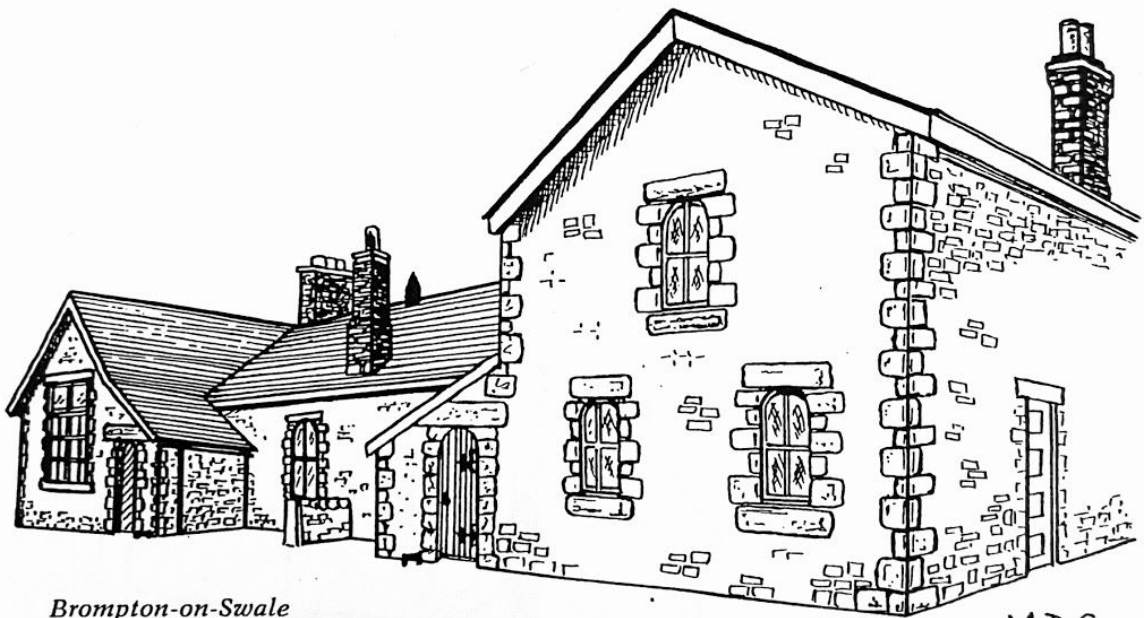


Guided Walk Round



*Brompton-on-Swale
C of E Primary School*

M.D.S.
1983

OLD BROMPTON-ON-SWALE

A Guided Walk Round Old [Brompton-on-Swale](#) North Yorkshire

Although the earliest reference to the village is the entry in [Domesday Book \(1086\)](#), the place-name clearly indicates a settlement of Anglo-Saxon period. An early spelling is “Brumpton”, showing the derivation from ‘broom’ (the shrub) and ‘tun’, the Old English word for a farmstead of village. Before the Norman conquest of 1066 Tor, a Dane was overlord. William the Conqueror rewarded [Count Alan of Brittany](#) with large tracts of land and he, in turn, gave land to his subordinates. [Enisan](#) was granted Brompton-on-Swale, amongst other manors.

The basic plan of the village is medieval - a wide street with a row of house-plots and long narrow gardens ([tofts and crofts](#)) on either side. The earliest buildings would have been of timber and thatch, but these materials were replaced by the locally available stone, mostly river cobbles, from the seventeenth century onwards. These vernacular buildings give the village centre its attractive aspect, enhanced by the warm colour of the [pantile](#) roofs and in summer the profusion of [hollyhocks](#) in the cottage gardens.

The village lies between the A1 and [Richmond](#), a position which led to the main road in Brompton becoming part of the [Richmond to Lancaster Turnpike](#), (the Act of Parliament was passed in 1751). The turnpike in fact began at Brompton lane-end, where it joined the Great North Road (A1).

Like most farming villages, Brompton was largely self-sufficient with many craftsmen to provide for everyday needs. records show that blacksmiths, wheelwrights, millers, butchers, carpenters, undertakers, shoemakers, bricklayers, curriers and brewers have worked here. The brewery became a considerable business, run by the Fryer family at Manor House, until it closed in 1956.

In recent years, the village has expanded to accommodate an increased population, in a number of post-war estates. It is in the village centre that the traditional buildings can be seen, retaining their vernacular character in form and materials.

For an interesting walk round the older parts of the village, as seen from roads and public footpaths, follow the map on the back page and the descriptive guide to Old Brompton-on-Swale. (Note the numbers on the plan are points of interest, not postal addresses. Kindly respect privacy of residents, thank you).

1. The Jetties,

a series of concrete breakwaters (now in ruins) built to protect the river bank and the village from erosion in times of flood. Cars may be parked here without obstructing village traffic and visitors may have a pleasant view of the River Swale. The fishing rights are privately owned.

2. Village Hall,

in 1912 Miss Stack of [St. Trinians](#) obtained an old cricket pavilion for use by the Scouts in the village (she was their leader). The Scouts are remembered for the popular concerts they gave here. The "pavilion" became the Reading Room, was enlarged by Ernest Terry, a local joiner and was renamed the Community Centre.

3. The Elm Tree,

reputed to have been planted to commemorate the [Great Reform Act](#). It was felled in 1981 and now only the stump remains.

4. West End,

two small early 19th century cottages, combined into one dwelling. Note the position of the [quoins](#) indicating that the left hand cottage was erected at a later date. In 1881 the Kell family, who were pig dealers, occupied both these cottages, farming 12½ acres.

5. The Church,

a small village [chapel of ease](#), in Easby parish, [dedicated to St Paul, and built in 1838](#). It has a good dressed quarry stone on the front and sides but cobble walling at the back. In the opinion of Pevsner, the bellcote has an "oddly Baroque top". The chancel is slightly higher than the nave, which was formerly divided by a partition and one portion was used as a school. The east window is a memorial to G. R. Lamplugh, placed here in 1905.

6. The School,

in 1872, the present Church of England Primary School was built on [glebe](#) land behind the church. A typical Yorkshire Victorian style school, with separate entrances for boys and girls. Remains of the wall which formed segregated playgrounds are still to be seen. Early records of 1838 show the conveyance of this land for the purpose of a school to educate the poor, although in 1823 a schoolmaster, Joseph Duck, is recorded. The [new school](#) at Brompton-on-Swale is almost complete and the present one will close in May, 1983.

7. Orchard Cottage,

an attractive old cottage with a [pantiled](#) roof and an interesting range of outbuildings. These include a fine stone barn with narrow ventilation slits and later windows. It was once used as a boot and shoe shop, but is remembered by local people as a shop selling superb fish and chips in the 1940's.

8. Home Farm,

originally a farmhouse with the farm buildings attached. No. 36 is the original house dating from the 17th century. Note the roof with stone flags and pantiles, recently renewed in the original form, [mullioned](#) windows upstairs, a blocked fire window and a good stone doorcase with a [bolection](#) moulding

9. Greystones,

an 18th century house with flagstone roof and stone doorcase. Originally built as one dwelling, it was divided into two cottages, and later restored as one house. It was once the house of a member of the Fryer family of the Brewery, and known as Brompton House.

10. Coopers Cottage,

originally a thatched cottage, now pantiled, and very typical of old Brompton

11. Ivy Cottage,

this is an early 18th century cottage with a pantiled roof and a [rusticated](#) doorway with a [keystone](#). This was the home of Ernest Terry, the local joiner, cartwright and undertaker. The building adjoining Ivy Cottage was his workshop.

12. The Poplars,

named after a row of poplar trees which stood in the meadow to the East of the cottage. The village sports were held in this field about 1912.

13. Phoenix,

the Phoenix Inn in 1871 when William Carter had it along with a business as carpenter and wheelwright. The licence was given up by John Mansfield in 1907.

14. Post Office and Shop,

recently modernized to incorporate two properties, one the blacksmith's shop remembered for repairing ploughs as well as shoeing horses, the other Marie Cottage.

15. Stonedene,

a modern house conversion from a single storey cottage. It is known that stables once stood on this site.

16. Estrella,

The name of this house is Spanish for star and may refer to a racehorse. It was built as one house, divided into two cottages, and recently combined into one again. The dressed stonework is very colourful, the roof has gable copings and the doorways heavy rustication.

17. The Rosary and Chapel Cottage,

These cottages with their [sash windows](#), pantiled roofs and gable [copings](#) are good examples of Brompton vernacular building. Similarly their house plots set out between the main road and the back lane is typical of the "Toft and Croft" setting as described in old deeds. This arrangement reflects the medieval layout of the village plan.

18. The Methodist Chapel,

Built by the Weslyans in 1890 on the site of three cottages. Mr Willan Mack, the chief fund raiser, donated this site. A good organ and a chamber to house it were added in 1893.

19. Swiss Cottage and Tylecote,

18th century cottages with balanced sash windows and pantiled roofs. A plaque at the west end is inscribed "Anthony and Elizabeth Barker 1771". The Barkers were butchers and used one of the cottages as a shop.

20. Grange Road,

a lane to the river. Formerly cottages stood to the right and the cow byres and stables belonging to Grange Farm on the left.

21. The Wesleyan Chapel,

there is a Wesleyan preaching place recorded in Brompton in 1817-18 but the old chapel now used as a Sunday School, was not built until 1847.

22. The Alley,

the local name for the narrow passage to the right of the chapel and leading to River Lane. A recently demolished cottage here had "Thomas Cory" and a 17th century date carved on the door lintel. This has disappeared - so too has the name Spring Lane for this part of the village.

23. [The River Swale,](#)

Grange Road leads down to the river which is running parallel with the village street. Cobbles from the river bed have been used for building stone in many of the cottages and some people took their household water from here in the past. This is one of the fastest flowing rivers in the country, and known to have sent many visitors and scurrying to the bank as the "bore wave" descended from upper Swaledale. It is noted for its swift under-currents and gravel bottom but is, nevertheless, much frequented. From the bottom of Grange Road turn right along a very pleasant riverside walk for a short distance, then right again, over a stile into River Lane.

24. Grange Cottage,

an old house recently renovated and extended, with behind it, the St Paul's drive estate built on a meadow where the tennis courts, and later a mink farm stood.

25. The Grange,

a small country house overlooking the river swale and formerly called St. Edmunds. Tradition speaks of a small medieval chapel or an estate of the Knight's Templars here. Note the handsome wrought iron gates complete with piers and cast iron finials. James Flint, a Richmond Ironfounder and Architect lived here in 1849.

26. Village Farm,

an old farmhouse recently modernised, with an impressive range of farm buildings behind. No. 22 is an 18th century cottage, adjoining Village Farm, but of a later date (see the straight joint on the front of the wall) the cottage is built of finely dressed [triassic sandstone](#) of lovely pink and orange hues, quarried locally.

27. The Carnival Field,

The site for village fairs in bygone days when the stone wall was taken down to allow the fairground people in and rebuilt after they left the village. The fair sometimes spilled out onto the main street. The village pump stood near the right hand corner of the field.

28. No. 20,

an 18th century house, originally thatched, built from river cobbles, with Yorkshire sliding sash windows.

29. Sundial House,

another 18th house with 17th century sundial identical to one at St. Anne's Church, Catterick Village. There is a fine stone doorcase with a double keystone and Victorian brick chimneys. The Welsh slate of the roof was transported by railway , so dates from after 1846.

30. Manor House

A roughcast and colour washed house dating from the 18th century. The first floor has a central raised sundial panel with curvilinear hood mould and consoles. The roof is of blue stone slates. Note the stone brackets for wooden guttering, and stone coped side gables. The was Fryer's Crown Brewery.

31. The Crown Inn,

The Fryer family started their brewery here probably in the 1850's but later moved to Manor House. The family owned several public houses in the North Riding and brewed beer at the Manor House up to 1956.

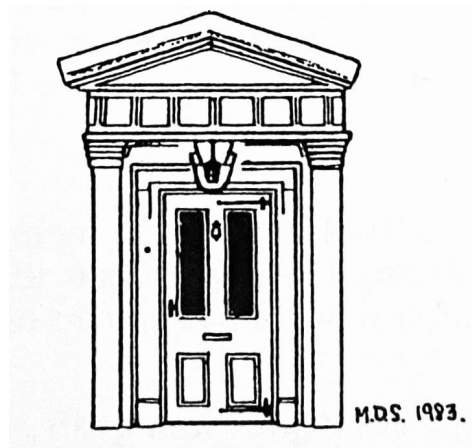
32. Laburnum Cottage,

A two storeyed 18th century farm workers cottage built of cobbles from the river It has a stone door surround with a keystone and Victorian fenestration.

33. Inglebrook,

a very interesting Georgian house with coursed rubble walls, a pantile roof, and a most ornate stone doorcase with a double keystone. This was reputedly an Inn, possibly one of the two which were suppressed at [Quarter Sessions](#) in 1730.

Doorway of Inglebrook



34. The Horse Chestnut Tree,

a grass triangle on which stands a pink flowering [horsechestnut](#) which was planted to commemorate [Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee](#).

35. The King William Inn,

An old house with 17th, 18th and 19th century features including a wide stone doorcase with a double keystone. The game of "Ringing the Bull" is one of only four in England, is in the Bar. An original feature in the lounge is a well.

36. No. 3 Station Road,

a small house jutting out into the road with a horse tying ring, also a sundial quoin built into the South East corner of the wall. Could this be a toll house on the Richmond to Lancaster Turnpike? Note [ridge and furrow](#) in the field behind.

37. Green Lane,

turn left up a cinder track, between numbers 7 and 9 Station Road, past the new village school and left again onto the disused railway track.

38. Richmond Branch Railway,

a [branch line from Darlington \(Eryholme\)](#) opened on 10th September 1846 and closed in March 1969 after 123 years service. It was dismantled during 1970. Brompton had no station but was served by that called [Catterick Bridge](#).

39. Ancient Fields,

the old railway track gives visitors a good view of ridge and furrow ploughing, now mostly under grass on either side of the track. Note how the hedges follow curved lines first laid down by the heavy wooden plough in medieval times. Continue along the railway to the former crossing keeper's cottage and there turn left into Parkgate Lane.

40. The Corn Mill,

this is a very old mill site and recorded from at least 1367 when Willian Moubray owned a mill here. The Terry family were millers for generations. The house, the mill (now a workshop bereft of millstones and machinery) the ancillary buildings, the mill race and the weir make a very attractive group of stone buildings beside Skeeby Beck.

41. Brompton Bridge,

a bridge here was recorded in the 14th century but the present bridge was not built until 1691, with a single segmented arch, widened later. To the North is a good view of the cornmill weir and the place where farmers washed their sheep prior to shearing.

42. Bull Park,

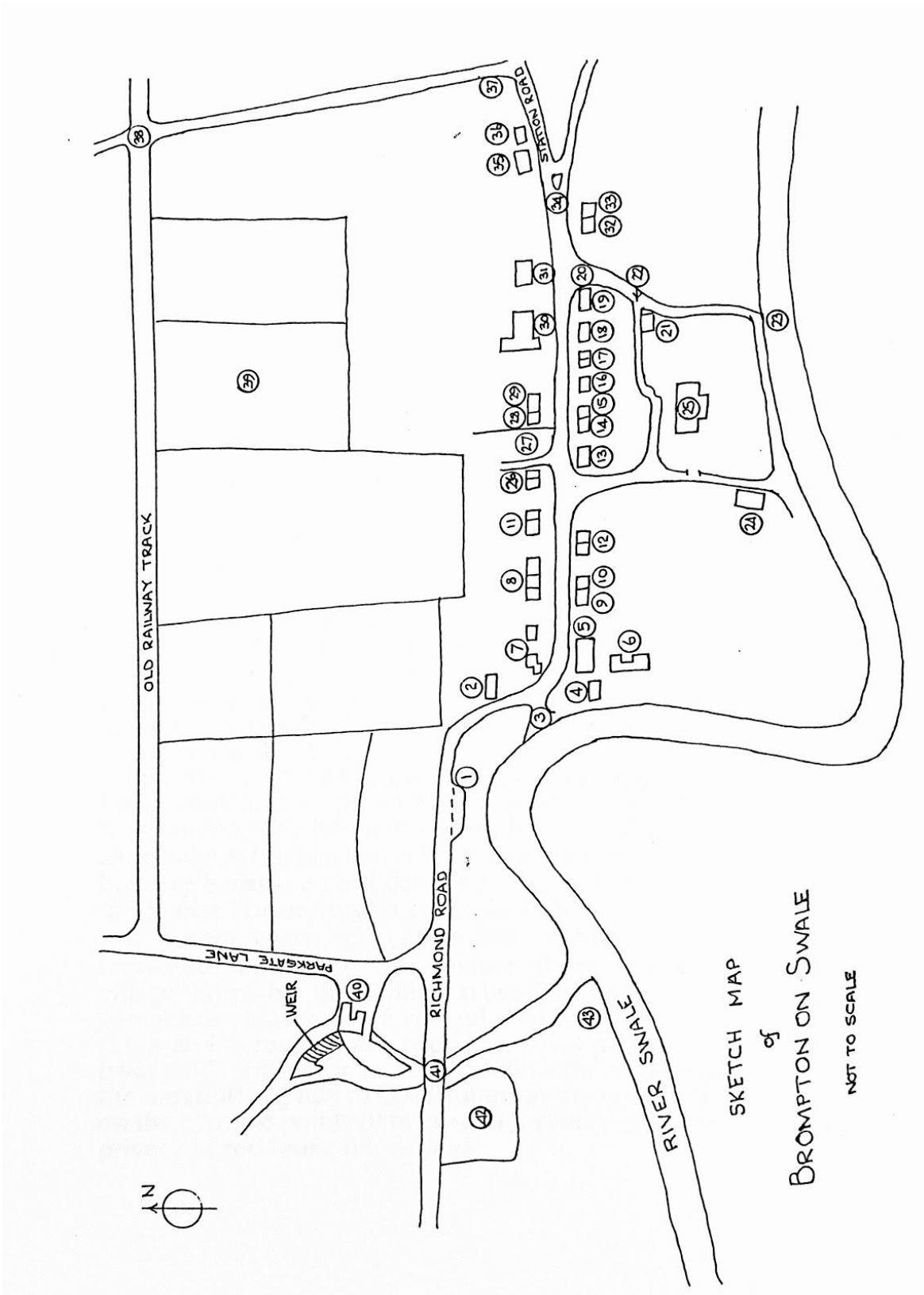
this stone walled field is known as the Bull Park suggesting that Brompton once owned a parish bull for use by all the farmers in a communal system when many were too poor to own a bull of their own.

43. Mill Wath

at this point the river is wide, deep and dangerous where once it was shallow with a ford. A local man crossing the river here with a team of horses and a loaded timber wagon was swept away by the "bore wave" about 1910 and was lucky to escape with his life. Note the huge banks of [Himalayan Balsam](#) growing in profusion between Skeeby Beck and the River Swale.

Written by members of Brompton-on-Swale W.E.A. Class under the guidance of David and June Hall. We thank all those who have helped with the research, have lent books and documents, or have given most generously their time and their recollections of the old village. Proceeds from the sale of this booklet will help equip the new village school.

March 1983



Postscript to 2020 Edition

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Peter Hodgson, Aug 2020.

peter.hodgson.uk@gmail.com

Brompton-on-Swale Local History

<https://www.bromptononswalehistory.com>