

# FISHERGATE, FULFORD & HESLINGTON

## Local History Society

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

**WHAT A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE JUNE 2011** when Gavin Thomas and Louise Wheatley first met to discuss a local history group and, shortly afterwards, to arrange a series of meetings.

Even more significant was the group of volunteers who willingly came to form a steering committee. This rapidly became a formal committee, ably chaired by Bob Cook, who was instrumental in drawing up our constitution which meant we could apply for insurance, a bank account and, subsequently for grant aid.

By 2013 we were a formally-recognised local history society. John Hurd took over as chair and guided us through an amazing year of talks, walking tours and visits. When John became ill, Chris Rainger stepped forward and his energy and ideas inspired new activities such as exhibitions, walking trail leaflets and conferences. The FFH activities during 2013 and 2014 were summarised in a previous newsletter.

We have an active and involved committee, a growing membership AND a large group of moral-supporters, who attend our regular meetings AND add their invaluable expertise to our endeavours.

**THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS THE DIVERSE RANGE OF OUR ACTIVITIES DURING 2015 AND 2016.** Enjoy!

## THANK YOU TO

### MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We recognised that NONE of our activities would have been possible without the moral and financial support of our members and friends.

### THE COMMITTEE

Chris Rainger (chair), Judy Nicholson (secretary)  
Louise Wheatley (treasurer),  
Anne Ackroyd, Barbara King, Rosemary Newman  
Roger Thompson, Robert Visick and Margaret West

### SPONSORS

We also want to express our gratitude to those who have given grants to fund our endeavours:

City of York Council (both the Fishergate and Fulford Neighbourhoods & Community Funds); Fulford Parish Council; Fulford Shows & Sports; Shepherds Building Group, York Common Good Trust and YAYAS

### DONORS

We are also grateful to those who have given generous donations towards our endeavours:

Fishergate Shops & Restaurants  
Friends of York Walls, Friends of the New Walk  
and Friends of York Cemetery  
and especially our anonymous donors!

## THIS NEWSLETTER

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**and the proposed programme for 2017**

### FOR INFORMATION

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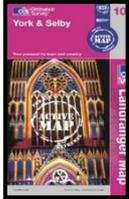
MEMBERSHIP ONLY £5/year

# IN MEMORIAM

We remember with affection those FFH members who have recently died: **TONY TOLHURST, JOHN HURD AND IVISON WHEATLEY**. Each contributed time, energy, resources, archival material, financial and moral support for which we are grateful.

ALL WILL BE SADLY MISSED.

## ARCHIVES, MAPS and PHOTOGRAPHS

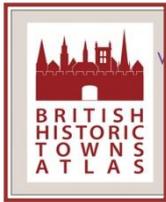


Over the years we have acquired a considerable number of **MAPS** of **FISHERGATE, FULFORD, HESLINGTON** and the greater York area. If you are interested in a particular period of history or a site, please contact us online or by phone and we will try and help find the appropriate map.

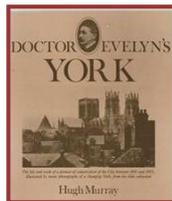
A while ago, York Explore (the main library in York) released copies of the **1852 HUGE-SCALE MAPS OF YORK** which we acquired by the gift of an anonymous donor. More recently, we purchased from the library, copies of the **18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY ENCLOSURE MAPS FOR GATE FULFORD**. In 2017 we will walk the boundaries near to Fulford cemetery.



In June 2016, we were fortunate to secure **DR PETER ADDYMAN** to introduce the new **HISTORIC TOWNS ATLAS FOR YORK**. This was part of the York Festival of Idea and attracted a large audience. The amazing production has taken many years and the articles to accompany each historical period have been written by well renowned experts, including Dr Addyman and others from York. He gave a wonderful overview of the atlas and provided copies at reduced rates which meant more people could purchase a copy.



At our AGM in March 2016, **IAN DRAKE** informed us about the **EVELYN COLLECTION of PHOTOGRAPHS**. When, in January 1891 Dr William Arthur Evelyn arrived in York to practice medicine, he stepped out of the station and saw the city walls covered in snow. The beauty made a lasting impression and launched a life-time of collecting artwork showing views of York, taking photographs and giving talks about York's history past and present. He gifted his remarkable collection of photographs to YAYAS (Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society); and the artwork to York Art Gallery.



## ARCHAEOLOGY

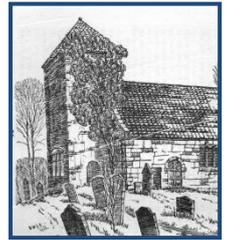


For Archaeology Fortnight in July 2015, we had a **GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY** on the lawns of the **SIR JOHN HUNT HOMES OFF ST OSWALD'S ROAD**. This project was the brilliant idea of archaeology student **PAUL DURDIN** and the equipment was supplied by the University of York Archaeology Department. A team of volunteers from FFH had the fun of marking off the site, walking up and down scanning the ground with the machines and then waiting while the results were mapped and interpreted. Many thanks to Paul for a fascinating adventure which showed pathways and structures in a field that grew flax in Anglian times and increased our interest in the origins of the village of Fulford.



In 2014 there were **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS** at **CONNAUGHT COURT** along St Oswald's Road; and also off Fordland's Road at **GERMANY BECK**. We still await updates on the digs and reports on the finds; and hope to hear from the archaeologists in 2017. It seems that there was a Roman Settlement off St Oswald's Road and a ford over Germany Beck.

Meanwhile, **CHRIS RAINGER** discovered an **unpublished archaeological report of excavations at OLD ST OSWALD'S CHURCH**. Having read the report and taking advice from archaeologists, FFH is now seeking funds for its publication. The most interesting of the report is the discovery of a fragment of an Anglian Cross - another hint to the elusive Anglian settlement of Fulford.



## ARCHAEOLOGY and the LANDSCAPE

In April 2015 we had a walking tour of the high points on the **HESLINGTON MORAINE**: the summits known as Garrow Hill or Seward's How and Lamal Hill. **JON KENNY** introduced us to the history of the highpoints and we mused over whether or not Seward's How really was a bronze age burial mound. Tantalisingly it does lie near the border between two territories marked by the double ditched called Green Dykes Lane.

A year later in April 2016, **AL OSWALD** carried this discussion further with a 2<sup>nd</sup> visit nearby to Walmgate Stray and Lamal Hill, in the grounds of the Retreat. He reasons that Seward's How is actually Lamal Hill! And indeed there are ancient burials beneath which were disturbed by the Civil War battery put on top, as well as a windmill.



## ARTEFACTS & TREASURE



Several years ago **ROSEMARY NEWMAN** came across a field full of **BROKEN BITS OF POTTERY** which she picked up (as you do!) These have been brought to several meetings and engendered awe, amazement, envy and interest. At our Christmas Social 2016, they featured as part of a road show hosted by a ceramics expert, who helped to date them as mainly medieval; and to categorise them into types of domestic pots.



**ANDY WOOD's**, curator of coins at the Yorkshire Museum, gave a fascinating talk on the hoard of **ROMAN COPPER COINS** found on Heslington Moraine. Copper coinage was unusual, but indicates the type of day to day transactions in a hitherto unknown settlement. He raised interest in coins in general and recruited volunteers to help catalogue some of the museum's collections.



A last minute cancellation of speaker gave **LOUISE WHEATLEY** an opportunity to explore the **PRE-HISTORY OF FISHERGATE, FULFORD AND HESLINGTON** from the last Ice Age to the departure of the Romans. Victorian Antiquarians had discovered Stone-age flint arrowheads, stone axes; Mesolithic microliths; Bronze and Iron-age tools; Roman burials and coffins; and Anglian skeletons. Recent excavations at Heslington East found evidence for Mesolithic people passing through and later Iron Age settlements with round houses. We await more discoveries our ancient past!





# BUILDINGS

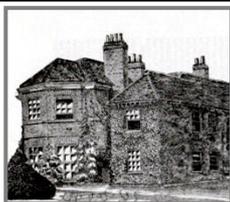
As reported in the last newsletter, our chairman **CHRIS RAINGER** had created, curated, assembled and hung our 2014 Exhibition of views of the Fishergate area in **FISHERGATE POSTERN TOWER**. The following January, he gave more information about this section of the City Walls from the Red Tower at Walmgate Bar to Fishergate Bar, the Corner Tower and the Postern.



Subsequently, Chris arranged a special visit inside the **CORNER TOWER** between Fishergate Bar and the Postern. The cross-shaped gun-slits are 16<sup>th</sup> century; but the fireplace and brick vaults inside were built after the Civil War. **He will open the corner tower again during Residents' Weekend 28-29 January 2017.**



**JUDY NICHOLSON** and **BARBARA KING** actively continue their research into the history and tenancy of the houses along Main Street Fulford and the back-lanes. **See our FFH website for a PICTORIAL TOUR** of buildings, housing and family history.



In August 2016 they arranged a visit to **WATER FULFORD HALL**. The current owner kindly guided us around the outside of this remarkable house and its associated buildings (stable block and dove cot). We viewed the lead pipes and water troughs with dates and/or initials; and heard about the restoration of the large garden and gates. We were also privileged to go inside and see the core of the house, the medieval central hall, the old manor court room.

Two post graduate students from the University of York arranged two evening visits to **HESLINGTON HALL** in autumn 2015. We



had special access to the ground floor rooms which retain much of their Elizabethan and Jacobean decoration. We puzzled over various coats of arms and were a bit boggled by the succession of owners from Thomas Eynnes (or Heynes); Thomas Hesketh 1, 2 and 3 and their wives and families - leading to

succession by the Yarbroughs and then Lord Deramore and heirs. We await the doctoral thesis on the Hall to learn more.



Maps of a century ago show a number of **WIND-AND WATER MILLS** in the Fishergate, Fulford & Heslington area but none survive. Luckily there is a photo of **HESLINGTON MILL** (left) and the structure survived of **HOLGATE MILL** (left). This has now been lovingly and expertly restored to full working order producing stone-ground flour. We had a talk about **MILLS AND MILLING** by **RICHARD GREEN** and then drove over to the Acomb for a on-site guided tour.



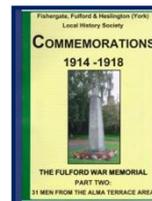
## COMMEMORATIONS 1914-18



Our small team of researchers worked many hours to produce **BIOGRAPHIES FOR ALL 86 MEN ON THE FULFORD WAR MEMORIAL**. This was collated into three volumes based on the location of their homes stretching the length of Fishergate and Fulford Roads, Main Street, Fulford to beyond Water Fulford; with a few from surrounding areas.



Part One covers the 26 men from Fulford Road; Part Two, the 31 from Alma Terrace and the Barracks; and Part Three, the 29 from the Fishergate Road Area. Each volume contains an introduction to the area, a summary for each year of the war and a conclusion with appendix and picture credits. The biographies incorporate information about families, regiment, battles, place of death and burial. The booklets have sold well and reviews have been very positive with praise for interest, ease of reading and wonderful photographs.



Work is in progress on the 86 men commemorated on the **MEMORIAL IN FISHERGATE SCHOOL**; and we will produce and launch these volumes during 2017. There will also be a volume on the **MEN FROM HESLINGTON** who lost their lives which includes a history of the village during the war and the essential work of women and children.

In November 2015 we expanded our audience by inviting other groups in the York area to join us in a **MAJOR EXHIBITION** at **YORK CEMETERY CHAPEL**. There were several standing displays and maps and files of information. Visitors could browse the family histories and look through WWI equipment and memorabilia. We organised a series of talks, sold our biographies and served refreshments. The day was well attended and successful in bringing together other societies and groups, who have spent years collecting material to commemorate those who died.



## CONFERENCES



FFH did not organise formal conferences in 2015 or 2016, but we are planning one in 2017 focused on Anglian Fulford (see below under **York Festival of Ideas**). In the meantime, **JOHN BIBBY**, arranged a day school and conference **1914-18 CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST** with support from members of FFH. **ROGER THOMPSON** gave a paper at the Conference of the British Association for Local History Societies. Members also attended the conferences organised by John Oxley, York City archaeologist and also the conference in memory of Richard Hall.



## DISPLAYS & EXHIBITIONS

The ongoing research into the lives of those commemorated on the War Memorials have been the subject of displays over the past few years. Most recently, we joined the congregation after the **REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE** at St Oswald's Church; and there were crowds around the panels reading avidly.

We have also set up displays at the Fulford Show, the Fishergate Ward event near the Millennium Bridge and at our meetings.



The variety of subjects for our displays is impressive:

- The River Ouse through Time
- The Mecca & Bluebridge Lane Archaeological Finds
- Photos and Biographies of Fulford Families
- The History of Fulford Cub Scouts
- The History of Heslington Village and its Church
- Views of Fishergate
- The artwork for the new Fulford Walking Trail.

Thank you to all those involved.

We also try to produce eye-catching posters to advertise our meetings and events. These are posted on notice boards around our patch. **THE NEW FISHERGATE NOTICE BOARD** has been successful in attracting interest from those walking by, who pause to read the notices of our meetings and those of other local groups.



in June 2015 we had the pleasure of **SIR JOHN LAWTON's** knowledge of the habitat and wildlife of **HESLINGTON OUTGANG**, an ancient route for cattle from York to the grazing land called Ox Close. He pointed out the diverse plants in the bordering hedgerows which indicate the great age of this route. He also brought to our attention the news that our beloved ash and horse chestnut trees are afflicted with diseases which, without remedy, will die and decimate our landscape. We hope for a scientific remedy soon.



## FAMILY and SOCIAL HISTORY



The Fulford Main Street and the Commemorations 1914-18 require ongoing research into family, social and political history. **JUDY NICHOLSON** and **BARBARA KING** have looked closely into the **OWNERS OF WATER FULFORD HALL**, especially the **KEY FAMILY**. They travelled to Lincolnshire to look at former homes and at archival records. Then, after our visit to Waler Fulford Hall, they went through the Family Tree and gave us an overview of Who's Who. Members of the Key family established a school, founded charities, initiated Fulford Golf Club, served as vicars and donated land for the new parish church.



in January 2016 **LOUISE WHEATLEY** gave a talk about the **BROOKE FAMILY: 1550-1650**, based on her research into a portrait of Mrs Brooke, formerly in Heslington Hall. The portrait, dated 1567, depicts Jane, wife of Robert Brooke, a leading merchant of York. They had a large family and three daughters married men, who acquired land in Fishergate and also the manors of Gate Fulford and Heslington. More could be done to explore their lives during the Civil War and their adjustment from timber-framed York housing to large Elizabethan and Jacobean stately homes.



## FLORA & FAUNA

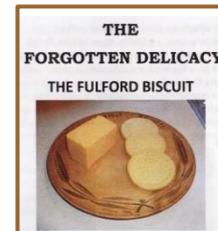


You will have read in this issue of the visits to Heslington and Lamal hills, Walmgate stry and Heslington Outgang; of walks along the river Ouse and an event in the lngs near the Millennium Bridge. These locales comprise different habitats with their own array of flora and fauna with their own beauty. **IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO DO A PROJECT or SURVEY of these habitats**, please contact the committee and we'll help you get started.



## FOOD and DRINK

**RICHARD GREEN'S** talk about **HESLINTON and HOLGATE MILLS** covered both the buildings and the milling of wheat into flour and he had package of their stone-ground whole wheat flour for sale.

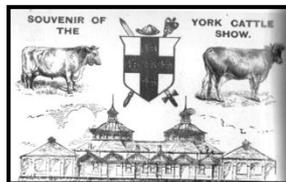


**MARY OWEN** and **BARBARA KING** have designed and written a leaflet about **THE FORGOTTEN DELICACY: THE FULFORD BISCUIT**. The cover shows a batch of freshly baked biscuits with a block of cheese. They also bake some for sake at the Fulford Show alongside our range of sweet biscuits.

## FARMS, CROPS & LIVESTOCK



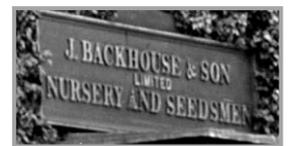
In February 2015 **GEOFF SHEARSMITH** and **JUDY NICHOLSON** gave an enlightening presentation about **YORK CATTLE MARKET** which had been held on the Barbican site in Fishergate from 1827 to 1976. We invited the audience to share their memories of the cattle being driven down the streets to and from the market; the cattle pens outside the city walls; and the branch-line that came into Walmgate bringing cattle from as far away as Ireland.



Geoff's collection of postcards, photos and trade bills gave a unique insight into what was a major commercial activity in Fishergate; with associated banks and animal feed stores, as well as the social life in the nearby pubs and also unsocial behaviour.

## GARDENS and NURSERIES

In July 2015 we had an inspirational talk by **JANE CULLEN** about the **WEST BANK PARK HERITAGE PROJECT** to convert the Park Keeper's Lodge into a heritage centre and community café. The park is the site of world-famous **BACKHOUSE NURSERY GARDENS**.



James Backhouse came to York in the early 1800's and acquired the Telford Nurseries off Tanner Row. In 1839 when the railway needed that land, he purchased a plot in **FISHERGATE** along Melbourne Street; and moved later on to West Bank, Holgate.

The Melbourne Street nursery had belonged to the **RIGG FAMILY** whose monument survives in St Lawrence's Churchyard. This records the drowning of six children and the death of their father soon after. Hence the sale of their acreage in Fishergate.



The expertise and superior plants of York nursery- and seedsmen benefitted gardens and parks near and far away. We look forward to learning more about **The Gardens and Landscape of our City** on **Saturday 18 March 2017** when our speaker is **PETER GOODCHILD, Director of GARLAND** (The Garden and landscape Heritage Trust)..



## FIELDS, MEADOWS & GRASSLANDS



**THE LARGE-SCALE 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY ENCLOSURE MAPS** for Fulford have provided sufficient clues to identify some of the modern field boundaries. Two of our ardent field-walkers have been looking at the current use of fields in the Fordlands Road area. We will join them next summer to walk the bounds and consider the changes in size and shape, the use and the ownership over time.

# HISTORIC PEOPLE and PAST TIMES



**MARY GARRISON** introduced us to **ALCUIN**, the 7<sup>th</sup> century scholar from Anglian York. She set the scene by looking at the role of Irish Christians in bringing a new, non-Classical approach to literacy and learning. This came to England via the Northumbrian King Oswald, who brought Aidan from Iona to convert his people to Christianity. A century later, the young **ALCUIN** would be sent to the new Cathedral School in York. He later became Master of the school, built up a fabulous library and, then, was summoned by Charlemagne's to set up the Palace School in Aachen. His letters to friends in York and elsewhere survive, as do his poems - one which describes sailing up the Ouse to York past the flowery meads (thence the decorated cake).



Continuing to explore our Anglian past, **LOUISE WHEATLEY** compiled 12 illustrated panels on **St OSWALD (604-642): King of Northumbria and Christian Martyr**. These were hung in the church hall on St Oswald's feast day (5 August 2016). More panels are being prepared to cover the **Life and Times Of Oswald's People** and an overview was given as an illustrated talk in November 2016. We hope this approach will help us understand daily life in our FFH Anglian villages and trading sites.



# LEISURE, SPORT & RECREATION



**GEOFF and JENNY HAWKINS** gave a wonderful account of the **HISTORY OF FULFORD GOLF CLUB** based on information in their book, *Golf at the Highest Level*. The first course was laid out in the early 1900's on the grounds of Water Fulford Hall by Col. Robert Ellis Key. After his death in 1930, the course was moved to Heslington Common, a tract of 187 acres "of heath, scrub, bog, sand and rabbit warrens". In the end, it proved suitable for pros and amateurs, men and women of all ages.

In 2016 the Scouting movement celebrated 100 years of the Cub Scout section. **CHRIS KING**, Fulford Scout Leader, set up a fascinating display of what local groups have been doing and gave us a 'state of art' slide show presentation. The photo shows The Great Howl,



# MILITARY-MATTERS PAST & PRESENT

The 1066 Battle of Fulford is well known to FFH members and took place a few days before the **BATTLE OF STAMFORD BRIDGE**. For our September 2016 meeting we invited **CHRIS ROCK**, chairman of the Battle of Stamford Bridge Society to give us more information. He gave a fascinating insight into Harold Godwinson's final victory (the title of his book). The quick thinking of a boatman under the bridge, who thrust his spear upwards and brought the foe crashing down, is remembered in Stamford Bridge on **SPEAR PIE DAY**. Let's also make a boat-shaped pie with spear skewer next September.



# OUTINGS & VISITS



This newsletter has already referred to our visits to Heslington Hall and Holgate Windmill; and outings Walmgate Stray and The Outgang. We also had a **WALKING TOUR OF HESLINGTON VILLAGE** in June 2016 led by **NICK ALLEN**, who drew our attention to various architectural features and quirks such as the undulating wall near More House; and to ancient passageways like Tally Alley.



There were requests for a second walking tour with **MARGARET SCOTT** along **THE NEW WALK**. Despite torrential rain, she met us on the Bluebridge and we listened intently to her wealth of knowledge. We proceeded south on the river path, passing recent and older housing (townhouses, Lady Well Cottage, the Gardener's House at the bottom of Grange Garth) and Pikeing Well. We hastened to the Millennium Bridge and gazed up and down river; and ended with a long discussion about the current use of the site where the Military Hospital and Ordnance store had been.



# OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY



Several occasions of community outreach have been mentioned in other sections of the newsletter: the day at York Cemetery Chapel; after the Remembrance Day Service; the events during Archaeology Fortnight and Heritage Open Days

**OUR WEBSITE** is visited **DAILY** by those interested in aspects of local history with the former Military Hospital a favourite! We also send out **EMAIL UPDATES** (blind copies) to a large group of supporters; and feature in notices sent out by York Civic Trust and Time-Line Plus (the network for York local history societies). A wide audience, we hope to reach as many people as we can.

The Fulford Show on August Bank Holiday Monday is a regular occasion to meet members off the public and to provide information about our activities. We are fortunate to have the use of the Scout Hut for indoor displays.



In 2015 we had a craft table for children, who enjoyed making grasshoppers and jumping frogs. In the future we will run more craft sessions.

The table top displays of maps and the information about family history attract close interest from visitors; and we serve refreshments and sell packs of our Fulford and FFH biscuits

**FFH IS A PURELY SECULAR, NON-POLITICAL SOCIETY, but we meet in St Oswald's Church Hall and we are interested in the history of the church and its memorials. THUS, we decided to participate in some events during the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration of new St Oswald's Church 2016-2017.**

On 5 August 2016 (**ST OSWALD'S DAY**) a small team provided a **CREAM TEA** for about 160 members of the wider community. Scones were mixed up and baked on the spot and cream whipped in a frantic effort to keep up with demand!



In December, we were one of the local groups to set up a tree for the **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** at the church. Our tree displayed gold and silver-edged 'baubles' with photos taken from our posters. We handed out programmes, leaflets and membership forms. and helped make and serve refreshments.

# PRESENTATIONS



The Friends of York Art Gallery are the latest link with FFH because certain paintings are relevant to our history. For example, research into the portrait of **MRS BROOKE** found that the city-based trading family acquired sufficient wealth to become landed gentry in the FFH area and beyond. Their connection to the Hesketh's family brought to light information about Thomas Eynnes, who built Heslington Hall in the 1560's.



A recent exhibition of paintings from the Imperial War Museum established another link, this time with our 1914-18 Commemorations. Louise Wheatley gave a talk "**SOME OF THE YORK MEN WHO DIED AT OPPIY WOOD AND ALONG THE MENIN ROAD**". She spoke in front of the paintings by John and Paul Nash: **Oppy Wood, Evening 1917** and **The Menin Road 1918**) and referred to: Alfred Edward Friend, Joseph Herbert Garbutt, James Percy Halliwell, Frederick William Kinsey, William Mitchell; and James William Jameson, who died at Oppy Wood on 3 May 1917 alongside his Hull Pals. Heart-breaking.



**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE GIVEN A TALK LINKING FFH WITH ANOTHER ORGANISATION.**

# SOCIAL GET-TOGETHERS



We aim to have **AMIALE, FRIENDLY GATHERINGS** on all occasions, but some are more social than others. **Our AGM's** combine a business meeting with a talk and a shared meal and therefore are more enjoyable than many AGM's!

For our **PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** In December, we gather in the afternoon for mulled wine, spiced apple cider and a variety of snacks ranging from nibbles to main dishes as you can see in the photograph from December 2015.



We also have an entertainment which for a couple of years, was to 'bring a mystery object to identify'. In 2015 we held a pottery road show to identify any shards found in digging our the gardens.. In 2016 there was a picture quiz of trams in York; and we were to identify where the photograph had been taken. Quite a challenge!



# WALKING TOURS & TRAIL LEAFLETS

Our guided walks during 2015 and 2016 have been noted above; and our Fishergate Walking Trail featured in the last newsletter. Here we draw attention to our new **WALK ALONG MAIN STREET, FULFORD: The Buildings, Families and Working Life of a Village.**

**TERRY COURT, CHRIS RAINGER and MARTIN LOMAS** have carried out the research, collated the information, devised a schematic map of the area and worked tirelessly to arrange the text and graphics in the limited space. Martin has drawn exquisite images of the Church and houses. **The official launch will be in April 2017.**



# WATER SUPPLY, RIVERS SPRINGS and WELLS



An adequate water supply is an essential whether in a rural or urban setting; and the FFH area covers both. In addition, there is the river system of Ouse and Foss with their tributaries and then Germany Beck. To begin our investigation of water, **JUDY NICHOLSON** and **CHRIS RAINGER** gave an illustrated talk about the **RIVER OUSE THROUGH TIME**. The river was and is not only a means of transport and communication, but a resource of food, energy and beauty. We will have future sessions on the springs, wells and water troughs in the landscape; and reflect on their symbolic attributes as well as their vital role in sustaining life. Perhaps we'll need to consider drains, the lack of which feature so prominently in 19<sup>th</sup> century commissions of enquiry.



# YORK FESTIVAL OF IDEAS



A few committee members have been involved with the planning stages of the York Festival of Ideas; and have encouraged participation in the diverse events, especially those featuring Anglian York. **PLANS ARE AFOOT FOR OUR CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY 17 JUNE AS PART OF THE 2017 FESTIVAL.**

The spark for the 2017 conference is an unpublished archaeological report - our summary of their summary is:

*In the 1980's, the redundant church of Old St Oswald's, Fulford was converted into a private dwelling. York Archaeological Trust and the University of York's Department of Archaeology monitored the work. Their small-scale excavations located part of a foundation at the west end of the present building and they felt this indicated an earlier church. Among the finds were a Roman stone coffin lid, a fragment of Roman glass, a stamped shard of Anglo-Saxon pottery and part of a late 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century stone cross-shaft.*

## CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

### WHY

**was there an Anglian Cross at Old St Oswald's Church?**

The plan is for FFH to host a day-long conference in (new)St Oswald's church hall, with a visit to the old church at the end of the day. It is proposed to hold this on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

The theme within the Festival would be 'The Story of Things' ;and here, the fragment of the Anglian cross fits very nicely.

Aspects to cover would be:

- The discoveries made during the conversion of the old church to a domestic dwelling in the 19XX's.
- The transition of King Oswald to St Oswald - how a warrior king became venerated and the subject of a European cult
- Why was there an Anglian cross at St Oswald's which brings to the fore the importance of river crossings, holy wells, preaching crosses and the conversion of Northumbria.
- The puzzle of why the old church is separated by such a distance from the village - or was there an earlier village which has left no trace - where was the foundation of Fulford?
- The relationship between St Olave's Church (Marygate), St Mary's Abbey, St Oswald's Church and the village of Fulford and its manors
- The building history of old St Oswald's with reference to the unpublished archaeological report with a site visit when the building history could be covered