

Councillor Rob Young's Memories collected Sept 2009

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My first encounter with Boroughbridge in 1963 was as a young boy. My family having moved to the area to take over the Public House known then as the Three Greyhounds Hotel (now the Musketeers). The left hand side of the premises looking from the front had previously been a garage with sliding doors. Inside the left hand side of the pub the floor is set at a lower level with steps leading down to what was the original garage floor. Prior to being a hotel the building had been a shop. At one time there had been an overhead walkway to the right hand side over the "lane" into Muleverer House. The "lane" is now used as an access route to the pub car park and several houses behind the pub. At the top end of the lane is a house known as "Snow Cottage" which was originally, two cottages. The two cottages at that time were derelict. My brother eventually purchased these old buildings and renovated them making them into one property.

A company owned the Three Greyhound Hotel, the Crown, and the Grantham Arms by the name of "Jacksons of Sunderland". They also owned other properties and land known as the Jacksons Estate in Boroughbridge. As years passed by the estate was sold off, and all the public houses became privately owned. Muleverer House (now flats) mentioned previously housed the many staff that were employed at The Crown Hotel with management occupying the front accommodation, and other employees the back. On the front of Muleverer House there is a blue circular plaque that commemorates Captain Archie Cecil Thomas White VC MC (1890 – 1971) who had a very distinguished career through WWI and beyond. He was born in Boroughbridge where his parents owned a tailors shop where the plaque is displayed.

Opposite the Three Greyhounds Hotel where "Annes" news paper/sweets/crafts shop, and "Mims" are currently was a garage owned by Nicholson & Slater. They also owned Charltons garage. Alongside Charltons up until recently was a "prefabricated" building, which had been used as a café. This has now been demolished to make way for other uses.

Returning to my time at the Three Greyhounds Hotel I recall a picture hanging above the bar. It depicted a ceremony of giving out WWI medals. I was told the event took place in Knaresborough Forest, and the person handing out the medals was none other than the King. Some years later having an interest in sign writing I was asked by the owner of the Three Horse Shoes if I could produce a sign for the "Tote". Having produced the sign I was looking for a suitable frame to mount it in. I remembered the old picture of the medal ceremony, which no longer hung in the bar. I discovered it in the back cellar and removed the picture from the frame. To my surprise I discovered behind the picture lay another picture of a group of airmen from the Second World War. During this period the Hotel was a regular drinking haunt for airman from the nearby Dishforth Airfield. I believe I still have this picture in my possession.

Further along towards the bridge I recall a shoe shop known as "Fosters Shoe Shop" over time this has now become a local fishing tackle shop, which also issues local fishing licences. I also remember the Post Office run by Mr Topham, which had a printing shop down in the cellar. They could and did print anything you could ask for. Eventually the Post Office was taken over by Mr Topham's son Ian.