

4 HIGH GREEN

PART OF THE CAPTAIN COOK SERIES

For many years treeless and used as rough pasture, the High Green is now the centre of the village. The far side of the green is dominated by the former Ayton Friends' School, opened by the Quakers in 1841 as the North of England Agricultural School.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Before the school opened, the extensive Cleveland Leather Tannery extended from the houses on the south side of the Green right down to the River Leven. The last proprietor of the tannery, Betsy Martin, lived at 18 High Green. Robert Dixon, brother of George Dixon (the first superintendent of the Friends' School) bought the two houses at the north east corner of the green. He came from Crook in County Durham, hence the names given to these two houses, 'Dixon House' and 'Crook House'. Jack Hatfield, the swimmer who won three medals in the 1912 Olympics, was born in one of the stone cottages in the terrace on the south west side of the green.

Water was drawn from the old Grey Well outside the present Worthy Pearson shop. It was often unfit to drink and was replaced by the pump on the corner of the green, the well beneath being dug by local miners.

For many years a corrugated iron building, known as 'The Tin Tabernacle' stood on the site of the car park. It was used as a cinema and later became a gymnasium for the Friends' School. The Royal Oak was once a coaching inn. The sundial over the entrance has an unusual message for a drinking establishment, the Latin translating as 'God comes to those who work'.

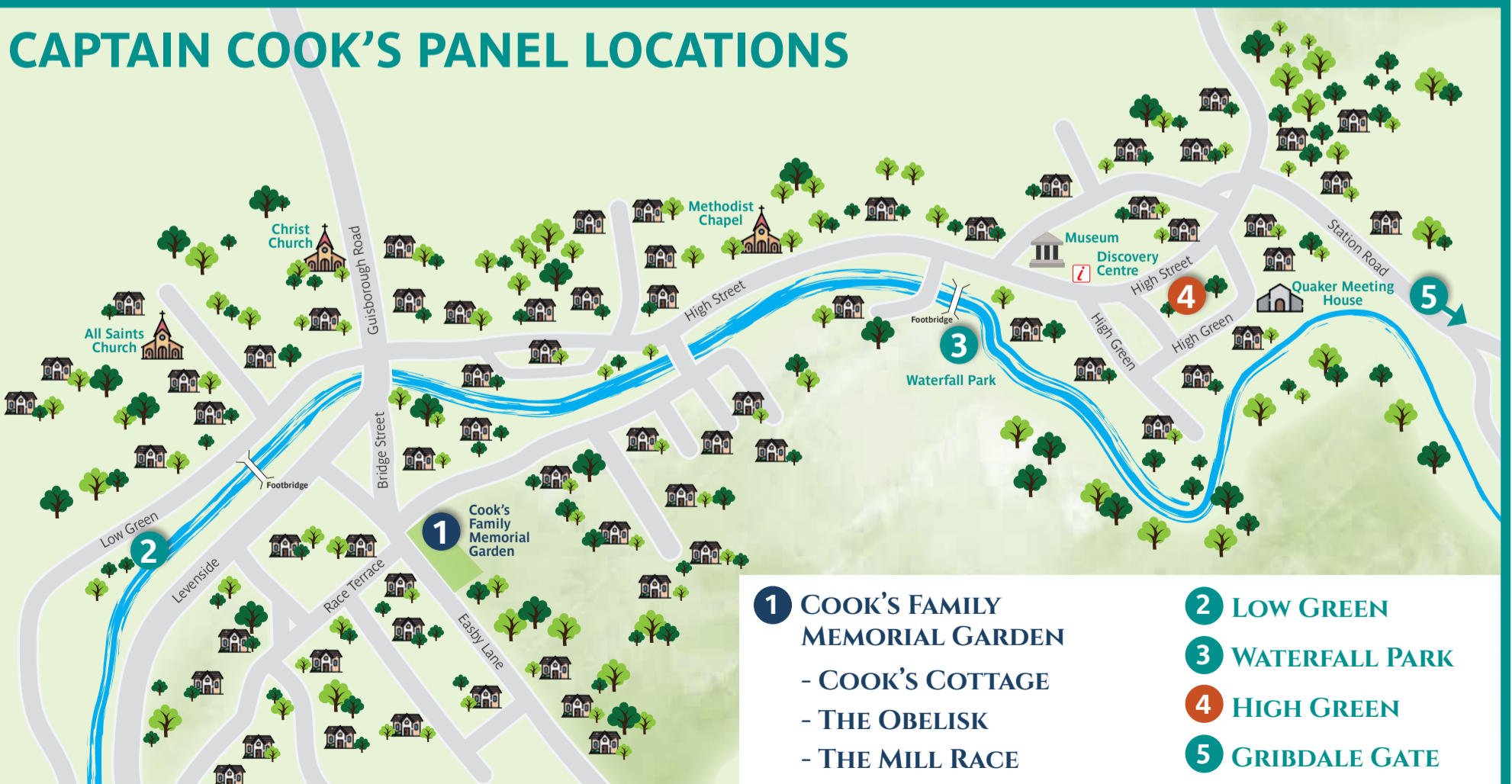
Nicholas Dimbleby's statue of James Cook as a boy was erected in 1997. Dimbleby worked back from a portrait of the adult Captain Cook to visualise how the young Cook might have appeared.



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The interpretation board is located on the east end of the high Green-opposite the Royal Oak Hotel. The High Green is the virtual centre of the village and hosts many attractions offered by the village including the statue of the Young James Cook by Nicolas Dimbleby. The School Room Museum is nearby. The centre of the village is picturesque as well as servicing the many needs of the visitor in terms of refreshment. There is ample car parking nearby.

CAPTAIN COOK'S PANEL LOCATIONS



- 1** COOK'S FAMILY MEMORIAL GARDEN
 - COOK'S COTTAGE
 - THE OBELISK
 - THE MILL RACE

- 2** LOW GREEN
- 3** WATERFALL PARK
- 4** HIGH GREEN
- 5** GRIBDALE GATE