

The Plough Inn: Some History



We have already reported on plans to turn The Plough in Sandygate into a community pub. A large number of people from around Sheffield have indicated their wish to become shareholders, and more than £105,000 has been promised. See <https://www.facebook.com/ploughsandygate> or <https://twitter.com/PloughSandygate>. Further details are available on request from ploughsandygate@gmail.com.

The Plough is important for what it will provide to the local community in years to come and also because of its long history. The photograph above shows the pub in about 1905, but it was there centuries before. Rebuilt in 1929, an elaborately carved stone above the present front door displays from an earlier building the year 1695, but the pub may have existed as a beerhouse well before that. Behind it were stables and a smithy which, in 1935 was taken over by Barker's Garage shown in the photo below. In 1962 that became Sandygate Motors which operated there until 1999.



The Plough has played a central role in the history of cricket and football. It is located opposite the oldest continuous football ground in the world, the home of Hallam FC (formed in 1860) and of Hallam Cricket Club who were playing matches here as early as 1804. (These are both strongly backing the current plans.)

An interesting story concerns Thomas Armitage, the Plough's landlord between 1868 and 1886. Born in Walkley in 1848, Armitage had played for England in the first ever test match series against Australia, and in 1886 he moved to USA to join Oxford Cricket Club in Philadelphia as a professional. He played for *The Players of the United States* against *The Players of Philadelphia*, and is therefore believed to be the only cricketer ever to represent both England and the United States – a publican from Sheffield!

Britain's Model Villages

Those who came to our talk in June would not have been expecting to learn about miniature villages, houses and trains! Instead we heard a fascinating talk by Susan Deal about the rise of villages built by landowners and industrialists for their workers and families.

Although located close to a workplace "model villages" were generally physically separated from them. They often consisted of relatively high quality housing, with community amenities and attractive physical environments. Here the term "model" is used in the sense of an ideal to which other developments could aspire.

As the Industrial Revolution took hold, industrialists who had built factories in rural locations began to provide houses for workers clustered around their workplace. An early example of an industrial model village was New Lanark built by Robert Owen.

Most of us living in Sheffield will know of, and may have visited, Saltaire built by Titus Salt in 1851. This leading entrepreneur in the Yorkshire woolen industry built his large new textile mill by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the railway, moving five separate mills out of congested Bradford. He also provided a neat stone village for his workers, with houses incorporating wash-houses with tap water, bath-houses, a hospital and an institute for recreation and education. The village had a school for the workers' children, almshouses, allotments, a park and a boathouse. We learned that Titus Salt consulted his workers as to their preferences, although possibly only to confirm his own views!

Ackroydon village near Halifax is a less grand model village from the same era, built by Colonel Edward Akroyd in 1859 for his mill workers. He employed George Gilbert Scott to design it in the Gothic style, and again it was a model village not only in the architectural sense but also in terms of social provision. Various sizes of houses were constructed for people from different economic classes, and low cost loans were made available to buy them. The village was to be managed by

a committee of residents, and a working men's college was provided for self-improvement. We learned that Ackroyden, was an early forerunner of the model "garden cities" of the 20th century such as Letchworth.

A later example can be seen at Creswell, Derbyshire, built in 1895 by the Bolsover Colliery Company in an "arts and crafts" style. The houses were constructed on land leased from the Welbeck Estate and designed in varying styles and arranged around a large oval village green. The families in these houses enjoyed relatively modern facilities, and even a tramway to deliver their coal.

Philanthropic mine owners had provided decent accommodation for their workers from the early nineteenth century. Earl Fitzwilliam, a paternalistic colliery owner provided houses near his coal pits in Elsecar near Barnsley that were superior to those found in most working class areas, with four rooms, a pantry, and a small garden and pigsty outside. As coal mining expanded, the villages of Grimethorpe, Goldthorpe, Woodlands and Fitzwilliam in Yorkshire were built specifically to house workers at the collieries.

It is interesting to note that many of the sponsors of model villages were non-conformists or Quakers such as the Cadbury and Rowntree families. George Cadbury built the model village of Bourneville between 1898 and 1905, whilst the Rowntrees built their complex at New Earswick in 1902.

Ranmoor: Home of Sheffield's Bishops

For nearly 80 years now Ranmoor has been host to the Bishops of Sheffield, although the very first Bishop, Leonard Burrows, was an exception. After his installation in 1914, Bishop Burrows settled in Broomhill, living at *Oakholme* (renamed *Bishopsholme*) in Oakholme Road. Four years later he and his family moved to *Norwood Hall* (close to Herries Road), where he remained until he left office in 1939.

The next two Bishops settled in Ranmoor Road – in *Ranmoor Grange*. At the external end of the Grange's sweeping drive, on a gatepost close to the Ranmoor Inn, there remains a plaque showing the Bishops' coat of arms. Bishop Leslie Hunter was the first to move in there after taking office in 1939, and in 1962 he was followed by Bishop Taylor and family.

The fourth Bishop of Sheffield, Gordon Fallows from 1972, instead opted for a fine "arts and crafts" style house near the top of Snaithing Lane. The house was designed in 1912-1913 by architect Sidney Chipling from Grindleford Bridge. The photograph below shows how different it was from previous bishops'

houses in Sheffield.



As a private house it was originally called *The Côte*, then renamed *Molescroft* in 1954. During the 1960s the Sheffield engineering company Davy-United purchased it for use as short-term accommodation for its overseas visitors. It was sold in the late 1960s when the company's fortunes declined.

After 1972 it became *Bishopscroft* and today continues as the home of Bishops of Sheffield. Modifications have perforce had to be made. The billiard room has been converted to a chapel, an old conservatory has been removed, and a section of the garden has been sold in order to raise funds. (The Society's historical archive holds further details.)

Bishop Lunn (in post between 1980 and 1997) was a keen gardener and an authority on roses. In recent years, these have been enjoyed by many visitors to an annual garden "Open Day", although there has been an interval this year as the new Bishop of Sheffield has yet to take up his role. Fingers are crossed for future years!

Some Sheffield Events

Sheffield Heritage Fair, on 16th & 17th September at the Millenium Gallery. Many other local history groups will be represented. Free entry.

Sheffield Waterfront Festival, on 23rd & 24th September. Events at Victoria Quays on the Saturday, and Kelham Island on the Sunday. Boat trips, food, stalls, live music, craft skills, riverside walks and talks, and more.

Ranmoor Society Committee 2017

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