Welcome to Marehay

We invite you to read on and find out more about the history of this area.

The village of Marehay is located on land which in the 13th century was owned by Ralph de Wyteleg, who was named in a Charter in 1230. Over the centuries this name has evolved to Whiteley.

Mary Hay Parc was granted to the Zouch family of Codnor Castle in 1542 after the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. Marehay Hall is situated close to Street Lane.

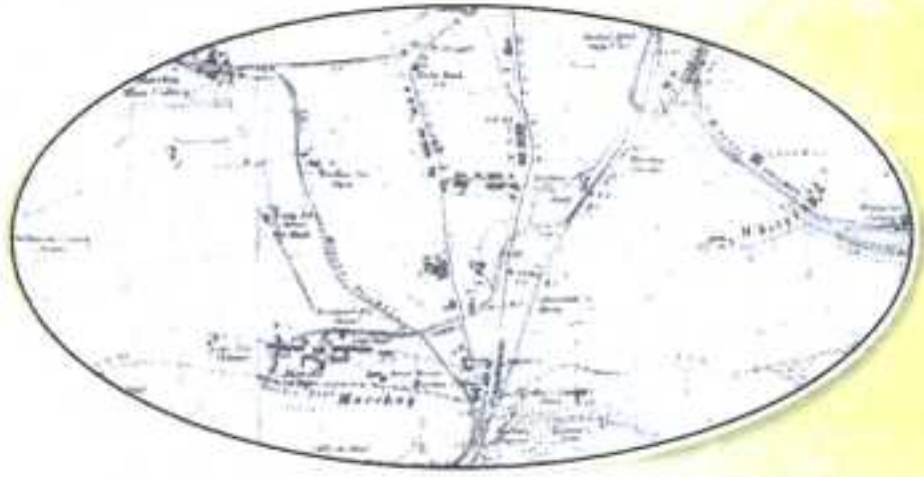
Brook Lane was named after Johnny's Brook which was probably named after the church and school on Derby Road. The brook crosses Derby Road near to Bowler Street and eventually flows into the Coppice Brook.



St John's Church in 1906 from B Wood's book

St John's Church started life as a corrugated sheet construction in 1871. The foundation stones of the brick church were laid in 1873. St John's Church closed in 1987 and it was sold to the Pentecostal Church, who renamed it as The Springs of Living Water in 1990.

The Saint John's Church of England Primary School was built by the Butterley Company and opened in 1865. Many will remember the Head Teacher Mr Shipman and the former Mayor of Ripley Mr Emmas-Williams as teacher. The school closed in 1970 and a new school was built on Dannah Street in Ripley.



Whiteley is one of the oldest named areas in the whole of Ripley. Marehay Miners' Welfare was built on the site of Whiteley Colliery which was started around 1835 and closed in 1936. There were many small coal mines in the area, including Ford's Pit that was used for pumping water out of adjoining mines until just after the Second World War. Ford's Pit was close to the Cricket Ground and there are still some remains near the path from Weston Spot to Marehay "City", as the terraced miners' housing in the area was known.

Brook Lane and Warmwells Lane was the main road between Derby and Ripley until the A61 was built. There is still a toll bar pillar at Weston Spot. This area of green was originally a pinfold for wandering livestock.

Marehay Colliery started around 1860 and was sold to Butterley Company in 1860. It was opposite the site of the Miners Arms, now known as the Village Inn.



The last freight train at Marehay crossing 1963

The railway line from Little Eaton reached Marehay in 1856, crossing the road at what is now Marehay Garage. The line was used by the Marehay collieries as it went to a turntable and station on Peasehill Road. With the need for passenger traffic from Ripley Town Centre, the line was extended in 1890 to Ripley Station on Nottingham Road. Marehay crossing was closed in 1963 and the line converted into a footpath, known as Ripley Greenway.

Marehay's best known son was footballer Alfred Strange, born on 2 April 1900. After leaving school he worked at Whiteley Colliery. His early soccer was played with Peasehill Rovers, Codnor Rangers and Marehay Colliery as a free-scoring centre-forward. He made his international debut before 87,375 people at Wembley against Scotland on 5 April 1930. He died suddenly aged 78, on 3 October 1978.



Alfred Strange

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