

This factory, founded in 1892, produced enamelled, galvanised, tinned and japanned hollowware under the 'Monarch' brand. A later range of buildings in Hill Street was designed by Hugh Ernest Folkes, architect and surveyor to the Lye Urban District Council.

Monarch Works

HOMECH

MONARCH

homas Robinson.

One of the oldest chain making firms in the area was that of Thomas Perrins at Careless Green, Wollescote. As inscribed on the gables the building was 'Established in 1770' and 'Re-built in 1906' probably to a design

Perrins Chain Works, Careless Green

Erected in 1882, as indicated by the stone plaque above the window, the exterior of the building has a rather grim factory look about it and, indeed, is now used as industrial units.

Wollescote Board School

Opened in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, a fact acknowledged by the inscription beneath the three gables. Unlike many other schools in Lye and Wollescote, this is still in existence as a school.

Wollescote Primary School

BELOW: Bethel Chapel, C1920s, before

designed by Owen Freeman, was built in 1900 and is still going strong today.

The Bethel Society, formed in 1891, held its early services in the home of Charles Thomas Dickens, one of its founder members. Eventually the Bethel Chapel,

Bethel Chapel, Hill Street

On the left of Springfield Avenue is Wollescote Park which opened in 1932, given as a gift to the people of Lye & Wollescote by wealthy local industrialist, Ernest Stevens. You may catch a glimpse of historic Wollescote Hall through the trees.

Wollescote Park and Hall

hammers were installed during the 19th century.

forge began operations on the banks of the River

family controlled business for over 250 years. The

The oldest manufactory in Lye, started by Joseph Folkes in the late 17th century, and a continuous

Folkes' Lye Forge

Stour, a convenient form of power, and steam

Built in 1938 in a neo-Georgian style, the building has an interesting plaque over the doorway with the inscription 'Wigorniensis Comitatus' representing the Latin form of Worcestershire.

Police Station (former)

hildren. Designed by Thomas Grazebrook,

an infants' only school in 1884-1885 for 200

This small former Board School was erected as

Cemetery Road Infants' School

minted at Lye Forge

RIGHT: A penny token

LEFT: Wollescote Hall

TAAT2



Built in 1878 from local brick and stone, this handsome Victorian-Gothic styled building was designed by Stourbridge architect, Thomas Robinson. It comprises a pair of Anglican and Nonconformist chapels with a central entrance. The Superintendent's house to the left central entrance.

-ye & Wollescote Cemetery Chapels

Built in 1880, this former vicarage was the home of the Rev. Arthur Gardener Lewis, Vicar of St. Mark's Church, Stambermill for thirty-two years. He died in 1933 and was buried in the nearby cemetery. The building now offers retirement and sheltered housing accommodation.

Stambermill House, Cemetery Road

is contemporary with the building.

A late 19th century former metalworking manufactory which produced nails, chains, anvils and frost cogs over a long period. The building has now been converted into separate apartments.

Perry & Brooks

Perry
manufac
chains, e

ABOVE: Typical Perry &

Trail, beginning by exiting the Car Park at the rear of Christ Church and continuing along Lye By-pass, A458 Orchard Lane (one-way system). Allow 30 minutes with stops.

The Lye & Wollescote

With the demand for hand-made nails in decline in the early 19th century, other industries sprang up: chain-making, brick-making, galvanising and, in particular, the hollowware trade and the production of frost cogs. The success and prosperity which these trades brought to the town was reflected in its fine buildings, many constructed around the turn of the 19th/20th centuries. Their distinctive architecture was largely due to two men: Owen Freeman, manager of a local brickworks and accomplished architect, and Thomas Robinson of Stourbridge, designer of the Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels opened in 1879.

A century ago the High Street, dominated then as now by Rhodes Buildings, was a thriving thoroughfare with shops of every description, many of them family-run businesses. Tailors, drapers and milliners intermingled with butchers, bakers, grocers, fruiterers and fishmongers with several public houses thrown in for good measure.

With massive redevelopment in the 1960s, the High Street of today has changed considerably, but above its modern shop fronts and amongst its exotic eating places, its hidden history and architecture can still be found.

Additional Driving Tour:

For more of Lye & Wollescote's historic buildings, a short drive will take you on a circular tour of some of its former factories, 19th century schools, its handsome Cemetery Chapels and a glimpse of ancient Wollescote Hall. How to find
The Lye & Wollescote:

The Black Country townships of The Lye & Wollescote are situated due east of Stourbridge within easy reach of the M5, where the A458 and A4306 cross.



Parking for the Town Walking Trail, and the start of the short Driving Tour, is to the rear of Christ Church off the A458 Lye By-pass, Orchard Lane. Access to Lye High Street is via a short alleyway alongside the Church. Refreshments are available at 'The Windsor Castle' near Lye Cross.

Step back in time and discover more about the people from the past on the 'History in the Headstones' Lye & Wollescote Cemetery Trail. Pick up a leaflet at Lye Library in the High Street or from 'The Hadcroft' on the A4036, approx. 500 yards beyond Cemetery Road.

Leaflet published by the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust as part of the project to conserve the Lye & Wollescote Cemetery Chapels, with thanks for the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and other charitable organisations.

Books:

The Lye &Wollescote Cemetery and Chapels: History of aVictorian Cemetery The Lost Twenty Nine:WW1 Commemorative book (See website for stockists)

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heritage lottery fund The Lye & Wollescote Heritage Trail

The Lye & Wollescote HISTORY TRAILS

Walking and Driving Routes

Discover the Union in Sory and architecture of Lye High Street

he township of Lye, according to medieval records, derives its name from the Saxon word 'ley' or 'lea' signifying untilled land or pasture. On a map of 1625 the area is shown as 'Ye Lye' and up to the present day it has always been referred to by its inhabitants as 'The Lye'. 'Wulfhere' was an Anglo-Saxon personal name which, in 1275, became 'Wulfrescote' and subsequently 'Wollescote'.

In the mid 17th century a community of impoverished squatters settled on an area of common land known as the 'Waste' situated about half a mile from the centre of the main hamlet of The Lye. They built their crude 'mud' dwellings from the clay found in that area, and began making nails as a domestic industry. They isolated themselves from the rest of the inhabitants and it was the building of the first nonconformist chapel on the Waste, and later Christ Church in High Street, which eventually drew the two communities together.