

EAST YORKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 13

SUMMER 2005

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 6 AUGUST 2005

Venue: Paull.

Time: 1.00pm at lighthouse (parking on road-side).

Topic: 'Two lost manors and a deserted village:' the archaeology, history and architecture of Paull.

Leader: Mr David Smith.

Cost: £1.50 per person.

Transport: Own transport or bus service No.78 from Hull.

Refreshments: Bring your own or purchase at Fort Paull or in the village.

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2005

Venue: Willerby, Hull.

Time: 2.00pm outside the Star public house (lunches available).

Topic: A walk along Willerby's main street, looking at buildings with a history.

Leader: Mr C Ketchell.

Cost: £1.50 per person.

Transport: Frequent bus services from Hull and Beverley.

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2005

Venue: Keyingham.

Time: 2.00pm at the village hall.

Topic: (a) talk entitled 'Life and work of some of the Keyingham foresters' and (b) tour of St. Nicholas' Church.

Leader: Mr M Smale;

Cost: £4.00 per person (includes afternoon tea).

This is the first newsletter under the current editorship and any comments or suggestions for future issues would be welcomed. 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.

Many members are researching areas of local history but often in relative isolation. It may be possible to compile a database of members interests so that people could exchange information or ideas, which would be published in the newsletter. Please contact the editor with your area of interest or research in progress.

Short articles, illustrated or unillustrated, for inclusion in future newsletters should be sent to the editor.

The Society is, finally, constructing its own web site. Hopefully it will be on-line when a suitable Internet provider has been found.

After a relative famine there will be a glut of EYLHS publications this year. The Historian and this newsletter have been sent out together to save postage; in future the Historian should appear around March or April. A study of Londesborough Hall will be ready by the end of the year as will a collection of essays by the late Alan Harris. As you will be aware the Alan Harris Prize has been discontinued but the remaining funds have been used to produce the essay collection.

THE HOLME FAMILY OF PAULL HOLME

By David Smith

(This article first appeared in *Hedon History* issue 29 Spring 2005)

On a minor road in Holderness, running between the villages of Paull and Thorngumbald, stands a lonely tower. Exposed to the elements and the ravishes of nature for over 165 years, it is crumbling and decaying; it is

now a Grade I listed building and has been placed on English Heritage's buildings at risk register. Known today as Paull Holme Tower, it is all that remains of a medieval moated manor house and it is the only remnant of the Holme family. The tower stands 35 feet high and is made of brick apart from some stone dressings above the windows. Its basement is brick vaulted and on the first floor, which appears to be just one large room, a fireplace and garderobe chamber are still discernible. Also discernible in the walls of the tower are portcullis slots indicating that this could have been a fortified manor house. A narrow staircase leads to the once crenellated parapet roof with a wall walk all the way around it. Early 19th century maps of the tower show an H shaped outline in the ground adjoining it which suggests that this surviving tower is only the north wing of a once grand house. These maps also show the moat and indeed the moat appears on Ordnance Survey maps up to 1927, but it is now lost. The 1672 hearth tax returns give us an indication of the size of the house, it had nine hearths. Only 3 of these are in the tower itself – further evidence that this is only part of a larger house.



Paull Holme Tower in good repair, c.1910

The area of Paull Holme is mentioned in the Domesday Book as one soke of a carucate and in 1295 Alexander of Holme bought the manor of Paull Holme from which the family had taken their name. In the 14th century there are references to a house being built on the site. The tower itself provides clues to its original date, but they are confusing. The west wall of the tower bears the Holme family coat of arms; this shows Holmes impaling Wastney - a reference to the marriage of John Holme to Elizabeth Wastney in 1429. Is this then the date of the tower? Possibly not because the same coat of arms also bears the Tudor Rose which must be a reference to the reign of Henry Tudor from 1485 onwards. It is possible that this tower was added to an

already existing medieval timber framed building.

What is clear is that the Holme family lived in this manor house for many centuries. But the house could have begun its decline as early as the 1640s. During the Civil War Christopher Holme and his son Henry were Royalists. Christopher moved to York and Henry fought in the Royalist army. Because of this Paull Holme manor was confiscated. In 1646 Christopher was petitioning to get the property back and it is stated that: "...he hath had a great part of his houses pulled down and hath had goods and other personal estate taken from him..."(1) The petition appears to have been successful as Henry Holme died there in 1678 (Christopher had died in 1657). What happened to the estate immediately after his death isn't clear, but in 1715 the Rvd. Henry Holme (who was living in York) sold the estate to his cousin John Holme of Skeffling. By this period the manor was occupied by a tenant farmer, Thomas Hutchinson. The Skeffling branch of the Holme family were well established there (going back many centuries, the church has many monuments to them) and they already had an estate with a moated manor house there. Hence they did not take up residency in Paull Holme which continued to be rented out.

It remained with this branch of the family until 1811 when it passed to the Torre family who were descendants of the Holmes and changed their family name to Holme. Once again they do not seem to have taken up residency in Paull Holme. By 1837 the property was let to Benjamin Iveson (of Hedon) who had a new house built to the south east (in the same year) using material from the old one, but one tower remained standing. Indeed this tower was restored in 1871 by Colonel Bryan Holme and used as a gazebo. Writing in 1911 Miles and Richardson described the tower as being in good repair(2). Our medieval manor house also had a chapel associated to it. A nearby field is called "chapel dale" and Robert Holme, in 1503, states that a mass should be held in Paull Holme chapel for the life of his wife and 20 years after her death. This chapel was still in existence, but in a poor state of repair, in the reign of Queen Anne, but like the moat and rest of the house it is now lost. The existence of this chapel may explain the lack

of Holme family monuments in the nearby Paull church. Paull Holme remained in the ownership of the Holme family until 1928 when it was sold and the family's connection with the area ended.

There is an interesting anecdote attached to the tower. According to an article in the *Hull Daily Mail* on 21st August, 1947: "About one hundred years ago..." a large bullock managed to find its way in to the abandoned tower and squeeze itself up the narrow staircase to the roof. Unfortunately this bullock took one step too many on the roof and fell from it to its death.

A group of enthusiastic volunteers have formed the Paull Holme Preservation Society. Their aim is to save the tower and restore it to its former glory. New members are welcome to join this group, for further details contact David Smith on (01482) 706902.

References

- (1) "Royalist Composition Papers II", *Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series*, vol. 18, 1895, pp. 139-140.
- (2) Miles, George T. and Richardson, William. *A History of Withernsea with Notices of Other Parishes in South Holderness in the East Riding of the County of York*. Hull, 1911.

ROBERT GRAY BATTLE

The illustration below was recently found in the print collection of Wilberforce House and, as far as we are aware, is a unique sketch of R G Battle. The origin of the print is unknown but it may have been published by M C Peck and Son when they printed a facsimile of the 1791 Hull and Beverley directory in 1885.

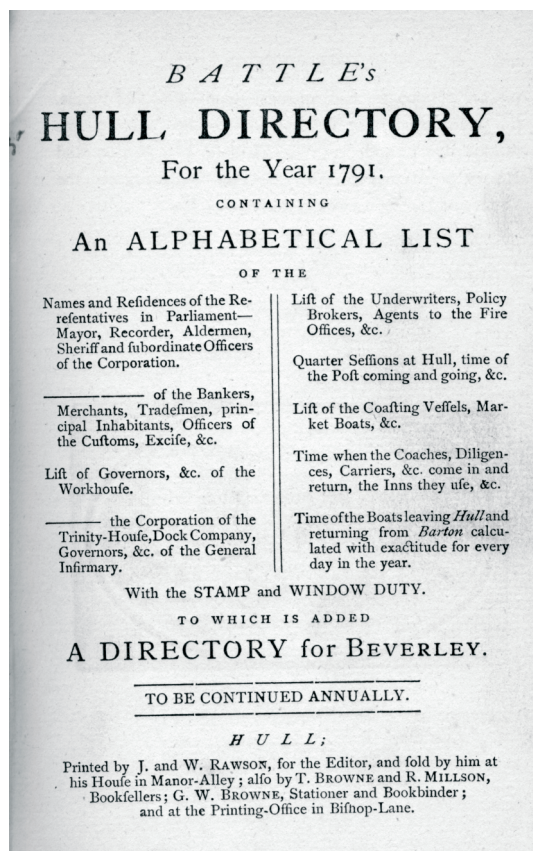
A series of directories were published by Battle; Hull in 1803, 1806-7 and 1810-11 and Hull and Beverley in 1791, 1814-15, 1817 and 1822. The Hull section of the Universal British Directory was thought to date from 1790 but has now been dated 1794 and is based on Battle's directory.

Battle was an ink manufacture in Hull by 1814 but in the 1791 directory he describes himself as 'editor' living in Manor Alley, Lowgate and in 1806 as 'distributor of weekly publications, 16 Paradise place'. The printer

and rival directory publisher, Thomas Clayton, had a swipe at Battle in his 1803 directory (the only edition) listing him as 'Battle R. G. Hawker, "Fiendly-square,"* silver-street.' The asterisk was explained in a note at the bottom of the page '*The above place was known by the name of Fearnley's entry, prior to Mr. B's residence in it; what his motives are for calling it "Fiendly," himself alone can explain*'.



Mr. R. G. Battle,
Publisher of the first "Hull Directory" in 1791



R G Battle died in 1832 aged 80 and his grave can still be seen in Castle Street cemetery.

SUTTON EXHIBITION AND RESOURCES CENTRE

Old School, Church Street, Sutton on Hull – open to the public free every Friday 10am – 2pm. This splendid exhibition and museum of Sutton is based in the former National (C of E) School built in 1859; although the school transferred to new premises in 1977, the old school remained in church ownership as an educational centre. Over the last few years Merrill Rhodes and her team of volunteers have built up an amazing collection of material for the study of Sutton, Bransholme, Stoneferry and Wawne. Available are school registers from 1876, log books from 1896, histories of schools in Sutton and Wawne, collection of school photographs, photographic collections relating to Sutton, Stoneferry and Wawne. Artefacts on display include a Victorian 'writing slope' of 1883 from the former Post Office, treadle sewing machine of 1886, wedding trousseau from a 1909 marriage at St James, PM bible from the 1870 chapel, Sutton on Hull 1887 Jubilee Cup and sampler a sampler from the Ann Watson Sutton College School from 1878. A library of local books is available to consult, and there are subject files on all the local large houses and farms, histories of Sutton and Wawne and their churches, the Hull to Hornsea Railway, RAF Sutton on Hull and many local maps. Why not visit, chat over a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits (only 50p) you may meet former school pupils, or share your family history with other descendants. Contact Merrill Rhodes, 31 Southwold, Little Weighton HU20 3UQ Tel. (01482) 876370 or by post to M. Rhodes, Sutton Exhibition Centre, 25 Church Street, Sutton HU7 4TL

BOOK REVIEWS

Nicholas Redman *Whales' bones of the British Isles* 2004, 417 pp. illustrated throughout. ISBN 0-9545800-0-1. Available from the author at 237 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, Middlesex, TW1

1ODP ; Price £35 inc. postage and packing.

This is the **most** enjoyable volume, much more than the gazetteer first appearances might suggest. The author has marshalled the history of whale remains throughout the British Isles yielding an insight into the whaling trade, the response of communities to the appearance of the great whales stranded on their neighbouring stretch of coast and stories of the immense attachment people have developed toward whalebone arches in particular.

Nick Redman was inspired to start his quest by the sight in 1974 of the jawbone arch grandly exposed at the summit of the 615 feet North Berwick Law. The current bones are from an 'Atlantic whale' replacing those erected in 1789 which fell into decay, like so many others. The oldest surviving pair still in situ are those in Jersey from a whale stranded in 1726. At Rotherwell in West Yorkshire there has been a succession of arches since 1835, the present example being the fourth set of jawbones, erected in 1967 following vigorous representations to the council by residents who were determined to retain their local landmark.

Entire skeletons were occasionally mounted out-of-doors like that of the sperm whale washed ashore on the Holderness coast placed in the grounds of Burton Constable hall (E. Yorks.). This too became a ruin but most of the bones were recently recovered and it is hoped that this whale, immortalised in Melville's *Moby Dick*, will eventually be displayed again but undercover protected from the elements. Another bull sperm whale was washed ashore at Seaton Carew in 1706 and claimed as the perquisite of the prince bishop of Durham. Kept at Durham castle for many years it was later exhibited in the undercroft of the cathedral, until in 1978 the skeleton was transferred to the museum at Beamish. The passions a stranding could arouse is demonstrated by the 65 feet whale which came ashore near Boscombe pier, Bournemouth, in 1897. A local physician, a Dr. Simpson purchased the carcass and in a confrontation with the municipal sanitary inspector, who was eager to clear the 'nuisance' away as quickly as possible, drew

a sword stick before being restrained by the local police!.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries large numbers of jawbones of Greenland whales were brought home to sell as gateposts or simply to be put up as a curiosity or landmark. Within the whaling ports use might be made of them as a structural framework, like the seven pairs covered in canvas to form a shed which stood in Whitby till 1930. The vanished blubberhouse at Kings Lynn was supported along one side by a colonnade of no less than thirteen jawbones. While in Delamere forest, Cheshire a decorative arch was coopted as the main support of a shanty built by Marion Hollingsworth, the indigent widow of a soldier, who lived there from 1815-1829.

Whale ribs being lighter and more manageable are often found far from the sea, a surprising number in churches and many of these associated with the Dun Cow, a legendary beast slain by Guy of Warwick. Such a rib can be seen in St. Marys, Chesterfield and though any sort of cetacean remains are rare in Wales there is a bone at Pennant Melangell in the church of St. Melangell, Powys, where it is known as the 'Giants rib' and another, along with a humerus, mounted over the porch of St. Tydecho, Mallwyd in Gwynedd.

One of the saddest losses is the seat made from a sperm whale skull which was lost amongst the rubble removed from the war damaged St. Nicholas church at Great Yarmouth, which can be traced in the churchwardens accounts back to 1606.

Scotland is blessed with a number of arches which unusually combine vertebrae or even a shoulder blade mounted at the apex. At Bragar, Lewis, an arch was made from the jaws of a stranded whale which had escaped the attentions of a whaler because the explosive head of the harpoon had failed to go off. The harpoon is displayed suspended beneath the point of the arch.

Up and down the length of England from Hull to Essex whale shoulder blades were used as signs, usually for inns and taverns and often as a representation of the name — the Whalebone inn, the Bladebone or Splaw-

bone, though one of the finest surviving is that of the Royal Children in Nottingham.

As the years take their toll many of these osseous relics have decayed, been displaced by road widening or neglected when the local residents have lost interest, Some have been returned from the scrap heap like the arch at Patrington, E. Yorks., reerected in the 1990s only for the bones to be stolen and bizarrely replaced by two pieces of driftwood, bolted together at the apex, which from a distance are quite convincing!

As well as the comprehensive record of whale bones across the countryside the author completes his survey with a summary listing of the skeletal remains in all the major museum collections. This is a beautifully produced book, illustrated throughout with reproduction of prints, drawings and archive and contemporary photographs. It provides a feast of delights for the biologist, folklorist, museum keeper, librarian, social historian and all those who love the British countryside and its many curious landmarks. The reviewer, based at that 'Leviathanic museum' described by Melville, has maintained a correspondence with the author for a quarter of a century and is still surprised and delighted by the wonderful material he has discovered.

Arthur G. Credland, Hull Maritime Museum

Paul Gibson *Images of England Hull Pubs and Breweries* Tempus 2004, 128pp (over 200 illustrations) ISBN 0 7524 3284 2 £12.99 (paperback).

This work, although of great value for its intelligently selected illustrations, is to be commended for the quality of the accompanying text, which is well researched, concise and accurate.

The first chapter includes a survey of pub architecture styles ranging from the front room of a house, such as the Barrel Tavern, to purpose built large buildings. The ornate Windmill Hotel was rebuilt by the local wine & spirit merchant William Wheatley as a Victorian gin palace and became known as one of 'Wheatley's follies' as most of his pubs were over decorated externally. Many pubs

have been rebuilt due to changes in taste and fluctuations in the trade. However, some rebuilds are the result of road improvements and probably the most interesting illustration in the book shows the Empress before the construction of Alfred Gelder Street in 1902; a later photograph of the 1903 Empress is also usefully included. There is a welcome trend to reuse old buildings rather than present an architect with a blank site and some pub owning chains, Wetherspoon's in particular, have produced good conversions although their maintenance in the future may be a concern.

An area almost always overlooked by beer writers is the bottle and jug or out-door departments of pubs, which are the precursors of many off-licences. The second part of Paul Gibson's book deals exclusively with this subject, which became increasingly important following advances in mechanical bottling from the end of the nineteenth century. A novel illustration shows the Hull Brewery owned 'Chocolate Box' in George Street and a notice in the window informs us that it had been acquired by Carmichaels.

Before the advent of flash photography illustrations of pub interiors are rare unless they were taken by the breweries that owned them but even these are uncommon. The third chapter of Paul Gibson's work is an 'A to Z' of pubs and includes the mock-Tudor Argyle Hotel, rebuilt by the wine & spirit merchants Henry Wilson & Son Ltd; unusually the Argyle continued the theme throughout the building as three splendid interior illustrations show. An even more unusual interior view is a postcard of the Hole in the Wall dated 1914; from the way the bottles and objects are arranged it looks like an advert for Bass.

An illustration new to me shows James Southam's Victoria Vaults on Anlaby Road, which fronted his bottling plant. Southam's business was purchased by Hull Brewery in 1948 and the fourth section of the book depicts illustrations of the two major breweries in Hull, Hull Brewery and Moors' & Robson's. A significant number of illustrations showing the Hull Brewery buildings and workers have survived but those of M & R are quite scarce. Paul Gibson has managed to find an excellent series of photographs from 1913 show-

ing brewery workers at M & R from the family of the photographer.

To round off the book there are a selection of illustrations that do not quite fit in the previous sections; many are engraved adverts for pubs or show the licensees outside their premises. Pub outings have always been popular, especially by charabanc, and a number of these are depicted.

Robert Barnard

Roy Gregory *The industrial windmill in Britain* Phillimore 2005, 148pp (62 black and white illustrations) ISBN 1 86077 3346 £19.99 (hard cover).

This is another important contribution to the history of the windmill from the pen of Roy Gregory. It corrects the assumption, so widespread, that the windmill is synonymous with grinding cereals, generally wheat, barley and oats. The evolution of the mill and exploitation of wind power is one of the major steps in the series of technological revolutions that have taken since the Stone Age. Even with the advent of steam power which drove the Industrial Revolution of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries wind and water still played their part in the manufacturing and processing industries.

Windmills were used for crushing oil seed, grinding flint and clay bodies for large scale pottery and brick making, the preparation of white lead and many mineral based pigments, pulverising chalk to make whiting and gypsum for plaster. In addition wind power also operated stamp mills for pounding rags into pulp for paper-making, for operating saws to cut planks from raw timber as well as pumping water for the public drinking supply.

Processing fossil coprolites for phosphate, and crushing bones for bone-meal to improve the land are less common uses.

Wind mills used for water extraction and drainage, especially in the fens and East Africa, were an ubiquitous feature of the landscape.

A geographical survey of industrial mills which concludes the book covers England,

Wales and Scotland as well as the Isle of Man. Hull and East Yorkshire were well supplied with such mills and a number are illustrated including the whiting mills at Stoneferry, best known from the painting by John Ward (1798-1849). Hull, by the end of the nineteenth century was the focus of oil-seed crushing for the whole of the British Empire so it is interesting that an oil mill was recorded here so early in 1525.

Arthur G. Credland

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Robert Barnard (ed.) *Pettingell's Bird's Eye View of Hull 1880*. Local History Unit, Hull College, 2004 on CDR £10. (Pettingell's Bird's Eye view with contemporary street plan and directory, descriptions of many buildings shown and "Walk Right back" local history walk notes, also Whittock's view of 1855)

Robert Barnard (ed.) *Thomas Mapplebeck: A Victorian Collector*. Local History Unit, Hull College, 2005 on CDR £10. (illustrations by F.S. Smith, Thomas Mapplebeck and others from Mapplebeck's 'Grangerised' copies of Brown's Illustrated Guide and Hull Celebrities)

André Brannan (ed.) *Reminiscences of The Hull General Infirmary by William Shepherdson 1873*. Local History Unit, Hull College, 2004 on CDR £10. (text of the 1873 publication plus plans, illustrations and newspaper articles)

Arthur G. Credland *A Centenary Commemoration. North Sea Incident: Assault on the Hull fishing fleet 21-22 October 1904 and the origins and fate of the box fleet*. Hull Museums & Galleries, 2004 ISBN 0 904490 32 7 £7.95

Shirley Dalby, Derek Brooks and John Holmes *A New History of Swanland: The School and the Twentieth Century*. Swanland Village History Group, 2003 ISBN 0 9543440 1 4 £7.50

Hull General Cemetery (Spring Bank Cemetery) Monumental Inscriptions. East York-

shire Family History Society, 2005 (EYFHS Publication No.M222 in the Monumental Inscriptions Series)

Paul. L. Gibson *Hull Pubs and Breweries*. Tempus, Stroud (Images of England) 2004 ISBN 0 7524 3284 2 £12.99

Roy Gregory *The Industrial Windmill in Britain*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Chichester, 2004 ISBN 1 86077 334 6 £17.99

David Goodman *Foul Deeds & Suspicious Deaths in Hull*. Wharncliffe Books, Barnsley, 2005 ISBN 1 903425 43 3 £9.99

K.A. MacMahon *Beverley*. Highgate Publications (Beverley) Ltd., Beverley, 2004 £8.75 (new, illustrated, edition of the 1973 publication)

John Markham *Hammonds of Hull*. Highgate Publications (Beverley) Ltd., Beverley, 2004 ISBN 1 902 645 39 1 £9.95

Paul Morfitt & Malcolm Wells *Hull Trolleybuses*. Middleton Press (distributed by Phillimore) 2004 ISBN 1 904474 24 1 £14.95

Gerardine Mulcahy (ed.) *A View of the Hall: Discovering The Country Houses of the East Riding*. Burton Constable Foundation, Burton Constable, 2005 ISBN 0 9550331 0 1 (price?). (includes articles on a View of the Hall, The Bethells of Rise, The Grand Tour in the 18thC. Summergangs Hall & Holderness House, 18thC Agricultural practice in the East Riding, Charles Raleigh Chichester and the Crimean War, Sir Christopher Sykes and the decoration of Sledmere House, an explosion in a Country House – Burton Constable, Sir Tatton Sykes II of Sledmere, Aston Hall, North Ferriby, Anthony Bannister, Sewerby Hall and Mary Lady Boynton)

Brian Seddon & David L. Bean *Well-Heeled: the Remarkable Story of The Public Benefit Boot Company*. Phillimore, & Co. Ltd., Chichester, 2004 £17.99. (includes many Hull references)

David Sherwood *David Sherwood's Beverley*. Local History Unit, Hull College, 2004 ISBN 1 898398 81 X £3.00 (includes, 'A Stroll Down Keldgate', 'Shops in Beverley in my youth' and 'Beckside, Butchery and

Boozers: An introduction to the life and times of Beverley butcher George Robert Armstrong 1869-1933')

Michael Sewell *Hornsea in the 20th Century A Chronology Volume II 1926-1950* Hornsea 2005 64pp. (Available from The North Holderness Museum of Village Life, Hornsea)

SOCIETY JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

The Cottingham Local History Society Journal Volume XXIII: Part II January 2005 includes articles on 'Cottingham in White's 1826 Directory', Edwin and Olive Elizabeth Wright and their Family History' by Ian Wright, 'Bringing home the Bacon: A Look at one of Cottingham's Butchers' by Rachel Waters, 'Cottingham in Colour as seen in early Postcards', Archbishop Herring's Visitation Return 1743 for Cottingham and Skidby', and Cottingham Traders' Association Advertisements'

Hessle Local History Society Newsletter No.49 January 2005 includes article on 'An Odd Shaped Square' by Keith Hare,

Hessle Local History Society Newsletter No.50 April 2005 includes articles on 'More from the Hessle Urban District Council Minutes' (1920s) by Keith Hare, 'An Odd Shaped Square Part II' by Keith Hare, and 'Hessle in 1834 Part 1' by Michael G. Free

LOCAL HISTORY CLASSES AND COURSES AUTUMN TERM 2005

Hull Adult Education Local History classes

w/c 12 September 2005

Monday – Local History – Hull Central Library 6.30 – 8.30pm £38.00

Tuesday – Ramble across the Countryside; local history & archaeology – The Priory Centre 9am-12noon £56.50

Tuesday – Local History - Avenues Adult Education Centre 7-9pm £38.00

Wednesday – Trace your Family Tree - Preston Road 3.30-5.30pm free

Thursday – History of Hull – The Priory Centre 9.30-11.30am £38.00

Thursday – History of Old Hull & Preston Road – Preston Road 9.30-11.30am

Thursday – Art History The Ferens Collection – The Priory Centre 1-3pm £38.00

Friday – Local History - Preston Road Adult Education Centre 9.30-11.30am £38.00

Friday – History of Old Hull – Age Concern, St Luke's Street 9.30-11.30am £38.00

Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull

from Monday 26 September 2005 – Landscape History in the Parishes of Sutton and Wawne – Mary Carrick – St James CofE School, Dorchester Road, Bransholme, Hull – start of ten week course - fee £55 – University of Hull

from Tuesday 27 September 2005 – The History of Hull – David A. Smith – University of Hull 7 –9pm - fee £55 (start of 10 week course)

East Riding of Yorkshire Council Adult Education Service

Course details not yet available (late June 2005)

Tel (01482) 392811 for brochure from mid/late July 2005.

EAST YORKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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