

no photographic records of the shops and crafts can now be found. The post-office, like many of the villagers, moved around the village and at least three different sites are referred to. It was in fact, the last shop to close in May 1975.

Village Families The Russell Primary School in Chorleywood has recently undertaken a project to study some of the families whose residence in Chenies goes back many generations. Working from the 1851 and 1871 census returns they have followed the life of such families in the 19th century. Their intriguing results are shown in the exhibit which the children themselves prepared and laid out and which we are delighted to show.

The Almshouses From the 17th to the 19th century, Chenies possessed in common with most villages, as required by law, housing for the needy. There were almshouses, a work-house and the orphanage previously mentioned. The latter two buildings have since been converted into dwelling houses. The Almshouses, regrettably have been pulled down. However, two pictures giving us an idea of the original building and its latter elaboration are on display.

Chenies Church is the oldest foundation, the first recorded rector being John de Chednuit presented in 1232 by Alexander de Chednuit. The Cheyne family remained patrons until late in the 15th century. The patronage then passing to the Russell family (the Bedford branch). The exhibits show three of the rectors who, in their different ways, greatly influenced the life of the village during the last hundred or so years. The Rev. Lord Wroithesley Rusell, the Rev. Shann and the Rev. Trevor Jones. The unique testimonial to Lord Wroithesley Russell can be seen in the South aisle of the church.

The Baptist Chapel was established in 1760, meetings being held in a small room in the village. In 1755, Mr William Davis, having inherited land from his father, resigned his office as Steward to the Duke of Bedford, helped to build the Chapel and donated the land and the minister's house to the Chapel authorities. From its inception to the present day the Babtist Chapel has played a valuable part in the life of Chenies.

The exhibits have been loaned by the residents of Chenies and the surrounding district. The exhibition is in aid of the Church Fund and any contribution you can make would be appreciated.

Chenies Village May 1985