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Front Illustration: The restored Green Walk, Temple Grounds

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Chairman's Report

John Clarke

I make no apology for beginning my report with a reflection on the very recent news of the abandonment of the Green Howards' Regiment, which has such a special place in the hearts of Richmond people. Many have served with the regiment, more have derived their income from the support they gave and we have all benefitted from their bitter experiences in times of war, for which members of the regiment were awarded eighteen Victoria Crosses and three George Crosses. The view of the last Commanding Officer of the Green Howards, Lord Dannatt, was that their original amalgamation into the Yorkshire Regiment was the hardest blow, but I think the people of Richmond will also feel this latest action deeply.

There was much hue and cry about the loss of our Tourist Information Office, but from the comments made and the information given, it would appear to be continuing its efficient and helpful service. Another institution heading towards demise was the ever popular 'What's On' which is so useful in advertising the activities of the town. The Society felt it was an important publication and gave £300 towards maintaining it as it publicises so many organisations which constantly bring the community together.

Similar outcry was made about the closure of public lavatories. Whilst I deplore the closures, we have the smart new conveniences in our updated Market Hall, which also has a new café. All markets like to have an in-house café and the council's updating has allowed this to go from strength to strength. Having new bus stands also tidies up the Market Place. These are close to the Market Hall and leave the parking in one large area; parking is another huge discussion for another time. But I think the theme continues, that change occurs and perhaps we need to acknowledge that it is not always for the worse.

As well as markets and their cafes, towns all need a church and churchyard. St Mary's churchyard has in recent years become less and less attractive because vegetation has not been halted in its progress despite the efforts of parishioners. Since there is no space for anyone to be buried at St Mary's it has become 'closed' thereby being the responsibility of the Town Council. This year Richmond Pride has begun work on removing self-seeding trees and the Town Council has gained planning permission to remove damaged trees, opening up views to and from the church. A considerable amount of money has been spent by the council and much effort by staunch supporters of Richmond Pride. As a town we need to be grateful to both of them for maintaining another part of our heritage.

In June we held a Civic Day to promote the Civic Society in general, making the townspeople more aware of the society and its different activities. Unfortunately, June was not a time to be out and about and very few were in the Market Place to see our stall. However, we took the experience as a trial run, meaning we will be out again next summer, in the hope that we may be able to gather more interest and more members. Of course the town continues to have its civic ceremonies which are splendid, with the special garments worn by the officers. Mayor Making is an annual ceremony which is open to those who request tickets; if you have not experienced this, it really is an interesting evening.

One Civic Reception which linked two institutions was the celebration by the Town Council of the 200th anniversary of the death of Samuel Butler, the actor/manager who was the founder of the Georgian Theatre Royal. The theatre is yet another jewel in the crown of Richmond and it was pleasing that the event was attended by mayors representing the other towns in which Butler had theatres.

Our own Town Crier, Councillor Barry Heap, opened the Jubilee Celebrations in June with one of his now famous, rhyming proclamations.



The anniversary of the death of Samuel Butler. *Courtesy: Mark Whyman*

One celebration was the Jubilee Walk on 5th June when the people of the town walked Westfields and Round Howe and ran races on Earls Orchard. Certificates were presented to participants, close to Mercury Bridge. All this was ably supported by colleagues from the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) who assisted at the road crossings and more generally on the walk.

As a town we welcomed the Olympic Torch as it was carried through Richmond on one of the few hot sunny days in June. It was uplifting to see so many families and children out, sharing in the exciting atmosphere it stimulated. We are a long way from the centre of cultural and athletic activity, but we were able to share the moment.

And then, of course, the Olympics went to open Richmond School in the person of Lord Coe, remembered as Seb Coe, the middle distance runner and gold medal winner in the 1980 and 1984 Olympics. Once again negative feelings for the controversial architecture need to be understood

within the whole project, since the school has excellent, improved facilities for the all round education of our young people and has served the purpose of placing all students on one campus, which must give more time for teaching and learning.
In July, Selby Civic Society visited Richmond with a request that they be given a guided tour, which several members of the committee provided. We enjoyed 'walking the plaques' of Richmond with our guests, finally visiting The Station before their departure. Even for people who feel they know Richmond, our plaques offer an interesting insight into the earlier life of the town. I commend the walk to you and any visiting guests you may have.

The Station Cinema continues to improve our cultural life by offering the transmission of live performances from Glyndebourne, Sydney Opera House, The National Theatre and Moscow State Ballet. It is amazing that we can enjoy performances of such a high quality on our doorstep. Some of these performances may even inspire the Station Singers who rehearse as Platforms 1 and 2 (with Branch Line in the Town Hall) adding yet more to the community value of The Station.

Our outing in July to Woodhorn and Seaton Delavel was most interesting and enjoyable, particularly as there was a juxtaposition of mineworkers at Woodhorn and the Delavels, owners of collieries. This brings me to the future, looking at our cultural trip which will take three days in 2013, visiting places like Sissinghurst, Batemans (the home of Rudyard Kipling) in addition to other visits yet to be confirmed. Don't miss out.

I am of the opinion that Richmond has had much to celebrate during the past few months and has done it well. The town seems to have come together in so many ways in order to mark celebrations and I hope that this community spirit can continue to take us positively into the next year and beyond. Richmond, North Yorkshire, is a special place to be.

Collectanea[1]

The Editors

When David Cameron first promoted the idea of the 'Big Society', it was greeted with derision by many. However, here in Richmond it was simply recognized as a 'modus operandi' which had been operational in the town for generations. The Station, the Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmondshire Museum and Richmond Open Spaces Appeal (ROSA), to name four, stand as a testament to local initiative and determined action by volunteers. Organisations which cater for almost every aspect of community life thrive here, due solely to the commitment and hard work of numerous individuals who work willingly for the benefit of others.

Richmond has a rich harvest of such organizations: Transition Richmond Yorkshire (TRY), the Walking and Book Festival, the Twinning groups, the Youth Theatre, the Garden Club, the Bowls Club and the Camera Club, the Choral Society, the Operatic Society, What's On, the Football Club and, indeed our own Civic Society, to name but a few, all co-exist to provide leisure and pleasure, information and entertainment. The Walking and Book Festival continues without grants but with generous sponsorship and supporters. It opened this year with Roy Hattersley, now Baron Hattersley of Sparkbrook, and provided an interesting and diverse range of talks and walks. The Swaledale Festival, in spite of the recession, was as popular as ever, The Guardian listing it in May as one of the summer's best festivals, alongside the Aldeburgh Festival, the BBC Proms, the Cheltenham Festival and Glyndebourne. And North Country Theatre, in spite of losing its Arts Council grant, continues undeterred and plans a large-scale community play, 'Bartle', for next year. The TIC, after much concern about its future, looks secure now in the reliable hands of the Richmondshire Leisure Trust. Tribute should be paid to the many

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

volunteers who continued to provide friendly and knowledgeable service throughout long periods of change and uncertainty.

Determined action by individuals resulted in the CCTV system in the town being retained, to the relief of many traders and, indeed, townspeople concerned about theft and anti-social behaviour.

And, indeed, other contentious areas have been resolved. Parking at The Station, after months of wrangling, reached an acceptable compromise with the sale of one parking area and the Station building, and the lease of the other two to Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust (RBPT) and Richmondshire Leisure Trust (RLT). As Malcolm Warne, Editor of the Darlington and Stockton Times, wrote recently: 'the saga is yet another example of the ability of Richmond to tackle officialdom, fighting the good fight to secure a deal that is right for the town and doesn't short-change the wider community'.

Thankfully, Richmond is a town in which personal endeavour does not go unrecognized and, as in recent years, this year too Richmond has been able to reward deserving volunteers with well-earned awards. In January, the then Mayor, Cllr. Oliver Blease, was pleased to present 'Investors in Richmond' certificates to Geoff Lloyd, Lynette Williams and Lorraine Cooper. In December 2011, three Richmond residents, Pam and Roy Cross and Margaret Emmerson, were awarded the Freedom of Richmond for their longstanding contributions to the town. Readers can learn more about Margaret Emmerson on page 38.

The year has not been without its highlights. The Jubilee and the Olympics provided the opportunity for a welcome respite from the depressing statements about the country's economy which seemed to bombard us daily. The Richmond Meet celebrated the Diamond Jubilee and its own 120-year anniversary with a range of fund-raising activities and celebration. Richmond Town Football Club marked its own historic event as winner of the Teesside League title, with a victory lap in the procession. And in a neat example of multi-tasking, Lord Coe, former Olympic Gold medalist and Chair of the Olympic Organising Committee

of the London Olympic Games, 'saw in' the Olympic torch and reopened Richmond School after its £32 million revamp.

The success of the army wives' choir, affectionately known as the WAGS (Wives, Affiliates, Girlfriends and Servicewomen) has touched everyone. Under the inspiring leadership of Carol Gedye, the choir gave a moving performance in Catterick of their song 'Wherever you are', only days after the deaths of six soldiers in Afghanistan. The song was later included in the chart-topping album, 'In my Dreams' and representatives of the choir joined other military wives to sing at the Diamond Jubilee Concert.

Richmond, as we have already outlined, is rich in organizations and people who enhance the life of the town. Architecturally, Richmond remains one of the most attractive towns in the country. It is described in The Rough Guide as an 'absolute gem' and by Pevsner as 'one of the most enjoyable small towns of the North of England' and these are only two of many such accolades. The Richmond Heritage Partnership, as mentioned in last year's Review, did much to enhance and improve shop fronts and empty office spaces around a rather run-down Market Place and it was with some sadness that we noted its last makeover, The Edinburgh Woollen Mill store in January this year. It is worrying to consider how indeed the town will fare in future years without input from the RSVCI and the guiding hand of Colin Grant, the Town Centre Manager.

However, in the rest of the town there is much to be pleased about. The Board Inn development in Bargate is now complete and, with almost all units let or sold, it sits comfortably in its surroundings, as good vernacular architecture should. Richmond School's buildings have raised much controversy but it is an exciting piece of architecture and proof that Richmond's architectural ambitions can look to the future as well as to the past. Equally contemporary, the glass conservatory at 58 Frenchgate, featured in the 2010 Review, in June this year won a national architectural award, the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists' Alan King plaque. Sadly, there are still some unfortunate blots on the architectural landscape: the battered frontage of The Richmond Hotel, with its broken panes, looks particularly unsavoury, juxtaposed with its more attractive

neighbours; and Cradock Hall is pitiful in its decline. However, the now complete Greyfriars building blends well with the townscape and some attractive small housing developments at Merchants Courtyard and Queens Mews have made good use of restricted and previously unused sites.

Finally, we were delighted to see, at the time of writing, Ffion Hague, wife of our MP, William Hague, take the spirit of the Big Society literally when she abseiled down the full 1016 feet of The Shard, Europe's tallest building, in order to raise funds for Outward Bound. Our congratulations to her and, indeed, to all those others whose voluntary contributions might not look as spectacular but, nevertheless, greatly enhance and improve life for all of us.



The Board Inn development, Bargate.

The Civic Society Planning Sub-Committee, 2011-12

Mark Whyman

When I wrote for the Review last year, the Society had submitted its response to the consultation phase of the National Planning Policy Framework which came into effect on 1st of April 2012. There were several areas on which we had severe reservations and we made an energetic response to the Consultation document. Our written response was backed up by the Society's Chairman, John Clarke, seeking support from William Hague and Baroness Angela Harris. William Hague passed our comments to Eric Pickles, the Minister responsible, and Angela Harris made a speech on our behalf in the Lords, but alas to no avail. The major change that this new legislation has produced is that previously, planning decisions would be made with a presumption in favour of heritage. This has now been changed and the overall presumption is in favour of sustainability.

We have yet to see the effect that this will have, but Richmondshire District Council's decision to refuse permission for an ultra modern building in the heart of a conservation area in Leyburn has been appealed against. Normally such an appeal would be dealt with through an exchange of letters with the Planning Inspectorate, but in this case it was decided that a hearing would take place at Swale House in June. Consequently it seems likely that this will become a test case for the new legislation.

The official description of the Quarry Hills (Leyburn) Conservation Area ends with the following paragraph: '*The future preservation and enhancement of the Conservation Area will rely upon maintaining both the distinctive architectural character of Quarry Hills, and limiting infilling, which could otherwise damage the original relationship between individual buildings in the group.'*

Since the ultra modern design is not in keeping with other buildings and, if agreed, it would be infilling, it would appear that the council had a strong case for refusal but under the new legislation, sustainability is the key factor and the proposal has almost every sustainable feature imaginable, short of a wind farm! The full day's hearing was demanding, with the Council's representatives, Caroline Walton, Planning Officer and Anne Smith, Conservation Officer, facing a planning consultant and an architect both of whom spoke at length with extremely technical arguments. The atmosphere was very much adversarial, challenging in great detail the reasoning and legal authority behind the council's refusal. I would estimate that some four or five hours of the seven hours of the hearing were taken up by the appellant's representatives. Their arguments seemed to me very simple: that the design of the building was based on sustainability, so that nothing could be changed. The building had to be accepted as it was, or not at all. The inclusion of some minor detailing reflected the adjacent building and the concept that a contrasting style was an improvement to the area.



Part of Quarry Hills Conservation Area in Leyburn: the proposed site of the ultra modern building is by the trees, to the right of the photograph.

The Inspector was very fair, giving ample opportunity for the council to make their case and for me, representing the Society and neighbours, to express our reservations. The thirty-minute lunch break at 3 p.m. seemed generous, until we realised that this included the twenty minute drive to Leyburn for the site meeting – it was a demanding day! The decision will be advised in the autumn.

I have written about the appeal at some length as it is indicative of the importance of the Society's role in protecting our heritage, a role that is likely to become more demanding in future. Because the council may have to pay the appellants' costs if they lose an appeal, they are going to think very hard before refusing applications. Consequently, we will have to take great care to justify, in planning terms, every objection that we make. Even in cases like Quarry Hills, where most people would agree that the development is inappropriate, we will have to provide technical reasons why this is so – that is if the Society is to fulfil its role of safeguarding our built heritage.

We shall shortly be making recommendations on the RDC Core Strategy, the document that gives a local dimension to the National Planning Policy Framework. This is the document that, whilst reflecting national policy, brings into focus the particular needs and character of the district. This will form a major tool in continuing to safeguard our heritage.

The majority of applications that we look at are perfectly acceptable and routine, but some of the more interesting that spring to mind are set out below:

- Over the year we have seen the recommendations that we made on the reservoir on Green Howards Road put into place.
- We opposed the expansion of the café area of the former TIC into Greyfriars Memorial Gardens. At the time of writing the Richmond Leisure Trust, which runs the swimming pool and gym, is to take it over, so as to maintain the public toilets and TIC facility.

- St. Agatha's House, the former vicarage at Easby, hidden away on the hillside, is to be modernised with an extremely sensitive design which totally respects this fine Victorian building.
- An application to site a calor gas tank at Redmire posed an almost impossible situation as the only site was in front of a listed building. However, the council responded to our suggestion that the height of the wall be raised to conceal the tank.
- We have been able to support the Council in dealing with a number of inappropriate adverts.
- Developments which greatly expand the size of a listed building are rarely successful and a proposal to expand the Black Bull at Moulton into a very large conference centre was in this category. We opposed the scheme on the grounds that it was out of scale with village buildings, but it was subsequently approved by the council. However, the scheme may yet founder as, at the site meeting, it was pointed out that broadband reception was very poor – broadband is apparently essential for a conference centre.
- A similar scheme which would double the size of the core listed building, was proposed for Mill House at Constable Burton. Normally the committee would have objected to such a large increase in size but, in this case, the quality of the design was so high that we decided not to oppose it.

The very first application we received in 2012 was for the rearrangement of the buses in the Market Place. This plan has been debated for several years but with no agreement. We did not object, but asked if we might be consulted on the design of the bus shelter, which was not included in the submitted plans. To our surprise, it appears that bus shelters are not subject to any form of planning permission. The RDC Planning Department had, however, asked for the conservation officer to be involved, and the resulting shelter has just been erected as I write this, in August. I think that, with its transparency, it is probably the best design that could be achieved, but what do you think?



Green Howards Road underground reservoir as we will never see it again – under construction, July 2012.



New bus shelter in the Market Place, August 2012.

A Day in Northumberland

Bev Joicey

Woodhorn Colliery Museum was the focus of our annual visit this year, followed by a visit to the newly refurbished National Trust property, Seaton Delaval Hall. All this came from the lecture by art critic, William Feaver, on The Pitman Painters, as well as the Bob McManners talk on the Spennymoor painters. It inspired members to want to take a closer look at the world they described.

Woodhorn proved an excellent visit, providing us with an opportunity to see the work of the Ashington artists as well as go behind the scenes of the museum where the vast Northumberland County archives are stored. And these archives are well used – certainly those concerned with family history - where excellent facilities are available for individuals to trace their family past. Much of the museum is devoted to a history of mining in the Ashington area, where the clever use of photographs, film and models successfully evokes some of the essence of a mining community. The paintings by the celebrated Ashington painters proved to be an important element in this evocation. Displayed in a quite separate gallery, members recognised how effective their paintings are in showing much of what it was like living and working in the mining town of Ashington.

One might ask, 'What is Art?' Whilst neither over concerned with craftsmanship nor aesthetic beauty, the artists concerned themselves with creating portrayals of what their community and their work place looked and felt like. Together these painters created the sort of art described by Wordsworth, conveying with great success their 'emotions recollected in tranquillity' – in their case, the tranquillity of the wooden hut that housed Robert Lyon's art group. Members of our Society much appreciated the chance to look at their work in depth.



Members at Woodhorn Colliery Museum.

Seaton Delaval was somewhat different. Only a short distance away, this burnt out wreck of a magnificent hall enabled members to reflect upon the differences in life styles and values. Created for the Hastings family by 18th century polymath Vanbrugh and destroyed by fire in 1820, it has recently been given some life back by the National Trust opening up the left wing of the old hall, tidying up the gardens and providing guides. Nevertheless, the place still remains something of a sad ruin and as Society members reflected, it is made sadder by knowing that while the profligate Hastings family enjoyed their wasteful pleasures, the collieries they owned lacked basic safety precautions. One of our members took time to remind us that they owned the nearby Hartley Pit where one of the worst mining disasters in this country took place; over 200 miners died because the pit owners failed to provide an exit shaft in case the main shaft became blocked.

This was an excellent visit. Woodhorn Colliery was packed with detail about a community that fuelled the industrial revolution, while Seaton Delaval was haunted by relics that showed how sometimes the economic rewards of industrial growth could be squandered. Members able to make this visit were left considering what makes a society civic.

The Green Walk, Temple Grounds

Val Hepworth

Twenty years ago, I had a chance meeting at a lecture that was to lead to a close friendship, a close interest in an historic landscape and ultimately to writing this piece. The lecture was being given by Jane Hatcher about the artist George Cuit the elder, at Tennants Auction House in Leyburn; the chance meeting was with Dr Richard Lawson; the friendship with him and his wife, Morven Lawson, the new owners of the historic landscape, soon to be living in Temple Lodge, and, of course, the historic landscape was Temple Grounds. In many ways this chance meeting was to change all our lives.

In the Richmond Review, 2006, I contributed *Temple Grounds, Mr Yorke's Garden, Richmond,* pp 9-15, giving something of the history and personalities behind this historic designed landscape that has survived for hundreds of years and sits within the Richmond Town Conservation Area. It is remarkable that Temple Grounds, which is *c.*15.2 hectares (*c.*36 acres) in extent, should still be so beautiful: its outstanding scenery and listed buildings, unimproved hay meadow and pasture, ridge and furrow, and remains of a mid-eighteenth century *ferme ornée* (ornamental farm) and a later Picturesque landscape, all greatly embellish Richmond.

Since taking on Temple Grounds, Richard and Morven Lawson have worked tirelessly to repair, conserve and restore the landscape and the buildings that they unexpectedly came to own in 1991. In this they have been helped by the Countryside Agency, the Countryside Stewardship scheme and latterly the Countryside Agency's successors for historic landscapes, Natural England. They have also had advice from North Yorkshire County Council who have designated the landscape as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation.

During that chance meeting with Richard in Leyburn he invited me to Temple Grounds; I went the next day. I had been interested in this part of Richmond for some time and was embarking on an MA in Conservation (Landscape) at York University, so had no time to waste. It was the beginning of a journey of discovery and led to my writing the first management plan for Temple Grounds, having it included in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England and helping and advising the Lawsons, including giving guidance with the many planning applications on the boundary.

That first management plan looked dispassionately at the huge amount of work that needed to be done to put Temple Grounds back into good condition. It seemed a huge task. There had been many decades of little or no repair or replanting resulting in a huge backlog of broken down walls and major structures, gates, parkland fencing and trees that were in a very poor state. The first year of the plan, 1995/6, began to address the land management issues such as when to cut the hay meadows, the level and type of grazing of the land, planting of replacement hedges, scrub management, beginning the repairs of the many walls and re-planting beech trees along the southern boundary of Mill Field (the hay meadow where there is now Permissive Public Access) using self-sown seedlings from the estate. The management plan also included a 'wish' list of major works that needed doing but which would take huge amounts of money. The most significant of these was the Green Walk, the terrace that connects Temple Lodge, built as a menagerie in 1769[1] with the Culloden Tower or Temple built 1746[2]. The latter is on or near the site of the

[1] The word menagerie is derived from the French "Menager", meaning "connected with the house"; however, in the eighteenth century it was also related to the keeping of animals. (O.E.D.) Christopher Clarkson describes the menagerie in his *The History of Richmond in the County of York,* Thomas Bowman, 1821, p328

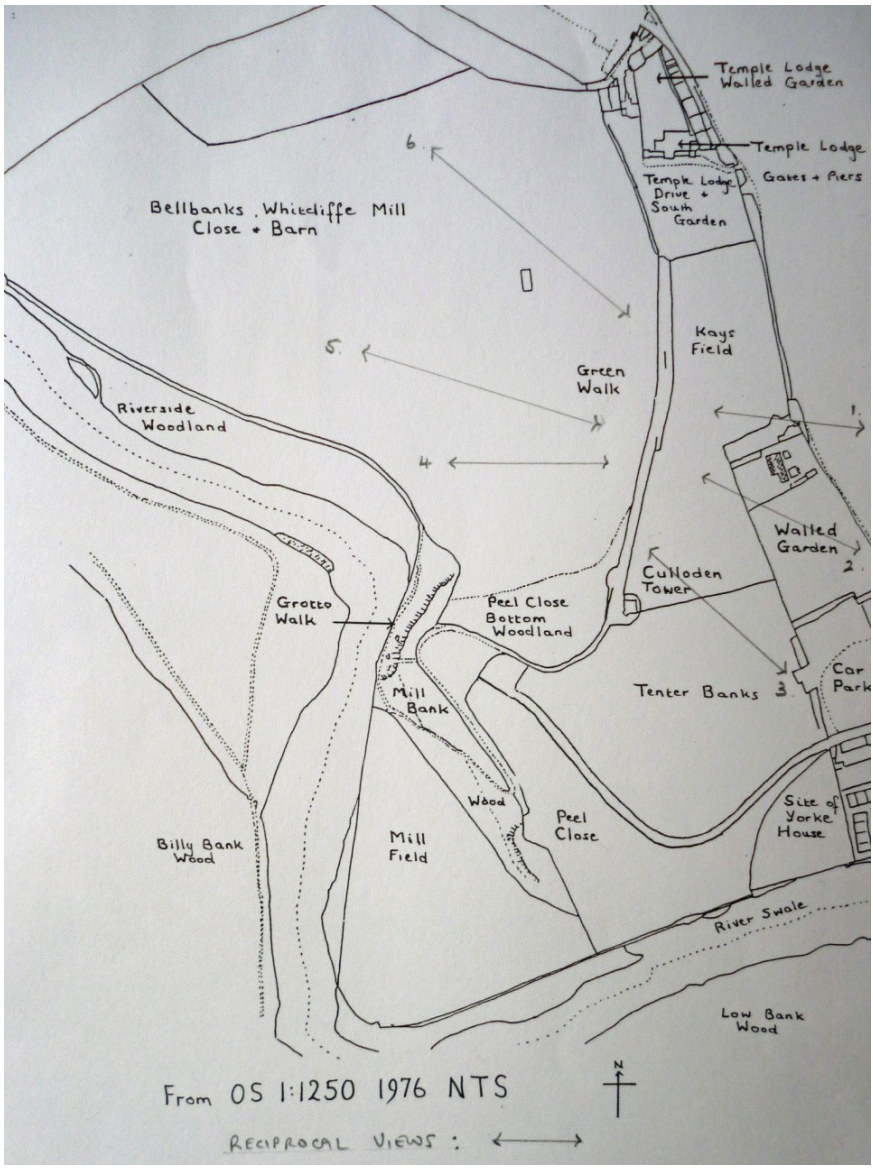
[2] Ashley Cooper, Anne, *Yorke Country*, published by A. Ashley Cooper, 1988, p148

fourteenth century Hudswell Peel Tower[3] and Green Walk is likely to have been the medieval access route from the town to the Peel. Survival of such an early garden/designed landscape feature is not common and is therefore regarded as being of considerable significance. To be truthful, I never really thought that funds could be found to bring about the restoration of the Green Walk in my lifetime. So it gives me inordinate pleasure to write about the restoration work and the research, archaeology, surveys and assessment carried out to enable informed decisions to be made in order to achieve the final result: the Green Walk as we think John and Anne Yorke would have known it in *c.*1750.

In 2009, Simon Green of Southern Green, (chartered landscape architects with expertise in historic designed landscapes), was commissioned by the Lawsons to prepare the restoration management plan for the Green Walk. It had become likely that grant assistance for such landscape projects would become available from the Higher Level Environmental Scheme managed by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). I was asked to contribute the historic development report; others produced the archaeology, ecology, tree and land surveys and structural engineering reports.

By that time the Green Walk was in a parlous state, encroached upon by large self-seeded and planted trees and landslip due to the loss of most of the stone walling along its east side. The west retaining wall had been patched up, probably for a century or more and was no match for the sheep that had to graze the pasture and who continually challenged the wall's effectiveness. As a result the walk itself had a dangerously steep crossfall in places, making it hazardous for pedestrians and seriously difficult for Richard to mow. In addition, the remaining veteran Common Beech trees had all suffered from storm damage and were shedding limbs while the Yew trees, perhaps originally planted as a clipped hedge around

[3] Clarkson, Christopher, *The History of Richmond in the County of York,* Thomas Bowman, 1821. 'Hudswell twr' is marked on Speed's map of Richmond, 1610 and the ruins shown schematically on Robert Harman's Plan of Richmond, 1724.



Map of Temple Grounds, showing reciprocal views from The Green Walk, drawn from OS1976. Reciprocal Views are indicated by arrows: 1.Castle Hill and Castle Keep, 2.Castle Walk, 3.Sleegill, 4.Round Howe Footbridge, 5.Reeth Road and Convent, 6.Westfields

150 years ago, had been left to grow into trees and showed a significant amount of deadwood and dieback. ***(See photos 1 & 2)***

When I first started researching the landscape, I thought that the name 'Green Walk' could be derived from it being a grassy pleasure ground walk or drive. However, it may in fact come from its relationship with The Green, an area of open space to the south near the river, around which houses and works had been clustered from at least the Elizabethan period. The Yorke mansion to the west of this open space was often referred to by the Yorke family as The Green. Indeed, confusingly, the estate was also called The Green. The early maps do not give the Green Walk a name, but it is called the Green Walk on the nineteenth century conveyances and the sale plan of 1824[4]. It is likely to have been used as much by horses and carriages as by pedestrians, and is much wider than the other 'walks' on the estate. There is a photograph from *c.*1860 which indicates carriage wheel marks[5]. Apart from its practical use as a connecting route between important buildings, and, before the Culloden Tower was built, a direct connection to the Yorke mansion and earlier its access to the Hudswell Tower, the Green Walk also functions as a separating boundary for closes that were part of Richmond's Westfield open field system. However, it is likely that from the late sixteenth century, when the mansion near the River Swale was probably built or rebuilt, or when the Yorkes acquired the estate in the mid-seventeenth century, the Green Walk became part of the designed landscape: not only a prominent viewpoint, but also a terrace raised up above the landscape to the west. This terrace gave views of the river Swale and up the Swale valley to Round Howe, Westfields, Whitcliffe and beyond. At Round Howe, in the eighteenth century, could

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[4] Lawson Archive. Reproduced in Hepworth, Valerie, 'Temple Grounds, Mr Yorke's Garden, Richmond', *The Richmond Review, Annual Report of the Richmond and District Civic Society,* 2006, pp10, 13. Conveyances: North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO) 435 12/13.5, 1825, NYCRO 36 11/12. 5. 1827.

[5] Lawson Archive.



Close up from 'South West Prospect of Richmond 1749' by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck *Courtesy: Simon Green*

be glimpsed its 'Chinese Temple' described by Arthur Young thus: '...a little temple (Mr. Readshaw`s) at a distance in the vale, romantically situated among hanging woods, adds much to the scene,...'[6]

As views to the west were important, trees were not planted on the western boundary of the Green Walk until later in the eighteenth century, and then only at the southern end where the land is much lower than the Walk. These trees are likely to have been Common Beech, some of which remain today. Young's description indicates that this unfettered view west from the "terras skirts a pasture and from it the scene varies in an agreeable manner...following the terras you come to an alcove seat, from whence the view is extremely pleasing:..." His description also confirms the open view to the west shown on Samuel and Nathaniel Buck's 'South West Prospect of Richmond, 1749'[7] and the alcove/covered seat at the northern end of the Green Walk. Additionally, although the Green Walk is set down on the west side of the ridge which forms a spine running north-south on this part of Temple Grounds, a carriage would enable the occupants to enjoy exciting views towards Richmond and the Castle to the east, particularly at the southern end.

The first documentary evidence for the Green Walk occurs on the Harman Plan of the South Prospect of Richmond 1724[8], ***(see the cover of RDCS Review of the Millennium, 2001)*** indicated by a double avenue of mature trees progressing north from the formal gardens near the Yorkes' mansion and becoming a single avenue where they form the western boundary of Kays Close[9]. This point is approximately the position of another

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[6] Young, Arthur, *A Six Months Tour Through the North of England,* Vol II, Strahan & Nicholl, London, 1770, 1771, pp162-165.

[7] Samuel and Nathaniel Buck, *South West Prospect of Richmond,* 1729, Richmondshire Museum.

[8] Harman, Robert, *A Plan of ye South Prospect of ye Ancient Burrough of Richmond,* 1724, Richmondshire Museum, NYCRO ZS,

[9] In England avenues denoted the dawn of the Renaissance in the early 16th century and might be several km. in length, forming a notable feature in the

alcove/covered seat shown on the Buck South West Prospect and the point at which, in the late nineteenth and in the twentieth century, the avenue of Common Beech trees met the Yews and deciduous trees bounding the eastern side of the Green Walk, on the length running to the garden of Temple Lodge.

In the first half of the eighteenth century the Green Walk would have been a significant part of a designed landscape that can be termed a *ferme ornée,* first described by Stephen Switzer (1682-1745) in his influential book, *The Nobleman, Gentleman and Gardener's Recreation*[10]. At Temple Grounds the Yorkes were ornamenting their own farm with mixed shrubs and climbers, adding planting to the outstanding scenic landscape and incorporating the magnificent views beyond, whilst still gaining a sufficient income from agricultural activity. In Switzer's words '...both Profit and Pleasure may be agreeably mixed together.' Later in the eighteenth century, as the Yorkes made dramatic changes, removing the formal gardens, incorporating grottoes, new buildings and plantings, the Green Walk was to become – and still remains – a significant feature in the Picturesque landscape, albeit with a relatively short avenue of trees.

The archaeological investigative trenches for the restoration plan showed that the Green Walk has always been a grass path and that the adjacent walls, typical in character to those in Swaledale, were modified over time and were built without foundations. The trenches did not give conclusive evidence for the Green Walk being the historic route to the medieval Hudswell Tower, but there were eight small medieval or late medieval sherds recovered from one trench and a sherd of medieval pottery in the

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landscapes illustrated by Kip or Knyff *c* 1700. With the triumph of the natural style by the middle of the 18th century avenues with few exceptions were swept away. At Temple Grounds a short avenue was retained to complement the nature of the Green Walk.

[10] Switzer, Stephen, *Ichnographia Rustica: Or, The Nobleman, Gentleman, And Gardener's Recreation,* 3 vols, 1718, Facsimile Garland Publishing, New York, London, 1982.



1.*Looking North to Temple Lodge, January 2009, before the work was started.*
Courtesy: Simon Green



2. *Looking South to the Culloden Tower, January 2009, before the work was started.* *Courtesy: Simon Green*



3. *Looking North to Temple Lodge, August 2012, after the Green Walk was restored. Compare* ***1****.*



4*. Looking South to the Culloden Tower, August 2012, after the Green Walk was restored. Compare* ***2****.*

infill of another trench. This trench also revealed that the western retaining wall was built in two phases: possibly the inner phase from an early period, with the second phase possibly built by the Yorkes.

The ecological survey complemented previous assessments that had been carried out on the grasslands for the first management plan and confirmed that the species' richness tends to decrease close to the trees and shrubs of the Green Walk, but that the veteran trees are of high local value and provide habitat for a range of bat, bird and invertebrate species. In particular, the bat monitoring indicated that the Green Walk is used as a commuting route by small numbers of bats including common and soprano pipistrelle and *Myotis* bats and as a foraging habitat for the same species, plus noctule and brown long-eared bats. The other major ecological aspect considered was the impact of machinery, materials and their storage and personnel accommodation, both accessing the site and security within a compound, as this was likely to damage areas of diverse grassland and impact upon wildlife. In addition, it was necessary to programme the works so as to cause as little disturbance as possible not only to bats and nesting birds but also to the visitors staying at the Culloden Tower and of course the tenant farmer and his livestock.

The structural engineering survey also presented some challenges, particularly at the southern end of the western wall which was in a very poor state due to the steepness of the slope down into the woodland below and the veteran Common Beech trees that were of such a girth that they were by now breaching the wall. Other considerations included dealing with the landslip, retaining as much as possible of the existing fabric and sourcing appropriate stone, matching and laying it to match the original.
It was agreed that the overall restoration approach would seek to be as minimal as possible in order to conserve historic fabric and archaeology, wildlife habitats, species rich grassland and the trees of great landscape value whilst carrying out work of historic quality that had a reasonable chance of long term survival. The three veteran Common Beech trees, remnants of the old beech avenue, would be pruned and retained, as would some of the trees in the belt along the north east boundary. However, all

the self seeded trees immediately adjacent to the walls of the Green Walk, including the large Yews of the former hedge, would have to be felled, both in order to construct the walls and to restore the historic character of the Green Walk. The historic landform before the land slippage would be reinstated and the Green Walk returned to the levels, dimensions, surfaces, stonework and overall planting that had existed during the Yorkes ownership in the eighteenth century. The reinstatement of grass surfaces would use the local hay meadow/wildflower seed mix; the young Common Beech trees to be planted would be those grown by Richard from the beech mast at Temple Grounds and the remaining planting would follow that of the eighteenth century *ferme ornée* period.

By the early part of 2010, the restoration plan was approved and the necessary permissions and licences obtained, so that the tree works could begin and be completed before the bird nesting season. This was followed by the design team meetings and then several months of structural works which proved to be a considerable challenge both from the structural and the historic perspective. Staley Stonework of Richmond were responsible for the dry stone walling, achieving a fine result which is much in evidence even at a distance, in the great view from Westfields. By November 2010 the planting could begin. The young Common Beech trees to re-form the avenue at the southern end of the Green Walk were planted in wooden tree guards and a range of trees and shrubs planted on the slope on the east side (nearer the northern end) protected from livestock by a new fence. As we do not have any specific idea of the detailed planting used by the Yorkes apart from what still exists at Temple Grounds and may date from their time, the philosophy behind the planting scheme was to follow what is known of the type and style of planting in the eighteenth century during both the *ferme ornée* and later Picturesque periods[11]. We also had to take into consideration the aesthetic qualities

[11] Invaluable sources: Harvey, John, *Early Gardening Catalogues,* Phillimore, London & Chichester, 1972; Laird, Mark, *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden English Pleasure Grounds 1720-1800,* University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1999.

required, growing conditions, wind direction, topography, shade, flowering, fragrance and the future management. I knew from a letter written by Anne Yorke on March 31st, 1736[12] that she patronised the well known plant nursery, Telfords of York. I felt, therefore, that it would be useful to look at their early catalogues and fortunately had access to one from 1775 which, although later, could be used to compare plant introduction dates. This I also cross-referenced with a 1777 catalogue from William and John Perfect's nursery in Pontefract[13]; they too were famous nurserymen of the time. We decided on a mix of evergreens, including *Daphne laureola, Osmanthus decorus, Phillyrea angustifolia,* Box, Privet, Portuguese Laurel, Butcher's Broom, Holly and Yew to add to the existing hollies. We planted three Oaks, a hawthorn hedge on the east boundary and scattered honeysuckle throughout the planting. Five thousand snowdrops were also planted. Unfortunately, as we later discovered, the winter of 2010-11 was not the best time for new planting. Extreme and prolonged cold and snow not surprisingly took its toll, although amazingly the vast majority of the plants survived. This gave an opportunity to review the planting and how it might look when more mature, and so in the winter of 2011-12 we put in some largely floriferous plants to climb and mingle amongst the evergreen and other structural planting, including *Spirea hypericifolia ssp obovata*, *Genista*, *Cytisus multiflorus* (White Spanish Broom), *Syringa x persica,*(Persian Lilac), *Syringa x persica Alba, Syringa vulgaris*,(Common Lilac) and *Philadelphus coronarius* (Mock Orange). We also added some *Viburnum tinus* (Laurustinus). This follows the mid-eighteenth ideas such as at Rousham (Oxfordshire), where William Kent's romantic planting delighted Horace Walpole[14]. 'You see deferant sorts of Flowers, peeping

[12] Yorke Family Archive held at Halton Place, near Settle, LXIX/4

[13] For both catalogues: Harvey, John, *Early Gardening Catalogues,* Phillimore, London & Chichester, 1972, pp 83-99, 100-116.

[14] Batey, M, 'The Way to View Rousham: by Kent's Gardener', *Garden History,* 11:2 (1983), pp126-132. Horace Walpole (1717-97) was the youngest son of Sir Robert Walpole. In 1747 he acquired Strawberry Hill, a small villa on the Thames at Twickenham, which he transformed into a Gothic castle. Between

through the deferant sorts of Evergreens, here you think the Laurel produces a Rose. The Holly a Syringa, the Yew a Lilac and the sweet Honeysuckle is peeping out from under every Leafe.' Jessamines (jasmines) were also favoured but were not included because of the colder weather and winds that the Green Walk planting would have to withstand. The Syringa is what we now call *Philadelphus coronarius.* Historically, honeysuckles and roses were planted for fragrance, so we added *Rosa eglanteria/R rubiginosa* (Sweet Briar), *Rosa x alba* 'White Rose of York' and *Rosa x alba var* 'Maiden's Blush Great'. As the Telford catalogue of the 1770s lists many different honeysuckles we added some more of those with *Lonicera x americana, Lonicera periclymenum* 'Belgica', and *Lonicera caprifolium*. I planted the last of the climbers in February 2012 balancing somewhat precariously on the slope and against the wind, with a garden fork– and it is a very windy spot.

The restoration of the Green Walk is a spectacular achievement which could not have reached fruition without the staunch support and vision of Dr Margaret Nieke, Historic Environment Lead Advisor, Natural England in York. We are confident that, as the years pass, the stonework will weather well and the planting mature, so that the Green Walk will once again be a wonderful and significant visual feature of this part of Richmond, and give pleasure to many, just as it no doubt did in earlier centuries.

Public Access: There is no public right of way on Temple Grounds but Dr and Mrs Lawson have established a Permissive Access along the River Swale; the route is shown on a map situated at the entrance to Temple Grounds from The Green. Accompanied tours, to enjoy a more detailed discovery of Temple Grounds including The Green Walk, can be organised for small groups by contacting Dr and Mrs Lawson on tel: 01748 822526.

1750 and 1770 he wrote his essay *On Modern Gardening,* hailing William Kent as the founder of the English picturesque tradition of park design.

Christmas Past

James Russell

In 1836 a turnpike road was constructed on the south side of the river Swale from Richmond to Reeth and beyond. This was known (and still is, by some people) as The New Road. Close to the roadside, soon after passing Ellerton Abbey, on the way to Reeth, stands a stone built cottage where the toll collector for the Hags Gill Bar lived.

Fast forward one hundred and twenty years to the nineteen fifties, the Toll Bar and the toll collector have gone but the house remains. Reeth used to hold two sheep sales each year, in September and October, and I often attended these sales with my father. We met a lot of farmers there once a year and one of them, a retired farmer, lived in the old Toll House with his two sisters, neither of whom had ever married. At the October sale the old man always asked my father not to forget their Christmas dinner.

My mother, like many other farmers' wives, reared geese and chickens to sell as dressed poultry, ready for the oven at Christmas time. Most people did not want the giblets, so ours were wrapped in greaseproof paper and put aside in a large cardboard box. I had to deliver this box to the old Toll House a couple of days before Christmas; this was the dinner for the old people.

Every year followed the same pattern. The door was opened by one of the sisters, usually the one who was bent double and could not stand up straight. The brother and the other sister were huddled over a small fire that could have been held in a pair of cupped hands. All three were wearing gloves and heavy overcoats to try to keep warm.

They had a married sister who lived in Australia and every year she sent them a parcel of goodies: there was a cake, a pudding, a bottle of wine and other seasonal presents. I had to cut the cake and they would give me a small piece with a thimbleful of wine. I wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And as I left, the brother would give me a ten

shilling note from his purse. This happened for a number of years. Now, whenever I pass the cottage, I can't help thinking of Christmas Past.

It used to be said that it wasn't money that people made in the dale, it was what they hadn't spent.



The old Toll House, on the road to Reeth from Richmond.

Photographs of Swaledale

Delphine Ruston

Local photographer, Delphine Ruston, presents a selection of landscape work of familiar sites in the Richmond and Swaledale area.



Maiden Castle, Grinton.



Calder Hill,where the valleys of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale meet.

Delphine completed a degree in photography at Cleveland College of Art and Design in 2007, since when she has been developing her photography, mainly landscape and portraiture, through residencies and commissions, collaborative projects in education and health care settings, personal work and lecturing in Higher Education..



Muker.

Delphine's preferred medium is a square format film camera as she enjoys the slowness of the process and the photographic quality of handprints; but she also works digitally, developing the creative potential of new media.



Richmond Racecourse, during the kite festival.

Margaret Emmerson: on gaining the Freedom of Richmond

Tina McDonald

In 2011 when Margaret Emmerson was made an honorary freeman of Richmond, Councillor Stuart Parsons described her as "the embodiment of the 'Big Society' ". He went on to say, "She has always been very much a 'back-room' lady, who has never pushed herself into the limelight, but has worked tirelessly behind the scenes for the many causes she champions." Civic Society members will know her as a long-serving member of its committee and a stalwart of any fund raising event. Having worked as a school dinner lady for forty years, she has, nevertheless, found time to support many charities and organizations in the town, always willingly and well and with a glad heart. As someone so involved in the town and its activities, her memories are far-reaching and detailed. We felt fortunate that she was willing to share with us so many autobiographical details and memories of Richmond in distant days.

Margaret was born Margaret Nunn in 1933 in Melsonby and moved at three to an old cottage at Crabtree Farm, near Gilling West. With no 'mod cons' like hot water or electricity, but features now sought after, like stone flags and a big black range, life was hard but not without fun. The double earth closet offered companionship of a curious kind, and friendly neighbours often took Margaret and her sister to school in their pony and trap.

The school in Gilling was run by Mr. and Mrs. Bonas and Margaret stayed there until she was fourteen. During the war, the school had to cope with an influx of evacuees from Tyneside, and the difficulty of overcrowding was resolved by teaching the evacuees in the mornings and the local children in the afternoons. Eventually most of the evacuees drifted back home and the school day returned to normal. Margeret remembers the 'cookery van' that came each year and parked near the bridge. It stayed

for three weeks, teaching the children how to cook, an activity Margaret much enjoyed.

When Margaret started school there was no provision for school lunches. Children took a packed meal, as so often happens now, but in those days the kindly Bonases supplemented these with a cup of Horlicks for every child. When eventually school dinners were provided by a cook installed in the Village Hall, Mr Bonas selected a child each day to inform cook of the precise number of meals required. This was a favourite task because the lucky recipient was often rewarded by the cook with a piece of delicious homemade cake. Margaret remembers, also, saving with the Yorkshire Penny Bank, the money collected at school and deposited in the Post Office. Saving in this way enabled her to buy her first bike with her own savings. It cost the princely sum of £4/7/6d.

At fourteen Margaret went into service, working for Colonel and Mrs. Moseley at Hill House, as a housemaid. Though her employers were not unkind, the work was demanding and the house cold and unfriendly. Her duties included scrubbing floors, laying fires, cleaning brasses, helping cook, clearing dishes and much general housework. With only half a day off each week, Margaret became homesick and resolved to look for other work.

At Lowes Drapers, where Cross View Café now sits, she saw a notice for a shop assistant and with impressive alacrity was appointed to the position at 5/- per week. Margaret's capacity for hard work was clearly recognized even then, and after two weeks her salary was raised to 7/6d. Moreover, she also received commission on all her sales. However, she quickly realized that there were better paid jobs to be had; two organizations in the town rewarded their employees rather more generously: Woolworths and Richmond Laundry. Margaret passed the test for Woolworths and worked there happily for several years, moving from counter assistant to stock room control.



Margaret and a friend model towels on the roof of Woolworths.

At a dance in Gilling, Margaret had noticed a very attractive young man called Keith Emmerson. She saw him again at a New Year's Eve dance in Richmond Town Hall in 1949/50, and thought anew how attractive he was. The feeling was clearly mutual for, in spite of being there with another girl, Keith asked her for a New Year's kiss and invited her to the cinema. The Zetland cinema was a particular favourite for Richmond's courting couples because of the double seats. Margaret's memory is so acute that she can remember the ticket prices of 10d,1/6d, 1/9d and 2/3d.

Margaret and Keith became engaged before he left for National Service in 1952, and though Keith's six-week training was based in Richmond Barracks, trainees were not allowed out. On some Sundays Margaret would take the bus to Richmond and walk to the Barracks for a 'brief encounter' at the barrack gates. After training, Keith was sent to York, then Germany and eventually Malaya, until he left the army in 1954. Margaret and Keith were married in June 1954 and initially lived at Whitcliffe Place with Keith's parents. The arrival of their first child, Philip, necessitated a move and eventually they found a bedsit in Bargate. At the top of a tall house, it was something of a challenge with the baby and pram to accommodate. All the water had to be carried up several

flights of stairs and the gas meter constantly fed with pennies. The offer of a better bedsit in Bargate looked promising and the Emmersons moved to enjoy more space and the use of a garden. The leaking roof proved to be a bit of a disappointment they had not anticipated but, always able to find a practical solution, Margaret resolved the problem with a collection of judiciously placed buckets. Having put their names down for a house, the Emmersons were relieved to be allocated one at Cutpurse, and though there were no proper roads, no bus, no shop (although Liptons would deliver), it was a welcome improvement in living standards.



Margaret (front row, far left) with colleagues on the roof of Woolworths

The manager of Woolworths, realizing the loss of a valuable assistant, pressed Margaret to return and eventually she agreed to go back there part-time. But when she became pregnant with her second child, Janet, she felt unable to continue. However, once Philip started school in 1960, Margaret returned once more, while her mother looked after Janet. When the school day ended, Philip came to the store to wait for his mother and played happily behind the counter, where he was cheerfully accepted by everyone. The manager then was Mr Jones whom Margaret remembers with respect, as a good man and a good boss to work for. But working conditions were far from easy in those days. Margaret tells of one girl

sacked, by a previous manager, for eating a cashew nut. Once promoted to the stock room, Margaret might have expected life to become easier. However, she was expected to sweep and even oil the floors, as well as unload consignments of heavy goods. When Margaret became pregnant with her third child Judith, she felt that, sadly, her Woolworths' days would have to come to an end.

Margaret has much to say on the range, service and courtesy of retailers in Richmond in the 1950s and 1960s, and like many in the town regrets the demise of the many small, private shops which serviced the community so well: Roly Hird who provided the ladies of the town with underwear and the gentlemen with complete outfits; Annie Coates with her excellent dress shop; Miss Taylor, hairdresser and Haywards' Shoes; Johnny's café and the jeweller with his famous clock. These are all remembered with nostalgic regard. The town was equally well served with food shops and Margaret remembers Liptons, Walter Wilsons and Moores and the efficient deliveries presented always with a smile. Richmond residents were clearly well catered for in those days, for Margaret remembers also Spencers who sold stationery, Austins' Toy Shop and a large 'continental café' where Richmond at Home now operates.

As Margaret's family grew up, and Peter, the youngest, started school, Margaret acquired another post keeping the local veterinary practice clean. Situated at the bottom of the Market Place and occupying premises which are now a Bridal Boutique, the property was considerably larger than it looks, with old brown lino in the passage way, waiting rooms and on the stairs; this required polishing as well as cleaning. The establishment, owned by the Aylwards, soon benefitted from Margaret's conscientious application and the Aylwards as well as the Phillips, who later took over the practice, were always appreciative of her efforts on their behalf. When the Aylwards went away on one occasion, leaving two nephews in their flat, Mr Ayward was very concerned that the pair should not create any unnecessary cleaning for Margaret, and asked to be informed of any misdemeanours. Entering the flat a few days later, Margaret found a scene of some chaos: the bath was full of apples, a demijohn bubbled in front of the fire, and the sink was overflowing with

dirty pots. The young men felt the full force of Margaret's disapproval however, and eventually produced a bottle of conciliatory sherry by way of apology. Margaret accepted it with wry amusement as well as gratitude.

Margaret's husband Keith was a joiner and worked for George Shaw, probably Richmond's most well known builder. George Shaw, as many Richmond residents will remember, had a collection of period carriages. Some of these were used in the film 'Woman of Substance', filmed locally. It was Keith's job to ensure that they were in good working order and that they looked as smart as possible. However, the building trade is, and always was a somewhat precarious profession and Margaret was well aware of the possibility of bad weather 'lay offs' and the impact that these could have on the family budget. She resolved to find yet more work and, being fond of children, was attracted to the idea of being a 'dinner lady', supervising lunch and playtime breaks. Unfortunately, there was a waiting list for such posts but Margaret, never one to be deterred, decided to approach the school directly, and during a walk with a neighbour's child, Gary, she called in at the school to present details about herself. Gary was a firm friend of Margaret's son Peter, and since Peter had started school, seemed at a loss to fill his days. Taking him for a walk was a typical, thoughtful Margaret-type gesture. When the head teacher asked who he was, and Margaret explained, he was clearly impressed. Taking down her details they promised to let her know. However, as she crossed the playground, she was called back and appointed on the spot. She started work there on May 17th 1971 and continues still today! Margaret has never been given a long service medal but she certainly deserves one.

When Margaret joined the Mothers' Union she was asked to help run a coffee morning, which may have been the start of an enormously long run of similar efforts. Margaret's expertise and quiet efficiency make her an ideal volunteer, and soon, many other organizations were requesting her help. To name but a few: St Mary's Church; Gilling Church; the Red Cross; ROSA; Wensleydale Railway; the Civic Society; the Legion; SOS; Cancer charities; Town Hall art exhibitions; and Mayors' coffee mornings, have all benefitted from Margaret's willingness to be involved. While in the Mothers' Union she started to organize successful day trips

and when she joined the Friends of St Mary's she continued in the same vein. This idea proved to be a most effective way to raise money for church funds. Each trip raised enough to buy some necessary item for church.

When Margaret got to know Grace Buckle and Clive World she started helping out with leaflet deliveries for the Liberal Democrats and proved, yet again, to be a willing and reliable member of their team. And in Margaret's capable hands many collections of jumble have been transformed into hard and welcome cash for various organisations throughout the town. A great many of the events at St Mary's: Choral Society concerts; Army Band concerts; Swaledale Festival performances and church exhibitions, have been enhanced by interval hospitality in the shape of welcome coffee and biscuits, tea and cake or wine and canapés; Margaret has been a stalwart of these occasions. When the Rev. Christopher White was entertaining a visiting professor and his party from Durham, he tentatively asked Margaret if she could possibly provide lunch. Quickly assembling a team of other willing helpers they provided an excellent array of meats and salads, followed by a range of delicious puddings. Writing to thank Rev. White afterwards, the professor confessed that they often remembered places by the food they'd been given. He wrote, "We'll certainly remember Richmond".

Margaret is a committed Christian and values greatly her connection with St Mary's. She feels strongly that attendance there enables her to 'recharge her batteries'. She assists as an acolyte, is a reader and a member of the prayer group, writing prayers which she tries to make succinct but meaningful. Ever practical, she organizes the coffee rota, buying provisions and collecting money. Some members of St Mary's often joke that the eagle (on the pulpit) speaks with Margaret's voice, her petite stature making her almost invisible to the listening congregation when she reads. But many of them have thanked her for prayers that, for them, have had real meaning. Margaret firmly believes that her faith has sustained her through the difficult times in her life, particularly during Keith's illness and subsequent death.

Keith died twenty years ago, an accident at work precipitating a worrying period of tests, investigations and bouts of illness. Eventually, a serious lung disease was diagnosed and Keith was placed on a waiting list for a lung transplant. The list was long and Keith's condition continued to deteriorate. By this time Margaret was coping with all the essential medical paraphernalia needed to make Keith more comfortable: piped oxygen, generators and a stair lift all had to be accommodated within their home. They were called to the Royal Freeman Hospital in Newcastle at Christmas 1991, and faced the heartbreaking situation of Keith being prepared for a transplant operation, only to be told that the organs on offer had been discovered to be unsuitable. Keith and Margaret returned to Richmond and Keith spent the last six weeks of his life in the Victoria Hospital. He died with Margaret beside him, eternally grateful that some sixth sense had prompted her to stay by his side longer than she normally did.

After Keith's death Margaret looked to work as an antidote to grief and continued to make herself indispensable to others. Already helping so many clients to keep their houses and businesses clean, she felt she couldn't resist a heartfelt plea from John Blenkiron, who confessed that, "Now his mother had had her cataracts done she could see the dust and wanted something done about it"!

When asked recently to organize a Fashion Show by Councillor Clive World, she quickly cajoled models, rallied helpers, organized raffles and invited 'The Larches' to provide suitable clothes. The event was a great success and raised £256 for Councillor World's Charity Fund. At the Christmas lights celebrations in the Market Hall, Margaret is there handing out hot drinks and mince pies. She also accepted the role of mayoress for a month, working alongside Stuart Parsons to attend a number of functions. Though filled with some trepidation at the outset, she quickly began to enjoy the role, and was particularly amused, when attending a concert, to find a group of children from her school, staring with awe and admiration at their 'dinner lady' complete with regalia, and happily at home in the role of honoured guest. Margaret's love of children led naturally to her being the perfect babysitter, and she was,

consequently, much in demand by families throughout the town for a great many years.

In 2008 Margaret was given a much deserved 'Investors in Richmond Award', presented by the then mayor, Judith Steggles. Margaret accepted with pleasure but expected no more accolades. However, in July last year, Margaret received a letter from Heather Lawler, the Town Clerk, recording the 'unanimous decision' of the Town Council to award Margaret the 'Freedom of the Town'. With characteristic modesty she thought at first it must be some kind of mistake. However, in the event, she accepted with pride and was pleased to be able to invite friends and family to witness this recognition of one who had worked so tirelessly, so willingly and so well for countless people and organizations. Attending the ceremony were two daughters, two sons and a son-in-law; and Margaret's dearly loved grandsons, Oliver and Angus Morton, of whom she says touchingly, 'They are not just my grandsons but also my friends'; the only note of sadness was that William, Angus' identical twin, was unable to attend as he was in Australia. Also there were Richard and Janet Cooper for whom Margaret had worked and always regarded with respect and fond affection; and representing St Mary's, the Rev.John Chambers and curate Anthony Kirby; her head teacher along with another school colleague, and, in a gesture redolent of one of the greatest satisfactions of her working life, two pupils, Hannah Speakman and Emily Davis.

Stuart Parsons' assessment of Margaret could not be more apposite: she truly personifies what the 'Big Society' is all about. That she has continued to contribute so much for so long, that she has raised a family and coped with personal tragedy while doing so, that she has also worked at more than one job alongside all these various commitments, and that she has never lost her purpose or sense of service is remarkable indeed. Margaret insists that what she does, she does for Richmond because she loves Richmond, and she thinks of herself as simply an 'ordinary woman.' There is nothing ordinary about her; extraordinary would be a far better description.

The Rookery: a House and its People

Richard Collier

The timing of the annual rook shoot is always critical, although these days it has not the importance it once had, when it would have added value to the diet of the Victorian poor. The twelfth of May is the traditional time to take the young rooks called branchers because, after leaving the nest, they will be sitting on the branches unable to fly.

The Rookery, a house set in the centre of Middleton Tyas, still has its rooks, no doubt undisturbed these days by guns and long ladders in May. The building here was started in the eighteenth century as a vicarage. However, a terrier of 1663 tells of a large earlier vicarage: 'one dwelling house with other convenient houses thereunto belonging garths orchards and gardens containing by estimation three acres of land more or less'.

Vicars normally died in office, so it was unusual for George Bell to resign in favour of twenty-nine year old John Mawer. When the Rev.John Mawer, D.D. was inducted vicar of St.Michael's, Middleton Tyas, in November 1731, a new vicarage, eventually called The Rookery, was only three years old and still apparently only one third finished.

John Mawer was educated at Kirkleatham. He wrote later that the idea of studying ancient languages was formed at school, where he says that he found himself able to learn Hebrew without tuition, and he would have us believe that even before this, he was already planning an extensive study of scriptures in many ancient languages.

From Kirkleatham School he was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge on the 20th June 1721 at the age of eighteen. He took holy orders in 1727, being ordained deacon, but had to wait until 1736 for his doctorate from

Edinburgh University[1].

In 1729 John Mawer married Hannah Coatsworth of York. The register records it as –

John Mawer of Upleatham, clerk
&Hannah Coatsworth of ye city of York
married Aug 7th 1729

Hannah had been previously married to a successful Newcastle business man, sometime M.P., and High Sheriff, William Coatsworth of Gateshead Park. She had been William's housekeeper before their marriage. He died in 1726, but not before the birth of a daughter, christened Henrietta. Sadly, having lost her own father, the child fared no better with her new step-father and the relationship between her and John Mawer was always poor.

However, John and Hannah went on to have two sons, John and Kaye, and a daughter called Bridget. Two were christened at Crathorne, where John had the benefit of a perpetual curacy paying £30 p.a. Both boys became clergymen like their father. The younger son, Kaye, went to Scorton Grammar School and then to the same college at Cambridge as his father. Kaye became chaplain to the 2nd battalion of the 1st Royal Regiment of Foot.

When Mawer came to Middleton Tyas, it was with a fixation on the study and improvement of Bishop Walton's Polyglot Bible[2], mentioning his plans the same year in an address to the Bishop of Durham, written in verse. Walton's bible had been published in six great folios during the Commonwealth, between 1654 and 1657, and it engaged the minds of

[1] *Alumni Cantabrigiensi* compiled by John & J.A.Venn. Part1 Volume 3 Cambridge University Press 1924

[2] A polyglot contains side-by-side versions of the same text in different languages. Polyglots are useful for studying the history of the text and its various interpretations.

some of the country's greatest scholars. With the blessing of Oliver Cromwell, it needed nine thousand pounds in prior subscriptions.
The nine languages used were Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Samaritan, Aramaic, Syriac, Arabic, Ethiopic, and Persian, although no single biblical book was printed in all nine. We have to assume that Mawer knew all these, and many more. He was certain that his main mission in life was to make improvements, mostly by means of a supplement. His main problems were always his rural isolation, and, though not for want of trying, a lack of interested patrons and their finance.

The year after his arrival, Mawer set out his ideas more fully in a printed letter regarding the reconciliation of the Hebrew with the ancient Greek Septuagint. It was 'a humble epistle'. Mawer knew how to be humble, and make highly complimentary introductions. He also liked to write these letters in verse, using rhyming couplets. The Earl of Oxford received it, first as prose, and then as poetry.

> My Lord 'tis Yours to aid a learn'd Design,
> Endulge th'Address, and bid the labour shine.
> Greatly regardful of each Work of Worth,
> Your happy Auspice calls a genius forth.

Obviously Mawer was not one for understating his many talents! These patron-seeking letters were not designed to be private. Whatever the subject matter, they were published either in Newcastle, or more usually in York by Thos. Gent, and sold in those towns, or at several places in London. His usual modus operandi was to add an extra petition to the publication in question. For example, he later printed his sermon, preached in St.Mary's Church, Richmond on 6th May1735. Added to this sermon was the same plea to both the S.P.C.K. (Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge), and to the honourable members of the East India, and other Companies. He proposed to them a Polyglot Book of the Psalms, saying that if copies could be sent to the Patriarch of Ethiopia and elsewhere, it would encourage friendship and, consequently, British trade. Yet another time, he petitioned the Levant Company.

In his publication entitled ***Roma Meretrix***, he discussed how he thought that the Roman Catholic church had gone wrong, and he came to the conclusion that the critical point was the fall of the Roman Empire, after which the church set up temporal princes and usurped civil powers. As part of this publication he addressed the Jews, to tell them that God's rejection was only temporary; in time, all would be resolved.

Also included in his ***Roma Meretrix*** was a discourse addressed to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury. First, Mawer says he hopes that his Grace lives to a good old age, and then proclaims the usefulness and the antiquity of the Samaritan Pentateuch which needs further investigation. In 1747, Archbishop Potter, himself an author, and who had previously promised his support, died before it was delivered.

Mawer's subjects ranged widely; one of his lengthy patriotic poems was called ***Liberty Asserted; or The Siege of Gibraltar***. Another was ***The Coronation: a Panegyrical Poem to the Queen***[3]**.** A very early work, published in Newcastle in 1732, and priced 6d, was entitled ***A Layman's Faith***, which looked at the principal evidences of the truth of the Christian Religion. It included a complimentary letter to Queen-Regent Caroline, stating in part:

Madam 'As we may observe to the Honour of the Sex of which your Majesty is the greatest Ornament, that the Female Reign has seldom failed to be auspicious to the Interests of Religion, by promoting all those Virtues attending it..'

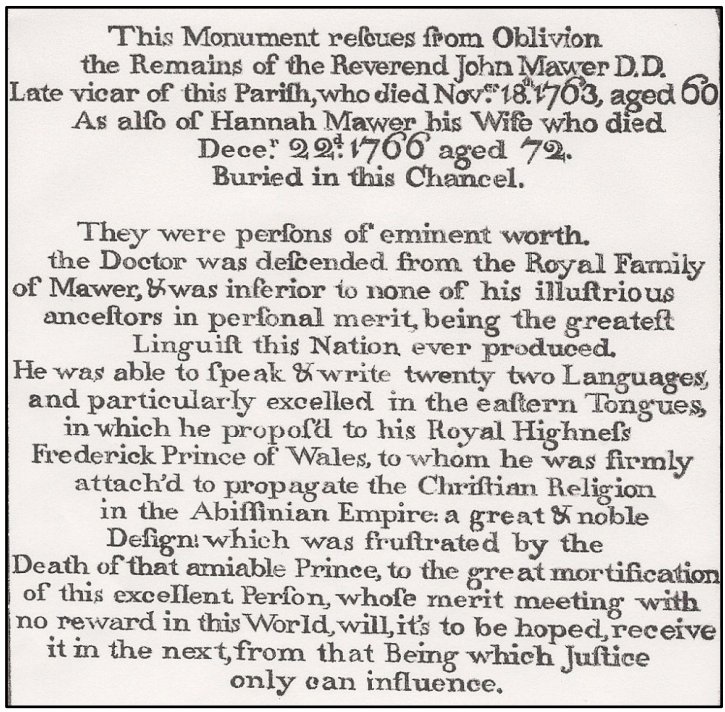
In ***Letters in Answer to Queries sent to the Author***, probably his last work, he goes back to what he wrote in 1738 concerning Greek text, and looks over all his failures, and the obstacles in the way of achieving his life's ambition. He still claims that his proposed edition of the Ethiopic Version of the Holy Scriptures is ready and intended for the press. Although he had an offer of Oxford University's oriental type, there was a major problem with the Ethiopic. Characters which could not be found would have to be specially cast. We also learn in this publication that

[3] For all these, and other titles by John Mawer, as they were originally printed, see Gale's ECCO and BiblioLife Print-on-Demand Initiatives

Mawer was writing to various gentlemen saying that he had put corrections throughout his English Bible, and that he thought they should do the same - at their leisure! One commentator aptly described all this soul-searching as 'wearisome'.

John Mawer suffered much from ill health in later days. It was reported that 'symptons and concomitants of the stone, which held him for many years, confined him at home.' He died in 1763, and his wife three years later at Gainford.

Who was responsible for their memorial tablet, high on the wall of the Chancel in St.Michael's Church, is not clear. Their son, Kaye Mawer, may bear some responsibility, as his wife's memorial in Penrith Church, Derbyshire, has some similar wording.


This Monument reſcues from Oblivion
the Remains of the Reverend John Mawer D.D.
Late vicar of this Pariſh, who died Novr. 18th. 1763, aged 60
As alſo of Hannah Mawer his Wife who died
Decr. 22d. 1766 aged 72.
Buried in this Chancel.

They were perſons of eminent worth.
the Doctor was deſcended from the Royal Family
of Mawer, & was inferior to none of his illuſtrious
anceſtors in perſonal merit, being the greateſt
Linguiſt this Nation ever produced.
He was able to ſpeak & write twenty two Languages,
and particularly excelled in the eaſtern Tongues,
in which he propoſ'd to his Royal Highneſs
Frederick Prince of Wales, to whom he was firmly
attach'd to propagate the Chriſtian Religion
in the Abiſſinian Empire: a great & noble
Deſign: which was fruſtrated by the
Death of that amiable Prince, to the great mortification
of this excellent Perſon, whoſe merit meeting with
no reward in this World, will, it's to be hoped, receive
it in the next, from that Being which Juſtice
only can influence.

The wording of the memorial to Rev. John Mawer, Middleton Tyas Church.
Courtesy: Rev. D. Lewis

The Royal Family of Mawer refers to the hereditary Kings of Wales, writes John's grandson, John Thomas. In Welsh Mawr means The Great, and the first ruler with that name was Rhodri Mawr in the 9th century. However, most genealogists today would rather equate this occupational surname with a person who mowed pasture lands to provide hay.

History has not been kind to Prince Frederick, referred to on the monument. He is best known for all the aggravation he caused his parents. If being 'firmly attach'd' to the Prince would ever have produced the desired sponsorship that Mawer craved, we shall never know.

Daniel Watson followed John Mawer as vicar, on the 17th February 1764. He said that Dr.Mawer, whilst he had made good progress building walls and planting hedges, had found so much to do inside the house that it was still not properly finished. One of the first things that Daniel did was to remove the fruit trees that had been nailed to the house walls and whose roots were in the foundations. He built a ha-ha in the first year. The next year, he re-pointed the exterior walls with lime mortar, and to cure the interior damp, dug trenches against the walls to fill with limestone chips. He wrote yearly accounts in the register of his improvements, although these diminished over the years. He did, however, produce a detailed terrier of the house and all the glebe fields, amounting to just over 149 acres:

1st The Vicarage House, consisting of a kitchen & two sitting rooms on the ground floor; over these three bed chambers, and three garrets; a storeroom, a larder, a dairy, a brew house, a stable, a barn, a chaise house, a coal house,& shed; all built with stone and with tyle, and in good repair.

Watson and Mawer had both had the benefit of copper workings in the glebe fields. Watson was told locally that Mawer had made £4000 by leasing fields to the Derbyshire company of George Tissington. The level Goosehill field next to the church was particularly productive, with the Old Field not far behind. Vertical pits about a metre in diameter peppered the workings, searching for any faults in the magnesium limestone which contained the ore. Galleries then followed. Watson leased the Lowfield

to the same company, but said they must have been disappointed by the amount of ore that came out of it.

Daniel buried his wife Dorothea in May 1799. She had been afflicted for many years with a painful complaint. His curate took over responsibilities two years later, and Daniel himself died at Bath in January 1804.

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There will be more stories from The Rookery in next year's Review.



St. Michael and All Angels Church, Middleton Tyas. Copyright: Oliver Dixon and licensed for re-use under the creative commons licence

The Line Over the Fell

Tony Dykes

Where Pennine's bright waters are rising and the wind blows restless and wild
Through the hills 'midst the granite and limestone, there runs the famed Settle – Carlisle.

T. Dykes, 1970

Why did we have to have a railway from Settle to Carlisle? The answer to this question is quite complex but can be summarized as follows: that lack of cooperation with other companies and political demands forced a line to be built which was not necessary. The Midland Railway wanted an outlet from the industrial north to Scotland. It already had a suitable line which connected with the West Coast mainline. This line made connections to their line virtually unworkable. The board of the Midland accordingly put a proposal to Parliament for its own line and, after due consideration, this was permitted. The West Coast board then, realizing that their intransigence would lose them a lot of revenue, offered a better deal to the Midland board. They agreed to go along with this and applied to Parliament to abandon their Bill. Parliament turned down this application and decreed that the Midland must build their line to Scotland. Since that time the Settle – Carlisle has been known as the railway that should never have been built.

The Midland then decided that it would be a through-express route, necessitating many viaducts and tunnels as it crossed the north of England, with a ruling gradient of not more than 1\100. The line starts at Settle Junction on the Little North Western Leeds to Lancaster line. It begins to climb as it follows the line of the River Ribble to Ribblehead. There, Ribblehead viaduct and Blea Moor tunnel take the line into Dentdale and thence into the Eden Valley and on to Carlisle.

The story of the building of the line is a story in itself. Thousands of navvies lived and worked along the length of the line. The area around

Ribblehead called Batty Moss was an industrial complex worthy of study by anyone who is interested in what was the centre of the last navvy-built railway in this country.

Once the line had been built, from the time of its opening in the 1870s to the end of the Second World War was the golden era. Through trains, local passenger trains and particularly heavy freight trains travelled the line twenty-four hours a day.



The railway community of Blea Moor.

Inevitably, with the onset of the motor car and lorry, traffic on the line began to decline to a level of just one or two passenger trains and a handful of freight trains a day. Lack of investment and maintenance became problems and the straw that broke the railway's back was the deteriorating condition of Ribbleshead Viaduct. The closure of the line was announced, with the prohibitive cost of repairing the viaduct being given as one of the reasons. Public outrage at this announcement was tremendous across all walks of life, including a fine dog called Ruswarp. Parliament intervened and forbade the closure. Tests were carried out on

the viaduct resulting in complete repair at a considerable reduction in costs to those anticipated.



11th August, 1968: The 15 Guinea Special, the last steam-driven train belonging to British Railways.

Since the late 1980s to the current time, the position has been one of gradual and sustained improvement. Many stations have been re-opened, passenger trains travel the line throughout the day, making journeys for commuters, shoppers and tourists possible. Walkers support the regular programme of guided walks up and down the line, and families and friends meet up with each other. The Friends of the Settle – Carlisle have raised considerable funds and have a strong voice in usage proposals. The stations are a joy to behold and many buildings have been restored to their original architectural grandeur. Major repairs have been carried out to viaducts, bridges, tunnels, the track and track bed. In fact, the railway overall is probably in better condition now than when it was built, which is just as well because it now carries many very heavy freight trains every day.

I did not set out in this brief article to cover all aspects of the railway.

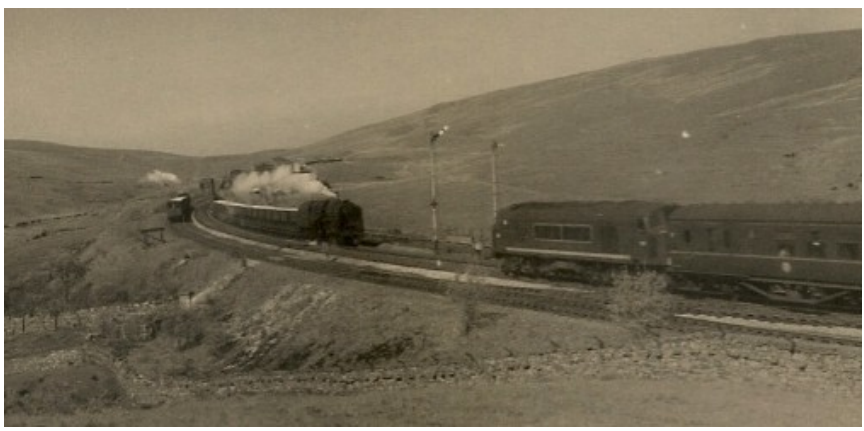
There are many books and publications available, along with DVDs, as well as information centres at places such as Ribbleshead, Settle and Appleby stations. I have not mentioned stories of the weather, accidents, navvy life, Dalesrail or steam and diesel special trains.

What the Settle – Carlisle has given us is a 72-mile corridor of Heritage and Conservation as well as a fine example of what can be done when people power, common sense and a vision for the future all combine.

So, if you are looking for a good day out (pick your weather), get a timetable either online or from the Tourist Office. I suggest you drive to Appleby to ride the train to either Ribbleshead for a tour of the shanty camp area and perhaps follow the old tramway to Blea Moor. Alternatively, you could go to Settle to visit the old town or to Skipton for some retail therapy and fish and chips.

Whichever you choose, enjoy the day.

For the steam whistle brought back the echo of that famous old line o'er the fell.
From Ribblesdale up to the Eden, each mile has its story to tell.



Diesel and steam meet at Blea Moor.

Richmondshire and the Realm in the later Middle Ages: Part 2, 1399-1485

Dr Melanie Devine and Dr Tony Pollard

In the first part of this discussion of the significance of Richmondshire in national politics before the Tudors, we traced the manner in which the involvement of the inhabitants of Richmondshire in the affairs of the realm was largely indirect, through John of Gaunt's principal retainers. After 1399, one of these retainers, Ralph Neville earl of Westmorland and his descendants became magnates in their own right at the heart of English affairs. As a consequence, especially during the Wars of the Roses, the local gentry as their clients (and their tenants in their turn) were drawn more directly into national politics under their leadership and found new opportunities for advancement and profit. This second part will trace how this played out over three generations of Nevilles followed by Richard duke of Gloucester, briefly Richard III until 1485.[1]

Ralph Neville, had married Joan Beaufort, John of Gaunt's daughter, in 1396. A commitment by Gaunt to transfer a life interest in most of his estates to the new countess and to transfer the inheritance of Middleham, Sheriff Hutton and Penrith to the heirs of their bodies was probably

[1] *The Richmond Review*, 34 *(*2011), pp54-66. What follows draws almost entirely on the unpublished and published work of the authors, to which the reader can refer for more detailed references. See in particular, M. J. Devine, 'Richmondshire, 1372-1425' (unpublished Teesside University PhD, 2006); eadem, 'The Dog that Did Not Bark: Richmondshire and the 1405 Rebellion', in P. J. P. Goldberg, ed, *Richard Scrope, Archbishop Rebel, Martyr*. (Donnington: Shaun Tyas, 2007), pp45-63; A. J. Pollard, *North Eastern England during the Wars of the Roses: Lay Society, War and Politics, 1450 –1500* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990); idem, *Richard III and the Princes in the Tower* (Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1991) idem, *The Worlds of Richard* III (Stroud: Tempus, 2001) chapters 4 to 8, pp 51-122; idem, *Warwick the Kingmaker: Politics, Power and Fame* (London: Continuum, 2007).

included in the marriage contract. Neville agreed to disinherit his son by his first marriage of all but his Durham estates and his titles. The conveyances by joint-enfeoffment began almost immediately and speeded up after the birth of their first son, Richard, in 1400. It was probably then, in the first decade of the century, that Middleham Castle was modernised by the addition of suites of rooms along the curtain walls to create a palace fit for the half sister of a king (who probably visited after the completion of the works) and to match the great castle at Bolton newly built by Richard Lord Scrope.[2]

Ralph Neville died in 1425; Joan lived until 1440. Richard Neville, from 1429 earl of Salisbury through marriage to the heiress of the Montagu earls of Salisbury, did not enter the inheritance until then (though he had an earlier lease of Middleham from his mother). Ralph's family by his first wife, particularly his heir John, surprisingly seems not to have contested it. There was no overt conflict during Ralph's lifetime. In 1417, for instance, John led a contingent to France which drew extensively on family retainers throughout the northern counties. Joan and her son were also helped by the fact that John, Lord Neville died in France in 1420 to be succeeded by a child, another Ralph, who inherited the earldom of Westmorland in 1425. There was trouble in Durham in the 1430s after the second earl came of age, where Joan tried to keep hold of Brancepeth and Raby, but the settlement in Richmondshire was not seriously challenged. From 1440 Richard Neville earl of Salisbury was the undisputed lord of Middleham.[3]

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[2] Anthony Tuck, 'Ralph Neville, first earl of Westmorland', Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (Oxford, 2004); A. Emery, *The Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales, 1, Northern England* (Cambridge University Press, 1966), *A Guide to Middleham Castle*

[3] The National Archives, E101/51/2, m22 (http://www.icmacentre.ac.uk/soldier/database); A. J. Pollard, 'The Crown and the County Palatine of Durham, 1437-94', in idem, ed, *The North of England in the Age of Richard III* (Stroud: Alan Sutton, 1996), pp73-7.Salisbury paid his mother a rent of £400 for Middleham and Penrith. Since they were worth approximately £1200 per annum, this suggests the equivalent of a customary dower. He did not enter Sheriff Hutton until after her death. (R. L. Storey, *The End of the House of Lancaster* (London: Barrie and Rockliff, 1966),p.112). He

The Neville supremacy was founded on the family's close kinship with the ruling dynasty. Ralph Neville was unshakeably loyal to all three Lancastrian kings: Henry IV to 1413; Henry V 1413-22 and Henry VI from 1422. His pre-eminence locally was helped by the misfortune that struck the Scrope of Bolton family. Between 1403 and 1414, and again 1420 and 1439 there was no adult head of the family. Roger, second lord, died in 1403, only a few months after his father. His son Richard was ten. He died in France in 1420. His son Henry was then a two-year-old baby. During both these long minorities Nevilles had custody of the estates and the marriages of the heirs: Ralph in the first (and he married Scrope to his daughter Margaret); Richard the second (from the beginning) although this was contested by his executors, in particular Marmaduke Lumley, as contrary to wishes expressed in the will. By a combination of misfortunes (the events of 1399 and the early deaths) the Scropes of Bolton were reduced to the second rank. The Scropes of Masham, who under Stephen, first Lord, had not aspired to any great position, were undone by the treason of Henry, third lord, in 1415. He was involved in a plot against Henry V on the eve of the Agincourt campaign, executed and his estates confiscated. The estates were granted to Henry Lord FitzHugh, the other prominent Richmondshire figure, who, like Westmorland, was a loyal servant of the new dynasty and particularly close to Henry V. [4]

It is quite possible that Neville hankered after the inheritance of the lordship of Richmond, perhaps even the title and rest of the honour, for his favoured son Richard, when the grant for life in his favour would come to an end. At that time Richard had no title or landed estate in prospect other than his share of the partitioned Neville inheritance. It may be that the *Registrum* was drawn up in c1413-14 as part of a petition to the young Henry V, to secure this favour. If so, Henry declined, instead granting the reversion of the life interest of the lordship to his brother

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may have had difficulty making ends meet until he acquired his wife's inheritance and title in 1429. He described himself, with some exaggeration, as a 'poor husband with no livelihood' when asking the Prior of Durham to lend him his coach.

[4] Devine, 'Richmondshire 1372-1425'

John. John duly succeeded in 1425. When he died ten years later, the lordship reverted to the crown, except for the dower interest of his widow, Jacquetta. She lived until 1473. Henry VI, when he came of age, step by step, granted the remaining two thirds of the lordship to the earl of Salisbury, culminating in 1449 with a grant in tale mail (ie in inheritance), with the reversion of Jacquetta's dower. Since she did not die until 1473 the ultimate beneficiary was Richard of Gloucester. With a nice circularity the lordship returned to the crown ten years later when Gloucester took the throne for himself. The property, offices and authority of the earldom of Richmond in Richmondshire, with only a short break, were thus united with the lordship of Middleham.[5]

Local pre-eminence was further buttressed by a near monopoly of the office of Warden of the West March towards Scotland. By 1399 a system had evolved for defence of the border through two wardens, east and west. The west was based on Carlisle where a small permanent garrison was maintained with authority to maintain a reserve by indentured retainer. In the immediate aftermath of the Lancastrian usurpation, Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, held both the east and west. But after the first Percy rebellion of 1403, the west march was transferred to Neville. Thereafter there was a virtual monopoly in the family. Ralph was succeeded by his eldest son John in 1414; after his death in 1420 it passed to Richard Neville, who held it with a break between 1436 and 1443 until his death in 1460. He held it jointly with his own son, Richard earl of Warwick, from 1453 and then Warwick alone 1460 to 1470. The wardenship of the west march almost became an hereditary office; indeed it did for three months in1483 when, at the end of his reign, Edward IV created a Cumbrian palatinate for Richard of Gloucester. The significance for Richmondshire lies in the authority given to the warden to raise troops. Evidence from Middleham estate accounts in the 1450s, 60s and 70s shows that a dozen or so Richmondshire knights and esquires were then retained for this purpose. They were to serve their lord, with their own small contingents both in peace and war in return for annuities ranging from £2 to £20. All told, in 1458 Richard Neville earl of Salisbury was reported to have eighty

[5] A. J.Pollard *The Richmond Review*, 33 (2010), Pollard, *Worlds*,pp 118-19.

retained knights and esquires in his company, with 400 troops altogether. Such a force, supplemented by arrayed men and tenants, was called up against the Scots in 1417-19, the mid-1430s, 1448-9, 1455, and 1460-4. As we shall see, they could as well be used against the crown as against the Scots.[6]

From 1399 to 1471, therefore, the Nevilles were unassailable in Richmondshire. Middleham was the hub of their hegemony into which they drew most of the landed elite of the district. By the 1450s three of the four peers, Scrope of Bolton, Neville of Latimer and Fitzhugh were in effect clients; only Scrope of Masham stood aloof. One gentry family emerged as crucial over these decades: the Conyers of Hornby. John, a lawyer who had purchased the marriage of the heiress of the St Quintin's from Richard Lord Scrope in the 1390s, was one of Gaunt's men too. After 1399 he served Westmorland. His son Christopher, who was head of the family for 50 years between 1412 and 1463, took on the key role of constable of Middleham castle and steward of the lordship (chief executive). He was succeeded by his son, Sir John, who held these offices before his father's death and was both Salisbury's and Warwick's

[6] .R. L. Storey, 'The Wardens of the Marches of England towards Scotland, 1377-1489', English Historical Review, 72 (1957), pp 593-615. There are disappointingly few records to reveal who Westmorland retained, but representatives of eight Richmondshire familes were retained by Salisbury, five by Warwick (of whom six were either Conyers or Metcalfes of Nappa) and six by Gloucester. Members of the Burgh of Brough, Frank of Kneeton, Rokeby of Mortham and Wycliffe of Wycliffe served two of the three. Not all were retained solely for potential military service. Thomas Metcalfe, an accountant and estate administrator, began his career in the service of Warwick and rose to great heights under Richard III as chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He was, John Leland later heard, 'in those quarters (Richmondshire) a great officer, steward, surveyor or receiver of Richmond lands, whereby he waxed rich and able to build and purchase'. Another local who did well was Sir Robert Danby of Thorp Perrow who purchased the manor from Christopher Conyers, was an executor of Salisbury's will and a retainer subsequently of both Warwick and Gloucester. A lawyer, councillor of Salisbury, Warwick and Edward IV, he ended his career as Chief Justice of Common Pleas (Pollard, *North-Eastern England*, pp133-4,138-9).

lieutenant from the mid 1450s. He eased Richard of Gloucester's succession in 1471 and even outlived him.[7]

Thus over a seventy year period, over three generations, Richmondshire belonged to Neville.[8] The significance for the inhabitants of Richmondshire is self-evident. In return for their deference, loyalty and service they looked to Middleham for patronage, promotion and favour. The town of Richmond in 1440 secured a significant reduction in its fee farm through the good offices of the earl of Salisbury. Richard Clervaux of Croft was pardoned royal service on account of his ill health through the intercession of the earl of Warwick in 1461 and later resolved a dispute with his neighbour through the arbitration of Richard of Gloucester's council. As a result of the monopoly of power exercised by these lords, Richmondshire in the fifteenth century was a district which enjoyed a remarkable level of internal peace, largely undisturbed by the kind of gentry feuds which disrupted other parts of the kingdom, including Westmorland and Cumberland. The Neville hegemony was equally significant for the politics of the realm.[9]

It is no exaggeration to say that without the support of his brother-in- law, Ralph Neville, earl of Westmorland, Henry IV may not have taken the throne and could well have been deposed in the early years of his reign. Henry faced successive rebellions, those after 1403 linked with the disgruntled Percy family (who had also helped make him king). In 1403 Neville played a crucial role in preventing the earl of Northumberland joining his son Hotspur on the eve of the battle of Shrewsbury. In 1405 he disarmed and dispersed rebels who followed Richard Scrope, archbishop of York. In1408 his men dealt with the earl of Northumberland's last throw. Through all these, the men of Richmondshire loyally followed him. The Percy co-ordinated rising of 1405, with which Archbishop Scrope unwisely threw in his lot, demonstrates the critical importance of the Neville hold on Richmondshire. While men rose against the crown to the

[7] Pollard, *Worlds*, pp61, 68-9.
[8] 'Belongen' in Middle English had the sense of 'attached to', ' in the service of'.
[9] *Ibid*, pp108, 111-12.

east and to the south, with one exception Richmondshire was loyal. Indeed, several men for the lordship were rewarded for their service in suppressing the rebellion. Importantly, no member of either of the Scrope families joined the archbishop. The exception was Ralph Fitzrandolph of Spennythorne who paid the price – his head adorned the castle gate in Richmond for a while. It is possible that Fitzrandolph, descended from a cadet branch of the earlier Middleham lords, fancied he would displace Westmorland. [10]

Westmorland's star waned when Henry V came to the throne. He was eclipsed at court by Henry, Lord FitzHugh, who acted as constable at the coronation, became the new king's chamberlain, and was almost constantly at the king's side throughout his reign, and in France with him from 1417. Both Westmorland and FitzHugh were of Henry IV's generation. Why Henry V turned his back on Westmorland but towards FitzHugh we do not know. But FitzHugh was a keenly religious man, a crusader and promoter of the Brigettine order in England, which Henry V also favoured, being instrumental in the establishment of Syon Abbey. FitzHugh crusaded in Prussia, then Rhodes where he built a castle and the Levant after 1408. His brand of Christian chivalry, as epitomised by Chaucer's knight and perhaps shared with the first Lord Scrope of an earlier generation, commended him to the new king. He seems to have been something of a father-figure and mentor. But FitzHugh was at court; Westmorland remained in the country. He loyally served his new king in the role of defender of the north, and since his local pre-eminence was unchallenged, accepted the new order. Both FitzHugh and Westmorland played important roles in seeing that the nine-month old Henry VI inherited the throne peacefully and served on the first minority council that established the new regime. They both died in 1425. [11]

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[10] Andy King, 'They have the Hertes of the People by North': Northumberland, the Percies and Henry IV, 1399-1408, in Gwilym Dodds and Douglas Biggs, ed., *Henry IV: the Establishment of the Regime, 1399-1406* (Woodbridge: Boydell, 2003), pp139-59; Devine, 'Richmondshire and the 1405 Rebellion', passim.

[11] Devine, 'Richmondshire and the 1405 Rebellion', pp55-6; eadem, 'Richmondshire 1372-1425'

Sir Richard Neville, not yet earl of Salisbury, took some time to establish himself in his father's shoes after 1425. This was partly because his mother was still alive and he had no landed estates of his own. At first he and his mother had to make good their possession of Yorkshire and Cumbrian estates. In 1429 he succeeded through his wife, Alice Montague, to the earldom of Salisbury and her estates in the south. But Salisbury was also constrained because the new king's uncle, John duke of Bedford, now held the lordship of Richmond. After 1435, when Bedford died (the duke was childless), and with the backing of his all powerful uncle, Cardinal Henry Beaufort, he began to make headway. He immediately became steward of the lordship of Richmond – the lordship reverted to the crown. And after his mother's death in 1440 there was no stopping him. He was a key member of the royal council and with access to the young and feckless Henry VI, able to secure and extend his dominance not just in Richmondshire, where he gradually 'recovered' the lordship, but the north as a whole, in which he tightened his hold on the west march and slowly built up a portfolio of duchy of Lancaster offices, starting with the stewardship of Pontefract on his father's death, extended in 1445 to a joint grant in survivorship with his two elder sons. From 1443 he had a long-term hold on the wardenship of the west march. From 1437 his brother Robert was bishop of Durham and other brothers were established through marriage as northern peers (William as Lord Fauconberg, George as Lord Latimer). His son, Richard succeeded to the earldom of Warwick in 1449, and with that to the lordship of Barnard Castle just north of the Tees. New generations of the lesser peerage in Richmondshire, the Scropes of Bolton (Henry, d.1459; John, d. 1494) and FitzHugh (Henry, d. 1475) entered his service, though Thomas Lord Scrope of Masham kept his distance. By 1453 Richard Neville the elder had secured a position even more powerful than his father had enjoyed.[12]

One would have thought that the Nevilles, father and son, earls of Salisbury and Warwick, kinsmen of the king, who had done so well out of

[12] A. J. Pollard, 'Neville, Richard, fifth earl of Salisbury, 1400-1460', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford, 2004); Pollard, *North-Eastern England*, pp249-54; Storey, *End of the House of Lancaster*, pp112-15.

the Lancastrian regime, would have remained its stalwart defenders in the face of the recalcitrant duke of York. But they did not. It is one of the more remarkable twists of fifteenth-century history that they deserted the house of Lancaster to which they owed so much, and in effect put Edward IV on the throne in 1461. Why? It is probably not that important that the duchess of York was the earl of Salisbury's sister, Cecily. More important might be that Salisbury had been something of a mentor to the young Richard of York. Of greater significance perhaps was Henry VI's creation of his half brother, Edmund Tudor, as earl of Richmond in 1453, endowing him with all the property, including that granted four years earlier to Neville. Salisbury thereby stood to lose both the lordship and the eventual inheritance. Tudor in fact died soon after and neither he nor his posthumously born son, Henry,were able to enter the lordship. The Nevilles just ignored the king's grant, a revealing indication of Henry VI's lack of authority in his realm. Crucial, however, was the fact that in August 1453 Henry VI fell mentally ill and became incapable altogether of ruling the kingdom. After six months of paralysis in government, the Neville earls backed York to become protector. They did so because the younger Neville's enemy, the duke of Somerset, was York's enemy too. They did so also to ensure that they were in a strong position to deal with the Percys who were now challenging their dominance of the north. It was a decision taken for short-term advantage, with a fateful end in 1454.[13]

It is possible that, already in 1454, the young earl of Warwick was eclipsing his father. After 1455, it is apparent that he began to take the lead in the alliance with York, and eventually to shape York's own policy. This was evident at the first battle of St Albans (1455) in which the Yorkists recovered power for a short while; and obvious by 1459 when they rose in full-scale rebellion against the crown. In 1460 Warwick backed York's claim to be the legitimate king. In 1461, after the deaths of both York and his father at, and following the battle of Wakefield,

[13] Pollard, *Warwick the Kingmaker*, pp 23-7; idem, *North-Eastern England*, pp255-65. For a detailed discussion of the Neville Percy feud see R. A. Griffiths, 'Local Rivalries and national politics: the Percies, the Nevilles and the Duke of Exeter, 1453-55', *Speculum*, 43 (1968).

Warwick helped put the seventeen-year-old Edward IV on the throne. Warwick the Kingmaker, who emerged so dramatically in the 1450s, was a more decisive, ruthless and charismatic figure than either his father or the duke of York. His father was a reluctant Yorkist. Lancastrian loyalty was in his bones. There is reason to suspect that he objected to his son supporting York's claim in 1460, but by then there was no turning back. His family had been made by the house of Lancaster, and in his heart he could not abandon it. Not so Warwick; loyalty lay less heavily on him.[14]

After 1461 Warwick was not only unassailable in the north, but for four or five years his influence in the kingdom was unchallenged. However, from 1465 Edward IV began to move out from under his shadow. By 1469 Warwick was out of favour and plotting rebellion. He removed the king's new supporters that summer by a military coup and forced himself back into power. An uneasy truce lasted until spring of 1470 when Warwick, now with the king's brother the duke of Clarence suborned, rose again with a view to replacing Edward with George. This failed; Warwick fled. But in September he returned with French backing, now a loyal Lancastrian again and successfully restored Henry VI. It was Edward IV's turn to flee. But in the spring of the following year, 1471, Edward IV landed in Yorkshire with Burgundian support; in a remarkable campaign he outmanoeuvred Warwick and defeated him on Easter Sunday on the field of Barnet. The Middleham Nevilles were destroyed. Like Icarus, they had flown too near the sun.[15]

In all this, over fifteen years, the men of Richmondshire had played a key role. Richmondshire was vital to the Nevilles; and their local followers had responded to calls to arms innumerable times. They turned out in October 1453 to confront the Percys at a battle that did not happen, at Sand Hutton, then at a skirmish at Stamford Bridge near York in 1454. Some marched with Salisbury to the first battle of St Albans in 1455; others accompanied their lord to London in 1458 to provide a show of

[14] Pollard, *Warwick the Kingmaker*, pp29-42;
[15] *Ibid*, pp 43-74. Warwick's career is considered in fuller detail in the context of the politics of the court in M. A. Hicks, *Warwick the Kingmaker* (Oxford, Blackwell, 1998).

force in a short-lived rapprochement with their enemies. More were called up by Salisbury in the summer of 1459 under the command of Sir John Conyers and marched to Ludlow to confront the Lancastrians again. On the way they fought off an ambush at Blore Heath in Cheshire. There may have been Richmondshire men at Wakefield, where Salisbury was taken and subsequently lynched; some were almost certainly at Towton. They served in Northumberland under Warwick on more than one occasion between 1461 and 1464, probably including the battles of Hedgely Moor and Hexham under his brother John. Four times they rose for Warwick in 1469-71. In the summer of 1469 a rising, known as Robin of Redesdale's rebellion, organised behind the scenes by Sir John Conyers under the pseudonym of Robin of Redesdale, led to the defeat of Edward IV's men at Edgecote. Sir Henry Neville, heir to Lord Latimer, and Conyers' own heir were killed in the action. In March 1470 the two Lord Scropes were implicated in stirring the men of Richmondshire against the king. In August 1470 Lord FitzHugh led a diversionary rising in the north for which several of the Richmondshire gentry subsequently sued for pardons and in April 1471, under Lord Scrope of Bolton, they mobilised too late to support Warwick at Barnet.[16]

Middleham itself was the centre of Neville power in the north. In the 1450s and 60s both Warwick and his father were often there; father and son in 1454, father for much of the time after 1457. He called a council meeting there in 1458 in which he resolved to take full party with the duke of York (whatever that meant). In 1459 he marched from Middleham to confront the king (with York and Warwick) at Ludlow. Warwick was frequently there in 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1467-8 and 1469. He was here, there and everywhere, but Middleham was his northern headquarters, especially when securing the north for Edward IV in the early 1460s and plotting against the king after he withdrew from court in 1467-9. Perhaps the most grisly event witnessed there was the execution

[16] Further details are to be found in Pollard, *North-Eastern England*, passim and idem *Warwick the Kingmaker*, pp119-25. Conyers was attainted in 1459; several others sued for pardons for their involvement. Members of the families of Aske, Burgh, Pudsay, Frank and Rokeby were pardoned after FitzHugh's Rising in 1470.



Middleham Castle.

on 18 May 1464, in the earl's presence, of six or seven Lancastrians captured at the battle of Hexham. In 1469, after his defeat at Edgecote, Edward IV became an unwilling house guest of the earl at Middleham. It was not his first visit, for he had stayed there in happier days in May 1461 after the victory at Towton. Finally, either Warwick or his father added the top gallery to the castle keep; its last improvement. Middleham, in short, was in its heyday between 1440 and 1471 under Warwick and his father. [17]

And so we come to Richard of Gloucester, the cuckoo in the nest. Too much has been made of the association between the future Richard III and Middleham. It is true that he succeeded more or less completely to the Neville inheritance in Richmondshire and that he recruited the local gentry into his service after the fall of Warwick. There was an almost seamless transition. The eighteen-year-old duke of Gloucester, brother of the king, received the lordship of Middleham, and the other Neville properties in the north, by royal grant in July 1471. He did not receive them as the husband of Warwick's daughter Anne, whom he did not

[17] Pollard, *North-Eastern England*, pp227, 260, 269-71, 285, 306; Idem, *Warwick the Kingmaker*, pp52, 54, Hicks, *Warwick the Kingmaker*, pp247, 264; C. D. Ross, *Edward IV* (London: Eyre Methuen, 1974), pp 60-1.

marry until the following year. Edward IV placed his loyal brother there to harness and control a district that had been so troublesome under Warwick over the previous two years. He probably intended first to attaint Warwick for treason. But he did not, because Gloucester demanded a stronger title than mere pleasure of the king. This was established in 1474/5 by acts of parliament. This deal also suited all those Richmondshire men, the Scropes, FitzHugh, Conyers and others, who had committed treason along with Warwick in 1469-71, for they too thereby escaped punishment. No wonder they lined up to join Gloucester's service[18]. However, the title was still not secure since the heir by law of inheritance was Warwick's nephew George Neville, duke of Bedford, fortunately a child, but who on coming of age could seek a repeal of the act. George subsequently came to reside at Middleham in the care of his cousin and her husband, where he conveniently died, degraded and unmarried, in May 1483 – the fledgling cast out of the nest. [19]

There is no doubt that many of the Richmondshire gentry profited from Gloucester's tenure both before and after he became king, one or two spectacularly. Called up in June 1483, some with their tenants were on hand when he took the throne, and they policed the coronation; others of them later helped repress the duke of Buckingham's rebellion and benefitted substantially from the subsequent confiscations and distribution of forfeited property in southern counties; some of them fought and died for him at Bosworth. Several Richmondshire men occupied positions of great trust during the reign. There is no doubt that several built up a close bond with him, as close perhaps as they had enjoyed with Warwick the Kingmaker. But these men were not sentimental. Although there were those who were still prepared to rise in the Yorkist cause in 1486 and

[18] Gloucester was also granted the lordship of Barnard Castle, which legally was the inheritance of Anne Beauchamp, dowager countess of Warwick, and who outlived him.
[19] Pollard, *Richard III*, pp65-9.

1487, they soon recognised that the wind had changed and trimmed their sails accordingly. [20]

We should be cautious before attributing too great an importance to the local association between Richard III, Middleham and Richmondshire. Middleham was not Richard III's 'home'. There is no certainty that he visited the castle when he was in the care of Richard Neville between 1465 and 1469. He visited York, once, and may have visited Middleham, but it is not documented. He did not spend much time in Middleham after he took possession. If the dates of his retaining locally are an indicator, he may have in the summer and autumn of 1471, again in the spring of 1473. But he did not visit at all between Michaelmas 1473 and Michaelmas 1474, for the janitor was paid throughout that accounting year on the basis of the lord's household never being resident. In these early years he is to be found more often elsewhere in the north, especially Pontefract of which he was steward. Later he was more frequently recorded at Barnard Castle.[21]

Middleham may well have been the favoured residence after 1474 of his duchess Anne, Warwick's daughter. It was the birthplace of their son in 1476. It was where his mother-in-law, the countess Anne, Warwick's widow, was accommodated, not entirely of her own choice. It may have been earmarked as the core of his heir's patrimony, for whom perhaps before 1483 the earldom of Richmond might have been intended. The raising of the parish church to collegiate status in 1478 may well be linked to the future being planned for Prince Edward, as was the founding of a fair in 1480. Securing the title for his heir may also explain the manner in

[20] Pollard, *North-Eastern England*, pp343-58. Richmondshire men tended to be kept in the north. Sir John Conyers, was rewarded with an increase of his annuity from Middleham to £133. 6s. 8d and a life grant of Catterick and Aldborough St John (worth c.£60 p.a) and a place on the council of the North. He and others were to sustain the new king's direct interest in the north. Conyers reconciled himself to the new regime after 1485; so too did Thomas Metcalfe, who became Henry VII's agent in Richmondshire, as surveyor of Richmond, a post he held until his death in 1504.

[21] Pollard, *Worlds*, pp 65-74.

which he steadily came to terms with all possible counter claimants, including Richard Neville, Lord Latimer and John Lord Neville, the heir to the earldom of Westmorland. Accession to the throne changed all that. After 1483 Richard visited once, but this was part of a royal progress in 1484, after the death of his only son, which had as its main purpose the establishment of a regime for the north in his absence – the Council of the North. And this was to be based at Sandal.[22]

Moreover, Gloucester's sights were already set beyond Richmondshire. In the first months of 1483 his brother the king created for him a palatinate comprising Cumberland and a great swathe of south-west Scotland which he was, presumably, planning to conquer. Edward IV's death, two months later, opened up the possibility of an even bigger prize, that could be (and was) won more cheaply. Had Richard III continued on the throne for any length of time, it is almost certain that his personal ties with Richmondshire would have faded. From 1483 he was, after all, king of England, and the centre of gravity of the realm lay in the Thames valley. You could not rule England from Wensleydale. The death of his queen in the spring of 1485 removed another link and immediately, it was rumoured, he was preparing to drop his northern associates so as to reach a rapprochement with those he had displaced in usurping the throne. As it was his death on the field of Bosworth brought his association with Richmondshire, and Richmondshire's place in the sun, to a sudden end. [23] Richard III's lordship of Middleham and Richmondshire was but a coda to the long and more deeply rooted lordship of three generations of Nevilles. In the fifteenth century the district enjoyed prominence in the affairs of the realm because of the closeness of the family, first to the Lancastrian dynasty and then its support for the Yorkists. Ultimately it did not make much difference who won at Bosworth; whichever way the battle went the district was going to become less important. Had Richard III won, it would have been a more drawn-out transition. Henry VII's victory meant that the change was more abrupt. Richmondshire and its inhabitants accommodated themselves to the new regime and the end of nearly a

[22] Pollard, *North-Eastern England*, pp339-41, 356-9;
[23] Pollard, *Richard III*, pp81-2, 165-7

century and a half when, because of its association with the House of Lancaster, the district had had a special significance, and its leading inhabitants an enhanced role, in English politics. In this way an era can truly be said to have ended for north-west Yorkshire in 1485.



The tomb of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland.[24]

[24] Source: Blore, Edward, and Henry Le Keux. 1826. *The monumental remains of noble and eminent persons*. London: Harding, Lepard and Co.

The Neville Family Tree.

Arabella's Memorial

Michael Khurdi



'In memory of the centenary of Arabella Khurdi (1911 – 2011), a pupil, educationalist, historian and true Christian': this is the epitaph on a stained glass window at the entrance of Middleton Tyas Church of England Primary School. The window was designed and made by the pupils of Middleton Tyas School with the expert help of Rural Arts.

Arabella lived all her life in Middleton Tyas, except for training and teaching in the Midlands and during the Second World War years which she spent in London, teaching and organizing school meals when that service was disrupted by the blitz. After the war, she also spent some time in Germany.

Arabella was educated at Middleton Tyas C. of E. Primary School, then at Richmond Girls' High School. At that time there was no transport between Middleton Tyas and Richmond, so she used to catch the mail van at Scotch Corner at 4 a.m. on a Monday morning and lodge in Richmond for the week. The return journey for the weekend was in the military bus taking soldiers to Darlington Station for their leave at the end of the week.

During her time at Richmond Girls' High School she was once summoned to the Headmistress' office to be told that she was to be made a school prefect. When Arabella looked surprised, the Headmistress said the

reason she was to be appointed prefect was because she knew all the tricks!

After graduating from Richmond, she enrolled at Leicester Domestic Science College; she was awarded a teaching certificate from Bristol University and Training Colleges. Her Leicester archives are lodged with Leicester Museum (Snipton Discovery Park).

Arabella started her work as a domestic science teacher in Birmingham; then she moved to London to teach domestic science there because this move would enable her to add to her training by attending an evening class in dietetics. The work in London was very demanding during the war years, looking after children's education, welfare and feeding, in addition to fire duties in the evenings and at weekends.

After the war Arabella joined BFES (British Families Education Service) in Germany where she helped to establish schools for the British Forces, (all her papers are lodged in the archives of the Department of Education of London University). She lodged with a German family during that time, and this German family kept in touch with her all her life. The family has written an article about their experience during the occupation (a copy is kept in the archives of the Department of Education, London University).

In 1951 Arabella decided to come home. She was appointed Head of the Catering, Health and Fashion Department at Darlington Technical College, remaining there until her retirement, and in her retirement she was an assessor for City and Guilds.

Arabella met her husband, Michael, a Palestinian from Jerusalem, in the United Nations Club and they were happily married for fifty years. They made frequent visits to the Holy Land.

Arabella wrote a book, 'Arabella's Story; A North Yorkshire Village', and the proceeds from the book were used to provide a carpet for the Church in Middleton Tyas. She was a great supporter of the church: she sang in the choir, provided a vestment for the vicar, a pew for the vicar, made by

Thomson, the 'mouse man' and, with the help of her husband, she provided and decorated the church Christmas tree for over forty years. Arabella left the church a handsome legacy to provide for the church maintenance. She was the inspiration for and main contributor to the Millenium Cross, which was based on an ancient cross base erected in Middleton Tyas cemetery. Arabella was also the main contributor to a tree replacement scheme along the church avenue. It is a great shame that the Church did not grant her a stained glass window in her memory. However, the stained glass window in the school in Middleton Tyas is a very fitting memorial, and generations of local children will enjoy it and know about Arabella because of it, and this would mean a great deal to her.

Arabella was one of the original members of the Civic Society, which she served as a committee member. She was a supporter of Richmond Museum, to which she donated a stone-age axe found in her garden, along with many other artefacts.

Arabella was a founding member of NORTH (Northern Orthopedic Research to the Hip), a charity based at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle; she was a supporter of DPET (Durham Palestine Education Trust) at Durham University.

In addition to all of this, Arabella had a tremendous sense of family and belonging. She took a great interest in all of her own and Michael's family; she was a good correspondent and kept in touch with all of her extended family by letter and regular telephone calls. Very often family members would have to speak to Arabella to hear about what other members of the family were doing. She is very sadly missed by her devoted husband, Michael, and by the rest of her large family. Her memory lives, and will continue to live on.



The window designed by the pupils of Middleton Tyas C. of E. Primary School.
Photography by courtesy of Jane Hatcher

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We regret to announce the deaths of the following members:

Elizabeth Berry
Joan Fletcher
Nancy Francis
Joan Pike
Peter Vollborth, contributor to the Review, 2007

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

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Lecture Programme 2013

January 10th	Veronique Powell **The Parisian Life of John Bowes**
February 14th	David Crane **Vale, Veldt and Easingwold**
March 14th	Philip Abrahamson **From Barrow to Bunker:** **archaeology on the MOD estate**
April 11th	Frances Spalding **John and Myfanwy Piper:** **two very British artists**
May 9th	Dr Rosemary Southey '**If you knew what I had to do to earn a living…' - surviving as a musician in the 18th century North East**
June 13th	Chris Purser **220 Years and 160,000 books**
July 11th	**Visit to Levens Hall, Cumbria** (tba)
September 12th	Jane Hatcher **'One of the best places in the North for trying the goodness of a horse's bottom' – horse racing in the 18th century**

October 10th	Christopher Woodward **Gardens and Ruins**
November 7th	Bob Woodings **Shelley's Journey to Richmond**

All lectures will be held on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm, in the Influence Church, Victoria Road; the AGM will be held on Friday 13th December in the Town Hall, also starting at 7.30pm.

The Society now has its own website where you can keep up to date with activities and lectures.

Google 'Richmond Civic Society' or use the full web address:

www.communigate.co.uk/ne/richmondcivic/links.phtml