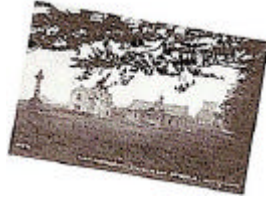




# Nunthorpe History Group



Preserving and recording the heritage of Nunthorpe

**Nunthorpe History Group Newsletter No. 3**

**July 2012**

## **Welcome to the third Newsletter of the Nunthorpe History Group.**

The group now boasts over 50 members. We would be very interested to hear from any members who may wish to join our committee and also any member who wishes to research a particular subject or requires assistance in their research.

Some of the members have already kindly loaned archival material, copies of which are to be retained for group use. This material includes old photos, ledgers, newspaper cuttings, maps and memorabilia and is to be made available to group members for research purposes or just general interest. A list of archived material is available from Bob Mullen (<mailto:b2mullen@hotmail.com>).

We would certainly appreciate adding to this archive if you have any material that may be of historical interest. Depending on the amount of material involved the loan period for scanning, photographing etc. would be from 2 to 4 weeks.

### **The next NHG public event**

**The Nunthorpe History Group is pleased to announce the next public talk event**

**:-**

**Subject : Gisborough Priory Project**

**Presenter : Anne Roe**

**Venue : The Dorman Suite, The Institute,**

**The Avenue Primary School, Nunthorpe.**

**Commencing : 7.00 pm Monday 16 July 2012**

## **Local history archive resources at our disposal.**

The NHG Archives listing has now become too long for the Newsletter . Please contact [b2mullen@hotmail.com](mailto:b2mullen@hotmail.com) or telephone 01642 324939 if you require the full listing.

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## **Nunthorpe History Group Actions and projects**

To delve into the past requires an inquisitive mind and is both interesting and rewarding.

Our ever growing list of Nunthorpe archive includes excellent written accounts plus recently obtained original records and indicates there could be so much more Nunthorpe history to be unearthed and recorded.

It is the aim of the NHG to publish, at some future date, a book recording the history of Nunthorpe. The book would build on earlier accounts plus recently discovered original sources and record our Nunthorpe history up to the present day. A number of local history societies have been successful in doing similar research and we believe that grants are available to assist with such a venture.

It is hoped that some members may wish to contribute by becoming involved in researching and recording an area of Nunthorpe's history that is of particular interest to themselves. Alternatively, the group would appreciate the loan of any early photographs or documents from residents to add to the archives.

Some of our new archive material would be a good starting point for delving into a number of project areas. The following headings are a suggested guide to areas that could, "grab", the interest of individuals or perhaps a small group of NHG members who would like to work together.

Ideas on furthering the research side of the Nunthorpe History Group would be very welcome; some possible subject areas are as follows:

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### **The First NHG Project**

Sadly, our first attempt at a project failed. We had approached the National Heritage Lottery for funding to produce a Nunthorpe History DVD to include a number of interviews with residents and some footage of Nunthorpe's places of interest. As the funding pre-application process progressed HLF were insistent on knowing the number of residents within Nunthorpe who were going to become involved. Although we provided a list of actual jobs entailed in the project it is sad to relate no group members or members of the public, other than those already in the core of the project, came forward to offer their services following my appeal for volunteers in the previous Newsletter. We have since withdrawn our request for funding from the HLF.

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### **Another project**

Nunthorpe History Group have been given permission by the St Mary's Church authorities to conduct a monumental markers (gravestone) survey in the Churchyard, A partial survey was completed in 1988 by the Cleveland Family History Society. Anyone interested in helping out please contact Bob Mullen on 01642 324939.

## Elizabeth – working for the Dormans

by V. Bain-Myers ©

*In this story, Elizabeth describes her experience and observations when working for the Dorman family, from her teenage years to age twenty-four. The story has been put together from discussions with Elizabeth, from her notes and letters.*

'It was during the First World War that I went for an interview at Crathome Grange, the home of Mr. Arthur J Dorman, the youngest son of Sir Arthur Dorman who was the owner of the Dorman and Long Steelworks in Middlesbrough. My brother was home on leave, so he came with me to Dorman's for the interview. The groom came to meet us at Picton Station, which is near Yarm on Tees.

'When we arrived, the parlour maid opened the door - a lovely girl with ginger hair whose name was Gladys. We were taken to the drawing room to meet Mrs. Dorman. After a short talk, we went to the nursery to meet the Nanny and the two Dorman children. The baby was kicking away, lying on a settee. I spoke to him and said something which made him laugh, and Mrs. Dorman said 'Oh, Elizabeth, he has taken to you already'. Nanny looked satisfied with me and the little girl was tugging at Mrs. Dorman's dress saying 'Mummy, I like this maid best'.



**Elizabeth**

'That is how I was engaged as a Nursery Maid. Of course, I didn't earn much money until I was Nurse, which was £2 a month, a half day off each week, every other Sunday afternoon off and a whole day off once a month. At the end of the first month in service, Mrs. Dorman said 'Well, what do you think Elizabeth'? I said 'Yes, I would love to be Under Nurse'. She said she was so pleased, as she wasn't sure if I wanted to.

'When I was Under Nurse, I went down the nursery stairs to the kitchen for the nursery breakfast. If the kitchen dishes were used, the kitchen maids washed them; and I always washed the nursery china. I went down to the Servants' Hall for lunch with the cook and the other maids, and stayed in the nursery for tea and supper. After nursery tea, Nanny took the

children to their parents in the drawing room; when the little chap was taken back to the Nursery, Miss Dorman stayed until her parents dressed for dinner.

'The Dorman's were good folk to work for. The maids who were there when I first came, were still there when I left. There were dances in the village halls, some near and some not so near, and Mr. Dorman always told the chauffeur to take the car and see that we got back in time; and to lock up before he went to his bothy. Nobody was late. We just never thought of coming back late. It was not a very big staff; there was a parlour maid, two house maids, a between maid who helped in the kitchen most times - cook made sure of that - a pantry boy who helped the parlour maids, two bothy boys who helped the gardener and the groom.

'Mr. Dorman was a Captain in the Yorkshire Regiment. The groom was away with him, being his batman. It was good when Mr Dorman was demobbed, we often went driving in the trap. You don't know how nice that was.

'While we were at Crathorne Grange, the owner of Crathorne Hall was Sir Thomas Dugdale. When his son, Thomas, reached 21 years old, all the gentry around were invited to his party in a marquee in the grounds - it was a beautiful day. Then the next day, the gentry's servants were invited to a party, and what a party! I was in my 20s and enjoyed every minute of it. Young Thomas Dugdale (the papers said) had the face of a Mona Lisa. He became Sir Thomas Dugdale - to do with Agriculture and Fisheries. His cousin married Lord Montague of Beaulieu.



**Crathorne Grange, Yarm today -  
previous home of the  
Arthur J. Dorman family**

'The children were often asked out to tea and it was very nice to meet other nurses and to see other homes. On holidays, we took the children to Saltburn and we took our own linen. We did not do that when we went to Sandsend Hotel near Scarborough because they had good bed linen. But once, when we went to Saltburn, there were cotton sheets on the bed and Miss Dorman said 'Oh Elizabeth, I can't sleep in cotton sheets'; she was so upset that I phoned Lady Dorman who told me to buy linen sheets.

'Best of all, we liked to stay at Grey Towers, which was the home of Sir Arthur and Lady Clara Dorman. There was a full staff at Grey Towers - a butler, housekeeper, lady's maid, sewing maid, two maids in the laundry, a cook, assistant cook, kitchen maid, a between maid and a pantry boy. There was also Home Farm, where all the fowl were kept and the meat, and whatever was needed for the house. The kitchen garden was ever so big, with vegetables and fruit a'plenty.

'We had a nice roomy nursery overlooking the front entrance. There was a night nursery and a room next door which I used. Granny (Lady Clara) came every night to say goodnight to the children. She was small and plump, with a bonny face, lovely blue eyes, pretty grey hair and a lovely complexion. Sir Arthur was over six foot tall; he got up very early each morning for a long

walk. I loved Sir Arthur and Lady Dorman, they were so kind to me when I took their grandchildren to stay with them.

'We often spent Christmas at Grey Towers. The children loved it - and so did I. Their cousins also stayed over Christmas - three young girls and two boys. On Christmas morning in the hall, with the tree packed as full as could be with presents for everyone, we were all exchanging presents. I remember one year getting a work box - I wasn't much of a needle-woman! Mrs. Dorman said she didn't mind a bit as we had a lady from Yarm to do all the sewing for us. Nanny had left by then, she was old and going blind.

'When I was at Grey Towers as an Under Nurse, I had to go to the Servants' Hall for lunch. The Butler was at the top of the dinner table and the Housekeeper at the other end. The Butler carved the joint, a great big joint, and we waited while our plates were passed along. No one spoke during the lunch, and we were glad when the Butler and Housekeeper left the room to have coffee in the Housekeeper's room. It was like going into a shop in the Housekeeper's room. Each week you had to go to her for stores - soap, polish and duster, if needed.



**Grey Towers today –  
previous home of Sir Arthur Dorman  
and Lady Dorman**

'I should have written sooner about Christmas Night, with the house beautifully decorated and the gentry going in to dinner. Even the children were allowed to look down into the hall. What a sight; the ladies looked extra nice in evening dresses. The men looked nice, too, each with a lady on his arm - that means her hand on his arm.

'All things come to an end and we were ready to go back home. By then, we had moved from Crathome and were living at Kirklevington Grange, which was a very big house with more grounds. 'Oh, I must tell you that Granny Dorman always gave me £2 on saying goodbye. That was a lot of money and equalled a month's pay, so you will know what a help it was. Granny said to her daughter-in-law 'Where did you find Elizabeth' - and Granny would say to me that if I ever left my present position 'Come to me, Elizabeth'.

'In the grounds at Grey Towers there was a very old car, as roomy as a London taxi. The children loved to play in it - and the speaking tube made a popular game. The children also loved to play with a huge old-fashioned pram with very big wheels, and the body was made of wicker basket. The Dorman children's cousins, being older than them, used to go tree climbing. I liked to gather fruit from a pear tree in the grounds, they were Jack pears and tasted better than the Hazel pears. The children's parents used to go on holiday and had to go abroad at times and that's why we stayed at Grey Towers.

'When Sir Arthur and Lady Dorman had their Golden Wedding they invited all the workmen and their wives to tea at Grey Towers. They had a wonderful time. The day was fine and there was

much to enjoy - bands and entertainment. I was at Grey Towers with the children at the time, and I knew many people from my home town.



### **Sir Arthur and Lady Dorman of Grey Towers, Nunthorpe**

'The children always hung a Union Jack out of the nursery window when their parents arrived back from holiday. It was a large bow window with a long window seat where they could sit and watch all the cars coming up the drive. The nursery was large and roomy with a bright red carpet, two white wardrobes full of toys, a couch and a sideboard. The night nursery led out from the day nursery

'On rainy days, Miss Dorman would open the wardrobe doors and, with one big grab, gathered all the animals out and onto the floor, to have an animal show. It took some time! I used to select the one I thought was the 'first prize winner'; In any case, the time passed quickly and, if the weather was anything like, we went out - even in the rain.

'One time there was a children's tennis tournament. Miss Dorman was good at tennis and decided to have a go. I washed her tennis dress and when I took it off the line, it had shrunk; so I washed it again and ironed it while still wet. Miss Dorman had been upset, but you should have seen her wiping the tears away when she was able to wear her favourite tennis dress - and so thrilled when she won the tournament.

'When I was leaving to get married, Mr. Dorman found out about my fiance and his work, he spoke with him and found that 'He had a good character and more brains than the average working man' - Mr. Dorman told me; and he said to my future husband 'You have a real good girl there, and mind you be good to her'.

'At my wedding I had the Dorman's chauffeur, maids, groom, bothy boys and flowers from the gardener. Mrs. Dorman gave me many gifts in addition to a cutlery set with my initial on, and there were presents from Lady Dorman, from Mrs. Dorman's sister, and her mother who lived in Ireland, and from Lady Blake who lived at Worsall. Alec Blake used to tell all the news for the horse racing.

'When Miss Dorman was to be married, I had an invitation to the wedding. By that time I had children, so my friend looked after them for the day. I looked very smart for the special day. The bride did look lovely; she was tall and slim, all in white. I sat at the back in the church. Suddenly, Master Dorman was at my side asking 'Elizabeth, whatever are you doing in a back seat' - and he ushered me to the second seat at the front. I had a real nice view of the bride. After the wedding we were taken to Kirklevington Grange - and what a lovely time we had'.

'It was always a lovely surprise at Christmas time when, for many years afterwards, Mr. and Mrs. Dorman sent their chauffeur to my house with parcels of toys and books for my children. The Dorman's were so good to me'. (About sixty years after she worked for Dorman's, Elizabeth referred to the paintings of Sir Arthur and Lady Dorman). She wrote:

'In the Dorman Museum there was a lovely painting of Sir Arthur and Lady Dorman in the entrance - both Life size. The next time I called at the Museum, the paintings had been shortened - then the paintings disappeared. I found out that they went to the Art Gallery, which was opposite Forbes Building. So I went back to the Museum and had quite a bit to say to them - ending up with me saying 'You have not heard the last of me'. Next time I visited, there were the Sir Arthur and the Lady Dorman paintings in the Museum'.

*N.B. At the time of writing, there is no sign of the Dorman paintings in the Dorman Museum. Yet I am sure Elizabeth would love others to enjoy the pleasure she had when seeing the paintings hung in the museum. The gift of paintings, seen in the Museum, was a reminder of the good works and generosity of Sir Arthur and Lady Dorman.*

- **Article kindly provided with the permission of Vivien Bain-Myers**

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## **How things have changed**

By John Cundall

*Councillor John Cundall is the well known proprietor of our local pharmacy and has lived in Nunthorpe 42 years. He looks back on how The Station shopping parade was and express concern for the future of local shops.*

Back in the 1950s when the village was beginning to grow, with houses appearing almost overnight on the surrounding green fields and open spaces (on which I used to play as a child), the shopping area looked quite different to the present day. Many of the older residents will remember Lloyds Bank started out in the present Fruit and Vegetable shop and the butchers was a ladies hairdressing salon. The Building Society was a drapers and the Doctor's surgery a sweet shop etc. etc. How things have been changed!

The winds of change continue to blow, but sadly not always for the good. We have lost our bakers and more recently Lloyds Bank, who in their wisdom and with little apparent concern for customers locally also decided to close their doors. What next?

With the advent of supermarkets and out of town shopping complex, small community shopping centres the length and breadth of the country are under great pressure and are suffering quite badly, a fact that even the government now accept. Nunthorpe is no exception.

Whilst I have never been a great advocate of the expression "use it or lose it", preferring a more positive and proactive approach to flagging sales, I am now beginning to wonder whether a re-think is in order. Yes, one stop shopping is convenient but at what price is the convenience achieved? Is bigger necessarily cheaper in the long term and can we in all honesty afford to tolerate closure of neighbourhood shops and services?

Shopping in Nunthorpe has been a feature of our lives for a long time, providing a broad spread of vital services of particular importance to our OAPs and those without transport and a real boon for that quick shopping trip.

Lets ALL ensure that these services continue with our active support, and that any changes in the future are changes for the benefit and not the detriment of our community.

**John Cundall, 1988**

### **\*\*Latest News\*\***

The Nunthorpe History Group are extremely pleased to announce they have just received a funding grant of £500 from Nunthorpe Parish Council, allowing the Group to continue operating for the next year without the need for introducing membership fees. All public speaker events held at The Institute will continue to be free of charge as will the quarterly Newsletter. Our many thanks go out to the Nunthorpe Parish Council.

### **Nunthorpe Parish Council announce their Photographic Competition – Summer in Nunthorpe**

Nunthorpe Parish Council is holding a photographic competition which is open to all residents of Nunthorpe and Nunthorpe Village. The subject is “Summer in Nunthorpe” and all photographs submitted should be taken within the boundaries of Nunthorpe and Nunthorpe Village.

The groups for entries are: up to 11 years old, 12 to 16 years old and 17+ years old. Each group will be awarded prizes of: 1st place £25, 2nd place £15, 3rd place £10. Each person is allowed to enter up to 2 photographs. Prints should be between 7”x5” and 10”x8”. Please mount all photographs on card and print your name, age group, address and telephone number on the back. The closing date is the 25th September 2012. Send all entries to: N.P.C. Clerk, 1 Muirfield, Nunthorpe, TS7 0JN.

The competition will be independently judged and an exhibition will be held in October. N.P.C. may use some photographs in a 2013 calendar and by entering you give N.P.C. permission to do so.

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### **The Begging Bowl**

If you have any interesting items of history to add to the next NHG newsletter or have any photos or documents you would be willing to have copied or scanned into the NHG Archives please contact Bob Mullen at [nunthorpehistory2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nunthorpehistory2@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone 01642 324939





Postcard and programme kindly donated by Miss Margeret Potts, originally of Grey Towers Farm



## Programme of Events.

11 a.m. **Nunthorpe Parish Church.** Relay of Thanksgiving Service from St. Paul's Cathedral. All cordially invited.

2-15 p.m. **Assembly at the Polo Field, when Jubilee Medals will be presented to all children by the donor, Mrs. Dorman.**

2-30 p.m. **Fancy Bicycle Parade.** Prizes for the best decorated Bicycles—open to all boys and girls.

### SPORTS for boys and girls as follows :

- EVENT 1. 50 yds. Flat Race for boys and girls under 6 years of age.
- EVENT 2. 70 yds. Flat Race (Handicap), for boys under 9 years of age.
- EVENT 3. 70 yds. Flat Race (Handicap), for girls under 9 years of age.
- EVENT 4. 70 yds. Flat Race (Handicap) for boys under 13 years of age.
- EVENT 5. 70 yds. Flat Race (Handicap) for girls under 13 years of age.
- EVENT 6. 100 yds. Flat Race (Handicap) for school-boys over 13 years of age.
- EVENT 7. 100 yds. Flat Race (Handicap) for school-girls over 13 years of age.
- EVENT 8. 20 yds. Wheelbarrow Race for boys and girls—any age.
- EVENT 9. 50 yds. Skipping Race (Handicap) for girls—any age.
- EVENT 10. 30 yds. Sack Race for boys and girls—any age.

4-30 p.m. **TEA** will be provided for all, and each child presented with a souvenir **Beaker.**

5-15 p.m. **FINAL OF EVENTS Nos. 1 to 7.**

- EVENT 11. Slow Bicycle Race for 50 yds. for boys and girls—any age.
- EVENT 12. Obstacle Race for boys. The obstacles will comprise Net, Tyres, Sacks (open ended).
- EVENT 13. Balloon Race—50 yds., boys and girls; any age.
- EVENT 14. 100 yds. Open Championship Flat Race (Scratch) for Old Lads—over 16 years.
- EVENT 15. **TIT-BIT for OLD GIRLS—over 16 years, "CAPTAIN SAYS."** A Jubilee Spoor will be presented to the three successful Competitors.

Prizes for all other Events, as follows :  
1st 4/-. 2nd 2/6. 3rd 2/-. and three Runners-up at 1/-. each.

**FESTIVAL CRICKET MATCH—Ladies v. Gentlemen.**  
(Names of intending Players to be handed in to the Sports Secretary, H. E. Ward, promptly.)

The Celebrations will close with the presentation of a **Souvenir Bar of Chocolate** to each child up to 16 years of age.



## Tail piece



**Guisborough Road shops c1950s**



**The Hunt on Guisborough Road 1956**

**Pictures kindly provided by John Cundall**

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**For more Nunthorpe history please visit our website –  
[www.nunthorpehistorygroup.org](http://www.nunthorpehistorygroup.org)**