

**Coach departs from Driffield Rugby Club Car Park at 9.00am**

**and 4.00pm approx. from venue, arriving back in Driffield approx. 6.00pm**

**Food may be available at or near Venue or you can take a picnic lunch with you.**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Gainsborough Old Hall £30 per person.**

The great hall at Gainsborough, built by Thomas Burgh II, retains its original medieval timber ceiling

Thomas Burgh II (c.1430–1496) inherited the manor of Gainsborough in 1455 from his mother – his father had died shortly after his birth. Over the next two decades, he began rebuilding works on the estate. Archaeological investigations indicate there were earlier structures on the same site, but there is no evidence as to the date of those buildings.

Thomas's works included the rebuilding of the main hall range, with the central great hall at ground level flanked by two-storey wings at each end. At the same time a long east range was raised at right angles providing extended private apartments.

Tree-ring dating conducted in the 1980s indicates building likely began in the later 1460s, perhaps reflecting Thomas's knighthood in 1461 and his growing status at court. But it is also possible that it began in the early 1470s following an attack on his estates by men loyal to Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, where forces 'pulled down his place, and took all his goods and chattels that they might find'.

Towards the end of the 1470s work was begun on a three-storey lodging range, erected on the footprint of the earlier west range. The next decade saw the addition of a fashionable brick tower at the north-east corner, and a vast new brick kitchen. These have been seen as discrete phases of work, but it may be more accurate to understand them as a single prolonged campaign to realise Sir Thomas's ambitions for the manor.

