

Newsletter free  
to Members of  
DAS



£1

WINTER 2005

Charity No. 293648

DEREHAM'S LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Dereham Antiquarian Society

Editors - Cliff Allwright & Kitty Lynn



Muse News

Dereham Disasters



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The Paston Family - fourth part*
- *Dereham Disasters - storms*
- *Unearthed W.W.I Notes - the fourth of eight quarterly parts*
- *Who's in the Hot Spot?*
- *Tunnels under Dereham - part 4*
- *Society Programme details for the next three months*
- *Also all our regular columns are inside.*



Food for thought

Memory Lane



Competition

Picture Parade



W.W.I Diary

Hot Spot



Letters

Society Snippets



Blast from the Past

The Vault



Collage Comments

Comedy Corner



Met Idiots?

Archive Antics



Museum Matters



Happening History



Outings



Well I Never



## Letters

Letters will be answered by the appropriate person, i.e. a member of the committee, society, archive gang, museum or muse group

- Cliff – “Ah another year gone – Xmas already”.
- Kitty – “Hooray – party, This cake reminds me of you. Like an old port, it matures well with age and is full of spice”.
- Cliff – “Don’t mind if I do, Kitty”.
- Kitty – “Clever, O.K. I know you’re not deaf, want some cake as well?”
- Cliff – “Kitty stop eating your Christmas cake, you know you put a bottle of brandy in it, one sniff and any normal person would fall over”.
- Kitty – “That’s alright, I’m not normal”.
- Cliff – “You said it Kit”.

### Splat, bang, wallop

Cliff – “You alright Kit?”

Not a sound – she’s as quiet as a mouse – he puts some cake in his wineglass, unable to believe his luck

Cliff – “Cheers, Kitty, Merry Christmas, Pearl what’s on the telly, want a piece of cake?”

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO YOU ALL.**

## Thank you

DAS Booklets are now available from Village Books in Dereham during normal opening hours.

We thank them for their support in selling them sale or return for no profit to themselves, just helping their local museum.

We would also like to thank DCS (Dereham Computer Services) for their help in the Archives on the small computer— which at one point looked terminal.

But MARK saved it!! Thanks.

(Did you like that pun?)

And finally thanks to the school children from King’s Park School (who visited the Museum recently) for their lovely letter.

(It was better than mine—no spelling mistakes)

*DAS Museum Section*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Comedy Corner	15
Competition	21
Contact Details	24
Dereham Disasters	16
Food for Thought	24
Hot Spot	6
Keeping up with the Jones	4
Last Comp. Answers	17
Met Idols?	19
Museum Matters	10
Muse News	14
Norfolk Churches WALK	5
Paston Family	11
Roman Remains	8
Society Snippets	4
The Fall of the Earl	18
The Vault	15
Under Dereham	20
W.W.I. Unearthed	23
Well I Never	24

## Bygones Day 2005

by Cliff Allwright



A couple of visitors showing a keen interest in the Pubs display

Bygones Day this year was on Sunday 23rd of October, a day on which the weather was unexpectedly kind to us as it had been very unsettled earlier in the week. Right up until the last minute no-one knew where our display would be, or how much space had been allowed us, until the afternoon prior to the event, so when Bob Davies got down to Dereham Station with the boards and much of the display material before 9 a.m. all he could do was to carry the stuff in and wait for everyone else to arrive to help with the setting-up of the display.

A small party, comprising Kitty, Bob, Margaret, Liz Russell and her husband (Garth), ignoring myself getting in the way, managed to get it finished by only a few minutes after the 10 a.m. kick-off time, and we waited for the hoped-for crowds to flock in, but most seemed to be interested in the outdoor displays, and our visitors were few and far between at first – maybe it was too early on a Sunday morning for people to get down there. However, as people started to wander onto the platform to look at the displays there, and maybe get a coffee in the buffet, they had to go past the entrance to the room where we had our set-up, and things began to liven up, and our members, Bob and Kitty in particular, were soon busy fielding questions and flogging our booklets and photos.

The first train of the day pulled out of the station at 11 o’clock, and it was when it arrived back that things really started to warm up, when people coming back from the ride, seeing something else to look at, came in to investigate. We were sharing the room with a young lady selling homemade fudge, a small railway set-up, and a collection of old-time perambulators, and things were a bit hectic for a time, but by now people had seen everything, and anyway it was lunchtime, so things quietened down again. And that was basically the pattern for the rest of the time, sudden rushes interspersed with quiet periods.

Other members turned up to man the display and take over from the early arrivals, so during our time there we had Tony and Sheila Jones, Joan Cole, Joyce Gilbert, Rose Prior, Peter Bradbury, Barbara Mathias, Liz Russell and Dennis Harrington on parade, plus of course Bob and Kitty. (If I’ve forgotten anyone, just put it down to senility.)

I must admit that I did little in the way of manning the stall myself, as I spent the whole time I was there, from 9.20 till 3.30, wandering around taking photos to record not only our own set-up, but all the wonderful vintage cars, motor bikes, steam engines, etc., that were on display. Two traction engines and a steamroller had pride of place, with their boilers charged and their pistons slowly turning in and out. There were names like Norton, Triumph, BSA, Ariel, and Ridge Whitworth amongst the motor bikes, and classics from firms such as Lea Francis, Bentley, Rolls Royce, Wolseley, Rover, Jaguar, MG, and Humber amongst others to drool over, Austin Sevens older than me (who said impossible?), and I could hardly drag Dennis away from a

(Continued on page 4)

## Keeping up with the Jones By Sheila & Tony



11 <sup>th</sup> January	Place -	Trinity Church Rooms, Dereham
	Time -	7-30pm
	Speaker -	Jonathan Dutton (some of you will remember him—the W.E.A. course called 'A Jolly Cup of Tea'.)
	Topic -	It is unsure what Jonathan will be doing he is an auctioneer, an expert on pottery & ceramics, and a Morris Dancer. We could be watching him Morris Dancing on ceramics and then auctioning them to us. Who knows?
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Place -	Trinity Church Rooms, Dereham
	Time -	7-30pm
	Speaker -	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> —this one is important—many future society and museum plans need to be discussed and voted upon, also a new Society Chairman and Secretary have to be found and more help for the Museum Section—followed by
	Topic -	Gordon Powell Railways and Poetry
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Place -	Trinity Church Rooms, Dereham
	Time -	7-30pm
	Speaker -	Val Mulhall (also a previous W.E.A. speaker at Dereham this time on Charles Dickens.)
	Topic -	Music Hall Extravagancer

*(Continued from page 3)*

Morris Minor that took his fancy.

A disappointment for our steadfast stewards, however, was the fact that there were no buckshee train rides this year, as there were last, but from what I saw they all appeared to be enjoying it, talking to people about the Society and our displays, and cajoling punters into buying the leaflets, photos, and other items that were on offer, as a result of which I understand we made about £47 on the day, when the weather, against the recent run of rain, stayed bright and sunny all day. We must have done something right.

May I tender thanks on behalf of the Society to all those who turned out to help, and especially to Kitty Lynn and Bob Davies, who were not only there all day till it closed at 4 o'clock, but who dismantled the display and took everything back to the Museum and Archive afterwards. If you didn't go, you missed a great day out.

## Society Snippets

By Rose Prior



Another season of summer excursion is finished and we look forward to our winter lectures.

We have had an approach from the small Scarning "Arcadian Club" which is suffering from declining membership and can't continue on its own. This small, informal Club was founded in 1996 to research the life and works of the Rev. Augustus Jessop, the eminent Norfolk historian and erstwhile Vicar of Scarning. The group numbers only 24 members and would like to amalgamate with DAS as per the Cowper Society, to keep its name alive. We would appreciate members' views on this request which will be raised at the AGM. We might then hold a joint Cowper-Jessop evening in April.

Please remember to bring your membership cards to the winter evenings meetings, as you may be asked to show them.

## Norfolk Churches Trust cycle ride/WALK

—happily coinciding with Heritage Open Days whereby a wealth of extra churches and other historical sites were open to all....

date 10th September 2005

By Marigold Merckel

Bintree 6am—WET and torrential rain during the day BUT Norwich, where I spent the day, remained calm and reasonably dry, just the odd mizzle, enabling a happy seven hours on the hoof, visiting 38 churches as detailed on my form.

Started at Holy Trinity off Unthank Road, Heigham—flourishing evangelical. Abortive walk to St. Peter's Park Lane, listed but not manned but the stop, Trinity U.R.C. signed for them. Catholic Cathedral and over the bridge to St. Giles' a welcome cup of coffee with fellow pilgrims. Many had started at 9am and several had come further than me, e.g. Bury St. Edmunds.

Down via Quaker Meeting House and Sally Army (surprisingly firmly shut although advertised and listed as open—naughty) to St Benedict's (Street) which boosts St Gregory's, now an arts centre and 3 other churches not normally open—the main Arts Centre, St. Swithin's (spelt thus), St. Laurence (ditto) and St. Margaret's. Back towards city via St. John Maddermarket and the star church St. Andrew's where, amid the goldsmiths and silversmiths exhibition, the two ladies on duty kept a watchful eye on the discreetly concealed EATS and refreshments "for cyclists and walkers only" - always a godsend St Andrew's. Up the hill to St Peter Mancrofts (where the EDP's photo of the Bishop, me and bike, page 20, 2nd September edition, was taken) 3 minutes before start of an organ recital by Kenneth Rider who had retired on 31st August. He made a speech at the end. His successor has decided not to come so they are minus an organist. Kenneth will continue recitals where possible both here and in his central Norwich home on his chamber organ.

On leaving the South Porch after the recital our dear friends from Plumstead and their guide dog appeared. They used to ride tandem but since the husband lost his sight they walk in the morning and the wife cycles in the afternoon—salt of the earth.

To St. Stephen's opposite and discover much of interest re curate I once admired in London. Then plunged through the city to All Saints Centre. Clear entrance—first time, i.e. no dubious characters lurking to St. John's Timberhill (more useful and surprising information). St. Julian's and down the full length of King Street. Dodgy area in places at any time but greatly improved and renovation continues. Two unusual churches here—St. Ethelreda's now an artists' studio and St. Peter Parmentergate's fine monuments. Back to the city, Queen Street, the Strangers' Church, totally concealed by offices. St George's Tombland and 2 more churches, U.R.C. Prince's Street and St. Peter Hungate—beautiful garden with views of the Cathedral. Picnic in the Cathedral Close behind a newly-cleaned and resplendent Nelson, and collapsed full-length on bench for 20 minutes. Refreshed, and on to the Puppet Theatre, housed in St. James', 3 more extra and very ancient churches—St. Martin's Palace Plain, now a probation centre, 13th century and on the site of at least two earlier churches where Norwich originated. Slightly Victorianised then most tastefully furnished with tiers and staging to give office and consulting space in the nave and sectioned off on all four sides. A crypt also formed recently to give a 'cosy sitting area' visible from above through glass. Many finds when digging this. Stained glass (William Morris workshop) floating as they had removed edges and unique atmosphere of extreme antiquity and continuance of the Christian faith. Gave one confidence to battle onwards. An impressive altar tomb to Elizabeth Calthorpe (died 1578).

*(Continued on page 7)*





Left—right: the  
Three Imps—  
Patrick, Margaret  
& David Lambert

## The Hot Spot

### My Childhood by Margaret Davies

In 1939/40 my Mum and Dad swapped houses with Auntie Chris, whose husband went into the army. So now we went in my mum's family home with five bedrooms and eight children. That was a good move, they put in electricity to replace gas lights and mains water to replace a pump and water from the well, not to mention the flush toilet and the bathroom.

The older brothers and sisters went their ways to Horticulture Colleges and Nursing. By the time Norwich was in the throes of the blitz two of my sisters were nursing, one each side of Bowthorpe road in two different hospitals with what they described as a grandstand view of the bombing.

The three imps in the photo above were the tail end of the family, there were five years between no's 5 and 6 so we were a second family with lots of big brothers and sisters.

I seemed to spend my time trying to keep up with my brothers; they could swim like fishes, whistle like birds and sing like angels. I could doggie paddle, whistle the dog and sing one note and recite.

Living on the nursery meant there was always plenty to do. Helping to pick fruit and flowers; there were lots of fresh vegetables and rabbits. Mum milked the goat so there was lots of milk. There were chickens, pigs and often ducks as well.

Bunny, the horse earned her keep pulling the plough and tumbrel cart on the nursery, the gig and the four wheeled wagon that took the produce to market. Mum had a wooden stall that was often kept in the Eagle yard and dad would pull it around to their pitch, just by Cosy Corner, not an easy task with four metal wheels on a stall the size of a beach hut. But dad often did the work of two men to justify his 6ft 5in of manhood.

Mum was in her element in the propagating house. After the war, when you could grow more flowers, she would be in the greenhouse before 6 am taking cuttings from the award winning Dahlias and Chrysanthemums to be posted (when they were rooted) to customers all over the country. No problems with the post then, next day delivery without fail.

The other greenhouses were full of so many things; flowers, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuces, Arum Lilies and sweet peas. Holly wreaths were made by the hundreds and

Christmas trees were grown at the bottom of the nursery.

By this time my aunt had gone to Bournemouth with her husband and opened a flower shop there. So mum and our eldest sister were manning Sheddicks the family shop, which explains the 6 am starts, maybe. Meanwhile flowers, fruit and vegetables went straight from the nursery to the shop. How much fresher could you get? The last photo shows family members 3, 5, 6 & 7 all dressed up to go on Church Parade. Aren't we smart!

I nominate **Ann Betts** for the next Hot Spot.

*[The family order for those who don't know, from eldest to youngest—Frances, Joyce (Joy), Molly, John, Norman, David, Margaret and Patrick]*



Left—right: Molly, Norman, David & Margaret on parade

*(Continued from page 5)*

St Edmund Fishergate now a pregnancy advice centre—again sympathetically transformed and I think St. Edmund would approve.

St Saviour's, Magdalen Street, stripped entirely of its furnishings and done up disco-style as a youth centre. FONT in St. George's Colegate, which I visited after St Clement's, St Simon and St Jude's dark and stark save for the Pettus Carvings 1600s preserved by their residence on cupboards. Torch essential. Home via familiar ground of the old favourites, Colegate, Coslany and Oak Street. St Martin's another artists' studio. At Coslany, I was 100th visitor to the Hansard Church. Next door, church a publishing house and the other a Hands-On Science Centre. Duke Street, St. Mary's Central Baptist and home.



## Roman Remnants by Kitty Lynn

Although there is archaeological evidence of the Romans being around this area it is very hard to find out anything further than what was found and where. For some reason the now higher powers are keeping quiet and despite digging I can only find a little information about anything – most of it getting quite ancient itself.

In Boston and Puddy's book about Dereham on page four they say "... evidence enough in the neighbourhood as shown by a fine silver dish discovered at Mileham<sup>1</sup>, the remarkable legionnaires' helmets etc, found at Worthing<sup>2</sup>, the Roman site at Billingford and further afield." The item at <sup>1</sup> is in the British Museum and at <sup>2</sup> is in the Norwich Castle Museum. This I decide to follow up and, thinking there was nothing on the subject, have, now found enough to eventually write a booklet on it, some time—when? I'm not sure. Here's a little information for you.



Whilst dredging the River Wensum between **Worthing and Hoe** on 15th August 1947, Mr C Seaman and Mr P Myhill, members of the East Norfolk River Catchment Board engaged on deepening the river, found a catch worth more than they could ever have imagined. For from a bed of peat under several feet of shingle they dredged up a Roman Helmet.

It was one of the rarest Roman finds of its type, with fewer than twenty known at the time of the find and only three others of a similar nature having been found in the British Isles. (Guisborough, Yorkshire; Ribchester, Lancashire & Newstead, South Scotland). The importance of this discovery was not confined to its being an addition to the small number of surviving Roman helmets; it was also the first unquestionably military object of the Roman period to be found in Norfolk. Its presence in the River Wensum is not easy to explain, but from the same spot came a pair of Roman iron shackles, which had probably been forced open, the leg bone of a horse and numerous oak piles, apparently the foundations of a timber bridge. These may connect with a Roman road, believed to exist nearby. About fifteen months later were found nearby a face-mask from another helmet, a set of shackles and a few other small items.

The mask on the right below would have been part of a highly-decorated helmet used on important ceremonies and parade days. There is no trace on the helmet of holes for fastening on cheek pieces; it was probably worn over a leather cloth skull cap which was tied under the chin leaving the helmet to sit securely on top of it. On the neck flange, made in a separate single piece, there is 'XII' scratched. This is believed to be the owners cavalry unit turma (squadron) number, possibly attached to the station at Brancaster, Norfolk. The helmet is of Roman gilding metal which is an alloy of copper, zinc and tin. The decoration was made by hammering the metal sheet from the reverse and was probably made in the Danube valley. On the crest is a feathered eagle's head; either side are tailed beasts, with a plain triangular front

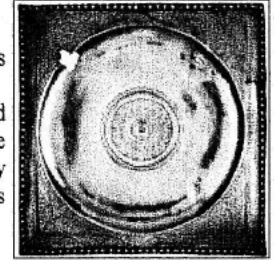


panel with feather borders on either side ending in bird's heads. A small square plate with a broken lower edge is riveted inside the front peak suggesting that the helmet once had a nose-guard.

The Roman finds at Worthing were promptly reported by Mr & Mrs Armour whose farm abuts the river at this point. The helmet may now be seen at the Norwich Castle Museum by permission of Mr R. M. Rivett, the owner of the land it was found on. In October of 1947 he gave it as a gift to the Museum.

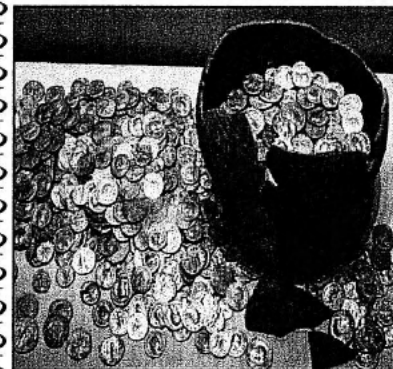
**The Mileham plate** is held in the British Museum and has just returned from the Fukuoka City Museum, in Japan.

The dish was found in 1839 as a single find with no record of anything else found at the same time. It is a large square silver platter which became popular in the fourth century A.D. Many pewter plates were made in a similar design as a cheaper alternative.



**The Mattishall Roman Coins** – on Thursday 18th January 1968 a hoard of about 1100 Roman silver denarii and antoniniani, concealed in a pottery jar, were discovered on a building site in Mattishall by two builders engaged in constructing a driveway near the main road on a four acre site in the Cedar Rise area. One of the builders hit with his shovel what he thought was a flint, only to find he had taken the top off a pot whereupon about 200 green coloured coins spewed forth. Together the two men lifted the lower part of the pot which contained the remainder of the coins all fused together in a solid mass. The following day they took it to the Norwich Castle Museum who sent Mr. Tony Gregory as a 'watcher' to see if any more were found. The pot was found in what is technically called a pit, and despite the presence of a few sherds (which may have been placed there to protect it) nothing else was found i.e. no evidence of Roman settlement. That the pit had been dug deliberately to hid the pot and its contents. There was a total of 1100 coins dated 138AD – 268AD and bearing the name ANTONIUS CAIUS.

It was impossible to carry out any further investigation of the site because of the amount of building work already completed. However the following summer, Peter Wade-Martins visited the garden next door to see if anything could be found. He discovered a small amount of pottery and some evidence of domestic occupation. It is now thought that the coins were hidden on his land by a local Romano-British farmer and probably represented his savings. But there is no certain knowledge of Roman settlement in the area. The only evidence of any significance is on an old map showing the route of a Roman road as a dotted line running from Mattishall to Norwich. One thing that is for certain, is that on the 18th February 1968 the find was declared Treasure Trove at a coroner's inquest and can now be seen in the Castle Museum in Norwich. Further information can be found in our museum and on: [www.mattishall/village.co.uk](http://www.mattishall/village.co.uk) website run by Ray Taylor of Mattishall.



Picture of the Display in Norwich Castle.



## Museum Matters



The new museum committee is now being formed. It is made up from team leaders who are responsible for their individual smaller sections. Not all team leaders' positions are filled and are therefore still open for some kind person to come forward and volunteer.

Here is listed briefly who has volunteered and tasks that are still open

**Sorting Group (3D Artefacts)** — Cliff Allwright, Bob Davies & Kitty (Kitty doing the Catalyst work on the computer, with aid from Cliff on spelling!)

**Textiles Team** — Sue White (also cataloguing items on the computer)

**Document Team** — Pat Skittrall & Joan Cole (working with the Muse Group, Pat doing the Catalyst work on the computer)

**Research Team** — Muse (responsible for display information & the new Booklets)

**Finance Team** — Pat Skittrall (**Museum Treasurer**). Help is still needed with grant forms and shop.

**Education Team** — Liz Walker & Liz Russell

**Publicity (newspapers)** — Peter Bradbury

**Cataloguing Team** — vacant

**Conservation Team** — vacant

**Computer Team** — vacant

**Museum Secretary** — vacant (Hopefully in charge of the Admin Team)

**Marshall/Stewards' Leader** — vacant

**Museum Curator (Chair)** — Kitty Lynn

With many other small tasks to do—if anyone can help we can find a task for them all, large or small

The reason why there are team leaders who might only have themselves or one other person is three fold: firstly the teams have only just been formed, secondly every task to be done has now been listed individually and lastly the subject might be totally new to the team leader themselves and thus they wish to learn it first.

Listing all task descriptions—a long job, yes, but now it is done - this means that if a person can only manage time to help once or twice a year or perhaps is not that mobile anymore, there are things suitable for them, e. g. cutting out and collecting newspaper clippings on Dereham. Then somebody can collect them etc. (i.e. Kitty doesn't have time to sit and read the paper each day).

As there is no Museum Secretary the minutes of museum committee meetings are not recorded. The Museum Marshalls and Stewards have yet to nominate their team leader to represent them on the new committee—expect this will be done at their yearly training day in March 2006 at Kitty's. The Museum remains open on Saturday afternoons between 2—4 pm until Dereham 17th. It will be closed then until Spring. Hopefully the weather and the museum might be a little warmer then. Paper exhibits will be removed at the end of this season to allow them to dry out and the boards will we hope go flat again, otherwise our visitors next year might end up along with us, around the proverbial bend.

### Museum Section's Diary Dates: -

Museum is open on Saturdays until December 17th, 2005.

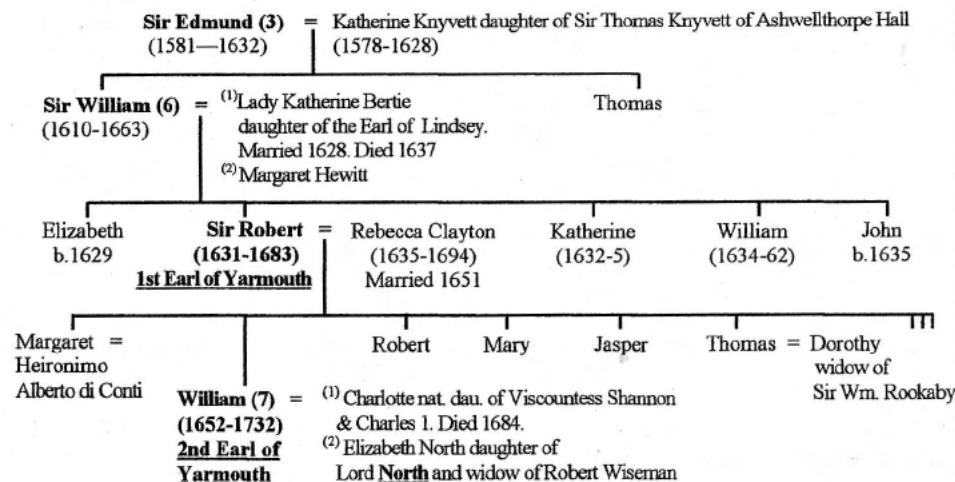
Museum Committee Meeting at the Archives— 10.30am, Monday 9th January 2006

Ming Course—Forward Planning (needed for Accreditation) at Gressenhall—8th March 2006

Yearly Volunteers' Training Day at Kitty's— 10am—3.30pm, Tuesday 14th March 2006

Hopefully by the next newsletter the dates for the special days being held in the Museum will have been finalised, i.e. a hands on handling day, archive open day, etc..

## The Rise & Fall of the Paston Family by Peter Bradbury ©



### Part 4: The Civil War, Restoration of The Monarchy, Royal Favours.

King Charles the First had been on the throne for seven years when Sir Edmund (3) died. The prosperity of the family continued to grow along with their prestige in Norfolk, in what has been called the Golden Decade. At the age of twenty two the eldest son **Sir William (6)** became Head of the family. William had in 1629 at the age of nineteen married Katherine Bertie, the lovely daughter of the 1st Earl of Lindsey of Grimsthorpe Castle in Lincolnshire, and they made their home at Oxnead. They were a very happy and loving couple. William was a graduate of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge where he was a very popular student. He read widely in several languages and when he left was an extremely cultured young man. His wife Katherine was also very cultured and they both loved art, fine buildings, and all the good things in life. Oxnead Hall became renowned for its works of art, the extent and elaboration of its gardens, and the great hospitality offered to guests. After nine years of happiness, and the birth of three sons and two daughters, Katherine sadly died in childbirth. She was buried in the little church at Oxnead where a beautiful monument was created by their friend Nicholas Stone (Royal Sculptor to Charles I and James I). The most striking feature is a bust in white marble on a pedestal, against a background of black, which is unmistakably a portrait of her! In the year of her death her grieving husband was obliged to serve as High Sheriff of Norfolk, but as soon as he was free he sought to ease the pain of his grief and embarked on a long period of foreign travel. During his travels in Europe, which included Florence and Rome, he collected a great many works of art to further enhance the treasures of Oxnead. Few of the young Englishmen who went abroad in the 17th century ever journeyed further than Europe, as travel in Turkish lands was dangerous, uncomfortable and expensive. This did not deter William who took a ship from the Italian port of Leghorn (Livorno) to Alexandria, and, after paying the taxes on Christians entering Egypt and The Holy Land, reached Jerusalem. At Felbrigg Hall near Cromer there is a portrait of Sir William with a scene painted in the background showing an Egyptian being devoured by a crocodile. Could this have been an incident from Williams travels? Sir William returned to Oxnead with his latest treasures and having overcome his grief resumed



his open-handed and luxurious hospitality.

By this time the Golden Decade was over and storm clouds were already gathering on the horizon when King Charles decided to try and strengthen his support in the Eastern Counties by creating several new Baronets, and so in 1641 Sir William became a Baronet.

About this time he married his second wife Margaret Hewitt, daughter of Sir Thomas Hewitt of Pishiobury in Hertfordshire; there were no further children from this marriage. William was surrounded by Puritan neighbours whose authority from Parliament far outweighed the Paston influence in local political affairs. This forced William to appear to favour the Parliamentarian cause. He was given a commission in the local Militia and ordered to muster his troops but he tried to avoid his duty by absconding to London for long periods of time. On the outbreak of the "First Civil War" in 1642 he served on several committees that were raising funds for arms and recruiting men to serve in the militia, and even donated money to the cause.

Finally in 1643, after failing to attend the meeting at which the decision was made to form the Eastern Association, he was stripped of his command. In anticipation of being severely punished or even imprisoned he slipped across to Holland, and joined the group of Royalist sympathisers there.

Parliament were well aware of the Royalists assembled in Rotterdam and on the 14th June 1643 the House of Commons made an order that Sir William Paston and eleven other gentlemen were required to return to England or have their estates and properties sequestered (commandeered) for the service of the Commonwealth. They chose to ignore the summons. So all the rents of Paston farms and the income from his manors were impounded and his wife was forced to give up £1,100 of magnificent plate.

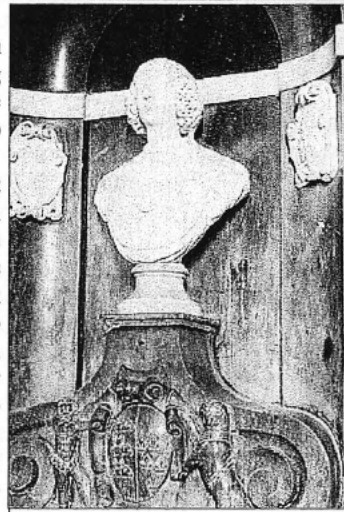
William had no choice other than to return and try and reclaim his estates. This he did in 1644, and, on paying a very heavy fine, regained his estates but lost the entire income of the previous year. There is a List of Delinquents held in the House of Commons archives which shows an amount of £1,376 8s. 4d. paid by Sir William Paston; this was at least three times as much as any other of the Norfolk delinquents. The Paston fortunes never seemed to recover from that loss of income and the formidable fine.

King Charles I was executed on the 30th January 1649 and his sons Princes Charles and James Stuart joined their mother's "Court in Exile", in Holland. One year later Sir William's eldest son Robert left Oxnead to join the "Court in Exile" and became a friend of Charles Stuart, not returning to England until just before the Restoration.

At Oxnead the family led a very quiet life, Sir William turning once more to art and literature for his consolation. He never seemed able to manage his debts, and made no attempt to limit the outgoings demanded by his lifestyle. In 1659 he sold Caister Castle together with its lordships and manors in liquidation of debts amounting to £6,500 which he had borrowed over a period of time

from a Yarmouth businessman named William Crowe. After all the troubles suffered by his ancestors to win Caister, it was now lost forever! During the years when Charles Stuart was in exile William was constantly supplying him with money by borrowing, and by mortgaging his manors, further increasing his debts!

Sir William's eldest son Robert had returned to England sometime before Charles Stuart was invited back to claim his throne, and when Charles II did return in 1660 Robert was one of the



Lady Katherine Bertie

Royalists who rode to meet him. He was knighted by Charles II at Canterbury, on the road to London.

Sir William Paston Bart. Died in 1663 aged 53 and was buried in Oxnead Church next to his first wife. There is no monument.

**Sir Robert Paston** the eldest son inherited what was left of his father's estates and all his debts. His wife was Rebecca, daughter of Sir Jasper Clayton, a forceful and ambitious woman whose influence on his career was to prove not very beneficial. Educated at Westminster under Busby and at Trinity College, Cambridge, he inherited to a considerable degree his father's learned and antiquarian tastes. He became obsessed with Alchemy (turning metals into gold) as a way to restore family fortunes and wasted large amounts of money in carrying out expensive experiments. With a wife and family of six sons and four daughters to provide for, the income from his reduced inheritance was not enough to cover their upbringing and ensure their future.

There was one likely avenue to riches in Robert's eyes and one alone; the favour of the King. At the end of 1664, Sir Robert was able to recommend himself to the King in a striking and unexpected manner. He was sitting in Parliament as MP for Castle Rising when he and two other Norfolk Tories were approached by the King's advisors (Lord Clarendon) who asked if one of them would propose that a sum of two and a half million pounds be provided as finance for a war against The Dutch. Robert's two friends declined because of the enormous amount involved, but Sir Robert, seeing his chance to win favour in the eyes of the King accepted! The next day there was a debate and it was agreed that a very large sum must be voted and the Motion was put to the House. The House was in deep silence pondering the motion, when Sir Robert stood up and proposed the two and a half million pounds be provided for His Majesty. He was received in absolute silence as they all sat in amazement (who was this unknown

youth?), until a gentleman moved that a smaller sum be given, where upon Robert's two friends quickly seconded the original Motion and it was 'voted in'. When next Robert visited the court the King took him aside and thanked him saying "he would never forget his kindness" and gave an assurance of his friendship and assistance in any matters arising in the future.

Robert stayed on at court and managed, with the King's support, to gain a warrant worth £2,000 a year for a term of twenty-one years.

As a further mark of favour the King hinted at a possible elevation to the Peerage in the future.

Following the court became a way of life for Robert in his never ending quest for money, and he was constantly being urged on by his ambitious wife Rebecca. In the year 1671 the King and Queen visited Oxnead and were wined and dined in the Banqueting Room especially built for the occasion. On entering the hall the King told Robert "he was now safe in the House of his Friend".



Sir Robert—1st Earl of Yarmouth



Rebecca Clayton

CHARLOTTE, COUNTESS OF  
YARMOUTH



Two years after the royal visit Charles married one of his natural daughters to Roberts's eldest son William, who was aged twenty one, and at the same time bestowed the titles of Viscount Yarmouth and Baron Paston on Robert. These signs of royal favour, although well intended, did in fact mean more expenditure for the Pastons and more endless searching for sources of money.

In 1679 Charles II, in recognition of Paston's services to the royal cause in Norfolk, at last kept his promise and created Robert the Earl of Yarmouth, while his eldest son William became Viscount Paston. Although to the people of Norfolk their Lord Yarmouth appeared to be a wealthy and powerful nobleman, underneath the facade his debts were such that his wife Lady Rebecca sold her collection of some 117 rings, locketts, and stones which raised £259, followed later by over 50 household effects which raised £1,569.

Lord Yarmouth wrote in a letter at that time: "my debts are more than my personal estate". It is no doubt that the strain of his ever mounting debts and political disputes, together with ill health, caused him to retire to London, where on the 8th of March 1683 he died aged only 52 years. His body was buried with great state at Oxnead and in his funeral sermon Dr. Hildeyard said "He died a good Christian as he had lived like a Gentleman: his own wish, and often repeated expression".

Two years later his friend King Charles II died and James II came to the throne, and Robert's eldest son William (7) had inherited his father's estate, title and debts.

*The family Chaplain*

*To be concluded in the 2006 March Edition of this Newsletter*

## Muse News by Kitty Lynn



Research this year has begun and the topic is Dereham's Shops. My feeling that this was a BIG project has proved right. Originally we had said that this year we'd only meet once a month with us all going off our separate ways and doing our own research. However that was before several of us found that in actual fact we have, besides the information in the archives, almost all the Directories and Census available in libraries between us and so this has saved a considerable amount of money in bus fares and petrol etc. Some also have lovely photos.

So work now takes place on the afternoon of the first Thursday of every month with the team making other meetings in between that suit most, usually in the mornings.

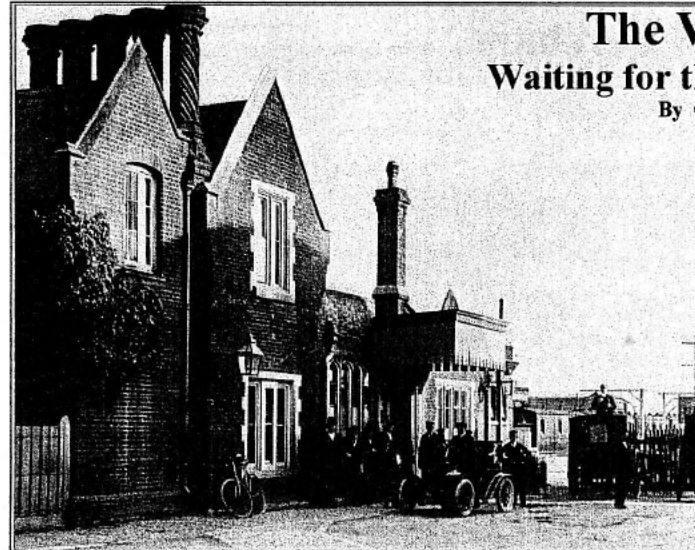
How far have we got—well we're still on the Market Place with Norwich Street, the High Street, Quebec Street, Wellington Road, Baxter's Row and the few stragglers at the end yet to complete. Then we have to cross reference them into the types of shops they are, matching photos and news cuttings etc. How long will it take—no idea but it seems all are enjoying it. Do we have tea and coffee yes if we remember the milk. Who are these intrepid researchers—at the minute they are Kitty, Cliff, Barbara Mathias, Joan Cole, Margaret Davies and a few others occasionally when they can make it.

Of course people are still pursuing their own personal research for more booklet releases next year. Pat Skittrall is looking into Dereham War Memorials Cliff—Dereham's Hospitals, Kitty is updating Spong Hill and finishing the Inebriate's Dereham booklets and Dereham Breweries, and Ron Clarke has been busy working on Basket Makers. So if you have a few spare hours come and join us or if you know of somewhere or thing that might help one of them with their research, please inform us.

**Next Meeting 5th January at 10.30am in the Archives**

## The Vault - Waiting for the Train

By Cliff Allwright



At one time it was the practice of hotel owners to send vehicles to the station to meet passengers from the trains, and if possible to coax new customers to the hotel. Children were sent outside onto the roads to wave the flags, rags, or whatever came to hand, in front of an approaching stagecoach to try to coerce it into the hotel coach yard.

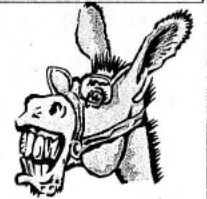
### A Brief Look Back at a Few of Dereham's Early Railways

The Wymondham & Dereham Railway was opened for goods traffic on December 7th 1846 and the first passenger trains arrived in Dereham on the 15th of February 1847, two months afterward. The following year the East Anglia railway from Kings Lynn to Swaffham was extended and opened up for passenger traffic to Dereham. A second station existed for a time, at the Lynn Hill crossing, but has long since been demolished and forgotten.

A light railway, fifteen miles in length, from Dereham to Norwich, to join the Midland line to Norwich at Hellesdon, was proposed in 1900, but the Commissioners considered that the cost of £85,000 was not justified, and the project was dropped.

## Comedy Corner from Cliff Allwright

### A HARE—RAISING FABLE



A Chap was driving along a lane when he saw a rabbit jump out into the road.

He swerved to avoid hitting it, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped right in front of the car. The driver, a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled up to see what had become of the rabbit. Much to his dismay, the rabbit was dead.

A beautiful blonde who was driving past saw the man crying by the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong.

"I feel terrible" he explained, "I accidentally hit the rabbit and killed it".

"Don't worry" said the blonde and ran to her car and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp rabbit, bent down, and sprayed the contents onto the rabbit.

The rabbit jumped up, waved its paw at them, and hopped off down the road. Ten feet away the rabbit stopped, turned round, and waved again. He hopped another ten feet down the road, turned and waved. It repeated this time and again until it hopped out of sight.

The man was astonished and, turning to the blonde, demanded "What's in that can: what did you spray on that rabbit?"

The blonde turned the can so that the chap could read the label. It said "Hair spray. It restores life to dead hair, adds permanent wave".

## Storms over Dereham by Kitty Lynn



Reminiscences of the Storm at East Dereham, Saturday Afternoon, Feb. 22nd, 1908.

In the *Dereham and Fakenham Times* of February 29th 1908 it is reported that a tremendous gale hit the county.

A few minutes after 4 o'clock dark clouds gathered in an inky mass, rain began to descend more heavily and the increasing fierceness of the wind indicated the near approach of a gale. Just before half past four the unwelcome visitor swept through the district with great fury being accompanied by a violent storm of rain, hail and sleet, vivid lightning and loud peals of thunder. The gale was immediately followed by brilliant sunshine, and people turned out in 100's to inspect the damage wrought. Nothing different there then.

The report continues ... "The roofs of the premises of Messrs. Barclay & Co Ltd., Goddard & Gilbert, Mr George Coleby, Miss Tennant, Mr. H. Leech and the Eagle Hotel were partially stripped of tiles, lead gutters, etc., some of which were carried a considerable distance ... A large plate of glass in the window of Messrs. Goddard & Gilbert was blown in and smashed, and besides other damage a large chimney at the Eagle Hotel, supposed to have been struck by lightning, collapsed."

### Statue Decapitated—21.06.1950

A newspaper report I found this year talks of clouds bursting and gutters falling off walls through the deluge of water that Dereham felt on the 21st June 1950. As it is a lengthy report I've picked out the best for you—

"A gas undertaking official who was called to Mrs. Tuck's house at 28 Beeclesgate Estate, after the storm said: "I found Mrs Tuck covered in soot. Lightning came in through the wall and earthed itself to a water



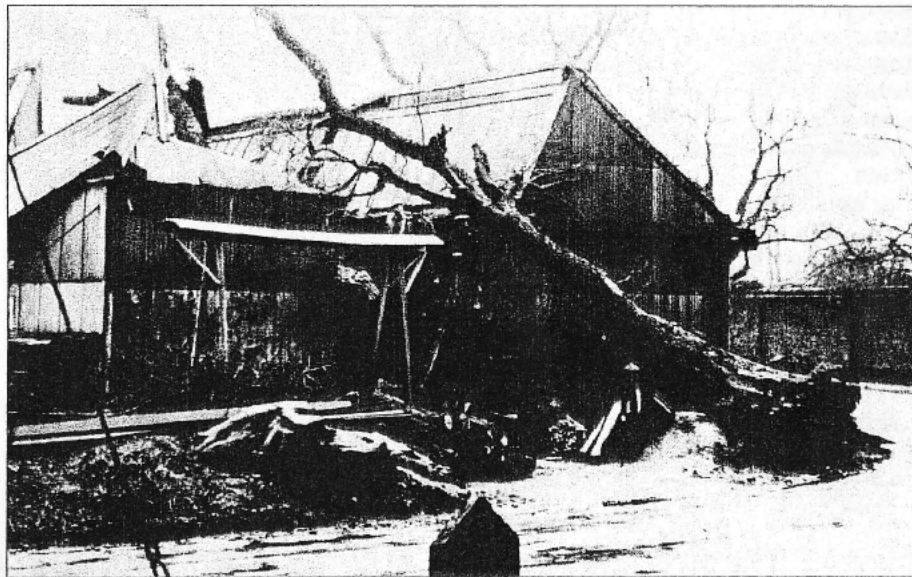
A picture taken a few minutes after the head of the statue of Coke of Norfolk was struck by lightning at Dereham

pipe outside. This pipe was crossed by another carrying gas, a hole being burnt in both, and both pipes were fused together. Water then entered the gas pipe and escaped from the kitchen oven inside the house." (*I think that was a close escape for her*) The report continues: - "The statue of Thomas Coke—"Coke of Norfolk"—which has gazed over Dereham Market Place since 1856, from the top of what was then the new Corn Hall and is now the Exchange Cinema (*Hollywod Cinema in 2005*) lost his head when forked lightning struck just after a clap of thunder.

The head, made of stone and nearly twice the size of a football, broke into several large pieces, four of which crashed through the roof of the cinema, landing on seats in the balcony. Two other pieces fell forward, bouncing off the foyer shelter, under which a number of people stood, and splintered on the road in front of them.

A cleaner, Mrs. P. Everett, who was in the cinema when lightning struck, said she felt "pins and needles run right through her." Windows were smashed and a car outside had one of its tyres punctured."

Another report two days later mentions that the statue was to be demolished.



The Foundry buildings, on the corner of South Green, damaged by storms in January 1943.



## Winner and Answers to last issues Competition

It's Xmas so all who entered get a share of the prize—Joan Cole, Pat Skittrall and Barbara Mathias.

Winner: -

Answers: - 1)Fakenham Museum of Gas and Local History, 2) R.N.L.I. Henry Bloggs Museum, Cromer, 3) Burston School Strike, Diss. 4) Glandford Shell Museum, Glandford, Holt. 5) Wymondham Heritage Museum. 6)The Collectors World of Eric St. John-Foti, Downham Market. 7)Norfolk's Motorcycle Museum, North Walsham. 8) Bishop Bonner Cottages Museum, Dereham. 9)Tales of the Old Gaol House, King's Lynn. 10)Sutton Windmill & Broads Museum, Stalham. 11) Swaffham Museum. 12) Litcham Village Museum. 13) Stalham Fire House Museum, Stalham. 14)Bridewell Museum, Norwich. 15)The Straw Museum, Colby.



## The Fall of the Earl of Leicester by Cliff Abwright

This was taken from an undated article in a magazine or newspaper, likely to have been the Dereham & Fakenham Times. It recalls the day when the Earl's statue on top of the Corn Hall was struck by lightning, and was titled:

### Spectacular End of His Lordship

"Lord Coke's downfall was so spectacular that it is still burnt into the minds of readers. For nearly a century the Earl of Leicester's statue reigned over the Market Place from the lofty heights of the Corn Exchange, later the Exchange Cinema, until a thunderbolt deposed him. Cinema man Mr. Colin Aldiss, of Toftwood, and Mr. Douglas Townsend of Hoe, both inform me that the statue was irreparably smashed in the summer of 1950, not 1963 as I stated in my article on Market Place fairs an earlier month.

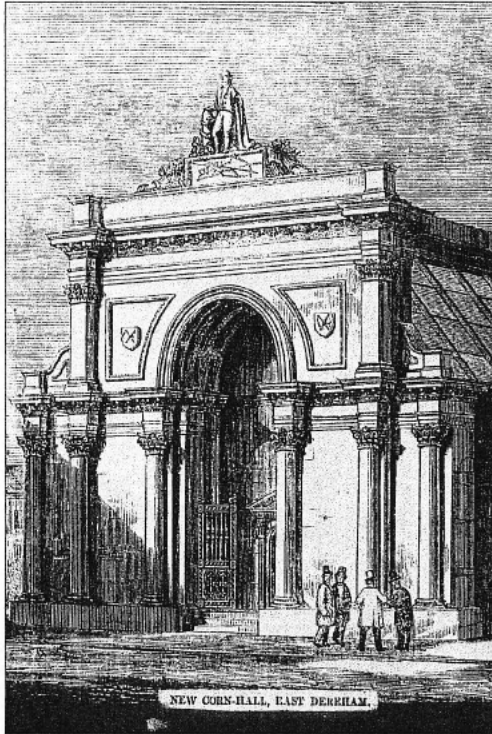
That morning there was a terrific thunderstorm, with torrential rain. Mr. Aldiss remembers one huge bang when lightning struck the statue. "Half of it came through the glass roof, and it all landed up on the balcony" he said.

Mr. Townsend, who was then a probationary projectionist at the cinema, said the cleaner, Mrs. Everett, was in the building at the time. She said "All I could feel was pins and needles" he told me.

Lord Coke's downfall was Mr. Townsend's rise. When builder Mr. G.V. Smith came to clear the debris he offered him a job, and Mr. Townsend has been in the building trade ever since. He now runs his own small firm".

I decided to follow this up by referring to my trusty "Boston & Puddy", which, under the heading "The Cornhall Controversy" says:

"The stone statue (of the Earl of Leicester, Lord Coke, who was a major shareholder in the Exchange - Cliff) which stood above the entrance of the Corn Exchange, was unveiled on September 6<sup>th</sup> of that year (presumably 1858). Mr. W. Freeman of Swanton was the principal promoter of the public fund with which the statue was purchased. It weighed more than three tons, having been carved out of a solid block weighing seven tons. The luncheon in celebration of the inauguration was presided over by Lord Sondes, but it was a tame affair according to Parson Armstrong, who wrote in his diary "the bag which enveloped the respectable old gentleman was suddenly pulled over his head, and one man fired a gun, and six more got up a cheer. This figure was one of three, of which the other two were never used. Both Mr. Freeman of Swanton and Parson Armstrong were amongst those who had been referred to in the scurrilous verses:



"and the F...ns of S..nt. on with similar twaddle  
Were easily brought in the hall scheme to paddle.  
And even the V..ar, to stand well with all,  
Took a stout affidavit to help at the hall"

Later in the article, the book continues: "With passing years the Corn Exchange has become the Exchange Cinema. Bereft of the plough and cornsheaf which formerly flanked it, the statue continued to gaze over the town to the green fields beyond until June 21<sup>st</sup> 1950!

On that day, the longest day of the year, there occurred a freak storm during which the wind was sufficient to blow open the heavy lid of the letterbox of Barclay's Bank, and fill it with rain. One flash of lightning fused a water and gas pipe in a house in Becclesgate, so that water flowed into the housewife's oven, while another struck the statue of Coke of Norfolk which had dominated the Market Place for over ninety years. The head of the statue was sundered into four pieces, two of which crashed through the glass roof into the "2/9d" seats, while a further portion rolled across the road to the door of Mr. Robinson's chemist shop opposite. After an effort to save the statue, it was decided to remove it as the main portion had also been split by the flash and was a public danger. Today nothing remains but the plinth".

Cliff gave me this article early last year and it's only through searching for something to fill this gap that I came across it again, sorry—talk about great minds think alike. Kitty

## So you think you've met idiots ?

All articles featured here are true, they'd have to be—fact's always stranger than fiction.



### Idiot #1

Guy walked into a little corner store with a shotgun and demanded all the cash from the cash drawer. After the cashier put the cash in a bag, the robber saw a bottle of scotch that he wanted behind the counter on the shelf. He told the cashier to put it in the bag as well. The cashier refused and said, "I don't believe you are over 21." the robber said he was, but the clerk still refused to give it to him because he didn't believe him. At this point the robber took his driver's licence out of his wallet and gave it to the clerk. The clerk looked it over, and agreed that the man was in fact over 21, and he put the scotch in the bag. The robber then ran from the store with his loot.

The cashier promptly called the police and gave the name and address of the robber that he got off the licence. They arrested the robber two hours later.

### Idiot #2

Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ysilanti, Michigan at 12:50 a.m. flashed a gun and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the Cash Register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.



# Under Ancient Dereham By Mervyn Payne (from information found in our archives – and continued from the last newsletter)



## Bishop Edmund Bonner

The tendencies of Dereham at the Reformation may be partly estimated from the fact that Bishop Edmund Bonner was its Rector on the eve of that momentous period. He was, of course, a notorious turncoat, a dyed-in-the-wool rascal, but at the bottom of him he detested the break with the Pope, though he did so well out of it as to become Bishop of London in 1540.

It was in the reigns of Edward VI and Mary that he showed himself in his true colours, and though he saw precious little of Dereham during his time as its Rector there can be no doubt that his influences were felt. And it is fairly safe to assume that his immediate predecessors were of his ilk in at least some respects.

Such men as these may well have had a hand in the making of the tunnel. Even Bishop Bonner himself, while sheltering in the picturesque little cottage in St. Withburga's Lane, which still bears his name, might have conceived the idea. He might already have judged which way the wind was blowing, and determined at all costs to maintain a secret means of communication between the ecclesiastics and the Guild, a place of hiding for the Guild's treasures, and maybe a personal refuge. But, it may be argued, all Dereham must have known of the boring of such a tunnel. Admittedly, but Dereham itself was faithful: the danger was solely from the King's men without the gates.

## The Vicar's Story

Now for the Vicar of Dereham's story. He called in an old Norfolk diviner who, by a slight variation of methods claimed to be able to trace a subterranean tunnel just as easily as water or minerals. And the diviner proved, to his own and to the Vicar's satisfaction, that there can be little doubt a tunnel does exist between the house in Becclesgate and the Guildhall.

The tunnel, according to this investigation, runs from Becclesgate House to just below St. Withburga's tomb in the churchyard, which it crosses. It continues down to the ancient track leading down to Washbridge, crossing it at a point just below a gateway leading out of the churchyard. Then it cuts right across the Infants' School playground in St. Withburga's Lane, and runs under the east end of the school. It goes on across the lane, running up to the wall adjoining the Guildhall.

Incidentally, Mr. Baumer himself is skilful with the divining rod, and he estimates the tunnel runs below the surface at an average depth of six feet, being deepest down where it crosses the churchyard.

All the Vicar's efforts to trace this tunnel to the Parish Church have been unavailing, but popular legend still has it that it runs to this edifice. During these interesting investigations, it was discovered that the famous spring feeding St. Withburga's Well rises near the west end of St. Nicholas. The Vicar has no knowledge of the tunnel reputed to run from Little Fields to the Guildhall, and so far as is known, no diviner has sought to trace it.

The name of St. Withburga is indissolubly associated with the Guildhall. Becclesgate tunnel, whether it was constructed in the halcyon days of great medieval pilgrimages to the tomb of that Saint, or whether it was built somewhat later to safeguard the lives and properties of those who clung onto the old faiths, the old guilds, aye, the old England.

*This brings us to the end of this tale here, however it does continue and more can be found in the DAS Booklet — Ancient Dereham for £2.50.*



## Competition

These are all places that you can or could have visited over the last 30 years – some may be shut now.

The theme is again Norfolk's Museums however they are different to the last issue—I haven't made a mistake or been too idle to change the questions.

Write the name of the museum and where it is by the number on the form and send it back to me. The prize is as usual a voucher for £5.00 which can either be used as money off the 2006 outings or deducted from a year's subscription for the Dereham Antiquarian Society. All correct entries will be put into a draw and the winner notified. Their voucher will be given to them in their next newsletter. Correct answers will be shown in our next issue along with the winners name. Don't worry if you can't fill them all in—send it back anyway—you never know it might be that no one can find them all out.

- 1) The Museum houses a historical workhouse and working farm with many rare breeds. Also has a traditional cottage and village shops. *GRESSINGHAM*
- 2) Museum is situated in a group of buildings that have been associated with the wherry trade for years. Approachable by river and road it encompasses the cultural heritage and environment, displaying items of the local area.
- 3) Museum named after a lifeboat donated by a family to the town's fishermen. The boat is one display in her original condition and the history of the boat is explained in a display of contemporary photographs.
- 4) Displays in the Baptist Chapel reflect the Chapel Ministry, lives of local people, farming & textiles. There is also a working 'Weavers Loft' you can visit, where members of the Guild have work in progress.
- 5) History of the development and use of radar in the UK and overseas from 1935 to



**D.A.S.**

**Norfolk's Museums (2nd lot)  
Competition Volume 2, Issue 4**



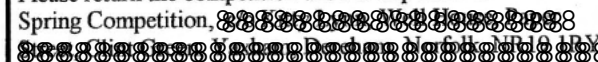
*(Block capitals)*

Name .....

Address .....

Post Code ..... Tel: (.....)

**Closing date  
Feb 8th, 2006**

Please return the competition answer slip form to: -  
Spring Competition, 

date.

- 6) Museum of fretwork machines dating back to 1800 with magazines and (name?) weeklies from 1895 and samples of old fretwork. NOT TOO FAR AWAY!
- 7) A small 18th C cottage with a Broads information area. Museum giving the impression of the home and working life of a family on the marshes.
- 8) Largest privately owned working military museum is home to a collection of tanks, radio sets, miniature aircraft, tank and train models. In fact almost everything to do this military and wartime memorabilia and other items, ie the St. Johns Ambulance Brigade display.
- 9) Medieval town house with period room. Displays from Tudor to Victorian times. Toy collection on display
- 10) Tribal village reconstruction, believed to be on the original site. Medieval cottage and forge with museum, Saxon church AD 630, carriage/vintage engine/farm museum
- 11) Housed in the historic Shambles in this town featuring local history and prehistory.
- 12) This is a hands on science centre housed in a medieval church. Suitable for all ages, it allows everyone to explore and discover the wonders of science for themselves.
- 13) A decorated 19th C style shop which hosts a museum with a series of displays illustrating the history of Colman's Mustard.
- 14) A large collection of social, agricultural and domestic artefacts mainly dating from the Victorian period to the mid 1900s. Dick Joyce was involved with it at one time.
- 15) Environmental discovery centre within unique building. UK's largest wind turbine and organic garden

**Answers** (Block Capitals Please)

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1) <u>ROOTS OF NORFOLK</u> | 2) .....  |
| <u>GRESSINGHAM</u>         | 3) .....  |
| 4) .....                   | 4) .....  |
| 5) .....                   | 5) .....  |
| 6) .....                   | 6) .....  |
| 7) .....                   | 7) .....  |
| 8) .....                   | 8) .....  |
| 9) .....                   | 9) .....  |
| 10) .....                  | 10) ..... |
| 11) .....                  | 11) ..... |
| 12) .....                  | 12) ..... |
| 13) .....                  | 13) ..... |
| 14) .....                  | 14) ..... |
| 15) .....                  | 15) ..... |

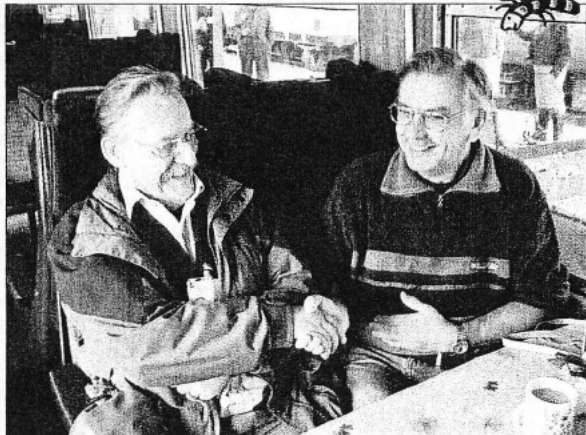
## Unearthed W.W.I. Notes part 4



Continuing with the information that was given to us by Shirley Davy from Terry's collection.

- 30. **29/05/15** The Hospital was extended with the erection of an annexe for ten more beds, making 33 (?) in all. A room belonging to Mr. Rushton of Etling Green, used as a reading room, was purchased for £50. Mr. Rushton gave back £10 toward the cost of re-erection. Another annexe for operations opened in July (?)
- 31. **05/06/15** Plans submitted for Stammer's New Flour Mill at Yaxham Road.
- 32. **10/07/15** The 'Farmers' Annexe' to the hospital (on the left of the hospital) was opened on Friday afternoon and provided an extra 12 beds. It was paid for by funds raised by farmers and others at a jumble sale and auction £182.10s and collected £26.4s. (total £208.14s.) All money had been spent in providing the new annexe at a cost of £80, Eleven beds and bedding at £60, new surgery at £35, surgical appliances at £10, observation ward with four beds at £10, kitchen sundries at £15 (Total £210). The Red Cross requested them to provide a room to store 40 sets of uniforms. The vicar was already storing large amounts of clothing at his present residence. Patients numbered 36. Built by Mr. Larner and his men. Since the hospital had been opened 56 men had been sent back to the front.
- 33. A grocery cart belonging to Roy's Stores, driven by James Suter, overturned at White Hill, near the forge, when the horse shied at a traction engine belonging to Mr. Farrow of Mattishall. Groceries and provisions were thrown all over the road.
- 34. **17/07/15** Fred Guymmer, 10th Dereham man to be killed in action. Licences transferred: Bell, Etling Green, from George Nelson to A.S. Bidwell representing the owners: the Bull from Edward Bridcut, deceased, to his widow, Mrs. Rosetta Bridcut.
- 35. A young horse that had been trained by Mr. Ben Bowles, horse trainer of the Greyhound Inn, took fright at a motor car in Norwich Street and bolted. Mr Bowles leapt from the cart. It galloped from the Fleece toward the Market Place but on arriving at Kingston's Corner it crashed through the glass doorway into H.H. Aldiss' drapers shop. Mr. Pells; local grocer, had left his pony and trap and a little girl outside. He rushed out in time to move it before the runaway charged over the very spot. Mr Aldiss was able to secure the horse's head and hold it until help arrived. The cart, minus the shafts, was removed. Not only was the door crushed, but it broke the door jambs and the plate glass windows of the shop. No one was hurt, and the horse was only slightly cut.
- 36. **24/07/15** During a storm on Friday night horses of the Norfolk Yeomanry 'in a part of Norfolk' stampeded and scattered over the countryside. It was three days before they were all caught. A number were hurt, and they had to be destroyed, several others were found dead.
- 37. Mr Charles Rodgers, landlord of the George, was fined 10s for allowing a window at the inn to be brightly lit.
- 38.

## Well I Never by Kitty Lynn



### Bob Davies met Bob Davies.

Yes, that's right—at Bygones day, I saw a friend who used to help me when I was Akela (Cub Scout Leader) in Mattishall in the 1980/90's and his name, Bob Davies. All I can say is not only do they look alike, they also have the same sense of humour. I also know two Ian Clarke's and they look similar too, but I'm still trying to get a chance where they might meet. Does anyone else have a photo of a similar nature? If so send it in and we'll feature it here. *(photo taken by Cliff)*

### Food for thought



- 1) You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- 2) He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
- 3) Every calendar's days are numbered.



**Next Issue  
8th March  
2005**