

## Chaddesden Libraries

On 21 September 1931 the Derby Evening Telegraph reported on the decision to have a branch of the county library in Chaddesden, once arrangements for suitable premises were made. By 26 April 1934 the Telegraph reported that there was a branch library with 500 readers which had been formed two years earlier, but no details of the location are given and it had an honorary librarian.

As late as 26 July 1950 the problems of finding a suitable building were still under discussion. The possibility of having a prefabricated hut was considered so Chaddesden was fortunate to get the library it did.

Chaddesden library was officially opened on Saturday 11 September 1954. It was the 42nd branch library in Derbyshire and the first to be built post war.

Alderman F.A. Grant, chairman of Derbyshire Education Committee invited Mr F.H. Crossley, County Architect, to hand the library key to Mr Edgar Osborne to open the new building. Mr Osborne had retired in May 1954 after completing thirty years service as the first Derbyshire County Librarian.

The premises were then dedicated by the Reverend G. Rivers, Vicar of Chaddesden. Others attending the ceremony were Alderman Mrs G Buxton, Vice-Chairman of the County Council and Mrs Olive Eden J.P. Chairman of Chaddesden Parish Council and a member of the County Education Committee. The occasion was a personal triumph for Mrs Eden, who had campaigned for several years for a library for the parish. Alderman C.F. White, the Chairman of the County Council was unable to attend because of ill-health.

"George Tomlinson", a biography by Frederick Blackburn, was the first book issued from the new library. It was stamped and handed to Mrs Olive Eden, by branch librarian Miss Joy Brooks at the opening ceremony. Mr Osborne was also handed a book, a volume of Steinbeck, but his was a keepsake. In his speech Mr Osborne said the library was the first specially built library since the Staveley branch library was built 20 years previously.

He added that he thought the library, which cost nearly £5,000, would be the first of a series of branch libraries of light construction, cheap and quick to erect. Alderman Mrs G Buxton thanked Mr Osborne for his excellent speech. Following the ceremony guests were invited to tea at Morley Road School.



The new library contained about 7,000 volumes with 5,000 being for adult reading and the remainder for the children's library. The library was open to the public from Monday 13 September 1954 and its hours were 10am to 7pm each weekday and on Saturdays from 10am to 5pm. Librarian Miss Brooks, previously at the Bakewell branch, had two assistants. In September 2004, the library celebrated its 50th anniversary with a variety of different events and showed the progress made over the years. As part of the celebrations, local historian Tony Bowler, gave a lecture to an audience of 57 on Thursday 9 September 2004. The presentation was repeated on Thursday 23 June 2005 to 44 people.

With such large audiences Tony broached the subject of starting up a Chaddesden history group with librarian Mary Adelman. A meeting was arranged at the library and took place on Thursday 6 April 2006 at 10:30am. Over 40 people attended of whom 24 joined the new Chaddesden Historical Group straight away.

When the old library became due for major repairs, a new library was built on a different site in the park and the old library closed on 16 February 2013. The building was demolished that summer. Its site is now a car park alongside the Age Concern building.



The present Chaddesden Library is named after Phillip Whitehead, former Member of Parliament for Derby North.



Derwent Library opened on 7 April 2007 inside the Revive Healthy Living Centre.



Oakwood Library (not pictured) is within Springwood Leisure Centre.

The photographs of the original Chaddesden Library are from the Chaddesden Historical Group collection. The others were taken by Peter Barnes.

