

## 1. INTRODUCTION

About eight years ago, a small group of local Oakwood residents started meeting to talk about the history of the district. Particular interest focussed on the gravestones of St. John's Church as it was considered that many of the influential people who had made their homes in the growing township of Roundhay had ended their days in this cemetery. This early project culminated in the production of a comprehensive record in booklet form of the monumental inscriptions of those buried at St. John's.

From this beginning it was realised there was much of interest to be discovered about the people whose lives had been spent in the formative years of the district and particularly about Roundhay, the early township and Royal Deer Park. The group expanded after it was proposed that we delve further into local history. Once it was apparent that a wealth of information was becoming available the decision was taken to produce a series of booklets containing contributions by the various members.

Here then, are our first leaves of individual contributions on Oakwood, the rather vaguely defined area based on the clock at the heart of this leafy suburb of Leeds.

We are indebted to many sources for information gleaned in our researches. We are not qualified historians or writers and each contribution bears the individual's style (and mistakes! - hopefully not too many!). The sources of information are in some cases listed but we all made use of, to some extent, and received help from Wool Yorkshire Archives Service, Leeds City Local History Library and the Ralph Thoresby Society.

Those who have contributed to the production of this and our subsequent booklets so far, include Barbara Barr, Geoff Hall, Neville Hurworth, Valerie Ives, Marilyn Joyce, Andrew and Rowland Jones, Peter Kelley, Murray Mitchell, Joan Newiss, Anne Wilkinson, Jeanne Wrigglesworth, Barbara Worthington, and our driving force, Hilary Dyson. We also must thank Brian Godward for the use of his picture on the front cover and Delroy Goodison - Creative Print for kindly type-setting this booklet.

Inevitably, there will be gaps in our knowledge which readers may be able to fill. For this, and for those who would like to join us in the ongoing work, comments and enquiries, should be directed to Hilary Dyson at 30 Park Avenue, Leeds, LS8 2JH, or on 0113 2657029.

Finally, we decided to publish our work in a series of booklets to be sold at a reasonable price, sufficient to cover costs and yet enough to make a donation to St. Gemma's Hospice.