

## 9A. Hucknall & Bulwell Appendix – Further Information on Sites along the Walk

The walk routes are drawn using Open Street Maps from the internet <https://www.openstreetmap.org>, with some use of Google Maps <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-e&q=google+maps>, and old maps are from Old Maps Online <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/England> and National Library of Scotland, Ordnance Survey Maps <https://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/>

Facts, descriptions, old photographs and historical information used in the walks are from sources openly available on the internet. The sources are recorded with links – readers can use the links (available at time of writing - 2024) to obtain further information.

### 1. Hucknall

The town name used to be Hucknall Torkard. According to J H Beardsmore, 'The History of Hucknall Torkard', (1909): *the place-name "Hokenhale" and "Hokenale" are two of the oldest renderings of the fore-name of the parish, and may be taken to mean "Oakenhall," the hall in the oakwood. In the ancient Saxon language the oak was variously called hack, hick, heck, and ock; so it is readily seen how easily the fore-name could be changed from Oakenhall to Hucknall in days when printing was unknown in this land, and education limited to the few. In Domesday Book (A.D. 1086) the name appears as "Hochenale."* <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/books/hucknall1909/hucknall1.htm>

Another origin of the name is suggested as a 'nall' (nook, or corner) of land which belonged to a Saxon tribe called Hucca. The whole area of the tribe's land stretched to Ault Hucknall 11 miles north and Hucknall-under-Huthwaite (now simply Huthwaite) 7.5 miles north-east.

The suffix "Torkard" is from a land owning family of that name resident here in the late 1100s. The town kept the name Hucknall Torkard until 1916 when it reverted back to Hucknall.

### 2. Hucknall Station/Tramstop

Hucknall is the northern terminus of the NET system, situated alongside the second stop on the Robin Hood Line from Nottingham before it continues on to Worksop. When the alignment for NET Line 1 was being planned, work was on-going to reopen the old railway route from Nottingham to Hucknall and then on to Worksop. Stage 1 to Newstead opened in 1995 and further stages were completed in subsequent years. This meant that the obvious route for a tram track to Hucknall was already being used. The simpler option was to run the tram tracks alongside the RHL with reduction to single track running where necessary. The more interesting option was to follow the experience from Nottingham's German twin city Karlsruhe – track sharing. We did quite a lot of work on this second option but in the end the 'simpler' option was chosen.

In the mid-1900s this area of Hucknall was dominated by railways and Hucknall Colliery No2 (which opened in 1866 and closed in 1986).

There were two railway stations on two lines (and also a third line, with a station, on the west side of the town).

The one on the left is Hucknall Town railway station on the Great Northern Railway's Nottingham to Shirebrook line. Closed to passengers in 1931 and goods facilities withdrawn in 1965. The site is now a petrol station and supermarket.

The one on the right was Hucknall, later Hucknall Byron, on the Midland Railway's Nottingham to Mansfield line, and is now the RHL and NET station.



Note the name of the road to the east of the station – the unusually named ‘Wigwam Lane’. At the time of the Enclosures Act, 1769, this area belonged to Lord Byron and one of his tenants was a Mr. Hankin, who had spent some years in America where “wigwam” comes from the Indigenous language word for "dwelling.” Hence, Hankin called his dwelling the Wigwam and the lands he tenanted were called Wigwam Fields and the approach to his house was called Wigwam Lane.



### 3. Hucknall Miners Memorial

The sculpture is a memorial to this town's former mining industry. When mining finally ceased in the area, the people wanted to install a reminder of a time foregone. This led to the creation of a magnificent sculpture depicting a giant Davy miner's oil lamp with two figures of coal miners, one of which is inside the lamp as if working in a thin coal seam. The body of the lamp is inscribed with images and words relating to the local mining industry.

Adjacent to the lamp sculpture is a more recent series of 3 memorials listing the names of 150 miners who lost their lives in three local mines from 1868 to 1986.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/hucknall-miners-memorial>

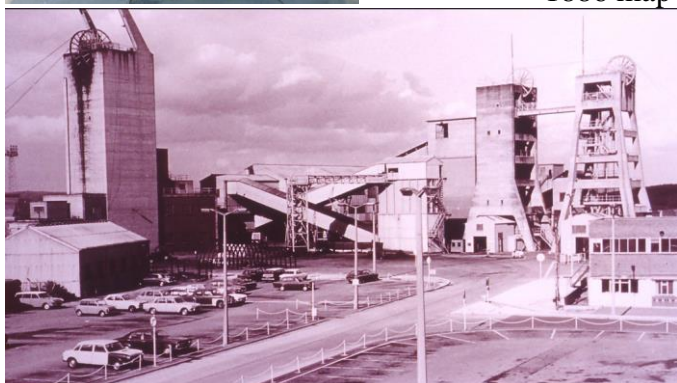
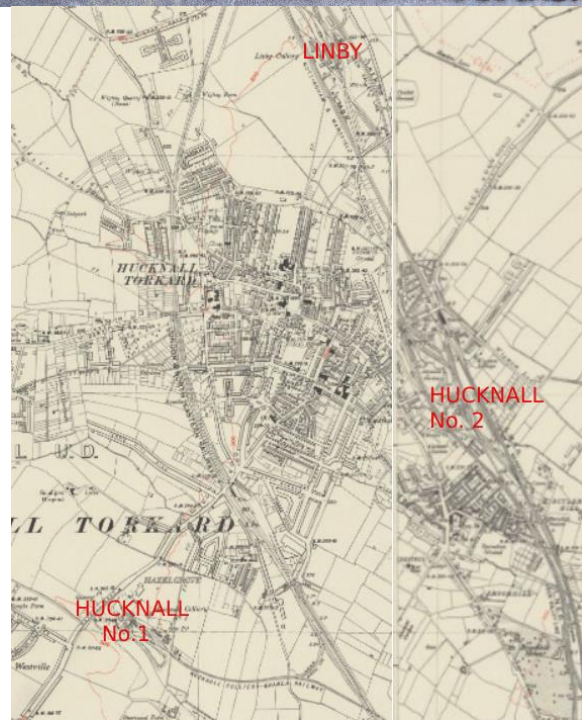


THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES  
WORKING IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY IN THE LOCAL AREA



The 3 memorials are for Hucknall No1 Colliery, Hucknall No2 Colliery (photo) and Linby Colliery.

1886 map



Hucknall No.2 Colliery, early 1970's.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mubuminer/6351773136/>



## 4. Byron Cinema

The Byron Cinema was named after English poet Lord Byron who's body is buried at St Mary Magdalene church in Hucknall – see 8. The cinema was opened in 1936. It was built for and operated by R.L. Kemp Cinemas Ltd and had a total seating capacity of 1,189 which were located in stalls and circle. The area in front to the screen was 33ft by 16ft and was used for occasional variety performances. The architect was Alfred J. Thraves of Nottingham who designed this Art Deco style cinema (in the style of an Odeon Cinema) that had a sweeping curved brick façade, highlighted by a vertical fin tower feature on the right hand side that was faced in cream terracotta tiles.

It was split into a cinema and bingo club in 1967. Between 2003 and 2006, the cinema was named the Cineplex Cinema. The cinema closed in 2006; the bingo club in 2018. The cinema reopened in 2020 as the Arc Cinema at the Byron.

<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/13428>

Photo: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/item/NWC01/01/2339>



## 5. High Street buildings

Formerly a Hardys & Hansons tied house, the **Plough & Harrow** dates back to at least 1869. It was formerly approached from the main street, through a garden. Opposite was **Chequers**, also from at least 1869. A little further along on the right is 54 High Street, now a **Greggs**. This building was designed by the architect Watson Fothergill in 1884. It was commissioned by a Mrs Ball and donated to the church to be used as a coffee tavern, reading room, bar, smoking room, clubroom and committee room. A memorial stone was laid in August 1884 by Mrs Ball of Bramcote Hall, the wife of the head of Smiths Bank, Nottingham.

Further along is the **Red Lion**, Hucknall's oldest pub and was the rent house of Lord Byron in the 18th Century, where Byron's tenants came to pay their rent. In the mid-eighteenth century, the landlord was the churchwarden (1749) Theophilus Allcock. At the end of High Street is the **Half Moon**, which used to have a thatched roof. It was a fully licensed establishment under Robert Widdowson in 1832.

A former resident of a cottage now incorporated into the Red Lion was "*Ben Butler, who 'won the last prize for wrestling at the last contest at Bunny, which was held in 1810'. This Ben Butler reaped fame as a breeder of fighting cocks, and he had at one time a pressing demand for his birds, and for his own presence, too, at big cock-fights. He kept the cocks in his cellars, and they rambled over the roads and in the neighbouring gardens in the daytime, which often was the cause of friction between Ben and his neighbours.*"

[https://r.search.yahoo.com/\\_ylt=AwrkMfSm6P9mD1UT\\_BV3Bwx.;\\_ylu=Y29sbwMEcG9zAzIEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1728076071/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.flickr.com%2fphotos%2fgwoodward%2f46515181605%2f/RK=2/RS=ch1NqNkoKefe3mbaJ6wfFF1N\\_Lw-](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=AwrkMfSm6P9mD1UT_BV3Bwx.;_ylu=Y29sbwMEcG9zAzIEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1728076071/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.flickr.com%2fphotos%2fgwoodward%2f46515181605%2f/RK=2/RS=ch1NqNkoKefe3mbaJ6wfFF1N_Lw-)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watson\\_Fothergill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Watson_Fothergill)

[www.hucknalltorkardhistory.co.uk](http://www.hucknalltorkardhistory.co.uk)

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/books/hucknall1909/hucknall28.htm> (J.H.Beardsmore 1909 / [www.nottshistory.org.uk](http://www.nottshistory.org.uk)).

<https://www1.camra.org.uk/pubs/red-lion-hucknall-162713>

5a. Plough & Harrow



5b. Chequers



5c. Greggs



5d. Red Lion



5e. Half Moon



## 6. Flight of Fancy

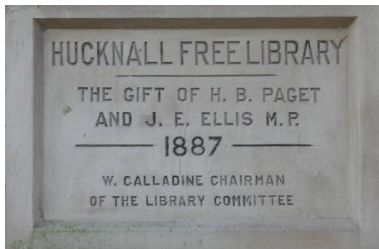


'Flight of Fancy' was designed by artist Liz Lemon in collaboration with Andy Baxtor (Rolls Royce) and m-tec (a specialist provider of stainless steel sculptures and public art). The sculpture was unveiled as part of the market square redevelopment in 2007. It is designed to reflect Hucknall's industrial heritage with other references to the lace-making industry and Ada Lovelace (see 8).

Photo by m-tec; <https://m-tec.uk.com/projects/flight-of-fancy/>



## 7. Hucknall Library



The library was built in 1887 and gifted to the town by John Edward Ellis (of Scalby, Yorkshire) and Herbert Byng Paget (of Matlock Bridge, Derbyshire), two partners of the Hucknall Torkard Colliery Company. By the turn of the 20th century, 13,500 books were being borrowed, with around 500 people visiting each day. Extended in the 1960s, the large library is now run by Inspire for Notts County Council.

<https://nottinghamcityofliterature.com/blog/literary-locations-78-hucknall/>

## 8. Saint Mary Magdalene Church

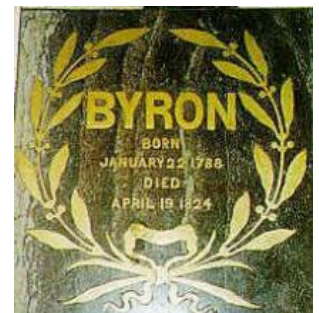
The church is Grade II\* listed as it is a particularly significant building of more than local interest. It is built on the site of an old Saxon church. The church tower which stands high above the town was constructed in stages between the 12th and 14th century whilst the porch was built in 1320. The medieval church consisted only of a chancel, nave, north aisle and tower but it was considerably enlarged in the Victorian period.

The Victorian baptistery which used to contain the 14th-century font has now been converted into a visitor centre where display boards and wall panels provide lots of information about the church.

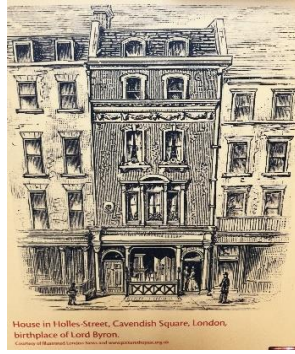
There are 25 stained glass windows by Charles Eamer Kempe (29 June 1837 – 29 April 1907), a British Victorian era designer and manufacturer of stained glass. His studios produced over 4,000 windows and also designs for altars and altar frontals, furniture and furnishings, lychgates and memorials that helped to define a later nineteenth-century Anglican style. The list of English cathedrals containing examples of his work includes: Chester, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield, Wells, Winchester and York. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_of\\_St\\_Mary\\_Magdalene,\\_Hucknall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_St_Mary_Magdalene,_Hucknall)

St Mary Magdalene served as the traditional burial place of the Byron family who maintained a family vault there. The vault was built in the 17th century by Newstead Abbey's Sir John Byron, whose wife Cecile was the first to be laid to rest there. Most Lords Byron are buried in it, including the poet, George Gordon Byron, 6th Baron Byron.

There is a modest memorial to Lord Byron in the Hucknall church. The marble plaque was donated by the King of Greece in 1881 in recognition of Byron's heroics in his country's war of independence. It is inlaid with brass and set into the chancel floor as near as possible to his coffin in the vault below.



Byron, the poet, was born in Holles Street, near Cavendish Square, London. The first commemorative blue plaque, in honour of the poet, was awarded in 1867 at his birthplace – starting the practice which continues today to mark the homes and workplaces of famous people.



There is also a statue of Byron in the church, a small version of a three metre high statue in Missolonghi, Greece (see below), both sculpted by Nikolaos Kotziamanis.



Byron is reputed to have had several affairs, both with men and women, including one with his half-sister Augusta Leigh who gave birth to a daughter and also one with Lady Caroline Lamb who famously referred to him as: 'Bad, mad and dangerous to know.'

In 1816 Byron was forced to leave England for good due to his scandalous lifestyle. He travelled first to Geneva where he stayed with Shelley and his wife and Claire Clairmont in a rented villa. (Claire Clairmont soon became Byron's new mistress.)

He spent a number of years in Venice before moving to Greece in 1824 where he set up the 'Byron Brigade' and gave money to the Greeks in their war against Turkey. However, in April 1824 (200 years ago), he died of a fever at Missolonghi. The Greeks subsequently erected a statue to him at Missolonghi and there are also statues of him in Athens and Corfu. <https://www.corfuheritagefoundation.org/lord-byron-lives-on/> Byron's body was brought back to England but he was refused burial in Westminster Abbey due to his 'questionable morality'. (His heart may have been removed first and buried at Missolonghi.) Instead his body was laid in the family vault at Hucknall Torkard. <https://www.poetsgraves.co.uk/byron.htm>

This link with Greece has resulted in Greek tourists visiting Hucknall. To further encourage this, in 2021, Nottingham City Council announced it would formally enter into a friendship agreement with a municipality in Attiki, Greece, called Vyronas – which means 'Byron' in Greek. City councillor Pavlos Kotsonis, who led on the arrangements with Vyronas, said: *"I am really excited that we will be formalising our friendship and cultural ties with Vyronas municipality in celebration of one of Nottingham's most important rebellious figures, Lord Byron. Not only was he a world renowned literary figure, he was also a fighter for the liberation struggles of the Italians and the Greeks in the 19th century."* <https://www.hucknalldispatch.co.uk/news/people/byron-connection-leads-to-new-link-with-greece-3408895> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord\\_Byron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Byron)

Byron's only legitimate daughter Ada, Countess of Lovelace, also rests in the vault. A gambler who most likely had extra marital affairs, Ada Lovelace was a true Byron. Like her father, she died aged 36 and was touched by genius. It was her mother, Anne Isabella ('Annabella') Milbanke, who steered her away from poetic pursuits and towards science, and Lovelace is credited with having written the first computer programme, her famous 'notes on the translation', which followed her collaboration with Charles Babbage, being arguably the most important paper in the history of digital computing pre modern times.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ada\\_Lovelace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ada_Lovelace)  
<https://nottinghamcityofliterature.com/blog/literary-locations-78-hucknall/>

The 19th-century English bare-knuckle boxer Ben Caunt, known in his day as "Big Ben", is buried in the churchyard; so, with Ben Butler (5, above), that is two famous C19th fighting Bens in Hucknall.

Ben Caunt, though born at the little cottage at Newstead, in 1815, was counted as a Hucknall man, probably because his youth was spent here. He *was brought up in a fighting atmosphere, for pitched battles used to be fought by the youths living at the Buildings* (Torkard Buildings, which I think was in an area west of the town) *and the lads in the Town, one set calling themselves "Boney's men" (after Napoleon Bonaparte), and the other "Wellingtons."* As time went on his prowess became known over the country, and among his fights included one in which he beat Bendigo (see Walk 3), the famous Nottingham fighter, to win the championship belt of England.

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/books/hucknall1909/hucknall28.htm>

In 2013 it was announced that the church would receive a £133,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage for repairs over concern about its long-term survival, with a crumbling tower and leaking roof. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10240736/Lord-Byrons-resting-place-to-be-saved.html>



## 9. Watnall Road Churches

### 9a Watnall Road Baptist Church

The present chapel was built in 1876. William Calladine, John Buck, and George Betteson attended the sale of the Rev. Curtis Jackson's Watnall Road land at the Green Dragon Inn, and bought the site for £375, Mr. Calladine agreeing to take to it if the society refused to have it. The society accepted it, and the edifice, which is of the Italian Renaissance style (Veronese type), was built at a cost of about £4,000.

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/books/hucknall1909/hucknall22.htm>



### 9b Watnall Road Primitive Methodist Chapel.

This church and Sunday school were opened in February 1896. It cost £4,000 and was built on land purchased from the Duke of Portland. The church closed in the 1970s and the building passed through various uses including as a supermarket and a Jaeger outlet store. In October 2018 the chapel and the former Sunday school at the rear have been subdivided into small units including Kerry's Florist and a printers. The chapel was on the upper floor which is now in use as a martial arts studio.



[www.myprimivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/nottinghamshire/a-h/hucknall\\_watnall\\_road\\_primitive\\_methodist\\_chapel](http://www.myprimivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/nottinghamshire/a-h/hucknall_watnall_road_primitive_methodist_chapel)  
<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/books/hucknall1909/hucknall21.htm>

## 10. Eric Coates' house

Eric Francis Harrison Coates (1886–1957) was an English composer of light music and, early in his career, a leading violinist. The son of a GP, Coates was born in Hucknall Torkard (as it was then named). As a child, he did not go to school, but was educated with his sisters by a governess. His musicality became clear when he was very young, and, from age six, he learned to play the violin with a local violin teacher.

He joined a local string orchestra, for which he wrote his first surviving music, the Ballad, op. 2, dedicated to Ellenberger. It was completed on 23 October 1904 and performed later that year at the Albert Hall, Nottingham, with Coates playing in the viola section.



Later, he studied at the Royal Academy of Music and played in string quartets and theatre pit bands, before joining symphony orchestras conducted by Thomas Beecham and Henry Wood. While still working as a violist, Coates composed songs and other light musical works. In 1919 he gave up the viola permanently and made his living as a composer and occasional conductor. He lived in London and then Sussex. In December 1957 he suffered a stroke and died; he was cremated at the Golders Green Crematorium.

Coates' most famous composition is probably "The Dam Busters March" (1954).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric\\_Coates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Coates)

## 11. Homes of Rest for Miners

These homes for retired miners were built in 1925 through the private generosity of Sir Julien Cahn. They were one of several projects that Cahn paid for to aid the health and welfare of the local community. The Grade II Listed buildings were designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, a prolific British architect, garden designer, known for the construction of new country houses and the renovation and extension of existing ones, the most notable being alteration of Chequers, Buckinghamshire (the country home of the serving Prime Minister since 1921).

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1234851>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reginald\\_Blomfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reginald_Blomfield)

Sir Julien Cahn, 1st Baronet (1882–1944) was a British businessman, philanthropist and cricket enthusiast. Although born in Cardiff, he grew up in Nottingham, where his father opened the Nottingham Furnishing Company in 1885. Julien took over the family business and expanded the company to the extent that his Jays and Campbells stores were to be found in most major towns across Britain. By 1943 when he retired and sold out to Great Universal Stores, he controlled a chain of more than 300 stores.

After his business success, Cahn established himself as a philanthropist. One of his most-well known gifts was his rescue of the Newstead Abbey, the ancestral home of Lord Byron. Cahn purchased Newstead and donated it to Nottingham City Council to help preserve Byron's legacy.

He served as president of both the Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire County Cricket Clubs.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julien\\_Cahn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julien_Cahn)

## 12. Titchfield Park

This area was once known as Caddow Park, the name possibly originating from the park-like enclosure being frequented by 'caw daws' (Jackdaws, with the harsh call – 'caw'). In the early 1900s it was occupied by allotment gardens. In the C18<sup>th</sup> the land was owned by Lord Byron but by the early C19<sup>th</sup> it was owned by William Cavendish-Bentinck, 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Portland, and, in 1914 he gave 11 acres to the town of Hucknall to honour the 21st birthday of his son, the Marquis of Titchfield – hence its changed name. A further 13 acres were added when the Hucknall Miners Welfare Committee decided to further the development of Titchfield Park from funds raised by a tax on coal, intended to provide facilities for the local miners.

A Boating Lake, with two islands, was added in 1925. However, in 1946, due to subsidence damage and leakage problems, the lake was filled in.



The Boathouse now



The Grade II listed War Memorial was unveiled in 1922. It was designed by Hucknall-born architect, Mr.T.C Howitt, who also designed the park's pavilion, tea rooms and bandstand, as well as the Council House in Nottingham. Names of the 288 Hucknall men killed in the First World War are listed on eight bronze plaques on the surrounding corner obelisks, while dedications to the fallen of the Second World War were added in 1947. Restoration work, completed in 2008, includes a new plaque to remember victims of more recent conflicts.



A good leaflet describing a Heritage Trail of the park, with more of its history and photos, is available at:

<https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/media/8d83dfbeed85f88/titchfield-park-hucknall-heritage-leaflet.pdf>

## 13. St John the Evangelist Church and Community Hall (The Hicks Memorial School)

The church was built between 1876 and 1877 on an acre of land at Butler's Hill given by the fifth Duke of Portland. In 1877, the Rev. Henry Champernowne Hicks was appointed curate in charge of the new mission church. Working hard, he built up the congregation, took care of pastoral duties and watched over the construction of the new church.

By the summer of 1878 it was realised that he was suffering from overwork and ordered to take a holiday on medical grounds. He went to visit his brother John Hicks in Northumberland where he drowned while swimming in the sea off Alnmouth.

Back in Hucknall, a meeting of parishioners of St. John's church unanimously resolved to erect a memorial to him in the shape of a block of buildings for Sunday school purposes. A site next to St. John's church was chosen and people readily responded to the appeal for funds and the building work was soon begun on the Hicks Memorial School.

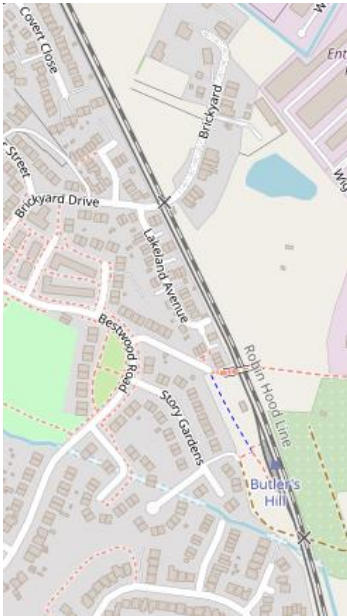
The stone laying service was held in November 1878.

The building, as a church hall, is still providing an extremely useful service for the community today.

Ref: Maureen Newton [https://issuu.com/ngmagazines/docs/ng15\\_sep\\_oct\\_2012\\_master](https://issuu.com/ngmagazines/docs/ng15_sep_oct_2012_master)

## 14. Butler's Hill Tramstop

Butler's Hill is the local name of this area and also the name of an old railway station which was situated a short distance north of the tram stop.



The former Butler's Hill railway station (small black rectangles on the railway on the left), was situated on the, now closed and removed, Great Northern Railway's Nottingham to Shirebrook line. The former Midland Railway route from Nottingham to Worksop (the alignment on the right, now used by NET and RHL) also passed through Butler's Hill, but the Midland never had a station there.

The footbridge, known locally as the 'Tin Bridge', just north of the tram stop links Butler's Hill with Bestwood Country Park and Bestwood Village.



## 15. Mill Lakes

The Mill Lakes are an area of outstanding beauty and provide a variety of wildlife habitats. It is part of Bestwood Country Park and covers 150 acres with the water for the lakes running from the River Leen. The lakes have a regular resident bird flock but are also visited by migrant species so it is not unusual to see various waders or overflying raptors as well as more exotic species of duck. <http://www.fbc.org.uk/mill-lakes.html>

The Mill Lakes, take their name from the several water mills which were sited there in the past (although there are no lakes shown here on maps from 1880s to 1950s; just the river and some mill races).

Although not included in this walk, the main area of Bestwood Country Park is worth a visit for its richly varied landscape, wildlife and industrial heritage. Bestwood was a hunting estate owned by the Crown from the medieval period until the 17th century, when King Charles II gave it to his mistress, Nell Gwyn, and their son. In the Victorian era, Bestwood was the location of a coal mine which closed in 1967. It was established as a country park in 1973. The Winding Engine House is the last remaining part of a vanished colliery and a relic of Victorian industrial engineering. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bestwood\\_Country\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bestwood_Country_Park)

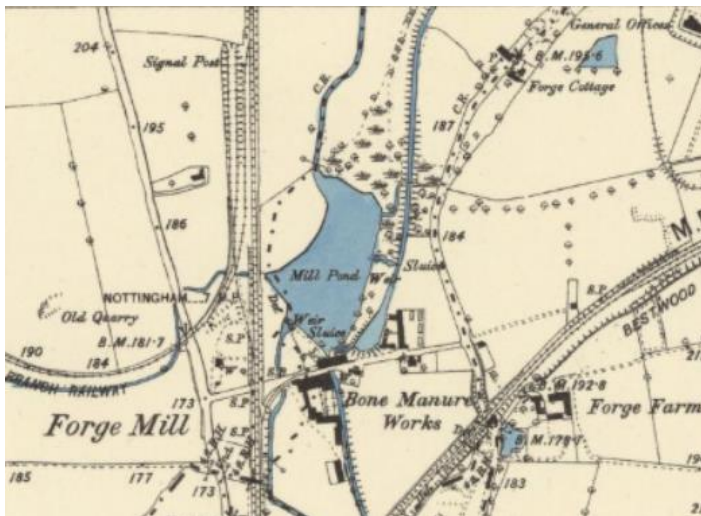




## 16. Forge Mills

This area was known as Forge Mill/Mills in the past, with old maps showing buildings marked Forge Mill, Forge Farm and Forge Cottage.

1885



1913



One of the mills remains – the Grade 11 listed Old Mill, one of several mills built along the River Leen, initially using the river as motive power for the mill machinery. This mill has a large millpond, fed by the river and controlled by sluices and which is now maintained by an angling club. Old Mill was built by the Robinson family about 1783 in the same complex as Forge Mill which was working as an iron foundry in the C17th century but is marked as a Bone Manure Works in the 1885 and 1913 maps above. Originally built as a cotton mill, Old Mill's subsequent use was as a corn mill and, latterly, as a store. It suffered badly from a fire in 1838 and its present form dates from the rebuild after the fire.

<http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk/publications/articles/bestwoodmill.htm>



Photo (looking east) – Old Mill on the left and housing on the site of Forge Mill on the right.

Old Mill (now confusingly called 'Forge Mill') used to house a café which specialised in freshly baked cakes and tea cakes – but, sadly, in closed in July 2024.



## 17. Bulwell

The earliest documented settlements in Bulwell appeared around 800 AD, and were most likely built around the same time as the first local bridge across the River Leen. The river was significantly narrower, shallower and slower-moving in Bulwell than in other potential locations along its length, and the threat of highwaymen was a danger on existing cross-country routes; thus a toll bridge was constructed at Bulwell, to allow bona fide travellers a quicker and safer passage from north to south, while impeding others.

The bridge created a rare direct road to Nottingham from the north-west, so introducing regular traffic from across the country to the area for the first time. A gatehouse was built for the toll-collectors and as protection for travellers, and led to the founding of the new settlement. The travellers were an almost captive market, and the abundance of sandstone made it easy to build dwellings. As the volume of traffic using the road increased, so did the size and population of Bulwell.

Bulwell ('Buleuuelle') is mentioned as a village in the 1086 Domesday Book.

The name is supposed to derive from the spring called "Bull Well", which runs out of the Bunter sandstone over a bed of clay, near the Moor Bridge tramstop (see [18](#) below). The Place Names of Notts suggests that the first part of the name may stand for an Anglo Saxon person called Bulla, or it describes the bubbling sound produced by the water flowing out of the spring.

At some point the magnesium limestone and the Bulwell sandstone on which Bulwell sits began to be quarried. The strong, easily worked and durable rock, a dull yellow-orange magnesium limestone similar to the Bunter sandstone under Nottingham Castle, offered a building material easy to quarry. Many houses, schools, churches and garden walls of Bulwell sandstone stand to this day for miles around Bulwell.

An early example can be found in sections of the wall surrounding Wollaton Hall, which was built using Bulwell stone in the late 16th century. The sheer quantities used there and elsewhere in the city suggest some kind of professional mining operation must already have been in operation by this time. Bulwell stone was later also used to repair the damage caused to the palaces of Westminster during the Second World War.

White's 'Directory of Nottinghamshire', 1853, notes that: "Bulwell.... is a scattered populous village and parish, containing 3,785 inhabitants, and 1,210 acres of land, including 140 acres of unenclosed forest. The Rev. Alfred Padley is the principal owner and lord of the manor, who resides at Bulwell Hall, a pleasant mansion embowered in trees, about a mile N.W. of the village..... Bulwell lime is considered to be the best in the county for all purposes.... Here is a neat station on the Nottingham and Mansfield Railway."

<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/NTT/Bulwell>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulwell>

## 17a. Bulwell Hall Estate

Bulwell Hall was built to the north of Bulwell town centre by John Newton in 1770. At this time, it was referred to as 'Pye Wipe Hall' – a name that latched on with locals up until its demolition in 1956.

The estate changed ownership a number of times and in 1918 it was bought by Alderman Albert Ball who was regarded as 'Britains first celebrity fighter pilot'; he was particularly popular with the public because of his "lone wolf" style of combat flying, often stalking his prey from below. A posthumous Victoria Cross (VC) followed within a month of him being killed.

Ball sold 225 acres to Nottingham Corporation, which became the Bulwell Hall Housing Estate, that still exists today. The Hall and the rest of the Estate was then turned into a Public Park.

During the 1930's the Hall became a sanatorium – a place of care for the mentally ill, but was taken over by the Army shortly after the outbreak of World War II. During the War it became an Italian Prisoner of War camp and when the War was over, the building was left in a very poor state of repair and had been damaged by mining subsidence. It was eventually demolished in 1958.

<https://www.belvoir.co.uk/nottingham-central-estate-agents/articles/nottingham-historical-buildings-bulwell-hall/>



Bulwell Hall in 1880

Image Credit: [British Library](#)



The Bulwell Hall Estate, 1930

<https://britainfromabove.org.uk/image/epw034137>



## 18. Moorbridge

Looking back at old maps we can see that this area was dominated by a reservoir and a mill pond, both of which had the River Leen flowing through, but also there was the Bulwell Spring (centre right of the maps) – thought to be the origin of the name ‘Bullwell’ (see 17).

The name Moorbridge refers to a now removed bridge over the Leen (between the reservoir and mill pond), which gave access to a row of cottages on the east side – Moorbridge Cottages – which remain.



1885



Revision of 1913 with additions in 1938

1938 additions include the layout of the Bulwell Hall Estate and (diagonal dotted lines) the alignment for today's Moor Bridge (over the railway).

The springhead in the 1800s and early 1900s was often frequented by locals who swam in the pool (photos from early C20).

Apparently the popularity of this pool gave rise to the nickname "Bulwell-on-Sea".

The site was filled in, in the early 20th century, but its waters now rise at the Moorbridge Pond Nature Reserve.



<https://picturethepast.org.uk/image-library/image-overview/poster/dchq500729/posterid/dchq500729.html>



<https://www.pinterest.co.uk>



## 19. River Leen

The Leen rises as a series of springs at the foot of the Robin Hood Hills just outside Annesley. It then flows through the grounds and lakes of Newstead Abbey, passing Papplewick and meeting the Whyburn as it passes through Bestwood Country Park, following the route of the Leen Valley into suburban and urban Nottingham. Within the city it flows through the centre of Bulwell, and passes Basford and then through Radford and Lenton before passing under the Nottingham Canal and flowing on to join the River Trent next to Riverside Way in The Meadows.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River\\_Leen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Leen)

The Nottinghamshire History website <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk> tells that there were between 20 and 30 mills and finishing works situated along the Leen in the 19th century, between Nottingham and Papplewick.

Now, the mills have gone and so have the lakes – the only one of those shown on the map on the right (Surveyed: 1878 to 1881, Published: 1885) of the Leen valley between Butlers Hill and Bulwell is the one at Forge Mill.

By the time of the map below (Revised: 1899, Published: 1901), the area was dominated by railways; the only remaining one today being that used by the Robin Hood Line and NET.



Writing in 1914, Robert Mellors, Old Nottingham suburbs: then and now, states:

*Whether the Railways brought the industries, or the industries brought the Railways, Bulwell is remarkably well off for accommodation. The Midland came in 1848, and afterwards built their Bennerley line; the Great Northern came in 1878, and afterwards formed their Leen Valley line; the Great Central came in 1895. Its viaduct of twenty-six arches, occupying a length of 360 yards, is a feature in the parish, and they run a train for their workmen every hour to Newstead. The electric Trams were opened on July 28rd, 1901, and run every five minutes, and now a tramway by Cinder Hill is being opened, so that for purposes of transit Bulwell is well off.*

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/bulwell6.htm>



## 20. Adelphi Cinema

Adelphi Cinema was situated on the corner of Hucknall Lane and Carey Road (Image: © Picture Nottingham/Alfred Sheldon, c 1980s). <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/gallery/look-back-life-bulwell-over-2943989>

The cinema was built for the Levin's Cinema Circuit, and opened on 10th February 1937. Equipped with CinemaScope in the mid-1950's, by 1961, it was operating as a part time cinema/bingo operation. It was closed as a cinema on 10th December 1963 (last film "Day of the Triffids"). It was converted into a bingo club, which operated until 1996. It then lay empty and unused until it was demolished around 2001 and replaced by KFC fast-food outlet.

<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/45086>



## 21. St. Mary's Primary School

Samuel Thomas Cooper, who bought Bulwell Hall in 1864, was a philanthropist and in 1866 he paid to build a school for local children. This school remains in use as the St Mary's C of E Primary and Nursery School. St Mary's Church is the main C of E church in Bulwell, situated above Bulwell Station (see 31).

The primary school and attached walls are Grade II Listed. It is built of Bulwell Stone (see 17).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulwell>

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101254755-st-marys-church-of-england-primary-school-and-attached-walls-bulwell-ward>

Above the doorway at the right end of the front face of the building is a carving of a man and bull – similar to the picture used at the Hucknall Lane entry into Bulwell.

The location of the school building on Bulwell Green was not favoured by all; Robert Mellors, 'Old Nottingham suburbs: then and now [Bulwell] (1914)' says :

*The Squire of Bulwell, Mr. Cooper, with the Rector, the Rev. W. H Cantrell, and other churchmen, decided in 1865-6 to build a school in connection with the Church, and so the National School, with the master's house, was built at a cost of £8000, providing for 518 children..... The school was built on the site of the village Green, which from time immemorial had been the children's playground, open and unenclosed. The promoters spent ten times the value of the land in the buildings they put on for the public good, and which have well served their purpose ever since, but it would have been better had they left the Green as an open space, and built the school on another site. It is only fair however to state that the Green was then a lost piece of ground, with none of the spirit of play now prevailing.*

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/bulwell4.htm>



Surveyed: 1878 to 1881, Published: 1885

## 22. Methodist New Connexion Church

The Methodist New Connexion, also known as Kilhamite Methodism was a Protestant nonconformist church. It was formed in 1797 by secession from the Wesleyan Methodist. Alexander Kilham formed the New Connexion, based around his church in Sheffield. It thrived, and soon spread across Britain. William Booth (see Walk 3), who would found The Salvation Army, was ordained as a Methodist New Connexion Minister in 1858. Kilham, preached his last sermon in Bulwell in 1798.



Over 30 years later, in 1834, the Rev. A. Padley gave 510 yards of land on "the Green," for the construction of a chapel. A new chapel was built in 1882 by Abraham Harrison Goodall, at a cost of £2300 . Goodall was a British architect based in Nottingham. He was born on 7 June 1847 in Bradford, Yorkshire. He practised as an architect in Nottingham from 1874 until his death. He was responsible for the design of many Methodist New Connexion Chapels in England.

The New Connexion merged in 1907 with the Bible Christian Church and the United Methodist Free Churches to form the United Methodist Church. The building is now a Seventh Day Adventist Church.

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/bulwell4.htm>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham\\_Harrison\\_Goodall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Harrison_Goodall)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodist\\_New\\_Connexion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Methodist_New_Connexion)

Next to the church are three homes, the first of which has a plaque on the wall which says:

CHRIST CHURCH  
COTTAGE HOMES  
F. Evans' Bequest  
THESE HOMES ARE INTENDED  
FOR THE NECESSITOUS AGED  
OR INFIRM PERSONS  
CONNECTED WITH THIS OR  
OTHER METHODIST CHURCHES  
OF BULWELL  
FOR THEIR FREE USE  
AND ENJOYMENT



I have been unable to find any information about the history of these homes.

## 23. The Monkey

This fine Edwardian corner pub with Georgian-style portico corner doorway was built in 1908 to a design by architects Evans & Son for J. Shipstone & Sons. It was originally named The Framesmith's Arms for those who built and maintained the equipment used by framework knitters in the hosiery trade. However, for many years it was known locally as "The Monkey" or "Monkeys" for a one-time landlord's pet animal. In 2019 it was relaunched by new landlords as The Monkey.

<https://www1.camra.org.uk/pubs/monkey-nottingham-163135>

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/whats-on/food-drink/nottingham-pub-relaunched-monkey-after-3452660>

## 24. Scots Grey

Built in 1884, the Scots Grey pub was closed down as it was reported to be seen to be 'too rough to control'. Around 2008 the building was turned into a Caribbean restaurant and renamed The Venue. It is now currently home to a Barnardo's charity shop.

Picture source: Eddie Dexter

[https://www.closedpubs.co.uk/nottinghamshire/nottingham\\_ng6\\_scotsgrey.html](https://www.closedpubs.co.uk/nottinghamshire/nottingham_ng6_scotsgrey.html)

It was considered to be 'one of Nottingham's notoriously toughest pubs', well-known for violence and even featured in TV show The Ten Hardest Pubs in Britain.

The building was also home to a successful boxing club, with its own ring upstairs. Many hundreds of young amateur fighters honed their skills there for generations.

The pub's bad reputation stems from the many fights held outside the ring – on a Saturday night in the nearby Market Place, with bets placed on the winner as dust-ups aimed to settle old scores. This went on up until the 1990s, with the crowd forming a ring around the bare-knuckle brawlers who would see the fight through to the knock out. The act of 'challenging' - cash offered to any man who can floor the 'hero' - and 'purses' offered by the baying crowds were a regular addition.





The pub also had a Sunday Football team Scots Grey FC. Two members from the team took an intimidating decision ahead of a Sunday League clash back around 2005 to order a severed pig's head to be left in the visiting side's dressing room. A police officer told the Nottingham Post: "I clearly remember this match down at the Bulwell Hall Farm pitches where they ('Godfathers of Nottingham gang crime' Colin and David Gunn) arranged to put a pig's head in the visiting team's dressing room. The opposition turned up, and let's just say they weren't up for the match from that point." <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/history/duo-nottinghams-toughest-pub-ordered-6853640>

## 25. Mount Zion 7th Day Church

The Mount Zion 7th Day Church of God was founded in 1882 in the USA and was brought to the UK from Jamaica, the first here was in Deby in 1966. Later they began to rent dedicated premises, often disused former churches, such as this one in Bulwell. This building was erected in 1908 as a Salvation Army Citadel (church).

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gwoodward/47436904401>

## 26. William Peveril Pub (Weatherspoons)

At this location there was the Picture Palace, a cine-variety house which opened in 1911.

Apparently it was built for Edwin Widdowson, a local man, who had a chemist's shop in Main Street and lived on Hucknall Road. Four years later, Widdowson built the Olympia Theatre in Market Place (see 29 below).

The Picture Palace was closed in the early 1950s and later the present two-storey façade was added and in the 1960s

and '70s the building was a Co-op supermarket. <https://www.cinematreasures.org/theaters/47917>



In 2011 the building was opened as a Wetherspoon pub named the William Peveril.

Commissioned by J D Wetherspoon for the William Peveril in 2011, are stained-glass panels which show Norman knights in battle, as depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.

William Peverel was a Norman knight and he is named in The Battle Abbey Roll to have fought at the Battle of Hastings.

<https://www.jdwetherspoon.com/pub-histories/the-william-peverel-nottingham/>



William Peverel is thought to have been the illegitimate son of William the Conqueror although this claim remains unsubstantiated. He was certainly a favourite of the Conqueror and was greatly honoured after the Norman Conquest, receiving as his reward over a hundred manors in central England from the king. In 1086, the Domesday Book records William as holding the substantial number of 162 manors, including Bulwell which comprised two carucates of land (about 240 acres). William's holdings collectively formed the 'Honour of Peverel' and included Nottingham Castle. [https://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/normans\\_16.html](https://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/normans_16.html)

## 27. King William IV inn



Now a Mobility Care establishment, this used to be the King William IV inn, as shown in this 1979 photo, with Duke Street to the left.

(Image: © Picture Nottingham/Reg Baker)

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/gallery/look-back-life-bulwell-over-2943989>



## 28. Horse & Jockey

This 1911 photo shows the shops and pubs in Bulwell Market Place decorated with flags and bunting for the coronation of King George V. The Horse and Jockey pub in the foreground has a banner and shields on the roof. (Image: © Picture Nottingham/Nottingham Historical Film Unit)

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/gallery/look-back-life-bulwell-over-2943989>



This photo from the 1960s shows a very different building for the Horse & Jockey behind the trolleybuses.

At the far left of the photo is the Olympia theatre/cinema building, converted by this time into a Woolworths.

<https://uk.pinterest.com/pin/489555421968244747/>



The Horse & Jockey in 1988.

[https://www.closedpubs.co.uk/nottinghamshire/nottingham\\_ng6\\_horsejockey.html](https://www.closedpubs.co.uk/nottinghamshire/nottingham_ng6_horsejockey.html)

The pub was demolished in the mid-1990s and shops built on the site.



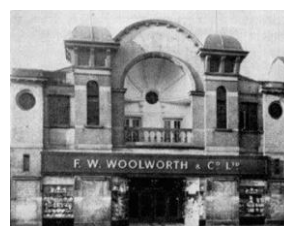
## 29. Olympia Variety Theatre

Designed by Frederick Bull, the Olympic Theatre was opened on 17th May 1915 as a music hall, with films as part of the programme. The Olympic Theatre closed as a music hall in March 1922. It re-opened as a drama theatre in January 1928. By October 1928 it was screening films to fill weeks when there were no live performances. It was closed on 19th December 1931 due to subsidence from a coal mine which was underneath the theatre. Repairs were eventually carried out and it re-opened in February 1932. Further subsidence caused the theatre to close on 20th May 1939.

The Theatre remained closed during World War II and was used by the Ministry of Food as a store. Repairs were not carried out until 1948, when it re-opened 1st January 1949 as the Olympia Variety Theatre, a live theatre during the winter months and cinema use during summer. The Olympia Variety Theatre was finally closed on 12th July 1952. In its final years it presented mainly nude shows.

The building was converted into a store for F.W. Woolworth in December 1952 and the decorative façade was removed. By March 2009, they had vacated the building and the site is now a B&M Bargains supermarket.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0Sd\\_F8usMU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0Sd_F8usMU)  
<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/47916>





### 30. Old Town Hall

The Old Town Hall was built in the late 1870s as a municipal building for Bulwell, but the town was absorbed into Nottingham Corporation in November 1877, so it apparently only served its original purpose for one meeting. It was then opened to the public as the Bulwell Public Hall and was initially used for concerts and variety performances, and later as a cinema.



After the Second World War, the building operated as the Embassy Ballroom. A large extension to create extra office space was added in the 1970s. Later in the 20th century, a furniture showroom, Regency Mouldings and Fireplaces, became the main tenant on the ground floor in 1989. Since the start of the 21st century, the concert hall has been used by the "Take 5 Theatre School of Dancing", and a boxing and kickboxing facility, the Bulwell Fight Factory, used the space since 2012. A range of commercial tenants have occupied the office space in the complex. There have been plans approved to convert the entire building into apartments.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old\\_Town\\_Hall,\\_Bulwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Town_Hall,_Bulwell)

### 31. St Mary the Virgin & All Souls' Church

The first recorded reference to a church in Bulwell is in 1171, however there is a strong tradition which suggests that up to four different churches have stood on this same hill since Saxon times. It was not originally dedicated to St Mary; the church was granted by the King to Rott de Pickering in 1203 and was described as dedicated to St Brandon or Brendon – a St Brendan of Birr was one of the twelve apostles of Ireland, a monk who lived in the 6th century.

The church was significantly enlarged, mainly in the 1700s, but as the 19th century began Bulwell grew as a centre of the cotton trade and mills sprung up along the river. The population of Bulwell grew rapidly, from 1,585 people in 1801 to 3,786 people in 1851 – a larger church was needed and the decision was made in the late 1840s to demolish the old church and replace it with a new building. In a grand ceremony on 4 November 1850 the new building was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln. The opening of the new church was an event big enough to require a special train to bring guests from Nottingham for the ceremony. <https://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/bulwell-st-mary/hhistory.php>

### 32. Horseshoe Inn

The Horseshoe Inn is a former Home Ales pub which has been a public house since at least 1855. At one time there was a blacksmiths forge to the rear which explains the name.



### 33. Bulwell Tramstop and Station

Paul Turton, an amateur photographer from Bulwell, has created a visual history of Bulwell by merging his own pictures of the town with images taken 100 years ago. This one is of the station and uses a c.1905 photo which is also used in a Nottinghamshire History article:

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/bulwell6.htm>

Many more of Turton's pictures can be viewed at:

<https://nottstv.com/photographer-creating-captivating-pictures-bulwell-merging-old-new-photos/>



More old photos of Bulwell can be found at: <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/local-news/gallery/look-back-life-bulwell-over-2943989>