



# Dereham Antiquarian Society

Curators of Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum  
& Dereham Town Archive

Spring Newsletter 2015 Vol 12 - 1

## EAST DEREHAM PARISH MAGAZINE



### CLERGY

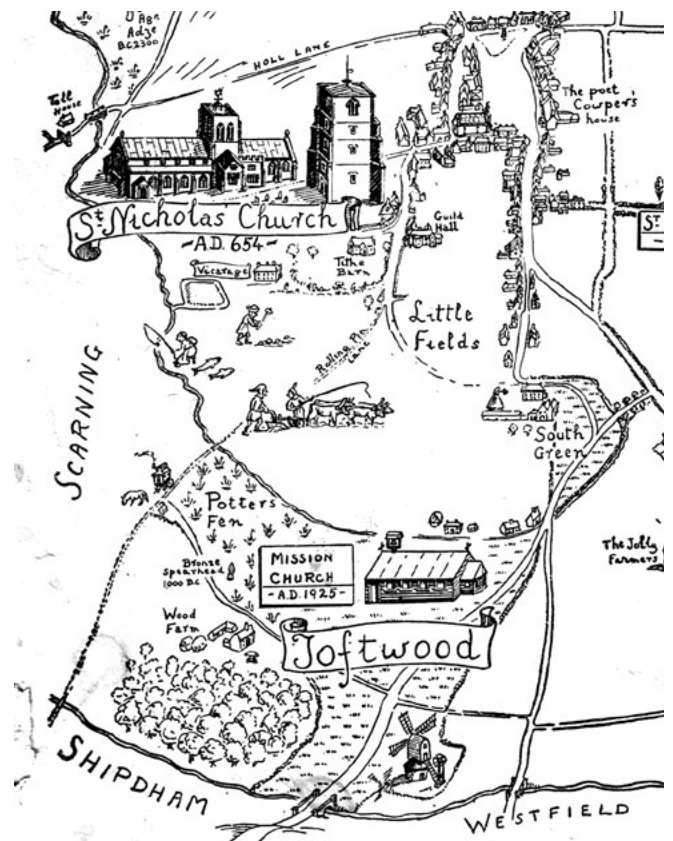
The Rev. Noel Boston, M.A. F.S.A., Vicar, Rural Dean of Mitford, and Surrogate  
The Rev. E. J. G. Ward, M.A.

## This Issue's Cover Illustration

The cover illustration of this issue comes to us via Phillip Duigan. It is part of his family's wonderful archive of Dereham material. Only the cover of the East Dereham Parish Magazine published in July 1950 has survived, but what a wonderful cover it is.

The sharp eyed of you will have noticed that the illustrator has signed and dated the map in its bottom right hand corner "E Puddy 1949". Dr Eric Puddy was one of the founders of the Dereham Archaeological Society in 1953 and Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum in 1963.

He was an accomplished artist as can be seen from the fine penmanship shown in the production of the illustration with its fine detail. The map shows important information relating to the history of the parish. Archaeological find sites are recorded at several locations providing us with valuable information about the provenance of items in the museum's collection.



## DAS Spring and Early Summer Talks 2015

### Wednesday 8th April 2015

**Salle Church** - Speaker: Peter Bradbury  
One of Norfolk's most beautiful churches, Salle is known as "The Cathedral of the Fields" it has a connection to Anne Boleyn. It was built by the five families of Lord Morley, Boyleyn, Brigg, Mauteby and Brewes/Paston in 1440-80.

### Tuesday April 21st 2015

**Annual Cowper Evening**  
with the Rev. Jonathan Boston  
An evening celebrating the life and work of the poet William Cowper (1731 to 1800). One of the most popular poets of his time, Cowper changed the direction of 18th century nature poetry by writing of everyday life and scenes of the English countryside. Cowper died in the spring of 1800. He is buried St. Nicholas Church, East Dereham.

### Saturday May 9th 2015

**Free family open day at Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum - from 10am to 4pm**  
Experience the sights and sounds of 1915. Music from a wind-up gramophone with original WW1 records. View life at the time in 3D on a stereo viewer and photo-cards of the time. Children's activities to help decorate the cottage with paper chains. The new exhibitions include the story of the Zeppelin raid on Dereham 100 years ago on 8th Sept. 1915. You can also discover what was found under the cottage's thatch during last autumn's re-roofing work.

### Wednesday May 13th 2015

**Hidden Histories of Medieval & Tudor East Anglia** - Speaker: Dr. Rebecca Pinner - tutor in Medieval and Early Modern Literature at UEA,

### Wednesday June 10th 2015

**The Testing of John Paston**  
Speaker: Dr Robert Knee - Paston Society  
The unique collection of the 15th century Paston Letters, edited by John Fenn of Dereham, vividly describe the struggles of a family seeking to climb the ladder of society and shake off the accusations of a humble birth, against a backdrop of the turbulent and lawless years of civil war. Judge William Paston had accumulated a substantial number of estates and on his death left his son and heir John Paston in a very dangerous position. With the help of his wife Margaret, John Paston managed to weather the initial storms. However, John's controversial inheritance of the vast holdings and wealth of Margaret's cousin Sir John Fastolf, for whom John Paston had worked, threw the family back into the clutches of two formidable enemies, the Dukes of Suffolk and Norfolk. Share, through the insights of the family letters, John Paston's enthralling and desperate story.

### Wednesday July 8th 2015

**The Real Edith Cavell**  
Speaker: Barbara Miller



## Society Summer Field Trips

**Wednesday May 20th**

### Sandringham

Visit to church, including Prince John's grave, a 'train' tour of the grounds (the rhododendrons should be in bloom), with optional visit to the house, restaurant, gift shop and plant sales.

**Wednesday June 17th**

### Felbrigg - National Trust

House and gardens

**Thursday 23rd July, 2pm £16**

### Hoveton Hall - Regency House 1810

Tour includes main reception rooms and freedom to walk around the gardens, tea with homemade cakes and biscuits - Visit lasts 3 hours.

**Wednesday 16th September**

### King's Lynn - more info later

All the transport for the trips will be by car share. Sheila or Tony Jones (01362 820580) will be happy to help with any questions with regard to the trips and booking.

## Dereham Antiquarian Society New Committee for 2015-16

At the society AGM on 11th February the following members were voted in as the DAS committee for 2015-2016.

Hon. President: Rev. Jonathan Boston  
Chairwoman - Sue Walker White (*Website, Social Media, Newsletter & Museum Curator*)  
Vice Chairman - Bob Davies  
Secretary - Judy Rogers  
Treasurer - Janet Mallon  
Minute Secretary - Alison Phillips  
Lectures Secretary - Peter Bradbury  
Non-committee Organisers:  
Events Secretaries - Sheila and Tony Jones  
Membership Secretary - Rosemary Fraser  
Volunteer Manager - Vacant

Many thanks to our very hard working outgoing Secretary Steffi Spooner and our long standing and committed Treasurer Pat Skittrall for all their time and dedication over the years. They have both very kindly offered to give help and support to their two new successors.

Ray Fraser has also stepped down from the committee this year after several years of dedicated service to the Society as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

## Mystery Football Team

Over the last few months several interesting local history stories have developed on our Facebook page. One big advantage of the site is its international reach. A good example of this was the response we had when we posted a photo of a mystery football team which was put up for sale on ebay. The seller thought it may come from the Dereham or Swaffham area so we asked if anyone recognised the people or the team strip.



It was several weeks before we had a message from Mrs Glenda Beales Cutler who grew up in Dereham but now lives in Australia. Glenda saw the photo on Facebook and sent the link to her mum who confirmed that it was Glenda's dad in the photo, fifth from left on the back row, Cyril George Beales who came from Dereham. Mr and Mrs Beales meet in 1948 and lived near the railway line. The photo of the team was taken after he was demobbed but before they were married so it dates to 1946 or 1947. The man third from the left on the back row is Mr Phillip Robertson, the friend of Mr Beales, who was also a Dereham man.

As the newsletter was being put together another of our Facebook followers Joanne Barrell, from Dereham, recognised the goalkeeper as her grandad Joe Allen. He is in the centre of the bottom row, Joanne was also able to tell us that it was the Hobbies and Jentique football team. So another little piece of Dereham's history has been put into context and added to the town archive, thanks to community involvement on Facebook. S W W.





## FOUND IN GRANNY CATS BOOKCASE

My grandmother Marie Charlotte Duigan nee Bridgman known in the family as Granny Cats, because of her love of animals, used to collect newspaper cuttings, cards, church orders of service etc. and put them in to books for safe keeping or as book marks. Other documents and knick knacks were kept in a fine old Indian travelling chest. In this regular column we will be delving into some of her treasures from Dereham's past.

### Mementos of a Stay at East Dereham

#### 2/1st City of London Imperial Yeomanry (Rough Riders)

The Rough Riders came to East Dereham in March 1915 and stayed for about a year. During that time both men and horses were billeted in private residences in the town. One of these was Beech House (now a dentists' surgery) at the end of the High Street, the home of Doctor Victor and Marie Duigan.

Four pieces of evidence from the Rough Rider's stay with them have survived to this day. A badge and button which could have been given to my grandparents or which may have been lost by the soldiers billeted at Beech House are shown on this page. I am not sure where and how the badge would have been worn.



Marie and John Duigan in the back garden of Beech House



Beech House, High Street



Marie's Indian Travelling Chest



Rough Riders button and badge from the men billeted at Beech House during WW1






A memo dated 9th July 1915 about the payments for the billeting of men at Beech House is fascinating. It shows the different rates paid for soldiers, officers and horses. The writing paper is printed with the Yeomanry crest, address and telephone number. It gives the evidence that the

Rough Riders had settled in the town by early July 1915 and they were using the Masonic Lodge in Norwich Street as an administrative centre and possibly their headquarters. The signature of the officer signing the document is difficult to read (anyone good at deciphering signatures?).

Telephone:  
DEREHAM 52.



FREEMASON'S HALL,  
DEREHAM,  
NORFOLK.

9<sup>th</sup> July, 1915.

Billeting amounts to date month ending Wednesday  
7<sup>th</sup> inst:

8 June	1 H/s. Stabling room without forage @ 9 <sup>d</sup>	- - - 9.
9 June - 7 July (inclusive)	2 H/s. - - - - -	2.3.6.
9 June - 7 July (inclusive)	breakfast - - - - -	1/- 1.9.-.
11 June - 7 July (inclusive)	Lodging 2 Soldiers, without beds and attendance - - - @ 6 <sup>d</sup>	1.7.-.

Amount herewith: - £ 5.0.3.

With Compliments -

*H. H. [Signature]*  
Capt.

G. V. J. [Signature]

P.S.  
(7 June - 30 June) 23 days lodging & attendance (Officer) @ 3/- (£3-9-0) funds.

Cheque for amount below will be delivered to you on Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> inst. per Regl.

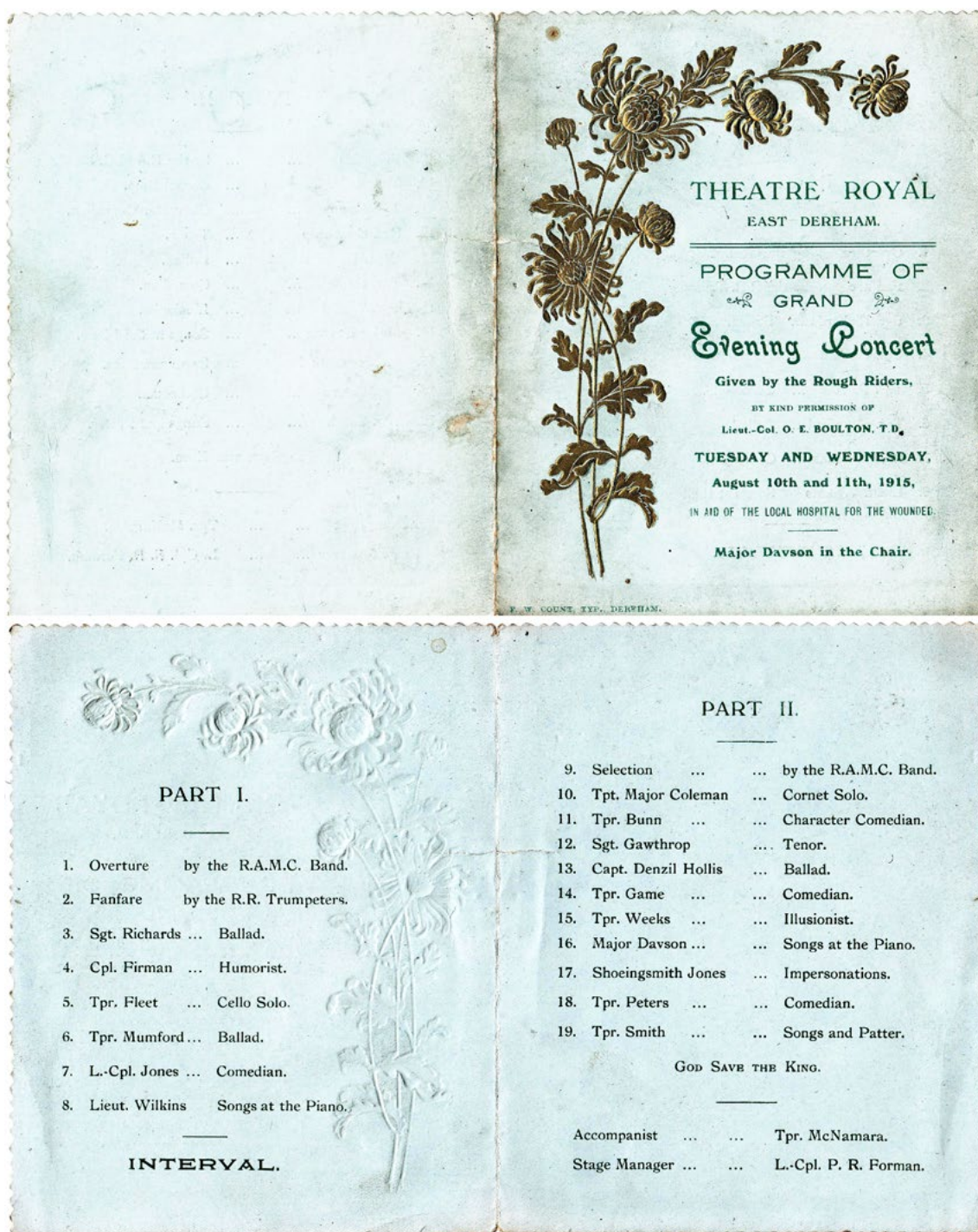


The programme for a concert provides primary evidence about the social involvement of the Rough Riders in the Town. The fund raising event was held in the Theatre Royal (Theatre Royal Surgery is now on that site). Raising money for the 'Local Hospital for the Wounded' (probably the Red Cross Hospital) was a way of creating a bond with local residents. The running order shows there were a wide variety of acts drawn from the ranks and officers.

Three of the names Mumford, Coleman and Smith on the programme appear on the war memorial to the Rough Riders in St Bartholomew the Great Church in Smithfield, London. Further research will be needed to confirm that they are the same people but it is highly likely to be the case.

The two officers named on the front of the programme both survived the war. Major Ivan Buchanan Davison ended the war as Lt Col in the newly formed RAF. He wrote handbooks on firearms. After the war he became involved in the West Indian sugar trade and was knighted in 1942 and died in 1947. His younger brother was killed at Ypres in May 1915 three months before this concert. Lt Col. Oscar Evan Boulton survived the war. In the 1930s he headed a minor Fascist Party called Unity Band and wrote for the British Lion a Fascist newspaper. His brand of Fascism was not anti-Semitic. He was also a timber merchant and a published poet he died in 1942.

Phillip Duigan, Dereham





## Dereham Old and New from the Air

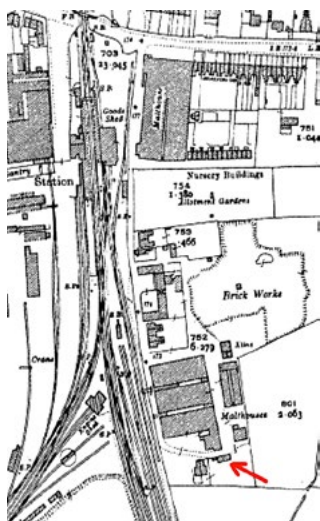


Two photographs of Dereham taken 87 years apart. We thank John Fielding for letting us use his photograph. You can see more of John's photographs on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/29372296@N00/>



## WW1 Dereham Red Cross Hospital Hut

Ms Linda Miller posted her colour photo taken in the 1990s (below) on our Facebook page, It shows the hut that had been built during WW1 as part of the Dereham Red Cross Hospital at the Vicarage. The postcard (bottom of page) shows it to the left of the main building. It was sold off in 1919 when the hospital closed and moved to a new location and rebuilt to make a family cottage. Mr Andy Rawlings was able to identify the location of the hut, which stood close to where he once lived “The timber bungalow was at the bottom of the maltings road past where CMC carpets was. It was lived in by Billy Graves who worked at maltings. He was also station officer at the fire station. His son Henry also lived there along with Philas and John Fitt, we are talking 1960s and 70s.”



The map of 1926 shows the location of the hut, marked with a red arrow. The hut was demolished some time in the 1990s as it cannot be seen on an air photo of 1999. SWW



## Local History Volunteers Still Needed

Without our group of dedicated volunteers, who act as guides and man the reception desk, our museum would not be able to open. If you would like to join this group and help us keep the museum open you will be made very welcome. Volunteers are never on their own in the museum. We always work in pairs, so if you and a friend would like to work together that would be fine. Training is given and we will put an experienced guide with you to start with.

There is also a group who meet to help organise the archive and look after the objects in the collection. Soon the archive will be moving and this will take a lot of time and patience to check the records, repack and list the new location of the objects. The next stage will be to digitise the collection onto a data base so it will be searchable. All these activities are just as vital as keeping the museum open. The museum is our public face but to keep our hard won Museum Accreditation we have to maintain our archive and collection to a high standard. Help is also needed to research and produce the museum displays each year. If you would like to get to know our local history and help with these activities please get in touch with [sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk](mailto:sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk) and we will be in touch in the shortly.

## Regular News Up-dates Inbetween Newsletters on the Web

Our website [www.derehamhistory.com](http://www.derehamhistory.com) is updated regularly so please have a look now and again.

We also post daily updates on local history and national heritage news on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DerehamHistory> where we have 460 followers, and on Twitter <https://twitter.com/BonnorsMuseum> where we have 640 followers to date.

**Deadline for Copy for Next Newsletter**  
Please send in material for the next newsletter in by the end of May to Peter at [peter\\_brad@talktalk.net](mailto:peter_brad@talktalk.net) or Sue [sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk](mailto:sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk) If you want images scanned contact Sue on 01363 695652.

We are offering a coloured newsletter to those of you who want to receive them in emails as PDF files. If you would like to take up this option please email [sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk](mailto:sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk) . We are very sorry but it is not possible for us to supply printed copies in colour as they are just too expensive to produce. S.W.W.