

# EYLHS Newsletter 45

summer / autumn 2022

Newsletter of the East Yorkshire Local History Society



Front cover: Danish Buildings, Hull. See page 5.

## **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**

**Edited by Robert Barnard**  
825 Anlaby Rd, Hull, HU4 6DJ  
Telephone 01482 506001  
e-mail [rbarnard1@googlemail.com](mailto:rbarnard1@googlemail.com)

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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:** If you can please consider paying by Bank Transfer or Internet Banking as our bank now charges for cheques. However, if you have to pay by cheque please make all cheques payable to the East Yorkshire Local History Society. All cheques and booking slips should be sent to the Programme Coordinator.

### Programme Coordinator:

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

### Saturday 22nd October 2022

The Lairgate Hotel, Lairgate, Beverley  
2.00pm

An Afternoon Tea

Cost per person: £10

Max. No. 35 people

There is limited parking behind the hotel, accessed via Grayburn Lane off Lairgate.

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

\*\*Own Transport

### Saturday 12 November 2022

Education Room, Treasure House, Beverley

2.00pm

'Flamborough Castle'

Talk and Presentation

Speaker: Ed Dennison

Recent archaeological investigations at Flamborough Castle have shed light on this hitherto neglected complex. The talk will discuss the history and development of the castle and its precinct, with reference to the changing fortunes of the owners, the Constable family, and will seek to place it within the wider village landscape.

Cost per person: £3

Max No. 30 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

Please fill in each event slip fully as it makes it much easier to contact you if necessary. 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 Coordinator.** Please do not transfer your booking to a relative or friend without first consulting the Programme Coordinator, whose telephone number can be found at the

beginning of this section. Refunds will only be given for events costing over £5 Thank you.

## **Review of EYLHS Events**

### **Life in the Tudor household at Leconfield and Wressle**

12 March 2022

The title of the lecture by Professor Barbara English began with the word: Magnificent. Those present were, as expected, treated to a magnificent, very well-researched, very well-illustrated, very entertaining and humorous account of Henry Percy, known as the Magnificent and the feasting at his local castles of Leconfield and Wressle. The Percy family originated in Normandy so the lecture started with a photo of the Percy Church there. The first of the family to come to England was William de Percy who died on the First Crusade in 1086. His nickname; "aux gernons" meaning: "with moustaches"; gave rise to the Christian name, Algernon. His descendent Henry 4th has a tomb surviving in the Minster but, unfortunately, that of Henry 5th, who died at Wressle, is now destroyed, as is the Percy chapel window.

There are a number of contemporary representations which we were able to enjoy, including a partly coloured drawing of the tomb, by Wriothlesly, showing the Earl and Countess holding hands, which is unusual.

From the Domesday entry for Leconfield, via Saxton's 1591 map, redrawn by Klosk Tyler, we were

brought up to date with a Google picture of the site of the Castle or Manor. A stone carving of a bearded open-mouthed figure survives and is in Beverley.

After looking at close up photos of Wressle Castle today, and a very detailed drawing by T Hamper, c1600, now at Petworth, a cutaway reconstruction of the medieval Kitchen Tower by Peter Brears was examined. It showed how elaborate an arrangement was required, supervised from the floor above.

Large numbers of people visited and travelled, taking with them not just an entourage but furniture and provisions.

A combination of very colourful contemporary illustrations of food, feasting and entertainment with accounts of household regulations, (now in Alnwick Castle) and a household book (now in the Bodleian) containing menus gave an insight into the scale and extravagance. It appears that milk, cheese, vegetables and fruit were not mentioned and may not have been consumed. Professor English had tracked down pictures of sheep being milked and cheese being made.

A range of agricultural activity supporting this lifestyle were recorded in paintings of the time, mostly growing cereals, including the famous Breughal, the Fall of Icarus, celebrated by Auden.

From the Luttrell Psalter we saw images from the kitchen of roasting and boiling. Servants were male, except for the nursery and personal servants for the lady of the house. The kitchen staff were subject to great temperatures and were often naked, or nearly so. Cooks were like footballers today, we were told, being poached from one great house to another...

Contemporary paintings suggest cutlery was not used though people brought their own knives. The V&A has some late C15th cutlery.

Spectacle was clearly part of the feasting. There were the boar's heads and swans. We saw musicians and performers, including a very strange picture where the torches used for lighting had set fire to the performers' "wild men of the woods" costumes.

The descendants of Henry the Magnificent were involved in the conflicts of their times and so he was one of the very few to die in his own bed.

The lecture finished with Larkin's meditation on [An Arundel Tomb](#) with the drawing of the Earl and Countess holding hands on the screen.

If you were unlucky enough to not be able to make the presentation, copies of the book for which the research was undertaken are available from Professor English.

Jane Payne

## Visit to Bayles House and the High Street

23rd April 2022

This event comprised two separate guided visits within Hull's Old Town—in the morning, David Neave, plus Dale Gooderham from the property developers Allenby Commercial showed us round Bayles House, and then, after lunch, Mike Rymer led us up the High Street, as far as its northern end.



Front entrance, doorcase c1760

Bayles House, not to be confused with Blaydes House near the top of the High Street, could be described as one of Hull's hidden gems, as it is effectively concealed from view behind Danish Buildings. In fact, for the casual visitor, it can only really be glimpsed from

Scale Lane Staith. The developers have performed an excellent renovation on it, and it is now occupied by a number of different organisations which, whilst having their own ‘studios’, as they are called, also enjoy some communal facilities, notably a pair of kitchens, and the meeting room in the single storey ‘Summer House’ on the south side. The role of the property developer is not particularly obvious to the layman, but, in the light of this visit, it has occurred to me that they actually make a significant contribution to the appearance of the town in which they operate—either for the better, as in this case, or indeed, for the worse.



Fireplace in first floor room, c1730

eighteenth century, but, as would be expected, it has undergone various changes over the years. In this part of the Old Town, merchants who were engaged in trade with the Low Countries, Scandinavia and the Baltic erected multi-purpose buildings. The main houses functioned as combined dwellings and business premises, and, to the rear, there were warehouses with direct access to wharves on the River Hull. In the case of Bayles House, the warehouse has been demolished. It was occupied by various businessmen during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, including an oil merchant, a spirit dealer, an insurance broker and a slate roofing contractor. Then in 1858 a Danish merchant called Carl Christian Brochner came on the



Main staircase, c1760

Bayles House was originally built at some time in the first half of the

scene. He built the building right in front of Bayles House which became known as Danish Buildings. This building was subsequently extended eastwards so as to join on to Bayles House. We were shown round Bayles House, but not Danish Buildings—we merely passed through the entrance to it.



Oriel Chambers



Wilberforce House

Mike Rymer's guided walk up the High Street took us past buildings which many members of the Society will be familiar with, although there are always new things to notice and to learn about on guided walks,. I had never noticed before that the Corn Exchange of 1856 which now houses the Hull and East Riding Museum bears the

legend 'Commercial Museum' above its entrance. This seems to be rather and odd choice of words to me, suggesting a commercially run museum rather than, as was formerly the case, a museum devoted to commerce.

With regard to the Georgian Houses just to the north of Wilberforce, House, we were informed that this was an unusually early example of a pair of semi-detached houses, this particular plan form generally being of later date.

Finally, I was interested to learn that, at No 18 High Street, Joseph Pease opened what is considered to be the first bank in Yorkshire in 1854, although this building was demolished after the Second World War, and only the Pease Warehouse survives, to the rear of No18.

Simon Green

### **Crossing the Borders from the Danube to the Humber: Alfred Gruber and Friends**

29 April 2022

As I have known Gerardine for many years I was really looking forward to her talk on Alfred Gruber and his friends on 29th April 2022. I was certainly not disappointed. From start to finish we were treated to such an interesting account of this life from his birth in Austria, in 1931, through to his death on 16th February 1972, by which time he was living in Welton.

Gruber's main interest was in sculpture; working in wood and metal alongside such famous and innovative artists at the time as Schilling. In 1962 he met Jacqueline Stieger, an artist in her own right, who was living at the time in Beverley. They eventually were to marry and settle in Welton.

Both worked in various innovative forms of sculpture, including working in lead, wood, resin glass and bone. Although he did work at times in print-making, he is most famous for his sculptures of 'kinetic machines' which physically moved and made noises.

I have to admit that, although I am a textile artist and print-maker myself, I had never heard of Albert Gruber before Gerardine's talk and now feel that this was a large gap in my knowledge, especially as the talk finished with a look round the exhibition in the Treasure House Art Gallery and the chance to see, and play, on some of Gruber's actual creations.

Mary Carrick

### **Hornsea**

12 August 2022

HISTORY SOCIETY HERE COMETH

Still dreaming, inspired by sublime history tour,

We spoke of those signs of what went before;

All meeting in heat wave and under a tree,

A short way, on Mereside, to horn of Hornsea,

Where the sea in the name is really the mere,

So central then, that the church arose near,

And from reed beds, a thatched roof for each draughty home.

Jump ahead, and by then, acorn tiles would be born !

Slip back once more, and beach cobbles filled walls.

Later, makers of bricks, they laid five to one -

Five the rows lengthways, then ends squarely run -

During pre-Hornsea Pottery's creative miles.

Forsooth, did we figure moat, chapel and nook.

O society of friends, we learnt well to look !

Written by Wendy Loncaster

We would like to thank Richard Clarke who gave us a fascinating tour of the old centre of Hornsea, including Mereside, where we were introduced to brick-wall patterns; then Southgate and Market Place, giving insights into buildings such as Low Hall, which originally marked the southern boundary of the town. Whereas the later Old Hall was to replace the demolished Old Rectory, only slightly evidenced in Hall Garth Park. We kept cool by walking on the shaded side of every side road and main. Richard Clarke's commentary inspired us throughout.



## Nunnington Hall

2nd September 2022

It was perfect weather for an afternoon visit to Nunnington Hall, which gets its name from a Nunnery previously on the site, belonging to the wealthy St Mary's Abbey in York. The first manor house or hall is mentioned in the 13th century but the existing house has grown out of a Tudor hall and has had many alterations to suit its owners and tenants, some with royal connections. The last owner Margaret Fife very generously left the Hall to the National Trust in 1952 with a sum of money for its upkeep. In the 1920s restoration she had begrudgingly agreed to money being spent on the servant's bathroom! The gardens are organic showing a wide array of beautiful wild flowers. The kitchen garden in particular has a section of compost heaps explaining the different stages of decomposition. The grounds are very family friendly with old fashioned games such as croquet which would have been played by the Rutson family when they bought Nunnington in 1839 to use as their 'sporting lodge'. The house itself had a homely feel to it. Each room in the house had information boards, and in some rooms a guide. One themed room was dominated by a 1930s Gramophone with music of the era playing in the background. The second hand bookshop was definitely worth a browse. The attic has exhibition space and the highlight was the display of miniature houses complete with furniture. To finish off the afternoon with tea and cake, sitting on one of the steamer chairs, on the banks of the



Drawing Room



Peacocks at Nunington hall

River Rye was the perfect end to a most enjoyable visit.

Sally George

# Friends of Beverley Minster

## October Weekend

Friday 7th October – Sunday 9th  
October 2022

Saturday 8th October

2.00pm

AGM

3.15pm

St John of Beverley Annual Lecture

'The Minster Precinct from the Middle  
Ages to the mid-18th century'

Speaker: Dr Susan Neave

An Afternoon Tea buffet will follow

Cost: Free for Friends; £6 per person for  
non-Friends attending the lecture and  
buffet

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Sunday 9th October

2.00pm

'The Medieval Wall Paintings of  
Pickering: Discovery, Restoration and  
Meaning'

Speaker: Dr Kate Giles

An Afternoon Tea buffet will follow

Cost: £5 per person for Friends; £6 per  
person for non-Friends attending  
17.30

Evensong in Beverley Minster

For further details see the Minster  
website.

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**

Saturday 7th January 2023

6.00pm

**EPIPHANY ORGAN RECITAL**

Venue: Beverley Minster

'Messiaen: La Nativite du Seigneur'

Organ recital by Robert Poyser (Director  
of Music, Beverley Minster)

Epiphany Concert and Reception  
followed by refreshments (sponsored  
by the Friends).

**BOOKING ENQUIRIES TO:**

The Programme Secretary, Friends of  
Beverley Minster,

85, Ancaster Avenue, Hull, HU5 4QR

E-mail: friendsbooking@

beverleyminster.org.uk

Telephone 01482 442221

## Local History Meetings & Events

Many societies are either not holding  
events this year or are hosting talks  
on-line only or announcing events not  
long in advance. All the events listed  
below are subject to cancellation or  
rearranging, please check with the  
organisation before turning up to any  
event.

*The Yorkshire Archaeological  
and Historical Society* maintain a  
comprehensive list of Yorkshire  
Archaeological and Local History  
Societies [https://www.yas.org.uk/  
Learn-more/More-Yorkshire-links](https://www.yas.org.uk/Learn-more/More-Yorkshire-links)

*Hull and District Local History Research  
Group* meet weekly on Thursdays at  
10:00am in Garden Village Clubhouse,  
Elm Avenue

Hedon Museum, St Augustine's Gate, is open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am-4pm

20 October 2022 *Hessle Local History Society*, Ian Wilkinson 'Hessle - an electric town', Town Hall, South St, 7:15pm,

22 October 2022 *British Association for Local History* 'Unexpected Sources for Local History', 10am - 4pm, Taunton. See website for details.

2 November 2022 *Cottingham Local History Society*, Robb Robinson 'A Forgotten Navy: Fishermen, Fishing Vessels and the Great War at Sea', 7:45-9:15pm, Civic Hall, Market Place, £2 members, £3 non-members

8 November 2022 *Scarborough Civic Society*, Brian Mulvana 'Changes over time in the North and South Bays', 2:30pm Library Vernon Road

10 November 2022 *Beverley Civic Society* Dr Marianne Gilchrist 'New York to North Bar, the de Lanceys, Crugers, and Other Loyal American Refugees', 7:30pm, St Mary's church

15 November 2022 *British Association for Local History* 'The Restoration of Scruton Station, the Heritage Education Programme and the Wensleydale Railway', 2 - 4pm, Middleham. See website for details.

17 November 2022 *Hessle Local History Society*, AGM followed by Michelle

Beadle 'White City 1920-1938', Town Hall, South St, 7:15pm,

21 November 2022 *Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group*, '50th anniversary celebrations' Wakefield Town Hall. See website for details <https://www.yvbsg.org.uk/events.html>

2 November 2022 *Cottingham Local History Society*, Neil Hutty 'The East Riding Yeomanry: 'Wenlock's Horse'' 7:45-9:15pm, Civic Hall, Market Place, £2 members, £3 non-members

8 December 2022 *Beverley Civic Society* Clive la Pensée, 'Brewing and the Beginnings of Biochemistry' 7:30pm, St Mary's church

8 December 2022 *British Association for Local History* 'Landscape, environment and learning histories : BALH Dymond Lecture 2022', 7pm, University of Hull. See website for details.

4 January 2023 *Cottingham Local History Society*, Robert McMilan 'Old Cottingham Postcards', 7:45-9:15pm, Civic Hall, Market Place, £2 members, £3 non-members

1 February 2023 *Cottingham Local History Society*, Richard Clarke 'The Early History of Hull's Municipal Parks', 7:45-9:15pm, Civic Hall, Market Place, £2 members, £3 non-members

1 March 2023 *Cottingham Local History Society*, Peter McClure 'Cottingham's Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Norman heritage', 7:45-9:15pm, Civic Hall,

Market Place, £2 members, £3 non-members