



Newsletter



Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society



Founded 1888



April 2019

Notes Regarding a Film GREAT YARMOUTH Photographed by Leslie J Reardon

An old roll of orange tinted 35 mm motion picture film around 500 feet long on a nitrate base was being offered for sale on an Internet auction site during the latter part of 2017. The title sequence could be easily read and "GREAT YARMOUTH Photographed by Leslie J Reardon" was visible on the first few frames of the film. The film was purchased to save what appeared to be an unknown piece of Great Yarmouth's history and heritage and it was, after receiving specialist advice, handed over to the British Film Institute for safe storage because of the unpredictable nature of the nitrate film base, with the hope that the BFI may in the future be able to make a digital copy. The film had been found in a cellar in Mapperley, Nottingham and had been previously cleared from a cinema in Langold near Worksop in the 1960s.

The footage had been taken by Leslie James Reardon during the Summer of 1924 and was one of a series of six films shot at English seaside resorts for the Regent Film Company of 193 Wardour Street, London W1. The other resorts were Southend-on-Sea, Brighton, Eastbourne, Blackpool and Bournemouth. The films were due to be released during August 1924.

Norwood News Tuesday 29 July 1924

"STARRING" THE SEASIDE

The Regent Film Company have arranged a really delightful new series. They have filmed six English seaside resorts, all taken within the last few weeks by Leslie J. Reardon, the first to be released on August 11. In order of release the series comprises Southend-on-Sea, Brighton, Great Yarmouth, Eastbourne, Blackpool and Bournemouth. A seaside holiday on one reel!

David Cleveland's "Films Were Made" Volume 1, The Region at Work, on page 128 describes and illustrates an orange tinted film that was probably part of another film taken at Great Yarmouth in 1924. The East Anglian Film Archive has given

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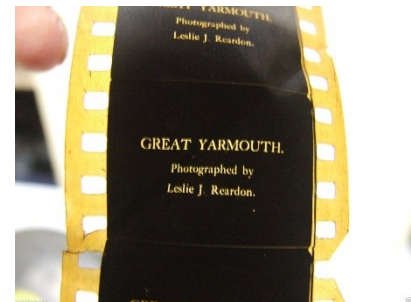
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the film fragment the title of "Marine Parade" and it is available to view on their website:-

<http://www.eafa.org.uk/catalogue/998> The film was shot from a moving vehicle travelling northwards along Marine Parade and shows people in fancy dress before showing a view of the Britannia Pier taken from the top of the Revolving Tower. It is possible that the newly discovered Leslie Reardon Great Yarmouth film contains the missing section of the Marine Parade film and it is hoped that the BFI can make a digital copy that will prove or disprove this theory.

Paul Godfrey

2019 Village Visit & Coach Trip to Boston

Friday, June 7th – Burgh Castle Fort and Church

Brian Waters will lead our walk this evening. Meet at car park off Butt Lane at 7pm.

Wednesday, July 10th – Boston, Lincolnshire

Dr Paul Richards, who spoke to us in 2017 about King's Lynn's Hanseatic connections, will guide us in Boston, which was also a Hanseatic port. We will visit an archaeological dig which is seeking evidence of this connection, the Guildhall Museum and St Botolph's Church (the stump) which both have information on the subject, as well as on the Pilgrim Fathers and the Boston Hanse group will serve afternoon tea at their base.

The total cost is £30, payable to GYLHAS via Ann Dunning at the April, May or June meetings, or posted to her at 132 Bells Rd Gorleston, NR31 6AF (contact Tel no. 01493 441878)

Coach pick ups:

Gorleston (Boots): 8.30am

Havenbridge House: 8.40am

Caister Rd/ Barnard Crescent: 8.50am

Caister Police Station: 9am

Please complete and return below details with your payment:

July 10th Boston Trip

Names(s)

.....

Tel no.....

Pick up point

.....
.....
.....

Amount Paid

.....
.....

.....*Cash/Cheque*

Blue Plaque Unveilings 4th May 2019

There will be two blue plaque unveilings by the Mayor on Saturday 4th May. The 30 plus year old plaque to the regicide, Miles Corbet, will be replaced and updated on 68 Market Place.

The second plaque will commemorate Marjory Kempe (1373-1438) the Christian mystic, pilgrimage addict and the writer of the first autobiography in English. Her plaque will be placed on St. Nicholas' Church railings.

All are welcome to attend. Meet at the gates of St. Nicholas' Church at 11 am.

Paul Davies

Society Meetings in May 2019

May 10th Supplementary Meeting

The Hazards of the Journey: Pilgrimage and travel in the Middle Ages

*By Imogen Corrigan, B.A. (Hons.)
Lecturer and Tour Guide*

May 17th (AGM)

Bathing Beauties, Knobbly Knees and Music Beside the Sea:

Great Yarmouth Marina 1937-1979

By Colin Miller, Local Historian and Author

Society's Visit to 160 King Street and the South-East Tower

Two groups from the Society, numbering 25 people in all, paid a visit to these two properties on the 4th March. They have recently been added to the portfolio of properties owned by the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust. The King Street property



had been occupied by a Thai restaurant, but it had been empty for nearly ten years. The 500-year-old Grade II listed building, which had been neglected, was compulsory purchased by the council in order to restore it before the building entered the stages of terminal decline. Previously, the council had attempted to get the owners to carry out repairs, but these were not done.

Conservation based improvement notices were also served, however these were not complied with

either. Therefore, the Council purchased the property for £27,000 and will be working in partnership with the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust to restore the building and to allow it to be used once again.

This building is the last timber-framed building left in the urban area of Great Yarmouth, so it's very important to prevent it collapsing. Historic England have shown an interest and are willing to offer a grant of £300,000 for its renovation and its future use as a retail unit and living accommodation.

The group also visited the South-East Tower, which was converted into accommodation for holiday use.

A full report will be published in this year's journal.

Paul P Davies

Exhibitions at local Museums

Time & Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth

Medieval Medicine - 30th March 2019 to 22nd September 2019:
How archaeology provides evidence of medieval medicine.

Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich

Vikings: Rediscover the legend - 9th February 2019 to 8th

September 2019: Viking Culture in Britain.

John Sell Cotman in London and Norwich - 11th June 2019 to 29th September 2019.

Lines of Sight: W C Sebald's East Anglia - 10th May 2019 to 5th January 2020: The work of the author and artist W C Sebald.

Tor Felcon: Rivers of Norfolk - 12th July 2019 to 12th January 2020.

Ancient House, Thetford
Olive Edis Photographer – Photographic pioneer of the early 20th Century – exhibition ends 14th September 2019.

Great Yarmouth's Town Hall

Great Yarmouth's present Town Hall was built in 1882 and it replaced the previous Town Hall that had been built in 1715 and which had a large Greek portico facing the River Yare.



The architect who designed the present building in what has been called a 'Queen Anne style' was J.B.Pearce. This building was opened on 31st May 1882 by the then Prince of Wales, who was later to become King Edward VII. The building was designated a Grade II* listed building in 1998



and has been described as a classic example of fine Victorian Gothic architecture.

The building was mainly built using red brick, with terracotta detail and a red sandstone basement storey. The Town Hall's clock tower is 110 feet tall. On the first floor is the Assembly Hall. Incorporated in the building on the first floor was the local Magistrates Court and a small cell for those convicted of certain crimes was on the ground floor. What was the Magistrates Court is now used as the Council Chamber. Interestingly enough, what was Great Yarmouth's old Fire Station (designed by J W Cockrill) was also the local Police Station and those brought to trial walked the short distance between the two buildings.

The building proved to be 'too heavy' for its foundations and in 1886, the building began to subside towards the west and the clock tower began to lean. Initially the west side of the building was buttressed with wooden supports whilst the building was underpinned with steel girders and concrete, thus being one of the first buildings in the country to be underpinned using concrete. During this underpinning work in 1887 what was described as 'an old landing place or draw dock' was found below the foot of the grand staircase .

Between 2008 and 2012 major restoration work was carried out to stabilise the building. Within the entrance hall can be seen a display of the Borough's Civic regalia and outside the Assembly Room is the Town Hutch where the documents relating to the medieval governance, along with the 'Hutch Map' were once stored.

M Wadsworth

Monographs and Publications

Books Published by GYLHAS

Graveyard Symbolism: The Churchyard and Cemeteries, Great Yarmouth by Paul P. Davies and B. Heriz ISBN 978-1-5272-2967-9

Seventeenth Century Great Yarmouth Tokens and their Issuers by Adrian Marsden

More Plaques in and around Great Yarmouth and Gorleston:
Compiled by Paul P. Davies

Historic Great Yarmouth ISBN 978-0957609211 by Margaret Gooch

Monographs published by GYLHAS

Monograph Fourteen: Reprint of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Guide 1909

Monograph Fifteen: Great Yarmouth: the mid-nineteenth century. Illustrated by contemporary engravings by Colin Tooke

Monograph Seventeen: Rules for Housekeepers at Palmers 1884

Field Walking

Open to all members and guests and led by Stuart Burgess, from Time and Tide Museum, and former manager of Fritton Lake, these three hour sessions provide the opportunity to develop skills in the field and recognise pottery types and flints.

Recent finds, including 12th to 14th Century pottery suggest a medieval settlement closeby.

The walks usually take place at the weekend but please contact Stuart for further information:

Text Stuart on 07443 433444

or email him at stuart@duplexdrivetanks.co.uk



The remains of St Mary's Church, Fleggburgh. Photo: Michael Wadsworth