

Hambleton

VILLAGE NEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023

ISSUE 375

TOP STORIES

Parish Council News P. 3

- JAMbleton
- Hough Barrier
- New Councillor
- New Vacancy
- Rec Field Car Park
- New 'North Yorkshire Council' Updates

Features:

- Major Planning Applications - P.2
- HHRA Events - P.5
- Hambleton FC Juniors - P.7
- Online Article: Leeds under attack - with a Hambleton connection - p.7
- Village Hall News - P.11
- Players' News - P.11



Please don't remove things the PC has obviously put in place for a reason - p.3

Next Parish Council meeting will be on 9th February, 7pm at the Village Hall

IN THIS EDITION

Newsletter Contact...	P.1
Major Local Planning Apps...	P.2
Parish Council News...	P.3
H.I.H.G...	P.4
HHRAA...	P.5
News from Chapel...	P.7
Hambleton FC Juniors...	P.7
Online Article...	P.7
News from St Mary's Church...	P.9
Village Hall ...	P.11
Useful Contacts & Diary...	P.12

Adverts throughout

Newsletter Contact:

Contribute to the next Newsletter

Get in touch with the Clerk

EMAIL: info@hambleton-pc.gov.uk

For business adverts, please use the same contact as above.

Deadline for entries to the next Newsletter:

Edition 376 (APR/MAY 23) is

10th MARCH 2023

www.hambleton-pc.gov.uk

MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS

MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN THE AREA

Link: [2022/0665/OUTM](#) | Outline application with all matters reserved except for means of access to, but not within, the site for the development of up to 156 dwellings and associated landscaping and infrastructure works. | Land At Manor Farm Chapel Street

Further information, including a Design and Access Statement and ecology reports have been submitted for the application at Manor Farm, Chapel Street. At this point, the PC is still objecting to the whole idea that the land is appropriate for a housing development.

Hambleton PC comments for the original submitted Plans are on the Selby District Council Planning Portal "Public Access", on P3 of the documents list for this application: <https://public.selby.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=externalDocuments&keyVal=RD29EGNXKLT00>

A brief summary is below:

- Not within the Development Limits of the village - why do the development limits exist if not to protect villages from excessive development?
- Excessive number of new builds already, for a small village
- No employment opportunities and therefore people will use cars to commute to work or train stations - not environmentally sustainable; Bus links extremely limited and not convenient for commuting
- Infrastructure is to capacity:
- Roads: A63 is already subsiding and Chapel Street cannot accommodate a vehicular entrance to an additional 156 houses safely
- Utilities: Drain network is to capacity, regular flooding on Mill Lane adjacent to the proposed site, major power cuts recently led to generators powering the village for several weeks

Residents need to submit comments by 2nd February

Link: [2022/1483/OUTM](#) Outline Planning Application including access, with all other matters reserved for erection of up to 110 residential dwellings | Land at Field Lane, Thorpe Willoughby

Applications have been rejected for this site before due to the proximity to the Brayton Barff. If the Barff, as a "Locally Important Landscape Area", can have housing developments permitted so close to it, the concern is that it sets a precedent and Hambleton Hough may too.

Residents need to submit comments by 1st February

PLEASE NOTE: These applications are looking for PERMISSION TO BUILD IN PRINCIPLE. Comments such as "houses will overlook my property" may not be useful at this stage because the developer could potentially just angle of the new builds away, plant foliage barriers or extend the distance from your property... it is not a reason for them not to build. If permission is granted for the OUTLINE plans, THEN we have to try to make the development have least impact as possible and not being overlooked is an important factor.

**For these OUTLINE applications, if you want to object,
please use reasons that object to the principle of building on the land.**

CONTACT HAMBLETON PC CLERK: INFO@HAMBLETON-PC.GOV.UK

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

These pages will give you an update on what the Parish Council have been dealing with and any issues that have been brought to our attention. Parish Council Meetings are held every second Thursday of the month, check the Notice Board for the most recent Minutes. The next meeting Agenda will be posted 3 days in advance of the meeting on the Notice Board.

Hambleton
Parish Council**CHRISTMAS IN HAMBLETON**

What an end to 2022! Lights Night 2022 was well attended and the new lights were well received. Thank you for all your support and special thanks to Councillor Mountford who has put a lot of effort into organising the event and the Lights Committee.

The Carols on the Green event was fabulous again with many thanks to Fiona Conor and the Team for organising this on top of their already relentless December schedule of community events!

We hope you were able to attend one of the festive events in the village, it really is what makes this village special. **Happy New Year to you All.**

NEW COUNCILLORS

Following the 2022 Elections, Hambleton PC had 2 vacancies which have now been filled and we welcome **Councillor Raymond Rossiter** and **Councillor Andrew Calvert** as members of the Parish Council.

It is with sadness that we also now say goodbye to **Councillor Melissa Mountford** who has resigned due to increased professional commitments but who will still be taking an active role in the Christmas Lights Committee. We take this opportunity to thank Melissa for all her hard work over the years and wish her all the best for the future.

This does leave the PC with another vacancy. If you think being a Parish Councillor is for you, please get in touch with the clerk.

RECREATION AREA CAR PARK

As the requests to drive without damaging the car park surface have not been heeded, the PC have unfortunately had to make the decision, in conjunction with the football team, to install bollards at the entrance. Anyone can have access still, you will just need to contact the clerk for the key.

This will save thousands of pounds worth of damage being done to the facility. Pedestrians and bicycles will have access as usual and we ask that users of the facilities respect the space which is provided.

HOUGH BARRIER

A member of the public took it upon himself to cut the barrier and remove half of it, dumping it at the village hall and leaving the remaining section in the Hough. Metal fencing pins have also previously been taken.

The barrier was as a condition of the PC insurance following another member of the public raising concerns on Facebook that there was hazardous/contaminated waste in the area. The area is subject to an inspection by Selby District Council's Environmental Health - we have no control over the length of time this will take.

The rope will be replaced by signage to make sure that all those who don't already know, are aware the area might be dangerous. The PC only does these things where there is a reason; Thank you to the majority of people who understand this.

JAMBLETON 2023

Plans are once again underway for JAMbleton in June. Live Music, fun for the kids, treats for sale and village competitions!! Welly-wanging was a hit last year and the Bake-Off saw some amazing entries! Can we get your feedback on Tug Of War - if you want it, we can run it!

Offers of HELP will be much appreciated!! For the preparations or on the day!! Email the clerk!!

Once we have a plan finalised, you will know about it!! This will most likely be through Facebook first.

Also, can we all SUNDANCE for good weather, thanks ;)

NEW "NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL"

District and County Councils across North Yorkshire merge on 1st April; the unifying process is difficult due to each of the 7 districts previously having their own different systems for everything right down to refuse collections For the latest information, visit: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/launch-new-council-vital-help-financial-challenges#:~:text=The%20new%20North%20Yorkshire%20Council,getting%20people%20out%20of%20hospitals>

CONTACT THE CLERK: INFO@HAMBLETON-PC.GOV.UK



The Hambleton Baby & Toddler Group is held every Wednesday 9.30-11.15am during term time in the village hall and warmly welcomes all pre-school children and their grown-ups.

It's £3 per session which includes toys to play with, crafts, a snack for the children, hot drinks for grown-ups and singing/dancing. No booking required.

For further information see our Facebook group:
"Hambleton Baby & Toddler Group (YO8 9HS)"
or contact Emma - 07469 209 391



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H.i.H.G.

Hambleton Independence Help Group

We are delighted to say HiHG registered volunteers continue to offer help to village residents whether the need arises from Covid, which is still with us, or any other reason.

We can help with shopping, collection from Selby Food Bank or collecting prescriptions. We may, in exceptional circumstances, be able to offer help to get you to a hospital or doctors appointment but this will be dependent on the availability of a volunteer at the required time.

If you need help ring one of the numbers below and we will put you in contact with a volunteer. Your details will only be shared with the volunteer.

If you have had a positive COVID 19 test please tell the person you phone so that the volunteer is aware before they contact you.

Some of the phone coordinators are still working so you may need to leave a message but we will get back to you.

Celia 01757 228649

Katie 07759 520 227

Jessica 07769 266 618

HAMBLETON HISTORY, RESEARCH & ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION

Hambleton History Research & Archive Association



Finding Hambleton's Hidden History



Two dates for your diary:

Sunday 26th February - cleaning, sorting, cataloguing and photographing the finds from the archaeological dig at Hill Top Farm.

We found a lot of pottery, some of which appears to be very old plus other artefacts. If you would like to come and help us sort, may be match pieces and possibly date the items we would love to see you. If you want to join us please let Celia know (contact details are at the bottom of the page).

Saturday 15th April - our AGM, update on progress of Hambleton History Lives and Hambleton's Hidden History, plus displays.

Once the official business of electing officers and the financial report has been completed the main emphasis of the meeting will be sharing the information we have found and the next stage of the project. There will be plenty of time to review the displays which we change for every meeting and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. We continue to add information to the website, this is now taking a little longer as there needs to be more research to get the information associated with the photos.

Email: celiahhraa@btinternet.com or Phone 01757 228649



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NEWS FROM CHAPEL

News from Chapel

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and we wish you all a very happy, healthful and peaceful New Year.

Christmas at Chapel was busy but delightful. Many thanks to everyone who attended our Christmas Coffee Morning and also a big thank you to everyone who helped or donated prizes. We did very well and we are always grateful to the village for supporting our efforts. Nativity Messy Church was great fun with the children making cards, prayer Christmas tree decorations and an edible baby Jesus in his manger! It was very lively but great to see lots of children in Chapel especially at Christmas.

Tea and Toast had a fabulous Christmas party ending with a lovely little act of worship led by our minister Christine Gillespie.

We had a very well attended Carol Service as Sherburn were not able to use their building that morning so came to Hambleton instead. They very conveniently brought their pianist so we had fabulous live music which was a real treat. The decorations are all put away for another year and we are back to normal.

We have a number of Local Arrangement services where we do the service ourselves, a couple of visits to other Chapels and of course lots of services led by our own minister or visiting local preachers.

As always if you wish to join us on a Sunday morning at 10.30am you would be more than welcome.

Very best wishes,

Everyone at Hambleton Chapel

HAMBLETON FC JUNIORS

The football season is back in full swing after the Christmas break. The club is looking forward to the rest of the season with lots of fun opportunities for the players. Players all received new training jackets before Christmas thanks to the kind sponsorship of Greencore. **The club is always looking for new sponsors to help us grow, so if you are able to help or know anyone who can support the club, please get in touch.** For this and all other enquiries including playing or volunteering opportunities, please email Steve Richards at:



srichards228@gmail.com

The Wednesday Club

The club for ladies of any age meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 1330 in the village hall apart from December when the meeting is a Christmas Lunch at a local restaurant.

The next meeting in the Village Hall is the AGM on 25th January, 2023 where the programme for the next year is planned, not forgetting the tea, biscuits and chat.

The February meeting is on 22nd and the March meeting is on 29th.

If you would like to know more about the club please contact Celia on 228649, we would love to see you.

ONLINE ARTICLE:

Leeds under attack - with a Hambleton connection

A long-term Hambleton resident has written a detailed article about wartime Leeds and very kindly shared it with us for the newsletter. It begins in



August 1939 as major cities like Leeds began to gear up for war and describes the sights and experiences he himself lived through and how Hambleton Hough played an important role during this time.

The full article is on p.13 in the Online Version of the newsletter here:

<https://www.hambleton-pc.gov.uk/news-updates/>

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NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

News From St. Mary's Church

Greetings everyone and a belated Happy New Year

At St Mary's we celebrated a joyous Christmastide thanks to the hard work of Revd. Canon John Weetman and Revd. Dr Julie Watson in the absence of our own Vicar. We thank the school for sharing their joyful Christmas performances and Carol Service and making our Christingle gatherings a success. £225 was raised for the Children's Society.

Our first coffee morning of the year, hosted by Alison on Main Road in her warm and comfortable farmhouse kitchen, was much enjoyed. No doubt that will be true again on the 4th February, when again Alison will be our host before we return to Church in March.

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be at 2pm on the 22nd February. This service provides that solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God. The fourth Sunday in Lent is Mothering Sunday and our Family Service; that day provides us all with an opportunity to come to church. Mothers, both young and old, will receive one of our traditional posies. This year Palm Sunday will be on the 2nd April, the day of our regular, first Sunday, quiet Holy Communion.

Our Prayers and best wishes are with those in need, both within and beyond our village.

As our memories of Christmas fade, let us remember that the Light which entered the world is with us always.

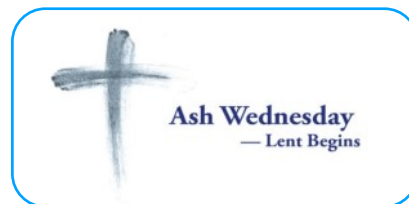
David Brown Churchwarden

Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings can be arranged as required by contacting the Churchwarden on 01757 228553 or through the Church Website.

Our Service times are as follows [for further information please see the Church Notice Board and our website];

February:

Saturday 4th	9:30am to 12:00noon – Coffee Morning – 89 Main Road
Sunday 5th	9.30am - Holy Communion [BCP]
Sunday 12th	3.30pm - Family Communion
Sunday 19th	3.30pm - Family Communion
Wednesday 22nd	2.00pm - Ash Wednesday
Sunday 26th	3:30pm - Family Prayer Service



March:

Saturday 4th	9:30am to 11:30 – Coffee Morning – In Church
Sunday 5th	9:30am - Holy Communion [BCP]
Sunday 12th	3:30pm - Family Communion
Sunday 19th	3:30pm - Family Service for Mothering Sunday
Sunday 26th	3:30pm - Family Prayer Service



April: Details of our Easter Services will be available on our Website and Noticeboard

Sunday 2nd	Palm Sunday
Thursday 6th	Maundy Thursday
Friday 7th	Good Friday
Sunday 9th	Easter Day

Note: The Church Noticeboard and Website <http://www.stmaryshambleton.org.uk/> will provide more information on forthcoming services and events.

OUR VILLAGE



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HAMBLETON VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to everyone who came to Carols on the Green Christmas Eve a lovely end to the year. We raised a total of £464.83 which is absolutely brilliant, and all funds will go towards running the village hall.



Exciting news for the hall... we have started replacing our heating after receiving £15k from the Hambleton (Selby) Charitable Trust – without this we could not continue to function effectively. At last, a warm hall for all our regular users and one-off users!!

We have also restructured our committee as we are getting busy with our fundraising, which means we need more people to be involved. If you would like to be involved in the events committee or maintenance committee or even be a volunteer, please get in touch.

Our next big event will be Easter Monday Family Fun Day – this always proves to be a busy event with an Easter egg hunt, crafts, and a children's entertainer- lots of fun and lots of competitions including the best Easter Bonnet. Limited places so book early to avoid disappointment!

Also look out for our monthly Cinema as this will be starting very soon and we look forward to seeing everyone again and enjoying a film and popcorn on our Hambleton Village Hall cinema screen.



Hambleton's Village Hall Lotto is coming!

£12 per year enters you into our monthly draw

Guaranteed cash winner every month

Your entry will help fund the upkeep of the Village Hall which depends solely on our renters and fund raising to survive.

Details on how to enter available soon

Hambleton LOTTO

Finally, NEW for 2023, join Hambleton's Village Hall Lotto. You can join this for a one-off payment of £12 for the year and you will be entered into the monthly draw for a whole year! You can enter as many times as you like and there will be a guaranteed winner every month.

Check our Notice Board outside the hall for Timetables of classes and event notices.

Contact: villagehall.hambleton@gmail.com

News from Hambleton Players

Thank you for all the support on our Christmas Pantomime, **Sleeping Beauty** – it was a total sell out and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



Photo: Connie, Jess and Nieve; part of the fantastic Sleeping Beauty cast

Our next show will be the Summer Show and we hope to bring you a musical comedy the Best Man.

This musical comedy tells the tale of Cathy Price, a hairdresser and lover of romantic fiction, who is searching for Dagenham's answer to Mr Darcy.



The show will be Wednesday 17th May – Saturday 20th May.

*If there are any talented men who want to join for this show - **this show is in need of more males!!** Please message Fiona Conor 07912 410025*

We look forward to seeing you all and tickets will go on sale end of March.

USEFUL CONTACTS

USEFUL CONTACTS	
Organisation	Number/Email address
Association Voluntary Services (AVS)	01757 291111 enquiries@selbydistrictavs.org.uk
Citizens Advice, Selby	Advice line: 03444 111 444 Admin line: 01757 701320
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
County Councillor: Cliff Lunn	01757 706159 cldr.cliff.lunn@northyorks.gov.uk
Dog Warden: Report a stray dog/Dog Fouling	01757 705101
Hambleton C of E Primary School	01757 228391 admin@hambleton.n-yorks.sch.uk
Hambleton Methodist Chapel	01757 228200
Hambleton Parish Council Chair: Cllr Cath Protheroe Clerk: Mrs Juvina Janik	www.hambleton-pc.gov.uk cath.protheroe1@btinternet.com info@hambleton-pc.gov.uk
Hambleton Village Hall General enquiries & to Book the Hall	villagehall.hambleton@gmail.com www.hallbookingonline.com/hambleton
Independent Domestic Abuse Service	01757 708956
NHS Direct	111
NHS Find urgent Mental Health support	https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline
North Yorkshire Horizon (alcohol misuse service)	01723 330 730
Police – non emergency	101
Saint Mary's Church	01757 228553
Samaritans	116 123 (Free)
Selby Community Transport	Car: 01757 708036 Minibus: 01757 241041
Selby District Council	01757 705101 info@selby.gov.uk
Selby War Memorial Hospital	01904 724300

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2023

SAT 4 9.30AM-12PM	ST MARY'S COFFEE MORNING, 89 MAIN ROAD P.9
THURS 9 7PM	HAMBLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, VILLAGE HALL
SUN 26	HHRAA - SORTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS FROM HILL TOP FARM DIG - P. 5

MARCH 2023

SAT 4 9.30-11.30AM	ST MARY'S COFFEE MORNING, ST MARY'S CHURCH P.9
TUES 10	DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND ADVERTS P.1
THUR 12 7PM	HAMBLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, VILLAGE HALL

APRIL 2023

MON 10	EASTER MONDAY FAMILY FUNDAY, VILLAGE HALL - P.11
THUR 13 7PM	HAMBLETON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, VILLAGE HALL
SAT 15	HHRAA - AGM & UPDATES P.5



**Respect your neighbourhood.
PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!
KEEP OUR STREETS CLEAN!!**

Leeds under attack – with a Hambleton connection...

In August and September 1939 Leeds, like many other British cities began to gear itself up for war. Preparations were made to protect the city and its people and organise emergency services. In August 1939 all police leave in Leeds was cancelled and there was a call for hundreds of ARP volunteers. During WW2 Leeds was a major centre for heavy engineering optics and textiles, this highly skilled workforce had to be switched quickly to the war effort. Most of the engineering works were soon turned over to making shells, guns and military optics. Tanks were made at the ordnance factory at Barnbow. Fowlers large heavy engineering factory in Hunslet produced many types of military vehicles. Many other smaller engineering firms carried on but with the necessary alterations for war use. Lancaster bombers and Skua fighter planes were also produced in Leeds. Montague Burton being a member of the city's large Jewish community was no friend of the Germans and turned his clothing factory over to the war effort. While the men were being called up into the services, women were gradually taking over the workload. These jobs included all the heavy and lighter engineering requirements, created and demanded by the war (*and the lack of men.*) Government training colleges were quickly set up to provide instruction in factory work. Brighter students were taught more specialised work.



The Skua fighter produced at Blackburn's Roundhay Road Leeds. This aircraft was credited with shooting down the first German plane in 1939.

All those involved had to keep quiet about their work, spies were known to be about. Factories were camouflaged and some had their own armed defence units. To fool bombers strategic targets were sometimes moved totally to other locations. Doctors and nurses were recalled from holidays and told to prepare. Huge supplies of drugs, dressings, blankets etc were made available, plus many extra beds in all the Leeds hospitals. Most swimming baths were emptied and boarded over to make emergency casualty posts. Churches and chapels had vast amounts of food stored in them in preparation for the survivors of bomb attacks – nothing would be cooked, the food was biscuits and corned beef only – plus tea and water for drinking.

Many shelters were erected in the city enough for thousands of people. (*hundreds of large water tanks were also built.*) Those with their own gardens had Anderson shelters. Anybody earning less than £250 per annum got one free, *if they had a garden big enough*. Necessities for Anderson shelters were buckets, bunks, tins with candles and matches, plus some basic food and most important Wellington boots – the shelters nearly always had water in them. It was also handy to have a pick or shovel for digging out if required. People who lived in terraced housing without gardens, bathrooms or toilets, (*probably the majority at the time*) had no option but to move into their cellars when the sirens wailed – sometimes for hours, these cellars were cold damp and cramped...

If you wanted to drive you had to be rich enough to have a gas bag fitted. There was no petrol (only for emergency vehicles).



During the war there were many air raid alerts in Leeds. Sadly many pets had to be destroyed at the start of the war because of the difficulty in looking after them during air raids. They were gassed by the RSPCA to stop possible suffering. Because Leeds was considered to be a major target for air raids, parents were all offered the chance to evacuate their children to Lincolnshire or Nottinghamshire for safety – although some children went to nearer rural areas like Otley. In the event only 30,000 children left Leeds, not the 60,000 which were anticipated. It was on January 8th 1940 that rationing was introduced and ration books were issued. By July 1942 everything was rationed, including clothing. Things were really starting to get hard at this point.



Buses had to have fuel converters fitted to operate during the war. In the above picture Quarry Hill flats can be seen in the background.

The Royal ordinance factory, where shells and tanks were made employed over 3,000 women, they worked ten-hour shifts – the factory never closed during the war. Other Leeds firms produced a variety of guns, military vehicles and locomotives. Montague Burton (*mentioned above*) who had the largest clothing factory in the world at the time, produced millions of uniforms for the forces. The heavy bombing of September the first 1940, saw between 3,000 and 4,000 incendiary bombs dropped on Leeds and many tons of high explosives. I have only just realised all these years later, that I was really quite near to some of this action. The

bombers were trying to hit the aircraft factory in Roundhay road, I lived about half a mile from



Leeds Art Gallery after a bombing raid – but too close for comfort!



Easterly road (a posher area of Leeds)

Quarry hill flats, the largest municipal block of flats in Europe at that time, was bombed, once more very near to where I lived. Leeds city centre was heavily bombed. The Town Hall, The General Infirmary, Art Gallery and Civic Hall were all hit. Major railway marshalling yards and junctions were targeted that night – plus a popular pub ‘The Woodpecker’ in a very densely populated area near by. The main post office and ‘The Metropole’ hotel were also badly damaged plus the famous Kirgate market. Many parts of Leeds had cobbled streets, with vast areas of back to back terrace houses at that time. If a bomb struck one of these, all the house would collapse on to the cellar – not really a shelter! I lived with my family in one such house all through the war years (*and we thought we were safe?*) A hole just big enough to crawl through was made in the cellar wall adjoining the house at the back – if we were bombed and survived, we could crawl through the hole to the house at the back (*and vice-versa*) Fortunately we never had to use this manoeuvre. I remember my school had large air raid shelters built in the playing yard, big enough for nearly all the pupils, my class though (*for some reason*) had to go into the school basement – we spent a lot of time there with our gas masks on, every time the sirens started. At 9pm on March the fourteenth 1941, the dogs and cats (*which had escaped being put to sleep*) became restless – that was just before the warning sirens started, their acute hearing had picked up the sound of the approaching German planes.

That raid lasted over six hours. On that night, 60 people were killed and 20,000 were made homeless. There were many injuries and sadly there were more casualties when the very busy main entrance to The



General infirmary was hit by a bomb. It was found out after the war that the ordinance factory at Barnbow, Blackburn’s aircraft factory and Kirkstall Road power stations were all prime targets. Apart from the raids on the civilian population all the other raids were on strategic targets and nearly all failed. Leeds was the only large industrial city to escape intensive air attacks but on those nights in September 1940 and March 1941 the people of Leeds got a taste of that horror. Although I can remember the distinctive sound of enemy planes

These were our ambulances during the war.

Barnbow played a very major role during this period, producing vast numbers of tanks and shells in their armament factory. However the Barnbow factories were even busier during the First World War – it was there that thirty five young ladies (*one only fifteen*) were killed instantly and many more seriously injured, when a shell exploded during construction. There was a number of incidents at this munitions factory but this was by far the worst. These young ladies, who had all volunteered to work there, doing their ten hour shifts, also developed a very serious skin disorder which turned their skin yellow. This was apparently caused by the explosive material they had to work with. Details of this incident were not allowed to be reported to the public until six years later. The deaths were just stated in the newspapers at the time of the occurrence as ‘sudden death’ or accidental death. It was actually only in 2014 that the courage and contribution to the war effort by these amazing young ladies was at last recognised and a memorial plaque was finally erected in Crossgates Leeds. Below is a picture of the explosion site at Barnbow and the memorial at Crossgates.

Leeds children waiting to be evacuated.



This explosion killed thirty five young ladies and injured many more. It had to be kept secret because of restrictions...



The connection with Hambleton?

I have been informed that members of the local home guard unit in Hambleton used to patrol at the top of the Hough. They watched and listened for approaching planes and then made contact with Leeds to warn of possible approaching German aircraft attacks...

This account of my memories only relates to the damage incurred within walking distance of the house I lived in at the time. There were many raids and much damage to other parts of the city. Over 4,500 buildings were destroyed or damaged in Leeds. I lived in Harehills. There was a small park nearby which I used to go to with my friends, the purpose of our visit was to look at the banks of anti

-aircraft guns which were there and to talk to the soldiers. In 2012 a large unexploded bomb was dug up in that small park...

I was prompted to write this article whilst attending a remembrance day event in Selby many years ago. We were asked to remember the people of Leeds and indeed Yorkshire who had suffered during the war and those who had contributed and helped in any way during this period. It was only after serving two years in the armed forces (national service) and learning how to handle various weapons myself, that I really began to understand the full horror, suffering and misery that war can bring...

Gerald Finlay

Originally published in 2007.

Many thanks to Gerald for his personal account and sharing his experience. If you have a story of local interest to share with the community, please get in touch with the clerk.