



# Newsletter

Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society



Founded 1888



October 2019

## Picture of Yarmouth: 200 years of Built Heritage

- Comment on how the building is used today and why it is still important.

In the last newsletter we reported on the society's successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid inspired by John Preston's *Picture of Yarmouth* written in 1819. The project was officially launched at the



Maritime Festival on 7/8 September and was extremely well received by the general public. Over 100 survey cards were completed and well as online responses.

The project is an important chance to engage the general public in the heritage of our town and promote the society. We're sure most present members of the society will also want to get involved in some way, and there are many opportunities in the forthcoming year.

For example:

### Completing the survey before 13 December 2019

The first opportunity is to have a say in which buildings should be included in the new book. You can do this by picking up a booklet and survey card at the next meeting or at one of the pop-up exhibitions in the town. Even better go online and complete the online form which can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/pictureofyarmouth>

If you have a mobile phone you can scan this code to go to the page.



The list of buildings to be included in the book will be announced at the January monthly meeting.

### Write one of the initial pieces for the book

Those buildings that Preston mentions, and that still exist, are automatically included in the book and work can be started on them now. We are looking for 1500 words in total which:

- Summarise what Preston said about the building/ place
- Tell the history of the building/place since 1819

Buildings still unallocated are:

1. St. George's Chapel (and St. George's Pavilion)
2. The Market Place
3. The Tolhouse (its site to the modern day library)
4. St. Nicholas Minster
5. Fishermen's Hospital
6. The Custom House, South Quay
7. The Royal Barracks (Naval Hospital)

To volunteer to write a piece on one of these buildings email: [gylhasprojects@gmail.com](mailto:gylhasprojects@gmail.com) and we will supply the relevant section of Preston's book to get you started.

Pop-up exhibitions can be found at:

- 9 Sept – 23 Sept: St George's Café
- 23 Sept – 4 Oct: Christchurch
- 7 Oct – 18 Oct: Town Hall Foyer
- 21 Oct – 1 Nov: St Nicholas Minster
- 4 Nov – 15 Nov: Library
- 18 Nov – 29 Nov: Priory Centre

### Join a research group

We are establishing small groups to research buildings that may be

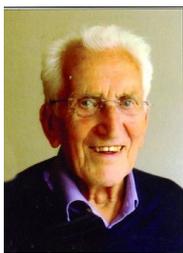
in the book. This is an opportunity to join with others to find out about a building of your choice using the facilities of the Time and Tide Museum. Should you want to be part of a group, then either fill in an interest card found at one of pop-up exhibitions, or email [infogylhas@gmail.com](mailto:infogylhas@gmail.com) with your name, address and telephone number. We will contact you about the arrangements.

### **Tell non-members about the project**

There is nothing better than word-of-mouth to spread the word about what we are doing. Encourage them to complete the survey or join a research group. If you belong to other societies in the town let them know about the project. We can send booklets and survey cards to get them involved. The email address for further information is [gylhasprojects@gmail.com](mailto:gylhasprojects@gmail.com).

*Gareth Davies*

## **Leonard Vincent: an appreciation**



Len Vincent, a long standing member of Great Yarmouth Local History & Archaeological Society, died 24/8/19 aged 90. Len was born and bred in Yarmouth. He was evacuated to Gamston in Nottingham and enjoyed it so much he did not want to return.

He had several jobs in the town and worked at Dyson's Glass Merchants for several years before joining the Post Office. It was perhaps this, when he gained an encyclopaedic knowledge of the streets of Yarmouth that prompted his interest in post cards and pictures of the town. He and Peter Jones would travel widely to 'Post Card Fairs' collecting rare photographs over many years well before the price of such things became high. In later years, he said that there were few post cards that he did not have already.

He produced a couple of books of old postcards and (in the 1980s) based on his photographs of old Yarmouth. He then produced a volume of pictures together with modern photographs taken by David Bullock. He became a 'Town Guide' leading visitors and locals around Great Yarmouth passing on his knowledge.

Until recently, it was perhaps his career in the Post Office that allowed him to get up very early in the morning, to go the Marina for a swim before the crowds got there. He leaves his wife Jill and two grown up children.

*Peter Jones Andrew Fakes*

## **Proposed trip to Ipswich 2020**

After a successful trip to Ipswich in 2018 it was felt that we could



have spent more time in the town. A further attraction is that there is no charge for entry to Suffolk Museums.

I enquired about the possibility of a midweek group train journey to Ipswich and was told that the cost of the rail fare would be £13.56 for a group booking of 10 people provided we left Yarmouth before 8.45 a.m. (The scheduled train leaves at 9.17). It should be able to connect with the Ipswich train within the 8 minutes of the time table to change trains to arrive by 10.41. This would be much quicker and cheaper than a coach trip but we must remain together as a group for travelling

James Steward, who was previously Museums Officer in Great Yarmouth and is now Curator of Ipswich Museums has offered to meet us at one of the Ipswich museums for guidance. Should this be any interest in a journey to Ipswich perhaps you would let me know so a date could be arranged.

*Andrew Fakes* (01493) 843811  
[andrewfakes79@gmail.com](mailto:andrewfakes79@gmail.com)

# 2019 Trafalgar Dinner

The Trafalgar Dinner will be held on Saturday 26th October 7pm for 7.30pm at the *Imperial Hotel*, North Drive, Great Yarmouth.

## THE SUGGESTED MENU FOR THE TRAFALGAR DINNER SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019

### PRAWN COCKTAIL

*Marie Rose sauce, lemon & brown bread*

### CHICKEN LIVER PARFAIT

*Red onion marmalade & toasted brioche*

### BAKED CHICKEN & HAM PANCAKE

*Baked with cream & cheese*

### CAESAR SALAD

*Crisp cos lettuce, anchovies, capers, croutons in a creamy parmesan dressing*

### LEEK AND POTATO SOUP (V)

*Finished with croutons & chives*

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### BAKED FILLET OF NORTH SEA COD

*With a herb Crust a selection of fresh vegetables*

### ROAST LOIN OF DINGLEY DELL PORK

*Crispy crackling, onion gravy, apple sauce & a selection of fresh vegetable*

### ROAST SUPREME OF CHICKEN

*Sautéed gnocchi, broccoli florets, blue cheese purée & toasted almonds*

### HEIRLOOM TOMATO & MEDITERRANEAN VEGETABLE

### RISOTTO (V)

*Mascarpone cheese, basil foam, balsamic pearls & courgette crisps*

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### CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

*Breton biscuits, fresh raspberries & vanilla ice cream*

### PISTACHIO & RASPBERRY TART

*Mascarpone ice cream*

### WHITE CHOCOLATE & PASSIONFRUIT CHEESECAKE

*Orange & pineapple salad with orange sorbet*

### BANANA PARFAIT

*Caramel sauce, brûléed banana, peanut crumb & milk jam*

### A SELECTION OF CHEESE, CHUTNEY, FRUIT & CRACKERS

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### COFFEE, TEA AND INFUSIONS

### AFTER DINNER MINTS

**2 COURSES £24.50**

**3 COURSES £30.50**

Please can bookings and orders to be placed by 20th October and they can be telephoned to Andrew Fakes on (01493) 843811 or e-mailed to [andrewfakes79@gmail.com](mailto:andrewfakes79@gmail.com).



## Great Yarmouth History Fair 6th June 2020 Places: Past, Present and Future

The society is to hold another History Fair in 2020, the last



being in 2018. The date has been set as 6 June to coincide

with the annual carnival and arts festival and it is proposed to book St. George's Theatre for the event.

Once again, we are planning to invite other organisations and societies to provide activities and points of interest for all ages. To support our *Picture of Yarmouth Project*, the theme of the fair will be "*Places: Past, Present and Future*".

Further details will be available in the new year, but please note the date for your diary. It aims to be an exciting day.

*Gareth Davies*

## YHAC Archaeological dig

The young people from our Young History and Archaeology group were joined by members of the public and volunteers from Herring House Trust as they excavated a test pit on behalf of Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust, as part of the Coastal Revival project, and the experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After learning how to record and prepare the ground, the group



set out a metre square grid, close to the South East Tower, inside the town's wall and they carefully removed the soil in regular 10cm layers. The spoil was diligently sieved and the resulting finds were washed and catalogued. By

lunchtime the group had excavated to a depth of 25cm and

surprisingly in this top layer they found shards of Georgian and medieval pot. At 30cm the group met a layer of building rubble but they persevered and within that debris they found a set of brass buttons, two WW2 bullet casings a George V halfpenny and some beautifully glazed fireplace tiles.



By the end of the day the test pit was 60cm deep where the intact interior wall of a Victorian/Georgian structure was revealed. This wall intriguingly had a void underneath but unfortunately there was no time to explore further! We're looking forward piecing together these upside-down discoveries so if any member has any suggestions as to what caused this confused archaeological stratification we would love to hear from you: please email [infogyllhas@gmail.com](mailto:infogyllhas@gmail.com).



Many thanks to GYLHAS members Una Watson and Glenda Wells for supporting the young people on the day; we will continue to research the history of this local area and in due course will present our findings in a public conference to

which members will be warmly welcomed.

*Patricia Day*

## Great Yarmouth TUC

This is a brief 'work in progress' which I hope to expand into a fuller article for the Society's Journal.

The Great Yarmouth Trades & Labour Council was founded on the 31st May, 1907, at what was then the Lancaster Tavern on Nelson Road Central. Affiliated to the GYT&LC at its foundation were the Steam Engine Makers' Society, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, the Associated Society of Shipwrights, the Operative Bricklayers' Society and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners. Efforts were made to encourage other Trade Unions such as the the shop assistants, the Postmen's Federation, operative plumbers and local shipwrights but to no avail to begin with. It was reported that in 1908 the Trades Council held seventeen General and Committee meetings with a total attendance of delegates of one hundred and sixty out of a possible of two hundred and seventy.

A lot of the Trade Council's work was to encourage organisations such as the Borough Council and the local Co-operative Society to have their contractors pay Trade Union rates to their workers. To this end the results were mixed. Immediately prior to WW1 the Trades Council, or at least some of its Officers, took an anti-war position, again to mixed results.

*Michael Wadsworth*