

EYLHS Newsletter 35

Summer / autumn 2016

Newsletter of the East Yorkshire Local History Society



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Contributions

Based in Hull it is not always easy to keep track of events in other parts of the Riding; news that members could contribute on their town or village should be sent to the editor.

Short articles, illustrated or unillustrated, news on libraries, archives, museums, societies or education, queries other people may be able to answer, etc. for inclusion in future newsletters should also be sent to the editor.

Newsletter

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News from the Society

Programme

Friday 2 September 2016

Visit to Aldby Park – the family home of Mr & Mrs George Winn-Darley

2.00pm

Mr & Mrs Winn-Darley will provide a guided tour of the house followed by tea.

Cost: £7 per person

Meet at the House

Max. no. 25 people

**Own transport

Aldby Park is situated in the village of Buttercrambe near Stamford Bridge.

The present house was built in 1726 and the Darley family has occupied this listed Georgian house from the time it was built to date, with the exception of the Second World War years when it was requisitioned by the Army and in the subsequent years when it was being restored (1961).

The former Tudor house was replaced by the current residence and the site has early links with a Saxon Palace and with early Christianity.....

NB This repeat visit is primarily intended for members who were unable to join the tour last year.

Friday 21st October 2016

Education Room, Treasure House, Beverley

2.00pm

'Finds Beneath your Feet'

Presentation by Rebecca Griffiths (Finds Liaison Officer, York Museums Trust)

- focusing on the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme and recent significant finds from North & East Yorkshire.

Cost: £3 per person

Max. no. 50 people

**Own Transport

Participation in events

As reported in previous years, it has not been possible to arrange group insurance for events. We therefore strongly recommend that members and their friends take out personal accident/loss insurance, or include this in their households policies. We would also stress the need for suitable clothing - in particular, sturdy footwear and waterproofs - for outdoor events.

Please note

There is usually a waiting list for most of the Society's events. If you book an event and then find you cannot attend, please inform the Programme Co-ordinator. Please do not transfer your booking to a relative or friend without first consulting the Programme Co-ordinator, whose telephone number can be found at the beginning of this section. Thank you.

Review of EYLHS Events

Guided tour of Brompton & visit to Eberston Hall

19 July 2016

The Village Hall in Brompton-by-Sawdon was the meeting place for today's visit and as we assembled under a clear blue sky it seemed summer had finally arrived. The ladies who were later to provide lunch for us, kindly offered welcome refreshments after which our tour started, led local historian Chris Evans,

not himself a native of Brompton but clearly well settled there now.

The parish of Brompton-by-Sawdon constitutes two villages, Brompton-by-Sawdon and Sawdon, the larger of which is Brompton with around 500 inhabitants. Brompton is in the North Riding, about 8 miles south-west of Scarborough on the A170 and has a community school, two cafes, a weekly Post Office and a butcher's shop renowned for its pork pies. Most of the village is in a Conservation Area which has a controlling influence on changes and developments in the area.

As the tour started Chris pointed out the grassy tree-covered mound behind us called Castle Hill, believed to contain the foundations of an ancient building. Brompton is said to have once been a residence of the Northumbrian Kings, but since the 17th century has been in the hands of the Cayleys, who were originally from Norfolk.

Passing the school and some attractive stone cottages we made our way to the medieval All Saints church which stands in an elevated position overlooking the fish ponds, in Spring it is surrounded by daffodils. It is a Grade I listed building, said to be one of the most beautiful and elegant village churches in Yorkshire. Opening the heavy oak door we went into the church where it was refreshingly cool, a welcome relief from the heat outside.

The church has a gallery at the west end, a Norman font, an attractively carved pulpit and octagonal piers of the arcade

bays of the south aisle. It contains some beautiful stained glass and particularly attractive is a window in memory of the 10th Baronet of Brompton, Sir Kenelm Cayley and his wife Elizabeth. This window contains images of rural village life, including pigs, sheep and a village cricket match. Amongst other items of interest is a memorial tablet dedicated to James Westrop dated 1580 and a copy of the marriage certificate of William Wordsworth. It was here on 4 October 1802 that he married Mary Hutchinson of nearby Gallows Hill. Also in the church is a beautifully restored funeral bier, this work was carried out by local craftsmen.



Outside in the churchyard are many old weather-worn headstones including a chest tomb to the Cayley family, and from here there is a beautiful view over the fish ponds and surrounding countryside. We made our way back to the village past the fish ponds, a farm and renovated cottages whilst Chris told us about Brompton's famous resident, aeronautical engineer Sir George Cayley (1773-1857). In 1853 he was the first person to fly a short distance in his Cayley Glider and in recognition of this, in 1974, his name was put into the International

Aerospace Hall of Fame as the first true pioneer of flight.



Walking back to the Village Hall, Chris pointed out the Free-Dwellings erected in 1835 for two poor widows of the parish, a former pub and the Methodist Chapel, both of which had been converted for residential use. The village has a interesting mix of old and new housing including large working farms and appears to be a well kept, thriving village and a pleasant place to live.

We were expecting a light lunch in the Village Hall but were astounded on entering the Hall to find a sumptuous spread laid out for us, kindly prepared by some of the village ladies, or 'angels' as Pat later referred to them in her vote of thanks - this was Yorkshire hospitality at its best! After taking our fill of the delicious food and drink we now felt ready for the second part of our journey, a visit to Ebberston Hall a few miles down the road, often called the 'smallest stately home in England'.

We were greeted at Ebberston Hall by Mrs de Wend Fenton but as the group was large and the property small, we split

into two groups. Ebberston Hall was built in 1718 by the architect Colen Campbell for William Thompson, MP for Scarborough, and his mistress, although she reputedly never visited it. Thompson's monogram can be seen above the door.

Following William Thompson's death in 1744 the estate passed to the Hotham family in 1771 and remained with them until 1814 when it was sold to George Osbaldestone, the sporting 'Squire of England'. By 1848 the Squire was heavily in debt and the estate was purchased by the Cayleys of Brompton who in turn sold the property to Major de Wend Fenton in 1941. By this time Ebberston Hall was in a sorry state of repair, but over the years and with the help of two government grants, a great deal of restoration work has been carried out both on the house and in the garden where all three waterfalls are now in working order.

The house is built of sandstone and consists of a raised ground floor and a basement storey. An impressive, sweeping flight of stairs leads up to the grand doorway, with the columns on either side of the door decorated with an icicle pattern. The ground floor contains only the entrance hall, dining room, drawing room and boudoir and two bedrooms. Much of the furniture is roughly contemporary with the house, including an 18th century spinet converted into a writing table. Particularly noticeable in each room are the richly carved and painted deep moulded cornices, these create an overall impression of height in this Palladian

gem. Following Italian precepts the rooms are all carefully proportioned.

In the grounds of the Hall is the 11th century church dedicated to St Mary the Virgin; it is Grade 2* listed. Over the centuries the church has been extended, partly rebuilt and enlarged with a tower added, a major Victorian restoration in 1869 took 12 years to complete. The church has an attractive Norman doorway, the nave and chancel are light and spacious with attractive stained glass. Mrs de Wend Fenton informed us that although her father-in-law is buried nearby, he is buried outside, rather than within the walls of the churchyard.

We all agreed that it had been a most interesting day and not only would it be remembered for the places visited but also the superb weather and, without doubt, the extent of the Yorkshire hospitality shown to us.

Sandra Dews

Donald Simpson

Donald Simpson (1933-2015) AGSM, LRAM, ARCO - a remarkable man.

I first met Donald in 1974 when I joined Bricknell Avenue Methodist Church Choir but it was many months before I actually spoke to him. He was a very private person but gradually I began to realise that music was not his only interest, and that he was also very interested in local history and architecture. In his will we were privileged to be given a choice of his large collection of books and only then did we appreciate how varied his

interests were. In addition to numerous books on music and local history we found books on art and architecture, cricket and humour.

Donald began piano lessons with Jane Beaumont when he was seven and studied organ with Eric Bell. He was accomplished enough to play the piano at Bricknell Avenue School and to be pianist at the early Sunday School (1940/41) which was the fore-runner of Bricknell Methodist Church. When recommended as an accompanist to local singers Jean Ward Skerrow and George Hunter at the age of fourteen, they were at first very dubious about his ability, but soon found him perfectly capable of playing difficult accompaniments and worked with him regularly for many years. Donald won numerous awards at festivals and achieved his LGSM performers and silver medal when only sixteen. While still in his teens he gave two radio performances and went on to study at the Guildhall School of Music where his tutors were Frank Laffitte (piano) and Allan Brown (organ).

In Hull, Donald's career was in teaching, from which he retired as head of music at Alderman Cogan School in 1988. Throughout this time he continued to be involved in many musical activities, always happy to give time to musicians great and small. His amazing ability to sight-read and transpose made him an invaluable accompanist - every nuance in a composition came out in his playing.

Bricknell Choir was founded in 1945 by Bert Drewery, organist and choirmaster.

Donald shared duties until 1974 when he took over as organist and later combined this with the job of Choirmaster. He very rarely missed services, commenting 'God doesn't have a holiday-why should I?' Throughout his life Donald composed many pieces for the choir, in addition to works for piano and organ. For many years the choir performed concerts on a regular basis in Holderness and other parts of the East Riding to support local churches. They also gave regular musical 'At Homes' and sang the cantata 'Song of Samaria', music by Donald Simpson, words by Roland Brown.

Donald's great enthusiasm for Gilbert and Sullivan operettas led to his position as accompanist for Haltemprice G. and S. Society, followed by periods accompanying other groups such as The Cottingham Singers and the Maureen Hunter Singers. He became an official accompanist for Hull Competitive Musical Festival and was always prepared to work with hopeful singers and instrumentalists in his own time. His fascination with Gilbert and Sullivan led to him seeking out a copy of 'The Zoo', music by Arthur Sullivan, words by B.C. Stephenson, followed by Bricknell Choir's performance of this rarely-heard operetta.

Donald was very much a Yorkshireman, reading the Yorkshire Post and always interested in local history. He had no desire to travel, turning down the opportunity to visit America with the Maureen Hunter Singers, but was persuaded to take part in church outings within Yorkshire and even venturing as far as Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and

Derbyshire. Having accompanied the Maureen Hunter Singers to Llangollen, he remarked that it was the first time he had been on a motorway! He was able to indulge his interest in architecture when he discovered Geoff Bell's lectures on local churches and enjoyed excursions to some of these on summer evenings. Before each visit he read up on the subject and was able to add his own comments to Geoff's discourse. On one occasion I noticed in a newspaper an organised visit to Harpham Church for which Donald agreed to act as chauffeur. We found that it was in fact a walk led by a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust ranger, fortunately not too long and in good weather! Donald rarely went away on holiday but with persuasion, agreed to go on residential visits to churches in other parts of the country, again organised by Geoff Bell. We discovered these to be the perfect excuse to invite Donald to celebrate Christmas/New Year - he was always happy to show slides of his trips (as were we to see them, since he always managed to see the humour in a picture or situation).

When not involved in musical activities Donald took a keen interest in cricket and was also a composer of crosswords. He regularly accompanied solo musicians in the area, including cellist Elspeth Attwood, and singers Jean Ward Skerrow and Pamela Runcieman. He was just as competent when accompanying the violinist Max Jaffa and singers Brian Kay and Vernon Midgely, all of whom applauded his skilful playing. One never to be forgotten occasion, on a frosty winter's evening, was listening to Donald

playing Mozart on the grand piano in the library at Sledmere House.

Donald continued as organist and choir accompanist until a short time before his death, which occurred appropriately while sitting at his piano with his last composition before him. He could have had a brilliant career as a solo pianist or professional accompanist nationally, but preferred to remain in his beloved Yorkshire. The loss to the wider world was very much our gain, and he is sorely missed.

Shirley Scotney

Bibliography

Norman Staveley *Two Centuries of Music in Hull*. Hutton Press

Geoff Drewery *Bricknell Avenue Methodist Church Souvenir Booklets*: 1) 1941-62, 2) 1941-91, 3) 1941- 2001 Bricknell Avenue Methodist Church

Graham Hunter, quoted in issue 592 of *'The Bricknell Link'*.

Brotherton Library, Leeds

The library, part of Leeds University, is to the north west of the city centre. Access to non-members is usually by applying for a day pass, however, on 9 September they are having an open day with tours as part of HODS (see meetings & events).

For the local historian the main attraction is the Special Collections that include University Archives, Brotherton Collection (books on Yorkshire history) and Whittaker Collection (maps, atlases, many of Yorkshire). There is a permanent,



Reading Room, 1936



Clothmakers Centenary Concert Hall, 1870



Great Hall, 1890-4

free, exhibition, highlighting items from the Special Collections.

The library is also worth visiting for its architecture. Opened 1936 with a circular reading room, marble columns, oak panelling and Art Deco fittings. The library is accessed from the Parkinson Building (administration block), also Art Deco.

The campus is worth exploring, built in three stages there are good buildings from all three periods and some pre-university buildings. Already existing features include St George's Field Cemetery, Beech Grove House, Little Woodhouse Hall and a Presbyterian Church converted to the University Clothworkers Centenary Concert Hall.

The early university buildings were designed by Alfred Waterhouse of Manchester based on his plans for Owen



Roger Stevens Building, 1967-70

College there. School of Textile and Design (Wool Division). 1878, Baines Wing, 1881-5, Great Hall, 1890-4. The Great Hall has a Burmantofts tiled staircase.

The second phase, 1920s-'50s, designed by Lanchester, Lucas & Lodge, includes the Brotherton Library. The first buildings were for Mining, 1928, Physics, 1932 and Chemistry, 1934.

The final phase, 1960s, by Chamberlin, Powell and Bon after Lodge retired. The buildings are centred around Chancellors Court, main block being Roger Stevens Building, 1968-70.

The University also houses the Marks and Spencer Archive, which has a good, free, exhibition area. Nearby is the Business School, former Grammar School, 1859. Robert Barnard

Mortimer 100

Mortimer 100 is an Arts Council funded project, through the Designation Development fund, which focuses on one of the founding collections of our museum and its collector. Over his lifetime, the corn merchant J.R. Mortimer (1825-1911) collected many significant prehistoric objects which were acquired by Hull Museums in 1913 and unpacked in 1918. He also was an important figure in the history and development of archaeology.

Over the course of this project we [Hull and East riding Museum] will be researching documents associated with the collection which should provide us with insights into the collection and how Mortimer worked. We will also document objects from the Mortimer collection, particularly the lithics (stone tools), increasing their accessibility. Studying the paper archive and objects we will be able to assess their state of preservation and assess whether any of the material requires attention from a conservator too.

Updates will appear on the Museums blog <http://museumshull.blogspot.co.uk/>

Bridlington Old Town Heritage Open Day

10 September 2016, as part of HODS.
10:30am Guided tour of the Priory and Old Town
10:30-4:00 Book signings by local authors at a Old Town Gallery

11:00-4:00 Free entry to Bayle Museum
1:00-4:00 'It's all about Heritage', Priory Church Rooms, Church Green, sort talk on William Kent and local society stalls, including EYLHS

Local History Meetings & Events

18 August 2016 *Hessle Local History Society*, Keith Hare 'The making of The Square', Town Hall, South Lane 7:15pm

7 September 2016 *Howden Civic Society*, Godfrey Bloom, 'The Battle of the Somme', Masonic Hall, Selby Road, 7:30pm

8-11 September 2016, *Heritage Open Days*
<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/vi> siting

10 September 2016, *Hull Geological Society*, Roadshow, Trinity Square

10 September - 8 October 2016 *Hedon Museum*, Larry Malkin & Homeworx "Born with a brush in hand"

13 September 2016 *Lunchtime Club* Dr Bernie Eccleston 'Hull Corporation's fated North Riding reservoir project 1932-70' Hull History Centre 12:30-1:30pm

13 September 2016 *Wetwang History Group*, Malcom Brook, 'The Baedeker Raids on York', Wetwang Community Hall, 7:30pm, £3

13 September 2016 *Beverley Civic Society* Mitchell Pollington 'The Archaeology of

- the Southern Relief Road' Beverley Arms Hotel 7:30pm
- 13 September 2016 *Scarborough Civic Society*, a walk in the Old Town, start at Town Hall Gardens, 2:00pm
- 15 September 2016 *Hessle Local History Society*, Michael Free 'The Barkworths of Tranby', Town Hall, South Lane 7:15pm
- 17 September 2016 *British Association for Local History*, County Societies Symposium 'Discussing 21st Century Challenges' Wolfson Suite, Institute of Historical Research, London <http://www.balh.org.uk/events>
- 22 September 2016 *Pocklington History Group*, Phil Gilbank & Andrew Sefton 'A little bit of Pocklington in Detroit', The Old Court House, George Street, 7:30pm, £2
- 11 October 2016 *Lunchtime Club* Sam North 'A forgotten history? Remembering and representing slavery in the post-apartheid Cape' Hull History Centre 12:30-1:30pm
- 11 October 2016 *Beverley Civic Society* AGM followed by 'Beverley on Film' Beverley Arms Hotel 7:30pm
- 11 October 2016 *Scarborough Civic Society*, David Winpenny, 'Design', Library, Vernon Road, 2:30pm, £2
- 12 October - 12 November 2016 *Hedon Museum*, paintings by Julie Marshall & ceramics by Rachel Ehlert
- 15 October 2016 *Family History Open Day*, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Springfield Way, Hull, 10am-4pm
- 20 October 2016 *Hessle Local History Society*, Paul Schofield 'Personalities of Hull', Town Hall, South Lane 7:15pm
- 20 October 2016, *Hull Geological Society*, Prof Mark Seaward & Mike Horne, 'Geolichenology of churchyards', Department of Department of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Cohen Building, University of Hull, 7:30pm
- 21 October 2016 *Pocklington History Group*, Cris Cade, 'George Hudson, the Railway King', The Old Railway Station, Pocklington School, 7:30pm, £2
- 29 October 2016 *Local History Book Fair*, Memorial Hall, Beverley, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Organised by EYLHS
- (?) November 2016, *Hull Geological Society*, Dr Sarah King of the Yorkshire Museum, Department of Department of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Cohen Building, University of Hull, 7:30pm
- 8 November 2016 *Lunchtime Club* Alan Deighton 'A shocking case of starvation in Hull' Hull History Centre 12:30-1:30pm
- 8 November 2016 *Beverley Civic Society* The Margaret Powell Memorial Lecture by David Neave 'Lost Buildings of Beverley' Beverley Arms Hotel 7:30pm

8 November 2016 *Scarborough Civic Society*, David Fowler, 'Sown with Corn', Library, Vernon Road, 2:30pm, £2

10 November 2016 *Pocklington History Group*, Gareth Hughes, 'The Somme: futile tragedy or birthplace of victory?' The Arts Centre, Pocklington, 7:30pm, (price to be decided)

12 November 2016 *Family History Open Day*, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 725 Holderness Road, Hull, 10am-4pm

19 November 2016 *Family History Open Day*, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Manor Row, Beverley, 10am-4pm

13 December 2016 *Lunchtime Club* 'A Cast of Thousands - staff talk about their favourite documents from amongst the collections' Hull History Centre 12:30-1:30pm

13 December 2016 *Beverley Civic Society* Chris Blackburn 'Mercy Ships' Beverley Arms Hotel 7:30pm

15 December 2016, *Hull Geological Society*, Dr Anna Bird, 'Metamorphism of the Caledonides of Scotland, deformation of a mountain belt', Department of Department of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Cohen Building, University of Hull, 7:30pm

10 January 2017 *Pocklington History Group*, Short talks evening, The Old Court House, George Street, 7:30pm, £2

19 January 2017, *Hull Geological Society*, Ian Heppenstall, 'Geology of Grassington', Department of Department of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Cohen Building, University of Hull, 7:30pm

(?) February 2017, *Hull Geological Society*, Dr Mike Widowson of Hull University, Department of Department of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Cohen Building, University of Hull, 7:30pm

16 February 2017 *Pocklington History Group*, Paula Ware, 'Burnby Lane Archeological Dig', Pocklington Arts Centre, 7:30pm, £2

23 March 2017 *Pocklington History Group*, Sheila Dixon, 'The Titanic and its local connections', The Old Court House, George Street, 7:30pm, £2

23 March 2017, *Hull Geological Society*, Prof Patrick Boylan, 'The World Heritage Convention and the protection of earth science areas and sites of "outstanding universal value' Department of Department of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Cohen Building, University of Hull, 7:30pm