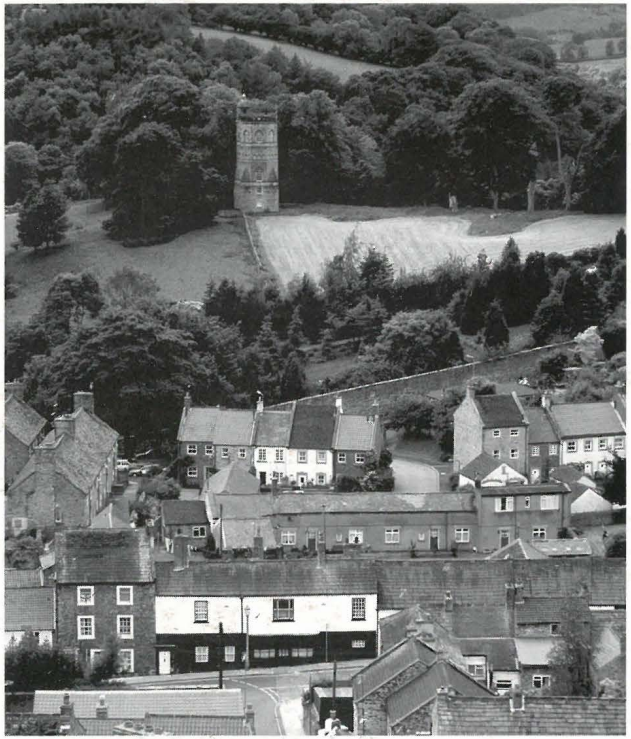


Culloden Tower from Richmond Castle Keep, with the junction of Bargate and New Road in the foreground.

Mark Whyman

Frenchgate in the snow, New Year's Day 2004.

Mark Whyman

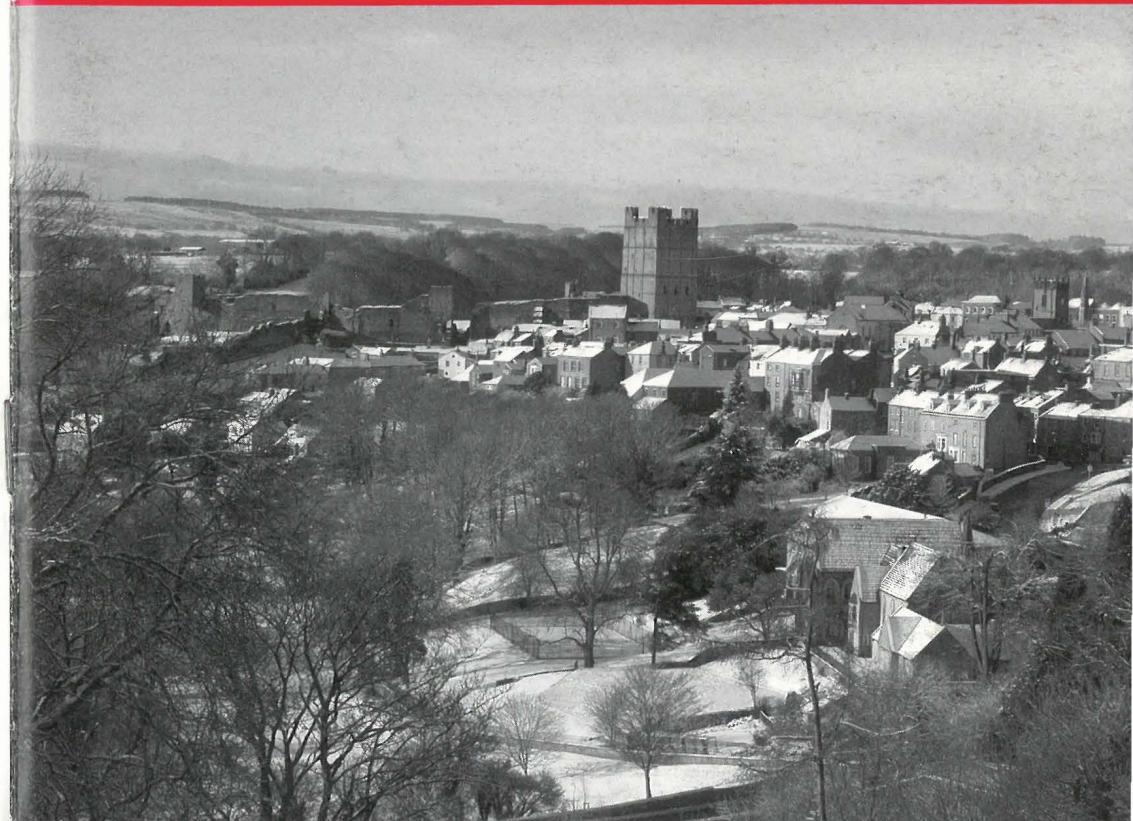


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The Richmond Review

being the Annual Report of the

Richmond and District Civic Society 2004



Richmond and District Civic Society

Officials for 2004

Chairman:	Mr. H. B. Joicey	Retires as Chair 2004
Secretary:	Mrs. H. K. Ibbotson	Retires 2004
Treasurer & Membership Secretary:	Mr. G. Merlane	
Honorary Consultant Architect:	Mr. H. R. Dick	Retires 2004
Editor:	Mrs. J. Linda Drury	
Committee:	Mr. P. Cardwell	Retire in 2005
	Mr. J. Ward	
	Mr. F. L. Wood	
	Lt. Col. (Retd.) J. Young	
	Mr. G. Barber	Retire in 2006
	Mr. T. Dykes	
	Mrs. C. Hillyard	
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	Mr. T. Dykes	
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Cover: Richmond from Maison Dieu ***Mark Whyman***

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Back Numbers

This series of annual journals began in 1978. Back numbers except 1978, 1985 and 1986 are available, price £1 each. An index covering the years 1978-1989 (the issues edited by Mr. L. P. Wenham) is available, price 70p. Please add 50p to cover the postage and packing for a single volume, or 70p for two.

The Richmond Review for 2001 covers only the list of the officers, the chairman's report, the membership for 2001 and the programme for 2002. It is available for 50p. The main publication for 2001, *Richmond: A Review of the Millennium*, is no longer available.

Please telephone, or write to, the Hon. Treasurer at 1 Gallowfields Road, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4DB, if you wish to buy any publication.

Chairman's Report

Bev Joicey

The collection of individuals who came together in early autumn and successfully cleared the Richmond Station site represent the embodiment of the strength of the local community. In a small but very effective way, they provided a useful and relevant demonstration of what the community can achieve for itself. The Station Group, along with similar organisations such as the Richmond Open Spaces Appeal (ROSA) and Pride in Richmond, have made a determined and significant effort in ensuring that the environment of Richmond and the surrounding area is being sustained as an attractive, accommodating and positive place. Richmond is a comparatively cohesive and coherent community. It has the Boundary Walk, bringing people together, and a full range of interconnected groups that ensure it is a relatively inclusive, active community. It is also, generally, well supported by organisations such as the Town Council, the District Council, the Countryside Agency, Yorkshire Forward and English Heritage who have made their contribution to reinforce the quality of the local environment. However, it is the energy and effort of local people that is required to maintain high standards and their vigilance that is needed to ensure that proposed developments for the future are appropriate to sustain the quality of the environment. There is never room for complacency or too much introspection.

An apparent flood of consultancy reports continues to wash over the area and it would be foolish to overlook their findings. For example, earlier this year a report by a small group of international visitors, sponsored by the Countryside Agency, drew some useful conclusions regarding the future relationship of Richmond and Catterick Garrison and the tourist potential of Richmond. Their findings echo comments voiced by locals, but were nonetheless relevant. They highlighted the need to ensure all new building is of high quality, recommending a need for 'stunning new building' especially for the Garrison site, perhaps through the use of open competition. They also suggested that Richmond should pursue the achievement of becoming a World Heritage site. They saw the town as having major potential as an arts and conference centre, a place for specialist shopping, a spiritual centre and a health and spa base focussed on the swimming pool. They recommended that our Richmondshire Museum further improve displays to tell the story of Richmond and, most important, they suggested further highlighting the importance of the Georgian period for the town, advocating the production of a Georgian Trail and suggesting a Georgian Day or Festival.

They seemed surprised that such developments were not already well underway and the Society would endorse much of what they said. They are surely right about new building. The new premises for Richmond Girls High School, which, when built in 1940, were regarded as one of the most avant-

garde school buildings in the country, emerged from an open competition. The 21st century heralds new premises being constructed for St. Francis Xavier School. It is hoped also that this will be a model of the 'stunning', challenging architecture mentioned in their report, though there appears to be insufficient information available to the public about the look and style of the place. They are right about architecture on the Garrison. It needs to be very good if the Garrison is to stand alongside Richmond. The Darlington College site is of high quality but this shows up the poor design and quality of the new shopping area. Open revolt about the future of Friary Field ensured the high quality of the Co-operative supermarket building in Richmond and this contrasts so significantly with the garish and insensitive design of Tesco at the Garrison.

The visitors' report also said that Richmond should pursue becoming a World Heritage site, but many residents and visitors already consider it already achieves this. The theatre and school are leading the way in opening up the area as a centre for arts activities, well supported by Arts in Richmondshire (AIR), Richmond Live, local galleries, and the presence of North Country Theatre, with the Station promising further opportunities to enhance such development. Adjoining the station site, the possibility of a health and spa centre is an exciting prospect – and this suggestion flies rather in the face of those who might suggest the closing of the swimming pool as a cost cutting exercise. There is also Eco-Build UK who, a mile outside Richmond, is developing a small community of 18 environmentally sustainable 'luxury' holiday lodges on their 55-acre site at Aislabeck Plantation. This promises to make an important contribution for the community in terms of tourism and as a model of the development of local resources. The report of the international visitors helped pinpoint significant assets, recognised by locals though, unfortunately, not always used by them. Specialist shops do come to Richmond but, too often, they do not find sufficient custom.

The report underlined the importance of the Georgian period in the story of the town. Richmond is well placed to be a centre to help to describe the nature of the Georgian period in the North. The town boasts the matchless Georgian theatre, it has a good deal of its Georgian housing and it retains, within short walking distance, many of the architectural features associated with life in a provincial Georgian market town, including the Assembly Rooms, the Castle Walk promenade and the remains of an important formal garden at Temple Lodge. This year English Heritage has formally recognised the historical importance of Richmond racecourse and are proposing that this unique 18th century landscape be properly preserved. Richmond is also within easy distance of Coxwold, the home of Laurence Sterne, where the great 18th century novel *Tristram Shandy* was conceived and written, also of Newby Hall which boasts, in its sculpture gallery, the archetypal record of the Grand Tour. Richmond is also very close to the lead mining landscape that helped provide some of the wealth that allowed the Age of Enlightenment to flourish.

The Civic Society is pleased that it has been an instrument in drawing attention to such features and sometimes in helping to enhance and preserve them. Nevertheless, there must be some disappointment that greater attention is not paid to these architectural and historic features in promoting and developing the economy of the area. It would seem to be an ideal town as a centre for cultural tourism and for encouraging the development for aspects of Heritage Education – developing craft skills, developing skills in aspects of curatorial education and museum services and running activities directly about the Georgian period. After all, this period was the time when the nature of our 'modern' life was being shaped – eating habits and times being established, mass-production of artefacts and furniture beginning, approaches to politics defined and the foundations for our present entertainment and sporting world introduced. It is, perhaps, important to understand this period better, as many of those features introduced are beginning to be challenged seriously, changed and rejected. In other words, Richmond is a centre well placed to help understand the origins of our modern society and, by careful management, use such activities to develop a better local economy, using local resources, providing local employment, and increasing local facilities that help the area better to meet new economic challenges.

But, despite the strengths of the community, which include a good, informative local newspaper, communications about new developments are not always as good as they should be. For example, the proposed move of the District Council out of Richmond has been absent from the news. The Society remains concerned about this development and the likely effect on the town and district. For all the good reasons behind a move, it cannot be seen other than further distancing politicians, officers and decision-makers away from the major centre of population in the District. Similarly, the Society is concerned about references and rumours concerning the proposed merger of Richmond and Catterick Garrison as one town. Again, there may be good reasons to take such a step but this fusion of two very diverse communities and environments does not seem to have been properly debated. It is not clear as to whether or not this merger has ever been put directly to residents of either community and the public ignorance of any debate can only lead to speculation about possible implications not being given sufficient consideration.

Perhaps the residents of the area also need to know more about the Richmond Swale Valley Community Initiative (RSVCI) and what it is achieving for the economic development of the area. This organisation has emerged from the combining of the Town Centre Forum and the Richmond Partnership and is beginning to be a useful economic force, with its active Town Manager, the appointment of an events and festivals organiser, the introduction of specialist walks and plans for illuminating aspects of the town. It has, through the Town Manager, been influential in commenting on the new arrangements for roads, with its gateways, traffic control and speed restrictions that are gradually being

introduced. This has yet to prove itself and the Society is keeping a watchful eye on this.

On a slightly different level, the Town Council again sponsored a competition to help better identify and reward the effort and energy made by local gardeners but, also again, too little publicity was given to the opportunity created to visit these gardens. A comparatively unsung strength of Richmond is the quality of local gardens. There are those that have a national reputation such as the contrasting gardens of Millgate House and Temple Grounds but there is often remarkable quality to be found in smaller and more suburban settings. Maybe Richmond should have an Open Day for all gardens and gardeners who are interested in demonstrating their successful achievement and use such a venture to encourage more visitors to the area. It seemed to work wonderfully well for Gilling West this year in terms of communicating the quality of that environment.

This year, the Society welcomed William Hague, the local Member of Parliament and the former leader of the Conservative Party, to open the lecture programme. His talk provided an outstanding synopsis of the life and times of William Pitt, the Younger, based on his new biography of this successful politician. This highly effective talk set an excellent tone for the lecture programme as a whole that has, generally, been sustained throughout the year. Similarly, the stimulating pattern of excursions by the Society continued with the visits to Chatsworth and to the lead mines of Swaledale. Much of the success of the lecture programme rests with a previous chairman, David Morris. It was particularly agreeable to observe David awarded the honour of becoming a Member of the British Empire (MBE). A more deserving individual it is hard to find, given his work in establishing Swaledale Woollens, which stands as a model for economic development in a small rural community. The Society has also gained much from his contributions, drawing attention to issues and causes and chairing the Society for a number of years. He has also led the small team who produce the entertaining and informative lecture programme for members.

This is my last year as Chairman of the Society. It is a position that I have enjoyed very much, particularly as the Society seems to be such a positive influence in the town.

It is not always easy to balance private, individual interests with public concerns and needs, but I hope the Society maintains an informed, independent stand to ensure such issues are carefully mediated with regard to planning applications, architectural developments and historical information. The Society seeks to represent the views and opinions of members, as witnessed in our recently produced report on the town, and its effectiveness is entirely due to the commitment of members – in particular those prepared to serve as committee members. Such colleagues give up a considerable amount of time and energy from which the Society and, I hope, Richmond and District benefit. Few can have given more time to the Society than Harold Dick, who retires this year as

our Honorary Architect and Chair of the Planning Sub-Committee. He has shown formidable leadership and strength in guiding the Society on decisions relating to planning, architecture and community considerations for as long as the Society has been active. The Society is very grateful to him for his contribution and the monuments to his effectiveness are all around us in this attractive and, generally, well cared for town. It is sad to note the death of Joyce Davey, another long serving member of the Society. Her poem for the Millennium, summed up much that many of us feel about Richmond.

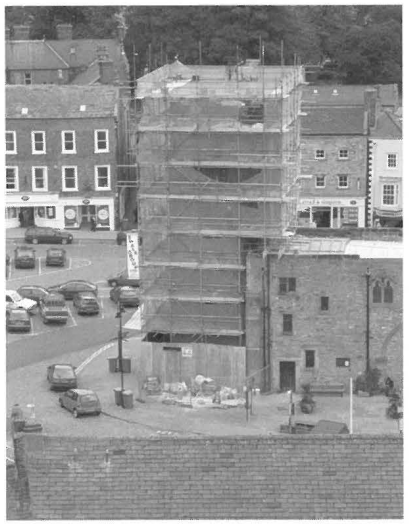
Finally, there are those that ask the question as to why we should seek change of any sort – after all, Richmond seems to attract new residents without difficulty and older residents seem content to stay. But nothing ever remains the same. If we wish to retain and improve the qualities that have brought us, or kept us here, then that requires a considerable amount of effort. I suppose an implicit aspect to all the Reports that I have written as Chairman is a concern that politicians, residents and administrators do not always sufficiently recognise the strength of Richmond and District as a centre to be developed for the benefit of the area as a whole. Richmond is a town known throughout the world as a centre of historical interest, a place full of breathtaking townscapes and overlooking magnificent landscape. I believe firmly that if more and better attention were drawn to this, then benefit would come to the whole Dales area. Those who turn off the road to Richmond, as well as enjoying the town, will also be drawn into the seductive, fruitful landscape and townscapes beyond.

Richmond Cavalcade

J. Linda Drury

I hope that a look at a few of the happenings and talking points in Richmond over the last year will help Civic Society members living at a distance, to keep in touch.

Having fought one's way into Richmond this autumn from Scotch Corner, past Transco's many colourful trenches, traffic lights and smell of gas, one reached the Market Place where the obvious event was the £100,000 restoration of Trinity Tower, for many months swathed in bulky scaffolding, now emerging spick and span. There are plans too, to restore the cobbles. Less



Trinity Tower under repair
Mark Whyman

obvious are the improved CCTV cameras, the presence of which has helped the peace of the Market Place. The ugly facade of the old Kwiksave supermarket has been replaced by Somerfields, which looks much better. This airy, remodelled store is an asset to the town's shopping facilities, but is there no-where else for those trolleys save on the pavement? Besides the work on Trinity, the old United Reformed Church in Dundas Street, with the Infant School of 1834 and church room, is being converted to offices to be named Zetland Square. At St. Mary's there are new vestments to last for generations. Nearby the future of the space behind the old post office is still under discussion as are the important issued of the future use and management of the old station building and of the town's Westfields and of better access to the Gallowfields Trading Estate. There was an outcry over the careless use by Council contractors of hedge-cutting flails at Westfields. They had to return to prune hacked, split and dangling branches.

To the delight of the regulars, the Black Lion in Finkle Street re-opened briefly for Christmas celebrations and has recently re-opened, refurbished. The landlord at the Town Hall Hotel for 25 years, Bertie Farry, died and at the King's Head a welcome successor has been found to follow the late Bill Munroe, who tended all those clocks for so many years.

Richmondshire Museum in Ryders Wynd held a party to celebrate 25 years in business. Boer war medals were presented to the Green Howards Museum, and at the Georgian Theatre Royal and Museum Vaughn Curtis arrived as new manager from the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin. The restoration of the Grade 1-listed theatre earned a prestigious Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Building of the Year Award for 2004 and the theatre as a whole received an award from "The Stage" for special achievement in regional theatre. Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society (RADS) celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a most entertaining production of *The Beggar's Opera*. A shopper's poll for "retailer of the year" in Richmond put the Edinburgh Woollen Mill in top place followed by the Co-op Friary Supermarket and the Richmond Motor Company on Gallowfields Trading Estate. The best new shops were the Bears Pad (teddy bears) and Earth Collection (clothes). The Richmond Town Centre Forum is being effective in encouraging life around the Market Place; how about a pavement cafe?!

The Town Hall has been, as ever, the focus of many events, lectures, coffee morning, sales, exhibitions and meetings. The seven-yearly boundary walk this year, began and ended there and local authors have presented books there. The new lift to take wheel chairs from street level up into the hall is working well and new lavatories for the disabled have been provided.

The War Memorial on Frenchgate Head has been cleaned, with grateful thoughts in this sixtieth anniversary year of the D-Day Normandy landings. Consultations have also taken place about the future management of cemeteries in Richmond.

Losses to the town's facilities this year included the Kings Street Wine



The Richmond Boundary Walk – referred to as 'Boundary Riding' – takes place every seven years according to the present custom which has evolved from the requirement set out in the charter for Richmond dated 1576. Here hundreds of walkers come down Deepdale on 25th August 2004. *Mark Whyman*

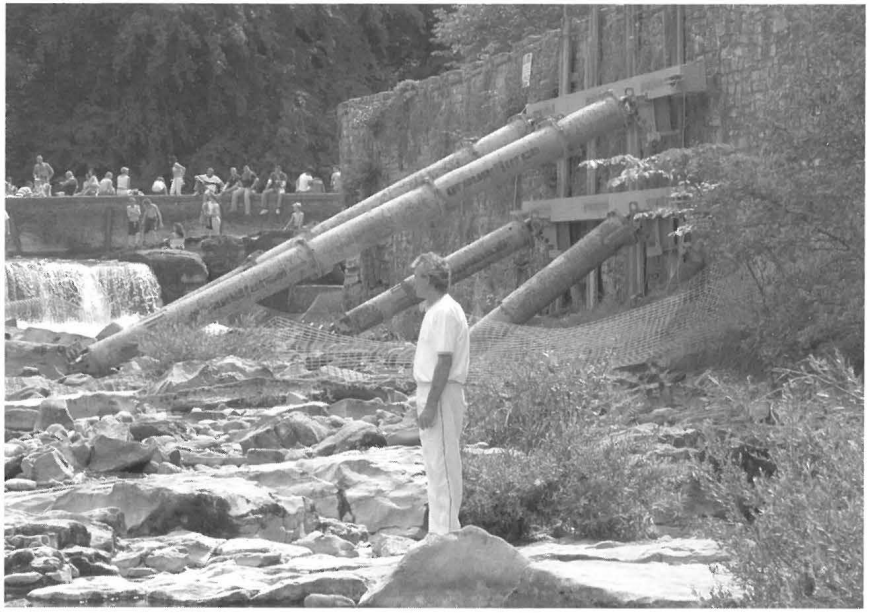
Cellar and the Sports Centre at the Garden Village in the old barracks, to be sold for low-cost housing. This latter has caused a lot of feeling as have the schemes to move the Magistrates Court from Richmond to Northallerton and the Council Offices out to Colburn. It is hoped the position of Town Manager can be funded for another year.

The initiative of Mayor Stuart Parsons' volunteer group, Richmond Pride, in clearing trees, undergrowth and rubbish from below the Castle Walk, has been taken up by English Heritage and now the views over the river are better than for years. The riverside path to Easby is still being eroded. Not enough cash has been raised yet, despite a heartening anonymous legacy.

Local residents, staff and pupils at St. Francis Xavier School in Darlington Road look forward to building works there till autumn 2006. A new two-storey school is being built and a sports hall, dance and drama studio etc., erected on the site of the present school, at a cost of about £8 million. The new entrance onto Darlington Road has already been made, inconveniently opposite a bus stop.

In January Brenda Hale who lives in Richmond became the first female Law Lord. After a lively two-year stint Mayor Parsons was succeeded in May by Russell Lord who came to Richmond from London's East End and was co-

opted to the Council. To crown our year, two Richmond girls distinguished themselves by representing Britain in the Olympic Games in Athens - Alison Mowbray in sculling, where she won a silver medal, and Joanna Jackson in swimming.



The props holding up the wall by the Foss at Richmond in June 2004. During the repair a vaulted chamber, part of the watercourse of the old town water mill, was found. *Mark Whyman*

Archery in Richmond

Sheila Harrisson

The earliest record of recreational archery in Richmond is 1673 when members of the Richmond Archers took part in a competition to shoot for a silver arrow. It was won by Henry Calverly Esq. of Eryholme who became the first Captain of the Arrow. With very few exceptions, the event has been held annually from that date and is the oldest and longest-running archery competition in England. The original meeting to draw up the rules of the shoot was held at Scorton on May 14th 1673 and gave rise to the event being known as the "Antient Scorton Silver Arrow". The Captaincy was awarded to the first archer to pierce the central gold circle and the Lieutenancy to the first archer to piece the circle surrounding the 'Gold'.

The history of archery in Richmond is closely bound to the sport in neighbouring villages and towns and in particular with Scorton. For the first 36 years of the Silver Arrow shoot the regulations required it to be held within six miles of Eryholme, but in 1709 the meeting was held in Richmond and in the 114 years from 1709 to 1823 it was held at Richmond 60 times. This suggests that there were sufficient Richmond archers to make it viable and that the hospitality the town offered was attractive enough to meet the requirements of tired and thirsty people at an all-day shoot. It is known that the meeting was held at different times at the Richmond Race Ground and in the grounds of Easby Abbey. The 1822 shoot began with archers gathering at 7.30 a.m. at the Golden Fleece Inn in Richmond before going to the Race ground and in 1823 they met at a similar time at the Shoulder of Mutton Inn in Scorton prior to starting to shoot at 8 a.m.. To this day, Silver Arrow meetings have to be held within Yorkshire but may be won by archers from other parts of the country or from abroad.

Until the meeting in July 1822 the rules governing the size of the targets, the diameter of the central gold circle, the distance between targets, the number of arrows to be shot and the starting time, varied. The rules were amended after what was described in the notes of the 1822 meeting as a 'considerable altercation' between two of the fifteen archers present, Mr. Christopher Croft of Richmond and Mr. Smirthwaite of Darlington, both of whom claimed to have won the Captaincy. The dispute remained unresolved because the rules had been interpreted differently by the two parties and, as a result, the competition was declared void and re-arranged to take place in the following month. From the date of the reconvened meeting the straw targets were set facing one another exactly 102 yards apart and archers were required to shoot in strict order, the previous year's Captain and Lieutenant shooting first, and every archer shooting two arrows from each 'end' alternately.

Unfortunately the original records of the Richmond Archers are lost so that it is not possible to confirm the exact date of the society's foundation, nor of its demise. That it still existed in 1893 is shown in the list of archers who entered a major national competition at the Knavesmire in York in bad weather and gusting winds. Seven of the 67 archers who entered the competition were members of the Richmond Archers society; their names and positions were: O Leefe (6th); J Bradley (13th); J Fisher (17th); James Hunton (19th); C Croft (27th); W Swire (53rd) and C Robinson (64th).

The records of the 1866 Silver Arrow meeting make special mention of Matthew Greathead, whose memorial is in the churchyard at St Mary's Church, Richmond. The record reads:

> 'Be it remembered that the Marker, who has attended this Meeting for the last 40 years, is now in his 97th year, MATTHER [sic] GREATHEAD is his name'.

A 'marker' is a person who indicates to archers where their arrows have fallen, whether in the target or in the grass. Modern archers often use binoculars to check the accuracy of their shooting so the use of 'markers' has diminished, but in earlier times their services were greatly valued. Whether Matthew Greathead was a member of the Richmond Archers is not known but in 1857, when he was 88 years old, the Silver Arrow meeting was held at Easby and it possible that he was there. Similarly, it was said that he had attended the meetings for 40 years so it is likely that he would have been present at some of those held in Richmond after the rules of location were changed. There is reference to the Silver Arrow meeting held in Richmond in 1904 but whether the Society of Richmond Archers still existed at that time is not known.

The effort of drawing a longbow for a period of several hours should not be underestimated. A man's bow may easily have a draw-weight in the region of 50 lbs. At a typical Silver Arrow event, shooting perhaps 50-60 arrows and walking 100 yards to the target after every two arrows makes for a tiring day. The thrilling sound of a flight of arrows travelling at up to 200 miles per hour is compensation. Longbows and wooden arrows are still used by many members, especially when shooting for the Ancient Silver Arrow.



Archers at the 1880 Antient Scorton Silver Arrow meeting. Mr. Swarbrick (Richmond Archers) is at the extreme right of the picture. Mr. P. S. Nevile (St. Wilfrid's Archers) is holding the Lieutenant's trophy, the silver bugle. *Reproduced by permission of the Society of Archer-Antiquaries*

Present day archers from the Richmond area have several clubs or societies to choose from and, over the years, several Richmond, Northallerton and Darlington archers have joined the Society of Scorton Archers that has its field and a small pavilion behind the St. John of God Hospital.

The longbow can be used for target archery, field archery and clout shooting. Target archery is the most popular and uses straw targets set at certain distances, as for the Silver Arrow meetings. Field archery requires a different technique and presents a considerable challenge because the small targets tend to be placed in woodland or open country in varying terrain, at different heights and with varying distances between targets; it has been practised in Richmond from time to time in the woodland close to the racecourse under strict supervision. Clout shooting on the other hand uses a high trajectory and dates from the first Elizabethan era. It is thought to have developed from the need to train archers in long-range shooting. The clout itself is a small white cloth or disc placed at a slight angle to the ground several scores of yards from the archer; it requires plenty of space and a 'marker' to indicate to the archers where the arrows have landed. There is no record of clout shooting in Richmond but in the 1970s and 1980s several members of Scorton's Society of Archers, some of whom lived in Richmond, took part in occasional clout shoots in the area.

Richmond Castle provides a venue for people of all ages with an interest in bringing historical events and associated activities to life. How authentic the "14th century archers" event will be in August this year remains to be seen but it will be an excellent opportunity to see the beautiful longbow in action once more in Richmond.

Sheila Harrisson is a retired academic (Health Sciences). She and her family are long standing members of the Company of Scorton Archers.

Chaplain to the Queen

Richard Cooper

I suppose, like most surprises, it takes some time for the significance of what has happened to sink in. Certainly this is true of my appointment as a Chaplain to the Queen. Having been presented to Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace and receiving the Royal Warrant and having taken tea with her, my life in Richmond goes on as it has done for the past six years and yet another dimension has been clearly added which was not there before. You can't miss a scarlet cassock! And scarlet, being the Royal Livery, is reserved to members of the Queen's Household to which the chaplains belong.

Westminster Abbey and St. George's at Windsor, are separate Royal Establishments, and as such their canons do not bear the title of Chaplain to the

Queen nor do they wear scarlet at Windsor but a bright red known as 'the Murray'. However they do wear scarlet at the Abbey. The Queen is rather particular about who wears scarlet and when she learned that a number of cathedrals and royal foundations were wearing it, including Ripon, she ordered and in some cases paid, for new cassocks, of a different hue to be issued!

Chaplains to the Queen belong to the Chapel Royal which is that body of clergy, singers and vestry officers appointed to serve the spiritual needs of the Sovereign. In medieval days it meant travelling with the court upon royal progresses through the realm as well as saying Mass upon the battlefields of Europe, as at Agincourt. Its ancient foundation can be traced back to the first century with the church in Britain and its latter day headquarters have been at St. James's Palace. It was established there in 1702, along with the Court of St. James, and so is really the Chapel to the Court. Since 1312 the Chapel Royal has been governed by the Dean (a Bishop appointed by the Queen) who, as the Ordinary (authority) also exercises, along with the Sub-Dean, jurisdiction over the daughter establishments of Chapels Royal at the Tower of London and at Hampton Court Palace.



Canon Cooper with David Baldwin, the Sergeant of the Vestry, following the Whitsuntide Service at St. James's Palace, London.

The Chapel Royal conducts the Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, with a forces chaplain in company. It combines with the choral establishment of the host Abbey or Cathedral on the occasion of the Royal Maundy, under the governance of the Lord High Almoner (also a Bishop). Other members of the Chapel Royal, as well as the College of Chaplains, include the Sub-Dean, three deputy priests, one Organist Choirmaster and Composer, a sub-organist and Six Gentlemen in Ordinary (choir) and Ten Children of the Chapel Royal (choristers). There is a Serjeant of the Vestry, Groom of the Vestry (verger) and Keeper of the Closet. Many of the best names in English Church music are associated with the Chapel. Thomas Tallis and William Byrd were organists as was Purcell. Thomas Attwood was a chorister here before becoming Mozart's pupil in Vienna. The Chapel Royal has a remarkable manuscript and sound archive and the Serjeant of the Vestry, David Baldwin, has put together a series of lectures as part of an educational programme on the history of the Court of St. James and the Chapel Royal.

The College of Chaplains preach according to a "Rota of Waits" in either the Queen's Chapel, which is the summer chapel adjacent to the Palace of St. James or the Chapel Royal within the Palace itself. The College comprises the Clerk of the Closet, who is a Bishop, and thirty-six Chaplains. When a vacancy in the list of Chaplains occurs, the Private Secretary to the Queen asks the Clerk of the Closet to suggest possible names to Her Majesty. The formal details of the appointment are accomplished by the Lord Chamberlain's Office. The Chaplains receive a preaching fee but no stipend and as members of the Royal Household wear the Royal Livery, which for clergy is a scarlet cassock and white bands. They also wear a Badge of Office. Other duties include the annual attendance at a Royal Garden Party as part of the Household and to be present at such Royal occasions as the Lord Chamberlain shall direct.

This past year has been a very enjoyable one as the Queen summoned the whole College to Hampton Court in May to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Hampton Court Conference at which James I commissioned the great King James Bible. The lessons read by the Duke of Edinburgh were from the very first edition of that same Bible. The College was photographed with Her Majesty who stayed on to have lunch with us. My preaching engagement was on Whitsunday, to a full Chapel Royal, at St. James's Palace, but the Queen was elsewhere. I was also fortunate to be invited to Garter Day at Windsor, which is the most splendid occasion – no one does it better!

The Reverend Canon Richard T. Cooper B.A. is Rector of the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Richmond, Yorkshire.

Richmond Angling Society – early days

Gordon Alexander

In Richmond Cricket Club on the evening of the first Tuesday of each month, a date set by a resolution made as long ago as 1921, a gathering takes place of that often obsessive and individualistic group of humankind, the angler. To the accompaniment of clinking pint glasses much time is spent on topics as diverse as pondweed control, public liability insurance, trophy engraving and tree planting. For nearly a century committee members of the Richmond and District Angling Society have busied themselves making sure that anglers in and around the town, as well as visitors to the area, enjoy the delights of good local fishing at an affordable cost. Not confined to the comforts of the Cricket Club, members of the committee can sometimes be found wielding a spade or

operating a chain saw by the riverside or discussing leases in the office of a land agent. Over the years Richmond Angling Society has managed fisheries that have gown from local to regional importance and this all started in the Buck Inn, Newbiggin, on the 30th September. 1912. On that evening eight Richmond anglers came together in response to a call to form an angling society for the town. P. C. Wenham, a keen fisherman, who had just moved to Richmond from the south of England, made the call. The attendees were G. Hayward, a shopkeeper and landlord of the Buck Inn, I. Harrison, H. Benson, B. Spenser, H. Hague, J. McKay and A. Gregory a reporter of Flints Yard. P. C. Wenham chaired the meeting.

Father of the historian Leslie Peter Wenham, Wenham had a vision that all the anglers of Richmond, whether they rode to hounds or rode behind a dray horse, should enjoy lawful access to local rivers to pursue their sport. In the early 19005 anglers without connections, in trade, or in manual occupations, could fish only a small section of the River Swale after paying for a daily permit at the Zetland Estate Office. Consequently river poaching was rife throughout the district, fostering the constant prospect of prosecution for the illegal anglers and nuisance for land-owners. By midwinter 1912 the Richmond and District Angling Society was starting to blossom, collecting members and gathering goodwill. Harry Hague became the first Chairman and P. C. Wenham started his remarkable fifty-one year innings as the Honorary Secretary. The First Marquis of Zetland gave his support by becoming the President of the Society and by agreeing to lease to it his fishing rights on the Swale. The Marquis, along with the Wandesforde Estate, who owned the fishing rights on the south bank of the river up to Lowenthwaite Bridge, decided to give back, as a donation to the Society, all the rent paid for their waters. This generous arrangement continued for many years and helped ensure the survival of the Society in its early days as well as its longer-term stability. To provide representative management of the affairs of the Society a committee was formed. Its members were George Harrison the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Herbert William Marsden the Water Inspector, H. V. Norton, Henry Benson, Alfred F. Spencer and the stationer Herbert William Spencer.

Thirty four members attended the first annual general meeting of the Society held at the Zetland Club on 31st January 1913. At this meeting Lord Zetland's Agent, F. W. Hall, was elected to be chairman and the enthusiasm generated by the new Society gave rise to a successful vote to increase the committee from six to eleven members. More Richmond anglers wanted to make an active contribution and those elected to join the original committee were A. Suggitt, W. Harrison, H. J. Fraquet, F. Wood and W. Metcalfe. A sign of confidence in the new venture can be detected in the adoption, by a majority of 16 votes, of a motion to raise the annual membership subscription, originally set at three shillings per year, to five shillings plus a one-shilling joining fee. At this time a gunsmith, Charles Spencer, was trading in Finkle Street and he joined the Society

in March 1913. His gunsmith's shop, along with the Buck Inn, became a place where non-members of the Society called to obtain annual, weekly and daily permits to fish in the Society's waters. The Buck Inn was the original meeting place of the Society and occasional annual general meetings were held there throughout the first years but the more regular meetings took place in the Zetland Club, now the Citizens Advice Bureau, on the corner of Newbiggin and Bargate. Rent was paid to the Zetland Club until the annual general meeting held in the first days of 1918, after which all meetings, as well as the occasional annual dinner, returned to the Buck and the Buck Inn became the firmly established 'home' of the Society. An upstairs clubroom was maintained where mounted specimen fish and trophies were displayed and the association with this inn lasted right up to 1964. Progress made during the first year of the Society can be seen in the minutes of the 1914 annual general meeting which record that fishing rights had been obtained on waters belonging to Mr. H. A. S. Prior, the Zetland Estate, the Wandesford Estate, Major Smithwards, Messrs T. B. & W. Shaw and also the waters held by the Wardens of the Kirby Hill Dakyns Trust.

To become a member of the Society an angler had to be a resident of Richmond or live within a five-mile radius of the town. Members held voting rights and were eligible to serve on the committee. Anglers from beyond this area could buy permits allowing them to fish the waters of the Society, but apart from a demarcation between resident and non-resident, which has endured to the present day, the Society possessed an egalitarian quality based upon the fellowship of angling. Many of the original members were business people and officials in the town, but apprentices, who paid half the full membership fee, and other people, young or old and from all backgrounds, were welcome. Some idea of the social mix can be seen in a vote of condolence in 1915 for two members killed at the start of the Great War. One was a ranker, Private Harry Benson, and the other, Colonel Leatham, was a general officer. Equality also held good across the sexes, at least in the early days. In 1914 a Miss Walton held junior membership and Miss Olive Leather, of the prominent Leather family who lived at Bolton Crofts in Quaker Lane, was an active member of the Society over a number of years. This did not last, however, and at the 1932 annual general meeting it was necessary to propose that ladies should be admitted to membership. This proposal was defeated, even though Society finances at that time demanded an increase to membership revenue! Evidence of a more enlightened attitude only occurs in 1965 when the Society once again accepted a female junior member. By 1977 there were three lady members.

Angling is very much an individual sport but the Richmond Angling Society provided for those members who wished to come together in communal and social events. In the early days the success of its annual dinners ebbed and flowed the high point being in the 1930s when it was usual for the Mayor of Richmond and local landowners whose rivers were fished by the Society, to be invited to a black-tie event, often held in the Fleece Hotel.

Organised days out and fishing competitions were an early innovation, and some of these were notable, Whit Monday of 1916 being one such day. A group of Society members took to their bikes and headed west, the fishing venue being Marske Beck. Then as now there was no pub at Marske village so the party cycled over the old road from Richmond laden not only with fishing gear but also with bags containing bottles of beer and a bottle of whisky. After leaving their cycles by a wall in Marske, they headed for the beck side where the unfortunate carrying the precious bottles slipped and clattered down-bank into the water. Only one bottle of beer was recovered unbroken! Even in despair, however, the sporting ethos remained high and everyone agreed to fish only upstream of the accident to avoid catching inebriated trout! But their troubles were far from over. On returning to the bikes after dusk they discovered that the lads of Marske had used the tyres as pin-cushions. Unable to repair the damaged tyres the fishing party had a weary and very disgruntled trudge back to Richmond, fortunately arriving just before the local taverns barred their doors for the night!

The first fishing competition, held on the Swale at Kirby Fleetham in 1913, was not well supported and so cash prizes were offered for the best catches in second competition, which took place in the fateful month of August 1914. This competition was the first in a successful pattern of annual August bank holiday events but in 1915, the competition nearly ended in tragedy. The anglers taking part used a two-horse carriage to drive from the Buck Inn down to the Swale at Kirby Fleetham. After fishing for a short while a terrific thunderstorm interrupted the proceedings and everyone dashed back to the carriage to head for shelter. As they rode along through the pouring rain a lightening bolt struck, just missing the carriage and hitting a nearby tree killing a sow and six piglets taking shelter under its branches. The strike was so close that the horses, and most members of the fishing party, were very shaken up and took some time to recover from severe shock.

In order to encourage younger people to better enjoy angling it was decided, in 1920, to incorporate a junior competition into this bank holiday event. In 1927 the winner of this competition was a youthful Leslie Peter Wenham. One member, Captain T. H. Singleton, presented the first silver trophy to the Society in 1929. It was to be awarded annually and so a second annual competition was organised and the first winner of the Singleton Cup was one of the original committee members, Mr. George Harrison. The Singleton trophy, along with many other trophies presented over the years, is still awarded today.

Early leases for fishing rights obtained by the Richmond Angling Society stipulated that a water bailiff had to be employed by the tenant. The main task of a water bailiff is to ensure that people fishing preserved waters do so according to the law and to the rules of the Society. Until the 1960s the bailiff was an employee of the Society working full-time during the trout fishing season, from March to September, and being retained to patrol the river three times each week for the rest of the year. In the first months of 1913 the committee made its

first appointment and Charles Musgrave, apparently a skilled angler and fishing tackle maker, continued to serve as bailiff until his death in 1923. His initial weekly wage was fourteen shillings during the trout season together with an annual bonus, which probably acted as a retainer for patrolling out of season. A two-week notice period was incorporated into his contract and initially he was not permitted to fish the waters in his charge. Minutes of a committee meeting in June 1913 record what was the first of many prosecutions made against anglers fishing without a permit. Musgrave seems to have applied himself diligently to his work as in October 1913 he was thanked by the committee and given special permission to fish the waters in his charge. By 1917 his pay had increased to seventeen shillings and in 1920 he was earning twenty-five shillings a week. Bailiff Musgrave supplemented his wages by giving lessons in fly-fishing to Society members. One day he was teaching a member the finer points of fly casting on the Swale just upstream of the town, when the pupil got his hook caught in the unfortunate bailiff's nose. Riverside attempts to remove it were painful and unfruitful and it became apparent that to get the hook out its barb would have to be taken off by filing. This was a delicate operation and so a dash was made back into town where at the King's Head Hotel, chosen, no doubt for the ready availability of medicinal liquors, the hook was carefully removed. For some time Charles Musgrave's nose was said to be "a sight to behold". During this early period the bailiff can be seen very much as a servant of the Society and it was not until 1949 that ongoing permission was granted for the office holder to enjoy similar benefits to the members and to fish the waters, subject, of course, to his duties not being neglected.

From these early days the bailiffs and Society members became active in opposing pollution of the Swale and other local rivers. The paper mill at Whitcliffe was a major cause of concern and in the summer of 1915 Charles Musgrave suspected that liquid being discharged from the mill was causing the deaths of many fish. The Fisheries Board were informed and carried out an investigation but decided against prosecution of the mill owners and problems, including the release of dye into the river, continued to occur. Tar seeping into the river from the town gas works as well as excess waste from the sewage system installed after the building of Catterick Camp, compounded the problem throughout the 1920s and it was not until the middle of the twentieth century that the persistence of the Society started to pay dividends. For a long period it would appear that economic considerations outweighed the concern of anglers for a clean, healthy river.

In the early twentieth century, replenishing the fish stocks in rivers where frequent angling took place was established practice encouraged by Government through the regional fisheries boards. Stocking was carried out each year and consisted of releasing into a river immature fish, hatched and reared artificially at a fish farn. In December 1912, within a few months of the formation of the Richmond Angling Society, the Yorkshire Fisheries Board pledged the new

Society five hundred yearling trout to release in the Swale. Whilst the fish were a grant, the Society had to cover the cost of transporting them to the river and a subscription was opened amongst the members to raise the required sum. The fish were brought from a fish farm in south Yorkshire by train and payment was made directly to the railway company for carrying the fish to Richmond Station where they were loaded onto a horse and cart and taken to the riverside. On the 26th of March 1913 these first fish arrived and were released into the Swale. The location of this first release was not recorded but the next annual release, also of five hundred yearling trout, took place in February 1914 near to Lowenthwaite Bridge.



The Singleton Cup – Richmond Angling Society's first silver trophy presented to the Society by Captain T. H. Singleton in 1929.

Gordon Alexander

Since these early days the enthusiasm and dedication of the Richmond Angling Society has continued unabated as has its association with the Zetland family. The Society now owns, or leases, many of the waters which it fished in 1914 and controls the angling on over twelve miles of river, as well as on three still-water fisheries. Ninety members, some three hundred associate members living beyond the five-mile membership radius from Richmond and many anglers who visit the area enjoy fishing on these waters. The enterprising anglers of 1913 laid a solid foundation for the Society and for ninety-one years it has made a significant contribution to the sport and leisure facilities in the town of Richmond.

Gordon Alexander is the Treasurer of The Richmond Angling Society the early records of which have been deposited in the County Records Office.

An Intriguing Tombstone

Jane Hatcher

In the Roman Catholic section of Richmond Cemetery in Reeth Road is a tombstone, the poignant inscription on which hints at both personal distress and tragedy and also the town's hospitality. It reads:-

Here lies the body of
SIDONIE VAN EEPOEL
who died October 15th 1917
aged 40 years.
Also that of her mother
CATHERINE JEENS widow of
PETER JOSEPH VAN EEPOEL
who died September 28th 1918
aged 80 years.
Fleeing their home in Belgium
on November 3rd 1914 before the
German invasion they took refuge
here at 10 Frenchgate
with 17 of their relations
15 of whom lived to return
to their native land in 1918
two having died elsewhere.
Requiscat in pace.

The text raises so many questions. How did their relatives raise enough money to have such a lengthy inscription put on the tombstone? Why did they choose 10 Frenchgate, or indeed Richmond, for their refuge, other than because a large house could accommodate 19 people? Was there perhaps some connection with the Convent of the Assumption? What did they do for furniture? Did the Roman Catholic congregation rally round? What must have been the grief of the 80-year-old mother, widowed and remarried, bearing the death of her unmarried 40-year old daughter? At least she was spared the sadness of returning to Belgium without her.

The Normanby Room and Medal Room of The Green Howards Museum

Roger Chapman

As visitors to The Green Howards Museum reach the middle floor and walk around a corner into the Harrison Gallery, they usually stop in their tracks, allow their jaws to sag, then exclaim: "Wow!" They have entered a treasure-

trove of over 3,500 medals dating back to 1815, when the first campaign medals for soldiers were awarded. All the medals are displayed in interior lit wall cabinets, which reflect the silver and brass of the medals and highlight the bright multi-colours of the ribbons. To the left of the Medal Room are eighteen Victoria Crosses and three George Crosses with citations and photographs of the recipients and, in glass-topped table-cabinets, are gilt and silver badges, buttons, buckles and gorgets of the regular, militia and volunteer units connected with The Green Howards.

As visitors walk over thick carpets into the darkened interior, they then have another surprise. Through a glass door, they can look into a Council Chamber with fibre optic lights, which glow onto oil paintings of distinguished Green Howards, Colonels of the Regiment and Colonels-in-Chief. Chandeliers reflect light off the adze-hewn, but highly polished, refectory tables, chairs and screens created by Robert 'Mousey' Thompson between 1930-1936. Each piece of his furniture has a small carved wooden mouse – crouched proud of the oak – as a hallmark.

At the far end of the room is a large oil painting of a mounted officer dressed in a scarlet tunic with sword in hand. Alongside it is another portrait of the head and shoulders of his bewigged father. The latter is the 3rd Earl of Carlisle, the aristocrat who built Castle Howard close to Malton, in North Yorkshire. The officer on horseback is Major General the Honourable Sir Charles Howard KB who gave his name to the Regiment – The Green Howards – in 1744.

This nomenclature happened in a strange way. In 1744, during the latter part of the War of the Austrian Succession, the British Army was encamped in Flanders whilst fighting a war against France. In those days, the regiment was named after the Colonel of the Regiment – the senior officer who had purchased it. Thus, our local infantry regiment was called Howard's Regiment. Unknown to most, there were two Colonels of Regiment called *Howard* in Flanders: Thomas Howard who commanded the 3rd Regiment of Foot and Charles Howard, who commanded the 19th Regiment of Foot. Imagine the confusion when Field Marshal Wade ordered Howard's Regiment to move to the right flank. In order to allay further problems, the Commander-in-Chief told Thomas Howard to call his Regiment the *Buff Howards* after the light-grey buff lapels and cuffs on their red coats and Charles Howard to call his Regiment the *Green Howards* after their grass-green facings. The nicknames stuck with both Regiments until they became official in December 1920.

If the visitor is invited to enter the Normanby Room, on the immediate right of the door he will see a portrait of Colonel, the Marquis of Normanby KG CBE JP, of Musgrave Castle, Whitby, in Green Howard mess kit. Lieutenant, the Marquis of Normanby served with the 5th Battalion in France in 1940, and took part in the retreat to Dunkirk where he was badly wounded and almost blinded from shattered glass windows during a German bombardment of the coastal town. As a result of his wounds he had to remain behind in the hospital

with the Battalion Medical Officer. When the Germans eventually captured Dunkirk on the 5th June 1940, he was placed in captivity and sent to a Prisoner of War Camp, Oflag IX A-H, close to Spängenburg in Germany. It was here that he started his life-work to help the blind for which he gained national recognition.

In 1965 the Marquis of Normanby became the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, a rank which he held with great distinction until 1987. It was during this tenure in 1970 that he agreed to become Chairman of the Museum Fund Raising Committee and helped raise over £65,000 towards the re-development of the Museum in its present location in Holy Trinity Church. Both he and Lady Normanby were generous benefactors to the Museum. It was for this reason that the Regimental Headquarters Council Chamber, with its beautiful windows looking out onto the market place, is called the Normanby Room.

When The Green Howards Training Depot was built in 1877 on top of Gallowgate Hill, both the Officers' Mess and Sergeants' Mess were placed in separate buildings. They both displayed regimental silver, paintings and trophies of war. In the 1930s, so it is said, the President of the Officers' Mess Committee (PMC) was visiting St Mary's Parochial Church, where he saw Robert Thompson carving the screen which is situated at the entrance to the Green Howards Chapel.



The equestrian portrait is of Major General Sir Charles Howard K.B. who gave his name to the regiment. Most of the furniture was made between 1928 and 1935 by 'Mousey' Thompson of Kilburn, North Yorkshire. Roger Chapman

He asked Thompson if he made furniture and, if so, could he create oak tables, carvers and chairs for the Officers' Mess. Apparently, Robert Thompson charged £5 for each oak chair with a tan leather seat and an extra pound to carve the name and initials of the officer who purchased the chair for the Officers' Mess. He also constructed three large and very heavy oak tables, hewn and finished with an adze giving the distinctive 'Mousey' Thompson look. Three officers had their names carved on each table-side to confirm that they had paid £100 for each dining table. All the tables are decorated with the Green Howards badge – Queen Alexandra's royal cipher above the Danish 'dannebrog' Cross – and much larger wooden 'mouse' scurrying up one of the legs of each table. One table is very rare because, with an unusual lapse of professionalism, Robert Thompson carved two mice on one of the tables by mistake.

Once the furniture was completed and moved into the Officers' Mess in the Depot – tables, carvers, chairs, armchairs, fire-side seats and an oak screen – they were regularly polished with beeswax by the Mess Staff giving the beautiful tan colour. Once the Regimental Sergeant Major at the Depot saw the new furniture in the Officers' Mess, he decided to order similar pieces for the Sergeants' Mess. As a result, when the Depot closed down in 1961, there was a large collection of Robert Thompson's furniture to be moved into the stone Gymnasium in the Barracks. Since 1973 it has been on display in the Medal Room and Normanby Room of the Green Howards Museum.

At the rear end of the Normanby Room is a large oil painting by Terence Cuneo of HM Olav V, the King of Norway and the Colonel in Chief of the Green Howards, unveiling a memorial stone to his father in the Green Howards Chapel. It has two mice painted on it; one is a 'Thompson mouse' climbing up the screen at the entrance to the Chapel and the other is of a 'Cuneo mouse' – his hallmark also – sitting on a hassock in an alcove in the Chapel itself. Terence Cuneo long remembered painting this scene in 1960 of the King, the Archbishop of York, Michael Ramsden and the Colonel of the Regiment, Major General A E Robinson DSO.

Apparently the Archbishop of York was far too busy for a private sitting but left his mitre and cape to be used on a model. The only person who could be found to act as the model, who was of equal build to the Archbishop, was Regimental Sergeant Major Norman Winter MM, from the Depot at the top of Gallowgate Hill. Cuneo records his immense amusement at the embarrassment of the Regimental Sergeant Major as he stood rigidly to attention attired in mitre and cape hoping upon hope that no soldier or officer in the Regiment would see him dressed in such undignified attire.

Amongst the array of oil paintings of former Colonels of the Regiment are two charming paintings of Richmond Castle on permanent loan from the Fine Arts Society. The first is by E J Nieman painted in 1871 and the second, which shows Green Bridge in front of the Castle, is by David Muirhead, painted in 1937.

Two crossed Colours of the 2nd Battalion, are displayed on pikes on the

right hand wall. They were presented to the Battalion at Windsor Castle in 1909 by Queen Alexandra, who was the first Colonel-in-Chief of the Green Howards. She handed over this title to her son-in-law, HM Haakon VII, King of Norway, who in turn handed it on to his son King Olav V and now his son,



The 'Normanby Room' named after the Marquis of Normanby who raised over £90,000 in 1971-73 to complete the conversion of Holy Trinity Church, Richmond, into the Green Howards Museum. *Roger Chapman*

King Harald V is the present Colonel-in-Chief. Their photographs are displayed on the bureau alongside the Colours. The 2nd Battalion was placed in 'suspended animation' in 1956 when they returned to Strensall, York, from internal security operations in Cyprus. If the 2nd Battalion is ever raised again these Colours could be used once more on parade.

The Normanby Room is used for regimental, church, guild and the occasional civic receptions, for Museum lectures and Regimental Board meetings. Twice a year there is a Regimental dinner when all the silver, china, tableware and cutlery is laid out meticulously and guests invited to enter the Normanby Room past bandsmen seated in the Medal Room playing military music. The numerous oil paintings of past Colonels of the Regiment appear to smile their approval at such scenes.

It was only in 2001, at a special reception to celebrate the Fellmongers of Richmond Guild, that the President recognised the make of the three Persian carpets in the Normanby Room. The carpets must have been brought to England

in the 1870s when the Green Howards returned from the North West Frontier of India and then used in the Ante Room of the Officers' Mess since 1877. Michael Kurdi, a Muslim Palestinian from Jerusalem, could read the Arabic woven words declaiming that the carpets were made by Bahrad Jinkar in the 1870s and paid for by Zuhar Dershty for a Mosque in north west India. Michael Kurdi said "I am so pleased to see a Mosque in Holy Trinity Church, with carpets pointing in the right direction towards Mecca!" Fortunately, the Persian carpets set off the 'Mousey' Thompson furniture admirably. The 45 Thompson mice in the Normanby Room and Medal Room appear to be content with their surroundings – and so they should, as this is the location of the very heart of the Regiment in the Green Howards' home town of Richmond.

Visitors from our Norwegian twin town of Vinstra

Iris Vollborth

At midsummer, over the Richmond Meet weekend, the town received a visit by 15 Norwegians from Richmond's twin town of Vinstra together with 16 members of the Skabu School band and their 10 supporters. After being met by their hosts on Thursday 27th June, our visitors were taken the next day to the Wensleydale Creamery at Hawes, via Aysgarth for a coffee stop and a walk to the Falls. Even though Norway has fabulous scenery, our Norwegian visitors always enjoy visiting the Dales and they were most interested in the cheese making demonstration and museum at the Creamery and tucked in avidly to a roast beef and Yorkshire pudding lunch followed by apple crumble and custard – what could be more English than that!

The next evening, by kind permission of Major Roger Chapman, there was a splendid reception in the Normanby Room at the Green Howards' Regimental Headquarters which was attended by guests, hosts and as many association members as could be fitted in. It is always a pleasure to be there as the main reason for the twinning with Vinstra is the battle in Kvam in 1940 between the Norwegians together with soldiers of the Green Howards, against the German occupying force. I should perhaps explain that the Nord-Fron Kommune, with which Richmond is twinned, consists of the towns of Vinstra where the Town Hall is situated and the smaller towns of Kvam and Skabu.

On Sunday morning, the Skabu School band played in Reeth as part of the Swaledale Festival and again in the afternoon at the Meet entertainment at Earl's Orchard. The musicians' ages were a variety from 8 to 60 years and they were very smart in their blue uniforms embellished with gold. The other guests attended the Meet Church service and were afterwards entertained to lunch by

the Meet in the Town Hall. Some of them, intrigued by local folklore, took part in the Drummer Boy walk. The Skabu School band gave a wonderful one-hour concert in the Georgian Theatre Royal in the evening and it was a delight to hear Norwegian, classical, swing, Latin and march music played with such enthusiasm, especially by the little ones. It is marvellous that they have managed to find such talent from a small village and a school of only 89 students.



Some of our visitors from Norway donned their national costume to join in the Meet Parade. *David Bradford*

Many of the Norwegians walked in the Meet Parade on Monday, the ladies in National Dress, ably supported by the Skabu School band and they were all so surprised and pleased to be greeted by such enthusiastic applause. The band departed in their coach for Newcastle and the ferry home immediately after the parade with many requests from the Norwegian children to come back soon! In the evening the other guests, hosts and association members enjoyed a wonderful barbecue, kindly arranged by Ian and Val Hepworth at their lovely Skeeby home.

Tuesday was "go home day" for our visitors but before leaving there was a moving ceremony of dedication of ten trees planted in 1998 and of a memorial stone, kindly provided by Randall Orchard, on the Batts to celebrate the life of Debbie Walker, a loyal and dedicated committee member, and the 10th Anniversary of the twinning. Refreshments were provided in the Town Hall by hard working committee members, Brian and Brenda Milner and June Ivory, before somewhat poignant farewells were made and the Norwegians departed

for Newcastle Airport. May the planned return visit in two years time be as much fun.

Iris Vollborth was until recently the secretary of the Richmond Vinstra Twinning Association.

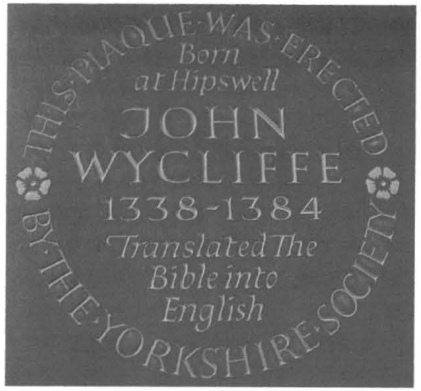
John Wycliffe, a Yorkshire-born churchman of the fourteenth century.

J Linda Drury

As the Yorkshire Society has erected a plaque in Richmond Market Place to John Wycliffe, the religious reformer, "the morning star of the Reformation", a look at his links with the north and at his remarkable achievements, at the beginning of English nonconformity, seems appropriate. Wycliffe, 1338 – 1384, taught at Oxford University, a place whence ideas ever spread. He was famous as a philosopher even before he moved to theology and religious reform. His was the inspiration of the movement known as Lollardry which was one of the forerunners of the Reformation.

The new plaque states that Wycliffe was born at Hipswell. John Leland, chaplain and antiquarian to Henry VIII, travelled in Richmondshire and wrote, about 1540, that they "sey John Wiclif Haereticus [heretic] was borne at Spreswel, a poore Village a good Myle from Richemont." Being unable to locate Spreswel, authorities concluded that Spreswel was a misprint for Ipreswel, now Hipswell near Catterick Garrison, indeed a good mile from Richmond. In the 1890's the Rector of Wycliffe, on the Tees east of Barnard Castle and where the Wycliffe family were lords of the manor for centuries, was the Reverend John Erskine. He told Speight, the historian, that Spreswel was the locally-known name of an area about half a mile west of Wycliffe, near Thorpe Hall. It was then a deserted site, its last standing building, the chapel of St. Tilde, having become a ruin and been ploughed over the century before. (Henry Speight, *Romantic Richmondshire* 1897 p.119) This Spreswell lay therefore about two miles west of Barforth Hall with its own deserted village, known, at least in the eighteenth century, as Old Richmond. In the parochial past someone in Spreswel could have told Leland it was a good mile to Richmond, having in mind, Old Richmond. However there is more compelling evidence for the Wycliffe on Tees Spreswel to be seen in the context out of which Leland's quotation has been taken. I refer to Thomas Hearne's edition of *Leland's Itinerary* 1744 vol.5 p.112. The paragraph which ends with the reference to John Wycliffe includes references to Sedbury, Barforth, Barnard Castle, Mortham, Greta Bridge and Wycliffe where "a meane Gentilman dwellith at a litle Village caullid Wiclif."

The very next sentence is that in question, they "say that John Wiclif..." etc. There is no reason to bring distant Hipswell into this context and every reason for John Wycliffe to be born near the seat of the family whose name he bore. Given this context and persistent local tradition it seems certain that Leland's and Erskine's Spreswel are the same. The inclusion of Spreswel with so many places near Wycliffe village outweighs the question of distance from the market town of Richmond or from Old Richmond.



The memorial to John Wycliffe placed in Richmond Market Place in 2004, on the premises of the Yorkshire Building Society. *David Morris*

Being born near Richmond, Wycliffe may have been educated in Richmond where a school was in existence at least by 1393, when Stephen Moys, clerk, was licensed to teach there. Only boys of certain social standing were then able to obtain qualifications for university entrance and John Wycliffe had them.

After his earlier schooling, he went to study at Oxford and was in Merton College in 1356. By May 1360 he had risen to the Mastership of Balliol College which had been founded recently by John Balliol, lord of Barnard Castle about five miles north-west of Wycliffe village. However, Wycliffe left Balliol College in May 1361 for the rectorship for Fillingham, Lincolnshire to which Balliol College presented him. In August 1363 he was licensed to return to Oxford to study theology.

Also in 1363 there was a vacancy in the living at Wycliffe village in Yorkshire and the patron, one John de Wycliffe, of Wycliffe, presented William Wycliffe a fellow of Balliol College, not our John, to this living. William was admitted in August 1363. Any relationship among William and the two Johns Wycliffe is unknown. Our John could have been considered for the place, as pluralism, one priest holding several living and their incomes, was not uncommon at the time and John himself was a pluralist and absentee incumbent, but, among the prebends and rectories he enjoyed, there were none in Yorkshire. For the rest of his life Wycliffe's recorded activities, as known so far, were farther south. He studied, lectured, preached and wrote in Oxford and at Fillingham and it is thought that he hoped to become Bishop of Worcester in 1373.

Until about 1373 he was an orthodox academic philosopher and logician, but thereafter he began to apply his realism to the problems of church and state and to the moral bases of their authorities.

We do not know how it was that Wycliffe got to know John of Gaunt ("time-honoured Lancaster") son of Edward III who had a hunting lodge at Healaugh about ten miles west of Richmond, among many others. Gaunt was Earl of

Richmond 1344-72 and his records show the attention he gave the Earldom. This connection with Gaunt led to Wycliffe's employment in royal service under Edward III and as adviser to Richard II's Council and to Parliament, as foreign envoy and propagandist preacher. Friends in high places, including Richard's mother Joan of Kent, widow of the Black Prince, protected him from the results of his published heretical thoughts about the Church, which were openly anti-papal. Papal bulls were promulgated against him, but at his trial for heresy at St. Paul's London, he was accompanied by that northern lord, the Earl Marshall Henry Percy as well as by John of Gaunt and no sentence was pronounced against him.

From his questioning of England's obligation to pay the papal tax called Peter's pence, he moved to question the Church's use of indulgences which sold, for cash, remission of sins and relief from hell. He dismissed the spiritual and secular pretensions of some priests and lambasted the Church's hierarchy. These opinions and his championship of civil authority against ecclesiastical encroachment brought down upon his head the attacks of orthodox theologians at home and abroad. Wycliffe believed that lordship is founded upon grace and he who is without grace has no right to power. He concluded that the Pope and cardinals were unnecessary and that in England the king should control the Church - with the advice of theologians. He believed in predestination, which made elaborate ecclesiastical organisation rather redundant and that confession of sins to God did not need an intermediary priest.

Few of the Protestant doctrines of the Reformation cannot be found in Wycliffe's works. He considered that no English subject should be imprisoned at the Pope's behest as this gave the Pope the edge over royal power in England. He opposed the secularity and wealth of many churchmen as undermining their spiritual authority .He condemned the use of excommunication for political and economic purposes and hoped the state would reform the unwilling Church. Celibacy he treated only as a high ideal and pleaded for permission for priests to marry .He took a cynical view of the principle of monasticism, thinking that a cloistered life of obedience to unworthy prelates, mechanical devotions and ceremonies only stifled spirituality and that men of religion should be spreading gospel values out in the world among the laity. He deplored the ignorance of many parochial clergy.

Wycliffe's ideas were spread to their homes throughout the country by those priests and laymen to whom he lectured and by his many pamphlets written in English, but he was by no means the only critic of a church embarrassed, from 1378, by the spectacle of two popes, at Avignon and Rome, fulminating against and fighting each other. He questioned not just the abuses, but the underlying doctrines supporting the current Church hierarchy.

A crisis came in Wycliffe's career in 1381 with the Peasant's Revolt, with the London mob sacking Gaunt's house in the Strand. Wycliffe's levelling doctrines were considered part of the cause of the rising. When about the same

time Wycliffe questioned the Church's doctrine of transubstantiation, as being a spiritual not a physical presence of the body and blood of Christ at the Mass and even held that laymen might consecrate at Mass in certain circumstances, he shocked and alienated Gaunt and other important allies (but not Richard II's Bohemian Queen Ann) and lost his chance for practical reform. Pressure was put on his disciples in Oxford. A new Council was held at Blackfriars London to condemn his doctrines and it was interrupted by a rare English earthquake. Wycliffe retired to Lutterworth, Leicestershire to continue his writing.

John Wycliffe cited the New Testament in his condemnation of the Church's secular power as exercised in his time. A Bible in English was needed so people could check his references in setting scriptural above ecclesiastical authority. He himself translated the four Gospels and by 1388 his followers had produced a complete English Bible which was copied repeatedly in manuscript but suppressed a generation later.

Risking persecution and imprisonment for his speaking-out, Wycliffe was a brave man. Someone with fewer influential friends might not have escaped personal punishment. He advocated a devout and simple life, dressed soberly and ate little. Despite efforts after his death to stamp them out, his ideas were too widely spread and persisted. John Huss in Bohemia developed them radically and Martin Luther, more influential than both, followed him also. Wycliffe's pupils, his sermons, books, pamphlets and above all, his English Bible, produced the movement known as Lollardry, a questioning current among those leading to the Reformation. His works in Latin alone numbered over 400.

As a northerner Wycliffe is part of a line of translators of the Bible into the vernacular, associated with the north. The Venerable Bede of Jarrow was engaged in translating the Gospels when he died in 735. Between 883 and 995 when the Lindisfarne Gospels were in Chester-le-Street, the priest Aldred interlined the Latin text with a translation into current English. Viking devastations of monasteries on the east coast had depleted badly the numbers of Latin-literate. Yorkshire-born priest Miles Coverdale, whose translation of the Psalms is that used in the Book of Common Prayer, dedicated his complete translation of the Bible to Henry VIII in 1535. William Tyndale's name shows his northern ancestry, though he was born in Gloucestershire and his translations of the Bible and other works were printed and published mainly in Antwerp. Some translators worked from the Latin Vulgate version. Others went back to Hebrew and Greek texts when available.

Wycliffe died of a second stroke in 1384 and was buried at Lutterworth. The movement he had fuelled continued to cause fear to the Church establishment in England and the continent. In 1401 came the Papal Bull "de heretico comburendo" which led to the burning at the stake of so many martyrs. Some 40 years after his death, as the establishment fought back at the Council of Constance, Wycliffe was exhumed and his remains thrown in the river.

His was a remarkable career. In Richmond many would be glad to claim

him as receiving his first education here, where the Archdeaconry was founded in 1133, a circumstance which brought clerics and lawyers, some of whom would also be teachers, to settle in the town.

Another of John of Gaunt's protégés, Geoffrey Chaucer wrote, possibly of Richmond, in his "Boke of the Duchesse" about Blanche the late Duchess of Lancaster, "a long castel with walles whyte By seynt Johan! on a riche hil" (Richmond). It would be nice to think that John Wycliffe formulated some of his far-reaching theories while walking beside our castle walls, but ..... .



John Wicliffe [sic] denouncing the Grey Friars.

The illustration appears in Henry Speight's 'Romantic Richmondshire' (1897), photographed by Mike Wood.

Note. I am most grateful to Mr. David Morris MBE for calling my attention to Erskine's evidence in Harry Speight's *Romantic Richmondshire* and for his interesting suggestion that John Wycliffe might possibly be a younger brother of Robert Wycliffe or Wiclif. Robert, a clerk, was a trusted official and executor of Walter Skirlaw, Bishop of Durham 1388-1405, arriving there (having been Bishop of Carlisle) four years after John Wycliffe's death. Robert was one of Skirlaw's Justices, also his Receiver General (chief financial officer), Temporal Chancellor and Constable of Durham Castle. Robert died at Kepier Hospital, Durham City, where he was Master in 1423. This seems too late for an elder brother of John who died in 1384. Had Robert been related to John, the latter's notorious reputation would surely have impeded Robert's prosperous career as a pillar of the establishment. The Biographical Registers of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to 1500 (ed. A.B. Emden) do not include Robert Wycliffe so, tantalizingly, are no source for Robert's origins.

Linda Drury is a native of Richmond. For many years she was a member of the Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic in the University of Durham, working on mediaeval manuscripts. Later she moved to Durham University Library, whence she retired recently.

The story of Bargate in Richmond 1763 - 1841

Mark Whyman

Readers of part I in *The Richmond Review 2003* will have realised that sources of information on Bargate during the 18th century are sparse. It is

therefore particularly welcome that two old deeds have recently been discovered that give interesting insights into old Bargate. One of these, a lease dated 1786, is a particularly good example of how until the 20th century industrial and residential areas were mixed in together. It refers to a small area behind the houses on the east side of Bargate and north of Thornhill, where Roger Calvert, a fellmonger, used a small area of land for hanging and drying skins. This seems to have been next to a larger plot running through to Newbiggin on which number 15 Newbiggin was later built. The drying of skins was an extremely unpleasant and smelly business and yet this was carried out within yards of the garden of the gentry house at number 11 and 13 Newbiggin, then occupied by Mrs. Readshaw. It was immediately behind the houses on Bargate. This mix of industrial and residential use was typical of the period.

The second deed, dated 1802, relates to the sale of a dwelling house and garth, described as being "at the bottom of the street called Bargate". Details in the deed enable us to locate the site as being almost opposite the Restaurant on the Green in what today we know as Bridge Street. However by 1823 when Baines's Directory of the East & North Ridings was published this part of the street had become known as Bridge Street.

It is the regular publication of trades directories in the 19th century that gives us a fuller picture of life in Bargate. These books, usually covering the North Riding although sometimes combining it with other areas, provide lists of tradesmen and their street addresses. Directories have some limitations as an entry in some of them had to be paid for, so that the absence of a name does not necessarily mean that the business did not exist. Equally houses were not numbered until around 1900, making it difficult to tell where in the street the business was sited. They are however a much undervalued source of information. So far over 30 directories which include Richmond have been identified, covering the period between 1825 and 1937.

The 1823 Directory lists three 'gentry' living in Bargate, Elizabeth Longstaff, George Smith and T. Walker who was agent to Lord Dundas. From the date and style of the houses it seems likely that these gentry would probably live in numbers 41-45, Bargate. Also in 1823, Thomas Jamson had a private school, more of which later, and Richard Thompson worked as an auctioneer which he combined with his shoemaker's business. There was another shoemaker, Nathaniel Cansick, whilst Henry Mason was a currier, a curer of leather. Cuthbert Hembleton was a gardener and John Thairlwall a grocer, almost certainly with his shop on the site of the present Board Inn. There were two weavers, Richard Pounder and George Newton. Mrs. Sarah Bell, the midwife lived in Bargate as did John Harker, a bandbox-maker.

By 1834, only Mrs. Margaret Smith, presumably the widow of George, was listed as gentry. Thomas Jamson's school continued, whilst Robert Jamson was a pawnbroker. The number of shoemakers had risen to four, Nathaniel Cansick being joined by Sam Brittan, Charles Brass and Matthew Morphet,

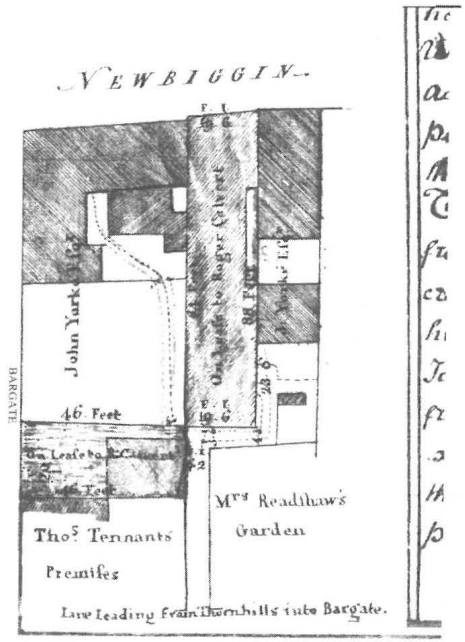
who also retailed beer. The latter seems a good combination – you could sup while having your shoes repaired. The idea seems to have worked, as by 1840, Morphet is listed as a publican as well as shoemaker and clothes dealer. The number of curriers increased, Henry Mason being joined by Robert Eeles and Thomas Clark. James and Christopher Thairlwall had a woolstapler's business which they ran as well as the grocery and wine and spirit store, which presumably they inherited from John. George Walton had opened a joinery business, whilst John Dickenson Metcalfe combined the trade of painter with those of glazier and plumber. Bartholomew Trewhitt was a shopkeeper and dealer in groceries and sundries. William Vitty was a wheelwright and made spinning wheels as well. Joseph Doughty retailed beer and Terrance Grant was a pump-maker. Bargate once briefly had a butcher, John Blenkiron in 1829, but by 1834 he had joined the other butchers in the market.

Other valuable sources are the accounts of old Richmond written by William Wise and James Arrowsmith, some of which are recounted in Peter Wenham's book *Richmond, Yorkshire in the 1830s.* He tells of Thomas Jamson's school in Bargate which was next to Heathwaite's public bakehouse. Clarkson's list of Burgages of 1820 allows us to identify the bakehouse as being on the site of 30 Bargate and it is most likely that the school was on the site of number 32. Thomas Jamson had only one hand, but this did not deter him from enforcing discipline in a manner that would be regarded as an extreme form of child abuse today. He not only used a riding whip, and a three foot long leather strap, but he was capable of knocking a boy to the ground with the stump of his missing hand. His favourite form of punishment was to roll the belt into a ball and throw it with extreme accuracy and force at the head of any boy unfortunate enough to upset him. Despite the harshness of the regime, Jamson did not always get his own way. Learning that the Corporation School had been given a half day holiday, Jamson's pupils demanded equality, which was denied. After turning down four requests during the morning Jamson, went on some errand into the town and on his return found himself locked out, the 60 pupils having secured the door and windows of the school. The ensuing "negotiations" attracted quite a large crowd and by 12 o'clock Janson had to admit defeat and grant the half-day holiday. Wise claims that Jamson's private school provided a slightly better standard of education than the Corporation School, including Latin, which Thomas had picked up when in his youth he had been a pupil of the Grammar School. However he was not above making an extra honest penny wherever he could, as in 1840 he is also listed as having an insurance agency for the Independent and West Middlesex Company.

There was always rivalry between the boys from the Corporation School in Castle Wynd and those at Jamson's and this culminated in snowball fights during the winter months. A favourite spot for these was on Bargate at the junction with Thornhill, where boys returning home from the Corporation School would be ambushed. Jamson's School appears in directories up to 1840 but he does

not appear in the 1841 census. But this was not the end of education in Bargate. The 1849 directory lists Robert Garrod running a school in Bargate and by 1857 Robert Garrott is listed as master of the Roman Catholic School in Newbiggin. It seems possible that one or other is a misspelling and that there may have been links between Bargate and the first Roman Catholic boys school in Richmond.

The 1841 census gives us the first detailed look at the street. There were 30 houses with a total of 126 inhabitants, 35% of whom were under 15 years of age. The largest number of workers were labourers, but there was a druggist, a weaver, tailor, mason, saddler, currier, six hawkers, and six shoemakers. Perhaps the most interesting entry is that of the Muncaster family. James Muncaster was the second-oldest inhabitant who, at 87, listed his occupation as labourer, whilst his wife Anne, aged 90, was a knitter as was their daughter Ann aged 57. This family must have been some of the last hand-knitters, an occupation that had brought prosperity to Richmond in the 18th century. A trade link with the Netherlands for the export of hand-knitted stockings and nightcaps, had been established by Caleb Readshaw, who became wealthy enough to build his mansion, The Grove, on Frenchgate in 1750.



Plan from a lease of 1786. Bargate runs down the left-hand side.

Reproduced by kind permission of the Company of Fellmongers of Richmond

Reference to White's Directory of 1840 suggests that four of the six shoemakers were self-employed and working from home, whilst three of the town's four curriers had premises in Bargate, as did a cooper. Thairlwall's grocer's business was still in the street, whilst Matthew Morpeth ran the Freeman's Tavern. The site of the latter is unknown but there is a tradition that 46 Bargate was once a pub. This enterprise was short-lived as by 1849 there is no mention of the Freeman's Tavern and Morphet is listed just as shoemaker and clothes-dealer. This was not the first pub in Bargate, as before about 1763, the town's Freemasons are described as meeting in the Masons' Arms in Bargate, but by 1869 they had moved away. In 1841 George Craggs was a joiner and wheelwright and William Greathead a painter, whilst Christopher Fryer and Dickenson Metcalfe were plumbers and glaziers, William Elam, a stay-maker

also had premises in Bargate.

So this was Bargate in the mid 19th century, but there were many changes to come, houses were subdivided and new ones built and by the time of the 1901 census, there had been a 70% increase in the number of people living in Bargate. The emphasis on leather trades had gone and the mixture of business and residential premises reduced.

A Temperance Society Medallion and the Gunnerside Festivals

Joan Pike and others

In 2001, two young people brought into Richmondshire Museum, North Yorkshire, a "disc-type" copper object, which had been found on top of a mole-hill, in a farmer's field at Colesgarth on the western outskirts of Richmond. It was very soiled, but one could make out the word "TEMPERANCE" on one side and on the other side, two figures sitting at a small table. Mrs. Shirley Thubron at the Museum, obtained a computer printout of both sides of this object, a medal or medallion, 4cms in diameter, probably made of copper, to do with the Temperance Movement. Now free of soil, one could clearly see a male and female figure sitting either side of a small tripod table, the woman having a small child standing by her. On the table appeared to be a teapot and cups and saucers. On the reverse side were the words "TEMPERANCE IS THE PARENT OF DOMESTIC HAPPINESS". Round the outer edge, very indistinct, but when enlarged it reads "THE FIGHTER TO ABSTAIN FROM THE INTOXICATING DRINK".



One side of the Temperance Medallion (actual size) showing a family at a tea table. The inscription reads, "They shall prosper that love thee".

Andrew Russell

From a book called *Gunnerside Chapel and Gunnerside folk*, which was written by Mrs. Margaret Batty, wife of the then Methodist Minister, living in Reeth, much information was forthcoming. The book commemorated the opening a hundred years previously, in February 1867, of the Gunnerside Methodist Chapel (This book was published in 1967). Among the many interesting pieces of information, after speaking to the local, older generation of Gunnerside and nearby areas, Mrs. Batty wrote about "The Band of Hope". Here is her passage:- ""The Band of Hope", a Movement

to spread Temperance ideas, was the weeknight activity corresponding most nearly to today's Youth Clubs. The founder of the Gunnerside Branch, George Thexton, told a story, usually involving the dangers of drink and the advantage to body, mind and spirit of abstaining from alcohol. Then there were games, followed by a sort of impromptu concert, when the youngsters sang, recited or performed a charade. The great day of the year was the Monday following the Longest Day (Midsummer) Festival, always the first Monday in July. Many of our oldest members look back on this day with particular clear memories. They lined up at the Town End and marched through the village headed by the band, the leaders of the procession carrying the banner. They wore the medals they had won during the year and everybody in the village turned out to watch them. At the bridge they sang a special "Band of Hope" song."

After reading this information about the medals worn by the members of Gunnerside "Band of Hope", I felt sure that we were holding such a medal. However I could not understand how these youngsters had worn their medals, as our find had no means of attaching it to clothing. After talking to a friend from Hawes I more-or-less solved this problem. An elderly lady, who attended the Hawes Methodist Chapel, remembered seeing a similar medal or medallion, but it had a loop soldered on to it. Probably this last piece of information has solved our problem.

The beginnings of the Temperance Movement, from which the "Bands of Hope" grew, go back into the late eighteenth century. There was a very strong following of Methodism in the Dales. John Wesley visited Swaledale in 1761, 1768, 1770 and 1774. He wrote in his Journal in 1780, then aged 77 years old, "May 3rd ... I preached at Swaledale to a loving people, increasing in both grace and number". This was his last visit (taken from *A History of the English People* by RJ Mitchell and Mr. MDR Leys), John Wesley went further, categorically forbidding followers the use of spirits and describing those who made and sold liquor as 'Poisoner General to His Majesty'. The quotation continues: "Temperance Societies were not however formed on a large scale till well on into the nineteenth Century. The first in England was founded at Bradford in 1830. Sixteen years later (1846), the first World's Temperance Convention was held in London and attended by 305 delegates to explore 'the possibilities of training young children in habits of self control'... Thomas Cook, the pioneer of cheap travel, founded *The Children's Temperance Magazine*, first published in 1840. Juvenile Societies were first called "Bands of Hope" seven years later (1847)". By 1927 it was estimated there were three and three quarter million membership of young people. This medallion could well have been one of the many presented to a local "Band of Hope".

As Margaret Batty pointed out elsewhere in her book, there were two festivals at Gunnerside Methodist Chapel, the Midsummer and the Midwinter (or shortest day) Festivals. She tells us that both festivals grew as adjuncts of Lovefeasts. Lovefeasts were Methodist institutions which followed the example

of the early church. They were quiet meetings of prayers and individual testimonies of religious experiences, descriptions of blessings received and expressions of hope and trust for the future. Water and water biscuits were passed round. People remember these as peaceful and moving occasions.

In 1817 a collection of seven shillings was first recorded at a Lovefeast on 6 December (not the shortest day) in Gunnerside, but such meetings without taking a collection, could have been going on for years. In 1837 it was considered that the Lovefeasts were going on too late into evenings and the Superintendent Minister ruled that they should, to avoid gossip, be kept to afternoons.

About 1850 the water and water biscuits were exchanged for tea and a special Lovefeast Loaf, made with currants, nutmeg and yeast. Later the range of baked goods burgeoned. Various ladies undertook to bake a stone of flour (about six kilograms) for the summer event which became known as the Midsummer Tea Festival. The event may have received extra impetus from the opening of the new Chapel in 1867. Besides being for local people, the Lovefeasts and attendant activities became foci for families who had left the dale to work, to return for holidays. They came from the mills of Lancashire, the West Riding and elsewhere. They were welcomed back royally! Houses were cleaned and painted, food stockpiled and open house kept. Those who were children then, remember new clothes for the Festival.

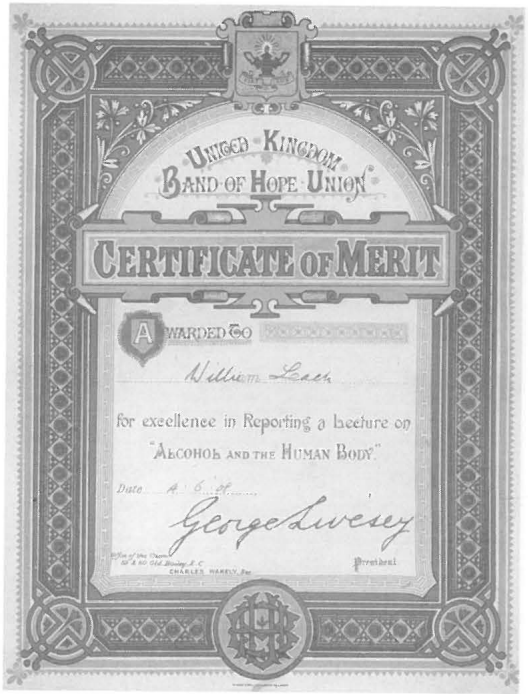
The Gunnerside Midsummer Tea Festival took place on the first Sunday in July and on the Monday following. On the Sunday, most of the Chapel-centred events happened. Extra events in Chapel were added to the original Lovefeast. There was preaching by guest preachers, singing and parading. Besides the preaching service in Chapel there was sometimes a special musical service, a "Service of Song" at which a story was read, particular hymns, duets and solos sung.

Non-conformists, including Methodists, were active in the Temperance Movement and junior "Bands of Hope" were often attached to chapels. Parades of the Gunnerside branch took place on the Monday. Members of the "Band of Hope" and of the Gunnerside Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School paraded behind the Sunday School Banner, made, about the 1920s, by the artist Mr. Thomas W Rutter. Rutter, a native of Gunnerside, moved in turn to Liverpool, Burnley and Northampton. He became an Associate of the Royal College of Art in London and exhibited at the Royal Academy. Leeds and Birmingham Corporations purchased his paintings. Rutter designed and executed the beautiful gold and blue banner, which he presented to the Sunday School. It has been renovated with help from the Bowes Museum and is still kept in Gunnerside Chapel. Beside the singing of the paraders, there was music from the Chapel's harmonium. It was carried outside, set down and played in the open air when the weather permitted.

On the Monday were the picnics and sports up at Brow Top. Benches were carried outside and adults and children feasted on Lovefeast Loaf, milk and

other bakery. The races included the egg and spoon and the three-legged. In the 1940s and 50s and perhaps earlier, there were fancy dress parades and children brought their ponies and other pets. The local brass band played. The Festivals were a time of reunions and celebrations centred on the Chapel. They were very happy times in Gunnerside.

The sports held at Rowleth Bottom near Low Row, about midsummer, predated the Tea Festivals. Probably they began with lead miners celebrating summer and pay day. The sports became, over a century ago, a byword for disorder and extreme practical jokes. In the 1880s there was a move to organise them and provide prizes. Over the years these sports became conflated with the Tea Festivals, although they began separately. There was football and quoits and children's races where all received a prize whether they won or not!



Certificate of Merit presented in 1908 by the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union, to William Leach, father of Mrs. Pike, when he was aged eleven, for excellence in reporting a lecture on "Alcohol and the Human Body". Joan Pike

Because of the weather and shortness of daylight, the Shortest Day Festival was a smaller, more local affair. On 23rd November 1897 a meeting of the Gunnerside Chapel Trustees and the Sunday School Committee decided that the Shortest Day Tea Festival should be for the Sunday School alone, but in practice this made little difference to what was an event involving the whole village. In the 1930s, tables were still being put up outside Chapel for tea and supper. Nearby houses supplied hot tea for the winter street party's hardy enthusiasts.

What then were the origins of these two Tea Festivals centred on Gunnerside Wesleyan Methodist Chapel? The rise of Methodism was a phenomenon of the later eighteenth century. Had the festivals been pagan survivals, one would have expected them to be held strictly at the solstices, which they were not - and for there to be some reference to them in the many centuries before Methodism came to the dale, which there is not. Village tradition and

correspondence in the Darlington and Stockton Times in the 1920s connects the Festivals with pay days at the lead mines, which were quarterly or half-yearly before 1820. The pay was distributed at the local pub where much of it



Organising the parade of children behind Rutter's magnificent banner in the 1920s. Its middle panel depicts Christ the Good Shepherd. The lettering reads "Gunnerside Wesleyan Sunday School founded about 1800. He shall carry the lambs in His bosom". The harmonium stands in the road. On the left is a drum and horn belonging to the brass or silver band which joined in the parade.
Margaret Parker

was at once spent on drink. Mrs. Whitell of Gunnerside told Mrs. Margaret Batty in 1967 or a bit earlier that, "I have heard my grandad say that the miners' wives took it into their heads to ask the ministers and preachers to do something about it and have something on at Chapel at the time of the 'pay' and if they did, the wives would make a real good spread to follow, and perhaps their men would go to that instead." Thus the miners' wives initiated village festivals, memories of which are highlights in recollections of home for Gunnerside people near and far away.

Both the Tea Festivals continue, although much less well-attended. Many of the functions they fulfilled have now been replaced by different communal activities and holiday destinations. Besides at Gunnerside, there were other summer festivals in the dale, at Healaugh and Grinton. Mrs. Audrey Place has an anonymous manuscript poem about a Healaugh one. Here is a part of it:

Healaugh Tea Festival 1880

Here is some lines of modern times
That cannot fail to please ye
But if they don't, it can't be helped
For I didn't wish to grieve ye.

When I tell this rhyme you'll say with me
Thar was nea small stir at Healaugh Tea
It's an annual festival by the committee prepared
When the teachers and scholars are freely regaled

There was an address by Mr. Booth in the afternoon
And then the procession through the town
Through the town they all sang together
In spite of the cold and windy weather

They got back to the chapel as cold as they could be
And right glad to sit down to a good cup of tea
There was five tables set out in splendid array
But I think four tables would have carried the day

The first of all the grace they sang
Then to help themselves the young ones began
After that the public were admitted
At something like nine pence a ticket

Mrs. Pike's medallion sparked off an inquiry about the Tea Festivals, to which the following contributed:- Duncan Bythell, Miles Camm, Geoffrey Eggett, Audrey Place, Ralph Waggett and the late Margaret Parker. JLD

Servant of Two Masters

With apologies to Carlo Goldoni*

Bill Sellars

The Georgian Theatre Royal is now up and running again, after its refurbishment. How is it faring? Not being in Richmond any more and on the spot, but enjoying a little warmer climate, it is difficult to make an accurate assessment but I begin with a question, "When is a theatre not a theatre?" and the answer, "When it is a Museum". How is it and is it possible to support them both financially? I read in local papers that new grants and revenue are on the table so the future is looking more secure and that of course is good. However, I am always concerned that those who support financially will begin to have a say on how the theatre operates.

From 1992 to 2003, the period I was planning the programme in the Georgian Theatre, the revenue grant from Yorkshire Arts remained static, so I "cut the cloth" accordingly. Consequently, during that time the balance sheet remained healthy. If it had not have been, then I am sure lottery applications would not have had such a favourable response. Another important factor was that the

theatre had a very strong support from its audiences. Theatres without audiences are dead and lifeless places, unless of course they have an atmosphere of their own, which the Georgian did between 1963 and 2003. Richmond Georgian Theatre is unique, meaning it should be run in a special way, individual to itself. General principles relevant to more modern theatres are not all appropriate to this eighteenth century playhouse.

In the eighteenth century Goldoni consulted actors and actresses before writing. These days the paying public have their say at the box office. If you do not present what they want to see, you will not take the curtain up. Well you may, but counting the audience will be a regular chore. With financial help there is always the danger that it will be other people who decide what they think is good for the ticket-buyers, not quite the same thing! I have always believed, by and large, education should be left to the classroom, but then over the past 60 years I have always thought of myself as an "entertainer" and not a teacher! I have left that to people more qualified than I. There is nothing more gratifying for me than the laughter of a full house or for that matter the silence of an audience enthralled by a performance. I can be, and often am, moved by either and the talent creating it. The Georgian has the advantage, due to its place in history, of being a museum and a working theatre. Here in Spain, in the province of Badajoz, there is the town of Merida which has a Roman theatre built in about 16BC, one of the best preserved Roman theatres anywhere. At the present time it is used every July during the International Festival of Classical Drama, when some outstanding theatre and opera companies give their performances.

Is this an example to be followed? Might the Georgian spend so many months as a "museum" when eighteenth century theatre can be seen in action by audiences and visitors, the rest of the time the theatre presenting contemporary music and drama? Would this justify the theatre as a museum and the museum as a theatre? It would be good for both, create an international following, good for Richmond and justify a refurbishment budget of £1.5 million with possible continued revenue and capital support. The Theatre's place in history would be assured and it could to concentrate on its educational role when required. Theatre supporters would accept this dual approach and historians would accept that, unless it remains a working theatre space, presenting "Agatha Christie" one week and "Ibsen" the next, supporting both with equal enthusiasm, its future could be 'rocky'. As a theatre and museum it has a split personality, trying to be both.

In keeping with museum mode, the theatre now has a front cloth exquisitely painted by Pauline Knox-Crighton and Peter Coombie, as is the rest of the theatre, but is this more in a court-theatre style than the "earthy atmosphere of the eighteenth century playhouse" which was evoked so strongly? Between 1963 and 2003 this earthy atmosphere was beloved by actors and actresses as well as devoted audiences. A hand-winch causes a jerky operation of this cloth, due to its weight, which would be acceptable in museum mode during an

eighteenth-century-style production in a small town period presentation, but is incongruous in a modern theatre. The use of the anti-rake puts the stage traps out of action, but then it is only required when the piano is in use. The lighting and its necessary equipment, always an essential element of dramatic performance, easily achieved when there was an earthy atmosphere, is I believe,



The newly-lit and redecorated auditorium of the Georgian Theatre Royal. Lord and Lady Craythorne with Mrs. Grizel Morris and Mr. David Morris of Swaledale Woollens, photographed when the latter received the MBE in the 2004 New Year Honours List, for services to the community in Richmond and Swaledale. *Mark Whyman*

under review for the possible introduction of more contemporary technology. Is this now perhaps an opportunity to move the theatre into a different phase in its history?

The period of Samuel Butler died with him in 1848. Between 1963 and 2003 the theatre was very much an active working playhouse of which I was pleased to be part. As I left on the 7th September 2003 I stood on the stage and looked out to a deserted auditorium and reflected on the eleven years of pleasure it had given me and I hope to many other people. I wish the new managers luck and good fortune as they now steer the theatre forward in a clear and positive way. Please try to avoid being a "servant of two masters".

*Carlo Goldoni was born in 1707 in Venice and died in Paris in 1792. Educated as a lawyer, he settled down to the practice of law, but after several years changed his career and devoted himself to writing plays and managing theatres! His first theatrical venture, a melodrama named "Amalasunta", was unsuccessful. He was told that his

piece was "composed with due regard to the rules of Aristotle and Horace but not according to those laid down for the Italian drama. In France you can try to please the public, but here in Italy it is the actors and actresses whom you must consult as well as the composer of the music and the stage decorations" Goldoni thanked his critic, went back to his inn and ordered a fire, into which he threw the manuscript of his "Amalasunta". He then called for a good supper, which he consumed with relish, after which he went to bed and slept tranquilly throughout the night.

Notes and Queries

A Postscript to the Story of the Richmond Knitting Sisters

Jane Hatcher

The *Richmond Review for 1996* contained an article by David Morris on the Ryder family who lived in Frenchgate House. Mrs. Anne Ryder, widow of the Rev. Thomas Richard Ryder, vicar of Ecclesfield near Sheffield, moved to Richmond in 1840 with her six young children. Two of her daughters, Elizabeth and Henrietta, remained unmarried and published some very early knitting patterns. The two Miss Ryders continued to live at Frenchgate House until they both died in 1913. A recently published book (*Nelson's Spy? The Life of Alexander Scott, Meriden Publications,* 2003) throws some light on why Anne Ryder chose to move to Richmond.

When the article was first written it seemed likely that Mrs. Ryder had simply chosen to move to Richmond because she had grown up in North Yorkshire, and Richmond was still in 1840 a fashionable town, and particularly popular as a place to which many genteel widows retired. However, new evidence has come to light of an additional link which the family had with the Richmond area, and a distinguished link at that! The link is no less than that of Admiral Lord Nelson's chaplain, his great friend Rev. Alexander John Scott, who became in the latter part of his life Vicar of Catterick. Scott was related by marriage to Anne Ryder, and she had probably known Catterick, and therefore Richmond, throughout her marriage.

Scott had married Mary Frances Ryder, Anne's late husband's older sister. Mary Frances and Thomas Richard's father was 'Mr Ryder of the Charter House', and Scott had been a scholarship boy during Ryder's time as Registrar of Charterhouse School. Scott had therefore known Mary as a child, and she was only 17 when he met up with her again in 1806 after he returned to England following Nelson's death. Scott fell in love with Mary and was anxious to marry her, but her parents disapproved, because he was over 20 years her senior, and furthermore although he had had a distinguished career he was in poor health as a result of his naval experiences. Furthermore, he was also without any profitable clerical appointments, holding only the living of Southminster since 1803. So they were married secretly, but when her parents accepted the match

they were re-married at her home parish of Hendon in 1807. His fortunes looked up somewhat when, late in 1816, he was made a King's Chaplain, and the following year was appointed as Vicar of Catterick. Although he held this living in plurality with Southminster, he was not very well off. He spent most of his time at Catterick, enjoying his extensive library and antiquarian interests including an investigation of the history of Cataractonium. After the excitement of playing a part in international events, life at Catterick must have seemed very quiet.

The age gap between Scott and Thomas Richard Ryder was even wider than with his wife, for Thomas was about six years younger than Mary. So Scott would have been more like an uncle to him in age, and with all his impressive stories about his service with Nelson was presumably a great influence on him. One can speculate that Thomas actually met his future wife through Scott, but it is certainly a fact that it was Scott who performed their marriage ceremony at Bedale Church in 1826. Witnesses to Thomas and Anne's marriage included Elizabeth Dorothy Pulleine, Henrietta Pulleine and Fanny Pulleyn Wyvill. Anne was the daughter of Henry Percy Pulleine. The Pulleine family owned Carleton near Aldbrough St. John, where Anne was born about 1801. Then in 1814 the Pulleine family had moved to Crakehall Hall, which lay within the parish of Bedale. Later generations of the family would live at Sandford House near Richmond.

Thomas Richard and Anne Ryder produced at least six children between 1827 and 1838, three sons and three daughters. Then in 1839 he died at the age of 44, and Anne had quickly to move out of Ecclesfield Vicarage. So she needed urgently to find somewhere to live, and doubtless Frenchgate House seemed an excellent choice, in the town's best street close to the Parish Church. Sadly Anne was not to enjoy much more of the company at Catterick of Alexander John Scott, for he died in July 1840. He died at the home of his second daughter, Margaret who had a year previously married Dr Alfred Gatty. Ironically, that home was Anne's old home, Ecclesfield Vicarage, for Margaret's husband Alfred was Thomas Richard Ryder's successor as Vicar of the Church of St John the Baptist there. So the famous chaplain to Nelson was buried at Ecclesfield, not Catterick. Anne Ryder lived on in Frenchgate House until she died in March 1875, and was buried in Richmond Churchyard, not with her husband in Ecclesfield.

Dr. Alfred Gatty had a long career at Ecclesfield, from 1839 to 1903, and a public subscription was raised to build in affectionate memory of him the Gatty Hall in Priory Road, at a cost of £1,300, which continues to serve as a venue for community groups. Scott's daughter Margaret Gatty became a well-known writer for children, having written a memoire of her father. Alexander John Scott was succeeded as Vicar of Catterick by Rev. John Scott, one of James Tate's "Invincibles" and no relation to his predecessor. The Ryder family continued to live in Richmond, as recounted in the earlier article.

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Deaths:
Mrs. J. Davey
Mr. J. S. Davison
Col. D. Russell

Notes:
We have lost contact with Life Member Mr. I. R. Cooling,
Life Member Mr. A. W. Mallows has resigned due to ill-health.

Subscriptions (2004):

Life Membership:	Please enquire of the treasurer
Patron Membership:	£18
Single Membership	£8
Family Membership	£12

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 Audrey Place for typing, to Mark Whyman for a number of photographs and to the sources of other photographs as indicated.

Obituary: Mrs. Joyce Davey

There are many people in Richmond and beyond who have been fortunate to know Joy Davey and news of her death in September 2004 aged 84 was received with great sadness. She was a much valued member of the Civic Society, which she joined in 1987, serving on the committee and taking a great interest in Richmond and its history, being one of the first to take up Peter Wenham's proposal to start the town's guided walks. She wrote reports for the press on the Society's lectures and spent some time studying the remarkable Kearton family. I feel sure that she would like her booklet 'The Kearton Brothers' published in 1995 to be regarded as her legacy to local historical records. **DM**

Civic Society Programme 2005

Friday 14th January	Alan Smith MBE ***The Antarctic – A Boyhood's Dream***
Friday 11th February	Jane Hatcher ***The Gayle Mill***
Friday 11th March	Tim Thom ***Nature in the Dales***
Friday 5th April	Professor Callum Roberts ***The Unnatural History of the Sea***
Friday 13th May	Stan Beckensall ***An Introduction To Northumberland***
June/July	Summer visit to Alnwick Castle or Gardens
Friday 9th September	Peter Young ***The History of York Minster***
Friday 14th October	Professor David Hill ***Turner in the North***
Friday 11th November	Mark Honigsbaum ***Valverde's Gold – The Hunt for a Lost Inca Treasure*** (A joint lecture with the Royal Geographical Society)
Friday 9th December Richmond Town Hall	***The Annual General Meeting*** 7.30p.m. Followed by an entertainment to be announced later

All lectures will be held in the Zetland Christian Community Centre commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Information about the Summer visit to Alnwick Castle or Gardens will be provided well in advance when the arrangements are complete.