

# Past and Present: A century of change?

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**1911 & 2011**

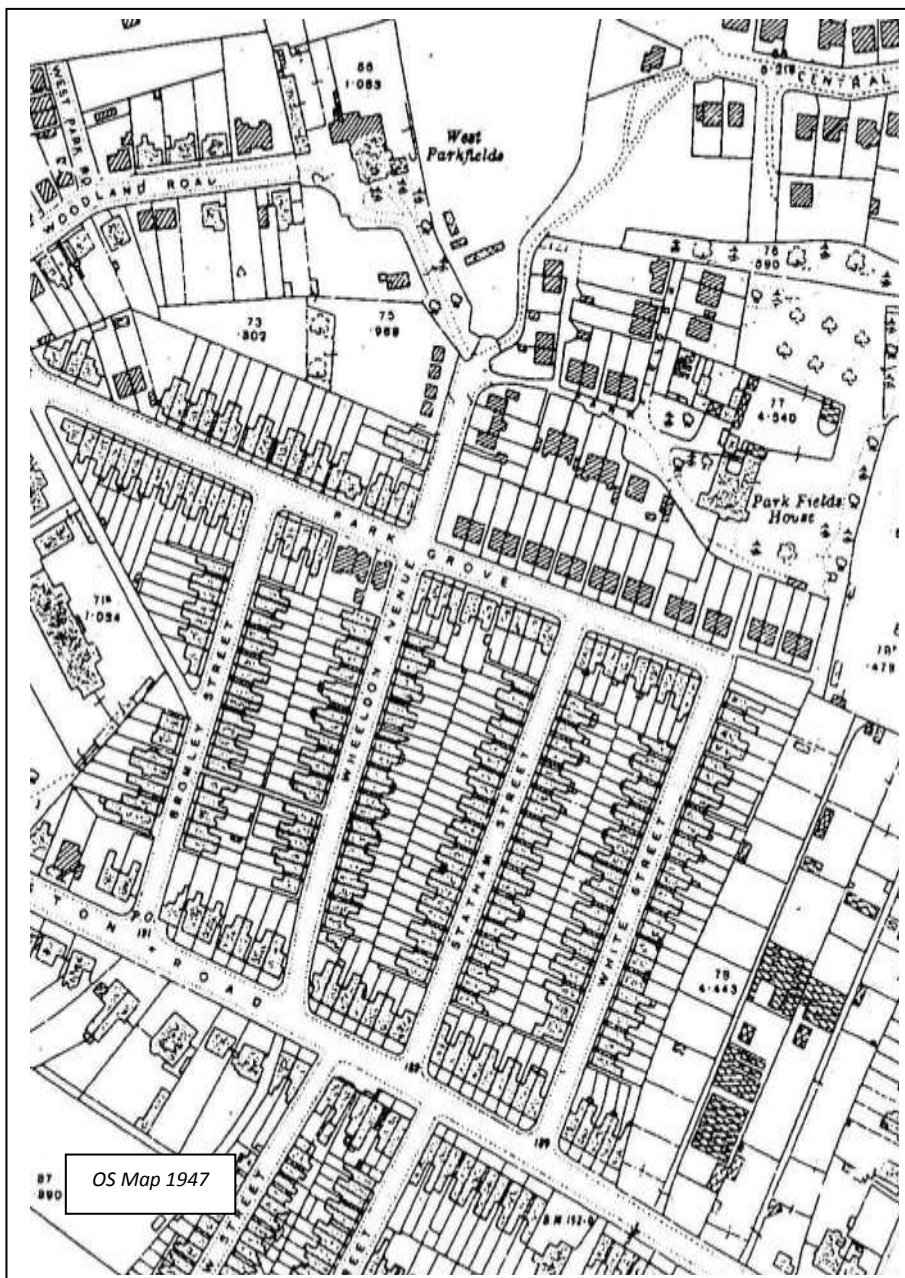
Six Streets Derby Local History Network



A comparison between the residents of the Six Streets area from the 1911 census and an unofficial community census taken in April 2011

# 1911 – 2011: A Century of Change?

In the autumn of 2010 a small group of local people interested in the history of our area started to meet. We held several meetings looking at what had been discovered so far, especially during research for a centenary celebration held in White Street in 2002, but there was a general feeling that we would like a project to get our teeth into! It was decided that it would be interesting to find out in general terms information about current residents in the area (otherwise we would have to wait 100 years for the release of the official census data), and compare our findings with a study of the census returns for 1911. A group of 5 people started work in March 2011 and this document is the result of their discoveries. In the future we aim to expand the research started here, making this information available online via the Six Streets website ([www.sixstreetsderby.org.uk](http://www.sixstreetsderby.org.uk)).



## Geography of Six Streets

The Six Streets lie in an area just to the north-west of Derby city centre and to the north of Kedleston Road. The area consists of the four parallel streets of White Street, Statham Street, Wheeldon Avenue and Bromley Street which lead up from Kedleston Road to be intersected by Park Grove. Parkfields Drive lies tucked away on Wheeldon Avenue and is part of the original carriage way to Parkfields House, which stands at the end of the drive.

## Brief History of the area

Most of the houses in the Six Streets area were built on the Parkfields House estate from about 1901 onwards. The original house that stood at the centre of the estate still exists, hidden at the top of White Street and at the end of Parkfields Drive. The house is now divided into three. When it was built it would have been a fine sight, visible from Kedleston Road below, surrounded by parkland, and separated from the gardens and house by a stone ha-ha, which can still be traced in back gardens along Park Grove.

Parkfields House was built in about 1820 for Henry Cox, whose family owned the lead works and Shot Tower on the Morledge, and was also involved in brewing (as in “Cox and Malin”). The estate grew as small plots of land were bought or exchanged until in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century a sizeable park was in place. In 1867 George Wheeldon, who owned malting works on Nottingham Road and also in Bedford and Grantham, bought the estate – a suitable residence for a gentleman who became mayor of Derby in 1873.



*Parkfields House, about 1870, taken by Richard Keene*

The house was reached by a carriage drive, running along the line of Wheeldon Avenue, past the lodge (built where Wheeldon Avenue and Newton’s Walk meet), curving up Parkfields Drive to the front of the house with large stable buildings, conservatories and green houses.

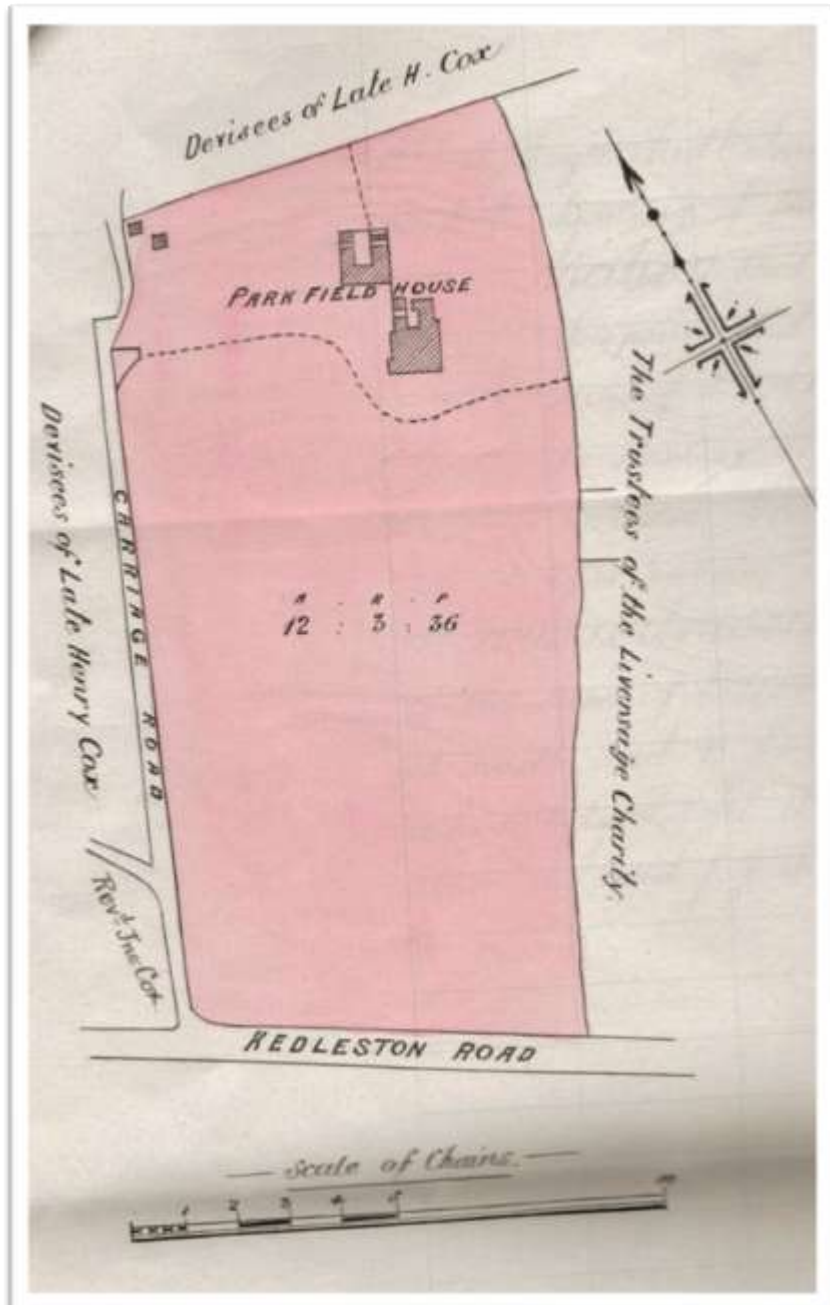
In 1899 George Wheeldon died, and the executors of his will (his son George Augustus, his brother William, his brother-in-law George Statham and son-in-law William Whiston) made arrangements for the sale of the house and estate. The land on which Wheeldon Avenue, Statham Street, Park Grove and White Street were built was sold in November 1900 to William Hollis Briggs, an eminent local solicitor, and George DuSautoy, a local brick manufacturer, whose premises, The California Brick Works, were on Stockbrook

Street. They then proceeded to lay out the streets and split them into building plots which were sold piecemeal. The first plots on White Street were sold in June 1901, and a list of the conditions of sale make interesting reading: any property built (and it must not be an alehouse, place of entertainment, candle or soap manufactory) was to be of not less than £300 in value. With the crowded housing courts of the West End not far away, there was obviously concern that this area should not be filled with low grade housing. The pavement line and the front building line were carefully set out, as well as the maximum size of any bay window or porch. Houses also had to be built within six months of the purchase of the plot. Building commenced in the summer, with builders, joiners, even solicitors' clerks buying plots of land to build 2, 4 or 6 houses. Most blocks of houses were built and then sold on but a good number were built to rent out. On White Street one row of six (17-27) continued to be rented out by the original owners until well after the Second World War. Building proceeded in a patchy way on all streets with some houses not built until 1905-1906.

Edward Hulse (JP) purchased Parkfields House and the land immediately around the house and lived there until 1926. At that time the remaining estate was sold to Frank Porter, a removals contractor, who split the house into two and sold plots of land for building (Parkfields Drive and the north side of Park Grove).

More research is needed on how Bromley Street was developed at about the same date.

*This map was included in house deeds for those properties built just after 1901*



## **Conducting our own “mini-census” in 2011**

As census records are not publicly released, except as general statistical data in anonymised form, for 100 years after collection, we thought it would be interesting – alongside the 2011 official national census (taken on 27 March 2011) – to survey people in the area of the Six Streets neighbourhood group. This was done in the first week of April 2011.

We wanted to ask similar questions to those used in 1911 in order to make some valid comparisons. However, we were also aware that we could not ask people for confidential information or information of a very personal nature, such as the questions of fertility in marriage asked in 1911. We also restricted ourselves from asking any newer social questions of a non-personal nature such as how many cars people have now per household.

We therefore devised a very short form which basically enquired about:

- number of people living in each house (with no request for names or type of relationships between the individuals concerned)
- age of each person and year of birth
- occupation
- place of birth (including country of birth)

The physical area surveyed included houses which were not built at the time of the 1911 census, mainly those on the north side of Park Grove and on Parkfields Drive. In theory therefore we would have been including MORE households than were represented in the 1911 census. However, as we managed around 52% response rate (a good result for any voluntary survey) it has to be borne in mind that, when comparing and analysing the evidence, the total sample sizes involved are very different.

## **The 1911 census**

In January 2009 the census returns for England and Wales from April 1911 were released early following a legal challenge. Many of the houses in the Six Streets area were built very shortly after the 1901 census was taken, so for most residents in the area this was the first time their house appears in a national census.

The 1911 census for England and Wales was taken on the night of Sunday 2 April. The count included all individual households, plus institutions such as prisons, workhouses, naval vessels and merchant vessels, and it also attempted to make an approximate count of the homeless.

## What is in the 1911 census?

It recorded the following information:

- Where an individual lived
- Their age at the time of the census
- Who (what relatives) they were living with on that date
- Their place of birth
- Occupation
- Details of any visitors staying on the night of the census
- Details of any servants they had living in on that date

Also, depending on an individual's circumstances, additional information could include:

- Whether they were an employee or employer
- Precise details of the industry or service they worked in
- Details of nationality
- Duration of their current marriage
- Number of children born to that marriage
- Number of children still living, and the number who had died

### **Fertility in marriage and occupational data**

In 1911 a wide range of questions were asked. As for any census the government wanted answers to specific questions. For example, they were anxious about the falling birth rate, the large numbers of people emigrating, and the reportedly poor health of the nation. These concerns prompted the inclusion of questions on 'fertility in marriage' asking how many children alive or dead had been born in the relationship. However we did not record this information in our project, partly because it would have involved downloading images of the original census returns, rather than the transcriptions that we used, and there would be no comparable statistics for 2011.

### **Additional occupational data**

The start of the twentieth century was a time of rapid industrial and technological development in Britain and the government needed a specific idea of which industries were in growth or decline. So in the 1911 census people were asked for the first time to state which industry they worked in, in addition to their profession or trade.

## How we worked

### **1911 census**

Work began in March 2011 downloading onto spreadsheets the 1911 census returns, street by street.

While the current Six Streets area comprises White Street, Bromley Street, Park Grove, Parkfields Drive, Wheeldon Avenue and Statham Street we were aware that in 1911 the area was different. Perhaps a quarter of Park Grove was still to be built and there were

vacant plots on some streets. The area was still dominated by the remains of the Parkfields Estate, much of which was sold off in 1900 for the housing developments – but the house and immediate gardens and drive still remained. In addition West Parkfields, a large suburban villa, stood adjacent to Wheeldon Avenue.

The results from the 1911 census were collated onto a master spread sheet which has formed the basis for our analysis. This was done through sorting into various categories to find age ranges, gender ratios, occupations, birth places, size of households and even the commonest first names.

### **The sample size 1911**

We have calculated that returns for the 1911 census in our area were about 97.7% - 850 people from 213 houses. Only 5 houses known to have been built at the time (eg they are adjoining other houses that did submit returns) seem not to have submitted information for the 1911 census (30 Statham Street; 33 Bromley Street; 44 Bromley Street; 23 Wheeldon Avenue and 57 Wheeldon Avenue). There are several possible reasons, for example the houses were unoccupied or the residents were away from home.

There are a group of other houses where the census records appear to be missing. 8 and 10 Bromley Street do not appear and it is suspected that as these houses are stylistically different they may be later. A group of seven houses on Wheeldon Avenue - 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, and 41 Wheeldon Avenue are missing from the returns which is puzzling given that they appear in street directories of 1903. A further search in the census is needed – perhaps the records were incorrectly transcribed and therefore indexed wrongly in a street search of the census. The absence of these houses was only noticed after the work on creating maps and charts was completed. This does affect the total sample size slightly – counting these missing houses takes the percentage returns down to 94.6%.

### **The sample size 2011**

For 2011 we had 5 people delivering leaflets to houses in the Six Streets. The leaflets were colour-coded for each street and on the reverse of the form there were bullet points of interest from the 1911 census returns for that street. To encourage people to respond there was the option to request a copy of the 1911 census return for their house.

In each street there was a drop-off point to which the census form could be returned (on Park Grove there were 2 points). Then chase-up visits by the organisers were conducted to see if any further forms could be collected. In some cases a reminder form was posted through doors – some of these were returned but quite a few were duplicates – usually where people had not filled in their house number on the original form.

The returns for each street varied; most streets were about 50%, but White Street was higher at 70%. On some streets the presence of apparently empty houses (e.g. For Sale)

and houses divided into flats was noted, but not in any consistent way by all collectors. In some cases it was not always obvious that a house was empty. Therefore 52% was felt to be the approximate total of responses, based on the number of individual house plots within the Six Streets area.

Graphs and maps have been prepared to analyse and compare various aspects of the Six Streets population in 1911 and 2011. The main aspects investigated were the comparison of population with regard to age, male/ female ratios, household sizes, occupations and place of birth.

On the following pages the graphs and the results of our analysis are detailed.



*Postcard of White Street published in 1909. The vehicle in the middle of the street is a knife grinder's barrow. What is interesting is that at this date none of the stonework on the bay windows has been painted, the railings that were to be removed in World War 2 are still intact and there are no cars!*

*It is likely that similar photographs of the other streets were taken at about the same time. If you know of any please let the Local History Network know!*



## Population by gender and age 1911 & 2011

The chart opposite shows the proportions of males and females by age in 1911. It shows that at that time there a greater number of females between 15 and 30 years of age compared to males recorded as resident in this area. This is partly related to the number of domestic servants employed (see Table 1) - thirty six women within this age range are listed as domestic servants. However, it may be that there are other factors that we are unaware of – perhaps men moved away more for work between these ages, or some men in their twenties may have been involved in the Boer War, and mortality in such a war may account for a reduction in the local male population within the 25 – 29 age range.

<b>Table 1 - Female Servants in Six Streets 1911 census by age</b>					
<b>&lt;15 years old</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>&gt;35 years old</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

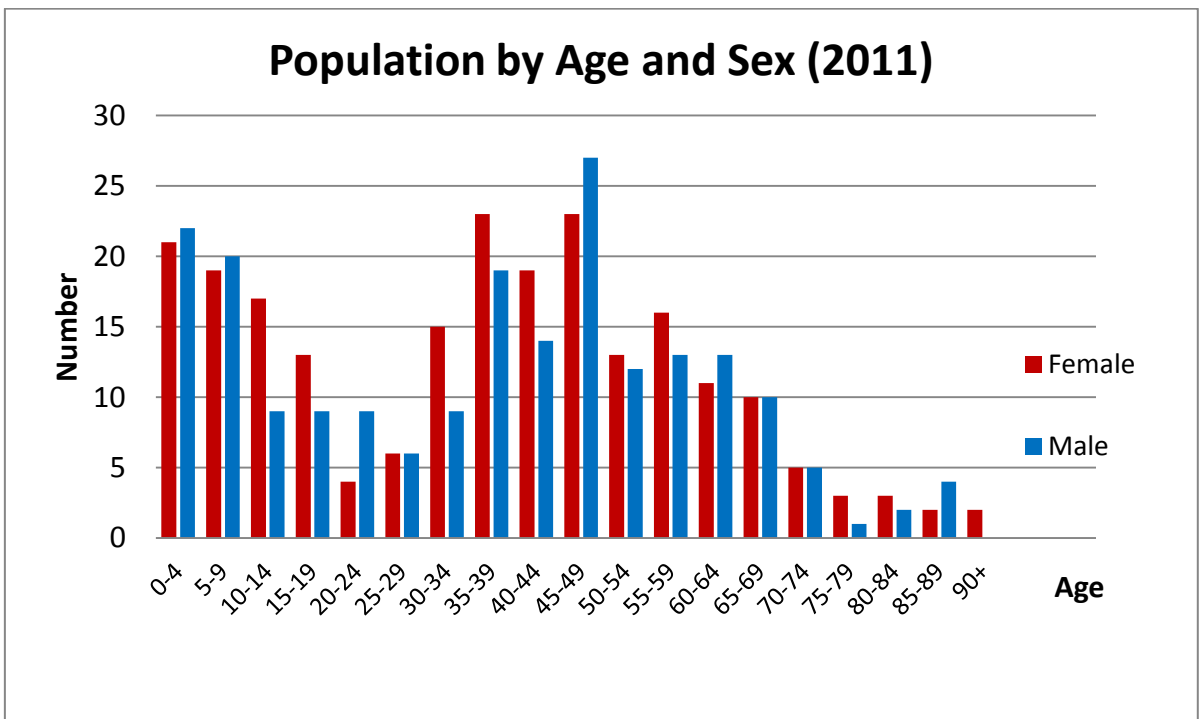
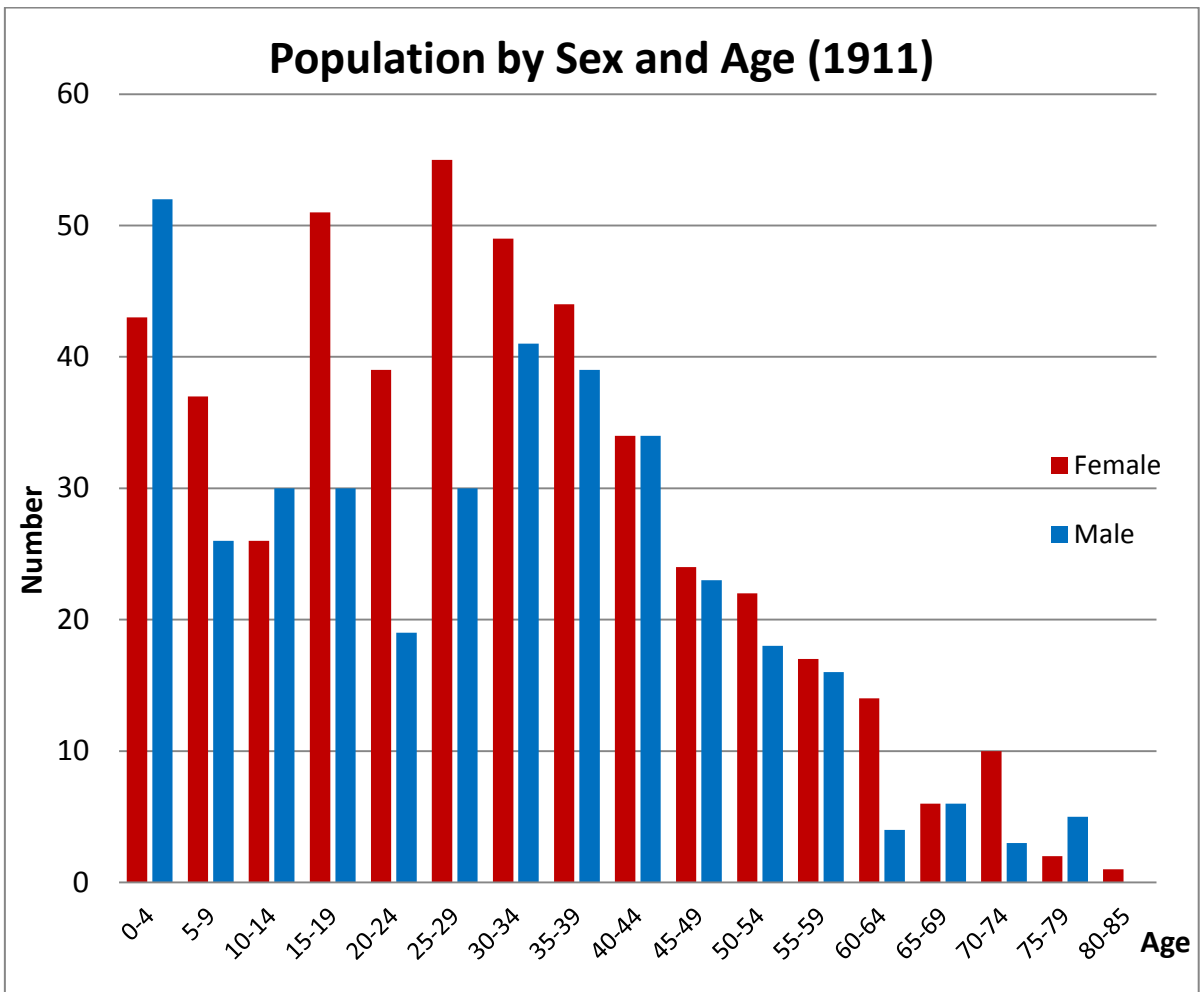
It is also possible that some men may have emigrated - a high level of emigration was one of the government's concerns in 1911, along with the poor health of the nation and a falling birthrate.

What is noticeable in the 2011 chart is the small number of people in the 15 to 35 age range in the area compared to 1911.

In 2011 there is a spike within the 35-49 age groups. This may be due to the size of the housing being suitable for raising families. In 1911 the peak appears across a broader age range within 25-44 age bands.

With the 2011 data one should always be aware that the sample size may distort the evidence. There may be a greater tendency among certain age groups to respond, for example engaging with local community/history with their children, or people who are retired may have more time to respond. About one quarter of the returns came from households where one or more resident was retired. The oldest person living in the area who responded to our 2011 census is 100 – born in 1911 in Burton-on-Trent. In 1911 the oldest person in the area was 81 and born in Derby.

We are also aware that there are a number of houses in the area occupied by students – but only one return was received from a student-only house. This group would fall within the 15-19 and 20-24 age bands which are poorly represented in the 2011 census return.

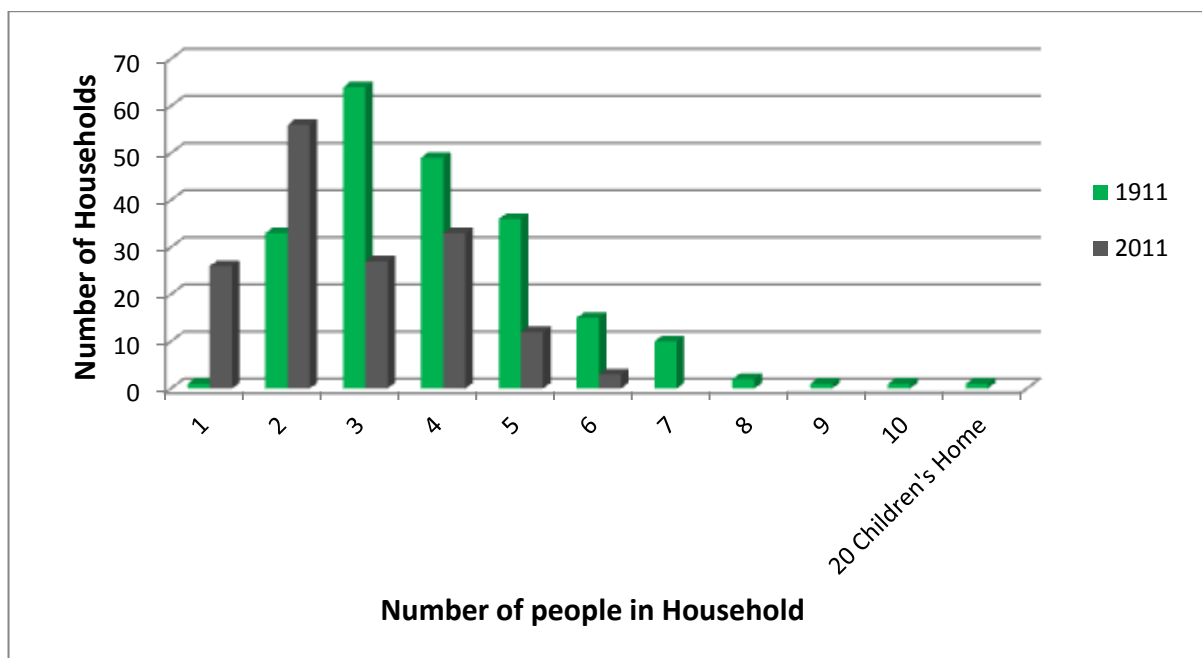


(NB: the vertical axis of the 1911 chart increments in tens, whereas its 2011 comparator increments in fives)

## Household Size 1911 & 2011

Total Households in 1911: 213 – 850 people (Approx 95-98% Sample)

Total Households in 2011: 157 – 429 people (Approx 52% Sample of the larger area)



The difference in sample size – 98% for 1911 and 52% for 2011 - should always be remembered as this has a direct influence on any comparison of actual number of households. For this reason a second graph (calculated by % of the sample) has been drawn up and is displayed on page 11 .

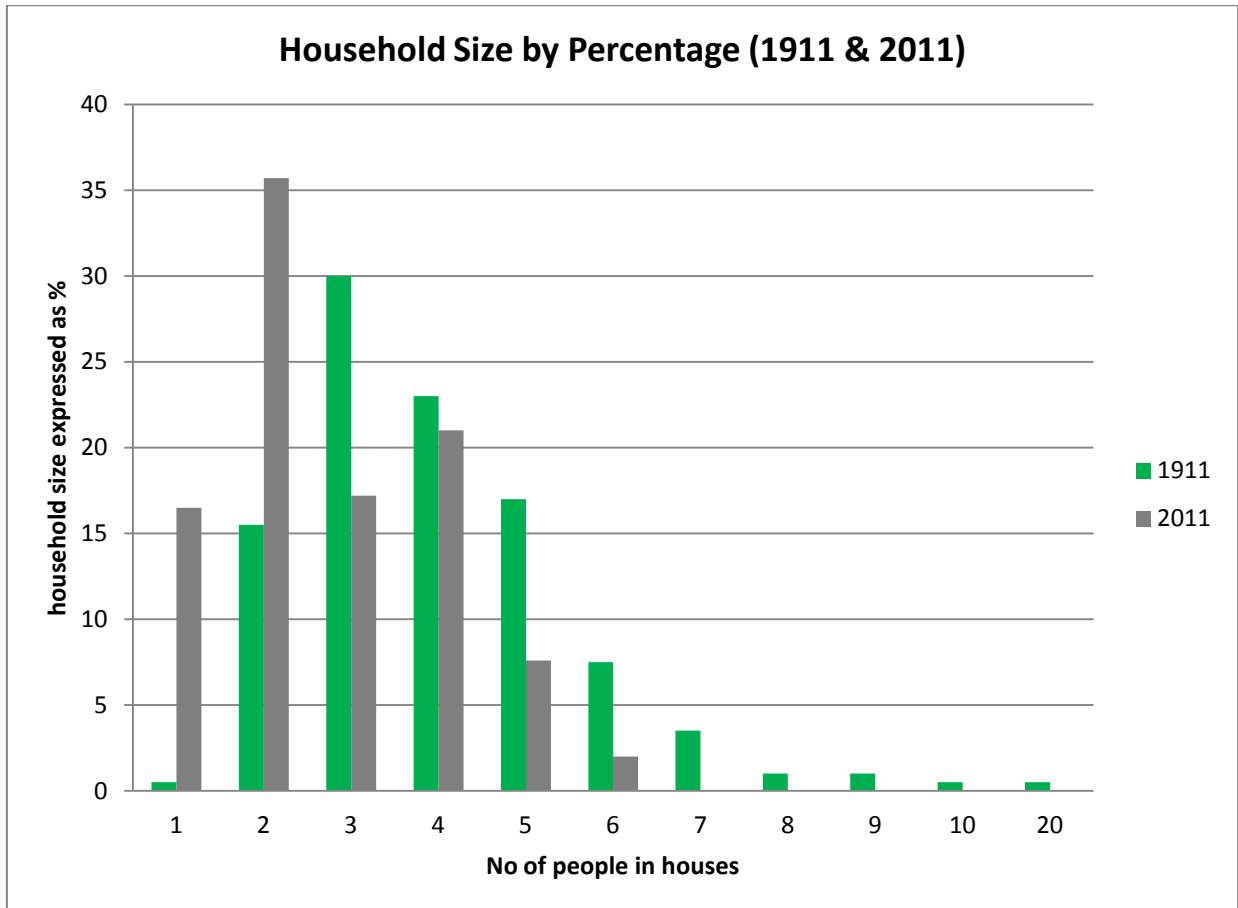
The most common household size in 1911 was three, and the most common in 2011 was two. In 1911 there was one household occupied by a single person, compared with 26 from the 2011 sample.

In 1911 39 households had a domestic servant, which increased the household size, but of these only 4 households had more than one servant. These were the children’s home (at 42 and 44 Park Grove) which had 2 servants, Parkfields House with 4 servants out of 6 occupants, West Park Fields with 4 servants and a gardener out of 10 occupants, and one other house with 2 servants as outlined in the “focus on...” box (right).

### *Focus on...*

At 58 Park Grove Allen Spriggs, the manager of a Cotton Mill, lived with his wife Ethel and their two small sons John (3) and baby Derek. They employed two women as domestic servants; Eleanor Cooper as a general servant, and her sister Annie as a temporary nursemaid.

In 2011 the largest household size recorded is six. There is also the issue of student households to consider. Only one return was received from a student household of five people – despite there being a number of other households solely occupied by students. The census forms were delivered during term time (8 April 2011 marked the end of term).



The above chart allows direct comparison between household sizes in 1911 and 2011 as the totals are expressed as percentages rather than as totals. This chart shows that in 2011 households with one or two occupants are now much more common (making up 52% of all responding households). In contrast in 1911 53% of households had 3 or 4 residents listed.

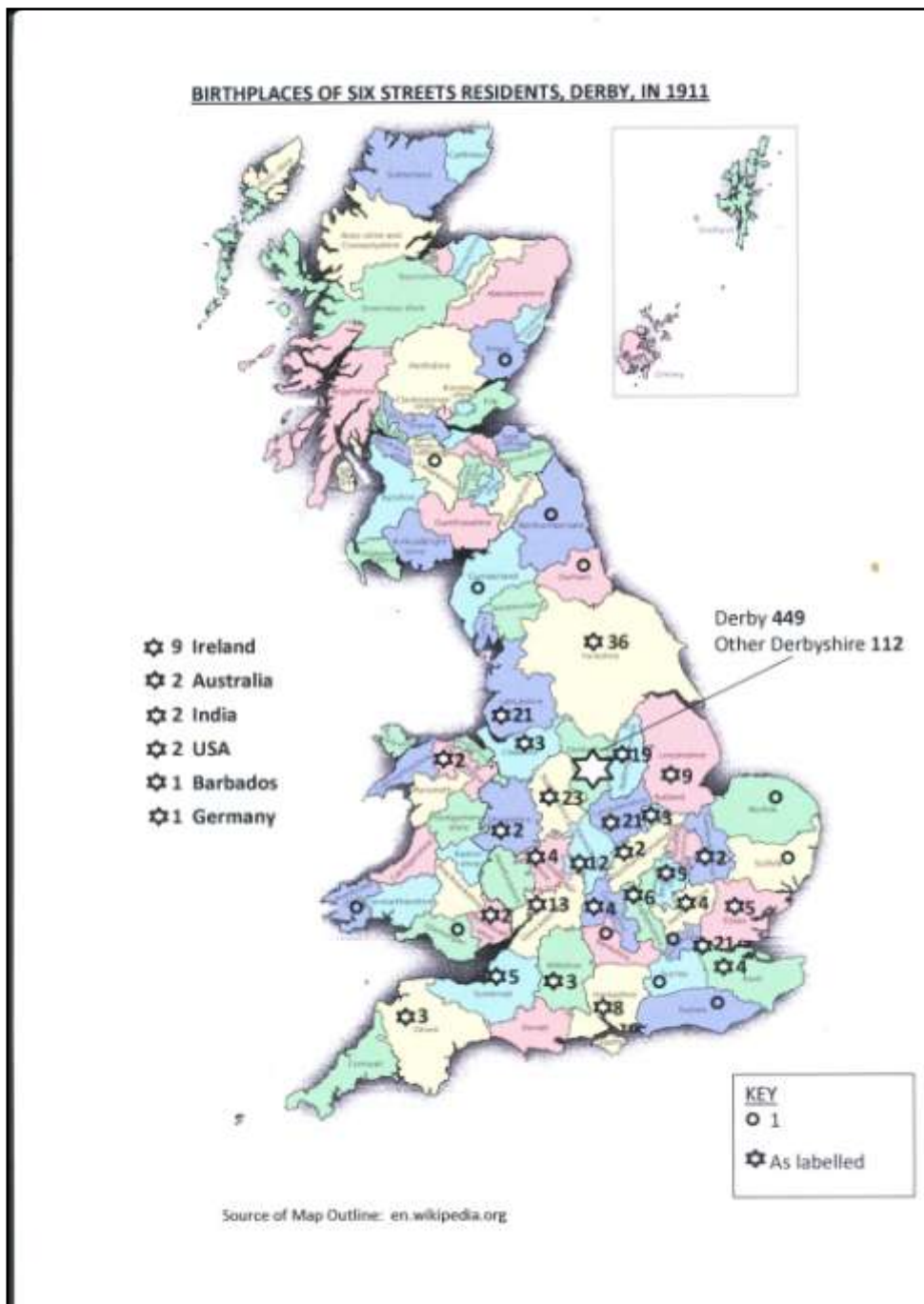
*Focus on...*

The largest nuclear family living in the area in 1911 were the Jacksons at 31 Park Grove, where mother and father lived with five adult daughters and two sons. The ages of the “children” ranged from 18 to 38. The father and one of the sons were employed as Engineers’ pattern makers (making moulds for castings). The other son was a merchant’s clerk. Three of the daughters were teachers, one the Headmistress of an Elementary school, the others Assistant Teachers. The mother and second oldest daughter do not have an occupation listed, and the youngest daughter was an Art Student. All were born in Derby. The census return only provides a snapshot in time, and there may have been other large families in the area where older children had moved away to work or to live in their own households.

## Birthplaces 1911 & 2011

In 1911 most people were relatively local, 468 coming from Derby or Derbyshire, out of a total of 850 residents. 36 came from Yorkshire, 23 from Staffordshire, 21 from Lancashire and the same number from both Leicestershire and London. Other locations are in single figures.

Of those from abroad, 9 were from Ireland and 8 from other overseas locations. The railway industry could have been a reason for people coming from Yorkshire, and those from Lancashire could have come for the textile industries.



## Birthplaces of Six Streets Residents, Derby, 2011



Source of map outline: <http://www.picturesofengland.com/mapofengland/counties-map.html>

This map of 2011 only plots the birthplaces of the 52% of people who responded to our survey. It is difficult to compare the counties exactly between 1911 and 2011 due to boundary alterations. For example Yorkshire is now split into four, and metropolitan areas such as London, Manchester and Birmingham each cut across several older established counties.

In 2011 many more people than in 1911 were born overseas. These are shown below. (Ireland, Eire and Northern Ireland are all listed as these were the names used by the respondents themselves). What is interesting to note is that in 2011 all continents of the world (except Antarctica) are represented!

1 Argentina	2 Australia	1 Canada
1 Cyprus	1 Denmark	8 France
3 Germany	2 Eire	1 Hong Kong
1 India	2 Ireland	4 Northern Ireland
1 Italy	1 Malta	1 South Africa
1 Switzerland	1 Uganda	2 USA
1 Vietnam		

## Occupations 1911 & 2011

In analysing occupations the records were grouped by gender, creating male and female graphs for both years. When official census returns are processed the occupation field is given a code which groups similar jobs and careers together. This list is quite extensive and, as not all categories applied to our area, it seemed easier to use our own groupings. This was applied to both the 1911 and 2011 census; the same person undertook the categorisation to maintain some consistency.

In 1911 a wide range of questions were asked including those about names and relationships which we could not enquire about for data protection reasons in the 2011 census. As far as occupations were concerned in the earlier census information was requested on the industry or service with which the worker was connected. This was one area where we could have learnt from the 1911 census. In 2011 we just asked people to state their occupation and in a number of cases it has proved difficult to categorise some occupations such as "Customer Services" and "Research Analyst" without further background information on the employment sector.

In comparing the two years what is interesting is that:

- Education is a major employer in both years. In 1911 30 people were engaged in Education (e.g. Assistant Teacher; Elementary School Teacher; Teacher of the Deaf and Head Mistress). In 2011 31 list themselves with careers in education, with a further 17 working in further or higher education.
- Engineering was a common occupation in the area in 1911 accounting for 17/263 (6.4%) male occupations. In 2011, of those men who responded, 18/134 (13.4%) were involved with engineering, but the returns from 2011 did not ask people to specify in what area of engineering they work (e.g. rail, automotive or aero engineering).
- Occupations in the Health & Social Care category appear in 2011 but not in 1911 where one nurse and one retired children's nurse are listed.
- In 1911 46 people were working as servants in the area. In 2011 no-one listed themselves as working in Domestic Service.
- In the 2011 census a number of people list themselves with multiple occupations.
- In the 1911 census 33 people had occupations associated with the retail trade - drapery; food; clothing and footwear; furnishing and other miscellaneous retail jobs including two people involved with cycle retail and a manager for a musical instrument dealer. In 2011 only one person lists themselves as a retail assistant.
- In 1911 16 local residents were associated with textiles manufacturing. Of these three were "lace hands" and five had occupations associated with surgical or elastic bandage manufacture. One woman described herself as a seamstress of surgical bandages, one was a machinist, and three of the group worked as clerks in

a surgical bandage factory. It is quite possible that these people worked in the West End of Derby, near Agard Street, where there were a number of such factories located.

### **Retirement and “Private Means”**

One of the main differences seen in the 2011 census is the status of “retired”. The Old-Age Pensions Act was passed in 1908 and came into force on 1 January 1909. The Act provided for a non-contributory old age pension for persons over the age of 70. It paid a weekly pension of 5 shillings a week (7s 6d for married couples). In order to be eligible a person had to be earning less than £21.10s. per year, and had to be of 'good character': anybody who, in the last 10 years, had been in receipt of poor relief or who had been in prison was ineligible.

In 1911 in the Six Streets area there were 19 people over 70 but only 5 list themselves as retired - retired Boot Maker (79); retired Brewery Traveller (76); pensioned Police Superintendent (76); retired Tapestry Weaver Manager (72) and Children’s Nurse (pensioned) (73). In addition there were younger retired people including a pensioned Ex-Superintendent of Police (66), a pensioned Postmaster (59), a Post Office Official (superannuated) (54) and a retired Baker (56).

Of the remaining 14 people over 70 two list themselves as having “Private Means”, nine have no listed occupation or source of income (all women) and three people were still working.

In the 2011 census where retired people have stated their former occupations they have been included on the graphs under that occupation category. So a “retired Teacher” would be categorised under Education rather than as retired. The category “retired” only covers those people who have given no indication of their former career or occupation.

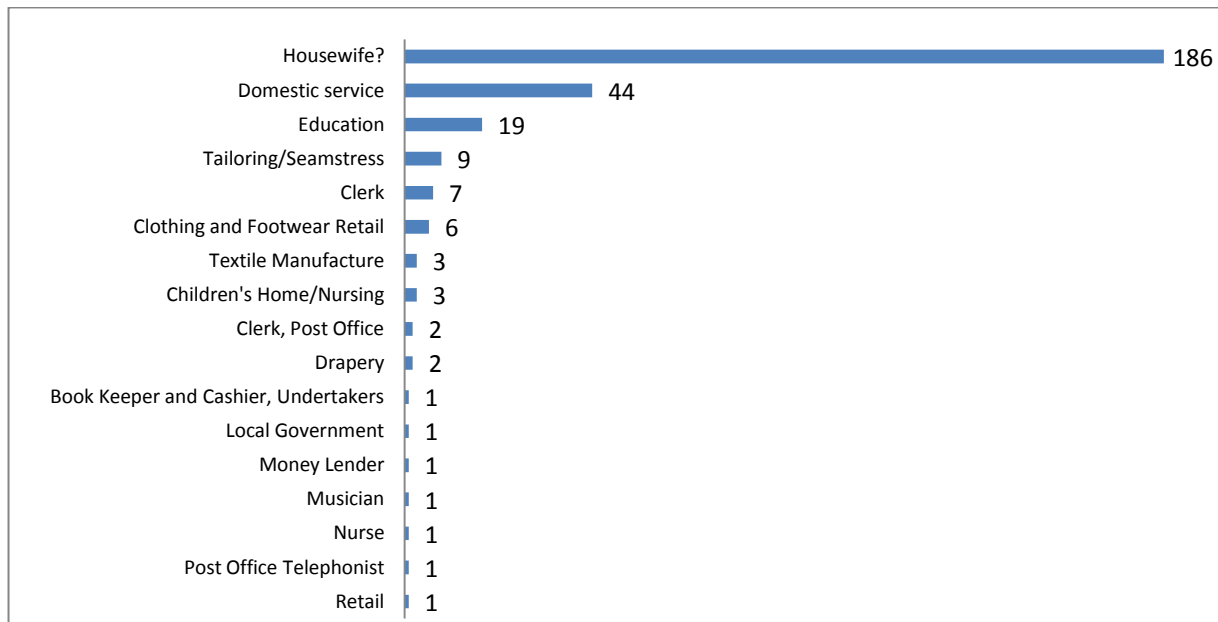
In 1911 eleven people listed themselves as of “Private Means”. Most of these are widows, often living with grown-up children, but there was a married couple, both aged 33, John and Martha McColgan, who lived at 15 Bromley Street, and they list themselves as of “Private Means”. Of the 9 households where the head of the household is of private means there were four houses on Bromley Street, three on Park Grove, and one each on Wheeldon Avenue and White Street.

#### *Focus on...*

Mary Morter (73), a pensioned Children’s Nurse, lived at 91 Park Grove with her servant Eliza Gibbs (50). Mary, a widow, came originally from Staffordshire. Able to live in a substantial house and employ a servant, she had obviously been well provided for, either by her late husband or through a pension from her previous employers.



## Female Occupations 1911



Of the 280 women listed in the 1911 census the vast majority have not listed an occupation and we have assumed from this that they considered themselves to be housewives and worked in the home. This group forms the majority of occupations for this date, at a time when conventions in society dictated that married women did not go out to work. It may have been that a number of women worked from home, maybe in the textile industries taking in piece work, helping out with laundry, or working informally from home as dressmakers.

The next most common occupation among women is domestic service: 44 out of 280 (15.7%). A surprising number of houses in the area had live-in servants, and others may have employed daily help, which the census cannot help in calculating.

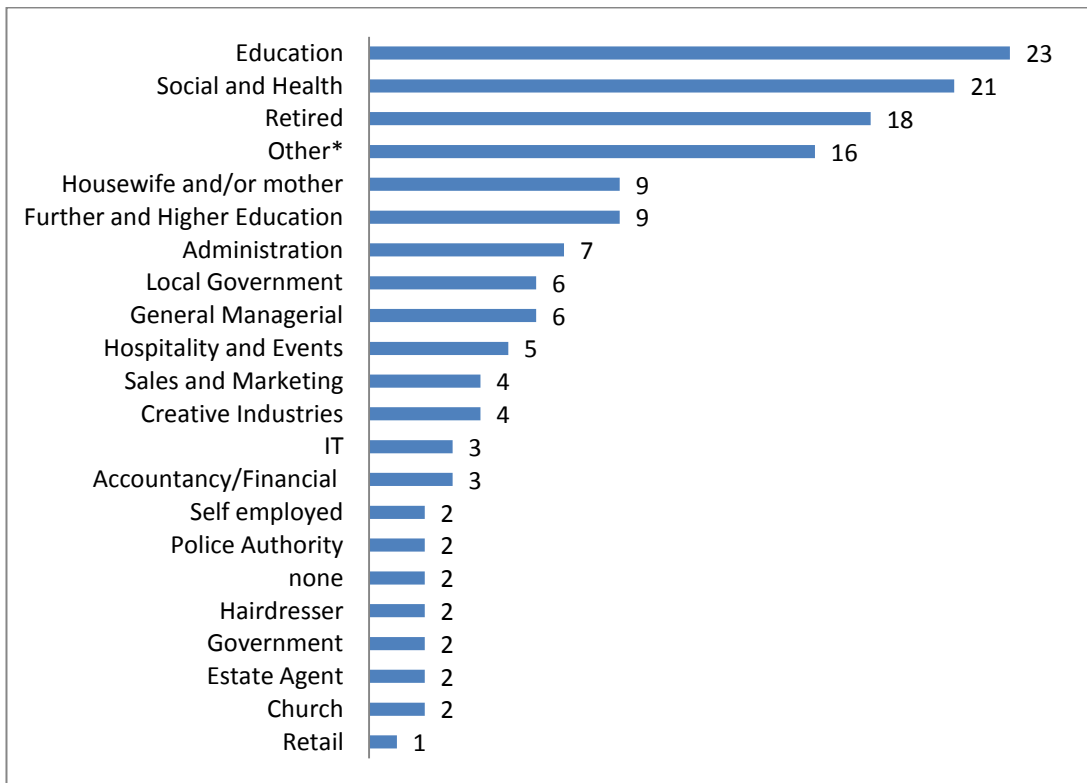
Only two married women state that they have a profession: Sarah Johnson (38) who was a registered money lender and Maud Smith (28) a professional musician, both of whom lived on White Street. All other women who have occupations outside the home are single, except for five women who are widowed – a head mistress; a “monthly nurse” (her

### *Focus on...*

Elizabeth Harwood, widowed, lived at 29 Park Grove with her daughter Muriel (35) and relation Sophia Harwood (58). All three described themselves of “Private Means”. They had a live-in servant Kathleen Beecroft, aged 16. Elizabeth was born in Barbados in 1843.

own description); head foster mother at a children’s home; a children’s nurse (pensioned) and a woman who describes herself as “Apartment House” – presumably a landlady taking paying guests. Professional single women included 19 in Education (2 headmistresses, 11 school teachers and 6 teaching assistants). The next most common occupation was Dressmaker or Seamstress.

## Female Occupations 2011



\*Other = Information Officer (Charity); Chemical/Instrumental Technician; Flood Management Officer; Garden Designer; Client Services Manager (Insurance); Solicitor (part-time); Customer Services; Research Analyst; Product Planner; Learning Technologist; Revenue Officer; Ironer/Cleaner; Day Service Worker ALDD & Adult Tutor LLDD; Library Assistant; Thoroughbred Breeder and Company Secretary; Vet. These are all careers or occupations appearing once or where it has proved impossible to categorise with which service or industry the person is connected.

149 women responded to the 2011 census and only nine listed themselves as a housewife and/or mother. The most frequent occupations are Education (23) and Health & Social (21).

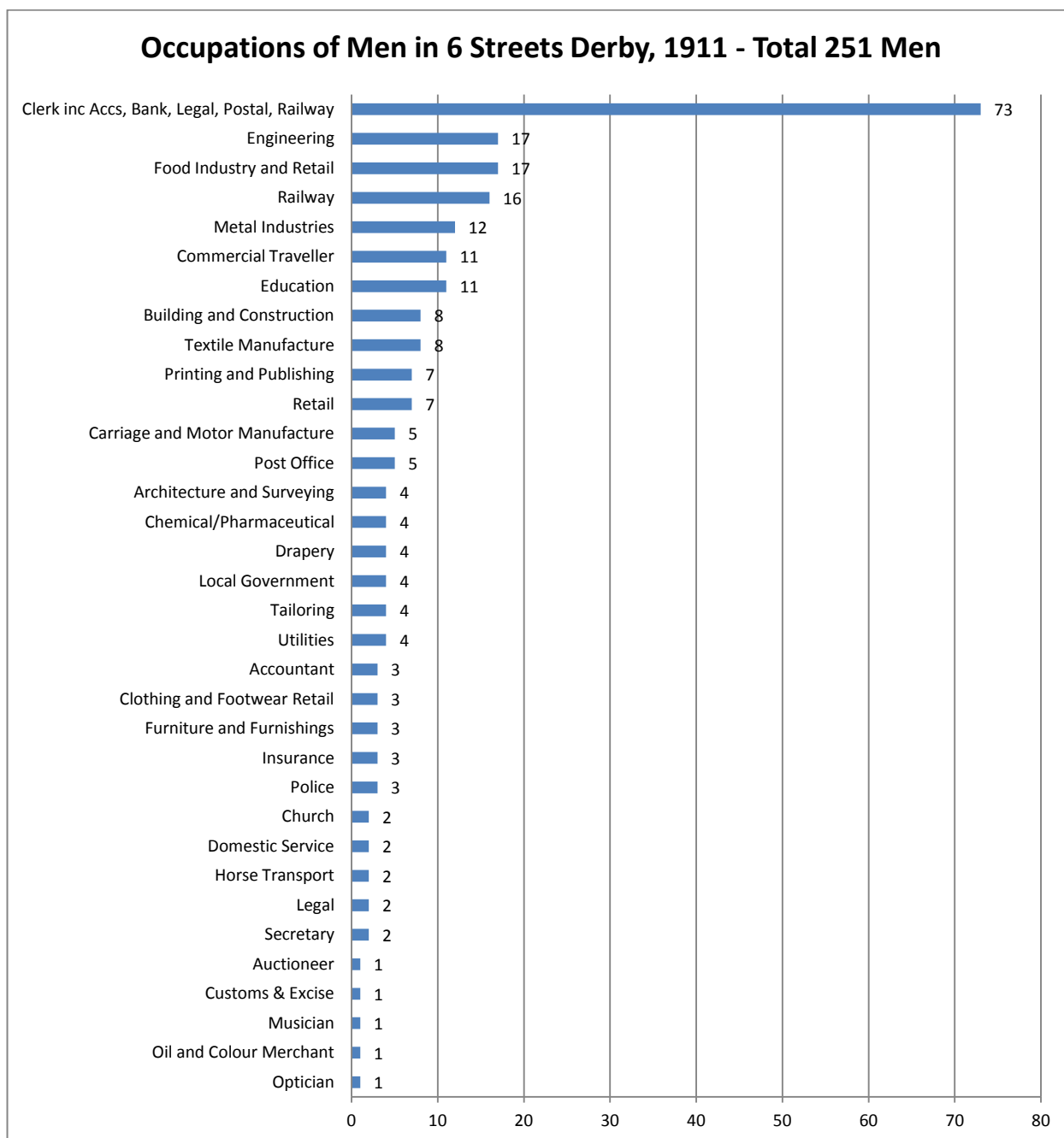
It is not uncommon for women to have several occupations e.g. Actor/Writer/Teacher; Day Service Work ALDD/Adult Tutor LLDD; Special Needs Teacher/Homeopath; Graphic Designer/Teaching Assistant.

Overall 34 women list themselves as retired; of these 18 give no clue as to their previous career. Where a former career is listed (e.g. retired teacher) then the person is listed under that profession.

### *Focus on...*

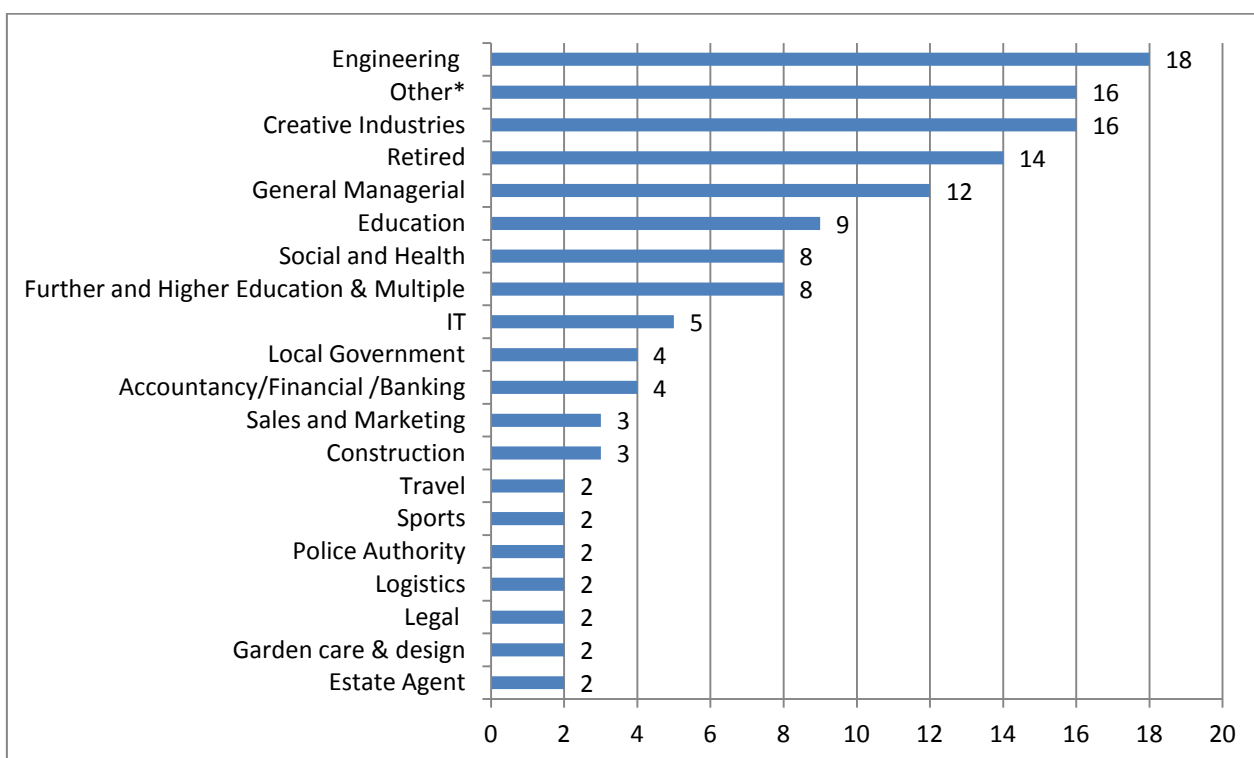
At 34 Statham Street Henry Budd (28) lived with his mother (49) and his grandmother (79). He worked as a Teacher of the Deaf. They were all born in the London/Kent area, which suggests that Henry moved to Derby probably to work at the School for the Deaf on Friar Gate. On the night of the census they had a relative staying: she was a cutter and fitter of coats and mantles.

## Male Occupations 1911



We were interested to see that a large number of people (83 men and women) were employed as clerks in 1911. Although we could have placed these posts within their occupational groupings (there were clerks employed by solicitors, auctioneers, banks, shops, local government, in factories, telegraph offices and 28 employed by the Midland Railway) we felt it was important to bring them out as a category of workers in their own right. In an era before computers, when even the typewriter was not universally used, clerks were employed for all manner of work - preparations of accounts and bills for retail and industrial purposes, running errands and moving messages and items between departments or work sites and all manner of correspondence. Transcription of legal documents was a major occupation - all the Edwardian deeds for every plot in the Six Streets area were handwritten and hand illustrated.

## Male Occupations 2011



In the graph “Other” is used to group occupations appearing once or where it has proved impossible to categorise with which service or industry the person is connected.

Other = Retired Office Administrator; Farm Worker; Chartered Surveyor; Membership Co-ordinator (charity); Chemical Engineer; Retired Aeronautical Engineer & C of E Priest; Insurance Manager; Racehorse Trainer; Retail Assistant; Window Cleaner; Welder; H&S [health and safety] ; Researcher; Development Worker; Technician; Unemployed/Semi Retired.

Of the 134 men who responded to the 2011 census the most common occupations are in the Creative Industries (17), Engineering (18) and General Managerial (12). The Creative Industries is a recent definition, grouping various professions within the creative sector (Advertising; Architecture; Arts and Antiques; Design; Film, video and photography; Software and electronic publishing; Digital and Entertainment Media; Performing Arts; Publishing; Television and Radio). Careers in Education (including further and higher) account for 17 men.

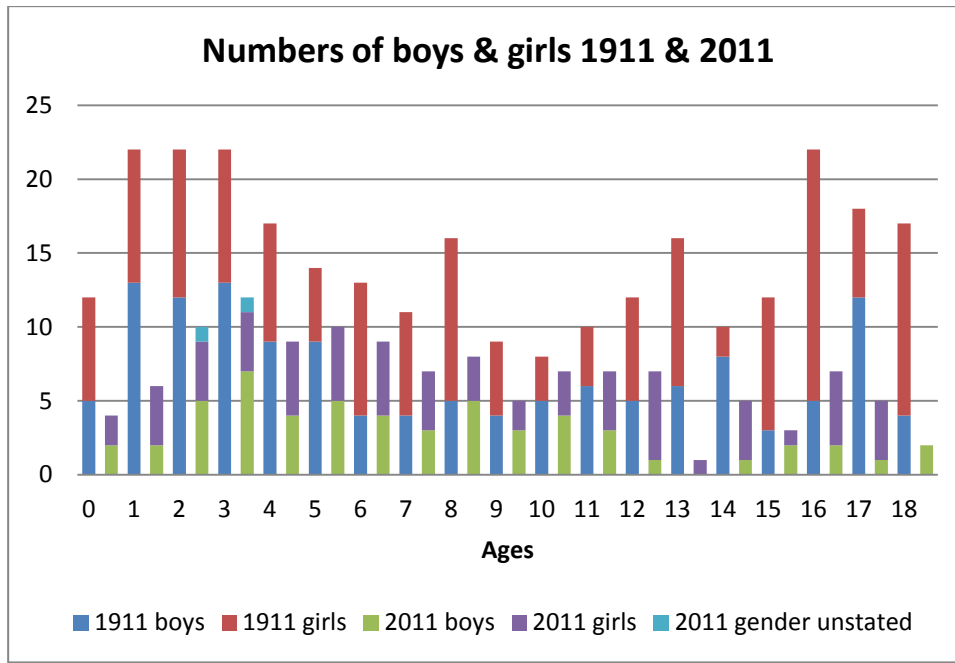
In 2011, 14 men list themselves as retired but give no further information about former occupations. A further 12 list themselves as partly or fully retired from a particular profession. There are several men with multiple occupations: Retired Aeronautical Engineer & Church of England Priest; Artist/Teacher; (part-time) Cinema Projectionist and Film Education Tutor; Retired Lecturer/H & S Manager.

### *Focus on...*

James Hill, a letterpress printer, lived at 59 Wheeldon Avenue with his wife, Elizabeth and two daughters Frances (21) and Annie (20). James and Frances were both born in India, in Orissa state – the house still bears the name “Naraj” carved over the front bay window. “Naraj Marthapur” is a village in the Cuttack district of Orissa.

## Under Eighteens

In 1911 of the 850 people recorded in the area on the night of 2 April 283 were 18 and under (33% of the population). Of these, three were visitors. Of course we have no way of knowing how many children or adults were absent on the night the census was taken. In 2011, of the 429 people recorded in our census 122 were 18 years old or under (28%).



When working on the data initially there was some debate as to how to classify infants and children given the changes in compulsory education over the century. In the end the term “Infant” was used to cover 0-4 years in both census returns.

From 1899 to 1918 the school leaving age was 12 years old; therefore it has been assumed that in the 1911 census children aged 5-12 years are at school.

## School Leaving Age 1911

The school leaving age has changed dramatically in the last century and this has led to difficulties in comparing “occupations” between 1911 and 2011. Students and school children have been excluded from the male and female occupation graphs above (pages 16-19) for reasons of clarity, but whereas now young people leave school at 16, 17 or 18 in 1911 children could leave school from 12 years. This means that it has been difficult to make comparisons between the two groups of people aged 12 to 18 whose occupational status is not always similar.

In the 1911 census 38 children between 12 and 14 are listed – of these 31 are still listed as being at school; 5 have no “occupation” listed and 2 girls are listed as live-in domestic servants.

For the 34 in the 15-16 age group 7 individuals continued in education, 7 were in employment and 6 girls were at home (Mother’s help or no occupation listed) – the 14 girls in domestic service were probably not born in the area but employed as live-in servants.

Seventeen of the 35 17-18 year olds recorded in the 1911 census were employed (most as clerks or shop assistants); 8 were serving apprenticeships or were students (art students; articled pupil and Student Teacher) and 7 had no occupation (all girls).

This suggests that many children in this area enjoyed the opportunity of continuing in full time education beyond the minimum school leaving age of 12.

<b>Table 2 - Young People Aged 12 to 18 – occupations in 1911</b>				
Occupation	Aged 12-14	Aged 15-16	Aged 17-18	Total
School/students/apprenticeships	31	7	8	46
None given	5 (3 boys, 2 girls)	2 (girls)	7 (all girls)	14
Servant (all girls)	2	14	3	19
Other employment	0	7	17	24
At home (all girls)	0	4	0	4
Total	38	34	35	107

In 1911 there were 41 15-18 year olds working in full time occupations (not counting the 7 apprentices who would be working a full week). In stark contrast in the 2011 census returns there was no-one in this age group in employment; all were still in full-time education.

### **Children’s Home 42 & 44 Park Grove**

In the 1911 census the occupants of the children’s home at 42 & 44 Park Grove are listed. Six girls between the ages of 4 and 9 and eleven boys aged 3 to 7 were living in the home on Park Grove cared for by a Foster Mother and two assistants. All the children’s birth places are recorded as unknown. We know from listings in local directories that the houses were used as a children’s home from before 1903 to at least 1936.

The Derby Board of Guardians owned the house and used it as a “scattered home” for a number of decades. Scattered homes or the isolated homes system was first introduced in Sheffield in 1893 by the Board of Guardians led by J Wycliffe Wilson. It was felt that the

practice of placing children in cottage homes isolated them from the real world in which they would have to live as adults. Scattered homes placed small groups of children in ordinary houses around a town or city and the children attended local board schools – in contrast many cottage homes had their own schools. Homes were placed so there were never more than 30 children from scattered homes attending any one school.

One former resident, Georgina Dawes, (renamed Jean by the authorities) spent some years at the home in the 1930s. Born in Burton-on-Trent, she spent most of her childhood in care, and was moved to the home at 42 & 44 Park Grove when she was old enough to go to school. In an interview given to the Derby Evening Telegraph in 2005 she recalled that the children at the home helped with the chores, including scrubbing shelves and floors, polishing the brass stair rods and black-leading the kitchen stove. Punishment for misdemeanours, such as fighting, could include a hairbrush across the backside and being locked in the dark cold cellar of the house. Georgina/Jean (born about 1928) attended Ashbourne Road Junior School and then Kedleston Road Senior School. Most of the time she felt the staff in the homes did their best to make the children have a good life: "but we never had cuddles or any love shown us, although we did have a lot of freedom".

### **Common names in 1911**

These were the most commonly occurring first names in the Six Streets area in 1911 and reflect all age groups.

#### **Commonest male names:**

1. John (40 occurrences)
2. William (36)
3. Arthur (19)
4. George (16)
5. Thomas/Tom (15)
6. James (14)
7. Charles (13)
8. Frederick (12)
9. Henry (10); Albert (10);  
Reginald (10)

#### **Commonest female names:**

1. Mary (33)
2. Elizabeth/Lizzie (32)
3. Ann/Annie (20)
4. Sarah (15)
5. Alice (15)
6. Florence (15)
7. Edith (14)
8. Ellen (11); Emma (11); Gertrude  
(11)

(In 2010 the top ten girls names for new born babies in England and Wales were: Olivia; Sophie; Emily; Lily; Amelia; Jessica; Ruby; Chloe; Grace and Evie. For boys the names were: Oliver; Jack; Harry; Alfie; Charlie; Thomas; William; Joshua; George and James. (Source ONS data)).

More unusual male names in 1911: Monzo; Martin Luther; Allick; Theophilus; Gervase; Gurth and Hayan (both a father and son).

More unusual female names: Elvina; Freda; Hepzibah; Lavinia; Reta; Rhoda and Rosamund. Surprisingly, the name Victoria only occurs once as a second name.

## **Conclusions**

From our research we found that the most striking change in the last hundred years was in the role of women. In the 1911 census the majority of women had no occupation listed (which we interpreted as meaning they took the role of “housewife”) or were in domestic service. In contrast in our recent Six Streets area survey most women were employed outside the home, either full time or part time. This reflects a significant change in the status of women in our society and is also associated with advances in technology and the prevalence of domestic appliances, which enable households to be run with much less manual effort than in 1911.

With regard to children and young people, whereas in 1911 children could be sent to work from the age of twelve, this is no longer the case and it appears that in this area the majority of young people now remain in education until the age of 18 years or more.

Advances in technology, particularly computers, have altered employment opportunities for both men and women, and this has resulted in significant changes in professions and the nature of employment in the last hundred years.

Who knows what the next hundred years may bring?

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### **The Local History Network**

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