

**RAWMARSH MANOR FARM HISTORY GROUP**



# Memories

Recollections of Rawmarsh people

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recollections of Rawmarsh people



Yorkshire South District



Rawmarsh Manor Farm History Group



Local Heritage *initiative*

Publication of this book has been made possible with support from the  
Local Heritage Association.

© To members of Rawmarsh Manor Farm History Group

First published in 2004

The group would like to thank the Rotherham Advertiser  
for allowing the publication of its photographs in this book.

The group would also like to thank Rawmarsh Manor Farm  
TARA for its invaluable support.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Rawmarsh Manor History Group was formed in 2000 by people living in Rawmarsh with the support of the Workers' Educational Association and Manor Farm TARA. In 2003 the group successfully applied for funding to the Local Heritage Initiative which has made it possible to produce this book.

The reminiscences and individual experiences which constitute most of the material for this book are those of the individual writers.

## UPPER HAUGH CRICKET CLUB HISTORY

Freda Stacey

It is believed that there was a cricket club at Upper Haugh as early as 1830. The first recorded game was covered by the Rotherham Advertiser on Saturday 28 August 1858, it was played between eleven from the Rawmarsh Club and eleven from the Upper Haugh Club and the result favoured the latter with four wickets to fall.

| Rawmarsh                 |       | Upper Haugh              |       |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| First and Second Innings |       | First and Second Innings |       |
| C Firth                  | 4-1   | A Thompson               | 5-1   |
| F Lancashire             | 0-7   | E Carr                   | 0-2   |
| J Hargreave              | 0-15  | H Thompson               | 0-0   |
| J Jackson                | 14-11 | J France                 | 11-5  |
| G Penlinton              | 2-0   | J Carr                   | 30-11 |
| M Hague                  | 6-1   | T Thompson               | 8     |
| H Fretwell               | 0-3   | J Charlesworth           | 9     |
| J Johnson                | 0-0   | M Thompson               | 9     |
| W Gunner                 | 18-7  | T Gascoigne              | 2-1   |
| A Fretwell               | 0-3   | W Uttley                 | 5-6   |
| J Silkstone              | 1-3   | C Platts                 | 2-7   |
| Wides:-                  | 3-14  | Wides etc-               | 14-3  |

The next recorded match was against Rawmarsh which ended in a draw owing to lack of time when the Haugh team were proving victorious, only wanting two runs and four wickets to fall.

There was a further paragraph, though not near the cricket report:

*Rawmarsh 2nd XI v Haugh Cricket Club. The match was played on Saturday last at the Haugh on a very rough and dangerous wicket. The Haugh had the better of the Rawmarsh team on such a wicket, as they were evidently more accustomed to the ball bouncing at their heads.*

It was also in 1871 that the first mention is made of a second XI. This was in August 1871 when Greasborough Whitehall visited the Haugh. It resulted in a victory for the Haugh - attributed to the players *nearly all being men*. In 1886 the club was known as Haugh United and was even combined with New Stubbin for a while. During the 1800s the club's opponents included (though this is not a full list):

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Rawmarsh

First and Second Innings

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| C Firth      | 4-1   |
| F Lancashire | 0-7   |
| J Hargreave  | 0-15  |
| J Jackson    | 14-11 |
| G Penlinton  | 2-0   |
| M Hague      | 6-1   |
| H Fretwell   | 0-3   |
| J Johnson    | 0-0   |
| W Gunner     | 18-7  |
| A Fretwell   | 0-3   |
| J Silkstone  | 1-3   |
| Wides:-      | 3-14  |

Upper Haugh

First and Second Innings

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| A Thompson     | 5-1   |
| E Carr         | 0-2   |
| H Thompson     | 0-0   |
| J France       | 11-5  |
| J Carr         | 30-11 |
| T Thompson     | 8     |
| J Charlesworth | 9     |
| M Thompson     | 9     |
| T Gascoigne    | 2-1   |
| W Uttley       | 5-6   |
| C Platts       | 2-7   |
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## *M e m o r i e s*

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|                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mangham Rangers               | Harriskam                       |
| West Melton Congregationalist | Piccadilly                      |
| Parkgate Wesleyans            | Catcliff                        |
| Newhill                       | Brampton Bulls Head             |
| Swinton Victoria              | Bolton - on - Dearne            |
| Thorpe                        | Wath                            |
| Greasborough Whitehall        | Wath Wesleyans                  |
| Swinton Red Rose              | Greasbrough Young Men's Society |
| Thrybergh Hall Colliery       | Wentworth                       |
| Mexborough Amateurs           | Wickersley                      |
| Aldwarke Park                 | Warmsworth                      |
| Rawmarsh                      | Kimberworth                     |
|                               | Rotherham Parish Church         |

In the early days very low scores were recorded and many innings closed with less than twenty runs.

On one occasion the whole team were dismissed for two runs against Rawmarsh.

### Upper Haugh (June 1893)

|              |   |          |   |
|--------------|---|----------|---|
| Roberts      | b | Lister   | 0 |
| Hickling     | b | Platts   | 1 |
| Sykes        | b | Platts   | 1 |
| Gambles      | b | Platts   | 0 |
| France       | b | Platts   | 0 |
| Totty        | b | Platts   | 0 |
| Lee          | b | Platts   | 0 |
| H Harvey     | b | Lister   | 0 |
| Charlesworth | b | W Lister | 0 |
| T Harvey     | b | Not Out  | 0 |
| Ward         | b | Platts   | 0 |
|              |   | Total    | 2 |

Rawmarsh had batted first and made 143 for 4

Unlike today when there are forty five or forty overs for each side it was not unusual for each side to have two innings although the match had to be decided on the first innings owing to lack of time.

At the Annual General Meeting held in February 1893 the Earl Fitzwilliam was listed as patron of the club. Other patrons were:

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr T Newbold            | Mr H Askew              |
| Mr W Shaw               | Mr W Shaw               |
| Mr Lawton               | Mr H Holmes             |
| Mr J France (Jnr)       | Mr J Charlesworth (Snr) |
| Mr J Platts (Snr)       | Mr T France (Jnr)       |
| Mr G Carr               | Mr C Turner             |
| Mr J Green              | Mr C Dobson             |
| Mr W Rymer              |                         |
| President Mr G Robinson |                         |

Vice Presidents T Newbold, H Askew, W Shaw,  
J Lawton, H Holmes, J France (Snr) J Charlesworth (Snr)

Treasurer Mr A Sykes  
Secretary Mr J Scholes  
Captain Mr J Charlesworth Vice Captain Mr I Roberts  
Committee Messrs H Gambles, R Roberts, H Mitchel,  
I W Hickling, W France, D Gash

The club decided to join the Swinton and District League that year, and Upper Haugh are the only club in existence from the six founder members of that League.

In the mid thirties there were complaints about a dangerous pitch, so the club negotiated with Wickersley and a heavy roller was brought across by horse and cart and friends from New Stubbin fitted an axle and frame.

There was only a small wooden changing hut, a score box for the home team and a small wooden hut for the visitors. Then Jack Dodson sold them a large hen hut which was not put into use immediately as it took several weeks to clean. The square was small but the outfield was covered with long grass and sometimes the farmer let his cows in to graze it.

In 1926 a ladies' team was a welcome addition to the club and in 1935 the club was invited to join Doncaster League.

Even though problems were many, playing results were good, in the 1950s and 60s the first team climbed from the third division of the Doncaster League to the top of the second. Haugh had the honour of winning a league cup for fourteen consecutive years until they reached second position in section 1b and were able to enter the premier section in 1978.

In 1970, under the direction of Albert Banton and his experts, a permanent tearoom with adequate changing accommodation was built. Roger Collinson and his team set about levelling and draining the ground, fortunately the Coal Board compensated the club but it is still being worked on.

Other achievements include the Whitworth Cup and the Herbert Foster Cup victories.

About twenty five years ago the club began to develop a youth policy aiming to encourage young people to participate in the club's activities, playing in organised competitions at under eleven, thirteen, fifteen and seventeen years. This policy remains today and is even stronger, UHCC is the last remaining cricket club in the Rawmarsh area providing such facilities for the youth of today and the ground is also used by local junior schools and the Comprehensive Sports College.

It was in 1984 that the ground was purchased from the Wentworth Estate and a ten year plan of improvement was started. It was decided to :

1. Level the ground and install proper drainage
2. Build a score box
3. Extend the clubhouse to include changing rooms with showers.
4. Develop the youth policy even further.

All these targets have been achieved and the club has been promoted from the Doncaster League to the South Riding League.

One morning in February 1987 a letter arrived addressed to my husband with the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Hugh Neil's coat of arms on it. It requested permission for a helicopter of the queen's flight to land in a corner of the cricket field as HRH Princess Anne was coming to the Rockingham House Farm – Riding for the Disabled in June. So of course we gave permission.

On the day she arrived it was fine weather and she went straight to the farm. We entertained the aircrew. On her return she chatted to us and asked if we were the tea ladies and thanked us for allowing the helicopter to land there. When it had gone we couldn't see where it had been.

The UHCC has, as previously stated, promoted the values of cricket from a junior age. There are some fifty five juniors who play regular matches and many others joining in practice sessions, two of the juniors under thirteens and under fifteens represented their respective cricket associations during 1997 season and a former junior member represented the English women's team at national level.

There are two qualified and two qualifying English Cricket Board coaches and there are links with the English Cricket Board's area development officer and the Association of Cricket Coaches provides up to date knowledge of coaching and development issues.

The club held its first kwick cricket tournament in 1997 involving eight local primary schools. Quick cricket is a specialized form of the game aimed at teaching youngsters the basics and promoting cricket to all genders and abilities. Each school entered a squad of at least eight players two of which had to be girls. Rawmarsh police donated a winner's trophy.

During school holidays coaching workshops tournaments and visits are arranged. The youngest group were invited to Headingley cricket ground to play demonstrations or a county match game. Out of season activities include indoor cricket, indoor netting practice and group coaching.

**TALES OF A RAWMARSH LAD - THE EARLY YEARS 1941 to 1952**

Alan Barnfield

I was born on April 20 1941 (I wonder what Hitler was doing on his 52nd birthday) at number 19 Sandhill Road. This was a two bedroom terraced house which in the war years was the most popular type of house in Rawmarsh. It housed six people, two adults and four children. My mother told me that on the day I was born there was a foot of snow on the ground, but by the time I was allowed out (fourteen days old) there was a heatwave. She also told me that from an early age I was fed on cow's milk, supplied from a farm at the top of Kilnhurst Hill. Apparently the farmer's wife always ensured it came from the same cow.

I was fortunate to have had a very happy childhood. I had two older sisters and a brother who came along on April 30 1945. The day Hitler committed suicide. How Dad knew the war was about to end I never worked out, but obviously not everything was rationed in the war. My early recollections are of collecting shrapnel that would sometimes land in our backyard when the anti-aircraft guns at Thrybergh had been in action. There were also some guns on Greasborough Tops and I presume they were part of the anti - aircraft defences for Sheffield and the surrounding industries. Seeing what seemed like hundreds of aeroplanes flying over in the evening is also a very vivid image. I also recollect going to the end of Kilnhurst Road to see the VE bus come past (at least the older boys told me it was the VE bus). It came from the direction of Swinton and on a particularly dark night (probably the streetlights had not been reinstated) it was quite an impressive sight to this impressionable lad of four.

In the early years after the war I vividly remember a furniture-type van coming down our street and backing into a local dealer's yard. After parking the van a man got out and put on a leather apron. He collected his tools (which were in, what looked like, a homemade wooden tool box) and a stool and went over to where a horse had been tethered. By this time several people had gathered including quite a few children who had chased after the van when it appeared on the street. He proceeded to put his stool down in front of the horse, stood on it so he was above the horse, then placed a spike on the horse's forehead. He gave the spike a belt with a large hammer and the horse collapsed to the floor. It fell in a heap of dust, for all the world like one of those *Muffin the Mule* toys did when you pressed the bottom in. All the children there ran screaming from the scene. No doubt some would suffer sleepless nights after that, especially the

girls. Another thing that stuck in my mind was seeing an American car that had windscreen washers, something unthinkable in those days. The owner was in uniform so I wonder if it was a GI come to visit a girlfriend and maybe impress her parents.

1947 was one of the worst winters on record. I remember waking up to find the snow was half way up the windows and dad had to dig his way to the toilet which of course was down the yard. In the outside toilet in winter we always had an oil lamp burning, not for illumination but to stop the pipes freezing. I seem to remember that the pipes were lagged with old hessian sacking. The only aid to illumination were the white distempered walls. Behind the door, threaded on a piece of string, hung square pieces of newspaper, probably the *Daily Herald* which were alright in summer when they were soft but in winter they went stiff and were neither practical or comfortable.

A lady farmer stabled her two shire horses down our street and she had to get help to dig her way down to them. I used to love those horses. Sometimes when she'd finished working her land at Thorogate she would be passing Rosehill School when we came out and would give us a ride home on her way to the stables. She would sit us side-saddle on the blankets that were draped over the horses' backs and take two of us per horse. Ever since those days I have always had a great affection for these gentle giants.

In those days people used to neighbour, so everybody knew everybody else. Our yard consisted of Mrs Carr in the bottom house, my main recollection of her was hearing her play the piano or organ and seeing a magnificent pair of highland cattle horns hung over her mantelpiece. Next came Mrs Young. She had a son called Horace who was my age. Then came old Mrs Morton. I remember Mr Morton taking me and his grandson Alvin fishing to places like Keadby where we would watch him fishing in the drains and what seemed like a canal basin that had a lot of boats in it and consequentially a lot of fuel floating on its surface. I could never understand how fish could live in such an environment. They had a son called Eric who was a very good footballer. He was tragically drowned in a South American port (Montevideo I believe) while serving in the merchant navy. Then came us, and finally Mr Muscroft. He was an old man who lived alone, he had about half a dozen cats which made sure we had our fair share of his mice as well as our own.

When he died Bill Morton (old Mrs Morton's son) moved in and still lives there today. His first job was to get rid of all the cats. This he did by swinging them by their tails and throwing them down the banking.