

# History – LOCAL HISTORY



Year 2

Gawber in the Past

Key theme	The lives of children					
Substantive concepts	Civilization					
Prior learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children know about the different Gawber schools</li> <li>• Children know about 'The Gawber Sing.'</li> <li>• Children know how school life has changed in Gawber from the Victorian times to now.</li> <li>• Children know how music has changed in Gawber.</li> </ul>					
NC requirements	<p>Pupils should be taught about:  changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life</p> <p>significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.</p>					
Key Question	<i>What similarities and differences are there between Gawber, then and now?</i>					
Small steps	<b>LG: To know about the history of Gawber Church</b>					
	<b>LG: To know about the Gawber Glassworks.</b>					
	<b>LG: To know the history of Gawber Hall.</b>					
	<b>LG: To know the history of the Gawber Linen Mill.</b>					

## Teacher Knowledge

### Gawber, Barnsley

**Gawber is an area of Barnsley in South Yorkshire, England. The origin of the place-name is from the Old English words *galga* and *beorg* meaning gallows hill and appears as Galgbergh in 1304.**

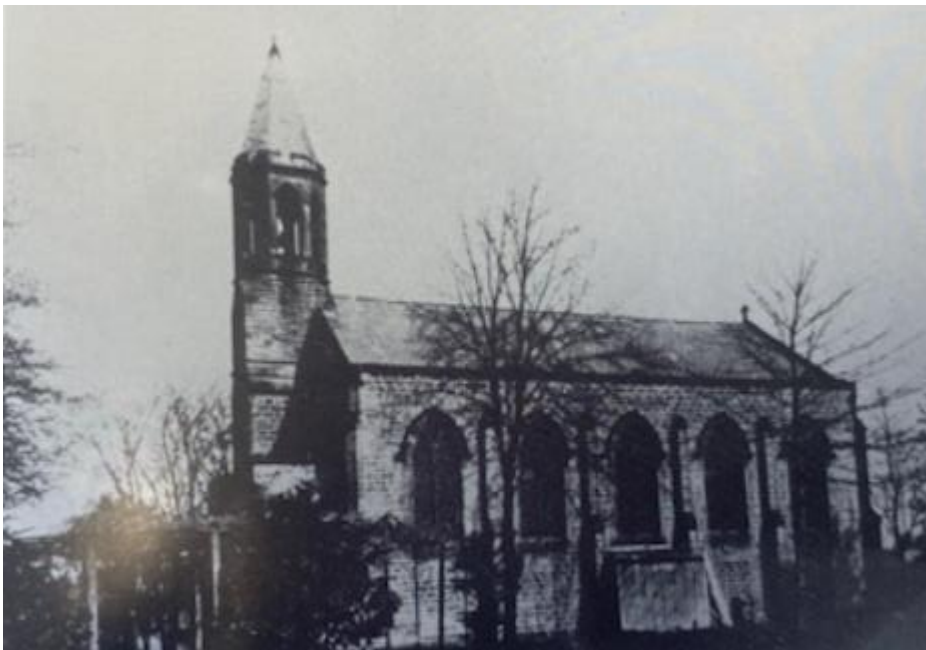
#### The Church

St Thomas Church was built and consecrated in 1848 and cost £800 pounds to build. There was no vicarage until 1863 and initially, the services were conducted by the curates from Darton Church.

The Dorothy Banks Room, a new extension, was built in 2009. It is used for coffee and chat facilities after Family Service, Church meetings (PCC, Lent Group, Bible Study and Action Committee) Sunday School and small groups.

To the north side of the church adjacent to the road is the village War Memorial where an Act of Remembrance is held to commemorate those of the Parish who fell in the two World Wars and there are also Commonwealth Graves.

The Church was once surrounded by allotments and fields. In 1969, an appeal was made for help in building a Parish Hall. People in the community could sponsor the Parish Hall by 'buying a brick' and local children took part in a variety show to raise funds too. Below are pictures of the church prior to the building of the Parish Hall.



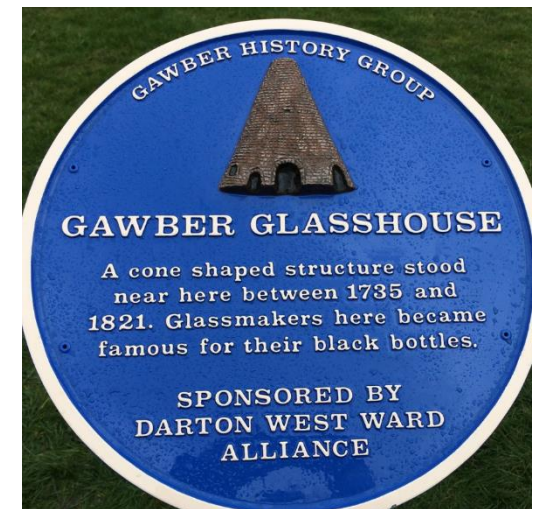
Below is the sign used to encourage the fund raising for the Parish Hall and a picture of local children taking part in one of the first productions in the Parish Hall.



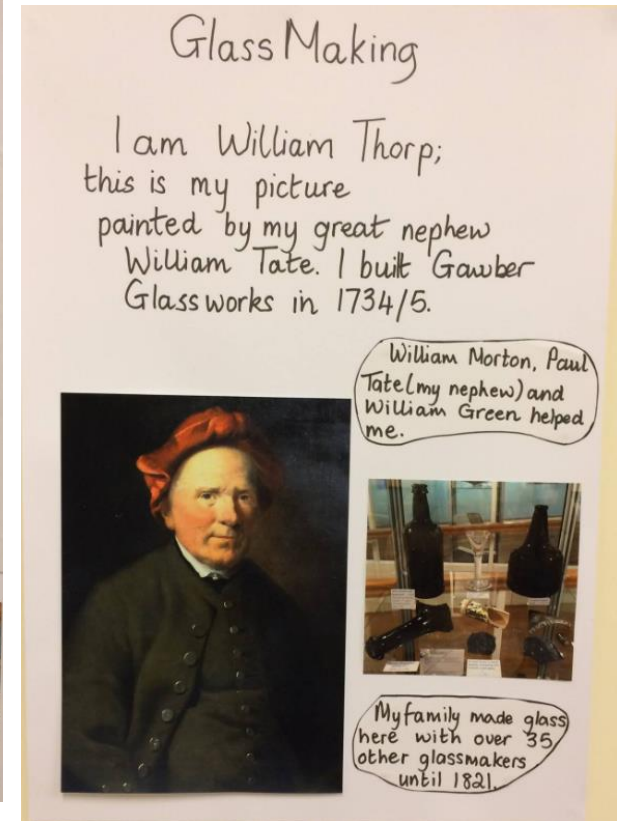
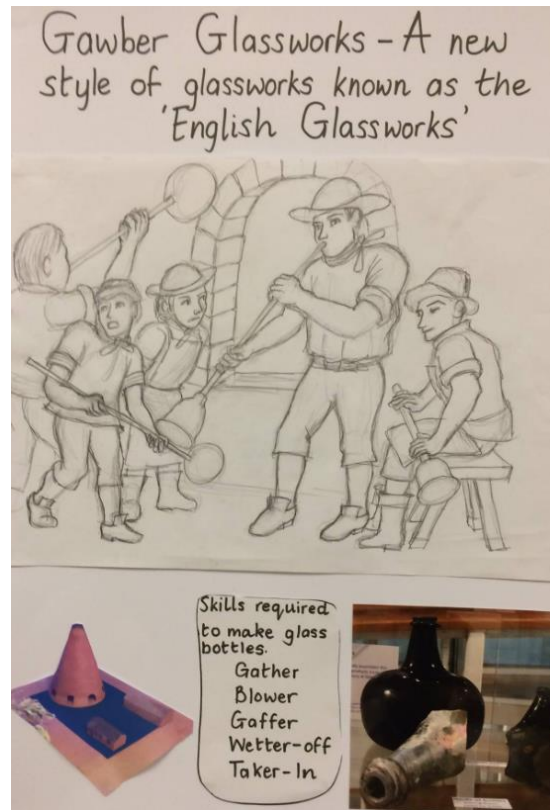
### Gawber Glasshouse

The Gawber Glasshouse was situated on a path between Woodview Lane and Huddersfield Road. It is thought to be one of the earliest glasshouses in England.

William Thorpe built the glassworks in 1734/5 and his family made glass in Gawber Glassworks along with other glassmakers until 1821. He lived at Gawber hall at the time.



The Glassworks was famous for producing black glass bottles and these were said to be 'superior to any kind elsewhere.' In 1821, the premises was sold and the building was converted into a joiners shop therefore glass production ceased. In 1885, the building was pulled down. Now, you can find a commemorative plaque in its place. Small pieces of black glass can still be found buried in the ground around the site.



### Gawber Hall

Gawber Hall was situated near the Glasshouse, between Huddersfield Road and Woodview Lane. It was built sometime in the 13<sup>th</sup> century but in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, new additions were made to the hall. The whole building was made of timber framework and held in position with wooden pegs – not single nail had been used to build it! The hall also had a pigeon loft that held over 200 pigeons. This was used to provide fresh meat in the winter months for those living in the hall. The hall was deemed unsafe in 1935 due to mining subsidence and although the community wanted to keep it because of its historical value, it had to be demolished because it was not able to be made safe. When the hall was demolished in 1937, a priest's hide hole was found in one of the upstairs rooms, hidden behind a fireplace.



The demolition of the hall showed its Elizabethan timber frame.

# GAWBER HALL

Funded by: Darton West Ward Alliance  
Supported by: The pupils of Gawber Primary School

For further information, find  
Gawber History Group on Facebook

## HISTORY OF GAWBER HALL 1300 – 1945

Gawber Hall appears in old documents from around 1300 CE. It had been built next to the ancient track, the Gray Stee. This track was used c.7000 BCE to 2100 BCE and later in medieval times for pack horses. The Hall was a farmhouse with farm buildings and some cottages. Between 1735 and 1821, there was a glassmaking cone nearby; many of the glassmakers lived at Gawber Hall and its cottages. By the mid 1850s a small school was attached to nearby almshouses. They had been constructed c.1715. The Hall began to be demolished in the late 1930s because of subsidence arising from mining the famous Barnsley seam beneath the house.



Gawber Hall facing towards the North West, thought to be from the early 1900s. Courtesy of the Tanker Trust.



The Hall facing towards the South East showing the Hall's division into two. Courtesy of the Tanker Trust.



The Hall facing towards the South East in 1937 at the beginning of its demolition. The stone wing is believed to be the oldest part with the timber framing to the right perhaps dating from 1659. Courtesy of Barnsley Archives and Local Studies.



## The Linen Mill

Linen manufacturing was introduced in Barnsley in 1774. The yarn had to be bleached before weaving and so the mill began its life as a bleach works which was established by John Pickering. It was situated at the bottom of Redbrook Road on the bank of the stream (which still runs alongside Redbrook Road today). The yarn was laid out and bleached in two fields that were behind the mill (but these fields now have a housing estate on them). An ample supply of water was needed for the mill to run and there were five ponds/reservoirs. These stretched from the mill to Hermit Lane. One of the ponds became known as 'dog broth' because people would dispose of unwanted dogs there.

In 1845, the mill started producing woven linen. Workers would make things such as diapers, tea towels and tablecloths. However, during World War 2, the mill started to produce denim for overalls, duck cloths for lorry covers and tents. This was hard work and the looms being used had to be modified to become strong enough to weave the heavy materials.

The mill closed in the late 1950's.



## GAWBER HISTORY GROUP

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# GAWBER A CRADLE OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Funded by: Darton West Ward Alliance  
Supported by: The pupils and staff of  
Gawber Primary School  
Thanks to Gerald J. Alliot, valued local historian  
Designed by: Ledgard Jepson, Tankersley  
Manufactured by: Simply Signs of Penistone

### AGRICULTURE

As people were developing these industries, agriculture continued and progressed in seven farms: Day House, Gawber Hall, Hermit House, Hill Top, Limes Villa Home, Red Brook House and Skiers Hall. This covered all types of mixed farming, wheat, oats and barley with cattle, pigs, sheep, hens, geese, goats and heavy horses. Gawber Hall had a pigeon loft for 200 birds. The old corn chamber and stable block (now converted) at Hill Top Farm once had a pigeon loft with 200 nest boxes built into the walls.



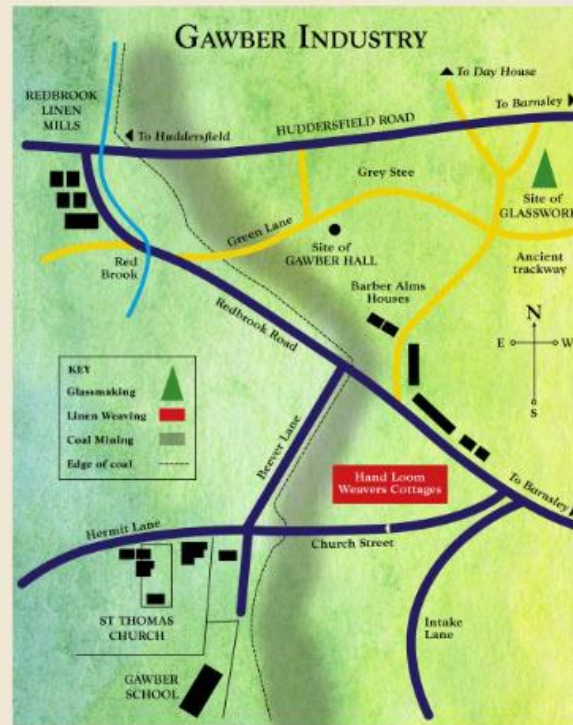
Artwork by Paul Thompson

### COAL MINING

After the inclosure of 1820, the local population grew, particularly of weavers. But, when the weaving economy faltered, this growing population turned to exploit the natural resources of Gawber, namely coal. Local entrepreneurs could dig coal for sale to begin with from day holes and drift mines, often on a small scale. Some developed deep mines starting with Samuel Thorp in around 1775. This activity culminated in the development of Redbrook pit by John Smith in the 1890s.

#### Drift Mines (Day Holes) Local entrepreneurs included:

Harry Deaton	Ephram Maw
John Smith	Jonas Brown
Charles Beevers	Enoch Mount
George Green	Ben Beevers
Fred Hey	



Sketch map of Gawber showing the sites of industry from c. 1735 to 1882

### GLASS-MAKING

Archaeologists in the 1960s found evidence of glass-making at Gawber Hall from around 1700, maybe linked to glass-making at Silkstone. A "New English Glassworks" was built at Gawber Hall around 1735. Glass was made there until 1821. Darton parish register records 40 glassmakers from 30 families in that period.



Artwork by Paul Thompson



Tokens from medals made at Gawber Glassworks  
Images taken from Dennis Dibbert's excavation report 1970

### LINEN WEAVING

There was a cottage industry weaving linen. After the inclosures, specific weavers' cottages were built. A bleachworks and eventually a mill were built at Redbrook. Production at the mill meant that the cottage weaving was no longer viable. Despite vigorous protests, the weavers had to move into other work such as coal mining.



Weavers' cottage at Sharel Row, Church Street, Gawber c.1900



As early 19th century penny trade tokens for Jackson & Lister linen warehouses in Barnsley used to pay workers in times of a shortage of official copper coinage



## Shops

There was a Fish and Chip shop on Church Street called 'Huby's.'

Jackson's shop was also on Church street. (The picture shows this in 1966).



Bakehouse Lane got its name because of the bakery that was situated on it.



Learning goal	<b>LG: To know about the history of Gawber Church</b>
Enquiry question	How old is our church?
Subject specific vocabulary	Church St Thomas Parish Hall Community Hall
Core knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children know that the church in Gawber is called St Thomas Church.</li> <li>• Children know that it was built in 1848</li> <li>• Children know that it cost £800 pounds to build.</li> <li>• Children know that The Dorothy Banks Room, a new extension, was built in 2009.</li> <li>• Children know that the village War Memorial where an Act of Remembrance is held to commemorate those of the Parish who fell in the two World Wars and there are also Commonwealth Graves, is at the front of the church.</li> <li>• Children know that the Church was once surrounded by allotments and fields.</li> <li>• Children know that in 1969, an appeal was made for help in building a Parish Hall and people in the community could sponsor the Parish Hall by 'buying a brick' and that local children took part in a variety show to raise funds too.</li> <li>• Children know how to place these events on a timeline.</li> </ul>

Learning goal	<b>LG: To know about the Gawber Glassworks.</b>
Flashback questions	<p><i>When was the church built?</i></p> <p><i>How much did it cost?</i></p> <p><i>How did our community raise money for the Parish Hall?</i></p>
Enquiry question	What was Gawber famous for?
Subject specific vocabulary	<p>Glassworks</p> <p>Premises</p> <p>Joiners</p>
Core knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children know that the Gawber Glassworks is thought to be one of the earliest glasshouses in England.</li> <li>• Children know that William Thorpe built the glassworks in 1734/5 and his family made glass in Gawber Glassworks along with other glassmakers until 1821.</li> <li>• Children know that the Glassworks was famous for producing black glass bottles and these were said to be 'superior to any kind elsewhere.'</li> <li>• Children know that in 1821, the premises was sold and the building was converted into a joiners shop therefore glass production stopped.</li> <li>• Children know that in 1885, the building was pulled down and there is now a commemorative plaque in its place.</li> <li>• Children know that small pieces of black glass can still be found buried in the ground around the site.</li> <li>• Children know how to place these events on a timeline.</li> </ul>

Learning goal	<b>LG: To know the history of Gawber Hall.</b>
Flashback questions	<p><i>Who was William Thorpe?</i></p> <p><i>What was made in the glassworks?</i></p> <p><i>Is the glassworks still there?</i></p>
Enquiry question	What was Gawber Hall?
Subject specific vocabulary	<p>Timber</p> <p>Framework</p> <p>Wooden pegs</p> <p>Hide hole</p> <p>Priest</p>
Core knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children know that Gawber Hall was situated near the Glasshouse.</li> <li>• Children know that Gawber Hall was built sometime in the 13<sup>th</sup> century</li> <li>• Children know that in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, new additions were made to the hall.</li> <li>• Children know that the whole building was made of timber framework and held in position with wooden pegs.</li> <li>• Children know that the hall also had a pigeon loft that held over 200 pigeons. This was used to provide fresh meat in the winter months for those living in the hall.</li> <li>• Children know that the hall was deemed unsafe in 1935 due to mining subsidence and although the community wanted to keep it because of its historical value, it had to be demolished because it was not able to be made safe.</li> <li>• Children know that when the hall was demolished in 1937, a priest's hide hole was found in one of the upstairs rooms, hidden behind a fireplace.</li> <li>• Children know that William Thorpe lived at Gawber Hall in 1733.</li> </ul>

Learning goal	<b>LG: To know the history of the Gawber Linen Mill.</b>
Flashback questions	<i>What was special about how the hall was built?</i> <i>Why did the owners keep pigeons?</i>
Enquiry question	Why was the linen mill and important part of Gawber life in the past?
Subject specific vocabulary	Linen Bleach Bleachworks Manufacturing
Core knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children know that linen manufacturing was introduced in Barnsley in 1774.</li> <li>• Children know that the mill started out as a bleachworks because the yarn had to be bleached before weaving.</li> <li>• Children know that the yarn was laid out and bleached in two fields that were behind the mill.</li> <li>• Children know that an ample supply of water was needed for the mill to run and there were five ponds/reservoirs nearby.</li> <li>• Children know that in 1845, the mill started producing woven linen.</li> <li>• Children know that during World War 2, the mill started to produce denim for overalls, duck cloths for lorry covers and tents.</li> <li>• Children know that the mill closed in the late 1950's.</li> </ul>

Learning goal	<b>LG: To know how Gawber has changed.</b>
Flashback questions	<i>How was the mill useful in WW2?</i> <i>Why did they bleach the linen?</i>
Enquiry question	How has Gawber changed?
Subject specific vocabulary	Bakehouse Bakery Allotments
Core knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children know that the Glassworks, Gawber Hall and the Linen Mill are no longer standing in Gawber.</li> <li>• Children know that there was a Fish and Chip shop on Church Street called 'Huby's.'</li> <li>• Children know that Jackson's shop was also on Church street.</li> <li>• Children know that 'Bakehouse Lane' got its name because of the bakery that was situated on it.</li> <li>• Children know that the ground our school stands on used to be allotments (revision from Y1)</li> <li>• Children know that there were other schools in Gawber that no longer exist (revision from Y1).</li> </ul>