

# WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017

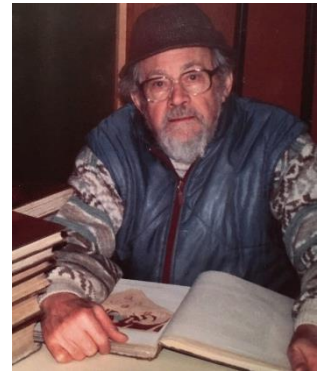
## VOLUME 13-4



Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum,  
Dereham Antiquarian Society  
& Town Archive

### Obituary: Brian Warwick-Smith

We are sad to break the news that one of the long standing members of the Society, Brian Warwick-Smith, died last year at the age of 89. He was a very active member of the committee between 2000 and 2004 when he served as Vice Chairman. He was affectionately known as 'Mr Fix It' - no job was too large or small for Brian to tackle. He and his wife Ruth both volunteered in the archive as well as the museum. He will be very sadly missed, and our thoughts and kind wishes go to his family.



### Museum opening arrangements

We will soon be planning the opening of the museum for the coming season - May to September. We will shortly be contacting those who have volunteered to staff the museum last year, but if anyone else would like to consider doing this, we would love to hear from you. We arrange that there will always be two people 'on duty', one of whom will be experienced, so there is always plenty of support on hand. Last year, we opened every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from 1.30 to 4pm, and that will be our target for 2018. For further information, contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator Ken Hawkins via [ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk) or 07561 813243.

### Museum Accreditation

Accreditation is a significant process, requiring approval from the Arts Council of our arrangements. It has taken a while since our submission was made, but the process is now firmly under way. Inevitably in such a process, there are questions to clarify aspects of the application, and we are in the middle of responding to these.

### Training opportunities

From time to time, the Society is notified of training opportunities for our volunteers, whether staffing the museum, dealing with objects in the archive, or the various other activities that are an integral part of running a museum. We will make sure that all of those volunteering are made aware of these opportunities, and encouraged to take them up.

### News from the archive - Natalie Small and Sue Walker White

Our volunteers have continued to work hard in the archive and the sorting of objects is now complete. After a well earned break, next year we plan to build on the fantastic work done by previous volunteers in *Modes* - our computer catalogue. *Modes* contains information about each object in our collection. Some objects are yet to be catalogued and we plan to have some training with the Collections Trust in 2018 to ensure that we meet new standards in cataloguing objects.

We look forward to opening the archive to the public in 2018. There are many interesting jobs to do including research, caring for objects, cataloguing and more. We welcome new

volunteers and if you would like to help, please contact Natalie Small at [nataliesmall15@gmail.com](mailto:nataliesmall15@gmail.com).



As part of the preparation for the move of the collection to new premises we have been busy making customised boxes for some of our objects. The boxes are made from a plastic sheeting called Correx, kindly donated to the museum by Proctor's of Leeds. Plastic tie-wraps are used to secure the sheet or it can be sewn together with nylon cord.

The illustrations above show the preparation of a box for a bee skep - a specialised basket used for catching and transporting swarms of bees.

Other objects for which we are making customised Correx boxes include Metamec sunburst clocks and large tapestries.

We are also using the sheeting to make sheaths to fit some of our bladed tools (including a scythe and an array of different gardening and agricultural hooks) so they can be moved safely.



## From the archive: Mr J J Wright - Robena Brown

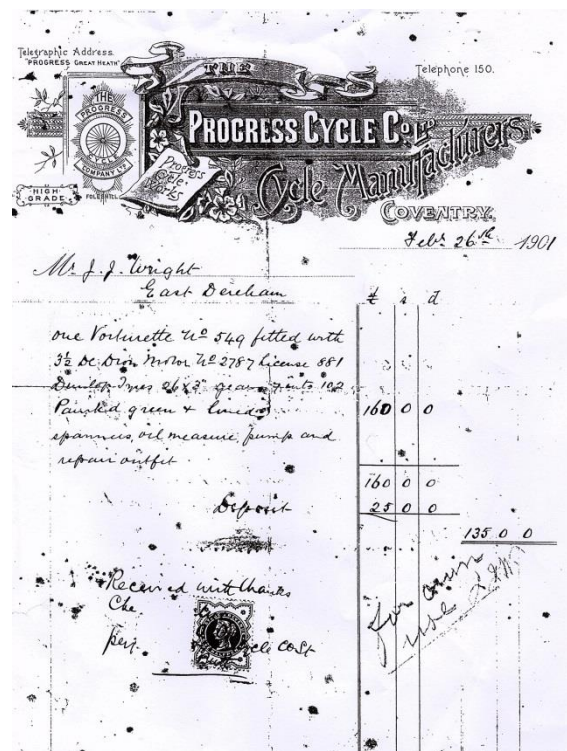
As we continue our examination of every item in the archive, sometimes we have to look very closely to establish why an item is included within the collection.

Looking through a booklet about the history of motor-cycles, we at last came across this image of a 1901 receipted invoice revealing the connection to East Dereham.

The invoice details the purchase of a 3.5 Voiturette motorcycle from the Progress Cycle Company of Coventry for whom Mr J J Wright was the agent in East Dereham. The cost of £160.00 is less his 15% agent's discount and he has written 'for own use JJW' on the invoice.

Joseph James Wright originally came to the town from King's Lynn to open up a bicycle shop in Commercial Road in the late 1880s, then extended his business to motorcycles before progressing to the sale and repair of agricultural vehicles and implements, and of motorcars in the High Street. He became a Ford main agent in 1912 and J J Wright & Sons celebrated 50 years of their Ford dealership in November 1962. The company was later taken over by Gilbert Rice.

If anyone has a photograph of Mr Wright riding his motorcycle we would be delighted to see it!



# Notes from two of our recent meetings

## 8 November - How does your garden grow?

Subtitled 'An introduction to the garden collections of Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse', our talk from Bridget Yates was more of a thorough sampling than an introduction. She promised us a survey of their little known (she said) gardening collection, having first shown us photographs of the garden outside Cherry Tree Cottage and the wildlife garden. We were then taken through slides showing collections of tools (for home, allotment and market garden); equipment; seed, plant and bulb catalogues; tools' catalogues; seed packets; advertising materials, books and manuals; and information for schools.



She started with a selection of tools - spades and forks, watering cans, an unlikely looking 4 bladed set of shears (prompting a response from one of our members that there was one like it still on sale at Notcutts!), an onion hoe, vine snips, some home made tools to meet specific purposes, and ending with a view of a raspberry pottle (a small basket to you and me).

Bridget then took us through a history of the seed and other catalogues produced by Daniels Brothers (a company based where Notcutts is now to be found - on Daniels Road). Gressenhall has a complete collection, starting with the first very plain and uninspiring monochrome 1871 edition, but moving through the 1876, 1884 and 1892 editions, with their elaborate full colour cover illustrations. We were told that Daniels then overstretched themselves, and had to retrench, repeating cover designs, though using different colours for the flowers. At the same time, they started *Flower Roots*, featuring flowers and vegetables, especially potatoes. (The firm was best known for its Duke of York potatoes - an advert for which trumpeted a yield of 18 tons per acre.) The vegetables too got their coloured paintings, and we saw many of them given names such as Daniels King cauliflower, though Bridget noted that naming was not then regulated, so it did not necessarily mean that Daniels had developed the variety. At home, other catalogues showed plant sales for municipal bedding, while a large 'exportation' market was developed, notably seeds for emigrants, but exports also to India, Australia, Canada and Peru amongst others. Rear pages of the catalogues featured sundries including tools and insecticides. We were also shown seed packets - each a penny, or 100 for 5s 0d.

Wartime inevitably had an impact, with colour and photographs absent from a 1916 edition, replaced by advice about avoiding waste and a request to place orders early, as delivery could be delayed because of an absence of men (who had enlisted) from the railway and post office,. Similar themes were evident during World War II, when you could buy *Cloches versus Hitler* (by Charles Wyse-Gardner) for 6d. In all of this, Daniels were the leaders, but Bridget also showed us material from Stark & Son (specialists in sweet peas): one of their plants was named *Campanula Ryburgh Bells*, so called as Mr Stark was a bell ringer and the name commemorated the bringing back into order of the church bells in Ryburgh, where the company was initially based (it later moved to Fakenham). We also saw some of the items relating to Taylors, of King's Lynn.

Bridget's talk ended with information about gardening in schools, with photographs showing schoolboys with tools or working, while the girls (if any were to be seen) stood by. A 1922 set of Board of Gardening 'suggestions' (it had no power to instruct) asked 'Is the instruction



adapted for girls', concluding that they should engage in the less strenuous tasks. Other gardening books included Janet and John and *TOMMY and the GARDENING*. Wartime again had its effect, with advice on growing and preserving produce, and how to convert a garden to grow a range of fruit and vegetables, while leaving some lawn for relaxation.

The presentation ended with illustrations of Mr Cuthbert's guides (1950s), and photographs of various gardeners and their tools from the 19th century on.

This was not to be all, however. As well as time for questions, Bridget challenged us with a quiz - presenting a number of objects and asking us to decide which of three equally unlikely explanations of the item was the correct one (answers on page 6). A couple of these are shown in the photographs below - Bridget holding the item, and two volunteers offering their explanations (the third is beyond camera range). This rounded off the evening most entertainingly.



### 13 December - Quiz Night

For whatever reasons (perhaps the date?!), attendance at the Quiz Night was much lower than usual, but enough members were present to form two teams. We were pleased that our current Mayor, Hilary Bushell, was able to join both us and one of the teams. The teams rose to the challenge of identifying the locations shown in 40 photographs and then 10 objects from the archive, before answering 10 questions about the town and its history. Much entertainment was derived from this, and the winning team gained their victory by the narrowest of margins.





Both teams (and Committee members who had been unable to join either team) were then asked to see what they could make of 5 unidentified objects from the archive. Lots of thoughts were offered, but none were conclusive. If you can offer any thoughts, we would be very pleased to hear from you.



## Membership matters

If you are not a member of Dereham Antiquarian Society, you may want to consider joining. New members joining from now until March will have their membership continued until March 2019.

Membership Fees 2018 (unchanged from 2017)

Individual - £10

Couple at the same address - £17

Family at the same address - £23

You can join on line at [www.derehamhistory.com/membership-form.html](http://www.derehamhistory.com/membership-form.html) (using Paypal), or send a cheque payable to 'Dereham Antiquarian Society' to:

Julian Walker, 4 Hornes Cottages, Off Dereham Road, Scarning, Dereham NR19 2BQ



30

20  
years ago

10

**DEREHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY -** *news*

Issue No. 3 Winter 1988

**INTRODUCTION**  
A belated Happy New Year to all our readers! As this is the first issue of 1988 it was thought appropriate to devote most of the space to providing an update on projects with which the Society has been involved during 1987.

**THE RECORD OF MONUMENT INSCRIPTIONS IN THE PARISH CHURCHYARD**  
Shortly after reading that we hoped to type this research, Mrs. Skittfall contacted us to say she had already done so. As it was some years ago and given to another person, she did not know where it was at the present time. A few days and several phone calls later the typescript was found - all 56 pages!  
Meanwhile Mrs. Craike has added details of tombstones inside the Parish Church and noted a few apparent discrepancies. Mrs. Cook is now checking these, weather permitting, and bringing the location map up to date.  
When completed an index will be compiled and copies produced for the use of genealogists. The research, in its present incomplete form, has already proved very useful to two or three researchers who have traced their ancestors to Dereham.

It has been realised that there are a few unrecorded tombstones at the non-conformist Churches in the town. It would be nice if details of these could be added to those of the Parish Church to provide a complete record of all burials in the town prior to the opening of the Cemetery. Would one or two members like to volunteer for this task? If so please contact the Editor.

**INVENTORY**  
This work is progressing well. Sessions were held at fortnightly intervals during the summer by half-a-dozen stalwarts. Small items have been removed to the warmth of Mrs. Cook's living room and the work has continued weekly during the winter.  
Less than a quarter of the collection has been listed, so there is still quite a lot of work still to be done. Especially as the inventory has now been expanded into a catalogue containing as much information as possible about the items. Eventually this will be very useful both for Museum staff and visitors.  
If you are particularly interested in this area of work, especially if you have a portable tape recorder, please contact Mr. Harrison.

**CONDITION OF BISHOP BONNER'S COTTAGE**  
As predicted in Newsletter No. 2, the recently applied exterior paintwork has already started to peel. A huge bare patch has appeared on the south gable, and elsewhere the plasterwork is cracking and coming away. We have not had a particularly bad winter either, goodness knows what state the exterior would be in now if we had. However we understand our landlords, Dereham Town Council, have this matter in hand.  
We also understand that the Town Council has earmarked an additional sum for repairs to the thatched roof. The ridge is to be replaced and damage caused by birds made good.  
A visit is awaited by a structural engineer to report on cracks which appear to have widened recently.

Volume 4, Issue 4

Newsletter free to Members of DAS

Dereham's Local History Group

Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum, Dereham

£1

WINTER 2007

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Educational Charity No. 293648

## Dereham Antiquarian Society

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& Kitty Lynn (01362) 695397  
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Helping Local History To Thrive & Survive.



The Park at Bletchley —more details of this year's outings on pages 3 & 4.

The Winter edition of our newsletter 30 years ago reported that takings at the Museum were £303.88, but outgoings (rent, insurance and electricity) were £297.58. The Museum had 989 visitors from 13 different countries. There was however concern that the painting reported in their (and our) previous newsletter was already starting to peel: happily, it was also reported that the Town Council had this in hand - and had also allocated money for repairs to the thatched roof.

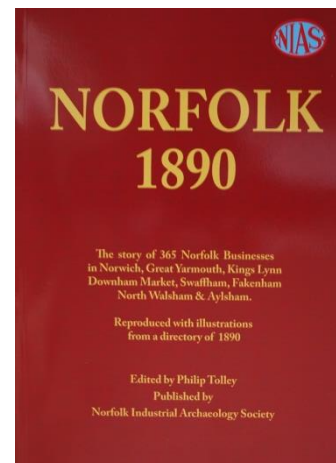
Unfortunately, there was no newsletter in Winter 1997 - at that time we were producing only 2 copies per year.

For 2007, by contrast, there were again 24 pages, reporting on meetings and visits, plus a number of articles repeated from the Dereham and Fakenham Times for 1880 and a long piece on 'The Country Larder'. In an interesting parallel with today, the then Chairman (Tony Jones) was reporting on the preparation of 'the necessary documentation for museum accreditation'. Some issues with this were causing some concern for the committee, including 'the absence of security of tenure for the Archive'.

*Gressenhall objects. The item on the left was for shaking caterpillars out of bushes, catching them for disposal. The one on the right was a daisy rake.*

## Norfolk 1890

Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society has recently published *Norfolk 1890 - the story of 365 Norfolk Businesses*. The majority are Norwich based, but there is coverage also of Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, Downham Market, Swaffham, Fakenham, North Walsham, Aylsham and, of course, East Dereham. The latter has 10 pages, and includes interesting views of locations around the town. NIAS has also kindly allowed us to sell the book (150 pages) at a reduced price of £15. If you need an added incentive, it is now an award winner, having been gained the award for 2017 for Best Voluntary Society Publication from the Association for Industrial Archaeology. Copies will be available at each of our meetings, but it may be possible to arrange supply at other times - please contact Ken Hawkins on 07561 813243 or via [ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk).



In each of the next few Newsletters, we are, by kind permission of NIAS, reproducing one of these views, and a current photograph of the same location. We would be interested to hear of any comments or reminiscences that these call forth. In this edition, we show "Warren & Son, General Drapers, etc". (For those who studied last edition's illustrations of the Market Place, it is interesting to note again the absence of the church tower.)



## Our Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held at The Bull in Litcham, when 21 members and friends assembled for a fine evening meal. Our thanks go to The Bull for looking after us, and, to those non Antiquarian diners who had chosen to eat in the same area, for tolerating us! If you didn't make it this time, it's not too soon to put the 2018 date in your diary - 10 October - when we plan to eat at **The George Hotel** in Dereham.

## Programme of events 2018-19

We are working out the full programme - always an 'interesting' task to juggle the availability of chosen speakers to fit our dates. The dates themselves, however, are known - the second Wednesday of every month (except August). Full details will be available on our

website ([www.derehamhistory.com/talks.html](http://www.derehamhistory.com/talks.html)) as soon as they are settled. They will also be printed into our 'Talks Programme' cards in due course. For those of you who have our 2017-18 programme card, **please note that the 2018 AGM date has changed to Thursday 15 February.**

*Wednesday 10 January 2018*  
**A Norfolk Family Life in 1900s**  
*Speaker: Christine Humphries*

*Thursday 15 February 2018*  
**Dereham Antiquarian Society AGM**

*Wednesday 14 March 2018*

*Wednesday 11 April 2018*

*Wednesday 9 May 2018*

*Wednesday 13 June 2018*

*Wednesday 11 July 2018*

*Wednesday 12 September 2018*

*Wednesday 10 October 2018*  
**Annual Dinner: The George Hotel, Dereham**

*Wednesday 14 November 2018*

*Wednesday 12 December 2018*

*Wednesday 9 January 2019*

*Wednesday 13 February 2019*  
**Dereham Antiquarian Society AGM**

Admission to talks is £1 for members of Dereham Antiquarian Society and £3 for non-members. Visitors are always welcome, with the fee payable on the door, refreshments included.

## And finally

We plan to produce a Newsletter every quarter, in January, April, July and October. The press date for the next issue is 15 March: if you have material for this issue, please send it to Ken Hawkins at [ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk). 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. We also post updates on local history and national heritage news on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DerehamHistory> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/BonnorsMuseum>, both of which have several hundred followers.

**If you did not receive this Newsletter via email, but would be willing to do so**, please let Sue Walker White have your email address ([sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk](mailto:sue@suewhite.demon.co.uk)): we won't pass it on to anyone else without your permission, and we won't use it for anything but Dereham Antiquarian Society business.

<p>Dereham Antiquarian Society wishes all of its members, volunteers and supporters the very best for 2018</p>
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