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“This is the past that’s mine.”

Historical writing is a process of selection and choice as such this historical view is the information which I have selected to use; as such it does not claim to be *the* history of Edwardian Wales, but *a* history of Edwardian Wales.

“This is my truth.”

The history is written from my own broadly socialist position, and carries with it the baggage of my own social and political views both conscious and unconscious.

“Where we stand in regard to the past, what the relations are between past, present and future are not only matters of vital interest to all: they are quite indispensable. We cannot help situating ourselves in the continuum of our own life, of the family and the group to which we belong. We cannot help comparing past and present: that is what family photo albums or home movies are there for. We cannot help learning from it, for that is what experience means.”

Eric Hobsbawm, *On History*, P24

“ The Historian is part of history. The point in the procession at which he finds himself determines his angle of vision over the past.”

E. H. Carr, *What is History*, P36

PAUL HANKS
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Kiveton Park and Wales
History Society



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CONTENTS

Introduction	7
I Social and Political Structure	10
II Kiveton Park Colliery	16
III The Built Environment	22
Conclusion	26

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INTRODUCTION

The Parish of Wales is situated in South Yorkshire (the old West Riding) adjacent to the borders of both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Wales has a long history evident from the architecture of part of St Johns church (the parish church) that dates from Norman times. However it was the coming of the colliery at Kiveton Park that sparked a rapid growth in both population and wealth for the parish. Kiveton Park had originally been a hamlet within Harthill parish, but when the Duke of Leeds gave permission for the Kiveton Park Coal Company to sink a mine (receiving hefty royalties in return) the hamlet was transferred to Wales parish.

The colliery was located in Kiveton Park due to its geological position, on the extremity of the exposed coalfield. "The exposed coalfield of South Yorkshire extends from the village of Wooley in the North-West to Thurnscoe in the North-East and from the western suburbs of Sheffield in the South-West to Harthill in the South-East. Geologically it is bounded on the west by the Millstone grit series and to the east by a Magnesium Limestone escarpment."

The importance of the coal industry in the early 20th century to the whole economy is clearly shown by Sidney Pollard, who also shows how this importance and prosperity was reflected within mining communities:

"Coal mining was one of the major growth and export industries of the later Victorian and Edwardian economy. About 85% of the world's coal exports originated in Britain in 1900, and one half still in 1913. Output had been 52% of the world figure in 1870 and was 25% still in 1913 (or 40% of European production). In Europe, Britain had a huge lead in output and consumption per head and was exporting coal even to Germany and the Netherlands right up to the outbreak of war. To raise output from 123 million tons in 1870-74 (itself a record) to 271 million tons in 1910-13, the workforce had increased from 413,000 to 1,100,000, and the mining communities were vigorous recruiters of labour, were paid good wages and bore a general air of prosperity."

The Manchester Sheffield and Lincoln Railway Company line ran through Kiveton Park and the shaft was sunk adjacent to the line with sidings being provided to transport the coal. "Geological economic and transport factors governed the development of coal mining. The new markets for coal were opened up by the new steam railways." The importance of this link to the coast is clearly illustrated by the fact that the Kiveton Park Coal Company had an office based on the docks at Grimsby, "the most important docks affecting the coal trade were those on the Humber." However Pollard points out the dangers of coal export: "It was moreover a point of dubious strength for a leading industrial country to depend to such a large extent on the export success of an industry suffering natural diminishing returns which were bound to hit an early starter first, in which irreplaceable raw materials were being used up with little value added, and in which more recent industrializers were bound to improve their relative standing as time went on."

However to the coal company and miners of Kiveton Park it was jobs and money which mattered not long or medium term industrial strategies, if the government itself adopted a hands off approach to industrial and economic policy then individual companies and workers would maximise their returns and wealth by whatever means were possible.

The impact of the influx of miners and their families was tremendous on this small previously mainly

agricultural community (it should not be forgotten that the Waleswood colliery was operational for about 20 years before the sinking of Kiveton Park colliery so mining was not new to the community). Fortunately records exist which show how the longstanding residents of Wales viewed this. The village curate James Catchpole submitted a report to the new Archbishop of York in 1868 recording his views on the miners flocking to the village:

The influx of a large & ever shifting population of young unmarried men (Colliers) – overcrowding our cottages & importing the vicious habits too common of that class – is of course a great impediment to the Ministry.

The love of gain induces housekeepers to admit more of such lodgers than they can decently accommodate – the duties of the housewife are immediately increased – She has no time for religious duties.

The men earn large wages & commonly spend them in dissipation to the serious detriment of our young men and women.

A perfect remedy I could not suggest since they must come at all. A great amelioration would be a legislative enactment to prevent the overcrowding of dwellings & to compel the Coal owners to provide suitable abodes on the plan of the London lodging houses.

Table 1 using census data clearly shows the growth of the population in Wales parish. From 1801 (the first census) through to 1921, Table 2 shows the impact of mining development on the number of inhabited dwellings.

Table 1 Population from 1801-1921 ^{vii}

YEAR	Wales	Todwick	Thorpe Salvin	Harthill
1801	229	177	180	660
1811	218	213	202	641
1821	277	210	199	650
1831	226	224	233	632
1841	351	214	340	709
1851	268	200	313	739
1861	305	187	337	673
1871	1,359	193	410	883
1881	1,840	173	356	1,109
1891	1,944	200	366	1,396
1901	2,398	311	399	1,225
1911	3,635	334	373	1,214
1921	3,674	296	377	1,139

Table 2 Inhabited Dwellings.1841-1891

YEAR	Wales	Todwick	Thorpe Salvin	Harthill
1841	64	41	57	139
1851	50	44	57	154
1861	59	40	68	147
1871	235	42	79	184
1881	418	43	76	206
1891	449	41	77	226

The comparison with surrounding parishes (which today form the Wales Ward of Rotherham MBC) shows two rapid rises in the population of Wales. The first is between 1861 and 1871 and represents the period when the Kiveton Park Coal Company was formed, and an initial migration of miners took place. A second steep rise takes place between 1901 and 1911, when additional coal seams were opened up and production figures increased, it is this phenomenon that I shall concentrate on in this article. It should be noted that this rapid growth took place at a time when the Doncaster sector of the Yorkshire coalfield was being opened up and neighbouring mines such as Dinnington were being established. "Villages and hamlets were transformed almost overnight by the sinking of a new pit, e.g., Maltby (population in 1901, 716; in 1911, 1,700; in 1921, 7,531) and Askern (population in 1901, 562; in 1911, 988; in 1921, 3,729)."

The scope of this article will be initially to place the community in its social and political context, with particular reference to the growth relationship and development of the political infrastructure. Secondly with reference to the Kiveton Park Coal Company records and HM Inspector of Mines records details of the colliery expansion will be investigated. Finally the impact of this growth will be looked at in relation to the expansion of the community, building on the raw population data from the census. OS maps from 1902 and 1923 will be used to illustrate the impact of population growth on the ground, in terms of new building and the problems and issues which this raised. The existence of a 1914 Poor Law rate book allows for an investigation of the property and land ownership (and rental) of the village.

From this a snapshot of a vibrant mining community on the eve of the Great War can be captured. By 1918 socially politically and economically the world had changed. Things would never return to the way they had been, when the volunteers marched away from Kiveton Park in 1914 it was as if the waving flags and cheering crowds were unknowingly waving goodbye to the old world.



Kiveton Park August 1914 Volunteers Joining up to Fight for King and Country^{ix}

CHAPTER I: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE

When looking at the political structure of the area I will take a top down approach, from the Parliamentary system down to the Parish, concluding with a view of the Poor Law Union.

In 1884/5 the Third Reform Act was passed, in which in very broad terms a male householder franchise was established for both boroughs and county seats. In conjunction with this franchise reform a redistribution of seats took place.

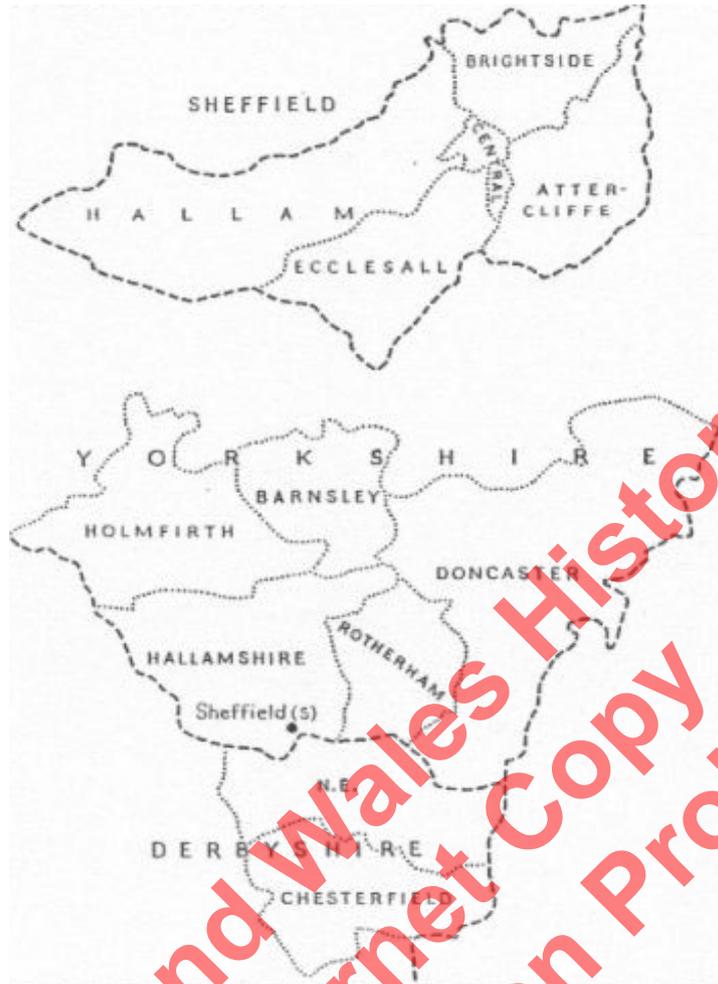
Prior to 1885 Wales had been in the Southern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, which was a two-member division (a larger geographical area on the ground in which each voter could cast two votes sending 2 MPs to Westminster).

The 1885 redistribution developed a principle of single member divisions with each member representing a smaller geographical area.

It may appear strange but Wales came within the Doncaster parliamentary seat, from the accompanying map (see next page) it can be seen that this was a very extended seat. And it consisted of many new mining villages developed due to the opening and rapid expansion of the Doncaster coalfield.

Many mining seats had a Liberal or Lib/Lab tradition and it was not until 1909 that the MFGB (Miner's Federation of Great Britain) affiliated to the Labour Party and even then "some Lib/Lab MP's continued taking the Liberal whip." Doncaster however was a Liberal seat rather than Lib/Lab and adherents of "Old Liberalism" in particular "did not always attempt to involve miners in local politics. In Doncaster, for example, there was no political organisation except for a few ward committees in 1914: miners support was taken for granted."

From the election results between 1886 and 1910 it can be seen that the Liberals won the seat at most general elections, the only non Liberals returned being the Hon. H.W. Wentworth-Fitzwilliam who was elected as a Liberal Unionist with a majority of 211 at the by election held on 23 February 1888 following the resignation of the Liberal W.S. Shirley. F.W Fison was elected as a Conservative in the 1895 and 1900 General Elections, which represented the lowest ebb of Liberalism in this period of time.



Map of West Riding Constituencies 1885-1918 ^{xii}

Summary of General Election results 1885-1910 ^{xiii}

Election	Electors	Turnout	M.P.	Party	Majority
1885	13,157	78.9%	W.S.Shirley	Lib	980
1886	13,157	74.9%	W.S.Shirley	Lib	268
1892	14,521	78.4%	C.J.Fleming	Lib	279
1895	14,247	84.6%	F.W.Fison	Con	141
1900	16,276	77.8%	F.W.Fison	Con	365
1906	18,682	80.1%	C.N. Nicholson	Lib	3,669
1910 (J)	21,511	82.5%	C.N. Nicholson	Lib	3,569
1910 (D)	21,511	74.1%	C.N. Nicholson	Lib	2,544

Following the rapid expansion of the Doncaster coalfield after 1900 one can clearly discern two demographic/psephological factors that impacted upon the political scene. Firstly the number of electors on the electoral roll grows more rapidly after the 1900 election, between 1885 and 1900 the electorate rose by 3,119 an average of 208 per year. Between 1900 and 1910 the electorate rose by 5,235, a rate of over 520 per year. Secondly following the 1900 election it is apparent that the Liberal majority becomes solid, the first time that a majority of over a thousand was achieved in the seat. The clear inference is that the Liberal party attracted virtually all the votes of the miners despite the indifference with which it is claimed they were treated.

The Labour Party however struggled to establish itself in the area and even by 1910 “its organisation in Yorkshire seats like Doncaster and Rotherham... was extremely weak.” And it appears that the miners union lacked ambition for political representation. “The YMA (Yorkshire Miners Association) was only half hearted to political expansion. Its political organisers, who were only appointed in August 1914, were told to concentrate on the Lib/Lab seats, on Doncaster (which new pits and pit settlements were turning into a mining stronghold) and on Holmfirth. This limited commitment reflected the feelings of the rank and file, if not of the activists. In Holmfirth, lodge delegates seldom attended LRC meetings: they also showed little interest in Doncaster.” This may have been a much a problem of travel and transportation as of political will the difficulties of travelling to Doncaster for a working man in the early 20th Century should not be underestimated. Goode in his study of Railways in South Yorkshire when considering Dinnington in the early 20th century clearly shows the limited nature of the service provided:

“Passenger services were very slender throughout their operation and it was quite clear at the outset that the Committee was not particularly keen on introducing them. In April and May 1909 some encouragement was given by various local interested bodies such as Worksop Urban District Council, but it was not until 20th June 1910 that the first two trains – one a miners’ excursion from Dinnington to Doncaster in connection with a rally, the other a well filled Sunday school trip from Dinnington to Cleethorpes – ran as a foretaste to things which might come. In spite of the popularity of these and excursions, plus the steady stream of requests from various parties private and public for a service it was not until 1st December 1910, that a regular timetable materialised, subject to certain conditions, one being that no more than four trains a day should run within a maximum operating period of the signal boxes of twelve hours... Originally trains were to run between Doncaster and Worksop on a 54 minute schedule the earliest leaving Worksop at 8:02am and the latest to run out of Doncaster being at 5:30pm within the twelve hour limit.” The limited nature of the passenger service from Dinnington should be set against Goode’s claim that “Dinnington with a staff of fifteen was the most vigorous station on the line.” From this we can interpret that the difficulties of a workingman travelling to Doncaster would be very great and naturally the Labour Party organisation would have been hampered not so much by lack of political will but a lack of a viable transport infrastructure.

By the outbreak of war the Labour Party had decided to fight the Doncaster seat with or without the Liberals standing aside. The YMA decision to concentrate on the Liberal seats of Doncaster and Holmfirth could have been that “A proposed campaign may have been a bargaining counter to obtain a free run in Doncaster, a tactic often used in the past.” Thus wringing a concession from the traditional Liberals rather than risk two divisive fights splitting the progressive vote and allowing a possible Conservative victory.

Following the 1918 Representation of the People Act (The Fourth Reform Act) the Rother Valley Constituency was created as part of the major redrawing of the political map following the Great War, marking yet another change in the representation of Wales at Westminster.

Pollard interprets the Third Reform Act 1884 and the development of local government under a wider rate paying electorate as part of a shift of political power in the county seats away from the

old land owning classes: “The Act of 1884, giving the vote to rural workers, and the Act of 1888 creating elected County Councils, together with the Act of 1894 establishing Rural district and Parish councils, destroyed the political hegemony of the landowner in the counties.”

The region was also part of the Yorkshire West Riding County Council, which was the higher tier of local government.

In the 1890’s two lower local government tiers were added firstly the rural district councils and secondly the parish council (not to be confused with the parish’s vestry or parochial council).

The Kiveton Park Rural District Council came to have its headquarters at Kiveton Station (a purpose built building being erected in the early 1900’s), and consisted of the following Parishes: Anston, Firbeck, Gildingwells, Harthill, Letwell, St John’s, Thorpe Salvin, Todwick, Wales and Woodsetts.

The Rural district councils remained in place until their abolition in 1974 when the parish of Wales came under the administration of Rotherham MBC.

Wales Parish Council was formed at the same time as the RDC providing the lowest tier of administration the Parish Council has operated for over a century, and still performs a useful role in the local community.

The primary non charity means of health care and social welfare in this period was the Poor Law, which had been established in 1834, providing basic relief of poverty and medical and hospital care. The Principle of the Poor Law was that parishes would operate with others in a Union to provide relief within that area. Wales despite being in Yorkshire, was along with several other Yorkshire parishes part of the Worksop Poor Law Union, it was not uncommon for poor law unions to cross county boundaries, Wales therefore should not be looked on as unique, but this alongside the parliamentary and local government changes previously outlined it may go some way to explain the feeling that Wales is part of a forgotten land, an almost unwanted unloved orphan, a practical illustration of the theory of anomie.

In the early 1900’s we can see that voters could vote for 4 tiers of political representative in addition to the Poor Law Guardians. However the franchise was both complex and means based therefore not everyone had a vote, even receiving Poor Law relief would disenfranchise the recipient. The franchise criteria for local elections were different to parliamentary elections (e.g. single or widowed property owning/ratepayer women could have the vote in local elections but not in parliamentary elections, this entitlement would be lost if they married and became subject to patriarchal male control). This ‘franchise factor’ and its impact on the political landscape has been the topic of many lively arguments neatly summarised in a 1995 article by Keith Laybourn:

“The debate on the impact of the pre-war parliamentary franchise has become extremely complex in recent years, and is now studded with speculative calculations about the proportions and numbers of middle-class and working class males excluded from the parliamentary vote before 1914.”

It is now, following the publication of the detailed 1901 census returns possible to carry out a detailed factual analysis of the electorate. Thus doing away with the speculation which Laybourn comments on. This is outside the scope of this article but will be considered in a future article, however the methodology of such a research can be outlined to allow complementary local studies to be carried out.

- Firstly obtain a copy of the 1902 electoral register for the chosen area of study. (1902 has to be used because the poor law overseer prepared the register used in 1902 in 1901 around the time that the census was taken.)

- Obtain a copy of the chosen area census returns for 1901, and from this prepare two separate databases.
 - a) A database of all males over 20 resident in the chosen area i.e. with a date of birth of 1881 or before (to allow for those over 20 turning 21 in the following year)
 - b) A database of all females over 20 resident in the chosen area, to allow an analysis of the number of women voters.
 - c) The key data fields for analysis will be by age, position in household (i.e. head, son, lodger etc), and occupation that should be grouped to give a class analysis of the results.
- Where possible if rate books are available this information can be factored into the 1901 census database, who owns the house in which the inhabitant lives.

Analysis of the data can be carried out on both those who have the vote those who do not, and by including voters on local election rolls those who are enfranchised locally but not nationally.

As many mining communities grew simply to provide labour for the collieries, this single dimensional economic structure left little or no room for paid employment for women. From the 1840's onwards it was illegal for women to work underground in the colliery following the Coal Mines Act of 1842. From census returns we see that the vast majority of the adult female population are classed occupationally as wife of the head. This reading of the prime source material can be misleading for the following reasons.

Seasonal work such as potato or vegetable harvesting is excluded because it took place at a different time to that in which the census was carried out. Evidence for this type of work can be found in school records, holidays and absence of pupils indicating possible seasonal work.

In many miner's households we can see the presence of lodgers in census returns, yet no recognition is given of the housewife providing labour in return for the rent paid. "In households containing lodgers often the most senior female in the household, either the head or wife of the household head was effectively occupied as a landlady." The work associated with taking in lodgers must have impinged upon the workload of the housewife as commented on by James catchpole in 1868, "The love of gain induces housekeepers to admit more of such lodgers than they can decently accommodate – the duties of the housewife are immediately increased – She has no time for religious duties."

For many young girls the only paid employment opportunity that existed was to enter into domestic service, normally this was away from their home community.

Some paid employment could be gained locally either within the local shops or providing dress and hat making services. Although many business historians fail to recognise it the putting out system was still in operation. D.H. Lawrence in his book "Sons and Lovers" refers to 'Hose', the name of the man from the hosiery company, who came to collect and pay for the work done by the women.

The nature of domestic labour within the miners home was also arduous, and its efficient execution was a major contribution to the work and income of the miner himself. "Sanitary conditions in many mining families homes were often poor making more difficult still the reproduction of labour that was expected of the females through the provision of meals clean clothes baths and generally a comfortable home." For a household with several miners this domestic labour was particularly exhausting. Also "the traditionally large number of offspring produced by mining families, inevitably made work of the principle woman in mining homes extremely demanding." It should be remembered that the Pit Head baths at Kiveton Park colliery with accommodation for 1,750 men and a canteen was not

opened until August 1938, until that date bathing after work had to be carried out at home, with no bath room a limited water supply (well or communal standpipe) and a stove for heating water this work was very hard for the women.

Mining communities are seen as patriarchal and male dominated in structure because the law has prevented women working in the mines and promoted the “ideology of family life (and family wage) which has maintained women’s subordinate position within the family household and has permitted their participation in the public sphere, including the wage labour market only on certain unequal terms.’ The revised contention however is that “women’s work was made invisible in mining communities through its burial in the home and its common omission from the major primary source materials used in historian’s investigations of nineteenth-century employment.” As Roy Church has commented, “the miner’s wife was virtually confined to the domestic arena.” However Andrew Walker radically argues that “the notion of a family wage... needs to be regarded as mythical: significant numbers of mining households could only make ends meet with the contribution of their female members. This was a myth which seems to have been largely peddled by members of the mining households themselves, which benefited the miners particularly since they worked in an industry in which arguably above all others, relative incomes were determined largely by strength and therefore linked in perception to masculinity.”

It is too simplistic to concentrate our attention on the mine and miners and fail to recognise the significant contribution of the women in mining communities. The work may be hidden lost or seem unappreciated, yet was central to the development of the social domestic and economic life of the community.

CHAPTER II: KIVETON PARK COLLIERY

The expansion in the mining workforce employed in Wales Parish in the early 20th Century was dramatic as illustrated in the following tables.

Kiveton Park Colliery Workforce

Year	Underground Workers	Surface Workers
1896	770	139
1901	1120	153
1908	1503	197

Waleswood Colliery Workforce

Year	Underground Workers	Surface Workers
1896	552	104
1901	318	82
1908	696	215

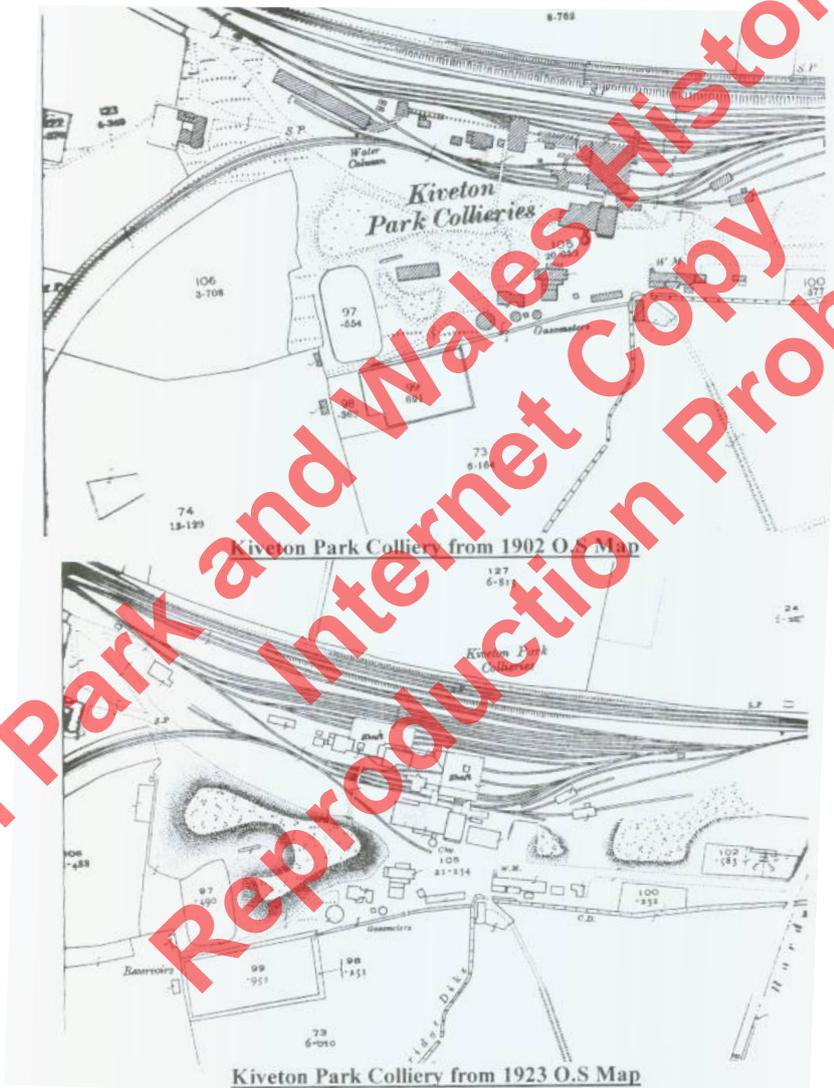
The main indicator of this growth was in the number of families recorded as resident in Wales between the 1901 and 1911 census, this is particularly apparent when compared to families resident in surrounding villages.

Village	1901	1911
Harthill	244	244
Thorpe Salvin	87	82
Todwick	63	66
Wales	478	761

The reports of HM Inspector of mines clearly illustrate the development of mining and the profitability of the trade. In 1905 it is stated, " There has been a large increase in the output of coal due to the

steady demand during the whole of the year and the development of several new collieries. While work has been fairly plentiful and the output large prices have not risen and wages as a consequence have not varied during the year.” It was in the early 20th century that another shaft was opened at the colliery working the High Hazel Seam at a depth of 310 yards, sinking going down to the Silkston seam at a depth of 733 yds, this shaft was connected to the original shaft which was working the Barnsley seam.

“On 28 January 1900 working of the High Hazel Seam, at a depth of 310yds, was begun. The seam provided a good quality house-coal, but suffered from a weak, friable roof, which made it difficult to control. The seam was hand got until Mechanisation, in the form of coal-cutters and conveyors, was introduced in 1932. In November 1906 new screening plant was erected for the High Hazel seam.”



Clearly visible on the O.S. maps of the colliery are the gasometers which were used to supply gas to the local community and was a by-product of the coking operations for which a shaft was sunk to the Thorncliffe seam (this only operated for a 10 year period from 1886-1896 due to geological problems which made mining uneconomical). By 1902 we can see the colliery is both a means of extraction

of coal and a manufacturing place producing gas coke production had ceased in 1895 soon after the abandonment of the Thorncliffe seam.

“In the mid-1890s there were thirty-two beehive ovens at Kiveton Park, utilising Parkgate small-coal. In 1870 the colliery began manufacturing its own gas, continuing production until 1926.”

By the 1907 report we can see that the inspector of mines is concerned that transportation problems may act as a check on the development of mining. “The extraordinary increase in output of Yorkshire coal did not appear to have been anticipated by the railway and dock companies. The result was there was considerable congestion of traffic.” By looking at the OS maps of the colliery from 1902 and 1923 it is apparent that a major investment took place in rail track.

Death and serious injury was the constant and unwelcome companion of the miner, mining had always been regarded as a dangerous occupation. “The most painful feature of the coalmining industry is the heavy toll it takes on human life causing death or injury.” Death and injury took no account of either age or status. Casualties in the South Yorkshire coalfield included the Inspector of Mines Mr Pickering who was killed in an explosion at Cadeby Colliery in 1911, also the manager of Orgreave Colliery Mr. Richard Adkin died on 1st September 1909 after striking his head while riding a tub in the mine on 16 August 1909. The Victorian enthusiasm for increased regulation and control coupled with a growing penchant for statistics has provided us with a detailed annual record of fatal accidents recorded in HM Inspector of Mines Reports. These documents allow us a fascinating insight into the dangers of mining and the tragedies which the industry begat, the reports also show us how responsibility for accidents were apportioned, with even prosecutions for causing death by negligence being brought.

In order to place the deaths at Kiveton Park in context, a comparison with other local collieries (Dinnington, Orgreave, Treeton and Waleswood) shows that Kiveton Park was a relatively safe pit. The worst accident at Kiveton Park Colliery in the 19th century was an underground explosion on May 19th 1889, which caused four deaths. Between 1868 and 1900 47 miners died in the Kiveton Park Colliery and a further 29 at Waleswood.

Year	Kiveton Park	Waleswood	Orgreave	Treeton	Dinnington
1900	1	0	2	1	-
1901	0	2	3	2	-
1902	1	0	1	0	-
1903	0	0	3	2	-
1904	0	0	4	1	1
1905	3	0	2	1	1
1906	1	0	4	1	0
1907	2	1	4	4	1
1908	2	0	4	3	4
1909	0	0	8	3	4
1910	1	0	3	3	5
1911	2	0	0	3	2
1912	0	0	2	3	0
1913	3	1	1	2	5
Totals	16	4	39	29	23

Table showing deaths in local mines between 1900 and 1913^{xxxvi}

The figures relating to deaths can only become truly meaningful when the size of the workforce at each colliery is known.

Colliery	1901	1908
Kiveton Park	1273	1700
Waleswood	400	911
Orgreave	1841	2087
Treeton	1223	1324
Dinnington	-	1543

From the relationship of worker's numbers to deaths it is clear that Kiveton Park compared to its neighbours at Orgreave, Treeton and Dinnington was a relatively safe pit to work at. It should be noted that Dinnington was a late developer and that a managerial family relationship existed between the collieries with Edward Soar being manager at Kiveton Park and T.L. Soar being the manager at Dinnington.

The various and even bizarre causes of death underscore the constant danger it is also I think significant that many of the fatalities are relatively young boys and men who lacked the experience to appreciate the dangers. “Between 1868 and 1919 a miner was killed every six hours seriously injured every two hours and badly injured every two or three minutes.”^{xxxvii}

Year	Date	Surname	Forename	Age	Occupation	Details
1900		Deakin	A	36	Collier	Fall of roof
1902	12 Sept.	Brown	E	20	Haulage Man	Thrown under tub
1905	18 April	Wigmore	A	17	Filler	Fall of roof
1905	12 May	Motley-Smith	Wm.	50	Dataller	Fall of roof
1905	12 Dec	Jones	E.H	39	Collier	Fall of roof
1906	12 May	Waplinton	Arnold	21	Filler	Blood poisoning
1907		Gere	Samuel	54	Collier	Fall of roof
1907	22 March	Widdison	J	44	Collier	Fall of roof
1908	11 Sept	Green	Robt.	57	Stallman	Fall of roof
1908	9 October	Spooner	Allan	51	Stallman	Fall of roof
1910	3 May	Swell	Herbert	16	Pony Driver	Fall of roof
1911	28 June	Bugg	Dennis	18	Onsetter	Crushed by falling Tub
1911	18 Sept	Sayles	Harry	29	Collier	Fall of roof
1913	5 May	Powis	Geo	50	Dataller	Run over by train
1913	10 May	Copestake	Albert	13	Pony Driver	Kicked by pony ?
1913	2 August	Perry	John	44	Stallman	Fall of roof

Reports of the Inspector of Mines sought to apportion blame for the accidents and often it was the miners themselves who were blamed for the accidents. On the 12th December 1905 E. H. Jones was killed by a roof fall at Kiveton Park Colliery. The inspector stated “From his intimate knowledge of the roof which was wet and bad he ought to have set temporary timber at once and not waited to make room for bars.” On 3rd May 1905 Herbert Swell a 16-year-old Pony driver was killed. “He was bringing a full set of tubs along a roadway with a pony and was riding on the shafts. The shafts knocked out a prop supporting a bar and he was killed by a fall of roof which followed.” In the following year 1911 two accidents occurred in which the accident was blamed on the miner. On 28 June 1911 Dennis Bugg an 18-year-old Onsetter was crushed by a tub falling from a hoist “after it had been raised from the lower level to the upper level of the pit hill – a distance of 9ft the top of the hoist should have been closed.” Following this on 18 September Harry Sayles was killed by a roof fall in a place where “bars should have been used to support the roof.” Sometimes however the cause of the accident was not really known such as that which killed 13 year old Albert Copestake who was found with a dislocated neck and it was assumed he had been “knocked against the side” by a pit pony on 10 May 1913. One of the most bizarre fatalities in the colliery must have been that of Arnold Waplinton,

a 21 year old filler who was killed in 1906. On 12 May he was “ removing tram rails out of a stall into a gate, he slightly cut his right hand with a sharp edge of one of them. Blood poisoning set in and he died on 29th.”

The impact of death and serious injury on a family was calamitous due to the primitive nature of welfare support available for widows and the sick. “Financial provision for miners and their families in the event of ill health, incapacity through accident or old age or mortality resulting from accident, depended largely upon their own ability to save. For most the alternatives were those offered under the Poor Law or by charity.” On 22 March 1907 John (Joseph) Widdison was killed “ when drawing a prop to liberate some stone with which to build a pack, a large stone fell from a glassy slip and killed him.” The 1901 census take approx 6 years before showed the make up of his family.

Name	Age	Where	Born	County	Parish	Occupation
Joseph Widdison	37	Yorks	Anston	West Riding	Wales	Coal Miner Hewer
Sarah Widdison	35	Yorks	North Staveley	West Riding	Wales	
William Widdison	13	Yorks	Wales	West Riding	Wales	Pony Driver
Joseph Widdison	11	Yorks	Wales	West Riding	Wales	
Anthony Widdison	9	Yorks	Wales	West Riding	Wales	
Elsie Widdison	5	Yorks	Wales	West Riding	Wales	
Ruth Widdison	3	Yorks	Wales	West Riding	Wales	
Selina Widdison	2	Yorks	Wales	West Riding	Wales	

His widow Sarah was faced with bringing up three young girls Elsie aged 11, Ruth aged 9 and Selina aged 8 while being reliant upon the earnings of her 3 sons William aged 19, Joseph junior aged 17 and young Anthony aged 15 to support the family.

An often unrecognised feature of late Victorian and Edwardian society was the number of reconstructed families, due in the main to the death of partners coupled with a lack of welfare services which today we take for granted (Pensions for the elderly only came into being in 1908, and widows were thrown back on reliance upon the Poor Law.) Pressures existed to re marry.

In mining communities industrial accident and illness through unsanitary conditions took its toll of the men and death in childbirth (mining families being noted for being larger were more prone to this) and the unsanitary conditions took a toll upon the women. In the 1881 census evidence exists of reconstructed families in Kiveton Park and the marriage records of St. Johns Church confirm that mining widows and widowers did marry again.

CHAPTER III: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

One of the most striking features about the parish of Wales in the early 20th century is the physical separation of Wales from Kiveton Park, this is clearly illustrated on the 1902 OS map. The establishment of and rivalries between the church school in Wales and the colliery school in Kiveton Park evidence this idea of separateness.

Even a cursory glance at the contemporary Ordnance Survey maps backed up by census data from 1881 and 1891 show that 3 distinct communities existed. The first at Waleswood a mining community based on the Waleswood colliery, in which a huge majority of heads of household were miners, secondly this was mirrored by the mining community of Kiveton Park, while finally sitting in the village centre was the original nucleus of the Wales community based around the Church and village square in which farmers, agricultural labourers and shopkeepers could be found as well as the Vicar, colliery management and school staff.

Isolation and independence would have been two key elements of Edwardian life in Wales. “Close to the pit, often separated geographically and by the nature of their occupation from workers in other industries large numbers of pitmen and their families experienced an unusual degree of rural isolation and occupational homogeneity in the mining villages where they lived.”^{x1} Communication networks were primitive; a station existed at Waleswood and one at Kiveton Station.

It was not until the inter war years that a station for passengers existed at Kiveton Bridge (despite requests from both the parish Council in Wales and Kiveton Park RDC for one to be built). In June 1902 Wales parish council submitted a letter to KPRDC seeking support in asking the Great Central railway to construct a station adjacent to the Kiveton Park Coal Company signal box, this was turned down but is today the site of the station that was built later.

From the records of the Kiveton Park RDC it is clear that one of the major constraints on the growth and development of the community was the supply of water, the council providing water carts in the summer months to overcome water shortages throughout the district.

Resolved that water be delivered by cart in Wales during the continuance of present dry weather
It was not until July 1905 that plans were submitted for a piped water supply for the majority of the parish at an estimated cost of £698.

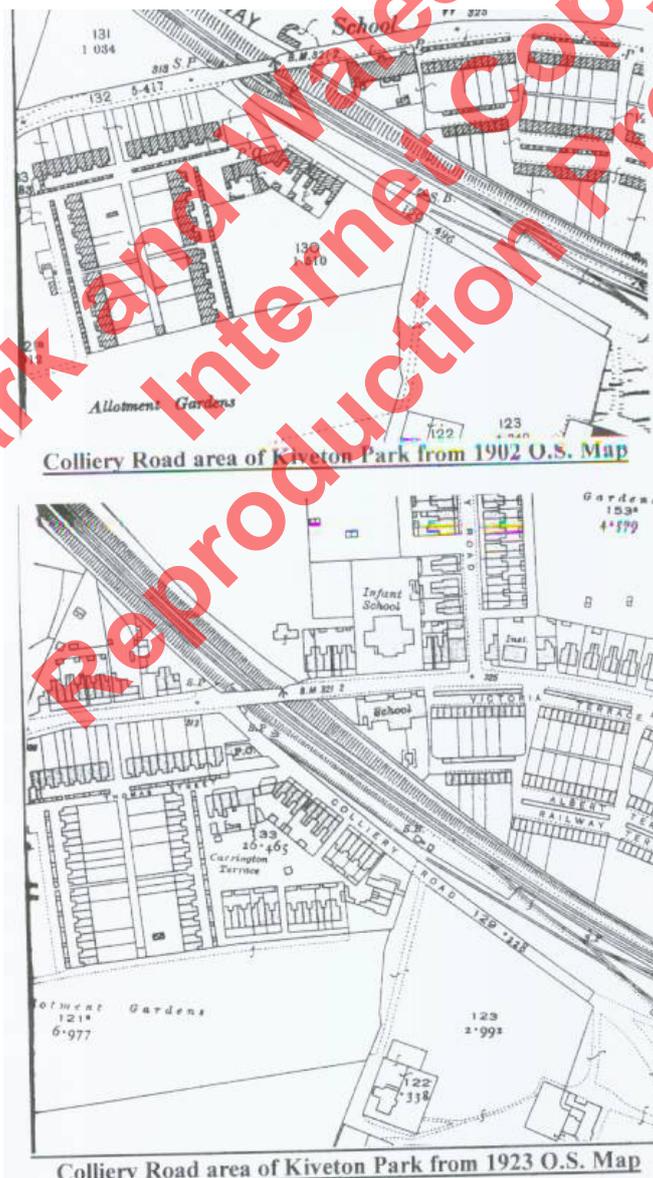
The growth of the colliery in the late Victorian and Edwardian era placed great demands on the housing stock of Kiveton Park, and overcrowding was a cause of concern to the RDC.

“Moved by Mr Turner and Mr Emmerson and resolved that a house to house inquiry be made with regard to alleged overcrowding in Kiveton rows.”^{xlii}

The RDC it appears were not averse to raising housing issues with the Kiveton Park Coal Company who owned the vast majority of housing in Kiveton Park adjacent to the colliery. George Emmerson who from the records of KPRDC appears to be a critic of the housing policy of the Kiveton Park Coal Company, is shown by the 1901 census to be the 49 year old owner of a drapers shop in Wales, and thus somewhat independent of the Kiveton Park Coal Company and able to articulate the concerns of the villagers, with the likelihood that many mining families purchased cloth and sewing material from his shop. Emmerson it could be argued was the leading political figure of Kiveton Park of his era. In 1908 we find he is an Alderman of the West Yorkshire County Council (Aldermen were elected



Road works Edwardian Style ^{xlv}



Kiveton Park and Wales History Society
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by fellow councillors to serve for a period of six years as councillors without having to be elected by the people. This position was normally reserved for those held in the highest regard by their fellow councillors and was regarded as a great honour. Emmerson also served as chair of the Worksop Board of Guardians from 1913 to 1918 and was therefore a major figure in the provision of social welfare.

In reference to the report of overcrowding at William Deakin's house 150 Kiveton Park the Clerk was directed to write to Kiveton Park Coal Company asking if they could provide a larger house for the family. ^{xlvi}

Furthermore on 12 February 1900 a copy of a report on overcrowding was sent from the RDC to Kiveton Park Coal Company and at a meeting of the RDC held on 09 July 1900 Mr Emmerson moved a letter be sent to West Riding County Council for a "resumption of the former enquiry by that body into the housing of the working classes in Wales with a view to the power being given to this council (RDC) to erect workmen's dwellings." ^{xlvii}

The impact of this was almost immediate for at a RDC meeting on 13 August it was reported that steps were being taken in the form of negotiation with the Duke of Leeds Agent to place land on the market for building purposes in Kiveton Park. The council minute books record concerns over the availability of a clean water supply and this being a limiting and restricting factor on developments but in June 1901 planning permission was granted for Messer's Croft and Allison to construct 36 houses in Kiveton Park. A string of granted planning applications for the area can then be seen to granted by the RDC Mr Edwards submitting plans for 4 cottages in November 1901 and a further 4 in May 1902.

Colliery houses continued to be built as close as possible to the pithead – a deliberate policy on the part of the employers, which combined convenience for pitwork with the deterrence from seeking alternative employment. By the end of our period (1913), this policy was aimed especially at recruiting juveniles in order to make it difficult for recent school leavers, living at home to work anywhere except the pit. ^{xlviii}

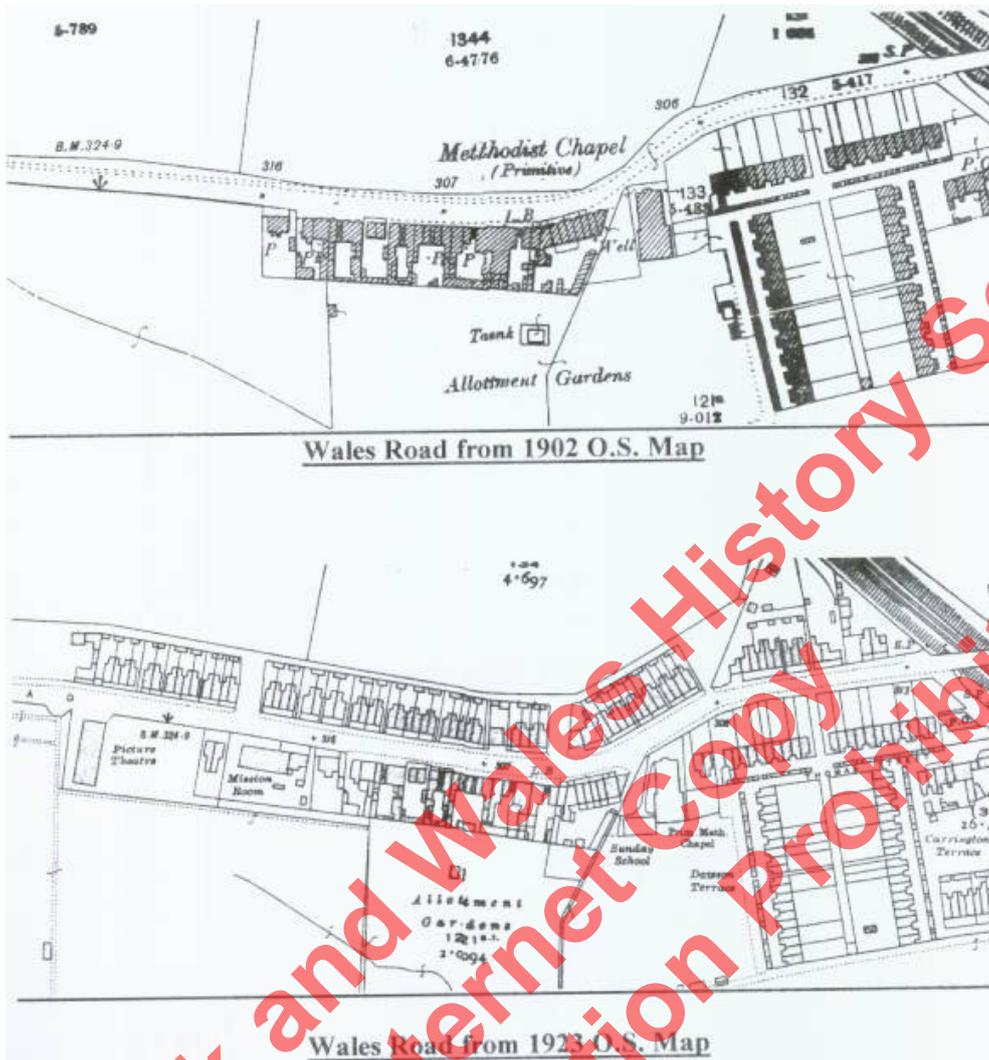
The 1914 Poor Law Guardians rate book clearly illustrates the pattern of ownership of property. In the vicinity of the colliery Kiveton Park Coal Company were the main owner of property, however in the old village of Wales the Duke of Leeds and other traditional landed interests were still substantial owners.

In December 1902 a planning application can be seen in the RDC records for the construction of three cottages and a store for Worksop Co-Operative Society, once again showing the close affinity with Worksop and north Nottinghamshire, this building can be seen in one of the colour plates and the inscription on what appears to be a sandstone block is very faint but still discernable. "By 1900 co-operatives were thick on the ground in Yorkshire. The co-op was an important part of the coalfields and a dominant feature of most communities serving for the most part as a symbol of the self-reliance of workers and in some regard even a monument to their sense of community." ¹

In a minute in 1904 it was noted that since Mr Bateman had negotiated the contract for scavenging (refuse collection) 42 new houses had been erected in Kiveton Park. It was also at this time that plans were submitted for the construction of a public hall (St. John's rooms) and cottage to be erected for the Wales Church Institute at Kiveton Park.

The Worksop Co-op is located between the Infant School and the corner of Wesley Road. The upper floors were used by a Women's society for meetings and education.

In May 1907 planning application was received to construct a school at Kiveton Park from Yorkshire West Riding County Council. It appears from the records that a degree of rivalry existed between the Church school in Wales and the school in Kiveton Park that had initially been set up by the Coal Company. This may reflect the religious differences between the old village of Wales and the newer



mining sectors. We can see from Catchpole comment on the fact that Methodism was prevalent amongst mining families in the 1860's. "We have 2 Wesleyan Meetings in private houses & a chapel is on the point of erection. They may consist of some 20 of the residents families beside the shifting population connected with the Coal pits." Census returns show visiting Methodist preachers staying with mining families in the village and in the early 20th century both the United Methodist Free Church and primitive Methodists made applications to build houses in the village. Two Methodist places of worship existed The Primitive Methodist church in Kiveton Park (the memorial stone was laid for this building on April 13 1893) and the United Methodist Free Church opposite the church school in Wales. In "1868 Wales Free Methodist Church opened. About the same time a Sunday school was begun. In 1876 it was enlarged and in 1895 it was altered and renovated and a new Sunday school was built. In 1907 it became the Wales United Methodist Church. In 1908 a further classroom was added and in 1911 the Duke of Leeds gave the freehold as a gift to mark the coronation of George V." ⁱⁱⁱ

By 1914 much of the built environment of and Kiveton Park between Hard Lane cross roads and the cinema (now the Forge pub) was in place and it would not be until the late 20th Century that this area saw substantial new building. Many of the buildings are still in place and due to the penchant prevalent at the time dated stones were incorporated even into blocks of cottages, which allows us to identify the construction stages within the village.

CONCLUSION

The early 20th century saw a rapid growth in the size of the community, manifesting itself in a vast number of new buildings. This rapid spurt was due to the expansion of the colliery to meet increasing national and world demand for coal. The lack of a station at Kiveton Bridge and paucity of passenger services confirms the relative isolation of the community, but the presence of the rail line and the development of a Worksop Co-Op confirms that the parish of Wales looked more towards Sheffield and its administrative centre of Worksop than to today's Local Authority Rotherham.

The Duke of Leeds in terms of him being the landlord no longer dominated the Village. However he still owned and leased substantial tracts of agricultural land and properties in the old nucleus around Wales Square, and his earnings from sale of land to the coal company for building and mineral rights gave him a very healthy financial return.

At a time when many rural communities are rapidly expanding in terms of population it is important to place this in a historical perspective. This outline of the growth of a rural industrial community shows that shifts, sometimes very rapid shifts in population have taken place in the past. It shows too that concerns about newcomers changing village life are not new, nor are concerns about the ability of the community's infrastructure to cope with rapidly growing populations. In the midst of continuity we see change and conversely in the midst of change we see continuity and through the blending of these two phenomena we see the evolution of communities.



ENDNOTES:

i Jones M. 'A Sponsored Migration from Staffordshire to Hoyland in the Mid Nineteenth Century' in Elliott. B. (ed) Aspects of Barnsley5. 1998.P135fn

ii Pollard S. Britain's prime and Britain's Decline: The British Economy 1870-1914. Edward Arnold 1989 P25.

iii Goodchild. J. 'Up Wakefield Road: Colliery Development' in Elliott. B. (ed) Aspects of Barnsley5. 1998.P57.

iv Church R. The History of the British Coal Industry : Vol3 1830-1913 Clarendon Press 1986 P40

v Pollard S. Britain's Prime and Britain's Decline: The British Economy 1870-1914. Edward Arnold 1989 P 27

vi Transcript of visitation return to William Thompson Archbishop of York by James Catchpole Curate of Wales Parish Church 1868 Borthwick Institute of Historical research, York V1868/Ret2

vii Figures for Table 1 and Table 2 are extracted from census returns :

Census returns were collected by poor law overseers (who also prepared the electoral rolls) which were then collated by Poor Law Unions, therefore the Census returns for Wales and many of the other relevant records have a Nottinghamshire reference, as Wales and the surrounding area were part of Worksop Poor Law Union.

viii Coates B.E. 'The Geography of the Industrialization and Urbanization of South Yorkshire, 18th Century to 20th Century.' In Pollard S. & Holmes C (ed) Essays in the Economic and Social History of South Yorkshire' 1976 P20.

vix Wales Parish Council Photograph archive. The primitive Methodist chapel can be seen to the left of the photograph map of this area can be seen on page 26

x Tanner D Political Change and the Labour Party, 1900-1918. Cambridge University Press 1990 P205.

xi Tanner D Political Change and the Labour Party, 1900-1918. Cambridge University Press 1990 P206.

xii Pelling H. Social Geography of British Elections 1885-1910 Macmillan 1976 xxi

xiii Craig F.W.S. British Parliamentary Election Results 1885-1918 Macmillan 1974. P434

xiv Tanner D Political Change and the Labour Party, 1900-1918. Cambridge University Press 1990 P214.

xv Tanner D Political Change and the Labour Party, 1900-1918. Cambridge University Press 1990 P221.

xvi Goode C.T. Railways in South Yorkshire Dalesman 1975 P51.& 52

xvii Tanner D Political Change and the Labour Party, 1900-1918. Cambridge University Press 1990 P225

xviii In Holmfirth the share of the votes in 2 3 cornered contests was as follows

Jan 1910	1912
Lib 57.5%	Lib 42.0%
Con 27.6%	Con 29.8%
Lab 14.9%	Lab 28.2%

xix Pollard S. Britain's Prime and Britain's Decline: The British Economy 1870-1914. Edward Arnold 1989 P229

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xxi Walker A. 'Pleasurable Homes ? Victorian Model Miners Wives and the Family Wage in a South Yorkshire Colliery District.' Womens's History Review Vol6 no3 1997.P327

xxii Transcript of visitation return to William Thompson Archbishop of York by James Catchpole Curate of Wales Parish Church 1868 Borthwick Institute of Historical research, York V1868/Ret2

xxiii Lawrence D.H. Sons and Lovers Wordsworth Classics 1999 edition P27 and fn29P368.

xxiv Walker A. 'Pleasurable Homes ? Victorian Model Miners Wives and the Family Wage in a South Yorkshire Colliery

District.' Womens's History Review Vol6 no3 1997.P320

xxv Walker A. 'Pleasurable Homes ? Victorian Model Miners Wives and the Family Wage in a South Yorkshire Colliery District.' Womens's History Review Vol6 no3 1997.P319

xxvi Yeandle S. Womens's Working Lives Tavistock Publishing 1984 P1.

xxvii Walker A. 'Pleasurable Homes ? Victorian Model Miners Wives and the Family Wage in a South Yorkshire Colliery District.' Womens's History Review Vol6 no3 1997. P317.

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xxx HM Inspector of Mines Report 1905 Mr Walkers report for Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Area 5 P8

xxxi Hill A. The South Yorkshire Coalfield: A History and Development Tempus 2001. P123

xxxii Beehive ovens were an early type of coke oven shaped like a beehive they were not efficient and wasted a lot of heat and by products.

xxxiii Hill A. The South Yorkshire Coalfield: A History and Development Tempus 2001. P122

xxxiv HM Inspector of Mines Report 1907 Mr Pickering's report for Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Area 5 P8 Pickering had returned from a 4 period in India as Chief Inspector of Mines.

xxxv Church R The History of the British Coal Industry Vol3 1830-1913. Clarendon 1986 P582

xxxvi Figures extracted from reports of HM Inspector of Mines

xxxvii Church R The History of the British Coal Industry Vol3 1830-1913. Clarendon 1986 P584

xxxviii All details of accidents from HM Inspector of Mines report for relevant year

xxxix Church R The History of the British Coal Industry Vol3 1830-1913. Clarendon 1986 P596

x1 Church R The History of the British Coal Industry Vol3 1830-1913. Clarendon 1986 P611

x1i Kiveton Park RDC Minute book 12/5/1899 - Rotherham Local studies

x1ii Kiveton Park RDC Minute book July 1905 - Rotherham Local studies

x1iii Kiveton Park RDC Minute book 9/10/1899 - Rotherham Local studies

x1iv Wales Parish Poor Law Rate Book 1914 ref 44/RD37/19 Rotherham Local studies

x1v Wales Parish Council Photograph archive

x1vi Kiveton Park RDC Minute book 11/12/1899 - Rotherham Local studies William Deakin is shown to be a colliery lampman aged 32 at the time of the 1901 census

x1vii Kiveton Park RDC Minute book 09/07 1900 - Rotherham Local studies

x1viii Church R The History of the British Coal Industry Vol3 1830-1913. Clarendon 1986 P601

x1ix Wales Poor Law Rate Book 1914 Rotherham archives ref 44/RD37/19.

1 Baylies C. The history of the Yorkshire Miners 1881-1918 Routledge 1993 P35.

1i Transcript of visitation return to William Thompson Archbishop of York by James Catchpole Curate of Wales Parish Church 1868 Borthwick Institute of Historical research, York V1868/Ret2

1iii Barnes History of Wales to 1900 Rotherham MBC 1991 P102.