



# Newsletter



Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society



October 2020

## Autumn Programme of Virtual Talks

With regret, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Society has had to postpone its regular events, activities and Friday talks programme until the new year, when the situation will be reviewed. However the Society has set up what is an exciting new 'virtual' lecture programme which started in September and will continue until December. The programme consists of pre-recorded presentations which will be available at the date and time of the normal meeting (3rd Friday in the month at 7.30pm) and for one month afterwards. Members can create accounts on the Virtual Programme website and take part in a 'chat' during and after the presentation, and post discussion questions to be picked up and responded to by other members in the period after the 'virtual' meeting.

The season of online talks started on September 4th with Dr Robert Knee's talk *'The Pastons and Great Yarmouth: Controlling the Hinterland'*. This was followed by *'Britain and the Legacies of Slavery'* by Prof Catherine Hall.

The following talks are planned:

- October 16th - *'What Really Happened at the First Moving-Picture Shows?'* - Professor Ian Christie.
- November 20th - *'Admiral Lord Nelson in Context'* - Assistant Professor Evan Wilson.
- December 18th - *'A Virtual Tour around St Nicholas Minster'* - Dr. Paul Davies.

GYLHAS is grateful to the various societies and speakers who have made their material available for use in this programme.

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## The former NatWest Bank, Hall Quay

This building was designed by Arthur Samuel (A S) Hewitt and was opened in 1906. A S Hewitt has been described on the Tiles & Architectural Ceramics

Society's website as being 'a rather shadowy figure'. He was articulated to John Bond Pearce, the Norwich



based architect who designed Great Yarmouth's Town Hall, and after setting up his own architectural practice he went on to design a number of buildings in and around the town. Simon Knott writing on his Norfolk Churches website describes A S Hewitt as being "best known for his grand banks which adorn various East Anglian towns, but as a young man in the 1880s he was riding the last wave of Victorian church restorations" and that some of his church restoration work was "late enough for it to have a vaguely Arts-and-Craftsy feel". The former bank is located at 23 Hall Quay, Great Yarmouth, it is a Grade II Listed Building. It was first listed in 1990 and was

added to the Buildings at Risk register in 2019.

The bank is constructed of brick with the front having a stone



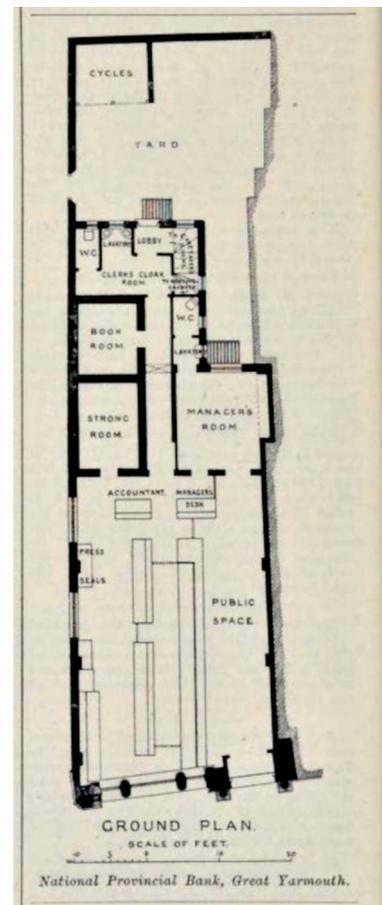
façade. When it was constructed, there was an apartment on the first floor for a caretaker to live in. Described in Pevsner's 'Buildings of England' as being 'remarkable', the frontage is stated as being 'an orgy of Edwardian Baroque' consisting of 'two irregular bays, heavy rustication, a Venetian window, a swan-necked pediment on the left and on the right are garlanded cartouches. On the first floor there is a balustrade and a paired Ionic columns and a segmental pediment'. 'The Builder' journal of 23rd June, 1906, described the building as having a "commanding position on the Hall Quay" and that externally it was "faced with Ketton Stone; the plinth, entrance, and columns to windows are of Red Aberdeen granite".

Built for what was then the National Provincial Bank of England which opened its first Yarmouth branch in 1835 and was located on the South Quay. In 1864, the bank moved to the Hall Quay into an exciting property which was on the site of the present building. This building also included living accommodation for the branch manager. This building was to

become inadequate so designs were commissioned for a new building and the old building was demolished in 1904. Whilst the present structure was being constructed the bank's operations were carried out in a temporary office situated in George Street.

When the new bank was opened in 1906, the 'Eastern Daily Press' wrote that it was a "building with an exceedingly attractive facade, which processes distinct character, and stands prominently in a line of somewhat plain properties" and that the "addition of such buildings to the architecture of the town is a public acquisition, adding to its appearance in every way, and a welcome contrast to acres of ordinary brick and mortar, lacking utterly in even primary ideas of the beautiful".

Internally it had a very tall banking hall which had a modest coffered ceiling that was supported by Ionic columns. The banking hall measured 40 feet long by 26 feet wide and was 21 feet high and was panelled in polished mahogany. The counter ran west to east and was fitted with a steel bronze grille. Cash drawers and book compartments were placed below and at the back of the counter were lockers and receptacles for books and cash made in mahogany. At the rear of the cashiers were the clerks' desks, which were separated by ornate gates fashioned in mahogany. The floor in the public portion of the hall had a marble mosaic. And a large electric light was suspended in the centre of the ceiling. Near each deck there were polished steel standards with electric light pendants. The manager's room was entered from the hall at far end and was parallel to the two strong rooms – one of which was for cash and securities and the second was for keeping the books. At the rear of the building was the lavatory and cloakroom accommodation for the staff and in the yard at the back there was a large cycle-house for the clerks bicycles. All the side and rear windows were protected by external framing made of iron rods.



*Plan published in 'The Builder', 23rd June, 1906*

# Conservation areas within Great Yarmouth

The 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act defines a Conservation Area as being ‘an area of special architectural and historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance’. This Act gives local authorities the duty to consider which areas within their boundaries that fit into this definition and to designate them as conservation areas. There is no set criteria that can be used to define an area as such and these areas can be made up of buildings, street patterns and open spaces that are thought to have some historic or archaeological interest. What is thought to be of importance is the ‘character’ of these areas rather than individual buildings and that there is a need to ‘enhance’ this character.

Within the area covered by Great Yarmouth Borough Council there are 19 conservation areas of which eight are within the town of Great Yarmouth. These are as follows:-

1) Camperdown, designated in 1979 and extended in 2003, 2) Great Yarmouth Market Place, Rows and North Quay, designated in 1975 and extended in 2003, 3) Hall Quay and South Quay, designated in 1975 and extended in 2003, 4) King Street, designated in 1975 and extended in 1998 and extended again in 2003, 5) St Nicholas and Northgate Street, designated in 1975 and extended in 2003, 6)

Prince’s Road, designated in 1979, 7) St. Georges, designated in 2003 and 8) the Great Yarmouth Seafront, designated in 2003.

Other Conservation areas within the Borough are in Gorleston, Martham, Hemsby, Ormesby St Margaret, Rollesby, East and West Somerton, Halvergate Marshes and Newport. Maps showing all of these Conservation Areas within the Borough can be found on the Great Yarmouth Borough Council’s website ([www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/conservation-areas](http://www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/conservation-areas)). Also of interest is the website of the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust ([www.greatyarmouthpreservationtrust.org](http://www.greatyarmouthpreservationtrust.org)).

## Heritage Statement for the proposed development of the Conge, Great Yarmouth

What is a Heritage Statement? The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) says that a heritage statement is part of the planning process and that, “In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance”. As such, a Heritage Statement should include information about the history and development of the area where the proposed development is within and should include evidence in the form of photographs, maps and archival material.

Included with in the statement should be a photographic record showing the area that will be effected by the development which would be supported by survey drawings. There should also be an assessment of the archaeological, architectural, historical and any other significant features of the area. There would also be an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the area. There should also be a statement justifying the proposed development. In most cases the developer would provide the statement after discussing what would be needed with the local authority and in partnership with a qualified and experienced historic environment professional.

The heritage statement for the development on the Conge was produced produced by Kings & Dunne Architects and was commissioned by the Great Yarmouth Borough Council. The full statement can be found online by going to the Council’s website and can be seen by following [www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/media/5440/Heritage-Statement/pdf/Heritage\\_Statement.pdf](http://www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/media/5440/Heritage-Statement/pdf/Heritage_Statement.pdf). The development is proposed on both sides of

the Conge where the Conge joins North Quay and falls near to, although outside of, two of Great Yarmouth's Conservation areas. The proposed development is for the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of 89 dwellings.

The area consists mainly of light industrial and commercial units that were built after the end of the Second World War. There are no listed buildings within the proposed development site. At the time the Heritage Statement was produced in April 2020 there had not been any archaeological surveys carried out nor had there been a full consultation of the Historic Environment Record.

By the late nineteenth century the area proposed for this new development was residential and was part of Yarmouth's Row system. Some of this area had been demolished as part of the Council's slum clearance programme but by the start of World War 2 it had remained largely as it had been. Bombing during the War cleared much of the land on both sides of the Conge and as a result there was both light industrial and commercial development as well as some housing. The result was a mixture of uses and building design which the authors of the Heritage Statement describe as not being of any 'architectural note'.

In summarising the impact of the proposed development the Heritage Statement states none of the already existing 'heritage assets' would be physically effected by the development and that any impact of these 'assets' would be minimal. In terms of

the visual qualities of the plans, there would be a 'beneficial' impact for the area. In addition to this, the development would bring back housing to the area that had been lost and the Row system, or what was left of it, would be kept. However the statement does argue that a further Heritage Impact Assessment be done.

## The Iron Duke Public House

Built as a public house for Lacons Brewery, the Iron Duke can be found on the corner of Jellicoe Road and North Drive in



Great Yarmouth. It was designed by A W Ecclestone and many believe that it is a fine example of his work. Then owned by Lacons Brewery who at one point

had over 300 Public Houses of which 50 were in London. Lacons at one time point was producing 25 million of pints of beer a year. The building is now owned by Bourne Leisure and has an uncertain future. It is a Grade II Listed Building and was first listed in 2017. Built in the Art Deco style, the building was started in the late 1930s but it was not finished until 1948, although it was given a license in August 1940 to serve soldiers who had been stationed along the North Beach. It closed as a public house in 1968.

It was listed as a Grade II Listed Building for both its Architectural interest and its Historic interest. It is regarded as a well-preserved example of an improved inter-war public house which is a type of building that is under increasing threat from change and demolition. Of interest is its Art Deco style, a variety of detailing in finely laid brickwork provides a rich textural interest to the elevations and there remain a number of historic internal fixtures and fittings that reflect its original design. There is a group called the Friends of the Iron Duke who are campaigning for its restoration. They have a website which can be found at [www.friendsoftheironduke.co.uk](http://www.friendsoftheironduke.co.uk). They also have a Facebook page. Currently on the website of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain (SAHGB) is an article about the Iron Duke Public House entitled '*Art Deco in Peril: The Iron Duke, Great Yarmouth*'. This can be accessed by going to [www.sahgb.org.uk/news-and-features/art-deco-in-peril-the-iron-duke-great-yarmouth](http://www.sahgb.org.uk/news-and-features/art-deco-in-peril-the-iron-duke-great-yarmouth). The Twentieth Century Society (which describes its role on its website as "campaigning for outstanding buildings") has also an article on its website about the Iron Duke as part of its Building of the month series of articles. Published in August 2020 and entitled '*The Iron Duke public house, Great Yarmouth*', this article can be found at [c20society.org.uk/building-of-the-month/the-iron-duke-public-house-great-yarmouth](http://c20society.org.uk/building-of-the-month/the-iron-duke-public-house-great-yarmouth).