



## **Brimington and Tapton Local History Group**

**Newspaper article extract**

**Farms 100 years ago.**

**Now 6,000 live in dormitory village**

Source and date:

**Sheffield Telegraph, 8 April 1954, p. 5.**

# FARMS 100 YEARS AGO

*Now 6,000 Live In Dormitory Village*

**B**RIMINGTON is one of the few villages where churches outnumber pubs—there are eight public houses in the Derbyshire village just outside Chesterfield—and ten churches of various denominations.

A hundred years ago Brimington consisted of one or two farms bordered by a handful of cottages. Then something happened to change the face of the village. Pits sprang up in the areas; Chesterfield became industrialised, and Staveley Works was opened.

People began to move into Brimington. They found it convenient, for it is midway between Chesterfield and Staveley, and near to the surrounding pits.

But now Brimington is fast becoming another of Chesterfield's "dormitory" villages. And Chesterfield Rural Council have great plans for the village, as far as housing is concerned.

In 1939 there were only 34 council houses in Brimington—they are in Bank Street. But since the war 250 Chesterfield Rural Council houses have been built. And there are more to come.

The plans for the immediate future are extensive—eight more bungalows and two more houses are being built on Wikeley estate; on Blue Bank estate only 54 of 110 houses planned have so far been erected.

On Manor Road the council plan to build 42 houses and 12 old age pensioners' bungalows.

## Good And—

The man to whom all these schemes are especially exciting is Coun. William Everett, chairman of Chesterfield Rural Housing Committee.

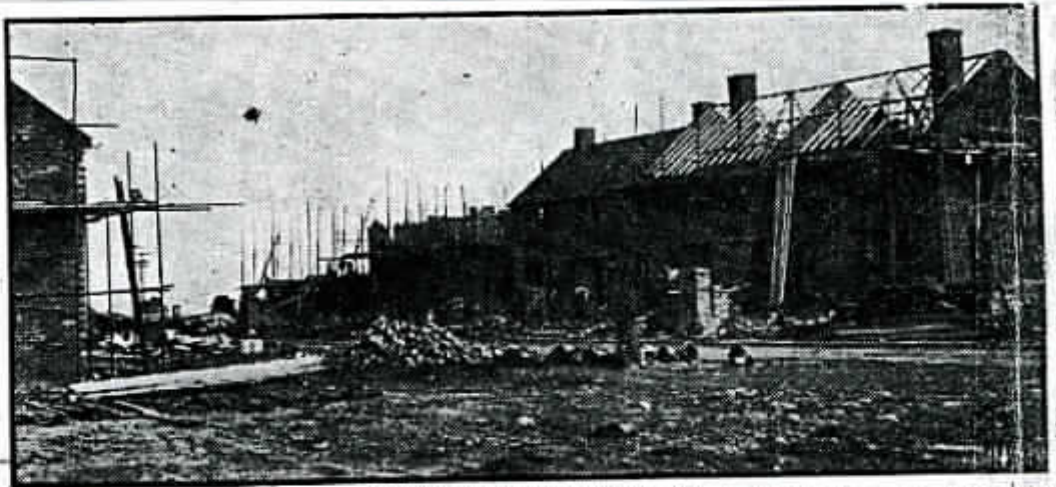
Wakefield born, forthright Mr. Everett deals in council houses, talks about council houses and probably dreams about them. He lives in one, too—in Brimington's Wikeley Way—and when he looks out of his windows there are the clear-cut lines of council houses there to look back at him.

"There is a lot of cleaning up to be done in Brimington, too," Mr. Everett will tell you. He means 16 houses in Coronation Road, George Street and Cross Street.

## —Bad Houses

"The result of bad planning on the part of private enterprise," comments Mr. Everett.

One of the Council's biggest projects will take place right under the nose of their housing



## —AND MORE ARE COMING

committee chairman. They plan to extend Wikeley Way to build another 250 houses there. A start will be made this year.

Then there is more clearing up to be done. There are 200 substantial houses to come down in Brimington. The worst area is probably at Recreation Road, where there is a row of condemned red brick houses.

All families except three have been moved from the district—they call it "the barracks"—but soon they will all have been moved to council houses.

The Council has another headache: there is a lack of space in Brimington schools. At the Central Schools, which include Brimington Boys' Secondary School and Brimington Primary School, they are losing their playground.

For two huts are being put up in the yard where lessons will be carried on for the school's overspill pupils.

Also, some of the pupils have been moved to the local headquarters of the British Legion.

Says Coun. Leverton: "School space is the principal problem at Brimington."

## Crematorium?

But Derbyshire County Council in their 1954 programme are building a new boys' secondary school on the Blue Bank Estate. And on the plan for an extension of Wikeley Way is included a new junior school and an infants school.

Planned also for Brimington is a crematorium—a joint project by Chesterfield Corporation, Chesterfield Rural Council and Staveley Urban Council. The Ministry of Housing and Local

Government have approved the scheme.

Yet there is still a big "but" in the project—opencast workers want to move in on the land where the crematorium is planned. But crematorium planners are confident they will win the case.

People out at Brimington know how to take care of their old folks. In the village are 34 old age pensioners' bungalows—and more are planned. Brimington Parish Council were the first in Derbyshire to institute an old folk's centre.

In Foljambe Road, the centre is open all day. And the parish council is the only Derbyshire one to run its own old folk's project independent of rural or county council.

## The Shadow

Typical of the old folk who benefit by the council's interest is 77-year-old Mr. Arthur Haywood, of 52, High Street. With his wife, Minnie, aged 73, he lives a quiet life in their tiny house.

Both of them were born in Brimington and have watched the village grow. They have watched it grow to a population of 6,000. And perhaps they will live to see it increase to 9,000—for that is the dream of planning chiefs.

But one threat hangs over Brimington. They are dangerously near to Chesterfield borough and may soon be swallowed up in it. The borough failed to absorb Brimington a few years before the war, but they are expected to try again soon.

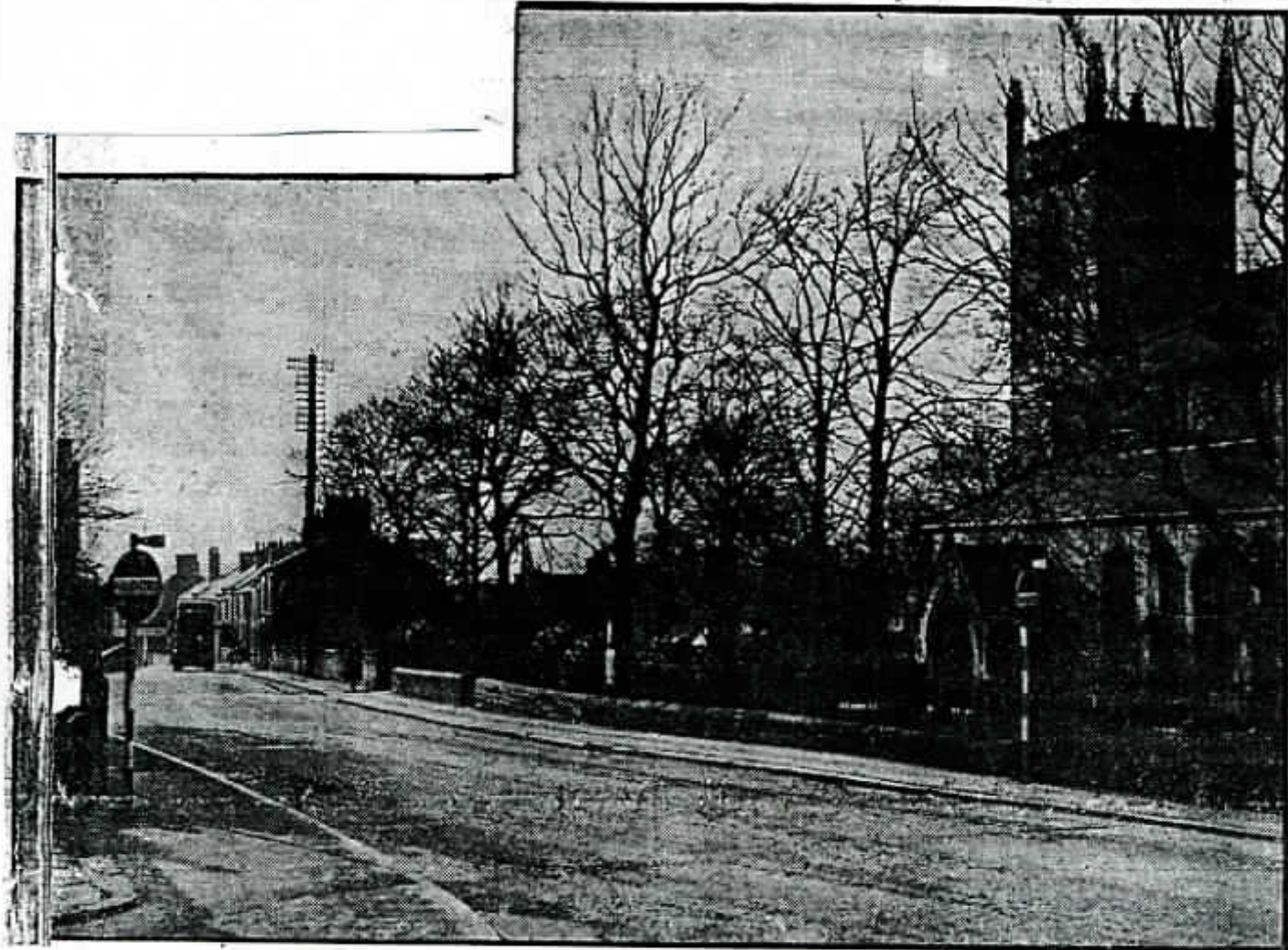
"We do not want that," said a Brimington man.

"Why don't you want it?" asked a reporter.

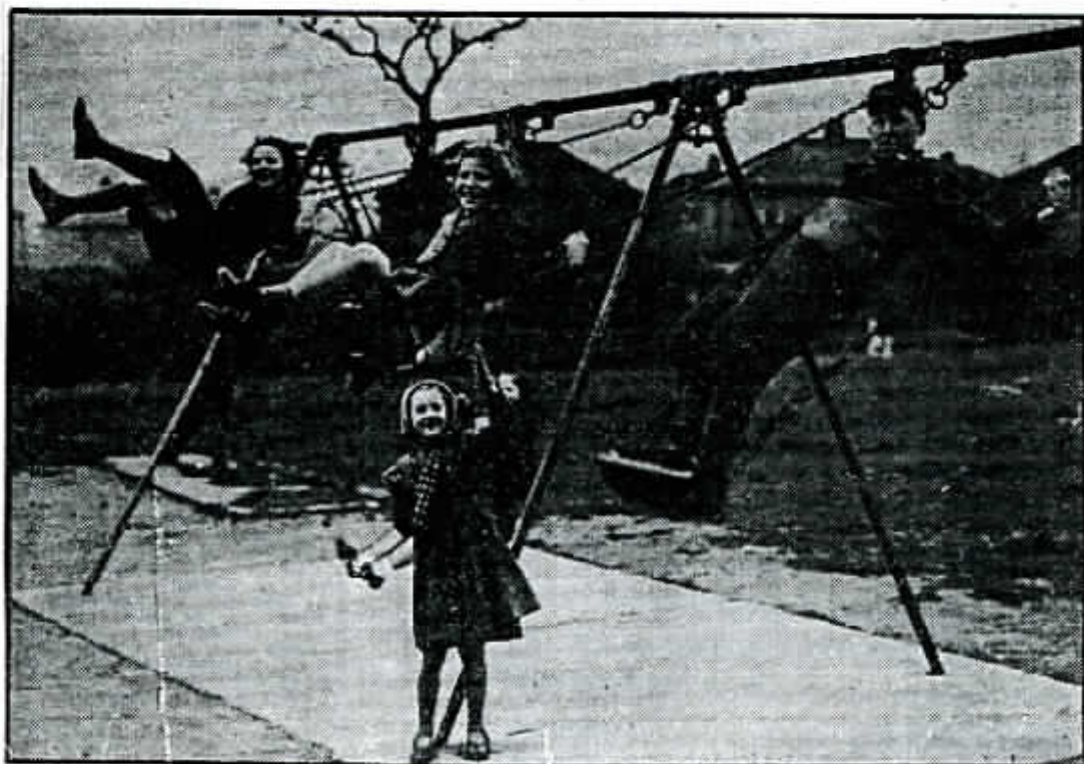
"I don't know. We just don't want it."

**PART of a new housing estate being built at Brimington.**





**THE MAIN STREET** of Brimington which is open to one-way traffic only. **BELOW:**  
Children enjoying themselves on the swings in Eastwood Park.



**BELOW:**

Making the most of the spring sunshine outside the old folk's centre in Foljambe Road are Mr. J. W. Lilley, aged 72, Mr. T. Pooley, aged 80, and Mr. C. Mitchell, aged 73.

