



Hello there. My name is Susan Major and I'm from the local history group at Clements Hall. We're going to take a walk around South Bank in York, showing you some interesting places and buildings from the last 100 years or so, to see how they fit in to how our community was shaped and developed.

The walk starts at the top of Ovington Terrace, where it meets Philadelphia Terrace. As you follow the route you'll hear new sound clips and see historic images from your location.

South Bank is a densely packed area of housing to the south of the centre of York, bordering the Bishopthorpe Rd on its way south. It lies between the River Ouse and the racecourse.

Most of the housing here is over 100 years old, featuring long straight streets, with small terraced houses opening directly onto pavements. These were built by developers 100 years ago, in a growing opportunity to make money out of land. They housed artisans and other workers, who urgently needed places to live, near to the new factories.

The exception is the Nunthorpe estate of red-brick semi-detached houses on a plot of land near the centre of the area, built in the 1930s.

We're using details from our book, *Shadows in the Bricks: the old shops of South Bank in York*, which is still on sale locally.

Two mansions

We're going to start off this tour alongside the very oldest streets in South Bank. We're at the top end of Ovington Terrace, outside one of the entrances to Millthorpe School.

As we look down Ovington Terrace, on the right-hand side there are four streets of small, terraced houses leading off it. These were built around 1881, and appear on the 1892 OS map. Apart from Southlands Road, this north west corner was the only part of the fields of South Bank developed to house the growing number of industrial workers around that time. The streets were Adelaide St, Argyle St, Windsor St and the south side of Philadelphia Terrace.

But first we want to look behind us, to the north.

In the second half of the nineteenth century there were two very big houses here, imposing mansions, perched on this ridge on the highest part of South Bank, with delightful views over the landscape. It's slightly confusing as they were both named the same, after the local area here.

If you look through the school gates, you will see the remnants of the first. Millthorpe School is based around Nunthorpe Court, a mansion built in 1856, designed by York's Atkinson brothers, the firm which was founded by John Carr. It had an estate of over 33 acres, and extended east as far as Bishopthorpe Rd. It had an entrance from a driveway on Nunthorpe Avenue (off Scarcroft Road), and another driveway up to the house from Bishopthorpe Road along what is now Southlands Road. (You get a better view of the house still from that side, which you can catch when you finish the walk)

From 1886 for over 30 years it was the home of Colonel Richard Frederick Meysey-Thompson and his wife Charlotte. They were keen on horses and so this position overlooking the Knavesmire must have been particularly attractive for them. They were living at here Nunthorpe Court during the first World War, when the building suffered war damage. Three bombs hit the roof and chimney stacks, setting the building on fire, and impassable chasms were left in the driveway.

The family eventually sold the house to the Council, who opened Nunthorpe Court Secondary School for Boys here in 1920. The school grew quickly, but the start of the autumn term in 1939 was delayed, because of the need to strengthen the cellars for air raid shelters. In the 1942 Baedeker air raid on York, most of the windows at the front of the old building were smashed, and a member of staff was killed. The school became Nunthorpe Grammar School in 1950, and then Millthorpe School in 1985.

The second large house was Nunthorpe Hall, which is sadly no longer here. It was in the area behind you, where Coggan Close is now, but demolished over 40 years ago. It was designed and built in 1866/7 by local architect Herbert Fippard, for mining engineer Henry Johnson McCulloch. The Hall was reached from a long driveway off Bishopthorpe Rd, where South Bank Avenue is now.

Sale details for the house describe 'a handsome and commodious residence... overlooking Knavesmire, replete with every modern accessory of reception, domestic and culinary arrangement, together with Garden and Stable requirement'. Plans included a game larder, meat larder and a china closet behind the entrance hall. The gardens of the Hall extended down to Albemarle Rd and bordered the entire length

of Philadelphia Terrace. The carriage drive from Bishopthorpe Rd had a lodge and entrance gates, opening into an avenue of chestnut, lime and sycamore trees, around 600 yards long.

A family of wealthy industrialists, the Lycett-Green's, moved to York in 1888, to live at Nunthorpe Hall, again they were keen on horses. During the First World War the building was lent to the Red Cross as a VAD Military Hospital, to receive men injured in the Battle of Loos in 1915. It had 50 beds at first, increasing to 76 beds, and was managed by Sir Edward's daughter-in-law Ethel. Even there the men were not safe. On the night of 2/3 May 1916 two Zeppelin bombs set fire to the upper house and four fell in the garden, resulting in considerable damage and the evacuation of the hospital. However, luckily all the patients survived, as they were on ground floor. By the time the hospital closed in April 1919, the staff had treated a total of 915 patients.

The Hall was eventually sold in 1921 and converted into 16 flats. It was eventually demolished in 1977 and Coggan Close built on the area. A small lodge, built in the 1930s, still remains at here, at the entrance to Coggan Close.

We're now going to walk down Ovington Terrace to take a closer look at the terraced streets.

Houses for workers

What sort of people were moving into these newly-built streets? The 1881 census lists many skilled artisans and their families – machinists, engine fitters, railway clerks, porters and guards, carriage builders, boilermakers, blacksmiths, railway labourers. Many would have had a secure wage from the new railway employers.

As soon as these streets began to fill with people, then shops started to open to supply them with necessities, and these were the first wave of shops in our area. It's not hard to spot which houses were shops, usually at the corners, with oblique shapes in the brickwork.

At No. 27 Adelaide St, which is right down at the bottom end of the street, next to the back alleyway, was butcher George Everitt. In the 1880s he cleaned out his shop every Saturday night so that it could be used as a Sunday School on Sunday mornings. This was so successful that it eventually moved into two houses in a neighbouring street, and services for adults began to be held there. At the same time a large Methodist church inside the city walls was looking to respond to the growing population just outside the walls, and Everitt's Sunday school work, with money and personnel made available by the big church, resulted in the opening of Southlands Methodist Church in 1887.

The first shop in this area was on the top corner of Windsor St, in 1881, a grocer William Ernest, who lasted around twelve years there. This later became James Lonsdale, grocer and draper, and we have some photos. Mary Anne Lonsdale took over in 1901, lasting until the 1940s, when Ernest Algernon Lonsdale ran the shop until around 1960. Look at the advert for this shop from 1939, which shows the range of goods sold, from butter and bacon, to paper blinds and brushes, patent medicines and silk stockings.

By 1895 there were several corner shops such as off-licences, butchers and provision grocers. Today none of these shops remain, only the South Bank Social Club is still trading.

The Club started in 1899, in six houses in Argyle St. Their Cricket Club and an Angling Association was founded in 1900. In 1909 they extended into an adjoining cottage, and the club became the property of its members. It changed to the current address in 1953, and was extended in 1963 when a seventh house was bought in Argyle Street.

In the 1990s when it was refurbished, the Club had about 800 members and 100 lady members. Activities included outdoor bowls, indoor bowls, darts and 'fives and threes' teams, snooker, two football teams, two quiz teams and a walking section, a rifle range, and an extensive library. There was dancing on Saturday nights to live music, and bingo sessions, and every Sunday night there was live entertainment. Some show business celebrities have performed in the Club over the years: Paul Daniels, Paul Shane (Hi-Di-Hi), Bernie Clifton and Charlie Williams.

With cricket, the younger players at South Bank Cricket Club weren't getting a game, so they formed their own team, taking their name from this terrace. Nearly 100 years on, South Bank CC has long gone, while Ovington CC prospers.

In a new development Young Thugs was established at the Club in 2016, as a community platform for the York music scene. Based upstairs, they include artist management and recording studio. They combine cutting edge digital recording with classic analogue equipment.

We're walking down to the bottom of Ovington Terrace, where we turn left, to walk a little way down South Bank Avenue, before coming back up again.

The Mission Chapel

You should now be standing at the top of South Bank Avenue.

This was originally the driveway leading from Bishopthorpe Road up to where we have just come from, Nunthorpe Hall. There were some shops in the terrace of houses on the right, and then, further down, even some of the gabled houses, with bay windows and front forecourt gardens were shops for quite a while.

On the right hand side as you look down South Bank Avenue you'll see a building which stands out from the others in the terrace.

No 88a was originally the South Bank Mission Chapel. It was built in 1900 as an outreach centre for St. Clement's in Scarcroft Rd. This was before St. Chad's was built, and it still retains a memorial stone. This building has housed many groups – it was used as a temporary school in 1906 and a Sunday School in 1931, and also for Mothers' Union meetings.

Much later it became a warehouse. Known locally as the Glass Warehouse from the 1960s, as it housed glaziers. It was converted to a private house around seven years ago.

We're now going to go back up the Avenue, to the alleyway, where we will turn left. As we walk up spot the last of the taller houses, no 108. This was a shop long ago.

Before the war it was Prest's, a grocer and confectioner, later Milner's then Smith's, finally closing around 1959. The following five houses are quite different to the previous ones. These were built on a gap which we'll talk about when we get into Brunswick St.

We are walking along what used to be the driveway to Nunthorpe Hall, but on our right is the wall around Millthorpe School grounds, which if you remember used to be Nunthorpe Court.

As you near the top of the Avenue make sure you look at the road gutters.

One of the most memorable features of the South Bank area is its alleyways, which still have distinctive stable block pavements. Interestingly it is the area which has kept the most of these in York. Keep a look out for these, as you'll also find them as decorative gutters to many of the street surfaces.

We were told how young boys used to get hold of four pram wheels and a plank of wood, and lash them together with rope or wire. The front axle was on a pivot, and a length of rope was tied to each end of the axle for the steering gear. Then they would take them to the slope here, known as the 'Sleepers', originally named after railway sleepers here.

We're going to walk down the alleyway to the first junction, with Brunswick St, where we're going to turn right.

Brunswick Street

As you turn right into Brunswick St look each way at the houses.

Building started here in 1900, and two smaller streets, Hubert St and Ruby St, were created on the north side. There was still a gap in the middle for many years, as local brewers were hoping to put a pub here. But at this time there was a problem with drink. Men who drank might condemn whole families to destitution, because there was no escape from marriage, no contraception, and no state safety-net.

Temperance campaigning was widespread and supported by all the main religious groups. And so the brewers were at this time defeated by local temperance agitators. By 1934 they finally gave in and sold this piece of land off for housing. You'll notice that the housing is different at this spot.

Can you imagine what life was like in South Bank in the early 20th century? There would have been backyard outdoor toilets and waste collectors, horses in the alleys, trams trundling past, coal fires, and sometimes large families packed into small rooms. It must have smelt very different from today.

There were a number of shops along here – look for the shadows in the bricks. One of them near the top end on the left in modern times belonged to Gillian Shuttleworth, at no 118.

Mrs Gillian Shuttleworth, who grew up here, bought the house and shop in 1976 from Newitt's, who also had a large sport shop in Goodramgate. Her previous business had been in rented premises in Count de Burgh Terrace, where she had her first soft toymaking/dress alteration shop (now rebuilt as Percy Mews). In Brunswick St she ran a very successful dress alteration business, with people coming from miles around. She also sold wool and made quality teddy bears in the stripe/colours of many of the northern football clubs, including Manchester United, which were bought

by the clubs for sale in their shops. She even adapted the teddy into an owl for Sheffield Wednesday. Eventually she had the premises converted back into a whole house in the mid-1990s when she retired.

Carry on to the junction with Albemarle road, where we're going to cross over the road, to the Knavesmire pub.

100 year old shops

We're now standing on the opposite side of Albemarle Road, looking towards the corners of Brunswick St., and we can compare them with the old photograph. On the left hand side there is still a corner shop, D & K Stores, run by Harish and Bijal Patel. This shop has a long history, with over 100 years of trading. It was originally a grocer around 1905, and listed as a fruiterer in 1911, Arthur Rose, changing to the Sykes family in 1922 for around 50 years. It later went through a range of owners and trades. Harish and Bijal have now absorbed the former barber's shop round the corner into their building and have refurbished the business.

The other corner is now a house. There was a shop here in 1901, belonging to Susan Rose, a fancy draper from 1901 to 1905, later a draper and milliner, Miss Elizabeth Gibson. It went through various owners and trades, but by 1927 it was Irwin Richard Brown, baker and confectioner, and remained Brown's Bakery until the early 1950s, when it became Parkinson's Bakery. By 1967 it was Haxby's, and then Pavlo's Bakery. By the 1980s it had become Fred's Bakery, who later moved around to the corner of Albemarle Rd and Queen Victoria St. The shop here closed in 1994.

Carry on walking to the next junction, with Queen Victoria St.

The tram terminus

We're walking to the junction with Queen Victoria St, where Fred's bakery is on the left hand corner.

The photograph from around 100 years ago shows a tram coming along Queen Victoria St. The service to South Bank opened in 1913, with three electric trams running from the Station along Bishopthorpe Rd, and up Balmoral Terrace and Queen Victoria Street, to turn at Albemarle Road. Powered from overhead cables, each blue and cream vehicle took up to 48 passengers on two floors – the top open to the elements. A wartime shortage of male staff led to the trams' brakes being fitted with gearing, making them easier for women to operate. The trams ran till 1935, when they were replaced by buses.

Joan Jackman told us that on race days the trams used to be queuing on Queen Victoria Street ... they used to let children play on them while they waited for all races to finish.

The tram service encouraged much trading along Queen Victoria St and Balmoral Terrace, with as many as thirty houses used as shops. Next time you walk along here see how many you can spot, from the shadows in the bricks.

Now we'll take a look at the Knavesmire pub

The number of public houses in our area was shaped by a figure from a hundred years ago. Canon Argles of St Clements arrived in the parish in 1871 and became an outspoken critic of alcohol and public houses, seeing drink as a social evil. Despite the large number of houses being built in the area, he was able to use his influence to stop pubs opening in South Bank until his death in 1920. But it was not until 1932 that the Knavesmire pub opened, with a licence granted to J.J. Hunt's Brewery.

Look at the advert from 1933, which shows that the pub was advertised as the Knavesmire Hotel, at South Bank Tram Terminus: '10 bedrooms, hot and cold water, private suites. Annual dinners and reunions a speciality. Parties of 100 can be catered for. Ideal rooms for wedding receptions, parties and 21st birthday parties. Lunches, teas and dinners are provided. A suggestion - You can entertain your friends without worry of Accommodation, Crockery and Cutlery or Staff.'

It was still described as a hotel in 1975. The current licensees are Stuart and Lyndsay and they still have a Knavesmire function suite for events, with two large interconnecting rooms with private bar. They serve breakfasts on weekends and race days, and offer a free meeting room for local community groups.

Now we're going to look at Fred's Bakery

Fred's Bakery

This shop on the left hand corner of Queen Victoria St and Albemarle Rd, was previously Wright's pork butchers. By 1995 it was Fred's Wholesale Bakery, has now been a retail bakery for many years, with another shop in Bishopthorpe.

Fred Thomas has been a well-known South Bank baker for 38 years, the longest serving trader in our area. He came from a family of ten, and remembers being sent to the baker as a child for ten loaves. He trained at Woolgrove's Bakery in Heslington Rd and also did some cheffing at Terry's in St. Helen's Square. His is a family business, which he has now handed over to his sons and daughter, who together with his wife have worked with him for many years.

He is well-known for his charitable work around York, making many cakes and breads for the community, such as the Evening Press Toy Fund, Children in Need, Press Guardian Angel Appeal. He makes giant bread wheatsheaves for harvest festival celebrations at St Chad's, festive bread Christmas trees for display, and also baked a commemorative chocolate sponge cake from an original Terry's recipe when Van Wilson's *The Story of Terry's* was launched, in 2009.

On the opposite corner of Queen Victoria St was a well-known Post Office for many years. In 1901 this was the intriguingly named Haworth Haworth, grocer shopkeeper, with a Post Office too. By 1922 it was George Wilfred Herbert, who lasted until at least the war, see his shop in the old photo. A number of grocers followed, and many people will remember it was The Post Box/PO around 20 years ago. Despite campaigning, it finally closed in 2004, around the same time as the closure of the Post Office in Bishopthorpe Rd.

We're going to carry on along Albemarle Road all the way down to Campleshon Road now.

Terry's of York

At the end of Albermarle Road we're turning left, where you'll see in front of you to the right the old Terry's factory, now a residential development, alongside York Racecourse.

When York confectionery firm Terry's first expanded from their original shop in St Helen's Square, they chose a riverside site in Clementhorpe, to house stocks of peel, used for candied peel. The riverside location was important, as all their supplies - sugar, cocoa, glucose, orange and lemon rinds in brine - arrived by steamer from Hull, along the Humber and the Ouse, together with coal. So twice a week the steam packet vessel would disgorge its cargo of sugar, cocoa and coal.

By the 1920s however their expanding factory had outgrown its Clementhorpe site. They moved in 1926 to a purpose-built Art Deco style factory off Bishopthorpe Rd, alongside the York Racecourse. The factory was a landmark building, boasting a distinctive clock tower. Some of their most famous brands were created here: the Chocolate Apple in 1926, All Gold in 1930 and the Chocolate Orange a year later.

During World War II, confectionery production was halted and the factory was taken over by F Hills and Sons of Manchester as a shadow factory, to manufacture and repair aircraft propeller blades.

In 1975, Terry's was bought by United Biscuits, who later sold their confectionery division to Kraft Foods in 1993. Sadly in 2004 the factory closure was announced, with production to be moved to other Kraft European factories. It ceased production in 2005.

The site has now been developed for residential use, with apartments, penthouse suites and terraced housing. The image shows the original master plan for the development.

In 2017 the original main office block, a Grade II listed building, opened as the Chocolate Works Care Village, created by Springfield Healthcare.

We'll now carry on along Campleshon Road towards the church.

The Church of St Chad on the Knavesmire

We're now outside the church. To meet the needs of a rapidly growing population in South Bank, a Mission Chapel had been built in South Bank Avenue in 1900, which we saw earlier. This was an outreach centre for St. Clement's Church in Scarcroft Rd.

By 1922 land had been bought on Campleshon Lane by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to build a church of St Chad. A series of fund-raising events were staged, to support what was known as the 'Argles Memorial Church', named after the long serving vicar of St Clements, Canon Argles, who had just died.

Architectural plans were drawn up by the celebrated architect Walter Brierley in 1924, and building work started on the new church, to be officially named the Church of St. Chad on the Knavesmire, which opened in 1926.

It's built in brick throughout and comprises a 'nave', originally intended as a chancel, with three bays and a Lady Chapel at the east end. The present structure represents only half the original plan, of which many features were left uncompleted, including

the tower, due to Brierley's death. The Church is a Grade II listed building because of its innovative structural form.

Plans were drawn up in 1964 to build the uncompleted west tower, which was finally opened in 1967, and in 1970 a new church hall was built alongside the west tower.

The Church is a Grade II Historic England listed building, a notable example of work by Walter Brierley.

Carry on again to the school.

Knavesmire Primary School

We're now outside the school. This has seen many children pass through over the last 100 years.

South Bank Temporary School had opened in 1906 at the St. Clement's Mission Room in South Bank Avenue, and five years later a temporary Infants School opened in Balmoral Terrace, in the premises of the Adult School. By the start of the First World War there were 159 children enrolled in these two temporary schools, and a new, purpose-built school was much needed in the area, to serve its growing population. Especially as children from Cherry Street and Scarcroft Schools were waiting to transfer.

Designed by the Bolton architect J.T. Proffitt, the new Knavesmire Council School opened in here Campleshon Road in 1916, with a capacity of 800. Extensions, including a new wing, were later added to increase the accommodation by 160 places. In 1945 the school was split, into a primary school for infants and a secondary modern school for girls, as part of the new system under the 1944 Education Act. By 1964 a new secondary modern school near to Bustardthorpe opened for girls, with boys entering the following year. Local educational reforms led to its closure in 1985, and the building became the York College of Law in 1989, who eventually relocated to Leeds in 2014. Since then it has housed the York Campus of OneSchool Global UK, an independent educational trust.

In 2014 here in South Bank the final phase of the Primary School extensions were completed, including a canteen, new hall, and additional teaching spaces. In 2016 Knavesmire Primary School became part of South Bank Multi-Academy Trust.

We're going to carry along walking as far as Kensington St, where we turn left.

George Russell

We've been walking along Kensington St to the north, back up to the centre of South Bank, but we first want to show you a blue plaque up here on the right hand side.

George Russell, who lived at 20 Kensington St in South Bank, was a jobbing gardener, with an allotment at Bustardthorpe, which is south of here along the Bishopthorpe Road. He was inspired to start breeding better lupins in 1911, by the sight of a vase of lupins arranged by a Mrs Micklethwaite, one of his employers, at a house on The Mount. He noticed that her lupins were very poor and was convinced he could do better, so he embarked on a 20-year project to develop a new much improved strain.

He preferred natural pollination by bees for hybridisation to vegetative propagation or hand pollination. At the end of each season he collected seed from the very best plants and sowed it. Any inferior plants were rigorously removed. He carried on until the 1930s. People travelled from across the country to see the lupins blooming in his Bishopthorpe Rd plot. And his lupins were well known throughout the world. By the 1940s every lupin sold was a Russell lupin and by the age of 79 he was exhibiting at Chelsea. His sturdy plants became a feature of the post-war garden, and each packet of seeds was sealed with his picture as a sign of authenticity.

Carry on walking up to the junction with Balmoral Terrace, where we're going to take a short detour to the left, before returning back down to Bishopthorpe Road.

The Working Men's Club and the Co-op

The first notable building here is on the left hand side, where Janico have their shop and business.

The Co-op

This was built as a Co-operative shop, the York Equitable Industrial Society Ltd, who opened here in 1902. You can see a plaque high on the front which proudly announces that 'this branch was opened by R D Hallam (Director) 19th March 1902'.

One of the founder members of the Society generally in York in 1858 was Robert Rathmell, who lived in Dale St, off Nunnery Lane. The Society was slow to take off at first, with its prices initially regarded as uncompetitive for York workers with varying incomes. And then once it became more successful, it antagonised local shopkeepers. Belonging to the 'Co-op' however became regarded as a statement of respectability, and they held a gala for members in 1907 on the Knavesmire, attracting around 30,000-40,000 people. The Society changed its name to the York Co-operative Society in the 1940s, eventually merging in 1984 with the Harrogate Co-operative Society to become the North Yorkshire Co-operative Society.

The shop was still operating as a grocery and butchery in the 1980s, but the premises were bought by Janico around 1996. They provide electrical, heating, and plumbing wholesale services.

Local people have fond memories of writing out their Co-op order, which would then be delivered by horse and cart. One story was about delivery man Arthur Bottom. He was a famous footballer for York City, and in 1955 they got into the semi-finals with Newcastle (they lost). Former resident David Meek remembers that Arthur Bottom brought his mum's milk on the morning of the big match. And everyone was saying "All the best Arthur", and he was saying, "We'll do our best".

St Clement's Working Men's Club

Further along on the left hand corner with Count de Burgh Terrace is St Clement's Working Men's Club. This had originally been founded in 1908 at 3 Queen Victoria Street, on the corner diagonally opposite to your right. You can still see the shapes in the brickwork there. The old photo shows an outing of the St Clement's Pipe Club in front of this building.

The building now known as St. Clement's Club has had many surprising functions over the last 100 years. It was built in 1903 as South Bank Adult School, by the Trustees of the Adult School and Social Union, 'so that democracy might enjoy wisely in a spiritual atmosphere its leisure moments'. Moves for adult education in York were led by the Society of Friends (Quakers) with members of the Rowntree family, and a large number were created in York around the turn of the 20th century. They were deliberately presented as an alternative for the working classes to the public house.

This building was used by many different organisations, for example in 1906 it hosted an art exhibition, with many paintings lent by residents, and three samplers worked by the Bronte sisters. That year a new hall extension was opened, and by 1910 meetings of the York Society of Friends started in the Adult School, known as the South Bank Meeting.

From 1911 it functioned as a children's school, before Knavesmire School was built in 1916, and Workers Educational Association evening classes were also held here. St. Clement's also used it as a Church Hall too. In 1926 it was secured as the new headquarters of the York T.O.C.H., an international movement originally set up to support servicemen, which had moved from St William's College. It was also used as a gymnasium by the South Bank and LNER Football teams. The building was later bought by St Chad's Church and after refurbishment used as their hall from 1931.

In World War II in 1940, it was taken over by the military, for soldiers returning from France. It was used mainly as a Forces canteen, with people cooking outside on open fires. There was also a corrugated construction used by St. Clements' Football Club for changing, known as The Tabernacle, because of its many-sided pointed roof.

The main building was also a Forces recreational centre. The Hall cellar and boiler room was K3, the local Air Raid Warden's post. After the Forces moved out, it was used as a civic restaurant.

In 1966 the building was sold to St. Clement's Club, with the proceeds used towards completion of the unbuilt church tower at St Chad's. And the Club opened here in 1969.

Who was Count de Burgh?

Count de Burgh Terrace was named after a famous local businessman, 'Count' William Chapman de Burgh. His name was originally William Chapman, born locally in 1840, but rather mysteriously in 1890 he changed it officially by deed poll to William Chapman de Burgh, later adding the prefix Count. His father George was described at different times as an architect, joiner and cabinet maker, and surveyor, and it appears that William became considerably wealthy during his life from quite humble circumstances, by speculating in land and property in our area. William died in 1901, but 'Messrs De Burgh' were still developing locally in 1913. One of his sons, Harold, went on to be Sheriff and then Lord Mayor of York in the 1940s. Another son, Arthur, seems to have had less luck, becoming bankrupt in 1902. The De Burgh Estates were still about in the early 1960's, owning many dozens of South Bank properties, with rent-paying tenants.

Now we're going to walk back down Balmoral Terrace towards Bishopthorpe Road.

Hiding from Zeppelins

As we turn out of Balmoral Terrace left onto Bishopthorpe Road, you'll notice that there is quite a curve at this junction, unlike the other street crossings. Can you guess why this is?

It's a feature which the tram needed, to make it easier for the lines to travel in and out of Balmoral Terrace.

We're going to take a look at one of the houses over the road, no 230 Bishopthorpe Road, opposite the surgery. In local records we discovered a letter by Wilson Kirby, railway manager, who lived at Holme House as it was known then, to daughter Nellie, on 3 May 1916.

He wrote "“The Zepp passed directly over our house then turned to the left over the canvas and across to Nunthorpe Hall where the wounded soldiers were. The first bombs were dropped there about half a minute or less after passing our house, which set the Hall on fire and all the patients had to be taken away by motor car. A good deal of damage was done to the Hall but it was not totally destroyed.”

“A Miss Chapman (one of our lady clerks) of Nunthorpe Avenue was killed and her mother had an arm blown off. A Mr and Mrs Avison in Price Street were killed and the house totally demolished. 3 houses were knocked down in Caroline Street and scores if not hundreds of houses seriously damaged roundabout there, thousands of windows being blown in. Nunthorpe Road caught it very severely, particularly about Kettlewell's the butchers and right up to St Clement's Church which had a few, perhaps 40, small panes broken. It is a proper wreck about there.”

Carry on along Bishopthorpe Road to the left, to stop at the next junction.

The Old Rectory

We're stopping here at Rectory Gardens. St. Clement's Church Rectory was here, a large house well away from the church, in fields to the south of York. Plans were drawn up by York architect Herbert Fippard in 1867 and contractors appointed in 1869. In 1871 Canon George Marsham Argles was appointed first Rector of the combined parish of St Mary Bishophill Senior with St. Clements and became the first occupant of the Rectory when it was completed in 1872. He retired in 1919 and died the following year. The Rectory was eventually demolished in 1936, to make way for new houses, in a new cul-de-sac named Rectory Gardens.

Carry on to the next junction.

The old lodge to Nunthorpe Hall

This junction, with shops on the corners, has been an important trading area for the area over the last 100 years, with a long history of corner shops. But it's worth looking at the house on the left hand corner of South Bank Avenue. This avenue was originally the driveway leading all the way up and round to Nunthorpe Hall. The lodge here was a small gabled building, with pillars on the north side, which you can see in

the photos. A coachman, Charles Crane, was living there around 1900, after which it became vacant.

It was later used to house a newsagent's shop. Our photo from the 1930s shows posters in front of the newsagents, with news stories such as: 'Missing Girl: Ghastly Story', 'Boy Trapped in Burning Train' and 'Death Drama in Yorkshire Hotel'. 'The Wolf Man' is showing at the City Picture Palace. You might notice the tramline fittings, clearly visible here, and you can just see the old rectory on the left hand side.

The Lodge was demolished around the late 1930s, but the newsagent remained in the house behind (see the later photo). The big house, Nunthorpe Hall, was not demolished until 1977.

On the east side of the main road, where the Village Spice is now, was a grocer's shop around 100 years ago (see the old photo). After the war it was Brown's, with the Glen Park Bakery, which interestingly became the Glen Park Library in 1953, where you could borrow a book for a penny. In 1959 it became Swiers Butchers, and Ken Hodgson who took over in 1967. As well as meats they made their own burgers and sold tripe, and eventually added home-made pastries to their shop. It later became the Bay of Bengal Indian Restaurant /Takeaway, and is now the Village Spice.

On the other side of Butcher Terrace opposite is Millennium Food & Wine, again a grocer's from as early as 1909, with many different owners since then. People remember the shop run by Mr Hines, which included draught paraffin and draught vinegar, side by side. He would fill up these bottles and say, don't get them mixed up! The whole place smelled of paraffin and vinegar.

We're going to walk a bit further along the main road here.

Cameron Walker Homes

You should now be looking at the Cameron Walker Homes on the right, also known as the Walker Barstow Homes and Cameron Walker Court.

Charles Cameron Walker was a member of the Cameron brewing family, who died in 1907. His almshouses were established in Bishopthorpe Road in 1909, and became a registered charity in 1912. There were twelve three-room dwellings in a two storied building designed by Walter Brierley and were described by Pevsner as 'Tudor-style, red brick with stone details and mullioned windows'.

The almshouses were declared open to the poor of either sex living within 10 miles of York. The building had three doorways, each opening onto a hall with two flats on each of the two floors. The flats were built with a living room with a range and oven, and a separate bedroom. There was a narrow scullery with sink and cold water tap and a small gas ring and grill. The wash-house was in the garden and contained two coppers, two sinks, cold water taps and mangles. Each pair of flats shared a WC, but there were no baths installed when the house was built. Electric light, installed from the beginning, and water were provided free.

They are now known as Walker Barstow Homes. To qualify for housing as a beneficiary of the trust applicants must be an adult or an adult couple, living within a

10 mile radius of the centre of York and have limited financial means. It is also a condition that residents must be capable of independent living.

There was another almshouse in Caroline St in Clementhorpe, Barstow's Hospital, and this was demolished in the 1960s. By 1972 the charity was merged with Cameron Walker Homes to become Walker Barstow Homes. A warden's bungalow and two others for residents were added at this time. Later 1 Aldreth Grove was bought and converted into flats. Modernisation of the main block was carried out in 1982, which has added a bathroom to each dwelling. A communal lounge, known as the Barstow Lounge, was added, and then a house in Cameron Grove was purchased and converted into two more dwellings. The almshouses now houses nineteen residents, with a 24 hour warden call system.

Carry on to the pub.

The Winning Post

We've already talked by Canon Argles of St Clement's. When he arrived in the parish in 1871 he became an outspoken critic of drinking and public houses, seeing drink as a social evil. Despite the large number of houses being built around here he was able to use his influence to prevent pubs opening in South Bank while he was alive. His influence lived on even after died in 1920, and it was not until 1932 that the Knavesmire pub opened. Then the Winning Post opened on 22 May 1939, built by John Smith & Sons.

The Winning Post was a popular pub with a large function room, becoming famous for many bands appearing here, including Shed Seven in their early days, and the York Punk band Cyanide. There were some great old characters too, such as 'Mad Albert' (we have a photo from then)

The brewery changed to Courage, then Scottish & Newcastle, and then Heineken in 2008. It is now owned by EI Publican Partnerships, which used to be Enterprise Inns.

In the last twenty years the pub had become rather run-down and by 2014 there were concerns about the possibility of a large supermarket taking over the premises here, with its effect on independent traders, as well as the loss of one of the only two pubs in the area. After an application by local traders, it was listed in 2014 as an asset of community value, to protect it from development.

In December 2015, new managers Malcolm and Fiona Tolladay took over, with an ambitious and extensive programme of renovation. They were fascinated to find under the floor some interesting racing related decorative features – a horse and jockey and a horseshoe motif. It is now a successful pub, restaurant and community resource, with many regular events making use of its rooms, such as the Comedy Club, Gin Club, musical events, art exhibitions and cinema nights.

Carry on walking along Bishopthorpe Road, as far as the church, where we're going to turn left.

Southlands Methodist Church

We're walking up to the junction with Southlands Road, where we'll turn left, stopping to look at the church first.

By the 1880s the local population around here was growing fast, and a Methodist church was needed outside of the city walls, to offer educational opportunities for the working class, children and young adults alike in the South Bank area.

The church had begun as a Sunday school, held in George Everitt's butchers shop at the bottom of Adelaide Street, and then moving to a mission room in Windsor St.

The move to build a new church was generously supported by several local businessmen and by a big church inside the city walls. Charles Bell was a specialist in Wesleyan Methodist chapels - he designed more than 60 up and down the country - and he designed the new chapel for South Bank. It provided accommodation for a large congregation, 750 people, in the main church, which had a balcony, three meeting rooms and a Sunday school block with 15 classrooms. Southlands opened as a Wesleyan Chapel on 13 October 1887.

In 1920 an additional single-storey building with two large rooms was built on land next to the church, to provide social facilities for young men who were unable to find work after returning from service in the Great War. This was called the Thanksgiving Hall and it also provided facilities for the church's Young Men's Association and other activities.

Southlands has responded in many different ways to community needs, for example providing leisure facilities for soldiers during two world wars, and providing shelter and help for refugees from Belgium during the Great War and from Hungary in the mid-1950s. It now has a heavy programme of youth and children's work and, more recently, has become a hub for the arts, with 18 artists working out of 11 art studios established on the former balcony of the church and on the gallery in the Community Centre, formerly the Sunday school block.

There are groups here such as choirs, theatre groups, a jazz dance group, a Brazilian martial arts group, Song Box (a music group for toddlers), and a community café.

The Church has been renovated several times, and in 2016 the adjacent Thanksgiving Hall was demolished.

While we're here we can tell you about two significant features of the site where the church was built, from centuries ago. If you look at the Skaife map from 1864 you will see them.

The Nun Windmill was on a mound, one of several around the city. It was one of two medieval windmills in 1524 belonging to Isabella Ward, Prioress of St Clement's Nunnery, and built during the Nunnery's existence. It later served to house batteries during the Parliamentary Siege on York in 1644.

It was a working mill in the 19th century. We know that David Hicks Wilstrop arrived as miller from Rufforth Mill in 1830 and then moved on to Castle Mills in 1843, to be replaced by his brother Thomas, who sadly later died of cholera in 1854. Ironically, the following year a doctor born in York, Dr Snow, published his findings on how cholera was transmitted, using the experience of the Broad Street water pump in London.

The mill was eventually demolished in 1880, to make way for the church and houses. During demolition work Civil War cannonballs and lead musket bullets were found nearby.

The site has another surprising claim to fame, as it was said to be where Archbishop Richard Scrope was beheaded. He had played a leading role in the northern uprising against Henry IV in 1405, and suffered tragically for this. Skaife's map of 1864 shows this to be the site of Richard Scrope's Chapel, although his tomb and the Scrope Chapel are now at York Minster.

We're now going to walk along Southlands Road to our last stop, in Nunthorpe Grove, where we turn left.

The Nunthorpe estate

The only part of South Bank still undeveloped by 1930 was the central area of open land, with ponds and allotments. Then during the 1930s an estate of red brick semis with gardens was built here, between Southlands Road and South Bank Avenue.

Nunthorpe Grove has been described as the most ill-fated street in wartime York. In many parts it had not been possible to put up Anderson shelters, because much of the ground was waterlogged, making it unsuitable. On 29 April 1942, a bomb dropped on nos. 23 and 25, destroying these, as well as nos.19 and 21. Several people were badly injured, and the body of a young ATS girl, Dorothy Thompson, was later found at the bottom of a bomb crater in no.21. The houses were eventually rebuilt in 1946. Further bombs landed on other parts of the estate, between the houses.

In yet another devastating incident, on 5 March 1945, Halifax bombers from the Canadian 426 Squadron at Linton-on-Ouse took off for a raid on the German city of Chemnitz. These aircraft suffered from severe icing and three crashed soon after take-off. One broke up under the weight of ice which had accumulated on it, and its fuselage crashed on nos.26 and 28 Nunthorpe Grove, killing two elderly ladies, while one of the engines hit the nearby school. The aeroplane was carrying eight bombs. Eleven people died - six of the crew and five civilians - and another 18 were injured in the crash. Four houses were set on fire.

Alex Helstrip told us that his great-grandmother, Lydia Helstrip, was one of the two ladies tragically killed on that day by the crashing bomber. She lived in Cygnet St but happened to be visiting her widowed sister Laura, who lived at 28 Nunthorpe Grove, to have tea with her. Another sister, Maude, intended to come but couldn't, as she was poorly, and avoided the disaster.

There were six sisters altogether, all born in York to the Temple family of the Groves, between 1862 and 1876. All married, including Lydia, who married George Helstrip, Alex's great-grandfather.

Intriguingly when we looked at the marriage certificates, Laura and Lydia married on the same day in September 1896, at the same church, St Thomas's, in the Groves, a double wedding. So it is particularly tragic that they died together almost 50 years later, Lydia (80) and Laura (74).

That is the end of our walk, which we hope you've enjoyed.

We've glimpsed at moments in history. We've seen how modern institutions, such as schools and churches, have developed, from surprisingly small roots locally. We've seen how buildings have changed their uses over time, with communities pulling together to solve social problems. The arrival of the motor car and the developing use of housing as an investment have changed the area, pulling at community roots. But hopefully you will have been able to imagine a little of what life must have been like 100 years ago in South Bank.

If you want to find out more about our area, our book, *Shadows in the Bricks: the old shops of South Bank in York*, is still on sale locally.

Clements Hall Local History Group

www.clementshallhistorygroup.org.uk