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31

The Richmond Review

being the Annual Report of the

Richmond and District Civic Society 2008



Richmond and District Civic Society

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Cover: the final day of the A1 Open Summer Art Exhibition at The Station, August 2008
Mark Whyman

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Chairman's Report

Fred Wood

Since last summer we are encouraged that now we have visible results of the efforts of Richmond people to improve our town.

In November, The Station opened its doors with the two main elements in place: namely, the restaurant/café unit and the two-screen cinema complex. I suspect the former was slightly overwhelmed by numbers as we all sampled its offerings, while local people and, indeed, others from further afield soon began to appreciate the modern cinema so close to hand. Other enterprises have since come on stream to widen the range of services on offer.

Richmond Open Spaces Appeal (ROSA) is now improving the facilities on the areas of land it now owns and its efforts have recently been recognised by the Town Council with an Investors in Richmond Award.

Both of these groups have still to pay off outstanding loans, for which they continue to require our support. The Society did in fact provide significant funding to both groups in their early days.

We also provided funds to Save Our Shire (SOS), and of course played an active role in opposing the District Council's plans for Yorke Square and office development at Colburn. The action of SOS was vindicated by the recent withdrawal of the Council's plans following the Judicial Review. A consultation process is currently in hand, which we hope will lead to the refurbishment of Yorke Square as a major riverside car park.

The other major development is the implementation of the Richmond Heritage Partnership Scheme, particularly in the Market Place. This is a large-scale project for the Richmond Swale Valley Community Initiative (RSVCI) and Colin Grant, using funding of several hundred thousand pounds. This supports schemes to bring back the upper floors in the Market Place into use as office accommodation and to relate facades of buildings more accurately to the Georgian period, in terms of design and colour. Holy Trinity Tower is now floodlit and other landmarks are scheduled to be illuminated in due course.

Through RSVCI a report has been prepared entitled Woodland Management Plan and Habitat Study. A wide range of options is presented which will form the basis of a long term programme of improvements to the landscape and its usage. An area of particular interest is the riverside which will relate to the hoped-for refurbishment of Yorke Square. We are also in favour of bringing the views around Richmond to be more in keeping with the traditional images of the town.

John McDonald joined our committee at the AGM last December. He is

chairman of SOS and so brings a lot of expertise to our discussions. Linda Drury wished to resign as Editor of the Review. We are delighted that John McDonald agreed to take on this onerous task with his wife Tina and Dorothy Clague. We are deeply indebted to Linda for her many years of work as our editor, and of course we thank Graham Merlane for his help in overseeing the technical aspects of the production of the Review.

Bev Joicey and his committee have provided us with the usual high quality talks and this year we had a joint lecture with Richmondshire Museum. We have just had a very successful trip to Shandy Hall as our summer outing. Very fortunately the weather was kind to us, despite the unsettled summer we are having this year.

Of course our day-to-day development in the area's affairs is through our planning sub-committee. This, under John Clarke, works very closely with the District Council planners, and we thank all members of the committee for their dedication to the task of representing us in this field. John is also a member of other bodies acting in this important heritage-orientated sphere.

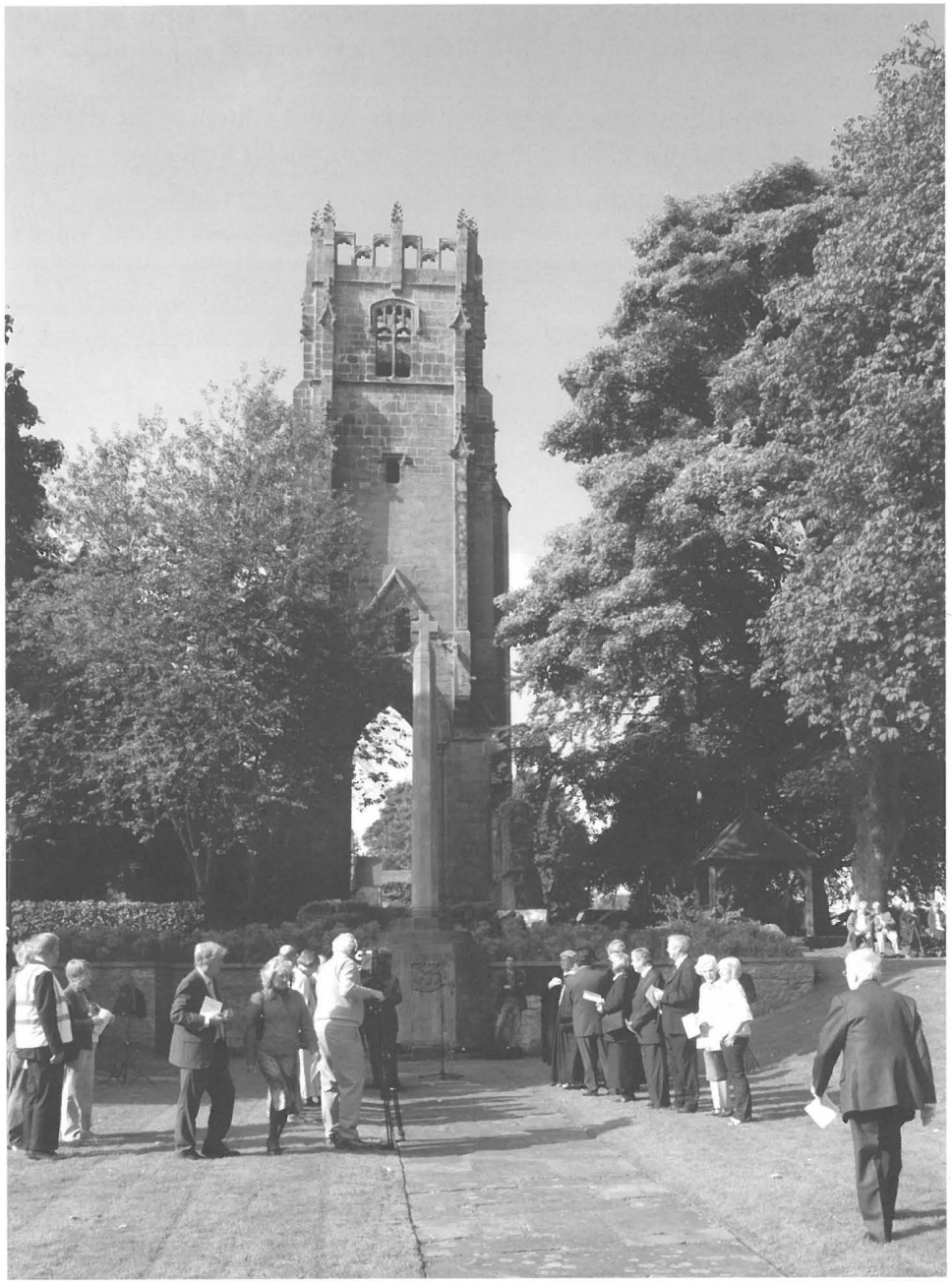
This year is the 750th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Friary. The events are being overseen by Churches Together in Richmond and Tony Pelton is the events coordinator. Mike Wood has researched and written a new book on the Friary. The society's contribution has been to fund the publication of this book together with the District and Town Councils. The main religious and civic event will be on September 27th.

We are very pleased that the unveiling of the plaque on Quaker Lane to the two airmen killed in the crash in December 1942 was very well supported, notably by RAF personnel, both active and retired and from many parts of the country. We were delighted that the nephew of the pilot was able to come and unveil the plaque. We also welcomed the support of the Mayor, John Robinson, and the Town Council for providing refreshments in the Town Hall.

The 20mph Traffic Management Scheme is completed, though whether it or traffic volume is the main determining factor for actual traffic speed is debatable. Along with others we have made known our objections to the chicane in Victoria Road and the final design for this restriction zone is a better solution. We have yet to see what are the plans for further residential parking zones in the town.

We have been in touch with County Hall about the progress on the new school and in particular about the future of Lower School. At the moment there is a review of this project due to the predicted costs in excess of the budget. So we await news on this front and the future of Lower School will then follow later.

Building at Catterick Garrison is proceeding apace. Accommodation for



September 27th: people arrive for the ecumenical service commemorating the 750th Anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Friary

service personnel and the new leisure complex are well in hand. But of course, we are more concerned with the 'town centre' development and its impact on Richmond.

May I thank all those who have contributed to this edition of the Review, and the committee joins with me in thanking members for their support in the past year.

August 2008



The society's plaque to mark the place where Flight Lieutenant W.J. Hunt and Flight Sergeant H. Gysel lost their lives when their Beaufighter Mark VIF crashed on December 14th 1942

Collectanea[1]

Editors

As mentioned by the Chairman in his report, this year has seen the restoration of buildings in the Market Place progress with real distinction, gradually creating a more unified townscape. Worthy of particular note are the upper elevation of No.28 Market Place and No.15 Frenchgate, the former re-instating stone detailing and the latter using original lime mortar render. Many residents have welcomed Castle Hill Bookshop's new, more traditional frontage. Angus Morton's traditional lettering is aesthetically pleasing: the use of traditional styles and materials provides a model that other shops can now follow.



Restoration of 28 Market Place



Restoration of 15 Frenchgate

The experiment by the King's Head to bring café society to the town is both brave and overdue. If the experiment is to become permanent, we hope that the materials and construction of the café space will be more in keeping with the hotel building and Market Place. We would hate the 'pig pen' nickname to continue.

Richmond's other major achievement has been The Station, now operating successfully and very much a part of the town's social fabric. The film festival and the A1 Open Summer Art Exhibition, in particular, have been highlights and we hope that both will become permanent features of The Station programme.



Pig pen or café society?

The town's historians have been especially prolific this year. John Culpan's booklet, 'The Life and Work of George Townsend Andrews', the architect of The Station, Mercury Bridge and The Grammar School, has very successfully given an historical context to this eastern area of Richmond. Equally, the Friary Anniversary has been supported by the publication of Mike Wood's booklet, 'The Friary 1258-2008'. Mark Whyman, a third Richmond historian, has published his study, 'The Pennymans of Ormesby', a comprehensive document of the most recent years of Ormesby Hall and its occupants, Ruth and Colonel Jim Pennyman. In March this year, Mark was able to present a much appreciated copy to the National Trust. Finally, in the Georgian Theatre's 220th anniversary year, a lavish history has been produced by trustee, Doug Waugh, and theatre manager, Vaughn Curtis, with contributions from historian, Jane Hatcher, and theatre volunteer, Jim Russell.

As an addition to Mike Wood's article on the Friary, it was pleasing to see that two heritage awards have been won by the Friary Gardens. In addition to the Green Flag Award, the Green Heritage Site Accreditation has been given in recognition of the Gardens' historic features and standards of conservation.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Richmond has been nominated by The Daily Telegraph this year as 'one of the top 10 market towns in the country'. The Sunday Times also selected it as one of its top five tourist destinations, praising The Georgian Theatre, The Station, the Green Howards Regimental Museum and the Castle ('it really is a dazzler'). Even the Prime Minister

followed the trend by selecting John Aldridge's watercolour of Richmond to grace the walls of No.10!

However, traffic remains an unresolved issue in the town. The removal of the chicane in Victoria Road is to be welcomed as a small triumph for common sense but the 20mph speed restriction in the town centre is yet to be obeyed or enforced. Meanwhile, the whole traffic system baffles visitors and irritates residents.

North Country Theatre, based in the town, has achieved world-wide recognition this year: '39 Steps', adapted and directed by Nobby Dimon, has been staged at venues including London, Athens, Tel Aviv and Broadway.

The year has also seen Richmond Garden Club securely established by Anna Jackson, the organiser of the Richmond Open Gardens Scheme and, on a linked theme, St. Mary's Tree Exhibition has brought together very many of the town's societies and community groups.

Richmond's branch of The University of the Third Age has celebrated its tenth anniversary this year. Originally initiated by Grace Buckle, she remains its president.

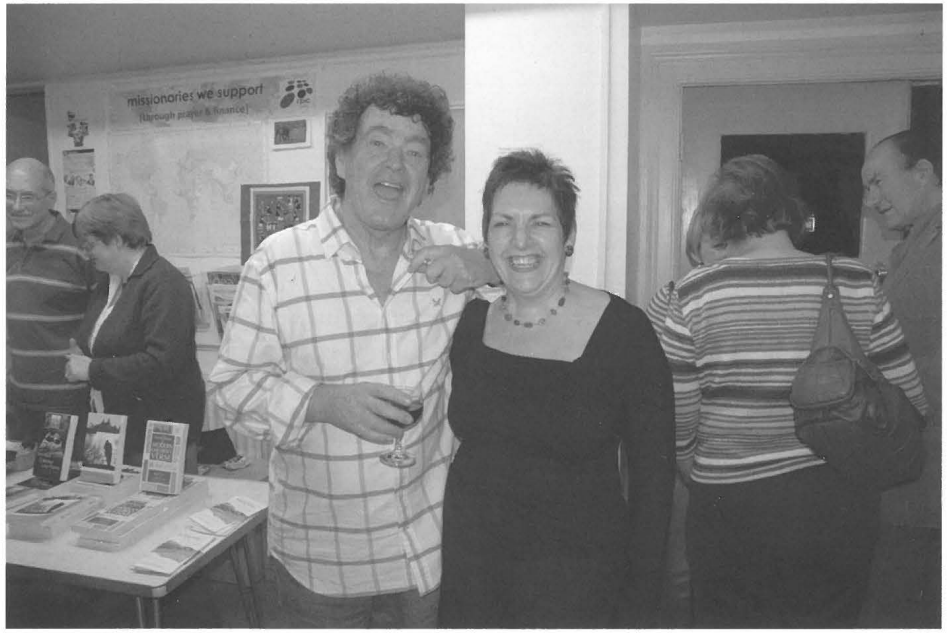
Richmond Museum is currently raising £3,800 in an attempt to ensure that a 14th century silver seal matrix remains in the town: we hope that they get the support needed to achieve their target. One successful venture already achieved has been the recreation of the original Fenwick's shop which stood in Frenchgate. Opened by Mr. Fenwick's great-great-grandsons, James and John, the shop is the result of a two-year collaboration between Fenwicks and the Richmondshire Museum.

English Heritage bewildered the town by deciding to close the Castle at key points in the year. Thankfully, its decision has been reversed following the intervention of the District and Town Councils, along with other agencies. Plans are afoot to increase the cultural events held in the grounds of the Castle, in addition to the special events English Heritage already holds. New ways of floodlighting the Castle have also been explored. The town's economy should benefit enormously from this collaboration.

Following the District Council's appointment of a joint Chief Executive with Hambleton, there has developed a noticeably more collaborative approach to decision making. A significant sign of this has been the public consultation on Yorke Square Car Park. At the time of writing, the refurbishment programme has not been finalised but we do welcome the change and hope to see it as the District Council's *modus operandi* for future developments in the town. The District Council has also significantly improved morale by initiating Citizenship Awards which have brought recognition to a wide range of groups and individuals who would otherwise go unthanked.

Historians will have noted with interest the District Council's surrender of its traditional burgage rights in the town. It is hoped that The Burgage Committee will now be in a better position to win grants for conservation projects.

The year has been punctuated by a succession of events which now characterise the town's calendar. We were pleased to see Richmond being the venue for a full day's events in The Swaledale Festival; equally, the Boot and Book Festival is uniting the town and the Dale as well as attracting national figures in the literary world. A particular debt of gratitude is owed to 'What's On' and its editor, Gillian Howells. This bi-monthly listing of events acts as the glue which holds together the town's disparate and, at times, frenetic activity.



Festival organiser, Gillian Howells, with poet, Brian Patten, whose successful evening of poetry readings opened the Walking and Book Festival in September

Richmond's historic link with the military was celebrated when the Second Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment was presented with the freedom of the town by the Mayor, Councillor Judith Steggles. The degree to which this link is rooted in the community was witnessed by the large turnout of residents to support the parade.

On a lighter and warmer note, we were delighted that Prince Charles has followed up his visit in 2005 by investing heavily in six pairs of gloves from Swaledale Woollens, one pair to be kept in each of the royal residences. A link to foster.

Continuing the theme of loyal flag waving, we note that Ken Warne's unsuccessful attempt to fly the Yorkshire flag and advertise Yorkshire fare has been vindicated: now we are all allowed to fly our flags without first obtaining planning permission.

Finally, a genuine tribute to Jo Jackson, who has flown the flag for Richmond when she not only represented the UK at the Beijing Olympics but also came home with a bronze medal for the 400m freestyle swimming event. As we go to press, arrangements have been made for members of the public to greet Jo in the Market Place before a reception in the Town Hall given by the Mayor, Cllr. Judith Steggles.



Olympic medal winner, Jo Jackson, signs the Distinguished Visitors' Book in the presence of the Mayor, Cllr. Judith Steggles

[1] Collectanea: collected writings; also: literary items forming a collection (1791).

750th Anniversary of the Friary

Mike Wood

I was asked last year by Tony Pelton, events co-ordinator for the 750th Anniversary, to produce an up-to-date history of the Friary that could be published and distributed as part of the celebrations that were planned.

Other histories have been written previously, notably in Christopher Clarkson's History of Richmond (1821), The Rev. Henry Lawrence (1908) and Bernard Jenning's publication in 1958 to coincide with the 700th Anniversary. I was fortunate to locate at the County Records Office some information on the work carried out in 1942 by Edwin Bush. He was at the time history master at Richmond Grammar School and carried out some excavations with the help of his pupils. He was incidentally at about the same time involved with the reopening of the Georgian Theatre. He concludes his notes written in 1943 with the statement: 'There is a terrific lot to be found here.' Further information came from On-site Archaeology when they were employed to oversee the development of the Co-op supermarket and the Friary Hospital in 1997. Both of these investigations have convinced me that there is still much more archaeological work that could be done. The nave and south aisle should be excavated and hopefully would provide some evidence of the local aristocratic and prominent citizens who were interred within, complete perhaps with their sepulchral slabs.

The 700th Anniversary was celebrated on June 22nd 1958. There was a procession to and service held in the Friary grounds. Over 5,000 people attended the service which included a solemn pontifical mass conducted by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Middlesbrough, Dr Brunner, for which six altars were set up around the tower. The Master Provincial of the Franciscans of England, Fr. Justin McLoughlin, took part and monks from Ampleforth formed the choir. The Mayor of Richmond, Councillor A. Dunkley, was accompanied by civic heads and dignitaries of several northern cities and towns.

Similarly this year on September 27th there will be a mass in celebration at St Joseph and Francis Xavier church followed by a procession to the Friary Gardens where an Ecumenical Service will take place. Afterwards the Mayor, Councillor Judith Steggles, will host a civic reception in the Town Hall. Guided walks have been arranged taking in places around the town that have links to the Friary and an information leaflet has been published.

The book, I hope, will encourage others to carry out further research. I was prompted into discovering more about Rev. Henry Lawrence who wrote one of the earlier histories. He was educated at Richmond Grammar School and entered

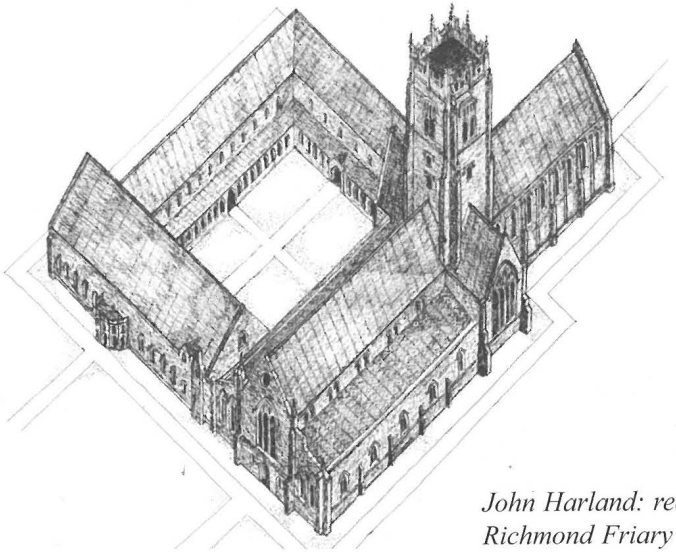
Queen's College, Oxford in 1890. He founded the Old Boys' Association in 1896 and did much research into the history of the school. Also of interest was the fact that he painted the heraldic shields at the terminals of the beams in Lower School dining hall (Big School).

The inclusion in the book of the establishment, in 1615, of a House of Correction at the Friary has renewed Ralph Waggett's interest and research into the North Riding Quarter Sessions. He has discovered and recorded many cases of local interest. The possible association of the Friary with John Wycliffe has prompted David Morris to publish his research into the origins of the family. The discovery that a Liturgical Calendar relating to the Richmond house still exists has led John Culpan to the Bodleian Library at Oxford where further research is required. Tony Pelton is anxious to explore the possibility of some non-intrusive excavation around the south aisle, which would enhance the work carried out by Edwin Bush. He would also like discussions to take place to see how much of the foundations could be exposed.

Below is my interpretation of the Friary at the time of the surrender of the house in 1538, with thanks to local artist John Harland. Hopefully, in the not too distant future we will be able to carry out some archaeological excavation and add to our knowledge of this important site.

August 2008

The Friary Book, which was sponsored by the RDCS, the Town Council and the District Council is available from Richmond Tourist Information Centre, price £2, all the profits going to the Mayor's Alms House Charity.



John Harland: reconstruction of Richmond Friary

Richmond and the Wycliffes

David Morris, MBE

The Domesday Book can hardly be described as 'a good read' but it provides much valuable information about the many villages and hamlets of England at the time of the Conquest. Amongst the Yorkshire villages is a Saxon 'vill' named Witclive (Wycliffe) which is listed as being within the lands of Count Alan Rufus, builder of Richmond Castle and owner of the extensive Honour of Richmond. Wycliffe, as it came to be called, was a settlement on the south bank of the River Tees and in the 12th century or earlier it became the home of a family probably of Norman stock though possibly resident Saxons. From small beginnings, this family grew in numbers and status and by 1290 they had acquired the Hall and Manor of Wycliffe and an estate of 750 acres. Their village was in the Deanery of Richmond and though, over the years, the Wycliffe family became widely dispersed in North Yorkshire and South Durham they developed close links with the Richmond area. Perhaps the first to come and live locally was Alicia Wycliffe who married Geoffrey of Hudswell at the end of the 12th century. She was the daughter of Robert de Wycliffe and her father celebrated the wedding by gifting one bovate[1] of land at Thorpe for the benefit of his daughter and her heirs. Alicia had a brother named Roger and when he married into a Moulton family it established another local connection. These names of Robert and Roger were to be repeated a number of times in the Wycliffe family tree.

By the 13th century, the family had gained much local respect and this certainly applied to Sir Robert de Wycliffe, who was knighted for his war service as a man-at-arms and praised for his local jury service, which included being on the jury at an important inquisition regarding the extent of the Honour of Richmond. He married Johanna of Ellerton in Swaledale and one of their sons was John de Wycliffe who became an attorney and established a presence in the town of Richmond. With the arrival of the next generation, he was to become an uncle to another John who spent his early years in the quiet village of Wycliffe but was destined to be a national figure, described as 'The Reformer' and 'The Morning Star of the Reformation'. A highly strung but intelligent young man, this John had few friends and, as the historian H.B. Workman recalls, on the occasions when he was allowed to go to Richmond, it would have seemed to him a large town and he must have marvelled at its fairs, the Saturday markets of grain and the many visitors who thronged the market place. Yet it was a time of confusion and corruption in the Catholic Church and this was to have a lasting influence on his life. However, he also developed a bitter

hatred of the Scots who were causing great devastation in the area around his home. His father was a man-at-arms and John's upbringing was apparently left largely to his mother, Katherine, who no doubt relied on support from John's uncle, the attorney in Richmond.



Richmond Friary 2008

The building of the Franciscan Friary in 1258 was an important event in Richmond's history and it is right that this 750th year should be properly celebrated. Prompted by the teaching of their founder, St Francis, the early Franciscans who came to Richmond led a simple life relying for their subsistence on bequests and donations from well wishers. Capital and wealth were not for them and their main concern was the teaching and welfare of the local community, which brought them much respect. They had a study room and nearly every Franciscan house at that time had a Lecturer in Theology. Despite considerable debate amongst historians as to where John Wycliffe received his initial education, there is little doubt that at least some of his tuition must have been at the Richmond Friary. By the time he went to University he was a firm critic of the great wealth of the Catholic Church, the life style of the Church hierarchy and the political power of the Papal Court. This was much in line with the teachings of the early Franciscans.

John Wycliffe went to Oxford in 1340 and, by then, the University must have long recovered from an extraordinary event which had occurred some

time earlier. An art student there had accidentally killed a local woman and then run away. The mayor and townsfolk were unable to catch him and seized three innocent students who lived with him. They were hanged by the King's orders outside the walls and this created so much anger that 3,000 students and lecturers walked out of the university, some moving to Cambridge or Reading. Oxford University was left empty until the following term.

The story of John's life both at the University and later has been the subject of much historical writing but it is important to recall Wycliffe's links with John of Gaunt who frequented Richmond Castle in his early days. Gaunt was only an infant when he acquired the Earldom of Richmond in 1342 and his mother, Queen Philippa, acted as his guardian. He developed a love of hunting in the forests of Swaledale and he is known to have made presents of venison to the Wycliffe family. By the time he came of age, he made known his support for many of John Wycliffe's reformist views and certainly by 1372, when he relinquished the Earldom of Richmond, John Wycliffe had become his protégé. For Gaunt this was apparently a matter of political expediency but he needed a cleric as a confessor and from Wycliffe's point of view, he provided a useful protective role in subsequent years.

John Wycliffe had a brother Roger who was knighted following his service in the Battle of Crecy and, as John never married, it was left to Sir Roger to continue the family name and he and his wife were blessed with three grandsons who all served in the Battle of Agincourt along with a group of several hundred archers from Richmondshire. During the 15th century the Wycliffe family continued to spread over a wider area but Henry VIII came to the throne and, in 1536/7, there developed a serious period of unrest known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. This arose mainly because of the intended dissolution of the monasteries, but the trouble also arose because of land divisions and poor social conditions. The Wycliffe family seemed to maintain a low profile at this time, though some of the daughters had married into families involved in the unrest. The one Wycliffe known to be part of the trouble in the Dales was Henry who lived in Swaledale; he was brother-in-law of Sir Ralph Bulmer who was one of the local leaders. There were many executions and, though Henry was not taken, his friend Anthony Peacock, a leader of the unrest in Arkengarthdale, met his end on the gallows 'on Richmond Moor'. Richmond was very much involved in this troubled period and was used as a centre for local gatherings of the rebels but, in the end, the uprising failed and the dissolution of the monasteries took its toll. In the Richmond area, St Agatha's at Easby, St Martins, Marrick and Ellerton were all surrendered, as was Richmond Friary.

An incident had occurred in 1536 which was at first thought to result from a family feud but more probably was due to widespread local opposition to the

dissolution. At that time, Ralph Wycliffe held the Lordship of the Manor and he had a daughter Elizabeth who married George Carr, a member of a well known family. They had a son they named Ralph who prospered and in 1534 became mayor of Newcastle. Two years later, when he was visiting Thorpe near the village of Wycliffe, he was attacked by a gang of men led by young William Wycliffe, heir to the Lordship and Wycliffe family estate. Ralph died of stab wounds and his murder became widely publicised. The strange thing was that the Carrs and the Wycliffe family were said to be close friends and William and the murdered Ralph were cousins. At the trial which followed, the jury reached a surprise verdict absolving Wycliffe from blame but, as the whole matter had been reported to Cromwell, the members of the jury were then called to the Star Chamber and fined because their verdict did not take account of the evidence put forward. The reasons for the jury's decision are uncertain though it seems likely that Carr was disliked locally because he was thought to be favoured by Cromwell, whereas the Wycliffes were certainly Catholics.

Having been released from the murder charge made against him, William Wycliffe proceeded to marry twice and acquired the Manors of both Bolton on Swale and Gayles. However, the line of succession to the Lordship of Wycliffe was beginning to come to an end. Late in the 16th century, it passed to another William Wycliffe but his only son died at the age of fifteen and William became the last of the Lords of the Manor. His daughter Katherine had married Marmaduke Tunstall and, when William died, she and her husband went to live in Wycliffe Hall, the home of her family for so many years. The Tunstalls were a respected Catholic family with a long history and their presence in the Richmond area is evidenced by the naming of Tunstall village. Marmaduke was very interested in natural history and became a member of the Royal Society. One of his achievements was to create a Wycliffe Museum of manuscripts, books, prints and gems and, when he died, the museum was sold to Mr. George Allan of Blackwell Grange in Darlington and exhibited to the public.

Although the Wycliffe estate was divided following the death of William, the family remained well represented in the area. The Manor of Gayles was passed to John Wycliffe of Thorpe who married twice; by his second wife, he had Thomas who lived in Richmond and was very active in the life of the town. Richmond in those days was not without its political arguments and the burgage houses were being bought for their voting rights. In 1727, Thomas failed to be elected as an alderman but his three sons were soon to make their presence felt both in London and Richmond. John, who was a barrister at Grays Inn, retained his local connections by buying a house in Richmond where York House is now. Of his two brothers, Thomas was admitted to the Company of Mercers, Grocers and Haberdashers and became involved with Alexander Fothergill in

the administration of local turnpike roads. Solomon, who lived in the Market Place, was an alderman and served as mayor for four years. He also served as Warden of the Fellmongers Guild.

John Wycliffe, the barrister, had two sons and they were to be the last members of the family. John was the younger of the two; an army officer, his career ended abruptly when he was involved in a duel, fought on Richmond racecourse with a Captain Dawson, whose wife John Wycliffe had been visiting at their home in Millgate. It seems that some of Wycliffe's letters to Mrs Dawson had been intercepted by her husband. John came off worst in the duel being severely wounded but not killed. He had to live with the painful effects for the rest of his life, as a musket ball, lodged somewhere near his lungs, could not be removed. The other son was Thomas, who lived in Frenchgate; he was a young man-about-town in Richmond's late Georgian period. He was interested in archery and won the famous Scorton Arrow in 1797. He was on good terms with James Tate and supported the Richmond Scientific Society. When he died, he was buried at Kirkby Hill Church, where a monument claims that he was the last surviving male descendant of John Wycliffe, the Reformer. Whatever his claim, it is certain that, although the Reformer played a role of great importance in ecclesiastical history, the achievements of the whole Wycliffe family over sixteen generations deserve our recognition[2].

Acknowledgements

The information provided by Jane Hatcher regarding the 18th/19th century Wycliffes has been greatly appreciated.

[1] The amount of land that one ox can plough in one year. It varied from ten to eighteen acres.

[2] A full history of the Wycliffes in Richmondshire should be available in book form shortly.

The Station: Reflections on its success

Donald Cline

Key to the success of The Station has been the 'vision thinking', to coin a phrase, which right from its inception saw the potential to combine the arts, leisure and commerce. Right at the heart of this creative thinking was Donald Cline, one of a small core of trustees who steered the project through a maze of finance-raising, design briefs, funding agencies and kept the enthusiasm strong through a very arduous journey. Editor John McDonald caught up with Donald at The Station in the summer and asked him to reflect on this journey and to look also to The Station's future.

Donald, I want to focus, if I may, on The Station as an example of heritage regeneration. How would you describe its success as a project?

Well, from the perspective of a heritage regeneration project, I'd say that had we solely concentrated on the historic value of the old station, we never would have obtained the wide range of public funding partners that we ultimately gathered together to do the job. Yes, it's fantastic that one of Richmond's best-loved landmarks has been rejuvenated and kept within the public domain but, in my opinion, this wouldn't have been possible if we'd tried to turn the building into a railway museum or some other repository for historic artefacts. Even the Heritage Lottery Fund, one of our three main funding bodies, was more interested in the broader range of benefits that the project set out to deliver, rather than purely the preservation of the old shell. Loads of visitors to The Station really love the Heritage Centre, with its exhibits and audio-visual materials, which plot the history of the building and the branch line that served Richmond up until 1969, but people equally enjoy the opportunity to use the new facilities that have been created in the disused train shed and experience the clever way that the space has been adapted. So, to help me describe our success as an example of heritage regeneration, I'd like to lean on that trusted old cliché which says something like, *'the whole is much greater than the sum of its parts'*. The heritage embodied in the old building is the glue that makes it sustainable in its new guise.

But we also talk of regeneration when we talk about Richmond the town. Are there, do you think, links between the station as a building and the town as a whole, when it comes to regeneration?

I think there are a number of links between the heritage regeneration that has taken place at The Station and that which is taking place in the town. Yorkshire Forward (another one of our major funding partners) has had a wonderful strategic view of how small market towns like Richmond can be reinvented to serve a new audience in the face of stiff competition from 'out of town developments' and the internet. Part of this philosophy says that, if 'tarted-up', the old historic cores can become a real magnet for residents and visitors alike, people who appreciate the uniqueness of a place like Richmond and prefer it as a place to shop and socialise, in contrast to the modern and often soulless

shopping facilities and multiplexes that have encroached on the greenbelt of long-established communities all over Britain. I have seen numerous towns that were looking rather 'down at heel', turn themselves around and I think that what has happened at The Station and elsewhere in the town, puts us in a good position to join their ranks. Town Centre Manager, Colin Grant, and the Town Council must be given a huge amount of credit for pushing the job along and not succumbing to the negativity and defeatism that often exists at a grassroots level.

Where do you see The Station going in, say, the next five years?

This is a very good question and one that most of us who have been working on the project for the past six years are continually asking ourselves. It looks like we are going to be in the fortunate position of completing the restoration 'debt free'. This is something of a miracle and just demonstrates again how generous the community has been in their support of the project.

The immediate task at hand is to make sure that The Station continues to generate enough income to meet its considerable overheads. By the time your readers buy their copy of the review, we will have completed our first year as an operating entity. Things have gone incredibly well, with all of our long-term leases now in place and our short-term letting improving all the while. Unlike many projects of a similar nature, our charity doesn't receive any grant aid to pay for the costs associated with operating the building. This means we have to raise it all ourselves. So far, we have been concentrating on just dealing with the demands being placed on The Station, due to its instantaneous popularity. When you have worked out your business plan to cope with 'X' number of visitors and you generate '4X' in your first year, it puts an organisation like our own under considerable pressure. It's a good pressure but it's a pressure all the same.

What I hope will happen is that the community will quickly come to realise what a great asset The Station is, not only as a place where they can get a good cup of coffee, an ice cream cone or come to see the latest movies, but also that they will appreciate how it can be used to build up a substantial source of community finance. As a charity, The Station has to reinvest the surplus income that it makes into Station-based activities that improve the community. What a great gift this is for all of us and for future generations to share. In practice, 'the sky is the limit' when you have a legal requirement like that to fulfil. Essentially, the trustees of the charity will be obliged to reinvest any extra income The Station makes into making Richmond a better place. With a brief like that I hope we can attract a team of 'young successors' who will want to direct the action, as the existing team is getting rather long in the tooth. I don't

know if this answers your question but hopefully it gives your readers a picture of what could be achieved in the next few years if they continue to support The Station.

Do you think that the Trust has completed its job now that The Station is up and running? For example, have you all had enough of buildings in need or are you itching for a new project to take on?

I can only speak for myself, rather than colleagues on this one. As much as I would quite like to use some of the skills that I've acquired in working on The Station, emotionally and financially, I don't think I can afford to give much more time to the charity than I already have. As Trustees, we have all worked on the project as unpaid volunteers. For several of us it has been worse than working in the normal sense of the word, because you get all the grief associated with tackling some pretty significant challenges, with none of the normal rewards one usually associates with working a 60 hour week. Hopefully, some of the younger members of our community will have the energy to use the good name of our charity to take on further 'good works', but I don't think the organisation can count on me to be one of the active players in the team.

Although the charity has a district-wide remit, The Station realistically was the only project that we had in mind when we formed the organisation. Is our job as a Trust now done, having delivered the successful restoration of the Station? Well, from my point of view, until we have raised a substantial reserve fund to deal with the vagaries of the marketplace, then I don't think our work is finished. I don't think anyone would thank us for delivering such a significant amenity in 2007, only to see it struggling to survive in ten years time. We have succeeded in realising two-thirds of our aspirations, but the game isn't over, in my book, until we have got that war chest established. As a pacifist perhaps that's not the best way to describe it.

The editorial team was able to meet with Bill Hubbard, the Richmond-born winner of the second prize in the A1 Open Summer Art Exhibition.

'Starting with George Nicholson': a conversation with Bill Hubbard.

Many visitors to The Station's A1 Exhibition this summer admired the prize-winning watercolour of Skeldersgate, York but most know little about

the artist, Bill Hubbard. Using a limited palette of colours, many of them subdued, Bill has recorded a forlorn row of shop fronts, pasted with torn posters, the whole façade neglected as it waits for the developers. A solitary figure lingers as the only sign of life. "It is sad," commented Bill when we met him. "It's going to disappear but that's what makes it beautiful. You know, it's the forlornness that appeals." It is that forlorn character that Bill has captured so poignantly.

We had persuaded Bill to let us interview him for The Review and we met him in his sitting room in Richmond, surrounded by his own drawings and paintings, his own George Cuit oil of Richmond from the riverside and an antique helmet drawn by his granddaughter, Amber. On one wall stood a 'single-pointer' longcase clock that Bill had bought from Tennants' sale room. Although

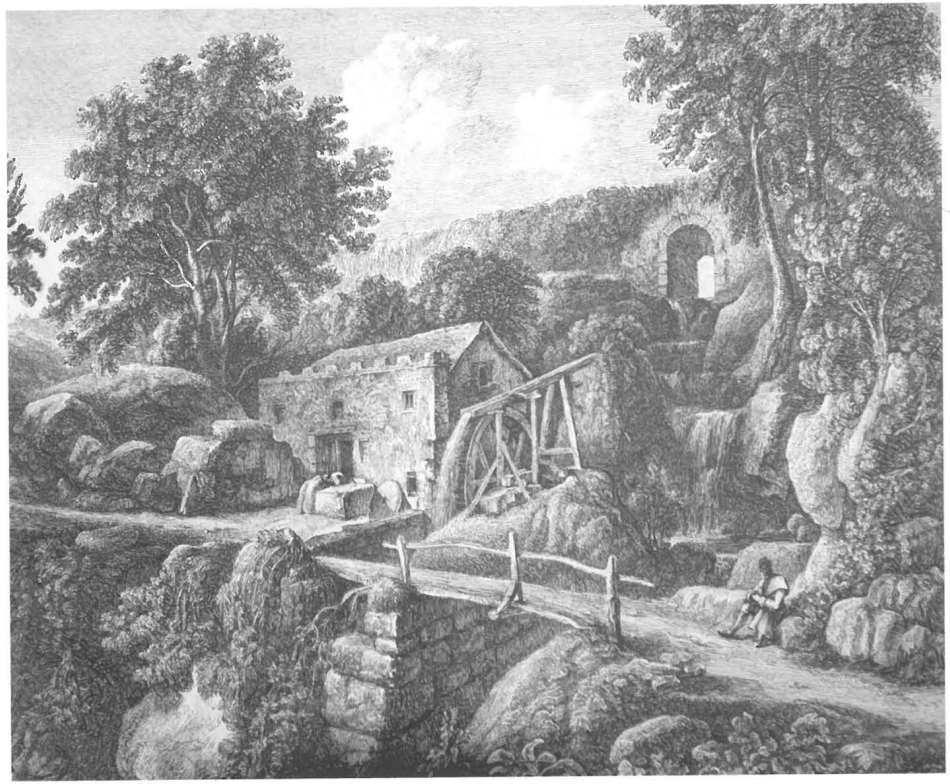


Wensley Low Mill as engraved by Cuitt the Younger, by courtesy of Bill Hubbard

the clock is a Cumberland timepiece it has a Yorkshire connection having come from a farmhouse near Thirsk. "I like to think that James Herriot will have seen it many times when he visited the farm," Bill told us. He spoke also of the simple design and high quality workmanship of the clock, so that it seemed an

example of all that is important to Bill, the driving force behind a lifetime of self-taught painting and drawing: recording the past before it disappears and keeping faith with skills that are hard to master and nowadays usually neglected. At a personal level, no self-promotion.

To start, then, at the beginning: Bill began early looking at the world as an artist; at school he impressed Bertie Baines, the art teacher, when he realised that there was no gap between the sky and the land. "He was kind, Bertie." However, not so Rob Hornby, the Head. "He used to cane you if you didn't understand something, not just for being naughty. So I was always in his study. He would start by taking snuff to make you wait. Then he would go over to his large pot full of canes and take one out and swish it around like a sword." At this point Bill stood up and demonstrated. "Then he'd put it back and choose



The mirror image of Cuitt's engraving

another. He gave you one smack on each hand with it or two if he felt inclined. You never knew which you were getting."

Bill left school at fifteen to take up an apprenticeship as a bricklayer. Not really wanting that life, he joined the Merchant Navy 'for an adventure'. Sadly,

he did not continue his drawing and now regrets not recording the old docks now destroyed. However, the interest in drawing was re-ignited when he returned to Richmond, again to work in the building trade. On a visit to Vokes's antiquarian bookshop in Darlington in search of pictures of Richmond, he was offered instead a collection of George Nicholson's drawings of the Dales. So began a lifelong interest in an artist about whom little is known. Readers who are interested in Nicholson will want to read Bill's article about him in The Dalesman, November 1989.

This fascination with both George Nicholson (and his uncle, Francis) was so strong that Bill used him as a mentor, at first imitating his eighteenth century conventions of drawing landscape and buildings. Constantly reading and looking closely at English painters (Turner, Cotman, Ruskin were all mentioned) Bill has refined his own techniques over the past twenty-five years and yet the loyalty and interest in Nicholson has remained. He followed literally in his footsteps, walking frequently in Wensleydale, recording the same buildings and scenes. It was through Nicholson that he turned to watercolour and has never deviated from it as his favourite medium. He became drawn to the Malton area where both Francis and George Nicholson had worked and lived. Indeed, Bill still has an unfulfilled ambition to have a plaque erected there to mark their memory.

One particular interest has been old mill buildings, many of which Bill found caught between picturesque neglect and complete collapse. Whereas many people would find their delapidation unpleasant, Bill has always seen it as beautiful. For an artist, he told us, it gives the building character. Many of these mills have since disappeared completely and Bill's careful documentation of them can now be appreciated both by art lovers and historians. Through his material and his technique, he is, in this way, keeping faith with the past. Recording things as they really were, has become a matter of pride. For example Bill showed us an engraving of Wensley Low Mill, which he owns, dated 1825. Cuitt the Younger had produced the engraving but not reversed the image so that, on printing, everything is in effect a mirror image of the truth (see illustrations). Bill went on to describe how artists such as Cuitt and Nicholson needed to sell their work and would often go on tour in order to fill their sketch books with rapid, precise drawings which would be used later to convert into paintings for sale.

We fancy that Bill might see his whole career as an apprenticeship; that you never stop learning and that good learning is hard. His conversation was scattered with knowledge of skilled craftsmanship. Sometimes this was remembered with wry humour: feeling embarrassed when he first painted in watercolour in the open air, surrounded by other people, in Pickering Castle.

At other times he spoke of his mentors such as Cotman whose dictum, 'Leave out, but add nothing', has acted as a constant reminder of how detail only distracts the eye. Tips abounded: use a thick pencil for sketching so you are forced to draw quickly and simply; keep the number of watercolour washes to the absolute minimum so that the paper shows through as a luminosity; work outside and try to get the air into the painting; how children can teach you real simplicity and directness when they create an image of what they see.

Perhaps more than anything, we knew, when we left after our hour and a half, that there was so much more to listen to and learn from this Richmond man, full of memories, modest about his achievements and utterly in touch with his personal and artistic roots.

Civil Defence in Richmond

Roger Spencer

The Second World War started on 3rd September 1939. However, much preparation took place before that date. Curtains were lined with blackout material and some people made special shutters of cardboard and plaster board, preparing for the possibility of air raids. Schools and some public buildings fixed paper tape in diamond shapes across their windows to reduce the risk of flying glass in the event of bombing.

Once the blackout was established it was difficult to walk out at nights in the dark as street lights were extinguished or reduced to an insignificant glow. However, it gave an ideal opportunity to study the stars, planets and Milky Way! One night in the early 1940's the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights, came as far south as Richmond and the sky was lit with a brilliant colourful display.

The scouts were asked to help to prepare sandbags for distribution to be used in the event of incendiary bombs. We spent one weekend at a corporation depot in Brands Terrace, now called the west end of Quaker Lane, filling bags with sand and distributing them to nearby houses. The Council used a lorry to distribute them to other parts of the town.

In 1938/9 Richmond had set up an organisation called Air Raid Precautions to prepare for the likelihood of air raids by enemy aircraft in the event of war. This organisation was later renamed Civil Defence. Air Raid Wardens were recruited and issued with a number of items: an arm band labelled 'Warden', a steel helmet painted black with a white 'W', a military type gas mask and a wooden rattle which had a handle and ratchet, with pieces of wood which

made a clattering noise when rotated. It was used to inform people when there was a gas attack. The final item was a stirrup pump to be used with a bucket of water to extinguish small fires or incendiary bombs. Training was given in First Aid and in the use of equipment.

A country-wide control system was established to co-ordinate Civil Defence in the event of war and a Central Report Centre for Richmond was set up in the cellars under The Grove in Frenchgate. When the war started this was staffed full time and additional volunteers came on duty during air raids to arrange emergency vehicles as required. Wardens' posts were created in other buildings around the town. The Trinity Church tower and the Castle Keep were used as look-out posts for Fire Watchers. My wife's father, Tom Walton, was a fire watcher at the Church Tower. An air raid siren was located on the Church Tower and the ululating note warned of the approach of enemy aircraft. The 'All Clear' was a steady note from the same siren.

At the corner of the Grammar School sports field, next to Quaker Lane and the Park, was a post with a flat wooden top about a foot square. It was painted with some special substance which would react in the event of a poison gas attack. We often would check it when we walked past but, fortunately, there was never any change in the paint! These posts were situated at other points around the town.

Warden's Post 'C' was set up in the cellars at Bolton Crofts on Quaker Lane and my father, Robert (Bob) Spencer, was a warden there. My brother Fred was recruited as a messenger to be used in the event of telephone breakdown and he joined my father at Bolton Crofts. He left the Civil Defence in 1940 to join the Local Defence Volunteers (L.D.V.). The name was later changed to Home Guard when comedians referred to them as 'Look, Duck and Vanish'! Mr. Vernon, a Grammar School master, was a Civil Defence officer in charge of the messengers and asked me to take over as messenger at Warden's Post 'C'. By this time air raid warnings had become a regular feature of Richmond at night and when the siren sounded my father and I set off to take up duty at Bolton Crofts. I was usually left in the cellar looking after the telephone while the wardens patrolled the streets ensuring the blackout was maintained.

Occasionally one of the wardens stayed in the cellar and I could go out. Sometimes my father and I went up the snicket opposite Queens Road and could see the action over Teesside. It was quite frightening to see the glare of fires and hear muffled explosions even at that long distance. We often heard the drone of planes overhead and speculated that they were German bombers but nothing else disturbed the peace of Richmond at night. The only action near Richmond was when an enemy aircraft jettisoned its bombs in a field near

Hudswell. If an air raid continued after midnight, school did not start until 10am the following day.

In 1940 Richmond was chosen as the site for a large Civil Defence exercise that was to take place on The Green. Various emergencies were envisaged requiring fire engines, ambulances and a rescue team. Most of these vehicles were parked in Newbiggin to be called forward as required. A Warden's Post was established on The Green and messengers were stationed there to be sent to Newbiggin for emergency vehicles, as it was assumed that the telephones would be out of action. When we were sent for a vehicle, the run up Gaol Bank (Cravengate) was exhausting. On arrival at Newbiggin it was difficult to find breath to request an emergency vehicle. Fortunately we were given a ride down the hill on the running board of the vehicle. It was decided that this method took too long and telephones were used on the day of the full exercise. Civil Defence staff came from other areas and we were able to watch from the Warden's Post. Rescue teams pulled people from houses, fire engines sprayed water and everyone seemed to think it was a satisfactory day.

In 1942 there were not so many air raids and it was decided that the two ladies who were at the Report Centre at The Grove during the day needed a holiday. Mr Vernon asked a number of messengers if they would man the centre and be prepared to call out experienced staff in the event of an air raid. We visited the centre and were instructed how to call out the Controller if a telephone call advised us of a possible air raid. Telephone reports were given to the centre advising when enemy aircraft were over Britain and then were followed by more serious warnings when the direction of the aircraft became known. I took the first shift on Monday morning and settled down to do some reading, waiting for something to happen. My instructions were to telephone Dr Bull when the first warning came and he would come and take control. I was startled when the telephone rang as I had expected a quiet time. Fortunately it was only Mr Vernon checking that I was there and everything was quiet. After that the rest of the week passed without incident.

Later in 1942 when the Beaufighter crash occurred I had been moved from Air Raid Post C to Post A at the Convent. When the air raid warning sounded I set off to cycle to the Convent and was surprised at all the people going in the opposite direction towards the fire which lit up the town. My father was still at Bolton Crofts and went up the hill to the site of the crash. He said there was quite a crowd of people and he had difficulty keeping them back from the crash and exploding ammunition. When the All Clear sounded I went home and this was the last time I attended a raid.

I started work at Christmas 1942 and resigned from the Civil Defence.

Ruth's Window

Carol Gedye

Stained glass windows have been used since medieval times both to beautify churches and to inspire those people in them.The Parish Church of St Mary, Richmond still contains small panels of heraldic medieval glass.The restoration of the building in 1858-1860 by Sir Gilbert Scott saw the dedication of many new stained glass windows. These Victorian windows were given in memory of prominent townspeople and their families. These included the rector, the headteacher, the mayor, and the apothecary. The early twentieth century saw the addition of a stained glass window in memory of the district nurse, and the latter part, the reglazing of two windows in clear glass in memory of the church warden Ridley Harle and the organist Dr Arthur Bull.

In 2008 a contemporary stained glass window was installed in memory of the 18 year old chorister Ruth Frances Gedye who died of cancer in 2004. This was designed, made and installed by Alan Davis, a Fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters, who works from a studio in Lythe, near Whitby.

The design brief was to reflect Ruth's youth and zest for life, her connection with the church of St Mary's, and to be an inspiring gift for the first century of the new millennium. The text in stylised lettering, "Hold on to that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5: 21) is a key to understanding the elements involved in its design. Fundamental also are the lyrics of two songs she loved to sing: "O thou the central orb of righteous love – Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin", and "There's a time for everyone if they only learn – That the twisting kaleidoscope moves us all in turn". [1]

The images move from earth to heaven through a twisting kaleidoscope of colour and a light bright orb. On the upward climb through different shades of mainly greens and blues, there are people (who become increasingly abstract) to be with you on your journey, whatever it may be. Purples between the spheres give way to a kaleidoscope of colour containing hints of good images to hold on to in moments of need. The abstract rainbow symbolises God's promise. There is a Celtic cross and a sunset painting of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. There are butterflies, bees, a sunflower, a giraffe, some notes of music on a stave. These images helped Ruth smile and encouraged her in her fight against the disease.

In and above the orb there are stylised doves, symbols of peace. The orb is set in dark blues which frame the star and bright beams of light. This section is based on the words "Hope soars above" from "O thou the central orb".

Alan's textural painting adds many other layers, in shapes and details

inspired by walks on the sea shore. Each piece of glass in the window has been painted and fired at least twice, if not three times.

Interestingly the response of many people to this contemporary window has been that it looks as if it has always been there. This is partly due to the strength of the design, and the skill and artistry of the maker. In addition though, there is continuity between the different centuries in the stone, lead, and glass work. The traditional techniques of producing coloured glass mean that the colours of Ruth's window echo those of previous periods. However, the strong design of the lead work, the acid etching revealing different layers of colour, and the textured glass painting in particular place this beautiful, vibrant window firmly in the 21st century.

[1] "*O thou the Central orb*": Lyrics:H.R. Bramley, Music:Charles Wood
"*Can you feel the love tonight*" Lyrics:Tim Rice, Music:Elton John.

Further information is available in the "Ruth's Window" brochure available at St Mary's Church, Richmond.

Earls Orchard Football Field in the Middle Ages

Richard Almond

Richmond's football field at Earls Orchard is situated east of Green Bridge on the south bank of the River Swale, immediately below Sleegill and on the opposite side to Richmond Castle. Here, the valley narrows, widening out into a glacially modified bowl to the west of Lownethwaite Bridge and a broad river plain to the east of Richmond. It has been the home ground to Richmond Football Club for at least ten years and is leased from the owners, Richmondshire District Council. Previous to this tenurial arrangement, the level area of grassland had been used for many years as a football ground with annual usage as a show ground for Richmond Meet and other town events. The enclosed land is nearly 15,000 square metres, measuring about 150 by 100 metres,[1] or, in more archaic terms, a decent bowshot from west to east, by two thirds as much wide.

In the later Middle Ages, although football was already a much-played and largely rule-less commonalty game, Earls Orchard had completely different functions, all directly connected to and serving Richmond Castle. This imposing stone fortress with its dominating square keep was the military and administrative centre of a vast feudal estate, the Honour of Richmond, one of

the three largest feudal holdings created by William I, and granted to Alan Rufus (known as 'the Red'), cousin of the Count of Brittany. The gift of Lordship was a reward to one of William's most faithful vassals for service. Alan had commanded the Breton contingent at the battle of Hastings and later taken part in the brutal suppression of the North during 1069-70. The Yorkshire portion of the Honour was a huge but compact estate of 199 manors, plus a further 43 outlying manors.[2]

The level rectangular area by the river at Earls Orchard has traditionally been regarded by local residents and historians as the jousting ground for the knights and their men-at-arms residing at the Castle, fulfilling their knight service to the Count. These Breton sub-tenants with their ready-made fighting units had been brought from the Continent to Richmond Castle and elsewhere, to subdue and dominate the rebellious northern frontiers of William's England.[3] Such warriors needed to constantly practise their necessary martial skills and horsemanship and exercise their war-horses. This military requirement developed later into the joust, an exciting spectator event and public pageant of nobility with its associated heraldic display, as well as valuable practice for war at home and abroad.



Earls Orchard: "a decent bow-shot"

However, Earls Orchard fulfilled another important function in the later medieval period. After the Conquest, much of upland northern England was

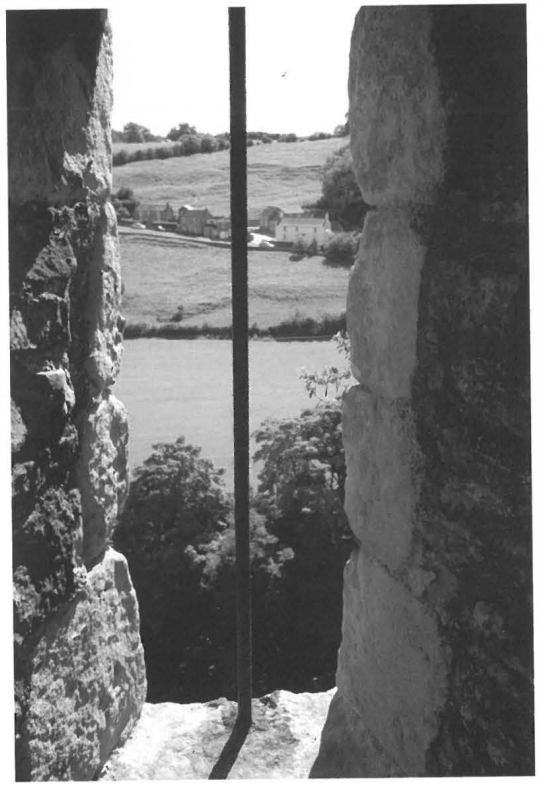
still covered in forest, woodland, grassland, heath and wetland - open land termed 'commons' and 'waste'. From the time of William the Conqueror, a large proportion of this open land was set aside by law as Forest for the preservation and hunting of deer and game by the king. In these legally defined areas, covering over half of many counties, law, land-use, social structuring, livelihood and culture interacted in a very distinctive way. The Forests were subject to the Forest Laws which were codified by the king, and the preservation and protection of the *vert* and *venison* (damage to trees and underwood, and offences concerning deer) were the main concerns of the Forest legislation.[4] Each Forest was administered by a hierarchy of appointed officials drawn from the nobility, who were accountable to the king. The New Forest in Hampshire was the first Norman Forest, originally created by William I as a preserve for hunting deer, reserved specifically for the king and to whomsoever he granted licence. In practice, this was almost always the resident nobility. The inhabitants of a Forest usually retained long-established use-rights (*usufruct)* within the area. [5]

There were at least fifteen such Forests which came within the Yorkshire portion of the Honour of Richmond, including: Applegarth Forest; Arkengarthdale Forest/New Forest; Baldersdale Chase; Bishopdale Chase; Bowes Forest; Cotherstone Chase; Coverdale Forest; Lartington Forest; Lune Forest; Mickleton Chase; New Forest and Hope Forest; Richmond Forest; Scargill Chase; Swaledale Forest and Fremington Forest; Wensleydale Forest. The nearest was Applegarth Forest, contiguous with Richmond and extending to the west up the Swale valley.[6] New Forest lay further to the north and west on the higher land roughly above 1,000 feet.[7] It is recorded that in the 14th century the lords of Richmond employed a master forester and seven other foresters in Arkengarthdale Forest and New Forest. The Forest of Swaledale, an extensive area of woodlands, commons and wastes in Fremington, Harkerside and Whitaside as well as upper parts of the Dale, was held by the Gaunts.[8]

At the time of the Conquest, these areas of mixed habitat teemed with large and small game of all varieties, including red deer, fallow deer, roe deer, and wild boar. All large quarry, plus hares, were hunted by the Norman nobles and knights on horseback, assisted by hounds, not only for sport but also for fresh meat, especially in the autumn leading up to the rut when red and fallow deer were at their fattest, and in the lean winter months when salted meat and fish provided most of the protein in a fairly monotonous diet. This method was termed *par force* hunting and had its origins in France, indicated by the specialised hunting language and ritual procedures. The Normans also enjoyed hunting wolves *par force* as they were regarded as cunning and dangerous quarry. Although the meat was not edible, wolf pelts provided valuable fur for

clothing, as did foxes. Records confirm the presence of wolves at Marske, west of Richmond, until 1369. John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, was for a time Lord of the Swale Marches in Yorkshire, and he hunted a vast chase stretching from Wensleydale to Stanemoor [sic] which abounded with wolves and great herds of red deer. Traditionally, John of Gaunt is credited with personally slaying the last wild wolf in England, near Leeds.[9]

Hunting large quarry *par force*, particularly the hart (the mature red deer of six or more years), fallow buck and boar, was undoubtedly the most challenging, and also the most dangerous, form of medieval aristocratic hunting activity. However, although undoubtedly 'sporting', a hard day's hunting might only provide one or two carcasses. On the other hand, *bow and stable*, in which herds of red and fallow deer, hinds and does as well as younger males, were driven towards standing concealed huntsmen, was also frequently practised in late medieval Europe. This method was regarded as sporting but had the advantage of producing many carcasses for court consumption. The technique was not new in England. Large scale driving of red and fallow deer, called *drifting*, now a term applied to the rounding up of ponies, had been used by hunters in the New Forest since the late eleventh-century. This method involved mounted hunters subtly moving large numbers of deer from sections of Forest, often over several miles and using wattle fences of woven hazel and willow to direct them towards and into an enclosed killing ground where hunters armed with bows and spears waited behind barriers to cut the quarry down.[10]



View of Earls Orchard from The Castle

Applegarth Forest surrounded Richmond to the west and north, so, as the nearest hunting preserve, was the most likely to be driven for game to supply the Castle garrison. The river terrace at Earls Orchard provided the ideal space for the gathering together and slaughter of large numbers of

driven deer and other game. Not only was this narrow and constricted valley space easily enclosed using portable wattle fencing; once despatched, the beasts could be conveniently ferried across the river and up to the game larders of the Castle. Moreover, the whole exciting spectacle of the culmination of the hunt, like the joust, could be observed by the Count, his deputy the Constable, their ladies, families and guests, from the comfort and seclusion of the solar below the Gold Hole Tower at the eastern end of Scolland's Hall.

Earls Orchard has been in continuous use by Richmond residents for nearly a millennium. It is peculiarly apposite that, although social cultures have changed beyond all recognition since Count Alan Rufus bestrode his war-horse, there is still human conflict on the playing field and blood is still occasionally spilled in the cause of Richmond's honour.

[1] Thanks to David Lodge at Richmondshire Council for this information.

[2] Fieldhouse, R. & Jennings, B., *A History of Richmond and Swaledale,* (London & Chichester, 1978), pp. 9 &11.

[3] *Ibid.,* p. 9.

[4] Whitlock, Ralph, *Historic Forests of England,* (Bradford-on-Avon, 1979), p. 24.

[5] Almond, Richard, *Medieval Hunting,* (Stroud, 2003), p. 4; Manning, Roger B., *Hunters and Poachers,* (Oxford, 1993), p. 116.

[6] Thanks to John Langton & Graham Jones of St. John's College, Oxford. See maps and information at: http://info.sjc.ox.ac.uk/forests/index.html.

[7] Fieldhouse, R. & Jennings, B., *A History of Richmond and Swaledale,* (London & Chichester, 1978), p. 500, Map 3, *Swaledale Manors and Forests*.

[8] *Ibid.,* pp. 37-38.

[9] Bogg, Edmund, *Regal Richmond, and the Land of the Swale,* (Leeds, 1909), pp. 234 & 233.

[10] For a splendid fictional account of drift-hunting in the New Forest, firmly based upon sound research, see Rutherfurd, Edward, *The Forest,* (London, 2000), pp. 5-92.

Plague and Invasion: two threats to Seventeenth Century Life in Richmond

Ralph Waggett

Each year on St George's day, the Fellmongers' Company of Richmond celebrates the life of one of its former members, Henry Bradrigg, in its annual service of rededication. Henry Bradrigg, a skinner, was the Alderman of

Richmond in 1645: it was he who had to contend with a visitation of the plague which swept through the town, causing over five hundred deaths. He displayed a selfless attachment to duty and a compassion for the victims which still calls forth our admiration and respect.[1]

Plague was endemic in seventeenth century England. Richmond had suffered greatly in 1597/8 when over one thousand people died and in the years that followed, the towns and villages of the North Riding were affected by sporadic outbreaks. The Great Plague, which broke out in London in 1665, however, seemed to overshadow all that had gone before and drove fear into the hearts of people everywhere. There was no remedy other than to isolate all those who might carry the infection.

Here in the North Riding, the burden of government, of enforcing the law and regulating the actions of the people, rested with the County magistracy, the baronets, knights and squirearchy sitting in Quarter Sessions. They met variously at Helmsley, Thirsk and Richmond (though the boroughs of Richmond and Scarborough had their own separate and distinct magistrates and Quarter Session courts).

I have been looking recently at the action taken by the County magistrates to stop the plague from spreading here and I found that on 8th August 1665, when they sat at Richmond, they ordered that a strict night and day watch be kept in every township over travellers. Responsibility for implementing this order fell on the township constable and he in turn would be under the control of the head constable for the wapentake[2] concerned. Both of these officials were, of course, unpaid. They were obliged to 'remove all travellers, vagrants and beggars under sufficient guard out of the Riding, so that thereby the said Riding may be, by the blessing of God, kept safe from infection.'

Two further specific orders were made. One related to a possible outbreak at Marske[3] and I quote it in full. The other is drawn in similar terms addressed to a family at Forcett.

> "Ordered that six men of Marske do diligently, from time to time, day and night, at, namely, two of the night and one of the day, for forty days now next coming, at the proper charge of George Mason of Marske, and after the direction of the Constable, keep a strict and careful watch at the door and the house of the said George Mason to the end that none of his present family mix themselves or have any society with any other family or families or people during the aforesaid forty days, by reason of the great fear of the persons received by George Mason lately come from the city of London, and in case that any person or persons inhabiting within the Constabulary or parish aforesaid shall adventure to have

> society with the said family or any of them, then the said Constable is hereby commanded to keep a strict and strong watch over any such person or persons for the space of forty days aforesaid: And it is further Ordered that if any trunks, boxes, cloak-bags, bundles and clothes shall come to the said George Mason, or to any of the persons so received, the watch upon duty shall take care that the same be received only into the house of the said George Mason, there to lodge until they be sufficiently cleansed by a cleansor or cleansors."

There was, of course, always the danger that the infection might spread from London by sea and on 3rd October the magistrates turned their attention to Whitby, where they were informed that 'several ships, fisherboats, cobles and other vessels came loaden from the city of London'. They ordered that no ships or vessels coming from any infected places should be admitted to land men or goods until they had performed their quarantine. If any fell sick during the period of quarantine, they must be kept aboard ship till forty days after their recovery. In the case of fishing boats where quarantine was not practicable, the inhabitants of Whitby must provide pest houses on shore, watch being kept to ensure that the quarantine provided there was effective. Supervisors, who, in the main, seem to have been military officers, were appointed for all the various fishing ports along the coast to ensure that an effective watch was kept and prevent by whatever means the passage of infected persons.

These precautions seem to have had the desired effect. There is no record of an outbreak of the plague in the North Riding.

There is no direct connection between the plague and the beacons which served as early warning safeguards, but plague and invasion were, alike, very real hazards which faced the people of the North Riding in the second half of the seventeenth century.

Every schoolboy knows how the beacons were lit to warn people of the Armada and the possible invasion of England and of how they again served as a possible protection in the Napoleonic Wars. They were, however, at least in the North Riding, twice called into service between 1666 and 1688.

In 1666, England was at war with the Dutch with whom we were commercial rivals. We had mixed fortunes but eventually the Dutch fleet under De Ruyter was able to sail up the Thames where they burnt our warships at Chatham. The result was, of course, a huge sense of anger and alarm. London felt blockaded. There was a shortage of fuel. Crowds thronged the streets. The Dutch had secured France and Denmark as allies and there was real fear of invasion.

The County magistrates sitting in Richmond on 16th July1666 were aware of this fear and alarm. They decided to take precautions. They ordered that

"£5-18s-2d be estreated (ie levied) throughout Richmondshire for the repair of Richmond beacon and £6 be estreated throughout the wapentake of Gilling West and the town of Richmond towards the payment of the watchmen for the watching of the beacon". A further £4-14s-6d was to be estreated for the repair of the Penhill beacon in Wensleydale.

Happily, there was no invasion and the danger soon passed, but then at Thirsk on 2nd October 1688 there was a renewed warning. James II had fled the country and William of Orange had been invited in. The country was divided; it was a time of uncertainty.

The magistrates at Thirsk decided to be prepared for any eventuality. They ordered that the several head constables 'within this Riding ... repair their beacons and cause watch to be kept at the same if the occasion be and at the next Sessions give an account of their disbursements'.

Within a fortnight, William set sail but he was driven back by bad weather, eventually reaching England on 5th November. On the earlier occasion he had intended to land in Yorkshire. The beacons could well have been needed: the decision of the magistrates had indeed been prudent.

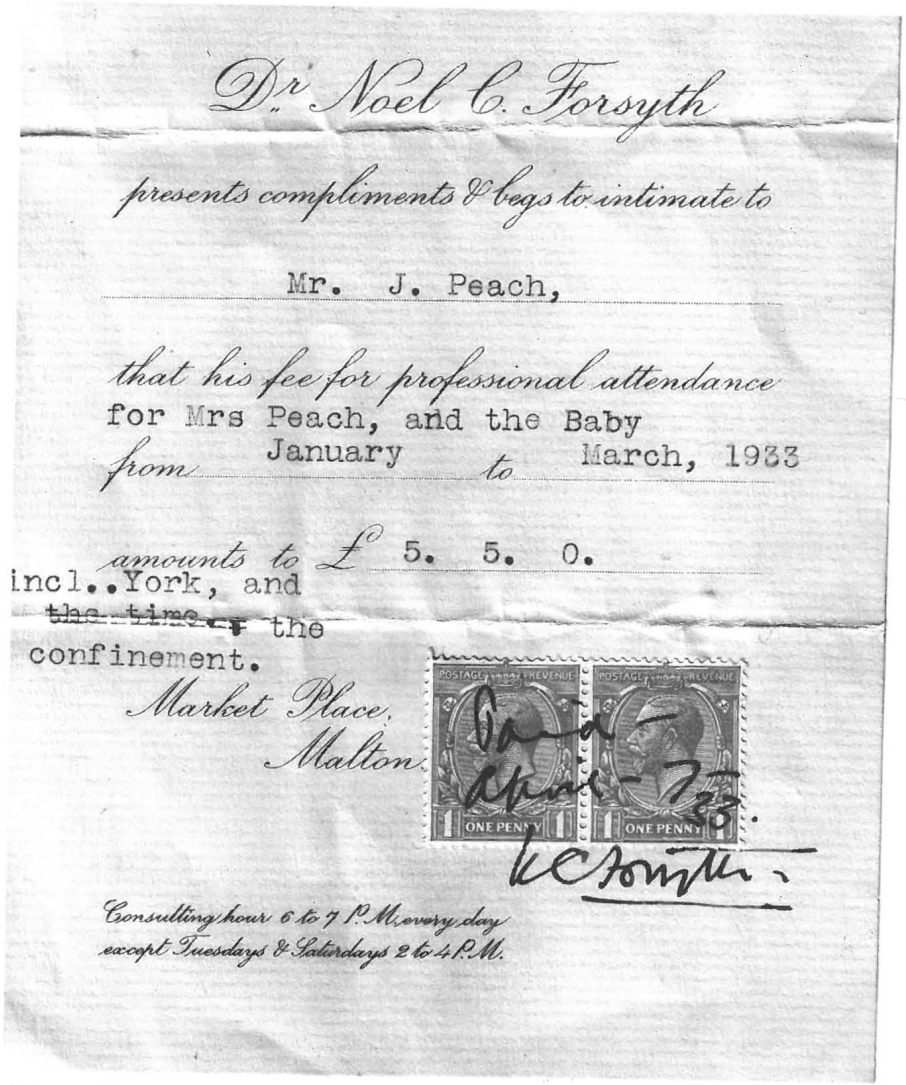
[1] Members of the Company of Fellmongers will surely be gratified to know that Alderman Bradrigg was not left to face the cost of this outbreak alone. An act of James II empowered magistrates to raise money locally for those affected by the pestilence. The North Riding Magistrates did so for Richmond. On 16th January 1646 they ordered that measures be taken to secure payment. There must have been some dragging of heels because on 7th April they made a further order 'touching the arrears for the relief of the poor infected people of Richmond'.

[2] An ancient land division alternatively described as 'a hundred'. The North Riding was divided into a number of wapentakes viz Gilling East and West, Hang East and West, Hallikeld, Birdforth, Bulmer, Ryedale, Langbargh, Allertonshire, Pickering, Lythe and Whitby Strand. The first five were usually designated as Richmondshire.

[3] Perhaps Marske in Cleveland.

National Health Service Anniversary

The National Health Service (NHS) came into operation at midnight on 4th July 1948 and for the first time healthcare in the UK became free. As we celebrate its 60th Anniversary, the account below demonstrates, only too clearly, that for many, healthcare was indeed an expensive luxury.



Dr Noel C. Forsyth

presents compliments & begs to intimate to

Mr. J. Peach,

that his fee for professional attendance
for Mrs Peach, and the Baby
from January to March, 1933

amounts to £ 5. 5. 0.
incl..York, and
~~the time of~~ the
confinement.

Market Place,
Malton.

Consulting hour 6 to 7 P.M. every day
except Tuesdays & Saturdays 2 to 4 P.M.

Mrs. Audrey Place recently discovered the account presented to her father after her birth in 1933

Teddy Roper: a sporting gentleman

Richard Collier

Edward "Teddy" Roper was born in Richmond in 1851 and attended the local grammar school. He was to have the rare distinction of playing county cricket for both of the old rivals Yorkshire and Lancashire. It was in June 1876, whilst living in Liverpool and captaining the Sefton club there, that he was picked to play for Lancashire against Derbyshire.

Over the next two years he appeared five times for his county of residence. However, on the 18th of July 1878, he took the field at Lords, making his debut for Yorkshire against Middlesex. Roper failed to score in the first innings, but in the second he top-scored with a creditable 68 runs, putting on 103 with the famous all-rounder George Ulyett. Despite this improved performance his team failed to make up the 400 run deficit. The following month, on the college ground at Cheltenham, Edward came up against the three Gloucestershire Grace brothers, W.G., E.M. and G.F. Unfortunately, little more than one innings each was completed. On September1st the next year, which was described as the worst season ever for rain, Edward faced the great W.G. Grace again, when the Gentlemen of the North played those of the South at Scarborough. There was not enough time in the end for the Northern Gentlemen to win. Three days later he played against I Zingari, an amateur team of wandering gypsies with no ground, founded in London in 1845. Yorkshire played the visiting Australians twice in 1880, this being the year of the first 'Test Match' although it was another two years before the bails would be burnt to make 'The Ashes'. Roper was picked for the return match at Fartown in July. He was stumped in the first innings off the bowling of F.R. Spofforth, known as The Demon: an unusual dismissal off a fast bowler, but the 6ft 3in Australian Spofforth was normally very fast and very accurate; in fact he was then regarded as the greatest bowler ever seen. Predictably the last half of the match was rained off.

At this point Edward reverted to Lancashire county cricket, the first match of the next season being against Cambridge University at Liverpool. After facing Surrey in the same month, he had to wait a whole year for his next county match. Playing against Gloucestershire at Old Trafford in July1882 proved of interest in two respects. The away team included two of the Grace brothers and their cousin, Walter Raleigh Gilbert. Also in the visiting team was Alan Douglas Greene, formerly a pupil at Richmond School and five years younger than Edward. Alan was only a third team player at Richmond, but at Clifton College he blossomed, topping the batting averages one year, and then going on to Oxford University and captaining that cricket team in his fourth

season there. Over the next ten years Alan appeared frequently for Gloucestershire, and occasionally for Somerset. This match against Lancashire was not his best performance. He failed to score in either innings and Lancashire won easily. Shortly before his team won, Teddy was bowled by W.G. Grace for just 2 runs.

Teddy married Eleanor from Liverpool where he was engaged in a shipping business which was said to be unsuccessful. The census of 1881 found them lodging in London without any children. He more or less retired from county cricket in 1885, although he did play a match for Liverpool and District against Yorkshire in 1891, and again in 1893. He became a vice president of Lancashire C.C.C. and a splendid organiser of the game in that county. When he died in 1921 at Toxteth, he left an account of his life entitled 'A Sportsman's Memories' published posthumously and edited by Fred Wood. There is no indication anywhere as to why he went to Liverpool in the first place, but his elder brother, Bryan, certainly captained Sefton before he did.

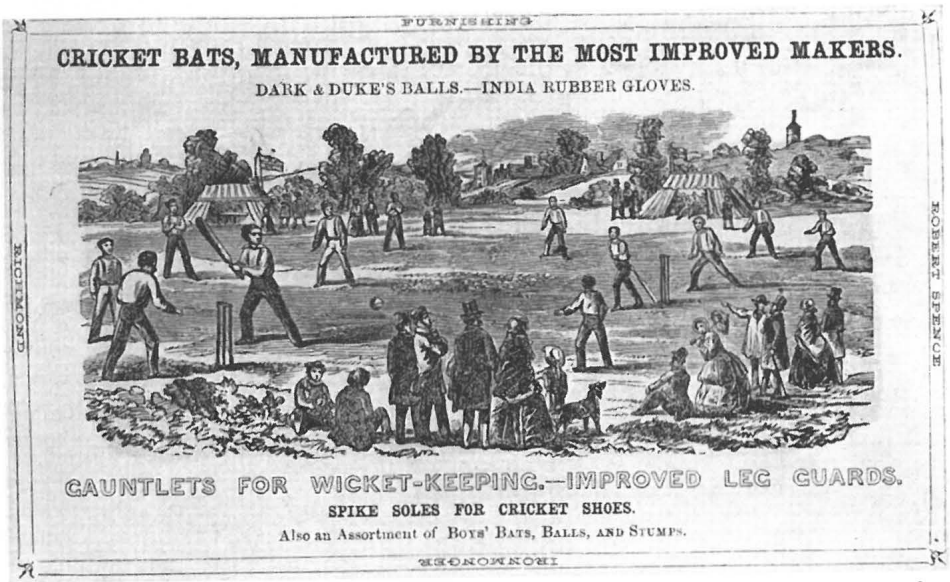
Edward Roper was the seventh child of banker Roper Stole Dennison Roper and his wife Jemima, their second child to be born in Richmond rather than Sedbury. R.S.D.R. Roper, who originally came from Hutton Henry, lived with his family at The Grove in Frenchgate until his early death in 1867. The bank of Roper and Priestman was on the High Row. His eldest child, George, also a banker, continued to live in the same house. Edward's father was chairman of the bench and became one of the non-official trustees of the Grammar School after the appointment of a new headmaster, Rev. Thomas Stokoe. Edward was twelve at the time and would therefore see Stokoe vigorously starting to build up pupil numbers from the disastrous fifteen left by James Tate II. Perhaps he later influenced the choice of Clifton College for both Alan and Edward, the latter entering the 'house' of the well-known and respected Rev. T.E. Brown.

A year earlier, in 1862, Edward had been taken into a little sanded parlour in the Fleece Hotel to meet the famous bare-knuckle boxer and ex-bricklayer, Tom Sayers, who had beaten 'The Tipton Slasher', Perry, in 1857 for the world championship belt. Sayers was now touring with the circus of Howes and Cushions and giving a re-run with American John Heenan of the famous world championship contest they fought in a Farnborough field in 1860. A year before the Anti-Prizefight Bill, this illegal fight started at sunrise and went on for thirty-seven rounds, after which an eye-witness reported that Heenan, who had a six-inch height advantage, was totally blind, and a resilient Sayers, with damaged or broken right arm, was being throttled over the top rope before the police came and cut it. Tom Sayers retired soon afterwards with a special silver belt and large public subscription, but he was dead by the age of thirty-nine. Heenan and Sayers were at this time friends, and when Edward went to watch

the morning sparring, he put gloves on and was invited to punch Sayers on the jaw.

During the sixties the state was taking greater interest in education, whilst at the same time sport became more important in grammar and public schools. Richmond School employed a professional coach called Gilman, and had already started renting a field half way to Easby, called 'Bagazine Upper', from Lord Zetland. That was back in 1849, and a cricket pavilion was built there.

Throughout much of the 19th century, cricket attracted professionals, with crowds prepared to gamble on the results. Teams might have eleven, twelve players – even twenty-two if not very good. Single wicket matches were popular, with a finish obviously guaranteed. A rich patron might put up a hundred guineas, or even a thousand guineas. Teddy said he used to play the jockey Jim Doyle at single wicket in Richmond once a week, and Jim Snowden, who would back Teddy for a fiver to win, normally collected his money. Teddy would walk with Snowden from Richmond to the stables at Middleham and back.



An advertisement in Spence & Co.'s catalogue. Reproduced by kind permission of Jane Hatcher

By the sixties, county clubs were organising into something we would recognise, with games lasting three days. Newspapers now found enough space to report matches. As the century continued entire teams might be made up of amateurs like Teddy. They were entitled to out-of-pocket expenses which could be generous if sometimes questionable, and they would use different hotels,

changing rooms, even doors onto the field from the professionals! By the time Edward started playing seriously, there were three styles of bowling being used on pitches now improved from the sheep-grazed meadows where a captain could set stumps anywhere to suit his bowlers. Round arm was legalised in 1835, and 'high-bowling' in 1864, after a lot of controversy. Many bowlers, like the Grace brothers, never progressed from round-arm. These were four-ball overs. Edward was described as an opening to middle order right hand batsman, fast trundler, and later a lob bowler. Aged twenty, he was picked as a low-order no. 10 batsman for Richmond against Northallerton, giving him the perfect opportunity, as a bowler, of hitting a winning six. He credits old Tom Raper of Gilling with his earliest cricket lessons. Tom bowled a fast underarm with a jerky elbow. What is unclear is Edward saying that the inside of the bowler's arm was whitened with chalk, and, if any was transferred to the side of the bowler's body, a no-ball was called.

Roper starts his book of memories by saying that 'Richmond in the old days was one of the best sporting places in the world' and 'you could do anything you liked in the way of sport at all hours, whether day or night.' He follows that up by relating a game of billiards that started in the evening, continued all the second day, until 2am on the third when the hotel landlady turned the gas out. It was no surprise to learn that when the British billiards champion, John Roberts, who had just beaten William Cook, came over from Bedale to play at The Black Lion in Finkle Street, and given the usual handicap, that Teddy could beat him every time. John Roberts junior was runner up to Wm. Cook senior in the first World Billiards Championship of 1873, the same year that Roberts was appointed Court Billiards Player to the Maharaja of Jeypur during his second tour of India. He then became World Champion eight times. John Roberts senior was called the 'Father' of English Billiards, and held the championship title between1849 and 1870.

Various members of the Roper family were partial to hunting, shooting and fishing. Father and elder brother George both rode with the Zetland hunt. Both seriously damaged their horses in the process, one fatally. Edward says that he spent some of his most pleasant days on the grouse moor, some of which a cousin owned. Edward was shot accidentally six times, including once by a gamekeeper using no. 4 shot, once by a clergyman and twice by his father while out rabbiting. Brother George was less lucky, having one of his eyes shot out on the grouse moors. Teddy's favourite fishing excursions around Richmond involved the spearing of barbell at night by torchlight, which he said was easy.The fish caught were taken by a man from Ellerton. Mrs Beeton who published in 1861, said that the barbell (which might have weighed ten pounds in the Swale) was seasonal from September to November, and was 'one of the

worst of fresh-water fish'.

One thing we can be certain of is that Edward was fond of betting, even as to how many songs he could sing, or whether he could swim across Douglas Bay off the Isle of Man. Being friends with jockeys like Snowden must have been an advantage in betting on horse races. Also, his early cricketing mentor, Gilling's Tom Raper,was said to be one of the best slippers to handle a greyhound. The slipper's job was to let the greyhounds loose at exactly the right time in a hare-coursing event. It was the ultimate test of a greyhound's speed and agility. I am sure that Teddy would have been chancing his money during the Waterloo Cup held outside Formby, close to Liverpool. For indoor betting, three-card loo was the popular game of the time; it had ruined many an eighteenth century gentleman. Teddy was once involved in this same card game with the landlord of the Fleece Hotel, Mr Dabbs, and three others. Eventually, as dealer, he was defending a pool of £270 when a knave of diamonds reduced by £90 his liability to double the pool. The next pool could have been £810, which is why they decided to stop: this was serious money.

Roper continued to play cricket until 1893 and received a testimonial of £500 subscribed to by 212 members of Sefton Park. After his death in 1921 a memorial tablet was presented to the club. It now forms the centrepiece on the club's memorial wall. A final and lasting legacy exists still in St. Mary's Church, Richmond, where the area of the baptistry was panelled in memory of the Roper family.

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Leonard MacNally

Angus Goodfellow

To followers of 'The Lass of Richmond Hill', Leonard MacNally is known as the author of the famous love song and the husband of Frances I'Anson. He was also a barrister and the writer of comic operas - and a political informer who betrayed his countrymen to the English.

Frances I'Anson, acclaimed by all true Yorkshiremen as the Lass of the song, was born in Leyburn in 1766. Her father, William I'Anson was a local lawyer who moved to London in 1773 and became established in a fine house

in Bedford Row, where numerous social gatherings were held. Here Leonard MacNally met and fell in love with Frances.

But the liaison was not looked on kindly by Frances' father. Perhaps MacNally's appearance and manners had something to do with this. He was described as being very short, nearly as broad as long. He had a face no washing could clean and "he had no nails, as he regularly ate every morning the growth of the preceding day". His table manners were so appalling that his colleagues on circuit refused to eat with him.

Frances herself was shown in portraits to be something of a beauty and was fond of poetry. It was also said of her, however, that she was a slattern in her person and "could never spare time from her poetry to wash her hands". This might explain the mutual attraction between her and MacNally.

Local legend has it that Frances was banished to Richmond to allow a cooling off in her affections. For many years, until shown to be otherwise by the late Peter Wenham, it was held that her family home had been Hill House in Richmond, and that it was here that she received the words of the song "Sweet Lass of Richmond Hill" in the form a love letter which she read while sitting under a walnut tree in the garden.

Frances' maternal grandparents were tenants of Hill House in the 1760s, at the time Frances was born. But their occupation ended in 1768, and by the 1780s there was no family connection. So, no love letter read under a walnut tree. Besides, the song was not published until after the couple were married.

Despite her father's objection - he cut her from his will unless she separated from MacNally - she married MacNally in 1787 and the couple moved to Dublin, where Frances died in 1795, having had two children. It seems to have been a happy marriage and MacNally was a good and loving husband.

MacNally had become a member of the Society of United Irishmen, an organisation set up to establish an Irish republic, which became banned by the English authorities, and as a barrister he was called on to defend members of the society in court. His house in Dublin became a meeting place for the revolutionaries. But he played a double game, betraying his political clients to the government prosecutors, being paid in return. It appears his motives were purely financial, possibly to pay off debts.

Evidence of these debts is given in a letter MacNally wrote to a brother-in-law. After speaking in glowing terms of his family life and his love for Frances, he writes: "As to myself, business increases daily, as do connections. I have been able to pay off several heavy debts and will shortly be able to liquidate the whole. Our house is in one of the politest streets in Dublin and, though not spacious, is fashionable, and is furnished with some taste and expense under the direction of Madame Fanny".

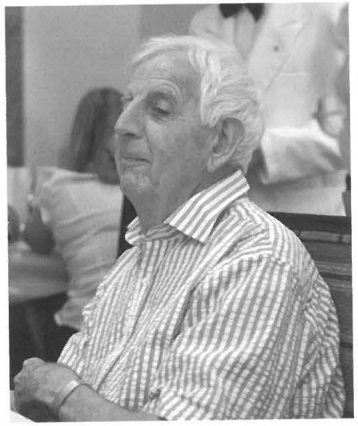
It would be ironic if the debts incurred by the free-spending Frances led, even in part, to MacNally's embarking on his life of betrayal. But we must think of her as being merely an innocent onlooker. MacNally's treachery was not discovered until after his death in 1820, some 25 years later, when his heir claimed a continuance of the Secret Service pension of £300 a year which MacNally had enjoyed since 1798. A document disclosed the frequent payment of several large sums in addition to his pension.

MacNally retained the confidence of his fellows right up to his death, when he was given a patriot's funeral. He had lived as a Protestant, but in his last moments he called for a Catholic priest, confessed and received absolution - evidence, perhaps, of a guilty conscience.

So, we have the man MacNally - a fine barrister, a loving husband, the writer of a famous love song - and someone who lived a life of betrayal.

Two Tributes:

Tom Carr by Ken Birkin



Tom Carr 1920-2007

To most Richmondians, Tom Carr was known as the husband of a multi-serving lady mayor, as secretary of the Richmond Subscription Concerts of which he was founder and as the moving spirit behind the Richmond Civic Society. He was also, of course, a highly respected historian and head of that faculty at Richmond School, where he represented an oasis of sanity in a turbulent, often fraught, educational environment. In truth, there were few Richmond activities that did not benefit from Tom's advice, or were not enriched by his support and presence; but my mandate is music and Tom, who knew

from personal experience the pitfalls and demands of performance, was a great encourager in this field. On that head I have vivid recollections of my own, be it a timely word of thanks after a school rendering of Britten's *Welcome Ode* (a work, perhaps, only a connoisseur like Tom would have appreciated), or a genial 'thumbs-up' in the interval of *Gerontius* when, in 1992, the Richmondshire Choral Society and Harrogate Philharmonic Orchestra together with international soloists celebrated the life of Tom's father-in-law, Dr. A.J. Bull. Such support, I know, was extended to all my musical colleagues; it was typical of the man who was Tom Carr. Coming from one who 'knew', who had been in the 'hot seat' himself, it was doubly appreciated. Tom was, to all of us, a vital and necessary source of strength and inspiration.

Tom's first musical experiences probably date from his boyhood membership of the Hudswell church choir, but there was a quickening of interest at Richmond School to which he won a place in 1931. Here, the 11 year old, under the influence of Dr. A.J. Bull, who instructed part-time at both RS and the Girls' High School, was soon making a weekly trek to Friary Lodge for piano lessons where, as his son, David, recently put it, he would be admitted by a 'toddling Katherine' – girl and teacher, unbeknown to each other, being destined to play a determining role in the Tom Carr future. In due course, under AJ's guidance, he graduated to the organ; a subsequent open scholarship – ultimately an organ scholarship – taking him to Oxford to study history in 1939 where he also spent three years extending his musical horizons. In 1942, the exigencies of war drew him into the 'wavy navy'. He served in minesweepers, initially on northern convoy routes, subsequently in Mediterranean waters off Sicily, Bari and in the Bay of Naples. It was here, in Italy, as Tom once told me, that he experienced and grew to love Italian Opera – tickets being freely available to service personnel in the wake of the German retreat.

After the war, in 1945, Tom returned to Oxford to study Humanities. It was here that he became acquainted with the musicologist, writer and music journalist, Arthur Jacobs, a friendship that endured until the latter's death in the 90's. He was back in Richmond by 1947, where, it would be fair to say, he drifted into teaching, subsequently taking up an appointment at his old school, where he 'stood in', not without misgivings, as music relief. 'Teaching music is a menace,' he reports in his diary, 'choral training a delight'. Indeed, in those early years, his choral responsibilities included two performances of Bach's *St John Passion*; not only a notable 'school' achievement but an enduring and formative cultural experience for the staff and pupils involved.

It was soon after he returned to Richmond, in 1947, that Tom, taking advantage of an Arts Council initiative, brought the touring company, Opera

for All, to Richmond. That venture marks the foundation of the Richmond Subscription Concerts whose potential, even Tom could not have predicted. Initially, opera apart, evolving through informal record evenings, it was to become a focal point in the musical life of the town. After his marriage to Katherine in 1959, Tom was in a position to regularise proceedings. Those early years of marriage saw the evolution of what became a regular pattern of subscription events. Six evenings would be held between October and March: an opera, two members' evenings, two professional and one amateur concert, the latter combined with coffee, a Bring and Buy sale and AGM. It was a routine that continued up to the 70-71 Season, although, by 1966, the number of meetings had risen to eight, inclusive of the first Christmas reception. Those early years must have been something of a challenge for the newlyweds and their young family. Katherine remembers how Tom festooned 49 Frenchgate with loudspeakers to accommodate some 60 or so music lovers distributed over stairs and reception rooms. On 18th November 1961 the focus was on the Concerto; on 31st October 1964 Dr. Bull introduced Verdi's *Requiem* with a further record evening in February 1965. Katherine's time was divided between listening, dishing out coffee and biscuits and ministering to her offspring whose musical 'baptism of fire' dates 'willy-nilly' from their earliest years.

With a yearly subscription of 15s, rising to £1 in 1964, and to a full 25s by 1968-9, members were getting a good Tom Carr deal. That latter season, for instance, brought (AGM apart) a violin recital (Ralph Holmes and Dennis Matthews), a lecture from Douglas Craig (of Opera for All fame), a recital by Ripon Cathedral organist, Alan Dance, London's Pounder Trio, a members' evening and a recital by Owen Brannigan and Keith Swallow. The list of well-known names Tom brought to Richmond is legion: Joan Hammond, Florence Hooten, Amaryllis Fleming, Geoffrey Parsons, Evelyn Rothwell, James Maddocks and June Mills – all seasoned campaigners. Tom also had a 'weather eye'on young talent and was amazingly accurate in predicting future stars. Indeed, in the late 60s, he made a deal with Fanny Waterman in Leeds, resulting in the offer of Subscription engagements to winners of the Leeds International Piano Competition. It was to be a fruitful collaboration: Radu Lupu, the 1969 winner, began a national tour in the Georgian Theatre under the auspices of the RSC, with an all-Beethoven recital in 1970. Others were to follow; Tom's infallible eye for burgeoning talent brought, over the years, such distinguished names as Craig Shepard, Peter Donohoe, Tim Hugh and Marat Bisangaliev to the town. Equally, among the plethora of established ensembles – The Prague, Edinburgh, Medici Quartets, the Aulos and Melos Ensembles – he introduced the young Vertavo and Belcea Quartets in the 90s and was early in the field with the Lindsays at the beginning of the 70s.

Up to the mid to late 70s, Opera for All still played a major role – they had been regular visitors with *Cosi fan Tutti* (1961-62); Cimeroso's *Secret Marriage* (1964-65); Bizet's *Dr Miracle* and Donizettii's *Night Ball* (1965-66); *Madam Butterfly* (1966-67); *Rigoletto* (1969-70); *Traviata* (1970-71); Bizet's *Fair Maid of Perth* (1971-72); Rossini's *Cinderella* (1974-75) and Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* (1976-77). It is a proud operatic record, to be crowned in 1997 when Tom, who retired that year after fifty years as secretary, instigated, with personnel from the Royal Northern School of Music in Manchester, a celebratory and overwhelmingly successful, full-dress performance of Mozart's *Il Seraglio* in the Zetland Community Centre. The man who brought opera to Richmond, determined to 'go out' with a BANG and was straightaway appointed honorary president of the Society he had founded: an office, since Tom's death, now graced by Katherine.

It was inevitable that the Richmond Subscription Concerts should figure largely in this tribute. It was without doubt Tom's major musical achievement, not least since it continues to thrive as a lasting monument to his love of the Art and to his missionary zeal. It was always his concern to bring good music, the music he loved, to his audiences. He was tireless in his encouragement of young people – witness determined efforts to involve Richmond schools through reduced price or even free tickets - and, at least on one occasion, organised Saturday morning master-classes in tandem with the evening concert. He also worked closely with Dr. Bull over the formation of the Richmond Festival (the forerunner of the present Swaledale Festival), one of the highlights of which was a competition for the Richmond Young Musician of the Year.

I, personally, miss the fellowship of those latter years, when Tom and I together would plan the programmes for the coming RSC Season – it was a privilege and a joy to work with him. His wide knowledge, not just of music, but of performer potential, of costs, availability (the result of painstaking homework and long experience) made the process smooth and easy. He was always keen to extend the range of audience listening – but knew just how far to go: exactly where to draw the line. It was fascinating to observe, as a published list of RSC programmes would show, how, over the years, he nurtured and developed the musical taste of his audiences – from Haydn to Bartok; from Mozart, through the late Beethoven Quartets, to Benjamin Britten. And who will forget the dry humour of Tom's introductory remarks or the celebratory after-concert evenings in Frenchgate where the artists were invariably billeted, where Katherine officiated over a flowing bowl and groaning board, and where musical discussion ranged widely, and far into the night.

RSC apart, one should not forget Tom's participation in the town choir (the Richmond Music Society) under Eric Holden, nor to pay tribute to his long

membership of the Richmond Church Choir under his father-in-law, Dr. Bull. Other endearing memories spring to mind, not least the RSC Christmas reception and the *Christmas Parrot* subsequently immortalised in the first of Tom's Yule-tide publications. Yes, Tom is sadly missed, but his work continues. It is the warmth and inspiration of his presence that we lack. I referred earlier to his determined and unfailing support for musical events in the town. It was a concert, indeed, that drew Tom, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, to St Mary's Church, on the evening of his last, and, as it turned out, fatal accident. Like 'Faithful' he has rendered up his sword to his successors; may they be worthy of it: and we can be sure that 'all the trumpets' in the heavenly orchestra 'sounded for him on the other side'.

Sir John Smith by the Editors

News of the death of Sir John Smith in February 2007 was received with particular sadness by many people in Richmond. As founder of the Landmark Trust, Sir John has changed the fate of many of Britain's historic buildings, not least Richmond's own Culloden Tower.

The idea for The Landmark Trust came to Sir John while serving on the executive committee of The National Trust. While largely admiring of The National Trust's work in saving country houses, he wrote: "There are many minor but handsome buildings of all kinds, into whose construction went much thought and care, which are part of our history and which contribute greatly to the scene, but whose original use has disappeared and which cannot be preserved from vandals, demolition or decay, unless a new use and source of income can be found for them."

His solution, to rescue, restore and then rent to paying guests, thus funding future upkeep and repair, seems simple but its implementation was imaginative and effective. In 1965 he founded two charitable trusts: The Manifold Trust, a money-making source involving the purchase of the end of long-term leases, and The Landmark Trust, the former to finance the latter. Perusal of the Landmark's portfolio is testament to his success: more than forty years later there are 184 Landmark properties in the UK, USA and Italy. The range is enormous: manor houses, mills and Palladian villas, follies, forts and gatehouses, humble cottages and glorious castles – even a Doric pigsty.

The restoration of Culloden Tower in 1982 by the Trust was much welcomed by the people of Richmond, who had watched this fine building, built by John Yorke to commemorate the Hanoverian victory of Culloden, deteriorate. Almost certainly designed by David Garrett, Culloden Tower, originally called

Cumberland Temple, was part of the Yorkes' elaborate transformation of their garden at Yorke House. Sadly, by the 1980s, empty and neglected, it had already become what Alec Clifton Taylor described as 'tragically vandalised'. The Landmark's restoration, under the watchful eye of leading conservation architect Martin Stancliffe, made good use of old photographs and salvaged fragments to recreate the exquisite plasterwork and woodcarving, and the tower, restored to its former glory, now stands as one of Richmond's most iconic landmarks.

However, in forming The Landmark Trust, Sir John looked to a wider purpose than that of simple preservation and restoration; his greater desire was to re-educate public attitudes towards architecture and make people more aware of their surroundings, to promote half-forgotten, traditional building skills, to restore but not over-restore and to work always to maintain the 'spirit' of a building. Touring one Landmark restoration in 1975 he was heard to remark, "I think it's rather good, don't you? It looks as if we have done nothing at all."

When Culloden Tower came under threat from possible development in the adjacent Yorke Square Car Park, Sir John, even though seriously ill at the time, offered invaluable support. His convictions that 'preservation is now constructive and creative as well' and 'history is part of our environment' were shared by all those who fought to preserve the views of this iconic building and its landscape. In a moving tribute to his father, Barty Smith quoted Sir John saying that 'if you stand looking at a Landmark building and you are clever, you can tell what year it was built, but you can't tell what year you are in now. Nothing must break the spell'.

'Nothing must break the spell' is, indeed, a fitting epitaph for a man whose vision and imagination transformed so many buildings and the eyes of those who viewed them.



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Deaths:

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Subscriptions are due after the A.G.M. please.
New members joining after the summer recess are required to pay half the current subscription, with a full subscription for the following year due after the A.G.M.

Acknowledgements
Richmond and District Civic Society is most grateful to Iris Vollborth for typing, to Mark Whyman for taking photographs and for enhancing old ones and to the providers of other photographs and copyright articles as indicated.

Obituary: Christopher Patrick

We were delighted when Christopher agreed to take over the position of Treasurer and Membership Secretary for 2006. We benefited greatly from the wide experience he brought from his professional life, and were very sad when he asked to resign during the autumn of 2006 on health grounds. Christopher was a very private person, so it was a shock to all of us when he died from his illness in April this year. We expressed our condolences to Jennifer and her family on behalf of the Society.

Fred Wood

Civic Society Programme for 2009

Friday 9th January	Derry Brabbs ***Hadrian's Wall and other journeys***
Friday 13th February	Roger Chapman ***Regimental Richmond***
Friday 13th March	Jane Wheeler ***Landscape and Palaeoenvironmental Archaeology*** (joint lecture with Richmondshire Museum)
Friday 17th April	Peter Cradock ***Papua New Guinea: an Uncertain Paradise***
Friday 8th May	Doug Worton ***The Voyages of Captain Cook – Part 2***
June (date to be arranged)	Civic Society Annual Visit: Wallington, Northumberland
Friday 11th September	***An Evening with the Yorkshire Film Archive***
Friday 9th October	Chris Lloyd ***Of Fish and Actors***
Friday 13th November	Anne Lawson ***Searching for Water in Mali***
Friday 11th December	***The Annual General Meeting*** Followed by a diversion to be announced later Richmond Town Hall

All lectures will be held in the Zetland Christian Community Centre, starting at 7.30 p.m.; the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, also starting at 7.30p.m.

Back Cover:
The stained glass window in memory of Ruth Gedye, St Mary's, Richmond.
Mark Whyman