



Newsletter



Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society



Founded 1888

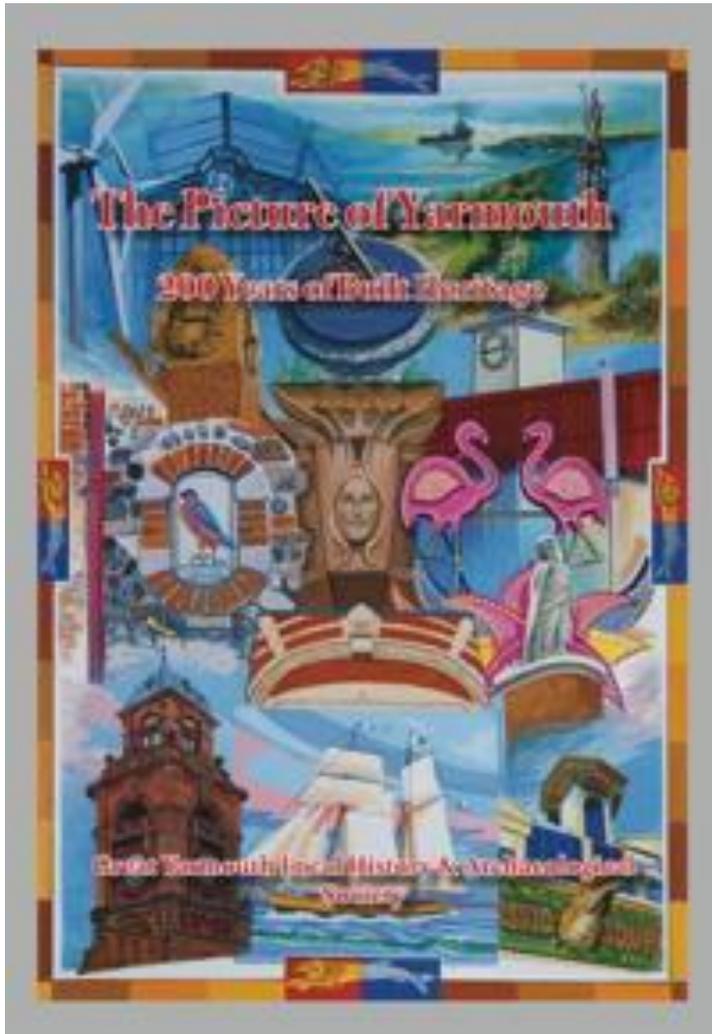


August 2021

GYLHAS History Fair and Book Launch

The Picture of Yarmouth: 200 Years of Built Heritage

The culmination of GYLHAS's successful Heritage Fund bid takes place on 14 August 2021 at St George's Theatre, King Street, Great Yarmouth with the launch of a new book. The book celebrates John Preston's title, published in 1819, by providing the history of the buildings he described and illustrated as well as post-Preston buildings chosen by the people of Yarmouth in a poll conducted in 2019/2020.



Come and see the exhibition about the project and chat with Philip Harvey, the professional Yarmouth artist who has illustrated the new book and take the opportunity to purchase the limited-edition hardback (£15, reduced to £10 for society members). The event takes place between 10am and 3pm with the official launch of the book by the Mayor of Yarmouth at 1.15pm (the book is on sale throughout the day).

Book here to secure a time slot to view the exhibition and reserve your book: <https://poybook.bpt.me> or ring 0800 411 8881 and quote event 5155356

In addition, The Great Yarmouth Heritage Guides are running a special guided walk around some of Preston's buildings finishing at St George's at 12.30pm. The walk starts at the gates of St. Nicholas Minster at 11am and costs £4.50 for adults, £2.00 for children (7-17 years). Under 7's free, no unaccompanied children permitted on the walk. Booking is required through the Visit Great Yarmouth website:

<https://www.visit-greatyarmouth.co.uk/whats-on/picture-of-yarmouth-guided-heritage-walk-p1442101> -

or ring 01493 846346 giving the name 'Picture of Yarmouth Guided Heritage Walk' and the date 14 August.

There are a few places left on the GYLHAS members only walk on 17 August at 11am from St George's (maximum 15). This walk is free. To book use the link: <https://poywalk.bpt.me> or ring 0800 411 8881 and quote event 5111083



Winter Gardens Restoration

The project to restore the Winter Gardens in Great Yarmouth has received a grant of £9,977,100 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. At present the Grade 2* listed building is at an



acute and immediate risk of loss. In 2018 it was included in that year's list of top ten endangered Victorian and Edwardian buildings produced by the Victorian Society. The Winter Gardens was de-

signed and built in 1878-81, the architects being John Watson and William Harvey. Built of glass and iron, it was originally constructed in Torquay and was then a commercial failure. It was then purchased by Great Yarmouth's Council, dismantled and moved by barge, and reassembled in its current position, it is said, without a single pane of glass breaking. The Winter Gardens resemble a horticultural winter gardens rather than the conservatory style buildings that are to be found in Southport and Bournemouth. There are no curved panes and the only decoration to be found are the floral motifs that are on the iron work. The building is 170 feet long and is 83 feet high at the top of its lantern. Over the years the building been used as a ballroom, a roller-skating rink, an amusement arcade and a German beer garden.

The Winter Gardens restoration project was one of 12 projects that were shortlisted nationally to apply to the Heritage Horizons Awards Scheme. As part of this process, a survey of residents and visitors was carried out to find out more about what the public want to see and do in the restored gardens. As part of the application, it was stated that there would be plans to use the Winter Gardens to complement the recently-restored Venetian Waterways and the new Marina Centre, which at the moment is under construction.

At present it is empty and unused, but the restoration plans envisages the Winter Gardens being a year-round free attraction and there will be botanic planting that reflects the town's trading links from around the world that existed in the past. There will also be a new first floor level that will include galleries, viewing areas and an education space and that there will be local community and arts groups involvement. It is hoped that once restored there will be over 90 new jobs created. There will be also a café and restaurant areas. The restoration project is one of five projects in the UK to be awarded Heritage Horizon Awards that were awarded in July, 2021. These include the

Country's first Marine Park, the UK's first major experiment in wet farming in Cambridgeshire and a large-scale partnership project to preserve the outstanding Cairngorm landscape. The International Museum of Slavery in Liverpool will receive funding for major redevelopment in Liverpool docks.

Denton's URC Chapel

This is located at Chapel Corner in Denton and was built in 1821 for the Congregationalists and restored 1963. This building is not the first chapel on the site with the first chapel being constructed in 1653 when a "wandering preacher" arrived in the village. As such it was the first non-conformist establishment in the area predating many of the nearby chapels.

Built with brick, it is a two story building with three by three bays on each side with a pyramid roof made of slate (which was re-roofed in 2016). It has been described as being a "very fine" building "of the meeting house type". On the south side of the building are two doors complete with primitive porches and lean columns. Inside the chapel there is a gallery, supported on slim iron columns, along three sides, box pews and a polygonal and panelled pulpit complete with baluster railings. There is a War Memorial commemorating those killed in both World War and which contains the names of two men named on the War Memorial in St Mary's church.