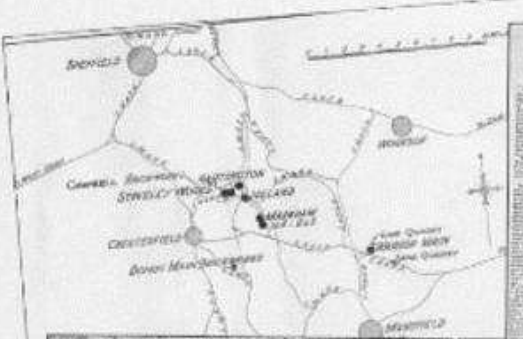


**The Hundred Year History
of
Warsop Vale &
Warsop Main Colliery
(1889 - 1989)**



By Mave Calvert & Terry White



SIX MINERS ENTOMBED THREE MILES FROM PIT BOTTOM
Tragic Accident At Warsop Main Colliery
 WARSHIP AND HANWICK WORKERS BEING AMONG THE VICTIMS
 WORKS OPERATING UNDER BY FINDER CALL
 WILL KNIFE BEING KEPT AMONG THE MINERS

The tragedy of the night of the 14th inst. at Warsop Main Colliery, when six miners were entombed three miles from the pit bottom, has been a terrible one. The victims were Warsop and Hanwick workers, and the cause of the disaster was a tragic accident. The works were operating under by finder call, and the will knife was kept among the miners.

WARSHIP PLY DISPOSED
 BY THE GREAT ENTREPRENEUR
 Sold in the London Market
 Master of the Ship was Mr. ...



Memories of Yesteryear
 ...

SPORTING CHRONICLE
HANDICAP BOOK
 SATURDAY JULY 19, 1920
 WEEKLY RACING RETURN
 NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAMME



CHAMPIONS OF THE SOCCER LEAGUE



HEADMASTER'S TRAGIC DEATH
 WARSHIP FINEST PROCEEDED
 ASSURED
 MEDICAL EXPERTS OF INEPT

The tragic death of Mr. George ...

*Minutes of General Meeting
 in the Warsop Vale Jubilee
 ...*

WARSHIP VALE NOTES
 ...

SPORTING PERSONALITY
The Late Cyril Ellis

I have chosen to be subject to my personal ...

Foreword

In January 1996 I set foot in Warsop Vale for the first time. We were looking to move to the Mansfield area and had come to view The Old School House. Mr. Brailsford, who showed us round, explained that the house had been built in 1905 and had housed the headmasters of Warsop Vale schools. He told us that the village had been built in the early 1900s by the Staveley Coal & Iron Company to serve the Warsop Main Colliery. Apparently, to get permission to sink a pit it was necessary to build houses for the miners, a school, a church, a chapel, stores, an institute for social work and a public house. I was looking for a property in a small village where I could look into the local history, so this seemed ideal.

We moved into The Old School House in April 1996, but it was not until August of that year that we found out what a colourful history the house had. At the annual Warsop Gala we met some people from the Old Warsop Society who told us about the headmaster who had been murdered in 1937 – in the front bedroom! After a few initial misgivings, this served only to fuel my interest in the history and off I went to Mansfield Library to find the relevant newspaper articles.

I met some other residents who were interested in the local history and research began in earnest in December 1998 with many trips to local libraries and archives departments. The end result is this book and the formation of the Warsop Vale Local History Society.

Ever since I came to live here I have never ceased to be moved by the community spirit and friendliness of the locals. The very fact that so many people replied to our advertisement in the Mansfield Chad in February 1999 for photographs and memories of Warsop Vale speaks for itself.

Mave Calvert, April 2000

Disclaimer

Whilst the authors have taken every care to try and paint a true picture of events, they can accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained herein. The information has been gathered from a variety of sources such as newspapers, maps, plans, school log books and district Almanacks as well as the memories of local people and hearsay.

WARSOP VALE SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM 1961



IN THE VALE SOMETHING STIRS...

Things are not what they used to be in a village south of Mansfield but...

Village in a pit's shadow



ALAN...

It is hard to see the village of Warsop...



Warsop Vale School farewell to Mr. J. Penrose

Mr. J. Penrose has been a member of the school staff for many years...



Memories of Yesteryear

A HISTORY of Warsop Vale school children of yesterday of the old Warsop...



Head signs off as Vale School closes

The headmaster of Warsop Vale School has said goodbye to his staff...

WARSOP COLLIERY TO CLOSE

WARSAW (The Journal) Warsop Colliery will close...

The options for Warsop Main site

The options for the Warsop Main site are being considered...

Memories of Yesteryear



Warsop Vale parents wanted... Thank you caring...

Part of life's rich tapestry



A member of the Warsop Vale school staff has been invited to be part of the 'rich tapestry'...

Contents

PREFACE	8
INTRODUCTION	9
IN THE BEGINNING	11
BEFORE THE STAVELEY COMPANY ARRIVED	11
THE STAVELEY COAL & IRON COMPANY	11
WARSOP MAIN COLLIERY – THE EARLY DAYS	13
THE SINKING OF THE PIT.....	13
DEVELOPMENT OF THE COLLIERY	15
THE 1920S AT WARSOP MAIN.....	19
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PIT VILLAGE	20
PLANS FOR A COLLIERY VILLAGE	20
RAILWAY COTTAGES AND THE PARSONAGE	20
THE MECHANICS’ COTTAGES	21
THE MYSTERY OF THE FABLED ‘ROMAN BATHS’	23
THE ORIGINAL MINERS’ COTTAGES.....	25
DR. INGRAM’S SURGERY	28
A FURTHER FORTY MINERS’ COTTAGES	28
THE MINE MANAGER’S HOUSE.....	32
LATER DEVELOPMENTS	34
OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF THE LAND.....	35
THE ‘SWING’	37
THE WARSOP VALE SCHOOLS	44
THE BUILDING OF THE SCHOOLS	44
THE EARLY DAYS	46
MR. SLEIGHT.....	50
MR. MEAKIN.....	56
MR. PENROSE.....	59
WARSOP VALE SCHOOLS FOOTBALL TEAMS.....	62
THE CLOSURE OF THE VALE SCHOOLS	65
WARSOP MAIN COLLIERY – LATER DEVELOPMENTS	66
THE PIT HEAD BATHS.....	66
THE STAVELEY COAL & IRON COMPANY IN THE 1930S	70
WARSOP MAIN IN 1935	79
THE 1940S	82
THE 1950S	82
WARSOP MAIN IN 1985	92
WARSOP VALE SPORTS AND SPORTSMEN	95
CRICKET	95
FOOTBALL.....	104
CYRIL ELLIS.....	111
THE SPORTS GROUNDS	111

RELIGION IN WARSOP VALE.....	115
CHURCH OF ENGLAND	115
SUNDAY SCHOOL	116
THE METHODIST CHAPEL	119
WARSOP VALE INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.....	120
CRIME IN WARSOP VALE	127
VILLAGE BOBBIES	127
THEFT AT WARSOP MAIN	127
MURDER AT THE SCHOOLMASTER’S HOUSE	128
THE ST. JOHN’S AMBULANCE BRIGADE IN WARSOP VALE.....	132
MINING ACCIDENTS.....	137
THE EARLY 1900S	137
DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN CRICKETER	142
SIX MINERS ENTOMBED	149
KILLED IN ACTION	150
THE GREAT WAR	150
THE WAR MEMORIAL.....	150
THE SECOND WORLD WAR.....	150
COMMUNITY LIFE IN WARSOP VALE	155
BILL EVERETT’S MEMORIES OF WARSOP VALE IN THE 1920S.....	163
THE END OF AN ERA – THE CLOSURE OF WARSOP MAIN COLLIERY.....	174
WARSOP VALE TODAY.....	178
THE FUTURE?.....	178

Preface

This is the story of a North Nottinghamshire pit village and its pit from the first thoughts about sinking the pit in 1889 to the closure in 1989. The book has been produced by the latter-day residents of Warsop Vale to celebrate the Millennium and in recognition that the village, which is now semi-derelict, was once a place to be proud of, and hopefully can be again.

The authors are Mave Calvert and Terry White. Mave has lived in the Old School House since 1996. Terry is the landlord of the Vale Hotel and his mother's family originates from Warsop Vale.

The authors would like to thank everyone who replied to the advert in Mansfield Chad in February 1999 with memories, photographs and offers of help. Also the regulars of the 'Swing' (Vale Hotel) for their support, Glyn Nussey for assisting in research, Bill Everett and the late Steve Unwin for putting names to long-dead faces, Jack Winfield and Lynn Nussey for proof reading, Jeff Noble and Irene Asher for providing interesting memoirs, Ruth Burrows for her advice and support and everyone else who contributed in some way.

We are also grateful to Nottinghamshire Archives for allowing us to reproduce the Warsop Urban District Council building plans, Nottingham Library for allowing us to reproduce various maps, Mansfield Library for allowing us to reproduce various newspaper articles and Mansfield Chad for allowing us to reproduce the aerial photograph of Warsop Vale.

Finally, we are extremely grateful to the Nottinghamshire Rural Development Area for contributing towards the funding of this project.

Printed by

alphaGraphics®

6 Angel Row, Nottingham, NG1 6HL
Freephone: 0800 597 5980
Fax: (0115) 8523601 ISDN: (0115) 8523616
E-mail: notts007@alphagraphics.co.uk

Introduction

Warsop Vale is the village built by the Staveley Coal & Iron Company at the beginning of the twentieth Century to serve the Warsop Main Colliery which had been sunk a decade earlier. It is situated in Northwest Nottinghamshire, a mile from the Derbyshire border between the villages of Shirebrook and Church Warsop. The houses of red brick with slate roofs have been erected in barrack square fashion in poor contrast to the colliery housing estate the Company built for their work people at Church Warsop in the mid 1920s. Whilst developing the colliery, the Staveley Coal & Iron Company progressed the village social activities with schools, a chapel, a church, playing fields, a Co-Operative, St. John's ambulance, members club etc. The Company also provided Sports Grounds, where football and cricket fields, bowling greens, and tennis courts were laid out, and by arrangement with the various local Miners' Welfare Schemes, the employees contributed 1d. per week towards the upkeep. Warsop Vale is very little changed structurally since it was first built; indeed only three new properties have been built in the last seventy years. In it's hey day the village was so popular that there was a waiting list for houses.

The history begins with a farm believed to date back to the Anglo-Saxon times (William Wood Farm) and progresses to the 1880s when the first thoughts of mining were borne by the Staveley Company. Land for the development of a mine was agreed between Sir William FitzHerbert and the Staveley Company. Sinking of the mine started in 1893 and it was opened in 1895, which made massive changes to the way of life in the surrounding areas. It was realised housing would be needed for the workforce and it started with six cottages, known as Rhein O' Thorns, for senior colliery officials. It was then realised that there was a need for housing generally for the workforce and rows of terraced houses known as '£40 Moore houses' were eventually built. This led to the need for a Church, Chapel, Schools, Hotel, playing fields, allotment gardens, Co-Operative Society, Church Institute, Mothers' Union and general facilities for the hard working miners and their families to enjoy their spare time.

By the early 1900s most of the coal mine was in full working order and a railway line had been constructed to carry coal the East Coast areas etc. Most of the 2,700 strong workforce at this time was from Warsop, Shirebrook, Mansfield Woodhouse and surrounding areas. By 1908 the miners' cottages, pub, roads, schools and churches had all been completed. The village was fully operational and the mention of approximately one million tons of coal per year was the target at Warsop Main.

Warsop Vale continued to prosper with successful cricket, football, tennis, St. John Ambulance, Co-Operative Society, Church, gardening associations etc. There was an ambient glow about the village with all neighbours being friendly, helpful and all pulling together, there was no need for security and indeed people used to leave doors open in summer or unlocked whilst they went shopping to Shirebrook etc.

By 1910 the success was rewarded and 1,000,000 tons of coal per year was being produced by the 2,700 men. This continued up until 1913/14 when World War I broke

out and the workforce was reduced by some 400 men of which 250 were from the village and 150 from surrounding areas went to war. The manager, Mr. Booker, announced he was well pleased with the production of 900,000 tons as manpower was reduced.

We have had some excellent sportsmen and celebrities within the village and sport in general has flourished. We were fortunate enough to have a player, Walter Millership, who once played for England. Many players have made professional football. We were also fortunate enough to have several cricketers who were on the verge of county cricket and indeed Fred Newton represented his county prior to his death in a colliery accident. We have had an Olympic runner, Cyril Ellis, who was world champion in the mile and 1,000 metres and it took the great Sydney Wooderson to beat his mile record, however no-one succeeded in beating his 1,000 metre record and it still stands today.

In fields other than sport we have had a very successful man, Kim Winfield, who progressed through education and the army to become Brigadier Commander in Hong Kong and is now defence attaché in the British embassy in Turkey. His father, Jack, is a well-respected man in the village and former deputy manager at the colliery. Other celebrities include a Colonel, a Police Superintendent, a Canon and someone that works for NASA.

Warsop Vale was always well supported in every event even gardening, flower shows, harvest festivals and carnivals. The village continued to prosper and the colliery was redeveloped in 1935 and again in 1953. The housing stock was re-developed in 1961 with the original outhouses and toilets being demolished and combined kitchen, toilet and bathroom extensions being added to the rear of the main dwellings. As late as 1985 the words of the mine manager were that the colliery had an excellent future and when the colliery closed in 1989 one could say that it was somewhat of a shock, the magnitude of which only struck home when the headstocks and buildings were demolished. Despite all promises we are now ten years on and the village has seen little improvement.



Coronation Celebrations in Warsop Vale 1952
(Courtesy of Mrs. I. Hickinbotham)

In the Beginning

Once upon a time there was Sookholme Moor, rough scrubland between the towns of Warsop and Shirebrook with only the odd farm and limestone quarry. Then came a Company who recognised the potential for mineral extraction and created an infrastructure and, in so doing, a community.

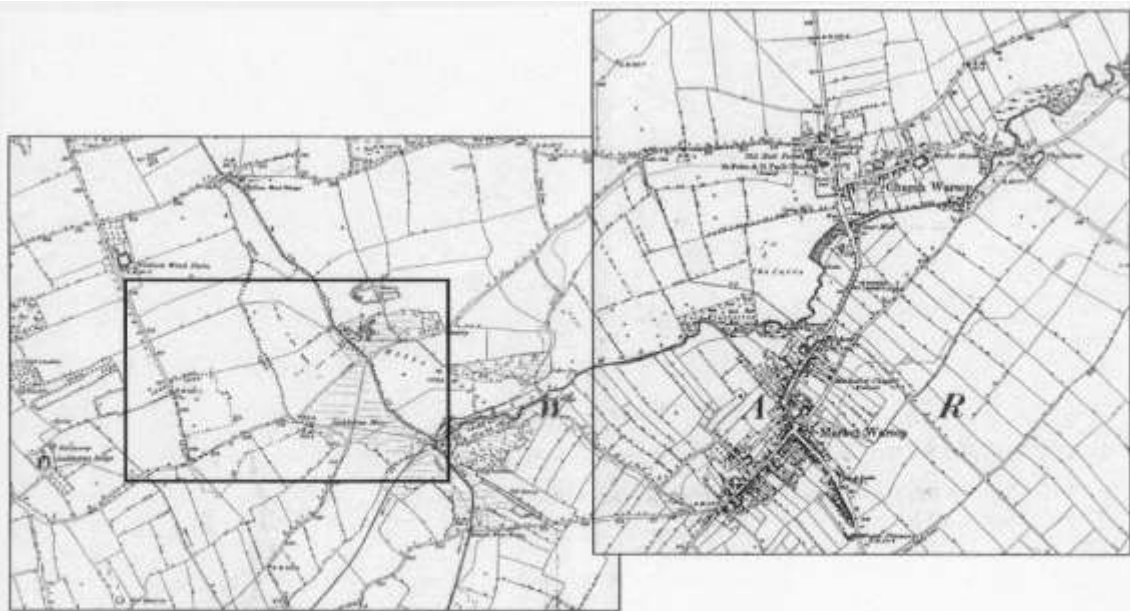
Before the Staveley Company Arrived

White's directory of Nottinghamshire 1853 described Warsop Parish as being divided into the two townships of Warsop and Sookholme with a joint population of 1,394, most of whom lived in the villages of Church (Old) Warsop and Market Warsop on opposite banks of the River Meden. Sir Richard Henry FitzHerbert Baronet, who was lord of the manor, patron of the rectory and lived at Nettleworth Hall, owned the majority of the 6,956 acres of land. The principal industry was agriculture. The nearest dwelling to where Warsop Vale now stands was William Wood House described as a large farm one and a half miles west of Warsop and most likely the same as the present day Williamwood farm. The small village, township and chapelry of Sookholme had 66 inhabitants.

In 1880 the population of Warsop Parish was 1,864. During the following ten years it increased by about 300. The 1890 Ordnance Survey map shows that all that existed in the area was farms built of local stone that enabled the farmers and work force to farm land rented from the FitzHerberts. These were William Wood Farm and Cottages to the north of what was to be the Warsop Main Colliery, leased to Bowman, and Sookholme Lodge near an old quarry to the south-west. To the north-east were Sookholme Moor and the Hills & Holes where there were two limestone quarries.

The Staveley Coal & Iron Company

The history of the formation of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company is of great interest. A forge and furnace are known to have existed at Staveley in 1652 when George Sitwell of Renishaw Hall leased it from Lord Frechville of the Manor of Staveley. This changed hands in 1681 when the first Duke of Devonshire purchased it and the manor from Lord Frechville. In the 1780s a new coke fired furnace was built by Malter who leased the site, later known as the 'Old Works'. Richard Barrow in 1840 purchased the furnace and forge, and took a lease on a site later known as the 'New Works' and built two new furnaces. Barrow prospered and formed the Staveley Coal & Iron Company in December 1863, which became the biggest iron, coal and chemical firm in Europe. Charles Markham, who was originally the Chief Designer/Engineer for the Midland Railway Company, became the managing director of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company and, together with the Barrow brothers, was the brains behind Warsop Vale.

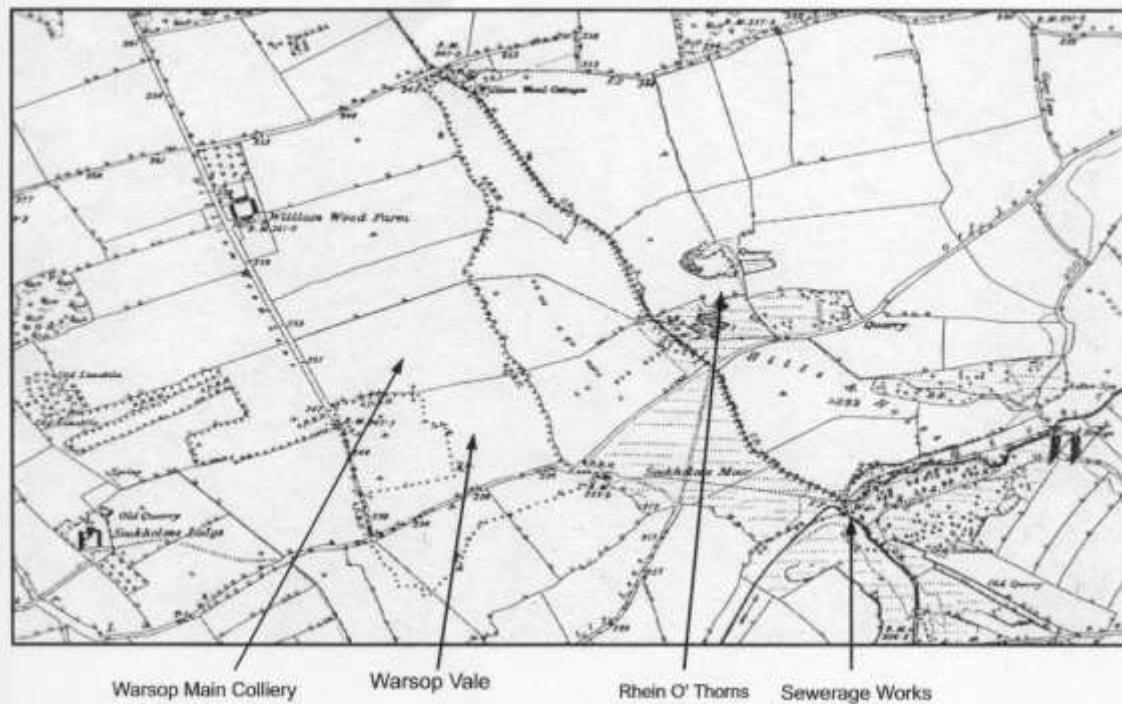


Ordnance Survey Map of the Warsop area in 1890

Above: showing where the colliery and village were later built.

Below: Showing where the developments took place

(Nottinghamshire County Council : Leisure Services : Nottingham Library)



Warsop Main Colliery

Warsop Vale

Rhein O' Thoms

Sewerage Works

Warsop Main Colliery – the Early Days

The Sinking of the Pit

The Staveley Coal & Iron Company leased land from Sir William FitzHerbert in 1890 and serious thoughts of deep mining in the Warsop Vale areas were born, encouraged by good results at the nearby Langwith Colliery.

Prior to the sinking of the colliery the Staveley Coal & Iron Company took off a layer of sandstone from the Warsop Main site and found the magnesium limestone from which the mechanics cottages, known as the Rhein O' Thorns, were built.

Mr. C.M. Humble, the local manager of the Company, laid down the plan of the works forming the Warsop Main Colliery in the early part of 1893. The plant laid down was of the most modern and improved type and the plan made rapid and continuous progress with electric light installed during 1893.

The last bricks to the tall chimney were laid on 27th October 1893. The Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser reported an interesting ceremony that involved a party of guests of the Rev. Sir Richard FitzHerbert being raised to the top of the 160 foot high chimney. They undertook the journey in a specially constructed chair by means of a steam winch and steel wire, and witnessed the outstanding views afforded by the clear day.

In the Warsop Almanack for 1894 Samuel F. Wilson wrote 'at the present time over 200 men find employment at the works, and a depth of upwards of over 300 yards has been attained in each of the shafts. A seam of coal three feet in thickness was passed through at a depth of 220 yards. The sinking operations have been rendered exceedingly arduous by the great influx of water, but these and other difficulties are being gradually surmounted, and the present year will almost certainly witness the full depth of upwards of 600 yards attained'.

By 1895 the two shafts, some 5.8 metres in diameter and 484 metres deep, reached the top hard seam and coal winding began. The success was of a great magnitude and two further mines were sunk the following year at Shirebrook and Markham. In the Almanack for 1895 it was reported that 'sinking was completed on November 6th 1893, and at a depth of 200 yards the first workable seam three feet in thickness was met with. In all, 240 changes of strata were encountered, and of these 34 were seams of coal of various thicknesses, the principal being the 'Clowne Coal', 3ft; an un-named seam of coal, 4ft 6in; 'Top Coal', 1ft 8in; 'Clod Coal', 1ft 7in; and the 'Top Hard' 7ft. which was struck on August 19th 1895. The whole operation of sinking has been carried out without the slightest accident to life and limb, and a dinner in the lodge room at the Hare and Hounds Inn fittingly celebrated the completion of the task, on September 28th. A pleasing feature of the occasion was the presentation by the workmen engaged at Warsop Main of a valuable testimonial to Mr. C. M. Humble, the local manager of the Company. Mr. E.E. Booker is the present manager'.



Early Workers at Warsop Main Colliery

Above: Blacksmiths; Below: Pick Sharpeners
(courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



Edwin Ellis Booker appears to have taken over as manager around 1898 and is said to have been an expert in setting new pits out for the Staveley Coal & Iron Company. This may explain several absences from Warsop Main over the next few years and the fact that he was missing from the register of electors from 1901 to 1903 and 1907 to 1908. In the 1901 Warsop Almanack it was reported that 'on 1st September 1901 Mr. Booker resumed the management at the Warsop Main Colliery'. A reference has been found to a Mr. J. Poxon being the manager of Warsop Main Colliery in 1900 and a John Poxon was registered as living in Booker's house on the 1902 electoral roll. On 7th April 1906 a Mr. Edward Brearly opened a workmen's institute in Warsop and was described as 'then manager of the Warsop Main Colliery'. Apart from these few short absences Booker held the position of manager at Warsop Main Colliery until his retirement in 1923.

Development of the Colliery

The first known strike by miners at Warsop Main dates back to 1897 when the men, mainly members of the Derbyshire Miners' Association, were out for five months. The dispute was over the price-list (pay). Warsop Main was actually just inside Nottinghamshire but most of the men who came to work there were from Derbyshire pits and therefore already members of the Derbyshire association. The men therefore decided to ask for the transfer of their branch back to the Derbyshire Miners' Association. J.G. Hancock, the Notts miners agent, told the men that the top hard collieries in Derbyshire paid an average of less than 2s 2d per ton so the transfer would not help them. The men voted for a strike and were out from the start of August until December. In June 1899 the Warsop branch of the Notts. Miners' Association was finally transferred to the Derbyshire Miners' Association.

By December 1901, 1,200 men and boys were employed at the pit and the output averaged 1,800 tons per day.

In 1902 Warsop Main was closed for alterations and repairs which left the men temporarily out of work. The Derbyshire Miners' Association recommended that the other pits in the county make collections on behalf of the Warsop men to supplement their out of work pay during the period of the enforced stoppage.

In June 1906, Mr. A. Davies, who had held the post of under-manager at Warsop Main for five years, left to take up a similar position at Crown Farm Colliery at Mansfield. In his leaving speech (at Warsop working men's club) Mr. Davis said that when he came to Warsop Main he thought it was the roughest place on earth, but things had now smoothed down. The workmen called a spade a spade, but their bark was worse than their bite. From being a rough place, Warsop Main pit was now a smooth one, from turning 1,000 tons per day to many thousands and out of adversity it had come into prosperity

We have often heard of collieries working to produce a million tons of coal a year and achieving record output of one million tons. We have to investigate these facts which were produced in fully mechanised mines and indeed mainly relate to the 1960s. Upon investigation we find that the records of Warsop Main show some outstanding figures

and in the early 1900s various records were achieved which put present day records to shame. By 1908 the colliery employed some 2,700 men. The Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser reported that 18,000 tons of coal had been raised in one week in 1907 and in January 1908 a massive 19,742 tons were raised in a single week. On the Friday of that week the amount of 3,912 tons was raised which constituted a world record for twelve hours turning. The aim to raise 20,000 tons in one week appeared to be well in view.

On Friday 9th July 1909, the Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser reported another strike at Warsop Main on the previous Friday when the boys refused to work owing to their being no 'snap' time under the eight hours' system. Consequently a large number of men were thrown idle. About 1,000 workmen employed at the colliery attended a meeting on the Saturday afternoon to consider the question of the snap-time allowance. Mr. D. Taylor presided and Mr. J. Spencer (checkweighman). Having made a statement on the matter, the meeting appointed a deputation to interview the manager of the colliery (Mr. E.E. Booker). They immediately left the meeting to do so, and on their return reported that Mr. Booker had agreed to allow 15 minutes snap time pending a settlement of the question for the whole of the collieries in the county. It was thereupon decided to resume work on the Monday morning under this condition.

Further evidence of the production figures is confirmed in the Warsop Almanack of 1912 which states 'at the present time 2,700 men and boys are employed, and the average output is about 21,000 tons per week. About 1,000,000 tons were turned during the year ending December 31st, 1911. The highest aggregate yet reached for one shift is 4,500 tons and for one week 23,000 tons. There are now about 19 miles of road, with 18 miles of rope, and a coalface of 3½ miles. About 3½ acres of seam are worked per week, and about 600 railway wagons are loaded per shift. The wages paid are approximately £250,000 per year and the men and boys are approximately distributed as follows: - Shirebrook 1,000; Mansfield, Mansfield Woodhouse, Sutton & Kirkby 700; Old Warsop 650; and Warsop Vale 250.'

The following year the Almanack reported that 'the rates were fully maintained during 1913 but the charges have increased due to the coming into force of the Mines Act and Insurance Act'. Three main factors were said to have contributed to the achievements. These were electric voltages being changed from low to high tension, turbines actuated by exhaust steam and cooling towers erected by Bath & Co. Ltd. of London. As Warsop Main was by far the largest colliery owned by the Staveley Company, these more important enterprises were carried out there first. The winding engines built by Messrs. Markham and Co of Chesterfield were steam driven and capable of 60 windings an hour at No 1 and No 2. Shafts. No 1 held 8 tubs and No 2 held 4 tubs with simultaneous decking employed in both cases.

The Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser reported that on Tuesday 23rd September 1913 the Staveley Coal & Iron Co. Ltd. announced plans for further sinking at the Warsop Main and Markham Collieries. The announcement was made at the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Staveley Coal & Iron Co. Ltd., which marked the jubilee of the company. In addition, under the provisions of the new Mines Regulation



Early Workers at Warsop Main Colliery

Above: Boilermen (D. Clarke, J. Carr, Symonds, Hooley); **Below:** Group of Deputies and Overmen
(courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



Act, it was announced that further ventilation would be required at both pits in the immediate future.

However, the 1913 Almanack also reported a most serious hitch in the working and prospects of Warsop Main by the disappearance of the 'Top Hard' seam in the neighbourhood of 'The Carrs'. For a long time boring operations were carried on in both an upward and downward direction without success. Headings were being driven in all likely directions, and in the course of this work the 'High Hazel' seam of coal, about 2 feet in thickness, was struck and stripped for about a mile. The great fault, which occasioned the trouble, was known locally as the 'Park Hall Fault'. It was apparently a continuation of the one known to passthrough Eckington, Barlboro' and Chesterfield; and, locally, cut off what was known as the Ling and Glebe side of the parish. So complex were the conditions met with that it was not then known whether the fault was an upthrow or a downthrow one, or at what distance upwards or downwards the lost seam might be recovered.

The outbreak of World War I in 1914, became a dominating factor at Warsop Main Colliery and some 400 men left for the war reducing the output by 4,000 tons a week. A relief fund was established for the dependants of the workmen who had gone to war. The men contributed 2.5% of wages. Benefits given from the fund averaged £112 per week. The Staveley Coal & Iron Company allowed the dependants of serving workers to live rent-free and provided them with free coal at a cost of around £50 per week.

In 1917 the Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser reported that 'Owing to the extension of the workings at Warsop Main, which means a great distance for the men to walk to their work underground, the Staveley Company, at considerable expense, have widened the main Windmill travelling road to enable the men to be conveyed in small cars, by means of a system of haulage by electric motor power. The cars will accommodate 12 men, and 10 cars constitute a train. The distance at present covered is about 1,000 yards. This will be extended as soon as possible. The agent, accompanied by the manager (Mr. E.E. Booker), Mr. B.J. Marson, and other officials, also Mr. John Spencer (checkweighman), and several of the men's representatives, made the trial trip on Saturday last'.

Several strikes by the Warsop Main men managed to hit the headlines. One two-day strike in 1919 by forty enginemen and firemen was due to the deployment of a wrong man in a position in the haulage engine house. It appears that a relief man named Trueman was sent into the engine house from the fitters' shop. A permanent vacancy, subsequently created by the death of a member of the Enginemen and Firemens Union, was given to the relief man, who was a member of the Derbyshire Miners Association. Alleging that the duty was exclusive to their association, the firemen's union declared a strike to enforce that view. Their contention was that he had not climbed the grade ladder, but had merely been engaged owing to the shortage of men. The matter was discussed at a conference and the men agreed that the relief man should retain the position, seeing he had been doing the work, but in future preference should be given to a fireman to act as relief.

The 1920s at Warsop Main

From 1918 to 1922 a chap named James Edward Lliffe, of 2 Warsop Vale, held the joint posts of lodge secretary and checkweighman. In that time he was responsible for several lightning strikes which were in opposition to the advice of the miners' leaders. He was described as a trouble-causer of unruly tongue and inflammatory mind. In May 1922 the Staveley Coal & Iron Company presented an application to the Mansfield Petty Sessions to have Lliffe removed as checkweighman under section 13 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act 1887 on the grounds that he had interfered with or impeded the running of the Warsop Main Colliery. After a nine hour hearing the bench granted the order.

In February 1923 the mine manager, Edwin Ellis Booker, retired. At the age of ten Booker had started his career as a pit lad. He is remembered locally as a great fellow who always wore a red handkerchief with black spots. He was known as 'Neddy' and was very popular. He was for many years a member of Warsop Urban District Council and he and his wife played a great part in village life on various committees and as school managers. They originally lived in the first of the mechanics cottages until Rock House was built. Booker kept a houseboat on the nearby ponds which came to be known as 'Booker's ponds'. Booker's departure was honoured by handsome presentations and compliments were showered upon him. Those present described him as a bluff, outspoken man, with a kindly heart, and one who has always been anxious for a square deal as between masters and men. He long enjoyed the full confidence and esteem of the Staveley Company, and the employees regarded him as an official whom they could trust.

Booker was succeeded by Mr. Rex Ringham who was a very keen cricketer and captained the colliery team. He, like Booker, was elected onto Warsop Urban District Council and was the chairman of the school managers. He also chaired the miners' welfare committee that provided the sports ground in 1925, miners' welfare club in 1928 and the pit head baths in 1934. He also found time to be a Superintendent in the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade. Ringham eventually became General Manger of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company.

During the great strike of 1926, the Derbyshire Times reported that the pit deputies of the Staveley collieries plied the men with drink in public houses in an attempt to get them to return to work. Since the Company was not providing free coal during the strike, the striking miners used to collect lumps coal, which were not big enough for sale, from the pit tip which was then situated near the railway sidings towards the Rhein O' Thorns. They used this for their fires and ranges and relied upon the soup kitchen set up by the local Co-Operative society for food. Locals remember there being an influx of workers from Lancashire during the strike. The miners' houses at Church Warsop were built at that time and became locally as 'scab alley' as strike-breakers were allocated houses there.

The Development of the Pit Village

Whilst the Ordnance Survey Map of 1890 shows no existence of Warsop Vale, the period from 1889 to 1989 shows a village born through a great deal of heart-ache from its initial inception to current times.

Plans for a Colliery Village

Three years after the turning of coal began the 1898 O.S. map shows a great deal of progress with the mine and its sidings. The Lancashire, Derbyshire & East Coast Railway had been built. The main road to the colliery was down William Wood Lane from Off Lane (now Carter Lane). However men still had to travel from the villages of Warsop, Langwith, Shirebrook, Mansfield Woodhouse and the surrounding areas since even as late as 1900 very little progress is shown on the building of houses near the pit.

Describing Sookholme in the 1894 Warsop Almanack, Samuel F. Wilson wrote 'A turning point in Sookholme's history seems now at hand, and the next year or two will probably see built within the parish the main block of houses in connection with the new Warsop Main'. However, only a year later the same publication reported 'The houses erected, and in process of erection, in connection with the new colliery, amount to the enormous total of three-quarters of a dozen, and the floating projects of blocks of houses have vanished like the baseless fabric of a dream'. (The housing referred to would have been the six mechanics cottages, the parsonage and the two railway cottages). In 1896 it was reported that 'Unfortunately the quality of coal at Warsop Main has not turned out so good as expected, and the workmen's cottages have been built at Shirebrook'.

Finally in 1900 the Warsop Almanack reported 'At length the long talked of New Village for the accommodation of the employees at Warsop Main Colliery is being built. The scheme on the part of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company includes the building of 250 houses, a hotel, stores, schools, &c., with a proper water supply and sanitary arrangements'. The 1901 Almanack said 'Warsop Vale, as the new village near Warsop Main Colliery is called, is now taking shape. Already 160 houses are built and occupied, and it is understood that this number will be considerably increased during the spring of 1902. It is intended that, ultimately, the number of houses shall reach 500'.

Railway Cottages and The Parsonage

Mrs. Arkwright, of Sutton Scarsdale, cut the first sod for the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast railway, on June 7th 1892. The line was opened for good traffic on November 16th 1896, and for passenger traffic on March 8th 1897. The railway ran from south-east to north-west and intersected with the mineral railway that served Warsop Main Colliery at Warsop Junction. Two semi-detached cottages built of red brick and slate, situated at Shirebrook side of the William Wood Bridge were built around the same time. The cottages housed the rail inspector and signal box inspector. On the 1925 electoral roll George Green and George Townroe occupied these. In 1936 Joseph Allsop and Sydney Cason lived there. By 1946 Rex Hall and William Hooley were resident. Locals can also

remember the names of Priestley and Henshaw. The railway had become the 'Chesterfield & Lincoln' by 1918 and after Nationalisation in the 1940s became part of the London & North Eastern (LNER).

Some time between the publication of the 1890 and 1898 OS maps, the large detached house, which lies between Railway Cottages and Sookholme Lodge Farm on the Shirebrook Road, was built by the Staveley Coal & Iron Company. It was originally intended that this be the mine manager's house. However the manager refused to live in it since he could not see the pit wheels turning from the upstairs windows. The house ended up as home to the Warsop Vale Curates and became known as 'The Parsonage'. The house has now been divided into two residences.

The Mechanics' Cottages

Around the same time as a leasing of land took place for the colliery, two architects who had been apprentices with the Staveley Coal & Iron Company since the mid 1880s, R. Unwin and B. Parker, designed and supervised the building of a terrace of six stone cottages, built of the local magnesium limestone. The cottages were intended for the use of senior colliery officials. These were built on the eastern fringe of the village adjacent to the limestone quarries and the colliery sidings. The cottages are well set back from the Warsop Road in an elevated position overlooking the colliery site. One fact to come out of our investigations (courtesy of Mr. Jeff Noble who lives in one of these houses) was that this area of land was originally known as Rhein O' Thorns. It was mainly rough scrub and was shown maps dating as far back as 1629 as 'Rennah Thorns' and 'Reynolds Thorns', probably named after the local farmer of that date, Reynolds. The houses were first referred to as 'Warsop Main' on early electoral rolls then 'Rock Cottages' from 1903 and now the 'Rhein O' Thorns', a tribute to Mr. Noble's efforts.

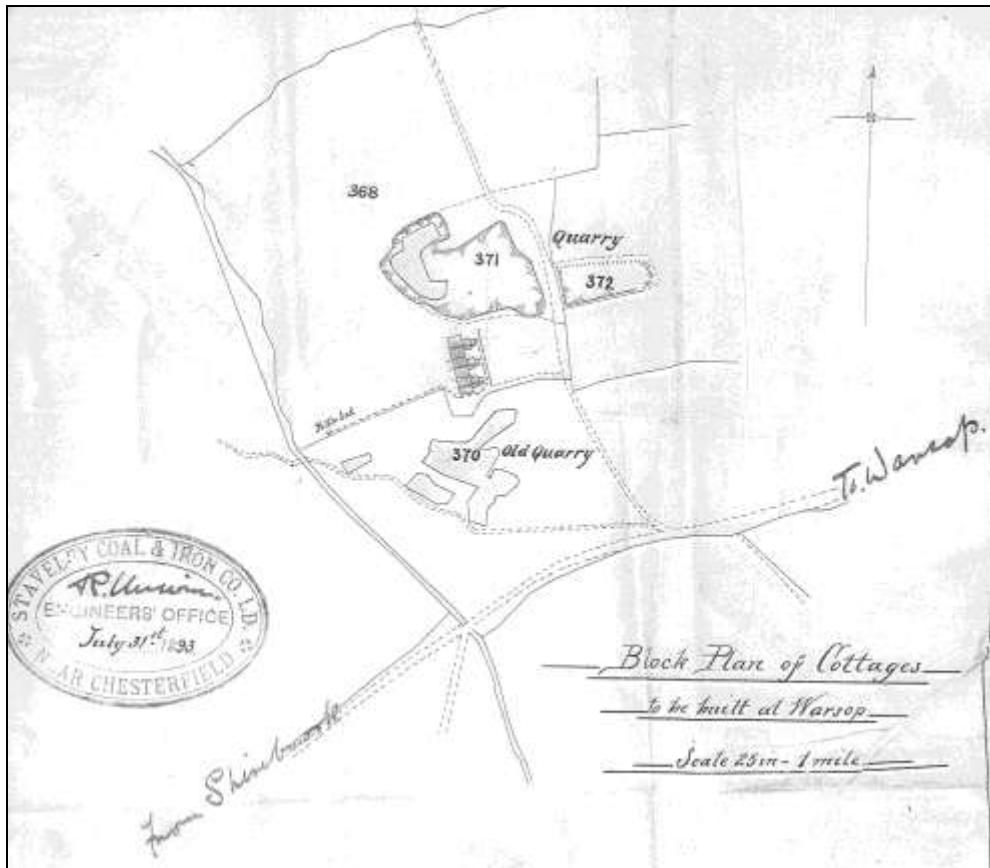
The blueprints for the mechanics cottages dated July 31st 1893 and signed by R. Unwin, show that these were extremely well designed and far more attractive than normally expected of miners' cottages. Each cottage was designed with a porch at the front, two large reception rooms downstairs; a larder with stone bench and shelving and a single storey outbuilding attached to the dwelling that housed the kitchen/scullery, coals and privvy. Upstairs were three well-proportioned rooms. The mechanics cottages at either end of the block were larger than the rest with extra reception rooms and first floor accommodation. With the original manager's house being unsuitable, the mine manager, Edwin Ellis Booker, went to live in the first of these cottages.

The two architects, Unwin & Parker, left the Staveley Coal & Iron Company in 1896 to go into private practice. They became well respected in their own rights and caught the eye of Joseph Rowntree who commissioned them to design a workers village near York. Following that, Ebenezer Howard asked them to supervise Letchworth, the worlds first Garden City and well as Hampstead Garden Suburb. Unwin also designed Crystal Palace.



Above: Rhein O' Thorns (Mechanics' Cottages) and Rock House (Manager's House)
(Taken from the headstocks by PC Cook in 1968)

Below: Block Plan of Proposed Mechanics' Cottages at Warsop Main, R. Unwin, 1893
(Courtesy of Nottinghamshire Archives, DC/WA/5/1/1/42)



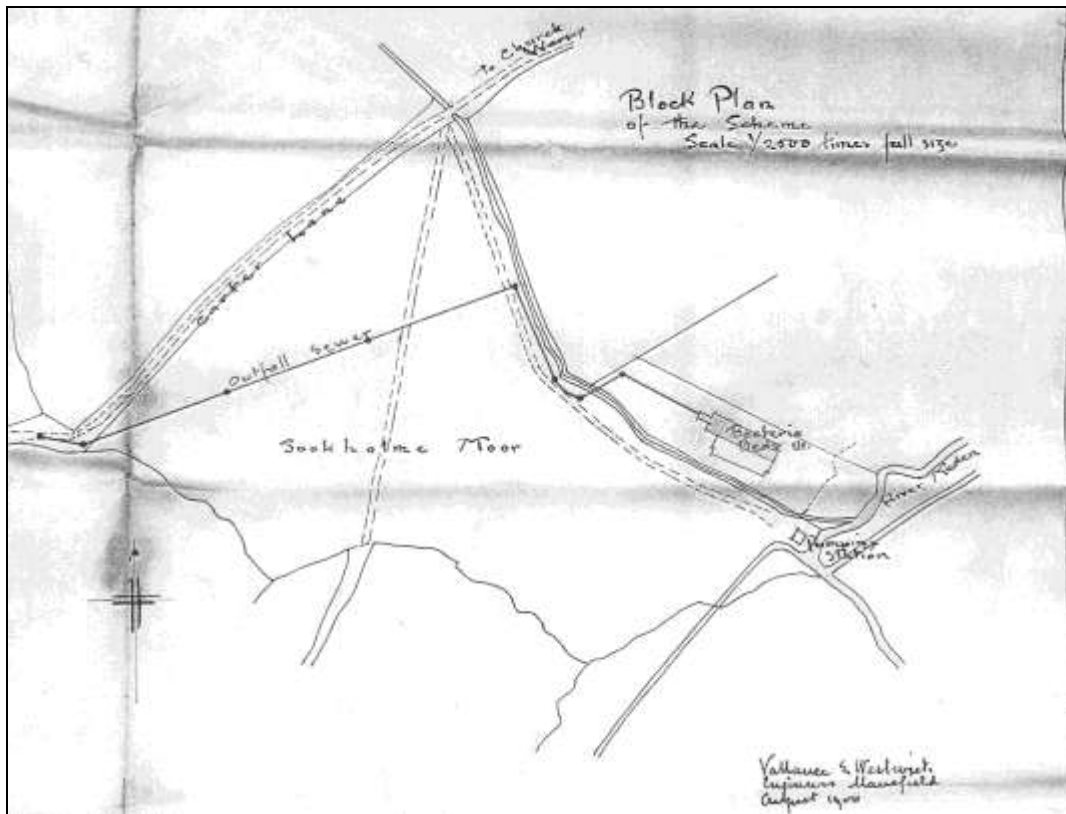
The earliest reference we could find to these cottages was on the 1895 electoral roll when a George Barks was said to be living at Warsop Main. Over the next few years the occupants changes regularly. In the early 1900s it was reported that Warsop Main was an extremely rough place and this could have caused some of the officials to move on quickly. Things had settled down by about 1910 and the occupants then listed remained living there for many years. These were Lloyd Langrick (1), Henry Atkins (2), William Henry Fry, the night manager (3), Samuel Taylor (4), John Henry Smith (5) and Charles Albert Redfern (6). From 1898 to 1909 Mr. Edwin Ellis Booker, the mine manager, lived in the first house. When Booker moved into a nearby purpose built detached residence (Rock House) in 1910, Lloyd Langrick moved from No. 3 Rock Cottages to No. 1. Similarly, it appears that William Henry Fry moved from No. 3 to No. 1 sometime between 1925 and 1936. In 1936 the occupants were William Henry Fry at No. 1, James Riley living at No. 2, Enoch Marsh, at No. 3, Samuel Taylor still at No. 4, Robert Arthur Renshaw, ropeman, living at No. 5, and George Cowlshaw at No. 6. In 1946 a Herbert Cusworth was living at 1, Rock Cottages, James Riley was still at No. 2, his neighbour was a John Noble, whose descendents still live at No. 3, Samuel Taylor had been living at No. 4 since 1909 and Robert Arthur Renshaw at No. 5 since around 1924. Edward Wood was living at No. 6.

The Mystery of the Fabled 'Roman Baths'

In August 1900, on behalf of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company Ltd., Vallance and Westwick drew up plans for proposed sewerage and sewage disposal works to be built on Sookholme Moor adjacent to the River Meden for the Warsop Main Colliery village. A pumping station was to be built where the stream from Sookholme joins the River Meden. Bacteria beds and septic tanks were to be built near the old quarry. An outfall sewer was to come from the across Sookholme Moor, known as the 'sewage field', to the bacteria beds.

Strangely, no one we spoke to could remember having heard of this plant ever being used. The explanation presented itself in the pages of Samuel F. Wilson's extremely useful Warsop Almanack.

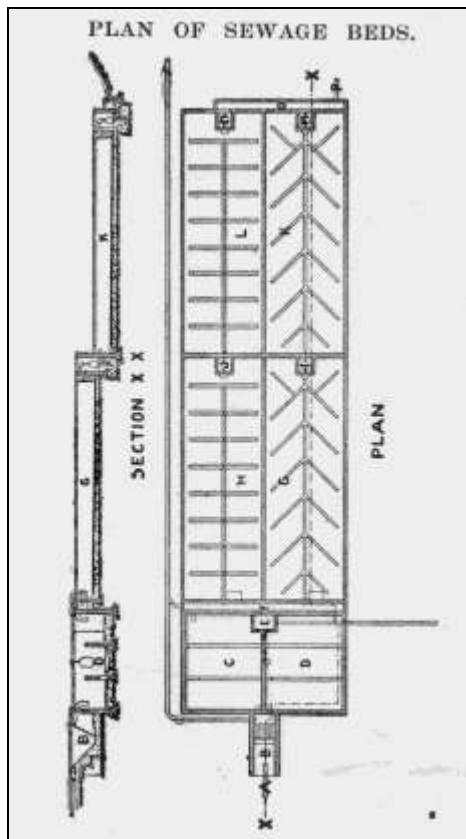
In the 1901 Warsop Almanack reference is made to the Staveley Coal & Iron Company's intention to incorporate a proper water supply and sanitary arrangements in to the Warsop Vale plans. The sanitary arrangements were already being constructed on the bacterial system of putrefication. The beds, three in number, were to be divided by a longitudinal partition which, in connection with the double system of automatically acting valves, would cause the two sides of the beds to act intermittently in periods of about eight hours each. The two beds nearest the outlet were to consist of granular material (cinders in this case) upon the surface of which, when the beds were matured a profuse growth of bacteria would take place, and whilst the sewage was passing slowly through the interstices the bacteria would break up the offensive matter of which ordinary sewage consists.



Proposed Sewerage Disposal Scheme for the Warsop Main Colliery Village

Above: Block Plan
 (Courtesy of Nottinghamshire Archives
 DC/WA/5/1/1/23)

Left: Plan of Sewage beds from 1901 Warsop Almanack
 (Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



- | | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| A | Inlet Sewer. |
| B | Screening Chamber. |
| C & D | Settling Tanks. |
| E | Valve Chamber. |
| F | Distributing Channel. |
| G & H | First Contact Beds. |
| I & J | Syphon Chambers. |
| K & L | Second Contact Beds. |
| M & N | Outlet Syphons. |
| O | Effluent Channel. |
| P | Effluent Outlet. |

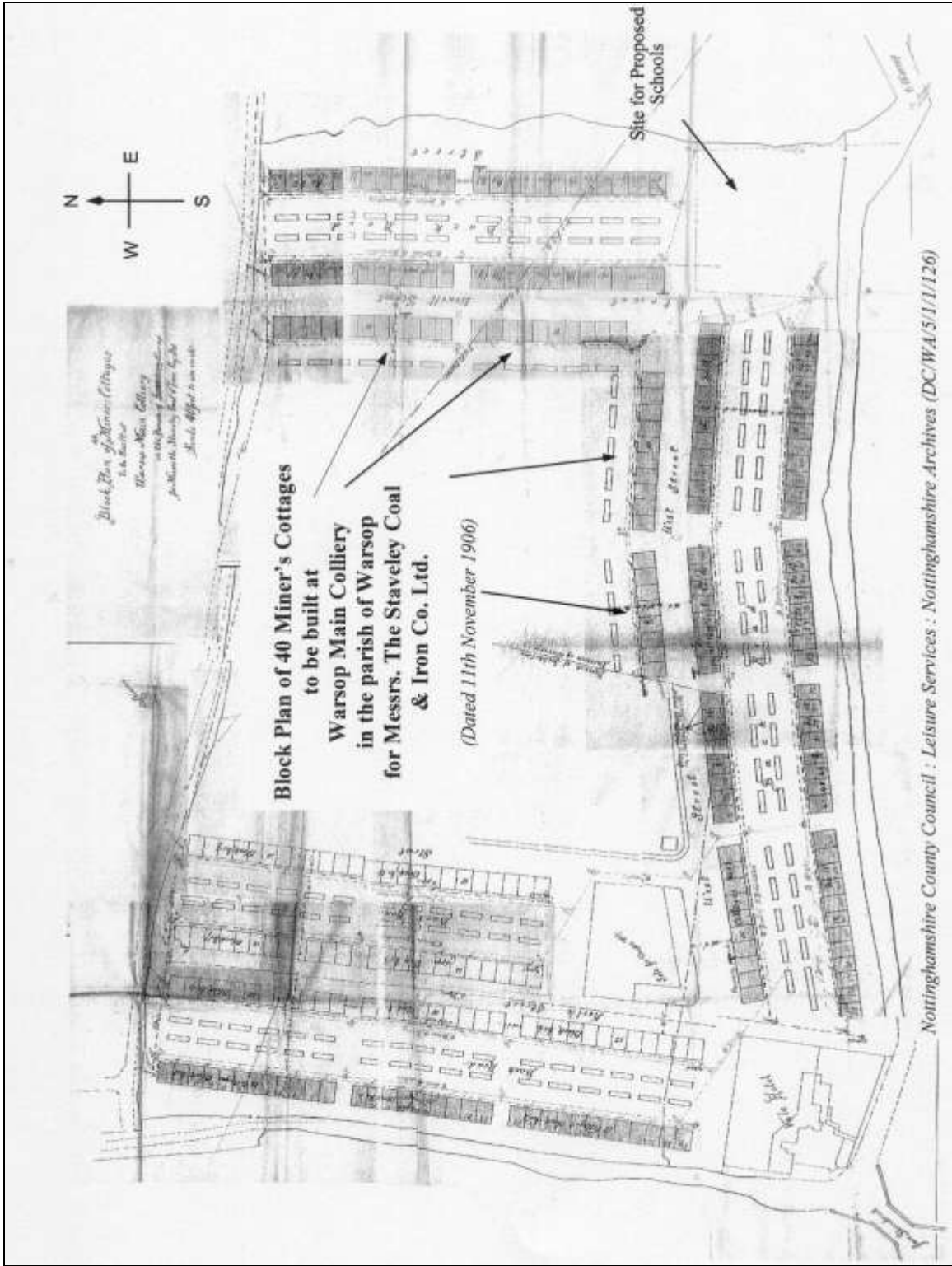
However, things do not seem to have gone to plan for in the Almanack of 1903 it was reported that 'In May last the Staveley Company gave notice to the Public Authorities in whose districts the Company had put down sewage drains and systems, that they were advised, that such drains and sewage works vested in the several authorities, and declined and further responsibility for maintenance and repairs. Unfortunately, the position at Warsop Vale was complicated by the fact that the tanks, erected on the bacterial system of putrefication, failed to act properly and all attempts to repair the defects had proved abortive. The strong probability that one of the causes of failure was a disturbance of the unconformable and distorted limestone strata, on which the foundation of the tanks rested, did not assist the District Council in taking them over. An application from the Council to the Company to put the tanks and drains in repair before considering the take-over was met with a distinct refusal, and an offer of £200 towards putting the tanks in repair was withdrawn. An outbreak of typhoid fever at the Vale, and the strictures passed upon the Council by some of the representatives of the Company and others, gave the question a more than local interest, and an appeal to the Local Government Board was made by some who condemned the action – or as it was considered, the inaction – of the Council. A joint meeting of the Council and the Skegby Rural District Council in which area some of the houses and drains are situate, was proposed at the November meeting, and the invitation has been accepted by the Skegby Authority'.

The sewerage works became known locally as the 'Roman Baths' due to the abundant pieces of blue patterned tile that were found in the area. Appropriately, the remains of the ill-fated sewage disposal works are now used for the storage of manure by the local farmer. The iron pipes that can be seen today coming up from the River Meden and disappearing underground in the middle of what was known as the 'sewage field' were actually used for pumping water for the colliery coal preparation plant and also to the pit tip to stop fires during the Second World War. Underground they pass in front of what was the Schoolmaster's orchard and cross Carter Lane where the Co-op villas are.

The Original Miners' Cottages

Warsop Vale village consists of five streets built at right angles to one another around a central field and a few odd houses on the outskirts. Unusually the houses in the village are numbered from 1 to 250 irrespective of which street they lie on. For example, numbers 1 to 34 are on North Street, numbers 35 to 74 on Carter Lane, numbers 75 to 106 are on King Street, and so on. Another fact which is unusual in this day and age is that very few of the houses have letterboxes in the front door. The postman always delivers to the back.

At Nottinghamshire Archives we found blueprints entitled 'Block plan of miners' cottages to be built at Warsop Main Colliery in the parishes of Sookholme and Warsop for Messrs. the Staveley Coal & Iron Co. Ltd.' dated November 1900. The plan was extremely interesting. It showed 242 miners' cottages to be built in a square. The colliery formed the northern boundary of the square and the cottages the other three.



boundaries. It was proposed that the houses would be built in blocks of 8, 10 or 12 and there would be 22 blocks in all.

To the west, near the railway line, there were to be four rows of cottages running north to south which became known as the 'top row'. This row consisted of blocks of 12, 10 and 12 cottages with the houses facing William Wood Lane (later named 'North Street'). William Wood Lane was the original entry road to the colliery and some of the officials chose to live here for that reason. These were to back onto a street that was again three blocks of 12, 10 and 12. The two rows were to be separated by a back road where the outbuildings would be. To the south of these rows, at the junction of William Wood Lane and Off Lane (later Carter Lane), was the site of the proposed hotel (the 'Swing'). Parallel to these two streets was to be another two rows of cottages each consisting of two blocks of 12 and butting on to the site of the proposed shops.

To the east, towards the Rhein O' Thorns, were to be two rows of cottages running south to north, each consisting of two blocks of twelve (now King Street and Hewitt Street). A back road separated the rows where the outbuildings were to be built.

To the south were to be two rows of houses, running west to east, each consisting of four blocks (now West Street and Carter Lane). The row facing Off Lane (later Carter Lane) had two more cottages than the one at the rear (later West Street). It consisted of one block of 12, two blocks of 8 and another block of 12. The rows to which it backed on were the same except for the first block, which consisted of only 10 cottages. At the western end of these blocks was the site marked out for the proposed Hotel and at the eastern end, butting on to Hewitt Street and King Street, was a site marked out for the proposed schools (now the Co-Op Villas).

Only 160 of these 242 proposed miners' cottages were ever built and the talked about 500 houses were never achieved. In the west only the very first row, now known as North Street, was actually built. Plans for the three other rows of cottages parallel to North Street and behind the Co-Op were abandoned. Apparently the Staveley Company realised the Williamwood Lane would not be wide enough to keep using as the main through road to the expanding pit so they had to make a road at the other side of the houses. This meant that if the other three proposed rows of houses were built access to the pit would be impeded. As a result, North Street now stands alone behind the 'Swing' (Vale Hotel) with its front doors facing the railway line and William Wood Lane, which has now fallen out of use. The inhabitants use the back door as the main entrance.

The miners' cottages were built by a company called Moore and became known as the 'Moore £40 houses'. They were built of red Staveley brick to a high standard with a damp course and air bricks. Each cottage had exactly the same layout with neighbouring cottages mirroring one another. The front door opened into a parlour with a pantry/larder, some 5 feet wide, to the side. The parlour was some 10' 7" by 11' 7" with a three-foot wide open fireplace and a built in cupboard. At the back was a kitchen, some 12' 6" by 13' 10" with stairs to the side. In the kitchen was a large fireplace, 3' 6" wide, housing the range with wash copper and sink in the corner. Upstairs were three rooms.

The master bedroom, to the rear of the cottage, was some 13' 10" by 9' 11". The smallest, above the pantry, was 7 feet wide by 10' 7" long. The two largest bedrooms had small fireplaces. There was no bathroom. Bathing took place in a tin baths in front of the kitchen range.

The Staveley Coal & Iron Company employed a plumber, joiner, and three bricklayers to maintain these properties, which were originally supplied with gas by Shirebrook Gas Company. Later all of the miners' cottages were wired and supplied free of charge with electricity from the pit by the Company.

The Warsop/Sookholme parish boundary cut through the village and several houses on North Street and West Street were under the control of Skegby Rural Council while the rest came under Warsop Urban District Council. Ray Maloney who lived at 33 North Street is supposed to have said that he slept in Skegby and breakfasted in Warsop.

Dr. Ingram's Surgery

Blueprints stamped: 'Staveley Coal & Iron Co. Ltd. near Chesterfield. Mining Engineers Office Sept 4th 1901' show a proposed surgery to be built at Warsop Vale for Dr. Ingram. This was a lean-to affair erected against the wall of No. 187 Hewitt Street. It consisted of two rooms both 13 feet by eleven and a half feet, one a waiting room and the other a surgery. Each room had a fireplace in the corner backing on to the existing house and there was a sink in the corner of the surgery. Each room had two large windows some 5'6" tall by 3'6" wide and the door from the street opened into the waiting room with an adjoining door to the surgery. It is said that before this building was erected Dr. Ingram used to hold his surgery in the front parlour of one of the houses. The building was later taken over and used as a shop by the Poultnes for many years and later became the village Post Office for a while. It now stands derelict.

A Further Forty Miners' Cottages

A blueprint dated November 1906 shows a block plan of 40 miner's cottages to be built at Warsop Main Colliery in the parish of Warsop for Messrs. the Staveley Coal & Iron Co. Ltd. This plan is extremely interesting as it is an annotation of the original 1900 plan and allows us to see what changes had taken place during those six years. The 'site for proposed hotel' had been changed to say 'Vale Hotel' and showed a block plan of the hotel buildings and boundary wall. The 'site for proposed schools' had been removed as the school had actually been built on the opposite side of Carter Lane. The numbers of the houses that had been built had been annotated on to the plan. The words 'North', 'West' and 'Hewitt' had been prefixed to the existing labels of 'Street'. King Street was not among these so presumably had not then been named. A road was shown from West Street running up the side of the proposed shops site and a square, presumably a building, at the other side of this road, opposite the second block of cottages in West Street. A dotted line running south-east to north-west bisecting the first blocks of Hewitt Street showed 'pipes from turbine'. The forty houses, which were being proposed, consisted of two rows. The first was a block of 12 and a block of 10 houses parallel to Hewitt Street

and facing the existing houses. The second was a block of 10 and a block of 8 parallel to the existing houses on West Street and joining Hewitt Street at right angles. The twenty outbuildings were to be built to the inside of the 'square'.

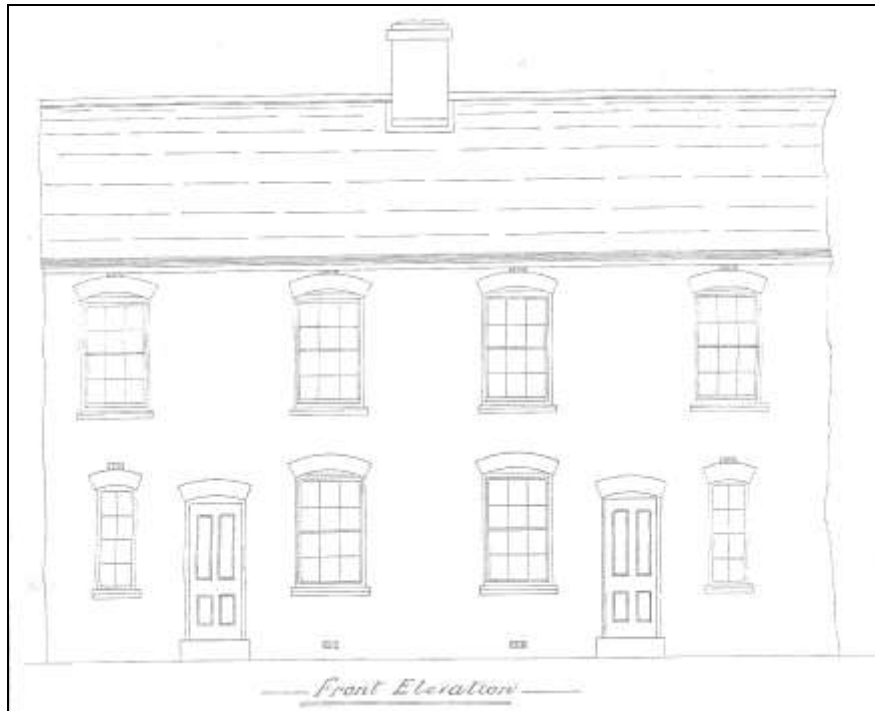
It took some time from drawing up the blueprints to getting the plans approved and building the houses. The 1908 Warsop & District Almanack reports that 'Plans for 40 additional houses were passed at the November meeting of the Council'. This referred to the 22 houses on Hewitt Street and 18 on West Street. Not all the forty houses were completed until at least 1909. This is backed up by the find of a 'Handicap Book' dated 1909 behind the skirting boards of No. 246 during recent alterations.

The houses are numbered from 1 to 250 but forty-four numbers don't actually exist. Numbers 1 to 34 form North Street. 35 to 74 form Carter Lane. Numbers 75 to 80 form the Co-Operative Villas at the end of King Street. Numbers 83 to 106 make up the remainder of King Street. West Street is numbered 141 to 178 starting near the Vale Hotel. Hewitt Street numbers 187 to 210 on the row built in 1902 and 221 to 232 on the row built around 1908. The two blocks to be built last on West Street number 233 to 250. Numbers 75 and 82 were to be for eight Co-Operative Villas but only six were actually built. The space for the remaining two can be seen today and is used as a road to cut through from King Street to Hewitt Street and West Street. Presumably numbers 107 to 140 and 179 to 186 were reserved for some of the planned houses behind the shops that were never built.

It is interesting to note that the 40 houses that were granted planning permission fell within the Warsop parish boundary whilst the 82 that were never built fell within the Sookholme parish boundary and under Skegby Rural Council. This may simply be coincidence however.

The miner's cottages were originally built with no outbuildings despite these being marked out on the 1900 blueprints. It was not until October 1907 that a blueprint was drawn up for these outbuildings. These were to be situated in the back roads between the rows of cottages. Each cottage was 25 feet from front to back. The yards were a further 26 feet and nine inches long. At the top of each yard was to be an outbuilding 6' 3" wide and shared with the next door cottage. Each cottage had a coal store and a privvy with a shared ash store in the centre. The privvies opened into the back yards and the ashes had a hatch facing both sides while the coal stores opened into the cart road. The cart roads, known as 'the backs' were sixteen feet wide and used for the delivery of coal and collection of ashes. Stories are told of the privvy door of one of the cottages nearest the pit, originally being used as a stretcher when there was an accident down the pit.

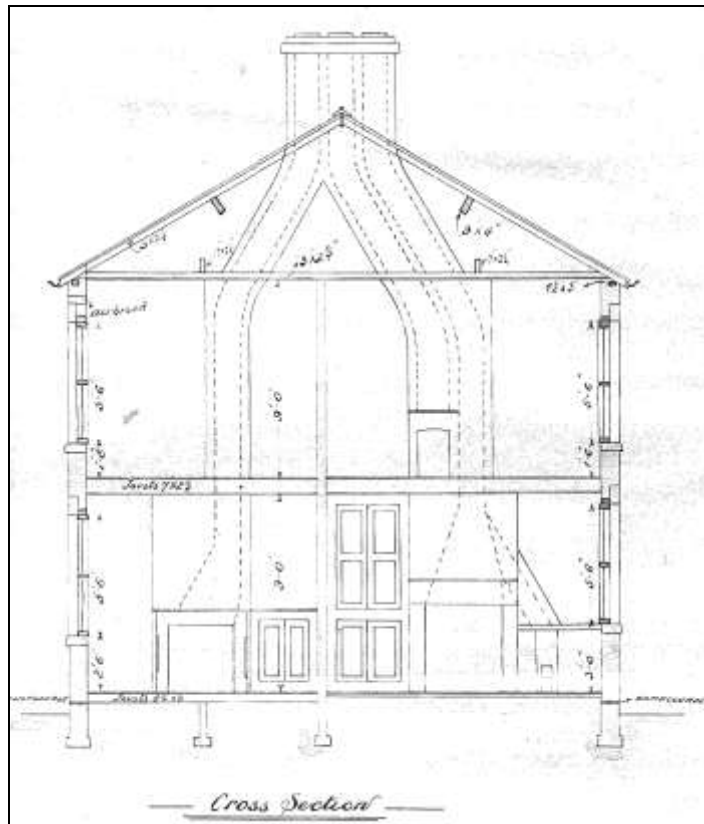
For details of the building of the Hotel, Schools, Church, Chapel and Co-Operative Society stores and houses refer to the appropriate sections of this book

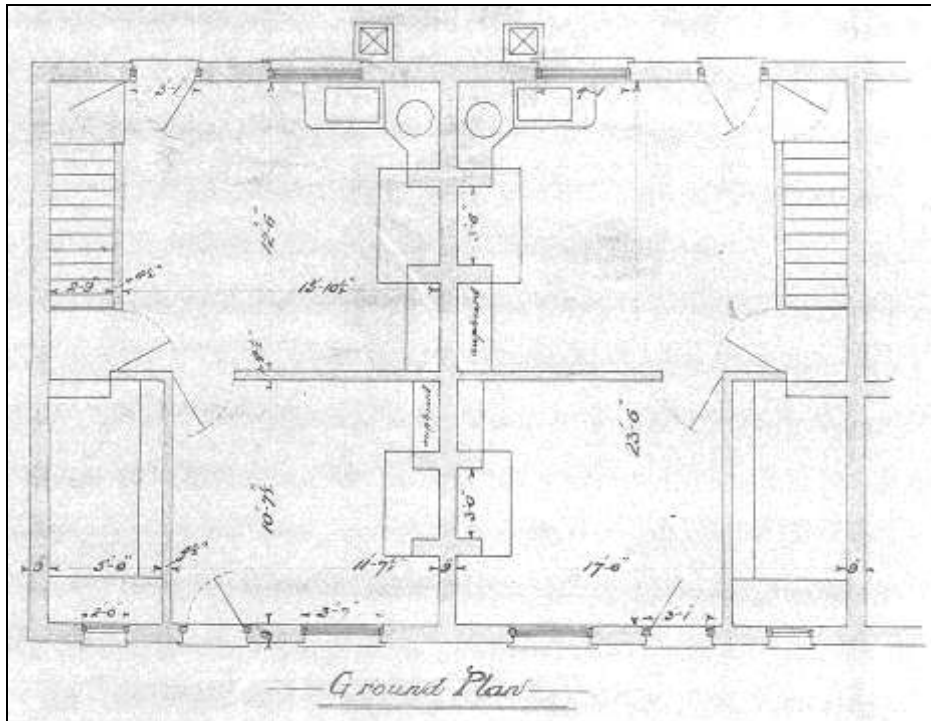


Front Elevation and Cross Section of Proposed Miners' Cottages at Warsop Vale

H. Cuthbertson, 23rd November 1900

(Courtesy of Nottinghamshire Archives DC/WA/5/1/1/)

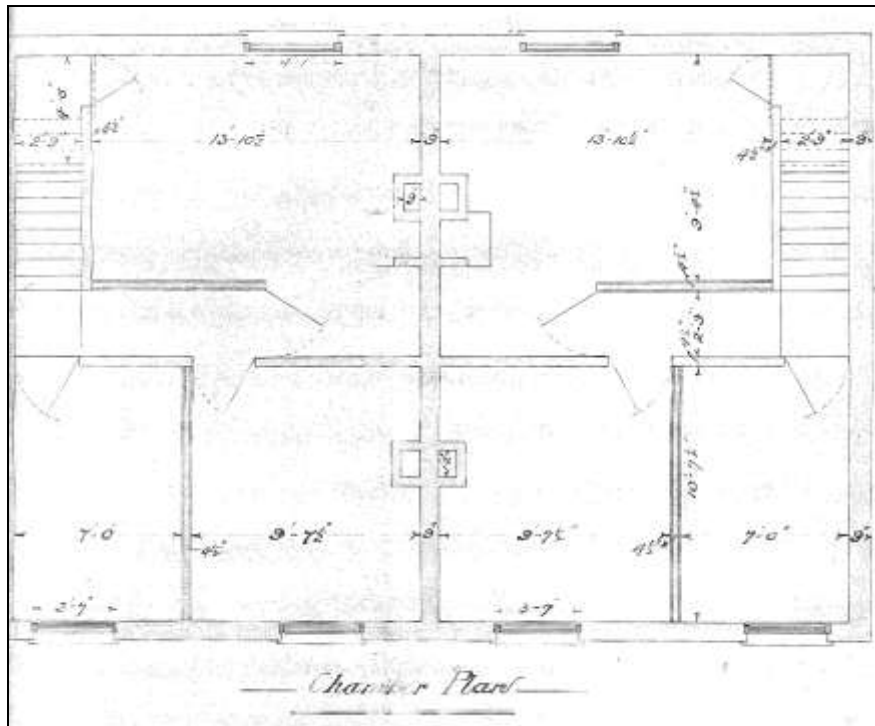




Ground and Chamber Plans of Proposed Miners' Cottages at Warsop Vale

H. Cuthbertson, 23rd November 1900

(Courtesy of Nottinghamshire Archives DC/WA/5/1/1/)



The Schoolmaster's House

On 27th June 1901 a 99 year lease starting from 1st November 1900 was drawn up between the Rev Sir Richard FitzHerbert and the Staveley Coal & Iron Company Ltd. for the 'school site'.

Although plans and blueprints had been drawn up for it in 1902, the Schoolmaster's House next door to the schools was not completed until 1905. Presumably it was thought more important to complete miners' cottages, the places of worship and the hotel. It was a large imposing building built of red 'Staveley' brick set to the rear of its irregular shaped half-acre plot with a yard and outbuildings at the back and an orchard to the side where some of the locals remember going 'scrumping' as boys. It was divided from the school by the five-foot boundary wall. Outside the house there is a triangular shaped grass verge some 5 yards in width at its maximum point. When the village was first laid out there was a bend in the road outside where the Old School House now stands. The plot was laid out around this bend and when Carter Lane was later straightened this left the large verge area, which the school used for many years as a garden.

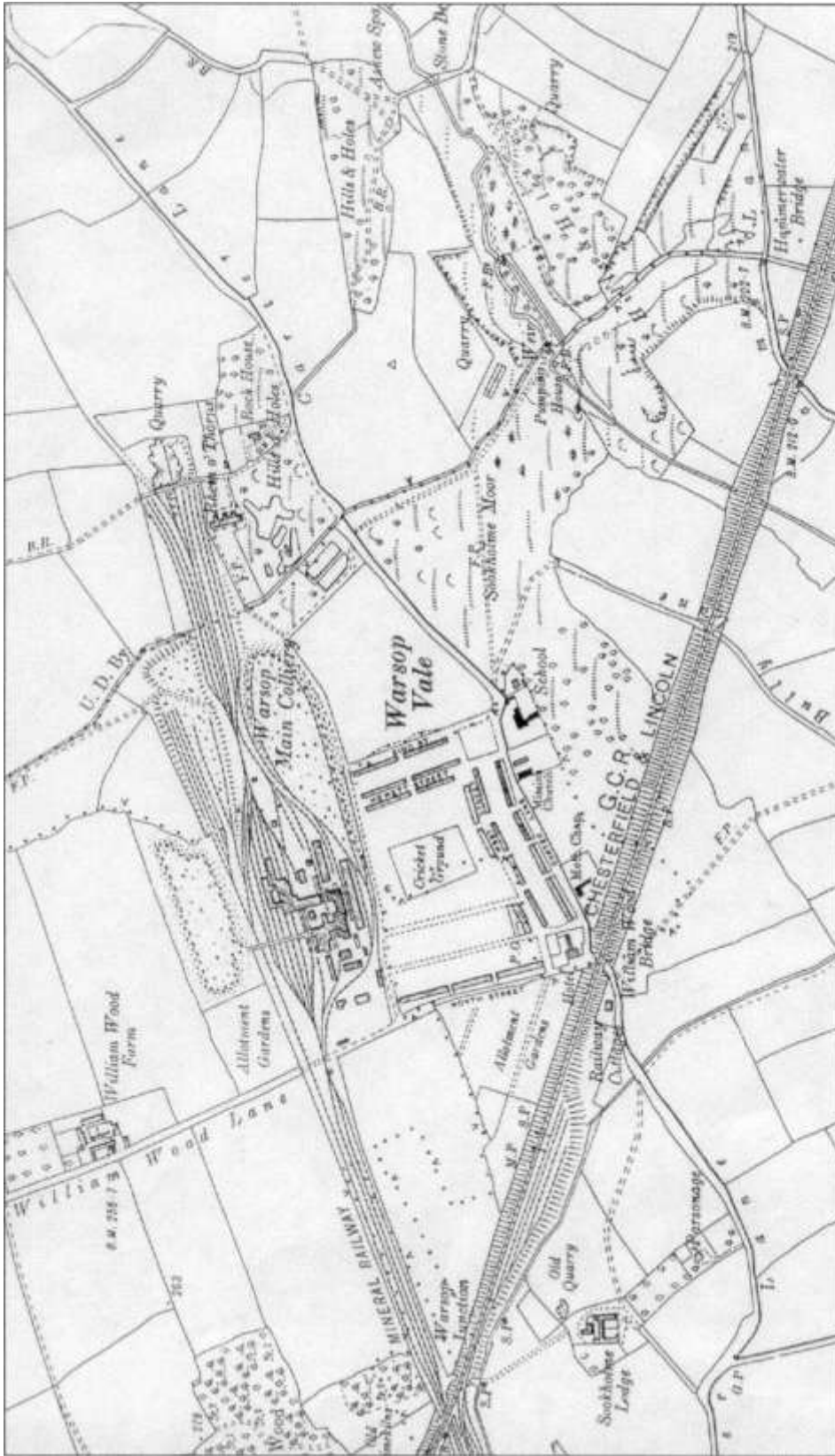
Unusually for 1905, the Schoolmaster's house was constructed with a cavity wall which goes to show that the Staveley Coal & Iron Company prided themselves in quality workmanship and use of the most up to date skills and techniques when building Warsop Vale.

In 1907 plans were drawn up for a large extension which would have added an extra reception room, scullery, fourth bedroom and enlarged the bathroom. These plans were never carried out and the house remains to its original specification. However, substantial renovation and modernisation work was carried out in 1938 when the house stood empty for some months following the murder (see Chapter on 'Crime in Warsop Vale').

The Schoolmaster's house was home to all the headmasters of the Warsop Vale schools until the late 1960s when it stood empty for a while before the deputy mine manager, Mr. Vardy, moved in. In 1974 Roy Brailsford, whose father Albert had been the village bookie, purchased the house and later the freehold, from British Coal. In 1980 he gave the land which originally formed the orchard to his daughter and a detached house known as 'Williamwood' was built on it.

The Mine Manager's House

Eventually the Staveley Coal & Iron Company decided that it was not fitting for a mine manager to live in a terrace of cottages. Blueprints, dated April 1908 have been found for the proposed manager's house at Warsop Main Colliery occupying an elevated position at the entrance to the lane leading up to the Rhein O' Thorns. B.J. Mason, who was the Staveley Company's architect at that time and designed many of the properties and alterations thereof in Warsop Vale, signed these. On the ground floor was a large hall with parlour, dining room, office, kitchen and pantry. To the rear was a scullery, w.c.



Ordnance Survey Map of Warsop Vale 1920

Shows the Parsonage, 200 miners cottages, allotments, Co-Op (P.O.), Wheatsheaf Terrace, Cricket Ground, Chapel, Church, School, Schoolmasters House & Rock House.

Doesn't show the Co-Op Villas which were already inhabited on the 1918 electoral roll.
(Nottinghamshire County Council : Leisure Services : Nottingham Library)

and sheds for coals and ashes. Upstairs were four bedrooms of substantial size and a bathroom some ten feet by nine. The outside appearance of the house is somewhat similar to that of the Parsonage, which was originally intended to be the manager's residence. In August 1908 further blueprints were drawn up for alterations to the scullery and outbuildings and in March 1909 blueprints were drawn up for the addition of a pig sty. The house was finally finished to Booker's satisfaction and he and his family moved in around 1910. The house became known as 'Rock House' and locals remember it being a big red house with a high garden wall which the children thought of as a bit remote and secret. It is interesting to note that the blueprints included the note 'Drains taken to cesspool until Council's main is laid when owners undertake to connect to new sewer'. This never happened and the Rhein O' Thorns is still served by the cesspool. Booker lived at Rock House until his retirement in 1923. Rock House continued to house the managers of Warsop Main Colliery. The next occupant was Reginald Ringham who was present on the 1925 electoral register. In 1936 Mr. Herbert Gent was in residence, and in 1946, Rex Ringham's brother Charles lived there.

Later Developments

The Co-Op Villas on King Street were built by the Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society during the First World War. Although these do not appear on early plans of the village, they must have been taken into account as house numbers had been reserved for them. Strangely the Villas were not shown on the 1918 and 1920 Ordnance Survey maps yet their inhabitants were recorded on the 1918 electoral roll. Locals remember that before the Villas were built the land used to be a wet field where the children used to play.

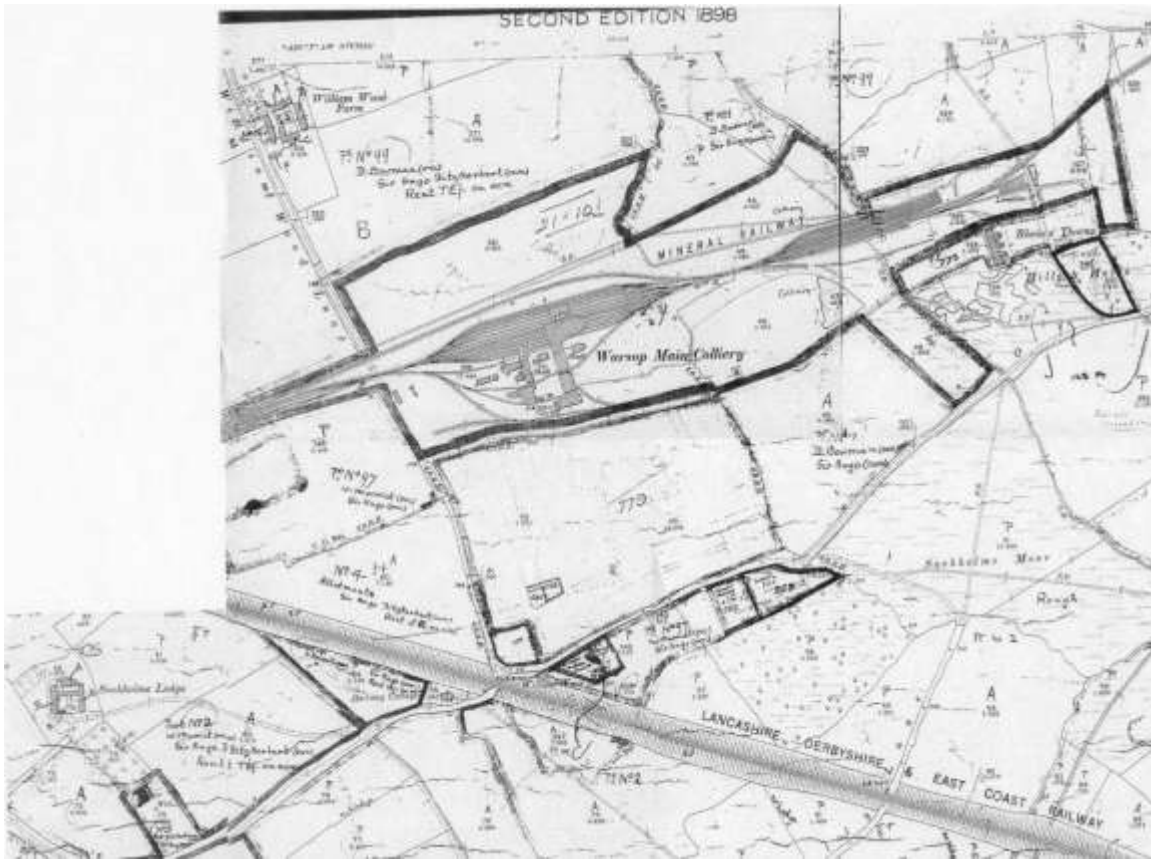
The great strike of 1926 saw the miner's houses at Church Warsop built. They housed many of the strikebreakers and became known locally as 'Scab Alley'.

In 1961 the outbuildings in the back roads were knocked down and ground floor extensions were built on to the back of all the houses for the coal shed and w.c. Most houses today have their bathrooms and kitchens in this extension. The demolition left the unadopted back roads in a mess and the local Community Association had to fight to get them properly surfaced. The Coal Board kept the houses in good repair. All the houses in a particular block were painted the same colour making the village look very smart.

It was almost fifty years before another property was built in the Vale. This was a detached police house next to the Schoolmaster's House. Later, a bungalow was built next to Railway Cottages and another was built opposite Rock House by the local farmer, Bowring. In 1980 a detached house was built in what used to be the Orchard of the Schoolmasters House. Since then the only building that has taken place was the erection of the community centre on the site of the old Church Institute and the erection of a building for Vale Caravans when the old Chapel blew down under the weight of heavy snow. The new building was designed by Terry White, now landlord of the Swing. This building was to see the unsavoury death of Bill Hinds of Vale Caravans by fire which could easily have resulted in a massive explosion had it not been for the efficiency of the fire service.

Owners and Occupiers of the Land

Some very interesting annotations appear on the 1898 Ordnance survey map of the area. Whilst the map shows only the colliery and no village someone has marked out and numbered all the land owned by Sir Hugo FitzHerbert together with the names of the owners and occupiers. Presumably the annotations were done sometime between 1906, when Sir Hugo inherited the land upon the death of his father The Rev. Sir Richard FitzHerbert, and 1918 when a later map was produced. Much of the farmland around William Wood farm is shown with Bowman the farmer as occupier. Other areas are shown with W. Marriot as the occupier, with land towards Sookholme occupied by W. Hook (now Scott). Various items of rent levies are visible i.e. TE/- an acre, TB/- an acre or U/- an acre. We are still waiting to discover what these mean.



1898 Ordnance Survey map with Surveyor's annotations

Courtesy of Nottingham Local Studies Library



Warsop Vale in 1968

(Taken from the headstocks by PC Cook)

Above: The Police House, School House, Schools and Miners' Welfare with the sports ground and railway line in the background. Pit chimney in foreground with King Street & Hewitt Street to the left and Carter Lane & West Street to the right. Co-Op Villas opposite the Schools. Shows 1961 extensions to properties.

Below: North Street with the Co-Operative Stores and Swing to the left. Williamwood Bridge, the railway line, allotment gardens and the road to Shirebrook in the background. In the foreground is the site intended for the 82 houses that were not built.



The 'Swing'

The Vale Hotel, known as 'The Swing', is the only public house in Warsop Vale situated in the south-western corner of the village adjacent to the railway bridge and opposite the site of the Methodist Chapel.

On the 1900 blueprints of Warsop Vale the site had been marked out for a public house. However it was not completed for another three years, the schools taking precedence. Leases were negotiated between the Rev. Richard FitzHerbert and the Staveley Coal & Iron Company on 27th June 1901 for the building of a public house in Warsop Vale and on 23rd June 1902 it was sub leased to the Staveley Public House Trust Ltd.

In the 1901 Warsop Almanack it was stated that 'The Hotel is not yet commenced, but it is expected that a Workmen's Club and Institute will shortly be erected.' In the 1903 Almanack it was reported that 'There has been no addition to the houses at Warsop Vale except that a new hotel, for which a full licence has been obtained, has been built by the Staveley & District Public-house Trust Company. The hotel, which was opened on November 6th 1903, is to be managed on the lines so long advocated by Earl Grey, the eminent public-house reformer. At the application for the licence it was stated that it was intended to apply a portion of the profits of the Vale Hotel to the planting of trees around, and the general improvement and maintenance of the Vale Recreation Ground'. There is no evidence to show whether this actually happened.

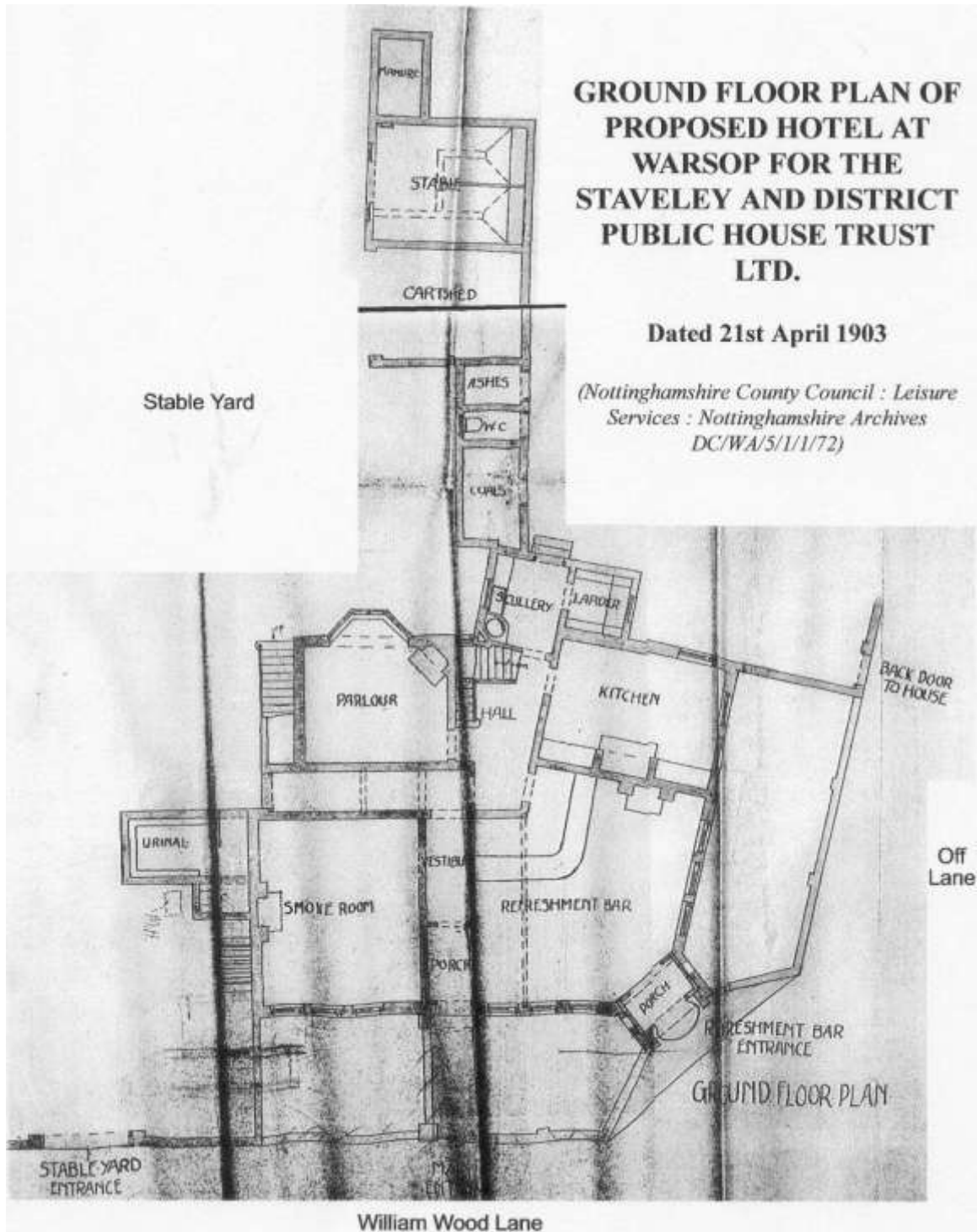
Blueprints dated April 1903 were drawn up for proposed new hotel at Warsop Vale for Staveley and District Public House Trust Ltd. The architects were Vallance & Westwick of Mansfield. The blueprints show the main entrance to be on William Wood Lane, alongside the railway line, the current entrance being shown only as a 'porch'. The 'house yard and garden' were situated to the front of the premises adjoining Carter Lane whilst the back was the 'stable yard'. The stable yard entrance was from William Wood Lane. In the yard were several outbuildings including a 'cartshed' 'stable' and 'manure'. In the basement was a beer cellar and upstairs were a large 'clubroom', four bedrooms, a bathroom and large loft. In 1904, Benjamin Mason drew up plans for a pigsty in the corner of the stable yard.

A licence was applied for on 16th January 1903 on behalf of the Staveley & District Public House Trust Ltd. 'In respect of a house and premises, about to be constructed at Warsop Main, for the purpose of being used for the sale of intoxicating liquors, situae at the junction of Off Lane (now Carter Lane) and William Wood Lane'. A provisional order was granted and on 30th October that year the bench granted the order for a building which had 'now been completed'. In December 1903 the licence was transferred to O.H. Brailsford. However, the register of electors of 1904 does not show an occupant.

**GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF
PROPOSED HOTEL AT
WARSOP FOR THE
STAVELEY AND DISTRICT
PUBLIC HOUSE TRUST
LTD.**

Dated 21st April 1903

*(Nottinghamshire County Council : Leisure
Services : Nottinghamshire Archives
DC/WA/5/1/1/72)*



The time gaps between the first licence and the completion of the building are interesting and give rise to speculation that a part of the premises may have been serving alcohol to the hard working miners much earlier than the full public house. Whether this was done legally is not known but references to Warsop Vale being 'a rough place' in the early 1900s seem to back this up.

The 'Swing' appears to have been used for many purposes as well as the sale and consumption of alcohol. On 20th October 1903 the Warsop Main cricket club committee proposed that the annual dinner be held at the Vale Hotel. By December 1903 the cricket club were holding their committee meetings at the Vale Hotel. On Saturday 15th October 1904 the first annual exhibition of the Warsop Vale Floral and Horticultural Society was held at the Vale Hotel. It is said that the large room on the first floor was used as a morgue when fatalities occurred at the pit. Indeed in 1905 Dr. Houseley, the district Coroner, held an inquest at the Vale Hotel into the death of John Meads at Warsop Main Colliery. Again in October of that year the Vale Hotel was the venue for the inquest into Fred Ibbottson's death.

Locals can remember the 'Swing' having two big wooden gates off North Street for the beer lorries and a boundary wall. Most of the wall had to be pulled down in the early 50s as it was considered unsafe.

The first landlord of the Vale Hotel was Oscar H. Brailsford from December 1903 to 1908. Mr. Brailsford was a committee member for the Warsop Main cricket club and in October 1904 he was tasked, along with the secretaries and Mr. Cooke, with drawing up the rules for the club. When the schoolmaster, Mr. Bell, left the village in November 1907 it was reported that 'Mr. and Mrs. Brailsford of the Vale Hotel provided an excellent dinner to which 43 sat down'. In 1909, the Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser reported that Mr. Brailsford and his wife had emigrated to New Zealand.

The Brailsfords were followed by a James Marson. A page of the Warsop Vale Industrial Co-Operative Society nomination book dated 24th October 1911 shows James Marson, Hotel Manager, residing at the Vale Hotel, Warsop Vale, nominating his wife Maria to inherit all his property in the Society upon his death. Marson died in 1917 and was succeeded by his son, also named James, and his wife Alice. Alice Marson's name appears on the licence in 1918 and the couple is shown on the electoral registers up to 1922. Kelly's directory of Nottinghamshire 1925 shows Thomas Harper at the Vale Hotel and the electoral register of that year shows Agnes Bertha Harper. Trades directories of 1928 and 1932 show the landlord as William Herbert (Bill) Morfey who locals remember as a grenadier guardsman and London copper who had a big alsation dog.



The Swing

Above: rear view in 1968 before the 1972 alterations, also shows rear of Co-Op to left
(taken from headstocks by PC Cook)

Below: Aerial view of front in 1996 *(courtesy of Mansfield Chad)*





Ladies Outing Outside the ‘Swing’ with landlady Mrs. Marson.
(courtesy of Old Warsop Society)

The Peace family of 28 Warsop Vale in the back Yard of the ‘Swing’, late 1930s
Nellie, Dollie, Franics, Ronald (Robin), Alice, Wilfred, George and George Jnr.
Shows Co-Operative Stores and end of West Street in background
(courtesy of Robin Peace)



In 1933 the Scarsdale Brewery Co. Ltd. took over from the Staveley & District Public House Trust. In 1936 the sixth landlord and landlady, Joseph and Minnie Matilda Yates were recorded on the electoral register. In 1946 the licencees were recorded as Alfred and Amy F. Holmes with Minnie Matilda Yates still resident at the premises. In 1956 Whitbread & Co took over followed by the Home Brewery in 1959. Jack Peters became the next landlord with wife Vi, in succession to a Mr. Holmes, up until 1967. The Peters' were followed by Harry (Bill) and Ella Brailsford who had the pub from 1967 to 1984. In 1970 the pub became the first in the district to be allowed to serve up to 11pm. In 1972 the 'Swing' underwent extensive re-organisation costing several thousand pounds and resulting in the current layout. Most of the outbuildings and the urinals at the rear were knocked down. The front was refurbished with black brick and white panels where the new toilets were installed. In 1984 Keith and Maureen (Mo) Toone took over as landlord and landlady. Trade suffered heavily when the pit closed in 1989 and in June 1996 the pub was taken over to be managed by the Pub Estate Company Ltd.

On December 23rd 1996 Terry and Christine White purchased the 'Swing' as a free house following seven months of negotiations with the Pub Estate Co. Ltd. The purchase enabled Terry to return to a property that had seen several of his relatives working there and had hosted his elder sister's wedding reception in the concert room (now the main first floor living room). The pub now carries on the tradition of being a friendly local public house.

No one really knows why the pub is known as the 'Swing' but it has been called that as far back as anyone can remember. Theories range from their being swingboats in the grounds, to the pub having swing doors and lorries delivering beer having to swing under the railway bridge. Perhaps it was known as the 'Swing' before it was officially named the Vale Hotel?

The Warsop Vale Schools

As long as there has been a village in Warsop Vale there has been a school, and up to five generations of one family may have been educated there. The schools were built specially to tutor the offspring of the miners and at Arkwright town near Chesterfield stood an exact replica where the Staveley Coal & Iron Company also established itself.

The Building of the Schools

On the blueprints for the layout of Warsop Vale dated 1901, a site had been marked out 'site for proposed schools' on the opposite side of Carter Lane to where they were actually built and where the Co-Op Villas now stand. We may never know precisely why the site was abandoned in favour of the one across the road. In the Warsop Almanack for 1901 it was reported that 'The new Schools to accommodate 400 children, built by Mr. Frederic Lee of Alferton for the Staveley Company, are expected to be finished by the end of March, and when completed will be carried on by the Company on the same lines as those in several other new villages recently founded by it'. A newspaper article in March 1902 refers to the building of the schools as 'approaching completion'. However, the plaque on the side of the building clearly shows 1901. Perhaps the building was completed in 1901 and it took several months to install all the necessary fixtures and fittings. Prior to the opening of the Schools the Vale children had to travel to Warsop.

On Friday 9th May 1902 the Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser reported on the opening of the new schools. 'The new schools, for which Mr. B.J. Marson of the Staveley Coal Co. was architect, were opened on Thursday last week, and the entire absence of ceremony did not diminish the importance of the event. The school building is of two stories, in plain brick and surmounted by a bell turret. The ground floor contains a large room for infants, two classrooms, additional rooms for babies and kindergarten work, and separate lavatories and cloakrooms for the use of boys and girls. The upper storey consists of a large room for the mixed senior scholars, two cloakrooms, separate rooms for head teachers' and assistant teachers' use. All the rooms are filled with the most modern desks and accessories, and the three spacious playgrounds (one is 1,500 sq. yards) are partially covered in. The interior of the schools has a very neat appearance. The walls are terracotta, dadoed, with brown-glassed tiles, which harmonise well with the fittings. The schools will be maintained by the Staveley Company, who are to be congratulated on having secured the services of Mr. Bell from the Endowed Schools, Whittington Moor, as headmaster. At the post he vacated, Mr. Bell has secured both in the elementary and continuation classes, one of the most striking educational successes of the county of Derby. Mr. S. Holland has taken the position of assistant master, and the girls department is under the care of Mrs. Bell, assisted by Miss Harris, Miss E. Harris and Miss Booker. There are 240 children to answer the first roll call, and the school is thus started under very favourable conditions.'



Warsop Vale Schools

Above: The Schools with School House to left (*courtesy of Brian Booth*)

Below: Infants Class of 1928 (*courtesy of Old Warsop Society*)



The 1903 Warsop Almanack reported that under the terms of the 1902 Education Act, the Staveley Coal & Iron Company, as the owners of the Warsop Vale Schools, appointed four foundation managers, Mr. & Mrs. E. Booker, Mr. H. Bunfield and Mr. A. Davies. The Urban District Council elected Mr. W. Lee and the County Committee elected the Rev. R.J. King.

The schools were opened while the rest of the village was still under construction with the roll increasing as more houses were completed and families moved in. In December 1902 the Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser reported that 'A letter had been received by the Roads and Sanitary Committee from the managers of the Warsop Vale schools stating that the boundary wall was now completed and asking the Council to put the road opposite the schools in proper repair'. Some three years later a Schoolmaster's house was built next door to the Schools and Mr. & Mrs. Bell, the Headmaster and Headmistress, took up residence.

The Early Days

At Nottinghamshire Archives we came across the logbooks for the infants and mixed schools from their inception in 1902 until 1937. These give a very interesting insight into school life during a thirty-five year period.

The first entry in the mixed school logbook is dated 1st May 1902 by headmaster Enoch Bell who stated 'The school opened today. 57 boys and 53 girls were admitted. Staff: Samuel Holland, Eleanor Stone and Sarah Dobinson'

The first entry in the infant school logbook, also on 1st May 1902, is by Mrs. Eliza Ann Bell, the infants' mistress. 'The school was opened today. 51 boys and 62 girls were admitted'. Mrs. Bell's staff was made up of Marie Louise Harris, Kate Ellis Booker (the mine manager's daughter) and Eugenie Eliza Harris.

Mrs. Bell's entries in the infant school logbook paint a picture of school and village life and health during the earliest years of Warsop Vale. On 18th July 1902, a miners' demonstration affected attendance and on the 29th of the same month the school was closed because of the village flower show. In September several children were absent 'on account of the pit being stopped'.

The health of the pupils was widely reported. In December 1902 the school was forced to close for a month due to a measles epidemic. The Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser reported that 'Dr. Ingram (Medical officer of Health) had personally reported an alarming prevalence of measles at Warsop Vale. Of the 256 children, 88 were affected, and he recommended that the school be closed forthwith for four weeks'. It was not until 23rd January that the same newspaper reported that the school had re-opened. Many references can be found in the logbooks to cases of measles, chicken pox, scarlet fever, typhoid, whooping cough and ophthalmia (bad eyes) among the children and often among staff as well. In April 1903 Miss Marie Harris was absent all week with the measles. In November 1903 Miss Eugenie Harris was reported to have typhoid fever.

The class of youngest children were referred to as the 'babies', one of which was reported to have died in November 1903 'through having being burnt at home'. In November 1904 a whooping cough epidemic caused a three-week closure of the school.

On 1st May 1903 the pupils were all given a days holiday to mark the anniversary of the school. On July 15th 1903 the school was closed for the afternoon for the Sunday school treat which became an annual event in the village. In September 1904 Mrs. Booker, the mine mangers wife, presented ten children with medals for perfect attendance. In 1904 the school began closing for a day every year to commemorate Guy Fawkes Day. On 24th May 1906 Mrs. Bell reported that 'the school was closed on Wednesday afternoon to commemorate Empire Day'. Not all school closures were due to commemorations or illness however. In 1906 the Easter vacation had to be extended because the schools were not cleaned within the time specified in the contract.

During Mrs. Bell's time there were several changes in teaching staff, some temporary and some permanent. Miss Booker left in May 1903. One of the Misses Harris became Mrs. Fielding and left in October 1903. In February 1904 a Miss Frances Christmas Hopkinson joined the staff as a supplementary teacher. In January 1905 Lois Eva Abbot commenced duties. Minnie Hopkinson left in 1906. In September 1907 a Miss Scott and a Miss Mabel Fry were appointed.

Subjects taught in the schools included arithmetic, English, writing and composition, shorthand, history, object lessons, mining, gardening, ambulance instruction (based on the St. John Ambulance lectures), domestic economy, home nursing, needlework, drawing, singing and physical education. Pupils attended examinations with Notts. County Council and Notts. Education Committee with many prizes being won.

The leaders of the community were very supportive of the schools. During the 1903 Christmas celebrations it was reported that 'the scholars, teachers and a few friends assembled to see a prettily illuminated and decorated Christmas tree. The tree and contents, which included a present for each scholar, were the gift of the managers of the schools. Amongst those present were Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Booker, Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Bunfield etc. Music and singing also contributed to a very pleasant evening'. It became traditional for the Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society to give an orange to each child at Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Bell took a great part in village life. In 1904 Mr. Bell was secretary of the committee formed to look into setting up a Co-Operative Society in Warsop Vale. He was also honorable secretary of the Warsop Main Colliery Cricket Club.

On 31st October 1907 the Bells left the Warsop Vale schools with parting entries in the respective logbooks. 'I, Enoch Bell cease my duties as headmaster' and 'I, Eliza Ann Bell, Head Mistress, left today after being presented with a stool elaborately designed in poker-work. The stool is a gift from the staff and scholars'.

PRESENTATION TO MR. E. BELL AT WARSOP VALE

(Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser Friday 22nd November 1907)

On Saturday a presentation was made to Mr. and Mrs. E. Bell who have recently left Warsop Vale to take up duties at Shirebrook, as head master and infants mistress of the new Council schools. Amongst those present were Mr. Booker (manager of Warsop Main Colliery), Mr. H.D. Blockley (under-manager), Mr. Bolton (Whittington Moor), Messrs. J. Spencer, H.S. Judd, J. Saunders, J. Wilson, A. Bettison (Shirebrook). Messrs. W. Lee, D. Holland, T. Broomhead, A.W. Cooke, PC Garwood, J. Marson, D. Jessop, J.G. Savage, S. Goddard and G. Bonser. An excellent dinner was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Brailsford of the Warsop Vale Hotel, to which 43 sat down. After the cloth was removed, Mr. Booker presided, and songs were given by Messrs. S.

Saunderson, D. Jessop, J. Marson, and J. Lowe.

Mr. Booker said that they were very sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Bell from Warsop. Both had done excellent work, not only in the school, though the children who had passed under their tuition would be a credit to any colliery village. Their loss would be Shirebrook's gain. Mr. Bell was worthy of a larger school and he would have a wider range at Shirebrook. He had great pleasure in presenting Mr. Bell with an illuminated address, as follows: - 'We, the undersigned, on behalf of the residents of Warsop Vale and friends, ask your acceptance of this address as a mark of our esteem and appreciation for services rendered. During the five years you have resided amongst us we have

always been able to rely on your valuable assistance for everything promoted for the benefit of the community. While regretting your removal from Warsop Vale, we wish you every success in your new sphere of work. - Signed on behalf of the committee: Edwin Ellis Booker (Chairman), N.D. Blockley, O.H. Brailsford, G. Bonser, W. Bailey, F. Blackhouse, E. Carline, G.W. Cooke, H. Everett, G. Godfrey, J. Johnson, D. Jessop, W.L. Munks, H. Pearson, T. Savage, S. Holland (secretary and treasurer).'

Mr. Bell was also presented with a gold scarfpin, and Mrs. Bell with a gold bracelet.

In responding, Mr. Bell said he thought Mr. Booker had been too indulgent in his speech, and he said it was very difficult for him to

speaking at all. He was deeply honoured by the presence of so many old friends, and was pleased to see Mr. Judd present. They had had many a fight in the football field, and he said it carried him back farther than he wanted to go in his history. Mr.

Bolton, another old friend from Newbold, had honoured him with his presence. He was glad that they had remembered his wife, for she had greatly assisted him in carrying out his work in Warsop Vale. Though he was going to the unknown

in a sense, he knew that he had their best wishes. His work in Warsop Vale schools had been delightful, for the parents had helped him and co-operated with him in his work.

Mr. Sleight

On 1st November 1907 Mr. John William Sleight from Blidworth took over as Headmaster and moved into the Schoolmaster's house. Miss Florence E. Herrod became the new Infants Mistress with a staff of Miss Scott, Miss Harris and Miss Fry. At the time the Warsop Almanack reported that 'The Vale school is still owned by the Staveley Company, but is, as all non-provided schools are, largely under the management of the County Educational Authority'.

Mr. Sleight's first entry in the mixed logbook described the accommodation and number of pupils on the roll. The main room was 54 feet wide by 113 feet long and accommodated 108 pupils. Classroom 1, occupied by 'Standard III' was twenty feet by seventeen for 34 children. Classroom 2 was home to 33 'Standard I' pupils and was eighteen and a half feet by eighteen. The 34 pupils in 'Standard IV' were housed downstairs in an eighteen by nineteen feet classroom. The Government allowance for the mixed school was 209.

On 21st February 1908, Mr. Sleight was delighted to report that a holiday had been granted as the school had averaged 95% attendance for three months. On the Friday evening medals were presented by Mrs. Booker to thirty-five children who had never been absent or late during the past year (ending 31st July 1907). Mr. Booker complimented the children especially Lily Harby (Std III) and W. Everett (Std VI) who had never been absent since the school opened and promised if either of these completed another year he would himself give a gold medal. Presumably the little girl lived up to this expectation as a year later on 16th March 1909 Mr. Sleight wrote 'Mrs. Booker presented Lilly Harby with a solid gold medal'.

Also in February 1908 Mr. Sleight reported that he had started a school library with 70 volumes and he had allowed Stds III and VII to become readers on payment of ½d per week. He said he had made a charge for the books 'to encourage the children to value their opportunities for what costs nothing is considered of little value here'. By 6th March that year the number of readers in the library amounted to 56.

A piano was received for use in the school in June 1908. £6 of the cost was paid for by the school managers out of the proceeds of the school concert on 21st February. The County Education Authority paid the remainder.

On 6th July 1908 Mr. Sleight reported 'the school is closed today as it is the church choir trip to Cleethorpes'.

On November 30th 1908, Mr. Sleight recorded that 'On Friday afternoon, immediately after school let out, the boy Herbert Sansom, was knocked down by the swingboats in the Vale and very seriously injured. He was removed to hospital where he still lies in a very precarious condition'.



J.W. Sleight (1907-1929)



H.H. Reid (1929-1933)



G.A. Meakin (1934-1937)



J. Penrose (1938-1963)



D. Charlton (1963-1968)



Warsop Vale School Staff c.1930

Back Row: unknown, Miss Storey, unknown, Hilda Langrick
Front Row: Miss Woodward, Jimmy Penrose, Mr Reid (headmaster), unknown
(Photograph courtesy of G. Farrow)



Warsop Vale School Staff c.1933-37

Back Row: -, Reggie Lucas, Jimmy Penrose, Arthur Stone; **Front Row:** Hilda Langrick, unknown, Mr Meakin (headmaster), Miss Woodward, Miss Storey
(Photograph courtesy of G. Farrow)



A. Carr (1968-1987)

**The Headmasters and Staff of
the Warsop Vale Schools
1902-1987**

Miss Herrod continued with the infants' logbook. October and November 1909 saw another measles epidemic close the school. Three years later an epidemic forced yet another closure. Other planned closures included Shrove Tuesday, Empire Day, the room being required for a concert, the coronation in June 1911 and 'the children to be taken to the sea-side for a special treat'. Some problems which we still see today also had to be faced such as 'the heating apparatus being out of repair' and in March 1912 it was recorded that 'the train service being disorganized, the head was unable to reach school until 11.00'.

The Warsop Almanacks showed the schools to have a healthy attendance and considerably higher expenditure per head than the county average was enjoyed:

Year	Average Attendance	Total Expenditure	Receipts	Total Cost per Head	County Average
1908	266	£673 6s 2d	£391 16s 11d	£2 10s 7d	£1 1s 2d
1909	250	£739 2s 4d	£443 19s 3d	£2 18s 4d	£1 9s 1d
1910	319	£764 18s 3d	£449 19s 3d	£2 7s 11d	
1911	302	£865 6s 1d	£443 15s 9d	£2 17s 4d	
1912	313	£882 6s 7d	£471 7s 8d	£2 16s 4d	
1913	326	£828 18s 11d	£487 6s 8d		
1914	296				

In 1910 Linney's Almanack and Diary reported Mr. Sleight to be on Warsop Urban District Council. He was elected to the council in the 1909 election when he enjoyed 203 votes. However, he was unsuccessful at the 1911 election polling only 157 votes.

In 1916 Linney's Almanack and Diary reported the teachers of the mixed school to be Miss Wilcox, Mr. S. Holland, Miss L. Abbott and Miss E. Abbott. The Headmistress of the infants' school was Miss F.E. Herrod with assistant teachers Misses Scott, Harris and Redfern. The school managers were Mr E.E. Booker (chairman), Mrs Booker, Mrs Hudson, Mr, L. Langrick, Mr. J. Clayton, the Rev. T .A. Hudson (correspondent) and Mr. F. Blackburn.

J.W. Sleight made a noteworthy contribution to the Great War. In 1914 he was a member of the Warsop Relief Sub-Committee which was set up early in the war for the prevention and relief of distress. He was also drill officer for the Warsop Volunteer Training Corps and able secretary of the Warsop Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. On 15th April 1915 Mr. Sleight went to join the Royal Army Medical Corps and left the school in the hands of Edward C. Peace and then John Charles Pickard until his war duties allowed him to return to Warsop Vale in May 1918.

In 1925, the entry under schools for Warsop Vale in Kelly's Directory of Nottinghamshire read 'Warsop Vale (mixed & infants), erected in 1901 by the Staveley

Coal & Iron Co. Ltd. For 209 mixed and 143 infants; John W. Sleight, master; Miss Florence E. Herrod, infants mistress'.



Warsop Vale School Football Team 1921-22

Back Row: Mr Sleight (Headmaster), J. Hanson, H. Shaw, Harold Booth, Mr. Sammy Holland (Schoolmaster)

Middle Row: H. Sansom, C. Storr, J. Marshall

Front Row: T. Thorpe, Joe Pearson, W. Millership, H. Poultney, C. Rushton. *(Courtesy of Brian Booth)*



Warsop Vale School Football Team 1930-31

Back Row: Jimmy Penrose, E. Wale, Jack Smith, Sid Weightman, E. Yates

Next to Back Row: Jack Smith Jnr., Tommy Murphy, Georgie Beswick

Next to Front Row: Tommy Bonsall, S. Parker, Stan Wale

Front Row: Joe Maloney, Yates Jnr., Clarence Storr, Arnold. Newton, Dennis Butler

(Courtesy of Bill Everett)

In February 1927 Mr. Sleight wrote in the mixed school logbook 'I have returned to school today having been away since 26th January suffering from a very severe heart attack. I am still far from strong but hope to be able to supervise and do some of the necessary clerical work for the end of the year'.

Mr. Sleight is remembered as 'a tubby little man with a moustache'. He took a leading role in the St. John's Ambulance and was very proud of his school's footballing achievements. He sat on the war memorial committee in 1925 and was also a member of the Warsop Vale Co-Operative society having nominated his shares to go to his wife Emma upon his death. In September 1929 Mr. Sleight's last logbook entry read 'After 22 years service as headmaster of this school, I leave today with the handsome presentation of an oak bureau and overmantel to match'. He eventually died from a heart attack whilst driving his car.

Mr. Sleight was succeeded by H. Hepburn Reid who took over on 1st October 1929. It is said that Mr. Reid was once mayor of Colchester. During his four and a half years as headmaster, Mr. Reid enjoyed a very happy relationship with his staff and introduced many innovations for the benefit of the schools. In 1933 he recorded in the logbook that 'the school is using the School House allotment as well as the school garden'. Mr. Reid left in December 1933 to take up a post in Rushden Northants. He was presented with a beaten pewter tea service, by Mr. H. Gent, on behalf of the school managers and staff. Mr. James Penrose, who was then head assistant master, took over the headmastership on a temporary basis until the new headmaster arrived on 1st February 1934.

Mr. Meakin

The new headmaster, Mr. George Arthur Meakin, was also the most notable. Meakin was a strict disciplinarian said to have a bad domestic life. He is rumoured to have socialised with the pit bosses. Local hearsay is that he used to drink heavily then return home and assault his wife and children.

Meakin's insistence on strict discipline was explicit in the entries he made in the logbook. Only six weeks after his appointment Meakin recorded 'A Church Warsop parent visited school today. She complained of Miss Woodward punishing a child with 3 strokes and me punishing the same child the same day with 3 strokes. The child was confronted by parent, teacher and head and flatly denied being punished – the parent listened to child gossip.' The following day Meakin wrote 'Mr. Johnson (father of Alf Johnson) complained of punishment to his son – he apparently takes more notice of child gossip than of me so I told him to leave the premises. At 3.20 notified all pupils assembled in central hall of correct procedure for parents to lodge complaints – will not have members of staff and myself taken from work for such unfounded trivialities'.

One parent was obviously dissatisfied with Meakin's attitude for in June 1934 Meakin logged 'The assault case against me at the Mansfield P.S. Court was dismissed'. Local

memory seems to think that this was a case of a boy named Allsop, who lived in one of the cottages at WilliamWood farm, having been severely punished by Meakin.



Warsop Vale Schools Football Club 1932-33

Back Row: Sid Weightman, J. Smith, E. Hickinbottom, T. Murphy, J. Penrose, C. Watson, C. Storr, E. Wale; **Middle Row:** J. Eaton, S. Parker, H. Yates, H. Preston, Harry Everett; **Front Row:** T. Warren, A. Sansom. *(Courtesy of Frank Ward)*



Warsop Vale Schools Football Club 1934

Back Row: Reg Lucas, E. Jackson, P. Booker, Mr. Meakin, H. Vann, E. Hickinbottom,

J. Johnson, Jimmy Penrose
Front Row: W. Poxon, J. Whatmore, E. Butler, Harold Everett, Harry Everett
(Courtesy of Frank Ward)

Ronald (Robin) Peace, who has lived in Warsop Vale all his life and was at school while Mr. Meakin was headmaster, remembers him as a particularly frightening man who made children who were late for school in winter put their hands in a bowl of freezing water. Meakin's log entry of 25th July 1935 states 'Father of Ronald Peace visited school at my request re: general insubordination of son. Made accusations against Mr. Lucas, form master, and self. Left with full knowledge that son must obey form master'.

On 8th October 1935 Meakin recorded 'Interviewed Miss Davies and Roland Everett re: letter of complaint sent by me to parent of Roland Everett. Parent did not acknowledge my letter but took child to correspondent. I stated to correspondent my views on this matter'.

Meakin appeared to fancy his hand at dentistry for the logbook entry of 3rd February 1936 states 'This afternoon I removed from the mouth of Jack Etches in Class II, a tooth that was growing outwards and had pierced the cheek. I pointed out the matter to an elder sister and told her to mention the same to her parents. The little chap was greatly relieved at the tooth's removal'. The electoral register for that year show two Etches families in the village.

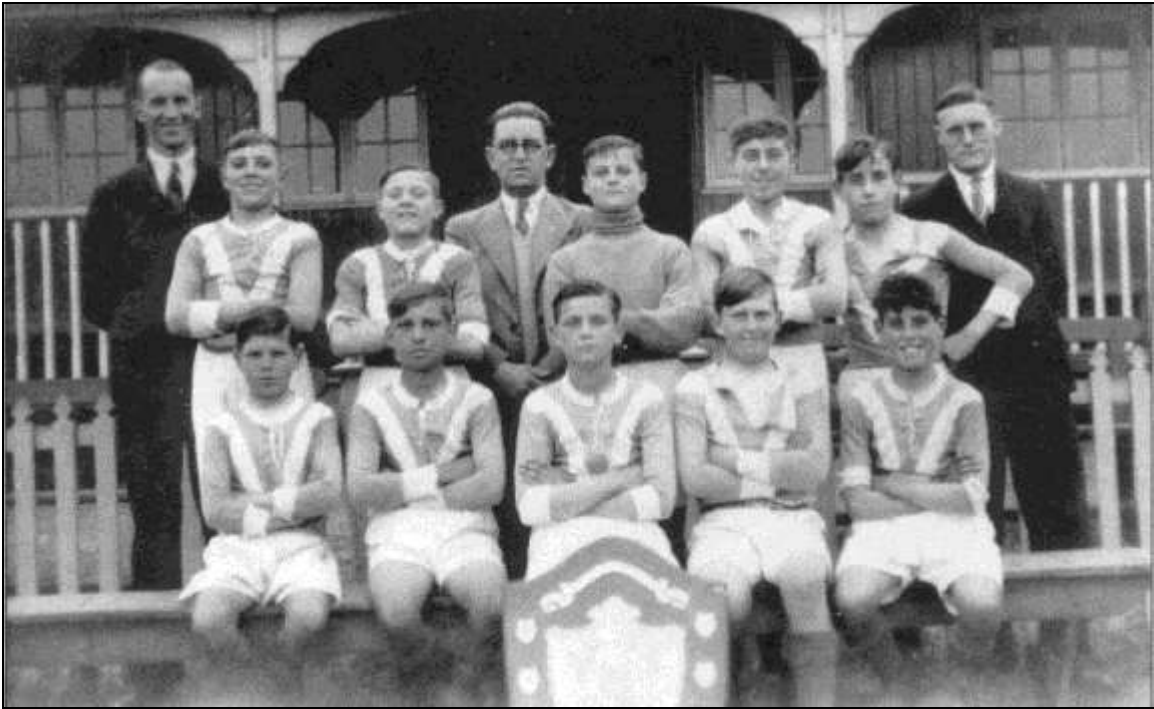
One cannot help but have some sympathies with Mr. Meakin when one reads of some of the things he had to put up with. On 24th September 1934 Meakin reported that 'Mr. J.P. Smalley arrived at 10.05 am today. He stated that he had slept the night on the road in consequence of a machine that he was riding with a friend hitting something on the road'. Some elderly residents who knew Meakin say they had a lot of respect for him as a head teacher. Indeed, when one girl who had been a prefect left school Meakin presented her with a beautiful book.

In April 1937 Mr. Penrose again had to take over as temporary headmaster for two months owing to Meakin having been injured in a car crash.

George Arthur Meakin remained as headmaster of the Warsop Vale schools until the occasion of his murder in 1937 (see chapter on crime in Warsop Vale).

Mr. Penrose

Meakin was succeeded by Mr. Penrose who has served as temporary headmaster on several occasions. Jimmy Penrose, known to his pupils as 'Mr. Chips' started and ended his teaching career at Warsop Vale. He joined the school staff straight from his training college, St. Mark's Chelsea, in 1922. He took over as headmaster from the late Mr. Meakin in January 1938 and remained in the post, living in the Schoolmaster's house, until his retirement in 1963. His headship came in 'gas mask year' when gas masks were the order of the day and he was prominent in the Air Raid Patrol movement. He married Lois Abbott, one of the teachers at the school. Mr. Penrose finished his career having taught grandchildren of his first pupils in the 1920s. In the year he retired the school football team had beaten every other team winning the league championship and being



Warsop Vale Schools Football Team c. 1933-37

Back Row: J. Penrose, P. Booker, G. Dickenson, Mr. Meakin, Hough, F. Taylor, Harry Everett, Reg Lucas

Front Row: B. Mellor, B. Brailsford, S. Unwin, H. Everett

(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



Warsop Vale School, Football Team 1951 with Mr. Penrose

(Courtesy of Frank Ward)

runners up in the Cup competition and five children had been awarded grammar school places.

Three teachers left during 1938. In May Arthur Stone, who used to cycle from Kiveton Park, left for a job in Bircotes and Reggie Lucas, a pupil teacher, left to go into college. Both men had taken a keen interest in the schools' sporting activities. In October of that year Muriel Farrow (nee Storey) resigned her post on the occasion of her marriage having taught there for eleven years. She was presented with a chiming clock.

During World War II the pupils attempted to brighten up the times by planting their own garden on the patch of land at the front of the school and school house.

Mr. Penrose was followed as headmaster by Donald (Dougie) Charlton who retained the post for approximately five years living with his family at the Schoolmaster's House and becoming a member of the Co-Operative society committee.

Also of note in the history of Warsop Vale Schools were the School Managers and correspondents. Two of first school managers were Mr. Edwin Ellis Booker, the mine manager, and his wife. They held the position from the schools' inception to October 1923 when they left Warsop Vale. Mr. Booker had occupied the position of chairman and treasurer during the period. Mr. Herbert Gent, who succeeded Booker as mine manager, also took over as one of the school managers with his wife until they too left Warsop Vale in 1940. Other school managers included Ben Chapman who died in 1939. Ernest Storey, father of Muriel Farrow, who took up the vacancy created by Chapman's death. In 1940 Councillor Fred Blackburn, who was also chief clerk in the Warsop Main Colliery offices and a keen cricketer, resigned as School Correspondent after 25 years service and was presented with a fountain pen by the managers.

Warsop Vale Schools Football Teams

The school in its time produced some excellent football teams including future league players. Many photographs of proud headmasters with their teams are available from all eras of the school's history. The earliest shows headmaster Sleight and teacher Sammy Holland pictured with their team in the schoolyard. Sports teachers at the school included Mr. Ken Brewin in the 1960s and Mrs. Fearn in the 1970s. Mrs. H. Noble was welfare assistant at the school until her retirement in 1962. She became well known for attending school football matches with a yachtsman's foghorn that she blew on instructions from the spectators.

The 1963-64 team completed the Dukeries league double winning the junior championship without losing a match and the Festival Cup by beating Bilsthorpe 2-0 in the final at Church Warsop Welfare Ground. In the latter match Trevor Kinch gave them an interval lead and made his total for the season 37. Afterwards they had to face a

strong wind but settled to play attractive football with inside-left Desmond Shaw scoring from right-winger Paul Fox's centre.



Warsop Vale School Football Teams

Above: 1964-65 team with Mrs. Fearn and Mr. Charlton; **Below:** 1970s team
(Courtesy of B. Fearn)



The Closure of the Vale Schools

In their heyday the Warsop Vale schools had around 300 pupils between the ages of 5 and 14 years. Prior to its closure the number had dwindled to some ninety pupils aged between 7 and 11 years. It was becoming common across the country for small village schools to be closed and pupils bussed to large schools in nearby towns.

The school finally closed in 1987, just two years before the pit, and the retiring headmaster was Mr. Arthur Carr of Nether Langwith who had held the position for nineteen years since 1968. Mr. Carr was the only headmaster not to live in the Schoolmaster's House. He described the schools as 'a real community school'. At his leaving speech he talked of the help and assistance he had continually received from many parents and made reference to the Christmas fairs in the school which were attended by virtually the whole village and took on the appearance of a crowded market.

The staff at the time of the school's closure were headmaster Mr. Carr, Mr. Roger Moore, Mrs. Marilyn Potts, Mrs. Linda Abson, Mrs. Kathleen Shipley, Mrs. Joy Woodward, Mrs. Ann Condon along with caretaker Mr. Jack Dennet and school secretary Mr. Dorothy Bowler.

The closure represented the loss of yet another cornerstone of village life. It had outlived the welfare club, Anglican Church, Methodist church, Co-Operative Society and the Bowling Green. Up to the very day it closed Warsop Vale School remained a community school with a happy atmosphere. The children of Warsop Vale now have to travel to the primary school at Church Warsop and senior school in Warsop to be educated.

Warsop Main Colliery – Later Developments

The Pit Head Baths

In 1920, when the Mining Industry Act came into force, 1d per ton was deducted from every ton of coal raised from all the pits in the country and placed in the Miners' Welfare Fund. Each village had its quota from the fund at the rate of £3 per miner to spend on welfare work. In 1925 the new sports ground, the first venture of the welfare committee, was opened at Warsop Vale. At the opening ceremony it was suggested that, since the Mining Industry Act would be carried on for a further five years, the Warsop Vale grant should be used for establishing pithead baths. At the time, the Welfare committee consisted of Messrs. R. Ringham (chairman), F. Blackburn (secretary), J. Wass, G. Cowlshaw, A.E. Causer, J. Richards, B. Chapman, A. Holmes and G. Robinson.

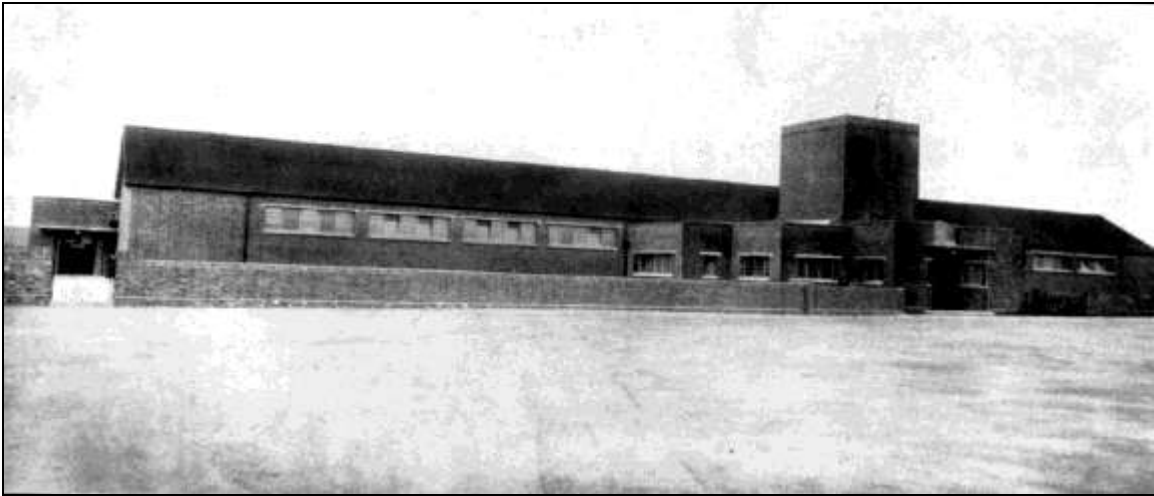
At first progress was rather slow since, when first the question of pithead baths came to the fore, there was prejudice against them both on the part of the men and the owners, particularly when bathrooms were being put into the cottages. Few thought they would actually be used. However, it was eventually realised that there were many advantages to pithead baths from the aspects of health, convenience and the saving of labour in the home. Statistics proved that at collieries where baths had been installed, the health of the men generally was much better than before they were put into use. It was a great advantage for the men to be able to go home dry and clean, instead of having to travel long distances in their dirty, and often damp, work clothes.

The architect, Mr. A. Saice designed the new baths, to cater for the needs of 2,576 men. All the newest ideas in design, and most up-to-date appliances were embodied in the scheme. A contractor named Mason was responsible for the building work. By this time, pithead baths were becoming spread all over the country, and those places that were getting them relatively late such as Warsop Main were benefiting from the experience gained from earlier schemes.

The baths were completed in 1934 at a cost of approximately £21,000. There had already been baths for the officials at Warsop Main for seven years. On the afternoon of Thursday 9th August 1934 the baths were open for the men to take their relatives to inspect them. They were put into use for the first time on the following Monday and a handbook describing how to use the facilities was issued to each miner.

On Wednesday 8th August 1934 an official opening ceremony was held at which Mr. D. N. Turner, managing director of the Staveley Coal and Iron Co., opened the new pit head baths. A great number of the general public were present to witness the brief outdoor proceedings. After inspecting the building, the company gathered in the colliery ambulance room for the speech making. The baths were to be controlled by a management committee composed of eight men, four appointed by the owners and four by the workmen. They were Messrs. John Hunter of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company,

Herbert Gent (mine manager), Albert Wilcox, Raymond Sellers, William Henry Fry, Fred Blackburn, Hugo Streets and Ebenezer Critchlow. The four first named sat as trustees.

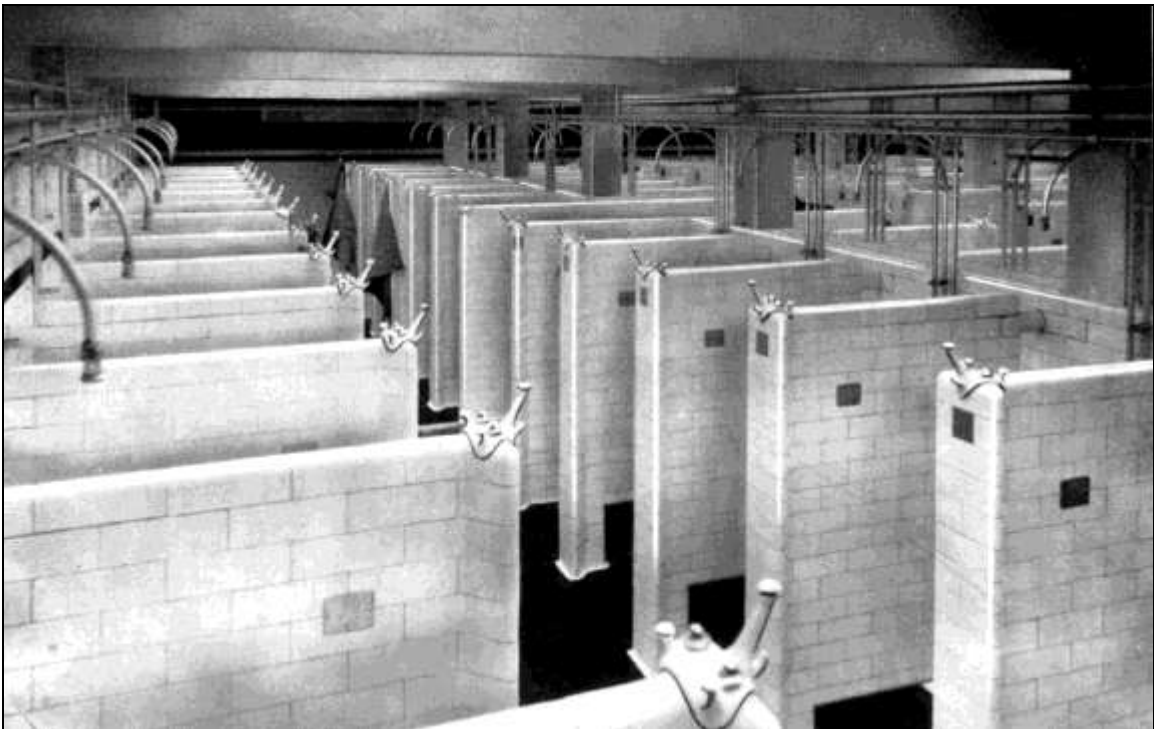


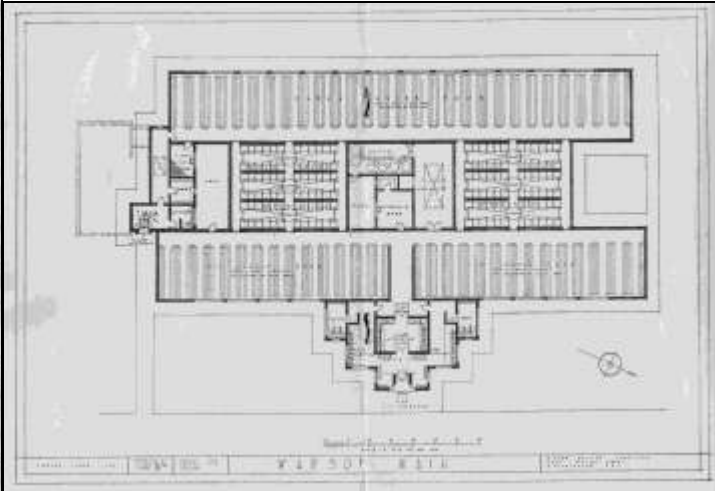
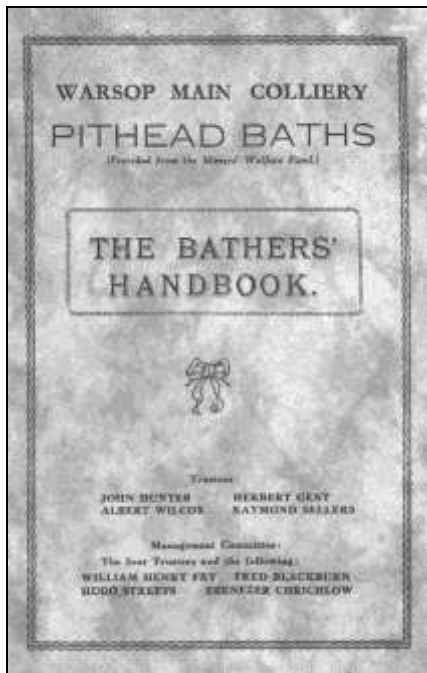
Warsop Main Colliery Pit Head Baths

Built with money from the Miners' Welfare Fund and opened for use on Monday 13th August 1934

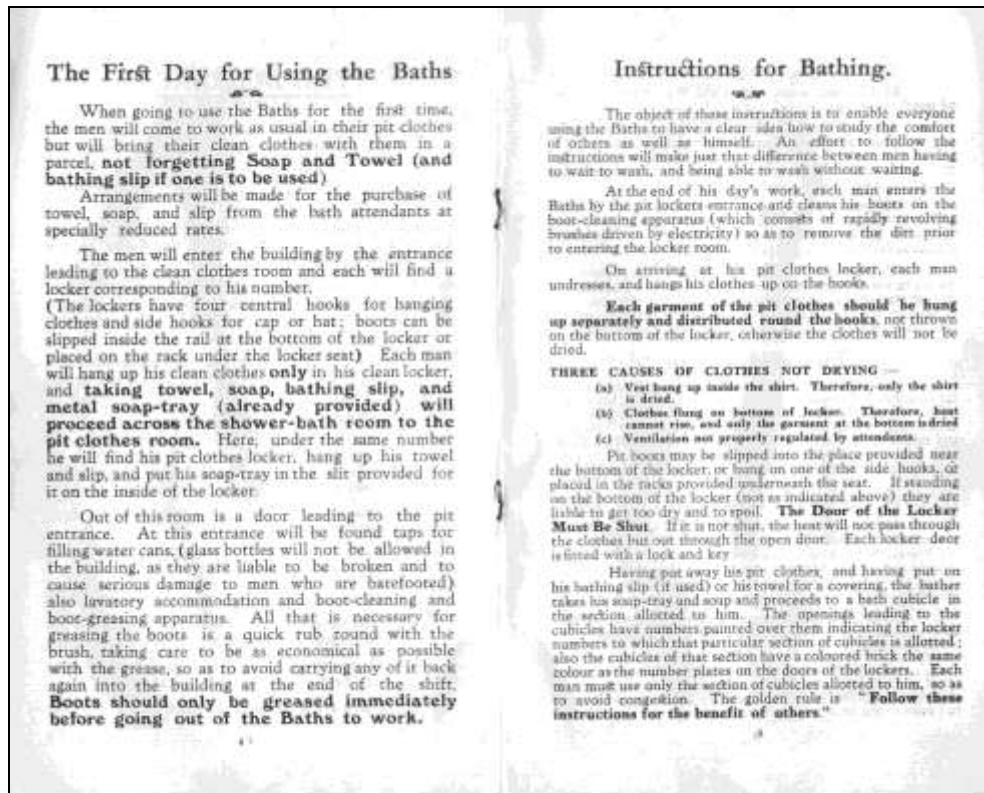
Above: View of the building from the pit yard; **Below:** the interior of the Baths

(Photographs from a Colliery Department Booklet published 1935 entitled the 'The Staveley Coal & Iron Company Limited' - courtesy of Bill Everett)





Warsop Main Colliery, Pithead Baths, Bathers Handbook 1934
(Courtesy of Mr. Booth)



The Staveley Coal & Iron Company in the 1930s

In 1934-35 the Warsop Main colliery underwent a massive re-organisation which included much more development both on the surface and underground. The results of this re-organisation were described in a booklet published by Staveley Coal & Iron Company in 1935. The booklet showed that Warsop Main was the largest of the collieries in its empire regarded as one of the most up-to-date pits in the country.

The Staveley Coal & Iron Company owned seven Collieries in the Derby and Notts. Coalfield. Six were situated in north-east Derbyshire near Chesterfield these being Markham Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, Ireland and Hartington. The seventh was Warsop Main situated 5 miles north of Mansfield in north-west Nottinghamshire. The number of men and boys employed at the Company's collieries amounted to nearly 6,000.

In 1935 the Directors of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company were Sir W.B.M. Bird (chairman), Mr. D.N. Turner (Managing Director), Mr. R. Whitehead, Mr. S. Henshaw, Mr. G. W. Partridge, Mr. W. Humble, Mr. S. Berrersford and Mr. P.W. Fawcett. Other officials were Mr. J. Hunter (General Manager, collieries), Mr. J. Carmichael (Secretary), Mr. R.M. Marson (Mechanical Engineer), Mr. A.G. Connell (Electrical Engineer), Mr. H.H. Berresford (Commercial Manager), Mr. J.W. Harris (Coal Sales Manager), Mr. H. Gent (Manager, Warsop Main Colliery), Mr. R. Ringham (Agent, Markham Collieries) and Mr. L. Limb (Manager, Markham Collieries).

The Company owned 3,390 houses, which had been built for their employees. In addition to the ordinary cold water supply, the majority of the houses had a hot water supply laid on from central heating stations and electric light supplied by the Company.

The Company employed some 90 pit ponies each provided with a 'Davis-Hunter' electric lamp. Many prizes were won by these ponies at various agricultural shows, several trophies being won outright. The horse and pony fodder was supplied from a central granary situated on the Company's works. This was equipped with special cutting, etc., machinery, mixing machine for dealing with the grain and hay, and also a scientific dust extractor, whereby every particle of dust was taken from the fodder. Very particular care was taken of the ponies, and a special isolation hospital for sick and injured ponies was built, where treatment was under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon.

All the Company's collieries were served by both the London Midland and Scottish (LMS) and the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER) systems. The Company owned about 6,500 railway wagons with a central wagon repair shop situated on the Company's works, near Chesterfield.

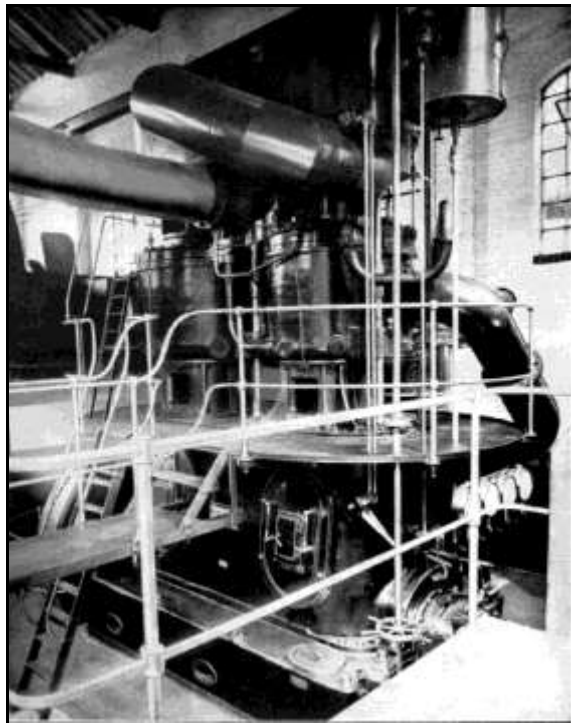
Steel props and arches were very extensively used for the support of underground workings and roadways, there being about 17,000 steel props in use. About 26 miles of arch girdering had been constructed and was being continually added to. In addition,

400,000 timber props were used annually, representing over 400 miles of timber or 5,600 tons. There were 80 miles of haulage rope, 46 miles of cable and over 18 miles of



Above: Screening Coal at Warsop Main Colliery

Below: 5,000 cub. ft. Bellis and Morcom Air Compressor at Warsop Main Colliery
(Photographs from a Colliery Department Booklet published in 1935 entitled 'The Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited' - courtesy of Bill Everett)



compressed air pipes underground at the collieries. The aggregate horsepower underground was about 10,000. To facilitate the repair of underground machinery, each of the collieries had a well-equipped underground fitting shop.

All colliery stores were distributed through a central store situated at the Company's works. A large, well-equipped, laboratory was built at the Works, where samples of coal from the collieries were sent daily for testing purposes and analysis.

All the most modern and approved mechanical methods of getting coal were employed, with a minimum of risk and labour. Compressed air and electrically driven coal cutters, conveyors and gate-end loaders were installed at all the collieries. Staveley coal was 100% machine mined with the exception of Warsop Main which was 90%.

In order to supplement the manhaulers already installed, the Company had under consideration the question of introducing battery-driven locomotives to haul the trains that transported the men to and from their work. Each locomotive weighed 10 tons and was capable of hauling a train accommodating about 90 men. This battery, housed in two specially constructed containers, was of the lead acid type and provided the electrical current for two 29 h.p. flame-proof motors.

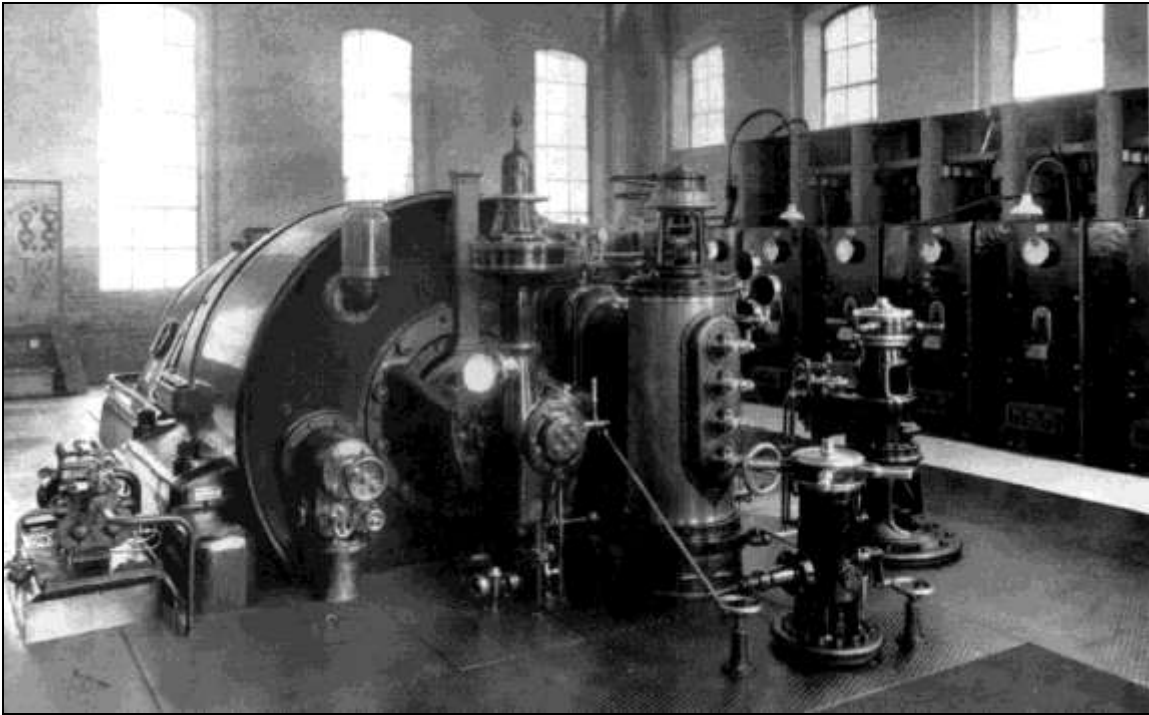
Up-to-date screening plant was installed at all the collieries, where the coal was thoroughly cleaned and sorted under expert supervision. Lowering arms and jibs to minimise breakage were a feature of arrangements. At Warsop Main Colliery the coal was exhaustively screened and sorted, and the small coal washed, about 230 persons being engaged in these operations.

A large washery (where the dirt is separated from the coal by water) for dealing with the small-sized coal had been erected at Warsop Main by Messrs. Simon Carves, Ltd., Manchester, capable of dealing with 150 tons of water per hour; and in addition to this, for washing nuts only, four small type Greaves washers had been installed, each with a capacity of 75 tons per hour.

Aerial ropeways 3,250 feet long had been erected by R. White & Sons, Widnes, Lancashire at Warsop Main Colliery.

The power used was chiefly electrical, although steam and compressed air was also used to a large extent. The number of electrical units generated per annum was over 90 million. The principal generating station was on the Company's works, having a capacity of 25,500 kilowatts. There were also generating stations at Markham and Warsop Main Collieries, with capacities of 1,500 and 1,200 kilowatts respectively, in addition to which a new turbine generator had just been erected at Warsop Main with a capacity of 2,500 kilowatts.

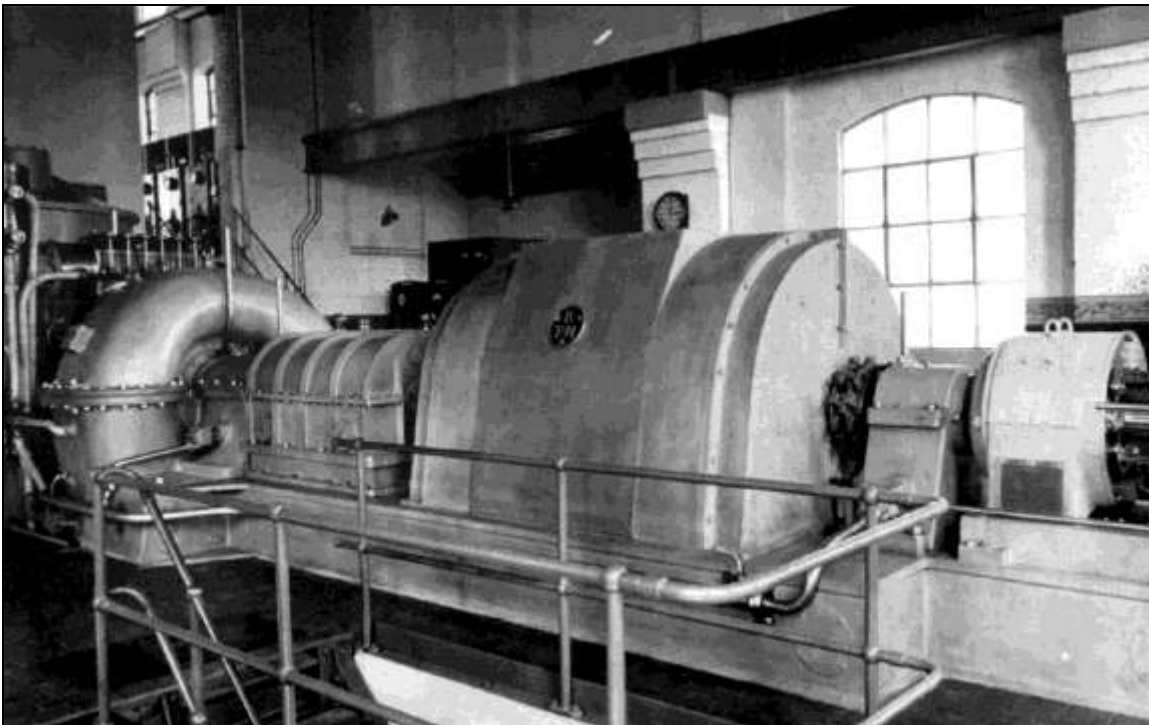
Over 80 miles of high-tension lines had been erected. Besides supplying electrical energy to the various collieries, works and villages owned by the Company, a 'bulk' supply was provided for many villages and works adjacent to the system. About 80 sub-

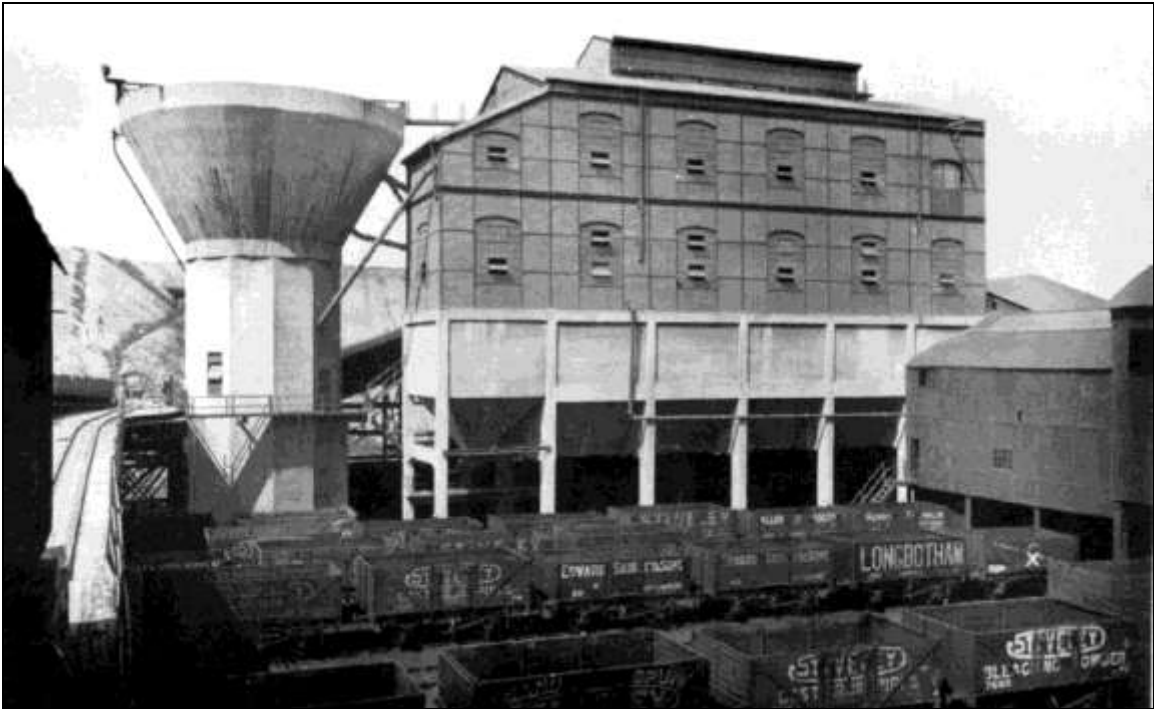


Mixed Pressure Turbine Set at Warsop Main Colliery

Above: 1,200 kw. ; Below: 2,500 kw.

(Photographs from a Colliery Department Booklet published in 1935 entitled 'The Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited' - courtesy of Bill Everett)





150 tons per hour Baum Washer at Warsop Main Colliery

Above: Exterior view; **Below:** Interior view

(Photographs from a Colliery Department Booklet published in 1935 entitled 'The Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited' - courtesy of Bill Everett)



stations were used on the system to transform the current to a suitable voltage for commercial use. The Company's electrical high-tension lines were also linked up to the Notts. and Derby Power Company's electric 'grid'.

With the co-operation of the Chesterfield Technical College, courses in Mining Safety Principles were run for boys and youths, with the object of reducing the number of accidents at the collieries.

Over 200 Ringrose gas detector lamps were used underground for the automatic detection of gas when present in quantities equal to 2.5% or more. These lamps were hung at intervals along the workings, and normally showed a white light. When, however, 2.5% of gas was present, the white light was automatically extinguished and the red light immediately showed, thus warning the workmen in the vicinity. In 1934 a party of M.P.s went underground and witnessed with entire satisfaction a demonstration of the Ringrose lamp. By short-circuiting the air, an accumulation of gas was produced, and the party were able to observe the alteration in the light of the lamp from white to red.

In 1935 the Company boasted a fully equipped fire brigade consisting of 12 members. The motor fire engine was one of Messrs. Merryweathers' latest 'Greenwich Salamander' engines with a petrol motor of 65 b.h.p. and a patent 'Hatfield' fire pump capable of delivering 400 gallons per minute. It was provided with all the usual up-to-date equipment, including a Merryweather patent 'Xaust-Suds' generator. The Company also had a subsidiary fire engine, this being a 60 h.p. 'Dennis', with a pump having a capacity of 400 gallons a minute.

In addition to the usual system of water pipes and fire hydrants for Fire Brigade use, fire stations were built both on the surface and in each district underground at the Collieries. Each fire station was equipped with fire extinguishers, stone dust, sand and hoses, each underground station being also supplied with a portable pump and barrels of water. Water pipes were laid from the surface to the various working faces so that a constant supply of water was always available.

Cleanliness was strictly observed at all the Collieries, and, as a result, the Yards, Engine Houses etc., presented a very neat and tidy appearance. The pit yards were all surfaced with tarred slag, and no waste paper or rubbish was allowed to lie about. All materials etc. were arranged in a very orderly and systematic manner.

Ringwood Hall, with its spacious grounds, the residence of the late C. P. Markham, Esq., was converted into a Club for the benefit of the Company's officials. The club had a membership of 420 in 1935, for whom various forms of recreation were provided, including dancing, concerts, bridge and whist drives, billiards, tennis, bowls, putting, clock golf, table tennis, fishing etc. In the park adjoining, the Company constructed an open-air Swimming Bath, in connection with which there was a gymnasium section. The Company also inaugurated a Superannuation Scheme for all its officials and staff over 21 years of age. A beneficent feature of the scheme was that the Company granted to the



Above: Jib end loading into wagons at Warsop Main Colliery

Below: A train of Staveley coal ready for despatch at Warsop Main Colliery

(Photographs from a Colliery Department Booklet published in 1935 entitled 'The Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited' - courtesy of Bill Everett)



fund an amount equal to the contributions of the employees. In addition, the employees were well provided for musically, the Company having a fully equipped Military Band, in addition to which there was a Musical Union comprising Choirs and Bands.

Warsop Main in 1935

In 1935 two shafts existed at Warsop Main sunk to a depth of 535 yards, with an output of 21,000 tons per week. Employment was found for 2,500 men and boys. The seam worked was the world-renowned Top Hard, the Section being 1'6" of coal, 7 inches of clod, a foot of soft coal, 3'3" of hard coal, a further nine inches of soft coal, two inches of branch and seven inches of branch coal.

The coal was worked on the Longwall system, the 'Double Unit' Conveyor method being chiefly employed. There were several 'Double Units' installed, these usually consisting of two belt conveyors, each 26" wide and 150 yards long, delivering the coal either on to a gate-end loader, or gate belt (as the case may be), common to both conveyors. Coal Cutters were employed in order to facilitate the preparation of the coal for the conveyors. Warsop Main was one of the first of the Top Hard pits to adopt this method of machine mining, and in 1935 90% of the output was machine mined. Flood lighting in operation on the double units was greatly appreciated by the men. The farthest working face was 2½ miles from the shafts, and to enable the men to get more quickly to their work and to avoid fatigue, they were ridden to and fro by means of Manhaulers.

Capt. H.F.C. Crookshank, Secretary of Mines, visited Warsop Main Colliery in 1935 and inspected both the underground workings and the surface. Capt. Crookshank was particularly interested in the latest developments of colliery technique.

Pneumatic Rams were employed both at the surface and underground in order to speed up the winding of coal. By the mere manipulation of a lever, these rams could propel the empty tubs to the cage at the shaft top; the full tubs being forced off the cage as the empty ones are forced on. At the bottom of the shaft the reverse operation took place.

Amongst the other surface machinery were the Fans, the Main Fan being Waddle type, electrically driven, and built by Messrs. Markham and Company, with a diameter of 18' 0" and a capacity of 185,000 cubic feet per minute. The Auxilliary Fan was also Waddle type, with a diameter of 45 feet, being steam driven, and capacity of 200,000 cubic feet per minute.

There were two Cooling Towers, a 'Balcke' and a 'Visco', having capacities of 200,000 and 185,000 gallons of water per hour respectively.

In 1935 headings were being driven into the Hazel seam coal with a view to further development. Works were carried out in 1935-36 to prevent or minimise damage to Warsop Parish Church by working the Top Hard coal. In 1937, the High Hazel seam was

developed to the south-west of the shafts by means of a 1 in 6 drift rising from the Top Hard roads near the pit bottom, and an area of approximately 250 acres was worked.



General View of Warsop Main Colliery in 1935

(Photographs from a Colliery Department Booklet published in 1935 entitled 'The Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited' - courtesy of Bill Everett)

Below: Capt. H. F. C. Crookshank, Secretary of Mines (second from left), about to descend the mine at Warsop Main Colliery. He is accompanied by Mr. J. R. Felton, the Divisional Inspector of Mines, (second from right); Mr. R. J. Moffatt, Mines Department (extreme right); Mr. J. Hunter, General Manager Collieries (centre); and Mr. H. Gent, Colliery Manager (extreme left).



The Main Air Compressor at Warsop Main was by Messrs. Bellis and Morcom Limited, having a capacity of 5,000 cubic feet per minute.

Ten different qualities of coal were produced at Warsop Main. These were Top Hards, Brights, Bright House, washed large cobbles, washed small cobbles, kitchen coal, best washed nuts, washed doubles, washed singles and washed smalls. The top hard was a first class steam coal, largely used for locomotive purposes and blast furnaces, also well favoured for farmers' use. The Brights were a large, firm, bright, coal, also very popular with farmers and could be used for either house or steam. Brights were also said to stack well. Bright House and washed large cobbles were popular for general household use while the washed small cobbles were a very clean coal, suitable for either open or closed ranges. The best washed nuts were very similar to cobbles. The washed doubles were a good gas producer fuel, suitable for mechanical stokers, and a very popular coal for electricity works. The washed singles and smalls tended to be used for steam raising largely by electricity companies.

The 1940s

In October 1940 Herbert Gent J.P., manager of Warsop Main, announced that he had been appointed mining agent to the Yorkshire Main and Bullcroft Collieries, and that would necessitate leaving the district in the near future. Charles Ringham, brother of Rex Ringham and also a keen cricketer, took over.

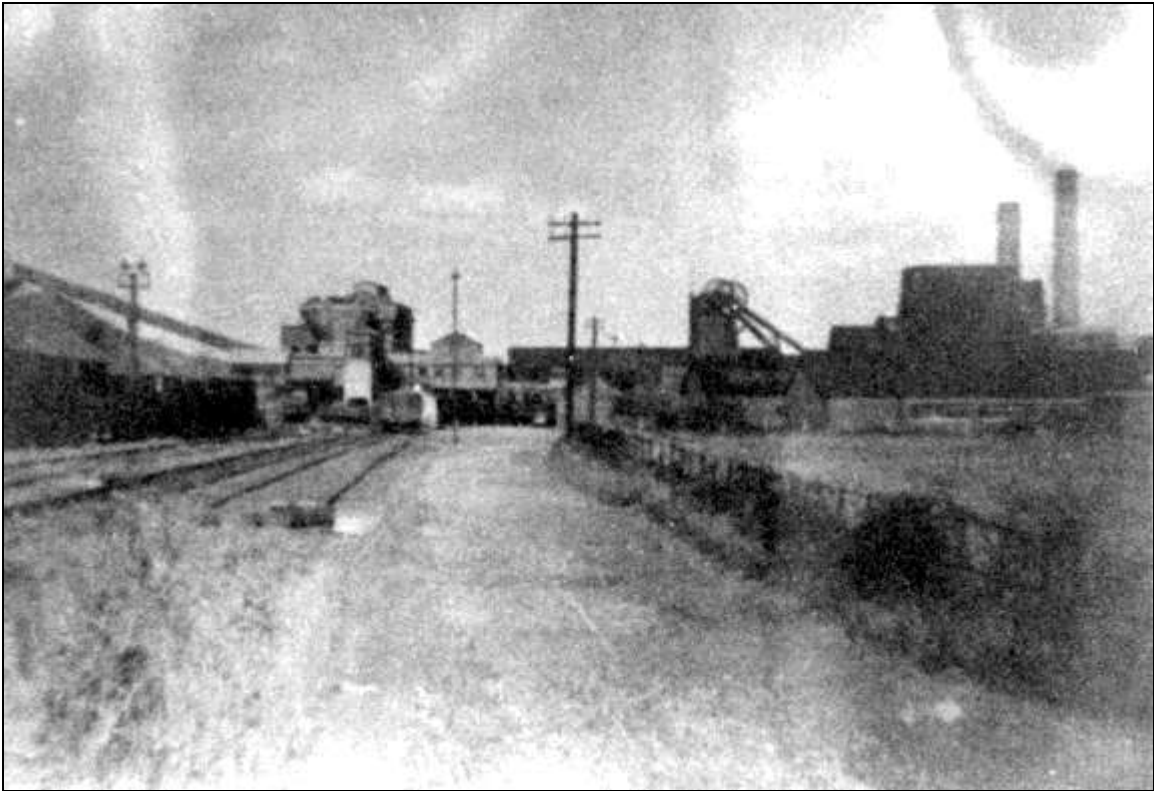
As the workings of the High Hazel seam advanced to the north, approaching a faulted area, the dirt band in the seam, which lay approximately 10" from the floor, thickened from about 5" to 4' 0", and the panels which had not reached the faults were abandoned in 1946. Meanwhile drifts were driven from the Top Hard to develop the north-east section of the Hazel seam beyond the trough faults and the first face was opened in 1944. From 1946 the output came from this area of the High Hazel seam and from the Top Hard.

The 1940s saw the Nationalisation of the mining industry and the formation of the National Coal Board in 1947. It is widely thought by the locals that Nationalisation was a big mistake. Very few records are available from around this time as there was a break in at the Staveley Coal & Iron Company's offices and all the records and data were taken.

The 1950s

In 1952 Mr. A. Machin was appointed as manager of Warsop Main Colliery in succession to Brian Perry.

As the Top Hard was becoming exhausted, and the life of the north-east section of the Hazel seam was comparatively short, it was decided to re-open the Hazel workings near the shaft. This time the development was to the south-east and the first panel started at



Warsop Main Colliery before the 1950s Re-Organisation
(Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



the beginning of 1950. The development then proceeded and the workings of the Hazel seam to the East of the trough were stopped in 1952.

The East developing panel in the Hazel seam reached the trough faults in 1952 and drifts were driven into the Main Bright seam which was thrown 32 yards below the Hazel by the faults. A Meco-Moore power loader was operated in the High Hazel seam from 1950-51 but was not satisfactory as small swilleys in the seam caused 6" of roof coal which was left up to be cut through and bar roof conditions prevailed. Since that time the seam was worked by normal Longwall methods, machine cut hand filled coal on to rubber belt conveyors. The average O.M.S. results from this seam was approximately 90 cwts. per face man and 46.5 cwts. all underground. All the output from both seams was wound in small tubs from the pit bottom in the Top Hard Seam.

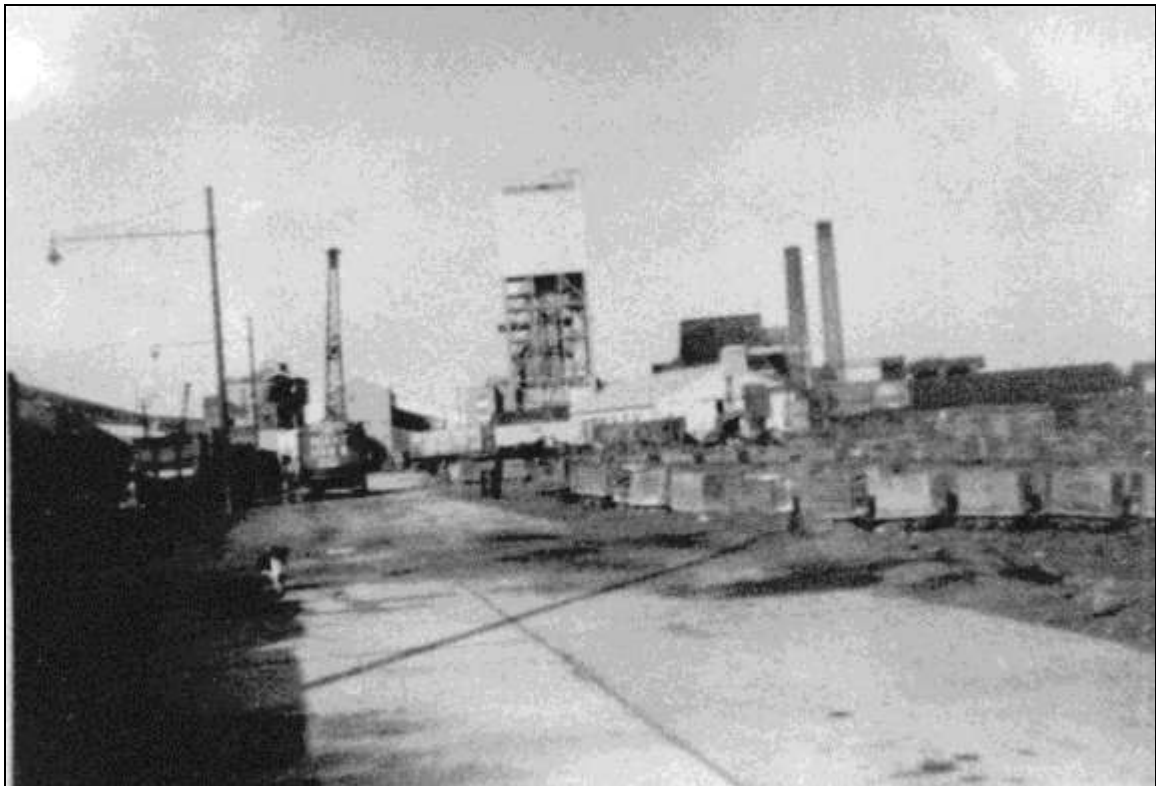
In 1953 a detailed proposal was drawn up for even more re-organisation both on the surface and underground. This accounted for expenditure of £2,060,000 spread over seven years with good results being achieved during this period.

In the proposal it was estimated that, by 1956, the Top Hard seam would be worked out and the output would have been replaced by the High Hazel, Main Bright and later Main Hard seams. All these were upper seams at depths of 434, 353 and 326 yards compared with the Top Hard level of 528 yards. A re-organisation was proposed to provide facilities for working these upper seams, to raise the daily saleable output from 2,800 tons to 3,600 and the O.M.S. all employed from 35 to 40 cwts and to provide modern equipment for winding and handling coal on a larger scale. The proposed scheme necessitated new pit bottoms, mine cars, skip equipment and a completely new Surface plant, with electric winding engines, new fan, new coal preparation plant, new offices, etc., and would take, in stages, up to seven years to complete. The first stage was to be the immediate replacements to maintain output from the High Hazel seam by 1956 and the second was for the new surface plant and complete electrification. It was estimated that 160 new underground workers would be required when construction was complete and further housing would be require to accommodate these men.

The reconstruction consisted of the installation of new electric winders and headgears at both shafts, complete electrification of surface plant, installation of skip winding equipment (10 tons skip) at No. 2 shaft, provision of a modern compact pit bank at No. 1 shaft for handling dirt and materials, provision of modified coal preparation plant with circular picking table, provision of new dirt disposal plant, provision of a new ventilating fan, provision of new administrative office, workshops and stores, provision of locomotives and large mine cars (5 tons) for coal; the existing pit tubs being used for dirt and materials, and finally the construction of new roadways and enlargement of certain existing roadways at the High Hazel horizon to allow the whole output of coal to be dealt with by skip from No. 2 pit bottom, all dirt, materials and man riding to be concentrated to No. 1 pit bottom and sufficient cross sectional areas to be provided for the adequate ventilation of the unit.



Above: Postcard of the old Headstocks at Warsop Main Colliery
Below: Erecting the new Headstocks at Warsop Main Colliery c. 1956
(Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



The location survey in the proposal showed that the Warsop Main Colliery shafts were situated in Nottinghamshire close to the Derbyshire border, and 5 miles north of the town of Mansfield in No. 3 Area of the East Midlands Division. The adjoining collieries were Langwith in the north, Welbeck in the east, Clipstone to the south and Shirebrook to the south-west. All but Langwith were in the No. 3 area.

The proposal involved a full geological survey that painted a very clear picture of Warsop Main at the time. The Main Hard seam was intact and 3 feet thick at the shafts. The Main Bright seam was 4' 6" thick at the shafts and development was proceeding while the High Hazel seam was 4' 2" thick at the shafts and development was continuing. The coal measures were overlain by rocks of the Permian systems and extended from the surface to a depth of 77 yards. The surface rock was magnesian limestone. The take, which was roughly in the form of a rectangle 2.5 miles by 3 miles, was bisected by trough faults which run almost north and south, the trough being deepest at the north and gradually becoming shallower to the south. The full dip of the High Hazel seam varied from 1 in 17 to 1 in 35 to the East in the area already worked. Conditions in the High Hazel seam were fairly good, but the roof was poor with 6" of coal left up to form a good roof. There were frequently small swilleys and the little water that there was came from these or faults. There were considerable in the coal near to the floor and near to the roof. An exchange of areas on the northern boundary has been agreed upon with No. 1 Area, E.M.D. whereby Warsop received 515 acres of High Hazel coal in exchange for 493 acres of High Main coal, which was to be worked to Langwith colliery. There was a fair amount of faulting, the main faults running north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west.

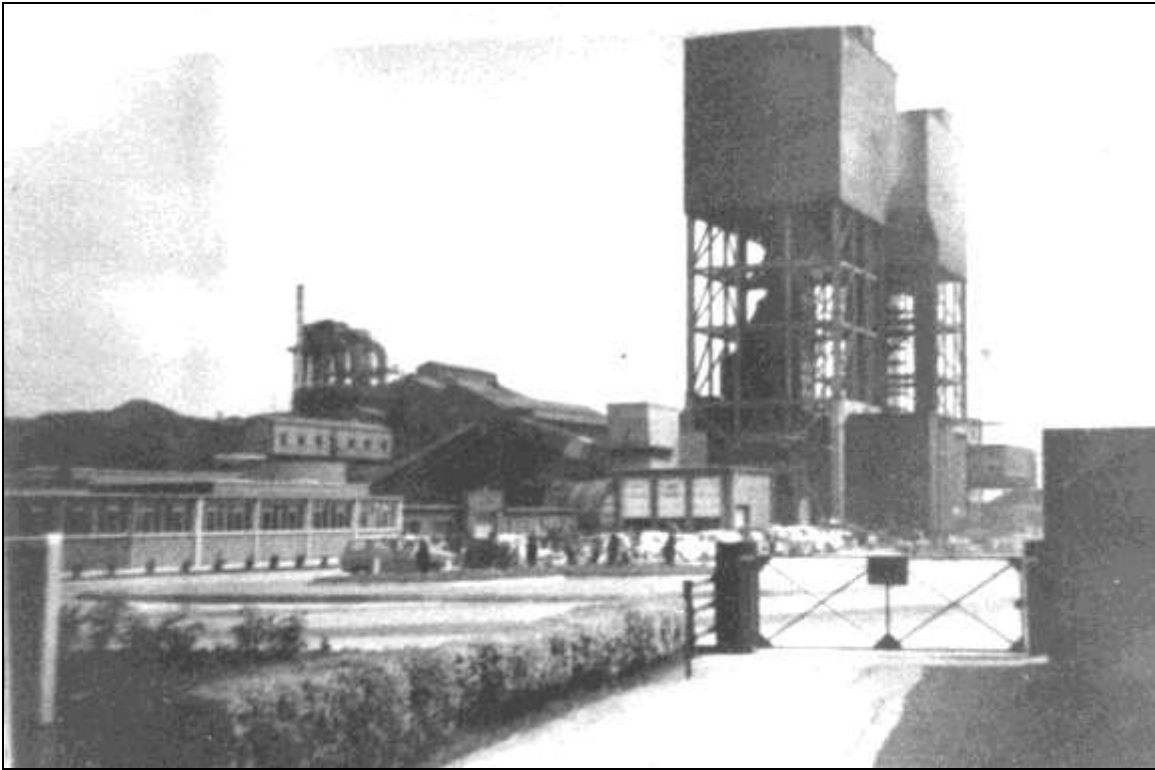
The coal survey undertaken showed that the High Hazel seam, which was to be worked first, had approximately 17,966,000 tons of workable reserves. The Main Bright seam had an estimated 22,893,000 tons of workable reserves. The Main Hard seam, which was to be worked last, had approximately 16,594,000 tons of workable reserves remaining.

From a marketing perspective, it was anticipated that the High Hazel and Main Bright coals would be disposed of by large coal flowing to the domestic market and graded coal and smalls going to industry with the possibility of a small quantity to export. It was regarded as most unlikely that any supplies would flow to British Railways as locomotive coal.

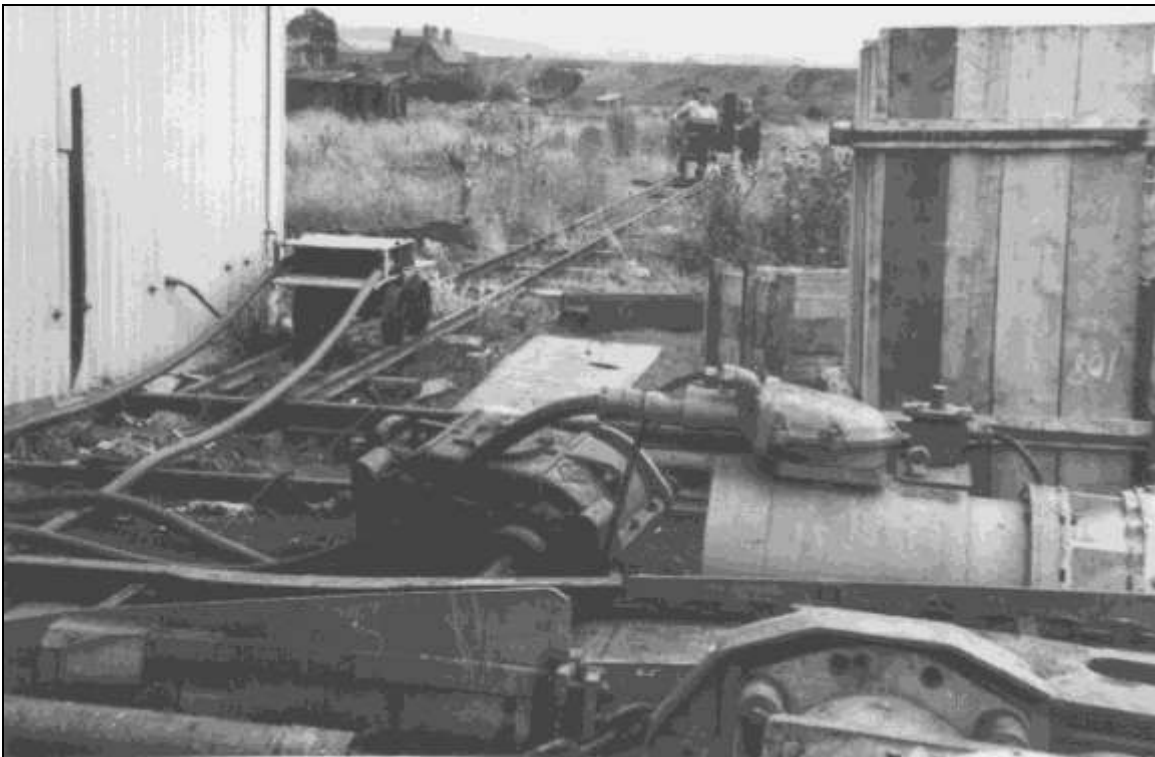
As far as transport was concerned, Warsop Main was said to be served satisfactorily by rail and road. The Eastern and London Midlands Regions of British Railways had access from the West and the main Worksop-Mansfield road (now the A60) passed 1.5 miles to the connected by a good class 'B' road.

It was estimated that 160 additional underground workers would be required when the reconstruction was complete and these needs would be met from the ranks of trainees and from floating labour that was presenting itself at regular intervals. It was expected that

further housing would be required and that it would be provided by the local authority and/or by the National Coal Board.



Warsop Main Colliery after the 1950s Re-Organisation
(Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



At the time the shafts and surface building of the National Coal Board were on leasehold land. The land was held from Sir Wm. FitzHerbert (who succeeded his brother Sir Hugo who died without issue in 1934) under Heads of Terms for a lease of surface and minerals dated 14th February 1938 which to run for a period of 100 years from 1st November 1932. A new lease was being prepared to replace the Heads of Term for a lease, and also a time-expired lease of surface and Top Hard coal.

As far as subsidence was concerned, it was not anticipated that heavy subsidence charges would be incurred but the extent and amount of the damage would depend, to some extent, on the method of working a period of time between the working of different seams. Attention was to be paid to Warsop Parish Church, Market Warsop and Church Warsop Villages and the Sewage works. Although works designed to prevent or minimise damage at Warsop Parish Church were carried out in 1935–36, before the Top Hard coal was worked, because of timbers rotting, it was probable that some additional works or reconditioning would be necessary before further supporting coal could be extracted.

It was intended that output from the Top Hard seam and the High Hazel seam would continue until the seam finished in 1956. At this time the skip winding plant would be installed at No. 2 Shaft and the locomotive circuit driven. The skip plant at No. 2 shaft and the locomotive circuit driven. The skip plant at the No. 2 shaft would then take over from the cage winding at No. 1 shaft. No. 1 shaft would then be used for man riding, dirt and materials. As from the time the new skip pit bottom was completed, the colliery output was to be built up 3,600 tons per day saleable. The coal from the districts was to be brought on conveyors to a gathering belt feeding the Loading point. Here, the coal would be loaded into 5 ton (nett) mine cars from where it would be hauled to the tipper station near the shaft by diesel locomotives. From there it was to pass to the 10 tons skip and be wound to the surface.

The majority of the changes outlined in the proposal took place including the erection of new headstocks in 1956. However, no further housing was provided at Warsop Vale. The rapid development of public and personal transport meant there was no need to live as near to the colliery as previously. The surface was re-organised in 1954, when two tower mounted electric friction winders were installed. The winders having been brought up to the Markham specification with No. 2 (coal shaft) becoming fully automatic and capable of winding 400 tonnes/hour. The Top Hard coal was actually exhausted in 1958.

From 1958 to 1968 Jack Winfield was the deputy manager at Warsop Main. He had worked at Warsop Main from 1937 to 1952 as an overman when he left to become under manager at Sherwood colliery. During Charles Ringham's managership of Warsop Main, Jack had been the under manager's clerk. In 1968 Jack left Warsop Main for Ireland Colliery and later Glapwell.

After Nationalisation there were numerous mine managers. Managers of the 60s and 70s included R. Anderson and Mr. Vardy who lived in the School House. The two chimneys were taken down brick by brick before the pit closed. One went around 1960 when Jack



Warsop Main Colliery Pit Yard in 1968

Above: The car park with the railway line and Sookholme Lodge Farm in the background

Above right: the railway sidings to the west

Right: the railway sidings to the east and the Rhein O' Thorns

Below: The Headstocks towering above King Street, taken from the Police House

(Photographs taken from the headstocks by PC Cook)



Winfield was Deputy Manager and the other sometime after 1968 as it was still standing when the local bobby got permission to go up the headstocks and take photographs. In 1976 the pit tips were landscaped.

Warsop Main in 1985

A report prepared by the Warsop Main Colliery manager, P. Goodwin, in October 1985 showed how much the colliery changed over the nine decades which had passed since its inception. The report stated that the planned output of the colliery was 839,000 tonnes per year (3,525 tonnes/day). Warsop Main provided employment for 1,320 men, producing 9.55 tonnes at the face per shift and 2.95 tonnes per shift overall from the Clowne and Deep Soft seams. The fact that only 1,320 men could produce this much coal when it took 2,700 men to produce one million tons a year in 1911 shows how much modern extraction methods reduced the dependency on labour.

Coal produced was prepared in a baum/dense medium coal preparation plant with a rated capacity of 400 tonnes per hour, mainly for the Electricity Generating Board, to which it was dispatched via rapidly loaded merry-go-round trains. A small proportion of the larger sized coal was sent to the domestic market.

The workable seams in descending order were the Wales Seam which was 203 metres deep, the Clowne Seam at a depth of 298 metres, the Main Bright Seam at 323 metres and the Deep Soft Seam which was 645 metres deep. The High Hazel and Top Hard seams had been worked out.

Production was from the Clowne and Deep Soft seams. The Clowne Seam consisted of one face (approximately one metre thick) equipped with Double Ended Convey or mounted Trepanners, face end stable holes eliminated using Dosco Roadheaders to form advanced headings. The Deep Soft seam had two faces. Uls (2.4 metres thick) and 19s equipped with two single ended ranging drum shearers and face ends worked using the 'Littleton' system. The coal was conveyed from the faces by 42" and 48" trunk conveyors to a 300 tonne surge bunker, which fed to skips in the shaft. Men and materials were transported by rope road and monorail haulages. Both seams were supplied from the pit bottom using a Pony loco.

Power demand was 8,400 K.V.A. (maximum demand 9,200 K.V.A.), and part of the conveyor system was remotely controlled from a centre at the Pit Bottom. Heating for the pithead baths, canteen, stores, workshops and office building was from a modern coal fired boiler plant.

As far as geology was concerned, Warsop Main was in the concealed part of the Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Coalfield. The coal measures were overlain by Permian and Triassic sediments that were mostly water bearing. The coal measures dipped gently in the east and south-east, the average gradient being in the order of 1 in

25. To the north-west, the colliery take was bounded by faulting, to the south-east; the colliery boundary coincided with the north Derbyshire/north Nottinghamshire area boundaries. The take itself was divided by a north-west to south-east down faulted through 366 to 457 metres wide.

A rapid loading merry-go-round train transport system and a modern coal-fired boiler plant had been installed in the late 1970s. A pneumatic coal hoist to lift 80 tonnes of Run-of-Mire material per hour had been installed to increase the existing shaft capacity and the Titan or Deep Soft Intake Drift had been commissioned. The deep soft materials and men could be transported using a two-car radio controlled cyclo-hauler. 90 men could be transported on each set of cars with a maximum 11 tonne payload for materials.



Warsop Main Colliery Canteen

Above: 1935 (from a Colliery Department Booklet published in 1935 entitled 'The Staveley Coal and Iron Company Limited' - courtesy of Bill Everett)

Below: 1984 Sylvia Cooper, Gill Broughton, Norma Peace, Celia Davis, Sylvia ? (Courtesy of Mr. Cooper)



Warsop Vale Sports and Sportsmen

The Staveley Coal & Iron Company ensured that sporting activities prevailed in the village. An excellent sports field was afforded to all that wished to partake in a wide variety of sport, cricket, football, tennis, bowls etc. A full time groundsman kept all these facilities to a high standard.

Cricket

As early as 1903, a Warsop Main cricket club, which played in the Scarcliffe league, is known to have been in existence in Warsop Vale. Minutes from some of the meetings still survive thanks to Frank Ward, the local sport enthusiast. The cricket ground, in those days, was situated in the centre of the village, adjacent to the colliery. In 1904 the committee established a pavilion fund and, aided by a grant from the Staveley Coal & Iron Company, a pavilion was built the next year to the north end of the ground, near the colliery.

The club had what was known as a talent fund and awarded cash prizes to encourage results. 36 runs earned a man 2/6 and the sum of 5/- was paid for 50 runs with 1/6 being paid for a hat trick. There was also a five shilling prize for the most catches in either team. Practice nights were Tuesdays and Thursdays and any time the pit had a holiday. If a man had bad language in a match he was fined 3d. If he hadn't paid his fine within a week he was stopped from playing.

An annual general meeting was held in the Vale Hotel on 24th October 1904. Officers were elected for the 1905 season. Mr. Booker was to remain as president. The patrons were to be anyone subscribing the sum of £1 or over. Subscribers of 5/- were vice presidents. Mr. Enoch Bell, the headmaster, remained as honorary secretary assisted by Mr. J.A. Ratcliffe. G. Bonser retained his position as treasurer. The committee consisted of the Rev. Stainer, Messrs. O. Brailsford, landlord of the Vale Hotel, H. Dean (17, Warsop Vale), J. Bradshaw (160, Warsop Vale), T. Chersey, D. Jessop, T. Hogg (50, Warsop Vale), W. Green, Thomas A. Cooke (60, Warsop Vale) and W. Walker. Meetings were to be held every Monday night during the season at 8pm. Mr. German Abbott (167, Warsop Vale), who was also Chairman and also a future mayor of Mansfield, captained the first team. The vice-captain was Mr. Arthur Booth (90, Warsop Vale). The second team officials were G. Bonser and A. Bullar. The umpires were Messrs. S. Charles and H. Hogg (49, Warsop Vale) and the scorers were Thomas Cooke and W. Harrison. The scorers and umpires were paid their fares only. A resolution was passed that Messrs. Brailsford and Cooke, together with the two secretaries, draw up the rules for the club.

June 1906 Mr. A. Davis left the village having been appointed as under manager at another colliery. At Mr. Davis' leaving presentation, Enoch. Bell made, on behalf of the Warsop Main Colliery cricket club, a presentation to Mr. Davis consisting of a case of

pipes, cigar, and cigarette holders. In his speech, Mr. Bell said that Mr. Davis had rendered yeoman service to the club, and it was chiefly through his efforts that they had

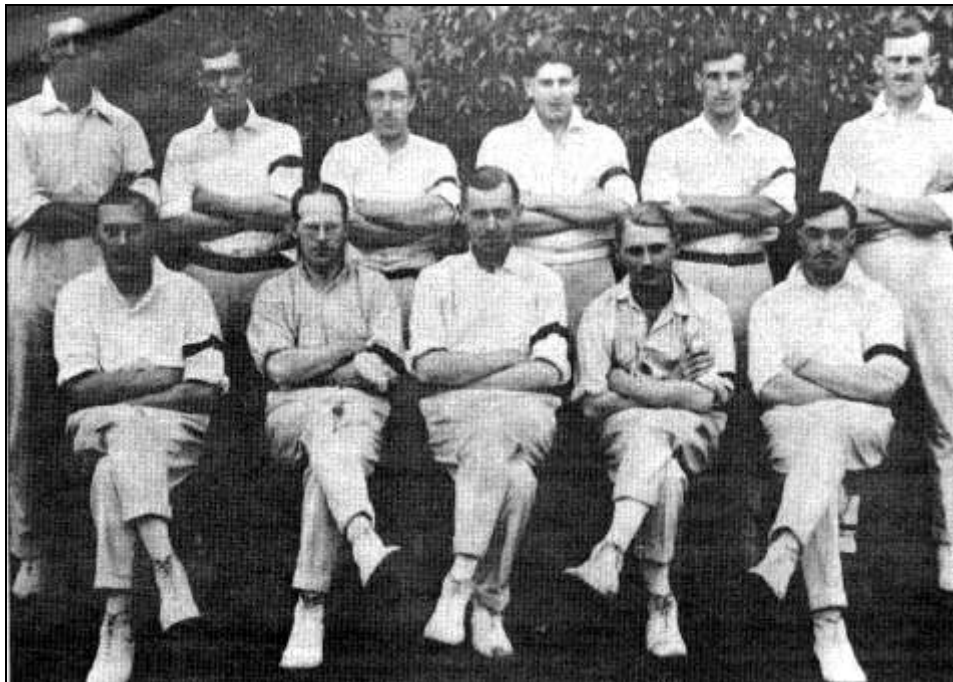


WARSOP MAIN COLLIERY CRICKET CLUB

WINNERS OF THE NOTTS. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 1923-24

Back Row: G. Cowlshaw, L. Griffiths, H. Houseley, W. Platts, T. Bradshaw, Fred Blackburn, A. Rushton

Front Row: H. Sansom, Fred. Newton, C. Maw, Rex Ringham (Captain), Charles W. Ringham,
W.S. Fletcher (*Courtesy of Mrs. Newton*)



Warsop Main Cricket Club in 1925

Back Row: S. Slater, H. Sansom, T. Bradshaw, L. Griffiths, H. Hansley, W. Platts

Front Row: Fletcher, Moore, R. Ringham, C. Ringham, E. Herberts
(*Courtesy of Old Warsop Society*)



Warsop Main Cricket Club 1929 (above)

Standing: Walt Hunt, W. Hunt, A. Pope, F. Vardy, A. Woodland, Wilf Hunt

Sitting: A. Hunt, E. Herberts, R. Ringham, S. Slater, G. Whysall

(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



now a nice pavilion on the Warsop Vale grounds. He had proved himself a true sportsman and a dear neighbour, and it was hoped that a gift would be some memento of the true friendship formed in Warsop Vale.

We can read of achievements as early as 1909 when Warsop Main were Mansfield and District League Champions only to resign from that league the following year. Later in 1910 several clubs reported Warsop Main for non-fulfillment of fixtures in the Portland Cricket League and they were expelled.

Cricketing fortunes took a turn for the better in the 1920s however. In 1924, Mr. H. Riley, chairman of the club said “Two years ago, there was not a colliery so ‘fat’ as regards sport as Warsop Main, but since Mr. Ringham had come to the Vale sport has gone up with a jump”.

Warsop Main’s first eleven were accepted into the Bassetlaw league for 1925. In the 1924 season the first team had carried off the championship of the Notts league under the captaincy of Mr. Reg. Ringham, colliery manager, for the second year in succession, accomplishing the feat without a single defeat. They were, however, still without the league cup, for after winning through to the final, history had repeated itself, and the club suffered defeat. The full record of all matches was played 27, won 17, drawn 9 and lost 1. The average total of runs per wicket was 25.39, against their opponents 9.16 per wicket. (Hear, hear.) Edwin Herbert headed the list of the batsmen with the splendid figures of 68 per innings, and he also made the highest individual score, 139 not out against new Hucknall Colliery. Herbert Houseley took second place with an average of 40 per innings. Tom Bradshaw easily led in bowling with the magnificent record of 62 wickets, at a cost of 6.91 per wicket. Maw came next with 41 wickets for 9.02 per wicket. The performance of the second eleven, captained by Mr. F. Blackburn, was also outstanding in winning the Notts. League second division cup and gaining the third position in their division of the league.

At the club’s annual dinner in the Warsop Vale schools on Saturday 16th November, Mr. A. E. Causer, the club secretary, paid tribute to the late Mr. Fred Newton. Mr. Newton had been killed down the pit midway through the 1924-25 season and his loss was sorely mourned (see chapter on Mining Accidents). Mr. Causer said that it was impossible to try and express in words all that the loss of such a brilliant all-round cricketer meant to the club and to cricket in general. He not only served with distinction most of the leading clubs in the district, but also had the honour of playing for the county of his birth. Prior to his death he appeared to have touched the top of his form, for during the season he had many notable performances to his credit, on one occasion exceeding the century. It was not only on the cricket field that his loss would be felt, for he was ever ready to help in the social life and well being of the place where he lived. A sportsman of the highest order, his cheery countenance his optimism when things were going wrong, his influence and wise counsel would be ever a cherished memory.

At the dinner the first team players to receive cups were Messrs. R. Ringham (capt.), H. Sansom, C. Maw, C.W. Ringham, L. Griffiths, S. Slater, H. Houseley, W. Platts, T.



Warsop Main Colliery Cricket Club 1942: Bassetlaw League Champions. Division 1

Back: Wm. Hunt, Wilf Hunt, H. Marshall, J. Maloney, R. Spencer, F. Ward

Front: S. Slater, A. Hunt, L. Gross, L. Griffiths, E. Herberts, J. Richards

(Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



Warsop Main Colliery Cricket Club 1948 : Bassetlaw League Champions. Division 1

Back: C. Hayes, K. Sansom, C. Ellis, J. Wass, Wm Hunt, C. Hunt;

Front: A. Hunt, Wilf Hunt, E. Herberts, F. Wars, A. Dobb

(Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



Warsop Main Colliery Cricket Club c. 1940s

Below: pictures with the Warsop Vale Miners' Welfare and Schools in background
(Courtesy of Mrs. Joe Miller)



Bradshaw, E. Herberts, S. Fletcher and A.E. Causer. Second team cup recipients were Messrs. F. Blackburn (Capt.) A. Rushton (vice Capt.), J. Booker, W. Deakin, H. Marshall, F. Abbott, H. Goddard, Frank Newton, P. Abbott, E. Farnsworth, and E. Houseley. Prizes were also presented for the best individual performance during the past season. The best batting average for the first team (68.00) went to E. Herberts and best bowling average (6.91 runs per wicket) to T. Bradshaw. For the second team the best batting average (17.4) went to W. Deakin and the best bowling average (7.4 runs per wicket) to with runners-up H. Marshall (7.85) and J. Booker (7.66).

The cricket team continued with excellent performances and won many trophies until they were finally disbanded in the early 1980s.

Football

We must also remember that the Vale produced some excellent footballers that won many trophies. Indeed many of the cricketers were also accomplished footballers.

The school had it's own football team and so did the colliery. Many photographs came to light during our investigations showing Warsop Vale footballers throughout the century.

We cannot pass onto any further sport without the mention of stalwarts of the football teams who progressed into professional football. For example, Walter Millership who went to Bradford and then Sheffield Wednesday and played for England in the 1935 match against Scotland. T. Cooke went to Mansfield along with Harry and Harold Everett who had previously been with Notts County. Jimmy West went to Rotherham. Bournemouth F.C. took J. Hayward and H. Hayward. H. Goddard went to Aston Villa. Steve Unwin, who was a regular at the 'Swing' until his death in 1999, went to Notts County. Lenny Thorpe and Robin Peace, another regular in the 'Swing' today, went to Nottingham Forest. At the end of the 1940-41 season no fewer than seven players went to the league clubs.

In 1944-45 the club won all three cups presented by the North Notts league. The 1950s saw one of the finest teams to come from Warsop Vale. They won the first division North Notts championship three seasons in succession and repeated the 1944-45 season by winning all three cups yet again in the 1956-57 season.

The football then seemed to lapse with only a few results and general mid table positions with only three local lads Pete Morgan, Neil Pointon and Andy Kowalski making the league.

In 1995 a few lads joined together to attempt to raise a local village side to play in the Mansfield Chad Sunday league, mainly to get out on a Sunday morning for a kick-about prior to going to the pub. It appears that something may be stirring in the Vale once again because the 1997-98 season saw the village side, Fine Tune Aerials, in the semi-

finals of the Notts Minor Cup. They also won division nine gaining promotion to division five.



Warsop Vale Football Team – early 1920s

Back Row: G. Marshall, E. Johnson, G. Wood, F. Buckley, J. Goodfellow, C. Northern, A. Milner;

Middle Row: G. Plevey, R. Marshall, S. Hinchcliffe, W. Millership;

Front Row: W. Pearson, G. Robinson, E. Turner, A. Land, B. Catton

(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



Warsop Vale Football Club 1932-33

Back Row: Cooke, H. Everett, J. Ellis, C. Denby, E. Cooke, A. Naylor, F. Archer, J. Poultney, F. Smith, H.

Parkin, G. Plevey, B. Kinnerson, T. Bonsall; **Middle Row:** E. Sperry, J. Pearson, C. Butler

Front Row: Spencer, W. Pearson, C. Brewin, W. Atkin, H. Poultney

(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



Warsop Main Football Club 1940s

Back Row: C. Butler, E. Cooke, Betts, Wheeler, J. Whatmore, F. White, Harold Everett, S. Unwin, L. Beardow

Front Row: H. Walters, Betts, W. Starkey, West, R. Peace

(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



Warsop Main Football Club 1944-45

(Winners of three cups)

Back Row: J. Preston, C. Butler, W. Riley, W. Broughton, S. Unwin, A. Naylor, F. Wheeler, K. West, Mr Betts, R. Hennesey, R. Peace, W. Whatmore, L. Beardow, S. Smith

Front Row: G. Holmes, F. White, E. Cooke, Mr. Betts, J. West, J. Miller, H. Everett

(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



Warsop Main Boys Club 1940s

Back Row: H. Mason, Mr. Curzon, T. Jones, R. Betts, N. Else, J. Layton, F. Cooper, A. Wass, R. Hunt, H. Vernon; **Front Row:** A. Peters, F. Hopkins, A. Pemberton, S. Stray, H. Parrott

(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



Warsop Main Boys Club 1945-46

Back Row: Mr. Curzon, Sindall, J. Mapletoft, J. Fowler, F. Cooper, R. Hunt, A. Peters, N. Else,

H. Vernon; **Front Row:** K. Bantam, C. Pearce, A. Pemberton, S. Stray, H. Parrott
(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



Warsop Main Football Club 1953

Back Row: D. Butler, C. Butler, H. Walters, R. Davey, R. Betts, H. Platts, J. Peters, G. Dickenson, & J. Miller
Front Row: R. Howard, S. Stray, W. Brocklehurst, C. Hunt, S. Whatmore
(Courtesy of Frank Ward)



Warsop Main Football Team behind the Schools (late 50s/early 60s)

Back Row: Booth, Booth, R. Anderson, H. Walters, W. Brocklehurst, K. Walker, R. Hunt, D. Wheatley,
J. Stewart, R. Cooper, Cheesman, E. Dickenson, G. Beswick, J. Maloney;

Front Row: J Miller, H. Platts, P. Barlow, C. Hunt, K. Sansom, Wilson
(*Courtesy of Frank Ward*)

The start of the 1998-99 season promised so much early on. Had it not been for injuries to certain key players, the team would have progressed further in the Stamper Cup and the League Cup and would have certainly bettered the final position of the season as runners up in Division 5 and runners up in the Notts junior cup.

Cyril Ellis

Warsop Vale was home to Cyril Ellis, an original world champion runner who represented his country in the 1928 Olympic games. Ellis was a deputy at the Warsop Main Colliery. His running ability was noticed by his two friends, Dave Howe and Jim Poultney, who set out to train him. To help Ellis with his travelling expenses, Howe and Poultney, bought a couple of gross of pens and pencils with Ellis' name on them and sold them in the pit yard. Cyril Ellis developed a remarkable record as a great middle distance runner. AAA champion at 1 mile and half mile between 1927 and 1931, took the Irish mile record in 4 minutes 20 seconds in 1928 which stood for eight years until it was eventually broken in 1936 by the great Sydney Wooderson. In 1927 Ellis broke the world 1000 metres record in 2 minutes 27 seconds, which still stands today. He died in 1973

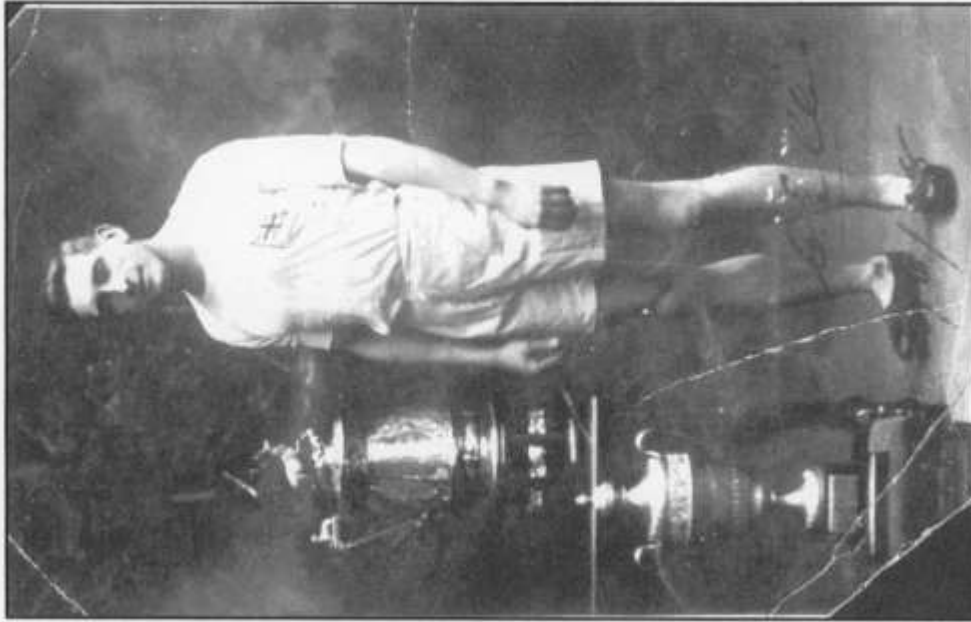
The Sports Grounds

The original sports ground was the cricket field in the centre of the village overlooked by most of the miners' cottages. This was looked after by a paid groundsman. In 1904 the groundsman was Mr. T. Hogg, in succession to Mr. Pell, who received wages of 30/- per year. At the far end, closest to the pit, stood the pavilion. When the new sports ground, known as 'the welfare', was opened this pavilion was moved and erected on the new site.

In the early 1920s a Miners' Welfare Committee was formed consisting of Messrs. R. Ringham (chairman), F. Blackburn (secretary), J. Wass, G. Cowlshaw, A.E. Causer, J. Richards, B. Chapman, A. Holmes and G. Robinson. The committee's task was to administer the money from the miners' welfare fund. The Warsop Vale residents decided that they would have a sports ground, and the committee set to work.

The new grounds were opened in May 1925 although the bowling green and tennis courts were not fully completed. The committee decided it would be better not to delay the opening ceremony as it was also to be the ceremony to unveil the new war memorial, the committee for which was also chaired by Mr. Ringham, the two committees having several members in common. Since welfare committee found themselves short of money much of the work was completed by voluntary labour with many of the miners coming along at night. Sir Hugo FitzHerbert donated all the shrubs to line the entrance to the grounds near the war memorial and his agent Mr. E. Wardley rendered much assistance and advice. In addition, the Staveley Coal & Iron Company granted them loans before the grant came through.

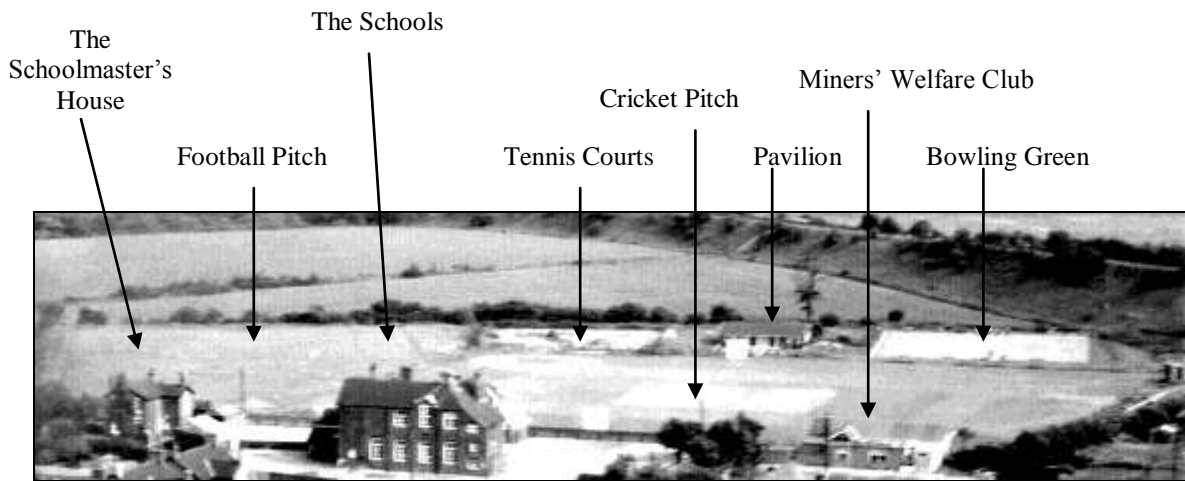
The new sports ground was situated behind the schools. It was a spacious field with a pavilion of pleasing design, and a long entrance, running between the Church Institute



Left: Signed photo of Ellis, Birchfield Harrier. A.A.A. one mile champion 1927 (4 mins 17 secs). Irish one mile record holder (4 mins 20 3/5 secs). 1,000 metres world record, Fallowfield, July 1927 (2 mins 27 3/5 secs).



Right: Ellis wearing vest issued to him for British Empire and U.S.A. Relay race 1924
(photographs courtesy of Old Warsop Society)



Warsop Vale Miners' Welfare Sports Ground in 1968



Opening the New Pavilion at Warsop Vale, July 23rd 1961

Back Row: H. Parkin, J. Cheeseman, J. Allen, W. Copestake, A. Naylor, R. Cooper, J. Winfield, R. Anderson

Front Row: J. Witham, Arthur Stray, J. Miller, W. Ogden, S. Lowe

(Courtesy of Jack Winfield)

and the schools, adorned with shrubs and flowers. The war memorial was situated at the head of this entrance. The grounds consisted of cricket pitch, a football pitch, bowling green and tennis courts. The pavilion was situated at the west end of the field adjacent to what are now the allotment gardens. On the 1920 Ordnance Survey map the land was part of Sookholme Moor showing how much effort must have been involved to transform moorland into such an excellent sports ground. Rumour has it that the turf laid was of the finest quality and some of it found it's way into the grounds of the Schoolmaster's house to form Mr. Sleight's front lawn.

The tennis courts and bowling green were completed in 1926 by miners taking part in the great strike. When the money was available a pavilion was built for the bowling green. The whole village was very proud of the Sports Ground and children were not allowed on it unless accompanied by their parents and the headmasters of the school strictly enforced this rule.

For many years Joe Miller used to be groundsman and he appears on many of the football and cricket photographs. His wife used to do the cooking for the dinners held for the sports presentations in the Institute and the Welfare.

Some thirty-five years later in 1961 a new pavilion was built at the south side of the field situated between the tennis courts and the bowling green. This was opened by Mr. R. Anderson, who was at that time the manager of Warsop Main Colliery. The whole sports ground can be seen on the photographs that were taken in 1968 from the headstocks. The cricket pitch was directly in front of the pavilion and the football pitch was at the east end of the grounds behind the Schoolmaster's house.

Religion in Warsop Vale

The Rev. Sir Richard FitzHerbert Baronet provided two places of worship in Warsop Vale in 1902. The Church and Primitive Methodist Chapel thrived within the community and the colliery manager, Booker, used to ensure both church and chapel details were brought to the men's attention by placing notices in their pay packets.

The majority of births, marriages and deaths were celebrated at the Warsop Parish Church. However, Warsop Vale did see the occasional wedding.

Church of England

In March 1902 a 1,800 square yard site was staked out adjacent to the new schools. The church was of corrugated zinc leased for a period of ten years. This temporary arrangement was to cover the period of the full development of the new village until more permanent arrangements could be provided to meet the spiritual requirements of the growing community called into existence by the Warsop Main Colliery. However, the temporary arrangement became permanent and no replacement was provided.

Records show the opening meeting of the church took place on Saturday 27th December 1902 presided over by the Rev. R.J. King, rector of Warsop. The opening was somewhat later than planned a delay having been occasioned in procuring the fixtures and fittings. The fact that the Rev. H. S. Arkwright had been called upon to lend a font backs this up. The Rev. W.H.C. Stainer, nephew of the Rev. R.J. King, was appointed the first curate for Warsop Vale. The Rev. King appointed the two Warsop churchwardens, Messrs. J Beard and J. Renshaw, as churchwardens for Warsop Vale. He also appointed four sidesmen, namely Messrs. Booker, Dawson, Severn and Day. Sir Richard FitzHerbert conducted the opening service on Sunday 11th January. Afterwards prizes, buns and oranges a gift from Sir Richard were presented by Lady FitzHerbert.

Religion was obviously popular in Warsop Vale as it was reported that by 1903 over a hundred copies of the Warsop parish magazine were being distributed in the village.

A Church Institute was erected in 1906 by Sir Richard FitzHerbert situated between the church and school, where the community centre now stands. Sir Richard died whilst the Institute was being built and was succeeded by his son, Hugo Meynell FitzHerbert, who provided the furnishings. The institute was much used for dinners, presentations and general social gatherings.

In March 1908, the Warsop Vale curate, the Rev. W.H.C. Stainer left to take up a position in Sutton-in Ashfield. The village presented him with a gold watch followed by a tea and social evening in the Church Institute. His successor was the Rev. T. S. Hudson who stayed until 1916.

During the Rev. T.S. Hudson's eight-year stay at Warsop Vale many changes took place. He oversaw the formation of a Mother's Union, a Church of England Men's Society, a Boy's Brigade, a Girl's friendly society, an O.E. Benefit Society and a Church finance committee. The church acquired a new font (presumably the Rev. Arkwright had his returned), a pipe organ and a vestry. The Reverend was also a school manager and school correspondent. He was even responsible for procuring a bridge over the river coming out of Sookholme. In April 1916 the Rev. Hudson left Warsop Vale having accepted an offer of the living at Blackwell, Derbyshire by the Duke of Devonshire. A ceremony was held in the schools to mark the Rev. and Mrs. Hudson's departure. A tea was given to which over 200 people sat down followed by a whist drive and social evening. The Hudson's were presented with gifts valued at over £76 to which no fewer than 260 people had contributed.

The Rev. S.P. Edwards took over as curate from the Rev. T.S. Hudson. In January 1923 another curate, the Rev. F.R.P. Sumner, left Warsop Vale and was succeeded by the Rev. L.A.C. Roberts MA.

The Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser reports that on Saturday 6th January 1917, Mr. T. Maddock presided over a meeting of the Church of England men's Society (C.E.M.S). A debate took place on a resolution passed at a conference held in Manchester that branches should discuss the question as to what, in their opinion, was a "hindrance to the effectiveness of the Church". Most of those present expressed their views and ultimately it was resolved that a sub-committee, consisting of the Chairman, Secretary, Rev. S.P. Edwards and Mr. J. Clayton draw up a resolution to forward to the Federation secretary.

On Friday 19th January 1923 it was reported that the Rev. L.A.C. Roberts M.A., Cambridge honours, has been appointed to succeed the Rev. F.R.P. Sumner as curate-in-charge at Warsop Vale. The Rev. Roberts was from St. Augustines, Derby. On the evening of Monday 26th February an official welcome meeting was held in the Church Institute for the Reverend Roberts and his wife. This consisted of light refreshments, songs, reading and recitations. Mr. Fred Vann represented the choir, Mr. Stanley Gee the Sunday school and Mrs. Borril, the Mother's Union.

The Church and Institute were still standing in 1959. It is said that the Church eventually blew down although there are stories of an accident inside which is supposed to have aided the process.

Sunday School

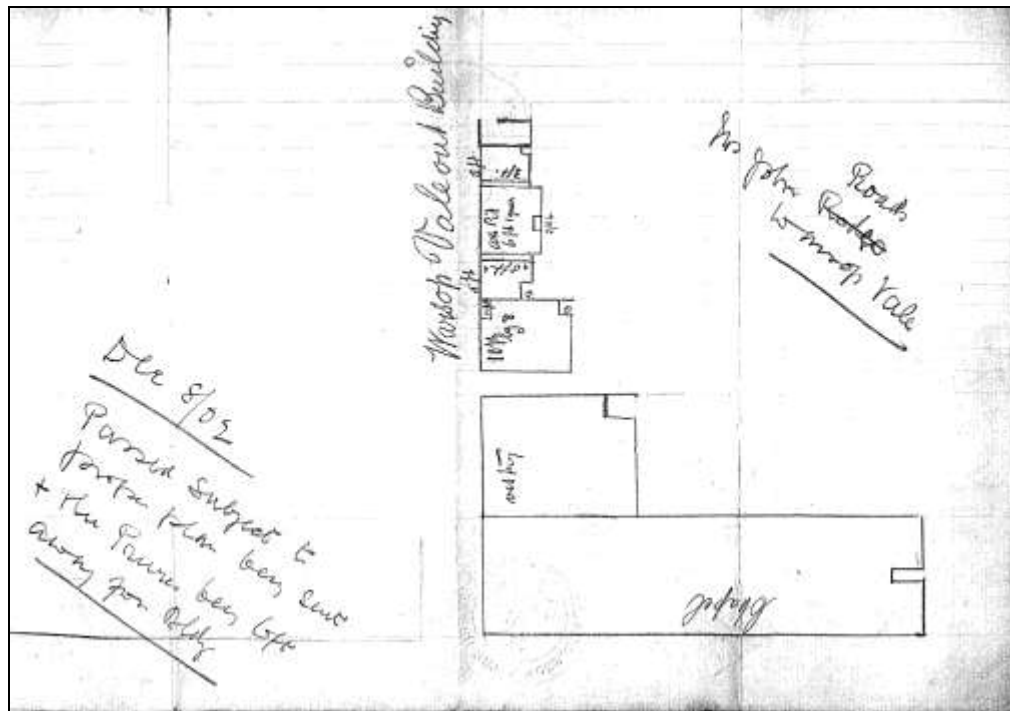
In the early days of Warsop Vale the Sunday school was held in the pay offices of the colliery. The Staveley Company then granted the use of the new school buildings for a church Sunday school. On Sunday 2nd March 1902 the first Sunday school was held in the new school buildings and 59 children were enrolled. The membership had grown to 200 by the end of 1902. When the new church opened at the beginning on 1903 the Sunday school and the newly formed Band of Hope started to meet there.

In June 1909 the first annual Sunday school festival was held at Warsop Vale. It is reported that the church was entirely filled and the Vale people took considerable interest.



Warsop Vale Methodist Chapel 1902

(From the 1902-03 Warsop Almanack, courtesy of the Old Warsop Society)



Proposed Outbuildings for Warsop Vale Methodist Chapel December 1902

(Courtesy of Nottinghamshire Archives : DC/WA/5/1/1/67)

The Methodist Chapel

The Primitive Methodist venture in Warsop Vale was originally founded by eight to ten members who founded the infant church. By the time the new chapel was opened in May 1902 membership had swelled to thirty.

The Methodist Chapel was situated opposite the Vale Hotel. It was a building of corrugated iron lined with stained wood. It was erected in just 21 days at a cost of £400 and could seat 300 people. Furnishings were completed in six weeks. It was built on a 1,500 square yard site that had been leased for a period of 50 years from Sir Richard FitzHerbert at an annual rental of three pounds. The building consisted of a rectangular chapel parallel to Carter Lane with a smaller vestry at the back. In December 1902 Warsop Urban District Council approved plans for the addition of outbuildings.

The chapel was opened around the same time as the new schools. On Saturday 3rd May 1902 an opening service was held at the chapel and was 'somewhat interfered with by the inclement weather'. It started with a dedicatory hymn and prayer for the members by the Rev. D.M. Bowman. The mine manager's wife, Mrs. Booker, then unlocked the door to admit 200 members of the public for a ham and tongue tea and a public meeting. Speeches were made by the mine manager, Mr. Booker and the new Schoolmaster, Mr. Bell and the whole day raised over £40.

In September 1903 the first harvest thanksgiving was held in the chapel followed by the ever-popular public tea. Mr. G. Owen of Mansfield Woodhouse occupied the pulpit. In the afternoon, the service of song "His time of reaping" was rendered by the choir, the connective readings being given by Mr. E. Bell, the schoolmaster. A produce sale on the Monday raised almost £8 in sales of fruit and vegetables. The musical part of the services, which was conducted by Mr. A. Gillott, was a strong feature.

On Monday 8th January 1917 the annual meeting of trustees and Church officials in connection with the Primitive Methodist Chapel was held. A tea followed the meeting. The Rev. C.F. Gill presided, and Mr. Bradley presented the financial statement that showed a credit balance of £11. All the officials were re-elected, the only change being Mr. Bradley as Sunday school superintendent vice Mr. E.J. Vaisey, who was on active war service. Mr. J.W. Critchlow of Langwith Junction was appointed temporary organist at the Vale Church, in succession to Mr. Fred Lowe, who was appointed organist at the Parish Church.

The Warsop Vale Methodist Church held its Golden Jubilee celebration on 7th and 8th June 1952. Miss Vilma Abbot and Mrs. Sansom sung duets and further entertainment was provided by Shirebrook Band Quartet.

The chapel building finally collapsed in the late 1980s or early 1990s under heavy falls of snow.

Warsop Vale Industrial Co-Operative Society

A year or two after the initial building of the Warsop Main Colliery, several colliery officials and workmen decided to meet with a view to forming a local Co-Operative Society. In 1902 a meeting was held in the local chapel to consider the project. This resulted in the formation of a provisional working committee who volunteered to canvas every householder in the village for prospective members, and the capital necessary to form the society. The village schoolmaster, Enoch Bell, acted as secretary. The gentlemen were obviously endowed with real spirit and the value of Co-Operative effort, the enthusiasm finally won through and the necessary capital and support were assured. By early 1903 a house in the village had been secured and fitted as a Co-Operative store.

The shop opened in March 1903 in Mrs. Langton's front parlour at no 169 with a loan from the CWS in Manchester. The balance sheet recorded the capital stood at £176, sales averaged £46 a week and a dividend of 2/- in the £ was paid in the first quarter. The staff consisted of a manger, an errand boy and committee members offering part-time help.

The 1901 village plans had already marked out a 'site for shops etc.' at the corner of West Street and North Street. It also showed a street planned to the other side of the shops heading up towards the colliery and the houses that were planned but never built.



Warsop Vale Co-Operative Stores

With hoist to left and Wheatsheaf Terrace to right. (Courtesy of Irene Asher)

The committee progressed to build a new building but due to cash flow shortage could not pay the architect, Mr. B.J. Mason of Barrow Hill near Chesterfield, who was the Staveley Company's architect. The committee therefore asked him to join as a member and invest his fee as share capital until such time as they were in a position to meet their obligations. Much to the relief of the committee, he agreed.

In 1904 B. J. Mason drew up plans and blueprints for the new shop and stores. The plans showed the shop to be at the front of the premises with stores and flour stores in the middle and a butcher's shop to the rear. There was also a cellar and out back were the usual outbuildings and w.c. More stores were upstairs with a crane to hoist up goods. The premises were built at a cost of £600.

In 1905 the society joined the Nottingham District Association of CWS and it was arranged that post office duties would be undertaken in a section of the grocery department. The society decided to expand into dry goods as well as groceries.

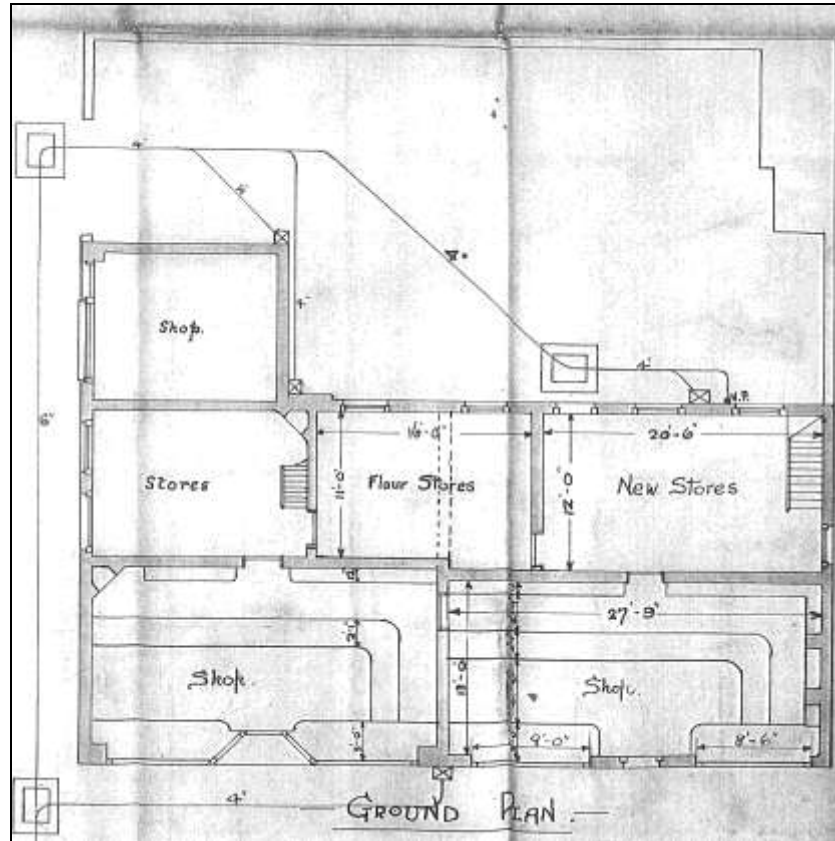
In February 1905 Ben Mason drew up plans for a substantial house to be built next door to the stores, presumably for the manager. The house was to have two reception rooms, a central stairway with scullery and coals to the rear and three rooms upstairs. The plans stated that the stores had 'just commenced building'. This house was never built and in 1911 plans were drawn up for the four cottages which now stand on the site.

In 1909 Ben Mason drew up plans for additions to the Co-Op stores. The shop downstairs was to be split into two covering the area where the house had originally been planned. Another shop was to be at the back with stores, flour stores in the middle. Further stores were to be added upstairs along with a new boardroom.

In 1911 it was decided to build four cottages for the manager and some of the committee members next to the stores. These became known as Wheatsheaf Terrace and were the only houses in the village not to be uniquely numbered. These four enjoyed the privilege of being no's 1-4 Wheatsheaf Terrace. Each cottage had a front parlour, back kitchen, larder, and scullery out back. No 1 was slightly larger than the rest intended for the secretary/manager. The Warsop/Sookholme parish boundary cut through the stores and cottages with No 1 being in Sookholme parish and numbers 2 to 4 being in the Warsop parish.

By 1914 the average weekly sales were £190 and there was a membership of 230 which averaged 1 person per household in the village and plans were drawn up by Benjamin J Marson, for six semi-detached cottages to the Carter Lane end of King Street. These were erected during the Great War of 1914 to 1918, with the help of a loan from the CWS in Manchester, and became known as the Co-Operative Villas where members of the committee were housed. These houses were larger than the miners' cottages in the village. Each had a front parlour, larder and kitchen with a scullery out back with

outbuildings for coals, ashes and privvy. Upstairs there were three bedrooms and a bathroom. As with the cottages on Wheatsheaf Terrace, the rents were paid to the Co-Operative Society and not the Staveley Coal & Iron Company.



Warsop Vale Co-Operative Stores - Ground Floor Plan

(Courtesy of Nottinghamshire Archives DC/WA/5/1/1/206)

The society prospered during the Great War. The dividends continued to be paid in the region of 2/-, 2/3, 2/6. Even when Warsop Main was on strike during the 1921 miners' strike and 1926 general strike the indications are that sound judgement in the selection of representatives of the society's board of management aided by loyal staff guided the society through difficult and anxious times. The Co-Operative Society members organised soup kitchens for the families of the strikers using grants from society funds. There was no welfare state or family allowance in those days and the villagers were reliant on this service. The miners' children would queue up behind the Methodist Church three or four times a week with their jugs for a ration of soup and occasionally a thick slice of bread and a banana or boiled pig potatoes. Sometimes the butcher gave bones and others gave vegetables.

Kelly's directory of Nottinghamshire, 1925, makes mention of 'Warsop Vale Industrial Co-Operative Society Ltd. (Walter Bradley sec.)' and 'Post and M.O. Office, Warsop

Vale – Walter S. Bradley, sub-postmaster. Letters through Mansfield. Shirebrook is the nearest telegraph office’.

In 1925 the electoral roll shows that Wheatsheaf Terrace was occupied by Walter Sils Bradley, Kate Farnsworth, Harriet Newton and Benjamin Chapman. The Co-Op Villas were occupied by Albert Edward Causer, Leonard Fletcher, Thomas James Simpson, James Arthur Cassels, Frank William Holmes (the police constable) and Joseph Elisha Hammersley with their families.

The successes continued and in 1927 a modern branch shop was opened near the new miners housing estate in Church Warsop. It became apparent that the main shop was cramped with outdated fixtures. It was therefore rebuilt at a cost of £2,500. It re-opened for business in September 1930 after operating on a temporary basis from the church institute.

Membership had reached 689 with annual trade of £31,277 and share capital of £30,158 in 1943. 1944 was the Centenary year for the society. The president at the time was William Everett and vice president George Robinson. Robert Kenyon was the secretary and shop manager who lived in no 1 Wheatsheaf Terrace next door to the shop and stores. The committee consisted of Claude Everett, Tomas Hardy, Thomas Bonsall, George Johnson, Albert Chapman, Sidney Weightman, Herbert Nutall, James Penrose and Alf Naylor. The stores had a butchery department, drapers, groceries, boots & shoes as well as general stores, post office and sweet shop.

In 1955 the officers of Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society included Claude Everett, Sidney Weightman, Thomas Hardy, Albert Chapman, Herbert Nutall, James Penrose (the headmaster), George Johnson, Alf Naylor, Charles Tomlinson, Thomas Bonsall, William Sansom and Fred Brough.

The chairman of the first committee elected by the members was George Godfrey. The first president was William Everett who held the position for many years living at 141 Warsop Vale opposite the shop. Later presidents included Claude Everett and Sidney Weightman. From 1922 to 1932 the secretary and sub postmaster was Walter Bradley. From 1934 to 1943 Robert Kenyon hold the position followed by Walter Brough.

Many of the past and present Warsop Vale residents can remember the Co-Op. Memories of being served by staff who took the money and inserted it in what appeared to be torpedo tubes, with the receipt which was then air blown up to a central cash office, with the receipt being returned as paid are very vivid. A big event for Warsop Vale was the annual Co-Op Gala. All the members’ children would take part in a parade. Prizes would be awarded and later in the afternoon there would be sports followed by tea. The building, which houses today’s corner shop, was added to the end of West at a later date. It is said that it used to be the Co-Op sweet shop and the upstairs was used as the committee room.

A nomination book has survived in which members nominated the names of who should inherit the member's property on death. Entries started in 1907 right up to 1943 and on the whole referred to the members' wives.

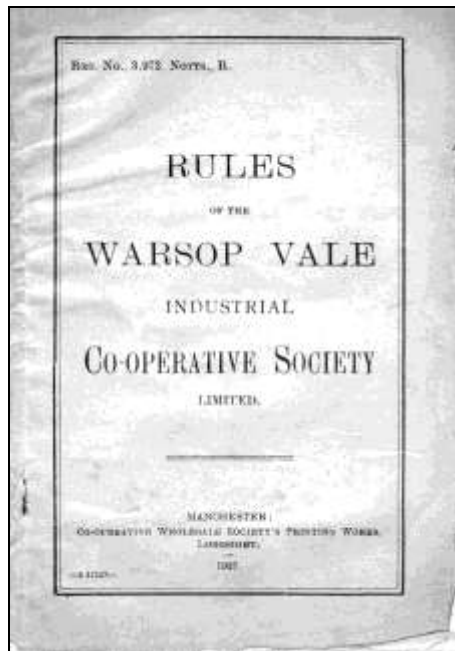
Eventually the Co-Op was forced to close by competition from supermarkets and lack of interest in the village. The stores now stand derelict and burnt out by vandals awaiting refurbishment into a new village resource centre courtesy of the National Lottery.



Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society Committee (c. 1940s)

Back Row: Claude Everett (Snr.), Mr. Johnson, Alf Naylor, Jimmy Penrose, Mr. Nutall, Sid Weightman

Front Row: Thomas Hardy, Robert Kenyon, William Everett (Snr.), Mr. Chapman, George Robinson,
Thomas Bonsall. (*Photo by H. Booth & Sons*)



12

society may vote into any such account; and it shall be in each form, and contain such clauses, conditions, and provisions as the committee may from time to time determine.

120. Should a member to whom an advance has been made allow his share capital in the society to become due any portion of the advance mentioned, the committee shall have power to apply such share capital where 120 towards the repayment of the advance.

121. Should a dispute arise between the society and any member in whom an advance has been made it shall be settled by arbitration, as prescribed by the society's rules.

122. The society shall hold itself responsible for the safe custody of all funds.

JNO. W. ALBERT, TREASURER,
LAWRENCE HOLLIES, SECRETARY,
ALBERT E. GUNTER,
KNOW HILL, MANCHESTER.

Section No. 117, Part II. Complete List of Members

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF
MEMBERSHIP OF BILLS

The foregoing statement of the Rules of the Warsop Vale Industrial Co-operative Society Limited is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, and 1908, and of December 1911.

G. S. B.

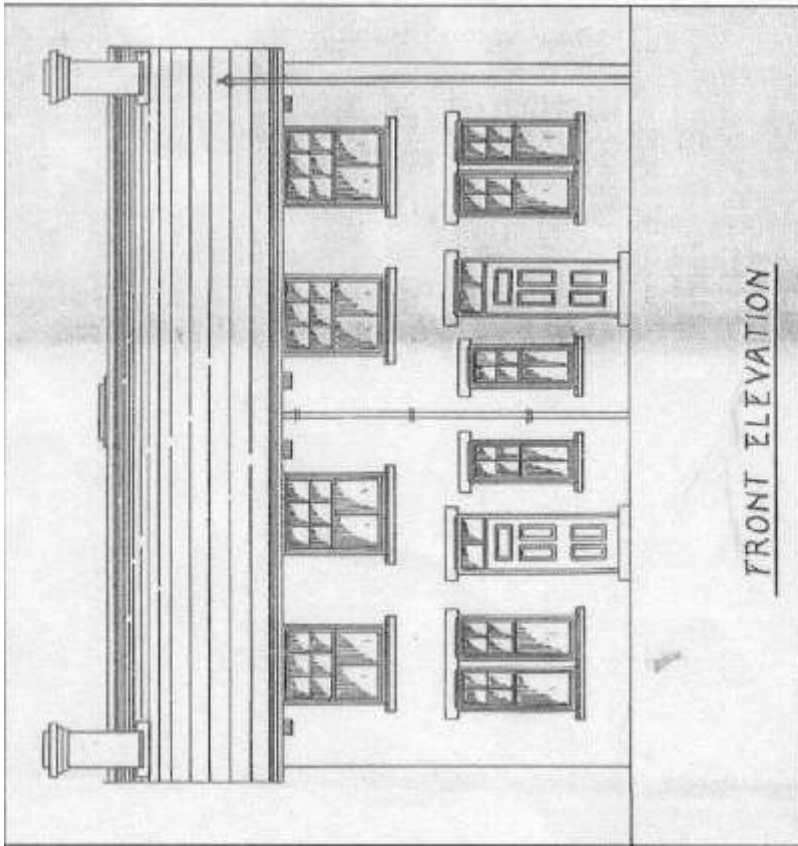
Copy sent—G. S. B.

13

Table showing the Progress of an Advance of £100 at 5% per week, at 21.25% per quarter, at 9 per cent annum.

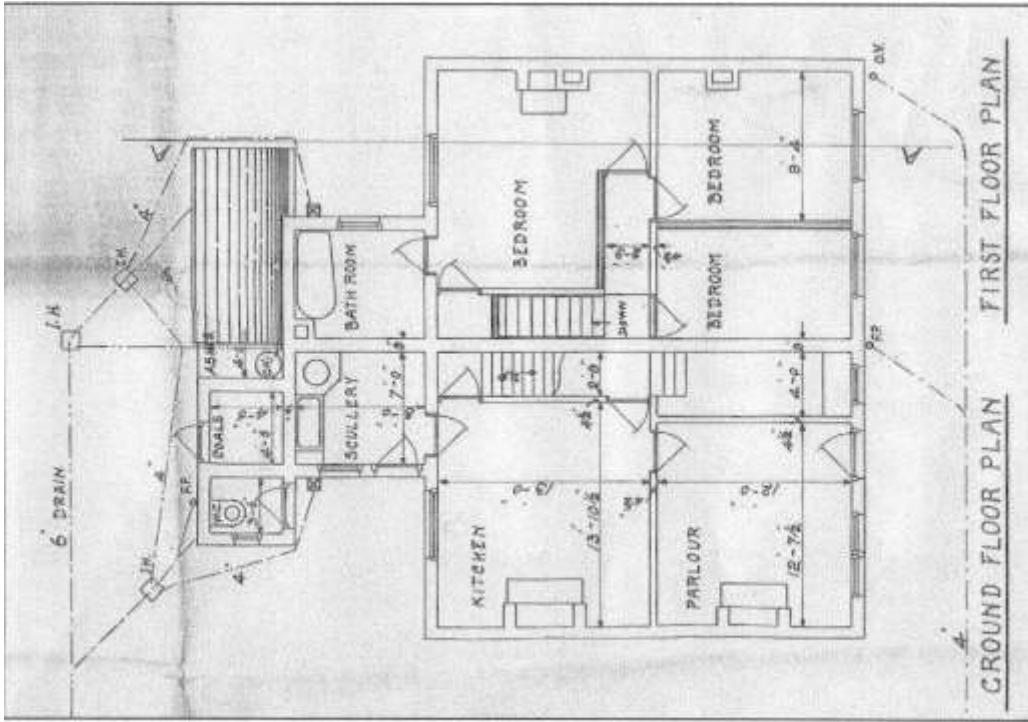
DATE.	Capital Repaid	Interest	Principal	Total	Days that have elapsed since the advance.
Jan. 1	0	0	100	100	0
Jan. 8	1	1	99	100	7
Jan. 15	2	2	98	100	14
Jan. 22	3	3	97	100	21
Jan. 29	4	4	96	100	28
Feb. 5	5	5	95	100	35
Feb. 12	6	6	94	100	42
Feb. 19	7	7	93	100	49
Feb. 26	8	8	92	100	56
Mar. 5	9	9	91	100	63
Mar. 12	10	10	90	100	70
Mar. 19	11	11	89	100	77
Mar. 26	12	12	88	100	84
Apr. 2	13	13	87	100	91
Apr. 9	14	14	86	100	98
Apr. 16	15	15	85	100	105
Apr. 23	16	16	84	100	112
Apr. 30	17	17	83	100	119
May 7	18	18	82	100	126
May 14	19	19	81	100	133
May 21	20	20	80	100	140
May 28	21	21	79	100	147
Jun 4	22	22	78	100	154
Jun 11	23	23	77	100	161
Jun 18	24	24	76	100	168
Jun 25	25	25	75	100	175
Jul 2	26	26	74	100	182
Jul 9	27	27	73	100	189
Jul 16	28	28	72	100	196
Jul 23	29	29	71	100	203
Jul 30	30	30	70	100	210
Aug 6	31	31	69	100	217
Aug 13	32	32	68	100	224
Aug 20	33	33	67	100	231
Aug 27	34	34	66	100	238
Sep 3	35	35	65	100	245
Sep 10	36	36	64	100	252
Sep 17	37	37	63	100	259
Sep 24	38	38	62	100	266
Oct 1	39	39	61	100	273
Oct 8	40	40	60	100	280
Oct 15	41	41	59	100	287
Oct 22	42	42	58	100	294
Oct 29	43	43	57	100	301
Nov 5	44	44	56	100	308
Nov 12	45	45	55	100	315
Nov 19	46	46	54	100	322
Nov 26	47	47	53	100	329
Dec 3	48	48	52	100	336
Dec 10	49	49	51	100	343
Dec 17	50	50	50	100	350

Warsop Vale Industrial Co-Operative Society
1927 Rule Book (Courtesy of Jack Winfield)



The Co-Operative Villas on King Street, Warsop Vale

Above : Front elevation; Right: Floor plans
 (Nottinghamshire County Council : Leisure Services : Nottinghamshire Archives
 DC/WA/5/1/206)



Crime in Warsop Vale

Village Bobbies

From the building of the miners' cottages in 1902 until the early 1970s there was always a police constable stationed at Warsop Vale known as the 'bobby'. The Warsop Vale bobby was full time. His area included the Vale, Church Warsop, Sookholme and up to the Railway Bridge at Shirebrook. These he patrolled on his bicycle. In contrast to reports of Warsop Vale being described as 'the roughest place on earth' in the early 1900s, in March 1902 the Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser reported that 'it is gratifying to note that PC Daniels, who is stationed at Warsop Vale, is having a very quiet time'.

The first Bobbies lived at no 35 Carter Lane, which is the house nearest the pub. These included Frank Garwood who was at Mr. & Mrs. Bell's leaving presentation in November 1907 and also referred to in 1909. PC Thomas Marshall was on the 1911 register of electors and assisted with the investigation into the theft at Warsop Main in December 1913 (see below). PC Ernest Seymour was also referred to in 1913 and was supposedly brought in to 'sort out the local ruffians'

When the Co-Op Villas were built during the First World War No. 78 was allocated to the Village Bobby. On the 1925 electoral roll PC Percy Sharp was living there. He is remembered as a big chap, some 6' 3" with two children who went to the Vale schools. PC Sharp was followed by PC Morgan who it is reported visited the schools in to conduct an enquiry re bird stealing. Morgan was also on the 1936 register of electors. Ten years later in 1946 PC Albert Woolnough was registered to vote. In the early 1960s a purpose built police house was erected on the eastern fringe of the village next to the Schoolmaster's House. This is now known as Meadow Cottage. The new police house was first home to PC Des Cook and later to PC John Palmer and PC Gregory. In the 1970s the Police House was sold to the Bowrings, a local farming family. An extension was built on and unfortunately the 'Nottinghamshire Constabulary 1960' stone in the wall was lost.

Theft at Warsop Main

In December 1913 the Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser reported that a miner named George Rice appeared in the dock at the Mansfield Petty Sessions charged with stealing £13 from the Staveley Coal & Iron Co. Ltd. while employed at Warsop Main. It was alleged that he stole that sum by fraudulently converting it to his own use. Giving evidence, Lloyd Henry Langrick, under manager at Warsop Main, stated that until recently the prisoner was employed by the colliery as a stallman contractor, and on December 17th he received £14 6s 3d., the remaining £13 being payable to the other men employed in the stall. Later the same day, William Jones, one of the other stallmen in that stall, came and asked for the money. Langrick informed him that it had been paid to Rice. Jones tried to find Rice, but without success. Rice had kept the whole of the

money, and disappeared, so a warrant was issued for his apprehension and the Colliery Co. paid the daymen's wages on the following day. Rice was sentenced to a month in jail.

Murder at the Schoolmaster's House

On Wednesday 29th December 1937 Warsop Vale woke up to the news that the headmaster, Mr. Meakin, had been murdered in his bed by having an axe embedded in his head by his son. The seventeen-year-old, who worked in the colliery offices, immediately gave himself up to the police. He was defended by a top barrister named Birkett and convicted for manslaughter. He served only nine months once mitigating circumstances were brought to light. After the trial the family changed their names and moved away.

Many stories surround the murder. Someone was present in the surgery the following morning when the details were telephoned through. One elderly resident reports having used the same axe to build Meakin a dog kennel only days earlier. Someone else's father remembered Meakin having visited the pit workshops to sharpen the axe shortly before the murder. Mr. Causer, who was Bill Everett's father-in-law and lived at 78 Co-Op Villas, is supposed to have been drinking with Meakin in the wooden club (where the Community Centre now is) when Meakin foresaw in his glass that his wife was going to murder him. Others suggest that Mrs. Meakin may have put her son up to it.

HEADMASTER'S TRAGIC DEATH: WARSOP INQUEST PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED

(Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser Friday 7th January 1938)

MEDICAL EVIDENCE OF INJURY

The inquest proceedings in connection with the tragic death of Mr. George Arthur Meakin, aged 39, schoolmaster of Warsop Vale, were opened at Warsop Town Hall on Saturday morning. The deceased was found in bed with an axe embedded in his skull the previous Wednesday evening, and on Thursday last week his son, Owen Arthur Alexander Meakin, aged 17 years and 10 months, was remanded by the Mansfield Magistrates on a charge of having caused his father's death. After evidence of identification and medical evidence as to the cause of death had been given, the Coroner (Mr. E. G. Warburton) adjourned the inquiry until March 9th in view of the criminal

proceedings. Mr. G. H. Tinsley was chosen foreman of the jury, and Supt. W. E. Neate watched the proceedings on behalf of the police. John William Patrick, miner, of 10 Oakland Avenue, Heanor, & brother-in-law of the deceased, said that at 2.45pm on December 30th he went to the mortuary at the Warsop Town Hall, and in the presence of Sergt. Weston identified the body of deceased.

INJURIES DESCRIBED

A description of the injuries which had caused the death of the deceased was given by Dr. N. L. Tweedie of Mansfield, who stated that at about seven o'clock on the evening of December 29th, accompanied by Supt. Neate he went to the School House at Warsop Vale, and by request,

examined the body. The dead man was lying in bed, in an attitude of sleep. A household hatchet was buried in his skull practically up to the haft, and caused a large gaping wound 6.5 inches deep and 2 inches at the widest. The wound ran from the left temple near the eye to behind the left ear.

Proceeding, Dr. Tweedie said there was a large pool of blood on the floor, the bedding was soaked with blood, the walls were splashed with blood and there were radiating splashes on the pillow. The skull was shattered added witness. Pieces of bone lay loose in the wound, two pieces of the skull were found on the floor and another on the bedclothes. The brain was protruding from the wound and there were parts of the tissue on the

bedclothes and on the floor. 'I formed the opinion that death was instantaneous,' added the Doctor. The Coroner: How long do you think he had been dead? Witness: Within two hours. Dr. Tweedie said he made a post-mortem examination of the body on Thursday at the Town Hall. No other marks of external violence were found. The base of the skull was uninjured, which was contrary to what he expected to find. The vault of the skull was fractured and the brain badly lacerated. Death was due to fracture of the skull and laceration of the brain. The Coroner: Do you think there was more than one blow? Witness: I should think there was more than one. In reply to another question, Dr. Tweedie said the blows could not have been self-inflicted.

Sergt. Weston said that on December 29th at 8pm the deceased's son was charged at the Mansfield Police Station

with the murder of his father, and on the Thursday he (witness) was present at the Petty Sessions when the accused was charged before the magistrates and was remanded in custody. Witness removed the body of the deceased from the School House to the mortuary at 10pm on December 29th. At this stage the Coroner informed the jury that that was all the evidence he proposed to take that day, and as criminal proceedings were pending it was his duty to adjourn the enquiry until the result of those proceedings was known. If the accused was committed for trial by magistrates, the Assizes would not be held until February, and he could therefore do not other than adjourn that enquiry until March 9th. The jury would be bound over to appear at the adjourned enquiry, if called upon to do so. In that event they would

receive information from Sergeant Weston.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral of the deceased took place in Warsop Cemetery on Saturday afternoon, following a service in the Warsop Parish Church. A small crowd of people gathered outside the Warsop Mortuary to watch the departure of the cortege to the church. Inside the church many of the Christmas decorations were still to be seen. The congregation included a number of representatives of the teaching profession. The service, and the last rites at the graveside, were conducted by the Rector (Rev. WE Morgan). The family mourners were Mrs. Meakin (widow); Mr. & Mrs. T Meakin and Mr. & Mrs. F. Meakin (brothers and sisters-in-law); Mr. W. Storer (brother-in-law) and Mrs. Storer; Mrs. D. Neale (sister-in-law) and Mr. Neale; Mr. and Mrs. W Patrick (brother-

in-law and sister); and Mrs. J. Marshall. Amongst those in the church were: - Councillor H. Gent (representing the Managers of the School), Councillor F. Blackburn (chairman of the Warsop U.D.C. and correspondent of the School), Messrs. N. Deane (Mansfield Woodhouse), W. Nowell (Nuncargate) and L.W. Davies (Mansfield Woodhouse), representing the National Union of Teachers; Messrs. J. Penrose, R. Lucas and A. Stone, Miss Langrick and Miss Storey (of the staff of Warsop Vale School); Mr. S. Bennett (headmaster, Burns Lane); Mr. F. Wood (headmaster, Netherfield Lane); Mr. GH Tinsley (a former headmaster of Burns

Lane); Mr. W E Thompson, Mansfield Woodhouse (ex-treasurer, County Committee of the British Legion); Mr. O A Miles, Mansfield (ex-County Committee of the British Legion) and Mr. A H Drabble (Notts. County Committee of the British Legion and a member of the Kirkby Woodhouse branch).

The Rector, in the course of a short address, said he supposed most of them, like himself, counted George Arthur Meakin among their acquaintances. Now, tragedy unequalled in his experience had laid him low. About that, there was no more that he would add there beyond to ask permission to express the

very intense sympathy he, and he was certain every member of the parish felt, for his widow and relatives. The rector added, 'The standards of Christ, when put into operation, produced absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. Such could never lead to tragedy, but always to peace, happiness and the reign of the Kingdom of Christ among those with whom they came into contact. They might learn those standards only by seeking them in the place where God met men and women - at the foot of the Cross of Christ'. By special request there were no flowers.

The St. John's Ambulance Brigade in Warsop Vale

The Staveley Coal & Iron Company took a very keen interest in social work amongst the employees. This was chiefly administered through the medium of Ambulance Brigades of which there was one at each colliery. In the 1930s, these commanded, in all, over 500 well trained, fully competent Ambulance men, and, in addition to these, there were 30 nurses. Numerous prizes were won by the various Divisions. The thoroughness of the Ambulance organisation was evident by the fact that whenever an accident occurred in any part of the collieries, an ambulance man was always in attendance within three minutes. The Company had three well-equipped motor ambulances, and an up-to-date ambulance room had been built at each pit. A large lecture room and recreation room has been provided at each colliery, where classes are regularly held.

The Warsop Vale St. John Ambulance brigade was founded by William Everett who was also president of the Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society and No. 1 ambulanceman at Warsop Main Colliery. William Everett's son Bill, who is now in his 90s, remembers going away to camp in Blackpool and Yarmouth and being presented with various medals and prizes for ambulance work. The movement was started very early on by the Staveley Coal & Iron Company and the school records show that ambulance instruction was taught as early as 1904. Many people from the village became active in the brigade. The headmaster, John William Sleight, was Superintendent of the Warsop Vale Ambulance Brigade for many years and served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in the First World War. The mine manager, Rex Ringham was also a Superintendent.

During the First World War members of the Warsop Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, including William and Claude Everett from Warsop Vale, were detailed to various military hospitals at Aldershot, Salisbury Plain, Tidworth etc. The 1914 Warsop Almanack describes the St. John Ambulance Brigade at Warsop Vale as 'a fine body of men who by dint of perseverance have made themselves fit for such meritorious service'.

The Brigade took part in many village events including the unveiling of the War memorial in 1925 and the procession to mark the coronation of King George V. and Queen Mary in 1935.

On 17th June 1927, J.W. Sleight wrote in the school log book 'Twelve children have gone to Blackpool for a week with the Warsop Vale cadets, a branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Staveley Corps.) who are camping at Blackpool from June 17th to June 24th. They are under the control of Mr. Ringham, the chairman of the school managers of this school'.

In the 1930s re-organisation of the colliery, the old canteen was refurbished as an ambulance room. Later the St. John Hall was built near the pit yard.



The Staveley Company's Ambulance Corps – Blackpool Camp, 1933
(Courtesy of Evening Gazette, Blackpool)



Ambulance Room at Warsop Main Colliery

(from a Colliery Department Booklet published 1935 entitled the 'The Staveley Coal & Iron Company Limited' - courtesy of Bill Everett)

AMBULANCE WORK AT WARSOP VALE

(Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser Friday 2nd March 1923)

The Warsop Main division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade had their annual social gathering on Saturday. In the afternoon the Asst. Commissioner for Nottingham, Mr. A.B. Gibson, inspected the newly uniformed cadet division. They paraded thirty strong, and the boys, all of whom have obtained the S.J.A.B. Preliminary certificate, were put through squad drill, handseat drill, and the march past. The inspecting officer heartily complimented the proposed cadet officer, Mr. H.L. Nutall, on the smartness of the boys in appearance and drill, and tested very thoroughly their knowledge in First aid.

A sumptuous tea, provided by the social committee and their wives, was enjoyed by a large gathering of the brigade men, cadets and

their friends. After tea, a concert was held in the large room of the brigade headquarters, presided over by Supt. R. Ringham, supported by Asst. Com. A.B. Gibson, Corp's officer J.W. Sleight, Div. Surg. P.M. Gettleson, Supt. T. Hayes of the New Hucknall Division, Am-bulance Officers W. Everett, J. Wass and O. Boyce (Welbeck Division)

An excellent programme was provided by Miss Constance Simpson, soprano; Mr. H. Pendleton, baritone, and Mr. H.P. Brufton (all of Sheffield). Miss F. Abbott of Warsop Vale, made an efficient pianist. Miss Simpson's rendering of "Love's a Merchant" and the "Brown Owl" were enthusiastically encored, as also were the songs of Mr. Pendleton: "A Warwickshire Wooing" and "Brian of Glenaar". Mr. Brufton's

ditties and recitals, "Bogart ont' Stump" and "The Village Blacksmith" caused roars of laughter and will long be remembered. During the evening, Asst.

Commander Gibson highly complimented the Division on the report of work given by the secretary, Staff Sergt. A. Holmes, and also read the remarks of the Commissioner for he District on the year's work which were brief but very much to the point, being "an excellent report," and expressed his delight at having the opportunity to present the Diploma of Hon. Serving brother of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem to Corps. Officer J.W. Sleight, and the Vellum Vote of Thanks of the same Order to Sergt. J.G. Savage. Both officers suitably replied.

Divisional surgeon P.M. Gettleson congratulated the Division on the unbroken record of success at the examinations - no failures during the year - and presented certificates to cadets H. Nuttall, F. Townroe, N. Nuttall, H. Poultney, G. Plevy, J. Ellis, A. Aldridge, J. Elliott, B. Bestwick, J. Rushton, F. Richards, J. Langton, R. Taylor, A. Harrisson, F. Meredith, W. Everett, C. Dean, H. Sansom, D. White, H. Millership, H. Grainger, S. Reeves, A.E. Storr, N. Poultney, C. Rushton, C. Kilner, Jos. Wass, S. Walker, C. Walker and Jack Wass.

This Cadet Division is the first to be formed in the area, and is going very strong. The Chairman, Supt Ringham strongly urged

the members to take up competition work so as to render themselves thoroughly efficient in the work of first-aid, and then presented the following brigade awards: - Vouchers: W. Marriott, R. White, R. Horton (junr.), C. Butler, A. Cooper, H. Savage, G. Plevy, N. Shillington, B. Fowler, W. Raines, F. Barnes, D. Walker, F. Grainger, J. Northern, G. Langton (junr.), W. Johnson and E. Mutter. Labels: R. Horton, A. Holmes, J. Shillington, G. Langton, J.W. Savage, J.G. Savage, W. Everett, C. Everett, J. Walker, E.H. Holmes, J. Ellis, J.G. Claxton, J.F. Holmes, W. Butler, W. Shepherd, F. Fowler and H. Nutall. Service Badges: (for three years efficient service) C. Everett, J.W. Savage, H.

Nuttall, D. White, J.G. Claxton, F. Fowler, W. Butler, J.F. Holmes, G. Langton, J. Shillington, J.G. Savage and E.H. Holmes.

At the close of the presentations, Supt. T., Hayes proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the artistes, the ladies who had prepared the tea, and the social committee in whose hands all the arrangements had been left. Ambulance Officer Boyce, of the Welbeck Division, supported by the Corps Officer J.W. Sleight, voiced the thanks of the gathering to the Chairman. The National Anthem brought a most successful gathering to a close.



Mr. Palmer, ambulance room attendant, and Sister Walker, colliery nurse, in the ambulance room at Warsop Main Colliery c. 1950s/60s

(Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)

Mining Accidents

The Early 1900s

The sinking at Warsop Main took place without loss of life or limb and no reports of accidents were found prior to 1902. However, once sinking was complete and the coal near the surface had been extracted, the job became more dangerous and as was common in the coal industry in general at the time, many fatal accidents occurred at the Warsop Main Colliery during the early days. During the period from March 1902 to October 1905, the Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser reported on no fewer than ten deaths, mostly the result of roof falls. In each case an inquest was held by the Coroner. The mine manager was always required to be present and usually the inspector of mines and a representative of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company. The verdict was normally 'accidental death'. The reports into the inquests printed in the local paper give an interesting insight into life and the relative lack of safety, down the pit at the time.

The first accident reported by the Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser was in March 1902. Benjamin Cantrell and Albert Berresford lost their lives down the mine, it appears mainly due to geological conditions near a fault causing a build up of gasses which pushed approximately 30 tons of coal and clod down causing the men to suffocate. Ironically, if they could have got four feet further away they would have been safe. (See newspaper report overleaf). References to earlier accidents can be found such as a chap called Carter in 1901 referred to in passing when his brother's accident was reported in 1903.

1902 seemed a particularly bad year and once again in December a great deal of doubt arose about how miner Joseph Bell died. He reported by letters, which became lost, that he had suffered a head injury after being struck by a lump of coal. However, he did not report the accident before leaving work and none of his fellow workers remembered an incident, leading to speculation of whether an accident at work had actually caused his death. Bell died in hospital from pneumonia and meningitis a few days later.

In May 1903 George Hurst was killed by a bind fall whilst at work at the Warsop Main Colliery where he had worked for only three months. At the inquest it was reported that Hurst and two other day hands were employed to get coal by undermining and 'bannacking'. There was five feet six inches of coal and a clod on the top of two foot three thick. Above that was the combe coal to which they propped. The length of the props was ten feet six inches. All in the stall were engaged in getting coal up to the time of the accident, and propped the clod. No holing had been done that morning. Hurst was getting coal in front of the plates when he was sent to the lower side bank to get up some 'bats'. About four minutes later the other men heard a cry and felt a bump. All in the stall ran to Hurst's assistance, the noise coming from the lower bank. They found there had been a fall of stone about a foot thick and weighing a hundredweight. Hurst was lying on the ground the stone being on him, across the lower part of his body. He was pinned against the pack. They managed to get the stone off the him. He was conscious

and was carried inside the 'gate'. He was given a drink of tea, but he got gradually worse and died inside the 'gate' within a quarter of an hour, having lost consciousness soon after being removed. That was about 9.30 a.m. William Henry Wyatt who was in charge of the stall, had been in the bottom side of the stall that morning to examine it and see if it was safe for Hurst and the others to go and work there. The clod was not overhanging. Wyatt said he could not account for the fall if it was not overhanging, although occasionally a piece would fall off the solid as this had done. He said that there was a rule, which prohibited a stallman having overhanging coal or clod. Workmen had been in the stall the previous night and removed some coal, no holing, however, having been done. The coal was hard and they had to prop it up and get the coal from under it. It was a dangerous operation, but it had to be done owing to the hard nature of the clod. Percy Hyde Court, medical practitioner, residing at Warsop, spoke of examining the body of the deceased at the colliery on the date of the accident. Deceased had a scalp wound and inch long on the right hand side of the head, a lacerated wound on the hand, nine ribs on the right side were fractured and bruises on the buttocks, and death was probably due to hemorrhage caused by the ribs having punctured the lungs. The Coroner reviewed the evidence briefly, and the jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental death'.

In August 1903 William Carter suffered a broken thigh and arm in an accident underground. About two years earlier his brother had been killed in an accident at the same pit. Another fall of roof in November 1903 caused the death of Arthur Edwin Severn of 199, Warsop Vale. Severn was extremely well respected in the area and left a wife and six children.

Safety was obviously not satisfactorily addressed following these incidents as May 1904 saw the death of John Robert Allen by a fall of roof. In February 1905 John Meads, a stallman, was pinned against a prop and killed by a twelve cwt. fall from the solid face. As in all the other cases, the Coroner returned a verdict of 'accidental death'. Later that year two more deaths occurred. A young labourer called John James Marriot was killed by a roof fall in July 1905.

Fred Ibbottson of Warsop Vale, of whom it was said there was "not a better little chap in the pit", died in October 1905, not from a roof fall this time but when a slab of coal fell over. Mr. Hepplewhite, the Chief Inspector of Mines at the time, alleged carelessness. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental death' and expressed the opinion that the stallman, Henry Wass, ought to have exercised more care, and they hoped he would do so in future.

An accident of a different nature occurred in November 1906 when John Duncombe, aged 16, was crushed by tubs. Duncombe was employed as pony driver. He suffered a severe fracture of the spine, mortification set in a few days later and he died. It was suggested at the inquest that the lad had been riding on the front of the tubs, which was against regulations. However, the Coroner did not think the theory of the lad violating the rules was by any means conclusive. The jury considered the lad had not sufficient instructions for his work, and that he died of injuries accidentally sustained.

TWO MINERS KILLED AT WARSOP MAIN COLLIERY

(Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser Friday 14th March 1902)

Early on Friday morning the news spread quickly that two men, Albert Edward Beresford, aged 24, and Benjamin Cantrill aged 26, both married and living at Shirebrook, had been killed at Warsop Main Colliery. Beresford formerly resided at Warsop and was well known there. When the position of the bodies and the surrounding circumstances became known, it was at once seen that this event was more than usually tragic and extraordinary. An inquest was held by Dr. Houseley at the Colliery offices, on Saturday afternoon, Mr. F. Bett being foreman of the jury. Mr. Jos. Humble, general colliery manager for the Staveley Company, watched the case on behalf of the owners, and Mr. James

Haslam J.P., miners' agent represented the widows of the deceased. Mr. Stokes, inspector of mines, was present, and by his additional interrogation of the more important witnesses, helped to clear up the somewhat obscure and remarkable causes of the accident.

William Beresford, the first witness, stated that he lived at 13, Ashburn Street, Shirebrook, and was a builders' foreman. He identified the body, which had been viewed, as that of his son, Albert Edward Beresford, coal miner, aged 24, who resides at 1a Portland Street, Shirebrook, and was employed at Warsop Main Colliery. He had worked there over five years and was a steady man. He had been employed in a pit ten years. He never complained of the

nature of his employment.

Isaac Cooper of 25, Portland Street, Shirebrook, coal miner, recognised the other body as that of his son-in-law, Benjamin Cantrill, coal miner, aged 26. He resided in Portland Row, Shirebrook and had been employed at Warsop Main Colliery about six years. He was a steady man and had never complained about the nature of his employment.

Joseph Cooper, of Portland Street, Shirebrook, coal miner, said he worked at Warsop Main Colliery. On Thursday afternoon he was at work in no. 121 heading, which had been driven 49 yards into solid coal. It was timbered with bars about a yard apart all the way up. On that

day he was instructed by the surveyor to stop the straight heading and drive it to the left-hand. The heading was 8ft wide by 6ft 6in in height. It was ventilated by a brattice cloth hung in space from the right hand side. On leaving work there was plenty of air passing. No gas or weight had been met with. They had out the opening about 8ft 9in when they left on Thursday evening, and told him to square up the right hand side of the heading and to set two 7ft bars across the heading. Cantrill replied that he would do so. The last bar put in when witness left was about 6in from the opening. There was plenty of timber and the place well timbered when he left it.

John Thomas Taylor said that he lodged at 46 Station Road, Shirebrook, and was a deputy at Warsop Main Colliery. On Thursday, the 6th March, he went into heading No. 121 at 20 minutes past eleven.

He examined the place, and found it all right. The two men, Beresford and Cantrill, had gone with their tub to the pit bottom. The ventilation was good, and the brattice cloth was within one yard of the cutting. There was no smell of gas and no weight on the place at that time. About twenty minutes past four on Friday morning witness met a boy who told him that there was something the matter in No. 121 heading, and that he was wanted there. He went immediately, and found Mr. Gillott, the head deputy, already there. There was a large quantity of coal and clod down. The top tub, which was about a quarter full, was standing across the road about 8 yards from the end of the heading. A search was made, and the bodies of the two deceased were found close to the tub. Both were quite dead. He helped to carry the bodies out of the

heading. Beresford lay face downward on the floor, behind the brattice cloth, and Cantrill on the top of him, also face downwards. He thought they were making their escape behind the brattice cloth. Cantrill had two safety lamps in his right hand, which was thrown back over his shoulder. When witness left at 11.20 on Thursday night there was about half a tub of coal on the floor. Witness had examined the heading twice a day and had never seen any gas. On Tuesday, witness first noticed petroleum oozing out, and it increased a little up to Thursday. The ventilation was good. Beresford and Cantrill were due at work at eight o'clock. At 11.20 the last bar was set about 3 feet from the head end.

Arthur Gillott, who lives at Warsop Main cottages, and is the head deputy at Warsop Main, stated that he was on duty on Thursday

evening, and did not see either Beresford or Cantrill alive after they had left the bit bottom. He was at the pit bottom ten minutes past four o'clock on Friday morning, when Aaron Bilson came and told witness that there was something wrong at Cooper's heading No. 121. He took Henry Bilson with him and examined the heading. About 40 yards up he found a tub about a quarter full across the way. He called out, but got no reply. Witness then got help and found both the bodies quite dead. The rails at the bottom of the heading were out of place about half a yard. The eight yards of heading beyond the bodies were full of coal, clod and timber.

Edwin Ellis Booker, manager of Warsop Main Colliery, said he had a search made as to the cause of the accident. The eight yards from the back of the heading were full of coal, clod and timber.

The heading was approaching several slips or falls. It was impossible that the material could have fallen from the roof. It must have been pushed from the fault, at the end along the way. The force of gas behind the fault had suddenly forced the material out before the men had time to escape. Could they have got four feet farther they would have been safe. Witness estimated the quantity of material forced out to be at least 30 tons. There was no trace of an explosion having occurred. There had never been any shots fired in the heading since it was started. Witness had crawled over the material to the end of the heading, and measured the fault, which was about 1ft 8in.

Mr. Joseph Humble agreed entirely with the explanation given by Mr. Booker, which he considered, was the only one possible.

Dr. Joseph Ingram, Shirebrook, deposed that on Friday morning he examined the bodies of Beresford and Cantrill in the colliery offices. Beresford was first examined, and he found the face very much swollen and livid. There was a dent over the left eyebrow, and the body was abnormally warm. Judging from the stiffening, deceased had been dead about seven hours. There was no appearance of burning, and no fracture of bones in the body. The bruises on the face might have been caused by falling.

Witness next examined Cantrill, and found his face swollen and livid and the tongue protruding through the teeth. There were also scratches on the face. The body was warmer than Beresford's and was stiff. Death had occurred about the same time in each case. Witness considered the cause of death to be suffocation, which

might be either from the want of air of the inhaling of gas.

The coroner summed up the evidence, remarking that it was a most painful case, and the

first occasion on which he had conducted an enquiry involving a double fatal accident.

After a brief consultation, the jury returned a verdict of

'Accidental death through suffocation' and the foreman expressed the sympathy of the jury with the widows and families of the deceased men.

In April 1912 Emmanuel Seddon was also crushed by tubs and in December 1915 William Jackson suffered a roof fall in which he met his death.

Locals remember that if an accident occurred at the pit a whistle was blown and all the men in the village would go up to the pit head to see if they could be of assistance.

Death of a Well-Known Cricketer

One of the most famous fatalities occurred in August 1924 when it became known that a well-known resident, who had gained a prominent position in cricketing circles, Mr. Frederick Arthur Newton, had tragically met with his death through a heavy fall of roof at Warsop Main Colliery. Up until then the pit had happily been free from fatalities and this type of mishap for a considerable time. Mr. Newton was described as a keen sportsman, a good worker and one of the most popular residents of the village. He played on the Warsop Main cricket team which was captained by the mine manager, Rex Ringham.

Two months later, seventeen-year-old Herbert Wass, of 54, Warsop Vale, was run over by coal tubs, just two minutes before he was due to finish his shift. He was so badly injured that he died on the way to Mansfield hospital. The jury heard from Herbert Houseley, of Warsop Vale, who was working on the same shift as the deceased. Houseley said that deceased was employed to take off a clip that fastened the first vehicle of a train of nine or ten tubs to a moving rope. It would not be necessary for him to go between the tubs, although he might do it occasionally. Houseley was working in the engine house, and about half past nine deceased put on his clothes so that he would be ready for 'knocking off' time, although he knew that there were two more trains of tubs coming down, but there was no need for him to hurry. Suddenly Houseley heard the lad shout 'Herbert' twice, and knew by the sound of his voice that he was in great pain. He found the unfortunate youth under the axle of one of the tubs of a train, and it was obvious that the front one had run over his abdomen. Houseley explained that before he left the engine house he shut off the power so that the train was stopped. Had he not done so the whole train would have passed over him, and probably a second, which was in the rear. It was suggested that it was possible that the second train, normally 30 yards away from the first, may have slipped and bumped into the first one at the precise moment deceased tried to remove the clip from the front vehicle. A verdict of 'Accidental Death' was returned.

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS FAIL TO PREVENT FATALITY AT WARSOP MAIN: WELL-KNOWN CRICKETER KILLED

(Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser Friday 15th August 1924)

The greatest regret was expressed in Warsop and the Vale during the weekend at the news of the untimely end of one of the Vale's most prominent residents, Mr. Frederick Arthur Newton, who met with his death through a fall of roof at the Warsop Main Colliery on Friday. The deceased was not only much esteemed by his employers, the Staveley Coal & Iron Co., as a valued and trusted workman, but he was also very popular in the village. He was very well known in the district as a cricketer of repute. He had assisted the Derbyshire County cricket club, had played for Glapwell colliery before coming to Warsop and only on Saturday he was due to have captained the Warsop Vale team.

A slip in the roof, a fruitful cause of death amongst miners underground, overwhelmed Newton and a fellow worker, Frederick Johnson. The former received terrible injuries to his head, which probably caused instant death, for when his body was extracted only a few minutes after the fall it was found that his face was cut to the bone and his skull fractured. Johnson was also buried completely, but fortunately the injuries to his head and back were not so serious, and he is now making good progress. The rescue of the two men was effected by deceased's brother, Frank Newton, and William Webster, under circumstances of extreme difficulty, for they had to work whilst the roof

was still falling, and indeed they were injured whilst engaged in this task. On Monday, they were still feeling the effects of their hurts, for they walked with a decided limp on their way to the inquest. At the inquiry, well merited tributes were paid by the coroner, and also by a representative of the Staveley Company, to their pluck and courage at a very perilous time to themselves.

The inquest was held on Monday morning in the Primitive Methodist chapel at Warsop Vale, by Mr. E.S. Spencer, the district Coroner. The inquiry was attended by Mr. Yates, (inspector of mines) Mr. J. Hunter, (agent of the Staveley Company) and Mr. J. Buddle (rep-resenting

the National Association of Colliery Deputies).

SLIP IN THE ROOF

Deceased, it was stated, was 33 years of age, lived at the Vale, and was a contractor. Evidence of identification was given by Mr. Frank Newton of 72, Warsop Vale, also a contractor. Witness said the deceased, Webster and Johnson were all working together. All of them were experienced miners, particularly the deceased. They were working on extending a fresh road, and deceased had been engaged at this particular working spot for six weeks. He had never complained of any danger, and appeared to be satisfied with his work. They had just finished the netting of two stretchers, which they had been ordered to place into position, and they were about to commence filling tubs. Witness had gone to one end of the road shifting loose timber, and deceased was at the other end.

He had just remarked that they would fill two tubs when, said witness "the crash came".

Replying to the Coroner, witness said no props had been pulled out. The deputy had been through the place and deceased had tested the roof, and they both considered the place was safe. "We gave way to my brother as we were of the opinion that if he considered the place was all right it was so," said the witness. "I was just out of the range of the fall. It was a slip out of the side of the roof which came down, and my brother and a man named Johnson were under. My brother was dead when we got him out after ten minutes' work. There were continuous falls whilst we were on this rescue work." And witness, in reply to the Coroner, said he too was injured by the falls.

The Coroner: What do you think caused the fall?

Witness: Well, I hardly know. I didn't hear a bump, but I suppose there must have been one. As far as I know everything looked safe before the fall.

The inspector: Did you see the deceased test the roof?

Witness: Yes we knew of the slip which was there.

What steps did you take to secure the sides? - Two stretchers were put up.

Had you any spraggs to prevent the sides swopping over? - Yes, we had them to both sides.

Were you satisfied that the place was quite secure? - Yes. How long before the accident was it that the deputy was though? - Only two or three minutes. It was he who ordered us to put up the stretchers, and with these in position I thought the place was all right.

Wm. Webster, of Carr Vale,
Bolsover,
contractor at the pit

said he was working with the deceased and the others, though he was not actually present when the fall took place. On hearing the fall he returned immediately, and with all speed they got deceased and Johnson out. There was another fall as they were getting the men out and he got a cut on the leg. He had been working on the spot just before the fall.

The Coroner: Did you consider the place was safe?

Witness: I was satisfied. I did not think we could do anything else to make the place more secure. I should not have been working there if I thought anything like this was going to happen. We, as experienced men, all use our judgement in making the working place safe.

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TAKEN

Arthur Wm. Marriott of Edward Street, Warsop, deputy, said he had

held this position for 14 years, and had been in the district where the accident took place for eight months. The men, he stated, were working a new road. On a first examination, on the day in question he suggested that two stretchers be put up, and when he was in the place again ten minutes before the accident took place the men were just completing their setting. He thought the stretchers would make for double security, as he knew of the danger of the slip, and the taking of these extra precautions were with the view of preventing the possibility of an accident from the slip, of which they were all aware.

Recalled by the Coroner, the witness Newton said the second stretcher was actually set at the time of the accident.

The Coroner (to Marriott): What do you think it was which caused the fall?

Witness: I can hardly say. My theory is that there must have been a slight bump, which broke off a piece of the roof. Then it started to come and the stretcher was knocked out. I am satisfied that all the precautions were taken.

The inspector: What extent was the fall?

Witness: Between two or three tons.

Were there any spraggs as well as stretchers? - The slip was practically leaning on the spraggs. It was like a double slip, and it was catching the stretchers in two ways. The fall did not break any of the timber. I think the fall caught the stretcher and forced it out, and then knocked the legs of the timber out. In my opinion the bottoms of the timber were properly secured.

Dr. P.H. Court said that he examined the body of the deceased man, and found a deep wound on the right temple extending to the

ear and exposing the bone. Death was due to a fracture of the base of the skull. The collar bone was also broken. There were no other injuries.

The Coroner, in returning a verdict of "Accidental Death," said the accident was an unavoidable one. It was a fortunate thing that no one else was killed. He commended the witnesses, Newton and Webster, for their

courage, under great danger, in getting the two men from under the fall.

Mr. Hunter, on behalf of the Staveley Company, expressed deep sympathy with the family, and said they really lamented the loss of a good and trusted workman, and one who was also a fine sportsman.

The Company felt the loss very acutely. He would like to add his tribute

to the pluck of the witnesses who got to the deceased and the injured man at great personal risk to themselves. On behalf of the Company, he thanked them for what they did, and he again wished to say how much they regretted losing such an excellent employee.

**WELL KNOWN CRICKETER
KILLED.**

Buried Under Fall at Warsop Main

Plucky Rescue Work by Comrades

The greatest regret was expressed in Warsop and the Vale during the week-end at the news of the untimely end of one of the Vale's most prominent residents, Fredk. Arthur Newton, who met with his death through a fall of roof at the Warsop Main Colliery on Friday. The deceased was not only much esteemed by his employers, the Staveley Coal and Iron Co., as a valued and trusted workman, but he was also very popular in the village. He was



Fredk. Arthur Newton, very well known as a cricketer of repute. He had assisted the Derbyshire County Cricket Club, had played for the Glapwell Club before coming to Warsop, and only on Saturday he was due to have captained the Warsop Vale team.

AT WHITWELL.

The news was received with regret at Whitwell, where for over 13 years he was a valued and esteemed playing member of the Colliery C.C. Amongst all who knew him he was deservedly popular, and he will long be remembered by his old colleagues as the very embodiment of true sportsmanship. As a player he was equally at home with the bat as with the ball, and in the field he was safe with both hands. It was while at Whitwell that he was selected to play for Derbyshire, and his score of 100 odd runs against Sussex at Brighton was a performance of which his club and county were exceedingly proud. Here it was he got to know Joe Humphries, the county wicket-keeper, and they always remained good friends. He left Whitwell for Glapwell in 1912, and captained the Colliery team there with great success until the season of 1922, when he was prevailed upon to throw in his lot with Warsop Main Colliery, with whom he figured in the Nottingham League. He was a native of Grassmoor and married a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hinds, of Bakesops Moor, by whom, with two children, he is survived.

Amongst the letters of sympathy received by the secretary of the Warsop Main Club was one from the Pinxton C.C. expressing sincere regret and genuine sorrow at the loss of so essentially a player from the



Left: Newspaper Headline about Fred Newton's Death
Above: Mrs. Fred Newton
(Courtesy of Mrs. Newton)

Six Miners Entombed

Probably the worst and most tragic accident recorded at Warsop Main occurred around 1pm on the afternoon of Wednesday 20th December 1939 when six men were entombed by an extensive fall of roof nearly three miles from the pit bottom. Ironically they were working in what was considered to be the safest place in the pit. This was probably the worst accident since the Bilsthorpe Colliery disaster in July 1934.

A deputy, two rippers and three stallmen were working with over forty other men in the Birklands district of the Top Hard seam, which was said to be one of the safest areas in the pit. Suddenly, without any warning, an area of about eight to nine yards of roof crashed in at one corner of the face, bringing down the props and bars and completely burying the six men.

Rescue operations commenced immediately but were hindered by further falls. The sheer amount of debris made the operation very slow, and it was still going on when the Mansfield & North Notts. Advertiser went to press in the early hours of Friday morning. As a mark of respect the Thursday afternoon shift decided not to work and the men employed in the district volunteered to assist in the rescue work.

The mine manager, Herbert Gent, who had only just come to the surface from the morning inspection, immediately went down again with other officials to superintend the rescue operation. He was still down there on the Thursday night apart from a brief break to receive Mr. R. Ringham, General Manager of the Staveley Coal & Iron Company and a former manager of Warsop Main, on Wednesday evening. Mr. Ringham had been on business in London and had returned immediately he heard of the tragedy. The managers of the Markham and Ireland Collieries, Messrs. W. Fry and C. Ringham also hurried to the scene to render what assistance they could. About mid-day on Thursday the Duchess of Portland arrived from Welbeck Abbey and enquired into the progress of the work.

The entombed men were Fred Fowler, Albert Leatherland, Thomas Cooper, John James Widdowson, James Eaton and Gilbert Daykin, the well-known miner-artist. The first bodies were brought out on Christmas Day and the remainder at New Year.

Jack Winfield was under-manager's clerk at the time and remembers being told by his boss to stay in the office until his boss returned from down the mine. He was still there twenty-four hours later. He also remembers Rex. Ringham arriving by chauffeur driven car.

Killed in Action

The Great War

A village with only 240 house provided some 250 men to go to the 1914-18 war averaging one per household, which is an extremely notable record. Of the 250 men to leave for the war, 20 never returned. Several reports in the Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser record tragedies.

In February 1916 the death in action has been officially announced of Corporal Harry Mellors, son of Mrs. Mellors, 237, Warsop Vale. The report stated that 'The deceased appears to have fallen as long ago as October 3rd last, but definite information only reached the mother a week ago. The deceased, who was in the 2nd Cheshire Regiment, went through the South African War and had since been employed at Warsop Main Colliery'.

In June 1916 the tragic fate of the 'Hampshire' involved the death of a Warsop Vale man named Charles Cadman aged 31 years. He joined the Royal Navy in 1913 and at one time served on the 'Black Prince'.

In November 1917 the news was officially received by Mrs. R. Devine of Warsop Vale, that her husband, Lce. Corpl. Robert Devine, Sherwood Forresters, had been killed in France. He fell in action on the 4th October leaving five children. He had previously been wounded and gassed, and had seen service in the Dardenelles.

The War Memorial

The village formed a war memorial committee and the inhabitants responded most encouragingly, with assistance from the Duke of Portland, Sir Hugo FitzHerbert, the Staveley Coal & Iron Company and Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society. A sum of £50 to £60 was raised; enabling the committee to approach J.D. Gregory of Mansfield to act as architect and a monument, which can still be seen today, was built by Horace Sands using stone from J.D. Gregories quarries. It stands in a very appropriate place at the entrance to the grounds of the welfare ground. The opening ceremony took place in May 1925 (see newspaper report overleaf) in conjunction with the opening of the new sports ground. The committee responsible for the provision of the war memorial was Messrs. R. Ringham (chairman), E. Storey (secretary), W. Everett, W. Gee, G. Robinson, J. Richards, A.E. Causer, J. Ellis, A. Goodfellow, A. Catton, S. Weightman, W. Butler and J.W. Sleight.

The Second World War

In June 1943 it was reported that a former clerk in the Warsop Main Colliery offices, Fusilier Henry Vann, only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Vann of 68, Warsop Vale, was stated to

have been killed in action in North Africa on April 22nd of this year. Aged 22, Fusilier Vann joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in August 1940.

FALLEN HEROES HONOURED: WARSOP VALE'S WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED BY MAJOR DOUGLAS TURNER

(Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser Friday 15th May 1925)

After a heavy fall of rain, which commenced directly the ceremony began, and fell pitilessly throughout the speechmaking, a burst of bright sunshine marked the act of unveiling the simple but effective monument, which commemorates the sacrifice which the men of Warsop Vale made during the Great War. The record of the village in the war is a notable one, for its quota to the fighting services represented almost one man from each house in the place, and of the 250 men who went to the front, twenty never came back. They were Tom Barker, Jas. Bowman, Fred Bramley, Chas. Cadman, Hedley C. Carter, Robt. Devine, Jos. Fenton, Jas.

Holmes, Chas. W. Hough, Geo. Lee, Samuel C. Johnson, Geo. Johnson, Hy. Mellor, Arthur Nettleship, Tom Northern, Seelam Thorpe, Albert Wagstaff, John W. Ward, Jos. Whittaker and Chas. Wilson.

Their names, under an appropriate inscription, are carved on the monolith which has been raised to their memory just inside the entrance to the new sports ground which has been provided by the Miners' Welfare Fund, and which was formally declared open on Saturday last, at the conclusion of the unveiling and dedication ceremony.

The monument, which was designed and

executed by Messrs. J.D. Gregory from stone hewn from the Mansfield quarries, consists of a single column with a sunken cross on each face, rising from a stepped base, which is enclosed by ornamental chains. On polished slate panels are the names of the twenty men of the Vale who gave their lives, and the inscription: "To our glorious dead who fell in the Great War 1914-1918".

Major Douglas Turner performed the unveiling ceremony, and the monument was dedicated by the Ver. Archdeacon of Newark. It was witnessed by many hundreds of people, and the spectacle of so many people standing with

bare heads during the drenching rain which fell during the ceremony served only to add solemnity and impressiveness to the occasion. Mr. R. Ringham, chairman of the War Memorial Committee, pre-sided, and also accompanying Major Turner and Archdeacon Hacking on the platform, from which the ceremony was performed, were the Rector (the Rev. W.E. Moss), the Rev. T. Williams (priest-in-charge at Warsop Vale) the Rev. H. Minta (Warsop), who wore war decorations, the Rev. G.R. Trussel and Mr. E.W. Wardley J.P., who after-wards opened the new sports ground, Mr. Thornton and Mr. J. Beard, Churchwardens, etc. Others present were Mrs. Wardley, Mrs. Ringham, councillors H. Riley, S. Betts, F. Blackburn, W. Bestall, and E.I. Tattersall and other officers.

There was a long procession prior to the

opening ceremony. Led by Shirebrook band and the Warsop Main Colliery and Ambulance bands, it comprised the robed clergy and choirs from the Warsop Parish Church and the Warsop Vale Mission, the Warsop Vale Ambulance Brigade, under Supt. Sleight and Ambulance Officer J. Wass, many members of the British Legion, under Capt. Goward, the United Methodist troop of Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs under Scoutmasters J.J. Cherry and C. Smith, the first Warsop Girl Guides, under Capt. Miss Moakes and the Brownies, under Lt. Miss Fareham, Major Douglas Turner, and the Archdeacon of Newark, and others taking part in the proceedings also walked in the procession.

The Chairman, explaining the circumstances leading up to the erection of the memorial, said about twelve months ago he was approached by a

few ex-servicemen in Warsop Vale to see if a war memorial could not be erected to their fallen comrades. It was thought that a village the size of theirs should have a memorial, for practically every village in the country had one, and as they knew colliery villages contributed a very large share to the war. He had been told that out of the 250 houses in Warsop Vale nearly 250 men enlisted, and of this number, twenty gave their lives. A committee was formed, and the response to the appeal made to the inhabitants was most encouraging. They received assistance from the Duke of Portland, Sir Hugo FitzHerbert, the Staveley Coal and Iron Co., the Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society, and from the inhabitants of the village, and in that way had collected between £50 and £60, and were in a position to proceed with the erection of the memorial. They app-

roached Mr. J.D. Gregory of Mansfield, who had acted as their architect, and had built the monument from stone from his own quarries, and he had given them every assistance in the furtherance of the scheme. They next had to look for a site, and approached the Welfare Committee to allow them to erect the monument in the entrance to their grounds. They were pleased to have it and he thought they had chosen the best possible site.

MEMORIAL THE CHILDREN'S CHARGE

An unusual and interesting feature of the scheme, added the chairman, was that the entrance ground had been handed over to the school children for its maintenance and upkeep. They would plant and tend the shrubs and flowers in the grounds and keep the monument in the condition it ought to be kept. It was thought that

their task would not only prove a great deal of educational value to the children, but that it would be a perpetual reminder to them of the greatest lesson that they could learn, the lesson of self-sacrifice. He would like at that juncture to thank the members of the committee for the support that they had given him and for the hard work that they had done. They felt that if they had been able to give the village something that would be of lasting value their efforts would not have been in vain.

Major Turner, who was in uniform, said he regarded it as a very great privilege and honour to have been asked to unveil the war memorial at Warsop Vale. To most of those present he was perhaps unknown, but he knew that members of his family were very much interested in Warsop Vale during the years of the Great War. In fact he believed that during the

first two years of the war, at any rate, there was no home in Warsop Vale where an ex-serviceman lived where his mother did not enter. "There is to-day," proceeded Major Turner, "a chance for all of us to show in some concrete form, our appreciation of those who fell in the Great War, and I put it to you that most, if not all, of you lost one of your nearest and dearest during those years of strife. When we first heard the news of the loss of one of our dearest we were probably somewhat numb-ed; we could not appreciate the fact that we should never see them nor hear their voices again, and as years roll on we still feel their loss. What we want to do to-day is to encourage those who have lost their nearest and dearest to keep up the pride which they had to start with and which helped to assuage their grief. After all, what could those who fell in the Great War have done more; they

served their country and they made the supreme sacrifice. It is up to us who are still living to show our thanks and gratitude to those who died and to serve our country in perhaps a different way. 'Their sacrifice, our service,' and we have many opportunities today of showing our service. Nearly one million men serving with the British forces fell in the Great War, and there is a very large work in consequence, for those who are to-day living to carry on the work for this great Empire of ours. It falls to us, therefore, to fill up the gap that was made a few years ago. We also have the widows and orphans, many hundred thousand children who lost their fathers, it is our duty to look after them and we also have to remember those countless thousands who did not fall in the war but, alas, have been maimed for the rest of their lives. Any organisation that can

keep the memory of those poor maimed fellows in the forefront of the minds of the people in this country, as well as those who were actually killed, is deserving of the utmost recognition. We have today to be united and to work together for the common good, and I hope that in unveiling this memorial, that it will be a memorial not only for those who fell in the war, but for those who suffered during those terrible days."

Major Turner then drew the cord and pulled aside the Union Jack, which had hitherto veiled the monument. There followed two minutes silence succeeded by the sounding of the "Last Post" and "Reveille" by four buglers in the uniform of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Appropriate prayers were then said by the Rev. W.E. Moss, and afterwards the whole company joined in singing "Oh God our

help in ages past" led by the band.

FLORAL TRIBUTES

The Rector of Warsop having brought the ceremony to an end by pronouncing the Blessing, representatives of public organisations and mourners placed wreaths at the base of the memorial. The tributes were as follows:

Presented by the members and officials of the Warsop Urban District Council on behalf of the parishioners of Warsop and Warsop Vale.

British Legion, Warsop Branch, ladies section. (A wreath of laurel and red roses).

"A token of affectionate remembrance" from the Warsop Colliery Division St. John Ambulance Brigade.

"With deepest sympathy" from the members of the R.A.O.B. Warsop Vale.

From the Warsop Vale Church Institute Men's Club.

"In loving memory of our glorious dead who

fell in the Great War” from the Methodist Church School.

“In remembrance of a great sacrifice” from the committee members and staff of the Warsop Vale Industrial Co-Operative Society.

“From the teachers, scholars and ex-scholars of the Warsop Vale Church Sunday School
“In remembrance”.

“In affectionate remembrance” from the Warsop Main Colliery Football Club”

“With deepest sympathy” from the members of the Warsop Main Cricket Club”,
“Under the golden trees that shine o’er city and river, there they shall rest for ever”.

“With full and deep sympathy” from the Warsop branch of the British Legion.

“In loving memory of John Wm. Ward” from Mother and Dad.

“In affectionate remembrance of Lance Corpl. F. Bramley” from his loving widow and daughter. “For ever in our thoughts”.

In loving remembrance of my dear husband Jos. Whittaker, also fond remembrance from his sister Annie.

“In loving remembrance of Corpl. J. Fenton, 2nd Lincs, killed in action May 9th 1915. Sunshine passes, shadows fall, but sweet remembrance outlasts all”. From Mr. and Mrs. Harby, foster parents.

“In loving memory of Hedley C. Carter, our life’s greatest treasure, who made the supreme sacrifice on October 4th 1917” from his lonely and ever sorrowing parents.

“In affectionate remembrance of Harry” from Bob, Pollie, Sam and family.

“In loving memory of Pt. S.C. Johnson” from his eldest son, Albert. “Gone but not forgotten”.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Wardley on the motion of Mr. G. Robinson, seconded by Mr. G. Chapman, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Community Life in Warsop Vale

When Warsop Vale was first built most of the miners’ wives would be housewives. At that time a housewife’s job was a very hard one. Monday was wash day when she would have to wash using the copper in the corner of the back kitchen. Friday was black leading day when she would clean the kitchen range. Saturday mornings were spent scrubbing the floors both inside and in the back yard. Saturday evenings were bath nights for all the children. In between times she would have to shop, cook for the family and clean the house. There were no school dinners in those days so the children came home at lunchtime. There was no such thing as pit head baths in those days either so when her husband returned from his shift down the mine she would have to have the tin bath ready in front of the kitchen range and plenty of hot water.

The working class woman would be unlikely to leave the village very often. Apart from the Co-Operative Stores, there was a fish and chip shop and mobile shops selling fresh produce. These included a fish man, fruit and veg man and a baker's man. A milkman named Monty Caudwell used to bring his horse and cart from Warsop and ladle the milk out into jugs. The post came twice a day from Mansfield and the papers once a day from Shirebrook.

Life was slightly different for the middle class ladies such as Mrs. Booker at Rock House and Mrs. Bell, and later Mrs. Sleight, at the Schoolmaster's house. They would have daily helps to do the household chores. This would have allowed them more time to devote to village activities. It is said that Mrs. Booker always gave to the poor at Christmas and Mr. Sleight gave shoes to a poverty stricken little girl. The colliery officials wives at the Rhein O' Thorns would also have had daily help and the larger properties had gardeners.

In 1901 there was an outbreak of cholera in the Vale due to the bad sanitation caused by the earth closets and soak away drains. Warsop Urban District Council and Skegby Rural Council got together to provide proper privies in the back roads. These were emptied by the Council at night and white powder put down to disinfect them. The smell was said to be terrible.

In July 1904 the Mansfield & North Notts Advertiser reported that residents at Warsop Vale were alarmed one evening by an unwanted noise. An explosion was the first thought and many rushed to the pit, but were relieved to find no trace of such a disaster. The conclusion arrived at was that an earthquake had disturbed the village, and the severity of the tremor was proved by the number of household articles moved from their accustomed place.

Nearly every household in the village had an allotment garden on the 'top row'. In October 1904 the first annual exhibition of the Warsop Vale Floral and Horticultural Society was held at the Vale Hotel with the following awards being presented. After the distribution of prizes a smoking concert was held:

J. Millns: 2, cauliflowers, chrysanthemums, special do.

J. Hollingworth: 1, marrows, dahlias; 2, carrots, parsnips; 3, cabbage

S. Herring: 1, w.r. potatoes, cauliflowers, cabbage, chrysanthemums.

H. Dean: 2, celery, c.k. potatoes; 3, parsnips, cauliflowers, marrows (green).

W. Ward: 1, w.r. potatoes, 2, r. cabbage, cabbage; 3, w.k. potatoes.

R. Lee: 2, w.r. potatoes, beet; 3, chrysanthemums.

J. Green: 1, r. cabbage, parsnips; 2, leeks, w.r. potatoes; 3, c.r. potatoes.

A. Lawrence: 1, r. celery, 2, green marrows, white marrows; 3, white celery.

F. Ward: 1, c.r. potatoes, chrysanthemums (special).

C.K. Leatherland: 1, celery, leeks.

Hooley, 1, beets; 2, w. celery; 3, r. celery.

G. Bullars: 3, carrots.

In 1909 the Old Age pensions act came into force and it was reported that there were three pensioners in Warsop Vale each in receipt of 5/- a week. By 1911 there were six.

In February 1910 it was reported that Mr. H.J. Odell, the liberal agent, had been able to secure, by arrangement with the High Sheriff, a polling station for Warsop Vale. Until then the miners had to travel over a mile and a half to Warsop to vote. Towards the end of the first World War women won the right to vote so the Polling Station became even more well used. On the 1918 register of electors the women in Warsop Vale were included for the first time.

When the village was first built the Staveley Company had sunk a well and put in pumps and water taps. By 1910 it had been realised that this water supply was insufficient for the needs of the inhabitants and supply showed signs of giving out. At a meeting of the inhabitants it was decided that the Council be asked to put in a proper water supply at the Vale. The Warsop and Skegby Councils agreed to purchase the existing works from the Staveley Company for £200. The contract was awarded to Mr. A. Sykes, of West Bridgeford, and a 3in main was subsequently laid to supply the village with running water.

Some of the residents kept chickens and others kept pigs. Jim Poultney was the local pig killer who would kill the beasts in his back yard and let the blood run into the open drains in the back street. Mr. Hammersley from the Co-op Villas kept bees on his allotment and at home and used to sell the honey.

Village social life centred mainly around the Church and Chapel with numerous organisations being spawned. Dances were held in the school hall and meetings took place in the Band of Hope which was a little place at the side of the church. In June 1911 it was reported that The Church Institute at Warsop Vale had been offered free of charge to the Notts Education Committee for use as a cookery centre. In August 1913 a Mother's Union was formed at Warsop Vale with over 50 members. Mrs. Chadburn of Nettleworth Manor, was the president of the Union, and once a year she invited the members and the clergy to tea, and to inspect the garden and grounds. The colliery's St. John Ambulance Brigade had its own band. They used to go to Warsop and Edwinstowe and play on the village greens. When the band broke up the instruments were buried under the concrete when the pit yard was re-done. A big local event was the annual Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society gala where all the members' children would join a parade. Prizes would be given followed by a tea and races and sport later in the afternoon. At Whitsuntide the Shirebrook salvation army would come and the girls would walk round the village in white dresses.

Social activity continued throughout the First World War and in July 1917 a Choral Society was formed, known as the Warsop Vale Co-Operative Choral Society. Mr. H. Hawley was appointed conductor, Mr. Ernest Storey, secretary, and Mr. J. Hammersley treasurer.

In 1919 a thunderbolt struck the house occupied by the Guy family at No. 212. It came down the chimney and rolled out of the door, which the quick thinking occupants opened, miraculously causing no injuries.

It was very rare to see a car in the village. Bill Everett remembers that Mr. J. Reaney was the first man in the village to own one followed by Mr. Claude Everett. When a car did arrive everyone came out to see it. This was usually the Duchess of Portland. She used to visit Harry Etches at No. 215 who had had an accident down the pit. It is said that they used to play chess by post. It was common in those days for more than one family to be living in the houses or for the family to take lodgers. Mrs. Etches is supposed to have taken the men who did the sinking at the pit as lodgers. Indeed, on the 1925 register of electors, a William Harrison and Fred Meakin were lodging in the Etches house.

Harold Booth was the village photographer and was responsible for many of the excellent photographs that we collected during our research. He lived at No. 40 and was also boilerman at the pit and a keen gardener. Warsop Vale also had its own bookie, Albert Brailsford, who carried on his trade mainly upstairs at the 'Swing'. Mrs. Brailsford was the local midwife.

The village was well served by Truman's buses, which used to take children and members of the miners' welfare to the seaside for day trips. The children were taken free of charge and given spending money, lunch and tea.



**Pig Killing at Warsop Vale
c. 1946/47**

Bill Mellors, Jim Poultney, Lew Mellors &
Charlie 'Chuck' Etches
(Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)





Harold Booth

Village Photographer, Colliery Boilerman and Gardener

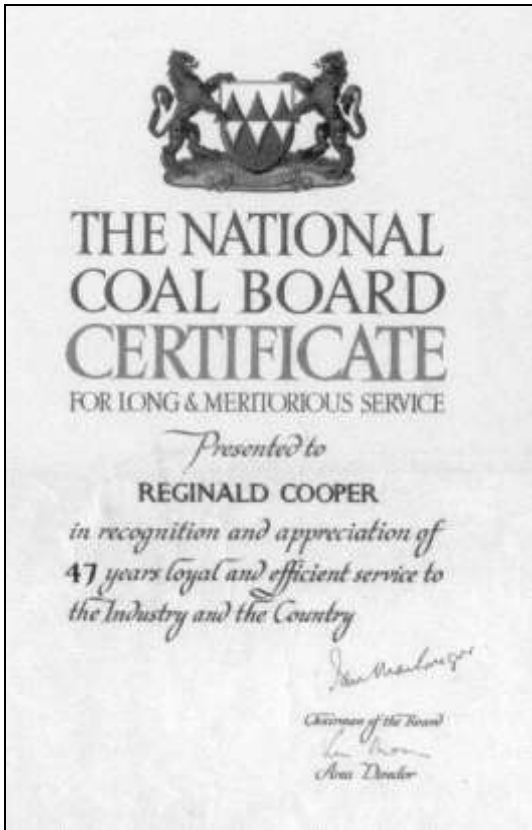
Mrs. Poultney & Son-in-law, Alan Bowers, outside **Poultney's shop** in the former Warsop Vale surgery.

(Courtesy of Mr. Booth)



Warsop Vale Carnival Float

(Courtesy of G. Farrow)



Reg. Cooper outside 49 Warsop Vale
(Courtesy of Mr. Cooper)

NCB Certificate presented to Reg. Cooper
(Courtesy of Mr. Cooper)



Reg. & Sylvia Cooper in the Swing c. 1948
(Courtesy of Mr. Cooper)



Warsop Vale OAP Trip to Bridlington c. 1952
 (Taken in Bridlington)

Standing: ?, Mrs Garner, ?, Mrs Rampton, Albert Causer, Mrs Whatmore, George Plevy, ?, Mrs Peace, Mrs. Sansom, Tom Etches, ?, ?, Mrs Plevy, ?, ?, Mr Cadman, ?, ?, ?, Iris Higginbotham, Mr & Mrs Poultney, ?, ?, Arthur Stray (bus doorway), Tommy Hardy, ?, ?, ?, Alice Peace, George Peace, Dollie Dickinson, ?, ?, ?, Mrs. Beswick, ?, Mrs. Thorpe, ?, Mrs. Hickinbottom, Mrs. Etches, ?, ?, Horace Harrison, ?, Thirza Smith, Mrs Vann, Mrs Howe, Mrs Betts, Mr. Howe, Mrs. Thorpe, ?, Jim Poultney, Mrs. Rampton, Alf Naylor

Front Row: ?, Jack Ellis, Sammy Walters, ?, Mrs. Beswick, Bill Millership

(Photograph courtesy of Brian Booth)

Bill Everett's Memories of Warsop Vale in the 1920s

Bill Everett is the son of William Everett who was the president of the Warsop Vale Co-Operative Society and No. 1 ambulanceman down the pit. Bill was born in 1907 in Dinnington and moved to Warsop Vale in 1908. He spent nine years at the Warsop Vale schools under the headmastership of Mr. Sleight and deputy head Sammy Holland with six other teachers. When he left school Bill got a job on the pit surface as a lamp boy and remembers Mr. Booker coming up to him one day and telling him he was to start down the pit the next day. He became an electrician and then Chargeman which involved working every day including Christmas. At weekends he was in charge of the pit as no-one else was there. On 11th April 1936 Bill married Lillian Causer, daughter of the pit deputy, Mr. Causer who lived in the Co-Op Villas. When Mrs. Causer died Bill and Lillian went to live with Mr. Causer. Bill carried on living there until 1998 when he moved to the Sycamores Nursing Home in Warsop.

Bill remembers many of the more notable residents. Mr. and Mrs. Chambers were the chapel caretakers. Charlie Guy from No. 212 was the local comedian. Dawdy Cadman was the local drunk. Chuck Etches was a 'good boozer and joker'. Ernest Storey was the choirmaster at the chapel.

Bill remembers the 'Swing' being owned by Home Brewery from Daybrook, Nottingham. Mr. Marson was the landlord and his family carried on the business for a good number of years with their sons. It was very well attended in those days by the miners of the colliery who had to walk to work from Shirebrook, Warsop and Mansfield. They used to drop in before and after work. Biller Beer & Porter was in good supply and 3d bets were put on with the local bookie, Mr. Brailsford.

The Everetts were big chapel people, especially Bill's mother, Emma. Bill remembers the chapel being very well supported, with two Sunday services afternoon and evening and Sunday school in the morning which was also well attended. The visiting preachers came from around the Mansfield district. The chapel people always gave the different preachers their afternoon tea, ready for the evening meeting. The organist was Mr. Brewin from Shirebrook followed by Miss Lois Abbott, a school teacher (who later married Mr. Penrose). There were various socials during the week and choir practice. During the summer an anniversary day was held. All the children came to the afternoon and evening services all dressed up in new frocks and suits. A large platform was put up which held a hundred or more children and the chapel choir led by Mr. Ernest Storey. Various songs were sung for the parents and other worshippers and it was a very good day.

The church was also well attended, people from Warsop and Shirebrook came down every Sunday to the services. The Institute was built for the people to meet and have shows, whist drives, dances etc. It was a success regarding getting people together. It was also used quite a lot for private parties, marriages etc. Bill also remembers the

Warsop Main miners' welfare club being built in 1928 by Rex. Ringham, the colliery manager. The stewards were Bill Newton on loan from Church Warsop and later Joe



Warsop Vale in the 1920s

Left: Dolly Dickenson in the stable yard of the 'Swing' where she used to clean cars,
(Courtesy of Terry White)

Below: Warsop Vale children in the 1921 miners' strike waiting with jugs for their rations from the soup kitchen.
(Courtesy of Mrs. Johns)



Group pictured under William Wood Bridge, Warsop Vale, 1920s.

Back Row: Buckland, Stray, Albert Brailsford, Tom Everett, Lake, Wilf Clayton, Jim Poultney

Front Row: ?, Abe Catton, ?, Arthur Stocks, Tomlinson, George Brailsford

(Courtesy of Mr. Booth)

Yates who took over at the 'Swing'. Others included G. Tomlinson, A. Walters and G. Robinson.

According to Bill, the village was really one big happy community all good friends with no trouble any time. In fact, he remembers never locking any doors when they went out, even when they walked to Shirebrook and back for shopping.

In 1969 Bill wrote out the name and occupation every man who lived in Warsop Vale in the 1920s. When we checked this against the 1925 electoral roll we found his recollections to be remarkably accurate.

North Street, Warsop Vale, 1920s

<i>House No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
1	<i>R. Percival / W. Ogden</i>	<i>Ford Driver / Electrical Engineer</i>
2	<i>W. Iliffe / J. Parker</i>	<i>Union Sec. / Weighman Garage</i>
3	<i>R. Buckland</i>	<i>Ostler</i>
4	<i>C. Brown</i>	<i>Miner</i>
5	<i>B. Holsten</i>	<i>Miner</i>
6	<i>W. Deakin</i>	<i>Miner</i>
7	<i>G. Holmes</i>	<i>Miner / Bass Singer</i>
8	<i>G. Hough</i>	<i>Miner / Baritone. Ambulance Attendant</i>
9	<i>J. Hayward</i>	<i>Miner</i>
10	<i>W. Sperry</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
11	<i>E. Morley</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
12	<i>W. Spiers</i>	<i>Miner</i>
13	<i>A. Thorpe</i>	<i>Miner</i>
14	<i>G. Plevy</i>	<i>Miner</i>
15	<i>A. Spafford</i>	<i>Miner</i>
16	<i>W. Parker</i>	<i>Miner</i>
17	<i>Winfield</i>	<i>Miner</i>
18	<i>G. Tomlinson</i>	<i>Miner/ Club Steward</i>
19	<i>T. Hardy</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
20	<i>H. Sansom</i>	<i>Overman</i>
21	<i>B. Hawson</i>	<i>Overman</i>
22	<i>E. Storey</i>	<i>Storekeeper</i>
23	<i>H. Sansome</i>	<i>Miner</i>
24	<i>J. Sampson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
25	<i>T. Maloney</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
26	<i>T. Lucas</i>	<i>Miner</i>
27	<i>G. Godfrey</i>	<i>Miner</i>
28	<i>J. Hayward</i>	<i>Miner</i>

29	<i>E. Daniels</i>	<i>Fitter / Charge</i>
30	<i>Clarke</i>	<i>Miner</i>
31	<i>A. Holmes</i>	<i>Miner</i>
32	<i>E. Wagstaffe</i>	<i>Miner</i>
33	<i>J. Mellors</i>	<i>Miner</i>
34	<i>W. Stewart</i>	<i>Miner</i>

Carter Lane, Warsop Vale, 1920s

<i>House No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
35	<i>PC Sharpe</i>	<i>Policeman</i>
36	<i>W. Buckland</i>	<i>Horsekeeper</i>
37	<i>C. Ward</i>	<i>Timekeeper, pit</i>
38	<i>C. Dean</i>	<i>Miner</i>
39	<i>H. Nuttall</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
40	<i>H. Booth</i>	<i>Boilerman</i>
41	<i>Ward</i>	<i>Office Worker</i>
42	<i>F. Madin</i>	<i>Miner</i>
43	<i>G. Savage</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
44	<i>J. Poultney</i>	<i>Miner</i>
45	<i>C. Nickless</i>	<i>Miner</i>
46	<i>J. Stray</i>	<i>Horsekeeper</i>
47	<i>E. Garwood</i>	<i>Pit Manager's Gardener</i>
48	<i>W. Whatmore</i>	<i>Miner</i>
49	<i>G. Cooper</i>	<i>Miner</i>
50	<i>W. Bayter</i>	<i>Miner</i>
51	<i>J. Chilton</i>	<i>Horsekeeper</i>
52	<i>Rodgers</i>	<i>Miner</i>
53	<i>W. Black</i>	<i>Miner</i>
54	<i>H. Wass</i>	<i>Miner</i>
55	<i>H. Gee</i>	<i>Miner</i>
56	<i>T. Wheatley</i>	<i>Miner</i>
57	<i>G. Robinson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
58	<i>F. Bramley</i>	<i>Miner</i>
59	<i>A. Brailsford</i>	<i>Miner / Bookie</i>
60	<i>A. Elliott</i>	<i>Miner</i>
61	<i>J. Smith</i>	<i>Miner</i>
62	<i>G/ Lindsay / J. Foulks</i>	<i>Miner</i>
63	<i>R. Holmes</i>	<i>Miner</i>
64	<i>M. Stray</i>	<i>Horsekeeper</i>
65	<i>C. Hough</i>	<i>Miner</i>

66	<i>F. Vann</i>	<i>Miner</i>
67	<i>E. Meredith</i>	<i>Miner</i>
68	<i>R.W. Horton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
69	<i>D. Stocks</i>	<i>Miner</i>
70	<i>A. Stocks</i>	<i>Miner</i>
71	<i>S. Walters</i>	<i>Miner</i>
72	<i>A. Renshaw / F. Newton</i>	<i>Ropeman / Miner</i>
73	<i>A. Bullars / Hollingsworth</i>	<i>Miner</i>
74	<i>D. White</i>	<i>Miner</i>

King Street, Warsop Vale, 1920s

House No.	Name	Occupation
75	<i>A.E. Causer</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
76	<i>Canns / A. Fletcher</i>	<i>Miner</i>
77	<i>Booker / Abbott</i>	<i>Miner</i>
78	<i>J. Elliott / Sharp / Morgan</i>	<i>Policeman</i>
79	<i>Holmes</i>	<i>Co-Op manager</i>
80	<i>J. Hammersley</i>	<i>Miner</i>
83	<i>T. Leach</i>	<i>Miner</i>
84	<i>W. Tonkinson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
85	<i>W. Pearson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
86	<i>T. Bonsall</i>	<i>Miner</i>
87	<i>D. Butler</i>	<i>Miner</i>
88	<i>D. Walker</i>	<i>Miner</i>
89	<i>E. Johnson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
90	<i>S. Beardow</i>	<i>Miner</i>
91	<i>J. Whatmore</i>	<i>Miner</i>
92	<i>W. Sansom</i>	<i>Miner</i>
93	<i>D. Howe</i>	<i>Miner</i>
94	<i>J. Savage</i>	<i>Miner</i>
95	<i>A. Garner</i>	<i>Miner</i>
96	<i>C. Etches</i>	<i>Miner</i>
97	<i>R. Downs</i>	<i>Miner</i>
98	<i>W. Buckland</i>	<i>Horsekeeper</i>
99	<i>S. Hinchcliffe</i>	<i>Miner</i>
100	<i>G. Hickinbottom</i>	<i>Miner</i>
101	<i>A. Deane</i>	<i>Miner</i>
102	<i>F. Divine</i>	<i>Miner</i>
103	<i>F. Collins</i>	<i>Miner</i>
104	<i>G. Cadman</i>	<i>Miner</i>
105	<i>Smith</i>	<i>Miner</i>

106 H. Sands Cannon / Deputy / Handyman

West Street, Warsop Vale, 1920s

House No.	Name	Occupation
141	W. Everett	Ambulance Attendant
142	C. Wilson	Miner
143	J. Claxton	Ambulance Man Nights
144	J. Gibbons	Miner
145	A. Chambers	Water Softener
146	J. Cantrill	Blacksmith
147	H. Aldridge	Miner
148	Whitely	Miner
149	J. Clarke	Miner
150	G. Cooper	Miner
151	J. Measures / Harby	Miner
152	A. Harby	Miner
153	J. Wheatley	Miner
154	J. Bennett	Miner
155	W. Iliffe	Miner
156	Shaw	Miner
157	H. Morton	Miner
158	A. Colley / A. Naylor	Electrician
159	G. Langton	Miner
160	A. Godfrey	Miner
161	C. Ellis	Miner
162	J. Harrison	Miner
163	Parker	Miner
164	Millership	Miner
165	G. Lindsay	Miner
166	T. Blankley	Deputy
167	A. Betts	Miner
168	J. Goodfellow	Miner
169	J. Preston	Miner
170	G. Johnson	Miner
171	W. Trolley	Miner
172	E. Green	Miner
173	W. Shaw	Miner
174	G. Harrison	Miner
175	C. Swindle	Miner

176	<i>J. Rampton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
177	<i>G. Houldsworth</i>	<i>Miner</i>
178	<i>C. Tomlinson</i>	<i>Miner</i>

Hewitt Street, Warsop Vale, 1920s

House No.	Name	Occupation
187	<i>H. Buxton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
188	<i>G. Johnson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
189	<i>T. Wilson</i>	<i>Joiner</i>
190	<i>S. Northern</i>	<i>Miner</i>
191	<i>S. Lake</i>	<i>Miner</i>
192	<i>H. Parkin</i>	<i>Miner</i>
193	<i>W. Broughton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
194	<i>G. Williams</i>	<i>Miner</i>
195	<i>Gibbons / T. Woolford</i>	<i>Miner</i>
196	<i>J. Ellis</i>	<i>Miner</i>
197	<i>G. Reeves</i>	<i>Miner</i>
198	<i>A. Atkin</i>	<i>Miner</i>
199	<i>C. Everett</i>	<i>Miner</i>
200	<i>S. Parker</i>	<i>Miner</i>
201	<i>H. Harrison</i>	<i>Miner</i>
202	<i>T. Archer</i>	<i>Miner</i>
203	<i>W. Cantrell</i>	<i>Miner</i>
204	<i>J. Johnson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
205	<i>C. Jarvis</i>	<i>Miner</i>
206	<i>T. Blockley</i>	<i>Miner</i>
207	<i>T. Lawton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
208	<i>C. Shaw</i>	<i>Miner</i>
209	<i>Beswick</i>	<i>Miner</i>
210	<i>Marlow / W. Ashton</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>
211	<i>Ted Gibbons</i>	<i>Sawyer</i>
212	<i>C Guy</i>	<i>Miner</i>
213	<i>Tom Betts</i>	<i>Miner</i>
214	<i>Abe Catton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
215	<i>Tom Etches</i>	<i>Miner</i>
216	<i>J. Widdowson</i>	<i>Miner</i>
217	<i>Joe Reaney</i>	<i>Ropeman</i>
218	<i>Betts</i>	<i>Miner</i>
219	<i>O. Sindall</i>	<i>Miner</i>
220	<i>A. Stray</i>	<i>Horsekeeper</i>
221	<i>A. Kilner</i>	<i>Miner</i>

222	<i>H. Etches</i>	<i>Miner</i>
223	<i>J. Richards</i>	<i>Miner</i>
224	<i>S. Haynes</i>	<i>Miner</i>
225	<i>R. Platts</i>	<i>Miner</i>
226	<i>G. Crossland</i>	<i>Miner</i>
227	<i>A. Burkit</i>	<i>Miner</i>
228	<i>G. Storr</i>	<i>Miner</i>
229	<i>G. Harding</i>	<i>Horsekeeper</i>
230	<i>Thorpe</i>	<i>Miner</i>
231	<i>G. Unwin</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
232	<i>J. Needham</i>	<i>Ropeman</i>

West Street, Warsop Vale, 1920s

House No.	Name	Occupation
233	<i>F. Goddard</i>	<i>Miner</i>
234	<i>G. Marshall</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
235	<i>Thorpe / R. Horton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
236	<i>J. Mellors / Nilan</i>	<i>Miner</i>
237	<i>H. Ancliffe / Winfield</i>	<i>Miner</i>
238	<i>W. Houseley</i>	<i>Miner</i>
239	<i>J. Sansom</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
240	<i>E. Clayton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
241	<i>A. Billyard</i>	<i>Fireholes</i>
242	<i>A. Rushton</i>	<i>Miner</i>
243	<i>G. Hickling</i>	<i>Miner</i>
244	<i>Trueman</i>	<i>Winder</i>
245	<i>S. Weightman</i>	<i>Miner</i>
246	<i>L. Mellor</i>	<i>Miner</i>
247	<i>E. Wale</i>	<i>Deputy</i>
248	<i>T. Everett</i>	<i>Miner</i>
249	<i>Joel Johnson</i>	<i>Deputy, Ambulanceman</i>
250	<i>Jack Richards</i>	<i>Miner</i>

Co-Operative Houses, Warsop Vale, 1920s

House No.	Name	Occupation
1A	<i>Bradley / Kenyon</i>	<i>Co-Op Managers</i>
2A	<i>Farnsworth</i>	<i>Miner</i>
3A	<i>Pell / F. Newton / Wright</i>	<i>Miner</i>
4A	<i>B. Chapman / W. Stewart</i>	<i>Miner</i>

Rock Houses, Warsop Vale, 1920s

House No.	Name	Occupation
1	J. Wass	Under Manager
2	H. Atkins	Colliery Official
3	W. Fry	Night Manager
4	H. Smith	Ropeman
5	Taylor	Colliery Official
6	Redfern / G. Cowlshaw	Colliery Official

Miscellaneous Dwellings, Warsop Vale, 1920s

House	Name	Occupation
Rock House	E.E. Booker / R. Ringham	Colliery Managers
School House	J. Sleight	Headmaster
Vale Hotel	Marson	Landlord
William Wood Farm	Bowman	Farmer
1, Railway Cottages	Priestley	Signal Box Inspector
2, Railway Cottages	Henshaw	Rail Inspector
The Parsonage	Hudson / Sumner / Francy	Reverends

The End of an Era – the Closure of Warsop Main Colliery

In 1985, colliery manager, P. Goodwin, gave a profile view of Warsop Main Colliery indicating that some 1,320 men were employed producing 3,525 tons a day at a rate of 9.55 tons per man shift at the face and 2.95 tons per man shift overall. The pit's future, he said, was secure despite 200 jobs having been lost that year in a cost cutting exercise.

How quickly from 1985 to 1989 and colliery closure.

By 1989 it was reported that Warsop Main Colliery was losing £200,000 a week with an overall loss in 1988 of £12.6m. Rumours of closure were rife. On 3rd August 1989 Mansfield Chronicle Advertiser reported that British Coal had announced that Warsop Main Colliery was to close with the loss of 800 jobs. Virtually every man living in Warsop Vale lost his livelihood or faced transfer to another colliery. Most men worked their last shifts around 25th August. Many remember how eerie the first few days were after the pit ceased production and the village was deathly quiet for the first time ever.

The desecration of the colliery surface started in earnest on 25th September 1991 when the Rapid Loader was blown up. On 23rd October 1991 a large crowd witnessed the first headstock at Warsop Main blown down, almost every village resident and ex-miner has a set of photographs of this momentous event. A month later on 28th November, the second headstock fell marking the end of an era. Gradually the remaining buildings on the pit surface were pulled down leaving only wasteland and memories.

In 1991 Mansfield Chad reported a mass of options for the 500 acres of farmland, pit head buildings, stocking sites and pit tips which comprised the Warsop Main closure site. The options included recreation and leisure, agriculture, forestry, housing, jobs and waste disposal. The article spoke of a planning strategy being worked out by land owners FitzHerbert estates, local Councils, British Coal, Rural Development and the Civic Trust. Sadly, none of these have come to fruition for the Millennium; all we have is words, promises and very little action. The only outcome in the decade since the closure has been dereliction, squatters and the breakdown of village life, which is all the more depressing when one can appreciate what used to be.



**Warsop Main Colliery
Rapid Loader Blown Up**
25th September 1991
(Courtesy of Mr. D.T. Smith)



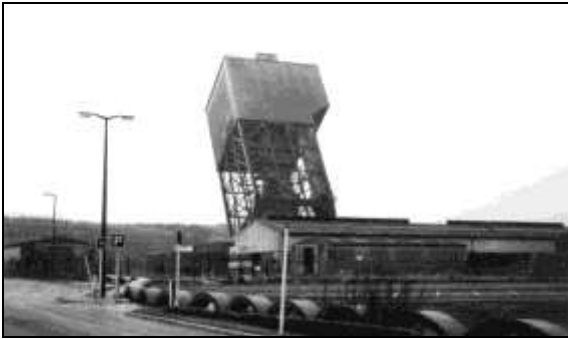
**The Headstocks viewed from the Rear
window of the 'Swing'**
Above: Before demolition
Right: After Demolition
(Courtesy of M. Toone)

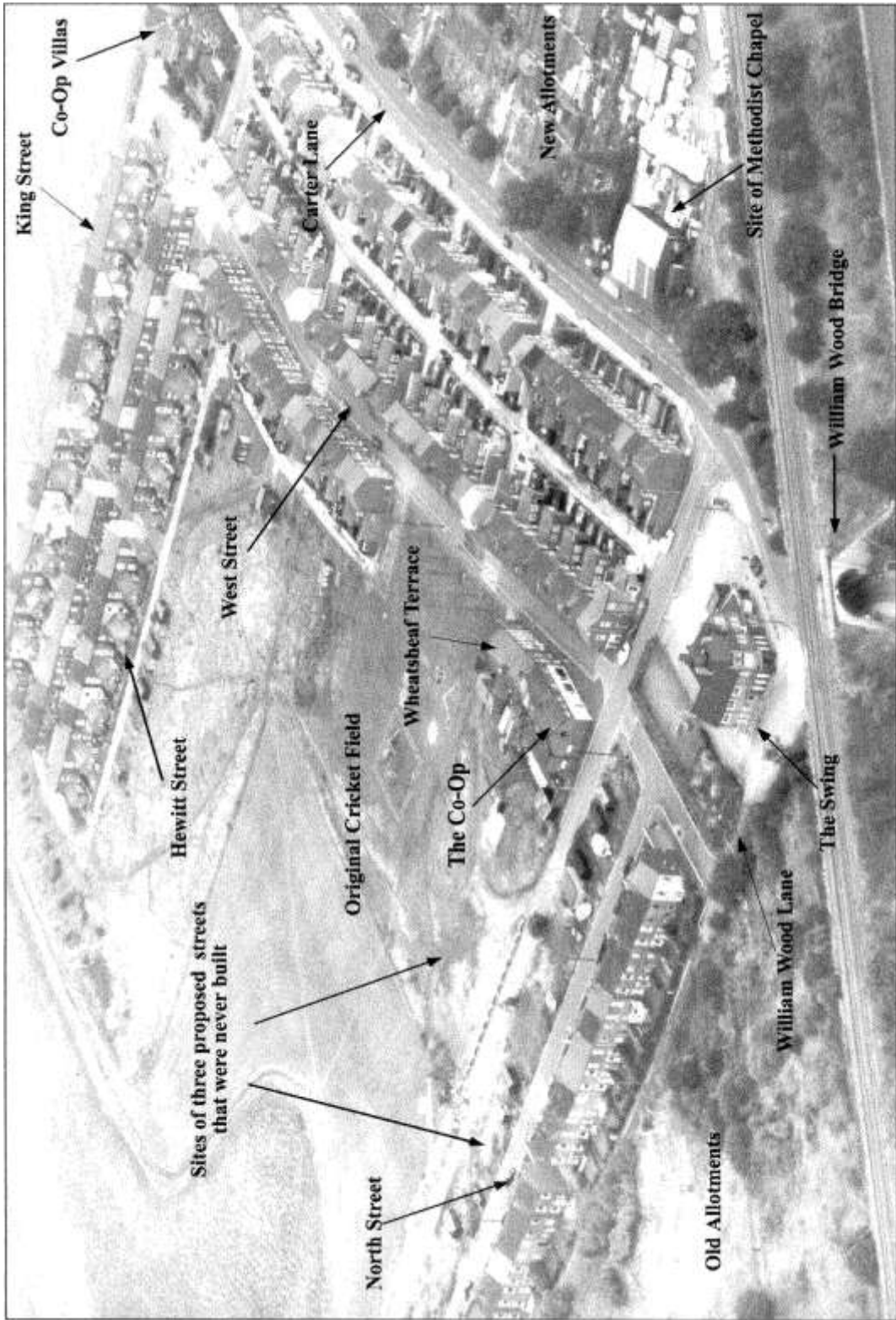


**Warsop Main Colliery : Demolition of the
First Headstock**
23rd October 1991
(Courtesy of Kevin Cantrell)



Warsop Main Colliery : Demolition of the Second Headstock
28th November 1991
(Courtesy of Old Warsop Society)





Aerial View of Warsop Vale in 1996
(Photograph courtesy of Mansfield Chad)

Warsop Vale Today

Today Warsop Vale is a shadow of its former self, with high unemployment, few facilities and many empty, boarded up houses where once there was a waiting list to live here. There are no headstocks and welcoming pit yard lights to keep watch over the community. The pit tip is now home to a flock of sheep and all the buildings are gone. There is no longer a school, a church, a chapel, a Church Institute, a Miners' Welfare, a Co-Operative, a sports pavilion, tennis courts, bowling green or a village bobby. The school is now a shower curtain factory. The church blew down. The chapel is now a caravan sales and repair yard. The Institute and Miner's Welfare were pulled down and a modern community centre stands on the site. A small corner shop and Post Office has replaced the Co-Op. The sports pavilion was burnt down. The Bowling Green is overgrown and tennis courts gone. The Police House is now privately owned.

One remaining cornerstone of village life that has survived is the 'Swing' (the Vale Hotel) which has been open for business for the last ninety-six years and continues to be so. The community spirit, however, has never been broken. It remains intact with a core of residents working hard and mostly voluntarily to ensure the village does not die. Warsop Vale is sleeping waiting for a new lease of life when it will wake to find it is as great as it once was and its people are as proud of it as they once were when people all over the world knew of its achievements.

The Future?

Who knows what the future may hold for Warsop Vale, but one thing's for certain, the past is certainly worth shouting about.



Left: Warsop Vale's Band - Face
Above: The Warsop Vale Football Team –
Fine Tune Aerials

THE VALE HOTEL

Carter Lane, Warsop Vale, Mansfield, NG20 8XE

Tel: 01623 742418



Lounge, Bar/Games Room

Jukebox, Pool, Darts, Dominoes

Pool Team, Indoor games league

Domino Knockout every Monday evening



Meals & Bar Snacks

Available for Parties & Functions



Bikers welcome every Thursday Evening



Sponsors of the Warsop Vale Football team along with
'Leengate' and 'Tine Tune Aerials'

