



Happy New Year to All!



There is no Escrick Heritage Group meeting in January,  
but we do have a few things coming up....

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**Heritage Hub**  
**Monday 8th January**

Come along between 1pm and 4pm to have a look around the Church, and/or sit and enjoy a chat over tea and cake.

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**Hoots Café**  
**Tuesday 16th January**  
9.30am to 12 noon

Absolutely everyone very welcome to come along for tea/coffee and cakes. Adults £3, children 50p. (Free refills).

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**Heritage Lunch at the Fat Abbott**  
**Tuesday 30th January. 12.30pm.**

All very welcome to come along to enjoy lunch together. It will be the normal Fat Abbott lunch menu and we will all pay for our food/drinks direct to the Fat Abbott at the end of the meal.

Pre-booking please to Caroline by 26th January. We will know a little nearer the time if we need to pre-order our food.

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**Rediscovery of Thomas Elston's grave stone.**



We hope soon to move forward with plans for a memorial garden in the churchyard, parallel to the car park, under the trees. As a starting point volunteers very kindly cut down the brambles at the hotel end so we can see what practically will be required. It was wonderful to rediscover the gravestone of Thomas Elston.

Checking back to the Monumental inscriptions booklet it shows the following information:

*Sacred to the memory of Thomas Elston,  
of ten times Churchwarden here.*

Thomas was the son of John and Sarah Elston and he was born on 11th January 1787. He died on 25th October 1864, which was just 7 years after the new church on this site was dedicated, so it looks as though he was Churchwarden for both the old and the new Churches. What an interesting time to be Churchwarden! (continued on next page)

Also in the same grave is Mary Elston, presumably Thomas' wife, daughter of George and Elizabeth Blanshard. Mary was born on 25th September 1798 and died on 8th May 1868.

Thomas and Mary's grave is next to that of John Elston who died in 1830 aged 83 and his wife Sarah who died in 1822.

John is described as 'builder of this Church' and separately as a Bricklayer of Escrick. He was therefore clearly one of the builders of the first Church on this site which was built in 1785. It would be great to know more about the Elston family, does anyone have any information please? Also, would anyone like to take on a little research in to the family to see what more can be found?

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## EMMANUEL JOSPEH FOXTON

A few months ago we were contacted by Rona, enquiring if we had any information about the burial of Emmanuel Foxton who died in 1919 and is remembered on the war memorial in St Mary's Church, Selby.

She was researching all those remembered on the memorial and believed Emmanuel had been buried in Escrick Churchyard.

Roger did a bit of 'digging' and was able to confirm from the burial register that Emmanuel is in fact buried in Escrick Churchyard and in all likelihood the actual place.

After some ground prodding Roger also found a stone cross and possibly a stone base which had been grown over with grass.

Rona has discovered that Emmanuel Joseph was born on 17th March 1896 and baptised at St. Marys Catholic Church, Selby on 10th April 1896.

His Godparents being Joseph and Mary See. Emmanuel 'signed up' on 1st December 1915 at Hemingbrough. He was assigned to the 2/5th West Yorkshire Regiment. (*Service number 4071*)

His war record shows that he served 'at home' between 20th March 1916 and 1st January 1917, then in France between 5th January 1917 and 5th March 1917, where unfortunately he was gassed.

It also shows that he served or was ill in the UK between 6th March 1917 and 24th April 1917 when he was discharged due to ill health.

Emmanuel died on 3rd January 1919, 105 year ago, as a result of his injuries and was buried in Escrick Churchyard on 7th January 1919, in or near his father's grave.

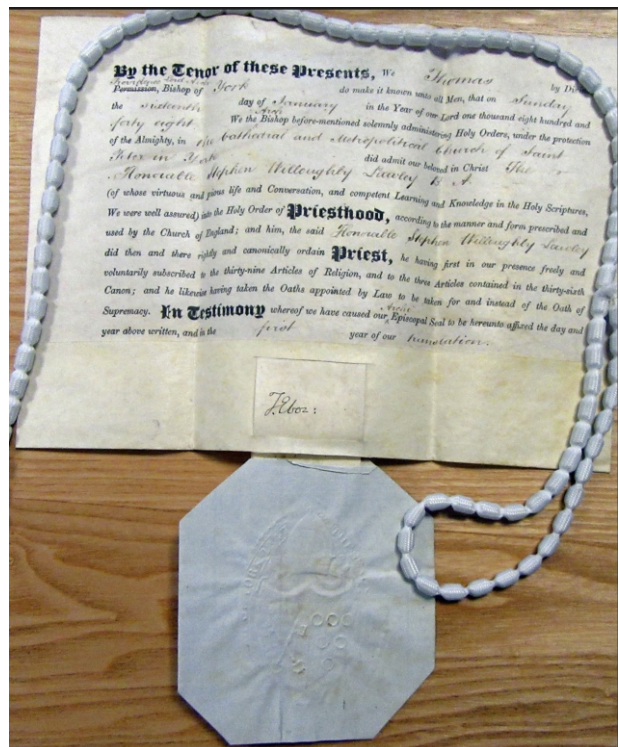
Rona is corresponding with the Commonwealth War Grave Commission to try and get a permanent memorial for Emmanuel where he was laid to rest and she will keep us informed.

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## From the Community Archive

Stephen Willoughby Lawley was ordained Priest on 16 January 1848, and was the vicar when the current Church was built in 1857. His portrait hangs above the vestry door.

*This is a photograph of the document held in the Borthwick Institute signed by the then Archbishop of York.*





Here is a photo of the Darby and Joan party in the Club on 26th January 1954.

**We look forward to seeing everyone soon**