

EYLHS Newsletter 41

summer / autumn 2019

Newsletter of the East Yorkshire Local History Society



Front cover: Everingham Hall

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

As usual, the Society has arranged a full programme of lectures and excursions. Please support the events and bring along your friends.

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.

Programme Co-ordinator:

Pamela J Martin (Tel no 01482 442221; e-mail pjmartin@pjmartin.karoo.co.uk)

Friday 6th September 2019

1.00pm

Guided Walkabout of Withernsea and Tour of Lighthouse

Guide: Godfrey Holmes

1.00pm. Meet at the Lighthouse (47, Hull Road, Withernsea. HU19 2DY) – to visit the Museum and climb the 144 steps (optional). There is a café on the premises.

2.00pm. We commence the tour of Withernsea, with the acclaimed author and journalist, Godfrey Holmes. He will take us on a walking tour of the town which will last approx. 1.5 - 2 hrs.

Cost: £2 per person (Lighthouse & Museum)

£2 per person (Walking Tour)

Max. No. 25 people

**Own Transport

NB. There is a bus service from Hull to Withernsea.

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

**Sensible shoes and appropriate jacket recommended. Withernsea can be a windy location!

Saturday 21st September 2019

Local History Book Fair

Venue: Hull Minster, 10 King Street, Hull HU1 2JJ

10.00am – 03.30pm

Free Entry

**Own Transport

Saturday 19th October 2019

Education Room, Treasure House, Beverley

2.00pm

'Lawson Lies Still in the Thames': The Extraordinary Life of Vice-Admiral Sir John Lawson'

Talk and Presentation

Speaker: Gill Blanchard

Gill has recently had a book published detailing the extraordinary career of an ordinary merchant seaman, Scarborough born and bred, who navigated his way up the ranks to become a celebrated Vice Admiral. He served in the republican army and both the republican and royalist navies; was rewarded by Cromwell and knighted by Charles II for his role in the restoration of the monarchy. Yet, until now, he has been largely ignored by historians. During the 1640s he twice went into exile in Hull and claimed to have played a part in uncovering Sir John Hotham's 'betrayal'. He also played an important part in the 1648 siege of Scarborough Castle.

Gill is a historical biographer, writer of local histories, professional genealogist and house historian based in Norwich.

Cost: £5 per person

Max No. 40 people

**Own Transport

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Saturday 2nd November 2019

Education Room, Treasure House,
Beverley

2.00pm

'Southburn Archaeological Museum'

Talk and Presentation

Speaker: Bill Coultard

The Southburn Archaeological Museum first opened its doors in 2008 at the Southburn site. More recently it has moved to larger premises located between Driffield and Nafferton.

Cost: £3 per person

Max No. 40 people

**Own Transport

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

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.

HELL'S GATE, Walkington

This article was first published in *Walkington Newsletter*, February 2018.

East Riding Archaeological Society, ERAS, through its monthly meetings, newsletter, its 'big book' - the 'East Riding Archaeologist' - training courses and field archaeology (all covered by a £15 membership fee) has, since 1961, revealed a wealth of fascinating findings regarding the history and pre-history of the East Riding. There is so much to learn and Walkington, in particular, has so much to reveal. An archaeologist at the Humber Archaeology Partnership in Hull once commented to me that "You only have to put a spade in the ground to discover something, so rich is the archaeological evidence in your parish" - not literally, of course, but the point is clear.

Two of the founder members of ERAS were the late-John Bartlett, esteemed Director of Hull Museums, and Rod Mackey, Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians. Rod died in 2016. His life was almost entirely based in Beverley and "he knew the Yorkshire Wolds like the back of his hands": Kate Dennett, editor 'ERAS News', obituary. He had experience of more than 70 sites and

developed an international reputation. Bartlett and Mackey were Joint Directors of ERAS's first major 'dig' in 1967-68: the Walkington Wolds Barrow Excavation.

On the western boundary of Walkington Parish next to Hunsley Road (B1230) on the north side, the site had not previously been recorded and now revealed archaeological evidence across several eras. There had been settlements during the Neolithic Period, indicated by pottery sherds, flint tools and arrow heads. The site also contained evidence of 2 round barrows of the Early Bronze Age (c1500 BC) with associated funerary activity. Also, quantities of Iron Age (c400 BC - AD 43) pottery were revealed.

A major phase in the history of the site had begun in the 4th Century AD when the barrows were lived on by a small Romano-British community, as evidenced by large quantities of late Romano-British pottery, 730 Roman coins, mainly of the later 4th Century and other 4th Century artefacts. This community may have been associated with a Roman temple or shrine on the site. And the site may at some time have been a Roman signal station. 'High Walkington' commands extensive views and "may have formed part of a system connecting intervisible points on the Wolds with the military command at York and Malton": Ben Whitwell. That said at 133 metres, it is substantially below High Hunsley cross-roads at 161 metres, and a more likely site perhaps; this is also believed to be the location of the Armada Beacon.

The most unexpected and significant result of the excavation was the grisly discovery of a large number of human remains: 12 skeletons were casually buried, 10 without their skulls which were scattered about the site and some of which had no jaw bones, suggesting the heads had been displayed on poles - *heafod stoccam*, ie head stakes of the Anglian period.

When field archaeologists discover such a rich amount of material remains from many millennia at one site, it can take many decades to evaluate the finds of a small army of interested amateurs by professional archaeologists. Conclusive results regarding the skeletal and skull remains were not finally determined until just 10 years ago, using the most advanced radio-carbon dating by Jo Buckberry (Bradford University) and Dawn Hadley (Sheffield).

The executions occurred over a 200 year period ending in the 10th Century AD, ie this is a late-Anglian execution cemetery: it is the most northerly example yet found. The victims were all males, 18-45 years of age. There is trauma evidence that some executions were not 'clean', requiring several attempts at decapitation using a sword or an axe, though two were decapitated from the front. The victims were then buried on site, which is unconsecrated ground. It is therefore assumed they were the worst kind of criminals though we are yet to discover what sort of crimes justified such punishment. The roadside pole displaying a decapitated head was a

warning to others of the penalty for heinous crimes. There would be very many, from a wide area, who would see the *heafod stokkam*: the road linked Beverley with lots of communities to the west; it carried significant numbers of travellers by foot, horse, oxen and cart and carriage - and the word would have got round about this must-see attraction.

Denied a Christian burial, these criminals, by the beliefs of the time, were consigned to Purgatory: hence, *Hell's Gate*, the name suggesting, perhaps, a folk memory from the distant past which was still brought to mind by older residents in the late-1960s when the 'dig' revealed the secrets of the Walkington Wold Barrows.

Sources.

1. *Excavations at Walkington*, Bulletin No. 1, Hull Museums, 1968.
2. J E Bartlett and R W Mackey, *Excavations on Walkington Wold, 1967-69*, East Riding Archaeologist, 1973.
3. Ben Whitwell, *Late Roman East Yorkshire*, ERAS, 1989.
4. Rod Mackey, *Walkington Wold Executions Re-dated*, ERAS News, No. 65, November 2006.
5. Article, *Yorkshire Post*, 31/12/2007.
6. J L Buckberry and D M Hadley, *An Anglo-Saxon Execution Cemetery at Walkington Wold, Yorkshire*, Oxford Journal of Archaeology, 2007.

C Jenkinson.

Book Reviews

Polly Pattison *Keep your chin up Wotlarx*, 2019, 59pp. Apply to dpattison@hotmail.co.uk .ISBN 978-0-9554130-7-0; £5.

This volume is the story of one Hull wife's experiences during the 1939-45 war based on letters to her husband in North Africa, serving in the 8th Army. The letters were discovered in an old suitcase which had been put in the attic following the death of Polly Pattison's mother, and undiscovered till 2015. Ethel and Ken Warrener had only been married three months when war broke out and he was called up. After training he spent the rest of the war in the Western Desert.

Ethel was living with her mother and unmarried sisters but finding herself pregnant she and many other expectant mums were sent to Gate Burton Hall, Gainsborough, a stately home transformed into a maternity home, to be safe from the air-raids in Hull. Later she and her daughter Pauline (Polly) were evacuated to Pudsey in West Yorks but feeling lonely, and missing friends and family, returned to her mother's house to put up with nights in the shelter or in the cupboard under the stairs.

Ken was never granted leave and Ethel did not see her husband till the end of the war. They had been three months together and six years apart, during which she had the anxiety of many long gaps in correspondence when she

did not know whether he was alive or dead, the terrors of the bombing, and trials of bringing up an infant. She also worried about her younger brother Fred who trained on HMS *Ganges* before joining his first ship *Pembroke* at the age of only 16.

Arthur G. Credland

Michael P Dyer *O'er the Wide and Tractless Sea –original art of the Yankee whale hunt* Old Dartmouth Historical Society/New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Massachusetts, 2017, 365pp, illustrated in colour throughout. ISBN 978-0-99775161-3-5.

This volume hints at the riches of the collections in the New Bedford Museum, which incorporating those of the former Kendall Whaling Museum, Boston, has a remarkably comprehensive coverage of whaling images and artefacts. Though of course the bulk of the material concerns the American whale fishery, including an outstanding array of scrimshaw work, it has a world-wide reach, including important British items.

Illustrations from logbooks form the bulk of the 327 images most never seen before and reproduced here for the first time, along with others from prints, paintings and scrimshaw. Yankee whalers on their long voyages, often a circumnavigation of the globe taking 2-4 years, had a lot of time on their hands which was spent on craft work, frequently incising designs on

whales teeth, whale jawbone, baleen, and walrus tusks. The officer making the daily entries in the logbook, or the individual writing a personal journal would, with differing degrees of skill insert drawings and paintings of the vessel they were aboard, scenes of the whale hunt and exotic coastlines. Arctic whaling predominated in Britain for which the voyages were so much shorter in duration, a maximum of eight months unless a vessel became trapped in the ice. A rare example of an illustrated journal is that of Alexander Trotter, surgeon of the Scottish whaler *Enterprise* in 1856 (published Shetland, 1979).

Detailed images of the individual tools of the trade and its methodology are generally lacking, but there often small scale sketches of the array of whaling gear employed in the fishery, and the trying out gear for extracting the oil. There are some well realised drawings of the whales themselves, and on several occasions a profile of a sperm whale is marked with the cutting-in pattern for removing the blubber. Scenes of the whale boats in pursuit of the whale are commonplace, with the harpooner wielding a harpoon, a lance, or sometimes a whaling spade ready to cut the tendons of the whale flukes. Each kill is then marked with a whales tail or small sketch of the whole animal, the type of cetacean, usually a sperm whale or a Right Whale, being differentiated.

Despite the author's extensive trawl through the museum holdings only

one rather crude image was found which depicts anything other than an iron hand implement. In the logbook of the *Mary Frazier* (1853-5) the man in the bows of a boat is discharging a firearm, aiming a shoulder gun at a humpback whale, an episode not referred to in the text of the log.

The last of the sailing whalers sailed out of North America in the 1920s and these last years were captured in the writings of Clifford Ashley, as well as in his photographs and paintings, a sample of which bring this book to a close.

Dyer has captured a delightful sample of whaling folk art, images of the trade depicted by the whalers themselves, which hitherto has been largely reproduced from the scrimshaw work which is so avidly sought after by American collectors. One hopes that that this might be the start of a series making available to a wide public many more of the treasures of the New Bedford Museum.

Arthur G. Credland

Michael J P Robson *A Biographical Register of the Franciscans in the Custody of York, c.1229-1539* Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society, Record Series, vol.CLXV, for 2017, in association with the Boydell Press, 2019; 307pp. ISBN 978-0-993238-39-0. Price £50.

St. Francis of Assisi (1181/2-1226) led an exemplary life of virtue and penitence

which brought a new stimulus to the Christian church and inspired men of all ages and backgrounds to join the fraternity. He was canonised by Pope Gregory IX in 1228, but the order had already reached England in 1224, spreading north to Lincolnshire and Yorkshire over the next five or six years. They were the second of the four major mendicant orders to settle here during the 13th century, along with the Dominicans, Carmelites and Austin Friars. Because of their grey habits they were known as the Greyfriars.

Though initially pursuing a life of self denial and devotion to the poor, they like the monastic orders, and the Roman Catholic church as a whole, fell victim to materialism and worldliness. The last Franciscan ordination was in 1538, in the diocese of Lincoln, and they were finally suppressed in 1539, as part of the Reformation. If there is any popular surviving image of the friars and their supposed way of life it is in the figure of Friar Tuck, the fat, jolly, associate of the legendary Robin Hood, with his love of good food and copious drink!

This volume is an important corpus with the names of nearly 10,000 friars of the Custos of York developed from the painstaking researches of the Right Reverend John R H Moorman, Bishop of Ripon. The amount of information varies of course, and sometimes only the place and date of ordination is known. The sources are discussed in a series of introductory essays, which include a description of the

constitution of the Franciscan order. There was a single province in England divided into a number of Custos, eventually seven. The York Custos extended from Spalding in the south to Whitby in the north, and included parts of Nottinghamshire. It was the largest community with some 57 friars in 1300, followed by Lincoln, then Beverley, Boston and Doncaster, with 30 or more individuals.

Of the names recorded some 35 have a direct connection with Beverley, though of a further dozen men who actually bore the name of Beverley only Thomas Beverley seems to have any clear link, having been ordained there in 1495.

John Butler or Boteler was at Beverley in 1356 when he asked leave of the town authorities to take sand for the completion of the friars' building. He also requested a licence to gather fallen timber in the Westwood. There were evidently plans for rebuilding and maintaining the friary in 1526 by Henry Aglionbie, 'guardian' or leader of the Beverley community, under the patronage of Thomas Lord Darcy Menell and Kaith (sic; a misrendering of Meinill, and Knayth a village in Lincolnshire). Thomas Darcy 1st Baron of Temple Hirst (Temple Newsam) was executed in 1537 for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace. His heir George Darcy was knighted at Flodden and regained royal favour for the family.

The seven friaries in the Custos have left little material trace except for the

remarkable survival at Beverley, an important fragment of a four acre site, probably representing the dormitory and library. There is no mention of this in the volume under review, though it surely deserved at least an extended footnote.

Though the specialist nature of this volume necessitates a substantial price it is an invaluable resource for students of the Franciscan order in Yorkshire, well produced and printed in a good sized type.

Arthur G. Credland

Local History Meetings & Events

20 August 2019 *Hull Minster History Group* Mark Keith 'Musicians of the Minster', Hull Minster 12:30pm

1 September 2019 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Hull Folk Music Collective, 'The History of Hull Folk Music', 1:30pm, £2.50

10 September 2019 *Scarborough and District Civic Society*, Chris Hall, 'The S D Adshead's 1938 Proposals for the Development of Scarborough', The Library, Vernon Rd, 2:30pm, £3

10 September 2019 *Hull History Centre*, Helen Dampier and Rebecca Gill, 'War without Glamour: Emily Hobhouse and the 'enemy' civilian, 1899-1919', 12:30pm

- 11 September 2019 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Peter Lord, 'Hull's Early Local Radio', 10:00am, £2.50
- 12 September 2019 *Beverley Civic Society* Dr David Bostwick 'The Medieval Carvings of St Mary's, Beverley' 7:30pm, St Mary's church hall
- 17 September 2019 *Hull Minster History Group* Helen Good, 'Vicars and Preachers of Reformation Hull', Hull Minster 12:30pm
- 19 September 2019 *Pocklington History Group*, 'History Group member Short Talks', The Old Court House, 7:30pm, £2
- 19 September 2019 *Hessle Local History Society* Ian Wilkinson, 'Search for Stewart Andrews', Hessle Town Hall, 7:15pm
- 21 September 2019 *EYLHS Book Fair*, 10:00am - 3:30pm, Hull Minster, admission free
- 24 September 2019 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Alan Beadle, 'Hull Speedway - The Boulevard Years', £2.50
- 8 October 2019 *Scarborough and District Civic Society*, Mark Vesey, 'His experiences as a Scarborough Borough Councillor', The Library, Vernon Rd, 2:30pm, £3
- 8 October 2019 *Hull History Centre*, Claire Weatherall, 'For those in Peril on the Sea: A History of Seafarers Missions', 12:30pm
- 9 October 2019 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Geoffrey Holmes,, 'Council House Development', £2.50
- 14 October 2019 *Hull Civic Society*, Martin Batstone, 'William Clowes and Hull', Royal Hotel, 7:30pm
- 17 October 2019 *Pocklington History Group*, Dr Peter Halkon, 'Recent research on the Western Wolds – incorporating Nunburnholme and Kipling House farm', The Old Court House, 7:30pm, £2
- 17 October 2019 *Hessle Local History Society* Michael Free, 'All Saints' Church windows', Hessle Town Hall, 7:15pm
- 7 November 2019 *Pocklington History Group*, Barrie Barnes, 'A history of the 92nd Hull Brigade, or Hull Pals, 1914 – 1919', The Old Court House, 7:30pm, £2
- 8 October 2019 *Scarborough and District Civic Society*, Peter Craggs, 'Ghost Signs in Whitby', The Library, Vernon Rd, 2:30pm, £3
- 12 November 2019 *Hedon and District Local History Society*, Alan & Michele Beadle, 'One Hull of a Show: White City, 1920-38', Hedon Town Hall, 7:30pm
- 12 November 2019 *Hull History Centre*, Lisa Hewson and Andrew Elliott, 'The mysteries and secrets of Hull General Cemetery', 12:30pm
- 14 November 2019 *Beverley Civic Society* Dr Peter Halkon 'Landscape Archaeology of the Wolds' 7:30pm, St Mary's church hall

21 November 2019 *Hessle Local History Society* AGM and Pat Howlett, 'Hessle in World War II', Hessle Town Hall, 7:15pm

16 January 2020 *Pocklington History Group*, Andrew Sefton, 'Old Pocklington shops remembered', The Old Court House, 7:30pm, £2

20 February 2020 *Pocklington History Group*, 'History Group members Short Talks', The Old Court House, 7:30pm, £2