Pam’s oral history describes how Barry her husband decided to start an amateur dramatics group in the village. This is the full transcript.

“After meetings in the Red Lion and Wheatsheaf and no doubt after several pints of beer Barry Gill decided to start a drama group in Hambleton. He has been a founder member of Kippax Amateur Operatic Society and really enjoyed being part of such a group. It gave hin chance to sing.

It all began in September 1980 with the first meeting in the Chapel School Room. I think it safe to say that everyone involved came from the village. After much discussion they called themselves Hambleton Players and decided a suitable show for a traditional village would be a traditional pantomime. He adapted the script of babes in the Wood to become Babes in the Hough and the first performance was held in the Old School in 1981. It was a resounding success.

This was followed each year with a pantomime and a summer show. It was really good social group and in fact, still is. Many good friendships were made which have lasted to this day.

The aim of the whole thing was to enjoy themselves and to bring enjoyment to others – a thought to hang onto when rehearsals grow long and hard and the working parties seem endless.

So many people came forward with all sorts of talents and skills because everything had to be done from scratch. Scenery had to be designed built and painted, costumes made, music found, lights and sound sorted out apart from people who actually wanted to appear on stage.

Shows continued in the Old School until 1985 when the new Village Hall opened. The Old School had a lot of problems including a sage suffering from wet rot. That had to be re-built so apart from all the people with enough ability to put on shows we had people with enough know-how and building skills to sort the problem out. They re-built the stage with a rake on it.

Hambleton Players also went on tour. St George killed the dragon in the Wheatsheaf car park, the Red Lion car park, at Gateforth Hall and outside the Cross Keys at Hillam. Frank Millington ferried us about with his tractor and trailer and Dr. Mary persuaded Jim Price to feed us all at the Owl.

Players performed in the Owl, at Brayton High School, two Care Homes in Selby, at the Golf Club and in Sherburn as a benefit for the policemen who was shot by the IRA. His memorial stone is in Tadcaster. They danced around the Maypole in Church Close.

We must have had fundraising activities, but I can’t remember what we did. I know we had many meetings and rehearsals and that we had an incredibly good time.

Barry had a great deal of help over the years especially from Bev Attwood who took over when his health failed.

Players is still going strong 38 years on under the leadership of Fiona Conor. Long may it continue.”