

Doncaster

Population: 109,805 (2011 Census)

DEMOGRAPHY

In 2011, Doncaster had a population of 109,805 which makes it very slightly larger than Rotherham.

Doncaster compared 2011 Doncaster Metropolitan Borough of

		Doncaster
White British	84.9%	91.8%
Asian	5.3%	2.5%
Black	1.3%	0.8%

In 2011, 15.1% of Doncaster's population were non white British, compared with 8.2% for the surrounding Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster. This makes Doncaster more ethnically diverse than both Rotherham and Middlesbrough. Doncaster town has twice the percentage of Asian people compared with the borough, and a slightly larger percentage of black people.

THE ROMAN FORT AT DONCASTER

The history of Doncaster began when the Romans built a fort in the area about 71 AD. The Romans called the fort Danum. However in the 4th century Roman civilization declined and the last Roman soldiers left Britain in 407 AD.

After the Romans left a village there was a village by the fort. It was called Don ceaster. In time the name changed to Doncaster.

THE POINT

- The Point is made up of three houses (16, 16a and 17) all of which were built sometime in the mid 19th century. We bought 16/16a in 1996, renovated in 1997 and opened in 1998. This phase was funded by the Lottery and European funding. We expanded in 2006 to buy No 17(funded by a loan from the government which we're still paying off!) and spent 9 months refurbishing before opening in 2007.
- We've never been able to establish exact build dates but we do know that one of them was used a girls seminary for a while which is where the idea for the clock in the glazed link came from. We call the teacher Miss Legge as she was named on the census as living here (though whether she actually ran the seminary we don't know). The sculptor is Martin Smith.
- All three were used as coal board offices for most of the second half on the 20th century - 16a was still piled high with files and papers when we moved in. We've come across plenty of people who used to work here and have fond memories of the place.
- All three needed extensive work when we moved in - 16 and 16a had no foundations and 16a had no staircase. We opened it right to the eaves to repair and discovered the beams up there are old ship timbers (you can see them exposed in the Tea room and landing).

- Originally gardens, the car park had been tarmac-ed over by the time we bought the houses. We demolished the 60's block extensions that had been built at the back, dug down to create more height and built the gallery, glazed link, studio etc. Digging down meant we could link through to the park next door.

SOUTH PARADE

Doncaster is famous for horse racing. The St Ledger was first held in 1776. The Doncaster Cup is the oldest continuing regulated horserace in the world.

South Parade extends eastwards along the Great North Road. It marks the expansion of the town in the Georgian period and reflects the prosperity of the town brought about by its fashionable status as a racing town with the founding of the St. Leger.

Nearly all the buildings fronting on to South Parade are Georgian and are of three storeys formal design. They are grouped in several terraces with some individual buildings. There is one Victorian property which by its architecture contrasts with the rest of the buildings. The Parade separates the buildings from the main road and rises towards Hall Cross Hill, where Hall Cross is situated. The Hall Cross monument is contemporary with the Georgian terraces and is the focal point.

There is a wide use of stucco, especially on the Georgian buildings, and natural slate roofs. Sash windows and panelled doors are used to give the formal architecture mentioned above, as well as bow and tri-partite windows, railings and balconies.

There are seventeen listed structures in the conservation area, which includes all the buildings fronting on to South Parade, Hall Cross and the stone wall on Hall Cross Hill.

The origin and development of South Parade and its continuation of Bennetthorpe is linked to the Roman times, with the fort of Danum being constructed in 70AD on a crossing point near to the River Don. This crossing point was approached from the south by a road from Bawtry, which linked into the present High Street. This is likely to be on the same line of Bennetthorpe.

Before the end of the 18th century, the area now known as South Parade was rural and on the edge of town. The development of the area relates to its position on the Great North Road and the link to the Racecourse, where horse racing commenced in 1778.

NIGHTLIFE

The Silver Street, Cleveland Street and High Street areas have over 40 bars and clubs within a 2–3 minute walk of each other and other bars can be found on Priory Walk, Lazarus Court, Bradford Row and around the Market Place. Various restaurants serving food from around the world can also be found in the town centre, especially in the Netherhall and Copley Road areas.

MANSION HOUSE

Doncaster has traditionally been a prosperous area. The borough was known for its rich landowners with vast estates and huge stately homes such as Brodsworth Hall, Cantley Hall, Cusworth Hall, Hickleton Hall, Nether Hall and Wheatley Hall. This wealth is

evidenced in the luxurious and historic gilded 18th-century Mansion House on High Street, 1744-50 - architect was James Paine.

Doncaster's elegant Mansion House, a focus of civic pride, has dominated the High Street for over two hundred and fifty years. It is one of only four surviving civic Mansion Houses in the country. The first was built by the corporation of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1691, but was demolished in the redevelopment of the town centre in the mid-nineteenth century. York began its own Mansion House in 1725, followed by London in 1739 and finally by Bristol in 1783.

The Bristol mansion house was built solely as a home for the mayor and the mansion houses of London and York provided accommodation for the mayor as one of their functions. Doncaster Mansion House, however, was designed as a place for corporate entertaining and, although there were several rooms to provide living accommodation, the house was never intended as a residence for the mayor in his year of office, although a few mayors made use of the rooms for this purpose.

DONCASTER IN THE 19TH CENTURY

By 1831 Doncaster had a population of 10,000. By the standards of the time it was quite large. However like all towns in those days it was dirty and unsanitary and many of the inhabitants lived in squalid and overcrowded conditions. However things improved in the late 19th century when sewers were built in Doncaster and a piped water supply was created. An infirmary opened in Doncaster in 1853. The first free public library in Doncaster opened in 1869.

A new Guildhall was built in 1847 and a Corn Exchange, where grain was bought and sold was built in 1873. Meanwhile the railway

reached Doncaster in 1849. Railways meant the end of the stagecoaches but they brought new prosperity to the town. The first public library in Doncaster opened in 1869.

St Georges Church was rebuilt in 1858. It was designed by the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878).

In 1827 the Corporation decided to light the streets of Doncaster with gas. Doncaster gained electric light in 1899.

In 1853 the Great Northern Railway moved its engine building works from Boston to Doncaster. The engine works became the main employer in the town. In the late 19th and 20th centuries industry in Doncaster was dominated by engineering.

MARKET PLACE

In 1248 a charter was granted for Doncaster Market to be held around the Church of St Mary Magdalene, built in Norman times. In the 16th century, the church was adapted for use as the town hall. It was finally demolished in 1846.[9] Some 750 years on, the market continues to operate, with its busy traders located both under cover, at the 19th-century 'Corn Exchange' building (1873)[10] and in outside stalls. The Corn Exchange was extensively rebuilt in 1994 after a major fire.

The biggest and best traditional market in the North with some 400 shops, stalls and stands, Doncaster Market has been the heart of the town for hundreds of years.

Occupying around 25% of Doncaster's attractively refurbished pedestrian centre, the Market precinct is truly impressive, incorporating four large indoor market halls – each with their own

distinctive character – surrounding extensive and bustling outdoor markets.

You will find Doncaster Market fully open on three market days each week - Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

On Wednesdays the outdoor market area hosts an impressive antique and bric-a-brac market.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays some traders, including fishmongers and fruit sellers, are also likely to be open for business.

Our four indoor markets

The Fish Market

One of the biggest fish markets to be found anywhere, our fifteen fishmongers sell a huge array of seafood. Fresh game, rabbits, hare, venison and boar are also sold when in season.

The International Food Hall

The UK's finest dedicated food market, selling high-quality goods from local butchers and bakers, to more exotic flavours from across Europe and beyond.

The Corn Exchange

This fine Victorian listed gem houses a wide range of quality retailers selling household linens, fashion, and furnishing. Upstairs, arts and crafts traders produce goods while you wait.

The Wool Market

The largest of our market halls and also our most diverse, where we're sure you'll be able to find pretty much anything and everything you'd expect.

The Outdoor Market

From carpets to phone accessories, flowers to army surplus, our lively mix of day traders on traditional stalls and lock-up market units never fails to impress.

ST. GEORGE'S MINSTER

St George's Minster, constructed in the 19th century and promoted from a parish church in 2004. The Doncaster skyline is dominated by the minster in the middle of the town.

The Frenchgate Shopping Centre holds an important position in the skyline, along with the Doncaster College Hub building and Cusworth Hall. Cusworth Hall is an 18th-century Grade I listed country house in Cusworth, near Doncaster. Set in the landscaped parklands of Cusworth Park, Cusworth Hall is a good example of a Georgian country house.

BAXTERGATE, ST SEPULCHRE GATE, PRINTING OFFICE STREET

DONCASTER IN THE MIDDLE AGES

In the 12th century Doncaster grew into a busy town. In 1194 King Richard I gave Doncaster a charter (a document granting or confirming certain rights). In the Middle Ages Doncaster was a busy little market town although it would seem tiny to us. In 1204 Doncaster suffered a disastrous fire. In the Middle Ages most buildings were of wood so fire was a constant hazard. On the other hand if buildings did burn they could be easily be replaced.

The street name gate is derived from the old Danish word 'gata' which meant street. In Medieval towns craftsmen of one type tended to live in the same street. Baxter is an old word for baker so Baxtergate in Doncaster was the baker's street. Frenchgate may be named after French speaking Normans who settled there.

In the 14th century friars arrived in Doncaster. The friars were like monks but instead of withdrawing from the world they went out to preach. In 1307 Franciscan friars arrived in Doncaster. They were called grey friars because of the color of their costumes. Carmelites or white friars arrived in the middle of the 14th century.

During Medieval times, craftsmen or tradesmen with similar skills, tended to live in the same street. Baxter is an ancient word for baker; Baxtergate was the bakers' street. Historians believe that 'Frenchgate' may be named after French-speaking Normans who settled on this street.

The Medieval township of Doncaster is known to have been protected by earthen ramparts and ditches, with four substantial gates as entrances to the town. These gates were located at Hall Gate, St Mary's Bridge (old), St Sepulchre Gate and Sunny Bar. Today the gates at Sunny Bar are commemorated by huge 'Boar Gates'; similarly, the entrance to St Sepulchre Gate is commemorated with white marble 'Roman Gates'.

The boundary of the town principally extended from the River Don, along what is now Market Road and Silver, Cleveland and Printing Office streets.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION & TRANSPORT LINKS

During the Industrial Revolution the railway came to Doncaster, and the Great Northern Railway established the Doncaster Locomotive and Carriage Building Works. The reasons for this were Doncaster's communication links, the necessity to transport coal quickly and efficiently and Doncaster's expertise in specialist metal products. An extensive housing programme was undertaken for the increased population.

Today, Doncaster railway station, on the East Coast Main Line, is linked to many towns and cities across the UK such as Wakefield, Leeds, Hull, Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham, London, York, Darlington, Newcastle upon Tyne, Berwick upon Tweed, Edinburgh, Motherwell, Glasgow, and Lincoln.

Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield Airport - Doncaster is a European hub with a new international airport, Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield opened in 2005. Doncaster International Railport facilities link to the Channel Tunnel.

DONCASTER IN THE 20TH CENTURY

From 1902 electric trams ran in the streets of Doncaster. However trolleybuses replaced the trams in the years 1928-1931. The trolleybuses were in turn phased out in the years 1961-1963.

Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery opened in 1909. (A new purpose built museum opened in 1964). Also in 1909 Britain's first aviation meeting was held in Doncaster. Elmfield Park opened in 1923.

In 1914 the Borough of Doncaster was extended to include Hexthorpe, Wheatley and Balby. Doncaster grew rapidly in the early

20th century and by 1951 it had a population of 83,000. Furthermore in the 20th century Doncaster became known for its butterscotch.

Doncaster escaped relatively lightly during the Second World War although there was a serious attack in May 1941 when 2 parachute mines fell on the town.

The Frenchgate Centre (originally called the Arndale Centre) was built in Doncaster in 1967 and Waterdale Centre was built in 1969.

WATERDALE

Most of the old Doncaster College, the Council House and surrounding buildings have been demolished, and work has commenced to replace them with more modern facilities including a new theatre, council house and hotel which together will form the Doncaster Civic and Cultural Quarter.

SIR NIGEL GRESLEY SQUARE - POLITICS

Doncaster is represented in the House of Commons by three MPs; all three constituencies are currently held by Labour. Rosie Winterton represents Doncaster Central, Ed Miliband represents Doncaster North, and Caroline Flint represents Don Valley.

At a European level, Doncaster is part of the Yorkshire and the Humber (European Parliament constituency) constituency and is represented by six MEPs.

Doncaster is one of only twelve UK boroughs to have a directly-elected mayor, a position currently held by Labour's Ros Jones.

In the 2016 EU Referendum, Doncaster voted 69% to leave the European Union, despite receiving £133 million in funding since 1994.

DONCASTER STILL PART OF SCOTLAND

It is not just Scotland on the verge of breaking away from the UK - a small pocket of South Yorkshire could go with it.

The town of Doncaster could be left in limbo if the Scots vote for independence, due to a historical quirk which means it is officially part of Scotland.

The Yorkshire town was taken by the Scots in the 12th century when King David I seized vast swathes of northern England and it was signed over by King Stephen of England in the first Treaty of Durham.

English monarch Henry II and his forces regained control of the area 21 years later, but historians say Doncaster - dubbed 'Bonny Donny' by some Scots - was never formally given back.

Historians say the South Yorkshire town of Doncaster is technically part of Scotland due to an historic quirk.

While records indicate the area had reverted to the English crown by 1156, there is no documentary evidence of a formal return of the land.

CAST

Doncaster gained its first theatre in 1776.

Cast is the new £22 million venue opened officially on Monday 2 September 2013. Cast includes a 620-seat auditorium, a flexible studio space, drama studio, dance studio, education and ancillary space, and a large foyer with a café.

Come and join us. Be a part of a cast of thousands.