



Upper Hopton Heritage Trail 2015



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1 Croft House

Croft House itself dates from around 1700. It may have been the coach house for Hopton Hall. It was bequeathed, with the adjoining cottage, to the people of the village by Mr Charles Ernest Sutcliffe in 1948. It consisted of one small room (now the entrance) and a larger one (about half the size of the present main room). At one time, the entrance to Croft House was used as a library, run by Mrs Talbot of Hopton Hall and Mrs Myers, the vicar's wife.

Croft House served the church and community of Upper Hopton as a centre for many activities, even though it was small. St John's Church used it for church functions and meetings, including the Mothers' Union and Sunday School. The community also used it for meetings and events including Upper Hopton Playgroup, Youth Club, Third Mirfield Brownies and Guides and Tenth Mirfield Cubs.

The Upper Hopton Community Association was formed in 1980 and raised money to extend and modernise the rooms. In 2011 the kitchen and toilets were refurbished thanks to a grant from Kirklees and contributions from some extremely generous benefactors.

These rooms are available for private hire for private functions, parties, wedding receptions etc. and there are displays of various aspects of village life



Bottle Well

This is just to the right as you approach Croft House from the driveway. The well is 28 feet deep and, when last seen this year just before the driveway was tarmacked, contained 14 feet of water. It is an impressive engineering work of art with beautiful brickwork, but had to be made safe.

2 Rose Garden

On the site of the Rose Gardens were four workers cottages which were demolished. The last known residents of the cottages were Roy Kilner the Woods and Wright and Jesse Lockwood. Wright Lockwood was a miner who looked on in envy when Hilltop Crescent was built with indoor baths (tin baths or a visit to the Working Mens club to get a good wash was all that was available to most people).

The seats are in memory of Mirfield Urban District councillors and the garden is maintained as a centre piece by 'Hopton in Bloom'. In 2013 Upper Hopton was awarded a coveted Gold Award in the Yorkshire in Bloom, and in 2014 a Silver Gilt Award in the Britain in Bloom campaign.



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3 Hopton Hall

The blue plaque gives an outline of the history of the Hall, which is the only moated house in England.

'The original Hall may have been built pre-Conquest and is thought to have been the seat of Alric, Lord of the Manor. Shown in the Domesday Book, William the Conqueror gave the Hall to Ilbert de Lacy (his tenant-in-chief).

In the 15th and 16th centuries, it is thought to have been the manor house of the Mirfield family.

In the 16th century, it became the Thorpe Manor House and was reconstructed by Richard Thorpe.'

The Hall is a medieval moated site, reputed to be the only remaining one in England. It is a late Jacobean manor house. The building is 2-storey, with a half-timbered gable and plaster infilling. The earliest part is the south west wing, believed to have been constructed in the 15th century. The timber-framed H plan Hall was predominantly constructed in the late 16th century and stone cladding was added to the west wing in the 18th century. The building has substantial 19th century additions and alterations.

There are mounting steps on the outside of the garden wall.



4 The Fold/Covey Clough

Photo shows the Fold and Hopton Hall barn. The two terraced cottages were demolished.

The malt kiln was for the Micklethwaite family of Hopton Hall. In the early 1900's, the malt kiln was used as a sports centre, managed by the Co-op cobbler, for Hopton youths who were taught boxing, etc. The tithe barn belonged to Hopton Hall Farm. It was converted to apartments in 1995. Covey Clough, completed in 1991, is built on the farm land. The last of the old cottages on the Fold used to be a sweet shop, run from her house by Miss Elsie Tinker. She opened on Sundays after Sunday school. Under the window, she had a board with sweets and behind the door was the pop.

Hopton Hall Lane actually runs through the Fold. The section between the school and the new roundabout used to be a footpath before it was made into a road in the earlier 1900's.

Photo shows Hopton Hall Farm Maltings for the Micklethwaite family

On Hopton Fold, lived Herbert and Joe Castle, Robert Lewis and Ernest Oates, who were all killed in the First World War. Their brothers, Harry Castle and William Henry Oates survived.



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5 Upper Hopton Village School

The school opened in 1865. It was built in the approximate shape of a cross, with the Hall in the centre, the schoolhouse to the south and a class area to the north. It is a typical Victorian school, being built of stone and church-like in appearance with high windows to stop the children looking out. A very large fireplace heated the school until the coke boiler was installed and, at some point, electric lighting. There was no road in front of the school, just a field. A narrow muddy track ran round the back by the Fold.



The numbers of early scholars fluctuated between 23 and 47. The school depended on donations from interested people and a small weekly fee paid by the children, called 'school pence'.

Children were tested each year by the Inspector. The teachers were paid on a commission basis and the government would provide a grant according to the results. The master was assisted daily by ladies, who taught children to sew and knit.

The school closed fairly frequently for hay-making, Mirfield Feast and epidemics of measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria.

At its height, almost 130 children to the age of 12 were being taught daily. Children would walk from Houses Hill, Kirkheaton, Upper Heaton and Lower Hopton in very difficult weather conditions in an exposed area. The Hall was divided by a screen for the older children. Small beds were provided for the younger children to take a nap.

During the years between the wars, the school was tightly run by Mr Slaney, who was ex-army and used to march the children in and out. He kept a cane on his desk, with which he would whip legs. If there was bad behaviour, he would cancel football and sports.



Miss Upton and Mrs Wood would walk the children to Lower Hopton School for baking, washing and ironing. Mr Slaney and Miss Upton were actually married, but the children were unaware of this.

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6 Elmwood Close

These houses were built on the site of Elmwood Farm in 1964.

Jim Olroyd's (Jim was killed in WW1) grandparents, Jim and Zilpha, ran Elmwood Farm and died in 1903 and 1904 respectively leaving their daughter Mary to run the farm with her brother Thomas Oldroyd who was mentally disabled. Mary supplemented her income weaving. According to census information her sister was also disabled so it must have been an uphill struggle.

Jim's father George left the family farm to find other employment as a maltster's labourer and later a railway worker.

(Before Jim's grandparents James and Zilpha lived at Elmwood farm their home was 109 Hopton Fold, where they lived with their seven children George, Thomas, John Herbert, Elizabeth, Lee, Lewis and Mary).

Jack and Janet Bennett moved from Ravensthorpe to rent the farm from the Marriott family. Both Clough Farm and Elmwood Farm were worked by the family. They had four children, Joan, Jack, Mary and May. (Mary married and moved to Hopton Fold and became Mary Cropper).

When the present houses were built Jack and Janet Bennett moved to Clough Terrace and their daughter May married Ronnie Smith and they moved into Clough Farm. May and Ronnie had full time jobs and the fields were let to Edwin Briggs. May worked at Whitely Mill and Ronnie at Shuttle Eye Colliery. May and Ronnie later moved to Double Six.

Joan Blackburn's (nee Bennett) son, now lives at 6 Elmwood Close.

7 Hopton Grove



Charles Sutcliffe lived at Hopton Grove, with Whitley Beaumont being used as his summer residence. During the First World War it was used as a military hospital, opening on March 22nd 1917 with 8 beds, later increasing to 12. It remained open until April 1920, having treated a total of 193 patients.

The patients were received as ordinary guests, which in fact they were, as no government grant was accepted. The nursing was entirely performed by Mrs Sutcliffe and her friends, as were the cultivation of the garden and the care of the poultry, from which the patients were largely fed.

Every Whitsuntide the children of the village would visit Hopton Grove and receive a small gift and sweets from the Sutcliffe family.

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8 Covey Clough Farm

9 Clough Terrace

Hopton Hall Lane.

James Robert Taylor and Lionel Appleyard, both killed in the First World War, lived in Clough Terrace.



10 Gilbert Scott K6 Telephone box.

This has been purchased for £1 from Mirfield Town Council by UHCA and restored by the Hopton in Bloom Team. It is now a Plant Theatre, housing seasonal displays.



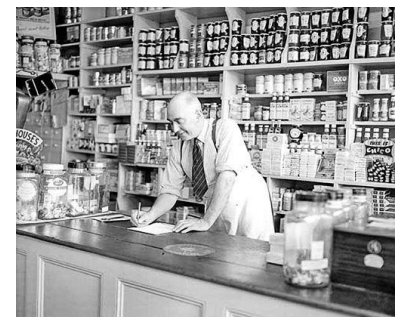
11 Old Post Office

External photo of post office circa 1905.

The post office and general store was originally a beer shop known as 'The Romping Kittling'. It became a post office in the reign of Queen Victoria. Mrs Barker became post mistress in 1915 and



Ernest Barker took over as post master in 1920, after their marriage. Mr Barker had a car in the early 1920's and became the village's first bus proprietor when he bought a wagon and fitted it up with bench seats for about 14 passengers. With this, he ran a shuttle service to Mirfield on Friday evenings. He was succeeded as post master by his son, Norris, assisted by his wife, Freda. It closed as a post office in 1992.



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12 Double 6 & Blank 7

Blank 7 was formerly known as the cottages and Double Six as Lees Buildings. These two rows of cottages are probably so-called because there is a row of 12 back-to-back cottages and a single row of 7 cottages, which used to have no windows in the back. They accommodated large families by having a shut-up bed that looked like a cupboard, leaving room to sit and eat during the day.

Ben Cassell, who was killed in World War1, lived in Double 6.



Double Six is the left hand photo and Blank Seven on the right.

There was a fish shop between the post office and Blank 6 cottages. It was run by Bernie Whitehead, who wore navy blue overalls. He would put fish

bits under the fire to make it flame and he flattened the fish with a knife. You could always smell him before you saw him!

13 Upper Hopton Club

Earliest records show that the club was in existence in 1891, being situated in adjoining houses very near to the present building. In March 1908, the present building was opened.

During the 1920's, concerts were held on a regular basis and Lantern Lectures on educational topics occurred frequently. In 1929, a children's sports day was held to celebrate 21 years of the club. 300 commemorative mugs and rubber balls were ordered for the children. 64lbs sweets were purchased and handed out to younger children.

In 1939, the bathroom was decorated to allow members to have a hot bath, the majority not having bathrooms at home. They had to bring their own soap and towel.

In 1949, it was resolved that members' wives could accompany their husbands within the club and in 1995 all lady members were given full membership status.

The photo shows the club being built in 1908 with Harry Sinclair Whitehead (joiner and club member) on the apex.

The Club celebrated its centenary early in 2008 and welcomes visitors and new members.





14 Recreation Ground



This was given to the village at the same time as Croft House, upon the death of Charles Sutcliffe, for the benefit of villagers. For a number of years, a gala was held on the ground. The first year there was no money for a marquee. In the morning, it was sheeting down with rain, but fortunately cleared up for the afternoon. The crowning of the gala queen and maypole dancing were a regular feature. (The photos show the recreation ground before it was bequeathed to the village).

The Memorial to Charles Sutcliffe was restored by UHCA following the theft of the bronze plaques.

15 Upper Hopton Cricket Club

The photo was taken when the cricket team played on the field behind the "Traveller's Rest" and was a match between Upper Hopton and Ossett St Aiden's. Cricket in the village dates back to 1892, when Upper Hopton Working Men's Club had a team. The club was formed in 1904, with its headquarters at the 'Travellers' Rest'. The present site was originally a sandstone quarry, which explains why some of the older houses in the village are built of sandstone. Work started towards the end of 1960, with some 12 feet of rock to be cut through, and the new ground officially opened on 16th June 1963. There are 39 steps from the pavilion to the field. During the 1970's, the car park was made up, using hard core from the demolition of the old vicarage.



In 2004, the club celebrated its centenary by producing a book, entitled 'It's a Long Way for a Duck', and exhibition about the history of the club, in conjunction with Huddersfield University. The club erected a memorial to Charles Sutcliffe. The bronze plaques disappeared, but in 2006 'Hopton in Bloom' and the cricket club raised money to replace them.

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16 The Co-op - 'Divi-end'

This is the site of the old Co-op. Of the adjoining two houses, one was used as a cobbler's shop and the other was open on Friday evenings as a Penny Bank. You had to go into the right-hand door and up some creaky wooden stairs to collect your money on 'Divi Day'. Just before this were the 'Low Decker', and two semi-detached houses.

In the Co-op, many commodities had to be weighed out. A large linen bag had to be taken when purchasing flour. For most families, one holding a stone was required. When filled, it would be wrapped in a large kind of handkerchief, knotted for the purpose of carrying. Baking was done twice a week for large families and the bread was stored in large earthenware pots. Treacle was supplied by tap from a large metal container, the customer providing a jar, which held 1 lb.

There was a drapery counter as well as a grocer. You could get a ticket to go for clothing in Huddersfield and pay in Hopton. Some-one from almost every family was a member and dividend was around 3 shillings in the pound.

The occupant of Elmwood Farm undertook cartage from Mirfield station with a pony and small cart. To ease the gradient up Hopton Lane, the pony traversed the road. Additional support was given by the driver, who pulled on a rope attached to the cart and placed over his shoulder.

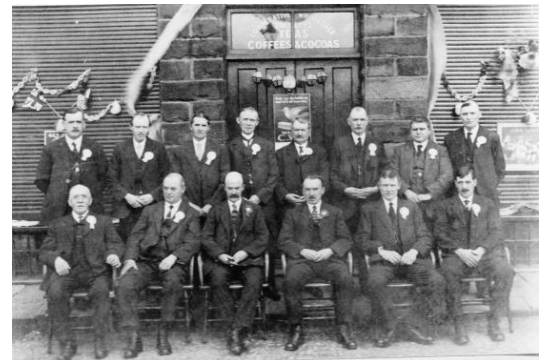
The group photo is taken outside the Co-op on Jackroyd Lane in the 1920's.

A cobbler was employed for boot repairing. Females wore buttoned boots and males substantial boots. Clogs were in common use. These were made and repaired by a clogger whose shop was in Mirfield, where the bus shelter near the old post office stands.

There was a small wooden butcher's shop just below the co-op. Across the road, the current hairdresser's was used as a butcher's shop and Post Office in more recent times.



Jackroyd Lane.
Showing Robert Ingham's Butchers Shop
near The Old Co-op in the 1880's



17 Mount Pleasant Farm

This was run by the Maude family. When one brother died, his partner developed it as a driving range, angling and equestrian facility.

18 Laithe Cottage

Known locally as 'Castle's Coal Hole', this was the local coal merchant. The arch was where the wagons drew in. The photograph below shows some of the Castle family circa 1944 outside Laithe cottage

From left to right Peter Castle, John Castle, George Haigh, George William Castle, Herbert Sykes (walking stick), Oliver Castle (top hat).



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19 Old Fish Shop

This is reputedly an old air-raid shelter, which 'fell off the back of a lorry'. Because it was only large enough for two or three customers, the queue would line up outside, on the roadside. It caught fire and was used more recently as an engineering store.



20 'Nippin /Nipping Row'

The first meeting place of the Methodists was in the bedroom of the first house.

There was a well in the cellar of every house on 'Nipping Row'. Also known as Wood Row, there are a variety of explanations for its other name:

- 1) the man who built the row was so mean he could 'nip a currant in two';
- 2) the occupants were hand loom weavers and there would be a waste product of Nippings;
- 3) the congregation at services in the chapel could 'nip in' to their houses to tend the Sunday lunch or put on the Yorkshire puddings;
- 4) before Hopton Drive and Avenue were built, there was a short cut in front of the cottages and over a stile into the fields, used as a quick route to Mirfield.

Each of the top three houses in Wood Row had a large wooden tub, into which they emptied their chamber pots. A horse-drawn barrel on wheels was sent from Wheatley's Mill, Wood Bottom, every Saturday morning to collect the urine. Its ammonia content made it useful for the scouring of cloth.

In years gone by, a horse-drawn cart owned by Fred Richardson's father would pass in front of these cottages, sometimes in extremely muddy ground, selling household goods, including shoe polish, cloths, scrubbing brushes and fresh milk from a churn.



Wentworth Mann, killed in World War 1, lived on Wood Row.

21 The Primitive Methodist Chapel

Opened in 1867, it was the first building in Jackroyd Lane. It is now a private house.

The photograph on the right shows Jackroyd Lane celebrating the coronation of King George V in 1911 with the Methodist chapel in the background



Harold Dransfield and Alfred Tennison, both killed in the First World War, lived on Jackroyd Lane.

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22 'Travellers' Rest'

The building probably dates back to the late 1700's. It is listed on a map of 1854 as 'Orphan's Cottage' – probably some sort of workhouse. In 1891, the public house and tenant right of the attached farm was taken over by Mr Allan Holt from Mr William Jackson at a valuation, for all house fittings, trade utensils and effects, of £39-11s-6d.



The original cricket ground was in the field above the pub. With pick, shovels and wheelbarrows, a plateau was created. The outfield had a pronounced slope, which made fielding difficult. The grass was kept reasonably short by cattle grazing there every week until Saturday morning.

23 Hollin Hall Farm

The building on the bend was Hollin Hall. The bungalow in the field is the former hen hut. Planning regulations meant it had to be built within the boundaries of the previous building.

There used to be a wooden shop on the left hand side of the road, open 5 evenings a week for shaving and hairdressing. The village stonemason was the proprietor.

Redfearn Holt of Hollin Hall Farm, Walter Sykes and Willie Sykes of Hollin Hall and Arthur Loader of 18, Northgate were all killed in the First World War.



24 Joiner / Undertaker's

The Harry Moody's Joiner's shop was on Hopton Lane at the bottom of Jackroyd Lane. Harry made the pews for the church, when the old ones were replaced in the 1920's. The well in the front garden is genuine and provided pumped water for the horses after their long and tiring trip up Hopton Lane. Harry lived in the far right of the building shown and his workshop was on the left hand side of the building. Mrs Cass and Mrs Heeley, who lived in Hopton Lane worked with the undertaker and laid people out.



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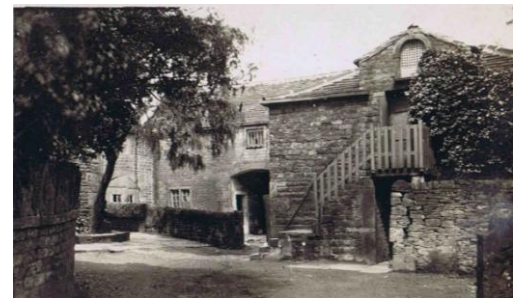
25 Hopton Avenue & Hopton Drive

Hopton Avenue was built in 1936 and Hopton Drive in 1953.



26 Upper House Farm

In 1784 the first recorded deed on the house was listed the owner as Mr Samuel Hirst. Samuel was a local gentleman farmer with a portfolio of lands, woods, coal fields, water course ways and cottages.



27 Hopton Court

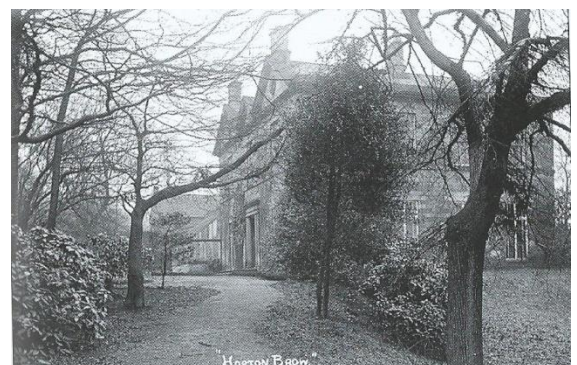
The original house was built in the early 20th century and enlarged by Lt Col H. Wilson in 1922. In 1936, it was purchased by one of the Kilner family, who owned the mill at the top of Newgate. During the



second World War, it was used by the Red Cross as an ATS convalescent home and visited by the Princess Royal and the wartime Minister of Labour, Ernest Brown. Purchased by Frank Lydall in 1956, it was demolished in 1969 and a new Hopton Court built on land to the rear.

28 Hopton Brow

This was the first house in Hopton Lane, then came Upper House Farm and the few houses near the bottom of Jackroyd Lane. Built in the early 1800's, it was known as Belle Grove when it was owned by the Bond family. In the later half of the 19th century, it was occupied by William Howgate of J. Howgate and Sons, Ravensthorpe, who was also a proprietor of Gregory Springs colliery. Later owners included the Wilson and Sheard families. Arthur Nevin Wheatley also lived there for a short period with his wife Mabel Senior until he lost his life in WW1 in July 1916.



Percy Sheard, killed in World War 1, lived at 55 Hopton Lane.

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29 Waste Farm

Waste farm was partially demolished and is now used as a family home.



30 Round Oak

Round Oak was known as Barker's farm when John Turner bought it in the 1760's. He was an attorney based in Huddersfield. His father bought Blake Hall in 1713 and between 1733-36 it is probable that John Turner was living here. His younger brother William Turner rebuilt Blake Hall in 1748. The house was not known as Round Oak until around 1848. William's younger brother Charles radcliffe Turner lived at The lawns and his sister Harriet Bond at Belle Grove (Hopton Brow).
(*Mirfield - Frances Stott*)



31 'Bracebridge' / The Manse

This was built in 1883/4, as the manse (ecclesiastical residence) for Lower Hopton Reformed Church. The manse was later transferred to St Paul's Road.



32 Old Independent Chapel

The Congregational Church was founded by Richard Thorpe of Hopton Hall in 1662. He is better known as the founder of Mirfield Free Grammar School. He preached in his own home, in old cottages on Chapel Hill (demolished in 1935) and other cottages until his death in 1713. A benefaction of £5 per year was made by his daughter, Mrs Hutton, for the maintenance of a Protestant Dissenting Minister. If worship was discontinued for 4 years, the benefaction would cease. In 1732, after there had been no services for 2-3 years, a petition was taken to London for help with the building of a new chapel. London friends contributed £52 and £50 was raised by the congregation and neighbouring ministers. The chapel cost £115-18s-8d and was opened on 3rd October 1733. It could seat 200 people. The graveyard and some remnants of the walls remain. Its longest serving minister was Jonathan Toothill, who stayed for 57 years. He and his wife are buried there. Near his death he said: 'I have never seen the place, or town, or county I should prefer to Hopton. Indeed it has been to me an earthly paradise. If I be dissected, you will find its name written on my heart'.

Jonathan Toothill's mother died when he was only 3 days old. After one wet nurse died and another was taken ill, a lady, who had been a friend of his mother before her marriage, offered to take him. She had a small daughter of her own. This was the girl who later became Jonathan's wife. It was said that they sucked at the same breast, shared the same cradle and marriage bed and finally they lie in the same grave.

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33 Park Farm

This is one of the oldest buildings in the village being built in 1725 and is on the right hand side, as you walk up Hopton Hall Lane. The new estate was built in the early 1970's on the farm lands. The land was owned by Frank Lydall of Hopton Court, who sold his land to developers on the condition that his house was pulled down and replaced by a new Hopton Court.



Lionel Appleyard's family home was 29 Clough Terrace, previously he lived at Park Farm with his parents George and Charlotte Appleyard.

His occupation was as a Coal Miner (Trammer).

Lionel was killed in action in July 1918 (age 25) whilst serving on the Western Front with the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)

Lionel was the only soldier in the village of Upper Hopton to receive the Military Medal for gallantry under fire.

Lionel's mother and father

Lionel's father George was born in Darrington near Pontefract in 1849 and his father (Joseph) was a shoemaker. Records show that George was living at Handbank, Upper Hopton in 1871 as a boarder with a farmer called John Whitehead who had married his sister Elizabeth in 1865. George's occupation was as a sawyer (employed sawing timber). George's brother William also moved to Jackroyd Lane, Upper Hopton.

In 1882 George married Charlotte Winter.

In 1884 records show that George lived at Woodcock Hall as a farm labourer. His sister Elizabeth and brother in law John Whitehead were running Woodcock Hall farm (22 acres).

In 1901 George moved to Park Farm, Upper Hopton as a tenant farmer.

At the age of 16, Lionel's mother was a kitchen maid for Sir Henry Edwards Bart, High Sherriff of Yorkshire (Sir Henry had been an MP in the House of Commons and was made a Baronet in 1866) and at the age of 22 just before she married George, she was a servant for a retired Woollen Manufacturer (Joseph Newsome) in Batley.



34 Gosling Hall

Gosling Hall is a stone-built yeoman farmhouse, now mostly rendered. It is first mentioned in registers in 1568, making it the second oldest property in Upper Hopton, but it may be older. There are also later additions, as well as a separate barn and cowsheds. Gosling Hall was the first meeting place for Congregationalism in 1642.

In 1860, it was occupied by John Tipling, a farmer, who worked on the local stage coaches, his son-in-law, Joe Mellor, being the last postboy in West Yorkshire. After that, John Tipling ran horse-drawn Hansom cabs.

In 1891, another coachman, William Connelly, lived there with his wife, two sons and a daughter. By the 1901 census, he had become a farmer working for himself, but the family moved out in 1906, when the Whitfields took over. The house, at this time, was surrounded by fields, which supported cows and pigs and provided hay for the winter. One room was used as a shop to sell surplus produce.

Some time before 1950, Gosling Hall was bought by the Marriot family, who owned much of the surrounding property. About 1952, they sold it to Richard Turner, a Batley mill-owner, who ran it as a hobby farm. He kept only golden animals: Tamworth pigs, Jersey cows and Buff Orpington hens. Turner completely modernised the house interior, a process which the current owner is trying to reverse. He also sold most of the remaining land.

Dyson Whitfield of Gosling Hall was killed in World War1.



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35 Chapel Hill

(see Old Independent Chapel (32) above)

Photo shows Chapel House on Chapel Hill. The cottages were later demolished around 1935.

Religious persecution was rampant in the area in the 1600's, Nonconformity was alive and practiced in farm buildings, laithes and private houses. After the Restoration of the Monarchy under Charles II in 1660, following the death of Oliver Cromwell, Richard Thorpe, who is best remembered as a local educationist, formed the Congregational Chapel in 1662, meeting in the old cottages at Chapel Hill and other cottages.

In 1692 the house of Michael Sheard was licensed as the meeting House. In 1732 when no services had been held in Hopton for 2 to 3 years funds were raised and the Independent Chapel built at the corner of Hopton Lane and Hopton Hall Lane. In 1829 this chapel was replaced with a new church on Calder Road, Lower Hopton.

("Mirfield" - Frances Stott)

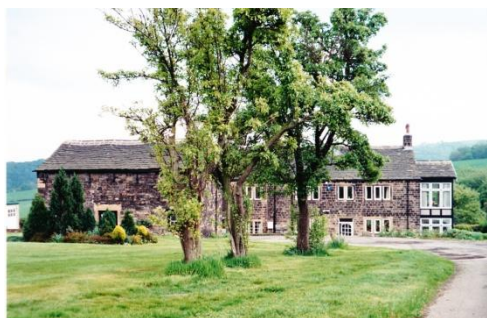


Jim Oldroyd and Arthur Fisher, killed in the First World War, lived on Chapel Hill.

36 Woodcock Hall (12 Chapel Hill)

Woodcock Hall was farmed by John and Elizabeth Massey Whithead. Elizabeth was the sister of George Appleyard who ran Park Farm. John married Elizabeth in 1865 and before running the farm they lived on Handbank. John and Elizabeth passed away in 1924 and in 1925.

The photograph shows the original Woodcock Hall. The hall was demolished and rebuilt in approximately 2013.



37 The Lawn

The house has an adjacent farm and extensive land. Owned by the Walker family.

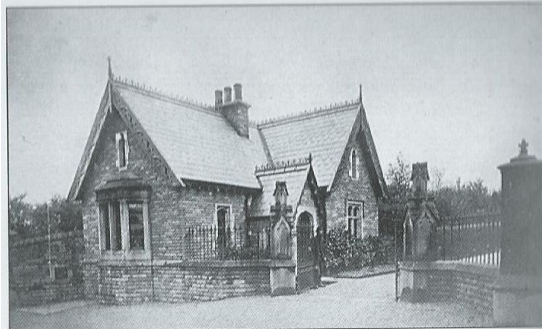


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38 Hopton Grange

It was owned by the Marriot family, worsted spinners of Balne Mill, Wakefield. Between 1898 and 1921, William Hall Marriot occupied the house and, after he moved to Sandal Grange, his daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Lionel Walker of James Walker & Sons lived there.



In 1946, it became the headquarters of Arthur Thompson's market garden business. In 1948, it was used as a European workers' hostel. Nissan huts were erected in the grounds for couples. In 1959, it was sold by Thompson and demolished, to be replaced by two houses, using the existing stone.

39 St John's Church

In 1840, Upper Hopton was made an Ecclesiastical District, with a curate, George Kerr, in charge.

In 1843, James Micklethwaite, a Maltster who lived at Hopton Hall, donated a plot of land to the Church Commissioners in recognition of Rev. Kerr's work over the previous 3 years. Designed by the Durham architects Bonomi and Cory, the church is a copy of the 15th century Perpendicular style. The final bill was almost £1,200. The foundation stone was laid on St John the Evangelist's Day – December 27th 1844 by James Micklethwaite and the building was consecrated on October 21st 1846.



In 1862, Thomas Marriot and Edward Wheatley gave a plot of land for the building of a parsonage. By the mid 1960's, it was becoming structurally unsafe and so was demolished to be replaced by the present house in 1969.

The churchyard has been extended twice. In 1904, a middle section was donated by William Hall Marriott (formerly of Hopton Grange). It is likely that the stone archway was built at this time. The largest section of the churchyard was donated by Charles Sutcliffe in 1930. He was also the owner of Croft House, which was given to the church on his death.

The lych-gate was built in 1949 to commemorate the men of Upper Hopton who died in the Second World War.

The church clock was installed in 1953, partly as a celebration of the coronation and partly in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the church.

The original organ was probably little more than a harmonium, which is now in the church vestry, the first pipe organ being installed in 1861. This lasted until 1893, when a new organ was installed at a cost of £211 15s. Carriage was paid as far as Mirfield station and local farmers transported it from the

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station with horses and carts. The organ was rebuilt, at a cost of £6000, in 1981 and dedicated in memory of Harold Newton Myers, Vicar of Upper Hopton 1932-68.

Money was raised by the Community Association for the Millennium Window, which was designed and painted by local artists, Anne and Vince Seabourne, who live at the Manse near the junction of Hopton Lane and Hopton Hall Lane.

The memorial garden, under the window, was planted in memory of Shirley Hartley, Treasurer of the Community association for many years and a member of the committee which raised the funds for the Millennium Window.

Thanks to Carol Ashton who researched the history of the area.