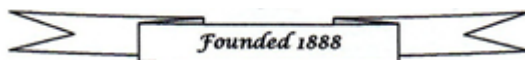




Newsletter
of the
Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeology Society



January 2026

**Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeology Society 2026
Lecture Programme**

The lectures are held at the Salvation Army Citadel, Tolhouse Street, Great Yarmouth and start at 7.30pm.

January 16th—Members Night

Life, love and loss in Great Yarmouth's Rows by Stuart Burgess
Using AI to bring history 'alive' - useful or not? by Gareth Davies

February 20th

Great Yarmouth and the Dutch Strangers by Professor Christopher Joby. UEA School of History

March 20th

Smuggling Around East Anglia by Andy Beharrell

April 17th

Bones and Stones Earth Heritage in the Waveney Valley by Tim Holt-Wilson

May 15th A.G.M.

Uncovering Great Yarmouth-Results of the 2022-3 Excavation and Surveys by Joanna Caruth. Cotswold Archaeology

September 18th

Impacts of Climate change on our Dynamic Coast by Dr Leanne Melbourne. Norfolk Museums Service

October 16th

Arminghall Henge and its Relationship with the Broads River System by Dr Andrew Hutcheson FSA. Sainsbury Institute

November 20th

The Lost Villages of Norfolk by Cameron Self and John Fielding

December 18th

Christmas Quiz and Buffet



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**SPECIAL POINT
OF INTEREST**

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Some recent activities of the YHAC



This autumn, *the Young History & Archaeology Club* explored the legacy of the First World War through visits, research, and personal stories. Members visited local landmarks including St Peter's Plain and the town's war memorials, reflecting on the impact of conflict on Great Yarmouth.



At *The Place*, the young people examined documents and artefacts which revealed how the war touched the local community. A special highlight was the visit from GYLHAS member Alan Hunt, who brought in medals awarded to his relatives. Seeing the medals and hearing the tales behind them gave the young historians a sense of connection, turning inscriptions on the War Memorial into personal stories. Thanks to Alan for sharing these.

In November, the club visited the *Norfolk Regimental Collection at Norwich Castle* to gain a sense of wartime conditions. Despite wet and windy weather, members climbed the newly opened battlements to enjoy spectacular views of the city.

Our December meeting took inspiration from the museum's collection as members crafted Christmas keepsakes in the



style of Princess Mary's gifts. Each was personalised with a message, reminding us of the poignancy of the originals and the soldiers who received them.



Thanks as always to GYLHAS members Glenda Wells, Ann Dunning and Una Watson for supporting the group and working

with the young people.

Patricia Day & Stuart Burgess

LAWN AVENUE AND THE OPENING OF THE HAVEN BRIDGE IN 1930

Mr Malcolm Triggs who lives in Kent passed some photographs that belonged to his late father-in-law to our Chairman. They are a record of the opening of the Haven Bridge by Edward Prince of Wales on 21st October 1930.

Two pictures particularly interested me showing 'a Motorcade' travelling along an empty road with some existing buildings in the distance, some of which have disappeared in the



Second World War such as the Spire on St Nicholas Church and the chimney on the waste destructor.



It became clear that the vehicles were travelling along what was to become Lawn Avenue and the photographs were taken from the embankment of the railway bridge

which carried the line from Beach Station to connect with the rest of the railway network. I had assumed that this may be the cars bringing the Prince of Wales to open the bridge but as John McBride states in his 'Diary of Great Yarmouth' the New Bypass was opened by the Mayor Councillor Lawn on 14th May 1931.

My friend Peter Jones pointed out that Prince Edward arrived at the Fish Wharf before opening the bridge and left from Gorleston in an aeroplane. Incidentally, the only building on the nascent Lawn Avenue is a single storey brick and tile edifice which stands to this day as a sewage pumping station. The building plots along the new road were not laid out until 1933.

Andrew Fakes

GAS HOLDER RESTORATION UPDATE

The National Grid is in the process of refurbishing the frame of the Grade II listed Victorian gasholder on Admiralty Road. This frame is one of nineteen of such structures that have been



awarded listed status within England. It is regarded as one of the finest in the country. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, coal gas, also called 'Town Gas' was phased out and replaced with natural gas. When this took place, much of the plant was demolished, although the last two holders were used in the early 1970s. As part of this restoration programme, the

National Grid has applied for temporary use of the land next to the gasholder to accommodate a working area for contractors during the refurbishment project. Within this plot of land would used as a compound area, a welfare facility and office portacabins.

It is planned that the restoration work is expected to be underway by the early 2026. It is expected to be finished by the end of 2027. The restoration work includes the removal of old paint, as well as cleaning, structural repairs and painting of the cast iron frame. Planning permission for this work was granted in April 2024. The tank situated at the base of the gasholder was removed and parts of which was given to the Time and Tide Museum.

Michael Wadsworth

Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society

www.greatyarmouthlocalhistoryandarchaeology.com

Annual Membership

- | | | |
|--|--------|--------------------------|
| Single Membership with Annual Journal | £20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Single Membership without Annual Journal | £12.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family Membership with Annual Journal | £24.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family Membership without Annual Journal | £16.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please tick and complete the form and send with your cheque made payable to GYLHAS

The Membership Secretary, Peter Jones, 16 Main Road,
Ormesby St. Michael, Great Yarmouth, NR29 3LW.

I/We wish to renew my membership for the 'Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society'

I enclose a cheque/PO for:.....

Name.....

Address.....

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Signed.....

Date.....

Please see over for Gift Aid

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The GYLHAS (Registered Charity No 277272) benefits from Gift Aid with no additional cost to you. If you are a tax payer and wish to Gift Aid your subscription please complete and return the declaration below with your membership form.

I would like the Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society to treat all subscriptions and donations I make as Gift Aid Donations until I notify them otherwise.

Signed.....Date.....

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If you would like to receive the GYLHAS newsletter and details of Society's events, please tick here:

The society will use the most efficient method to communicate depending on the information on your membership / consent form.

You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting the secretary.

IF YOU DO NOT TICK THIS OPTION YOU WILL RECEIVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION FROM THE GYLHAS.

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