

News from the Society

Programme

As usual, the Society has arranged a full programme of lectures and excursions. Please support the events and bring along your friends. Please do not hesitate to ask for lifts; you will be expected to contribute to petrol.

PLEASE NOTE: Please make all cheques payable to the East Yorkshire Local History Society. All cheques and booking slips should be sent to the Programme Co-ordinator - Pamela J Martin (Tel no 01482 442221; e-mail pjmartin@pjmartin.karoo.co.uk)

Please note the terrain is uneven. Max. No. 15 people in each party. The address is: Butt Farm Caravan Site, Victoria Road, Beverley HU17 8PJ. Directions: Travelling north on the A63, turn left before Morrisons Roundabout, Beverley. Look for sign which directs you to Butt Farm Caravan site. The site can be Googled. **Own Transport

Final details to follow. Please complete the Booking slip in order to show expression of interest

Saturday 21st October 2017

11.00am – 12.30pm
Guided Walk of Reformation Hull
Guide: Helen Good
October marks the 500th anniversary of the start of the reformation in Germany. The reformation was very significant in the history of Hull.
Meet at South Porch of Holy Trinity Church (where walk will also finish)

Cost: £5 per person
Max. No. 15 people
Recommend appropriate footwear
Car parking is available in King William House opposite the East end of the church.
**Own Transport

Saturday 29th October 2017

Local History Book Fair
Venue: Holy Trinity Parish Church, 10 King St, Hull, HU1 2JJ
10.00am – 03.30pm
Free Entry
**Own Transport

Saturday 4th November

Education Room, Treasure House, Beverley
2.00pm – 3.30pm
'Fun, Fact and Fantasy'
Talk/presentation by T H Trezise
An audi-visual presentation consisting of several sets of photographs complete with suitable background music and commentary. Includes historic content of places visited.
Cost: £2 per person
Max No. 40 people
**Own Transport

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

Butt Farm, Beverley

5 April 2017

Although morning and afternoon visits were originally planned, due to the lack of numbers only the morning visit took place with about 18 members attending. Butt Farm is a working family farm situated just off Victoria Road, Beverley. It lies to the north of Bentley and the OS map reference for the site is TA 019370. The farm also has attractive facilities for camping and caravanning for which it has recently been awarded an East Yorkshire Tourism award. However, it's other and possibly little known attraction, is the presence of a World War II Gun Battery that lies within a 5 minute walk of the farm buildings.

We were greeted with refreshments and home made Anzac biscuits whilst our guide for the visit, local historian Dennis Chapman, told us a little bit about the history of the site. The gun site or Battery, known as H31, was one of about 50 permanent gun sites located on both sides of the River Humber during the Second World War as this area had been identified as a location to be defended by guns against anticipated enemy aerial attack. The fears were well founded as Hull suffered a great deal of bomb damage during the war with over 1,000 fatalities and 87,000 houses damaged. This Battery became operational during 1941 with four 3.7 inch guns operated by men of the 62 Heavy Anti-Aircraft (HAA) Regiment. This was one of the few sites in the country where women members of the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service)

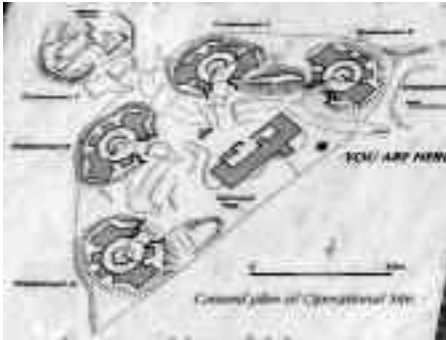
carried out other duties on site apart from those associated directly with guns.

When operational the site would have had about 300 permanent personnel, half of which were female, with most of the accommodation huts located on what is now the Caravan site. At the end of the war this gun battery was retained for use in case of any subsequent enemy action but was declared redundant in the mid 1950s. As the site was unsuitable for any useful agricultural use it was abandoned and Mother Nature gradually took over, enveloping the site beneath a blanket of vegetation, brambles and thistles. In 2014 the new owners of Butt Farm realised they had inherited an important and rare piece of the nation's military heritage, and with the help of the Hull St Cuthbert's Scout Group much of the rubbish and vegetation was cleared. The owners will soon be embarking on the next phase of the restoration programme and with the support of Historic England hope to have the site fenced with the addition of more information boards describing the history and purpose of each building.

Dennis then directed us over to the main part of the battery site some 400 yards away, adding much to our surprise, that during our visit we would see a Heinkel bomber. The weather was dull and cool but thankfully dry as we walked along the brick paved path, passing en route a sadly dilapidated building of corrugated iron that had once been the guard room, although plans were in hand to restore it.

The site originally had five octagonal gun emplacements built into the surrounding

earth banks but only four have been uncovered, and with warnings about health and safety from Dennis we made our way carefully into one of these structures. Built of sturdy brick, each emplacement had one entrance and two shelters, one was used as a resting place by the crew and the other for gun maintenance. There were also seven ammunition recesses and in the centre of the gun emplacement was a large concrete slab where the 3.7 inch gun had been held securely in place.



Raised platform

Leaving the gun emplacements we then explored the command post, this is positioned within the semi-circle formed by the gun emplacements. Built of brick

it is half sunk into the ground, rectangular in shape with a flat concrete roof. The command post contained six rooms and Dennis pointed out the open platform on which the spotting telescope, predictor and height finding equipment were positioned. We made our way carefully down some concrete steps and passed through a couple of other rooms until we reached the plotting room, the hub of activity during the battery's operational use. It was here that the information from the predictor and height finder was analysed before being transmitted via underground cables to the semi-automatic guns. The height finder and predictor were used to calculate where an aircraft would be by the time any shells from the gun could reach it, and it was here that the female members of the ATS were employed. To make it easier for women to reach the equipment areas of platform were raised with bricks, still visible today as can be seen in the photograph. Another concession granted to the ladies of the ATS was central heating and Dennis pointed out the position of the boiler room, but it was easy to imagine the command post being generally cold and draughty as ventilators in the walls were positioned in such a way as to allow fresh air in but prevent light escaping from the rooms.

Throughout the site were human remnants of the past such as writing on the walls and old wooden coat hooks, but Dennis had brought the site to life for us with his informative and detailed explanations supported by several archive photographs. He was thanked warmly by Pam as we all enjoyed the last of the Anzac biscuits and more

refreshments. So what about the Heinkel bomber we were promised - yes, sure enough it was there hanging from the roof of the guard room - a toy plane, turquoise in colour and about five inches in length that we had all walked past!

Sandra Dews

Visit to Boynton Hall

7 July 2017

It was a beautiful morning when over 20 members arrived by car along the tree lined drive over the ornamental bridge crossing the Gypsy Race to reach the attractive Boynton Hall near Bridlington. Mr and Mrs Marriott greeted us on arrival and introduced our guide Mr Michael Mortimore a local historian.

We began on the lawn on the south side surrounded by stunning gardens while Mr Mortimore described the history of the building from its exterior features. The Manor of Boynton was purchased by a William Strickland in the 1590s and pulled down the old manor house replacing it with Boynton Hall. The house we see now was built to enclose the original Tudor building. In the grounds is a Tudor banqueting hall but inside we learnt about the Strickland family history illustrated by paintings and portraits which followed us around the tour of the house. It was explained that the house was eventually sold to a Mr Cook in the 20th century to save it from ruin but thankfully Mr Marriott a descendant of the Strickland family bought it and with tasteful decoration and period furniture turned it into a family home. On the staircase Mrs Marriott pointed out a piece

of panelling she had removed so the stonework of the original house could be seen. We saw a large comfortable sitting room on the first floor with a superb view from a Venetian window overlooking the gardens and a yew lined pathway which had been cleared and restored and now makes a good walk for their dog! We were intrigued to notice on occasions that Mrs Marriott disappeared and then returned through hidden doors in the alcoves.

This fascinating tour concluded in an amazing family kitchen both practical and cosy and we would love to have a room like it! On behalf of the members of the Society Pam Martin thanked our hosts for allowing us to visit their delightful home and when we left quite a lot of members visited the unusually decorated St Andrews church in the village with its splendid turkey lecturn.

Pam and Richard Walgate

A Visit to Octon and Rudston

4 June 2016

Approximately 25 of us met at the Octon Glebe Farm where we stepped into two very different periods of activity. It was such a popular day that our number forced us to split into two groups.

Mary Carrick gave us an understanding of seventeenth century perpendicular building works Octon. The masons could build five courses of brick in a day. One more course would cause the wall to slump rather than set up in the vertical position needed to continue the wall the following day. To mark a days work a different color brick was used for the fifth

course. This also proved how many days work the masons should be paid upon completion of the project. Another building, a former dwelling, offered a good look at wattle and daub construction.



Glebe House, Octon

Medieval Octon surrounded a Cistercian church establishment. Richard Myerscough used a 'dowsing rod' to show us the outline of the church foundations which will remain underground until the site attracts the attention of archaeologists. Dowsing lessons for all to test the boundaries of the church. It really works!

From Perpendicular Octon and Medieval Octon we went further back in time to imagine the mid-Jurassic period, some 200 million years ago. The high places overlooked former glacial lake formations. We were introduced to the Neolithic or Late Stone Age (4500-1500 BC) popularity of the Great Wold Valley, as we all made our way over the back roads toward Rudston to the monolith that is believed to be part the Stonehenge of the North. From the Rudston monolith in the church yard of

All Saints we were asked to imagine the post-glacial landscape of the Gypsy Race full of a flowing and deep river, deep enough to navigate a barge that may have carried the monolith from Whitby some 40 miles east. More to learn there. The church yard, while full of more modern graves, also keeps a crypt from Roman times and a cyst tomb from prehistory.



Rudston monolith

Mary Carrick gave us a walking tour of nineteenth century Rudston. We followed the percolating spring and stream bed that illustrates the fissure that passes through the Gypsy Race. There are two Methodists churches in Rudston. One is Wesleyan Methodist and one is Primitive Methodist. Being raised Methodist in a small town in southeastern Minnesota, USA I had to

wonder which of the church practices we had followed. More to learn there as well!

Candace F A Fish



Methodist Church, Rudston

William Kent Designs Prince Fredericks Barge 1732.

25 March 2017.

Following the AGM those who attended were treated to a most interesting illustrated talk by Susan C Reeves. By coincidence my current reading is The Oxford History of England, vol. XI, which contains the reference, ' Kent... besides designing houses and furniture devised a most beautiful barge for the Prince of Wales'. Who could imagine what was behind such a simple statement?

Susan started with an outline of Kent's early life; born 1686 in Bridlington, apprenticed as a coach and house painter in Kingston upon Hull before leaving for London and in 1709 for

Florence. He studied in Rome and in 1714 came under the patronage of Lord Burlington. He returned to London with Burlington where he subsequently undertook designs for Burlington's villa at Chiswick. From 1731 to 1732 he was commissioned to design a Royal Barge for Frederick Prince of Wales, son of George II and Queen Caroline.

This design, based on a traditional Thames waterman's wherry was translated into being by several craftsmen, with John Hall shipwright, based on the south bank of the Thames responsible for construction. It is clinker built with a length of 63 feet and beam of 8 feet, to be propelled by 21 oarsmen (possibly 20 rowers and a steersman). There is a significant overhang at the bow to facilitate disembarking against a bank with an elaborate dolphin prow (dolphins were a favourite on Kent furniture) and a high rise stern section to give the barge master a clear view of the river over the deck cabin. The upper sections of the hull and the cabin are covered with gilded mouldings and carvings which include waves, mermaids, vitruvian scrolls and oak swags, imaginary lions, scallop shells and dolphins. The stern carries mouldings of ostrich feathers in a scallop shell with the motto 'ich dien' surmounting the garter star and supported by dolphins and mermaids. These carvings are the work of James Richards who succeeded Grinling Gibbons as Master Carver to the Crown in 1721. All the gilding is by Paul Petit with two layers of gold leaf. The oars and rudder carry painted decoration which includes serpents, the tiller being surmounted by a crown. The deck cabin

had oak swags and scallop shells to match the sides and contained nine seats similarly decorated. On the fore part of the deck is the Princes' Rod which carried his standard as Commander of the Admiralty. After his death in 1751 the barge was used by successive monarchs and adorned with the Sovereign's crown.

Kent also designed the watermen's uniform which include a silver badge to be worn on the chest, fashioned by the Huguenot silversmith Paul de Lamiere.

In 1732 the barge was used for the first time to take Prince Frederick, Queen Caroline and the five princesses from the Chelsea Hospital to Old Somerset House to see the progress in cleaning and mending the Royal Pictures. Susan explained that it is thought that as Handel was staying at Burlington House whilst Kent was living there it is likely that a version of his Water Music was played on this occasion, the musicians travelling in a separate vessel. The last time the barge was used was at the opening of the Coal Exchange in 1849. From 1849 to 1951 it was stored at the Royal Barge House in Windsor Great Park. In 1951 King George VI placed her on loan to the National Maritime Museum. Unfortunately to save space whilst in storage she had been cut into three sections and consequently a great deal of restoration was required prior to being put on display.

Peter Haysom.

A visit to Gilling Castle, East Gilling, North Yorks.

29 August 2017

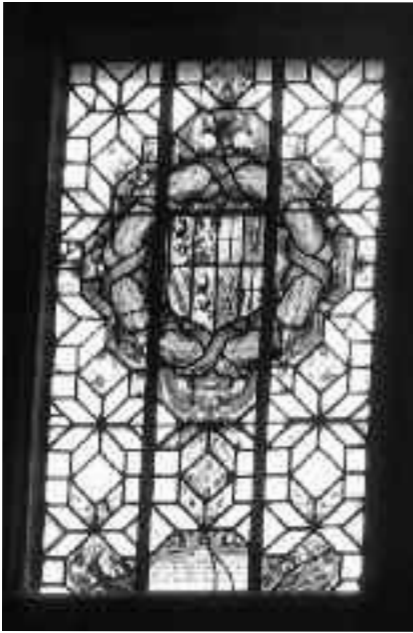
This little-known gem is invisible to anyone passing through the village. Access through the main gate is up a steep curving road to the top of an eminence, chosen originally for its strategic value dominating the valley below. The original structure was a large 'tower house', a simple plain rectangular keep erected by the Etton family, of East Yorkshire, and several carved stone shields on the original entrance display their arms. In the 16th century, then owned by the Fairfax family, two bays were erected with extensive glazing, which also pierced the once solid stone wall between.



Gilling Castle, west side

The windows are filled with heraldic glass recording the Fairfax marriages and alliances, a theme which is continued on a painted wooden frieze within the Great Chamber. The shields of the prominent families living in 22 Yorkshire Wapentakes are depicted as hanging from oak trees, and a variety of exotic and mythical animals fill the spaces below, an elephant, a camel, monkeys, dragon, unicorn and the like. Male and female figures playing lutes illustrate the entertainments which must have taken

place at gatherings of family and friends, in this impressive space, surrounded by constant reminders of the power and connections of the Fairfaxes.



Gilling Castle, heraldic glass

The interior is covered in oak panelling from the floor up to the frieze, each rectangular compartment decorated with a complicated geometric design, everyone different, created by marquetry inlays of fruitwood and holly. Filling each corner are representations of marigolds, honeysuckle and pinks. At the centre of the west wall is the fireplace with a huge carved wooden overmantel, again featuring Fairfax (and Etton) heraldry.

After the death of the last Fairfax the house passed through a number of hands, and was for a time leased by Frederick Grotrian, a Hull merchant, but

was eventually sold to a firm of 'housebreakers'. The glass and panelling were sold in 1930 for £23,000 to William Randolph Hearst the American newspaper magnate. The intention was to install them at St Donats Castle in Wales, where he had also planned to display his collection of arms and armour. Ampleforth College, only a short distance away, acquired the property as a preparatory school and Gilling Castle remains in this role to the present.



Gilling Castle, great chamber

Robert Thompson, the 'Mouseman' installed plain oak panelling to cover the now bare walls of the Great Chamber and provided solid simple furnishings throughout the building appropriate for its new use.

The outbreak of war in 1939 meant that the entire contents of the Great Chamber remained in crates for the duration and after hostilities ended they were offered for sale again. A special trust was set up in 1952 to raise money to buy back these Elizabethan treasures and Thompson made a contribution of £100. A bid of some £6000 was successful and Thompson supervised the reinstallation

of the original panelling, removing his own work which was reused elsewhere in the building.

In the 18th century the Castle had been transformed by Charles Gregory Viscount Fairfax (1700-1772), builder of Fairfax House (York), with a new frontage on the west side and the addition of two large wings. The whole was probably designed by William Wakefield, with elaborate plaster work by Joseph Cortese, though with apparently some input by John Carr of York. Henry Hindley a notable Yorkshire clockmaker provided a turret clock as he had done for the Bar Convent, York. An elaborate timepiece by Hindley can be seen at Burton Constable Hall, home of East Yorkshire's most prominent Catholic family.

The entrance hall survives intact, and the wings, but the magnificent interior of the Long Gallery was also removed by the 'house breakers'. When offered to the School in the 1950s reinstallation was no longer possible because in the meantime the ceiling had been lowered to allow space for a chapel to be created above the gallery. Fortunately the Bowes Museum was able to buy the fittings and partly reassemble them at Barnard Castle. The Great Chamber is still used as the school dining room and members of the society ate a very tasty buffet lunch here and were able to savour the delights of eating in an Elizabeth interior, the sun shining through the splendid heraldic glass.

The connections with East Yorkshire are strong, the builders of the original castle being the Ettons, and the Grotrian's (a

Hull mercantile family) leased it during the 19th century. Viscount Fairfax's second wife was Mary Constable, and Ann, the last of the Fairfax line, died unmarried but originally had been intended as the bride of William Constable in 1755. A devout Catholic she declined the marriage when she found that he was a 'free thinker' who did not regularly attend mass.

Arthur G Credland

'WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED'

The Post Office stands up against big business

By 1920, the firm of Reckitt & Sons Ltd. of Hull were still very much under family control. Sir James Reckitt, the son of the founder of the business was still nominally the Chairman although most of the direction of the Board was managed jointly by Arthur Reckitt and Thomas Ferens. Arthur, Albert, Arnold, Harold and Philip, all third generation of the Reckitt family were all Board members at the time.

Since 1852, the prosperity of the Company had virtually being based on the sales of three products, namely the original starch, a laundry blue with its catchy slogan, 'Out of the blue comes the white wash' and black lead. This third product was the all-important means by which all self-respecting housewives and domestic servants could ensure that their fireside grates should be a shining

example to their neighbours and mistresses.

In 1921 the company launched a new liquid grate polish which was believed to be a more modern and user-friendly product for the housewife. The new product was launched with the brand name of 'Zebo' liquid grate polish.

In an era well before the introduction of super-markets, selling to the public was through a myriad of corner shops dispensing everything from groceries to cornplasters. These goods were supplied by a fleet of travelling salesmen who would visit the shops in their area and take orders.

One important step in the process of introducing a new product was the distribution of free samples. This could be done most conveniently by sending such samples through the post.

Early in 1922, the Sales Department went through 'the customary routine of the GPO' to request this permission for Zebo. Permission was flatly refused.

Unaccustomed to being thwarted in what seemed to Reckitt's a routine request, the Board decided to send a delegation to meet and to persuade the technical officials of the GPO to reverse their decision. As a result an interview was arranged for March 7th 1922. Although a subsequent report does not state the venue it is most likely that the meeting took place at the GPO's HQ in London.

The Board decided to send a strong, three man team to represent the

Company. Leading the team was Albert Reckitt, director of the London office, recently moved to an imposing Georgian residence in Bedford Square. The second member of the team was Mr C H Hardy, a man who had joined the firm's laboratory staff in 1901 and had become the Technical director in 1914. The team was completed by Mr E B Fenton who was the manager of the London office.

The sole representative for the GPO at the meeting was Mr F L Henley, Superintendent Engineer of the GPO.

The outcome of the meeting was subsequently communicated to the Reckitt's Board in a report written by Mr Hardy.

It would seem that the meeting commenced in a rather aggressive manner. As Mr Hardy wrote:

'It was very evident that we were confronted by a hostile atmosphere. For the first few minutes Mr. Henley was somewhat discourteous. We made it very clear, however, that we were there to be heard and his attitude changed'.

Mr Henley explained that the matter of allowing Zebo to go through the post had been referred to him from 'higher authority'. Although not identified, it was likely that the 'higher authority' had been the Postmaster General, who had received a letter on the matter from Mr Ferens.

Mr Henley's decision to refuse the request for Zebo to go through the post had been based on the presence of an alcohol/water mixture in the product's

formulation. The alcohol present was methylated spirits with proportion of alcohol to water employed at 25 to 40.

The Reckitt's delegation pointed out that it was almost impossible to set fire to liquid Zebo. Mr Henley conceded the point but countered by saying that the alcohol/water mixture still gave off an inflammable vapour.



A Zebo advert taken from *The Ideal Home* magazine for May 1924 (Reproduced by courtesy of Reckitt Heritage, Hull)

A long discussion took place on the validity of the Abel closed cup test, a method of determining the flash point of combustible mixtures. Unconvinced, Mr. Henley maintained he had the duty to ensure the safety of postal workers and

mentioned a case where an alcohol lamp had caused a serious fire at a Manchester post office. Finally, he said he would only permit Zebo to be sent through the post if the alcohol/water mixture had a flash point above 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Unfortunately for Reckitt's, the flash point for Zebo was below that temperature.

Mr Hardy said the suggestion was very much appreciated and they were carrying out experiments to try to achieve this, 'but at the moment felt it was quite impractical to that end'.

In spite of all the arguments put forward by the Reckitt's men, Mr Henley stood firm by his decision and simply repeated that he was responsible for the safety of the mails and could not run any risk whatsoever.

As a parting shot the GPO man hinted that taking the matter 'higher' would not change the decision for if the question was referred to Sir Robert Robertson,* he would only say, 'Oh let Henley deal with this, he knows far more about it than I do'. Unsuccessful, the Reckitt's delegation left empty handed and disappointed. Mr Hardy 'conveyed this disappointment in a report to the Board. He confirmed that laboratory experiments were in hand to see if the flash point of the mixture could be raised. However, he concluded, 'It might be well to let the matter rest until our flash point experiments are completed'.

It is not known if the laboratory experiments were ever successful in raising Zebo's flash point. A more likely

scenario would have been that after a short period of marketing, the need to send samples through the post were no longer needed.

Zebo liquid grate polish continued to be produced in Hull well into the 1950s. As aerosol spray version was introduced in the 1960s, but a small production of Zebo paste, dispensed in 'toothpaste type tubes' was still being made and sold in certain markets by Reckitt Benckiser in 2002.

*Sir Robert Robertson (1869-1949) was a chemist and an expert on explosives. He was made a KBE in 1918 and appointed Government Chemist in 1921. One of the duties of his department was to act as a referee in disputes concerning the use of dangerous chemicals at work.

Bibliography

Hardy, C H '*Report upon interviews with Mr. F.L Henley of the GPO, March 7th 1922*'.

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Reckitt, B N *The history of Reckitt and Sons Ltd* A. Brown 8i Sons Limited, Hull 1958.

'*Rough form of Recipe for Zebo liquid grate polish*', Chiswick Polish Co. Manufacturing Book, Vol.3,1913-1924. Archived at Reckitt Heritage, Hull

Acknowledgement

The author would like to thank Mr Steve West and Ms Rosina Baxter of Reckitt Heritage, Reckitt Benckiser, Hull, for their unstinted help in the preparation of the article.

Martin Craven

Book Reviews

Christine Gould Knappett Sculcoates *Ancient and Modern revised: A Century on the Lane, Sculcoates Church of St Mary PCC, 2016, £10*

This is a companion book to Sculcoates Ancient and Modern written by Christine Gould and Donald Knappett in 1991, which was also reprinted in 2016 (£10). Both volumes were produced to celebrate the consecration of St Mary's in 1916.

The first volume starts with a brief overview of Sculcoates history from the eleventh / twelfth centuries and the early churches to the twentieth century. Topics covered include burial grounds, parish schools, workhouse and almshouses.

The medieval church, on the corner of Air Street and Bankside, was rebuilt in 1760. However by the twentieth century the parish had expanded and the centre of population moved, the church became remote. A temporary 'tin tabernacle', dedicated to St Francis of Assisi was provided in 1908. Plans for a new church of St Marys on the south side of Sculcoates lane were drawn up in 1914 by Temple Moore. The old church closed in 1915 and services were held in St Francis' Mission Church until the new church opened in 1916. The Mission Church, across the road from the new church, was damaged during WWII and demolished in 1956. The only remaining part of the 1760 church, the tower, was demolished in 1954.

the first volume continues with a detailed description of the present church and concludes with an account of parochial activities, how the church has been used since its consecration.

The second volume updates the first with information from the intervening twenty five years. However, about a third of the book is devoted to the development of Air Street / Sculcoates Lane area over the previous century. Most of the illustrations are in colour, the previous volume was purely black and white.

Robert Barnard

Mike Freeman and John Riley *The Life and Times of Humber Street*, self published, 2017, £7.99.

Mike Freeman worked for 40 years in Humber Street and has attempted to produce an introductory account and description of the area rather than a definitive history.

The book starts with the current regeneration scheme before a chapter on the early history of Humber Street. The main focus of the book is, obviously, the fruit trade, which Mr Freeman gives an account of from its beginnings in the late nineteenth century to its recent move to Priory Park.

The most interesting section of the book is described as 'On Tour with Mike' and details the present and past uses of the buildings interspersed with recollections and stories.

It is very well illustrated, however, a few are rather 'pixilated'. A useful account of a street that has changed its use numerous times, from a ropery to fruit market to area of restaurants and art galleries.

Robert Barnard

Margaret Imrie *Hull the Lit and Phil and the World* Hull Lit and Phil, 2016; 318pp £14.95p. ISBN978 1 5272 0117 0

This volume fills a major gap in the cultural history of Hull, and demonstrates the vital role the Literary and Philosophical Society played in the development of all aspects of education in the city.

Hull had successfully established a Subscription Library in 1775 which was to become one of the country's finest and survived for two hundred years, till it was wound up in 1977. What was lacking was a body to encourage an interest in the arts and sciences and promote the intellectual awareness that was the fruit of the Enlightenment. The catalyst to the formation of the Hull Literary and Philosophical Society in 1822 was the availability of a collection of a collection of natural and artificial rarities which might be the beginnings of a museum. The old idea of a collection of curiosities, had advanced somewhat and a museum began to be considered as a 'rational' collection of natural and man-made objects, arranged to show the diversity of creation and the historical and artistic value of man-made items such as coins, medals, and antiquities. There had been

short-lived earlier societies such as the Society for the Purpose of Literary Information, 1792-7, but it awaited the driving force of men such as Dr John Alderson, chief physician at the Hull General Infirmary, to lay more substantial foundations. He was an incomer to the town, and the first president.



Dr John Alderson

At a meeting in the Dog and Duck inn, High street, 7 October 1822, it was decided to buy this collection for £80 and it was subsequently arranged in rented accommodation on the first floor of the 'Exchange' building, where the early meetings were held. Similar bodies were springing up across Yorkshire; York and Sheffield societies were formed in the same year, and the Whitby Lit and Phil in 1823.

The stated aim was the promotion of literature the sciences and the arts by public lectures, reading of original essays and papers and 'forming a museum of specimens of Natural History and the Arts.' William Hey Dikes partner in a local shipbuilding firm became the first curator and it may be noted that his cousin William Hey had been instrumental in the formation of the Leeds Lit and Phil in 1819.

At the AGM in 1826 it became apparent that spending on the museum had resulted in a significant deficit such that an overdraft was obtained from Pease and Liddell their bankers. Three years later it was revealed that the treasurer had left bills unpaid, and had embezzled more than a hundred pounds. Alderson whose energies had been transferred to the establishment of a Hull Mechanics Institute retired from the council and died the same year, 1829, aged 71. Charles Frost, solicitor to the Dock Co, and a notable historian of the origins of Hull, became the dynamic new president. An enlarged membership needed a larger space for its lectures and they were able to use the Reading Room of the Subscription Library, but Frost's attempts to admit women to meetings was rebuffed by the all male body.

The need for a substantial meeting place available for public events in the centre of town coincided with the Society's need for improved accommodation, and the Public Rooms Building Committee was established to this end. The foundation stone was laid on 28 June 1830, the accession day of William IV, for the classical building with pedimented

portico fronting Kingston Square, designed by Charles Mountain Jnr. It survives today, minus pediment, as the New Theatre, now newly enlarged and due to reopen in late 2017, during the celebrations as the nations 'City of Culture'.

The society's lecture room and museum gallery were on the first floor and the 9th season of the Lit and Phil began 4 November with an address by the President, 4 November 1831, though work on the Public Rooms was not complete till 1834. Sadly it was found that the rows of benches for the audience were cramped and inconvenient, and the ventilation of the room was poor. Most of the museum contents remained in packing cases awaiting funds for cases and the attention of the honorary curator. Thanks to Charles Frost women were at last admitted as visitors, though could not as yet join as members, with the proviso that they 'could be excluded if thought advisable' owing to the content of the lecture. The appointment of the first paid curator and secretary allowed major progress with the museum, and in Thomas Pearsall they found a very able man who had been an assistant to Michael Faraday at the Royal Institution in London.

An important element in the story of the Lit and Phil is the creation of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, established in the north to further scientific education. They regarded the Royal Institution in London as elitist, and too rooted in the south to advance the cause nationwide. The society had its inaugural meeting at the

home of the York Lit and Phil in 1831 and it immediately became the ambition of the Hull Lit and Phil to host a subsequent annual meeting of the BAAS. Under the presidency of Charles Frost this was finally achieved in 1853, 15 years after the first invitation, and using the accommodation of the Public Rooms, Mechanics Institute and a school room to house the various specialist sections. Originally it was hoped that the conference would be held in the Society's new permanent home, but this was still under construction in Albion street. More than 8000 people attended this very successful event, the earnest endeavours of the speakers lightened by evening entertainments and soirees in the Public Rooms and the Station Hotel.

The foundation stone of the Lit and Phil's purpose built home, owned in conjunction with the Subscription Library, was laid 17 May, 1853. At last there was space for the proper display of the museum collections. Cost of this grand classical building was just over £7000, and it was designed by local man Cuthbert Brodrick. A scion of a family of mariners, shipowners, and shipbuilders, he was at the same time completing the magnificent Leeds Town Hall, which was to make his reputation.

The Queen had accepted an invitation to visit Hull, and Prince Albert, paid an official visit to the premises on 14 October 1853. He agreed to be patron of the society. The previous patrons Lord Londesborough and Sir Clifford Constable now became vice patrons, and with this royal accolade the Society named their home the Royal Institution.

Albert subsequently gave two casts of antique sculptures, the Venus de Milo and Apollo Belvedere. Shortly before boarding the royal yacht at the Corporation pier, the Queen knighted Dr Henry Cooper, Vice-President, and an active council member of the Society. Sir Henry gave the season's inaugural paper to the Society in their splendid new premises, entitled 'Kingston-upon-Hull, its Institutions and its Capabilities'.



Museum interior

As president in 1858 Bethel Jacobs, silversmith and jeweller, oversaw the establishment of a School of Art and Design in the society's old accommodation in the Public Rooms. Such a body had been mooted by the artist Benjamin Robert Haydon as far back as 1839 when he had spoken in Hull. The museum as ever was presenting problems and expense. Through lack of funds the intended mezzanine gallery was not installed till 1870 when at last there was sufficient space and suitable cases for an orderly display.

When the society had begun there were many itinerant lecturers who made their living giving talks and demonstrations,

the most popular being those who provided chemical and electrical experiments with plenty of flashes and bangs! This was now a dying breed and it was becoming increasingly difficult and expensive to attract London based academics for lecture series. However in 1863 Prof Huxley, one of Charles Darwin's most powerful advocates was engaged to give three talks on the theory of evolution and natural selection.

Dr Kelburne King, surgeon at the infirmary, became president for the first time in 1864. A recurrent problem in the city had been contaminated water supplies and lack of adequate sanitation in the densely populated inner city area. There had been two major outbreaks of cholera, in 1832 and 1849, and Dr King invited the members of the corporation and the Board of Health to his lecture on 'The utilisation of the sewage of towns'. The next year Joseph Bazalgette who had revolutionised the sewage system of the capital was programmed to give a lecture entitled 'The drainage of London', but was prevented by illness.

The Royal Archaeological Society met in Hull in 1868 and its Hon Secretary gave two talks, 'Edward I' (who had given Hull its charter in 1299) and 'Contributions to the Mediaeval History of Hull from the Public Record Office'.

In 1872, the Society's 50th anniversary, women were at last admitted as members. The next year the greatest advance made by the society in reaching out to the population at large was the decision to open the museum to all, on Saturday afternoons, for 1d admission. In

the next year, more than 13,000 visitors were to take up this invitation.

With the School of Art the Lit and Phil had begun to be a source of adult education for Hull. This was reinforced when classes, with the emphasis on technology and industrial design, were started in association with the department of Science and of the Board of Trade in South Kensington. A bequest enabled the purchase of 2 Albion street, adjacent to the RI and its fitting out with classrooms and a laboratory at the rear.



Under the presidency of Albert Kaye Rollit the role in public education was further increased with the formation of the Cambridge University Extension Society, mostly consisting of Lit and Phil notables. This enabled students to take classes with the possibility of eventually gaining a degree of the University of Cambridge. Though this remained a

distant prospect, perhaps more importantly it provided a means of giving instruction to student teachers thereby increasing the quality of teaching available in local elementary schools.

In the summer of 1883 the last piece of the original design was completed at the Royal Institution with the installation on the facade of a statue of Minerva flanked by personifications of Science and Art. These were sculpted by W D Keyworth Jnr, a local man and throughout the history of the Royal Institution we see the employment of local talent to build and develop the structure.

By the 1880s there was a significant change in the nature of the men involving themselves in the running of the Lit and Phil, and what benefits the members wanted to receive. Rather than running an organisation intending to advance knowledge of the arts and sciences among the middle classes, and encourage the education of the artisan, the new professionals were looking more for a place of relaxation and sociable contact with their peers. Dramatic readings from Shakespeare and presentations involving music and singing, proved the most popular. Occasionally a speaker would arouse especial interest, like a young Oscar Wilde, in March 1884, just back from a lecture of the USA, with the subject of 'The value of art in modern life.'

Rising membership provided funds to improve the lecture theatre and the installation of superior gas lighting. For years the medical profession had provided many of the presidents but an increasing variety of backgrounds was

represented. George Bohn, son of the publisher H G Bohn, was president in 1886, and A E Seaton, an engineer, the general manager and director of Earles shipyard, for three seasons 1896-99.

1897 was the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign and Hull was granted city status. The city's Jubilee Celebration Committee decided that the provision of a Public Art Gallery was going to be their main aim, and this led to an accommodation with the Society. A structure designed by B S Jacobs, architect and member of the Lit and Phil, was built on top of the museum, rather awkwardly accessed by several flights of stairs. In return the city took responsibility for the running of the museum and appointed Thomas Sheppard as the first full time paid curator.

Without the expense and time needed to run the museum the society ventured again into the realm of education. Number 4 Albion street was purchased as the home of the 'Hull and East Riding College of Music', opened January 1904, to provide courses of lectures and private instruction, as well as chamber concerts and recitals. Sadly this venture ceased in 1920 though a strong legacy of music-making is still evident in Hull.

The membership inevitably slumped with the outbreak of the Great War and the lectures offered to members were mainly on topics concerned with the hostilities. In November 1915 William Le Queux, spoke on the subject of 'The German spy system'. He had famously written, in 1906, a novel postulating the

invasion of England by the Germans, and was obsessed with the idea that the German migrants living in Britain were a dangerous fifth column. This was only a few months after the anti-German riots when, following the first Zeppelin raid on Hull, many shops owned by those of German descent were attacked and looted by street mobs.

1922 was the centenary of the Society and the British Association for the Advancement of Science was once again invited to the city by the Lit and Phil. This time they were able to use the full facilities of the Royal Institution, unfinished at the time of their first visit. An innovation in 1936 was the introduction of tip-up cinema seats in the lecture theatre. At the outbreak of war in 1939 the art collection was now well established in the new municipal Art Gallery, the benefaction of T R Ferens. The curator Vincent Galloway did all he could to protect the collections from possible aerial bombardment. Unfortunately Thomas Sheppard the curator of the museum refused even to sandbag the exterior of the Royal Institution let alone arrange for the collections to be taken to safety. Escaping the intensive raids of 1941 the Royal Institution was gutted by fire from an incendiary attack and the shell of the building was demolished after the war ended. The Society's council found temporary accommodation for meetings, and the Presbyterian Hall in Baker street became the lecture hall.

These were now the only requirements, the Lit and Phil having given up responsibility for the museum and its various educational commitments.

Henceforward the Society concentrated its efforts on providing a programme of interesting speakers, many of them well known figures from the arts and sciences, the media, travel and exploration.

After a sojourn at the Queens hall, built as a Wesleyan mission, talks were held at Jackson's restaurant, and from 1952 in the newly rebuilt Hammonds department store. After a time in the Methodist Central Hall, the Royal Station Hotel became the home of the Society. However fate dramatically intervened prior to the installation of the first lady president in 1990 when the hotel was gutted by fire. Women had first been admitted as visitors in 1831, but were not allowed to be full members for another forty years so the new president at last after more than 150 years confirmed equality of opportunity in the ranks of the society. After a year in the Centre Hotel, the rebuilding of the Station Hotel was complete and the Lit and Phil returned in 1992 and have continued to meet there ever since.

The formation of a museum was the initial stimulus for the formation of the society in 1822 but it was not until the admission of the general public on Saturday afternoons that its real potential began to be apparent. Even after the building of the Royal Institution lack of funds and of a full time curator seriously limited its efforts. Only after the museum was given into the care of the Corporation did it really show what a resource for learning and instruction it could be and Thomas Sheppard, the first municipal curator extended the museum into several branches across the city.

After the destruction of the Albion street museum these were the basis of a post war renaissance. This was an important legacy, as was the support of design and technical education for the artisan which with contributions from the Young Peoples Institute and the Church Institute eventually led to the establishment of the Municipal Technical College. The Art School eventually moved to the purpose-built premises on the Anlaby road, again under municipal management. Similarly the support of the Extension Society ultimately led to the establishment of a Hull university, the dream of former president Albert Kaye Rollit. This was made possible by the generous benefaction of Thomas R Ferens, who had also provided the money for building the city's art gallery, which bears his name. The University College opened in 1928 which initially awarded degrees of the University of London. In 1954 the college received its charter as a fully fledged university awarding its own degrees.

The Lit and Phil no longer has the responsibility for a museum or any educational establishment but through the energy and vision of some remarkable individuals has made a significant contribution to the educational and intellectual life of the city of Hull.

The author, an active member of the society was president in 1999-2000.

Arthur G Credland

Nicholas Redman *Whales' Bones of the Americas, South Atlantic and Antarctica* Redman Publishing, 2017, pp.128. Illustrated throughout in colour and monochrome. ISBN 978-83-65295-95-8. Available from the author, nick.redman@ hotmail.com, £15 including post and packing.

The penultimate volume in this magnificent series covering cetacean remains across the globe. Unlike the sites previously covered the author has relied on the judicious use of secondary sources, and information from his invaluable correspondents. This in no way diminishes the value as a reference source, and the text and illustrations are supported by a full list of sources, and indexes of people, places, museums and institutions, as well as maps of the area covered. The author, as in previous volumes, records the many collections of bones and complete skeletons to be found in museums and other institutions, or placed outdoors as public attractions. Since the book includes Arctic Canada and Alaska he records many locations where the remains of the semi-subterranean houses of the indigenous peoples, constructed of whale ribs, jaw bones and turves, have been discovered. The far north being devoid of trees whale ribs were also used to build a church on Black Lead Island. This was destroyed when hungry packs of sled dogs clambered all over it and devoured the forty sealskins which made up the roof. Point Hope, Alaska, is notable for the fence of several hundred ribs and mandibles surrounding the Inupiaq cemetery. In 1851, a long way south, an Indian woman was discovered on San

Nicolas Island, California, where she had lived for some 30 years in a hut improvised from whales ribs.

Again owing to the lack of timber Little Diomed Island, Alaska, boasted a telephone pole made of a whale's rib. At the other end of the Americas a French traveller recorded the inhabitants of Cobija, Chile, living in huts with a framework of cetacean bones covered with the skins of wolf fish, and furnished with vertebrae stools.

Whale shoulder blades provide a convenient surface on which to paint a notice and the sign of the 'Mounties' headquarters on Fox Inlet (NW Territories) was a good example of this. Barrow, Alaska, 'has more bones than any other town in the Americas.' A 'blade bone' proclaims JOE the WATERMAN, above a cut-out of a tanker-truck with which he delivered fresh water to the residents. Another shoulder blade announces Point Barrow as the northern-most point in N America. At Fort de France in the warmer climes of the Caribbean a priest painted a detailed map of Martinique on a scapula, as well as an extensive text giving historical and geographical details.

An individual vertebra provided a simple seat but more elaborate constructions are found. These include a bench at Decorah College, Iowa, made of a mandible to sit on with a whale rib as the back rest. A confection of pieces of rib and a large vertebra formed a seat exhibited at the Chicago Worlds Fair in 1893, and similar eccentric productions are recorded from San Francisco, and San

Jose in California. At the old whaling station, Monterey, California, there is a path made entirely of vertebrae, cut square. Nearby, the street up to the main door of the San Carlos Mission is paved with vertebrae, but uncut and exhibiting the natural round shape.

On rare occasions bones have been made into pieces of 'folk sculpture' a fine example being the aeroplane mounted on a pole at Barrow in Alaska. Two vertebrae have been sliced, the transverse processes forming the wings of a biplane, while a shoulder blade serves as the tail section. On a more ambitious scale is the 'Whale Man' sculpture, at Ensenada, Mexico, which stands about 25 feet high, each leg a jawbone, each arm a rib and a spine of 5 vertebrae with a portion of skull bone for the head.

At Port Elizabeth in the Windward Islands (Caribbean) a beach bar has a jawbone counter and vertebrae stools. Simple whale bone arches, so popular in Europe are also found across the Americas including, Kivalina (Alaska), Nova Scotia, Twillingate (Newfoundland and Labrador), Bristol (Rhode Island), Eastham (Massachusetts), and many more. A photograph of c1900 shows a pair of sperm whale mandibles in an entirely urban environment, set upright on the pavement in Hudson, New York, held by a stay stretching over the sidewalk!

The Falklands is the home of perhaps the most famous jawbone construction, the double arch outside the cathedral at (Port) Stanley, and a rib arch was

photographed at Grytviken, South Georgia, in 1945.

Like its predecessors this volume will be of interest to the cetologist, the social historian, as well as the geographer, and anthropologist. The curious traveller whether on the road or sitting in his armchair will find much to amuse, and be constantly amazed at the results of man's fascination with the bones of the great whales.

Arthur G Credland

Angela Raby *The Scientific Toy & Thomas Holme; the story of the telephone and the career of Thomas Holme the first manager of Hull Corporation Telephones 1903 to 1945* Flaxton Publishing, York, 362 pages, illustrated throughout in b/w and colour, £24.95p.(£18 plus p and p to members of the EYLHS) ISBN 978 0 9955864 0 6.

Angela Raby skilfully unravels the complex and fascinating story of Hull's unique telephone service against the backdrop of the intrigues and rivalries which characterised the early years of telephony in Britain. The 'scientific toy' of the title, originally coined as a name for the telephone in the 1870s, was later adopted disparagingly by the Post Office officials who had attempted to discredit the new invention in order to protect their monopoly of the telegraph. They had initially believed that the telephone would never 'catch on' or have any commercial future. How wrong they proved to be! In the early years of the 20th century a number of cities and

towns recognised the competitive opportunities of setting up their own telephone services, but Hull's was the only municipal undertaking to survive and prosper. Angela clearly demonstrates why this was so. Hull's success was due to the determination and dedicated efforts of a small group of men, 'in the right place at the right time', whose individual talents complemented one another perfectly. Thomas Holme was one of these men, 'headhunted' for Hull at the early age of 24 by Alderman John Brown, Chairman of the Telephone Committee and one of Hull's most distinguished citizens. Other key figures were Consultant Alfred Rosling Bennett and Town Clerk Edwin Laverack. Angela goes on to trace the subsequent battles for

survival, the loyalty of the telephone staff and the steady expansion and economic success of the service throughout the whole district, which extended west to Brough, north to Beverley and east to Hedon. In the course of her well-illustrated book she brings to light some remarkable personal stories and records the immense pride in Hull's independence and pioneering spirit which continues to this day.

Anne Read MBE

[Anne Read is the granddaughter of Thomas Holme, and the Honorary Curator of the Museum of North Craven Life, Settle, North Yorkshire.]



Thomas Holme

The Scientific Toy

The dismissive name, 'Scientific Toy' was given to Alexander Graham Bell's 'Electric-speaking telephone' when 'he evolved his magnificent conception of the transmission of speech' in 1874. Bell who 'had been chaffed about his invention for many months' was granted a patent on 7 March 1876 which evoked, 'discouraging criticisms and bitter ridicule on the folly of wasting time and money by inventing a Scientific Toy'.

In June 1876 Sir William Thomson, described as the world's leading electrical scientist, examined Bell's telephone at the Centennial in Philadelphia and on returning to Glasgow University, 'stated that the most marvellous of all the wonderful exhibits he had seen in America was a pair of rudely-constructed telephones!'

After investigating the merits of Bell's scientific toy, electric-service companies could perceive no profit in introducing this 'toy', placed no commercial value on its serviceability in affording communication over distance, or comprehended its usefulness. Popular Science Monthly continued the review from 1906, by stating that in 1877 less than a score of men foresaw the marvellous future of the telephone or could grasp the revolutionising possibilities. Men eminently successful in industrial and commercial circles ridiculed Bell as 'the man who is trying to make the people believe that you can talk through a wire and scoffed at his invention'.



National Telephones, Kirkella Exchange

Foreword to the book penned by Bill Halbert, Executive Chairman, KCOM:

The history of Kingston upon Hull's telephone service is an unusual one.

When the Telegraph Act of 1899 allowed local authorities across the UK to bid to run their own telephone networks, just 55 out of 1,334 authorities expressed an interest. Among them was the Hull Corporation, and in 1904 the Hull Telephone Department opened its first exchange in Wincolmlee.

More than a hundred years on, Hull's telephone service, now run by KCOM, remains independent from the UK's national communications networks.

Remarkably, for more than a third of its history to date, it was led by one man, Thomas Holme.

When he joined Hull Corporation as the Manager of the Telephone Department in November 1903, Holme was 23. His path to the post that he would remain in until the end of his career had been short, he had entered the world of work just six years earlier. Yet it is clear from the development of the Hull Corporation Telephone Department, and Holme's long tenure at its helm, that despite his youth and relative inexperience he did not lack ability or ambition.

At the opening of the Wincolmlee Exchange, Hull Corporation had stated its reasons for establishing a telephone service as "...first, to provide a much cheaper service, and so place telephones within the reach of a larger number of users; and

second, to introduce a more efficient service."

An article from the Yorkshire Post published in April 1947 illustrates just how successfully Holme led Hull Corporation's Telephone Department in achieving these aims. The reporter writes:

The City enjoys, as it has done from the start, a cheaper service than any other part of the country. Telephones are to be found in very humble homes. I never cease to be mildly astonished, when, visiting Hull, I make a call to a spot several miles away and they only ask me to churn out a penny or two pence into the box.

Today, KCOM employs more than 800 people in our Hull offices; and contributes more than £180 million each year to the region's economy. And, of course, KCOM is still connecting local people. Among the services it offers to local households and businesses is the UK's fastest broadband, the result of a multi-million pound investment in fibre technology.

It is surely Thomas Holme's legacy that the organisation established as the Hull Corporation Telephone Department under his leadership more than a century ago remains a local success story.

Why are the telephone boxes cream?

This is probably the question most commonly asked by visitors to Hull, and in this book Angela Raby provides the definitive answer and so much more. Using the life of Thomas Holme as the foundation, Angela has compiled an invaluable resource for the study of the history of Hull Corporation Telephones. Drawing on a great range of original

sources she tells the story of the establishment of the other short-lived municipal telephone services and how Hull alone managed to retain its independent undertaking. A detailed account of the various exchanges in the city and nearby towns and villages is provided with much on those who worked there. The remarkable Thomas Holme, manager for over forty years of what is the only service of its kind in Britain, fully deserves this tribute published in the year that Hull, as UK City of Culture, celebrates its distinctiveness.

Dr David Neave, Life Fellow, University of Hull



Hull Corporation Telephone Staff

About the author

Angela Raby, born in Sutton Coldfield, trained at Birmingham College of Art. Her career in fine arts as teacher and in the media of painting and collage earned early recognition when she found inspiration in the Worcestershire countryside. She held exhibitions of her work including London, Birmingham and Stratford upon Avon. Print making interests, stimulated at the University of

Wisconsin, led to the production of a series of American landscapes.

An addiction to off-shore sailing and racing was explained by, or blamed on, shipbuilding and coastguard ancestors in Great Yarmouth. In fact the wealth of documentary material hoarded by Angela's family led inevitably to genealogy and to a new career as a writer with a number of historical and genealogical publications.



Hull Central Exchange 1922

The Forgotten Service: Auxiliary Ambulance Station 39, published in 1999, told the story of her Aunt May's experiences while serving at Weymouth Mews during the last war. The Station Officer Josephine Butler later wrote of her wartime experiences as Churchill's Secret Agent but Angela proved that this claim was mendacious. She had been dismissed ignominiously from her post in 1942 and later convicted of stealing from elderly sisters and imprisoned with hard labour in Holloway Prison.

Having moved to Yorkshire Angela, while researching the family history locally, rediscovered great uncle Thomas Holme and has spent the next seven years researching and writing *The Scientific Toy & Thomas Holme*.

This work has been published with the support of the East Yorkshire Local History Society and is not only an important account of the origins and development of the unique Hull telephone system, but of the national network too. Its 360 pages reveal the machinations of the Postmaster General, in his bid to prop up the loss-making telegraph service to which the Post Office was committed. The lobbyists against, despite their often strident pronouncements and devious actions, frequently showed how blinkered they were, with little real understanding of the telephone and blind to its potential.

Alderman Brown, printer and bookseller, is a key figure in the story as is Edwin Laverack the Town Clerk. The former was a perspicacious chairman of the telephone committee and the latter's keen legal brain ensured that the wording of the council's agreements on 'way-leaves' was vital to the survival the city's independent telephone company. The story is traced by Angela Raby using the extensive collection of documents in the Hull archives, and Thomas Holmes origins and career is illuminated by the important family material provided by his granddaughter Anne Read.

Arthur G Credland, MBE, FSA, Chairman, EYLHS

Book Fair

EYLHS is again organising the local history book fair, this year in Hull Minster on Saturday 28 October. We hope as many of you will attend as possible. If any member would like to help out on the day please contact Pam Martin:
tel: (01482) 442221
email: pjmartin@pjmartin.karoo.co.uk

Local History Meetings & Events

2 September - 14 October 2017 *Edgelands: Exploring the Margins of Urban Living*, Beverley Art Gallery

6 September - 7 October 2017 *Talents of The Viewfinders* a display by Viewfinders Photography Club, Hedon Museum

20 September 2017 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Mike Rymer 'Women and Probate', Anlaby Rd, Hull, 10:00am, £2.50

21 September 2017 *Hessle Local History Society*, Michael Free, Hessle A to Z, Town Hall, South Street, 7:30pm, £1 for members, £2 guests.

21 September 2017 *Pocklington History Group*, Jim Ainscough 'Alfred Summerson - local lad makes good', 7:30pm The Old Coach House, George St, £2

23 September - 9 December 2017, Karl Blossfeldt - *Art Forms in Nature*, Beverley Art Gallery

1 October 2017 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Robin Horspool 'Winifred Holtby and her

Yorkshire roots', Anlaby Rd, Hull, 1:30pm, £2.50

4 October 2017 *East Riding Archaeological Society*, 'Field Studies Group', meetings are normally held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month and begin at 7.30pm, St. Nicholas Community Centre in Beverley.

10 October 2017 Lunchtime Club, Lauren Darwin, *African Stories in Hull and East Yorkshire*, Hull History Centre 12:30-1:30pm

10 October 2017 *Scarborough Civic Society*, Patrick Argent 'Wit and Humor in Graphic Design', 2:30pm, Library, Vernon Road, £2

11 October - 11 November 2017 *A Painter's Journey* paintings of Italy and France by Christopher Herald, Hedon Museum

11 October 2017 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Carole Osgerby 'Heos and Villans', Anlaby Rd, Hull, £2.50

19 October 2017 *Hessle Local History Society*, Eve Johansson, 'More rich pickings from the church archives', Town Hall, South Street, 7:30pm, £1 for members, £2 guests.

19 October 2017 *Pocklington History Group*, Phil Gilbank 'The Movers and Shakers who launched the Pocklington Canal' 7:30pm The Old Coach House, George St, £2

21 October 2017 workshop - *Village History Study Day*, Education Room,

- Treasure House, 9:30am - 3:30pm, £20, booking essential (01482) 392790
- 21 October - 2 December 2017 Gary Saunt Presents: *A Cultural Pilgrimage from Hull to Beverley*, Beverley Art Gallery
- 21 October 2017 Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group, 'South Yorkshire Vernacular and Barnsley's Best Buildings', day school, Leeds Beckett University, booking form <http://www.yvbsg.org.uk/dayschool2017-southyorks.pdf>
- 24 October 2017 Carnegie Heritage Centre, Robin Horsepool 'Powolny - The Life & Death of a Hull Restaurant', Anlaby Rd, Hull, 7:30pm, £2.50
- 28 October 2017 Local History Book Fair, Holy Trinity, Hull, 10:00am - 4:00pm, organised by EYLHS
- 5 November 2017 Carnegie Heritage Centre, Victoria Dawson 'Hull Rugby League Heroines', Anlaby Rd, Hull, 1:30pm, £2.50
- 8 November 2017 Carnegie Heritage Centre, Chris Mead 'the beginnings of + Cream Kiosks', Anlaby Rd, Hull, 10:00am, £2.50
- 9 November 2017 Gary Saunt *The Art of Digital Painting*, talk in education room, Treasure House, 6:30pm, £5, to book call (01482) 392699
- 9 November 2017 Beverley Civic Society, Claire Cross, Dominican Friars and the Pilgrimage of Grace', 7:30pm, contact beverleycivicsociety.co.uk/contact
- 14 November 2017 Lunchtime Club, Carrie Henderson, *The House of Mirelle 1938-1978: Forty Years of Fashion History*, Hull History Centre 12:30-1:30pm
- 14 November 2017 Scarborough Civic Society, David Fowler & Ren Yaldren 'Clock Cafe Story' 2:30pm, Library, Vernon Road, £2
- 23 November 2017 Pocklington History Group, Steve Blofeld 'the bombing of Hull in WWII and the shelters used by the people', 7:30pm The Old Coach House, George St, £2
- 28 November 2017 Carnegie Heritage Centre, John Slater 'The Norfolk Millers Daughter', Anlaby Rd, Hull, 7:30pm, £2.50
- 12 December 2017 Lunchtime Club, Chrissy Moore, '*Colourmen of Hull: the story of Sissons Brothers Paint Company*', Hull History Centre 12:30-1:30pm
- 14 December 2017 Beverley Civic Society, Neil King and Richard Avery, 'The history of theatre in Beverley', 7:30pm, contact beverleycivicsociety.co.uk/contact
- 16 December 2017- 17 February 2018 *Humber Estuary: Changing Views*, Treasure House
- 17 January 2017 Pocklington History Group, Pauls Ware 'an update on the Burnby Lane dig', 7:30pm Woldgate School Main Hall, £3
- 22 February 2017 Pocklington History Group, 'Short Talks', 7:30pm The Old Coach House, George St, £2

22 March 2017 *Pocklington History Group*,
Dick Hunter 'The Zeppelin Raids over
York', 7:30pm The Old Coach House,
George St, £2

17 May 2017 *Pocklington History Group*,
Brian Eley 'Prehistoric North Duffield -
Glimses of the past', 7:30pm The Old Coch
House, George St, £2