

Chesterfield at work and play



UNLOADING SUGAR (above): Brenda Ashley empties a huge bag of sugar. Aged 18 she joined the Chesterfield factory when it opened during the war. 43 years of continuous service later, she had a big retirement party in 1986.

HAND WRAPPING (right): although there were machines to wrap most count lines, specialty sweets and boxed assortments demanded wrapping by hand.



WASHING JARS (below): some days the firm might have 10,000 glass jars to wash.



COLOURING AND FLAVOURING (above): well before the 1950s the laboratory had taken control of production, with chemists prescribing the colours and flavours to be added, as here, on the slab.



LOADING THE BATCH ROLLER (left): once a batch had been worked by hand to mix in the colour and flavouring, it was time to roll it out to consistent width.



WEIGHING UP: though count lines of individual products were increasing, most sweets were still sold by weight.

THE LOADING BAY: set at the heart of England, Chesterfield was well placed for sending out liveried vans across the nation.



CHRISTMAS DINNER: on 20th December 1955 the works canteen echoed to the sound of workers belting out traditional carols.

POULSBROOK TIGERS (below): pictured in 1955, this women's football team was active in Chesterfield factory's social club, playing to raise money for local retirement homes. For many working class women of the time, there were few opportunities to play sport outside what their employer might offer.



CHESTERFIELD CRICKET TEAM: the first outing of this amateur eleven on 25th June 1956 saw them dismissed for 30 runs by a local team, one of whom 'had appeared for the county seconds.' But they improved, beating another local team on 21st July with five wickets to spare.



SPORTS DAY 1959: Sydney Marks encourages the foremen in their tug of war against the warehousemen. The foremen won with two straight pulls.