

1911 2020
RUYTON PEOPLE



**A SNAPSHOT IN TIME-
People today are Tomorrow's History**

It was observed how 'The Pictorial History of Ruyton and the Eleventowns' by Yoland Brown in 2007 and, more recently, John Guest's Facebook page, Ruyton Revisited, have given great pleasure to people looking back at Ruyton people over the years.

So, in September 2019 Irena White and Yoland Brown came up with the idea of researching the work being done by people living in Ruyton XI Towns today, compared with the work people did in the 1911 Census. The project was scheduled to take a year.

Flyers were distributed around the village and sent out to members of the Ruyton and District Mailing List and the Ruyton Facebook group, asking people to complete a simple questionnaire about their work. The message was sent out to the Mailing List and Facebook Group several times to remind people to take part.

The response was far from all the people who would have taken part in the 1911 census but we feel that we have enough participants to make a useful contribution to Ruyton History in 2020.



Dickins were grocers & drapers from 1879 until the 1940s.



The Post Office & stationers from 1891 until the 1940s.



Our remaining shop & Post Office has been closed and For Sale since 2017.

THE 1911 CENSUS by Irena White

62 Agricultural Labourers	12 Grocers
5 Bakers	7 Laundresses
10 Blacksmith	1 Locomotive Engineer
9 Bricklayers	1 Midwife
1 Brickmaker	5 Nurses
3 Boot Makers	1 Photographer
3 Butchers	1 Police Sergeant
7 Carpenters	2 Postmen
7 Coachmen	1 Sadler
1 Cycle Mechanic	1 Telegraph Clerk
8 Dress Makers	2 Threshing Machine Driver
1 Fish Dealer	151 Wives
3 Footmen	265 Children
20 Gardeners	

Taking a moment in Time in the Ruyton of 1911

In an overall population of 934 people taking the census, there were 117 types of occupation listed, including housewife and children. Children were also included as working from the age of 13 and, in a couple of cases, aged 12.

At that time the village could provide everything that you might want in the way of purchases or trades all within walking distance.

Most of the employment was agricultural, this included farmers, agricultural labourers, waggoners, cowmen, milkmaids, threshing machine operators, etc. To service the farms there were wheelwrights, saddlers, coopers, sawyers, blacksmiths, carpenters, joiners and stone masons. The brickworks was operating alongside the quarrying of local sandstone. There were glaziers, painters and builders. Most of the work was heavy manual employment.

The old age pension was introduced in January 1909 at the rate of 5/- per week for a single person and 7/6d for a married couple. Claimants had to have an income of less than £31.10s per annum, be resident for at least 20 years and pass a character test. Those who had not worked or had been released from prison less than ten years before, or were already in receipt of 'Poor Relief', did not qualify. To avoid the stigma, the payments were made at The Post Office to show that there was no connection with 'Poor Relief'. A man could be listed as an agricultural labourer aged 80+, with no retirement in view. Many cottages were tied to the job as well.

Among the lighter jobs were quite a few dressmakers, milliners, shoe and boot makers and repairers, a clock repairer and a tailor. The Post Office had a counter service for receipt and delivery of letters and parcels and a telegraph clerk. One of the more modern jobs was that of cycle repairer but not yet any mechanics, although there was a locomotive engineer and a photographer. Ruyton had its own brewery as well as four pubs, a dealer in fish as well as four shopkeepers and five bakers.

The Church had a Vicar and the Chapel a Congregational Minister to tend to spiritual needs. The Church committees were the organisers of help to the poor. Clothing was collected and distributed, and a soup kitchen started in the winter. Help was also given to kit out children going into service which meant making sure they had a change of clothes and a good pair of shoes. The health needs were covered by a doctor, nurse and a midwife, with a police sergeant, to take care of other aspects of life.

The 2020 Survey of Occupations by Yoland Brown

Analysis of participants to the 1911 - 2020 Ruyton People Project

The number of people listed in the Electoral Roll in
March 2020 978

People who took part in the research 161

Men 79

Women 81

People currently working

Working from home 55

Travelling to work 54 Including those who travel & work from home 7

Retired people 60

Retired Men 31

Retired Women 29

2020 Occupations of those currently working

Admin Assistant, part time	Engineer, electrical
Admin - NHS	Events production & marketing
Agricultural contractor	Events production & marketing
Architect designer	Farm Manager
Author, local history	Farmer
Bank employee	Farmer
Barrister, Consultant, Trainer	Farmer & Contractor
B&B proprietor	Farmer & Mortgage Advisor
B&B proprietor	Fitness Instructor
Bespoke furniture maker	Florist
Builder	Gardener
Cafe proprietor	Gardener
Car Dealer	Graphic Designer
Care worker, Florist	Ground Maintenance
Chief examiner, Writer	Headmaster
Child carer	Health Care Assistant
Councillor	Heavy goods transport
Conservationist	Heavy goods transport
Consultant chemical & care industry	Holiday Accommodation
Consultant cyber security	Illustrator & creative designer
Contractor, Groundwork	Intelligence Analysis, Company Director
Director, health & safety	Intern, museum & art gallery
Director, tourism company	IT Recruitment
Director – Taxi company	Manager – activity centre
Director – taxi company	Manager – Contract Telecom Services
Electrician	Manager – Egg packing company
Electrician	Manager – Planning & Catering Production
Engineer, electrical	Manager - vehicle sales

Nursery Nurse
 Nurse
 Office Accounts
 Ordained Minister
 Product Manager
 Production manager, bespoke framing
 Project Manager
 Property Development
 Publican
 Publican
 Publisher
 Quality Control. Also stud worker
 Revenue Tax Officer
 Sales – office Supplies
 School Cleaner & Kitchen Assistant
 School maintenance
 School Supervisor & Cleaner
 Scientific editor
 Skin care ambassador
 Social Worker, Councillor, & Teacher
 Solicitor
 School support staff
 School support staff

Teacher
 Teacher
 Teacher – brass instruments
 Teacher – drums & Singing & Climbing instructor
 Teacher – geography
 Teacher – IT
 Teacher – maths
 Teacher – maths, Secondary
 Teacher – PE
 Teacher – primary school
 Teacher – primary school
 Teacher – singing
 Teacher – supply & exam invigilator
 Student Teacher
 Teaching Assistant, Special Needs
 Technical author
 Tree Surgeon & Garden Services
 University manager
 Vicar & Teacher
 Walking environment officer
 Warehouse Worker
 Yoga Teacher & Holistic Health Practitioner



One village Home Office
in 2020



2020 -Occupation of retired people before retirement

Accounts Clerk, Domestic Administrator	Local and family history researcher
Architect	Manager – Business & Bursar
Architect & Fine Book Binder	Manager - Construction
Barrister	Manager – Dairy
Bricklayer & Plasterer	Newspaper Reporter
Care Officer – Adults with learning difficulties	Nurse
Child minder	Nurse - Senior Cardiac
Chiropractor	Nursery Nurse
Company Director	Nursing Auxiliary, Secretary
Construction	Nursing Sister
Decorators` Merchant	Online Teaching Service
Engineer	Parish Clerk
Engineer – Civil, Water	Physicist – Rubber & Plastics
Engineer – Electrical, Power Generation	Postal machine operator – Teacher
Engineer – Electronics	Research Assistant & Lab Technician
Engineer – Highways & Sewerage	Rubber Technologist
Engineer - Mechanical	School Lab Technician
Farmer	Secretary & PA
Farmer	Senior Social Worker
Farmer`s wife	Solicitor
Farmer`s wife	Teacher
Florist – wedding work	Teacher
General Practitioner	Teacher
Golf Club Green Keeper	Teacher – Catering
Head of Planning Office, Industry	Teacher – English & History
Hygeologist & Mining Geologist	Teacher & Gardener
IT Project Manager	Teacher – Headmaster
Lecturer – Building Construction	Theraputic Radiographer
Livestock Buyer	

Voluntary work done by participants who are retired or still working

Some people are involved in several areas of voluntary work

After school helper	Parish Council, Shrewsbury Food Hub volunteer
Betula (Silver Birch) Arboretum	Parish newsletter
Church flowers, Art Group & Extend	Parish Council Vice Chair
Cleaner Victoria Room & Church flowers	Parochial Church Council
Cliffe Crew & Church working party	Parochial Church Council, Church Working
Cliffe Garden Club	Group, Cliffe Choir, Parish Council – Safer
Community car driver	Roads group, RATS, Emergency defibrillator
Dial a Ride driver	team, Cliffe Crewe, Spinney maintenance,
Family & Local History researcher	BTO & SOS Bird Surveys, Web design,
Friends of Oswestry Library	maintenance, & Admin for church, Parish
Fundraiser, Greyhound Trust	Council & Ruyton Facebook, School Open
Fundraiser, MS Society	Book bible stories drama
Fundraising for special needs & Hope House	Posters & publicity for Ruyton clubs & events
Home Grown Show	Rotary Club
Licensed Lay Preacher, Scottish Dance Classes,	Ruyton Calling, U3A, Friends of Oswestry Library
School Open Book assemblies	Ruyton Remembered facebook page
Macmillan fundraiser	School governor
National Gardens Scheme open Garden	Scouts Caving advisor
National Gardens Scheme open Garden, Ruyton	Secretary Ruyton WI, Church Parochial Church
Mailing List, Local History researcher	Council, Shrewsbury Diabetics UK
National Gardens Scheme open Garden	Shropshire Mental Health forum
National Gardens Scheme open garden & Hardy	Soup kitchen & Riding for the Disabled
Plant Society	St. Chad's Church Shrewsbury, Parochial Church
National Gardens Scheme open garden & Vice	Council
Chair Ruyton History Society	Treasurer for several groups
National Trust Volunteer	Trustee Arts Councilor
NHS Volunteer	Trustee Shrewsbury Street Pastors
Organist	Village Hall Committee
Parish Council	Visit elderly people in the village
Parish Council Chairman	WI
Parish Council, Conservation tree planting	WI
Parish Council, Fairshare Credit Union	WI
Parish Council & School Gardener	WI committee & Admin of Cliffe Community
Parish Council – Rights of Way & Shropshire	Choir
Ramblers	WI, Garden & History Clubs, Village Hall
Parish Council, School Governor, Citizens Advice,	
Creative Arts Studio for adults with mental	
health	

The 2020 Survey A Moment in Time by Yoland Brown

The two most startling changes in the last 109 years are:

- 1). The variety of occupations that are carried on in the village today compared to the restricted range needed for a self sufficient community then.
- 2). The number of retired people in the village, many of whom are very involved in several areas of voluntary work.

Sadly, our sample is relatively small but hopefully will illustrate the mix of occupations today. However, it should be borne in mind that there may be bias in respect of which people responded.

There were teachers in the village in 1911 and today the number of people involved in this work is accounted for by having a private school in the village. The number of engineers, both working and retired, is an interesting observation. There is a significant number of people working in the caring and counselling profession, serving needs perhaps not required in 1911 when people largely had the support of extended family.

There are also such unheard of occupations a hundred years ago such as Yoga Teacher, Fitness Instructor and Event Manager, although the traditional Gardener, Farmer & Publican are still with us.

As there always has been in Ruyton, there are many people who run their own business from home, not the milliners and shoe menders of 1911 but many services and IT enterprises which would have been unthinkable 20 years ago. Thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, our village won a place in the 2012 BT Race to Infinity competition which enabled us to have fantastic fibre optic access to the web which makes so many modern small businesses possible today.

COVID 19

It is interesting to imagine how the people in 1911 would have managed with a pandemic, compared to our way today.

How people in the village coped in their different ways during the pandemic we have experienced in 2020, would be another very interesting subject for study. I have done this for a group of 26 friends, now in our 80s, who worked and partied together in the early 1960s.