

Autumn Newsletter 2019

Volume 15-3



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

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**Don't forget to book
now for the Annual
Dinner! see page 8**

Letter from the Vice Chair Trevor Ogden

Changing Dereham Heritage Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Special General Meeting on 2 October 2019

As reported in the Summer Newsletter, there will be a Special General Meeting of the Trust at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2 October at Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Theatre Street, Dereham, to carry forward the change of DHT from a simple charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Formal notice of this meeting was given in the last Newsletter. With this Newsletter you will receive an explanatory letter and a copy of the proposed Constitution. If you have any questions or points you wish to make before 2 October, of course you can direct them to any member of the Committee, or email me at ogden@ogs.org.uk.

News from the Museum Ken Hawkins



The Museum has been open largely as planned through the summer, but the 2019 season is now approaching its end (28 September). One recent addition has added further interest: Robena Brown displayed her 1919 volume of the Eastern Daily Press in the Museum on Peace Day, and since then a lot of people have taken the chance to see what was happening day-by-day 100 years ago. This year in August we sweltered in temperatures over 30, but there was a report in the EDP for 14 August 1919 of the "Sixth Day of the Heat Wave" in Norwich. The news item reported elderly people collapsing in the street, and gave advice on what sort of clothing to wear. Temperatures were reaching 78°F in Norwich and 80°F in London. That sounds quite a lot until you translate them to 25.6 and 26.7°C, when you start to realise what we have got used to!

Planned opening hours are:

Wednesday: 1.30pm - 4pm

Friday: 11am - 2pm

Saturday: 1.30pm - 4pm

A full report will be made with the next Newsletter, but highlights have been

- by the end of August, there had been 307 visitors (252 adults, 34 children and 21 members and 'others', against a full season total in 2018 of 276;
- admission fees were therefore greater, as were sales (£86.50 so far against £17.75 in 2018), but not donations (£70.65 against £115.93) - nonetheless, total income has risen; and
- part of this has been the result of 2 special bookings (with a third about to take place).

All of this has been achieved thanks to those members and others who have volunteered their time to open the Museum and make visitors welcome; thanks must also go to Catherine Hawkins for setting up the rota and managing the inevitable changes to it.

We will soon be holding a meeting with the volunteers to review how it all went from their point of view, and how we might make it even better next year. We have been short of volunteers and unable to open the Museum on every planned day. If you can help in 2020, even if it is just for a few afternoons during the summer, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator Catherine Hawkins at cg.hawkins@outlook.com.

In the meantime, there is need for some maintenance work - read on ...

Repairs *Peter Wade-Martins*



Arrangements are being made to carry out repairs to the plasterwork on the exterior of Bishop Bonner's Cottages. Anna-Marie High MScCHE MRICS a Historic Building Surveyor for Annahigh Consultancy Ltd, has been appointed by the Town Council, and we have just had a site meeting with the Andrew Gayton, the Conservation Officer for Breckland Council to agree what should be done. Where the plaster is cracked and crumbling that will need to be repaired before it can receive a fresh coat of white lime paint. Of particular interest is the pargetting and what colour it should be repainted. At the site meeting the conservation officer used a razor blade to scrape off the outer surfaces of the different colours. As these photos show, this scraping revealed very bright colours underneath! The Conservation Officer was quite sure that this coloured paint is post-war and it may be fairly modern. It now transpires that these colours could have been applied when the cottages were being

repaired in the 1970s. Further investigation will be needed, but if any members can remember the pargetting being repainting, do please tell us and if you have colour photos of BBC from the 1950s, 60s or 70s, we would love to hear from you. We will be very interested to hear what you can remember.



There is also a need to investigate why the north chimney stack and fireplace is so damp. Some internal investigations will be carried out here after the museum closes for the winter. Once the specifications for the repairs and repainting have all been agreed the Town Council will need to submit an application to Breckland for Listed Building Consent so that the repairs can be carried out in the Spring. In the meantime, I will keep members informed of progress.

Notes from our recent meetings *Ken Hawkins*

10 July: To market, to market - Dr Mary Fewster

Mary introduced her talk by explaining that she was going to concentrate on road transport, ignoring both the possibilities had the 18th century east-west canal been built, and the actual impact of the 19th century arrival of the railway in Dereham.

The simplest form of transport was on foot, and she showed us the Swaffham pedlar (ped = the basket used to carry goods); this means of carriage was viable for trips of 5-10 miles to market. Then there was horseback, and Mary revealed her puzzlement that country women of this period seemed always to be illustrated wearing a mask. Heavier and manufactured goods would be taken by packhorse, and we were shown how a pack saddle was constructed to support the heavy pack (and Mary added that a fewster was a maker of pack saddles). Packhorse trains could be of 50-60 horses, preceded by a warning bell. For river crossings, fords would not be ideal, as the bottom of the packs could get wet, which led to the building of packhorse bridges, such as that at Great Moulton in Suffolk, its accompanying ford replaced by a concreted roadway over the small surviving stream.



Picture: Mary Fewster

A next stage was to drive animals, on foot. There was a large traffic of animals moving from Scotland to London in stages, with East Anglia a well used area for them to stay and be fattened over winter. Rawlings were areas used for overnight stays, comprising areas of grass after the first mowing. Major areas in Norfolk included Hempton (Fakenham) Horsham St Faith and Harleston. Movement was by drove roads, often with wide verges as these allowed the cattle, sheep or pigs to graze. Local records would show burials and marriages between those driving the flocks and the local people. The drovers would be well paid and responsible people, as it is assumed they would have returned with the cash from the sale of the animals, there being no other means of payment. Turkeys and geese could be driven on foot, but also in layers on coaches.

There were many custom built vehicles adapted to specific uses, as well as a greater number of regular runs in Norfolk than in other areas.

Mary showed picture of a local tumbrial, little changed from the 16th to the 20th century. In some, the wheels were studded with nails to improve the grip, though she also showed a notice from Ipswich forbidding this after Michaelmas, and requiring vehicles to avoid the town's paved streets. Carts were usually drawn by horses, but oxen could be used in heavy clay. Four wheeled waggons were used for heavier loads, with the ability to adjust the



length of the vehicle to match the load; these could need up to 10 horses and were controlled by a man, not on the box of the waggon, but riding a horse alongside the waggon. We were also shown Constable's 'Hay Wain' which clearly shows it is no such thing, but just such an extendable cart. The Broad Wheels Act of 1753 required a minimum wheel width of 9 inches, though the intention to spread the load and prevent rutting was not achieved, the wheels instead grinding the surface to dust.



There were regular runs connecting all towns in Norfolk and Suffolk, and waggons had lamps to enable travel in the dark. The loads were weighed at steelyards, frequently built into pubs, so that even now, when external traces have gone, the main beam is still there as it is an integral part of the structure. The cart was lifted by chains, balanced by weights on the beam inside the building. Later, some were replaced by weighbridges.

Picture: Kim Fyson / *Grade II Listed Steelyard, Fountain Lane* / [CC BY-SA 2.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grade_II_Listed_Steelyard,_Fountain_Lane_(geograph_3842770).jpg)
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grade_II_Listed_Steelyard,_Fountain_Lane_\(geograph_3842770\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grade_II_Listed_Steelyard,_Fountain_Lane_(geograph_3842770).jpg)

Sadly, there is plenty of evidence of road accidents, people being run down by waggons.

In addition to the heavy haulage, there were lots of smaller, lighter vehicles, carriers taking anything from place to place. In places, there were frequent runs, and people could leave signs at their gates which told the carrier what they wanted. Local directories listed large numbers of carriers, from which some big firms grew up, such as Pickfords.

Mary ended her survey referring to the use of steam lorries by firms like Caleys and Moy.

14 August: Metamec and Dereham Market (but mainly Metamec)

In addition to our normal programme, we held a meeting in August, featuring the main exhibition in the Museum. To report on that meeting, I can do no better than repeat here Trevor Ogden's press release, which sadly did not achieve press attention.

It's 25 years since Metamec, once the largest clockmaker in Britain, finally disappeared from Dereham. At one time it was the largest clockmaker in Britain, with a staff of over 700 producing 25,000 clocks a week. Someone who remembers the best years is Richard Walker, who joined as an apprentice in 1968, was made redundant three times, but each time he was re-employed. He still repairs Metamec and other clocks.

On Wednesday Richard talked to Dereham Heritage Trust members about life at Metamec, and presented to Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum the plaque of the Queen Mother's coat of arms which the company was able to display because of their Royal Warrants. This summer the Museum has had a display about the company, and its products, and the coat of arms will be added to it.

In its time Metamec produced thousands of different designs, but until now the Museum did not have one of the company's original version, the 701, first produced in 1946. But on Wednesday, Peter Wade Martins presented one, which will also be added to the display of about 50 different designs.



Left: Sue Walker White and part of the Museum's display of Metamec clocks

Right: Peter Wade Martins and the "701" clock

Richard Walker (centre) with Jonathan Boston (Trust President) and Trevor Ogden (Vice-Chair), and the Queen Mother's coat of arms.



From the Archive *Robena Brown*

1 *East Dereham benefactions notebook*

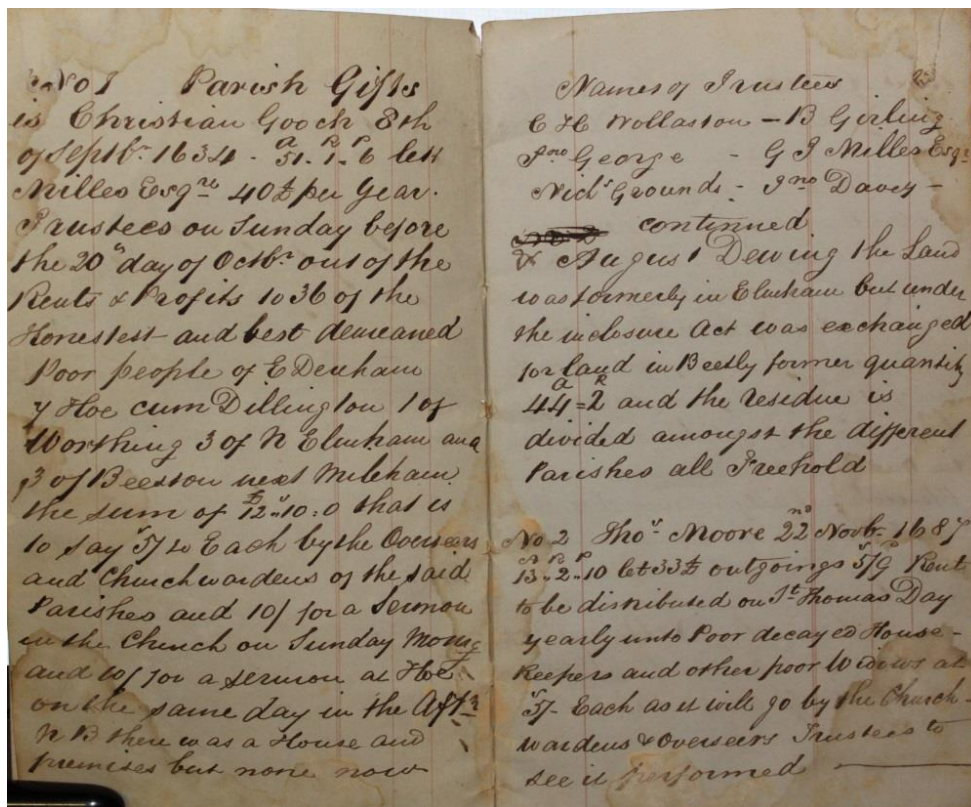
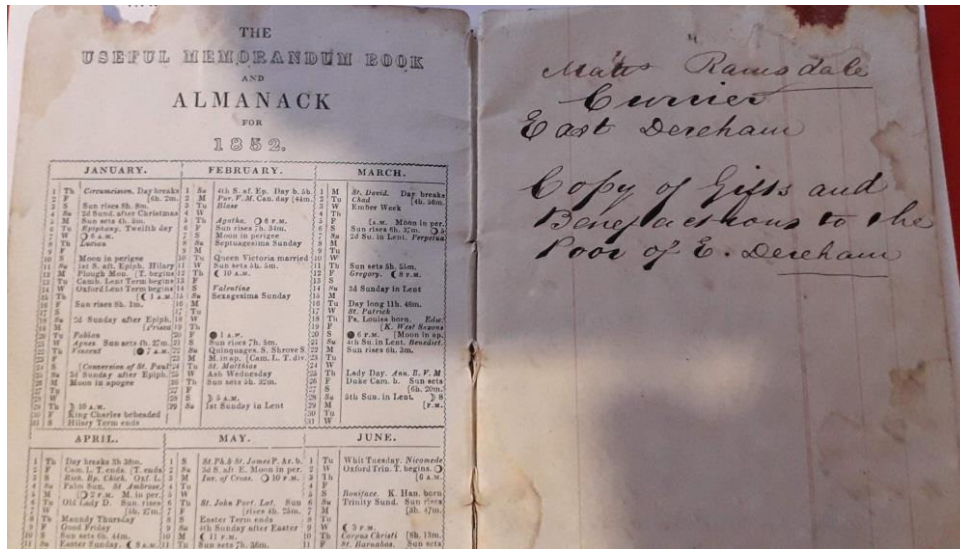
As an accredited museum, we must have a proper policy for considering possible acquisitions, so it is a rule that we do not accept things which people just want to give us over the counter. However, there are exceptions! In July a woman came in and said that she was about to return to New Zealand after a holiday here, and was hoping to find someone who could look after a notebook she had inherited from her father-in-law. The notebook was dated 1852, and seems to be a transcription of all the (many) benefactions to the poor of East Dereham, beginning in 1634. Her father-in-law was Jack Latchford, who was a town councillor in the 1960s. She completed a donor form, and the notebook will go into the archives.

The notebook was sold by stationers in 1852 though its handwritten contents by Matthias Ramsdale, a currier of East Dereham (living on Quebec Street), are undated. We assume that the contents compiled by the author were written on or soon after that date.

This fascinating little book contains a list of 26 'gifts and benefactions to the poor of E. Dereham'. It is extremely detailed and when compared to Zachary Clark's 1811 book which lists abridged accounts of the different charities belonging to the poor of the county of Norfolk (taken from Gilbert's Act of 1786 and Norfolk Terriers) it is noted that Mr Ramsdale's accounts of the various charities which served the poor of the parish is much more comprehensive and even names those trustees who were empowered to make awards to alleviate hardship. Clark listed only 12 charities in 1811 but it is very interesting to see that Mr Ramsdale notes more than double that figure 41 years or more later.

An image of the first two charities listed in the book is herewith and well known surnames of former Dereham residents such as Wollaston and Girling are shown as trustees.

When the little book was brought into the museum it was obvious to those acting as stewards that day that this is a very important account of a moment in time in Dereham, not least because it demonstrates the need for so many 'gifts and benefactions' and thus the extensive amount of local people in need.



2 Dereham World War I Memorial Book

If you have family names etched on the World War I memorial in the centre of Dereham and would like to know more about the men who lost their lives during 1914-19 in the pursuit of peace, a superb account of every man is available to see in Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum until it closes on 28 September.

The authors, Pat Skittrall and Margaret Bohn, spent a very long period researching and writing up their findings in 2008 so that those men will not be forgotten in the course of

time and that their relatives may be able to carry on with that research as more and more records become available both online and elsewhere.

The book is currently on display in the lower middle room of the museum along with the exhibits relating to the Market Place. Few copies were printed so please take this opportunity to look up the names that interest you in this centenary year of the peace at the end of the war.



Prince Henry at the unveiling ceremony. The Rev Macnaughton Jones who ministered to the needs of Dereham residents and gave up his rectory for use as the war hospital can be seen in the centre of the clergymen present. We would be delighted if anyone could name the other gentlemen officiating that day.

Past Newsletters - 10, 20 and 30 years ago

Sadly, there were no autumn Newsletters in 1989, 1999 or 2009!

Membership matters

Our membership year runs annually from 1 March to the end of February. The rates for 2019-20 are

Individual - ~~£12~~ now £6 until 29 February 2020 (new members only)

Couple at the same address - ~~£20~~ now £10 until 29 February 2020 (new members only)

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'.

Obituary - Tony Jones *Rev Jonathan Boston*

The Dereham Antiquarian Society owes a great deal to Tony Jones, who, with his late wife Sheila, formed a loyal, effective and enthusiastic duo for over 17 years. It was in 2004 that Tony was co-opted on to the Committee, becoming Chairman from 2006 until 2012, after which his wise counsel continued to support the Society. It was very much a combined contribution. Sheila's organisational ability made her the ideal Programme Secretary, including the Excursions, and her own period of office began in 2005. Despite her limited mobility, nothing held her back!

Tony will be particularly remembered for all the time, effort and energy that he contributed to enable Bonner's Cottages to become an officially Accredited Museum and surely this will be his lasting memorial.

Throughout his time in office, particularly, his quiet wisdom and insight, manifested without any hint of pride or self-importance, harnessed the diverse gifts and abilities that will be present in any gathering of enthusiasts.

His seemingly diffident approach concealed a considerable determination and an unassailable logic, but always presented with unfailing courtesy. When varying opinions (sometimes strongly held) surfaced, Tony would come in quietly with "Perhaps I might suggest ...".

His lightness of touch combined with a quiet sense of humour revealed the diplomacy of the true gentleman.

We will remember him, and Sheila, with deep and lasting gratitude.

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 now well advanced with the 2020 programme, but if there are ideas for 2021, do send them in - it's never too early to start planning!

Wednesday 2 October 2019
Special General Meeting (members only)

Wednesday 9 October 2019
Annual Dinner
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 Aldis

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 Heritage Trust and £3 for non-members. Visitors are always welcome, with the fee payable on the door, refreshments included.

Annual Dinner - book now - see next page!

Annual Dinner - 9 October: George Hotel, Dereham

We hope you will join us at our dinner, once more at The George Hotel in Dereham. The cost will be £15 for a main course and either a starter or a dessert, or £20 for 3 courses, with tea/coffee £1.50 extra. The bill is payable on the night, directly to The George Hotel, but **firm orders are needed to Ken Hawkins by the end of September, please.** Menu choices are:

STARTER

- S1 Home Made Soup Of The Day
- S2 Chicken Satay
- S3 Wild Mushrooms and Binham Blue Cheese
- S4 Crispy Whitebait

MAIN

- M1 Woodfords Wherry Beer Battered Haddock
- M2 Wild Mushroom, Pesto Linguine
- M3 Fried Chicken Escalope
- M4 Pan fried Seabass fillets

DESSERT

- D1 Tiramisu
- D2 Chocolate Orange Mousse Slice
- D3 Baked Lemon Cheesecake
- D4 The George Eton Mess

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 December**: 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.

Privacy policy *Ken Hawkins*

We have recently reviewed our Privacy Policy and confirmed it needed no change. It is reproduced on the final pages of this newsletter for your information.

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 Heritage Trust business.

Dereham Heritage Trust Privacy Policy

At Dereham Heritage Trust we want to make sure that all our members, volunteers, visitors and donors are happy with the way we communicate with them. A copy of our privacy policy is set out below. If at any time you want to change the communications you receive from us, please just let us know.

Dereham Heritage Trust is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy: we will never sell your details. Neither will we pass them on without your permission, unless obliged by law to do so. You can change how you hear from us or unsubscribe from our mailing lists at any time, just let us know. This policy explains why we collect information from you, what information we need, how we use it and keep it safe.

How we collect information about you

- 1 Members You give us your personal information in order to become a member. The personal information we collect is your name, address, phone number and email address. We collect this information in order to send you our Newsletters and other information about our activities.
- 2 Volunteers at the Archive or Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum We collect your name, phone number and email address for the sole purpose of inviting your help and informing you about the rota and other arrangements we are making. We also ask you to record the name, address and phone numbers of an emergency contact, plus a note of any relevant medical conditions which may affect you, and to leave those in a sealed envelope in your place of volunteering. The envelope will be opened only if an emergency occurs which requires us to contact the person named and/or to advise any medical staff assisting you.
- 3 Donors of items for our collection We collect your name, phone number and email address for the sole purpose of contacting you in relation to the item(s) you are offering to us.

How this information is used, who has access to it, where it is stored and how long we keep it for

Any personal data relating to you will be used and recorded by us in accordance with current data protection legislation and this policy.

- 1 Members The information that you submit to us as a member is stored in a secure spreadsheet in the UK. Emails sent to you will not reveal your email address to any other recipient. Should you cancel your membership and no longer wish to hear from us, we will cease contact with you and will remove all of your information after 3 months, unless you have been a Committee member, in which case contact information will be held securely for 5 years after you cease to be on the Committee.
- 2 Volunteers The information that you submit to us as a volunteer is stored in a secure spreadsheet in the UK. Emails sent to you will not reveal your email address to any other recipient. If you are a volunteer and cease volunteering, we will delete your information immediately after your last voluntary work, or when you notify us, whichever is the later. (If you are a member as well as a volunteer, this will not affect the retention of your information for membership purposes.)
- 3 Donors When you offer an item for our archive or collection, we will keep your information securely in paper form while we assess whether we are able to accept the item. If we are not able to accept the item, we will retain your details for 6 months from the date of decision, and then destroy the record. If we are able to accept the item, we will retain the record and ultimately transfer the information to a secure proprietary software programme designed for the purpose. We will retain this information indefinitely (1) as an important facet of the item, and/or (2) in order to be

able to address any queries which arise about the item to you or your successors. Should an item be returned or otherwise disposed of, the associated Exit Form will be retained indefinitely for the same reasons.

We do not transfer any data outside of the European Union.

Security

The spreadsheets we use are all secured with a password and kept on computers which also require passwords to permit access. If paper copies of information from these spreadsheets are at any time needed for administrative purposes, they will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in the archive.

Consent and keeping your information up to date

By giving us your personal information you give your consent to the collection, storage, processing and use of your personal information by us described in this policy. If your personal details change, please help us to keep your information up to date by notifying us.

Your rights to access, make changes or ask us to stop using your data

You have the right to ask for a copy of the information we hold about you and to have any inaccuracies in your information corrected. If at any time you wish to access your personal data held by us, please contact us as below. You also have the right to ask us to delete any personal information we hold about you; we will advise you of the implications and results of such deletion (for example, deleting your contact information as a member may mean we can no longer send you a newsletter or tell you about our activities).

Changes to this policy

We may update this policy from time to time. If we make any significant changes in the way we treat your personal information we will make this clear on our website or by contacting you directly.

Further information

Please note that the legal grounds which Dereham Heritage Trust uses for processing all data other than emergency information is 'legitimate interests'. This is because it is only through using the information supplied that we can meet your expectations as a member, volunteer or donor. The emergency information collected from volunteers is processed on the grounds of 'vital interests': sharing this information could be crucial in ensuring (1) that you receive correct medical treatment, and (2) that your chosen contact has been made aware of your situation.

For more information about GDPR generally, please visit the Information Commissioner's Office at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you have any questions, please contact Ken Hawkins via ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk or 07505 426750.

June 2018, confirmed August 2019