

Topic: Local History Study (Tranmere and Guiseley)

Key questions:

- Can you describe how the local area (Tranmere Park) has changed over time?
- Can you recall key facts about significant people from your locality? Why are they famous?
- Can you identify some reliable sources of information?

Key facts:

How has the local area changed over time?

There is evidence to suggest that humans were present in the Tranmere Park area from as far back as the prehistoric period with flint and chert being found. The place name 'Tranmere Park' was based on 'Tran-Mire Beck' and 'Tran-Mire House', both dating back from the 17th century.

The layout and building of the Tranmere Park estate as we now know it, began in the 1920s. The homes were built in 3 stages (1930-1940, 1950-1970 and post 1970s). The school was built in 1970 along with the third and final stage of housing development on Tranmere. Images from the early 1900s compared to today show less trees, a school, more houses and roads.

Can you recall facts about significant people/places from your locality? Why are they famous?



Harry Ramsden



Harry Corbett



Abraham Moon

Harry was born in Bradford in 1888, fish and chip frying was a family business. He bought premises at White Cross which had formerly been the Silver Badge Cafe at a cost of £150, opening for business on 20th December 1928. He was so successful that 3 years later he built his "palace", based on the opulence of the Ritz Hotel, he installed fitted carpets, oak paneled walls and crystal chandeliers. Seating 250 customers, it was the largest fish and chip shop in the world! In 1952, he served fish and chips at 1912 prices to celebrate 25 years trading. A crowd of 10,000 came to buy portions for a penny halfpenny (less than 1p). Harry died in 1963, the business changed hands several times, the name was franchised and there are now 170 international outlets with his name. Sadly, in 2011 the Guiseley restaurant closed, it has since been refurbished and reopened as one of the Wetherby Whaler chain.

Popular children's entertainer, Harry Corbett, was born above the fish shop on Springfield Road in Guiseley and was the nephew of Harry Ramsden. He bought the original Sooty puppet in Blackpool to entertain his children and was to become a favourite TV performer. Harry Corbett often entertained customers at his uncle's famous White Cross fish restaurant in addition to his TV appearances. Sooty and friends were inherited by Harry's son Matthew and when he retired the puppets were sold to a Japanese concern. Sooty is still seen on children's television and live shows.

In 1837, Moons Mills was founded. Abraham Moon supplied many local families with varn to weave cloth on hand looms in their homes. When the cloth was woven, he would collect the pieces, paying the weavers for their work. The cloth was then washed locally and hung out to dry in the surrounding fields. Abraham would then transport the pieces by horse and cart to Leeds Market where he would sell them. The mill was built in 1868 and was situated on a site where water was abundant due to the natural springs which ran underneath it. The railway was also established which enabled Abraham to sell his wool all over the world. Records show that he was selling to Europe and even Japan at this time! Sadly, Abraham tragically died in an accident in 1877 but the mill continued to be run by his surviving relatives. Moon's mills continues to be a producer of fine wool today and is used in the manufacturing of garments for Burberry and Ralph Lauren.

Key Vocabulary/ People:

- Harry Ramsden
- Abraham Moon
- Harry Corbett
- Local area
- Source