The Richmond Review

being the Annual Report

of the

Richmond and District

Civic Society 2009

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Chairman's Report

Fred Wood

I must begin this report with a comment on the wider events of this year, 2009. We, both as members of society as a whole and as members of our Civic Society, are not immune to the current problems that surround us. You will know that the national umbrella body, The Civic Trust, was put into administration by its trustees at the end of April, and as I write this report a replacement organisation is being considered with help from other national bodies such as The National Trust and English Heritage. Over recent years we have given significant financial support to The Station, Richmond Open Spaces Appeal (ROSA) and Save Our Shire (SOS) in their early days and we have managed our own affairs to cover our costs while ensuring our independence of action by not looking for support elsewhere. Now we face the 2010 lecture season not only with the greatly increased hire charges for the Zetland Centre applied this year, but also an enforced change of night to Thursday. So we expect that many more stringent conditions will apply in the days ahead. We hope you will continue to support our lecture programme, and that we continue to have satisfactory membership numbers in spite of the financial pressures on us all. We have started a Gift Aid scheme very recently in the hope that we get additional funds to support our activities.

These last twelve months have seen us taking an active part in the celebrations of the 750th anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Friary in Richmond. The culmination of the programme was the services in late September to mark the anniversary. We were also able to help with the publication of The Friary by Mike Wood by means of a donation towards the printing costs.

We are delighted that, through the Richmond Heritage Partnership Scheme with The Richmond and Swale Valley Initiative (RSVCI) and Colin Grant, significant changes have been made to the use and appearance of the buildings in the Market Place. We are indebted to John Clarke, our planning sub-committee chairman, for his work in this area. Of course we acknowledge, with thanks to our planning committee, the dedicated work they do in the on-going task with the District Council's planners to maintain our standards in the conservation areas of Richmondshire. Our other immediate interest, reported on last year, was the options for improvements in the landscape covering Yorke Square Car Park, the areas of the riverside and the views around the town. The

car park is now being used but a District Council report on the toilet facilities is awaited. RSVCI is actively trying to source funding to allow work on the vistas and other associated projects to commence.



The Cross View Café: an example of successful refurbishment.

Bev Joicey and his committee have provided us once more with the expected high standard of lectures which again included a joint lecture with Richmondshire Museum. Our thanks go to them for their efforts. We have just had one of our best summer trips. This time we went to Wallington where the best possible weather conditions allowed us to enjoy to the full the splendid gardens and the wide variety of interesting artefacts in the house itself.

As I write, John and Tina McDonald and Dorothy Clague are busy with this year's Review and we look forward to another excellent production. They deserve all our thanks for their efforts. Additionally, John is working with the District and Town Councils to draw up a programme for the Heritage Open Days

in early September. This was to be an event fronted by the now defunct Civic Trust, but John has enthusiastic backing from the councils.

We have just received copies of the general index to the first thirty issues of what is now The Richmond Review. This detailed index has been the work of Graham Merlane, and we thank him for this useful book. Mark Whyman likewise deserves our thanks for arranging the printing. We hope to sell copies for £5 each to help with the production costs.

We are delighted that ROSA has been able to complete the payment programme for the purchase of the lands they now own and we look forward to the effective management of the various sites. The Station continues to attract visitors with a wide range of events and activities and is a major asset to the town.

We keep in touch with County Council departments quite frequently and, after delays, the building programme for Richmond School seems to be progressing. The completion date for the work is now September 2011, when we will be interested in the future of Lower School. The Highways team do engage with us, and currently work is to be undertaken on some aspects of the Darlington Road cycleway. We also expect a report on the state of the parking facilities in the town to be produced shortly.

Building at Catterick Garrison is moving ahead with the opening of the new leisure centre which may have some impact on amenities here in Richmond. The Town Centre plan is at the stage of the selection of a developer to undertake the project. Earlier in the year two companies presented their proposed designs and, while we had no direct input, we were able to give some feedback. The plan is to start construction of the town centre during 2010.

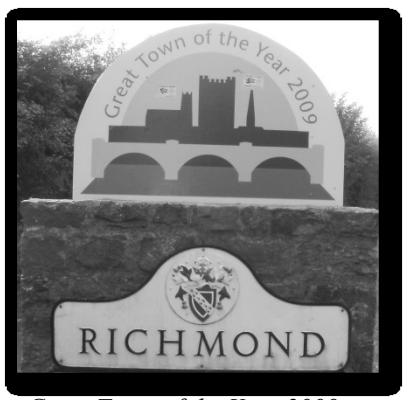
We were all delighted when the town was given the prestigious national Great Town Award for 2009. This surely reflected the great strides that have been made to create a town which gives pleasure and a high standard of facilities for residents and visitors alike.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, may I thank all contributors to this edition of The Review and all members for their support which we sincerely hope will continue long into the future.

Note:
It was with great sadness that, while editing The Review, we heard of the death of Geoff Coates, a very talented and effective Town Clerk and member of the Civic Society. I know that as fellow members you would want to join us in expressing to his wife, Tina, our respect and sense of loss at the news. *Ed.*



Shrub-planting at Yorke Square Car Park



Great Town of the Year 2009

Collectanea[1]

Editors

At a time of national doom and gloom, Richmond, in spite of some of the difficulties outlined by the Chairman, has had much to celebrate in the past months. The award of Great Town of the Year provided an enormous fillip. John Thompson, Chairman of the awarding body The Academy of Urbanism, said, "Richmond is an example of a place looking after itself. It is in a challenging – almost detached – location on the edge of the Dales, but it is a very self-sufficient town with a strong community."

There is no better example of this spirit than the refurbishment of the Market Place, praised in our last edition but continuing throughout this year. We are pleased to pay tribute to the Town Centre Manager and the RSVCI who together have been the designers of all these improvements. It is an ongoing programme: this year's schedule has included the restoration of the Cross View Café building, the facades above Ken Warne's, Greggs, Meynells in Finkle Street and Me and Mi in Newbiggin. The town at night has been transformed by lighting schemes for the Friary, the Obelisk and Castle Walk as well as Station Road and Mercury Bridge. Visitors to Richmond, in the past poorly informed, are now helped by fingerposts, map boards in car parks and a new Nature Trail based at Round Howe and an audio trail of the town. The new cycle route from the Station towards Catterick is part of a much bigger project aimed at linking Richmond, Catterick and Brompton-on-Swale for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Indeed so pervasive and far-reaching has been the influence of this RSVCI team that we hope to report fully on their work in our next edition.

The renovation of the Market Hall has been another significant improvement and we look forward to its final regeneration, the plans of which are currently under discussion. We congratulate The King's Head on its much improved 2009 summer appearance. The outdoor café space is now much more in sympathy with the hotel as a building and with the rest of the Market Place. Hopefully Heron Foods will re-think its own glaring frontage and signage. The protracted negotiation to save Yorke Square Car Park has almost reached its conclusion this year. With the wall lowered, parking bays marked out and improved lighting it is now an attractive and safe place to leave your car. The addition of picnic tables and improved planting is welcome and should support

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



The King's Head: open café space

tourism in the riverside area. The Richmondshire District Council (RDC) plans to review these improvements and make any changes that are necessary, for example to the level of lighting for overnight safety. We hope that soon the despoiling of The Green by excessive free parking will be resolved: cars need to fill the car park before they spill out on to The Green which, after all, is one of the finest landscapes the town possesses. As we write, the Highways Department of the County Council has begun its consultation on traffic management and parking throughout the town. This is a major concern for residents and visitors alike; we hope that the final report is produced in time for our next issue so that we can comment further.

Another long-running campaign came to an end this year: ROSA reached its fund-raising target of £120,000. Thus they were able to pay off the debt incurred in buying five areas of land around Richmond, including Westfields, Sleegill and Southbank and preserve them as green open spaces for the use of visitors and residents alike. To take on this preservation role fully ROSA is now developing into a land management organization to care for and maintain the landscape. We saw the early fruits of this when pupils from Richmond Methodist School buried a time capsule under a newly completed

dry-stone seat in a wall on the boundary of Jack King's Wood, just below Westfields: this is just the kind of event that educates the next generation in the activities of the town.

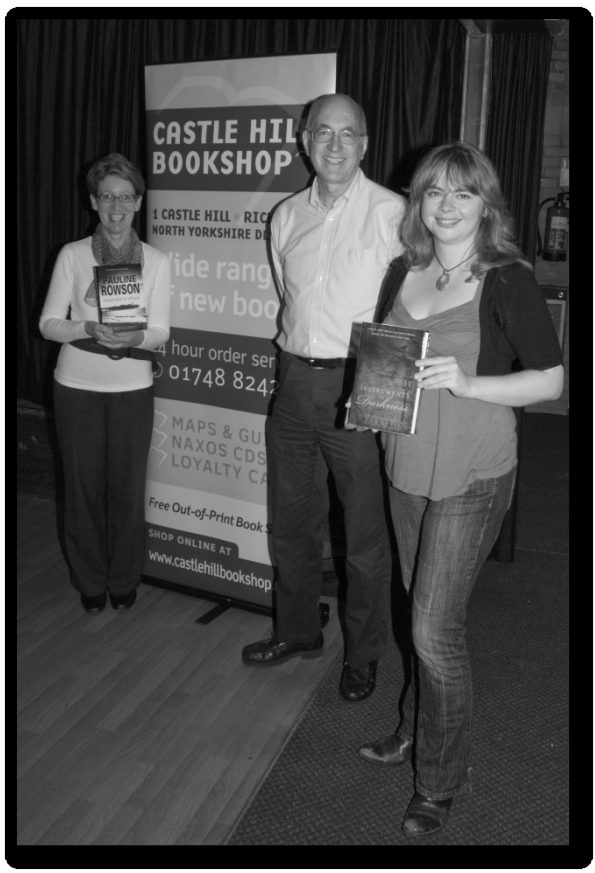
The judges of the Academy of Urbanism award described Richmond as a 'charming town, blessed with a spectacular topographical setting'. This points to how vital tourism is, not only for the town but also for the Dales. It is a cause, again, for celebration to report the continuing success of our many cultural events which attract visitors from the UK and abroad. The Georgian Theatre Royal continues to prosper; the difficulty we all experience in booking tickets only underlines its success. The Station Cinema's Winter Festival attracted significant numbers to an imaginative programme. The Swaledale Music Festival broke all its box office targets this year and also has successfully embraced Richmond as a concert venue. No less successfully, the Walking and Book Festival, itself an original combination, is this year attracting major writers such as Ruth Rendell and Ian Rankin, as well as giving a voice to new talent. We hope also that the Heritage Festival, planned for September and largely inspired by The Civic Society, will be the first of a succession of such events and will expand to cover the whole of Richmondshire.

At the same time, the town's long-established events are growing steadily in popularity and recognition. The Richmond Meet, in its 117th year, attracted record numbers and Richmond Live is now a fixed point in the August diary. The Richmond Subscription Concerts have been bringing classical music to the town now for over 60 years and, indeed, our own Civic Society's lecture programme has maintained a loyal following for more than 30 years.

One more recent development has been the celebration of gardening. The Open Gardens programme in early June attracted visitors from far afield this year; St. Nicholas regularly opens to the public so that enthusiasts can follow the restoration work closely and the Garden Club, now in its third year, has a membership of almost 80 people. One highlight was the holding of Gardeners' Question Time in the Georgian Theatre Royal; another, the Green Flag Award given both to Ronaldshay Park and to the Friary Gardens for the third year running as well as a Green Heritage Award won for the second year running. Gardening, whether professional or amateur, is well bedded into the town.

If there is a common thread to all of these events and festivals it is the high number and quality of Richmond's community volunteers. Other market towns trying to regenerate their economies often remark on this with envy and see it as an almost unique asset that Richmond enjoys. Two cornerstones of the town's economy and culture, The Theatre and The Station, would be non-viable

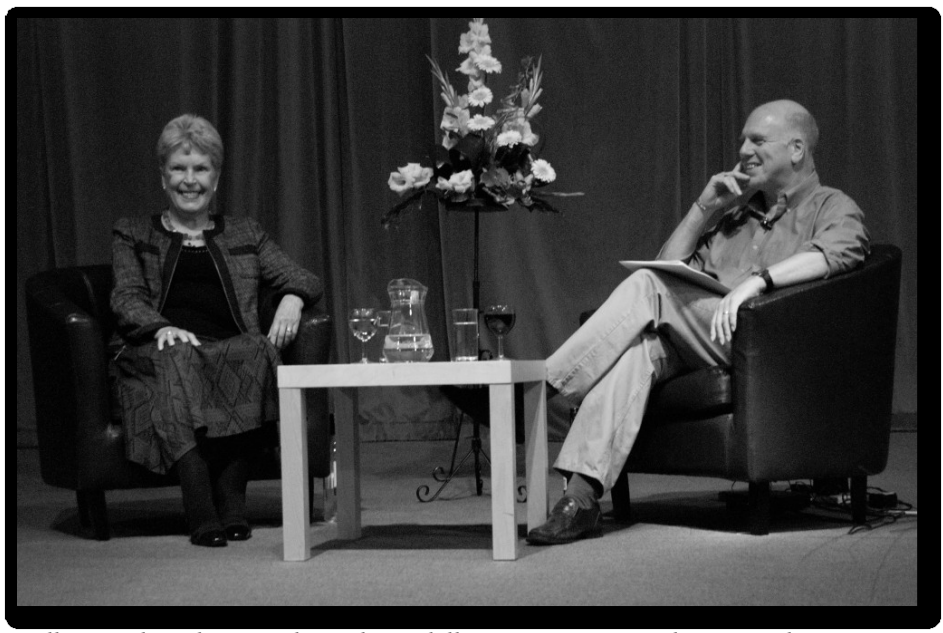
without a committed and well-informed volunteer body behind them. The town, in other words, is full of remarkable people. This year we are aware of many of them being women. Vera Selby is the first lady Master of the Fellmongers and brings to the post her own special distinctiveness: the first Lady's World Snooker Champion. Linda Powell, the curator of the Green Howards Museum, is another welcome first and Jo Jackson continues to win accolades for herself and, by association, for the town in her swimming career which puts her clearly on the world sporting stage. Proof that Richmond's men have not been totally eclipsed was discovered when Mark Whyman won the 2009 James Herriot Photographic Competition. A member of the Society's committee, Mark has given an enormous amount of time for many years now in ensuring the Review is well illustrated and we are pleased to include his work in this edition.



Walking and Book Festival: Philip Wicks with Pauline Rowson and Imogen Robertson at the Literary Lunch.

If external proof were needed of Richmond's distinctiveness as a town, it came this year from the mouth of Jonathan Dimbleby. When Any Questions was held in the Georgian Theatre Royal he was almost lost for words to describe the theatre's exquisiteness and intimate scale and the town's appeal. One of the panellists, Dennis McShane M.P., teased by Jonathan Dimbleby about his earnings from journalism, retorted that the amount was so small he would gladly donate it to the theatre. And, indeed he did, sending a cheque for £85 for 'quite the most delightful and perfect little theatre that I think I have been to in all my life'.

Knowing in this way the pleasures of life in Richmond it caused great, if short-lived, anxiety to hear on Radio 5 that underground nuclear tests had taken place in North Yorkshire – only to hear in the next bulletin that it was North Korea. As far as we know, this is the first link between the two but, as ever, we will keep our ears open.



Walking and Book Festival: Ruth Rendell in conversation with Peter Robinson.

Richmond's French Connection

John Culpan

Every three years (previously 2003 and 2006) the Richmond Review is the recipient of updates on the progress of the town's twinning with St Aubin du Cormier. St Aubin is, as readers may recall, a small market town in Brittany, 17 miles to the north east of Rennes, the administrative capital, and within easy reach of the fortresses of Fougères and Vitré.

As with the Norwegian link, but certainly not in all cases of town twinning, there is a positive connection between the two towns, in the person of Pierre de Dreux. He was the 8th Earl of Richmond and indeed Duke of Brittany. He founded St Aubin and built a castle there, inspired by his castle here.

The link has physical evidence, still, in a window in St Mary's Parish Church, which displays Pierre de Dreux's ermine. Outside, in the church yard, is the grave of Père Pierre Delaire. Before the French Revolution, he was priest of Bazouges-la-Pérouse, which is only 17 miles from St Aubin. He escaped from France and was well received by the townspeople of Richmond, who, clearly from the inscription on his grave, took him to their hearts.

Since the last report, the twinning was confirmed, with appropriate style, in St Aubin in October 2007, attended by the then Mayor, Councillor John Robinson. An official visit from St Aubin this year, during the mayoralty of Councillor Judith Steggles, proved highly successful with 23 French guests.

Official and formal exchanges are important to avoid any danger of demise as appears to happen with some towns in England and France. However, the Association's prime concern is with grass roots activity.

It is pleased that exchanges are continuing between Richmond School and Collège Pierre de Dreux. Earlier this year, a group of 19 students from the Collège spent a week in Richmond, hosted by parents of students of Richmond School. The French students enjoyed their stay so much that there were tears on their departure. Internet links and the like are being made between primary schools.

The visit of St Aubin football club with Richmond Mavericks in August last year was spectacular. It is hoped that links will be forged between other organisations and orchestras and firemen are currently seeking contact with their counterparts in St Aubin. Connections between families and individuals are to be strongly encouraged.

I trust the Association will continue to flourish and increase its profile, and that I will be able to report further in three years' time. Meanwhile, thanks are due to Richmond Town Council and the County Council for the new boundary signs, including the twinning information, which have been erected this year.



Visit from St Aubin – April 2009 *Photo: J. Huddleston*

Robert Spence and Son: a personal history

Dennis Edmondson

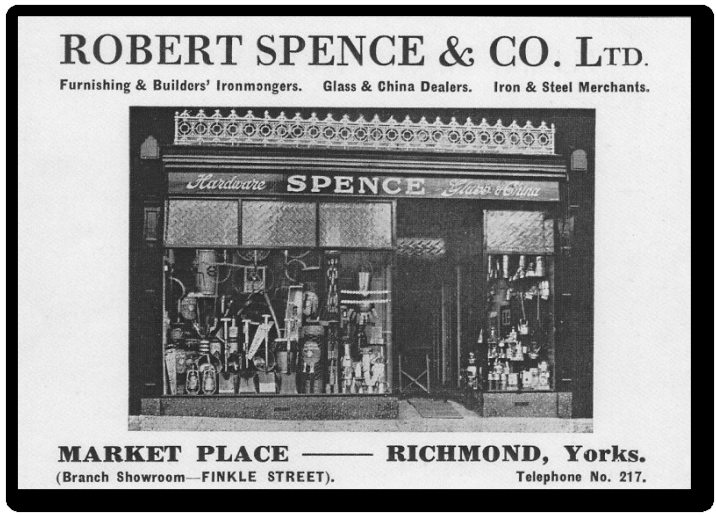
For almost one hundred and eighty years the name of Robert Spence was a household word among the people of Richmond and the Dales. Advertised as a Furnishing and Builders' Ironmongers, the firm sold a vast range of goods, including agricultural appliances, furnishings, fireplaces, glass, china and even early bicycles. It serviced a large part of North Yorkshire, the Dales and South East Durham. After the Second World War Robert Spence was one of Richmond's most significant employers. Though the firm finally ceased trading in 1970 evidence of it still remains in the iron tramlines constructed to move heavy goods between the shop in the Market Place and the extensive warehousing in Friar's Wynd.

Robert Spence the elder claimed the firm had been founded in 1778 and from fairly inauspicious beginnings he built, what was to become, a large, successful business. It was then further developed and expanded by his ambitious and enterprising son, also called Robert Spence. When Robert Spence the elder retired, Robert Spence the younger inherited a thriving business with a loyal base of local customers, but was determined to build on the success of his father. And, indeed, under his leadership the firm continued to prosper and expand; new customers were attracted from even further afield, stock and services extended and turnover increased until the business could be more rightly described as an early and very successful department store.

During his time in business Robert Spence the younger was joined by Henry Proctor, William Sadler and Frederick Gilling (his brother-in-law). When he finally retired in 1911, the business, still retaining the Spence name, but now converted to a limited company called Spence and Co., passed into the control of William Sadler and Frederick Gilling. After their deaths, the firm was taken over by Frederick's son Ronald, along with J .G .Willis and J. G. Woddy, all of whom had been associated with the firm since boyhood, and under their auspices the business continued to thrive.

The shop remained on its original site though there were, of course, extensive alterations and developments over the years, and a disastrous fire in 1893 led to the rebuilding of a considerable portion of the premises. In 1934 a new showroom was opened in Finkle Street to better showcase the extensive stock.

Mr Dennis Edmondson, who joined the firm as an apprentice in 1942 and eventually took over the lease of 7 Finkle Street in 1971, has written a fascinating account of the business which reveals its early history in much more detail.



Robert Spence (the elder)[1] was the son of a farmer from Middleton Tyas. From a very young age, he was determined, much to his father's annoyance, to become an ironmonger. In order to test his determination and even shake it, his father allowed him to work for an ironmonger in Richmond. For some considerable time Robert walked daily to and from Richmond in all weathers, his determination unaltered and his enthusiasm undiminished. As a result he was duly apprenticed and, it seems, moved into his master's premises.

Many decades later, Robert Spence (the younger) related some curious facts about his father's indentures; that he should be duly chastised when necessary, but only by his master and not his master's wife, and he should not be required to eat salmon on more than three days a week!

Robert was obviously regarded as a real asset to the firm and eventually gained sole control of the business. His first decisive action was to change its

[1] Some of the information that I have collected about the early days of Robert Spence was first published in a letter written to the Ironmongers' Trade journal in 1938 by a Mr. F.W. Dickinson, who was headmaster of the Grammar School at Newton in Gloucestershire.

name to Robert Spence, a name that was to endure for almost 180 years, and building on a reputation well earned since the firm was first established in 1788, Robert began a programme of change which was to continue through three generations of the Spence family.

My own experience, curiously, echoed that of Robert Spence (the elder) in many ways. Having left Kirkby Hill School at fourteen and a half, I noticed one day a sign in the window of Robert Spence, advertising a position for an apprentice at fifteen shillings a week. Like Robert Spence, my parents and indeed my headmaster, J.J. Jones, were not wholly in favour of my choice of career. J.J. Jones had enabled my cousin to go to Durham University and the family were ambitious for me to do the same. However, like Robert Spence I was determined to pursue the possibility of a career in ironmongery and after an interview with R.E.Gilling was duly apprenticed. My wage of 15/- a week included a contract ticket for Percival's Coaches between Ravensworth and Richmond. So keen was I to start work that I couldn't wait until after the New Year holiday, presenting myself instead at 9:00 am prompt on 28th December 1942. Clad in a smart pair of bib and brace overalls, I entered 13 Market Place with more than a little trepidation. I was ushered through various passages, and up stairways; the light was poor even though electric lights had been fitted alongside the old gas burners, but eventually I found myself in the large warehouse. This had a long trade counter with wooden fixtures packed from floor to ceiling with every sort of ironmongery a farmer, trader or joiner might need. One section had all the goods for an undertaker or the village joiner who often undertook both jobs.

Eventually, I was approached by a tall man wearing a long black apron and a pair of steel rimmed spectacles. On his head was a flat cap, which I later learned seldom left his close-cropped head; a tobacco-stained moustache gave him a fearsome aspect and when he spoke his voice was hard and my knees shook. In a broad Yorkshire accent he said, "Now, lad, I understand you are the new apprentice. I'll show thee where to hang thy coat." He went on to ask if I had a 2 foot rule, a pencil and a pair of scissors, and when I replied, "I have not", he suggested I'd be best off at home! Failing to understand the irony, I almost left but later found that Harry, as he was called, had a bark much worse than his bite. As warehouse manager he already had 45 years' service to his name and quickly outlined my duties.

My first job was weighing nails and staples into three and a half and seven pound parcels, and packing them ready for customers. At one time the firm had made their own thrown forged handmade nails and there were still a

few parcels around when I started work. Keeping the warehouse clean was another daily job; every morning the wooden floor of the warehouse had to be swept and the dust dampened down with a watering can.

One of my early jobs, I remember, was carrying worn wooden wringer rollers to Metcalfe's sawmills to have new rollers fitted. There were two brothers: one ran the corn, flour and sawmill business with an outlet in the Toll Booth; the other worked in the mill. Carrying these rollers was no light task and I would travel down the Market Place with one on each shoulder, carry on further part way down the Channel, and then down a snicket and a good many steps before reaching Metcalfe's mill. Later, of course, I had to collect the replacements which now had a large metal cog on each end. The brother who ran the mill was a slight man who always wore a soft trilby hat; Mrs Metcalfe was a different kettle of fish! Mr Metcalfe liked a bet and Harry, being a betting man, would often send me with tips for him. Out would come his sporting paper and a discussion would ensue on the value of the bets. However, there was a passage between the mill and the house and hearing his wife's footsteps Mr Metcalfe would stuff the paper quickly into his inner pocket and change the subject with amazing alacrity.

Like all new apprentices before me, I fell prey to the hoax messages thought up to catch out the naïve new boys. Sent to a rival firm to purchase a glass hammer I failed to spot the significance of the shop assistant's sly smile and waited patiently until I was informed with more looks of glee that those articles were quite out of stock!

My working days were quite long and after leaving at 8:30 am I never returned home before 7:15pm. On Monday mornings I would take tin pan lids to Mr J. Mattison, tinsmith, to have steamers made to fit. The saying was, 'If the lid fits the steamer, the steamer will fit the pan'. Mr Mattison had a workshop in Bank Yard and would do no business with me until he had wound up a variety of clocks he had hanging on his wall. It was marvellous just to watch him making a steamer; from a simple piece of flat tin he could produce a steamer within fifteen minutes. It was a common sight to see him with a backload of pans travelling on the United bus to Leyburn's Friday market. At one time he ran a shop called Mattison's Bazaar, next to the King's Head.

On Fridays, my main job was to get ready for the Saturday morning paraffin round at Catterick Camp. One hundred and fifty gallons of paraffin would be decanted into ten and five-gallon drums. Fifty bottles of meths were similarly decanted into three-gill glass bottles and these were delivered mainly around the married quarters for heating stoves and lighting primus stoves. The

oil warehouses, where storage and distribution took place, were in Friar's Wynd and the three large warehouses now, of course, incorporated into the Georgian Theatre, at that time were semi-derelict and unused. George, who was in charge of delivery at Catterick, was well known to his customers. Many answered the door still in their nightclothes and George was regularly invited in for a morning drink. As a poor apprentice my role was always to wait outside, however inclement the weather.

Eventually, I worked alongside Harry, running the large warehouse with the help of Mr Howe from the bottom warehouse and three or four girls responsible for marking off. Four or five United bus drivers who delivered goods did warehouse work for us between shifts.

We took our morning breaks behind some fixtures which had been drilled with spy holes in order to watch out for approaching customers. Harry was in charge of the jug of tea sent up from the shop. He had the unfortunate habit of removing his teeth and cutting up his sandwiches with his penknife. At the end of the break he would use the same knife to cut up some tobacco, fill his pipe and retire to the lavatory. Discussion at break time was often ribald and one favourite statement seems particularly apposite in these inflationary times; "By Harry, one of these days you'll be collecting your wages in a wheelbarrow and they won't be worth wheeling away."

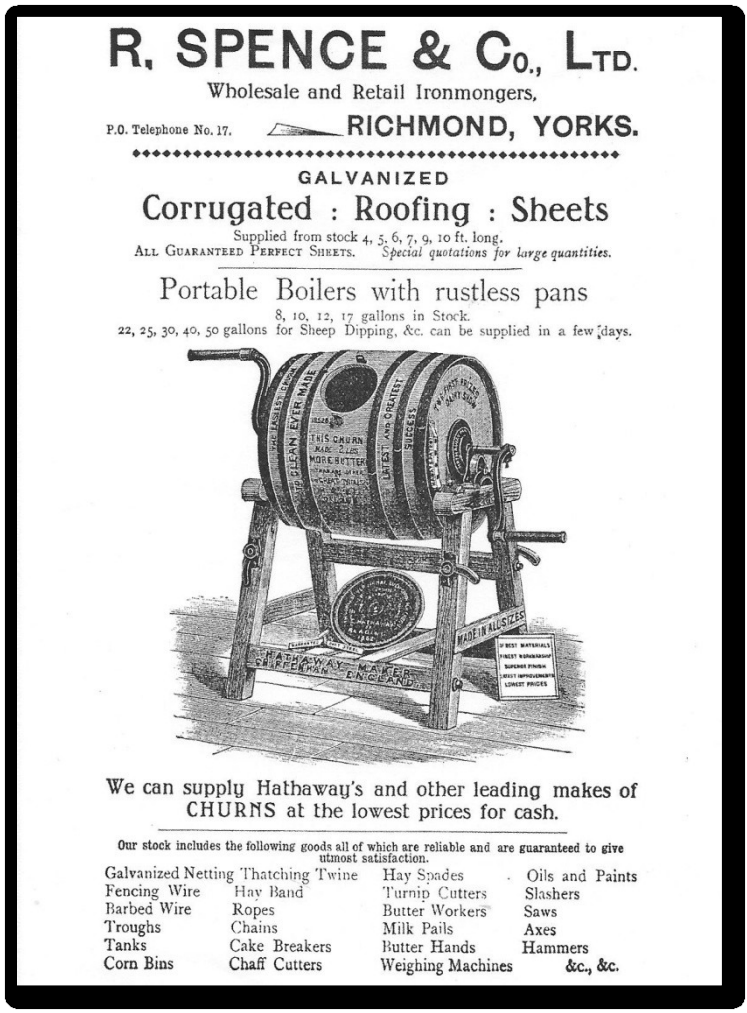
The dreadful fire in 1893 was still talked about at Robert Spence. Apparently, a fire had broken out in the rear premises of the firm, and the local fire service, with only a small appliance couldn't cope. A wire was sent to Darlington for their fire brigade to help but it must have taken the best part of an hour for their horse-drawn appliance to arrive. Several premises were evacuated and as much stock as possible was saved but, so intense was the fire, it was still burning the following day. The fire was a great setback to Robert Spence Jr. but the firm managed to stay open and continue business as usual.

In the following year, 1894, the firm applied to the burgesses and councillors of Richmond for permission to lay a set of tramlines from the shop, up Friar's Wynd to the rear warehouse, which had been rebuilt. After due consideration this was granted; all expenses and liabilities had to be borne by the firm, with a peppercorn rent of two shillings and sixpence to be paid yearly to the council. The agreement was signed by Robert Spence Jr. and Mr W. Sadler.

My rise up the Spence ladder came about when Tom Hetherington, who had been organizing the warehouse deliveries, was called up. At that time there were at least ten male members of staff in the forces. I'll not forget my first day at that job, nor Mr Gilling's wry amusement when he came to the warehouse

with my orders for the day's deliveries. He had obviously noticed that I was wearing Tom's overall and it was several sizes too large for me!

With such a large number of male staff away on service, a large number of girls were engaged. Before the war very few ladies were employed and never married ladies. Male staff were always called by their surnames and the girls were always addressed as Miss.



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Troughs	Chains	Milk Pails	Axes
Tanks	Cake Breakers	Butter Hands	Hammers
Corn Bins	Chaff Cutters	Weighing Machines	&c., &c.

Clogs were still being worn during the war years and we supplied the irons that were nailed onto the clog soles. I can remember a clog maker from Gunnerside who would come down on a Percival's bus and take about two gross of irons back to his shop on the village green at Gunnerside. I would often help him load the heavy bags into the Percival's boot.

Robert Spence operated a system of credit that was enormously advantageous for local tradesmen. Goods were supplied to all tradesmen, large and small, with six months' credit. There was a further discount to trades people of ten per cent. This enabled the tradesmen to acquire the necessary goods to do the job and then receive payment for it before settling the account with the firm six months later. In fact, we financed a great many tradesmen up and down the Dale for a good many years.

In 1946 I too was called up for service in the R.A.F. I did my training in Compton Bassett in Wiltshire and was eventually posted to Wantage in Berkshire. When I returned to the firm in 1948 I was asked to work in the front shop under J.G. Willis; we seemed to work well together and I was, at last, given my own stock to control and buy. A.A. Benson was the firm's representative but was often unwell; strangely these bouts of illness often coincided with snowy or rainy days! Consequently, I was asked to fill in for him and as I didn't drive at that time, I had to use my own motorcycle; accessing remote farms and villages on less than satisfactory roads was no mean feat.

However, it was obviously considered that I did the job well, for after two years I was promoted to company representative and invited to become a shareholder in the firm. I now had the firm's car at my disposal, and having passed my test, travelling became easier. I still had many long days, however, leaving Richmond at 8:30 am and often not returning till after 9:00pm.

I remember once calling on the undertaker at Hawes. Robert Spence supplied everything an undertaker might need: shrouds, frillings and brass plates. He was busy in his inner workshop, polishing a coffin with chilled coffin polish. "Ah won't be a moment; ah'd like to get this finished," he said. Lesson one for a good representative is never to show you're in a hurry even when way behind with calls. "Sit thysen down," he continued and realising I was looking for somewhere to sit he motioned to another coffin. Eventually, and without pressure from me, we got round to the real business of the day, placing an order. "You're very busy," I volunteered. "No more than usual," was the reply. "But two funerals at once to make coffins for," I continued. "Nay," he said, "Only t'one. That uns the one I take them up to post-mortems at Northallerton," pointing at the one I was sitting on. "He's in there just waiting!" I never moved so fast in my life!

The brass plates that we supplied for coffins were lettered by hand and not engraved. I would take these with the details to a Mr Tate, signwriter, in Bargate, and collect them later the same day. He did this till the day he died. I remember calling one day to be ushered upstairs where Mr Tate lay in his bed

propped up with pillows, anxiously finishing the plate. As he handed it to me he said, "Tek care, lad, it's still damp." I never saw him again.

It wasn't all hard work at Robert Spence & Co, however; staff outings were regularly arranged (though always on Wednesday afternoons when the shop was closed) and I remember outings to Ripon and The Yorkshire Show. Fifty years service by Messrs. Willis, Benson and Gilling were all celebrated with staff dinners at The Catterick Bridge Hotel or The King's Head. When Mr Woddy was celebrating his long service with the firm we all had tea at Miss Fawcett's café in King Street, followed by a night out at the pictures.

I could go on with more stories of my time at Robert Spence but, sadly, space doesn't allow. Suffice to say I enjoyed my working life enormously, and think of myself as one of the luckiest people, given such an opportunity to get to know so many worthwhile Dales folk and to be the recipient of so much courtesy and genuine hospitality.

When the directors tried to sell the firm in 1970, it came as a great shock to most of the staff and there were many sad faces when the announcement was made. Mr Gilling by then was 72 with no one to follow in his footsteps. The time had, perhaps, passed for that type of family business, and decimalisation, due a year later, seemed a burden too big to bear. The closing down and selling off of stock began, and finally, on 30th December 1970, the store closed.

.....That was not quite the end of the story, however, for Mr Edmondson took over the existing lease on the premises in Finkle Street and under his own name continued in business for another twenty years, moving for the last four years to the trading estate in Richmond, until he finally retired in 1992.
Mr Edmondson plans to publish a full account of his history of Robert Spence & Co.in the not too distant future.

The Kay Richmondshire Scholarships at Oxford

Linda Drury

Reading Clarkson's 'History and Antiquities of Richmond' (1821), a few years ago, I came on an intriguing piece of information on page 240. Apparently in 1782 the Reverend Thomas Kay, Rector of Melsonby in North Yorkshire, made a will leaving money for scholarships for Richmond boys studying for the degree of Master of Arts at Worcester College, Oxford University. Having a son, Ben, doing just that, I decided to investigate. Ben fitted the bill, having attended the Methodist, St. Francis Xavier and Richmond Schools and being the fourth generation living in the same family house in Richmond.

Thomas Kay's will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in London in 1787. A contemporary copy was sent to the registry in York and I obtained a copy from the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research in York. It is long: seventeen sheets including codicils and probate.

Kay's own college was University College, Oxford and that was his first concern. He bequeathed to University College £1200 for certain purposes on condition that they alter their statutes "in the manner I have lately proposed to them". The will does not say what this was; perhaps it related to the admission of non-conformists to the College. Whatever it was, Kay said that his suggestions had the concurrence of Lord Hartley and Lord Hardwicke. The former was the lawyer Fletcher Norton, sometime Speaker of the House of Commons and described as "a shrewd unprincipled man of good abilities and offensive manners". The latter is probably Philip Yorke, first Earl of Hardwicke, a lawyer who became Lord Chancellor of England and died in 1764. He does not appear to be related to the Yorke family which provided several M.P.s for Richmond 1661-1760. The Lord Hardwicke of Kay's time, Philip's son and namesake, was not a lawyer. In any case, University College did not comply with Kay's suggestions and so the money went, by his direction, to "the Provost and Fellows of Worcester College in Oxford and to their Successors for ever out of part of which I would have thirty Pounds a Year raised for an Exhibition for a Native of that part of the County of York commonly called Richmondshire (or failing Richmondshire, one from Yorkshire at large)…I would have him enjoy (it) till after he has taken the Degree of Master of Arts …and (he) to be constantly resident in the College except in the time of the long vacation". £30 was the annual salary of many a curate in 1782, a generous student grant. Kay had himself in 1724 received £8 from the charity of Dr. John Bathurst, M.P. for Richmond in 1655 and 1658, set up to fund, inter alia, two poor scholars at Cambridge University. At their discretion the Trustees had given an award to Kay, at Oxford.

The other part of Kay's legacy to Worcester was to be for the purpose of buying advowsons for the benefit of the College. The reason Oxford Colleges

needed advowsons, or rights to present clergymen to benefices, livings at parish churches, was that Fellows of Colleges had to be celibate. Many Fellows were already in Holy Orders. If a Fellow wished to marry, he had to leave his College, which would, if appropriate, provide him with a living at a church in the gift of that College. The married Fellow might well keep in touch with his old colleagues and continue his studies at a distance. Until 1872, only the Heads of Colleges could be married. The Worcester College Fellows seem to have been more interested then in advowsons than in grants to undergraduates! Livings in Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, Shropshire and Somerset were purchased, but when Clarkson wrote in or before 1821, no Richmond or Yorkshire scholar had ever received the £30!

In 1877 the geographical restriction on the Kay and similar awards, was removed and some time later the residue of Kay's bequest was added to Worcester College's general endowment revenue.

The present Provost of Worcester College tells me that the Kay fund is still accounted for separately and if some student elected to an Exhibition satisfies the original qualification (in this or a similar award) then his or her exhibition is called the Kay Exhibition. No example of such a student was given! There was no suggestion that son Ben might be so elected!

Worcester College's general income is used to subsidise every student in the College, as government grants and fees fall short of actual expenditure, so the income from Kay's money is well used.

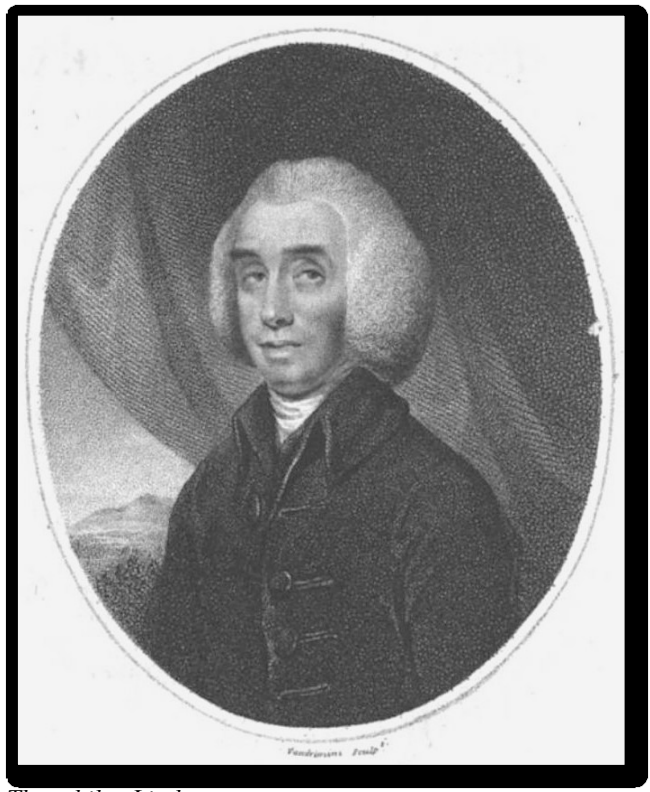
The livings which Worcester bought with Kay's bequest are still parishes in which the College has some share. Most have been combined with other parishes, so Worcester now shares the right to present the incumbents.

It seems a pity that this College in Oxford, a place so proud of its history and of enterprise, did not take this rare chance to fulfil the generous intent of Thomas Kay to help undergraduates, as he himself had been helped in his young days. Ben was, however, congratulated on his "ingenious application"!



Theophilus Lindsey: from St. Anne's to The Strand.

Tina McDonald



Theophilus Lindsey.
By kind permission of The National Portrait Gallery

Theophilus Lindsey, Vicar of Catterick from 1763 until 1773, has been described as one of the most "outstanding and controversial clergymen of the 18th century". As someone whose first intent was simply to be "a good and pious clergyman" his voice was heard, not only from the pulpit of St Anne's at Catterick, but eventually across the nation. With friends who included many of the best-known figures of the time and aristocratic and influential connections, he was guaranteed promotion within the church and acceptance into the most genteel society. However, his doctrinal scruples and anti-trinitarian convictions led him instead, to a denunciation of the 39 Articles and a campaign for ecclesiastical reform which included the famous Feathers Tavern Petition. His

arguments instigated one of the most profound and controversial debates within the Church of England, and his position led eventually to his resignation from the Anglican Church, and his setting up of the first Unitarian chapel in England.

Lindsey was born in Middlewich, Cheshire in June 1723; his father was Robert Lindsey, by trade a mercer and part owner of a salt works. His mother was Jane Spencer of Buckinghamshire, a distant relative of the Marlboroughs who before her marriage had lived for more than twenty years in the family of Frances, Countess of Huntingdon, possibly as a companion. She was described as a "lady of exemplary character". Jane and Robert had four children of whom only two survived, Jane and Theophilus.

Theophilus was named after his godfather, ninth Earl of Huntingdon, whose wife was Selina, the "celebrated evangelical Countess of Huntingdon". These early aristocratic connections were to play an important part in the life of Lindsey: he owed much of his early education to the patronage of further aristocratic friends of his mother, Lady Anne Hastings and her half sister, Lady Elizabeth Hastings. Impressed by his "ingenuous temper, promising talents, love of learning and serious spirit", they arranged for him to attend a school at Middlewich. The master there was Daniel Markland, an Oxonian with a considerable intellectual reputation. Sadly, Markland died when Lindsey was twelve and as his replacement was considered inferior, Lady Anne and Lady Elizabeth arranged entry to the free grammar school in Leeds. The master here was Thomas Barnard, a Cambridge graduate and clergyman with a considerable reputation as a teacher. With Barnard's guidance Lindsey began to prepare for a university education and a clerical career. The fact that Barnard was himself a Cambridge man may have influenced Lindsey's collegiate choice, and in May 1741 he was admitted to St. John's College, Cambridge.

Lindsey's character, conduct and academic prowess did not go unnoticed at Cambridge; when Dr Reynolds, Archbishop of Lincoln, looking to send his grandson to the university and anxious to find a senior student in whose care he might place him, "to assist his studies and to protect his morals", Lindsey emerged as the unequivocal choice. Indeed, such was Lindsey's reputation for seriousness, he was affectionately nicknamed 'the old man' by his fellow undergraduates. Lindsey's association with Richard Reynolds was to endure for the rest of his life, a friendship of such mutual affection and respect that Reynolds was able to assert it "was not the least of his honours to be known as one of the earliest friends and warmest admirers of the Venerable Theophilus Lindsey".

Lindsey graduated as a BA in 1744 and was placed first in the order of wranglers, proceeding to the degree of MA in 1748. There is little doubt that, had Lindsey chosen to pursue an academic career, he could have done so with considerable distinction, but his chief ambition was to be a minister. In 1746 he was ordained deacon in the diocese of Lincoln and in 1747 he became morning preacher at the Wheler Chapel in Spitalfields. Five months later, Lindsey became domestic chaplain to Algernon Seymour, the seventh Duke of Somerset, after the Duke had received a glowing recommendation from Francis, Earl of Huntingdon, the nephew of Lady Anne Hastings. Such was the testimonial, the Duke immediately invited Lindsey to his home where he soon acquired their affection and respect. Frances the Duchess of Somerset was, clearly, particularly taken with Lindsey and referred to him as "a very good judge and a pretty sort of a Man". During the short remainder of the Duke's life Lindsey was treated with "the liberality and affection of a friend" and indeed, was so fondly regarded that the Duke actually died in his arms. After the Duke's death Lindsey remained for some years as a member of the Duchess's household until she recommended him to her daughter and son -in-law, the Earl and Countess of Northumberland, who were anxious to find a tutor and guardian for their nine year old son. It was felt that the boy would benefit from a visit to France in order to improve his fragile state of health. And so between May 1751 and May 1752 Lindsey accompanied Hugh Percy, Baron Warkworth, to Blois, Orleans and Paris. This was not a 'grand tour' in the accepted sense but it clearly gave Lindsey some interesting experiences. To the Duchess of Somerset he wrote in 1751: "The French here and throughout the Kingdom live away at an excessive rate: Supper is their grand repas, at which the ladies as well as the Men eat monstrously. Gallantry of the grossest sort I believe was never more in fashion. The fine Ladies as well as at Paris receive visits in their beds, and dress themselves entirely before company".[1]

Moreover, it was not simply the lack of manners that irked Lindsey, but their mendacity too. In the same letter he continues, "... and the French, who love Messieurs les Anglais just as long as they can make Dupes of them, and trick them out of their money. The extortion of their Tradesmen in general upon the English is abominable. I should be glad to know how this sits upon their consciences at confession".

On returning from France, Lindsey was presented by the Earl of Northumberland to the valuable rectory of Kirby Wiske where, it was recorded,

[1] Ditchfield, G.M.

there were “three hundred houses, six papists, a few methodists and one family of Quakers in the parish, and that the parish house was in good repair”.

Lindsey could not have known how auspicious this appointment was, for here he was to meet a person who would have a significant impact on his life, Archdeacon Blackburne. Blackburne was a leading protagonist of latitudinarian thought within the Church of England and, though he had accepted the nomination to the Achdeaconry of Cleveland in 1750, he had eschewed any future preferment because of the requirements of further subscription to the 39 Articles. His controversial publication ‘The Confessional’ in 1766 was an important contribution to these latitudinarian ideas. Moreover, Blackburne’s beloved step-daughter, Hannah Elsworth, as yet unknown to Lindsey, would also play a leading part in his life, and in 1760 become his wife.

In 1756 Lindsey resigned the living of Kirby Wiske in order to succeed Dr Dawney in the living of Piddletown in Dorset, which was in the gift of the Earl of Huntingdon. Lindsey’s term at Piddletown was significant, for it was here he suffered his first crisis of conscience; writing to the Countess of Huntingdon of his anguish at having subscribed to the 39 Articles, he had already confessed, “I can subscribe to nothing, nor it seems to me ought anyone, but to the Holy Scripture.” Ironically, the Bishop to whom Lindsey subscribed the 39 Articles and the several oaths required by law, was John Conybeare, author of ‘The Case of Subscription to Articles of Religion Considered’. This frequently reprinted sermon left no room for doubt or argument.

It was significant also for more personal reasons: it was here that he was to make the decision to marry Hannah Elsworth, the step-daughter of Francis Blackburne, a decision that would provide him with a supportive, loving companion who would endorse his theological decisions and work actively by his side wherever or whatever his ministerial needs. And of course, in marrying Hannah, Lindsey was to gain as a father-in-law a leading latitudinarian whose views he shared.

Though Lindsey had known Blackburne well during his years at Kirby Wiske it seems he had not at that point met Hannah. Her reputation, however, was known to him and he was clearly so impressed by what he had heard that he was moved to write, “a young person so endowed and so educated, would be a most desirable companion for life”. Even before Jane Austen’s famous maxim, it was a truth already universally acknowledged that any single man in possession of a reasonable living, must be in want of a wife, and Lindsey was no exception. Indeed, the sentiment was shared by some of Lindsey’s friends, and ever mindful of his needs, one wrote, “The living of Piddle-town is vacant. Mr

Lindsey will be here in a week to have his presentation signed… He wants now nothing but a wife; and if you know of any Lady who will cross the sea for a good Husband, send her to me, and I will introduce her to Him…"[1]

Lindsey clearly needed no such help from his friends for his mind was, obviously, already firmly fixed on Hannah. The Countess of Northumberland wrote to Lindsey in a teasing manner, "I am much mortified to find that you have entirely forgot me, for verily I think that if you had not, you would let me have had the pleasure of hearing from you before now; to no other cause can I assign it but your being in love." She went on, "I was at Stanwick for two nights only; but not withstanding the shortness of the stay, I had time enough to hear a most admirable character of Mrs Lindsey elect, which gave me great pleasure".[2]

On 29th September 1760 Lindsey married Hannah Elsworth at Richmond Parish Church. Hannah was the daughter of Joshua Elsworth and Hannah (nee Hotham). The Elsworths were an aspiring family of fellmongers who in three generations were able to describe themselves as gentlemen. John Elsworth, Hannah's grandfather, was an Alderman and twice Mayor of Richmond. It was probably he who built the fine family home in Bridge Street. Sadly, Joshua died in 1742. Hannah's mother's remarriage two years later to Archdeacon Blackburne gave Hannah the kindest of stepfathers and in spite of having five more children, Blackburne always referred to Hannah as a child he loved "as his own".

However, in Piddletown, in spite of its fine church and elegant vicarage and in spite of an accomplished wife by his side, Lindsey was to experience deeper unrest and further serious doubts about his theological position. "The more I searched the more I saw the little foundation there was for the doctrine commonly received, and interwoven with all the public devotions of the church, and could not but be disturbed at a discovery so ill suiting my situation. For, in the end, I became fully persuaded to use St Paul's express words, that there is but one God, the Father, and he alone to be worshiped (*sic*)".[3]

Lindsey had already consulted Grey Cooper, friend and attorney, who was so concerned by Lindsey's predicament that he, in turn, approached Dr Thomas Sharp, Archdeacon of Northumberland, for advice. Nothing is known of his response but to Cooper, Lindsey was a "very good and pious Clergyman", and he was very reluctant to see him relinquish that role. Others were less sympathetic towards his theological position; William Cole, the Tory antiquary,

[1] Ditchfield, G.M.
[2] Belsham,T.
[3] Belsham, T.

claimed with some venom: "He went to the Bishop and laid his grievances before him, with a Design to resign his Living. The Bishop soothed him and told him all his Subscriptions were over, and rather advised him, as he had already taken the Oaths, to be snug and quiet…"[1]

Some of these doubts must have arisen during Lindsey's previous incumbency at Kirby Wiske; it seems most unlikely that Blackburne's influence and views would not have had at least some effect on him and several factors had coalesced to create further turmoil for him. Before his marriage he had been much distressed by the death of Lady Anne Hastings in 1755, describing her as the "guide of my life" and she was clearly a confidante for much of his anguished soul searching.

After Lindsey's marriage, other pressures began to exert themselves. In Hannah, Lindsey had found a wife of great intelligence, brought up in a religious household, who, in the best tradition of eighteenth century women, was not afraid to air her views. Joseph Priestley, albeit much later, to thank Lindsey for reading a draft of his work, wrote that he "never chose to publish anything of moment relating to theology without consulting him" and added that he "placed equal value on Hannah's counsel". As step-daughter of Francis Blackburne Hannah had grown up in an atmosphere of unitarian debate and must have moved easily to sharing Lindsey's views. That Blackburne was now his father-in-law as well as his friend could not have been without its own effect and that they both, and Hannah in particular, missed the loving support of family in Richmond led inevitably to a desire to return to the North. "It was the secret wish of both him and Mrs Lindsey to return to the North, and fix their residing in the vicinity of Richmond".

In 1763 Jeremiah Harrison, Vicar of Catterick, died and it seems that Lindsey was not afraid to use his influential connections to secure this living. On the 18th November Blackburne administered to Lindsey "the several oaths required by Law" and saw him subscribe to the 39 Articles. Nine days later Lindsey took an unusual step; an entry in the baptismal register of Catterick, dated 27th November and written in his own hand declares:

"Be it remembered that upon the same day being Sunday, the Rev.Theophilus Lindsey Clerk Vicar of Catterick did in the audience of the public congregation read the morning and evening service as appointed in the book of common prayer, and did likewise in the afternoon of the same day distinctly, orderly and audibly read all the nine and thirty articles of the doctrine

[1] Ditchfield, G.M.

of the church of England, giving his unfeigned assent and consent to all and everything contained and prescribed in the book of common prayer …… And did likewise declare that he would conform to the liturgy to the Church of England as it is now by law established according to the forms prescribed in the several acts of Parliament in that behalf made and provided".

Ten signatures accompanied this declaration including those of John Elsworth, Hannah's uncle, Anthony Temple, Headmaster of Richmond School, Thomas York and Richard Barley, the churchwarden.

So what of Lindsey's scruples now? Suggestions that Lindsey was "an all or nothing man" who eschewed a middle way don't quite explain such a complete change of heart. Perhaps the earlier exhortations of Francis Blackburne to consider the consequences of loss of income and status ('you must have bread') rang louder now or perhaps, in order to do the job he'd always intended, "to be a good and pious clergyman", Lindsey now felt he had no alternative but to move from his position of doubt and occupy firmly a position of emphatic certainty.

The living of Catterick was estimated to be worth about £300 per annum in Lindsey's time: it was recorded that there were about 400 houses in the whole parish, with twenty families of Papists, seven families of Methodists and no dissenters. For the next decade the Lindseys enjoyed a comfortable but hard working life there. Catherine Cappe, daughter of the previous incumbent, became a firm friend of them both and wrote describing the Lindseys' domestic lifestyle and Hannah's "clockwork efficiency" in running the household: "The whole appearance was that of cheerfulness and comfort, approaching somewhat to taste and elegance".

However, the whole household was managed from a position of thrift and the greatest economies observed in order that the Lindseys might "have the greater surplus to expend in liberality and charity". Belsham writes of a substantial part of the Lindseys' income being spent on feeding the hungry and clothing the poor as well as purchasing and distributing books for their better enlightenment. In a poor parish such as this the health of the poor was a cause of major concern, and here Hannah Lindsey was said to excel: she had an 'apothecary's shop' and the knowledge to use it with great efficacy. It was not unusual for 'gentlewomen' in the eighteenth century to be accomplished in the use of medicinal remedies but Hannah, it seems, was particularly accomplished. Catherine Cappe pays tribute to her competence: "she had a good medical library, and great acuteness in the discrimination of diseases and in prescribing and making up medicines." Lady Lawson, wife of Sir Henry Lawson of Brough

Park, not many miles away, had gained something of a reputation for her medical prowess in the 1750s. Described as "skilful in medicines and bountiful in bestowing them," she may have been something of an exemplar.



The vicarage, Catterick, sadly demolished in 1968, seen here on the occasion of a Unitarian Pilgrimage in 1903. *Courtesy M. Wood*

Lindsey also established what must have been one of the country's first Sunday schools. Robert Raikes is generally regarded as the founder of the Sunday school movement. However, his school established in 1780 in Gloucester came some 15 years later than that established by Lindsey. In Catterick, Lindsey was ably assisted by his wife Hannah who held classes for the younger children, while Lindsey dealt with the older boys and young men and women.

Lindsey's life was characterized by significant people and propitious connections and his term at Catterick was no exception. At his father-in-law's house in Richmond, Lindsey was to meet two people whose friendship he was to come to regard as "among the greatest consolations and blessings of his life".

The Rev.William Turner was minister of the Westgate Chapel in Wakefield and a sympathizer with Trinitarian heterodoxy. Through him Lindsey met Joseph Priestley who had been minister of the Mill Hill Chapel in Leeds since 1767. Priestley, also a chemist and discoverer of oxygen, was one of a number of British Unitarians who went on to make an important contribution to the growth of the Unitarian movement in America. Thus began a long and satisfying relationship of theological co-operation and genuine regard. Priestley was to write of their friendship that it had been "a source of more real satisfaction to him than any other circumstance in his whole life". Moreover, Priestley who, it seems, suffered badly from a speech defect, relied heavily on medical advice from Hannah Lindsey, already renowned for her success with the ailing parishioners of Catterick. Priestley, we learn, "listened much in medicine" and Lindsey writing of Priestley in 1788 states, "I must add that the Doctor's letters make him far from well, so that my wife, in her friendly zeal and love for him, has written him a medical letter..".

When Priestley launched his 'Theological Repository' it became an important vehicle for anti-Trinitarian speculation and Lindsey contributed articles using the pseudonyms 'Patrobas' and 'Socrates Scholasticus'. Blackburne and Turner also contributed articles and Blackburne had, of course, already published 'The Confessional' in 1766, a strong attack on the principle of compulsory subscription to the 39 Articles. In the ensuing controversy and debate Lindsey decided, like Blackburne, to refuse further preferment rather than renew his subscription to the 39 Articles, but once again, Lindsey found his doctrinal scruples challenged. A sudden attack of rheumatic fever and the fear of impending death provoked another crisis of conscience but this time, unlike at Piddletown, Lindsey sought to find an answer to his dilemma in reform rather than resignation. Returned to health, he resolved to launch a campaign for ecclesiastical reform.

A group of clergymen, with Lindsey as leader, met at the Feathers Tavern in the Strand in 1771. Often referred to as the 'association' they resolved to petition parliament to abolish the requirement of compulsory subscription to the 39 Articles. During the next months Lindsey travelled extensively, even, it has been suggested, as much as 2000 miles, in search of support. He hoped to appeal not only to the clergy but to laymen whose aspirations towards medical or legal careers could be affected by the requirement of subscription at the universities. His petition became known as 'The Feathers Tavern Petition' but received disappointing support. Lindsey secured approximately 250 signatures, some 200 from clergymen and the remainder from lay professions. The petition

was debated in the House of Commons on February 6th 1772 and rejected by 217 votes to 71. A few days later, Lindsey wrote to Turner, "The debate lasted full 8 hours, from half past two to eleven. Lord North declared, and it plainly appeared, that it was resolved to receive our Petition, treat it and us civilly, but move to have it lie on the table for 6 months, ie for ever…. As the times go, and the prodigious influence of the Minister and Bishops avowedly against us, 71 dividing for us is reckoned a respectable minority".[1] Though the original document has not survived, a list of petitioners was published in the Unitarian Monthly Repository in 1818: not surprisingly, the North was well represented, with Blackburne, of course, John Disney, Charles Wyvill and Thomas Simpson, Lindsey's curate. Prominent too, were petitioners from the University of Cambridge with twenty college fellows named as well as other Cambridge graduates.

Shortly afterwards Lindsey began to prepare for resignation from the Church of England. That this preparation included no provision for future financial support when out of office was typical of the Lindseys who continued 'their accustomed charities' and indeed, incurred the additional expense of inoculating all the poor children of the parish. Returning to London after the failure of the Feathers Tavern Petition, Lindsey visited the Royal Mint and there collected a bag of shiny new halfpennies; these were given to the children to persuade them to be inoculated against smallpox. The disease was rife in the neighbourhood and the Lindseys, having encountered a similar outbreak in Piddletown, were much concerned.

Though the vaccine against smallpox was not developed until the late 1790s by Edward Jenner, an earlier method of inoculation had already been introduced into England by Lady Montagu, wife of the Ambassador of Constantinople. Known as variolation, it involved rubbing a small amount of virulent matter into the skin in order to provoke a mild form of the disease and thus provide future immunity: this was most likely to be the method used by Hannah Lindsey whose altruistic attitude would pay no heed to the personal danger involved. Belsham wrote: "Mrs Lindsey attended them in person, gave them all their medicines, and was so successful in her attendance, that she did not lose a single patient".

In November 1773 Lindsey resigned as Vicar of Catterick and in the same month preached his 'Farewel Address'(sic). He reiterated his assertion

[1] www.hibbert-assembly.org.uk

that clergymen should be required to subscribe to nothing but the Bible and admitted that, "to leave a station of ease and affluence, and to have to combat with various straits and hardships of an uncertain world, is but a dark prospect. But we must willingly submit to this hard lot, when not to be avoided without deserting our duty to God and his truth". Catherine Cappe, present when Lindsey preached this sermon, noted that he was, "frequently interrupted by the sighs and lamentations of his auditors".

Lindsey's deed of resignation was dated November 30th 1773 and the Catterick register records the following: "The Reverend Theophilus Lindsey Vicar of this place for ten years voluntarily resigned, (not thro' infirmities of Age, but out of a principle of Conscience)… A Christian devout, learned and ingenuous and a great benefactor to ye place".

Catterick had lost its much loved minister and the careful care of his compassionate wife; Blackburne declared, "he had lost his right arm" and the Lindseys, though never concerned about material wealth, now faced an uncertain financial future. Indeed, so precarious was their financial position they were forced to sell their library, furniture and plate. However, from this position of bleak uncertainty Lindsey was to rise like the proverbial phoenix and enter the most significant phase of his life: the publication of his 'Apology on Resigning the vicarage of Catterick' in June 1774 aroused enormous interest and ran to four editions. It became the impetus for Lindsey's determination to open the first 'avowedly Unitarian chapel.' In April 1774, with the help of friends, this object was achieved in a converted auction house, in Essex Street, just off The Strand.

The first service at the Essex Street Chapel was widely reported in the London and provincial press and those attending included Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Priestley, Sir George Savile MP and Lord Le Despencer (the former Sir Francis Dashwood). To Theophilus Lindsey in no small part could now be attributed the emergence and subsequent success of Unitarianism as a separate and independent denomination.

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My thanks to Jane Hatcher for information on the Elsworth family.

THE RICHMOND SYMPHONIES

Richard Collier

As a result of Pitt's 1757 Militia Acts, due to war with the French, the Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding, Lord Holdernesse, placed a notice in the London Gazette, requiring those qualified to be officers to meet him at the Post House in Richmond on the 5th August 1758. Consequently, the Richmond battalion was one of two raised by ballot, and established as from the 2nd of July, 1759. It was part of the Riding's quota of 720 men between 18 and 50 to serve either two or three years. Lord Holdernesse's brother-in-law, Sir Ralph Milbanke, was appointed Colonel-in-Chief.

Spring of 1760 saw the militia in Sunderland, where an 'elegant assembly' was reported, with its officers described as being of 'genteel appearance'. They arrived in Newcastle during the second week of July. On the 27th of August the Marquis of Rockingham visited town. Brigadier-General Charles Watson-Wentworth, Lord of the Bedchamber, and leader of the parliamentary Rockingham Whigs, was arguably Yorkshire's most influential person. He was a future Prime Minister. The Marquis and Major-General Whitmore reviewed all the troops. On the Thursday it was the turn of Milbanke's battalion. The newspapers reported "universal applause from a numerous concourse of spectators" for both smartness and disciplined military skill. On the Friday Colonel Milbanke and his officers "gave a very elegant Entertainment to his Lordship in the Assembly-Room". Having left each battalion ten guineas to drink his Majesty's health, the Marquis left town for the following Tuesday's race meeting at Richmond. He normally entered one of his horses here, as well as races all over Yorkshire, from his magnificent stables at Wentworth which accommodated over eighty. He did a great deal of business at the races.

Following the fatal confrontation of a detachment of soldiers with rioters in Hexham earlier in the year, according to Turton[1], Milbanke's militia spent much of the summer of 1761 marching between Hull, Masham, Scarborough, Beverley, Gilling and Richmond, so Sir Ralph may not have been at home when the Duke of York came to stay at Halnaby Hall, near Croft. Prince Edward Augustus, the newly created Duke of York and Albany, and briefly now heir to the throne, was likewise spending a lot of time touring Yorkshire, despite being supposedly three years into a naval career. A contemporary described him as "a

[1] 'The History of the North Yorks Militia'

precocious flirt and seducer of women, his life when not at sea devoted to pleasure". He was for ever scaling walls! A letter of 8th April 1758 between Lady Mary Coke and Lady Dalkeith recorded that "Prince Edward is grown very fickle, Lady Elizabeth Milbanke is already forgot, and given place to the Duchess of Richmond". He was only nineteen and the Duchess did not encourage him.[1]

In honour of the Prince's visit, Lady Elizabeth set about organizing a group of musicians known to her, and to each other. She sent a courier to Sunderland for William Herschel, the militia band director. He had stayed at Halnaby the previous autumn, and had completed two early symphonies there. Charles Avison, the Newcastle organist and concert promoter, was invited, as was John Garth. Garth of Durham, organist and cello player, had just published his Six Concertos for Violincello, with the dedication to the Duke, himself a keen cellist. These are the earliest cello concertos composed in Britain, and are now receiving the attention they deserve.

Elizabeth Milbanke was a keen and talented harpsichord player. When in London she performed in private concerts held there by Harriet Lane Fox of Bramham Park. She was a favourite pupil and supporter of Avison. His Opus 4 appeared in 1755 with a dedication to Lady Milbanke. From it we learn that these compositions were performed before they went into print.[2]

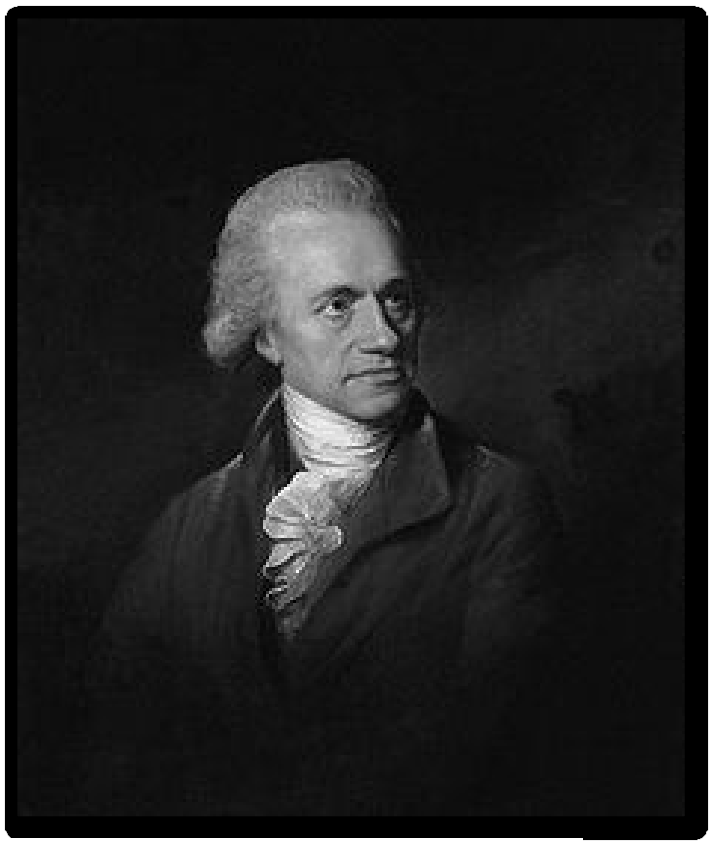
Avison's concertos Opus 3 and Opus 4 are cleverly written in the *concerto grosso* style where the string orchestra with harpsichord continuo is divided into two contrasting parts. One features the professional soloist, the other the less demanding *ripieno* or remainder. The *ripieno* was played by the soloist in at least one of Avison's subscription concerts.

Friedrich Wilhelm Herschel's music career had started in 1753, when as a fourteen-year-old he had joined the Hanoverian Guards, playing hautboy and violin. His father and elder brother were also employed there. In 1758 the Guards were posted to Kent where Wilhelm made contacts and learned English. On his return to Hanover, the trio found themselves too close to the battle of Astenbeck for comfort, and with the French now occupying the country, Wilhelm and Jacob were advised by their father to leave the army and live in England. They both settled in London. Wilhelm, whilst already starting to

[1] The Prince had also been recently linked to the same Lady Coke, as well as Kitty Fisher who, you will remember, had found Lucy Lockett's lost pocket.

[2] "It was Your Ladyship's Approbation of these pieces in their detached state and the Singular Advantage they gained from your graceful Performance which first induced me to think of this publication."

compose, found himself reduced to copying music for a living. He said later, "London was so overstocked with musicians that we had little chance of great success". Given the opportunity of an audition and subsequently a place in the Hanoverian Orchestra, Jacob left his brother, taking any spare money he had. Now alone, and with London having lost its attraction, a fortunate and highly suitable offer came his way. Having changed his name to Frederick William at some point, he says in a short account of his life: "Very opportunely I had an offer of going into Yorkshire where the Earl of Darlington wanted a good musician to be head of a small band for a Regiment of Militia of which he was the General. The engagement being of a liberal plan, and not binding for any stipulated time, I gladly accepted it".



William Herschel

He set out in the spring and recalls: "As the Regiment was quartered in Richmond in Yorkshire, I took a place in the stage coach and at my arrival found that our musical band consisted only of two hautboys and two French horns. The latter, being excellent performers, I composed military music on purpose to show off our instruments".

William's employer was Henry Vane of Raby, the newly succeeded 2nd Earl of Darlington. As well as Lord Lieutenant for Durham he was now being appointed Brigadier-General of Militia for the County. As Lord Barnard he had fought with the Foot-Guards in the English victory at Dettingen. He was badly wounded there. This professional experience ensured that he was "assiduous in perfecting drill" and "well acquainted with military science". The government paid for only two drummers per company. Money for music was the responsibility of the Earl and his officers.

The Earl's instructions were not printed in the Newcastle papers until the 15th of March, 1760. It said that all enrolled persons were to meet at the Barnard Castle Toll Booth at ten o'clock in the forenoon of Monday the 24th to be embodied and to be marched to Richmond. The incentive was the payment of the 'marching guinea' each in Richmond, and help with the finances of needy families. The penalty for not appearing was a huge fine of forty pounds. Failure to find that meant a year in the County Gaol.

William Herschel must have arrived too late to see the conscripts march into Richmond. Besides being busy with military music, William set to work at once to compose symphonies. By the end of the year, six were finished. Eighteen more followed during the next two years. Each was dated, and given its place of completion. The first six are catalogued as follows:

No. 1 in G Major.	Richmond in Yorkshire June 1760 for strings, woodwind and keyboard.
No. 2 in D Major	Richmond Sept. 1760 for strings, woodwind and keyboard
No. 3 in C Major	Sunderland in the County of Durham October 1760 for strings and woodwind.
No. 4 in D Minor	Halnaby near Darlington Yorkshire November 5th 1760 for strings and woodwind

No. 5 in F Minor	Halnaby Nov 15th 1760 for strings
No. 6 in B flat Major	Sunderland Nov 30th 1760 for woodwind, strings and keyboard.

Later symphonies included horns and timpani. His granddaughter, Constance Lubbock, admitted that his musical taste was simple, and that "he loved melody and hated fugues". She also said that his Yorkshire symphonies are "graceful and melodious, but do not indicate much originality".

When they parted, the two brothers had promised to exchange letters and this was made easier because England and Hanover were one country. It was organised through a London agent without paying the postage. William was able to retrieve his letters, and many have survived. He himself categorized them as either musical, historical, moral, metaphysical or characteristic. He says that Jacob was keen on 'intelligent disquisitions'. The language changes frequently between German, French and English. Letters are written from left to right on a good-sized sheet; the back used as well. Saving more space, the letters run continuously one into another, with dates and towns, such as Richmond or Sunderland in 1761, and each half-sheet is numbered. The bulk of the letters concern the art of musical composition in great detail. Numbers 9-86 are lost and these would have interested us most since, by page 87, he says that he has asked to be released from his position as bandmaster.

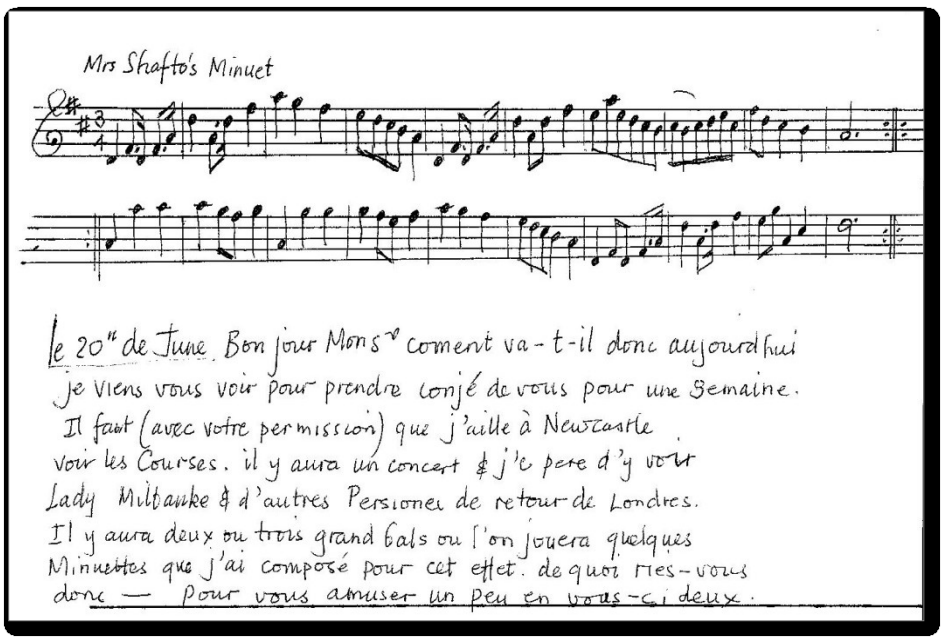
We can see that he probably had a fixed lodging in Sunderland, but that he had to make frequent journeys between there and both Richmond and Newcastle. To do this he bought a horse. In the first of two rare anecdotes he writes about seeking the nearest shelter in the night from an enormous thunderstorm when the horse refused to go any further. In the second, when approaching Richmond, after discussing the dangers of travel, he ends by saying, "Tout est dans l'ordre, a l'instant par quelque accident je tomboys(sic) de Cheval avec violence". He found this life wearing and frequently expressed worry that he had no permanent occupation with a fixed salary. He went specially to audition in Edinburgh, but failed to secure a concert director's post there.

In August 1761 Herschel had the direction of the music in the Newcastle garden of Mr Callender, after the style of Vauxhall in London. He wrote that he had made up a band of about sixteen, and that on the 13th they played one of his symphonies. Before the year's end he was enticed from the north-east, first to Pontefract, then to Leeds. Whilst still in Yorkshire, he continued to combine his

composing with jobs such as church organist, teacher and concert director. Most of his church music is now lost.

Of those to have been at the Halnaby Hall musical gathering, Elizabeth Milbanke died only six years later in July 1767, and Prince Edward, now Rear Admiral of the Blue, two months after her in the September. He died in Monaco and she in Bath, where Herschel was now living. Charles Avison enjoyed musical success until the very unseasonal early May of 1770. Cellist John Garth married Nanny Wrightson in July 1794 at the age of seventy-two. Sometime later they moved into Cockerton Hall, in Darlington, and he was buried in St Cuthbert's north aisle in 1810.

Herschel outlived all the others. During his time in Bath he gave up music to concentrate on building large telescopes and studying the infrared spectrum. He became Sir William in 1816 and was the first president of the Royal Astronomical Society. He also became 'The King's Astronomer' in 1782, rather than Astronomer Royal. He would have been delighted to know that in the 2009 International Year of Astronomy, a far infrared telescope, the largest space telescope ever built, was named after him and successfully launched from French Guiana.



Notes

1. A selection of William Herschel's Symphonies are available on the Chandos label, including No. 2, from Richmond;

2. John Garth's Cello Concertos have been recorded by the Avison Ensemble on the Divine Art label. The cello solist is Richard Tunnicliffe;

3. Charles Avison's Concertos, recorded by the Avison Ensemble, are available on the Naxos label;

All the above recordings have full programme notes.

4. 2009 has been the Tercentenary of Avison's birth or baptism, the occasion marked in Newcastle by a series of monthly concerts.

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Acknowledgements

Special thanks to John Herschel-Shorland for access to copies of Herschel's letters.
Herschel's music manuscripts in the British Library can be viewed at www.rism.org.uk

Franz Liszt in Yorkshire and the Northeast

Kenneth Birkin

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) made eight visits to England between 1824 and 1886: the first three as a youthful prodigy (1824, 25 and 27); on four occasions in the 1840s and again in the year of his death. In 1840 and 1841 he undertook, under the aegis of Lewis Henry Lavenu, two extensive provincial tours: the first taking in Devon, the North and East Midlands, East Anglia and Suffolk; the second, beginning in Reading (Autumn 1840), extending north to Manchester, east to Leeds, Wakefield and York before embarkation from Liverpool for a month of concerts in Ireland. At the beginning of 1841 he and his party returned to Britain, appearing in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dunbar, before making their way, via Newcastle, Durham, Richmond and Darlington to Halifax where, somewhat prematurely, the tour ended.



Portrait of Franz Liszt by courtesy of The King's Head Hotel.

Lavenu (1818-59) who undertook the venture, himself active as a composer, pianist and 'cellist, also ran a small, inherited music business. A man of organizational flair, this budding impresario clearly judged a tour featuring Liszt as celebrity to be a sound commercial prospect, promising substantial monetary return. Without further ado he assembled his team of 'players'. In the

autumn of 1840 it consisted of two soprano vocalists, Louise Bassano and a certain Miss Mary Steele (chaperoned by her mother); the male contingent featured Lavenu himself, Joseph Richardson, a competent flautist and Welshman, John Orlando Parry. The latter, active as harpist, pianist and singer (baritone), was also composer/executant of numerous popular comic songs, many of which he published himself. The icing on the cake was, of course, Franz Liszt who, at the age of 29/30 and at the height of his virtuosic powers, was still young enough to relish an adventure, and happy enough, too, to pocket the handsome sum of 500 guineas per month for his trouble.

They set off from Reading travelling in their own carriage, followed by a van containing a considerable amount of luggage - and a pianoforte. They would cover, by Parry's reckoning, a total of 2222 miles over dubious roads and infant railway systems, mostly at sluggish speeds. There were many adventures along the way, all recorded for posterity by Parry, who kept an entertaining diary of dates, places, concerts and events. After playing in Reading on November 23rd, the party proceeded via Oxford, Leamington, Birmingham and Wolverhampton to Newcastle-under-Lyme, before making its way, via Chester to Liverpool, Preston, Rochdale, Manchester and Huddersfield to Doncaster. After further concerts in Sheffield, Wakefield, Leeds and Hull, they arrived in York (December 12th) where, since the next stop would be Liverpool for the Ireland crossing, they abandoned the piano.

After a month in Ireland the little company crossed to Stranraer, appearing in Glasgow and Edinburgh before setting out for Newcastle-upon-Tyne *en route* to Durham on January 24th 1841. "We did not sleep much all night," complained Parry. "The ground was covered with snow. We came by the sea – all the way. Liszt got out at Alnwick & staid (*sic*) at an inn, to come on by Mail next morning. (N.B. five in this *small* coach, horrible.)

> **Newcastle, January 25th**
>
> We stopt at the Queen's Head… Concert not a good house – only about 200. Everything went pretty. 'Governess' not encored. 'Wife' tremendously encored ('Fanny Grey'). Liszt extemporized on 'Rory O'More' etc. beautiful…Had an excellent supper. Toasted cheese etc. Miss Steele bad tooth. Mr Liszt's story of the Roman Catholics & 'Sacks' (very pure). To bed by 12. Such a fire – a mile high!"

On the 26th they set off for Sunderland:

> "Passed over the beautiful iron bridge; arrived very late. Went … to the beautiful Assembly Rooms. About 70 people! Found we had left the whole of the music somewhere – but no one could tell where. We went

thro' the whole concert without a note of music…We returned home to dinner rather queer. Had a battle with Post Boy & the Landlord of the house whose horses ought to take us to Durham (13 miles). Locked up the carriage! Wouldn't take his horses out! A mob of people (100) round the door – quite a scene! At length we got off amidst the groans of the Landlord & shouts of the mob!! I never saw such a scene; it was shocking."

After leaving Sunderland on the afternoon of the 26th, what has been described as the 'fantastic cavalcade' arrived in Durham at 8.30 pm:

"'Twas a great scramble to get our things etc. etc. – and having dressed like lightning we went in our *own* carriage to the Concert Room, or rather the Theatre. On our arrival we heard the Gods kicking up a most dreadful row, and rather justly for we were more than half an hour behind our time.

The encores were very numerous –'The Governess' & 'The Wife' – Awful encores. I sang 'Norah' (very badly too, quite tired), Liszt was encored etc…We got to our hotel about 11.30 pm (The Waterloo). Had some toasted cheese etc. etc. and got to bed by 12.30.

January 27 Wednesday

Got up by 8.30. 'Boots' brought me a letter from my own dear wife – such a darling one. At 9.30 we started for Richmond (30 miles) – passed through Darlington – changed horses there. Ordered beds and left Mrs Steele. Went on & at 2.15 (!!) arrived."

The journey down from Sunderland, and also that from Darlington to Richmond[1] must have been fraught with difficulties. Sir Robert L. Dundas' diary[2] for that year records: 'January 24. Very severe weather during the last week, heavy snow, intense frost and high winds.' On the 25th there was 'more snow in the night', and although on the 26th a thaw set in, one might expect the roads to have

[1] Richmond was clearly the primary goal. The town had a certain social standing in the nineteenth century, not least with the racing fraternity. That only 90 persons remained for the concert (others had 'gone away') suggests that the turnout would have probably been in excess of other venues of comparable size.

[2] Sir Robert Lawrence Dundas' Diary for 1841; Zetland Papers, Record Office, Northallerton, Signature: MIC 2688 ZNK X 4

been treacherous due to residual snow and flooding, thus accounting for the Lavenu party's late arrival.

> "**Richmond**
>
> The people had been waiting nearly two hours! Half gone away! About 90 left. The room (which was at the hotel)[1] was full of pictures, which were exhibiting. The Countess of Zetland[2] and suite remained – nice ladylike woman. No encores! They tried "The Wife" on but did not do. We had dinner during the concert, being next room – one up and one down. I played for Lewis 'Rule Britannia' etc. 'twas very funny – all so busily eating and then suddenly rushing up and singing in public. It saved a good deal of time tho'. Wrote to Annie[3] then started back (12 miles) for Darlington. Great excitement in the carriage, 'Anonymous Letters' – 'Miss Edwards' – 'Jewels' etc., etc.[4] Arrived at 7pm, Darlington. Found Mrs Steele waiting with tea etc. Went and dressed directly. At 8 went 'over the way', where the concert was held. Very *genteel* people – about 100. Elegant ladies. The room smelt horribly of paint etc. A drunken man offered Liszt a sovereign to play 'Rule Britannia'. 'The Governess' not encored again, but 'The Wife' immense! 'Singing Lesson'… The concert over about 11. Supper – related anecdotes etc., etc. Excitement etc. Very very tired – two hard days' work.
>
> **January 28 Thursday**
>
> Left Darlington at 11.30 am. Liszt went with Marchant[5] *outside* the van – in his great Russian cloak!! Lovely day. Everybody staring at the extraordinary turnout!"

So the company set out once more, this time via 'a place called Boroughbridge', to Halifax where the final concert took place; then on to Leeds where they

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[1] It has been established that this was The King's Head Hotel in the Market Place.

[2] Countess of Zetland in 1841 was Sophia Jane, wife of Thomas, 2nd Earl of Zetland (1795-1873), the youngest daughter of Sir Hedworth Williamson. I am grateful to Jane Hatcher of Richmond for this information.

[3] Annie was Parry's wife.

[4] Presumably song titles.

[5] The coachman.

entrained back to London. So ended the 'Grand Tour' which, as Parry points out, had "occupied ten weeks from November the 23rd to January 30th".

As to programme, especially that for Richmond, we have very little information. From various entries in Parry's diary, and from a limited number of play bills we know that, apart from Weber's *Konzertstuck* and *Invitation to the Waltz,* Liszt's touring repertoire included a clutch of his own works: movements from *The Hexameron*[1]*, March Hongroises* (Schubert/Liszt) the *Grand Gallop Chromatiques, La Tarantella, the William Tell Overture* (Rossini/Liszt) and three of his operatic Fantasias (*Robert le Diable* [Meyerbeer], *Lucia de Lammermore* [Donizetti] and *Der Freischutz [*Weber]). On several occasions, he accompanied Parry's *Inchcape Rock* (sung by the composer), Miss Steele in Schubert's *Der Wanderer*, and played his own arrangement of Schubert's *Erlkonig.* Otherwise, the musical fare consisted of a mixture of serious and comic performances: arias by Donizetti (*Alfin ton sua*), Arne (*Where the Bee sucks*), Mozart (*Batti, batti*) or Rossini (*Dunque io son*) from Mme Bassano and Miss Steele, flute solos from Joseph Richardson interspersed with glees, ballads and vocal concerted items (duets, trios) such as "A Governess wanted" by Parry himself.

It was a mixed bag, much of it ad hoc – very much a concert party affair in which Liszt, if in a good mood, would also oblige by extemporizing on a theme provided by a member of the audience. The tone, however, was very much set by Parry who, not backward in forthcoming, and not unexpectedly even at Liszt's expense, figures prominently in the diaries. His songs, briefly referenced in the text, were as follows: '*A Wife Wanted', 'Norah, the Pride of Kildare', ''Tis a very merry Thing' (*vocal trio*), 'The Musical Wife', 'Fanny Grey', 'The Singing Lesson', 'Sweet Mary Mine', 'Memory's Dream', 'The Last Adieu','The Wrong Serenade', 'Tears such as tender fathers shed'* and '*Wanted, a Governess'* – such titles speak for themselves! The '*Governess'*, a setting of verses by George Dubourg and one of Parry's earliest efforts, achieved instant popularity; it figured prominently on the 1840-41 tour, the prevailing tone of which may be deduced from the following stanzas:

[1] The Hexameron was the brainchild of the Italian Princess Cristina Belgiojoso, a bizarre, indeed notorious figure in 1830's Parisian society. She commissioned a set of six Variations on an Il Puritani (Bellini) March, involving six different composers – Liszt, Thalberg, Pixis, Herz, Czerny and Chopin. It was published by Haslinger in Vienna in 1839, and became a standard Liszt repertoire work.

"I know not a cure so good for the vapours,
As reading the "wants" which appear in the papers;
There's wanted a HUSBAND or WANTED a sample,
Or "wanted to borrow", but here's an example.

"WANTED A GOVERNESS" well fitted to fill
The post of tuition with competent skill,
In a gentleman's family, highly genteel,
Where it's hoped that the lady will try to conceal
Any fanciful feelings or flights she may feel:
For this gentleman's family's so VERY genteel.

Superior attainments are quite indispensible,
With everything too that's correct and ostensible;
Morals of pure unexceptionability,
Manners well formed, and of strictest gentility!
The pupils are five – ages six to sixteen,
All as PROMISING girls, as ever was seen;
And besides (tho' 'tis scarcely worthwhile to put THAT IN),
There are TWO little boys, but THEY only learn Latin!

…….

As the salary's VERY MODERATE none need apply
Who more on THAT point than on COMFORT rely;
But perhaps 'twere as well, to make matters shorter,
To mention the terms, namely FIVE POUNDS A QUARTER.

WANTED A GOVERNESS, well fitted to fill
The post of tuition with competent skill,
Where 'tis wished that the pupils should never be still,
Nor the GOVERNESS either, be she well or ill!

A GOVERNESS wanted! Wanted a GOVERNESS!"

Although the tour was cut short due to 'player fatigue' and low turnouts, Lavenu honoured his debts and paid Liszt in full. The latter remained in London until June 1841 when he left for Paris. Although at the height of his virtuosic powers,

he was to retire from the concert platform six years later: his next English tour took place in 1886 a few weeks before his death. Lavenu eventually emigrated to Australia as music director of a theatre in Sydney, while the indefatigable Parry left the stage in 1853 to become church organist and music teacher in Southsea. He died in East Moseley in Sussex, thirteen days after one of his sporadic 'comebacks' (at the Gaiety Theatre) on February 20th 1897.



Franz Liszt at approximately the age he came to Richmond.

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A VISITOR TO THE GEORGIAN THEATRE ROYAL

James Russell

Entry in the theatre visitors' book: 11.09.2008

Jane Thomas, Hindhead, Surrey – wonderful to come here and see the theatre where Tryphosa Jane Wallis, my great-great-great-grandmother acted and which was built by Samuel Butler, the third husband of my great-great-great-great-grandmother, Tryphosa Brockell.

In 2008 Jane Thomas contacted the theatre to say that while researching her family history she discovered that she is a direct descendant of the first wife of Samuel Butler who built the theatre in 1788. Jane said she would be visiting Richmond in September for a few days to coincide with the staging of the play "Lethe" in the theatre.

The story begins with the birth, at Barnard Castle in 1727, of Tryphosa Brockell, daughter of the Rev. Christopher Brockell. As a child she became an orphan through the death of both her parents. She was brought up by her grandfather, a clergyman. When she was in her early teens her grandfather married his housemaid and Tryphosa was turned out into the world to fend for herself. She was taken in by a couple who ran a boarding house and when actors were in the area they often stayed there; so from an early age Tryphosa was in the company of actors.

In 1749 when she was 22 years old she married an actor, Henry Miller, who was with a company run by actor/manager James Wright. They had two children, Jane and Katherine, who both became actors and married actors. More about Jane Miller later.

We do not know when Henry Miller died but his widow, Tryphosa, married again. Her second husband was James Wright; they had a son, James Brockell Wright, who also became an actor.

Samuel Butler was born in the Harrogate area in 1750. He was apprenticed to a stay maker in York (stays were corsets stiffened with whalebone and tightly laced). Butler did not like the stay-making business and wanted, instead, to be an actor.

For this Week Only.

THEATRE, RICHMOND.

BY DESIRE of the RIGHT HONOURABLE, the EARL of POMFRET, and CUTHBERT JOHNSON, Esq; STEWARDS of the RACES.

On FRIDAY, the 7th. of SEPTEMBER, 1792, will be presented a COMEDY, called,

The Merchant of Venice

Shylock, Mr. BUTLER.
Baſſanio, Mr. WILKINSON.
Gratiano, Mr. WRIGHT.
Launcelot, Mr. DUNN.
Lorenzo, Mr. WARWICK.
Duke, Mr. TAYLEURE.
Old Gobbo, Mr. W. TAYLEURE.
Solanio, Mr. MARTIN.
Solorino, Mr. SNAGG.
Tubal, Mr. TODD. — Balthazer, Mr. BAILIE.
Antonio, Mr. MARRIOTT.

Jeſſica, (*with a Song*) Mrs. HINDE.
Neriſſa, Mrs. WRIGHT.
And Portia, by Miſs WALLIS.

To which will be added a MUSICAL FARCE, called,

GRETNA GREEN.

Rory, Mr. BUTLER.
Captain Gorget, Mr. BAILIE.
Andrew, Mr. WARWICK.
Poſtillion, Mr. SNAGG. — Landlord, Mr. TODD.
Captain Tipperary, Mr. WRIGHT.

Maria, Mrs. HINDE.
Miſs Plumb, Mrs. WRIGHT.
Lady Pedigree, Mrs. FIELDEW.
Signiora Figurante, Mr. TAYLEURE.

BOXES, 3s. — PIT, 2s. — GALLERY, 1s.
To begin at half after SIX o'Clock.

Copyright: Georgian Theatre Royal

When he had completed his apprenticeship he left York and joined Wright's company as an actor when they were playing at Guisborough. James Wright died and for the second time Tryphosa became a widow. She carried on running the company as manager until she married her third husband, Samuel Butler, in 1773. When they married, Tryphosa was 46 and Samuel was 23 (a Georgian toy-boy?). Under the management of Butler, the company prospered and eventually he had eight theatres in his circuit. Tryphosa died in 1797 aged 70.

Jane Miller, daughter of Tryphosa and her first husband, married an actor, Fielding Wallis; they had eight children. Jane Wallis, the eldest, was born at Richmond in 1774. In 1778 the Wallis family was engaged at the Crow Street Theatre in Dublin. At the age of nine the little Jane Wallis made her first



Jane Thomas at the Pay Box, Georgian Theatre Royal.
Copyright: Ian Meeson

appearance on the stage of the Smock Alley Theatre as the Fine Lady in 'Lethe'. In 1784 the Wallis family returned to England and rejoined the Butler Company when they were playing at Harrogate. Jane appeared on the stage and attracted the attention of Lord Loughborough and his wife who adopted her. She went on to become a famous actress and singer and was known as Miss Wallis of Bath and Covent Garden. On Friday 7th September 1792 the part of Portia in The Merchant of Venice was played at Richmond by Miss Wallis then aged 18.

On Friday 12th September 2008, two plays were performed in the Richmond Theatre, the first, "Sam Butler and Co.", a review of eighteenth century actors and audiences, the second, or after piece, "Lethe", with the part of the Fine Lady played by Helen Bradbury, the same part played by Jane Wallis more than two hundred years earlier. Sitting in the auditorium was her great-great-great-granddaughter Jane Thomas.



Helen Bradbury (L) with Jane Thomas (R), Georgian Theatre Royal 2008. Copyright Ian Meeson

Sources

Georgian Theatre Royal Archives.
Sybil Rosenfield: Georgian Theatre Richmond.
York Georgian Society: The XVIII Century Theatre at Richmond.

Richmond Heritage Festival, September 10th – 13th

John McDonald

Richmond has always, I realise, been aware of its own heritage but this year is the first time that The Civic Society has been involved in a major response to The Heritage Open Days scheme that has become such a feature of The Civic Trust nationally.

It was in the early 90s that the Council of Europe lay the foundations of this venture: "to bring people closer to their cultural heritage, opening free of charge, buildings and historic monuments, particularly those that are normally closed or inaccessible." From this beginning forty-nine countries now follow the European blueprint, staging events each year in September, which celebrate not only their own national culture but also link to other countries and cultures.

In the UK it was The Civic Trust that took on the initiative in 1994 and it has run a nationwide programme of Heritage Open Days for fifteen years. Last year, for example, visitor numbers reached one million. This year, as we all know, The Civic Trust at national level is facing closure through lack of funding and this has put into jeopardy the organization of the Heritage Open Days. Rescue came in the shape of English Heritage which has taken over organizational responsibility. Therefore, as I write, we can be relatively secure in thinking that the scheme will survive and, indeed, flourish.

It was in this atmosphere of uncertainty over the Heritage Open Days that The Civic Society's committee decided to mount a programme for September 2009. There already existed a Civic Heritage Day on which mayors and councillors from other authorities visited the town's heritage sites. Further, there was interest from within the District Council to back the venture as an experiment which, if successful, could expand in future years to cover the whole of the Richmondshire area.

The programme that resulted was a collaboration between The Civic Society, The District and Town Councils and organisations within the town. The focus was very much on the town's culture and history: a theatre, three museums, two historic gardens, a castle, a ruined abbey at Easby, several historic churches and more than anything else, a volunteer force which was both experienced and articulate. No minor line-up for a small market town. As a result, we produced a programme of over fifteen venues and events. Leading the field was Temple Grounds with events on each day: guided tours and two family days, one centred on archery and the other on the woollen industries that

flourished on the riverside. Jane Hatcher led a guided lecture on Easby Abbey and St Agatha's Church and Michael Rudd a guided walk in the footsteps of Turner, demonstrating where Turner found the views he so much valued as an artist. Both events recruited extremely well. The opening of The Masonic Lodge drew people genuinely interested in this historic body as well as the building; indeed, the same can be said of the response to the opening of the Girls' High School building. Councillors gave numerous tours of the Town Hall and its contents, the Civic Society opened up its lecture to non-members and the theatre added two performances to their programme. St. Mary's closed the weekend with a hugely popular "Tread the Timeline" tour of the church given by The Rev. Canon Richard Cooper, followed by Evensong, which celebrated not only the Heritage Festival but also the civic life of the town and the retirement of Richard himself: music bringing together so many of the people on whom the town depends.

The photographs below are a visual record of some of the highlights.



Some well-known faces at the old Girls' High School.



How Agincourt could have been lost.



About to walk in the footsteps of Turner

Richmond and District Civic Society
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All addresses are in Richmond unless otherwise shown.

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Harland, Mr. J. & Mrs. E., 51 Bargate,
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Hide, Mr. P. & Mrs. M., 61 Hurgill Road,
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Warner, Mr. & Mrs. A. J., 15 Pilmoor Drive,
Waugh, Mr. & Mrs. D., 65 Frenchgate,
White, Rev. Canon C. N. H. & Mrs. P. A., Orchard House, Aske,
Whittaker, Mr. & Mrs. D. J., 9 Mile Planting,
Wiseman, Mr. & Mrs. R. J. S., 20 Kettle End, Barton,
Wood, Mr. & Mrs. F. L., 71 Bolton Avenue,
Young, Mr. A. G. & Mrs. S. M. S., Thryft House Farm, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield, S11 7TA

Deaths:
Mr. K. Brown
Mr. G. Coates
Mrs. M. Hawkes

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

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

Obituaries:

Rella Kurdi 1911-2008

Arabella (Rella) Kurdi, nee Pallister, of Middleton Tyas, died last October in her nineties. She served as a member of the Civic Society's committee from 1980 – 1991 and was always full of ideas and ways and means.

Her father was a gilder and worked in Buckingham Palace and such places. Rella described her Richmond school days in the Review in 2003 as well as contributing other interesting articles. She trained in Domestic Science and Nutrition at Leicester, teaching in Birmingham and in London where she organized school meals during the Second World War. After the war she worked in Germany, organizing the feeding of children throughout the British Zone BFES. Later she virtually set up and became Head of Catering, Health and Fashion, the largest department in Darlington College of Technology. Ever inventive, initially she used equipment borrowed from the army!

For over fifty years Rella was married to Mike Kurdi: engineer, educationalist, Commissioner of Richmondshire Scouts, Fellmonger, Parish Councillor and supporter of the Palestine Education Trust of Durham University. Both Rella and Mike supported the Council for the Protection of Rural England and other local causes. Rella's book, 'A North Yorkshire Village: Middleton Tyas' was published in 1988. Her papers have been deposited with the Institute of Education in London. Her wide knowledge and enthusiasm in so many fields and her warmth are very much missed.
Linda Drury

Bryan Rochford

We are sorry to record the death of Life Member Bryan Rochford, who died in November 2008. Although Bryan had left Richmond latterly for the warmer climate of Gozo, he was an active and interested member of The Civic Society for many years.

Some will remember Bryan as an art teacher at Richmond Grammar School in the 1970s. His specialism was pottery and his work, aesthetically pleasing as well as practical, was to be seen in the front room window of 29 Castle Hill, from which 'showroom' he would sell his work, particularly during school holidays. After leaving Richmond School, Bryan lectured at Halifax Art College, returning to Richmond at the weekend. His artistic skills were of great benefit to The Civic Society and other local organizations: he designed the Civic Society letterhead and 'Castle Keep outline' logo, the Richmond Museum logo, among others.

After his retirement from teaching Bryan became Manager of the Georgian Theatre. Unfortunately, while in this post, he suffered a severe stroke. Although he made a remarkable and determined recovery, this blow led to his full retirement.

A man of many talents - Bryan was also deputy organist at St. Mary's, a keen and knowledgeable gardener and a skilled cook – his varied contributions to the life of Richmond are recalled with gratitude. Personal friends within the Society will also remember his kindness and generosity, masked sometimes by an acerbic wit.

Dorothy Clague

The Rev. Lord Sandford, DSC

Some readers of the Richmond Review may have been intrigued, as we were, by the inclusion of Lord Sandford in the list of patrons. Sadly, such inclusion will be no more, as we learnt in January this year of Lord Sandford's death at the age of eighty-eight. A naval commander with a distinguished record, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his D-Day actions. As a clergyman who became executive chaplain to the Bishop of St Albans and a conservative politician he was a true polymath. He is, perhaps, best remembered for having given his name to 'The Sandford Principle', a simple but powerful idea that conservation has priority over recreation. As a junior environment minister, he

led a review of National Park policy: in trying to reconcile the two statutory purposes of the parks, conservation of the landscape and wildlife on the one hand and the promotion of access and recreation on the other, he concluded that "where the conflict between the two purposes becomes acute, the first one must prevail, in order that the beauty and ecological qualities of the National Parks may be maintained." Endorsed by the government of the day, it was not put into legislation until the Environment Act of 1995; it remains, however, a cogent and effective principle of National Park planning.

Lord Sandford joined the Richmond and District Civic Society in 1984 and with Arthur Hutchinson became one of the first two life members; it may even have been he who suggested that category of membership. On an official visit to Richmond, he expressed great interest in the town and on having been presented with the Civic Society's Review was so impressed that he decided at once to become a life member. This was a small example of a larger passion for conservation and heritage, a passion that inspired countless others, so that such interest became the norm for many, rather than the preserve of a select few.

Tina McDonald

Officials for 2009

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Secretary:	Mr. T.J. Walter	
Treasurer & Membership Secretary:	Mr. G. Barber	
Honorary Consultant Architect:	Mr. J.G. Clarke	
Editors:	Miss D. Clague	
	Mr. J. McDonald	
	Mrs. T. McDonald	
Committee:	Mr. P. Cardwell	Retires in 2011
	Ms. J. Corner	Retires in 2009
	Mr. T. Dykes	Retires in 2009
	Mrs. C. Hillyard	Retires in 2009
	Mr. J. McDonald	Retires in 2010
	Mr. J. Ward	Retires in 2010
	Mr. M. Whyman	Retires in 2009
	Mrs. J. Wrangham	Retires in 2011
	Mrs. M. Emmerson	Co-opted
	Mr. H.B. Joicey	Co-opted
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	Mr. J. Harland	
	Mrs. V. Hepworth	
	Mrs. A.J. Place	
	Mrs. S. Thubron	
Lectures Sub-committee:	Mr. H.B. Joicey	
	Mr. P. Cardwell	
	Mr. T. Dykes	
	Mr. M. Whyman	
Auditors:	Paul Tranter & Co.	

Civic Society Programme for 2010

Thursday January14th	Mark Whyman, ***Buildings and Gardens of the Arts & Crafts Movement***
Thursday February 11th	Professor David Hill, ***Natural England: People, Places and Nature***
Thursday March 11th	Anna Eavis ***England Observed: the photographs of John Gay***
Thursday April 8th	Malcolm Warne, ***An Editor Reflects***
Thursday May13th	Richard Holmes, ***The Age of Wonder***
Wednesday June 23rd	***Visit to Saltaire***
Thursday September 9th	David Joy, ***Railways of the Yorkshire Dales***
Thursday October 14th	Brian Alderson, ***Charles Kingsley and North Yorkshire***
Thursday November 11th *(Joint lecture with Museum)*	Helen Clifford ***Prehistoric City in Swaledale? Antiquarian Discoveries***
Friday December 10th	**AGM Town Hall**

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

Please note that the lectures are now held on Thursdays.