

## **‘The Old Hall’, 10 Church Lane, Kirk Ella**

### **House and Occupiers**

The whereabouts of ‘The Old Hall’ may not immediately leap to mind, though if the distinctive north façade were removed, Kirk Ella would lose much of its character. It stands between the former Vicarage and Kirk Ella House, and looks vaguely Georgian. There are two ranks of tall, rather severe sash windows in the walls bordering the pavement. They are divided by a wide gateway giving access to the stable block and yard on the left, and a drive sweeps round an emerald lawn to the main entrance, which faces south. The house acquired a name and a number comparatively recently. Before the Second World War it was identified by the owner’s name and was simply, ‘Huffams’, ‘Dibbs’, ‘Dobsons’, ‘Bines’, but the house is now known generally as ‘The Old Hall’.

### **The Property**

The earliest delineation of the property we are aware of is on Jeffrey’s map of 1776. At that time, the estate had the same frontage to Church Lane as ‘The Old Hall’ does at present. The house appears on plan as a small oblong, which is surprising, as the house was taxed on 36 windows in the 1770s.

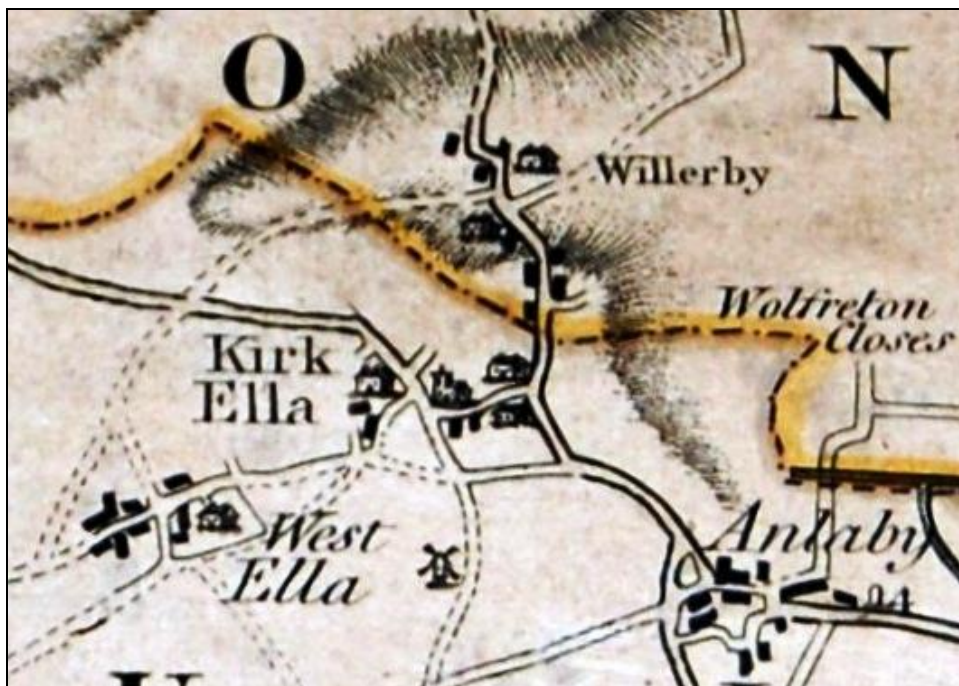


‘The Old Hall’, No 10 Church Lane, 2017

The long two-storied north range fronting the street, with stable and service block beyond to left of carriage drive.

## The House

The architectural history is unclear. The early eighteenth-century house was rebuilt in the late 1760s and again enlarged in the mid-nineteenth century. These alterations seem always to have been based on an original dwelling against the old Vicarage wall. The north front on Church Lane was at some point refaced with a render over brick, which lent itself to fine moulding in the stringcourses that link the windows, and a shallow rustication at the base. This was continued across the, possibly Victorian, extension, whereas the small modillions below the window were omitted. The garden alone seems to have survived the many changes intact, and still presents the serene picture that attracted its early occupants.



Jeffrey's Map of 1776 shows The Old Hall just south of St. Andrew's Church in the centre of the map.

## Owners and Occupiers

### Thomas Haworth

The owners and occupiers of The Old Hall were, almost without exception, Hull men who had made their fortunes in trade, and bought this property as a country retreat on which to lavish the rewards of industry. A local yeoman, perhaps James Collinson, sold a cottage or a house, with some land, to Thomas Haworth in 1733. Haworth and his brother, Benjamin, became bankrupt, and 'The Old Hall' was sold in 1759 to Edward Burrow Esq, also of Hull.

## Edward Burrow

Burrow occupied it for a time, and is thought to have rebuilt the dwelling before removing to Glasgow in 1771. Burrow's family rose from obscurity to



modest substance in 18th-century Cumberland. Like his father, who ended his career as Collector in the port of London, he entered the customs service. In 1756 he married Anne (*d.*1796), daughter of Thomas Broadley of Ferriby and Kingston-upon-Hull. In the same year he became Collector in Hull but when he was found guilty of great irregularities, he lost the position in 1766. However, in 1774, when he dedicated an elegantly printed and thoroughly

researched *New and Compleat Book of Rates* to Lord North, he was Collector at Glasgow. Although he informed Pitt in 1799 that he had lost money on the book because of changes in the customs duties, it may have helped re-establish his reputation, for about 1790 he became one of four Surveyors-General resident in London, an office he transferred to his son-in law, Rochfort Grange, when he was elected MP for Cockermouth in 1796.<sup>1</sup>

## Richard Beatniffe

In 1771, the house was bought by Richard Beatniffe, formerly of Welton, an attorney, who also became Recorder in Hull from 1779 to 1791. After four years in Kirk Ella, Beatniffe bought a larger house in Cottingham. He was living at Kingtree House on King Street in 1789<sup>2</sup> and died in Cottingham in 1792.

## Francis Bine

Beatniffe's property in Kirk Ella had, in the meantime, been acquired by another successful merchant. A young clerk in a Hull counting-house neatly summarised Francis Bine's career, about 1780 - "He was Master of a Ship, but during the last war [American Revolutionary War] was very fortunate in freighting ships from England to Ostend, and from thence to various foreign ports, by which he acquired an immense fortune, it is thought not less that £20,000. At the conclusion of the war, he commenced business as a Merchant and Sugar-boiler, having bought the New Sugar House in Wincolmllee" [built by Charles Delamotte, son of a London sugar refiner, about 1740]. His turnover in 1785 was a little over £26,000.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1790-1820/member/burrow-edward-1726-1800> (accessed 19 December 2015)

<sup>2</sup> K.J. Allison, *Hull Gent. Seeks Country Residence*, East Yorkshire Local History Society, 1981, p16

<sup>3</sup> G. Jackson, *Hull in the Eighteenth Century*, Oxford University Press, 1972, p197

Despite this large sum, Bine was not the wealthiest Hull merchant of his day, but he invested in whatever was making money – whaling and ship-building were among his other ventures. He did not avoid public service, being elected Chamberlain of Hull in 1784, and Sheriff in 1786. He died in October the following year, within a month of relinquishing office. After her husband's death, Mrs. Bine advertised their house 'To Let'. She was still living there, and a sense of loss can be read between the lines of print in the *Hull Packet*, in February 1788:

**KIRK ELLA**

TO BE LET, and entered upon at pleasure. A neat and elegant House, with coach house, stabling, suitable offices, pleasure ground laid out in taste, an excellent kitchen garden, brick walls clothed with choice fruit trees in full bearing, hot house, etc. and about seven acres, in three closes of rich grazing, late the property of Francis Bine, Esq.

The house is in perfect order and most desirably situated on a rising ground at Kirk Ella, about five miles from Hull, and six from Beverley, commands as extensive and delightful prospect of the surrounding country, the town of Hull, the Lincolnshire hills and the River Humber, for an extent of thirty miles

Apply to Mrs. Bine or Mr. Prickett.

Elizabeth Bine died in July the following year. Both she and her husband were buried in Kirk Ella. No memorial to them survives in the church or the graveyard, but Bine is the name that appears on the Enclosure Plan of 1796.

**Robert Coupland Pease**

Under Francis Bine's Will, his recently acquired property in Kirk Ella, later known as 'The Old Hall', was vested in Trustees. They let it for ten years and in 1801 sold it to the banker, Robert Coupland Pease. The name of Pease was one of the most respected in 18<sup>th</sup> century banking, but Robert Coupland was a bit of a black sheep. About 1790, he was offered, and accepted, a large bribe to join a rival establishment, whose directors had defrauded his grandfather, Joseph Pease, twenty years earlier. With his impeccable name on the Board of the new bank, public confidence was assured. 'Pease and Harrison' moved from High Street, Hull, to the corner of Whitefriargate and Parliament Street in about 1815.

Robert Coupland Pease occupied The Old Hall for about five years. He was building new coach-houses and stables on land he bought on the north of Town Street soon after acquiring Kirk Ella House in 1796. They were completed by 1806 and having sold The Old Hall, Pease lived briefly at Kirk Ella House while

'The Mount' at South Ella was being built for him, but that enterprise and his retirement to Devon is another story.<sup>4</sup>

### **Matthew Dobson**

The new owner of The Old Hall was Matthew Dobson and he lived there until his death in 1820, when he was described as a great benefactor to the village. He may have been a descendant of Alderman William Dobson of Hull who died



in 1666, and whose arms can be seen in St. Mary's Church in Lowgate: 'sable a fess argent between six fleur de lis or'. This device stands out clearly on Matthew's coat of arms in St. Andrew's Church (left).

The Dobsons were Hull brewers who had taken a John Richardson into partnership by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The company, known as Dobson & Richardson eventually became Hull Brewery. Matthew Dobson was still active in the business when he bought the estate in Kirk Ella but perhaps

he was in poor health for he made a Will before the deeds were actually signed and added a Codicil on completion. He was spared, however, to enjoy his purchase for some fifteen years and was buried here on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1821, aged fifty-eight.

His memorial tablet on the west wall of St. Andrew's Church also commemorates Catherine Heaton Dobson, one of his four daughters, baptised in September 1806 at St. Andrew's soon after the family moved to Kirk Ella.

One of Matthew's sons, John, became ordained in the Church and was Curate of Conisborough when he conducted the marriage of his sister, Mary, to James Donne (of the Parish of St. Paul's, Bedford) at St. Andrew's Church in January 1825. It is likely that James and Mary lived at The Old Hall with Mary's widowed mother for a time after their marriage. Rev. John Dobson frequently officiated at services at St. Andrew's Church around this time, even though he was Curate of Conisborough in south Yorkshire, and no doubt would have stayed at The Old Hall when he was in Kirk Ella.

A memorial tablet in St. Andrew's Church records that Matthew Dobson's widow, Mary, was eighty-two when she died in January 1853 in the Parish of Haxey in the Isle of Axeholme in Lincolnshire. Her son, Rev. John Dobson, was Vicar of Haxey at this time.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The story of Robert Coupland Pease can be read at the following link:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/a/awake/docs/southellahallpart1.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D62098> (accessed 24 December 2015)

## Fewster Wilkinson

Soon after Mary Dobson and her family left The Old Hall in 1827, it was sold to Fewster Wilkinson. The Wilkinsons were a large family, who for more than a century had operated a highly successful iron importing business from a counting-house in High Street, Hull. Fewster also owned the sloop *Storm* (31 tons), registered in Hull in his name in 1852. His brother had leased The Old Hall briefly from Bine's Trustees around 1800, and Fewster and his wife, Sarah (née Marshall), daughter of a Sheffield steel refiner, spent many years there, and carried out alterations and extensions during the 1850s.

They had other connections with Kirk Ella. Anthony Wilkinson inherited No.4 Church Lane and later built 'Conservative Cottage', and a younger brother, William, took Holy Orders and was Vicar of Kirk Ella from 1804 to 1837.<sup>6</sup> William and Fewster died within a few months of each other in 1856. Fewster was then living in Bessingby Hall, near Bridlington, but is buried in Kirk Ella.

The painted glass window in the south aisle (Faith, Hope and Charity) commemorates the Wilkinson family and a small blue roundel in the apex bears the initials 'F W' (right). Fewster Wilkinson's widow remarried in 1860 and became the wife of Edward Augustus Dearman Brooshooft, who moved into The Old Hall, where Vincent, one of Sarah's sons, was also resident in 1871.



## Edward Brooshooft

At the time of his marriage in 1860 Edward Brooshooft was said to be 'of the Hull Branch of the Bank of England' and would have been the Bank's agent in the town.<sup>7</sup> His grandfather, Bernard Emmanuel Brooshooft, is said to have been the younger son of a Dutch nobleman who came over to England with George III and lived at Windsor Castle.<sup>8</sup> The parish records show that Edward had a number of local interests in Kirk Ella. When members of a Select Vestry met in the new Schoolroom for the first time in 1861, he was 'E. Brooshooft Esquire'. As 'Colonel', he treated the choirs of Anlaby and Kirk Ella to a late September outing at Flamborough in 1878, and it was 'Lt. Colonel' Brooshooft who asked cautiously to see the Subscription list, before promising support for the chancel alterations to St. Andrew's Church in 1882. He was also one of the original promoters of the Hull and Barnsley Railway.

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<sup>6</sup> J. Bickford and M. Bickford, *Vicars of Kirk Ella*, December 1983

<sup>7</sup> Holy Trinity Church, Hull, Parish Register

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.gellibrand.com/nti00106.html> (accessed 28 Dec 2015)

Brooshooft's ranks were those of a volunteer rifle corps formed in 1859. He had been Captain of the 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> Company of East Yorkshire Artillery Volunteers, raised in Hull in 1860, and remained active until his death in 1888. He is buried in the cemetery in Mill Lane. Sarah soon followed him, although she was buried in the Wilkinson family vault in St. Andrew's churchyard. There is an early photographic portrait of both Edward and Sarah (1862 by Camille Silvy) in the National Portrait Gallery collection.



Edward Brooshooft 1862  
Photo by Camille Silvy

In his Will, Brooshooft left a bequest to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, which enabled them to purchase three vessels. The island of Guernsey had a lifeboat service from 1803 and his generous bequest allowed them to obtain a new vessel. The '*Vincent Wilkinson, Kirk Ella*' was built by Watkins of Blackheath for £409, and was delivered to St. Peter Port on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1888. Brooshooft, himself, had chosen the names of each of the vessels. The names of the other two lifeboats were '*Jonathan Marshall, Sheffield*', which went to Ackergill, Caithness, and '*Sarah Brooschooft, Kirk Ella*', to Jersey. Sarah was, of course, the donor's wife, and Jonathan Marshall his father-in-law.<sup>9</sup>

The Guernsey Post Office issued a set of six stamps in 1999 to commemorate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RNLI. They illustrate the technical developments which, along with the skill and courage of the crews, have won acclaim for the Lifeboat Service. The 64p stamp depicts the '*Vincent Wilkinson, Kirk Ella*' which was in service in Guernsey from 1888 to 1912.<sup>10</sup>



Whether Edward Brooshooft had, during his lifetime, cause to be thankful to the RNLI is not known, nor has any connection with the Channel Islands or Caithness been identified.

### **Colonel Arthur Knocker Dibb, M.A., J.P., V.D.**

Edward Brooshooft and his family were succeeded at The Old Hall by Colonel A.K. Dibb. Dibb's rank was from the Volunteer Battalion of the East Yorkshires, which he commanded for six years. Son of a former High Sheriff of Hull, he was

<sup>9</sup> J. Bickford and M. Bickford, *Vicars of Kirk Ella*, September 1999

<sup>10</sup> *ibid*

educated at Christ College, Cambridge, and was called to the Bar in 1878, but only practised for three years. By 1890, he was Managing Director of Hull Brewery Company (incorporating the family business of Dibb & Gleadow), a Director of the York Union Bank and on the committee of Hull Dispensary. His bid to enter Parliament for the West Hull Division in 1882, against Sir Charles Wilson, failed by only a few votes.

Dibb's wife, Clara, was a daughter of T.B. Carr, a marine surveyor of Hull. Col. Dibb was Canon Foord's Churchwarden at St. Andrew's Church for many years and his death, in November 1914, was a great loss to the Vicar. After the War, Clara Dibb moved to Maidenhead. When she was buried at Kirk Ella in 1926 the new owners of The Old Hall were already members of the congregation.



The Old Hall (south front) c1930

### **Francis G. Huffam**

Initially, Francis G. Huffam was with the Hull engineering firm of Fenner's, though the family interest was in timber. He gave his second name, *Grassineau*, briefly to his house. With his wife, Katherine, he became involved in church affairs at a difficult moment. Not only was the Vicar in failing health, but the Parish Council was unsure of its responsibilities under an Act of Parliament passed just after the War. Expert legal advice was obtained from Mr. Priestley Cooper, and Francis Huffam was among those elected to the newly constituted Church Council. He offered to act as Secretary for one year only, but the minutes were written in his distinctive hand for the next decade. Meanwhile,



Katherine Huffam ran a ladies' choir which met at the Kirk Ella and Willerby Institute in Main Street, Willerby.<sup>11</sup>

The under currents of the Rev. Richard Foord's first year as Vicar can only be surmised, but Mr. Huffam's resignation as Secretary to the PCC in 1932 was, nonetheless, sudden. However, he continued to act regularly as sidesman until a few months before his death in July 1939. Katherine and her daughter, Mary, left The Old Hall after the Second World War for Australia, and the property was subsequently purchased by Mr. Thomas Jarrett, a Hull solicitor. Mrs. Huffam died in Sydney on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1965, and her ashes were brought back to Kirk Ella at the end of September.

### **Today**

The Old Hall became vacant again during 2013 and was offered for sale. The Estate Agent, Beercock, Wiles & Wick of Hessle, described the house as follows:

UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPOSING PROPERTIES IN THE EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE, THIS MAGNIFICENT GRADE II LISTED PROPERTY HAS A HISTORY STRETCHING BACK NEARLY 300 YEARS. The property boasts many outstanding period features and includes a most impressive entrance hall, panelled billiard room, three further grand reception rooms plus study, large dining kitchen, various utilities, six bedrooms, three bathrooms plus guest suite and double garage. Set within substantial mature grounds, principally south facing. Having been the subject of considerable investment over recent years creating a home of distinction and great merit, the accommodation is sufficiently spacious to lend itself to many other uses subject to the necessary consents.

The Old Hall is a truly fantastic Grade II Listed property situated within the highly popular village of Kirk Ella to the west of Hull. Presented to a high standard and specification throughout, the house has retained character from its origins and has beautifully proportioned rooms. The property comprises of a staircase/reception hall, four principal reception rooms, study, excellent kitchen with large breakfast room, butler's pantry, utility room and two cloakrooms. To the first floor and accessed of an imposing galleried landing with an incredible ceiling window is the master bedroom suite, guest suite with dressing room, three further bedrooms, of which one links through to a nanny's room and also a house bathroom. There is additional accommodation in what was once the original servants' quarters and this could also provide ideal ancillary/self contained accommodation.

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<sup>11</sup> Margaret Raymond, *Kirk Ella and West Ella Heritage Trail*, Kirk Ella and West Ella Parish Council, 2011



The great cedar tree in the grounds has been heavily pruned in recent times, but it is undoubtedly of great age. It is a Grade A listed tree. No record has been found of the person who planted the tree but its approximate date of planting could possibly be determined by dendro-chronology. One clue to its provenance is a

possible family connection, suggested by Bickford and Bickford, between James Donne (see page 5) and the Curator of Hull Botanical Gardens, William Donn, during the 1820s. However, there is no evidence that the tree was planted at this time.<sup>12</sup> The tree now seems to have succumbed to either disease or old age.



The date and maker of the magnificent carved wood and marble fire place in one of the main reception rooms is not known and its various elements may date from different periods.

### **Acknowledgement**

The contents of this article have been taken, in the main part, from *The Vicars of Kirk Ella*, a long-running series of articles published by James and Margaret Bickford in the Kirk Ella Parish Magazine between 1983 and 2004. A series of three articles about The Old Hall, which appeared from September to November 1991, form the basis of much of this article, the text of which is largely quoted *verbatim*. Some material from other sources has been added and parts of the original text updated to take into account a number of changes that have taken place in the thirty years since the original account was written.

Francis Davies, April 2022

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<sup>12</sup> J. Bickford and M. Bickford, *Vicars of Kirk Ella*, April 1995