The Richmond Review

being the Annual Report

of the

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Civic Society 2014

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Front Illustration: Easby Abbey, photographed by Dean Cunningham, Year 3, Le Cateau Primary School

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Chairman's Report

John Clarke

By the time members read this, you will know that I am resigning as Chairman and that therefore this is my final report: my commitments elsewhere in the town have increased and I feel that, after four years, I can pass on the role of Chair to a new person, knowing that the society is healthy and strong. In resigning, I am crucially aware of how much I have owed to the committee, each of whom has worked with me in an energetic and friendly way, to sustain and expand the society. I thank them all.

Let me, therefore, remind you of the range of activities we now promote and how this impacts on the town. Firstly, and most obviously, we are known as a provider of monthly lectures which are highly cost effective and of broad intellectual and cultural interest: we have been doing this now for over thirty-five years. Secondly, and again for over thirty-five years, we have monitored all planning applications that affect the heritage of the town and Richmondshire. Thirdly, we can look back at thirty five editions of The Review, each one adding to our knowledge of the history and civic life of the area. More recently, we have provided an annual extended trip away for members, visiting the gardens and houses that are integral to our national heritage. And finally, we are now linked to the key regional and national bodies representing civic issues across the UK. In summary, therefore, through our committee and membership, we have established a tradition within the life of Richmondshire that is respected and valued by a great many people.

This year we have successfully established Civic Day in June. This has allowed us to reach out to primary schools through a photographic competition and you can see the work of the prize winners later in this Review. This year the day also included a coffee morning and an evening lecture. Mike Wood's slideshow of old photographs gave its large audience a nostalgic and revealing tour of the town. I hope that Civic Day

will continue to develop in future years, becoming an established part of our programme.

Reluctantly, we are 'letting' Bev Joicey resign as lecture secretary this year. His involvement in the Society has been long and his contribution inestimable. His ability to bring speakers on a whole range of subjects to the town has made him almost irreplaceable. However, Colin Grant and a small sub-committee have achieved the near impossible and I can report that next year's lecture programme would even pass the Joicey test. I do hope that you will all support and enjoy it.

Our thanks are due also to Judy Farrar for organizing a short holiday for members in June: we were only sad that sudden family illness prevented Judy from being present in person. I hope you will enjoy reading the report on page 15 and that Mark Whyman's photographs will bring back memories of a very successful trip.

Our planning sub-committee rarely gets the thanks and appreciation that it deserves, simply because its work is too often invisible to members. Hence the importance of the report on its work printed later in this Review. Inevitably it is a summary but it does remind us all of the constant flow of heritage building issues produced in an historic area such as Richmondshire. As always, the devil is in the detail and the detail absorbs a great deal of time. We are, therefore, fortunate in having such a dedicated group overviewing not only local planning applications but also the national planning policies affecting heritage.

My final message to you all is very much an appeal. To keep the Society vibrant and its activities and membership expanding requires a whole range of talents from the committee members. Yet all members of the Society have the ability, in my view, to contribute to this work, either on the main committee or through one of its sub-committees. Enclosed with this edition of The Review is a slip that lists the different areas of our work. Why not tick those that interest you and give it a go. Remember, the Civic Society can only be as good as the members make it.

I wish you all a lively and active future. My personal thanks go to every one of you: you have made my four years as Chair very memorable indeed.

Collectanea[1]

The Editors

The colours of green and yellow, so redolent of a Swaledale meadow, appeared in profusion this year as Yorkshire prepared itself for Le Tour de France Grand Depart; bikes and bunting transformed the county and earlier concerns about congestion and road closures evaporated as the whole county showed the world the warmth of its welcome and the beauty of its landscape. It was a pity that Richmond itself could not play a greater part, particularly given its long historical association with cycling. The Richmond Meet, established in 1892, was one of the many early cycling clubs developed at the end of the nineteenth century, and unlike some, is still a vibrant organization.

However, there is little doubt that the town will benefit from the predicted increase in visitor numbers. Gary Verity, chief executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, who was responsible for bringing the race to the county, anticipated it would bring ten million pounds to the Yorkshire economy, a figure now regarded as conservative. Moreover, thousands of enthusiastic volunteers who eased organizational demands, confirmed the county's willingness to embrace the concept of 'The Big Society'. 'The Big Society' idea promoted by David Cameron and eschewed by many, raised wry smiles here in Richmond when first suggested, not least because the town has a veritable army of volunteers who enable numerous organizations to thrive.

The Swaledale Festival is, of course, one such organization, and this year enjoyed the best ticket sales in its forty two year old history. Moreover, this year it won a 'Big Society Award' for its work, including a percussion project involving a hundred children from primary schools in the

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Collectanea: collected writings; also literary items forming a collection (1791)

Richmondshire area. We offer sincere congratulations to all those involved, as we do to the participants in another regional success: Alex Franks and her colleague Di Dinsdale of The Angel's Share Bakery at the Station in Richmond reached the grand finals of a competition on ITV to find Britain's Best Bakery. Narrowly pipped at the final post, they were by far the smallest bakery to get that far, but nevertheless, displayed throughout the six week challenge, exceptional talent, producing a plethora of perfect pastries and other toothsome treats. Moreover, they proved fine ambassadors for Yorkshire; Alex confessed, 'We would have won first prize for the amount of product placement we had for Yorkshire as we love where we come from'.

In January, we were sorry to hear of the resignation of Mike Wood, Chairman of Richmondshire Museum for more than two decades. The museum has enjoyed increasing success in recent years with a rise in visitor numbers, and a rise in the number of schools making good use of its improved resources. John Culpan, a member of the Management Committee for the last twelve years, has taken over as Chairman, enabling this valuable Richmond resource to remain in good hands.

We are pleased that, in recognition of valuable volunteers and those who make a difference to the town, both the Town Council and Richmond District Council recognize and reward selected individuals each year. At an 'Investors in Richmond' evening, the then mayor, Councillor Bob White, awarded certificates to four worthy winners, while Richmond District Council presented eight awards to 'unsung heroes' at their 'Making a Difference in Richmondshire' ceremony in May.

Congratulations are also very much in order to Councillor Bob White and his wife Moira who, during his term of office as mayor, raised an impressive £8500 for charity. Even more admirable was Councillor White's contribution of £800 to this sum, raised by abseiling down Brimham Rocks in order, he averred, 'To overcome his fear of heights'!

The long-heralded leisure and retail development in Catterick Garrison was made absolute in May with a 'turning of the first sod ceremony', to launch the official start of the work. To the promise of retail units, leisure space, a sixty-bedroomed hotel, cinema, parking and improved pedestrian



The Mayor, Cllr Bob White, with the 2014 Investors in Richmond: from left, Gerry Cresfield,(gardener, St Mary's churchyard), Hilda Ellis (Richmond Tourist Information Office), Jen Capewell (on behalf of Richmond Bowls Club) and David Johnson (Poppy organizer, Royal British Legion, Richmond)

Photograph: M. Whyman

links, it adds also the lure of seven hundred plus extra jobs. Anticipated with increasing pleasure by the people of Catterick and the surrounding area, Richmond is now more circumspect, fearing a stronger impact on its own retail success than was first envisaged. As interest in the Garrison development grows, it seems that applications from other retailers are gathering momentum, and new competition for Richmond businesses is becoming a cause of serious concern.

The move to increase the planned cinema capacity from five screens to seven has already caused some outrage in Richmond and fears that this could drive our own Station cinema out of business are keenly felt. The assertion that cinema operators would pull out and two billion pounds of investment would be lost, if permission for seven screens was refused, was greeted with scepticism by Richmond residents. Sadly, Richmond's District Planning Committee voted in favour of the proposal. Five hundred thousand film fans have passed through The Station Cinema's

doors since it opened six years ago. We can only hope they continue to give the same support when Catterick offers its controversial alternative.



Mark Cronfield as Bartle and members of the cast of 'Blame it on Bartle'
Photograph: North Country Theatre

In July, Richmond-based touring company, North Country Theatre, mounted another community play, 'Blame it on Bartle', in collaboration with Peer Gynt Theatre in Vinstra, Norway. It involved the people of Swaledale, Wensleydale, and Gudbrandsdalen and was based on old poems and folk traditions, including the 'Burning of Bartle' ceremony which takes place in West Witton every August. The play involved almost two hundred people in various capacities and played to delighted audiences in Richmond Castle, Grinton, Castle Bolton and Kiplin Hall. It was another triumph for this talented theatre company and a wonderful way to further relationships with our twinned town of Vinstra.

Work on the Green Howards' Museum in Richmond moves ever closer to completion and we understand that staff are working hard to finalise

which of the 35000 objects in the collection will feature in the new displays when the museum re-opens later this year. It will be a welcome addition to Richmond's already impressive list of tourist attractions.

As we prepare for publication, The Richmond Walking and Book Festival is celebrating its tenth year. Taking place from September 20th-28th its many events are already reporting very satisfactory advance bookings. The opening night will include a talk by Yorkshireman and mountaineer, Alan Hinkes, the only Briton to have climbed all fourteen 8000-metre peaks in the world. Sadly, this will be the last festival run by Anne Wicks, Chairman and former owner of Castle Hill Bookshop. Richard Wright, the walking co-ordinator, intends to resign too. We do hope replacements can be found to enable this successful festival to continue.

In July, William Hague's announcement about his decision to leave politics caught everybody by surprise, including, apparently, senior members of the Richmond Conservative Association. Regarded with great affection and respect by his constituents (and not only those who vote Conservative), he will be much missed and remembered, not only for his statesmanship at national level, but for his committed interest in local affairs, his witty and humorous speeches at local level and his constant generosity to good causes.

We were delighted to see that Lord Crathorne, Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, and another committed supporter of Richmond was, in August, granted the Freedom of the Town. Councillor Stuart Parsons proposed the resolution to grant the honour, stating that Lord Crathorne and his family had been 'an integral part of Richmond for more than fifty years'. Over fifteen years as the Queen's representative in North Yorkshire, Lord Crathorne had supervised a hundred and ninety-two royal visits.

On 4th August people across the country and indeed, Europe gathered to mark the centenary of the start of a war that still has the power to appall anew because of the senseless slaughter of so many. Jane Hatcher's article, 'The Sad Story of Midshipman Riley', brings a poignant and local reminder of young lives lost and the comfortless future so many families had to face without the sons who would never return. Richmond marked this sad centenary with two moving ceremonies. At the first, the names of

all those from Richmond who were killed in action were read out to a visibly moved congregation. This was followed by a service at St. Mary's conducted by the Rev. John Chambers and attended by members of the Royal Military Police, town councillors and members of the public.



Lord Crathorne receiving the Freedom of the Town photograph: M. Whyman

The Civic Society has produced a particularly interesting series of lectures this year and those of you who were fortunate enough to attend the lecture on Henry Wood by Leslie Anne Hendra, will be pleased to know that she has kindly agreed to provide an article for this Review. Born in Richmond in 1805, Henry's later years sadly failed to fulfill the early promise of his younger self and we were moved by Leslie Hendra's final quotation in which Henry Wood, in a letter to his friend Robert Bowman writes: 'Do you know I should ill like to live and die in any place but Richmond…I..have loved the canny place even from my boyhood..' Though this desire was never realized for Henry Wood, it is a sentiment that many must share; Richmond is indeed 'a canny place'.

The Civic Society Planning Sub-Committee, 2013-14

Mark Whyman

Since last year's Review the Society's Planning Committee has been strengthened by the inclusion of Dan Gracey. It now consists of John Harland, Tony Dykes, Shirley Thubron, myself as chair and Dan Gracey. We are occasionally joined by John Clarke. Dan Gracey is a Chartered Building Surveyor with a degree in Architecture. For ten years he was responsible for maintenance of the Grade I Auckland Castle and locally was one of the designers of the Alexandra Road estate, an example of some of the best of 20th century social housing, as well as award-winning housing at Ravensworth.

Last year's report makes pretty dismal reading and, in some respects, I am afraid that this year's is no better: perhaps we are expecting too much from a beleaguered RDC. Each year since 2008 the RDC Development Management Service (former Planning Department) has suffered cuts in resources. In terms of people, over the same period they have lost one senior post which is a significant amount in a department of just under nine full time equivalents. At the same time they have had to cope with a major raft of new legislation, much of which has shifted the emphasis from heritage issues to sustainability. Now they have to achieve targets on speed and quality or face the probability that the RDC will have its function of dealing with "major" planning applications passed to the Planning Inspectorate. It cannot be easy working under such difficult and threatening conditions.

However, the handling of two recent applications is distinctly disturbing. 10, Quarry Hills in Leyburn was a proposal for an ultra-modern house in a Conservation Area, which had been specifically created to protect the environs of the only surviving workhouse in Richmondshire. The first application in 2011 was rejected by the RDC. The applicant appealed and

unusually there was an Appeal Hearing in which the Inspector confirmed the RDC decision to reject the application. This decision, one of the earliest following the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework, was hailed by English Heritage as a legal milestone. It was surprising, therefore, that in 2013 the applicant submitted a very similar design. I was unable to attend the Planning Committee that considered the second application but the application was refused. Unfortunately, instead of refusing the total design, the resolution only referred to the design of the roof and north elevation. The Committee deferred a final decision to the next meeting. At this next meeting the Committee was told, much to the anger of several members, that since the resolution had referred only to concerns about the roof and the north elevation, they could no longer consider the plan as a whole. This situation was confirmed by the RDC's legal advisor and after much angry debate the application was approved. From the discussion it was very clear that many of the Committee considered the application completely inappropriate and one has to ask why, when the Minutes confirm that professional officers were present, no advice was apparently given to the Committee.

In April this year, the Society was asked to comment on an application for a large development at the former Richmond House site. We prepared our objections: it was too large and domineering, especially on the Temple Grounds side. However, we were horrified to find that the final decision on the application was to be made only two clear days after the closing date for objections. Nor had a site visit been organised. It transpired that the officer's report recommending approval had been prepared before the closing date for objections. The recommendation was to approve the plans as they stood and leave the developer and officers to sort out the detail. The Society felt that it was completely unacceptable that a building on such a sensitive and important site should be dealt with in such a peremptory manner.

I was able to attend the meeting and under Public Speaking asked why there was this extreme haste and lack of a site visit for such a large and important development. No satisfactory answer was given but the RDC Committee members decided to defer the application and hold a site visit, which I and other objectors were invited to attend. Val Hepworth

(representing the Temple Lodge estate) and I were also invited to the informal discussion with the architects that followed. We were able to make some positive suggestions, some of which emerged in an amended application. However, issues still remained, such as the size of the Victoria Road/Reeth Road elevation, and the use of zinc in the roofing of one particular feature.



The existing Richmond House as seen from Round Howe. The proposed building would have been a large rectangular structure, dominating the skyline, which we cannot illustrate for copyright reasons. It will now be broken up and hopefully look as if it has grown organically over the years.

The RDC Planning Committee met on 29th July, and several objectors, including myself, were allowed to read pre-submitted letters stating their cases. The question of the size of the Victoria Road elevation was dismissed as the applicant had made some nominal reductions in height. Four other issues were picked up by Councillor Stuart Parsons: details of

some windows, the zinc roofing, road safety issues and a zebra crossing. After some debate the application was approved with a decision on the four issues to be taken by the Chairman, Councillor Jane Parlour, Deputy Chair, Councillor John Blackie, the Ward Members, Councillors Parsons and Curran and the Planning and Development Manager. These decisions will be taken in private and will be final. Councillor Parsons is confident that the objectors' views will prevail and we can only hope that he is right. I will report the final outcome at the AGM.

So the final decisions on the Richmond House development will be taken in secret. One has to ask how a development surrounded by a Conservation Area and a Registered Park apparently did not warrant, from the very outset, a site visit and the involvement of our elected representatives; why was it being rushed through at only two clear days' notice and why in the end the final outcome will be taken in private. However much the Planning Department is under pressure, this distortion of the democratic process is unacceptable.

The Civic Society Annual Holiday 2014

Mark Whyman

The 2014 Civic Society holiday started in a most unlikely and inauspicious way with a telephone call, the evening before departure, from Judy Farrar, who was organising the event, to say that she was not able to go. Her husband, Don, had been taken ill and had to go to hospital for tests. Fortunately, it turned out to be a scare rather than anything too serious but none the less it prevented Judy from leading the group.

So early on Friday morning, the bus picked us up from various points and we were in the safe hands of Allan and Sandra Burrell, who were to work so hard to ensure we had a good time. After a comfort stop we arrived at Boughton.



Boughton House

This turned out to be a real treat as Boughton is not easily accessible, being open to the public only for three days in April and the month of August. We were welcomed with coffee and a tour of the house, which was originally built in 1528 but had been enlarged by successive generations of the Montague family and their descendents. After lunch, our excellent guide boarded the coach and we were taken on a tour of the estate. This included several villages most of which belonged to the Boughton Estate, including Warkton, where four magnificent memorials are to be found in St. Edmund's Church. We were able to see those that had been unrestored, a dirty grey colour, a marked contrast to the restored ones, now dazzling white marble, with a wealth of detail previously hidden by dirt. My overall impression of Boughton was the warmth of the welcome, the quality and quantity of the food, and the skill of our guide. We were left with the feeling that nothing was too much trouble: a really promising start to the holiday.



Barnsdale Gardens

After quite a long day we arrived at the Northampton Marriot Hotel where we spent the next three nights. On Saturday we visited Barnsdale Gardens made famous by the late Geoff Hamilton's TV series. Here a dilemma faced us: the sky was threatening but coffee was tempting. Some of us got

it right and went round the gardens first whilst others were seduced by coffee and got soaked!

By the time we reached Burghley House, the sun was shining and all was well. A tour of the house with its incredible painted ceilings, including one called the Heaven Room, followed and terminated in the Hell Room, which, if a true depiction, is definitely a place to be avoided. A new attraction at Burghley is the "Garden of Surprises", a series of water features similar to those at the Forbidden Corner in Wensleydale. To leave the garden, it was necessary to run the gauntlet of a gate with a sheet of water which came up without warning. I think most of us took the easy way of going back the way we had come, but I know Carol Hillyard braved the potential soaking and came through dry!



The Garden of Surprises, Burghley House

Sunday began with a visit to Foxton Locks: a "staircase" of ten locks on the Grand Union Canal. Some of us enjoyed helping open and close the massive gates but we were left with the strong impression that canal travel was fine as long as you were not in a hurry. From there we went into Northampton where we had the choice of visiting either the Shoe Museum

or the Charles Rennie Mackintosh House. As we returned to the coach, it disappeared round a corner, having had to move to allow a D-Day celebration march past, with the Mayor and Lord Lieutenant taking the salute as various groups paraded, including a contingent of Americans. A fabulous evening meal followed a tour of Rockingham Castle led by yet another highly-skilled guide.

We left the Marriot on Sunday morning and had an unexpected visit to the National Memorial Arboretum, commemorating all those who had died in the service of their country, both civilians and military. The National Trust describes our next destination, Calke Abbey, as "the unstately home" being preserved in much the same chaotic state as when they took over the property in 1985. It is probably best known as the house filled with stuffed animals and birds in glass cases but the gardens and parkland, bathed in sunshine, were also tempting. Finally a delicious meal at the Kyte Hotel and we were back in Richmond. It was a truly memorable break marred only by the absence of Judy and Don Farrell.



The group outside Rockingham Castle

The Civic Society Photographic Competition

Liz Hayward and Carol Hillyard

The theme for this year's Photographic Competition was buildings and built structures in Richmondshire and was organized by Liz Hayward and Carol Hillyard. They decided to divide the competition into two categories: Civic Society members and primary school pupils. The schools selected were those outside Richmond itself and three of those schools entered candidates: Brompton-on-Swale and Reeth and Gunnerside primaries and Le Cateau Primary School in Catterick Garrison. Altogether, ten pupils submitted material and these photographs, together with the work from Civic Society members, formed an exhibition in the Town Hall on Civic Day in June. The winners chosen by the Mayor, Clive World, were Richard Collier (Civic Society) and Dean Cunningham (primary school). Richard's winning entry forms the back cover to this Review and many of you will know Richard from his articles in this and previous Reviews. Dean was a Year 3 pupil at Le Cateau Primary School when he took his winning photographs of Easby Abbey, one of which illustrates our front cover. His winning photograph can be seen below, along with a selection of other entries from the competition. Additionally, we have used James Metcalfe's photograph of Ivelet bridge and his piece on the headless dog legend as a separate article in this Review.

We are pleased to congratulate all competitors on the very high standard of their work: each photograph shows a wonderful visual sense and a keen response to the beauty and history of Richmondshire.



Easby Abbey: the winning photograph in the primary school category
Photographer: Dean Cunningham, Year3,
Le Cateau Primary School



Reeth Swing Bridge. *Photographer: Taryn Hodgson, Year 6, Reeth and Gunnerside Primary School*



Middleham Castle *Photographer: Daniel Cunningham, Year 1, Le Cateau Primary School*



Hipswell Church and Graveyard *Photographer: Robbie Young, Year 4, Le Cateau Primary School*



Greyfriars Tower, Richmond *Photographer: Amy Young, Year 6 Le Cateau Primary School*



Kiplin Hall *Photographer: Lucas Holmes, Year 4*
Brompton-on-Swale C. of E. Primary School

The Headless Dog of Scroggs

James Metcalfe (Year 6, Reeth and Gunnerside School)

There's a legend about a headless dog at Scroggs, a place which is in between Ivelet Bridge and Ivelet village, set against a deep, winding river surrounded by eerie dark trees. Local people say they have seen it on different occasions. No-one really knows what it looks like but some say that the dog is big, white and has no head.

Because there is no evidence to back up their stories, the sightings might just have been some clouds crossing over a moonlit sky or a reflection in the river. Or was it just people having one too many alcoholic beverages at the local hostelry. Who knows? It's a mystery. Who will be next to see the headless dog?



Ivelet Bridge *Photograph: James Metcalfe*

The Sad Story of Midshipman Riley

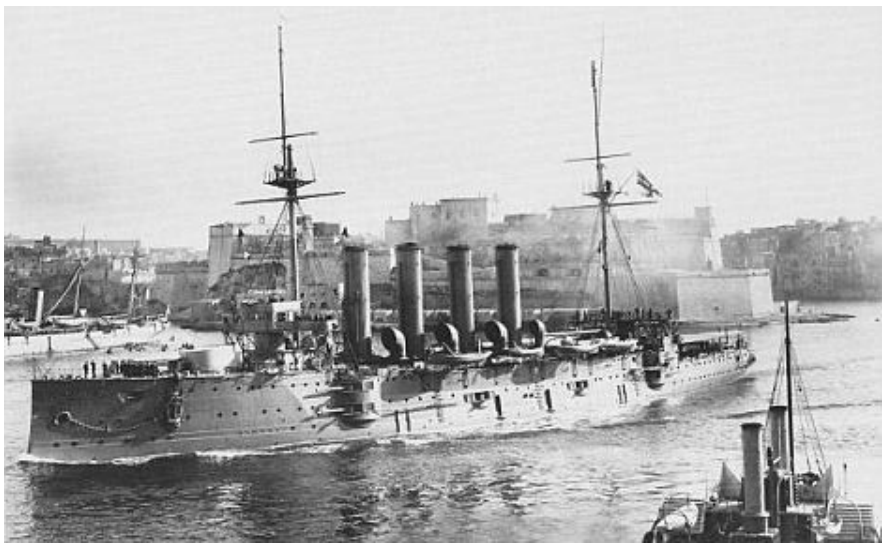
Jane Hatcher

September 2014 saw the centenary of the death of Richmond's first casualty of World War One, and at exactly fifteen years and seven months probably the youngest. Herbert Lawson Riley was born on 22 February 1899 to J. Herbert Riley and his wife Edith, the sixth daughter of Sir John Lawson of Brough Hall. Later the family would live in Richmond where the Frenchgate Hotel is now, and consist also of Herbert's two sisters, the older, Eileen [later Leatham] and the younger, Rowena [later Dalrymple Smith].



Little 'Bertie' as the family called him grew into an attractive and charming boy. He went off to St. Anthony's, a Roman Catholic Preparatory School in Eastbourne, and then in January 1911 to the Royal Naval College at Osborne on the Isle of Wight, where he won distinctions in boxing [at bantam-weight] and Rugby football.

After spending the Easter vacation at home in 1914, he left Richmond for the last time on 6th May, heading as a cadet to Dartmouth Naval College, where he was destined to spend only one term. From there, however, he was present at the great Naval Review at Spithead on board *H.M.S Prince of Wales*. Then at the beginning of August, with the outbreak of war declared, he and nine other Dartmouth cadets were appointed to *H.M.S. Aboukir*. Young Riley was here nicknamed 'Pocket Edition' due to his size and his speedy movement.



H.M.S Aboukir

A month later the cadets were rated as Midshipmen and began junior officer duties. *Aboukir* and her sister ships *H.M.S. Cressy* and *H.M.S. Hogue*, all 4-stack cruisers built 1899-1900, were assigned to patrol duties in the Hook of Holland. Early in the morning of Tuesday 22nd September, Riley came off watch, changed into his pyjamas and fell into a deep and exhausted sleep.

At 6.25am *Aboukir* was hit on the starboard beam by a torpedo fired by one of a flotilla of German submarines no-one had spotted. Riley's friend, John Duncan Stubbs, realising that Riley had not appeared on deck, bravely rushed below to rouse him and brought him up onto the deck. Stubbs, like Riley a northern boy, hailing from Nunthorpe near Middlesbrough, was the Senior Midshipman, having passed out head of Osborne the term before, and being head boy for their single term at Dartmouth.

Aboukir was by now keeling over, and the boys and other crew were thrown overboard into the grey North Sea. Before long, *Hogue* too was torpedoed. In the water, Riley found a piece of wood to cling onto, and was picked up by one of *Aboukir's* boats and taken with others to the *Cressy.* There in the sick bay they were given dry clothes and cups of cocoa. Before long, *Cressy* too was hit, first by a torpedo which did not do a lot of damage, but then by a second one which did, and the ship quickly began sinking so that this time the crew walked off into the water.

Riley and Stubbs were seen clinging to another piece of wreckage, and later going to the assistance of a man calling for help, but after a short struggle all three disappeared. The submarines had, in little over an hour, sunk all three patrol cruisers, with great loss of life, including 60 officers and 1400 men. Several were young Midshipmen from that year's Dartmouth intake. Newspaper reports would comment that this was greater loss of life than from the liner *Titanic,* and three times that of the victory at Trafalgar.

At 9.30 on the morning of the following day, 23rd September 1914, Richmond Post Office received and delivered the telegram that all families of serving personnel dreaded. Sent from the Admiralty, it was, as custom decreed, addressed to the boy's mother. "To Mrs. Riley, Frenchgate, Richmond, Yorkshire. Deeply regret report your son Midshipman Riley of *Aboukir* not among list of saved."

The previous Sunday, 20nd September, Edith Riley had written her last letter to her son. Full of chatty local news, and clearly intended to cheer him up in such worrying times, it began "My dearest Bertie", commented that he had now been seven weeks at sea, authorised him to put on his

account with Grieves of Chatham things he had requested to keep him warm at night - a reefer, trousers, cap, sea boots. She told him who had been to lunch, who had had a baby girl - "great excitement!"; his older sister Eileen was going to the Convent in Harrogate - "doesn't it sound Grown Up!"; she hoped he would teach the girls to skip when he came home, and ended "Goodbye - With heaps of love from Mother".

The envelope was stamped 'Ship Lost' and returned to her. It was saved, with many other cherished mementoes, from locks of his baby hair and childhood photos, to letters of condolence. Mrs Riley painfully collected details to piece together the story of the tragedy, and all were pasted into two albums, which have been treasured by later generations of the family, and from which this article has been extracted.

The family's grief must have been immeasurable. He was their only son. Incredibly bravely, Mrs Riley herself on 1st October 1916 unveiled the bronze memorial tablet to her son she had commissioned for the Roman Catholic Church in Richmond. Made by the Scottish-born London sculptor David McGill, it showed in relief a left profile portrait of Bertie in his cadet uniform, with the inscriptions above "Thou has crowned him with glory and honour" and below "In loving memory of Midshipman H.L. Riley, R.N., Grandson of Sir John Lawson, Bart. He gave up his life in the North Sea while trying to save the life of another when his ship *H.M.S. Aboukir* was torpedoed in action Sept. 22 1914. Aged 15 years". Sadly it is no longer in the Roman Catholic Church.

Mrs Riley also gave an identical memorial tablet to Osborne College, which was temporarily placed in the 'Chapel Room' there in the same month, October 1916. Later in 1921 it seems this was transferred to Dartmouth when Captain Martin, who had been in command at Osborne and knew Riley, moved to Dartmouth. A memorial to Stubbs was put up in St Cuthbert's Church, Ormesby.

On 30 August 1919 an 'In Memoriam' service was held in Richmond's Ronaldshay Park to commemorate those from the town lost in the carnage of the Great War. A handful of them were singled out by the Mayor for individual mention - John Ringrose, the son of a former mayor, who had won the Military Medal for carrying a wounded comrade for two miles,

Captain Robert Murray, Harry Benson - and Midshipman Riley who had been lost going to the aid of a comrade when he could have saved himself.

The following year the town's War Memorial was unveiled in Friary Gardens. It bears on it a hundred and one names, including Riley's. With commendable equality, they are listed merely in alphabetical order, with no mention of their rank or service.



The bronze memorial tablet designed by David McGill

The Rookery in Victorian times

Richard Collier

In the 2012 Review, Richard Collier introduced us to The Rookery, some of its inhabitants and connections. He takes up the story again...

In 1856 the Reverend Blackwood was inducted as vicar of St. Michael and all Angels in Middleton Tyas. The days of copper mining were over. James Blackwood over-saw the building of the village school, and also the restoration of the church with the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott. Finally in 1873, his last year in office, the vicarage was sold to the Backhouse family, after which, for obvious reasons, it was known as **The Rookery.**

The Backhouse bank flourished in Darlington throughout the nineteenth century, succeeding where other banks failed, helped by inter-marriage with other Quaker families. It was the marriage of second generation Jonathan to Hannah Chapman Gurney, the daughter of Norwich banker Joseph Gurney, that brought these two families together. She was a remarkable woman. She decided in her early twenties to live the life of a strict Quaker, and wrote, “I have kept my resolution of saying thee and thou to every one. This act of obedience has been the cause, I firmly believe, of much peaceful reward.” Periods of great sadness were never far away. In 1815 and 1816 her only two brothers died, followed the next year by her sister Rachel. In 1820 her eldest son Jonathan died. The prison reformer Elizabeth Fry spoke at his funeral in Darlington. Her sister Jane Birkbeck died giving birth to a son, and she herself became seriously ill after visiting her cousin Priscilla, who was in the last stages of consumption. Hannah's second son Joseph died in 1824. Just two days after his funeral she gave birth to her last child, named Edmund Jonathan. She describes her confinement as “Two nights of more refreshing rest than I have had for a long time.” Soon she wrote, “My dear little Edmund is

now nearly twelve weeks old – a fine, fat, flourishing babe. A greater portion of ease and joy has entered my mind since his birth than I have known for years, not that tender recollections or tears are forgotten." [1]

Hannah was determined to be a Quaker missionary. She had been speaking at meetings for many years. When also recognised as a preacher, her husband, Jonathan, gave up banking. Both travelled all over England to meetings. They spent time in Ireland, before a four year mission to Friends in America. Meanwhile Edmund had followed his elder brother, Henry, to the Grove School in Tottenham, very popular with Friends, offering a Quaker style of education, with, for example, no corporal punishment. There are letters written by the boys to America, and home to Polam Hall. Jonathan and Hannah lived in the house at South-End (now the hotel Bannatyne) before they purchased the villa at Polam in 1825, which they extended.

Six months after their return from America, and at the Westmorland quarterly meeting in Kendal, they received an urgent summons from Grove School regarding Henry. Hannah writes, "we set off, travelled all night and two days and got to the school about six o'clock on Fifth-day, found he was yet alive, and that my dear girls had arrived an hour or two before us." Sadly Henry never recovered and died at school a week later.

Edmund would now be the third generation banker, progressing in time from junior to senior partner. Marriage to Juliet Mary Fox at the Friends Meeting House in Falmouth was well chosen. Her father, Charles Fox, had many business interests in Cornwall. She was his only surviving child. Rather than live in the family home at Polam, Edmund preferred to rent a grand house in Middleton Tyas called Middleton Lodge. The Lodge on Kneeton Lane dated back to 1777, its ninety-seven acres having a hint of views to the North Yorkshire moors. John Carr of York was the architect. The agreement between builder John Foss of Richmond and owner George Hartley still exists, the sandstone to come from Hartley's

[1] www.archive.org Extracts from the journal and Letters of Hannah C. Backhouse.

own quarry on Gatherley Moor. George, though, never lived long enough to move in.

The lifestyle enjoyed by Edmund's small family can be seen in the censuses taken between 1861 and 1891. In 1881 there was a housekeeper, a cook, two footmen, and nine maids. The families of the butler, coachman, and gardener were housed in the grounds. Four grooms were in the coach-house. The orphaned niece Jane Harriet Backhouse Fox was a permanent resident. The nurse, governess and errand boy were eventually no longer needed.

In the general election of 1868 there were enough members of a liberal persuasion to allow Gladstone to form his first Liberal Government. Disraeli's reform bill of the previous year had reduced members in old boroughs like Richmond from two to one, whilst creating new ones. One of the three new boroughs in County Durham was that of Darlington. Edmund Backhouse was its first MP. He never acquired a reputation as an orator, but his opinions were always valued. He was known to be charming, eccentric, humble, very polite, and an engaging conversationalist. Time now had to be spent in London. A Quaker inspired newspaper called *The Northern Echo* was first printed in January 1870. It was designed to promote the town's liberal sentiment, and its new status.

The two children raised by Edmund and Juliet at Middleton Lodge were Jonathan Edmund, who was always known as 'Jed', and Sarah Juliet. The choice of school for Jed, when the time came, may seem strange, as Rugby School was strongly Anglican. It had recently become famous through the widely read *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, which described the normal state of education twenty years earlier in the 1830s. By the time Jed arrived Dr. Arnold's reforms were in place. Boys were now treated like young adults, having clearly defined responsibilities, although other things never changed. He tells in a letter home of suffering various ceremonies, saying that, “I experienced another old custom last night, viz- (seeing the stars), that is they put a coat on you with the sleeves so that you look up it and they pour water down it – I got off awfully easily”. More familiar was being tossed up in a blanket. He writes, “it was rather jolly than otherwise excepting that you felt very helpless.” He found many things to be 'jolly'.

His school results were mixed. Although he did once win a prize, he was reported as being backward in Latin and failing in unseen.

What happened next explains the lifestyles of Edmund's children as they married out of the faith, and abandoned the values of the Society of Friends such as veracity, pacifism, and thrift. Jed wrote to his mother on 6th. March 1865 asking if he could be confirmed.[2] His tutor James Phillpotts sent a following letter, saying that he thought that "the worship of Friends of too highly abstract & refinedly intellectual a character to do otherwise than fly over the head of the boys." He needed the benefit of Dr. Temple's lectures.

His parents raised no objection, and Jed was baptised by his headmaster at school on a Monday, and confirmed there by the bishop two days later. He said he found the first ceremony beautiful. He was an enthusiastic convert to Anglicanism.

From Rugby School he went to Cambridge, to study law at Trinity Hall. By 1871 he was secure enough financially to propose marriage to Florence Salusbury-Trelawny. They married in quiet ceremony in London. Had he still been a Quaker, Jed would have been 'disowned' for marrying out of the faith.[3] Both their fathers must have known each other because Sir John Salusbury-Trelawny, the 9th baronet and a liberal, was representing East Cornwall in the same government as Edmund.

Three years later Jed and Florence moved into The Rookery, which they enlarged, whilst raising a family. Jed's parents, nearby, continued to rent The Lodge until about the time Edmund became involved in the merger of his bank with those of the Barclays and Gurneys in 1896. As a senior partner he was then needed in London. The resulting bank Barclays was now big enough to swallow smaller banks like the *Swaledale and Wensleydale Banking Company,* whose head office was in Richmond.

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[2] www.reed.dur.ac.uk /backhouse papers Durham university library. BAC/227

[3] www.gutenberg.org A portrait of Quakerism by T Clarkson, vol 2, chapt.1.

The retirement of Edmund and Juliet to Trebah[4] with its famous garden was spoiled by her death there in December 1898. It had been inherited from her father Charles Fox, a house with twenty-six acres in a steep sheltered valley running down to the Helford River near Falmouth. With the utmost precision, Charles had planted exotic species rarely grown outdoors in Britain. Edmund continued the planting with great enthusiasm for the next thirty years, importing and distributing plants, such as his 3000 Australian tree ferns. Trebah was sold after Edmund's death in 1906.

As an Anglican Jed was able to accept a knighthood in 1901 for services to the Liberal Unionist Party. He was now 1st baronet Backhouse of Uplands, which was his house in Darlington (demolished in the 1970s). Six children were born at The Rookery. They all led interesting lives. Harriet Jane was the youngest. She married John, later Sir John Findlay, who became the proprietor of *The Scotsman* newspaper. She did an enormous amount of voluntary work in Scotland, and in 1929 was appointed D.B.E. for political and public service.

Miles Roland Charles and Roger Roland Charles were twins. They both took the name of an elder brother who had died, aged three. Miles was sent to Eton, and after Trinity Hall spent some time in the army. In the First World War he was awarded the D.S.O. and bar. As a banker he worked in France, and was also appointed joint governor of the Bank of Abyssinia.

Roger and elder brother Oliver were both admirals, starting as naval cadets at the age of fourteen. Roger's career was faultless. Words written in his reports include – exceptional intelligence, great brain power & extraordinary application, cool and resourceful, zealous, brilliant, tactful, and strongly recommended for early advancement. Roger[5] was awarded

[4] see YouTube for videos of Trebah garden in Cornwall.

[5] www.the peerage.com/ roger backhouse - person page 7112.

the C.M.G., C.B., K.C.B., G.C.V.O., and finally the G.C.B. in 1937. Sir Roger's last promotions were to Admiral of the Fleet, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet, and lastly First Sea Lord of the Admiralty. He died six weeks before the Second World War was declared. Oliver, who lived in Edinburgh ended what was only a slightly less distinguished career as Superintendant, first of Sheerness Dockyard, and then of Devonport Dockyard.

The life of eldest child Edmund Jonathan, born in 1873, is recorded in **The Hermit of Peking** by Hugh Trevor-Roper, and in two accounts by himself, written from memory when he was seventy. These are **The Dead Past** and **Decadence Mandchoue.** The first tells of his early life in England with its 'ideally unhappy' childhood. Only after prompting by the acting Swiss consul in Peking, Dr. Heoppli, and given a fee, did Backhouse start to scribble his memoirs. Heoppli wondered how much was fiction.

At the age of nine Edmund was sent to St. George's School in Ascot. It was a fashionable school modelled on Eton with small classes and great potential. It was run by the Rev. Dr. Herbert Sneyd Kynnersley. The head-master was over-fond of corporal punishment, but Edmund's story of him expiring in the act of flogging Master Blundell is certainly wishful think-ing. The unhappy Winston Churchill, a fellow pupil, was taken away after two years. Edmund was developing a capacity for learning languages. He lists well over forty (twice as many as John Mawer, who featured in the 2012 Review) in which he becomes competent. Edmund formed a lasting friendship with one French teacher at Ascot, the poet, Paul Verlaine, for which the boys called him 'Mrs Frenchy.'

After four years at Ascot, Edmund spent six years at Winchester. As a 'postman' he then entered Merton College in 1892, studying classics mainly, but also learning languages. Three years later he left without a degree, and debts equivalent to-day to about two and a quarter million pounds. His circle of friends centred around Max Beerbohm, Aubrey Beardsley, Oscar Wilde, Walter Pater, and others of the aesthetic movement on whom he spent money. Edmund said that he was involved in editing *The Yellow Book* (pub.Quarterly), thus meeting the famous

contributing authors. The prosecution of Wilde he called, “the most salient example of British hypocrisy”, and set up a fund for his support. He also says that in 1894 he had an intimate relationship with the Prime Minister Archibald Primrose, Lord Rosebery, and that they kept in touch for a long time. Edmund helped with the French Ambassador's correspondence.

Besides the racecourse, Edmund had a great liking for the theatre. In one vacation he went with Henry Irving and Ellen Terry to Canada, saying “I know I attracted her.” In Cherbourg he met Sarah Bernhardt's ship from America. He writes that “she has a penchant for me.” Then he goes on to claim an affair with the Spanish danseuse La Belle Otero, then at the height of her fame as a dancer, actress, and highly expensive courtesan. It was for her that he provided an apartment at L'Hotel Westminster in Paris, on the strength of the family name. She took him to Monte Carlo where he borrowed from the money lender Sam Lewis for the gambling tables.

It was no surprise that he was unable to repay his debts, and was declared bankrupt in 1895. Proceedings dragged on for years. Creditors might receive two shillings in the pound. Edmund, as usual, thought it best to disappear. He would not be welcome at home. The total breakdown with his parents is revealed in two descriptions of them, both equally vehement.
This is one from the unpublished **The Dead Past,** in the Bodleian Library: “*a father of good family indeed, but of the earth earthy, pedestrian, false to the fingertips, lewd as a satyr, hating me for what was, even then the promise of an admittedly exceptional intellect, a mother from an ancient Cornish house, which predated the Norman Conquest by centuries, a she-wolf of Celtic blood, whose cruel eyes unsated with torture petrified like a Medusa my early years with palid terror, a 'raksha' incarnate, half Medea, half Jezabel, arrogant despot, ignorant, overweaning*.”

Backhouse had travelled in America before leaving university, possibly with a nervous breakdown. He spent time in Japan at the end of 1895. He visited Russia the next summer. He describes himself as an Honorary Baron of the former Russian Empire, and claims that the Tsaritsa Alexandra Fedorovna, on a visit to Balmoral, asks Lord Salisbury to give him an appointment in Russia. It is uncertain where he was just before

turning up in Peking in 1898, but he had recognised that his “heart was in the orient,” and his “temperament was better adapted to Chinese psychology.”

China was in turmoil as the anti-Western Boxer Rebellion built up, that required foreign intervention. The massive looting of everything valuable allowed Backhouse to 'acquire' a large collection of priceless manuscripts. In 1913 he decided to send these to the Bodleian Library in the hope of securing a position there. Oriental scholars in Oxford were delighted to open twenty-nine crates of manuscripts, many very rare. It made Oxford's collection the best in Europe. His reputation as a sinologist was at its peak, and his name was inscribed on the Bodleian honours board.

Edmund produced two accounts of recent Chinese history with the author John Bland. These best-sellers were **China under the Empress Dowager** in 1910, and **Annals and Memoirs of the Court of Peking** in 1914. The diary of courtier Ching-shan, on which the former was based, was not recognised as a forgery for a long time, although George Morrison had his suspicions. He was the Times newspaper correspondent who used Edmund's language skills for his articles on China. The second publication by Heinemann delighted the reviewers, and it again enhanced Edmund's reputation. A month earlier Backhouse had accepted the chair of Chinese at King's College, London. He never took this up, hoping an honorary degree would get him a similar chair at Oxford. To this end he gave the university seventy-six cases of books and manuscripts, but in 1915, when the chair next became vacant, he was again disappointed.

During his forty-six years in China Edmund committed a series of frauds. Many were researched for his book by Trevor-Roper, who was sure that whilst a charming and entertaining man, Backhouse was the inventor of wild self-aggrandizing fantasies in minute detail, difficult to contradict.
An early fiasco was his promise in 1915 to obtain 200,000 rifles and other armaments for the British war effort. Lord Kitchener secretly sent two million pounds to the legation so nobody knew what was happening. The transporting ships never arrived in Hong Kong despite the many telegrams Edmund sent describing their progress. Reuters had a report of his intention to serve on the Western Front as the Director of Chinese Coolies!

Backhouse had a seven year contract dating back to 1910 to act for a Clyde shipbuilding firm. In 1916 he claimed that with Japanese participation he now had a contract to sell battleships to the Chinese government. Designs for six coastal-defence vessels were made but were never used. Edmund, having made all his usual excuses, left for Japan.

He was next employed by The American Bank Note Company of New York. They wanted to sell the Chinese government fifty million bank-notes a year for the next thirteen years. Backhouse said there would be no problem with the contract. He brought one to New York signed by the President and Prime Minister. When the signatures were found to be forgeries he could not be found, but most of his £5,600 commission money was recovered. A scheme was invented to invest in Chinese 'curios'. He sold a partnership with shares to the American George Hall. When George called in the lawyers Backhouse had already gone to British Columbia. In Victoria he became involved in claims against his hotel manager.

Sir Jonathan Backhouse died at The Rookery on the 27th July 1918. Edmund inherited the title. There was no extra money. He would still have to exist on his normal allowance from England.

The next fraud was ongoing between 1919 and 1923 and involved the Bodleian library, who because of his earlier generosity trusted him completely. They expected the famous Palace Library of 58,000 volumes, and much more, and had already paid enough money to cover what had been purchased and transport costs. Little was ever delivered, and most of that not genuine. The library was in an impossible position. He was a master of ingenious excuses, plausible, and difficult to find. He always blamed others and claimed many different illnesses. Sir Edmund escaped this time to visit his sister, Lady Findlay, in Scotland. Predictably it ended badly, partly because of his eccentricities. He insisted on wandering round Edinburgh dressed as a Chinaman, a dress he had permanently adopted. Furthermore he attempted to sell what he called the Empress Dowager's pearl necklace. 1923 was the last year he travelled abroad. He now lived in Peking as a recluse, always avoiding westerners whenever possible.

In 1934 he announced that he owned another diary, which had been in his possession since the death of its author, the Grand Eunuch, in 1911. He claimed it contained one and a half million idiographs. Towards the end of the thirties he said he was working on a huge *Chinese into English Dictionary,* and also an account of *The Lives of Ch'ing Emperors.*

Edmund's life was finally disrupted by the Japanese occupation. He did manage to avoid internment, and stayed first in the British embassy, then in the ex-Austrian legation for two years. Somehow in August 1939 all his papers, manuscripts, and most other possessions were lost or destroyed. Concerned relatives at home sent him a ticket to England, but he turned back at Tiensin. In 1942 he was received into the Catholic church, taking the name of Paul. He spent his last days in the French Catholic Hospital.

Sir Jonathan Backhouse, the enthusiastic Anglican, had the carillon in the tower of St. Cuthbert's Church, Darlington, repaired in memory of his father. Seven hymn tunes automatically changed daily for a week. Bells played every four hours, possibly annoying some local residents.

He and his wife lie behind the east end of the church in Middleton Tyas against a precipitous drop. To his left is his only sister Sarah, the first wife of Horatio Noble Pym. She died aged twenty-eight. Smaller stones record the ages of the 3rd and 4th barts. Jed must have wanted them all to be under the window that he gave to the memory of his son Roland. This east window of three lights was the work of the best glass maker of the day, Charles Kempe, renowned for his great detail. Sadly it is now faded.

On one of his rare visits to The Rookery, Edmund claimed that he accompanied his father here, to his mother's grave - to “curse her memory in Chinese, Japanese, Mongol, Manchou, Russian, Pali, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Danish and English.” Perhaps after forty years of brooding in enforced exile that is what he wished he had done.

The Nine *Richmonds* of the Royal Navy

Part One: the First Three *Richmonds*

Harold R. Dick

Back in 1992 when I was still working, but planning my retirement and thinking about developing my life-long interest in the ships of the Royal Navy, a news item in the press stated that a new frigate, to be called *HMS Richmond*, was to be built on the River Tyne by Messrs Swan Hunter.

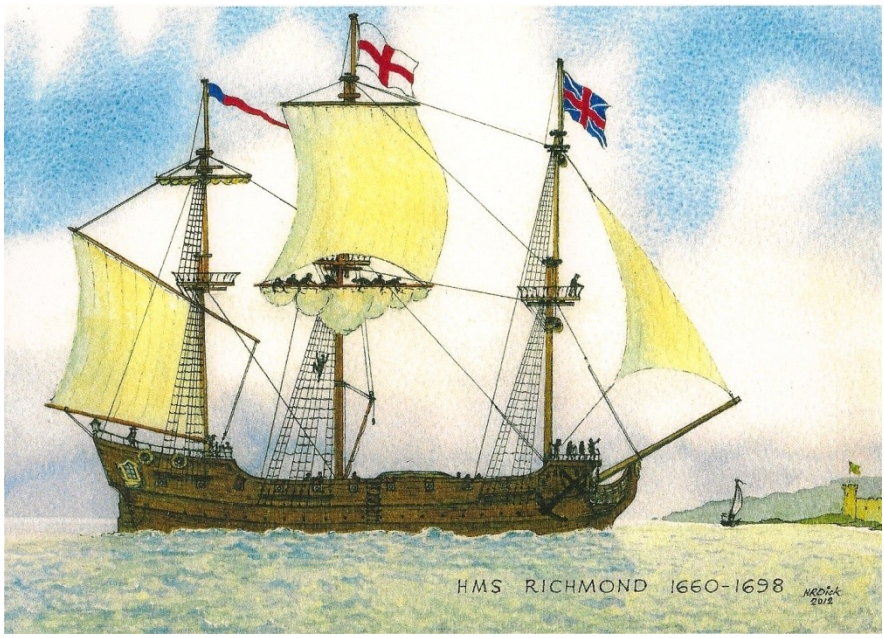
By the time this vessel was to be launched, I had already commenced producing watercolour paintings and decided to paint this new ship. On contacting Commander Bryan Rayner at the Swan Hunter shipyard, I was invited to the launch and allowed to climb up one of the dockyard cranes and view the event from its platform, where I produced many sketches and mixed watercolours to match the scene. I enjoyed every minute. Whilst working on this project, the idea came to me to produce a watercolour of every *HMS Richmond* that had ever existed, all nine of them, as mentioned on the launch brochure. This idea became a long and time-consuming exercise, not only in researching the hull shape and size of every ship but carefully studying the rigging of each vessel, which in some cases altered from time to time because of their changing histories. This occupation was completed last year, August 2013. It is currently the most accurate illustrated history on this subject, unless some long-lost documentation comes to light[1]. Even the official Launch Card states that 'little is known of the sixth and seventh *Richmonds*' as they were not fighting ships and the name was used for auxiliary craft at a time

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See also Jane Hatcher: *Another HMS Richmond,* Richmond Review, 1996, p.11. Daphne Clarke: *Richmond and HMS Richmond,* Richmond Review, 2005, p.25

immediately after the Napoleonic wars when the Admiralty was reorganizing itself in the face of drastic cuts.

The First *Richmond* 1660-1698



HMS Richmond (ex Wakefield): broadside view, approaching the harbour entrance, sailing larboard gybe, blowing fresh, sails furled on foremast.[2]

HMS Wakefield, built in 1656 by Tippetts of Portsmouth for the Commonwealth navy was renamed *HMS Richmond* in 1660 after the interregnum. Classed as a Fifth Rate ship of the line, she had a displacement of approximately 350 tons and carried 26 six-pounder cannon guns. Her overall length would have been about 125 feet, with a

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All illustrations are watercolours painted by Harold Dick and are reproduced with his permission

beam of just under 25 feet and she would have sailed with a complement of 100 men. She was the first to bear the name of Richmond.

During the Civil War, Cromwell had acquired a navy of over thirty fighting ships after the execution of Charles I on January 30th 1649. For the next ten years he built up the English navy to over two hundred and fifty ships and, of these, more than thirty two were Fifth Rates similar to the Wakefield. Many more were larger and more powerful vessels, necessary following the outcome of the First Dutch Wars from 1652 to 1654.

In 1688 and 1689 *HMS Richmond* was converted into a fireship for the war with France where Louis XIV had built a new and powerful fleet. Fireships had a devastating effect on anchored ships, causing terror amongst the crews of large vessels, but they could only be used where circumstances permitted. If employed, the vessel would be totally expended. *HMS Richmond* had become obsolete as a fighting ship; her conversion was carried out by constructing a solid compartment of timber from the deck down to her keel, aft of the main mast, for the full width of the hull. This allowed the ship to be navigated and steered into a position to create the maximum damage with a minimum crew, who could light the fires at the correct time, then abandon ship at a convenient opportunity. The whole of the hull, forward of the solid timber barrier, was filled with combustible material, drums of tar and gunpowder with holes in the deck to allow air into the hold and the flames to rise to the sails and rigging. Gunpowder hatches were reversed so they could be released to drop downwards and permit flames and sparks to blow sideways, causing more destruction and havoc when in contact with enemy vessels.

Since no illustrations or records exist for the building of this particular vessel, the illustration has been sketched and painted from an appraisal based upon logical facts as set out below. One of many private shipbuilders could have been appointed to build the ship, there having been considerable developments and improvements in the trade prior to this period. Tippetts was the firm selected; they constructed their vessels at Portsmouth, adjacent to the naval dockyards, having produced many ships in the past for the King's Navy.

When William and Mary came to the throne, the administration for the navy passed into the hands of Parliament through the Revolution of 1688, thus becoming the Royal Navy. Through parliament, funds for the navy became more readily available and a permanent establishment was formed. The Royal Dockyards became the main centres for ship design and construction, with surveyors responsible for the various types of vessels required. Standardisation and economy also became a political issue to control expenditure, resulting in the formation, around 1706, of 'Preliminary Establishments'.

Tippetts would have been fully aware of the responsibility of surveyors for the Admiralty. They were also known themselves as competent shipbuilders, for many of their vessels were rebuilt or had major refurbishment carried out; this could only have been done with sound hulls that had stood up to long service. Therefore, when the 'establishments' were formed, the designs for future naval vessels would have been based upon proven hull construction.

The illustration of *HMS Richmond* is based upon actual designs for a vessel that became a standard, basic hull of similar tonnage. The rigging also shown is the same square-rigged ship type used by the navy; again, this had been modified and proven over many years as a sound and satisfactory method for its purpose. The masts all became standard, both in length and diameter, for each individual hull. Joints and laps connecting masts were secured with cross-trees and trestle-trees, to support top-masts and fighting tops, which also supported the shrouds for the top-masts.

On the sketch is a row of small 'ports', shown just above the water line of the hull. These are openings for oars, to be used should the ship become damaged by storm or enemy action where the sails could not be set. Even if the ship was becalmed in windless conditions, the vessel could be manhandled to a safe location or port. More importantly they could be used to tow other disabled, larger vessels out of danger, if needed.

HMS Richmond was sold during 1698 as it became obsolete and already had been downgraded to a Sixth Rate. Advancing developments made refurbishment uneconomic for further naval use. Most probably she was

purchased by a private shipbuilder, to rebuild as another vessel, for private use or for the navy under another name.

During the century before 1650, the King's Ships became more and more lavishly decorated with timber carvings, coloured paint and excessive gilding, to impress their image on other nations. James I built his flagship, *Prince Royal*, in 1619 and Charles I his flagship, *Sovereign of the Seas* in 1637, making them both extravagant in appearance. The cost of rich gilding alone was £868 for the first and much more for the second vessel. When the Dutch Wars occurred, the crews of these and other ships chopped away with axes these gilt carvings, to protect themselves from blood poisoning should large splinters of this wood be impaled into their bodies when cannon balls smashed into the ship.

The Commonwealth Parliament, although allocating £400,000 each year for their navy, restricted decoration in all their new vessels. The whole ship had to be stained dark brown, except for the decks. Decoration was limited to Stern and Quarter Galleries, the Figurehead on the bow and Garland wreaths around the Quarterdeck Gun Ports.

Both as *Wakefield* and *Richmond* she was stationed in the Channel for the whole of her service life as a Fifth Rate, carrying out support and back-up to the main fleet.

The Second *Richmond* 1672-1685

When Charles II was brought to England from Holland by the Navy in 1660, he changed the names of several vessels in the fleet. During the Commonwealth, ships had been named after Parliamentary victories in the Civil War. Charles II reverted to the more traditional English royal names. The ship he sailed home in was called the *Royal Charles* which had been hastily changed by orders of the Admiralty from *Naseby* (Cromwell's flagship). Another vessel was changed from *Winsby* to *Happy Return*. About thirty six naval ships had their names changed, out

of a total fleet of over a hundred and fifty. When his father Charles I was executed, he had only thirty one vessels.

Whilst Charles was in exile, residing in Holland, he noted that many vessels of that state were small jachts or yachts, used for conveying messages and people to and from the larger ships, instead of rowing boats, as used in England. He was excited at watching these fast, manoeuverable craft and, as he and his brother James were fond of sailing, they could not resist learning to sail these yachts themselves. Before long they became experts and, along with their cousin, Prince Rupert, started to race each other and this eventually grew into a popular pastime. When Charles was crowned king, a gift from Holland was a yacht for his use, which he named *Mary*. This vessel was lost in an accident during the 1670s.



The Royal Yacht HMS Richmond: lee bow view; river cruise, sailing starboard tack, moderate breeze.

Charles ordered more than twenty yachts to be built for his use and also for the Royal Navy to convey VIPs around. He also introduced yacht racing on the Thames and other coastal waters for sport, encouraging his naval staff to participate together with his royal patrons. Most of these yachts were based on the Thames and moored off Greenwich, but they were all maintained by the Deptford Royal Dockyard. Some small yachts were allocated to the Viceroy of Ireland and the Governor of the Isle of Wight and other similar personnel for their use while in that official capacity. Because of the prestige of these craft, they were all commanded by a Post Captain. Furthermore, those used by the Royal Navy for dispatch vessels that were lightly armed during conflicts, were classed as Fifth or Sixth Rated ships with eight small cannons.

It is known that one of these yachts was named *Richmond*, and was in service from 1672 until 1685. When Charles was a young boy, he spent many happy years at Richmond Palace and Park. Therefore, it was only natural that he should use the name Richmond for one of his yachts. The king possibly gave or sold this craft to some duke or earl for their personal use in return for his services during the interregnum or other favours. It is also possible that a vessel of that name was wrecked (as several were) during early sporting activities, when the fashion was new and the crew did not have sufficient experience. By the revolution in 1688, there were fifteen yachts in service, all formally named and serviced by the Royal Navy.

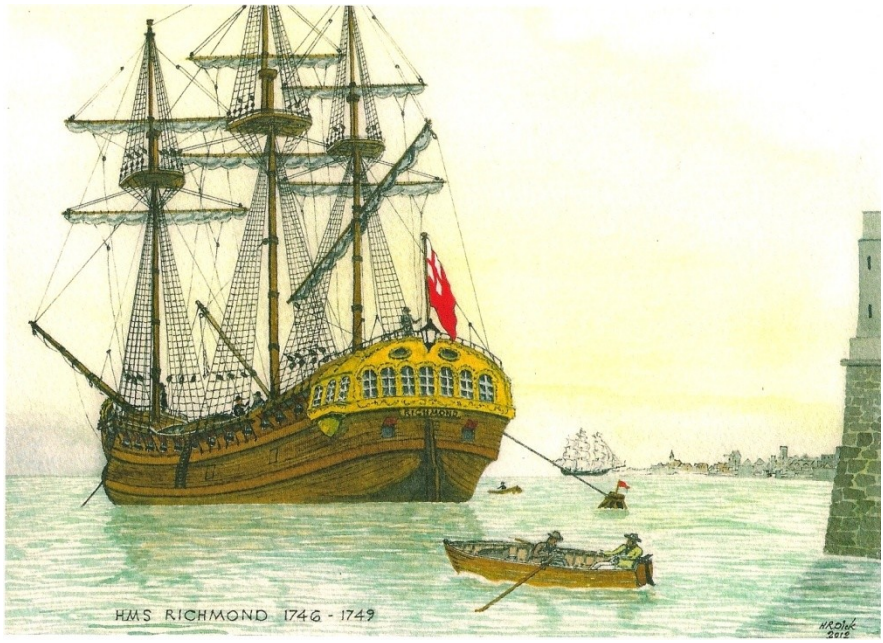
The illustration shown is based upon similar craft that were used in this period; it is depicted sailing down the Thames, bearing the standard of the Duke of Richmond.

The Third *Richmond* 1746 – 1749

The admiralty received a request from the directors of The East India Company, that French warships were attacking their trading fleets and needed naval support. On May 5th 1744, a small squadron of four ships sailed from Spithead to the East Indies under Commodore Curtis Barnet

and patrolled the seas in the area considered dangerous for traders. In January1746, after taking measures to intercept home-bound French ships, a fleet of armed French Indiamen were sighted in the Straits of Banca. When Barnet closed with the French ships, they opened fire, but the English squadron soon closed the battle and took three of the enemy ships.

One of these ships was a French East India Company ship named *Le Dauphin* which was eventually placed into the Royal Navy as *HMS*



HMS Richmond (ex French Le Dauphin): larboard quarter view; sails furled, riding at anchor, calm sea.

Richmond. The other two vessels, named *Hercule* and *Jason* were probably far too damaged or old to be salvaged. All three had an armament of thirty cannons each.

HMS Richmond was originally built in France as *Le Dauphin* in 1743 for the Compagnie des Indes (French East India Co.). Her approximate dimensions were 102 feet long, with a breadth of 30.5 feet, displacing 395 tons. She carried twenty four cannons as a Sixth Rate, with a crew of a

hundred and twenty whilst in service with the Royal Navy and was sold on May 28th 1749.

A Triple Alliance had been established between England, Holland and France, the three maritime powers, under the Treaty of Utrecht in 1716, in an effort to keep peace in Europe. All three countries were successfully trading with the Americas and the Far East, having set up companies to deal with the commerce, and were very satisfied. In 1740 the War of Austrian Succession commenced in Europe and Britain tried to keep out of this conflict because of its own problems at home which had caused considerable difficulties in government, as well as public anxieties, the most serious being the South Sea Bubble, the Jacobite Risings, the Porteous Riots and War with Spain in 1737. As Britain was an ally of Austria and France an ally of Spain, France declared war on Britain in February 1744 and encouraged the Jacobite Revolt in 1745 which ended with the battle of Culloden in 1746.

The French also carried the war to North America and India, which had been the source of previous conflicts, where a long-standing envy prevailed because of Britain's successful and lucrative trading over the previous century. When the *Le Dauphin* was captured and taken to England for examination, the Admiralty was re-examining its policy of vessel design, especially their Fifth and Sixth Rate cruisers. Since the commencement of the war with France, the number of British merchant ships captured had risen to considerable numbers, because the French ships were far superior sailing vessels to the English ones. Years of peace had taken away the need for English technical improvement and administrative costs, thus hindering progress.

Over the four years from 1744, Britain had managed to capture ten French ships of the new 'Frigate' design, four of which were French Navy ships. *Le Dauphin* was one of these, built, as previously stated, for the Compagnie des Indes. These ships had been constructed along the lines of a new cruiser built in 1741 by Blaise Ollivier, an established shipbuilder in Brest. His talent was respected all over France and many other builders followed his designs. After the Admiralty had carefully surveyed all ten of these vessels, modifications were made to the 1745 establishment Sixth Rate ships under construction. In 1746, a further

French ship, the privateer *Tygre* had been captured after a three to four hour chase and brought to Plymouth. So impressive was the report to the Admiralty that they ordered exact replicas to be built as prototypes. The first of these were *HMS Unicorn* and *HMS Lyme*, both built in the Royal Dockyards.

The third *Richmond*, therefore, became instrumental in the origins of the famous English frigates which were built in considerable numbers up to the end of the nineteenth century for the Royal Navy. The fourth *HMS Richmond* was one of these new frigates.

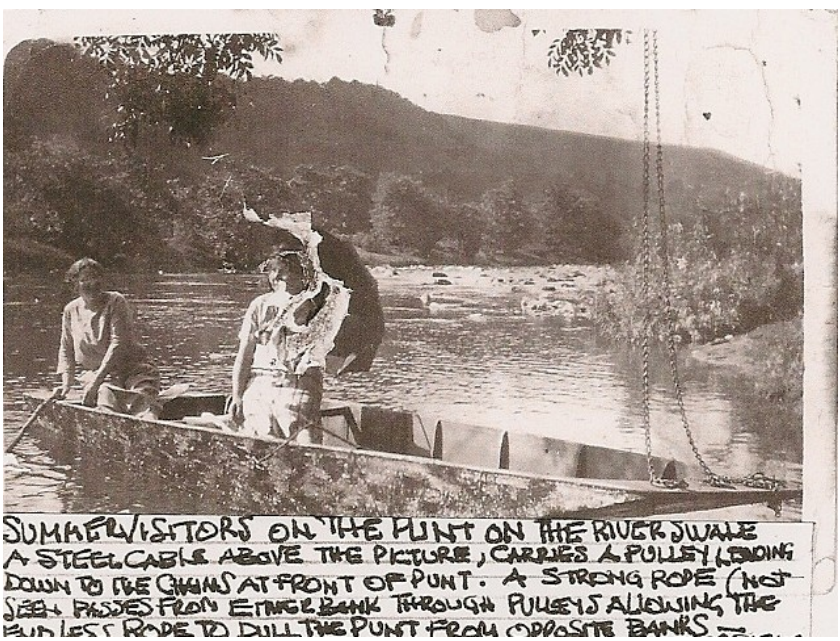
Ed: the remaining six Richmonds will be the subject of two further articles in our next two editions.

The Punt across the River Swale: erected by Mr William Carter of Low Applegarth Farm.

Jane Hatcher

In about 1920 Mr William Carter, who farmed at Low Applegarth - even today still a relatively inaccessible area - ingeniously created a system for crossing the River Swale by a punt to the Reeth Road side, where transport into Richmond was much easier.

First he erected a half-inch diameter steel cable from a stout tree on the Applegarth bank, across the Swale to a stout eight foot-high post on the south bank. A strongly-woven rope was then stretched from side to side through pulleys fixed to the tree and the post. Bolt ends were attached to a pulley block on the cable, with two high chains secured to the front of the punt.





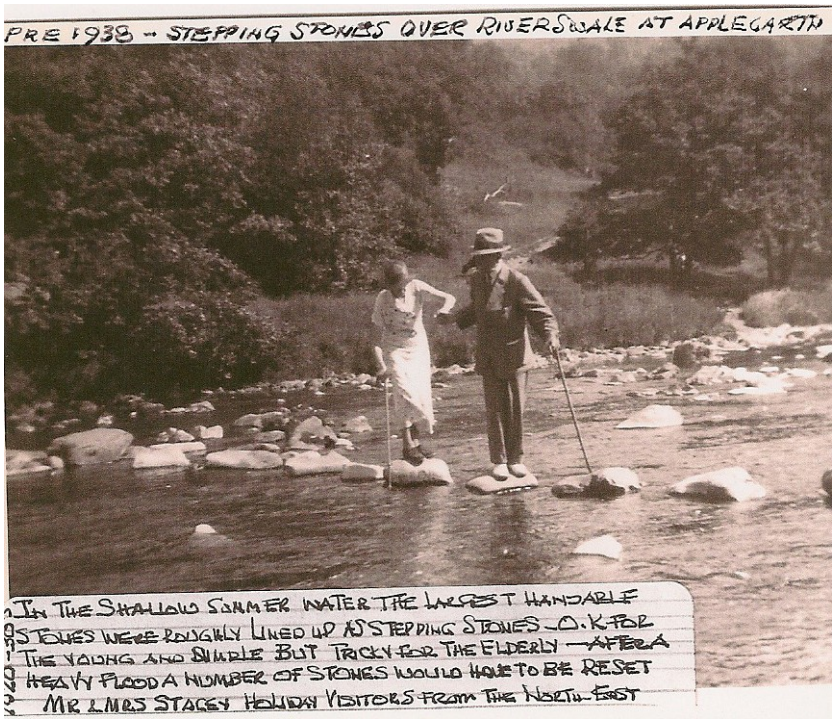
The ‘endless rope’ enabled one to pull the boat across from the opposite side, or when in the boat, progressively to pull the boat across to the opposite bank. The punt was approximately fourteen feet long, and could take a maximum of four people, one of whom would use a long pole to help keep it straight and to fend off floating debris.

This description is taken from notes written by Mr Kenneth Carter, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Carter. Another detail he provides is that they used a 'Big Stone' in the river to gauge its depth before using the punt. If this was covered it meant that the water was very high.

There are numerous stories over the years of vandalism to the ropes, and of some very hazardous journeys, when it was necessary to avoid large tree parts, and other flood debris coming down at speed in high water. Bailing out was a constant occupation in rough conditions. It certainly wouldn’t have been a pleasant experience for nervous passengers.

It was always said that Mr Robert Spence, Mrs Carter's father, who was retired from business in Richmond and was living at Applegarth, used to make dire predictions of drowning whilst crossing in the punt. Luckily he

was disappointed, as this never happened! Sometimes when a sudden flood came down the river it would catch the punt sideways whilst it was moored on the bank side, and flood it with water, almost sinking it. The punt was finally destroyed in the late 1930s.



In addition to the punt, large but manoeuvrable stones were set into the river bed in summer, when the water was low, to provide stepping stones across the Swale. The young and agile would find crossing these easier than the more mature!! These stones would be moved by floods and have to be reset.

The Livre des Domaines des Ducs de Bretagne en Engleterre: Part Two[1]

Dr Melanie Devine

Following the discussion last year of the significance of this document, this year's paper forms a translation and transcription in full from the original Norman French, of the entry in the Livre des Domaines for *La Ville de Richemound.* Where possible, I have translated the names of the inhabitants of Richmond into current English spelling.

The town of Richmond

The court of attendance held at this place on the Saturday next after the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, during the appointed year, presented before the aforesaid Antony Rycz and Nicholas Aldrewych.

This is a list of the burgesses of the town of Richmond

Attending this court were:
Nicholas Blackburn, Nicholas Taverner, Akaris de Clesby and Huchoun Clerionet, the bailiffs of the aforesaid town.

Other burgesses who also attended:
John Henryson, William Stodley, John Lyster, William Thorwal, William Scherewynd, John Parles, William Menener, Simon Uckerby, Thomas Malbon, Ralph Foxholes, John Skinner Fleshewer, Robert Fleshewer, Thomas Toller, John Fox, John Cowton, John Milner, Thomas Penreth, Robert Uddesson, Robert Bennet, John Clergonet, Huchon Salter, John Southwell, William Milner, William Candeller, George of Cowton, William Campion, Richard Taylor, John Clark, John Smithwaithe, Thomas Forester, John Bridger, Henry Topcliffe, William Malkon, Alan

[1] This article is in two parts. In Part One of this article, last year, I discussed the importance of the document and its significance to the notion of paying homage to John IV of Brittany.

Clark, William Lorimer, William Lascelles, Robert Kirkby, John Warde, John Taylor, Ronald Webster, Thomas Isaac, John Jervaulx, Thomas Hosier, John Marshall, Thomas Barbour, William Todd, John Appleton, John Fleshewer, John Moune, William Forbour, Alan Schroud, Adam Peacock, John Becker, Walter Berdon, William Plumber, John Curtis, Thomas Newsom, John Wensley, John Catterick, William Wyncton, Emnote Spicer, Thomas Whitlamb, John Hornby, Thomas Waite, John Hall, John Burton, John Artois, John Clergonet, Walter Bloom, William Schampe, Piers of Carlisle, John Swan, John Giles, William Ingledew, John Bellerby, Richard Banet, William Hyne, William Tunstall, William Saucemaker, William Carperby, Thomas Peacock, Richard Painter, John Colburn, John Langthorpe, Simon Penderson, William Jackson, William Garset, John Raper, William Kepwick, Ralph Barton, John Theobald, John Buskby, John Ralph, John Forner, William Cobker, William Walker, John Barbour, Robert Hosteler, Roger Scarf, Hanekin Dain.

And all these persons made their fealty as burgesses.

These are the burgesses who pay annually £60, of which sum:
Sir Richard Lescrope, by ancient letters of the ancestors of my lord of Brittany, each year, 11 marks and half a mark.

Item: two mills in this place, from which comes, each year, another 7 marks.

Item: the Court Leet[2] in this place, from which comes, each year, 2 marks.

Item: John Frithbank, for a tenement in French Street (Frankisshstret) each year, 20 shillings. And for 3 acres of land called Jurdaues, each year, 3 shillings. And for a cottage at Bigginghulle, 12 pence.

[2] Court Leet: from the Anglo-Saxon, the Court Leet was the court of the lowest form of justice. It was held in each county by the prerogative of the Sherriff, but in this case, because of the nature of the lordship, it was held in each wapentake, where the tenants of the Duke of Brittany were able to exercise a right to hold the court in his name – at this time, the court was held by Ralph Neville, earl of Westmorland

Item: John Lister, for a cottage in the same place, each year 12 pence.

Item: Nicholas Taverner, for a cottage, each year, 2 shillings.

There then follows the list of Homagiers which was discussed in last year's paper.

The total sum from the lands of Richemond, at this time: £483.13.1¾d.[3]

From this sum, there is to be paid, to Sir Richard Scrope, constable and chief forester, for all his services, £10 per annum.

And for the services of the Steward of the said lands, 100 shillings for the present year.

And for the services of the Keeper of Bainbridge and his servant, 30 shillings per annum.

And for the services of the Keeper at Bowes, 20 shillings per annum.

And for the services of the Keeper of the Applegarth, 20 shillings per annum.

And for the services of 6 foresters in Wensleydale, 60 shillings per annum.

---oooOooo---

Thus, according to the *Livre des Domaines*, in 1398 there were four bailiffs: Nicholas Blackburn, Nicholas Taverner, Akaris de Clesby and Huchoun Clerionet, and 110 burgesses living in the town, paying a total of £40 annually to the Earl.[4] Although no records remain which elaborate on

[3] If the actual sums detailed in the document are assessed, the total income from his Yorkshire lands actually appears to be £458.1.11¾d.
[4] Archives Loire-Atlantique, E116, folio 4v.

the trades pursued by the burgesses, surnames suggest that sheep and wool were dominant: John and Richard Tailor, William Sherewynd, Thomas Whitlamb and William Schepished were burgesses, along with John Skynner and the two Fleshewers, John and Robert. There are also a range of other professions; saucemaker, plumber, milner, candeller, ostiller and spicer. Other surnames indicate that there were local connections: Wensley, Catterick, Cowton, Carperby, Topcliffe and Jervaulx, while Piers Carlisle, John Southwell and John Artois suggest that traders had settled in Richmond from other parts of England and France. Some tenuous links can also be suggested amongst other burgesses; the Foxholes family served the FitzHughs of Ravensworth, William Tunstall was a witness to Richard Lord Scrope's property transactions in Skeeby and Brompton on Swale, John Hall was also a tenant of the lordship at Arkengarthdale, William Saucemaker was recently arrived in the town, and John Frithbank was one of a family of administrators who served the lordship. We know frustratingly little about the men who appear on the list, but what we can surmise is that they recognized their responsibilities to their lord, the earl of Richmond, and the need to attend and pay their fee to his representatives.

When, thirty years later, the burgesses and bailiffs of Richmond came together again, this time to lease a derelict site to William de Hotone, a fisherman, for sixty years, at 12d per annum, the lease now listed Richard Neville, earl of Salisbury, as one of the burgesses of the town. The lordship was by then no longer held by the Neville family, having reverted to the duke of Bedford in 1425, but Neville's status as a burgess was due to his property holding within the town, like the thirty-five other burgesses who assented to the document. These included the abbots of Jervaulx, Easby, Coverham and Egglestone, Geoffrey FitzHugh, members of the Richmondshire gentry including Conan and Roger Aske, William Burgh (of Brough), John Wauton and John Markenfield, professional adminsitrators and clerks such as Nicholas Clerionet, Thomas Foxholes and William Frank, and members of the business community including Nicholas Blackburn senior of York, Geoffrey Saucemaker, and Robert Kirkby, hosier. The four bailiffs, John Nesses, William Salter, John Cardmaker and Roger Raper were also in attendance, and the document was witnessed by John Clervaux, John Pudsay and William Brough,

knights, and William Frank and John Killone, clerks, whose fathers were burgesses. The document illustrates a contemporary cross-section of the Richmondshire community: knights, landholding tenants, burgesses, administrators and representatives of the local community – a diverse group of interested parties coming together to Richmond, as centre of the local community, to assent to the lease of a very small parcel of land for the good of the town. The huge decline in the number of burgesses involved – from 114 in 1398 to a mere thirty-six in 1429, may simply indicate that only thirty-six men were available that day, but it may be symptomatic of the decline in the fortunes of Richmond during the late 1420s, which culminated in 1440-1 when a commission made up of Richard, earl of Salisbury, William FitzHugh, William Ayscough, Christopher Conyers and Robert Danby inquired into a petition from the burgesses to the crown for relief, citing, amongst other factors, a decreasing population in the town.[5] Further evidence of the fall in revenues can be seen in the *Inquisition Post Mortem* drawn up in 1425 after the death of Ralph Neville, earl of Westmorland. Although he was not the title holder, and therefore not entitled to the revenues of the knights' fees and the fee farm of the borough of Richmond, the jurors' assessment of the value of the estates shows a sharp decline. This may be due in no small part to a sympathetic local jury, largely made up of local residents and Neville retainers, who had the opportunity to under-assess individual properties, but it is clear that the rentals throughout the whole lordship did not achieve the valuation of 1398, and in the case of the town of Richmond, which in 1341 before John of Gaunt's tenure was worth, per annum, £53. 16*s*. 7½*d.*, the valuation of 1398 of £60. 14*s*. 6½*d*. had fallen to £36. 16*s*. 0*d*. This is a percentage fall of 39.40%.

Nicholas Blackburn, originally from Lancashire, is the one man from the 1398 document of whom most is known. He moved from Richmond to York where he traded as a licensed wool merchant, having been made a freeman of that city in 1396, but maintained his links with the whole area.[6] Early in the fifteenth century a select group of Richmondshire gentry set

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[5] *Calendar of Patent Rolls, 1436-1441*, pp. 452 and 509-10.

[6] The career of Nicholas Blackburn is discussed in Richard Almond: 'All Saints' Church, York, the Blackburn Window: a Medieval Conundrum', in *Medieval Life,* I (1995), pp.26-30.

out on a co-operative venture to execute a project of benefit to the community, but which might be seen to undermine the hold of the lordship over its tenants. The building of Catterick Bridge was instigated by the Burghs of Brough on whose land it was erected, but those also involved in the project, according to the contract, were men whose tenants would benefit from being able to cross the River Swale at Catterick rather than making the twelve-mile journey via the bridge at Richmond, which would also entail the payment of a toll to the lordship, in the person of the earl of Westmorland, for entering the town. The seven principals who undertook the project were William Burgh of Brough, Christopher Conyers of Hornby, Roger Aske of Aske, John Barton of Barton and John Clervaux of Croft, all gentry landholders within a ten-mile radius, William Frank, a Richmond administrator, and Nicholas Blackburn. They paid 260 marks for labour and materials; a sizeable sum for what appears to have been an altruistic venture to benefit not only themselves, but also their tenants.[7] Nicholas Blackburn appeared at the head of the list of contracting parties. The contract stated that the work should be finished within three years. However, either the original construction of the bridge was weak, or the costs incurred far exceeded those which had been set aside originally, for in his will of 20 February 1432, Blackburn, styled 'the elder citizen and merchant of York', stated that 'I wyll and I ordeyne yat if any chaunce or defaute in werkmanshyp fall, also God forebode yat it do, unto Catryk brigg … wyth in 4 zere next folowyng my decesse, myne executours to sewe yairn … to amend ye defawtes in ye said brigges'.[8] It appears that Nicholas Blackburn had a long-standing fondness for the town in which he had begun his career, for in his will he also stated that 'I bequeath £10 to be distributed to poor men of the town of Richmond, for them to pay their tax granted to the king, payable between now and Easter, and £10 towards the fabric of the parish church there. To John Walton mercer of Richmond, £5, which William Bedford, receiver of my lord the Duke of Bedford, is holding as my fee'. The

[7] North Yorkshire County Records Office, ZRL 1/20, reproduced in L. S. Salzman, *Building in England down to 1540*, 2nd edition, (1967), pp. 487-90; which includes the building contract for Catterick Church in 1412.
[8] *Testamenta Eboracensia*, II, p. 20. Blackburn left funds for works to several significant bridges, at Kexby, Thornton and Skipton, in Yorkshire, indicating their importance to him as a merchant in the wool trade.

construction of the bridge obviously continued to be a problem, for Blackburn's widow, Margaret, left a further £100 in a codicil of her will for the building of Catterick Bridge, as long as there were sufficient funds; 'I wish my executors, in order to fulfill my husband's will, pay £100 towards the fabric of Kexby Bridge and £100 towards the fabric of Catterick Bridge, under the following conditions. Viz. that those responsible for administration of those bridges are willing to provide my executors with satisfactory guarantees that thereby the bridges will be fully and satisfactorily built within four years after my death; and on condition that, at my wish, my executors pay annually towards the fabric of each bridge, during those four years, £25 of the £100. Always with the proviso that my husband's goods suffice to see the bridge works carried out'.[9]

From the evidence of the 1398 *Livre des Domaines* it can be seen that Richmond was a populous and prosperous town, with a wide range of professional and tradespeople, an annual fair, a market, and a lord who, having just acquired the lordship from Richard II, was anxious to make his presence felt and to assess his holding. John IV of Brittany's death, the following year, meant that the lordship fell into the hands of the English crown, and subsequent assessments of Richmond show a marked decline in its fortunes. It is unfortunate that we have so little information about the individual tradespeople who went about their daily work in the town (we would all, I suspect, like to have met Mr Saucemaker and tasted his wares!), but Nicholas Blackburn's career and will shows that Richmond could produce a high-flying businessman, who never forgot his former colleagues and friends in the town.

[9] ibid., pp. 46-51.

The End of a Long Era

Jane Hatcher

This year has seen the demise of a position over nine hundred years old. The ecclesiastical title of Archdeacon of Richmond disappeared, probably unnoticed by most parishioners, and seemingly unmourned by the hierarchy of the Church of England. From Easter 2014 the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, an amalgamation of the former dioceses of Ripon and Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield, includes instead an Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven.

The Archdeaconry of Richmond was founded in 1089 within the See of York, and then consisted of the eight deaneries of Boroughbridge, Catterick, Richmond, Lonsdale, Kendal, Amounderness, Furness and Copeland. This was a vast swathe of the North of England. Apart from the three names of familiar Yorkshire areas, three were in Lancashire - Lonsdale, Amounderness and Furness - and Kendal and Copeland were in Westmorland and Cumberland respectively.

This huge size gave the Archdeaconry of Richmond several advantages. It generated a large revenue for the person holding the post of archdeacon, and much of the area was a long way from the possibility of interference by anyone in higher authority. The Will of a medieval Archdeacon of Richmond, Thomas Dalby who died in 1400 after a ten-year stint in the post, shows how he had benefited from one of the wealthiest offices in the northern church. His total estate was valued at £1,542 6s. 9d. and of this over £800 was cash in hand!

Its wealth and location gave the Richmond archdeaconry far more privileges and autonomy than were enjoyed by poorer and small archdeaconries, and the Richmond archdeacon had most of the administrative powers of a bishop. The 16th-century antiquarian John Leland recorded that "The Archidiaconry of Richemont hath goodly

revenews, and hath a peculiar jurisdiction in Richmontshire as exempte from the Bishope."

Re-organisation after the English church had broken away from Rome led to the creation of the Diocese of Chester in 1541, and the Archdeaconry of Richmond was brought under, and remained under, the authority of the Bishop of Chester until the Diocese of Ripon was formed in 1836. Under the somewhat surprising authority of Chester it did, however, retain its high status.

For much of its history the Richmond archdeaconry was actually based in Richmond. The Church in former years dealt with many matters that we today would not consider in any way ecclesiastical, not only looking after vacant parishes and transgressing clergy, but also issuing marriage licences, proving wills and granting letters of administration.

These duties, particularly that of probate, brought a lot of people to Richmond from that vast area covered by the eight deaneries, and thus a lot of business to the town. Other places within the archdeaconry were jealous of that trade, and to placate them, the consistory court was moved in 1709 to Kendal, and again in 1718, to Lancaster.

Now it was Richmond's turn to feel disadvantaged. So in 1743 the Corporation, with the rector, Rev. Francis Blackburne, petitioned for its return. They succeeded, and in 1750 the function, and all the associated documents, were moved back, to be based in the North aisle of Trinity Chapel. Here they remained until the 19th century, when a secularisation of many consistory roles gradually occurred, such as probate, in 1858. The old deaneries were also gradually re-shuffled, and latterly the Richmond archdeaconry consisted of four rural deaneries covering a much smaller area than originally.

The last Archdeacon of Richmond was appointed in 2006. Ironically this was the first time a woman, Janet Henderson, had been appointed to the office. She held the office until 2012, and the appointment of her successor was overtaken by the controversial and much-debated decision to amalgamate the three dioceses. Hence the demise of a nine hundred and twenty five year-old institution.

The first Archdeacon of Richmond and Craven is the Venerable Paul Slater, formerly Archdeacon of Craven, a title which was created in 1836. The new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales is headed by Bishop Nick Baines, formerly Bishop of Bradford.



Trinity Chapel engraved by W.R.Robinson, after a sketch by Julius Caesar Ibbetson junior *From Clarkson's History of Richmond*

The Gothick doorway was the entrance to the Consistory Court, housed on the upper floor of the projecting north aisle of Trinity Chapel.

Richmond's Victoria Road Public Lavatories

Andrew Horn

The 'loos' have been revamped, and 'Richmond Toys and Gifts' has replaced the Tourist Information Centre that had shared the stone building in the corner of Friary Gardens, aka 'Tittybottle Park'. It was Christopher Aylott, a Canadian cousin, who drew my attention to the building. The building was designed by Henry Ashley Lawson, Christopher's uncle, when, apparently, only seventeen years old.

A little ferreting through Richmond Council Minutes in the NYCC's Record Office elicited that in February 1931 the Council was considering ideas for public lavatories "near the Market Cross" and also "on the old Theatre premises". In May the Sanitary Committee report spoke of a plan being submitted. Lord Zetland agreed to the proposal, except that, the Minutes noted, "Lessees to remove lavatories and other erections at the end of the lease", which was to be twenty one years. In July George Shaw tendered £840 for the lavatories' erection "on the new site in Victoria Road", and the Council was to submit to the County Council a statement seeking "a grant in aid of the proposed work which was entirely necessitated by the road widening scheme." This seems to be a non sequitur, unless the road scheme was to cause the demolition of other public lavatories. Mr Shaw's tender was accepted in August and the lavatories were duly built.

Born in Lion House, Pottergate, in 1914, Ashley Lawson, as he was known, was very good at drawing. This skill led to design work for Richmond Borough, perhaps most notably the lavatories - which his family ever after referred to as 'Ashley's Monument' - with presumably the year of their design, 1931, being inscribed above the main entrance. Ashley subsequently moved to London, designing office buildings there, before wounds and tropical disease from war service in Burma shortened his life.

Henry Wood of Richmond, Yorkshire: his letters, his partnership with George Bell, and his work with Henry Mayhew

Leslie Hendra

I first came across Henry Wood while researching the life of the chemical manufacturer and botanist Robert Benson Bowman. Robert was the youngest son of Thomas Bowman, bookseller and stationer of Market Place and printer of Christopher Clarkson's monumental history of Richmond. Around 1824, Robert had moved to Newcastle-on-Tyne, where he remained for the rest of his life. Among the papers preserved after his death were more than 100 letters from British botanists. Sixty-six of them were dated from Richmond Yorkshire between 1825 and 1832 and were written by a man named Henry Wood. Although there is some botanical content in the letters, it is clear that he was not a botanist but a friend of Robert's from childhood. They are personal letters, written by a witty, observant, well-educated young man. In them, Henry talks about botany, love, literature, art, racing, politics, and other topics, keeping Robert up to date on Richmond events and the doings of various people, whom he mentions by name. Being a literary man, he was always conscious of his wording and delighted in well-turned phrases, particularly of a humorous nature. Below are a few extracts from Henry's letters, followed by an account of his life.

The Duke of Sussex's visit:

I never saw the town fuller – all the way from Frenchgate Head to where King Street is lost in the Market place, it was one dense mass of people – Terrible was the crush and tremendous was the clamour – Woe unto those whose bonnets were of frail materials, their demolition was secure, and woe unto those whose bodies were of surpassing bulk, their perspiration was extreme! [We] contrived to get out of the crowd and into the King's Head, where we stationed ourselves at the top of a stair up which we knew

the Duke must pass on his way to the masonic lodge. Bradberry stood with us to sound his bugle when the prince approached – the moment he stepped from his carriage, the people without gave a loud shout and the trumpeter within "blew a blast so loud and dread" close to my ears that I was as deaf for five minutes as the balustrade I leaned upon – however we saw HRH ascend the steps without any obstruction; he is a fine, princely looking man, somewhat too stout, just such a figure as they would worship in China for corpulence." (1827)

Pestilence:

We have here a committee formed to take precautionary measures against your choleric neighbour at Sunderland – the Asiatic pest – we collected about £150 – have ordered 200 Blankets – 3 Doz. Rugs & 100 flannel belts, [and] meet frequently [...] We have white-washed houses & recommended improvements & compelled the removal of nuisances [...] I hope we have done much good, as by our exertions we have caused cleanliness to be adopted and charity to be extended. (Winter,1831)

Guy Fawkes Night:

I have been amused and edified [...] to find how superior are many of our dear townsmen to the vulgar trammels of law and authority – On the 5th Novr. the bellman went round the town, prohibiting, by order of the mayor, all bonfires, and discharge of guns, pistols, squibs, crackers & all other combustibles – This roused the spirit of the lieges – I do not remember on any previous 5th Novr. so immense a fire at the cross – and the discharge of fire-arms was incessant and mercilessly loud – Woe unto those whose tubs, gates or doors were in slender security; their doom was certain! they (I mean the tubs, etc) died the death of fire! – The fellows who made the seizures, openly declared that "had the *mayor* been quiet, *they* had – but as he wanted to put down, or put out the fire, they thought he must be a favourer of the Papishes" [...] and they seemed to consider it their duty, as good protestants, to steal every article convertible into ashes, & burn it to testify their abhorrence of plots & popery, their contempt of the magistracy and the law! [...] As a beautiful climax to the history, the crier next morning went round to proclaim the theft of a water-tub stolen from the premises of [...] the Mayor (Mr Brunton) [...] Bless us all, Bob –

for the mayor's tub to be seized, ignominiously dragged to the market cross, and burnt, amid the shouts of the populace, like a heretic – is terrible! (1828)

Gossip:

You know Richmond – you know how it excels in scandal, and gossip [...] – but trust me, Bob, you can hardly credit the thousand ingenious tales that ran rapidly through the town – By my honour, sir, I never before gave our scandal-mongers [...] credit for half the talent they have displayed in their vocation – I could not but admire the versatility of their genius – and sometimes they actually rose to the sublime! (1831)

Horse-racing fans:

The Races are next week & a very brilliant Meeting is anticipated. I remember you & I discoursing of the pleasure of viewing & observing the demeanour of the company at the Races, and, [indeed], nothing can be more exquisite than to see many a huge country bumpkin, in a bran-new, longflapped coat, on which some country tailor's whole want of skill has been expended, swinging loosely from his brawny shoulders, a red plush waistcoat, clean corduroy bree[ches] with an immense bunch of ribbon at the knee and "a lass in outher arm". (1825)

Soldiers:

The town is kept from being stagnant by the North York – many beautiful chases have the [pickets] every night – I am astonished with what speed the fellows run in the dark – I can hear their rapid footsteps when I cannot see their forms – & to run in the dark is not pleasant exercise – you may find yourself the unexpected & unintentional tenant of a cellar – or suddenly become the occupant of an open drain – these matters are unpleasing to the feelings, and the thoughts of them must act as a drag-chain to your speed when running in darkness visible. (1831)

A travelling conjurer:

We have now in the town (to quote his hand bill) – "the real man himself! – Ingilby! Emperor of all professors of the cabalistic art" – who can "perform a flight of 15 miles in a minute" – the speed of sound is a fool to

him – the said bill assures us that he has "the grand and heavenly art of curing stammering in the speech – removing the marks of the small pox – and baldness!" – Yesternight there was a rush of five to witness his performance. (1829)

Charles Green's balloon:

Before the last rope was cut & the balloon rushed as if in scorn from mother earth, it played some amusing vagaries – The wind was outrageous, & buffeted it about in every direction, now sweeping it along the ground & anon lifting it with the men clinging to the car some feet aloft. Mr Mewburn, with some other gentlemen, was standing during this, on a little hillock – the balloon appeared to move in that direction & all save Mr Mewburn fled from the place they occupied – Alone he stood, exulting in his strength – "Mind, mind" – shouted the people – "Poh! What must you mind?" responded the undaunted quarter-master – presently the balloon came with his answer – full sweep it came and planted so effectual a blow on his shoulders that he flew several yards from the spot, his hat flew off & with tremendous speed made to the river & poor Mr Mewburn crawled up on his hands and knees [...] amidst roars of unrestrained laughter. (1825)

The rector:

The authorities are busied with schemes for removing the church-pulpit. Mr Barnes fancies in the simplicity of his heart, poor man, that it is owing to the bad position of the pulpit that the church is seldom above half filled – I fear me it is rather owing to the "dry chips and saltless porridge" served out from the pulpit. (1829)

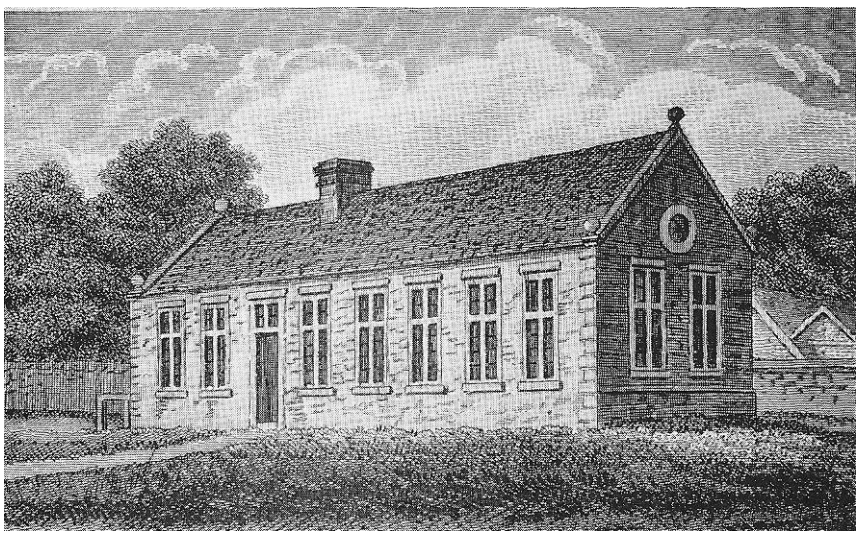
Tobacco:

Mr John Tindal this summer cultivated some tobacco-plants in his garden with the intention of manufacturing tobacco for his own consumption. Well, Bob, the plants grew & prospered, & in due time were gathered and dried – the tobacco thus prepared was (according to John's own account) the most detestable nastiness that ever turned the stomach of mortal man. (1830)

A local election:

"You can form some idea, my dear Robert, with what ardour the county election [...] was entered into at Richmond – Orange flags (Milton & Marshall) were flying from Yarkers, & blue ones (Wilson & Duncombe) from Raw's. Last Friday was a grand field day – the two heroes of the No Popery faction were here, the great Duncombe & Wilson! The note of preparation was sounded early in the morning – blue ribbons and brown October were distributed to whomsoever of the crowd would accept them [...] About 11 o'clock the two candidates in two carriages & four drove full gallop into the town, scattering blue favours from their coaches & fire from their horses' hoofs. They drove to the Bishop Blaize Inn (an appropriate No Popery sort of sign!) their headquarters – & were immediately preparing to address the people from the Town Hall which their agents had engaged for that purpose; but, alas! [...] just as they were setting out together for the Hall, they were told that Milton & Marshall's committee with Mr Wyvill M.P. for the city of York, & other whig gentlemen were waiting for them there & intended to blow a counter blast to their Tory effusions. Each stood aghast at the intelligence [...] – fair argument, face to face with their opponents, was no part of their system, they expected to carry the county by dint of money and the "No popery" clamour they and their men (the clergy) have so industriously raised, and they consequently fought shy and dared not face Mr Wyvill, contenting themselves with addressing a few words from the inn-window to the crowd in front, & amidst some hisses from the orange party & some cheering from the blues, thanked them for the very cordial reception they had met with. This done they stepped again into their carriages, touched their hats to the people [...] & away they went [...]. The North York band wearing orange favours played about the town all day; the blues of course dined together after the departure of their favourites, & might be seen toddling off at all hours of the evening full of loyalty, "the protestant cause," and strong drink. (1826)

Henry Wood was born in Richmond on 17 April 1805 to the saddler Henry Wood senior and Frances Jaques. He was the elder of two sons, the other being Edward Wood, who became a draper and keen amateur geologist. As the son of a prosperous tradesman, Henry received an excellent education at the Richmond Free Grammar School under James Tate the elder. When Henry's father died in May 1830, he took over the saddler's shop in Market Place at the age of 25. Three years later, in June 1833, he married Mary Barker Kirkby, daughter of Thomas Barker Kirkby, the curate of Marske. In July of the following year, their daughter Mary Frances was born. Unfortunately, the infant survived for only a month and there were no further children from the marriage. Henry suffered another loss when his mother died in December 1834, and a more devastating one in November 1838 when his wife Mary died.



Richmond Free Grammar School

To add to his woes, in early 1840, the Earl of Zetland abruptly withdrew his patronage from, and terminated Henry's tenancy of, the saddler's shop in Market Place. Henry wrote him an indignant letter on 7 March 1840, ending rather magnificently, "It only remains for me to express my regret

that one in your Lordship's elevated sphere should have shewn such littleness and such bitterness of resentment toward so humble an individual as myself, – a resentment that cannot have been called forth by any thing but what I conclude is considered my presumption in having dared to propose a candidate [Miles Thomas Stapleton] in opposition to Sir Robt. Dundas." With the loss of his family and business, there was little to keep him in Richmond. Henry sold up and left for London. Before his departure, however, he was given a lavish public dinner on 11 April 1840 at the King's Head, attended by more than fifty prominent gentlemen of the town "who were desirous of offering him a mark of their respect"[1]. He had been a committee member and perpetual member of the Scientific Society. He had held public office as overseer of the poor of Richmond from about 1830. After the formation of the Richmond Poor Law Union in Feb 1837, he had been one of the elected Board of Guardians for the parish, and had been re-elected to this position in April 1839. He had also been very active in politics.

Henry arrived in London in the spring of 1840. He was 34 years old and in possession of a considerable sum of money. It was not long before he met and married his second wife, Martha, who was Galway-born and in her late twenties. Their children, Frederick and Belinda, were born between 1841 and 1843. During his early years in London, Henry managed to squander his fortune, according to a statement made later by Martha, although she did not specify what he had spent it on. Nevertheless, with a remaining small amount of capital he went into partnership in 1842 with his friend, the bookseller George Bell.

Bell was the eldest son of the Richmond printer and bookseller Matthew Bell. He had gone to London in 1832 to work in the book trade, and had established his own bookshop at 1 Bouverie Street in 1839. In the following year, he had relocated to larger premises on Fleet Street and it was there that Henry joined him as partner in 1842, though he had been working for Bell in some capacity since his arrival in London. Together, they ran a high-toned, academically-oriented bookshop at 186 Fleet Street.

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[1] Yorkshire Gazette 18 Apr 1840.

They also published under their own imprint, Bell and Wood. Henry's own first book, entitled *Whist: Its History and Practice. By an Amateur*, was published by Bell and Wood at the end of 1842. It was a lively, witty volume of 100 pages, with illustrations designed by the famous caricaturist Kenny Meadows. The book was favourably reviewed. One critic wrote: "For anything we can tell, or guess, this system of Whist may be from the pen of [Thomas] Hood, or the Editor of the *Comic Almanac*. It overflows with jest, humour, and pun; and is rich in felicitous literary allusions."[2] Henry promptly began work on a companion volume, *Backgammon: Its History and Practice, by the author of Whist*.

Despite their optimistic beginning, the partnership of Bell and Wood foundered after about a year, when Henry's bankruptcy was announced in *The London Gazette* on 4 April 1843. The following February, in a settlement arranged by James Hunton – the distinguished Richmond solicitor and a close friend of Henry's from boyhood – George Bell agreed to buy out Henry's share of the partnership for just under 900 pounds. This included all stock in trade, fixtures, and copyrights arising from their former business. Particularly specified were the complete rights to Henry's books on whist and backgammon, although perhaps feeling uneasy about this, Bell quickly passed these rights on to another publisher.

Many decades later, George Bell's son Edward wrote darkly, "it is to be feared that a partiality for games may have been Mr. Wood's undoing,[3]" but there is no corroboration for this.

After this disappointment, Henry disappeared for two years, most probably to Spain. When he returned to his family in London in 1846, he resumed his literary career. He translated a Spanish tract, lengthily entitled *Who is the Liberator of Spain? An Essay towards deciding this Question, Published at Seville, July 1820, and Translated from the Original, by Henry Wood*. For the most part, he wrote articles for various newspapers

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[2] *Tait's Edinburgh Magazine, vol. IX*. December 1842.

[3] Edward Bell. *George Bell Publisher: a Brief Memoir*. London: Chiswick Press, 1924.

and periodicals. Towards the end of 1849, he began working with the journalist and social researcher, Henry Mayhew.

Mayhew hired Henry Wood and the ex-missionary Richard Knight to assist him and his brother Augustus Mayhew with the series 'Labour and the Poor', which had just begun that October in the *Morning Chronicle*. Mayhew's intention was to compile a 'cyclopedia' of street life, a unique concept at the time. He went around London, interviewing members of the labouring classes, such as flower sellers, rat catchers, rag and bone men, thieves, prostitutes, and crossing-sweepers. Then he wrote up their stories in a series of 'letters' to the *Morning Chronicle*. The series proved so popular that when Mayhew fell out with the *Chronicle* at the end of 1850, he continued issuing the letters himself in weekly numbers under the title *London Labour and the London Poor*. Henry Wood and Richard Knight remained with him. When, in 1851, Mayhew published the series up to that point in a single volume, he acknowledged the work of his assistants in the introduction:

> It is right that I should make special mention of the assistance I have received in the compilation of the present volume from Mr. HENRY WOOD and Mr. RICHARD KNIGHT (late of the City Mission), gentlemen who have been engaged with me from nearly the commencement of my inquiries, and to whose hearty co-operation both myself and the public are indebted for a large increase of knowledge. Mr. Wood, indeed, has contributed so large a proportion of the contents of the present volume that he may fairly be considered as one of its authors[4].

Scholars know little about Henry's role within Mayhew's circle, usually stating that he was a stenographer who took notes while Mayhew interviewed the subjects. However, Mayhew's introduction clearly indicates that Henry was a co-author. In a letter Henry wrote to the *Chronicle* on 25 April 1850, he described how he took statements from apprentices at a Ragged School and passed his notes to Mayhew for

[4] Henry Mayhew. *London Labour and the London Poor, v1 The London Street-Folk. Book the First.* London, 1851, iv.

publication. He wrote "[Mayhew's] instructions to me have invariably been, to take average cases and to test their truthfulness by all possible means"[5], the word 'invariably' indicating he conducted interviews independently and repeatedly. He may have taken notes for some of Mayhew's interviews, but he was also an interviewer and writer himself. In fact, the 1851 Census gives Henry's profession as 'Sub Editor of *London Labour and the London Poor'*.[6]

The series came to an end in March 1852, when Mayhew was sued by his printer for non-payment of work. Henry suddenly found himself without a job, and Mayhew still owed him money from before the suspension of the series. He found work writing articles for various periodicals and editing a country newspaper. In November 1852, he published his third book, *The Wisdom of Wellington; or, Maxims of the Iron Duke*. "This is a clever and well-compiled little work," said one critic, "We cordially recommend the book as the best that has yet been issued at the price".[7] Poverty finally overcame him when Mayhew dishonoured a promissory note made out to Henry and passed to a third party. Henry was required to pay the bill and accumulated costs. As he was unable to do this, all his household goods were seized and his family were left in an empty house. In desperation, he applied for financial relief to the Royal Literary Fund in May 1853, describing his work on *London Labour and the London Poor* and listing his three books and his translation of the Spanish tract. His application was turned down on 18 May 1853 on the grounds of insufficient authorship.

After this rejection, Henry went into decline mentally and physically. At the end of September, his family were sent to the local workhouse, and from there, on 2 November, Henry was moved into the Middlesex Lunatic

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[5] Henry Wood. Letter to the Editor of The Morning Chronicle. *The Morning Chronicle*. 25 April 1850.

Census Returns of England and Wales, 1851. National Archives of the UK, 1851. HO107/1491, Folio 800, Page 42.

[7] *The Blackburn Standard*. Wednesday, 8 December 1852.

Asylum in Hanwell. After an appeal on his behalf by the newspaper proprietor John William Kaye, his application for relief was reconsidered in December but the Fund stood by their decision. Henry's condition deteriorated further and on 7 April, at the age of 48, he died. He was buried on 11 April 1854 in the churchyard of St Mary's in Hanwell.

In 1831, he had written to his friend Robert, "Do you know I should ill like to live and die in any place but Richmond – I know every point & corner & tree & plant about it so thoroughly & have loved the canny place even from my boyhood – my childhood." Unfortunately, this was not to be.

At Easby Abbey

some label him ‘pyjama man’
every day on the dot
entering the abbey precinct
exercising his dog
by the refectory
tasselled flopping night-cap
flannelled blue-striped jacket
pink and red pyjamas.

some assume him
‘the guardian’
patrolling the children
hide and seek in rubbled rooms
and visitors silenced
by the ruinous scale
carving out intimate
abbey geography
unravelled in his eyes.

some ensure him
‘parking space’
such precise arrival
exact timed departure
acknowledges no one
drives into silence next day
as securely unknown
into lanes and distance
worn for his occasion.

some picture him
‘father abbot’
protecting routines
his seventeen canons
ensuring buildings
Order identity

speaking other tongues
within without the precinct
his uniform pyjamas.

pyjama man revisited
(Easby Abbey to Richmond Old Racecourse)

strange our paths crossing again
barely two years and two miles
you the same flannelled pyjamas
corded baggy at the waist
mongrel still yapping and tugging
along the trampled path to squelch
across the mud to our aim

it's ruins that bring together
then the abbey's and now's racecourse
tracking that mile-long gallop
to grandstand's flourish of applause
from colonnades and balcony
today's barbed wire and council bans
silencing tumbled stone wreckage

maybe my portrait is wrong
and the encounter is yours
eyeing a rambling intrusion
askirt the lost ruinous
an accidental like footnotes
foregrounding what's unrecognized;
is that pyjama man surfacing?

bob woodings

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Deaths

John Blenkiron
Our finest tribute to John ,a Patron Member of the Society, can be found in the 2010 edition which celebrated his gaining the Freedom of the Town. We were all very proud of him and his many achievements. He is very much missed.

Michael Kurdi
Michael, one of the small band of Life Members of the Civic Society, died in November 2013. He had always been known as Michael Kurdi of Middleton Tyas. His wife, Rella, was a Civic Society committee member from 1980 to 1991. Michael was keenly interested in local affairs and planning matters, with opinions usually strong and well-reasoned. He was a notable engineer, one of the designers of Anglesey Nuclear Power Station and an enthusiastic trainer of apprentices in electrical engineering. For many years leader of the local Scouts, he built them a model steam engine.
At Durham University he organized scholarships for Palestinian students: Michael had been born in Jerusalem as Hon. Mohammad Omar Shawcat Alkurt Alayouli Almagdisi. In his early working life with Jordan Railways, he opposed the foundation of the state of Israel and was, effectively, banished. His education was wide: he knew the Koran by heart and yet acted as a sidesman at Middleton Tyas Church; he would translate any arabic inscription and could name any star. Michael added colour to our lives and is much missed.

Linda Drury

Acknowledgements:
We would like to thank all of this year's contributors. Without their interest and industry there would be no Review.
The illustrations have been provided by the contributors unless otherwise acknowledged.

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