



## Pocklington and District Local History Group

May 2021 — Newsletter No. 3

### Welcome back!

Welcome to the Pocklington & District History Group's third 'lockdown newsletter', but hopefully the last in such circumstances as we are able to tentatively look at resuming some sort of activity in the not too distant future.

Below we have listed details of the first of such provisional events - a walk and talk at Millington in mid-July - but in advance of that we have also produced an online video in conjunction with the publication of a new, expanded Pocklington History & Heritage Trail, with history group members able to get a 'film premiere' viewing before it goes public. We are also hope to have a joint heritage trust/history group stand at the 'End of Pockdown' event on the rugby field at the end of July.



#### **\*\* Important Announcement \*\***

Pocklington & District Local History Group will hold their first event on Thursday 15th July, 2021 at 7.00pm and will be a short walk and talk around the village of Millington. Please meet at the church gates. Any questions please contact the group by contacting Jo Green or sending an email to:  
**[pocklingtonheritage@gmail.com](mailto:pocklingtonheritage@gmail.com)**

Looking further ahead we will be considering what other events and meetings can now be safely and efficiently organised. Before the lockdown was implemented we had a full programme of speakers set out for 2020-21. Most can probably be rescheduled for the next year or so, but we will also have to look at where as well as what - squeezing everyone into a cramped courthouse for popular talks will need a review.

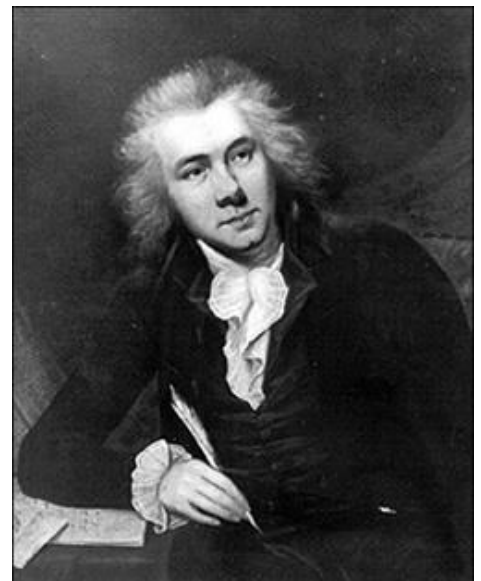
Pocklington also has a notable anniversary coming up - William

Wilberforce arrived at Pocklington in November 1771, so it will be 250 years on in just six months time.

We ought to mark the Wilberforce anniversary in some form, and if you have any thoughts or ideas about this or any other local history matters then do let us know, either by email to myself or Andrew, [gilbank@talktalk.net](mailto:gilbank@talktalk.net) or [asefton@gmail.com](mailto:asefton@gmail.com) , or feel free to give me a ring on 07944 006133.

Yours historically

Phil Gilbank



## Book and a film - available now at a venue near you

Thanks to a grant by East Riding Council, the history group has been able to produce a bigger and better second edition of a 'Pocklington History & Heritage Trail' booklet. The first edition came out in 2008 as a 16 page volume and had almost sold out. The new publication looks very similar on the outside, but it has been expanded and updated to 27 pages, and includes some new information about the town's history, in addition to more than 20 maps, illustrations and photographs. It is available at Forth's bookshop, or via the [www.pocklingtonhistory.com](http://www.pocklingtonhistory.com) website, price £4.99.



In addition to the book, we have also produced a video focusing on the same

town centre subject. When the lockdown was at its height we decided to produce an online walk and talk around Pocklington to complement the heritage trail booklet. Part 1 of the town trail video, which takes in the church, Market Place and Market Street, is now finished.

History group members are being offered an advance viewing via a private YouTube site, before it goes on 'general release' via the [pocklingtonhistory.com](http://pocklingtonhistory.com) website and Pocklington District Heritage Facebook page next week.

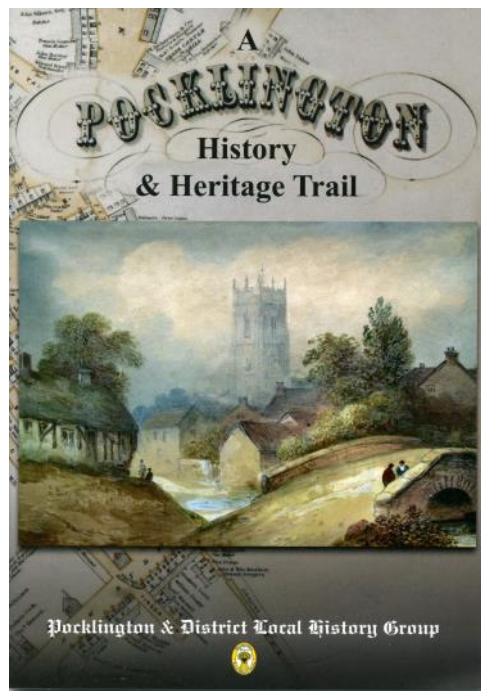
Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/GD0XVJXIAUk>

## Millington outing is first up

Millington residents undertook a heritage project in 2019 involving both village and church. Supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund the project included some restoration work on the church, and research and exhibitions about village life, including a focus on the history of the village school, farms and houses.

We had originally planned a Millington visit last year which obviously fell foul of the lockdown, and this has now been rescheduled

for Thursday 15 July at 7.00 pm. It will take the form of a walk and talk around the village, and finish with a look at their exhibition displays in the church and village hall. If numbers are high, then our Millington guides will split us into manageable groups. Anyone needing transport to and from Millington can be accommodated. Please meet at the church gates.





## Showcasing history and heritage at the 'End of Pockdown'.

An 'End of Pockdown' event is being organised on the rugby ground for Saturday 31 July and we have been invited to have a local history and heritage stall on the day. It is planned to be a family day with rides and activities for children, plus business, craft and community organisation stalls. It should be a good opportunity for us to promote local history, and re-engage with the community, old and new. The proposal is for the Pocklington & District Local History Group to join forces on the day with the Pocklington District Heritage Trust to have a stand and bookstall displaying local information and artefacts, plus selling local history titles and promoting our heritage.

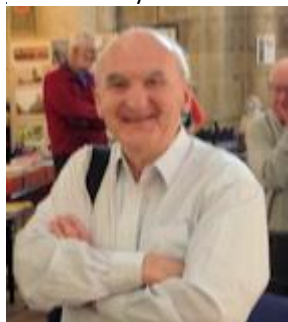
Further details/reminders of the above events will be sent out by email nearer the day, and will be posted on the <https://pocklingtonhistory.com> website.



## Latest Website Updates

I was sent [a photograph](#) from a member of the Nelson family. The clergyman in the middle looks like Ian McNaughton Smith who was vicar 1921-33. It looks like a choir/orchestra for a fund raising event. In this period it is likely there were members of the Lamb family on the photograph who had musical talent. The location may be Burnby Hall, Major Stewart used to open the gardens occasionally in aid of the church. If anyone recognises any of the people on this photograph, please let me know.

We are sorry to record the loss of one of the biggest contributors to Pocklington history [John Nottingham](#). His work on the [Water Courses](#) in and around Pocklington was important also the [Brickworks in the area](#), local tythe and enclosure maps for many of the local parishes including the most difficult one to work out the [Pocklington Enclosure award for 1757](#), and his best and last work was "[RAF Pocklington and Local Area Losses](#)", which he insisted on being made freely available on this website when it could have easily sold as a book. This website will certainly miss his considerable input.



[Legends, Miracles, Myths and unreasonable speculation](#) abound in the early Medieval period. Andrew Sefton has written an article published on April 1st to the Facebook Group - [Pocklington District Heritage](#) about some stories and speculation originating in the Pocklington District from that period.

Some old photographs of Warter and the Priory have emerged on the Facebook group with thanks to Colin Boynton. The [Demolition of Warter Priory in 1972](#) - the photographs of Peter Smith, The [Exterior of Warter Priory](#) in old photographs and postcards, The [Interior of Warter Priory](#) in old photographs and postcards, [Warter Home Guard](#) in 1940-1945.



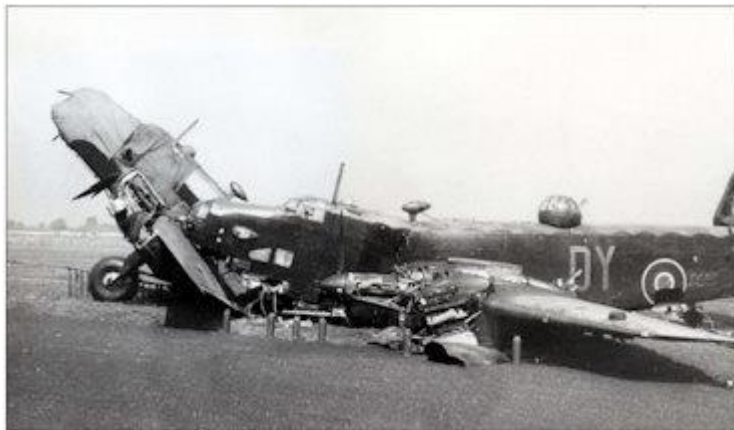
Jim Hall and Les Kitchen were great friends and were both raised at Garths End in Pocklington. They were children growing up through the war and witnessed some unforgettable events in that time and place. Both went to Pocklington School and both went to the [local Scouts in the 1940's](#), and both watched as bomber aircraft used Garths End to line up for the runway. They saw their houses damaged by German Aircraft, a bomb dropping on [Garths End](#) on the opposite side of the road hitting a house, and at the corner of Garths End and Yapham Road, [Red House](#) was almost destroyed by a bomber plane crashing into it. [Jim Hall memories](#) and [Les Kitchen memories](#) were preserved and kindly provided by Jim's son Chris for the website.



[Donald McGregor](#) supplied his memories of attending Pocklington School. It's about 25 years since he last visited the town and almost 57 years since he left Pocklington school where he was a boarder between 1958 and 1964. He relates that he spent many Sunday afternoons wandering along the old airfield runways looking for memorabilia of dropped items like ammunition cartridges. He also flew from the airfield once with Jeff Allison in his Proctor 3 G-AMGE light aircraft to Yeadon Airport in Leeds.



Everingham now joins PocklingtonHistory.com with a general history from [Bulmer's Directory for 1892](#), A history of Everingham's unique [Roman Catholic Church](#) written by Gill Hodgson and some [photographs of the village](#).



"[RAF Pocklington and Local Area Losses](#)" is an exclusive new publication only available on PocklingtonHistory.com. It was written and researched by Mike Silburn and John Nottingham and has taken many months of work to produce. It is a remarkable and comprehensive study of all the aircraft losses from RAF Pocklington in WW2 and includes the nearby airfields of Elvington, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Melbourne and Full Sutton.

[Station Garage](#) was where Travis Perkins is today, near the roundabout and was situated on the site of the present Aldi Car park. It was demolished just prior to the opening of the new Aldi store in 2011. Pete Kunkel sent me a photograph of the staff from 1984 with all the names. He also sent his [Pocklington Infants school class photograph from 1965](#) and supplied some of the names, if you know any of the missing ones let us know. Pete also took part in a memorable [Football Match between Melbourne F.C. and York City F.C.](#) in 1984 and kept the memorabilia.



A new trade directory has been added. We now have [Pigot's Trade Directory for 1828-29](#) to consult. Highlights include James Noble - Portrait Painter and a conveyance from Pocklington to Hull by water on the Union Packet from River Head - sails occasionally!

[The Buck Inn](#) was one of Pocklington's oldest inns. An 1825 sale notice describes the inn as "from time immemorial has been a well established and good accustomed inn". It possibly dates from the seventeenth century and a butcher Thomas Buck who was named in a 1606 old indenture "Thomas Buck of Pocklington, butcher and wife Johane (another daughter of Christopher Jewitson)". Butchers often combined their meat business with selling ale, and providing a hostelry for the horse, livestock and leather fairs held in the town and labour hiring fairs common in the 19th century. Pictured right is Billy Harrison in Christmas 1938 playing Laurel and Hardy with violins in the Buck Hotel.



[The last Pocklington mummer](#) died in 1930, but the tradition goes back hundreds of years, and some say to pagan times. At Christmas time the mummers would dress in disguise using characters from local tradition or national prominence and visit local houses and remote farms. They would perform plays in the living room and collect money and eat the provided food by the host. The principal characters are St. George (...of dragon fame.), Captain Slasher, The Turkish Knight, The King of Egypt, Doctor and several men-at-arms who challenge St. George to a duel and are subsequently slain. The Doctor enters and demonstrates his skill by resuscitating the dead knights. Many historians believe that this drama is a celebration of the death of the year and its resurrection in the Spring. This year the places that keep the tradition going include [Knaresborough in North Yorkshire](#). Due to Covid-19 restrictions they have cleverly created a way of performing it using Zoom!



The [Ullathorne family](#) is now included on the family section, their claim to fame was [William Ullathorne](#) who was born in Market Place, Pocklington, on 7th May 1806 the eldest of ten children of a local grocer. His father, also William, came from a family of West Riding landed gentry that forfeited its estates to the claims of the Stuart insurrection in 1745. William senior became a shoemaker, then draper, before marrying and setting up in business in Pocklington. William Junior became a Roman Catholic missionary to Australia and first bishop of Birmingham. He was influential in securing the final abolition (1857) of the British system of transporting convicts to Australia.



Looking further back up the [family tree](#), it is possible to trace this family to [Sir Thomas More](#) (pictured left) and even further back to William the Conqueror. The [Buttle family](#) of Pocklington also link in to this tree.