

20 Century Developments.

Before 1924 most of the land [7 acres , 3 roods & 6 perches] along Freely Lane , on both sides , was part of the grounds of Bramham House [at times The Mansion , at others Bramham Hall] . Their extremities at the eastern end were the strip of land along Aberford Road , still privately owned in 2000 , and the boundary with the gardens of Bramham Lodge. At the western end were the few buildings which climbed Almshouse Hill. From 1924 , the sequence of events relating to Bramham House and its grounds was as follows :

24 Oct. 1924 Captain George Taylor Ramsden of The Jumbles , Halifax [owner of Ramsden 's Stone Trough Ales] bought the house and land from Major John Lister Ingham of Wighill for £ 9500.

9 Oct. 1936 Captain Ramsden died whilst out shooting ; a few years later the only son Robert was killed in a motorcycle accident at Pompopali .

15 Aug. 1947 West Riding C.C. bought the estate from Thomas Ramsden of Middleton Tower , King 's Lynn and Edward Ramsden of Sands Hill , Sedgefield for £ 8000. The land now consisted of 16.5 acres , including parcels of land in Bramham ; Bramham House ; and the 4 houses on The Crag built by George Ramsden for his employees , on the strip of land which ran from his main grounds through to Town Hill. Bramham House itself was used as a Children 's Home , while , next to it , was built the ambulance station. [Description of Children 's Home later.]

Before the reorganisation of county boundaries in 1973, when the West Riding ceased to exist , much of the grounds to the north of Freely Lane were bought by the then ratepayers of Bramham for £3000 , to be used as the village playing fields and administered by the Village Council , whose leader Cr. Geoff Wood , with The Hon. Mrs.