

# EYLHS Newsletter 43

Winter / spring 2021

Newsletter of the East Yorkshire Local History Society



Front cover: advert from Hargraves Bros & Co house magazine

## **Contributions**

Based in Hull it is not always easy to keep track of events in other parts of the Riding; news that members could contribute on their town or village should be sent to the editor.

Short articles, illustrated or unillustrated, news on libraries, archives, museums, societies or education, queries other people may be able to answer, etc. for inclusion in future newsletters should also be sent to the editor.

### **Newsletter**

**Edited by Robert Barnard**  
**825 Anlaby Rd, Hull, HU4 6DJ**  
**Telephone 01482 506001**  
**e-mail [rbarnard1@googlemail.com](mailto:rbarnard1@googlemail.com)**

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# News from the Society

## Programme

We will prepare and send out the events programme as soon as government advice allows us to.

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due, the rates are £15 for individual membership and £20 family / institutions / overseas.

If you have not already sent a cheque please fill in the subscription reminder form enclosed. If you pay by Standing Order please ignore the form.

## EYLHS Secretary

Jenny Stanley has resigned as Secretary after 13 years on the committee, she will be missed but we will hopefully see her at future EYLHS events. If any member wishes to discuss the vacancy we would be delighted to hear from you.

## Visit to St Germain's Parish

### Church, Winstead

7 August 2020

During the Lockdown the 7th of August became memorable - a scattered group of EYLHS members, masked, arrived in dribs and drabs to view an East Yorkshire gem, the church of St Germain at Winstead. This is one of 15 dedicated to St Germain, who according to St

Bede, visited England in 429 and 447 to encourage small Christian groups then developing. In this particular building the early west wall dates from the 12th century. Through the centuries, largely due to the Hildyard family and local benefactors, the building has been restored and repaired sympathetically with the aid of Temple Moore, Sir Gilbert Scott and others.

Inside is the historian's paradise:-A piscina and sedilia of stone, a palimpsest of Flemish brass of c1370, a bricked-up priest's door, a screen of c1380 and a vestry that was formerly the Hildyard chapel of c1347 in which are monuments to Robert and William Hildyard.



Early Flemish brass



Hildyard memorials

There is a late 17th century altar table and panelling from the former 16th century Hildyard pew. In the nave are hatchments to the Hildyards and George III, a medieval effigy of a priest in Mass vestments and a chest-tomb to Sir Christopher Hildyard c1602 on which lies the effigy of a knight with head resting on a half-rolled-up mat.

Sir Gilbert Scott designed the lectern, late 19th century. The font has medieval bowl steps made from fragments of coffin lids and is important because



Andrew Marvell baptism plaque



Panelling from C17 Hildyard pew



View through south door

here in 1621 Andrew Marvell was baptised by his father, the then rector. Everything you see has a story to tell of local history.

The present Nicholas Hildyard and his dog, Archie, welcomed us. The church was ready so that we could go inside, masked, but could be socially-distant and yet see everything at our leisure.

Pat Aldabella

# **On joining the East Yorkshire Local History Society - Motivations and Hopes**

How strange, that over time, life's twists and turns can bring one back to places, sentiments and emotions previously thought long laid to rest. Bridlington born and bred, I have had a life long interest in Agriculture. I am not from a farming background – in fact my father owned a catering business, Newsomes of Bridlington, in which I had little interest! Memories of my childhood include many family holidays staying on farms, particularly in the Yorkshire Dales, and North Wales. In my school days, I took every opportunity to further my interest in farming. I had several friends who were either sons of farmers, or sons of people working on farms. I recall spending weekend time on these farms, with my mates. Trying my hand at driving a "grey Fergie" or a "Fordson Major", collecting eggs, ratting, learning about dairying and milking, building dens in barley straw bales ...and a whole host of other experiences.

Maturing, and approaching the end of my school days, I moved in the direction of Higher Education in Agriculture, leading me to Newcastle University from where I graduated with BSc Agric (Hons, Crop Production). Pre,

during, and after graduation I worked on various farms gaining practical experience, most memorably a 250 acre Wold farm near Foxholes. Life moved on. In 1977, I joined a local fertiliser manufacturing company, Hargreaves, working as a Sales Representative, before again returning to study, gaining a Post Graduate Diploma in Soil and Water Engineering from Silsoe College, Bedfordshire whilst in the embryonic employ of the Agricultural Development Advisory Service (MAFF). Working as an adviser with ADAS and various evolutions of that organization filled most of my professional career. After starting and successfully running a grounds maintenance and gardening business in my later years, ill health finally forced my early retirement in 2013.

With time on my hands, memories and curiosity soon re-surfaced. I started researching and reading snippets about the history of farming in East Yorkshire. I read and collected books and articles on the subject. I stumbled across one particular book which hugely accelerated my interest. Amongst Farm Horses – The Horselads of East Yorkshire, written by Dr Stephen Counce and first published in 1991. So taken was I with this work, that I contacted Dr Counce personally to express my appreciation and enthusiasm for what he had written. Some of the narrative reminded me pointedly of my early years on farms, and the privilege that I had (without realizing it at the time) of working with and listening to older chaps (now

long gone) about their own farming experiences in that era. I struck up a dialogue with Dr Caunce via e mail, me being geographically somewhat remote from him. (well, Kent!). I was honoured when Dr Caunce asked me if I might help (in a very small way) towards the finalization of his supplementary addition to *Amongst Farm Horses*, entitled *Cultivating, Sowing and Harvesting – A Farm Lads Year in East Yorkshire*. These works are profoundly important in understanding a period of Agricultural history in East Yorkshire. I am now attempting to research and write a small piece of work of my own - *The History and Development of the parishes of Octon and Thwing*

This sequence of events has led me to The East Yorkshire Local History Society, which I have recently joined!! I am hopeful that in future, I may be able to enter dialogue with any members who share some of my interests, and who may well have knowledge, insights or comment, on some of my highlighted points.

Geoff Newsome  
Lenham, Kent gnewsome708@gmail.com

## **COMETH THE NORMANS**

In the 4 years from 1066, the East Riding of Yorkshire experienced historic events, which profoundly affected Walkington, resulting from the death of

Edward the Confessor on 5th January, 1066. Having no children, the Crown would pass to the 'strongest' claimant. Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex, Edward's brother-in-law, was now the most powerful man in England and had been named successor by Edward as he lay dying: Harold was crowned King of England on the 6th January. This broke a promise of the Crown to William, Duke of Normandy, second cousin to The Confessor, made in 1051. Harold Hardrada, King of Norway, first cousin to Edward also made claim, encouraged by Tostig, the estranged and banished brother of Edward, who therefore also held claim to the English Throne. A 'cast of thousands' now trampled the land and struggled in battle for the Crown of England.

Hardrada and Tostig sailed up the Humber and Ouse to Ricall, south of (York) Yorvik, the heart of the Scandinavian settlement and culture in England; leaving their ships under guard, they marched to the second city of the Kingdom, giving battle to a local English force at FULFORD BRIDGE, two miles from York, on 20th September. After a decisive victory for the Norsemen, who took the prestigious prize of York, they then encamped at Stamford Bridge. King Harold hastened north with an army: in an amazing and probably unparalleled rapid march, he pressed on to STAMFORD BRIDGE, taking the Norse army unawares and routing them on 25th September. (The timber bridge was to the north of the current structure.) Tostig and Hardrada were killed. A small remnant

of the Norse forces were allowed to leave England unharmed – their embarkation point being HRAFNS EYR (raven's sandbank), i.e. Spurn: a bigger threat was emerging in the south.

On 28th September, William, Duke of Normandy landed at Pevensey, news of this reaching Harold at York 4 days later. He marched south with his tired and depleted forces, being defeated at HASTINGS on the 14th October after a serious tactical error – breaking the strong English lines and, unable to restore formation, created isolated groups picked off by superior cavalry, the great strength of the Duke's army. Harold and his brothers Gyrth and Leofwine perished. The vacant Throne was taken by William, crowned King of England on Christmas Day, 1066.

In Anglian times, Eborac (York) had been the capital of the KINGDOM OF NORTHUMBRIA, stretching from the Humber into Scotland: despite its strong independent traditions, for a time, in common with the rest of the old ruling class, the northern thegns accepted the new King and thereby kept their titles and possessions. But during William's absence in Normandy in 1067, disaffection emerged and began to spread; resistance forces grew. Early in 1068, William moved gradually north to Durham, strengthening his lines, building castles, including York, at first motte and bailey of timber construction: a spectacular example of the genre is at SKIPSEA BROUGH (open all year, free of charge). Meanwhile, another invasion

force comprising Danes, Saxons, Frisians, Poles, Letts and English (very cosmopolitan) led by Swegen, King of Denmark, urged on by the local Anglo-Scandinavian community, entered the Humber and Ouse, were joined by the Yorkshire nobility and reached York on 21st September, 1069; the city fell to the invaders. There now began a reign of terror, a mission of vengeance, prompting such fear in Swegen's forces, they retreated to their ships.

To William, it was clear that the North, but particularly Yorkshire, with its independent traditions, could not reconcile itself to his rule: he therefore proceeded systematically to exterminate whole swathes of the population in an ethnic cleansing which would prevent any further resistance. He resorted to a level of barbarity unequalled in English history, scandalizing even Norman chroniclers. This was his 'HARRYING OF THE NORTH' in 1069-70. Our main source for this is a monastic chronicler Orderic Vitalis (1075-1142) in 'Historia Ecclesiastica': living within easy oral memory of the events in Yorkshire, this is regarded as a sound record of the devastation. Indeed, as "... the whole of Yorkshire lay uncultivated for 9 years with widespread famine" (Prof. S G E Lythe), even as a 4 year old, Orderic may have been aware, even an eye-witness, to some of the events. The Harrying was one year in length and carried out under William's personal leadership, laying waste to much of the area from the North Sea to the Irish Sea, 1,000 square miles turned into

wilderness. In Yorkshire, 480 villages and hamlets were destroyed and 314 much depleted, his forces cutting down those men, women and children who came in their way, 'guilty' or not, deliberately burning farm implements (wooden), food stores and crops in the fields: there was enormous death by the sword and by famine. In the East Riding, terrified peasants sought refuge and charity in Beverley, one of the few communities to completely escape devastation.

To firmly secure his hold over the Kingdom, lands, properties and titles were confiscated and reallocated: eventually, all but one of the former ruling class across England was removed, replaced by reliable supporters, nearly all Frenchmen, in this enormous redistribution of the wealth of England; so, by 1085, William needed an accurate record, for the purpose of taxation, of whom owned what and where and the value of these estates – hence, DOMESDAY BOOK (DB), 1086. Throughout DB, 'TRE' is used as an abbreviation for 'tempore Regis Edwardie', at the time of King Edward. DB records that in 1086, an East Riding estate, including part of Walkington, was held by the BISHOP OF DURHAM, and held before the Conquest by MORCAR, an Anglo-Saxon thegn of considerable landed wealth and standing, now dispossessed: "T.R.E. worth £20; now £13" (DB). In 1066, the estate of the Archbishop of York in Walkington was held by Archbishop EALDRAED, in 1086 held by Archbishop THOMAS: "T.R.E. worth 40 shillings;

now 30 shillings" (DB). In 1086, GAMAL was recorded in DB, a surviving Anglo-Saxon owner in Walkington, a lower rung thegn with 120 acres: "T.R.E. 5 shillings; now it is waste" (DB).

Apart from Gamal's property, the values in 1086 do not accurately reflect the degree of devastation caused by the Conqueror, because the new owners had begun before 1086 to rebuild their assets and their value, and in the case of Walkington (though this is still speculative), taking the opportunity to literally rebuild the village on a new site. The pre-Conquest village, almost certainly, was around or very near the Church (on the same site as today), but at some point the village migrated some distance to what today we might call "the main street": see K J Allison, 'The East Riding Landscape'. Also, it seems that the village was growing (presumably in its new location) with a revival of its population and economic activity before 1086: see Thomas Hinde (ed.), 'The Domesday Book'.

There is one observation enjoying certainty: the remorse of William I (1027-87) late in his life. "I have persecuted its inhabitants beyond all reason....innumerable multitudes....in the County of York, perished through me by famine or the sword": William the Conqueror.

C Jenkinson.

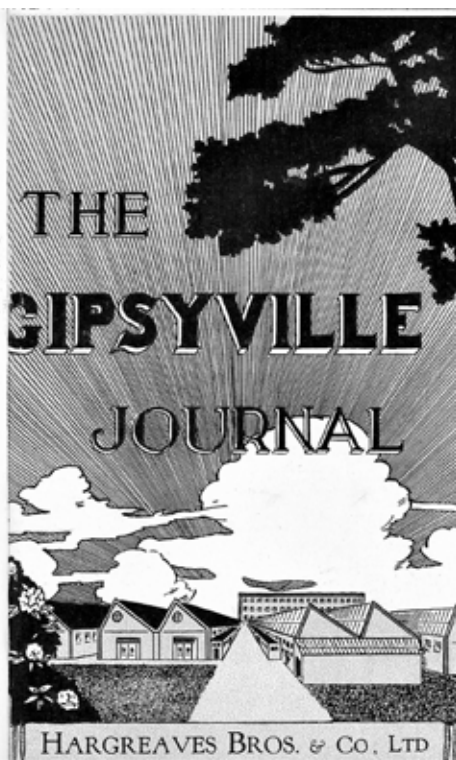


# Hargeaves Bros. & Co. the firm that put the Gipsy in Gipsyville

The firm was founded at Hull in 1868 and established as a private limited company in 1906 when they set up a new factory to manufacture black lead, Lineoleo floor polish and eventually also Ocean Blue, originally made in their Ocean works, Kent street. The factory was on the south side of Hessele road and a new housing estate, a

series of parallel streets named after English counties, was built soon after, encouraged by the presence of the factory. One assumes that Hargeaves had initiated the project or at least had invested in its development. This was at the same time as Reckitt's, manufacturers of a similar range of household products, were developing the Garden Village.

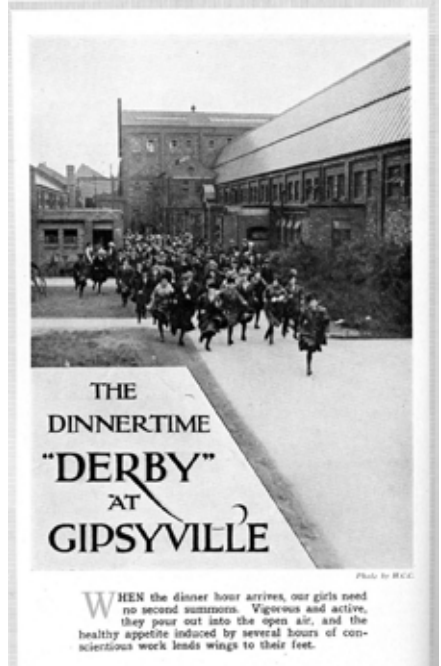
Hargeaves prime product was Gipsy Black Lead and so the area was named Gipsyville, which later extended to the large council house estate on the north side of Hessele road constructed in the interwar period. Their products



mirrored those of their rival Hull company, Reckitts, as well as black lead and 'blue' for whitening laundry, there was also GLOSSO instead of BRASSO! It was probably an attempt to outdo Reckitts that led to an ambitious expansion and the purchase of companies across the country, including W R Nixey of London, makers of black lead. Hargreaves acquired many once familiar brand names such as Zog , Mitre Polish, Radium Polish, Meltonian etc.



Much valuable information about both the Gipsyville site and the companies and products acquired is recorded in the house magazine The Gipsyville Journal, and copies of vol.1, numbers 1-12, July 1920-June 1921 (all that were published) can be found neatly bound



in yellow cloth. The pages record the daily activities of an apparently thriving, modern company, at work as well as at play, with participation in football, tennis and athletics and an annual sports day. Employment of ex-servicemen and the general welfare of the staff are emphasised, and there was a share purchasing scheme available to all. There was also a modern and extensive laboratory for testing raw materials and quality control. Miss Jefferys (see illustration) who was Superintendent of the Welfare Department is congratulated on attaining a BA (Oxon) degree in Modern History and Economics. She had passed her finals in 1911 but it was not until 1920 that Oxford awarded degrees to women students.



Miss Jefferys

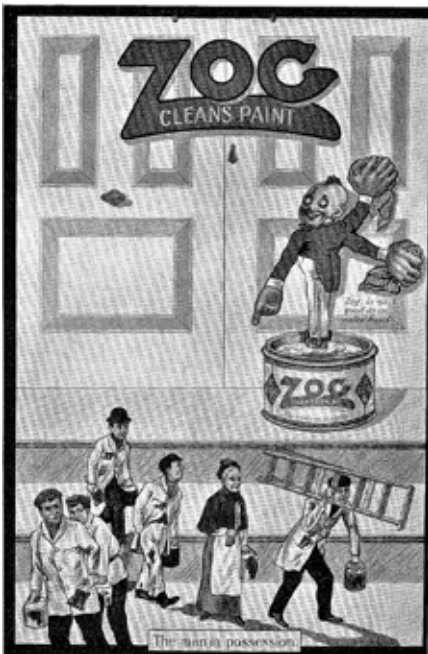
A page of contemporary photographs of the locality shows a view of the Hessele road which now looks impossibly rural, as well as the gates of Pickering Park and some of the Pickering alms houses. St. Nicholas church was subsequently demolished and replaced with a simple red brick structure.

The poster was the simplest and most widespread means of advertising a product in the days before television and during the infancy of the radio. When a company wanted to make more active contact with the public a variety of displays, competitions and publicity drives were promoted. To advertise Gipsy Black Lead a gipsy caravan was taken out onto the



highway distributing free samples (see illustration).

Yet, by 1922 the company was bankrupt, which they blamed on a collapse in the export market. Hargreaves assets were bought up by their great rival Reckitts. The factory closed and remained empty until 1941 when production was transferred to part of it from Reckitt's war damaged Dansom Lane works in east Hull. Probably the last survivor of their product names is Meltonian shoe cream, which continued to be made for many years by Reckitts but is now marketed by a company in Italy.



Near to Hargreaves, established at the end of the nineteenth century, was F Atkins, Canister Works, which became part of the Metal Box Co. Later

renamed the MB Group, and then MB Caradon. During the Second World War munitions were produced here, probably including the cheap but effective Sten gun, a submachine gun supplied in considerable numbers to Resistance groups on the continent as well as the British Army.

Arthur G. Credland

## Naval Uncle and Nephew in two World Wars

Edward Rymer arrived in Hull around 1865 from Spilsby, Lincolnshire as the youngest member of his family of seven children. He married Emily Amelia Everett in Hull in 1888. They had six children but unfortunately Emily died of "consumption of the bowels" in 1902 aged 32. This illness is an inflammation of the intestinal tract as a result of tuberculosis. Edward was left bringing up the six children and he never remarried. One of the daughters was looked after by a maternal aunt and uncle, as he was definitely finding bringing up six children single handed very difficult.

### Ernest Rymer – Royal Navy

The second youngest son, Ernest, was taken to the Leeds Industrial School on Shadwell Lane in 1910 and is recorded there in the 1911 Census. These schools were set up for children who were destitute or in danger of



Ernest Rymer

becoming criminals, removing them from bad influences and to teach them a trade, as opposed to Reformatories which were for children who had already committed crimes. Ernest was described as a shoemaker in 1915 when he signed up to train as a Boy Sailor in the Royal Navy stationed at HMS Ganges, Shotley, Ipswich. He must also have spent some time at Portsmouth as HMS Victory (on his cap) was a shore based barracks later called HMS Nelson.

On 4 September 1915 as a Boy Level I he was assigned to *HMS St. Vincent* the



HMS St Vincent

ship he served on until 29 May 1918. He achieved Ordinary Seaman status from 19 April 1917 and Able Bodied Seaman in 1918. During the latter half of 1915 and up to the Battle of Jutland the *St Vincent* took part in numerous manoeuvres with the fleet to entice the German Navy to engage. The great sea Battle of Jutland was fought on 31 May and 1 June 1916. *HMS St. Vincent*, a dreadnought battleship of the 1st Battle Squadron, damaged a German battle cruiser during the battle. For the rest of WWI the *St. Vincent* acted on routine patrols and training in the North Sea.

Until invalided out of the Royal Navy on 11 June 1921 Ernest served several times on *HMS Pembroke* at Chatham, on *HMS Hecla* - a torpedo boat and *HMS Prince George* - a depot ship for destroyers. From 1918 he was stationed at Scapa Flow and similarly *HMS Blenheim* until his discharge.

Following his discharge he returned to Hull and became a policeman, married in Hull and eventually moved first to Brill in Buckinghamshire and then to Slough for the Berkshire Constabulary.

Ernest died aged 31 years in 1931 at Windsor and Florence lived until 1967.

### **Denis Rymer – Merchant Navy and Royal Navy**

Denis, the authors' father, and second son of John Edward (elder brother of Ernest) and Violet, was born at 5 Cato Terrace, Lorne Street, Kingston upon Hull on 22 May 1924. He attended St. Pauls infant school. In 1931 after the deaths of his granddad and grandma Longden the family moved into 73 Raywell Street.

Denis was the eldest of the younger half of the family made up of Ken, Jack and Joan and he moved 'up to big boys' at Blundell Street school in 1935. At 12 years old he was a strong lad and because of his fathers' poor health he had to work after school and weekends. The family, of seven, lived on "the parish" of 34 shillings a week less rent of 5 shillings and 10 pence. Denis was sent to work for Bob Gladdie, a fishmonger and game purveyor, for a wage of 1 shilling plus a rabbit. Later "The Farm Shop" owned by Harry Grasby opened on Charles Street and Denis got a job there for 1 shilling and 6 pence plus a 6 pence fry. His 'Mam' gave him 3 pence a week from the wages.

The younger brothers spent a lot of time together swimming, boxing and cricket. After school activities were organised by teachers, unpaid, who were respected by pupils, professionally motivated and in Denis's words 'probably Victorian' in outlook.

Denis left school at 14 years and started work as an errand boy for William Jackson, grocer, on Spring Bank, Hull. The uniform consisted of riding breeches, jumper and a peak cap all in dark orange and the wage was ten shillings a week with four pence deductions for "stamps". Denis then got a job at Glossop's Brewery on Northumberland Avenue.

Around this time, aged fifteen years, Denis set off 'on the road' with a friend, Bobbie Lyons. The boys had been caught in a second act of burglary after selling the proceeds of the first. They travelled via Goole to Derby staying in 'spikes' or workhouses but were eventually caught and put on probation. Bob was sent off to sea and Denis was sent to work at Hatfield Main coal mine near Doncaster. During his stay, of six months, a disaster hit the pit at Christmas 1939. Denis lodged at a house in Dunscroft with one of the miners. Ken and Jack, coincidentally, were evacuated to Dunscroft but later returned to Hull after Denis had left.

Denis left the pit and returned to Hull where he and three friends signed up with a Norwegian ship – the *SS Einerjarl* – bound for the West Indies. After two days sailing the ship was hit by a German U Boat torpedo and sunk. The survivors were picked up by the *Highland Lad* and taken to Aberdeen and then by train to Glasgow. There the four young men were put up in the Beresford, a 'posh' hotel only opened in 1938, with telephones in the rooms. Denis was paid off with £56 10s 9d, paid

in white £5 notes, in his pocket at a time when a pint of beer cost six pence and the average weekly wage for manual labourers was about £4. Following this incident Denis joined the *SS Mammy* and on the homeward journey from Iceland was torpedoed again! He then went fishing out of Milford Haven on the trawler *Gozo*. Many years later, in 1979, the Norwegian Government honoured Denis with a citation and Maritime Medal.

Denis's friends from the *SS Mammy* joined a ship for Algiers but there was no job for Denis. He met another friend in the Spencers Arms pub and they decided to join the Royal Navy. The recruiting office was at the corner of Chapel Street and Jameson Street where Radio Humberside used to be housed. As they were enrolling news came through of the sinking of the battleships *Repulse* and *Prince of Wales* by the Japanese near Singapore. When asked what job they would like to do in the navy Denis said 'seaman gunner' and his friend responded - 'torpedoes'. The recruiting officer replied that the navy needed stokers and if they did not agree the army would take them! They both became stokers in the Royal Navy in 1941. Denis had given his date of birth as 23 November 1923 to increase his age to eighteen and followed in the footsteps of his Uncle Ernie.

Denis was assigned to Malvern in Worcestershire for 'square bashing' where he was charged for dumb insolence and sent to navy barracks. Following this incident Denis was sent

to Liverpool to act as an escort and messenger from the Liver Building. The job entailed escorting prisoners from Walton Jail to their allotted ship. He lodged in the Seaman's Mission in Paradise Street for six weeks until recalled to Portsmouth.

Denis was then drafted on to *HMS Faulknor* - Captain D - of the 8th Flotilla of destroyers - see Appendix. His journey to Scapa Flow was eventful starting with a troop train from 'Pompey' to Achnasheen - the end of the railway in Great Britain - and then by bus over the Kyle of Lochalsh to Aultbea. It was Christmas Eve 1942, Scotland was under a blanket of snow, and Denis spent the night drinking with Gaelic speaking shepherds out of jam jars in the dungeons of Eilean Donan Castle with a '10 bob (shilling) note sub'.

On Christmas Day 1942 Denis joined *HMS Iron Duke* in the harbour until transferred to *HMS Faulknor* in "the Floe". The flotilla was bound for the Norwegian fiords to track the German battleship *Tirpitz*. This trip was marred



HMS Faulknor

by atrocious weather and nine men were lost overboard from the squadron. They never found their prey on this occasion. The flotilla then spent three months on Russian convoys to Murmansk and then in the Atlantic Western Approaches followed by a trip to Gibraltar in May 1943. The role in the western Mediterranean involved escorting convoys to Malta.

The flotilla then became part of the eastern Mediterranean fleet – Force H – based in Alexandria, Egypt. The first job was taking the British 9th army from Haifa, Palestine to the Greek Dodecanese Islands. These men were veterans from India. Without air cover, German Stuka dive-bombers constantly attacked the convoys, and three cruisers and nine destroyers were lost. An army general, Sir Maitland Wilson, was in charge of the naval operation. To avoid the German bombers the convoys sailed at night and also attacked any German troop ships on the way to Leros and Samos. These two islands were the only ones in Allied control. Unfortunately despite the efforts of the navy and 9th Army the islands were lost to the Germans.

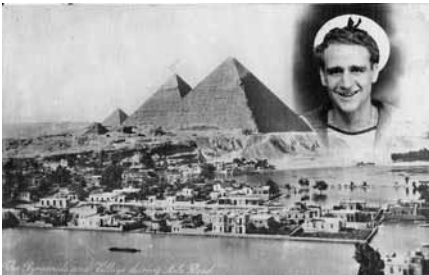
The flotilla was then assigned to the Italian campaign and saw action in Sicily, the Messina Straits and Anzio through 1943 until the spring of 1944. The flotilla then rested at Capri with the 5th Army until returning home.

The flotilla was then involved in taking the Channel Islands from the Germans who eventually surrendered to *HMS Bulldog* and *HMS Faulknor* in April 1944.



HMS Faulknor in action, 1944

At D-Day *Faulknor* and *Fury* were deployed in escorting the minesweepers in close and by daybreak they were pounding German shore batteries. By the afternoon the *Fury* was lost and *Faulknor* took on survivors and returned to Plymouth to stock up on ammunition. The return to France was very eventful as the *Faulknor* was chosen to take Field Marshall Montgomery to the Normandy beaches. The ship received many important visitors, including the First Sea Lord before departing. The following day Montgomery was put on board the cruiser *HMS Black Prince* and the ship returned to action. Denis was spoken to twice by Montgomery whilst he was on board.



Denis Rymer in Egypt, 1943



*HMS Faulknor* was 'paid off' in the River Dart later in 1945 and the company was told they would see out the war. Unfortunately Denis had a 'set too' with a petty officer and ended up with a 'draft chit' to Pompey barracks and a job on an American frigate. Denis met another Hull lad and after escorting a couple of convoys in the Western Approaches the ship was taken to the Brooklyn naval yard in New York. The journey took three weeks because of a hurricane but Denis spent six weeks in the USA before returning home aboard the *Queen Mary*.

Denis then finished his time on a training ship, *HMS Implacable*, helping out with the 'PT' and sparring with Jim Collins, a welter weight boxing champion. The ship was an old wooden French battleship, the 'Dugay Truin' that had been captured at Trafalgar. Denis was then demobbed in the summer of 1946.

Denis received the Italy Star, Atlantic Star, 1939-1945 Star, Ribbon and Oak Leaf War Medal 1939-1945 in recognition of his service to 'King and Country'.

Back in Hull he met up with an old friend but could not settle and so he joined the Wilson Line steamer *SS Bassano* and did four trips to New York. Denis finally left his sea faring life at Christmas 1950.

Early in 1951 Denis started work as a steel erector, a job he would do until he retired, joining his brother, Ken, and

old friend Joe Bannister. One Saturday night he met Mary Horsley at the Queens Hotel on George Street and they started courting in February. On 1 September 1951 Denis and Mary were married.

In January 1982 Denis received the Norwegian War Medal, the Kries Medal, and a certificate signed by King Olav as recognition for his service in Norwegian merchantmen during World War II. This was followed in 1994 by the Russian Medal (1941-1945), with the Russian Government remembering British sailors in the Arctic Convoys. Finally in 2015 Denis received the Arctic Star posthumously from the British Government for service on the Arctic convoys to Russia.

## **Appendix**

### **"F" FLOTILLA'S GREAT RECORD**

(Being a news item broadcast by the BBC in their News Bulletin at 5pm on 9th March 1945)

When the records of the war at sea are finally assessed, few units of the Royal Navy will be found to equal that of the "Fighting F" Flotilla of Destroyers.

Wherever there has been a fight in this war, it is odds on there has been an "F" destroyer in it.

They fought in both battles of Narvik, in the battle of the Atlantic, with force "H" in the Mediterranean, with convoys to Malta and Murmansk, at the invasions

of North Africa, Sicily and Italy, in the Aegean, and in the Channel on "D" Day.

The Flotilla started the war nine strong – Faulknor (Flotilla leader) Fame, Fearless, Firedrake, Foresight, Forester, Fortune, Foxhound and Fury.

They sailed more than a million miles together until losses caused the flotilla to be broken up.

First to go was Fearless, sunk by an air attack in the Mediterranean in 1941. The Foresight was lost on a Malta Convoy in 1942, and the Firedrake was torpedoed in the Atlantic in 1943.

The Fortune and Foxhound now fight under different names for the Royal Canadian Navy. The Fury was scrapped in 1944.

The Faulknor, the Fame and the Forester are still serving with the Fleet.

### PROUD RECORD

The flotilla exists no longer, but their records still stand:-

First destroyer flotilla to steam one million miles in this war.

First U-boat sinking of the war.

Escorting of every east bound Malta convoy.

Longest continuous service as flotilla leader of any destroyer afloat – H.M.S. Faulknor.

Two hundred and sixty four thousand miles steamed by October 1943 - H.M.S. Fury.

**Honour for war hero**

Mr Denis Rymer with the diploma and medal awarded for services in the Norwegian Merchant Navy.

**DURING** former Hull seaman Mr Denis Rymer's brief wartime career with the Norwegian Merchant Navy, his first ship was torpedoed under him, and his second and third were bombed.

Now 60 years after he left to join the Royal Navy, his heroism has been recognized, and he has been awarded the Norwegian War Medal.

Mr Rymer (187), who lives in Shakespeare Close, said the medal was given to all the British sailors who served in action on a Norwegian ship.

Mr Rymer was only 16 when he signed on as a deck boy with the "Einar Jari" in 1940. His pay was £22 10s a month, and he still has an original pay slip.

After the Einar Jari was torpedoed, Mr Rymer and the crew were rescued by the s.s. Highlander from a lifeboat in which they had escaped from the sinking vessel.

Mr Rymer met two ships also saw action, both only managing to limp back into port after being bombed. In 1941 he joined the Royal Navy serving five years before being demobilised to rejoin the Merchant Navy. In 1950 he left the sea to become a steel erector.

Mr Rymer said the medal had come as a surprise after such a long time. Because in colour, it has the head of King Haakon VII, the reigning Norwegian monarch in 1940, on one side. With the award came a certificate signed by the present king, King Olav.

**Police attacked by gang**

TWO policemen were taken to

One further honour for the "Fighting F's" after the flotilla had been disbanded – H.M.S. Faulknor was chosen for the honour of taking Field-Marshal Montgomery to France on "D" Day.

Mike Rymer

last year as a result of having to cancel virtually all events planned due to the Covid 19 virus; they were much appreciated. As you will see from Pat Aldabella's report, we were able to go ahead with one visit to Winestead Church, which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.#

## Historic Money Quiz

Hello Members,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the many kind letters and cards received

I am hoping to resurrect some events from last year's programme when the Covid 19 virus finally subsides, but until this happens, the necessary arrangements cannot be progressed. I therefore suspect that realistically,

<b>THE MONEY QUIZ</b>			
<b>The answer to the following quiz totals £141/11s/3d</b>			
<b>Girl's name</b>			
<b>Boy's name</b>			
<b>Hat fit for a King</b>			
<b>20 cwt or 2240 lbs</b>			
<b>Leather worker</b>			
<b>Almost rhymes with sporran</b>			
<b>Singer</b>			
<b>Small horse</b>			
<b>Saturn, Jupiter and Mars</b>			
<b>Ill fish</b>			
<b>Mode of transport</b>			
<b>A tiara</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>

the programme will commence in the second part of the year. However, we will keep you posted about developments.

In the meantime, I thought you may wish to have a go at the historic Money Quiz! There will be prizes for the first three correct answers, which can be sent by e-mail or post. The sending date will be the one used in the judging, so if you are sending by post\*\* please add this to your answer because not all envelopes are franked. A copy of the Quiz will be put on the website under 'Events'. The answer to the clue should be written in the right hand column and the amount of money in £.s.d. in the first three columns. The total of all answers equals the sum of £141/11s/3d.

Winners will gain a free entry to any one of the lectures we arrange this year.

I look forward to your replies, but also to meeting members once again, when it is safe to do so.

All good wishes for the New Year.

Pamela J Martin (EYLHS Programme Co-ordinator)

\*\*Please send postal replies to:-  
Pamela Martin, 85 Ancaster Avenue,  
Fairfax Avenue, Hull, HU5 4QR

## BALH

"This year, we are trialling a new initiative to offer benefit to your society's members through a discount scheme for BALH events.

Initially this benefit will be in the form of a discount on selected online webinars, workshops and talks, but we will be reviewing its use over the course of the year.

Our aim is for this discount to be an additional attraction to members of your society; in turn providing extra value for your BALH society membership.

To take advantage of this discount offer, your members will be asked to enter your society's unique code when booking designated events via our website.

Your unique code for East Yorkshire Local History Society : F-21736C"

BALH's future events are listed at [www.balh.org.uk/balh-events](http://www.balh.org.uk/balh-events)

## Book Reviews

**Martin Craven** *The History of Thorgumbald Hall in Holderness and its Owners*, 2020, 104pp. Available direct from author (01482) 640081 or [pfashursh@gmail.com](mailto:pfashursh@gmail.com), £12 plus p&p.

Mr Craven has produced a very thorough and readable account of

Thorngumbald Hall ranging from the original building for Sir Samuel Standidge in 1770 to the demolition and rebuilding by Charles Hargitt Johnson in 1880 and concluding with the present owners, Ian and Gwen Lanham.

B S Jacob's hall, mainly compiled by Ian Lanham.

Robert Barnard

Standidge build the hall shortly after his marriage to his third wife, Mary, Spooner, in 1767. Standidge died in 1801 and his widow in 1803. It isn't clear who occupied the property after their demise but the Standidge family sold the hall to Edward Sheldon in 1822. However, his ownership was short, selling it in 1827 to Abraham Dunn. Dunn's ownership was even shorter as John Farrah Butter became the new owner in 1828. Buter's trustees sold it to John Henry Denniss who sold it again in 1867 to Robert Stubbing Dixon. The last owner of the old hall, C H Johnson, purchased it in 1880 and immediately demolished it to be replaced by the present hall designed by B S Jacobs. The Johnson family sold the hall in 1938 to C Markham & son Ltd who split the property into two separate wings.. In 1946 the new owner was Cecil Rhodes of the fruit merchant family..In 1948 the West Wing was sold separately. The present owners, Ian & Gwen Lanham, purchased the East Wing in 1986 and the West Wing in 2017 restoring the hall to one property..

Mr Craven, assisted by Pauline Ashurst, has compiled extensive family histories for all the owners. The book ends with a useful architectural description of

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The past year has been unprecedented for all of us, with few possibilities for meetings and visits, and the loss of the Local History Book Fair. This newsletter contains details of the current state of our finances, which will remain healthy as long as you all continue to give your support. Our publications continue and we shall issue the latest journal in the summer, and another special publication is planned before Christmas.

It may just be possible to have a delayed AGM before the end of the year, when members will be able to meet old friends, voice their opinions on the way forward, and approve the society's accounts and election of officers. A comprehensive programme of lectures and trips will surely have to wait till 2022.

Jenny Stanley has retired, to have a well-earned rest after a thirteen year stint as our hard-working Hon. Secretary. I shall greatly miss her, she was a constant help, always beside me at meetings making sure I dealt with all the necessary business. Thank you Jenny.

Good wishes to everyone for 2021, and I look forward to seeing you all as soon as some sort of normality returns. If you have any comments, suggestions to make, material to offer for the journal and newsletter, your committee is available to contact by post, telephone or e-mail.

Arthur G. Credland M.B.E.,F.S.A.

## The East Yorkshire Local History Society

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ending 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>		
Members' Subscriptions	3,135.00	3,255.00
Bank Interest	63.92	63.61
Summer Events	1,501.00	2,027.50
Book Sales	192.00	291.00
Book Fair	0.00	460.00
Donations	274.00	16.00
Gift Aid	411.25	300.00
	5,577.17	6,413.11
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00
Summer Events	1,475.00	1,655.53
Postage/Stationery	1,179.27	856.56
Committee Members Expenses	117.70	96.36
MacMahon Fund	0.00	0.00
Victoria County History	100.00	100.00
Printing Costs	2,689.87	1,849.90
Insurance/Subscription to BALH	75.00	75.00
Subscription Refunds	70.00	10.00
Computer equipment	21.60	21.60
Book sale charges (eBay)	68.42	77.74
Book Fair	0.00	460.00
	5,796.86	5,202.69
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>219.69</b>	<b>1,210.42</b>

### BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2020

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash at Bank	5,326.44	5,170.67
Building Society Deposit	12,848.17	12,784.25
	<b>18,174.61</b>	<b>17,954.92</b>

## **OFFICERS FOR 2020**

President: Sir Ian Macdonald of Sleat, Bart, FRICS, MRSH

Vice-Presidents: Dr. D. J. R. Neave

Chairman: Mr. A. Credland

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. J. Stanley

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. Barnard

Hon. Journal Editors: Mr. A. Credland

Mr. R. Barnard

Hon. Newsletter Editor: Mr. R. Barnard

Hon. Membership

Secretary: Miss P. Aldabella

Mr D. Bowes

Hon. Publication Officer: I

Hon. Programme Secretary: Miss P. Martin

Honorary Life Member

Mr. I Wright

Executive Committee Members for 2020

+ Member willing to be re-elected

+ Mr. R. Barnard

+ Mr D. Bowes (co-opted November 2019)

+ Miss M Carrick

+ Mr. A. Credland

+ Miss H Good

+ Dr J Kemp

+ Miss P. Martin

+ Mr M Rymer

Mrs. J. Stanley

+ Mrs S Wade