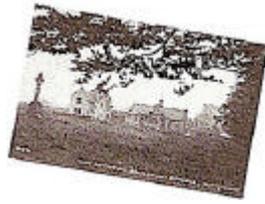




# Nunthorpe History Group



Preserving and recording the heritage of Nunthorpe

**Nunthorpe History Group Newsletter No. 7**

**July 2013**

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

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 (e-mail request to [b2mullen@hotmail.com](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**

**Linthorpe Pottery and designer Christopher Dresser**

**by Gill Moore**

**Curator, Dorman Museum**

**Monday, 08 July 2013**

**venue – The Dorman Suite, The Institute,  
The Avenue School, Nunthorpe**

**starting 7:00 pm**

## **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.

All documents and photographs are subject to the copyright of the original owners or Nunthorpe History Group.

## **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. Any ideas on furthering the research side of the Nunthorpe History Group would be very welcome.

**Hard copies of NHG archives** - A considerable amount of the archives are archived in electronic form on computer.

Recently a large quantity of this archival material was reproduced as hard-copy in a number of ring binders and is available for viewing by those members who do not have a computer.

**Newsletter back copies** – if you wish to receive any back copies of the Nunthorpe History Group Newsletter please contact [b2mullen@hotmail.com](mailto:b2mullen@hotmail.com) or telephone 01642 324939.

**Thanks** - Many thanks to the July Newsletter contributors for their articles . If you have any interesting stories or reminiscences of an early Nunthorpe please contact me .



## **Nunthorpe History Group**

### **Preserving the past for future generations**

## The Linthorpe Pottery collection in the Dorman Museum

Middlesbrough was home to one of the most innovative and interesting potteries of the Victorian era. Established in 1879 by John Harrison, a local entrepreneur and Christopher Dresser, an important designer of the time, the pottery went on to produce over 2000 different shapes of ceramic ware in its short 10 year life.

Today Linthorpe pottery is highly collectable. It is very popular locally, but is also known and respected world-wide. Its distinctive mark has made it easily recognizable.

The gallery explains how the pottery came about; who were the people behind it; why they chose a site in Middlesbrough; where the ideas and inspiration sprang from and why the pottery closed.



**Linthorpe Art Pottery**

The interpretation also compares other local Victorian potteries and the life and work of Christopher Dresser.

The gallery has 3 free-standing glazed cases of ceramics each with additional material in accessible drawers below illustrating the story of the pottery. There is an additional case of Dresser

designed artifacts, mostly metalwork, and a Dresser Coalbrookdale cast iron chair (Lily pattern). Two large 'walk-in' cases show reconstructions of the Linthorpe pottery painting room and 'Dresser & Holmes' London warehouse shop. There are about 600 individual items on display. For 2006 three new cases have been installed to show new acquisitions of Linthorpe, other related pottery as well as items designed by Christopher Dresser.



**Linthorpe Art Pottery**

Two computer interactives illustrate the people and processes of the pottery as well as a fully illustrated searchable database of Linthorpe mould numbers. There are two hands-on installations where children can construct their own version of a Linthorpe pot and guess what is hidden within a 'feelie-box'.

The Dorman Museum forms part of Middlesbrough Council's 'Museums Service' along with its sister venue - the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, situated in Stewart Park.

The Dorman Museum houses a large collection of items from the fantastic to the fabulous, celebrating Middlesbrough's heritage through natural history and geology to social history and Victorian arts and craft

*Article reproduced with the kind permission of the Dorman Museum*

# Nunthorpe in 1933

by Halcyone Purvis

As a family we moved to Nunthorpe on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1933 to the business of Mrs Wilson in Rookwood Road, the property belonging to Mr Dodds, a cooper in Middlesbrough, living in Marton Moor Road. I was 13 coming from a working class area, Newton, between Eston and Grangetown, similar to Nunthorpe as it was then but much smaller houses.

Nunthorpe Station as it was then was only two or three streets near the station, with blocks of six houses with large rooms, built by the Dormans and had iron railings enclosing the front gardens. During World War II the iron was taken to help the war effort. The Railway houses were as they are now. The larger houses standing in their very large grounds along Guisborough Road continuing to Brunton's Farm house facing the road to Stokesley. Then all houses had to have slate roofs, a dictate of the Dormans who owned slate quarries. None of the houses had numbers, they all had names.

There were amenities we do not have now. There was a Garage to repair your car where you could buy petrol and order a taxi from Mr Anderson living in Marton Moor Road. We had a resident policeman to look after us day and night. There were two house shops in Rookwood Road. The one from the dining room of "Dolveen" selling sweets and newspapers and Mrs Prince at 16 Rookwood Road selling bread and cakes etc. There were many more trains and by changing at Battersby you could have a scenic ride to Scarborough. On entering the station was the Stationmaster's office where you were issued with a cardboard ticket before getting on the steam train. Next came the Porters room with a roaring fire and a Porter who not only looked after you but also grew flowers at the end of the platform. There was a

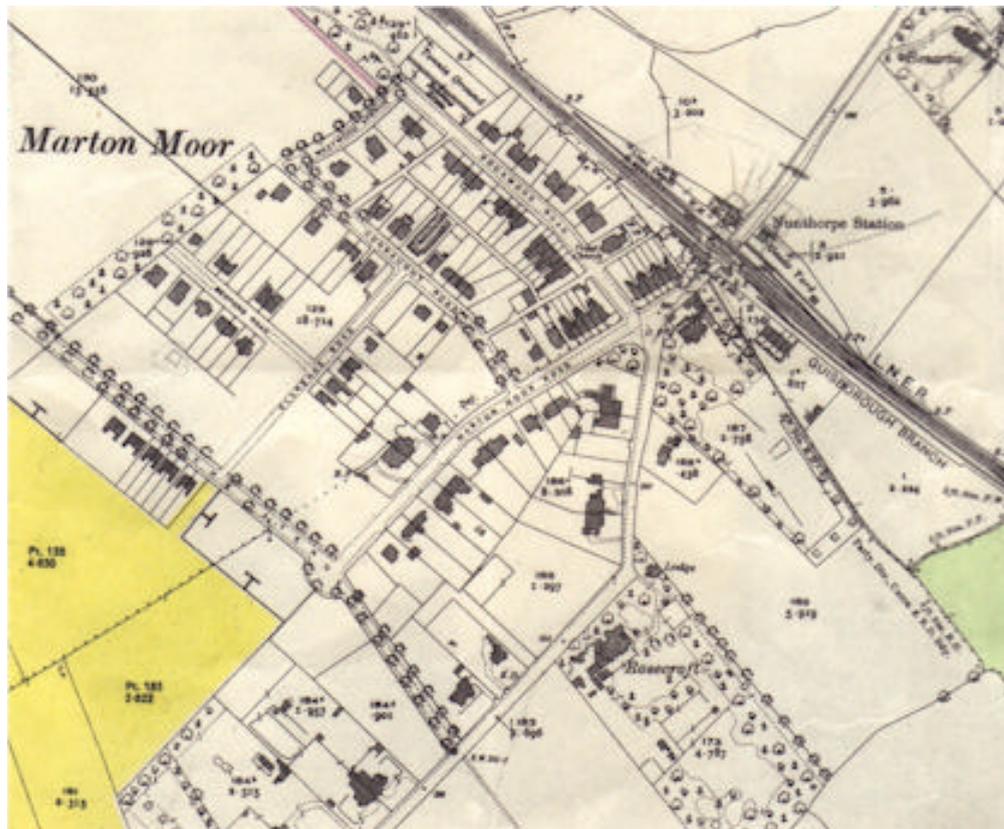
passenger's Waiting Room with a fire to warm you while you waited for the train (now incorporated into the Station House).



**Nunthorpe Station after heavy snow  
- a definite need for waiting room fires**

At the bottom of Marton Moor Road Mrs Malyon ran the Kindergarten School for children who eventually went on to boarding school at 11, Later the school was moved to The Firs and was taken over by Mrs Knaggs. The Tree was used as a meeting place where there was the only streetlight in Nunthorpe except for the lamp outside the Station.

The other children went to the Village School, a Church school near St. Mary's Church. The now enlarged Vicarage was originally the Headmaster's house. Mr Layland was the Headmaster and his family stayed on in Nunthorpe. Billy lived in Westwood Avenue, Charlie in The Avenue and Miss Olivia Layland, who was in charge of selling the Earl Haig poppies, lived in Connaught Road. It was a mixed school with two rooms, one for the 5 to 11 year olds and one for the 11 to 14 year olds. There were two playgrounds, one for boys and one for girls. Most children over 11 years went to Middlesbrough High School, the Convent School or Guisborough Grammar School, travelling either on the bus or the train.



### Nunthorpe in the 1930s

In 1933 all of Nunthorpe was in the North Riding of Yorkshire. There was no division of boundaries at the railway crossing. Further down the line was the Coal Depot.

The two railway houses on the other side of the line were as they are today and then just two shops, Robinson's with groceries and the Post Office and another shop. Then followed the fields with a clear stream reflecting Kingcups in the water (this stream causing flooding trouble in York Road in years to come), then to the farmhouse where two elderly sisters lived, Mrs Adamson and Mrs Dixon (of Dixon Bank, named after her family).

Almost opposite was the Hill Grange where the Neilsons lived. The house was burned down about 5 years ago. There were no further houses until Upsall Hall where brother and sister lived, John and Myra Swan (hence Swans Corner). There were two entrances to the Hall, the entrance on the corner was the gardener's house. When the Swans died in 1960 the house was sold and some of the contents auctioned at the

house. So many houses in Nunthorpe have bits and pieces from Upsall Hall.

The houses on Guisborough Road were mostly occupied by people who were bringing work to Middlesbrough and Stockton. Cochranes at The Box, Harrisons at Red House, Hintons, Stubbs, Moodies, Jacksons, Miss Thompson, Bulmers, Crossthwaites, Hedleys, Shepherds, Bolckows and the Whinneys who came later. The maids, cooks and gardeners for these houses lived in the smaller houses owned by their employers.

As now there has always been a Polo Field but no polo played since World War 1. The train brought the horses and the friends of the Dormans and the Bolckows to play polo. Sadly, many of the young men who played were killed in the trenches and so no more polo was ever played.

How did the people entertain themselves? No television. Cricket was always popular (white flannels). Saturday afternoons brought spectators as well as players,

always enjoying afternoon tea with cakes and sandwiches in the sunshine.

Other entertainment was in The Institute in Connaught Road where men played billiards, snooker and cards. The women met once a month at The Women's Institute meeting. Evening classes held in many interesting subjects. In 1933 there was no resident Doctor in Nunthorpe. Dr Waldy came from Great Ayton, Dr Stainthorpe from Guisborough. Later Mrs Kirby used her front room as a surgery for the Great Ayton doctors.

I want to mention Mrs Charles Dorman who lived in Rye Hill in Brass Castle Lane. She was a widow, wife of Sir Arthur Dorman's son. She always made time to say a word (in a soft Irish voice) to the choir girls and boys at St. Mary's Church. Her car number plate was **AJ5**.

I also want to mention the Brunton family who have been very generous to Nunthorpe. Mr and Mrs Brunton senior gave the land for St Mary's Hall to be built on.

Before their son Jack died he and his wife Joan set up the Jack Brunton Trust Fund that has quietly but has quietly helped by paying for improvements in Nunthorpe.

Yet Jack Brunton, by selling the farmland changed Nunthorpe, with the building of the Myton Estate and the Wimpey Estate. The new houses brought to Nunthorpe some very kind and interesting people.

The Brunton family will always be remembered among the worldwide farming community for their pedigree Ayrshire cattle.

*With kind thanks to Halcyone Purvis*

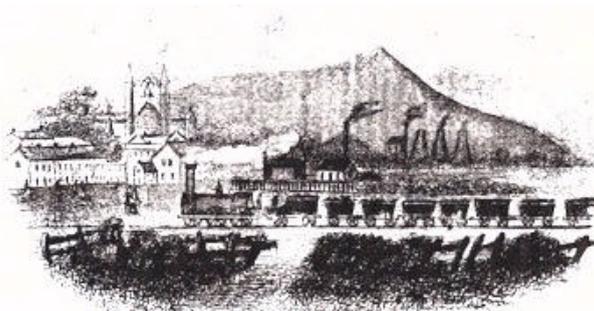
## Early Nunthorpe Station

By Peter Lowrie

The Middlesbrough-Guisborough branch of the North Eastern Railway (N.E.R.) railway line was originally opened in 1853 as a mineral line. Owing to its position at the top of a relatively steep gradient rising up from the Middlesbrough direction, Nunthorpe was a compulsory stopping place for the numerous ironstone trains from the mines in the Cleveland area. The stop was necessary for the purpose of applying wagon brakes by the guard. The brakes weren't released until the wagons reached the Pennyman's signal box, a distance of nearly 4 miles.

Nunthorpe Station was officially opened to much celebration in 1854 for the use of passengers on this line. The Station House was built at a cost of £295. This comprised a very small booking office and general office, a porter-gateman cabin, a general waiting room, a ladies room, both

with fires when needed and the Station Master's living accommodation.



**A vignette of a share certificate for the Middlesbrough – Guisborough line**

A signal box was situated on the other side of a busy road guarded by gates that kept the gateman very busy. In the 1890s there were a considerable number of mineral trains during the day plus about 20 stopping passenger trains daily, four goods

trains and one coal train daily, with extra passenger trains on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The line was operational between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. on most days.

The station yard was large enough to allow horse drawn carriages to turn round after dropping off or collecting the local gentry and iron-masters that travelled into their offices in Middlesbrough. Nunthorpe Station was also a changing point for passengers and parcels between the Middlesbrough – Guisborough and Middlesbrough – Battersby branches. Horseboxes and freight being transferred as necessary. The Nunthorpe – Battersby link was built in 1865.



**Nunthorpe Station layout in 1863**

The early staffing arrangements for the Station comprised the Station Master, one junior clerk, two porter-gatemen, three signalmen working in the signal box and one porter-signalman. The Station Master at this time earned 28 shillings a week but had the Station House rent-free.

At one time the Station House accommodated the Station Master, Mr Simon Robertson, his second wife, 14 children, a boarder, a son-in-law and a domestic servant! Mr Robertson served as Station Master from 1853 to 1896. After his death he was suspected of haunting the station – and perhaps he still does.

The station was one of the first to have installed an electric telegraph line signalling system. This service was also offered to customers (at a price) for messaging to and

from their offices. A later facility was a toilet with a “penny in the slot” mechanism. A typical passenger routine would be travelling into Middlesbrough on the 6.30 a.m. train and returning on the 7.02 p.m. train for five days of the working week.

The stations were also heavily used by local farmers for loading and unloading produce and farm animals. Fresh milk was brought to the station in carts known as milk floats and placed on the train at a rate of one halfpenny per gallon. A considerable amount of hay was shipped from the station to the collieries in the Durham coalfields.

At potato-picking time women from the Irish quarter in Middlesbrough descended on Nunthorpe and spent the day “scratting” in the fields, returning to Middlesbrough in the evening with an apron full of potatoes received from the farmers in part payment for their services. Any potatoes dropped around the station were usually found their way into the porter gateman’s cabin where they were roasted and provided a very acceptable winter evening’s snack.



**Nunthorpe Station as a private house**

A postal mail-cart from Stokesley met the 6.30 a.m. train each weekday to deal with incoming mail for Great Ayton and Stokesley, with deliveries and collections from villages en route. The mail-cart would reappear at the Station to meet the 7.00 p.m. train.

Occasionally wagons of gunpowder arrived for storage in the local powder magazine on Marton Moor Road pending transfer to the ironstone mines for use in blasting. These consignments were treated with great care

but luckily there were no recorded accidents.

Town manure, or 'night soil' from Middlesbrough (often referred to as 'violets') arrived in large quantities in special wagons at a rate of one shilling per ton, destined for the local farmer's fields.

The manure was often kept in the sidings until collected by farmers but the smell became so objectionable that after many complaints unloading at the station was prohibited and it could only be dealt with at the outlying sidings some distance from the station.

The local gentry were regular exhibitors of livestock at agricultural shows, jumping events and trotting competitions

The station was equipped with loading docks to handle cattle and horsebox traffic. Nunthorpe Station was gathering ground for polo ponies, fox hounds and hunt horses when local events were arranged. During the show season the traffic through the station was considerable.

Nunthorpe Station eventually closed to goods 10/08/1964.

In April 2000 BBC's Antiques Road Show production team visited Nunthorpe Station House and expressed their delight in its age and its rebirth after considerable refurbishment by the then owners Helen Lowrie and David Crawford.

Nunthorpe Station Masters –

1853 – 1896 : Simon Robinson  
1896 – 1921 : W. Huby  
1921 – 1933 : J. Stainthorpe  
1934 – 1935 : A.R. Brackenridge  
1935 – 1942 : H.H. Wright  
1942 - 19?? : F. Cowell  
19?? – 19?? : H. Lewis  
19?? – 1964 : Brian Murray

1964 – 1993 : Station House privately rented by Mr and Mrs Thomas and Evelyn Gawthorpe (previously Morton Carr crossing guard/passenger guard).

1993 – 1997 : Station House privately purchased by widowed Mrs. Evelyn Gawthorpe.

1997 – 2003 : Station House privately purchased by Helen Lowrie and David Crawford, House considerably refurbished.

Station House presently owned by Mr and Mrs Lyon.

There are some further interesting anecdotes on the Station we hope to include in a later Newsletter.

*With thanks to Peter Lowrie*

Sources :

- Nunthorpe Station recollections, 1890. by W.Huby (Railway Magazines Public Record Office reference PER 88/2/4 and PER 88/3/1-4
- Darlington Council Archives DARRM NA262-266/ENT00135/13344 to 13348

## **Childhood Memories of Nunthorpe: 1939 to 1954**

by Pat Smith

My family came to Nunthorpe Station in 1939, just as the war started. I was only three weeks old. My parents had decided to leave Acklam Road, because they felt that it was too near to Thornaby Aerodrome. We

moved into Heatherlea, 37, Marton Moor Road and my maternal grandparents, the Appleyards, soon joined us there. Grandfather Appleyard ran Appleyard's the Printers in Middlesbrough.

The printing presses were in Short Street, now under the Odeon, and the shop was in Albert Road, now a building society.

In those days, Nunthorpe Station only consisted of Guisborough Road, Marton Moor Road, Rookwood Road, Connaught Road, Clarence Road, Bedford Road, West Wood Avenue and the Avenue, which stopped at number 49. Brunton's farm was on Marton Moor Corner, with a row of houses next to it to the west on Guisborough Road. There were also only a few houses on Stokesley Road. Beyond the railway crossing on the left was Gypsy Lane, also known colloquially as Back Lane.

Sometimes there was confusion over Nunthorpe Station, Nunthorpe Village and Nunthorpe, York, particularly with postal deliveries – as I discovered to my cost as a teenager when helping out with the Christmas post.

My earliest memories of Nunthorpe was of watching the soldiers out of my bedroom window every morning. They were billeted over the road at number 10 Marton Moor Road and they did their mass drills along the road. I also remember the tanks going along Guisborough Road past the top of the Avenue.

As the war was ending, I was old enough to go to school. There were only two schools then: the village school, a long walk away near the church, and the Firs school, which was a private school in the large semi-detached house at the corner of Guisborough Road and Marton Moor Road. The Firs school was run by Mrs Mallion, who lived down Rookwood Road, opposite to Miss Carter. She was head of the village school. Kevin Amer, Sylvia & David Buckle, Marna Henderson and Michael Tye also went to the Firs school at the same time as me.

The site near the junction of Marton Moor Road and Connaught Road, where the Methodist Church is now, used to be allotments sometime before the war but had become rough overgrown land, where we used to play. Over the road in the back

alley, were garages and a concreted area, where we used to roller skate.



**Marton Moor Road junction 1953**

There were very few houses on the Guisborough side of the station: two terraced houses at the entrance to the coal yard – now a car park adjacent to the shops – and Anderson's garage on the opposite side of the road. There were also a few houses backing on to the railway line, going down to the bowling club, where my father and grandfather were members. The club house was in an old railway carriage.



**Guisborough Road shops**

I remember that initially there were only three shops in Nunthorpe. Ward's general store was on the corner of Marton Moor Road and Rookwood Road. Over the railway crossing was the Post Office and Tate's the greengrocers. I remember Cundall's the chemist and Gjertsen's the general store arriving – we weren't pleased at losing our play area to a parade of shops!

One of our favourite play places was in the bomb crater opposite Nessfield on Guisborough Road. Luckily, the bomb had landed on soft boggy ground and created quite a deep crater. It soon filled with water and became a good area for frogs and newts. At the back of this was a large field, Watson's field, which extended up to Gypsy Lane. We made dens in the gorse bushes (a little hazardous!) in this field and picked cowslips there.

At the time of the bombing, a gentleman called Mr Bashford, who was living in rented accommodation at number 6 Marton Moor Road, was playing cards with the caretaker of Nessfield (the owner was abroad during the war) when the bomb landed opposite. The two men became covered in soot! Mr Bashford later became our gardener.

Another place worth visiting was Poole Hospital lake, where there was a disused boathouse. On one of our visits, a boy climbed on to the roof, which inconveniently collapsed landing him in the water.



**Poole Hospital Lake and Boathouse**

Another memory was of feeling very annoyed when I learned that Mr Dowson, the noted Nunthorpe builder, was going to build houses on one of our best sledging slopes. This became The Greenway, leading to Green Close, where I subsequently once lived!

One place in Nunthorpe that was central to everything was the Institute, which had a large stage.

It brought the people of Nunthorpe together through a variety of functions: plays, whist drives, dances, scouts' and guides' meetings, film shows, Youth Club and Women's Institute. Mrs Fletcher ran her dancing classes there. There was also billiards/snooker and table tennis available at the rear. Having a kitchen, it was also often used for children's parties. It was used as the library in later years. Nearly everyone attended the New Year's Eve dance, held there each year.

Old Mr Ward from the shop, draped in a very large towel, represented the New Year!! The Institute was a large wooden structure and, sadly, this was its downfall for some years later it burnt down.

One of the joys of living in a small village in those days was that everyone knew everyone else – although this did restrict our mischief making somewhat!

I now live in Newby and I find that it is very much like the Nunthorpe of old, a quiet village surrounded by fields. I wonder how long that can last?

Meanwhile, until the developers start casting their evil eyes over our fields, I shall continue to enjoy the company of my rescued greyhounds in the delightful environs of Newby.

*Pat Smith (née Morgan)*  
*Newby*

## Cricket in Nunthorpe

From the notebook of Queenie Ward and her book "The Heart of Captain Cook Country"

(with the kind permission of Halcyone Purvis)

Enthusiasm for cricket in Yorkshire is well known nationally and never more so than in this corner of the old North Riding in the villages of Nunthorpe, Marton and Ormesby. Long before the Test Matches could be heard on the radio or watched on television, the fortunes of the cricket team was of the greatest concern of every one in the village from the "Squire" to the schoolboy.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Sir Arthur Dorman of Grey Towers, Nunthorpe, Colonel Pennymann of Ormesby Hall and Mr Penry Williams of Normanby Hall were all very active patrons and supporters of their village teams before the Second World War.

On the cricket field all social barriers were forgotten as the sons of the great landowners played side by side with the farmer's sons and labourers.

Skill with bat and ball was applauded by all and the winning of a local match was of vital interest to all. The greatest rivalry was between Nunthorpe and Marton. At Nunthorpe the matches were played on the cricket ground in the grounds of Grey Towers and supported by the Dorman family. After the death of Sir Arthur Dorman in 1931 and Grey Towers was sold, Mr O'Neil, who lived at Nunthorpe Hall, gave the cricket club the field which is now the upper part of the sports field. Then a fine wooden pavilion was built where the ladies provided refreshments of sandwiches, homemade cakes and teas during the interval between the two innings.

About 1952 when the Polo Field came up for sale Lady Kathleen Harrison, who at that time lived in Red Cottage, which almost faced the field, bought it and presented it to the inhabitants of Nunthorpe as a sports field. It was then that the Sports Club was inaugurated and the present

pavilion first built. It has been greatly extended in recent years.



**Marton Cricket Team 1907. Showing three members of the Brunton family, a few years earlier nearly the whole team was made up of Bruntons.**

An extract from the ledgers of Mr G.W. Johnson, secretary to the Grey Towers Cricket Club, listing the membership of the 1900 cricket season when each player paid 2 shillings and 6 pence annual fee. Total income £3.7.6d

<i>R.W Johnson</i>	<i>M. Dixon</i>
<i>J.W. Johnson</i>	<i>T. Clarkson</i>
<i>H. Hutchinson</i>	<i>W. Huby</i>
<i>G. Musk</i>	<i>W. Charlton</i>
<i>R. Davison</i>	<i>W. Whitelock</i>
<i>W. Richardson</i>	<i>G. Tanfield</i>
<i>T. Blackburn</i>	<i>M. Dixon</i>
<i>P. Winn</i>	<i>T. Clarkson</i>
<i>H. Pearson</i>	<i>M. Dixon</i>
<i>J. Ransome</i>	<i>J. Clarkson</i>
<i>W. Moore</i>	<i>J. Yarrow</i>
<i>J. Bryden</i>	<i>W. Walker</i>
<i>W. Huby</i>	<i>A. Findlay</i>
<i>W. Charlton</i>	<i>S. Dobson</i>
<i>W. Whitelock</i>	<i>T. Curry Esq.</i>
<i>G. Tanfield</i>	<i>D. Jackson</i>

## 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

## Tailpiece



**Two engraved stones located in a back garden in The Avenue. Any ideas?**



**Nunthorpe Bowling Club 1940**



**Nunthorpe Bowling Club 1963**

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

For a more modern view of Nunthorpe today try  
[www.mynunthorpe.org](http://www.mynunthorpe.org)