

SCHOOL RESOURCE PACK



HESLINGTON HALL

INTRODUCTION

AT A GLANCE

Suitable for: KS3 and KS4
History

Curriculum Link:

- Social change in post-war British Society
- The study of one particular site in its historical context

Learning Objectives:

- To understand how a place changes over time,
- To reflect on the changing roles of large houses within British society,
- To understand how social change in C20th Britain affected the upper classes.

Further Resources:

- [Historic England](#) provide a guide to listed sites across England
- [Heslington Hall on Google Maps](#)

BACKGROUND

Heslington Hall is a historic manor house on the outskirts of York built in 1568 for Sir Thomas Eynns, clerk to the Council of the North. It was sold to the Hesketh family in 1601. It was eventually inherited by Ann Hesketh and her husband James Yarburgh, who came from a very well-connected family. James's sister was a Lady in Waiting to the then queen, Catherine of Braganza.

After the death of Nicholas Yarburgh in 1852, his nephew Yarburgh Graeme (who later changed his name to Yarburgh Yarburgh) inherited Heslington Hall. He had the hall largely rebuilt in a Victorian style, but retained the original staircases, towers, courtyard, and stucco ceilings. The family later gained the title 'Baron Deramore' through marriage.

Robert Wilfrid de Yarburgh-Bateson inherited both the hall and the title Baron Deramore in 1893. He and his wife, Lady Violet, made Heslington Hall their family home. They had many of the interiors re-styled and modernized in 1903 by the famous York architect, Walter Brierley. Lady Violet was a member of the Red Cross and, during the First World War, Heslington Hall was used as a convalescent home for injured soldiers. The family moved out during the Second World War, and the hall was converted into an RAF base.

After the war, the family did not return to live in Heslington Hall. The house and land were sold to the Joseph Rowntree Social Services Trust in 1955, who intended it to be part of a proposed university. In 1963, the University of York was opened to students, and Heslington Hall continues to serve as its administrative base.

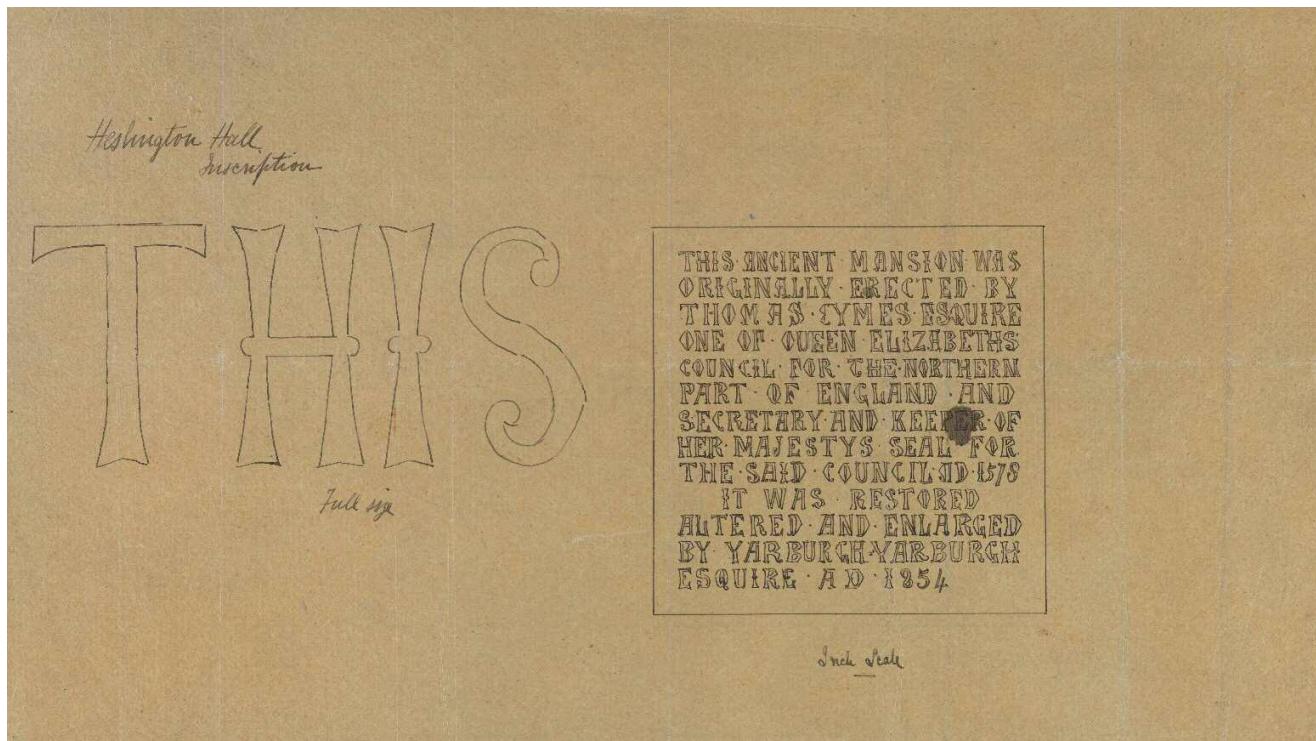
HESLINGTON HALL

SOURCES

Source 1

YM/MP/37 – Design for a memorial tablet for the outside of Heslington Hall

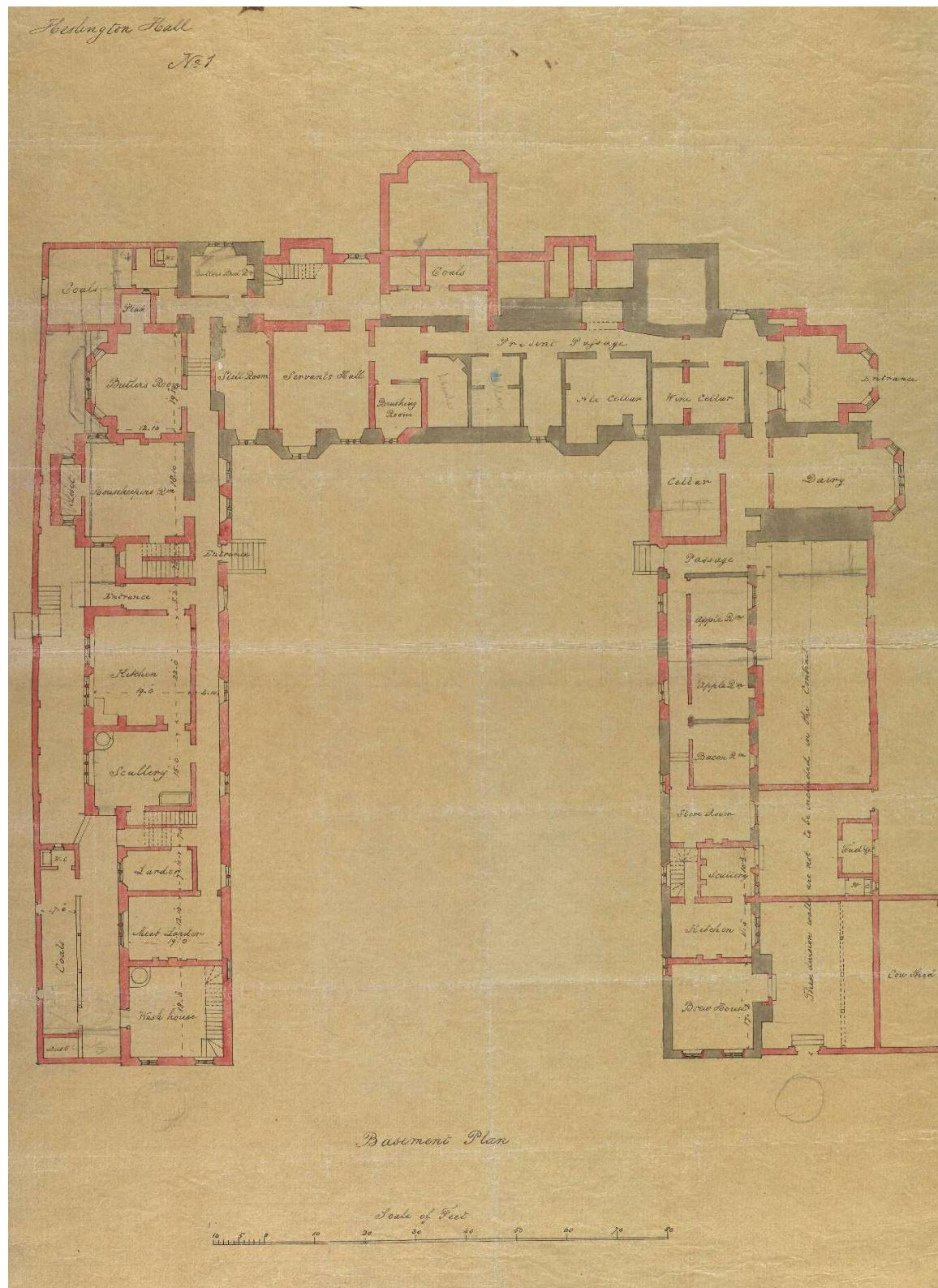
Heslington Hall was originally built in 1568 (not 1578 as this memorial suggests). It was extended and modernized in 1854 by Yarburgh Yarburgh. He also had this plaque designed and added to the side of the building, where it can still be seen today.



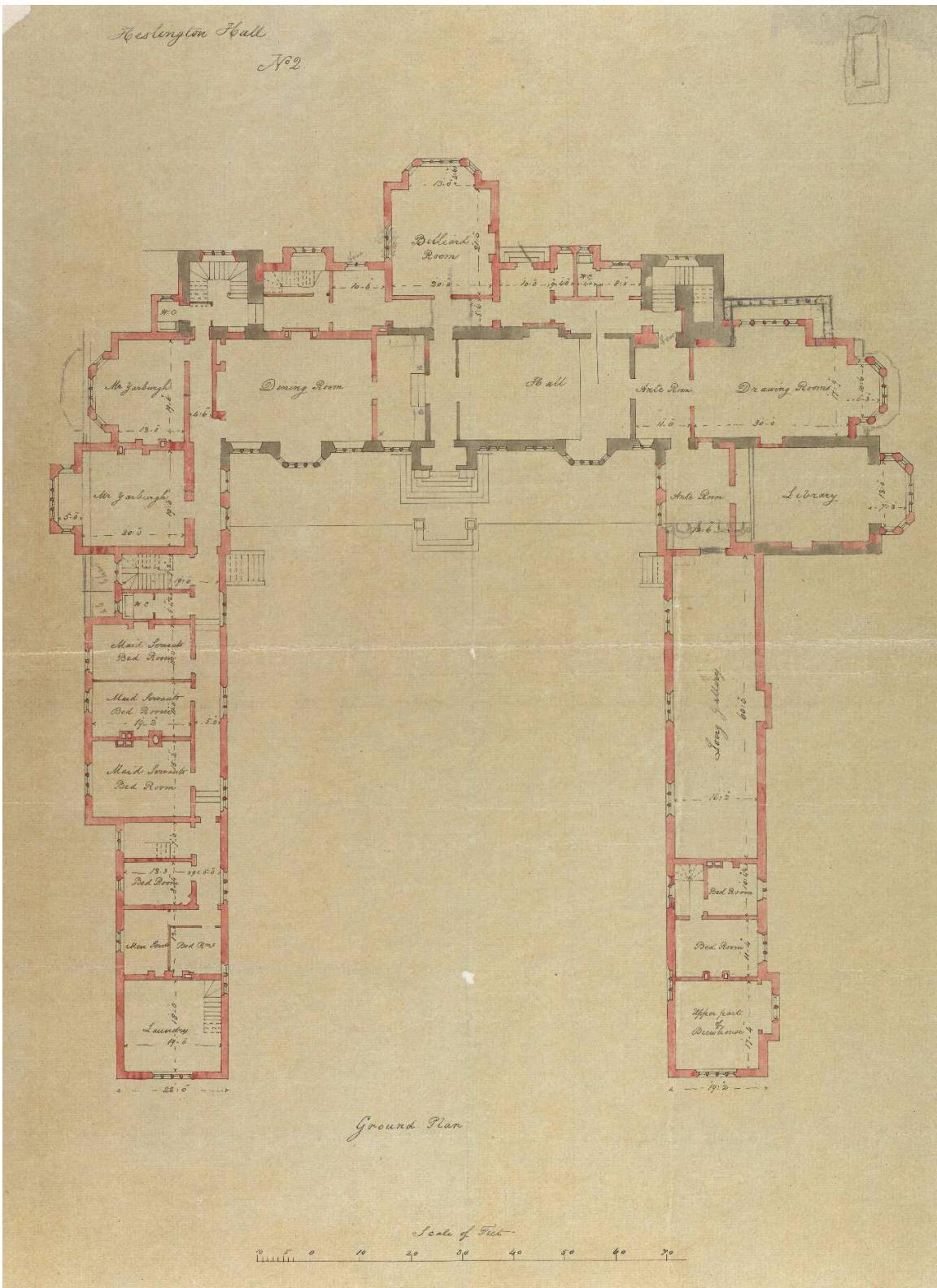
Source 2

YM/MP/29-31 – Floor plan for Heslington Hall after the redesign of 1854

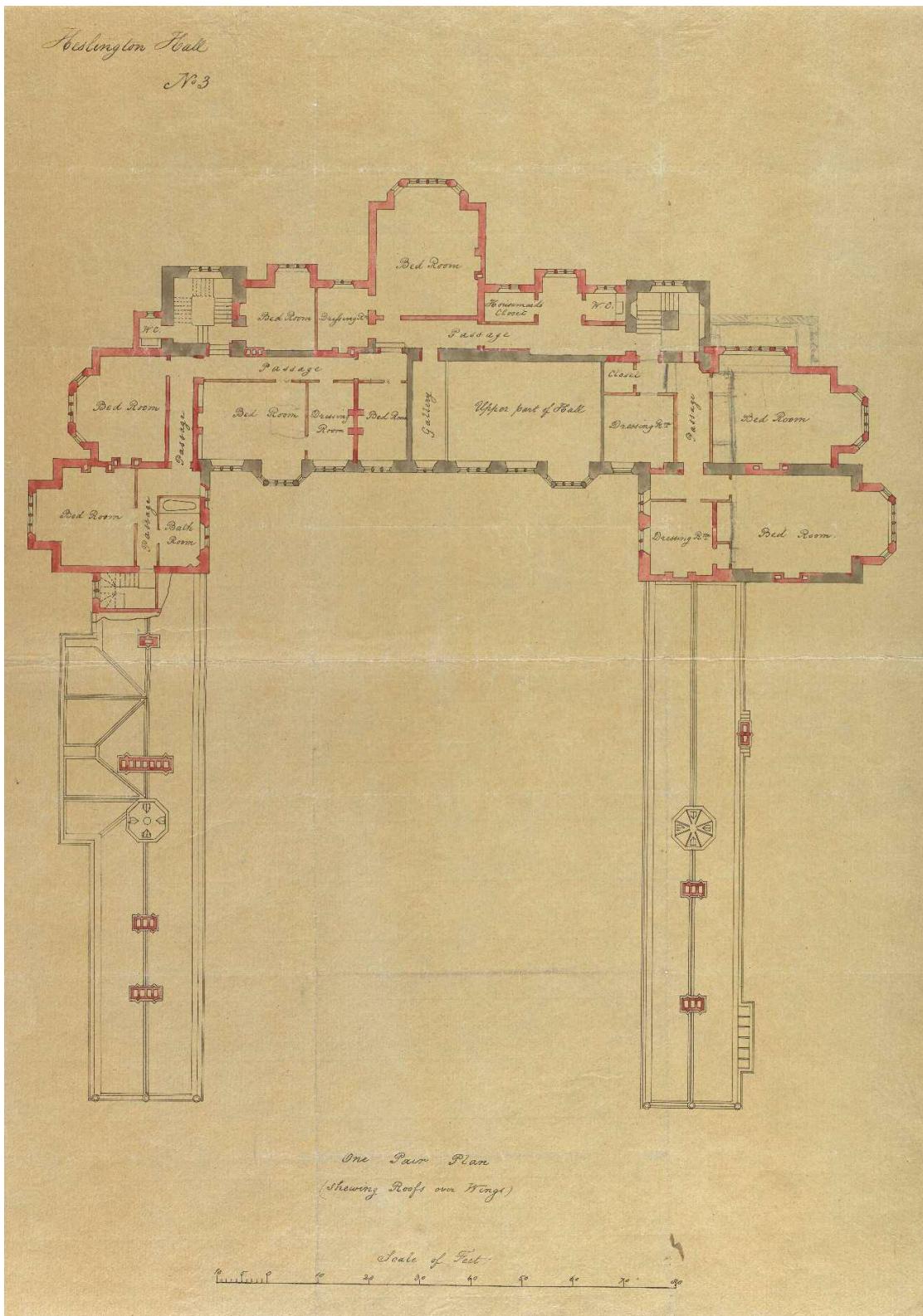
Ground floor



First floor



Second floor



Source 3

JHOR/4/2/6 and JHOR/4/2/4 - Photos of Heslington Hall, from the collection of James Hornby

James Hornby was born in 1840 and became the Head Gardener at Heslington Hall in 1870. He died 32 years later while still employed at the hall. He kept some photos of the hall, especially those that showed the gardens.



Source 4

VDER 7/1/4 – Family photo albums of Lady Violet Deramore



Source 5

VDER 8/1/4/1 (ii) – War Use of Heslington Hall

During the First World War, Heslington Hall was used as a convalescent home for injured soldiers. The soldiers were given the free use of the grounds, and activities were arranged for them.



Source 6

VDER 3/1/2 – Yorkshire Post article dated November 8th 1955. Reproduced by kind permission of the Yorkshire Post

Heslington Hall was converted into an RAF base during the Second World War and the family moved out. They never returned. Instead the land was sold in 1955 to the Joseph Rowntree Social Services Trust.



Source 7

VDER 3/1/2 – *Yorkshire Post* article dated July 6th 1970. Reproduced by kind permission of the *Yorkshire Post*

In 1963, the University of York was opened to students, with Heslington Hall as its administrative building. The university itself was built on the land that used to be Heslington estate. In 1970, Lady Violet returned to Heslington Hall for the first time in 34 years.



HESLINGTON HALL

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

- 1) Source 1 shows a memorial plaque that was added to the outside of the hall in 1854. Why do you think it was important to the Yarburgh family to celebrate the antiquity of the house? Many people nowadays also study and commemorate the history of their house. Do you think they are doing it for the same reasons?
- 2) Source 2 shows the floor plans for Heslington Hall in 1854. If it was still a family home, do you think the rooms would still be used in the same way? How do you think the use of the rooms would have changed?
- 3) Look up Heslington Hall on Google Street View (if you don't have access to the internet, there is an up to date photo on the front of this resource pack). How has it changed since the photos in source 3 were taken? What, if any, are the similarities? Why do you think these things have lasted?
- 4) Source 4 shows a young boy who spent much of his childhood at Heslington Hall. Would you like to have grown up in a house like this one? Why or why not? What can you learn about the people who lived at Heslington Hall from these photographs?
- 5) How do you think the soldiers would have felt upon arriving at Heslington Hall during the First World War? What does source 5 tell us about their time there?
- 6) Like Heslington Hall, many historic houses were sold off after the Second World War. What can this tell us about society at the time?
- 7) Compare sources 4 and 6. How has the use of the hall changed over the course of the 20th century?
- 8) In source 7, Lady Violet Deramore chooses not to return to Heslington Hall. Why do you think this is?
- 9) What do you think the various historic owners of Heslington Hall would make of its modern use?
- 10) Do you feel the history of Heslington Hall reflects the history of England generally?
- 11) Do you think it is important to preserve historic houses? If they are preserved, do you think it is better that they are made functional and used, or kept as they were? Why?
- 12) If you were giving a talk about the history of Heslington Hall, which parts of its history would you emphasize? Why?