

1



Watling Street

Church and West St, St Georges (originally Pains Lane) form part of the original Anglo-Saxon Watling Street route (AD600). They are also thought to be part of the original Roman paved Wroxeter Road (AD 50-60).

Following the Romans straight-line road model, it is a possibility that the Roman Road ran through the heart of St Georges and Oakengates.

2



Moated Site

The site is situated in a field approximately 200m, south west of the Church and lies between the old Watling Street (now Church Street) and the St Georges bypass. The most favoured theory for the moat,

is that it belonged to a medieval moated farmhouse or hall or an eighteenth century watering and milking compound for cattle.

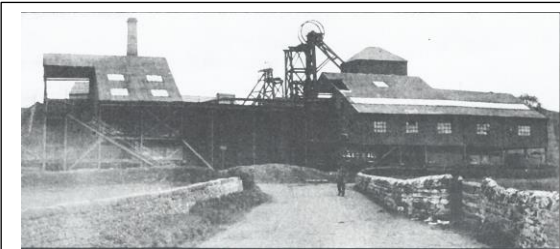
3

Pains Lane Races started in 1840. For most of the time the races were held in St Georges. The final Pains Lane Race meeting was held around upper Woodhouse Farm, Priorslee / Limekiln Bank



4

Woodhouse Colliery was owned by the Lilleshall Company until nationalisation in 1947. It was the biggest employer for local communities. The Colliery was sunk (dug out) in 1820 and finished production in 1940.



The Miner's Walk Community Project

Produced by former Granville Colliery miners, *The Miner's Walk* is a 5.4mile accessible, circular trail travelling through former industrial sites connecting past and present transport links and communities. Funded by the National Lottery 'Sharing Heritage' programme, this work has involved a 12-month community programme of events, volunteer training, and partnership work. Picking up 5 communities: - St Georges, Oakengates, Priorslee, Mumpton Hill / Snedshill, and Dark Lane Village (now Telford Town Centre and Hollinswood), volunteers have identified over 60 heritage sites throughout the area.

This guide features 24 sites that have been explored, researched and celebrated by our team of volunteers. Introducing the 5 communities in *The Miner's Walk* app and website, we will continue to explore, document and celebrate our area's rich heritage through health, wellbeing, arts and educational projects in more depth with the wider community in the future.

The 12-month project has been an exciting journey of discovery and sharing. New walking routes have been introduced to support future development. Over 200 participants have attended events and training to support community feedback and involvement in *The Miner's Walk*. We feel it is important to explore and celebrate our heritage. It ensures the community has a sense of identity with its past and helps shape a future where everyone can feel proud to be a part of it.

June 2018

Pudley Hill Colliery

13

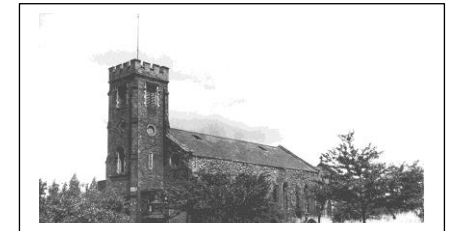
The pit was sunk in 1829 by William Botfield to extract coal and ironstone, to a depth of over 751 feet. During its life it was controlled by several companies.

14



In 1851, **The Lilleshall Company** erected four blast furnaces at Priorslee, or Mumpton Hill as it had previously been known. The furnaces produced pig iron and other by-products as a result of the process. A blast furnace is a large round steel structure that is lined with fire bricks and is so named because of the pre heated air that is blasted into the furnace through a nozzle near its base.

15



St Peter's Church, Priorslee, was opened in 1836 to replace the old chapel in Priorslee.

16

Mumpton Hill was an area of Snedshill that stretched from Jack Hodson's maggot factory (now Hawksworth Road) to St Peter's Church. Within this area, in addition to the maggot factory, were 16 houses and a fodder plant where food was prepared for the pit ponies.

5



The pool, known locally as the “**Flash**”, was probably created by the water pumped from the Woodhouse Colliery.

6



The name “**Priorslee**” is partly Latin and is a combination of the word *prios*, which means monk or priest and *lee* which is the Anglo-Saxon name for a clearing in the wood. The area of Priorslee was

once owned by the Priors of Wombridge Priory and dates from the 12th century.

7

The four shafts at **Stafford Colliery** were sunk between 1862 and 1866. The colliery originally worked as two separate mines but was combined about 1914 and closed in 1928. Pumping continued until about 1939.

8



Dark Lane Pit worked coal and ironstone and was sunk in about 1850 to a depth of 810ft. The worst disaster in the Coalbrookdale Coalfield occurred at this pit in 1862. The incident occurred in one of the shafts, when the cage became detached from the winding rope. The lives of 9 men and 3 boys were lost. The youngest was 14 years old.

9



The **Dark Lane road** is now a footpath from Priorslee village, crossing the M54, the Shrewsbury to Birmingham railway, the A442 and Stafford Park Road onward to Hollinswood. It was called Dark Lane possibly because of the use of waste furnace cinders to surface the road

10



Dark Lane Chapel -

The Primitive Methodist Chapel was built in 1865 and was the centre of the community for everyone until its closure in March 1971.

11



Malinslee railway station.

The village was split in two, first by the Shropshire Canal, built in 1792 and later by the Wellington to Coalport Railway, built in 1860-1861 and closed in December 1960. The railway, in most places followed the line of the canal on the Coalport line.

12



Dark Lane Village was built in 1830 by the Botfield family to house workers of local mines and iron foundries plus their families. It consisted of two rows of cottages, a chapel, a farm, train station and a smaller row of cottages with a shop and bakery.

17



Snedshill Brickworks opened before 1850. The brickworks used fireclay to produce tiles, white bricks, firebricks and land drainage pipes. They were closed in 1966. Fires in the 1980s and 2005 caused the site to eventually be cleared to create a retail park.

18



The Greyhound Island Interchange.

This area near the Greyhound Island was the scene of a canal junction and later, two railway lines and a mineral line

19



John Maddocks Ltd. Co. This was one of the few local industries not owned by the Lilleshall Company. John Maddock began making nails in 1869 on the site of the original Stirchley Forge and moved to Oakengates in 1878. Maddocks had 200 employees in 1891, 575 in 1960, and 86 in 1983.

20



Oakengates Station

In 1860, the Coalport Branch Railway Company, opened a line from Hadley Junction to Coalport replacing the Shropshire Canal.

21



The Lilleshall Company's mineral line crossing Station Road at what is now Willows Road. The line was started in 1851 and connected all its major properties.

22



Little is known about the **Albion Pit** except for its position on the Albion Pit Bank and that it produced coal, ironstone and fireclay. It is one of the main shafts, and remains unfilled, on a mine drainage system called "The Day Level".

23

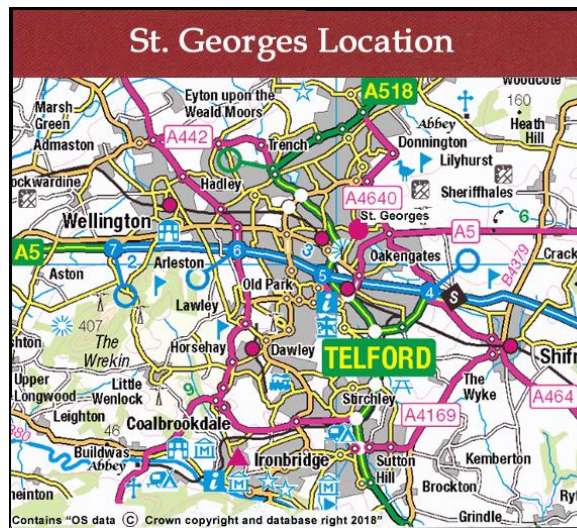


Built in 1873/4 by the Lilleshall Company as a cottage hospital, it was modified and opened in 1879 as the Wrockwardine Wood Girls' and Infants' Board School. It was further extended in 1895 and closed as a school in 1961. It later became a Youth Club, known locally as "**The Gower**", but this was closed in 2005.

24



Built by the Lilleshall Company it started as the Phoenix Foundry in 1861 later became called the **New Yard Engineering Works**. One of the first constructions was a pair of blowing engines that won a gold medal at the 1862 International Exhibition and subsequently were put to use at the Old Lodge Blast Furnaces.



Partners and Support : BBC Radio Shropshire, Friends of Dark Lane, Friends of Granville, Granville Colliery Miners, Greenways Farm, , Holy Trinity Academy 6th Form Students, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust Archives, Ketley History Group, National Lottery Sharing Heritage Programme, Oakengates History Group, St Georges Community Group and Residents, St Georges Women's Institute, Shropshire Archives, Stirchley Strollers, Telford & Wrekin Community Payback Team, Turnpike Court Retirement Living, Telford Walkers. Telford & Wrekin Libraries, Wrekin Historical Group, Wrekin Local Studies Forum.

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To find out more about these sites, please visit our Website at www.theminerswalk.org



The Miner's Walk



St Georges

The Miner's Walk



Follow these waymarkers along the route