

Summer Newsletter 2019

Volume 15-2



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

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As you will read below, we are planning a Special General Meeting at 1930 on Wednesday 2 October 2019 at Trinity Methodist Church, 31 Trinity Close, Dereham NR19 2EP. This is formal notice of this meeting, to which all members are invited. The sole purpose of the meeting is to consider the proposal that Dereham Heritage Trust should become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Further details will be issued later in the year.

We are sorry to report that Peter Wade-Martins has reluctantly decided on medical advice to step down from the position of Chair of Dereham Heritage Trust and is doing so with immediate effect. To match that, however, we are delighted that he is staying on in an active role on our committee. In the short term, we have distributed the Chair's tasks among ourselves, with Trevor Ogden covering many of the public facing aspects. So here are two "Letters from the Chair" - one from Peter and one from Trevor.

Letter from the outgoing Chair *Peter Wade-Martins*

Repairs to Bishop Bonners Cottages Members who have been to the museum recently may well have noticed how the exterior of the building is looking rather shabby. The decorative paintwork on the pargetting is peeling off, and in places some of the plasterwork has fallen away. Our very helpful Town Clerk, Tony Needham, is well aware of the problem, and the Town Council has agreed that they should fund the repairs. These repairs need to be carried out during the summer months so the new plaster can dry. To begin with, samples of the paint on the pargetting must be analysed to make sure that the correct colours are used, and then all the exterior plasterwork needs to be repaired and repainted. Let's hope you will see a real difference in the coming months.

The town cemetery chapels You will all have heard that the room where the Archive Centre is located in the Assembly Rooms is now completely full, and that more storage space is urgently needed. By a happy co-incidence the Town Council has recently decided that the very fine listed mid-Victorian chapels in the old cemetery are now surplus to their requirements. The new cemetery has been opened and the chapels are anyway seldom used even when there is a burial in the old cemetery.

The Council has agreed to consider making these buildings available to our Trust as overflow storage for the Archive Centre. This would be a very appropriate use for these historic buildings: the chapels and archway were designed by John Browne, the diocesan architect and the burial ground was consecrated by the bishop in December 1869. One chapel still has its furnishings and the other is currently a grass-cutting machinery store. They are both sound and water-tight and both have CCTV protection and are alarmed.

Before any final decision can be taken the buildings need to be assessed for their suitability for temperature and humidity, and this will be organised with the help of the Norfolk Museums Service. There may also be planning implications and a formal planning decision for "Change of Use" may be needed. Anyway, these matters are all in hand, and we will keep members informed of progress.

Special General Meeting / Governance *Trevor Ogden*

A good constitution for a society is like an engine in a car. Most of us just want to get in a car and drive somewhere, without thinking about the engine. A good constitution lets us get on with enjoying what we want to do without having to think about the background details. But as

a charity we have to meet requirements over things like good financial management and whether we are really operating for the public good, and in our case whether the museum we are responsible for is run properly. In this we get support and advice from the Arts Council, mainly through an organisation called SHARE Museums East, which brings together about 240 societies like ours in the east of England.

The Arts Council is gently steering those of us which are simple charities to become Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs). As a simple charity, it is difficult for us to enter into contracts or employ anyone, and at the moment each of the trustees (ie committee members) would be personally responsible for all the debts of the Trust if we became insolvent. This is very unlikely, but it does give some people pause about becoming a trustee. If we become incorporated, this removes these difficulties.

In February we learnt that SHARE had money available for us to pay a consultant to steer us through the process of becoming a CIO, so we took advantage of this to begin the process. The consultant has been at work drafting a new constitution which follows official guidelines, but enables us to continue to work much as we do at present. The committee plans to meet with her in early July, and, if all goes well, we will call a Special General Meeting on 2 October, to explain to the members the detailed proposals, and, we hope, to get the necessary approval for the changes. We hope that the new engine will help the Trust run even smoother than at present, and equip us for the decades ahead.

News from the Museum *Ken Hawkins*

Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum was officially reopened by the town's then mayor Hilary Bushell on Saturday 4 May 4, with free entry and refreshments offered to all our visitors (41 adults and 6 children!).

In addition to Hilary's speech, our Chair Peter Wade-Martins and President Rev Jonathan Boston, both gave further information about the Trust and the Museum. The event was reported by the Dereham Times (see <https://www.derehamtimes.co.uk/news/bishop-bonnors-cottage-museum-dereham-set-to-reopen-to-public-1-6022926> for as long as the article is there). Sue Walker White recorded parts of the opening ceremony - see <http://www.derehamhistory.com/opening-times.html> for the film.



The Museum is now open until 28 September. Planned opening hours are:
Wednesday: 1.30pm - 4pm
Friday: 11am - 2pm (to coincide with Market Day)
Saturday: 1.30pm - 4pm

BUT we are still desperately short of volunteers to staff the museum. If you can help, even if it is just for a few afternoons during the summer, please contact our new Volunteer Co-ordinator Catherine Hawkins at cg.hawkins@outlook.com.

Notes from our recent meetings *Ken Hawkins*

10 April : The Library at Blickling - history and future Bunty Gotts

Bunty introduced us to the Library by telling us it had 14,000 books, 10,000 of which a single gift in 1742. Blickling was then owned by John Hobart, and it was his cousin, Sir Richard Ellis, who gave them. Sir Richard was a rich man, only a baronet (the lowest level of aristocracy), but an illustration of his wealth was evidence of the purchase of some books from Amsterdam at a cost of £991 11s (approaching £189,000 in today's money). By contrast, John Hobart was house and land rich, but had little money. The reason for making this gift toward the end of Sir Richard's life is not known, but it did not go unchallenged at the time. Nevertheless, the books remained at Blickling; In order to accommodate the books in the Long Gallery, the only room in the house big enough, Hobart put in book presses, spending over £1000 to do so.

Sir Richard was the foremost book collector in Europe by the time of his death; he loved books, and read and studied them (as opposed to some at the time who merely collected them).

Bunty has volunteered at Blickling for almost 15 years, and it was only just before she began there that interest in the books began. In 2011, the National Trust funded the appointment of John Gandy, an Antiquarian Librarian, for 3 months to review the collection. He is still there, and expecting to continue until 2025. Most of the collection is printed books, 2,000 from before 1601. 70 books are incunabula (before 1501); there are other books of this age in existence, but most are scattered around - it is very rare to have as many as 70 in one place.

Sir Richard was a dissenting Puritan, interested in understanding how religions operated. There are more than 100 bibles in the collection, the oldest from the 13th century, handwritten on vellum in tiny gothic print and with many 14th century comments and annotations. The Library also has a 15th century Gutenberg Bible, printed with moveable type; there are only 48 such bibles known, and only 20 complete - and Blickling's is one of these. There are also two Coverdale Bibles, the first complete bible printed in English in England. Bunty also talked about the Eliot Indian Bible of 1663. The bible, printed in America, is unusual in being aimed at use by the indigenous Iroquois, whose language Wmpanoag was spoken and not written. The bible was therefore written in a phonetic language, with English words inserted where there was no Iroquois word - the most common word in it is 'God'. 1000 copies were made, and 20 sent to England as part of the move to fund raise towards the conversion of the Iroquois to Christianity. The Blickling copy is believed to be one of only 4 or 5 left, the remainder being destroyed as part of the move to force the speaking of English. Most recently, the Indian Council in Massachusetts is seeking to re-establish the language (and this the culture) of the Iroquois, and Blickling is supporting this.

The collection is highly varied, with books in many languages and on every subject, such as a travel guide for pilgrims on where to stay and what to see on the way to Jerusalem, and a 'coffee table' illustrated book about Versailles (it is thought that Sir Richard may have met Louis XIV). Early in the 19th century Lady Suffield employed a librarian to deal with enquiries from various scholars. But there is very little English literature until Lady Suffield started collecting in the 19th century, and she then added 900 books, the popular novels of the time.

Current plans are to publicise the collection through installations featuring 4 books:

- the Eliot Indian Bible (1663)
- Historia Animalium (1570) - animal illustrations

- Harmonica Macrocosmica (1661) - stars and planets
- Micrographia (1665) - including Robert Hooke's illustrations from his microscope

Unfortunately, the Library is under threat. In recent years, rain seems to have been heavier and more intense, and has entered the north east turret, the one adjacent to the Library. Wood has become so wet through ingress that it doesn't fully dry out, and this softer wood provides an ideal environment for infestations, particularly of death watch beetle. A massive programme of work is needed to deal with this, and the search is on for funding to enable it - but Bunty said that the National Trust was confident that the Library could be made good and the books retained there.



The damage caused by death watch beetle - but it can be repaired: Photo - National Trust

To conclude, four books were shown:

- rare - a first edition of Pride and Prejudice, distinctive in being for a reticule, so the size of a pack of cigarettes
- curious - the Eliot Indian Bible
- beautiful - Ptolemy's world map (from the 2nd century, printed 1432)
- unique - The Dialogues of Pope Gregory (1100-1150), the oldest book held by the National Trust, hand written on parchment; this was the most produced book of its time. The Blickling edition is unique in that the Apostles' creed is in Middle English (the rest in the more usual Latin).

8 May : Medieval Treasures in Norfolk's Archive - Dr John Alban

John introduced himself by explaining that he was a Trustee of NORAH (Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation - www.norah-df.org.uk), having been County Archivist from 1997 until he retired in 2013. He had been interested when he read a travel review stating that 'Norfolk and Norwich have some of the most remarkable medieval assets in the world', but he noted that archives – the county's 'best kept cultural secret' – had not been mentioned. He then showed us the current Norfolk Record Office (NRO), purpose designed to encourage public access as well as providing state-of-the-art facilities for holding the archives properly. This was built following the fire which destroyed the former county Library: this building had been built in the cold war era, so the archives in the

basement were protected from fire by the 6 foot thick concrete library floor - but this did not prevent the ingress of smoke, soot and the dirty water used to tackle the fire. Conservation of the records took 15 years. The new building was officially opened by the Queen in February 2004, and had 3200m³ of storage - 22km of shelving - and was unrivalled for its holdings of medieval records, gaining UNESCO recognition for the archives of the Norwich Great Hospital. Not all of the county's archives were in Norwich - some are also held in King's Lynn, in the Town Hall, which has also recently been renovated to 'state of the art' condition.

After this short review, John showed us slides of some of his favourite items, including

- the Lenn (Lynn) ship, letters patent, 1441
- Book of Arms, late 15th century
- arms of Sir John Fastolf, from the Paston Book of Arms
- arms of the Pastons, from the same source
- ox head watermark from 1443 - on paper (much paper was at this time coming from northern France)
- title deeds for Lynn Saturday Market, 1365-87
- impression of the Borough Seal of Lynn, taken in 1857 from the 13th century matrix
- signet seal of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, 1481

before going on to look at some items in greater depth

- Charter of William II (William Rufus) to Bishop of Thetford, c1090 - the earliest document in the collection. This item was missing a 'tongue' from the centre, used to append the Great Seal to the document, although the wrapping tag remained: John said that these tongues were often removed by archivists in earlier times, with the seal stored separately. The seal had been lost, and this practice was no longer followed.

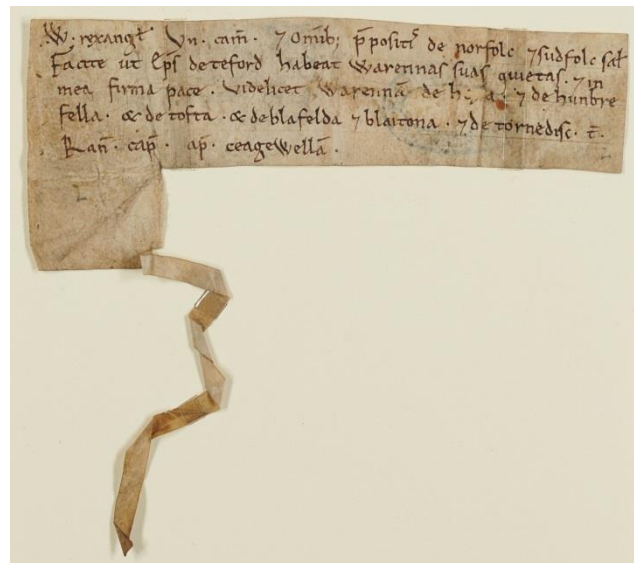


Photo kindly supplied by the Norfolk Record Office, where the original is held, reference number DCN 41/16

- A copy of the Foundation Charter of Walter de Suffield, Bishop of Norwich, to St Giles's Hospital (The Great Hospital), 1257; and Walter's will.
- *Liber Domus Dei* (The book of the House of God) - a cartulary (book of charters) of St Giles's Hospital, 13th to 16th century, which gave detailed information about the locations and ownership of land and buildings.
- Red Register of Lynn, 1300-95, copies of wills, deeds and community decisions. This was on paper and was the oldest English paper archival document. At the time, most other towns were still using parchment.
- Documents from 1385 and 1386 relating to the response to a threat of (and actual) invasion from France. John explained that a French force landed in Scotland, to be

met by Richard II's army. The invasion plan was then to land a second French army somewhere between London and East Anglia, so defensive steps were being taken in Norfolk. Documents related to the raising of ships to go to the relief of Damme in Flanders, from which the invasion was being planned. Others concerned the provision of guns to named individuals, including where they were to be deployed in the defence of Norwich and Lynn. There were also indentures from 1388, very rare, with only about 40 held in the country – 29 of them at the NRO.

- Broadland Swan roll, a register of swan marks from c1490 - 4m long and 11cm wide. This was used each July during swan upplings, and is the second oldest such roll in the country. It came up for auction in 1999 and went to a private overseas bidder for £35,000. Its export was blocked, and funds were raised in 6 weeks to secure it for Norfolk.
- Letter from Sir John Fastolf to John Paston, 10 July 1455
- A nuncupative will (Wikipedia: a will that has been delivered orally to witnesses) of 16 August 1485 from a soldier on his way to fight at Bosworth Field, the only document recording the name of an ordinary Yorkist soldier in that battle.
- Norwich Consistory Court Act Book: this was 1533-8, but the end leaves were a recycled fragment of *De Brabantsche Yeeesten* of c1340. This dated from 40 years prior to the previously earliest version of the 1380s and caused great excitement among Dutch academics. It is not known how it came to Norfolk.

After the talk, John stayed to answer questions and discuss with our audience. As he said, there was so much more he could have said, and so much more we could have listened to, but our evening had to come to a reluctant end.

12 June : Flint knapping and other battles in the silicosis war - Trevor Ogden

In a change to the advertised programme (as they say), Trevor Ogden kindly stood in after we found ourselves unable to reach and confirm the talk from the planned speaker. We hope to bring you that talk on another occasion.

Trevor started by taking us back to 1704, with an entry in the Ubley Parish Register recording (in verse) the death of John Dirrick, a miner, who had experienced shortness of breath. Diseases as a result of mining dust had been known about for hundreds of years, as illustrated by a drawing made by Agricola in 1556, showing ventilation of a mine through use of bellows. But it was hard to classify diseases of this sort, something we have only more recently done with the aid of scans and post mortems. A range of conditions were observed - silicosis (the inhalation of dust from sandstone and flint and others), pulmonary TB, phthisis (wasting lung disease) amongst others, so tracking causes was difficult.

Four 'at risk' environments were identified and examined, in the context of developing suspicions and knowledge of the causes of harm. This started in 1793 when William Withering and Thomas Beddoes exchanged ideas to wonder if there was a common cause to the diseases affecting flint workers, needle and fork grinders and sandstone quarries. Torbern Bergman found that the common element is silica, in varying (30-90%) degrees in granite, brick, slate, flint, sandstone and quartz - and our own William Hyde Wollaston also worked in this area.

1 Potteries, early 18th century. In about 1700, it was discovered that clay containing finely powdered flint was easier to work and gave a better finish; this was produced by heating flint to 1000°C, then pounding it - but people died. No doubt this was also exacerbated as the process was often hidden to maintain a commercial advantage, so took place below ground. Conditions improved after Thomas Benson, a painter who mixed his colours under water, took out a patent in 1726 to apply this to flint grinding: the machines doing this are still to be seen at Etruria Industrial Museum.

2 Needle grinding, c1800. Needles made in Redditch were finished on a grindstone, so that J H Abrahams noted an 'immense quantity of iron and grit-dust hourly', while a physician - J Johnstone - reported 'pulmonary complaints' with workers dying hardly over 40. Abrahams tried to alleviate the situation by hanging a canvas sheet in front of the worker to divert the dust away. He later (1822) patented a magnetic dust mask, with iron dust collected on bar magnets close to the mouth and nose. It was reportedly greeted with 'alacrity and gratitude', though must have been uncomfortable to use. It also had the perverse effect that it was seen as reducing risk, and employers reduced pay accordingly. We now know that it would in any case have been ineffective, as it was stone, not iron, dust that was mainly responsible for causing the disease.

3 Construction, Edinburgh, 1800 The Georgian terraces were built of sandstone, much drawn from the nearby Craighleith quarry. The stone was valued as it was extremely hard - 98.3% quartz. The Scott Monument was also constructed of this stone, with much fine carving needed. Subsequent reports varied, but all claimed a high rate of death among the stone hewers.

4 Flint knapping, Brandon Although at first consideration, knapping seems to involve sizeable pieces of flint, the process also produces fine dust, seen if there is careful illumination. In 1933, the Chief Medical Inspector of Factories referred to the 'disastrous nature of this employment' (knapping). Dr E R Collis recorded that the percentages dying of phthisis were 78 for flint knappers, against 11 for their wives and widows and 6.5 for the rural population. Trevor speculated on the impact on those preparing flint for many of our Norfolk churches and other buildings.



Mr Edwards quartering a flint, 1931. [Photo © British Geological Survey P205616]

To end, Trevor looked at the control mechanisms currently in use.

Book review - A passion for records Sue Walker White

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©Sue Walker White.

A passion for records - Walter Rye (1843-1929) Topographer, Sportsman and Norfolk's Champion - Christopher Kitching (Matador Published 2018 - 402pp ISBN 978 1788039 215) £19.99

Anyone who has an interest in the history of Norfolk will know the name of Walter Rye, as it is so often quoted as a source of reference. 2019 is the eightieth anniversary of his death and few will know anything about the complex man behind the huge body of research and publications. This book sets out Rye's life and works in an organised way, thus giving the reader the opportunity to dip into the individual aspects of his prolific life that interest them most.

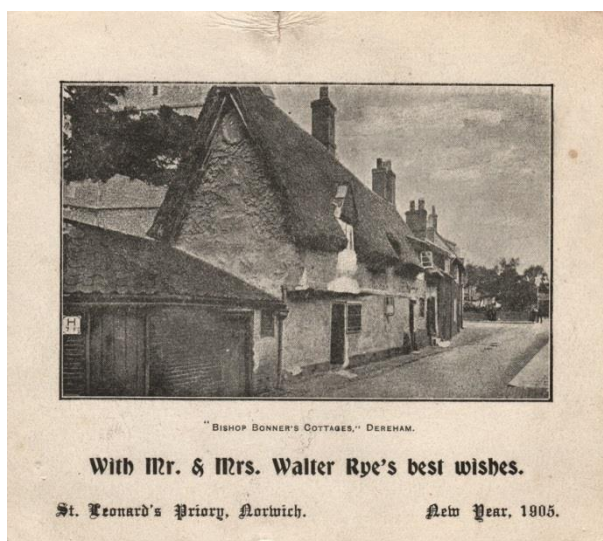
Walter Rye was a pioneer championing the importance of recording and preserving original documents, local folklore and historic buildings for the generations to come, and he led by example. Rye paid for the publication of most of his catalogues and historical works to make sure the information was available to the public as soon as possible. To Rye the search for truth and making it accessible was all important. If he found someone else's account of facts inaccurate he would take pleasure in publicly renouncing it. One of his pet hates was the

falsification of family pedigrees; this did not go down at all well with some of the landed gentry of the county. Before he moved to Norwich from London in 1900 he had already bought buildings in the city to preserve them. In his adopted Norfolk and as a citizen of Norwich he was recognised for his achievements and he was made Mayor of the city in 1908. Many like myself will be surprised by his other claim to fame, in his earlier years, as a renowned athlete who set many national records and won many trophies. He will also go down in the history of sport as the 'Father of English paper-chasing'. A very competitive strong spirit forged him on through all aspects of his life, and led to numerous heated battles on the sports field, and later in print until the end of his days. It also led him into many disputes, one of which resulted in him building a 40 foot high wall between his house and that of a neighbour. He was true to his friends and was great fun at social events but in his own words he was also a 'good hater'. However his friends remembered him as OOTB (one of the best).

He trained in law and started work in his father's offices in London as a junior clerk. This saw him well placed to spend time researching, from the age of 18, in the British Museum reading room and to then become a reader in the Public Record Office by the age of 20. From the age of 24 in 1867 to 1929 Rye went on to publish over 80 books and some 150 articles. It was Walter Rye's early work in the PRO that led the author of this biography to spend 10 years in this labour of love, following a chance encounter with Rye's work, during his own career working in the archives.

Rye was not a native of Norfolk but he had tracked his ancestors to Cromer on the North Norfolk coast; his fascination with genealogy widened and it became a life long passion. His other passions for sport, natural history and history lead to him undertake over 16 annual cycle tours and boating trips around the county. This gave him a firm grounding in the Norfolk landscape and a true love of the county. One of his most popular publications was his *Tourists' Guide to Norfolk 1879*: in it he gives rein to his skill with the cutting remark and a keen sense of humour. The effects of increased tourism on the area were a worry to him and conflicted with his desire to share his insights to the beauties of the built and natural heritage. In 1885 he was commissioned to write a *History of Norfolk* which ran to over 300 pages; in its day it was seen as a trail blazer.

Possibly his greatest legacy was the donation on his death of all his research papers, collection of manuscripts, maps and books to the Norwich City Library. The author points out that after 10 years he has still only dipped into the depth of the huge collection, now held in the Norfolk Record Office. It is his hope that others may take up the challenge to dig deeper, and use his book as the starting point, and that funds will be found to catalogue the collection more fully.



Walter Rye's New Year card from 1905 showing his newly acquired property 'Bishop Bonner's Cottages' in Dereham, which he went on to restore in 1905-6. Sue found this card used as a book mark in a copy of Blomefield's *History of Norfolk* she had bought in Watton: could the former owner have been one of his friends who thought him OOTB?

Past Newsletters

10, 20 and 30 years ago

There were no Newsletters in 1999 or 2009, and the 1989 edition was just 4 pages, covering *Tombstones and Epitaphs* from St Nicholas Church, and an article about David Fisher and the theatre at Dereham.

DEREHAM ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY - *news*

Issue No. 7 Summer 1989

+++++ TOMBSTONES AND EPITAPHS +++++

We often send visitors to the West end of the Church to look at St. Withburga's Well and Jean de Narde's grave. There are also interesting stones in the Churchyard.

Near the West door is a stone to Theodore Stoakley who, as Master of the National School for 22 years, "performed his duty with steadiness, attention and kindness, and died suddenly in the school on the 1st January 1834, in the 60th year of his age, surrounded by his scholars, and in the presence of the Vicar, who thus bears testimony to his worth."

Two interesting stones stand near the Well: "In memory of Charles, son of Wm. and Elizabeth Chambers who died Jan. 2nd 1830 aged 19 yrs. This stone is erected by the remaining Brothers and Sister, James, John, and Priscilla, after twenty years absence in the Colonies, South Australia, 1855"; and "In memory of William Chambers, who died Nov. 14th 1831, also Elizabeth, his wife who died Jan. 13th 1830. These are renewed by the remaining family, John and Priscilla, after an absence of 40 years in the Colonies, Adelaide, Australia, 1876. Restored by Mary Blades and Priscilla Chambers, son of the above 1907."

I wonder if any of the later generations have returned since then.

Beside the path to Washbridge there are stones to no less than 13 members of the Bayfield family, who were farmers and butchers in Norwich Street. The earliest date is George Bayfield, who died in 1727, so this family served the town for over 250 years.

By the Churchyard wall stand 25 stones removed from the space between the South Transept and South Porch to make a garden for cremation ashes. On is "In memory of David Fisher, Actor-Manager, who died Aug. 6th 1832, aged 73 years. Erected in 1936 in place of the original stone by members of the public and in recognition of his services to the drama in Norfolk and Suffolk."

Next to it is "James Philo, Clerk of this Parish for 50 years. Born Oct. 3rd 1745, Buried Dec. 1829". He is mentioned in George Borrow's "Lavengro".

You read it here first!

The article below first appeared in this Newsletter (14-2, Summer 2018) and has now been published in the Mid-Norfolk Railway's journal *Blastpipe*.

Dereham's other railway station

■ Nick Catford

WIKIPEDIA, THE ONLINE ENCYCLOPAEDIA, includes, at the foot of its extensively referenced entry about Dereham Station, mention of a second station in the town. It states: "Early Ordnance Survey maps show a second railway station located in the South Green area of Dereham on the branch line to King's Lynn. This line was originally provided with a number of stations that lasted less than a decade, and this second station does not appear in later documents."

"A crossing keeper's cottage, which survived the closure of the branch to become a private residence, matches the design of other minor stations along the route. The entrance to the booking hall and former platform door, now converted to be windows, can be seen and compared to contemporary station building".

The online entry is not referenced to any sources for the information. The existence of a second station is not mentioned elsewhere online and is not mentioned in books about the Lynn &

Dereham Railway. The railway had several short-lived stations, two closing after just three years and one more, Bilney, within fewer than twenty years from opening.

Whilst there has been some doubt about existence of the station, there is some convincing evidence of its short life. Michael Quick in his book 'Railway Passenger Stations in Great Britain - a Chronology' refers to a station opened on 11 September 1848 in Swan Lane. Immediately there is doubt because there is no modern trace of Swan Lane. However two mentions of the lane appear in old documents. Norfolk Record Office has them both: the first refers to an independent chapel in Swan Lane and asserts that the name is no longer known in the town. The second, also mentioned by National Archives, is about voting irregularity and is a 'Letter from Jeremiah Martins, brickmaker, Swan Lane, East Dereham, complaining that he had not been given game in return for his vote'. Swan Lane was what is now London Road. There clearly

is the surviving gatehouse on the west side of what is now Southend although it was part of Baxter Row at the time, 'Southend' seemingly being a later name for the southern end of the road that exists today; the cottage in London Road has been demolished and the site is now occupied by the Lynn Hill Guesthouse. Michael Quick also states that relationships between the two railways were poor. It is unclear, however, whether the Lynn & Dereham's station at Swan Lane was intended only



Map of Dereham dated 1859 (see p.29). The second station had disappeared by that time. Note that the avoiding line is not shown.

Nick Catford is the owner of www.discused-stations.org.uk, which has an extensive survey of the Lynn to Dereham line with 328 photographs. This article appears on this site, and is reprinted with permission. It also appeared in the Dereham Antiquarian Society Newsletter, Vol. 14 no 2, Summer 2018

BLASTPIPE Spring 2019

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Book for Sale

METAMEC 'The Clockmaker Dereham' by Clifford Bird

In conjunction with the exhibition of Metamec clocks currently on display in Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum, we are able to offer copies of the above detailed history book (hard backed 382pp) for £15 each. The books are available at the museum during opening hours or at our monthly evening meetings and all profits will go to DHT.



Programme of events 2019-20

Here is our programme up to February 2020. Full details are also available on our website (www.derehamhistory.com/talks.html), which will also carry any necessary last minute changes. They are printed into our 'Talks Programme' cards - available at all of our meetings. We are indebted to Stef Spooner for co-ordinating this programme: if there are ideas for 2020, do send them in - we're already working on it.

Wednesday 10 July 2019
To Market, to Market
Speaker: Mary Fewster

Wednesday 14 August 2019
Members' only event
see below

Wednesday 11 September 2019
Kett's Rebellion: rebel or hero?
Speaker: Barbara Miller

Wednesday 9 October 2019
Annual Dinner at The George Hotel
see below

Wednesday 13 November 2019
Displaying Seahenge
Speaker: Hannah Jackson

Wednesday 11 December 2019
Herbert Cave - his life and early 20th century photography
Speakers: Sue Walker White and Robena Brown

Wednesday 8 January 2020
King's Lynn - a Hidden Gem
Speaker: Michael Aldiss

Wednesday 12 February 2020
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 Antiquarian Society and £3 for non-members. Visitors are always welcome, with the fee payable on the door, refreshments included.

14 August Members are invited to join us at Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum at the usual 1930 start time, to hear about the displays there this year, and have a look round. We will also be providing the usual refreshments, but there are of course no toilets in the Museum.

9 October Our Annual Dinner is once again at The George Hotel in Dereham. We can confirm that the price will be the same as last year - £15 for 2 courses, £25 for 3 courses, with tea/coffee £1.50 extra; and the menu similar. **If you think you are likely to come, please let Ken Hawkins know so that we can estimate numbers.** Menu choices and firm bookings will be requested nearer the time.

Membership matters

Our membership year runs annually from 1 March to the end of February. The rates for 2019 are

Individual - £12

Couple at the same address - £20

Anyone newly joining between September and December will be charged half the annual rate. People newly joining in January and February will be asked to pay the full rate, but with their subscription lasting until the end of February the following year. Renewals will be at the full rate throughout the year.

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_2019.pdf.

For the time being, cheque payments should still be to 'Dereham Antiquarian Society'.

From the Archive *Robena Brown*

Dereham Heritage Trust is the custodian for many items which relate to an area beyond Dereham up to a radius of five miles from the town so this includes many local villages.

We were extremely fortunate last year to be offered two framed photographs which had formerly belonged to John Mann, of Case & Dewing, Church Street, Dereham. One of these related to a sale of tractors and agricultural machinery and vehicles in July 1936 at Church Farm, Scarning. The sale was carried out by Dereham and Fakenham auctioneers E Thistleton Smith on the instructions of J J Wright and from the photographs we can see that it drew a considerable crowd. The items fulfilled all criteria required for us to accept it into the archive and we are extremely grateful to include it in our collection.

If anyone can tell us more about the event we would be delighted to know.



Bishop Bonner's Cottages then and now

Peter Wade-Martins and Sue Walker White

These photos compare the date on the end of the cottages as it is now, in Roman numerals, with when it was shown in Arabic numerals, suggesting Walter Rye made significant changes to the plaster when he restored the cottages in 1906.



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 September**: 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 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 me 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 Antiquarian Society business.