitchen garden wall remains in red.

Below: Trench 5, which produced the best preserved archaeological remains in the form of several brick wall footings.

Only Trenches 5 and 6 yielded substantial remains. Later ground works associated with demolition, car park construction and the provision of service trenches had removed archaeology in the other trenches and even across a good part of Trench 6.

Trench 5 measured 10 metres long by 1.6 metres wide. Several hand-made brick wall foundations were revealed. Four of these were of the same construction and orientated on the same alignment. Quantities of glass and wooden framing in the demolition rubble suggested a glass house function for these remains. This was confirmed when the trench locations were overlaid onto historic mapping.

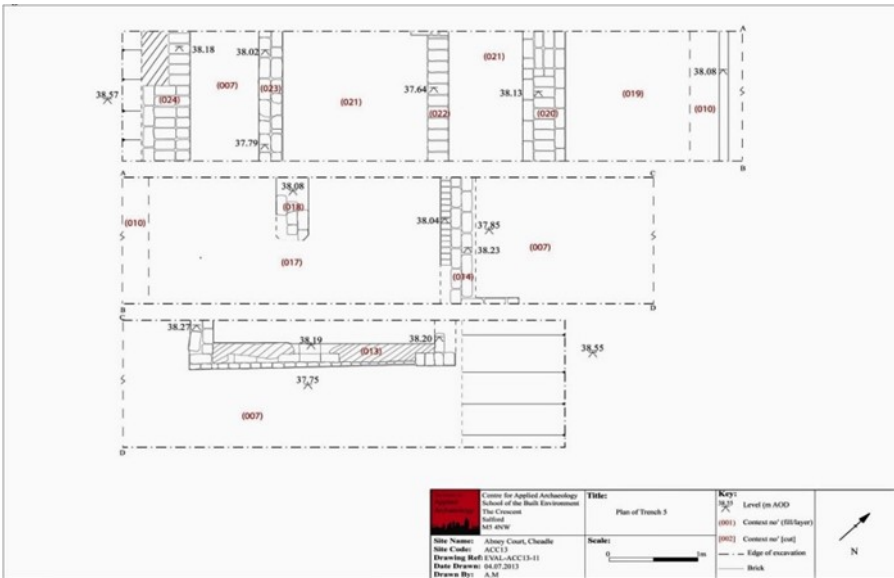


Above: one of the glasshouse walls in Trench 5, showing the associated demolition deposit containing a broken flagstone, brick rubble, broken glass and timber work.

Right: this wall foundation was the south-eastern side of a small glass house.







Left: Plan of the remains found in Trench 6

South-west corner of a building in Trench 6. Evidence for burning and a blackened ceramic pipe suggest this may have been a boiler house providing heat to adjacent structures.

When the planned excavated remains are overlaid on to historic mapping it shows that these structures were in place by 1872, so it would be possible to summarise that they were constructed during the mid- 19<sup>th</sup> century at around the same time as Abney Hall itself. In terms of heating systems for glasshouses, an interesting archaeological example comes from the 2001 excavations at Winstanley Hall in Wigan. This produced remains of a 'Hot-House' within Winstanley's kitchen garden and lay against one of the garden walls perhaps supporting more exotic plants housed in an orangery; however, it is not known if this arrangement was used at Abney Hall.



Left: Evidence for below-ground heating system and arrangement of foundation walls at Winstanley Hall kitchen garden.

The significance of the walls forming the wall garden are recognised in the form of Grade 2 listing dating back to 1975. This legally protected status was used by the Conservation Officer for Stockport Council to secure consolidation and repair of the walls as part of the 2014 care home scheme. The listed building description is as follows:

*'Walls of walled garden. 1850 s. Probably Travis and Mangnall. Flemish bond brick with stone dressings. Roughly quadrangular in layout, part of the north-west side having been demolished. The wall, approx. 4m. high, has weathered buttresses at frequent intervals which are set back at the corners, and a weathered stone coping. Each side has a principal feature, the grandest being the north-west gateway which has a large 4-centred archway topped by a gabled clock tower with gabled and weathered buttresses, mullioned windows, coped parapets and an ornate finial. Each other side has an entrance feature with 4-centred arch doorway, buttresses and a coped gable. Corner octagonal ventilation shaft rises as a large elaborate Gothic pinnacle with arcaded stage.'*

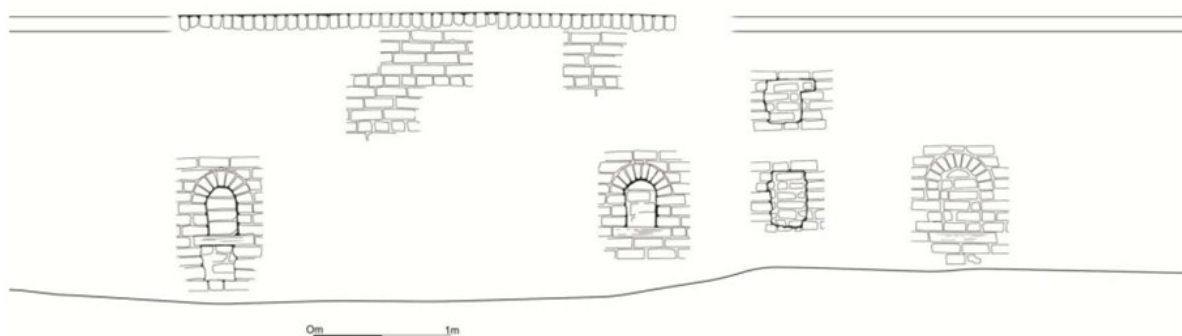
A curious aspect of the north-east facing wall elevation are three brick arched recesses, one of which has been infilled with brick. The listed building entry fails to mention these, focusing on the decorative gateways and ventilation shaft; but they were identified during the measured survey undertaken by the Centre for Applied Archaeology at Salford University ahead of conservation works. The recesses are built into the face of the wall at half a metre above ground level and comprise brick-built arches with stone lintels.



One of the walled garden ornate entrances with the former office block behind.



Rectified photographic survey showing the recesses and the measured survey drawing of them below





These features are interpreted as 'Bee Boles'- recesses deliberately created to hold bee hives. Historically, these occur in walled gardens from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, particularly where orchards or fruit trees are present. Good examples can be seen at Humshaugh kitchen garden wall in Northumberland, which closely matches those at Abney Hall, and at Heligan, St Austells in Cornwall.



Above: An example of Bee Boles in the Grade 2 listed wall at Humshaugh, Northumberland



Left: Bee Boles at Heligan Gardens, Cornwall, with straw beehives called skeps.

It is hoped that the reader has enjoyed learning a little more about the important historic site that is Abney Hall and its associated gardens and landscape. Whilst economic decline, changing use and modern development have removed many elements of the original layout it is good that original features can still be identified and contribute to the distinctive character of the site. More detailed information can be found in the recently created 'Cheadle Archaeology Reports' section within the 'Archives' part of the Cheadle Civic Society website.



From Cheadle to South Africa.

## The Treasured Gift From World War One.

By Andrew Frazer



It was late autumn in 2021, when my phone rang one afternoon, "Hello" said the voice on the other end " is that the Cheadle Civic Society? I have something that belonged to my father that I'd like to donate to the Society's collection". So began a long conversation with the lady who recounted a story of her father and a gift from Cheadle, that he had treasured all his life.

Frederick John Bishop was born in London in the year 1889. At the age of two years, he was living with his father, also Frederick, and his mother Louisa, at Back Massie Street, Cheadle. His father was employed as a Asylum Assistant at Cheadle Royal Hospital. By 1901 the family were living at Chapel Street, Cheadle, with one inclusion, Frederick's brother, Harry who had been born in 1892.

In 1911, the family had moved once again, and were living on Styal Road, Heald Green. At the time it was known as Styal Road, Cheadle. Frederick, now age 22, was employed by The Refuge Assurance Company Ltd, as an Assurance Clerk. He married Mary Wakefield in 1912, and they made their home at 53 Styal Road.

At the outbreak of World War One, he joined the Army, serving in the Royal Army Service Corps. Frederick, along with his Regiment, were sent to fight on what is often referred to as the forgotten front of World War One- the war in Africa.

In 1918, Frederick was stationed in the Palace Barracks, Simonstown, South Africa. On the 13th January he received a parcel from home, something he would cherish for the rest of his life. The parcel contained items for everyday use, groceries, stationery, and tobacco.

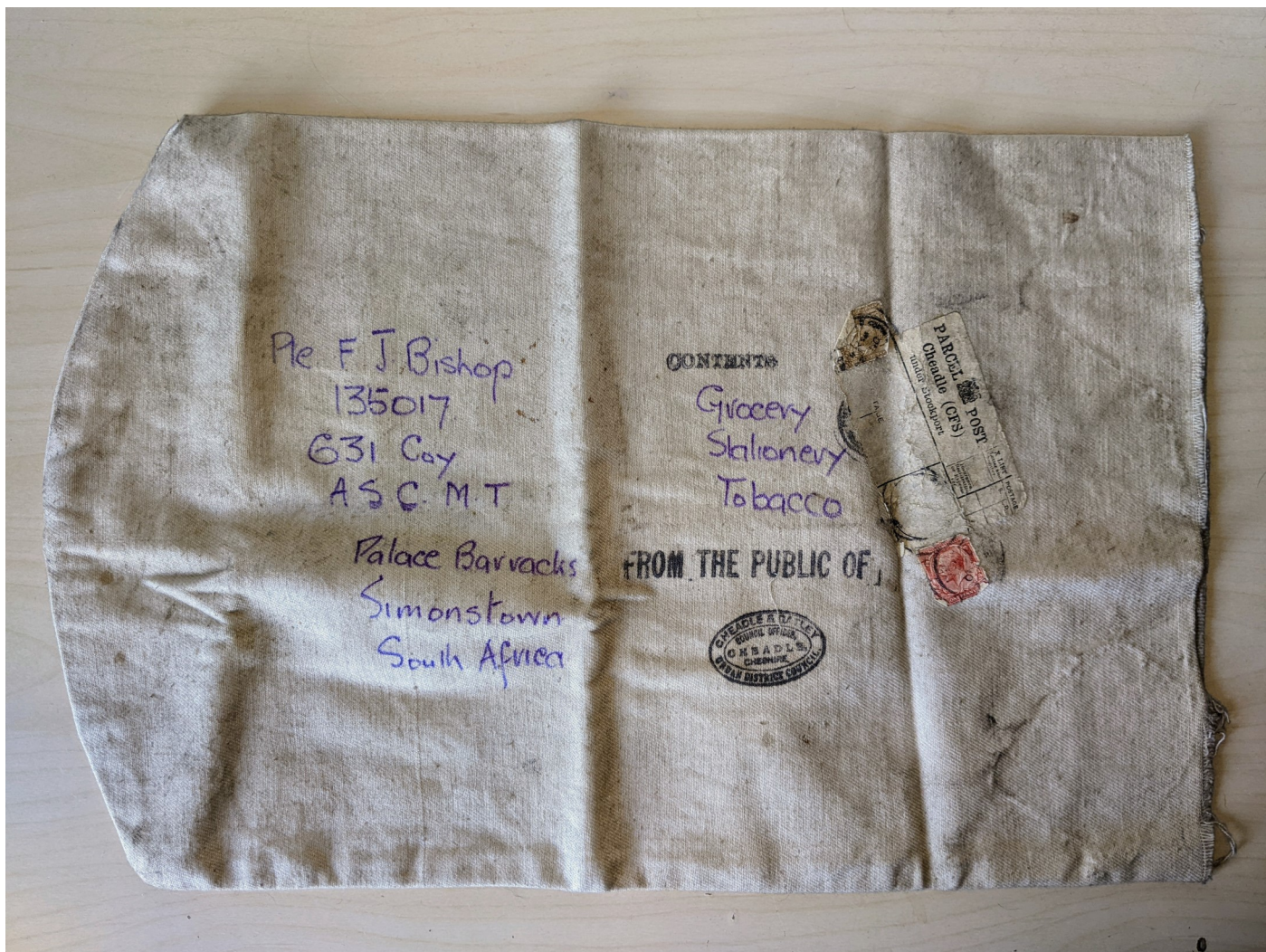
What was so special about this parcel, was that it had been sent to him by the 'People of Cheadle'. It touched him deeply that the people at home had not forgotten him, despite the fact he had been so far away, for so long.



**Above:** Palace Barracks, Simonstown, South Africa. Frederick was stationed here during World War One.

**Left:** The Refuge Assurance Building, Oxford Road, Manchester. Frederick worked here as an Insurance clerk before and after the War.



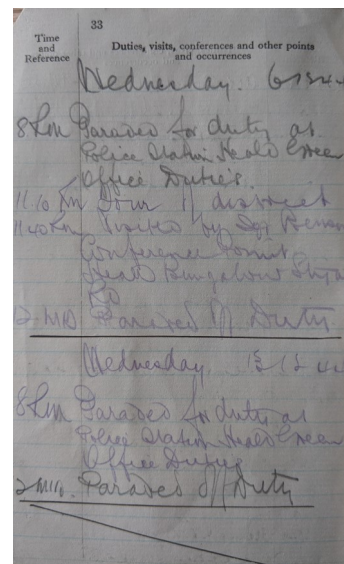
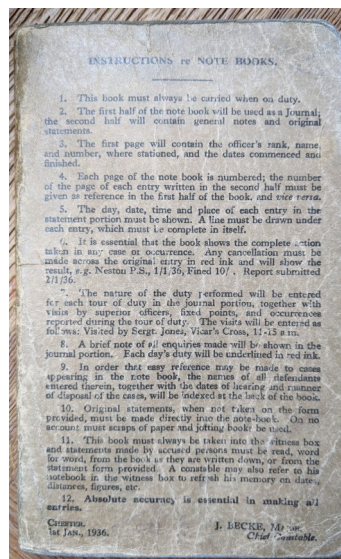


Upon his return from the war, Frederick resumed his position at Refuge Assurance, and settled down to family life once again, with his wife and their young family.

With the outbreak of World War Two, he once again volunteered to serve his King and country. However, being of an age deemed to old to serve in the armed forces, Frederick volunteered as a Special Police Constable with the local police force, patrolling Cheadle, Gatley, and Heald Green.

Along with Frederick's other items sent to me, was his Police log book, in which he kept a record of his daily duties. The log book dates from 1944 to 1951, at which point one assumes that he stood down from his duties as a Special Police Constable.

Frederick lived on for many years, residing on Finney Lane, Heald Green. He never forgot the kindness of the people, and served his community throughout his life. He died in 1975 at the age of 86.



**Top:** The bag sent to Frederick from the people of Cheadle during World War One.

**Above Left and Right:** The Police Logbook detailing Frederick's day to day duties as a Special Police Constable 1944-1951.



# 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.



## 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.uk](http://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.