

Dereham Antiquarian Society

Incorporating the Cowper Society



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A YEAR of ANNIVERSARIES.

This year we commemorated three anniversaries, the 50th Anniversary of the Society, the 40th Anniversary of Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum, and the bicentenary of the birth of Dereham-born writer, George Borrow.

The Society celebrated the first two occasions with a buffet at Church House on May 22nd, and Cliff Bird, who had asked if he could launch his long-awaited book on Metamec at the gathering, was kept busy signing copies for customers, several of whom were from the various Horological Societies (clock fanatics to you).

Our President, Jonathan Boston, managed to put in an appearance, as did Cresswell Bonner and his wife who were having a few days break in Suffolk, and it was a pleasure to see them all again.

Kitty Lynn made her appearance in an Elizabethan dress, and shared her time between the Buffet and the Museum. She really looks the part too, doesn't she?

Once things began to settle down a bit, and there was room to set up the projector and screen, Brian and Eddie presented their talks, Brian speaking about Bishop Bonner, while Eddie told us some little-known items about the Cottage.

At a rough estimate, there were about eighty people there, and they all appeared to be paying due attention to the stacks of foodstuffs on offer, though I don't know whether anyone had a go at naming any of the weird items that Bob and Eddie had amassed for their quiz.

PS. I have since received an e-mail from Cliff Bird, thanking us for the warm and friendly atmosphere that he and his wife Yvonne experienced at the meeting, and especially for the "constant stream of tea and tasty buffet delicacies" that he received. He added that museums in Australia and America have asked for copies, as Metamec clocks were sold throughout the world. He added also that he had kinsmen in Dereham in the 19th century – The Ramsdales and Hayletts. Do we have anything on these families at all?

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's that time again for the Chairman to put pen to paper upon the activities of the Society. I'll try to keep it short, as you are probably more interested in the articles written by others. The items include Bishop Bonner's Cottages Museum, the requirement for future speakers, and the coach outings.

1. MUSEUM

Although there are days when very few visitors call into the Museum, total visitors for the first two months, May and June, are encouraging, with the numbers up from the same period last year.

I would again like to thank Kitty Lynn for taking on the role as Museum Secretary, or Museum Organiser as she prefers to be known. As well as finding volunteers to man the Museum, Kitty has started to introduce aspects. Firstly to ensure that the Museum retains its registration status as required by the Museum Regulators' "Resource", and secondly, in order to comply with new regulations being introduced by the Government.

Your Letters and Views

with
Your Chairman Eddie Dell

**This is your chance to
write in best letter wins**
a

Porridge

Porridge is a dish which has become associated with Scotland. It is made of oats stewed with either milk or water, and is served with salt or sugar and milk. The first evidence for dishes resembling porridge is prehistoric. Neolithic farmers cultivated oats along with other crops. Various types of grains and grain meals could be stewed in water to form a thick porridge-like dish. Anglo Saxon sources describe "briw" or "brewit" made from rye meal, barley meal or oats served plain or with vegetables in. There are also references to some types of porridges being fermented. Eighteenth Century cookbooks such as Hannah Glasse's "The Art of Cookery made Plain and Easy", 1747, give recipes for "Water Gruel" made of oatmeal and water, and flavoured with butter and pepper. It might be served with wine sauce, sherry and dried fruits by rich people,

whereas the poor ate the dish on its own. It could be served with any meal at any time of the day. Similar dishes included plumb porridge or barley gruel, made from barley and water, with dried fruit added. Burstin was made by roasting hulled barley grains and then grinding them, it could then be served with milk. Frumenty was hulled wheat cooked with milk, cream and eggs and flavoured with spices.

Porridges and gruels were an easy way to cook grains. The grain only had to be cracked, not completely ground into flour. It could be cooked very simply in a pot at the edge of a fire. Bread required an oven to cook in. It formed a basis for many dishes, both sweet and savoury. It was served with meat, stock or fat, as well as with vegetables, fruits, honey or spices. It could be allowed to cool and set in a "porridge drawer", and could then be sliced to be eaten cold or even fried. Sugar only became widely available in Britain in the Eighteenth Century, so it was probably not used on porridge before then.

by Nicky Saunders

Eddie's comments

History of England

While the French King grew more powerful, across the Channel the English monarchy was in difficulty. After the death of Elizabeth I, her cousin James VI of Scotland was crowned James I of Britain. The son of the ill-fated Mary Queen of Scots, James talked about divine right monarchy but backed away from real confrontation with parliament over the question. During his reign, a radical Protestant religious faction within the Church of England, called the Puritans, continued to grow. Appearing in England during the reign of Elizabeth I, the Puritans, imbued with John Calvin's teachings, wanted to "purify" the Church of England of the remnants of Roman catholic ritual and practice.

Eddie's comments: -

A Witty Ditty

This rhyme came from an incident in the archives when I accidentally knocked the magnifying glass on the floor.
Kitty

Oops! Who did that says Bob, I said 't was me,
So I took it home, leave it on my bench says he,
This EMC he found the little job tricky,
A certain glue pot got rather sticky.
Much muttering was heard,
How this job was quite absurd.
Walking in with a glass viewer attached,
Cried for help for it to become dispatched.
Mishearing I replied, 27 years in your dreams,
I'm sure amongst the wailing I heard a scream.
Much hot water, rubbing and scrubbing, with disappear,
He shouts at me putting his sore finger in the air,
Take it back down there, use it for your viewing,
Here at Well House, there'll be no more gluing.

Lost

In the Museum last Tuesday
11th August 2002 a small
silver bracelet belonging to
my daughter. Inscribed inside
is "To my darling daughter" if
any one finds it let
Mrs. Anyone
Purthwaite Road, Datchet.
Telephone 01352 905566

That's it for this time, and we hope you'll have found something of interest in it. Never forget that the Newsletters are for you all, and that if there are any aspects that you feel should be included or altered don't hesitate to tell us and we'll try to amend them.

The next issue should be in October, but Cliff will be away from 4th September till 13th October, so I'm afraid that, like this one, it will be late, but we'll aim for the November's meeting.

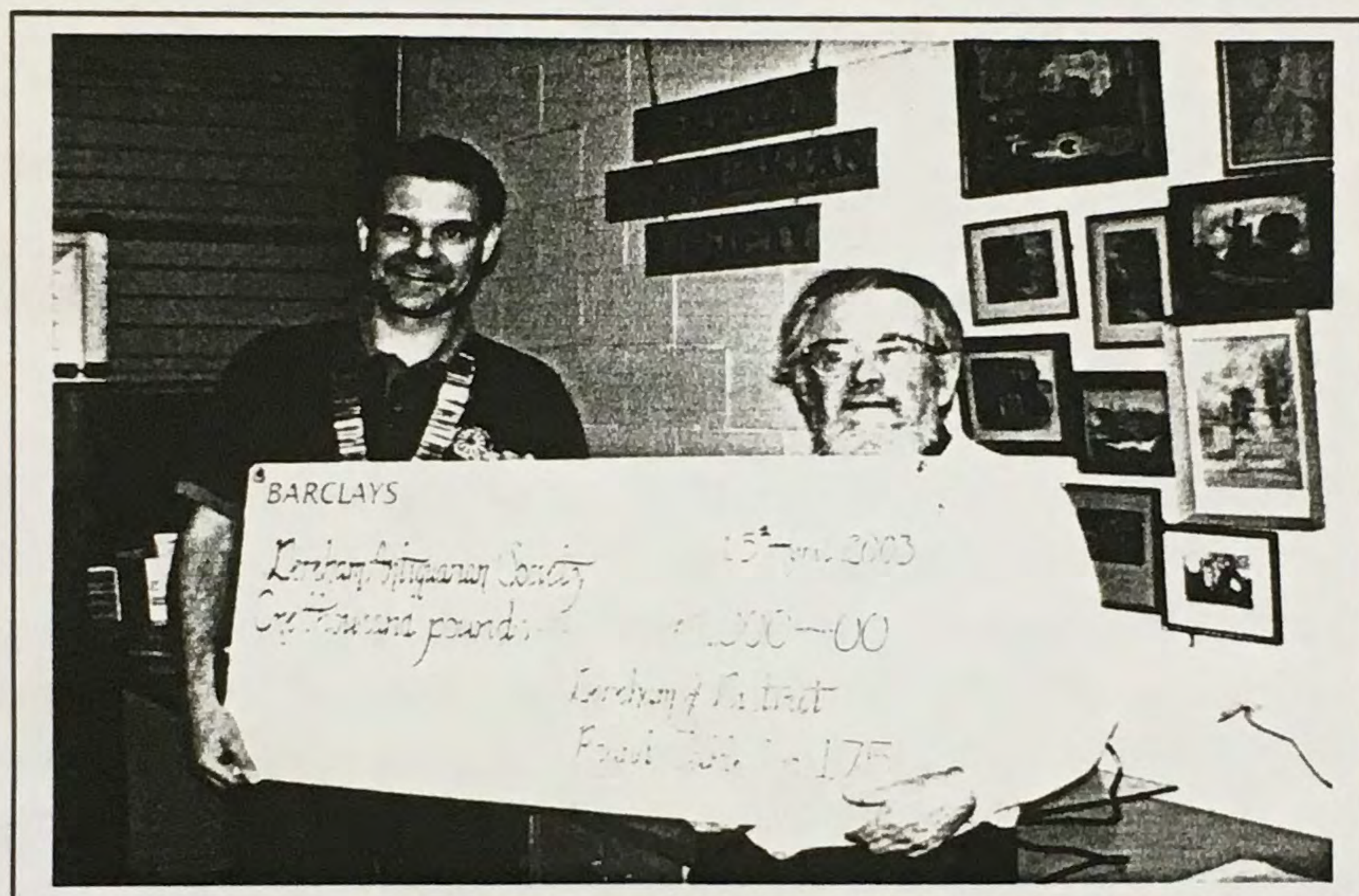
6th August 2003

In the past, and in the near future, the Committee has organised a programme of talks for the winter months, and the Committee would like to know your thoughts on the topics selected for you. Are there any subjects you would wish to be included in the main theme for the evening or are you satisfied with the Committee's present selections? Following on from this, could you put on a ten or fifteen minute talk to follow the main lecture and refreshments at one of the monthly meetings? As you may remember, a couple of seasons ago we introduced a theme that was set based upon "Memories of the Second World War" There is no set theme at present for the coming season, but we would appreciate your participation on any kind of talk: it could be on one of your hobbies, from stamp collecting to climbing Mount Everest. If you are willing to give such a talk could you please contact one of the Committee members. Thank you.

3. COACH TRIPS

The numbers attending our coach outings are also up in comparison to last year, thus avoiding the Society making a loss. Prices are calculated upon the probable minimum number that one can reasonably expect to attend individual trips. Our outings this year, which have taken us to the Muckleburgh Collection Sutton Hoo and to Melford Hall, have been a success. The staff of Melford Hall offered us an additional option, that being a guided talk, which we took up as we believed that the additional 50p they asked was good value, and so it proved.

THE GENEROUS GRANT FROM DEREHAM ROUND TABLE.



Brian receiving the "cheque" from their Chairman, Stuart Bizley

As a result of an appeal by Brian Warwick-Smith, the Dereham Round Table have given us a grant of £1,000 toward the cost of restoring our collection of samplers, and seven of their members came down to the Archive on the evening of 15th April to make the presentation. The timing couldn't have been better, as Elaine had just picked up a few of the restored samplers from the framers, and they looked very impressive.

Don't worry, they gave us a real cheque as well as the one shown here, and after the presentation they spent rest of the evening asking a lot of germane questions about the Society and its activities, both here at the Archive and at the Museum, and of the Society itself, which we were happy to answer. I thought we might get a few converts – maybe we still could. That would be a real break, because not only are they keen and intelligent, but they're all of the right age, as the age limit in their Society ranges from eighteen to forty, and an influx of young blood would be most welcome.

Meanwhile, Brian has been very busy sending out applications for support to a number of different parties, and in addition to the above grant he has received £100 from Morrison's. Incidentally, did you know that those magnificent large photos of Dereham in their store were made from photos we loaned them? Brian also wrote to Dereham Council, who have now kindly reduced the rent on Bishop Bonner's Cottage from £100 a year to just £1. Well done, Brian.

THE OPENING OF THE MUSEUM ON 4th MAY 1963

THE OPENING OF THE MUSEUM ON 4th MAY 1963



**Sir Albert Richardson opening the folk
Museum at Dereham on Saturday**

Rummaging through the files in the Archive I came across an old exercise book – the sort you used to buy for a few coppers – which held a lot of old newspaper cuttings, most of which were unfortunately undated, some were stuck in and some just shoved in loose. Included was this hidden gem – a mounted cutting from the Eastern Daily Press dated Monday 6th May 1963 of the Official Opening of Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum by Sir Albert Richardson. It has additional interest in that we have never been sure exactly who Sir Albert was, thinking of him rather as maybe having been Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk or some such dignitary, and here we discover his true identity, in print, as we'll see below.

Accompanying the photo were two short columns from the paper, but they are too badly marked and creased for me to scan them in, so I will have a go at transcribing them. Here goes:

Bonner's Cottages

"Sir Albert Richardson, that doughty exponent of tradition in English Architecture, was a most appropriate as well as distinguished person to open the delightful museum that Dereham has made of the restored group of 15th century cottages known as Bishop Bonner's Cottages. This is a happy gesture to the past, in a country town that is being rapidly industrialised and expanded.

Sir Albert was not asked to comment upon the architectural explosion that is taking place in the Georgian centre of Dereham as a result of the expansion on the outskirts: otherwise he might also have blown up. But it is, of course, impossible to preserve everything. The task at Dereham, as elsewhere, is not only to conserve the best of the legacy from the past, but to cultivate a modern style of architecture worthy to stand alongside it.

Architect hints at land Law Reform

Reference to a new department of the Ministry of Works with special and greater powers to preserve what he called "the English Heritage" was made by Sir Albert Richardson, one of Britain's most famous architects and a former President of the Royal Academy, when he spoke at Dereham on Saturday.

It was while opening the town's new folk museum at Bishop Bonner's Cottages that Sir Albert revealed he had just returned from a meeting in the House of Commons at which new legislation was disclosed to safeguard the country against "greed and exploitation"

The French Government, he explained, had just passed new legislation designed to preserve every small town and village. "Since reform of our preservation laws is the only thing that will preserve this country, naturally I'm pleased at what is being done" he said.

Period of apathy

Sir Albert described the preservation and restoration of Bishop Bonner's Cottages – they are early 16th century – as “a remarkable and marvellous thing” “We live in a period of carelessness and apathy, and unless preservation such as this is carried out we shall lose that heritage that is England's” he said.

East Anglia, he went on, had not been spoilt like other parts of the country, and the Church had been in the forefront of preserving not only their own churches but unique buildings such as Bishop Bonner's Cottages.

In welcoming Sir Albert, Canon Noel Boston, Vicar of Dereham, recalled that he had done invaluable work on the tower of Dereham Parish Church. Before handing Sir Albert the key, with which he opened the door to the Museum, Canon Boston thanked those local benefactors whose gifts had enabled the cottages to be decorated. It would be run, under a Trust, by Dereham Archaeological Society.

Sir Albert was among the speakers at the annual Cowper Memorial Dinner later on Saturday evening”.

I know the article has taken up a lot of space, but I make no apologies for including such an unexpected find. I hope you'll feel it was worthwhile.

Cliff

Postscript

Another cutting from the same source that I came across had the following to add:

Dereham Society honours Sir Albert Richardson

“Professor Sir Albert Richardson, past-president of the Royal Academy, was made an honorary member of the Dereham Branch of the Archaeological and Antiquarian Society at the society's annual dinner at the George Hotel.

It was at the suggestion of the chairman, Canon Noel Boston that a telegram was also sent to Sir Albert wishing him a speedy recovery in his illness. Sir Albert, who has many connections with Dereham, visited the town last summer to open the Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum.

The dinner was attended by 45 members, and they heard exciting stories of ghosts in cupboards, on stairs, and landing s of ancient houses, told by Mrs. Elizabeth Harland”.

Signature of A.E. Richardson

Later I, came across the signature of Sir Albert Richardson at the Opening Ceremony of the Museum on 9th May 1963. It was written on the first page of th Museum's first Visitors Book, and although it hasn't reproduced too well, and the last word is missing because the book was the old “foolscap” size, which was a little longer than today's A4, and thus too long for my scanner, I thought it worth including below simply as a historical curiosity.

May 4th 1963. A.E. Richardson, F.R.S. (The opening Ce

P.S. That final word, incidentally, was “Ceremony”.

ARCHIVE NOTES

The usual team get together most Tuesdays and Thursdays, and things are progressing - but slowly. One of the problems is that if I'm working on the "Archive" database, and Bob and Eddie want to check something on the "Museum" programme, I have to close the first and open the other, which doesn't take long, but it disrupts what I'm doing to catch up.

Actually, that's the main reason why I started creeping down there on my own on Tuesdays, so that I could get a bit of work done without interruptions, but first Bob joined me, and then Eddie came to team up with us, and we're back where we started. It's not that I'm griping, because it means that Bob and Eddie are getting more of the cataloguing done, while at the same time they are also giving the items proper storage locations on the shelves. Things are slowly beginning to look ship-shape, and we're very pleased with the way it's looking.

The situation would more or less sort itself out if we manage to get a new computer with the grant that Elaine has applied for, because then we could have the Museum database running on one machine and the "Archive" on the other, and that would save all the messing about switching programmes. Fingers crossed.

Cliff

KITTY'S COMMENTS

Hello

Well I've been asked to write something again, so some of you must have liked my ditty last time. Anyone who helps in the Museum by now knows that you have the world's worst speller as a Museum Secretary, even if the rest of you didn't. Of course as the newsletter editions go by you may come to realise, but that can't be helped. Here, however, you have our valiant Cliff to sort through my spelling and grammar mistakes. Yes, my computer has given up, just the same as anyone else I've had dealings with over the years. Recently a member called me completely mad: well, all I can say is "you found out!"

I haven't totalled the visitors yet, I'm suspicious that way, but the new ladybird quiz is certainly drawing in the children, even if sometimes it's to the parents' annoyance. We have our first mini Museum Council soon, and I'm looking forward to that. If you wonder what I'm talking about then clearly you haven't popped into the Museum recently and looked at the Steward's Orange Document (The S.O.D.). It's full of information, newsletter space is of a premium, so all that can be mentioned here is come and have a look at it, I'm sure the stewards won't mind and who knows you might even want to have a go - we'll look after you.

Anyway, here we go with this edition ditty,

Hooray, Thank-you, for allowing me to put the camp bed away,
Plenty of volunteers for the first two months of June and May.
But, Oh dear, what's happening, what's gone wrong with July,
The first fortnight the calendar's almost empty, I wonder why?
OK so its Wimbledon's final week, and a few might stray.
But, so many empty spaces, Are so many away on holiday?

To hear a shout, as you enter through the Museum door,
"I'll do one for you, I've find the energy to volunteer once more"
Just to hear my phone ring, and some gallant person say,
"I'm available, so put me down for such and such day."

My husband reads this and shakes his head in disbelief
"You're deluded woman, you can't say that, good grief,"
I tell him to mind his own, its nothing to do with him.
I give him a pint of cold beer and fill his mug up to the brim,
He sups his beer, burps; lies back and once more sun bathes,
Moaning of the work he's got to do, and how he's such a slave.

Muttering away I leave him on this warm balmy Midsummer Day
Being Mother, Housewife and all else I'm busy, what can I say.
So I keep quiet, say nothing, just reflect and look at that I've wrote,
And immediately into my head floats my mother's old quote,

There are many ways of doing things as a casual glance discloses,

Some folk roll up their sleeves to work, whilst others turn up there noses.
Hope you liked this little ditty,
Take care, and thanks, Kitty.

Thanks to the following for already volunteering, (dare I say the ones who roll up their sleeves), in order of appearance: -

Peter Bradbury,	Rose Prior	June Martin	Rita Smith
Bob Davies	Barbara Mathias	Di Lambert	Peter Hobson
Marguerite Parkinson	Ruth Warwick-Smith	Brian Warwick-Smith	Joyce Dixon
Tony Jones	Anne Betts	Joan Cole	Margaret Davies
Pat Skittrall	Eddie Dell	Joyce Gilbert	Gwen Davison
Margaret Smith	Marigold Merckel	Sheila Jones	

Above are my "Stars" - where would we be without you? Well, the Museum would shut!
Before anyone says anything, modesty prevents me from entering my name above but I have done 13 days so far, because I believe in practising what you preach.

Take care, Kitty.

Contact details: - Mrs Kitty Lynn
Well House, Paper Street, Clint Green, Yaxham,
Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1RY.
Telephone: - 01362 695397 Mobile: - 07712368606
E-mail : - katelynn@tiscali.co.uk

MEETINGS AND OUTINGS

9th APRIL 2003 ANNUAL COWPER EVENING with Rev. JONATHAN BOSTON

By tradition, the Society's meeting that falls closest to the anniversary of the death of the poet William Cowper is always designated "Cowper Evening", and this year we were particularly fortunate in that our President, Jonathan Boston, volunteered (?) to present it for us.

We have always known of Jonathan's love and admiration for "Dereham's poet" and it showed to the highest degree in his discourse this evening, in which he guided us through the life and works of William Cowper in a way that, together with readings from his works, read by himself, and Margaret and Bob Davies, illustrated the vast range of the writer's outlook on the affairs of man.

The story unfolded in Jonathan's clear and distinctive manner, and I'm sure that we all learnt a lot about the life and times of Cowper that we'd not come across before. We were led through his writings that swung from his utter despair at the loss of his mother to the hilarious adventures encountered by the luckless John Gilpin in his episode-filled expedition from London to Edmonton.

I myself had never been a fan of Cowper's, but this evening's discourse led me to think that perhaps I was under-rating him, and for that I join with the rest of his audience to say a sincere "Thank you" to Jonathan for such an instructive evening.

OUTING TO THE MUCKLEBURGH COLLECTION - 14th MAY 2003

This was the first of our summer outings, and thirty members and friends left the Cherry Tree car park on a somewhat overcast afternoon, en route to this military museum at Weybourne. Near Holt the sun came out, and was to stay with us for the rest of our visit.

The brochure claimed that this was the largest collection in Norfolk, and it certainly seemed to live up to its name, with tanks, planes, guns and rockets all over the place - they even had a doodlebug / buzz bomb / flying bomb which I'm sure will have brought back memories to many of us.

The main collection is housed in the original World War Two buildings from Weybourne Camp, a maze of galleries in which there were displays of tanks, guns, and armoured vehicles, as well as vast panels of military data from all periods.

One whole room was taken up with information and records about the village of Weybourne and its camp, and how such a small community could amass such a vast collection of data is beyond me. I came to the conclusion that (a) the locals were very co-operative, or (b) they had an extremely persuasive Archivist in charge. Would that we could do half as well in Dereham.

Amidst a compilation of articles about the St. John Ambulance, there were some bits about the Brigade in Dereham, in which June Martin spotted her mother, while other members identified people they knew, including Flo Mann, Maureen Hart, and Mollie Lambert. Mollie also had another small photo all to herself, showing her in the uniform of Superintendent. Unfortunately, it seemed that none of these had their date on them.

The three hours that we had there passed all too quickly, and 4.30 found us back aboard the coach and heading for home. The weather had stayed bright for our time there, but as we left the clouds began to gather and Bob was JUST able to keep his (almost) unbeaten sunshine record by claiming that it was the time spent at the venue that counts, and we had to give him the benefit of the doubt.

We had a pleasant drive back along the north coast to Wells before turning inland through Little Walsingham to East Barsham, where Bob pointed out the fine Elizabethan red brick of East Barsham Manor.

Home by 6 o'clock, with our thanks to Bob for yet another very interesting trip.

OUTING TO SUTTON HOO – 11th JUNE 2003

This was always going to be a well-attended trip, and so it proved, and there were forty-four people on the "posh" coach as Keith drove out from the Cherry Tree car park at 11 o'clock on a somewhat overcast morning.

We had a 45-minute stop at Stonham Barns, by which time the sun had come out, and we arrived at Sutton Hoo, near Woodbridge in Suffolk, at 1.50, where we were turned loose until 4.30.

This is the site of a Viking Ship burial, (in fact there were two, but one had been looted many years earlier), and is now in the care of the National Trust. Many of us were expecting to find at least a mock-up to show the location of the find, and were disappointed to discover that all there was to see was a series of mounds of various size.

However, the Visitor Centre presented a different picture. Here there were photos and plaques describing the excavations, replicas of many of the artefacts found, and even a large mock-up of the ship, in which reproductions of the items found were placed as they were at the time of the discovery.

Remarkably for a National Trust property, photographs were allowed in the main display, where all the exhibits were copies, but were forbidden in the Treasury, in which there was a number of the original finds, which were on loan from the British Museum.

We agreed not to have a stop on the way home, so Keith treated us to a drive back to Dereham via the pretty way, and his good lady came round with tea or coffee en route for those who wanted them.

We arrived back at the Cherry Tree at 6.40, after yet another very interesting visit. The sun had stayed out throughout our time at Sutton Hoo, a fact that Bob wasn't backward in pointing out. Good one, Bob

OUTING TO MELFORD HALL, LONG SUTTON – 9th JULY 2003-07-11.

Numbers on our outings are still high, and forty members left the Cherry Tree on a warm sunny day, bound for Melford Hall, in Suffolk.

We stopped for lunch at Bury St. Edmunds, which allowed many of us to take advantage of such a lovely day and sit in the Abbey Gardens, and to admire their displays while we munched our sandwiches.

Arriving at the Hall, we were treated to a short history of the Hall, which began life as a Hunting Lodge for the Abbey at Bury St. Edmunds, but was snaffled by Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and in 1547 he leased it to one of his most loyal supporters, William Cordell, who later became outright owner of the property and built the present Hall. He entertained Elizabeth I at the Hall in 1578.

I myself felt that the Hall was moderately interesting, with a particularly fine collection of Chinese Porcelain, and 17th century Dutch and naval paintings (there were several admirals in the family succession), though many members felt that it would have been helpful if each room could have been identified with a small plaque: as it was, there would be reference in the Guide Book to "Beatrix Potter's Room", but you were left to guess just which room that was.

Also, most thought that the "Beatrix Potter Exhibition", which was the main attraction for some, and which had been so prominently advertised in the National Trust Handbook, was a complete wash-out. One lady afterward remarked that she had more Beatrix Potter bits and pieces at home.

Soon everyone was enjoying the sunshine in the Gardens, which had some fine specimen trees and attractive beds and borders, many full of scented flowers such as lavender.

Unfortunately when we were back at the coach and ready to leave, one of our ladies discovered that her camera was missing, and despite a search it hadn't turned up when we left, to drive down into Long Melford in search of sustenance.

However, when we all got back to the coach our driver, Alistair, was proudly displaying the missing camera. It had been handed in to the office, and a member of staff, knowing that one of our members had lost it, and that we were intending to go down into the village for tea, got into his car and chased us. Then, seeing the coach parked, he handed over the camera to Alistair. So the affair ended well.

A pleasant ride home, and a round of thanks to Bob for yet another fine outing – once more without rain, as he carefully pointed out. He'll slip up one day by forgetting to slip the weatherman the mandatory couple of quid.

THANKS IN TURN FROM BOB

Bob has asked me to add a tailpiece to say how much he appreciates the appreciation that you have given him, and would in turn like to thank everyone for supporting his efforts so staunchly with your participation. Each outing this year has been reasonably filled, which has enabled us to meet our commitments and even show a degree of profit. So, on behalf of Bob, **thank you all very much.**

Cliff

MOLLIE LAMBERT – 19th April 1923 to 15th December, 2001

I have been awaiting an opportunity to include the following poem for a long time. It was written in January 2002 by Margaret Davies in memory of her sister Mollie, who had been a long time member not only of the Society but also of many other organisations, both local and national. She served in the Women's Land Army during WW2, and for many years she was a midwife and health visitor. Margaret's poem admirably reflects not only that phase, but also her many other activities.

MOLLIE

**Nurse, midwife and Health Visitor,
For more than forty years,
She cared for all who needed her,
And calmed their many fears.**

**We have a baby in the House,
Our very first, and so,
When he won't feed or go to sleep,
Ask Mollie, she will know.**

**And has he got a tummy ache?
Or rash that doesn't show?
And shall we call the Doctor in?
Ask Mollie, she will know.**

**Each month for over twenty years
Her talents were on view:
With cakes and jams of every kind,
For him, for her, for you.**

**Which meant for many Charities
That came within her care.
She cooked all week to raise the cash
For those in need to Share.**

**So if an angel up above
Should slip and hurt his toe,
And cannot get the bandage right,**

No matter what the problem was,
No matter what the care,
In case of need of any kind,
Mollie was always there.

Ask Mollie, she will know,

Margaret Davies

KITTY'S TRAINING DAY, 6th AUGUST 2003

Kitty described this as "a training day with a difference", and it certainly was that. She had the brilliant idea of inviting all the Museum stewards to lunch at her home at Well House, and from the comments that I received when the participants arrived down at the Archive that afternoon she excelled herself, especially in the culinary episode.

She had given all the stewards copy of her proposed programme, complete with timetable, which began with a rundown of all the various aspects of her suggested training levels in the Museum, which was followed by two talks – Brian speaking about "The History of Bishop Bonner and the Cottages", and Rose (and others) recalling "The History of the Antiquarian Society and the Museum"

A break for coffee was followed by Eddie speaking about "A Historical Walk Around Dereham", and the reminiscences of various members who were born and bred in Dereham recalling "When I Was Young".

A gourmet lunch followed – Kitty had been cooking since 5.30 a.m. – after which Bob spoke about various Security matters, - theft, personal safety, bombs, breakages, etc", for those who weren't dozing off after the aforementioned banquet.

The group were then scheduled to drop in at the Museum to run through such items as Fire Drill, and making emergency calls using the mobile phone, but in the event they decided it was too hot, and they came straight down to the Archive where, true to my allotted undertaking, I had the tea urn bubbling and the computer humming in readiness.

The party there numbered sixteen, including the five regulars, and they were guided through the various aspects through which new items are recorded. It began with Rose, who writes out the Accession Record, which registers detail of the item, who gave it, whether it is donated outright or is just on loan, and a brief description. The item then passes on to Bob and Eddie, who fill in a form that gives a complete description of it, including the name of the donor, sizes, and date of origin where known. The item is given a location from which it can readily be recovered, and the form then passes on to Cliff, who transcribes those details onto the "Museum" database on the computer.. There is a separate but similar database for Archive items, and Cliff was able to show how various items in either collection can be readily accessed when required.

Meanwhile Elaine had been opening up some of the boxes in which the garments are stored, all neatly wrapped in acid-free paper, and with their description and catalogue details shown on the outside of the box. Usually Ruth would have been there as her second-in-command, but Brian had just had an eye operation and Ruth took him home soon after the lunch.

The group began breaking up about four o'clock, and we like to think that they had all enjoyed all the thought and hard work that Kitty had put into making it a day filled with interest.

SHOULD WE TRY USING COLUMNS?

We've had a suggestion from Kitty Lynn that we might try producing our newsletters in columns instead of in the book-style layout we use now.

She thinks that by doing so we may get more on each page, which means that we may use less pages or, alternatively, that we could get more into the same number of pages than we do now.

I've taken one of the pages from the specimen that Kitty has prepared as an example, and have scanned it in. I've printed it below, which will allow you all to judge whether or not you'd like us to adopt the "columns" style in future. – once Kitty has shown me how to do it. Please let me know which you prefer – it's your choice.

Cliff - Telephone: 01362 693357