

## Bilton With Harrogate

In medieval times Harrogate was a place on the borders of the [township](#) of [Bilton](#) with Harrogate in the ancient Parish of [Knaresborough](#), and the parish of [Pannal](#), also known as Beckwith with Rossett. The part within the township of Bilton developed into the community of High Harrogate, and the part within Pannal developed into the community of Low Harrogate. Both communities were within the [Royal Forest of Knaresborough](#). In 1372 [King Edward III](#) granted the Royal Forest to his son [John, Duke of Lancaster](#) (also known as John of Gaunt), and the [Duchy of Lancaster](#) became the principal landowner in Harrogate.<sup>[13]</sup>

Harrogate's development is owed to the discovery of its [chalybeate](#) and [sulphur](#) rich spring water from the 16th century. The first [mineral spring](#) was discovered in 1571 by William Slingsby who found that water from the [Tewit Well](#) in High Harrogate possessed similar properties to that from springs in the Belgian town of [Spa](#), which gave its name to [spa towns](#).<sup>[14]</sup> The medicinal properties of the waters were publicised by [Edmund Deane](#); his book, *Spadacrene Anglicana, or the English Spa Fountain* was published in 1626.<sup>[15]</sup>



The Royal Bath House

In the 17th and 18th centuries further chalybeate springs were discovered in High Harrogate, and both chalybeate and sulphur springs were found in Low Harrogate. The two communities attracted many visitors. A number of inns were opened for visitors in High Harrogate in the 17th century (the Queen's Head, the Granby, the Dragon and the [World's End](#)). In Low Harrogate, the Crown was open by the mid 18th century, and possibly earlier.<sup>[16][17]</sup>

In accordance with an [Enclosure Act](#) of 1770, promoted by the Duchy of Lancaster, the Royal Forest of Knaresborough was enclosed.<sup>[18]</sup> The enclosure award of 1778 clarified ownership of land in the Harrogate area. Under the award, 200 acres (81 ha) of land, which included the springs known at that time, were reserved as a public common, [The Stray](#), which has remained public open space.<sup>[19]</sup> The Enclosure Award facilitated development around the Stray. During the 19th century, the area between High Harrogate and Low Harrogate, which until then had remained separate communities a mile apart, was developed, and what is now the central area of Harrogate was built on high ground overlooking Low Harrogate.<sup>[20]</sup> An area to the north of the developing town was reserved to the Duchy of Lancaster, and was developed for residential building. To provide entertainment for the increasing numbers of visitors the Georgian Theatre was built in 1788.<sup>[18]</sup> Bath Hospital (later the Royal Bath Hospital) was built in 1826. The [Royal Pump Room](#) was built in 1842. The site of Tewit Well is marked by a dome on the Stray. Other wells can be found in the Valley Gardens and Royal Pump Room museum.<sup>[21][22]</sup>

In 1870, engineering inventor [Samson Fox](#) perfected the process of creating [water gas](#), in the basement laboratory of [Grove House](#). After constructing a trial plant at his home on Skipton Road, making it the first house in Yorkshire to have gas lighting and heating; he built a town-sized plant to supply Harrogate. After Parliament Street became the world's first route to be lit by water-gas, newspapers commented: "Samson Fox has captured the sunlight for Harrogate." After donating the town's first fire engine, and building the town's theatre, he was elected mayor for three years, an unbroken record.

Harrogate's popularity declined after the [First World War](#).<sup>[23]</sup> During the [Second World War](#), Harrogate's large hotels accommodated government offices evacuated from London paving the way for the town to become a commercial, conference, and exhibition centre.<sup>[14]</sup>

In 1893 Harrogate doctor [George Oliver](#) was the first to observe the effect of [adrenaline](#) on the circulation.

Former employers in the town were the [Central Electricity Generating Board](#) (CEGB), the [Milk Marketing Board](#) and [ICI](#) who occupied offices and laboratories at Hornbeam Park where [Crimprene](#) was invented in the 1950s and named after the nearby [Crimple Valley](#) and beck.

In 2007, two [metal detectorists](#) found the [Harrogate hoard](#), a 10th-century [Viking](#) treasure [hoard](#), near Harrogate. The hoard contains almost 700 coins and other items from as far away as [Afghanistan](#). The hoard was described by the [British Museum](#) as the most important find of its type in Britain for 150 years.<sup>[24]</sup>

*Wikipedia*