

EYLHS Newsletter 49

summer / autumn 2024

Newsletter of the East Yorkshire Local History Society

Map of Yorkshire in Norman times



Front cover: East Yorkshire in Norman times

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

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Secretary
Sandra Dews
e-mail sandra@robindews.karoo.co.uk

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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)

Saturday 14th September 2024

EYLHS Local History Book Fair
Venue: Hull Minster (formerly Holy Trinity Parish Church), 10 King St, Hull, HU1 2JJ
10.00am – 3.30pm

This year the Book Fair will form part of the annual Heritage Open Days (HODs) celebration on the last Saturday of the 10 day programme.

As in 2023, we are expecting around 30 tables will be on show from more than 20 exhibitors.

The event is open to the public and is FREE to attend.

Income from exhibitors, less expenses of table hire and printing costs, is donated to the Minster.

It is hoped many EYLHS members will attend and support the Society.

**Own Transport

Saturday 19th October 2024

East Riding College, Flemingate Centre, Armstrong Way, Beverley, HU17 0GH
2.00pm

'Revising Pevsner's North Riding: how the Buildings of England series is updated'

Talk and Presentation

Speaker: Dr Jane Grenville

Jane Grenville settled on Archaeology as a career in her early teens and did lots of digging. After her degree, she started research on churches and became fascinated with buildings as archaeology. This led to a stint on the Listed Buildings Re-Survey in the 1980s in North Yorkshire and various jobs in historic buildings recording and conservation. She joined the Archaeology Department at the University of York in 1991 and there she developed both Buildings Archaeology and Heritage Management as postgraduate specialisms. After a period in management she retired in 2015 and returned to her listing patch and beyond to update Pevsner's magisterial volume. This lecture will explain how she did it.

Cost per person: £7

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

**Own Transport

Multi-Storey Car Park nearby with inexpensive parking fees. Council Car Park to the left of the Railway Station.

Saturday 2nd November 2024

East Riding College, Flemingate Centre, Armstrong Way, Beverley, HU17 OGH
2.00pm

'An 18th Century Tankard, a Hull Whaler and her Masters'

Talk and Presentation

Speaker: Mike Rymer

Discovered in the Castle Street Burial Ground. Did it have connections to a famous Hull whale ship owner? Does it depict the whaler Berry? Who owned it? Was it buried with one of her Masters? This talk takes you through the evidence to reach a tantalising conclusion! Mike Rymer is a local historian, tour guide and volunteer at Hull Minster.

Cost per person: £7

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

**Own Transport

Multi-Storey Car Park nearby with inexpensive parking fees. Council Car Park to the left of the Railway Station.

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.

Unfortunately, we have had to increase the cost of events due to inflation and the need to change our lecture venue. However, the prices, overall do represent value for money, especially the day events.

Programme Reviews

Our programme of visits and talks is always a highlight of the society's year but the recent gathering in Swanland was particularly successful, as well as

being blessed by fine weather, a rarity so far this year. We began the day's proceedings with coffee and biscuits in the well appointed village hall before being divided into four groups each of which throughout the days, visited Swanland Heritage Centre, and Christ Church just next door, as well as enjoying a heritage trail around the village. After a generous buffet lunch Geoffrey Collier gave us an illustrated talk on the Haldenby and Stapleton, Lords of the Manor of Swanland. All-in-all a very satisfying day thanks to the hard work and organization of the enthusiastic and knowledgeable members of the Swanland Heritage committee.

Arthur G Credland

Beverley's Timber Framed Buildings

David Cook of the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group kicked off our programme for 2024. He was an able guide to our understanding of the construction of the many old buildings which survive in our historic townscapes. Most such buildings are a palimpsest of alterations and additions over many generations the development of which can be teased out using the knowledge gained by the dedicated work of individuals, and of groups like the YVBSG. The speaker's wonderful enthusiasm for his subject put me in mind of Cecil Hewett who in the 1970s established himself as one the great authorities

on timber buildings, and author of English Historic Carpentry. At that time the present writer was curator of the Epping Forest museum set within the venerable Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge. It was in fact built in the reign of Henry VIII as a grandstand for watching the deer hunt on the Chingford plain it overlooks, and survived because it was converted into a house for a forest keeper. Following his detailed studies of timbering in the Tower of London he was able to match the jointing used there by an identifiable and datable group of royal carpenters, with that in the lodge, characterised by the use of the 'diminished haunch.' The latter is part of the evocative vocabulary of historic timber work such as bressumers, dragon beams, side-halved scarfs, bird-mouthed joints, king and queen posts, and so on.

I look forward to a return visit by David Cook with further exposition of Beverley's historic buildings and in the meantime recommend his publication *Beverley's Timber-Framed Buildings* Blackthorn Press 2022, 209 pp., illustrated throughout with photographs and drawings.

Arthur G. Credland

Visit to Swanland

On the 18th July 2024 there was a good turnout of members for a most interesting visit to the lovely village of Swanland. The plan was to meet at the Village Hall and following coffee and biscuits, to split into small groups to enjoy a guided heritage walk in

the village. This would be followed by visits to Christ Church and the Heritage Centre, both overlooking the pretty village pond. After lunch, Geoffrey Collier would be giving a talk on the history of the village and the importance of the Haldenby and Stapleton families during 16th century Swanland.

The Swanland Heritage Trail is some 3 miles in length - too long for the time available to us that day. However, we covered a number interesting areas, including some of the older buildings in the village and also reviewed the history of some of buildings which have unfortunately now been demolished. Some of the key features were Mere House (opposite the pond and originally thought to be the oldest house in the village, now known to be Victorian!), West End Cottages which are the oldest buildings in Swanland (late 16th century), Swanland House, the old Chantry (14th century) and Swanland Manor (owned by the village's great benefactor - James Reckitt, the well-known Quaker and industrialist). Having mentioned the village pond a number of times, I should point out that the building next to it is the old pump house. This was used in olden times as a source of water for villagers.

Back at the village hall we next visited Christ Church - near the hall and with a lovely view of the pond. Built on the site of a 17th century Independent Chapel it was rebuilt in 1803. The first school was incorporated into

the church prior to moving to new premises overlooking the pond. This new building remained in use until 1970 when it was replaced and the old building became the village hall. The interesting history of the church itself was described by Rosemary Short and afterwards we were able to take a brief tour of this fine building.

Next on the list of visits was the Swanland Heritage Centre, next to the church. The history of this excellent Centre was given by Janet Barnes and Ian Macfarlane. They have gathered together many historical records, maps, history books and photographs of Swanland. The Centre is available for visiting each Saturday morning and at other times, by appointment. It would be very worthwhile looking at their web site (<http://swanlandheritage.info>) or on Facebook.

Following an excellent buffet lunch, when we were able to talk with members of the committee, we listened to a very well researched and presented talk by Geoffrey Collier. This covered the early history of the Haldenby and Stapleton families - important to the village in the 16th century.

The day spent in Swanland, although rather warm, was excellent and we all appreciated the time and effort put in by Swanland Committee members in arranging the activities.

Geoff Crawforth

Norman Map

(See front cover)

Our member, Colin Jenkinson, has been sent a cropped copy of a map presumably showing places mentioned in Domesday Book, by Renee Martin Taylor and he has passed it on as it may be of interest to some other members. Renee obtained the map from the Internet but can't remember where. If anyone has any further information please let us know.

Book Reviews

Jane Bowen *From Triumph to Tragedy -the story of the Paddle Steamer Pegasus and her people 1835-1843* Novum, 2021, 231 pages, with 29 illustrations. ISBN 978-3-99107-708-4 (available on Amazon at £11.99)

This volume not only describes the loss of the *Pegasus* but gives us a year-by-year account of her career starting with her launch in 1836 for Thomas and Robert Barclay owners of the Hull and Leith Steam Packet Company. This was a time of a dramatic expansion in the numbers of steam powered vessels for sea-going trade. In the previous decade they had proved their worth on the nation's major rivers working to a reliable timetable. As the vessels increased in size wooden hulls, inadequate to withstand the stress of heavier and ever more powerful engines, were replaced with iron. The year 1838 was marked by the arrival in America of the *Sirius*, a

much smaller, wooden vessel, built for service in home waters. After the first transatlantic crossing entirely under steam power to his eternal chagrin she docked shortly before Brunel's *Great Western*, the splendid iron ship which showed the way for the future. *Sirius* had taken four days longer having made an earlier start, and had to burn much of her decking as she ran out of coal.

Cargo was immensely varied and Hull provided access to the continent and the manufactures of the north of England and Midlands. Some of the more unusual items to be carried included a travelling menagerie, race horses for the St. Leger races at Doncaster, and a number of stage coaches made in Scotland for the Royal Mail. At a time when roads were still poor and sea voyages under sail were of long duration a passenger service under steam provided a quicker and more comfortable service. These coasting steamers had a well-appointed saloon, with cabins for those able to afford them, and elaborate furnishings and décor were quickly established as a selling point to attract the better-off customer. The apogee of luxurious interiors was reached in the great transatlantic liners of the 1920s and 1930s.

The journey time between Leith and Hull was 24 hours, rather than the three days of a sailing ship, but bad weather, breakdowns and occasional bumps and scrapes might delay a vessel. Intense competition also led

to 'racing' and when a rival vessel was in sight a captain might be tempted to increase steam and try and out-run the opposition. This put strain on the boilers sometimes resulting in explosions and casualties among the crew and passengers. The ship master was constantly juggling the state of the engine, and the effects of the weather, with a desire to achieve a quick passage and demonstrate the quality of the service while still ensuring the safety of the ship and all aboard her.

The east coast route led vessels passed the Farnes and it became usual to take the inner passage between the shore and the scattering of islands and reefs. This saved time and was safe in good weather, with an alert crew and a reliable engine. It was here in 1838, with poor visibility and her engine failing that the *Forfarshire* was lost, a disaster immortalized by the heroic rescues undertaken in an open rowing boat by Grace Darling and her father, Keeper of the Longstone lighthouse. Five years later at midnight on a calm night the *Pegasus* a quarter of a mile east of her best course hit the nearby Goldstone Rock, with terrible results. Crew and passengers crowded into the two life boats, not nearly enough for all those on board, but when the vessel was put in reverse to bring her off the rock the surge of water threw everyone into the water. As the vessel moved forward again, the captain hoping to drive the vessel onto the shore, she filled with water and sank. There were only six survivors, four crew and two passengers, and it was

estimated that some 70 people had drowned, though the exact number could not be determined for no record was kept of those who paid their fare after they came on board. The author gives us biographical notes of as many of the varied complement who were traceable and they included a number of women and children, a variety of businessmen and craftsmen, a cleric, a lawyer, a Shakespearian actor, and soldiers going on leave or returning to barracks.

The vessel collided with the rock at the time the watch was changing which led to hopeless confusion amongst crew and passengers and the captain never grasped control of the situation. The few survivors were picked up by local fishermen but the last body was only retrieved the following year. The coroner's inquest found that the captain, one of the deceased, and the lookouts, were guilty of gross negligence but the verdict was later overturned. A government inquiry into shipwrecks was proceeding at the time and they added a report on the *Pegasus* which recommended the provision of boats on the paddle-boxes and that vessels ought to be provided with watertight bulkheads. A significant finding by the coroner was that 'all steam vessels ought to have sufficient boat accommodation to carry the whole of the passengers on board.' It was not until after the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912 that this became a legal requirement.

Arthur G Credland

Johanna Jones *The Lady of the Wight- the life of Isabella de Fortibus* 2023,116 pages.ISSBN 978-1-3999-5197-5

(available by contacting Lin Watterson wattersonlin@gmail.com, £10 including postage and packing)

It is rare for anyone to attempt to provide the public at large with an account of the life of anyone who flourished before the 15th century, and not common until we reach the larger-than-life personalities of the Tudors. Johanna Jones for many years has given talks on the subject and other topics relating to the history of the Isle of Wight. With growing infirmity she was able to complete a text for publication with the aid of Penny Keevil and Lin Watterson. The latter has also supplied a number of drawings in the style of manuscript illuminations.

Isabella was born at Tiverton, Devon, in 1237, daughter of Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon. At the age of 10-11 she was married to William de Fortibus many years her senior, resident at the manor of Burstwick, in Holderness, before returning, as Countess Aumale, to her family home to complete her education, before moving north to live in East Yorkshire five years later. The Holderness estate was provided with two deer parks, rabbit warrens, fish and wildfowl, and oats, wheat and barley were grown but it was the flock of sheep, reaching some 7000 which provided up to half the total annual income, the fleeces being sold each year to Italian traders.

Henry III attempted to take personal control of the Kingdom without reference to the barons and after considerable dispute a Council of Fifteen was established, one of its members being William de Fortibus. He also accompanied the King for a meeting with the King of France at which the English claims to French territory were relinquished except for Aquitaine and Gascony.

Baldwin died in 1260 leaving Isabel only with a widow's portion, 'dower rights', comprising one half of Holderness, the castle and town of Cockermouth, and land and property in Essex and Northamptonshire. She recruited the help of her mother whose wealth, and expertise in running an estate, quickly enabled her to recover a substantial income. She was also aided by Walter of Henley whose study of agriculture is recorded in his book Husbandry, a volume which was still being consulted in the reign of George III.

At the death of her brother in 1262 Isabella became Suzerain of the Isle of Wight and was receiving a combined annual income of £1000 from her estates in the north and south which made her the wealthiest woman in England. This inevitably made her the object of fortune hunters including Simon de Monfort, killed at the battle of Evesham in 1265, whose attentions she managed to avoid. She was actually a supporter of the barons' party which brought her in conflict with her mother who was a firm adherent of the King.

From 1266 Carisbrooke castle was confirmed as the administrative centre of her estates and she lavished great expenditure in making it a comfortable home as well as a secure fortress. Isabella's final years were clouded by long legal wrangles with her mother over the share of her estates. In 1293 aged 56 she made a pilgrimage to the tomb of Thomas a Beckett and soon after was taken ill; whilst on her death bed agents of the King arrived to take her signature handing over the Isle of Wight to the Crown. Well aware of the strategic importance of the island, because of the possibility of a French invasion, this had been the ambition of successive monarchs.

The volume concludes with an account of Carisbrooke Castle and an evocation of life there during the lifetime of Isabella de Fortibus.

Arthur G Credland

Local History Meetings & Events

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>

Hull Local History Group meet weekly on Thursdays from in Garden Village Clubhouse, Elm Avenue, from 10.30am for coffee/tea with speakers from approximately 11.00. Some Thursdays will be 'away days'. The chairman is Tony Wing wing52@wing52.karoo.co.uk

14 September 2024 *Scarborough and District Civic Society*, Jane Strutt 'Eric Fenby (1906-1997)', Woodend, The Crescent, 10:30am

19 September 2024 *Hessle Local History Society*, Michael Free, Eve Johansson and Ian Wilkinson, 'Hessle 1900-1952', Town Hall, South St, 7:15pm,

19 September *Pocklington History Group*, 'Pocklington's connection with the sea' - An evening of three short talks - 1. The 'Pocklington Steamship Company' set up by Victorian grocer Charles Steels - Andrew Sefton
2. The connection of the town to H.M.S. Volage which was adopted by the town in WW2 and was sent parcels by the residents during the war - Chris Bond
3. Historical nautical people from Pocklington and district - Phil Gilbank, The Old Court House, George Street at 7.30pm. Admission fee £3. All welcome

25 September 2024 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Malcolm Wells 'The rise & demise of trolley buses in Hull', Anlaby Road, Hull, 10:30am, £3

30 September 2024 *Georgian Society for East Yorkshire*, Old and New Filey tours, Morning tour of the 'Old Town', St Oswald's Church, Filey Museum and Queen Street with Catherine Welch, local historian. Afternoon tour of 'New Filey', the late Georgian-early Victorian resort, with Dr George Sheeran, architectural historian. Meet at St Oswald's Church, Filey at 10 am, members: £8, non-members: £12

2 October 2024 *Howden Civic Society*, Mike Higginbottom 'Yorkshire's Seaside Heritage', Masonic Hall, Selby Road, Howden. Admission for Civic Society members is £1 and for guests, who are welcome to join us, it is £2. Light refreshments are included, 2:00pm

2 October 2024, *Cottingham Local History Society*, Robb Robinson 'Agnes to Zebedee: Pioneers of the great city of Hull', Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green, 7:45pm

5 October 2024, *Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group*, 'Bridlington and Boynton Buildings Recording Conference Review', After our successful recording conference based in Bridlington we are getting the reports ready in preparation for this follow-up day. In the morning we will meet in the Priory Rooms in Bridlington for presentatons on the buildings recorded. After a buffet lunch we'll travel to Boynton where we have a visit to Boynton Hall, courtesy of the owner, Mrs Marriott. It's a multi-period building and there is much of vernacular interest as well as work by

John Carr and Jeffry Wyatville. We will then have a look at the village and the three buildings recorded.

To book a place, please complete and return the booking form (www.yvbsg.org.uk/review-day-2024.pdf) together with your payment.

12 October 2024, *Scarborough and District Civic Society*, Jane Grenville 'Pevsner's guide to the North Riding of Yorkshire', Woodend, The Crescent, 10:30am

14 October 2024 *Hull Civic Society*, Ian Pearson, 'The Early History of the Municipal Parks of Hull', Holiday Inn Express, Ferensway, Hull, 7:30pm

17 October 2024 *Hessle Local History Society*, Michael Free, 'Recent finds at and around Hull Minster, Town Hall, South St, 7:15pm,

19 October 2024 *Hull Civic Society* 60th Anniversary Exhibition 1964 - 2024 at the Carnegie Heritage Centre, Anlaby Road, Hull, 10:00am to 4:00pm

30 October 2024 *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Mark Richmond, 'Hull Victoria Pier', 10:30am, £3

6 November 2024 *Howden Civic Society*, David Galloway 'History of Airmyn & Boothferry', Masonic Hall, Selby Road, Howden. Admission for Civic Society members is £1 and for guests, who are welcome to join us, it is £2. Light refreshments are included, 2:00pm

6 November 2024, *Cottingham Local History Society*, Sam Bartle 'The "What was Here" app. Its use of historic photos and maps of the East Riding', Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green, 7:45pm

9 November 2024, *Scarborough and District Civic Society*, Margaret & John Clarke 'The story of the famous Battle of Flamborough Head', Woodend, The Crescent, 10:30am

11 November 2024 *Hull Civic Society*, Richard Clarke, 'The Garthpool on the 11th November 1929 was the last British Windjammer to sail the seven seas - 95 years ago to this day!!', Holiday Inn Express, Ferensway, Hull, 7:30pm

21 November 2024 *Hessle Local History Society*, AGM followed by Paul Schofield, 'Hooray for Hullywood', Town Hall, South St, 7:15pm,

27 November 2024, *Carnegie Heritage Centre*, Ian Wolstencroft 'Transport around Hull', Anlaby Road, Hull, 10:30am, £3

4 December 2024 *Cottingham Local History Society*, John Scotney 'Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Railways' Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green, 7:45pm

9 December 2024 *Hull Civic Society*, Robert Kingdom 'The Guildhall Time Ball', Holiday Inn Express, Ferensway, Hull, 7:30pm

8 January 2025, *Cottingham Local History Society*, JPeter McClure "'Whose side are you on?" The impact of the Reformation on the naming of children in 16th- and 17th-century Cottingham'. The Annual Stamp Lecture, Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green, 7:45pm

13 January 2025 *Hull Civic Society*, Michele Lewis 'The Pavement that walked', Holiday Inn Express, Ferensway, Hull, 7:30pm

5 February 2025 *Cottingham Local History Society*, Liz Shepherd, 'The history of the Carnegie Heritage Centre' Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green, 7:45pm

5 March 2025, *Cottingham Local History Society*, Michele Beadle 'Out with the old and in with the new'. A history of Hull's Repertory Company at the Little Theatre and the early years of the New Theatre Cottingham Civic Hall, Market Green, 7:45pm