

# THORPE HISTORY GROUP

## Newsletter - April 2019

Our next talk

### 'The Three Churches of Thorpe St Andrew'

Ian Hinton

Thursday 11th April 2019 at 8pm

St Andrew's Centre, Thunder Lane

There will be a charge of £3 per person.

## Forthcoming Events

### Programme for 2019

Our April talk is on 'The Three Churches of Thorpe St Andrew' which will include the current church on Yarmouth Road and what is believed to be the first church whose remains can be seen at the top of the Hillside allotments where there is an interpretation board. Our speaker is Ian Hinton, the Chair of the Norfolk Historic Building Group (NHBG). The NHBG was founded in 2000 to bring together people who enjoy and appreciate old buildings and want to learn more about them. You can find out more by looking at their website <http://www.nhbg.org.uk/Home.aspx>. Following the April talk there is a break until July when there will be a film show and our annual tour of the Rosary cemetery.

### Talk on the Royal Norfolks in WW2

On Tuesday 16th April at the Birbeck room in The Cottage, Spinney Road there is a free talk put on by the British Legion on the Royal Norfolk regiment during World War Two. It is titled 'The Fighting Retreat of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment from the Dyle line to the massacre at le Paradis.'

It begins at 2.30 p.m. and should last about an hour. All are welcome - tea and biscuits will be provided.

## Thorpe Places: First builds on Hillside Road

During the best part of 2018 the owners of no 6 Hillside Road have been doing extensive renovation work to the front of their property. This large detached property now has the original exposed brickwork compared to a previous render cover. During the renovation process research has been carried out by the residents and myself as to when this property was built and who would have built it.

Working from house deeds, census returns and newspaper articles the following was discovered. It appears that this house and another six houses in the immediate area of Hillside Road leading up from Yarmouth Road (pictured below) are connected by a Carpenter/Builder Henry Issac Watling (born 1839) who lived at Grove Villas, Lower Road off the Yarmouth Road. Henry bought land from the Birkbeck family from 1898 onwards which allowed him to kick start a period of house building in this area.



This appears to have worked well for his son Harry Steward Watling (born 1876) who had recently qualified as an architect under the leadership of the Norwich architect Edward Boardman. It appears that Harry was given full responsibility for design and building of these large detached properties near the then Whitlingham train station.

The 1901 census shows six of these houses being lived in. The only one not to have occupants is the then No 3 Hillside Road, which was later renumbered No 6. It also appears that all of the other six had been named; such as 'Fairview', 'Hillcroft', 'Honduras', 'Stapleford', 'Shrublands' and 'Gablehurst'.

Bearing in mind that the census was in the April of 1901, within a month of that, the situation for the builder appears to have taken a turn for the worse.

We find Henry Watling in the local papers in financial trouble. In a Bankruptcy Court case in May there is the mention of another property in Thorpe called Highstead on Yarmouth Road. This house had been commissioned by Henry for himself to live in. The troubles appear to go back to the estimated cost to build this house. Harry calculated it would cost £1,200 to build. The land had already cost £600.00, and the whole property cost £2,500 on completion. The court report goes on to say that Harry failed in his book keeping and kept very few records of purchases and that the wages and materials had all gone over the original estimate. The court would go on to hear that by late 1901 Henry had liabilities of £6,194 and a deficiency of £353.00. Harry the son had liabilities of £224.00.

This appears to have finished them off as builders and a month later there is an advert in the EDP selling off their stock from an unknown location on Thunder Lane. Henry appears to have left Thorpe shortly after this and died in 1920 at the age of 81. Harry moved to Yarmouth and then to Ipswich where newspaper articles show that he carried on as an Architect and Builder in Gt Yarmouth and the Suffolk areas.

Thorpe History Group would like to thank the residents in this area for their help in gathering this information. We are sure that there are more houses in Thorpe that were built by the Watling family, including the possibility that Larchwood on Yarmouth Road is one of their builds. If you know of any more of these buildings that exist please contact the History Group so we can extend our knowledge of this area and these builders.

Dale Wiseman

## Our Last talk: Thorpe Marshes

In front of a full house in February Chris Durdin gave a fascinating talk on 'The History and the Natural History of Thorpe Marshes'. Chris is the founder of Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays which has been providing guided wildlife holidays for 29 years from its base here in Thorpe.

He briefly covered the period during the 1960s when the marshes was rented from its owners the Crown Point Estates by a farmer who ploughed and drained it to turn it into grazing marshes for dairy cattle.

The rest of the talk concentrated on the natural history of the marshes and the profusion of plants, insects and animals which make it such a special place. Covering 25 hectares Thorpe Marches is leased from the Crown Point Estates by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) who manage it as a nature reserve.

Chris finished his talk by giving a quick guide to what can be seen there during the calendar year by the regular visitor.

Details of the regular guided walks can be found on the NWT website at <https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on>.

## Hillside Avenue class J3 1957

The photograph on page 5 and the list below were kindly supplied by Jan Warman and has been confirmed as class J3 of Hillside School, taught by Miss Gordon. The picture was taken in front of one of the pre-fabricated buildings then in use at St Williams Way in the summer of 1957.

Jan has managed to identify many of the children but if you can identify any of those unidentified I would be delighted to hear from you.

### Front row(left to right)

Colin Horton?  
Anthony Thomas?  
?  
Richard Collins  
Simon Oakes  
Trevor Jenner  
Simon or Richard Kershaw?  
Barry Grimmer  
Steven Street  
Julian Shelley

### Second row

Janet Osborne  
Denise Oliver  
Pamela Knox  
Linda Kett  
Linda Brock  
Christine Ellis  
Barbara Lubbock  
Christine Gilbert  
Janet Ames  
Rosemary Ball  
Josephine Blyth  
Veronica ?  
Susan ?  
Julie Watling

### Third row

Sylvia Hesketh  
Elizabeth Hirst  
Brenda Fitt  
Pat Watts?  
Kathleen Petty  
Nicolette Stone  
Peta Rodwell  
?  
Colene Sayer  
Rosalind Ball  
Jennifer Saul  
Judith Greenacre

### Back Row

Barry Houghton  
Unknown  
Richard Keeley  
David ?  
Stephen Lacey  
Colin White  
Trevor Pellegrini  
David Culley  
Simon Merrick  
Barry Wilkinson  
Michael Tagg  
Kevin Halifax  
David Hunt  
Colin Humphrey



# Programme for 2019

Below is our programme of events for this year which we hope you will be able to attend. We make a modest charge of £3 per head for the talks and the walk around St Andrews Hospital but the other events are free.

**Please note that the number of people we can accommodate on the tour of the Rosary and the walk around St Andrews Hospital, is limited so booking in advance is necessary. Book by contacting Nick Williams.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
Thursday 11th April	Talk 'The Three Churches of Thorpe St Andrew' Ian Hinton	St Andrew's Centre, Thunder Lane	8pm
Saturday 13th July	Films of old Thorpe	St Andrew's Centre, Thunder Lane	2pm
Sunday 21st July	Tour of Rosary cemetery	Rosary Cemetery, Rosary Road	2pm
Friday 13th September	Heritage Open Day event	Thorpe Lodge	2pm
Sunday 22nd September	Guided walk around St Andrews Hospital	Northside, St Andrews	2pm
Thursday 10th October	Talk 'St Andrew's Hospital' Dale Wiseman	St Andrew's Centre, Thunder Lane	8pm

## Getting in contact

If you would like to know more about the Thorpe History Group or have something interesting on the history of Thorpe you would like to share please contact Nick Williams on 01603 438766 or email him at [Spinney72@aol.com](mailto:Spinney72@aol.com)

You can also find the Thorpe History Group on Facebook - Google Thorpe History Group to find information and photographs.

We have a website at <http://www.thorpe-history-group.org/> so do take a look.