

FISHERGATE, FULFORD & HESLINGTON

Local History Society

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4

sent out **MARCH 2020**

WHAT A LOT HAS HAPPENED SINCE JUNE 2011 when Gavin Thomas and Louise Wheatley first met to discuss a local history group. Shortly afterwards a series of meetings were devised, a constitution was written, Bob Cook stepped forward as chairman, a committee was formed and a bank account opened. By January 2012 we were ready to start, and we haven't stopped since!

Our last newsletter was produced at the end of 2017; and this one covers the two years since, 2018 and 2019. The newsletter is arranged by subject rather than by month, because we want you to know how many topics we cover in a year or two and how knowledge accumulates and stimulates further research.

There should be something for everyone, but please do let us know if you have a topic, an interest or an idea that has been neglected – please let one of the committee members know. We also hope to encourage more members to join the committee, research subjects, give talks, design leaflets or just suggest ideas.

ENJOY READING ABOUT THE DIVERSE RANGE OF OUR ACTIVITIES DURING 2018 AND 2019.

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 2019

Chris Rainger (chair), Judy Nicholson & Charles Patmore (secretaries), Louise Wheatley (treasurer),
Barbara King, Rosemary Newman,
Margaret Scott, Freda Thistle, Van Wilson

SPONSORS

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

City of York Council (both the Fishergate and Fulford Neighbourhoods & Community Funds); Fulford Parish Council; Fulford Shows & Sports; the Friends of York Archaeological Trust, the Mark Fitch Fund, the Noel G Terry Charitable Trust, the Sheldon Memorial Trust, the York Common Good Trust, the York Philosophical Society and YAYAS (Yorkshire Architectural & York Archaeological Society)

DONORS & BENEFACTORS

We are also grateful to all those who have given generous donations towards our activities

MEMBERSHIP ONLY £5/year

THIS NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In Memoriam
Archives, Maps & Photographs
Archaeology
Archaeology & Landscape
Artefacts & Treasures
Buildings, Houses & Churches
Commemorations 1914-18
Conferences
Displays & Exhibitions
Family and Social History
Famous and Other People from the Past
Farms, Crops & Livestock
Fields, Meadows & Pastures
Gardens, Nurseries & Cemeteries
Local Government
Major Political & Historic Events
Outreach to the Community
Presentations Social Get-togethers
York Festival of Ideas
and the proposed programme for 2020

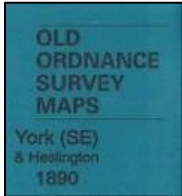
FOR INFORMATION

please contact Louise Wheatley
11 New Walk Terrace York YO10 4B
(tel) 01904 635939 (mob) 07914 626744
Email: ffhyork.localhistory@gmail.com
Website: www.ffhyork.weebly.com

IN MEMORIAM

We remember with affection those FFH who have recently died: **ANNE ACKEROYD, DR. ROBERT VISICK and MARTIN LOMAS.** 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



Anne Ackeroyd left FFH a legacy which the committee decided to use for more OS maps of the FFH area. Five have been ordered from the National Library of Scotland in electronic format which makes them easily used for research and in publications.



A while ago, we purchased from York Explore (the main library in York) copies **18th Century Enclosure Maps for Gate Fulford.** We are arranging a **GROUP VISIT IN 2020** to view the huge originals in the archives.



We are so fortunate that several members are keen photographers for example, **Catherine Sotheron**, who gave an illustrated talk at of 2019 AGM, '**YORK MINSTER IN CLOSE UP**'. She revealed a delightful array of angels, saints, abbots, beasts and gargoyles.



Other members are avid collectors or custodians of old photographs which they have shared with us on numerous occasions. **Margaret Scott** provided rare photos and other images for her talk for the 2018 AGM, '**The 1951 Revival of the York Mystery Plays**'.

ARCHAEOLOGY



In January 2018, **Paula Ware**, of **MAP Archaeology** gave an update on the **GERMANY BECK INVESTIGATIONS.** We had a chance to view some artefacts including the remains of a Neolithic pot, fragments of Roman amphora, mortarium and flagon and a Roman brooch with its fixing pin.

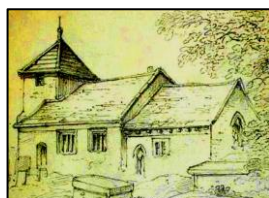


A cake was baked in his honour (detail left).

John Oxley, Archaeologist gave an entertaining and insightful talk in April 2018 title, **A CAREER IN RUINS**. He recounted episodes of his life and work, most recently as archaeologist for the City of York.

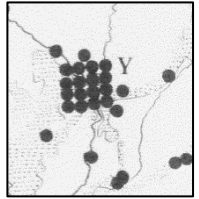
We look forward to the publication of the Old St Oswald's Church archaeological report which has now been submitted to the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal. **PLEASE PICK UP OUR NEW LEAFLET.**

(Image YMT:YAG)

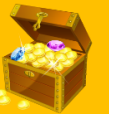


ARCHAEOLOGY and the LANDSCAPE

Louise Wheatley was asked to speak to a woman's group at the Novotel, Fishergate in June 2019. Her talk focused on the area as an important crossing over the Foss and Ouse from prehistoric times. The detail (right) show a concentration of finds in York for Neolithic polished axes.



ARTEFACTS & TREASURE



A small FFH team has been photographing and cataloguing the mid 4th Century Roman hoard of 2,800 copper coins found on Heslington Hill. On Wednesday 2 October 2019, a visit to the Yorkshire Museum was arranged for FFH members to view the collection and find out more from the curator, Dr Andrew Wood.

A ring was discovered in Fulford by metal detectorists. It is a 15th century gold band engraved with flowers and set with ruby and emeralds and was purchased by York Museums Trust in 2019 and is on display in the Yorkshire Museum. We hope to have a talk on this in 2021.

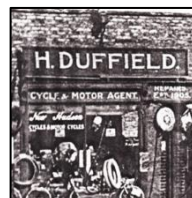


images

wikimedia commons.



BUILDINGS, HOUSES and CHURCHES



FULFORD'S LOST SHOPS was the topic of **Barbara King's** presentation in September 2018. She opened the door to family, social and economic history by providing so much new information that long-term residents did not know!

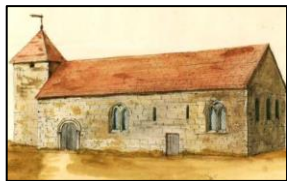
We 'strayed' outside our patch in February 2019 when **Glynnis Whyte** gave a talk about **THE HOUSE BUILT ON LOVE and CHOCOLATE – Goddards and the Terry Family.** The chocolate firm is well-known (chocolate orange), but the family more elusive and Glynnis provided insight that was fascinating. The Arts & Crafts house designed by Walter Brierly manages to be both stately and homey at the same time (cricket played in the hallways).



Early in 2019 a new project was launched focused on the housing in the Fishergate & Fulford Road areas. In November leaflets were dropped through many doors for a drop in at Busk Coffee Shop. We have generated sufficient interest to go forward with our plans for our **FESTIVAL OF IDEAS Talk & Walk on SAT 13 JUNE 2020** (see page 6).

BUILDINGS: CHURCHES

In October, the **Rev. Peter Mott**, gave us a really interesting and informative talk about **THE CHURCHES and CHAPELS of HESLINGTON**. In addition to slides, he illustrated his talk with readings from the Churchwardens Accounts of 1712 and other sources. The first church was



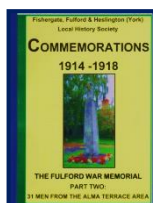
built about 1150 and dedicated to St Paul; and non-conformity came to Heslington in the early 1800's when Wesleyan, Independent and Primitive Methodist built chapels. The

Wesleyan Chapel opened in the 1830s, closed in 1949 becoming the Village Meeting Room. In 1858 a new, larger parish church was built and in 1973 enlarged as the sole parish church.



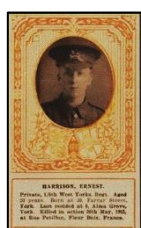
Peter provided information about the wealth to build these churches and details of their design and use; and we thoroughly enjoyed learning so much.

COMMEMORATIONS: THE GREAT WAR



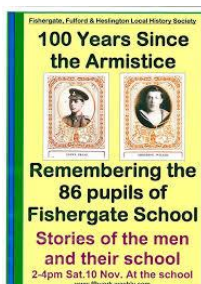
Over many years now, our small team of researchers worked long hours to produce **BIOGRAPHIES FOR ALL THOSE WHO DIED 1914-1919** and who are recorded on the War Memorials in Fulford Churchyard, Heslington Church and Village Hall and Fishergate School.

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 (right Heslington Church Memorial in stained glass)



In the autumn of 2018, we finished the biographies of the 86 men commemorated on the **MEMORIAL IN FISHERGATE SCHOOL**. For our publication we incorporated additional information about the school, the school master and the catchment area. The finished book of 240 pages is impressive!

To launch the Fishergate Men book, we met on Saturday 10 November 2018 at Fishergate School. This attracted about 100 people with the Civic Party and our local councillors in attendance. There were very moving readings from a range of speakers who put themselves 'into the shoes' of the soldiers who had died. Speakers included pupils and teachers at Fishergate, representatives of local Scout groups and members of FFH. Many thanks to the FFH committee for insuring this was so successful.



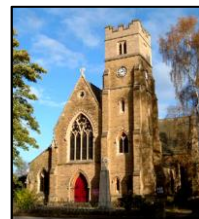
The costs of publication were met by a generous grant by Fishergate Ward so that the first run could be offered at a discounted price of £10 each. The costs of a subsequent print run have been met by donations.

CONFERENCES



The **BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY** (through whom we get our insurance as members) came to York in June 2018 for their Annual Conference. It was held in the Friends' Meeting House and we had a stall set out with publicity material and newsletters.

In September 2019 we held a half day conference titled, **A VICTORIAN GEM: St Oswald's Church, Fulford**. Built in 1866 and nearly destroyed by fire a decade later, the church was rebuilt and



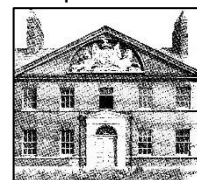
refurnished with "superb stone carvings, gorgeous stained glass and a jewel-like mosaic". We met inside the church to look closely at the architectural features; and moved into the church hall for a series of slide shows about the history of the church, the site, the patrons, architect, artisans and the stained glass.



DISPLAYS & EXHIBITIONS

We have display materials at most of our monthly meetings but create special displays for special occasions. The variety of subjects for our displays is impressive.

The research for our **FESTIVAL OF IDEAS** events (see page 6) created stunning displays of the development of the Cavalry Barracks (2018); and the Nurserymen, Gardeners and Botanists of Fishergate (2019). Judy Nicholson and Barbara King unearthed rare photographs, maps and pictures which captivated their audiences.



The **FULFORD SHOW** display includes ring-binders of information to thumb-through; maps to scrutinize and display panels showing images from recent talks and events. We also use this occasion to publicise recent project and to engender interest in new ideas.

We have had an outdoor stall at the **MILLENNIUM FIELD FAIR** organised by YUMI (part of York's international development). Held on Fulford Ings, our displays are protected from the weather in a pavilion provided by the King family (many thanks!).



For the **SEPTEMBER HALF-DAY CONFERENCE** our display boards showed closeup views of architectural features (i.e. angel corbels). There were tables with photographs and resource material about the architect and artisans. We also displayed publicity about our projects and had handouts to take home; and shared a themed-decorated cake.





FAMILY- and SOCIAL HISTORY

Research into Fulford families continues with new information coming to light all the time from residents. Additional information is being teased out of the property deeds for the Fulford and Fishergate areas; and more work is needed on Heslington families.



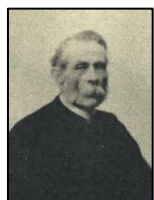
Tracing the origins of **Fulford Park House** has kept Judy Nicholson, Barbara King and Louise Wheatley busy. They have traced the Barstow family from 1700-1900 and from York to Gdansk and Fulford, but the exact location of their 18th Century home, Fulford Hall, has not been discovered! Their successors, the Hotham's built Fulford Park House; but which particular branch of a large and fascinating family is not yet known!



FAMOUS and ORDINARY PEOPLE from the PAST



Allan Francis revealed an unexpected famous person with a link to Fulford in his January 2019 talk, '**JANE AUSTEN and the FULFORD LeFROY FAMILY**'. Her short-lived romance with Tom LeFroy entertained and intrigued us. Tom was a relation of Captain Anthony LeFroy, Barrack Master and resident of Fulford from 1817-1857.



We met at Heslington Church in May 2018 when **Peter Mott** introduced us to, '**FREDERICK PEEL: 19th CENTURY HESLINGTON COMPOSER and HYMN WRITER**'. He was an innovative and imaginative composer and we had a chance to hear some of his compositions.

Before his untimely death **Martin Lomas** and **Mary Garrison** had discussed a project to commemorate the 8th Century York scholar **ALCUIN**. Mary has taken this forward; and it looks hopeful that it will be incorporated in the Minster Precinct Development Project.



Louise Wheatley's talk, '**WHO'S WHO IN FULFORD, 1066-1300**' revealed an array of 12th century Fulford residents recorded in the property deeds of St Mary's Abbey (the post conquest landlord).



Siward, Wlf and Faganulf suggest Anglian/Viking names. Other name record occupations: Gilbert the miller; John the chaplain; Ralph the forester, Ralph, the Oxherd and Thomas of Fulford, cordwainer. There were also Abbey officials (Thomas and William, clerks, Hugh the Chamberlain); and families from Tilmire, Heslington, Fishergate and Walmgate (Bretgate).



FARMS, CROPS & LIVESTOCK

Before his untimely death, **Martin Lomas** had been devising an **EXHIBITION** about **FARMING PAST & PRESENT**. His emphasis was on the beneficial improvements brought by the Industrial Revolution to both farming practices and implements. We will pick this up in 2021, perhaps as our Festival of Ideas event.

FIELDS, INGS, MEADOWS & GRASSLANDS



Sally Lewis and Dorrie Worrell asked for a new project and it was suggested that while walking on the paths around Fulford; they **IVESTIGATE THE CURRENT USE OF THE FIELDS**. They used a map marked with the field boundaries to record what they saw; and their work will form part of the proposed **EXHIBITION ON FARMING PAST & PRESENT**



In May 2019 we had a guided evening walk through **FULFORD INGS** with **Andrew Vevers**. It was a beautiful evening to learn about the history and ecology of this special landscape; and we even found a Tansy beetle!

On an evening in July 2018 **Louise Wheatley** led us on a walk **BEYOND GERMANY BECK**. down Forest Lane, across the A64 and into Farmland reclaimed from the forest from medieval to recent times (Intakes). Many of the field boundaries seem the same as on the Enclosure Map



GARDENS, NUSERIES and CEMETERIES

Our Festival of Ideas Event in June 2019 an illustrated talk by **Judy Nicholson**, '**THE FIRST GREENS OF FISHERGATE: Botanists, Nurserymen and Gardeners**.



She focused on the Telford, Rigg and Backhouse families. **James Backhouse** had come to York in the early 1800's and acquired the Telford Nurseries off Tanner Row. In 1839

he purchased a plot in **FISHERGATE** along Melbourne Street. The Melbourne nursery had previously belonged to the **Rigg Family** whose monument survives in St Lawrence's Churchyard (image left)



The large audience was fascinated by her displays of their plant catalogues and rare photographs of their garden and rockery plants. Judy is to be congratulated for addressing a "woefully neglected subject" and in such an innovation and inspirational way. (quote from chairman Chris Rainer)

GARDENS, cont - CEMETERIES

Cemeteries have been described as 'gardens of death'; but actually, they are purposely landscaped places of repose and beauty and, as our chairman Chris Rainger says, "a haven of peace in our midst".

In July 2019 **Jenny Hawkins** was our guide for an **EVENING WALK THROUGH YORK CEMETERY**. She told us about some of the unusual and special people buried there and of tombs in secluded places. There is a range of information which can be gleaned from tombstones and burial records and unique insights into the lives of the deceased, their social status, occupations and the various causes of death. Sad and enlightening at the same time.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS & COUNCILLORS



Occasionally a resident of Fishergate, Fulford & Heslington is elected as Lord Mayor or Sheriff of York. In 2016 Dave Taylor from Fishergate was elected Lord Mayor.

Then in 2018 **Verna Campbell** was elected **Sheriff with her husband, Colin, serving as Sheriff's Consort**. We were honoured to have them both at our April meeting in 2019 when Verna gave an up-to-date account of her **YEAR AS SHERIFF**. Wearing her civic regalia. Verna told us of the highs and lows of her year and of the various duties she carried out as part of this ancient civic office. Colin added an amusing account of his varied role as her consort.



MAJOR POLITICAL & HISTORIC EVENTS

'ONLY 100 YEARS AGO! HOW FIESTY LOCAL WOMAN WON THE VOTE' was the title of a talk by **Michael Waters** in October 2018. He introduced us to the activities of local women, who took part in the long campaign including Annie Coultate, a teacher at Fishergate School. Annie's great-great-granddaughter, Catherine Djimramadji, joined us and brought in Annie's warming pan, the only memento she has of this amazing woman.



Our November 2019 meeting featured local author, **Tony Morgan**. His talk, **'GUY FAWKES, THE GUNPOWDER PLOT AND YORK'**. He refreshed our memories that Fawkes was born in York and educated St Peter's School with co-conspirators John & Kit Wright. The plan to blow up the Houses of Parliament was 'audacious and brutal' and Fawkes was to stand guard and light the fuse. Tony



fitted this into a background of religious intolerance and underground Catholic sympathies. He showed how state surveillance foil the plot and led to their torture and death with Fawkes becoming the infamous guy on the bonfire.

MILITARY-MATTERS PAST & PRESENT



Our Festival of Ideas event in June 2018 was titled, **'1795 AND ALL THAT: THE COMING OF THE CAVALRY TO FULFORD'**. **Judy Nicholson** gave a very well researched talk about the impact of the arrival of cavalry regiments in

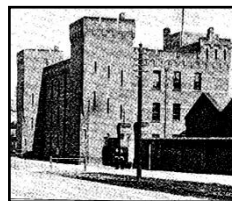


Fulford. The Cavalry Barracks were built in 1795-6 as part of William's Pitt's new programme and designed by War Office architects (not without some scandal!).

They were occupied by cavalry units and horses until 1939, used by war-time units to 1945 and, then mostly demolished by 1970 when the site became Police Station. The accompanying exhibition gave a view of the life of cavalymen and included maps of the site and old photographs of associated buildings (Tavern, Military Hospital, Chapel and Guard Rooms); and the houses occupied by the officers in nearby streets. Other illustrations showed the processions and parades involving the cavalry.



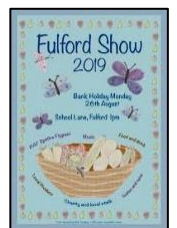
We followed up the barracks theme with a special visit to the Imphal (Infantry) Barracks in July 2018. We were greeted by **Major James Watt**, 2nd in Command, 2 Signal Regiment. **Brian Ward** then guided us around the site and into the Keep with its spectacular roof-top view. We made our way to the Kohima Museum where **Bob Cook** (our founding chairman) gave moving account of Kohima, the brutal battle which halted the Japanese invasion of India during WW2.



OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY

Please see the range of outreach events described in the section on **DISPLAYS** (page 3)

Special mention is made here to **THE FULFORD SHOW** on August Bank Holiday Monday which is an annual occasion to meet members off the general public and to provide information about our activities. We are grateful to Fulford Scouts for letting use their Hut, a weather-proof venue.



A couple of members have tried out a 2-monthly meeting at Fulford Library to informally introduce the local history society to those who come in. This has been enjoyable.

OUR WEBSITE is also a very important aspect of promoting our local history society and in informing others of the topics of our meetings and the projects in hand. It is visited **DAILY** by those interested in a range of aspects of local history; and the Festival of Ideas events generate a lot of interest. The local paper also advertise our meetings and our programme is on the mailing list of York Civic Trust. We also send out **EMAIL UPDATES** (blind copies) to a large group of supporters. In short, we hope to reach a wide audience in our patch and beyond.

OUTREACH, cont. FAMILIES

Some of our early evening walks attract families and, though we aim to do more, we have made a modest start.

We have become regular participants in the Millennium Field Fair on a Sunday in July and have the chance to meet families with children. Therefore, we have introduced a simple craft for children to make on the spot: in 2018 a buzzy bee flying around a flower; and in 2019 a tissue flower using recycled materials.



Fulford Library invited us to their 'Fun Palaces' Day in October 2019 where adults and children were invited to learn a new skill. We had some folders on display to encourage adults; and for both young and old a craft involving pleating and gluing to make autumn leaves.

PRESENTATIONS



There have been several occasions in 2018 and 2019 when we have been asked to give talks to other local groups.

Louise Wheatley gave a talk in June 2019 at the Novotel (see above under Archaeology and Landscape).

Asked regularly are **Barbara King** and **Judy Nicholson**. In 2018 they gave presentations about the **Cattle Market** to the U3A History Group and the Tang Hall Local History Society. They are popular with the residents of Delwood House and have been invited several times to give talks about **Fulford Main Street** houses and shops.

If you know of a group who would be interested in a talk from FFH, please let the Committee know.

SOCIAL GET-TOGETHERS



We aim to have AMIABLE, **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 are more enjoyable than many AGM's!

For our **PRE-CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** in December, we gather on a Sunday afternoon for mulled wine, spiced apple cider and a Bring and Share meal which is invariably delicious. A **HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR HELPERS & SUPPORTERS.**



We also have entertainment or a quiz. In 2018 **Roger Martin** performed an ingenious and amusing **Magic Show** and **Judy Nicholson** had a **QUIZ** about the **River Ouse** to test our knowledge!

In 2019, **Louise Wheatley** tried out a quiz focused on the amazing array of **Buildings and Houses in the FFH Area**. The aim was to identify the photos from their architectural description and link them to the colour-coded numbers on the map. some enjoyed this more than others!



Conservative Club

THE FOLLOWING ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC. But you still might want to read what we had planned!

YORK FESTIVAL OF IDEAS



The UNIVERSITY OF YORK initiated the Festival of Ideas in 2011 which immediately attracted over 8000 people to more than 20 events across the city of York. The underlying philosophy is that the Festival is:

'a 'collective cooperative' of endeavour with large huge numbers of people and organisations to demonstrate that the city of York is truly a place where ideas sprint to life and flourish, and where collaboration is celebrated

FFH became involved in the Festival 2014 with our Eoforwic Conference and have participated every year since. Our 2018 event has been described above under 'Military Matters' and titled **'1795 and all That: The Coming of the Cavalry to York**. Similarly, our 2019 event has been described above under 'Gardens, Nurseries and Cemeteries'. It was titled **'The First Greens of Fishergate': Botanists, Nurserymen and Gardeners.'**

The 2020 Festival Ideas theme is 'Infinite Horizons'; and our event is titled: **THE FULFORD GRANGE ESTATE: 'AN INFINITE VARIETY OF HOMES'.**

PROGRAMME 2020

SAT 18 JAN 10am to noon St Oswald's Church Hall
Mary Garrison and 'The Search for Alcuin's York' (740-804)

SAT 22 FEB 10am to noon St Oswald's Church Hall
Glennis Whyte and The Treasurer's House & the Green Family.

SAT 21 MAR 10am to 1pm St Oswald's Church Hall
OUR 8th AGM with a light lunch and talk by Rob Shorland-Ball about Leetham's Mill, The Largest Roller Flour Mill in Europe

TUES 14 APR 7pm to 9pm St Oswald's Church Hall
Paul Bowser about Fulford Origins of York Football Club.

TUES 19 MAY 6pm to 8pm meet at Landing Lane, Fulford
A Walk Along the Proposed Germany Beck Trail.
Time, leaders and other information to be confirmed

SAT 13 JUN 2.30 – 4.30pm meet at York Cemetery Chapel
Our Festival of Ideas event for 2020: **The Fulford Grange Estate: An Infinite Variety of Homes'**. Gather at the Cemetery Chapel before setting off on walking tour of the streets around the Villa.
£3 and places need to be booked.

SAT 18 JUL 10am to noon St Oswald's Church Hall
Barbara King & Judy Nicholson about The Eventful History of The Fulford/Naburn Hospital: Asylum, Maternity Hospital & POW Camp.

BANK HOLIDAY MON 31 AUG Fulford Scout Hut
AM set up – open from 1pm - Our Stall at the Fulford Show

SAT 12 SEP 10am to noon Heslington Church
J Nicholson & L Wheatley about The Bleach Fields of Heslington.

SAT 17 OCT 10am to noon St Oswald's Church Hall
Ailsa Mainman about the Report into Old St Oswald's Church.

SAT 14 NOV 10am to noon Heslington Church
Dr John Wright about Elvington Airfield in WW2

SUN 13 DEC 2pm to 4pm St Oswald's Church Hall
Christmas Social Get-Together