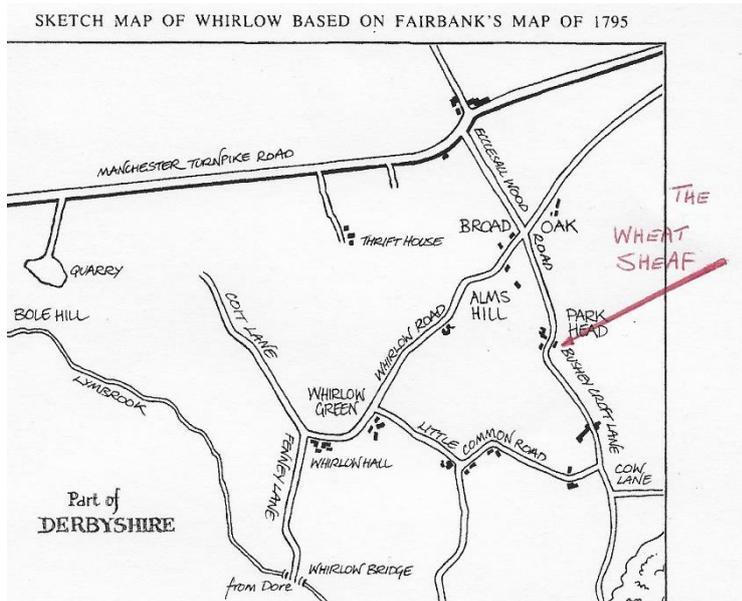
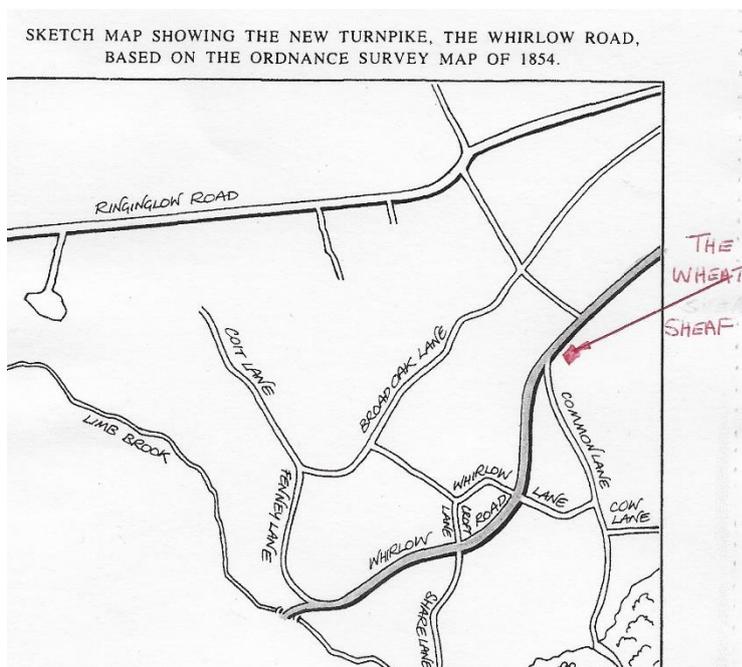


GOOGLES, GOBSTOPPERS, GLASS EYES, & GAFFES

There has been a public house at Parkhead since the 1700s.



This map shows the Wheat Sheaf (as it was then known) at the top of Bushey Croft Lane, which later became Abbey Lane. The Manchester Turnpike became Ringinglow Road, Whirlow Road became Broad Elms Lane, part of Ecclesall Wood Road became Bents Road, and Little Common Road became Whirlow Lane and Little Common Lane. Coit, Fenney and Cow Lanes still exist as footpaths.



This map shows the Wheat Sheaf on the new turnpike (from Fox House to Banner Cross), Whirlow Road, which became Ecclesall Road South. Broad Oak Lane was changed to Broad Elms Lane. Part of Whirlow Lane became Little Common Lane, and Common Lane became Abbey (locally Wood) Lane. Share Lane has now all but disappeared into the gardens of Whirlow Grove.



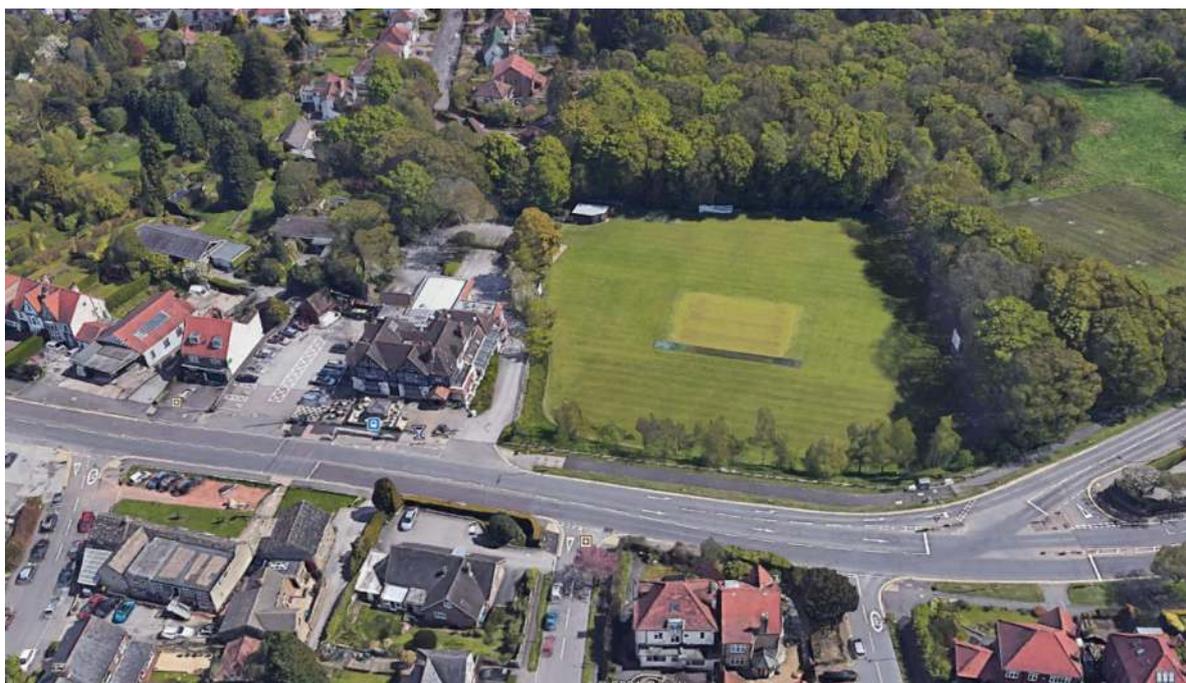
The Wheatsheaf is on the right, above the gate, on a very narrow Ecclesall Road South ca 1904.



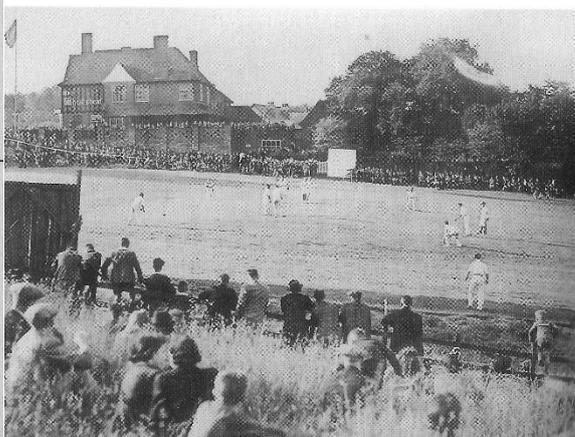
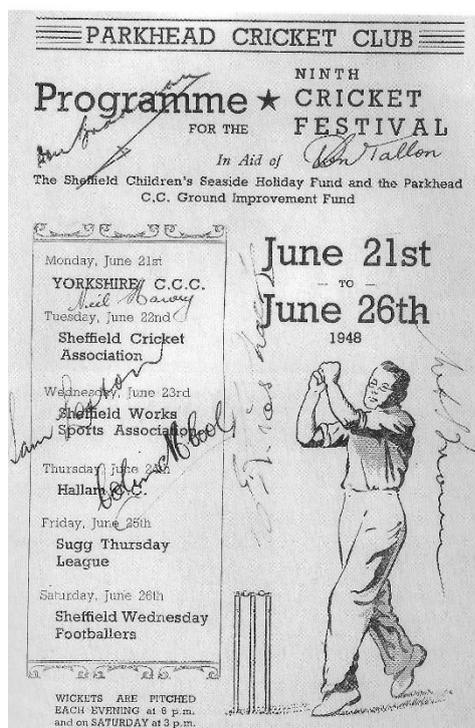
The inn ca 1904 when the landlord was Fred Oakes. Coaches stopped here on their way to Castleton. Next door was a smithy that later became a garage. This old inn was pulled down in 1928 and replaced with the present building.



The "Wheat Sheaf" and garage ca 1920.



Next to the Wheatsheaf pub are the grounds of Parkhead Cricket Club, founded in 1935. Cricket was played at this ground many years before that, with the pitch being shown on photographs dating from about 1904. "Cricket Weeks" began in 1940 as a way of raising money for the war effort, and the Yorkshire Cricket Team played here for several years in these festival games. In 1948 the Australian Test players were in England when Yorkshire was playing here. Some of the Aussie players decided to come and watch, including Don Bradman on his last visit as a Test player.



One delighted spectator had his programme signed by 7 of the Aussie tourists: Don Bradman, Don Tallon, Neil Harvey, Sam Loxton, Colin McCool, E Toshak and W A Brown.

In the photo to the right spectators line the ground and even sit on the roadside verges.



These old cottages opposite the Wheatsheaf, seen in 1939, were demolished despite protests from locals and also from the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. The lane between the cottages and the post office was known as Back Lane, and joined the field path to Alms Hill Farm.



The top of a narrow Abbey Lane is to the right of a very peaceful Ecclesall Road South.



Parkhead post office and grocery ca 1905, run by George Greenfield.

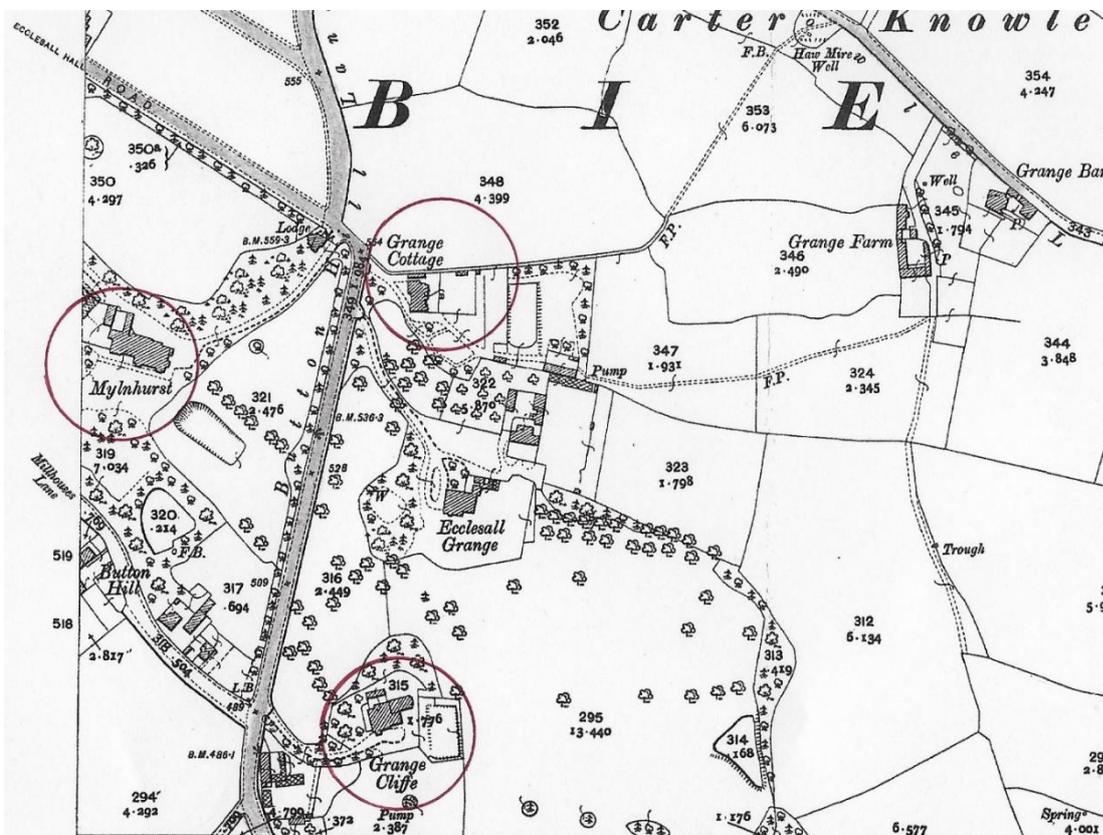
Later on a Mr & Mrs Potts ran the shop for over 40 years, and there may still be people around who remember buying their gobstoppers and humbugs from them as children.

The far cottage to the right in the above picture was where a Mr J Corker ran his Scientific Glass business, making glass eyes for the many servicemen who had been disabled in the First World War.

Although fairly isolated, with little traffic, Parkhead had a Temperance Society café and reading room as well as the sub-post office, grocer's and Glass-eye maker's already mentioned.



Somewhere else nearby with a cricketing connection was the now disappeared Grange Cliffe mansion on Button Hill. This was a lovely gabled house, set in more than 12 acres of land with spectacular views over the then unspoiled countryside.



Grange Cottage and Mylnhurst are still in existence.

The house was demolished in 1935 to make way for the building of Kingsley Park Grove whilst a road named after the house, Grange Cliffe Close, is situated on the opposite side of Millhouses Lane.

The cricketing connection came about when the house became the home of Colonel (Master Cutler in 1936) and Mrs W Tozer. They had a daughter, Pauline, who married the famous cricket commentator, Brian "Johnners" Johnston.

Johnston was renowned for his on-air schoolboy humour and puns. In one incident during a Test Match at the Oval in 1991, Jonathan Agnew suggested that when Ian Botham was out hit wicket, trying to hurdle the stumps, it was because he had failed to "get his leg over" (Botham's sexual exploits had attracted national attention). Johnston carried on commentating and giggling for 30 seconds before dissolving into helpless laughter.

Some of Johnners gaffes were: "There's Neil Harvey standing at leg slip with his legs wide apart, waiting for a tickle", which he uttered when Harvey was representing Australia at the Headingley Test in 1961.

"Welcome to Leicester where Ray Illingworth has just relieved himself at the pavilion end"

When Trevor Bailey recounted an excellent delivery from Wagar Younis: "How can he whip it out just before tea?"

When Glenn Turner painfully got up after being hit in the box by debutant Alan Ward at Lord's 1969, and prepared to face the next ball, Johnston famously described Turner's pale face and pluck before adding, "*One ball left.*"

The oft-cited quote "The bowler's Holding, the batsman's Willey" supposedly occurred when Michael Holding of the West Indies was bowling to Peter Willey of England in a Test Match at The Oval in 1976. Johnston claimed not to have noticed saying anything odd during the match, and that he was only alerted to his gaffe by a letter from "a lady" named "Miss Mainpiece". According to Christopher Martin-Jenkins and the biography by Johnston's son Barry, Johnston never actually made the remark. Barry Johnston says "It was too good a pun to resist ... but Brian never actually said that he had spoken the words on air."