

The origin of many of the village street names is pretty obvious, examples being Roseberry Crescent and Guisborough Road. Some derivations are more obscure, and some of the older names have disappeared altogether. Some streets in the village have changed their names over the years. One reason for changing street names was the introduction of house numbers. Initially houses were numbered up one side and down the other, which resulted in problems when additional houses were built. A solution was to change the name of the street and use odd numbers on one side, even numbers on the other.

Information leading to a better understanding of Great Ayton's street names would be welcome.

Aireyholme

From the Old Scandinavian for high summer pastures.

Addison Road

Origin unknown.

Angrove Close, Angrove Drive

Named after Anngrove Hall, now demolished, which was situated half-way between Great Ayton and Stokesley. Only the gate-posts (now outside the manor House in Stokesley) and the bridge over the Leven (later rebuilt on the driveway to The Grange) still exist. Anngrove Hall was the scene of a celebrated murder, following which the Hall was said to be cursed.

Arthur Street

The true derivation of Arthur Street and John Street is unknown but it may be that they were named after children of the original developer.

Baldock's Bank

The steep ascent at the start of Linden Avenue was called Baldocks Bank. This name came about because the bank was used by local children for sledging during the winter.

Mr Baldock who was a North Riding Highways Engineer lived halfway down the bank and tried, quite rightly, to stop children sledging down the bank and onto the main road. Thus it gained the name Baldocks Bank.

Bartle Bridge

This is the small bridge on Yarm Lane, on the outskirts of the village. Henry Kitching, writing in 1918, commented that this bridge carried a date 1820, but when it was being rebuilt it was apparent that the original bridge had been much narrower than its replacement, and had been added to on both sides.

Bradley's Terrace

Built by George Bradley to house his whinstone quarry workers.

Buck Bank

The steeply rising ground behind the central part of the High Street, approximately from the Chapel Steps to Waterfall Terrace. Jeremiah Thistlethwaite bought the Buck Bank Farm when he came to Great Ayton in 1857. After running it as a farm for some years, he found that house-building was a more valuable crop.

Church Road

What is now Guisborough Road used to be Church Road following the building of Christ Church in 1876.

Churchill Close

The name given by the staunchly Conservative Parish Council to a small development of new houses at the end of the twentieth-century.

Coach Road

The now-unused road leading off Station Road, opposite School Farm, into the old Friends' School site.

Cockshaw

The slope more usually known as Ayton Banks, between Gribdale Terrace and the disused sandstone quarry near the summit of the escarpment.

Deuchars Terrace

A terrace of houses at the upper end of Romany Road, built on land sold by Jeremiah Thistlethwaite, who owned Buck Bank Farm, to Messrs. Deuchars and Bowers for development.

Dikes Lane

From "High Dikes" and "Low Dikes", old field names on the way up to Gribdale.

Dump Corner

This is the bend at the beginning of Newton Road, just by the gates to Cleveland Lodge. It was the site of a village cess pool in past times. The small gate on the left of the iron railings was to allow villagers to draw water from the beck (despite the proximity of the cess pool).

Eagle Street

The lower part of what is now Station Road. There used to be a carved stone eagle mounted outside Eagle House on a stone bracket, but after the theft of the original and its immediate replacement, the bracket is empty. Jeremiah Thistlethwaite, who set up his grocery and drapery business here, lived in Eagle House. It is possible that he gave the property, and hence the street, its name. The Thistlethwaite family house, and Jeremiah's birthplace, was Ewegales in Dentdale. This is pronounced "you gales" or "ow gales" the latter perhaps suggesting "eagle". However, it is thought that Eagle House was built before Jeremiah moved to Ayton.

Eaton's Row

The terrace next to the public house on Newton Road, named after their builder Joseph Eaton.

George Street

This was an earlier name for Newton Road, which terminated around the present-day junction with Roesberry Crescent. Its name was changed when the road was extended, in the nineteenth century, to join the Guisborough Road.

Goat Lane

This is now Easby Lane. The slight ascent encountered on leaving the village was known as "Half-penny Hill". Rev. C. V. Collier, writing in 1896, said this was so named because a woman was found hanged on one of the wayside trees, with only a half-penny in her pocket.

Green Lane

Green Lane is a widely used name for un-surfaced tracks. In Great Ayton, the present right of way, leading north from Yarm Lane to Greenhow Hill, is called Green Lane

Holly Garth

This was the area where the present-day sheltered accommodation stands. There was a track alongside the river and some fine old trees.

John Street

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Langbaugh

Correctly pronounced, and occasionally spelled as, "Langbarf". An ancient name derived from the old English for "Long Hill", describing the Cleveland Dyke or whinstone ridge.

King Street

The road from Great Ayton to Yarm, now Yarm Lane.

Marwood Drive

Named after the Marwood family, of Busby hall, who owned the tithes from Great Ayton and much land in the area.

Melbourne Terrace

On Newton Road, origin unknown.

Mill Terrace

Named after the old East Mill, a water-driven corn mill which stood at the point where Race Terrace becomes Mill Terrace.

Monkabeque

There are numerous versions of this unusual name: Monkabec, Monkabecka, Munkaley, etc. It was what is now Romany Road. It was built as part of Jeremiah's housing development on land that was originally Buck Bank Farm, a property which he had purchased. It surely must be derived from Monkey Beck, the stream which flows into the River Dee at Lea Yeat in Dentedale. The origin of the name Monkey Beck is obscure. It drains the western slopes of Great Knoutberry Hill on Widdale Fell, running alongside the Coal Road or Galloway Gate. It may be derived from an old word for hares; there are no apparent connections with either monkeys or monks. There is an area named "Hare Shaw" not far away.

Old Mill Wynd

Newly-named road leading off School Lane. The mill nearby was demolished and rebuilt as apartments at the end of the twentieth-century. This mill had a variety of uses over the years including cotton, corn grinding and seed-crushing.

Pearsonville

Probably named after Arthur Pearson, the builder based in the village from the 1880s.

Race Terrace

The mill race, which carried water from above the weir in the centre of the village to the old East Mill, ran along the southern side of this road.

School Lane

A newly-named road giving access to the apartments on the old Friends' School site from the Station Road mini-roundabout. The Friends' School was originally called the North of England Agricultural School.

Skitterbeck

This literally means "shit-a-beck". The beck running into the River Leven was often contaminated with sewage. It now has the more genteel name of "Park Rise".

Skottowe Crescent and Skottowe Drive

Thomas Skottowe came to Ayton in the 1720s, and owned much property including Ayton Hall and Aireyholme Farm. He is famous for employing James Cook's father at Aireyholme Farm and for paying the young James's fees at the Postgate School.

Station Road

Named following the arrival of the railway in the nineteenth-century. Stokesley Rural District Council defined this as continuing to the crossroads with Aireyholme Lane, where it becomes Dikes Lane. Recently, the stretch between the station and Aireyholme Lane has, incorrectly, become known as Dikes Lane.

Stone Bridge

The original arched bridge was built in 1777 to replace the ford, which was much damaged by the carts of the alum works at Cockshaw. The arched bridge was replaced by the present structure in 1909.

Thief Lane

The un-surfaced track leading from the Guisborough Road, just before the railway bridge, to Cliff Rigg woods. Its origin is unknown.

Wapping

The area at the lower end of Bridge Street used to be known as Wapping. The reason is unclear, but is said to be derived from the riverside area in London.

Wheatlands

So named by the Parish Council when houses were built here, in the early 1960s, on fields that had previously grown wheat.

Windy Lonnin or Windy Lane

The earliest name for what is now Newton Road. This was a short lane leading north from High Green. When rather grand houses started to be built along it, for example Rosehill and Cliff Rigg, it was given the equally grand name of George Street.