

THE STORY SO FAR

Newbold is a small village, at the north-western edge of Leicestershire, and the eastern part of the Leicestershire and South Derbyshire coalfields. It now has about 250 houses. The chimney pictured, is of the once-working brickworks and is now a significant landmark. There are some small businesses and a few working farms. The local Pub and the C of E Primary School are the major features of the main street.



Newbold is a rather lovely, quiet and pleasant place to live.

Whilst oblique references to Newbold exist in other historical texts relating to this area, there are no specific places where the details of this village are gathered together. We have begun to change this. In 2010, a group of local people started a project to document the history of the village of Newbold Coleorton.

Staunton Harold

The hamlet of Staunton Harold, a dozen houses in all, nestles in a corner of north west Leicestershire, close to the Derbyshire border. For five hundred years it was at the core of the Staunton Harold Estate, and the hall was home to the Shirley family, who became Earls Ferrers. Earl Ferrers is a title in the Peerage of Great Britain. It was created in 1711 for Robert Shirley, 13th Baron Ferrers of Chartley. The Shirley family descends from George Shirley (died 1622) of Astwell Castle, Northamptonshire. In 1611 he was created a Baronet, of Staunton Harold in the County of Leicester, in the Baronetage of England. The earldom of Ferrers is the senior earldom in the Peerage of Great Britain. The family seat is Ditchingham Hall north of the village

Newbold is often referred to as Newbold Coleorton to differentiate it from the other lesser Newbold villages in England.

Newbold lies between the original Estates of Staunton Harold and of Viscount Beaumont, and was not always a village. 'Kelly's Directory of the Homestead', published in the early 1900's, describes Newbold as a Liberty. A liberty was a manor, or group of manors, or other area, outside the jurisdiction of the sheriff.

For a period of nearly a thousand years, the mining industry was of huge importance to the area. Newbold and nearby Coleorton and Swannington were significant centres of early coal-mining activity. The coal reserves appear at the surface in some areas and are deeply buried in others.

The effect of the mining in NW Leicestershire -

- shaped the landscape
- led to the growth of the population
- influenced the building of the canals, tramways and railways

In addition, the Beaumont family fortunes in the 15th and 16th Centuries (which enabled them to build Coleorton Hall), and the later fortunes of businessmen like George Stephenson and his son Robert, came from these coal deposits.

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At the peak of Newbold's expansion in the 19th century, over 2000 people were employed in village industries. Many did not live here. They walked, or rode on carts and wagons up to 10 miles, from their homes in the surrounding region.

Newbold was one of the first villages with street lighting, and also one of the first with household electricity, supplied, of course, by the New Lount Colliery.

During World War II, from 1st January 1943 to 31st May 1946, East Midlands Airport was an RAF Station for transport planes. It was associated with RAF Wymeswold. Because the Station was a Luftwaffe target, the cars from nearby Donington Race Track were stored in Newbold, to keep them away from German bombs. In the years after 1964 the RAF site was redesigned as East Midlands Airport.

