

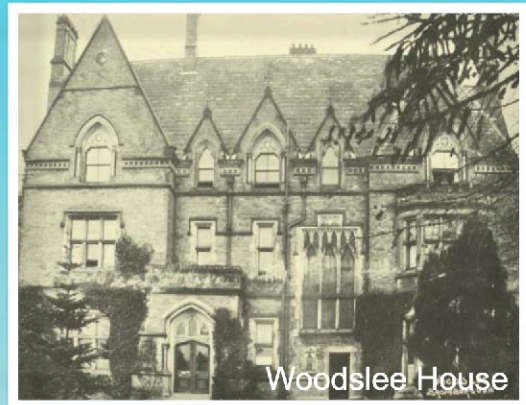
Dibbinsdale and Brotherton Park

Wirral Parks, Coast and Countryside

Woodslee

Woodslee was one of a large number of Victorian Houses built around Bromborough when the coming of the railway (opened 1840) made travel to Liverpool easy for people who wanted to live in country surroundings.

The land on which Woodslee was built originally formed part of the Mainwaring Estate. The house was built in 1869 as a wedding gift for the wedding of David McIver and Annie Rankin of Bromborough Hall on July 1st 1863. Local directories show that by 1869 Woodslee was inhabited by the MacIver family. The MacIvers were originally from the Island of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides and they took a leading part in the development of regular steamship services across the Atlantic and in the formation of the Cunard Line. Tragically, Mrs MacIver was drowned while bathing off Beaumaris on August 24th 1869.



Woodslee House



Sir
Harold
Wilson

In 1919 Woodslee was put up for sale. It was purchased by Sir Edward Brotherton who needed houses for his key workers who had moved from Wakefield to his new chemical factory. So he bought Woodslee house and grounds. He turned the house into six flats as well as converting Woodslee Cottages. Sir Edward was a considerate employer and provided Sports Club for his employees with cricket in the summer as well as tennis, bowls and football. It was during this time that Sir Harold Wilson, once Labour Prime Minister, lived as a boy in one of the Woodslee flats.

Lord Brotherton

Lord Edward Allen Brotherton of Wakefield purchased the Beyer Company dyestuff factory in Magazine Road, Bromborough in 1917. He also bought Woodslee Estate two years later with the plan of setting up a chemical research laboratory. He converted the buildings at Woodslee into flats and cottages for his key employees. Lord Brotherton then donated the surrounding land to the council and Brotherton Park was created. During the 2nd World War the house was occupied by the army and Woodslee became a prisoner of war camp. The chief chemist at Brotherton Works was Mr J.H.Wilson, who lived for a while in one of the ground floor flats at Woodslee House. His son, Harold, went on to become Prime Minister.



Dibbinsdale and
Brotherton Park

Bromborouh Mill



Until the 1930's an ancient water mill stood close to Spital Road Bridge. Spital Dam was part of the control of water used to power the flour mill. The mill also used a windmill and a steam engine to provide power at one time. The windmill was situated above the dam, it was demolished in 1878. From here the Dibbin runs through a heavily industrialised area (Port Sunlight and Bromborough Pool) and enters the Mersey at what

was once Bromborough Dock. Drainage work in 1979 uncovered one of the old mill's gear wheels. The mill ceased working in 1940. The site of the mill dates back to the Doomesday record of 1086. It was originally a water mill.



St Patrick's Well

Providing drinking water for the owners of the mill in past times, the well is said to have been blessed by St Patrick who came from Ireland in 432AD. The small 'clatter' bridge crosses a surface drain leading up to a pipe from Spital Road. A filter bed, or 'swaile', has been created here to intercept polluted run off from the road.

