

PONTEFRACT & DISTRICT  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1957

(AFFILIATED TO THE YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



ANNUAL JOURNAL  
and  
REPORT



1962

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## THE SOCIETY RULES

1. The name of the Society shall be The Pontefract and District Archaeological Society.
2. The Officials shall consist of The President, Vice-President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and three Committee Members, and they shall stand for election at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The Committee shall meet at least once a month.
4. Any official absent from three consecutive meetings without apology shall be deemed to have resigned.
5. In the absence of a chairman, the committee shall elect a chairman from their number.
6. A quorum shall be four members.
7. Membership Fees shall be 15/- per year in the case of Members 21 and over. In certain circumstances, however (that of a full-time student, for example), a member may be admitted at the reduced rate of 7/6 at the discretion of the Committee. From the age of 16 to 21, the Fee shall be 7/6 per year, and Members in this age group shall be entitled to a vote after two full years' membership. Fees for those under 16 shall be 5/- per year, but Members in this age group shall not be entitled to a vote. The Financial Year shall begin, and Fees shall become due, on the First of April each year. Membership shall be deemed lapsed if the Fee has not been paid within three months of that date.
8. No Member shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all moneys presently payable by him to the Society have been paid.
9. All members shall be admitted to all normal Society functions free of charge.
10. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within one month of the end of the Financial Year.
11. Functions shall not take place under the Society's name without prior approval of the Committee.
12. The Society shall not be responsible for any loss or injury incurred whilst taking part in Society functions, excavating for example; members taking part in functions do so at their own risk.
13. Notice of any amendment to the rules should be given in writing to the Secretary, 14 days prior to the General Meeting.

## MAINLY FOR MEMBERS

Once again we venture into the field of journalism and present our second Journal and Annual Report hoping that it will be a little more successful than our first. Without sounding too commercial, may we appeal to members to sell as many as possible. We did have quite a number left over last year, and while we do not wish to make large profits, we would like to cover expenses.

The past year has been rather a quiet one for the Society. We cannot claim to have made great strides, but at the same time, we have not been standing still. Many Members were pleased to see the long-awaited printed lecture programme make its appearance. The programme itself was once again of a very high standard. Although we did not have quite such a wide variety of speakers as last year, we certainly had the quality. Starting with Mr. Cox we followed the development of our town from its humble beginnings to its present shape. We then had our President (Mr. Bellamy), who spoke to us on how the amateur can play a useful part in Archaeology. Mr. Bellamy came to us again in November and spoke on Monastic Architecture.

In December we had our annual social. This was an outstanding success and a great improvement on previous years. Mr. Houlder and Mr. Carney illustrated the activities of the Junior Members, showing local sites. Then we had the recorded commentary by "Wally McBooth" with a background of bagpipes whilst scenes of Scotland flashed across the screen. After a break (during which we were served with a very nice Buffet by Miss Millward, Miss Rhodes and Miss Lloyd) we went further afield with Mr. Thorpe and Mr. Morris on a tour of Italy. We thank everyone who helped to make this social one of the best we have ever had.

Our old friend Mr. Wilson returned to us in January and gave us a Travelogue of Archaeology from the Hebrides to Land's End. February's lecture took us to Kirkstall, when our President showed us the recent excavations which we were able to compare with the final subject of the season, St. John's Priory.

Our Outdoor activities have been concentrated on the Priory and the Castle. We would refer readers to the separate articles on these subjects.

This year brought an increase in the number of visitors to the Castle, and our secretary spent almost every weekend from April to July taking observations of the Castle and the work we have been doing there. Towards the end of the season we once again were able to open the dungeons to the public, and although the weather was not at its best, we found there were a great number of people wanting to be taken round. We thank the Pontefract Corporation for allowing us to arrange the opening, and the Parks Department for their co-operation.

The progress in the Museum is slower than some of us would like, but we are very pleased to see that the new heating system is now working — this will do a lot towards preventing the harm that damp does to the relics. A number of new items have been added to the collection, including some samples of the finds from the Castle, and some of the relics from the Priory are now on display. The new show-case built by our Members is now complete except for the internal lighting, which we hope will soon be installed.

Our collection of Photographs is slowly building up. We are most grateful to the photographers who have donated prints to the Society, and welcome any offers of photos of buildings due for demolition etc. so that we might preserve a record of the changing face of our town.

Our Secretary seems to have made quite a name for himself as a Lecturer, and during the past year he has been kept busy, speaking to various societies on "Pontefract Castle" or "The Work of Our Society." This year he has given more lectures than ever before, and is now getting requests for the second and third visits. He would like to thank these various organisations for giving him the opportunity to make the work of our Society known.

What of the future? In spite of the fact that we do get together a little more often as a society — at least during the winter — some of us do feel that for the most part we in the Committee are out of touch with the Members. At times it seems to us that the only people in the Society are the little group who meet once a month. We do get an occasional suggestion or complaint (and these we welcome), but the Committee would like to hear from Members — after all, it is your Society. Don't be content to leave it to the few officials or wait till the A.G.M. to air your views. One suggestion is that we follow the example of the Junior Society, who have their various study groups — the Photography group, for example, who although very small have done a great deal of work both in the Castle and elsewhere. Then there are the ramblers —

## PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF No. 5 HORSEFAIR

In recent years Horsefair has seen many great changes. As we go to print some of us are wondering what is going to happen to one of the very few old houses left in this ever-changing street — that is, No. 5 (for many years the home of our Secretary). We have not had the opportunity to carry out a full examination of the building, but perhaps the following information might be of interest to readers.

The house was at one time owned and occupied by a relation of Col. John Morris (see page 4), one Buckley Wilsford, whose arms can be seen at the head of the 17th-century staircase. The arms were engraved by Wilsford in 1706 and are as follows — "Gules, a chevron, engrailed, Or; between 3 leopards' faces Argent."

The front of the house was re-faced in about 1815, and covers a much older building. At the moment we are unable to give an exact date, but there are fireplaces very much like the ones found in the Baghill Lane houses (reported in last year's journal). Some of these are behind the Victorian fireplaces.

Tales of secret passages and priests' holes have not been borne out by examination as yet, but there are walls which appear to be much thicker than necessary, so we do not rule out the possibility. Though we did have a look at two trap-doors in the floor of the cellar which were supposed to cover a passage (leading to the Castle, naturally) we found to our disappointment that they were only a few inches deep into the rock. The four front rooms are very nicely panelled in oak, and the four downstairs windows have elegant shutters which fold back into recesses.

At the rear of the house are buildings which were at one time used as stables and coach-house, but they have since become unrecognisable as such having been converted into a joiner's shop and garages. In one of the outbuildings is a huge stone table consisting of a solid block of stone some 16 feet by 6 feet. Nearby was a pump which drew its water from an underfloor cistern fed from the roofs by a system of pipes. Further north, during excavations for an air-raid shelter in 1939, an old dry latrine was discovered, arched in hand-made brick and full of typical Victorian rubbish.

In the centre of the yard there was a drain which took the unusual course of going under the buildings rather than away from them. This was working as late as 1944, but during alterations to the yard level it was lost.

We are wondering just what interesting things this building contains, and we hope that we might be allowed to be on hand if and when it is demolished.

## REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT DRAX 1961

By Mr. K. Wilson

A trial excavation was made on the field known as The Stannels at Drax (Nat. Grid Ref. S.E. 690261) between August 20th and October 15th, 1961.

Altogether there were about thirty volunteers, some of whom camped on the site, or were accommodated at Scurff Hall. Throughout the excavation we were fortunate with the weather and lost very little time because of rain.

several trips have been successfully arranged as you can see from the Junior Report.

It would be nice, and encouraging, to hear from members. Drop a line to the Secretary. Complain if you wish. Whatever the nature of your letter you can be assured the Committee will give it their utmost attention. The Secretary would particularly like to know members' interests, so that a file can be kept for future reference. Sometimes certain problems crop up which might well coincide with your interest. For instance, you may be able to identify coins if your hobby is coin-collecting; or be able to give advice on pottery finds etc. You never know — neither shall we unless you tell us!

## INSCRIPTIONS IN THE CASTLE DUNGEONS

Members and visitors alike must have often wondered about the numerous names and mysterious marks on the walls of the dungeons. (The word "Dungeon" is used here without apology as at the time we are speaking of it was being used as just that).

Though many of them remain for the present a mystery, recent research has thrown a little light on the subject. Two of the more well-known names are "John Grant" and "John Smith." These men were Gunners in the army of Parliament. Along with "James Provston" they were all imprisoned on the morning of June 3rd, 1648, when the Castle was retaken by Col. John Morris. Smith was formally the Master of the Magazine, and according to Holmes's "Sieges of Pontefract Castle," Smith should have the word "Unhappy" before the name, but we have not been able to find this part of the inscription.

"Capt. Greatehead," another parliamentarian, was captured before the event of June 3rd, but just how long before is not certain. And one wonders about the names in the small alcove — "F. (or I.) Toulson" and "T. Elliot." As the name Toulson has the date 1647 next to it he should be a Royalist, as at that time (between the 2nd and 3rd sieges) the Castle was in the hands of Parliament; and we have had doubts about the name Elliot — the initial "T" looks rather modern compared with the others and may be of quite late date.

We have not, so far, been able to find any records giving information on the other names, such as "Will Foster," "Walter Priest," "George Gerbe," "Inman," etc. There are many more which have yet to be examined before we can decide whether they are original or not. Some are obviously as late as 1800, and some might be even later.

The numerous marks which are not quite initials, and yet not Mason's Marks, are still somewhat of a mystery. Various suggestions have been made, but only two are at the moment acceptable. One idea is that they are marks of "Good Luck"; and the other suggestion is that they are merely name-marks — most of the soldiers of that period would not be able to write their names and so "Made their Mark" instead.

By far the most popular inscription is the Gallows, which gives rise to all sorts of bloodthirsty tales, but also gives rise to doubts in the mind of the writer, for although the inscription is a true picture of the shape of the type of gallows in use at that time, it is very thin compared with the other inscriptions and not altogether convincing.

Having had experience of a short period of confinement in this chamber, the writer can sympathise with the poor chaps who were imprisoned for eleven weeks — particularly with the soldier who, according to records, was first stripped before being bundled into the "Cooler."

The original object of the excavation was to discover and date the foundation of the Augustinian Chapel of St. Wilfred. The trenches were laid out on a grid of 25 feet squares, the trenches being determined by the crop marks. Apart from one piece of window mullion of the Decorated Period, and a large amount of rubble and medieval pottery, no evidence of the chapel was found. There was, however, evidence of a Romano-British settlement.

The completed plan at the end of the dig revealed the foundations of a building about 70 feet by 27 feet, consisting of five rooms with wall foundations of an average of three feet thick. The centre of one of the rooms contained a large amount of charcoal and ash beneath which was a clay flue, 4 inches in diameter, probably a corn-drying kiln.

As no actual floors were found it is difficult to date the building, but the pottery dates it between the 2nd and 4th centuries A.D. Similar foundations of pitched stones in clay have been found at Brough-on-Humber, Winterton, and Godmanchester, and at other sites along the Jurassic Ridge. It is possible that the building discovered is an outhouse of a villa on the same scale as Langton in the East Riding, though it is unusual to find one situated on such low-lying land. A considerable amount of work will have to be done before the whole villa takes any definite shape. Unfortunately this can only be done when the field is free from crops.

The pottery included decorated and plain Samian Ware dating from late 2nd century and 3rd century, manufactured in Eastern Gaul; Nene Valley and Hunclyffe Ware; Colour-coated Ware and Romano-British coarse pottery. There were several pieces of mortaria dating from circa A.D. 270 to about A.D. 370 from the Warwickshire, Crambeck and Nene Valley kilns. Post-Roman pottery included what was possibly St. Neots Ware followed by a whole sequence up to the 17th century.

It is hoped to continue the dig during 1962, depending upon the crop and the time available after it is harvested. Volunteers will be welcome and will be kept informed as to possible dates.

## REPORT ON THE JUNIOR SECTION

This year has brought to the light a problem which has been growing ever since we were first formed — that is, quite a few of our members have now reached the stage when they are not really Junior any more. Admittedly they are not quite ready for a pension, but at the same time some of them would find it a little uncomfortable in short trousers and pigtails. In view of this we have been considering plans to reorganise the group in an effort to give these older juniors a little more responsibility in the running of their society. Some of us feel that the name "Junior" could be altered to, perhaps, "Youth Section" or "Young Archaeologists" — a mere detail, possibly, but after all the name of any society should describe the nature of the society and its members.

As some of our new members are ten and eleven years old, they are of course not concerned with the above problem. They have attended the fourth training class arranged by Mr. Gardiner. This year they went right back to the beginning again, learning how to use a trowel and how to spot underground sites from surface markings etc.

During the year a number of us have once again played a major part in the work in the Castle, where we have been shown how archaeology works, and had a complete demonstration on how to fell a 40-foot tree with a trowel (and how to get blisters, incidentally!). We have also had

three splendid outings, as usual arranged with military precision by our friend and counsellor, "Dad" Morris. We have had many other smaller outings, but on three occasions we were joined by some of the senior members. We were able to study the Monastery, the Castle and the Parish Church by visits to Rouché, Conisbrough and Methley.

During the winter some of our harder members ploughed through two inches of snow to take photos of the battlefield of Towton in conditions which prevailed during the battle.

We are very proud of our Juniors. Some of them who joined the group as "short-trouser-type juniors" a few years ago are now fast becoming experts in their own fields of study, particularly photography. Some of the slides shown at the recent Social were taken by our members, and they spoke for themselves.

One of our members is now a Senior, and is a teacher of history at Castleford, and another is a nurse at Pontefract Infirmary. Others have gone on to college for further training, and we hope that wherever they go they will not forget us.

Now we are looking forward to, and preparing for, the coming year with trowels sharpened and whisks at the ready to increase our knowledge of the past, and perhaps in doing so looking forward to a better future.

## REPORT ON THE WORK IN PONTEFRACT CASTLE DURING 1961

By K. Gardiner

Shortage of time and trained labour were limiting factors last year, work being confined to the Terrace and the King's tower. Both sections called for some very hard work. On the latter, one of the main jobs was the removal of a tree growing near the edge of a 25-foot drop, and having driven its roots some 9 feet down. It was no easy task, and great credit is due to the two young ladies who spent the best part of the summer clearing away masses of demolition rubble so that we could get at the roots, some of which were nearly 2 feet thick. We are pleased to report that the structure here is in very good condition, and no harm was done to it during the removal of the tree.

Down below, Mr. Morris continued the job of creating the terrace which now extends from the eastern boundary of the castle grounds almost up to the Swillington tower. We have had many encouraging comments both from the public passing along Northgate and from the visitors who have come down from the grounds. The rock face, now exposed, looks very impressive indeed, and although there remains a lot of work still to be done, the whole area is looking much tidier and more like a Castle! During the season we have had the usual crop of finds, and we are now able to offer more information about them, but space does not permit full details. However, some of the more interesting finds are 17th century clay pipes, and 15th, 14th and 13th century pottery. One piece is a complete base of a three-handed drinking tig, c. 1300, and a very nice diamond-shaped arrow head, also c. 1300. Many other finds have been made, of course, and full details of these can be found in the separate report due to be published later.

We were very pleased to have the luxury of tea-brewing equipment this season, and after we had been grovelling among tree roots the call "Tea up" was very welcome. Thanks to all those who took turns in making this traditional beverage.

One of the more difficult tasks has been the plotting of the ruins for a scale plan. Though we have been able to make scale drawings of certain parts, we have not had the equipment or the skill to draw a full plan. We were very pleased when we were able to borrow a survey map, which, though done in 1890, is proving a great help in sorting out the work done by the excavators in 1882 and in checking our own drawings.

Once again may we extend our thanks to the Pontefract Corporation, to the various departments who have been so helpful to us, and particularly to Mr. R. Eveleigh and Mr. Dugdale. We are now looking forward to a good season this year, and trust that the weather will be kind to us.

## REPORT ON THE WORK AT ST. JOHN'S PRIORY DURING 1961

By C. Vincent Bellamy, B.Sc., M.I.Biol.

Work was concentrated on the east end of the first Church, and on the area to the south of the lesser cloister. Full excavation of the chancel failed to produce the graves of the de Lacy's or of Archbishop Thurstan, but showed an extensive monastic disturbance where these might have been expected. We now incline to the view that these notables were transferred further east when the church was extended. Otherwise the excavating in this area produced the outlines of the walls on the north side of the presbytery, almost exactly where we had estimated them to be. The dotted lines shown on the last year's plan can now be firmly lined in. We learnt something of the character of the arch jambs on the east side of the transept and crossing, and a good deal about the early stages of building.

In the nave of the church, the second pillar of the south arcade was uncovered, and its outline at plinth-level determined. It more closely resembles the first pillar of the arcade than the third.

South of the decagonal chapter house, trenches were excavated in the area of the southern range of buildings and in the infirmary locality. The north wall of this range was confirmed through to the dorter range, and two more north/south walls planned. Further south, Mr. Nicholson found another rock-cut trench similar to the large trench west of the "sunken chamber". It has not yet been satisfactorily explained. In the infirmary, the drain from the "sunken chamber" was traced for a further length, and a smaller drain also extended. A new early drain was found, of uncertain origin, and the foundations of the south-west corner of an early building.

Demolition of the New Hall showed that much of the fabric consisted of carved stones of early Norman character, which match other specimens recovered on the priory site. We believe that some of the oak beams of the New Hall also came from the priory, and we are trying to date these by tree-ring measurements, but samples of other beams are needed to bridge the gap between late medieval and modern times.

## REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS ON THE SAXON BURIAL MOUND AT FERRY FRYSTON

By "The Happy Wanderer"

The Tumulus is situated in Roundhill Field on the Pontefract side of the road leading from Castletford to Ferrybridge. It can be seen marked on

the 2½ ins. Ordnance survey, but the actual site is not now very clear to see, having been gradually excavated by both man and rabbit, and eaten away by the forces of nature. The first attack took place in years previous to 1811 by a colony of rabbits, and the tumulus was disturbed both by the rabbits and by the humans trying to dig them out. In 1811 an attempt was made to remove the tumulus altogether by the occupant of the field, but so many human remains were discovered that after a large portion of the tumulus had been removed, the idea was abandoned, and the exhumed bones were removed to Ferry Fryston churchyard.

In 1863 an excavation took place to ascertain its structure, but from the information available the excavators failed in their set purpose, for no knowledge of the structure was obtained from those diggings. However, further human remains were found, with fragments of half-baked pottery believed to be the early British type. The only reference to structure was a description of a burial cist as follows — "composed of four rough stones set on edge, and paved with smaller pieces at the bottom, width at the head 2 feet, at the feet 1 foot 10 inches, length 3 feet 3 inches, depth 1 foot 5 inches internally. It was entirely filled with small gravel, in which was interred the skeleton of an adult male, apparently of large stature; the thigh bones were 19¼ inches, and the leg 16 inches. The knees were bent in the manner in which such interments are usually found, and the face toward the south."

The writer goes on to state that the age was estimated at forty, and that the teeth were in good condition, but the skull was accidentally broken. (I wonder what tools they were using?). He also says that an Urn was found with the skeleton, but "it crumbled into fragments in a most careful attempt to remove it".

Round about 1870 yet another attack was made on the barrow by the Rev. Canon Greenwell, Lord Houghton and others, and according to the writer the mound was on this occasion removed so far that it "revealed the nature of the surface on which it had been built". This excavation revealed further human remains, some of which were cremations; also patches of burnt sand, which the writer suggests may have been the actual site of the cremations and even suggests that the site may have had connections with "the druidical rites of the ancient Britons".

The writer further describes the finding of two complete pots in a rock grave, in which was found yet another crouch burial. "At its feet was a drinking cup laid on its side, height 7 inches, profusely ornamented with thong markings consisting of three sets of horizontal lines filled up between with vertical lines, and between two more horizontal lines was a line of zig-zags, the lower triangles of which were filled up with horizontal markings. The same pattern occupied the upper and lower halves of the vase. In the hollow of the knees was found a bronze pin, much oxidised, about 1½ inches long. This might have been used to fasten part of the dress in which the person had been buried".

In an addendum we read — "When the Rev. Greenwell and his party gave up their researches, a small portion was left unexcavated on the south-west side, in which it was supposed nothing would be found. This, however, proved to be an erroneous conclusion. On the tenant removing this last portion, preparatory to the cultivation of the site, two more urns were discovered, both full of burnt human bones mixed with earth. The rim of the larger one was broken by the pressure from above, both being

in an upright position. This urn was 15 inches high and about 1 foot in diameter at the widest part, narrow at the top, and still narrower at the base and without ornamentation. The smaller urn was 7½ inches high, 6 inches wide at the top, and 3 inches at the bottom. It is a beautiful specimen quite entire, and ornamented with rows of punctures on the upper portion, and with lines crossing each other diagonally in the middle, and plain below."

— Acknowledgements to "History of Knottingley" by C. Forrest, 1871. (Editor's Comment — "Anyone know where the relics from the tumulus are now?")

## THE HECK AND WENTBRIDGE RAILWAY

A few traces of this never-used railway can be seen beyond the village of Wentbridge. According to some records recently examined it commenced at Farfleet Close, near to Heck Bridge on the Knottingley-Goolle canal; and it extended to Wentbridge, a distance of 7 miles and 33 chains.

It was commenced under the authority of "An Act for making and maintaining a Railway or Tramroad, from Heck Bridge in the parish of Snaith, to Wentbridge, in the parish of Kirksmeaton, all in the west riding of York."

The company who started the line evidently made some serious miscalculations in their estimates, and another Act had to be obtained to amend and enlarge the powers of the first. Even then, after quite a length of the line had been completed, the whole scheme collapsed and was abandoned, to the great loss of the shareholders.

## THE HERMITAGE

Pontefract has as many curiosities as whiskers on a cat's face, and the Hermitage is one of them.

The Hermitage, which is to be found at the deepest level, is 15½ yards below the surface of the pathway outside the Infirmary. It was long forgotten, but in 1854 the roof of the Oratory was broken into by road excavators. The doorway was opened up, and we are told that when this was done a set of letters were found above the door — "D.I.T.I.S.," which have been conjectured to be "Deo In Trinitate Jesu Salvatore" (To God in Trinity and Jesus the Saviour).

Through this doorway we descend four steps into a quadrilateral chamber which was a living room, bedroom and chapel or oratory. In front of us is a niche which could have been the bed. To the left is the fireplace, and to the left of this the altar. To the right of the door is a flight of steps (59 or 62, having lost count). Near the bottom of these steps, carved on the wall, is a skeleton. Almost at his feet is a spring of fresh water, but as time has passed this has dried up.

Who carved all this out of solid sand-rock? One of the local writers states that the Hermitage was probably started by Peter the Hermit in the later years of the 1100's or the beginning of the 1200's. Peter was put to death by order of King John (1199 — 1216). It was then taken over by Adam de Laythorpe and his son (1386), who seemed to be the last of our hermits.

Near by in Friarswood (or Fryerwood), round about the time of the Hermitage, stood the Monastery of the Dominican or Preaching Friars. Above the Hermitage was the Great Turnpike Road to Wakefield; so whoever was in residence had lots of company.

## PONTEFRACT SIEGE PIECES

Like most castles, Pontefract has its siege coins. Various shapes were struck — Lozenge, octagonal and circular. There are seven variations, which can be seen in the British Museum. All but two are silver, and these two are gold.

Most of the coins were probably struck in the reign of Charles I, but after his execution the garrison proclaimed his son Charles II as king and struck coins bearing the motto "Post Mortem Patris Pro Filio" ("After the death of the Father, for the Son" — which to this day is borne on the town's coat-of-arms), and the motto "Hanc Deus Dedit" ("This God Gave").

Two of the 1648 octagonal coins can be seen in the local Castle Museum, and also a full set of moulds or casts.

## THE TRINITY HOSPITAL

by W. M. Booth

On the site of the Bus Station and the new Welfare Clinic there once stood the Knolles Hospital, locally known as the "Trinities." The family of Knolles is of Saxon origin, the name being derived from the term "knoll," a hill.

Sir Robert Knolles, knight and gentleman, was born in Cheshire, but of his early life there is no record. In 1358 he was in attendance to Edward III against Spain. Later he was in at the destruction of the French forces. He fought so well that the French called him "the true thunder-bolt of war." It was in the eighth year of the reign of Richard II that Sir Robert was granted a licence to build his hospital, college or almshouses. It was his wife who had him build it in Pontefract instead of at Southorpe, near Walsingham. Constance, his wife, was a Yorkshire woman, said to have been born in Knottingley, but other accounts say that she was born in Micklegate (or High Street, now Horsefair) in a house which was pulled down to make room for the hospital.

The running of the institution was left to the Augustinian monastery of St. Oswald at Nostell. The Prior and Convent appointed a Master, who appointed 2 chaplains, 2 clerks, 13 poor folk and 2 servants. The Hospital was enclosed by a large stone wall with a wooden gate-house on the south side. In this square was a church, a hall and almshouses for the poor.

In 1538, when St. Oswald was suppressed, the Hospital also had to surrender to the King, who undertook to maintain it, but from then on it fell more and more into private hands, and in 1649 its chapel was used for the town's services, as All Saints' was in ruins and St. Giles's was being enlarged to what we see today. The hospital was fast falling into disrepair, with other buildings and houses taking over certain walls and foundations of the old establishment.

In 1958 a number of skeletons came to light, the best of which has her skull now in the museum.

## MAINLY FOR VISITORS

We should like to draw the attention of visitors and intending visitors to the service offered by our Society. For some years now we have been able to act as guides to the various sites in the town, especially the Castle. Normally you will find one or more of our members at the Castle during the summer weekends, but to be on the safe side, drop a S.A.E. to our secretary and he will do all he can to help you.

With regard to visits to the Castle — the dungeons are not normally open to the public, but arrangements can be made and intending visitors should write to the town clerk for permission to view them. However, it should be understood that he will only grant such permission on the understanding that all persons enter the dungeons at their own risk and are accompanied by a recognised guide. When making your plans for your outing, please allow at least three hours for a visit to the Castle, as to see the ruins, museum and dungeons takes quite a time (that is, if you wish to see everything).

The Castle is not the only place of interest, of course — there is also the Hermitage, an underground chamber cut out by Peter the Hermit, consisting of a spiral staircase leading to a small, now unfortunately blocked up, living room, with a second stairway leading to the Oratory with a stone altar. The Hermitage is underneath the Pontefract General Infirmary and therefore is not open to the public, but arrangements can be made by permission of the Matron (providing the time of the visit is convenient).

The site of the Priory of St. John is well worth a visit, too, when excavations are in progress, but not otherwise as the site is all underground and at the moment there is little hope of its being opened up permanently.

The church of All Saints has many interesting features and is quite near the Castle. Partly ruined during the sieges, the Church has the unusual feature of having the Transepts and Choir only in use, the Nave and Aisles being in ruins.

St. Giles's Church, with its well-known landmark, the tower, can be seen for miles around, and although it is not as old as All Saints', it is a very interesting church and stands in the market place near yet another local oddity — the Butter Cross with its pump, the pump being given to the town by Elizabeth the First.

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