

Kilburn Village – Beginnings

The origins of the name KILBURN date back to Danish times when the village was known as CYLLA's BURN, meaning 'Silver Stream'.

Cylla was a mythical Danish figure and the stream was so called because of its fast flowing and glistening appearance.

The stream from which the name was derived could have been from one of three that flowed through the village at that time.

One flowed through the grounds of Kilburn Hall, while another descended from Morrells Wood to Rawson Green, but it was more likely to be Bottle Brook (Bottolph's Brook).

By 1162 Kilburn was being referred to as KYLEBURN, clearly derived from its Danish name Cylla's Burn, and it's known that the name Kyleburn was in general use in 1445.

But by 1600 it had become KILBURNE although there are many more instances of the name KILBOURNE recorded before the present spelling was adopted in 1900 when the 'O' and 'E' were dropped.

According to the 1891 census there were 206 houses in the village; 11 of which were uninhabited, and the census identifies a total population of 951 persons, 490 men and 461 women.

The vast majority of the population had been born in Kilburn or nearby, suggesting an established community and a mature phase of industrialisation. The large and rapid influx of people associated with the economic developments of earlier eras had slowed down significantly.

Of the total population at that time 802 were born in Kilburn with the remaining 76 being local people in the sense that they had been born no further away than places like Belper, Heanor or Ripley, and just 73 had moved in from outside the area.

Of this last group most had come from counties to the south, particularly Staffordshire and Shropshire. A significant proportion were women and it is left to speculation only as to

why this would be the case other than they had met Kilburn men, married and moved to the village.

The census of 1891 interestingly listed one person who was not born in the British Isles and this was a Mr Ernest Smidt from Wurtenburg, Germany who was a self employed shoemaker living on 'Nottingham Road', although the actual location of this road is uncertain.



High concentrations of Kilburn born people were located on Chapel Street and Church Street, while in contrast; over half the population born outside the area were living on Derby Road at the time.

One fact that was very clear from the census was that Kilburn was a coal mining community with 212 of the 490 males listed employed in the pits.

See picture of Church Street probably taken in the early 1900s.

Kyleburn Historical Society meet at the Kyleburn Baptist Church hall on Highfield Road, Kilburn. Meetings start at 7.30pm.

Next Talks

Life in Medieval Times by Derek Hartley – Thursday 18 September

Manly Race by Anne Batchelor – Thursday 16 October

Medieval Glass in Derbyshire by Peter Shelton – 11 December.

For further information on the Kyleburn Historical Society please contact either Keith Staley (Chairman) on 01332 881853 or Gerald Hazelwood on 01332 882315