

9. Barnaby Fair

Since the time of Charles II Barnaby Fair was a market place for the buying and selling of horses and many other goods. It was a very popular fair and attracted huge numbers of visitors from across the land, even from continental Europe. Barnaby Fair finally died out in the latter part of the 20th century.

10. Brewery



A brewery was established on the Langthorpe side of the River Ure by local entrepreneur Jonathon Crawshaw in 1832. The business passed on to John Naylor Warwick in 1860 who grew the business, and Warwick Ales became popular in many parts of Yorkshire. It has now been converted into residential accommodation.



7. The Corn Mill and Weir

A corn mill was in operation on the River Ure from mediaeval times until 1963. The present weir was built by Smeaton in 1769, bypassed by the canal built also to enable water transport to Ripon. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1963.

1. The Devil's Arrows

From the earliest times the three arrows monoliths in Boroughbridge are evidence of human activity in the area as long as 4000 years ago. These monoliths are of millstone grit, probably from Plumpton some 10 miles away where rocks of similar composition exist. They are 22.5ft, 22ft and 18ft high weighing approx. 36, 30 and 30 tons. The purpose they served remains a mystery, giving rise to many theories about their existence. Myths and tales abound, some plausible, some quite unbelievable.





2. The Bridge

After the Norman destruction of Aldborough, a new bridge over the River Ure was built and the new town of Boroughbridge was established south of the river. It became the hub of an important transport network both by river and road. It was the furthest navigable part of the river, and so became an important port, particularly for the export of wool from Fountains Abbey and lead from Pateley Bridge. It was also the crossing point north to south for the Great North Road and east to west for the road between the cities of York and Ripon. The bridge was rebuilt in stone in the 1560s, rebuilt and widened in 1784, widened again after it collapsed under heavy load in 1945.





5. St James' Square

The so called 'Fountain' is the central feature of St James' Square, built in 1875 in neo-classic style to commemorate the life of land owner Andrew Lawson. It was built on the site of the old church, which was demolished in 1851 and rebuilt in its present location in Church Lane. Adjoining the church was the mediaeval Toll Booth, also demolished circa 1850, where, since mediaeval times, the administrative business of the town had been conducted, including tax and toll collections, law courts, property sales and other public meetings. It is also probable that parliamentary elections took place here for the two members of parliament representing Boroughbridge between 1299 and 1832.

11. The Railway Station

The railways came to Boroughbridge in 1847, a goods station and a separate passenger station.
They were both closed down by 1963.





8. The Hall and Hall Square

The Hall was the home of the Wilkinson and Lawson land owning families between the early 1600s and the early 1800s. These two families were instrumental along with the Duke of Newcastle in controlling the election of MPs for the town until the reform act of 1832 when Boroughbridge was disenfranchised as a so called Rotten Borough. The top storey of the Hall was removed in 1946 resulting in a complete change in appearance and character of the property. From mediaeval times Hall Square was the original local market place. The Battle Cross stood here for many centuries.

13. WW2 Army Camp

In WW2 army camps sufficient to accommodate a regiment of 1000 soldiers were established in the grounds of Boroughbridge Hall and also between the ends of Springfield Road and York Road. All hotels were occupied by the armed forces including RAF and RCAF airmen from Dishforth.



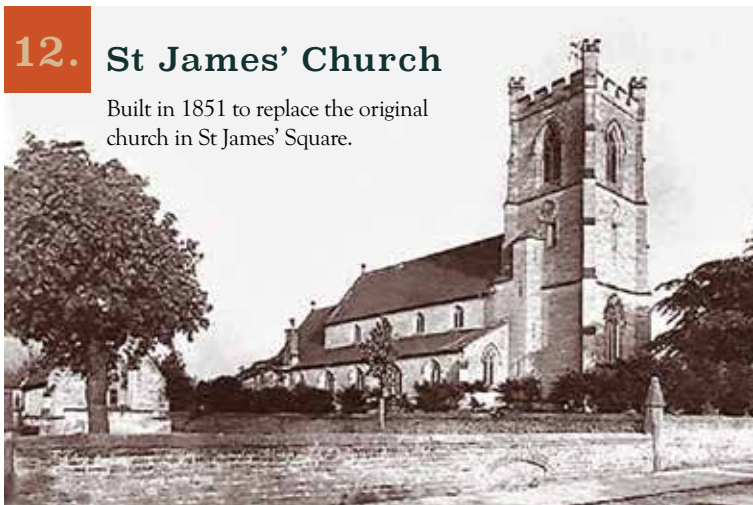


4. The Battle Cross

The battle cross originally stood in the local market place in Hall Square. In the early 1800s it was moved to its present location in Aldborough. The war memorial now stands in its place.

12. St James' Church

Built in 1851 to replace the original church in St James' Square.

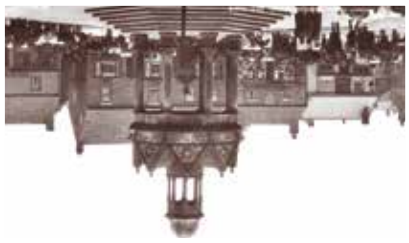


Boroughbridge
A reflection in time

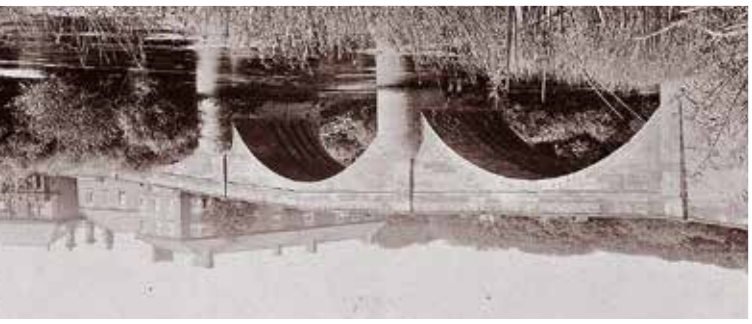


A historical map of Boroughbridge









Produced by Mike Tasker and the Boroughbridge & District Historical Society

For more detailed information about historical Boroughbridge visit www.boroughbridgehistory.co.uk and www.romanaldborough.co.uk

Supported by Boroughbridge Town Council, Langthorpe Parish Council, Boroughbridge and District Chamber of Trade and other individuals.

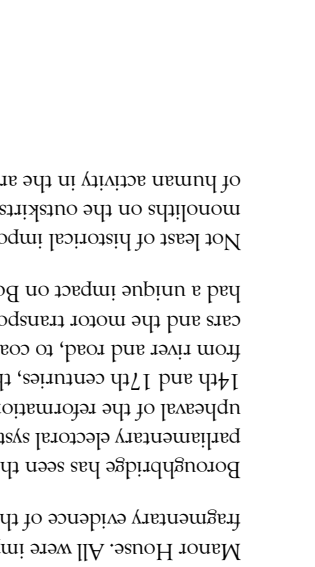
BOROUGHBRIDGE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE Est. 1966

Hidden history abounds in the annals of historical Boroughbridge. In many cases the traces of important events of the past have disappeared almost without trace. It is difficult to believe, for example that at one time in the latter part of the 18th century, burgage property in Boroughbridge was worth four times as much as equivalent property in London, due to the quirks of the parliamentary electoral system of that era.

As elsewhere, buildings which stood the test of time for many centuries have disappeared with little or no trace of their importance in years past. Examples are the old Toll Booth in St James' Square, the old corn mill, and indeed the old Manor House. All were important in their day, but now only fragmentary evidence of their existence remains.

Boroughbridge has seen the impact of the arbitrary parliamentary electoral system of past centuries, the religious upheaval of the reformation, the impact of civil wars of the 14th and 17th centuries, the roller coaster changes in transport from river and road, to coach and horse, to railways, then to cars and the motor transport of the present day, - all of these had a unique impact on Boroughbridge.

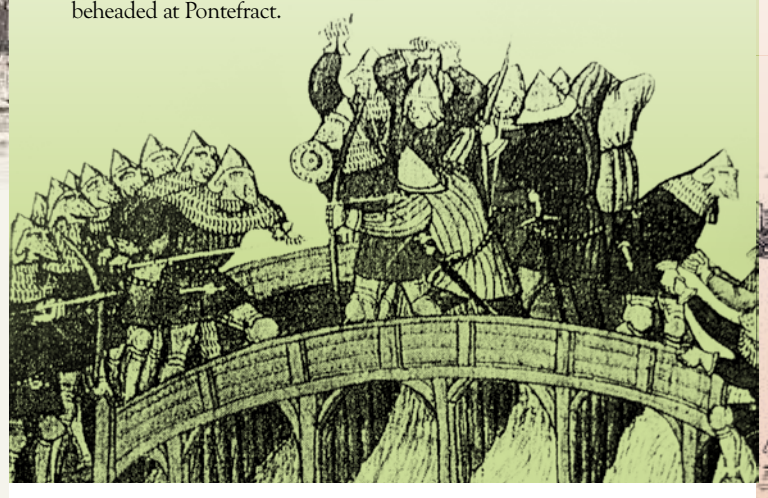
Not least of historical importance are the Three Arrows monoliths on the outskirts of the town, indicating the presence of human activity in the area four thousand years ago.



Boroughbridge is a Norman town arising as an important road and river transport hub, as a result of the destruction of the adjacent Roman town of Isurium Brigantum, now Aldborough.

3. The Battle of Boroughbridge

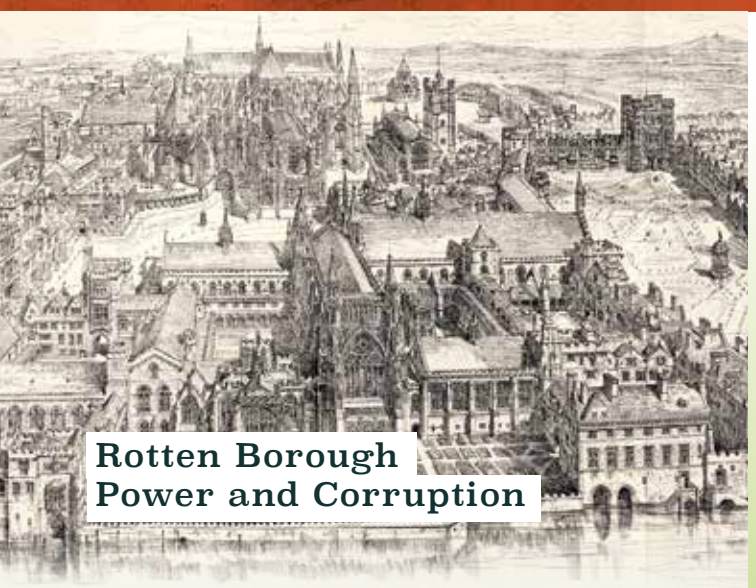
This battle took place on the banks of the river Ure at Boroughbridge in 1322 in the reign of King Edward II whose disastrously incompetent rule resulted in rebellion. The powerful rebel Duke of Lancaster's attempt to seize the throne came to a sticky end at the battle of Boroughbridge. His army was trapped at Boroughbridge and was defeated by Andrew Harcla with his army from the north. Lancaster was beheaded at Pontefract.



6. The Crown Hotel

From mediaeval times this was the site of the old Manor House and home of the Tancred family who refused to change their Catholic faith following the Reformation, eventually resulting in the abandonment of their property. The building subsequently became an Inn, in later years the Crown Hotel. In the late 1700s it became an important coaching post on the Great North Road for the Royal Mail. Most of the original manor house made way for stables for 100 horses as the coaching trade boomed. The hotel survived the advent of the railways in the 19th century but thrived again with the advent of motor transport.





Rotten Borough Power and Corruption

Prior to the Parliamentary Reform Act of 1832, Boroughbridge and Aldborough between them with a combined population of some 1300 souls were represented in Parliament by 4 MPs at a time when Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds, each with populations of over 50,000 had no representation whatsoever.

Qualification to vote in Boroughbridge was by the male tenants of burgage properties defined in the year 1299 when King Edward I issued a precept calling for two candidates from the town. At that time there were some 65 burgage tenants entitled to vote.

Corruption was rife throughout the kingdom in the 18th and early 19th centuries – not least in Boroughbridge and Aldborough with increasing unrest and revolt against the outdated electoral system. Boroughbridge land owner Marmaduke Lawson was instrumental in highlighting the need for electoral reform when he ousted the Duke of Newcastle's candidate in 1818. Tenants evicted for voting against the Duke's candidates were rehoused in new houses in New Row, originally called Parliament Street.

When the reform act was passed in 1832 with the abolition of the so called "rotten boroughs", the Duke of Newcastle sold all his property in Boroughbridge and Aldborough in a huge property sale in the town Toll Booth, it no longer had any electoral interest for him. It included 98 houses and extensive land holdings, adding to the declining fortunes of the town at a time when the lucrative coaching trade declined with the advent of the railways.

14. Roman Museum

Aldborough was the 'capital' of the Romanised Brigantes, Latin name Isurium Brigantum. Two mosaic pavements can be viewed in their original positions in the old Roman town. The site's fascinating museum has an outstanding collection of Roman finds.

For more information contact www.romanaldborough.co.uk

