

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023

**SATURDAY 16 MARCH 2024
10AM TO 12.30PM
ST OSWALD'S CHURCH HALL, MAIN STREET FULFORD**

AGENDA

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the AGM held 18 March 2023 pertaining to the calendar year 2022.
4. Membership Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Website and Social Media Report
7. Chairman's Report
8. Election of the Steering Committee (up to 10 members)
9. Election of the Chairman and Treasurer (including appointment of a members to review the annual accounts)
10. Outline of meetings and events planned for 2024.
11. Any other business for the AGM
12. Close of the AGM

Short Break

At approximately 11am there will be a presentation by Ian Hayton, from Ferrey & Mennim Architects, about: **THE ROLE OF A CONSERVATION ARCHITECT.**

Refreshments

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2023

It is a pleasure to be chair of this vibrant, energetic, and friendly local history society.

I begin my THIRD chairman's report with heart-felt gratitude to the steering committee, members, friends and supporters who have been instrumental in carrying the society through the challenges of the past few years. We could not operate at all without ALL of you.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

1. For willingly adhering to booking ahead
2. For coming out and joining in and conversing with each other, making newcomers feel welcome.
3. For researching topics far and wide and producing flyers, brochures, books and displays.
4. For meeting with neighbours and members to share information and interpret deeds.
5. For reaching out to other community groups and sharing knowledge and information
6. For giving talks and doing the copious research needed to compile power-point presentations
7. For learning the background needed to guide walks around local streets, the campus or open spaces.
8. For helping at meetings, taking admissions, making coffee, serving refreshments and washing up.
9. For taking the initiative to publish reports, organise conferences and seminars and fund-raise.
10. And a special thanks to the **treasurer** for keeping the accounts, to the '**web master**' for updating our website and face-book pages; and to the rest of the **steering committee** for serving with such good will, good sense and fore-thought to help ensure the long-term future of the society.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE and THE CHAIR

As you can see from the above, our local history events require team effort . We are always hoping for people to step forward to join the steering committee or do some research or give a talk or organise a display. PLEASE LET US KNOW! Our AGM is a chance for YOU to step forward to help but also for you to NOMINATE SOMEONE to join the committee OR to elect as CHAIRMAN.

REVIEW OF EVENTS 2023

As Chris Rainger reminded at our 10th anniversary, we have had a remarkable decade in existence and have arranged the most amazing array of events, talks, walks, conferences, displays and exhibitions. There is a **LONG NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE** which reviews the events from 2020 through 2023. There are a few copies available for £1 at the AGM and more can be printed off.

As to our programme during 2023, what is so clear is that it is a simply a continuation of outstanding effort on the part of so many to share the history and heritage of the Fulford, Fishergate and Heslington areas of York. I can do no better than give a summary of each month:





Our 2023 programme began on **SATURDAY 21 JANUARY** when Louise Wheatley gave an illustrated talk about **THE DEVELOPMENT OF LADY WELL CLOSE AND ITS NEIGHBOURS**. She started with the area at the time of the Conquest and the need to secure the routes into the city along the Fishergate corridor. She then 'travelled' through several centuries of development and the landlords, tenants and use of the land. Time ran out and so there is going to be a sequel to take this development from 1700 on.

Bob Hale gave an illustrated talk on **SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY** about **THE MERCHANT ADVENTURERS' HALL AND THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT IT (1356-1362)**. He showed us extracts from the extant building accounts pertaining to The Fraternity of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary (later the Mercers' Guild and, from 1581, the Company of Merchant Adventurers of York). The details recorded in this early paper booklet provides fascinating information: the men and women involved in the Fraternity, the crafts-men and women involved in the building of this fine, huge medieval hall in Fossgate; the vast array of materials purchased; and the food for meals and refreshment.



Our AGM was held on **SATURDAY 18 MARCH** when the accounts for the calendar year 2022 were approved and elections held for the Steering Committee, Chairman and Treasurer. Following this



necessary meeting, Ian Drake from YAYAS gave an illustrated talk titled: **LIFE IN YORK 100 YEARS AGO. THE HANSTOCK COLLECTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS**. With his camera, Thomas J W Hanstock (1871-1942) recorded what can only be described as a 'slice of life' of early 20th century York. Photographs included a balloon launch at the 1909 Yorkshire Gala (image), weddings, shop advertisements, portraits, buildings, churches, villages and all sorts of public events. A remarkable collection.

Chris Rainger arranged with the Archivist for A **VISIT TO YORK EXPLORE**, on **SATURDAY 15 APRIL**. We saw the 18th century Fulford Enclosure Map and relevant documents including the Schedule. It was so rewarding to see the huge maps at last (having only small versions previously) and to read the instructions for enclosing parcels of previously open fields or common lands. This visit prepared us for Lauren Grindley's follow up explanation at our September meeting.



On **TUESDAY EVEING 23 MAY** we met at the University of York for a **GUIDED TOUR OF THE WEST**



CAMPUS SCULPTURE led by Helena Cox, University Curator of Art. Helena introduced us to the array of sculptures on the campus most of which we had passed by without noticing (but no longer!) We handed out a copy of the University's Sculpture Trail Leaflet so that we could come back again with family and friends to look at the 15 sculptures featured.

We held our Festival of York Event on **SATURDAY 10 JUNE**. This was an all-day conference focused on **FOOD AND FARMING IN EARLY HESLINGTON**. Steve Roskam

and a sterling array of archaeologists and academics provided papers for this Inter-disciplinary conference inspired by the archaeology of Heslington East. Using archaeological, documentary and pictorial evidence the papers explored the production, processing and consumption of food in the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods at Heslington. A huge thanks to Steve Roskams, our speakers, the chair and the audience.



Our talk on **SATURDAY 15 JULY** was by Keely Hayes-Davies, a postgraduate researcher at the University of York. It was based on her research into the royal journeys of Henry VIII. She focused on **HENRY VIII'S VISIT TO YORK IN 1541** when his entourage passed through Fulford. It was at Fulford Cross (opposite Imphal Barracks) where Henry met York Civic Party on bended knees professing their submission to his sovereignty following rebellions against the Reformation. Her talk coincided with the Theatre Royal's production of 'Sovereign' by C J Samson.



On August Bank Holiday **MONDAY 28 AUGUST** we had a small stall on the field for the Fulford Show. We would like to have more displays but this requires volunteers to help set up and take down and tend the stall. WE HOPE FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR 2024.



Lauren Grindley gave an informative, illustrated talk on **SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER** about **YORK ENCLOSURES: Understanding Parliamentary Enclosures, Land Tax and Tithes from 1700**. She explained the background of enclosing small parcels of land which, in the 18th century, expanded to include whole swaths of the open fields and common pasture by Acts of Parliament. Commissioners were appointed to represent the various interested parties - mostly the manor lord and larger landowners. She explained tithes as an old customary payment of 10% to the Lord of the Manor or the Church which, after enclosure, were commuted to a one-off payment. Land taxes continued to be assessed on the owners of the new enclosures.

For our next meeting on **SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER** we had an illustrated talk by Gordon Eastham, Grounds and Ecology Manager at the University of York. His topic, **WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE**



MANAGEMENT provided the background to the development of a light-touch approach to wildlife management. This meant letting nature largely take its course among the populations of geese, ducks, swans, rabbits, deer, foxes, stoats, carp, pike, eels, herons and otters



who inhabit or predate West and East campus. However, there were strategic moves to encourage some species and dissuade others. We look forward to his tour in 2024 around Heslington East.

On **SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER** we had a **CELEBRATION OF THE HESLINGTON MEN WHO SERVED IN WW2**. It was led by the Rev Peter Mott gave an illustrated talk about the six men from Heslington who died during W2. He who summarised the life and service of each man. He especially thanked Michael French, the son of one of those on the Memorial. Michael still lives in Heslington and provided invaluable details and pictures about his father, George. Afterwards, at 11am, we stood for 2 minutes of silence. Michael French then laid the wreath the wreath by the altar. Overall, it was a very moving tribute to the men.



We ended the year with our **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL ON SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER**. As per usual, this was an enjoyable occasion with lively conversation and good cheer. We had a lovely array of canapes, nibbles and snacks, mulled wine and spiced apple juice (thank you to all you provided this). We also had an extensive book exchange, a large raffle and a quiz about the pubs in our patch. Thank you to all involved!.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2024

Our programme for 2024 promises to be very interesting with topics ranging from the closure of Bootham Park Hospital to the new archaeological discoveries in Fishergate. There are tours at Heslington East and The Minster and a visit to the Kohima Museum (date to be decided); and, if there are sufficient volunteers, our stall at the Fulford Show. The programme has been sent out by email as well as printed out and an updated programme will be sent out with this report.

RESEARCH AND OTHER PROJECTS TO DATE

In the Chairman's Report for 2022, we drew attention to the various research projects that were in progress over the year. Some are continuing and there are new topics being explored, For instance

- Charles Patmore has researched the gardens at Heslington Hall and is **History Trails from Heslington Hall Gardens** is for sale at our meetings.
- Lauren Grindley has continued her into **Rights of Way, 18th Century Enclosures** and embarked on new topics. Judy Nicholson and Barbara King continue to research history pertaining to families and houses and their owners in Fulford and elsewhere. Recently the King family completed a project of recording the burials and memorials in Heslington churchyard. Allan Francis continues his research into the **lost village of Water Fulford** and the elusive John and Ellis Key's (absentee lords of the manor of Fulford); and this is the topic for a talk next September 2024. He has recently delved into the history of properties near St Oswald's Road.
- Pat Hill and Louise Wheatley are embarking on walking trail leaflets around Heslington and will liaise and work with the Heslington Village Trust.

IF I HAVE LEFT ANYONE OUT, please let me know and I will add your research topics to a supplementary Chair's Report! And please let Chris Rainger know so that he can add this to the website.

Please keep an eye on our website to read reviews of our meetings, updates on research and to see what is coming up next. <https://ffhyork.weebly.com>

AGAIN, thank you to everyone for taking a keen interest in our history and heritage.

Louise R Wheatley (chair)
11 February 2024