

Six Streets History Trail

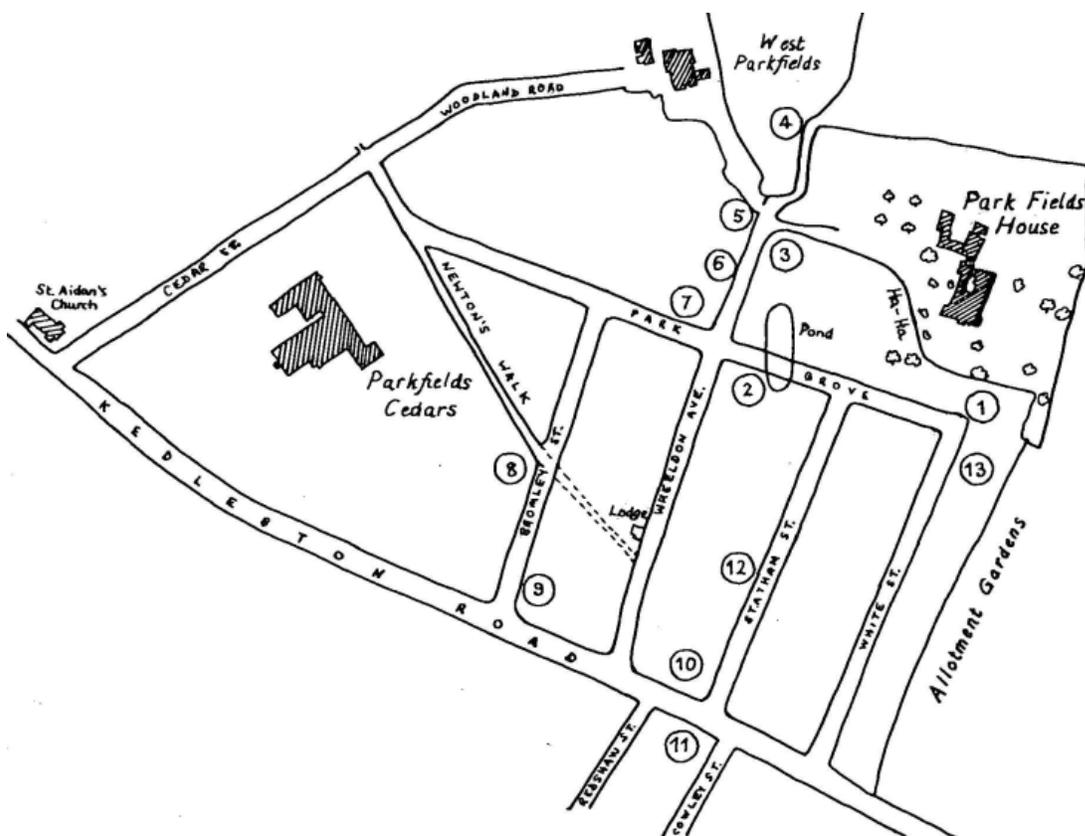


This self-guided tour gives you an opportunity to get to know this area better. The Local History Network Group has picked out locations that we have found interesting as we have researched the area. We hope you find them interesting too!

To use this trail:

- The text in numbered boxes show you where you need to stand to best see our points of interest. You can follow the trail in numerical order or dip in and out of the trail using the numbered map below.
- We don't expect you to read all the text while you are on the trail – the first couple of sentences will give you the main point of interest – this way the trail will take about ½ hour.
- The rest of the trail leaflet is best enjoyed with a cup of tea and your feet up!
- Why not come back and look at bits of the trail you have missed later? The only place you won't be able to access is the starting point at 8A Park Grove.

We hope you enjoy the tour. Please let us know your comments and suggestions to improve it, by contacting 6streetshistory@gmail.com - Thank you!



Parkfields about 1900-1901 showing the main features of the area at that date and the new street layout.

1. The Trail starts near the corner of White Street and Park Grove at the front gates of **8A Park Grove (map ref 1)**

Parkfields Estate

You have just left the grounds of part of Parkfields House. This was the centre of the Parkfields Estate, which now makes up the Six Streets area. In 1899 if you stood on this spot and looked down the hill to Kedleston Road on your right all you would see was parkland and fields grazed by animals. On the left (behind White Street) there were allotments which belonged to the Liversage Trust who owned almshouses in Derby. A few groups of houses existed along Kedleston Road, with Cedar Street, Cowley Street and Redshaw Street built by this date. The nearest neighbours to Parkfields House were Highfields House (still there but hidden from view in a cul-de-sac reached from Highfield Road), Parkfields Cedars (where the Schools' Resources Centre now stands) and West Parkfields (see point 5 below).

The original **Parkfields House** was built in about 1820 for Henry Cox, whose family owned the lead works and Shot Tower on the Morledge. They were also involved in brewing. The house still stands, hidden at the top of White Street and at the end of Parkfields Drive, now divided into three.

In 1867 **George Wheeldon**, who owned malting works on Nottingham Road, and also in Bedford and Grantham, bought the estate. Wheeldon represented the Derwent ward (for the Conservative



Parkfields House ca 1870 (photo: Richard Keene)

party) on Derby Borough Council, He was **Mayor of Derby** from 1873 to 1874. He was a keen sportsman and a supporter of the Meynell Hunt, which met annually at his residence. While George Wheeldon, his wife Emma and seven surviving children lived at Parkfields House they employed a number of servants. In 1881, 6 servants are listed as resident in the house – a cook, 2 housemaids, a kitchen maid, a laundry maid and a nursemaid plus a gardener who lived in the Lodge just off Kedleston Road.

Edward Hulse JP, Clothing Manufacturer, purchased Parkfields House in 1900, a year after George Wheeldon died. He bought the garden surrounding the house and some of the grounds (roughly where the 1920s houses are on Park Grove and Parkfields Drive). After he died his son sold the house and land in 1926 to Frank Porter, a removal contractor. Frank Porter split the house in two parts and sold off land on Park Grove for housing. The Hodgkinson family, high class grocers in Derby lived in the north part (reached from Parkfields Drive). The south part was purchased by the Innes brothers. Rumour has it that they fell out and as a result the south part of the house was split into two parts; Woodlands occupied by William Innes and Southlands by Frank Innes (the estate agent). It was at about this date that parcels of land were sold for housing on Parkfields Drive.

2. Walk along Park Grove. Stop outside **32 & 34 Park Grove**

32 & 34 and **27 & 29** Park Grove were built on the site of a pond which was a feature of the original park. Not far beneath ground level in this area is concrete infill which allowed houses to be

built and the road to be laid. 27 & 29 Park Grove are different in design from most of the Edwardian houses in the area. Plans for "A Pair of Semi-detached Cottages" were submitted in March 1903 by Derby Builders Ltd for a Mrs Dunbar. These two houses are built in the Arts and Crafts style, popularised by William Morris and Charles Voysey. The front rooms feature inglenook-style fireplaces.

In the 1911 census the largest nuclear family living in the area were the Jacksons at **31 Park Grove**, where mother and father lived with five adult daughters and two sons. The ages of the "children" ranged from 18 to 38. The father and one of the sons were employed as Engineers' pattern makers (making moulds for castings). The other son was a merchant's clerk. Three of the daughters were teachers, one the Headmistress of an Elementary school, the others Assistant Teachers. The mother and second oldest daughter do not have an occupation listed, and the youngest daughter was an Art Student. All were born in Derby. The census return only provides a snapshot in time, and there may have been other large families in the area where older children had moved away to work or to live in their own households.

3. Turn right up Wheeldon Avenue until you reach the bottom of *Parkfields Drive*

Parkfields House was reached by a carriage drive, running along the line of Wheeldon Avenue, past the lodge (built where Wheeldon Avenue and Newton's Walk meet), curving up **Parkfields Drive** to the front of the house with large stable buildings, conservatories and green houses, with the ha-ha separating the garden and orchards from the parkland.

4. Continue a short way up *Wheeldon Avenue* until a group of chalet-style houses come into view.

These are some of the newest houses in the area which were built in 1960-1961. This group of 11 chalet-style houses was built on land sold to a local builder in 1960 by the charitable trust that ran the Queen Victoria Memorial Home for Rest at West Parkfields House. Designed by local architect Morrison & Partners based on Belper Road the houses were ready in 1961 and were offered for sale at £6,500. They featured under floor heating on the ground floor and insulated cavity walls. There was the option to choose coloured bathroom fittings and the style of the fireplace surround.

5. Return down *Wheeldon Avenue* to reach the bottom of the driveway signposted for *Wheeldon Manor* (opposite *Parkfields Drive*).

West Parkfields

At the top of this driveway "Park Villa" was built in about 1873 for George Dean, an Elastic Web Manufacturer. By 1878 it had been renamed **West Parkfields**. A Derby born man, Dean lived here with his wife and his niece. In 1881 they had 2 servants resident: a cook and a house maid. In the 1891 census a single general servant is listed.



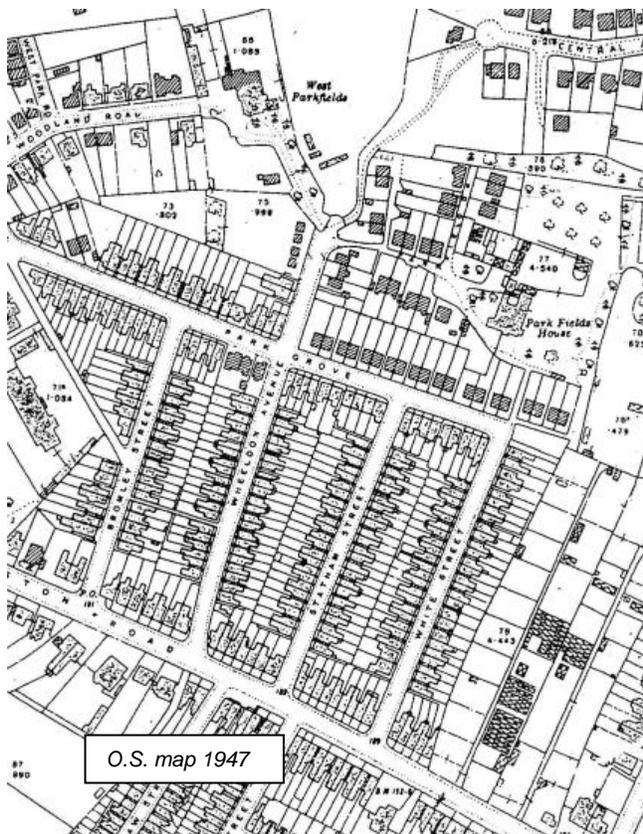
West Parkfields shortly before demolition in 2000
(photo Sheila Tarling)

In 1895 West Parkfields was sold to Edwin Ann (later Sir Edwin Ann), founder and proprietor of the Midland Drapery on St Peter's Street. Edwin and Sophia Ann shared the house with their six children until Sir Edwin died in 1913. Servants listed in the 1901 and 1911 census returns include a cook, housemaid, laundry maid, gardener and coachman.

After this date it is unclear who lived in the house and in 1929 the house was sold to a group of trustees for the Queen Victoria Memorial Home for Rest. Later the house itself became known as **Wheeldon Manor**, remaining as a residential nursing home, but it had nothing to do with the Wheeldon family. In 2000 it was sold and demolished to make way for apartments which are now also called Wheeldon Manor.

Parkfields Estate becomes Six Streets

After the death of George Wheeldon in 1899 his executors arranged the sale of the estate. The land for **Wheeldon Avenue, Statham Street, White Street** and part of **Park Grove** was sold in November 1900 to William Hollis Briggs, a local solicitor, and George DuSautoy, a brick and tile manufacturer.



The triangle of land known as Pump Closes which Wheeldon had bought from the owner of West Parkfields in 1879 was sold to Henry Vernon (Builder and Contractor). On this land he built the rest of **Park Grove, Bromley Street** and the west side of **Wheeldon Avenue**.

Wheeldon Avenue and Statham Street were named using family names (George Wheeldon married Emma Statham in 1859). We don't know how White Street got its name – one of Wheeldon's executors was William Whiston – there was already a Whiston Street by this time so White may be a variation. Bromley Street also remains a mystery – Herbert Bromley was a local land surveyor. Both "White" and "Bromley" may be Wheeldon family names of which we are unaware.

The first plots of land were sold in spring 1901. All the houses in the area have interesting conditions attached to their deeds: alehouses, places of entertainment, candle or soap manufactories were forbidden and houses must be valued at £300 plus. This was probably to

avoid the area becoming like the nearby West End with its crowded courts and small terraces. The pavement line and the front building line were carefully set out, as well as the maximum size of bay windows or porches. Houses had to be built within six months of the purchase of the plot. Building commenced that summer, with builders, joiners, even solicitors' clerks buying plots for 2, 4 or 6 houses. Occasionally somebody purchased a plot for their own house but most were sold on or rented out. Building proceeded in a patchy way until 1903-04.

6. Walk a short way down the road to reach 59 Wheeldon Avenue

59 Wheeldon Avenue bears the name "**Naraj**" carved over the front bay window. The 1911 census revealed that James Hill, a letterpress printer, lived here with his wife and two daughters. James and his daughter Frances were both born in India, in Orissa state and "Naraj Marthapur" is a village in the Cuttack district of Orissa.

7. Walk a short way down Wheeldon Avenue and turn right onto Park Grove, stopping at 42 & 44 Park Grove.

In 1911 there was a childrens' home at **42 & 44 Park Grove** The Derby Board of Guardian's owned the house and used it as a "**scattered home**" for a number of decades.

Scattered homes or the isolated homes system was first introduced in Sheffield in 1893. It was felt that the practice of placing children in cottage homes isolated them from the real world in which they would have to live as adults. Scattered homes placed small groups of children in ordinary houses around a town or city and the children attended local board schools.

In the 1911 census six girls aged 4 to 9 and eleven boys aged 3 to 7 were living in the home on Park Grove cared for by a Foster Mother and two assistants. All the children's birth places are recorded as unknown. One former resident recalled in an interview given in the Derby Evening Telegraph in 2005 that the children at the home helped with the chores, including scrubbing shelves and floors, polishing the brass stair rods and black-leading the kitchen stove. Punishment for misdemeanours, such as fighting, could include a hairbrush across the backside and being locked in the dark cold cellar of the house. We know from listings in local directories that the houses were used as a children's home from before 1903 to at least 1936.

8. Continue along Park Grove and turn left down Bromley Street to the crossing with Newtown's Walk outside Markeaton School

Local Schools

In the early 1900s, the County Borough of Derby Council (as it was then) realized that it had a problem: it needed to provide more school places for the Kedleston Road area, given the expansion of local streets and house building in adjacent streets. In 1906, 237 children from the Kedleston Road area were attending Ashbourne Road Council Schools, which were themselves overcrowded (and thus in danger of losing funding!). The Council agreed to purchase the 5.5 acre Parkfields Cedars site for £5,800, in order to provide new public elementary schools, originally intended to house 600 pupils but during 1906 this was extended to 1,000 pupils. Mr Charles Sherwin was selected as the architect, and the total cost of building and fitting the school was

projected to be about £15,000. Building work took place in 1909/10, and the following schools opened to pupils on 10 October 1910:

- **Kedleston Road Boys' School** – for 356 boys aged 7 – 14, housed downstairs in the main building and using the back playground nearest to Newton's Walk
- **Kedleston Road Girls' School** – for 356 girls aged 7 – 14, housed upstairs in the main building and using the front playground nearest to Kedleston Road
- **Kedleston Road Infants' School** – for 320 infants, housed in the single storey building nearest to Newton's Walk.

The current school playing field did not exist as part of the school land at that time – the brick wall on the edge of the front playground (which had a set of railings that were shorn off during WW2) formed the southern boundary of the school.



Markeaton School (photo: Rod Jewell)

At the opening of the schools, Arthur Hayman (Master), Miss E Bennett (Girls' Mistress) and Miss F. Redfearn (Infants' Mistress) were in charge, and there were 187 registered pupils in the boys school – but by July 1912 this had increased to 389. (*We do not have the corresponding figures for the girls and infants.*)

9. *Cross Bromley Street and continue down the road to **4 & 6 Bromley Street** - note the railings which are the only remaining examples in the area of the original Edwardian cast-iron railings apart from 27 & 29 Statham Street (see **12** below). The shop on the opposite side of Bromley Street used to be the local Co-op (see **11** below).*

10. *Go down Bromley Street, turn left into Kedleston Road, pass the bottom of Wheeldon Avenue – the original starting point of the driveway to Parkfields House – and continue to **108 Kedleston Road**.*

There is a description of life at **108 Kedleston Road** in the 1950s by Subrata Dasgupta in 'Salaam Stanley Matthews'. His family came originally from Bengal, a state in India at that time, but now part of modern-day Bangladesh, and were of the upper middle class, well educated Bengali elite. His father was a qualified doctor / registrar, and his mother a gifted musician and singer. They came to Britain in 1950 (when Subrata was 6 years old), travelling by sea, from Bombay to Liverpool, for his father to work. Later, members of their extended family also came to live nearby – for example he mentions a cousin *Moni-da* who lived in digs on nearby White Street.

The family lived in a first floor flat (with shared bathroom) at 108 Kedleston Road, "an exuberant part of the road". "In Derby, Kedleston Road was a busy road, a major bus route. Our part of the road was composed of a hotch potch of houses, shops of the baker-butcher-greengrocer type,

schools, and a few small offices, estate agents, solicitors and the like.....Close by were a girls' grammar school, Parkfields Cedars, and a secondary modern called Sturgess School.” “The trolleybuses hummed smoothly by...their parallel poles making mysterious clicking sounds as they moved along the overhead wires.

The family left Derby to return home to Calcutta (now Kolkata) in India, after 5 years here. Their departure was marked with a photograph and an article in the Derby Evening Telegraph, headed “Surgeon is returning to India”.



Many neighbours and friends came to say goodbye and see them off - “perhaps Susan Scattergood and her older brother Tony, the butcher’s children, came strolling across the road from their shop”. Susan had taught Subrata to ride a bicycle.

Kedleston Road with tramways (photo:)

11. At 108 Kedleston Road turn to face the parade of shops opposite.

The Shops

The 3 houses on the left at **117 - 121 Kedleston Road** were originally private houses, with walled gardens towards the road. Tony Scattergood, whose family owned a butchers shop at the other end of the row has provided the information:

- 117 Kedleston Road (now a hairdressers/barbers) was formerly Miss Warwick’s – a small School possibly around the start of World War 2.
- 119 Kedleston Road (now a dry cleaners) it was previously a Greengrocer’s and paper shop and then a petfood shop which also sold vegetables and fruit “Jimmys”.
- 121 Kedleston Road: (now the Fish and chip shop) was Upton’s hardware shop. Mr George Upton had converted his house into an ironmonger’s shop around 1960, and then proceeded to buy the other two houses (117 & 119) and convert them into shops during the 1960s. The walls in front of the houses were demolished as they were converted. Before being a Take-Away this shop was a bakers with cafe area (1990s).
- 123 Kedleston Road: G.T Ride Post Office and Green grocer’s. Mr Ride was one of 3 nurserymen growing produce on the land where Arthur Hind Close is now. This produce was sold in the Post Office originally but when number 119 was converted, that part of the business moved to 119 and the Post Office continued as simply a Post Office. At some

stage in the past the post office has been part of the Chemist's shop at the bottom of Bromley Street.

- 125 Kedleston Road: In 1930s this had been Howard's Store but prior to 1940 it became Buxton's Baker and Grocery. The Buxton's had about 10 branches and were rivals of Birds. Tony tells a story that Buxton's accused Birds of selling cakes that were stale which led to Birds' strap line "We never sell a stale cake".
- 127 Kedleston Road: This is called Jubilee House (on the corner with Redshaw Street) and was built in 1887 (Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee year). It was built by a Mr Kitchen who was the uncle of the original butcher Robert Irish, and the site was specifically chosen for a butcher's shop because it never had any sunlight going in through the windows so remained cool. (This was a factor for all shops pre refrigeration). There were several different owners until the Scattergood family arrived in 1941, and they kept the shop going until 1997. Tony remembers doing cycle deliveries of meat to houses in the whole area on Saturday mornings, for many years.

One former local resident remembers the shops in the 1950s and early 1960s: "At the time, it was common for the children to run errands for their parents. I would be sent to Mr Clews' on Cedar Street or to the Co-op for groceries, always remembering to quote the Co-op 'divi' number and get the tiny yellow receipt, or to Mr Taylor's newsagents to pay the paper bill or get cigarettes for my father. There was another grocer, Mr Green, nearer the top of Cedar Street, but we always went to Mr Clews. Each family was loyal to their particular grocer, some to Mr Clews, some to Mr Green and some to the 'Stores' as the Co-op was known."

12. Continue along Kedleston Road and turn left up Statham Street to 27 & 29 Statham Street.

These railings are some of the few traces that remain of the railings that once separated the houses from the streets in the area. An early photograph of White Street taken about 1910 shows the neat line of railings stretching up the street:



White Street ca 1910 (photo: C.W. Lee)

The railings were removed during the Second World War in order to recycle the metal for the war effort, and only a few remain, being those that protected open cellars steps, where there was a danger people might fall, especially during the blackout. These gates and railings, along with those at **4 & 6 Bromley Street** (map ref 8) are the only complete examples that remain.

During the War many people in the area used their cellars as air raid shelters. Often a small escape hatch was inserted between party walls, and sometimes a supporting wall was built down the centre of the cellars to strengthen the floor above in case of an air raid. One house on White Street still has a Morrison shelter in the cellar. These cage like metal shelters were bolted together in the home and were introduced when it became clear that people preferred to remain in their homes rather than spend nights in dark damp Morrison shelters.



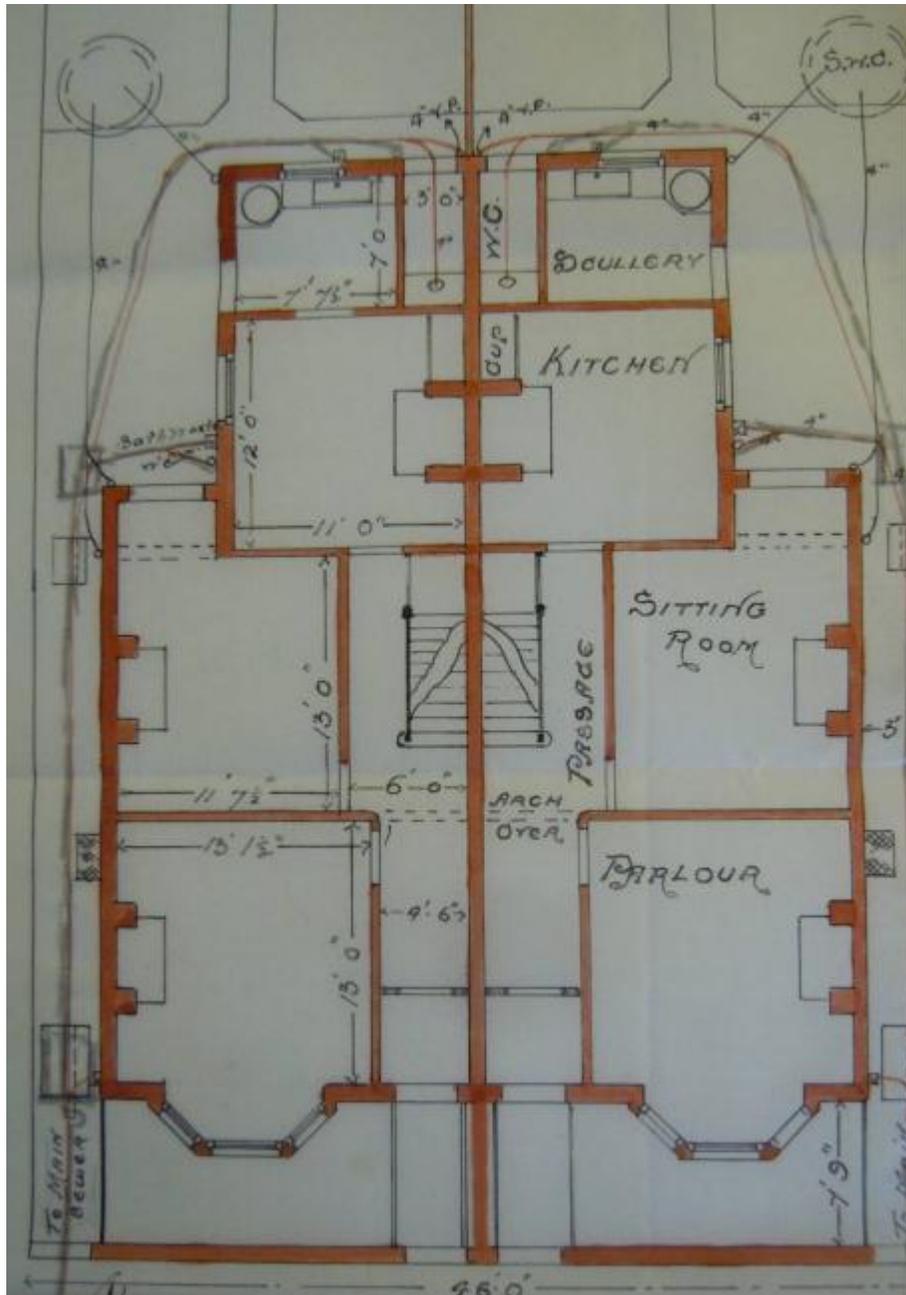
Morrison Shelter in White Street (photo: C. Newman & R. Sykens)

13. Turn right at the top of Statham Street and right again into White Street to reach 54 White Street.

54 & 56 White Street were built by the Doughty family in 1901. The plans for the semi-detached houses were submitted to the Local Sanitary Authority in January 1901 by JJ and JF [John] Doughty. Once the houses were built, John (a Railway clerk) and his family lived in 54. Their daughter Monica (born in 1908) continued to occupy the house until her death in 1998. The other house did not stay in the family.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the houses were named “Glencoe” and “Killarney” after favourite holiday destination of the family. Monica Doughty taught Physics at Parkfields Cedars School from 1932 to 1937 and 1945 to 1968. She was a stalwart member of Broadway Baptist church. Some longer-term residents will remember her riding her bicycle, around the area wearing a red hat.

Over the decades the Six Streets area had acquired a clear identity as the following account from a former local resident illustrates: “I came to live at 77 Park Grove in 1953 at the age of two and left in 1964 at the age of 13, so I suppose you could say that I grew up there. The group of streets around Park Grove – White Street, Statham Street, Wheeldon Avenue, Bromley Street, Cedar Street, Kedleston Road, Newton’s Walk and Park Grove itself, formed a well defined area which for many years constituted my world.”



Plans submitted by JJ & JF Doughty for 2 houses on White Street in January 1901
 (Image reproduced courtesy of Derby Local Studies Library).

This is where the trail ends. Return to **8A Park Grove** to visit our exhibition and talk to members of the Local History Network and visit the Air Raid shelter in the ground of "Parkfields House".

This self-guided tour was put together by the **Six Streets Local History Network**, in particular Diane Moss, Chris Newman, Ruth Sykens and Chris Johnson. It was first made available at the Six Streets Arts and History Trail on 23 & 24 June 2012.

The Local History Network was formed in 2010 by people interested in how the neighbourhood has developed over the years. Initial activities included looking into the history and past ownership of houses, a visit to Parkfields House and planning and conducting the local 2011 census. More information is on the Six Streets website at <http://www.sixstreetsderby.org.uk> or contact us by email at 6streetshistory@gmail.com

We are grateful to a number of people and organisations for their help with the History Trail:

Photographs, interviews and accounts from local people: We are indebted for valuable information to local residents, including: Pat Brennan (formerly Moore), Bill Cash, Tony Scattergood, D.I Stevens, Lyn Stevens, Sheila Tarling and Roger Wareham. For photos we are particularly grateful to Rod Jewell.

House Deeds: Much of the information about the history and layout of the area was obtained by looking at House Deeds that have been kindly lent us by neighbours. A big thank you for all your help!

Library research: Books and documents from the Derby Local Studies Library have been invaluable in helping us build up a picture of the area. The library holds house plans, street directories and registers of electors which all help in checking our research. We are grateful to Library Staff.

Census returns: We have used the official 1911 census returns to look in detail at the area in that year. In 2011 we used this information plus information gathered from our own unofficial census to publish a booklet. An extract from this work is reproduced below.

Further reading:

Modern Mayors of Derby (Derby Advertiser, Hobson & Son Ltd, 1909)
Parkfields Cedars – True to the End (1999), Owen, Anne
Salaam Stanley Matthews (2006), Dasgupta, Subrata
Street by Street: Derby (Breedon Books Publishing Company Limited, 2005), Craven, Maxwell
The Derby Townhouse (Breedon Books Publishing Company Limited, 1987), Craven, Maxwell

Other references:

<http://www.1900s.org.uk/index.htm> - for information about Edwardian terraced houses
<http://www.picturethepast.org.uk/> - local pictures (for this area search on Bromley, Kedleston and Wheeldon for hits)
<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/> - information on scattered homes.

We are actively collecting information from local residents to use in our research. If you have lived in the area at any time and can add to our history of the area please get in touch!

Thank you for your interest.

Census data 1911 + 2011:

Past and Present: A century of change?

Because the results of the 2011 census are not available for 100 years, the Six Streets Local History Network held its own census in April 2011 and then compared the results with those from 1911, the first census after the construction of our neighbourhood. Our 2011 census covered 429 people in 157 households, or 52% of local households. The 1911 census was compulsory and covered 850 people in 213 houses.

The results of our research which was first published in November 2011, show that some things have changed, and some not so much:

- 55% of local residents in 1911 were born in Derby or Derbyshire, compared to 46% of our 2011 sample. However, while in 1911 a total of 17 residents had been born abroad, our 52% sample in 2011 included 35 people born in 19 different foreign countries.
- In 1911 the most common names in Six Streets were John, William and Arthur, and Mary, Elizabeth and Ann. In 2011 only William was among the 10 most common names of babies in England and Wales.
- The most common household size in 1911 was 3, with only one household with a single occupant. In 2011 the most common size was 2 and in our 52% sample alone there were 26 households with a single occupant.
- In 1911, 46 people worked as domestic servants in 39 different households —West Parkfields had 4 servants and a gardener in a total of 10 occupants, Parkfields House had 4 servants among 6 occupants, and the children's home (at 42 & 44 Park Grove) had 2 servants in a total of 20 occupants. We found no domestic servants in 2011.
- The vast majority of the 280 women in 1911 did not list an occupation and many may have considered themselves mainly as housewives. The most popular areas of work among professional women were education (19) and dressmaker/seamstress (9). In our 52% sample in 2011 (149 women) only 9 listed themselves as housewives—the most common areas of employment were education (23), health and social care (21).
- In 1911 the most common occupation for men was clerk (73 of 251 men), followed by engineering (17), food (17) and railways (16). 100 years later engineering came top with 18 of 263 men, followed by creative industries (16) and general managerial (12).
- In 2011 a total of 19% of adults were retired. In 1911 only 7 people listed themselves as retired, ranging from a pensioned postmaster (59) to a retired bootmaker (79). Many of the widowed older women in the area lived with extended family. 11 people listed themselves as of 'private means'. This may have meant they had a private pension or a private income from investments or inherited money.