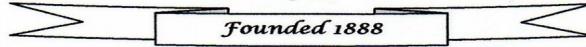




Newsletter



Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society



July 2020

Although the Society has had to postpone this year's AGM and summer excursions during these challenging times, our members continue to represent the society (whilst maintaining a social distance!) to keep a watching brief on the town's heritage. Examples of some of the tasks undertaken include reviewing planning applications submitted to GYBC and progressing the *Picture of Yarmouth* project; more about these below.

The committee is following the Government's guidelines on Covid precautions and will resume meeting dates for the autumn programme when it is safe to do so.

Patricia Day

Recent Planning Applications

The Society is consulted by the Council's Planning Department in regard to planning applications within a Conservation Area. The following have been received over the past few months which may be of interest to the members of the Society.

April

Holy Trinity Church, Caister – An application to demolish the west addition to the Vestry along with the chimney stack and the construction of a new extension to the Vestry and to realign the west roof of the Vestry. The application has been approved subject to a number of conditions including that the development must be begun not later than three years the granting of the approval and that no development shall take place until an archaeological written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; 1) The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording. 2) The programme for post investigation assessment. 3) Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording. 4) Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation. 5) Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of site investigation. 6) Nomination of a competent person or persons/ organization to undertake the works set out within the scheme

of investigation. The reason for the condition is in order to enable investigation and recording of this site of archaeological interest to take place during the period of building works.

Installation of a bronze statue, Blackfriars Road, Great Yarmouth – An application for the installation of a bronze statue by the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust on land near the South East Tower. This application was approved as it met the aims of the Council's Core Policies and the adopted Core Strategy. Also, it was stated that the Council in dealing with the application, the Council had actively sought to work with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner.

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10 South Quay, Great Yarmouth - Change of use from offices into a ground floor office, a first floor office and a three-storey flat above 10 South Quay. This is a Grade II listed building. The Borough Council's Conservation Section has stated the shop frontage is 'unsympathetic and inappropriate' for the historic environment. Whilst the Conservation Section does not oppose the conversion of the property, it does feel that the number of units inappropriate and that they appear to be too small. As such, the proposed changes may promote an unhealthy environment. Also the proposed external alterations would compromise the character and appearance of the property and that the plans have not included a heritage statement which suggests that there is a lack of understanding of a listed building and would justify the proposed changes.

15 Hall Quay, Great Yarmouth (The former Barclays Bank) – Variation of conditions of planning permission that has already been granted by removing conditions 3,6 and 7 of the granted planning permission. These relate to the windows of the building.

May

Demolition of existing railings at front of the Old Art School, Nelson Road Central, Great Yarmouth - The application is for the installation of a removable opening in the railings of the Old Art School on Nelson Road Central, Great Yarmouth of the landscaped section at the front of the property to provide access to maintain the garden area and also maintain the building in this area when necessary. The main access to the property is by concrete steps to the front of the building with enclosed garden areas to either side. These garden areas are bounded by painted metal railings and person access to the garden on the right hand side from the side of the building. There is no person access to the small enclosed areas of garden to the left hand side of the steps. It is proposed that a section of matching metal railings be inserted into the perimeter fencing to the garden on the left hand side of the main steps and will be located on the step-side of the garden area, and more precisely to the side of the large flat area of step between the pairs of steps up to the building. The removable section will be constructed from matching materials, dimensions and decorated to match the remains of the railings that it is joined to. The removable section of railings will be secured to the existing railings on either side and secured by either bolt or padlocks connection. It is intended that the infill panel will be infrequently used and the proposers have stated that the design would make this removable section almost unnoticed. The Borough Council's Conservation Section has opposed this application

The Conge/Brewery Street/George Street Great Yarmouth - Outline application for demolition of existing buildings and the development of 89 dwellings (24 houses and 56 flats/maisonettes, described as 'market homes', and 9 flats/maisonettes, described as 'social/affordable housing' with some matters reserved.

High Barn Farm, Edward Road, Winterton – The development of the site to include conversion and rebuilding of existing barn and outbuildings to form two dwellings. The Council's Planning Section has described this as being a fairly minor development with no comments or objections being raised by Anglian Water, the Environment Agency or Natural England. Concerns have been raised by the Norfolk County Council's Highways Department in regard to traffic entering and leaving the site.

Market Place, Great Yarmouth – Demolition of the existing covered market and construction of new six day covered market.

Picture of Yarmouth Project

Due to the unexpected closing of so many activities in March it was not possible to run the community activities that we had planned for the project including the History Fair last month.

The good news is that the Heritage Lottery Fund have allowed us to extend the project to June 2021 enabling us to plan those activities once people can meet up again and attend events.

The book, which is the culmination of the project is however well advanced, and the sub-committee would like to thank all those that kept to the deadlines to make that possible. We will be using the extra time to enhance the publication ready for launch at the end of the project.

Gareth Davies Project lead

Diane Bayfield - An appreciation

Diane Bayfield ALA (Associate of the Librarians Association), was born Diane Gillingham on 1st May 1943, I think in Gorleston. She attended the Girls High school. She had a sister Sylvia.

She became a qualified Chartered Librarian at Great Yarmouth Library. At the time there was an option of doing a correspondence course instead of going to College and we think she did the former. She met her husband David who was a fellow member of staff at the library. She later became Reference and Local Studies Librarian. Her wide knowledge of Yarmouth and its history made her an excellent candidate for the post and she was also well versed in other subjects such as Arts and Crafts and Antiques, horticulture, cookery and needlework/knitting.

She was a member of the Archaeological society, at some point becoming the first female Chair of the Society, assisting many



researchers. She was a founder member of Grapevine, the talking newspaper with Rex Steadman. She belonged to the Recorded Music Circle. She was also a local magistrate.

After the birth of their son John she left the library. Later on, having moved back to Gorleston/Bradwell she took a position at Woodlands School as a teaching assistant and was also in a secretarial capacity. Sadly, her health deteriorated over the

years and she was eventually confined to a wheelchair.

Many people will remember Diane as a very intelligent lady of great knowledge, and compassion who quietly performed many acts of kindness.

Stella Cordingley

St Mary's Church, Southtown

The present day St Mary's Church in Southtown was built in 1831 and is on the east side of Southtown Road. Now called a 'daughter church' of the Yarmouth Minster, it was constructed as a 'chapel of ease'. Costing £3,000 to build (the funding

being raised by voluntary subscriptions to which the Great Yarmouth Borough Council contributed £50), the church was designed by J J Scoles. The



foundation stone was laid on September 13, 1830 and the Church was consecrated on June 30, 1831 by Dr Henry Bathurst, who was at the time the Bishop of Norwich.

Built on land donated by Lord Anson, the building was finished under ten months. At its consecration, the Bishop of Norwich was met by Great Yarmouth's Mayor, Aldermen, Common Councilmen, Town Clerk and the building's architect. The sermon was preached by the Rev Thomas Crowes (who was the Church's first incumbent). The Rev Thomas Crowes was nominated as the Church's priest by Lord Anson and by a Mr William Barth, who was a resident of Southtown, and the Rev Thomas Crowes was then elected and appointed by the life Trustees and the several subscribers for building. His income was based upon pew-rents and the great and little tithes of South Town that were assigned to the impropiators and the vicar of Gorleston. St Mary's was not fully licensed until 1877 and did not become parochial until 1911. The church is a Grade II listed building and was listed in 1953.

Constructed with yellow brick and without a tower, it has five tall lancets (a lancet is a slender pointed window that first appeared in this country in Early English churches) north and south separated by flat buttresses rising to low parapets. The buttresses have knapped flint panels. It was extended in 1893



with the addition of vestries on either side the chancel. These were formally dedicated by the Bishop of Norwich in a special morning service, mainly attended by the local clergy. This service was described by the local newspapers

as being fully choral and in which the church's organ was supplemented by a small band. Inside the Church there was a Gallery, but this was removed just prior to the First World War. In 1925 a low narthex (this is normally a single-storey vestibule extending across the west end of a church) was added to the west wall of the building. There is also a shouldered pediment (originally a pediment was the end or part of a gable used to mark the presence of a roof but now term refers to a triangular embellishment over a window or frame) which is between pair of tall square pinnacles to main wall containing three stepped lancets, arched side doors and a wide gabled roof. The Chancel has twin lancets north and south and a blind east end. The pulpit in St Mary's, along with the altar, reredos (a reredos is a panel, which can be either carved or painted, and is located behind the altar), panelling, and the Litany desk were once in what was St Peter's Church (now the Greek Orthodox Church of St Spyridon) and were installed in St Mary's when St Peter's closed in 1964. There is also a memorial plaque listing the names of 95 worshippers of St Mary's who were killed in the First World War.

Associated with St Mary's Church was the St. Mary's (Southtown) Sunday Schools and Institute. The provision of such a Sunday School connected with St Mary's Church for



had been proposed for a number of years but work on its building kept being delayed. Fund raising was instigated by a number of people including the Rev. E. Whitehead, Churchwardens H Teasdel and G Dowey, Esqs, a Mr. and Mrs. F. Bowler and a

Ladies' Committee. The Norfolk Chronicle reported on Saturday 6th August 1881, that a, 'bazaar recently held at the Assembly-rooms in aid of the fund for erecting a suitable room for this school amounted to £131 17s. 0d. After payment of expenses about £100 will remain for the purpose in view...To carry out the proposed work additions to the fund are still needed, and will, it is hoped, be provided quickly. Any subscriptions on this account will gladly received the Rev. E.

Whitehead, Southtown'. A design was drawn up by Arthur S Hewitt and builders were invited in April 1884 to submit tenders for the construction of the building. The building was completed and opened by the Mayor of Great Yarmouth (W. Barnard, Esq) in September 1884. The opening was marked by a short service led by a Dr. Raven and further fund raising events, such as bazaars, were held to clear the cost of building the Sunday School.

Opinions about the design of the church have differed quite dramatically. Writing in Pevsner's 'Buildings of England: Norfolk 1: Norwich and North-East', Bill Wilson describes the building as being of a 'depressing design'.



In contrast to this, Simon Knott writing on the 'The Norfolk Churches web-site' describes the building as being 'determinedly unecceological' and that to call the design as being depressing would be unfair. He goes on to state that it is 'robustly pre-Victorian' and as a Georgian church, it is 'a great curiosity in Norfolk' and when discussing St Peter's Church (now the St Spyridon Orthodox Church), which was also designed by J J Scoles, he describes St Mary's as being a 'charming church'. The Norfolk Heritage Explorer website describes the church as being a 'simple but elegant church' which 'was founded to serve the 'Parish of Gorleston

building as being 'determinedly unecceological' and that to call the design as being depressing would be unfair. He goes on to state that it is 'robustly pre-Victorian' and as a Georgian church, it is 'a great curiosity in Norfolk' and when discussing St Peter's Church (now the St Spyridon Orthodox Church), which was also designed by J J Scoles, he describes St Mary's as being a 'charming church'. The Norfolk Heritage Explorer website describes the church as being a 'simple but elegant church' which 'was founded to serve the 'Parish of Gorleston

with Southtown otherwise Little Yarmouth with West Town'. In 1846, it was described by W S Crowell in his book, 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk: Volume 1', as being 'a wretched example of modern church architecture'.

The present St Mary's Church was not the first church of that name in Southtown. Located on the western side of Southtown Road, roughly where the Thurlow Nunn car dealership is now and what was the site of the South Town Railway Station Goods yard. Built in the 13th Century, this church went into decline shortly after 1511, when the livings of Gorleston and Southtown were united. It was finally demolished in 1548 and its building materials were used as part of the repairs to the haven and piers of Great Yarmouth. In 1809 an inscription stone was found in a wall adjoining the stables of the Bear Inn.

St Spiridon's Church (formerly St Peter's Church)

St Peter's Church, which is now the Greek Orthodox church of St Spiridon, was built between 1831 and 1833, and is located on the corner of Deneside and St Peter's Road. It is a Grade II



Listed Building and was first listed in 1953. The cost of its construction came to £7,735 and it was one of the churches whose construction was financed by a Parliamentary Grant (and so were sometimes

referred to as a "Parliamentary Grant" church or as either as a "Commissioners' Church" or a "Waterloo Church" and sometimes as a "Million Act Church"). These were a Church of England churches built with money provided by Parliament under either the Church Building Act of 1818 or the subsequent Act of 1824. As well as providing the funding the 1818 Act set up the Church Building Commission which was to administer the funding. The 1824 Act provided further funding. As well as providing the funding for the construction of new churches, the Commission was also able to divide and sub-divide parishes as well as to provide endowments. The Commission Building Commission continued in its role until 1 January 1857 when it was amalgamated into the Ecclesiastical Commission. The Commission was able to fund either the full cost of the new churches construction or it could partially fund it where some funding had already been raised within the locality of the new church. In all, 612 new churches were constructed with these

grants and were predominately built in the then new industrial towns and cities.

The church was designed by J J Scoles, who also designed St Mary's Catholic church on Regent Road and St Mary's C of E Church on Southtown Road. Described in Pevsner's "The Buildings of England – Norfolk 1: Norwich and North-East" as being 'uncommonly dull' (Bill Wilson, who updated this volume of Pevsner's "The Buildings of England", can be described as not being an admirer of the work of J J Scoles, at least of that found in Great Yarmouth - he did not like St Mary's in Southtown either).

The church is built with yellow brick.



The west tower was built in two

stages and originally had pinnacles which were removed in 1860 as they were thought to be dangerous.

The aisle windows, complete with rounded clerestory lancets, were described as 'tedious'. The north and south chancels, designed by Charles Kemp, were added in 1899. The font, added in 1907, was described as being 'odd looking'. Writing on the Norfolk Churches website, Simon Knott describes the church of St Peter as having a 'jaunty character' arising from the fact that he considered it to be a Georgian church (George VI died in 1830) and that it was built prior to the houses that now surround it. Simon Knott goes on

to describe St Peter's as being, 'not a wide church' and that 'the aisles seem perfunctory' as they 'were intended to accommodate a gallery, which runs around three sides of the interior'. As such it was built prior to the Oxford Movement and that it was intended to be a preaching house. In Knott's opinion, 'the starkness of the building was ameliorated somewhat by the insertion of some very good glass, some by the Kempe workshop'.

Adverts were placed in the local press during March 1831 asking for tenders to build either the whole of the building or parts. Potential bidders of the work were able to view the Plans and Specifications at either the office of a Mr Green in Regent Street, Great Yarmouth from the 28th March to the 9th April, and at the London office of J J Scoles from the 11th to the 23rd April, 1831. The Tenders to do part of or the whole of the work



had to be delivered to the office of J J Scoles, sealed and addressed to "His Majesty's Commissioners for Building New Churches", with the residences of the Parties, and their sureties endorsed thereon, on or before the 25th April, 1831. Contractors sending Tenders for the whole of the Works were asked to state the amount of each trade, and what works they are disposed to undertake separately.

Each tender had to include a detail of the prices and it was stated that the Commissioners would not necessarily accept any of the tenders. On Christmas Eve, 1833, an Altar Piece was presented to St Peter's church by a Col. Mason and was a copy of the "Descent from the Cross" by Reubens, and was one-fourth the size of the original. The local press described it as being 'highly creditable' and that 'it (*is a*) matter of regret, that such subjects do not necessarily occupy a place in every Church or Chapel in the Establishment'. In 1857, the organ was built and installed by Messrs. Bishop and Starr which cost £400. In 1876, the four dial clock was added to the church tower.

In 1905 an appeal for funds to renovate the church was made in the local press. In a letter to the Eastern Daily Press, W Thorpe-Goodrich, the incumbent of St Peter's, wrote that "It is proposed in the early months of next year to renovate St. Peter's Church. Of the £1200 required somewhat less than £900 has been promised. The remaining £300 we are desirous of obtaining as much of as possible before the old order yieldeth to the new". Early in 1906 a faculty was applied for to undertake the work that was thought was needed. It was put forward that it was considered that the existing seating, heating,

and lighting arrangements and the position of the organ were inconvenient. To remedy this it was proposed that the north and south galleries, pulpit, and seats in the church be removed and to thoroughly clean the church throughout, making good the windows, floors, and walls where necessary, and to fill in the open archway at the west end with glass, and renew the windows in the tower; that the new seating, choir stalls and pulpit be made of new oak; that a new heating system be installed as well as new gas lighting; That the organ be relocated from the west gallery to the east end of the south aisle; and that a choir vestry be built at the east end of the north aisle. The cost of the works increased to £1500 and that £990 had been subscribed or promised.

Another faculty to make alterations to the church was made at a sitting of Norwich Consistory Court was held in July, 1933. It was proposed at this Consistory Court, that part of the ground on the west and south of the church given to the Borough Council and that the iron railings surrounding the church be removed and replaced by a flint-faced wall with coping and spike rail and a privet hedge behind it. The projected cost was £295 and that the Council would pay £220 towards this and that St. Peter's Church Council would pay the remaining £75.

In 1942, the Parish Church of St Nicholas was bombed and nearly destroyed by fire. Whilst St Nicholas was being rebuilt, and before to its re-consecration in 1961, the Church of England temporarily used St Peter's

Church as the parish church for Great Yarmouth. After St Nicholas came back into use, attendance at St Peter's had by the early 1960s declined. In 1963, St Peter's was given to Great Yarmouth's Greek community (there has been a Greek community living in Great Yarmouth since the 1940s) and some timber reredos and other furnishings being added after 1964. In April 1983 it was formally dedicated as a Greek Orthodox church and re-named St Spyridon. In June 2013 the Greek community using St Spyridon's church, with the support of English Heritage, started a 10 year plan to carry out much needed restoration work that would almost return the Church to something akin to its original condition. By January 2014, the first phase of the restoration had been completed at a cost of £150,000. This included the repairs to the tower and the clock. This programme of restoration is ongoing.

Buildings at Risk in Great Yarmouth

The following buildings in the Borough of Great Yarmouth are on Historic England's Buildings at Risk Register:

Great Yarmouth Town Walls, Great Yarmouth – The Town Walls have been designated as a scheduled monument. The Town Walls condition has been described as being very bad. However, the Borough Council has secured a Historic England Heritage at Risk Repair Grant to support a phased programme of repairs. These repairs started in Summer 2018 and are due to finish in Spring 2021.

Medieval vaults under, 50-56, Howard Street South, Great Yarmouth – Like the Town Walls, these have been designated as being a scheduled monument and the vaults condition has been described as being poor. The vaults at risk because of water penetration, condensation and the condition of existing shoring.

The Winter Gardens', Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth - A Listed Building Grade II*. Like the Vaults in Howard Street



South, its condition is stated as being poor. Built with Cast iron components which are corroding because of excess moisture leaking into the structure. It is located within the conservation area that includes the seafront.

Built on a cruciform plan, with lantern over crossing. Various options for its restoration have been put forward in the recent past which including a bid for National Lottery Heritage Fund grants.

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Church Road, Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth – A grade II* listed Place of Worship, this parish church has a late 11th Century west tower and a 13th Century nave. The chancel was re-modelled in the 15th Century and the North aisle was 'restored' in 1847. Built with flint and some brick, it has ashlar dressings and a slate roof. Urgent structural work is needed to be done to the tower, south aisle roof and chancel gable. Some repairs have been carried out. Its condition has been described as being very bad and that there is an immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric. As yet no solution has been agreed.

Barn at Hall Farm, Hemsby – An early 14th century timber-framed barn Grade 1 listed building. Damage caused by a storm. Repair works are being carried out.

Church of St Peter, Dene Side, Great Yarmouth – South Asle roof is in a poor condition. Repairs are being carried out.

Church of St Mary, Black Street, Martham – A grade I listed building, west tower dates from the late 14th Century whilst the nave and aisles are mid 15th Century. A chancel was built between 1456 and 1469. This was demolished and rebuilt between 1855 and 1861. At the same time the rest of the church was restored. The condition of the building has been described as being very bad. The nave has defective roofing. A National Lottery Heritage Fund Grants for Places of Worship grant was accepted 2017 and the repair

works were to include re-covering of nave roof and the repair of clerestories. The project delivery phase is underway and the repair phase was expected to be completed by the summer of 2020.

Minster Church of St Nicholas, Great Yarmouth – The Parish church was founded in 1101 in association with adjacent Benedictine priory and the church is a Grade II* listed building. The base of tower dates from the early 12th Century, the remainder is 13th Century and was restored in 19th. Severely damaged in World War II and rebuilt. Urgent repairs were completed July 2013, but further urgent repairs are needed including to the central tower, the north transept buttress stonework and various other high-level stonework repairs are needed. A Listed Places of Worship Roof Repairs Grant was awarded in 2016.

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Repps with Bastwick - This Parish church is a Grade II* listed building and has a 12th Century west tower with the belfry dating from the late 13th Century. The nave is 14th Century and the 15th Century chancel was demolished and was rebuilt in the 18th Century. The whole of the church was restored in the 19th Century. The church is constructed with flint and brick, complete with ashlar dressings and a brick chancel. The tower has three stages with the lower two stages circular and pierced by one lancet window to west. Identified in the Quinquennial Inspection report of 2016 and the supplementary report of 2017, there is an urgent need for repairs to the roofs and tower. The high level stonework to tower is failing and this presents safety issues. A National Lottery Heritage Fund grant was applied for in 2017 but this was unsuccessful.

Church of St Mary (including church rooms and surrounding wall), Regent Road, Great Yarmouth – A Grade II* listed building, its condition has been described as being ‘very bad’ and that there is an immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric.

The former NatWest Bank on Hall Quay was added to the register in 2019. Planning permission has been granted to turn this building into a ‘mixed use’ development.



The Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust has reported that over the last 10 years, the following buildings have been removed from the Buildings at Risk Registration: 133 King Street, 135 King Street, Bretts in Market Row,

Boultons on North Quay, Hopton Ruined Church, the South East Tower, St George’s Church (now St George’s Theatre) and various listed monuments in Great Yarmouth cemetery.

Free On-line learning

There are a wide range of free on-line courses there are available to do. Two providers of note are the Open University and Futurelearn, which is jointly owned by The Open University and SEEK Ltd. Futurelearn comprises 143 UK and international course providers and includes both university and non-university course providers.

The Open University’s OpenLearn offers about 1000 free courses, videos and what are called ‘interactives’ from across eight different subject areas. These subjects areas are as follows; Money and Business, Education and Development, Health, Sports and Physiology, History and The Arts, Languages, Nature and Environment, Science, Maths and Technology and Society, Politics and Law. Further information can be found by going to www.open.edu/openlearn.

Futurelearn’s courses are grouped into 14 subject areas which are, Business and Management, Creative Arts and Media, Healthcare and Medicine, History, IT and Computer Science, Language, Law, Literature, Nature and Environment, Politics and Society, Physiology and Mental Health, Science, Engineering and Maths, Study Skills and Education. FutureLearn describes its purpose as being making education more accessible. What is offered by Futurelearn can be seen by going to www.futurelearn.com.