

Newsletter free
to Members of DAS

Dereham's
Local
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Group



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WINTER 2007

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Dereham Antiquarian

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~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Society

Helping Local History
To
Thrive & Survive.



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



Letters

Copy deadline—Any articles for the next newsletter to be received by 12th February 2008 please.

2nd December

O.K so in the last newsletter on the Jessopp pages there were two little lines across some of the text. Where they came from I've no idea but it must have been something I put there as the computer doesn't make mistakes, it's always the operator, so I'll take the blame. Right that's over and done with.

Next year we start a new idea—we are going to theme the newsletters so if you have anything you'd like to write about then please let us know. To help I'm giving you notice of what next year's themes are.

Spring—Law and Order which will include the following:

Old Dereham—the History of Dereham's Historical Buildings (spread over eight issues)—starting with the Assembly Rooms, including its courts and lawyers.

Old News—Alfred Reynolds one of the last two Norfolk men to be hung.

Nutshell History—Crime and Punishment

The Vaults—The Norfolk Police Force.

Memory Lane—The Courts and the people who worked in them. From Coroner and Clerk to Usher and User.

Summer—Reading and Writing

Old Dereham—The Guildhall. (2 of 8)

Old News—continues the Alfred Reynolds story.

Nutshell History—Unwillingly to School

The Vaults—Old Schools of Dereham

Memory Lane—Inside the Education Establishments—from Teachers and Truants to Libraries and Lessons

Autumn—Days off at your leisure

Old Dereham—The Memorial Hall (3 of 8)

Old News—Old town Entertainments

Nutshell History—The Fun of the Fair

The Vaults—The Theatre and its Players

Memory Lane—Entertainment—from Players and Pantomimers to Stagehands and Stallholders

Winter—Health & Cleanliness

Old Dereham—Dereham Hospital through the ages (4 of 8)

Old News—Medical Officers' Reports & Accidents

Nutshell—Keeping Clean

The Vaults—Water & Washing in Dereham

Memory Lane—Various Health Workers in the Dereham Area from Doctors and Dentists to Chemists and Carers.

If you are or were any of those mentioned in Memory Lane please write a small piece—if lots of you write just a few words we'll have a wonderful collection of memories for the archives and future generations.

Of course our usual features will still be in the newsletter—Chairman's Corner, the programme and the DAS Activities. But Well I Never, Comedy Corner and Jessopp's pages might end up being themed as well—who knows?

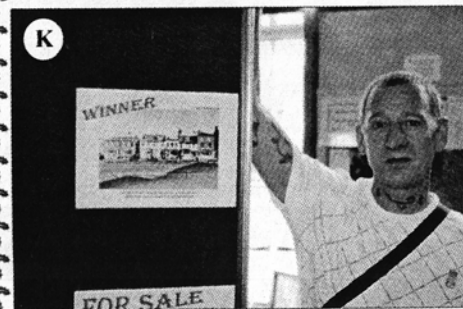
Let's hear about something from you. I know that there are former lawyers, teachers, clerks, doctors, players, nurses, carers etc. amongst you so why not give us a line or two. Please. Beg, Grovel etc. etc. You must have seen something in Dereham at some time.

Finally from myself and Cliff

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

Kitty

Dave Enfield with his D&F Times winning photograph at the Now & Then Event.



Chairman's Corner

by Tony Jones

Alas, another summer has been and gone and with it our outings for this year. These trips were not as well supported as we would have wished, so I do hope that more members and friends will join us next year.

And whilst on the subject of support, may I make a plea for someone to offer their services as Museum Secretary? I have been trying to help in that role, but it would be so much better if one of our members could volunteer. If you would like to enquire—without necessarily making any commitment—then do ring me on 01362 820580 for further details. Please remember that any assistance would help to ease the situation for the small band of individuals who, with limited time, are doing their utmost to further the best interests of your society.

Part of this effort over the past few months has been to prepare the necessary documentation for museum accreditation. Our application was submitted prior to the 10th October deadline and we have since had a letter from the MLA requesting clarification of some issues. These primarily concern the new museum lease, the arrangement with Breckland Council pertaining

Programme Guide

by Sheila Jones



Wednesday—January 9th

Event— DAS Meeting
Place— Trinity Church Rooms, Dereham
Time— 7.30pm
Speaker— Dr. Natasha Hutcheson
Talk— Boudica and the Iceni

Wednesday—February 13th

Event— DAS - Annual General Meeting
Place— Trinity Church Rooms, Dereham
Time— 7.30pm.

to the Archive; our Forward Plan with regard to Museum Archive expenditure and various aspects of our documentation procedures. I hope, with the support of my colleagues, we shall be able to resolve these matters, although the absence of security of tenure for the Archive remains a worry. However, I am in the process of attending meetings with our advisors and others in an attempt to tackle the last point.

Please try to attend our forthcoming monthly meetings and in the meantime I wish you all a happy Christmas and good fortune in the coming year.

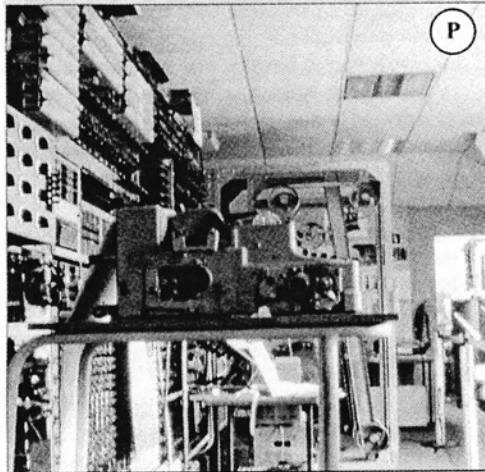
IMAGES OF DEREHAM - NOW AND THEN - 22nd September 2007

This was the last, and most successful, of all the Museum Events organised by the Archive & Museum Group for the summer season. Held on a Saturday in Church House it consisted of a display of old photos, maps, paintings, and posters from the Archives, together with a comparison using modern photographs of the same scenes. It was run in conjunction with a photographic competition held by The Dereham Times newspaper of readers' favourite scenes of Dereham, and the winner was announced during the event. The public interest in Dereham history was evident from the very large numbers present during the whole of the day. The 2008 Calendars, designed by Kitty Lynn, containing matching photos of Dereham Then & Now were on sale and the welcome refreshments were organised by Lesley Griffin. The Museum and the Society received good coverage in the local press for which we thank Ian Clarke of the Dereham Times, and of course Kitty and all the members who gave of their time and efforts in making the day such a success. Well done everyone! by Peter Bradbury

Wednesday—March 12th

Event— DAS Meeting
Place— Trinity Church Rooms, Dereham
Time— 7.30pm
Cost— Simon Partridge
Details— The History of the Herring Fishing Industry

DAS Activities by Various Members



The Colossus Machine at Bletchley Park.

Visit to Bletchley Park 12th September 2007

The last bus trip of the summer season saw club members travelling to Bletchley Park, near Milton Keynes, which was a World War II secret base for breaking of enemy coded messages.

The story of Bletchley Park was recently made into a film telling the story of the code breakers who broke the German Enigma Code, thus saving lives, and contributing to the shortening of the war. It was here that the World's first programmable computer named Colossus was built, and Bombe an electro-mechanical machine which cut down on the time taken to crack the daily - changing Enigma keys. There was a superb exhibition of these machines complete with 'hands on facility'. We were able to look round the beautiful Victorian Manor House used as the Headquarter Building and go on a tour of the old wartime huts housing various displays with a 1940's theme including; naval, vintage cars, and the Churchill Collection. There was also an excellent Gift Shop and Restaurant, set in the lovely surrounds of the old estate Park. The staff proved to be most welcoming and helpful, nothing being too much trouble for them.

Our thanks to Sheila and Tony for all their work in organising the summer programme.

Peter Bradbury

Arcadian Meeting—October

Well we arrived with a full car all eager to hear the talk on Witchcraft, Ghosts and Folklore but the place looked empty, no cars at the front, no lights on as we parked opposite down a small lane.

Suddenly a car drove up opposite and out pilled a youngish man in full World War II Home Guard costume smartly followed by we assumed, his lady wife (Molly) dressed as a land girl. Muttering to ourselves, wondering if we'd got the right place we crossed the road with trepidation.

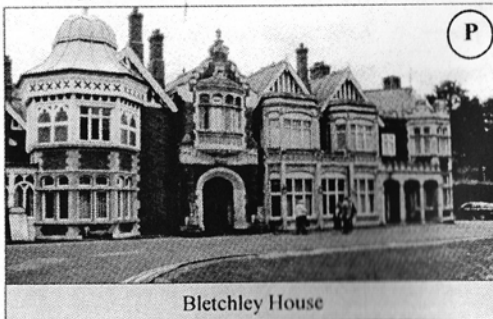
Yes, it was the speaker, Norfolk author Neil Storey (I should say Neil R. Storey to be correct). Several members were already there and others followed us in all looking at Neil and Molly, I'm sure thinking, as I was, what's the talk going to be about.

The first thing Neil did was explain that he and Molly had come straight from an enactment that was on at Mannington Hall, hence the costumes.

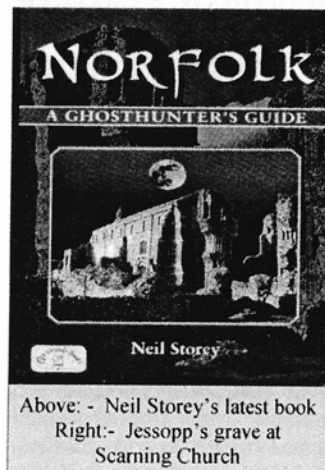
I have to confess my favourite talk for several years followed—a lively imaginative talk delivered with great gusto—fantastic—wish there were more speakers like him. Molly help by manning the laptop and projector on cue from Neil.

O. K. it was my type of talk but I think he could talk about anything and it would be interesting. I should say a word about the talk I suppose.

Well the topic was Ghosts of Norfolk—he mentioned so many, showing slides of most of the places. To mention them all would take up too much room but here are a few – The Phantom Bridal Carriage of Potter Heigham, Queen Isabella at Castle Rising, Hickling's Drummer Boy, The Knightly Walk at Ingham and the White Lady of St Mary's at Worstead. He also showed us a photograph (he'd taken) of a ghost or to be precise a Hyter Sprite (Will o' the Wisp) on the Norfolk Broads and he referred to



Bletchley House



Above: - Neil Storey's latest book
Right:- Jessopp's grave at Scarning Church



Black Shuck and are the sightings of a large black panther the same thing? He left us with food for thought. In the tea interval he produced his latest book before it was for sale generally and I think most people bought one—he had knocked a pound off as a special offer for us. I certainly did, having just made him sign the two books I already have written by him. (Norfolk Murders and Grim Almanac of Norfolk). Then he continued for the second half mentioning yet more ghost stories.

I know the four of us in our car were more than happy with the afternoon and to top it all we finished by calling in for fish & chips on the way home. Yummy. A very good speaker indeed – well done, Sheila.

Kitty Lynn

Wednesday Evening Lecture

"Dr. Jessopp"

14th November 2007

The Society began the winter programme with a lecture by Clive Wilkins-Jones of the Forum Heritage Centre on Doctor Augustus Jessopp, schoolmaster and historical writer.

Jessopp obtained a pass degree from St John's College, Cambridge in 1848 and was ordained to a curacy at Papworth St Agnes. In the year 1855 he and his wife moved to Helston, Cornwall, where he became master of the local grammar school. This school was in a rather rundown condition with hardly any pupils left, but Jessopp, during his four years as headmaster changed it into a successful school. Leaving in 1859 he

took up an appointment as headmaster of King Edward VI's School, Norwich, where an even bigger task awaited him.

The school had only a few day-boys and one boarder, bad discipline, the buildings in a sorry state of repair. During Jessopp's twenty years headmastership there it was transformed into a modern public school, with buildings enlarged, teaching and equipment improved, and with a good record at the universities. He was an imposing, if unconventional, headmaster; not a great scholar, but a teacher of originality and enthusiasm. He set the boys new standards in work, in discipline, in games; was admired by them for his vigour, fine presence, and noble voice; beloved for his kindness and magnificent moments of indiscretion and frivolity.

Retiring from Norwich in 1879 he became rector of Scarning church, and there found time to pursue antiquarian researches, which had become his chief interest, and which he did much to popularize. After working on the records of the Walpole family for twelve years, the book "One Generation of a Norfolk House" was published in 1878.

At Scarning he lived the life of a well-to-do country parson of wide accomplishments, active in his poor parish, well known in East Anglia as a learned antiquary, and outside it as a writer of medieval England. Highly critical of the conditions of village and clerical life of his own day his articles were published in the "Nineteenth Century" magazine and later in his own volumes, "Arcady, for Better or Worse" (1887) and "Trials of a Country Parson" (1890). Jessopp went on to write many more books on medieval history related to East Anglia and parish life in the Middle Ages. After the death of his wife in 1905 his circumstances were much reduced and he was given a civilist pension. Later his mind became affected and after thirty-five years as rector of Scarning in 1911 he resigned his living and retired to Norwich. He died in February 1914 and his grave is in the graveyard of Scarning Church.

Peter Bradbury



a. Why is Paris like the letter F.

Old News by Kitty Lynn

An article taken from the *Dereham & Fakenham Times* 1880.



A DEREHAM TRADESMAN CHARGED WITH RECEIVING STOLEN GOODS

2nd October 1880

Alfred Newell, of Dereham, ironmonger, was charged that he did on August 21st, feloniously receive from William Church, three bags of shot and one-eighth of a cask of gunpowder, the property of Messrs. Doughty and Bradley, knowing the same to have been stolen. The case excited considerable interest, and the Court was crowded. Mr W. H. Daly appeared for the prosecution; Mr Wilkin, of Lynn, for defendant. Wm. Church, who was in the employ of Messrs. Doughty and Bradley up to September 6th, said—Newell was at Messrs Doughty and Bradley's as foreman in the front shop until about a year ago. I have seen and spoken to him since he left Messrs. Doughty and Bradley's. He has asked me several times to supply him with goods. He has not been a customer to Messrs. Doughty and Bradley in the ordinary course of business, but I have supplied him with goods. On a Saturday about five weeks ago, I supplied him with three bags of shot, a cask containing 12½lbs. of gunpowder, and some in tins.

A man named Peacock took the shot, by my direction, to Mr Norton's, the Earl of Leicester Inn, and I took the gunpowder, which was in a cask and put it in the manger of Norton's stable. Newell had requested me to get him the gunpowder about three weeks before I did so. I have received several notes from Newell, which I have since destroyed. They were sent to a man named Quadling to be delivered to me. The notes were open, and generally to this effect, "Will you get so and so for me?" these notes were in the handwriting of Newell, and I destroyed them for anyone should see them. Newell gave me verbal directions about the gunpowder and shot, but as I was unable to obtain them at once, I received notes asking me to supply them as soon as possible. I took the gunpowder from the magazine. I have not seen Newell since he had the gunpowder and shot. I have taken other things by Newell's request to Norton's; they have all been taken within three months. The order was never given to me in the ordinary course of business. Newell did not go to the shop, he has paid me for everything except the last lot, which was the gunpowder and shot. Those payments were made

in his own shop. Peacock brought the money back for some oil, which was paid for on delivery. The price paid for the oil was above the cost price, but under the wholesale price. I have never informed Doughty and Bradley of the dealings I had had with Newell. I put part of the money I took from Newell in the till. I could not put all in at once for fear of being found out. I put the remainder in my pocket, intending to put it in the till, but I spent it. I have never opened an account in Doughty and Bradley's book against Newell, because I knew I had no business to supply him with goods. He has never asked me for any statement of account, when I went for the money, he always paid me. Newell had got a book copied from Messrs. Doughty and Bradley's book, in which is written their cost price, and also their wholesale price of goods. He consulted that book before paying me. The wholesale price of the dozen scythes, which I sold to Newell for 24s., is 30s. When I received an order from Newell, I made a memorandum of it at the end of my pocket book, and after the goods were paid for, I tore out the leaves. Newell would know it was not my business to take orders out of the shop. Cross-examined by Mr Wilkin – The account charges for gunpowder in the bill produced is, I believe, the exact cost price. I sent Peacock for the money, and received it from him. Newell paid me the same price for benzoline as Mr Cox charged him on the bill produced. Mr Cox is still in the employ of Messrs. Doughty and Bradley. I swear I did not receive 25s. for the dozen scythes. The amount of money I have received from Newell is between £5 and £10. The first transaction I had with Newell, was, I believe, the oil; that was supplied after Mr Cox supplied the benzoline. I received a written order for another dozen scythes to be sent to another place, but I did not send them. Newell is the only person to whom I have supplied goods not accounting for them. Mr John Page Bradley gave evidence as to the value of the goods supplied to the defendant. The oil that Mr Cox supplied was sold at cost price, and was accounted for in the usual way on the till sheet. Robert Norton, landlord of the Earl of Leicester Inn, remembered some parcels being brought to his house by Peacock on a Saturday a few weeks ago. Peacock said who they were for. Newell also brought some

things. They were all put in the stable, and a boy, named Brighty, took them away. He remembered having other goods left there for the same person on other occasions. George Quadling, tinman, who had been in prosecutors' employ till within about three weeks ago, said he had taken notes which had been left at his house to Church. They were on slips of paper, and only on few occasions were they sealed. Witness opened one of those sealed letters by mistake, it was in Newell's handwriting, requesting Church to send the good he had ordered of him to Norton's. He had not had similar notes for any other persons on the firm. Henry Peacock, painter, who had also been in the employment of Messrs. Doughty and Bradley, deposed to taking, in consequence of orders received from Church, three bags of shot to Norton's. Cross-examined by Mr Wilkin – I have taken benzoline to Norton's by the direction of Mr Cox. I took money on the bill produced and paid it to Mr Cox. Charles Brighty, errand boy, in the employ of Mr Newell, said his master sent him on a Saturday to fetch some three bags of shot and some gunpowder in a cask, and some pitch, from Norton's. On one occasion witness took some benzoline from Norton's to his master. Henry Barnard, who had been in the employ of defendant, said he had fetched things from Norton's by Mr Newell's order on several occasions. Cross-examined by Mr Wilkin – I have seen Mr Newell pay money to Church openly in the shop. Defendant, who pleaded not guilty, and reserved in defence, was committed for trial at the ensuing Quarter Sessions. Bail was granted in two sureties of £25 each, and himself in £50.

TRADERS IN OPPOSITION

Quarter Sessions
23rd October 1880

Alfred Newell, ironmonger, East Dereham, was charged with feloniously receiving three bags of shot and one-eighth cask of gunpowder, from Wm. Church, the property of Messrs. Doughty and Bradley, on the 21st August last, well knowing the same to have been stolen. Mr Blofeld prosecuted: and Mr S Reeve defended. The prisoner Newell, now an ironmonger carrying on business on his own account, was formerly foreman for Messrs. Doughty and Bradley, who are old-established ironmongers at Dereham,

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- (V) © DAS Archives

carrying on a large business. In the service of the prosecutors was a young man named Church, as an apprentice, and about four months ago the prisoner asked this young man if he could not get him some things from his masters "on the quiet." Church consented, and first he obtained for him a corkscrew, and the money he received for this, 6d or 8d., its cost price, he placed in the till. Subsequently Church, who is now undergoing a sentence of imprisonment inflicted by the Dereham Bench of Magistrates, was applied to by Newell to get him some other things, and convey them to Norton's public-house, the Earl of Leicester. This also was to be done on the quiet. Church did this and successively sent to Norton's a dozen scythes, some reap hooks, nails and paraffin, all of which were supplied at cost price. Some of the money Church received for these he put

13, MARKET PLACE, EAST DEREHAM.

(K) ALFRED NEWELL,
Furnishing and General Ironmonger,
OIL AND COLOUR MERCHANT,
Gas Fitter, Bell Hanger, Locksmith, etc.,
COPPER, IRON and TIN PLATE WORKER.
Repairs of all kinds neatly and promptly executed by
First-class Workmen.
A.N. has a large and well-assorted Stock of PARAFFIN LAMPS
and GLASSES at very low prices.
Paraffin, Cooking and Heating Stoves, Kitchen Ranges, Register and
Shop Stoves of various makes, to suit all classes.
AN EARLY INSPECTION INVITED.

into the till and some he put into his own pocket. Prisoner also applied to him to obtain for him a barrel of benzoline, to have it conveyed to Smith's maltings and to account for it in Messrs. Doughty and Bradley's book by debiting the shop account with it. This, however, he refused to do. The prisoner asked his to convey the things to Norton's, because if he (Church) could do this, he could manage to get them away from that place. The evidence showed that Peacock, one of Messrs. Doughty and Bradley's workmen, conveyed these things to Norton's in the most open manner, during business hours and that there was no attempt to concealment. Norton confirmed this. Church, when he obtained these goods, made out no bill, did not enter the transaction in the book, and acquainted no one on the firm with the transactions. It was pointed out by the counsel that Newell's shop was situated quite opposite the prosecuting firm's premises, while Norton's public-house was situated about fifty yards behind Doughty and Bradley's shop. Church received at periods notes from Newell acquainting him with the things he wanted, and when they had been conveyed to

Left: Advert from Coleby's Directory 1896.

Below: The Market Place in c1900.

Ricketts Shop & Bradley & Doughty's Shop, which by then was just Bradley, later to become Utting & Buckingham by 1915—Ricketts's shop was no longer there then.



Norton's, they were fetched away by an errand boy or some person instructed by prisoner, who paid for all the goods already mentioned in this narrative at cost price, and who knew the cost price by the fact that he had in his possession a copy of prosecutor's price list. Finally Church obtained three bags of shot and the gun-powder, which were conveyed away to Norton's as the other property had been. These articles had never been paid for, although supplied a month before the apprehension of Church. Church said he dared not put the whole of the money he received from the prisoner into the till, otherwise he would have been found out, but he put in a portion. The witness Church, who was brought up from the Castle to give evidence was subjected to a long cross-examination by Mr Reeve with the intention of showing that the transactions were done in a genuine way of business by the prisoner. When first spoken to by the prosecuting attorney concerning his being called upon to give evidence, he had already pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing the goods, and he had no expectation of returning to Messrs. Bradley and Doughty's service, nor to be in any other way rewarded for giving this evidence. Mr Blofeld, in summing up the case for the prosecution, said the conduct of the prisoner threw a great deal of suspicion upon the transactions, and he pointed out that the prisoner obtained the goods at cost price, while he must know that the Messrs. Doughty and Bradley could not carry on their business in such a manner. Mr Reeve, in defence, said the prisoner had by diligence and frugality during the twenty years he had been in the employ of the prosecutors saved money so as to conduct an ironmonger's business on his own account, and it could be conceived that the Messrs. Doughty and Bradley would be irritated by the fact that a former workman had set up in trade in opposition to them and was taking away some of their business. Church had said that he had been requested to get the things on the quiet. No confirmation of this has been given in evidence, whereas it was shown that Church had paid very little attention to the request, for the things were conveyed away in the most open manner. Newell's real intention was that the things might be obtained in such away that the inhabitants of the town might suppose that his goods were obtained direct from the

manufacturers, and for what he had obtained he had paid what would allow a profit. Of course the relations between Doughty and Bradley and prisoner were such that precluded his applying to them for the sale of goods. After insisting upon the fact that the prisoner had in every instance but the two last paid Church the cost price of these goods, and that the shot and gunpowder would have been paid for when opportunity offered, and after remarking that it was necessary to prove the felonious intention of the prisoner, the learned counsel warmly remarked that this was not an honest prosecution, but that it was a prosecution to oppress this man, and get rid of a rival trade, and so strongly was this felt by the tradesmen of Dereham, that many of them had put themselves to the inconvenience to attend that Court to give evidence as to character. He then called Messrs C. Feltman, G. R. Kingston, W. Stebbings, J. Askew, H. Page, W. Fendick and J. Barnes, whose testimony concurred in attributing to the prisoner a character for industry, honesty and respectability. The CHAIRMAN, in summing up, said the remarkable fact in the case was that the prisoner seemed in every instance, save two, to have paid nearly, if not quite the price, at which the articles might have been obtained from great tradesmen. There was, however, the fact that he knew the firm would not be willing to allow him to have them, and, further, that the goods were sent to a public-house at a distance, whereas his own establishment was quite near to that of the prosecutor's premises. The Jury found a verdict of Not Guilty, which was received with marked signs of approbation by the public.

Next time: Alfred Reynolds, a Dereham Man, was one of the last two people to be hung in Norfolk—read the full story starting in the next issue.

Winner and Answers to last issues Competition

Winner: - Mrs. Di Lambert

Answers: -

Where am I—Philo's Yard. East—Bowling Green, South—Manor House, West—Church Cottage, North—Springwell Resource Centre.

A NUTSHELL OF HISTORY

....researched by Kitty Lynn.

Although this article may seem out of place at this time of year it is one that was left over from a couple of years ago when we didn't have room for it. It belonged to Potted History articles of 2006. Perhaps it will give us ladies time to read and digest and then hopefully put into action—of course you gentlemen should help especially with the harvesting—for at the end of the day you eat it as well. Any one of you—join up with another and share the work and benefits—I assure you nothing tastes like homemade produce especially when it's free.

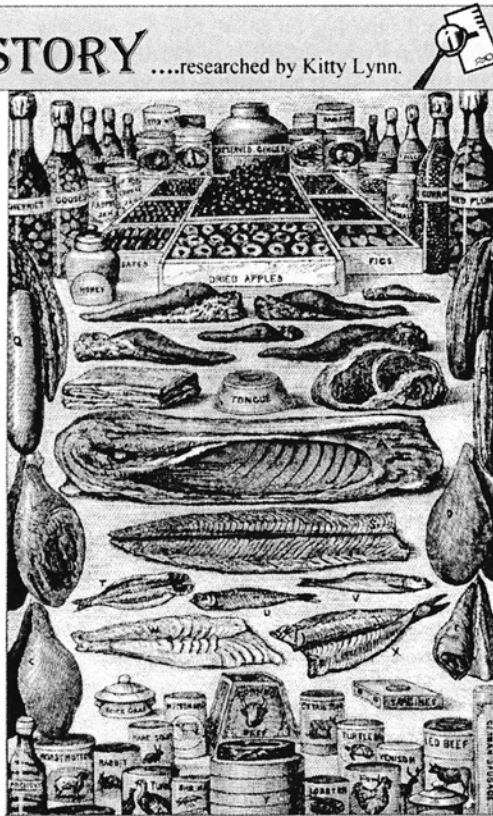
THE COUNTRY LARDER.

For centuries, gathering the wild natural produce of the bountiful countryside was a serious business for country folk, as it provided an important source of food throughout the year.

Before the advent of cultivated varieties of vegetables, country people relied heavily on wild produce for a balanced diet. They had no corner shop or local supermarket—the hedgerows and fields were their greengrocer.

In the past, people were far more aware than they are today of the plants that grew around them and of necessity learnt about the culinary virtues of many of them. Their needs extended through the winter months, and so preserving these foods in various ways was a vital part of country life. The larder would be stocked with jams and jellies, pickles spiced with aromatic hedgerow herbs, and wines and cordials that would last the year. Some foods became traditional fare for religious festivals and special occasions, and for celebrating events in the agricultural year.

Throughout the Middle Ages and up until the late 19th century, more fruit was probably preserved than eaten fresh. In days when hygiene was, to say the least, little understood, flies spread fever very rapidly, and fresh fruit was blamed for causing much disease. Consequently, the skill of making seasonal foods last was



PRESERVES

In the days before refrigeration, most daily fare from meat to fish, from fruit to vegetables, were either dried, smoked, pickled, bottled or canned to help preserve the produce of the land.

well practised. And all the methods that were developed—preserving, pickling, drying, salting and bottling—remain largely unchanged but combined with higher standards of cleanliness.

SPRING GREENS

With the arrival of spring, are the rural housewife's winter diet of salted meat and root vegetables, the appearance of tender young green shots meant a welcome addition to the vegetables and salads that could be served to the family. Many of their plants contained vital vitamins and minerals, and were eaten for their tonic value as much as for their delicate taste and wide variety of interesting flavours.

Spring plants featured in many traditional dishes during Lent. From medieval times through to the Puritans of the 17th century, the

Lenten fast was an important event in the religious calendar. People abstained from eating meat and rich dairy produce for the six weeks or so before Easter and the place of these foods was often taken by eggs. Bistort, tansy and saffron were used to flavour egg dishes, cakes and bread, because their sharp flavour was a reminder of the bitter herbs eaten by the Jews at Passover and given to Christ on the Cross. Easter Ledge Pudding from Kendal in Cumbria still features in many north country cookery books today, containing bistort ('Easter Ledges'), young nettle tops, dandelion leaves and lady's mantle. The herb tansy was a particular favourite in egg dishes as its flavour offsets their blandness; it gave its name to a sweet dish of eggs—tansie—which was a kind of crème caramel flavoured with tansy leaves.

Many early spring plants—garlic mustard and corn salad for example—went into the family soup or 'pottage', and once Lent was over newly emerged fresh mint was picked to go with tender spring lamb, while young sage leaves helped the flavour of sucking pig. In Shropshire a traditional delicacy was a leg of pork stuffed with 'Robin-run-in-the-hedge', which was a local name for ground-ivy. The dairy farmer's wife traditionally used the wild herbs from the hedgerow to flavour soft cheese, and many different parts of the country all had their local specialities.

Wine and ale was also made from the flowers and plants of the hedgerows. Dandelion and cowslip flowers were both used to make delicious wines, and 'ivy beer' was traditionally imbibed every Rogation Day at St Michael in the Northgate Oxford. This was ale made with ground-ivy, which was particularly tasty at this time of the year — late April—when it was young and pungent. Indeed, ground-ivy was the brewing forerunner of the hop, which did not arrive in England until the 16th century.

Another drink made all over the country was hawthorn blossom wine, made every year to celebrate May day. In some places a 'maibowle' was the traditional refreshment after dancing around the maypole on the village green. It was a mixture of wine and sliced fruit, served in a bowl which was covered with a thick layer of hawthorn blossoms. Spring also saw the rampant growth of chick-

weed, a delicious salad vegetable with a cress like taste, rich in mineral salts and vitamins. Mixing it with corn salad, primrose leaves and young dandelion leaves made a fresh salad that was a welcome tonic. Dandelion was well-known to country women for its cleansing and diuretic properties as well as its nutritive value.

Many of these edible hedgerow plants had originally been brought to the English countryside by the Romans, who used them as culinary vegetables—amongst them ground-elder, borage, alexanders and the brassicas—which include Shepherd's Purse and garlic mustard. During the Dark Ages, after the Romans had left Britain, some of these were cultivated in monastery gardens both for food and for their medicinal properties, and many spread to the wild. As the country became more prosperous under the late Plantagenets and Tudors, these plants became more widely known and used, and this period was their heyday. By the 17th century, explorers were opening up the world, and all kinds of new vegetables were being introduced to Europe, and they began to take the place of some of the hedgerow plants in the daily diet.

A few favourite recipes were passed down through the generations, one of the most famous being nettle soup. Highly regarded for its richness



BLACKBERRY PICKERS

The countryside was once exploited for its wild harvest of fruits, nuts and vegetation which not only helped to provide a balanced diet but also added colour and variety to often unappetising fare. Up until the 19th century most fruit was bottled or preserved in jams and jellies. Little fruit was eaten fresh as due to poor standards of hygiene it was often responsible for causing illness and disease.



b. Why is swearing like a ragged coat?



AUTUMN HARVEST

Following the summer growing season, the fruit and nuts of fields and hedgerows were gathered in to be preserved and stored away for the coming months of winter. In years gone by this autumn harvest coincided with the Harvest Festival and went towards providing some of the fresh food and drink at this time of feasting and merrymaking.



in vegetable protein, minerals and vitamins, country folk made nettle beer and nettle tea to purify the blood, and ate the young tops in soups for their tenderness and delicious taste. As summer arrived these young tops harvested from the hedgerows and fields made a marvellous vegetable dish either just cooked on their own like spinach, or mixed with oatmeal or potatoes to make something more substantial.

COMFREY-LEAF FRITTERS

Comfrey, too, was a firm favourite during the summer, its thick, rich leaves more nutritious even than spinach and containing the important vitamin B12. Its delightful flavour made a nourishing soup, and comfrey-leaf fritters were a particular favourite with children. Comfrey went into pies and stuffings, sometimes mixed with wild chives to add an edge to the flavour.

This summer harvest was abundant in the hedgerows in the days before over-population and intensive farming had changed the face of the British landscape. Chamomile was picked and dried, so that soothing and delicious teas could be made from it all the year round. Elderflowers festooned the June hedges, with their muscatel flavour and heady scent, and were picked for jams and jellies, cordials and wines. The ground elder that spread so rapidly along the ground was gathered, young and sweet, and made into a bright green soup or boiled for a tasty side-vegetable.

As the summer wore on, juicy sow-thistle was gathered, one of the most delicious of all the hedgerow 'greens'. Mixed with dandelion leaves and nettle tops, it made a mouth-watering side-vegetable, and was also made into a beautiful soup with wild herbs. The horseradish with its long, hot root was dug, scraped and grated into

vinegar and stored away to go with winter meats to mask their monotonous saltiness—preserving in salt was once the only way of preserving meat.

Young mallow leaves, pungent and spicy, gave zest to dishes of potato, and wild rose petals were used in a wide range of imaginative ways. They were crystallized in sugars, candied, for future use, or used fresh in desert tarts and creams, in syrups and jams. Wild sorrel was useful not merely as a salad vegetable but also made into lemony sauces to go with meat and fish dishes. It was also used for its tenderizing properties: a piece of meat wrapped in sorrel leaves while it was cooking made it melt in the mouth. Wild strawberries, a delicacy then as now, went into jams, flans and jellies, and Sir Walter Raleigh had a favourite cordial of wild strawberries soaked in aqua vitae and sweetened with sugar and rose water.

AUTUMN HARVEST

As the summer evenings shortened and gave way to misty autumn days, berries and nuts were ripening in the hedgerows and with more than a hint of long wintry months ahead, gathering the crops began in earnest. Like squirrels hoarding for less abundant times ahead, country folk became intent on preserving and pickling

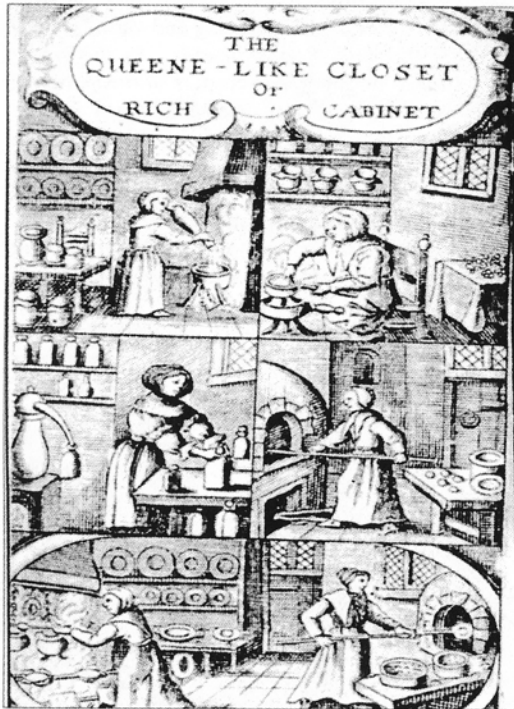
as many fruits and nuts as possible, to stock their larders with interesting and varied produce for the cold weather ahead. As the season turned, bright orange clusters of rowan berries were made into a delectable sharp jelly to accompany game and rich meats, and also for making wine. The first mushrooms sprang up in woodland and field, and were eagerly harvested and eaten fresh, and also strung up on strings to dry out over the stove, so that they could flavour stews and soups later on in the year.

In the north of England, bilberry pie was, and still is, a popular dessert, delicious with fresh cream. Bilberries were also made into a moist cake, and used for a sauce to go with cold meats. Bilberry wine has been made for centuries by country folk—indeed in some parts of the country its local name is 'wineberry'. Juniper

GATHERING WALNUTS

Walnuts featured strongly in the country diet and were used in jams, bread and cake or made into a rich soup, or preserved in salt. Walnut ketchup was also used to give Worcestershire sauce its unique flavour, while pickled walnuts, preserved while still green in July, remain a popular delicacy often served with a Ploughman's Lunch.





**The Queene-like Closet,
OR
RICH CABINET:
Stored with all manner of
RARE RECEIPTS**

FOR
Preserving, Candying, and Cookery.
Very Pleasant and Beneficial to all
Ingenious Persons of the Female Sex.

To which is added,
A SUPPLEMENT,
PRESENTED
To all Ingenious LADIES,
and GENTLEWOMEN.

By *Hannab Wolley.*

The Fourth EDITION.

LONDON,
Printed for R. Chiswel at the *Rose and
Crown* in *St. Paul's Church-yard*, and
T. Sawbridge at the *Three Flowers de
Luce* in *Little Britain*. 1681.

RARE RECEIPTS

Preserving food is an old art with a long history. Many recipes used today continue the tradition, passed down by word of mouth and through books like the one shown here, printed in 1681.

ale which had roasted crab-apple pulp added, was commonly brewed, along with 'verjuice', a kind of fermented cider which tasted more like vinegar. This was made by rotting down over-ripe crab apples and straining off the juice. The whole fruits were often spiced and preserved in sweetened vinegar.

WINTER WARMERS

Elderberries hanging heavy on their branches were enthusiastically sought after for their rich blackcurranty flavour. Hot elderberry wine was traditionally drunk on St Andrew's Day, November 30th, in certain parts of the country. Men and women exchanged clothes and went larking around on 'Tander's Day' as they called it. The hot elderberry wine was drunk while eating triangular blessing cakes called 'kitchels', on New Year's Eve.

Besides being used for the most popular and successful of hedgerow wines, elderberries

were widely used in cookery too. They were made into crumbles and tarts, mixed with apples in compotes, made into a rich-tasting curd and used in many hedgerow jellies. They were an important ingredient of 'Pontack Sauce', a kind of home-made ketchup.

Chestnuts, hazelnuts and walnuts were all gathered and stored away in salt for winter use, or turned into preserves of all kinds. Worcestershire sauce relies on walnut ketchup for its unique flavour, and the fresh nuts were used in cakes and breads, and added to jams. Walnuts make a delicious soup, satisfyingly rich in cold weather, and highly nutritious. 'Wet' (barely ripe) walnuts were traditional fare at Stourbridge Fair, and picked walnuts, preserved while still green in July, are still a typical English delicacy, traditionally served with a Ploughman's Lunch or with the leftover turkey at Christmas.

Today, our remaining hedgerows often do not have the same variety of plants as in years gone by, due to modern farming and hedge cutting techniques, but they can still be a source of food. However, care must always be taken never to uproot any wild plant and to pick very sparingly—checking first with a

good field guide. Supermarket convenience may have lured us to the High Street to obtain our food, but throughout the growing year the hedgerow harvest, free for the picking, still has many delights in store.

Finally a quick cold cure—take one diced onion, place in jam jar and add two tablespoons of runny honey over it, shake, place on kitchen side overnight. In the morning strain and take one teaspoon four times a day—it'll shift phlegm—believe me. No good if you're allergic to alliums though and please check against any medicines you take.

Next time—Crime & Punishment.

FRUIT OF JAM

Stronghold of rural jam-making, the many Women's Institutes of Britain have helped to keep alive the tradition of home preserving since their formation during the early part of the 20th century. And with the proliferation of cheap and widely available fruit from Pick-Your-Own fruit farms, and the current preoccupation with natural foods free from artificial preservatives and flavourings, home-made jam is today enjoying renewed popularity.



Old Dereham

By Cliff Allwright



Gerald Davey (left) and Malcolm Adnett five metres down, in Dereham's new sewerage system.



Looking a bit apprehensive, reporter Steven Martin in the skip, ready for his journey underground.

I'd seen copies of this left-hand picture before, but there were no details, and then I came across a complete copy of Dereham & Fakenham Times dated March 22, 1985, and there was the complete story, with a second picture, under the headline

"AND UNDER DEREHAM MEN ARE AT WORK",

Story by Stephen Martin:
Pictures by Brian Smith:

which reads:

What digs a hole three feet wide, five metres underground, at the rate of six to nine inches in twenty minutes? Not some enormous burrowing creature, but men digging a new sewer to relieve the existing system under fast-growing Dereham.

A method called pipe-jacking is being used to lay about 385 metres of pipe in places where the sewer is having to be put in deep, and where it has to go under roads.

Traditionally a trench would have been dug across the countryside and a pipe laid, but with pipe-jacking the sewer is pushed through the ground with hydraulic rams.

After a pit has been dug at the start of the proposed pipeline, the soil is dug away from one side and sections of the sewer pushed into the hole. A man crawls down the pipe and digs

away at the end of the tunnel like a miner. The excavated soil is hauled back along the tunnel in a trolley, and the pipe is then pushed in another few inches.

The sewer is being built by the company Breheny, under contract from Anglian Water. The pipe-jacking sections are being done by specialists Barhale Construction, of London. The total cost will be about £300,000.

"The advantage of this system is that we can go under roads, causing as little inconvenience as possible", said Anglian Water's Resident Engineer, Mr. Graham Wilson.

He said without pipe-jacking the old A47 road at the bottom of Swaffham Hill would have had to be closed. This method, however, means that excavation work has to go on 24 hours a day to prevent a build-up of pressure, which could prevent the pipe being moved.

Our photographer, Brian Smith, rode a 200ft tunnel in a trolley used to bring out the excavated soil to photograph the working conditions in the hole, and our reporter also ventured into the tunnel. "It was not a bed as you might think. The cavity at the end is a good deal larger than the sewer itself, big enough for three or four people to sit in. The hole is well

lit, and there is a supply of fresh air from the digging tool" he said. "Even so, after 20 minutes chipping away at often rock-hard soil, you need to come out for a breather", added Mr. Gerard Davey.

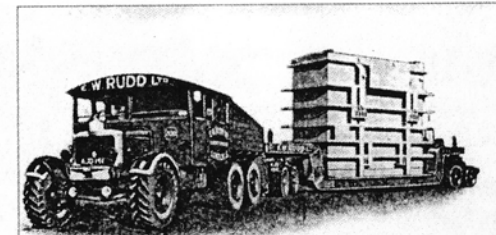
The new sewer will cater for 500 new homes planned for the northern end of Dereham, and will also serve parts of Toftwood.

MEMORIES OF A GREATLY MISSED DEREHAM COMPANY

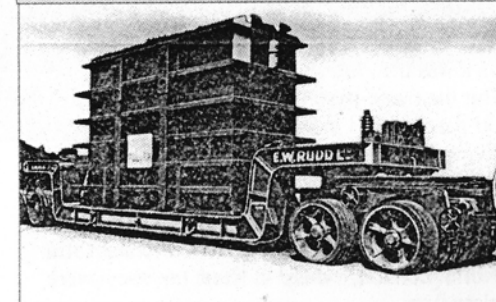
During its long existence in Dereham, Crane Fruehauf, always known throughout the town as simply "Crane's", was one of the major manufacturing companies in the town, producing hundreds, if not thousands, of trailers and bodies for lorries, of which these pictures show a sample. Much of the text we received with the pictures is too technical to produce in full, so I'll stick to the simple stuff with a short précis as usual, which says:

"Early in the war, the Central Electricity Board decided to have two identical trailers built for the transport of heavy transformers, with a load capacity of 80 tons, one to be operated by Messrs Pickfords and the other Messrs Rudds. From here on it becomes all esoteric - gobbledegook to you, - but that will give you the basic story.

Cranes was very kind to the Society, and in the Archive we have hundreds and hundreds of photos of their products which still need to be sorted and listed. But then, so do so many other things. Hopefully we'll get round to it one day.



Some of the vehicles made by Crane Fruehauf.



DEREHAM'S END-of-W.W.I. TEA PARTIES IN 1919

This is a transcription of an article published in Dereham & Fakenham Times on 17th May 1985, and is reminiscent of similar parties to celebrate VE Day throughout the country in 1945. It reads as follows:

The VE Day anniversary celebrations send many of my (unfortunately there was no author's name) readers searching drawers and cupboards for their own souvenirs of the end of the war.

The picture above was sent by Mrs. Sybil Buckingham of Railway Farm, Scarning.

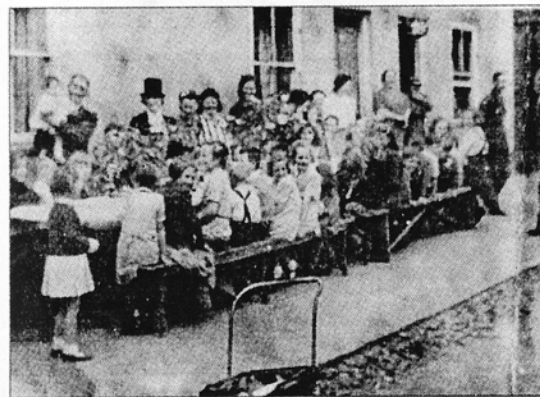
It was a party organised for children in Church Street, Dereham to which she took her two children, Heather and Geoffrey.

"They had a tea party with lots of games, and it was a lovely day" recalls Mrs. Buckingham.

The table is set in front of a building which has since been demolished to make way for the Phoenix Hotel.

In a large number of communities street parties were the order of the day, and the picture on the right, lent to me by Mrs. Mildred Leeds, shows another one at Dereham.

MARVELLOUS



All smiles at the street party at Church Street, Dereham, in 1945.

It seems as though hundreds of children enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Gay, the landlord of the Light Horse Public House, as Baxter Row celebrated.

Mrs. Leeds tells me everyone had a marvellous time. She is on the left of the picture wearing the white beret. On her left is the landlady of the Light Horse in those days, Mrs. Polly Gay.

The Light Horse has now taken the name of its erstwhile competitor across the road, the Royal Standard, and Baxter Row as it was then has long disappeared.

But the name lives on in the council flats on the site, and indeed Mrs. Leeds is still living in Baxter Row today.

I myself was overseas in Kenya at that time, but I know that similar parties were held throughout the borough of Tottenham, in North London, where I lived, as they were elsewhere.

FREAK WEATHER DID NOT WORRY THEM

This offering brings us closer to home, in that it refers to the Lambert family, three members of which are currently members of the Society. This article was printed in the "Times" dated Friday April, 28, 1950 under the above title, and reads:

"This week's freak weather has focused attention on the people who grow our food and flowers. While farmers were anxiously watching their crops as frost and snow violated April, Sheddicks Nurseries, at Dereham, could afford to laugh at the elements.

The delicate greens of the humble vegetable or the glorious profusion of colour of the tulip, an interesting study of the utility and decorative products of nature, can also be seen at the nurseries. Founded in 1833 by Benjamin Barkway, the nurseries were taken over by John Charles Sheddick in 1911, whom the present proprietor, Mr. C.S. Lambert, succeeded in 1933.

This birthplace of lovely flowers extends over 3½ acres of fertile land which has been carefully tended by skilled nurserymen for nearly 120 years. Its nine greenhouses are used for tomatoes in summer and chrysanthemums in winter. This week the hundreds of rows of bedded



A packed street for the Baxter Row celebration at the end of the war in Europe.

plants are carefully protected by their armour of glass.

The nurseries specialise in the growing of dahlias, for which Gold Medals and prizes have been won.

This was the leading article in Issue No. 7 of Dereham Antiquarian Society News, forerunner of our present Newsletters, which was published and written almost entirely by Terry Davy back in Summer 1989, - he had difficulty in getting articles from members even then. However, this is an exception, as I find that it was written by Milly Cook, and I think it's worth a repeat seventeen years later.



Here Mrs. Norman Lambert is seen examining the last of the winter lilies. She is holding a bunch of newly-cut orange and yellow Keizer Kroom tulips. Working in the background is Mr. N. Lambert. They are two of the family of eight who run the business.



- d.—Why is a man sailing up the Tigris, like one putting his father into a sack?
- e.—Why is a man in love like a lobster?

Right: Blessing the new Ambulance.

DEREHAM AMBULANCE DIVISION

I'm treading on very sticky ground and sticking my neck out with this one, and will be delighted if someone can put me right. I've come across an un-named and handwritten page with the above title, and I'm not entirely sure that I'm writing about the right Company, as I'm assuming that it refers to the St. John Ambulance Brigade. All I can do is transcribe it and wait for your comments, and hopefully additions and amendments.

Dereham Ambulance Division was registered in 1923. Mr. H. Houseago and Mr. Cocker were among the founder members.

Dr. Howlett was Divisional Surgeon and members met in the converted loft above the DAS stables.

Based in the garage of J.J. Wrights, the Ambulance Service relied on volunteers.

A Nursing Division was formed at Hobbies in 1944; the first business meeting was held on April 26th 1945 in Hobbies' canteen.

I do not know the date when the Headquarters were moved to Norwich Street.

A combined Division was set up in 1971.

Strength of Division for 2002.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Surgeon | 1 |
| Male members | 7 |
| Female members | 8 |



Support Services

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Male Vice President | 1 |
| Female Vice President | 1 |
| Female Secretary | 1 |

Well that's it, and I await your flood of additions, corrections and probably abuse. I'm all packed ready to leave the country.

Two days after I entered this here, he did—he went to Ireland.

Competition

Well you liked that one didn't you 17 entries—well done. Here's another one—even easier as it's Christmas—don't forget you will still be able to pay part of your subs this year with the winnings if you win.

I can promise that none of them are more than five minutes walk from the centre of Dereham. (Nelson Place seems to me to be fairly central)

D.A.S.

(Block capitals)

Where am I? Competition Volume 4, Issue 4



Name

Address

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

these days).
 The prize is a voucher for £5.00 which can be used either as money off the 2008 outings or a year's subscription (2008) for the Dereham Antiquarian Society.
 Anyone can answer it as the only person who sets it is me and all my computer files are protected so that even my family members

don't have access.
 All correct entries will be put into a draw and the winner notified and given their voucher in the next newsletter. Correct answers will be in the next newsletter along with the winner's name.
 All you have to do is fill in the blanks correctly on the form and return it to the address below.



Please return the competition answer slip form to: -
 Winter Competition, c/o Kitty Lynn, Well House, Paper Street, Clint Green, Yaxham, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1RY.

Closing date
16th February, 2008

Answers (Block Capitals Please)

Where exactly am I standing ?

_ n / t _ _ / _ _ e _ s / _ n / _ e _ _ _ / _ _ a _ _ .

What is the name of the way and street I'm looking at in photograph number two ?

_ u _ _ ' _ Way & _ o _ _ _ c _ Street

Name the street at the end of photograph three.

_ _ _ h / _ t _ e _ _ .

/ = separate word begins

Comedy Corner

from Cliff Allwright



I've repeated this one from the Autumn Issue in 2002 as it's one of our (the editors) favourites.

The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas,
 my true love said to me
 "I'm glad we bought fresh turkey,
 and a proper Christmas Tree"
 On the second day of Christmas,
 much laughter could be heard,
 As we tucked into our turkey,
 a most delicious bird.
 On the third day,
 we entertained the people from next door,
 The turkey tasted just as good
 as it had the day before.
 Day four, relations came to stay:
 poor Gran is looking old
 We finished up the Christmas Pud,
 and ate the turkey cold.
 On the fifth day of Christmas,
 outside the snowflakes flurried,
 But we were nice and warm inside,
 for we had our turkey curried.
 On the sixth day,
 I must admit the Christmas spirit died,
 The children fought and bickered,
 we ate turkey rissoles, fried.
 On the seventh day of Christmas,
 my true love he did wince
 When he sat down at the table,
 and was offered turkey mince.
 Day eight, and nerves were getting frayed;
 the dog had run for shelter,
 I served up turkey pancakes,
 with a glass of Alka Seltzer.
 On day nine our cat left home,
 by lunchtime dad was blotto,
 He said he'd have to have a drink
 to face turkey risotto.
 By the tenth day the booze was gone,
 (except our home made brew),
 As if that wasn't bad enough,
 we suffered turkey stew.
 On the eleventh day of Christmas,
 the Christmas tree was moulting

The mince pies were as hard as rocks,
 and the turkey was revolting.
 On the Twelfth Day,
 my true love had a smile upon his lips,
 The guests had gone, the turkey too,
 and we dined on fish and chips.

From whenever it may start either the 20th December like Kitty's or the eve of the 24th December like most—Enjoy your Christmas



Church Clangers

Thank God for Church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services. We have broken the list into five topics the fourth being

Church Events

1. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
2. The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
3. The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.
4. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
5. The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
6. Potluck supper Sunday at 5.00pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

Next time—The final few—on church business.

Brain Teasers



Answers

- a.— It is the capital of France.
- b.— It is a bad habit.
- c.— He is crusty.
- d.— He is going to Bag—dad
- e.— He has a lady in his head.

Doctor Jessopp, Scarning Vicar

*Due to the fact of the members already having had a lecture on Jessopp at November's Meeting—which I hasten to add I found very interesting even though when we got home hubby said who the **** was Jessopp. Hubby bless him is no literary scholar. He's a petrol head (someone into Motors & Bikes etc). So just in case there's anyone else out there thinking the same—and to stop them having a surfeit, this time I've concentrated on an article that Jessopp wrote which was featured in the Scarning Parish Magazine and written in the Arcadian Newsletter of 2003.*

Extracts from Scarning Parish Magazine, November 1902

The month of October has passed away very quietly, and with fewer changes in Scarning than usually happen at Michaelmas time. The most startling event was the merciful escape from a real conflagration which would inevitably have burnt down the row of small houses at Church Corner if it had not pleased God to avert it.

Very early on the morning of 7th October a smell of fire roused Arthur Hayward from sleep and, being alarmed, he got up and went out. It was then discovered that smoke was issuing from the window and roof of Mrs. Thody's house. On their breaking the window, flames burst forth alarmingly. The poor old woman, who has been much failing of late (she is 81 years of age) was found lying on her bed fully dressed, the bed and bolster smouldering, as it appears it had been doing for hours. Without the loss of a minute the neighbours managed to extricate her from her perilous condition. She was taken to Hayward's house, and the fire was soon put out—but not a moment too soon.

Mercifully, little damage was done, though Mrs Thody was burnt, though not very seriously. Some time elapsed before the necessary preparations could be made for her removal, but in the evening the poor woman was taken to the Union House at Gressenhall, where she is now, and is likely to remain for the remainder of her life. She was very strongly averse to going to the Workhouse; but now that she has had experience of the kind of treatment which

inmates receive at the hands of the officials, and of the comforts supplied there, she is continually saying she wishes she had gone there before, and wants nothing better than to stay there till the end.

Though he was never an actual inhabitant of the Parish of Scarning, Lewis Barton, who died at Dereham, aged 102, last month, was known to many of us at least by sight, and until his eyesight failed, he might be seen almost every afternoon making his way to have a chat with his old friend Mrs Cooper in Scarning.

The Rector used occasionally to go and see him, and could make him hear better than most of his friends. Barton was a strong churchman, and an earnest and devout old man, who read his Bible as long as he could see to read. The last time the Rector went to see him Barton gave him a curious old Prayer Book, printed at Cambridge in 1662. Perhaps we may be able to say a word about this Prayer Book on some future occasion.

We have to acknowledge the presentation of a ping-pong table by F. W. Wilson, Esq. M.P.

A. Jessopp.

WENDLING ABBEY

Arcadian Newsletter October 2004

Scarning Parish Magazine August 1904

At the Annual Flower Show which was so largely attended on Wednesday 27th July at Mr. Wilson's house, The Dale, I undertook to give some account of the Abbey of Wendling, the traces of which may still be seen scarcely more than a hundred yards off from Mr. Wilson's house. It is always a difficult matter to discourse, in a few words, on a subject about which one has a great deal to say, and I am afraid my hearers did not carry away with them from my lecture as much as they would have liked to remember. Perhaps some will be glad if I give them here a few brief notes to assist their memories.

The abbey of Wendling was a Religious House of White Canons, which was set down in the low ground by the side of the stream which runs from Wendling Hall in the direction of Dereham, and serves as the boundary of



Scarning on the North. They were dressed in a long white coarse garment—very like an old-fashioned smock—fastened round the waist with a cord, and a hood hanging down the back, which was drawn over the head when the wearer needed protection against sun or rain.

The abbot was the head of the community, and he alone had any private house or separate room. He was like the captain of a ship; the Canons were like the crew of the ship—they all lived together, slept in the same dormitory, worked together in the tillage of the common garden, taught the boys of the parish or neighbourhood in the common Cloister, which was a large, square yard with a pent roof carried along all its inner sides; and here, too—I mean in the "alleys" of this Cloister—the Canons spent much time in reading and writing, and attending to such business as management of their landed property, or the maintenance of their Church, necessitated.

The Canons were all required to take part in the Church services not less than six times in every twenty-four hours; so that if any wayfarer or inhabitant of Scarning or Wendling had a mind to say his prayers, he would be sure of finding the White Canons carrying on their acts of Divine Worship.

The Abbey of Wendling was never a large house. I do not think it could have been meant for more than twelve Canons and their Abbot, who stood to the canons as their ruler, The Abbot was like a Rector of a large parish with half a dozen Curates under him. I am very strongly convinced that at their first starting the first Abbot of Wendling and his first six Canons lived their daily lives in an earnest and consistent manner, so as to win the deep respect and confidence and affection of all the neighbourhood round them.

There is some doubt about the exact date when the Abbot and Canons settled down in the low ground where they began building. It was about 650 years ago (*The Abbey was founded in c.1267—Kitty*)

The Founder was one of the great lawyers of his time. He had been born in Wendling, and he had inherited considerable property, apparently from his father, and his name was William de Wendling, as his father's name had been before him. He must have got the notice of the King,

Henry III, and preferment and wealth came to him and in his old age it seems he bethought him that it would be well if he founded such a Religious House as this Abbey in his own birth-place.

William de Wendling did not wait to dispose of his estates till he could have no further use of them. In those days it was a very difficult thing indeed for any man to leave landed estates to any one by will; but William de Wendling gave his lands during his lifetime to the foundation of this Abbey,

Hereupon I hit a problem for it is said—to be continued in the next newsletter—there wasn't one!! A quick phone call firstly to Bob Davies, who couldn't help but suggested Alan Glister and thankfully Alan bless him, went and found the article in the copies of the Scarning Parish Magazine of 1904. So here's the rest of the story.

.....and he took very good care that the first Abbot, and probably the first Canons, of the Abbey should be the right sort of men to put in the places he provided for them. I am sorry to say I cannot discover the names of the Canons; but I do know the name of the first Abbot—his name was Nicholas, but I can tell you no more about him.

This must suffice for the first instalment of what I have to say about the Abbey of Wendling.

A.J.

Does any one know anything else? Is there more in another Parish Magazine about Wendling Abbey?—it's something that's interested me since I first read about it whilst researching the Civil War in the Dereham area. Kitty

Society Snippets



This is a gentle reminder that the annual subscription is due at the beginning of next year. A final reminder will be sent out to those who haven't paid with the Spring (March) 2008 Issue of this newsletter. Unfortunately failure to pay by the end of April will result in the termination of your membership—i.e no more newsletters, trip information etc. If you wish to check to see if I have received your fees please contact me on 01362 693688.

Thanks. Joan Cole (Membership Secretary)

Dereham Antiquarian Society

Dereham's Local History Group

The Committee

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Well I Never by Kitty Lynn



Want to know what a girl wants for Christmas?—well Diamonds might not be her only best friend—find out more in the language of birthstones—all you need to know is her birthday. Of course you don't have to stick with her birth stone—send a message via any of the following stones.

January—Garnet for Fidelity. Believed to repel flying insects, and to help the wearer be firm and steadfast.

February—Amethyst for Sincerity. Believed to protect against drunkenness and falling in love foolishly, and to encourage calmness in the wearer.

March—Aquamarine for Courage and Truth. Understood to bring wisdom, success and popularity to those who wear it. It calms and soothes and expresses sympathy.

April—Diamond for Innocence. This stone will bring victory to its wearer.

May—Emerald for Happiness. It will insure a life of love and success, and protect against all eye diseases. Symbolize love, rebirth and new life.

June—Pearl for Long Life. This stone brings health, wealth, happiness and good luck to the wearer.

July—Ruby for Peace of Mind. Believed to heal wounds, prevent stomach aches and bring love to its wearer. Brings and means passion.

August—Sardonyx (a form of onyx) for Happiness. The wearer will have a happy marriage, contentment and personal satisfaction. An alternative stone for August is the Tiger Eye for Patience and Ecstasy. It means that you are together throughout eternity forever.

September—Sapphire for Wisdom. As a charm, this stone is believed to relieve headaches, protect the wearer from the evil eye, and clear the head of the wearer to allow wise thinking. Giving one means your intentions are sincere, truthful but also passionate.

October—Opal for Hope. The wearer of this stone will receive good luck. If you want the relationship to last forever give one of these.

November—Topaz for Loyalty. Believed to guard the wearer against calamity, and to insure faithful friendships. It says she lights up your life.

December—Turquoise for Success. This stone is supposed to protect wearers against accidents, and to make them prosperous. It's the forget-me-not stone. It shows her she's always on your mind.

Finally—Amethyst for Reason. Giving it means live life to the fullest and enjoy.



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12th March
2008