The Richmond Review

being the Annual Report

of the

Richmond and District

Civic Society 2015

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Front Illustration: HM the Queen being greeted at Richmond Castle in May: courtesy Mark Whyman

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Chairman's Report

John McDonald

It is very much my pleasure to introduce to you the 2015 Review. As always, it is a collaborative project involving our contributors, my fellow-editors, my wife Tina and Dorothy Clague, and, of course, our printers. I hope you enjoy reading its mix of history, anecdote and reports.

Despite the small number of committee members (and more of that later), the Civic Society year has been full and enjoyable: the talks have been varied and memorable, the June 'holiday' in the Cotswolds a great success and our two trips, to Durham and Whitby, well supported. Additionally, we arranged a tour of the Green Howards Museum to see their newly extended facilities. Behind the scenes, we have developed closer links to civic societies in the Yorks-Humber region and, locally, we have raised money for the society through our annual coffee morning. If there is a disappointment in all of this, it is our difficulty in celebrating Civic Day in June. However, this gives us a target to achieve in 2016.

Obviously, any success relies on effective organization and in this area the society is fortunate. No one could beat the team of Judy Farrar and Burrells when it comes to running a major tour in a faultless and friendly way. Equally, the programme of talks would never have been successful were it not supported by Colin Grant's flair and attention to detail and the work of all committee members, including Carol Hillyard, Secretary, and Graham Barber, Treasurer, has been dedicated and supportive. Thank you all very much indeed.

There are two long-standing stalwarts of the society whose retirements we would wish to mark. Bev Joicey has been the public face of 'the Civic' for more years than he cares to remember. His charm and urbanity have become almost a trademark for the society and I can say with some feeling that he is a hard act to follow. John Clarke, my immediate

predecessor as Chair, took on the role at a time when he was also heavily committed elsewhere in the town. Under his stewardship the society has flourished. Perhaps his most enduring role has been, and still is, that of Honorary Architect working with the Planning Sub-Committee. The town and the area owe a great debt to the work he has done over many years.

Residents are often unaware of the good work achieved by the Planning Sub-Committee. Under the tireless chairmanship of Mark Whyman, it meets every three weeks and scrutinizes every planning application that affects conservation and heritage in Richmondshire. Mark's report, later in this Review, will give samples of the successes that have been achieved this year, as well as concerns about developments in planning law.

Linked to the profile Richmondshire enjoys as a centre of natural beauty and heritage is, of course, its tourism. We are pleased to play our role in this. Over many years, we have developed a Plaque Tour in Richmond, guiding visitors through the town's history: the tour guide and map are on our website and can be downloaded easily. At the same time, we have taken on responsibility for maintaining and repairing the information boards which are an integral part of the town trail in Richmond.

So much of this civic work carried out by the society is largely unknown to its members and I hope that this will change over the next few years. We have, this year, made a start on publicizing our work to the outside world by launching an effective website and linking it to a Facebook page. This means that all interested people can read about our work and leave comments about their views. We are very grateful to Marcia Howard who has taken on the job of designing and managing the Facebook page. I hope to be able to report further about its progress as a forum for public opinion, at the AGM in December.

We all hope that this increasingly public profile will bring us both members to our talks and interested people to our committees. This is much needed: we depend on new blood and fresh ideas to keep the society alert and responsive. In conclusion, I do hope that you will be able to come to the AGM on Friday December 11th where I will be able to report further on all our work. I look forward to seeing you there and thank every one of you for your support over the past year.

The Civic Society Planning Sub-Committee, 2014 – 15

Mark Whyman

The Civic Society's Planning Committee is consulted by Richmondshire District Council on all planning applications relating not only to listed buildings within the District, though excluding the area of the Dales National Park, but also to other buildings in conservation areas. Each year, a little over two hundred applications are handled; most are fairly straightforward but a few are highly complex. For example, we are currently dealing with two applications for adjoining solar panel farms which together will cover an area roughly the size of Colburn. So far, almost twelve hours have been spent reading the one hundred and twenty pages of the applications, and walking footpaths to understand and assess the visual impact of what is proposed. Fortunately, such large and complex applications are the exception rather than the norm.

The vast majority of applications do not threaten our built heritage in any way and this year we have been able to support 74% of all applications. Of those applications that we feel are inappropriate, we have objected to 26%, including twelve to which we have had to object strongly.

As well as the horrors there have been joys, notably the proposed restoration of the Sandhurst Block at Bourlon Barracks on the Garrison. This vast building, which once was home to more than six hundred soldiers and one of only twenty built in England between 1938 and 1940, could so easily have been demolished by the MOD as being unsuitable for the demands of a modern army. Indeed, most of the other Sandhurst blocks in the country have been demolished. However, at Catterick Garrison the MOD has found a new use for this block and has undertaken the difficult task of converting accommodation designed to provide sleeping, eating, washing and off-duty facilities, all under one roof, into

an efficient, modern office space. Thus a splendid piece of architecture will be preserved.



Sandhurst Block at Bourlon Barracks, Catterick Garrison, by Tim Zillessen. Crown Copyright

Richmondshire District Council has sold Swale House which is to be converted into eight apartments and a two-bedroomed cottage. As part of this sale, the Council has provided nine parking spaces in Station Road Car Park solely for the use of residents. The Society strongly objected to this as the loss of nine public spaces on evenings and weekends could only make the parking situation in Richmond worse. The District Council's response was to create additional spaces by redesigning the spaces in the car park, so we did achieve some gain, although one must ask why this was not done before. However, the application produced the opportunity for the Society's Chairman, John McDonald, to write to the Darlington & Stockton Times suggesting that the District Council should develop policies to provide the additional parking that Richmond so desperately needs. Alas, there was no response from the RDC. Another Council property sold recently, Frenchgate House, also included parking for four cars in Station Road Car Park. Here we were successful in opposing plans to build a bungalow in the grounds that would use the majority of the amenity space of the four flats proposed, and which would have been out of place in an area surrounded by listed buildings.

If a planning application is properly prepared it is relatively easy to see what is proposed but, for a small number, insufficient information is provided to allow informed comment. In these cases, we can often puzzle out what is intended but, if this is not possible, we have to object and ask for additional information.



Swale House, to be converted into Flats



Gilling West: the Society's objection to these solar panels on a listed building was over-ruled



Middleham, The Old Manse (in centre, with bay windows): stone cleaning would have destroyed the unity of this group of buildings

One recent case was an application to refurbish a listed building in Middleham. Parts of the initial application showed very good practice but key information on the materials to be used was missing and no explanation was provided for the inclusion of a brochure for a stone-cleaning firm as part of the application. A revised application was made but, again, this key information on materials was omitted. In the end, the District Council granted permission but added a condition: " that the proposed new sash windows will be timber, and (*the applicants*)... do not intend to steam clean the building; ... the brochures on this should not have been included with the applications".

However, in spite of difficulties such as this, we have made significant progress. The former Greyfriars Cocoa House was subject to a planning application to remove the glazing bars and to replace the windows with plate glass. We were surprised to find that this building on the corner of King Street was not listed but at the last major listing in 1973, as a 19th century building, it did not meet the criteria. We hurriedly put together



Greyfriars Café, a Queen Anne style icon, now listed

an application for listing and I am pleased to report that this was accepted by English Heritage and the building has now been awarded Grade II listing. The building is important architecturally as probably the best example in North Yorkshire of the 19th century Queen Anne style and, historically, as a very rare example of a building erected as part of the Temperance Movement. Greyfriars Café was built between 1879 and 1889 as a temperance "public house" and was named the Zetland Cocoa Rooms. In 1890, Bulmers Directory states: "The Cocoa and Coffee Rooms is a neat building in the Queen Anne Style, situated in King Street, erected by the Countess of Zetland." The 19th century temperance movement was driven mainly by working class activists, often with links to the Chartist movement. Towards the end of the century the temperance movement was joined by members of the aristocracy, including Baroness Llanover in Wales, Viscountess Ossington in Newark, and in Richmond the Countess of Zetland, all of whom opened coffee or cocoa houses serving only non-alcoholic drinks.

The date of Greyfriars Café, 1889, gives credence to the tradition that Lady Zetland opened the Cocoa Rooms as the result of an accident when

she was travelling in her coach down the steep Gallowgate. A drunk spooked the horses which galloped out of control down the hill towards a twenty-foot drop into Frenchgate. Fortunately, the coachman regained control but on enquiry it was found that the gentleman who caused the accident had been drinking at the Zetland Arms. Lady Zetland insisted that her husband should not renew the lease of the pub. The publican was incensed at this and had Lady Zetland's portion of the coat of arms, which formed the pub sign, painted out. The defaced sign is currently displayed in the Richmondshire Museum.

As I write this, the bulldozers are demolishing the former Richmond House, which is to be the site of a development of houses and flats of which the west elevation was dramatically improved as a direct result of the Society's intervention. (Full details of the "battle" are to be found in last year's Review)

In conclusion, I am pleased to say that, despite the downgrading of heritage in planning law and the effects of local authority cuts, I believe we are fulfilling a major role as, frequently, the only body able and willing to challenge threats to our built heritage.

Collectanea[1]

The Editors

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times for Richmond this year. The Queen's visit in May to oversee the amalgamation of two historic regiments, the Queen's Royal Lancers and the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, saw hundreds of excited well-wishers gather, not only for a glimpse of Her Majesty, but also to show support for two much-respected regiments. Inclement weather did little to dampen the warmth and enthusiasm on display. The announcement, during the proceedings, of the birth of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's daughter was an added bonus which saw the crowd roar with excitement and the Queen beam with delight. That the traditional posting of the news outside Buckingham Palace was made by a royal footman from North Yorkshire, added a further fillip to Yorkshire's pride.

Sadly, Richmond residents were left reeling from two events, so out of character with the town and its ethos, that many felt despair and outrage in equal measure. The murder of Andrew Jackson, a popular amateur sportsman and ex-publican, was a tragic loss for his family and friends and a blow to those who always believed the streets of Richmond were safe to walk at night.

In June, the town was dealt a second blow when an appalling act of vandalism saw fire rampage through shops and commercial properties in Finkle Street, and bring the town to a virtual standstill. Had it not been for the quick reactions of a sharp-eyed delivery driver who raised an early alarm, the situation, bad as it was, could have been a good deal worse, for, at least, there was no loss of life. However, there was substantial damage to buildings, including the iconic thirties former Co-op with its elegant

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

lead cupola, and several successful businesses have suffered a deeply concerning and ill-deserved truncation of trade. These disturbing events have increased the clamour for the restoration of CCTV in the town, abandoned in 2014 for reasons of economy. Sadly, it seems unlikely to be reinstated in spite of a one-thousand-plus petition.

As Catterick's new £25 million shopping and leisure complex reaches completion Richmond waits to feel its full impact, and there are further fears that the proposed designer outlet planned at Scotch Corner might prove an additional cause for concern. One would hope, however, that future visitors there would include a visit to Richmond in any itinerary, regarding it as a welcome respite to the relentless demands of retail therapy. Certainly, the town does seem this year, to have enjoyed an increasing number of visitors and fresh figures from 'Visit England' suggest that Yorkshire continues to benefit from the Tour de France Grand Depart, which showcased Yorkshire so successfully last year.

Indeed, Richmond has much to offer the visitor, historically, architecturally, and with many of its facilities considerably improved: the Richmond Museum with its interactive centre, the splendidly refurbished Green Howards Museum and The Station with its changing exhibitions and excellent artisan shops. The Georgian Theatre Royal, as the oldest working UK theatre still largely in its original form, delights visitors, actors and audiences alike. It's reassuring that its future development is secure thanks to a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and a substantial bequest from the late associate director Paul Iles. We welcome the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer, Clare Allen, who brings experience and enthusiasm and a strong desire to continue the excellent work carried out by Warnock Kerr whose energy and expertise has sustained the theatre for so long.

Additionally, Richmond continues its exciting programme of events, guaranteed to please residents and visitors alike. The Book and Walking Festival continues with Peter Robinson its patron at the fore. The ever popular Swaledale Festival focused this year on a celebration of the human voice and worked hard to make its events accessible to all ages and interests. The Richmond Meet reported an enthusiastic response from both participants and the residents and visitors who flocked into the town to

watch the annual parade and enjoy the stalls, music and children's activities on offer. As we write, the town embarks on a new festival, 'George Fest 15' which celebrates Richmond's Georgian heritage, with an exciting range of talks, walks and dramatic events.

Richmond said goodbye to two long standing and respected friends of the town. Malcolm Warne, as Editor of the Darlington and Stockton Times, has attended many civic and social events here, as well as offering wise and measured words on the various controversial episodes that have punctuated the past. He always appeared to have a genuine appreciation of the town and we wish him well for the future.

We wished William Hague well in last year's Review, as his resignation had just been announced. We were, however, a little surprised and more than a little amused to learn this year of the rather unusual leaving present organized by the Richmond Conservative Association. They commissioned a special beer called 'Smooth Hague'! Described as 'well balanced and smooth like Mr. Hague', it was received with delight apparently, and is now in great demand by Conservative Clubs across the country.

Rishi Sunak, who doesn't drink beer, was, some felt, a surprising replacement for William Hague. Chosen from a very strong short list, he brings to the constituency an impressive record of business achievement and academic prowess. With little previous knowledge of the area, he spent the months leading up to his election taking Mr. Hague's advice 'to get to know the area and the people' very much to heart, addressing with vigour issues on rural affairs, immigration, social deprivation and education. To the many in the constituency who warned, 'you've got big boots to fill lad,' he responded determinedly, 'My ambition would be to have that respect that William does and try to fill those boots'. His recent appointment to the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs Select Committee in the House of Commons will, hopefully, leave him well placed to ensure rural communities in Yorkshire are well represented.

Looking to people who work hard for the area, we were delighted to see that Gary Verity, Chief Executive of Welcome to Yorkshire, who campaigned tirelessly to bring the Grand Depart to Yorkshire, was

eventually awarded a knighthood after his surprising omission from the New Year's Honours List.

During this period of austerity we were pleased to learn that Richmond has been able to benefit from the Richmond District Council's Community Opportunities Fund (COF). The fund which supports community projects across the district has awarded £10,000 to Richmond Cricket Club to provide partitioning which will enable it to hold several events simultaneously and thus increase letting profits. Marrick Priory has been awarded £12,000 for a refurbishment project which will see the installation of a new outdoor classroom and the creation of a terraced activity area. An additional grant of £55,725 from the MOD Community Covenant Grant Scheme will further aid this worthwhile project.

Richmond too will benefit, from a £25,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the 'Voices of Rebellion' project which aims to conserve the drawings and writings of the sixteen conscientious objectors imprisoned in Richmond Castle during the First World War. Their graffiti offers a rare insight into their views and feelings as they remained incarcerated in the castle, refusing even to engage in non-combatant military roles. Later graffiti left by soldiers stationed in Richmond before and during the Second World War adds a further insight into their lives and relationships with the castle and the town.

Richmondshire Museum will now be able to meet the cost of repairs to its lift with a grant of £18,364 from the District Council and further grants from the Paul Curran Trust and the Company of Fellmongers. In addition to this, the museum has just received a Visit England 'Hidden Gem' accolade as part of Visit England's Visitor Attraction Quality Scheme.

We were especially pleased to hear that Castle Hill Book Shop was awarded a grant to encourage local children to read; £400 was awarded from a scheme run by best-selling author James Patterson, which enables children to choose free books from their local bookshop. The book shop is to be further congratulated as it celebrates its 40th anniversary this year: no mean achievement, when so many independent booksellers across the country struggle to survive.

As always, Richmond relies heavily on the indefatigable band of volunteers who enable so many organizations, societies and clubs to thrive. Even when new appeals are made for emerging worthwhile causes, and one feels that surely goodwill has been stretched to its limit, the town responds afresh. One such current project, St Mary's Bell Restoration Appeal, has already captured the town's interest, thanks in part to a purposeful team of volunteers. Readers can learn more from Peter Trewby's excellent article.

Many residents have enjoyed Susanna Pell's fund-raising concerts at St Agatha's at Easby. As one of the country's leading players of the viols, she has delighted audiences and raised substantial sums for various charities and good causes, with a series of Sunday morning concerts which have offered not only exquisite music in a perfect setting, but also the opportunity to enjoy coffee and homemade cake.

Councillor Linda Curran, similarly, raised money for local causes with an inventive pop-up gallery in Frenchgate. As founder of the Paul Curran Trust, her emphasis is very much concerned with helping those with disabilities. The trust awards grants to children and young people up to the age of twenty-five to help them pay for things to improve their lives.

Justly proud of its architectural heritage, Richmond can be equally proud of the many new developments taking place around the town. Sadly, however, some historic eyesores remain: the much-lamented Cradock Hall, for example, still languishes pitifully neglected.

A recent survey prepared by Britain Thinks, to mark the Heritage Lottery Fund's twentieth anniversary, found that those living in small urban areas are best placed to enjoy the historic environment. In such areas, 95% of people felt that they lived in a good place and 93% agreed that local heritage played a part in the quality of their lives. We in Richmond are fortunate indeed to live in a town where architecture and community excel in equal measure. As David Brooks, former Town Clerk, wrote of Richmond many years ago: "small though it may be, there is nothing mean in its compass".



The Royal Standard flying in honour of the Queen's visit in May

courtesy Jane Hatcher



The old Co-op building under repair

Members' Tour of The Cotswolds

Judy Farrar

A full coach of forty-eight members and friends set off on a bright and sunny morning on the Society's annual holiday. Again, this was on a Burrell's Barnard Castle Coach with Alan Burrell driving and his wife Sandra looking after us at the venues and providing drinks & snacks on the journey.



Broughton Manor

We arrived at our first property just after noon and were welcomed with an excellent lunch in the tea rooms at Broughton Castle, near Banbury, Oxfordshire: a stunning moated and fortified manor house dating back to the 1300s. A very impressive gatehouse took us to the main hall of the

house where two very knowledgeable guides showed us round and gave us the history of the property. The manor house is normally closed on a Friday but opened up for a private visit by the group. We were even allowed to walk on the roof. The property had been used as a film location for 'Wolf Hall'. After a leisurely walk around the gardens we set off again and made our way through the pretty village of Bibury to The Thistle Hotel, Cheltenham which was our base for the three-night stay.

On the next morning we went into the Spa town of Cheltenham with its impressive Georgian buildings. Late morning we visited the delightful village of Broadway with the first surprise of the holiday – there was a fantastic vintage car rally on the greens in the village; everyone on the trip enjoyed seeing these beautifully maintained vehicles. Part of the group then went on the coach to Broadway Tower, which is on a hill with far reaching views in all directions, returning to Broadway to pick up the rest of the group.



Snowshill Manor

In the afternoon we went to Snowshill Manor with an amazing collection of over twenty-two thousand items collected by Charles P. Wade of anything that had been skilfully made: from Samurai warriors' dress to toys, musical instruments and fine clocks. The rooms and cabinets were all dimly lit so we needed the torches we had taken to look at the items. Charles Wade lived a comparatively spartan existence in a nearby property called The Priest's House, with both properties being surrounded by gardens made up of a series of outdoor rooms.

Another beautiful sunny day dawned for our visit to Hidcote Manor Gardens: we arrived spot on opening time to find it already quite busy and Alan had to do a bit of nifty reversing to park the coach. Needless to say he was applauded for his skill!! This garden also comprised a series of 'rooms' but on a much larger scale than Snowshill. Although there were a lot of visitors it did not feel crowded as it covered such a large area. We all came away with big ideas for our own gardens.



Arriving at Hidcote Manor

We then went to the pretty Cotswold town of Chipping Campden – just in time for some lunch, some of us able to sit in beer gardens or outdoor cafes. Next stop was Bourton-on-the-Water with the River Windrush running through the centre of the Village. The sunny day certainly brought the crowds out with lots of children paddling in the shallow river. The model village was a popular venue for some of the group and others sat and 'people watched' while they had an ice cream.

We set off for home on the Monday, first calling at Stratford-upon-Avon, where Alan & Sandra had arranged for a guide to come on the coach to give us a commentary on the Shakespearian properties in the area, stopping at Anne Hathaway's Cottage for a short time. There was then time to get a coffee and have a walk by the river; one couple even managed a river cruise. We stopped for an early evening meal at Thorpe Park Hotel on the outskirts of Leeds before finally heading back to Richmond in the safe hands of our excellent driver.



Outside the Thistle Hotel, Cheltenham

Richmond Bells

Peter Trewby

For a thousand years and more, bells have been rung to celebrate great and joyous occasions as well as commiserate for loss. In 968 in the time of Pope John XIII, bells were baptised and blessed by the Bishop and dedicated to a Saint. By virtue of being consecrated, people believed they did miraculous things. It is said that the bells of Canterbury Cathedral tolled themselves when Thomas Becket was murdered and great caution was used to preserve them from injury.[1] We may no longer believe in their supernatural powers, but we value them and do all we can to protect them and both preserve and promote the ancient art of bellringing. The bell is one of the older, and certainly the loudest, of musical instruments with the power to charm, to amaze, to warn, to frighten, and to lift the spirit. In the Middle Ages, in a world where the human voice was often the loudest noise heard, the sound of bells must have been majestic - and fearful.

Bells in churches and monasteries were initially hung on a simple spindle and chimed by deacons pulling a rope. Following the Reformation, many churches began to rehang bells, mounting the bell on a wheel. The addition of a stay and slider meant the bell could now rotate 360 degrees, throwing its music up and out to the heavens as well as down to the earth and resulting in the quintessentially English (and later British) sound of Church bells (figure 1). Then, as now, the cost of maintaining bells was high, compounded by payments to the ringers, who at the time were paid for their services (sadly no more!). St Margaret's, Westminster, paid ringers one shilling each for ringing at the beheading of Mary Queen of Scots but twenty years later, the same church paid ten times that for ringing “at the time when the Parliament House should have been blown up”.

[1] See http//www.bellringing.org/ accessed 29/7/15

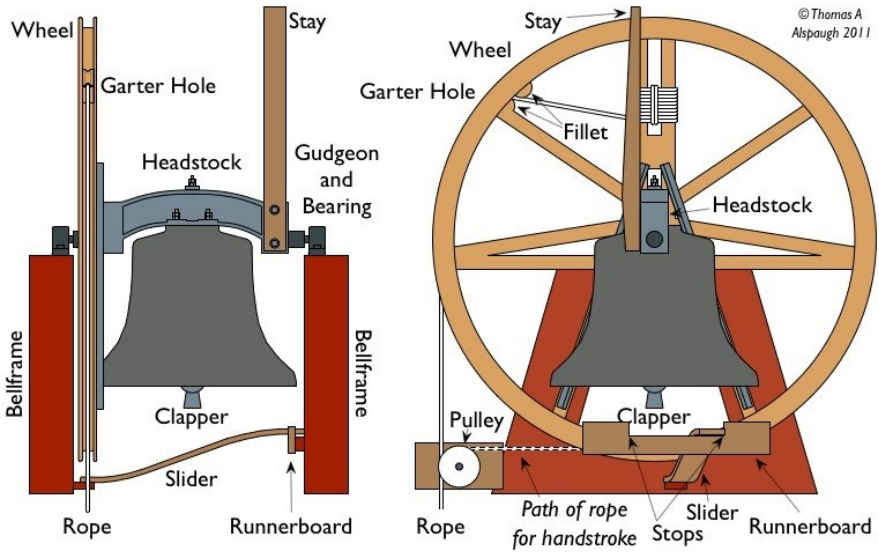


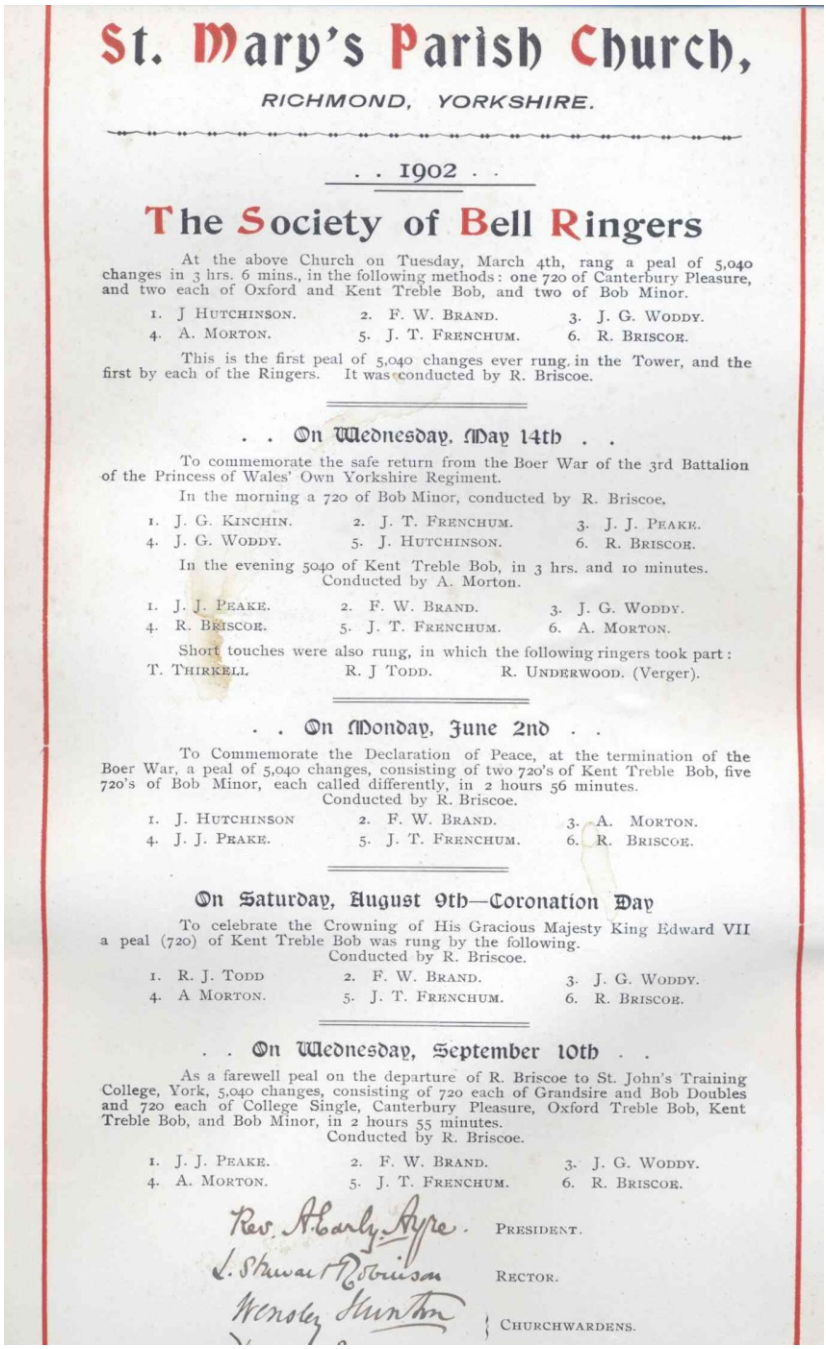
Figure 1(reproduced by kind permission of Thomas Alspaugh)

Aside from the technical improvements, a significant milestone in change ringing was the 1668 publication of *Tintinnalogia* by Fabian Stedman and Richard Duckworth, followed nine years later by *Campanalogia*, which laid down "plain and easie Rules to guide the Practitioner in the Ringing all kinds of Changes." Plain and easy they may have been to Fabian Stedman, but to most of us, especially those who come to ringing late in life, bellringing remains taxing. Bells hung for change ringing, although carefully tuned in the diatonic scale are not used to play tunes because the momentum of the swinging bell prevents the relative positions of the bells being easily altered. Instead, the bell's natural swing is accelerated or decelerated by the ringer to exchange its relative position with the bell just immediately above or below it. For example, if the ringer of bell number 2 holds up the swing of the bell and the ringer of bell 3 accelerates it, then "rounds" - 12345 - is followed in the next change by 13245. Many early towers only had five bells. The bells were rung with the intention of ringing every possible change on the five bells (an "extent") starting and finishing with rounds. Since the number of changes varies with the factorial of the number of bells, an extent on five bells amounts to 120

changes which takes only a few minutes to ring. On six bells an extent is 720 changes and on seven working bells (the eighth or tenor bell often covering and not being "turned in") an extent amounts to 5,040 changes which takes over two hours to ring. 5,040 changes by convention have come to be defined as "a peal". Peal ringing requires mental concentration and a deep understanding of the method by all, but particularly the conductor, and in the absence of sound control, also demands tolerance from those living near the tower! The first "peal" was believed to have been rung 600 years ago on May 2nd 1715 at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich. We don't know the earliest peal rung in Richmond but a number of peals were recorded in 1902, a special year packed with events worthy of celebration including the end of the Boer war, the safe return of the Yorkshire Regiment and the coronation of Edward VII, all events rung for and recorded in the Richmond ringing chamber (figure 2).

Bells are ubiquitous even in our electronic age, and yet the way in which we perceive the pitch and timbre of a bell is not well understood especially taking into account the Doppler effect caused by the swinging bell and the modulation caused by the other bells in the peal. A bell's pitch and timbre are not just determined by the strike note but also by a set of "partials" colourfully named hum, prime, minor third (or tierce), fifth (or quint), octave and upper octave. Indeed careful tuning of the strike note of a bell to match the other bells in a peal can result in it sounding noticeably out of tune.[2] It is the ear, as well as the instrument, that ultimately determines what we hear when a bell is struck and the ear does not respond equally to sounds of different frequency. Bell tuning, even with modern computer profiling, is a skilled craft.

[2] *For an illustration of how bells with the same nominal can have very different timbres, see:* http://www.hibberts.co.uk/index.htm. accessed 29/7/15



St. Mary's Parish Church,

RICHMOND, YORKSHIRE.

. . 1902 . .

The Society of Bell Ringers

At the above Church on Tuesday, March 4th, rang a peal of 5,040 changes in 3 hrs. 6 mins., in the following methods: one 720 of Canterbury Pleasure, and two each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and two of Bob Minor.

1. J Hutchinson.	2. F. W. Brand.	3. J. G. Woddy.
4. A. Morton.	5. J. T. Frenchum.	6. R. Briscoe.

This is the first peal of 5,040 changes ever rung in the Tower, and the first by each of the Ringers. It was conducted by R. Briscoe.

. . On Wednesday, May 14th . .

To commemorate the safe return from the Boer War of the 3rd Battalion of the Princess of Wales' Own Yorkshire Regiment.

In the morning a 720 of Bob Minor, conducted by R. Briscoe.

1. J. G. Kinchin.	2. J. T. Frenchum.	3. J. J. Peake.
4. J. G. Woddy.	5. J. Hutchinson.	6. R. Briscoe.

In the evening 5040 of Kent Treble Bob, in 3 hrs. and 10 minutes. Conducted by A. Morton.

1. J. J. Peake.	2. F. W. Brand.	3. J. G. Woddy.
4. R. Briscoe.	5. J. T. Frenchum.	6. A. Morton.

Short touches were also rung, in which the following ringers took part:

T. Thirkell. R. J Todd. R. Underwood. (Verger).

. . On Monday, June 2nd . .

To Commemorate the Declaration of Peace, at the termination of the Boer War, a peal of 5,040 changes, consisting of two 720's of Kent Treble Bob, five 720's of Bob Minor, each called differently, in 2 hours 56 minutes. Conducted by R. Briscoe.

1. J. Hutchinson	2. F. W. Brand.	3. A. Morton.
4. J. J. Peake.	5. J. T. Frenchum.	6. R. Briscoe.

On Saturday, August 9th—Coronation Day

To celebrate the Crowning of His Gracious Majesty King Edward VII a peal (720) of Kent Treble Bob was rung by the following. Conducted by R. Briscoe.

1. R. J. Todd	2. F. W. Brand.	3. J. G. Woddy.
4. A Morton.	5. J. T. Frenchum.	6. R. Briscoe.

. . On Wednesday, September 10th . .

As a farewell peal on the departure of R. Briscoe to St. John's Training College, York, 5,040 changes, consisting of 720 each of Grandsire and Bob Doubles and 720 each of College Single, Canterbury Pleasure, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, and Bob Minor, in 2 hours 55 minutes. Conducted by R. Briscoe.

1. J. J. Peake.	2. F. W. Brand.	3. J. G. Woddy.
4. A. Morton.	5. J. T. Frenchum.	6. R. Briscoe.

Rev. A. Early Pyke. President.

J. Stewart Robinson Rector.

Wensley Hunton } Churchwardens.

Figure 2

Richmond bells

The tower of the parish church of St Mary (c.1400 AD) contains eight bells currently rung by an enthusiastic band of bellringers some of whom have served St Mary's for over thirty years. St Mary's has a reputation for training bellringers and for at least six decades has supported the training of ringers from nearby dales' towers, particularly Grinton, Bedale and Catterick. Visitors from across the UK, as well as from further afield including Australia and the US, often ring with the local band.

The Frame

Our wooden two-level bell-frame constructed in 1894, probably by Mallaby of Masham, is poorly designed. The PCC was advised ninety, and again fifty years ago, to replace it with a single-tier iron and steel frame if ringing was to continue. There was no resolve then to raise the money, and to quote from the church warden's report: "the next generation must look after their own requirements as regards the church bells". The combined two and a half ton weight of the bells, with each bell swinging through 360°, puts considerable stress on the frame which in turn stresses the tower. Indeed one only has to lean against the tower wall during ringing to appreciate the amount of movement that occurs.

Increasing difficulties with the "go" of the bells which is caused by the unstable frame, stimulated our present ringers, young and old, to investigate the possibility of renewing the frame and restoring the bells. We have commissioned four reports from independent bell-founders/hangers. All concur that, whilst the frame is still fit for ringing, action is required now if the 'go' of the bells is not to deteriorate further and if undue stress is not to be placed on the tower. Taylors bellfounders commented particularly on the stress on the bell tower caused by movement within the frame structure: "We believe that it is only the excellent construction of the well buttressed tower which has prevented serious damage to the structure in the past…. However, towers were not built to withstand the forces exerted by bells hung in poorly constructed bell frames and to ensure the longevity of the tower structure, we consider

it essential to install an entirely new bell frame with all eight bells hung on one level".

Nicholsons bell founders who observed the frame while just one bell was being rung report:
"The lack of a really solid and well designed foundation to the bellframe ensures that it will always have a tendency to flex and distort vertically at its base and as one moves higher in the frame this movement will turn into horizontal deflection. The cast-iron plates to the east and west sills of the upper tier have been added to try and control this horizontal deflection, though this arrangement is not to be recommended as it is likely to cause long-term damage to the tower fabric."

Other comments on the frame from Whites and Whitechapel Bell Foundries and Hangers include:
"It would be difficult to design a bellframe which would make a bell installation more difficult to access and maintain than that at Richmond. Two-tier bellframes are always something of a challenge but in terms of ease of access that at Richmond is particularly poor. Access is difficult at best which hardly assists those who attempt to care for the bells and this also represents a significant health & safety issue. Generally the tower appeared to be in fair condition; however, it is a tall and slender structure and, in spite of the buttresses, moves noticeably when bells are rung singly. It is likely that the movement is sufficient to have an adverse effect upon the easy go and handling of the bells even if the bellframe was absolutely rigid. The combined movement of upper bellframe and tower are sufficient to upset the comfortable handling of the four smaller bells".

Currently the 'go' of the bells is such that they are becoming increasingly challenging to ring, particularly by young learners. As Taylors state in their report in 2014, "it is clear that improvement of the 'go' of the bells is dependent on installing an appropriately designed, modern, bell-frame…. Although the timberwork is good, and of its type it has been well constructed, the design is such that it is incapable of dissipating the forces exerted by the bells in a satisfactory manner. We have been advising that a new bellframe of cast iron and steel be installed since our first inspection of the installation some 92 years ago".

The church tower is Grade II* listed and any suggestion of damage to the tower would mean immediate cessation of ringing. We concluded, therefore, that for the sake of the tower, for ease of ringing, for ease of maintaining the bells, and for safety reasons the two-tier wooden frame should be replaced with a single-tier iron and steel frame as recommended ninety and fifty years ago.



Figure 3

The Bells

Having determined that the frame needed replacing, we considered the bells. Five of our bells are of great historic interest, and "listed" by the Church Buildings Council. Three of them were cast in 1697, and one in 1739. The fifth and oldest (c 1500) is thought to originate from Easby Abbey, being moved to St Mary's at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries along with the choir stalls and misericords.[3]

The inscription in the old church script reads UNUS DEUS SED TRINITAS (ONE GOD BUT TRINITY). It includes the shield of the Nottingham Seliok bellfounder who cast many bells around the same time (figure 3). Although not strictly in tune with the other bells, chimed on its own, it has a pleasant tone perhaps enriched by knowledge of its provenance! It is interesting in that it has a more tubular shape than we are used to seeing in bells cast more recently.

The inscriptions on the other listed bells read: (for Bell 3) "1739. The Gift of the Right Honourable Sir Conyers D'Arcy, Knight of the Bath, Member of Parliament for Richmond, Lieutenant of the North Riding of Yorkshire, Comptroller of his Majesty's Household and one of his Privy Councillors" (*note*: perhaps herein lies a precedent for a current and/or future member of Parliament for Richmond!). Also inscribed are the D'Arcy arms and *"*Tria juncta in uno*"* the motto of the Order of the Bath possibly referring to the three kingdoms of the United Kingdom or the Holy Trinity, as well as the name and shield of the bellfounder, E. Seller of York. The painting of Conyers D'Arcy by Sir Joshua Reynolds in the York Art Gallery shows him to be clearly a significant and important gentleman. It was he who purchased and improved Aske Hall before it passed to the Dundas family.

The 4th bell is inscribed "Venite exultemmus Domino. SS Ebor". SS Ebor was the hall mark of Samuel Smith(S.S.) of York (Ebor), bellfounder. The 5th bell also cast in 1697 by the same bellfounder is inscribed "1697. Novum cantata Domino canticum. S.S Ebor". Sing unto the Lord a new

[3] Christopher Clarkson: *The History of Richmond, in the County of York. 1821, p.166*

song. The 6th is the Easby bell and the 7th also by Samuel Smith is inscribed "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO 1697".

As well as the inscriptions, the bells have been cast with particularly fine decorations (figure 4).



Figure 4.

Because these historic bells are suspended on two tiers, they cannot be seen or accessed safely. If our project is successful, we will clean and display our historic bells with a walkway alongside for all to see and they will be chimed rather than used for change ringing. There is a wealth of other historical material in the ringing chamber including details of peals rung for notable events, lists of ringers from Catterick who rang in Richmond during the First World War, National Service ringers and photographs of great Richmond characters some of whom rang for over sixty years in St Mary's. We want these, together with our historic bells, to form part of a display of the history of bells and bell ringing in Richmond from the 1500s.

Our other three bells were cast in 1862 and 1904 and are not "listed", and indeed are poor examples of the bell founder's art, being weak in tone with flat fundamentals and unpleasant to the ear. Nicholsons again: "A glance at the diameters, weights and notes of the bells makes it clear that they are far from being well graded. The first point to make is that the key note is a full tone lower than we would ideally like to see for this diameter of tenor. The result is that the bells are generally quite thin in profile and consequently sound somewhat watery or insipid. The second point to make is that the weights do not grade at all well, the third being nearly the same weight as the fifth and the fourth being lighter than the second."

Our two treble bells are, however, ideally suited to augmenting the number of bells in Saint Andrews Church, Grinton, from six to eight, their bell-frame having been originally built for eight bells. Our project if successful will benefit neighbouring Grinton as well as Richmond.

The Project

If we are to install a single-tier frame and display our listed bells we must also install a new peal of eight bells. This will provide a high quality tuned musical instrument for the benefit of the people of Richmond now and for the indefinite future. We shall mount a viewing platform to provide direct observation of change ringing; install webcams with a display in the church and allow us to record bellringing demonstrations for schools and other groups. To allow us to teach bellringing on more than one evening a week and allow extended periods of training and peal ringing without upsetting local residents, we will incorporate adjustable sound proofing shutters behind the louvres. As described above, a separate viewing platform will enable our listed bells to be accessed close to.
Richmond has been a teaching hub for Church Towers in the Upper Dales for sixty years. Unless we act to renew the bell frame, this tradition will be lost. Ringers from Grinton, Catterick, Bedale and Darlington have all been taught wholly or in part at Richmond. We have young ringers (our youngest current ringer is ten) and old (our oldest ringer recently rang for his 90th birthday) and three disabled ringers. One of our young ringers who started ringing at fourteen, now aged twenty, rings regularly at St Paul's Cathedral and has just rung his hundredth peal.

The Appeal

£160,000 is needed to achieve our goal. We launched our Bell Restoration Appeal in May 2015, leafleting three thousand homes and schools and held our official launch in St Mary's with tours of the ringing chamber and offering a go at ringing the bells in the tower and on a mock-up full-size bell assembled in the church (the "Wombell").

Parachuting teddy bears from the church tower was also enjoyed, particularly (on this, the weekend before the General Election) by the prospective Parliamentary and Council candidates who brought their bears, many suitably rosetted. We were delighted by the fascination of young and old with church bells, with the history of ringing and ringers, and the mechanics of ringing.



A Faculty[4] was applied for. There was discussion of the "significance" versus the "utility" of the 120-year-old frame and the "significance" of the frame versus the "significance" of the Grade II* listed tower and indeed the "significance" of bellringing itself. With the support of the Diocesan Bell Adviser and others, a Faculty for the full works has now been granted by the diocese, one stipulation being that a segment of the wooden frame with the maker's name on it be displayed in the ringing chamber along with the existing section of its 1739 wooden predecessor. We are delighted to do this.

Thanks to many generous donations, the appeal has got off to a good start. The amount of money needed is large and future fundraising events are planned (for details see www.Richmondbells.com) and major donors are being approached. We have a proud ringing heritage in Richmond which we feel should be preserved and celebrated. We want the sound of church bells to continue to be heard in Richmond for the rest of this century, into the next and beyond. Our project, if successful, will ensure this occurs.

For further details and updates on the project, on fundraising events and how to donate see: www.Richmondbells.com.

Acknowledgement:

I am most grateful to Elizabeth Foster for her helpful advice.

[4] *A Faculty is part of the Church of England's system of building control. It gives permission for work to be carried out.*

Richmond's Link with Waterloo

Jane Hatcher

Resting, one hopes peacefully, in Richmond Churchyard, are two veterans who fought on Sunday 18 June 1815 near Waterloo in present-day Belgium. We don't know if either of them was wounded that fateful day, but both lived on for many years afterwards, continuing to serve in the army and then retiring to a different sort of life. Both were so much respected that they had tombstones erected in their memory.

Sergeant William Watson was a career soldier who came to live in Richmond in his retirement. As a recipient of an army out-pensioner award, probably from the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, he had an income later in life which few people did in those days. He died on 19 September 1844. His tombstone records "Early in life entered the Coldstream Guards and fought in the Peninsular War and Waterloo and subsequently served for some time in the West Indies and retired with a pension. He was a kind, upright and pious man highly respected. Also Mary Ann daughter of William & Elizabeth Watson who died April 19th 1827 aged 2 years 8 months."

William Watson was buried on 22 September 1844, the service being taken by the Rev. James Tate the younger, the headmaster of Richmond Grammar School. Watson's tombstone and burial register entry both give his age as 57, so he was born about 1787 and would be aged about 28 in 1815.

He seems not to have been a native of Richmond, and it is not known where he was living when his little girl Mary Ann died as this was not in the town. His widow Elizabeth probably continued to live here, for an Elizabeth Watson was buried on 5 January 1873 aged 85, which would make her a contemporary of William's.

Three years after the burial of William Watson, the second Waterloo veteran was interred in Richmond Churchyard. Augustus Blytheman's tombstone tells us that he had served in the 95th Rifle Corps during the Peninsular War under the Duke of Wellington. "He was present at the actions of Nive Orthiers and Toulouse and the memorable battle of Waterloo". One of the 95th's officers was Thomas Taylor Worsley, a member of the Hovingham family, who had served under the then General Wellesley at the siege of Badajoz in 1812. Here he received a wound to the neck which caused his head to turn to one side. He was recalled for Waterloo in 1815 and was again shot in the neck, the effect of which was to straighten him up!

Thomas Taylor Worsley later married Rose Stovin, the daughter of Rev. James Stovin, Rector of Rossington near Doncaster [Thomas's younger brother James would later marry her sister Frances]. Thomas and Rose lived at St. Trinians near Easby, a house they rented as his was not the main line of the Worsley family. Augustus Blytheman came to live with them here, remaining a manservant to his former officer, and doubtless it was the Worsleys who put up his tombstone.

The tombstone inscription says that he died on 13 December 1847, that he was "a native of the county of Surry" [sic] and "was 35 years a faithful servant to T.T. Worsley". Augustus was buried two days later; the register entry records him as "Augustus Blitheman of Guildford, Surrey" aged 60. That makes him an exact contemporary of William Watson.

The price paid for the country's victory by those serving at Waterloo was deeply felt by the nation. The Rector of Richmond, Rev. Christopher Goodwill, preached a powerful sermon which stirred the hearts of the inhabitants, who raised the remarkable sum of nearly £115 for the relief of the soldiers wounded there and the families of those who were killed.

Do You Recognise That?

Doug Waugh

"Unique example of small C18 playhouse; virtually unaltered as it ceased to be used as a theatre in the early C19……stone slate roof pegged with sheep bones…..Main entrance on the West side by small double door in plain stone frame, original paybox just inside…..The stage has the three customary traps and is original. Careful restoration under expert advice has been carried out."

Do you recognise that? Of course, it's our beloved Georgian Theatre. And that description consists of extracts from the citation for its Grade I listing. But do you recognise all those items?

Well you wouldn't. The sheeps' bones went some time ago when the roof was replaced - 1959 it seems. Later the main entrance became the opening onto Victoria Road and the modern Box Office was set-up under the re-created Pit. This was followed by a lighting box being put into the back of the Gallery.

The stage was replaced in 2003, with two replica thrust traps (much to the delight of the Technical Manager of the Theatre Royal in Margate, who took pride in telling me - as he showed me their original traps - that theirs was now the oldest stage in Britain).

Also in 2003 the lighting-bar around the ceiling was installed, originally with small modern lights to intrude as little as possible, but then replaced with standard theatre lights after complaints from performers. The ceiling itself may have been largely replaced as the Theatre was once threatened with closure due to its perilous state and an emergency grant for repairs was obtained from the Ministry of Works. Exactly what work was done I am not certain.

So what are we left with as far as a Georgian Theatre is concerned? Well nothing below the stage and boxes level is original - all has been expertly reconstructed including the pit walls and the seating (copied from the remains of a theatre in Loughborough). Backstage, after the proscenium, there is nothing original and much to provide the facilities of a modern theatre.

But the proscenium doorframes (not the doors - which were installed for the restoration) and the Juliet balconies above are original, as are the box fronts (other than, it seems, the Shakespeare box which is missing from all the pre-restoration photographs - as are the doors to the boxes). The Doric columns are original as is the front of the gallery. But the box chairs are obviously not, though they have done incredibly well for simple banqueting chairs, bought many years ago, surely mainly due to the carpentry skills of Jim Russell!

There is an archive note that benches were to be made, based on the ones behind the Boxes - and certainly those running along the back of the boxes are aged and intriguingly joined together. But those in the gallery do not seem to be of the same type.

As to the floors - while there are one or two planks in the floors that appear original, there are far more that are not. Then, behind the auditorium, the paybox and the back stairs to the gallery appear to be original.

In modern times - since the 1940s - it is arguable there have been more changes to the Theatre than ever before. Perhaps that may not matter - it is arguable that enjoying the place today is more important than preserving it for tomorrow.

When Richmond had a Town Bull

Jane Hatcher

Once upon a time, included in the property held by Richmond Corporation was always a bull! Its purpose was to service the townsfolk's cows which in summer grazed on Whitcliffe Pasture. From at least the mid-17th century, until into the 19th century, a succession of such bulls featured regularly in the borough's annual accounts kept by the chamberlains. The animal was held in some respect, referred to as 'he' rather than 'it'. People relied on him for their calves, and reading between the lines of the surviving records, one suspects the stamina and virility of the bull was a constant source of complaint to the officials.

During the winter he had to be kept inside, and payments were made to various farmers to provide board and lodgings. The going rate seems to have been £2 a winter. There were several farms within the Borough Boundary, and usually such farmers are simply referred to by name, such as "Pd. Geo. Handby for wintering the Towne Bull £2", but occasionally a place is mentioned, eg one year he spent the winter at Applegarth. He had to be taken to his lodgings in the autumn and brought back in the spring, and such journeys required two men who were paid a few shillings each.

The Whitcliffe bull was worked very hard, so the various animals were not kept indefinitely but 'traded in' and replaced every few years. The amounts spent on a replacement varied, and some haggling probably went on. In 1778 the Corporation received £4 10s. for the old bull and spent £5 12s. on a new one, but amounts received could be less, and the greatest amount spent seems to have been £7 10s.

Not all the bulls bought proved to be a good investment, sometimes a purchase was quickly followed by expenditure on veterinary treatment. A bull which arrived one June, by July required 'meadicians' [medicines - the chamberlains were not necessarily very well-educated chaps, and

wrote things down in the dialect which they used] costing £1 9s. 6d. In April 1689 the chamberlains spent 2s. 3d. 'for cueringe [curing] the town's bull and men to help when he was lame'. A novel treatment was tried two months later, 1s. was spent 'for a clogg for the towne's bull and men for putting it on'.

If the town bull was out of action, an alternative had to be provided, so a bull was then hired from a local farmer. It would seem farmers were not prepared to allow their animal to be heavily used for very long, for in the summer of 1804, two farmers were paid £4 14s. 6d. and £2 12s. 6d. respectively for the 'use' of a bull, and 18s 1d. was spent on hay for the poorly bull.

Occasionally things got so bad that the town bull had to be slaughtered, but the Corporation then sold the hide, for 3s. 6d. in 1689.

Alexander Wedderburn (1733-1805): A Lord Chancellor's Links with Swaledale and Richmond

Ralph Waggett

In November 1772, a law case was heard in Westminster Hall in London, at the Bar of the Court of King's Bench, before two very senior judges, the eminent William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, the Chief Justice of the King's Bench, famous for a decision which anticipated the anti-slavery feelings of the following century, and Mr. Justice Willes. The plaintiff was represented by Edward Thurlow, the Attorney General, the defendant by Alexander Wedderburn, the Solicitor General [both in their private capacities].

At issue was not a cause of national importance, but the ownership of a lead mine near Keld in Swaledale, which one may confidently assume neither of the judges, nor either counsel, had previously ever heard of, let alone visited. The case was of importance to the two parties but of no other significance, and it raised no particular points of law. That it was decided at such a level is an enormous credit to the English legal system.

This was the famous Beldi Hill case, between Lord Pomfret and Thomas Smith, who had been in bitter dispute for years. The story had begun with the last Duke of Wharton, a wastrel and spendthrift, who went to live in Spain and would have been tried for treason had he returned to England. To pay his debts his estates were made over to trustees, who in 1738 sold the manors of Healaugh and Muker to Thomas Smith, but reserved to the Wharton family the mineral rights on the commons and wastes or moors.

The simple issue of the trial was whether the Beldi mine lay within the commons and wastes, or within intakes or enclosed ground: if the former, it belonged to Lord Pomfret, through his wife, Anna Maria Draycott, heiress to the Duke; if the latter, it belonged to Thomas Smith. He had

had to beat off competition for the manors from a number of Swaledale businessmen, and had paid £10,500 for the manors, rather more than he intended or had available. He had had to borrow £7,000 to complete the transaction, so was anxious to be able to extract the lead.

The long-running dispute had greatly affected the inhabitants of Swaledale, many of whose livelihoods depended on lead mining, and several of them had travelled to previous court hearings in York and London. Now the final decision was to be made after arguments presented by and heard by some of the finest legal minds of the age, in front of a special Yorkshire jury who, on the first day, sat for fourteen hours without refreshment hearing the plaintiff's side. It was a Saturday, and only with great reluctance was Smith's evidence postponed until the Monday.

The verdict was "that the said Ground was not, nor is, Part of the Wastes of the Said Manor". This success for Thomas Smith was due to the eloquence of his barrister, Alexander Wedderburn, who had familiarised himself at short notice with the intricacies involved in the case. His masterly arguments were so highly regarded that they were published in 1773.

Thomas Smith, already an old man when this long-running case was finally decided, did not live long to reap the benefits of his victory, for he died in his chambers in Gray's Inn in January 1773. Alexander Wedderburn, however, climbed several rungs further up the legal ladder, and despite holding such high offices went on to have further links with this area.

Alexander Wedderburn was a Scot, Edinburgh born and educated at the university there, the son of an eminent lawyer. Perhaps unsurprisingly he chose the same profession, and at the age of twenty-one was admitted to the Scottish faculty of advocates. Here he mixed with the intelligentsia in the "Athens of the North", particularly with Adam Smith, and David Hume whom he successfully defended.

Sadly, his career in Scotland came to an abrupt end. When the leader of the Scottish bar called him "a presumptuous boy", Wedderburn retaliated

angrily with an offensive insult. Asked to withdraw this, he provoked the judge further and refused to apologise. He then took off his gown, saying they need not disbar him, for he would never wear it again. Bowing to the judge, he walked out of court, left Scotland and never returned.

Wedderburn was called to the English bar in 1757. When the Earl of Bute, whom he had been friendly with in Scotland, became Prime Minister, he took silk. Already known for the clarity and eloquence of his advocacy, he added wit to the talents he displayed in the House of Commons when he became the M.P. for Richmond in 1768. Vacating the seat the following year on a matter of political principle, he was returned the following year as a Whig for the smaller Shropshire borough of Bishop's Castle. He became Solicitor General in 1771, Attorney General in 1778, and in 1780 Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, being then created Lord Loughborough. His final position of high office was Lord Chancellor 1793-1801.

In these higher posts he delivered decrees which were as well-considered and elegant as had been his advocacy earlier. He was courteous to barristers, heard suitors with patience, and tried to soothe the disappointment of those disappointed by the outcome. He was a true friend but bore his opponents no malice, was generous to charities, and loved literature and the company of literary men, procuring a pension for Dr. Johnson. When he died on 2nd January 1805 he was buried in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

Edward Thurlow, Alexander Wedderburn's opponent at the Beldi Hill trial, bore his rival a certain amount of ill will, but on hearing of his death allowed that "he was a gentleman". Lord Pomfret blamed not only Thurlow for his defeat, but also his solicitor, William I'Anson of Leyburn, and refused to pay his bill of nearly £1,500. I'Anson, knowing that Pomfret was blackening his name, begged a fellow Wensleydale lawyer, William Chaytor of Spennithorne, later Recorder of Richmond, to help him find a position in the East Indies. This did not happen, and in 1773 William I'Anson, still under a cloud, moved instead to London. There his daughter, Frances, would eventually meet and in 1787 marry the Irish barrister Leonard MacNally, who wrote the words of the song "Sweet

Lass of Richmond Hill". Without Alexander Wedderburn's success over Beldi Hill, this link with Richmond would never have happened!

Richmond's next link with Wedderburn, this time with our Georgian Theatre, occurred in 1784, when he and Lady Loughborough were taking the waters at Harrogate. Attending a theatrical performance by Samuel Butler's company of players, they were entranced by the acting ability of a ten year old girl in the cast. This was Tryphosa Jane, the daughter of one of Butler's leading actors, Fielding Wallis.

The Loughboroughs, who had no children of their own, approached the father to ask if they could take her into their home and educate her ready for the great future ahead of her. Fielding Wallis and his wife Jane, struggling to bring up their large family on a small income and with an itinerant lifestyle, after some heart-searching agreed to give their eldest child this opportunity. Their last child, born in Richmond towards the end of the following year, was named Wedderburn in compliment to Lord Loughborough. The little girl handsomely repaid the generosity by becoming the famous actress "Miss Wallis of Bath". Her next youngest sister Margaret is better-known to students of Richmond history for becoming the wife of the elder James Tate, the town's great headmaster.

James Tate had his own link with Alexander Wedderburn. Tate's appointment to Richmond School did not occur in a straightforward way, but only after an undignified wrangle. His own revered headmaster, Anthony Temple, having died on 30 April 1795, Richmond Corporation advertised the vacancy, and the Bishop of Chester [the Archdeaconry of Richmond being at that time within the Diocese of Chester] was asked to name an examiner to recommend the best qualified candidate for the post.

Tate was among the six candidates who assembled in Richmond Town Hall on 15th June for interview by a committee of the Corporation led by that year's Mayor [George Thompson Watkin] plus Rev. Charles Henry Hall of Oxford, the examiner appointed by the Bishop. The first candidate to be interviewed was local man Rev. Caleb Readshaw. While the second interview was taking place in a private room, supporters of Readshaw "became very violent and made a great noise and tumult in the Hall ..... used very abusive and insulting language to the Mayor". The interviews

were abandoned, and Hall left Richmond to report to the Bishop what had happened.

The next day some members of the Corporation attempted to reconvene the meeting but Watkin would not continue the appointment process without Hall. Nevertheless the rebellious faction of the Corporation issued a letter of appointment to Readshaw, who then tried to get hold of the school keys, but Watkin steadfastly refused to affix the official seal to the letter. A few days later Readshaw wrote to the Bishop of Chester applying for a teaching licence, which was curtly refused.

On 25th June, just two lunar months since Temple's death, the period given in the School's Statutes for the election of a new Master, Readshaw applied to the Court of King's Bench for the Mayor and Corporation to show cause why a writ of Mandamus [an order to perform a statutory duty] should not be issued to compel them to proceed with election, and the Court issued this on 3rd July. Watkin responded to it and on 24th November the Court refused to grant the writ.

It was at this point that Alexander Wedderburn became involved in the case, because Readshaw's next move was to petition him as Lord Chancellor to intervene in the dispute. The Mayor provided his account of it, as did the five candidates other than Readshaw. In June 1796 Lord Loughborough ordered that the candidates were to attend the Bishop of Chester and be examined by him or his representatives, and the best qualified to be appointed.

In the July, five of the original six candidates attended another interview [one having withdrawn]. Readshaw withdrew during that part of the interview where the candidates were given a stiff test on their classical Latin. The Bishop and the two distinguished university scholars he had asked to mark the Latin exam paper reported to the Lord Chancellor on 12th July 1796 that James Tate was "superior in learning and best qualified to teach and complete the higher classes of a school for admission to either of the Universities". The Bishop also sent Wedderburn a covering letter explaining that Readshaw had, before the examination, asked for it to be postponed again for further of his legal shenanigans.

Having received the Bishop's report, the Lord Chancellor ordered that Tate should be appointed Master. A parchment dated 27th September 1796 was issued to him signed by the Mayor, six Aldermen and thirteen Common Councilmen of the Corporation. Thus began, after a sad prelude, one of the most distinguished chapters in the History of Richmond. Well done, Alexander Wedderburn!



Alexander Wedderburn

Market Parks

Doug Waugh

Have you ever wondered why there is a square at the east end of Newbiggin - or did you think they built it especially for a car-park! While looking at old maps (we all need a hobby) I consistently was baffled over why the square was there - what could it be for? - no-one seemed to know.

Well, could it be for the same purpose as now? But instead of cars and vans there would be animals and carts. Surely horses, dogs and a variety of carts wouldn't have been taken into the market place where food was on show and space was limited - imagine the nuisance, the noise and what if a horse bolted!

A little more thought made me realise that the square is on the main routes from Swaledale and Wensleydale - the best possible spot for farmers and their families coming in from the Dales.

And that - some idle thoughts - was where it rested ….. until, while on a social history walk around Reeth led by Peter Denison-Edson, I was introduced to Anvil Square off the South-western corner of the Green. But I was told it was probably the original market place (which seems to be a regular explanation for these areas).

However, an important piece of evidence was the statement that the old road into the dale was not through the Green as now, but was actually Back Lane. And that for me was a vital constituent. Anvil Square is ideally placed for people to arrive via Back Lane, leave their animals and proceed to the top of the Green, or rather the Market.

But could I rest on only two examples? Of course not. To prove this was more than a couple of coincidences I had to look at the other local significant market towns and each would have to have a secondary large

open area near their Market Place and between it and the main routes from the Dales.



Reeth

So - to Leyburn. Here - for good measure - there appear to be several squares. One is at the top of the Market Place (above the Cross - which may be significant - see the Bedale comments that follow) and one a little to the north-west where the road from Swaledale arrives, both of which could function as parks under the theory. Of course much more work needs to be done - I have only cursorily looked at the evidence - but the theory still seems to be valid.

Then to Bedale - and this town appeared to be the one that would derail the whole theory. A long, thin, single market place bisected by roads from each point of the compass and no obvious secondary place. But I needed to be sure and so proceeded to the local museum.



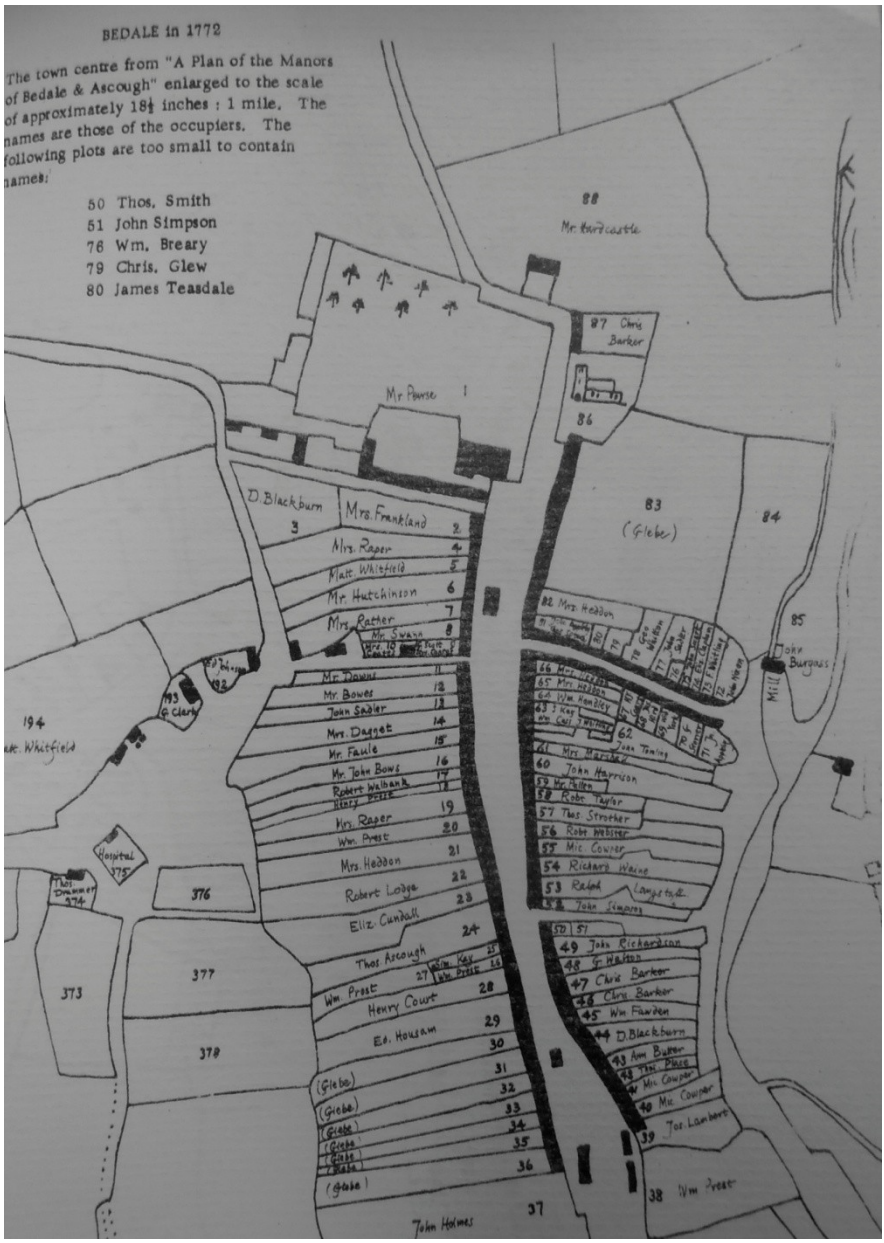
A Ground Plan of Leyburn Town – Alexander Calvert, 1804.....[acknowledgements to NYCRO]

Leyburn

And - guess what - the lady there was very, very helpful (and I hadn't yet mentioned my theories) first of all explaining that the market in the past was only held south-east of the Market Cross, leaving a large square area above the Cross, before the Church.
But that still left the road from the Dales coming into the top of the Market Place and bisecting it and proceeding down through the Market. That is until the lady volunteered that this was a recent (comparatively) change to the road layout and that the Dales road in the past always used to go to the other side of the Castle/Hall, past stables and through an arch and entered the square to the side - in other words into the area (square) above the Cross.

And so the theory worked for Bedale too!

But of course even if this theory holds water there are still lots of questions - especially who looked after the animals and carts? Who cleared up after them? Surely someone knows the real answers (and yes I have looked on the Internet!)?



Bedale

And my research in Bedale also raised another question. My father was born in 1917, in Northern Ireland. Amongst the memories he shared with

me was one of his mother using her dog-cart to get to her Church on a Sunday. Then I just accepted that - now, of course, when he has passed-on, I would dearly like to know more. In particular I would want to know what happened to the quadruped and cart while my grandmother was in the Church.
And looking at Bedale, the square above the Cross is in front of St Gregory's Church. So were animals and vehicles left there while their owners attended the services? What happened at Churches in other places? A final thought - there is a painting in Bedale Museum showing a fair taking place in this area before the Church and above the Cross - another use for such an area?

But to return to the original idle thought - is there enough evidence here to convince you of the use of that square at the end of Newbiggin? Or is there still a question or two?

An Ancient Richmond Custom

Jane Hatcher

Here in Richmond we still conscientiously continue many of the town's ancient customs, such as the ‘Prentice, Curfew and Pancake bells, Boundary Riding, T'Owd 'Oss etc. One of those now lost was Royal Oak Day.

This commemorated the return from exile of King Charles II on 29th May 1660, which was also his birthday. Since the execution of his father Charles I on 30th January 1649, the country had endured the dismal 'Commonwealth' period when all jollity - even the celebration of Christmas and weddings - had been banned. People were fed up! Their pent-up longing for some frivolity resulted in a great jamboree to celebrate the Restoration!

The authorities in Richmond organised a major pageant, using several hundred costumed performers and musicians. They performed eight playlets, re-enacting Robin Hood with bowmen, the goddess Diana with her nymphs, a medieval banquet, a display of soldierly skills, performed Morris dances, and had a mock-bishop with attendants. Then they all went into the Parish Church for a proper religious service giving thanks for their deliverance from tyranny.

Parliament declared 29th May to be a public holiday, which was only abolished in 1859. Each year on that day the bells in Richmond Parish Church were rung, the cost of arranging for such a special bell-ringing was 2s. 2d. and it regularly occurs in the Chamberlains' Accounts from the late-17th century. The bells were also rung on such occasions as royal births and the king's birthday; the coronation of William and Mary in 1688; 'when we got victory over the French fleet' in 1692; on 5th November and, in 1680 and 1683, on St. George's Day.

The oak tree symbol was chosen because after the Battle of Worcester, fought on 3 September 1651, Charles had hidden in a large oak tree in the grounds of Boscobel House in Shropshire to escape capture by the Parliamentarian soldiers.

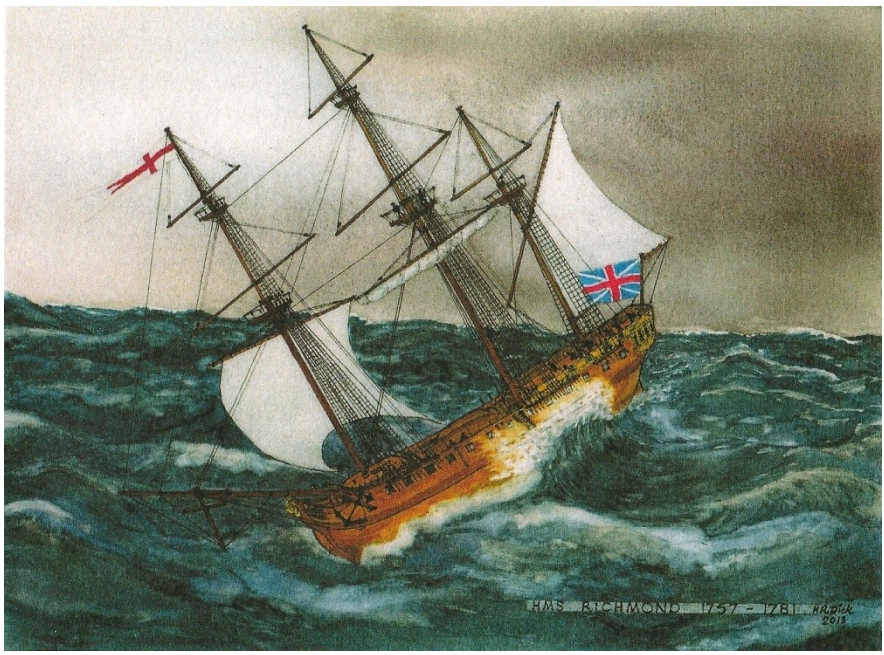
The celebrations wove their way into children's games and traditions. At Muker School in the 1890s, the children still demanded that the schoolmaster, Mr. Souter, give them a day off, by chanting, "29th of May, Royal Oak Day, If you don't give us holiday, We'll all run away"! When Peter Wenham attended the Richmond Wesleyan School on Quaker Lane in the 1920s, any child who went to school on 29th May not wearing a sprig of oak leaves was thrashed with nettles by the other children - a painful experience for little boys in short trousers!

Affection for the oak caused many pubs to be named after it: Richmond had a 'Royal Oak' in Finkle Street from the 1680s until the mid-18th century, and in Bridge Street there was an 'Oak Tree' from at least 1838 until fairly recently.

The Nine *Richmonds* of the Royal Navy: Part 2

Harold Dick

The Fourth *Richmond* 1757 – 1781



HMS Richmond, frigate: bow view, larboard side; sailing before the wind; storm rigged; gale approaching; rough seas.

As noted in Part 1, the French superiority over the English in the sailing quality of their ships caused the Admiralty to issue instructions in 1744 for the capture of a French frigate. The development of these vessels originated in France when it was necessary to have fast and manoeuverable ships to outclass the English warships blockading their

ports. Blaise Ollivier, a shipwright at Brest, designed and built a light cruiser in 1741 which met these requirements. Between 1745 and 1746, five of the new French frigates were trapped and captured, then brought back to England. They were dry-docked, examined and surveyed by the Royal Dockyards.

Two new frigates were built in the Royal Dockyards: *HMS Unicorn* at Plymouth and *HMS Lyme* at Deptford. These vessels were copied from the lines and draught of the French ships without deviation, only minor changes being permitted which did not in any way affect the sailing qualities. Both were launched during December 1748 and sailed early the following year, living up to their expectations. However, accommodation for the crews and the carrying of additional guns were required by the Admiralty and modifications were undertaken to improve these vessels, which led to the abandonment of the Establishment dimensions for all Fifth and Sixth Rate ships of the Royal Navy.

The two new frigates carried only twenty eight guns and new vessels were designed by William Bately along similar lines but larger in scale to carry thirty two guns and eighty ton more in displacement. *HMS Richmond* was one of these ships; it became the twentieth new frigate to be built for the Royal Navy. She had excellent weatherly conditions in heavy seas and kept much drier than contemporary French vessels of a similar size. *The Richmond* and her sister ship *The Thames*, were chosen for experimental changes to their masts and rigging, together with many detailed alterations to the position and length of their channels and the number of deadeyes, the steeve of the bowsprit, the length of the crossjack and hoist of the topgallants, etc., until 1773 when the new rigging Establishment was finalized.

HMS Richmond was built by Buxton of Deptford between April 1756 and 12th November, 1757 when she was launched, sailing for her first voyage on 7th December,1757. Her armament comprised twenty six 12-pound and six 6-pound cannons, a crew of two hundred and ten and a total burthen tonnage of 664. *The Richmond* was the named class of six new frigates,

her sister ships being: *Juno, Thames, Boston, Lark and Jason*. By 1779 some carronades were fitted to these vessels.[6]

In 1756 England drifted into the Seven Years War with France and *HMS Richmond,* under Captain Thomas Hankerson, was employed on the expedition to Quebec in 1759. A fleet of forty nine naval ships under the command of Vice-Admiral Charles Saunders transported 9,200 soldiers under Major-General Wolfe to the River St.Lawrence where they gave support to the army in the capture of Quebec.

The conquest of Canada had not been completed when Quebec fell, but the French still had ambitions to regain command of the country and force out the British. On the other hand, the British were determined to retain their possession and concentrated three armies from strategic positions to prevent the French regaining Quebec. The Royal Navy once again supported the armies and after considerable fighting and losses on both sides the French finally capitulated when the three British armies met on the outskirts of Montreal. On 7th September 1760, cessation of hostilities was agreed and the next day Canada became British. During these hostilities *HMS Richmond,* commanded by Captain John Elphinstone, was attached to the fleet of twenty two vessels under Commodore Lord Colville.

On January 23rd 1761 the French frigate *Felicite* left Cherbourg for Martinique, but just after leaving the port she encountered *HMS Richmond* under Captain Elphinstone. Sighting each other in the evening, the action did not start until 10.30 the next morning when they engaged broadside on, both standing in for the land. Still close together, they both ran ashore near Scheveningen and continued firing their guns at each other. Eventually, the *Richmond* refloated with the tide, being set to leeward. The French seized this chance and escaped to shore, abandoning ship. Their captain had been killed and heavy losses had been endured, but the casualties aboard the Richmond amounted to three being killed and thirteen wounded. After boarding the *Felicite*, the British found dispatches which were being carried to Martinique, took them and then set fire to the ship.

[6] See below, The Fifth *Richmond*

Rear-Admiral George Brydges Rodney at Martinique heard that a strong Spanish squadron had arrived at Havana and it was believed that Jamaica was to be attacked. He was, however, not quite ready to sail, when on 26th March 1762 *HMS Richmond* under Captain Elphinstone arrived from England with orders for him and General Monckton to postpone further operations pending the appearance of Admiral Sir George Pocock, who had been commissioned to conduct a secret expedition on an important scale. This expedition turned out to be the capture of Havana from the Spanish. The *Richmond* joined the fifty three-strong fleet of Admiral Pocock who carried out the attack against the Spanish fleet successfully. Havana capitulated on 14th August 1762 and five Spanish ships of the line were destroyed, nine more being captured. The Royal Navy lost two damaged 70-gun Third Rate ships of the line which foundered on their voyage back to England. The prize money in total amounted to £736,000; Pocock's share was £122,697 and John Elphinstone as a Captain would have received £1,600. An average seaman received £3.15s.

During April to August 1778, *HMS Richmond* under Captain John Lewis Gidoin was attached to the fleet of thirty naval vessels under Vice-Admiral Lord Howe defending North America. France had sent a superior force of ships of the line under Charles H. Comte d'Estaing to destroy the English fleet that was defending the area between Delaware Bay and Rhode Island. Six weeks after the French force sailed, the Admiralty, after hearing of the French fleet's sailing, managed to dispatch a fleet of fourteen ships of the line under Vice-Admiral the Hon. J. Byron. Fortunately, Lord Howe had great professional skill and managed to checkmate every move that d'Estaing made until Byron arrived in the area. During manoeuvres it was necessary to destroy two sister ships of *HMS Richmond,* to avoid capture, the *Juno* and the *Lark*.

On 1st May 1779 a French flotilla of boats carrying fifteen hundred men and escorted by five warships, left St.Malo with the intention of an invasion of Jersey. The Jersey militia immediately stood to arms and with soldiers of the Seaforth Highlanders arrived in time to repulse the French. A fast ship was dispatched to Portsmouth for help, but fortunately came across a large convoy under Vice-Admiral Marriot Arbuthnot with a considerable force of ships. *HMS Experiment 50* (Captain Sir James Wallace) and five other smaller vessels were sent to cut off the retreat of

the French, whilst *HMS Richmond* and seven other warships sailed straight for the attacking force. Only one French frigate escaped and the rest of the force made for the shore and went aground in Cancale bay under the shelter of a gun battery. Wallace followed them and silenced the battery, then boarded the ships, setting three of them on fire, and capturing another three and taking them away.

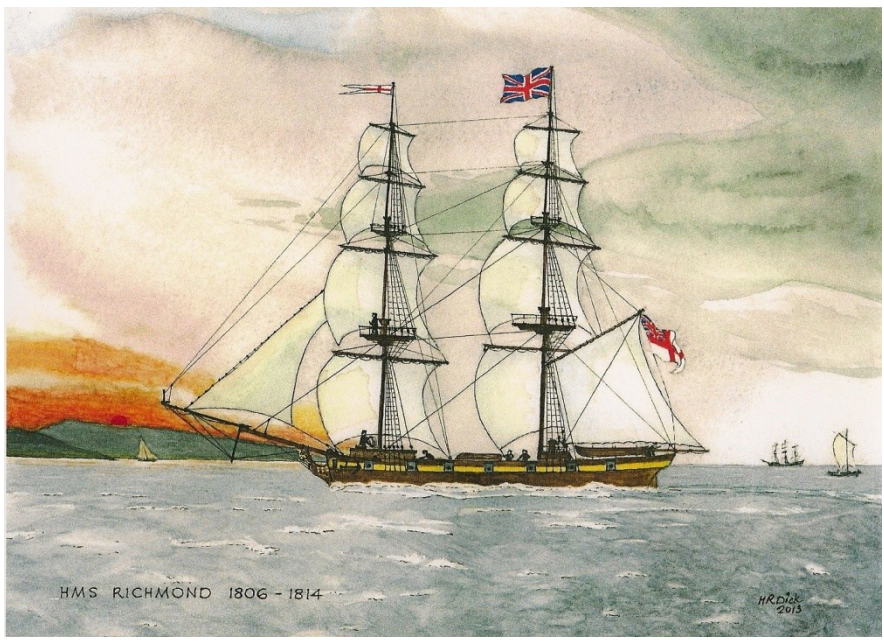
HMS Richmond (Captain Charles Hudson) was again back on the North American coast as soon as it was learned that d'Estaing's French fleet had departed from the area. She had been part of the escort for the large convoy under Admiral Arbuthnot, noted above, that had carried troops to Charleston. Along with thirteen other warships, another convoy was to be escorted from New York to Charleston with 7,550 troops, which left on 26th December 1779.

Whilst the British army was occupied on land during the American War of Independence, the Royal Navy was fully occupied in supporting them and ferrying troops. At the same time the French were assisting with reinforcements for the besieged American armies. During September 1781 Vice Admiral Comte de Grasse arrived with a powerful fleet convoying thousands of troops to Yorktown in Chesapeake Bay. Admiral Rodney, on receiving early news of this, sent his second-in-command Rear-Admiral Samuel Hood with fourteen ships of the line to reinforce Rear-Admiral Thomas Graves who had just left New York with five of the line plus a number of smaller vessels meeting up and sailing for Chesapeake. *HMS Richmond* was attached to this combined fleet.

Arriving off Chesapeake Bay, Graves discovered the French fleet anchored just inside. De Grasse then commenced to get his ships under way and each vessel had to make several tacks to clear Cape Henry. Graves, in spite of having the advantage of weather, of information, and of surprise, made a faulty approach, so that after nearly three hours of indecisive action, the rear of his line had not become engaged, the end result being spasmodic battling over several days. De Grasse was more concerned over his primary task to support the troops, than engage too closely with Graves and sailed back into Chesapeake Bay. Whilst this action was under way, Graves had reason to suppose that the French ships had slipped and buoyed their cables. He then dispatched *HMS Richmond*

and *HMS Iris* to cut away the cables from their buoys. These two ships were engaged on this operation when they were surprised by another French squadron under Commodore de Barras that had just arrived with further reinforcements, and had no option but to strike their colours. *HMS Richmond* was taken into the French navy until it was burnt at Sardinia in 1795. In 1783 Cornwallis had to surrender at Yorktown and with it American Independence commenced.

The Fifth *Richmond* 1806 – 1814



HMS Richmond (Gun Brig): broadside view, weather side; close hauled, sailing larward (port) tack; early morning, weather calm.

During the 1760s an iron foundry at Carron near Falkirk developed a new type of gun with a large calibre, but short in length and light in weight, intended for use on board merchant ships to defend themselves against

privateers attempting to capture them. These guns were called 'carronades' and the Carron Company built up a very good business supplying these guns to merchant ships during the American War of Independence (1776-1783).

The Royal Navy, however, had reservations over these guns as they only fired shot at short range. Their own guns were long range and this type of cannon had been in use for nearly 250 years. They were beginning to experience problems with them because gunpowder was becoming more powerful and this necessitated better gun castings. Thomas Blomefield, an Inspector of Artillery, introduced a new 'hot proof' gun which was far superior in operation, and did not explode or burst open when in constant use. This gun was adopted by the Admiralty Board in 1787 and the rearming of all the naval vessels began, amounting to an excess of 10,000 guns.

At the same time a new naval policy had to be adopted because of the French Revolutionary War in 1793, which brought in the combined fleets of France, Spain and Holland against England. Blockading enemy fleets in their harbours became essential, as the Royal Navy was inferior in size to the enemy fleets. Furthermore, invasion of England was threatened on a large scale. Blockading ships had to be large vessels and generally third-rate ships of the line were used for this purpose.

These three factors created a serious shortage of smaller vessels that had to be utilized to carry out the duties normally undertaken by the major ships of the line. In addition, the blockading fleets had to be provisioned and continuous anti-invasion patrols had to be undertaken. Costs also became a major factor as well as manpower, not only in manning additional vessels but in provisioning and building them.

The Admiralty Board finally decided to design a small ship based upon a brig, which was commonly in use in the merchant service, with two masts needing less manpower and still very manoeuvrable. Armament was a mixture of the standard cannon and also carronades which made them almost as powerful as an old fourth-rated ship of the line, but with a displacement of only about 300 tons. They could also be built by private contractors to a standard design and not in the Royal Dockyards which

were already overworked. The term 'brig' was the colloquialism for the older term 'brigantine'. Being an un-rated vessel, it could be commanded by an officer of lower rank than a post captain with a total crew of about 100. The cost saving and speed of production was considerable, enabling serious consequences to be avoided.

Earlier Royal Navy ships, smaller than the sixth-rated vessels, were Sloops with a single mast, fore and aft rigged and used for general duties. During the Seven Years War, sloops were increased in size, becoming 'Sloops of War' with two masts and, during the American War of Independence, ship-rigged sloops appeared, carrying three masts. Later, when the Brig appeared, it became practical to have three types of the new vessels: Brig Sloops, Brigs and Gun Brigs. The three-masted Sloops then became Sixth-rates.

Afterwards, two dozen Brigs and Brig/Sloops, designed by three different Surveyors to the Royal Navy, were built by the Royal Dockyards and selected private contractors and trials and assessments carried out. In 1796, the Admiralty placed an order for the largest and most numerous class of warship ever built for the Royal Navy. Called the Cruiser Class of 18-gun Brig/Sloops, 111 were ordered with 16-32lb carronades.

The smaller version of these vessels, known as Gunbrigs, to carry14-18lb carronades were ordered shortly afterwards and became known as the Confounder Class. Thirty-nine were ordered: HMS Richmond, built by Greenswood of Itchenor, was one of them. She was designed by the Admiralty Surveyor Sir William Rule to the following dimensions: 84 feet long and 22 feet broad, with a hold depth of 11 feet, giving a total displacement of 180 tons and with a compliment of 50 men. Ordered on 20th November 1804, the keel was laid in November 1805 and she was launched in February 1806, going into service later that year. She was sold in 1814.

These were the last Gunbrigs to be built for the Royal Navy. Only a few more (63) brigs were built from 1831 to 1846 of three types: first, second and third class. However, they were all much larger vessels of 400 to 500 tons displacement, with two masts. During the life of these small ships, they gave marathon service, mostly in coastal waters around the world,

between 1793 and 1814: almost 50% of them were lost through enemy action and perils at sea.

During 1807, HMS Richmond, commanded by Lt. Samuel Scudamore Heming, was patrolling the Portuguese coast looking for French and Spanish Privateers that had been giving constant trouble to merchant ships on the great trade routes. From the close proximity of their harbours they had been doing this too often with complete impunity. On April19th, boats from the Richmond were sent into the Portuguese harbour of Pederneira and cut out a Spanish Privateer. The Richmond was most probably based at Gibraltar during these patrols.

The Sixth *Richmond* 1814 – 1830



HM Revenue Cutter Richmond, starboard side view, entering harbor under jib sail, gaff sail and boom stored, light air of wind

When the wars with the French and Americans finally ceased in 1815, the Royal Navy had over 500 warships in commission with at least 140,000 seamen serving in them. Within a few years almost 400 warships were sold or laid up for disposal and over 100,000 seamen dismissed from government employment. These figures include about 3,350 lieutenants also unemployed. Captains and higher ranked officers remained on half pay. This state of affairs gave rise to much misery throughout the country and, indeed, Frenchmen also suffered a similar fate.

Out of necessity, many unemployed seamen took to importing and exporting goods secretly, to evade customs and excise duties, especially across the Channel, in conjunction with French seamen in a similarly desperate situation. This led to more ruthless and daring individuals attempting piracy against trading vessels around the coasts. This state of affairs escalated as the years progressed. The existing Customs and Excise Service, well known in each of their local ports, could not cope with the amount of smuggling that was being carried out.

During the same period, the Royal Navy was stretched to its limit, policing incidents around the world, protecting trade and dealing with belligerents throughout the British Empire. This included piracy in the Mediterranean and Borneo; protection of the East India Company's trading ships against plunder and attack; opium wars in China; slave trading in Africa and South America, Russia and the Crimea; together with problems in New Zealand, India, Aden, the West Indies and the Baltic. With all this activity being undertaken, the government also demanded that something be done about the loss of revenue in home trade caused by smuggling.

It was decided that the Excise and Customs Service be undertaken by the Admiralty in 1816. At about the same time, other organizations, known as the Packet Service, the Coast Blockade, the Coastguard, the Impress Service, the Transport Service, the Signal Station Service and the Coast Volunteers, were to be administered by the Royal Navy. These proposals resulted in partly satisfying the problem of unemployment and an attempt to uphold the law with a greater deterrent.

It is interesting to note that a 'packet service' known as the Falmouth Packets was first established in 1688 for the conveyance of mail all over the world. It was in 1823 that the Admiralty took over this service; from 1837 the General Post Office became responsible, but it was still operated by the navy on their behalf until 1853. In the latter part of this period, Falmouth was abandoned and 'Packet Stations' were established at Dover, Portpatrick, Pembroke, Liverpool and Holyhead. In 1830 steamers were introduced into the service.

Many Gunbrigs were transferred into the Customs and Excise Service in the 1820s to take part in the 'Great Campaign' against organized smuggling, becoming part of the Coast Blockade. Similarly, other small ships were transferred into the service, the most common type being the Cutter, a typical coastal vessel common all around Britain and developed over many years in England. Known as Revenue Cutters, these vessels were used by the service as well as by the Royal Navy to carry despatches and for scouting along the coastline. They were single-masted, fore and aft rig, with a jib as well as a foresail and a square topsail. During the winter months, larger two-masted vessels were needed, both masts square-rigged with a fore and aft sail and known as Ketch rigged. These vessels were called 'Revenue Brigs'.

HMS Richmond was one of the 'Revenue Cutters', built in Dublin for the service, around 1814. She spent most of her life working off the east Irish coast, attached to the Irish station along with the Revenue Brig HMS Shamrock as illustrated, moored to the dockside. They were both in service during the 1820s. The Richmond was about sixty feet long by twenty-two and a half feet wide and ten feet deep in the hold, with ten or twelve guns and a crew of forty. Her displacement was around 150 tons. She was sold before 1830.

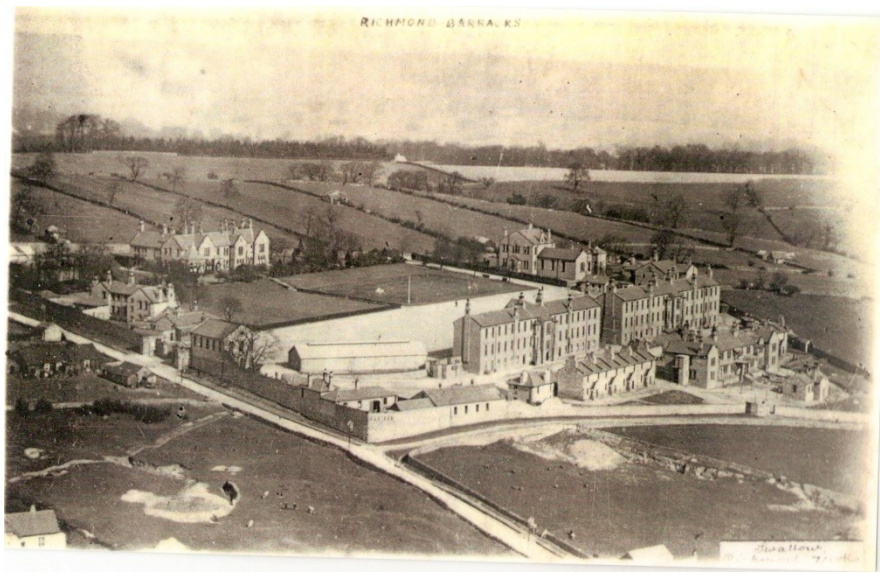
Erratum:
On page 42 of part I concerning the first ***Richmond****,(Review 2014), the third line from the end of the penultimate paragraph should read Gunport Hatches NOT Gunpowder. We apologise for the error.*

The final part of Harold Dick's survey of the Nine ***Richmonds*** *will be published in our 2016 edition*

The Green Howards Museum

Linda Powell

In 1973 the Green Howards moved its museum and Regimental Headquarters to Trinity Church, a rather more central location than the stone gym within the barracks complex on Gallowgate Hill.



The barracks complex, Gallowgate Hill

As part of the works, the chancel was adapted and retained as a small chapel. The adaptation of the building was extensive and involved the removal of all of the Victorian church fittings from the nave, the closing of the three shops in the North Aisle and their integration into the rest of the building.



The interior of Church during the installation of two new floors

The Museum was opened by King Olav of Norway, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, at an opening ceremony attended by the Archbishop of York, Dr Coggan, a Chelsea Pensioner who had spent his boyhood in Richmond, the Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding, the Marquess of Normanby, himself a Green Howard, and the Mayor of Richmond. Following a lunch at the King's Head, there was a service of thanksgiving at St. Mary's Church for the completion of the Museum.

The museum was a huge success with 25,000 visitors in 1974. By the late 1990s it became clear that the museum displays needed to be refreshed to make the museum collection more understandable to an audience that was increasingly composed of people who had no personal connection to the military. At this time many of the displays were refreshed and stair lifts were installed to ease access around the building.



HM King Olav visiting Richmond to open the museum, 1973

By 2012 the Trustees agreed that a more root and branch redevelopment was needed. The electrics had not been updated since 1973, the lighting was unsuitable for the very light sensitive uniforms that were on display and the roof was beginning to show its age. Equally our audience had become younger; grandparents with their grandchildren and families on holiday were now making up more than 50% of our visitors. For these audiences the displays offered no way to interact with the collection, to touch and feel and learn from activity. In 2012 the Trustees and senior members of the regiment agreed a new master plan for the building and a new interpretation scheme. The next step was to seek funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which was secured in the summer of 2013.

As part of our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund a detailed Conservation Management Plan was completed for the building. This document included a very detailed history of the building and plans which highlighted the most significant parts of the building. This plan was then

used by our architects to ensure that the building works did not damage the most precious parts of the building. The architects also worked to reveal as much of the historic fabric of the building that had been hidden during the 1972 construction works.

At the end of August 2013 the museum closed to the public. Staff had two months to remove the entire collection from the museum so that construction work could start. Over 800 boxes were packed with precious museum objects and shipped to secure stores on Catterick Garrison, Richmond and a salt mine in Cheshire. It was a mammoth undertaking, made more so by the fact that in a year's time the process would need to be reversed and everything was brought back into the museum.

With the museum empty a team from Durham archaeological unit moved in to excavate the base of the tower. Sadly the only interesting find was five wig curlers.

In October 2013 work began on site. Readers will recall that throughout the winter of 2013/14 the building was shrouded in a white cover. Underneath this cover work began on replacing the lead roof.

Inside the museum demolition work began. The central staircase that had intersected the galleries was removed and a new staircase was installed in the 'link building' which connects the church with the tower. This new staircase opened up the museum, allowing visitors views out across the marketplace. By August 2014 the main construction works were complete and it was time to return the collection to site and start work on the new displays.

One of the most significant changes to the museum was the decision to give access to the Normanby Room which previously had only been viewed through a glass door. A new glass display case was installed along the full length of the room allowing the arches of the north aisle to be visible. This solution has helped visitors to understand the history of the building and for the museum the large glass case provides valuable display space.



New Introductory Gallery being constructed



Normanby Room

On the 11th November 2014 the museum opened its doors to the public once more. The official opening on the 10th May 2015 formed part of the annual Green Howards Richmond Sunday event. Over 500 Green Howards marched through the town and halted outside the museum, which was formally reopened by the Chief of the Defence Staff, Major General Sir Nicholas Haughton GCB CBE in the presence of Mr. Barry Dodd CBE, the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and the Mayor of Richmond. Understandably, after such an epic transformation, there was a very big party to celebrate that the Green Howards museum and Trinity Church were now ready for the next chapter in their joint history.



New interactive activities for families

Richmond and District Civic Society
Membership 2014

Honorary Life Members

Dick, Mr. & Mrs.H.
Grant, Mr. C.
Hatcher, Miss C. J.

Life Members

Bell, Mr. & Mrs.N.
Drury, Mrs. J. L.
Espin, Mrs. D. G.
Horn, Mr. A. W.
Masters, Dr. C.
Ronaldshay, Earl of
Squires, Mr. A. J.
Trewby, Drs. P. N. & C.
Tricker, Ms. P.
Tyler, MBE, Major (Ret'd.) R. A. J.
Waldie, Mr. D. H.

Patron Members

Ward, Mr. J.A.
Welch, Dr. P.
Whyman, Mr. & Mrs. M.

Individual Members

Benson, Mrs. S.B.
Birch, Mrs. S.
Brennand, Mr. J.
Brooke, Mrs. M.T.
Brookes, Mrs. B.
Brown, Mr. G.
Brown, Mrs. R.
Burn, Mrs. M.
Buxton, Miss M.
Cameron, Mrs. D. V.
Capewell, Mrs. J.
Cardwell, Mr. P.
Clague, Miss D.
Clark, Mrs. A.
Coates, Mr. C.
Coates, Mrs. T.
Cook, Mr. D. A.
Copeland, Mrs. C.
Croft, Mrs. P.
Culkin, Mr. T.
Dougan, Dr. D. J.
Fenton, Mrs. D.
Fifoot, Mrs. M.
Fleming, Mrs. D.
Gedye, Mr. W.
Gibson, Dr. R.
Glass, Mrs. M.
Grant, Mrs. E.
Harrison, Mrs. O.
Haskins, Mrs. T.
Hillyard, Mrs. C. J.
Hodgson, Mrs. M.
Holland, Mrs. P.
Howard, Mrs. M. J.
Ibbotson, Mrs. H.
Jary, Mr. F. W.
Lake, Mrs. W.
Lowery, Mrs. M.E.

Lunn, Mrs. C.
Luxmoore, Mrs. A.
Lynch, Mr. A.
McKay, Mrs. A.
Metcalfe, Mrs. J.
Metcalf, Mr. N.
Miles, Miss F.
Minty, Mrs. D.
Moffat, Mrs. C.A.
Morris-Abson, Dr. J.
Norris, Mrs. A.
Peacock, Mrs. I.
Pearce, Mrs. D.
Pierce, Ms. S.
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Deaths

Joyce Gunton
David Squires

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