



150
2026



Lancaster & Morecambe

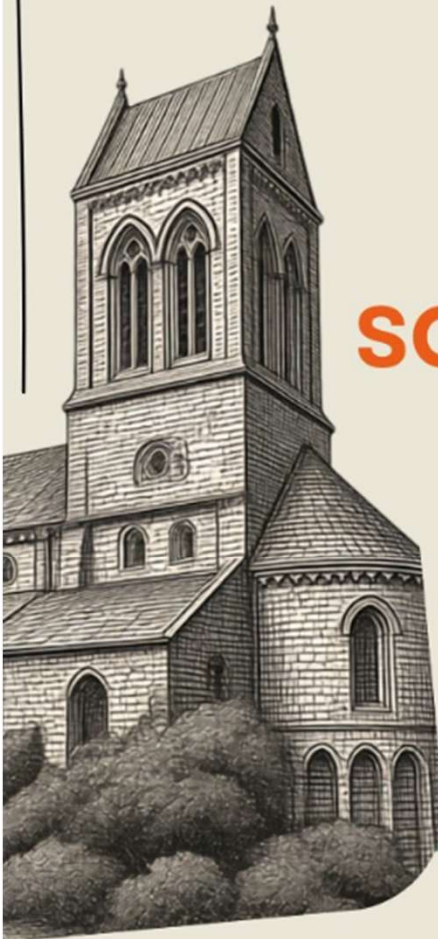
U3A Presents:

History Talk

✦
**SCOTFORTH PARISH
NOW & THEN**
✦

**TUE 16TH JUNE
2PM**

ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SCOTFORTH





"Scotfort" (or more commonly **Scotford/Scotforth**) means "ford of the Scot" or a crossing point used by people from Scotland, derived from Old English 'Scot' (meaning a Scotsman/Irishman) and 'ford' (a shallow river crossing). It often refers to specific places in England like Scotforth, indicating an ancient route to/from Scotland



**Scotforth Ford, circa 1930, water colour by Sydney Passmore.
(courtesy of Alan Passmore)**

The Beck



Hala Centre (1984)



Hala Hill



Beck View



Scotforth Pottery

was a 19th-century earthenware manufacturer located at the foot of Hala Road in Scotforth.

Situated near the current site of the Hala Centre,

it operated from the 1840s to the 1870s producing domestic stoneware and was later demolished to make way for the 1960s Hala housing estate





COME AND SEE

150



St Paul's Church
Scotforth
Celebrating
150 years



EDMUND SHARPE: Renaissance Man

*architect and engineer ,
writer on architecture.*

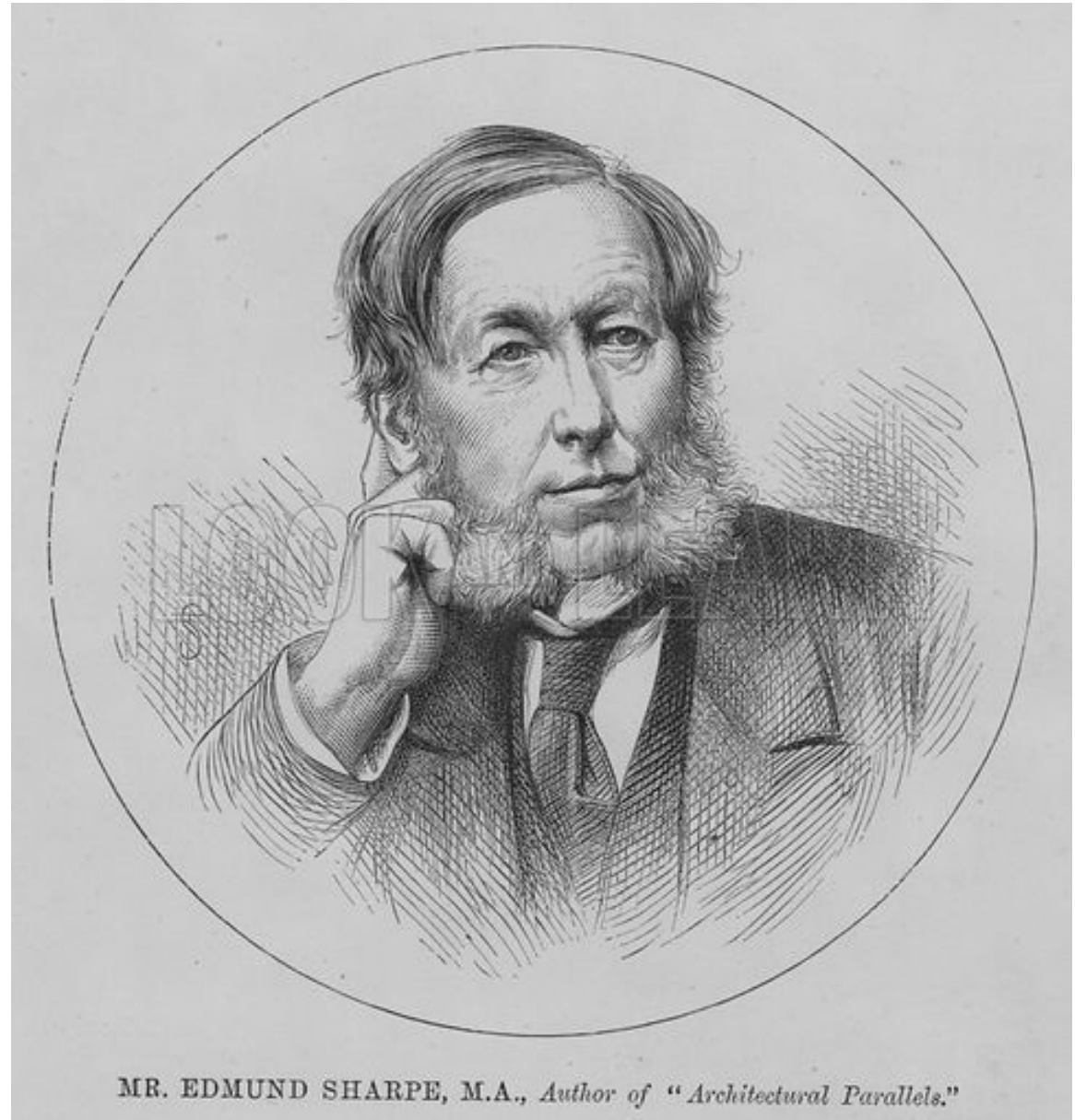
Born in 1809 in Knutsford, Cheshire but after the death of his father the family moved to Lancaster.

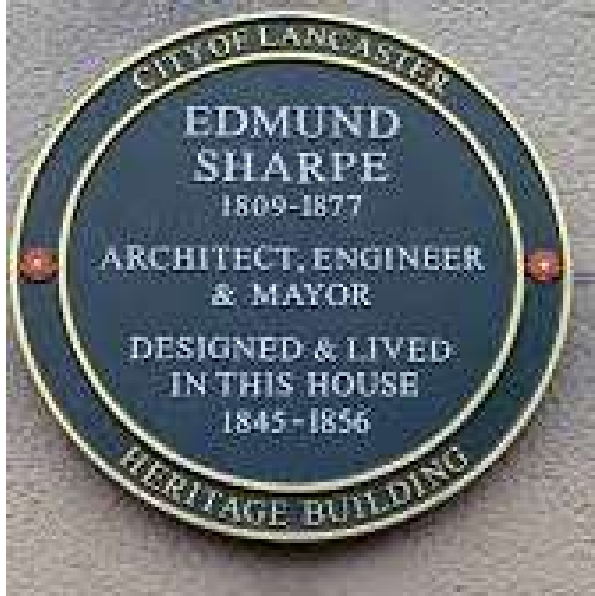
Following his graduation from Cambridge University he studied architecture in Europe.



Edmund Sharpe

Opening an architectural practice on Penny Street in Lancaster in 1835, he also developed interests in railway engineering, public health & local politics. He was a keen sportsman, an author, an accomplished musician and at one time owner of both the Theatre Royal (now Lancaster Grand Theatre) and the Phoenix Foundry.





Edmund Sharpe's former home on Fenton Street, Lancaster. Sharpe built the house for himself and resided there from 1845 - 1856.



As an architect, he is perhaps best remembered for his '**Pot Churches**'. St Paul's Church being one of three built in the north west.



In all three cases use was made of terra cotta both for constructional and decorative purposes. It is used for the dressings, windows, doorways, the upper part of the tower, and internally for the piers and arches of the aisle arcades, but the walls are of stone.



SCOTFORTH PARISH

The church was built in 1876 and the first positive steps were taken in 1921 to build a hall after managing to acquire land from H.L.Storey who was also a church patron and on the Corporation. It was hoped to give a new quality to church life but involved much fund raising. In 1923 the foundation stone was laid and it was opened in 1924 by Alderman George Jackson, an old Scotforth boy.

Scotforth Parish Hall





**The Hall in
wartime 1938**



Following the Second World War it took time for school building projects to catch up on the urgent requirements of South Lancaster. Prior to the new hall for Scotforth School (and the opening of Moorside School) some classes of St. Paul's were taught in the Parish Hall, where all the classes came together for school dinners.

This Scotforth School photograph of 1952 shows the class of Mrs Whitehead taught in the Parish Hall upper room. It was taken on the tennis courts at the back of the Parish Hall. (At this time the courts were owned by the church and used by the Youth Club and the choir. The courts were later replaced by bungalows)

Lee Engineering former BT Building (opposite the hall)





1920's Council Housing Palatine Avenue

Affordable Housing

The major problem in providing affordable housing for the poorest in society was the cost of building which made rents too high. New forms of construction were experimented with including houses made from reinforced concrete or iron panels in an attempt to lower costs.





Palatine Avenue

Palatine Avenue for which the builders were Dilworth of Lancaster. Built in 1924, the avenue became known locally as a 'road fit for heroes'. Much of the land was purchased by the Corporation of Lancaster from Mr Herbert Lushington Storey of Storey Bros. Of Lancaster. This was with a view to putting a new road through from Bowerham to Scotforth, across land formerly used by Greaves Nurseries, florists of New Street, Lancaster

Rutland Avenue

The interwar period saw housing in Bowerham encroach from the north east.



The 1960s and 1970s were when Hala expanded east of the beck

Cockersands Drive



Notable events such as the autumnal Blackpool Illuminations brought vast convoys of coaches through Scotforth, carrying Glaswegians south for their annual binges. Their return journeys produced long lines of crawling coaches, backed up way out towards Galgate. The coaches contents, no doubt well lubricated from their many 'refreshment' stops on their way up the A6 produced showers of 'surplus' coins rained down on the assembled kids in Scotforth Square.

Scotforth Road





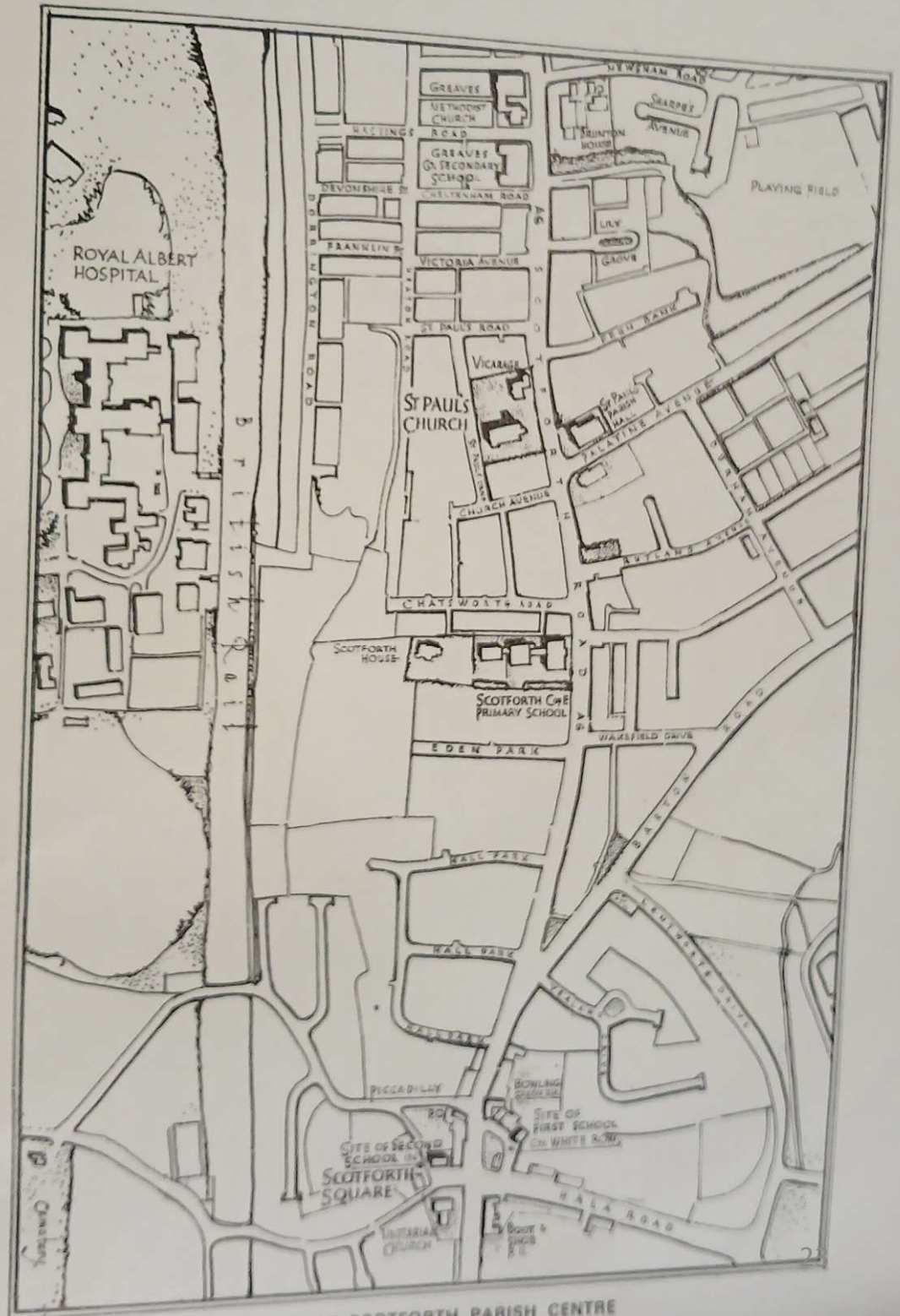
Scotforth Rd 1986

Great excitement was caused when occasionally very large loads such as boilers or transformers would be driven through, with motorcycle policemen clearing the way, probably heading for Heysham Harbour. As motor traffic slowly built up after the wartime and rationing period, things became much busier. At this time, with only the one (Skerton) bridge crossing the river, long queues of traffic would build up northbound, far outstripping today's conception of heavy traffic.

Scotforth St Paul's C of E Primary & Nursery School moved to its present site in the late Victorian era, with records indicating that St Paul's Church, which is adjacent, opened in 1874, five years before the school moved to its current location. This suggests the current school site was established around 1879. Records from the 1860s to 1890s refer to "Scotforth National School"



An older, smaller building previously served as the school until it was replaced, according to historic photos . It was situated at the crossroads near the Boot and Shoe and Booths.



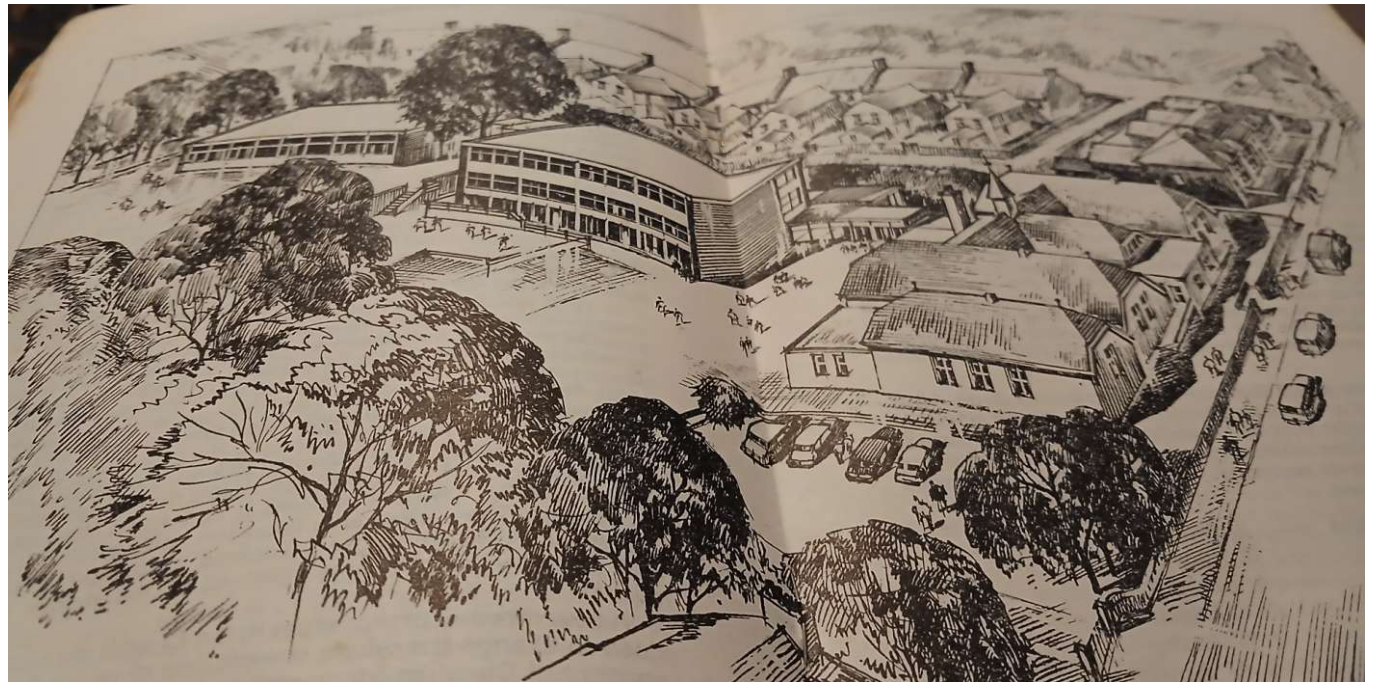


Original school in
White Row



The second school in
the square

The school today





Houses in Hala Road, Scotland

The "present" school building was commissioned because the previous educational facilities were deemed insufficient.

Class photo in 1916





Eden Park was just one of many housing developments that increasingly closed the gap between Scotforth and Lancaster.





They were largely built between 1896 and 1914.







Hall Park

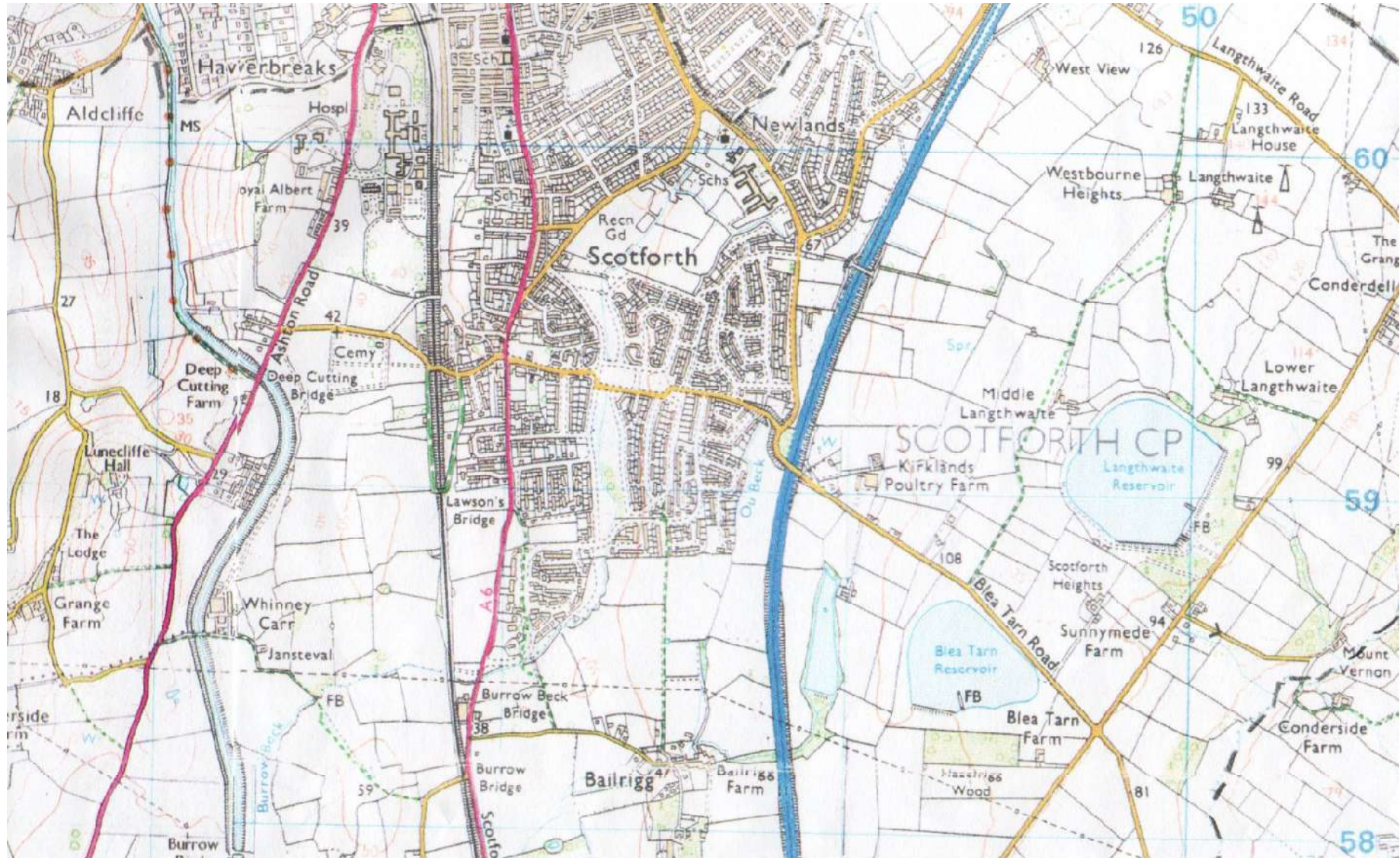
The houses on Hall Park are different in style from Eden Park as they were all built by different builders in separate plots. Some houses were built in the back gardens of Eden Park



Some houses on the A6 have been demolished, like the row between Piccadilly and Hall Park, now a public space.



Scotforth Village



SCOTFORTH (VILLAGE)

The core of Scotforth today is clear. There is the north-south Preston to Lancaster road – now the A6. To the west is the Preston to Lancaster railway line opened in 1840. Finally there are the two roads westwards over the railway (Piccadilly and Ashford Road) and Hala Road eastwards.

In 1890 Scotforth was still a township separate from Lancaster; it became part of the borough administratively in 1900. Lancaster's second cemetery was established in Scotforth in 1890 and the tramlines to town arrived in 1903.



Scotforth Road Tram Terminus



Trams finished running on the Scotforth route in Lancaster in 1930. The service was replaced by petrol buses, marking the final phase in the closure of the Lancaster Corporation tramway system.



Some of the houses shown are still standing. The terrace west of Booths (**Nos 98–110 Scotforth Road**) was built in the early 1880s, one being dated 1883.

In the 1960's, many of the properties around Scotforth Square, not having indoor toilets or bathrooms, were listed for 'slum' clearance. Those properties to the south west, and north west side of the square in Ashford Road fell into this clearance,



although a recent article elsewhere in March 2021 suggests that occupiers of the terrace on Scotforth Road towards the post office somehow appealed against the order, and were reprieved. They remain, all now having the necessary 'facilities'.



The village was almost 'self sufficient' in that there was, a busy Post Office cum Newsagent and general stationary store.

To the north of the Post Office, across the mouth of Piccadilly where there is now a small car park, stood a Green Grocery shop.





Behind that, in Piccadilly, stood Hall's Dairy; the buildings now converted to housing.



Across Scotforth Road on the east side stood the old Bowling Green pub. In the same terrace of buildings was 'Parkinsons' Sweet Shop.

The Bowling Green Inn established in 1815 and rebuilt recently very close to its original site. The Bowling Green is now closed. It provided refreshments for travellers and the local farming community.



Continuing south, with its door on the corner of the block was Dawson's general store, locally called 'Gaks', really nothing more than a porch into the property, with items stacked on either side. Any more than two customers resulted in a queue outside. Across a little alleyway stood a red brick building housing a Cobblers business.





Scotforth Mission with Pauline & Kenneth Saunders

Scotforth Mission which was
later moved to Lentworth Drive



Boot and Shoe Hotel
(established on its current site in 1799)

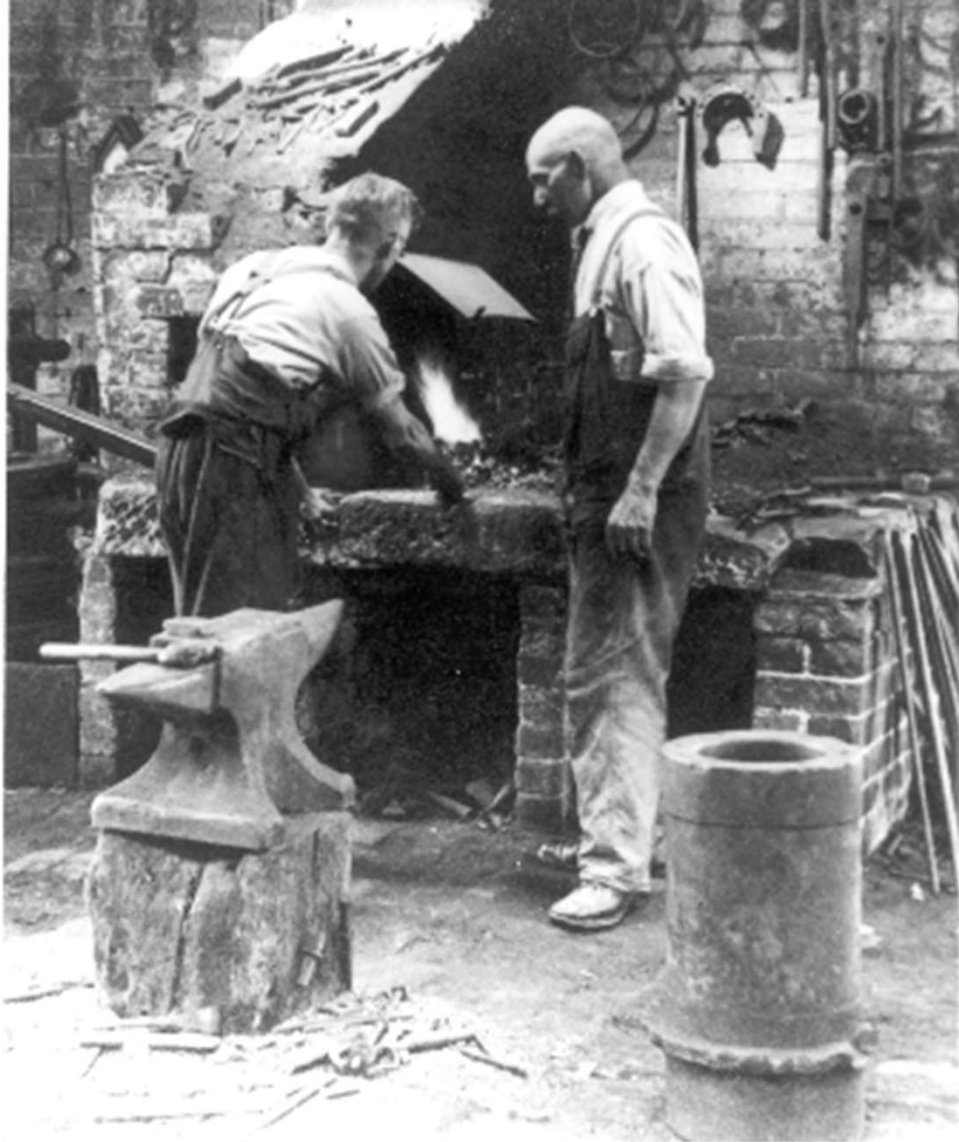


Rowley Court
a Masonic institution;
although originally built
as a Unitarian Church

Cross Roads

Booths opened in 1982





Between them at the crossroads (now Booths) was the **smithy** of the farrier and repairer of ironwork.



The terrace at 4–18 Hala Road east of the Boot and Shoe was built for the Friendly United Order of Mechanics in 1874. As the plaque shows, the Order was Masonic in origin. It acted as a mutual benefit society, here building houses for each other.



20 Hala Road has the date 1698 over its door lintel and is Grade II listed. It was remodelled in the early-nineteenth century and has a distinctive long stair-window at the back.



Hala Road leading on to Lentworth Drive. (Former site of 2nd mission church)



Hala Road



Hala Road Scotland

Back to the crossroads at Scotforth Road



Scotforth Toll Gate



(photographed in 1952)



The Toll Bar Garage & Cottage

at Scotforth, now
the site of a petrol
station





During the nineteenth century toll incomes fell steadily as traffic moved to the expanding railway network , and the trust's debts increased. The Local Government Act of 1888 passed the responsibility for road maintenance to county and borough councils (hence paid for by general local taxation rather than by road users specifically}, hence almost ending the turnpike era in Britain.



TOLL BAR CRESCENT

Ashton Manor



Ashton Manor Care Home in Lancaster is a purpose-built facility that replaced a former Victorian villa and the site of a previous nursing home known as [Burrowbeck Grange](#). The original building was demolished to make way for the new 67-bedroom, state-of-the-art care facility, which was completed around 2020

Rowley Court



1, Ashford Road now occupied by Rowley Court which is situated immediately opposite the Boot and Shoe public house on the A6 and is known as Rowley Court(Masonic Hall). It was formerly a Unitarian church designed by Edgar Middleton in the 1960s.

itself a replacement for the Unitarian church demolished in the clearance of St Nicholas Street in the centre of Lancaster, circa 1960.





Oaklea

Oaklea house was built in 1894 west of the crossroads to replace an earlier cottage



Many of the gardens on the edge of Scotforth are shown on the map as having several trees, perhaps orchards. A sense of the farming past can be glimpsed



along Ashford Road and in Piccadilly where farmhouses and outbuildings have survived. Beyond the farmhouses, the acreage of each field is shown below its field number

Running down the back of Portland Terrace is a 'back', or lane giving access to all the properties, emerging at the lower end of the terrace, opposite the end of Uggle Lane. Across the back lane, each house had a garden about 30 feet long, all well tended. Their rear boundary's overlooked a large orchard, principally of damson trees, extending from the rear of 'Oaklea' in Scotforth Square, westward to the railway cutting.



The Portland Terrace part of Ashford Road, is a row of terraced cottages; built between 1890 and 1898.



Uggle Lane branches off Ashford Road leading to Uggle Farm. To the left (north east) of the field was a yard and a large barn, known as Fox's yard. The barn is now used by Cowan's Builders, of Greaves Road, Lancaster.

Laburnum Cottage

and stable at 17 Ashford Road is Grade II listed and dates from the mid-eighteenth century. The white farm building just visible in the photo above, Laburnum Cottage, would appear to be one of the oldest original buildings remaining in the village, dating from the mid 18th century.



This map shows large parts of Scotforth covered in trees, which by further examination are revealed to be orchards. Some of these orchards were still in existence in the 1940's and 1950's. Uggie Lane just off Ashford Road held the entrance to several of these orchards along it's western boundary. The lane ran south, giving access to fields in the vicinity of the present day Lawson's Bridge,



*Extract from Greenwood's Map, 1818.
(University of Lancaster)*





The Lawsons were prominent 17th-18th century Quaker merchant families in Lancaster, heavily involved in early trade with the West Indies and local sugar refining



Lawsons Bridge



Lawsons Field





The arrival of the Preston to Lancaster Railway in 1840 cut through all of these orchards, giving rise to a further lane, Cinder Lane, being formed as an accommodation lane to the western



portion of these orchards.



The doubling of Lancaster's population between 1801 and 1851 had necessitated the establishment of Lancaster Cemetery (the town's first municipal cemetery) in 1854–5 on Quernmore Road to the east of the town.



The further doubling of the population between 1851 and 1891 required additional cemeteries – in Scotforth in 1890 to the south of Lancaster and in Skerton in 1904 to the north.



Enlarged in 1908, the 11 acres of Scotforth Cemetery were then just fields, west of Scotforth village and what is now the West Coast Main Line railway. Such a large area of flat land was not available in Lancaster Borough and the nearest Anglican church (St Paul's, 1874–5) did not have a graveyard. Lancaster had to go outside the borough to Scotforth township to find this site.



The interments at Scotforth during the twentieth century reflect some of the recent cultural changes in Lancaster.

The Cemetery has a Polish section serving that community, many of whom arrived during and after the Second World War. Their language on the headstones and their metal crosses mark out this area on the east side of the Cemetery.

A section for Catholics – some with Irish heritage – is in the south-east corner.

In the south-west corner is the Muslim section. Their graves are aligned differently – south west to north east – so that the deceased, lying on his or her right side, faces the Ka'aba in Mecca (Saudi Arabia). The graves form mounds and are marked, if at all, by some flowers and increasingly by headstones often with Arabic script.



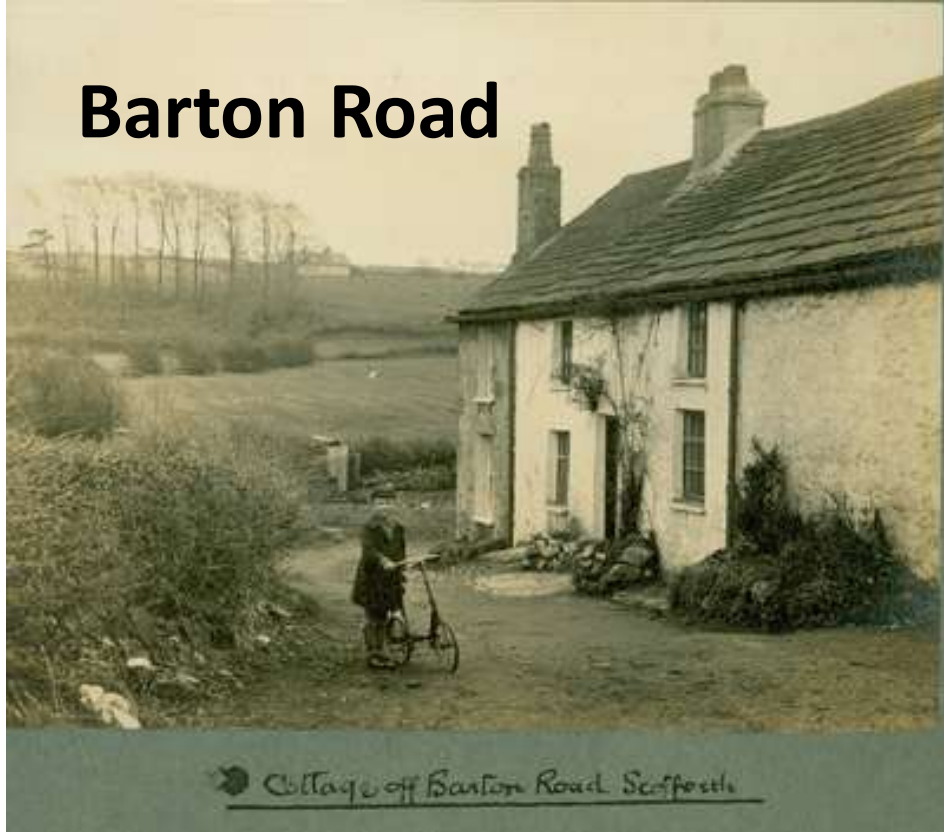
PICCADILLY



In local history
"Owd Bob"
(Old Bob) was a
well-known local
character who
lived in the
village during the
late 19th century.
Owd Bob went
around the pubs
selling
mushrooms to
the drinkers



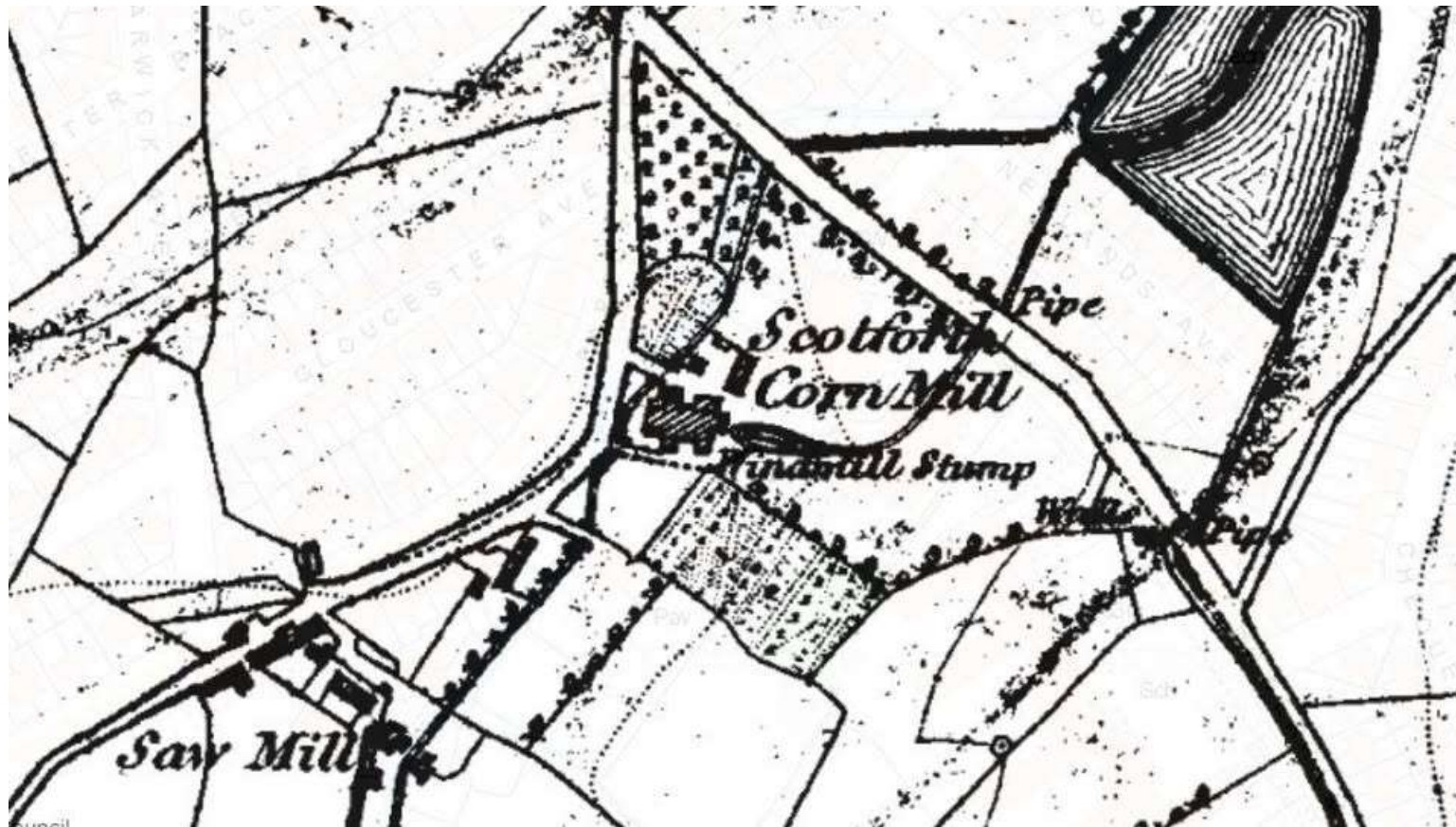
Barton Road



Windmill at Scotforth Mill.

(Barton Road curving down to the left, Bowerham Road going down to the right).

Where the 'windmill stump' is marked is now at the back of St Bernadette's School.





St. Bernadette's parish, in Lancaster's southern suburb of Bowerham, originally part of St. Peter Cathedral parish, came to existence to provide for Lancaster's post-war population expansion. In 1947 about four acres of land in Bowerham were acquired, including a solidly built barn, the old Scotforth Corn Mill, which was converted into a Chapel of ease in 1948, Holy Mass being celebrated by priests from the Cathedral.





In 1953 the chapelry became an independent parish, served by Fr Christopher Aspinall and covering a large area of South Lancaster and its rural hinterland. Population growth in the area, which included the new Hala council estate, soon made the increasingly cramped barn inadequate to the parish's needs and from 1954 a hectic programme of fund raising began in order to build a proper church, at an estimated cost of between 30,000 and 38,000 pounds.

The Diocesan Chapter approved the design of the architects in 1955, the church was ready for its solemn blessing and opening, conducted by Bishop Flynn in May 1958.



Font



Vertical window strips.
Designed by Tom Mello

A free-standing tower surmounted by a crucifix was to make St. Bernadette's a major landmark of its area. Sadly the great landmark, the tower and the Crucifix, became structurally dangerous and has had to be demolished, while land within the church grounds was made available for housing development



Barton Gardens



St. Bernadette's School

Vital to the story of St. Bernadette's has been its school, opened as a daughter of St. Peter's School in 1957 and becoming a parish school in its own right in 1970.





Moorside Primary School



Located on Bowerham Road, was built and opened in the early 1950s. serving the post-war housing expansion in the area. Specifically, records from former pupils indicate that the school was well-established by at least 1959–1960.

Expansion: A proposal to permanently **expand** the school was passed by Lancashire County Council in 2014, with changes taking effect from September **2015**.

Current Status: As of 2026, it is a state-funded school located in South Lancaster with a capacity of **630 pupils**.



Fox & Goose

**NEWLANDS
ROAD**

Newlands Farm

Bluebell wood



Continuing up
Bowerham Road
(Lane)

The Racecourse Estate



Known locally as 'The Racecourse' as the land was originally owned by the Cousins family who had racehorses. Any road up all the streets on this estate built in the late 60's early 70's had to be named after racecourses.⁷⁹

Site of Hala Dairy.



Hala Carr, owner Horace Cousin's house in the background.

Further north along Bowerham Lane, adjacent to the large house, Hala Carr, owned by Horace Cousins. Now buried under Goodwood Road and Goodwood Court stood Cousin's Dairy, instigated in the mid 1930's, where milk was brought in from surrounding farms by milk kits on flat bed lorries, and bottled for onward delivery.

Over the M6 onto Blea Tarn Road



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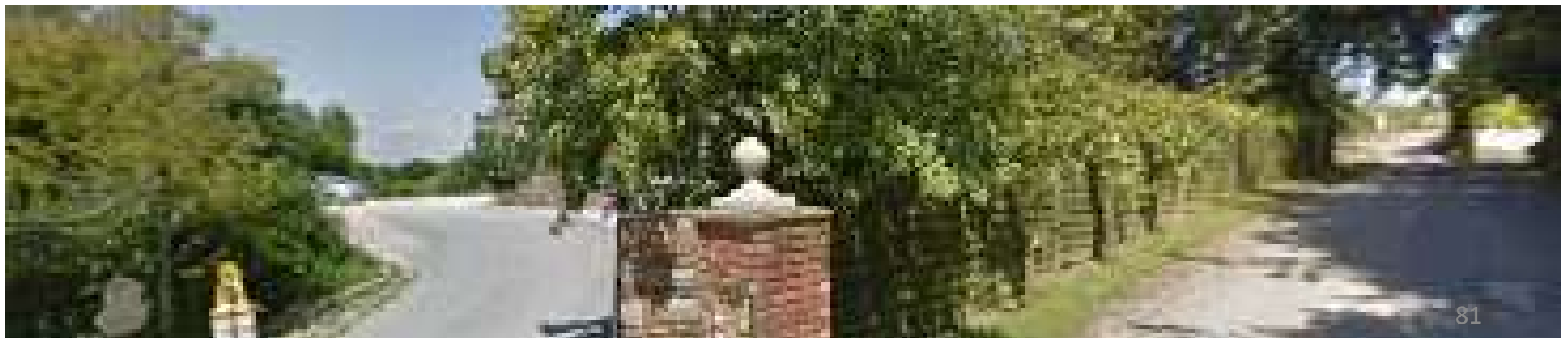
HELP US BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

We need your help today, due to on-going financial challenges, Animal Care is in a very serious financial situation. This means we urgently need to secure regular donations and sponsorship to protect the future of our charity!



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If you have ever adopted an animal, visited our tea rooms, supported our charity shops, called us for advice, or simply love animals as much as we do — please consider donating £1, £2, £5, £10 or £20 a month. That small, regular gift could make the biggest difference we have ever seen. The price of a coffee once a month could save us!





There are two reservoirs in the parish.
Blea Tarn Reservoir was constructed in 1896–1901



Langthwaite Reservoir on Little Fell lane was constructed in 1935, and United Utilities began work in 2018 on the construction of a floating solar farm on its surface.



**Boundary Riding
at
Langthwaite Reservoir**

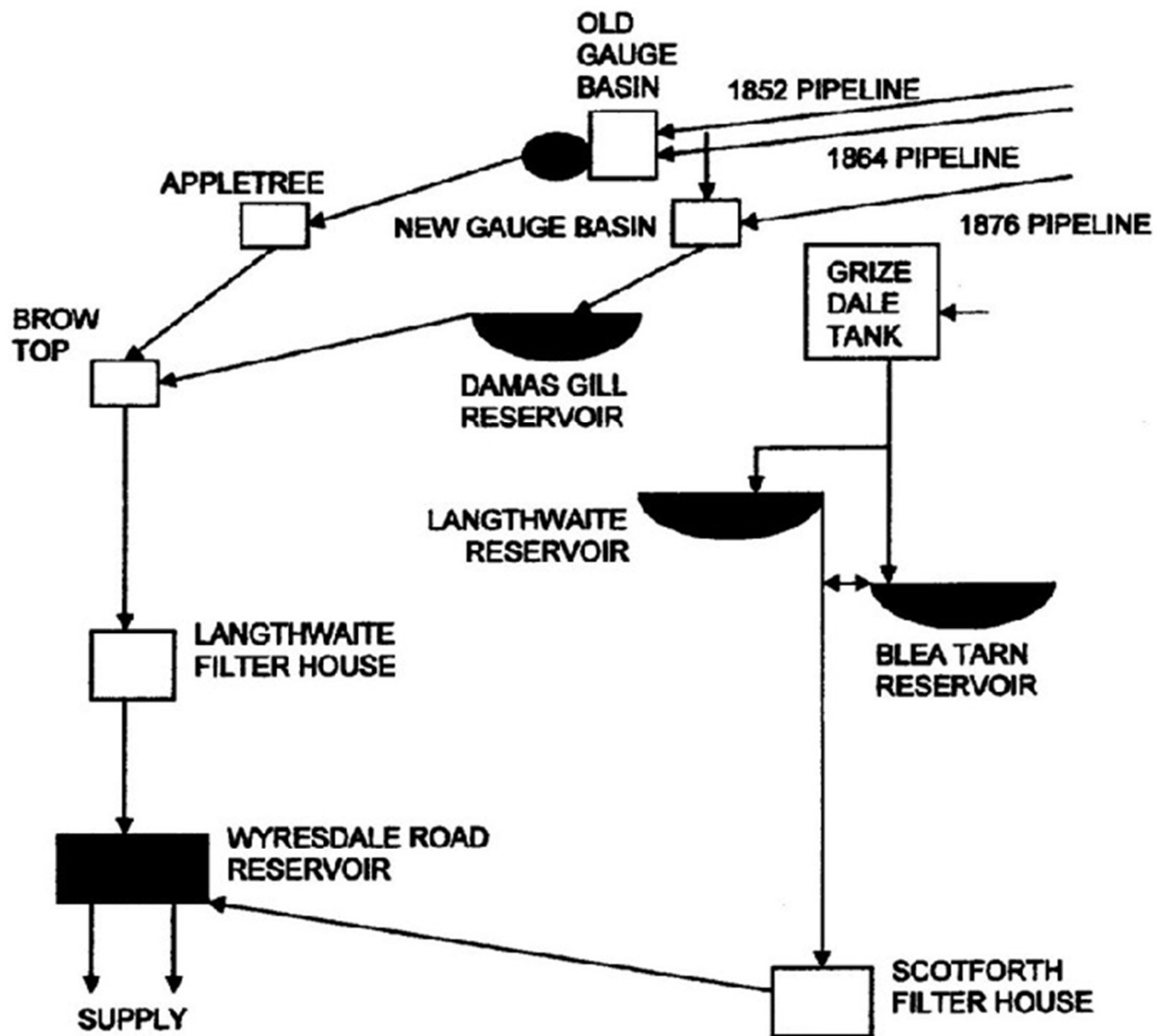


Figure 7. Diagram of Lancaster's water supply system in 1935. Adapted from *Souvenir of the Opening Ceremony of the Langthwaite Reservoir Lancaster* (Anon 1935)

Hazelrigg Lane

An archaeological investigation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North before the installation of a wind turbine at Hazelrigg, near Lancaster University, revealed limited evidence for prehistoric occupation, in the form of stone artefacts and charcoal in the fills of tree-throw holes. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal from these features indicated a likely Bronze Age date for most of this activity



The university is building a *solar* farm on 21 hectares (around 50 acres) of land east of *Hazelrigg Lane* and bordering Proctor Moss and the River Conder.

Lancaster University



Ancient settlement

The University is located on an area known as Bailrigg. The name Bailrigg has two possible meanings, it signifies either a living space or something that is adjacent to a ridge or boundary. “Bal” and “Balla” means an abode and “Bail” signifies a certain limit in a forest. The suffix “rigge” means ridge, or raised ground.

The vast majority of what became the campus was part of “Bailrigg Moor”, a rough grazing land that the farmers in Scotforth had common rights to, until 1809 when the site was improved.

Bigforth farm and the fields to the north-west of the site were already in existence at this time. The name “Bigforth” represents the old Norse “bygg-thveit” which translated into modern English means barley clearing. This would suggest that the farm originated in the period of Scandinavian colonization between the tenth and the twelfth centuries.

Bailrigg, in the early 19th century

The landscape altered dramatically after 1809 when Joshua Hinde created rectangular fields of pasture on the former moor.

Hinde (1761-1825) was part of large Lancastrian slave-trading family,. The wealth Hinde acquired through the slavery business enabled him to enclose former moorland and turn Bailrigg into a private agricultural estate.

At the height of the Napoleonic wars Hinde probably aimed to improve the land in order to increase food production during a time of shortages and high prices.

By 1833, the land had been developed extensively, which would become the west side of the new campus.

As a 'sporting estate' in the mid-19th century

By 1841, the whole Bigforth estate had passed to William Treasure Redmayne of Amwell. Leonard Redmayne (William's father) raised himself from an obscure position to the head of the firm of Gillows. He was also one of the first directors of the Lancaster Banking Company. He was Mayor of Lancaster in 1842 and died in 1869. William Treasure Redmayne was Leonard's only son.

William Treasure Redmayne was likely responsible for the conversion of the site into a sporting estate. The framework of woodland had been planted as cover for game, and parts of this have survived to the present day.

New money, new landscapes



In 1887, the estate was purchased by Sir Thomas Storey and, on his death in 1897, it passed to his son, Herbert Lushington Storey. At that time, the estate comprised of 523 acres of land and three farms, Hazelrigg, Bigforth and Bailrigg, and Burrow House.



Bailrigg House

Between 1899 and 1902, Herbert Storey built Bailrigg House where he lived until his death. Bailrigg House was designed by the architects Woolfall and Eccles of Liverpool. Herbert also re-orientated the land, adding additional elements to the



landscape and later hiring the famous local landscape architect, Thomas Mawson to do additional work.

Some of the fields adjoining the house were used to create kitchen gardens, a cricket pitch and a lawn tennis court.

The 20th century

In 1921, the land and estate were sold at auction and purchased by Townley Parker.

In 1963, Bailrigg Estate and most of the surrounding land succumbed to the student invasion. The Townleys were approached by Don Wadell, the Town Clerk of Lancaster, to see if they would sell the house and its property for the construction of the new university. They were eventually persuaded to sell their mansion and Bigforth farm for £50,000.

Bigforth farm consisted of around 200 acres. Later, 50 acres at Hazelrigg Farm were bought, and then 90 acres at Bakers Farm in 1967. The area of land chosen as the site of the new university was a rich tapestry of copses, small patches of water and grassland with a number of stone farmhouses and buildings. In the construction process, many of the belts of woodland along the north and east sides of the campus were preserved and can still be seen today.

The Green Lane Murder, Scotforth 1866

On a winter's evening in January 1866, 31 year old housemaid Elizabeth Nelson set off from Richmond House on Slyne Road where she worked to deliver a bonnet and a letter. She was never seen alive again.

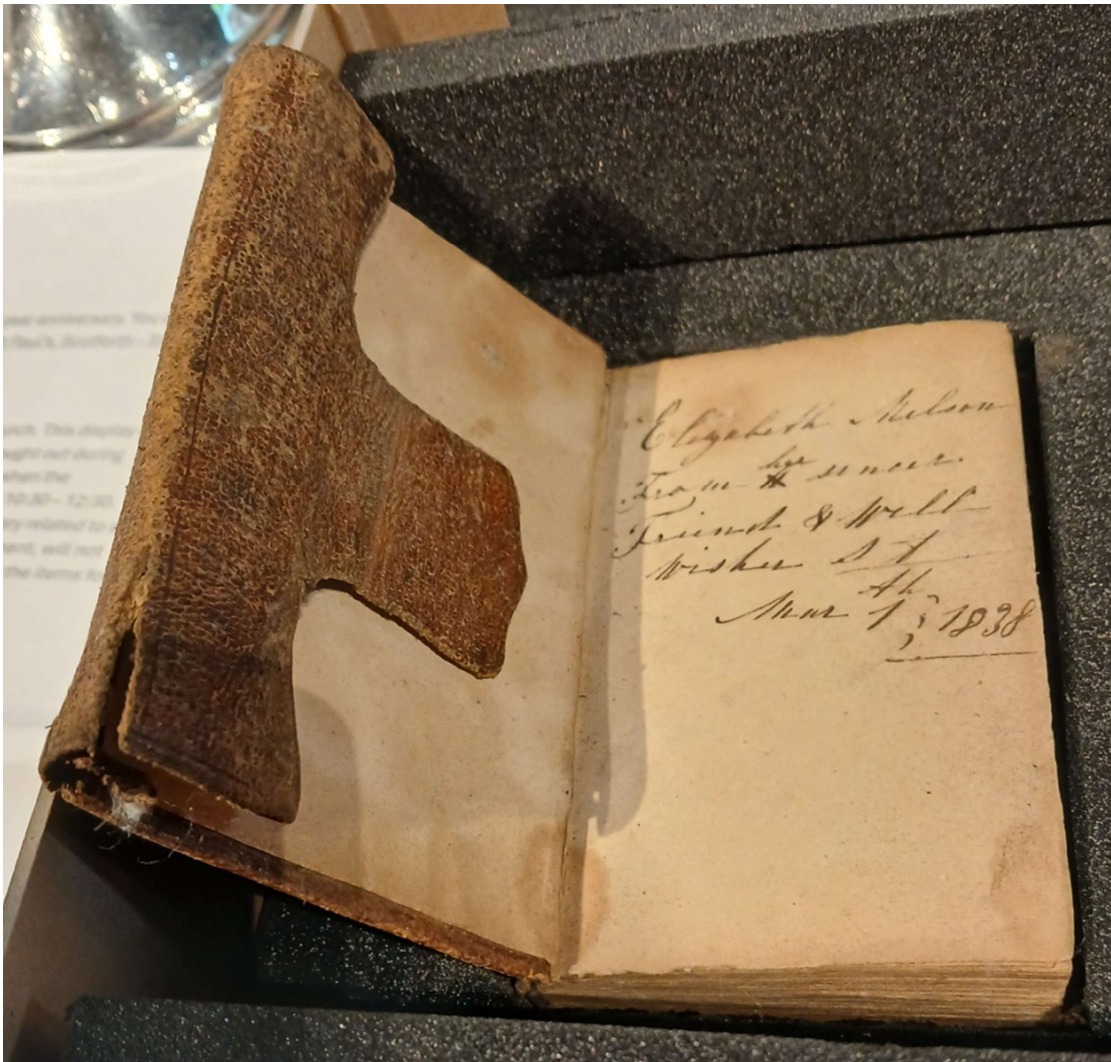


The next morning, on a remote back lane between Bailrigg and Ellel her body was found. She'd been strangled to death with clear signs of both physical and sexual assault. Quite rightly, the inhabitants of Lancaster were greatly disturbed, both at the brutality of the crime and that no-one was ever convicted.

The Green Lane Murder, Scotforth 1866

Memorial Plaque





1828 Hymn Book



IN MEMORY OF
ELIZABETH NELSON,
Who was brutally Murdered, Jan. 11th, 1866,
Aged 31 Years.

~~~~~  
"Murder most foul, as in the best it is,  
Yet this the most foul, strange, and unnatural."  
SHAKSPERE.

~~~~~  
What horrid fiends in human form,
Could perpetrate that deed ;
And, blinded by vile passion's storm,
A maiden's cries unheed.
Their inmost conscience cannot rest,
Nor know a moment's peace ;
The pangs that rend a murderer's breast,
Shall never, never cease. R. A. H.



Burrow Heights



Its landscape was shaped during the last Ice Age as a massive, 59-meter-tall drumlin, and it contains historical evidence of early settlements, including Roman-era artifacts and potential prehistoric earthworks.

Burrow was first recorded around 1200 as 'Burg', 'Burgo' and 'Burgum'. This comes from the Anglo-Saxon (Old English) 'burh' or 'fortified place'.

A Bronze Age Hoard from Scotforth

This important Late Bronze Age hoard was discovered in 2016 near Burrow Heights at Bailrigg. It had been buried in a pit that had been dug for the purpose and sandstone blocks had been placed on top.

Late Bronze Age hoards such as this one often contain weapons or wood working tools or a mix of both. They can also include horse harness and personal objects that can tell us about life at the time.

The Scotforth hoard is made up of 16 objects – four socket axes, three spear heads, one large socketed chisel, two arm-rings, four larger plain rings and two harness sockets and there were also hazelnut shells and wood, which were pressed into two of the harness sockets.

The hoard was buried close to the Roman road and the likely site of a Roman mausoleum or shrine. This may be an ancient sacred site with views across Morecambe Bay from Burrow Heights.







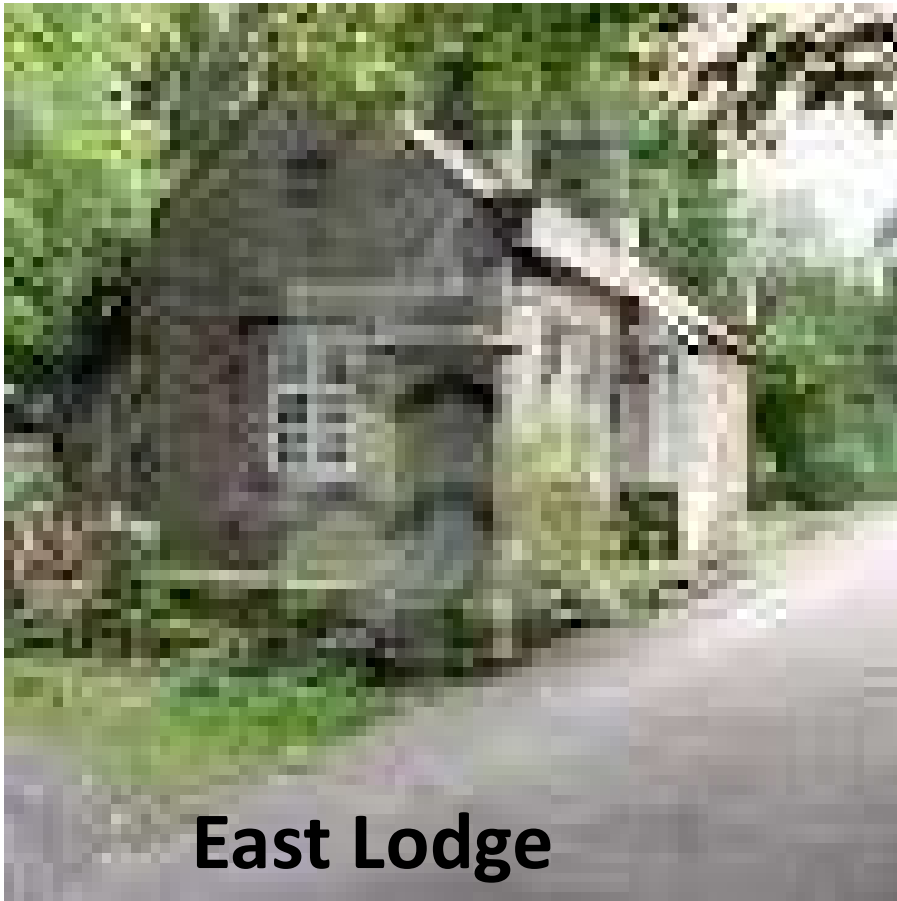
Aldcliffe with Stodday is a civil parish in City of Lancaster district. It lies to the south west of central Lancaster and east of the River Lune, and includes the hamlets of Aldcliffe and Stodday. The parish was created in 2017 by the *Lancaster City Council*. It has a parish council and an estimated population of 509.[[]

Luncliffe Hall



Formerly known as: Stodday Lodge. Small country house, now house and office. Late C18 and early C19, with later additions.

ALDCLIFFE with STODDAY PARISH COUNCIL



East Lodge



West Lodge



At the bottom of Bridge Road ends the grounds of the Royal Albert The Royal Albert Hospital was opened in 1870 as an institution for the care and education of children with learning problems and was closed, as a hospital, in 1996 to become a school for Muslim girls.

Opposite is Magnet which used to be the site of tanning works



Half way up Bridge road is Dorrington Road , said to be the longest unbroken row of terraced housing in Europe.





**Former Co-op
on
Bridge Road**



Greaves Hotel



Williamson Court



The Monkey Rack

Belle Vue Terrace, often referred to as a "Monkey Rack" gained this nickname in the 19th and early 20th centuries as a popular spot for young people to promenade, socialize, and meet members of the opposite sex. It was typically an elevated or prominent walkway where people dressed in their best clothes—sometimes described as being dressed up like "monkeys" in Victorian-era parlance—would walk up and down to see and be seen



Sharpes Hill



Brunton House



Brunton House was built by Edmund Sharpe (Sharpes Hill, Sharpes Avenue were named after him) After his death it was sold to the Royal Albert Hospital and was used as a home for special private pupils who attended the Institution but who's relatives paid a remuneration for them to live in the seclusion and comforts of a private residence with all the resources of the institution under responsible management.

GREAVES WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

Built in 1909



GREAVES SCHOOL



**Opened in 1938
Closed in 1986
to become flats**



Scotforth, St Paul's



**One of only 3 pot churches in the country
Episode 2 will be on.....**

**...November 25th at
U3A Architecture Meeting
which will be about
Edmund Sharpe and St Paul's Church**

COME AND SEE

150



**St Paul's Church
Scotforth
Celebrating
150 years**

THE END

Thank you for
listening

Also thanks to:

Lancaster Civic Society leaflet 53
Text and photograph – Gordon Clark.

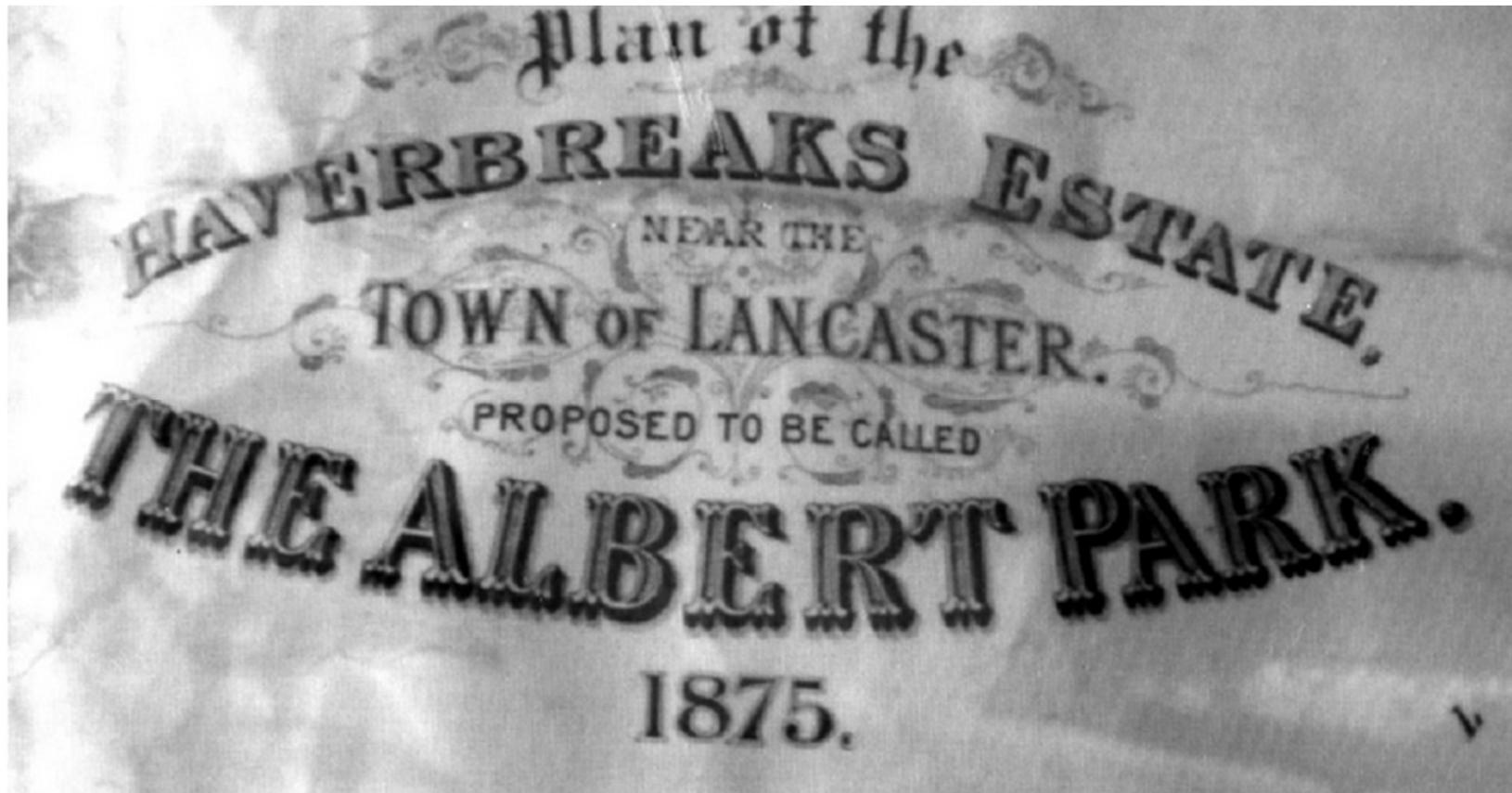
[AEDIFICATIO - A History of St.
Bernadette's Church, Bowerham,
Lancaster](#)

Histories of Alan Passmore
Nicole Anselme Capernwray
Hall

Providence Their Guide by
Wifrid Wolfendale

Part two

**Sneak peek – do please come
along to the talk in November**



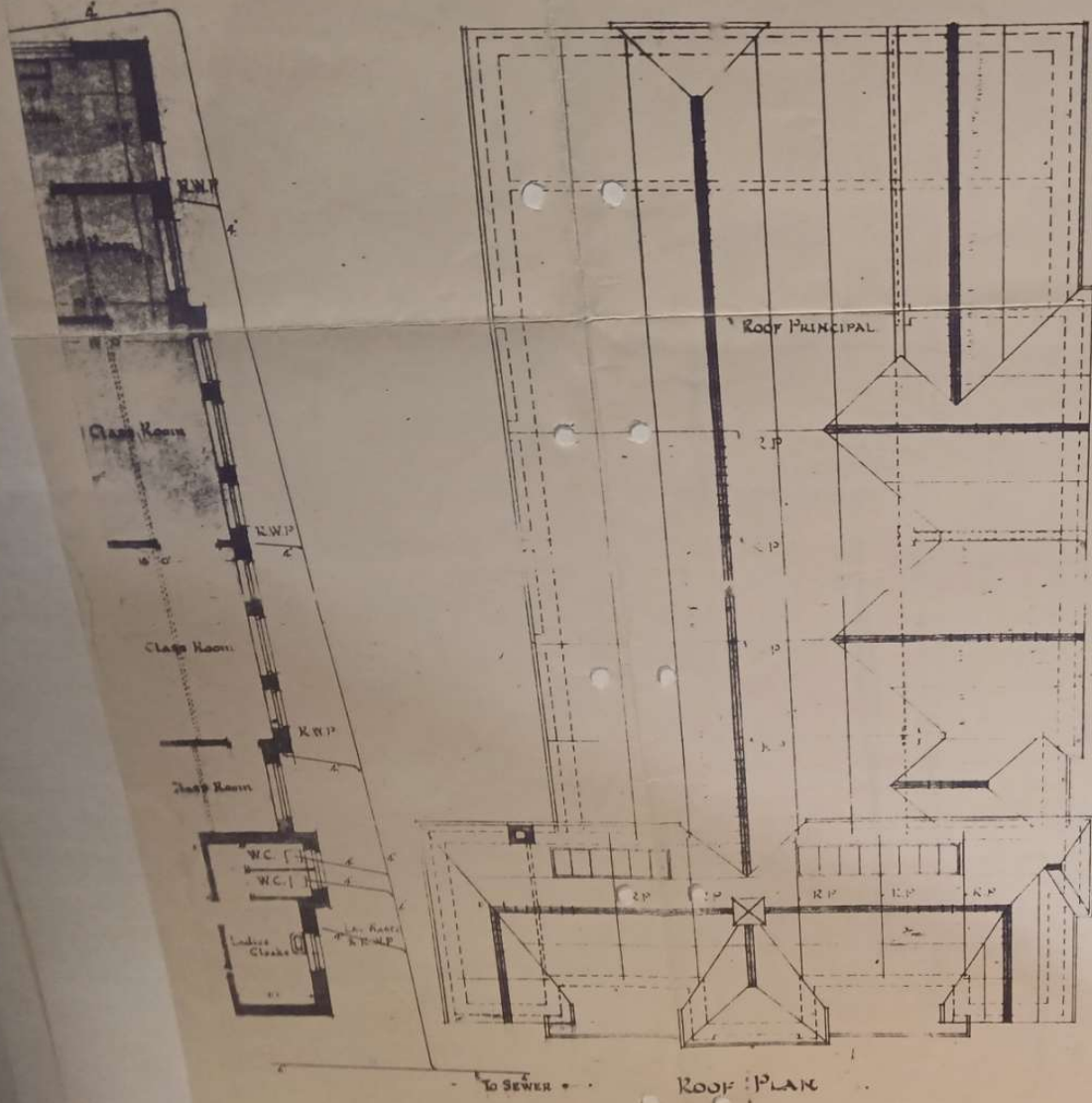
In the early 1870s a consortium including William Ford of Ellel Hall and Harrison and Hall (Lancaster surveyors) bought the Haverbreaks site from the Royal Albert Asylum (whose recently completed hospital adjoined Haverbreaks) intending to create a model suburb near the town but away from its pollution, bustle and bye-laws. The title of the plan (below) shows that “The Albert Park” was the initial preferred name for this development.

Nos 118–160
Scotforth Road
(Abbey Terrace
originally) were built
after 1901 and No.
181 is dated 1904.

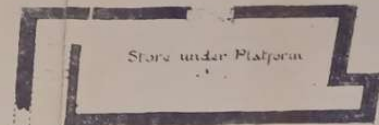
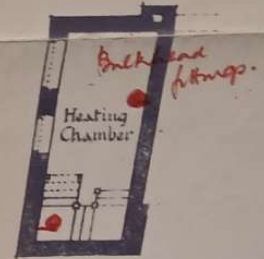


SCOTFORTH PARISH HALL

REG: W. JACKSON.
Architect, Lancaster.



SCALE: 8 feet to one inch.



Could radiators be added to provide full space heating?



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

EDMUND SHARPE: Renaissance Man



Edmund Sharpe

architect and engineer , writer on architecture.

Born in 1809 in Knutsford, Cheshire but after the death of his father the family moved to Lancaster.

He was educated first by his parents and then at schools locally and in Runcorn, Greenwich and Sedbergh. Following his graduation from Cambridge University he was awarded a travelling scholarship, enabling him to study architecture in Germany and southern France.

Opening an architectural practice on Penny Street in Lancaster in 1835, he also developed interests in railway engineering, public health & local politics. He was a keen sportsman, an author, an accomplished musician and at one time owner of both the Theatre Royal (now Lancaster Grand Theatre) and the Phoenix Foundry.

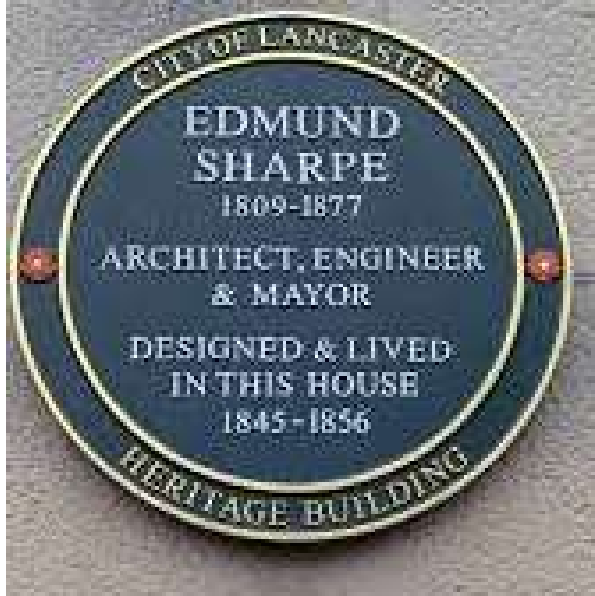
Sharpe designed some thirty-five churches mostly in the north of England, together with a few houses and sundry smaller commissions. For his early churches he made use of Romanesque designs, a style he returned to for Scotforth at the end of his life.



MR. EDMUND SHARPE, M.A., *Author of "Architectural Parallels."*



As an architect, he is perhaps best remembered for his 'Pot Churches'. The first of these, St Stephen's Church, Lever Bridge, Bolton (1842) is unique 'in being the first English building of the nineteenth century to be constructed almost entirely of terra cotta. It was followed by the Holy Trinity, Platt, Manchester in 1845 and St Paul's Church, Scotforth in 1874. In all three cases use was made of terra cotta both for constructional and decorative purposes though stone was also used for some of the walls.



Edmund Sharpe's former home on Fenton Street, Lancaster. Sharpe built the house for himself and resided there from 1845 - 1856.





In 1839 he supervised the repair of Skerton Bridge over the River Lune



For the asylum he designed several new wings and a chapel,

In 1844 he started to remodel Capernwray Hall, a country house northeast of Lancaster



Extensions to the union workhouse



While working in his architectural practice,

- Sharpe was involved in Lancaster's civic affairs.
- He was an elected town councillor and served as mayor in 1848–49
- Concerned about the town's poor water supply and sanitation, he championed the construction of new sewers and a waterworks.
- He was a talented musician, and took part in the artistic, literary, and scientific activities in the town.
- Also an accomplished sportsman, he took an active interest in archery, rowing and cricket.

Edmund Sharpe was also responsible in clearing up the mill race – and Lancaster’s – water supply and campaigner for sanitation reform. As a town councillor, Sharpe accompanied Richard Owen on his 1844 inspection of Lancaster’s sanitation problems, which particularly singled out the mill race area. Here, overcrowded worker housing suffered from open sewers, shared privies and overflowing cess pits which frequently flooded cellar dwellings. Most people relied on wells for their drinking water, and this was often polluted, causing people to get ill. Typhus was rife, and in 1848 Lancaster experienced a cholera pandemic.

Sharpe successfully lobbied Parliament for a further inspection, leading to an Act of Parliament allowing for ‘a complete and constant supply of pure and soft water, and a... thorough system of drainage’. This resulted in a new water and sewerage system for the town.

Sharpe also owned the Phoenix Foundry in Phoenix Street, and the new water pipes bought for the city in 1853 were manufactured in Sharpe’s foundry.



He also designed secular buildings, including residential buildings and schools, and worked on the development of railways in north-west England, designing bridges and planning new lines. In 1851 he resigned from his architectural practice, and in 1856 he moved from Lancaster, spending the remainder of his career mainly as a railway engineer, first in North Wales, then in Switzerland and southern France. Sharpe returned to England in 1866 to live in Scotforth near Lancaster, where he designed a final church near to his home.



Brunton House was built by Edmund Sharpe (Sharpes Hill, Sharpes Avenue were named after him) After his death it was sold to the Royal Albert Hospital and was used as a home for special private pupils who attended the Institution but who's relatives paid a remuneration for them to live in the seclusion and comforts of a private residence with all the resources of the institution under responsible management.



The new church was built within 300 yards (274 m) of his home, and again terracotta was not the only material used. It is used for the dressings, windows, doorways, the upper part of the tower, and internally for the piers and arches of the aisle arcades, but the walls are of stone

Key Buildings & Projects in Lancaster:

Churches: St. Thomas's Church (Lancaster), Holy Trinity (Morecambe),



Christ Church (Glasson).





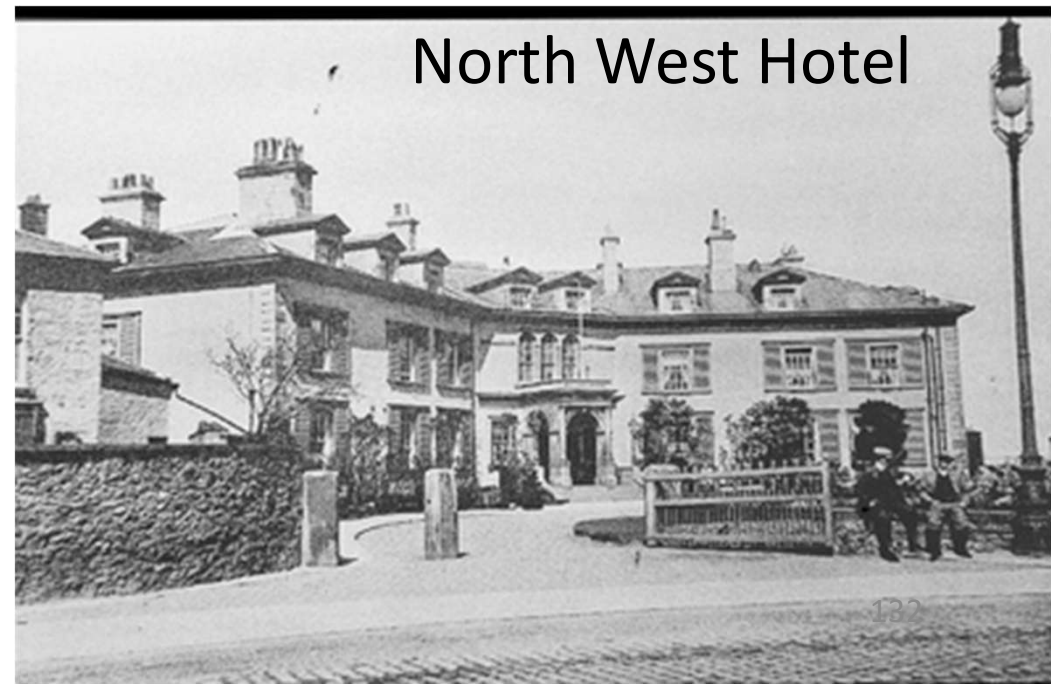
Civic & Public Buildings:

Contributions to Lancaster Castle,

the Union Workhouse



County Lunatic Asylum (Lancaster Moor Hospital),





Engineering Works

Skew Bridge

Conder Viaduct for the Lancaster & Preston Junction Railway (now West Coast Main Line).





Key Buildings & Projects in Lancaster:

Civic & Public Buildings:

Contributions to the
County Lunatic Asylum
(Lancaster Moor
Hospital)
and
Capernwray Chapel



Residential: He also designed private residences and other structures, influencing the local built environment. (Fenton House)

Wyreside Hall, Dolphinholme

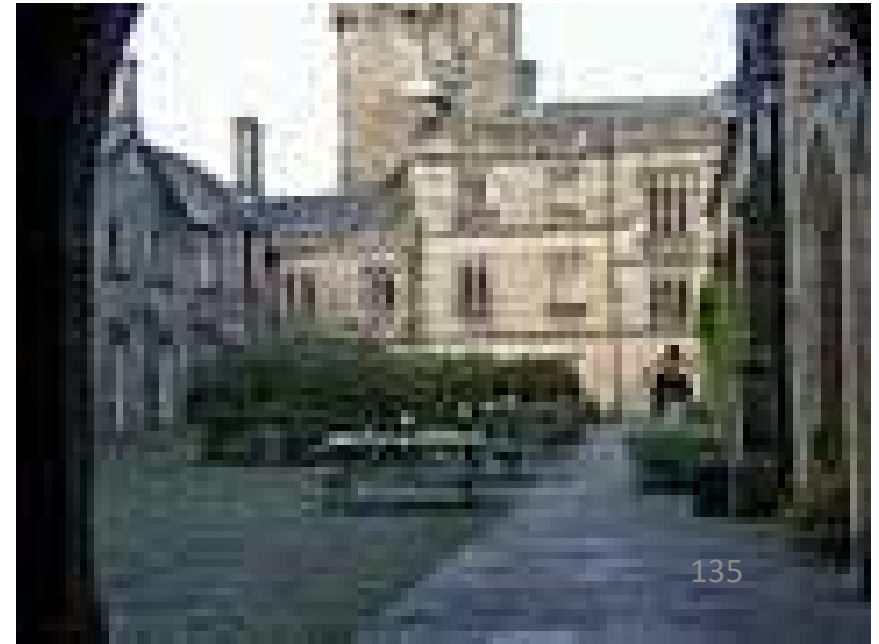


Grand Theatre



Capernwray Hall

Green Ayre Railway Station





Hornby Castle,
remodelled
by Sharpe



He was critical of much of the restoration of medieval churches that had become a major occupation of contemporary architects. Towards the end of his career Sharpe organised expeditions to study and draw buildings in England and France. While on such an expedition to Italy in 1877, he was taken ill and died in Milan. His body was returned to Lancaster and buried in the town Cemetery on Quernmore Road with his wife and near the Paleys and Austins .



Sharpe's legacy consists of about 40 extant churches; railway features, including the Conwy Valley Line and bridges on what is now the Lancashire section of the West Coast Main Line; and his archive of architectural books, articles and drawings.



North Llanrwst railway station on the Conwy Valley Line



Sharpe in 1845 as Secretary of the "Little" North Western Railway

The End

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