

# SHAROW : AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

## A VILLAGE HISTORY UP TO 2005

Sharow Community History Group  
The Manor House  
Sharow, Ripon  
North Yorkshire, England

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*(In Dec 2018 - sole permission was granted by members of the Sharow Community History Group, for St John's Church website to publish this document in full)*

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The group, **Sharow Community History Project**, (SCHP), are pleased to acknowledge the debt which they owe to the late Mike Younge, resident of Sharow, historian and friend, for the enthusiasm with which he infected the group during their early work. Mike's premature death in February 2004 took not only a colleague but also a valuable and experienced source of much information.

We are grateful to his wife for searching through boxes of documents in support of the varied topics addressed.

*LHI – acknowledgement*

*Awards for All – acknowledgement*

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*If further information or corrections are suggested, the Group will be pleased to consider them.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Community histories are attempts to describe the origins, interactions and daily lives of people from within a defined locality, for the benefit of both present and future generations.

The village of Sharow (or Sharrow on some occasions in history!) is still a small community of around 400 inhabitants living along the north bank of the River Ure as it enters the cathedral city of Ripon, North Yorkshire. Though small, Sharow has a social history which can be traced back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and has associations with characters as diverse as a one time Astronomer Royal of Scotland; a family banking firm still (in merged form) trading; the World Heritage site of Studley Royal; the industrial revolution in Bradford; Lewis Carroll and the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew!



### **Sharow Sanctuary Cross**

Dating from c938AD this is amongst the oldest man made relics in the village. Drawing by Mrs Herbert Railton from The Ripon Millenary Record 1886

Following a structure which included the geology and topography of the village, the early and medieval lives of residents and the buildings and personalities of Sharow, the Sharow Community History Project Group has assembled a unique record.

None of the Group is a professional historian, although all have a dedication to the absorbing entertainment offered by wading through archival records in a variety of languages and styles!

This compilation is the result of considerable collaborations and covers the principal changes experienced in Sharow which have given the village its form and activities of today. Since each chapter is sourced from differing documents, and since many valuable records have never (and probably will never) been found there are understandable gaps in some timelines. These intervals are, hopefully, few enough to be forgiven and in no way detract from the shared enjoyment of our journey back through history.

One of the challenges faced by the Group has been deciding how much information to include, what material to omit and how to present Sharow's history in a readable and authoritative account. The source documents for this publication, and much additional information are filed at the North Yorkshire Archives.

Your reading of this account may generate an enthusiastic interest to find out more about Sharow's past. The Group will have achieved their goal by completing this record: the new goals will be whatever you set for yourself!

## Origins of Sharow: ITS NAME AND EARLIEST REFERENCES

The name Sharow is thought to be derived from Old English Searu meaning a boundary – and Hoh – meaning a hill, seeming to mean a boundary hill. The village and parish of Sharow lie along the bank of the River Ure approximately a mile and a half from the city of Ripon.

The spelling of the village name has evolved – as indeed has its pronunciation – with several forms appearing in documents. Sharou and Sarrou were both used in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, Sharrowe, Scharrowe and Sharho all appear in the 13<sup>th</sup> century records, as does Shaarehow.



**Map of 1706**

This image is taken from a modern copy of the original map dated 1706 with the village spelling 'Sharah'



**Map of 1772**

This image, apparently a copy of an original map of 1772, also shows the spelling 'Sharah'.

The 14<sup>th</sup> century saw Scharhowe and Scharhow used, with Sharo and Sharaye being used in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In Victorian times it was usual to see Sharrow (with a double 'r') but – currently – the name is agreed as Sharow!

The Domesday Book does not contain mention of Sharow (by any spelling) and neither is it listed in the York Gospel Book. The Archbishop of York however lists "Scharhow" in a book of 1316 – the *Nomina Villarum* – as belonging to the Archbishop. As those who have studied the history of this part of Yorkshire will know however, there were frequent claims and counter-claims between the Archbishop and the Canons of the Cathedral Church in Ripon, and some documents list a prior claim (in 1226) by the said Canons to the ownership of Sharow.

Later in the 14<sup>th</sup> century it is known that various cottages, lands and properties in what is present day Sharow were owned by various chapels in the area, with tenants paying rents to the incumbents.

On many occasions the village name was written Sharrow, and the double 'r' form still exists on maps, deeds and wills held in local archives. This historic spelling was most recently revived by North Yorkshire County Council when the signs were erected on the Ripon by-pass – Sharrow was for a brief period back on somebody's map! What is certain is that there have been homes, families and lives located in Sharow, since at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

## THE GEOLOGY OF SHAROW



**Sharow Valley c2005**

Former glacial melt-water channel near Sharow Hall

Sharow is sited adjacent to the abandoned former course of the River Ure on glacial meltwater and buried valley gravels. The re-routing of the river probably dates back to the last ice age of up to 10000 years ago. The former course still becomes very wet during the winter and heavy periods of rainfall.

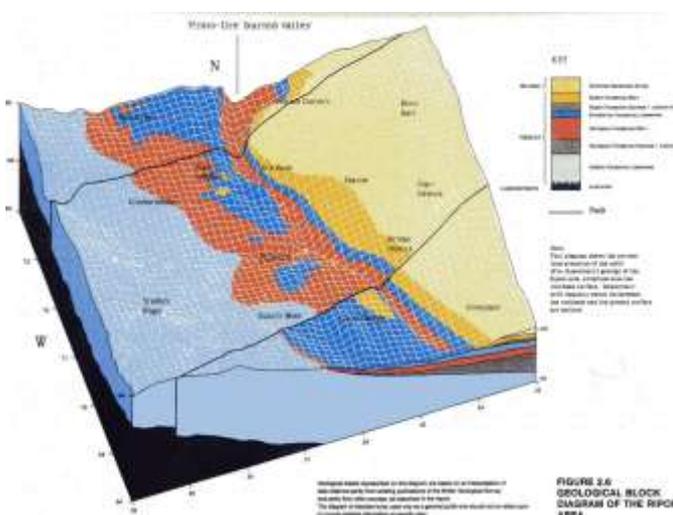
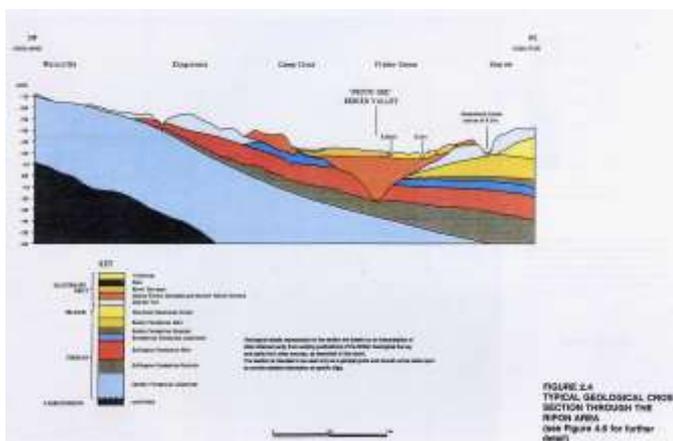
The most characteristic deposits are tills and boulder clays, which are tough clays, usually unstratified and unfossiliferous, but stuffed full of stones that are angular and often polished and scratched.

The underlying geology is Permian/Triassic with Sharow being sited on the boundary of the Triassic overlap. The underlying strata is mainly limestone of a pale grey colour, as can be seen in the building stones at Fountains Abbey.

Such limestones were formed in a sub-tropical sea 300-200 million years ago.

The sea underwent cycles of flooding and evaporation, which was associated with the deposition of layers of gypsum, which is a type of mineral called an evaporate.

Gypsum is soft and easily dissolved by groundwater and hence the small subsidence hollows called 'sink-holes', under which the gypsum has dissolved away and the overlying ground has collapsed. Often these 'sink-holes' have become waterlogged and acted as traps for sediment, which may have accumulated in them over hundreds and thousands of years.



**Sources for Illustrations: Department of the Environment Technical Report, 'Assessment of Subsidence Arising from Gypsum Dissolution', July 1996.)**

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collapsed. Often these 'sink-holes' have become waterlogged and acted as traps for sediment, which may have accumulated in them over hundreds or thousands of years.

## A BRIEF LANDSCAPE AND VEGETATION HISTORY

The actions of water, the mix of glacial and alluvial deposits, the underlying limestone and Sherwood sandstone have all played their role in forming a historically diverse vegetation that characterises our landscape. However, man's activity over recent millennia has been the major influence on the vegetation we see around the parish today.

Rich arable farmland, with scattered grassland units (mainly close to habitation), combined with hedgerows and scattered woodland blocks, form a typical post-glacial landscape of the western margins of the Vale of York. The defining feature is the River Ure and associated glacial melt-water channel along the western edges of the parish.

Recent research by Durham University illustrates a growing picture of radical regional changes in vegetation, particularly during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. Major tree clearance and changes in climatic conditions are indicated through this period, as is the growth in focused agricultural practice. The picture is of a diverse 'mosaic' of habitats probably reflecting local environmental conditions but generally a more open landscape during the period 5,000 to 4,000 BP (before present) than is generally imagined.



**Sharow mires c2005**

During this period, wetland, Alder carr woodland and fen, such as that still extant at Sharow Mires would have been valued for the resources that they offered – even well into the medieval period and beyond. Plants such as Common Reed *Phragmites australis*, of value for general thatching and the statuesque and regionally rare (formerly locally common) Greater Fen Sedge *Cladium mariscus*, used for thatching the ridge of a roof. The Mires has evidence of extensive coppiced Alder, historically used for a variety of purposes, such as making clogs and much later for charcoal used in the

manufacture of gunpowder.

### **Boundaries and Enclosures**

Man's early influence on the landscape can still be seen in remaining historical boundaries and on old maps. A walk around the parish hedges will indicate that many simply date back to the 'Enclosures' process (mainly mid/late 18th and early 19th centuries), or even more recently. On old maps, quite different field patterns are apparent on the western side of the parish to those on the east. A few of these boundaries may well date back further in time to at least the medieval period, e.g. those along Berrygate Lane, Sharow Lane and Back Lane (notably the lane's historical extension beyond Sharow Hall Farm, towards Copt Hewick).

The parish boundary hedge/embankment, as it runs east from Sharow Mires towards Copt Hewick still contains species such as Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea* and Hazel *Corylus avellana*, indicating a woodland past. Most intriguingly this section of boundary forms a gentle reversed 'S' shape, characteristic of medieval ploughing using teams of oxen; the swinging curve was created by the long period of preparation these large animals needed to turn at the end of a field.

Hedges picture

The parish's most notable boundary was of course, the Boundary of Liberty. Whilst this can be seen on earlier maps, very little appears to remain to this day. A short length near the south-eastern corner of the parish and a small section adjoining the footpath towards Copt Hewick, appear to be all that remain on the south side of the Dishforth Road. The eastern section of the northern boundary of Fairlawns 'park' hints at an ancient past with extensive Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*. All the remaining boundary has been lost since the 1850s Ordnance Survey, apart from a tiny section adjoining the A61 and a short length along the eastern boundary of a grass field adjacent to the road to Hutton Conyers.

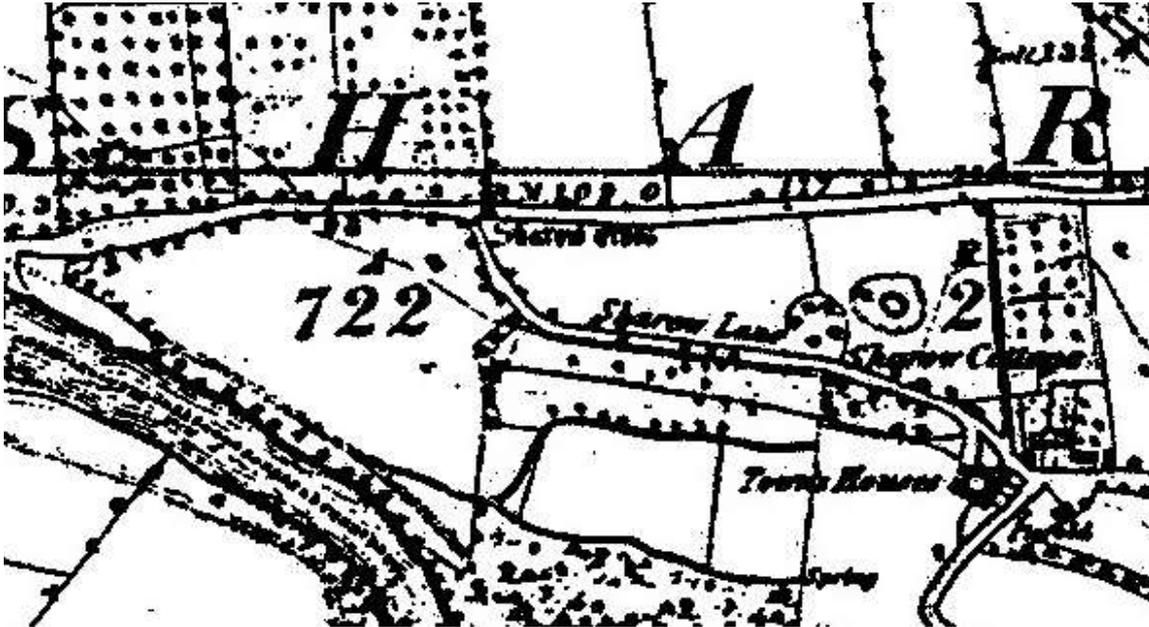
### **Georgian and Victorian Parkland**

The landscape west of Sharow Hall has something of the hallmark of the Georgian 'landscape improver' about it – seeking to improve on nature. Evidence from maps suggests that substantial woodland planting took place around the second-quarter of the 19th century, mainly along the ridge above the river, i.e. Roman Riggs and Bell Banks. This planting framed wonderful views for the Hall and Sharow Grange, towards Ripon Cathedral and Studley Royal. Elements of the layout hint at the style of the earlier Bedale-based 'landscape gardener' Adam Mickle, one of Capability Brown's regional 'improvers'. At this time, only the southern half of Moon Wood was planted (a 'half moon'). Drawing an imaginary line on a map from the Half Moon Inn towards Ripon Cathedral, once the wood was completely planted ('full moon'), the view from the inn would appear to have become obscured. The parkland and gardens around Fairlawn hint at the later 'picturesque' style.

## SHAROW CROSS

One of the most photographed and recognisable locations in the village is Sharow's famous Sanctuary Cross. But it has not always been a peaceful and scenic place....

All that is left of Sharow Cross is a plain limestone base 3ft 4ins by 4ft 4ins and 1ft 3ins in depth with the stump of a **rectangular shaft 10ins by 1ft 1inch in height**. The cross was moved a few yards from its original vulnerable position on the Dishforth Road, and now stands on a small plot of land at the fork of Sharow Lane and Dishforth Road, which was donated to the National Trust in 1900/1. (The remains are shown in their original position on the first edition of the OS 6" map of 1849.



At midnight 1900/1901, Sharow Cross became the first property in Yorkshire to be owned by The National Trust. It is a Grade 2 listed monument, is the oldest part of the village and the Trust's smallest property in the country. Sharow Cross is believed to be the only surviving one of the eight Saxon sanctuary crosses which once stood approximately within a league (one and a third miles/2km) radius of St Wilfrid's Minster. Each of the main roads leading into Ripon is believed to have had a sanctuary cross, usually on the left hand side. Whilst the names and roughly the situations of the other seven crosses are known, their remains disappeared long ago.

The original Sharow Cross was probably over 6 feet tall and was made of local limestone

The original position of Sharow Cross, which dates from about 938AD was almost in the middle of what is now Sharow Lane. It was moved a few yards to its present site during the summer of 1900 (for a fee of just ten shillings!) The three large horizontal, rectangular stones on which the cross was originally mounted were visible in 1900, but are now just below ground level.

Two of the stones are believed to be original, the third being a replacement in 1900.

An extract from a letter from E.W.Crossley, Hon. Secretary for Yorkshire Archaeological Society to the National Trust dated 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919: “Dear Sir, I have received a letter from Mrs Farmer, Lucan House, Ripon, asking the advice of the Society in a scheme she and others are considering for the restoration of this cross and the inscription upon it of the names of those who have fallen in the Great War. I have replied that it is against the best archaeological opinion now to restore, or add new work to old, and advising her to consider the erection of an entirely new cross. I have also warned her that Sharow Cross is vested in the National Trust, who would not be likely to agree to its being interfered with.”



**Sanctuary Cross c1860**  
With 3 supporting stones



### **So how did the Cross come to the National Trust?**

Records held by the Trust show that on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1900, Hugh Blakeson NT Secretary received correspondence from a Mrs A. Garnett of Lucan House Sharow (see later for details of Lucan House). This letter was returning a subscription renewal notice on behalf of her sister (Miss Bristowe) who had been abroad. At the same time the letter inquires as to how she would set about donating the Cross and its site to the NT. She says the cross is “now merely an old square stone, not beautiful, but it stands in its original position”.

**On 29<sup>th</sup> April 1900** in a letter from W.F.Powell, Sharow Lodge to Hugh Blakeson: “the enclosed is a very exact copy of a photograph of it as it appeared before it was moved by officious road authorities into the present position from which we are now trying to rescue it, the work having been taken up by Sharow Parish Council. The cross is to be placed in the angle of two roads. As you will see from the enclosed sketch plans, on a piece of ground given by Mr Garnett for the purpose and we are in doubt whether to put any railing round it by way of protection or to leave it open to the road. The latter would look the best but it would leave it open to being injured”

**1<sup>st</sup> July 1919 Secretary.** National Trust to EWC Acknowledgement and reply, confirming that the Trust would indeed “not entertain the suggestion”. It was eventually decided not to pursue the protective railings. But ... eighty-nine years later, the cross was indeed injured! In April 1989, a young nurse named Betty, from Kingsmead in Ripon skidded off the road early one morning, sheared off the remaining part of the upright shaft, careered through the hedge and finished with her car upside down in the field which at that time belonged to Mrs Reynard, one of the oldest residents in the village. The Trust was very prompt in repairing the cross.

Further correspondence helps trace Sharow's Sanctuary Cross:

**31<sup>st</sup> July 1900** Letter from W.F.Powell Sharow Lodge to Hugh Blakeson NT secretary: "The cross has been removed from its old position by the roadside and is now placed on the piece of ground kindly given for the purpose by Mr Garnett. It is now placed on two of the old stones and one new one; the work was done from an old photograph and it is now exactly as it used to be & looks extremely well."

5<sup>th</sup> October 1907 Letter from the Reverend Cust Nunn to the NT:

"Dear Sir, I am sorry to have to report that the stone which is the only remainder of the original shaft is quite loose. .... it should be cemented at once or it may be thrown into the road"

22<sup>nd</sup> October 1907 Rev. Cust Nunn to NT: "Have had the upright cemented in the socket, and it will now be quite safe. The cost is only one shilling and ten pence, and hardly like troubling you with it. But perhaps as a matter of principle it would be best for the Trust to pay the cost"



**The Monument in 1999**

31<sup>st</sup> July 1929 E.W. Crossley to NT: "the little plot was indicated by a few small stones placed around it which are now almost overgrown. A few weeks ago the roadman was using the place as a tip for stones and the cross was nearly hidden in gravel. A local resident spoke to the surveyor and the roadman... so that for the time being all is well. He fears however, that the trouble may easily recur.... (Mr Crossley inquired if a local custodian could be appointed and the grass removed from the boundary stones)

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 1929 Mr Powell of Sharow Hall agreed to act as local Custodian of the Cross, Mr Powell didn't keep up this work for very long however, since a letter on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1932 mentions having seen the cross and finding it rather forlorn, recommends an information sign and mentions the outstanding view of Ripon Minster to be had from the monument.

Discussion with representatives of the National Trust regarding the possibility of elevating the cross by exposing the base stones once again, concluded that although it is not as impressive, the cross is less vulnerable from traffic with the base stones embedded. In March 2005 the National Trust permitted, and Sharow Parish Council funded, the installation of a raised kerb, for extra protection.

### **But what exactly was "sanctuary"?**

The concept of 'Sanctuary' has its roots in the laws of Moses. From ancient times, men fled to holy places or sacred sites to escape danger. In Saxon times, violence was common. Feuds, ambush and murder were the usual methods of settling disputes.

Sanctuary developed as an alternative to mob-rule and personal vengeance. It was an opportunity for those rightly or wrongly accused, to live their lives peacefully away from gangs of criminals.

All churches had a limited right of sanctuary. Throughout Anglo Saxon times, there was a distinction between the King's Peace, which concerned the general safety of subjects, and the Church's Peace, where clemency and mercy were paramount. Certain larger churches, especially those associated with a saint whose relics may have been buried there, were granted the privilege of sanctuary by the Crown. This became known as the Royal Peace, or more formally Chartered Sanctuary.

In principle, sanctuary afforded the fugitive safety from pursuers or accusers, as well as lodgings and food, whilst the Canons attempted to arrange a peaceful conclusion. Anyone violating the sanctuary and harming a fugitive within the bounds of sanctuary, had to pay a hefty fine to the Canons. The fugitive was required to surrender all possessions and weapons and swear an oath of absolute obedience to the church authorities.

King Athelstan, grandson of Alfred the Great, conferred sanctuary rights on the collegiate church of St Wilfrid of Ripon, as well as to the churches at Durham, Hexham, Beverley and York, following his victory at the battle of Branenburgh in 937AD. The battle was considered a turning point in England's history with Athelstan hailed as a Christian hero who had united Anglo Saxon forces to conquer the Vikings.



c1950

Whilst registers of Ripon sanctuary were lost, the Sanctuary Books of Beverley and Durham, currently held in the British Museum, contain records of sanctuary seekers from all different areas of the country between 1478 and 1520. Ripon is mentioned frequently.

Records from Southwell Cathedral indicate that Beverley had supremacy over Ripon and Southwell and that the sanctuary rights were placed above those at York. At York and Durham sanctuary began at the church door, whereas Beverley, Hexham and Ripon were granted greater privileges. An outer ring of stone crosses at the left-hand side of the main roadsides approaching each of these towns and approximately one league away from the central churches formed an outer sanctuary boundary.

A fugitive would head first of all to the safety of the boundary formed by the crosses. Any pursuer violating the sanctuary to claim the fugitive who had reached or passed this boundary, had to pay the church authorities about £16, and compensation to the fugitive's family if he/she was harmed. The closer the sanctuary seeker got to the church itself, the greater the fine for anyone violating the sanctuary laws. To defy sanctuary once the fugitive had reached the altar or the frithstool or grithstool, (the sanctuary seats which stood next to the altar and can still be seen today at Hexham

and at Beverley Minster) risked very heavy penalties. The fine was a massive £144, the violator risked excommunication and his crime was incapable of pardon.

It is possible that the crosses at both Kangel and Sharow formed an inner boundary, in which case, if the pursuer harmed the fugitive within this inner boundary, then the fine was doubled once more. The charters of Beverley and Ripon are so similar, it is likely that Ripon, like Beverley had an inner boundary at the edge of the town.

The exact rules of sanctuary seem to have varied in different locations, which indicates that local church authorities may have been involved in devising them. Furthermore, the Canons had the power to enforce secular as well as spiritual laws.

If the Canons failed to achieve a peaceful outcome within the thirty days allowed at Ripon, then the fugitive might be escorted to the outer limits of Ripon sanctuary, and taken to the sanctuary of another large church, where the process would begin again. Alternatively, the fugitive could choose the journey of outlawry. This generally meant that the accused would 'abdure the realm' (be exiled from the kingdom by confessing his crime).

In that case, such a fugitive, accompanied by different clerks, walked long distances often barefoot each day to one of the ports where he would board a boat for deportation, generally to France, or to the Low Countries. Wearing distinctive sackcloth clothing, the felon was often ridiculed and insulted throughout the journey.



It is interesting to note that this exile was a one way only traffic. There are no records of French miscreants being deported to England. A further irony is that often these miscreants shared their expertise of the English secret weapon, the longbow, with England's potential enemy.

If the accused wished to remain within sanctuary for longer periods than the regulation of thirty days, then as well as surrendering all his possessions and swearing an oath of absolute obedience, he had to pledge an oath of allegiance to the Canons, to the Minster and the town authorities. He had to promise to remain within the boundary, to ring an alarm bell if a fire broke out, and he/she had to help to carry water to put out the fire. The fugitive had to promise to help to quell strife and was forbidden to carry a knife, a short sword, club or any pointed weapon, but was allowed to carry a blunt knife. In exchange, this 'sanctuary,' 'grithman' or 'frithman' was allowed to continue any previous trade, immune from prosecution, whilst residing peacefully within the town precincts. The Canons had the power to administer both secular as well as spiritual laws and there are records of grithmen being sentenced to public beatings for obstinacy,

disobedience, perjury, or for failing to carry their rods. Many 'sanctuary' men had to carry their rods at all times as a sign of their penance.

Records of sanctuary seekers from all different areas of the country between 1478 and 1520; from 493 recorded at Beverly, 43 were butchers, 31 were husbandmen, 20 were described as yeomen, 16 as gentlemen, 3 surgeons and an alderman. A note from 1837, reports that tailors perpetually occur as principals or accessories in these records and concluded: - tailors delighted in blood! The most frequently recorded crime was debt, with murder/manslaughter a close second. There were several records of coining, felony and handling stolen goods. There was one entry for treason and several for cattle, sheep and horse theft.

Of the three women sanctuary seekers, one admitted infanticide, one confessed to murder and one to a felony.

On 28<sup>th</sup> August 1519, Robert Tennant from Northumberland begged sanctuary for life in Ripon. He had been caught falsifying the accounts of the Lord of Northumbria. Fleeing from the north, it is possible that he first sought sanctuary at Sharow Cross since this was one of the main approach roads.

Sanctuary rights were gradually reduced for various crimes as the power of the State grew and the power of the Church diminished. Henry VIII had little patience or regard for sanctuary with the power that this afforded the Canons. Following the Reformation, religious attitudes changed and many people no longer feared possible retribution from an angry saint for any violation of sanctuary rule! Sanctuary finally ended with a decree of James I in 1623.

## SHAROW'S EARLY CHURCH HISTORY

Although detailed records of the village and its residents do not appear until around the early 14<sup>th</sup> century, Sharow was considered important enough to be a central part of one of the prebends of Ripon from around 1120.

<b>Prebendaries (and where known their Vicars) at Sharow in the fifteenth century</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Prebendary</b>	<b>Vicar</b>
1469	Johanne Pakenham	
1476	Ralph Shaw	
1484	Richard Bird	Robert Atkynson
1505	Roland Lee	
1506		Henry Crosby
1544	Edmund Haltman	

The then archbishop of York, Archbishop Thurstan, founded, among other places, the Hospital Chapel of St Mary Magdalen in Ripon (now beautifully restored and known locally as the Leper Chapel) and established the Prebendary of Sharow. Thurstan, as typical for a senior archbishop, owned large tracts of land in the north of England and he donated two oxgangs of land in Sharow in order to

found this prebend. As befitting a small community (remember Sharow was too small or too devastated following the Norman excursions around Ripon to be mentioned in the Domesday Book – although

### Prebends from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century

Year appointed	Canons
1604	George Proctor
1625	Thomas Walker
1661	Tobias Swynden
1661	John Littleton
1681	John Milner
1690	Edwin Maurice
1720	Thomas Penoff
1728	Thomas Rudd
1733	John Forster
1742	Thomas Warwick
1755	Christopher Driffield
1788	John Holdsworthy
1800	Pef Haddon
1815	William Henry Dixon

both Copt Hewick and Bridge Hewick were listed) the Prebendary was not known as the 'Sharow Prebend' but was assigned to a Canon of the Minster.

It was not until 1301 that Archbishop Thomas de Corbridge assigned a name to each of the seven prebends of Ripon – including that of Sharow.

Archbishop de Corbridge was strenuous in his efforts to ensure that the Canons actually did look after their respective prebends. Until his time it had been common place for all the Prebendary Canons, with the notable exception of Sharow, to live away from their areas. Some were in fact overseas the entire time of their appointment!. Archbishop de Corbridge was more successful however in persuading the Canons to live in their prebendary areas and ensured that the local

villages could rely on permanently appointed vicars for their cure of souls!

## THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN



St John's Church 2000

Today, St John's Church is located in the Parish of Sharow with Copt Hewick & Marton-le-Moor which embraces the communities of Sharow, plus Nunwick and Hutton Conyers to the North, Ure Bank to the west, Copt Hewick, Marton-le-Moor and Bridge Hewick to the east. All this lies just a mile or two east and north of the ancient city of Ripon.

Research reveals a church of considerable interest despite being less than 200 years old.

The seeds of St John's Church were sown on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1822 with the following letter written to the Dean of Ripon, Robert Waddilove (1736-1828). The illuminated letter on large parchment still exists.

Dear Sir

We the undernamed inhabitants of Sharow, Copt Hewick and Bridge Hewick being very desirous of attending the service of the Established Church and anxious that our children and our servants should be bred up in its principles, feel sorry that we cannot be accommodated in the Minster on the Sabbath days to join the sacred services of the same owing to two considerations - the inadequacy of the church to contain numbers and the increased and increasing population of Ripon with Bondgate.

We therefore with the inhabitants of the Townships before named have consulted together on the propriety of making an attempt, at least, to build a chapel in connexion with the Church of Ripon, at Sharow, that place being most central to the other Townships. As our project is not set on foot in hostility to the Dean & Chapter, nor against the interests of the church over which they preside, we look forward to your valuable co-operation and support.

Under this impression and being convinced of your good wishes for us all, we beg to solicit an interview with you on this important subject, leaving time and place to your own appointment, in order that we may profit from your suggestions and more fully develop our plans; the prominent outlines of which are - the building of a chapel and a permanent provision of a clergyman to officiate therein

The population seeking for this accommodation exceeds three hundred souls.

The favour of your answer will much oblige the Townships on whose behalf we make this application as well as ourselves.

We have the honour to be Rev'd Sir,

Your most obedient servants

Geo. Knowles                      Wm. Charnock

Signatories include: Sharow total 114; Copt Hewick total 108; Bridge Hewick total 89.

It is difficult to imagine Ripon Cathedral being regularly packed for services in the early 1820s but that is an implication of this letter. Remember, worshipers would have had to travel, in some cases several miles, by horse or carriage, but perhaps mostly on foot. There were no metalled roads as we know them today, rather country tracks. Even the weather was harsher with meaningful snowfalls most winters. No reply to the letter has been unearthed but subsequent happenings clearly reveal the Dean responded positively and speedily.



**St John's c1850**

Artists Impression of how the church would have appeared about the 1850s

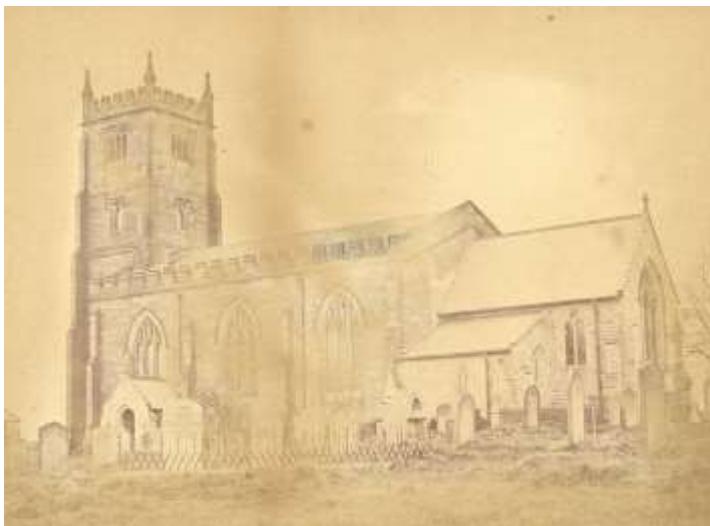
The foundation stone was laid 13th January 1824 and churches built about this time including St John's are often, if erroneously, referred to as Waterloo Churches. 'The Church Building Act, 1818', passed by Parliament, committed £1 million to build new churches, in words generally associated with the Act, "lest a godless people might also be

a revolutionary people". The government of the day was alarmed at the rapid spread of nonconformist denominations equating them to radical political views. It also believed that a churchgoing public, especially in the rapidly growing industrial areas, could be better held in check than the large groups of people who were removed from Anglican influences. As a less emotive reason for building churches, they were to be the nation's token of thanksgiving to Almighty God for the victory at Waterloo.

The government appointed a commission to administer the funds, the men serving on it became known as 'Church Commissioners' although strictly speaking they were the 'Parliamentary Commissioners'. They were disbanded when the money ran out and are not therefore the precursors of the present Church Commissioners.

The Commission assisted the construction of hundreds of churches across the country and architects were required to keep costs to a minimum. These 'Commissioners' Churches' were generally built of cheap brick,

with stone dressing only for windows and doors. Interiors were usually galleried on three sides. Four South London churches were purposely dedicated to the four evangelists - St John's, Waterloo; St Matthew's, Brixton; St Mark's, Kennington; St Luke's, Norwood.



#### **St John's Church c1890**

The oldest picture of St John's revealed by our researches.  
No earlier illustrations or plans have been discovered

St John's Sharow, is built of stone and is much more elaborate than almost any Commissioners' church. It has traceried windows and it is built in an area which was not particularly industrial and not likely to be a hotbed of radical thinking. The design is therefore far more expensive than the Commissioners would have allowed had they borne the main part of the cost

St John's was largely funded by Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence of Studley Royal. She donated in the region of £2,000, (about the same time she purchased the 'Inn and Posting House' called the Unicorn Inn in Ripon). Traditionally it has been held that there was a grant from the Parliamentary Commissioners of £400 yet no verification of this has been uncovered moreover a plaque on the south wall of the Tower Room reads:

*This Chapel was erected in the year 1825. It contains sittings for 550 Persons and in consequence of a Grant from the Society for Promoting the Enlargement and Building of Churches and Chapels 280 of that number are hereby declared to be Free and Unappropriated for ever.*

*James Newsam, Minister; John Wrather, Francis Parker, Chapel Wardens*

This society made many grants generally of between £100 and £500 during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, usually specifying a number of seats which had to remain Free and Unappropriated. Many churches had raised a substantial proportion of their income from seat-rents which meant that those who could not afford them were banished to the back of the church or gallery. Such rents were gradually abolished until by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century they had largely disappeared. From documents held at the Brotherton Library, Leeds it seems that Sharow held on to this rental income for as long as they could. In 1863 Sharow Chapel still had "120 rented seats, & 383 free seats" Rent from pews was £20 11s 6d for the year.

It would be surprising indeed if one of the church-building charities such as this were to have given money to a church which was funded in any way by the Parliamentary Commissioners. Additionally, the more one learns about the initiator and architect, George Knowles, the less likely it seems that he would allow himself to be constrained by a body such as the Parliamentary Commissioners! Other funding came from public subscription, the total cost being about £5,000.

As a result of all that has come to light during recent researches it is clear St John's Church was created as a result of local initiative, largely funded locally but with the grant from SPEBCC, probably of £400, and that there was no involvement of the Parliamentary Commissioners. All this suggests that St John's Church Sharow should not be described as a Waterloo church.

Consecration and dedication to St John the Divine took place on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1825 by the Archbishop of York, Edward Venables Vernon Harcourt (1757-1847). Sharow was at that time in the Diocese of York and the first Vicar of Sharow was James Newsam.

When completed in 1825 St John's was rectangular with a gallery to the west. Absence of pillars and the fine gold-embossed flat roof contribute greatly to the dignity and utility of the building. The Ten Commandments, engraved in marble, are mounted in the wall above and behind the pulpit and reading pulpit. The tower held six bells, cast in 1824 by John Mears. Initially, the church was referred to as the Chapel of Sharow and served as a chapel of ease to Ripon. (Sharow was an Ecclesiastical District, not a Parish, and its boundaries were set out in an Order of Council 4<sup>th</sup> December 1829.)

In 1825, Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence of Studley Royal gave the Parsonage, the Master's House and small schoolroom now known as School House. At this time, "*music consisted of a very poor barrel organ and the voices of the old Clerk and one or two others. The school was very small and the scholars few*". One record suggests there were 7 fee paying scholars. This is the first record of a 'school' in Sharow.

There is a plaque in the Tower Room which reads :

*This tablet is here placed to record the munificence of Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence of Studley Royal, who in her lifetime gave sites for this church and its Parsonage and largely contributed to the erection and endorsement of the former and the repair and enlargement of the latter. She died the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 1845 and was interred in a vault in the Parish Church of Kirby Fleetham in this diocese.*

So this lady's input into this new church was very substantial; a cash donation of £2000 for the building; the land on which it was built, also a farm house for conversion into The Parsonage, to say nothing of the schoolroom and master's house

The Tower Room screen was given in memory of Susan Marion Deeming and elsewhere within the church are numerous monuments and plaques. They generally relate to a specific person who played some identifiable role within the church's development. However some give no clue to the background but they are part of the history of St John's.



Two stone monuments on the west wall of the nave raise interesting questions, particularly as the first commemorates a lady who died in 1824, just two months after the foundation stone of the church was laid. What exactly was her connection with the Parish, with Sharow village, and the new church only partially constructed?

*In memory of Frances Relict of Wm Fenwick Esq. Late of Bywell in the county of Northumberland. The beloved and respected wife of the Revd. Septimus Hodson Rector of Thrapston in the county of Northampton. She died March 21<sup>st</sup> 1824 aged 63 "When the ear heard me, then it blessed me" Job 29:11*

And the second monument:

*Sacred to the memory of The Revd. Septimus Hodson Late Rector of Thrapston in the County of Northampton And Perpetual Curate of Little Raveley In Huntingdonshire. He died on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December AD 1833 In the seventy first year of his age. His widow offers this poor brief tribute To his beloved memory "I shall go to him, but he will not return to me"*



Bywell Hall was indeed the home of Frances Fenwick and her second husband Rev. Septimus Hodson, Frances having acquired it after the death of William her first husband. Located in Northumberland, Bywell was sold in 1809 for £145,000 – a substantial sum and worth around £10 million at today's prices - but through its link to the Fenwicks an even greater mystery emerges.

Sir John Fenwick was an ancestor who was executed in 1697 on orders from King William. His treason was the reason - being allegedly part of a Jacobite rebellion which sought to remove William of Orange and reinstate King James II. After the death of Sir John, King William confiscated his possessions, including John's horse Sorrel.

King William was riding this horse when it stumbled on a molehill at Hampton Court, throwing the King who died as a result of his injuries. Jacobites were reputed to drink a toast to "The gentleman in the black velvet coat!" for many years afterwards.

How the wealthy Hodsons arrived in Sharow, remains a mystery – but most properties received visits from "The gentleman in black velvet" on a regular basis!

Frances and Septimus are believed to have been purchasing Sharow Lodge (see later) around the time of her death, and at least one source recounts that although the purchase went through, Mrs Hodson had died and was temporarily interred in Ripon Minster. Following completion of St John's her remains were re-buried in Sharow and the stone memorial was erected within the church.

Septimus Hodson remarried after the death of Frances, choosing Margaret Holford as his new wife. Margaret (who erected the memorial in St John's) was a novelist and poet of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with friendships that included Coleridge.

Edward Cookson succeeded James Newsam as Vicar of Sharow (1838 – 1852) having previously been the incumbent at St Mary's Church, Quarry Hill, Leeds. Edmund Grey was the next Vicar of Sharow being in office from 1852 to 1884.

Commemorating the wife of the architect of St John's is a tablet adjacent to the pulpit:  
*Near the East window In an extramural vault erected by George Knowles Esq. Lie the remains of Harriot Wormald Eldest daughter of Samuel Wormald Esq. of York Who died at Scarborough 29<sup>th</sup> March 1854 Aged 68 Years In affectionate remembrance This monument was erected by her sister Ann Widow of the above George Knowles*

In 1854 Revd S H Powell, of Sharow Hall, gave various items to St John's including:  
*the stone Pulpit bearing the inscription: "In memory of Thomas Hopper of Sharow Lodge who died the XIX day of March 1849."*  
*the Reading Pulpit bearing the inscription: "In memory of Catherine the wife of Thomas Hopper of Sharow Lodge who died the VIII day of October 1842", the Altar Rails and "three handsome Oak Stalls in the Chancel".*

In the Tower Room a plaque on the north wall dates back to 1860 and reads:  
*This tablet is here placed to perpetuate the memory of Catherine Mason of Copt Hewick who died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March Anno Domini 1860 aged 79 years And to record her benevolence in having during her life time invested in the National funds the sum of £1000 sterling to augment the stipend of the incumbent of this church. And in having by her will bequeathed the sum of £500 sterling likewise invested in the same funds for the National school attached to this church.*

A "finger organ" was given by Revd G Mason of Copt Hewick Hall in 1862. This was the expression used in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to describe a small organ with keyboard distinguishing it from a barrel organ. A brass plate attributes it to Abbott but that company did not exist at this time so he is likely to be responsible for later improvements. Today, located in the North Choir, it is electrically pumped, has a pipe rack, integrated two manual console, drawstops with ivory labels and concave pedalboard with radiating wooden sliders.

1866 saw installation of the first water heating system in St John's Church. It cost £90.

The stone font was donated by Mrs Reynard in 1867. Originally it stood beneath the tower being moved to its present location in the Nave just inside the south door in 1983. It is inscribed around the top: *One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all.*

At the foot are two brass plaques engraved:

In affectionate remembrance of Margaret, 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of Thomas Mason Esq. of Copt Hewick in this Parish. Died January 12<sup>th</sup> 1829 Aged 40 Also Margaret Elizabeth, infant daughter of Edward Horner and Elizabeth Reynard. Died January 6<sup>th</sup> 1851

George Knowles, architect of St John's Church, was generous towards the church both during his life and in his will. He died in Scarborough in 1866. His wife died the following year. On the south wall of the Nave is a stone monument bearing the inscription:

*In memory of George Knowles Esq. Formerly of Lucan House Sharow And afterwards Of Wood End, Scarborough Where he died 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1866 aged 80 years An able and successful civil engineer He cheerfully dedicated to God a portion of his own gifts. He designed and superintended the building of this church And bequeathed the interest of £500 to the parochial school attached to it Also of Ann Knowles Widow and relict of the above who died at Wood End 22 January 1867 aged 72 years She bequeathed the interest of £200 towards the upkeep of this church and churchyard"*

Integral to this monument is a carved scene of a broken bridge with overhanging tree. A broken column traditionally symbolises end of life or life cut short. It also represents the eventual ruin or decomposition of us all. A draped or broken urn symbolises sorrow or mourning. So the designer of this monument clearly used appropriate artistic license bearing in mind that Knowles, the architect, had built bridges.

Until 1868 St John's had been part of the Parish of Ripon but in this year, whilst Edmund Grey was Vicar, Sharow became a separate Parish.

## THE BELLS AT ST JOHN'S

	Bell	Founder	Date	Cwt-Qtr-Lb	Diameter	Note
There are currently eight bells hung for full circle ringing. Six were cast by T Mears and installed when the chapel was first erected. The two smaller bells cast by John Warner of London who had recently completed work at Ripon Cathedral. In 1868 the whole ring was quarter turned and re-hung by Thomas Mallaby of Masham in the original wooden frame, replaced in 1961 by a steel frame.	1	J Warner	1876	4-3-2	27"	G
	2	J Warner	1876	4-3-8	28.25"	F Sharp
	3	T Mears	1825	5-1-27	29.5"	E
	4	T Mears	1825	5-3-9	31.25"	D
	5	T Mears	1825	6-1-27	33.375"	C
	6	T Mears	1825	7-1-15	64.75"	B
	7	T Mears	1825	8-3-27	38.25"	A
	8	T Mears	1825	12-0-5	42.5"	G

### Jubilee Pee-al Window 1887

On the ringing platform of the tower and not normally accessible to visitors is a quite unique stained glass window. It depicts St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, and celebrates ringing of a Jubilee Peal in Honour of Queen Victoria's 50th year on the throne, 9th December 1887. The names of the eight bell ringers who rang the 5024 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major are recorded in the window.



**The Bellringers 1904.**  
Seated in the middle of the front row is Joseph Baines still ringing at 90 years of age.

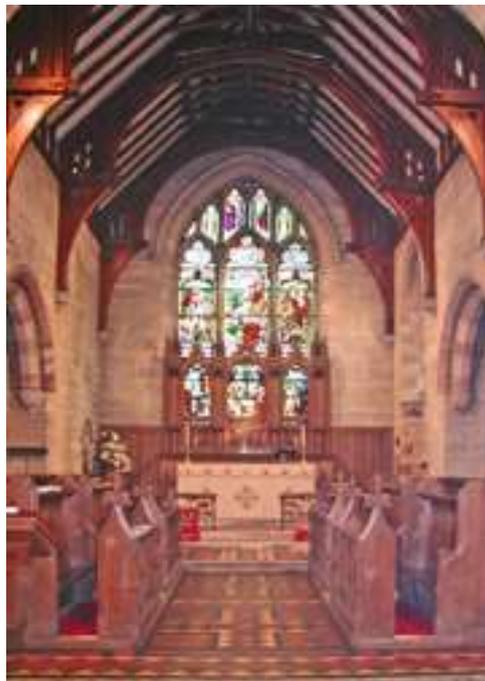
**Bellringers 2000**



A new Chancel, Gothic in style, was added in 1873, at a cost of £1,585, the east window was moved to its present position in the new chancel, and an altar cloth was provided at a cost of £40. It was not until the following year, 1874, that "Oak Stalls" were completed at a cost of £65, largely due to the endeavours of a Mr Snowden. About this time the gallery at the west end was removed.

Ten years later in 1884 a "new and commodious vestry" was built at a cost of £70 19s. The vestry is kept locked today but anyone fortunate enough to see the inside will appreciate how standards have changed over the last 120 years!

In 1881 an oak reredos donated by Revd Powell was placed behind and over the altar obscuring the view of the very fine East Window. Hopefully one day this fine work of art in stained glass will be seen again in all its glory.



**The Chancel St John's 2000**

Henry Drury Cust-Nunn was appointed Vicar of Sharow in 1885 and during his residency modern lighting, with a corona, standard and hanging lamps, was added in 1901 at a cost of £21 13s 11d In 1910 "six lamps were hung in the church to replace candles".

1911 saw the appointment of Joseph Blades Palmer as Vicar of Sharow and around the time of the First World War the pinnacles were removed from the tower.

There is a stone War Memorial on the nave north wall:

*Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friend To the glory of God In proud and ever living memory of the men of the parish of Sharow who in the Great War 1914 -1918 laid down their lives so that those at home might dwell in safety (22 names are listed ) At the going down of the Sun and in the morning we will remember them.*

Reginald Edward Pownall was appointed Vicar of Sharow in 1919 and Henry Meyer Worsley was appointed Vicar of Sharow in 1934.

Special mention must be made of a framed watercolour painting - by Margaret W Tarrant: For the Children's Corner, St John's Church, Sharow In loving memory of Alastair E M Balnaves For 5 years a little chorister of this church called to higher service June 25<sup>th</sup> 1935 aged 12 years. Alistair was the son of the then headmistress of Sharow school. He drowned in a tragic accident near North Bridge, after which his mother never returned to the school.

Whilst Eric Gordon Parry, appointed 1958, was Vicar of Sharow there was a major fund raising effort which enabled restoration work to take place on the church and belfry between 1961 - 1962 at a cost of about £3,500. This included a steel frame in the bell tower inserted by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough replacing the original

wooden frame which was rotting. The bells are considered to be very fine and are regularly rung by teams of visiting bell ringers.

The furnishings in the Side Chapel were donated in 1961. They were created by the skilled Ripon craftsman Mr J R Thorpe and follow a Jacobean motif.

Sydney Clarence Jones was appointed Vicar of Sharow in 1971 and since March 1976 the Dean of Ripon has been the Incumbent (vicar) of the Parish of Sharow with Copt Hewick. In 1977 John T Hymas was appointed Priest in Charge.

In 1982 a number of pews were removed, the heating system upgraded, carpets and curtains were added.

In 1983 Paul A Summers took over as Priest in Charge followed by Clive N R Mansell in 1985 then by M Paul Spurgeon in 1989.

Penny M Driver arrived as Priest in Charge in 1996. Penny was appointed a Canon at Ripon Cathedral in 2002. In 2005 Penny received the Sue Rider Yorkshire Women of the Year Career Award, the citation reading:

*“Revd Canon Penny M Driver. Penny was one of the first women to be ordained as a priest at Ripon Cathedral. She is now one of the most senior women in the Anglican ministry, being Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Bishop’s Advisor on Women’s Ministry and a member of both the General Synod and the Crown Nominations Committee. Penny says attitudes have gradually changed but there is still a long way to go.”*

1999 saw the Parochial Church Council stage an ‘Extravaganza’ of events in the village combining fund raising with the desire to celebrate the ending of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Millennium. The ‘Millennium Star’ project followed on to celebrate the dawn of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium. The 46ft Sharow Millennium Star was illuminated on the tower of the church each night from 12<sup>th</sup> December 1999 through to Easter 2000. Sharow Millennium Star Commemorative Book, available in St John’s for inspection, tells the story of the project and records the names of several thousand people who supported it.



**Sharow  
Millennium Star**

## **THE STAINED GLASS AT ST JOHN’S**

**Nave South East Window 1860** has scenes of the Resurrection; three women looking despondent presumably at the empty tomb; The Risen Christ; Doubting Thomas with the Risen Christ. It also carries wording: *Glory be to God who giveth us the victory Through our Lord Jesus Christ.* The brass plaque beneath is inscribed:

*“Mary Powell Feb IV 1854 aged 16 years, Amelia Powell Mar XXV 1857 aged 23 years, Thomas Henry Woodcock Powell Dec XI 1858 15 years”.*

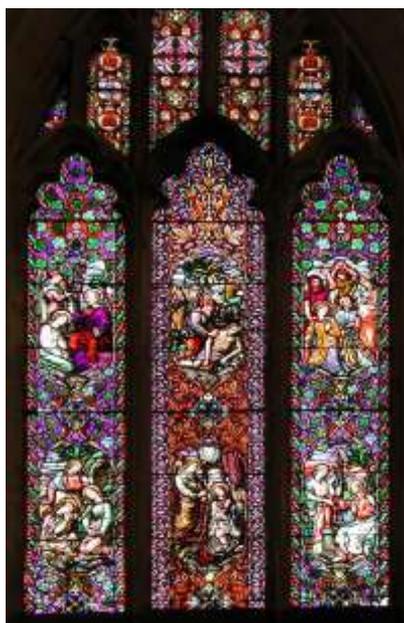
This window may be by Wailes (or less likely by Alexander Gibbs of London).

**Nave North Centre Window, 1850s**, is by Barnett of Newcastle. Henry Barnett, whose father and grandfather were both stained glass makers in York, trained in Newcastle with William Wailes. He set up his own firm in Newcastle in 1858 when he was 25 and continued in business until his death in 1888 by which time his designs were very outmoded. This design, which must have been among the first he was commissioned to make, is restrained and well controlled and shows a strong influence of the Wailes style. The idea of eternity is established by the use of geometric designs, especially circles. There are Greek letters at the top of the window, “I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end”. The letters at the foot of the window, “IHS” are frequently misinterpreted as standing for the Latin “Iesus Hominum Salvator” (Jesus Saviour of men) whilst originally IHS was used as the contraction of the Greek name for Jesus.



Since the earliest days of the Christian Church specific creatures have symbolised the four evangelists; the Man - St Matthew; the Ox - St Luke; the Lion - St Mark; the Eagle - St John. Further symbolism exists with a pelican on her nest plucking at her own breast until it bleeds to provide nourishment for her young in the nest - the self sacrifice representing our Lord's atonement.

“To the honour of almighty God. The bequest of Ann Buttin who died Nov 17 AD 1850”



**Nave South Centre Window** - The Beatitudes - early 1860s, perhaps 1863. A study of the window reveals six of The Beatitudes as recorded in St Matthew V:3-10:

*Blessed are the meek; Blessed are the merciful; Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness sake; Blessed are they that mourn ; Blessed are the pure in heart; Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness.*

A brass plaque set in the window recess reads:

*In memory of Thomas Mason of Copt Hewick who died March 13 1861 aged 83 and to Jane his wife who died in Bath April 13 1823 aged 46 and lies buried in the Church of Newton St Loe near that city*

A further brass plaque beneath the foregoing reads:

*Also to Margaret 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of the above named Thomas Mason daughter of Martin Paterson Esq. of Breahead Ayrshire who died the 12<sup>th</sup> of January 1829 aged 40 and is buried in the Bowling Chapel within the Parish of Bradford*

Yorkshire

*And of Catherine 3<sup>rd</sup> Wife of the above named Thomas Mason daughter of John Smyth Esq. of Bowcliffe in this county who died the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1869 aged 79 and is interred in the graveyard attached to this church.*

**Tower Room West Window 1866**, in memory of Edward Cookson, bears the inscription, *In principio erat verbum* (In the beginning was the Word) and images of St Johannes Evangelista (St John the Evangelist) and St Johannes Baptista (St John the Baptist). This is a Kempe window and researches at the Kempe Society reveal it was actually designed and made in 1886 - two years after the commemorated date. It is very typical of his middle artistic period - without the distinctive colour schemes of his earlier works but also without the fussy Anglo-Catholic detail of his later windows.

Charles Eamer Kempe was born 1837 into an adequately wealthy family. He was sent to public school (Rugby) and went on to Oxford (Pembroke College). He had his hopes set on ordination but a persistent stammer led his Bishop to advise him to go no further along that route. Instead he trained as an architect (with G F Brodley, perhaps the finest church architect of the 1860s when Kempe was with him) and then spent time with Clayton & Bell, by then the leading stained glass firm. He ran his own studio from 1866, as well as doing occasional architectural work, until his death 47 years later. Towards the end of that time, it had become almost the leading firm in the country and it produced thousands of windows not only for this country but also in various parts of the Empire. After his death, the firm continued under the control of a relative and finally closed in 1933.



**Chancel East Window 1853**, is a magnificent creation by George Hedgeland and started life as the east window of the original rectangular St John's Church. It was moved to its present location when the new Chancel was added in 1873. There are six scenes; Jesus in the stable perhaps the adoration of the Magi; Debating with the scribes in the temple; Baptism by John the Baptist; bearing His cross; the Resurrection; The Ascended Christ. There appears to be some conflict between contemporary records so at this stage of our researches they are quoted to record them.

Under the heading of 'Sharow' and referring to 'St John's Church', an entry in Bulmer's History, Topography & Directory of North Yorkshire, Part 2 1891 states,

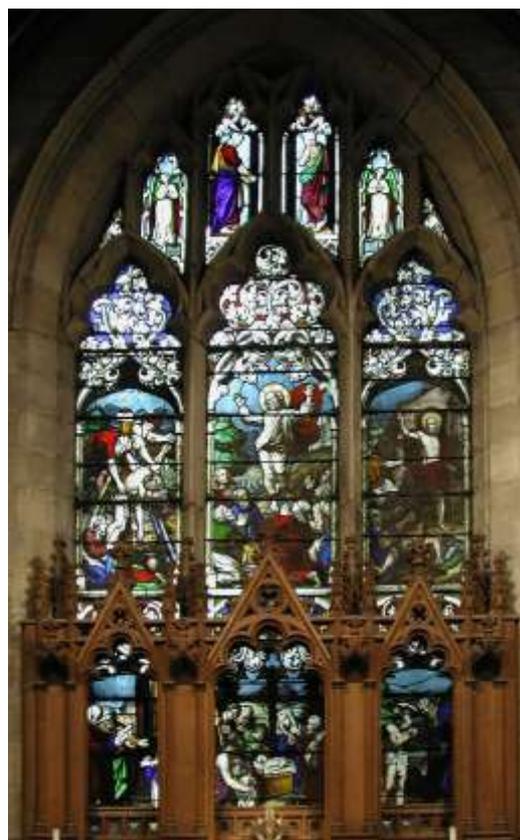
*"The east window is of three lights, and filled with stained glass, representing scenes in the life and death of Christ. It is a memorial of Catherine Mason, of Copt Hewick, who left £1,000 in augmentation of the living, and £200 for the benefit of the school. She died in 1860"*

It can hardly be a memorial 'to' Catherine Mason as she did not die until 7 years after it was created. So did Catherine Mason present the window? If so why? The mystery is compounded by an entry in The Builder, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1853, pp 649-50, "the window was made for Col. Mason". Being a contemporary report it has strong credence although not necessarily infallible.

Col. Mason's seat was Necton Hall, Norfolk and he was active in the arts and a patron of stained glass. It is interesting to note that the Nave South Centre window was donated by a Revd George Mason in memory of his brother William. There is also a Clara Mason buried in the Graveyard. Presently any relationship between these various Masons is a matter for conjecture. Ongoing research may provide clarification.

March 2005 Martin Harrison, art historian, author, and probably this country's leading authority on stained glass, writes about the George Hedgeland window at Sharow:

*"... George Caleb Hedgeland (1825-1898) was a son of the Exeter-born architect and glass-painter John Pike Hedgeland (1791/2-1873); another son was the organ-builder William Martin Hedgeland. George is only known to have made stained glass between 1850 (he showed a panel at the Great Exhibition in 1851) and 1859. Afterwards he emigrated to Australia, where he married Annie*



*Henning in 1866; it is not known if he ever returned to visit England, but he died in Australia, where he was latterly surveyor to the Sydney district. Besides Norwich Cathedral, Hedgeland also made windows, during his brief career, for the cathedrals at Ely and Lincoln. The large east window of St John Baptist, Halifax (1855), is another major work of Hedgeland's. You may be interested to know that the scenes in the Sharow window of the Ascension and the Adoration of the Magi, both after Raphael, were repeated in the great west window at Norwich Cathedral in 1854.*

*Hedgeland may be described as a protégé of Charles Winston (1814-1864), a barrister and amateur of stained glass, and the author of two important books on the subject (one posthumous). It was Winston who instigated the analyses of medieval glass that led to the manufacture, for the first time in Britain since the Reformation, of high quality 'pot-metal', a material manufactured from 1852 by James Powell & Sons, of Whitefriars, London; it was later known as 'antique glass'. Besides effecting improvements in its raw material, Winston had strong opinions on the design of stained glass. He opposed the views of the Ecclesiological Society, who favoured neo-medievalism, and believed that designs should be 'modern'; that meant the figures should be drawn in an academically correct manner, by trained artists. George Hedgeland met these criteria, having entered the Royal Academy Schools in 1845. In my book *Victorian Stained Glass* (1980), I was guilty of adopting my theoretical framework from Pevsner. That would take too long to explain, but, briefly, I no longer subscribe (nor would many art historians) to the notion that Pugin was 'progressive' or 'anticipated modernism' and that, say, the Hedgeland/Winston aesthetic, based on Raphaelesque academicism and high-quality glass, was outmoded. It might be more accurate to say that it was consciously 'anti-neo-medieval primitivism'.*

*In the first three churches glazed with the new glass 'invented' by Winston, in 1852/53, the actual stained glass windows were made, under his supervision, by another London workshop, Ward & Hughes. In 1853, the window at Sharow was the fourth occasion on which Powells' new pot-metal was used, and the first time it was used by George Hedgeland. It is, therefore, of major historical as well as artistic significance"*

In the 17th and 18th centuries, the craft of making stained glass had declined and skills were lost. Medieval glass had been replaced by newer techniques of production. Hence the importance of Winston's research.

**Nave North East Window** towards the pulpit, has strong local connections. St Wilfrid depicted in the left panel holds Ripon Cathedral in his left hand. The image under his right foot is assumed to allude to difficulties he encountered in his dealings with the local women. The centre panel shows St Paul holding a sword. The right panel depicts St Cuthbert, a monk "hospitaller" at Ripon. (The monk hospitaller had responsibility for visiting guests.) He holds a bible in his right hand and a crook in his left whilst at his feet is an Eider-duck. This relates to his years living as a hermit on the Farne Islands with the birds as his main companions. This window bears the inscription, *"To the glory of God and in memory of Samuel Hopper Powell born March 4<sup>th</sup> 1805 Died Aug 16<sup>th</sup> 1902 and Louisa Burnaby his wife borne April 5 1803 died Dec 17 1893 This window is dedicated by their son William Folliott Powell and Mary Albinia his wife."*



This window was likely installed in 1904. The style is reminiscent of Heaton, Butler & Bayne around ten years earlier. If indeed this window is by H B & B they may have used an earlier design 'off the shelf'. This sometimes occurred when the commissioning person wanted the window to be installed as quickly as possible. H B & B was founded in 1857 in London and soon gained a reputation for using new methods to produce vibrant colours which did not fade. The design style became more conventional but still excellent for the next thirty years. But from the 1890s onward they consciously adopted a style which was sombre and muddy, relying heavily on golds, oranges, sepias and browns. They were quite successful until the 1920s and then staggered on until finally closing at the beginning of the Second World War.

Chancel South Window 1935. Said to be a modern version of the Annunciation by Heaton, Butler & Bayne. Also said to be a copy of one in a Rome church. This window is not seen by everyone passing through the church yet the garden scenes with a well and Mary are amongst the most beautiful stained glass images in St Johns. It is well composed, subtly coloured and remarkably fresh.

The window is captioned:

*"To the glory of God and in Memory of Albinia Mary, wife of William Folliott Powell borne 18<sup>th</sup> June 1875 died 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1935"*

**Nave North West Window**, “Adoration of the Magi”, shows the three wise men bringing gifts to the infant Jesus. Above are angel musicians with long trumpets and dulcimers. There is a Latin inscription towards the foot of the window, “*QUIA NATUS EST VOBIS SALVATOR*” (He was born as your Saviour).

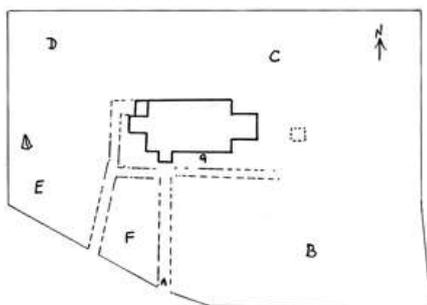
*To the memory of William Topham Moss and Ann his wife. This window was placed here by their son Dennis Topham Moss*

This window, installed by Greens of Blossomgate Ripon, was produced in 1939 by William Morris and Co which held a leading place in English stained glass design from the early 1860s. Sir Edward Burne-Jones was a principal designer although his real fame was as a painter in oils. William Morris & Co had also been involved in other ventures including interior design and printing. When Morris died at the end of the

19<sup>th</sup> century the various parts of the venture went their separate ways. The stained glass workshop retaining the Morris name, was run by J H Dearle who had been its manager in the last years of Morris and Burne-Jones. Some of the post-1899 windows were designed by Dearle in the spirit of Burne-Jones and Morris; some were near exact copies of existing windows; some were based on detailed sketches which had been made by Burne-Jones and not used. In the case of this window there is a strong likelihood that the design was made by Burne-Jones for a tapestry. Dearle adapted the design to suit the different medium and to fit the available space. It therefore seems right to attribute this window thus, “Adapted by Dearle from a design by Burne-Jones”. This is a gorgeous window and Dearle has done a wonderful job of re-creating the powerful reds, rich blues and discrete greens which were such an important feature of late Burne-Jones designs. The floral work, lettering and probably the angels in the tracery lights are almost certainly entirely Dearle.



## THE CHURCHYARD



St John’s Church possesses a large churchyard which divides naturally into various sections. Apparently the existing churchyard to the west, south and east of the church building, areas ‘E, F G & B’, were assigned to St John’s Church as churchyard and burial ground when the church was erected in 1825 – or shortly afterwards. Presumably all this constituted the package of land donated by Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence.

An additional area of 1273 square yards, north of the church, was donated by William Foliott Powell and consecrated by Bishop Thomas of Ripon on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1923. Land within this new area amounting to 48 square yards was declared,

*... the burial place of William Foliott Powell of Sharow Hall ... the giver of the land added to the churchyard ... and his family and descendants and their heirs.*

A further 2530 square yards to the north were consecrated by Bishop George of Ripon on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1958 expanding the churchyard to its present limits.

The sandstone boundary wall on Berrygate Lane to the east of gate 'A' has been badly eroded over the years and requires attention from time to time. The erosion is made worse by the massive yew trees which line this southern edge of the churchyard. When the church was built in the 1820s it is unlikely much thought was given to the problems of maintenance.

## Wildlife award for village church

A VILLAGE church that has become a wildlife haven has won the region's top award for churchyard conservation.

St John's Church at Sharow, where grazing by sheep helps preserve the natural habitat, has won first prize in Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Living Churchyards Project competition.

It was one of 27 churchyards throughout Yorkshire to be honoured at an awards ceremony held last week at the home of the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope.

Judges commended the community involvement in the project at St John's and also remarked on the use of sheep for grazing after mowing and the retention of plants

such as ivy, which provide a habitat for birds, mammals and insects.

Secretary of the Parochial Church Council, Maureen Nolan, said: "We are delighted to have won this award, particularly because of the diversity of the entrants.

"There is still much to be done, but the hay meadows are beautiful and sustain a wide variety of wildlife, so it is all worthwhile. We would like to encourage any parish which wishes to change to this way of managing its churchyard to have a go."

Other local churchyards enjoying success in the competition included St James' Church at Broughbridge and St Mary's

Church at Lower Dunsforth, which were both awarded certificates for 'commendable progress'.

Chairman of the Living Churchyards Project, Miss Jean Hall, said: "Churchyards have become oases for wildlife in deserts of urban development and intensive agriculture. These churchyards show just how, with careful and sensitive management, they can become wildlife rich, colourful and attractive."

Presenting the awards, the Archbishop said: "Churchyards are an important part of the first impression people have of the church. When they are full of wildlife, they add to the beauty of the church."

Through the good offices of a local naturalist a management regime was drawn up for the south east area 'B' in the early 1990s. Wildlife flourishes. In the spring the grass is cut but between April and August only a narrow verge and walkways are cut. This enables a multitude of wild plants to flower and seed thus ensuring their continuance from year to year. In June 2000 this area was awarded first prize in the Millennium Celebration Competition sponsored by Yorkshire Electricity and The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for a churchyard managed sympathetically for wildlife. Many trees are long established and some must date back to

### Extract Ripon Gazette 7<sup>th</sup> July 2000

the earliest days of the church. They include yew trees, cypress, holly, oak, lime, hazel, sycamore and wild cherry. This conservation area stretches northwards as far as the church and the grave with iron railings.

Towards the north or rear of the church is the current burial area 'C'. Here the eastern boundary has whilst along the northern boundary is a beech hedge.

To the north west 'D' stand neat rows of headstones bearing witness to the memory of some 250 men and women who served in our armed forces and spent their last years in the beautiful surroundings of Sharow. This is a British Legion Cemetery. Lister House, a British Legion home, was opened in Sharow in 1950 – (See Lucan house, [page ??](#)). Situated to the west of the church in area 'E' is a tombstone in the



**A peaceful Churchyard**

form of a pyramid. Charles Piazzi Smyth ([See page ??](#)) To the front of the church area 'F' includes graves dating back to the earliest days of the church. Immediately under the south wall of the church in the area marked 'G' is the Garden of Rest. In 2005 there are over 1000 graves in the churchyard and a comprehensive survey is underway. This will record details of each individual grave and include photographs and details of engravings of older gravestones. On completion copies will be retained by the church and also kept with other Sharow Community History Project records.

## **ANGLO SAXON SHAROW**

Whilst it is known that the Romans occupied and developed many parts of what is now Yorkshire, including areas close to Sharow, there is a dearth of information relating to the first six centuries AD.

Anglo Saxon Sharow is not described in documents identified to date, and even the larger neighbour Ripon would have only been a village of a few hundred souls at that time. Sharow's main 'contribution' during that period would have been as the main route northwards – across what is now Hutton Bank – to join the final stages of the Great North Road.

Accounts of visitors to Ripon do not however mention a village on the north bank of the Ure, adjacent to the ford at the foot of Hutton Bank. Travellers such as the early monks would certainly have crossed the end of Sharow Lane as they passed en route to Lindisfarne, Hexham and Melrose. Although as described later, the location of Sharow on the route of an important river crossing was later mentioned in the development of highways.

## **TAXING THE VILLAGE: some Background**

Taxation, like rabbits and Dere Street (now the A1 near Sharow) came to the village with the Romans, who had already developed sales taxes and inheritance taxes.

The Saxons imposed their version of tax with danegeld, and the Kings of England required their earls and dukes to raise taxes from levies on the local inhabitants. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century the Subsidy Roll was in force. This was a formal system set across England by Parliament and it was frequently used to provide monies to 'subsidise' the war on the French.

## **THE SUBSIDY ROLL**

The earliest taxation records for Sharow are copies of the Subsidy Roll. In 1340 the lords and commons granted a ninth of corn, wool, and sheep ('the ninth sheaf, the ninth fleece, and the ninth lamb') for two years. This basic grant was subject to modification for certain classes of people. Town-dwellers were to pay a ninth of the value of all their moveables, while rural merchants, people living in forests or wastes, such as Sharow and those who did not live by growing crops or sheep-farming, were to pay a fifteenth of the value of theirs. The first year's payment was due on 1 November 1340, and that of the second year on 2 February 1341. The proceeds of this tax, expected to

reach £100,000 in each year, were explicitly reserved for the war with France. Only around £15,000 was raised by the end of the year!

Some examples of early tax records for Sharow are shown for the years 1379 and 1672.

Claro Wapentake, Ripon parish: Sharow

Subsidy Roll (Poll Tax) for 1379 for the Yorkshire parish of Ripon

Original Latin form		Translation	
<b>SCHARROWE</b>	iiij.d	<b>SHAROW</b>	
Alicia atte Tounend	iiij.d	Alice Townend	4d
Willelmus filius ejusdem	iiij.d	William son living with her	4d
Robertus Byndlowys & uxor eius	iiij.d	Robert Bendelow and his wife	4d
Johannes de Salley & uxor eius	iiij.d	John de Sale and his wife	4d
Robertus Yonge & uxor eius	iiij.d	Robert Younge and his wife	4d
Johannes Gybson & uxor eius	iiij.d	John Gibson and his wife	4d
Robertus Jonson & uxor eius	iiij.d	Robert Johnson and his wife	4d
Johannes Garrok & uxor eius	iiij.d	Garrock and his wife	4d
Johannes de Schawe & uxor eius	iiij.d	John Shaw and his wife	4d
Johannes de Stone & uxor eius	iiij.d	John de Stone and his wife	4d
Ricardus Grayneson & uxor eius	iiij.d	Richard Grayson and his wife	4d
Willelmus de Thorp' & uxor eius	iiij.d	William de Thorpe and his wife	4d
Robertus Skynner, Skynner, & uxor eius	vj.d	Robert Skinner, trade animal skinner, and his wife	6d
Johannes Whyssh seruines	iiij.d	John Walsh (servant)	4d
Isabella seruiens Willelmi atte Tounend	iiij.d	Isabella servant of William Townend	4d
Johannes Byndlowys seruiens	iiij.d	John Bendlelow (servant)	4d
Johannes filius Roberti Yong' seruines	iiij.d	John son of Robert Younge (servant)	4d
Ricardus filius Johannis Gibson	iiij.d	Richard son of John Gibson	4d
Alicia filia Roberti Jonson	iiij.d	Alice daughter of Robert Johnson	4d
Johannes do Munketon	iiij.d	John Monkton	4d
Thomas seruinens Roberti Jonson	iiij.d	Thomas servant of Robert Johnson	4d
Willelmus seruiens Johannis Garrock	iiij.d	William servant of John Garrock	4d
Henricus Sergeaunt	iiij.d	Henry Sergeant	4d
Margareta seruinens Nicholai	iiij.d	Margaret servant to Nicholas .....	4d
Amicia filia Johannis de Sten	iiij.d	Amy daughter of John Stone	4d
Emma que fuit uxor Thome Dawson	iiij.d	Emma widow of Thomas Dawson	4d
Margareta Garrock'	iiij.d	Margaret Garrock	4d
Johannes Scotte	iiij.d	John Scott	4d
Johannes Storour' Laborer	iiij.d	Storer labourer	4d
Agnes filia Ede seruinens	iiij.d	Agnes daughter of Ede the servant	4d
Ricardus eruiens Ricardi Grayneson	iiij.d	Richard servant of Richard Grayson	4d
Johannes de Bermeton, Laborer	iiij.d	John Burniston, labourer	4d
Alicia de Thorp'	iiij.d	Alice Thorpe	4d
Willelmus Shephird'	iiij.d	William Shepherd	4d
Summa	xj.s.x.d.	Summary	11s. 10d.



**Garden Fetes  
&  
Fancy Dress**  
All part of village life

**Lucan House 1920s**

**1950s**



**Lister House 1970**



**Sharow Hall 1956**



**Jubilee 1977  
Lister House**



**Jubilee 1977  
Lister House**

## Hearth Taxes

A Hearth Tax was raised (as a national tax) during Charles II's reign which was paid equally on Lady Day (Lady Day was the ecclesiastical celebration replacing the earlier vernal equinox [25th March] ) and Michaelmas.

Hearths or fireplaces were considered a means to raise tax from the wealthy, the more hearths a householder possessed the more likely it was that the owner was capable of paying the tax.

Hearth Tax was levied from 1662 - 1689 and was paid on properties valued at 20 shillings (£1) or more. Two shillings per hearth was levied annually, paid at Lady Day and Michaelmas. Properties owned by the Church, charities and industrial hearths were exempt; but not forges, mills and common ovens.

### **HEARTH TAX taken LADY DAY 1672, SHAROW**

Name of property owner	Number of hearths to be taxed
William Bainbridge	5
Richard Tirrie	2
William Dixon	3
Ralphe Tirrie	1
Richard Allenson	2
Lonor Tirrie	1
Robert Kay	1
Roger Browne	2
Horatio Allenson	2
Steven Allenson	2
George Allenson	1
William Cooke	1
Richard Brown	1
Richard Cooke	1
Ralph Gibson	2

Omitted for poverty 8 hearths  
(Houses worth less than 20s were exempt, as were paupers)

George Wainman was the collector of taxes  
Robert Brown was the constable.

### **So what replaced it?**

The Hearth Tax was unpopular, not just because it was a tax, but because the law allowed the tax collector to enter (by force if necessary) in order to count the number of fireplaces in each property. This was a source of great irritation and a new tax was sought and eventually agreed ...

## **The Window Tax**

At least the windows could be counted from outside! This tax continued to be in force until 1851, and tax avoidance usually took the form of bricking up some of the windows so as to reduce liabilities.

Each household paid a basic two shillings, and houses with between ten and twenty windows paid a further eight shillings. These figures were revised in 1747, and in 1825 houses with fewer than eight windows were exempted.

## **Other Strange Taxes**

In 1677 Charles II raised by a special tax more than £0.5 million specifically to build and rig 30 warships. The Sharow contributions to this extra tax still exist in the Public Record Office.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a tax on Hair Powder (charged at an annual fee of £1 1s 0d - one guinea) collected from all who used it (apparently if your occupation, e.g. servant, required you to wear hair powder on your wig you could claim an exemption!)

## **TITHES AND THE TITHE SYSTEM**

The traditional tithe payments, which were paid 'in kind' and based on one tenth of all produce, were based on the prevailing price of grain.

Tithes were divided into 'great' tithes: corn, grain, hay and wood, and 'small' tithes: all other produce. Usually 'great' tithes were paid to the Canon of the Sharow prebend and 'small' tithes to his vicar.

The Tithe Commutation Act was passed in August 1836 and established three Tithe Commissioners who were based in London. Tithes, as noted above, were payments made to the local clergyman. Originally these payments truly were 'in kind' but from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards they were converted into money payments. All tithe awards (also known as *tithe apportionments*) date from the 1830s and 1840s. They were drawn up after the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 made this conversion to money payments a much easier process. Tithe maps show the land in each parish or township divided into numbered plots. The accompanying awards give details of the owner, occupier, field name, state of cultivation, acreage and tithe value of each plot. These early maps gave rise to the ordnance survey maps.

In Sharow there had been earlier voluntary conversion of tithe dues into money and unfortunately the details of exactly who paid what, and based on what land/produce are not always stated. In 1609 an inquisition of the prebendary tithes for Ripon states that Sharow was valued at £40, making it around the mid point for tithe awards in the district. Out of the £40 total, some £30 was due from farmed land at Sharow and the remaining £10 largely from North Stainley and Clothholme.

## THE EARLY RESIDENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF SHAROW

Sharow as a village did not exist until the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest reference to anyone living in the village is a list of tax payers in 1379 when there were some nineteen dwellings, eight around Ure Bank and the other eleven on Sharow Lane, making a total of owners, wives, children and servants of 34 people. This Poll Tax raised from all 34 people was the enormous sum of eleven shillings and ten pence (equivalent to 60p in current money), but you can be sure this was an enormous amount to find for the residents.

The earliest records for Birth, Deaths and Marriages comes from the Ripon Registers, which date from 1578 up to 1827 and show specific references to Sharow and other villages surrounding Ripon. There was quite a selection of wealthy people here as well as the very poor who needed to have a 'hand-out' from the Cathedral coffers – there was no Church in Sharow until later. The village did have a Prebendary Priest who had a dwelling in Stonegate, Ripon, who would have had part of his stipend paid for by the villagers. He would also have had another living from another village/town as well. He would no doubt come out to Sharow on horseback to see and chivy the residents to make payments to him and in return he was entrusted to say prayers for them in the Cathedral.

There were many unfortunately early deaths, especially the children of the Parish and the mothers who died during or just after childbirth. Even the successful families like the Allansons, who were most likely farmers, had their young wives die giving birth – so this led to many men marrying twice or even three times to keep their dynasties going.

By 1800 the housing stock had risen to 40. In the various Census returns (taken every 10 years from 1841 to present day) the village boundaries may have changed slightly, but figures for the mid-nineteenth century show a slowly growing community in Sharow.

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of houses</b>	<b>No. occupied</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
1851	43	42	107	137
1861	50	44	104	152
1871	64	51	143	165
1901	51	50	64	129

By the time of the opening of the railway on Ure Bank, the housing stock had been considerably enlarged by the need for porters and rolling stock engineers. Sharow was then and still is, regarded as a desirable, pleasant place to raise a family and many of the wealthy merchants of Ripon lived here in the village.

In the 1960s there was an explosion of building which almost doubled the number of houses in the village as glebe land was unlocked for housing. Since that time a more measured amount of building has taken place making the number of houses to somewhere between 300 – 400.

## BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

Sharow had no Church of its own until the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the village was under the pastoral care of Ripon Minster (the Cathedral). The earliest recorded named families from Sharow do not appear in the Cathedral records until 1578. The earlier records for the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century are mixed in and under Ripon residents with no reference to Sharow.

The people who managed to avoid childhood illnesses, which did account for quite a few, or epidemics like the plague or flu, lived well on in years some reaching 90 plus. There were some accidental deaths like that of Thomas Kay in 1644 who drowned in Stonegate (did he fall into Skittergate gutter - a notorious open sewer in Stonegate?). In 1836 James Simpson drowned in the River Ure aged 58 - but was he drunk or was it suicide? Sadly the records also show two children burnt to death one in 1874 and the other in 1881.

Using the records of Births, Deaths and Marriages, below are tables for the centuries that it has been possible to register individuals for Sharow.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Births</b>	<b>Deaths</b>	<b>Marriages</b>
1578 - 99	51	14	14
1600 - 99	277	166	27
1700 - 99	104	106	32
1800 - 99	586	163	201
1900 - 99	732	639	358
2000 - 04	44	44	24

The village population was enlarged dramatically in the late 1960s when Glebe Meadow and Orchard Close were built. The large number of deaths registered between 1900 and 1999 were also influenced by the fact that the Royal British Legion had taken over Lister House (the former Lucan House) within the Parish. This home for veterans resulted in the designation of part of the churchyard as a British Legion Cemetery.

## INTERESTING WILLS AND DEEDS

There are many brief mentions of land and people from Sharow in documents from the seventeenth century, although it has not always proved possible to trace the older names to current locations.

In Deeds dating from 1681 and 1683, a parcel of land in Sharow known as Tofts Close was first sold (by Messrs Cooke) to Francis Wood of Ripon, and then leased by Francis to Ralph Barker, a baker from Ripon. Mr Wood also leased further land in Sharow, known as Tumbrelbank Pithead and Kaylie Flatt to Stephen Dixon and John Stubbs, both being husbandmen from Ripon.

Another member of the Wood family also rented out land in Sharow; Sarah – a widow – leased Topham Lowfield and Kelcarr (forerunner of the current Lowfield and Keldale areas) in 1685 and 1686.

A well known name from Ripon, that of its last Wakeman and first Mayor Hugh Ripley, acquired land in Sharow during the 17<sup>th</sup> century in his will of 30<sup>th</sup> April 1637 he directed that “herby limitt and appointe that Mary my wife shall have twenty pounds by year forth of my lands at Sharowe”. Unfortunately there is no clear identification of which land at Sharow was owned by Hugh Ripley, although it must have been substantial enough to provide an annual income of at least £20 per annum to Mary.

Another Will dated 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1637 of William Grainge Yeoman “being sick in body but in good and perfect memory” bequeaths to his daughters Margaret **Grainge and Francis Graine** a close of land lying upon Sharow Moor and meadow ground called Graison Burrows.

The Will of William Cooke dated 14<sup>th</sup> March, 1689, and an Inventory attached, gave a most interesting account of possessions.

## **STUDLEY AND THE MARQUESS OF RIPON**

As has been mentioned already, Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence of Studley Royal owned much land in Sharow. Maps of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries indicate substantial holdings throughout the village.

The ownership was not just an economic investment since through the ownership, and tenanting, of the land the Aislabies, Lawrences and Allansons could control which way people voted in parliamentary elections.

The land for St John’s Church, much of the land surrounding Sharow Hall, the fields to the north of Dishforth Road and other tracts were purchased and passed on to the wealthy families of Studley Royal. Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence was the last in line and on her death much of the land was passed to her relative the Marquess of Ripon.

George Frederick Samuel Robinson, K.G., P.C., G.C.S.I., F.R.S., Earl de Grey, Earl of Ripon, Viscount Goderich, Baron Grantham, and baronet was born at the prime minister’s residence, 10 Downing Street, London, 24<sup>th</sup> October 1827; in fact he was the last child to have been born there until Mr & Mrs Blair repeated this feat! He was the second son of Frederick John Robinson, Viscount Goderich, afterwards first Earl of Ripon, and Lady Sarah Albinia Louisa, daughter of Robert, fourth Earl of Buckinghamshire; and he was born during his father’s brief tenure of the office of prime minister. Before entering public life he married his cousin Henrietta Ann Theodosia, elder daughter of Captain Henry Vyner, (of Newby Hall) and by her had two children, Frederick Oliver, who succeeded to his honours, and Mary Sarah, who died in infancy.

He entered the House of Commons as member for Hull in 1852, and after representing Huddersfield (1853-57), and the West Riding of Yorkshire (1857-59), he succeeded his father as Earl of Ripon and Viscount Goderich on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1859, taking his seat in the House of Lords. In the following November he succeeded his uncle as Earl de Grey and Baron Grantham. In the same year he first took office, and was a member of every Liberal administration for the next half-century.

Nevertheless, he was also the Chairman of Governors at Ripon Grammar School during this period and regularly attended and chaired school meetings despite his parliamentary duties.

The offices he held were: under secretary of State for war (1859-61); under secretary of State for India (1861-1863); secretary of State for war; (1863-66), all under Lord Palmerston; secretary of State for India (1866) under Earl Russell. In Mr. Gladstone's first administration he was lord president of the council (1868-73) and during this period acted as chairman of the joint commission for drawing up the Treaty of Washington which settled the Alabama claims (1876). For this great public service he was created Marquess of Ripon.

He also was grand master of the freemasons from 1871 to 1874, when he resigned this office to enter the Catholic Church being received at the London Oratory, 4<sup>th</sup> September 1874. When Gladstone returned to power in 1880 he appointed Lord Ripon Governor-General and Viceroy of India, the office with which his name is still connected. He was well loved by the Indian subjects of the Crown as none of his predecessors had been. He held this office until 1884. In the short administration of 1886 he was First Lord of the Admiralty, and in that of 1892-1895 he was Secretary of State for the Colonies. When the Liberals again returned to power he took office as Lord Privy Seal. This office he resigned in 1908.

Ever a fervent Catholic, Lord Ripon was a frequent attendee at mass and benediction in St Wilfrid's Church on Coltsgate Hill and took a great interest in educational and charitable works. He was president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (a charity of the catholic church) from 1899 until his death; which when linked to his former position as Grand Master of the Order of Freemasons must surely be a unique double role! Throughout this period his lands at Sharow were leased or farmed, before being inherited by his son. The Second Marquess of Ripon was noted as an expert shot and was reputed to have killed 556,000 game birds in his life. Fittingly, he dropped dead on a grouse shoot in 1923, having already bagged 52 birds that morning.

## **THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR**

As for many villages and towns of the period, there were paupers, elderly and the sick living in Sharow. From 1601 until its repeal in 1834, the Elizabethan Poor Law formed the basis for 'relief of the poor'. Workhouses which were established in the 1700s were severe places into which only the extreme cases of poverty would go. Other assistance to the needy was given as 'outdoor relief' on a case by case basis.

The new Poor Law formalised the duties for providing relief into the 'poor unions' which, for Sharow, meant it became part of the Ripon Union. The workhouse in Ripon (named Sharow View) accepted inmates from the members of the Union. In Sharow, the overseers of the Poor were responsible for collecting the levy (which varied year on year) and for providing monies/reimbursements to the needy of the parish. Virtually complete record books exist for the period 1830 – 1853, at which date the responsibility was transferred to the Ripon Poor Union. The Overseers also acted as

registrars of births marriages and deaths; as property managers for the houses rented by Sharow parish for poor families.

The Overseers had powers to both raise and spend money and to vary the levels of support required or given. In a note to the accounts of 1835, one errant father was granted a reduction in his 'child support' payments:

*“At a meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 1835 by the undersigned inhabitants of the Township of Sharow, agreed that Robert Hullah of Ripon, cabinet maker, shall pay to the Township of Sharow the sum of one shilling and sixpence per week for the maintenance and support of a male bastard child belonging to Elizabeth Leeming instead of one shilling and ninepence per week as ordered by the Magistrates at the General Quarter Sessions held for the Liberty of Ripon on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1835. The payment for the said child commencing on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1835”*

*Signed: John Wrather, William Clarke, John Mawson. Overseers.*

Extracts from the extensive records of the Sharow Overseers open a view into life in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in Sharow. Income from the Poor Rate varied each year. The following represent the types of expenditure made:

For	Year	Date	Item	Cost
	1830	16 Dec	½ bushel wheat	4/6
		“	½ chauldron coal Elizabeth Oldridge	10/6
		“	“ , Jane Morland	10/6
	1831	21 Feb	½ bushel wheat & ½ peck potatoes	5/6
		13 Jul	Mrs Lumley, to host Town Meeting	5/-
		“	Wm Luming, 7 wks at 4/6 per week	£1 11/6
		Sept	Expense of Luming’s funeral	£1 -
		10 Nov	Mrs Lumley ‘for ale’	10/9
		21 Dec	Tiles for township houses	3/9
	1832	7 May	Making a return to House of Commons	2/6
	1833	25 Apr	Making a return of lunatics	3/-
	1834	8 Feb	Paid doctor’s bill for attending Rob Prince & family	£2 19/6
	1835	15 Jan	Paid for an Order of Removal	11/6
		“	Journey to Dishforth to serve Order	2/6
		9 Oct	Ann Lumley ‘for liquor at meeting’	5/-

those who cannot recall the exact conversions of bushels, pecks, etc:

1 peck = 2 gallons: 4 pecks/16 gallons = 1 bushel: 36 bushels = 1 chauldron

Mrs Lumley was the landlady of the Half Moon Inn having taken over the licence following her husband’s death.

## EARLY ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

The earliest roads through Sharow were developments of the drovers’ roads which were established in the Middle Ages. Such tracks were used by the (few) travellers who passed through, such as monks, cattle herders and merchants. There was little need for travel either for leisure or pleasure!

Drovers' roads which remained in regular use became pack horse trails, although the use of wheeled carts was not easy in the area until 18<sup>th</sup> century. The biggest obstacle to highway development was reluctance by local villagers to pay for the maintenance of a road which was used, eroded and degraded by travellers – who themselves paid nothing for such use. Local parishes were responsible for maintenance until the late 1700s when Parliament made turnpike trusts legal. These trusts were allowed to erect toll gates, or toll bars, build weighing machines and to establish toll houses.

A map of 1856 shows Hutton Side Bar located at what is now the junction of Berrygate Lane with Hutton Bank. This was under the control of the Harrogate and Hewick Trust who were responsible for the maintenance of roads from Harrogate to Hutton Moor. Such a Trust was permitted to fix charges for passage across their section of road, but in return had to provide a safe and permanent road surface, and regular care of footpaths and drainage ditches. The charges varied according to the number of horses, oxen, sheep, etc and also with the type of goods carried. For example at Berrygate Lane in 1814 a wagon pulled by six horses would be charged 4s and a drove of sheep were charged 5d per score.

A single horse would be charged at ½ d – unless it was a Sunday when all tolls were doubled except for travel to/from church! There was also a doubling of tolls for the equivalent of HGVs. Wagon carts laden with heavy goods and which had a wheel rim width of less than six inches paid double tolls from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> April each year. This increase being justified as they caused more damage to the road surfaces.

There was free passage for travel to places of worship on Sunday, for the conveyance of mail or letters, and for officers and soldiers on duty.

Tolls would mount up, with the income at Hutton Side Bar being given as “two hundred and eight shillings” for the year 1787 – 88. Hutton Side Bar must have been both a busy and important turnpike. Not only would there have been agricultural traffic, there was local merchandise and domestic goods and travellers. It was also used by the London to Glasgow Mail Coaches, coming through Pontefract to Leeds and Ripon, calling at the Unicorn Hotel at 5 a.m.– from where it rejoined the Great North Road at Hutton Moor.

The Telegraph Coach from Newcastle to London also called at Ripon, via Hutton Side Bar, with both the Unicorn and Black Bull having extensive stabling for change of horses etc.

Hutton Side Bar closed in 1873/74, having succumbed to competition from the newly extended railway link to Ripon. By 1888 responsibility for maintaining the roads had been transferred to newly designated county councils, who obtained their funding through general taxation – so once again the local residents paid for roads used heavily by travellers and modern day merchants!

As well as Berrygate Lane leading to the turnpike road at Hutton Moor, Sharow developed along the river valley – Sharow Lane – and eastwards to Dishforth, giving its recognisable layout which is still discernible today. (although the present Dishforth Road was for many years named Topcliffe Road).

Sharow Lane was established just north of the ford/bridge at what is now North Bridge, and continued to follow the developed land along the river valley. Meanwhile, Berrygate Lane joins the Dishforth Road at what is now the village church. Various small roads – some of which are only now seen on aerial photographs or old maps – developed to join Sharow Lane to Dishforth Road, giving the village its current layout.

Even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century public transport is somewhat restricted from Sharow, most journeys having to go via Ripon. The cost of passenger fares were around 2d a mile in the early 1700s and rising to around 4d a mile by the 1820's.

Along with the increase in fares, average journey speeds also increased – thus allowing for longer daily travel. An average speed of only around 2.5 mph would have been typical in 1720, rising to around 8 mph a hundred years later

## PRE 1900 BUILDINGS

### Sharow Hall

Although now one of the largest single houses in the village, Sharow Hall has not always been such a grand property. Early records from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century describe a much smaller house on the site occupied by a blacksmith Ralph Smithson. In the 1760s this was described as a “very bad house” and sometime before 1791 it was sold, along with some land to James Gilbertson, clockmaker of Ripon.

Gilbertson (see later) made money by exchanging clipped one guinea coins for less than their true value in gold and re-named his new property Light Guinea Hall. (Light Guinea Cottage still exists on the Sharow Hall estate.)



**Sharow Hall c1996**

Sharow Lodge (as it became known) was sold to John Fairgray, the innkeeper of The Unicorn in Ripon Market Place in 1808. Fairgray was an astute local politician, joining the Ripon Corporation as an Assistant Councillor in 1798 – followed one year later by renting out meeting rooms on a regular basis at The Unicorn for meetings of the Corporation (he also managed to persuade the local magistrates to rent rooms for their licensing sessions at The Unicorn!).

Fairgray went on to become the Mayor of Ripon in 1806 – his portrait still hangs in Ripon Town Hall – and became a respected Alderman.

In his mid forties, John Fairgray purchased Sharow Lodge but did not live to enjoy his new home, dying in his 45<sup>th</sup> year. His life although eventful was full of tragic change as well. In addition to the premature end of his ownership at Sharow, his wife Jane had pre-deceased him in 1801 at the age of only 32.

Sharow Lodge was next purchased by John and Catherine Cayley, moving from Brompton near Scarborough – although they retained a farming estate in Brompton. John Cayley was born in 1741, son of Sir George Cayley of Brompton Hall. George's great-grandfather had been knighted for services to King Charles I, but the Cayley family can trace their ancestry clearly back to the early 12<sup>th</sup> century.



**Sharow Hall c1968 – From the Air**

John and Catherine commissioned major rebuilding work at Sharow Lodge and largely created the house as it is today. They had no children, and on John's death Catherine inherited the farm at Brompton and the estate at Sharow. John's books and papers were left to a nephew – another George – who is perhaps better known as Sir George Cayley the father of flight. In 1853 Sir George persuaded or instructed his coachman to take to the air in the first ever glider designed to carry a man. Despite having spent many years experimenting with models of fixed and flapping

winged flight machines this was still a major gamble.

History records that when the coachman emerged at the end of the historic flight – re-enacted in 2003 – he quit his job, saying “Please Sir George I wish to resign. I was hired to drive, not to fly!” The pilot of the 2003 celebration of this 150 year old achievement had no such reservations; he was Richard Branson!

Catherine died in 1823 and is buried along with her husband in Ripon Cathedral. (Their memorial is located within the Chapterhouse). Catherine's Will directed the distribution of her goods in some expected as well as unexpected ways. She requested that “The rubbish and remnants of my clothes to be given to the servant maids living with me at my death, not equally divided, she that has been the longest time with me to have the greater part or share”. She also bequeathed six pounds to each servant resident at Sharow Lodge at her death “to put themselves into devout mourning”.

Three months after Catherine Cayley's Will was proved, Septimus Hodson purchased the Sharow Lodge estate at an auction held at The Unicorn in Ripon on 19<sup>th</sup> September

1823. As described in 1823 “The Sharow Lodge estate, near two miles from Ripon, consisting of a Mansion House, delightfully situated, commanding a rich panoramic view of Ripon with its Minster, Studley Park and the surrounding finely wooded countryside: also comprising three cottages and 57a 2r 13p of valuable land in a ring fence, conveniently sub-divided into closes: with plantations, orchard, large garden, enclosed with lofty walls on three sides and pleasure ground.

The internal arrangements of the house are ample and commodious. On the ground floor are spacious dining and breakfast rooms, a gentleman’s room and all requisite domestic apartments. Above stairs are an excellent drawing room and five lodging rooms; and in the attic lodging rooms for servants.”

It is sad to record however that his wife died before they moved into the property. Both Septimus and Frances are commemorated by early memorials in St John’s. The rest of the remaining period of ownership of Rev Hodson appears not to have been recorded in any detail, although it is known that he had re-married in 1826. His Will, as revised just three days after his marriage to the poet Margaret Holford, gives his address on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1826 as Sharow.



i

**Sharow Hall 2006**

Less than 8 years later, Septimus died and his Will was proved at York on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1834. An unsolved mystery surrounds this Will – which must have bequeathed a vast wealth on his new wife. After another 12 years – in 1846 – Septimus’ Will was again ‘proved’, this time before a judge in London. Exactly what triggered this further judicial event remains unknown! Margaret Holford-Hodson – a friend of Coleridge’s - obviously decided not to continue to live at Sharow Hall, and sold the estate at auction.

The Powell (or Hopper Powells) family acquired Sharow Hall in 1834. The auction was held – again – at The Unicorn Inn on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1834, describing Sharow Lodge “The house is beautifully situated on a healthy soil at a distance of one and a quarter miles from Ripon, in the quiet village of Sharow, commanding views of Ripon Minster, Studley Park and extensive scenery in the neighbourhood of Harrowgate”

This was the longest period in single family ownership, the Powells remaining resident until after the second World War. (During the War, Sharow Hall was divided into a residential part for the Powells, and the remainder for a girls school which had been evacuated to Sharow from Leeds.)

The Hopper Powells exerted a large influence in Sharow during the years 1834 – 1952, with clergymen, magistrates, military officers and others among their number. Life in Sharow must have been slightly confusing at that time since Mrs Powell (mother of Samuel Hopper-Powell) bought Lucan House in 1836 and the land belonging to both parts of the family was frequently interchanged.

Many of the Powell family are interred in their family vault at St John's, and several of the monuments and gifts to the parish church were donated by the Powell descendants. Among the changes made by the Powells to Sharow Hall was the addition of distinctive bow windows on the south front.

In 1952 the Lucas family heard that Sharow Hall was on the market and were persuaded to view by a horse! Mr & Mrs Timothy Lucas were racehorse owners whose colours were first carried by a filly which ran in the Sharow Plate race at Ripon. Having enjoyed their visit to Ripon to watch the race, they visited again and bought the property, so adding yet another unusual part to the house's history.

Mrs Lucas directed extensive changes at Sharow Hall, altering the doors, structures and layout of the interior. Charles Lucas, their son, obviously decided that horses could not race fast enough and developed a passion for motor sport in the 1960's.



Mrs Lucas and friends

**Sharow Hall Garden Fete 1968**

Rev Parry with Al Read



**A Young Bandsman**  
(Which Master Lucas?)

"I was left some money by my grandfather and it rather went to my head, I'm afraid!" is how Charles has described his entry into racing cars, although his meetings with Piers Courage, Frank Williams and others obviously developed it! A successful team proprietor, Charles set up Charles Lucas Engineering (later to become Titan Motorsport) and fielded teams of single seater racers for many years.

Sharow Hall was sold in 1997 and shortly after in 2004 to the present owners. Extensive changes are continuing again at the property as the new owners restore the Hall to its 19<sup>th</sup> century grace.

## The Manor House

The earliest owner that can be traced was a farmer called Richard Brown. It was probably known as Manor Farm when Richard and his first wife (name unknown) and three daughters came to farm the land. The earliest reference to them is in 1591. By 1630 Richard had lost his first wife and had remarried Jane (Jayne). She might have been much younger than him as she outlived him for 11 years. About this time there was a fire at the house and evidence can still be seen

in the charred oak timbers and burning on the exterior of the old central chimneystack. Did Jane die in the fire? No evidence of this in the records of that time. The house was a half-timber construction and probably had a thatched roof.

By 1672 the house belonged to William Bainbridge. Did he buy a wreck of a house to do up to sell on? Was he a speculative builder of the day? In 1673 the ownership passed to Stephen and Margaret Braithwaite (she being the elder daughter of Richard Brown's first marriage). Stephen and Margaret did not have any children to inherit the building but it passed on to a nephew of Stephen called John Braithwaite. Was he the one who had his initials put on the east gable wall? I (Johannes) B (Braithwaite)?



**Manor House 2003**

John and his wife held the property until 1861 after which their daughter Elizabeth Sweeting took over ownership. Mrs Sweeting lived in Knaresborough so she let the building out to tenants. The house was divided into the main house and a cottage at the east end plus the servant's cottages at the west end. Ellen Augustus Wrather sister of John became joint owner of the property with



**Sharow Lane From the Air c1950**

Manor House is almost centre of this picture which also:  
St John's House to the right: Pear Tree Cottage and Fairview to the left.  
Opposite Manor House is The Grange and moving left are Millhouse;  
Riss House and Hillside.

Mrs Sweeting until 1863. Francis Williams then bought the house and lived there for 19 years followed by Herbert Walter Clementson who lived there for 8 years.

Mrs Nora Kathleen Bell then bought the ownership. She lived there with her husband until his death. She then moved into the cottage at the east end and let out to tenants the main house. In 1967 Mrs Nora Bell died and the building was altered to join the cottage and the main house back into one dwelling by Stephen Robert Lowth Whitgift Bell who became owner of the building after the death of his mother. Stephen did a great deal of alteration to the house both externally and internally. He sold off the piece of land on which the servant's cottages stood to a speculative builder, who promptly demolished the cottages and built a house (Pear Tree Cottage). In 1985 saw another change of ownership. John Michael Thomas Hall Younge and his wife Carole and his elderly mother Ethel Mildred Younge came to live in the house. In 1994 and 2004 Ethel and Michael Younge died leaving Carole Younge as sole owner.

The name change from Manor Farm to Manor House possibly took place about 1822 but there is no concrete evidence as to the fact. It was only described as a 'Gentleman's Residence' in any of the deeds.

## Sharow Grange

Situated on Sharow Lane, opposite the Manor House and St. John's House, this was once a working farmhouse (the threshing barn, once part of the farmstead, is now a separate residence, Mill House). Much of the subsequent information here is taken from a study undertaken by the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Vernacular Architecture Society in the 1980's



**Sharow Grange 1981**



### **Christmas Card 1968**

This Christmas card featuring Sharow Grange was painted by Mrs Hannay who occupied the property in the 1950s and 60s. She died in 2001.

## Sharow Grange

Year of Occupancy	Household and Occupation
1841 (census)	
1851 (census)	
1861 (census)	
1871 (census)	
1881 (census)	Thomas Clarke (Surveyor of Roads), Elizabeth (wife), William and Alfred (sons), Isabella (dtr)
1891 (census)	Frederick W Smith (general labourer), Mary Hannah (wife), Frederick (son), Clara Augusta (dtr)
1901 (census)	
1935 (July)	Mr. T.F. Powell purchases (from Mr. W. Powell)
1956 (June)	Mrs. G. M. Hutton-Squire purchases
1962 (April)	Mrs. M.G. Cust purchases (from bank)
1965 (March)	Mrs. J. Hannay purchases
1975 (October)	Dr. & Mrs. H. Cecil purchase
1981 to present	Mr. S.P. Warwick purchases

## RISS HOUSE, SHAROW LANE

Riss House was named by the Milestone family who lived in the house from the 1st April 1957 until the 18th April 1979. R from Ronald, I from Isabelle, S from Sharon and S from Sharelle Milestone.

There has been a property on the site since the mid 18th Century and it appears to have been originally a single storied dwelling or stable.



**Millhouse & Riss House 2003**

The side extension was probably built in late Victorian/early Edwardian times. There is a similarly aged extension at the rear of the house, which was been built onto the back of the house against the river boulder rear wall. The mill next door, was accessed through an archway, of which there remains evidence, for people, and probably also for animals to turn the mill wheel, in one of the Yorkshire 'wheelhouses', sometimes known as 'horse engine houses', for grinding corn to make flour. The mill was part of the single property until 1986, when the property was divided into three parts, Riss House, Mill House and the site where Hillside now stands.

The original front lower ground floor sash windows have been replaced by the mock Georgian Bay windows. This was carried out by Ronald Milestone, during the 1960s, who was a builder and had a yard at just above field level at the rear of the property, which was accessed via a driveway over the site where the newer house, Hillside, now stands, (built in the mid 1980s for Michael and Elizabeth Rawson). Evidence inside the house suggests that at sometime, (probably Victorian and the first half of the 20th century), the house was a

three bedroom dwelling; interior walls have been removed and replaced by fairly modern plaster-board walls and a lead pipe was found at the rear of the original house where a scullery/kitchen existed.

Mr Lumley, joiner, lived in the house in the 1940s.

A Mr Harcourt lived in the house in the early 1950s.

The space adjacent to the front door was where the pillar box was situated when the house was the village post office during the 1950s. The two millstones were placed by Ronald Milestone in the 1960s and originate from Williamson's paint factory in Ripon, where they had been used for grinding pigment materials.

In April 1992 Peter Hindle from Gosforth, Newcastle on Tyne, visited Riss House and recalled his time as a boy in the house in the early 1950s. He remembered going to Sharow Hall in June 1953 to watch the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on television. Peter Hindle spoke of Mr Powell, the Squire, who lived at the Hall, and that he still required the children at the school to tug their forelocks if approached by him in the village.

Peter Hindle said that when he lived in the house they couldn't see the view of Ripon Cathedral, (which is the most striking feature of the property in present times), due to the outbuildings.

Apparently, in the 1950s, there was an engineering works behind the house at field level and accessed by a drive at the side of where Hillside now stands.

Peter's father was a joiner and undertaker, using the mill as a workshop to make coffins and the extension was used as a nail and coal store, (now the dining room), and his mother kept the post office, in the room behind the right hand bay window, where she also sold 'Exlax', a brand of laxative, and which were apparently piled high over the mantle-piece! A Mr Harcourt is said to have had a shop at the house after the Hindles.

The former barns were used by Michael and Elizabeth Rawson to sell vegetables during the early 1980s.

The wall, which has its foundations in the field behind the property, probably dates back to the origins of the property being built from river boulders, with the brick buttresses added to secure the wall at a later date, probably during the 19th Century.

The current owners, Margaret and John Bushell, have continued with the 'attitude of change', with damp proofing, the adding of a single garage in 1995, a range of internal modifications, the transformation of the former builder's yard into a terraced garden in 2003 and a lounge extension at the rear of the house in 2004.

Origins of the whole property, which included the adjacent land and properties, were probably linked as a worker's dwelling and/or stabling to the oldest house in the village, the Manor House, (situated 20 metres opposite), c1740s.

1881 British Census.

Michael Smith. From Brearton Age 54 Employing one man. Carpenter.

Margaret Smith. From Chester-le-Street Age 50 Wife.

Charles Hill. From Bradford Age 17 Apprentice carpenter.

1891 Census. House No: 78

Michael Smith. From Brearton Age 66! Carpenter.

Margaret Smith. From Chester-le-Street Age 59 Wife.

Albert Ernest Pratt. From Melmerby Age 21 Journeyman carpenter.

William Carpenter From Copt Hewick Age 17 Apprentice carpenter.

## Lucan House



### 2000 Fairlawns Previously Known As Lucan House

A large house originally known as Lucan House has existed in the North Yorkshire village of Sharow for nearly two hundred years. During the intervening period, this property has changed its name at least three times, its owners at least eight times and it has become linked with some well known people and associations.

Even before the story of Lucan House commences, the site it occupies was associated with other well known families, such as the Lawrence's of Studley Royal, and the fields (or Closes as they were then known) which made up the estate feature in a range of medieval deeds.

Directories of the early 1800's state: "LUCAN HOUSE, a single house in the township of Sharow, and parish of Ripon; 1½ miles from Ripon."

Ownership/occupancy: The first known occupier of Lucan House in 1822 is a Thomas Knowles, whose occupation is given as "Gentleman". Very little has been found out about Mr Thomas Knowles, but the second reference in a nineteenth century guide indicates the house occupied by George Knowles. What is not clear however is who actually built/designed the grand house in the first place.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Occupier</b>	<b>Source</b>
1822	Thomas Knowles	Baines' Directory, 1822
1822 – 1835	George Knowles	Pigot's Directory 1834
1835	"	Pateley Bridge Electors 1835
1836	Mrs Francis Powell	Will & deeds
1847 – 1853	Elizabeth Hodgson	Census 1851 (died 1853). Elizabeth's husband died in 1847 and she appears to have moved out of Breckamore where her mother-in-law ruled!
1853	William Freer Scholefield	Record in deeds
1859	Edward Hardy	Census 1861
1871	William Garnett	Census 1871. Several newspaper clippings. Records of Bradford dignitaries.
1881	William Garnett	Census 1881
1888	William Terell & Charles James Garnett	Inherited from William Garnett Snr.
1891	William Terell Garnett	Census 1891. Charles lived in London (after short period in Harrogate)
1901	William Terell Garnett	Census 1901. William's wife Georgina lived in London, he lived at Lucan House
1907	James & Kate Farmer	Deeds. Inventory from 1922 provides further details.
1938	William Gray Farmer & John Hall Farmer	Inherited from Kate Ellie Farmer
1939 – 1946	War Department	Personal communication!
1946	British Legion purchase	Sold by William Gray Farmer & John Hall Farmer
1950	RBL, Lister House	Opening records, Princess Royal
1987 (20 Nov)	Sterne Developments	Deeds
1988 (4 Jan)	Ralph Frankland	Deeds

George Knowles was an architect born in 1776 in Bradford and it is known that he spent the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century working in Ireland. Among the structures he designed and built in Ireland were the Royal Canal and some of its bridges in Dublin, and the Richmond and Whitworth bridges over the River Liffey as it passes through Lucan County.

Mr. George Knowles was the architect and also the contractor for these, an arrangement common in those days, owing to the difficulty of obtaining the services of a "sufficiently competent person of the latter class".

The first mention of Lucan House in the baptismal records of the new church at Sharow is for twin boys, John and Samuel Forster, born to Samuel and Mary Forster, the father being the gardener to Mr G Knowles. Their christening on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1827 was less than two years after the consecration of the church.

#### Parliament Acts!

George Knowles had married Ann Wormald on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1821. As part of their marriage settlement, he had arranged for the Lucan House estate to be assigned in trust for her so that an income would be provided if anything happened to him. This agreement proved a stumbling block later on when he sought to sell up and move to Scarborough, so George had influential friends introduce a Private Act into the House of Lords in order to re-arrange his affairs!

Act 5&6 W4n92c.1. was passed in 1835 to allow the exchange of Lucan House with land owned in Hampsthwaite. The result was that Ann's Trust took over the Hampsthwaite lands and George was enabled to use/sell Lucan House as and when he wished. Within this rather complex Act, there are references to land held by Knowles at Sharow which came from the Terry family (most of whom seem to have been called Richard!) via John Terry – who sold it to Knowles. The 69 acres associated with his lands and house at Sharow were valued in 1835 at £7,082 7s 0d.

George Knowles left Sharow in 1835/36 and moved to Scarborough where he lived at Wood End until his death in 1856. The design of Wood End was due to Knowles, a design which is open to everyone today since it is now the Natural History Museum for the town of Scarborough. Further work by Knowles is evident in Scarborough as while living there, he designed the Scarborough Spa Gardens.

Somewhat surprisingly for a man who had travelled so much, Knowles was opposed to the extension of the railway line from York to Scarborough in the 1840s. He is quoted as having published a pamphlet in 1844 in which he claimed that if the railway were extended, Scarborough would be full of "... vagrants and those who have no money to spend."

Although he died in 1866 at Scarborough, where he had lived for around 20 years, George Knowles is buried at Sharow, in a wrought iron fenced grave adjacent to the east window. Buried with him are his wife's sister Harriott, who died at Scarborough in 1854 aged 68 and his wife, Ann who also died at Scarborough in 1867 aged 72 years.

The inscription on their graves at Sharow reads:

*"In memory of George Knowles, formerly of Lucan House Sharow and afterwards of Wood End Scarborough where he died 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1856 aged 80 years. Also of Harriott Wormald, formerly of York who died at Scarborough 29<sup>th</sup> March 1854 aged 68 years. She was sister to Ann the widow of the above George Knowles. Also of Ann Knowles widow and relict of the above George Knowles who died at Wood End 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1867 aged 72 years"*

The baptismal records of St John's have two interesting entries for the month of October 1835, i.e. around the time George Knowles was leaving for the East Coast. These entries are given for Samuel Hopper Powell, of Lucan House, christened on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1835 and Louisa Tassell Elizabeth Powell, also of Lucan House, christened on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1835. Before the reader assumes that either there is an error in the dates given, or that somehow things were done differently in those days, remember that these are christening, not birth, dates and also that Lucan House was a substantial property.

The Powell families who are given as living there in 1835 included Samuel Hopper & Louisa Powell, parents of Samuel junior, and Hervey Foliott & Catherine Tassell Powell, parents of Louisa. The Powell families are well known in Sharow, but possibly more in association with Sharow Lodge. Every 10 years from 1841 onwards there has been a census taken in England and Wales. The details recorded in each document vary widely, and there are many instances of duplications, omissions and errors made by enumerators as well as by the households they counted. An attempt to follow the history of Lucan House after 1836 has been hampered on the very first census by the complete absence of any property identified as such!

What is known is that in 1842 Captain William Burnaby Greene, RN, was staying at Lucan house and was engaged in seeking a position as Deputy Surveyor of Bere Forest (part of what is now known as the New Forest). His letters to Henry Pelham-Clinton, 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Newcastle under Lyne have been retained in a collection held at the University of Nottingham.

Among his reasons for seeking such a post were that he was a good Conservative, it was in his own parish and that “this post has ever been the great aim of my ambition.” It is likely that he was the son of Capt. William Pitt Burnaby a noted Royal Navy Captain who had seen action in many areas of conflict, including the River Plate in South America.

All the preceding occupants appear to have retained the formal house name of Lucan House, first given in the 1820s, but in the Census return for 1851 a change occurs. Mrs Elizabeth Hodgson, a 43 year old widow originally from Lancashire lived at the property with her niece Helen Withington. The address is given as Fair Lawn (two words) and has been identified on maps of that era. Along with her niece, Mrs Hodgson enjoyed a staff of at least 12 servants:

Elizabeth Locke	70	Housekeeper	b. Whitchurch, Shrops
Elizabeth Steen	35	Ladies Maid	b. Lavanack, Yorks
Ellen Clayton	29	Cook	b. Woodmancat, Hants
Charlotte Chandler	26	Housemaid	b. Tanfield, Yorks
Elizabeth Greaves	29	Under maid	b. Hyke, Yorks
Mary Chandler	26	Kitchen Maid	b. Tanfield, Yorks
Isabel Williamson	28	Laundry Maid	b. Markington, Yorks
Mary Whitehead	49	Dairymaid	b. Bolton, Lancs
Joseph Neale	49	Butler	b. Bywell, Northumb
John Harrison	32	Coachman	b. Bishop Thorpe
John Annakin	22	Footman	b. Ferensby, Yorks
John Gill	14	Page Boy	b. Ripon, Yorks

All except the Butler were either unmarried or widowed



**Lucan house  
c1940**



**Lister House  
c1950**



**Lister House  
1952**

Fair Lawn Lodge was occupied in 1851 by Joseph Maswood, a 22 years old cowman, along with his wife, Sabina (24) and their 2 year old daughter Harriet. Joseph was born in Melmerby and Harriet in Bishop Monkton. It appears likely that this lodge is the property presently known as Tully's Oak, although the identity of the property opposite the entrance to Fair lawn (known today as Stoney Close) is either left blank or given as the "lower" lodge for the main house.

The original will written by Elizabeth Hodgson and proved at Court in London on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1854 has been located and transcribed. In addition to her directions for bequests, Elizabeth Hodgson directed that *"and lastly I desire to be interred in the same vault in the Ripon Cathedral where the earthly remains of my late beloved husband rest"* Elizabeth's vault has been discovered among the many re-ordering and movements of memorials within the Cathedral. It is located approximately 10 feet up on the wall of the south west tower, along with those of her husband and his family.

The Revd William Scholefield appears as either the owner or tenant at Fair Lawn in the period between the Hodgson ownership and the residency of Edward Hardy Esq. During 1856 Scholefield hosted a visit to the house by Charles Dodgson (better known as Lewis Carroll) who along with his family were frequent visitors to the village. (See later)

In 1857 the Hardy family were living in Leamington, Warwickshire and by 1861 (census return) they were a new family installed at Fairlawn. (Note the change to a single word from the previous name). Edward Hardy was a financially independent man (or a Funded Proprietor as one record describes him) who had originally come from Patrick Brompton, a small village in North Yorkshire. He married Caroline Maria Carter and originally they lived in Collingham in Yorkshire where two of their three children were born.

A further daughter, Elizabeth Mary Hardy, was born in 1857, in Leamington, but by 1861 when the family moved to Fairlawn their mother had died and it was left to Edward, by then a widower aged 59 years old, to look after his son and two daughters. Along with his own children Edward was responsible for his 11 year old niece, Caroline Barbara Carter who had been born around 1850 in Hong Kong.

Of course Edward employed many servants to run the estate, among them being (in 1861):

Catherine Duff	29	Governess	b. Dundee
Richard Slater	47	Butler	b. Amithorpe
William Atkinson	41	Groom/coachman	b. Sheffield
Jane Todd	30	Nurse	b. Knaresborough
Elizabeth Payne	47	Cook	b. Setton
Sarah Eglin	30	Seamstress	b. Yorkshire
Sarah Yates	31	Housemaid	b. Azenby, Yorks
Sarah Blackburn	28	Under nurse	b. Ripon
Jane Wittaker	22	Kitchenmaid	b Yafforth(?)

The need to have two nurses and a governess is probably explained by the ages of the Hardy/Carter children who were at the house:

Caroline Barbara Carter	11 years	b Hong Kong
Caroline Francis Hardy	8 years	b Collingham, Yorks
Edward William Hardy	6 years	b Collingham Yorks
Elizabeth Mary Hardy	4 years	b Leamington

The gardeners for the Fairlawn estate lived at the gate-lodge house, with what is now Tully's Oak being occupied by James & Charlotte Wise and their two young children; William aged 5 and Agnes aged 3.

By 1881, some 20 years later, none of the Hardy children had married and all three girls (including their cousin Caroline Barbara) were living together in Eversfield Place, Hastings. Remarkably they still had their former governess, Catherine Duff, living with them, albeit as a retired lady by this time. Edward's son, Edward William Hardy, was recorded in the 1881 census as a visitor to "The Complete Angler" hotel in Bisham, Berks. With an occupation given as B. A. (!) Whether the Hardy girls ever married is not known, although by 1901 Elizabeth Mary Hardy was still unmarried, aged 44, and living "on own means" in Kensington, London. Their cousin, Caroline, had by this time joined a religious order and was living as a Sister of Mercy in Berkshire.

During the period 1871 – 1907 Lucan House remained in the ownership of one family, the Garnetts, who again brought with them links to industry and the city of Bradford.

The Garnett family had made substantial money by the introduction of mechanisation into the worsted spinning industry of Bradford. The originator of this was James Garnett, who in 1794 had installed two machines in the Paper Hall, a 17<sup>th</sup> century building which still stands as a landmark in Bradford.

His grandson William, born in 1813, had joined the family business in 1835 and chose Fairlawn as his "retirement" estate. Married to Ann Hull Terrell, the sister in law of the pastor at his local church (founded by his grandfather in Horton Lane, Bradford), they had twin sons; William Terrell and Charles Garnett.

Almost deserving a book in their own right, the Garnetts brought to Lucan House (the name was reverted again in the 1870's) further recognition and development.

Both William Snr and his two sons were holders of public office, acting as magistrates around the county. William Jnr married Georgina Bristowe and through her family established links to Robert Clive – perhaps more familiarly known as Clive of India.

In negotiating the funding and supply of mains water for the first time, William Garnett established the first piped supply to Sharow, from which pipes the village's residents gradually were able to draw their supplies.

As the first recorded commuters from Sharow to Bradford; to Barkerend Mills, the Garnetts frequently hosted business meetings at Lucan House – their staff being driven over by carriage from Bradford. Barkerend Mill is today one of the empty rather sad

buildings on the northern approach to Bradford. Its sloping winding house (which provided the motive power for the looms within) is clearly visible, as also are the rather strange rooms which appear to jut out on each floor.

This latter feature is actually the sign of a progressive employer since they are the toilet blocks installed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Mr Garnett. (Some believe this was not just philanthropic but also good business sense as people could access a toilet close to their work stations – and keep their breaks to a minimum!)

In the early 1900s the owners of Lucan House, William Terrell Garnett and Georgina Emily (nee Bristowe) Garnett moved away, he to Bradford (Undercliffe House) and she to London. The estate was sold directly to Kate Ellie Farmer for £14,200. By 1907 Kate Ellie and James Farmer were in residence and involving themselves in negotiations with the Ripon Council. (Details of this memorandum will be referred to later in this account)

The tale of the Farmer's ownership of Lucan House brings further links to well known industrialists in the North East, that of Sir William Gray, shipbuilder of Hartlepool. William Gray, born 18<sup>th</sup> January 1823, married a fellow Northumbrian Dorothy Hall in 1849 and they had seven children. One of these, the eldest daughter, was Kate Ellie Gray. Her eldest and youngest brothers were appointed Directors of their fathers company, but as a daughter brought up "properly" in the family home of The Cottage, Greatham Kate was well educated but not placed in employment.

On 30<sup>th</sup> August 1882 Kate married Rev James Farmer, a vicar some 17 years older than her 25 years in what must have been a "society" wedding in her home village of Greatham, Co. Durham. The newly married Farmers returned to Nottingham, where James was vicar of St Paul's Church, Nottingham, before moving to St Giles' Church Balderton.

In 1895, while still living in Nottingham, Kate and James had three sons, William Gray, John Hall and James Ingleby Farmer the last mentioned who joined the Kings Royal Rifle Corps during World War I and was one of the many killed at the battle for Festubert in northern France

James Ingleby Farmer is commemorated in the graveyard at Sharow:

*"James Ingleby Farmer 2nd Lieutenant KRRC. Killed in action near Festubert May 9th 1915 aged 20. God grant perpetual light eternal rest. Yours be the great reward who paid the price. On us the burning question be impressed, Shall we be worthy of the sacrifice"*

William Gray Farmer moved to Hereford and John Hall Farmer to Hartlepool and were jointly named as the executors of Kate's will.

The deed of 1907 referred to above was an agreement to provide water to Lucan House and its adjoining buildings and properties at the rate of 10d per thousand gallons. This was altered by a deed dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 1930 in which Kate Ellie Farmer (then widowed) sold the water main previously laid by William Terrell Garnett (in 1893) which carried water from North Bridge to Lucan House.

**Two springs on  
Sharow Lane**



**How we have taken tap water  
for granted!  
It was quite different for earlier  
residents of Sharow**

**Sharow Village Pump**  
After restoration in 2002



The water main was sold for £100 to the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Ripon in order for them to extend and develop it for other properties in Sharow. Water was still to be provided to Lucan House through this main, at the rate of 10d per thousand gallons “to the said Kate Ellie Farmer her heirs and assigns owners and occupiers of Lucan House aforesaid for all times”. This memorandum of agreement does not appear to be still respected by the suppliers of water to the present owners and occupiers of Fairlawns!

Rev James Farmer died 1<sup>st</sup> March 1923 at the age of 83 and is buried in Sharow, along with his wife Kate Ellie who died 10<sup>th</sup> July 1938. Kate’s will was proved in November 1938 and consisted of wishes that if any of her children died without issue then the person would be expected to bequeath any money derived from Kate’s father (wealthy Sir William Gray) to her, Kate’s, grand-children! Also in her will is the first mention of a step-daughter, Alice Kate Farmer, presumably from James’ previous marriage. Generously she left £1,000 to her maid (around £30,000 in 2004!) and two year’s wages to each other servant who had worked for her for at least two years. (and one year’s wages to those with at least five years service!)

£200 was left (approximately £6,000 in today’s money) for the upkeep of the churchyard in Sharow, with a special wish that the Trustees would pay attention to the grave of her husband “so that the same shall be kept neat and in good order and condition”. A codicil to her will made 11 years after the original document was signed changes the bequest to her maid, Mary Ann Ellwood so that the £1,000 was revoked. This was apparently as a result of a separate accommodation made by Kate Farmer with Ms Ellwood (and other servants) during her lifetime.

An inventory for Lucan House at the time, 1922, is filed at Leeds archives. This is a substantial book! The main points are listed below. It was taken for insurance valuation purposes by Gurr, Jones & Co, Valuers, 1 King Street, St James’, London SW1. The summary lists many rooms and effects with an overall valuation as given:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Value</b>
Furniture and general contents of the rooms	£8,839 18s 0d
Consumable stores	£20
Linen	£900
Personal wardrobes	£880
Furs	£634 6s
Laces	£135 15s
Silver, Sheffield plate, plated items and cutlery	£620 8s
China & glass	£216 15s
Ornamental items and decorative china	£1,104 14s
Books	£266
Pictures	£1,678 11s
Jewellery	£1,130 16s
Outside effects	£65 11s
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£16,492 14s 0d</b>

The valuation is dated 15<sup>th</sup> March 1922 and is a 180 page bound volume.

There are additionally hand written descriptions of two motor cars:

1933 Lanchester saloon 18hp £60

1935 Austin 12 Ascot 12hp £70

and a Boulton & Paul revolving shelter in the grounds with an electric bell to the house: valued at £45.

Mrs Farmer is still remembered by some of the older residents of Sharow as a kindly lady who dressed in an old fashioned manner.

Kate's sons had not disposed of the house by 1939 and the property was requisitioned as a staging camp for the army during WWII. The lawned area to the south of the house was occupied by several rows of wooden huts, for use by general ranking soldiers; with officers accommodated in the main house.



**Lister House Dormitory 1950**

Quite recently a visitor from Cumbria knocked on the door of what had been the sentry's lodge (now Tully's Oak) at Lucan House and asked if he could show his wife where he had

spent time during the War. He identified the location of his hut and was especially pleased to be permitted to stand under the portico at the entrance to Lucan House for a photograph – as a driver in WWII it was strictly forbidden for non-officers to be 'up at the house'!



**Lister House - Mid 1950s**

Matron Fanny Bateman (seated) with Sister Ingham

&

Matron's Maid, Doreen Nicholson who still lives in Sharow



At the end of the War, the house was returned to the Farmer brothers, who sold it soon after to the British Legion. Renaming it Lister House, the Legion opened the home in 1950 – again there are some in the village who visited or even worked at Lister House from the very start. At this stage most of the land was sold off to a local farmer, (Mr Fred Waite) and previously separate fields/closes merged into single larger fields.

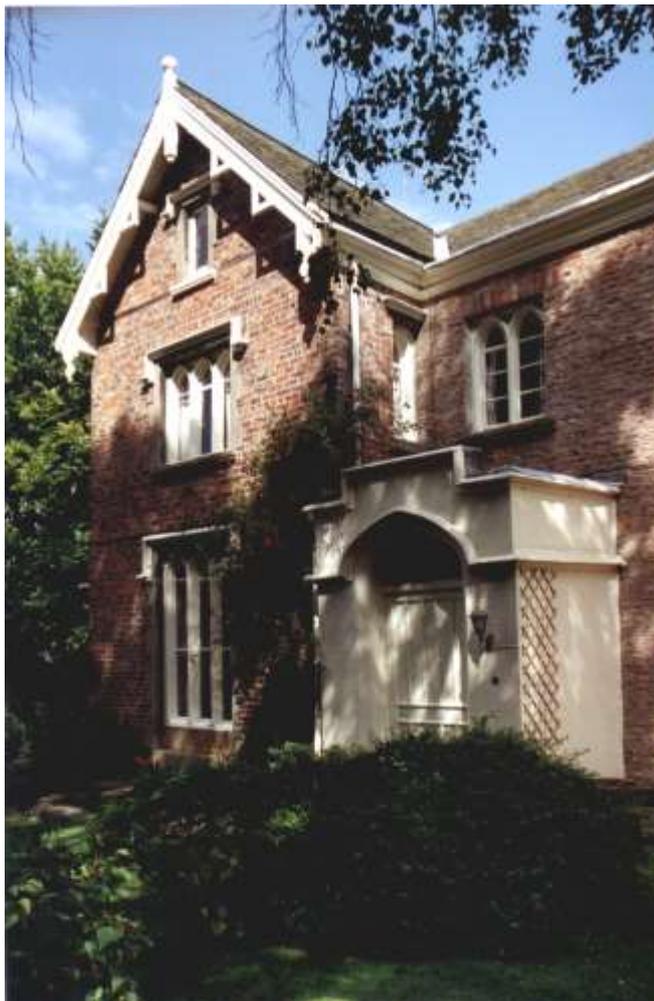
The British Legion moved to purpose built accommodation in the 1980's and the Estate was again sold – this time to a property developer who created the multiple occupancy houses and re-established the name Fairlawns.

## St John's House

In 1825, Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence of Studley Royal gave the Parsonage, a farmhouse called Throstle's Nest, to the parish. Whilst Throstle's Nest Farm is not noted on any map located so far, the parsonage does appear on the 1834 map. St John's House served as the vicarage until 1977 when it became the residence of the Archdeacon of Richmond, the Venerable Paul Burbridge.

Whilst he lived here the house was renamed 'The Old Vicarage', but after the sale of the property to the present owners, the church insisted on a restrictive covenant forbidding the use of any name which implied that it been formerly inhabited by clergy of the Church of England.

During the late 1800s, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) was reputed to be a regular visitor to the house, especially during the occupancy of Rev. Edmund Gray (see later).



**St John's House 2000**

The last vicar of Sharow to live at The Vicarage was Sydney Jones, who left the house in 1977. After the sale of the house in 1983, renovation work revealed animal bones under the floor, adding weight to the belief that the property had indeed been a farm in earlier days. Further findings during these works confirmed that earlier demolition/alterations had resulted in the excess rubble being laid along the present driveway – raising it by around 30cm but saving on removal to other sites.

The former servants quarters on the second floor were modified to provide family accommodation, although the bell pulley is still on the skirting board. The coach house to the rear of St John's would have accommodated two substantial horses, along with an ample hayloft.

### Low Farm 2006

The farm and adjoining barn have seen better days.

The buildings are just discernable on a map of 1845 but there is no name although it is marked as a pump. A 1890 map is showing 'Low Farm'.

The farm was last occupied by a game keeper but in the 1950s Mr Lucas was granted a Dereliction Order.



## Sharow Grove



**Sharow Grove 2003**

Date	Owner	Notes.
9/11/1874	Robert Smith	Robert Smith died leaving property to eldest son.
26/5/1879	Richard and Thomas Smith.	Purchased for £300. Richard Smith was a farmer living in Australia and Thomas Smith was a 'merchant' living in Surrey.
16/8/1894	Job Robertshaw	Joseph Ward left property to Job Robertshaw of Bradford, his nephew in 13/9/1892. The property was sold once William Ward's sisters Ann and Sarah Ward had died on 5/5/1894 and 27/2/1893 respectively.
10/1/1911	William Foliott Powell	Purchased for £590. House bounded on North by glebe land belonging to Vicar of Ripon and on the East by land belonging to William Foliott Powell and on the West by land of Richard Lumley's Representatives.
16/12/1954	Captain Thomas Foliott Powell	Purchased for £2,700.
28/9/1960	Rev. Eric Gordon Parry (Vicar of Sharow).	Purchase of field at back of Sharow Grove for £50.
31/10/1960	Allan Charles Skerman and Edith Dora Groom Skerman	Purchased for £4,950.
25/3/1974	Dr. Kathleen Scott	Half share of property gifted.
21/4/1994	Flora Scott	Half share of property gifted (returned).
17/6/2002	Estate of Kathleen Scott	Property left to beneficiaries of Kathleen Scott, A. de Hutiray being one.

Originally the house was two semi-detached cottages, which were less deep than the current building. Since then the original building was knocked into one and extended at the back, before extending again at the back on one side to form an L shape. The building also used to be one of the village shops.

What is now the loft was once the servants' quarters, probably including a groom and housemaid and/or cook . Evidence still exists in house of dumb waiters together with the pulleys and metal cable guides in the walls for bells in the servants' quarters.

While pulling down an upstairs ceiling a bag fell out containing an American made brass powder flask in excellent condition (circa 1870) and lead shot for a breech loading hunting gun.

Also found in loft was a blacksmith's flask containing nails for horseshoes.

Among the former owners was Dr Scott who delivered the majority of the children in the village from 1960 until around 1975 and is still spoken of by many of the older residents.. Dr. Scott was featured in a magazine article about the eccentric "Grand Old Girls" of England.

Sharow Grove has other claims to fame though, footsteps and doors opening and closing mysteriously were frequently heard at night or when there was only one person in the house. Both his wife and the current owner have heard these noises, as have the children who have not been told that their parents have heard these noises. This happened frequently up until about 6 months ago, but it seems to have quietened down now. It is interesting that there were similar occurrences at the pub next door, but that they also seem to have stopped.

Whether or not this was the cause of other high spirits is uncertain, but it is known that there used to be a swimming pool behind the house, which is now filled in. Local lads (late teens) used to run across from the pub and dive in when they thought that Dr Scott wasn't looking!

## **Bishop Mount**

This secluded house stands at the corner of Berrygate Lane and the A61. Said to date from around 1860, the house, originally known as High Berry, appears on maps of 1890, but not on the 1856 OS map. High Berry was occupied at the time of the 1881 census by Thomas Darnborough, a well known local barrister. Enlarged in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it became the residence of the Bishop of Ripon in 1946, and that of the Bishop of Ripon & Leeds in 1999. Providing both official and private facilities, the Bishop still maintains his office in the former conservatory, although plans are in hand to move the base for his ministry to Leeds.



**Bishop Mount 2005**

## The Holt

Mr Mangen bought the land and surrounding fields in 1910 and The Holt was built between 1910 and 1912. The house, which has some art nouveau features, was finished in 1914, and some parts of the garden were finished soon after. The property includes some luxurious stables in the outbuildings with a loft above complete with a saddle room and a fireplace.

Mr Mangen lived in The Holt with his two sisters and he also had some money in the railways when they were privately owned. In 1931 Mr Mangen's two sisters sold their share to their brother.

Reg Chapman bought the property in 1940, when they moved from Blois Hall. The Chapman family lived at The Holt until 1975/6 when Mrs Chapman senior died and Reg Chapman became ill. Colin Chapman, their son and his wife Bess exchanged houses with Reg, who moved into the bungalow while Colin and Bess came to live in 'The Holt'.

Holt Cottage is likely to have been built at the same time as The Holt. St John's Close bungalows and the two detached houses on Dishforth Road were built in the mid to late 1970's and were all part of the same Sharow development plan as the two Barratt schemes which were initiated by Harrogate Borough Council.

During World War 2, land army girls were billeted at Blois Hall and there were sufficient numbers to warrant a warden/housekeeper. They worked on various farms in the area.

German prisoners from the Prisoners of War camp at Ure Bank worked at Blois Hall Farm and Colin Chapman's mother made packed lunch for them individually, so that they all got their share. It usually consisted of a cold bacon sandwich (mostly fat or belly pork) some homemade pie or buns, two Woodbine cigarettes and a bottle of tea. When the war was over, one of the regulars came to 'The Holt' with a present of a large, hand carved aeroplane. Colin Chapman suspects that it was a 'thank you' to his mother for her kindness and rations. The man did not want to return to Germany and Colin is aware of at least two ex P.O.W.s who are still living in the area.

In March 1945, a Halifax bomber taking off from Dishforth crashed in a field at 'Blois Hall'. It was fully laden, but due to heavy frost and ice it could not manage a proper take off. The seven crew members were mostly Canadians. Four were killed and three were injured. Colin Chapman remembers being with his father when he went to the crash and later when the lucky ones had cups of tea in the farm cottage.

Another plane crashed locally with the loss of all lives. It circled very low over 'Blois Hall' before crashing and sliding into a newly planted wood close to Copt Hewick. This wood is still a strange shape.

## The Half Moon Inn

A public house has been in Sharow for over two hundred years. The Half Moon was run in the late 1700's by William Lumley (sometimes spelled Lumbley) and then by his widow Ann Lumley. She had a sign put up on the ale house advertising the sale of "sprites" – not an anachronism but an old Yorkshire spelling for spirits!



**The Half Moon Inn - 2000**

During the 1830's Mrs Lumley took over as sole licensee and continued to

host local "Town" meetings for Sharow including the quarterly sessions of the Overseers of the Poor. On her death, the Lumley children sold the inn at auction. Sale details for the auction, conducted on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1838 exist. (Copy in the Northallerton archives).

By the 1881 census, the Half Moon was being run by William Parkin, inn keeper, and his wife Elizabeth. William was a 'local' man, having been born in 1841 in Hutton Conyers. Their daughter Mary was born in Sharow in 1876 and married a local (Dishforth) farmer's son, Thomas Mason. The Parkins remained as inn keepers in Sharow until at least 1901, when William was 60 years old.

## THE RAILWAY

The line opened in 1848 was part of the Leeds and Thirsk Railway's direct route between these places.

The main purpose of this line was to break the stranglehold on traffic between Leeds and the North East, which was controlled by George Hudson. Originally, the route terminated at a station near the centre of Thirsk after crossing over the main Great North of England Main Line on an over bridge. It was not until June 1852 that a direct route to Northallerton and Stockton, under which it passed without any connecting lines, was opened to fulfil the original purpose of the line. Connections were made later with the main line at Northallerton and Thirsk. Both these connections enabled trains to travel northwards.

However, it was when the track capacity was increased on the East Coast Main Line that the through freight traffic ceased. At the same time the Beeching era arrived. It was decided that the line was not profitable and that Harrogate's passenger and freight traffic could make the journey north via York.

Some significant dates and events.

The Leeds and Thirsk Railway Company was formed in 1844 and the Company was authorised by the Act of Parliament in the following year, 1845, to be built on a line from Leeds to Thirsk. The main line was to pass immediately to the east of both Harrogate and Ripon, and would connect in Thirsk with an existing line from York to Darlington.

“March 22nd 1847 – The first pile of the railway viaduct over the River Ure, below North Bridge, driven in. Minster bells rung and much rejoicing”.

“December 11th 1847. Great flood of the Ure, downfall of the retaining wall at the end of the viaduct of the river near North Bridge”.

“May 31st 1848. First train of passengers dispatched from Thirsk to Ripon, free, along the Leeds and Thirsk Railway”.

“September 14th 1848. Leeds and Thirsk Railway opened between Ripon and Harrogate”.

In 1851 the Leeds and Thirsk company became the Leeds Northern Railway and 1854 amalgamated with two other companies to form the North Eastern railway company, which was to become one of the richest and best managed lines in the country.

“Trains 6 up and 6 down daily” Mr A.B. Patience, Station Master. “Omnibuses from the Black Bull and J. Mountains Office, Kirkgate, meet every train. Railway company goods conveyed to all parts”

“1854-5 Railway Inn. Joseph Tennant, Stonebridge Gate. Ripon Railway Station about half a mile north of the town on the Leeds Northern line. Omnibuses from the various inns await the arrival and attend departure of the trains”. Alexander B. Patience. Station Master”.

September 1858. Presentation of an address to the Queen on the occasion of the Royal Train stopping to take in water at the Ripon Railway Station, after Her Majesty had opened Leeds Town Hall.

February 9th 1859. Memorandum from the Corporation sent to the N.E.R.Co. complaining of the high price of coal, and a request to give opportunities to West Riding pits to send coal to Ripon and neighbourhood.

Horse buses ran from Pateley Bridge to connect with the trains at Nidd and in 1862 the line to Pateley Bridge was opened consisting of 11.5 miles of single track with a station at Ripley, (closed in 1964).

August 1863. Prince and Princess of Wales left Ripon via the railway station, ‘for the north’.

“1866 Matthew Peacock, Station Master.

Trains to all parts many times a day. The British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company have an office here. Omnibuses from the Unicorn Hotel and Mr. Thos. R. Mountains, Fishergate, to meet all trains”.

Thursday April 1st 1869. Ripon Gazette. “G.B Herring and Co. have the pleasure to announce that they have succeeded in making advantageous arrangements with the North eastern railway Company for supplying Ripon and its District with a First Class Quality of

Newcastle Coals, which will be found unequalled for all household purposes. They have opened an office in the market Square where with much respect they solicit all. Orders may be left. Coals ordered at the office before 1 o'clock p.m. will be delivered the same day. Price 14s per ton. Leading 1s per ton. Cash on delivery."

Thursday April 1st 1869. "COMPENSATION IN CASE OF INJURY and a fixed sum on death caused by accident of any kind may be secured by a policy of the Railway Passengers Assurance Company".

Railway Accidents Alone may be provided by Insurance Tickets for Single or Double Journeys." Apply to the clerks at the Railway Stations or at the offices, 64, Cornhill and 10 Regent Street, London. William J. Vian. Sec.

Thursday December 9th 1869. Ripon Gazette. "Visit of the Prince of Wales. The carriage in which the prince was travelling was shunted onto the North Eastern line at Holbeck, Leeds and connected with a special train in waiting. At Ripon, which was reached at 6.15pm the Prince was met by Earl de Gray. On His royal Highness alighting from the saloon carriages, he shook hands heartily with Earl de Gray and was loudly cheered by the ladies and gentlemen who had assembled on the platform.

The arrangements at the railway station reflected great credit upon Mr. Peacock the Station Master. The Royal train was accompanied by Messrs. Kitson and Oxley, Directors; Mr. Christrison, Superintendent; the engine being under the charge of Mr. Johnstone, Locomotive Superintendent."

February 9th 1870. Deputation from their inhabitants of Masham, represented by Messrs Calvert, Lightfoot and Theakstone, wait upon the council in consequence of the N.E.R.Co. wishing to abandon the proposed branch line to Masham.

NE Railway. "Reduction in fares. According to official announcement, the first class on this railway will, on and after January. 1st will be 2d per mile and 2nd class 1 1/2d per mile, plus government duty, which is now 5%. We are informed that it is likely that fractions will be charged as full miles and even money. The Co. are empowered by their acts to charge extra distances in respect of expensive bridges and they will also avail themselves of their privileges in this respect."

August 1871. Marquess of Ripon met at the Railway Station.

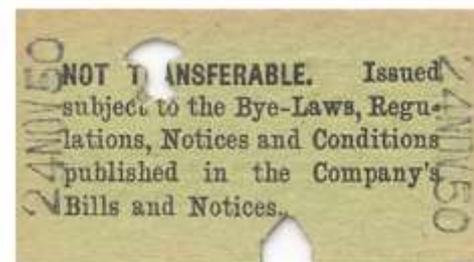
1875. Station about 1/2 mile north of town. Peter Donaldson, Station Master. Omnibuses from the Unicorn and Crown await the arrival and attend departure of the trains.

September 16th 1878. Joseph Hanson, a platelayer, employed by N.E.R. run over by a train and killed at Littlethorpe.



July 6th 1883. William Nottingham, draper and silk mercer, Kirkgate, Ripon, killed by a goods train at Ripon station railway crossing. Verdict accidental death.

October 25th 1887. Right hon. W.E. Gladstone and wife visited Ripon and Studley. Received most enthusiastically at the station and in the City.



1905. The original horse drawn omnibuses were replaced by the motor omnibus, which was operated by the North-Eastern railway Company and ran from the Station to the Market Place.

January 1919. Railway service to and from Ripon. Suggested to Finance and general purposes Committee the desirability of constructing a railway from Ripon to Boroughbridge. Committee had considered a letter regarding the appalling railway service to Ripon. N.E. Railway promised an improvement in the train service. No advantage of a railway service from Ripon to Boroughbridge because of motor traffic and the canal.

The line was closed officially on 5th March 1967, except for local freight between Starbeck and Ripon, which lasted until 6th September 1969.

(Sources: [www.harrogate.co.uk/biltonhistory/Railway\\_History/railway\\_history.html](http://www.harrogate.co.uk/biltonhistory/Railway_History/railway_history.html) Millenary 1847-80 and Directories)

## Sharow Village School

*“Provides good education for primary age pupils in accordance with a Christian ethos and Anglican character with roots going back to about 1825.”*



**Sharow School 1957**

In 1825, Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence of Studley Royal gave the Parsonage, a farmhouse called Throstle's Nest, to the parish. She also donated the master's house and small schoolroom now known as 'School House', (this is the first record of a 'school' in Sharow). One record suggests there were seven fee-paying scholars.

An anonymous note from about this time states:

*"The school was very small and the scholars few".*

In 1854, Edwin Walter Robert Williams was appointed Master of the Parish School and retained the position for 45 years. St John's Side Chapel South Window, 1899-1901 is accompanied by a brass wall plaque inscribed and with the images of Eli with Samuel and Paul with Timothy, being appropriate to the memory of someone who committed his life to teaching the young.

*"To the glory of God In memory of Edwin Walter Robert Williams For 45 years Master of the Sharow School who died May 9<sup>th</sup> 1899 aged 74 years. This window is dedicated by parishioners, scholars and friends."*

There is an unconfirmed reference to school construction taking place in 1857 and in 1863 School House was enlarged and improved. On the south wall of the Tower Room is a plaque reading:

*"Sharow Church of England School AD 1857. George Knowles Esq<sup>r</sup> formerly of Lucan House Sharow, and afterwards of Scarborough bequeathed £400 for the yearly augmentation of the salary of the Master or Mistress of this School, which was placed with the Charity Commissioners for Investment in the Funds.*

*The trustees of this gift are the Bishop of Ripon, the incumbent of Sharow and the Churchwardens of Sharow, for the time being".*



**Sharow School Planting Daffodil Bulbs at the lay-bye on Hutton Bank Top 1938**

George Knowles, architect of St John's, was generous towards the church both during his life and in his will. On the nave south wall is a stone monument bearing the inscription:

*“In memory of George Knowles Esq. Formerly of Lucan House Sharow and afterwards of Wood End, Scarborough where he died 23rd June 1866 aged 80 years. An able and successful civil engineer he cheerfully dedicated to God a portion of his own gifts. He designed and superintended the building of this church and bequeathed the interest of £500 to the parochial school attached to. Also of Ann Knowles Widow and relict of the above who died at Wood End 22 January 1867 aged 72 years She bequeathed the interest of £200 towards the (upkeep) of this church and churchyard.”*

Sharow C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School is located just west of the church on Berrygate Lane. In the mid 1990s improvements were made to the school with the building of an additional classroom and office facilities. For over one hundred years the school house was the residence of the parish priest but in 2003 reverted to the school when the priest moved into a modern property in the village.

The School House was quickly brought into use by the school with an after school club. In 2005 alterations and refurbishments were carried out to make School House more suitable for school use and improve parking for school and church. This also resulted in the removal of the temporary classroom, which had been on the site for over 25 years.

Head Teachers of Sharow School			
1854 – 1899	Mr E Williams	1951 – 1969	Mrs Helen Brown
1899 – 1913	Mr E Parkin	1969 – 1985	Mr David Lancaster
1913 – 1930	Mr G White	1985 – 1987	Mrs Abraham-Thomas
1930 – 1939	Mrs Balnaves	1987 – 1992	Mr David Roberts
1939 – 1945	Mrs Simpson	1992 – 2004	Miss Margaret Smith
1945 – 1950	Mrs Winter	2005	Mr J Foxwell



### Sharow School C1965

Joan Hornby with  
Miss Brown (Background).  
Round the table clockwise:  
Jean Pickersgill,  
Stephen Pybus,  
Michael Relton,  
Colin Tiffany,  
John Robshaw

## More Pictures of Sharow School & Its Pupils



1951



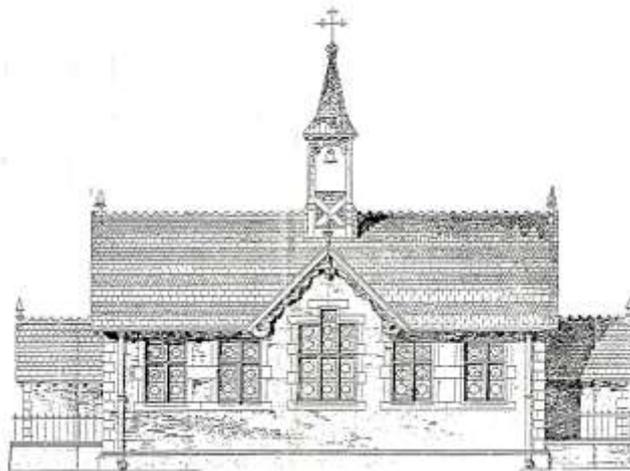
1952



1956



1964



### **Sharow School c1898**

This drawing appeared on the programme for a Christmas concert given by local children in 1998 depicting Christmas 100 years earlier. It is not known who drew the original or when it was drawn

## PERSONALITIES OF SHAROW'S PAST

### Charles Piazzi Smyth

Born 3rd Jan 1819 in Naples, Charles was the son of Admiral William Henry Smyth and his wife Annarella. William's parents had been residents of New Jersey in North America until the American Revolution, following which they returned (as loyal British subjects) to England.

He gained his middle name from Guiseppe Piazzi, the Italian Astronomer who in 1801 had discovered the first asteroid – Ceres, and who was to become Charles' godfather. Charles' father had for many years been an amateur astronomer and at his son's christening expressed the desire that the child might become an astronomer. William and Annarella had a further 10 children, many of whom had military and/or scientific careers. One sister, Henrietta Grace Smyth, possibly deserves special mention as she married into the Baden-Powell family. Her son (and nephew of Charles Piazzi Smyth) was Robert Baden-Powell who went on to establish the boy scout movement.

Charles was educated at Bedford Grammar School, which he left at 16. Gaining a position under Sir Thomas Maclear, he worked at the Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope from 1835. Whilst there he observed Halley's comet and the great comet of 1843, and took an active part in the verification and extension of La Caille's arc of the meridian. In 1845 he was appointed Astronomer Royal for Scotland and professor of astronomy in the University of Edinburgh.

In 1855 he married Jessie Duncan, who became his companion and secretary for many of his subsequent expeditions. In 1856 he made experimental observations from the Peak of Tenerife with a view to testing the astronomical advantages of a mountain station. The Admiralty made him a grant of £500 for the purpose, and a yacht the "*Titania*" of 140 tons and a fine 74 in. equatorial telescope were placed at his disposal by friends.

There is no doubt he was a man of great achievement and his name will always be remembered in the context of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh. In the 1860s he travelled to Egypt and produced accurate measurements of the Great Pyramid. He was a pioneer of indoor photography and the photographs he took inside the Great Pyramid are some of the earliest known. Amongst his various publications were, 'Our Inheritance in the Great Pyramid' (1864) and 'Life and Work at the Great Pyramid' (1867). He resigned his Fellowship of the Royal Society when they refused to publish his papers on pyramid research; but there are still hundreds of entries under his name in the Royal Society's Catalogue of Scientific Papers.



**The Smyth Tombstone**

In St John's Graveyard this tombstone marks the burial place of Charles Piazzi Smyth and his wife Jessie.

He carried out important scientific research in co-operation with Professor A S Herschel and in 1880 he received the Macdougall-Brisbane Prize after constructing a map of the solar-spectrum. Charles advanced the science of Spectroscopy; started the first time signal from Calton Hill; organised over fifty meteorological stations in Scotland; and made numerous astronomical experiments.



### **Clova House**

Where C Piazzi Smyth spent his 'retirement' years.

In 1888 he resigned his official position due to unresolved conflicts over his interpretation of the meaning/construction of the pyramids. Charles and Jessie retired to reside at Clova House in Ripon (now a residential care home for the elderly) and apparently devoted the rest of his life to cloud photography. He died on the 21st of February 1900 and is buried, along with his wife in St John's churchyard. The monument placed over the graves of Charles and Jessie is a scaled down version of the great pyramid. Many of Piazzi Smyth's original photographs, slides, papers and research notes are preserved in the archives of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh.

The story of the Piazzi Smyth family does not end however with his monument in the churchyard at Sharow. Lunar exploration and mapping has allowed the naming of the 'seas' and 'mountains' of the moon. One large area is the *Mare Smythii* named after William Piazzi Smyth – Charles' father. This 'sea' is one of only two areas of the lunar surface to be named after real people (as opposed to mythological characters)

### **James Gilbertson: Clockmaker**

The first person to make clocks in Ripon for whom records and a few clocks have been found was George Mills. What is known from his work is that Mills was working there about 1695 or maybe even a little earlier. He is known to have made a clock for Ripon Cathedral in 1724 and to have repaired the chimes that same year. Whilst what became of him is not known, by 1721 a second clockmaker, James Horner, was made a freeman of Ripon. This would have been the start of competition for George Mills.

The clock making trade continued in Ripon with the work of James Gilbertson, who worked there from about 1760 till his death in 1791, and Mr Gilbertson certainly holds a position of note in Sharow.

During the eighteenth century large and illegal profits were often made by the practice of clipping gold coins. By shaving/clipping small amounts of the precious metal from large numbers of guinea coins, organised gangs received enough gold to melt down and re-sell it at virtually 100% profit. To counter the likely receipt of low weight (light) coins, merchants, banks and householders used a portable scales to weigh any coins they received against a guaranteed guinea weight. Coins which failed to make the grade were known as 'light guineas'.

A Halifax group of coiners were especially well organised, by a man known as 'King' David. In the 1760s 'King' David Hartley and his associates clipped gold coins and moulded the gold into counterfeit coins, often French, Spanish or Portuguese which were accepted currency. When an Excise officer, William Deighton, was too pressing in his investigations the gang took fright and shot him on 9 November 1769. Robert Thomas and Matthew Normington were executed for the murder, and David Hartley and James Oldfield received the death penalty for clipping and diminishing the gold coins of the realm.

Eventually the only way to trade/exchange these coins was via dealers in precious metals, such as clock makers and jewellers, who of course offered considerably less than the face value for each guinea. Gilbertson was one such merchant, and on the proceeds of his 'light guineas' he purchased what is now Sharow Hall – a property which still has Light Guinea Cottage on its estate!

At least one restored and working long case clock by Gilbertson is still in the village (at the Manor House) and recent researches have unearthed a further brass face and clock movement suitable for restoring in a suitable case.

## **George Nicholson: Curator of Kew Gardens**

The 1834 edition of Pigot's Directory gives Sharow as the home for James Nicholson, nurseryman, gardener and seedsman. There were several market gardens and nurseries in the village at that time and James had married Hannah Burr – both of them being gardeners as well. George Nicholson was their eldest child.

George Nicholson was born at Sharow Cross on 7th December 1847 and following local schooling started work in his father's nursery. From there he moved to Fisher & Holmes in Sheffield and then on to Paris where he worked at La Murette. Returning to England, George joined Kew Gardens in 1873 as assistant to the Curator, working extensively with Sir Joseph Hooker on establishing Kew's arboretum. Promotion to the post of Curator in 1885 allowed Nicholson to pursue an ambitious project in the production of "The Illustrated Dictionary of Gardening" between 1884 and 1901.

He was in demand as a judge both in the UK and overseas, including the USA, and was made an Associate of the Linnean Society in 1886.

In recognition of his scientific work he was a recipient of the 1894 Veitchian Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society and there is one palm and one moss named 'nicholsonii' after him.

George married Elizabeth Bell from Thirsk in 1874, but was widowed soon after the birth of his only son, James (who became a naval engineer). George retired from Kew in 1901 due to ill health and died in 1908.

The beautifully illustrated volumes making up his dictionary were a major contribution to late 19th/early 20th century gardening and are now collectors items.

An interesting footnote to the Nicholson family is that two of George's sisters emigrated to Australia in 1885 (aboard the "Duke of Buccleuch") and settled in Brisbane. They named their first house 'Sharow'!

## Rev. Henry Horrocks Slater

Curate at Sharow from 1879 - 1882, this once ambitious man was born at Riding-Mill-on-Tyne, where his father (also Henry) was the local vicar and like many clergy in the Victorian era, was passionate about the natural sciences, particularly archaeology/ palaeontology, an interest which his son inherited. Obtaining his BA (1878) and later MA (1887) at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, he successfully applied to be the "bone collector" on Her Majesty's Transit of Venus Expedition (to Mauritius and Rodrigues) in 1874. However, HHS preferred to pay the natives to search the local caves for the fossils of the Rodrigues Solitaire (smaller, extinct relative of the Dodo) whilst he indulged in collecting and preparing specimens of the local birdlife for institutions in England.



**Rev Henry Horrock  
Slater - 1890**

Ordained by the Bishop of Ripon in 1879, HHS had the living of Curate at Sharow, and lived at Sharow Cottage, where his first child (Henry?) was born. Slater taught at Ripon Grammar School and became one of the youngest-ever Vice Presidents of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union (YNU), successfully leading several field meetings into the local countryside. He subsequently wrote a masterful paper on the plants of the area, "*The Flora of Ripon and Neighbourhood*" (publ. 1883 by the YNU), demonstrating a great depth of knowledge. The census of 1881 notes that the Slater household comprised Henry, his wife Gertrude (then aged 26) and two servants.

It was during the 1880s/1890s, that Slater developed a deep passion for birds of more northern climes, particularly Nova Zemlya and Iceland, both of which were little known or visited by British naturalists and therefore a great fascination. In 1901, after three visits to the latter island (mainly collecting specimens), Slater privately published a "*Manual of The Birds of Iceland*", the first documented book on the subject and which remained the standard reference work for many years. His original manuscripts/notes and subsequent book reviews are housed at Taunton Museum, Somerset.

In 1906, there is a period of uncertainty about his life. His wife, Gertrude was seriously ill (and possibly died), there was a move to Kent and without explanation, Slater resigned as a Fellow of the Zoological Society and British Ornithologists' Union and more importantly, from the church. In fact, so completely did he fade from society, that his premature obituary appeared in *The Zoologist*. The entry in Crockford's Clerical Directory for 1907 states his address at Igtham, Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Kent, Slater moved to Somerset, and it was in this county he spent the rest of his life. He appeared to lose interest in ornithology and concentrated on the study of lepidoptera, particularly moths and he made a major contribution to the understanding of Somerset's moth population.

In his hand-written diaries from, now housed at Taunton Museum, considerable mention is made about going on "expeditions" to find more unusual moths for his collection.



**Gladys Thrush 1937**  
Outside Keldale Terrace



**Mrs England c1940**  
Known for her 'dress'



**1937 Cigarette Card Features Sharow Football Club**



**W H Stephens**



**Three 1964 Village Stalwarts**  
**T H Hudson**



**Roy Pearson**

## George Slater: Glaciologist

Also living in Sharow in the 1880's was another Slater family, of whom George was the third child born in 1874. George Slater was educated at St John's College, York and then at the Royal College of Science in London (The Royal College of Science is now Imperial College). His studies in geology led to both research and teaching appointments through to the 1950's.

Among his early work was fundamental study of glacial tectonics (1927), which followed on from his work in Norway a few years earlier. That work, as glaciologist to the University of Oxford Spitsbergen Expedition in 1921, formed part of the first scientific account of that area and was led by the slightly better known Julian Huxley.

Expeditions to Canada and Denmark followed, as did work in Germany and South Africa on glaciers and geological development. George was a recipient of the Foulerton Award of the Geologist's Association in 1950, just six years before his death.

It must be added though that not all George Slater's work was quite so exotic, as the following two titles of his early papers can testify: "The structure of the disturbed deposits in the lower part of the Gipping Valley near Ipswich". *Geologists' Association Proceedings* 38:157-182; and "The structure of the Bride Moraine, Isle of Man". *Proceedings Liverpool Geological Society* 14:184-196.

## Richard Terry: Banker

Banking houses had evolved from goldsmiths and traders in the 16<sup>th</sup> century with the first 'public' bank being established in Venice (Banco de Rialto) around 1584. The Bank of England was set up in 1694 – mainly to help the finances of King William III, but several trading houses acted as 'cash exchanges' for promissory notes and instructions issued by other financiers.

Messrs Willis, Percival & Co of Lombard Street in London were the finance house used by Thomas Terry, grocer and Dr William Harrison, both from well known families of this area who had set up one of Ripon's earliest banks – Terry, Harrison & Co..

Like most banks of that period (1785) they relied on the promissory notes issued by their bank to conduct much of their business (i.e. they produced their own 'bank notes'). Richard Terry, son of founder Thomas, lived in Sharow and owned several parcels of land in the village. Deeds relating to transfers and sales of the said land are located in the Brotherton Library in Leeds.



Harrison Terry and Company traded in the Ripon area for nearly 100 years, with branches in Knaresborough, Harrogate and Pateley Bridge. (Harrogate in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was an insignificant place compared with Ripon and Knaresborough.)

As business trends changed pressures developed to offer services or alliances over greater and greater distances. This led to the merging of the small, often town or county specific banks, into larger groups and in 1875 Harrison, Terry & Co was taken over by the Bradford Old Bank.

Having survived as a Ripon based bank for some ninety years, there was only a period of just over 30 years before another merger took the Terry name further from people's memories. Merger with the United Counties Bank in 1907 was finally followed just nine years later by the acquisition of UCB by Barclays Bank.

Harrison Terry & Co	1785	Bradford Old Bank	1875
United Counties Bank	1907	Barclays	1916

In some ways the incorporation of Terry, Harrison & Co. into Barclays brought the banking links full circle and returned to its roots in Lombard Street.

In the late seventeenth century, the streets of the City of London may not have been paved with gold, but they were filled with goldsmith-bankers. One such business was founded by John Freame and his partner Thomas Gould also in Lombard Street in 1690. The name Barclay became associated with the company in 1736, when James Barclay - who had married John Freame's daughter - became a partner!

As could be expected with stories of wealth and money, there were also darker sides to the business...

The following is taken from an account of history in the North Yorkshire area.

*“Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 1797 was a hot sultry day. The market at Knaresborough had been very busy, but as the streets were emptying, just before six o'clock, a solitary horseman left for Ripon. Richard Terry was the second generation of a rare but soon to become commonplace profession in Yorkshire - a banker. He was a partner in Harrison Terry the second oldest banking house in Ripon. His bank was already 12 years old and had been founded by his father Thomas, a successful grocer, and Dr William Harrison, both members of old Ripon families.*

*From premises close to the present Barclays Bank at Knaresborough Richard had conducted a good days business and was heading for home. Our itinerant banker was to have an adventure he would not forget.*

*Knaresborough and Ripon were well to the fore with the establishment of premises solely acting as a bank in the north of England. The goldsmiths and scribes in London had developed banks over the previous 200 years, their deposit receipts developed into banknotes and written instructions from their customers became bills of exchange from which cheques developed to become common by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Usage expanded into the provinces but transactions were an adjunct to a merchant's main business. The need for 'fancy premises' did not reach Yorkshire until after 1750.*

*The catalyst was the Industrial Revolution. The need to finance growth through profitable banking activities transformed the scene. The new Industrialists particularly, found a profitable way of increasing their newly found wealth by establishing banks. They were able to issue their own banknotes. This often proved to be a temptation that led to disaster or skulduggery, as we shall see.*

*Back to our late August afternoon in 1797. Richard Terry rode leisurely down Knaresborough High Street. Unknown to our intrepid banker there lurked this fine evening one Peter Buck of Ripley sitting in the Royal Oak Inn at the bottom of the street. Strategically seated by the window, a position that commanded a view of the three routes out of town, Peter Buck watched the passing horseman.*

*Richard Terry turned right at the end of the High Street towards Ripon and passed along the Boroughbridge turnpike before turning down the bye road to Farnham following the bridle path to Copgrove. Meanwhile Peter Buck had left the Oak and was following our hero. On the bridle path Peter Buck caught up with Richard Terry who politely opened the gate for him. The assailant then turned on Richard Terry and fired a shot, which missed, and a fight ensued. Terry shouted, "I know you and have all the bills copied" as the highwayman tore them from his pocket and stole a purse containing 160 gold guineas. The haul included £1500 of Bills, Bank of England and Country notes. Buck, fleeing the scene was spotted by a least one person who professed to know him. He was later arrested and tried. Another story of his capture was that he went into the bank in Ripon one day and his voice was recognised by Terry who was behind a screen. A cut on Bucks face caused by the bankers riding crop identified him.*

*At his trial the jury found Peter Buck guilty in 3 minutes but recommended leniency, which was supported by Terry in view of Bucks respectable connections. It was to no avail. He was hanged at York."*

## **Charles Lutwidge Dodgson**

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson is better known to most people as Lewis Carroll, author of the 'Alice' books and much has been written about Lewis Carroll and his links to the neighbouring city of Ripon. Suffice for this account to briefly remind readers that whilst his father served as a Canon of Ripon Cathedral he was required to be 'in residence' at the Cathedral for about three months every year. At such times, Charles and his 12 brothers and sisters would move with his widowed father from their rectory in Croft (near the motor racing circuit!) to the Old Hall in High St Agnesgate.

As would be expected, the family had a social life heavily involved with other clergy and prominent churchgoers. Early in 1856, Charles and two of his sisters accepted an invitation from William Freer Scholefield, the then occupier of Fair Lawn (as Lucan House had come to be known).

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 1856, the Scholefields hosted a dinner with the Dodgson visitors, and the vicar of Sharow – Rev. and Mrs Gray among the guests. At least one account of the origins of the little girl on whom the original drawings of Alice were based attributes some of the credit to Sharow. An early record (1931) states that Dodgson had "fallen in love" with a photograph "seen at Mr Gray's of Sharow".

The little girl in question was Mary Badcock, daughter of Canon Badcock , principal of the College at Ripon.

True or not, the existing photographs of little Mary Badcock look strikingly similar to the illustrations of Alice with which everyone has grown up.

In 1881 Louisa Dodgson, another one of the seven Dodgson sisters, was a guest for a few days at Sharow Hall. The 1881 census return was taken during her visit and identifies Louisa and her maid as visitors to the Powell household.

## **Sabine Baring Gould**

During researches in the North Yorkshire archives, the earliest records of St John's Church at Sharow were examined. The documents revealed that the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould of the parish of Lewtrenchard in West Devon officiated at a marriage ceremony here in St John's.

The Revd and Mrs Kate Farmer of Lucan House had a daughter, Agatha Mary born in 1890, who was married in Sharow Parish Church on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1913. Her husband was Charles Sabine Baring-Gould, a great nephew of Sabine Baring-Gould, the collector of folk music and composer of some of the more rousing hymns of the era.

Baring-Gould was born in Exeter in 1834. His unconventional views and behaviour developed as he grew up and he was a persistent critic of the establishment (particularly that of the church in which he served!) throughout his life. Tales of his eccentricity abound and it is well documented that he taught in Sussex at Hurstpierpoint with his pet bat on his shoulder!

To most people who have heard his name it is as the writer of a favourite hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers", but of all the achievements of his 90 years, he himself rated most highly that of collecting the folk songs which were published as "Songs of the West".

His nephew – and niece by marriage – moved to Hampshire and further records of his visits to Sharow are limited.

## **19<sup>TH</sup>/20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY SHAROW**

One of the most curious events of village life is mentioned in "Gowlands Antiquities of Ripon" by Miss Naomi Jacobs, who described how her mother told her that when a small girl, she saw the last of the Sin Eaters walking through the village of "Sharrow". He was a dirty old man with tangled hair, and to the child appeared strangely repulsive. The "Sin Eater" continued Miss Jacobs "was a man who for a small payment took upon himself the sins of a recently deceased person. He was brought into the house, taken to the room where the corpse lay, and while the nearest relative stood on one side of the bed, the Sin Eater stood on the other. A tankard of ale into which had

been thrown half a crown and a piece of bread were placed on the chest of the deceased person”.

As the Sin Eater ate and drank, he said “With this drink and with this bread I take all his (her) sins upon me”. He was then hustled out of the house, kicks and even blows being aimed at him. He became the bearer of the sins of the dead person, having eaten those sins in the meat and drink. He was an outcast, shunned and hated, only admitted into houses where Death had been.

There was a passing Bell rung at Sharow Church when anyone died, It tolled once for every year of their life. A Bier stood under the Church Tower, next to where the Font used to be, and mourners and local people would follow the Bier, with the coffin on it, into the Body of the Church.

From the 1891 Census, it appears the residents of Sharow had a wide variety of occupations, including a Varnish Manufacturer, Chemist, Nursery and Seeds Woman/Man, Bookmaker, Dressmaker’s apprentice, but the majority seem to have been either farm/general labourers or domestic servants. Even the then Publican of the Half Moon Inn was also a farmer. There are some living “on their own means”, usually widows and sisters of the Head of the family. The Hopper Powell family of Sharow Lodge had seven members, but ten living-in servants, including the Butler, Mr. George Wilson. His wife lived separately in Keldale Cottage with their two sons and a daughter. In addition to their business interests, the Garnett brothers, William and Charles, living at Lucan House were magistrates, sitting at various courts around the county.

In 1891 there was a Post Office in the Village run by Mrs. Jane Shepherd. By coincidence Sharow’s nearest Post Office at North Bridge is now run by Mrs. Christine Shepherd.

In the 1920’s, children’s games had a season. Firstly sledging and snowballing, followed by whips and tops, marbles, hopscotch and cricket. In August, during the School holidays, children would ride down from the farm on flat bogeys drawn by one of the farm horses. Down through the village to the hay or cornfields. Once loaded with the hay pike or corn sheaves, the bogey was pulled up to the stack yard, followed by the children walking behind, ready for their next ride through the village. This went on all day.

Autumn was a very busy time when the threshing machine came to thresh the corn. Evenings were usually spent catching the number of rats that inhabited the farm buildings. There were only about twenty nine dwellings and one public house in the village at this time and all but four of these were owned by the Powells of Sharow Hall.

Another piece of local news also appeared in the Ripon Gazette in 1946.

“Presiding at a fete in the grounds of Sharow Cross on Saturday, the Vicar, the Rev. H.M. Worsley, said the event had been brought forward to avoid catering difficulties further increased by bread rationing. They had thus given the guests the opportunity of having what he called “the last good tea, which any of us will get” before bread Rationing”.

More recently, the main changes to life in Sharow have involved housing developments

When Barratt Developments built the houses at Glebe Meadow, they purchased the land from the Church Commissions for England, who in turn had received the land from Elizabeth Sophia Lawrence.

Mrs Lawrence’s sale, in 1826, to the Governors of the Bounty of Queen Anne, had been intended to provide “for the perpetual augmentation of the Curate of the curacy of Sharow”. As custodians of the land, the Church Commissioners eventually sold the 4.5 acre site in 1976 and Glebe Meadow was started. Among the many signatories on the transfer of title of the land to Barratt Developments were Bishop Ralph of Knaresborough, Dean Le Grice (plus two Canons Residentiary) of Ripon Cathedral and the Secretary of the Church Commissioners.

## PARISH COUNCIL & PARISH APPRAISAL

Sharow is administered at local level through its Parish Council. In 1989 the Parish Council commissioned a Village Appraisal in order to assess the views of residents on present and future facilities. A very high level of response was obtained, with 169 out of 206 households (82%) responding to some or all of the questions posed by the appraisal. As well as providing a recent profile, the Appraisal offers a snapshot of life in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century in Sharow.

There were 436 (responding) residents, showing an increase in both the young (<16) and elderly populations.(This latter increase in numbers of pensioners was despite the closure of Lister House.)

## SHAROW'S 'LAST GOOD TEA' OFF THE RATION

### Challenge Fund Fete

Presiding at a fete in the grounds of Sharow Cross, on Saturday, the Vicar, the Rev. H. M. Worsley, said the event had been brought forward to avoid catering difficulties further increased by bread rationing. They had thus given the guests the opportunity of having what he called, “The last good tea, which any of us will get” before bread Rationing.

THE fete was in aid of the Ripon Diocesan Challenge Fund, and was held at Sharow Cross by permission of Mr. E.

by Mr. W. H. Adamson (verger and alderman).

During the afternoon there was a clever tableau (arranged by Miss Strickland) depicting “Peace,” attended by angels. Doris Tyreman was in the character of “Peace.” There was also a pretty fancy dress parade. In the original class, Mrs. W. Staples (the judge) placed the tableau first with Marlene Moore (Carmen Miranda) second; the first prizes for the prettiest costumes went to Tommy Kirby and Mary Spence (as Greek children). Pauline Preece was (as a Greek child) and Mrs. E. J. Kirby and Mrs. W. H. Stephens were the organising secretaries.

Stalls and holders were: Tea—

Hanson (Vicar’s Warden) and Mrs. Hanson.

Referring to the Challenge Fund, the Vicar said their first effort, before December, realised £173, since then they had raised £236.

The Vicar then introduced Mrs. R. E. Pownall (wife of the late Rev. R. E. Pownall, a former Vicar of Sharow), who opened the fete.

Mrs. Pownall said it was pleasant to see the familiar place, the familiar faces, and the work with which she was so familiar in Sharow. She congratulated the parishioners on the large amount of money raised already, but pointed out more money was wanted.

The vote of thanks was moved

Mrs. R. Chapman, with Mrs. H. Hudson. Mrs. Lickley. Miss Wise. Mrs. Irving, Miss Colman. Mrs. C. Cullen. Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Phillips and Mrs. C. Hayton; produce—Mrs. Dale, Mrs. H. Barker, Miss Hazel Chester; Copt Hewick stall—Miss Clapham, Mrs. Clapham, Miss Fiacr, Miss Kitchin, Miss Wallis; Parish stall—Mrs. England, Mrs. Gowland, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. W. H. Stephens; ice cream, etc.—Mrs. E. J. Kirby. Mrs. E. Bell, Mrs. Winter; flower stall—Mrs. G. A. Varley; pound stall—Miss A. Thrusell, Miss M. Pick; book stall—Mrs. T. H. Wilson; games and side shows—Miss Spence, with Miss Betty Chester, Mrs. Booth and Mr.

Ripon Gazette 25<sup>th</sup> July 1946

Around half of the households had been resident for 10 years or more, and a majority at that time were opposed to further development of housing in the village. A sobering statistic from the Appraisal is that only 15 full-time and 9 part-time jobs were provided specifically in the village.

Concerns were expressed that there was no village post-office/shop in Sharow – although the Appraisal did question if enough local support would exist to justify re-opening a shop which had closed down seven years earlier due to lack of commercial viability. Other issues of concern were traffic; speeds were excessive, junctions were dangerous and heavy lorries were ignoring weight limits; and dissatisfaction with financial management by Harrogate District Council.

On the plus side the Appraisal found that the environment around the village was still highly valued, with the open 'triangle' adjacent to the Church, the sports field and the green boundaries of the village being particularly valued, as well as the river banks and of course the old part of the village along Sharow Lane.

### **Sharow Parish Council 1992**

Presentation to  
W. Cmd. Robert. Sage  
on his retirement .

Back row

Ruth Ferris, Sue Mitchell, Rosemary  
Triffitt, John Irvin (chairman after  
W.Cmd Sage) , John Bushell

Seated

Dr Kathleen Scott, W. Cmdr Sage, Flora  
Scott



The following offer a flavour of some of the earlier meetings through extracts from the Minutes of Sharow Parish Council.

“20<sup>th</sup> March, 1940. The Chairman and Clerk only turned up and after waiting half an hour abandoned the effort.

24<sup>th</sup> March, 1943. The R.D.C. asked to give consideration of the use of utilisation of the use of Consols held by us to the War effort.

30<sup>th</sup> March, 1949. This Parish Meeting invites the attention of Ripon and Pateley Bridge Rural District Council to the unhygienic earth closets still in use at the School and the majority of cottages in Sharow Village owing to the inadequacy of the existing sewerage mains and system.

20<sup>th</sup> March, 1950. Village Post Office closed.

25<sup>th</sup> March, 1953. £40 14s 0d. has been sent from Sharow to the East Coast Relief Fund.

9<sup>th</sup> December, 1958. We place on record the great score of 100 years celebrated by Mrs. England.

26<sup>th</sup> March, 1964. It was voiced that a special meeting might be called to try to push forward the problem of housing shortage.

21<sup>st</sup> March, 1967. A complaint be made to R.D.C. re neglected surround of Sharow Cross.

26<sup>th</sup> March, 1976. Extraction from River Ure. The North Bridge extraction should be opposed ..... used by children for bathing and paddling during the Summer.

10<sup>th</sup> April, 1978. W.I. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Planting of trees and bulbs in the Village.

29<sup>th</sup> March, 1982. Action to be taken by owner of the river bank following fatal accident.

## SHAROW WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1928, the first meeting of Sharow and District Women's Institute (W.I.) was held in Sharow Hall. Forty three members attended paying an annual subscription of two shillings. This gave members the opportunity to socialise and learn skills such as glove making, basket making, leatherwork and cookery.



**WI Golden Jubilee 1978**

The W.I. was established by Mrs. Mary Adamson, Mrs. Ruth Waite and Miss Bessie Waite. At that time the President was Mrs.

W.F. Powell. During the War, the W.I. was suspended, but meetings of the members were held weekly at Sharow Hall to knit garments for the armed forces, collect and pack Christmas parcels for all those serving from the Parish. A savings group was also formed to sell war savings certificates and classes for canning fruit and vegetables were held. After the War meetings were changed to evenings and held in Sharow School.

The W.I. is still in existence today with a membership of twenty four. The annual subscription is now £22.00. and meetings are held monthly, still in the School. Jerusalem and jam continue to play a part in the programme, but the range of activities is far wider than seventy seven years ago when it all started

## THE CRICKET CLUB

The earliest Sharow Cricket Club record which has been traced was in the Ripon Observer dated 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1919, a match between Sharow and Burton Leonard. There appears to be no written history of the Club between the First and Second World Wars. During the Second War all Cricket Clubs were suspended and most of the grounds used for food production. Sharow re-established itself in 1946. The cricket season usually commences in April and an advertisement in the Ripon Gazette dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1946, read as follows:-

*Sharow Cricket Club*

*Any Cricket Club desiring fixtures please notify the Secretary Lucan Farm, Sharow.*

It may now be difficult for us to understand the shortages and purchasing controls implemented by the Government after the War, but these existed, for example the Gazette published their offer of cricket equipment. Permits were needed from the Board of Trade for new equipment, but if they had been refused the Gazette had access to a limited supply of equipment in good order free to Clubs with the proviso that the team must contain a minimum of four ex-servicemen. Sharow played various local matches and here is one local press reported April 1946.

### RIPON EVENING LEAGUE

#### SHAROW KNOCK OUT MONKTON FOR LOWEST SCORE

The main feature of the competition so far has been the ascendancy of the ball over the bat, and the highest score so far made by a losing side—that is a completed innings—was the 49 made by Burnt Yates last week when beaten by Birstwith.

#### Bowling Record

Incidentally, in the Birstwith-Burnt Yates match, A. Sowray, of Birstwith, created a new bowling record with his nine for 20, no one yet having had a "bag" of the whole ten wickets.

On Thursday Wath struggled hard against Brazier, of Knaresborough Liberals, but could only make 22, the lowest score for some seasons, the record for the lowest record" being the old Williamson's Club, who, in 1933, were bundled out for 16 by Tanfield.

No one dreamt on Tuesday night when Monkton and Sharow met that there would be any untoward happening, but batting first Monkton when facing Albert Willis and D. Dresser were early in difficulties. The wicket not playing truly, is the only consolation that the Monkton bats may have, but the chief factor in their destruction was Willis. At one period he took four wickets in six balls, and at the cost of only one run. He ended up with six wickets for five runs. Dresser at the other end, collected three for eight. Sharow sent down 12 overs five balls.

Sharow received eleven deliveries, losing two wickets into the bargain before making the winning hit. Reg. Wright, who only sent down five balls, claimed the two wickets. Monkton had an impossible foundation from which to fight back, and a few more runs would have made for an interesting game.

#### Bishop Monkton

A. Curtis, b Dresser .....	0
R. Wright, b Dresser .....	3
W. Brown, b Dresser .....	1
W. Seymore, b Willis .....	1
W. Scatchard, b Willis .....	0
C. Hymas, b Willis .....	0
K. Morland, b Willis .....	0
A. Shorrocks, run out .....	0
J. W. Slater, b Willis .....	1
K. Whitfield, b Willis .....	3
J. Chisem, not out .....	2
Extras .....	1

Total .....

#### Sharow

P. Waite, b Wright .....	6
D. Anderson, lbw, b Wright .....	5
H. Fawcett, not out .....	1
A. Willis, not out .....	1

Total (2 wickets) .....

Bowling. — Bishop Monkton: A. Willis, 6 for 3; B. Dresser, 3 for 2.

To-night (Thursday), 8.30 p.m.  
Brearton v. North Stainley.

Tuesday, 8.30 p.m. Glasshouses v Hampsthwaite.

There is only one record of a life Member and Mr. Jack Horner was awarded this honour in 1980 for his work and dedication to the Club over a number of years. Mr Charles Lucas of Sharow Hall was a Patron of the Club and his work and assistance helped improve ground facilities and funds

The earliest record of a Junior team was in 1976 and continued until 2003.

Sharow played in various local leagues and joined the Wath League until it was terminated in 1990. They then joined the Nidderdale League and entered a second team in 1997. Nidderdale is one of the largest in the Country with eight divisions of twelve teams

**Cricket Teams from**

**1953 (right)**

**And  
1988 (below)**

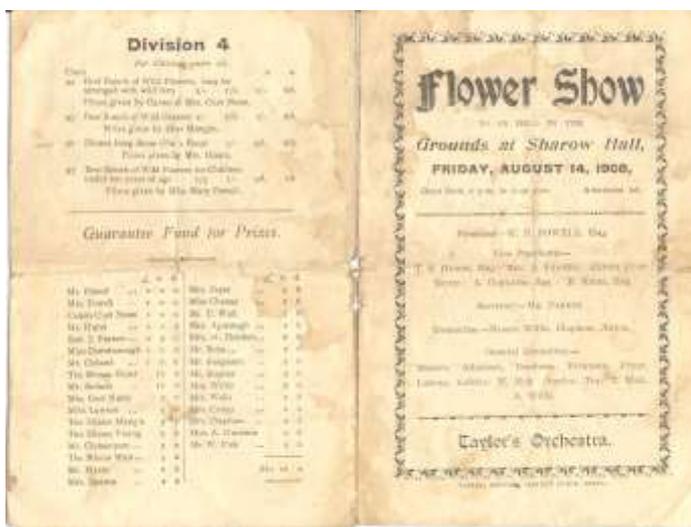


The cricket club is just one of many groups in the village which benefit greatly from the availability of a very functional Village Hall erected on the sports field in 19??



## GARDEN CLUB

Whilst there is a very active Garden Club in Sharow it was only formed in relatively recent years. But there is a long history of gardening, in all its forms, flower arranging, and shows of garden produce, in the village.



**Flower Show 1908**

Program of  
Flower Show  
held in the grounds of  
Sharow Hall  
August 1908

&

Prize Cards  
from the same show



### Sharow Garden Club 2000

Visit to  
Field Cottage Littlethorpe



## MAUNDY MONEY

On Maundy Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 1985 Queen Elizabeth II distributed Maundy Money at Ripon Cathedral. A number of Sharow people were recipients including:

- Rev. Gordon parry, Vicar of St john's Church, Sharow
- Mr Ernest Rumbold, Verger of St John's Church Sharow
- Mr George Herbert Nicholson of 28 Ure Bank Top