

KIMBERWORTH PARK

THEN AND NOW



A collection of
local memories and pictures from
the early days of the estate to the present.

Introduction

This collection of photos, memories, and other pieces of history, contributed by local people, tells something of the story of Kimberworth Park since the estate was first built.

The contents give a flavour of local life and of the spirit of the people living in this community. Although we have only been able to reproduce a limited amount of the material here, we have kept a digital record of everything that has been brought in and hope to develop this as an archive in the future. The material in this book will be a useful addition to other existing local heritage, including material gathered by St John's Church and Roughwood School as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations last year.

This project has been supported throughout by Kimberworth Park Community Partnership, and a grant from the Learning Skills Council also helped to turn the idea into a reality through a neighbourhood learning course.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has searched through old photos, talked about their lives, suggested other people to talk to, and, given permission for us to share their material with others. (We have attempted to list all the individual contributors at the end of the book.) Many thanks to you all.

Viv Scone & Joan Rooke, March 2009

KIMBERWORTH PARK

The Early Days

A brief history of the estate using extracts from the Rotherham Advertiser and personal memories.

1950 News that Kimberworth Park Estate is to be built first appears in the Rotherham Advertiser.

20th December 1953 "This Estate will be a town in it's own right." The Kimberworth Park Estate, when completed, will be made up of about 4,000 houses as well as a church, schools, a shopping centre, cinema, library and other facilities.

August 1953 Chance for Shopkeepers. The Housing Committee were proposing to build 12 shops on the Kimberworth Park Estate, Alderman F. Harper said the committee would then decide the nature of the shops, and if some shopkeepers were losing their businesses as a result of transfer of people to new estates or of slum clearance they could apply for consideration of tenancies for the new shops.

3rd December 1956 "No Traffic" shopping centre to be called St Helen's Green named after the Empress Helen, mother of Constantine the Great, the Emperor of Rome, who had close connections with Yorkshire.

28th April 1956 Plans for a £19,000 church centre at the junction of Morley Road and Kimberworth Park Road are going ahead. (There is a ruling that 2 churches in the same diocese cannot have the same name and as there is already a St Helen's church it is proposed to call the church St John's after the church that has been demolished at Masborough.)

May 1956 Redscope Primary School opened.

On Palm Sunday 1958 St John's Church opened.

September 1958 Roughwood Primary School opened



St John's Green 1960's.

Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Wash fountain, Redscope County Primary School late 1950's.

Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service

Memories of Miss P. Nowill

Area Housing Manager for Kimberworth Park when the Estate was built.

By the late 1940's there was talk about building the estate but work on site was held up as there was a mining fault running across the area, consequently building could not start until the early 1950's.

Kimberworth Park was the first council housing development in Rotherham to have its own estate office and estate manager. At first the housing office operated part-time from a wooden hut near 56 Great Park Road, this was where tenants took their rents and so on. We shared the building with the library, I can't remember when we moved out of the hut and on to St John's Green.

The first housing to be built was at Toll Bar, but building in the main part was held up because a new sewer was needed from the estate to Aldwarke Sewage Works. As the sewer had to be installed at the bottom of Ten Acre Road houses were then built uphill from the sewer.

The keys to the first houses were received in the office near to Christmas at the end of one year and handed to tenants early the next over 1952/53.

The flats at St John's Green were single person flats and flats for couples with no children. We had a job letting the flat over the chip shop, as tenants didn't want the smell.

The Tenant's Club Room (at the far end of the brick building on St John's Green) was opened by a civil servant from the Department of Housing in London.

There were weekly house to house collections of rent, there was mostly someone home then and tenants became friendly with the housing officers. We were not welcomed by everyone by any means but on the whole we were welcomed. Rents were still being collected house to house 12 years ago.



Miss P. Nowill handing keys to one of the very first tenants on



Vic Rowley and niece picking flowers in fields where Ring O'Bells public house was later built. Mid 1950's.



Roughwood Road with double decker bus, the picture was taken in the 1950's before Simmonite Road was built.

There were a lot of lanes, we would go down the lanes and pick bluebells. There was a farm called Quibell's Farm. There were fields and they used to burn off the crops. Barkers Park was scrubland.

We sometimes went into the woods. There was a mine there and there was still some mining equipment lying around. There were also miners cottages on Kimberworth Park.

Very few families owned a car, there was four or five on our street, so public transport was regular and cheap too, just tuppence halfpenny for a journey from Kimberworth Park to Rotherham. There was no motorway.

Extracts from memories shared by older and younger residents of Kimberworth Park at an event led by Ray Hearne at Roughwood School in June 2008.



Gate at end of Fenton Road, 1950's.
Photograph contributed by Don Bird.



Grants Cottages, Fenton Road, 1950's.
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service

MORE MEMORIES

We lived at No 57 Simmonite Road. There were no houses between us and where the Ring O' Bells now stands. Fenton Pit was a drift mine and was still producing coal. I, like many more, became a member of the Kimberworth Park and Wingfield Working Men's' Club before it was built.

Roy and Barbara Cook.

The housing built on Kimberworth Park was very modern compared with much of the housing which it replaced, which had outside toilets and coal fires. Sometimes frost and ice was found on the inside of windows. Most people were employed manually in large industries such as the National Coal Board, Parkgate Iron & Steel Company, and Steel Peach & Tozer. Very few people had cars or had a telephone or their own home.

Jim Chappell

In my original house, in the kitchen, there were 4 gas rings, no oven and a Yorkshire Range, an oven with flues at the side. This had to be lit even in Summer. I had the range out straight away and a gas oven put in.

Barry Humphreys

The new houses on the estate were built to a range of designs and sometimes used innovative approaches to materials. Not all the designs proved easy for the residents:

One of the things about the houses was that they were built for £1,000. Only one type of house had two fireplaces, all the others had one for the whole house, it was hard to keep the houses warm. When the scheme started all the ovens were solid fuel.

Some houses on the estate were designed with an open fire in the living room, back to back with an oven in the kitchen, this meant that a fire had to be lit constantly in the living room to be able to use the oven. This was one of the most inconvenient designs and gave a lot of trouble for the tenants as they had to go into the living room to keep the fire stoked whatever time of year, so many bought their own gas cookers and these had to be squeezed into a store room. The houses were then very cold, as most people did not light a fire in the living room until evening.

Miss P. Nowill



Houses on Oaks Lane in the early days of the estate.
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Interior of 14 Ox Close Avenue 1960's with tiled fireplace.
Right: Pat Bagnall's mother Bella, Centre: Shep the dog & Left: Bella's niece.
Photograph contributed by Pat Bagnall

KIMBERWORTH PARK IN THE 1960'S

9th January 1965 The Library and Clinic was opened. This was originally sited in the building used up to early 2009 by the Post Office and Lloyds Chemists. Junior readers on the estate lead a “book rush” at the newly opened library. Chief Librarian Mr L.G. Powell had to put in a rush order for an additional 700 books as the number of loans increased tenfold.

11th October 1962 The Rotherham Advertiser reports that Kimberworth Park Community Association is to launch a £2,000 appeal towards the cost of building a youth centre on the estate. If the appeal is successful the Co-ordination Committee organising the fund raising can apply for a Government subsidy to cover the rest of the cost, expected to be approximately £8,000.

PUBS ON THE ESTATE

Most of the pubs on Kimberworth Park opened during the 1960's. The pubs played an important part in the social life of the area, offering a range of sports and activities, mainly for local men, including: darts, fishing clubs, football teams. The pubs were also involved in the local Galas.

December 1961 The Domino opened, the landlord was William E. Bramall. A farm that had previously stood on the site was knocked down to allow the pub to be built.

July 1962 The Ring O' Bells opened and the landlord was John Butcher.

August 1966 The Pewter Pot opened, the pub was managed by Raymond Refearn, (a former footballer), and his wife Thelma. A geological fault runs from the Pewter Pot to West Close, under Barkers Park.

1968 The Haynook was opened and the first landlord was Gordon L. Leake.



CLlr Mrs F. Green opening the library on St John's Green 1965
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Children's Library, St John's Green 1960's.
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service

KIMBERWORTH PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Rotherham Record reported in the early 1960's that at the first meeting of the newly formed Kimberworth Park Community Association held at Redscope School membership was stated to be 149 households plus 90 OAP's as honorary members.

The organisation had an active committee and members provided a steady programme of social activities. The organisation also galvanised community involvement on the estate and became a pressure group to fight for more local resources including Chislett Youth and Community Centre and Wingfield Social Club. At the time the estate had no social amenities, no community centres and no pubs.

Kimberworth Park Community Association began the ongoing history of Volunteer-led community involvement in local life and also became a voice for local people. Over time different organisations on the estate have taken on this role.



Kimberworth Park Community Association
Committee members at a themed social event
Photograph contributed by Cath Redmond

Further extracts from the Rotherham Advertiser

Completion of Wingfield Estate was reported to be expected by mid 1971. Tenants are given the opportunity to say what type of shops they would like at Ochre Dyke Walk—approximately 6 shops are proposed. Three public houses are to be provided at Wingfield. 2,000 houses are to be provided at Wingfield and there are nearly 3,000 on Kimberworth Park.

April 1971 Proposed rent rise causes consternation among council tenants. Rent increases of almost £3 a week on some council house estates in Rotherham is predicted this week in a shock report on the likely effect of the Government's "fair rent" proposals.

September 1972 Rotherham Corporation have won their battle to reduce the £1 a week rent increase due to be imposed on their 14,000 council tenants under the "fair rent" act.

February 1988 Rotherham Council house rents are to stay the same for the sixth year running, tenants will have "rent free" weeks before Christmas and the holiday season.

February 1989 Miners and Steelworkers in Rotherham are using redundancy payments to buy their own council houses. Tenants who have lived in their council house for more than 30 years can qualify for a 60 per-cent discount.

SCHOOLS



Class at Oldhall School 1960's



Class at Redscope School 1960's
Photograph contributed by Ron Town



Roughwood School Music Group 1977
Photograph contributed by Lorraine Hobson.



Y6 pupils , Learning Mentors and Police & Community Support Officers
clearing the ground to prepare for an environmental vegetable garden
at Roughwood School in 2008

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

There has always been a wide range of leisure activities, groups, and organised events on Kimberworth Park to suit all ages and interests. These photos are just the tip of the iceberg!



Kimberworth Park Community Association event 1960's



Kimberworth Park Male Voice Choir performing as part of a community celebration event at Chislett Young People's Centre in 2007



Kimberworth Park Gala 1956/7

Binders Farm is shown in the background, the farm was demolished and the site is now partly Redscope Playground and partly the edge of Barkers Park. Photograph contributed by Lesley Bunclarke pictured on the back row 2nd L.



Guides meeting at St John's Church mid-late 1960's

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Extracts from a letter by Alan Dutfield, priest in charge at the church from 1955 - 1960

The church was designed by John Jenkinson.

The vicar, Geoffrey Needham, gave me as much opportunity as possible to influence the design, and of course I consulted with our people on the estate. We tried very hard to get rid of the bell tower, which seemed to us quite disproportionately expensive and almost useless. However, the Council was determined. They had conceived the square as an Italian piazza, and as such it had to have a church, but also a campanile.

I must mention more fully one aspect of our work This was what one might call our social responsibility work. It's hard to imagine this place when we arrived, with thousands of people living here, but unconnected with the place or each other. It was a desert. We early decided that for both theological and practical reasons we must do our utmost to play our part in building a community.



St John's Church Christmas Fair late 1950's/early 1960's

The opening of the church.

The opening was remarkable in one particular. Weeks before came the first request for a baptism on the opening day. Others followed, until 17 were booked. On balance it seemed sensible to accept this once-in-a-lifetime spate, and do them all together, thus avoiding accusations of favouritism etc. We were just able to get the whole lot in by opening the partition and filling both sections to the gunwales. The children were marvellous. During the first half. Then one cried, and in no time they were all at full blast. We managed, and at the end people seemed to feel that it had been a good do.



Church congregation on the steps of St John's 1980's

BARKERS PARK

At a meeting of the RMBC Parks Committee on 4th April 1958 it was decided to form a new park, 75 acres in size, on the site of Redscope Plantation. The park would be named after Alderman G.A. Barker, chairman of the Parks Committee. The cost of creating the park ran over budget and an additional sum of £2,000 had to be granted in order to complete the work.. The next milestone was the decision taken by the council in July 1962 to build a new pavilion in the park, this was opened in October 1963 and was eventually demolished in the late 1990's after being vandalised.

The land under Barkers Park could not be used for housing because of a geological fault running under it. There had also been early mining on the site and there are still remains of historic bell pits.

Friends of Barkers Park was formed in 2003 to help turn what had become a rather run down area, used mainly by local dog owners, into a space where there were amenities to attract people of all ages into the park. Through hard work, long-term planning, and ongoing fundraising, the group has worked alongside the local authority to help provide a multi-use games area, a children's playground, a rose garden, and an environmental area, among other improvements.



Friends of Barkers Park with development plans.
Community Gala on St John's Green 2005
Photograph contributed by Pat Shaw



Aerial picture, probably late 1950's, showing the area of land that was to become Barkers Park with Oaks Lane in the foreground. The fire station is half-completed and there is an empty space where the Haynook now stands.
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Barkers Park Official Launch and opening of refurbished
Children's Play area 2007

CHISLETT THEN

THE CALL GOES OUT HELP US BUILD A YOUTH CENTRE

In the early 1960's The Rotherham Advertiser reported that Kimberworth Park's biggest step forward in the campaign to gain amenities for the estate's younger generation is being made with a full-scale appeal to the general public, including business people. The following is an extract from the appeal letter signed by Charles Chislett:

" As sponsor of the Kimberworth Park Youth Centre Appeal I take the liberty of drawing your attention to this project so that you may have the opportunity of associating yourself with an organisationwhich will translate your assistance into a lasting force for the benefit of hundreds of young people who are still at school or who work in many parts of Rotherham but have no centre for club activities in their own district.Every house in the Kimberworth Park Estate is being visited and each family is being asked to give £1 by means of 20 weekly subscriptions This appeal is aimed at raising at least £2,000 by means of generous donations."



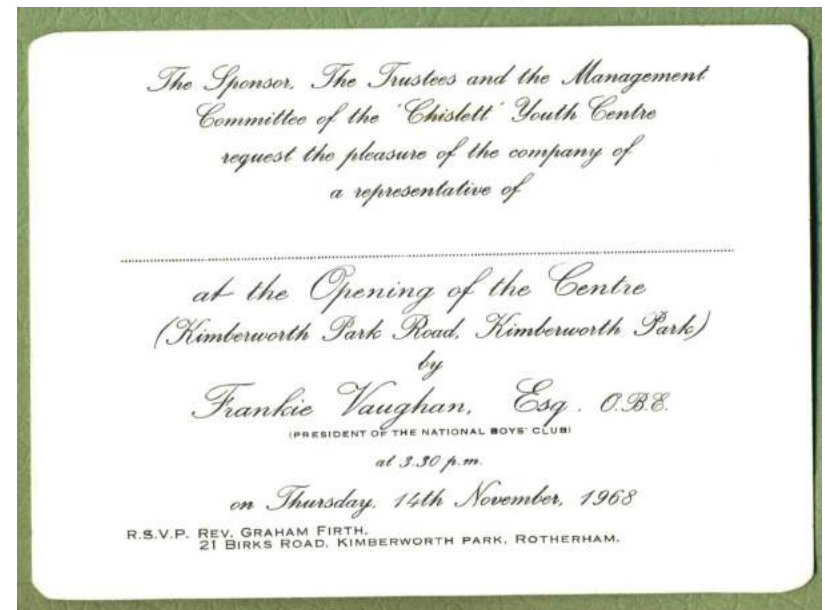
At the St. John's Church Hall, Kimberworth Park, on Thursday, briefing of teenagers took place, prior to their visit to every home on the Kimberworth Park Estate with the object of obtaining a gift of £1, in one shilling instalments, for the Kimberworth Park Youth Centre. Pictured briefing the teenagers are Mr. C. J. Chislett (sponsor of the public appeal), left, and Mr. A. Gathercole (vice-chairman of the centre), second left, (7/12/9915).

Briefing of teenagers prior to visits to every home to raise funds.
Photo by courtesy of the Rotherham Advertiser



Mr Charles Lee (Left) captain of Derbyshire Cricket Club, presents a cricket bat autographed by 6 County Teams and the 1963 West Indies Team, to Mr C. J. Chislett, (Right) and Mr Danny Williams (Centre) presents a football, signed by the Rotherham United Players, to Mr Chislett, organiser of the Public Appeal.

Photo and text by courtesy of Rotherham Advertiser.



Original invitation to the official opening of

CHISLETT NOW

Since it opened Chislett has offered a broad variety of community activities, supporting both young people and also the wider community. It is currently run by RMBC Young Peoples Services and continues to provide a range of different activities for younger residents. The building also houses a pre-school and a community gym and is used as a venue for social activities. It is affectionately known to present and past users as “Chizzy” and has its own profile on Facebook.



Official opening of Chislett Gym

Photo by courtesy of South Yorkshire Community Foundation

Well known boxer Brendan Ingles - pictured above centre - formally opened Chislett Community Gym on January 17th 2009. The Gym provides a health facility for local people. It has been set up as an affordable and friendly space where residents of different ages can improve their fitness in a supportive atmosphere. Brendan stressed in his opening speech that gyms can also play an important role in helping young people develop confidence, skills and self discipline.



Bike renovation project 2008

Kortney Bunker and Rob Heald



Senior Club Disco Dance Demonstration

KIMBERWORTH PARK SHOPS

Shops and shopping on Kimberworth Park reflect the changes in wider society, cars, freezers and ready-made meals have drastically changed shopping habits, as has access to a far wider range of foodstuffs all year round.

In the late 1950's, before the first shops were built, there used to be a mobile shop called Cox's and also Quibell's Farm sold milk, groceries and sweets. Quibell's Farm was the only place where people could go for the basics like milk and butter.

Shopping was different then, people bought on a daily basis.

Bread was not sliced – most of the food was fresh – the bread-man called every day – and on a Thursday we could buy a cake. Food was on ration and we had coupons in a ration book. Sometimes my Mum would have to swap sweet coupons for food coupons so she could buy bread.

Everyone used to shop at Brouchs, they used to sell broken biscuits cheap. We bought two slices of bacon, two sausages. We also used to eat horse meat. My mum would buy it cheap. She didn't tell my Dad though because if she had he wouldn't have eaten it.

On our way to Redscope we called at the farm where the Domino pub stands now and bought a glass or sometimes a small bottle of orange juice from the farmer's wife. We kids could supplement our meagre pocket money by taking back Ben Shaw pop bottles that the builders left scattered around the partly built houses. These were taken back to Bayliss' shop on the newly built St. John's Green. At four pence a time we could easily earn a couple of shilling a time.

Contributors: Margaret Bemrose, Brian Beeley, Sylvia Marshall, Miss P. Nowill, Michelle Poxon, Joan Rooke, Ron Town and Alma Wright.



Picture of St John's Green shops in the early 1960's with Brouchs on the corner .
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Shops on St John's Green 1960's
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Staff in Staniforths Bakery 2008

Staniforths Bakery has been on this site for 24 years, there has always been a bakers on the green, previously the shop was run by E Steel & Son, another Rawmarsh Bakery firm, and before that it was Davy's.

In 2008 Staniforths favourite items were reported to be "sausage rolls and custards".



Matthew Boulton has been the proprietor of this shop on St John's Green for the last 6 years, the shop has been a butchers for at least 46 years.

THE CO-OP

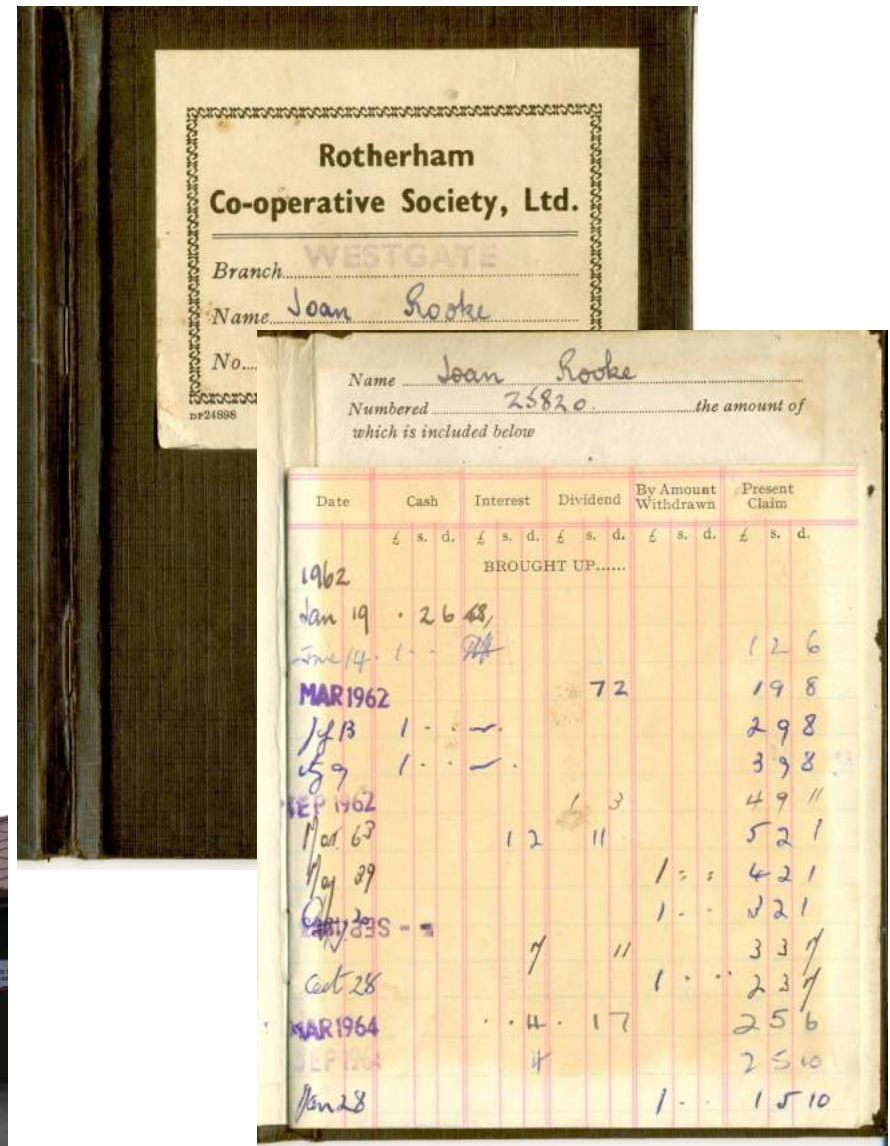
The Co-op was here when I came to live here in 1959, it was in the building on Ox Close where the bookies is now, it took up the whole block with a separate butcher's, greengrocer's and fishmonger's. I used to go and get a bit of finnan haddock, (yellow smoked fish), for my mother to have with a poached egg. My Rotherham Co-op dividend number was 44238.

Esme Temple



Co-op on St John's Green 2009

Rotherham Co-operative Society covered the whole of Rotherham, unlike in other towns where there were different branches for different areas.



Picture donated by Joan Rooke

Joan Rooke's book shows hand-written entries, with some use of date stamps. In March 1962 Joan's dividend was worth 7 shillings and tuppence. You could draw out the money as cash and the scheme acted as a bank book, you could also pay money in. Joan used it as a way of saving for extra treats.

ST JOHN'S GREEN



St John's Green shops in the 1960's
The Library was situated in the bottom left hand corner
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Detail from 1960's display of damaged books in
the library window on St John's Green
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Interior of the Library on St John's Green
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service



Interior of Stockdales 2008
Stockdales Greengrocers has been on St John's Green since 1964
It is now based in what used to be Kimberworth Park Clinic



Interior of Wool Shop around 1995

This picture shows the interior of The Wool Shop on St John's Green in about 1995. When the estate was built almost all woollen garments would have been hand knitted at home. There had been a wool shop among the first shops on the Green. It was not until the 1960's that industrially produced knitwear, using modern fibres, became affordable for most families. After running the business as a wool shop Carole Bagnall also ran it as a Pet Shop, Paws and Claws. Like many of the shops on the Green it has seen a variety of uses over the years, in 2008 it was a Clearance outlet, and in the past has also been a Freezer Shop for Matthew Boulton, Butcher.



Exterior of Paws & Claws Pet Supplies & Accessories
Photograph contributed by Pat Bagnall.

We used to go to the chip shop—chips were 3d, fish bits 4d, and fish was 6d. On a Saturday we would go down into Rotherham and have some mussels or tripe. We would then have some money to go to the pictures -Tivoli or Premier- we would buy sweets.

Memories from a group discussion with Margaret Bemrose, Brian Beeley, Sylvia Marshall, Miss P. Nowill, Michelle Poxon and Alma Wright.



Steve Lupton with chips from Kular's on St John's Green Feb 2009. Steve is working as an electrician on the upgrading of properties on the estate as part of the Housing Market Renewal Programme. The chip shop was run by Ray and Fay Cole before it became Kular's in 2008

THE HAIRDESSERS ON ST JOHN'S GREEN



Molly Pearson and staff inside the Hairdressers 2008

Cath Redmond has run the hairdressers for 33 years and it was bought by her mother 36 years ago. Molly Pearson (pictured) has been a customer for over 20 years and has never altered her hairstyle in all that time.

The name of the design is 'Petals' and it involves carefully curling and pinning each individual section of hair, taking well over an hour to complete.

RING O BELLS SHOPS

The name 'Ring O Bells' was given to the newly built pub in the 1960's following the demolition of an old pub of the same name which stood near to Rotherham Minster in the town centre. The name now identifies this part of the estate. The small row of shops has always included a grocer and a chip shop.



Picking flowers in the 1950's in fields where the Ring O Bells now stands.
Photo contributed by Ellen Bates



Ring O Bells Fish Bar 2008

OAKS LANE SHOPS



Oaks Lane Shops early 1960's
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service

For many years this row of shops had a bookies, a chip shop and a newsagents. The newsagent's was called Kirk's and in this old photo there are advertising displays for Park Drive cigarettes and Walls ice cream.

The picture also shows the Fish Shop, then known as Janet's and later as Cole's run by 'pepsi' Cole, brother to Ray Cole, who with his wife ran the chip shop on St John's Green.

The supermarket that is now the Co-op, was for a lot of years Ross's run by Geoff and Barbara Ross.



Oaks Lane Angling Centre 2008
For many years a newsagents this is a recent addition to the range of shops seen on Kimberworth Park over the decades.



Fire Station Oaks Lane 1960's
Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service

PUBS AND CLUBS



EXTRACT FROM THE MAGNET BREWERY MAGAZINE 1966

When the Brewery's architects at Tadcaster first visited the site on which the Pewter Pot was to be built in Great Park Road they discovered that open-cast mining had been carried out on part of it. But that wasn't all. When a probe was set up it was found that the central portion of the site was made up of a bridge of rock which was 20 feet thick in parts.

So when building commenced the top soil was scraped off the rock, and a concrete raft was put in its place. Then on top of the raft had to go the cellar and then the public house proper. That is why the Pewter Pot is so much higher than the road which runs in front of it.

The beer comes from five 180 gallon tanks in the cellar.

One of the more modern means of delivering beer is by road tanker. Draught beer is pumped into road tankers which each carry 11,250 pints of Magnet Ale.



Bulk Draft Beer Delivery to The Pewter Pot - Photo Magnet Magazine



John Smith's Games League Presentation held at The Pewter Pot 1960's
Photograph contributed by Thelma Redfearn.



B. Humphreys and friends in the Pewter Pot - picture donated by B. Humphreys

PUBS AND CLUBS - SOME MEMORIES

I have been drinking in the Pewter Pot since 1968. In 1968 Magnet was 2/- (two shillings) a pint and bitter was 1/11d a pint. Pubs had to have a good sale for Magnet because it didn't keep as well as John Smiths so you had to sell a lot. All the pubs had a darts knockout and a gala day with a donkey derby. Len Fairclough (from Coronation Street) was guest of honour one year around 1969. Graham Miles played an exhibition match at Wingfield Club, they put the table up in the corner and had chairs on the stage.

Barry Humphreys

Public houses were seen as social centres where people tended to meet. Television was in its infancy. I used to go to Wingfield Club twice a week to Beat Nights.

Jim Chappell

WINGFIELD CLUB

Wingfield Club was a major social amenity for the estate over several decades, the club offered a wide range of entertainment and many people have memories of going there.

In the 60's Tuesday and Thursday nights were ordinary pop music, if you didn't get there by 7 o'clock you didn't get a seat. I couldn't modern dance. I could only do rock and roll. I wore a suit and a tie, you wouldn't get in without a tie. The girls wore straight pencil skirts, 2 or 3 inches above the knee. It was all live music, generally a band, clubs also had their own musicians.

Jim Chappell

That was the one time when the men used to get up and dance when it was rock and roll. At most dances the lads used to sit it out until the last dance, they danced then so they could take a girl home.

Joan Rooke



Wingfield Club in the 1970's

Photo Rotherham Archives & Local Studies Service

KIMBERWORTH PARK GARDENING SOCIETY

The Gardening Society was run from the hut on Byrley Road which became known locally as 'The Garden Hut'.

My husband well remembers joining the gardening society, he thinks it was either 2 shillings or half a crown for a year's subscription, this enabled members to buy commodities such as fertilizers, seeds, canes, tools, at more or less cost price.

Most of the members were well known to one another from either working down the pit or at "steelos", it was a very friendly society. Very often debates about green fly, and how long your runner beans were, were known to take place over a pint in the Domino.

About this time it was announced our Gardening Society was chosen for a recorded radio programme, Gardeners Question Time. The date was set and off they went to the Community Centre where a panel of gardeners of some renown were waiting to answer questions, all good stuff! Without a doubt half the estate tuned in to listen to the programme when it was broadcast.

Memory contributed for St John's Church 50th anniversary, name unknown.

I used to go to Sunday School in the Garden Hut, it was run by the Salvation Army. We lived on Byrley Road and we believe that the small boy on the left of this old photo (above right) is my brother Les.

Ron Town

NOW

The building is now known as Kimberworth Park Resource Centre and for some years has been the home of Kimberworth Park Community Partnership, the building provides meeting space and resources to support groups and individuals working in the community. Last year the Rotherham Wardens moved in and now share the building as a base.



The Garden Hut Byrley Road 1960's with Les Town in background.



Meeting of Kimberworth Park Community Partnership February 2009

SPORT & FITNESS



Brian Bagnall in the garden of 14, Ox Close c.1965
Photograph contributed by Pat Bagnall



Ladies Fitness Class, St John's Church.
Some of the participants appear to be wearing the white blouses and black satin shorts of the Women's League of Health and Beauty, a national fitness movement for women very popular in the 1950's.
Photograph contributed by St John's Church



Drum majorettes practising behind the Pewter Pot 1970's
Photograph contributed by the Redfearn family.



Pewter Pot Football Club 1974-75 Season

FISHING

There is a long history of fishing on Kimberworth Park and it is still one of the most popular leisure activities for local residents. The next pages show a little of the history of fishing from the early days of the estate through to the present.

I got into fishing through my father in law, we used to go out together pretty often. A lot of the men were miners and steel workers. There were matches, only 3 or 4, not on the scale they are now, and a weekend away and a fur and feather where everyone gets a turkey.

Membership of the Pewter Pot Angling Club was limited to 50 members. The AGM was held on a Sunday morning from 10-11.30 with people queuing outside to sign up. New members were let in at 11.30, the only way to get a place was if someone had dropped out.

The competition prizes were bales of bedding, there were no continental quilts, bedding always wanted replacing so it never went amiss. More than now fishing was for men, presentation night was for the ladies, black forest gateaux and cream cakes. The women picked the prizes, there were so many that they couldn't have the whole presentation on a Friday night because it took too long. The first half came in on a Tuesday night and the second half on the Wednesday. The prizes were on show with 1-25 that night and the other 25 on the Wednesday. You put the ticket of the place you came in the match on the prize. There were more than 50 prizes because they gave the last man a choice then raffled what was left. The least value was £30 and the highest £50 and some in between. Later the prizes became things like portable televisions, then everyone had a portable and after that it got to things like microwave ovens, MP3's and DVD players. Now it's just a case of whatever you want.

Barry Humphreys.



Pewter Pot Angling Club Prize Presentation 1960's.
Photograph contributed by Thelma Redfearn (Centre).



Barry Humphreys fishing near Hilgay in Norfolk.

I'm not a good fisherman and I'm not a bad fisherman, first and foremost it's about sitting there and the things you see. I've had kingfishers sitting on the end of the rod, seen robins and sparrows fetching maggots, huge dragonflies. A couple of years ago I saw a snake swimming across in front of me. Once I was fishing and I'd got some fish in the keep net, suddenly all the fish were splashing at the top of the net, I looked down and saw an otter glistening and looking at me with big black eyes, trying to get the fish.

Of course there is the added interest of someone falling in, you all have a good laugh, I've never fallen in yet.

Barry Humphreys.

OAKS LANE ANGLING CENTRE

The best selling lines in this shop are our own baits - green ground bait - it's a copy of the most popular bait in the UK. Customers come in with plastic tubs for bait for fishing the next morning. We don't sell that many rods and poles here, most people use us for bait and terminal tackle, hooks, lines, floats and swivels



Interior of Oaks Lane Angling Centre 2008
Wayne North (L) & Paul Longden (R)

Kit is a lot lower maintenance than it ever was, you used to have to take the reels to pieces and grease and oil the innards at the end of the season, now it's a squirt of silicone spray. Like rod repairs, at one time every shop did them, spare eyelets and so on, nowadays its not worth it. It's the materials things are made of that's different, poles rather than rods. I should imagine the price of everything being comparable tackle is now cheaper than its ever been. The choice is incredible, you can buy just about anything. Canal boxes when they first came out were £4-500, you can get an aluminium one now for £150. Used to be wicker baskets!

Fishing was always associated with working class industrial areas, it was down to fresh air, it was the only time workers from pits, factories and steel works got fresh air. In the past every pub, club and many works had their own fishing club. The heyday was the 60's and 70's.

I got into it through my father, he used to work at Parkgate Chemicals. He started off with the works fishing club and that's when I used to go with him as a youngster, 7-8 yrs old. In them days it was a full days outing all on coaches, it was mainly rivers and canals, natural fisheries. It's a lot easier to catch fish in commercial fisheries. Rivers are not so good now, most used to have roach, perch, bream, chub, barble, gudgeon and dace.

It's highly addictive once you get hooked. One thing you do find with fishing it's full of characters!

Tony Gillott



Steve Redfearn with carp caught on fishing trip to Norfolk
Photograph contributed by Barry Humphreys, Steve is wearing Barry's hat.

FISHING the next generation

Interest in fishing is flourishing among younger people on Kimberworth Park. Chislett Fishing Club meets weekly on a Tuesday evening and has a large and growing membership. The group often go for fishing trips at weekends and some of the experienced fishermen in the area are sharing their knowledge with group members.

Best things about fishing:

- Catching a 2lb fish
- The weather and a few decent fish
- Catching the biggest tench in the pond

Worst things about fishing:

- Not catching anything
- The match wasn't long enough
- Getting a hook in my hand



Rhys Dors at Chislett Fishing Club Prize Presentation event.



Fishing at Greasbrough Dam



Lewis Whybrow Bank End Fisheries 2009

WORK

Patterns of working life have seen major changes since the estate was built. In the 1950's and 60's many people stayed in the same job throughout their working lives. It was more common for several members of a family to work for the same company and work was usually physically harder. There was almost full employment on the estate and on the whole people earned a good living. The closure of steel works and pits had a major impact on Kimberworth Park as in the whole of South Yorkshire. It was the end of an era and led to many significant and permanent changes. As well as major shifts in employment, in expectations of working life, and, for some, the prospect of unemployment, many people also used their redundancy money to buy their council houses, a lasting change for the area in the shift from public to private ownership.

I worked as a welder at Robert Jenkins, they built different pressure vessels for chemical products. It was a 5 year apprenticeship, at that time it was seen as a skilled job, it depended on the standard of the job if they x-rayed the welding or not. Usually the insurance company specified the quality of the welder, especially for chemical plants the work had to be absolutely spot on, once the vessel was in place at the plant it was there for good. At the best time there were about 1,500 workers at the company, only the steelworks employed more people.

I went there straight from school, I chose the job and settled into it, I quite enjoyed it, I didn't mind the heavy stuff. There were plenty of jobs then. School arranged the interview for us. The pay was £3 10s for 44 hours. The interview was just like a normal interview you would have today, perhaps a bit more on the physical side because of the nature of the job.

People took pride in their job and you had good mates. Works then had social activities, Robert Jenkins had cricket, football and hockey. There was a free trip to the coast every year. There was a lot of money around then. There were 2 days off for Christmas, and 2 weeks off in summer when the works shut down completely apart from repairs to the machinery. We could apply to work with maintenance and take holiday later.

I stayed there all my working life

Jim Chappell



Silverwood Colliery during the Miners Strike 1984-5
L to R Gary Horrell, Dave Pederson and Steve Redfearn
Photograph contributed by Thelma Redfearn.

TRIPS AND OUTINGS

We went on day trips out, thirty coaches went from Wingfield Club to Brid (Bridlington). When we got there we would make straight for the sands. We would have pack up made by our mums (and I helped). It was like a production line making up the sandwiches and putting them into paper bags for each of the children. When we came back we each had a stick of rock. My dad would always make sure that there was some sweets, crisps and a stick of rock for the children who couldn't go on the trip.

We went for walks on a Sunday – and had to dress up. I would gather all the little ones up in a pram and take them out. Other days we would go out to Greasborough and take our jam sandwiches, (sometimes bread and dripping), and a bottle of water and go for a picnic.

When I was little I remember going on trips to the sea-side with Wingfield Club. They gave you £5 in a brown envelope, with some pop and crisps.

The farthest we got was York and a trip on the river in 1959, our first trip “abroad” was to Belgium in 1968.

**Margaret Bemrose, Brian Beeley, Jim Chappell,
Karen Hammerton, Sylvia Marshall, Michelle Poxon,
Alma Wright**



Eric and Ellen Bates with their children Ray and Lynne on annual holiday in Bridlington. The family are wearing their best clothes and are much more formally dressed than would be the case today.



? Pensioners Outing St John's Green 1960's
Pat Bagnall's grandmother Mrs Docherty is 7th from the L on the front row.
Photograph contributed by Pat Bagnall

COMMUNITY ACTION

There is a long history of community action on the estate, either to improve the quality of life for local people, or to help those further afield. These are just a few of many examples.



June Khan & Joyce Kerry
Photo by courtesy of the Rotherham Advertiser

This photo accompanied an article in the Rotherham Advertiser following the possible threat of closure to a snicket on the estate. A resident had complained about the cleanliness of the snicket, which runs between Byrley Road and Leybourne Road, with the hope of getting it closed. A petition was organised against the closure, which succeeded, and the path has remained open as a useful right of way. Since then June and Joyce have continued to keep the path clean.



October 1985 Chislett Youth Club Mother & Toddler Group in a sponsored toddle in Clifton Park to raise money for the Hearing Impaired Unit at Rotherham Hospital. The event was organised by Roxy Reavey, Chislett Community Worker.

Photo by courtesy of the Rotherham Advertiser



St John's Church Holiday Club 1970's

SHARING EXPERIENCES OF LIFE IN KIMBERWORTH PARK THEN AND NOW

An afternoon at Roughwood School

As part of this project we were keen to encourage people across the generations to come together to share different perspectives of life on the estate. On June 23rd 2008 Roughwood School kindly hosted an event, led by writer and performer Ray Hearne, where younger and older residents wrote down their experiences under a range of different headings devised with Ray. Some of their contributions are included here and elsewhere in this booklet.

PLAYING OUT : THEN

When I was little Easter Sunday was 'whip and top' day and we all had one. Another game we played was 'kick can' - we would kick the can then everybody would run and hide and the person who kicked the can would have to find us. We would also play film stars - we would stand at each side of the road and give the name of a film star , (say Humphrey Bogart) and say 'HB' - those who got across first and guessed correctly would win and get the chance to say the next name. We had a bike - one bike was shared between five of us - we were lucky.

Memories from a group discussion between Brian Beeley, Margaret Bemrose, Sylvia Marshall, Miss P. Nowill, Michelle Poxon and Alma Wright.

PLAYING OUT: NOW

When I play out with Sophie-Ella and Amanda (my sister) we play clapping games and tiggy and lots of others. Me, Sophie and Amanda all play on the Bullring. The Bullring is a huge patch of grass where everyone can play.

Hanna Holden & Sophie-Ella Levers

Hop Scotch, Bats + Balls, Knock a door and run, Tiggy, Tiggy Scarecrow, Tiggy Beckham, Tiggy Hide + Seek, Skipping, Football, Basketball, Dodgeball. Tiggy Beckham is a game where you have to tig someone and the person you tig has to stand like David Beckham stands (pose) and you've got to stand till someone tigs you back. Tiggy Scarecrow is another game where if someone tigs you, you have to stand like a scarecrow, and you have to go under the persons legs.

Leon Charlesworth

My favourite game is hide and seek. I like it because at my cousin's there are brilliant hiding places and you explore. First one to be found is on.

Jessica Rudkin



Ray Hearne and school children talking through ideas.

INCIDENTS ON KIMBERWORTH PARK

Another of the topics that Ray asked people to think about was “Incidents”, unusual or dramatic events that had happened in their lives, these are some of the contributions:

When I fell off my bike.

On that warm Sunday morning I decided to go out and play on my new bike, but the problem was it had no brakes, so I had to put my foot down on the road, but I had my new shoes on so I couldn't. They were £63, a lot of money, and my mate lives near a big kerb so I'll have to be careful. Me and my mate and another mate all went on a bike ride near Rawmarsh. Then we had a race down to my mate's house, but I lost control and BOOM! I crash and broke my leg, I was in agony.

Tyler Green



Sharing experiences of life on Kimberworth Park



Steve Millwood and Roughwood School pupils working on their memories.

More Incidents

One day, a few years ago, there was no church service at St John's Church. The register of service says:- "Service cancelled due to siege". An armed man was on the flat roof area by the shops and the police appeared on the scene in the early hours of Sunday morning. All roads were closed due to the "incident" and when I discovered the situation I phoned round most of the congregation. The "incident" ended at about 11.00 am when the man decided he was hungry and had had enough.

Steve Millwood - Vicar of St John's

In the playground.

In Year 2 I tripped over and bust my face open, I have still got the scars. I had to go to hospital. It really hurt.

Joseph Hopwood

THANK YOU !

We are very grateful to all those who have contributed their time, memories, photographs, and enthusiasm, to this project. This booklet has been created through collective effort and goodwill, and is a significant addition to local community history. Everyone listed below has played a part in helping to create a lasting record of life on Kimberworth Park in the years since the estate was first built.

*Pat Bagnall
Brian Beeley
Margaret Bemrose
Don Bird
Lesley Bunclarke
Denise Butterell
Jim Chappell
Roy & Barbara Cooke
Alan Dutfield
Tony Gillott
June Khan
Karen Hammerton
Dawn Heald*

*Ray Hearne
Lorraine Hobson
Barry Humphreys
Kate Nash & pupils at
Roughwood School
Sylvia Marshall
Steve Millwood
Miss P Nowill
Molly Pearson
Michelle Poxon
Oaks Lane Angling
Centre
Cath Redmond*

*Thelma Redfearn
Julie Roddis
Rotherham Advertiser
& Record
Rotherham Archives &
Local Studies
Pat Shaw
Esme Temple
Ron Town
Mark Turner
Alma Wright*