

THE HAMLET OF STEPNEY



BEVERLEY ROAD TRAIL FOR STEPNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Three windmills, three pubs a railway station, a paper-mill, a library,
a cinema and a workhouse

THE HAMLET OF STEPNEY

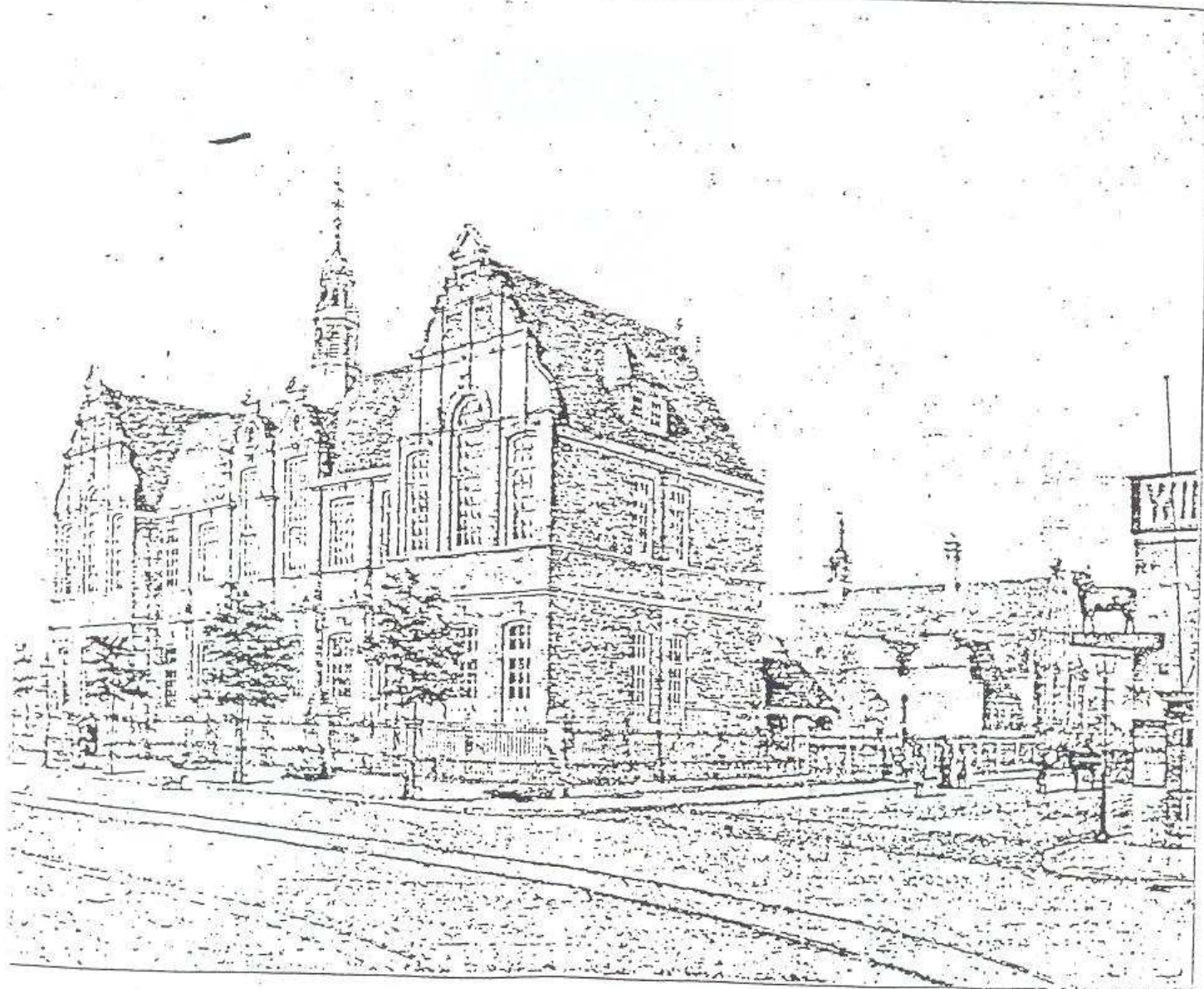
THE SCHOOL

Stepney Primary School was opened as Beverley Road Board School in 1887. Established by the Kingston upon Hull School Board in 1887 for 320 boys, 320 girls and 255 infants; and enlarged to 1,211 places in 1908 with the construction of a new junior block. Average attendance was 1,043 in 1911, and 681 in 1938. The boys department closed in 1953 on the formation of Wilberforce High School, leaving senior girls', mixed junior, and infants departments. The school has always had a reputation for winning swimming competitions. The nearby Beverley Road Baths being partly responsible, but also the fact that many local children learned to swim at an early age in the warm waters of the nearby "Barmy Drain". The Beverley & Barmston Drain, an agricultural drain, draining the low-lying land between Hull Beverley and north Holderness in the River Hull valley was constructed in 1800, was a popular children's "playground". Warm water in the drain near Sculcoates Lane entered the drain from an outfall of the adjacent Sculcoates Power Station's water cooling system. The school was known at various times as Beverley Road Girls Council School (the girls' beret badges had the initial B.R.G.C.S.) and now Stepney Primary School. One "old girl" of the school told me that on hearing the oft-stated remark that "Beverley Road boys can swim" the girls' retort was that "And Yes, Beverley Road Girls Can Sing - B.R.G.C.S. - from the initials on their school badge!

The separate junior department way down at the bottom end of Stepney Lane has long gone (was it Second World War Blitz damage?) to be replaced by temporary buildings or 'Portakabins', although the surrounding brick wall and cast-iron gates with the remnants of lettering spelling out the separate Boys and Girls entrances survives. This building was used as a community centre in the late 1970s, but more recently has been a nursery and Education Department offices.

THE LANE

STEPNEY LANE leading off to the east of Beverley Road between the school and the Bull Inn originally lead through to the river Hull at Wincolmlee but recent industrial developments beyond the drain have resulted in the loss of this "way through". The Lane itself is a very ancient route - it is shown for example on the Sculcoates Enclosure Award and plan of 1691, and is likely to pre-date even that. Stepney Lane forms part of an old route linking the open fields of Cottingham parish (west of Prince's Avenue) with the "bull fields" and pasture ground near the river Hull at the far east end of Stepney Lane. This alignment is marked by the modern streets Prince's Avenue (earlier Newland



Toft's Lane), Hinderwell Street (the Convent site in the middle disrupts this alignment - the present Convent Court and Sycamore Court); then a ten-foot at the rear of property on the south side of Pearson Park - where this old lane crosses Park Road, can be seen an old wooden field gate-post. The alignment continues eastwards from Park Road towards Beverley Road along Park Lane (formerly Mucky-peg Lane) and past the Bull Inn into Stepney Lane itself

THE ROAD

The village or hamlet of Stepney clusters around the junction of Park Lane, Mucky-Peg Lane and Beverley Road - note how this old part of the road is much narrower than the newer widened highway north of Stepney Lane in front of the school and the baths. Beverley Road leads from the Old Town of Hull via Beverley Gate along the old "Beverley Gates" - literally "the way to Beverley" - across the present Queen Victoria Square, King Edward Street (the northern end of which was earlier Carlisle Street) into Prospect Street and from Blundell's Corner along Beverley Road itself. The road was "turnpiked" in the 18thC when tolls had to be paid to travel along the road from Hull to Beverley, and via Cottingham Road to Cottingham. There was a "turnpike" and a toll-bar house at the corner of Beverley Road and Cottingham Road. The name has been preserved in the name of the new public house, latterly Jackson's Club, The Turnpike. A mile post (2 miles from Hull) can be seen in the shape of a mounting block built into the wall of the present Haworth Arms public house. The next mile-stone (3 miles from Hull) can be seen in the grass verge alongside the road beyond the corner of Greenwood Avenue. The 1 mile post, presumably somewhere near the corner of Queen's Road/Sculcoates Lane and Beverley Road, has long gone.

THE BATHS

The Beverley Road Baths were opened in 1905 with separate baths for men, women and boys. The baths, were designed by A.E. White, City Engineer, and now a Grade II listed building, have been altered and refurbished recently. The interior has a sumptuous entrance hall and foyer with extremely fine quality Art Nouveau tiling, which extends to the corridors and baths. A small number of individual bath cubicles retain all their tiling and original baths, although one of the two large swimming baths has been demolished.

THE PARK

Pearson Park, or as it was known when it first opened in 1860, the People's Park, was Hull's first public park. Although many of the Victorian features were removed from the Park in the 1950s it still retains many features of interest. Many of the features, including the ornate cast-iron gateway (currently being repaired), the cast-iron drinking fountain (can you see the lizards crawling up towards the central bowl?), the statues of Queen Victoria and of Prince Albert, and four of the houses are considered to be of national architectural and or historic interest and are "listed buildings" Their names and descriptions are on a list prepared by the Department of National Heritage and anyone wanting to alter or demolish them has to apply to the local planning authority (Hull City



Council) for "listed building consent" The whole of the Park is a "Conservation Area" Only developments which enhance or improve the area are allowed.

THE PUBS

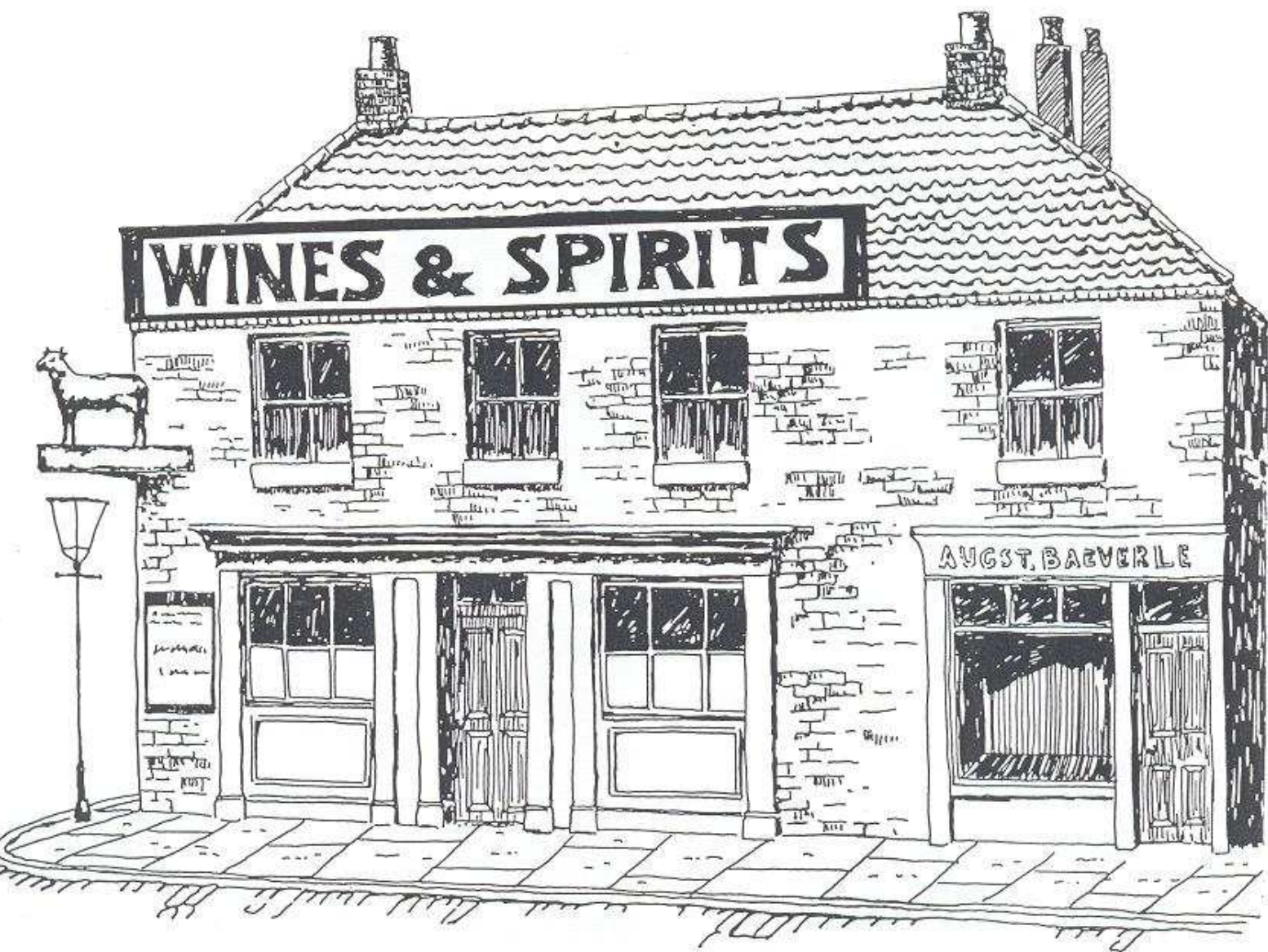
Stepney has three public houses - *The Bull Inn*, probably the oldest; and the *Rose*, and *The Park*. The Bull Inn originally formed part of the same building as the adjoining fish & chip shop but was rebuilt in its present ornate style of red brick and yellow terra-cotta and faience around the turn of the Century. Can you see that the pub has two versions of its name on the front - both *Bull Inn* and *Bull Hotel* can be seen. Its original sign, the gilded figure of a Bull, dates from the earlier building and survives from a time when pubs and shops did not have their names written on the front, because many people could not read, but employed visual symbols of their trades or names - hence the *Bull Inn*. The pub has been known variously as Spotted Bull, Black Bull and just Bull over the years. *The Rose* is probably an early 20th Century rebuilding of an earlier more modest building - perhaps in appearance more like the adjacent shop. *The Park* is, as can be seen, a much more modest affair with a Victorian pub front, altered more recently, added to the front of an ordinary terraced house or shop. Note the passage at the side, now blocked, which would have given access for horses and carts to the rear yard. A building at the back once housed a boxing club

THE VILLAGE CENTRE

Stepney is in origin a rural-cum-industrial hamlet, originally with its own houses, shops, chapels, pubs, farms and industries, some mile or so out of Hull. Until the late 18thC Hull only stretched as far North as Queen Victoria Square. Stepney was a completely separate place. Historically it is in Sculcoates parish, as is everything else on both sides of Beverley Road until Cottingham parish is reached at Newland. Stepney was gradually engulfed by the expanding suburban development of Hull (which expanded west, north and east, from the Old Town from the end of the 18thC following the construction of the Dock - now Queens's Gardens). Stepney had its own "stately home" Stepney Lodge - the site of which was behind the back of the school. E.P. Dixon lived here in 1876. Later, small terraced houses on the north side of Stepney Lane were built in its large grounds. Following the coming of the railway in 1852 and the opening of Pearson Park in 1860 Stepney became merely a point on the Beverley Road and its individual character as a separate place began to be lost. You can still though see the "village" street, that part of Beverley Road say between the railway station and the corner of Stepney Lane.

THE STREETS AND HOUSES

- Stepney Lane
- Trafalgar Place - between the fish & chip shop and Kwik Save. Jackson's shop, recently demolished was at the corner
- Clifton Terrace - led into the Mayfield's paper mills from Beverley Road. The
- Stepney chapel was at the corner - now under site of Kwik Save



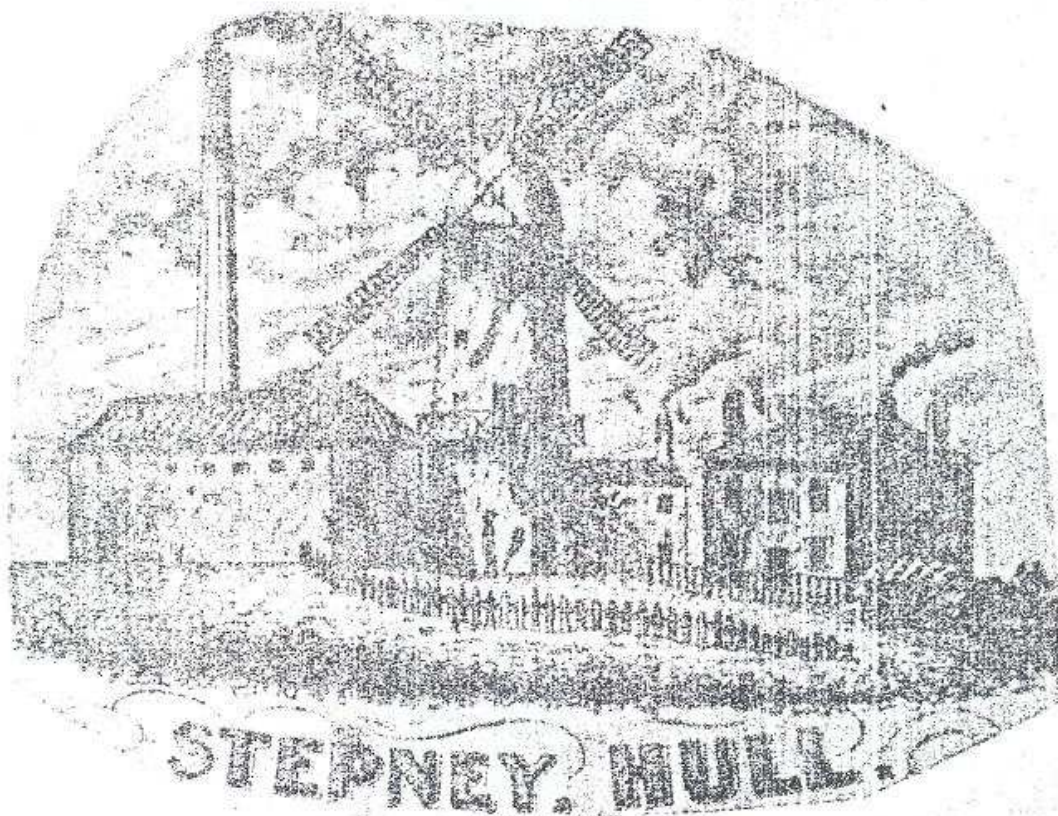
THE BULL INN . c.1895

© P. COLLINSON '92

- Temple Street - probably named after Temple Waites, agent and collector who lived at Prague House in 1876 and built houses in Temple Street
- houses between Prague Terrace and the Park Hotel included, Woobine Cottage, Prague House, and Stepney Cottage
- Kottingham Place - earlier known as Prague Terrace, after the name of Temple Waites's house. There are many conflicting theories as to its derivation, ranging from a signwriter's error, to a reference to the place Kottingham in Derbyshire
- St. Hilda Street - possibly named after St. Hilda of Whitby by the Platford family who owned land here
- Fountain Road - named after Alderman Fountain, who lived in Fountain Villa, Coltman Street. He was governor of the poor (ie the Workhouse) Fountain Road was earlier Egginton's Lane
- Margaret Street - Margaret was the sister of Canon John Jarratt vicar of Cave who owned land in the area
- Terry Street - named after the Terry family who were related by marriage to Jarratt. The Terry family home, Newland Grove, was at the corner of Clough Road and Beverley Road. Terry Street has more recently become famous as the venue and subject of Douglas Dunn's poems 'Terry Street', 'One', 'A Removal From Terry Street' can be seen on a poetry-plaque on the only surviving 'old' building in the street
- Cave Street - the derivation is again the Jarratt family of South Cave
- Park Lane - Mucky-peg lane or Mucky-peg alley was what locals always called it. Many muddy country lanes were known colloquially as Mucky-peg lane, for example Newland Toft's Lane before it became Princess Avenue or Prince's Avenue from 1875 was similarly known
- Grove Street - a fashionable sounding name for this late Victorian development
- Pearson Avenue - originally just "entrance to park", later taking its name from Zachariah Charles Pearson, who gave the land for the park

THE WINDMILLS

Industries in Stepney in the mid to late 19th Century included a paper mill and a corn mill. These mills were powered initially by windmills, of which there were three in the immediate vicinity of the school. Mayfield's paper mill with its windmill stood across on the south side of Stepney Lane just next to the school, the site perhaps being behind the *Bull* and the chip shop where Station Drive joins Stepney Lane. There was another mill, at one time where James Rank worked, across the road from the school at the corner of Park Lane and Beverley Road - the large empty site next to the Rose, where shortly a Chinese community is to be established. "On moving to 'the hamlet of Stepney', James Rank joined with the Wesleyans, who had a small meeting-place, opened in 1849 on the Beverley Road, only a few yards away from his windmill. As his business prospered, so, no doubt, he increased his financial aid for the growing cause, and soon there was a project to build a chapel worthy of its enthusiastic congregation. it was opened in 1868 [Queens Road chapel]..." - 'Through the Mill'. The other mill and windmill site was nearer the railway station site, perhaps somewhere behind (east of) *The Station* public



house. Illustrations of two of these windmills exist. The Rank's mill at Mucky-peg Lane is illustrated here (from an original, perhaps from a letterhead, in Wilberforce House museum collection); the other is on display in 'The Story of Hull & Its People' exhibition in Hull Museum's Old Grammar School Museum in South Church Side next to the open market area. No trace on the ground exists of these windmills, but I would hope that building work on the site of the new houses for the Chinese community at the corner of Park Lane would reveal some traces of the round brick circle forming the foundations of the windmill

THE SHOPS

The main area of shops in Stepney is on both sides of Beverley Road between the railway station, Cave Street and Park Lane on the west, and on the east between the Station and Stepney Lane. Many of these properties were originally built as houses, and only later had shop-fronts added. For example the shops between the station and Cave street were originally called *Havelock Villas* (the two pairs of houses now incorporating Webster's) and *Havelock Terrace*, including the post office and the antique shop. Between Cave Street and Park Lane was *Stepney Terrace*. On the other (east) side of the road, *Clifton Terrace* has replaced along with the chapel, by Kwik Save. The larger shops, Aldi and Kwik Save now dominate Stepney's "village high street" and there are a number of empty properties, but other small businesses still thrive.

THE INDUSTRIES

In addition to the wind corn-mill and the paper mill already mentioned, there were other industries established in the Stepney area including brick-yards, and a tannery, near the river (now Holmes-Hall tanners at the corner of Air Street and Wincolmlee). Bottling plants (for bottling beer and lemonade) were established in the Cave Street and Park Lane area. The Rank's windmill site was latterly occupied by Hill's bottling engineering works, until its demolition two or three years ago. Many old stone bottles were dug up on the site by bottle collectors

THE RAILWAY STATION

The Stepney Station of the Victoria Dock Branch Line built in 1852/3 survives along with the platforms; the trackbed now a cycle track and footpath where once trains ran to Withernsea and Hornsea. The Victoria Dock Branch Line was built by the York & North Midland Railway following an Act of Parliament which sanctioned the line on 30 June 1852 (one hundred and forty three years ago to the day!) This line was built to join the newly built Victoria Dock, of 1850, over the river in East Hull with the railway station in the town centre. Although the line, which provided Hull's first suburban passenger service originally linked Victoria Dock with Manor House Street station (near the present ice arena) it was later linked with Paragon Station. Later the railway line became part of the route to Withernsea and Hornsea. Stepney Station closed to passenger traffic following the closure of the Hull/Hornsea and Hull/Withernsea lines on Saturday 17 October 1964, although goods traffic did continue to use the line for a couple more years until the line's final closure,



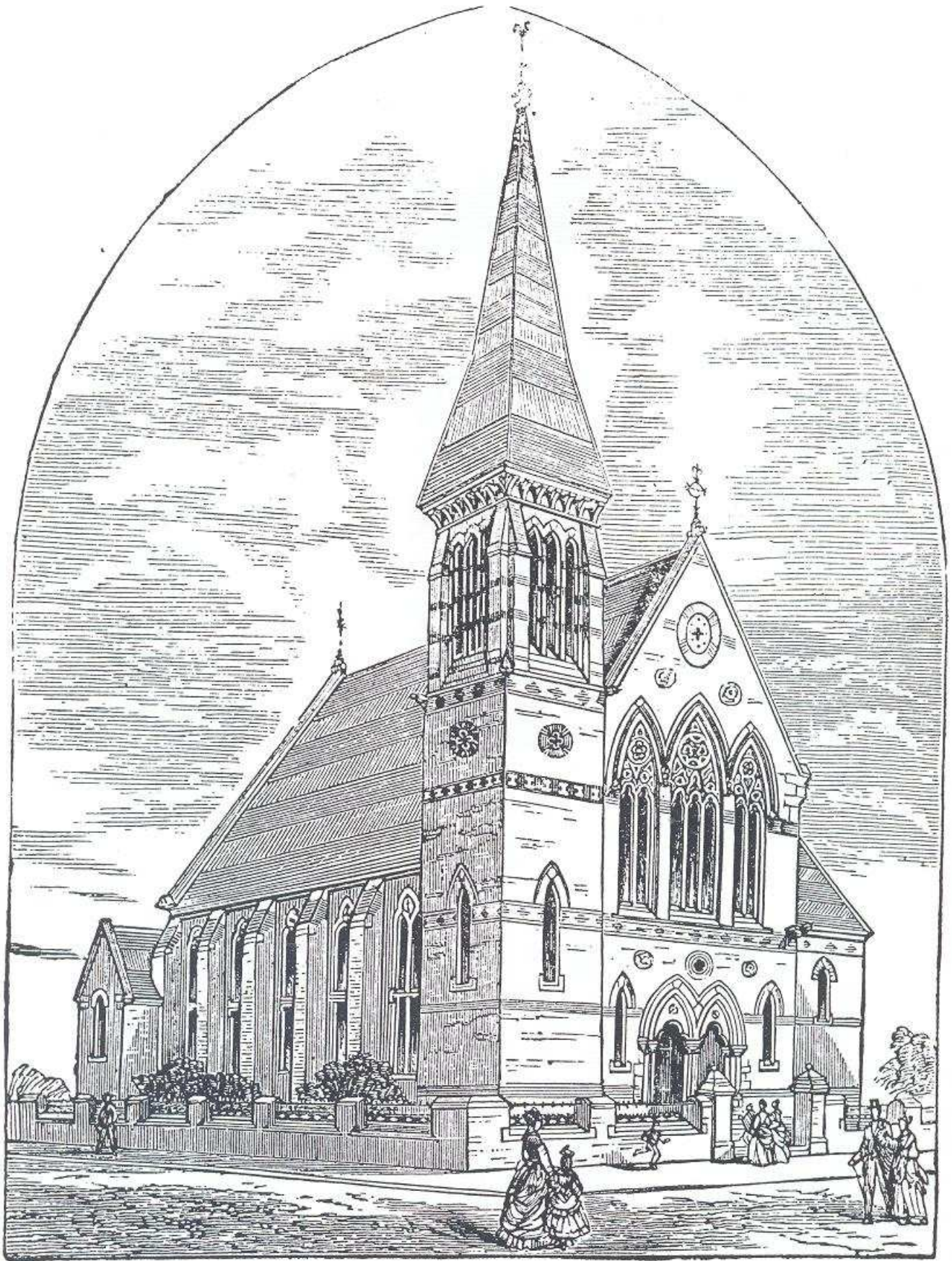
and diversion of all rail traffic onto the high-level line on 28 October 1968. The station house designed by Hull architect William Botterill, now a Grade II "listed building" is still lived in, and the line of the rails forms a cycle and footpath, which can be followed all the way to the east to Hornsea (with a brief diversion at the "Barmy Drain" due to a missing bridge), and to the west back towards Cemetery Gates or Botanic Station at the corner of Prince's Avenue and Spring Bank (the cycle-track footpath finishes at Duesbury Street). The level crossing-keeper's house can be seen at Park Road, and although the site of Botanic Station has been demolished, its site now occupied by the new *Old Zoological* public house, parts of the platform walls survive, as does one platform lamp. To the east much of railway interest can be seen, including the foundations of the various bridges, for railway sidings, over the Beverley & Barmston Drain; and at Wilmington the unique Sculcoates Goods Station (listed Grade II) and the Wilmington Swing Bridge which carried the railway lines over the River Hull. Look out for cast-iron man-hole covers with the initials "N.E.R." - there is one at the east end of the north side of Temple Street; and in the front garden of the crossing-keeper's cottage in Park Road. Next to the station house at Stepney, on the site now occupied by the Aldi supermarket car-park were timber siding and a coal yard. The footbridge crossed the railway lines alongside the level-crossing in front of the station house and the house next to Webster's shop (these houses of the 1870s, were once lived in by railway workers)

THE CHAPELS

Stepney had two chapels, only one of which, oddly enough the older of the two, survives. The GLAD TIDINGS HALL at the corner of Cave Street was built in 1849 as the ZION NEW CONNEXION METHODIST CHAPEL, but was replaced by the STEPNEY METHODIST NEW CONNEXION CHAPEL in 1869. This chapel was built at a cost of £2,500 was designed by the architect William Hill of Leeds in the Gothic style. It had a corner tower and spire with a highly ornamented three-light window in the facade. It was of red and white brick with stone dressings, and provided seating for 600. a separate Sunday School block was built in 1878. The chapel closed in 1966 and was demolished some time before 1982. Its site is now occupied by the Kwik Save supermarket. The present Glad Tidings Hall which has survived the demolition of its replacement has been used for a variety of purposes, being in turn chapel, temperance hotel, Salvation Army Barracks, auction room, and now church hall again. Anglicans in Stepney were served by All Saints Church in Margaret Street. Built in 1869, this church became the parish church of Sculcoates (replacing the medieval St. Mary's in Air Street). The church was replaced as the parish church by St. Stephen's, Spring Bank, and All Saints was demolished in 1974. Housing in Cavendish Square marks its location

THE CINEMA

The Aldi supermarket site was once occupied by a cinema, originally THE COLISEUM, then RIALTO, but later re-named THE NATIONAL. The National later became a bowling alley, which burned-down in 1974 (and was re-built on Sutton Fields industrial estate), the site then being used for a lorry and car-park





"Post The Past" postcard No.153
Cinemas

STAFF OF THE COLISEUM & PALLADIUM,
BEVERLEY ROAD, HULL 1913
in the Palladium skating rink, Terry Street, Beverley Road, Hull

Photograph reproduced by
permission of Mr.R.H.Smith,
Willerby

until the new supermarket was built a couple of years ago. The Coliseum was converted from part of the Beverley Road skating rink in Terry Street and opened on Monday 9 December 1912. The adjoining PALLADIUM skating rink continue to operate until 1914 when it was turned into a billiards hall. The Coliseum cinema changed its name to the Rialto in 1920, and following the destruction in the Second World War Blitz of the National cinema near the corner of Fountain Road (the front of this former cinema survives next to the Swan pub) its name became the National. The National Cinema closed on 22 July 1961 (nearly 34 years ago) and was converted to the bowling alley

THE LIBRARY

The Northern Branch Free Library at the corner of St. Hilda Street and Beverley Road was opened on Thursday 13 June 1895. The Hull Daily Mail described the opening ceremony "A pretty assortment of palms and plants lent a pleasing effect to the scene to-day, and a line of flags and streamers floated across the main road. Sir James Reckitt, the Deputy-Chairman of the Libraries' Committee performed the opening ceremony in the presence of a large gathering". The present children's library was the newspaper reading room. The library, now Humberside County Council Leisure Services Department's Northern Library has just celebrated its centenary

THE WORKHOUSE

Kingston General Hospital was built as the Sculcoates Poor Law Union workhouse in 1844 to replace an earlier one in Carr Street. It was designed by local architect Henry Francis Lockwood in the Tudor style. The workhouse accommodated 500 paupers. By 1899 extensions had increased the accommodation to over 800. The workhouse was taken over by the Hull Corporation in 1930 and became the Kingston General Hospital. The original centre entrance block has been demolished and replaced by the modern day-hospital. It is likely that in the next few years the hospital will close.

THE DRAINS

"Barmy Drain" is the Beverley & Barmston Drain of c1800. It has outfalls at each end with the sea. At Barmston into the North Sea and at Hull via clough gate at 'High Flags' into the River Hull. The line of another drain, the Cottingham Drain now filled-in (culverted) can be seen crossing Stepney Lane and Fountain Road east of and parallel to Beverley Road. Part of this drain now forms a cycle-track and footpath from Sculcoates Lane to Stepney Lane. This drain also had an outfall into the River Hull through a clough or 'clew' gate at High Flags.

THE PEOPLE

James Rank miller and flour dealer; *Zachariah Charles Pearson*, *George Oysten* "butcher late of Stepney" whose gravestone can be seen in St John Newland Churchyard, the *Mayfield* family (with their potteries, paper mills, paint factory in Sculcoates Lane, and who lived on Beverley Road in a house demolished to make way for the Mayfair cinema); *Thomas Hill* mineral water manufacturer; *Mrs Jane Mallison* general smith (blacksmith) of Park Lane;



🍷 Z.C. Pearson. ESQ., Mayor of
Hull. -From a photograph by Mayall.
(Humberside Libraries and Arts)

1 *bacon, cheese, and corn factors*
 • Jackson Wm. lock-keeper, (West)
 - Ormond James, toll bar keeper
 f Pearson Francis, butcher
 2 Rotherford John, corn miller & dealer,
 - Seamour Robert, *mill* *main*
 - Seamour J
 s Spence Wm. Stepney in 1823
 y Walker Ge
 - Wallis John, saddler
 - Wigglesworth ———, excise officer
 e *Stanningholme*, in the parish of
 ll Watton, and wap. of Harthill; 8 miles
 , SSE. of Driffield.
 of STAXTON, in the parish of Willer-
 e by, and wap. of Dickering; 5 miles
 , WNW. of Hunmanby. Pop. 213.
 o Jacques Rev. Arthur, vicar of Willerby
 - STEPNEY, in the parish of Scul-
 coates, and wap. of Harthill; 1 mile
 N. of Hull.
 s * See Vol. II. page 21.

Birch Eliz. gentlewmn. Stepney place
 Clark Wm. gent. Stepney lodge
 Donaldson Robt. gent. Stepney place
 Heath Robt. gent. Stepney place
 Norman William, gentleman

Corn Millers, *Cow Keepers,*
 Cuss William Beilby George
 Hargrave Edward, Storey Thos.
 (and factor) Waudby Thos.

Barker Francis, brush board cutter
 Camplen John, coal merchant
 Fletcher Jane, schoolmistress
 Mayfield Joseph, earthenware mfr.
 Moore Thos. vict. Spotted Bull
 Rhodes George, tailor
 Smith James, warehouse keeper, Cus-
 tom house
 Smithson Robert, paper maker

STILLINGFLEET WITH MOREBY,
 (p.) in the wap. of Ouse & Derwent,
 a part in the liberty of St. Peter's; 7
 miles S. of York. The church is dedi-
 cated to St. Helen the Dean & Chap-

Foster Thos.
 Foster Charles
 Harp Wm.
 Hudson Samuel
 Kay Thomas
 Marsh George
 Matthew Robt
 Robinson Mar
 Cooper Wm. s
 Grayson Peter
 Hewetson Jan
 oil, and pa
 Jackson Philip
 Peacock John,
 Robson David,
 Walker Thos.
 wood turne

Stork Hill
 parish of St. Jo
 Harthill, and 1
 miles NE. of B

STORWOOD
 Thornton, and

William Hunter gardener and beerhouse keeper; *Temple Waites*, agent and collector; and *John and Jane Smith* (I've made them up!) have all contributed to Stepney's history over the years. Can you find out more about "the hamlet of Stepney"?

references:-

A History of the County of York East Riding Volume I The City of Kingston upon Hull, K.J. Allison (ed. Oxford University Press for the Institute of Historical Research, 1969; Through The Mill: The Life of Joseph Rank, R.G. Burnett. The Epworth Press, 1945; Last Complete Performance: In Memory of Hull's Cinemas, Robert Curry. Local History Unit, Hull College and Hutton Press Ltd., 1992 (for details of the Coliseum/Rialto/National cinema); Beverley Road: An illustration of Beverley Road, its history and its origins highlighted by recollections of some of Hull's people, A. Fowler and M. Redfearn. Community Survey Team, Hull City Council opportunity Centre, Hull, 1988; An Illustrated History of The Avenues and Pearson Park Hull: From Victorian Suburb to Conservation Area, Christopher Ketchell (ed.) Avenues and Pearson Park Residents Association, Hull, 1989; Streets of Hull: A History of their Names, John Markham. Highgate Publications (Beverley) Ltd., new edition, 1990; Lost Churches and Chapels of Hull, David Neave, with A.G. Bell., C. Ketchell and S. Neave. Hull City Museums & Art Galleries and Hutton Press, 1991 (for information about Stepney's chapels); An Illustrated History of Hull's Railways, M. Nicholson and W.B. Yeadon. Irwell Press, Oldham, 1993 (for photographs of Stepney railway station; Temple Street, Beverley Road 1919-1940, Ron Smith. "Your Story" Local History Unit Occasional Publication No.18, Hull (1990 reminiscences of life in Temple Street in the 1920s and 1930s); An Era of Progress by the House of Townend 1906-1972, Hull 1972; More Illustrated Railways of Hull, W.B. Yeadon. Challenger Publications, Oldham, 1995 (for photographs of Stepney railway station);

acknowledgements:-

Mrs Daddy, for reminiscences of Temple Street in the 1920s and '30s; Eric Nicklas, for memories of Beverley Road in the 1930s; Michael A. Scrimshaw of the Local History Unit for proof-reading, Ron Smith for his reminiscences of life in Temple Street in the 1920s and 1930s; Michael E. Ulyatt, for his memories of Exchange Street off Stepney Lane in the 1950s

Christopher Ketchell, *Local History Unit*, Hull College
30 June 1995

LOCAL HISTORY UNIT



Unit Supervisor:
Chris. Ketchell
Hull College
Park Street
Hull HU2 8RR
☎ 01482 329943
Ext. 2806



LOCAL HISTORY UNIT
PARK STREET CENTRE
HULL COLLEGE
PARK STREET
HULL HU2 8RR
Tel. (01482) 329943 ext 2806