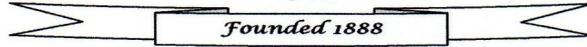




Newsletter



Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society



May 2021

Journal 2021

As advised in the January newsletter, the society will not be collecting any subscriptions from members this year in view of the Covid-19 restrictions which prevented most of our planned activities for 2020 from taking place. It was however proposed and agreed that the cost of producing and distributing our annual Journal should be covered by charging each member £10 for their copy. We thank those members who have already ordered and paid for their copy, and would encourage others to kindly do so as soon as possible, and in any case before July, so that we will know how many copies to order from the printers. This year, the Journal will include many interesting and informative articles, including such subjects as: The Changing Face of Hall Quay, Arnold Brothers Department Store, the Isolation (Escourt) Hospital, Sunningdale Holiday Camp, Bromholm Priory, and many more. Our membership secretary, Peter Jones, will collect payments.

Please, therefore, either send your cheque for £10, or cash, to Peter Jones, 16 Main Road, Ormesby St. Michael, Gt. Yarmouth, NR29 3LW, or, if you prefer to pay online, please pay £10 direct to the society's bank account at: HSBC Bank, Great Yarmouth, sort code 40-22-22, account number 00401331, ensuring that your name is quoted as the reference. Thank you.

John Smail

A Picture of Yarmouth walking tour

Like the rest of the UK, the GYLHAS committee has been enjoying the easing of lockdown restrictions and is keeping a cautious watch as Covid cases fall. The committee is constantly monitoring the Govt guidelines, alongside our local situation,

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and hope to return to in-person meetings at Christchurch just as soon as it is safe to do so.

Meanwhile, to celebrate the GYLHAS Picture of Yarmouth Project we are delighted to announce that Gareth Davies will lead A Picture of Yarmouth walking tour on 17th August 2021. Starting at St George's Theatre at 11am and taking roughly 1.5 hours it will take in several the buildings featured in John Preston's original 1819 book. Numbers are restricted to 15 people and subject to Covid-19 restrictions at the time. Places

need to be booked in advance at <https://poywalk.bpt.me> or by ringing 01502 370515. The walk is free to members.

We are also hoping to hold the ever-popular church crawl and the cemetery crawl later in the autumn. Details will follow in the next newsletter. *Patricia Day*

Winter Gardens restoration

The Council has recently made an application for funding to bring the Winter Gardens back into use. The Winter Gardens are a Grade II* building said to be the UK's last surviving Victorian seaside cast iron and glass winter gardens.



The Council states that its aim is to save and restore the Winter Gardens as a year-

round visitor attraction which makes use of the building within its seafront location which links in with the recent restoration of the Venetian Waterways and the new Marina Centre.

Bid to National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Horizons Awards scheme

In February 2020, the Winter Gardens was one of the 12 projects shortlisted to apply for a share of £50m with £9.9m being sought. After project development work with conservation specialists was carried out, the Council put forward the restoration project to the next stage. It is hoped that there will be an announcement regarding the outcome in mid-summer. If the bid is successful, then further funding will become available.

Activities and functions survey

In support of the application, a four-week public consultation in the form of a survey was carried out about what residents and visitors wanted to be done to the building. A total of 2,365 residents and visitors were questioned, of which 13% of the respondents were young people, which is an above-average response from young people. Responses, from all age groups, were generally supportive of the plans indicating a high level of support from the community for the Winter Gardens restoration.

Michael Wadsworth

GYLHAS's membership of BALH

A couple of years ago the society took out membership of the British Association for Local History finding that it provided insurance for affiliate societies. Their printed newsletters and quarterly journal, Local Historian, have been available at our face-to-face meetings and can be borrowed by members. They can also be found online at <https://www.balh.org.uk/>.

In the past year BALH have appointed digital engagement officers and their online resources have increased as a result. For those of our members interested in research, their podcast series, of which there are seven at the moment, are well worth listening to.

They can be found at <https://www.balh.org.uk/podcast>.

Others resources include Ten-minute talks on local history topics -

<https://www.balh.org.uk/ten-minute-talks>

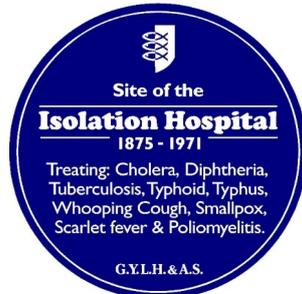
and presentation material from BALH conferences - <https://www.balh.org.uk/resources-balh-conference-presentation-material>.

Gareth Davies

Recent Blue

Plaques

Recently, two blue plaques have been erected without any ceremony. Full details will be in the 2021 Journal. One



hundred and two plaques have now been erected in the Borough.

The plaque marking the

Isolation Hospital is apt while we are living with a Covid 19 pandemic. We now appreciate how our ancestors lived with infectious perils all around them.

When Covid restrictions are lessened the Chairman hopes to organise a cemetery crawl and a church crawl.

Paul Davies

Sea Levels, the Broads and Great Yarmouth

During lockdown, I have been looking through various books I have about the house and some of the articles published in Norfolk Archaeology are of great interest to those of us who live in Yarmouth.

I quote from a piece entitled '*The Broads and the medieval peat industry*': *Summary of the Royal Geographical Society memoir by R.R. Clarke* Vol XXXII Part III, the 1960 edition of Norfolk Archaeology

After some paragraphs about the depth of the Broads the final paragraph reads;

The final problem to be solved – how was it possible to dig peat to a depth of ten or more feet without the workings being

flooded if the water level was the same as today – required the help of an archaeologist, C. Green and a civil engineer, J. N. Hutchinson. By good fortune this investigation coincided with the construction in 1954-55 of South Denes power station at Great Yarmouth, and the discovery of



pottery and other archaeological material in quantity below sea level showed conclusively that in the thirteenth century the Yarmouth Spit stood at least 13 feet higher above the sea than it does now. This conclusion was confirmed by observations at a number of other sites in and around Great Yarmouth, which by demonstrating that in Late Saxon and Norman times the land stood higher removed the difficulty felt by many regarding the digging of peat-pits. The Yarmouth sections also showed that the submergence had set in by the late thirteenth century and that it was the progressive lowering of the land surface which caused the flooding of peat-pits and their gradual conversion into the Norfolk Broads.

R.R. Clarke was R. Rainbird Clarke F.S.A, (Curator of the Castle Museum?)

Further issues relating to this article

The St. Gertrude's Night Flooding of East Anglia 1294 when a very high tide resulted in four feet of water being recorded in St. Nicholas Church.

Geologists believe that a tilting of the island of Britain as the west of the land mass is rising upwards as the weight of the ice in glaciers was removed at the end of the last ice age. It has been argued that the 'see-saw' effect has lowered the eastern side of Britain whereas the west has risen.

Andrew Fakes

Great Yarmouth's High Street Heritage Action

In a press release issued by the Borough Council, it is reported that the Great Yarmouth Borough Council, with Historic England and Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust, is launching a £1.9m four-year scheme putting heritage and the local community at the heart of revitalising the town centre. The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) involves local people in repairing, conserving and building a better understanding of the area's historic buildings and sites, working with local partners to support regeneration and recovery, conserving buildings at risk, creating new facilities and giving people new skills.

The High Street Heritage Action Zone is a four-year programme, led



by the borough council in partnership with Historic England, which has awarded grant funding of £980,743. The HSHAZ area comprises the Market Place, the Rows and the northern end of King Street. It

complements the wider investment and regeneration ambitions supported by the £13.77m Future High Streets Fund and £20.1m Town Deal.

Heritage projects

The HSHAZ scheme is supporting work to consolidate the section of medieval Town Wall alongside the Market Place, where scaffolding is already in place as part of preparations. The next project will be restoration of the wrought iron railings at St Nicholas Priory Primary School. The HSHAZ will also help repair and improve historic buildings in Market Row and go towards landscaping the Market Place to complement the £4.6m Market Place redevelopment already underway.

Building on acclaimed conservation and heritage work that has already been completed in the area, further HSHAZ projects include the repair and re-use of two target buildings in King Street and the Market Place, grant funding schemes supporting historic shopfront improvements and historic building repairs, and historic digital mapping of the area.

Community Involvement

The HSHAZ will see the project partners work with local groups and organisations to involve the community through a range of initiatives, including hands-on training and workshops in traditional building techniques and skills, as well as research projects and opportunities to engage with heritage through art.

To register an interest in getting involved, email the HSHAZ project manager Lou Robson lou.robson@great-yarmouth.gov.uk