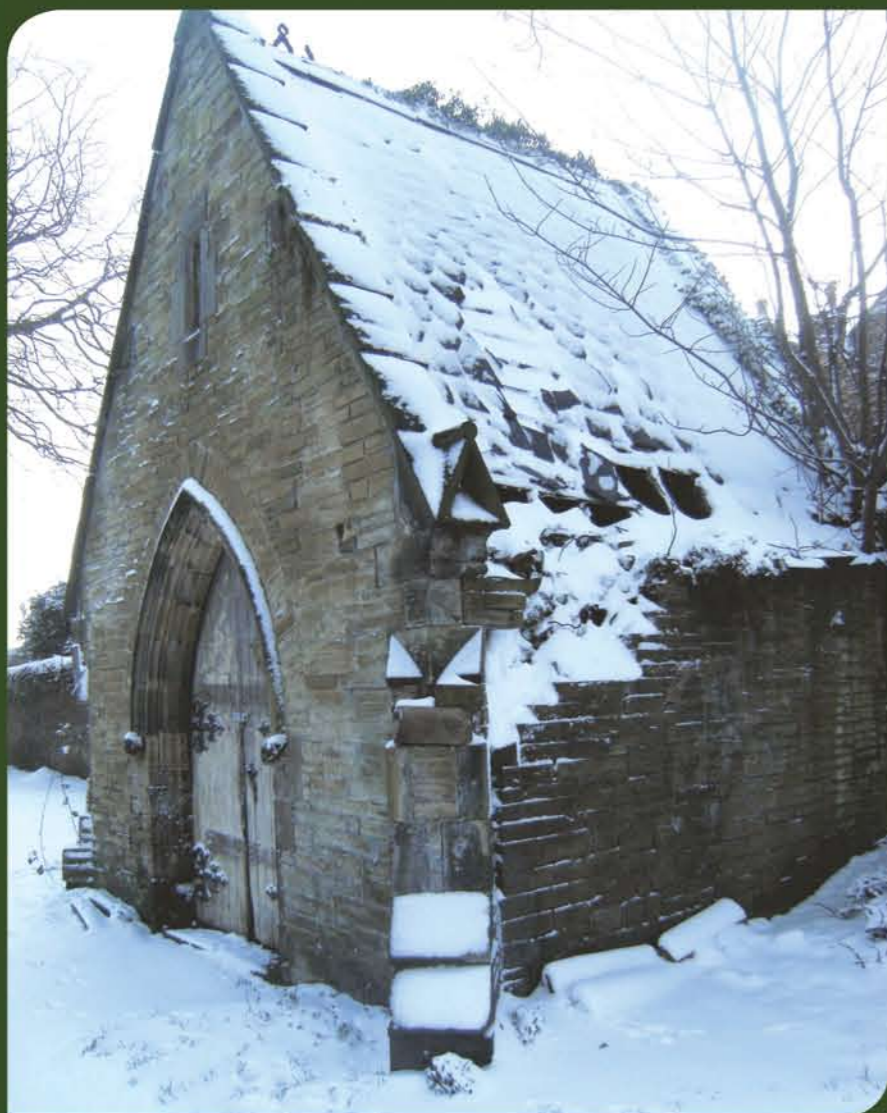


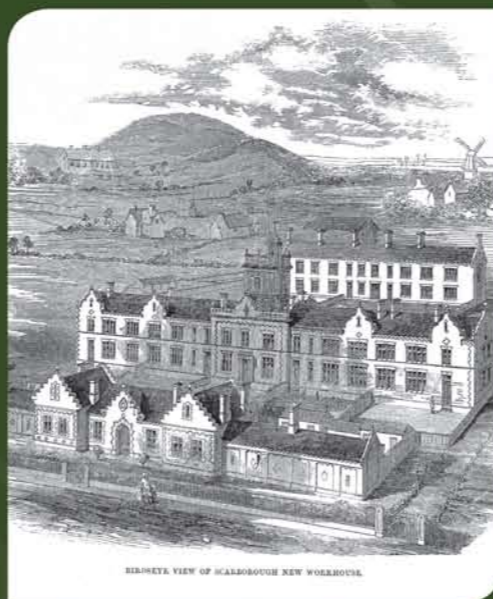
# the Mortuary

The mortuary was designed and built in 1856 by Pritchett and Sons of Darlington and York. Pritchett and Sons were well known for their design of cemetery buildings, and also designed the layout and buildings at Fulford Cemetery in York.



You may wonder why a mortuary was built here inside the south boundary wall of Dean Road Cemetery. In 1843 Edwin Chadwick wrote a report recommending that public mortuaries should be provided where corpses could be securely and decently placed until they could be buried. The Public Health Act of 1848 enabled local boards of health to provide mortuaries. The usual practice at that time was for bodies to be laid out at home until the funeral, but this could give rise to health risks if the deceased had died from an infectious disease or if the family was living in cramped conditions. The building was also used to house the bodies of anonymous paupers and for those who died whilst on holiday in the town.

For many years the building has been known locally as the 'Dead House'; the word 'mortuary' was first used for this type of building in 1862, six years after the building was first used.



The new Scarborough Workhouse opened nearby in 1858 on Dean Road, two years after the mortuary was built and the 'Dead House' is likely to have been used for the bodies of those who had the misfortune of dying there.

The walls of the building are constructed of brick with an outer covering of coursed yellow sandstone, thought to have been quarried in West Yorkshire. The roof is covered with blue Welsh slate, laid with several decorative courses of rounded states known as 'fish tails'. The materials and detailing of the building match those of the Chapel in the centre of the Cemetery.



Internally the building is quite plain, other than for an attractive Minton tiled floor and white glazed tiles which line the lower portion of the walls. The wall tiles are laid diagonally as was the fashion at the time with a trim of thinner black tiles.

The Friends of Dean Road and Manor Road Cemetery, in partnership with Scarborough Borough Council, were awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the former mortuary building and the Secret Garden.

Some external stonework has been rebuilt and the roof was completely stripped and recovered. The work was done using material salvaged from the existing building, supplemented by matching materials reclaimed from elsewhere.



Follow the robin markers to find the Secret Garden.

Visit the Friends Group website [www.scarboroughcemeteries.co.uk](http://www.scarboroughcemeteries.co.uk) for more information and activity sheets.



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