

# Spring Newsletter 2020

Volume 16-1



Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum  
& Archive Centre -  
Dereham Heritage Trust

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## Letter from the Chair Trevor Ogden

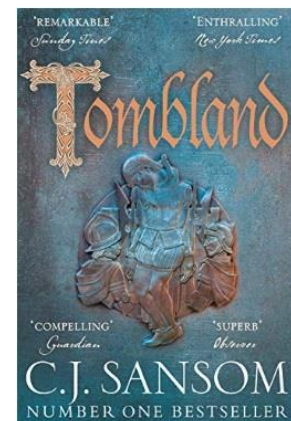
I write this on 18 March. In the last month we have all learnt a new word - coronavirus - and in the last week, a coronavirus has changed all sorts of daily activities in completely unforeseen ways. It is hard to think what else may have happened by the time you read this. We have already learned how many voluntary activities rely on active over-70s and others with health vulnerabilities. Enforced self-isolation by volunteers means that **we will not be opening Bishop Bonner's Cottage until June at the earliest, and we have also postponed our monthly talks for April and May.** There is not much we can do about this. We will be trying to put new material on our website, so if you are able to go on-line I invite you to look at the wealth of interesting material there, and the new material that we hope to add in the coming weeks: <http://www.derehamhistory.com/dereham-heritage-trust.html>.

Maybe having to stay at home will give us more time to read. I somehow doubt that, but it has led me to think about a couple of books about epidemics of the past. 'Year of Wonders', by Geraldine Brooks, is set in the Derbyshire village of Eyam during the plague of 1666. Eyam is famous for having been infected by a bolt of cloth from London, and isolating itself to protect its neighbours. This is an imaginative story of life in the village during those terrible weeks.

My other thought was the Black Death of the 1340s and how terrible that must have been. There are scores of deserted villages in the countryside around us, sometimes betrayed by bumps and humps in a field, or an isolated church, and these are often popularly attributed to the Black Death. However, closer study apparently shows that there has been a continuous pattern of settlement change, and the Black Death was just one contributory event, if that. The PhD of our former Chairman, Peter Wade-Martins, was on the medieval development of landscape and settlement in West Norfolk, and included a study on deserted and other villages in Launditch Hundred, which stretches north and west from Dereham. I know this because I have just read Peter's book about his various archaeological ventures, 'A Life in Norfolk's Archaeology', which includes a valuable and entertaining account of major excavations in Norfolk. It is also a sobering insight into the problems faced in the past and now, the tragic losses of our archaeological heritage, as well as the successes. The magazine *Current Archaeology* said of Peter's book that it 'is destined to become an essential archaeological reference and to join other classics of archaeological autobiography.'

My third recommendation, not about an epidemic, is a book that was mentioned when Barbara Miller spoke to us in September about Kett's Rebellion. This is 'Tombland', by C J Sansom. It is likely to be the last in a series set in the times of Henry VIII and Edward VI, about the adventures of Matthew Shardlake, an advocate with detection skills and a varied team of companions, who works initially for Thomas Cromwell and other members of the Court. 'Tombland' is set in Norwich and its surrounding area at the time of the Rebellion.

All three of these books are in Norfolk Libraries [*sadly now closed - editor*]. 'Tombland' and 'Year of Wonders' are also available as Kindle editions, which is the cheapest way of buying them if you have a Kindle reader or a smart-phone or tablet on which you can put a Kindle app; and 'Tombland' is also available as an audiobook.



## Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting - 12 February

As members will know, we held two consecutive formal meetings in February. The first was a Special General Meeting of the old charity, and members (those present plus those sending in a postal vote) unanimously agreed to the dissolution of Dereham Heritage Trust, Charity number 293648, and to the transfer of its assets, liabilities and responsibilities to Dereham Heritage Trust, Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1187140, and authorised the trustees to take the necessary steps to bring this about as soon as possible. This action was completed on 29 February.

There followed immediately the Annual General Meeting, again of the old charity, which received the Chair's report and a report from our mentor, Megan Dennis (see below), then went on to approve the accounts presented for the year ending 31 December 2019. Our President then gave a short address, after which it was confirmed that subscriptions would not change for 2020; after agreeing to invite Jim Stebbings to act as Independent Examiner (of the accounts) once more in 2020, the meeting was closed and the evening concluded with a slide show of aerial photographs of Dereham, presented by Sue Walker and Robena Brown.

We are pleased to reproduce here the report from Megan Dennis, our mentor.

The museum and Committee should be commended for the huge amount of work they have achieved this year to successfully move to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Incorporation limits the responsibilities shouldered by the trustees of the organisation and therefore safeguards the organisation into the future - making it easier to recruit new and diverse trustees. It also enables the organisation to be named in contracts - again ensuring assets and collections are protected.

This year has seen the organisation reach out to local support networks – notably SHARE Museums East. I hope the committee has found this useful - I think it is a very wise step. Linking yourselves with a support group gives the organisation a chance to learn from other local museums, consultants and experts and access to a wide range of training and networking opportunities. I hope to see many committee members and volunteers at future SHARE events. It is particularly pleasing to see relationships developing with other market town museums like Watton and Wymondham. I am sure there is lots of benefit from sharing best practice and ideas and learning from visiting and supporting one another's museums.

The increase in visitor figures (almost a doubling!) is due in no small part to the efforts to provide new and varied content within the museum displays. This is something to consider in the museum's forward plan in order to continue attracting increasing numbers - both new visitors and repeat visits from locals. I am glad the Heritage Open Day was a success and hope to see this repeated again this year. The Open Day can definitely be a successful method of raising awareness of the museum and encouraging local communities to get involved. It is good to hear of a budding partnership with the library enabling the museum to reach out to more people in and around Dereham.

The archive in its new home in the centre of Dereham at the Dereham Town Council offices has been very busy with detailed documentation work beginning and research and access visits taking place. This "auditing" of the collection - listing and locating every item on a searchable database - will enable the collection to be usable and easily accessible in the future: something that will enable Dereham Heritage Trust to use it in a wide range of different ways and to enable research and access. Space is still, however an issue: with the archive currently full, a key priority must be to find more storage and research space if the collection is to continue to grow.

As always the museum couldn't open without the help and support of a loyal band of volunteers. Many thanks to the team who open the museum regularly and help out at

events and with the talk programme. One group of volunteers often unrecognised are the committee members themselves - all giving of their time freely and often going above and beyond the call of duty. Many thanks to all committee members this year.

We look forward to an exciting new year - with the opening of the museum in May and completion of the archive documentation audit and continued growth of the organisation's enthusiasm and ambition.

## Notes from our recent meetings *Ken Hawkins*

### 8 January: King's Lynn - King John's hidden treasure Michael Aldis

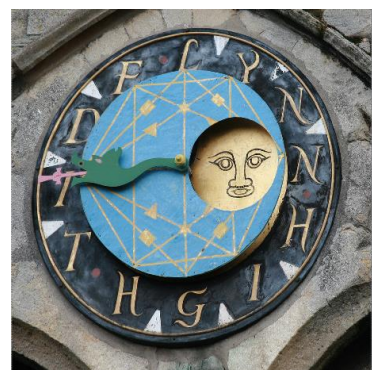
On a cold winter evening, Michael took us on a tour around King's Lynn - named for 'Lynn', the Celtic word for lake or pool. To set the context, we were shown a map of the area around the town, before rivers were diverted. Wisbech (from 'Ouse Beach') was then on the coast, though the Ouse was diverted in 1300, and now runs through the town. Lynn itself is a mere 1000 years old, located on a salt water lake, from which salt was extracted. After this introduction, we were taken on a photographic tour of the town.



Trade in the town started with imports of wine and timber, exports of grain and wool. **Trinity Guildhall** dates from 1420; its chequerboard pattern of flint reflects the use of the chequerboard (a table used in the medieval period to perform calculations for taxes and goods - hence our Chancellor of the Exchequer). Michael showed us the coat of arms from Queen Elizabeth I and Charles II, and the Victorian extension in 1895.

Next door is the **old Police Station** (1754), now a museum. This displays the pre 1974 town badge, featuring a pelican feeding its young on its blood (as was at one time believed to be the bird's behaviour). Also shown were three heads - including those of St Margaret. She was a shepherdess in Antioch, pursued by a Lord, but when she resisted, she was put in a dungeon and there swallowed whole by a dragon. However, she was spat out because her crucifix caused irritation - and she then killed the dragon with the cross.

Next we saw Herbert de Losinga, who founded **St Margaret's church (the Minster)**. He had become bishop by paying the king, but the Pope objected to this and required Herbert to make penance: this required him to build two churches, including the Minster. Inside are tide marks showing the flood level in 1953, and the later - higher - one in 1978, while outside, the Minster has the tide clock: this has the letters clockwise from the top LYNNHIGHTIDE, each interval representing 2 hours. The history window shows King John making the town Bishop's Lynn, and Henry VIII making it King's Lynn. Also shown is St Felix (who gave his name to Felixstowe) of Dunwich, who brought Christianity to East





Anglia in 600; he arrived on a boat on the River Babingley - where he was shipwrecked, but saved by beavers. The interior is Georgian: Michael showed us the pulpit, but also misericords from 1300, showing the Black Prince and, unusually, the Green Man. There were also the King John sword and cup - neither of which could have had anything to do with King John. Then there were 4 silvergilt maces, for London, Bristol, Southampton and King's Lynn - the 4 largest ports of the time. Finally, we saw a bench commemorating Margery Kempe: in 1420, she prayed to save the church from a fire which was burning in the Guildhall - and a snowstorm followed which put out the fire.

**Hampton Court** is on Nelson Street, on the river's edge. It is a jettied building, with a large wicket door with a pelican carving. Inside there is a quadrangle - and a cannon ball found in the rafters, from the Civil War period when Cromwell's forces were attacking the town held for the King.

Nearby is the warehouse built for the **Hanseatic League**, and **Marriott's Warehouse**, originally built on an island but now well inland. The latter includes stones from friaries destroyed in the Reformation. The river then was wide but shallow - and there was no bridge until the 1850s. (It is now both wide and deep.) Reference was made to Free Bridge - after the talk, Michael reports that he did a little research into the name: it was originally known as Free-bridge Hundred and a half and was split into Free-bridge Lynn and Free-bridge Marshland, though he could only assume it related to a bridge that didn't require a toll.

**Thoresby College** was built by Thomas Thoresby to enable 13 priests to pray for him (and shorten his time in purgatory). It was later bought by two women - Ruth Fermoy and Frances Shand Kidd, grandmother and mother respectively of Diana, Prince of Wales. From here, the tour went on to **Three Crowns Yard** (used by pressgangs and smugglers), **Clifton House and Tower**, **Bank House** (birthplace of Samuel Gurney Cresswell, who sought for Franklin, who in turn looked for the North West Passage), to reach the **Custom House**, built 1683 and used into the 1980s. Further along King Street, a house had a wide door to allow the merchants' wives to be carried in in their sedan chairs. Nearby is **St George's Guildhall** (a second Guildhall, as the town was originally two towns). Founded in 1396, it staged plays from 1445; a 1951 performance was the impetus for the continuing King's Lynn Festival. The roof lacked trusses, so required substantial buttresses to be erected.

The tour ended in **Tuesday Market Place** with the **Duke's Head Hotel** and **Corn Exchange**.

## 11 March: Burial and belief - the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity

### Dr Catherine Hills awaiting confirmation from Catherine

Catherine's talk aimed to examine the archaeological evidence which tested the standard understanding that conversion to Christianity was essentially a top down process following the conversion of kings. Much of this comes from the Venerable Bede, who was a good historian so it is easy to construe his account as indicating the whole story - but like all others, he had a specific perspective. In this account, there is little impact on ordinary people, but the archaeology shows a more complex process of change, which Catherine proceeded to illustrate with a range of slides.

There are records of Augustine preaching to King Ethelbert in Kent in 597, and of the pagan priest Coifi who had a temple in York in 627. There are some excavated structures, but not many. The earliest churches can be examined, such as Wharram Percy, though it should not be assumed that a church was preceded by a temple.

Another potential source of information is the location of artefacts, and most evidence comes from burials. One such is Oakington near Cambridge, excavated in 2013, which Catherine

illustrated. This was mostly 6th century, but before any evidence of conversion. The belief to be tested is that burial with artefacts was non Christian, while a Christian burial was without grave goods: the expected indicators of a Christian burial are that the body is aligned east to west, near the church. But this is not necessarily true - many burials are clearly Christian, but are with grave goods.

We were shown a second excavation at Prittlewell (Essex, near Southend). Here there was an undisturbed burial (585-590), with a surrounding wooden chamber, with things still hanging from hooks in it, including a jug and buckle. All this raised the questions of who was buried there. In many ways, this was a classic pagan royal burial, looking a lot like Sutton Hoo, but Catherine discussed one particular feature - gold foil crosses laid on the eyes. These were similar to some on the continent, though these usually had equal arms, while the Prittlewell crosses had a longer lower arm - a Latin cross. Other crosses were shown - a ring showing a person holding a Latin cross, a combination of the cross and non Christian elements. At Sutton Hoo itself, there were Christian like artefacts such as a great gold buckle, not of solid gold but hollow and able to open, like a reliquary holding something holy.

The Staffordshire Hoard was very martial, mostly gold and without feminine elements, but contained a large cross, folded: the arms were inscribed with belligerent inscriptions.

Women's burials in the 650s to 680s (later than Prittlewell) had Christian elements and had far fewer objects in the graves. Catherine showed us the Trumpington bed burial, with a tiny gold cross as a pendant. There was also the Winfarthing pendant, again a cross shape.



*The Trumpington cross*

From the 7th century, Ely burials had bags by their legs - some 60 had been found from other places. They were at first thought to be needle boxes and did contain textile, but of high quality - small valuable bits of a holy person's clothing; some had lids with crosses, and some of those had three crosses as in the crucifixion.

### **News from the Museum** *Ken Hawkins*

As described above, plans for opening the Museum are 'on hold' for the time being, but the necessary repair works are, we hope, going ahead. More on this next time.

Before all this happened, we had made an extra effort to find additional volunteers. Sue Walker prepared a display which was mounted in the Library for a week in February, while Catherine Hawkins and Trevor Ogden spent time there talking to people who expressed interest. A number did then offer to help us staff the Museum (and many others promised to visit), and we hope to follow all this through when we can.



Above - the display in the Library

Below - the display panels in detail





**Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum & Archive Centre - Dereham Heritage Trust**

### Appeal for volunteers

The Museum is open from Saturday 2nd May until the end of September. Fridays from 11 to 2, and Saturdays 10 to 4. But this depends on having enough volunteers - two for each 3 hour shift.

**Can you help?**

You would be shown what to do in an induction session, and paired with an experienced volunteer. We need people who are responsible, get on with others, and preferably are interested in Dereham and history. But you don't need any experience. It's OK if you look for a couple of shifts to see how you get on, but ideally of course we would like people to offer for several, as we can fill the slots (and maybe open other days if we get enough).

To offer, get more details, or ask questions, email [kate-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kate-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk) or phone 01362 691455

Website - [www.derehamhistory.com](http://www.derehamhistory.com)



**ACCREDITED MUSEUM**

The Accredited Museum logo is a mark of approval awarded to museums, galleries, libraries and archives in the UK by the Museums Association. It is a mark of quality and excellence.

**Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum**

Founded in 1986







In the 1800s the cottage was divided and lived in by three households. Today it is a museum operated by Dereham Heritage Trust. In which we try to show what life was like for people who lived and worked in the town, especially in the 1830s and early 20th century.



Metamec was at one time the largest maker of clocks in Britain, and after World War 2 became one of Dereham's biggest employers. At one time it produced 20,000 clocks a week. Our display shows about 40 of the big range of designs, and includes memorabilia from people who worked there.

**Life in the 1900s**  
One of the scenes in the cottage displays some of the things that might be found in different parts of a home in the early 1900s. We also have panels like this on what people earned and spent each week.

**What did a family earn and spend?**  
In 1911, a miner in North Norfolk earned about 10 shillings a week. In most shops a pound was divided into 20 shillings (100 pence) or 40 each each shilling into 12 pence (6). This is how one family of the South Sea in a week in 1922.

| Item                  | Price  | Item      | Price |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Bread                 | 1s 0d  | Tea       | 1s 0d |
| Butter                | 1s 0d  | Meat      | 1s 0d |
| Eggs (per dozen)      | 1s 0d  | Beer      | 1s 0d |
| Coal (per ton)        | 10s 0d | Wine      | 1s 0d |
| Gas (per 1000)        | 1s 0d  | Port      | 1s 0d |
| Wool (per lb)         | 1s 0d  | Whisky    | 1s 0d |
| Flour (per 40 lb)     | 1s 0d  | Brandy    | 1s 0d |
| Yarn (per lb)         | 1s 0d  | Sherry    | 1s 0d |
| Iron (per lb)         | 1s 0d  | Cognac    | 1s 0d |
| Copper (per lb)       | 1s 0d  | Champagne | 1s 0d |
| Lead (per lb)         | 1s 0d  | Stout     | 1s 0d |
| Zinc (per lb)         | 1s 0d  | Port      | 1s 0d |
| Gold (per lb)         | 1s 0d  | Whisky    | 1s 0d |
| Silver (per lb)       | 1s 0d  | Brandy    | 1s 0d |
| Platinum (per lb)     | 1s 0d  | Sherry    | 1s 0d |
| Palladium (per lb)    | 1s 0d  | Cognac    | 1s 0d |
| Rhodium (per lb)      | 1s 0d  | Champagne | 1s 0d |
| Ruthenium (per lb)    | 1s 0d  | Stout     | 1s 0d |
| Rhenium (per lb)      | 1s 0d  | Port      | 1s 0d |
| Seaborgium (per lb)   | 1s 0d  | Whisky    | 1s 0d |
| Bohrium (per lb)      | 1s 0d  | Brandy    | 1s 0d |
| Hassium (per lb)      | 1s 0d  | Sherry    | 1s 0d |
| Meitnerium (per lb)   | 1s 0d  | Cognac    | 1s 0d |
| Darmstadtium (per lb) | 1s 0d  | Champagne | 1s 0d |
| Roentgenium (per lb)  | 1s 0d  | Stout     | 1s 0d |
| Copernicium (per lb)  | 1s 0d  | Port      | 1s 0d |
| Nihonium (per lb)     | 1s 0d  | Whisky    | 1s 0d |
| Flerovium (per lb)    | 1s 0d  | Brandy    | 1s 0d |
| Moscovium (per lb)    | 1s 0d  | Sherry    | 1s 0d |
| Livermorium (per lb)  | 1s 0d  | Cognac    | 1s 0d |
| Tennessine (per lb)   | 1s 0d  | Champagne | 1s 0d |
| Oganesson (per lb)    | 1s 0d  | Stout     | 1s 0d |

In all times a much larger quantity of sugar was used than today, and the food included a lot more carbohydrate. The week's food bought for the household of 10 meant a large amount of bread and fat, and they ate a lot of preserves for their own preserves. In addition, they had a lot of fruit and vegetables, a lot of butter, and a lot of cheese. The household was a big house and had a lot of furniture. A small garden was in the back. This is what they had for their meals.



Hobbies sold tools, materials, and plans for making models with outlets all over the world. Later they branched out into bikes, cars, and model steam engines. Hundreds of people worked in the factory where Morrison's is now. The company declined after about 1960.

Dereham has a key's house, a place where people from the surrounding villages come to shop. The display shows what a toy shop might have been in the late 1800s.

## William Wollaston's Mineral *Trevor Ogdan*

William Wollaston was perhaps the most distinguished person who was ever born or lived in Dereham. Unfortunately, he didn't do both. He was born in the old vicarage in 1766, but his family left three years later, and as far as we know he never came back, although his younger brother Francis was rector here from 1815 to 1823. For many years William was one of the most famous scientists in Europe. There is an excellent and well-illustrated account of his life and achievements on our website, put together by Sue Walker and Philip Duigan, and edited by Pat Skittrall. It is based on a display in the Museum to commemorate the 250th anniversary of his birth in 2016. See <http://www.derehamhistory.com/william-hyde-wollaston---derehams-forgotten-scientist-b1766.html>.

Wollaston had many distinctions, but an unusual one was to have a mineral named after him - wollastonite. The name was given in 1818 by a French mineralogist, J Léman, "in honour of one of the most respected chemists of this century". This was quite a tribute: the 23-year war against France had only ended three years previously, and the French sometimes regarded chemistry as "their" science, because of the revolutionary discoveries of Antoine Lavoisier.

Léman may have chosen Wollaston because of his chemistry, but William did make significant contributions to mineralogy. An important one was the reflective goniometer, a device for measuring the angles between faces of a crystal much more easily and accurately than had been possible before. This was an important way of identifying crystalline minerals, and Wollaston used it in analysis to identify chemical compounds too. It was part of his genius (and his fortune) to be able to spot the key scientific principles of measurements and to make improved practical instruments to carry them out. There is a picture of the goniometer on our website. Wollaston's work on extracting ores was also important for geology. He was on the Council of the Geological Society shortly after its

foundation, and established a fund to aid its work. The Society still presents an annual medal in his honour.



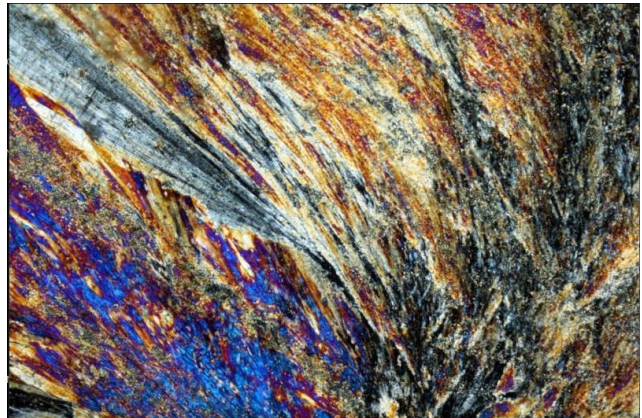
*The Wollaston Medal, with his portrait. This is the highest award of the Geological Society, and is given annually. It is made of palladium, a metal discovered by Wollaston.*

As far as we know William never saw any wollastonite, but today it is an important mineral. According to Wikipedia, world production of wollastonite ore is about 700,000 tons a year, with China and India being the most important producers, and it has many industrial uses. It is formed by the action of high temperature and pressure on limestone when there is some silica present, and, like many minerals of its type, is rather variable in appearance. It is usually white, and the crystals can sometimes be fibrous. When the crystals are this shape, they can form a loosely packed material which is fireproof and a good insulator, and as a result it is used as a substitute for asbestos.



*Fibrous wollastonite, viewed under a polarising microscope, in which the crystals produce interference colours. This field of view is about 2 mm across. Photo by courtesy of Alessandro Da Mommio.*

<http://www.alexstrekeisen.it/english/index.php>



*A piece of wollastonite, mixed with other minerals, from a Polish mine. The wollastonite is white, and its fibrous structure can be seen. Photo by Piotr Sosnowski, from Wikipedia. Creative Commons licence.*

That is how I first heard of it. The Royal Navy had used many hundreds of thousands of tons of asbestos as fireproof insulation on ships, and of course it came to light that this caused a lot of disease in dockyards and elsewhere. By the early 1970s, asbestos in this application had gone or was going, and the Navy was looking for replacements. They commissioned the institute where I worked to test wollastonite to see if it was safe. I got the



job with a couple of colleagues of spending a week at Devonport Naval Dockyard to measure the characteristics of the clouds of dust that resulted when ladders were using wollastonite, so that these could be simulated in tests. I had a VW motor caravan, and I parked it next to the dockside Portacabin we were given to work in. It seemed to be a week of squalls coming in from the Atlantic, and we would work in our Portacabin, and every now and then I would dash out into the weather to make us all coffee in the VW. We had to wait until we heard that some work on a wollastonite insulation was about to start on a ship somewhere in the dockyard, and we would grab our equipment and rush out into the rain and into the depth of some ship, often to find that it was a false alarm, or possibly that the work with the material only lasted a few minutes. As this might happen at any time, day or night, it was an exhausting week.

However, it turned out to be worthwhile, because the general picture now is that although wollastonite, like many mineral dusts, can cause chronic bronchitis when inhaled in enough quantities, it probably does not cause cancer in humans. Unlike asbestos, wollastonite dissolves in the lung in a fairly short time. Wollaston began his career as a physician, and in the end died of a brain tumour, so he would no doubt have been pleased with that verdict.

For more on Wollaston, see the DHT website, or there is a biography, "Pure Intelligence" by Melvyn Usselman, which is in Norfolk Libraries.

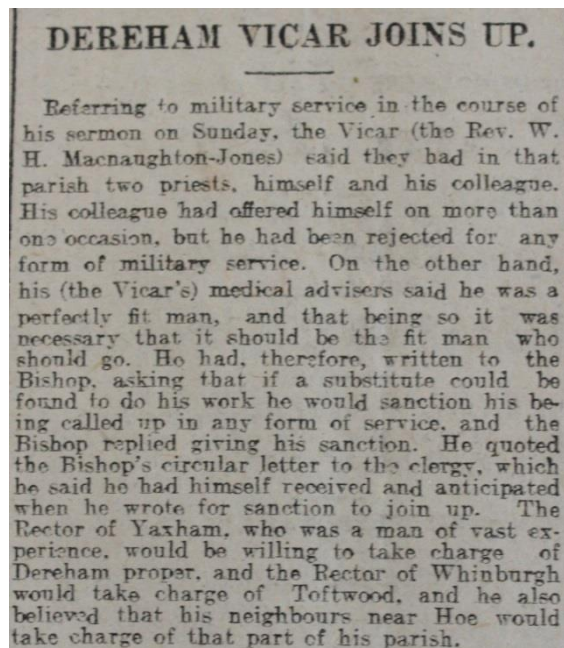
### From the Archive *Robena Brown*

Members and other people sometimes offer paper items and photographs to us to scan, copy and return, and at our last meeting in March, Margaret Barnetson, who attends and enjoys all the monthly history presentations, brought along a very interesting old letter for us to copy and research.

The letter was written by the Reverend W Macnaughton Jones of Dereham in October 1917, presumably one of many which accompanied a parcel of welcome necessities from their home town sent to local troops fighting overseas in World War I. It was probably brought back to Dereham by a local soldier to whom it gave cheer and comfort in the very darkest days of trench warfare in France and Flanders.



*Reverend W Macnaughton-Jones*



*Dereham & Fakenham Times 1 June 1918*



E. Dereham.

Oct 1917.

My Dear Friend

I am writing to wish you Gods Blessing this Xmas. We know the great privations which you are undergoing for us abroad, & we are very proud of the gallant deeds of our Dereham men. We are sending you a small parcel as a token of our affectionate remembrance of you while in the fighting lines. You may be assured of this that our constant & earnest prayer is that peace may soon come, & that you may return to us safe & sound. Xmas can never to us at home be the same while all the men we so value & esteem are abroad. We cannot but feel that you are ~~winning~~ fighting in the Great Cause of bringing peace on Earth, We trust God will among men. Personally I wish that I had been a younger man and that I could have shared with you the hardships which I know must be your lot.

Dear friend may God protect and keep you.

Before us all lies the great peace of Paradise. Each one when the struggle of life is over can look forward through Jesus Christ to being with God in Heaven, where wars shall have ceased and partings are no more. Let us always bear in mind the great fact which Jesus Christ came into the world at the birth of Xmas to proclaim. You will understand it is very difficult to wish you the ordinary light hearted Xmas wish of a merry Xmas, but from my heart I do wish you the truest of all Xmas joys. The peace of God.

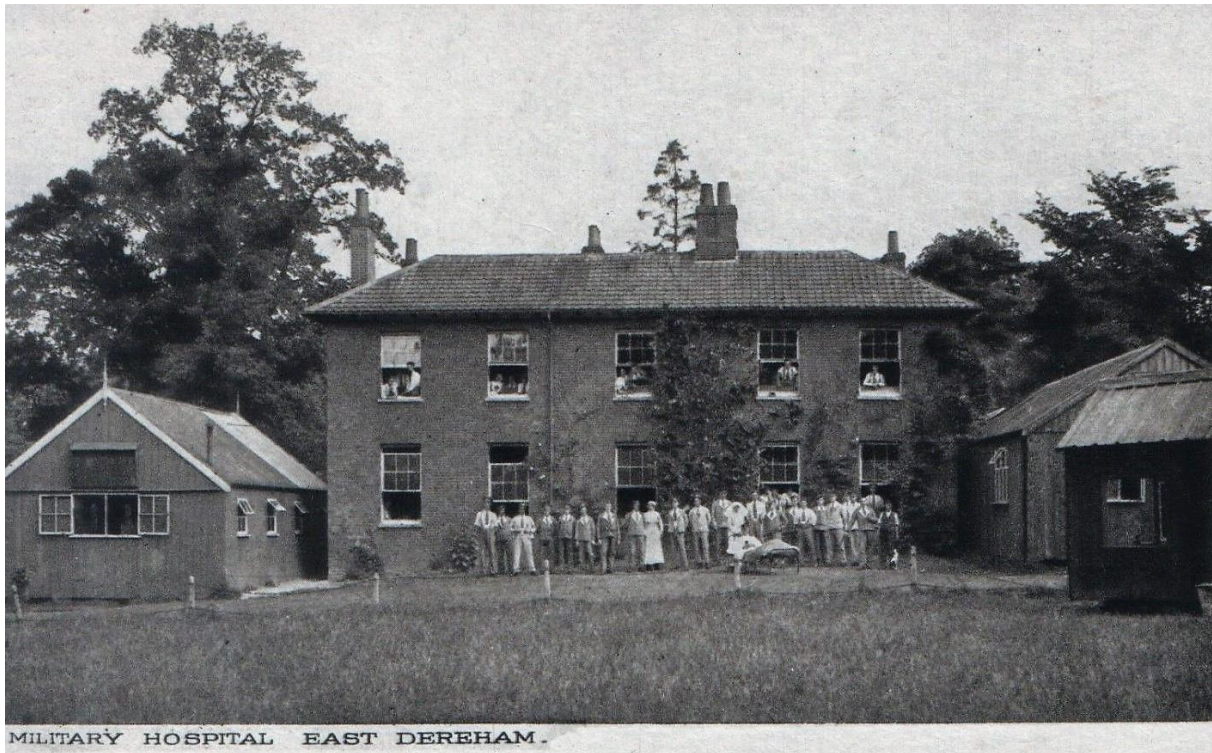
We shall all be at the Holy Communion on Xmas Day, when we shall be specially praying for you. If you get the chance you might also partake of that Holy Sacrament. Thus if absent in body from one another we can be united in spirit at the Table of the Lord

Yours Affectionately

W. H. Macnaughton Jones.

On the outbreak of World War I in August 1914, Rev Macnaughton immediately offered Dereham Vicarage, his own home, to become a much valued military hospital which helped many seriously ill and wounded men to recover. He entered the war in 1918 and later returned to lead the Dereham Memorial dedication service to honour all the fallen from the town.





MILITARY HOSPITAL EAST DEREHAM.

Our thanks go to Margaret for sharing her precious letter with us. A copy is now kept in the DHT archive.

**Archive Note** - We have been asked by Dereham Town Council to avoid entering their building and using the Archive, again for the foreseeable future. We will let you know when this restriction can be safely lifted.

## Membership matters

Our membership year runs annually from 1 March to the end of February, so subscriptions for 2020 are now due. The rates are not changed from those for 2019-20.

Individual - £12

Couple at the same address - £20

You can renew or join at any of our meetings, or use our membership form from the website [http://www.derehamhistory.com/uploads/1/6/2/3/16236968/dht\\_membership\\_leaflet\\_2020.pdf](http://www.derehamhistory.com/uploads/1/6/2/3/16236968/dht_membership_leaflet_2020.pdf).

**Our bank account details have been updated, so please make cheques payable to 'Dereham Heritage Trust'**



## Programme of events 2020-21

Here is our programme up to February 2021: note that we have arranged an August meeting this year. Full details are also available on our website, which will also carry any necessary last minute changes ([www.derehamhistory.com/talks.html](http://www.derehamhistory.com/talks.html)). They are printed into our 'Talks Programme' cards - available at all of our meetings. We are now well advanced with the 2021 programme, but further ideas are always welcome - it's never too early to start planning!

8 April - cancelled

**25 years of archaeological research at Sedgeford**

Speaker: Gary Rossin

13 May - cancelled

**Making tracks through Mid-Norfolk**

Speaker: Paddy Anstey

10 June

**Norwich Castle Keep Project**

Speaker: Robin Hanley

8 July

**Links with the past: a look around Rev Boston's historic possessions**

venue: Bevan House, Front Street, Litcham PE32 2QC

12 August

**Narborough Bone Mill**

Speaker: Graeme Brown

9 September

**19th century industrial activity in Norfolk and its market towns**

Speaker: Adrian O'dell

14 October

**Annual Dinner**

venue to be confirmed

11 November

**Armstrong's Dereham**

Speaker: Susanna Wade Martins

9 December

to be arranged

13 January 2021

**Maud's Story – the life of a Norfolk Trading Wherry**

Speaker: Linda Pargeter

10 February

**Annual General Meeting**

Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are at Trinity Methodist Church, 31 Trinity Close, Dereham NR19 2EP (off Theatre Street), and start at 1930. Admission to talks is £1 for members of Dereham Heritage Trust and £3 for non-members. Visitors are always welcome, with the fee payable on the door, refreshments included.

## Next issue

We plan to produce a Newsletter every quarter, in January, April, July and October. The press date for the next issue is **15 June**: if you have material for this issue, please send it in to Ken Hawkins. And please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any other comments of any sort.

In between Newsletters, our website [www.derehamhistory.com](http://www.derehamhistory.com) is updated regularly so please have a look now and again.

**Can you save us some money?** If you did not receive this Newsletter via email, but would be willing to do so, please let us have your email address: we won't pass it on to anyone else without your permission, and we won't use it for anything but Dereham Heritage Trust business.