

OAKWOOD AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



OAK LEAVES

Part 15

Spring 2016

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Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the Oakwood Church, the Society's website is now part of the Oakwood Church Website at :
<http://www.oakwoodchurch.info/odhs.html>

The picture on the front cover ...

is of the newly erected Oakwood Clock, in celebration of the successful refurbishment project lead by Oakwood Traders and Residents Association (OTRA) but to which so many local individuals and groups (including this Society) contributed in large or small measure.

The rear of the cover shows the cover of Oak Leaves Book One which carried a photograph of the Clock in 2001.

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One Hundred Years Ago ...

By Anne Wilkinson

In September 1915 what would become known as the Great War had already been fought for over a year, despite optimistic predictions that it would all be over by Christmas 1914. Conscription of single men was not brought in until the passing of the Military Service Act in January 1916 (it would be June of the same year when married men became liable for conscription), but already some local families had been affected by events overseas.

A window erected in 1936 in Roundhay St John's Church is inscribed 'In grateful and loving memory of Kenneth Hill Ives of the 8th West Yorkshire Regiment who died 9th December 1914 aged 22 years.' An article in *Oak Leaves* part 1 notes that 2nd Lieut. Ives had recently qualified as a solicitor, and died in a military hospital in York; he was one of three brothers in a local family who served in the First World War, only one of whom survived. The Luptons were another well-known and influential local family. Maurice Lupton (grandson of the vicar of Roundhay and son of Francis Martineau and Harriet Albina Lupton, née Davis) was a member of the 7th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). He was killed in action by a sniper bullet on 19 June 1915, after only two months at the front, having entrained on 15 April 1915 with the 1/7 Battalion Leeds Rifles. He had written home on 28 April 'I would not have missed coming out here for worlds', and on the day of his death, 'We are in the trenches here and all goes well; its awfully hard work and seems to suit us.' The *North Leeds News (NLN)* of 10 September 1915 noted that his estate was valued at £6001.

On 3 September 1915 the *NLN* reported the death of Rifleman William Peck of Davis Avenue, Roundhay, who, along with his twin brother, had joined the Leeds Rifles in the previous September and been sent to the Front in April 1915. The same issue quoted the citation for the award of the Military Cross to 2nd. Lieut. George Wheldon Wanstall of 15 Norman Place, Roundhay, 'for conspicuous gallantry on several occasions during the operations on the Gallipoli peninsula' whilst serving with the Royal Engineers.

The following week's *NLN* announced the death of Lance Corporal William Leatherbarrow, son of Mr and Mrs Leatherbarrow of Ryecroft, Lidgett Lane. Aged only 19, and the youngest of eight sons, William Leatherbarrow (who served as 'Leather') was well known in sporting circles in North Leeds, as a cricketer, tennis player and member of the Roundhay Hockey Club. He had joined the army at the beginning of the war, and been sent to the Dardenelles eight or nine weeks before his death on a hospital ship, having been wounded in the head a fortnight earlier. The same issue noted the 'useful service' done by Flight Lieut. Gaskell Blackburn, 'the youthful Leeds aviator', who had taken part in many important air raids and 'several bomb dropping excursions', (including the first ever carrier-borne air strike in 1914) and 'was one of the two aviators who located the Koenigsberg in hiding in an African creek'. Mentioned in despatches on 19 February 1915 for his action on Christmas Day 1914 at Cuxhaven, Gaskell Blackburn received the DSC for his bravery on 28 September 1915 (*London Gazette*, 21 January 1916), and was to be decorated twice for his actions in operations in Kut-el-Amara and Ctesiphon.

In May 1915 Maurice Lupton had said in a letter 'You say at home that you live in miserable darkness at night' (4th May 1915). So what was it really like on the Home Front in Roundhay in 1915? Reports in the *NLN* of August and September 1915 shed some light on this. It was noted on 24 August that there had been some opposition to Sunday boating on Roundhay Park Lake, though the Art Gallery in Leeds was to open at 2 on a Sunday. But there were other diversions.

Sport continued to be enjoyed; a charity cricket match between a team led by Mr A. J. Allsop, Parks Superintendent, and Leeds City Police took place at the end of August on the sports ground at Roundhay Park, in aid of the Leeds Lady Mayoress's Ambulance Fund. Soldiers acted as hosts when local cricketers were entertained at Gledhow Hall in September 1915, as a return match for the fixture a fortnight earlier at Chapel Allerton St Matthew's cricket club. As the Tommies had lost the first match, they were keen to 'retrieve themselves' and won by 12 runs. It was said that 'the grounds were a most suitable spot for games of every kind, and after the match bowls, croquet and quoits were played, all arousing much interest. After tea a whist party was formed,' followed by a successful smoking concert, with songs, monologues and recitations, including a contribution from Private Jones, 'who, although he has had the

misfortune to lose one of his limbs proved that he had not lost his mother tongue, and his Welsh recitation caused much amusement'.

Gledhow Hall, home of the Kitson family, had been offered as a VAD hospital by Albert, Lord Airedale, and it was run by the British Red Cross and staffed by 2 professionally trained sisters, 12 VAD nurses, parlour maids, housemaids and three servants. Opening on 15 May 1915 with 50 patients transferred from the 2nd Northern General Hospital at Becketts Park, the matron was Miss Edith Cliff, a cousin of Lord Airedale, whose wife was Honorary Secretary. There was also a quartermaster and a Medical Officer. There was pressure to keep the men entertained and occupied, and among the various amusements, sporting activities were encouraged. Concern for rehabilitation and welfare made Gledhow Hall 'one of the first, if not actually the pioneer, among VAD hospitals' for this type of treatment.

Another cricket match, described as 'Top Hats versus Comedians' was to take place on Saturday 18 September 1915, between a team of well known Leeds cricketers, organised by Mr Allsop and Mr Tatham, and 'the Irresponsibles', composed of leading comedians of Leeds, 'assisted by many of the artistes from the Empire and Hippodrome'. The latter team were to appear in various disguises, including John Bull, Von Tirpitz, a jockey, a sailor, a policeman, a country yokel and a clown. The following week it was reported that the sum of £54-9-3 had been raised in aid of the Motor Ambulance Fund.

The Great War saw women stepping into jobs previously done by men, and taking up war related voluntary work; Elinor and Bessie Lupton volunteered for training with the Order of St John, and Anne became the Secretary of the Leeds General Hospital Committee. Margaret Lupton became a nurse and Mildred and Francis Lupton worked in government departments. The *NLN* (27 August 1915) reported that the employment of women park-keepers was 'purely temporary as a war emergency' and that they were 'doing light work'. In March 1915 women had been urged to 'quit home for factory', with the Government setting up a Register of Women for War Service. On 26 March Lloyd George promised Sylvia Pankhurst that women would receive the same pay as men for war work; in July 40,000 women demonstrated for the right to help the war effort in London, and it was announced in October that women could apply for licences to be bus

and tram conductors in the capital. But 'no change in this direction has yet been made in Leeds', reported the *Yorkshire Post* of 17 September 1915 in its discussion of the role of women in war work. Women, it said, 'for the time being may find a wider scope of public usefulness' than in peacetime, particularly in munitions, in what 'hitherto might have been to them excluded spheres'. The article noted that women were now being employed as letter carriers in the city, in banks and commercial offices as clerks, and that 'a few local examples prove that the instruction given to women in motor-driving has been put to useful account.' And, as noted earlier in the *NLN*, women were now at work in public parks and recreation grounds. There were some 500 names on the war register at the Labour Exchange of women 'ready and willing to offer themselves' for war work.

Other women helped the war effort in a rather different way, as fund-raisers for the many bodies set up to supply comforts for the troops or support local hospitals. The front page of the 10 September 1915 issue of the *NLN* informed its readers that a large garden fête would take place at The Hall, Roundhay, on the following Wednesday, courtesy of Colonel Brotherton. *The Yorkshire Post* of 16 September 1915 began its report of the event thus:

'Genial September sunshine helped to make the conditions quite delightful for the Garden Fête given yesterday afternoon in the grounds of the Hall, Roundhay, in aid of the Leeds Lady Mayoress's War Funds.' There was a large attendance, and the public were also able to share the event with 'a considerable number of wounded soldiers now convalescent in Leeds, and at the same time to learn something of the operations of the good cause they are invited to support.' Colonel Brotherton (Lord Mayor of Leeds in 1914) had kindly lent the grounds, and his niece Mrs Charles Radcliffe acted as hostess, with the Vicar of Leeds seconding a vote of thanks from the Lady Mayoress, Mrs J E Bedford, and reminding those gathered in the autumn sunshine that 'it should not be forgotten that a tremendous struggle, absolutely unprecedented in the history of the world, was raging only five hours' journey from London'. The Lord Mayor spoke of eyewitness reports from the Front of the 'soldierly bearing, fighting qualities, and general conduct' of the Leeds Rifles, which equalled those of the best British regiments. Entertainments included music

from the Band of the 15th West Yorkshire Regiment, variety acts, clock golf, croquet, Morris dancing, hoopla and cake and flower stalls. £140 was raised, with a summary of what had already been accomplished, an impressive list, starting with the provision of two motor ambulances sent to the Front and 60,000 garments sent to the troops. Families at home had not been neglected, with 13,000 visits to wives and dependents of soldiers and sailors, boots for their children and hospital beds at Wyther Babies' Home.

In the wider world, the day of the report of the Gledhow Hall garden fête saw the first Womens' Institute meeting held in Wales. September 21 saw Income Tax up by 40% and a new War Profits Tax. Customs duties on commodities such as tea and tobacco were raised by 50%; the cost of the war, revealed on 18 September by the Government as being £3.5 million a day, had pushed taxes to record levels. Even before this, in July *The Times* had advised readers on 'Economy Hints for Housekeepers', noting that whereas the cost of catering for a family had been 10s per head about six years previously (1909), and 11s 6d a head six months before the outbreak of war, the figure was now 14s 6d 'to cater in the same fashion.'

Further afield, on 16 September 1915 Pinsk (a city in Belarus) was taken by Russian forces, and the Battle of Tarnopol (a Russian counter-offensive in Galicia) ended. One of the bloodiest confrontations of the war, the Battle of La Ligne, was being fought; there would be 17,000 deaths. In Russia Tsar Nicholas adjourned the 4th Duma, having taken personal charge of the army on 5 September.

The Great War seems to have had little impact on Roundhay St John's School, being mentioned only briefly on three occasions in the school log book, two of these references being in 1916. Looking at the ages of the five men whose names are listed on the war memorial relating to deaths in 1914-15 it is unlikely that any would have been married men with children, but many families were to be affected during the course of the Great War; forty-two names appear on two tablets, one on the north wall and one on the south wall of the sanctuary of Roundhay St John's Church, with the inscription 'These men of Roundhay died for their country 1914-1919'. For these families, however peaceful the war years may have seemed on the Home Front, life would never be the same again.

North Leeds News, various dates

The Times, 06.07.1915

Yorkshire Post, 16.09.1915, 17.09.1915

Dickinson, J. and Webster, G. D., *A History of St. John's Church Roundhay*, 1967.

Lupton, Francis, *The Next Generation, a sequel to The Lupton Family in Leeds*, 2001.

A French Newspaper on Roundhay Park

Discovered by Anne Wilkinson

Leeds - A journal published at Lille, called *Le Propagateur du Nord et du Pas-de-Calais*, presented its readers on Tuesday, the 24th. ult., with some information respecting Roundhay Park, Leeds, part of which, we have no doubt, will cause a considerable amount of surprise to English readers. After stating that the Queen of England has bought for 3,475,000 francs a royal park at Leeds, to furnish the working population of that large town with a place of healthful recreation, and that Prince Albert has opened it on behalf of his royal mother, the paragraph goes on to say that the park was placed in the centre of the town, and that it was originally made by a religious order called the Cistercians. Having made these startling comments, *Le Propagateur* informs its readers that the park presents some rare beauties; it has a lake three-quarters of a mile in length, with a magnificent waterfall; and that there are ruins and rustic bridges without end.

Published in *Weekly Supplement to the Leeds Mercury*, Vol. 109 – No. 10,761, Saturday 4th October, 1872.

A Glimpse of the Quarrying at Gipton Wood.

By Neville Hurworth

Nowadays a reference to Gipton Wood is usually understood to mean the wooded area on the eastern (Oakwood Lane) side of Roundhay Road but, for about one hundred years into the early decades of the 20th century, Gipton Wood extended across the Roundhay Road. Figure 1 shows the area in about 1891. In the nineteenth century quarrying of high quality sandstone was the main industry here and by about 1850 a little community of cottages and a pub had become established. For further details of this community, see the following essay.

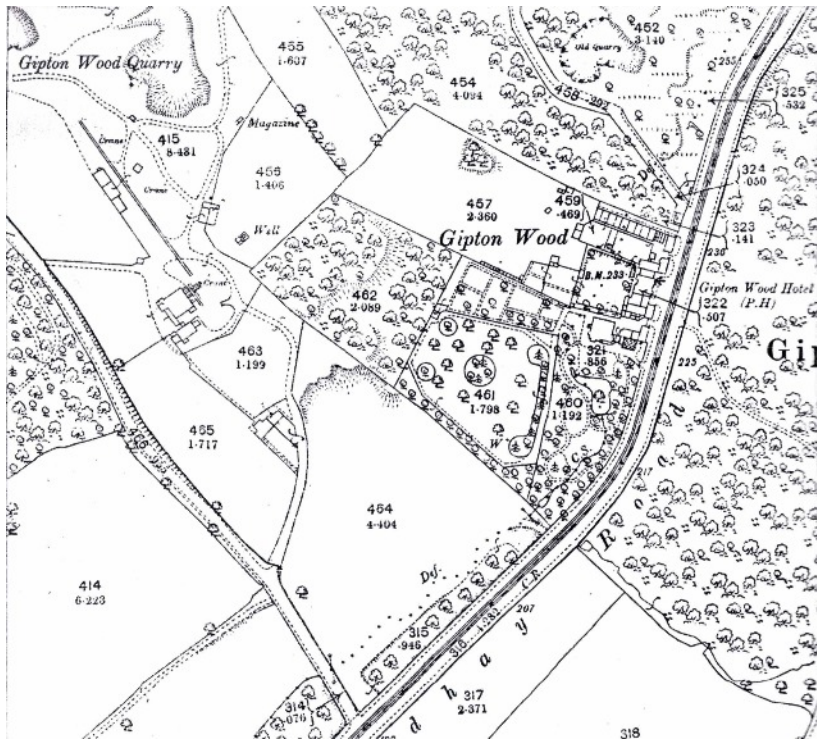


Figure 1. Quarrying at Gipton Wood in ca. 1891

The earliest reference I have found to a public house here was in 1841 when Francis Edward Bingley, who lived at the *Gipton Wood Brewery*, advertised to let a 'capital house ... known by the sign of

the *Gipton Wood Inn* ... now occupied for the sale of Ale and Porter' with the expectation of a license for the sale of spirits in the following year. During the first few decades of its existence, it was known as 'The Gipton Wood Inn' and later by the end of the century 'The Gipton Wood Hotel'. The quarrymen would have spent many pleasant hours here, a retreat from the hard work in the quarries.

Today we can only imagine the scene of these quarrying days. The hillside would have been alive with the noise of men busily working, blasting into the stone face, cranes lifting the blocks to the masons for them to work their skills with hammers and chisels, and the sound of carts moving on metal tracks.

The scale of this industry can be gauged from a newspaper advertisement after the death of William Denton in the late 1880s. His executors offered for sale 'all their interest in the tenancy of the Gipton Wood Quarry'. The plant consisted of a saw mill with four frames for cutting stones into slabs, with engine and boiler, a pumping engine and several 10 and 25 ton steam cranes of various descriptions, steam-powered stone crushing machinery, along with carts, wherries, railway lines, and all manner of 'first-class' working tools. There were stables, offices and sheds, wright's and smith's shops, a store room and 'a good old grindstone connection to this quarry.'

Quarrying was a dangerous business and, of course, accidents happened. In 1861, 58 year old Edward Senior was drilling holes in preparation for blasting when a stone weighing about a ton was being craned up. A signal was given and two men near Senior moved out of the way but he did not heed the warning. The chain suddenly became twisted and the stone careered out of control swinging into Senior and crushing him into the rock face. He sustained horrific injuries to the head from which he died a few days later.

Then there was an occasion in 1877 when 56 year old Nathan Hunsworth, who was living in the quarry houses at Gipton Wood, was found lying in the quarry with his leg almost severed from his body. He had been tipping waste stone when he was run over by the truck he was using. His leg was amputated but he died from his injuries.

The workmen there were not the only casualties. In 1879, police constable Metcalf was returning home one night from Roundhay Park via Gipton Wood when he 'missed his way' and fell 60 feet into a quarry. Amazingly, he survived with just a fractured leg but it was the next morning before he was seen by a passer-by.



Figure 2. Photograph of a former stone quarry at Rossendale in Lancashire. By kind permission of Arthur Baldwin.

The quarries had other potential hazards. In 1883 the Corporation Sanitary Committee were considering the threat to public health caused by the tipping of night soil and other refuse containing animal and vegetable matter. Councillor Edmund Wilson singled out the example of an old quarry at Gipton Wood filled to a depth of 30 or 40 feet. There was steam rising from it and the stench was so bad he could not bear to stand within ten or fifteen yards of it.

Over the years a few families managed these quarries. Census data show that William Akeroyd of James Akeroyd and Sons, employed increasing numbers of workers, e.g. 48 in 1851 and 90 in 1861. The Leeds Mercury reported Christmas dinners given by the firm for 'upwards of seventy' of their workers in 1858 and 'upwards of ninety' in 1861. The business shipped stone from New Dock Wharf in Leeds and expanded to include quarrying at Morley.

According to the 1871 census, William Akeroyd was living with his family in houses near to his workers cottages and the Gipton Wood pub. He is listed as a 'Quarry owner and Stone Merchant' and by now he was 'employing 266 men and 57 boys.' He retired from the business and died in about 1880 at *Springwood*, now known as Frazer House off Oakwood Lane. At about this time the

quarrying had moved along to the Gledhow Wood Road end of the hillside and up towards Gledhow Lane.

Sources and Acknowledgements

So far, no known photographs of the working quarries at Gipton Wood have come to light. There is an excellent website about former stone quarries at Rossendale in Lancashire, 'Journey through the Valley of Stone ... A living history' (<http://www.valleyofstone.org.uk/>). It has several photographs of quarrymen at work and the implements and machines they used with much information about the work they did. Figure 2 is from this source and reproduced here by kind permission of the copyright holder, Arthur Baldwin; thanks also to Frank Howarth for his help. Those readers who would like to know more about the kind of work in the stone quarries and about quarry workers of earlier years will find this website really interesting.

The remaining sources are mainly Ordnance Survey maps, for which Crown Copyright is reserved, newspapers and census records as mentioned.

The Gipton Wood Community of the pre WW2 years.

By Neville Hurworth

Years ago in Oak Leaves Part 2, Murray Mitchell wrote about the quarrying in the Oakwood area. Most of these quarries were worked in the years between the early eighteen hundreds and up to the Second World War.



Fig. 1

Fig. 1 shows a section of the 1847 Ordnance Survey (OS) map with several quarries that were being worked at this time, giving rise to a little community which can be seen in the centre of the figure, consisting of several cottages, the Gipton Wood Inn and brewery, and Gipton Grove next to it. The indications are that these buildings were constructed by Francis Edward Bingley, a brewer and stone merchant in the 1840s.

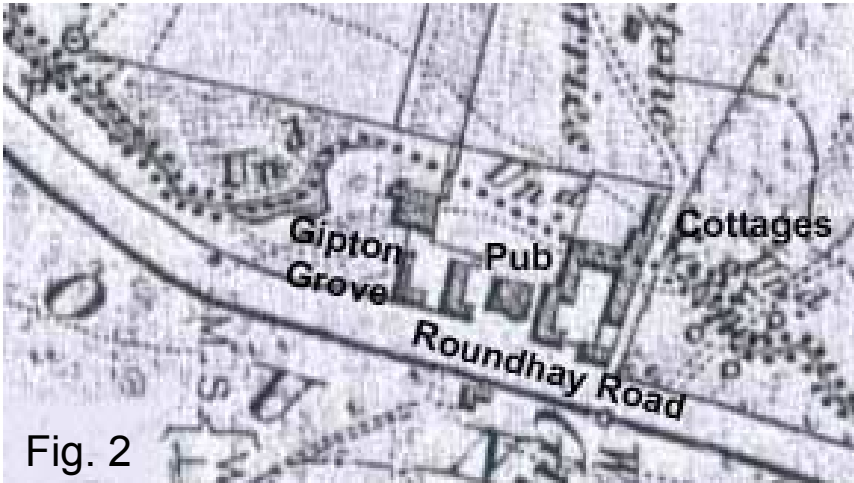


Fig. 2

Fig. 2. shows a closer look. On the right we see the line of cottages some of which are the older buildings of Ravenscar Avenue. The map shows an inverted 'L' shaped construction coming out to the left possibly more cottages but these did not last long as they are not shown on later OS maps.

The 'Pub' is the Gipton Wood Inn shown by a square flanked by two 'L' shapes. This basic structure remained for many years well into the twentieth century.

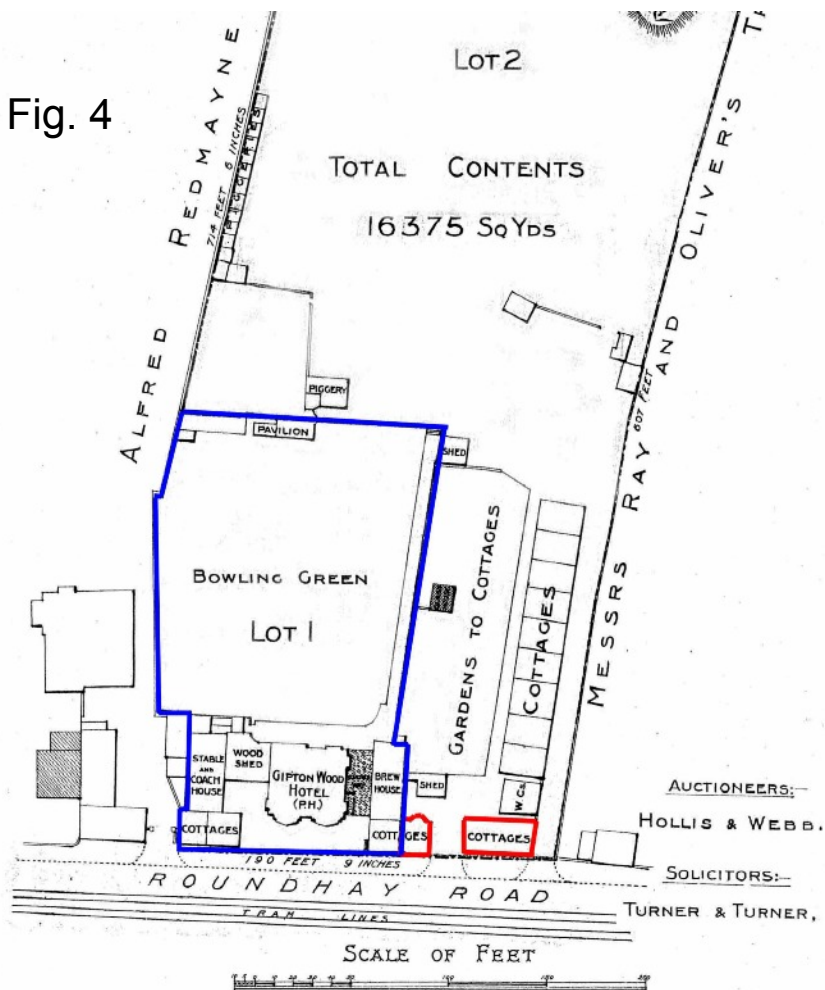
On the left we can see the square and another 'L' shape representing the house and outbuildings of Gipton Grove which it seems occupied most of the former Homebase site next to Tescos on Roundhay Road.



Fig. 3

In 1895 Gipton Grove was sold. The sale particulars show a six acre estate consisting of a mansion with seven bedrooms and outbuildings and extensive gardens. It was acquired at about this time by a very interesting man, Alfred Redmayne. Redmayne (Fig. 3) was a self made man who was successful in the brewing and malting industry for over a quarter of a century. For many years he was a Freemason and a volunteer soldier (the equivalent of the Territorials) in the West Yorkshire Yeomanry during which

time the family was living in Rotherham. Here he won the sword competition of the Wentworth Park troop, the prize sword being presented to him by Earl Fitzwilliam, Colonel of the Yorkshire Dragoons. His son Horace Redmayne was also a yeoman in the same Regiment and he served for eighteen months in the Boer War. On his return Horace took over the Gipton Wood Inn which his father had acquired, possibly at the sale of 1898 (see Fig. 4.)



This was an historic sale. Two lots were on offer. Lot 2 contained 12 cottages and an enclosure of grass land. It was bought by the Lax builders and here they built the Ravenscar group of houses soon afterwards.

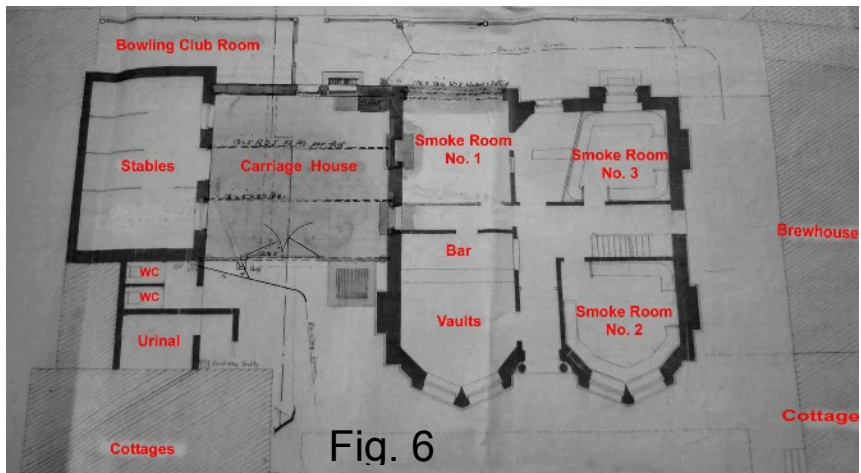
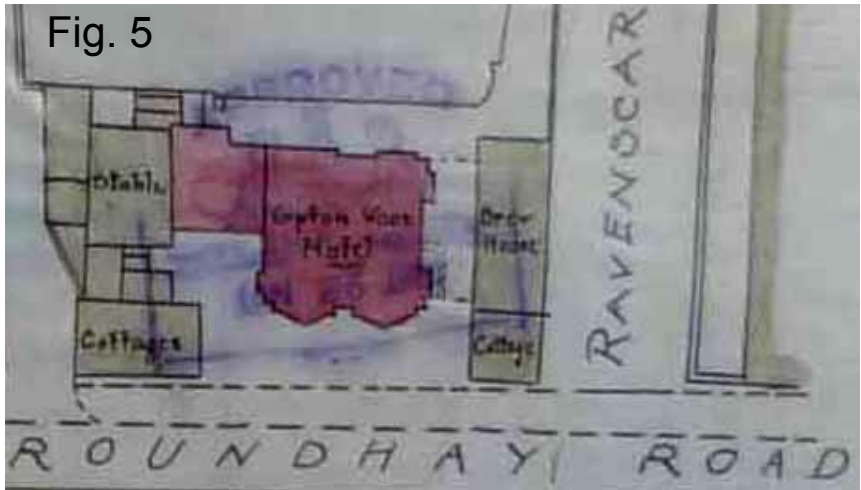
During the next two years the Lax builders opened up access to their new building site by knocking down the three cottages fronting onto Roundhay Road. This block of three cottages they replaced with a single more impressive building, a confectioner's house and shop, placed in line at the end of the group of old cottages. The gardens to these old cottages shown in the sale particulars were reduced to small strips, as they are now, to provide the space for the road up to the new Ravenscar houses.

Lot 1 was the Gipton Wood Inn with various interesting outbuildings and a bowling green at the rear. There were three cottages included in this lot. We can see the two 'L' shapes shown on the OS map of 1847 in Fig. 2. One of these was to become an 'I' shape by losing a cottage to the Lax brothers in Lot 2. This was one of the three which were demolished for the new access road.

I believe Lot 1 was bought at this sale by Alfred Redmayne. If not, he bought it shortly afterwards. The pub, the bowling green and outbuildings must have been a great asset to the locals.

Bowling at the Gipton Wood Inn went on for decades. The Gipton Wood Bowling Club was seemingly formed in 1906. A piece in the Yorkshire Evening News showed a drawing of Miss (Ethel May) Redmayne, Alfred's daughter, bowling the first wood at the opening. She was, it said, 'an expert bowler' and it pointed out she had the great advantage of having her own bowling green at home, presumably in the grounds of Gipton Grove next door. Her brother, Horace Redmayne, is also said to have been a keen and accomplished bowler. In the 1930s a county match between Yorkshire and Derbyshire took place on the Gipton Wood Bowling Club green so it was clearly a quality venue.

In 1907, Mr Redmayne submitted plans for some minor alterations showing the simple comforts of this homely pub (see



Figs. 5 & 6). The entrance to the pub through the front door was flanked by two bay windows. There were three smoke rooms with the bar and vaults on the side of the central passage. At the rear there was a covered area, presumably for watching the bowling. This continued on to a separate room for the use of the Bowling Club. There were also stables and a carriage house with an outside urinal and two WCs. The brewhouse was to the side of the walkway through to the bowling green at the rear.



Fig. 7

Fig. 7 shows a view of the front of the Gipton Wood Inn alongside Addy's confectioner's shop at the end of Ravenscar Avenue in the early nineteen hundreds.

As the twentieth century progressed the Redmayne association with Gipton Wood was coming to an end. Alfred Redmayne's wife died in 1906. His only daughter Ethel Mary married in 1907 and she left to live with her husband in the house her father gave her as a wedding present in Headingley. Then in 1910 Alfred himself died.

His son Horace continued on as the licensed victualler at the Gipton Wood Inn but he was a troubled soul. Perhaps the responsibilities which passed to him after his father died weighed too heavily on his shoulders for him to bear. One night he went to the theatre with his wife and returned to a pub in Sheepscar, the Golden Cross. He retired from the bar with some business papers and the evening's takings to cash up for his stepmother who was the licensee. He closed the door and minutes later, he shot himself in the head with his service revolver.

Not long after this the Gipton Wood Inn became part of the Bentley's Yorkshire Breweries group. In 1935 plans were approved to build the current public house, currently the 'Roundhay', part of the Hungry Horse chain, and the old pub

was demolished. The 'Roundhay' is much further back from the Roundhay Road than the Gipton Wood Inn, making room for the car park to meet the requirements of the new era.

Finally I have been wondering if this Redmayne family was related to the Redmaynes of Redmayne Bentley stockbrokers, one of the largest independent stockbrokers in the UK which was founded in Leeds in 1875. There may be a clue to the connection through the Bentley takeover of the Gipton Wood Inn. The Golden Cross where Horace Redmayne died was also a Bentley's pub.

Acknowledgements and References

Once again, I would like to thank staff at the West Yorkshire Archive Service (WYAS) and at Leeds Central Library, Local History Section, for their help and many kindnesses to me.

Much of the information in this article has come from maps, local newspaper accounts and census records.

Crown Copyright is reserved for the Ordnance Survey map sections reproduced in this article.

Some of the information about Alfred Redmayne is from a book 'Contemporary Biographies' Pg. 325 in Leeds Central Library.

Figs. 4, 5 and 6 are based on plans at the Morley Offices of the WYAS, and are published here by permission of the WYAS.

The WYAS references are:

Fig. 4, WYL647/661 and for

Figs. 5 and 6, LC/ENG/BCP, Gipton Wood Hotel, 25 Jan. 1907.

Great War Auxiliary Hospitals.

By Anthony Silson and Margaret Plows

Surprisingly, a meeting was held at Leeds Town Hall as early as 1908 to discuss what might be required in the event of Britain being at war and invaded.

During 1908, Territorial forces were founded throughout the country including in Leeds. Part of these forces was voluntary aid detachments (VADs) established a year later. These were mostly women aged between 23 and 38 who were trained in basic nursing skills to be deployed should war occur. Many VADs were attached to the Red Cross but in Leeds they belonged to the Order of St John of Jerusalem. When war was declared in 1914 the two bodies worked as one under the Red Cross Emblem.

On the outbreak of war, part of The City of Leeds Training College, at Beckett's Park, became a military hospital (the 2nd Northern General). The number of beds proved to be too low so early in 1915 East Leeds War Hospital (located at Beckett Street and Killingbeck Hospitals as well as other sites) opened. Seriously wounded servicemen who needed specialised medical and surgical treatment were taken to these military hospitals. If they improved the men were sent to convalesce, along with other servicemen who had lesser injuries to start with, in auxiliary hospitals established and/or run by VADs but still under *military control*.

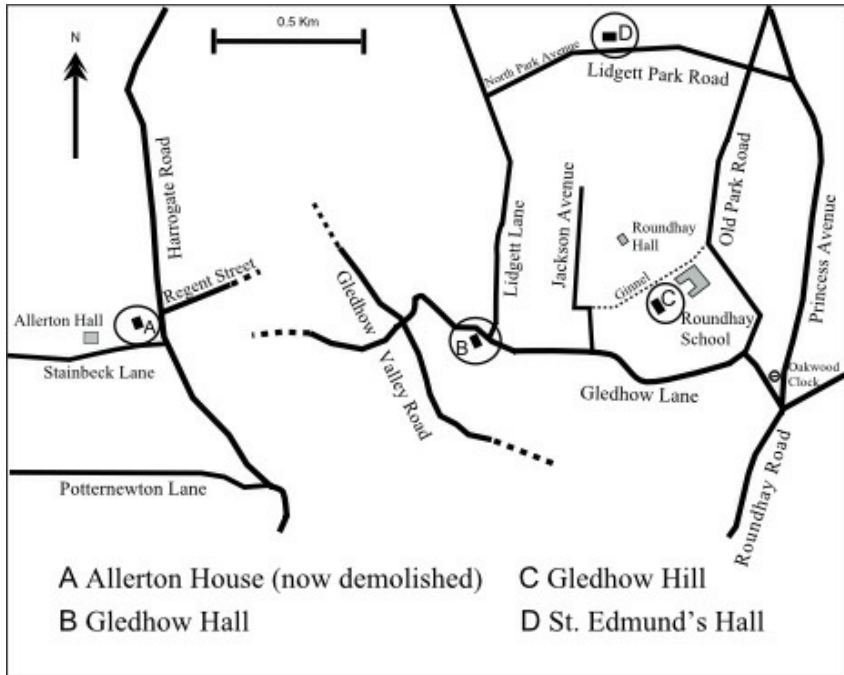
Location and ownership of the hospital buildings

Did you know that within the Borough of Leeds, as it was 1914-19, only four auxiliary hospitals were established and that they were *all* in the Township of Chapel Allerton with three situated in Gledhow? (See the map on the next page)

These hospitals were: Gledhow Hall, Roundhay Auxiliary Military Hospital, St. Edmund's Hall and Allerton Auxiliary Military Hospital.

Lord Airedale offered Gledhow Hall to the military for use as a hospital in 1914 and the Hall opened as a hospital in 1915.

Leeds VAD opened Roundhay Military Hospital at Gledhow Hill as an auxiliary to East Leeds Hospital in 1915. Gledhow Hill was



Map Diagram: Trevor Plows 2015

unoccupied at the time and loaned by its owner H.W. Thompson. This hospital briefly closed in January 1917 and ceremoniously reopened two months later.

As an error occurred in print as recently as 2014, it is worth stating that Roundhay Auxiliary Military Hospital was **not** located in Roundhay Hall, the home of Lord Brotherton. He offered a large part of his house, in August 1914, for use as a hospital, but his offer was never taken up.

For some time, Chapel Allerton VAD had searched for a building that could be converted into an auxiliary hospital. At last, they were fortunate to find the large vacant property of Allerton House that they rented from its owner: T.G. Mylchreest. Allerton House was then converted into Allerton Auxiliary Military Hospital. The cost of conversion was the then huge sum of £5000 and this was quickly raised enabling the hospital to open in March 1916.

In July of that year, St. Edmund's Church Hall was inspected by the military, which considered it suitable, subject to small changes, for use as an auxiliary hospital. But it was not until October that Mrs Rose Duncombe Davis, Commandant of Roundhay Detachment, approached the church to use St. Edmund's Hall as an auxiliary hospital because of the increase in wounded men. The church agreed to this request and charged only £52 a year rent.

North-East Leeds had a high proportion of middle class residents in 1914-19 making it an area where several VADs were established as many of its young ladies had time to serve, and perhaps could access any necessary funds relatively readily.

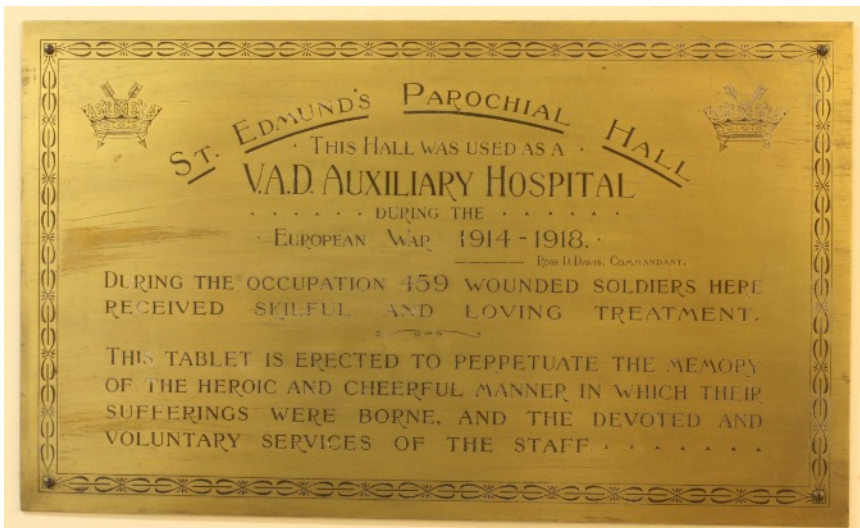
Staffing of auxiliary hospitals

The four hospitals were under the overall command of the 2nd Northern General Administrator for non-medical matters and Matron who directed the nursing staff. Within an auxiliary hospital a commandant was in charge of non-medical matters. A quartermaster dealt with all issues pertaining to provisions. Fully qualified nurses took high positions. Sister Davidson was Matron at Allerton Hospital and had served at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary before the war. VAD members ranging from commandant to nurses formed most of the staff.

Miss Edith M. Cliff, Commandant of Gledhow Hall and a cousin of Lord Airedale, remained at Gledhow Hall for the duration. After Allerton Hospital opened, Mrs Ethel B. Churton was Commandant until the hospital closed. These were rather the exceptions as there was much coming and going of staff. Also at the higher levels at least there were links to Gledhow Hall. Thus Mrs Rose Duncombe Davis and Mrs Florence J. Kitson (Lord Airedale's daughter in law) each served at Gledhow Hall. Rose had researched missing and wounded servicemen and Florence had been Deputy Commandant there, before taking up posts as Commandants at St. Edmund's and Roundhay respectively. Prior to this the Commandant at Roundhay had been Mrs E. Thomas from 1915 until late 1916.

If you consult the Red Cross archive site you will notice that further down the hierarchy, some staff had also served only locally but often at more than one of our hospitals, and that some had served also in other parts of this country and abroad. A VAD member Gladys Darby worked as a paid Masseur at all four hospitals from June 1915 to March 1919.

At Roundhay Hospital a VAD nursing sister, Miss Tama Watson from Ulverston, died aged 34 from pneumonia (probably Spanish Flu) on the 11th November 1918. She was buried at Ulverston Cemetery, with full military honours.



Photograph: Peter Marles 2015

The Luptons, a prominent local family, had five female members who served in VADs locally and in other regions in this country and abroad.

Activities for the servicemen

Whilst medical care was available in auxiliary hospitals, the staff's priority was to occupy the men both physically - so far as injuries allowed - and mentally. The men were young and, prior to being

wounded, physically fit. Now they found themselves cooped up in hospital awaiting their return to the front or their discharge. There were activities undertaken by the men within the hospitals; entertainment provided by groups visiting the hospitals, and activities for the men away from the hospitals.

Within the hospitals some men, especially those with mobility problems, learnt crafts such as needlework, which were thought of as women's work and so gave rise to jocular remarks. Gledhow Hall Hospital seems to have originated such a scheme but other hospitals such as Roundhay adopted it. The less mobile might be only able to play games such as draughts, but others might play billiards and take part in amateur dramatics. Towards the end of the war, Gledhow Hall acquired its own cinema.

At least three bodies brought concert parties to the hospitals to entertain the men. One such group was the Leeds Branch of the National Commercial Temperance League and another was the Leeds War Hospitals Entertainments Scheme that was established by Clifford Bowling. The third group consisted of employees from certain factories. Employees of Blackburn's Aircraft Company, Olympia Works at Oakwood were amongst the most active in forming concert parties. All concert parties had musical accompanists and all the programmes included singing. The remainder of the programmes were more varied. At St. Edmund's there was also a soubrette, a skater and a cartoonist in the visit of 13th July 1917. Roundhay, three months later, had a comedian, a conjuror and an entertainer.

The Wounded Warrior's Welcoming and Entertainments Committee concentrated on taking the wounded to events *outside* the hospitals. The prime mover was the manager of the Gambit Café in Park Row, Leeds, who had formed the idea whilst socialising in a Mrs Richardson's home in Roundhay. The Committee sometimes arranged for the wounded to be taken to musical concerts or to lectures. The latter aimed to broaden the men's minds, and may be exemplified by Professor Kendall's lecture on Early Man and the Ice Age. Shell workers (almost certainly at Newlay, Bramley) once took the wounded on a tour of the works! On a later occasion, shell workers organised a gymkhana to entertain the wounded in Bramley Fall Woods. But

most of the activities offered by the Wounded Warrior's Welcoming and Entertainments Committee were playing outdoor games beyond the hospitals boundaries. There was an inter-hospital challenge cup, which was won by Roundhay on three consecutive occasions. Transport to these events was primarily funded by customers and friends of the Gambit Café.

The cost of transporting concert parties was met by profits from musical concerts organised by the Temperance League and Clifford Bowling's committee.

Selling the articles crafted by the men and holding garden parties raised funds to buy comforts for the men. The garden party held at Roundhay Hospital on 15th August 1918 seemed to be very attractive with tours of the grounds including the kitchen garden, two different musical programmes, and entertainments from Scouts and a concert party.

Assessment of auxiliary hospitals

The auxiliary hospitals were essentially successful. The men liked them, as they were more homely than military hospitals. They minimised capital costs by using existing buildings. And they were flexible: if the numbers of wounded were to greatly decrease then it was easy to close an auxiliary hospital; if the numbers of wounded rose then it was relatively easy to expand or to open a new hospital by using existing buildings. At Gledhow Hall huts were built on the lawn. The huts not only markedly increased the number of beds, but also were advantageous for the healing of certain wounds. Where Gledhow led, St. Edmund's and Roundhay followed. Two of the four hospitals were in vacant buildings and one in a church hall so in these three instances there were no permanent residents to displace. By the end of the war, the War Office was paying £3 4s 6d per week for each patients' hospital treatment, food and other costs. Despite these running costs, budgeting was helped by many of the voluntary domestic and nursing staff declining payment for their services.

Whilst costs to the taxpayer were kept as low as possible, voluntary financial contributions from the local community were high, but the community seemed to welcome this as an opportunity

to do their bit for the war effort. And members of the VADs appeared to share this view as they did so much for so little.

A reservation about the establishment of auxiliary hospitals was voiced in the Yorkshire Post, 1st January 1916 when the paper stated *it appears that the detachments have not been utilised to the extent originally expected*. The paper believed this was because many small hospitals wasted medical resources at a time when doctors were in short supply. Of course, after the Somme, VADs and auxiliary hospitals proved invaluable.

Allerton Hospital specialised in treating patients with jaw injuries, and perhaps this explains why it was the last of the four to close in June 1919. Our other auxiliary hospitals had closed within five months of the Armistice of November 1918.

Sources

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Acknowledgement:

Thank you to Janet Ousby (Librarian at Roundhay School) for both allowing us access to the school's archive and for showing us round Gledhow Hill.

Roundhay Park – The Cottages and Who Lived in Them.

By Gwyneth Spurr

In a previous article, Alma Agar, née Benn, shared her memories about the Benn and Agar families who lived in Mansion Cottage, Clock Tower Yard, and the cottage in the Stable Yard respectively in the 1930's and 1940's. There were many other people, however, living in the cottages belonging to the Roundhay Park complex. Who were they and what became of them?

The cottage once known as Park Cottage was at the top of the Canal Gardens on the Prince's Avenue side. An adjoining room was the Leeds Corporation Parks Office and the name can still be seen over the door leading on to Prince's Avenue (See photograph below).



The building is now part of the new café. There was also a small shop known as the Bower Shop or Kiosk and sweets, ice-cream and cigarettes were served through a window. Inside was a tea-room with two or three tables. Mary Ingham worked there and Alma and I, at different times, would go and talk to her and 'help', or hinder her, behind the counter. The bricked-up wall where the window was can still be seen as you go up the steps into the gardens.



The cottage (the top half of which can be seen in the photograph above) was occupied by Fred Wimbush, the Park Superintendent, and his wife Nancy. Nancy Wimbush was a quiet, timid lady but she and my mother became friends. After their retirement the Wimbush's went to live in a prefab in Adel. One evening Fred suffered a stroke at the wheel of his car, a frightening experience for them both until he managed to bring the car to a halt. Fortunately, neither he nor Nancy was injured but Fred never recovered from the stroke and died soon afterwards. Nancy returned to her home town of Pocklington. My mother kept in touch with her until Nancy also died some months later.

Fred Garbutt was a Park Ranger and he and his wife Ethel moved into the cottage adjoining Park Café after my parents moved to West Lodge. To me they were Uncle Fred and, in typical Yorkshire fashion, Auntie Garbutt. I remember they had a very old dog called Jerry. Ethel



was a staunch Methodist; she and my mother used to go to Brunswick Chapel to hear Rev. Leslie Weatherhead preach. He had a great following at that time. Ethel had a beautiful contralto voice and she was a member of Methodist and other choirs all her life.

Fred and Ethel had a son Harry who attended Roundhay School and played rugby for the Old Roundhegians. His nickname was Cab but I don't know why. Harry had just started work at Bryant & Mays (matches) when war broke out. In 1940 he joined the Royal Navy, transferring to the Fleet Air Arm two years later. After training

in Canada he was commissioned in 1943 and returned to RNAS Burscough, known as HMS Ringtail, in Lancashire. While carrying out flying exercises in a Fairey Firefly he got into difficulties and crashed into the sea off Cleveleys. Harry and his navigator were killed and both are buried in Fleetwood Cemetery. After his death Ethel became very interested in spiritualism and my mother, who was also called Ethel, attended meetings with her.

The cottage I know as Rose Cottage is the one that can be seen on the right behind the Roundhay Fox looking from Prince's Avenue. It once had a very pretty garden in front of it. Jim McCade, the Nursery Foreman, lived there with his wife Flo and son Jimmy. Jim was from Keswick and had played rugby for Cumberland. Flo suffered from severe asthma and, before coming to Leeds in the mid 1930's, they had lived in South Africa for a while hoping that the climate would benefit her health. Their son was born there. After Flo's death in 1958 Jim took over at Bramley Falls Park and, as far as I know, ended his working life there. I believe that Jimmy became a teacher and eventually a much loved and respected Head teacher at Springbank School, Farsley. He died in France in 2013.

Next door to Rose Cottage lived the Wilson family, Charlie senior, his wife Clara and their son Charlie. Charlie senior looked after the ticket office at the tennis courts in the days when there was a proper pavilion with changing rooms. Clara worked as an attendant at the Park. Clara was very kind and when my mother and I were ill in 1947, came in every day for several weeks to cook and care for us. Charlie junior was a hairdresser.

Another member of the nursery staff was Albert Hughes. He and his wife Dorothy lived in a cottage next to St John's Church on Wetherby Road. Albert had been at Dunkirk and was torpedoed twice on the return journey. Afterwards he developed what we used to call shell shock.

In 1884 the Leeds Corporations Minute Books record that offers were to be invited for the tenancy of the Mansion with stables and outbuildings as a Refreshment Building. The tenancy was given to the Gilpin family. By 1889 the tenancy had been extended and now included "the Clock Tower Stables and Coach House, the Cottage in the Clock Tower Yard, the New Stables and the Clock Tower Yard". According to Kelly's Leeds Directory, in 1947 Craven Gilpin was also the Lessee of other Refreshment Rooms, so many of the people working at Roundhay Park were employed by the Gilpin family and

some of their staff lived in at The Mansion, Park Café and Lakeside Café.

This leaves the row of seven cottages at right-angles to Prince's Avenue at the end of Mansion Lane, once known as Dutch Barn Cottages and now as Park Cottages (See photograph below).



These cottages had originally been built as Dutch Barns which were open-fronted structures with a curved roof used for storing hay. In 1888 Leeds Corporation resolved that “the barns be converted into seven cottages in accordance with the plan prepared by Mr Beilby (the head gardener) at a cost not exceeding £200”. They were to be occupied by gardeners and employees of the Corporation at a weekly rent deducted from their pay. The cottages have recently been renovated and are now in private ownership. Below the cottages the Barns can still be seen, now enclosed for storage.

There have been many comings and goings over the years but Kelly's Leeds Directories show that by the 1930's/40's the occupancy of the cottages was fairly stable.

Cottage number one was a double cottage where Charles and Alice Brown lived. I don't know what Charlie was employed as but they came from East Yorkshire and returned there after retirement. They had no children as far as I know.

Tommy and Edna Wright were from North Yorkshire and had a son George who worked as a telephone engineer for the GPO. Tommy worked in the Nursery. After my family left White House in the mid-1950's it was converted into two flats and the Wright family moved into the top one. They moved to Brackenwood when they retired.

The third cottage was occupied by Fred and Ada Barlow. In 1938 he is listed as a Corporation carter but by 1947 he had become a foreman. They had one son.

In the fourth cottage lived Jack Watkins and his wife Alice and daughter Pamela. Jack is listed as a fitter. Pamela is still alive as far as I know.

The Makin family, Len and Clara and their two children, lived at number five. Len was a tractor and lorry driver. When they left the park they opened a hardware shop on Chapeltown Road.

In 1938 it seems that cottage number six was empty but I remember the Hardwicks, Joe and Freda and their children, young Joe and Elsie-Margaret, being there. By 1947 James and Phyllis Carnochan were living there.

Alfred Wood was also a gardener and lived in the final cottage with his wife Ada and daughter Edna. Edna was married to Charles Stoneman but living with her parents while her husband was away with the Army in India. Ruth Nixon, one of our members, was friendly with her and remembers going on holiday with her and staying over at the cottage after a dance. On VE Day, Ruth and her parents and Edna celebrated in The Gipton Hotel, now The Roundhay. Charles and Edna went out to Rhodesia and Alf and Ada followed them on their retirement. Edna died some years ago in East London, South Africa.

I think I have written all that I can recall about my memories of Roundhay Park. It would be interesting to hear from anyone else who lived, or remembers someone who lived, at the Park in the 1930's and 1940's who could perhaps put me right if I have not recollected events correctly.

Acknowledgements:

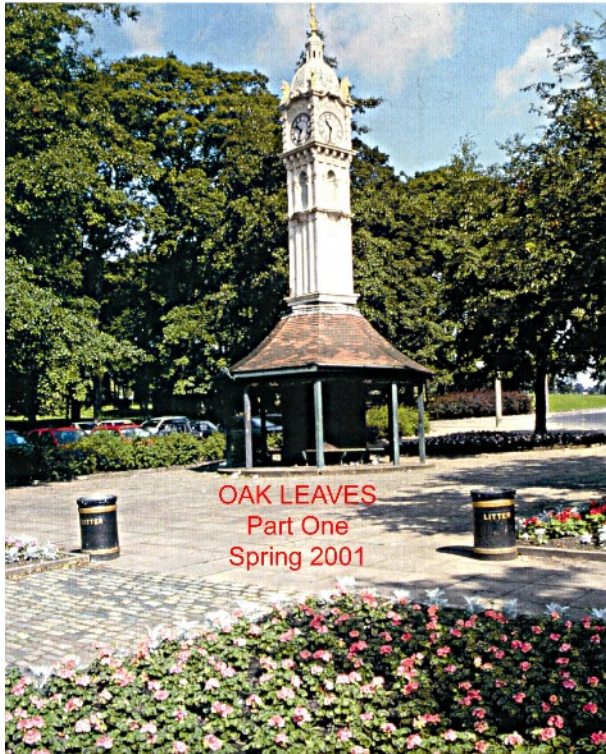
Alma Agar

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Leeds Corporation Minute Books – 1880's



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