

# THE DEREHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER. Page 1.

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## Editorial Comment.

It is with a great deal of sadness that I draw your attention to the passing of two staunch members firstly June Ross our Society Treasurer, and then Eddie Dell our Hon. Vice – President both were members for many years.

### **They will be remembered!**

The Society celebrates two anniversaries this year with the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bonner's Museum watch out for special events!

This will be my last Newsletter as Editor and ask you to give your support to fellow committee member Susan Keeler who is taking on the Newsletter and Society/Museum publicity.

*Peter Bradbury*      01362 - 690096

## Chairman's Report.

The sixtieth Annual General Meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013. All the existing committee stood for re-election and was duly elected The Society also welcomed Sue White to the committee. Proposals, which had been discussed prior to the AGM, were outlined by the committee. The main proposal is that the Society has eleven evening throughout the year with three outings during the summer period. The society will not meet during the month of August. The forthcoming programme of speakers and outings will be available soon.

Due to the sad loss of the Society Treasurer June Ross and not being readily able to fill this position, we have decided to merge both the Society and Museum accounts at Barclays Bank which will be managed by Pat Skittrall. The responsibility for membership and collection of entry monies will now fall to Dorothy Sneasby who has joined the Society for that purpose.

During the AGM a member asked a question from the floor as to whether the time was right, in view of our sixtieth celebrations, to include the word **History** into our title. This resulted in a lively discussion both from the floor and committee. Although this is an emotive subject, the management committee will continue to consider this suggestion and to garner the thoughts of **all** members we have decided to produce a questionnaire which will be forwarded at an early date. Please be assured this is not a witch hunt and your honest opinion will be treated with respect, so we will be asking you to consider the questions and return as requested. Despite the view of several members attending the AGM, I personally, reserve the right of any member to ask a question from the floor which is either discussed immediately or referred to the next management committee meeting.

We are fast running out of members to join the committee and therefore must encourage younger people to take up membership and if they are willing, join the committee to ensure the continuation of the Society in years to come.

*Ray Fraser*      01362 - 853453

**Secretary's Report:**

**Archive.**

The gang keeps plodding away checking if any one owns items and then deciding if they are 'Dereham' enough to keep. We need items to exhibit, but we can't hold on to too much! However we are making progress steadily.

The linens/textiles have been sorted out, some retained, and others sent to another museum where they will be seen and utilized. The museum curator is very excited about getting them, and it is really nice to know they will be exhibited.

All this has been done in accordance with the strict guidelines laid down by the Museum Service!

Of course the next little job is to update all our records to show where all these items went we are so looking forward to this, especially as there is only one computer, stored in a cold dark store.

**Committee.**

The committee held its first meeting after the AGM, welcoming a new member Sue White, who will finish the setting up of our new website, and looking after web publicity. It is hoped we shall have links from our site to others, so that the Society and the Museum will be found by more people. The events listing will be displayed on this, and hopefully more people will come to our talks and outings.

The new website will also allow us to proceed with our photo - archive and so if anyone has any old pictures of Old Dereham, do let someone on the Committee know, and we can copy them, and then put them onto the archive for everyone to see.

**The Treasurer.**

Always a difficult post to fill and Pat Skittrall has kindly offered to take on this job, of managing all the book keeping. Many thanks to Pat.

**Newsletter.**

Susan Keeler, a relatively new member of the Society, but a committed 'archiver' and committee member, will be taking over the Newsletter from Peter Bradbury for the next issue. Peter will be concentrating on helping find speakers, and assisting Sheila with other events. Perhaps we can persuade him to also write some 'historical' articles for the newsletter. Susan will also look after press/publicity. We are determined to get our name out there!

**Events and Speakers.**

Sheila and Tony Jones will continue their wonderful work in locating speakers and organizing outings. As was discussed at the AGM there will be more speakers and three outings for next year. We will see how this goes, and what everyone feels about it.

**DATES TO NOTE.**

**The Church Hall is not always available and this has caused two changes to the meeting dates. April 24<sup>th</sup> , at Church House instead of the usual second Wednesday; and 15<sup>th</sup> May in Church House. Do put these in your diary.**

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Museum.

There are several ideas for displays this year. One is a room put to about mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. If anyone has any items that might be useful for exhibits for this, do let a committee member know. Don't forget we are seeking old established Dereham families, if you know someone who has family that came from Dereham we would be very interested to interview them, or indeed yourself! Don't be shy.

The great pre-season clean up of the Museum is set for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am at the cottage. If you can help, we would love to see you! If there are plenty of us, it won't take long.

If you want to volunteer for the manning of the Museum do let Ray/Rosemary Fraser know. This is more fun than it sounds, visitors are generally interesting, and the committee will give some training about the exhibits, and also some 'health and safety' stuff as well. Usually volunteers are linked, old and new so to speak, and no-one works alone. Also, to touch upon a more delicate subject, there is an arrangement whereby volunteer staff are welcome to use the loos at the Romany Rye! Also the coffee shop in Church Street is particularly good for take-aways.

It is hoped to develop the information held about the Cottage itself, it is a very old building, and the construction is interesting. This may have to be done throughout the year, so the information will develop as time goes on. The committee is going to seek professional help, to give us more information about it.

Society.

The whole Society does lose money over a year, and as our main income is from membership, it is quite vital we get more people coming along. Do take every opportunity to give people information about our meetings, and persuade them to come.

*Steffi Spooner*      01362 - 693969

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AN APPEAL.

Many of you will know that my better half, Sheila, has spent much time and effort in recent years arranging day trips and talks for the benefit of the members.

Alas, it seems to be becoming more and more difficult to get support for these events and my fear is that this may well lead to their demise before too long. This would be a great shame as both the outings and talks provide a wonderful opportunity for members to get together. It's also important to stress that to some people the trips really are their holiday.

I fully understand that some of our members are unable to take part; however, there are others who surely could be more supportive. If more people were to take part it would have a beneficial effect on pricing, helping the Society, and also enable us to organize the events on a much more secure footing.

Do join in and take the opportunity to meet fellow members.

*Tony Jones*      01362 - 820580

**PROGRAMME 2013.**

**Wednesday Talk 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**"Mystery, Murder and Mayhem"**

**Speaker: Kitty Lynn.**

**Wednesday Talk 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**Barnsdale Gardens (BBC Gardeners World)**

**Speaker: Peter Bradbury.**

**Wednesday Talk 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**In Church House!**

**Annual Cowper Evening**

**Speaker: Rev. Jonathan Boston**

**Wednesday Talk 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**In Church House!**

**"Capability Brown"**

**Speaker: Anita Carpenter (Nat. Trust)**

**Thursday Outing 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Ickworth House. Suffolk.**

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*Sheila Jones* 01362 - 820580