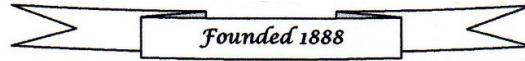
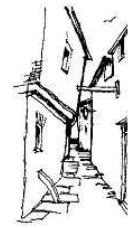




Newsletter

of the

Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society



July, 2023

Almost on our doorstep

Over the past few years I have visited the following three churches described below and I would recommend visiting them if you get the chance. They can be visited by bus (the No 1 bus operated by First Eastern Counties goes close by them all). Also St Mary's Church at West Somerton (see a previous issue of the Newsletter although probably best visited by car as it is a bit of a distance from the nearest bus stop and there is a rather handy car-park next to it), the Church of the Holy Trinity and All Saints at Winterton and St Margarets Church at Ormesby (there is parking space not too far away from the church) are of interest and I think are also worth a visit. When I visited, all the churches described below were open from 10am, although circumstances may have changed since I visited. In previous years there were guided tours around Martham's St Mary's Church during the Heritage Open Days normally held in September. I am not sure if this will be the case this year.

St Mary's Church at Martham

St Mary's Church at Martham has been in the past been referred to as the "Cathedral of the Fleggs"



due to its size. Built mainly in the 15th Century, it has a large west tower which is built in the Early Perpendicular style, with suspended shields, and has a spire on top (although in Pevsner's Buildings of England it is described as being a 'lead-covered spike'), a two storey South Porch, a groined roof and an ornately carved doorway. The internal archways are, judging by their design and decoration, are from the 15th Century. Within the church there is a rather sadly vandalised seven

sacrament font, a south aisle chapel dedicated to St Blide (St Blide is said to be buried in Martham and who was the mother of St Walstan, who is/was the patron saint of farm workers and



whose shrine was once at Bawburgh) and some medieval stained glass in some of the windows. These windows containing medieval glass have been described on Simon Knott's Norfolk Churches website as being the church's 'most spectacular treasure'. Located in the east windows of the south and north aisles and are a series of over twenty panels of individual saints and scenes, and it is thought to be part of much larger sequences. They are good examples of the Norwich school of stained glass that flourished during

the 15th Century. It is thought that not all these stained glass were from this church and were collected from elsewhere.

The pews are from the 15th Century and have carved poppy-heads. The chancel was expensively restored between 1855 and 1861, which was paid for by Mrs Alice Langley as in memory of the Rev. Jonathan Dawson. The restoration included a wrought iron Rode screen, an impressive east window and chancel arch. The glass work in the east window was made by Hardman & Co in the 1860s, which displays scenes from the life of Christ. The stained glass in the chancel windows are also by Hardman & Co. Also in the chancel, created as part of the restoration, is a memorial to the Rev. Jonathan Dawson in the style of a traditional Easter Sepulchre and there is a matching pulpit, sedilia and arcading of the eastern wall. The architect chosen to oversee the restoration of the chancel was a Mr Philip Boyce, from Cheltenham, and the stone mason was a Mr Earp, neither of whom are known to have done any other restoration work within the region. It appears that Boyce also supervised the restoration of the hammer-beam roof. The roof contains some rather fine wood carvings of angels.



St Mary's Church at Hemsby

According to Pevsner, the only buildings of interest in Hemsby are located in the older part of the village and that since the 1950s nothing of individual note has been built in the village. St Mary's Church has been described as have a large interior which unites both the chancel and the nave. The chancel is thought to date from the early 14th Century and contains a Perpendicular window. The South Porch is of note in that it has a vaulted ceiling with ornate bosses that are not normally found in small village churches

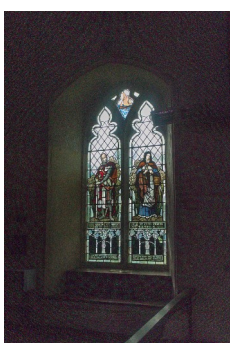


(unfortunately when I visited the church both the door from the church into the porch and the external gates to the porch were locked so it was difficult, but not impossible, to view the carved bosses). Above the South Porch was the Parish Room that once contained the records relating to



the church and has now been converted into a small chapel for private pray (if you do decide to go up to the chapel, be careful as the stairs are rather steep and the steps are narrow which means that you need to take care when descending the stairs). The bosses show God the Father, the Resurrection, the Nativity, the Assumption, the Ascension and the Annunciation.

On the south wall of the nave, near to the rood screen, is the piscina which is within a lion's mask.



Of note is the stained glass in the chancel which includes a window depicting St George which dates from 1908 and is by W Aikman. There is also a window showing a woman knitting. Internally there are memorials to the Ferrier family and whilst the interior has been greatly restored in 1868, there is a rood screen, a three decker pulpit and pews that date from the Jacobean period. The 15th Century font is octagonal, with the symbols of the four evangelists adjoining the bowl shields and there are stem lions



and buttresses. Externally, near the church gate, is the stump of an old sanctuary cross and there are several examples of headstones dating from the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Holy Trinity Church at Caister

According to DP Mortlake's and CV Roberts' Guide to Norfolk Churches, the tower of Caister's Holy Trinity Church is 14th Century and has 15th Century bell openings complete with transoms. The church's roof was once thatched and traces of the original roof can be seen on the east side of the tower. The nave still has a 13th Century lancet in the north wall and the floor in the Lady chapel is still at its original lower level. The font near the south door is not the original font. The present font was purchased for £5 and installed in 1902. It was discovered in a



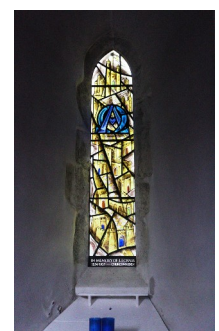
garden of a cottage in Eye in Suffolk and has been described as being one of the biggest fonts in Norfolk. It is 5ft high, not including the steps and the bowl is 3ft 4in across. The church did have a 13th Century font made of Purbeck stone but this was replaced in 1830. The church underwent what was described by Pevsner as a 'fierce restoration' in 1894 which makes the exact dating of the church building difficult. The Royal Coat of Arms on one of the arcade pillars is of interest. Dated 1786 and it is that of George III. However, the motto beneath it is that of James I and it can be seen that the initials have been altered. Displayed on the west wall are two Decalogue boards measuring 8ft by 6ft and date from the late 17th Century. Displayed on the boards are representations of Moses and of Aaron. The chancel is made narrower by two organ boxes on the walls. The east window depicts Christ and his disciples as fishermen and was designed by Paul Woodroffe in the Arts and Crafts style and dating from 1901. The window was designed to be a memorial to the Caister lifeboat men who were drowned in 1901 when their lifeboat was wrecked. In the chancel there is a memorial to Sir William Crowe (attributed to C G Cibber), although the marble bust of Sir William Crowe was stolen in 2014. Described as being a London upholsterer and money lender, it is thought that Sir William Crowe was a member of the Merchant Adventurers of England that had been granted special privileges by Elizabeth I. He purchased Caister Castle from the Pastons in 1659. In the North-Eastern corner of the chancel is a memorial to Robert Crowe (its location is described by Pevsner as being unusual). Within one lancet there there is an example of a 1930s expressionist window. In the churchyard, near to the tower, is the grave of Sarah Martin, the prison reformer. In the graveyard on the other side of the Ormesby Road is a memorial to Caister lifeboat disaster. Carved in stone, consists of a broken pillar along with nets, lifebuoys, chains and other equipment.



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There is a rather convenient lay-by in which a car can be parked whilst visiting the Church. The No. 8 bus from Yarmouth's Market Gates Bus Station also stops nearby.

Podcasts produced by The British Association for Local History

The Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society (GYLHAS) is affiliated to the British Association for Local History (BALH). From time to time the BALH presents online lectures that are free to members of the BALH and to members of affiliated organisations (they charge £5 to non-members). When available, these can be found on the BALH's website. Also available are a series of Podcasts and Ten Minute Talks relating to local history. At the time of writing these include:

Local History Matters Podcast - Each podcast involves people and projects from those engaged within the area of local history. Examples of these include:

Series 3 Episode 3: The historical representation of women in eighteenth century Wales

Series 3 Episode 2: Using Archaeology and Material Culture in Local History Research

Series 2 Episode 2: Why is local history important?

Series 1 Episode 5: Name and Place: One-Name Studies, One-Place Studies and Local History Research with Paul Carter and Pam Smith

Series 1 Episode 2: Hidden Treasures in your Local Museum with Emma Warren

Series 1 Episode 1: National Records, Local History and the 1921 Census with Jessamy Carlson

Ten-Minute Talks – A series of short talks on a range of topics which include:

Kilpeck's View of its Medieval World by John Chandler

Whom shall I marry? 514 answers from south-west Suffolk, 1644-1703 by Wendy Barnes

Time-lapse transformation of an industrial skyline. Construction of a gas holder at the Cambridge University & Town Gas-Light Company in the 1920s by Dr Gordon Davies

Small businesses in the community: stories behind two 19th century billheads by Dr Jane Howells

Two Milch Cows, some Bucks and a Stray Sheepe - Livestock in Knole Park in the 1670s by Stephen Draper

It is suggested that the accompanying notes are either printed or otherwise available in some form as you listen to the talks.

The BALH's website can be found at <https://www.balh.org.uk>

BBC Sounds history Podcasts

There are a number of History related podcasts available that relate to History. At the time of writing these include:

In Our Time – Megaliths: Melvyn Bragg and With Vicki Cummings Professor of Neolithic Archaeology at the University of Central Lancashire, Julian Thomas Professor of Archaeology at the University of Manchester and Susan Greaney Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Exeter discuss megaliths.

In Our Time - The Battle of Crécy: Melvyn Bragg and Anne Curry Emeritus Professor of Medieval History at the University of Southampton, Andrew Ayton Senior Research Fellow in History at Keele University and Erika Graham-Goering Lecturer in Late Medieval History at Durham University discuss the Battle of Crécy.

In Our Time – Mercantilism: Melvyn Bragg and D’Maris Coffman Professor in Economics and Finance of the Built Environment at University College London, Craig Muldrew Professor of Social and Economic History at the University of Cambridge and a Member of Queens’ College and Helen Paul, Lecturer in Economics and Economic History at the University of Southampton discuss mercantilism.

You're Dead To Me: Medieval Irish Folklore (Live): Recorded live at the Hay Festival, Greg Jenner, Dr Gillian Kenny and Seán Burke to discuss medieval Irish folklore.

Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley: Lucy Worsley investigates the crimes of women from the 19th and 20th Century.

The Rest Is History: Lady Jane Grey: The Axe Falls - Can Lady Jane Grey be thought as being an ‘official’ queen of England?

The Rest Is History - Lady Jane Grey: The Nine Days' Queen: The succession to King Edward VI.

A History of the World in 100 Objects Omnibus - The World of Our Making (AD 1914-2010):
With Neil MacGregor

BBC Sounds can be found online at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/podcasts/factual-history>

Conservation Areas within the Great Yarmouth Borough

There are 19 Conservation Areas within the Borough of Great Yarmouth. A conservation area is defined by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as ‘an area of special architectural and historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’. As such, the Borough Council has to assess areas within its boundary that can be described as being within the definition of this Act. Such areas can include open spaces, trees, groups of buildings, historic street patterns, village greens and areas that contain historic or archaeological interest. Conservation areas aim to conserve the character of an area or neighbourhood rather than single buildings.

The Conservation areas that have been designated within the Borough of Great Yarmouth are:

Camperdown (designated on 2 December 1969 and extended on 2 October 1979 and again on 10 October 2003), *Great Yarmouth Market Place, Rows and North Quay* (designated on 25 July 1975 and extended on 10 October 2003), *Hall Quay and South Quay* (designated on 25 July 1975 and extended on 10 October 2003), *King Street* (designated on 25 July 1975 and extended on 27 January

1998 and 10 October 2003), *St Nicholas and Northgate Street* (designated on 25 July 1975 and extended on 10 October 2003), *Prince's Road* (designated on 2 October 1979), *St. Georges, Great Yarmouth* (designated on 10 October 2003), *Great Yarmouth Seafront* (designated on 10 October 2003), *Gorleston Town Centre* (designated on 28 June 1977), *Cliff Hill, Gorleston* (designated on 15 March 1985), *Gorleston Conservation Area Extensions* (designated on 19 June 2009), *Hemsby* (designated on 3 May 1977), *Winterton* (designated on 23 February 1979), *Ormesby St Margaret* (designated on 27 May 1983), *East and West Somerton* (designated on 6 January 1987), *Rollsby* (designated on 3 October 1989), *Newport Cottages* (designated on 26 February 2013) and the *Halvergate Marshes* (designated on 12 May 1995). Maps showing the boundaries of these conservation areas can be found on the Great Yarmouth Borough Council's website.

Heritage at Risk

Each year, English Heritage produces a '*Heritage at Risk Register*'. In 2022, English Heritage identified that over the whole of the East of England region there were 390 sites that were 'at risk' of neglect, decay or inappropriate change. Within the area covered by the Great Yarmouth Council, the following were on the 'At Risk' register for 2022: the Winter Gardens, Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth, the Church of St Mary (including the Church Rooms and the surrounding wall), Regent Road, Great Yarmouth, the Medieval Vaults under 50-56 Howard Street South in Great Yarmouth, the Great Yarmouth Town Walls, the Church of St Nicholas on Church Plain in Great Yarmouth and St Peters Church, including the Presbytery, Lowestoft Road, Gorleston.

Beccles Museum

As part of a recent visit to Beccles, I took the opportunity to visit Beccles Museum. This is located in Leman House, a Grade 1 listed building which was the original 16th Century building of the Sir



John Leman School, in Ballygate, Beccles. It is not too far from the St Michael's Church in Beccles. Since April of this year it has been open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of each week between 1.45pm and 4.30pm (it is closed over the winter months).

The main Museum entrance is through the rear garden which is accessed through the pedestrian gate to one side of the building. The disabled entrance is located just past the main entrance. Entrance is free, but it is possible to make a donation of whatever you wish to help with the running costs of the museum. It is not a large museum and the exhibition space is located in the two ground floor rooms. Presented are aspects of the growth of the town from its beginnings with one room mainly dealing with Beccles from the late 18th Century to the early 20th Century. There is also a space for a small temporary exhibition, they aim to have four such exhibitions during the year, which aim to be something of a topical matter or that goes into an issue in a slightly more depth (for example the current temporary exhibition is about Elliott and Garrod, an engineering company who were a major employer within the centre of the town and who produced, amongst other things, machinery for the fishing industry and became eventually became part of IMI).

In some ways, it is a rather 'old fashioned' local museum that I can remember from when I was a child. This is not meant in a derogatory way and, I am sure this will cause much dissension amongst those members of the Society who may work within the more 'modern' and 'up-to-date' museums locally (and I hope they won't take offence personally), I think it is worthy of support in that it avoids the ghastly 'heritageness' and 'disneyfication' of many modern museums. As stated earlier, it is not a large museum and I don't think it would be worth a special trip to Beccles by itself. However, if you are planning to visit the town it is well worth making the effort to make some time to have a look around it.