

POCKLINGTON SCHOOL

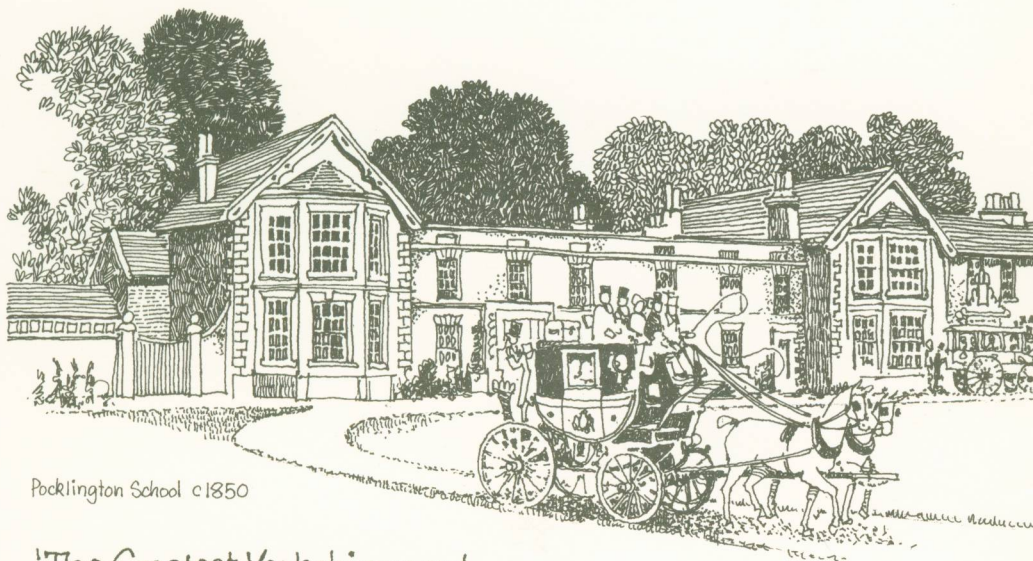
William Wilberforce Memorial 2007

Pocklington School (www.pocklingtonschool.com) was founded by John Dolman during the reign of King Henry VIII. Set in rural Yorkshire it is a co-educational boarding and day school of first class educational excellence, and of strong Christian values.



For nearly 500 years the School has educated young people with a broad range of abilities and interests. Many have gone on to achieve national and international recognition in a diverse range of professions. Of its former pupils, none is more distinguished than William Wilberforce.

William Wilberforce



Pocklington School c1850

'The Greatest Yorkshireman'

was born in Hull on the 24th August

1759 the son of a wealthy merchant. He was a pupil at Pocklington School for five years, 1771-1776. His active mind, agreeable nature and talent for singing made him popular. A former classmate recalled that he 'greatly excelled all the other boys in his compositions'.

Proceeding to St. John's College Cambridge, Wilberforce went on to serve as Member of Parliament from 1780 until 1825 where he was the trusted friend of Prime Minister William Pitt. He is best known for his forty six year battle to achieve both the abolition of the slave trade (1807) and the end of slavery throughout the British Empire (1833). Driven by a deep and practical Christian faith he immersed himself in numerous areas of social and moral reform. These included improving the police, better accommodation for prisoners, free medical aid for the poor, education for deaf children, restriction on the use of child labour, action against



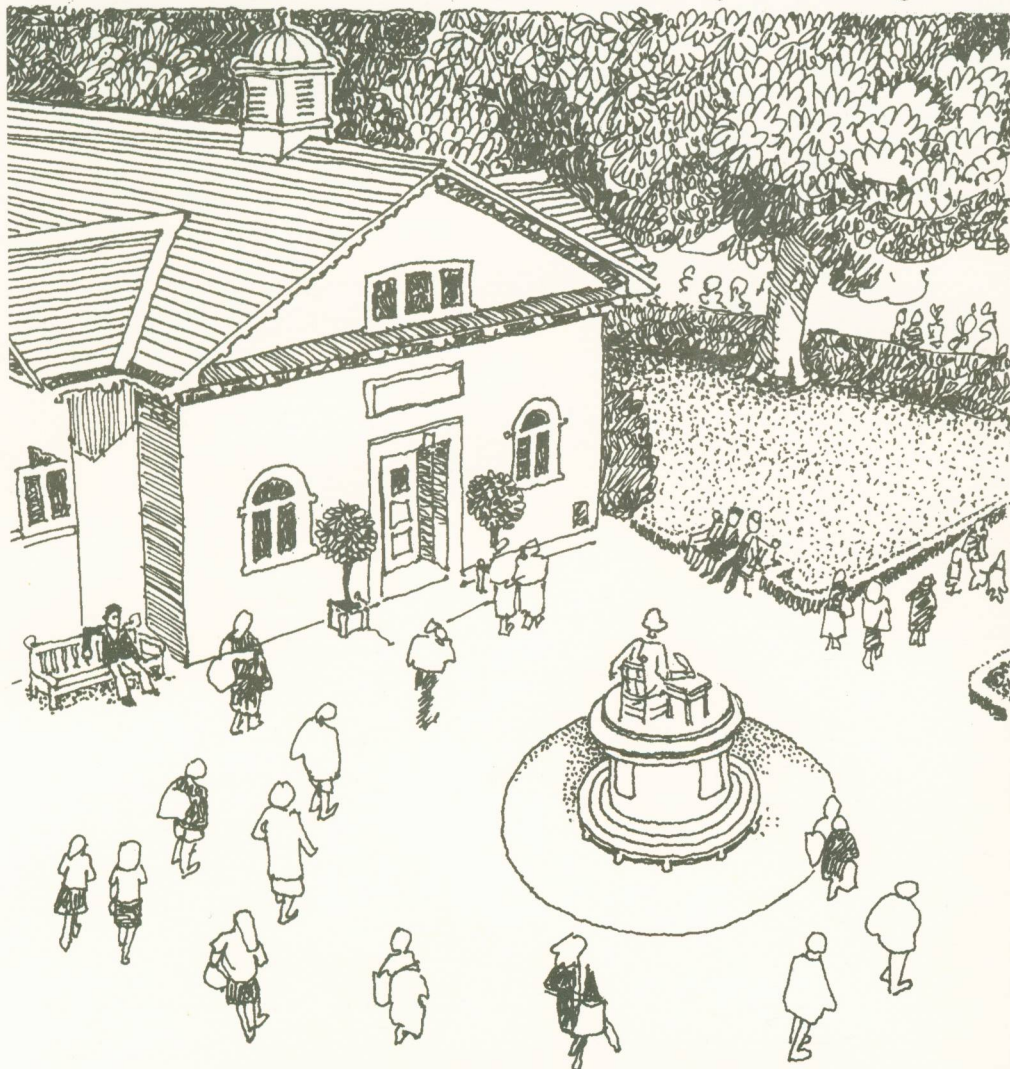
gambling, establishment of the RSPCA and the foundations of the Church Missionary Society and the Bible Society.

2007 is the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade. The school will in this year honour Wilberforce's myriad achievements by erecting a full size bronze sculpture. In contrast with statues in Hull, Cambridge and Westminster Abbey the Pocklington statue is intended to be of Wilberforce the schoolboy, perhaps seated at a desk, looking out on the 18th century world in which he would play such a part in the service of humanity.

Those who are acquainted with the school will be interested to know that the favoured location is the area in front of the Music School. The small car park will be fully pedestrianised and the statue will take centre stage within a landscaped courtyard surrounded by attractive seating where visitors and pupils will be able to relax.

A portrait of Wilberforce painted when he was eleven by the artist John Russell is likely to be the most important reference. This is held in The National Portrait Gallery and can be viewed online (www.npg.org.uk). The school also owns an oil painting of the young Wilberforce by the artist Arthur Devis.

The cost of the statue will be met solely by private donations, while the school will undertake the creation of the courtyard environment. Those who are sympathetic towards this project can receive further details including how to make a donation by contacting:



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