

My Harrogate

My name is Charlotte and I am 12 years old and I am lucky enough to have been born and live in Harrogate. In fact, my family have a long association with Harrogate, my Great Grandfather and Great Grandmother having been Mayor and Mayoress. We are very proud to own a few of the town centre buildings which as a family we run and maintain. This is a big responsibility as it is not only the buildings that are important but the businesses and people that occupy them.

6 Montpellier Gardens was an Art Gallery when my Parents bought the building in November 2016. It was very run down and in need of some serious repair. My Parents quickly found someone who wanted to occupy the building so together they worked through a plan of regeneration. The upper floors were to be a Medical and Wellness Spa with a one bedroomed flat at the top. The ground floor was to be kept as a shop. It was fun to find out that originally the building was a home and still had the original range oven which is still there, if hidden behind a partition wall. Over the last two years the menswear shop has moved location but the owners of the Medical and Wellness Spa have expanded, the ground floor is now their Coffee, Lifestyle and Gifting Shop and the upper flat has been altered to enable them to add more treatment rooms.

2 Princes Square was built in 1864 by Richard Ellis and Richard Carter, who built the whole row. It's first owner was Thomas Hollins who lived in it as his home and the only covenant was that the building could not be a Tavern. The building was sold by Solicitors Powell, Edison, Freeman, Wilks to my Grandfather in 2001. The building was empty except for Myring Heward Estate Agents who were on the ground floor. There was no cellar, this was dug out at a later date when Sasso wanted to expand their business and have a cafe alongside their restaurant, which they called Caffè Marconi. The upper floors were turned into three residential flats. During these renovation works my grandma sort advise from Malcolm Neesam. The railings were commissioned from Kendrew Architectural Metalworks and incorporate the family's initials, designed by my Grandma, as a design feature. 11a Albert Street was built at a later date to 2 Princes Square but is now attached. The basement now forms the back room of Caffè Marconi and the first floor is now a Travel Agents, having been a Tanning Salon and previous to that part of Myring Heward Estate Agents.

8 and 10 Princes Square was bought in 1996 from the bank as its owners Hainton, Smith and Dewar the Accountants, were about to go into administration. Brian Ferguson, the father of one of the owners of Sasso Restaurant and an Architect helped develop the scheme for the restaurant that currently occupies the basement. Myring split from Heward and relocated to the ground floor of 8 and Newtons Solicitors took on the ground floor of 10. About 20 years ago a full height extension was built on the back which my Father and Mother project managed as both Sasso and Myring needed more space. On the first floor are Projected Image and an Architect. Above this are three residential flats.

11, 11a Princes Square, 6 Raglan Street. Richard Ellis in 1872 had plans for this building and John Rainford and William Hudson built it to his plans taking about a year to complete. It was built for Mary Learoyd and Learoyd House is the name that can be seen above the entrance at 6 Raglan Street. Prior to 4 Princes Square being built there was a restriction put on it, presumably from the Learoyd family saying 'no noisy businesses, no farriers, no tallow makers, no butcher, no slaughterhouse, no brewery or distillery.' The property went to auction with Feather Smales and Scales in 2004 and was bought by Simon Burnett who, as there was a sitting tenant, a Solicitors, could not do anything with the building. He sold it at auction again in 2008 and my family bought it. The property was now unoccupied and in a very poor state. Working alongside Cronin Architects the building was realigned for today's businesses. The modern window on the first floor of Raglan Street was removed and a specialist stone mason from the North East employed to make good the stone work and take it back to how it would have been when built. The basement across the whole building was dug out for a restaurant and initially The Square Restaurant moved in, but it is now occupied by Papas Authentic Mediterranean Restaurant. The upper floors are occupied by a hairdresser, a beautician, a recruitment company, a finance company and a Solicitors. Again, Kendrews Architectural Metal Works made the railings which the family designed together.

3 & 5 North Park Road are two huge semi-detached Victorian town houses which have been renovated into five flats, a Dentist and Ask Construction Company. They are located opposite the Harrogate Odeon cinema which is a striking modernist building built in 1936 which contrasts completely architecturally but does not look out of situ.

My own home, on Victoria Road, was built over a 100 years ago and is as semi-detached two up two down which now has a basement kitchen and an attic office. Two years ago, my family bought the house next door as the lady that lived there died. The two houses are now one. The garden has two large conker trees that were part of Knaresborough Forest when it covered our part of Harrogate.

It is important to me and my family to help look after Harrogate's heritage for future generations. Our buildings are part of what makes Harrogate so very special and it will be my pleasure to continue my family's legacy.

Sources;

Property Deeds

Google

Harrogate Library Archives

Interviewed Tom Holroyd, Uncle

Interviewed Francine Holroyd, Mother

Interviewed Martin Smith, Father

Artwork by Angie Holroyd